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FRULI INF DIV ORG

(318)

NOV. 1945

Cover I

Subject: Redeployment - 50 BLU

30 BRITISH ALLISON UNIT

HQ 11th, 10th

6/35/3

rtd: HQ 2 District

HQ 51 BLU

HQ 52 BLU

HQ 53 BLU

HQ 56 BLU

20 Nov 45

1. 50 BLU in accordance with instructions has now ceased duty with PRULI Inf Div, and set up office at the Territorial Comd, MILN.

2. The following points are recorded to give the position of PRULI at the time of the redeployment.

i) Operational. The div was, and is still, carrying out an extensive Allied commitment, under comd of 60 Sub Area. The picture is complicated however, due to something like 50% of the commitment being outside 60 Sub Area, and overlapping into 217 Area territory and the MILN Province which neither area seemed to own. On the day of the BLU's departure, a visit was made by POLISH reps who were apparently instructed to take over the MILN commitment which overlapped into 217 Area, i.e., commitment in the VERVA and VICINZA Provinces. The matter was left in the air due to no specific instructions being given by Higher Authority. The main difficulty which arose was where to send the PRULI troops on their relief. Even in the area concerned it was quite short and it would be impossible to house double the number of troops. This relief involves one complete regt and 1 bn of the second regt. The take over and relief is bound to be complicated and it is thought that this will be worsened by the absence of the BLU. In order to obviate the difficulties as much as possible, 53 BLU were informed and rep of 50 BLU left with PRULI. It is considered that from the standpoint it would have been difficult to have chosen a more inopportune moment for the departure of PRULI by their BLU.

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ii) Admin. The main admin problems on the redeployment are largely centered around ORD and REE. PRULI, up till the 20 Nov, 5 days after the change over was supposed to be effective had received no information regarding the provisioning of them with the necessary items of equipment, either personal, vehicles, or controlled. In fact the picture was even worse as the Territorial Comd at BOLING, on being visited expressed complete ignorance as to where there or how equipment was to be provided. Their attitude was that you can render your demands but don't expect any action as we have nothing to give you. Further, no instructions were issued through the MILN Comd regarding provision of spare parts, disposal of BLU vehicles and equipment. The BLU were told in outline that all these matters were now and not 15 Nov or MILN responsibility and were assured that all types of stores were available. No detail however could be given, i.e., how stores were to be obtained, where the various depots were etc, and the PRULI Inf Div have in consequence been left by the BLU completely uninformed as to how things were to work by both the MILN and DMT.

3. This BLU feels that PRULI has been left in the air without any visible means of support. It is felt that there should have been a period of transition during which period there would have been a gradual closing down on the part of the BLU of the MILN system of working. The BLU also feels that

1 dealt with all this at my conference at Milan on 18 Nov when I signed the WFP
see previous.

1) Operational. The div was, and is still, carrying out an extensive allied commitment, under control of 60 Sub Area. The picture in completed however, due to something like 50% of the commitment being outside 60 Sub Area, and overlapping into 217 Area territory and the BELINHO Province which neither area seemed to own. On the day of the BLU's departure, a visit was made by POLISH reps who were apparently instructed to take over the PRULI commitment which overlapped into 217 Area, i.e., commitments in the VERMA and VIOLINA Provinces. The matter was left in the air due to no specific instructions being given by Higher Authority. The main difficulty which arose was that to send the PRULI troops on their relief, even in the area concerned in actually short and it would be impossible to house double the number of troops. This relief involved one complete regt and 1 bn of the second regt. The take over and relief is bound to be complicated and it is thought that this will be worsened by the absence of the BLU. In order to obviate the difficulties as much as possible, 53 BLU were informed and a rep of 50 BLU left with PRULI. It is considered that from the standpoint it would have been difficult to have chosen a more inopportune moment for the desertion of PRULI by their BLU.

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11) Admin. The main admin problems on the redeployment are largely centered around CMD and RESE. PRULI, up till the 20 Nov, 5 days after the change over was supposed to be of active had received no info regarding the provisioning of them with the necessary items of food either personal, veh, or controlled. In fact the picture was even worse as the Territorial Cmd at BOLZANO, on being visited expressed complete ignorance as to where or how food was to be provided. Their attitude was that you can't expect your demands but don't expect any action as we have nothing to give you. Further, no instructions were issued through the ITALIAN Cmd regarding provision of spare parts, disposal of BLU vehs and eqpt. The BLU were told in outline that all these matters were not and not 15 Nov or 16 Nov responsibility and were assured that all types of stores etc were available. No detail however could be given i.e., how stores were to be obtained, where the various depots were etc, and the PRULI Inf Div have in consequence been left by the BLU completely uninformed as to how things were to work by both the ITALIANS and BRIT.

3. This BLU feels that PRULI has been left in the air without any visible means of support. It is felt that there should have been a period of transition during which period there would have been a gradual closing down on BLU sources of sup as the ITALIAN system got working. The BLU also feels that they have been brothers in arms with the PRULI and that by this sudden departure from them and leaving them without any organized system of sup they have let the div down. This can only detract from the system which PRULI had for the BLU and thus it is felt the hard work of the past year may well be wasted apart from the fact that it is impossible to maintain the present morale of the div unless the necessary work is available from BLU sources.

OSO 2 (Ops)
OSO 2 (SD)
OSO 2 (WE)
OSO 2 (L)
OSO 3 (SD)
OSO 3 (Combat)
OSO 3 (U)

R/26/1

CUT
JUL/SYB

1 dealt with all this at my conference at Milan on 18 Nov when I gave briefings
see present. MP

