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S + T PROGRESS REPORT

Checked for microfilming 15 March 46

June 24, 1945 - AUG. 17, 1945

3369
3380

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SUBJECT:- Formation of Italian Units - Progress Reports.

'P' BRITISH LIAISON & TRAINING UNIT.
R.T.O., I.C.F.

Ref:- AQ/6/4/31.

17 Aug 45.

To: H.Q.
R.A.A.C.

ST/1A
AUG 10 7
Receipt of your RAC/134/G3(Br) is acknowledged.

1. Reports in duplicate as requested are forwarded herewith.
2. If any further enlightenment is required it is suggested that Major Sedgwick should make an appointment to see the writer at this H.Q.



Colonel
Commander, 'P' British Liaison
and Training Unit.

LIB/kr.

Internal.

File.
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Copy to:- Major Andrews 'P' BL & TU. ✓

3380

SUBJECT: Formation of Italian Units.

'P' British Liaison & Training Unit
RTC ICF.

Ref. ST/1A/126

15 August 45.

To: Commander,
'P' British Liaison & Training Unit,
RTC ICF.

ST/1A
76.10 7

Reference RAAC letter RAAC/134/03 (Pr) dated 9 August 45.

1. The reasons for the long delay in the completion of the formation of 152 D & M School RTC ICF are:

(a) Authority for the formation of 152 D & M School - AMHC CR/1116/C-1 (Pr) dated 27 April 45 - was received by this H.Q. on 2 May with no information as to the approved WE on which the unit was to be formed. RAAC letter 484108 dated 1 May asked for a Progress Report as at 15 May showing deficiencies of personnel and equipment against WE. Compliance with this request was naturally impossible until the composition of the WE and SEL was known.

(b) RAAC was requested to hasten the WE and SEL on 17 May (ref. AQ/6B/543)

(c) RAAC forwarded on 24 May a Basic Equipment List for the calculation of entitlement to domestic stores and equipment. This HQ letter ref. AQ/6B/595 dated 26 May to RAAC pointed out that 152 D & M School was an Italian Combat Group unit and not a Brit-III unit and that the Basic Equipment List was therefore inapplicable.

(d) The approved WE was not received until 1 June, at which date the SEL was still not approved.

(e) A Progress Report ref. ST/1A/4 dated 3 June was forwarded to RAAC showing only one attached officer and three HQO's deficient. The vehicle deficiencies were normal H&A replacements plus the domestic vehicles authorized under WE for which indents had been submitted.

(f) The Progress Report ref. ST/1A/61 dated 9 July showed the unit as complete except for 26 drivers and certain vehicles. The deficiency of drivers was due to demobilization. As pointed out in the report the deficiencies of drivers and 3-ton lorries were made up immediately from 280 D & M School, PELLIZANO ³³⁹ ~~339~~ report particularly asked for the release of outstanding domestic vehicles (one ~~1~~ ³³⁹ truck and one car 2-seater) to be hastened.

(a) Authority for the formation of 152 D & M School - AFHQ CR/1116/G-1 (Pr) dated 27 April 45 - was received by this H. I. on 2 May with no information as to the approved ME on which the unit was to be formed. RAC letter 48A108 dated 1 May asked for a Progress Report as at 15 May showing deficiencies of personnel and equipment against ME. Compliance with this request was naturally impossible until the composition of the ME and SEL was known.

(b) RAC was requested to hasten the ME and SEL on 17 May (ref. AG/6R/543)

(c) RAC forwarded on 24 May a Basic Equipment List for the calculation of entitlement to domestic stores and equipment. This ME letter ref. AG/6R/595 dated 26 May to RAC pointed out that 152 D & M School was an Italian Combat Group unit and not a Brit-IMI unit and that the Basic Equipment List was therefore inapplicable.

(d) The approved ME was not received until 1 June, at which date the SEL was still not approved.

(e) A Progress Report ref. SE/14/4 dated 3 June was forwarded to RAC showing only one attached officer and three MCC's deficient. The vehicle deficiencies were normal ME replacements plus the domestic vehicles authorized under ME for which intents had been submitted.

(f) The Progress Report ref. SE/14/61 dated 9 July showed the unit as complete except for 26 drivers and certain vehicles. The deficiency of drivers was due to demobilization. As pointed out in the report the deficiencies of drivers and 3-ton lorries were made up immediately from 280 D & M School, MELIMANO 3329 report particularly asked for the release of outstanding domestic vehicles (one 3-ton truck and one car 2-seater) to be hastened.

(g) The approved SEL was finally received on 5 July. The Progress Report ref SE/14/66 dated 15 July reported completion except for one car 2-seater and the items of the SEL. In order to avoid a similar confusion to that which arose in respect of No. 3 G.T. Coy, this report clearly stated that it was presumed that the items comprising SEL CL/991/1 would be met without further intent. No subsequent information to the contrary has been received.

2. The reasons for the delay in the completion of No. 3 Italian G.T. Company are fully given in the fortnightly Progress Reports forwarded to RAC in accordance with their letter ref. 48A117 dated 17 April 45, but are briefly summarised below for ease of reference.

(a) Formation Order received 19 April 45.

(b) The training of drivers was necessarily delayed until releases for the 3-ton vehicles were received on 11 May.

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2. (Cont'd.)

(c) The drivers received from the Drivers' School at TRAMI were of poor quality and needed considerable training as shown in the gradings given in each Progress Report. Every effort was made to cross-post more suitable personnel as available in order to build up the efficiency of the unit.

(d) The greatest difficulty and confusion arose over the actual entitlement to technical workshop equipment and material;

(i) The Formation Order (RAC 48A117 dated 17 April) stated that workshop equipment would be based on SEL 127/1, subsequently amended to SEL 127/2, and that indents for all equipment would be submitted to ADOS RAC. This was done.

(ii) Instructions were then received that workshop equipment would also be based on Schedule No. 96. Indents were duly submitted in accordance with this schedule.

(iii) When stores began to arrive it was apparent that considerable duplication was occurring and that Ord was meeting the requirements as well as meeting the indents submitted in accordance with RAC instructions.

(iv) Capt. HOWARD BPT RAC visited this HQ and stated that indents should not have been submitted and further that, in any case, Schedule No. 96 was the wrong schedule on which to base requirements. Extracts from AF G1098/252/1 Part 1A (Less Machine Tools) and CIMT list of items of Ord2XX supply for RAC Workshop Platoons were apparently the correct schedules, copies of which were left by Capt. HOWARD. Attention was drawn to this in Progress Report ref. ST/1A/26 dated 17 June and in ST/5/4/37 dated 23 June addressed to ADIT RAC. It will be recalled that by now both No. 5 G.T. Coy (which had no English-speaking personnel and no previous experience of British administration and accounting methods) and this HQ were, somewhat naturally, rather confused as to what items of workshop equipment the unit should or should not hold. It is pointed out that each of these various comprehensive lists had to be completely translated into Italian before the unit could understand them.

(v) Towards the end of June a telephone message was received from RAC to the effect that two stores lorries fitted with bins would be released. As the unit had no accommodation for sorting and safeguarding the very numerous items of workshop equipment and materials it was decided, as stated in Progress Report ref. ST/5/1/52 dated 30 June, that the issue to the unit of such items would be held pending receipt of the stores lorries. The urgent need of these vehicles was again stressed in Progress Report ref. ST/5/4/71 dated 16 July. The vehicles were not received until 5 August.

(vi) Certain items of workshop machinery, plant and tools ³³⁷⁸ had been issued on loan to the unit by CIMT AFHQ until such time as they should be received from Ord. Confusion then became worse compounded by the receipt of a letter from CIMT AFHQ ref. DOLM/7/8091 dated 2 August containing

considerable duplication was occurring and that Ord was meeting the requirements as well as meeting the incidents submitted in accordance with RAAC instructions.

(iv) Capt. HOWARD DEE BAAC visited this HQ and stated that incidents should not have been submitted and further that, in any case, Schedule No. 96 was the wrong schedule on which to base requirements. Extracts from AF G1098/252/4 Part 1A (Less Machine Tools) and CIME list of items of Ord2XX supply for BAAC Workshop Vintooms were apparently the correct schedules, copies of which were left by Capt. HOWARD. Attention was drawn to this in Progress Report ref. ST/1A/26 dated 17 June and in ST/5/1/37 dated 23 June addressed to ADST BAAC. It will be appreciated that by now both No. 3 G.I. Coy (which had no English-speaking personnel and no previous experience of British administration and accounting methods) and this HQ were, somewhat naturally, rather confused as to what items of workshop equipment the unit should or should not hold. It is pointed out that each of these various comprehensive lists had to be completely translated into Italian before the unit could understand them.

(v) Towards the end of June a telephone message was received from BAAC to the effect that two stores lorries fitted with bins would be released. As the unit had no accommodation for sorting and safeguarding the very numerous items of workshop equipment and materials it was decided, as stated in Progress Report ref. ST/5/1/52 dated 30 June, that the issue to the unit of such items would be held pending receipt of the stores lorries. The urgent need of these vehicles was again stressed in Progress Report ref. ST/5/1/71 dated 16 July. The vehicles were not received until 5 August.

(vi) ³³²⁸ Certain items of workshop machinery, plant and tools had been issued on loan to the unit by CIME AFHQ until such time as they should be received from Ord. Confusion then became worse compounded by the receipt of a letter from CIME AFHQ ref. DCIME/7/8091 dated 2 August containing instructions that the unit would now retain these items and take them on charge against RB. As a result of this a letter, ref. ST/5/1/106 dated 3 August, was immediately sent to CIME with a copy to ADST BAAC requesting clarification and definite information as to what scale of equipment the unit should hold. A reply, ref. DCIME/7/8264 dated 7 August, was received on 10 August completely reversing the instructions shown under para 2 (d)(iv) above and stating that the unit would be equipped to SKL 127/2 only, that AF G1098/252/4 did not apply after all and that surplus items of Ord2XX supply should be returned.

(vii) It is still not clear whether Schedule AF G1098/252/4 Part 1A (Less Machine Tools) applies or not. The unit has, however, been equipped to this scale in addition to SKL 127/2 and the deficiency report rendered under this HQ ref. ST/5/1/95 dated 29 July is based on this schedule.

-3-

3. It is felt that the time taken to train and equip No. 3 G.T. Coy cannot be considered excessive having regard to the difficulties encountered and the confusion caused through repeated cancellations and alterations of instructions. With the very limited British supervisory staff available at this HQ every effort was made to train this unit to be self-sufficient in the indenting, receipt, care, and proper accounting of British equipment. It must be realized that no comparison can be made with an equivalent RASC unit formed from British personnel under British officers. No. 3 G.T. Company had to be built up from Italian personnel with little driving experience and even less conception of the maintenance and proper operation of transport. Their knowledge of stores accounting was nil, as also was their understanding of the system of demands, receipts and issues through British sources. This aspect of training was continually stressed in the Progress Reports as a result of the experience gained of other G.T. Coys sent to this centre in a supposedly fully-trained state.

4. No. 3 G.T. Coy has now left ITC ITC and it is therefore impossible for this HQ to take the action required under DCMAT/7/8264 dated 7 August. A copy of this letter is attached for such action as may be deemed necessary.

P/A.

Internal.

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Float

Major RASC
DADET

P: British Liaison & Training Unit.

3377

C O P Y

PRO-FORMA 'B'CHIEF INSPECTOR OF MECHANICAL TRANSPORT RASCSUBJECT:- Workshop Machinery - No. 3 Italian GT Coy.REF: DGDIT/7/8261
TEL NOS: APO 10605BASKETBALL 247
BASKETBALL 1887 August 1945

ADMET

1st British Liaison & Training Unit.

AFG ICP, CMF.

Ref your ST/5/1/108 of 3 Aug 45.

1. There has apparently been some misunderstanding by this HQ concerning the equipment of the above unit. Your letter under reference clarifies the position, and the following now obtains in regard to Ord 2 (WISupply) items:-

- (a) Unit should be equipped to SML 127/2 scale only.
AP G4098/252/4 does NOT apply.
- (b) In order to avoid possible further misunderstanding, the action referred to in my DGDIT/7/8091 of 2 Aug 45, will remain as stated.
- (c) To avoid future duplicate issues, please advise this HQ of any subsequent issues or advice of releases received through Ord channels, issue action by this Branch will then be stopped. Similarly before issue is made by this Branch confirmation of requirements will be requested from you.
- (d) WX Supply items now held surplus to SML 127/2 should be returned to the most convenient of the following addresses and this HQ advised of the items concerned:-

CIDET (RASC)
105, RIVIERA DI CHIALLA,
FIRENZE.

OR

CIDET (RASC)
ADVANCE STORES SECTION
C/O 1768 IMPAT. CO-OPERATOR WORKSHOP PLANTON RASC,
FLORENCE.

Please note that items returned should be in serviceable condition as they will be required for re-issue.

3376

- (a) Unit should be equipped to SML 127/2 seals only.
AP G1098/252/4 does NOT apply.
- (b) In order to avoid possible further misunderstanding, the action referred to in my DCIDE/7/8091 of 2 Aug 45, will remain as stated.
- (c) To avoid future duplicate issues, please advise this HQ of any subsequent issues or advice of releases received through Ord channels; issue action by this Branch will then be stopped. Similarly before issue is made by this Branch confirmation of requirements will be requested from you.
- (d) WX Supply items now held surplus to SML 127/2 should be returned to the most convenient of the following addresses and this HQ advised of the items concerned:-

CIMT (RASC)
105, RIVIERA DI CHIALLA,
FIRENZE.

OR

CIMT (RASC)
ADVANCE STORES SECTION
C/O 1768 DEEP. CO-OPERATOR WORKSHOP PLATON RASC,
FIRENZE.

Please note that items returned should be in serviceable condition as they will be required for re-issue.

- (e) The issue from Ord of tool kits equivalent in number and type to those issued by this Branch, should be stopped. If this is not considered possible they should be returned as referred to in (d) above, when Ord issue is received.

(Signed) ???????????????

Major. RASC. DCIMT.
for Lt. Col. RASC.
Chief Inspector.

3376

SECRET

7

ROME AREA ALLIED COMMAND
APO No. 794 U. S. Army
Office of G-3 (British)

RAAC/134/G3(Br)

9 August 1945

SUBJECT: Formation of Italian Units - Progress Reports

TO: 'R' BL & TU, RTC ICF ✓

1. Reference is made to your Progress Report on 152 D & M School RTC ICF (SI/1A/90 dated 2nd July 45).
 FOIA b
2. It is noted that this unit is now complete, except for items of SEL equipment.
3. As the formation order for this unit was issued on 27 April 45 (CR/1116/G-1(Br) Serial 2108), you are requested to submit a report on the reasons for the long delay.
4. A similar excessive delay took place in the formation of 3 Italian GE Coy, on which a report should also be submitted.
5. Please render reports in duplicate to this Headquarters as soon as possible.



H. SEDGWICK,
Major GS,
G-3 (British).

Enfiled 66043

3012
DADST

3375

SECRET

6

SUBJECT: Formation of 152 D & M School - RFG IIF.

'F' British Liaison & Training Unit
RFG IIF.

Ref. ST/12/90.


29 July 45.

To : H.Q.
Rome Area Allied Command. (2 copies).

Reference your MAAC/134/03 (Pr) dated 24 June 45.

The formation of 152 D & M School is now complete except for the items comprising Part II of SER. CM/991/1.

RL/rac


Colonel
Comd. 'F' British Liaison & Training Unit
RFG IIF.

Internal

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3374

SUBJECT : Formation of 152 Driving & Maintenance School RTC ICF.

'F' British Liaison & Training Unit
RTC ICF.

Ref. SE/1A/83

22 July 45.

To : H.Q.
Rome Area Allied Command. (2 Copies).

Reference your RAC/13/G3(Br) dated 24 June 45.

1. The formation of 152 D. & M. School RTC ICF is now complete except for one car 2-seater, and the items comprising Part II of SML CM/991/1, and one medical orderly.

2. The car 2-seater is most urgently required.

HYA/rnc

Internal

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Float.

[Signature]
Colonel
Cmd. 'F' British Liaison & Training Unit
RTC ICF.

3373

FileSUBJECT: Formation of 152 D. & M. School, R.T.C., I.C.F. 4OF BRITISH LIAISON & TRAINING UNIT
R.T.C., I.C.F.

Ref: ST/1A/66

15 July 45.

To: H.Q.
Home Area Allied Command. (2 copies)

Reference your HAAC/131/63(D) dated 24 June 45.

The formation of 152 D. & M. School, R.T.C., I.C.F. is now complete, with the exception of one car 2-seater and the items comprising Part II of S.E.L. CM/991/1. It is presumed that the latter will be met without further intent.

JL
Colonel.
Commander British Liaison &
Training Unit R.T.C. I.C.F.

RDA/ah.

Internal.
File.
Float.

3372

38

SUBJECT : Progress Report - 152 D & M School. RTC ICF.

'F' British Liaison & Training Unit
RTC ICF.

Ref. SE/1A/61.

RAAC (2 copies).

9 July 45.

Reference your RAAC/134/G3(R) dated 24 June 45.

1. 152 D & M School as at 8 July 45 is complete to W.E. except for 26 drivers, 10 lorries, 3 - ton 4x2 GS, 1 truck 15 cwt and 1 car 2-seater.
2. The deficiency of drivers and 3 - ton lorries will be made up by 9 July by personnel and vehicles arriving from 280 D & M School, POLIGNANO.
3. The 15 cwt truck and 2-seater car are most urgently required. May release of these please be hastened?

EYA/rso


Colonel
Comd. 'F' British Liaison & Training Unit
RTC ICF.

Internal

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3370

2

SUBJECT: Progress Report - 152 D & H School IAC ICF.

" 7' British Liaison and Training Unit
KFC ICF.

Ref. SI/11/48.

30 June 45.

RAAC (2 copies)

References your RAAC/134/55(B) dated 24 June 45.

1. Herewith Progress Report as at 30 June 45 on the formation of 152 D & H School KFC ICF under WE C1994/1.

2. Personnel.

WE	1	1	10	1	20	103	28	164
Strength	7	2	9	1	24	89	28	154
	Major	Captains	Subalterns	MO Attached	Sentor HQs	Drivers	Also including Major HQs	TOTAL

3. Vehicle.

3370

1. Reference your RANC/134/33(Dr) dated 21 June 45.
 Herewith Progress Report as at 30 June 45 on the formation of
 152 D & M School HVC LTF under HQ G1991/1.

2. Personnel.

	Major	Captains	Subalterns	MC Attached	Senior HQCs	Drivers	Also including Junior HQCs	TOTAL
WE	1	1	10	1	20	103	28	164
Strength	1	2	9	1	24	89	28	154

3. Vehicles.

Deficiencies:-

Lorries 3 ton 4 x 2 GG
 Trucks 15 cwt 4 x 2 GG
 Car 2 - str 4 x 2
 Motorcycles

10
 1
 1
 5

3370

4. Equipment.

Approval wanted for proposed BTL.

EYA/rbc

Internal File, Flcat.

[Signature]
 Col. 'P' British Liaison & Training Unit
 HVC ICF.
 Colonel

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