Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. 785020

ACC

10000/120/5143

SD/39/2

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. 785020

10000/120/5143 SD/39/2 COMBAT GROUPS (INCL BLUS)(ORG)

MAY - DEC. 1945

(20 185)

COVER I

Aide [illegible]ctre on Reorgaation of ITALIAN Infantry [illegible] Regts and Internal Security Divs.

1 Jan or Feb 1946

1. Reasons for altering present organisation at all.

(a) Experience by BLUs with existing organisation on trg and in action during past seventeen months.

(b) Requests by ITALIAN Ministry of War for certain additions.

(c) Modifications to meet present possible commitments of ITALIAN Army i.e.

(i) defence against minor frontier agression
(ii) duties in aid of the civil power.

2. Main alterations recommended.

(a) Increase in Fd Arty. Present org (one Arty Regt of four 25 pdr btys each of eight guns, one 17 pdr bty of eight guns, and one 40 mm bty of twelve guns) found unsatisfactory.

Reason (i) No CRA at Div HQ.

(ii) No comd party existed for gp of two 25 pdr btys normally allotted to each inf regt.

(iii) With no med or corps arty a total of thirty two 25 prs is insufficient to support two inf regts.

Proposal (i) Add CRA and Staff to Div HQ.

(ii) Increase Fd Arty by sixteen guns, and divide into two regts each of three btys of eight guns on BRIT pattern. (Total 48 guns.)

(b) Increase in Lt AA Arty.

185

Reason (i) Twelve guns insufficient to protect Div area.

Proposal Form separate Lt AA Regt of two btys each of three tps of six guns. (Total 36 guns.)

(c) Alteration in distribution of A/Tk guns.

Reason (i) Training and tactical handling of 6 pdr A Tk guns in Inf Regts and Bn was found to be bad.

(ii) By concentrating 6 pdr A Tk in Arty hands overall saving of manpower could be effected.

Proposal (i) Remove 6 pdrs from Inf.

(ii) Form separate A Tk Regt of one 17 pdr bty of three tps each of four guns and two 6 pdr btys each of three tps of four guns (Total 12 x 17 pdrs, and 24 x 6 pdrs, in lieu of present org of 8 x 17 pdrs

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(i) defence against minor frontier agression
(ii) duties in aid of the civil power.

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(ii) By concentrating 6 pdr A Tk in Arty hands overall saving of manpower could be effected.

Proposal (i) Remove 6 pdrs from Inf.

(ii) Form separate A Tk Regt of one 17 pdr bty of three tps each of four guns and two 6 pdr btys each of three tps of four guns (Total 12 x 17 pdrs, and 24 x 6 pdrs, compared to present org of 8 x 17 pdrs and 36 x 6 pdrs in hands of inf.).

Note: ITALIANS have some wish to retain 6 pdrs as an inf weapon for "psychological reasons" and as an inf gun, for which the 6 pdr is not designed.
It is considered that the "psychological reasons" amount only to a previous lack of full trg and liaison between inf and arty.

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(d) Add a Recce element to the Div as Div tps.

Reason (i) Present org designed only for a purely static defensive roll.

(ii) Usefulness of a fully mobile element in event of civil disturbance.

Proposal (i) Add a Recce bn. ITALIANS desire one Armd C Coy, one carrier coy, and one lorried inf coy. At present under detailed discussion.

(e) Include MMG in Inf Regts.

Reason (i) None on present org.

(ii) Essential in frontier defence.

Proposal Add two MMG pls each of four MMGs to each Inf Bn. (Total 24 x MMG per Regt.)

Note: ITALIANS much prefer MMG in bns rather than as a Regt Sp Coy. There seems to be little tactical objection.

(f) Increase weight of Mortar fire in Inf Regt.

Reason Present org of one regt coy of eight mortars and one pl of four mortars in each bn does not allow sufficient sp for fwd bns.

Proposal (i) Convert Regt of eight 3" Mortar coy to eight 4.2 Mortars.

(ii) Increase each Bn 3" Mortar pl from four to six 3" mortars.

(g) Delete (i) Regt 6 pdr A Tk coy.

(ii) Bn 6 pdr pl.

(iii) Carrier pl of each Inf Bn.

Reasons (i) and (ii): see 2 (c) above.

(iii) To provide manpower within ceiling for formation of MMG pls.

Note: ITALIANS do not like or handle correctly their carrier pls and little loss will be felt.
Twelve LMGs of carrier pl are compensated by eight MMG added (2 (e) above).

(h) Reduce size of Rifle Pl from forty two to thirty four.

Reason Approx size of BRIT pl and save manpower for other increases.

(j) Corollorary increases in Div Sigs, S and T, LADs etc for obvious reasons.

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC No. T25020

Reason (i) None on present org.

(ii) Essential in frontier defence.

Proposal Add two MMG pls each of four MMGs to each Inf Bn. (Total 24 x MMG per Regt.)

Note: ITALIANS much prefer MMG in bns rather than as a Regt Sp Coy. There seems to be little tactical objection.

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Twelve LMGs of carrier pl are compensated by eight MMG added (2 (e) above).

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Reason Approx size of BRIT pl and save manpower for other increases.

(j) Corollorary increases in Div Sigs, S and T, LADs etc for obvious reasons.

.....3/

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDS No. 785020

3. ITALIAN subsequent proposal

To add a third inf regt and a third fd regt, to retain 6 pdrs as an Inf weapon, and minor modifications in inf and arty (mixed A Tk and LAA Regt.).

ITALIANS did NOT provide essential corollorary increases in RE, R.Sigs, Ord, ST, REME or Medical, nor could they fit figures anywhere within existing obligatory ceilings.

4. Reasons for insistence on proposed org of two inf regts and arty as described in 2 above.

(a) To accept three inf and three fd regt proposal would involve an increase in total str of div from approx ten thousand to approx fifteen thousand.

(b) This is impossible within existing block ceiling ordered by AFHQ for Inf Divs (five divs total 50,000 against five divs total 75,000).

(c) (i) To form three divs each of 15,000, total 45,000, within existing ceiling of 50,000, would involve having three large, unwieldy divs instead of five reasonably mobile ones.

(ii) AFHQ approval would be required.

(iii) Three large divs instead of five smaller ones would not so well answer the purposes of frontier defence or internal security, and the ITALIAN Govt might disagree from the political angle.

(d) (i) To transfer manpower from the Independent Regt block or the Internal Security Div block would involve disbandment of complete formations in these groups.

(ii) AFHQ approval would be required.

(iii) The present internal security layout in ITALY would be seriously affected by any such disbandment.

(iv) The ITALIAN Govt might disagree from the political angle. 18?

(e) Any major change in organisation policy at this stage would seriously retard

(i) equipping of the ITALIAN Army

(ii) training of the ITALIAN Army

(iii) internal security arrangements.

.....4/

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. 18502D

(a) To accept three inf and three fd regt proposal would involve an increase in total str of div from approx ten thousand to approx fifteen thousand.

(b) This is impossible within existing block ceiling ordered by AFHQ for Inf Divs (five divs total 50,000 against five divs total 75,000).

(c) (i) To form three divs each of 15,000, total 45,000, within existing ceiling of 50,000, would involve having three large, unwieldy divs instead of five reasonably mobile ones.

(ii) AFHQ approval would be required.

(iii) Three large divs instead of five smaller ones would not so well answer the purposes of frontier defence or internal security, and the ITALIAN Govt might disagree from the political angle.

(d) (i) To transfer manpower from the Independent Regt block or the Internal Security Div block would involve disbandment of complete formations in these groups.

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(iv) The ITALIAN Govt might disagree from the political angle. 18?

(e) Any major change in organisation policy at this stage would seriously retard

(i) equipping of the ITALIAN Army

(ii) training of the ITALIAN Army

(iii) internal security arrangements.

.....4/

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. 78502

5. Comparison of BRIT orgs and orgs proposed for ITALIANS.

(a) Inf.

BRIT	ITALIAN
(i) Bde HQ	Regt HQ
Bde Def Pl	
A one-third share ina MG Bn containing sixteen 4.2 Mortars and thirty six MMGs. i.e. say five 4.2 mortars and twelve MMG available to the Bde.	Regt 4.2 Mortar say of eight 4.2 mortars.
Three Inf bns each of:	Three Inf bns each of:
HQ and HQ Coy Sp Coy of: one 3" mortar pl (six mortars)	HQ and HQ Coy Sp Coy of: 3" mortar pl (six mortars)
A Tk Pl (six 6 prs)	Two MMG pls each of four MMG. Total eight MMG
Carrier Pl (Thirteen carriers)	
Assault Pnr Pl.	Assault Pnr Pl.
Four rifle coys each of	Three rifle coys each of
HQ Three rifle pls each of thirty seven men.	HQ Three rifle pls each of thirty four men.

(ii) Weapons.

2" Mortars	78(x)	2" Mortars	27
3" Mortars	18	3" Mortars	18
PIAT	72(y)	PIAT	57
6 pdrs	18	6 pdrs	- (Arty. Weapon)
LMG	196(z)	LMG	146
MMG	12	MMG	24

Notes : (x) Thirty go out with Carrier and A Tk pls which ITALIANS do not have.
Fourth rifle coy account for further twelve. Could add one to each ITALIAN rifle coy HQ as in BRIT Rifle Coy.
Figures would then be almost exactly comparable.

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tars and thirty six MMGs.
i.e. say five 4.2 mortars
and twelve MMG available to
the Bde.

Three Inf bns each of:

HQ and HQ Coy
Sp Coy of: one 3" mortar pl
(six mortars)

A Tk Pl (six 6 prs)

Carrier Pl (Thirteen
carriers)

Assault Pnr Pl.

Four rifle coys each of

HQ
Three rifle pls each of
thirty seven men.

Regt 4.2 Mortar say of eight
4.2 mortars.

Three Inf bns each of:

HQ and HQ Coy
Sp Coy of: 3" mortar pl
(six mortars)

Two MMG pls each of four
MMG. Total eight MMG

Assault Pnr Pl.

Three rifle coys each of

HQ
Three rifle pls each of
thirty four men.

(ii) Weapons.

2" Mortars	78(x)	2" Mortars	27 ~~18~~ ?
3" Mortars	18	3" Mortars	18
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6 pdrs	18	6 pdrs	- (Arty. Weapon)
LMG	196(z)	LMG	146
MMG	12	MMG	24

Notes : (x) Thirty go out with Carrier and A Tk pls which ITALIANS do not have.
Fourth rifle coy account for further twelve. Could add one to each ITALIAN rifle coy HQ as in BRIT Rifle Coy.
Figures would then be almost exactly comparable.

(y) Twelve go out with Carrier Pls.
Figures are then almost exactly comparable.

(z) Thirty nine go out with Carrier Pls.
Eighteen go out with A Tk pls.
ITALIANS have advantage in spite of only three rifle coys, and in addition have twenty four MMG available compared to twelve with BRIT bde.

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Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNEC No. 165020

(b) Div Arty.

BRIT (for three Inf Regts)	ITALIAN (for two Inf Regts)
Three Fd Regts each of twenty four 25 pdrs.	Two Fd regts each of twenty four 25 pdrs
One A Tk Regt	One A Tk Regt
Two btys each of three tps of four 17 pdrs (twenty four 17 pdrs).	One bty of ~~four~~ THREE tps of four 17 pdrs (~~sixteen~~ TWELVE 17 pdrs).
Two btys each of three tps of four M 10s (twenty four M 10s).	
	Two btys each of three tps of four 6 pdrs (total twenty four 6 pdrs).
One LAA Regt	One LAA Regt
Three btys each of three tps of six 40 mm (fifty four 40 mm).	Two btys each of three tps of six 40 mm (thirty six 40mm).

18

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Comparative table of weapons, Combat Gps and new Inf Divs.

(i)

	Combat Gps	Inf Divs	Remarks
Per Inf Regt			
LMG	200	146	Difference of fifty seven accounted for by Carrier and A Tk pls deleted from new org. (Arty A Tk pls will bring back twelve when under comd.)
MMG	NIL	24	Compensates for balance of loss of forty five above.
PIAT	63	61	
2" Mortars	54	27	Lost with Carrier and A Tk pls deleted.
3" Mortars	20	18	Six per bn instead of four. Eight in Regt Mortar Coy replaced by eight 4.2s.
4.2" Mortars	NIL	8	
6 Pdrs	18		
Per Div			
6 Pdrs	-	24	Twelve available for sp of each inf regt in lieu of previous eighteen inf 6 pdrs.
17 pdrs	8	12	Six available in sp of each Inf Regt.
25 Pdrs	32	48	
40 mm	12	36	

(ii) Carriers in Inf Regts.

113	94	Incl MMG and 3" Mortar Carriers and Lloyds for 4.2 Mortar Coys.

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Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDG NO. T85020

GOC

WEs ITALIAN ARMY

Progress in completion and review up to 19 January 1946.

	UNIT	POSITION
	Central Command	
1.	Stato Maggiore Generale	Prepared by ITALIANS. Pending Review.
2.	War Ministry	" "
3.	S.M.R.E.	" "
4.	Royal Household	Not known.
5.	Intelligence Branch	Not yet agreed.
6.	Territorial Command HQ	Prepared by ITALIANS. Ready for review.
7.	Military District HQ	" "
8.	Regt Depots	" "
	Inf Divs	
9.	Div HQ	Based on WE Combat Gp HQ, plus amdts. NOT prepared.
10.	Recce Bn	Still under discussion.
11.	Inf Regt HQ	Prepared, less Table of Tradesmen and specialists.
12.	Inf Bn	ditto
13.	Fd Arty Regt	HQ not prepared in detail. Btys ready on Combat Gp
14.	A Tk Regt	Still under discussion.
15.	Light AA Regt	Based on BRIT WEs. Not prepared in detail.
16.	Engineer Bn	Based on WE of Combat Gp Engr Bn, plus amdts. NOT p
17.	Signals Coy	Outline prepared by BRIT. Detail not yet considered
18.	S and T Coy	Combat Gp WE, plus amdts. NOT prepared in detail by
19.	Mech Engrs W/Shops	Ditto
20.	Mech Engrs FC	Ditto
21.	LADs	Based on BRIT WEs. Detail not yet considered by ITI
22.	Medical Section	Combat Gp WE. Ready but not reviewed by ITI WEC.
23.	Fd Hosps	Ditto
24.	OFP	Combat Gp WE, plus amdts. NOT prepared in detail by I
25.	FSS	BRIT WE. Ready, but not reviewed by ITI WEC.
	Internal Security Divs	
26.	IS Div HQ	Present ITI WE will need complete re-writing.
27.	Inf Regt HQ	Prepared less table of tradesmen and specialists. (
28.	Inf Bn	Ditto
29.	Mixed Engr Bn	Present ITI WE will need alteration before review.
30.	Sup and Ord Coy	Ditto
31.	Tpt Coy.	Ditto

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDG NO. 785020

WEs ITALIAN ARMY

ogress in completion and review up to 19 January 1946.

	POSITION
Prepared by ITALIANS.	Pending Review.
"	"
"	"
Not known.	
Not yet agreed.	
Prepared by ITALIANS.	Ready for review.
"	"
"	"
Based on WE Combat Gp HQ, plus amdts. NOT prepared.	
Still under discussion.	
Prepared, less Table of Tradesmen and specialists.	
ditto	
HQ not prepared in detail. Btys ready on Combat Gp WE	
Still under discussion.	
Based on BRIT WEs. Not prepared in detail.	
Based on WE of Combat Gp Engr Bn, plus amdts. NOT prepared.	
Outline prepared by BRIT. Detail not yet considered by ITIS.	
Combat Gp WE, plus amdts. NOT prepared in detail by ITIS.	
Ditto	
Ditto	
Based on BRIT WEs. Detail not yet considered by ITIS.	
Combat Gp WE. Ready but not reviewed by ITI WEC.	
Ditto	
Combat Gp WE, plus amdts. NOT prepared in detail by ITIS.	
BRIT WE. Ready, but not reviewed by ITI WEC.	
Present ITI WE will need complete re-writing.	
Prepared less table of tradesmen and specialists. (Same as WE in Inf Div.)	
Ditto	
Present ITI WE will need alteration before review.	
Ditto	
Ditto	

.....2/

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	Inf Regts	
32.	Inf Regt HQ	Prepared less table of tradesmentand special
33.	Inf Bn	Ditto
	Trg Ests	
34.	All schools incl TTC	Prepared in detail by ITIS. Due for review b
	Adm Units	
35.	Medical	All reviewed (35 WEs)
36.	Commissariat	ditto (15 WEs)
37.	Arty	ditto (12 WEs) Note: These are e.g.
38.	MT	ditto (24 WEs) Note: Incl tpt coys,
39.	Engineers	Ready for review. Prepared by ITIS.
40.	Signals	Ditto
41.	Movements	In preparation by ITIS.
42.	V and R	All reviewed (6 WEs).
43.	Military Tribunals	In preparation by ITIS.
44.	" Penal Institutions	ditto
45.	" Geographical	ditto
46.	Welfare	ditto
47.	Repatriated PW Camps	Temporary units. NOT to be reviewed.
48.	Transit Camps	ditto
49.	Salvage Dets	ditto

CCRR

50. All present ITI WEs extremely dubious, and at present under consideration by CCRR Sec of MMIA.

Note: (a) In case of Combat Tps, WEs are all based on BRIT models, and are given to of War "as a suggestion" complete except for tables of tradesmen and speci ITALIANS work out for themselves.

(b) In all other cases ITALIANS prepare the whole WE and submit to MMIA for s before review by ITI WEC.

(c) Preparation of new CCRR WEs will be a long job.

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. 785020

Prepared less table of tradesmentand specialists (same WE as for Inf and IS Divs).

Ditto

Prepared in detail by ITIS. Due for review by ITI WEC 24 Jan 46.

All reviewed (35 WEs)
ditto (15 WEs)
ditto (12 WEs) Note: These are e.g. Ordnance Factories.
ditto (24 WEs) Note: Incl tpt coys, EME units etc.
Ready for review. Prepared by ITIS.
Ditto
In preparation by ITIS.
All reviewed (6 WEs).
In preparation by ITIS.
ditto
ditto
ditto
Temporary units. NOT to be reviewed.
ditto
ditto

I WEs extremely dubious, and at present under consideration by CCRR Sec of MMIA.

Note: (a) In case of Combat Tps, WEs are all based on BRIT models, and are given to Ministry of War "as a suggestion" complete except for tables of tradesmen and specialists which ITALIANS work out for themselves.

(b) In all other cases ITALIANS prepare the whole WE and submit to MMIA for suggestions before review by ITI WEC.

(c) Preparation of new CCRR WEs will be a long job.

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. T25020

SUBJECT: British Directives (Italian Combat Ops).

LAND FORCES SUB COM. A.C. (MMIA)

SD/39/2

4 Dec 45

TO : 2 B.I.U.

Ref your letter I/9 of 26 Nov 45 and MMIA SD/39/2 of 21 Nov 45.

It is regretted that a complete set of British Directives is not available. One copy of each of the following is enclosed:

No. 1 - General - Scope

No. 2 - Organisation

No. 3 - Comd and Liaison

No.13 - Rfts

No.14 - Medical Directives for Italian Combat Ops

No.20 - Ordnance Equipment

No.21 - Supplies, Amn and POL

for Major General,
M. M. I. A.

A3C/jw

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. 785020

SD/39/2

72

SUBJECT : British Directives (Italian Combat Gps)

SD.

9 British Liaison Unit
BARI.

26 Nov 45

Ref : I/9.

HQ Land Forces Sub Comm AC (MMIA)
ROME.

67

Ref your SD/39/2 of 21 Nov 45, may copies of British Directives (Italian Combat Groups) Nos I - 23 be forwarded to this HQ, if any are available.

G(Ops) .....
GSO 2 (Int) .....
GSO 2 (W/T) .....
GSO 2 (Ops) .....
GSO 3 (Int) .....
GSO 3 (Ops) .....
GSO 3 (Ops) .....

(H FERRO) Major
GS

HF/aa

RECEIVED 30/11/45
3454 DATE

171

Head Clerk
Forward what we have

MMIA - 'G'
FILE: SD/39/2
DATE: R/30/11

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. 785020

SD/39/2.

SUBJECT : British Directives (Italian Combat Gps) 72

SD.

9 British Liaison Unit
BARI.

26 Nov 45

Ref : I/9.

HQ Land Forces Sub Comm AC (MMIA)
ROME.

67

Ref your SD/39/2 of 21 Nov 45, may copies of British Directives (Italian Combat Groups) Nos I - 23 be forwarded to this HQ, if any are available.

Amd

G(Ops) 2 (Ops) .....
GS(R) 2 (SD) .....
G(O) 2 (W/T) .....
G(Q) 2 (Q) .....
G(O) 3 (S) .....
G(O) 3 (Ops) .....
GS(R) 3 (I) .....

HF/aa

(H FERRO) Major
GS

RECEIVED 30/11/45
3444 (DATE)

171

Head Clerk

Forward what we have

300000

MMIA - 'G'
3/12
FILE: SD 39/2
REF: R/207/11

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. 785020

INTEROFFICE REFERENCE SHEET

ALLIED FORCES SUB COMMISSION AC (MMIA)

FLORENCE

APO 7XXX 650 US ARMY

RECEIVED 254 28 NOV 45 (DATE)

70

Subject: Proposed Reorg. -- Italian Inf. Divs.

SD/39/2 & receipt to file

RCV/ebf

IND NO.	FROM	TO	DATE
	Sr MMIA LO Florence	MMIA	31 Oct 1945

1. Reference your signal SD 3035 of 29 October, subject: Proposed Reorganization Italian Infantry Divisions and your SD/39/2 of 29 October 45. — 58A

2. Receipt is acknowledged. Directive will be read, contents not devulged to unauthorized personnel and will in accordance with your instructions be destroyed.

GSO 1 ARCL

GSO 2 (Ops)

GSO 2 (Int)

GSO 2 (Plans)

GSO 2

GSO 3

GSO 3 (Cdnl)

GSO 3 (I)

R.C. Van Kirk

R.C. VAN KIRK,
Major, Inf.,
Sr MMIA LO
Florence

Registered. on 29/11.

R.

MMIA - "C"
FILE: SD/39/2
DATE: 29/11.

175

28/645

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. 785020

67

SUBJECT: British Directives (Italian Combat Groups).

LAND FORCES SUB COM. A.C. (MMIA)

SD/39/2

21 Nov 45

TO : Nos.1 BLU (TURIN) ex 51 BLU — 'F' BL & TU
2 " (GENOA) — HQ A.C.
3 " (MILAN) ex 50 BLU — AFHQ
4 " (BOLZANO) ex 53 BLU — 2 DISTRICT
5 " (UDINE) ex 52 BLU — 3 DISTRICT
6 " (BOLOGNA) — MINISTRY OF WAR
7. " (FLORENCE)
8 " (ROME) (att MMIA)
9 " (BARI)
10 " (NAPLES) ex 56 BLU
11 " (PALERMO)

BRITISH DIRECTIVES (ITALIAN COMBAT GROUPS) No's 1 - 23, issued by MMIA over the last year, are in present circumstances no longer entirely valid and CEASE TO BE EFFECTIVE w.e.f. 0001 hrs 15 Nov 45.

These Directives nevertheless comprise most useful precis on BRITISH methods and should be retained for reference for training or admin--istrative purposes.

for Major General, A.C. of S. G-3
M. M. I. A.

Internal: MA to COC
C of S
A (Three)
Q (Five)

ARCS/jw

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDG NO. 785020

6b

OUTGOING SIGNAL

FROM : MMIA

DATE 12 1031 TIME A

TO : 50 BLU
51 BLU
52 BLU
53 BLU
56 BLU
MMIA LO MILAN

REF : SD 3051

UNCLASSIFIED

REF MY SD 3050 OF 11 NOV (.) COL PIDSLEY WILL HOLD CONFERENCE AT M M I A OFFICE M I L A N 0900 SUN 18 NOV TO ISSUE DIRECTIVES TO NEW BLU'S AND EXPLAIN FUTURE ORGANISATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF BLUS WITH ITALIAN ARMY IN LIGHT OF LATEST AVAILABLE INFAN (.) ONE REP FROM EACH BLU TO ATTEND (.) ALL ARRANGEMENTS TO BE MADE BY LT COL EGERTON WHO WILL INFM G O C DIST/O AND INVITE REPRESENTATIVE IF SO DESIRED BY DIST/O (.) ACK

PRECEDENCE IMPORTANT

AUTHENTICATED WP Pidsley

173

INTERNAL: A
Q (Two)
File: SD/39/2
G/8

WP/jw 12 Nov

65

OUTGOING SIGNAL

FROM : MMIA

DATE 13 TIME 1014 B

TO : 50 BLU
51 BLU
52 BLU
53 BLU
56 BLU
MMIA LO MILAN

REF : SD/3050

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIAL

REF YOUR REQUESTS AT GSO 1 CONFERENCE OF 3 NOV (.)

FIRST DIRECTIVE ON RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES OF BLUS AFTER REORGANISATION AND ALLOCATION TO ITALIAN TERRITORIAL COMDS IS BEING PREPARED (:) IN CASE OF DELAY IN HANDING BACK TERRITORY TO ITALIAN GOVERNMENT AFTER 15NOV TEMORARY ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE NOTIFIED (.)

SECOND AFTER REORGANISATION BLUs WILL BE UNDER MMLA FOR OPERATION MS MATTERS AND GENERAL ADMINISTRATION BUT DEPENDANT ON LOCAL AREAS FOR LOCAL ADMINISTRATION (.) TILL THEN BLUs REMAIN [redacted] UNDER DISTRICT (.)

173

THIRD ITALIAN INCREMENT AND ITALIAN INTERPRETERS WILL BE ALLOTTED TO EACH BLU (.)

FOURTH AS SOON AS THE SITUATION IS SUFFICIENTLY CLEAR AN ADMINISTRATIVE CONFERENCE IS BEING ARRANGED POSSIBLY AT M I L A N ABOUT 17 NOV (.) NO MOVES OF MAIN BODIES OF BLUs TO TAKE PLACE TILL ORDERED

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDG No. 165020

MMLA L' MILAN

REF : SD/3050 CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIAL

REF YOUR REQUESTS AT GSO 1 CONFERENCE OF 3 NOV (.)

FIRST DIRECTIVE ON RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES OF BLUS AFTER REORGANISATION AND ALLOCATION TO ITALIAN TERRITORIAL COMDS IS BEING PREPARED (:) IN CASE OF DELAY IN HANDING BACK TERRITORY TO ITALIAN GOVERNMENT AFTER 15NOV TEMORARY ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE NOTIFIED (.)

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179

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PRESEDENCE IMPORTANT

AUTHENTICATED

INTERNAL : A
Q (TWO)
FILE SD/39/2

WP/jwb 1ENOV 45

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDG NO. 785020

64

CONFIDENTIAL

LAND FORCES SUB COM, A.C. (MMIA)
SD/39/2
9 Nov 1945

Minutes of a Conference on a suggested new lay-out for the ITALIAN Inf Div, held by permission of GOC 2 DISTRICT at HQ 2 DISTRICT on 2 and 3 Nov 45

Chairman	Lt-Col. A.R.C. SOUTHEY	GSO1 (SD) MMIA
Present	Major W.L. MEDLAM	GSO II(Trg) MMIA
	Lt-Col. T.M. EGERTON	GSO1 designate 50 BLU senior MMIA LO
	Lt-Col. J.B. SLATER	GSO1 51 BLU
	Lt-Col. J.S.M. DOUGLAS	GSO1 52 BLU
	Lt-Col. C.C. MARNES	GSO1 53 BLU
	Lt-Col. A.W. GIBBON	GSO1 56 BLU
	Major M.W. DAVIE	GSO II (Trg) 'F' BL & TU
	Capt. W.J. STOCKER REME	50 BLU
	Capt. J.M. GILPE R.Sigs	50 BLU
	Capt. T.H. NELSON REME	52 BLU
	Capt. A.W. PENTER RAOC	53 BLU
	Capt. E.G. AYLING RASC	56 BLU

1. Copies of A 010/2 dated 30 Oct 45, also a translation of GOC MMIA's recent speech to a meeting of all ITALIAN TERRITORIAL COMDS were distributed to Comds of BLUs and to Lt-Col. EGERTON for transmission to MMIA LOs in N. ITALY.

2. The Chairman explained the purpose of the conference which was:-

(a) to co-ordinate the views of BLUs on amendments necessary to the existing organisation of the ITALIAN Inf Div, taking into account the recommendations of the ITALIAN Ministry of War already received by MMIA on the same subject.

(b) to submit to MMIA recommendations for an agreed "ideal" organisation of the ITALIAN Inf Div, for later consideration by AFHQ. 121

(c) to examine the ways in which the BRITISH and ITALIAN systems of supply and maintenance had been fused in the COMBAT GROUPS in training, in action and since the war ended,

(d) to recommend in what respects the ITALIAN system would benefit by modification, including suggestions as to how duties should be allotted to the various members of the Div Staff.

3. The Chairman emphasised that the conference was purely exploratory, that no action could be expected until recommendations had been examined by AFHQ, and that in particular the suggestions of the Conference were on no account to be discussed with the ITALIANS or outside MMIA and the BLUs.

4. Certain limitations were explained, as imposed by:-

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Present	Major	W.L. MIDLAN	GSO II(Trg) MMIA
	Lt-Col.	F.M. EGERTON	GSO1 designate 50 BLU senior MMIA LO
	Lt-Col.	J.E. SLATER	GSO1 51 BLU
	Lt-Col.	J.S.M. DOUGLAS	GSO1 52 BLU
	Lt-Col.	C.C. MARNES	GSO1 53 BLU
	Lt-Col.	A.W. GIBBON	GSO1 56 BLU
	Major	M.W. DAVIE	GSO II (Trg) 'F' BL & TU
	Capt.	W.J. STOCKER REME	50 BLU
	Capt.	J.M. GUPPE R.Sigs	50 BLU
	Capt.	D.H. NELSON REME	52 BLU
	Capt.	A.W. DEXTER RAOC	53 BLU
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4. Certain limitations were explained, as imposed by:-

(a) the AFHQ Directive on the handing over to the ITALIANS of the INTERIM Army.

(b) manpower.

(c) uncertainty as to availability of equipment.

5. The purposes for which the ITALIAN Inf Div was to be organised were discussed. These were:-

(a) defence against minor frontier aggression.

(b) duties in aid of the Civil Power.

.../sheet 2

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6. The comparative desirability was considered of producing:-

(a) an organisation specialised to cope with 5(a) and (b) above.

(b) a pocket, model, all-purpose organisation.

(c) a full-scale organisation, on the most modern BRITISH or AMERICAN lines, realising the limitations imposed, and accepting the fact that in peace a large portion of the War Establishments and Equipment Tables could not possibly be implemented.

7. With GSO1 56 BLU (Lt-Col. GIBBON) and GSO II (Trg) MMLA dissenting, it was agreed that the Conference should investigate the model, pocket, all-purpose type of organisation.

Lt-Col. GIBBON requested that his protest be formally attached to the Minutes (Appendix 'A').

8. A layout submitted by MMLA for discussion was considered in detail as follows and it was by agreement recommended:-

(a) Div HQ

(i) comd: that the Second in Comd for the Div always already present, should be officially added, plus ADC, batman and driver.

(ii) staff: that a CRA and suitable staff, to include a Bde Major, I.O. and Signal officer should be added, the present arrangement whereby the Comd of the Arty Regt acts as CRA having proved universally impossible to work in action.

(iii) staff: that a Signals Staff Officer be added, in view of the complete present ignorance of ITALIAN comds and 'G' staff of all signals matters.

(iv) staff: that an Engineers Staff Officer be added, for the same reasons as advanced for the Signals Staff Officer.

(v) staff: that a DAPM be added in order to co-ordinate traffic control etc. with the 'G' staff and discipline with the 'A' staff.

(vi) services: that the duties of the Head of the Automobilistic Section be defined as equivalent to those of a BRITISH CME and that he be graded at least as a Lt-Col in order to cope with Regt Comds.

(vii) services: that a junior staff officer be added to assist the

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Equipment Tables could not possibly be implemented.

7. With GSO1 56 BLU (Lt-Col. GIBBON) and GSO II (Trg) MMIA dissenting, it was agreed that the Conference should investigate the model, pocket, all-purpose type of organisation.

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(vii) services: that a junior staff officer be added to assist the CME above.

(b) Div Tps

With GSO1 56 BLU (Lt-Col. GIBBON) dissenting, it was agreed that a Recce Element be added to the Div.

Subject to expert RAC advice it was agreed that a small armd car bn of HQ (three armd cars) and three sqns each of HQ (two arms cars) and three tps (each of three armd cars), total thirty-six armd cars, would meet requirements.

Lt-Col. GIBBON considered that two or three full-scale armd car regts or recce bns, held as corps tps, would be more satisfactory.

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(c) Inf Regt HQ

(i) staff: that the Lieut Col (Legal Duties) be deleted and the division of duties between officers of Regt HQ be revised.

(ii) services: that an EME be added to advise the comd on all ME matters and coordinate ME work throughout the Regt.

(iii) services: that a BOWO or equivalent be added to the Regt HQ to supervise all Ord matters in the Regt.

(d) Inf Regt

(i) that the addition of a MMG coy was neccessary.

(ii) that the existing 6 pr A/Tk coy be deleted complete, and that in compensation the Arty A/Tk be increased.

(iii) the the existing 3" mortar coy be converted to Hy Mortar and shown as "Hy Mortar coy".
It was felt that the British 4.2" mortar was not an entirely satisfactory weapon and that the Italians may have a better hy mortar of their own.
The need for a heavier mortar than the present 3" mortar was agreed.

(iv) that a Regt Band was required and was preferable to having three Bn Bands. Personnel to be found from Bn stretcher bearers"attd Regt HQ coy as bandsmen during peacetime"

(e) Inf Bn

(i) Bn HQ: that a second in comd be added.

(ii) Bn HQ: that a QM be added.

(iii) Bn HQ: that the "two junior officers" at present shown at the Bn HQ be defined respectively as I.O. and Tpt Offr.

(iv) that a small number of Bn(Regt) Police be added. 189

(v) HQ and sp coys: that the existing seperate HQ and support coys should be amalgamated into one HQ Wing, with the addition of a Capt as second in comd.

(vi) Sp coy: that the existing carrier pl be deleted complete as being unneccessary and of negligible tactical value.

(vii) Sp coy: that the existing A/Tk pl (two 6 prs) be deleted complete for the same reason.

(viii) Sp coy: that the 3" Mortar Pl be increased to contain six 3" Mortars in place of the present four 3" Mortars, and be transferred to the new HQ Wing.

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(viii) Sp coy: that the 3" Mortar Pl be increased to contain six 3" Mortars in place of the present four 3" Mortars, and be trandferred to the new HQ Wing.

(ix) Sp coy: that the existing Assault Pnr pl be retained as it is, and be transferred to the new HQ Wing.

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Inf Bn (Cont'd)

(x) Rifle coys: that the coy comd be allotted a carrier as a recce veh.

(xi) Rifle coys: that the present OC HQ pl be defined as second in comd of the coy, and used as such.

(xii) Rifle coys: that one Sgt and one Cpl be deducted from coy HQ sig sec leaving one Cpl and two ptes to act as runners.

(xiii) Rifle coys: that the present rifle secs (2 and 8) are unnecessarily large, and should be reduced to 2 and 6.

(xiv) Rifle coys: that the present pl HQ is unnecessarily large, and should be reduced by two men.

(f) Arty

(i) that the Div Arty requires an all round increase with the exception of Lt AA.
(see 8 (F) (v) below)

(ii) that a CRA and staff must be added to Div HQ (see 8 (a)(ii)above)

(iii) 25 prs: that the 25 prs element must be increased to forty eight guns, from the existing thirty two, with a resultant division into two 25 pr regts each of three btys of eight guns, and a consequent provision of extra Regt and bty HQs.

It was considered that for peace purposes it would not be necessary to implement the third bty in each regt.

(iv) A/Tk: that the present bty of eight 17 prs be increased to a regt, to consist of four btys, two to be 17 pr btys and two to be 6 pr btys (for close support of fwd inf) all btys to be of eight guns, with resulting addition of regt and bty HQs.

(v) Lt AA: that with present equipment against modern aircraft existing Lt AA was of negligible value and should be deleted complete.
It was considered that at a later date Corps Lt AA, with improved equipment, would meet requirements.

(g) Engineers (Genio)

(i) that it was essential to divorce signals from sappers.

(ii) that staff officers for each branch were required at Div HQ (see 8 (a) (iii) and (iv) above).

(iii) Sigs: that, with additions to cover newly added arty and recce bn, and with some detailed minor amdts (appdx 'B') the

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It was considered that for peace purposes it would not be necessary to implement the third bty in each regt.

(iv) A/Tk: that the present bty of eight 17 prs be increased to a regt, to consist of four btys, two to be 17 pr btys and two to be 6 pr btys (for close support of fwd inf) all btys to be of eight guns, with resulting addition of regt and bty HQs.

(v) Lt AA: that with present equipment against modern aircraft, existing Lt AA was of negligible value and should be deleted complete.
It was considered that at a later date Corps Lt AA, with improved equipment, would meet requirements.

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(ii) that staff officers for each branch were required at Div HQ (see 8 (a) (iii) and (iv) above).

(iii) Sigs: that, with additions to cover newly added arty and recce bn, and with some detailed minor amdts (appdx 'B') the existing Sigs coy was satisfactory but must be commanded by a Major, and the Arty pl by a Capt.

(iv) Sappers: that an I.O. be added to Bn HQ.

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(g) Engineers (Cont'd)

(v) Sappers: that two recce officers be added to each Fd coy.

(vi) Sappers/ Sigs: that one subaltern be transferred from the present GENIO Bn HQ to Sigs coy HQ , the Engineer Bn HQ thereby being left one officer less.

(vii) no RE rep being available at the conference, that expert advice be sought on the desirability of having one Fd Pk coy per Div.

(h) S and T Coy

(i) that the present establishment had always been inadequate under war conditions.

(ii) that in order to remedy this and to cover the proposed additions to the Div, one additional Tpt Pl is needed on WE.
whether or not this should be implemented for peace conditions depends on rail etc facilities and length of road turn-round for supplies in each individual Div area.

(j) Mechanical Engineers

that the following additions and conversions would meet the case.

(i) Inf: convert the two present 'B' Type Inf LAD's into two 'A' T ype Inf LAD's.

(ii) Arty: convert the two present 'B' Type LAD's into 'C' Type LAD's. no other additions would be needed to cover the increased arty lay-out.

(iii) Armd car Bn: Add one 'B' Type LAD.

(iv) Mech Engineers PL (S and T Coy); increase establishment up to the size of a serial 4 RASC pl.

(v) Wksps: increase personnel up to the level suggested in 8 Army R/1800/11/EME dated 22 Mar 45 (Appdx 'Q')

(k) Medical that one truck 15 cwt 4 whld water and one trailer 15 cwt 4 whld water are essential additions to the present tpt table.

(l) OFP: that addition of one Capt, one Chief Clerk and eleven other personnel was required to man the ADOS dump.

(m) FSS: that a FSS composed as shown in Appdx 'D' is required,

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(l) OFP: that addition of one Capt, one Chief Clerk and eleven other personnel was required to man the ADOS dump.

(m) FSS: that a FSS composed as shown in Appdx 'D' is required, personnel to be found NOT from CC.RR. and if necessary by forming a new Italian Intelligence Corps.

(n) CC.RR.

(i) that the two existing CC.RR secs be combined into one coy and a coy HQ be added.

(ii) it was understood that under peace conditions only one sec would probably remain with the Div.

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CC.RR. (Cont'd)

(iii) it was felt that CC.RR. attd to Divs must be taught to act as CMP: to this end it was suggested that a special Regt or Legion of CC.RR. should be earmarked for duties with combat tps and be given any suitable distinguishing sub-title.

(o) General

(i) that generally speaking scales of tpt provided by original WEs have proved inadequate, and must be increased for WE purposes, even if not implemented under peace conditions. It was suggested that expert advice be sought from G(SD) at GHQ.

(ii) that all Lloyd carriers (tractors etc for 6 pr A./Tk guns) be replaced by portees.

9.

(a) The working of the Italian supply and staff systems and of the bastard British/Italian system imposed on the Divs by circumstances during the last year was discussed at some length.

(b) the root cause of the dilatoriness experienced in the Italian tradition is that only the comd can sign any outgoing document, and that the Chief of Staff theoretically controls personally all branches of the staff and services.

(c) The next major obstacle to efficiency appears to be the Italian inclusion of Servizi with G(Ops) and G(I), the head of the Servizi sec being in fact an A.&Q.M.G., who at present combines or dabbles in the duties of A.&Q.M.G and CRASC with a certain amount od ADOS and G(SD) thrown in.

(d) The functioning of the services is correspondingly muddled, and further complicated by the Arty acting as Ordnance over provision of arms and RASC over control of issue of amn. (This had been altered by every single BLU within a few weeks of joining the ICGs, and the Italians had preferred the British method).

(e) The head of the Commissariato acts as ADOS and CRASC, where allowed to by the head of the Srevizi sec.

(f) The following was recommended for discussion with appropriate British service experts, and with the Ministry of War:

(i) the Chief of Staff if possible to be eliminated on the Div level.

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(d) The functioning of the services is correspondingly muddled, and further complicated by the Arty acting as Ordnance over provision of arms and RASC over control of issue of amn. (This had been altered by every single BLU within a few weeks of joining the ICGs, and the Italians had preferred the British method).

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(f) The following was recommended for discussion with appropriate British service experts, and with the Ministry of War:

(i) the Chief of Staff if possible to be eliminated on the Div level.

(ii) servizi to be divorced from G(Ops) and G(I), and the head of the servizi sec to become A&QMG on British lines.

(iii) the head of the Commissariato tocombine some of the functions of CRASC, less tpt, and ADOS, the Commissariato being divided into two halves, one for "supply" and one for "ordnance", a DADS and a DADOS being respectively responsible.
"DADS and his sec to handle rations, clothing, POL, fuel, forage ans personal equipment less arms . DADOS and his sec to handle all arms, warlike equipment, amn tools etc.

7/.....

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9. (Cont'd)

(iv) the existing Tpt coy to carry everything and to man supply pts for rations, POL and amn as in the British system, and as they in fact do in the Divs at present.

(v) an organisation similar to an ADOS dump but termed a "Commissariato (supply sec) dump" to hold forage, fuel clothing and personal equipment.

(vi) an organisation similar in part to an OFP, but termed a "Commiss--ariato (ordnance sec) dump" to hold arms and warlike equipment (but NOT MT).

(vii) the Sezione Automobilistica to handle, hold and repair all MT and all MT spares, and to repair arms etc as do British REME. The repair portion to be named ? "Automobilistica" (Sezione Meccanicha).

(viii) Arty to remain purely gunners and to be divorced from any ordnance services duties.

Note: the whole of the foregoing is in a completely general and exploratory stage, but in the opinion of the Conference would suit Italian tradition and might be acceptable to them.
It is NOT the British system which itself is not neccessarily perfect.

10. GSO II (Trg) MMLA described the new TTC/CESANO trg layout and detailed the functions of each.

11. (a) Comds of BLUs unanimously expressed a wish for more frequent visits from senior officers from MMLA HQ than they have received in the past.

(b) They particularly desired a Q Conference to be held in Milan in not more than three weeks time, with MMLA Ord, REME and S&T reps present, to discuss many grave problems which they forsee arising out of the hand back of the Inf Divs to Italian control before Italian ADOs, Workshops etc are running smoothly and manned by personnel with knowledge of Brit equipment. 185

12. Comds of BLUs unanimously expressed concern over the new BLU WE, notably over the deletion of

(a) a RAOC officer

(b) all interpreters

(c) all signal personnel

over the extremely slender scale of tpt, and over the fact that no Italian increment for Adm purposes, nor civilians as in 'B' Type BLUs, appears to have been provided for the 'A' Type.

13. Comds of BLUs asked for earliest infmn as to by whom they would be administered after redeployment and on what authy.

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. 78520

(v) an organisation similar to an ADOS dump but termed a "Commissariato (supply sec) dump" to hold forage, fuel clothing and personal equipment.

(vi) an organisation similar in part to an OFP, but termed a "Commiss--ariato (ordnance sec) dump" to hold arms and warlike equipment (but NOT MT).

(vii) the Sezione Automobilistica to handle, hold and repair all MT and all MT spares , and to repair arms etc as do British REME. The repair portion to be named ? "Automobilistica" (Sezione Meccanicha).

(viii) Arty to remain purely gunners and to be divorced from any ordnance services duties.

Note: the whole of the foregoing is in a completely general and exploratory stage, but in the opinion of the Conference would suit Italian tradition and might be acceptable to them.
It is NOT the British system which itself is not neccessarily perfect.

10. GSO II (Trg) MMLA described the new TTC/CES.NO trg layout and detailed the functions of each.

11. (a) Comds of BLUs unanimously expressed a wish for more frequent visits from senior officers from MMLA HQ than they have received in the past.

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13. Comds of BLUs asked for earliest infmn as to by whom they would be administered after redeployment and on what authy.

14. Comds of BLUs asked for instructions as to their future responsibilities for liaison between Italian Territorial Comds and British Districts or Areas.

A. H. [illegible]

Lt Col
GS

ARCS/jw

DISTRIBUTION : See sheet 8

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. 165020

DISTRIBUTION: 50 BLU
51 "
52 "
53 "
56 "
"F" BL & TU
Senior MMTA LO c/o MMIA LO NW ITALY MILAN

INTERNAL: MA to GOC
A/CCS
Col 'A'
Col 'Q'
'G' (Three)
Int
Trg
'A' (Three)
'Q' (Five)
War Diary (Two)

161

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section J-402/NNDC NO. 78502

Appendix 'A' to MILA/30
Conference Minutes (WM/39/2)
dated 6 Nov 45.

The new Italian Division

1. It is recommended that the Italian Army should be organised so that it can mobilize with real divisions, with three regiments and a full div. arty., not with "pocket" divisions. This will require an approximate strength of 18,000 per division. Including reinforcements and Corps and Army troops, 50,000 per division will be required.

2. This involves for five divisions a combat ceiling of 90,000 and a total ceiling of 250,000. It is unlikely that this will be agreed to.

3. It is recommended that, rather than form pocket divisions, which are tactically unsound and administratively uneconomical, the divisions should be given a WE equivalent to that of a British or American division. To keep within the combat ceiling the peace establishment should be reduced by codirizing a proportion of units.

4. It is presumed that in the event of general mobilization the total ceiling would be raised by a "call up" of reservists.

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Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC No. 78502

Appendix 'B' to MTA 50
Conference Minutes (S/39/2)
dated 9 Nov 45.

INCREASE OF SIGNALS PERSONNEL IN ITI. INF. DIV.

	Reason for increase	Approx. increase Offrs	ORs
1.	Divorce Signals Coy from Engr Bn	3	10
2.	Provide Rear Link W/T and R/T from Div HQ and increase in Div HQ personnel		10
3.	Increase in Arty	2	45
4.	Inclusion of Armd Car Regt		20
5.	Give small wireless layout to Engrs		15
6.	Increase in Regt Plns		10
	Approx. total increase	5	110
	Approx. present total	7	327
	Approx. proposed T.E.	12	437

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Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDG NO. T85020

Appendix 'C' to MMLA 91
Conference Minutes (E/39/2)
dated 9 Nov 45.

MECHANICAL ENGINEERS WKSP FOR AN ITALIAN COMBAT GP

Proposed new WE

1. PERSONNEL:

	Commando HQ	Sec Off W/S Sec	Sez Rec Rec Sec	Sex Mat Stores Sec	Totali Totals
Ufficiali					
Maggiori	1				1 Majors
Capitani o Tenoti	2	1	1	1	5 Captains or
					6 Lieutenants
Sottufficiali e capitecnici					WOS & SGTS
Scritturali	1	1			2 Clerks
Armaioli		1			1 Armourer
Moccanici D'artigleria		2			2 Gun Fitters
Magazzinieri	1			1	2 Storemen
Autieri	1				1 Driver
di contabilita	1				1 Pay & Accnts
addetto alla cucina	1				1 Cook
Motoristi		3	1		4 Motor Mechs
Elettricisti		1			1 Electrician
Strumenti ottici etc		1			1 Inst Mechs
Radiomontatori		1			1 Telecomm Mechs (field)
					17
Truppa					OR
Scritturali	3	1		1	5 Clerks
Autieri ed autieri attend enti	10	1	1	8	20 Dvrs & Dvr Batmen
Motociclisti	2		2	1	5 Motor Cyclist
Servizi Generali	17	3	2	2	24 General Duties (incl Cooks)
Specializzati					TRADESMEN
Meccanici d'artigleria		5			5 Gun Fitters
" strumenti ottici etc		4			4 Inst Mechs
Armaioli		4			4 Armr.
Radiomontatori		3			3 Telecomm Mechs (fd)
Fabbri		3			3 Blacksmiths
Falegnami		2			2 Carpenters
Carrozzieri		2			2 Coachtrimmers

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Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. 18502

Proposed new WE

1. PERSONNEL:

	Commando HQ	Sec Off W/S Sec	Sez Rec Rec Sec	Sex Mat Stores Sec	Totali Totals	
Ufficiali						
Maggiori	1				1	Majors
Capitani o Teneti	2	1	1	1	5	Captains or
					6	Lieutenants
Sottufficiali e capitecnici						WOS & SGTS
Scritturali	1	1			2	Clerks
Armaicli		1			1	Armourer
Meccanici D'artigleria		2			2	Gun Fitters
Magazzinieri	1			1	2	Storemen
Autieri	1				1	Driver
di contabilita	1				1	Pay & Accnts
addetto alla cucina	1				1	Cook
Motoristi		3	1		4	Motor Mechs
Elettricisti		1			1	Electrician
Strumenti ottici etc		1			1	Inst Mechs
Radiomontatori		1			1	Telecomn Mechs (field)
					17	
Truppa						OR
Scritturali	3	1		1	5	Clerks
Autieri ed autieri attendenti	10	1	1	8	20	Dvrs & Dr Batmen
Motociclisti	2		2	1	5	Motor Cyclist
Servizi Generali	17	3	2	2	24	General Duties (incl Cooks)
Specializzati						TRADESMEN
Meccanici d'artigleria		5			5	Gun Fitters
" strumenti ottici etc		4			4	Inst Mechs
Armaioli		4			4	Armr.
Radiomontatori		3			3	Telecomn Mechs (fd)
Fabbri		3			3	Blacksmiths
Falegnami		2			2	Carpenters
Carrozzieri		2			2	Coachtrimmers
Laminatori		3			3	Sheet Metal workers
Saldatori		3			3	Welders
Verniciatori		1			1	Painter
Meccanici elettricisti		8			8	Electricians
Meccanici automobilisti		18			18	Veh Mechs
Tornitori		3			3	Turners

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Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. 78502

Appendix 'D' to MEDL.S.
Conference Minutes (S/39/2)
dated 9 Nov 45.

1. THE PROPOSAL

The proposal is for the formation of an ITALIAN Field Security Section for attachment to HQ of an ITALIAN Combat Gruppo.

2. THE EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL

(a) personnel:-

Capt or Lt	1
Total Offrs	1
Maresciallo Capo	1
Sergenti Maggiori	4
Sergenti	6
Total NCOs	11

Attached :-

Batman/Driver	1

(b) transport:-

Trucks 15 cwt 4 x 2	2
Car 5 cwt 4 x 4	1
MCs	6

159

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. T 65020

The proposal is for the formation of an ITALIAN Field Security Section for attachment to HQ of an ITALIAN Combat Gruppo.

2. THE EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL

(a) personnel:-

Capt or Lt	1
Total Offrs	1
Maresciallo Capo	1
Sergenti Maggiori	4
Sergenti	6
Total NCOs	11

Attached :-

Batman/Driver	1

(b) transport:-

Trucks 15 cwt 4 x 2	2
Car 5 cwt 4 x 4	1
MCs	6

159

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC No. T8502D

Translation

From M.of W.
To M.M.I.A.

Ref. I7787/ORD/I
Date 5/II/45

SD/38/2 62

Subject Organisation of Infantry Regts.

(53)

Reply to letter SD/38/2 dated II/IO/45.

I) - The interchaggeability of Terr. Inf.Brigades with Divisional Inf. Regts is possible,as far as W/E is concerned,through modification to Brigade formation as suggested in letter I7445/ORD/I dated 3 Oct. and which is re-assumed giving Inf?Brigades the same formation of regt. as divisional infantry,with the only reduction of

- I Rifle squad per coy.
- 2 76 mortar squads) In the covering coy of the batt;
- 2 tracked vehicle squads)

2) - Concerning recruitment,the idea of allotting some types of the population to territories more suitable to their characteristics and habits has already been followed for alpine troops.
It is not possible,however,to apply it the whole of the army because:
- The different population densities in the various regions brings about a different influx of personnel to the arms which makes it necessary to use the men on the basis of unit requirement.
- The placing of citizens from one region in units stationed in another region permits the army to carry out work of national cohesion specially important for our country.
- The present polical situation of the islands and specially Sicily it would be advisable to cancel for the time being any great W/E change in the S.I. Div's.

Such modifications have already been planned in the basis of organisation of the final army in order to give these div's the same characteristics of the inf. brigades who are on the W/E of the Mil. Terr. HQ's.

158

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC No. T25020

to brigade formation as suggested in letter I/445/ORD/I dated 3 Oct. and which is re-assumed giving Inf? Brigades the same formation of regt. as divisional infantry, with the only reduction of

- I Rifle squad per coy.
- 2 76 mortar squads) In the covering coy of the batt;
- 2 tracked vehicle squads)

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- The placing of citizens from one region in units stationed in another region permits the army to carry out work of national cohesion specially important for our country.

Owing to The present polical situation of the islands and specially Sicily it would be advisable to cancel for the time being any great M/E change in the S.I. Div's. 158

Such modifications have already been planned in the basis of organisation ~~the~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~following~~ of the final army in order to give these div's the same characteristics of the inf. brigades who are on the M/E of the Mil. Terr. HQ's.

DAK

G3(1)

~~Gen~~ 1 ~~Gen~~
G3 2 (Ops)
G3 2 (Org)
G3 2 (Int) X X
G3 2 (Trg)
G3 3 (Air)
G3 3 (Cmd)
G3 3 (Q)

Dgd. Liuzzi

para 1 Action will be taken in conjunction with M of W (para 1 (b) incorporation of steering wheel in new M/C type request could now WE for 1st Army Gp

para 2 ACIO - further discussion will be 50/39/2 M of W. we may have to accept this view

D. 9/8/11

10/11

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDG NO. T8502D

SUBJECT: Org. of Inf. Regts.

LAND FORCES SUB COM, A.C. (MMIA)

SD/3[illegible]/2

Oct 45

TO : MINISTRY OF WAR

Reference para II of minutes of meeting held in SHAEF offices, 1 Oct. and issued under ref. G/3/2 of 5 Oct. 45.

1. We have received your recommendations for alterations to WEs of Italian Divs (Combat Gps) which include the WEs of Inf. Regts. These will be considered as soon as 2 District forward the Allied views including views of BLUs.

2. In the meantime it would seem appropriate at this stage that we should consider a system of "affiliating" certain I.S. Regts to Italian Divs with a view to :-

(a) interchangeability

(b) Ease of territorial recruit intake so that :

(i) friends from the same neighborhood may serve in the same units.
(ii) certain types of the populace may be posted to the most suitable territory.

With this end in view a suggestion from this office is attached herewith.

3. It is felt that the present I.S. Divs in SARDINIA and SICILY should be converted onto I.S. Regts WEs at a later date thereby forming two and four I.S. Regts respectively.

We could discuss the question of a small co-ordinating HQ for SARDINIA (presumably the Garrison HQ there detached from the Rome Terr. HQ) and two small co-ordinating HQs for SICILY under the Op. Comd of the Terr. HQ PALERMO.

The advantages of the conversion on the I.S. Regts WE would be:

(a) standardization thoughout Italy

(b) an increase in weapons.

(c) Morale. The troops would feel lifted out of the rut of gd duties onto a higher plane.

If, for political reasons you do not feel this is practical at present, will you, please, say if you agree to [illegible]

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDG NO. 785020

...Ltr dated 1st Oct. 45.

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(b) Ease of territorial recruit intake so that :

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(a) standardization throughout Italy

(b) an increase in weapons.

(c) Morale. The troops would feel lifted out of the rut of gd duties onto a higher plane.

If, for political reasons you do not feel this is practical at present, will you, please, say if you agree to the conversion at a later date.

4. It would be appreciated if you would forward your comments on paras 2 and 3 above in due course.

Copy to: SD/56/2

Major General,
MMIA.

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC No. 165020

Appendix "A" to MMIA letter SD/36/2
dated Oct 45

Regiment	Italian Inf Div	Affiliated I.S. Regiment	Terr. region from which intake would be drawn for both Regts.
87 Inf Regt	'FRIULI'	No. 5 I.S. Regt **	UDINE
88 Inf Regt	'FRIULI'	No. 6 I.S. Regt	BOLOGNA
21 Inf Regt	'CREMONA'	No. 3 I.S. Regt	MILAN
22 Inf Regt	'CREMONA'	No. 1 I.S. Regt **	TURIN
"[illegible]BO" Inf Regt	'FOLGORE'	No. 10 I.S. Regt	NAPLES
"GARIBALDI" Inf Regt	'FOLGORE"	No. 2 I.S. Regt	GENOA
68 Inf Regt	'LEGNANO'	No. 9 I.S. Regt	BARI
Special Inf Regt	'LEGNANO'	No. 4 I.S. Regt **	BOLZANO
78 Inf Regt	'MANTOVA'	No. 7 I.S. Regt	FLORENCE
114 Inf Regt	'MANTOVA'	No. 8 I.S. Regt	ROME

** Authority for these to be earmarked as "ALPINI" was conveyed in MMIA letter SD/56/2 of 2 Oct. It would seem therefore that its opposite number in Italian Inf Div should also be "ALPINI", if you think that the personnel intake in the recruiting region could stand it. Your comments and suggestions are awaited.

156

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section J-402/NND NO. 785020

Appendix "A" to MIA letter SD/56/2
Dated Oct 45

Regiment	Italian Inf Div	Affiliated I.S. Regiment		Terr. region from which intake would be drawn for both Regts.
87 Inf Regt	'FRIULI'	No. 5 I.S. Regt	**	UDINE
88 Inf Regt	'FRIULI'	No. 6 I.S. Regt		BOLOGNA
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22 Inf Regt	'CREMONA'	No. 1 I.S. Regt	**	TURIN
"NEMBO" Inf Regt	'FOLGORE'	No. 10 I.S. Regt		NAPLES
"GARIBALDI" Inf Regt	'FOLGORE"	No. 2 I.S. Regt		GENOA
68 Inf Regt	'LEGNANO'	No. 9 I.S. Regt		BARI
Special Inf Regt	'LEGNANO'	No. 4 I.S. Regt	**	BOLZANO
78 Inf Regt	'MANTOVA'	No. 7 I.S. Regt		FLORENCE
114 Inf Regt	'MANTOVA'	No. 8 I.S. Regt		REGGIO

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155

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. 165020

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. 785020

59

OUTGOING SIGNAL

DATE 30

FROM : MMLA

TIME 1710 A

TO : MMLA LO BOLZANO c/o 68 ARTY REGT
c/o 60 SUB AREA
MMLA LO SARDINIA
MMLA LO SICILY
PENSOUTH FOR MMLA LO
PENBASE FOR MMLA LO
FLORENCE CITY COMD FOR MMLA LO
DISTHREE FOR MMLA LO
54 AREA FOR MMLA LO
PENBASE FOR MMLA LO FOR SCOTT

REF : SD 2035

CONFIDENTIAL

REF THIS HQ SD/39/2 DATED 29 (.) CONTENTS NOT REPT NOT TO BE REVEALED TO ITALIANS OR TO OTHER THAN MMLA PERSONNEL (.) DOCUMENT TO BE DESTROYED BY YOU AFTER READING (.) ACK (.) ALL INFM

PRECEDENCE IMPORTANT

AUTHENTICATED BLL

INTERNAL : COS, G(TRG), A, Q (two), ST, REME, ORD, RE, X

SD/39/2

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. 785020

60

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

58A

CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT :- Proposed Reorg - Italian Inf Divs

See Folio 70

Land Forces Sub Com A.C. (MMIA)

SD/59/2

27 Oct 45

TO :- 50 B.I.U.
51 "
52 "
53 "
56 "

Copy to :- HQ 2 District
"P" BL and TU
Sen MMIA LO c/o MMIA LO NW ITALY MILAN
MMIA LO NW ITALY MILAN
MMIA LO c/o 201 Sub Area
MMIA LO c/o 66 Area
MMIA LO c/o Signal Office GENOA
MMIA LO TURIN c/o 7 AGRA
MMIA LO NW ITALY MILAN (att Capt FOX)
MMIA LO BOLZANO c/o 217 Sub Area and 68 Arty Regt
MMIA LO SARDINIA
MMIA LO SICILY
MMIA LO 4th Floor Provincia Building, NAPLES
MMIA LO c/o Liaison Sec FBS
MMIA LO c/o FLORENCE CITY COMD
MMIA LO c/o 3 District
MMIA LO c/o 5th Area
FEMBASE for MMIA LO for SCOTT

152

1. Herewith chart showing proposed lay-out of the new ITALIAN Inf Div.

2. It is intended :

(a) that the Internal Security Regts shall be placed on exactly the same TE as the Inf Regt in the Inf Divs.

(b) that Internal Security Divs in SICILY and SARDINIA shall be given a small HQ and skeleton tail for implementation only in those islands.

3. The lay-out has been adopted as a result of compromising between recommendations of the Italian Ministry of War and those of the

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. 178020

CO :- 50 B.L.U.
51 "
52 "
53 "
55 "

Copy to :- HQ 2 District
"F" BL and RU
Sen MMIA LO c/o MMIA LO NW ITALY MILAN
MMIA LO NW ITALY MILAN
MMIA LO c/o 201 Sub Area
MMIA LO c/o 86 Area
MMIA LO c/o Signal Office GENOA
MMIA LO TURIN c/o 7 AGRA
MMIA LO NW ITALY MILAN (att Capt FOX)
MMIA LO BOLZANO c/o 217 Sub Area and 68 Arty Regt
MMIA LO SARDINIA
MMIA LO SICILY
MMIA LO 4th Floor Provincia Building, NAPLES
MMIA LO c/o Liaison Sec PBS
MMIA LO o/o FLORENCE CITY COMD
MMIA LO c/o 3 District
MMIA LO c/o 54 Area
REPEAT for MMIA LO for SCOTT

152

1. Herewith chart showing proposed lay-out of the new ITALIAN Inf Div.

2. It is intended :

(a) that the Internal Security Regts shall be placed on exactly the same WE as the Inf Regt in the Inf Divs.

(b) that Internal Security Divs in SICILY and SARDINIA shall be given a small HQ and skeleton tail for implementation only in those islands.

3. The lay-out has been adopted as a result of compromising between recommendations of the Italian Ministry of War and those of the BLUs.

4. (a) Within the limitations imposed by available ceiling of man-power every effort has been made either to include everything asked for by everyone, or to provide something in exchange e.g. addition of two btys 17 pd as a make-weight to those who wished to retain Regt 6 pd Coys which have been deleted to provide Regt MG Coys.

(b) The Min of War's request for medium Arty, Armd Regts and Bridging Coys has been deferred for consideration with the Post Treaty Army.

/3...

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NND No. 785020

5. The Armd Car Bn is admittedly open to discussion. Time has not been sufficient at this stage for receipt of R.A.C. advice.

6. (a) In order to keep within man-power ceiling it is probable that certain parts of the org will need to be shown "only for implementation on mobilisation for war".

(b) This will apply particularly to the Arty, who for tactical reasons have been very greatly expanded. It is possible that 25 pr and 17 pd byts will have to train with only three guns per tp and AA byts with only two tps per bty.

7. Details of necessary increases in Sigs, ST, REME etc are under preparation.

8. The forthcoming conference in MILAN will concern itself with planning and the broad picture. E.g. it is not proposed to discuss in detail whether the Div 2 i/c should have a batman/driver, nor whether 2" Mortar Team requires two or three mortarmen.

Precise detail will be worked out by G(SD) MMA, keeping in view the recommendations made by DLOs.

for Major General
M M I A

abc

151

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. T 15020

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. 785020

PROPOSED REORG - ITALIAN COMBAT GROUP

COMBAT GROUP HQ (including CRA and staff)

Inf Regt HQ
incl HQ Coy
Mortar Coy
MMG Coy

Inf Bn incl.
HQ
HQ Coy incl
Pioneers
3" Mortar Pl
Three Rifle Coys

Inf Bn | Inf Bn | Inf Bn

Inf Regt HQ

Inf Bn | Inf Bn

Engr Bn incl
Two Fd Coys
OC acts as CRE

Sig Coy
OC acts as
OC Div Sigs

Armd Car Bn
of HQ(3 cars)
three Sqns
(11 cars each)approx
(Approx total 36 cars)

Mech Engr Wksp

Mech Engr Sig Pl

(May require some
(modification to

HQ Sup & Tpt Coy

Four tpt pls | Two Comp pls | Three RDIs

An increase in RDIs etc may be necessary if loads etc much altered by reorg of div etc.

CRA sec I CG HQ

25 pdr Regt
of three btys
of two tps of 4 guns
(total 24 guns)

25 pdr Regt

(total 48 guns)

Atk Regt
three 17 pdr btys
each of two tps
of 4 guns
(total 24 guns)

AA Regt
two btys each of

three tps of 6 guns
(total 36 guns)

Fd Hos

Med Sec in
two dressi
stns

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDG NO. 785020

Appendix 'A' to NMIA
letter SD/39/2 of 29 Oct 45.

PROPOSED REORG - ITALIAN COMBAT GROUP

COMBAT GROUP HQ (including CRA and staff)

- Inf Regt HQ
  - Inf Bn
  - Inf Bn
  - Inf Bn
  - Inf Bn
- Engr Bn incl Two Fd Coys OC acts as CRE
- Sig Coy OC acts as OC Div Sigs
- Armd Car Bn of HQ(3 cars) three Sqns (11 cars each)approx (Approx total 36 cars)
- Mech Engr Wksp
- Mech Engr Pl
- SixLADs
  (May require some modification to WEs)
- Div QFP & amn dump staff
- FS Sec (CCRR)
- CCRR Coy HQ
  - CCRR Sec
  - CCRR Sec
- HQ Sup & Tpt Coy
  - Four tpt pls
  - Two Coup pls
  - Three RDIs

An increase in RDIs etc may be necessary if loads etc much altered by reorg of div etc.

- CRA sec I CC HQ
  - 25 pdr Regt
    ...s
    ... guns
    ...e)
    ... 48 guns)
  - Atk Regt three 17 pdr btys each of two tps of 4 guns (total 24 guns)
  - AA Regt two btys each of three tps of 6 guns (total 36 guns)
- Fd Hosp
  - Med Sec incl two dressing stns
- Fd Hosp
  - Hygiene Sec to incl anti-malarial control

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDG NO. 785020

57

Note for att to SD/39/2 dated 29 Oct 45

Following copies taken by hand Lt Col SOUTHBY :

Sen MMIA LO c/o MMIA LO NW ITALY MIALAN
Comd 50 BLU
Comd 51 BLU
Comd 52 BLU
Comd 56 BLU
Distwo

Following copies NOT despatched :

LO NW ITALY MILAN (Att Capt FOX)
LO NW ITALY MILAN
LO TURIN
LO HQ 86 AREA
LO c/o Signals Office Genoa
LO c/o 201 Sub Area
LO 231 Adm Div c/o LO NW ITALY MILAN

abc

30/10

149

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. 185020

OUTGOING MESSAGE

FROM : MMIA
DATE 27
TIME 1500

TO : 50 ELU
51 ELU
52 ELU
53 ELU
56 ELU
"FM EL AND TU

INFO : DISTWO
MMIA LO MILAN FOR SENIOR MMIA LO

REF : SD 3031

UNCLASSIFIED

CONFERENCE PRESIDED OVER BY CSO 1 SD MMIA WILL BE HELD AT HQ DISTWO MILAN AT 1000 HRS FRI 2 NOV AND SAT 3 NOV (*) TO ATTEND PLEASE COMDS 51 CMA 52 CMA 53 CMA 56 ELU CMA G REP F EL AND TU CMA SIGS REP 50 ELU CMA RENE REP 50 ELU CMA A/Q REP 52 ELU CMA ORD REP 53 ELU CMA ST REP 56 ELU CMA RE REP F EL AND TU (*) COMD 51 ELU PLEASE ACT AS ARTY REP (*) SENIOR MMIA LO PLEASE ATTEND (*) AGENDA (ONE) MORNING 2 NOV SUGGESTED OUTLINE MSONG ITALIAN INF DIV AND REGT (TWO) AFTERNOON 2 NOV COMBARISON PRESENT BR AND ITT SUP AND SERVICES SYSTEMS WITH RECOMMENDATIONS AS TO MINIMUM MSONG WITHIN INF DIV INCL REALLOTMENT OF STAFF DUTIES (THREE) MORNING 3 NOV MSONG SPECIALIST ARMS AND OF SERVICES (FOUR) AFTERNOON 3 NOV SPARE AND ANY OTHER BUSINESS (*) SHORT NOTICE REQUESTED (*) IF TIME PERMITS TABLE SHOWING SUGGESTED ORG OF INF DIV INCORPORATING BOTH CLD AND RECENT SUGGESTIONS BY BLUS WILL BE SENT TO ADDRESSEES BEFORE CONFERENCE (*) TOWN MAJOR MILAN HAS BEEN ASKED TO ARRANGE NECESSARY HOTEL ACCN (*) ACK

56

TO : 50 BLU
51 BLU
52 BLU
53 BLU
56 BLU
"F" BL AND TU

INFO : DISTWO
MMIA LO MILAN FOR SENIOR MMIA LO

REF : SD 3031

UNCLASSIFIED

CONFERENCE PRESIDED OVER BY GSO 1 SD MMIA WILL BE HELD AT HQ DISTWO MILAN AT 1000 HRS FRI 2 NOV AND SAT 3 NOV (*) TO ATTEND PLEASE COMDS 51 CMA 52 CMA 53 CMA 56 BLU CMA G REP F BL AND TU CMA SIGS REP 50 BLU CMA REME REP 50 BLU CMA A/Q REP 52 BLU CMA ORD REP 53 BLU CMA ST REP 56 BLU CMA RE REP F BL AND TU (*) COMD 51 BLU PLEASE ACT AS ARTY REP (*) SENIOR MMIA LO PLEASE ATTEND (*) AGENDA (ONE) MORNING 2 NOV SUGGESTED OUTLINE REORG ITALIAN INF DIV AND REGT (TWO) AFTERNOON 2 NOV COMPARISON PRESENT BR AND ITI SUP AND SERVICES SYSTEMS WITH RECOMMENDATIONS AS TO MINIMUM REORG WITHIN INF DIV INCL REALLOTMENT OF STAFF DUTIES (THREE) MORNING 3 NOV REORG SPECIALIST ARMS AND OF SERVICES (FOUR) AFTERNOON 3 NOV SPARE AND ANY OTHER BUSINESS (*) SHORT NOTICE REGRETTED (*) IF TIME PERMITS TABLE SHOWING SUGGESTED ORG OF INF DIV INCORPORATING BOTH OLD AND RECENT SUGGESTIONS BY BLUS WILL BE SENT TO ADDRESSEES BEFORE CONFERENCE (*) TOWN MAJOR MILAN HAS BEEN ASKED TO EARMARK NECESSARY HOTEL ACCN (*) ACK

PRECEDENCE IMPORTANT

AUTHENTICATED A H Sautner
LT COL
G-3

INTERNAL DISTN

COS
CCL A/Q (THREE)
G(TRG)
X
RE
REME
DADOS
ST (TWO)
FILE : SD/39/2

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNRD NO. T-25020

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. 785020

GSO 1 X AAG X

TRANSLATION

GSO 2 (SD) X X X

GSO 2 (We) X

GSO 2 (I)

GSO 3 (SD)

GSO 3 (Orbat)

(55)

From: M.of.W.

To: M.M.I.A.

Ref: 17653/Ord/I

Date: 17/10/45

Subject: Revision of the W/E's of the Italian Division -Artillery.

Further to letter 17445/Ord/I dated 3/10/45

As verbally requested, in the event of M.M.I.A. considering it advisable to increase the fire power of the formations of the Italian Army, bringing it up to that which is characteristic of amodern military ground organisation, I submit some considerations and modifications proposals for the Artillery W/E's. The problem relative to this Branch of the service is one which requires the greater series of measures.

This is mainly because,

- The present scale of Artillery is appreciably less than that held by the British division and similar higher formations of modern armies.

This small scale has up to now been compensated for by the fact that the Italian Division has been employed within the frame work of Allied higher formations of a superior order, rich in fire power, and hence has been able to combine the fire of its own batteries with that developped in its favour, either directly or indirectly, by other higher formations;

- The volume of Anti-Aircraft fire is not sufficient to protect the divisional sky area and therefore an increase in it power appears necessary, when we also take into consideration the total lack of territorial Anti-Aircraft

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. 785020

defence (town and installation protection, etc);
- The organisation of the anti-tank artillery requires an increase in power proportional to the increased strength of armoured vehicles which is to-day employed.

Taking the above into consideration and in view of the fact that the transitional army must be gradually shaped into a permanent organisation, I formulate the following proposals:

1)- Give each Artillery (= Bty) group a 3rd (= Tp) battery;

2)- Form 2 medium calibre artillery Regiments (heavy field);

3)- Assign to each infantry Brigade of the Territorial Military H.Q!s, a mixed artillery group.

A- 3rd BATTERY FOR EACH GROUP

The increase of each artillery group by one battery permits of an increase of fire power in the division, improving the artillery- Infantry ratio and perfecting the anti tank and anti aircraft organisations. The consequent increase in w/e is not appreciable. It would, in fact, mean the assignment to the artillery Regt of :

- 4 batteries of 25 pounders,
- 1 battery of 17 pounders;
- 1 battery of 40 m/ms.

These batteries, of a similar formation to the same ones already existant in the Regiment, would lead to a w/e increase of 517 per Regt, and, for the whole 5 divisions, to an increase of 2585.

The necessary personnel could be drawn from that which is authorised for the auxilliary units of the Combat groups.-

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. 785020

Position to front Treaty

B- FORMATION OF 2 ARTILLERY REGIMENT OF MEDIUM CALIBRE.-

Divisional artillery fire has always been increased in the actions which it has carried out by the higher calibres held in the higher formations.

This increase is necessary in view of the fact that the artillery of the Italian division, even though increased in power as in para A, is not sufficient to reach the Group -battalion scale which exists in the higher formations of modern armies and, moreover, because even if it has guns particularly suitable for support and defensive fire it is not however in a position, in respect of range, shell power and trajectory, to satisfy all the needs of the divisional infantry, especially in broken or mountainous country.

I therefore propose that the Italian Army has 2 medium calibre Artillery Regiments split into 4 groups; 2 Field Gun Groups and 2 howitzer groups, of 3 batteries each.

These regiments, under a permanent organi ation, could have their w/e's controlled by H.Q's of a higher formation than the division.

Personnel for the forming of the 2 regiments could be drawn partly from the auxilliaries for the Combat Groups and partly from excess personnel which, in the forming of the permanent army, may be obtained from the organisation of the territorial services

145

C- MIXED GROUP FOR INFANTRY BRIGADE

In concordance both with the necessity of reaching an adequate ratio between infantry and artillery in the army as a whole, and with the advisability of being able

SUBJECT: Org. of Inf. Regts.

LAND FORCES SUB COM, A.C. (LMLA)

SD/39/2

11 Oct 45

TO : MINISTRY OF WAR

Reference para 11 of minutes of meeting held in SAC offices, 1 Oct and issued under ref. G/3/2 of 5 Oct 45.

1. We have received your recommendations for alterations to MEs of Italian Divs (Combat Gps) which include the MEs of Inf. Regts. These will be considered as soon as the Allied views have been received.

2. In the meantime it would seem appropriate at this stage that we should consider a system of "affiliating" certain I.S. Regts to Italian Divs with a view to :-

(a) interchangeability

(b) ease of territorial intake so that :

(i) friends from the same neighborhood may serve in the same units.

(ii) certain types of the populace may be posted to the most suitable territory.

LMLA letters A.016 and A.012 of 10 Oct refer.

3. It is felt that the present I.S. Divs in SARDINIA and SICILY should be converted onto I.S. Regt MEs at a later date thereby forming two and four I.S. Regts respectively.

We could discuss the question of a small co-ordinating HQ for SARDINIA (presumably the Garrison HQ there detached from the Base Terr. HQ) and two small co-ordinating HQs for SICILY under the op. Comd of the Terr. HQ PALERMO.

The advantages of the conversion on the I.S. Regt ME would be:

(a) standardization throughout Italy

(b) an increase in weapons

(c) morale. The troops would feel lifted out of the rut of Cd duties onto a higher plane.

If, for political reasons you do not feel this is practical at present, will you, please, say if you agree to the conversion at a later date.

4. It would be appreciated if you would forward your comments on

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. 78520

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(i) friends from the same neighborhood may serve in the same units.
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SD/71 ——— SMIA letters A.016 and A.012 of 10 Oct refer. ——— SD/61

3. It is felt that the present I.S. Divs in SARDINIA and SICILY should be converted onto I.S. Regt MEs at a later date thereby forming two and four I.S. Regts respectively.

We could discuss the question of a small co-ordinating HQ for SARDINIA (presumably the Garrison HQ there detached from the Rome Terr. Hq) and two small co-ordinating HQs for SICILY under the op. Cond of the Terr. HQ PALERMO.

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(a) standardisation throughout Italy

(b) an increase in weapons

(c) morale. The troops would feel lifted out of the rut of Cd duties onto a higher plane.

If, for political reasons you do not feel this is practical at present, will you, please, say if you agree to the conversion at a later date.

4. It would be appreciated if you would forward your comments on paras 2 and 3 above as soon as possible.

(Sgd) L. B.
Major General,
SMIA.

Copy to: SD/36/2
A
Q

21/12/10

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDG NO. 765020

(49)

Ref : DO/6

Lt.-Col. S.M. Ingledew,
Military Mission to Italian Army,
C. M. F.

12 October, 1945.

Dear

We have recently received a bleat from SMMS signed Cadenna which quite justifiably points out that communications received from Italian Divs indicate that there will shortly be a reduction of equipment not an increase which we have been more or less telling the Ministry of War will occur in the near future.

This misunderstanding was the result of a letter sent by AFHQ to 2 District and MAIA some time ago.

File TS/Q/3

General Browning's reaction to the letter is set out in TS/Q/3 of 13 Sep, copy herewith.

(41)

General Browning's reply to SMMS's bleat is contained in SD/JS/2 of 11 Oct, copy herewith.

I hope this gives you the complete picture.

Hope you are fit.

Kind regards,

J.M. .142

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDG No. T85020

We have recently received a bleat from SHAEF signed Cadenna which quite justifiably points out that communications received from Italian Div indicate that there will shortly be a reduction of equipment not an increase which we have been more or less telling the Ministry of War will occur in the near future.

This misunderstanding was the result of a letter sent by AFHQ to 2 District and MMIA some time ago.

File TS/Q/3

General Browning's reaction to the letter is set out in TS/Q/3 of 13 Sep, copy herewith.

(47)

General Browning's reply to SHAEF's bleat is contained in SD/39/2 of 11 Oct, copy herewith.

I hope this gives you the complete picture.

Hope you are fit.

Kind regards,

J.M.S. .143

Lt.-Col. P. M. Egerton,

Senior M.M.I.A. L.O.

File SD/39/12 ←
File TS/Q/3

Copy :

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDG NO. T25020

TRANSLATION.

From: Ministry of War.

To: M.M.I.A.

Ref: 17653/Ord/I.

Date: 10/10/45.

Subject: Revision of M/E of Italian Div. - Arty.

Further to 17465/Ord/1 dated the 3/10/45.

In the cadre of the revised M/E of Italian Divs., the problem presented by arty., requires great attention.

This essentially because:

- the present proportion of arty. is considerably inferior to that of British Divs. and similar Higher Formations of modern armies.
- This inferior proportion has so far been compensated by the fact that Italian Divs. were employed and incorporated in Allied Higher Formations of superior class, with great fire power and, therefore, managed to join their own battery fire action with that developed directly or indirectly in their favour by Higher Formations;
- the anti-aircraft volume of fire is not sufficient to protect divisional sector of sky and, therefore, it appears necessary to increase its power, also because of the total lack of territorial anti-aircraft defense (i.e. city protection, protection of installations etc.);
- due to the increase of armoured vehicles used nowadays, fire power of anti-tank arty. should be increased.

Bearing in mind the above and considering that the transition army must gradually be shaped into a definite organization, I suggest the following proposals:

1) Add a third battery to every arty. group
2) form two arty. regts. of medium calibre (Heavy Field Arty.)
3) assign to each of the Brigades of Territorial Military Commands of the Peace Time Army, one group of mixed arty.

A. - Third bty. for each group.

The increase of one bty. for each arty. group permits an increase of the firepower in the division improving the conection between the Art. and Inf. and perfecting the organisation of antitank and A.A. action. The consequent increase in war establishment is not great.

In fact, it milano the assignment to the Art. Reg. of;

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDG No. 78502

- This inferior proportion has so far been compensated by the fact that Italian Divs. were employed and incorporated in Allied Higher Formations of superior class, with great fire power and, therefore, managed to join their own battery fire action with that developed directly or indirectly in their favour, by Higher Formations;
- the anti-aircraft volume of fire is not sufficient to protect divisional sector of sky and, therefore, it appears necessary to increase its power, also because of the total lack of territorial anti-aircraft defense (i.e. city protection, protection of installations etc.);
- due to the increase of armoured vehicles used nowadays, fire power of anti-tank arty. should be increased.

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In fact, it milano the assignment to the Art. Reg. of;

2-25 Pdr. Bty.
I-17 Pdr. Bty.
I-40 m.m; Bty.

These batteries, of which formation corresponds to those existing in the regiment, bring an increase in the N/E of 517 men per Reg. and for the 5 Divs, the total number of 2585 men

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. T25020

The personel required could be drawn from that authorised for auxilary units for combat groups.

B - Formation of 2 art ~~Kgts~~ Regts of medium calibre

The fire action of Div Art. has always found an increase in actions carried out by large calibre Art. existing in large formations.

Such increase is necessary ~~considering~~ in view of the fact that the Arty. in the Italian Div., ~~although~~ even though increased in power as proposed in para. a above, is not enough to reach the ~~proper~~ Group to Battalion ratio which exists in large formation of modern armies and moreover, ~~because it should have~~ even if it has too suitable guns for support and holding action it is not in a position (~~range~~, power of single shot; and the trajectory of the projectile) to satisfy all the requirements of the ~~divisional~~ Divisional Infantry, especially in rough land.

I propose therefore, that the Italian Army has 2 Art. Regts of medium calibre, in 4 Groups (2 gun Groups and 2 Groups of 3 Batteries each)

These regts while waiting for their final formation could come under large formation H.Q's as far as the W/E is concerned.

The personel required for the formation of the 2 Regts could be drawn partly from the auxilary combat groups and partly from the ~~personnel~~ personnel which will ~~be became available once the formation of the final army is completed~~ in excess in the formation of the final army and which could be obtained from Territorial Services organisations.

C - Mixed Group for the Infantry Brigade.

In veiw of both the necessity to reach an adequate proportion between Inf. and Art. in the army, and the advisability of being able to continue and complete in all units training of the personnel, I propose the assignment of a mixed Art. Group to each Brigade.

The group could have 3 Btys; 2 of small calibre and 1 A.A. for eventual ~~for~~ antitank use.

Total number of men per Brigade; 350 men approx.

Consequently it will be required to increase the strength of the Brigade

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC No. 125020

Div., although increased in power as in para.A above, is not enough to reach the Group to Battalion ratio which exists in large formation of modern armies and moreover, even if it has suitable guns for support and holding action it is not in a position (range, power of single shot; and the trajectory of the projectile) to satisfy all the requirements of the Divisional Infantry, especially in rough land.

I propose therefore, that the Italian Army has 2 Art.Regts of medium calibre, in 4 Groups (2 gun Groups and 2 Groups of 3 Batteries each)

These regts while waiting for their final formation could come under large formation H.Q's as far as the W/E is concerned.

The personel required for the formation of the 2 Regts could be drawn partly from the auxiliary combat groups and partly from the personnel which will be ~~became available by the formation of the final army~~ employed in excess in the formation of the final army and which could be obtained from Territorial Services organisations.

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In veiw of both the necessity to reach an adequate proportion between Inf. and Art. in the army, and the advisability of being able to continue and complete in all units training of the personnel, I propose the assignment of a mixed Art. Group to each Brigade.

The group could have 3 Btys; 2 of small calibre and 1 A.A. for eventual ~~for~~ antitank use.

Total number of men per Brigade; 350 men approx.

Consequently it will be required to increase the strength of the Brigade which is at present of 2.500 men, to 2.850 men.

The personnel could be drawn from that already shown for the formation of the 2 Art. Regts medium calibre.

With the abovementioned proposals, the problem of Art. cannot be consided entirely solved but a good improvement will be obtained on the present situation

The Chief of Staff.

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. T65020

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. 785020

TRANSLATION

C 150/39/2 46

From : M of War
To : MMIA

Ref : 17447/Ord/I
Dtd : 5 Oct 45

Subject : Reduction in Arms and Vehicle of the Combat Groups.

See 47

The H.Q.'s of the "Cremona" and "Folgore" Combat Groups have informed us of receipt, from 2nd District, of a warning order for a considerable reduction in the arms and vehicles at present on W.E.

The size of this reduction is shown in Attachment No. 1.

As MMIA may observe, the intended reduction is so great, especially with regard to the Artillery, that the efficiency of the Combat Groups is seriously compromised; these Groups are the only 5 Higher Formations ready for employment of those at present available to the Italian Army.

The measure announced by the 2nd District is in complete contrast with the intentions recently expressed by the MMIA, of strengthening the Combat Groups with the assignment of more equipment (letter No. SD/39/2 dtd 11 Sep 45 and memorandum from Col. Ingledew to General Liuzzi dtd 19 Sep 45).

To MMIA (OCC Forces)

If therefore, it is to be deduced from the above that a new plan has been formed, I should be grateful if MMIA would kindly inform me.

Chief of S.M.,
sgd: R Cadorna General.

SD/39/2
8/10

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. 78502D

Allegato 1 al 17447 del 5/10/45

Entità delle riduzioni di armamento e di automezzi preannunziata dal 2° District ai gruppi di combattimento "CREMONA" e "FOLGORE"

DENOMINAZIONE	Organico attuale	Organico preannunziato	Entità delle riduzioni
1) - VEICOLI "A"			
Carriers (dei vari tipi)	229	110	119
2) - VEICOLI "B"			
Motocicli	384	230	154
Cars 4x2 Lt. Utility / Cars 5 Cwt 4x4	84	72	12
Cars 4 str. (1)	23	14	9
Truks 15 cwt 4x2 G.S.	292	245	47
Truks 3 ton 4x2 G.S.	306	243	63
Tractor F.A. (per 25 pr)	48	12	36
Tractor A.TK (per 17 pr)	9	2	7
Tractor L.A.A. (per 40 mm)	12	4	8
3) - ARTIGLIERIE			
Pezzi da 25 pr.	32	8	24
Pezzi da 17 pr.	8	2	6
Pezzi da 6 pr.	36	18	18
Pezzi da 40 mm.	12	4	8
4) - MORTAI			
da 3"	40	20	20
da 2"	138	100	38

(1) non avuti in distribuzione.-

Stato Maggiore R. Esercito

TRANSLATION

SECRET AND URGENT

45

FROM : MINISTRY OF WAR

Ref: 17445/Ord.

TO : M.M.I.A.

Date: 3/10/45.

SUBJECT: Revising the WE of the Italian Divisions (Combat Group)

Reference your SD/39/2 dated the 11th inst.

Bearing in mind:

- the duties which may be entrusted (generally) to the Italian Div. (Combat Group), duties which are specified at para 1 of the a/m letter,

- the directive not to consider notable changes in the WE formation, I limit myself to proposing the following:-

- to mechanize the whole of the division

- to assign armoured vehicles

- to assign a bridge-building unit

- to increase the fire-power of the infantry bn.

A. Mechanization

The defensive duties of the Italian Army may not, at first sight, justify the request to mechanize the whole of the divisions in question.

But when considering that the number is so small (5 in all), it is evident that the arrangement is indispensable so that the units may make a timely intervention where necessary.

So as to mechanize them completely, it is necessary to assign to each division (as shown in enclosure 1 and apart from what vehicles they have on charge) 180 three-tonners and 4 Bulldozers. These figures are the requirements of units which form the combat group at present.

B. Armoured Vehicles

I do not believe that it is today possible to conceive even a small Army, such as the Italian would have to be, without an availability of armoured vehicles.

Therefore, the assignment of one armoured bn. composed of two Tank Coys and one Armoured Car coy to each Div is to be considered an indispensable minimum.

137

Summarised WE of Bn. is shown in enclosure 2.

C. Bridge-building Units

Road interruptions even if small, especially where rivers etc. are concerned, and may cause long delays to mechanized units.

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC No. 785020

(Combat Group), duties which are specified at para 1 of the [illegible]

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- to assign armoured vehicles

- to assign a bridge-building unit

- to increase the fire-power of the infantry bn.

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137

Summarised WE of Bn. is shown in enclosure 2.

C. Bridge-building Units

Road interruptions even if small, especially where rivers etc. are concerned, and may cause long delays to mechanized units.

Hence the necessity of having handy suitable means of ensuring the continuity of the traffic.

Therefore I think that it is necessary that each Div. should have a Bridge-building Coy (with the necessary bridging material) which could be included in the Engr Bn.

Enclosure 3 shows the summarised WE of the Coy to which it is necessary to add (after having defined same) the vehicles and drivers for the transporting of bridging material.

...../2

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. T85020

D. Increase of Fire-power in the Infantry Bn.

An increase in the fire-power both in the Infantry Regt and the Bn. is considered necessary.

Experience shows that this is necessary, also bearing in mind that the present combat groups fought with large Allied formations, which had large numbers of weapons, developing their action both directly and indirectly, in favour of the units employed.

With a view to restraining the modifications to an indispensable minimum, we can, for the time being, consider only the Infantry Bn.

The prevailing defensive duty of Italian units calls for the Bn. to be equipped with machine guns, the lack of which is particularly felt because the present combat group, contrary to a British Div., has no machine gun units. This is confirmed by the fact that the HQ Eighth British Army felt the necessity, during operations, to assign as an exception Vickers MGs to Italian Infantry Bns.

The problem could be solved satisfactorily by replacing, in the supporting weapon coy of the Infantry Bn., 9 Bren LMGs by 9 HMGs.

E. Artillery

I shall propose modifications later.

I have up to the present dealt only with questions of major importance which require changes and amendments in the organisation of the Italian Div.

Other questions which, even though of minor importance, deserve consideration in the future are as under:-

- improve communications within the coys. Accepted
- increase the number of mortars. Under consideration
- issue of short range anti-tank weapons (i.e. P.I.A.T.) Already Auth'd 201 per Div

Enclosure number 4 shows the formation of the Div in accordance with the present proposals.

The consequent increase in WE could be in part compensated by small reductions in auxiliary units.

The undermentioned units could be eliminated:-

- one field hospital In France, Unit not in use
- one Italian Unit (B.L.U. Rfts.) Reduced : yes
- one stretcher-bearer unit (medical service) Agreed & incorporated 136
- two reserve driver groups Impossible
- one mixed pln. for S & T unit Utterly impossible

Total 231 men

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NND No. 785020

The prevailing defensive duty of Italian units calls for the Bn. to be equipped with machine guns, the lack of which is particularly felt because the present combat group, contrary to a British Div., has no machine gun units. This is confirmed by the fact that the HQ Eighth British Army felt the necessity, during operations, to assign as an exception Vickers MGs to Italian Infantry Bns.

The problem could be solved satisfactorily by replacing, in the supporting weapon coy of the Infantry Bn., 9 Bren LMGs by 9 HMGs. /

E. Artillery

I shall propose modifications later.

I have up to the present dealt only with questions of major importance which require changes and amendments in the organisation of the Italian Div.

Other questions which, even though of minor importance, deserve consideration in the future are as under:-

- improve communications within the coys. Agreed
- increase the number of mortars. Under consideration
- issue of short range anti-tank weapons (i.e. P.I.A.T.) Already noted 2 per Div

Enclosure number 4 shows the formation of the Div in accordance with the present proposals.

The consequent increase in WE could be in part compensated by small reductions in auxiliary units.

The undermentioned units could be eliminated:-

- one field hospital In force, can't act in war
- one Italian Unit (B.L.U. Rfts.) Agreed: yes
- one stretcher-bearer unit (medical service) Agreed + incorporated 136
- two reserve driver groups Impossible
- one mixed pln. for S & T unit Utterly impossible

Total 231 men.

Interchangeability.

Since the strength laid down for the Infantry Brigade of Military HQs is slightly inferior to that of Infantry Regt of combat group, to obtain interchangeability, we could give the Infantry Brigade the same formation as the Infantry Regt by reducing it by one rifle section for each coy., two sections of 76 mortar and two half-tracked vehicle sections in the Support Coy of the Bn.

Agreed as to interchangeability but NOT by this method!

...../3

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC No. T85020

The solution appears to be easily carried out and meets requirements of interchangeability.

The Infantry Brigade would therefore, have the formation as shown in enclosure 5.

The present proposals refer to the interim army and not to the future army for which further changes are to be expected gradually in accordance with the final organisation of the Italian Army.

(Sgd) CADORNA

Fabre/Carter

cp

135

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NND No. T 25020

TRANSLATION Enclosure 1 to letter No. 17445 of 3 Oct 45.

VEHICLES IN ADDITION TO THOSE ISSUED, NEEDED FOR THE MOTORISATION OF THE DIVISION.

A - 2 Infantry Regts	: 3-ton Lorries	150	-	75 for each Infantry Regt for the following reasons: - 15 for Regtl HQ, 76 Mortar Coys 6 pr Coys. - 20 for each Inf Bn.
B - Artillery Regt	: 3-ton Lorries	15	-	the necessity of this assignment derives from the greater number of men in an Italian Artillery Regt than in a British.
C - Mixed Engrs Bn	: 3-ton Lorries	15	-	for day-to-day transport of personnel, rations and materials.
	Bulldozers	4	-	1 for each road-making pl. It is not advisable to give up the use of this vehicle which has proved itself to be very useful for opening roads and for facilitating road-makers' work, especially in clearing.

Total vehicles for 1 Combat Group = 184

Total vehicles for 5 Combat Groups = 920

13

cp

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDG NO. 745020

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDG NO. 785020

ARMOURED BATTALION

Comprising :-
- 1 Bn HQ
- 2 Tank Coys
- 1 Armrd Car Coy.

	PERSONNEL		ARMOURED Vehicles		TRANSPORT VEHICLES								
	Offrs	NCO's & Men	Tanks	Armrd Cars	Cars	Light Lorries	Heavy Lorries	Carts or Trailers	Water Trucks	Office Veh.	Break down Lorry	Motor Cycles	Motor Tri-Cycles
Bn. H.Q.													
C.O. and HQ Officers	5												
H.Q. Coy with :-													
- C.O.	1												
- Platoon H.Q.	1	78	2(1)	2(1)	2	3	9	5	1	-	-	8	6
- " Repairs	1	48	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	2	-	-	-
- " Recovery	1	53	-	-	-	3	3	3	-	-	3	-	-
	9	179	2	2	2	6	16	8	1	2	3	8	6
2 Tank Coys each with :-													
- C.O.	1												
- Platoon H.Q.	1	46	2(1)	-	1	2	4	1	-	-	-	4	2
- 3 Tank Platoons	3	58	9	-	-	-	10	10	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL for 1 Tank Coy:-	5	104	11	-	1	2	14	11	-	-	-	4	2
TOTAL for 2 Tank Coys:-	10	208	22	-	2	4	28	22	-	-	-	8	4
1 Armrd Car Coy													
- C.O.	1												
- Platoon H.Q.	1	44	-	2(1)	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	8	-
- 3 Armd Car Platoons	3	45	-	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL for 1 Armd car/Pl. :-	5	89	-	14	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	8	-
	24	476	24	16	5	11	36	30	1	2	3	24	10
	(500)												

(1) of which one as reserved.-

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. 785020

...ON

...r Coy.

...NEL	ARMOURED Vehicles		TRANSPORT VEHICLES									
NCO's & Men	Tanks	Armd Cars	Cars	Light Lorries	Heavy Lorries	Carts or Traillers	Water Trucks	Office Veh.	Break down Lorry	Motor Cycles	Motor Tri-Cycles	Loading Ramps
78	2(1)	2(1)	2	3	9	5	1	-	-	8	6	2
48	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
53	-	-	-	3	3	3	-	-	3	-	-	-
179	2	2	2	6	16	8	1	2	3	8	6	2
46	2(1)	-	1	2	4	1	-	-	-	4	2	-
58	9	-	-	-	10	10	-	-	-	-	-	2
104	11	-	1	2	14	11	-	-	-	4	2	2
208	22	-	2	4	28	22	-	-	-	8	4	4
44	-	2(1)	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	8	-	-
45	-	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
89	-	14	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	8	-	-
476	24	16	5	11	36	30	1	2	3	24	10	6

00

as reserved.-

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. 785020

TRANSLATION

Appendix 3

SUMMARY OF W.E. FOR THE BAILEY BRIDGE COY
OF A COMBAT GROUP

	PERSONNEL			VEHICLES		Motor-cycles	REMARKS
	Offrs	NCOs	Men	Cars	Lorries		
C.O. (Captain)	1						(1) Of which 1 camouflaged.
Platoon HQ							
O.C. (Subaltern)	1						(2) of which: 1 Office Truck 1 Water Truck 2 15 cwt 4 x 4 Truck 2 3 ton 4 x 4 G.S. Lorry
Pay N.C.O.		1					
Supply N.C.O.		1					
N.C.O. Chief of Sappers		1					
Jr NCO's and Sappers			15				
Draftsmen			1				
G.D. Soldiers			13	(1)	(2)		
Drivers			11	2	6		
D.R.'s			2			2	(3) Of which: 2 15 cwt 4 x 4 Trucks 1 3 ton 4 x 4 G.S. Lorry
Total Platoon HQ	1	3	42	2	6	2	
Bridging Platoon							
O.C.	1						
N.C.O's		3					
Jr NCO's and Bridgers			40				
G.D. Soldiers			3				
Drivers			3		3(3)		
D.R's			1			1	
Total: Bridging Platoon	1	3	47	*	3	1	
Total: Company (3 Bridging Plateons)	5	12	163	2	15	5	

NOTE: The personnel and vehicles for the transporting of bridging material are not included in the War Establishment.

132

Translated by:

Typed by: ws 06 Oct 45

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. 785020

TRANSLATION

Enclosure No. 4 to letter 17445 dated 3 Oct 1945

FORMATION AND WE OF THE DIVISION

Division HQ					150
2 Inf Regt	(HQ Office and Coy HQ			116	
	(Office and Coy HQ			135	
	(3 Rifle Coys			480	
	(3 Inf Bn	(1 Weapon support Coy	(9 Vickers MMG		
			(7 Bren Guns		
			(6 Fiat Mortars		153
			(4 76 mm Mortars		
			(6 50 mm Mortars		
			(2 6 pdr guns		
	(1 76 mm Mortar Coy			98	
	(1 6 pdr Cannon Coy			168	
	Total Inf Bn			768	
	Total Inf. Regt			2,686	
	Total 2 Inf Regt			(1)	5,372
1 Armd Bn	(Bn HQ and Coy HQ (2 Tank Coys (1 Armd Car Coy				500
1 Arty Regt	(Regt HQ (4 Arty Troops (25 pdrs) (1 Arty Troops (17 pdrs) (1 Arty Troops A.A. (40 mm)				1,541
1 mixed Engr Battalion	(HQ (2 Pioneer Coys (1 M.T. Coy (1 Bridge Building Coy				1,051
1 Med Section	(HQ (2 Truck Units (1 Disinfection Platoon (1 Field Hospital				214
1 S & T Unit	(HQ (3 Transport Platoons (1 Reserve Driver Group (1 Mixed Platoon				241
Arty and Engineer Mobile Depot					131 73
M.T. Workshop					286
			Total Division		9,428
			Total 5 Divisions		47,172

NOTE: The drivers required for the 150 trucks (3 tons) mentioned in encl. 1 are not included. Should the vehicles be allotted the No. of men must be increased.

Translated by:

Typed by: ws 06 Oct 45

FORMATION AND ME OF THE INFANTRY BRIGADE

- Brigade H.Q.	HQ Coy	(Commandant and HQ offrs) (Commandant) (Platoon HQ) (services Pl) (light van)			137
- 3 battalions	H.Q.	Coy HQ	H.Q. officers (Commandant) (Platoon HQ) (Liaison Pl) (Pioneers Pl)	135	
	3 Rifle Coys	Pl. HQ	Commandant (Commandant) (HQ Section) (Liaison Sec) (Services Sec)	33	150x 3=
		3 Rifles platoons	(Commandant) (HQ Section (2*3 rifle (sections(1))	116	450 700x 3= ... 2.106
	Support Coy	Support Coy	(Commandant) (Platoon HQ) (Half-tracked vehs platoon (2 sections) (Pl. 76 m/m mortar (2 Sec)) (6 lbs guns Pl.)	.. 17	
- 76 m/m Mortar Coy	2 Mortar Pl.		(Commandant) (1 HQ Section) (Commandant) (HQ Section) (4 Sec of 5 m/m mortar)		 98
	1 Platoon H.Q.		Commandant (Section HQ) (Services Sec)		
	4 Guns Platoons		(Section HQ) (3 Sec. pf) (6 lbs guns)		..... 13) 168
				Total Infantry Brigade:	2.509

(1) - in each Coys : 2 platoons of 3 sections riflemen and 3 platoons of 2 section riflemen .

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDG NO. T85020

- 3 battalions	3 Rifle Coys	Pl. HQ	Commandant	33		
			HQ Section			
			Liaison Sec		150x	
			Services Sec		3=	
		3 Rifles platoons	Commandant		450	
			HQ Section	116		700x 3= ... 2.106
			2-3 rifle sections (1)			
	Support Coy	Support Coy	Commandant			
			Platoon HQ			
			Half-tracked vehs platoon (2 sections)	.. 17		
			Pl. 76 m/m mortar (2 Sec)			
			6 lbs guns Pl.			

- 76 m/m Mortar Coy	Commandant				
	1 HQ Section				
	2 Mortar Pl.	Commandant			
		HQ Section			
		4 Sec of 5 m/m mortar		.....	98
	Commandant				
	1 Platoon H.Q.	Section HQ			
		Services Sec		.....	168
	4 Guns Platoons	Section HQ			
		3 Sec. pf 6 lbs guns			

Total Infantry Brigade: 2.509

(1) - in each Coys : 2 platoons of 3 sections riflemen and 3 platoons of 2 section riflemen .

NOTE: The formation of the brigade is similar to the Infantry Regt formation for Combat Group. The difference in WE is due to the reduction of 1 rifle section for each Coys; of 2 mortar 76 m/m section and 2 half-tracked vehicles section in the support Coy for each battalion.

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. T85020

47

SUBJECT: Equipment for Inf Divisions

LAND FORCES SUB-COL, AC (MMIA)

SD/39/2

11 Oct 45

TO : MINISTRY OF WAR

46.

Reference your letter 17447/Or4/1 dated 5 Oct 45.

1. It was decided by AFHQ some time ago carefully to control the issue of British equipment in use by Italian Divs owing to the deplorable Italian maintenance and the very great loss of British equipment thereby sustained. AFHQ accordingly issued an order to 2 District saying that a wasting down process should be made to the scales mentioned in Appendix 'A' to your letter although no actual withdrawal would take place.

2. MMIA and 2 District at once informed AFHQ that the scale was too low for the Combat Groups to carry out their present operational function.

3. AFHQ agreed that in view of future operational commitments a higher scale was necessary. As soon as the Combat Group WEs now under discussion between Ministry of War and MMIA (vide SD/39/2 of 11 Sep which you quote) have been agreed upon, the higher scale will be forwarded to AFHQ for consideration.

4. Meanwhile, until a decision is arrived at, it is essential that no wastage of equipment should occur through faulty maintenance, and I should be glad if you would again stress this when informing Italian Divisions as above.

129

L. Browning

Major-General,
MMIA.

fd

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC No. 78502D

Reference your letter 17447/Ord/1 dated 5 Oct 45.

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129

L. Browning

Major-General,
MMIA.

21

INTERNAL: A/Q

R/11/10.

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. 765020

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDG NO. 785020

48

SUBJECT : MS of Italian Div

HQ 2 District CMF
2102/15 G(SD1)

9 Oct 45

Land Forces Sub Com AC (MMIA)

SD

Ref your SD/39/2 of 11 (?) Sep 45.

1. The views of the BLU's have been obtained, but it is not really possible to consolidate them as they differ so much except on a few major points such as the provision of 2 IC and CM's for Inf bns.

2. I do not feel it possible to make recommendations in the absence of much relevant information about manpower and eqpt, such as whether increases in strength would be acceptable and whether the future armament and vehicles would be British or Italian.

3. If you should wish to hold a conference to allow BLU's to support or condemn points raised by each other and to arrive at an agreed solution to the problem, it would be possible to provide accommodation in MILAN.

I suggest that this is the only feasible method.

X C.A. Stedeman X

Major General
Commanding 2 District

CCLB/de

128

G30 1	X X
G30 2 (Ops)	
G30 2 (SD)	
G30 2 (WS)	X X
G30 2 (L)	
G30 3 (SD)	
G30 3 (Ops)	
G30 3	

FILE: SD/39/2
DATE: 9/12/10

12030

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. T25020

SUBJECT : WE of Italian Div

Hq 2 District CMF
2102/15 G(SD1)

9 Oct 45

Land Forces Sub Com AC (MIA)

Further to this Headquarters letter 2102/15 G(SD1) dated 9 Oct 45.

Herewith recommendations made by 51, 52, 53 and 56 BLUs.

50 BLU forwarded a copy of their recommendations direct to you (50 BLU letter G/5/17 dated 20 Sep refers).

/de

John Hayslapr
Lieutenant Colonel
General Staff

127

Subject :- WE of Italian Combat Group

51 British Liaison Unit

G 3/4

To :- HQ
2 District (2)

Ref your 2102/15G(SD1) of 15 Sep 45.

The following recommendations are submitted in accordance with Land Forces Sub-Com, AC(MMIA) letter SD/39/2 dated 11 Sep 45.

1. The formation of an armd car coy for each inf regt. Such coys would be invaluable as a basis for any quick concentration of force required, and for a show of force in any unsettled area, and for recce purposes. The vehicles should not be dingoes, but something larger - like the GMC "Otter"- capable of carrying a driver and three men.

If armd car coys can not be provided addl to present WE, then the 6-pr A tk coy of inf regts could be converted. Each bn has 2 6-pr guns, and the arty regt has bty of 8 17-pr guns, so it would still be possible to organise an anti-tank layout should the Group have to deal with disorder backed by armd vehs.

A diagram of the proposed org, and details of the changes involved in personnel, vehs and major items of eqmt for conversion of existing A tk coys is att at Appx A.

2. The addition of a DAPM and Provost HQ to the HQ of a Combat Group.

(a) The WE of the Combat Group allows for 2 sections of CC.RR. (Carabinieri) Cremona Gp has a third section att surplus to WE. Each section consists of

HQ.	1 Offr	(Sub)
	7 ORs	
2 Foot Squads		
Each	14 ORs	
1 M/C Squad	15 ORs	
Total	1 Offr and 50 ORs.	

(b) The OC one of the secs at present functions as OC CC.RR. I feel that to get the best results sec comds should be left free to command their secs, having their work directed and inspected by a senior officer (Capt CC.RR.) who should also have a small staff for the adm of the three secs. The Capt (CC.RR.) would have to be British trained, and imbued with the British conception of a DAPM's duties.

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC No. 185020

The following recommendations are submitted in accordance with Land Forces Sub-Com, AC([illegible]A) letter SD/39/2 dated 11 Sep 45.

1. The formation of an armd car coy for each inf regt. Such coys would be invaluable as a basis for any quick concentration of force required, and for a show of force in any unsettled area, and for recce purposes. The vehicles should not be dingoes, but something larger - like the GMC "Otter" - capable of carrying a driver and three men.

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	7 ORs	
2 Foot Squads		
Each	14 ORs	
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Total	1 Offr and 50 ORs.	

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GENERAL STAFF
NO. 2 SECTION
21D2/15

...../2

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. 165020

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. T85020

(c) Such a HQ could do much to raise the standard of the CC.RR. in the Group, and consequently, the discipline and standard of turn-out of the troops.

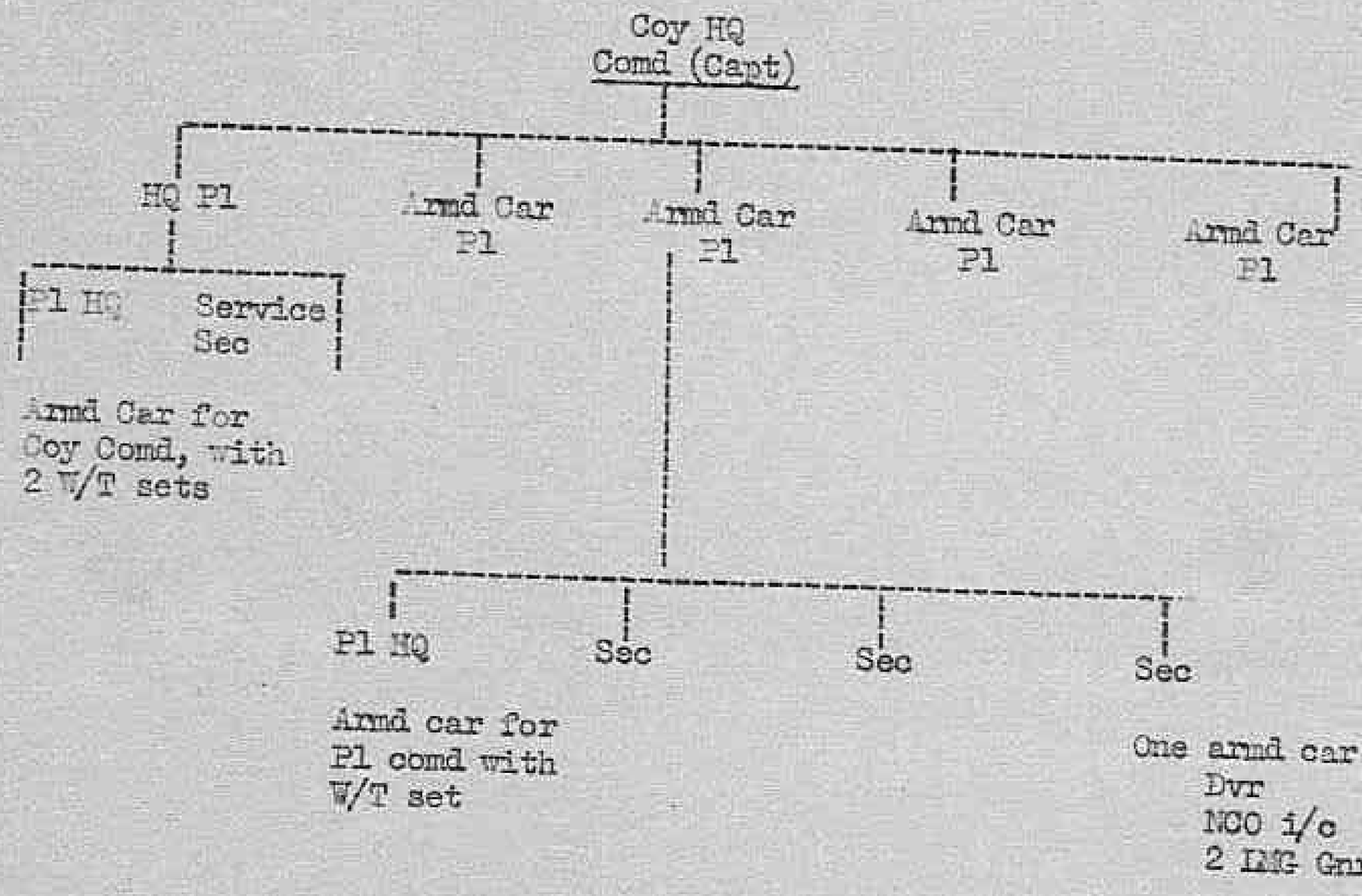
(d) There is in existence a WE for a HQ CC.RR. Coy (No.CW/737/1 - not at present applicable to Combat Groups) and it is thought that this would meet present needs. A copy is att at Appx "B" for ref. The part named "Instructors section" could be reduced if desired by deleting one subaltern, one sergt-maj and one sergt. The remainder of the Instructors Section would be merged with the HQ Section.

3. There are no further recommendations within the scope of the above mentioned MMIA letter.

Field
25 Sep 45
JRS/JH

Major,
General Staff.

APPENDIX A to 51 HLU
letter G 3/4 of 25 Se p.45



NOTES :- (1) Armament. Each armd car sec to be armed with 1 LMG and all ranks carry personal arms.

(2) Comms One W/T set per pl netted to one of the Coy Comds 2 sets. Coy Comds second set netted to Regt Comd.

Changes required to existing WE of 6-pr A Tk Coy

	DELETE				ADD			
	Dvrs	Gnrs	6-pr Guns	Carriers Towing	Signallers	Armd Cars	W/T Sets No 22	LMGs
Coy HQ	1			2	4	1	2	1
4 Pl HQs					8	4	4	4
12 Sections	12	36	12	24		12		12
TOTALS	13	36	12	26	12	17	6	17

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Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. 78502D

Coy Comd, with
2 W/T sets

Pl HQ | Sec | Sec | Sec

Armd car for
Pl comd with
W/T set

One armd car
Dvr
NCO i/c
2 LMG Gnrs

NOTES :- (1) Armament. Each armd car sec to be armed with 1 LMG and all ranks carry personal arms.

(2) Comms One W/T set per pl netted to one of the Coy Comds 2 sets. Coy Comds second set netted to Regt Comd.

Changes required to existing WE of 6-pr A Tk Coy

	DELETE					ADD			
	Dvrs	Gnrs	6-pr Guns	Carriers Towing		Signallers	Armd Cars	W/T Sets No 22	LMGs
Coy HQ	1			2		4	1	2	1
4 Pl HQs						8	4	4	4
12 Sections	12	36	12	24			12		12
TOTALS	13	36	12	26		12	17	6	17

124

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. T25020

APPENDIX B to 51 BLU
letter G 3/4 of 15 Sep 45

Effective date - 9 Feb 1945

RESTRICTED

Amdt No	
Date	
Officers	2
ORs	20
Total	22
MCs	2
Vehicles	2
Trailers	-

CM/737/1

HEADQUARTERS C C R R COMPANY
(Italian Army)

WAR ESTABLISHMENT

(i) Personnel

DETAIL	Offrs	Senior NCOs	Junior NCOs	Privates	Total
Officer commanding (captain)	1				1
Instructors section -					
Subaltern	1				1
Warrant Officer		1			1
Serjeant Majors		2			2
Serjeant		1			1
Corporals			2		2
Headquarters Section -					
Warrant Officer		1			1
Quartermaster Serjeant		1			1
Motor-cyclists and orderlies				3	3
Cooks/general dutymen				7	7
Drivers IC				2	2
Total Headquarters Italian CCRR Company	2	6	2	12	22

(ii) Transport

Bicycles	2
Motor-cycles solo	2
Trucks, 15-cwt 4 x 2 GS	1
Lorry 3-ton 4 x 2 GS	1
Total, vehicles	2

123

This establishment will NOT be implemented without AFHQ authority.

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDG NO. 125020

DETAIL	Offrs	Senior NCOs	Junior NCOs	Privates	Total
Officer commanding (captain)	1				1
Instructors section -					
Subaltern	1				1
Warrant Officer		1			1
Serjeant Majors		2			2
Serjeant		1			1
Corporals			2		2
Headquarters Section -					
Warrant Officer		1			1
Quartermaster Serjeant		1			1
Motor-cyclists and orderlies				3	3
Cooks/general dutymen				7	7
Drivers IC				2	2
Total Headquarters Italian CCRR Company	2	6	2	12	22

(ii) Transport

Bicycles	2
Motor-cycles solo	2
Trucks, 15-cwt 4 x 2 GS	1
Lorry 3-ton 4 x 2 GS	1
Total, vehicles	2

123

This establishment will NOT be implemented without AFHQ authority.

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. T 85120

Subject :- WE of Italian Div. (Combat Group).

56 BLU
2/1 G

HQ. No. 2 District.

16 Sep 45

Reference your 2102/15 G(SD1) of ? Sep 45 and MMIA letter SD/39/2 dated 11 Sep 45.

The following recommendations are forwarded :-

1. Combat Group Headquarters - WE CM/523/1.

The headquarters as at present organised is over centralized. The Chief of Staff is worried with a mass of detail.

It is suggested that the WE should be amended to allow of an easy split into Main and Rear HQ. Additional officers being brought on to the establishment to provide heads of the G,A and Q branches. The Chief of Staff then co-ordinating the activities of these branches and being relieved of the detail connected with each.

This in fact has been done in Combat Group MANTOVA by employing officers on the headquarters surplus to WE and is agreed by the Combat Group to be a more efficient organisation.

A diagram of the organisation of the HQ is attached at Appx 'A'.

2. Divisional Reconnaissance Element.

It is considered that some form of unit on the lines of a squadron of a British Reconnaissance Regt is required for the future role envisaged for the Combat Group. Some of the personnel for this might come from the carrier platoons of the Infantry battalions.

3. Artillery - WE CM/525/1.

The present organisation is unweildy with one regt composed of 25 pdrs, 17 pdrs and 40 mm guns. Difficulty arises in artillery representation at infantry regimental HQ's which normally have two batteries in support which can only be co-ordinated at Arty Regt HQ. Co-ordination of A.tk defence is difficult with A.tk guns in the Artillery Regiments, Infantry Regiments and Infantry Battalions.

It is suggested that :-

(a) The present Artillery Regiment HQ with some amendments to WE should become the Artillery HQ with the Combat Group HQ comprising the CRA and his staff.

(b) The 25 pdrs should be organised into two separate regiments

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC No. 785020

dated 11 Sep 45.

The following recommendations are forwarded :-

1. Combat Group Headquarters - WE CM/525/1.

The headquarters as at present organised is over centralized. The Chief of Staff is worried with a mass of detail.

It is suggested that the WE should be amended to allow of an easy split into Main and Rear HQ. Additional officers being brought on to the establishment to provide heads of the G,A and Q branches. The Chief of Staff then co-ordinating the activities of these branches and being relieved of the detail connected with each.

This in fact has been done in Combat Group MANTOVA by employing officers on the headquarters surplus to WE and is agreed by the Combat Group to be a more efficient organisation.

A diagram of the organisation of the HQ is attached at Appx 'A'.

2. Divisional Reconnaissance Element.

It is considered that some form of unit on the lines of a squadron of a British Reconnaissance Regt is required for the future role envisaged for the Combat Group. Some of the personnel for this might come from the carrier platoons of the Infantry battalions.

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It is suggested that :-

(a) The present Artillery Regiment HQ with some amendments to WE should become the Artillery HQ with the Combat Group HQ comprising the CRA and his staff.

(b) The 25 pdrs should be organised into two separate regiments with separate commanders and HQ's.

(c) An A.tk Regt should be formed consisting of one battery of 8 - 17 pdrs and three 12 gun 6 pdr batteries. The Infantry Regiment 6 pdr coys should then be abolished.

(d) The 40 mm battery should be an independent unit.

GENERAL STAFF
HQ 2 Div/SECT
2102/15

2/.....

2102/15

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. 165020

4. Engineers - WEs CM/528/1 - CM/529/2 - CM/530/1.

The present organisation consisting of two Field Coys and a Signal Coy is unweildy as the tasks of the engineer coy and the signals are so diverse and yet are supposed to be controlled by one commander.

It is suggested that the Engineer battalion should retain command of the two Field Coys, the Engineer battalion HQ providing the CRE and his staff for Combat Group HQ. The Signal Coy should become a separate accounting unit, the HQ of the Signal Coy providing the OC Div Sigs and his staff.

5. Field Security Section.

A section organised on British lines is required. Personnel should not be taken from the Provost Sections for this task.

6. General.

In the role of resisting frontier agression there is a case for providing the Combat Group with some medium machine guns as it is thought that they would be a useful addition to the fire power of the Group.

It is suggested that one coy of 12 guns should be included in the organisation of each infantry regiment.

7. Ord & ST.

The Commissariat Corps deals with nearly all articles both of permanent and consumable supply with the exception of ammunition, vehicles and weapons. From the experience gained with this Combat Group it would appear that this system is unsatisfactory and that the Commissariat Corps should be broken down into clearly defined sections in order to deal with the various commodities and stores handled. The old system of ammunition supply through the Artillery has been superseded in this Group, but only a temporary method is now in use which is not altogether satisfactory, and will obviously require amendment. The Ordnance Corps has had immense success and the British system of supply of vehicles and stores has both interested and been understood by the Italians.

As this matter is one that affects the whole organisation of the Italian Army it is impossible to enter into details until the principles have been agreed but, whatever the decision, it is clear that the Combat Group does need officers and personnel to be allotted to operate the Ordnance Dump. Two officers and 12 ORs are considered sufficient. Further two officers are required on the staff to carry out the duties of DADOS Vote 7 and 8, and DADOS Vote 9 stores.

8. Medical.

The only alteration in the WE suggested is that the Hygiene and Anti-Malarial platoon included in the Medical Section (WE CM/353/1) should be reformed as a separate unit commanded by a major and operating directly under the DADMS at Group Headquarters.

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDG No. T25020

unit, the HQ of the Signal Coy providing the OC Div Sigs and his staff.

5. Field Security Section.

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6. General.

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It is suggested that one coy of 12 guns should be included in the organisation of each infantry regiment.

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As this matter is one that affects the whole organisation of the Italian Army it is impossible to enter into details until the principles have been agreed but, whatever the decision, it is clear that the Combat Group does need officers and personnel to be allotted to operate the Ordnance Dump. Two officers and 12 ORs are considered sufficient. Further two officers are required on the staff to carry out the duties of DADOS Vote 7 and 8, and DADOS Vote 9 stores.

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The only alteration in the WE suggested is that the Hygiene and Anti-Malarial platoon included in the Medical Section (WE CM/353/1) should be reformed as a separate unit commanded by a major and operating directly under the DADMS at Group Headquarters.

J R M Moore

Lt-Col.
GS.

C&F
JRM/ec

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNNG NO. 125020

6. Engineer Bn.

The inclusion of the Signals Coy with the Engr Bn is not satisfactory: it is recommended that consideration be given to divorcing it from the Engr Bn: in this event, the rank of the Comd Sigs Coy should be at least a major as he is virtually the CSO to the Group Comd.

7. Provost.

Gruppo Field Security Sec to be entirely separate from and additional to the Carabinieri.
The organisation of the CCRR into two secs is not satisfactory as there is no unified command. It is suggested that the two secs be amalgamated into one coy, the comd of which will receive his orders from the DAPM at HQ (not yet authorised on WE).

8. Armoured Car.

An Armoured Car Squadron (under Group control) be formed: this would not mean an increase in the existing total strength of the Gruppo, as it would be counterbalanced by the elimination of the A/Tk Bty.
It is considered that an Armd Car Sqdn (to be additional to any Armd Cars at present in Gruppi) would be of great value in quelling civil disturbances, and as a Group Mobile Reserve.

J.H. Taylor.

Lieut-Col.
GS.

JSHD/NS

12)

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDG No. 785020

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. 785020

(81)

Subject: WT of IOG

53 B.L.U.
Ref. G1-1
28 Sep 45

To :- H.Q. 2 District
MMTA
217 Area
50 BLU
21 BLU
5o BLU
"F" BL & TU

(70)

1. Ref MMTA 3D/3(/2 of 11 Sep 45, addsd 2 Dist and Italian Ministry of War.

2. This B.L.U. has now received a copy of 50 B.L.U's. reply (G/5/17 of 20 Sep 45), with which it is generally in full agreement. It is not considered that any good purpose would be served by this B.L.U. putting forward at this stage any detailed proposals for modifications in existing W.Es. of I.O.G's. or in commenting on the proposals of other B.L.Us., since it is fully agreed that the matter should be dealt with on the basis suggested in para 5(b)(v) of s/o 50 B.L.U. letter.

3. In particular, this B.L.U. wholly endorses the contents of para 5(h) of 50 B.L.U's letter.

GENERAL STAFF
HQ 2 DISTRICT
2102/15.

Lt.Col.
G.S.

119

Subject: WE of ITALIAN Div - Combat Group.

52 British Liaison Unit,
CMF.
22 Sep 45.

G/20/110

HQ 2 District.

Ref your HQ letter 2102/15/G(SD1) undated, herewith the recommendations called for.

In arriving at these decisions it has been necessary to bear in mind not only the future role of Gruppi as given in Para 1(b) of Land Forces Sub Comm AC (MMIA) SD/39/2 dated 11 Sep 45 and attached to your above-mentioned letter:

ie. (i) defence against minor frontier aggression:
(ii) assistance to CCRR, etc:

but also the previous instructions received to the effect that Gruppi are intended to be the basis of the future Italian Army: for this reason it is necessary to retain certain units, weapons, etc, which might perhaps otherwise be dispensed with in the performance of the above-mentioned roles.

As a result of previous experience, however, it is considered essential that simplicity should be the keynote. The present organisation is too complex: the are too many different types of sub-units, specialists and weapons which demand too high a standard of decentralisation and machinery of command: accordingly the following recommendations are made :-

1. A/Tk.
The Div A/Tk Bty of an Arty Regt (8 - 17 pdrs) be eliminated.
The Regt A/Tk Coys (12 - 6 pdr each = total 24) be retained.
The Bn A/Tk Pl (2 - 6 pdr each = total 12) be eliminated.

2. Mortars.
Mortar Pl in Support Coy of Inf Bn be increased by 2 mortars (ie. from 4 to 6 - 3" mortars): this would correct the deficiency of supporting fire power with the Bn.

3. Pioneers.
Assault secs within the Pioneer Pl of Inf Bns to be abblished.
Pioneer tradesmen to be kept as Pioneer Pl in HQ Coy.

4. Workshops.
The existing organisation of an ME Wksp, a Mech Engr Pl, and 6 LADs is ideal, but the WE within this organisation is completely unworkable in its present form. If the WE of the ME Wksps can be amended as recommended in 8 Army letter 118/11/EME dated 22 Mar 45, it would be entirely satisfactory.

5. S&T Coy.
(i) The organisation of a Combat Group should be such as to make it self-contained: with the recommendations above it will be, except that there is no provision whatsoever for troop carrying.
(ii) It is impossible, with the number of vehicles on the existing establishment, to carry the 2nd line ammunition: in the past this

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC No. 185020

In arriving at these decisions it has been necessary to bear in mind not only the future role of Gruppi as given in Para 1(b) of Land Forces Sub Comm AC (MMIA) SD/39/2 dated 11 Sep 45 and attached to your above-mentioned letter:

ie. (i) defence against minor frontier aggression:
(ii) assistance to CCRR, etc:

but also the previous instructions received to the effect that Gruppi are intended to be the basis of the future Italian Army: for this reason it is necessary to retain certain units, weapons, etc, which might perhaps otherwise be dispensed with in the performance of the above-mentioned roles.

As a result of previous experience, however, it is considered essential that simplicity should be the keynote. The present organisation is too complex: there are too many different types of sub-units, specialists and weapons which demand too high a standard of decentralisation and machinery of command: accordingly the following recommendations are made :-

1. A/Tk.

The Div A/Tk Bty of an Arty Regt (8 - 17 pdrs) be eliminated.
The Regt A/Tk Coys (12 - 6 pdr each = total 24) be retained.
The Bn A/Tk Pl (2 - 6 pdr each = total 12) be eliminated.

2. Mortars.

Mortar Pl in Support Coy of Inf Bn be increased by 2 mortars (ie. from 4 to 6 - 3" mortars): this would correct the deficiency of supporting fire power with the Bn.

118

3. Pioneers.

Assault secs within the Pioneer Pl of Inf Bns to be abolished.
Pioneer tradesmen to be kept as Pioneer Pl in HQ Coy.

4. Workshops.

The existing organisation of an ME Wksp, a Mech Engr Pl, and 6 LADs is ideal, but the WE within this organisation is completely unworkable in its present form. If the WE of the ME Wksps can be amended as recommended in 8 Army letter 118/11/ME dated 22 Mar 45, it would be entirely satisfactory.

5. S&T Coy.

(i) The organisation of a Combat Group should be such as to make it self-contained: with the recommendations above it will be, except that there is no provision whatsoever for troop carrying.
(ii) It is impossible, with the number of vehicles on the existing establishment, to carry the 2nd line ammunition: in the past this has been the committment of the British, but from now on the Gruppo must be able to carry its own: it is recommended therefore, that the S&T Coy be increased by at least one more transport platoon.

GENERAL STAFF
HQ 2 BD DIRECT
2102/15

.....2

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. 165020

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. 785020

ESD/81/3 61

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
++++++++++++++++++++++++++

FILE NO : ESD/81/3

22 Sep 45.

SUBJECT : Holdings of Vehicles and Equipment in ITALIAN GRUPPI

TO : HQ No. 2 District
HQ No. 3 District
HQ Allied Commission (Land Forces Sub Commission(MMIA).)

Reference ESD/81/3 of 8 Sep 45.

1. It is clear that when the interim ITALIAN Army is handed over to the ITALIAN Government on 30 September that the Gruppi must have transport on a scale sufficient to meet operational requirements and greater than the minimum laid down in the above quoted letter.

2. The longer the interval of time before the issue of extra transport the greater will be the chance of the Gruppi being able to look after it and in the meantime all possible steps will be taken to improve the standard of maintenance in the Gruppi.

3. Detailed recommendation for the re-issue of transport will be made by MMIA when the operational requirements are clearer.

By Command of Field Marshal ALEXANDER:

W.A. Anderson.

for W.D. MORGAN,
Lieutenant General,
Chief of Staff.

AAH/vj/ORG-P

Copy to: SACS
CAO
ACOS(B)
Q(Maint)
Q(AE)
Ord (B)
REME

MMIA-'G'
ESD/39/2
D. & Q/G/11

Registered mailed Sept. 24.

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDG NO. 785020

44

SD/39/2

Subject: MF of IC:

53 B.L.U.
Ref. G1-1
28 Sep 45

To :- H.Q. 2 District

MMIA
217 Area
50 BLU
21 BLU
56 BLU
"F" BL & TU

4-1A (Col Cum)

1. Ref MMIA SD/39/2 of 11 Sep 45, addsd 2 Dist and Italian Ministry of War.

2. This B.L.U. has now received a copy of 50 B.L.U's. reply (G/5/17 of 20 Sep 45), with which it is generally in full agreement. It is not considered that any good purpose would be served by this B.L.U. putting forward at this stage any detailed proposals for modifications in existing M.Es. of I.C.G. or in commenting on the proposals of other B.L.Us., since it is fully agreed that the matter should be dealt with on the basis suggested in para 5(B)(v) of s/o 50 B.L.U. letter.

3. In particular, this B.L.U. wholly endorses the contents of para 5(B) of 50 B.L.U's letter.

43A.

11.

Lt.Col.
G.S.

GSO 1
GSO 2 (Ops)
GSO 2 (Int)
GSO 2 (Trg)
GSO 2 (Air)
GSO 3 (Int)
GSO 3 (Cas)
GSO 3 (PW)

MMIA - 'G'
FILE: SD/39/2
DATE: R/4/10.

64/5/10

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. T8502D

43 fl

G(SD)

SUBJECT: WE of ICG

HQ 2 DISTRICT

Copy to: MMIA
217 Area
51 BLU
52 BLU
53 BLU
56 BIU
F EL & TU

50 British Liaison Unit
G/5/17

20 SEP 45

SD/13
F3

41A

Ref 2 Dist 2102/15 G(SD 1), undated, and MMIA SD/39/2 dated 11 Sep

1. It is submitted most strongly that in the present circumstances of the ITALIAN Army such Divs as that Army do possess should not be ad hoc formations specially modified to deal with either only minor frontier aggression or only with duties in aid of the Civil Power, or specially with both these tasks; but should as far as possible be modern, model, "pocket" Divs designed and organised to carry out efficiently any normal military task.

2. Recommendations are therefore divided into two parts -

(a) Immediate minimum re-organisation to comply with para 1(b) (ii) and to some extent with para 1 (b) (i) of MMIA SD/39/2 dated 11 Sep addressed to ITALIAN Ministry of War.

41A

(b) Detailed amendments and readjustments of WE

(i) To eliminate innumerable anomalies and errors in existing WEs which have been the subject of continued representations by BLUs to Allied authy and to MMIA for the past year.

(ii) To ensure that ITALIAN Divs are suitably organised not only to comply with para 1 (b) (i) of above quoted MMIA letter to the ITALIAN Ministry of War, but also with any other normal tasks which a modern div may be called upon to perform

41 5

3. It is understood that minimum alteration to existing WE should be a principle throughout

GSO 1
GSO 2 (Ops)
GSO 2 (SD)
GSO 2 (WE)
GSO 2 (L)
GSO 2 (Ed)
GSO 2 (Orbat)
GSO 2 (I)

SD/39/2

MMIA - 'G'
FILE: SD/39/2
DATE: R/24/9.

...../2

WE Number.	Amendments proposed.
CM/527/1 (contd)	Addition of following officers to Bn HQ :- 1 Officer 2 i/c (Major or Capt) 1 IO 1 'Q' 1 Interpreter offr (English)
CM/525/1	Addition of following officers to Bde HQ :- 1 Lieut-Col 2 i/c 1 Officer - Regt Fire Comd 1 IO 2 Interpreter Offrs (English)
CM/528/1	Addition of 1 Subaltern for Gen duties.
CM/530/1	Addition of 6 cars 5 cwt 4x4 for communications.
CM/533/1	Increase to 4 the Tpt Pls of S&T Coy.
CM/532/1	Increase RDIs to 4.
CM/537/1	Addition of :- 1 Subaltern 10 Drivers 5 NCO and Pte Clerks 5 Driver - storemen.

Hon. Sec. Aux. Mtd.
52 Bde.

11!

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section J-402/NNDC No. 18502D

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. 785020

4. Provision of special mountain organisation or of "Riot Squads" is not considered.

5. RECOMMENDATION.

(A) Immediate minimum re-organisation

(i) Intercomm

(a) Provide all HQs (Div, two Inf Regts one Arty Regt) with high power RT sets, plus one spare.
Total - Five sets over 10 watts e.g. Canadian No 9 HP or No 12.

(b) Divorce Sigs Coy, at present an organic part of Engrs Bn from Engrs Bn HQ and from Sapper Coys; to become Div Sigs as in BRIT Div.
Present system, as a result of detailed control by an Engr Offr entirely ignorant of modern signals, bogs and clogs all attempts by OC Sigs Coy to function efficiently.
It may be an old ITALIAN custom, but it is hopelessly outmoded and outworn.

(c) JEEPS: Only 10 Jeeps are held on whole Div WE.
Jeeps are absolutely essential for comms in bad weather practically through out ITALY.
Pending provision of additional Jeeps suggest authorise re-allottment as shown below.
It is pointed out the ITALIAN Div Comds will NOT re-allot fairly or sensibly unless with amended WE insisted on by BMJ.
PUs or any other kind of obsolete veh are useless.

JEEPS

	WE	Temporary amended allottment	Additional Requirements for WE
Div HQ	Nil	1	3
Engr Bn HQ	1	-	-
Fd Coys (2)	2	2	4
Sigs Coy	-	2	-
SSI (FSS)	1	1	2
Inf Regtl HQ (2)	-	2	1
Arty Regt HQ	-	1	6
Inf Bn HQ (6)	-		-
OFP	3		-
Wkshps	3	1	
	10	10	16 (NOT incl TEN existing WE)

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...../3

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. 785020

4. (cont)
(A) (cont)
(i) (cont)

(d) Make up Arty Regt (to present WE) with 12 x cars Lt recce which have never been issued

(ii) For each Inf Regt A Tk Coy (6 pr) substitute one sqn armd cars.

Note: (a) 6 pr A tk pl in Inf Bns to be retained in order NOT to disorganise Inf Bns and for possible use against houses etc.
It is NOT anticipated that Tks vulnerable to 6 pr will be encountered in minor frontier incidents or encountered at all during Civil disturbance.

(b) RETAIN 17 pr GP (Bty) and 40 mm GP (Bty) in Arty Regt in order NOT to disorganise Arty Regt and at the same time to leave Arty Regt both modern, model and 'pocket' Armd Cars provided to be equipped with RT. Operators will need to be trained.

(E) Detailed Amendments to WE

(i) In Mar this year much detail work was done by BIUs and a long recommendation sent to EIGHTH ARMY (two copies to MMA) on the subject of eliminating anomalies in existing WEs

(ii) No apparent action has ever been taken.

(iii) RECOMMENDATIONS made at that time (further copy now attd to MMA and one to 2 Dist) still substantially stand less ALL references to WE of BIU

(iv) It is not however considered that five separate, detailed, differing proposals from five BIUs are now likely to be easy for District or MMA Staff Offrs to consolidate.

...../4

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. 785020

4 (cont)
(E) (cont)

(v) It is therefore recommended that [illegible] should set up a committee consisting of offrs all of BLUs with reps from each BLU (say, one GSO II as chairman, one GSO II(Trg) with a rep of 'Q' and each service as members) to advise G(SD) [illegible] and (or G(SD) District from their own personal detailed knowledge, on necessary detailed alterations to existing WEs.

(vi) The immediate most urgent detailed requirements are provision of 2 IC for Inf En and Coys and of IFOs and QIs for Inf Bns

(vii) The question of modifying the present ITALIAN Staff system is urgent but would require definite terms of reference before consideration by the Committee.

CIF
ARCS/RJE

Lt Col
GS

111

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDG NO. 785020

41 A.

SUBJECT: WE of Italian Div (Combat Group)

LAND FORCES SUB-COM, AC (MMIA)

SD/39/2

11 Sep 45

TO : HQ
2 DISTRICT

1. Attached is a letter today written to the Ministry of War on the subject of revised WE for Italian Div (Combat Group). The Ministry of War will most certainly ask the opinion of their Divs, but M.M.I.A. would welcome an independent British opinion.

2. If you would obtain and consolidate the views of HLUs and forward together with your own recommendations it would be much appreciated.

fd

Major-General,
MMIA.

Copy to : 50 HLU
51 HLU
52 HLU
53 HLU
56 HLU
'F' HL & TU

Internal: A
Q

R 11/9.

110

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. 785020

SUBJECT: WE of Italian Division (Combat Group)

LAND FORCES SUB COM, AC (MMIA)

SD/39/2

11 Sep 45

TO : MINISTRY OF WAR

1. Based on the under-mentioned factors will you please forward your recommendations for the revised WE of an Italian Division (Combat Group).

(a) It is desired to alter the existing WE as little as possible.

(b) The future role of the Division may broadly be considered as:

(i) Defence against minor frontier aggression;

(ii) Assistance to CC RR, when called upon, in the preservation of internal law and order.

2. It is requested that this be treated as a matter of urgency and that your reply reach MMIA by 30 Sep 45.

fd

K Brownrigg

Major-General,
MMIA.

R 11/9.

SUBJECT:- Disbandment of Units - Misc.

RESTRICTED. 1373

14 AUG 1945

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS.
G-1(Br)/1054/A-1(Ser 2888).

13 Aug 45.

TRAINING INCREMENTS (INFANTRY) TO BRITISH LIAISON UNIT (FOR GRUPPO DI COMBATTIMENTO).

1. The under mentioned units on WE CM/542/1 (XII/883/1) will be disbanded with effect from 3 Aug 45 under the supervision of authorities as shown:-

Unit	Supervisory Authority.
54 Trg Incr (Inf) to B.L.U.	HQ No. 1 District
'D' - ditto -	HQ No. 1 District
55 - ditto -	HQ No. 2 District
'C' - ditto -	HQ No. 2 District
'E' - ditto -	HQ No. 2 District

2. PERSONNEL.
Postings will be effected as follows:-
(i) Officers:- (a) Staff Officers - by Dep Mil Sec AFHQ } in conjunction with DMT, AFHQ, and Heads of Services concerned.
(b) Others - by G-1(Br), AFHQ }
(ii) Italian Army personnel under arrangements Land Forces Sub Commission, Allied Commission (MMLA).

3. EQUIPMENT & TRANSPORT.
(a) Will be handed in to Ordnance under arrangements supervisory authorities, (Cars, 5 cwt, 4 x 4 - to 10 Adv RVP, CESENA).
(b) A list of all vehicles returned will be sent to Q (AE), AFHQ, CMF, and Q (AE) 4, GHQ, MEF, showing:-
(i) W.D. Numbers (iii) Make
(ii) Type (iv) To whom returned.
(c) Educational text books, stores and equipment - see GROs 492 and 493 of 1945.

4. STATIONERY.
Attention is directed to GROs 337/44 and 327/45.

5. POSTAL.
Attention is directed to GRO 683/43.

6. COMPLETION.
(a) Supervisory Authorities will report to G-1(Br), AFHQ, copy to DMT, AFHQ, when disbandments are complete, with copy to GHQ 2nd Echelon, certifying that casualties have been rendered to them showing all personnel "s.o.s."
(b) Disbandments will be completed by 3 Sep 45.

7.

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. 165020

Unit	Supervisory Authority.
54 Trg Incr (Inf) to B.L.U.	HQ No. 1 District
'D' - ditto -	HQ No. 1 District
55 - ditto -	HQ No. 2 District
'C' - ditto -	HQ No. 2 District
'E' - ditto -	HQ No. 2 District

2. PERSONNEL.

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(ii) Italian Army personnel under arrangements Land Forces Sub Commission, Allied Commission (MMIA).

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5. POSTAL.

Attention is directed to GRO 683/43.

6. COMPLETION.

(a) Supervisory Authorities will report to G-1(Br), AFHQ, copy to DMT, AFHQ, when disbandments are complete, with copy to GHQ 2nd Echelon, certifying that casualties have been rendered to them showing all personnel "s.o.s."

(b) Disbandments will be completed by 3 Sep 45.

7. ACK.

GSO 1 X

GSO 2 (Ops)

GSO 2 (SD) X

GSO 2 (WE)

GSO 2 (L)

GSO 2 (SD)

GSO 3 (Orbat)

GSO 3 (I)

DISTRIBUTION:

G2 Ops X Q X

SD/39/2

SD/1/1

A

MMIA - 'G'

FILE: SD 39/2.

DATE: 1/108.

Field-Marshal,
Supreme Allied Commander,
Mediterranean Theatre.

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NND No. 785020

DISTRIBUTION:-

The Under Secretary of State, The War Office (S.D.2)	4			Dep Mil Sec
GHQ MEF	3			G-1(Br) A.9/10 10
HQ B.T.A.	3		+++	G-3 (Org.2) (Manpower) 2
HQ 13 Corps	3			G-3 (Org.2) (ORBAT)
HQ No. 1 District	10	¥		G-3 (Org/A) (Foreign) 2
HQ No. 2 District	10	¥		Q (Maint)
HQ No. 3 District	3			Q (AE)
GHQ 2nd Echelon				S.D. 3
GHQ 2nd Echelon (STATS)				DMT
Land Forces Sub Commission Allied Commission (MMIA)	3			HQ Infantry 3
10 Adv RVP CESENA				Ord (Br) 2
GHQ Publications Depot				REME
No. 10 Publications Depot,				FA
No. 21 Stationery Depot,				DPIC
Signalmaster, CASERTA				ADPSS
				DDAPS
				Historical Sec
				War Diary
				M & D 2

¥ Incl copies for units concerned and distribution as necessary.

++ WSD/134 of 6 Aug 45 refers.

(- 35 / NIL)

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NND MD. 765020

14 AUG 1945

RESTRICTED. 1376

SUBJECT:- Conversion of Units - Misc.

SD/39/2

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS.
G-1(Br)/1016/A-1(Ser 2887).
13 Aug 45.

BRITISH LIAISON UNITS (FOR GRUPPO DI COMBATTIMENTI).

1. (a) The under mentioned units on W.E. CM/508/1 (XII/884/1) will be converted to W.E. CM/508/2 with effect from 3 Aug 45 as shown:-

Unit	Supervisory Authority.
50 B.L.U.	HQ No. 1 District
51 B.L.U.	HQ No. 2 District
52 B.L.U.	HQ No. 2 District
53 B.L.U.	HQ No. 1 District
56 B.L.U.	HQ No. 2 District

(b) Copies of the new W.E. will be distributed automatically by supervisory authorities. Additional copies, if required, may be obtained from GHQ Publications Depot, P & SS, CMF. Indents should state that these copies are in addition to those received from suprvisory authorities.
(c) Existing designations and mobilisation serial numbers will be retained.

2. PERSONNEL.
Postings to adjust to new W.E. will be effected as follows:-
(i) Officers - (a) Staff Officers: by Dep Mil Sec, AFHQ. } in conjunction with DMT, AFHQ and Heads of Services concerned.
(b) Others - by G-1(Br) AFHQ
(ii) Other Ranks - by DAG GHQ 2nd Echelon

3. EQUIPMENT & TRANSPORT.
(a) Will be adjusted to new scales in accordance with instructions to be issued by supervisory authorities (unit equipment to Special Equipment List 150/1). 107
(b) Surplus transport will be returned to Ordnance in accordance with instructions to be issued by Supervisory authorities. A list of all such veicles returned will be sent to Q(AE), AFHQ, CMF and Q (AE) 4, GHQ, MEF, showing:-
(i) W.D. Numbers (iii) Make
(ii) Type (iv) To whom returned.
(c) Cars, 5 cwt, 4x4 will be returned to No.10 Adv RVP, CESENA.

4. COMPLETION.
Supervisory authorities will report to G-1(Br), AFHQ, copy to DMT, AFHQ, with copy to GHQ 2nd Echelon, certifying that casualties have been rendered to them showing all personnel "s.o.s/t.o.s.".

5. ACK.

Field Marshal,

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNBG NO. 165020

50 B.L.U.	HQ No. 1 District
51 B.L.U.	HQ No. 2 District
52 B.L.U.	HQ No. 2 District
53 B.L.U.	HQ No. 1 District
56 B.L.U.	HQ No. 2 District

(b) Copies of the new W.E. will be distributed automatically by supervisory authorities. Additional copies, if required, may be obtained from GHQ Publications Depot, P & SS, CMF. Indents should state that these copies are in addition to those received from suprvisory authorities.

(c) Existing designations and mobilisation serial numbers will be retained.

2. PERSONNEL.

Postings to adjust to new W.E. will be effected as follows:-

(i) Officers - (a) Staff Officers: by Dep Mil Sec, AFHQ.) in conjunction with DMT, AFHQ and Heads of Services concerned.
(b) Others - by G-1(Br) AFHQ)
(ii) Other Ranks - by D.G GHQ 2nd Echelon)

3. EQUIPMENT & TRANSPORT.

(a) Will be adjusted to new scales in accordance with instructions to be issued by supervisory authorities (unit equipment to Special Equipment List 150/1). 107

(b) Surplus transport will be returned to Ordnance in accordance with instructions to be issued by Supervisory authorities. A list of all such veicles returned will be sent to Q(AE), AFHQ, CMF and Q (AE) 4, GHQ, MEF, showing:-

(i) W.D. Numbers
(ii) Type
(iii) Make
(iv) To whom returned.

(c) Cars, 5 cwt, 4x4 will be returned to No.10 Adv RVP, CESENA.

4. COMPLETION.

Supervisory authorities will report to G-1(Br), AFHQ, copy to DMT, AFHQ, with copy to GHQ 2nd Echelon, certifying that casualties have been rendered to them showing all personnel "s.o.s/t.o.s.".

5. ACK.

A.D. Wilson, W.O.

Field Marshal,
Supreme Allied Commander,
Mediterranean Theatre.

50/39/2 4 Q
50/1/1
A

GSO 1 ____
GSO 2 (Ops) ____
GSO 2 (SD) ..../Distribution.
GSO 2 (G) ____
GSO 2 (A) ____
GSO 3 (SD) ____
GSO 3 (Ops) ____
GSO 3 (I) ____

G2 x G3R x

FILE 50/39/2
DATE 14/2

14605

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC No. 165020

DISTRIBUTION:-

The Under Secretary of State, The War Office (S.D. 2),	4		Dep Mil Sec
			G-1(Br)A.9/10 10
GHQ MEF	3	+++	G-3 (Org.2) (Manpower) 2
HQ BTA	3		G-3 (Org.2) (ORBAT)
HQ 13 Corps	3		Q (Maint)
HQ No. 1 District	10	*	Q (A.E.) 3
HQ No. 2 District	11	*	DMT
HQ No. 3 District	3		HQ Infantry 2
GHQ 2nd Echelon	11		Sigs (Br)
GHQ 2nd Echelon (STATS)			Medical (Br)
HQ Allied Commission	3		S.T.
Land Forces Sub Commission, Allied Commission (MMIA)	3		Ord (Br)
			R.E.M.E.
GHQ Publications Depot			F.A.
No.10 Publications Depot			D.P.I.C.
No.8 Command Pay Office			A.D.P.S.S.
			Historical Sec
			War Diary 2
			M & D

* Incl copies for units concerned and distribution as necessary.

+++ WSD/134 of 6 Aug 45 refers.

(- 50/ 180)

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. 185020

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. 785020

Land Forces Sub Commission

RESTRICTED

925

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS

G-3 DIVISION

(FREEDOM 986)

SD/39/2

6 Aug 45

FILE NO:- SD/134

SUBJECT:- Conversion of Units - Base Depots and Training.

SD.

MEMO TO:- G-1 (Br)

1. Authority is granted for the following w.e.f. 3 Aug 45 under the supervision of authorities as stated:-

(a) conversion of Nos. 50 and 53 BLU (for Gruppo di Combattimenti) on WE XII/884/1 (CM/508/1) to WE CM/508/2 under the supervision of HQ No. 1 District.

(b) conversion of Nos. 51 and 52 and 56 BLU (for Gruppo di Combattimenti) on WE XII/884/1 (CM/508/1) to WE CM/508/2 under the supervision of HQ. No. 2 District.

(c) disbandment of No. 54 and 'D' Trg Incr (Inf) to BLU (for Gruppo di Combattimenti) on WE XII/883/1 (CM/542/1) under the supervision of HQ No. 1 District

(d) disbandment of No. 55 and 'C' and 'E' Trg Incr (Inf) to BLU (for Gruppo di Combattimenti) on WE XII/883/1 (CM/542/1) under the supervision of HQ No. 2 District.

2. Please issue instructions accordingly.

for G. L. EBERLE,
Brigadier General, U.S.Army,
Assistant Chief of Staff, G-3.

Maj. GS

106

JEH/jhw/Org(B)
COPY TO :-
HQ No.1 District for G (SD) - 2 copies
HQ No. 2 District for G (SD)- 2 copies
Land Forces Sub Commission AC (MMIA)
Dep Mil Sec
G-3 (Org-3) - please cancel WE CM/542/1 w.e.f. 3 Aug 45
G-3 (Org-4)
G (AE)
DMT
HQ Infantry
Signals
Ord
REME
QMG (Stats)

GSO 1 .....
GSO 2 (SD) .....
GSO 2 (Ops) .....
GSO 2 (A) .....
GSO 3 (SD) .....
GSO 3 (Orbd) .....
GSO 3 (I) .....

MMIA - 'G'
FILE: SD/39/2
DATE: 8/9/45

-85/-180 bw.

CM/508/1 Ltr 39

TRANSLATION.

B/F 10
Q2 (WE)
SD 39/2.

Subject: Formation & Provisional WEs for an Italian Combat Gp and Auxiliary Units (bilingual version of Brit WEs.

HQ LEGNANO GRUPPO
G OPS & INT SEC
30 July 45.

01/1994

To: 52 HLU.

We forward one copy of the above publication which this HQ has received from the Italian Army General Staff, and which supersedes the WEs of theold edition of Sept 44.

SS/29/20/

The new edition of the WEs, in addition to not taking into account any of the amendments proposed by Tac HQ 8 Army in their M/13680 SD2 of 9 March 45 (forwarded from 52 HLU with their G/20/66 of 14 Mar), and those amendments put forward by this HQ in our letter 01/670 of 24 Mar: also annuls the greater part of the amendments based on proposals sent in from the various HQs of the Combat Gps and which had been approved by MMIA and the Italian GS during the period Oct 44 to April 45.

Please therefore, re-open the matter with AFHQ in order that the amendments in the attached table may be approved. These amdts are considered to be amongst the most urgent and essential, and whose necessity has often had occasion to be discussed both verbally and in writing.

Please sign the attached receipt form and return to this HQ.

GSO 1
GSO 2 (Ops)
GSO 2 (Int)
GSO 2 (Air)
GSO 2 (I)
GSO 3 (Ops)
GSO 3 (Int)
GSO 3 (I)

By Order of Chief of Staff

(signed) Major TERRANOVE.

Attachment to 01/1994 of 30 July.

Proposals for amdts to publication 'Formation and provisional WEs for a Combat Gp and Auxiliary Units (bilingual version of British edition) May 45'

105

WE Number.	Amendments proposed.
CM/523/1	Addition of: 1 General - Vice Comd: 1 Interpreter Offr (German) 2 Interpreter Offrs (English): 2 Offrs for Int & Op Sec: 1 Mil Chaplain: 1 Carabinieri Comd (DAPM).
CM/526/1	Addition of: 1 Officer 'A': 1 Officer 'Q': 1 Interp Offr (Eng): 2 cooks for Mortar Coy: 4 cooks for 6-pr Gun Coy.
CM/527/1	Constitution of Rifle Pl: 1 Pl HQ (Pl comd, HQ Sec, Bren Sec, PIAT Sec,

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. 78502

The new edition of the WEs, in addition to not taking into account any of the amendments proposed by Tac HQ 8 Army in their M/13680 SD2 of 9 March 45 (forwarded from 52 BLU with their G/20/66 of 14 Mar), and those amendments put forward by this HQ in our letter 01/670 of 24 Mar: also annuls the greater part of the amendments based on proposals sent in from the various HQs of the Combat Gps and which had been approved by MMIA and the Italian GS during the period Oct 44 to April 45.

Please therefore, re-open the matter with AFHQ in order that the amendments in the attached table may be approved. These amdts are considered to be amongst the most urgent and essential, and whose necessity has often had occasion to be discussed both verbally and in writing.

Please sign the attached receipt form and return to this HQ.

GSO 1

GSO 2 (Ops)

GSO 2 (S)

GSO 2 (I)

GSO 2 (L)

GSO 3 (Ops)

GSO 3 (Ops/A)

GSO 3 (I)

By Order of Chief of Staff

(signed) Major TERRANOVA.

Attachment to 01/1994 of 30 July.

Proposals for amdts to publication 'Formation and provisional WEs for a Combat Gp and Auxiliary Units (bilingual version of British edition) May 45'

105

WE Number.	Amendments proposed.
CM/523/1	Addition of: 1 General - Vice Comd: 1 Interpreter Offr (German) 2 Interpreter Offrs (English): 2 Offrs for Int & Op Sec: 1 Mil Chaplain: 1 Carabinieri Comd (DAPM).
CM/526/1	Addition of: 1 Officer 'A': 1 Officer 'Q': 1 Interp Offr (Eng): 2 cooks for Mortar Coy: 4 cooks for 6-pr Gun Coy.
CM/527/1	Constitution of Rifle Pl: 1 Pl HQ (Pl comd, HQ Sec, Bren Sec, PIAT Sec, 2" Mortar Sec) - Total 12 men. Three Rifle Secs of 10 men each. Transfer of Pioneer Pl from Support Coy to Bn HQ Coy. Pioneer Pl org as follows:- - Pl Comd - 4 Secs of Assault Pnrs each of 1 NCO & 4 ORs. Consequent reduction of Specialist Sec to 11 men (incl NCOs) and its fusion with HQ Sec of Pl HQ which would thus be brought up to 16 men. Addition of 1 Driver to Pl HQ for Pl Comd's veh.

MMIA - 'C'
FILE: 80/29/2
DATE: R/7/8.

.....2

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. 185020

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. 785020

(1) WO 204 20/39/2 34

Points for discussion by GSO I's of B.L.U's.

(Conference to be attended by a Rep from AFHQ, a Rep MMIA and a REP FROM EACH District)

1. To discuss the conversion of the BLU War ESt.
2. Necessity for retaining Training Increment.
3. Retention of REME.
4. Desirability of reteining BLU's in order to maintain efficiency and standard of maintenance.
5. Likelihood of further supply of BRitish equipment for Gruppi.
6. Deterioration of relations between BLU's and Gruppi since German surrender, and means of avoiding future friction.
7. BLU's views on organisation of Gruppi for I.S. role.

104

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. 785020

SUBJECT : War Establishments

HQ 50 BRITISH LIAISON UNIT

SI/2/10

31 Jul 45

HQ MMIA

Ref copies of WEs for ITALIAN COMBAT GROUPS recently received.

It is pointed out that there are the following errors :

i) CL/533/1 - Transport Platoon for ICG

DETAILS	HQ	1 - 5 Sec	Total for Tpt Pl
Privates for duty as Clerks	1	-	5
should read :	1	-	1
Drivers IC Vehicles	7	5	32
should read :	5	5	30
Total (Rank and File)	17	7	52
should read :	15	7	50

ii) CL/534/1 Composite Platoon for ICG

Total Composite Platoon (incl att)	-	32
should read :	-	39

iii) CL/539/1 Mech Eng Pl for ICG

Electricians	-	3
should read :	-	4

but the TOTALS as shown are correct.

MMIA - I.C.

CL/534/2
R Tn/8.

[signature]
Maj
DADST

GSO 1 .....

GSO 2 (Ops) .....

GSO 2 (Ed) .....

GSO 2 (W) .....

GSO 2 (L) .....

GSO 3 (SD) .....

GSO 3 (Cdos) .....

GSO 3 (L) .....

C/F
CAB/SYB

C2/5 60

32.

RESTRICTED

Subject : WE - British Liaison Unit to Italian Combat Group (CM/508/2)

LAND FORCES SUB COMMISSION AC (MMIA)

SD/39/2

25 July 45

TO : G5-Org (3) (9)
G5-Org (2) (1)

I THE PROPOSAL

(a) British Liaison Unit to Italian Combat Group (CM/508/2).

(b) Amdt to above establishment.

(c) N.A.

II THE EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL

(a) Increase of - Officers 2
Other ranks 4

(b) N.A.

(c) 5

(d) Increase to be offset by disbandment of :-

Training Increment (Inf) to BLU for Italian Combat Group (CM/542/1).

Training Unit to Italian Army (CM/700/1).

(e) All may be medical category 'B'.

SD/39/2/Fo 21.

(f) N.A., but see AFHQ cable FX 23096 of 16 June.

102

(g) Proposed amendment attached at Appendix "A".

III REASONS FOR THE PROPOSAL

(a) GSO II (Trg) - 2

Required for supervision of training of Combat Gp and to be transferred from CM/542/1 Training Increment(Inf) to BLU for Italian Combat Force. It is considered that both officers should be staff graded.

(b) Interpreters (Sjts) - 2

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDG NO. 785020

G3-Org (2) (1)

I THE PROPOSAL

(a) British Liaison Unit to Italian Combat Group (CM/508/2).

(b) Amdt to above establishment.

(c) N.A.

II THE EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL

(a) Increase of - Officers 2
Other ranks 4

(b) N.A.

(c) 5

(d) Increase to be offset by disbandment of :-

Training Increment (Inf) to BLU for Italian Combat Group (CM/542/1).

Training Unit to Italian Army (CM/700/1).

(e) All may be medical category 'B'.

SD/39/2/Fo 21

(f) N.A., but see AFHQ cable FX 23096 of 16 June.

102

(g) Proposed amendment attached at Appendix "A".

III REASONS FOR THE PROPOSAL

(a) GSO II (Trg) - 2

Required for supervision of training of Combat Gp and to be transferred from CM/542/1 Training Increment(Inf) to BLU for Italian Combat Force. It is considered that both officers should be staff graded.

(b) Interpreters (Sjts) - 2

No interpreters are shown on CM/508/2. These are essential for the unit to carry out its duties with the Italian Combat Force.
They are already included in CM/508/1.

R/25/4

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDG No. 785020

(c) Sjt (R Sigs) - 1

No signals personnel are included in CM/508/2.
CM/508/1 includes an SO III R Sigs and Rear Link Sigs.
It appears to be the opinion of certain BLUs that this personnel should be added to CM/508/2.
It is felt by this HQ that Combat Groups will normally site their HQs, at this stage, near to a town where there will be an L of C Signal Office. The BLU will then be given the necessary telephone lines and their signals will be delivered to and collected from the British Signal Office daily. The inclusion of the SO III R Sigs and Rear Link Sigs in CM/508/2 are not, therefore, recommended by this HQ.
It is considered, however, that one Sjt R Sigs will be necessary for liaison and advisory purposes.

(d) Ration Cpl - 1

This NCO is required to assist the Adm NCO (Sjt) in supervision of the Italian Incr etc.

(e) This HQ cable SD 2856 of 23 June refers.

SD/130/1/1-F&S.

A.M.G. & C.O.
for Major General
M.M.I.A.

fw

INTERNAL

A
Q

201

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. T85020

Office daily. The inclusion of the SO III R Sigs and Rear Link Sigs in C/508/2 are not, therefore, recommended by this HQ.
It is considered, however, that one Sjt R Sigs will be necessary for liaison and advisory purposes.

(d) Ration Cpl - 1

This NCO is required to assist the Adm NCO (Sjt) in supervision of the Italian Incr etc.

(e) This HQ cable SD 2856 of 23 June refers.

SD/30/11/-63.

fw

Major General
M.M.I.A.

INTERNAL

A
Q

101

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDG No. T85020

Office daily. The inclusion of the SO III R Sigs and Rear Link Sigs in C[illegible]/508/2 are not, therefore, recommended by this HQ.
It is considered, however, that one Sjt R Sigs will be necessary for liaison and advisory purposes.

(d) Ration Cpl - 1

This NCO is required to assist the Adm NCO (Sjt) in supervision of the Italian Incr etc.

(e) This HQ cable SD 2856 of 23 June refers.

SD/30/11-F&3.

fw

Major General
M.M.I.A.

INTERNAL

A
Q

101

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNBD NO. 15020

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDG NO. 785020

Appendix "A" to MMIA letter
SD/39/2 dated 2[illegible] July 45.

BRITISH LIAISON UNIT TO ITALIAN COMBAT GROUP (CM/508/2

PROPOSED AMENDMENT

under Staff and attached to General Staff

add	GSO II (Trg)	-	2
	Interpreters (Sjts)	-	2
	Sjts, R Sigs	-	1

under Administrative Staff

add	Ration Cpl	-	1

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. 785020

Appendix "B"
SD/39/2 dated.

COMPARATIVE TABLE

Serial No	UNIT	WE Number	STRENGTH Offrs	STRENGTH ORs	PROPOSED Offrs	PROPOSED ORs	No of units implemented.	TOTAL INCREASE Offrs	TOTAL INCREASE ORs	TOTAL DECREASE Offrs	TOTAL DECREASE
1	British Liaison Unit to Italian Combat Group.	CM/508/2	7	15	9	19	5	10	20	-	
2	British Training Incr to BLU for Italian Combat Group.	CM/542/1	7	-	-	-	5	-	-	35	
3	Training Unit to Italian Army	CM/700/1	3	6	-	-	1	-	-	3	
	Total Increase and Decrease							10	20	38	

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. 785020

Appendix "B" to MTTA letter
SD/39/2 dated 25 July 45.

COMPARATIVE TABLE

	WE Number	STRENGTH Offrs	STRENGTH ORs	PROPOSED Offrs	PROPOSED ORs	No of units implemented.	TOTAL INCREASE Offrs	TOTAL INCREASE ORs	TOTAL DECREASE Offrs	TOTAL DECREASE ORs
o Italian	CM/508/2	7	15	9	19	5	10	20	-	-
to BLU for	CM/542/1	7	-	-	-	5	-	-	35	-
an Army	CM/700/1	3	6	-	-	1	-	-	3	6
crease							10	20	38	6

29

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. 12502D

R/23/

98

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. T25020

SUBJECT : WE

1 DISTRICT

Copy to : MMIA

NT/G(SD)

50 British Liaison Unit
G/S/17/B
20 JUL 45

28

Ref your SO/34 dated 17 JUL 45 SO/39/2.

1. BLU WE CM/508/1

(a) I agree with FIFTH Army signal SD 1421, of 22 JUN, that it is possible to dispense forthwith with the following :-

(i) SCRA (and all arty personnel)
(ii) SCRE
(iii) SO RAMC (non-med)
(iv) Two BOWO's (WO I)
(v) Clerk GD RA

(b) I do NOT agree that it is possible at present to dispense with

(i) SO R C of Sigs
(ii) Camp Comd

SO RC of Sigs of this BLU has been on LIAP for the last six weeks. The resulting chaos in the Gp communications is ample proof of the necessity for retaining this officer.

Camp Comd has at present more work resulting from release, LIAP, PYTHON etc., than at almost any time previous. No other officer is available to do this work. Under WE CM/508/2 an additional Staff Capt Q is provided and will in my opinion have to act as Camp Comd.
The retention of both SO RC of Sigs and Camp Comd considered urgently necessary.

(c) I do NOT agree that it is advisable at present to replace GSO II, DADST and DADOS by equivalent Captains.
The "rank-consciousness" of Italians is well known, and unquestionably captains will not produce the same results.
If and when WE CM/508/2 is implemented authy will be sought from you for these officers to be granted local field rank.

2. Trg Increment (Inf) to BLU WE CM/542/1.

I agree that two officers are sufficient. I would however prefer to retain G 2 (Trg) and one instructor (Major), rather than two insts (Majors) and no G 2 (Trg)

3. Trg Increment (REME) to 50 BLU WE/640/1

I agree that it is essential to retain the REME Trg Incr intact.

MMIA
FILE: SO/39/2
DATE: 23/7

GSO 3 (C.W.)
GSO 3 (Ops)

427 X X X

...../2

23.0830

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. 785020

4. HLU WE G4/508/2

Please see my G/5/17/B, dated 12 Jun, copy to you for my recommendations on essential additions to this WE. (further copy herewith Appx 'A')

I must reiterate that in my opinion as long as the GROUP are employed as they are at present it is NOT practical for HLU's to function efficiently even on a modified version of WE G4/508/2

5. Tfr Incr (REME) to HLU.

If reduction of REME personnel is considered essential, at Appx 'B' please find my recommendations for minimum REME detachment by which it is considered that the Gp could be kept a going concern.

6. I have no knowledge of WE G4/700/1 and can therefore express no opinion on it.

A.R. Goldsmith

Lt Col
GS

CME
ARCS/RJE

9

Appendix "A" to G/5/17B dated 20 July 45.

COPY.

SUBJECT: WE - British Liaison Unit. MAIN HQ 50 HLU.
for Gruppi di Combattimenti (CM/508/2). G/5/17B.

12 Jun 45.

HQ FIFTH ARMY (Br Incr) (2)

rptd: HQ 1 DISTRICT.
HQ MMLA.

1. WE CM/508/2 for a HLU has been received for implementation at a date to be notified later. In principle the WE would appear practicable, but it is submitted that in detail there have been certain omissions which will make it impossible for a HLU to function satisfactorily in its duties of liaison between the ITALIAN Combat Gp and Brit or Allied fms. Att at appendix "A" find suggested amendments to the WE.

2. The most important omissions briefly are:

i) Interpreters - On the present WE CM/508/1, 2 sgts are allowed. Only a small proportion of ITALIANS speak ENGLISH and liaison, few BRIT speak ITALIAN and the situation would therefore be very difficult if no interpreters are allowed.

ii) Signals. - It is considered important that the HLU should not be entirely dependent on the ITALIAN Gp for all signals. As there is no Sigs Offr allowed on the WE it is also imperative that an intelligent NCO is available for liaison between the Gp and BRIT or ALLIED fms. A certain amount of cipher traffic is still received and sent, and no ITALIAN personnel are trained in handling cipher.

3. An addition of 2 to the GRD personnel is also considered necessary if the GRD side is to be handled effectively. The increase desired is 2 clerks, one to be a sgt. At present the GRD clerical staff is handling a considerable amount of correspondence, indents and vouchers as well as checking all monthly census returns etc. On past experience it is considered essential that detailed checks are made by BRIT clerks. 96

4. It is appreciated that amendments are not normally considered to WEs for at least 3 months after implementation. It is requested however that authority be given to retain personnel and tpt of the suggested est until the case is put up to the WEC.

(Sgd) A.R.C. SOUTHBY.
Lt. Col.
GS.

CMF.
JDM/SKY.

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDG NO. 785020

satisfactorily in its duties of liaison between the ITALIAN Combat Gp and Brit or Allied fmns. Att at appendix "A" find suggested amendments to the WE.

2. The most important omissions briefly are:

i) Interpreters - On the present WE CM/508/1, 2 sgts are allowed. Only a small proportion of ITALIANS speak ENGLISH and likewise, few BRIT speak ITALIAN and the situation would therefore be very difficult if no interpreters are allowed.

ii) Signals. - It is considered important that the HLU should not be entirely dependant on the ITALIAN Gp for all signals. As there is no Sigs Offr allowed on the WE it is also imperative that an intelligent NCO is available for liaison between the Gp and BRIT or ALLIED fmns. A certain amount of cipher traffic is still received and sent, and no ITALIAN personnel are trained in handling cipher.

3. An addition of 2 to theo CRD personnel is also considered necessary if the CRD side is to be handled effectively. The increase desired is 2 clerks, one to be a sgt. At present the CRD clerical staff is handling a considerable amount of correspondance, indents and vouchers as well as checking all monthly census returns etc. On past experience it is considered essential that detailed checks are made by BRIT clerks. 9/5

4. It is appreciated that amendments are not normally considered to WEs for at least 3 months after implementation. It is requested however that authority be given to retain personnel and tpt of the suggested est until the case is put up to the WEC.

(Sgd) A.R.C. SOUTHEY.
Lt. Col.
GS.

CMP.
JHM/SYY.

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NND NO. 762020

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. 785020

AMENDMENTS TO WE BLU (CM/508/2)

Serial No	Increase of a) Personnel b) Vehicles	Remarks	Reasons for Increases.
1a	2 sgt Interpreters.	No interpreters allowed.	Considered essential to have at least two routine translation. 1 required for G St
2a	Signals sec of following i) 1 Sgt	NCO i/c Sec	Liaison between BRIT fmns and ITALIAN Com stores, wireless control (i.e. frequencie line. To man WT link to BRIT fmns and to man BR
	ii) 1 Cpl, 1 L Cpl, 3 sgmn, ø 1 Dvr Op	OSL	EIS clerk.
	iii) 3 cipher ops		To deal with incoming and outgoing cipher have not been trained to handle cipher.
	iv) ø Dvr IC		
2b	Vehs 1 x 15-cwt WT Truck with No 9 set 1 x 15-cwt GS		ø Driven by Dvr Op Ø Driven by Driver IC.
3a	ORD Staff. i) 1 sgt clerk RAOC duties. 2 pte clerks " "	1 L Cpl Clerk RAOC duties allowed on WE	1 L Cpl clerk is not sufficient to deal handled by the Ord service of a BLU. A with ITALIAN maresciallos the chief cler
4b	1 x 3-ton GS		Equipped to cope with the added adm resp obtained from ITALIAN Increment.
	1 x 15-cwt Water Cart.		It is most unsatisfactory to be entirel ITALIANS, particularly as the standard accepted by BRIT personnel. Water dut from ITALIAN Increment, but would be u

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APPENDIX "A" TO 50 BLU LETTER G/5/17B dated 12 Jun 45.

AMENDMENTS TO WE BLU (CM/508/2)

nel es	Remarks	93 Reasons for Increases.
	No interpreters allowed.	Considered essential to have at least two OR interpreters to handle routine translation. 1 required for G Staff & 1 for A"Q Staff.
ing	NCO i/c Sec	Liaison between BRIT fmns and ITALIAN Combat Gp for signals controlled stores, wireless control (i.e. frequencies, codes, code signs etc) and line.
	OSL	To man WT link to BRIT fmns and to man BRIT 10-line switchboard, and ELS clerk.
		To deal with incoming and outgoing cipher traffic. ITALIAN personnel have not been trained to handle cipher.
th No 9 set		∅ Driven by Dvr Op ∅ Driven by Driver IC.
duties.) ")	1 L Cpl Clerk RAOC duties allowed on WE	1 L Cpl clerk is not sufficient to deal with all the clerical work handled by the Ord service of a BLU. As the clerical staff deals with ITALIAN maresciallos the chief clerk should be a S Sgt or sgt.
		Equipped to cope with the added adm responsibility. Dvr to be obtained from ITALIAN Increment.
		It is most unsatisfactory to be entirely dependent for water in the ITALIANS, particularly as the standard of hygiene is lower than that accepted by BRIT personnel. Water duties man and driver can be taken from ITALIAN Increment, but would be under close supervision.

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RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REVISED WAR ESTABLISHMENT FOR A R E TRAINING INCREMENT TO GRUPPI DI COMBATTIMENTI.

PERSONNEL.

TRADE	Rank	No.	Duties.
Arm Art (Veh)	WO II	1	Considered essential to be in constant touch with Mech Engrs Wksps as a whole, to interpret difficulties arising through EMERs, EMEI Modifications and British procedure in a practical sense.
Arm Art (Fd)	S/Sgt	1	Should Gruppi retain their artillery this NCO would be required to supervise repairs and ensure correct interpretation of modifications.
Armourer	Sgt	1	As for Arm Art (Fd) above.
Veh Mech	Sgt	1	To enable SC REME to keep a constant and reliable picture of the six LADs, Unit transport and Recovery. This NCO would operate from Recovery Section for necessary liaison with British third line Workshops.
Storemen (Veh)	Sgt	1	In view of essential constacts with Br depots and Br Offrs i/c OFP an Italian Stores Section would have no outside assistance without this NCO. He is also in a position to watch the legitimate disposal of spares. This is a very important point.
Instrument Mech	Cpl	1	To supervise inspections and assist in interpretation of modifications, and to train Instrument Section. Inst Mechs are not available from the Italian Ministry of War.
Clerk (Tech)	Sgt	1	It has been proved that a junior NCO cannot successfully hold this position. He is constantly in touch with Div MT HQ and apart from the high ranking staff there is also in daily liaison with Italian Offrs, Maresciallos'etc., visiting HQ. In the absence of SC REME he is often called upon to make decisions which obviously cannot be made with authority by a junior rank.

Mech Engrs Wksps is equipped with a "Z" type Machinery vehicle as per Eighth Army instructions. The vehicle is manned by:-

One S/Sgt British (Arm Art W/T)
One Cpl " (Telecom Mech (Fd))
One Cfn " (Telecom Mech (Fd))

9

Once again the Italian Ministry of War has failed to produce any personnel even suitable for training, and in any case a Br S/Sgt would be necessary to correctly interpr modifications.

Driver I/C	Dvr	1	To drive and maintain 15-cwt truck and duties in connection with proper functioning of the Increment.

TRANSPORT.

Truck 15-cwt 4 x 2 GS.	1	For carriage of kit and Equipment and transportation of Increment personnel to and from Wksp.
Motor Cycles.	3	To enable Br Incr to travel to LADs, Recy, etc.

27

COPY INCOMING SIGNAL

FROM: 53 BLU

TO : DISTONE

INFO: MMIA (5 ARMY PASS)

REF : AQ/A4-12

201250 B

S E C R E T

IMPORTANT

REF YOUR SD 54 OF 17 JULY (*)

FIRST (*) W E OF B L U No. CM/508/2 AS SHOWN IN APPX TO BRITISH INCREMENT G(SD) BRANCH H Q 5 ARMY REF 196/8/G(SD) OF 14 JUNE (COPY TO ACTION ADDRESSES) ONLY ACCEPTABLE WITH FOLLOWING ADDITIONS (*)

SECOND (*) ONE CORPORAL INTERPRETER STAFF OFFICER ROYAL SIGS AND REAR LINK SIGS AS IN W E CM/508/1 CAPTAIN D A D O S ONE BDE ORD W O ONE SGT STOREMAN 2 CLERKS 3 PRIVATES STOREMEN CAPTAIN D A D S T CAMP COMMANDANT 1 CORPORAL DRIVER MECHANIC 3 PRIVATES GENERAL DUTIES 1 STAFF CAR 2 TRUCKS 15 CWT 4 x 2 3 CARS 5 CWT 4 x 4 2 TRUCKS 15 CWT W/T 4 x 2 3 LORRIES 3 TON 4 x 2 (*)

3 CARS LIGHT UTILITY CAN BE DELETED JUNE SECOND (*)

REF BRITISH INCREMENT G (SD) BRANCH H Q 5 ARMY REF SD 1421 OF 21 JUNE PARAGRAPH 4 AND 5 AGREED

SD DISTRIBUTION:

ACTION: SD/39/2

INFO: SD/43/2
A
Q (Two)

jv 21 Jul 45

GSO 1 .....

GSO 2 (Ops) .....

GSO 2 (Int) .....

GSO 2 (W/T) .....

GSO 2 (L) .....

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDG NO. 785020

REF YOUR SD 54 OF 17 JULY (*)

FIRST (*) W E OF B L U No. CM/508/2 AS SHOWN IN APPX TO BRITISH INCREMENT G(SD) BRANCH H Q 5 ARMY REF 196/8/G(SD) OF 14 JUNE (COPY TO ACTION ADDRESSES) ONLY ACCEPTABLE WITH FOLLOWING ADDITIONS (*)

SECOND (*) ONE CORPORAL INTERPRETER STAFF OFFICER ROYAL SIGS AND REAR LINK SIGS AS IN W E CM/508/1 CAPTAIN D A D O S ONE BDE ORD W O ONE SGT STOREMAN 2 CLERKS 3 PRIVATES STOREMEN CAPTAIN D A D S T CAMP COMMANDANT 1 CORPORAL DRIVER MECHANIC 3 PRIVATES GENERAL DUTIES 1 STAFF CAR 2 TRUCKS 15 CWT 4 x 2 3 CARS 5 CWT 4 x 4 2 TRUCKS 15 CWT W/T 4 x 2 3 LORRIES 3 TON 4 x 2 (*)

3 CARS LIGHT UTILITY CAN BE DELETED JUNE SECOND (*)

REF BRITISH INCREMENT G (SD) BRANCH H Q 5 ARMY REF SD 1421 OF 21 JUNE PARAGRAPH 4 AND 5 AGREED

12

SD DISTRIBUTION:

ACTION: SD/39/2

INFO: SD/43/2
A
Q (Two)

9?

jv 21 Jul 45

WS

GSO 1 .....

GSO 2 (Ops) .....

GSO 2 (S) X X

GSO 2 (W/T) X JWC X

GSO 2 (L) .....

GSO 3 (SD) .....

GSO 3 (Orbat) .....

GSO 3 (I) .....

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNBD NO. 785020

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. 785020

26

OUTGOING SIGNAL

FROM: NMIA

Date 20 Time 2100 B

TO : DISTWO

REF : SD 2931

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION _____

27

TO MARLEY FROM INGLEDREW (.) REF

YOUR SDI/1550 OF 18 JUL. THANK YOU FOR PROMPT ACTION

PRECEDENCE ROUTINE

AUTHENTICATED _____

Internal: File: SD/39/2

ms 20 July 45

R/20/7

9?

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDG NO. 785020

COPY - INCOMING SIGNAL

FROM: DISTWO

DATE TIME
18 1600B

TO: MMIA

REF: SD1/1550

RESTRICTED Sub to 26

REF AFHQ FX23096 CITE FHQCT OF 16 (.) ONE (.) CONVERSION TO WE CM 508/2 AGREED SUBJECT TO FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS (.) TWO (.) GSO II DADST AND DADOS MUST BE RETAINED PENDING POSTING GSO III CAPT RASC AND ORD OFFR (.) THREE (.) REAR LINKS SIGS SHOULD NOT BE ABOLISHED COMPLETELY (.) FOUR (.) RATION CPL REQUIRED TO ASSIST ADM SGT (.) FIVE (.) RETENTION OF TWO SGT INTERPRETERS ESSENTIAL (.) SIX (.) TWO MAJORS OF TRG INCR SHOULD BE RETAINED PER GRUPPO (.) REMAINDER DISBANDED (.) SEVEN (.) ESSENTIAL ALL PERSONNEL OF TRG INCR R E M E REMAIN TO SERVICE TPT (.) EIGHT (.) A NUMBER OF OFFRS NOT REQUIRED ARE DUE FOR PYTHON AND RELEASE IN THE NEAR FUTURE (.) SUGGEST THAT ALTERNATIVE APPOINTMENTS NOT FILLED UNTIL THESE OFFRS ARE CALLED FWD (.) NINE (.) 56 BLU NOT YET CONSULTED (.) WILL FWD RECOMMENDATIONS IF AND WHEN AVAILABLE

SD Distribution:
Action: SD/39/2
Info: A
Q(Two)
G/Trg/13/5

GSO 1 X X

GSO 2 (Gen) .....

GSO 2 (CC) X X X

GSO 2 (W) X X X

GSO 2 (L) .....

GSO 2 (FD) .....

GSO 2 (C&S) .....

GSO 2 (D) .....

G2 Org. X X

G-II - Sigs for views on THREE

Q for views on SEVEN.

Q Agrees.
RS Holahan/ekdy.

91

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDG NO. 785020

COPY INCOMING SIGNAL

23

FROM: DISTONE

171530 B

TO : 50 BLU
53 BLU

RESTRICTED

INFO: AFHQ CITE FHCGT
MMIA

REF : SD 5

21 See 7021

REF FOLLOWING A F H Q SIG FX 23096 OF 16 AIDSD M M I A (.)

QUOTE (.)

1 (.) AGREED THAT B L U s REMAIN ON W E CM/508/1 UNTIL 1 AUG 45 (.)

2 (.) FOLLOWING W E s WILL BE REVIEWED HERE DURING WEEK 23-30 JUL 45 (.)

(A) BLU FOC ICTF (CM/508/2) (B) TRG INCR (INFO) TO BLU (CM/542/1)

(C) TRG INCR TO BLU (CM/640/1) (D) TRG UNIT TO ITALIAN ARMY (CM/700/1) (.)

3 (.) REQUEST YOU CONSULT B L U s RE THEIR CONVERSATION TO W E

CMCXIII/2 AND CONTINUATION OF W E s REFERRED TO IN 2(B) (C) AND (D)

ABOVE AND FORWARD YOUR RECOMMENDATIONS DULY CO-ORDINATED WITH

D I S T O N E AND D I S T W O TO THIS H Q BY 23 JUL (.)

4 (.) REQUEST YOU SPONSOR RECOMMENDATIONS BEFORE W E C HERE AT

DATE TO BE NOTIFIED LATER (.)

UNQUOTE (.)

REQUEST YOU FWD YOUR VIEWS TO THIS H Q RPTD M M I A BY 20 JUL

LATEST IF THEY DIFFER IN ANY WAY FROM 5 A R M Y SIG SD 1421 OF 22 JUN

12

SD DISTRIBUTION:

ACTION: SD/39/2
INFO: A
Q (Two)
G/Trg/13/5

WS

jv 18 Jul 45

GSO 1 9

GSO 2 (Ops) .....

GSO 2 (SD) X X

GSO 2 (X) X X

GSO 2 (C) .....

GSO 3 (SD) .....

GSO 3 (Orbat) .....

GSO 3 (I) .....

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. 785020

(22)

OUTGOING SIGNAL

FROM: MMIA

TO : DIS TOKE
DIS TWO

Date 16 1855 Time B

REF : SD 8846 SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

(21) See 7a 30.

REF A F H Q SIGNAL F X 28096 OF 16 JUL (.)

IN VIEW OF SHORT TIME AVAILABLE PLEASE FORWARD YOUR

RECOMMENDATIONS AND COMMENTS INCLUDING THOSE OF COMBAT

GP B L U S UNDER YOUR COMMAND TO REACH HERE BY

20 JUL

PRECEDENCE

AUTHENTICATED

Internal: SD/39/E

ms 16 July 45

Seen G-1 : 84
Abe 7/7

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. 785020

21

COPY INCOMING SIGNAL

FROM : AFHQ Sgd SACMED Cite FHGCT 16 0955 B

TO : MMIA RESTRICTED

INFO : DISTONE
DISTWO

REF : FX 23096 18

See (22)
See 23 + 24
See 32

YOUR SD 2825 OF 5 JUL (*) ONE (*) AGREED THAT B L Us REMAIN ON WE CM/508/1 UNTIL 1 AUG 45 (*) TWO (*) FOLLOWING WEs WILL BE REVIEWED HERE DURING WEEK 23 - 30 JUL 45 (*) A (*) B L U FOR I C F (CM/508/2) B (*) TRG INCR (INF) TO B L U (CM/542/1) C (*) TRG INCR HERE TO B L U (CM/640/1) D (*) TRG UNIT TO ITALIAN ARMY (CM/700/1) (*) THREE (*) REQUEST YOU CONSULT B L Us RE THEIR CONVERSION TO WE CM/508/2 AND CONTINUATION OF WEs REFERRED TO IN 2 (B), (C) AND (D) ABOVE AND FORWARD YOUR RECOMMENDATIONS DULY CO-ORDINATED WITH D I S T O N E AND D I S T W O TO THIS HQ BY 25 JUL (*) FOUR (*) REQUEST YOU SPONSOR RECOMMENDATIONS BEFORE W E C HERE AT DATE TO BE NOTIFIED LATER

SD DISTRIBUTION:

ACTION : SD/39/2

INFO : A , Q (Two) , G/TRG/13/5

jw 16 July 45.

GSO 1 K K

GSO 2 (Cas) 89

GSO 2 (G) K K

GSO 2 (I) K K

GSO 2 (L)

GSO 3 (SD)

GSO 3 (Cas)

GSO 3 (I)

18

OUTGOING SIGNAL

FROM : M M I A

TO : AFHQ cite FHGCT

INFO : DISTONE DISTWO 16

REF : SD 2825

05 1800 B

RESTRICTED

Sec 621

REF YOUR FX 15962 OF 2 JUL (.) IN VIEW REPRESENTATIONS OF FIFTH ARMY AND DISTONE SUGGEST FOLLOWING (.) ONE (.) BLUs remain TEMPORARILY ON PRESENT WE (.) TWO (.) TRG INCR REDUCED TO ONE TRG MAJOR (.) THREE (.) REME INCR BE RETAINED (.) FOUR (.) POLICY FOR RECONVERSION TO BE RECONSIDERED ON 1 AUG AFTER CONSULTATION WITH BLUs

PRECEDENCE : IMPORTANT

AUTHENTICATED : L. M. Templeton
Lt-Col

INTERNAL:

SD/39/2
A
Q
G/TRG/13/5

fd 05 JUL

OK J 87
28/

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. 125020

INFO : DISTONE DISTWO RESTRICTED

REF : SD 2825

see 621

REF YOUR FX 15962 OF 2 JUL (.) IN VIEW REPRESENTATIONS OF FIFTH ARMY AND DISTONE SUGGEST FOLLOWING (.) ONE (.) BLUs remain TEMPORARILY ON PRESENT WE (.) TWO (.) TRG INCR REDUCED TO ONE TRG MAJOR (.) THREE (.) REME INCR BE RETAINED (.) FOUR (.) POLICY FOR RECONVERSION TO BE RECONSIDERED ON 1 AUG AFTER CONSULTATION WITH BLUs

PRECEDENCE : IMPORTANT

AUTHENTICATED : L. M. Templeton
Lt-Col

INTERNAL:

SD/39/2
A
Q
G/TRG/13/5

fd 05 JUL

OK J 28/

87

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section J-402/NNDC NO. T8502D

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. 785020

16

COPY INCOMING SIGNAL

FROM: A F H Q Signed SACMED CITE FHGCT 021143

TO : M M I A ROME RESTRICTED

INFO: DISTONE

DISTWO

REF : FX 15962

See 18

SUBJECT IS CONVERSION OF BLUS ORGANISED ON WE CM/508/1 TO CM/508/2 (.) REQUEST YOUR COMMENTS BY 7 JUL ON BRIT INCR FIFTH (US) ARMY 5066 DATED 21 JUN AND DISTONE SD 39 OF 24 JUN

14

SD DISTRIBUTION

Action Copy: SD/39/2

Info: G/Trg/13/5

A

Q (two)

jc/3/7/45

GSO 1

G-1 2 (Opn)

G-1 2 (Plans)

G-2 2 (Ops)

G-3 3 (L)

G-3 3 (SD)

G-3 3 (Ops Sal)

G-3 3 (I)

WS

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. 785020

Translation

From M. of W.
To M.M.I.A.

Ref.14473
Date 22 June 45

Subjects War establishments for Combat Groups

In reply to letter SD/39/2 of 16 of April 45

10 copies are forwarded, shown under numbers 95 to 104, of the new pamphlet "Formations and provisional W.E. for Combat Groups and auxiliary units(Bilingual version of British W.E.) May 1945 Ed. The new edition has been compiled in accordance with M.M.I.A.'s instructions in letter under reply and issued, with the number copies necessary, to units concerned.
As agreed, an appendix (Appendix"A") has been attached to said pamphlet showing the main differences between the British and Italian W.E.4s and in each case the procedure to be followed by Combat Groups H.Q's when replying to any determined query.
The opportunity is taken of assuring you that the publication "Formations and Provisonal W.E.'s for Combat Groups" issued by this S.M. in Sept. 1944 has been Cancelled

Giorgio Liuzzi

D.A.K.

25730

GSO 1 .....
GSO 2 (Ops) .....
GSO 2 (S-D) .....
GSO 2 (...) .....
GSO 2 (I) .....
GSO 3 (S) .....
GSO 3 (Ops) .....
GSO 3 (I) .....

MMIA 'C'
Ref. SD/39/2
2.6.45

COPY INCOMING SIGNAL

14

FROM: DISTONE

241545 B

TO : AFHQ CITE FHGCT

RESTRICTED

INFO: 15 ARMY GP
MMIA ROME
BRIT INCR 5 ARMY
MAIN 8 ARMY
56 BLU

REF : SD 39

1 (.) REF YOUR FX 96608 OF 21 JUN AND WSD/134 OF 7 JUN 45 (.) CONVERSION OF 5 6 B L U TO W E CM/508/2 NOT CONSIDERED POSSIBLE WHILE M A N T O V A G R U P P O CONTINUES PRESENT ROLE GUARDING SURRENDERED PERSONNEL IN D I S T O N E ENCLAVE (.) OUR G 09 OF 26 MAY REFERS (.) MANY INTRICATE PROBLEMS BETWEEN BRITISH - ITALIANS - GERMANS ARISING DAILY KEEP ALL B L U PERSONNEL FULLY EMPLOYED (.) DISBANDMENT OF INF TRG ENCREMENT NOT POSSIBLE FOR SOME REASONS (.) REDUCTION IN NUMBER OF B L U VEHS NOW IN PROGRESS WILL FREE SOME BRIT R E M E PERSONNEL (.) NUMBERS WILL BE SIGNALLED EARLIEST (.) BUT RETENTION OF MINIMUM R E M E INCREMENT ESSENTIAL UNLESS ALL VEHS ARE TO BECOME UNSERVICEABLE (.) 5 6 B L U HAS NO TRG UNIT CM/700/1 ATTACHED (.)

2 (.) ABOVE SITUATION WILL BE MATERIALLY AFFECTED WHEN PROPOSAL CONTAINED IN YOUR FX 98126 OF 23 JUN IS IMPLEMENTED

SD DISTRIBUTION:

Action: SD/39/2
Info: G(Trg)/8

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. 18502

1 (.) REF YOUR FX 96608 OF 21 JUN AND ~~WSD~~/134 OF 7 JUN 45 (.) CONVERSION OF 5 6 B L U TO W E CM/508/2 NOT CONSIDERED POSSIBLE WHILE M A N T O V A G R U P P O CONTINUES PRESENT ROLE GUARDING SURRENDERED PERSONNEL IN D I S T O N E ENCLAVE (.) OUR G 09 OF 26 MAY REFERS (.) MANY INTRICATE PROBLEMS BETWEEN BRITISH - ITALIANS - GERMANS ARISING DAILY KEEP ALL B L U PERSONNEL FULLY EMPLOYED (.) DISBANDMENT OF INF TRG ENCREMENT NOT POSSIBLE FOR SOME REASONS (.) REDUCTION IN NUMBER OF B L U VEHS NOW IN PROGRESS WILL FREE SOME BRIT R E M E PERSONNEL (.) NUMBERS WILL BE SIGNALLED EARLIEST (.) BUT RETENTION OF MINIMUM R E M E INCREMENT ESSENTIAL UNLESS ALL VEHS ARE TO BECOME UNSERVICEABLE (.) 5 6 B L U HAS NO TRG UNIT CM/700/1 ATTACHED (.)

2 (.) ABOVE SITUATION WILL BE MATERIALLY AFFECTED WHEN PROPOSAL CONTAINED IN YOUR FX 9812~~5~~ OF 23 JUN IS IMPLEMENTED

SD DISTRIBUTION:

Action: SD/39/2
Info: G(Trg)/8

jv 25 June 45

NT in G
2 in Registry office 25/6 RH

GSO 1 X HK X
GSO 2 (Ops) .....
GSO 2 (SD) X B. X
GSO 2 (A) X X
GSO 2 (L) .....
GSO 3 (SD) X X
GSO 3 (Ops) .....
GSO 3 (L) .....

G. (Trg). vide Minute 1.
G. 1. ~~ans~~ 182.

WS

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC No. T25020

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. 785020

13

COPY INCOMING SIGNAL

FROM: AFHQ SIGNED SACMED CITE FHGCT 211109B

TO : 15 ARMY GROUP RESTRICTED
5th (US) ARMY - FOR BRIT INCR
HQ DISTONE

INFO: MMIA ROME

REF : FX 96608

for 9

REQUEST REPLY PARA 3 OUR WSD/134 DATED 7 JUN 45 (.)
FOR H Q 1 5 A R M Y G P (.) M A I N
8th A R M Y SD 2483 DATED 18 JUN REFERS

G2/4.1/2 for

SD DISTRIBUTION:

Action: SD/39/2

jv 22 June 45.

HH

X X

X X

X

8?

COPY INCOMING SIGNAL

50/39/2 12

211942B

FROM: 5 ARMY

TO : AFHQ

INFO: 15 ARMY GROUP
DISTONE
DISTWO
51 BLU
50 BLU
52 BLU
53 BLU
MMIA
LMIA LO

REF : 500
SD 1421

GSO 1 X HH X

GSO 2 (Ops)

GSO 2 (SD)

GSO 2 (W/T)

GSO 2 (L)

GSO 3 (SD)

GSO 3 (Orbat)

GSO 3 (I)

see H23/27

RESTRICTED

REF YOUR W S D / 134 OF 7 JUNE (.) FIRST (.) CONSIDER CONVERSION OF BLUs ORGANISED ON W E / C M / 508 / 1 TO W E / C M / 508 / 2 SHOULD NOT YET BE EFFECTED (.) WHILE GRUPPI HAVE SEMI OPERATIONAL ROLE UNDER ALLIED CONTROL CONSIDERED NECESSARY RETAIN OLD W E OF B L U OTHERWISE DETERIORATION IN EFFICIENCY OF GRUPPI LIKELY TO NECESSITATE REQUEST FOR FURTHER ALLIED FORMATIONS TO TAKE THEIR PLACES (.) SECOND (.) FOLLOWING APPOINTMENTS HOWEVER NOW CONSIDERED REDUNDANT AND CAN BE DISPENSED WITH FORTHWITH (.) A (.) S O R A (.) B (.) S O R E (.) C (.) S O R SIGS (.) D (.) CAPT OR LIEUTENANT R A M C (NON MED) (.) E (.) CAMP COMDT (.) F (.) TWO B O W D'S (WO 1) (.) G (.) CLERK G D (RA) (.) THIRD (.) ALSO AGREED IN PRINCIPLE THAT G S O III CAPT R A S C AND ORD OFFR COULD DO WORK AT PRESENT PERFORMED BY G S O II D A D S T AND D A D O S (.) HOWEVER PRESENT HOLDERS OF LATTER APPOINTMENTS NOW FAMILIAR WITH ITALIAN STAFF SYSTEM AND CHAIN OF COMMAND AND IDIOSYNCRACIES OF PARTICULAR ITALIAN STAFF WITH WHOM THEY DEAL (.) UNDERSTOOD MAJORITY THESE OFFICERS SOON ELIGIBLE FOR PYTHON OR

82

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. 165020

REF : 500
SD 1421

GSO 3 (SD) .....
GSO 3 (Orbat) .....
GSO 3 (I) .....

REF YOUR W S D / 134 OF 7 JUNE (.) FIRST (.) CONSIDER CONVERSION OF BLUs ORGANISED ON W E / C M / 508 / 1 TO W E / C M / 508 / 2 SHOULD NOT YET BE EFFECTED (.) WHILE GRUPPI HAVE SEMI OPERATIONAL ROLE UNDER ALLIED CONTROL CONSIDERED NECESSARY RETAIN OLD W E OF B L U OTHERWISE DETERIORATION IN EFFICIENCY OF GRUPPI LIKELY TO NECESSITATE REQUEST FOR FURTHER ALLIED FORMATIONS TO TAKE THEIR PLACES (.) SECOND (.) FOLLOWING APPOINTMENTS HOWEVER NOW CONSIDERED REDUNDANT AND CAN BE DISPENSED WITH FORTHWITH (.) A (.) S O R A (.) B (.) S O R E (.) C (.) S O R SIGS (.) D (.) CAPT OR LIEUTENANT R A M C (NON MED) (.) E (.) CAMP COMDT (.) F (.) TWO B O W D'S (NO 1) (.) G (.) CLERK G D (RA) (.) THIRD (.) ALSO AGREED IN PRINCIPLE THAT G S O III CAPT R A S C AND ORD OFFR COULD DO WORK AT PRESENT PERFORMED BY G S O II D A D S T AND D A D O S (.) HOWEVER PRESENT HOLDERS OF LATTER APPOINTMENTS NOW FAMILIAR WITH ITALIAN STAFF SYSTEM AND CHAIN OF COMMAND AND IDIOSYNCRACIES OF PARTICULAR ITALIAN STAFF WITH WHOM THEY DEAL (.) UNDERSTOOD MAJORITY THESE OFFICERS SOON ELIGIBLE FOR PYTHON OR RELEASE THEREFORE SUGGEST THEY ARE RETAINED UNTIL CALLED FORWARD WHEN OFFICERS OF LOWER GRADE COULD BE NOMINATED TO TAKE THEIR PLACE (.) IF THIS AGREED OVERLAP NECESSARY TO GIVE AMPLE TIME TAKE OVER (.) FOURTH (.) TWO MAJORS OF TRAINING INCREMENT SHOULD BE RETAINED PER GRUPPO (.) REMAINDER OF INCREMENT CAN BE DISBANDED FORTHWITH (.) FIFTH (.) ESSENTIAL THAT ALL PERSONNEL OF TRAINING INCREMENT R E M E

82

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NND NO. 785020

REMAINS OTHERWISE TRANSPORT OF GRUPPI WILL SOON BECOME UNSERVICEABLE (.)

SD DISTRIBUTION:

Action: SD/39/2

ws 22 June 45

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDG NO. T-2502D

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. 785020

11A

Subject:- MI - IMIs.

50 British Liaison Units.
G/5/170
15 June 45.

FIFTH ARMY (Dr Imm)(G(Ops)).

Copy to:- 1 [illegible].
2 [illegible].
MELA.
52 BLU.
52 BLU.
53 BLU.

SD/39/2
1876

Ref your 195/0/t(SD) dated 14 June 45.

1. Para 3(a). It is considered that re-organisation on WE G/508/2 can be begun forthwith provided

(a) You are prepared to accept that BLUs will revert to the sole function of liaison and cease to exercise any sort of detailed control or supervision over the IGU to which they are attached, as they have done up to date.

It is most confidently anticipated that chaos, or at best vastly increased inaccuracy and delay in compliance with orders, returns, etc., and a marked deterioration in discipline, will immediately occur.

It must however be emphasised that with a staff of British Officers reduced both in numbers and experience the new pattern BLU will not be able to do more than simple liaison.

(b) Ample time is allowed for newcomers to take over.

It must be realised that newcomers will probably have no knowledge of the language, or of the Italian staff system and chain of command or control, which is fundamentally different from our own and highly involved; and that they will therefore take more time than usual to master their new jobs.

(c) Sympathetic consideration is given to the proposals for temporary surpluses to WE G/508/2, pending audit to WE G/508/2 as set out in my G/5/170 dated 12 Jun 45 and appx thereto, without which in my opinion WE G/508/2 is inoperable.

It is pointed out that NO opinion whatever was asked from any BLU when the new WE was prepared, although it would appear obvious that the only persons fully conversant with the problems and difficulties arising are the BLUs themselves.

81

[illegible]
T81030.

50/40/2
17/6

..../2

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2. Para 3(b).

(a) Trg Increments. Minutes of Chiefs Conference 11 Jun 45 held by you refer at para 10.

Unless all British responsibility for combined or further training is to cease forthwith, it is essential that a nucleus of the Trg Increment consisting of G.II Trg and two Training Majors MUST be retained.

At present, unless pushed by the BLO and supervised in detail by the Trg Increment, the ITALIANS are attempting NO training at all.

Unless training DOES remain a British responsibility, in my opinion the GROUP will rapidly revert to the rabble which we took over in Sep last year.

It was understood at the Conference that MMIA would have to give an immediate policy ruling on this point.

(b) If tpt in the Group is to remain serviceable for any length of time, or if any economy in tpt or equipment is to be demanded, in my opinion it is unthinkable that the MMIA Trg Increment should be disbanded.

My mm/sm/36 dated 6 June 45 sets out absolute minimum requirements in this connection.

3. Para 3(c).

Please see my mm/sm/36 dated 6 June 45, my G/5/17B A dated 6 June 45, my G/5/17B C dated 6 June 45, my G/5/17B dated 12 June 45 and my G/5/17B dated 15 June 45.

ARMS/MEB.

Lt. Cole
GS. 79

3 is on the [illegible] Archives from [illegible] Copy left Kew should be [illegible]

Lookout Knight Discipline, not Trg headscraper Victor

11 See my DO 17 June HH

HB

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDG NO. 785020

C?

SD 1/2
15/6

J - 10A

SUBJECT : WE - British Liaison Unit
for Gruppo di Combattimenti (GM/508/2)

MAIN HQ 50 BLU

G/S/17B

12 Jun 45

HQ FIFTH ARMY (Br Instr) (2)
rptd : HQ 1 District
HQ META

1. WE GM/508/2 for a BLU has been received for implementation at a dated to be notified later. In principle the WE would appear practicable, but it is submitted that in detail there have been certain omissions which will make it impossible for the BLU to function satisfactorily in its duties of liaison between and ITALIAN Combat Gp and Brit or Allied Fmns. Att at Apx "A" find suggested amendments to the WE.

2. The most important omissions briefly are :

1) Interpreters - On the present WE NM/508/1, 2 sjts are allowed. Only a small proportion of ITALIANS speak ENGLISH and likewise, few BRIT speak ITALIAN and the situation would therefore be very difficult if no interpreters are allowed.

X H H X

2 (Offr)

2 (OR)

3 (WO)

(Cpl)

(Pte)

3 (Offr)

3 (O)

11) Signals - It is considered important that the BLO should not be entirely dependent on the ITALIAN Gp for all signals. As there is no Sigs Offr allowed on the WE it is also imperative that an intelligent NCO is available for liaison between the Gp and BRIT or ALLIED Sigs. A certain amount of cipher traffic is still received and sent, and no ITALIAN personnel are trained in handling cipher.

3. An addition of 2 to the GHQ personnel is also considered necessary if the GHQ side is to be handled efficiently. The increase desired is 2 clerks, one to be sjt. At present the GHQ clerical staff is handling a considerable amount of correspondence, Indents and vouchers as well as checking all monthly census returns etc. On past experience it is considered essential that detailed checks are made by BRIT clerks

4. It is appreciated that amendments are not normally considered to WEs for at least 3 months after implementation. It is requested however that authority be given to retain personnel and tpt of the suggested est until the case is put up to the WEB.

78

A.A. Gouthro Capt

Lt col
General Staff

OMF
JLE/SYB

15900

FILE SD/39/2
DATE 15/6

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. 785020

APPENDIX "A" to 50 INF Letter S/5

AMENDMENTS TO WE BDE (GT/503/2)

Serial No.	Increase of a) Personnel b) Vehicles	Remarks	Reasons for Increases
1a.	2 sjt Interpreters	No interpreters allowed	Considered essential to have at least 2 GR in translation. 1 required for G Staff, 1 for
2a.	Signals Sec of following		
	i) 1 sjt	HCO IC Sec	Liaison between BRIT Sqns and ITALIAN Combat stores, wireless control (i.e. frequencies,
	ii) 1 cpl, 1 L cpl, 3 sgmn, 4 1 Dvr Op	OWL	To man WT Link to BRIT Sqns and to man BRIT clerk.
	iii) 3 cipher ops		To deal with incoming and outgoing cipher tr have not been trained to handle cipher.
	iv) 4 Dvr IC		
2b.	Vehs 1 x 15-cwt WT House with No 9 set 1 x 15-cwt GS		Driven by Dvr Op 4 Driven by Dvr IC 4
3a.	GRO Staff		
	i) 1 sjt clerk RAOC Duties, 2 pte clerks " "	1 L cpl clerk RAOC Duties allowed on WE	1 L cpl clerk is not sufficient to deal wit handled by the GRO Services on a BDE. An with ITALIAN marseillaise the elder clerk
4b.	1 x 3-ton GS 1 x 15-cwt Water Cart		Required to cope with the added adm requirem from ITALIAN Increment. It is most unsatisfactory to be entirely de ITALIANS, particularly as the standard of accepted by Brit personnel. Water duties from the ITALIAN Increment, but would be t

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. 785020

AMENDMENTS TO WE BIU (GS/508/2)

Remarks	Reasons for Increases
No interpreters allowed	Considered essential to have at least 2 OR interpreters to handle routine translation. 1 required for G Staff, 1 for A/Q Staff.
NCO IC Sec	Liaison between BRIT Sigs and ITALIAN Combat Gp for signals controlled stores, wireless control (i.e. frequencies, codes, code signs etc) and line.
O.L	To man W/T link to BRIT Sigs and to man BRIT 10-line switchboard, and RLs 3 clerk.
	To deal with incoming and outgoing cipher traffic. ITALIANS personnel have not been trained to handle cipher.
set	Driven by Dvr Gp ø Driven by Dvr IC ø
1 L cpl clerk NAOC Duties allowed on WE	1 L cpl clerk is not sufficient to deal with all the clerical work handled by the GSO Services on a BIU. As the clerical staff deals with ITALIAN marshalling the chief clerk should be a S sjt or sjt.
	Required to cope with the added adm responsibility. Dvr to be obtained from ITALIAN Detachment.
	It is most unsatisfactory to be entirely dependent for water on the ITALIANS, particularly as the standard of hygiene is lower than that accepted by Brit personnel. Water duties man and driver can be taken from the ITALIAN Detachment, but would be under close supervision

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDG NO. 785020

TOTAL INCREASE ON WE

a) **Personnel**

Interpreters	sjts	3	
Services - Sigs	sjts	1	
	cpls	1	
	L cpls	1	- 17
	ORs	8	
Services - ORD	sjts	1	
	ORs	2	

b) **Tpt**

15-cwt WT House	1	
15-cwt GS	1	
3-ton GS	1	- 4
15-cwt Water Cart	1	

Land Forces S/C 9.

SD/39/2 2483

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS RESTRICTED

G-3 DIVISION

(FREEDOM 986)

folios 13 refs.

FILE NO : WSD/134 7 June, 1945

SUBJECT : BLUs and Trg Units for Italian Combat Groups.

MEMO TO : C.G., Fifth (US) Army (British Increment)
HQ Main Eighth Army.
HQ No.1 District.

SD 96

1. A.F.H.Q. War Establishments Committee at Meeting 201 held 4 May 45 approved a revised War Establishment British Liaison Unit (for Gruppo di Combattimenti) (CM/508/2) intended to be implemented when Italian Combat Groups are engaged upon internal security duties.

It is desirable that the conversion of the British Liaison Units (for Gruppo di Combattimenti) at present organised on WE CM/508/1 (XII/884/1) to WE CM/508/2 (copy attached) should take place as soon as possible. not attached

2. Land Forces Sub Commission AC (MMIA) recommend the disbandment of training units for Italian Combat Groups organised on the following WEs :-

(a) Training Increment (Infantry) to British Liaison Unit (for Gruppo di Combattimenti) (CM/542/1) (XII/883/1)

(b) Training Increment REME to British Liaison Unit (for Gruppo di Combattimenti) (CM/640/1)

(c) Training Unit to Italian Army, Central Mediterranean (CM/700/1) (XII/1162/1)

3. You are requested to cable as soon as possible :-

(a) an estimated date when conversion of units organised on WE CM/508/1 to WE CM/508/2 may be effected.

(b) recommendations for the effective date of disbandment of units referred to in para 2 above.

75

MMIA-C
FILE: SD/39/2

[illegible] Major GS.

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 1-402/NND No. 785020

HQ 5th (US) Army (British Increment)
HQ Main Eighth Army.
HQ No.1 District.

8D
9/6

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not attached

2. Land Forces Sub Commission AC (MMIA) recommend the disbandment of training units for Italian Combat Groups organised on the following WEs :-

GSO 1 ✓
GSO 2 (Ops)
GSO 2 (Trg)
GSO 2 (W)
GSO 2 (L)
GSO 2 (Org)
GSO 3 (Ops)
GSO 3 (Trg)
GSO 3 (Org)

(a) Training Increment (Infantry) to British Liaison Unit (for Gruppo di Combattimenti) (CM/542/1) (XII/883/1)

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75

MMIA-'C'
FILE: 50/39/2
DATE: 9/6

J.S. Duncan Major GS.
for W.D. MORGAN,
Lieutenant-General,
Chief of Staff.

JEH/drj/Org (B).

Copy to:- C.G., 15 Army Group.
Land Forces Sub Commission AC (MMIA) ✓

Dep Mil Sec.
G-1 (B)
G-2
G-3 (Ops)
G-3 (Trg)
G-3 (Org)(Foreign)
Q (Maint)
Q (AE)
DMT
Arty Sec.
HQ Infantry
Engrs.
Signals.
S & T
Catering.
Medical.
Ordnance.
REME.
O 2 E (Stats).

RECEIVED JUN

27 d

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. 785020

02 1400

7

COPY INCOMING SIGNAL

FROM: MAIN EIGHT ARMY

TO : AFHQ

INFO: 15 ARMY
MMIA ROME

REF : SD 2963

012300 B

CONFIDENTIAL

IMPORTANT

NT

FURTHER TO A F H Q FX 50982 OF 27 (.)

ONE (.) W E A B L U FOR AN I T A L I A N C O M B A T G P HAS BEEN EXAMINED IN DETAIL FROM THE ANGLE OF WHAT ARE MINIMUM ADDITIONS IN PERSONNEL AND T P T NEEDED TO ENABLE B L U 'S TO GET THE BEST OUT OF I C G IN SEMI MOB ROLE AND OP PARI PASU WITH BRIT FMN OF A R M Y (.)

TWO (.) VIEW FACT ABOVE CIRCUMSTANCES DO N O T AT THE MOMENT OBTAIN AND MAY NEVER OBTAIN IN FUTURE SUGGEST NO N O OBJECT IN RECONSIDERING W E FROM THIS ANGLE (.)

THREE (.) SUGGEST B L U REQUIRED FOR I C G ON INTERNAL SECURITY DUTIES MAY BEAR LITTLE RELATION TO B L U NEEDED TO ENABLE G R U P P I TO O P IN LINE UNDER BRIT CORPS H Q (.)

FOUR (.) SUGGEST THEREFORE PRESENT B L U E S T RENEWED FOR SHORT PERIOD TO BE SUPERSEDED IN DUE COURSE BY WHATEVER O R G CONSIDERED NECESSARY AFTER CLARIFICATION POLICY FUTURE EMPLOYMENT I C G 'S

SD DISTRIBUTION:

Action Copy: SD/39/2
A
Q2
ST

74

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDG NO. 78020

FURTHER TO A F H Q FX 50982 OF 27 (.)

ONE (.) W E A B L U FOR AN I T A L I A N C O M B A T G P HAS BEEN EXAMINED IN DETAIL FROM THE ANGLE OF WHAT ARE MINIMUM ADDITIONS IN PERSONNEL AND T P T NEEDED TO ENABLE B L U 'S TO GET THE BEST OUT OF I C G IN SEMI MOB ROLE AND OP PARI PASU WITH BRIT FMN OF A R M Y (.)

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SD DISTRIBUTION:

Action Copy: SD/39/2
A
Q2
ST

cc 2 May 45.

I agree with ONE, TWO, THREE above. I think (as FOUR) that we can make a reduction as the Division are definitely part of Brit Corps for Logistic purposes

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. T85020

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. 785020

RESTRICTED

Subject: WEs for Combat Groups

LAND FORCES SUB-COM, AC(MMIA)

SD/39/2
16 April 45

TO : AFHQ

Reference your AG 091.711/051 GCT-O of 9 April 45.

Please see attached copy of letter which has been sent to Italian Ministry of War.

Major General
M.M.I.A.

Copy to: CG 15 Army Group
Eighth Army
} less WEs referred to

jv

73

RESTRICTED

SUBJECT: WEs for Combat Groups

LAND FORCES SUB-COM, A.C. (MMIA)

SD/39/2

16 Apr 45

TO : MINISTRY OF WAR

1. It is understood that certain Combat Groups are working on War Establishments published by you in September, 1944.

2. Several amendments have now been issued and it is essential that all the establishments issued by you should be brought up to date.

3. Accordingly a complete set of fully amended WEs for a Combat Group and its Admin Tail are attached to this letter.

4. You are directed to issue these revised establishments to Combat Groups on an adequate scale as soon as possible and to cancel any establishments which you have issued previously.

5. In order to ensure, in future, that there is no discrepancy between establishments issued by you and the correct establishments as amended by AFHQ, the following system will be put into effect:-

(a) When the present review of Combat Group Establishments has been considered and approved, all establishments for Combat Groups will be republished to include all amdts and with a revised Italian translation.

(b) These revised establishments will then be issued by this HQ to HQs and Armies. Sufficient copies will also be issued to you.

(c) When the above set of establishments is produced, no establishments or amdts for Combat Groups will be published by you except those authorised and issued by Land Forces Sub-Commission, A.C. (MMIA).

72

A.M.I. 1(a).

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDG No. T 1502D

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2. Several amendments have now been issued and it is essential that all the establishments issued by you should be brought up to date.

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72

L.M.I. Gordon.
for Major General
MMIA

Internal: A
Q

ws

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NND No. 785020

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDG NO. 785020

(COPY)

RESTRICTED

LAND FORCES SUB-COM, AC (MMIA)

S/G/29/43

17 Mar 45

SUBJECT: Recapitulation

TO : O.C. "F" BLU, RTC ICF

Reference your G/1/1/11 of 13 March.

1. It is not agreed to ask for the attachment of four British Officers to teach administration. The attachment of the W.O.IIs should help in this respect. Your A/15/37 of 10 March also refers.

2. A signal has been prepared for AFHQ reference Italian Officers in POW sources. All we are waiting for now is the list from General RONCO.

3. It is agreed that the Artillery Depot and School should be independent of No 3 Regiment and be commanded by Col. Di PALMA. With regard to other questions of W.Es, particularly No 4 Regiment, Col. PIDSLEY would like to have a discussion as soon as possible with Lt/Col MACKAY.

4. With regard to the Training Staff, the DMT has promised to lend a G II who will be carried on the W.E. of a forward training increment.

5. It is agreed that bands of approximately 50 patriots should be sent to forward combat groups at the first opportunity i.e. when the the Group's weekly return shows a deficiency of non-specialist personnel.

6. AFHQ is now investigating the question of a Canteen organisation for the Italian Army. You will be informed as soon as more is known.

Sgd W.PIDSLEY, Colonel
for Major General
M.M.I.A.

Internal : SD

71

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. 785020

RESTRICTED

JC:rh

LAND FORCES SE (MMIA) 5020

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
APO 512

AG 091.711/051 GCT-O

9 April 1945

SUBJECT: War Establishments for Italian Combat Groups

SD 12/4

TO: President, Allied Commission
FOR: Land Forces Sub Commission

1. Headquarters, Eighth Army reports that certain Italian Combat Groups are working on War Establishments published by SHAEF in September 1944.

2. These war establishments are out of date in many respects.

3. Request that you insure that the Italian authorities are provided with a full set of revised WEs and that these are immediately issued to the Combat Groups on an adequate scale.

BY COMMAND OF FIELD MARSHAL ALEXANDER:

Copy furnished
Hq Eighth Army

Jack Carter.
JACK CARTER
Captain, AGD
Asst Adjutant General

AC 15/10
President to see

SD/39/2
Lia F.O.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
DATE 11 APR 1945
FILE 45031
H.Q. ALLIED COMMISSION

MMIA - 'G'
FILE: SD/39/2
DATE: R 12/4

71

RESTRICTED

43B

CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT : WE - ITALIAN Combat Gp

50 Brit Liaison Unit

G/S/17

24 Mar 45

43C

Main HQ 10 CORPS (4 copies)

Ref Main EIGHTH Army/3680 SD2 dated 9 Mar 45. (atta. herewith)

Herewith proposals divided into A comments on proposals already made and B new proposals.

A. Comments on proposals already made

1. Ref Appx "A" to above mentioned letter.

a) 2IC Inf Bn considered essential.

b) The two offrs unassigned in Bn HQ have in this ICG been given roles of Inf Offr and MT Offr. OC HQ Coy has taken on the role of QM. While need for a QM is agreed, the need for a first class MT Offr is of paramount importance.

c) It is immaterial whether ITALIAN inf bn has one or two MOs, providing the ITALIAN Army can provide them.

d) In the experience of this ICG, LOs have NOT been used. In fact, it is considered that a junior ITALIAN Offr would be entrusted with no more intricate mission than that normally carried out by a DR.
The offrs from the former scouts pl in practice disappeared to a variety of jobs long ago. The scouts pl in fact existed only on paper, as by the time the ITALIANS asked this BLU what they were supposed to do with a scouts pl, this BLU had already got AMIA authority to disregard it.

LOs will NOT become a problem until ICGs start indulging in mob warfare, and then their value is probably very small as the comd will always go himself rather than trust an LO.

e) Each bn MUST have TWO jeeps : one for CO and one as S.B. dual purpose jeep.

f) If assault pnr secs are to function as assault pnrs, each sec must have a vehicle which can carry the secs eqpt and explosives, half the time across country. A White half track is the vehicle required.

g) Ref Annx "A" to Appx "A" to a/m letter.

(i) 2 inch mortarmen.
It is considered unnecessary to have Cpl and 3 men for each pl 2 inch mortar. A total of 3 is quite adequate either Cpl or L/Cpl and 2 men and this is the number allowed for in pl org shown on page 3.

(ii) Signallers.

65

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. 78520

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d) In the experience of this ICC, LOs have NOT been used. In fact, it is considered that a junior ITALIAN Offr would be entrusted with no more intricate mission than that normally carried out by a DR.
The offrs from the former scouts pl in practice disappeared to a variety of jobs long ago. The scouts pl in fact existed only on paper, as by the time the ITALIANS asked this BLU what they were supposed to do with a scouts pl, this BLU had already got MMIA authority to disregard it.

LOs will NOT become a problem until ICCs start indulging in mob warfare, and then their value is probably very small as the comd will always go himself rather than trust an LO.

e) Each bn MUST have TWO jeeps : one for CO and one as S.B. dual purpose jeep.

f) If assault pnr secs are to function as assault purs, each sec must have a vehicle which can carry the secs eqpt and explosives, half the time across country. A White half track is the vehicle required.

g) Ref Annx "A" to Appx "A" to a/m letter.

(i) 2 inch mortarmen.
It is considered unnecessary to have Cpl and 3 men for each pl 2 inch mortar. A total of 5 is quite adequate either Cpl or L/Cpl and 2 men and this is the number allowed for in pl org shown on page 3.

(ii) Signallers.
1 Sgt, 2 Cpls, 2 Ptes per rifle coy is far too many. They are only "flag wagging" or "visual" signallers and it is doubtful if they are ever employed in that capacity. All sigs should be properly trained and part of Bn Sigs pl and sub-allotted to coys as in British practice.

...../2

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(iii) Tpt.
A comment on cars 4 str 4 x 2 and 2 str 4 x 2 is that here and throughout the ICG, they as often as NOT do NOT exist.

In few cases they have been substituted by jeeps which, of course, are better, or more often by 15-cwts GS, which do NOT do the same job at all.

(iv) HMGs.
The ICG has proposed the establishment of MMG pls. It is realised that this is NOT on, but it is suggested that if MMGs are available two secs of the carrier pl could each be allotted two MMGs on the same principle as British inf bns did when they too were denied the right of having MMGs.

That the MMG is extraordinarily useful if NOT indisponsible in def warfare can scarcely be disputed.

2. Ref Appx "B" to a/m letter.

(a) Proposal 1.
Agreed. In fact he has one and could NOT work satisfactorily without.

(b) Proposal 2(a) is supported wholeheartedly as is 2(b). From Dec 44 onwards this BLU had a largely changing population of from 25 to 40 offrs and anything up to 250 ORs with all the consequent adm problems. Proposal 2(c) was submitted to HQ 1 DIST in Jan but NOT considered because the requisite 3 or 4 months had NOT elapsed since the previous audit. In order to assist him to carry out his duties this BLU's MT Cpl has been wearing the badges of Sjt for some months : rank is ALL important in the Italian Army and this NCO has to deal with a variety of caporalle, caporalle maggiore, sergente maggiore etc.

(c) Proposal 3.
Not considered necessary on the grounds put up i.e., as a S.D. Jeep. On the other hand the one m/c allotted to carry the Lt RAMC, the G.III(I) and all his accessories (AFHQ MEC dated 1 Jan 45) is considered to be a somewhat overloaded machine.

(d) Proposal 4.
Batman for G.III(I) and Lt RAMC agreed to.
A total of three general dutymen already on establishment is quite adequate.
A clerk is NOT required. The Officer i/c Italian Incr has about two hrs work per day and an Italian clerk is quite unnecessary apart from also being probably useless.

3. Ref Appx "C" and "D" to a/m letter.

(a) The whole of this was proposed by this BLU.

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A clerk is NOT required. The Officer i/c Italian Incr has about two hrs work per day and an Italian clerk is quite unnecessary apart from also being probably useless.

3. Ref Appx "C" and "D" to a/m letter.

(a) The whole of this was proposed by this BLU.

(b) An error in figures has arisen. Proposal 2 to Appx "C" should read "Add 8 dvrs RDI' NOT "Add 5 dvrs RDI'.

(c) There is no objection to the deletion of Proposal 2 to Appx "D".

(d) The other proposals are still strongly recommended.

...../3

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4. Ref Appx "E" to a/m letter.

There can be no comment as far as this proposal is concerned. But it is considered that there should also be one 3B jeep per inf bn in addition (see para A1(e) of this letter).

5. Ref Appx "F" to a/m letter.

No comment.

6. Ref Appx "G" to a/m letter.

Vehs quoted are used as follows:-

One car 5 cwt 4 x 4.	O.C. Sigs/ Coy.
-do-	Res veh used where most needed and for line laying.
-do-	Each inf regt pl.
-do-	Arty Regt pl.
-do-	ICG HQ pl.
One White Scout Car.	Used by C.O. Arty Regt for Comds Recce. Should be one each for C.O. Arty Regt and Comds Inf Regts.

7. Ref Appx "H" to a/m letter.

Agreed, but it is considered that, because of shortage of cars 5 cwt 4 x 4 an ICG (i.e. Div) HTO could manage with car 2 str and the 5 cwt 4 x 4 so released allotted where more operationally needed viz. arty or inf regts.

8. Ref Main EIGHTH ARMY letter M 680 SD2 dated 15 Mar 45.

These were originally proposed by this BLU.

9. Ref Main EIGHTH ARMY letter M 361/2 I(b) dated 17 Mar 45 and Main EIGHTH ARMY letter M 680 SD2 dated 18 Mar 45.
As proposals for FSS (or SSM) for ICG as well as that for CCRR are well in hand with EIGHTH ARMY this BLU does NOT propose to put fwd any further suggestions on either.
If proposals which have been the subject of discussion between a variety of HQ for some months are accepted, it is considered that adequate SSM and CCRR will result.
The need for a DAHM or equivalent at ICG HQ is stressed.

D. Proposed new WE or amendments to existing ones.

1 (a) Att at Appx "A" are proposed amendments to NA/508/1, a BRITISH LIAISON UNIT.

67

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6. Ref Appx "G" to c/m letter.

Vehs quoted are used as follows:-

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The need for a DADM or equivalent at ICG HQ is stressed.

10. Proposed new WE or amendments to existing ones.

67

1 (a) Att at Appx "A" are proposed amendments to NA/508/1, a BRITISH LIAISON UNIT.

(b) It is emphasised that the original WE was intended for a unit which bore no relation to the one which in fact has existed for the past four months.

..../4

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(c) With ref to Rear Link Sigs WE., it is pointed out that the BLU rear link sigs is the ONLY channel of comn between the ICG and flank fmns or rear.

The original establishment allowed for wireless comns but seems to have ignored the fact that the main form of comn from a Div to flanks or rear is by line or DR.

At present this British rear link has to borrow IT LIAN DRs to send DRLS or ELS to the various Allied fmns with which it is in contact. The volume of rear link traffic is presumably much the same as if any other Allied fmn were fulfilling the role at present given to this ICG.

(d) In considering tpt for BLU, it is pointed out that offrs of the BLU have such widely different functions that sharing of tpt is on almost all occasions bound to lead to considerable reduction in efficiency and potentiality of these offrs.

(e) Proposals for additional ordnance personnel to BLU have been submitted by DOS AFHQ in DOS/743 of 20 Feb 45. In view of this, this BLU has no further proposals to make.

(f) REME Trg Incr is proposed as vehicle maintenance in this ICG has been almost too bad to be believed due largely to complete ignorance on the part of Italians of American and British eqpts and also to complete disregard of maintenance of any kind in the Italian Army. The ranks of the proposed REME Incr are relatively high because these ORs will have to deal with Sergente Maggiori and Mareschi lli of the It lian Army and in an organisation where "face" counts for as much a high ranking Italian OR would be more likely to listen in front of his own juniors to advice from a reasonably high ranking British OR.

2. <u>Proposal</u> for Amendments to WE of HQ., ICG.

The proposals amount to:

(a) Subdivision of the HQ into

Sec 1	Ops.	)	Instead of being confined to one section.
Sec 2	I	)	
Sec 3	Services	)	
Sec 4	A	-	The present personnel sec.
Sec 5	Welfare	-	A new sec. This is an IT.LIAN proposal but it is NOT seen why this should NOT come under A.

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DRs to send DRLS or ELS to the various Allied fms with which it is in contact. The volume of rear link traffic is presumably much the same as if any other Allied fmn were fulfilling the role at present given to this ICG.

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In addition there remains the Medical Sec and the Commissariat. This latter sec mixes indiscriminately (to our ideas!) Ord and what we call S & T Supplies and stores. This may be sound ITALIAN practice but in working under BRITISH fmns causes some difficulties. No proposals for alteration are made as it is considered that this is a question which can only be discussed at a high level and can be worked out by Heads of Services if considered desirable.

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(b) Addition of 2 i/c of ICG. A Brig Gen has been with this ICG as 2 i/c for 5 months, but as yet there is no WE. This involves an additional ADC., two batmen and one vehicle.

(c) Addition of offrs to the HQ Staff.
The ITALIANS proposed a total of 6 Junior offrs viz:

(i)	Ops Sec	add 1.
(ii)	I Sec	add 2.
(iii)	Services	add 1.
(iv)	Welfare Sec	add 1.
(v)	QG (equiv of Camp	add 1.

At present surplus offrs are carried to almost ALL WE., and without particularising, there is a general impression of superfluity of offrs.

As to the above : it is considered none of these would be required if a better staff system was introduced and if a higher standard of staff knowledge existed. But, circumstances being what they are, the following comments are put forward:

(i) Add 1 offrs to Ops Sec.) With the present
(ii) Add 1 offr to I Sec.) cumbersome system offrs
(iii) Add 1 offrs to Services Sec.) do work very long hrs.

The other offr suggested by the ITALIANS for the "I" Sec was an Air Interpretation offr. This has NOT been fwded as this is at present done by a BRITISH MAIU(WEST) very satisfactorily and the introduction of an ITALIAN MAIU would involve trg of offrs, addition of equipment, many translations, difficulties of dealing with higher fmns etc - all of which would take many months to put right.

(iv) The addition of one offr to the WELFARE Sec is NOT recommended as the existing WE is a new one and the one offr in it (a Lt Col) is considered sufficient.

(v) Addition of one offr to the QG is NOT recommended as there already exists one offr (the equivalent of CAMP at a BRITISH DIV HQ., which is bigger) plus one subaltern offr.

(d) The addition of an ICG Def Pl.

A rifle pl has been suggested, purely on the grounds of def of ICG HQ. Up to date it cannot be said that any need for this has occurred. On the other hand a BRITISH DIV has a Def Pl!

(e) Proposals are summarised at Appx "B".

3. Proposal for addition of a ICG Rft Bn.

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(e) Proposals are summarised at Appx "B".

3. Proposal for addition of a ICG Rft Bn.

This has been made by the ITALIANS. It is NOT thought that it would be considered by higher authy, but the reasons behind this proposal are probably:-

(a) The existing feeling that a sudden demand for hy rfts by this ICG would NOT be met sufficiently quickly.

(b) The certain feeling that they would be inadequately trained.

(c) The undoubted fact that rfts as at present provided are NOT fit to go into the line.

(d) General dissatisfaction with the existing order.

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NOTE: These are NOT necessarily the views of the BLU., but there is a certain amount of justification for all the above

It is felt that the existing rft depot should be held as far fwd as possible and that each ICG should have its own coy/s or bn/s at this depot. Then each ICG would at least know what it was getting and could well be party responsible for what it got, by having some of its own offrs at the Rft Depot.

4. CCRR and FSS Sec.

The need for either amendment or creation of above WE is felt as keenly as in other ICG.

No proposals are made as this matter is already satisfactorily in hand with EIGHTH ARMY.

5. Proposals for amendment to WE of an Inf Regt.

(a) The warning to this ICG that this is an opportunity to put right existing faults and omissions in WE., NOT involving major additions of personnel or eqpt has not been heeded, and there has been a general tendency to "howl for the moon". Where feasible this tendency has been kept within limits OR the proposal has NOT been put up. However, so that Higher Authy may know the views of ICGs., certain of their larger requests are referred to in this letter. At all times where the arms and eqpt of an ICG suffer by comparison with WE and/or G 1098 of a British fmn, the war cry is "But the POLES have MMGs" or "The GHURKAS have 4.2" Ms" etc. As ICGs are holding sectors taken over from other Allied fmns., this is a difficult one to put over to the ICG Comd and Staff - satisfactory to their point of view.

Such proposals as those referred to above are:-

(i) "Subst all 3" Mortars by 4.2" M." This is NOT considered seriously, but ICGs have NO 4.2" Mortars.

(ii) "Add MMG pl to each Sp Coy of the Inf Bn" Again this is NOT put fwd as a proposal, but the possibility of a BRITISH MMG Coy in sp., or the authy to hold MMGs in the ITALIAN Inf Bn to be carried and fired by, say, two secs of the existing carrier pl are suggestions for consideration.

(b) HQ., Inf Regt. NA/526/1.

(i) Add one offr for Welfare.
Welfare in the ITALIAN Army would appear to be something of a novelty and as such the creation of Welfare offrs tends to be fashionable. It also lends itself to unlimited possibilities. A welfare officer at Regt HQ., should NOT be necessary. On the other hand, if one is NOT specially appointed, it is doubtful if any welfare on a Regt level will be done.

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No proposals are made as this matter is already satisfactorily in hand with EIGHTH ARMY.

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(ii) Reduction in number of m/cs at Regt HQ by 3.

(iii) Regt Mortar Coy.

Addition of total of eight ops W/T to man additional sets op necessary in mortar coy.

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Regt Mortar Coy consists of HQ and two pls each of 4 mortars. The WE allows six operators i.e. three sets. In fact seven sets are essential operationally : one coy HQ ; one each pl HQ ; one OP each pl; res of two OPs.

(c) Inf Dn. NA/527/1.
Para A.1 of this letter covers main suggestions.

6. Proposals for amendments to WE of an Arty Regt. NA/525/1

(a) There is a general request on the part of the ITALIANS for additional HQ offr personnel. SCRA, who lives with the Arty Regt, states categorically that there are already too many offrs in the various HQs. Therefore no recommendations are made.

(b) The proposal for a Counter Mortar Org is strongly supported and one has in fact been improvised in this ICG.

The proposal by Arty Regt of this ICG is given at Appx "D". This proposal is considered extravagant, but if read in conjunction with HQ RA 10 Corps letter RA/157/A dated 25 Mar 45 and addressed to RA Main EIGHTH ARMY, the correct balance should be arrived at.

7. Proposal for amendment to WE of Eng Bn.

(a) Fd Coy NA/529/2.

Add 2 x 3-ton 4 x 4. This is a long standing request, as it is all that is required to make the Fd Coy completely mobile.

(b) Sigs Coy NA/530/1

Ø (i) Upgrading of OC Sigs Coy from Capt to Major.

(a) In the ITALIAN ARMY where rank counts for so much, this officer has difficulty in dealing with the more senior offrs : this is often so in relation to irregular requests or even orders by comparatively senior offrs to the unfortunate capt. who controls so much useful and valuable eqpt, especially batteries which can work lighting sets, torches, etc etc.

(b) It would be preferable if this offr was held on the HQ strength of the Eng Bn, but lived at ICG HQ to act in fact as OC ICG Sigs - as in fact present OC Sigs does.

There is NO major objection to his being held as a major on the strength of the Sigs Coy.

(ii) The existing WE is so tight that the absence of even a few

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The proposal by Arty Regt of this ICG is given at Appx "D". This proposal is considered extravagant, but if read in conjunction with HQ RA 10 Corps letter RA/157/A dated 23 Mar 45 and addressed to RA Main EIGHTH ARMY, the correct balance should be arrived at.

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There is NO major objection to his being held as a major on the strength of the Sigs Coy.

6

(ii) The existing WE is so tight that the absence of even a few personnel is serious. It is recommended that a res of 5% personnel be held at all times by Sigs Coy : these personnel could be trained and provide res of trained sigs in place of untrained personnel now being sent from Rft Depot.

Ø This offr is shown on British version of WE as a major. The ITALIAN version is NOT always the same. In this ICG OC Sigs Coy is a Capt.

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8. Proposal for amendment to a Medical Sec NA/535/1.

To add 10 sanitary personnel to the existing WE of 16.

Anyone with experience of ITALIAN fmns cannot dispute this one.

9. Proposals for amendments to an ICG Wksps. NA/538/1.

(a) The extraordinary amount of work thrown on an ICG Wksps - every vehicle in this ICG has been through the ICG Wksps on an average three times since Oct 44 - necessitates most of the following proposals. In some cases the original WE was NOT sound.

(b) Proposals are detailed at Appx "F".

10. The WE, the actual holding, and proposed WE., of cars 5 cwt 4 x 4 is shown at Appx "G".

This is given separately and NOT included in each detailed proposed WE as it is considered it will be easier to add the detail to the requisite WE when the basic distribution has been added.

A.A. Boutflour

Lt. Col.,
GS.

FTKB/EHS.

Copy to:- MGIA (2)
51 BLU
52 "
53 "
54 "
56 "
G
RA
Q
Circular copy RE ; Sigs ; DADST ; DADOS ; REME ; Camp.
War Diary (2)
Spare (2)
Filo.

6

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section J-402/NNDG NO. 765020

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Lt. Col.,
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Copy to:- MMIA (2)
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RA
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Circular copy RE ; Sigs ; DADST ; DADOS ; REME ; Camp.
War Diary (2)
Spare (2)
File.

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Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. 18502D

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. T85020

Appx "A" to
G/5/17 dated

PROPOSAL FOR AMENDMENT TO WE OF 50 BLU.

Ser No.	WE No	Increase in (a) Personnel (b) Vehicles.	Remarks	REASONS FOR INC
1	NA/508/1	-	Upgrading of Comp to rank of Capt.	Reasons already giv
2	"	-	Upgrading of EME from capt to major	This offr has undou worked on "Q" Staff ITALIAN inexperienc Mech Engr org and n fact been CREME, OC BLU all at the same to be no logic in t the other services
3	"	1 Sgt Adm	To be upgraded from Sgt to CQMS	Although WE BLU is numbers of att. R 200-300. This BLU of existing adm sg a qualified CQMS wi the responsibility CQMS
4.	"	1 Adm NCO	Rank of Cpl (or sgt).	Although WE BLU is large numbers of a varies from 200-30 is very nearly a f CQMS could not pos
5.	"	1 Storeman		This unit holds as rifle coy, and wit division existing, essential.

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NND NO. 785020

Appx "A" to 50 BLU letter
G/5/17 dated 24 Mar 45.

PROPOSAL FOR AMENDMENT TO WE OF 50 BLU.

	Increase in (a) Personnel (b) Vehicles.	Remarks	REASONS FOR INCREASE.
508/1	-	Upgrading of Comy to rank of Capt.	Reasons already given.
"	-	Upgrading of EME from capt to major	This offr has undoubtedly been the hardest worked on "Q" Staff of the BLU. Because of ITALIAN inexperience and inaptitude for Mech Engr org and maint, this offr. has in fact been CREME, OC Wksps, and a member of BLU all at the same time. There would appear to be no logic in this offr being a capt when the other services heads in a BLU are majors.
"	1 Sgt Adm	Title upgraded from Sgt to CQMS	Although WE BLU is 52, there are always large numbers of att. Ration strength varies from 200-300. This BLU needs the substitution of existing adm sgt of doubtful value by a qualified CQMS who will have at least the responsibility of a normal riflo coy CQMS
"	1 Adm NCO	Rank of Cpl (or sgt).	Although WE BLU is 52, there are always large numbers of att. Ration strength varies from 200-300. Break down of rations is very nearly a full time job and proposed CQMS could not possibly cope.
"	1 Storeman		This unit holds as much eqpt as a normal rifle coy, and with the intricate sub-division existing, a storeman is absolutely essential.

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No	WE No	Increase in (a) Personnel (b) Vehicles.	Remarks.	Reasons for Incr
6.	NA/508/1	1 Subaltern IO 1 Clerk 1 Draughtsman.	Category A	The necessity of having a s Intelligence and Records. have been already agreed in EIGHTH ARMY is providing on
7.	"	1 Dvr Mech	"	MT Cpl has an average of 30 mainly ITALIAN dvrs (who are maint) and cannot possibly himself.
8.	"	2 Ops W/L	"	For Signal Office duties.
9.	"	1 Cpl Operator W/L 1 Sigmn " W/L 1 Dvr " W/L	"	CCRA Link. This has been n Sets and ops have so far be RA link was not visualised i
10	"	2 Despatch Riders.	"	No DR's on Est. Brit pers working Brit fmns and units
11.	"	1 Cpl Lineman (Field) 2 Sigmn " " 1 Dvr IC	"	No linemen on WE. Necessa fmns and to units under cond trunks and locals.
12.		1 Orderly	Category B.	For local deliveries and sig
13.	"	Arms Art (Veh) WO II		To liaise with Italian WO an wksp&Office organisation, ro interpret difficulties which
		Arm Art (Fd and M.) S/Sgt.		To work in close conjunction train and advise Italian Ser and Allied Trades, To push interpretation of modificati

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se in (a) Personnel (b) Vehicles.	Remarks.	Reasons for Increase.
Subaltern IO Clerk Draughtsman.	Category A	The necessity of having a section to deal with Eng Intelligence and Records. The draughtsman and clerk have been already agreed in principle and CE MAIN EIGHTH ARMY is providing on loan if available in pool.
Dvr Mech	"	MT Cpl has an average of 30 plus vehs to see to with mainly ITALIAN dvrs (who are notoriously bad at maint) and cannot possibly supervise all these himself.
Ops W/L	"	For Signal Office duties. Present WE unsound.
Cpl Operator W/L Sigmn " W/L Dvr " W/L	"	CCRA Link. This has been necessary in every case. Sets and ops have so far been borrowed. A separate RA link was not visualised in original WE.
Despatch Riders.	"	No DR's on Est. Brit personnel essential for working Brit fmns and units under cond.
Cpl Lineman (Field) Sigmn " " Dvr IC	"	No linemen on WE. Necessary for laterals to Brit fmns and to units under cond. Also for testing trunks and locals.
Orderly	Category B.	For local deliveries and sign office work.
ns Art (Veh) WO II		To liaise with Italian WO and train and advise in wksps Office organisation, repairs, and to generally interpret difficulties which constantly arise.
n Art (Fd and AA) S/Sgt.		To work in close conjunction with Br WO and together train and advise Italian Senior NCOs in Vehs, Armament and Allied Trades. To push progress and correct interpretation of modifications etc.

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Ref	WE No	Increase in (a) Personnel. (b) Vehicles.	Remarks.	Reasons
13(ctd)	H/503/1.	1 Sgt Armourer.		To train all Armourer inspections, methods, required.
		5 Sgt Veh Mechs.		Each to be responsibl assist in technical p stores, and to keep a of Unit transport for
		1 Sgt Storeman.		Training Wksp Store S run the Section, part contact with Br Depot
		1 Cpl Instrument Mech		To train Inst Sec - s in modification inter
		1 Cpl Electrician (V&P)		To train electricians and to explain and ad
		1 Cpl Telecom Mech (Fd)		Training Telecom Sec as well as to interpr
		1 Cpl Clerk (Tech)		To cope with increasi incumbent upon SC REM direction is not avai
		1 Pte Cook (ACC)		It is essential for cook in view of thei Wksps.
The above 12 WOs/NCOs NOT necessarily of ranks quoted have already been loaned to this BLU.				
14.	"	Vehicles.		
		1 car 5 cwt 4 x 4	For RE subaltern.	
		2 MCs	For DRs	
		1 Car 5 cwt 4x4 and trailer	For Line Det	
		1 15-cwt Wireless House	For RA rear link.	At all times on ops Brit arty regts in s
		1 8 cwt	For G III(I)	The one H/C allotted
		1 car 2 str 4 x 2	For Lieut RAMC.	be considered seriou
		1 car 5 cwt 4 x 4	SC REME	Already put up, and
		1 truck 15-cwt GS	REME Incr	For carriage of kit.
		3 H/Cs	" "	For Veh Mech Sgts tr

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55

Increase in (a) Personnel. (b) Vehicles.	Remarks.	Reasons for Increase.
1 Sgt Armourer.		To train all Armourers in the Div, supervise inspections, methods, and modificiations as required.
5 Sgt Veh Mechs.		Each to be responsible for two of the six LADs and assist in technical problems, identification of stores, and to keep a constant reliable picture of Unit transport for SC REME and higher authy.
1 Sgt Storeman.		Training Wksp Store Section. This NCO would virtu run the Section, particularly in view of the essen contact with Br Depots and Br Offr I/C OFPs.
1 Cpl Instrument Mech		To train Inst Sec - supervise inspections and assi in modification interpretations.
1 Cpl Electrician (V&P)		To train electricians in peculiarities of BR eqpt and to explain and advise on all technical points.
1 Cpl Telecom Mech (Fd)		Training Telecom Sec and supervise inspections, as well as to interpret increasing Mod instrs.
1 Cpl Clerk (Tech)		To cope with increasing clerical staff duties incumbent upon SC REME, as assistance in this direction is not available at BLU.
1 Pte Cook (ACC)		It is essential for REME Incr to have qualified cook in view of their necessary attachment to Wksps.

T necessarily of ranks quoted have already been loaned to this BLU.

Vehicles.		
1 car 5 cwt 4 x 4	For RE subaltern.	
2 M/Cs	For DRs	
1 Car 5 cwt 4x4 and trailer	For Line Det	
1 15-cwt Wireless House	For RA rear link.	At all times on ops this ICG has had one or more Brit arty regts in sp and RA rear link is essenti
1 8 cwt	For G III(I)	The one H/C allotted by AFHQ WEC of 1 Jan 45 cann
1 car 2 str 4 x 2	For Lieut RAMC.	be considered seriously for these two offrs.
1 car 5 cwt 4 x 4	SC REME	Already put up, and approved by AFHQ on loan basi
1 truck 15-cwt GS	REME Incr	For carriage of kit.
3 M/Cs	" "	For Veh Mech Sgts travelling to LADs.

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PROPOSALS FOR AMENDMENTS TO WE OF AN ICG HQ

Serial No	WE No	Increase or decrease Personnel and Vehs	Remarks	Reasons
1	NA/523/1	ADD 2 offrs 2 ORs 1 veh	2 IC ICG and ADC Batmen	Purely ITALIAN one of 2IC ICG
2	"	ADD 3 junior offrs 3 batmen 1 veh	One each for Ops, I and services	Considered necessary a ITALIAN Staff system t to ove work offrs on e WE. In fact offrs s WE are held.
3.	"	ADD 1 ICG Def Pl 1 offr 4 NCOs 37 ORs 2 x 15-cwt	Weapons 4 LMG)plus normal 1 2"M)rifles and 1 PIAT)proportion TMCs	Normal WE for def of D
4.	"	ADD 4 ORs	Shorthand typists	Volume of paperwork is great, and made greate existence of EDU. Th NOT have been taken in ACCOUNT in original WE

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SECRET

Appx B to 50 BLU letter G/5/17 dated 24 Mar 45

PROPOSALS FOR AMENDMENTS TO WE OF A' ICG HQ

Increase or decrease Personnel and Vehs	Remarks	Reasons
HQ		
2 offrs 2 ORs 1 veh	2 IC ICG and ADC Batmen	Purely IT/ALLIED one of having 2IC ICG
HQ		
6 junior offrs 3 batmen 1 veh	One each for Ops, I and services	Considered necessary as present IT/ALLIED Staff system would tend to ove work offrs on existing WE. In fact offrs surplus to WE are held.
HQ		
1 ICG Def Pl 1 offr 4 NCOs 57 ORs 2 x 15-cwt	Weapons 4 LMG } plus normal 1 2" M } rifles and 1 PIAT } proportion TMCs	Normal WE for def of Div HQ
HQ		
4 ORs	Shorthand typists	Volume of paperwork is very great, and made greater by existence of BLU. This may NOT have been taken into ACCOUNT in original WE

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PROPOSAL FOR AMENDMENT TO WE OF AN INF REGT NA/526/1.

Ser No.	WE No	Increase in (a) Personnel. (b) Vehicle.	Remarks.	Reasons
1.	NA/526/1	8 Ops W/T.	4 Cpls. 4 Ptes.	To man
2.	"	DELETE. 3 m/cs.		NOT req

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDG NO. 785020

Appx "C" to 50 BIU letter
G/5/17 dated 24 March 45.

PROPOSAL FOR AMENDMENT TO WE OF AN INF REGT NA/526/1.

ase in (a) Personnel. (b) Vehicle.	Remarks.	Reasons for Increase.
Ops W/T.	4 Cpls. 4 Ptes.	To man additional sets op essential.
LETE. m/cs.		NOT required.

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. 785020

PROPOSAL FOR AMENDMENT TO WE of an ARTY REGT

Serial No	WE No	Increase or Decrease personnel and vehs.	Remarks incl, upgrading or downgrading : personnel or vehs obtained by conversion or reduation existing units : any personnel who may be Med Cat "B"	Reason statin propos
1	NA/525/1	Increase : 7 Offrs 11 NCOs 59 ORs 8 Carriers CP 3 Jeeps 1 x 15-cwt 3 x 3-tons		It is operat to have a CM that of a Bri per Inf Regt HQs and CMO See att sched This was not original WE for IGG

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Appx D to 5C BLU letter
G/5/17 dated 24 Mar 45

PROPOSAL FOR AMENDMENT TO WE of an ARTY REGT

Increase or Decrease personnel and vehs.	Remarks incl, upgrading or downgrading : personnel or vehs obtained by conversion or reduation existing units : any personnel who may be Med Cat "B"	Reasons for proposal stating what necessitates proposed change
ncrease : 7 Offrs 1 NCOs 9 ORs		It is operationally necessary to have a CM Org equivalent to that of a Brit Div with 4 OPs per Inf Regt A CMOs at Inf Regt HQs and CMO at Div.
3 Carriers OP 3 Jeeps 1 x 15-cwt 3 x 3-tons		See att schedule This was not allowed for in original WE of Arty Regt for ICC

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SCHEDULE - FORMATION OF WE FOR COUTTER - MORTAR

Appx G/5

	OPs (3)	ACMO Org at Inf Regt HQ (2)	CMO Div HQ (1)	
Officers	-	2	3	
NCOs	1	1	1	
Specialists (incl Wireless Ops).	3	6	8	
Drivers	1	2	3	
				7 6
Vehs				
Carriers OP	1	-	-	
Jeeps	½	1	1	
15-cwt fitted for wireless	-	-	1	
3-tonners	-	1	1	
22 Sets	1	2	1	
Telephones	-	3	3	
Protractors RA 6"	1	2	2	
9"	1	2	2	
Arty Boards and Stands	-	1	2	
Compasses Prismatic	2	-	-	

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SCHEDULE - FORMATION OF WE FOR COUNTER - MORTAR

Annx D to 50 BLU letter
G/5/17 dated 24 Mar 45

	OPs (3)	ACLO Org at Inf Regt HQ (2)	CMO Div HQ (1)	TOTAL
	-	2	3	7
	1	1	1	11
Wireless Ops).	3	6	8	44
	1	2	3	15
				7 Offrs - 70 ORs
	1	-	-	8
	1	1	1	3
Wireless	-	-	1	1
	-	1	1	3
				15
	1	2	1	12
	-	3	3	13
	1	2	2	9
	1	2	2	14
Hands	-	1	2	14
o	2	-	-	4
				16

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. 785020

Appx E to 5
G/5/17 dat

PROPOSAL FOR AMENDMENT TO WE - ENGR BN FRIULI ICG

Serial No	WE No	Increase in personnel and vehicles	Remarks	Reasons for proposa
1	NA/528/1	On Eng Bn HQ ADD - 1 HCO clerk	At present borrowed from Sigs Coy.	The sigs coy has at last separated (in fact, if n from Eng Bn and the Sigs Bn HQ staff has his offi The Bn HQ cannot spare a the Sigs Offr has to do frequencies, signal inst signs etc, which is more time job for one clerk a very responsible one.
2	NA/529/2	ADD to HQ Fd Coy 2 x 3-ton 4x4		To enable WE tpt to carr special eqpt in HQ and S
3	NA/530/1	Sigs Coy For Coy HQ Section Personnel 1 sjt storeman 1 sgun " 1 cpl " 1 sgun " 1 sgun clerk 1 Barber 1 Tailor 2 dvrs IC		To look after technical e collection and distributi controlled stores. No n For Sigs Coy clothing st held on G1098/1000 1 sjt and 1 cpl clerk on not sufficient CC Coy has specially requ since they are part of n org (one at least would h For additional 3-tonner tech and controlled store CCs jeep

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Appx E to 50 ELU letter
G/5/17 dated 24 Mar 45

PROPOSAL FOR AMENDMENT TO WE - ENGR BN FRIULI ICG

Increase in personnel and vehicles	Remarks	Reasons for proposed increases
On Eng Bn HQ		
ADD - 1 HCC clerk	At present borrowed from Sigs Coy.	The sigs coy has at last been separated (in fact, if not on paper from Eng Bn and the Sigs Offr on Bn HQ staff has his office at Gp HQ. The Bn HQ cannot spare any clerks and the Sigs Offr has to do all codes, frequencies, signal instrs, code signs etc, which is more than a full time job for one clerk and also a very responsible one.
ADD to HQ Fd Coy 2 x 3-ton 4x4		To enable WE tpt to carry normal and special eqpt in HQ and Stores pl.
Sigs Coy		
For Coy HQ Section Personnel		
1 sjt storeman 1 sgmn "		To look after technical eqpt and collection and distribution of Sigs controlled stores. No provision on WE.
1 cpl " 1 sgmn "		For Sigs Coy clothing store and stores held on G1098/1000
1 sgmn clerk		1 sjt and 1 cpl clerk on present WE not sufficient
1 Barber 1 Tailor		OC Coy has specially requested these, since they are part of normal ITALIAN org (one at least would be fully empl)
2 dvrs IC		For additional 3-tonner requested for tech and controlled stores res and for OCs jeep

...../4

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Serial No	WE No	Increase in personnel and vehicles	Remarks	Reasons for
4	RA/530/1	Vehicles 1 x 3-ton GS		For tech and controlled sto This is an essential servic have actually asked for 3 x
		1 x car 5-cwt 4x4		For CCs recce purposes. C obtained release on retenti
5		For Gp HQ Pl Personnel 1 sub		One offr in pl not sufficie frequently with Cond at Tac etc, leaving no one to supe Sigs Office. It must be k
		2 RIS clerks		IT ALLY NCOs cannot be give of Brit NCOs There is no provision on Wh no fmn can function properl
		1 cpl swbd op 2 sgmn " "		Pl has at present 4 swbds a 4 sgmn to man them.
		1 dvr IC		for car 5-cwt 4x4 requested
6		Vehicles 2 x cars 5-cwt 4x4. 1 x jeep trailer	Hand in 1 IC " " 1 x 15-cwt GS	For Pl Cond recce, line log CSO Army has obtained relea these vehs, but NOT trailer

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Appx "E" Sheet 2.

	Increase in personnel and vehicles	Remarks	Reasons for proposed increases
hicles			
x 3-ton GS			For tech and controlled stores rcs for Gp. This is an essential service and Sigs Coy have actually asked for 3 x 3-ton GS
x car 5-cwt 4x4			For OCs recce purposes. CSO Army has obtained release on retention certificate.
r Gp HQ Pl Personnel			
sub			One offr in pl not sufficient. OC is frequently with Cmd at Tac HQ, making recces etc, leaving no one to supervise at Main HQ Sigs Office. It must be borne in mind that ITALIAN NCOs cannot be given responsibilities of Brit NCOs
ELS clerks			There is no provision on WE for ELS duties, and no firm can function properly without
col subd op sgt " "			Pl has at present 4 subds and only one NCO and 4 sgts to man them.
dvr IC			for car 5-cwt 4x4 requested for OC
hicles			
x cars 5-cwt 4x4 x jeep trailer	Hand in 1 IC " " 1 x 15-cwt GS		For Pl Cmd recce, line laying and SDR work. CSO Army has obtained release from C(SD) for these vehs, but NOT trailer.

...../7.

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Serial No	WE No	Increase in personnel and vehicles	Remarks	Reasons for prope
7	WA/530/1	For Inf Regt Pls(2)		
		Personnel		
		1 sub		One offr in pl not sufficie
		1 cpl snbd op 1 sgnn " "		There are 3 snbd ops on pr regt is manning 3 separate
		1 dvr IC		For car 5-cwt 4x4
8		Vehicles		
		1 Car 5-cwt 4x4	Hand in 1 MC	For OC recce purposes, lin where other vehs and MC no obtained release from C(SD)
9		For Arty Pl		
		1 sub		
		1 cpl snbd op 1 sgnn " "		1 offr per pl not sufficie Present WE 4 snbd ops insuf
		1 dvr IC		
10		Vehicles		For car 5-cwt 4x4
		2 x car 5-cwt 4x4 1 x jeep trailer	Hand in 1 MC " " 1 x 15-cwt GS	For OC recce purposes, line where other vehs no use. release for 1 jeep and CSO

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Appx "E" Sheet 3.

Increase in personnel and vehicles	Remarks	Reasons for proposed increases
For Inf Regt Pls(2)		
Personnel		
1 sub 1 cpl smbd op 1 sgmn " "		One offr in pl not sufficient (see above). There are 3 smbd ops on present WE although one regt is running 3 separate sw centres at present
1 dvr IC		For car 5-cwt 4x4
Vehicles		
1 Car 5-cwt 4x4	Hand in 1 MC	For CC recce purposes, line laying and SDR work, where other vehs and MC no use. CSO Army has obtained release from C(SD)
For Arty Pl		
1 sub 1 cpl smbd op 1 sgmn " "		1 offr per pl not sufficient Present WE 4 smbd ops insufficient
1 dvr IC		For car 5-cwt 4x4
Vehicles		
2 x car 5-cwt 4x4 1 x jeep trailer	Hand in 1 MC " " 1 x 15-cwt GS	For CC recce purposes, line laying and SDR work where other vehs no use. CSO Army has obtained release for 1 jeep and CSO 5 Corps for the other

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PROPOSALS FOR ADDTS TO TECH ETCRS WKSPS

Serial No	WE No	Increase in Personnel and Vehs	Remarks	Re
1.	MA/528/1	ADD - 1 storeman	For Tech Maint Sec	Applicable to ALL. Since of Bde Wksps has dealt wit
2.		2 blacksmiths	For Wksps Sec	RLR
3.		2 instrument mechs	For Wksps Sec	B vehs 272 Carriers 166 MCs 112
4.		20 veh mechs	For Wksps Sec	a) by these wksps b) outside sources
5.		9 gen dutyman	4 for HQ 5 for wksps sec	These figures speak for th
6.		ADD - 5 x 3-ton 4x2 GS		For carriage of increased released from time to time

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PROPOSALS FOR ADDTS TO MECH ENGRS WKSPS

Appx F to 50 BL letter
G/5/17 dated 24 Mar 45

Increase in Personnel and Vehs	Remarks	Reasons
1 storeman	For Tech Maint Sec	Applicable to ALL. Since Sep 44 this equivalent of Bde Wksps has dealt with BLR B vehs 272 Carriers 166 MCs 112 a) by these wksps 2907 b) outside sources 395 These figures speak for themselves For carriage of increased stores scale being released from time to time.
2 blacksmiths	For Wksps Sec	
2 instrument mechs	For Wksps Sec	
9 veh mechs	For Wksps Sec	
5 gen dutymen	4 for HQ 5 for wksps sec	
5 x 3-ton 4x2 GS		

43C

COPY

SUBJECT: WE Italian Gruppi

SECRET

MAIN HQ EIGHTH ARMY CMF
M 13680 SD2

9 Mar 45

CG FIFTH ARMY (for Brit Inf) (3)
5 Corps (3)
10 Corps (3)
13 Corps (3)

Copy to :
AFHQ
CG 15 ARMY GP

1 District
MMIA
50 BLU (2)
51 BLU (2)
52 BLU (2)
53 BLU (2)

Main : G of S : Brig AQ : Col GS :
G(O) : A : FV : RA : E

Rear : Q : MED : OS : EME : PRO : MMIA LO

1. It is considered that sufficient experience has now been obtained to give op justification for proposing amendments to the WE of Italian Gruppi.

2. A number of definite proposals have already been received at this HQ and details are shown in the following appxs:

Appx 'A'	Proposed New WE for Inf Bn
Appx 'B'	Amendments to WE BLU - CM/508/1
Appx 'C'	" " WE Tpt and Sup Coy
Appx 'D'	" " Mech Engr Pl - CM/539/
Appx 'E'	Recommended amendments to Med Sec CM/535/1
Appx 'F'	WE CC RR - CM/524/1 (Pro Rear EIGHTH Army requested to submit recommendations)
Appx 'G'	Additional tpt for Gruppo Sigs
Appx 'H'	Amendment to HQ Italian Combat Gp

3. Addressees are requested to fwd their comments on the amendments which have already been suggested and to propose any further amendments they consider op essential.

4. It is not proposed to put fwd any basic alterations to the present composition of the Gruppi, and proposed amendments should only be put fwd as adjustments to enable the Gruppi to op more effectively on their present org and existing basic scale of eqpt.

5. As already notified in this HQ letter M 13680 SD2 dated 16 Feb

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CG 15 ARMY GP

1 District
MMIA
50 BLU (2)
51 BLU (2)
52 BLU (2)
53 BLU (2)

Main : C of S : Brig AQ : Col GS :
G(O) : A : FV : RA : E

Rear : Q : MED : OS : EME : PRO : MMIA LO

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Appx 'G'	Additional tpt for Gruppo Sigs
Appx 'H'	Amendment to HQ Italian Combat Gp

3. Addressees are requested to fwd their comments on the amendments which have already been suggested and to propose any further amendments they consider op essential.

4. It is not proposed to put fwd any basic alterations to the present composition of the Gruppi, and proposed amendments should only be put fwd as adjustments to enable the Gruppi to op more effectively on their present org and existing basic scale of eqpt.

5. As already notified in this HQ letter M.13680 SD2 dated 16 Feb (not to all addressees) authy has been given to equip Gruppi with up to a maximum holding of 50 x cars 5 cwt 4 x 4, providing the commanding fmn considers such vehs op essential. Except in individual case it is considered improbable that large amdts to incl more cars 5 cwt 4 x 4 in Unit WEs would be considered by Higher authy. When forwarding their replies however addressees are requested to state what units they consider must have additional cars 5 cwt 4 x 4 in lieu of cars 4 x 2 Lt Utility to enable them to op.

...../2

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. 165020

6. It is requested that replies to this letter should reach this HQ by 31 Mar. In view of the fact that the three Gruppi are under command of EIGHTH ARMY, 15 ARMY GP have agreed that proposals from the LECHANO GRUPPO should be submitted through FIFTH ARMY to this HQ for co-ordination.

7. It is anticipated that there will be a divergence of opinion in the recommendations submitted to this HQ. It is proposed therefore to consolidate at this HQ all replies to para 5 above, and fwd them to 15 Army Gp together with the EIGHTH ARMY recommendations in each case. 15 Army Gp have agreed that if necessary they will call a conference to decide any final pts, before submitting firm proposals to AFHQ.

Sgd ?????????

for LT-GEN
GOC
EIGHTH ARMY

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. 165020

COPY

43 D

SECRET

Appx 'A' to M 13680 SD2
Dated 9 Mar 45

PROPOSED NEW WE FOR INF BN ITALIAN GRUPPO

1. While Gruppi were still under comd of SAME a number of proposals to amend WE of the Inf Bn (CL/527/1) were made to MMIA. These proposals were mostly as a result of the abolition of the Scouts Pl. MMIA have now re-written the Inf Bn WE which is shown in its new form at Annx 'A'. It is based on experience in the org and trg period only and may require certain alterations as a result of op experience.

2. The following pts are to be noted in the att WE :-

(a) On the suggestion of all Groups, supported by the Italian Gen Staff, a Bn 2IC (Maj) has been introduced.

(b) Two offrs of the Bn HQ originally unassigned, have been nominated QM and Int Offrs.

(c) The proposals the Bn MOs should be reduced from 2 to 1 (as in the Brit Bn) has not been adopted as it was strongly opposed by the Italians.

(d) No provision is made for LOs at Regt HQ, and they are not incl in the present WE for the Inf Regt. They are found in practice (3 per Regt) from offrs who became surplus on the abolition of the original Scouts pl.

(e) No provision is made for jeeps.

(f) No tpt is allotte to the aslt pnr secs.

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDG NO. 78502

COPY

RESTRICTED
Annx 'A' to Appx 'A' to
M 13680SD2 dated 9 Mar 45

ITALIAN COMBAT GROUP

AN INFANTRY BATTALION

War Establishment

(i) Personnel

	Amdt No	
	Date	
	Offrs	31
	OR	735
	TOTAL	766
	MCs	18
	Vehs	65
	Trailers	1

Detail	HQ COMPANY							SUPPORT COMPANY					RIFLE COY			
	HQ Officers	HQ Platoon	'I' Section (Det to HQ Pl)	Snipers Section	Signals Platoon	Pioneer Platoon	TOTAL HQ Coy	HQ Platoon	3 in Mortar Platoon	Carrier Platoon	A tk Platoon	TOTAL - Support Coy	HQ Platoon	3 Rifle Platoons (each)	TOTAL RIFLE Coy	TOTAL Infantry Bn
Officer Commanding (Lt Col)	1															1
2IC (Major)	1															1
Adjt (Capt or Subaltern)	1															1
Med Offrs (Subalterns)	2															2
Int Offr (Subaltern)	1															1
Quartermaster (Capt or Subaltern)	1															1
Captains		1					1									1
Subalterns		1			1	1	3	1	1	1	1	4	1	1	4	5
TOTAL - Officers	7	2			1	1	4	2	1	1	1	5	2	1	5	19
Warrant Officers		1					1									1
Quartermaster Sjts		1					1									1
Ration Sjts					3		3	1				1				5
Signal Sjts							1						1		1	3
Armourer Sjts							1						1		1	3
MT Sjts		1					1						1		1	3
Sjt Majors or Sjts			1	1		4	6	1	5	2	3	11		2	6	35
TOTAL WOs and Sjts		4	1	1	3	4	13	2	5	2	3	12	3	2	9	52
Corporals		4			9	4	17	9	4	12	4	29	6	5	22	88
Privates																

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC No. 165020

Detail	HQ Officers	HQ COMPANY						SUPPORT COMPANY					RIFLE COY			
		HQ Platoon	'T' Section (att to Snipers Section) HQ Pl		Signals Platoon	Pioneer Platoon	TOTAL HQ Coy	HQ Platoon	3 in Mortar Platoon	Carrier Platoon	A tk Platoon	TOTAL - Support Coy	HQ Platoon	3 Rifle Platoons (each)	TOTAL RIFLE Coy	TOTAL Infantry Bn
Officer Commanding (Lt Col)	1															1
2IC (Major)	1															1
Adjt (Capt or Subaltern)	1															1
Med Offrs (Subalterns)	2															2
Int Offr (Subaltern)	1															1
Quartermaster (Capt or Subaltern)	1															1
Captains		1					1	1	1	1	1	4	1	1	4	9
Subalterns		1			1	1	3	1				1	1	1	1	5
TOTAL - Officers	7	2			1	1	4	2	1	1	1	5	2	1	5	31
Warrant Officers		1					1									1
Quartermaster Sjts		1					1									1
Ration Sjts					2		2	1				1			1	5
Signal Sjts					3		3						1		1	5
Armourer Sjts					1		1						1		1	3
MT Sjts		1					1									1
Sjt Majors or Sjts			1	1		4	6	1	5	2	3	11		2	6	35
TOTAL WOs and Sjts		4	1	1	3	4	13	2	5	2	3	12	3	2	9	52
Copporals		4			9	4	17	9	4	12	4	29	6	5	21	109
Privates		21	8	6	34	23	92	22	27	42	16	107	23	34	125	574
TOTAL Other Ranks		29	9	7	46	31	122	33	36	56	23	148	32	41	155	735
TOTAL An Infantry Battalion	7	31	9	7	47	32	126	35	37	57	27	153	34	42	160	766

/2

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC No. 16502

Distribution of Rank and File by Duties.

Detail	HQ Officers	HQ COMPANY						Support COMPANY					3 RIFLE COYs			
		HQ Platoon	'I' Section) att to	Snipers Section) HQ Pl	Signals Platoon	Pioneer Platoon	TOTAL - HQ Coy	HQ Platoon	3 in Mortar Platoon	Carrier Platoon	A tk Platoon	TOTAL Support Coy	HQ Platoon	3 Rifle Platoons (each)	TOTAL - Rifle Company	TOTAL - Infantry Bn
Ammunition Corporals								1			1	1	1		1	4
Ammunition numbers								2			2	4	3		3	17
Armourer mechanics								2	1		1	4	1		1	7
Blacksmiths						4	4									4
Carpenters -Corporals						2	2									2
Privates						3	3									3
Clerks - Corporals	1						1									1
- Privates	1						1									1
Cooks - Corporals	1						1	1			1	1	1		1	5
- Privates	2						2	3			3	3	3		3	14
Drivers IC	13			5	3	21	3	8	15	6	32	5			5	68
Driver Mechanics	2						2									2
Electricians						1	1									1
General Duty men	2						2	3			3					5
Guns numbers Corporals										4	4					4
Privates										6	6					6
Masons Corporals						2	2									2
Privates						2	2									2
Mechanics						2	2									2
Medical Orderlies																
Corporals	1						1	1			1	1	1		1	5
Privates																
Mortar men (2 in)																
Corporals													1	3	9	9
Privates														3	9	27
Mortar men (3 in)																
Corporals								4			4					4
Privates								8			8					8
Motor-Cyclists				5		5	1	2	2		5	2		2	16	16
Orderlies										1	1	2	1	5	16	
Pay-clerks Corporals	1					1	1				1	1		1	5	5
Pioneers(for asslt sects)					8	8										8
Range Finders								1			1					1
Riflemen MG Nos Cpls									12		12		4	12	48	
									26		26		12	90	310	

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	HQ Officers	HQ Platoon	'I' Section	Snipers Sect	Signals Plat	Pioneer Plat	TOTAL - HQ C	HQ Platoon	3 in Mortar	Carrier Plat	A tk Platoon	TOTAL Suppo	HQ Platoon	3 Rifle Pla	TOTAL - Rif	TOTAL - Inf
Ammunition Corporals								1				1	1		1	4
Ammunition numbers								2			2	8	3		3	17
Armourer mechanics								2		1	1	4	1		1	7
Blacksmiths						4	4									4
Carpenters -Corporals						2	2									2
Privates						3	3									3
Clerks - Corporals		1					1									1
- Privates		1					1									1
Cooks - Corporals		1					1	1				1	1		1	5
- Privates		2					2	3				3	3		3	14
Drivers IC		13			5	3	21	3	8	15	6	32	5		5	68
Driver Mechanics		2					2									2
Electricians						1	1									1
General Duty men		2					2	3				3				5
Guns numbers Corporals											4	4				4
Privates											6	6				6
Masons Corporals						2	2									2
Privates						2	2									2
Mechanics						2	2									2
Medical Orderlies																
Corporals		1					1	1				1	1		1	5
Privates																
Mortar men (2 in)																
Corporals													1	3	4	9
Privates													3	9	12	27
Mortar men (3 in)																
Corporals									4		4	8				4
Privates									8		8	16				8
Motor-Cyclists					5		5	1	2	2	5	7	2	2	4	16
Orderlies										1	1	2	1	5	6	16
Pay-clerks Corporals		1					1	1			1	2	1	1	2	5
Pioneers(for asslt secs)						8	8									8
Range finders									1		1	2				3
Riflemen MG Nos Cpls										12	12	24		4	4	48
Privates			8	6			14		1	25	26	52		30	30	310
Signallers Corporals					1		1						2		2	7
Privates					2		2		2		2	4	2		2	10
Stretcher bearers		1					1	3			3	6	5		5	19
Switch board Ops					7		7									7
Telephonists linesmen					7		7									7
Wireless Ops Corporals					8		8	5			5	10				13
6 Privates					8		8	5			5	10				13
TOTAL RANKD AND FILE		25	8	6	43	27	109	31	31	54	20	136	29	39	146	683

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Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC No. 785020

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(iii) TRANSPORT.

Detail	HQ OFFICERS	H Q COMPANY					SUPPORT COMPANY					3 Rifle COYs (ea)			
		HQ Platoon	'I'Section)att to Snipers Section)HQ PL	SIGNALS PLATOON	Pioneer Platoon	TOTAL HQ Coy	HQ Platoon	3 in Mortar Platoon	Carrier Platoon	A tk Platoon	TOTAL Support Coy	HQ Platoon	3 Rifle Platoons ea	TOTAL Rifle Company	TOTAL Infantry Bn
Motor-cycles,solo		1		5		6	1	2	2	1	6	2		2	18
Cars 3 str 4 x 2		1				1	1				1				2
Cars 4 str 4 x 2		1				1									1
Trucks 15 cwt 4 x 2 GS		4		3	1	8	1	3	2	1	7	3		3	24
Trucks 15 cwt 4 x 2 Water		1				1									1
Lorrie 3 ton 4 x 2 GS		8			2	10	1				1				11
Trailers Water		1				1									1
Carriers Universal									13		13	1	1	1	16
Carriers Mortar								5			5				5
Carriers Lloyd										5	5				5

NOTES

An infantry platoon is orgainised as follows:

HQ — 1 Officer, 11 OR

Subaltern		2 in Mortar Group	3 men
Serjeant		LMG Group	3 men
L cpl		PIAT	2 men
Runners			

Three Sections — Each — 10 OR

Rifle Group	LMG Group
1 Cpl (Comd of Section)	1 L cpl (2IC)
6 Riflemen	2 Ptes LMG
1 T M C	1 LMG
6 Rifles	2 Rifles

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	HQ Coy	HQ Pl	'I' Sec	Snipers	SIGNAL	Pioneer	TOTAL	HQ Pl	3 in	Carrier	A tk	TOTAL	HQ Pl	3 Rifle	TOTAL	TOTAL
Motor-cycles, solo		1			5		6	1	2	2	1	6	2		2	18
Cars 2 str 4 x 2		1					1	1				1				2
Cars 4 str 4 x 2		1					1									1
Trucks 15 cwt 4 x 2 GS		4			3	1	8	1	3	2	1	7	3		3	24
Trucks 15 cwt 4 x 2 Water		1					1									1
Lorrie 3 ton 4 x 2 GS		8				2	10	1				1				11
Trailers Water		1					1									1
Carriers Universal										13		13	1		1	16
Carriers Mortar									5			5				5
Carriers Lloyd											5	5				5

NOTES

An infantry platoon is orgainised as follows:

HQ — 1 Officer, 11 OR

Subaltern		2 in Mortar Group	3 men
Serjeant		LMG Group	3 men
L cpl		PIAT	2 men
Runners			

Three Sections — Each — 10 OR

Rifle Group	LMG Group
1 Cpl (Comd of Section)	1 L cpl (2IC)
6 Riflemen	2 Ptes LMG
1 T M C	1 LMG
6 Rifles	2 Rifles

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Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. T85020

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. T25020

COPY

Appx 'B' to M 13680
Dated 9 Mar 45

AMENDMENTS TO WE - BLU - CM/508/1

	Proposed Amendment	Proposed By	Reasons
1.	Addition of one Car 5 cwt 4 x 4 for Staff Capt REME	51 BLU	The duties of the Staff Capt REME entail ... to fwd areas in connection with repair an... to visit LADs. For many of these journe... practicable veh in daylight hrs.
2.	Upgrading of : (a) Camp Comd from Subaltern to Capt (b) Adm Sjt from Sjt to S Sjt (c) MT Cpl from Cpl to Sjt Addition of one clerk for Camp Comd's office (no rank stated)	51 BLU	(a) Camp Comd and Clerk. Considerable n... are gen att to the BLU. Amongst th... Trg Team, Photo Interpretation Unit, L... parties etc. Many of the att stay ... periods and arrive at short notice. ... str of the BLU is often in the regio... All question of pay and distribution ... NAAFI are the responsibility of the C... suggested that the responsibility wa... of this offr to Capt, and that an ad... essential to enable him to carry out ... (b) Adm Sjt There are 12 Sjts on the ... the Adm Sjt and at times up to 20 ad... been att. It is proposed that the ... upgraded to S Sjt in order to streng... (c) MT Cpl At present there are 19 veh... Att personnel bring their own vehs ... are approx 30 vehs to be looked aft... proposed that the Cpl MCO should be ...

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDG NO. T85020

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COPY

Appx 'B' to M 13680 SD2
Dated 9 Mar 45

AMENDMENTS TO WE - BLU - CM/508/1

Amendment	Proposed By	Reasons
Add 4 for Staff Capt REME	51 BLU	The duties of the Staff Capt REME entail the numerous visits to fwd areas in connection with repair and recovery, and also to visit LADs. For many of these journeys a jeep is the only practicable veh in daylight hrs.
Add Cpl to Capt Add 3 Sjt Add Cpl Camp Cond's office Cpl)	51 BLU	(a) Camp Cond and Clerk. Considerable number of personnel are gen att to the BLU. Amongst these are Pro,Security Erg Team,Photo Interpretation Unit,Line party, POO parties etc. Many of the att stay only for short periods and arrive at short notice. The average ration str of the BLU is often in the region of 200 all ranks. All question of pay and distribution of rations and NAAFI are the responsibility of the Camp Cond. It is suggested that the responsibility warrants the upgrading of this offr to Capt, and that an additional clerk is essential to enable him to carry out his duties.
		(b) Adm Sjt. There are 12 Sjts on the str of the BLU excl the Adm Sjt and at times up to 20 additional sjts have been att. It is proposed that the adm Sjt should be upgraded to S Sjt in order to strengthen his position.
		(c) MT Cpl. At present there are 19 vehs on the WE of the BLU Att personnel bring their own vehs and in practice there are approx 30 vehs to be looked after. It is therefore proposed that the Cpl MCO should be upgraded to Sjt.

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. 785020

	Proposed Amendment	Proposed by	Reasons
3.	Addition of one Jeep fitted for stretcher carrying	56 BLU	At present there is no tpt available for t or Lt RAMC MOs. The Jeep would also be an evacuation veh from the BLU
4.	X11/882/1 - WE Italian Increment for a BLU Addition of : (a) 1 Batman (b) 1 Batman/Dvr for Capt or Lt RAMC (c) 3 Gen Dutymen (d) 1 clerk	56 BLU	(a) For GSO III (I) (b) For Capt or Lt RAMC (c) Present WE is insufficient to cope wit duties. (d) None on est. No further reasons have been given for the amendments

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDG NO. 785020

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Appx 'B' to M 13380 SD 2
Dated 9 Mar 45

sed Amendment	Proposed by	Reasons
tter for stretcher	56 BLU	At present there is no tpt available for the Capt or Lt RAMC MOs. The Jeep would also be available as an evacuation veh from the BLU
n Increment for a BLU	56 BLU	(a) For GSO III (I)
atman		(b) For Capt or Lt RAMC
atman/Dvr for Capt or Lt RAMC		(c) Present WE is insufficient to cope with all required duties.
en Dutymen		(d) None on est.
lerk		No further reasons have been given for these proposed amendments

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Appx 'C' to M 13680 SD2
Dated 9 Mar 45

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO WE TRANSPORT AND SUPPLY COMPANY

	WE	Proposed Amendment		Proposed by	Recommended by	Reasons
1.	CM/533/1	Tpt Pl				
	(a)	Add MCs Dvrs	3 3	50 BLU	51 BLU	Control of tpt coy tfc, particularly in with existing low standard of driving is difficult with present scale of DRs.
	(b)	Add 3 ton 4 x 2 GS	3	50 BLU	51 BLU (that 3 additional dvrs should be added)	Present est has been cut too fine and does for any VQR. Suggested increase will bring line with Brit Tpt Pl
2.	CM/532/1	RDI				
		Add Dvrs RDI	5	50 BLU	51 BLU	At present there are only 36 spare dvrs and 26 MCs. Proposed amendment will bring into line with the Brit RDI for a Tpt Pl.

Appx 'D' to M 13680 SD2
Dated 9 Mar 45

1.	CM/539/1	Mech Engr Pl				
		Add Electricians Fitters	1 4	50 BLU	* see note	To bring the pl into line with Serial III

* The addition of 1 Electrician is agreed but the addition of 4 fitters is not ag 51 BLU consider the pl capable of funct its present org.

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. 785020

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Appx 'C' to M 13680 SD2
Dated 9 Mar 45

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO WE TRANSPORT AND SUPPLY COMPANY

ndment		Proposed by	Recommended by	Reasons
	3 3	50 BLU	51 BLU	Control of tpt coy tfc, particularly in the fwd areas, with existing low standard of driving is extremely difficult with present scale of DRs.
*	2 GS 3	50 BLU	51 BLU (that 3 additional dvrs should be added)	Present est has been cut too fine and does not allow for any VQR. Suggested increase will bring pl into line with Brit Tpt Pl
I	5	50 BLU	51 BLU	At present there are only 36 spare dvrs for 119 vehs and 26 MCs. Proposed amendment will bring this pl into line with the Brit RDI for a Tpt Pl.

Appx 'D' to M 13680 SD2
Dated 9 Mar 45

cians	1 4	50 BLU	* see note	To bring the pl into line with Serial III Brit RASC Wksp

* The addition of 1 Electrician is agreed by 51 BLU but the addition of 4 fitters is not agreed as 51 BLU consider the pl capable of functioning on its present org.

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. 785020

	WE	Proposed Amendment	Proposed by	Recommended by	Reasons
1.	CM/539/1	Mech Engr Pl (continued) Add 3 ton 4 x 2 Stores	2 50 BLU	✱ See Note	One is essential to carry spares enable pl to split into two inde ✱ It is agreed by 51 BLU that on is essential. It is suggested additional stores lorries coul for two 3 ton 4 x 2 GS lorries hold sufficient vehs to carry
2.		Addition of one Aldershot Shelter	50 BLU	Not agreed by 51 BLU. See Note ✱	✱ 51 BLU consider that the one already held is sufficient. by 51 BLU that the addition and one Blacksmiths' Shelte useful

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. T25020

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Appx 'D' continued

Amendment	Proposed by	Recommended by	Reasons
Pl (continued)			
on 4 x 2 Stores	2 50 BLU	✕ See Note	One is essential to carry spares and second would enable pl to split into two indep sub units.
of one Aldershot elter	50 BLU	Not agreed by 51 BLU. See Note ✕	

✕ It is agreed by 51 BLU that one additional lorry is essential. It is suggested however that the additional stores lorries could be substituted for two 3 ton 4 x 2 GS lorries as the unit already hold sufficient vehs to carry its G 1098

✕ 51 BLU consider that the one Aldershot shelter already held is sufficient. It is suggested by 51 BLU that the addition of two LAD shelters and one Blacksmiths' Shelter would be more useful

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Appx 'E' to M 13680 SD2
Dated 9 Mar 45

WE - MED SEC FOR AN ITALIAN GRUPPO

GM 535/1

MMLA have proposed that the existing entitlement of 18 Amb Cars should be amended to read :-

			REMARKS
Amb Cars 4 Stretcher	...	12	This proposed amendment agreed by this HQ. No amendments to this WE to be considered.
Cars 2 stretcher	...	4	
Cars 5 cwt 4 x 4 with stretcher gear	...	4	

Appx 'F' to M.13680 SD2
Dated 9 Mar 45

WE - CORR

Considerable correspondence has already taken place on this subject.

PRO REAR EIGHTH ARMY are requested to discuss this question direct with Corps and MLUs concerned and to put f recommended solution to this problem.

Appx 'G' to M 13680 SD2
Dated 9 Mar 45

WE - GRUPPO SIGNALS

On the recommendation of CSO MAIN EIGHTH ARMY, the following additional tpt has been authorised to enable the pr adequate maint of comms for the type of ops on which the GRUPPI are employed. When forwarding replies addresse state how these vehs are held and show which WEs require amendments.

Cars 5 cwt 4 x 4	-	6
Scout Car	-	1

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SECRET.

Appx 'E' to M 13680 SD2
Dated 9 Mar 45

WE - MED SEC FOR AN ITALIAN GRUPPO

GM 535/1

existing entitlement of 18 Amb Cars should be amended to read :-

Amb Cars 4 Stretcher	...	12
Cars 2 stretcher	...	4
Cars 5 cwt 4 x 4 with stretcher gear	...	4

REMARKS

This proposed amendment has been agreed by this HQ. No further amendments to this WE will therefore be considered.

Appx 'F' to M.13680 SD2
Dated 9 Mar 45

WE - CCRR

has already taken place on this subject.

requested to discuss this question direct with Corps and HLUs concerned and to put fwd an agreed and problem.

Appx 'G' to M 13680 SD2
Dated 9 Mar 45

WE - GRUPPO SIGNALS

MAIN EIGHTH ARMY, the following additional tpt has been authorised to enable the provision and the types of ops on which the GRUPPI are employed. When forwarding replies addressees are requested to d and show which WEs require amendments.

Cars 5 cwt 4 x 4	-	6
Scout Car	-	1

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. T25020

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Appx 'H' to M 13680 TS
Dated 9 Mar 45

AMENDMENT TO GR - MD AN ITALIAN COMBAT GROUP - CM/523/1

Proposed Amendment	Proposed by	REASONS
Addition of one Saturn-driver and One car 5 cwt 4 x 4	Land Forces Sub Com AC (MMLA)	A proposal to add a MT offr to [illegible] was submitted by MMLA to AMHQ (the 4 Nov 44 refers) Through an oversi[illegible] was made for a Saturn-driver and c[illegible]

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDG NO. 785020

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Appx 'H' to M 1360 SD 2
Dated 9 Mar 45

AMENDMENT TO WE - HQ AM ITALIAN COMBAT GROUP - CM/523/1

Proposed Amendment	Proposed by	REASON
-driver and One car 5 cwt 4 x 4	Land Forces Sub Com AC (MMIA)	A proposal to add a MT Offr to the HQ Italian Combat Gp was submitted by MMIA to AMIG (their S/G/29/20 dated 4 Nov 44 refers) Through an oversight no provision was made for a Batman-driver and car for this offr.

RESTRICTED

Subject:- Amendments to TE
Italian Combat Groups

Year Headquarters,
Xth Army.
T 11800/11/TE
12 Mar 45

Tel. [illegible] 232

Cc. 5 US Army (For [illegible]) (10)
DDMT 5 Corps (10)
DDMT 10 Corps (10)
DDMT 13 Corps ..... (10)

1. Att as appendices A - F to this letter are the proposed amendments to Italian Combat Gp TEs, as discussed and agreed at this HQ on 20 Mar 45. These proposals have been made out in the form required by G (SD) Main Army as defined in App 'A' to their M/3643502 dated 16 Apr 44. For easy reference their letter is reproduced and attached.

2. It is requested that addressees pass these proposals to their G (SD) with the following additional comments which were agreed at the meeting, but which have not been included in the proposals:

(a) That one Interpreter is required on TLN for the sole use of RTMS.

(b) That paras. 2 & 5 of RTM HQ letter [illegible]/1605/1 App 'D' are at varience. Has the RTO on TLN any executive powers or is he there / capacity in advisory/only? If the former, then para. 5 should be deleted. If the latter, then para 2 should be deleted.

This matter will also be taken up with RTMS.

(c) That para 2 (g) of App 'A' to above mentioned [illegible] Letter should be deleted, the argument being that the Unit Transport Officer is responsible to his CO and not to the CMP for unit maintenance and that the CMP should have no technical control over the Unit Transport Officer.

This will also be taken up with RTMS.

(d) The necessity of a typewriter has been mentioned in app 'B' but this could well be mentioned again in your covering letter.

for Brig.
DDMT.

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Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-403/NNDC NO. T8502D

APPX 1 to
AP 1035 SD2

of 16 Apr 44

Form of proposal for a new TE or for amendment to an existing TE.

Proposals for new TEs or for amendments to existing TEs will be forwarded to A(SD) [illegible] in the following form (three copies).

1. THE PROPOSAL

(a) State whether the proposal is for a new TE or for an amendment to an existing TE. If the latter, give full title and the number of the existing TE.

(b) If the proposal is for a new TE, give the designation of any unit to be converted to the proposed est

2. EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL

(a) Increases or decreases in total number of offrs and ORs and MTs and vehs by types.

(b) What upgradings or downgrading are proposed.

(c) Whether personnel can be of and category 'B' or below.

(d) If an increase in personnel is required, what corresponding decrease is proposed in the same Arm of the Service.

(e) If a new est is required, the draft of the proposed est should be att

3. REASONS FOR THE PROPOSAL

(a) Reasons given for the proposal should be as concise as possible. A representative may attend the meeting of the committee, to explain the reasons in more detail.

(b) Where a proposal affects one Arm or Service only, it should be fully discussed and agreed, if possible, with relevant branch Adviser or Head of Service at this HQ before it is forwarded through staff channels for consideration.

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Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NND No. 785020

Appendix 1

1. Proposed amendment to [illegible] Element of a [illegible] with Italian Govt ex. [illegible]

2. Effect of proposal:-

(i) Add (rapt EM) - 1
Clerk (Cpl) - 1
(mydms with typewriter)
Drvr/Cdrman - 1

Add Car 5 cwt 4wd - 1

Total increase in personnel. Officers - 1
ORs - 2
Vehs. Car 5 cwt 4wd - 1

(b) Upgradings -
Staff Capt MT to DAAG (Major)

(c) Nil.

(d) Nil.

(e) Nil.

3. Reasons for proposals.

As the Italian standard of maintenance of vehs and eqpt is so far below that of Brit units, considerably more advice has to be given on organisation and tech matters than was first estimated.

(i) The upgrading of Staff Capt to DAAG is necessary to raise the status of MTO in the eyes of the Italians to that of other Services and so give more weight to those recommendations which the DAAG must make to the GHQ.

(ii) A Capt MTO is essential for giving tech advice to the Corps and Divs. His whole time will be spent between these units.

(iii) A Clerk is essential as the number of returns required cannot be undertaken by the ELM pool typists. At the same time it is requested that a typewriter should be authorised for the clerk.

(iv) A car 5 cwt 4x4 with batman/driver for use by the MTO is essential. His duties will entail extensive visits to DAAG's in the area in order to arrange recovery and repairs.

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NND No. 125020

Appendix 3

1. Proposed amendment to Bde Tr Inc for Italian Combat Gp. WE T/[illegible]/1.

2. Effect of Proposals. -

(a) Add Electrician (Cpl) - 1
Instrument Mech (Cpl) - 1
Storeman (Sgt) - 1
Cook AGC - 1
Total Increase ..... 4 ORs.

Add Lorry 3 Ton 4x2 GS - 1
Delete W/Cs - 5

(b) Upgradings.
Vek Mech (Cpl) - 1 to Sgt
" " (L/Cpl) - 1 " "

(c) Nil.

(d) Nil.

(e) Nil.

3. Reasons. -

(i) It is not considered that Italian tradesmen are sufficiently proficient in repairs of Brit Elec or Inst eqpt to do without an Electrician or Instrument Mech in the Trg Inc.

(ii) A Sgt Storeman is essential to train Italian LADs in Brit Stores procedure and to contact other store sections and Wksps for stores. Meanwhile the Cpl Storeman will train the Mech Trg Wksp and Mech Engr Pl.

(iii) The Brit Trg Inc cannot be expected to live on Italian rations and as the Inc is based on the Wksp it is essential to have a Brit cook for them.

(iv) One lorry is required to transport the Inc personnel and eqpt. There is no room in vehs belonging to the Italian Wksps.

(v) Vek Mechs must be of the same rank as they will be training the LADs on their own and require the rank of Sgt to carry weight amongst the Italians.

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Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC HQ. T65020

Tr - Inc

Proposed new TE

(i) Personnel -

WO. Cl II Armt Art (Veh)	- 1
S/Sgt. Armt Art (Fd)	- 1
Sgts.	
Armourer	- 1
Artisan	- 3
Storemen	- 1
Total WO, S/Sgt & Sgt ...	7
Corporals.	
Artisan	- 3
Storeman	- 1
L/Corporals	
Artisan	- 1
Craftsmen.	
Drivers	- 1
Total Trg Incr ...	13

Total Trg Inc

(ii) Distribution by Trade & duties.

Tradesmen -

Armt Art Veh	- 1
" " Fd	- 1
Armourer	- 1
Artisan	
Veh Mech	- 3
Electrician	- 1
Inst. Mech	- 1
Telecomm Mech	- 1
Dr/Mech	- 1
Storemen	- 1
Total Tradesmen	11
Non tradesmen	
Dr. I.C.	- 1
Att	
Cooks ACC	- 1
Total ORs	13

(iii) Transport

Motor - private - 1

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Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC No. 185020

Sgts.

Armourer	- 1
Artisan	- 3
Storeman	- 1
Total WO, S/Sgt & Sgt ...	7

Corporals.

Artisan	- 3
Storeman	- 1
L/Corporals	
Artisan	- 1
Craftsmen.	
Drivers	- 1
Total Trg Incr ...	13

Total Trg Inc

(ii) Distribution by Trade & duties.

Tradesmen -

Armt Art Veh	- 1
" " Wpn	- 1
Armourer	- 1
Artisan	
Veh Mech	- 3
Electrician	- 1
Inst. Mech	- 1
Telecom Mech	- 1
Dr/Mech	- 1
Storesmen	- 1
Total Tradesmen	11
Non - Tradesmen	
Dr. I.C.	- 1
Lt*	
Cooks ACC	- 1
Total ORs	13

(iii) Transport

Motor - cycles	- 3
Trucks 15 cwt	
4x2 GS	- 1
Lorry 3 Ton	
4x2 GS	- 1

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Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDG NO. 195020

Appendix C

1. Proposed amendment to HQ An Italian Combat Group. T O/T 25/1
Mechanical Engineer Services.

2. Effect of Proposals.

(a) Add
Staff Lieut Mechanical Engineer - 1
Clerk (GD) - 1
Driver(Pte) - 1

Total Increase. Off - 1
OR - 1
OR - 1

Add - Car 5 cwt 4x4 - 1

(b) Upgradings -
Clerk (Pte) - 1 to Sgt.

(c) Nil.

(d) Nil

(e) Nil.

3. Reasons.

(i) It is not considered that one officer can perform all the duties laid down in AFW direction W/11/1305/1 d/d 2 Feb 45 App "A". It is essential that the CME has one officer to help him as a large amount of travelling is necessary resulting in his absence from HQ.

(ii) Owing to the large number of returns and technical data required the provision of a GD Clerk and upgrading of one Pte clerk is necessary.

(iii) One car should definitely be allotted to the CME as difficulty often occurs in obtaining a pool car when it is necessary for him to go on urgent necessary calls etc.

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Declassified E.O. 12065 Section J-402/NNBG NO. 15502

Driver (Pte) - 1

Total Increase. OR? - 1
MO - 1
OR - 1

Add - Car 5 cwt 4x4 - 1

(b) Upgradings -
Clerk (Pte) - 1 to Sgt.

(c) No.

(d) Nil

(e) No.

3. Reasons.

(i) It is not considered that one officer can perform all the duties laid down in AFW direction my/1A/1405/1 d/d 2 Feb 45 App "A". It is essential that the OC3 has one officer to help him as a large amount of travelling is necessary resulting in his absence from HQ.

(ii) Owing to the large number of returns and technical data required the provision of a MO Clerk and upgrading of one pte clerk is necessary.

(iii) One car should definitely be allotted to the OC3 as difficulty often occurs in obtaining a pool car when it is necessary for him to go on urgent necessary calls etc.

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Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDG NO. T 25020

Appendix D

1. Proposed amendments to L/D att Italian Inf and Arty Regts and Eng Bns. WE 17/54f/1.

2. Effect of proposals. -

(a) Add Lieut. L.E. to L/Ds as under.

Inf. Regt - One per L/D.	total.	2	
Arty Regt - One for the two L/Ds	"	1	
Eng. Bn - One for the two L/Ds	"	1	
	Total off.	4 per Gruppo.	

(b) Nil

(c) No.

(d) Nil.

(e) No.

3. Reasons for proposals. -

A Sergente Maggiore artific amisioli in the Italian Army is in no way comparable to a Brit Armt. Art WOI. He is given his rank for his tech. ability but is not allowed to have any executive powers. Consequently, although he is the senior rank present, any of the other NCO's may actually control the L/D. At present the WO tends to control the tech. activities of the L/D whereas he should only be responsible for maint in the Regt. It is therefore considered essential that WO officers be appointed to the scale mentioned above and they will then be responsible to the Gpm.

4. The allocation of L/Ds as specified in the WE is incorrect and requires amending as under :-

Inf Regts.	1 per Regt.	total 2	per Gruppo	
Arty "	2 " "	" 2	"	"
Eng. Bn.	2 " "	" 2	"	"
		Total 6		

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Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC No. T2502D

Appendix "B"

MECHANICAL ENGINEERS ARE FOR AN ITALIAN COMBAT GP

Proposed new TE

1. PERSONNEL :-

	Commando HQ	Sec Off W/S Sec	Sec Rec Rec Sec	Sec Mat Stores Sec	Motals Totals	
Ufficiali						
Maggiori	1				1	Majors
Capitani o Tenenti	2	1	1	1	5	Captains or Lieutenants
						WOS & Sgts
Sottufficiali e capitecnici						
Scritturali					2	Clerks
Armaioli	1	1			1	Armourer
Meccanici D'artiglieria		1			2	Gun fitters
Magazzinieri		2			2	Storeman
Autieri	1			1	1	Driver
di contabilita	1				1	Pay & Accts
addetto alla cucina	1				1	Cook
Motoristi	1				4	Motor Mechs
Elettricisti		3	1		1	Electrician
Strumenti ottici etc		1			1	Inst Mechs
Radiomontatori		1			1	Telecomm Mechs(field)
		1			17	
Truppa						OR
Scritturali	3	1		1	5	Clerks
Autieri ed autieri attendenti	10	1	1	8	20	Dvrs & Dvr batman
Motociclisti					5	MotorCyclist
Servizi Generali	2		2	1	24	General duties (incl Cooks)
	17	3	2	2		TRADESMEN
Specializzati					5	Gun fitters.
Meccanici d'artiglieria strumenti ottici etc.		5			4	Inst Mechs
Armaioli		4			4	Armr.
Radiomontatori		4			3	Telecomm Mechs (fd)
		3			3	Blacksmiths
Fabbri		3			2	Carpenters
Falegnami		2			2	Coachtrimmers
Carrozzieri		2			3	Sheet metal workers
Laminatori		3			3	Welders.
Saldatori		3			1	painters.
Verniciatori		1			8	Electricians
Meccanici elettricisti		8			18	Veh Mechs
Meccanici automobilisti		18			3	Turners
Tornitori		3				
Autieri meccanici		3				

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Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. T65020

Sottufficiali e capitecnici					
Scritturali					
Armaioli	1	1			
Meccanici D'artiglieria		1			
Magazzinieri		2			
Autieri	1			1	
di contabilita	1				
addetto alla cucina	1				
Motoristi	1				
Elettricisti		5	1		
Strumenti ottici etc		1			
Radiomontatori		1			
		1			
truppa					
Scritturali					
Autieri ed autieri attend anti	3	1		1	
Motociclisti	10	1	1	8	
Servizi Generali	2				
	17	3	2	1	
			2	2	
Specializzati					
Meccanici d'artiglieria		5			
" strumenti					
" ottici etc.					
Armaioli		4			
Radiomontatori		4			
		3			
Fabbri		3			
Falegnami		2			
Carrozzieri		2			
Laminatori		3			
Saldatori		3			
Verniciatori		1			
Meccanici elettricisti		8		1	
Meccanici automobilisti		18			
Tornitori		3			
Autieri meccanici		7	10		
Meccanici motoristi	1	27	8		
Magazzinieri	1			6	
Graduato di contabilita	1				
Aiutanti (meccanici/Fabbri)		3			

	1	Majors
	5	Captains or Lieutenants
		WOS & Sjts
	2	Clerks
	1	Armourer
	2	Gun fitters
	2	Storemen
	1	Driver
	1	Pay & Accnts
	1	Cook
	4	Motor Mechs
	1	Electrician
	1	Inst Mechs
	1	Telecomm Mechs(field)
17		
		OR
	5	Clerks
	20	Dvrs & Dvr batmen
	5	MotorCyclist
	24	General duties (incl Cooks)
		TRADESMEN
	5	Gun Fitters.
	4	Inst Mechs
	4	Armr.
	3	Telecomm Mechs (Fd)
	3	Blacksmiths
	2	Carpenters
	2	Coachtrimmers
	3	Sheet Metal workers
	3	Welders.
37	1	Painters.
	8	Electricians
	18	Veh Mechs
	3	Turners
	17	Driver Mechs
	36	Motor Mechs
	9	Storemen
	1	Pay Cpls
	3	Assistants (Hammerman)

Total Rank & File .. 179

Total ORs .. 196

Total ME Unit .. 202

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNRC NO. 125020

Appendix E

1. Proposed amendment to Mech Inf Wksp for an Italian Combat Gp, WE IV/538/1.

2. Effect of proposal. -

(a) Increase/decrease in nos of officers - Nil.
Increase in nos of ORs - 26
Increase/decrease in nos of m/cs - Nil.
Increase in nos of vehs.
Lorry 3 ton 4x2 GS - 4
" " " " Binned - 2
Trailers 6 whld Lt Mec - 1

Decrease in nos of vehs.
Lorry 3 ton 6x4 Binned - 6.
(equiv to 10 x 4 x 2)

(b) Nil

(c) No.

(d) Nil

(e) The proposed amendments are incl in the form of an amended WE att.

3. Reasons for proposals. -

(i) Certain Brit trades are translated incorrectly into Italian, with the consequence that the wrong type of tradesmen are posted to the Wksp. The translation has therefore been altered.

(ii) Meccanici Motoristi (motor mechs) are superior in skill to Meccanici automobilisti (veh mechs).

(iii) Gen duty men have been increased to include more for cooks and sanitary duties.

(iv) Blacksmiths and sheetmetal workers have been increased and Hammermen added to deal with the large amount of metal work entailed in repairing damaged vehs.

(v) Only two Drivers IC were provided. As maint is on a very low standard throughout the Gruppi, sufficient drivers have been added to enable one to be allotted to each veh which may be considered "Mobile" in the Wksp.

(vi) The increase in number of lorry 3 Ton is necessary to carry additional capt such as Aldershot shelters etc. which could not otherwise be carried.

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Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC No. 78520

Trailers 6 Mid Lt Sec - 1

Decrease in Nos of vchs.
Lorry 3 ton 6x4 Winch - 6.
(Equiv to 10 x 4 x 2)

(b) Nil

(c) No

(d) Nil

(e) The proposed amendments are incl in the form of an amended WE att.

3. Reasons for proposals. -

(i) Certain Brit trades are translated incorrectly into Italian, with the consequence that the wrong type of tradesmen are posted to the Wksp. The translation has therefore been altered.

(ii) Meccanici Motoristi (motor mechs) are superior in skill to Meccanici automobilisti (vch mechs).

(iii) Gen duty men have been increased to include more for cooks and sanitary duties.

(iv) Blacksmiths and sheetmetal workers have been increased and Hammermen added to deal with the large amount of metal work untrdled in repairing damaged vchs.

(v) Only two Drivers MC were provided. As maint is on a very low standard throughout the Gruppi, sufficient drivers have been added to enable one to be allotted to each vch which may be considered "mobile" in the Wksp.

(vi) The increase in number of lorry 3 ton is necessary to carry additional eqpt such as Aldershot shelters etc. which would not otherwise be carried.

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Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NND No. 785020

Appendix F

1. Proposed amendment to Mech Inf. pl - WE CM/539/1

2. Effect of proposals. -

(a) (i) Substitute trade Motor Mech (Meccanici motoristi) for trade Veh Mech (Meccanici . autieri)
Change in number of personnel - NIL.

(ii) Vehicles -
Lorry 3 ton 4x2 binned - Add 2 to Wksp Sec.
Lorry 3 Ton 4x2 GS - Delete 1 from " "

(iii) Amend note on WE to read -
"This unit, which is under direct control of the CRE, will be used with the Transport and Supply coy for an Italian combat group."

(b) Nil.

(c) No.

(d) Nil.

(e) No.

3. Reasons for proposals. -

(i) A meccanici motoristi is equivalent to a Brit. Veh Mech whereas a meccanici autieri is only slightly superior to a Brit Dvr/Mech.

(ii) No binned stores lorries are provided although the Wksp functions are equivalent to an R.SC Wksp Pl. A reduction of one lorry 3 Ton GS can then be afforded.

(iii) The CRE is responsible for the tech efficiency of the Wksp and therefore requires complete control. This is not always understood by other services.

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDG No. T8502D

COPY

43 E

SUBJECT: GRUPPI SSMs - WE.

CONFIDENTIAL

Main HQ
EIGHTH ARMY
CMF
Tel Ext 65

M 361/2 I(b)

17 Mar 45

GSI(b) HQ 5 Corps
GSI(b) HQ 10 Corps
GSI(b) HQ 13 Corps

1. The following advance information is being passed to you in order to assist you to take the necessary action to obtain essential transport for the GRUPPO SSM.

2. Report of Meeting of the WE Committee, ref No.178/ORG/3, Meeting No 178 of 21 Feb 45 Minute No 1912 states that the approval is given in principle to transport for SSMs, additional to transport of the Carabinieri Sections, on the scale of :-

1/4 ton truck	4 x 4	1
15 cwt	4 x 2	2
MCs		6

3. This opportunity is also taken to confirm that the recent signal from MMIA to certain GRUPPI stating that Carabinieri were not to be used for duties with GRUPPI Security Sections and that the establishment of such Security Sections was not yet receiving consideration, has been cancelled.

4. The WE for personnel for the SSMs is now being put up together with all the other amendments to WE of the GRUPPI

(Sgd)
for Lt Col
GS I

Copy to: GSI(b) HQ 2 Polish Corps
HQ 26 BLU att 2 Polcorps
50 BLU
51 BLU
53 BLU
G(SD) 3 Main EIGHTH ARMY.

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 1-402/NNDC No. T-15020

COPY

43F

SUBJECT: MS Italian Groups

CONFIDENTIAL

MAIN HQ EIGHTH ARMY GRP
M 680 SD2

18 Mar 45

CG FIFTH ARMY (for Brit Inter) (3)
5 CORPS (3)
10 CORPS (3)
13 CORPS (3)

Copy to: AFHQ
CG 15 ARMY GP
1 DISTRICT
MMLA
50 RLU (2)
51 RLU (2)
52 RLU (2)
53 RLU (2)

Main : A : G2I : G5I (b)
Rear : Q : PRO

Ref this HQ M 13680 SD2 dated 9 Mar 45.

1. Att at Appx 'A is a copy of a proposal to form a Field Security Sec for an Italian Combat Group, which has been submitted by G5I(b) this HQ.

2. Please consider this proposal in conjunction with the letter referred to above.

3. It should be noted that the ept in this proposal is the same as that added to the two Italian Provost Secs CC HR of a Combat Group, for Security duties (vide Minute 1912 of AFHQ SMO Meeting No 175 held on 21 Feb 45)

SIGNED ??????? ??
For
Lt Gen
GOC
EIGHTH ARMY

2

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDG NO. 785020

Appx A

CONFIDENTIAL

Appx 'A' to M 680 382
Dated 18 Mar 45

1. THE PROPOSAL

The proposal is for the formation of an ITALIAN Field Security Section for attachment to HQ of an ITALIAN Combat Gruppo.

2. THE EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL

(a) Increase in personnel:-

Capt or Lt	1
Total Offrs	1
Maresciallo Capo	1
Sergenti Maggiori	2
Sergenti	6
Total NCOs	9

Attached :-

Driver/Driver	1

(b) Increase in transport :-

Trucks 15 cwt 4 x 2	2
Car 5 cwt 4 x 4	1
MCs	6

(c) Personnel will NOT be of Medical Category 'B' or below.

3. REASONS FOR THE PROPOSAL

(a) The present WE for Italian Combat Gruppi makes no provision for specialist personnel, security work being included in the general duties of the two Provost Sections CC RE.

(b) Experience with the Gruppi has shown that the provision of a Field Security Section is necessary.

(c) It is essential that the Section should be mobile. In accordance with general policy the proposed scale of transport is less than the proposed scale for a British Field Security Section.

(d) As compared with a British Field Security Section the proposed ranks for NCOs are nominally higher. This is considered to be necessary as :-

(1) A lower standard is found in equivalent ranks in the Italian Army.

B
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Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNBC No. 78520

Capt or Lt	1
Total Offrs	1
Maresciallo Capo	1
Sergenti Maggiori	4
Sergenti	6
Total NCOs	11

Attached :-

Batman/Driver	1

(b) Increase in transport :-

Trucks 15 cwt 4 x 2	2
Car 5 cwt 4 x 4	1
MCs	6

(c) Personnel will NOT be of Medical Category 'B' or below.

3. REASONS FOR THE PROPOSAL

(a) The present WE for Italian Combat Gruppi makes no provision for specialist personnel, security work being included in the general duties of the two Provost Sections CC RR.

(b) Experience with the Gruppi has shown that the provision of a Field Security Section is necessary.

(c) It is essential that the Section should be mobile. In accordance with general policy the proposed scale of transport is less than the proposed scale for a British Field Security Section.

(d) As compared with a British Field Security Section the proposed ranks for NCOs are nominally higher. This is considered to be necessary as :-

(i) A lower standard is found in equivalent ranks in the Italian Army.

(ii) For dealing with Italian officers junior NCOs would not have sufficient prestige.

(Sgd)

Maj GS
for Lt Col
GSI

A
26

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NND NO. 785020

436

COPY

SUBJECT : WE - Italian Gruppi

CONFIDENTIAL

MAIN HQ EIGHTH ARMY CMF
M 680 SD2

15 Mar 45

CG Fifth Army (for Brit Incr) (4)
5 Corps (2)
10 Corps (2)
13 Corps (2)

Copy: 50 BLU (2)
51 BLU (2)
53 BLU (2)
X
Q
MMIA LO (2)

Ref this HQ letter M 13680 SD2 dated 9 Mar 45.

1. CSO 1 DISTRICT, as the result of experience obtained during training, has recommended the following additions of signals equipment to the G 1098 of Italian Combat Grps.

2. One additional wireless set No 48 for each mortar coy, to enable links to be established from OP to base plate and from pl HQ to bn HQ. Total increase per gp is thus 2 - Wireless Set No 48.

3. One additional ACL 6 was found necessary for each inf bn for lines within the support coy. Total increase 6 x ACL 6 per group.

4. Two additional telephones DV were required for each inf bn to link mortar OP to base plates, making a total increase of 12 x telephones DV.

5. Please consider these proposals in conjunction with this HQ letter dated 9 Mar 45.

(Sgd) ??????????

for Brigadier
C of S

25

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDG NO. 765020

51 EIU (2)
55 EIU (2)

X
Q
MMIA LO (2)

Ref this HQ letter M 13580 SD2 dated 9 Mar 45.

1. CSO 1 DISTRICT, as the result of experience obtained during training, has recommended the following additions of signals equipment to the G 1098 of Italian Combat Grps.

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4. Two additional telephones DV were required for each inf bn to link mortar OP to base plates, making a total increase of 12 x telephones DV.

5. Please consider these proposals in conjunction with this HQ letter dated 9 Mar 45.

(Sgd) ???????.???

For Brigadier
C of S

25

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNCC No. 175020

COPY

434

SUBJECT: Counter Mortar Organisation

HQRA MAIN 10 CORPS
RA/137/A
23 Mar 45

RA Main EIGHTH ARMY

Copy to: RA 5 Corps
43 Gurkha Lorried Inf Bde
Jewish Inf Bde Gp
50 BLU att FRIULLI GRUPPO
CMO 10 Corps

Reference your M 8156/2/A dated 1 Mar

1. An ad hoc CM org now exists in the 43 Gurkha Bde and the FRIULI GRUPPO. It is understood that RA 5 Corps is equipping the Jewish Inf Bde Gp, but no CM exists in the Bde at present.

2. This ad hoc org consists almost entirely of borrowed personnel and eqpt, much of which must be returned when the bdes or either of the arty regts who have lent the personnel and eqpt, change comd.

3. This is considered unsatisfactory and the provision of a CM org for 43 Gurkha Bde and the Jewish Bde is requested. At present Lt JAE DIXON is att as ACMO 43 Bde. May he be posted and promoted to Capt in accordance with ACI 469/40 and offrs and ORs to make up to suggested WE be posted to the two bdes.

4. As regards the FRIULI GRUPPO it is suggested that the personnel be supplied through ITALIAN channels.

5. It is hoped to issue eqpt to the scale shown at Appx A and Appx B to this letter. This includes certain eqpt which will enable the bdes to deploy one listening post per bn. These are considered essential if the CM org is to be in any way effective. From infm held at this HQ it seems quite clear that no other method of location at present available can be considered satisfactory. The eqpt to be issued under this heading is normally found from div resources for a div inf bde; but it is not possible to improvise from thr resources of an indep bde. Personnel for these listening posts are being provided from bde resources.

2

(SIGNED) ???????????
Brig
OCRA

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. 165020

COPY

Appx 'A' to RA 10 Corps RA/137/A
dated 23 Mar 45.

PROPOSED COUNTER MORTAR ORGANISATION FOR AN INDEPENDENT BRIGADE.

(i) Personnel

DETAIL	WE RA/435/1 dated 9 Jul 44	Suggested WE For Listening ACMO Posts	
Assistant Counter Mortar Officer (capt)		1	See RA Main EIGHTH Army Letter 8156/2/A dated 5 Aug
Assistant Counter Mortar Officer(Subaltern)	2	1	
Total,officers	2	2	
Clerks(incl 1 L bdr)	2	2	
Crater NCO (Cpl or Bdr)	1	1	
Batmandrivers	2	2	
Gunners (1 to be Dvr/Op 4 signallers)	3	5	2 extra to man WT set See RA EIGHTH Army letter 8156/2/A dated 5 Aug
	8	10	
BRIGADE SIGNAL SECTION			
Lineman	4	4	Amdt 1 to NA/433/1 See Main EIGHTH Army M 13673 SD2 of 26 Aug 44

(ii) Vehicles

Cars 5 cwt 4 x 4	1	1	
Trucks 15 cwt 4 x 2 GS	1	1	
Trucks 15 cwt fitted for wireless		1	See RA EIGHTH Army 8156/2/A of 5 Aug
Carriers Universal (Bren or AOP)		3	
BRIGADE SIGNAL SECTION			
Cars 5 cwt 4 x 4	2	2	Amdt 1 to NA/433/1
Trailers 2 wh 5 cwt	2	2	See EIGHTH Army M 13673 SD2 of

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2

Assistant Counter Mortar Officer (capt)		1	See RA Main EIGHTH Army Letter 8156/2/A dated 5 Aug
Assistant Counter Mortar Officer(Subaltern)	2	1	
Total, officers	2	2	
Clerks(incl 1 L bdr)	2	2	
Crater NCO (Cpl or Bdr)	1	1	
Batmandrivers	2	2	
Gunners (1 to be Dvr/Op 4 signallers)	3	5	2 extra to man WT set See RA EIGHTH Army letter 8156/2/A dated 5 Aug
	8	10	

BRIGADE SIGNAL SECTION

Linemen	4	4	Amdt 1 to MA/433/1 See Main EIGHTH Army M 13673 SD2 of 26 Aug 44

(ii) Vehicles

Cars 5 cwt 4 x 4	1	1	
Trucks 15 cwt 4 x 2 GS	1	1	
Trucks 15 cwt fitted for wireless		1	See RA EIGHTH Army 8156/2/A of 5 Aug
Carriers Universal (Bren or ACP)		3	

BRIGADE SIGNAL SECTION

Cars 5 cwt 4 x 4	2	2	Amdt 1 to MA/433/1 See EIGHTH Army M 13673 SD2 of 26 Aug 44
Trailers 2 wh 5 cwt	2	2	

2

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COPY

APPX B to RA 10 Corps RA/137/A dated 23 Mar 45

SUGGESTED SCALE OF EQUIPMENT

DETAIL	Appx A to AAI 3550/8/Q(AE) dtaed 27 May (Present authy)	Suggested Scale. ACMO	3 IPs Total each	
(a) TECHNICAL EQUIPMENT				
Boards Arty No 3	1	1	1	
Boards Arty Covers 1/25,000	6	6	6	
Boards Map Commanders	1	1	1	4
Protractors Arty 9"	1	1	-	4
Scales Arty No 3 Mk II 1/25,000	1	1		1
Tetley Fan	1	1		1
Glass Magnifying Hand 2"	1	1		1
Stereoscope Universal		1		1
Rulers	1	1		1
Watches GS	1	1		4
Watches PM	1	1	1	4
Compasses Magnetic	1	1	1	4
Binoculars Prismatic	1	1	1	4
Lamps Tilley or Adjustable	1	1		1
Lamps Electric Adjustable		1		1 See RA EIGHTH Army 8156/2/A RA dated 5 Aug para 4 (d)
Stoves Primus			1	3
Everest Carriers			2	6
Bergen Rucksacks			2	6
Boards Arty Map		1		1 Two arty boards in CMOs office essential
(b) SIGNALS EQUIPMENT				
Telephone D Mk V	2	2	1	5
Switch board 10 line UC	1	1		
Wireless Set STa No 19 or 22		2	1	5 See RA EIGHTH Army 8156/2/A RA dtaed 5 Aug ACMO second set to work IP
Chore Horse			1	3

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DETAIL	Appx A to AAI 3550/8/Q(AE) dated 27 May (present authy)	Suggested Scale ACHO	3 LPs each	Total
(c) ACCOMMODATION STORES				
Tents 180 lb (for office)	1	1		1
Lamps Hurricane	3	3		3
Lamps hand Electric No 1	2	2	1	5
Chairs folding	2	2		2
Stools	1	1		1
Tables 6ft x 4 ft	1	2		2

TO BE HELD BY BDE SIGNAL SECTION (Appx B to AAI 3550/8/Q(AE) dated 27 May44)

Apparatus Cable Laying No 3	2	2
Pliers Side Cutting 7" pairs	4	4
Drums Cable Mk V Spare	1	1
Tape Insulating lbs	1½	1½
Tape rubber jointing - fawn tins	1	1
Bars carrying Drums cable laying No 1	2	2
Guys Telegraph Pole	10	10
Hammers tile sledge	2	2
Jumpers	2	2
Labels Line E	30	30
Ladders PT Mk IV	2	2
Mattocks TE	2	2
Pickets Guy Telegraph	6	6
Guys Telegraph	6	6
Poles Telegraph wood	6	6
Sticks Cook jointed Mk II	2	2
Telephones L	2	2
Cable D3 Twisted miles	12	12
Leeves Jointing Self Soldering No1	1	1
Gloves Cable laying No 1	2	2

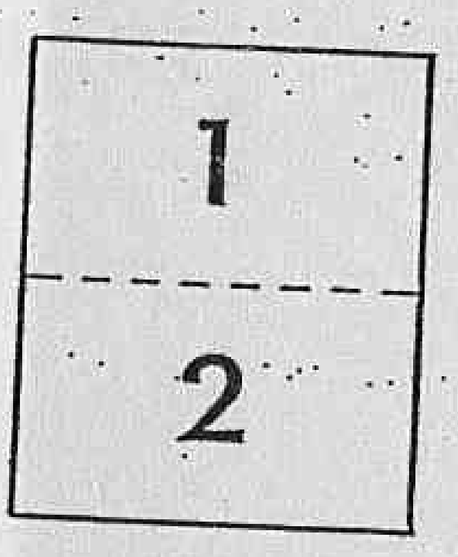
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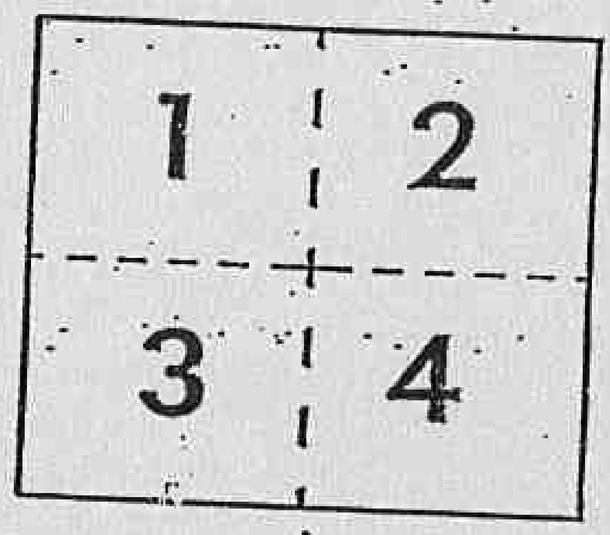
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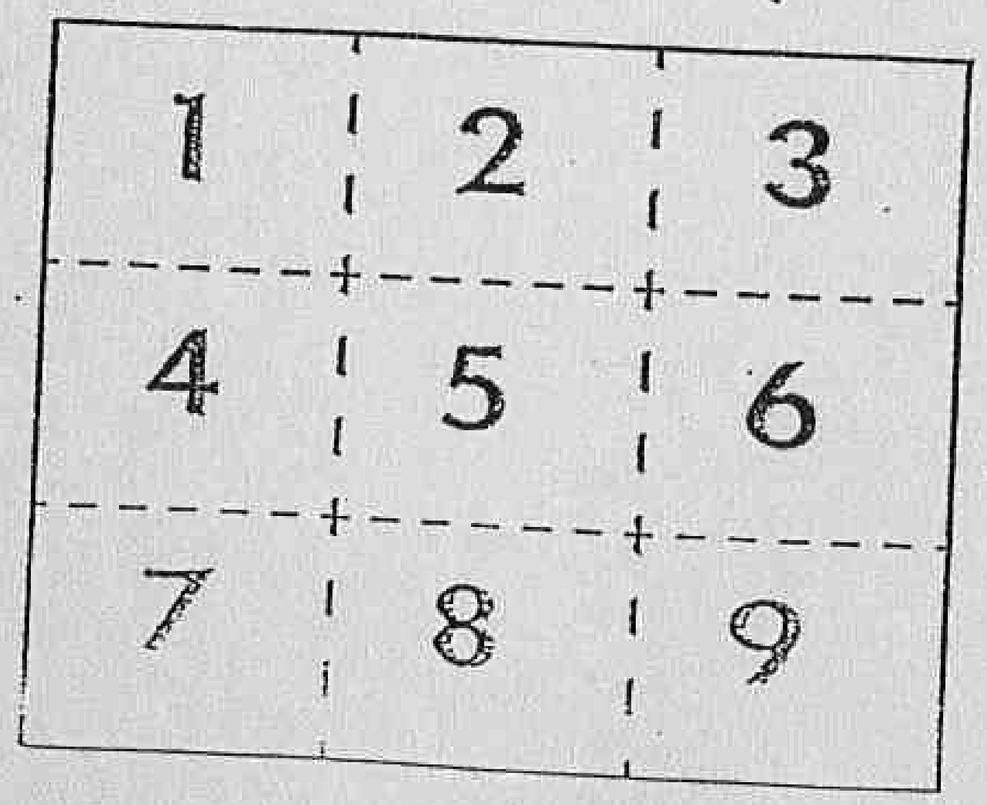
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MAPS AND CHARTS TOO LARGE TO FILM
ON ONE EXPOSURE ARE FILMED CLOCKWISE
BEGINNING IN THE UPPER LEFT CORNER,
LEFT TO RIGHT, AND TOP TO BOTTOM.

SEE DIAGRAMS BELOW.







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ITAL

		Div HQ	1st Brigade (CT) «1° Raggruppamento» (*)										
1													
2		①	②	③	④	⑤	⑥	⑦	⑧	⑨	⑩	⑪	
			HEADQUARTERS	68th INF REGT (Hq, 2 Bns, 1 Mortar Co)	4th INF REGT (LIGHT) (Hq, 2 Bns)	INF Bn (Commando or Ranger)	11th ART REGHT	51st ENGR. CO	51st SIG. CO	51st Med. Det	51st Qm Co	51st MT Co	
3		COMANDO DI DIVISIONE	COMANDO	68° Rgt Ftr (Comando, 2 Battaglioni, 1 Cp. mortai)	4° RGT. BERS. (Comando, 2 Battaglioni)	BTG. ARDITI "Boschetti"	11° RGT. ART.	51ª Cp. ARTIERI	51ª Cp COLLEG. t.r.t.	51ª Sez. SANITA'	51ª Sez. SUSSIST.za	51° AUTO-REPARTO	
4	OFFICERS	18	38	89	25	21	90	12	4	6	3	2	
5	ENLISTED MEN (OR)	50	242	1410	789	250	1310	172	150	135	35	65	4
6	TOTALS «TOTALE»	68	280	1499	814	271	1400	184	154	141	38	67	4
7	ANIMALS «QUADRUPEDI»	3	3	213			186						
8	VEHICLES (MT) «AUTOMEZZI»												
9	CARS «AUTOVETTURE»	2	4	1	1		3					1	
10	LIGHT TRUCKS «AUTOCARRI LEGGERI»	6	2	4	4	1	4	1	3	2	2	42	
11	HEAVY TRUCKS «AUTOCARRI PESANTI»						4					8	
12	LIGHT INF TRUCKS «AUTOCARRETTE L/39»		5	4			3	2					
13	MOBILE WORKSHOPS «AUTOFFICINE»												
14	MOTORCYCLES «MOTOMEZZI»		38	6	61	5	27		5			4	
15	TRAILERS «RIMORCHI»												
16	BUSSES [18 Pass] «AUTOBUS»												
17	MOTOR AMBULANCE (**) «AUTOAMBULANZE»									6			
18	ARTY TRACTORS «TRATTORI PER ARTIGL.»						18						
19	TOTAL LINES 9-18	8	49	15	66	6	59	3	8	8	2	55	

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ITALIAN COMBAT DIVISION

...amento» (*)					2d Brigade (CT) «Nembo»												Divisional		
(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)	(25)	(26)	(27)	(28)
...at CO	51st Med.Det	51st Qm Co	51th MT Co	TOTAL COLS 2-11	Headquarters	183d INF REGT (Hq, 2 Bns, 1 service Co)	184th INF REGT (Hq, 2 Bns, 1 service Co)	INF Bn (PARACHUTIST)	184th mtcl co	184th MORTAR CO.	184th ARTY REGT	184th SIG CO	184th ENGRE Co	184th Med Ted	184th Qm Co	184th MT Co	TOTAL COLS 13-24	Mountain Inf.Bn	Marines (INF Bn)	AT Bn
...ª D. LEG. L.	51ª Sez. SANITA'	51ª Sez. SUSSIST.za	51ª AUTO-REPARTO	TOTALE	Comando	183° RGT. FTR. (Comando, 2 btg, 1 cp. servizi)	184° RGT. FTR (Comando, 2 btg, 1 cp. servizi)	CLXXXV btg "NEMBO"	184ª cp motocicl.	184ª cp. mortai	184° rgt. art.	184ª cp. GENIO TRASMISS.	184ª cp GENIO MINATORI ARTIERI	184ª SEZIONE SANITA'	184ª SEZIONE SUSSISTENZA	184° AUTO. REPARTO	TOTALE	Btg ALPINI "Piemonte"	Btg R.M. "Bafile"	V BTG C.C.
4	6	3	2	290	20	62	59	30	4	5	56	8	5	11	4	2	266	42	32	15
0	135	35	65	4558	136	1203	1052	682	68	127	878	125	102	123	40	65	4601	945	811	206
4	141	38	67	4848	156	1265	1111	712	72	132	934	133	107	134	44	67	4867	987	843	221
				402							201						201	223		
			1	10	4	1	1				3					1	10			
3	2	2	42	65	3	3	3	1	1	4	4	3	3	2	2	42	71			11
			8	12							4					8	12			
				14	2	7	7	1			3						20	7	6	6
5			4	146	9	12	12		74		12	4	4				127			
	6			6										1			1			
				18							16						16			
	8	2	55	271	18	23	23	2	75	4	42	7	7	3	2	51	257	7	6	17

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ISION

0»				Divisional Troops [SPECIAL TROOPS] «Truppe e servizi»												Total:
(22)	(23)	(24)	(25)	(26)	(27)	(28)	(29)	(30)	(31)	(32)	(33)	(34)	(35)	(36)	(37)	
184th Med Tel	184th Qm Co	184th MT Co	TOTAL COLS 13 - 24	Mountain Inf. Bn	Marines (INF Bn)	AT Bn	ART Bn	ENGR Bn (COMBAT)	(4) FIELD Hosps	(2) MEDICAL POOLS	35th FIELD BAKERY	250th PACK Co	250th MT Co	(2) MOTOR REPAIR SHOPS	TOTAL COLS 26 - 36	COLS 1 + 12 + 25 + + 37
184ª SEZIONE SANITA'	184ª SEZIONE SUSSISTENZA	184° AUTO. REPARTO	TOTALE	Btg ALPINI "Piemonte"	Btg R.M. "Bafile"	V BTG C.C.	I Gr. art 105/28 T.M. II Gr. art. 100/22 T.M.	CLXXXIV Btg guastatori	(nº 4) Ospedali da campo	(nº 2) Nuclei chirurgici	35ª SQUADRA PANETTIERI	250° REPARTO SALMERIE	250° AUTOGR. misto	(Nº 2) OFFICINE	TOTALE	TOTALE
11	4	2	266	42	32	15	45	27	24	6	2	18	5	6	222	~~418~~ 176
123	40	65	4601	945	811	206	606	341	180	30	85	258	215	60	3737	~~12896~~ 12946
134	44	67	4867	987	843	221	651	368	204	36	87	276	220	66	3959	~~13674~~ 13142
			201	223								230			453	1057
		1	10				2						2		4	26
2	2	42	71			11	4	3	4	2	1	2	75	2	104	246
		8	12				5						25		30	54
			20	7	6	6									19	53
														2	2	2
			127					4							4	277
													19		19	19
													7		7	7
1			1						1						1	(**) 8
			16				26								26	60
3	2	51	257	7	6	17	37	7	5	2	1	2	128	4	216	752

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16	BUSSES [18 Pass] «AUTOBUS»											
17	MOTOR AMBULANCE (* *) «AUTOAMBULANZE»									6		
18	ARTY TRACTORS «TRATTORI PER ARTIGL.»						18					
19	TOTAL LINES 9-18	8	49	15	66	6	59	3	8	8	2	55
20	CARTS-WAGONS «CARRI E CARRETTE			8			21					
21	BICYCLES «BICICLETTE»			10			7					
22	WEAPONS «ARMAMENTO»											
23	RIFLES «FUCILI E MOSCHETTI»	40	230	1004	444		1281	168	146		35	65
24	TOMMY GUNS «MOSCHETTI AUTOMATICI»			200	249	237						
25	LIGHT M.G. «FUCILI MITRAGLIATORI»		4	98	60		1					
26	HEAVY M.G. 8 «MITRA»			30	18	4	14					
27	MORTAR 45 mm. «MORTAI DA 45»											
28	MORTAR 81 mm. «MORTAI DA 81»			18		3						
29	ATGUN 47 mm. «CANNONI DA 47/32»			8		2						
30	HEAVY M.G. 20 mm. «CANNONI DA 20 mm.»						8					
31	FLAME THROWERS «LANCIAFIAMME»											
32	FIELD GUN 75 mm. «PEZZI DA 75/13»						8					
33	HOWITZER 75 mm. «OBICI DA 75/18»						16					
34	FIELD GUN 75 mm. «CANNONI DA 75/27»											
35	FIELD GUN 100 mm. «PEZZI DA 100/22»											
36	FIELD GUN 105 mm. «PEZZI DA 105/28»											
37	PISTOL «PISTOLE»	30	76	120	96	28	93	12	4		3	2
38	STATION «Dislocazione»	All 5 Army					75/13 BATTERY MANDURIA	All 5 Army				

NOTES : (*) - Figures are from last strength return Submitted.

(**) - 6 Litter - 8 sitting.

Misc/3

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		6										1			1					
		18							16						16				26	
2	55	271	18	23	23	2	75	4	42	7	7	3	2	51	257	7	6	17	37	7
		29							12						12	3				
		17	37	8	5		1	1	16		2	1	2		73			1		3
35	65	3443	63	150	140	90			854	34	82		30	65	1308	767	727	206	598	
		686	73	818	818	409	76	132		91	40				2357	137				33
		163		108	108	54	12								282	18	54			
		66		24	24	12			12						72	14	12		20	
		21		12	12	6	12								42	6	6			
		10		8	8	4									20			16		
		8							8						8					
				12	12	6									30		6			
		8							8						8	4				
		16																		
									8						8					
									8						8				12	
																			12	
3	2	458	75	69	62	38	4	17	80	8	5		4	2	364	70	48	15	57	2
Army			Sardinia	Sardinia	Sardinia	Sardinia	Sardinia	Sardinia	Sardinia + Mainland	Sardinia	Sardinia	Sardinia	Sardinia	Sardinia		Cisternino	Taranto	With 5 Army	With 5 Army	Sardi

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												7		7		7
1			1						1					1	(• •)	8
			16				26							26		60
3	2	51	257	7	6	17	37	7	5	2	1	2	128	4	216	752
			12	3								8			11	52
1	2		73			1		36							37	127
	30	65	1308	767	727	206	598				80	258	215	60	2911	7662
			2357	137				335							477	3415
			282	18	54			9							81	526
			72	14	12		20	3							49	187
								9							9	9
			42	6	6			3							15	78
			20			16									16	46
			8													16
			30		6										6	36
			8	4											4	20
																16
			8													8
			8				12								12	20
							12								12	12
	4	2	364	70	48	15	57	27			2	18	5	6	248	1070
Sardinia	Sardinia	Sardinia		Cisternino	Taranto	With 5 Army	With 5 Army	Sardinia	1W/5 Army 3-Sardinia	1w/5 Army 1 Sardinia	W/5 Army	W/5 Army	W/5 Army	W/16 Army		

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