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TRG/69 MMIA TRG MEMOS

MAR. 1946 - JAN. 1947

1
25

TRANSLATION

FROM: Ministry of War.

REF: 6553/R/O

TO: M.M.I.A.

DATE: 14 November 1946.

SUBJECT:- Training 1947.

In reply to letter TRG/69 of 8 October 1946.

1. - The directives for the training of cadre and troops - 1st, 2nd, 3rd cycles 1946 - contained in circular 4446/R/4 of this S.M. dated 1st May last outline a realistic programme taking into account the present situation of the Army.

Policy: to ask from the troops not more than they can do and do well.

These directives, forming the first step towards the regularisation of the Army's training activities, were intended to lay down first of all a scheme for the organisation and development of the annual training course, on the basis of the organisation existing today (four monthly call-up and enlistment for 12 months).

2. - The points stressed in your letter are based on the idea that the directives in question refer exclusively to individual training, whereas in fact they refer above all to collective training, owing to the fact that individual training is carried out at C.A.R.s and the Central Schools during the 1st cycle and is ~~therefore~~ continued at units only for the purpose of perfecting and specialising.

Collective tactical training - the main subject of the circular - starts from the platoon and works up to battalion and artillery group firing exercises in cooperation with engineer and services units (para 8 - sub-para c).

The maximum level of collective training is limited to the battalion-group owing to the fact that:

- cadres have not yet been organised;
- unification of armament is still in progress;
- location and ~~distribution~~ of troops is imposed by fixed territorial requirements.

Although - and here I would refer you to the point raised in para 4 (d) of your letter - it has been ordered that "practice in cooperation must be constantly carried out" (para 8 - sub-para a - c).

- 2 -

3. - The irregular and unsystematic carrying out, during the current year, of training camps, summer excursions for alpine troops, firing exercises for artillery is due to temporary factors only. Naturally, as has been explained to Lt Col Medlam, the training directives for cadres, to be issued shortly, will raise the level of collective training to the battalion ~~unit~~ for regiments not in divisions and to the regiment for infantry divisions, determining above all the period and duration of the exercises for each unit.

Instructions will be given that all units carry out an adequate period of ground training, in the more suitable season, at least once every 8 months, in order that every soldier can participate, regardless of the four monthly call-up to which he belongs, and in order that the cadres have the possibility - every two cycles - of perfecting the exercising of command.

The period of exercises will be determined, where possible, nearing release of a class, in order that the soldiers will participate during the period of their most advanced training (soldiers of the 3rd cycle in the 12th month and soldiers of the 2nd cycle in the 8th month of training), in accordance - as is obvious - with the seasonal conditions.

4. - Regarding the cultural perfecting of the cadres, while I assure you that the activities of the courses will be increased in every school, I would point out that the progress will be obtained when the working of the School of Cooperation of various arms has attained a regular routine.

Further, I have ordered that during winter, the infantry divisions carry out exercises with the divisional cadres, mainly ground exercises of extremely practical nature.

Finally, it is the intention of this S.M. to resume in the future the carrying out of exercises with large formations, but this - as is understandable - cannot be done before the more vital problems relating to cadres, organisation and instructors have been solved satisfactorily.

sgd. CADORNA
Gen.

R.A.G.

TRG M. M. I. A.
File : T G ' 69
Date:

TO SEE
GSO I TRG
GSO II TRG
GSO III TRG
BGS
GSO I (CD)

24

FILE

Telephone:
Room, 100081 Ext. 476

LAWD KENNEDY SUB-COM, AC (MIA) CHIEF

ENG/69

14 Nov 46

9 BRITISH LEADON UNIT

Subject: War Ministry Index to Terr. No.

Ref our letter ENG/69 dated 13 Nov 46.

Herewith please find Ministry of War letter 44/6/2/4 of 1
May 46 which was inadvertently omitted from my letter quoted above.

GEO/ab

Internal: 'Q'

1
Lt Col,
G3, MIA.

22

23

Telephone
Rome, 489034 Ext. 476

LAND FORCES SUB-COM, AC (MMA) CMP

TRG/69

13 Nov 46

9 British Liaison Unit.

Subject: War Ministry Instructions to Terr. HQ.

Reference your 23/12 of 4 Nov 46 and inclosure.

1. It is regretted that little of the information that you require is in the possession of the Headquarters.

(a) The letter 4446/R/4 of 1 May is the only relevant directive issued by the Ministry of War recently. The Directive was sent to 9 Terr Comd. A copy in English is enclosed to save translation.

(b), (c), (d), (e) These particulars are not sent to MMA by the Ministry of War though specific posting orders are sometimes queried.

(f) The only information regarding allocation of ammunition is the monthly return of ammunition issued which you submit.

(g), (h) The Ministry of War does not inform this MMA of orders regarding bulk issues. Should there be a complaint that any unit is being starved of certain items then this HQ points out the fact to the Ministry of War.

2. It is not felt that any useful purpose could be served by this Headquarters asking for all these details in respect of each Territorial Command especially in view of the large amount of extra clerical work it would involve.

3. It is suggested that you should request 9 Territorial HQ to keep you informed on any of these details which you may require.

AFB Connelley RA

Lt-Col,
8 CS, MMA.

CBC/rm

Subject: War Ministry Instructions to Terr. HQ.

②

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3. It is suggested that you should request 9 Territorial HQ to keep you informed on any of these details which you may require.

GBC/ma

Internal: 'Q'

Col. Connelley
Lt-Col,
8 GS, MMIA.

22

SUBJECT :- War Ministry instructions to Terr HQ

9 British Liaison Unit
BARI

Ref :- 25/ 12

4th Nov 1946

LAND FORCES SUB COMMISSION
A.C. (M.L.I.A.)

I refer to my 5/52 of 1st October 1946 and subsequent ~~the~~ conversation with Maj COOPER, in which I requested information concerning War Min Directive 1446/R/4 of 1st May 1946 referred to in your letter Trg/69 of 8 Oct 1946.

For the B.L.U. to exercise properly its function of observing, advising and reporting on the activities of Terr HQ, formations and units, I feel it is necessary to have more information on War Min instructions than we get at the moment. The only routine information of this nature received at present appears to be the War Min monthly P.C.L. allocation.

I appreciate that it may be difficult for you to lay down exactly what information is relevant to B.L.U.'s; and so I attach a list of points on which information is requested.

Please say whether you can arrange for provision of this information or whether I should request 9 Terr HQ ~~to~~ to keep me advised on all such matters.

TRG M.M.I.
File - 69
R/8/11/46

TO SEE
CSM/TRO
CSM/TRO 9/18/11
CSM/TRO
CSM
CSM/TRO

808
8 NOV 1946

Julman

(J. MITMAN) Major,
Comd 9 B.L.U.

21

WAR MINISTRY INSTRUCTIONS TO 9 TERR COMD RELATING TO :-

- (a) Trg policies and directives
- (b) Recruit call ups and allocations to C.A.R.'s e.g. numbers required from the various 9 Terr Districts.
- (c) Allocation of recruits from 9 C.A.R. to central schools.
- (d) Allocation of Inf recruits from 9 C.A.R. to Terr comds, formations, units.
- (e) Allocation of recruits from central schools and C.A.R.'s to 9 Terr Comd.
- (f) Allocation of ammunition issues from TERLIZZI Depot.
- (g) Bul: issues from supply and clothing depots. of 9 Terr Comd.
- (h) Allocation of clothing, equipment, ammunition and weapons for depots or formations under jurisdiction of 9 Terr Comd.

SUBJECT :- Training

9 British Liaison Unit
BARI

Ref :- 5/32

18th October 1946

H.Q. MMTA

Ref your Trg/69 of 9 October 1946.

In para 2 of the attached copy of your letter Trg/69 of 8 October 1946 addressed to Ministry of War you refer to Ministry of War Directive 4446/R/4 of 1st May 1946 as outlining the training policy and programme on a 12 month basis.

I cannot find any trace in our files of correspondence laying out training periods and programmes, other than C.A.R. training.

May a copy of the Directive be obtained for our information and guidance.

327
RECEIVED 22 OCT 1946

TO SEE	
GSO 11110	
GSO 11112	
GSO 11113	22/10/46
BGS	
GSO 1 (SD)	

J. Hillman
(J. HILLMAN) Major
Comd 9 B.L.U.

19

TRG M. M. I. A.
File : TRG/ 69
Date : 22.10.46

(7)

SUBJECT: Training - 1947

LAND FORCES SUB COM, AC(MMIA)

(TEL EXT:389)

TRG/69

9 Oct 46

TO : List B

1. Attached is copy of a letter on Training sent to Ministry of War.
2. B.L.U. will note that Officer and NCO Training is being stressed.
3. In future Trg conferences with Italian Comds BLU should themselves stress this aspect of Trg.

WLM/mm

Major-General
M. M. I. A.

18

R

TRG M. M. I.
File: T.G. 69
Date: 9.10.46

SUBJECT: Training 1947

LAND FORCES SUB-COMM, AC (LWMA)

(489081 Ext. 389)

ARG/69

2 Oct 46

TO : MEMORANDUM OF WAR

1. The problem of organising a training programme for formations and units which receive a new intake of young soldiers from CAR every four months is, as you have already realised, a very difficult one.

2. The solution of the problem that you have arrived at, and set forth in your Directive 4446/2/4 468 of 1 May 46, involving as it does a four monthly training cycle, ensures that soldiers receive continuous and progressive training from the time they join their CAR until they are discharged at the end of their years service.

3. From the point of view of the individual training of the soldiers themselves this system is excellent, but from the wider point of view, that is to say from the point of view of the training of the Army as a whole, the system has certain disadvantages namely.

4. a) That the directive is based on training the individual of the rank and file, and that training of the unit as a homogenous whole can rarely be attempted.

b) That training is unlikely under the system laid down to rise higher than the Coy and equivalent level.
As a direct consequence of this:

c) The training of Officers and Staffs will be seriously neglected since these can practice in the field what they have learnt in theory only by taking part in exercises of Bns, Regts, and Divs.

d) No opportunity will be provided for practicing cooperation between the various Arms.

5. In my opinion it is necessary to think of training under two categories:

a) Training of Officers and leaders, and practicing them in command and admin. in the field, and in the cooperation with other Arms.

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 - d) No opportunity will be provided for practicing cooperation between the various Arms.
 5. In my opinion it is necessary to think of training under two categories:
 - a) Training of Officers and leaders, and practicing them in command and admin. in the field, and in the cooperation with other Arms.
 - b) Training of soldiers and exercising them in the field.
 6. As regards para 5. sub para (a):
 - a) The problem is the training of the Officer and the NCO. On these leaders, senior or junior, rests the responsibility of command in battle, and it is on them that the nation must rely as leaders and instructors in the event of war or the expansion of the Army.

- 2 -

b) It would appear therefore that the first and most important task your Ministry has before it, is to ensure that material of the highest quality is recruited to fill the ranks of the officer and permanent NCO class.

Secondly it must ensure for both officers and NCOs adequate and realistic training and make provision for this in the curriculum of training for the year 1947 which you will presumably issue shortly.

c) During 1947 I suggest therefore that more attention be devoted to the training of the Regular Officer and NCO and that this should conclude with exercises not lower than Bn level, and, if the training of senior Commanders is envisaged with exercises not lower than Regimental level.

As regards para 5. sub para (b):

7. a) The recruit is now ensured a sound initial training at the CAR.

It is obviously desirable that this training should be revised and continued when he joins his unit, and that he should be exercised in field training in order to harden him and accustom him to rigours of life in the field.

b) The recruit must however be made available at some period of his training to take part in exercises, the primary purpose of which is to exercise the Regular Officer and NCO.

It is felt that field training of the rank and file, though of necessity subordinated to the exercising of the Regular Officer and NCO, can be made to achieve the object of hardening the recruit and accustoming him to living under active service conditions in the field and even though he may only recently have joined his unit, he will still benefit and learn irrespective of whether he is taking part in section, platoon, or Regimental Exercises.

8. Approximately 12/14ths of the Italian Army will, under present arrangements, be conscripted soldiers serving a short service engagement and I do not therefore overrate the importance of their training, nor am I unmindful that your present curriculum has been soundly devised to ensure that this training is both progressive and practical.

9. a) The difficulties that have to be overcome before field training of Bns, Regts, and Supporting Arms can be undertaken is fully realised. Some of these, although well known to you, are capitulated below:

b) (i) Specialist Training, as carried out at present, must continue and the flow of specialists cannot be interrupted.

(ii) Consideration must be given to the problem of ensuring that the selection and initial training of NCOs from

Conscript Classes does not suffer.

Conscript Exercises are difficult to obtain, and are in the later

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- b) (i) Specialist training, as carried out at present, must continue and the flow of specialists cannot be interrupted.
- (ii) Consideration must be given to the problem of ensuring that the selection and initial training of NCOs from Conscript Classes does not suffer.
- (iii) Training Areas for Unit Exercises are difficult to obtain, and in many places are only suitable for use in the later months of the summer when the harvest has been cleared.
- (iv) Weather conditions in the Country preclude the possibility of holding large scale exercises at all times of the year.
- (v) The present shortage of H.T. spare parts and economy measures imposed on the Army will make the movement of a considerable body of troops from their permanent stations a difficult matter.

10. It would appear that the best period for collective training of units is at a time when personnel are at the most advanced stage of training. That is to say at a period immediately prior to the discharge of a class. Under the system of call ups every 4 months such a period will occur three times a year, but only one of these periods is likely to be suitable for collective training due to the condition of the country and the prevailing weather (see para 9. (b) above).

11. Should this suggestion be in agreement with your views it might be necessary to adjust the dates of call up and discharge periods to ensure that the discharge of a class takes place after the period selected for collective training. As an example, if the most suitable period for collective training was considered to be in July and August the discharge periods would need to be in September, January and May.

12. I would suggest that the training can be carried out progressively during the rest of the year by some or all of the following means:

- a) Tactical courses at schools.
- b) Periodical exercises without troops held by Bns and Regts and corresponding units.
- c) A senior Officer study exercise which might subsequently be carried out in the field by one of the Divisions. In this connection the British Army has carried out many study exercises in the winter months at all levels of command and this system is strongly recommended to you.

13. Finally I will be pleased to discuss with you any suggestions for implementing the broad ideas as outlined in para 6.

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G. H. G. G. G.

Major General,
M. M. I. A.

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WLM/sb

Distribution: List 'B'
PA to GOC

Major General,
M. M. I. A.

SUBJECT: Tactical Doctrine

LAW FORCES SUB COM, AG (INIS,

(TEL EXT: 389,

TRC/69 ←

6 Aug 46

TO : 12 A.J.O.
(Per [unclear] -hance)

1. Attached is a copy of a proposed directive by S.M.E., and our comments thereon.

2. It is thought that one or both of these may eventually find their way through official channels to the Scuola [unclear] [unclear].

3. In order to ensure that wrong doctrine such as is in [unclear] exposed in the S.M.E. work should NOT be disseminated to Students, the whole paper is passed to you in order that you can check and 'vet' their work against our comments.

69
R/6/8.

Major-General
M. H. I. S.

M/H

Copy to : TRC/25/2

14

ARTILLERY AND INFANTRY COOPERATIONIN PASTEXPERIENCE

The vital importance of Artillery support to Infantry has been amply confirmed in all types and conditions of battle in the recent war. To be effective Artillery support must be provided in adequate quantity in the right place at the right time. The first of these requirements is obtained by keeping the command of Artillery centralized so that a maximum amount of fire power can be quickly concentrated in any area. The second and third requirements can only be obtained by ensuring the closest possible liaison between the Infantry requiring the support and the Artillery who provide it, at all levels from Division down to Company and this close liaison must be backed by adequate and effective communications.

During war the necessity for close cooperation between Artillery and Infantry is readily appreciated and opportunities for putting it into practice are continuous so that, by the end of a campaign, it will be normal to find the system working to perfection.

In peace time, however, for various reasons such as the stationing of Artillery and Infantry units in different areas and the few opportunities available for collective exercises there is a tendency for both the theory and practice of Artillery and Infantry cooperation to fall off with a result that the whole system has to be worked up again at the start of the next war.

It might be as well then, with the experience of the last war still fresh in our memories to record the system in which Artillery and Infantry cooperation was built up in the British Army in order that we may keep it in our minds during peace time.

2. THE SYSTEM OF AFFILIATION.

The primary means by which close and intimate cooperation was obtained between Infantry and Artillery was by means of a system of affiliation between units of two arms.

Under the system each Infantry Brigade had an Artillery Regiment affiliated to it and each Infantry Bn of a Brigade had affiliated to it a Battery of the affiliated Field Rgt. By this means Brigades and Battalions got used to working with their own particular Artillery Officers and a very close and intimate bond of friendship, understanding and confidence was built up between Infantry and Artillery which ensured the most efficient cooperation at all times.

Two points in connection with the system of affiliation are worth noticing.

A. In order that the system can be applied effectively it is necessary for Artillery and Infantry organisations to be parallel. At the start of the war British Artillery Regiments were organized with two Batteries only. This made it impossible for the Regiment to be suitably affiliated to an Infantry Brigade consisting of three Battalions. Now we have three Field Regiments in a Division one of which is affiliated to each Infantry Brigade and each of which is affiliated to

second and third requirements the Infantry requiring the close possible liaison between the Infantry and the Company and this close liaison must be backed by adequate and effective communication.

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B. It must be clearly understood that the system of affiliation does not imply a decentralisation of fire power. Because a certain Battery is affiliated to a certain Infantry Battalion it does not mean that the Battalion can only get the fire support of its affiliated Battery. It means that the Battery in question normally supplies the Artillery representative at its affiliated Battalion HQ and the O.P.s in the Battalion area and these officers are able to call for the fire of a troop, Battery, Regiment or the whole Divisional Artillery as the situation may demand.

...../2

- 2 -

3. ARTILLERY COORDINATION WITH THE DIVISION.

At the Divisional level there are no special problems in regard to coordination. The Commander of the Artillery of the Division is part of the Divisional Command Staff and his office is always located at Divisional Headquarters. He is therefore always readily available to the Divisional Commander for advice on artillery matters, for making fire plans in conjunction with the Infantry plan and for directing and controlling the employment of the Artillery during the course of the battle in accordance with the Divisional Commander's wishes.

4. ARTILLERY COORDINATION WITH INFANTRY BRIGADE.

At Infantry Brigade Headquarters the problem is not quite as at Divisional Headquarters since the Brigade Commander has no equivalent to a CRA and his Staff is a permanent part of his Brigade HQ establishment.

It is necessary therefore during active operations for the Commander of the affiliated Field Artillery Regt to leave the command of his Regiment to his 2nd in Command and to station himself with a small party at the Headquarters of the Infantry Brigade to which he is affiliated.

This party is known as the Regimental Tactical Headquarters. Details of the composition of the party are shown in Appendix A. It will be noted that it includes sufficient signal personnel and equipment to keep the CO in direct communication with his own Regimental Headquarters by line and W/T and with his CRA by W/T. Line communication between Tactical Headquarters and CRA is normally available by 2 routes:

- (a) Via Regt HQ who are normally connected by line to CRA
- (b) Via the HQ line to Division HQ thence through Div Exchange to CRA

of the
Diagrams
Communications between Div, Bn CRA and REGT are shown at Appendix B.

To facilitate communications between the Artillery CO at his HQ and his own Regt it is an advantage if Artillery Regt HQ can be sited as near as possible to the affiliated Brigade HQ. As it is undesirable also for Artillery Regt HQ to be far from its batteries it follows therefore that whenever circumstances allow the Artillery Regimental Area should be in the vicinity of the HQ of its affiliated Brigade.

Once established with his communications at Brigade HQ the Artillery Regt Commander is able to act in the same capacity to the Infantry Brigade Commander as is the CRA to the Divisional Commander is to give advice on artillery matters, to make fire plans in conjunction with the Infantry plan and to direct and control the employment of the Artillery during the course of the battle in accordance with the Brigade Commander's wishes.

5. ARTILLERY COORDINATION WITH THE INFANTRY BATTALION.

In accordance with the principle of affiliation discussed in

12

4. ARTILLERY COORDINATION WITH INFANTRY HEADQUARTERS.

At Infantry Brigade Headquarters the problem is not simple as at Divisional Headquarters since the Brigade Commander has no equivalent to a CRA and his Staff as a permanent part of his Brigade HQ establishment.

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5. ARTILLERY COORDINATION WITH THE INFANTRY BATTALION.

In accordance with the principle of affiliation discussed in Paragraph 2 each Artillery Battery is responsible for providing the Artillery Officers for cooperation with its own affiliated Infantry Battalion.

It is normal for the Battery Commander to station himself in Battle at the Battalion Headquarters with line and wireless communication back to his Battery and to his own Regimental HQ. He will also provide one or more O.P.s from his Battery resources within the Battalion Area according to the tactical requirements and the nature of the ground.

...../3

These O.P.'s are normally located in forward Company Areas and keep in direct touch with Company HQ's.

Diagram of Communication Brigade - Dn - Arty Regt CP etc shown of Appendix C.

6. ACTION OF CP'S DURING AN ATTACK.

During an attack, it is the responsibility of the CP's to provide the close and immediate Artillery support for the advancing Infantry supplementary to the Artillery support that is being provided by the prearranged time of fire plan. This is normally achieved by attaching CP's to the forward Companies.

There has always been considerable controversy as to the action of these CP's during the advance. One view is that the CP party should remain with the Infantry Company Commander all the time and the other view is that the CP party should move by bounds along the axis of the advance to suitable points from which the best observation can be obtained. In this case the CP Officer will have to maintain touch with the Company Commander by means of a wireless set on the Company or Battalion net.

The advantages of the first method are that the CP Officer, being always with the Company Commander, can instantly receive all requests for fire without the inconvenience and delays of a wireless link, also he can have the targets pointed out to him direct on the ground. He can also be kept better informed as to the positions of the forward troops.

The disadvantages are firstly that the Company Commander will seldom be located in a place from which adequate observation of the ground can be obtained and secondly, since it will seldom be possible for a vehicle to accompany the Company Commander during his advance, the CP Officer will be limited to a portable wireless set for communication back to his guns with consequent reduction in efficiency or delays due to necessity for retransmission.

Conversely, with the second method the CP Officer has the advantages of always having the best observation and the best possible communications to his Battery but has not got direct contact with his Company Commander and must normally rely on a wireless link.

In practice it has been found that whereas the Infantry usually prefer the former method it is normally the latter method which provides the most effective support. It is important, and obvious, to add that the latter method calls for considerable attention during training to the practice of Arty to Infantry wireless communications (12 set drill) and to the procedure for the indication and recognition of targets by reference point or other methods.

7. CONCLUSION.

By the employment of the methods described above the closest cooperation is ensured between Infantry and Artillery at all levels from Company to Division and, provided that communications are effective, Artillery support in exact accordance with the tactical situation and the requirements of the Infantry can be provided at any time with the minimum of delay.

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APPENDIX A.

ARTILLERY REGT TACTICAL HEADQUARTERS.

CO of Regt
 Intelligence Officer Acts as duty Officer in absence of CO on recon etc.
 Three Signallers One is driver operator and drives Jeep.
 CO's Despatch Rider
 CO's Batman
 Cook
 Two Drivers I/C.

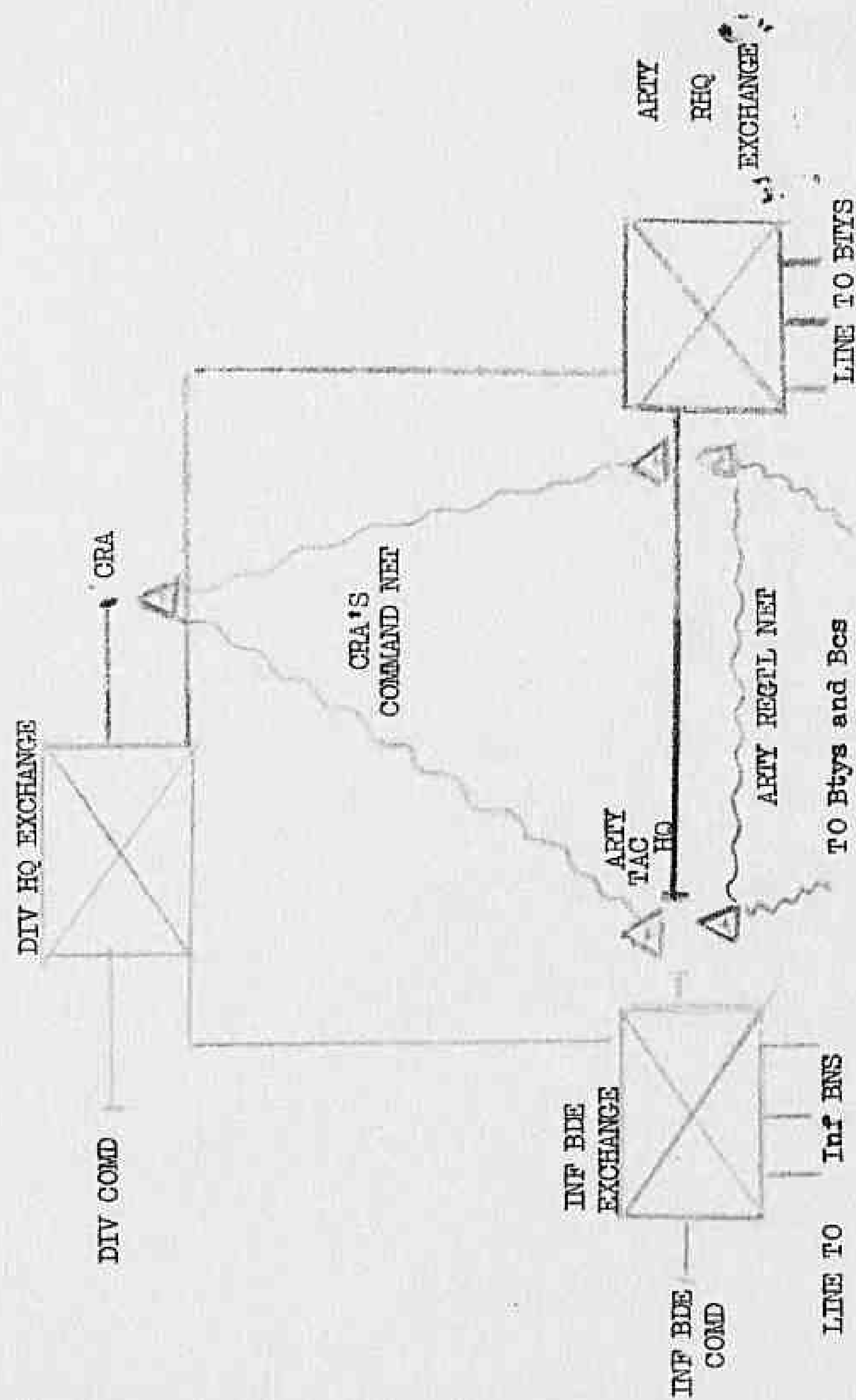
TRANSPORT.

CO's Half Track (Command vehicle with 2 wireless sets)
 Jeep (CO's Rover with 1 wireless set)
 CO's Staff Car Carries kit cooking utensils ration etc.
 M.C.

EQUIPMENT.

WT sets as above
 Charging net and extra Batteries
 2 Telephones

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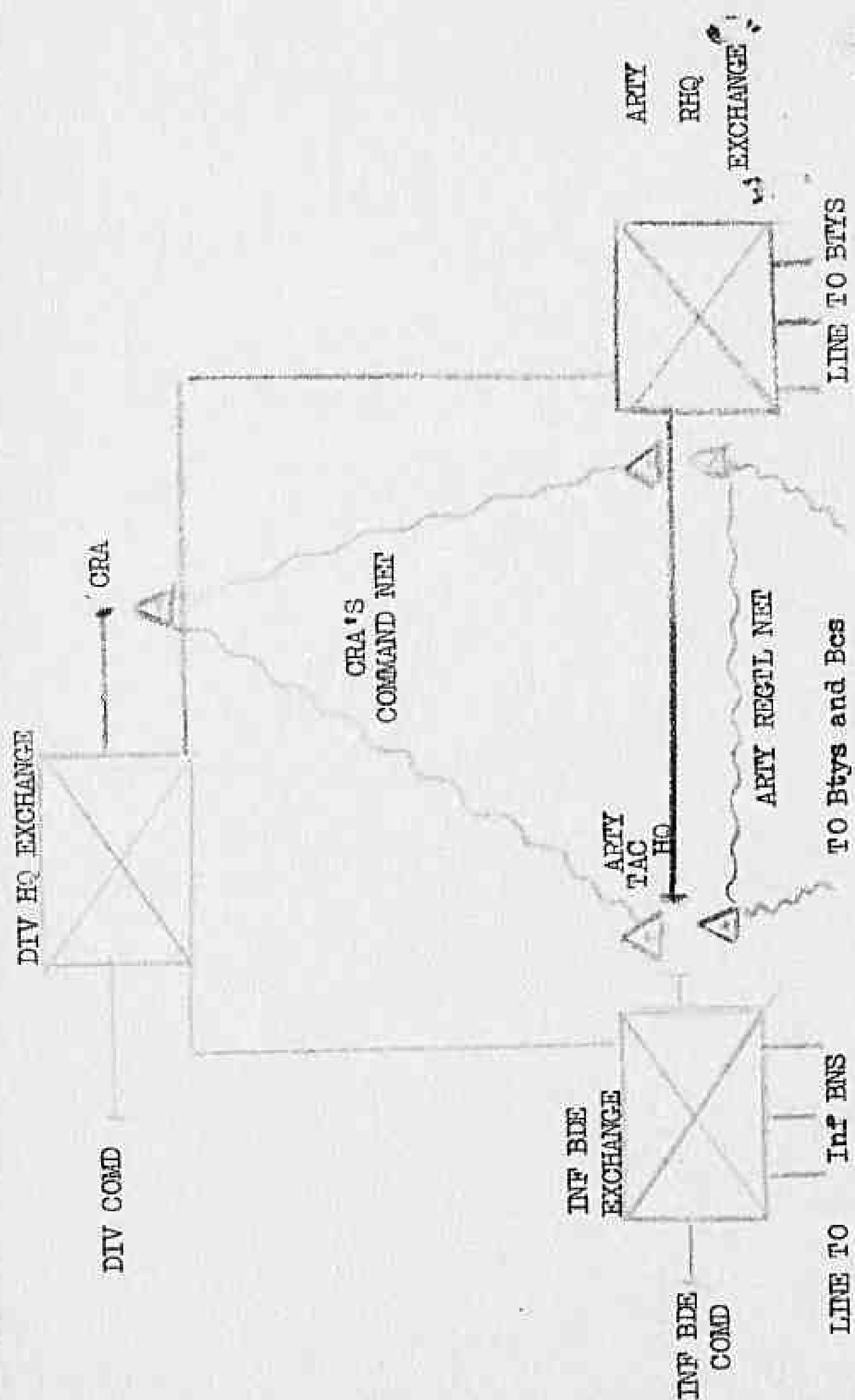
APPENDIX B.COMMUNICATIONS.DIV and BDECRA and REGT

10

	W/T	LINE	Inf Channels	Arty Channels
	~~~~~	~~~~~	~~~~~	~~~~~



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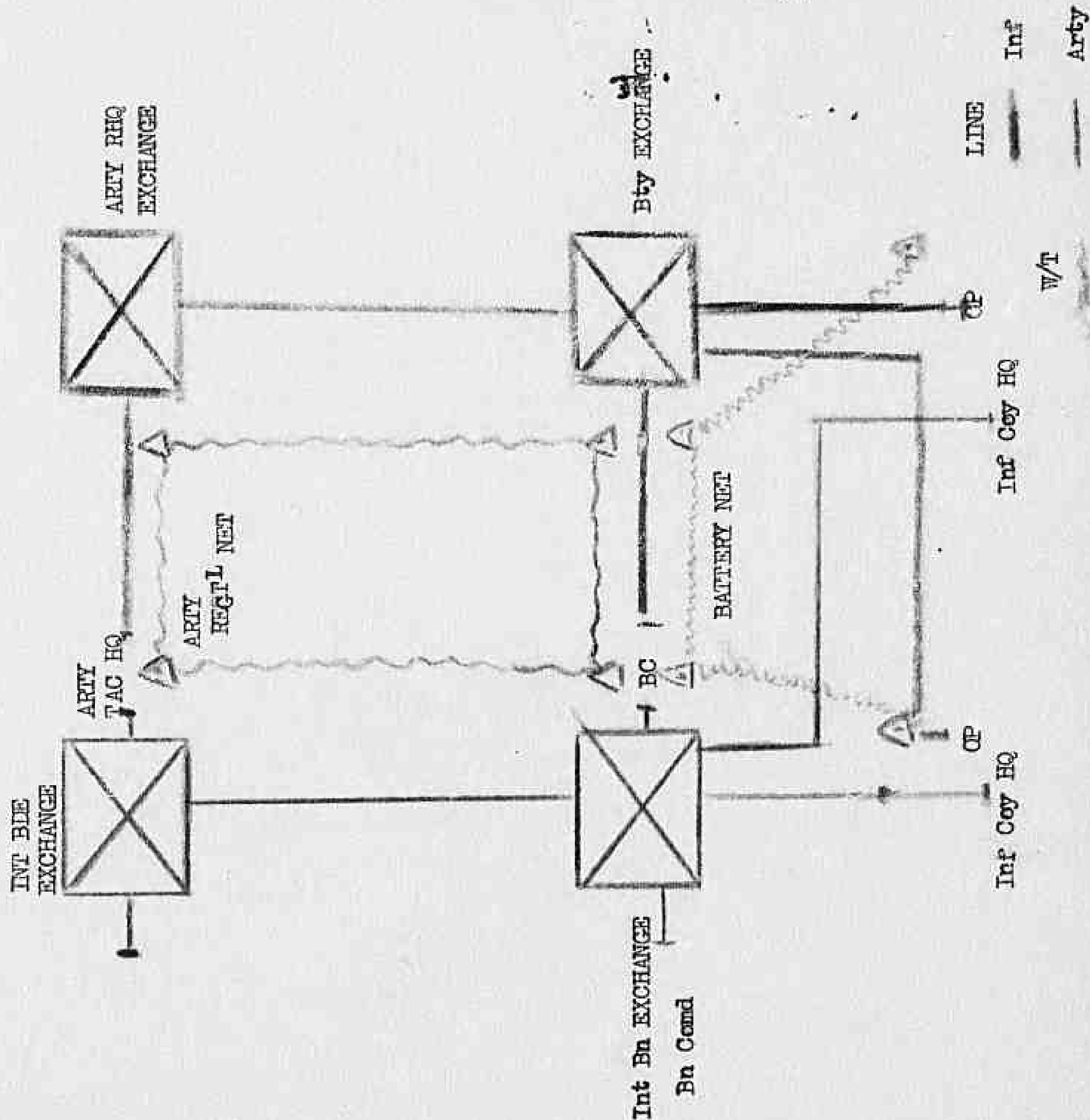
10



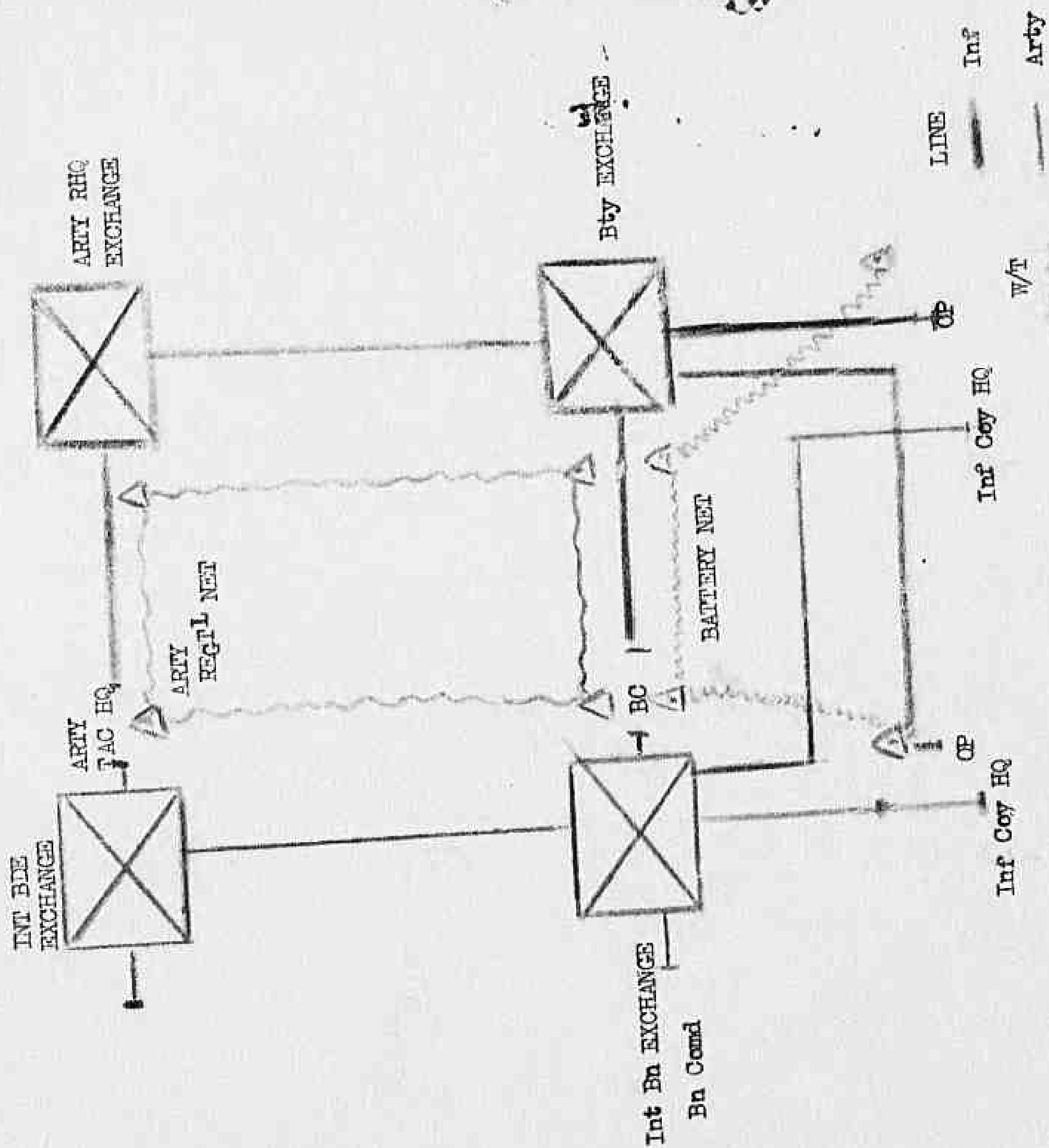
APPENDIX C.

COMMUNICATIONS.

BRIGADE TO BN'S  
ARTY REGT TO BTY'S BG. OPS







NOTE. (1) Infantry wireless channels not shown.  
 (2) Battery net is often not used. All wireless sets within the regiment working on Regimental net instead.



SUBJECT :- Training

Land Forces Sub Comm A.C.  
(K.M.I.A.) ROME

TRG/1

5 Mar 46

Ministry of War

1.

Enclosed herewith are :-

- (a) Our letter TRG/1 dated 4 Mar 46 - Routine Annual Training,
- (b) Excerpts from a British Publication "The Principles of Training".

2. The British Publication "The Principles of Training" has recently been issued by the War Office to every serving officer of the British Army. It is thought that similar treatment of our excerpts would be of lasting value to all Officers of the Italian Army.

WLM/ell

Major-General.  
K. M. I. A.



SUBJECT: Training

LAND FORCES SUB COM, AC (MMIA)

TRG/1

Mar 46

TO : List 'B'

Reference this HQ letter TRG/1 of 4 Mar 46.

1. The excerpts referred to in para 1 of the above mentioned letter were taken from the recently issued British Army Publication "The Principles of Training", of which you have had a copy.
2. Typed copies were made of this publication, excluding those portions of no interest or inapplicable to the Italian Army.

WLM/ell

*WLM/ell*  
for Major-General,  
MMIA.



SUBJECT: Routine Annual Training

LAND FORCES SUB-COM, AG (LMLA)

TO : MINISTRY OF WAR

TRG/1  
MAR 45  
4

1. I forward herewith excerpts from a publication recently received from the U.K. on the Principles of Training in the hope that it may be of interest to the Italian Army.

2. It is the British practice to make the training of the Army follow an annual cycle starting with the training of the instructors required for the current year and culminating in collective training of all arms in unit and formation exercises during the summer months.

The object of this letter is two-fold:-

PART 'A': To give a general resume of the annual training cycle as operated in the British and Dominion Armies;

PART 'B': To show how this system could be applied to the ITALIAN Army with special reference to the needs of the present year 1946/7.

3. Both have been written largely to stress the Infantry aspect of training but the principles are equally applicable to all other arms of the service. The methods by which the different types of training, referred to in the following paragraphs, are carried out are described in considerable detail in the publication attached.

4. It may be thought that an annual cycle of training is unsuitable for an Army into which conscript recruits are fed at four monthly intervals: it is suggested, however, that this is not so for the following reasons:-

(a) The climatic conditions, particularly in the North of ITALY where the majority of the active Army will be stationed, makes it undesirable to carry out Collective Training during the winter months.

(b) Collective training has three main objects, shown here in their order of importance:

- (i) Practicing senior officers and staffs in the handling of formations and their maintenance in the field;
- (ii) The training and exercising of the leaders of all grades
- (iii) The exercising of the troops and specialists.

(c) Provided therefore that the conscript recruits are fully trained in their weapons and basic battle drills they can be fitted in to the training cycle at any stage of its progress without detriment to the formation training and with benefit to themselves.

PART 'A'

1. In the BRITISH system Annual Training is considered under four headings:-

- (a) Training of officers and NCOs.
- (b) Cadre training of battalion and company instructors
- (c) Individual training of all ranks
- (d) Collective training



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#### PART 'A'

In the BRITISH system Annual Training is considered under four headings:-

1.
  - (a) Training of officers and NCOs.
  - (b) Cadre training of battalion and company instructors
  - (c) Individual training of all ranks
  - (d) Collective training
2. (a) Training of officers and NCOs
  - (i) A unit whose officers and NCOs are untrained and unfit to train others can never be an efficient unit. It is therefore the duty of commanders at all levels to train their subordinates.
  - (ii) The Junior Leader must be taught:-
    - (a) The technique of map reading and compass
    - (b) Message writing
    - (c) Wireless procedure
    - (d) Appreciations and orders
    - (e) Basic drills for reconnaissance, deployment, and movement by road or rail.
    - (f) Cooperation with other arms and services



(iii) This is carried out by including subaltern officers and senior NCOs in the annual battalion cadres, by the use of sand model exercises and exercises without troops. These are run by both company and battalion commanders. Study periods are organised when tactics and administration are studied by means of manuals, lectures and discussions.

(iv) In the BRITISH Army it is considered that the platoon commander, being primarily a leader, must be fully capable of performing every duty which may fall to the lot of his subordinates.

For this reason he must be a fully competent instructor in all platoon weapons. He must be capable of compiling and organising his own programmes and training, and of personally undertaking the detailed instruction involved.

(v) Tactically and administratively the minimum standard is that any officer should be fit, after a short period in any rank, to assume command of the next higher rank.

(vi) Thus the Commanding Officer, (while ensuring that his subordinates are capable of discharging their own duties) has to find time to train them to undertake the duties of their immediate seniors.

(vii) Specialist officers and NCOs are not forgotten. The commanding officer selects replacements each year for these specialists. They are trained by the existing specialist officers. All new class specialist officers and NCOs attend courses at army schools to perfect their knowledge before taking over from their predecessors.

(viii) This necessary training of officers occupies the whole twelve months of the year. During the winter months, when outdoor training for the mass is not practicable, the commanding officer organises lectures and discussions. Tactics are closely studied by these methods and by sand model exercises and TWTs.

Organisation and administration, the welfare of the soldier and a variety of other subjects are taught and learned in the comfort and friendly atmosphere of the officers own unit.

During the summer months the officer applies himself to the practice of what he has learned in theory and to the practical training of his troops on the ground.

#### (b) Cadre training of battalion etc instructors

Each year instructor losses of the previous twelve months are replaced. The years training starts with courses (normally in battalions, but in many instances at a higher level). In this period it is ensured that adequate numbers of instructors are trained to permit each company or equivalent sub-unit getting through its training without any help from outside sources. Such training embraces all aspects of individual training, including all weapon training applicable and that part of field training which can be considered as individual rather than collective training. Normally, instructor training takes place during the winter and early months of any year with the object of having finished it in time to take full advantage of the Spring and Summer weather which is needed for



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duty which may lead to the loss of his position as instructor in all platoons. For this reason he must be a fully competent instructor in all platoon weapons. He must be capable of compiling and organising his own programmes and training, and of personally undertaking the detailed instruction involved.

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#### (c) Individual training of all ranks

(i) The subjects to be covered are:-

- (a) Weapons and equipment
- (b) Fieldcraft
- (c) Observation training
- (d) Physical training
- (e) Driving and maintenance training

...../3



- 3 -

- (f) Wireless and signals
- (g) Map reading
- (h) First aid
- (i) Hygiene and water discipline
- (j) Interior economy

(ii) That part of the above which applies to him is given to every soldier under arms by the instructors already trained.

(iii) The object of the individual training is to make every man so conversant with his weapon, equipment and task, that he is fully able to apply his knowledge ~~effectively~~ *wisely* during the next stage of training or in battle.

(iv) Owing to the diversity and complexity of equipment in modern armies it is not now considered the best practice to try to train all ranks in all weapons. Rather it is the policy to ensure that every man has a thorough general military grounding and subsequently to train them as specialists in one weapon and as an adequate "stand-in" on one other. Weapon training generally is confined to the basic weapons common to all arms - the rifle, Bren, Grenades etc.

(v) The training of specialists - signallers, stretcher-bearers, mortar and MG personnel, drivers, despatch riders etc - requires special consideration. The ideal is to have 100% trained reserve of each type of specialist within the unit.  
The commanding officer nominates replacements each year for his specialists. They are trained by the existing specialist officers and NCOs until they are fit and capable of taking their places. The procedure is called: "Annual Training of New Class Specialists". By this system of specialist "turn-over" an adequate reserve is maintained. Trained specialists will undergo a period of refresher training each year.

(vi) The logical conclusions to individual training is the annual range classification course, and standard tests in other equipment. During individual training, re-training on all types of equipment is carried out.

(d) Collective training.

(i) This is Battle training. By successive stages the soldier is hardened and made fit for his forthcoming exertions.

(ii) In successive stages he is taken through platoon and company training and is finally ready for the exertions of battalion exercises and higher formation manoeuvres. Not until the commander is satisfied with results must the next higher stage of training be attempted. In the BRITISH system every battalion goes annually through platoon, company and battalion training.

- NOTE 1 : It is worth noting here that individual training is the time for training the soldier in the ranks.
- NOTE 2 : Platoon and company training is the company commanders' training, while battalion training is the officers' and himself.



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NOTE 2 : Platoon and company training is the company commanders' opportunity to train his officers and himself.

NOTE 3 : Battalion training is the battalion commanders' chance to train his company commanders and to judge the standard achieved throughout his battalion in its earlier stages of training.

(iii) By the results of classification tests in individual training and the battalion's performance in collective training, the higher commander may judge the efforts and value of the battalion commander.

...../4



- 4 -

(iv) During collective training the types of exercises to be carried out are:-

- (a) Battle drills
- (b) Field firing
- (c) Skeleton exercises
- (d) One sided exercises
- (e) Two sided exercises

(v) As already said, in the BRITISH system battalion and Regt training takes place annually, and higher formation training at less frequent periods.

3. The foregoing is a very brief resume of the training cycle in the BRITISH Army. In subsequent paragraphs the needs of the ITALIAN Army will be considered, bearing in mind the problems peculiar to that Army, and an endeavour will be made to show how the BRITISH cycle of training could be applied to the various units of the ITALIAN Army.

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PART 'B'

1. In considering the training needs of the ITALIAN Army during the coming year it will be necessary to consider separately the very different needs of:-

- (a) Units already equipped with British equipment;
- (b) Units not as yet equipped with British equipment.

2. This is necessary as in one case we have a problem of revising an already known doctrine, whereas in the other we have to initiate a new doctrine.

3. The outstanding factor making for a difference in the treatment of the two categories is the time factor:-

- (a) Time needed for training;
- (b) Time required for collection and distribution of British arms to certain units.

Let us consider the possible training on a month to month basis:-

Month	Units already Brit Equipped	Units not yet Brit equipped
Jan	Officer and NCO winter training	Theoretical training
Feb	Officer and NCO winter training	Theoretical training
Mar	Cadre training of instructors	Instructors to CESANO for course on British equipment
Apr	Individual training	Cadre training of battalion and company instructors 1st course



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3. The foregoing is a very brief resume of the training cycle in the BRITISH ARMY. In subsequent paragraphs the needs of the Italian Army will be considered, bearing in mind the problems peculiar to that Army, and an endeavour will be made to show how the BRITISH cycle of training could be applied to the various units of the ITALIAN ARMY.

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Apr	Individual training	Cadre training of battalion and company instructors 1st course
May	Individual training	Individual training of a part of a unit. Cadre training of instructors 2nd course.
Jun	Collective training	Individual training
Jul	Collective training	Individual training
AUG	Collective training	Collective training
Sep	Collective training	Collective training
Oct	Officer and NCO winter training	Officer and NCO winter training

...../5



4. Thus it can be seen that for units not yet equipped, training must be at least two months behind to allow for the necessary training of instructors, and that a further lag may be created whilst awaiting the completion of re-equipment.

5. In making suggestions, therefore, this HQ bases its argument on two main premises:-

- (a) That units already equipped could complete individual training far sooner than is the case for non-equipped units, and that consequently more time exists for their Collective Training. As a result, Collective training can go to a higher level this year.
- (b) That the exact reverse applies for units not already equipped. More time is needed to draw equipment and to ensure an adequate standard of individual training. This cuts down the time available for Collective training which, since it is essential to complete fully the training at lower levels, precludes much Collective Training above battalion level.

#### TRAINING OF OFFICERS AND NCOs

- 6. (a) This has been continuous during the winter, though in many cases the instruction has not been organised as it might have been. Work has however taken place.
- (b) In units already British equipped the study of equipment, and training to use it, will have reached a level which permits of cadre training at units starting early in March.
- (c) In units not yet equipped all such technical instruction will, with the changed equipment, have to be re-done to encompass the new equipment before training can commence.
- (d) Selected instructors will do courses at CESANO during March and it would appear that by mid-April a start could be made on instruction within units.

#### CADRE TRAINING OF INSTRUCTORS

- 7. (a) Infantry divisions already equipped with British weapons will have trained adequate numbers of instructors to run cadres.
- (b) Internal security divisions and Territorial regiments will get their first batch of instructors trained at CESANO during March and April.
- (c) Immediately upon return to their units, instructors must commence the cadres which will train the company and battalion instructors. This may take as long as three months if two or more classes must be run. The essential is that (since this is the basis on which the whole structure will be built) this instruction should be of the highest order and should continue, if necessary to the exclusion of other

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#### INDIVIDUAL TRAINING

8. (a) Remembering that this is the basis of everything it would be wise, in ordering training for units not yet re-equipped,

...../6

to suggest a date well-ahead as the date for completion, and pointing out that at the discretion of commanders this date may be postponed, until complete efficiency is reached.

(b) For other units this HQ recommends a generous allotment of time in order to get all ranks up to the standard expected from the recruits leaving CAR to join units.

(c) Noticeable weaknesses which could be eradicated during individual training are:-

- (i) MT driving and maintenance
- (ii) Drill and bearing both on and off parade
- (iii) Maintenance of weapons and daily cleaning standard
- (iv) Hygiene and sanitation standards
- (v) Physical and recreational training.

These subjects should be specially mentioned in any directive issued and commanders should be instructed that as a result of training very much higher standards are expected and demanded.

#### COLLECTIVE TRAINING

9. (a) From para 3 of Part 'E' (above) it appears unlikely that re-equipping units will have much time for training at the regimental level, though every effort should be made to train the senior officers of these units. A study week specially run for these officers would help them in training their comds during the following winter, 1946/7. This week might well be held about October/November 1946, and could, if such training were ordered, be combined with the manoeuvres of one or other of the Infantry Divisions. Arrangements to be carried out by the Division could first be discussed with the officers, who would later see the troops actually manoeuvring on the ground under their own commanders.

(b) In most units and formations already re-equipped ample time will exist for training at the regimental level, and wherever possible this should be organised.

#### WINTER TRAINING

10. General Training.

Part 'A', para 2 (viii) suggests winter training and para 2(b) suggests courses in battalions or at a higher level.

It is the opinion of this HQ that the needs of the ITALIAN Army would best be met by the establishment of Divisional or Regimental Schools to supervise winter study and officer and NCO training. It must be borne in mind, however, that these schools must not run in competition with Army schools - their object must be:-

- (i) To train officers and NCOs for whom vacancies do not exist at Army schools;
- (ii) To assist the formation commander to implement his own policy for the preparatory training of his command;



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- (i) To train officers and NCOs for whom vacancies do not exist at Army schools;
- (ii) To assist the formation commander to implement his own policy for the preparatory training of his command;
- (iii) In the case of newly equipped formations, to raise the general standard of officer and NCO knowledge of the new weapons and the new methods imposed by them.

p3/MTA

conv to: List 'B': H_A to CCG. CCG. Col 1/2, 'G', 'U', 'V' per entry (2).

Major-General,  
MATA.

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