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MILITARY ALPINE SCHOOL

NOV. 1946 - JAN. 1947

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Core I

TRANSLATIONHQ. 6th ALPINE REGIMENT

The Alpine Regiment must be considered capable of acting quickly and isolated and therefore must be equipped with all the necessary means to live, move and fight as a small Division. Its Units, trained for special grounds and acclimatized for high mountain warfare, must exploit vastly, in tactical field, the surprise which can be obtained through their particular training consolidating immediately the advantages with a heavy use of fire.

From said points the following emerge:

- each alpine company operating on vast fronts must have the following squads already detached: recon- ski and rock climbers, sappers :-
- each company must be equipped with a certain number of support weapons (81m/m mortars MGs)
- each company must be equipped with a certain number of pack transport units mobile or combat having a particular tactical training and in which the animals are considered combatant as the men;
- each Bn. must be equipped with a certain number of wire transmission equipment, wireless and motorcycles as well as optical apparatuses to be issued to the companies in accordance with their requirements.
- each Bn. must be equipped with a certain number of logistic pack to be distributed in part between the companies in accordance with their requirements as well as be equipped with a certain number of light and track vehicles for logistic and tactical use;
- each Bn. must be equipped with a certain number of support weapons (81 m/m mortars and guns) with which to reinforce the fire of the companies as necessary;
- each Bn. must be able to concentrate, by detaching from the various companies the recon, ski, rock climber and sapper squads, so as to be able to carry out an eventual employment on mass of said specialists in actions of special speed or courage.

The Rgt., having such a formation would not need the mortar coy. at present assigned to it for manoeuvre, while it could have a gun unit to be used as support and also for A.A. or A.T. action. The Rgt. would require also a mixed MT Unit, equipped with vehicles and track-vehicles as well as a signal unit and a police unit.

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THE TRAINING CARRIED OUT IN ACCORDANCE WITH PRESENT INSTRUCTIONS: presents the following main inconveniences:

OFFICERS: the officers are at present very few in number in comparison with W/E and therefore cannot be taken away from their duties to go on various refresher courses without harming the training of their units. It is necessary to arrange that said

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training be carried out within regiments and battalions and at any rate with short and frequent instructions at the local CAR. A good method could be that in CARs, Alpine units be commanded by Alpine officers who are sent with these units to the Rgts. when the recruits are transferred. I refer to platoon commanders.

In such a way we could have a periodical exchange of junior officers between the CAR and the Rgt. with common advantage. And this until we shall be able to return to the system of training of recruits entirely entrusted to the Rgts. ever since the first day, system which for the alpine troops has yielded the best results since their formation.

SENIOR NCOs : the same can be said with suitable alterations for senior NCOs specialists: the present system of courses carried out after the CAR at the central school, does not reach the aim for the alpine troops as while the technical training can be carried out perhaps more accurately in Regiments, the tactical one is completely lost by specialists who on returning from courses are far behind the companies of the Regiment while the handling of weapons and equipment in scholastic surroundings and flat grounds is completely misguiding towards their employment in the characteristic surroundings of the high mountains.

WH: The abundance of equipment and accommodation existing in CARs cannot be found in the Rgts. and this affects the discipline and training of the men. It is necessary to hasten the equilibration between CARs and Rgts. particularly those recently formed which, not having the possibilities given by the long period of formation, are in poor conditions as regards equipment for which every small problem must be solved quickly and with initiative not always sanctioned by admin. possibilities.

ALPINE TRAINING: no change regarding training on rocky grounds and on ascensions with war equipment.

SKI TRAINING: for a small number of officers NCOs and men is schemed.

It is essential to extend said training to all the officers and youngest NCOs in accordance with the already existing instructions.

ADISTA ALPINE SCHOOL: should be attended only by officers and NCOs newly appointed.

PERIODS OF COMMAND.

The needs of rotation do not bring about profit for the training of units when the officers must stay with the men for a short time. In order to save and perfect the units it is required that the officers selected to command, be transferred only after 2 years in the case of senior officers, and after 2 years for company commanders and junior officers. No personal reason or any other reason should permit exceptions.

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SELECTION OF ALPINE MEN IN DISTRICTS. This selection is made thoroughly setting aside those who for physical defects, diseases, social or economical reasons are entitled to be incorporated for sedentary service or for shorter period.

EDUCATION OF HQs: It is necessary to recruit HQ after a solid preparation in suitable schools.

ALPINE PERSONNEL NOT IN RESERVES: must not be permitted. The honour of belonging to such Corps must be paid with the active life broken, in uncomfortable places. The former Alpine men should not wear any sign of the Alpine Corps.

LOCATION OF UNIT: each unit must have a normal winter and summer location where the present training cycles should be carried out.

MOUNTAIN TRAINING: must be carried out both in summer and winter with units having the WL complete as far as possible.

FOOD DURING TRAINING: men and animals cannot have during training the same ration issued to them when in static location for obvious physical reasons. Food issued during training should vary in accordance with efforts requested and the surrounding and climate in which training has to be carried out. Men should have the bread pasta ration increased and fats and sugar should be issued while for animals oat and forage ration should be increased.

CLOTHING: the clothing of the Alpine soldier is composed of special items on account of the climate. A new type of uniform essential for the person who operates and stays out at night is being studied.

ALPINE EQUIPMENT: it is an essential part of the equipment, but the Rgt. is almost completely without it (mountain ropes, picks, cables, rock nails and ice nails, blunderbusses etc.)

RGT. AND INDIVIDUAL EQUIPMENT CANNOT BE THE SAME AS THAT ISSUED TO OTHER UNITS. Their type and number must cope with the requirements of life in coldest climates and pack tpt. in a dangerous area. The Rgt. is studying, but for the time being has no equipment common to the Infantry.

PACK TPT EQUIPMENT. The British equipment, excellent for hills ⁴⁷³⁸ is not suitable for the Alps and above all lacks the saddles with strong frame for pack tpt.

MULES FOR ALPINE TPT UNITS: are not common mules but big animals acclimatized, a mule which never saw snow and ice cannot be suitable for Alpine service as he is afraid and often becomes affected with mental diseases. For this reason, an alpine drivers cannot be replaced. Alpine pack tpt Unit cannot be interchangeable with other not specialised pack tpt Units.

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The pack tot Unit of the Rgt. has mules not suitable for the Alpine service.

VEHICLES: The regiment has at present a very small number of vehicles (some with tracks) of various types, used for most urgent transport and has not yet received any vehicle laid down on W/T to train M.I. sections and groups considered in the British regulation for employment.

The rates of pay are at present ridiculous. A colonel's pay is inferior to the pay of a civilian non-tradesman and decreases according to the rank. It is urgent to give to the staff means for a decorous life unless we want to loose the men morally and technically capable and retain the useless ones.

ALPINE INDUIMITY. A modest indemnity was granted to officers and NCOs for the renewal and completion of personal and alpine clothing scale of issue.

It is necessary to restart the payment of said indemnity and adjust it to the present value of the money.-

FIRST ISSUE OF CLOTHING TO OFFICERS AND NCOs.

As done during the war, it would be advisable to issue free the first issue of clothing for officers and NCO, issuing to them a uniform of the new type. Owing to the present rates of pay the purchase of a uniform is an unbearable burden to officers and NCOs.

Sgt. SIMONE,
Col.

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HQ 6th Alpine Regt.

Strength of officers and NCOs present in units as to
21st November 1946

Units	Senior Officers	Capt	Sub-alterns	NCOs	Remarks
Regt HQ and HQ Coy $\frac{W/E}{\text{present in Regt.}}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{7}{5}$	$\frac{3}{4}$	$\frac{13}{13}$	
Mortar Coy $\frac{W/E}{\text{present in Regt}}$	$\frac{1}{1}$	$\frac{1}{1}$	$\frac{3}{2}$	$\frac{14}{3}$	
"EDOLO" Alpine Bn $\frac{W/E}{\text{present in Regt}}$	$\frac{1}{1}$	$\frac{6}{4}$	$\frac{22}{8}$	$\frac{64}{14}$	
"Trento" Alpine Bn $\frac{W/E}{\text{present in Regt}}$	$\frac{1}{1}$	$\frac{6}{5}$	$\frac{22}{12}$	$\frac{64}{19}$	
"Bolsano" Alpine Bn $\frac{W/E}{\text{present in Regt}}$	$\frac{1}{1}$	$\frac{6}{1}$	$\frac{22}{13}$	$\frac{64}{16}$	
6th Pack Transport Unit $\frac{W/E}{\text{present in Regt}}$	$\frac{1}{1}$	$\frac{1}{1}$	$\frac{4}{3}$	$\frac{14}{6}$	
MOs $\frac{W/E}{\text{present in Regt}}$	$\frac{1}{1}$	$\frac{1}{1}$	$\frac{3}{7}$	$\frac{1}{1}$	
Veterinary Officers $\frac{W/E}{\text{present in Regt}}$	$\frac{1}{1}$	$\frac{1}{1}$	$\frac{2}{1}$	$\frac{1}{1}$	
TOTALS $\frac{W/E}{\text{present in Regt}}$	$\frac{8}{7}$	$\frac{25}{10}$	$\frac{32}{19}$	$\frac{233}{71}$	

Notes:

- The animal infirmary of the territory functions with personnel of the Regt.
- There is no O.C. for the Pack Transport Unit.
- The various Regiments of the Garrison Companies (especially that of Merano which also has officers and men) are not taken into account.
- 1 Senior Officer, 1 Captain and 3 subalterns have been ordered to attend courses at the Central Schools. They are to stay away for several months.
- The total includes 7 officers and 21 NCOs not of the Alpine Corps.
- All MOs, except 2, are being discharged.
- The return for NCOs includes Alpine NCOs recovered after being transferred from the Corps.
- Many subalterns were forgotten.

sgt. Sincione
Col.

6th AIRBORNE REGT. HQ

STRENGTH of Junior NCOs and men present in units as at
21st November 1946

Units	W/E 100%	W/E 70%	Present in Units	Remarks
Regtl HQ and HQ Coy	90	-	72	
Mortar Coy	106	-	12	
"EDOLO" Alpine Bn	583	-	368	
"TRENTO" Alpine Bn	586	-	370	
"Bolzano" Alpine Bn	563	-	407	
6th Pack Transport Unit	476	-	144	
TOTALS	2436	1705	1370	

sgt. Simeone
Col.

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TO SEE
CSO I TRG
CSO II TRG
CSO III TRG 6/12/46
SGS
CSO I Coy

TRG M. ALI
File: TGI 26/46
Date: 10-12-46

Telephone
Rome, 489081 Ext 476

LAND FORCES SUB COM, AG (MMIA) GMP

TRG/16/16

29 Nov 46

MINISTRY OF WAR.

Subject: Military Alpine School.

Reference your 7490/P/19 of 22 Nov 46.

This Mission is agreement with the proposal to form a Military Alpine School as outlined in your letter and would appreciate further information as to W.E. Syllabus etc in due course when the proposal has been studied in fuller detail.

RFC/m

Major-General,
GOC, MMIA.

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