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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

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RANGES - ANNUAL COURSES/CLASSIFICATION

May - June 1946

5905
5907

SUBJECT: Annual Range Courses.

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LAID FORCES SUB COM, A.C. (JEMIA)

(489084 Ext. 389)

TRG/27

27 Jun 46

TO : MINISTRY OF WAR

Reference phone conversation MEDLAM - OLIVETTI of 27 June 46.

1. The following is suggested as a basis on which to work in making out ammunition allotments for range courses this year.
2. (a) Recruits to fire the recruits course laid down.
not
(b) All personnel who have/fired a range course in the year to fire the course laid down for trained soldiers of their arm.
(c) Recruits on joining their regiments to be excluded from the annual courses to be fired by regimental personnel.
3. Adequate provision must be made for recruits to try out and familiarise themselves with their own personal weapon (which should not of course subsequently be changed).
4. Such provision should cover:
 - (i) Zeroing of the weapon.
 - (ii) One or two application practices at about 200/300 yards.
 - (iii) One practice at (say) 500 yards.
5. Total ammunition allotments to the Italian Army permitting, these figures could be increased to allow field firing practices to be carried out.
6. It is suggested that the ammunition required in the suggestion in paragraph 5 (above) might if available be placed in the Territorial Commands Pool to be issued at his discretion for any training purpose (demonstrations etc or actual field firing).

5907

Copy to: TRG/26
JW

TRG M. M. I. A.
File : TRG/27
Date: 2/27/6.

Major General,
M. M. I. A.

STATION: Range Course Qualification of "Sniper".

372

LAND FORCES HQ CDR, A.S. (SIA)

THC/1

25 May 46

TO : ~~REDACTED~~

Ref your letter 22/4/46 dated 15 May 46.

1. This HQ is in general agreement with the proposal contained in your above quoted letter.

2. For your information, in the INITIAL and the classification "Marksmen" could be obtained on either or both seasons, i.e. on completion of his annual range course a soldier might be classified, for example:-

Marksmen on rifle.

1st class shot on rifle.

The qualifying marks were:-

Rifle	Score
Marksmen - 130	Marksmen - 165
1st Class shot - 140	1st Class shot - 135
2nd Class shot - 80	2nd Class shot - 100

This HQ suggests that, after testing to their satisfaction, all Infantry regiments should attain the "Sniper" standard in their range course and should compete with other regts for inclusion in the list of "Sniper" regts. This would ensure that the best marksmen were recognized and would have the advantage of using the special equipment (Sniper rifle and telescope sights).

M. W. Hope.

Brigadier

Major General,
H. H. I. A.

TRG M. M. I.

25 May 46

TO : ATTORNEY GENERAL

Re: Your letter 2552/2/4 dated 15 May 46.

1. This is in general agreement with the proposal contained in your above quoted letter.
2. For your information, in the Russian Army the classification "sniper" could be obtained on either of two systems, i.e., on completion of his sniping course a soldier might be classified, for example:-

Marksmen on rifle.

1st class shot on Leon.

The qualifying marks were:-

Rifle	Sniper
Marksmen - 130	Marksmen - 160
1st Class Shot - 140	1st Class Shot - 175
2nd Class Shot - 80	2nd Class Shot - 100

3. This suggests that, after testing to their satisfaction, all Infantry recruits who attained the "sniper" standard in their range course should compete with other good shots for inclusion in the sniping school. This would ensure that snipers' section were composed of the best shots, who would have the advantage of using the special equipment (sniping rifles and telescopic sights).

M. W. Hope.

Brigadier

Major General,
H. H. I. A.

25/5/46

TRG M. M. I.
File - TSG/1
Date 2/6/46

*Draft letter of agreement
for my signature*

IRG M.M.I.A.
File : IRG/1
Date: 2/21/5.

TRANSLATION

FROM: M. of W.
TO : M.M.I.A.

TO :
CSO I
CSO II (Tech)
CSO II (Finn)

REF: 3252/T/2

DATE: 15/5/46

SUBJECT: Qualification of "sniper".-

TIRATORE SCELTO

- 1 - There used to be in the Italian Army the qualification of "sniper" which was awarded to the military personnel who proved good in the rifle or LMG shot. The qualification was given to the military personnel who obtained high marks in the whole of the firing competition. The personnel qualified "snipers" were entitled to wear a special badge.
- 2 - This S.M.H.E., having in mind to put back into force the a/m qualification has proposed it to Military Territorial Commanders, who have unanimously agreed to this proposal.
- 3 - Since British regulations already lay down the qualification of 1st class rifle-men and 2nd class rifle-men, this S.M.H.E. thinks that the marks to be obtained in order to ~~be awarded~~^{gain} the qualification of sniper ought to be really high, thus to be given duly to military personnel who proved to be excellent.

These marks could be as follows:

- 130 marks, to be obtained during the 6 firing exercises with the rifle;
- 160 marks, to be obtained during the 6 firing exercises with LMG.

- 4 - Before issuing eventual executive instructions, we shall be grateful to you if you would kindly forward your opinion on the matter.

sgd. Liuzzi

0175