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

ACC

10000|120|5247 SD/109/2 ARM

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

100001120|5247 SD/109/2 ARMS - GENERAL

May 1946 - JANUARY 1947

(564 709)

Cover II

SD/109/V

144

RLB

Telephone :
ROME 489081 Ext 415

LAND FORCES SUB COM, AC (MMIA) CMF.

138 Q.

28 Jan 47.

Ministry of War

Subject: Releases - British Equipment.

1. The following equipments are available for collection from 'X' ORD Stores & Equipment Disposal Unit, UDINE (Tel: Udine 1648)

Authy :-
GSD/2146/7 of 18 Nov 46.
GHQ/3159/Q dated 15 Nov 46.
DOS/2614 of 3 Dec 46.

Serial No	Item	Qty	Destination
1	Arty O.Q.F. 17 Pdr	12	(a)

Note (a) - Destined for mixed Btys of Internal Security Bdes.
This HQ letter SD/109/1 dated 13 July 46 refers.

2. Collection will be effected by the Ministry of War.

Major General,
GOC MMIA.

HJOP/ps

Copies to : 5 BLU (for action, ref this HQ Q.101 of 25 July 46)
"X" ORD STORES & EQUIPMENT DISPOSAL UNIT. CMF (Ref your ORD 3/C/2 dated 24 Jan 47)

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

Subject: Releases - British Equipment.

1. The following equipments are available for collection from 'X' ORD Stores & Equipment Disposal Unit, UDINE (Tel: Udine 1648)

Authy :-
GSD/2146/7 of 18 Nov 46.
GHQ/G159/4 dated 15 Nov 46.
DOS/2614 of 3 Dec 46.

Serial No	Item	Qty	Destination
1	Arty O.Q.F. 17 Pdr	12	(a)

Note (a) - Destined for mixed Btys of Internal Security Bdes. This HQ letter SD/109/1 dated 15 July 46 refers.

2. Collection will be effected by the Ministry of War.

Major General,
GOC [illegible]A.

HJOP/ps

Copies to : 5 BLU (for action, ref this HQ Q.101 of 25 July 46)
"X" ORD STORES & EQUIPMENT DISPOAL UNIT. CMF (Ref your ORD 3/C/2 dated 24 Jan 47)

Internal: G (Ops & SD)
G (Trg)
"Q" Accounts (Confirm receipt of vouchers for "Q")
ORD
REME
Liaison

BGS	
GSO I (SD)	
DEP. G. III	
GSO II (SD)	
GSO III (SD)	
GSO II (I)	
GSO II (L)	

MAIN
FILE: SD/109/2
DATE: 12/28/1/47.

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

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

C. D. 143

COPY INCOMING SIGNAL

FROM: MIDEAST 181031 B

TO : 1 DIV 3 DIV 4 DIV 6 DIV RESTRICTED

INFO: MMIA

XCA !

SIT

96322 SD5 (.) OUR 8659 SD5 17TH DECEMBER 46 (.) SUBJECT SHOULD READ BOMBS M12 IN MOR FUZED 151 XRAYED (.) OUR PARA 1 FOR 161 READ 151 (.) OUR PARA 4 FOR 162 READ 161

MMIA - 'G'
FILE SD/109/2
DATE 24/1/47

24 Jan 1947
mm

DISTRIBUTION: SD/109/2

BGS	
GSO I (SD)	
DEP. G. III	
GSO II (SD)	
GSO III (SD)	
GSO II	
GSO II (L)	

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

142

Telephone:
Rome 489081 Ext 415

LAND FORCES SUB COMM, AC (MMIA) CMF

022 Q

23 Jan 47

MMIA - 'G'
50/109/2
DATE 23"1-47.

HQ B.T.A. (4 Copies)

Subject: Equipment - Italian Army

14 Jan 47. Reference Appendix 'A' forwarded under this HQ letter 022 Q of

In Column (g) opposite Serial 3 the figures 1239 appeared owing to a typing error.

Please amend to read 2239 this being the "Grand Total Requirements" of PIATs.

Amended 23/1/47

R A Erskine Lt Col
for Major General,
GOC MMIA.

706

RAC/jw

Copies to: AFHQ
GHQ

Internal: G(SD)
CRD
REME

BGS	
GSO I (SD) X	X
DEP. G. III	
GSO II (SD) X	X.
GSO III (SD)	
GSO II (I)	
GSO II (L)	

MMIA - 'G'
FILE SD/109/2.
DATE R/23/1/47.

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

(3)

DSD/109/7. 141

Q

CRD
REME

TRANSLATION

From: M.of W.
To : Addressees
MMIA (for information)

Ref: 4/17/Serv.

Date: 4/1/47

Subject: Care and maintainance of arms. -

Ref. this SM's letters 4/2943/Serv dated 3/10/46 and 5090/Ord/I dated 17/10/46 for the units that are in receipt. -

1. - With the above referred to letter 5090/Ord/I this SM has ordered that several units be reduced to skeleton units in order to remedy the deficiencies of 1/3 of the W/E strength of all the Corps.

2. - Therefore, on the basis of this solution and of the proposals forwarded by the a/m units, we order that:

a) - the arms of the skeleton units must be stored with the Corps in premises that have the necessary requirements of armouries or stores for Artillery equipment;

b) - the armouries must be provided with armracks which will be drawn, if available, from the Territorial Artillery Directorates or which will be manufactured by the Engineer Works Directorate, on request of the Military Territorial Commands. - Similarly the Artillery stores must be provided with the necessary shelves for the storing of Artillery accessories;

c) - The Corps Commanders will issue orders for the care and the maintainance of the arms of the skeleton units;

d) - the Territorial Artillery Commands for the Corps not included in a division and the Divisional Artillery Commands for the units included in divisions will arrange for the carrying out of occasional inspections to all the armouries and Artillery stores of the units under their command, through an appropriate commission nominated from time to time;

e) - all the armouries and Artillery stores will maintain a

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

register in which they will enter the periodical cleaning of arms (by the Corps that have them on their charge) and also the inspections carried out by the commission mentioned in the previous paragraph.

3. - The Artillery and MT General Directorate is requested to order that, according to the instructions laid down in circular 83928/20000 dated 23/11/46, the Artillery Directorates under its command be always able to issue the necessary raw material, for cleaning and maintainance, to the Corps and Units located in their respective territory. -

4. - Please acknowledge receipt. -

sgd. Liuzzi
Gen.

S	
GSO I (-I)	Army
Dep G I	
GSO II (SD)	
GSO II (C)	
GSO II	
GSO I	
G II (Tn	

UR

MMLA - 'G'
FILE SD/104/2
DATE 8/18/1/47

70

C O P Y

/140

[redacted]-phone:
: 489081 Ext 491

LAND FORCES SUB COM AC (MMIA) CMF

MMIA - 'G'
FILE SD/109/2
DATE 17/1/47

25/2/67/ME

17 Jan 47

'G' (Irg)

INFO COPY ONLY

Subject:- Diagrams and Construction Charts for Small Arms

SD/109/1 COVERTII 7.1.81

Ref your SD/109/1 dated 14 Nov 46.

1. The information (including drawings) required by the Italian Army technical personnel to enable them to repair British Small Arms is contained in the following War Office Publications:-

Details	Remarks
Instructions for Armoured 1931 (to include docket with set of drawings as per App. IX of publication).	- copy available -
Instructions for Armourers 1931, Supplement No 1	Pistol, Revolver, 709 Mk. I Copy available
Instructions for Amourers 1931, Supplement No 2	Brem, 303 Mk I Copy available

2. It is suggeste that a set of the latest editions of the above publications be obtained and the drawings, applicable to the British equipment concerned, extracted for the use of the Italian Army.

3. The details requested in Para 2 of your Letter were forwarded to you in our 25/2/62/ME dated 4 Jan '47.

SD/109 4190

Sgd. Lt Col

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

Subject:- Diagrams and Construction Charts for Small Arms

SD/109/1 COVER II 7.1.81

Ref your 3D/109/1 dated 14 Nov 46.

1. The information (including drawings) required by the Italian Army technical personnel to enable them to repair British Small Arms is contained in the following War Office Publications:-

Details	Remarks
Instructions for Armoured 1931 (to include docket with set of drawings as per App. IX of publication).	- copy available -
Instructions for Armourers 1931, Supplement No 1	Pistol, Revolver, 7.0 Mk. I Copy available
Instructions for Amourers 1931, Supplement No 2	Bren, 303 Mk I Copy available

2. It is suggeste that a set of the latest editions of the above publications be obtained shd the drawings, applicable to the British equipment concerned, extracted for the use of the Italian Army.

3. The details requested in Para 2 of your Letter were forwarded to you in our 25/2/62/ME dated 4 Jan '47.

SD/109 2190

FJ/ma

Sgd. Lt Col
A.D.M.E.

SD DISTRIBUTION

SD/109/1
SD/109/2

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

COPY

139A

Tel: 4859084
Ext: 400

LAND FORCES SUB COMM. AC(MEDIA)

SD/109

17 Jan 47.

WAR MINISTRY

Subject:- Transfer of Equipment for Post Treaty ITALIAN Army

folio 139

F 14311.

1. On instructions received by this Headquarters from AFHQ it is necessary to make clear to you the conditions under which British equipment intended for your Post Treaty Army is being transferred to your care at BUFFORA or other similar holding depots which you may establish.

2. All equipments differing from that to which the Interim ITALIAN Army is entitled either in type (tanks, Medium guns etc.) or quantity (ie Carriers, 25 Pounders etc. in excess of outstanding deficiencies) should be considered as being still the property of, and subject to withdrawal by His Majesty's Government until suitable agreements have been made.

3. Deficiencies against entitlement for your INTERIM Army should be taken as those shown in Column (C) of Appendices A and B to this HQ letter SD/109/2 of 11 Jan 47. addressed to GHQ a copy of which is held by Colonel MILLER of (BRIXMIS) SARVELI B.M.M.

4. The quantities of material of different natures held in your depots under the conditions given in para 2 above will be based on the figures held in this Headquarters and with which your Ministry will be asked in due course to agree.

Responsibility for any subsequent losses of equipment will rest with the ITALIAN Government.

5. You are requested to confirm your acceptance of the conditions outlined in preceding paragraphs.

702

(Sgd) [illegible]
for Major General,
GOC. BRITA.

SD/dc

Internal:

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. T8520

1. On instructions received by this Headquarters from AFHQ it is necessary to make clear to you the conditions under which British equipment intended for your Post Treaty Army is being transferred to your care at BOLOGNA or other similar holding depots which you may establish.

2. All equipments differing from that to which the Interim ITALIAN Army is entitled either in type (tanks, Medium guns etc.) or quantity (ie Carriers, 25 Pounders etc. in excess of outstanding deficiencies) should be considered as being still the property of, and subject to withdrawal by His Majesty's Government until suitable agreements have been made.

3. Deficiencies against entitlement for your INTERIM Army should be taken as those shown in Column (C) of Appendices A and B to this HQ letter SD/109/2 of 11 Jan 47. addressed to CMC a copy of which is held by Colonel MENARI of UFFICIO MEZZI S.M.E.

4. The quantities of material of different natures held in your depots under the conditions given in para 2 above will be based on the figures held in this Headquarters and with which your Ministry will be asked in due course to agree.

Responsibility for any subsequent losses of equipment will rest with the ITALIAN Government.

5. You are requested to confirm your acceptance of the conditions outlined in preceding paragraphs.

(Sgd) M.W.HOPE Maj-Gen
For Major General.
COC. MMIA.

MWH/eb

Internal:
'Q'
SD/109/2

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. 193220

139

COPY INCOMING SIGNAL

FROM AFHQ

151245 A

TO (ACTION) MMIA

INFO GHQ CMF

All Jobs 39 Hqrs action taken to inform War Ministry

FX 74311

SECRET

REF MMIA SD/109/2 of 6 SEP 46 AND G-3/AFHQ/135 of 3 OCT 46 (.)

SUBJECT IS EQUIPMENT OF ITALIAN ARMY (.)

ONE (.) YOU ARE AUTHORISED TO HOLD SURPLUS BRITISH EQUIPMENT AS AN INTERIM MEASURE TO ISSUE TO ITALIANS AT A LATER DATE WHEN SUITABLE GOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE (.) THIS EQUIPMENT WILL BE HELD IN EXISTING DEPOT SET UP UNDER AUTHORITY OF OUR ABOVE QUOTED LETTER XXX, UNDER YOUR SUPERVISION (.)

GHQ requested clarification as to our understanding of the above paragraph. See para 17 of SD/109/4 of 17 Oct

TWO (.) THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PARA ONE WILL BE SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS,

(A) DEFINITE UNDERSTANDING MUST BE REACHED WITH THE ITALIANS THAT THE EQUIPMENT WILL REMAIN THE PROPERTY OF HMG, AND SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL BY, HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT UNTIL SUITABLE AGREEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE AND THAT FINAL DISPOSAL OF OTHER THAN LETHAL EQUIPMENT WILL BE MADE ONLY THROUGH NORMAL CHANNELS (.)

(B) AGREEMENT MUST BE REACHED BETWEEN YOU AND THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT AT THE TIME OF STORAGE AS TO QUANTITIES OF ITEMS BEING STORED IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT RESPONSIBILITY FOR LOSSES RESTS WITH THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT (.)

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NND No. 765020

REF MMIA SD/109/2 of 6 SEP 46 AND G-3/AFHQ/135 of 3 OCT 46 (.)

SUBJECT IS EQUIPMENT OF ITALIAN ARMY (.)

ONE (.) YOU ARE AUTHORISED TO HOLD SURPLUS BRITISH EQUIPMENT AS AN INTERIM MEASURE TO ISSUE TO ITALIANS AT A LATER DATE WHEN SUITABLE GOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE (.) THIS EQUIPMENT WILL BE HELD IN EXISTING DEPOT SET UP UNDER AUTHORITY OF OUR ABOVE QUOTED LETTER ~~XX~~, UNDER YOUR SUPERVISION (.)

TWO (.) THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PARA ONE WILL BE SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS,

(A) DEFINITE UNDERSTANDING MUST BE REACHED WITH THE ITALIANS THAT THE EQUIPMENT WILL REMAIN THE PROPERTY OF ~~HXE~~, AND SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL BY, HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT UNTIL SUITABLE AGREEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE AND THAT FINAL DISPOSAL OF OTHER THAN LETHAL EQUIPMENT WILL BE MADE ONLY THROUGH NORMAL CHANNELS (.)

(B) AGREEMENT MUST BE REACHED BETWEEN YOU AND THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT AT THE TIME OF STORAGE AS TO QUANTITIES OF ITEMS BEING STORED IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT RESPONSIBILITY FOR LOSSES RESTS WITH THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT (.)

(C) ITEMS HELD MUST BE OF SUCH NATURE AND QUANTITY AS TO GIVE REASONABLE ASSURANCE THAT THEY WILL, IN FACT, BE DESIRED AND REQUIRED BY THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT FOR THE POST TREATY ITALIAN ARMY (.)

BGS	
GSO I (SD)	
Dep G III	
GSO II (SD)	
GSO II (T)	
GSO III (SD)	
GSO I (G36)	
II (L)	

MMIA - 'G'
FILE SD/109/2
DATE 13/11/46

...../2

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NND No. 765020

(AFHQ SIGNAL FX 74311 OF 15 JAN 47 Continued)

PARA THREE (.) FOR GENERAL HEADQUARTERS ONLY, ('Q' BRANCH) (.)

(A) WITH REGARD TO BRITISH EQUIPMENT OF LEND LEASE ORIGIN, ACTION MUST BE TAKEN WITHOUT DELAY, THROUGH THE WAR OFFICE AND IN CONJUNCTION WITH HEADQUARTERS MTOUSA TO OBTAIN NECESSARY US CLEARANCE FOR FUTURE TRANSFER TO ITALIANS (.)

(B) YOU SHOULD REQUEST THE WAR OFFICE TO TAKE PROMPT ACTION TO SECURE GOVERNMENTAL CONCURRENCE FOR STORING WITHOUT DEMILITARISATION IN ITALIAN DEPOTS OF SPECIFIC ITEMS OF EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROBABLE FUTURE TRANSFER TO THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT

IMMEDIATE

SD Distribution 10MTA
G(Trg)
'Q'
Ord
SD/109/2

700

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

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

138

Telephone
Rome 409031 Ext 218

LAND FORCES SUB COMM, AC (MMIA) CMF

SD/109/2

12 Jan 47

CHQ (SD)

for att. Major MAXWELL.

Subject: BRITISH Weapons 'A' Vehicles and Ammunition for Italian Army.

Ref. conversation (Col. PIDSLEY - Maj. MAXWELL).

Forwarded herewith extra 4 copies of this HQ SD/109/2 dated 11 Jan. 47.

134

Reg'd 17/1/47

for Major-General,
CCC, MMIA.

TWB/ob

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

137

16

(*)

698

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

Softcopy 136

Telephone:
Rome 489081 Ext 415

LAND FORCES SUB COM, AC (MMIA) CMF

022 Q

1st Jan 47

135

HQ, ETA (4 Copies)

Subject: Equipment - Italian Army

Reference this HQ letter 022 Q dated 14 Jan 47 and with further reference to 022 Q dated 6 Jan 47:

Herewith please find Addendum to Appendix "C" of above quoted letters.

Major General,
GOC, MMIA.

HJOP/jw

Copies to: AFHQ
GHQ

Internal: G (SD)
OPD
RE/E

697

BGS	
GSO I (Ops)	
Dep G (Ops)	
GSO II (SD)	
GSO II (O)	
GSO II	
GSO II	
G II (Ops)	

[illegible]
FILE 50/108/2
DATE 14/1/46

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

Appx 'C'

ADDENDUM

Item	(a) (i)	(a) (ii)	(b)	(c)	(d) (i)	(d) (ii)	(e)
3.7 in AA HE	-	3,200	-	- 3,200	43,200	40,000	83,2
3.7 in AA AP	-	400	-	- 400	4,400	4,000	8,4
4.5 in Med HE Shell	-	-	-	-	14,300	14,300	28,6
4.5 in Charge 1 (Med)	-	-	-	-	2,600	2,600	5,2
4.5 in Charge 3 (Med)	-	-	-	-	14,300	14,300	28,6
4.5 in Fuz (Med)	As laid down in latest scales for this theatre.						
4.5 in Tub (Med)							
5.5 in Med HE Shell	-	1,600	-	- 1,600	14,300	9,300	19,6
5.5 in Charge 2	According to proportion of 100 lb and 80 lb shell, and latest theatre scales.						
5.5 in Charge 4							
5.5 in Super (Med)							
5.5 in Fuz							
5.5 in Tub							
155 mm Hy Shell HE	-	-	-	-	4,400	4,400	8,8
155 mm Smok (Hy)	-	-	-	-	160	160	22
155 mm Cart Super (Hy)	-	-	-	-	5,000	5,000	10,0
155 mm Fuz (Hy)	As laid down in latest scales for this theatre.						
155 mm Primers (Hy)							
7.2 in How Shell HE	-	-	-	-	3,000	3,000	6,0
7.2 in Cart III (How)	As laid down in latest scales for this theatre.						
7.2 in Cart IV (How)							
7.2 in Cart V (How)							
7.2 in Fuz (How)							
7.2 in Tub (How)							
3 in K.10 SP HE	-	-	-	-	3,800	3,800	7,6
3 in K.10 SP AP	-	-	-	-	1,300	1,300	2,6

NOTE :- β Divided between 100 lb and 80 lb shell according to latest theatre proportions.

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. 725020

(a) (ii)	(b)	(c)	(d) (i)	(d) (ii)	(e)	(f)	(g)
3,200	-	- 3,200	43,200	40,000	83,200	96,000	182,400
400	-	- 400	4,400	4,000	8,400	2,000	10,800
-	-	-	10,300	10,300	20,600	100,000	120,600
-	-	-	2,600	2,600	5,200	25,000	30,200
-	-	-	10,300	10,300	20,600	100,000	120,600
As laid down in latest scales for this theatre.							
1,000	-	- 1,000	10,300	9,300	19,600	100,000	120,600
According to proportion of 100 lb and 80 lb shell, and latest theatre scales.							
-	-	-	4,400	4,400	8,800	48,000	56,800
-	-	-	160	160	320	2,000	2,320
-	-	-	5,000	5,000	10,000	52,000	62,000
As laid down in latest scales for this theatre.							
-	-	-	3,000	3,000	6,000	35,000	41,000
As laid down in latest scales for this theatre.							
-	-	-	3,800	3,800	7,600	6,000	13,600
-	-	-	1,300	1,300	2,600	6,000	8,600

NOTE :- ϕ Divided between 100 lb and 80 lb shell according to latest theatre proportions.

M.I. 'G'
FILE SD/109/2
DATE 14/1/47

Attach. 135

Telephone:
Rome 489081 Ext 415

LAND FORCES SUB COMM, AC (MTA) CMF

022 Q

14 Jan 47

HQ - BTA (4 copies)

Subject: Equipment Italian Army

see SD/109 folio 89.

Herewith are enclosed as appendices A, B and C the requirements referred to in para 2 of Q/022 6 Jan 47.

This information has also been notified to GHQ for G(SD) and embraces the future estimated needs of the projected Post Treaty Italian Army.

In considering what may be available from surplus stocks it should be understood that in addition to the weapons and "A" Vehicles included in Appendices "A" and "B" the following will also be required:-

(a) Adequate supplies of spare parts for maintenance over a period of years.

(b) Adequate supplies of special tools, oils, etc, required for maintenance of equipments.

(c) Associated stores for all equipments supplied and relevant SEL stores for units holding these equipments.

69.

RAC/ra

Copies: AFHQ
GHQ

Internal: G(SD)
ORD
REME

EGS
G
GSO 1
GSO 1 (L)
G II (L)

EGS
GSO 1 (SD)

Major-General,
GOC.

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

SEE 50/109 folio 89.

Herewith are enclosed as appendices A, B and C the requirements referred to in para 2 of Q 022 6 Jan 47.

This information has also been notified to CHQ for G(SD) and embraces the future estimated needs of the projected Post Treaty Italian Army.

In considering what may be available from surplus stocks it should be understood that in addition to the weapons and "A" Vehicles included in Appendices "A" and "B" the following will also be required:-

(a) Adequate supplies of spare parts for maintenance over a period of years.

(b) Adequate supplies of special tools, oils, etc, required for maintenance of equipments.

(c) Associated stores for all equipments supplied and relevant SEL stores for units holding these equipments.

C4

RAC/ra

Major-General,
GOC.

Copies: AFHQ
CHQ

Internal: G(SD)
ORD
REME

BGS	
GSO I (SD)	
Dep G (SD)	
GSO II (SD)	
G II (L)	

BGS	
GSO I (SD)	
Dep G (SD)	
GSO II (SD)	

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NND 785020

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

WEAPONS

Serial	Item	Present WE Entitlement (a)	Present Holdings (b)	Deficiency or surplus against "PRESENT ENTITLEMENT" (c)	Requirements for NEW UNITS projected for POST TREATY ARMY (d)	DEFICIENCY against additional requirements for projected "POST TREATY ARMY" (e)	Required as RES for present and projected Units (f)	Grand Total Deficiencies or requirements (g)	
1.	Rifles .303	137,651	137,100	- 551	60,000	60,000	50,000	110,551	
2.	MG Bren	7,286	6,373	- 913	3,000	3,000	2,000	5,913	
3.	PIAT	2,453	2,564	+ 111	1,500	1,389	850	2,239	
4.1	6 pdr	104	192	+ 88	60	+ 28	40	12	
5.	17 pdr	110	113	+ 3	80	77	50	127	
6.	25 pdr	312	303	- 9	366	366	160	535	
7.	40 mm	206	225	+ 19	172	153	100	253	
8.	3.7 AA	5	5	-	200	200	50	250	
9.	4.5 Med Gun	-	-	-	66	66	16	82	
10.	5.5 Med Gun	5	5	-	66	66	16	82	
11.	155 mm Hy Gun	-	-	-	32	32	8	40	
12.	7.2 Hy How	-	-	-	32	32	8	40	
13.	SP A tk	-	24	-	40	16	10	26	
14.	105 mm M7	-	34	-	40	6	10	16	

Note :- (a) In addition, Maint Scalings are required for all items in coln (g).

(b) In addition to Maint Scalings, associated stores for all eqpts in coln (g) and relevant SEL stores for units holding these eqpts, are also required.

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

WEAPONS

Appx 'A' to MIA letter
[redacted]2 Dated 6 Jan 47

esent oldings (b)	Deficiency or surplus against "PRESENT ENTITLEMENT" (c)	Requirements for NEW UNITS projected for POST TREATY ARMY (d)	DEFICIENCY against additional requirements for projected "POST TREATY ARMY" (e)	Required as RES for present and projected Units (f)	Grand Total Deficiencies or requirements (g)	Remarks (h)
7,100	- 551	60,000	60,000	50,000	110,551	
6,373	- 913	3,000	3,000	2,000	5,913	
2,564	+ 111	1,500	1,389	850	2,239	
192	+ 88	60	+ 28	40	12	
113	+ 3	80	77	50	127	
303	- 9	366	366	160	535	
225	+ 19	172	153	100	253	
5	-	200	200	50	250	
-	-	66	66	16	82	
5	-	66	66	16	82	
-	-	32	32	8	40	
-	-	32	32	8	40	
24	-	40	16	10	26	
34	-	40	6	10	16	A further forty four Class III guns are held for cannibalisation purposes.

Note :- (a) In addition, Maint Scalings are required for all items in coln (g).

(b) In addition to Maint Scalings, associated stores for all eqpts in coln (g) and relevant SEL stores for units holding these eqpts, are also required.

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

'A' AND 'B' VEHS

Serial	Item	Present WE Entitlement (a)	Present Holdings (b)	Deficiency or surplus against "PRESENT ENTITLEMENT" (c)	Requirements for NEW UNITS projected for POST TREATY ARMY (d)	DEFICIENCY against additional requirements for projected "POST TREATY ARMY" (e)	Required as RES for present and projected Units (f)	Grand Total Deficiencies or requirement (g)
	'A' VEHS							
1.	Hy Tks	-	-	-	75	75	40	115
2.	Med Tks	-	153(a)	-	125	+ 28	60	32
3.	Lt Tks	-	-	-	335	335	85	420
4.	Armd Cs	256	316(b)	+ 60	120	60	90	150
5.	Lt Armd Cs	-	28	-	95	67	25	92
6.	Scout Cars	242	56(c)	- 186	104	104	85	375
7.	Carriers (excl Lloyds)	2,363	1,597(d)	- 766	1,000	1,000	500	2,266
	'B' VEHS							
8.	Portee Type 'B'	104	-	- 104	60	60	40	204
9.	Tk Tptr	-	-	-	65	65	10	75
10.	Matadors	-	-	-	264	264	60	324

NOTES :- (i) In addition Maint Scalings are required for all items in coln (g).

(ii) In addition to Maint Scalings, associated stores for all eqpts in coln (g) and units holding these eqpts, are also required.

(iii) The requirements as shown for Hy and Med Tks, presuppose that the terms of the the holding of tks needed for trg and as res equipment over and above the WE of for trg are incl in figures for "War Res".

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

'A' AND 'B' VEHS

Appx 'B' to MMLA letter Q 2 Q Dated 9 Jan 47

ent WE tlement	Present Holdings	Deficiency or surplus against "PRESENT ENTITLEMENT"	Requirements for NEW UNITS projected for POST TREATY ARMY	DEFICIENCY against additional requirements for projected "POST TREATY ARMY"	Required as RES for present and projected Units	Grand Total Deficiencies or requirements	Remarks
)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)
-	-	-	75	75	40	115	
-	153(a)	-	125	+ 28	60	32	(a) incl 125 tks with 75 mm guns and 28 tks with 17 pdr guns.
-	-	-	335	335	85	420	
256	316(b)	+ 60	120	60	90	150	(b) in addition 56 Class III are held for cannibalisation.
-	28	-	95	67	25	92	
242	56(c)	- 186	104	104	85	375	(c) in addition 2 Class III are held for cannibalisation.
363	1,597(d)	- 766	1,000	1,000	500	2,266	(d) does NOT incl 305 u/s Lloyds at present held and due to be replaced by portees.
104	-	- 104	60	60	40	204	
-	-	-	65	65	10	75	
-	-	-	264	264	60	324	

(i) In addition Maint Scalings are required for all items in coln (g).

(ii) In addition to Maint Scalings, associated stores for all eqpts in coln (g) and relevant SEL stores for units holding these eqpts, are also required.

(iii) The requirements as shown for Sy and Med Tks, presuppose that the terms of the Peace Treaty permit the holding of tks needed for trg and as res equipment over and above the WE of FF units. Tks for trg are incl in figures for "War Res".

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

Appx 'B'

ADDENDUM

As Serial 7A ADD the following :-

Item	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	
Trucks 15-cwt half) truck (Armd)) personnel)	-	-	-	275	275	55	330	A... as ... for

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

) the following :-

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)
-	-	-	275	275	55	330	As Armd CPs for Arty and as two set R/T stations for Sig Bns

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

Item	1st & 2nd Line entitlements on present WEs (i) (a)	Trg requirements for twelve months existing units (ii) (a)	Present Holdings (b)	Deficiency or Surplus against present entitlements and trg requirements ((b) minus (a)) (c)	Additional requirements for 1st & 2nd line of new units projected for Post Treaty Army (i) (d)	Trg requirements for twelve months for new units for projected Post Treaty Army (ii) (d)	Deficiency against requirements for projected Post Treaty Army ((d) minus any surplus in (c)) (e)
.303 Bdr	14,000,000	16,000,000	32,710,000	+ 710,000	5,000,000	6,000,000	10,290,000
.303 Gtn	12,000,000	24,000,000	22,265,000	- 13,735,000	4,000,000	8,000,000	12,000,000
.303 Inc	1,400,000	-	2,596,000	+ 1,196,000	400,000	-	+ 796,000
.303 Trac	4,200,000	6,000,000	1,940,000	- 8,260,000	1,200,000	2,000,000	11,460,000
Signal Red	12,000	21,000	29,000	- 4,000	4,000	7,000	11,000
Signal Green	12,000	21,000	31,000	- 2,000	4,000	7,000	11,000
Signal Illum	36,000	63,000	78,000	- 21,000	12,000	21,000	33,000
40 mm AP	14,000	25,000	19,000	- 25,000	12,000	17,000	29,000
40 mm HE	80,000	124,000	215,000	+ 11,000	64,000	99,000	152,000
6 pr AP	9,000	16,000	21,000	- 4,000	6,000	10,000	16,000
6 pr HE	3,000	5,000	3,000	- 5,000	2,000	3,000	5,000
25 pr Smok	7,000	7,500	28,000	+ 13,500	8,500	9,000	4,000
25 pr AP	5,000	-	3,000	- 2,000	6,000	-	6,000
25 pr HE	63,000	65,000	317,000	+ 189,000	76,000	78,000	+ 35,000
25 pr Charges Normal	72,000	75,000	270,000	+ 123,000	86,000	90,000	53,000
25 pr Super	13,000	15,000	32,000	+ 4,000	18,000	18,000	32,000
25 pr Super Incr	5,000	-	3,000	- 2,000	6,000	-	6,000
.300 Cal Brown	3,790,000	2,000,000	4,398,000	- 1,392,000	7,586,000	4,000,000	11,586,000
37 mm Time Fuze HE	6,000	4,000	5,000	- 10,000	3,000	2,000	5,000
37 mm HE	18,000	12,000	17,000	- 13,000	9,000	6,000	15,000
37 mm AP	21,000	14,000	21,000	- 14,000	10,000	7,000	17,000
.50 Cal Brown	-	-	-	-	292,000	175,000	467,000
75 mm QF (AFV) all types	-	-	-	-	30,000	30,000	60,000
17 pr AP	14,000	14,000	27,000	+ 13,000	15,000	15,000	17,000
17 pr HE	1,000	1,000	-	- 2,000	4,000	4,000	8,000
105 mm (L7) HE	-	-	-	-	9,000	9,000	18,000
105 mm (L7) HE A tk	-	-	-	-	1,000	1,000	2,000
105 mm (L7) Smoke	-	-	-	-	1,000	1,000	2,000
PIAT HE Bom	60,000	350,000	5,000	- 405,000	37,000	110,000	147,000
PIAT Trg Bom's	-	15,000	-	- 15,000	-	5,000	5,000
PIAT Propelling Charges(Trg)	-	90,000	-	- 90,000	-	30,000	30,000
PIAT Safety Devices (Trg)	-	90,000	192,000	+ 102,000	-	30,000	+ 72,000

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. 725020

AMN REQUIREMENTS

Appx "C" to ltr TA
Letter C 2 G Dated 6 Jan 47

2nd Trg require- ents- ents present (a)	Trg requirements for twelve months existing units (ii)	Present Holdings (b)	Deficiency or Surplus against present entitlements and trg requirements ((b) minus (a)) (c)	Additional requirements for 1st & 2nd line of new units projected for Post Treaty Army (i)	Trg requirements for twelve months for new units for projected Post Treaty Army (ii)	(d)	Deficiency against requirements for projected Post Treaty Army ((d) minus any surplus in (c)) (e)	Required as war res for present AND projected armies (f)	Grand Total requirements (g)
0,000	18,000,000	32,710,000	+ 710,000	5,000,000	6,000,000		10,290,000	11,000,000	21,290,000
,000	24,000,000	22,265,000	- 13,735,000	4,000,000	8,000,000		12,000,000	25,000,000	50,735,000
,000	-	2,596,000	+ 1,196,000	400,000	-		+ 796,000	2,500,000	1,704,000
,000	6,000,000	1,940,000	- 8,260,000	1,200,000	2,000,000		11,460,000	7,000,000	18,460,000
2,000	21,000	29,000	- 4,000	4,000	7,000		11,000	60,000	75,000
2,000	21,000	31,000	- 2,000	4,000	7,000		11,000	60,000	73,000
,000	63,000	78,000	- 21,000	12,000	21,000		33,000	121,000	154,000
,000	24,000	19,000	- 25,000	12,000	17,000		29,000	4,000	58,000
,000	124,000	215,000	+ 11,000	64,000	99,000		152,000	185,000	337,000
,000	16,000	21,000	- 4,000	6,000	10,000		16,000	14,000	34,000
,000	5,000	3,000	- 5,000	2,000	3,000		5,000	2,000	12,000
,000	7,500	28,000	+ 13,500	6,500	9,000		4,000	125,000	129,000
5,000	-	3,000	- 2,000	6,000	-		6,000	22,000	28,000
3,000	65,000	317,000	+ 189,000	76,000	78,000		+ 35,000	1,350,000	1,315,000
,000	75,000	27[illegible],000	+ 123,000	86,000	90,000		53,000	1,450,000	1,503,000
,000	15,000	32,000	+ 4,000	18,000	18,000		32,000	105,000	137,000
,000	-	3,000	- 2,000	6,000	-		6,000	22,000	30,000
0,000	2,000,000	4,398,000	- 1,392,000	7,500,000	4,000,000		11,580,000	4,500,000	17,472,000 ¥
6,000	4,000	5,000	- 10,000	3,000	2,000		5,000	12,000	27,000 @
8,000	12,000	17,000	- 13,000	9,000	6,000		15,000	36,000	64,000
1,000	14,000	21,000	- 14,000	10,000	7,000		17,000	42,000	73,000 ¢
-	-	-	-	292,000	175,000		467,000	375,000	842,000
-	-	-	-	30,000	30,000		60,000	35,000	95,000 £
4,000	14,000	27,000	+ 13,000	15,000	15,000		17,000	36,000	53,000 ≠
1,000	1,000	-	- 2,000	4,000	4,000		8,000	4,000	14,000
-	-	-	-	9,000	9,000		18,000	54,000	72,000
-	-	-	-	1,000	1,000		2,000	2,000	4,000
-	-	-	-	1,000	1,000		2,000	6,000	8,000
2,000	350,000	5,000	- 455,000	37,000	110,000		147,000	100,000	652,000
-	15,000	-	- 15,000	-	5,000		5,000	-	20,000
-	90,000	-	- 90,000	-	30,000		30,000	-	120,000
-	90,000	192,000	+ 102,000	-	30,000		+ 72,000	-	-

Attachment to Appx 'B' to A.H. letter Q3/2 Q Dated 6 Jan 47

NOTES

¥ Calculated on 500 weapons at present and 1,000 future. Total 1,500 for calculation of War Res.

@ Calculated on 256 weapons at present and 144 future. Total 400 for calculation of War Res.

≠ Calculated on 400 future. Total 400 for calculation of War Res.

(HE and AP to be allotted in accordance with current theatre proportions.

≠ Col (a) calculated on 110 towed guns.
Col (d) on 80 towed guns and 40 tks.
Col (f) on 190 towed guns and 40 tks.

(i) 1st and 2nd line in colns (a)(i) and (d)(i) are calculated on BRITISH Staff Scales based on numbers of weapons shown in Appx 'A' colns (c) and (i).

(ii) War Res in coln (f) is calculated on BRITISH Staff Scales at sixty days Contact Rates on basis of totals of Appx 'A' coln (a) plus coln (d).

(iii) Where BRITISH figures for Contact Rates are based on rp Div, basis is six Inf Divs (6)(4), one Armd Div (1), eleven Inf Bde Gps (11)(5), plus equivalent of one other Div to cover services etc (1)(1).

(iv) SA Trg requirements in coln (a) (ii) are based on SAT Vol I Pamphlet 18 for 120,000 recruits annually, plus unit fd firing exercises for 145,000. Requirements in coln (d) (ii) are for trg an additional 45,000 annually as above.

(v) Trg requirements for other weapons are in proportion to numbers of weapons as shown in Appx 'A' colns (a) and (d).

(vi) In doubtful cases trg requirements are shown in approximately the same proportions as exist between equivalent 1st and 2nd line natures,

(vii) The nearest round figure has been adopted throughout.

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

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

M.M.A. - 107
FILE 50/109/2
DATE 6-1-47

TRANSLATION

Eo-0) SD/109/7 132
Vol/2 (47-9) Appx

From: M.of W.
To : Arty and MT General Directorate
M.M.A (for information)

Ref: 4/3803/Serv

Date: 21/12/46

Subject: Substitution of the "Thompson" automatic carbine with the "Beretta" automatic carbine. -

1. - We request you to order the substitution of the "Thompson" S.M.Gs. at present on issue, with the "Beretta" automatic carbines. A similar substitution must be carried out for all the scales of issue of 1st, 2nd line and training ammunition.

2.- The substitution should take place with the following order of priority: C.A.Rs - Military Schools (Infantry, Various Arms Cooperation, Artillery, Pioneers, Signals, MT, Welfare and Services Military Police) - Infantry Divisions (Folgore, Legnano, Friuli, Mantova and Cremona) - Regiments not included in divisions (8th Alpine - 6th Alpine - 4th Alpine - 3rd Bersaglieri - 1st Gremadiers 2nd Infantry - 6th Infantry - 7th Infantry - 10th Infantry - 9th Infantry) Infantry Brigades (Aosta, Reggio, and Calabria). -

3. - The substitution at CARs and at Military Schools should be carried out by the 21st January 1947; the remaining units and corps of the Army by the 30th April 1947. - The 192 "Thompson" SMGs of each CAR (16 per Company) will be substituted with 204 "Beretta" automatic carbines (17 per company). -

4. - The "Beretta" automatic carbines will be issued complete with accessories as laid down in circular 89911/21000 dated 10th inst. from this General Directorate.

5. - On completion of the substitution, the "Thompson" SMGs with relative ammunition will be handed in to the Territorial Artillery Directorates. -

The handing in of Thompson SMGs will be carried out also by the Military Academy which has already been issued with "Beretta" automatic carbines. -

6. - Requests for transport will be made to this SM's Transport Office.

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

7. - We request:
- the Artillery and MT General Directorate to inform us from time to time of the substitutions ordered;
- the Military Territorial Commands to inform us on completion of the substitutions at the units and corps under their command.

sgd. Liuzzi
Gen.

UR



681

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

MMIA - 'O'
FILE 50/109/2
DATE 7"1"47.

TRANSLATION

OO 50/109/2 131
(& 7g)
ORD

From: M.of W.
To : Infantry Inspectorate
MMIA (for information)
(Ref.letter SD/102 dated 9/12/46)

Ref: 4/3774/Serv

Date : 26/12/46

Subject: Use of 81 m/m bombs with the British 3" mortar. -

In relation to the information pointed out by MMIA with the above referred to letter, we beg your Inspectorate to consider, in agreement with the Artillery Inspectorate, the opportunity of carrying out suitable experiments at the Infantry School or at the Nettuno Experiment Centre. -

sgd. Liuzzi
Gen;

UG

RIVA
(SD)

Copy passed to Org

687

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

130

Telephone
Room 4A908, Ext 401

LAND FORCES SEA CORPS (ARMY) CAN
22/105/2
27 Dec 46

TS: (Secret)

Subject:- Instruments and Fm - Training Aids.

Ref your M/1006 dated 13 Dec 46. 1138

1. Attached as per para 1(c) is extract of sqn held by Kinloss wing.

2. Paras 1 (b) and (c) are in hand, and the information required by you will be forwarded as soon as received from the War Ministry, who have been asked to treat the matter as urgent.

Ack Form 133 Page Out 27.12.46 SH

[signature]

M/1011

Colonel,
Deputy Commander.

686

Internal Distribution:

A.D.
Cas
M/1025/3

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDG NO. 775020

Appx 'A' to MMIA
letter SD/109/2
Dated 27 Dec 46

WEAPONS AND VEHS

Type	Holdings Dec 46	
Rifles	142,834	
LMG	8,132	
PIAT	3,264	
6 pr	193	
17 pr	113	
25 pr	305	
40 mm	225	
3.7 in AA	5	
5.5 in Med	5	
114 mm Hy	-	
155 mm Hy	-	
183 mm Hy	-	
Coast Def	-	
SP A tk	25	(a)
105 mm M7	78	(a)
A VEHS		
Hy Tks	197	(a)
Med Tks :-	125	
Sherman 75 mm	25	
Sherman 76 mm	19	
Sherman 105 mm	28	
Sherman 17 pr	-	
Lt Tks	246	(a)
Armd Cs	46	(a)
Lt Armd Cs	12	(a)
Scout Cars	2,343	(a)
Carriers		
B VEHS		
Portee B	-	
Tk Tptr	-	

197
- 44
153
+ 10
163

cancelled by SD/109/2 dated 31 Dec 46

(a) Includes 'A' Vehs now being transferred from FORLI.

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

Telephone
Rome, 489081 Ext 401

LAND FORCES SUB COMM, AC (MMLA) CMF

SD/109/2

20 Dec 46

OC 5 B.L.U.

Subject: Arms.

NT & Branch

Ref your Q/7/1 of 28 nov.

Regret impossible to change these rifles as GHQ state the British ones have been "called back" to England.

EMC/mm

Lt-Col,
GS, MMLA.

Reg'd 20/12/46

68.

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

(O)

Telephone:
Rome 489001 Ext 415

LAND FORCES SUB COMM, AC (MMIA) GHQ

003 9

20 Dec 46

MMIA - 'G'
File 50/109/2
DATE 20-12-46

Ministry of War (by IO)

Subject: Standardisation of Italian Weapons

It is requested that you please inform this Hq:

(a) the anticipated date by which the following British arms will have been replaced by corresponding Italian weapons and so be available for return to British Depots;

(b) the total quantity of each weapon which will be returned.

(i) Pistol Rev. .38

(ii) Thompson S.M.G.

(iii) Vickers, M.M.G.

(iv) Mortars 2 ins.

(v) Mortars 3 ins.

(vi) Mortars 4.2 ins.

68

Yours

NORMAN E. PIKE,
Colonel,
Dep Comd.

NOMP/jw

Internal: SD
GHQ

File	
G (SD)	Action
G (SD)	Rec'd

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

Telephone
489081 Ext 476

G(TRG) Branch

TRG/42

20 Dec. '46

G(SD)

MMIA
FILE 50/109/2
DATE 7-Dec-12-'46

Subject: Tripods, Bren for Cars and Inf. Pls.

Ref. your SD/105/2 of 14 Dec. '46.

Consider a scale of 18 for C.A.R. and 6 for Inf. Bn. be issued if available.

Lt Col,
GS, MMIA.

RFC/cb

DGS	
GS(SD)	
DDS(T)	
GS(SD)	
G(T)	
G	
G	
G (Q)	

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

0 0 125

Telephone:
Ext: 218

G(SD) Branch

SD/109/1

17 Dec. '46

'Q' ←

Subject: SMLE MK III Rifle.

6 BLU letter Q/7/1 28 nov.

6 Terr. Region have some 1300 pattern P 14 rifles with no spare foresights and few swords.

The FOI/CORPS dump at IESI contain a similar number of SMLE MK III complete with swords.

Can these be exchanged via Q/Ord channels on an old boy basis, or is GHQ (G(SD)) action required?

ARCS/cb

Lt Col,
GS, MMIA.

Copy to: ORD

TO [illegible]
A/Q
Q
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
REMG

file

18/12/46

A Q. 138

SD/109/2 124

SUBJECT: Standardisation of Arms

G (SD) GHQ CMF	
File No.	
GSO I	
GSO II Policy	
GSO II Eqpt	
GSO II WE's	
GSO III Mp	
GSO III Eqpt	
GSO III WE's	
Reg No.	

DEC 17 1946

5 British Liaison Unit
Tele: 1553
MQ/44/68

14 Dec 46.

HQ
5 Territorial Command

MMIA - HQ
FILE SD/109/2
DATE 4 Dec 46.

Ref your 4964/S/9/9 dated 5 Dec 46.

1. The ideal of course is for one uniform pattern rifle (preferably LEE ENFIELD) to be issued throughout the Command. However, under the present circumstances it is doubtful whether this is possible, particularly as the Command is bound to be on a lower priority than say the Combat Divisions.

2. As regards the detailed distribution, it is observed that the TOLMEZZO Bn is equipped with three different pattern rifles. As the Bn is in an operational role it is thought that perhaps it would be better if the 37 Remingtons and 11 R.Fs were exchanged for 48 E.R.As from say the Mortar Coy. However, in view of the small numbers involved you may not think that the exchange would be worth while.

3. It is noted that the L'AQUILA Bn is some 120 rifles deficient. Please continue to press the Ministry of War for this deficiency to be made up. You should ask for LEE ENFIELD Mark 4.

ALLIED 739 19 DEC 1946

Lt. Col,
GS.

FIELD
AHGW/rw

Copy to: G (SD) MMIA together with detailed breakdown - your SD/109/2 dated 4 Oct 46 refers. It will be apparent that it is not possible for 5 Terr. Comd to make an adequate re-distribution from within their own resources.

File
Diary

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

DATE 19 DEC 46.

Ref your 4964/S/9/9 dated 5 Dec 46.

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RECEIVED 19 DEC 1946 139

FIELD
AHGW/rw

Lt. Col,
GS.

Copy to: G (SD) MMIA together with detailed breakdown - your SD/109/2 dated 4 Oct 46 refers. It will be apparent that it is not possible for 5 Terr. Comd to make an adequate re-distribution from within their own resources.

File
Diary

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NND No. 765020

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

COMMANDO MILITARE TERRITORIALE DI UDINE
Ufficio Servizi

Allegato al foglio No. 14.964/8/9/9/Art

RETURN Showing the types of British Rifles Cal. 7.7 in distribution to dependent Units.

REPARTO	Mod. 303 ERA Washington	Mod. 303 Remington 1902 and 1907	Mod. 303 R.F.	Mod. 303 LEE ENFIELD N.4 MARK -4	E... M...
- Battaglione Alpini "Feltre"	472	-	-	-	
- Battaglione Alpini "Tolmezzo"	424	37	11	-	
- Battaglione Alpini "L'Aquila"	6	-	-	350	
- Compagnia Comando Reggimentale (8° Rgt. Alpini)	86	-	-	-	
- 8° Compagnia Mortai (Rgt Alpini)	94	-	-	-	
5 C.A.R. Modena	15	-	-	-	2
- Frazione C.A.R. Sacile	-	-	-	-	1
Totali	1097	37	11	350	4

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

COMMANDO MILITARE TERRITORIALE DI UDINE
Ufficio Servizi

Allegato al foglio No. 14964/9/9/9/Art

wing the types of British Rifles Cal.7.7 in distribution to dependent Units.

Mod. 303 ERA Washington	Mod. 303 Remington 1902 and 1907	Mod. 303 R.F.	Mod.303 LEE ENFIELD N.4 MARK -4	LEE ENFIELD MARK ↓ ↑	
472	-	-	-	-	
424	37	11	-	-	
6	-	-	350	-	
86	-	-	-	-	
94	-	-	-	-	
15	-	-	-	2759	
-	-	-	-	1271	
1097	37	11	350	4020	

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

TRANSLATION

123

FROM: The Chief of SME

REF: I/4096/Serv

TO : Maj. Gen. E.H. GOULBURN D.S.O.
G.O.C. M.M.I.A.

DATE: 9/12/46

File SD/109/2
DATE 18/12/46

Dear General,

I thank you for the notes contained in your letter dated the 3rd inst.

I) I have taken note of the following points regarding the Italian Army:-

a) that it can include in its new post peace treaty organisation, and within the limits imposed by said treaty, units armed with heavy weapons.-

b) that MMIA recognises the need for such units to be formed for the defence of the national frontiers.-

2) I fully agree with you on the necessity for not missing the opportunity in drawing from the stocks of Allied armies in this theatre of operations the necessary heavy weapons such as tanks, heavy field guns, heavy guns and A.A. heavy guns.

With this aim, I beg your Mission to take the matter up, so that before British units spike excess gun barrels (as done at Montecorvino), officers of this S.M. be permitted to visit arty depots so that they can immediately select and indicate the gun barrels which could be used by the Italian Army. In this way the arrangements for the operations of assignment and withdrawal can be speedily defined in a concrete manner.

3) For your guidance, a summary list of weapons, guns and armoured vehicles or tractors needed by the Italian Army was forwarded to you with letter I/2817 dated 31 Aug. 1946.

Since that date, amendments have been made to the WEs, new requirements emerged, with reference to the memorandum enclosed with your letter, I arranged for the

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

compilation of a new table (encl. I) more complete and up to date which includes the armament for the future peace time army and that needed to satisfy present needs.

Several explanatory notes give the reasons for the quantities requested.-

4) There is no doubt that the Italian Government is prepared to buy the British material and weapons if these are released on favourable conditions and bearing in mind that in case said weapons have to be left on the spot (which will happen should these be of no use for the British troops) they would be spiked and released to ARAR as scrap metal.

5) I am also in full agreement with the necessity of securing an adequate development in training activities with respect to the new material.

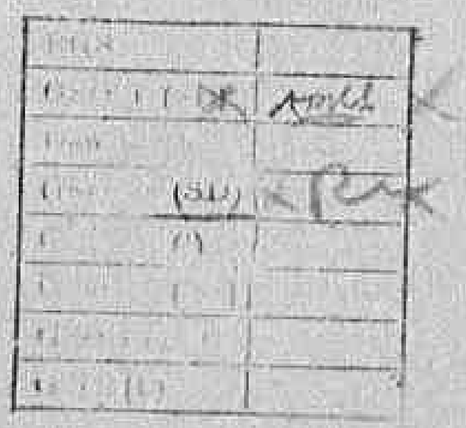
Said activity will be easily and immediately carried out by the Arty Schools as soon as the material becomes available.

On the other hand, regarding tanks, the training is subordinate to the formation of a tank corps school, already schemed, and to the realisation of which every possible help will be given. Further agreement will be made between the offices concerned and M.M.I.A.

Yours sincerely

Sgd. CADORNA
Gen.

C.F.



6.

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

Enclosure No. 1 to letter No° I/4096
dated 9/12/46.

REQUIREMENT OF WEAPONS FOR THE ITALIAN ARMY.

Weapons Transport and tractors.	Requirement of weapon for units employed and for training purposes.	Reserve	Total 2nd & 3rd column	British weapons already on issue to the Italian Army.	Total quantities to be withdrawn
-Rifles	213.700 (I)	100.000	313.700	117.115	196.585
-L.M.Gs	9.100	5.000	14.100	5.273	8.827
-PIAT	3.451	1.726	5.177	1.810	3.367
-17 Pdrs. Guns	168	84	252	113	139
-25 " "	592	300	892	303	589
- 6 " "	174	90	264	192	72
-40 m/m guns	420	210	630	225	405
-Armed cars Staghound	361	180	541	292	(2) 249 (3)
-Light armi. cars	117	60	177	18	159 (4)
-Dingo	104	50	154	-	154
-Light tanks	335 (I)	160	495	-	495
-Medium tanks	176 (I)	90	266	-	266 (3)
-Heavy tanks	86 (I)	43	129	-	129
-Self propelled guns (85 & 120 m/m)	110 (I)	55	165		165 (3)
-A.A. Guns 3.7.	153	76	229	5	224 (5)
-Heavy guns for Heavy Arty Rgts. (155 m/m)	33	16	49	-	49
-Guns for Heavy Field Arty Rgts. (114 m/m)	81	40	121	-	121
-Howitzer for Heavy Arty Rgts. (183 m/m)	33	16	49	-	49
-Howitzer for Heavy Field Art. Rgts. (5.5 M.A.)	81	40	121	5	116
-Guns for coastal Arty Groups	12	6	18	-	18

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

-Carriers	2.576	-	2.576	I.053	I.523 (6)
-Porter "B"	I40	-	-	-	I40
-Truck tanks	250	-	-	-	250

Furthermore, loading material and accessories, including a small reserve of same for the formation of the u/m units, are required:-

	Regiments	Batteries	Troops Groups
- 6 Pdrs.		I8	48
- I7 Pdrs.			
- 25 Pdrs.	40	I6	48
- 40 m/m		75	I57
		35	82
- Self propelled	I	6	I8
- Coastal	-	I	4
- Heavy Field Guns		I4	38
- Heavy Field Howitzer	5	8	21
- Heavy guns		3	7
- Heavy Howitzer	I	3	7
- Heavy A.A.	4	I5	42

NOTES:-

(I) Including permament issues for Schools, Academy, CAR.
(2) Including the weapons issued to Carabinieri
(3) Does not include the weapons being consigned at Bologna.
(4) For Signal Bns. of the Divisions.
(5) The calibres of self propelled guns, A.A. guns, heavy field guns and heavy guns are mentioned only for your guidance. It is necessary to distribute them in accordance with the weapons available
(6) The types of carriers are as follows:-

Bren carriers	782
Mortar	454
Universal & Lloyd	287
	I523

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

TENTATIVE REQUIREMENTS IN BRIT ARMS
REQUESTED BY THE ITALIAN ARMY

Arms (1)	Requirements for Units & Training (2)	Reserve (3)	Totals of Columns 2 and 3 (4)	Brit Armament already possessed by the Italian Army (5)	Tot
Rifles .022	98	49	147	-	
Rifles	160,594	80,292	240,886	117,115	
LMG Bren	8,947	4,473	13,420	5,273	
PIAT	3,451	1,726	5,177	1,810	
17 Pr	158	79	237	113	
25 Pr	584	282	866	303	
6 Pr	164	82	246	203	
40 mm	410	205	615	225	
Armd Cs	209	104	313	130	
Dingo	92	46	138	-	
Lt Tks	285	143	428	-	
Med Tks	126	63	189	-	
Hy Tks	76	38	114	-	
Self Propelled Anti tk Guns	60	30	90	-	
Anti-aircraft guns(3.7 in)	152	76	228	5	
Guns for Hy Arty Regts (155mm)	32	16	48	-	
Howitzer for Hy Arty Regts (7.2.in)	32	16	48	-	
Guns for Med Arty Regts (5.4. in)	80	40	120	-	
Howitzer for Arty Regts (5.5 in)	80	40	120	5	
Guns for Costal Arty	12	6	18	-	
Universal Carriers					

NOTES: The calibre of Med and Hy Guns and Hows have been shown only for guidance. These will be decided upon in accordance with the material available.

The figure shown against Arm Cs already possessed by the ITALIAN Army does not include those to the Carabinieri.

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

TENTATIVE REQUIREMENTS IN BRIT ARMS
REQUESTED BY THE ITALIAN ARMY

Appx 'A' to MMIA SD/109/2
letter dated 5 Sep 46

	Requirements for Units & Training (2)	Reserve (3)	Totals of Columns 2 and 3 (4)	Brit Armament already possessed by the Italian Army (5)	Total quantity now required (6)	
	98	49	147	-	147	
	160,594	80,292	240,886	117,115	123,771	
	8,947	4,473	13,420	5,273	8,147	
	3,451	1,726	5,177	1,810	3,367	
	158	79	237	113	124	
	584	282	866	303	563	
	164	82	246	203	43	
	410	205	615	225	390	
	209	104	313	130	183	
	92	46	138	-	138	
	285	143	428	-	428	
	126	63	189	-	189	
	76	38	114	-	114	
	60	30	90	-	90	
	152	76	228	5	223	
	32	16	48	-	48	
. in)	32	16	48	-	48	
)	80	40	120	-	120	
)	80	40	120	5	115	
	12	6	18	-	18	
					1,453	Submitted by M. of War, see folio 5B.

re of Med and Hy Guns and Mows have been shown only for guidance. These will be
pon in accordance with the material available.

e shown against Arm Cs already possessed by the ITALIAN Army does not include those issued
rabinieri.

Telephone:
Rome, 489081 Ext. 218

LAND FORCES SUB-COMM, AC (MMIA) CMF

SD/109/2

16 Dec 46

LIST 'B'

Subject: Standardisation of Italian Weapons

1. The ALLIES have proved unable at present, to supply, in some cases, a sufficiency of BRITISH weapons of all the types required by the ITALIAN Interim Army, and in other cases, a sufficiency of ammunition for such weapons as can be supplied.

2. It has therefore been agreed between this HQ, and the Ministry of War that, in place of the BRITISH weapons originally desired, the ITALIANS should standardise on certain types of ITALIAN weapons of which they have a sufficiency immediately available, and for which they have also ample ammunition.

3. The following ITALIAN weapons will be adopted:

(i) BERETTA automatic pistol mod. 34 cal 9 (in place of BRITISH pistol rev. "38)

(ii) BERETTA automatic carbine mod. 38 cal. 9 (in place of BRITISH TSMG).

(iii) 45mm Mortar mod. 35 (in place of BRITISH 2" Mortar)

(iv) 81mm Mortar mod. 35 (in place of BRITISH 3" and 4."2 Mortars).

(v) BREDA MG mod. 37 cal. 8 (in place of BRITISH VICKERS MMG)

4. It is realised that the ITALIAN 45mm Mortar is not at present as good as the BRITISH 2" Mortar, although it is considered that with the production of new amn, particularly smoke (which is in hand) the 45mm Mortar will be an adequate substitute as an inf pl weapon.

5. Exhaustive comparative tests have been carried out between the 81mm and 3" Mortars, as a result of which this HQ is of opinion that there is little to choose between the two weapons.

6. Adoption of the BREDA LG was agreed in Aug 46.

Report 43/46

Lt-Col.

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

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6. Adoption of the BREDA MG was agreed in Aug 46.

Reg'd out 10/12/46

Lt-Col,
GS, MMIA.

ARCS/mm

Copy to : AFHQ) Who will please delete these weapons from
GHQ) Staff Tables of requirements of ITALIAN Army.

Internal : 'Q') Who will please ascertain from Ministry of War
ORD) progress and expected completion date of substitution of ITALIAN for BRITISH weapons, in order that G(SD) may in due course request from GHQ instructions for disposal of BRITISH weapons.

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

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDG NO. 725020

120

Telephone
Ext. 218

G(SD) Branch

SD/109/2

14 Dec 46

G(Trg)
'Q'
Ord

File

Subject: Tripods, Bren for CARs and Inf Pls.

For G(Trg)

6 BLW raised question of provision of Bren Tripods for CARs and Inf Pls.

Do you consider this necessary and if so on what scale? What is BRITISH scale now?

For 'Q'/Ord

(a) To what numbers do the ITALIANS at present hold Bren Tripods?
(b) What chances are there of getting any more if required?

ARCS/mma

Lt-Col.
GS, MMLA.

Reg Ours
14/12/46

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

Telephone:
Ext. 218

G(SD) Branch,
SD/109/2,
14 Dec 46.

"Q"

Subject: LMG Spares

6 RLM report a grave lack of LMG spare parts.

They also report that 6 CAR hold one Combination Tool LMG Bren, for all their LMGs.

Can any action be taken to remedy this, which is probably universal ?

A.P.K. Lawton

Lt-Col,
GS, MMA.

ARCS/sb

Copy to : CSD

Reg Out
14/12/46
AM.

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

COPY

SECRET

G(SD) Branch
GHQ CMF

SD/1006

13 Dec 46.

Tele No : PADUA 22693

Subject : Amn for the ITALIAN Army

TO : Land Forces Sub Commission A.C. (MMIA)

Copy To : 'A'
'Q'

para 3(a) answered die Jan 47.

FILE SD/109/2
DATE 18-12-46

1. The present War Office policy as regards amn is that it is nearly all on the 'short list' and that the ITALIAN Army is on a very low priority.

2. This GHQ does not know what serviceable equipment is held by the ITALIAN Army nor what amn it requires.

This is caused by the following reasons:-

(a) A considerable amount of equipment was issued during the war of which there is no record.

(b) Certain items must by now be unserviceable.

(c) The continued changeover of Staff Officers at this GHQ.

3. In order therefore that we may ask the War Office to reconsider their policy and allow us to issue amn will you please supply the following information:-

(a) Type and number of equipment held (Figure to include Veh Pk Bologna).

(b) Amount of amn needs for present requirements.

(c) Amount that the ITALIAN government would like for the Post Peace Treaty Army.

Please ensure that (b) and (c) are kept quite seperate and specify the types of amn required i.e. AP HE Tracer etc.

4. It is realised that this will cause extra work. This is regretted but due to the reasons given in para 2 above the lists already submitted by you to this HQ do not give a full and clear picture.

5. Please treat this as very urgent.

SD Distibution:-
SD/109/3
'Q'
'GRD'

SD/109/2 /

(sgd) J.W.MAXWELL Major

for Brigadier
Chief of Staff.

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

117

Telephone
Rome 489061 Ext 218

LAND FORCES SUB COM AC (MMIA) GHP

SD/109/2

13 Dec 46

MILITARY OF WAR

Subject:- Transfer of Artillery Equipment to the ITALIAN Army

1. (ZK) have now given authority for issue to you of twelve 17 pdrs and twelve 25 pdrs.

This will complete your holdings up to entitlement.

2. 'Q' Branch this HQ will arrange details of handover direct with your 'Q' Branch.

for Major-General,
GOC, MMIA.

AFCS/ell

Internal Distribution:
G(Trg)
'Q' for action - GHQ DOS/2614 dated 3 Dec refers (copy to you)

661

Lb/AD

MINISTERO DELLA GUERRA
Stato Maggiore dell'Esercito
Ispettorato dell'Arma di Fanteria
Ufficio III - Sezione II

N° 03/37 di prot.

Rome, 10 December 1946

SUBJECT: Comparative study between the British 3" mortar and the Italian 81 mm.

MMIA - 'G'
FILE 50/109/2
DATE 14-11-46.

To: Major General E.H. GOULBURN, DSO, GOC
Land Forces Sub Com (MMIA) CMF DO/2

My dear General,

I) I was delighted to receive your letter of the 2nd inst and I heartily thank you for your kind expressions regarding the work accomplished by my commission.

II) I completely concur with you as to the intrinsic value of the 3" British mortar. I have personally been able to verify in war time its merits essentially due to its robustness and simplicity. I however still am of opinion that the Italian 81 mm material not only is a better weapon for infantry warfare, but is better adapted to the special requirements of our Army.

According to me:

a) the great precision of fire practically becomes an economy of ammunition and this for us is a detail of maximum importance as we have never had and never shall have abundance of ammunition;
b) the technical improvements that have been introduced especially as regards the sights, though they may require a more accurate training of personnel (experience shows that, in general it requires ten more days of training in comparison to the 3" material) on the other hand afford greater possibilities of resolving practically with rapidity and exactness the various problems tha may occur during the shooting.

This naturally independently from the greater precision already above mentioned.

Apart from the fact that if necessary it is always possible to disregard the purely technical conduct of fire and carry it out accordingly to makeshift

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

FILE SO/109/2
DATE 14-11-46.

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Land Forces Sub Com (MMIA) CMF DO/2

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This naturally independently from the greater precision already above mentioned.

Apart from the fact that if necessary it is always possible to disregard the purely technical conduct of fire and carry it out accordingly to makeshift systems (when time is short and ammunition plenty);
c) the greater range allowed by the six charges, is of a great moral and practical importance in battle. I was personally able to verify at the river Senio the bad influence on our infantry of the German 81 mm mortars fire, that could not be properly counter-battered either by the 3" mortars on account of their limited range or by the field artillery on account of the great tention of its trajectory;

./.

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

d) the peculiar fragmentation of the 81 mm bomb whilst undoubtedly more humanitarian, is however according to me a detail of particular importance from a practical point of view, because:

-the great number of fragments (about 4 times the ~~ones~~ of 3" mortar) notable increases the chances of hitting the enemy within a 30 to 40 metres radius from the point of explosion, and of putting him out of fighting conditions.

-the smaller radius of projection of the fragments allows the distance of security to be reduced thus favouring the movements of our infantry in closer accordance with the supporting fire of the mortars.

And à propos of fragments I would like to say that in 1940-41 we also prepared some 81 mm bombs in steel, but after the experience made on the field of battle, on test ranges and in training centres, we prefered to return to the production of bombs in hardened cast iron;

e) the various parts of the 81 mm mortar are equally well balanced so that their transport either by hand or with ~~the~~ special carrying bars is easy and can be effected even on long distances. On account of the lack of mules our soldiers have often had to carry mortars in the mountains so that our experience is both wide and sure.

III) I also concur with you in judging that the 3" baseplate adapts itself to different conditions of ground and that in some cases can be more rapidly put into fire position.

IV) The commission that I preside has limited itself to express a technical opinion following the comparative trials between the two mortars under examination. Naturally however, one of the factors that ~~have~~ influenced in the choice of the mortar, not however in a decisive manner, was represented by the present number of mortars and 81 mm ammunition at disposal and the possibility of a rapid production in Italy where the necessary industrial conditions exists.

V) I am very glad to hear that the report of the commission has been sent to England for study.

I will be very grateful if in due time I may hear of the results of this study that will certainly be extremely interesting and useful in our military collaboration.

Please accept, my dear General, my renewed thanks for your kind letter and my cordial greetings.

Yours aff.ly

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NND 80. 18502

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Please accept, my dear General, my renewed thanks for your kind letter and my cordial greetings.

Yours aff.ly

General Arturo SCATTINI.

G8	
Dep G	
G80 (SD)	
G (C)	
G	

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDS NO. 14502

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

1145

Telephone : 4760-X
Room. Nkt : 214

[redacted] ARMY FORCES 2nd-CORPS. A.C. (MAIA) C/E

SD/1004/V
SD/154/V

9 Dec. '45.

Ministry of War.

Subject: 3" Mortar Modification of.

Herewith, in case the particulars may be of interest to you, copies of detail of method by which ANZ 3" Mortar can be modified to fire IBADAN 81mm Mortar ammunition.

for Major-General,
AOC, MAIA.

ARCS/eb

INTERNAL DISTRIBUTION

G(Plans)
ORO

666

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

COPY

114

"X" ORD. STORES & EQUIP. DISP. UNIT
C.M.F.

Subject : Artillery Equipt to the Italian Army.

Tel:- Udine 1648
Ref:- Ord 3/0/2
Date:- 6th Dec. 1946.

M.M.I.A. - 'G'
FILE 50/109/2
DATE 12/12/46.

To :- A.D.O.S.
M.M.I.A.
C.M.F.

Reference D.O.S. letter D03/2614 dated 3rd. Dec. 1946, which authorised the issue of the u/m to you:-

O.Q.F. 25pdr. Qty. - 12

These guns are ready for collection from this unit.

MAJOR,
O.C. "X" O.S. & E.D.U.
(W.H.A. WILKES)

ORD. Distribution : "Q"
"G"

665

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

MEDIA

AFHQ

SECRET

REF: SD 3928

REF YOUR F 73468 DATED 29 NOV AND G-3/AFHQ/135 DATED 30 OCT (.)
IN VIEW OF SMALL NUMBER OF AMERICAN OWNED LIGHT TKS AVAILABLE
ITALIAN ARMY DO N O T REPEAT N O T DESIRE THEIR TRANSFER (.)
ITALIANS WOULD ONLY BE INTERESTED IF MINIMUM FIFTY OF THESE TKS
WERE AVAILABLE COMPLETE WITH MAINTENANCE SPARES

INFO COPY

Internal: 'Q'
SD/199/4
SD/105/2

G(SD)

A.R.G. SCUTHEY, Lt-Col

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

112

Telephone:
Rome 460081 Ext 218

LAND FORCES SUB COM AC (MMIA) CMF

30/109/2

9 Dec 46

MINISTRY OF WAR

111

Subject: Arms Allocation from [redacted] Factory

Reference your 4/3251/Serv of 7 Dec 46.

1. This HQ agrees that you should allocate output from the [redacted] Arms Factory as you suggest i.e.

Carabinieri	70%
Army	10%
G.D.F.	10%
Publica Sicurezza	10%

2. It is believed by this HQ that the Ministry of Grace and Justice are likely also to ask for certain arms.

3. This possibility should be borne in mind, and it is considered by this HQ that requirements of the Ministry of Grace and Justice should probably be met out of the 70% allotted to the para-military organisations, that is to the C.C.R. and the Publica Sicurezza.

for Major-General,
ACC, MMIA.

AHCB/ab

Copy to AC (Public Safety Div)

Internal: 30/109/2A

Rec'd
7/12/46

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

COPY

111

TRANSLATION

From: M. of W. Ref: 4/3651/Serv

To : M.M.I.A. Date: 7/12/46

Subject: "Beretta" Pistols (cal.9)- 89/A

Ref your letter SD/109 dated 5/11/46 and verbal agreements with Maj. Byatt.-

1. Your Mission authorised, with letter Q.009 dated 5/3/46, the manufacture of 70.000 "Beretta" authomatic pistols (cal.9) for the requirements of the Carabinieri, Finance Guards and Police.

Consequently the Ministries of Finance and of the Interior were informed that, in compliance with the requirements of the Carabinieri, it would be arranged to assign to them a quota of pistols from the quantities that, time to time, were manufactured and issued by the "Beretta" Factory.

2. At present we do not think it advisable to alter the information given to the Ministries of Finance and of the Interior, also because both the Ministry of Finance and the Public Security are Armed Corps of the State, who are entrusted with the duties essential for the life of the Nation.

3. However, bearing in mind the essential requirements of the Army and the Carabinieri, we propose that each quantity of pistols issued from the Beretta Factory is distributed according to the following percentage:

Army	10%
Carabinieri	70%
Finance Guard	10%
Public Security	10%

INFO COPY

663

UR

sgd. LIUZZI
Gen.

Distribution: SD/109
SD/109/2
'Q'
Ord

FILE SD/109/2
DATE 20 DEC 1946

Reply 1112

COPY

RESTRICTED. 110

SD/109/2

ORDNANCE DIRECTORATE
GHQ. CMF.

Subject: Transfer of Artillery Eqpt to the Italian Army

Ref: DOS/2614
Tel: PAMA 22320
Date 3 Dec 46.

MMIA - 'G'
FILE SD/109/2
DATE 6 DEC 1946

TO : DDOS HQ BTA (3 copies)
OC X OS & EDU (2 copies)

1. Please issue to the Italian Army the following equipment:-

(i) from 500 AOD Gun Park - OQF 17-pr qty 12.
(ii) from X OS & EDU - OQF 25 - pr qty 12.

2. Standard towed equipments in serviceable condition and complete so far as possible to G.1098 scale will be issued. Deficiencies on the 25 prs will be made good so far as possible from present availabilities in X OS & EDU. Inabilities will NOT be demand from 500 AOD as adequate stocks are already held for MMIA in 557 BOD. The acceptance of equipments in an inferior or doubtful condition will be voluntary on the part of the Italian Army. If necessary arrangements will be made for their representatives to inspect the guns before issue.

3. For first adressee. The 17-pr eqpts will be consigned as soon as possible to OC X OS & EDU. On their receipt the latter will notify ADOS MMIA immediately they are ready for collection.

4. On the instructions of "Q" Branch this GHQ, vouchering will be done in accordance with AFHQ letter AG.400/031 GDS-O dated 6 Oct 44, para 1 12 (a) (copies attached) , although the issues will officially be regarded as on loan.

5. In addition to the original signed vouchers to be forwarded to MMIA, another signed copy of each voucher is required for the Financial Adviser (Br) GHQ CMF.

6. Receipted copies of vouchers for Financial Adviser (Br) GHQ and ADOS MMIA will be priced where possible and accompanied by a schedule with each bundle of vouchers, the schedule to give details of the sections and issue vouchers in each bundle. C51

(D.B. BAKER) Capt.
for Brigadier
D.O.S.

Declassified E.O. 13065 Section 3-402/NNDC No. 165020

[illegible] ADOS HQ MTA (5 copies)
CC X OS & EDU (2 copies)

[illegible] 33 [illegible]
DATE 6 DEC 1946

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(i) from 500 AOD Gun Park - OQF 17-pr qty 12.
(ii) from X OS & EDU - OQF 25 - pr qty 12.

2. Standard towed equipments in serviceable condition and complete so far as possible to G.1098 scale will be issued. Deficiencies on the 25 prs will be made good so far as possible from present availabilities in X OS & EDU. Inabilities will NOT be demand from 500 AOD as adequate stocks are already held for MMIA in 557 BOD. The acceptance of equipments in an inferior or doubtful condition will be voluntary on the part of the Italian Army. If necessary arrangements will be made for their representatives to inspect the guns before issue.

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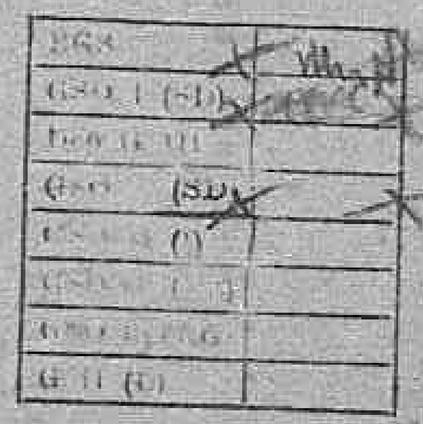
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(D.B. BAKER) Capt.
for Brigadier
D.O.S.

Copy to: DQMG GHQ, CMF. : Reference your GHQ/8159/G1 dated 15 Nov and confirming conversation Major Ascroft/Capt. BAKER.

G (SD) GHQ, CMF.: Reference your SD/2146/7 dated 24 July 46.
Financial Adviser (Br) GHQ, CMF.
ADOS (Plans)- for file DOS/7209.
ADOS Land Forces Sub Commission, MMIA.

ORD Dir G(SD) G



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

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

109

COPY INCOMING SIGNAL

MMI(G)
FILE 30/109/2
DATE 9 DEC 1946

FROM: MIDEAST

TO : 4TH TANK BATTALION HQ TPS SUDAN FORCE NAIROBI

INFO: GREEKMIL PALESTINE FORCE CMF BMM GREECE MMLA BMM ABYSSINIA

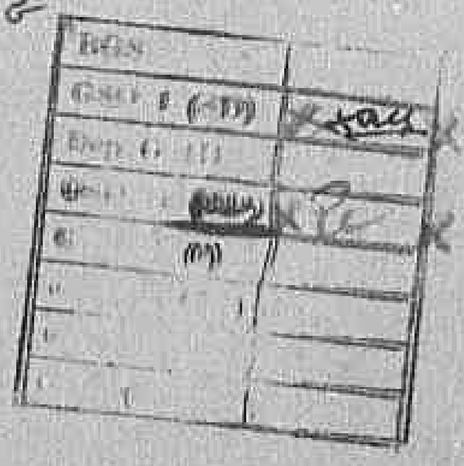
RESTRICTED

83938 SD5 (.) SUBJECT IS VICKERS MEDIUM MACHINE GUNS (.)
2 MX HAS EXPERIENCED LARGE INCIDENCE ABNORMAL BARRELS WEAR BARRELS MANUFACTURED BY MA (.) AlOS DAMAGED EXTRACTORS AND FIRING PINS (.) DAMAGE TO EXTRACTORS AND FIRING PINS SUSPECTED DUE TO USE OF REPACKED AMMUNITION OF VARIOUS LOTS, AND MIXED DATES OF MANUFACTURE SOME IN BAD CONDITION INCLUDING MISFIRES AND BADLY CORRODED ROUNDS OTHER THAN MK8Z (.) THIS MAY ALSO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ABNORMAL BARREL WEAR (.) TRIALS ARE IN HAND (.) REPORT EARLIEST WHETHER ANY REPACKED REPUTED MK 8 Z AMMUNITION BEING USED FOR TRAINING BY INFANTRY REGIMENT? BATTALIONS OTHER THAN 2XXX, AND IF SO WHETHER OF ABOVE MENTIONED CASUALTIES TO BEING EXPERIENCED (.) RECOMMEND BAN USE OF SUCH AMMUNITION UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE (.) IN MIDEAST SUCH AMMUNITION WILL NOT BE USED (.) IF STOCKS PERMIT BARRELS MARKED MA SHOULD BE FROZEN (.) IN MIDEAST SUCH BARRELS WILL BE FROZEN (.)

N.A. : ITIS have no Vickers MMG

9 Dec 1946
mm

DISTRIBUTION: SD/109/2
'Q'
Ord



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

SD/109/2
4(Mg)
D
ORD

108

SUBJECT:- Rifles .303

676

RECEIVED 5 DEC 1946

2 British Liaison Unit,
Tel:52278
SD 2

27 Nov 46.

To:- Land Forces Sub-Commission AC,
(MMIA) ROME.

SD/109/2
And many other

MMIA - 'G'
FILE SD/109/2
DATE 6 DEC 1946

42

Ref your SD/109/2 of 4 Oct 46.

A redistribution of Rifles has been effected within units of this Terr.Comd and a letter from your HQ to Ministry of War is not therefore considered necessary as far as this B.L.U is concerned.

EGS	
GSO I (Tn)	
Dep G (T)	
GSO (STA)	
GSO II (T)	
GSO I ( )	
GSO I (L of C)	
G (T) (Ops)	

GENQA

Major,
GSO II.

AKEB/af

C.5.4

4/4

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

C 00 107

TRANSLATION

FROM: M. of W.

TO : M.M.I.A.

REF: I/3884 /Serv

DATE: 26/II/46

SUBJECT: Material for the Italian Army.

M.P.I.A. - U.C.
FILE SD/109/2
DATE - 2 DEC 1948

The Gen. Directorate of Arty has been requested to arrange the immediate forwarding to Piacenza Arsenal of the spare parts for guns and small arms at present stored at OARE.

BGS	
[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	
[illegible]	(32) [illegible]
[illegible]	(1)
[illegible]	
[illegible]	
[illegible]	

Sgd. MELONI
Col.

Sub 10 1/2
Q.
o/c

C.5.18

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDG NO. 795020

(3) 106

TRANSLATION

From: M.of W.
To : Arty and MT Gen. Dir.
MMIA (for information)
(Ref.letter SD/109/2 of 18/11/46)

Ref: 4/3549/Serv

Date: 27/11/46

Subject: 6 pdr A/Tk guns. -

Further to letter 4/3384/Serv dated 13/11/46 and reply to a verbal request. -

1. - The units stationed in the central-southern part of Italy that have 6 pdr guns on their charge are only the Military Academy (which will be transferred in due time to Modena) and the Artillery School of Bracciano.

2. - We would confirm that all the eighty-one 6 pdr. guns at present in Naples, should be sent as soon as possible to the Arty. Directorate of Piacenza, in order to form a maintainance reserve.

3. - We beg you to immediately request the ~~required~~ necessary railway waggons from the Transport Office of this SM and inform us on the completion of the transport in order that we may forward to MMIA the information requested in their above referred letter.

sgd. Meloni
Col.

UR

BGS	Seen
GSO I (SD)	
Dep G III	
GSO II (SD)	
GSO II (I)	
GSO I A III	
GSO I	
G III (I)	

MMIA - 'G'
FILE SD/109/2
DATE 1 DEC 1946

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

COPY INCOMING SIGNAL

SECRET

FROM : AFHQ

TO : MMIA

REF : F 73468

YOUR SD 3923 OF 12 OCTOBER REFERS (.)

PARA 1 (.) THE 18 LIGHT TANKS REFERRED TO IN PARA 3 OF OUR G-3/AFHQ/135 DATED 3 OCTOBER ARE US VEHICLES AND HAVE NOT YET BEEN TRANSFERRED TO THE ITALIAN ARMY (.)

PARA 2 (.) YOU ARE REQUESTED TO DEAL DIRECT WITH G4 SECTION HQ MTOUSA IF THEY ARE STILL REQUIRED

29 Nov 46
sb

SD Distr

SD/109/4

MMIA - 'G'
FILE SD/109/2
DATE 8/12/46

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

C1 00 104

Telephone:
Rome 489681 Ext 218

LAND FORCES SUB COM AC(MMIA) CMF

SD/109/2

25 Nov 46

MINISTRY OF WAR

Subject: Assignment of Rifles Mod 91 Caliber 6.5 to Civilian Organizations

102

Ref your 228/75/XI dated 18 Nov 46.

There is NO objection to your issuing two thousand (2000) rifles mod 91 cal 6.5 to the ITALIAN Union of National Rifle Competitions.

MMIA - 'G'
FILE SD/109/2
DATE 25/11/46

INFO COPY
ONLY

for Major General,
GOC, MMIA.

ARCS/rr

Internal: 'Q'
CRD

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

G - G00 103

SUBJECT :- Rifles - .303

10 British Liaison Unit
POSILLIPO NAPLES
Tele : 12060
3 Q

19 Nov 46

Land Forces Sub-Commission AC.,
(MMIA) ROME

12

Reference your SD/109/2 dated 4 Oct 46 (para 9).

1. There is no difficulty in this Territorial Command as all rifles held are of one pattern with the exception of 36 rifles No 4 which are surplus to establishment and which Territorial Command have asked War Ministry permission to return.

2. No American .300 rifles or ERA rifles are held.

CMF
WAV/ea

Lt col,
GS.

164

Received 21 NOV 1946

Regd in
21/11/46.

MMIA - 'G'
FILE SD/109/2
DATE 21/11/46

FGS	
GSO I (SD)	
Map O [illegible]	
GSO [illegible]	
GSO [illegible]	
GSO II [illegible]	
GSO I (LRO)	
O II (L)	

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

Ci 0.0 (3) 102

TRANSLATION

FROM: M. of W. REF: 228175/II

TO : M.M.I.A. DATE: 18/II/46

⇒ SD/109/2
Q
GRD

SIGNAL

The Italian Union of National Rifle Competentions has requested a first assignment of 2000 rifles (mod. 91 cal. 6,5) in order to recomplete the scales of issue of its dependent Sections which at present are deficient of same owing to the events of September 1943.

This Ministry can issue on repayment the weapons requested.

Kindly inform us as soon as possible whether you have any objection regarding the issue in question.

Can have
M. 25.11.46

Sgd. LOMBARDI
Col.

UR

BGS	Secy
GSO 1 (SD)	
Dep G (I)	
GSO (SD)	
GSO 1 (?)	
GSO III (SD)	
GSO 1 (HSG)	
G II (L)	

MMIA - "
FILE SD/109/2
DATE 21 NOV 1946

65

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

101

COPY

TRANSLATION

FROM: Ministry of War. REF: 4/3362/Serv.

TO : M.M.I.A. DATE: 14 November 1946.

SUBJECT: Distribution of material to artillery groups of infantry brigades.

SD/109/1 Folio 12

Reference letter TRG/43/1 of 1st inst. 85c

1. With reference to para 1 of letter referred to above, we would point out that in letter 4/3179 of this S.M. dated 20 October, relative to the distribution of British weapons to artillery groups of infantry brigades, it was stated that "at any rate the guns must be sent complete with sights and various accessories".

2. With reference to technical equipment for battery and group H.Q.s, we point out that:

- there is not at the moment any availability and the required material would have to be drawn from that existing in sub-depots of the disbanded 557 BOD recently handed over to A.R.A.R., from which at the moment it is not permitted to make any withdrawal. Instructions have been issued for the selection and dispatch of the required material as soon as the sub-depots of 557 BOD are unfrozen;
- in the mean time, to facilitate and hasten the selection and collection of the required material, it is necessary for your Mission, in accordance with previous statement made by Col Pidsley to Lt Col Olivetti, to send the catalogues of British material for the weapons of every calibre in distribution to the Italian Army as soon as possible to the BLU at Naples.

C52.

sgd. LIUZZI
Gen.

R.A.G.

INFO COPY ONLY

Internal: SD/109/1
SD/109/2
Trg
'Q'
Ord.

MMIA - 'G'
FILE: SD/109/2
DATE: 20/11/46

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

99

Telephone:
Rank 489061 Ext 218

LAND FORCES NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES (NEFIA) CORPS

50/109/2

18 Nov 46

RESTRICTED WHEN FILLED IN

Subject: 6 Pounder Anti-Tank Guns.

97

Ref your 4/1384/Serv dated 13 Nov 46.

Please inform this HQ when the eighty six guns have reached BATAVIA.

New action D 106

A.R.C. Lawrence
Lt Col
GS

for Major General,
CGS, NEFIA.

MMIA - 'G'
FILE 50/109/2
DATE 19/11/46

ABC/ZZ

Internal: G(Ops)
HQ
CGS

Regd out
19/11/46

65

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

(3) 97 SD/109/2 4 (TRS)

Q OKD

TRANSKATION

From: M.of W. Ref: 4/3384/Serv

To : MMIA Date: 13/11/46

Subject: 6 pdrs anti-tank guns in excess to Units WE scales of issue. -

Reply to letter SD/109/2 dated 4th inst.

1. - The eighty-one 6 pdrs guns, handed in by the Units ~~that possessed~~ held them in excess to WE scales of issues (following ~~the~~ instructions issued by this S.M. ~~with~~ letter 4/1925 dated 7th July 1946) are stored at the Naples Artillery Directorate, but must be sent to the Piacenza Artillery Directorate where they will be stored as a maintainance reserve together with other caliber guns ~~that are~~ in excess. -

2. - We therefore beg the Artillery General Directorate to issue the necessary orders to the Directorates of Naples and Piacenza as soon as possible. -

3. - The guns in question are 81 and not 90, as stated in the enclosure of letter 4/1925, because when we received your letter SD/109/2 dated 23/8 - on the 28th August - which authorised the Ministry of War to retain the guns, 9 had already been forwarded by the Naples Artillery Directorate to the British Sub-depot of Montecorvino.

651

sgd. Meloni
Col.

59

UR

BGS	
GSO 1 (SD)	
Dep G (T)	
GSO 1 (SD)	
GSO 1 (T)	
GSO II (SD)	
GSO 1 (TRG)	
G II (T)	

MMIA - 'G'
FILE SD/109/2
DATE 16 NOV 1946

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

Subject:- Rifles 303

British Liaison Unit.
C.M.F.

G5/6
7 Nov. '46.

To:- Land Forces Sub. Commission (A3)
M.M.I.A., Rome

Ref SD/109/2 dated 4 Oct. '46 and further to my G5/6 dated 12 Oct. '46.

1. The Census of Arms has been taken.

2. Re-distribution will take place forthwith, and completion will be notified in due course.

RECEIVED 12 NOV 1946

M M I A
FILE SD/109/2
DATE 12 NOV 1946

pp Lt Col
GSO I

~~DCS~~	
GSO I (SD)	
Dep G III	
~~GSO II (SD)~~	
GSO II (T)	
GSO III (T)	
GSO I (T) G	
G II (L)	

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

COPY

SD/109
SD/1109/2M 94

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

APO 794

Office of the Executive Commissioner

AR&L

Ref: 5012/292/EC

7 Nov 1946

SUBJECT: Manufacturing of Arms

TO : AILIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS,

Attention: G-5 Section.

1. Reference is made to your letter G-5:945.20 of 24 September 1946.

2. The decision that the supervision of the manufacture of non-military small arms of less than 7.5 mm calibre may provisionally be left to the Italian Government was communicated to the Ministry of War and the Ministry of the Interior.

3. A reply dated 25th October was received from the Ministry of the Interior, (a copy of which is attached) in which reasons are advanced why pistols of calibre 7.65 mm shoul be considered non-military weapons.

4. In this connection it has been pointed out that, should the present decision stand, it would necessitate the withdrawal of all such pistols now in the lawful possession of private persons held for personal protection, also from all Municipal, Forest and Sworn Guards, none of whom are permitted to be in possession of military weapons.

5. While the reasons put forward in para 3 of your letter are appreciated, in view of the foregoing, it is recommended that the conditions laid down in para 4 of your letter of 24 September, be modified to enable the manufacture of non-military small arms of least than 7.7 mm calibre to be left provisionally to the Italian Government.

FOR THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER:

M. CARR,
Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

C/9

Encl. (as above)

Copy to: Chief Commissioner.
Public Safety Division
L.F.S.C. (MMIA)

MMIA - 'G'
FILE Solari
DATE 14 NOV 1946

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

COPY

ACC 25A

MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR

No. 10.16311/10179

25 October 1946

SUBJECT: Manufacturing of arms, automatic pistols, cal. 7.65

TO : Public Safety S/C A.C.

In answer to your letter n. 9/28/CA dated 9/10/46.

Your Commission has expressed the desire that the control over the manufacturing of arms inferior to cal. 7½, should be left to the Italian Government as they are considered non military.

Thus, while the manufacturing of pistols calibre 6.35 would also be authorised to the Beretta Firm, the production of those calibre 7,65 would still be left suspended.

On the subject, though, it cannot but be observed, according to the ruling laws in force in Italy:

1. that the manufacturing and sale of pistols cal. 7.65 has always been allowed and authorised by all the other manufacturing firms;
2. that for such arms, regular licenses for carrying arms, for self defence, have been issued;
3. that pistols cal. 7.65 are now considered surpassed by the armed forces, they having generally used pistols of a superior calibre.

Considering the above and the reasons given in the letter n. 10.15188/ 10179 of the 28th August 1946, and moreover, bearing in mind that the pistols cal. 7.65 represents the arm mostly used for purposes of self defence by private citizens and which bodies in charge of private surveillances and municipal and forest guards are mainly armed with, the writer is again obliged to insist that the Allied Commission revoke the ruling prohibition of the manufacturing of pistols cal. 7.65.

Furthermore, considering the slight difference in cal. (0.15 millimetres, we kindly ask you to re-submit this question to the Superior Command, also prospecting the necessity of not causing further unemployment to a considerable number of workers and also putting the Corps of municipal police in a condition to profitably carry out its duties of order and protection particularly difficult at this moment.

6/8

For the Minister

(Sgd) Ferrari

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

4 copies (CCC) Sodo 2 (E+A) 93

TRANSLATION

EGS	
GSO I (SD)	
Dep G III	
GSO II (SD)	
GSO II (T)	
GSO II (I)	
GSO I (T/G)	
G II (L)	

FROM: M. of W.

TO : Addressees
M.M.I.A. for info.

REF: 6970/G/I3 Add

DATE: 3I/IO/46

SUBJECT: Distribution of 45 m/m and 8I m/m mortars to replace British 2" and 3" mortars.

I) The distribution of 45 m/m and 8I m/m mortars to replace British 2" and 3" mortars, has been decided.-

2) 45 m/m and 8I m/m mortars, although having a more complex system than the British mortars of a similar type, offer the following advantages:-
- more possibility in firing (i.e. horizontal fire and curved fire in 45 m/m mortar; numerous trajectories in 8I m/m mortar.-
- more precision.-
- superior ~~jetty~~ RANGE
- shapnel bombs more suitable for the weapon (radius of action considerably inferior; hence: permitting more adherence of the fire to the movement):
- cost less and can be easily supplied due to existing stocks of material and ammo. and the possibility of entrusting a further production of same to the Italian Industry.-

3) Regarding the 45 m/m mortar, types of smoke bombs more suitable for the purpose as well as types of illuminating and very light flare bombs, are being studied.-
The 2" mortar as well as 45 m/m mortars will be retained by units (without however increasing personnel) until said study is completed. Either one or the other type of mortar will be used according to the type of bomb requested.-

4) For the time being, no change is made to the WEs of mortar platoons of support coys.

5) Training:
a) -on 45 m/m mortars will be carried out:-

M M I A - 'G'
File 50/107/2
DATE 5/11/46

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

- in units-for personnel already trained on 2" mortar and for the contingent of recruits arriving in Nov. Each man will have to be trained on both types of mortars (2" and 45 m/m)
- in CARs - for recruits of the contingent which will be called up in I947.-

b) On 8I m/m mortars will be carried out:-
- in units - for personnel of the present 3" mortar platoons of the support coys.-
- in the Inf. School - for tradesmen (mortar specialists, layers) to be drawn from the contingent of recruits doing at present advanced training in CARs.
The number will be communicated later.

6) 3" mortars and ammo. will be returned only after a month has elapsed from the date of receipt by units of 8I m/m mortars and ammo. so as to permit a sufficient degree of training and to have units always ready for employment.-

7) The Inf. School will insert in the program of the present course "weapons of the platoon" of the 4th CAR supplementary course (scheemed to begin on 5th Nov) and of similar future courses, the training on 45 m/m mortar.-

Regarding this, we ordered the immediate dispatch of the necessary material.-

Training courses on 3" mortars will no longer be carried out. However, the instructors on the permanent staff of the school will be employed in future for courses on 8I m/m mortars. They will be trained as soon as possible on said mortars.

8) Publications.

While waiting for the instructions on the use of 45 m/m and 8I m/m mortars (amended up to date according to the policy at present in force) to be re-printed, units concerned will use:-
- instructions on 45 m/m mortar, N° 3100 - I938 edition and further editions;
- instructions on 8I m/m mortar, N° 3089 - I937 edition and 6/6 further editions.-

Owning to the limited availability of said publications, publication "Notions on weapons, firing and various equipment for reserve officers' cadet courses" recently issued, can be used as substitute.-

This SM. will arrange for a further assignment of said publication and any of the m/m instructions in stock.-

Sgd LIUZZI

Gen.

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

M.I.O. "I"
FILE: 50/107/2
Reg.
DATE: 7/11/46

SP Disk
SP/10 9/12
(Trans)
Q
ORD 12 Bulk
92

TRANSLATION

FROM: M. of W.

REF: 4/3241/Serv

TO : Art. Inspectorate
Art. and Mot. Gen. Directorate
M.M.I.A. for info.

DATE: 30/IO/46

Encl.

SUBJECT: Distribution of 45 m/m and 8I m/m mortars to replace British 2" and 3" mortars.

Folio 88

Ref. our letter N° 4/3231/Sv dated 27/IO/46.

I) In agreement with M.M.I.A., we have decided to distribute 45 m/m and 8I m/m mortars to replace British 2" and 3" mortars.

II) Consequently, we beg:-

- the Art. Inspectorate to arrange, as soon as possible, the study:-
- of a modified 45 m/m mortar smoke bomb or the construction of a new smoke bomb similar, as much as possible, to the British 2" mortar bomb.
- of a 45 m/m mortar bomb of the following types:-
  - illuminating with parachute
  - with red star
  - with green star
  - with numerous white stars
- the Art. and Mot. General Directorate to arrange for:-

a) the distribution of 45 m/m mortar as follows:-
- immediate issue to the Inf. School: 50 mortars and 3250 bombs (of which I250 mod. 39, I250 smoke bombs mod. 39 F, 500 bombs for training purpose and 250 dummy) with 6500 propelling charges.-
- issue to the Mil. Academy (for which in letter 4/3230/Serv dated 22nd inst. we ordered the issue of IO mortars) 650 bombs (of which 250 mod. 39, 350 smoke bombs mod. 39 F, I00 bombs for training purpose and 50 dummy) with I[illegible]0 propelling charges.-

- by Dec. next.:
- issue to each CAR: 48 mortars and 3I20 bombs (of which 2400 bombs mod. 39, 480 bombs for training purpose and 240 dummy) with 6240 propelling charges.
- issue to the Art. School and to the Pioneer School: each 6 mortars and 370 bombs (of which I50 bombs mod.39, I50

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

smoke bombs, 60 bombs for training purpose and 10 dummy) with 600 propelling charges;
- issue to the Signal School and the Services and Assistance School each: 2 mortars and 130 bombs (of which 50 bombs mod. 39, 50 smoke bombs, 20 bombs for training purpose and 10 dummy) with 260 propelling charges;
- by Feb. 47 issue 66 mortars to each Inf. Div. and 27 mortars to each Inf. Regt. not included in a division.

The scale of issue of ammo. for each mortar issued to the Divisions and to Inf. Regts. not included in a division is as follows:-

1st line : 96 bombs mod. 39
2nd " : 48 " " "
Training : 50 " " "

with two propelling charges for each bomb.

The limited availability of smoke bombs for 45 m/m mortars (this bomb will have to be substituted) does not permit the issue of same to CARs and Inf. Regts.

b) The distribution of 81 m/m mortars is as follows:-
- 55 mortars to the Inf. School.
- 6 mortars to each Bn of the Inf. Regts of the Inf. Division, of the Inf. Brigades and of the Regts. (Grenadier, Inf. Bersaglieri and Alpine) not included in a division.-

Total : 523 mortars

The scale of issue of ammo. for each mortar is as follows:
- 1st line : 124 bombs g.a.
  32 " g.c.
- 2nd line : 58 " g.a.
  14 " g.c.
- Training : 20 " g.a.
  5 " g.c.
  3 " for training purpose;

with 51 propelling charges for each bomb and a number of additional items equal to 65% over and above the total number of bombs assigned to each unit.-

The necessary goniometers together with the 81 m/m mortars will have to be issued to units and to the Inf. School.

N.B. - The scale of issue of ammo. for training purpose will have to be sent also to the Mil. Academy for which instructions have been issued regarding the assignment of 10 mortars.-

c) Withdrawal and storing in depots of the directorates of all British 3" mortars and ammo. at present on issue will be done at least one month after the date of receipt by units of 81 m/m mortars.-

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

2" mortars and ammo. will be retained by units until further orders.-

III) The receiving units will have to receive simultaneously both the mortars and the ammo. in accordance with the availability of transport.-

Priority for issue will be given to the Inf. Div. "Folgore" "Legnano" "Friuli" "Mantova" and "Cremona". Dispatch will be made directly to each Inf. Regt. of the Divisions.-

Regarding the priority and the procedure of dispatch to Inf. Regts. not included in a division see our letter Nº 4/I782 dated 20/6/46.

Requests for transport will be forwarded to this S.M.

IV) Finaly, we beg:-
- the Art. and Mot. Gen. Directorate to communicate to this SM. as soon as the assignment are made.-
- The Mil. Territorial Commands to communicate to this S.M. on receipt of mortars and ammo. from units under our command.

Sgd. LIUZZI
Gen.

Com.F.

BGS	Visto
GSO I (SD)	
Dep G III	
GSO II (SD)	
GSO I (T)	
GSO I ( )	
GSO I ( )	
G II (L)	

643

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

MMLA
FILE S.D/109/2
DATE Reg 17/11/44

(91)

S D/109/2.

S D/109/9 Folio 76 B.
This File folio 89B.

642

INFO

89-90

Telephone
Rome, 439081 Ext. 218

LAND FORCES SUB-COMM, AC (MMIA) CMF

SD/109/2

7 Nov 46

1 BRITISH LIAISON UNIT

Subject: Maintenance of Rifles - British Pattern

NTH

Ref your G 5/6 dated 28 Oct 46, para 2.

1. (a) WE of Armourers for a CAR is:

Graduati	1
Sottufficiali	2

which provides three armourers for 4000 men: this is about the same as the scale in BRITISH ITC during the War.

(b) (i) Complete sets of Armourers Tools have been provided to the ITALIANS in sufficient quantity for issue to each CAR. If CAR have not received them, action should be taken by CAR via Terr Region HQ to Ministry of War.

(ii) Foresights have for years been in short supply in the BRITISH Army. It is hoped that some may be found in the materiel recently handed over to the ITALIANS at 557 BOD. Provided however that the rifle is zeroed for lateral error, vertical error is of lesser importance and can be compensated by sight adjustment.

2. Ref your para 4, your suggestion would in fact involve about 120,000 rifles of the ITALIAN army being in continuous circulation round ITALY annually. This is considered to be administratively undesirable and uneconomical, apart from the fact that after allowing for normal delay in workshops and transit CAR would rarely have sufficient rifles for new intakes. Units would also habitually discard all their worst rifles for return to CAR.

3. You will receive a separate letter from G(Trg) of this HQ on the subject of zeroing etc.

241

A. H. Gault

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

Subject: Maintenance of Rifles - British Pattern

NFR

Ref your G 5/6 dated 28 Oct 46, para 2.

1. (a) WE of Armourers for a CAR is:

Graduati	1
Sottufficiali	2

which provides three armourers for 4000 men: this is about the same as the scale in BRITISH ITC during the War.

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3. You will receive a separate letter from Q(Trg) of this HQ on the subject of zeroing etc.

A.R.C. Lowther

Lt-Col,
GS, MCIA.

ARCS/sb

Internal:
TRG/42/1
'Q'

Reg out 7/11/46.

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

90 A.

~~8~~ 9A

SUBJECT : BRITISH Equipment for the ITALIAN Army

LAND FORCES SUB COM AC (MMIA)

(489081 Ext 400) SD/109/1

19 Oct 46

TO : ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS

74

Ref your G-3/AFHQ/135 dated 5 Oct 46.

1. In the recent correspondence between this HQ and AFHQ on the subject of holding tanks etc for the possible future requirements of the Post Treaty ITALIAN Army the terms "issue, require and accept" are begining to creep in to both our letters and yours. It is feared by this HQ that, unless this tendency is checked, a state of affairs may develop other than what was originally intended.

2. Briefly the position is as follows :-

(a) There is as yet no decision as to how many tanks the ITALIAN Army will be allowed by the Peace Treaty,

(b) The ITALIANS have not yet and cannot yet lay down the exact composition of their Post Treaty Army,

(c) The ITALIANS cannot tell at present how many tanks etc (price at present unknown) they will eventually be able to afford.

640

3. In order, however, to avoid the loss through demilitarization of equipment that the ITALIANS may eventually require it has been approved that such equipment may be held under MMIA supervision in an ITALIAN Depot. Eventually it will either be released and issued to the ITALIAN Army or demilitarized and disposed of as scrap according to Peace Treaty authorisation and ITALIAN tactical and financial requirements. At present there can be no question of issue to or acceptance by the ITALIANS nor of any particular requirement figure other than "a maximum possible future requirements figure".

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC No. T2520

TO : ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS

74

Ref your G-3/AFHQ/135 dated 3 Oct 46.

1. In the recent correspondence between this HQ and AFHQ on the subject of holding tanks etc for the possible future requirements of the Post Treaty ITALIAN Army the terms "issue, require and accept" are beginning to creep in to both our letters and yours. It is feared by this HQ that, unless this tendency is checked, a state of affairs may develop other than what was originally intended.

2. Briefly the position is as follows :-

(a) There is as yet no decision as to how many tanks the ITALIAN Army will be allowed by the Peace Treaty,

(b) The ITALIANS have not yet and cannot yet lay down the exact composition of their Post Treaty Army,

(c) The ITALIANS cannot tell at present how many tanks etc (price at present unknown) they will eventually be able to afford.

G4)

3. In order, however, to avoid the loss through demilitarization of equipment that the ITALIANS may eventually require it has been approved that such equipment may be held under M.M.L. supervision in an ITALIAN Depot. Eventually it will either be released and issued to the ITALIAN Army or demilitarized and disposed of as scrap according to Peace Treaty authorisation and ITALIAN tactical and financial requirements. At present there can be no question of issue to or acceptance by the ITALIANS nor of any particular requirement figure other than "a maximum possible future requirements figure".

...../2

Declassified E.O. 13065 Section 3-402/NARS NO. 78520

4. In principle, therefore, all 'A' vehicles, Heavy Anti-aircraft and Medium Guns etc which would otherwise be demilitarised and which are in serviceable condition should be transferred to the ITALIAN Holding Park up to the total of ITALIAN possible maximum requirements. Unserviceable material should normally be demilitarised by the ALLIES and disposed of as scrap through normal disposal channels.

5. In the case of equipment now held in 12 Vehicle Park, FORLI, the following equipment is available and serviceable and its transfer to an ITALIAN Holding Depot is requested (vide para 3 of my SD/109/1 of 22 Oct 46) :-

STAGHOUND Armoured Cars	6
SHERMAN Tanks	159
Self Propelled Anti Tank Guns	9

6. As this total is well below probably ITALIAN requirements and in view of the possibility of sufficient quantities of serviceable material not becoming available in the future, the ITALIAN War Ministry have asked for the transfer, in addition, of the following :-

STAGHOUND Armoured Cars	50
SHERMAN Tanks	30
Self Propelled Anti Tank Guns	50

being the best of the unserviceable vehicles listed in para 4 of my SD/109/1 of 22 Oct 46.

7. The total equipment which the ITALIANS wish to transfer ex 12 Vehicle Park, FORLI is therefore :-

STAGHOUND Armoured Cars	56
SHERMAN Tanks	189
Self Propelled Anti Tank Guns	59

8. It is requested that, as any further material becomes available particularly Heavy Anti-aircraft and Medium Arty, we may be notified of quantity and location in order that, after examination by the ITALIAN War Ministry as to serviceability, we may notify you of the quantities to be transferred.

Major-General

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

5. In the case of equipment now held in 12 Vehicle Park, FORLI, the following equipment is available and serviceable and its transfer to an ITALIAN Holding Depot is requested (vide para 3 of my SD/109/1 of 22 Oct 46) :-

STAGHOUND Armoured Cars	6
SHERMAN Tanks	159
Self Propelled Anti Tank Guns	9

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STAGHOUND Armoured Cars	50
SHERMAN Tanks	30
Self Propelled Anti Tank Guns	50

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7. The total equipment which the ITALIANS wish to transfer ex 12 Vehicle Park, FORLI is therefore :-

STAGHOUND Armoured Cars	56
SHERMAN Tanks	189
Self Propelled Anti Tank Guns	59

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MWH/ell

Major-General,
M. M. I. A.

Copy to : CHQ, CMF (with copy of SD/109/1 of 22 Oct).

Internal Distribution
'Q'
ORD
ENE
CC.RR

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

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

89A

SD/109.

Telephone
Rome, 489081 Ext. 218

LAND FORCES SUB-COMM, AC (MMIA) CMF

SD/109/2

5 Nov 46

MINISTRY OF WAR

Subject: Manufacture of Arms - BERETTAs

89

Ref your letter 80310/18254 dated 26 Oct 46, para 2.

1. This HQ is bound to deprecate the issue of 1100 BERETTA auto-pistols Cal .9 type 34 to the Finance Guard and Public Security, in view of the fact that CC.RR. are reported still to be deficient of very large numbers of this weapon.

2. You are therefore requested to review the matter, and the respective priorities and requirements of CC.RR. vis a vis Finance Guards and Public Security.

ARCS/eb

for Major General,
CCC, MMIA.

Copy to AC (for Public Safety)

Internal: 'Q'
CC.RR.
SD/109/2A

638

Regret
5 Nov.

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

COPY

TRANSLATION

89 B

From : Ministry of War — Ref : 80310/18254

To : M.M.I.A. — Date : 26 Oct 46

SUBJECT: Manufacture of small-arms at the "P. BERETTA" Firm.

Reply to letter Q 009 dated 9/9/46 and further to letter 74837/17430 dated 17 Oct 46.

1. Further information will be forwarded regarding the production of non-military small-arms.

2. "Beretta" automatic pistols - cal. 9 type 34

Up to todays date, 2700 pistols have been issued by "P.Beretta" Arms Factory, of which:

- 500 have been issued to the Udine Detached Artillery Section as stated in letter 71552/15561 dated 2/10/46;
- 1100 have been issued to the Carabinieri;
- 1100 have been stored at the Brescia Detachment Artillery Section, to be issued to the Finance Guard and Public Security.

3. Beretta automatic carbines - cal 9

Up to todays date 11.000 carbines have been issued by the "P.Beretta" Arms Factory, of which:

- 8367 have been issued to the Carabinieri to complete the W/E scale of issue.
- 2633 have been stored at the Brescia Detached Artillery Section, and their distribution is under consideration.

637

BGS	
(	
)	
(	
(	
(	
GSO 1 ( ) ( )	
G II (L)	

(Sgd) U. RUSSO,
Gen.

MMIA - 'G'
FILE 20/109
DATE 5 Nov.

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

Translation

Sp Dirett
Dirett
Ref. } a(TRG) ← 88
CC.RR.

From: Ministry of War

To:- MMIA

Ref 4/3231/Serv

Date: 27/10/46

Subject:- Italian weapons substituting British weapons.

Ref the discussion between Brigadier Gen. Hope and Lt.Col. Clivetti.

1. This SM has decided to adopt the following Italian weapons for the Army, in substitution for the British weapons:

a) - "Beretta" automatic pistolm mod.34 -cal.9 in substitution for the British pistol cal.0.38;
b) - "Beretta" automatic carbine mod. 38 A cal;9 in substitution for the British Thomson S.M.G.
c) - 45m/m morter mod 35 in substitution for the 2" mortar;
d) - 81m/m mortar mod. 35 in substitution for the 3" mortar and for the 4,2" mortar.

2. Regarding the above para 1, whilst the quantity of 45 m/m and 81 m/m mortars with ammunition is sufficient for the immediate necessities of the Army, it is necessary to authorise as quickly as possible the manufacture of:

5.000 "Beretta" pistols mod. 34 cal. 9
20.000 "Beretta" automatic carbines mod. 38 A cal.9 and later the manufacture of pistols, automatic carbines and mortars with ammo. which will be required in future by the Army.

A study is being made to improve the 45 m/m smoke bombs so as to render it more effective.

The possibility of manufacturing a less complicate mortar to substitute the 45 m/m, will be considered in future.

636

BGS
GSO 1 (SD)
Dep G III
GSO II (SD)
GSO II (T)
GSO II
GSO II
G II (L)

See folio 92

sgd. Liuzzi
Gen.

UR

MMIA - 'G'
FILE SD/109/2.
DATE 4 NOV 1946

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. 725020

Q Q 81

Telephone
Rome 489081 Ext 218

LAND FORCES SUB-COM AC (MMIA) CMF

SD/109/2

4 Nov 46

MINISTRY OF WAR

Subject:- 6 pounder Anti-tank Guns supplies to NZ - Location of Gun Park

Ref this HQ SD/109/2 paragraph 3, dated 23 Aug 46.

If the required information is still not available please indicate when it is likely to be forthcoming.

for Major-General,
CCG, MMIA.

ARCS/611

Internal

G(Trg)
'Q'
GRD

C35

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

MMIA - 'G'
FILE SD/109/2
DATE 29/31/10.

COPY of th

TRANSLATION

SD/109/2.
85C

FROM : M. of W. REF : 4/3179/Serv.

TO : Arty and MT Gen.Dir.
MMIA(for infomation) Date :20/10/46

Subject : British armament for Artillery batteries of Infantry Brigades.

1) British armaments and ammunition corresponding to the scale of issue laid down in the attached table should be distributed as soon as possible to the Artillery battery of each of the Brigades "Aosta","Reggio" and "Calabria".

2) We beg you to issue instructions accordingly bearing in mind that, according to the availability of transport, armaments and ammunition should be received simultaneously by the batteries.

NR

3) As far as sights and various types of shells are concerned, we beg you to issue orders to the effect that their selection be carried out by the Naples Directorate through the personnel of the Infantry Divisions, temporary transferred, for said task, to the afore mentioned Directorate (see telegramms 4/3003/Serv dated inst. from t this S.M.).- Anyhow the armaments must be sent complete with sights and various types of shells.

Request for transport will be made to this S.M. _ Transport Office.

4) Please inform this S.M. upon completion of forwarding the arms and ammunition to each battery.

The Military Territorial Commands concerned will asknowledge receipt of the arms and ammunition by the batteries.

63'

sgd. LIUZZI
Gen.

Q Distribution : Q.138
G(Ops) Inf
G(T.) "

BGS	
GSO 1 (SD)	
Dep G (I)	
GSO [illegible] (SD)	
GSO [illegible] (T)	
GSO II ( )	
GSO I (TRG)	
G II (L)	

UR

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

COPY

Encl. to letter 4/3179/Serv dated 20/10/46. 85B

SCALE OF ISSUE OF ARMAMENTS AND AMMUNITION OF BRITISH SOURCE FOR AN ARTILLERY BATTERY OF INFANTRY BRIGADE.

Arms			Ammunition	
Denomination	Quantity	1st line	Training for one training cycle)	TOTAL
25 pdrs	4(1)	688(2)(3)	250(3)	938
17 "	4	360(4)(5)	320(3) (4)	680
n.27 type trailers	9	-	-	-
Bren LMGs	6	9000(6)	8240(7)	17240
PIATs	6	108(8)	84(9)	192
Rifles	149	7450(10)	6060(11)	13510
Automatic carbines	16	3200(12)	3940(13)	7140
38.pistols	11(14)	198(14)	308(15)	506
Signal pistols	5	100(16)	30(17)	130

NOTE:
(1) Due to the temporary unavailability, only 2 guns will be asigned to each battery at present moment. The 4 required for the batteries of the "Aosta" and "Reggio" brigades will be handed over to them by the Artillery School of Bracciano. The 2 for the "Calabria" brigade will be temporarily handed over to it by the Artillery School.

(2) of which :576 HE - 64 Smke - 48 AP
(3) issue for 4 guns : 185 HE - Smoke - 20 AP
(4) All AP
(5) Issue for 4 guns
(6) of which : 6600 are of 303 type in MK VII ctn.
1800 " " " " " " " tracer
600 " " " " " " " incendiary
(7) estimated : 50 rounds for every soldier of which 40 ord. and 10 tracer and for each arm 45 ord.cartridges and 45 tracer for the tactical exercises.
(8) of thetype HE/AT MK II
(9) 6 bombs for the training of 2 soldiers for each mortar and 2 bombs for each mortar for tactical exercises of the type HE/AT MK II
(10) of the type 303 in MK VII bdr (ord)
(11) 20 cartridges for each man and 20 cart.for each arm for tactical exeore.
(12) only type: 45 in TSMC (ord)
(13) 30 cartridges for each manto be trained and 20 cart.for each arm for tactical exeore.
(14) "Beretta" pistols cal.9 will be distributed as soon as available.
(15) 28 cartridges for the training of each man armed with pistols
(16) of which :60 of 1" flares 20 signal red and 20 signal green
(17) estimated for a total of 6 cartridges for each arm for tactical exercises 20 flares -5 signal green and 5 signal red.

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

COPY

FILE SD/109/2 Reg/28/00

84

261000A

FROM GHQ

TO MMIA

SD 0196 UNCLASSIFIED

REF YOUR SD 3925 of 22 OCT (.) PARA 2 YOUR SD/109/2

OF 25 SEP CONFIRMED

SD Distribution

SD/109/2

BGS	
GSO 1 (SD)	
Dep G III	
GSO II (SD)	
GSO II (P)	
GSO III (SD)	
GSO I (TEG)	
G II (L)	

632

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

MMIA - 'G'
FILE SD/109/2
DATE Feb/28/00

83

7 BRITISH LIAISON UNIT
FLORENCE
Tele : 293618 / 23

Ref : BLU/ 35 D

23 Oct. 1946

Subject : Rifles 303.

To : H.Q. M.M.I.A.

Ref. your SD/109/2 dated 4 October 1946.

1. 7 Territorial Command are prepairing a census of rifles within the Command.

2. When this census is completed a redistribution will be made within the Command to ensure of standardisation within Units.

3. Ref. para (9) of your a/quoted letter, these suggestions were welcomed by 7 Terr. Comd. and adequate redistribution will take place without the authority of the Ministry of War.

466 RECEIVED 29 OCT 1946

C.C. MARKES
Lt. Col.
GSO I
7 B.L.U.

BGS	
GSO 1 (SD)	
Dep G III	
GSO II (SD)	
GSO II (I)	
GSO III (-I)	
GSO 1 (TRG)	
G II (L)	

83

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

Subject: British Weapons.

11 British Liaison Unit
Tel. 15657 PALERMO
G/24-1

19. Oct.46

To : Land Forces Sub Com. A.C.,
(M.M.I.A.)
ROME.

Reference your SD/109/2 dated 4 Oct.46.

11.Com.Mil.Terr. is in a very favourable position as regards type of rifles. The total holding at present including C.A.R. is

Enfield	M K 1	10676
"	M K 4	16

In addition to the above C.A.R. holds 10 American U.S.R. rifles.

W. SYKES, Major
G.S.O. II.,
11. B.L.U.

WS/SI

HQR	
G(SD) I (SD)	
Dep G	
GSO I (SD)	
G(SD) I (I)	
GSO I (I)	
GSO I (11 G)	
G 11 (L)	

MMIA - 'G'
FILE SD/109/2.
DATE Reg/24/10.

RECEIVED 23 OCT 1946

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

File

81

R.N.I.A.

UNCLASSIFIED

GR (S(SD))

ROUTINE

84.

SD 1925

67

Secret Note Value

RKP NX SD/109/2 DATED 25 SEP (.) REPLY AND CRYPTOGRAM URGENTLY REQUIRED.

Rpt rec'd 22/10/40.

621

SD/109/2

S(SD) 22 1129A A.N.C. NORTH ST, 1ft Col 1 1

80

SUBJECT: Equipment for the ITALIAN Army.

LAND FORCES SUB-COMM, AC (NMIA)
(489081 Ext. 218) SD/109/1
22 Oct 45

TO : ALLIED FORCES HEADQUARTERS

Ref this HQ signal SD 3923 dated 9 Oct 46 and your G-3/AFHQ/135 dated 3 Oct 46.

1. On information supplied through 'Q' channels, AMME, NMIA visited 12 Veh Pk FORLI and examined a number of Armd Cs, Dingoes, Med Tks and SP AFk Guns.

2. He was informed that a quantity of vehs were already "earmarked" for issue to ALLIED units.

3. Of the remainder he considered the following to be serviceable:

STAGHOUND Armd Cs	6
SHERMAN Tks	159
SP ATk Guns	9

4. He considered unserviceable approximately:

STAGHOUND Armd Cs	250
SHERMAN Tks	30
SP ATk Guns	160

and all the DINGOES examined.

5. In view of the fact that the numbers of serviceable vehs listed in para 3 above fell very far short of those shown as immediately for issue to the ITALIANS in para 3 of your above quoted letter, may this HQ please be informed whether the balances of efficient vehs required are held in some other Veh Pk.

6. This information is required before the ITALIANS can reach a decision as to how many of the different types to accept.

A.H.G. Gaitskell
Col
for Major General, GS

A.H.G.S/sb

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

To : ALLIED FORCES HEADQUARTERS

Ref this HQ signal SD 3923 dated 9 Oct 46 and your G-3/AMMO/135 dated 3 Oct 46.

1. On information supplied through 'Q' channels, AIMS, MMIA visited 12 Veh Pk FORLI and examined a number of Armd Cs, Dingoes, Med Tks and SP ATk Guns.

2. He was informed that a quantity of vehs were already "earmarked" for issue to ALLIED units.

3. Of the remainder he considered the following to be serviceable:

STAGHOUND Armd Cs	6
SHERMAN Tks	159
SP ATk Guns	9

4. He considered unserviceable approximately:

STAGHOUND Armd Cs	230
SHERMAN Tks	30
SP ATk Guns	160

and all the DINGOES examined.

5. In view of the fact that the numbers of serviceable vehs listed in para 3 above fall very far short of those shown as immediately for issue to the ITALIANS in para 3 of your above quoted letter, may this HQ please be informed whether the balances of efficient vehs required are held in some other Veh Pk.

6. This information is required before the ITALIANS can reach a decision as to how many of the different types to accept.

A.R.C.S/sb

for Major General,
M. M. L. A.

Internal: 'Q'
OPD
RESR
SD/109/2

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

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

COPY

TRANSLATION

SD/109/2. 79

FROM : M. of W.

TO : N.M.I.A.

REF : 226178/II

DATE : 17/10/46

PHONOGRAM

G.H.Q. Finance Guard pointed out the urgent necessity of having as first assignement 1500 Automatic Carbine Beretta Cal. 9 to be issued to approximately 3000 Finance Guards (.)

This Ministry could fulfill said request without affecting the armament of Carabinieri and army units (.) Kindly inform this Ministry if you have any objection regarding the assignment of the arms requested

(Sgd) LOMBARDI, Col,

628
627

Internal: SD/109/2/A
S /109/2

INFO COPY ONLY

MMIA - 'G'
FILE SD/109/2
DATE Reg/21/10

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

G

G Disv
5th 109/2.
(2)
ORIG.

78

Subject :- Small Arms - Cleaning Materials.

MMIA - 'G'
FILE SD/109/2.
DATE Reg/21/10

1 British Liaison Unit,
G 5/6.
16 Oct., 1946.

To:- Land Forces Sub-Commission (AC),
M.M.I.A, ROME.

I wish to bring to your notice the fact that there is a very serious shortage of Pullthroughs and Cleaning materials in this Command. Small Arms are as a result suffering from neglect.

The Arsenale, Turin, can manufacture Pullthroughs quickly, and are willing ~~and will~~, but have been told by the Ministry of War to cease work on an order for Pullthroughs for the Mantova Division.

May representation be made to the Ministry of War pointing out that the cost of manufacturing a Pullthrough is nothing compared to the cost of a Rifle, and that a large number of British Rifles are deteriorating as a result of neglect.

BGS	
GSO I (SD)	
Dep G III	
GSO II (SD)	
GSO II (?)	
GSO III (SD)	
GSO I (TRG)	
G II (L)	

227
RECEIVED 19 OCT 1946

Lt-Col., R.Ir.F.
G.S.O. 1.

C7

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

File 77

SUBJECT : Rifles .303

LAND FORCES SUB COM AG (MMIA)

(489081 Ext 218) SD/109/2

10 Oct 46

TO : 4 BLU

Ref your letter Q 11 dated 23 Sep and this HQ letters SD/109/2 dated 4 Oct, SD/109 dated 7 Oct and Q 006 dated 2 Oct.

1. Cancel my SD/109 dated 7 Oct.

2. If in your particular circumstances action as suggested in my SD/109/2 dated 4 is impracticable or insufficient, please inform this HQ. The matter will then be taken up through proper staff and service channels.

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

ARCS/ell

Internal Distribution

Q
Ord
SD/109

625

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

Subject:- Rifles 30[illegible].

MMIA - 'G'
FILE D/109/2
DATE 21/17/10.

G/5/6
12 Oct. '46.

To:- Land Forces Sub. Commission A.C.
M.M.I.A. Rome.

Ref. SD/109/2 dated 4 Oct. '46, paras 5 and 9 respectively.

1. A census of arms is being taken forthwith.

2. This Command can easily effect re-distribution, and have expressed their willingness to do so should this be found necessary.

17 OCT 1946

for Lt Col
GSO I

BGS	
GSO I (SD)	
Dep [illegible]	
GSO [illegible] (SD)	
G [illegible] (?)	
GSO I [illegible]	
G II (L)	

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

SD/109/2 — 75

MMIA

SECRET

AFHQ

ROUTINE

see folio 105.

REF: SD 3923

74

REF YOUR G-3/AFHQ/135 DATED 3[illegible] ITALIAN MINISTRY OF WAR WISH TO ACCEPT ALL EQUIPMENT LISTED THEREIN WITH EXCEPTION OF ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY DINGOES SUBJECT TO EQUIPMENT BEING IN SATISFACTORY CONDITION (,) ADMG THIS HQ WITH ITALIAN REP PROCEEDING TO-DAY TO EXAMINE AND CLASSIFY EQUIPMENT (.) WILL INFORM YOU WHEN REPORT OF AIME AND DECISION OF MINISTRY OF WAR ARE RECEIVED

report received see folio 80.

Reg 10/10.

1623

SD/109/1
109/2

G(SD) 09 A.R.C. SOUTHEY, Lt Col 1 1

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

0 00 6 73

TRANSLATION

From: M.of W.
To : Arty Directorate - Piacenza
MMIA (for info. - in accordance with letter 4471/Ord/II dated 16/9/46 from S.M.) -

Ref; 67538/DT
SD/109/2
SD/109 REME
SD/103.
Date: 4/10/46

Subject: Spare parts depots for arms of Allied origin. -

The S.M. has laid down that a portion of the material depot under your command be suitably arranged as a depot of spares for the repair of small and automatic arms and guns of Allied origin.

Suitable personnel, as required by this service, will be provided by you to staff said depot.

Said personnel will be drawn from personnel assigned to you on the WE. -

Acknowledge receipt. -

agd. Aiello
Gen.

G.S.

G(SD) Distr
Q (2)
REME

BGS	
GSO I (SD)	AAG
GSO II (SD)	
GSO	
GSO I (A)	
G II (L)	

RAC Q.

MMIA - 'G'
FILE SD/109/2.
DATE Reg'd 11.10.46

622

SUBJECT : Rifles .303

LAND FORCES SUB COM AC (MIL)
(460081 Ext 400) — SD/109/2 —
4 Oct 46

TO : LIST 'B'

1. A recent observation from one of the ELUs has brought to the fore the question of the many different types of British Rifles issued to the ITALIAN Army.

2. The Territorial Command in question has had an issue of :-

Type	Quantity
Rifles .303 ERA Washington	1,603
" .303 Lee Enfield No 4 Mark I	96
" .303 " " 1942 S.F.T. II or II	4,010
" .300 Remington 1902 & 1907	20

3. The Lee Enfield is the rifle most familiar to British Forces, the ERA is called either No 3 or P.14.

4. The ERA Rifle is chiefly known for its heavier weight, its smaller magazine which holds five rounds only and does not protrude below the stock, and the barrel which protrudes from the fore end for about four inches with a butterfly type foresight guard near the muzzle. There are also certain variations in the bolt mechanism and magazine, and it will not take a standard bayonet as the bayonet is attached to the muzzle itself and not to a boss.

5. This HQ suggests that ELUs should recommend a census to be taken of Rifles in the Territorial Command and that Rifles should be redistributed in such a way as to ensure standardisation within Units.

6. The P.14 Rifles are least suited to the Infantry Troops owing to the additional weight and smaller magazine capacity.

7. American .300 Rifles are useless with .303 ammunition and Territorial Commands should be invited to return them to the Ministry.

8. For training purposes Small Arms Training Volume I Pamphlet 3 appendix II shows details of variations in training. This appendix should be brought to the notice of the Territorial Command.

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3.4(b)(3)&(4) NND 963020

1. A recent observation from one of the BLUs has brought to the fore the question of the many different types of British Rifles issued to the ITALIAN Army.

2. The Territorial Command in question has had an issue of :-

Type	Quantity
Rifles .303 ERA Washington	1,603
" .303 Lee Enfield No 4 Mark I	96
" .303 " " 1942 S.F.T. II or I2	4,010
" .300 Remington 1902 - 1907	20

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5. This HQ suggests that BLUs should recommend a census to be taken of Rifles in the Territorial Command and that Rifles should be redistributed in such a way as to ensure standardisation within Units.

6. The P.14 Rifles are least suited to the Infantry Troops owing to the additional weight and smaller magazine capacity.

7. American .300 Rifles are useless with .303 ammunition and Territorial Commands should be invited to return them to the Ministry.

8. For training purposes Small Arms Training Volume I Pamphlet 3 appendix II shows details of variations in training. This appendix should be brought to the notice of the Territorial Command.

9. BLUs are requested to inform this HQ whether in their opinion adequate redistribution can be effected within their own Territorial Commands, or whether a letter from this HQ to Ministry of War is necessary.

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

MMH/ell
Internal Distribution G(Trg), 'Q' Ord

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

Subject: Guards on ammunition.

2 BLU
Tel: 52278
G 1/1
26 Sept 46

To: Land Forces Sub Commission, A C
(M. M. I. A.) ROME

BGS	
GSO I (SD)	
Dep G III	
GSO II (SD)	
GSO II (C)	
GSO III (SD)	
GSO I (LOC)	
G II (L)	

Ref your G/16/1 of 28 Aug 46.

1. Dumps are located at:

Forte Castellaccio		Altare Area
" Begato		
" Tecci		
Deposito del Cengio	-	Cengio
Forte Lodrino		Giovo Ligure
" Bruciato		
Deposito di Pietrabruna	-	San Lorenzo al Mare (Imperia)
Deposito di Boves-Cerati	-	Cuneo
" " Salmour	-	Fossano

2. Contents:

Forte Castellaccio - Automatic small arms. Cartridges.
Forte Begato - Explosive materials recovered from Genoa Area and transferred to Rivalta Scrivia Depot. (Comiliter of Turin).

Forte Tecci

Italian ammo to be retained	296	Tons
" " not required	254	"
German " " " "	166	"
Allied "	2	"

Cengio Depot

Italian ammo to be retained	128	"
" " not required	369	"
" explosive not required	35	"
German and Greek ammo not required	1	"
Allied ammo	1	"

Forte Lodrino and Bruciato

Italian ammo to be retained	181	"
" " not required	411	"
German and Greek ammo not required	12	"
French ammo	5	"
Allied "	5	"

RECEIVED 27 SEP 1946

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NND MD. 785020

GSO II (SD)	
GSO II (T)	
GSO III (-10)	
GSO I (TEG)	
G II (L)	

1. Dumps are located at:

Forte Castellaccio	}	Altare Area
"" Begato		
"" Tecci		
Deposito del Cengio	–	Cengio
Forte Lodrino	}	Giovo Ligure
"" Bruciato		
Deposito di Pietrabruna	–	San Lorenzo al Mare (Imperia)
Deposito di Boves-Cerati	–	Cuneo
"" " Salmour	–	Fossano

2. Contents:

Forte Castellaccio – Automatic small arms. Cartridges.

Forte Begato – Explosive materials recovered from Genoa Area and transferred to Rivalta Scrivia Depot. (Comiliter of Turin).

Forte Tecci

Italian ammo to be retained	296	Tons
"" "" not required	254	""
German "" "" "" "	166	""
Allied ""	2	""

Cengio Depot

Italian ammo to be retained	128	""
"" "" not required	369	""
"" explosive not required	35	""
German and Greek ammo not required	1	""
Allied ammo	1	""

Forte Lodrino and Bruciato

Italian ammo to be retained	181	""
"" "" not required	411	""
German and Greek ammo not required	12	""
French ammo	5	""
Allied ""	5	""

Pietrabruna Depot

Italian ammo to be retained	314	""
"" explosive to be retained	10	""
"" ammo not required	62	""
German and Greek ammo not required	83	""
French ammo	64	""

RECEIVED 20 FEB 1947
2432
MMIA - 'G'
FILE G-1/16 Sp 10g/2
DATE 2/30/9/46

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section J-602/NNDC NO. 18502

Boves-Cerati Depot

Italian ammo to be retained	247	Tons
" explosive to be retained	76	"
" ammo not required	86	"
" explosive not required	8	"
German and Greek ammo not required	116	"
French ammo	45	"
Allied "	14	"

323

269

Salmour Depot

Italian ammo to be retained	570	"
Italian explosive to be retained	1	"
" ammo not required	450	"
German and Greek ammo not required	89	"
French ammo	35	"
Allied ammo	33	"

607

3. It is not considered wise, in view of present unsettled conditions to replace present military guards. The safety of these dumps would not be guaranteed were they to be guarded by Police or civilians.

4. Guards provided by 2nd Infantry Regt:

	Offrs.	NCOs	Men
Forte Castellaccio	1	-	35
Forte Begato	-	1	22
Total	1	1	57
Forte Tecci	3	2	51
Cengio Depot	-	2	43
Giovo Ligura Depot	3	3	96
Pietrabruna Depot	1	1	36
Boves-Cerati Depot	3	3	65
Salmour Depot	3	3	92
Grand total	14	15	440

5. No other Units (including CC.RR.) are providing guards. C19

6. Dumps are being disposed of as follows:

(a) Italian ammo not required or unsuitable for use has been allocated to a civilian Firm for withdrawal.

(b) German and Greek ammo is being taken over by A.Rd.R.

(c) All efficient French ammo has long ago sent to France. French Naval Delegation state that as the remaining ammo is U/S they have already sold it to CivFirms for destruction. Enquiries are being made as to why Firms have not yet collected.

(d) Allied ammo has all in the past been declared to HQ

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NND Nr. 785020

Italian explosive to be retained	1	""
"" ammo not required	450	""
German and Greek ammo not required	89	""
French ammo	35	""
Allied ammo	33	""

667

3. It is not considered wise, in view of present unsettled conditions to replace present military guards. The safety of these dumps would not be guaranteed were they to be guarded by Police or civilians.

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	Offrs.	NCOs	Men
Forte Castellaccio	1	-	35
Forte Begato	-	1	22
Total	1	1	57
Forte Tecci	3	2	51
Cengio Depot	-	2	43
Giovo Ligura Depot	3	3	96
Pietrabruna Depot	1	1	36
Boves-Cerati Depot	3	3	65
Salmour Depot	3	3	92
Grand total	14	15	440

5. No other Units (including CC.RR.) are providing guards. C19

6. Dumps are being disposed of as follows:

(a) Italian ammo not required or unsuitable for use has been allocated to a civilian Firm for withdrawal.

(b) German and Greek ammo is being taken over by A.RA.R.

(c) All efficient French ammo has long ago been sent to France. French Naval Delegation state that as the remaining ammo is U/S they have already sold it to CivFirms for destruction. Enquiries are being made as to why Firms have not yet collected.

(d) Allied ammo has all in the past been declared to HQ 2 District (when operative). No disposal instrs have been recd either by the Italian Army nor by this HQ for such ammo.

H.D. Shrubb Major

Major
for Devon Regt
G II 2 BLU

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. 185022

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NRDC NO. 725020

Q Q

April 69

SUBJECT : Defalcations of Arms & Stores

LAND FORCES SUB COM AC (MELA)

(1,89081 Ext 401) SD/103/2

26 Sep 46

TO : 4 BRITISH LIAISON UNIT

Ref your Q 12 of 18 Sep 46.

1. This matter should be dealt with through your Territorial HQ. Should you not receive a satisfactory answer, you must notify this HQ, who will then approach the War Ministry.

2. Your letter is hereby returned.

J.H. Darrington Major
Lt-Col GS.

KTB/all

Internal Distribution

'G'

Reg 26/9/46.

618

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

SUBJECT: Transfer of Brit Weapons and Tanks to Italian Army.

LAND FORCES SUB-COMM., AC (MMIA)
(489081 Ext. 400) — SD/109/2
25 Sep 46

TO : 6 BRITISH LIAISON UNIT

1. Please see copy of our letter to War Ministry attached.

2. This is purely a warning order as no details of hand over are at present available.
It looks, however, as if a depot for holding and maintaining Tanks and later Ly AA and Medium Arty, will/be established in FORLI' Area under your supervision.

3. Full details will be forwarded as soon as known. Your responsibility would be to check the numbers of different types of equipment handed over to Italian care now and later, and subsequently to satisfy your self from time to time that this equipment remains intact in the depot.

4. Some advice or assistance may be acquired by the Italians as to maintenance of this equipment but, again, all details of requirements under this head will be communicated to you later.

MWH/sb

M. W. Hall.
L.C.S.
M.M.I.A.

617

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

April 67

SUBJECT: Transfer of Brit. Weapons to Italian Army

LAND FORCES SUB-COMM, AC (MMIA)
(489081 Sect. 400) — SD/109/2
25 Sep 46

TO : GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
G(SD) Branch

Ref telephone conversation LOWE-CHARRINGTON on 24 Sept and MMIA letter SD/109/2 of 5 Sept 1946.

1. Please see our letter to War Ministry copy attached.

2. Will you please confirm the assurance given by us to War Ministry in Para 3 of this letter.

3. You will realise that financial considerations play an important part in Italian decisions on equipment and that they cannot be expected to place a firm order for equipment until they know its cost and the amount that they will finally require to equip their Post Peace Treaty Army. Vide War Ministry letter 1/2627/Serv of 22 Aug 46 forwarded to you under our SD/109/2 of 26 Aug 46.

M.W.Hp.
BG.S 616

Major General,
M. M. I. A.

MMI/ab

AFHQ 66

SUBJECT:- Transfer of BRITISH Weapons & Tanks to ITALIAN Army.

LAND FORCES SUB.COMM.AC.(MMIA)
(Tel.489081 ext 400)
SD/109/2

25 Sep 46.

WAR MINISTRY.

Reference your 1/2017/Serv dated 31 Aug 46, forwarding tentative list of possible ITALIAN requirements of BRITISH Arms and Tanks.

1. In forwarding your list of requirements to GHQ, this Headquarters included the following remarks:

" The problem of the holding of weapons and tanks not at present allowed by the Armistice Terms pending the ratification of the Peace Treaty, will arise in view of the fact that BRITISH Depots are closing down. It is recommended that the ITALIANS be permitted to establish a holding depot, under MMIA supervision, where these weapons and tanks can be held and maintained by the ITALIAN Army but from which they are forbidden to make any withdrawals until they are authorised to do so by AFHQ".

2. We have today been informed by GHQ that they agree to this proposal and they have asked us to arrange for the establishment of a depot as quickly as possible.
It is understood that at present it is largely a matter of Tanks and that, as these are at present in the FORLI Area, it is recommended that the depot be established there. It is hoped that if, subsequently, guns become available they will be delivered to the same place in order to avoid setting up several depots.

3. GHQ have assured us that there is no question of the ITALIAN Government being asked to accept or purchase this material but only to hold and maintain it. Should it subsequently be found that any of this material is in excess of ITALIAN requirements or of what is allowed by the Peace Treaty, the excess will be demilitarised under MMIA supervision and disposed of as scrap through ARAR.

4. Further information will be forwarded to you, as soon as it is available, as to exact location and quantities of material to be handed over and of the arrangement to be made for the handover.

5. It is understood that GHQ wish to effect the transfer as quickly as possible.

TER/

J.D.G. Hope
Major General,
M. M. I. A.

Copy to: G.H.Q. for SD

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

possible ITALIAN requirements of BRITISH Arms and Tanks.

1. In forwarding your list of requirements to GHQ, this Headquarters included the following remarks:

" The problem of the holding of weapons and tanks not at present allowed by the Armistice Terms pending the ratification of the Peace Treaty, will arise in view of the fact that BRITISH Depots are closing down. It is recommended that the ITALIANS be permitted to establish a holding depot, under MMIA supervision, where these weapons and tanks can be held and maintained by the ITALIAN Army but from which they are forbidden to make any withdrawals until they are authorised to do so by AFHQ".

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It is understood that at present it is largely a matter of Tanks and that, as these are at present in the FORLI Area, it is recommended that the depot be established there. It is hoped that if, subsequently, guns become available they will be delivered to the same place in order to avoid setting up several depots.

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4. Further information will be forwarded to you, as soon as it is available, as to exact location and quantities of material to be handed over and of the arrangement to be made for the handover.

5. It is understood that GHQ wish to effect the transfer as quickly as possible.

TBR/

Major General,
M. M. I. A.

Copy to: G.H.Q.for SD,
6 B.L.U. +

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. 18520

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

65

SUBJECT: British Weapons for L'AQUILA Bde.

LAND FORCES SUB-COMM, AC (MMIA)

(489081 Ext. 401) SD/109/2

20 Sep 46

TO : 5 BRITISH LIAISON UNIT

1. In order to keep to the correct channel of communication will you please pass your letter through your Territorial HQ.

2. This HQ will assist with questions for which you do not get a satisfactory answer from your own Territorial Command.

3. Your letter is hereby returned.

FHC/sfb

Major General G.I.
M. M. I. A.

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

SD/103
SD/109/2
12/64
ICE M.L.

TRANSLATION

FROM: Ministry of War. REF: 4471/Ord.II

TO: Directorate General of Artillery and M.T.
M.M.I.A. for information.
(ref letter SD/103 of 30/8/1946)

DATE: 16 September 1946.

SD/103.

SUBJECT:- Maintenance of automatic weapons.

In agreement with M.M.I.A. (Maj Charrington) it has been decided that a section of the equipment stores of the Piacenza Artillery Directorate be used for a store for spare parts for the repair of small arms, automatic weapons and artillery of Allied origin. Suitable personnel will be provided by the Piacenza Artillery Directorate, in accordance with the exigencies of the Service. Such personnel will be drawn from those on the T.E. of said Directorate.

Your Directorate General is requested to issue the consequent instructions of an executive nature.

sgd. BOGLIACCINO
Col.

R.A.C.

613

BGS	
GSO I (SD)	
Dep G III	
GSO II (SD)	
GSO II (T)	
GSO III (SD)	
GSO I (TRG)	
G II (L)	

MMIA - 'Q'
FILE SD/109/2
DATE R/20/4/46

191600

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

61

SUBJECT :- Release of 2 in Mortars to the ITALIAN Army.

Apple

LAND FORCE SEC. No. 46 (M.I.A.)
(439061 Sec.A.G.1) 30/Misc/2
13 Dec 45

TO : MINISTRY OF WAR

A further 408 2 in. Mortars are lying at (GRIGNANO) (near ROME) awaiting collection.

The suggested distribution of this equipment is as follows :-

SAFs	30
Combat Formations	126
Total	408

Sam Hall Cam

for Major-General,
A. A. A. A.

30D/613.

Internal Distribution:

G(Trg)
G
QMG

C12

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

60

SUBJECT: Transfer of BRIT Weapons to ITALIAN Army

LAND FORCES SUB COM AG (46)A)

(409091 Sec 401) SD/109/2

17 Sep 46

TO : GENERAL HEADQUARTERS C(SD)

Further to this Department letter SD/109/2 of 10 September, a figure has been submitted by the Italian Ministry of War for a requirement of 1453 Universal Carriers. This equipment should be added to the list shown in Appx 'A' to the above letter.

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

SGG/rr

C1

Internal: G(Trg)
'Q'
GHQ

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

58

COPY
TRANSLATION

FROM: MINISTRY OF WAR

REF: 1/2857/Serv.

TO : M.M.I.A.

DATE: 5 Sept 1946

Agreed

SUBJECT: Equipment of Italian Army

53

Reference verbal communication and further to letter 1/2817 of 31 Aug 46 of this S.M.

This S.M. considers that 1,453 universal carriers are necessary for the Italian Army.

This figure has been obtained by subtracting from the total requirement the 913 carriers already possessed by the Italian Army and the 140 being issued by the A.R.A.R.

see Letter 60 for action taken

Sgd. LIUZZI, Gen.

SD Distr.
Q
SD/109/4
SD/109/2

61

Subject : Provision of M.T. vehicles for [redacted] Army

LAND FORCES SUB AREA [redacted] (46GA)
(A89321 Sect A20) MS/109/2
10 Sep 46

TO : [redacted]

Ref this H. letter MS/109/2 of 5 Sep 46.

1. This letter was forwarded to you as soon as the figures for [redacted] requirements were received from the War Ministry in view of :-

(a) The long delay in obtaining the [redacted] requirements.

(b) The urgent need to stop the demilitarization of vehicles that may be required for transfer to the [redacted].

2. For this reason no attempt was made to screen the [redacted] figures and it is doubtful if any useful purpose will be served in scrutinising figures when the final size and shape of the [redacted] post peace Treaty Army is not known.

3. The quantities of the various weapons requested by the [redacted] appears at first sight very excessive but in this respect two factors should be borne in mind :-

(a) Owing to the uncertainty of the final composition of the [redacted] post Treaty Army the [redacted] were asked to work out their requirements on the basis of their maximum possible requirements so as to be on the safe side.

(b) Reserves have been included in all cases at 30% of total requirements. It should be borne in mind that these reserves are to cover wastage etc during the whole period (possibly 10 years) up till the time when the [redacted] Armament Industry has been reactivated and new weapons of [redacted] type can be designed, tested and produced in quantities to replace worn out [redacted] weapons.

It should be noted that in future the [redacted] may

603

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. 76520

Ref this HQ letter AG/400/2 of 5 Sep 46.

1. This letter was forwarded to you as soon as the figures for ITALIAN requirements were received from the War Ministry in view of :-

(a) The long delay in obtaining the ITALIAN requirements,

(b) The urgent need to stop the demilitarisation of weapons that may be required for transfer to the ITALIANS.

2. For this reason no attempt was made to screen the ITALIAN figures and it is doubtful if any useful purpose will be served in screening figures when the final size and shape of the ITALIAN Post Peace Army may be not known.

3. The quantities of the various weapons required by the ITALIANS appears at first sight very excessive but in this respect two factors should be borne in mind :-

(a) Owing to the uncertainty of the final composition of the ITALIAN Peace Army the ITALIANS were asked to work out the requirements on the basis of their maximum possible requirements so as to be on the safe side.

(b) Reserves have been included in all cases at 50% of total requirements. It should be borne in mind that these reserves are to cover wastage etc during the whole period (normally 10 years) up till the time when the ITALIAN Armament Industry has been reactivated and new weapons of ITALIAN type can be designed, turned out produced in quantities to replacement of worn weapons.

4. It should be noted that in future the ITALIAN Army proposes to rely on indigenous resources for :-

Machine
Machine Carbines
Pistols
Hy Machine Guns.

607

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

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

SD/109/2 56

[redacted]

[redacted]
[redacted]

Headquarters
United States Army Forces, India-Burma Theater
APO 885
9 September 1945

SPSOT

SUBJECT: Use of Military Personnel in Civilian Activities

TO : Commanding General
Services of Supply
India-Burma Theater
APO 885

1. Reference is made to letter, this headquarters, AG 210.685 (8 Aug 45) OPD, subject: "Use of Military Personnel in Civilian Activities".

2. It is not clear whether or not the provisions of the above letter are applicable to the Services of Supply, India-Burma Theater. Request clarification.

3. Pending receipt of clarification, no action will be taken to implement the provisions of the above letter.

By command of Lieutenant General STILWELL:

[redacted]
Major General, G.S.C.
Chief of Staff

DISTRIBUTION:
"A" plus 1 Extra (SS, SOS)

Rec'd 10 Sep 45

BGS	
GSO 1 (SD)	
Dep G 1	
G-3 (SOS)	
G-3 ( )	
GSO 11 ( )	
GSO 1 (HQ)	
G 11 (L)	

MMIA - 'Q'
FILE SP/109/2
DATE 8/10/46

0917 09

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

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
Office of the Chief Commissioner
APO 794

Ref. : 9/22/GA

6 September 1946

SUBJECT: Manufacture of small arms.

TO : G-5 Section,
AFHQ.

2112
SEP. 1946
RECEIVED

1. I have received numerous requests from various departments of the Italian Government as well as from certain private firms, for permission to manufacture or repair and to sell to State Departments, Commercial undertakings or private individuals, certain types of arms and ammition.

2. The only direction which I appear to have received from you on this matter is contained in your AG 388/3/GS7 (SD)/0 of 2 August 1945 copy of which is attached for easy reference. This Directive, which was written before the conclusion of the war in the East and which consequently lays stress on our war effort, is quite clear as far as "Armaments and ammunition or implements of war" are concerned. It does not, however, define these items or state whether the manufacture of such weapons as sporting shot guns, small practice rifles or pistols of small calibre is to be restricted. Further, as this directive pre-supposed the signing of a peace treaty within a comparatively short space of time after the end of the war, it did not allow for the circumstances which have arisen in Italy during the past 12 months and which may continue for some time.

3. In fact (see my letter 501/143/GS of the 22 November 1945) positive control of manufacture of war material has not been complete owing to the absence of qualified technical staff, the only control existing being through the service sub-commissions and their respective ministries, leaving the manufacture by private firms without direct control.

4. As a result of this situation I am receiving the requests referred to in para 1 above, together with frequent complaints on the injustices due to a system (or rather, a lack of system) under which certain small firms are able to make and sell various weapons without any control, whereas the large and reputable firms who are under contract

BGS	
GSO 1 (SD)	
Dep G III	
GSO II (SD)	
GSO II ()	
GSO II (SD)	
GSO I (TEG)	
G II (L)	

MMIA - 'G'
FILE: SD/107/2
DATE 19/9/46

09/500

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

with Service Ministries are still waiting for authority to enable them to execute similar orders.

5. I therefore recommend that two decisions be taken: -

(a) that the term War like material should be defined and that weapons which need not be considered essentially war-like, e.g. shot guns, sporting rifles and pistols or revolvers below 8 mm should be excluded from the definition.

and

(b) that the control of manufacture, repair and distribution of weapons other than those considered as war-like, should be left entirely to the Italian Government, who may however, be required to give us such information regarding their system of control as we may require.

6. It is very desirable that some such ruling should be given at the earliest possible moment.

/s/ Ellery W. Stone

ELLERY W. STONE
Rear Admiral, USN
Chief Commissioner

Copy to: Chief Commissioner
Ex. Commissioner
Land Forces S/C
Navy S/C
Air Forces S/C
Econ. Section
CA Section

Copy to Brosbon
Capt L. C. O'
606
17 Sep 46

SUBJECT : Transfer of BRIT Weapons to ITALIAN Army

LAND FORCES SUB COM AC (MMIA)

(459081 Ext 400) SD/109/2

5 Sep 46

TO : GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
G(SD) BRANCH

Ref this HQ letter SD/109/2 of 26 Aug 46.

1. I forward herewith list showing tentative requirements in BRIT Arms requested by the ITALIAN Army for use of the Post Treaty Army and for reserves.

2. It will be appreciated that, as the terms of the Peace Treaty are not yet settled and as the ITALIANS do not yet know the cost of these weapons and therefore how many they can afford, this list is forwarded as an indication of possible requirements and is not to be taken as a firm order.

3. Any action that can be taken to stop the demilitarization of BRIT Weapons in this theatre, within the limits of ITALIAN requirements will be appreciated.

4. As it seems improbable that stocks held in this theatre will be able to provide the requirements listed it is recommended that any weapons becoming available through the reduction of BRIT forces in this theatre should be earmarked for the ITALIAN Army.

5. As regards the ITALIAN request for 428 Lt tks, it has been pointed out to the ITALIAN Authorities that there is now no BRIT Lt tk. As the number of tks allowed for the ITALIAN Army is likely to be limited to approximately 200 their entitlement will be amply covered by their requirements in Medium and Hy Tks, so the Lt tk requirement can be disregarded.

6. The problem of the holding of weapons and tks not at present allowed by the Armistice Terms pending the ratification of the Peace Treaty, will arise in view of the fact that BRIT Depts are closing down. It is recommended that the ITALIANS be permitted to establish a holding dep, under MMIA supervision, where those weapons and tks can be held and maintained by the ITALIAN Army but from which they are forbidden to make any withdrawals until they are authorised to do so by AFHQ.

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

Ref this HQ letter SD/109/2 of 26 Aug 46.

1. I forward herewith list showing tentative requirements in BRIT Arms requested by the ITALIAN Army for use of the Post Treaty Army and for reserves.

2. It will be appreciated that, as the terms of the Peace Treaty are not yet settled and as the ITALIANS do not yet know the costs of these weapons and therefore how many they can afford, this list is forwarded as an indication of possible requirements and is not to be taken as a firm order.

3. Any action that can be taken to stop the demilitarisation of BRIT Weapons in this theatre, within the limits of ITALIAN requirements will be appreciated.

4. As it seems improbable that stocks held in this theatre will be able to provide the requirements listed it is recommended that any weapons becoming available through the reduction of BRIT Tnms in this theatre should be earmarked for the ITALIAN Army.

5. As regards the ITALIAN request for 428 Lt Tks, it has been pointed out to the ITALIAN Authorities that there is now no BRIT Lt Tk. As the number of Tks allowed for the ITALIAN Army is likely to be limited to approximately 200 their entitlement will be amply covered by their requirements in Medium and Hy Tks, so the Lt Tk requirement can be disregarded.

6. The problem of the holding of weapons and Tks not at present allowed by the Armistice Terms pending the ratification of the Peace Treaty, will arise in view of the fact that MMIT Deps are closing down. It is recommended that the ITALIANS be permitted to establish a holding dep, under MMIA supervision, where these weapons and Tks can be held and maintained by the ITALIAN Army but from which they are forbidden to make any withdrawals until they are authorised to do so by AFHQ.

Major-General,
M. M. I. A.

MMIA/ell
Internal Distribution

G(Trg)
'Q'
CMD

605

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC No. T8520

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

TENTATIVE REQUIREMENTS IN BRIT ARMS REQUESTED BY THE ITALIAN ARMY

Arms (1)	Requirements for Units & Training (2)	Reserve (3)	Totals of Columns 2 and 3 (4)	Brit Ammunt Already possessed by the Italian Army (5)	Total Quants Requd (6)
Rifles .022	98	49	147	-	
Rifles	160,594	80,292	240,886	117,115	12
LMG Bren	8,947	4,473	13,420	5,273	
PIAT	3,451	1,726	5,177	1,810	
17 pr	158	79	237	113	
25 pr	584	282	866	305	
6 pr	164	82	246	203	
40 mm	410	205	615	225	
Mixed Cs	209	104	313	130	
Dingo	92	46	138	-	
Lt Tks	285	143	428	-	
Med Tks	126	63	189	-	
Hy Tks	76	38	114	-	
Self propelled Anti tk guns	60	30	90	-	
Anti-aircraft guns (3.7 in)	152	76	228	5	
Guns for Fd Arty Regts (155 mm)	32	16	48	-	
Howitzer for Fd Arty Regts (7.2 in)	32	16	48	-	
Guns for Med Arty Regts (4.5 in)	80	40	120	-	
Howitzer for Arty Regts (5.5 in)	80	40	120	5	
Guns for Coastal Arty	12	6	18	-	

NOTES :- The calibre of Med and Fd Guns and Howrs have been shown only for guidance. These will decided upon in accordance with the material available.

The figure shown against Arm Cs already possessed by the ITALIAN Army does not include to the Carabinieri.

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

Appx 'A' to MMIA SD/109/2
Letter Dated 5 Sep 46

TENTATIVE REQUIREMENTS IN DIRT ARMS REQUESTED BY THE ITALIAN ARMY

	Requirements for Units & Training (2)	Reserve (3)	Totals of Columns 2 and 3 (4)	Brit Armament Already possessed by the Italian Army (5)	Total Quantity now Required (6)
	98	49	147	-	147
	160,594	80,292	240,886	117,115	123,771
	8,947	4,473	13,420	5,273	8,147
	3,451	1,726	5,177	1,810	3,367
	158	79	237	113	124
	584	282	866	303	563
	164	82	246	203	43
	410	205	615	225	390
	209	104	313	130	183
	92	46	138	-	138
	285	143	428	-	428
	126	63	189	-	189
	76	38	114	-	114
	60	30	90	-	90
	152	76	228	5	223
...m)	32	16	48	-	48
...2.in)	32	16	48	-	48
... in)	80	40	120	-	120
... in)	80	40	120	5	115
	12	6	18	-	18
					1453 (subsequently reduced to 1453)

...e calibre of Med and Hy Guns and Howz have been shown only for guidance. These will be ...plied upon in accordance with the material available.

...e figure shown against Arm Cs already possessed by the ITALIAN Army does not include those issued ...o the Carabinieri.

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

0 00 53 B

TRANSLATION

FROM: M. of W.

TO : M.M.I.A.

REF: I/28I7/Serv

DATE: 3I/8/46

SUBJECT: Equipment of the Italian Army.

Ref. your SD/I09/2 of 26/8/46.

We forward a table relative to British armament which this S.M. considers necessary for the Italian Army in the event of the Authorities concerned approving the issue of same.

Sgd. LIUZZI
Gen.

BGS	
GSO 1 (SD)	
Dep G II	
GSO I (SD)	
GSO II (-)	
GSO III (SD)	
GSO I (TRG)	
G II (L)	

M.M.I.A. - [illegible]
FILE S.D/109/2
DATE 8/4/9/46.

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

Furthermore , accessories and instruments (including a small reserve) are required for the formation of:-

	Regts.	Batteries	Groups
6 Pdrs.	40	I8	48
I7 "		I6	48
25 "		75	I57
40 m/m		35	82
Mobile guns	I	6	I8
Coastal guns	-	I	4
Heavy Field Guns	5	I4	38
Heavy Field Howitzer		8	2I
Heavy guns	I	3	7
Heavy howitzer		3	7
Heavy A.A. guns	4	I5	42

NOTES:-

- The caliber of ~~Mobile Guns, A.A. Guns~~, ~~Heavy Field Guns and Heavy Guns~~ Medium & Heavy Guns and Hows have been shown only for guidance. These will be decided upon in accordance with the material available.

- The figure shown against Armd. Cars. already possessed by the Italian Army does not include those issued to the Carabinieri.-

Allegato n. 1 al foglio 1/2817
in data 31.8.46

Arms required by the Italian Army.

FABBISOGNO ARMI PER L'ESERCITO ITALIANO

(Requirement) BRITISH ARMAMENT TOTAL QUANTITY

Armi ARMS.	Fabbisogno armi per unità d'impiego e addestramento FOR UNITS AND TRAINING	Riserva RESERVE	Totale 2ª e 3ª colonna.- TOTAL OF COLUMN 2 & 3.	Armi inglesi già in possesso dell'esercito it. ALREADY POSSESSED BY THE ITALIAN ARMY.	Quantitativo totale da prelevare.- TO BE WITHDRAWN NOW required.
RIFLES 0.22 – Fucili 0,22	98	49	147	-	147
RIFLES – Fucili	160.594	80.292	240.886	117.115	123.771
L.M.G. BREN – Fucili mitragliatori (Bren)	8.947	4.473	13.420	5.273	8.147
PIAT – Mortai Piat	3.451	1.726	5.177	1.810	3.367
17 lbs GUNS – Cannoni da 17 lbs.	158	79	237	113	124
25 lbs GUNS – " " 25 "	584	282	866	303	563
6 lbs GUNS – " " 6 "	164	82	246	203	43
40 m/m GUNS – " " 40 m/m	410	205	615	225	390
ARMD. CARS – Autoblindo	209	104	313	130	183
DINGO – Dingo	92	46	138	-	138
LIGHT TANKS – Carri leggeri	285	143	428	-	428
MEDIUM TANKS – Carri medi	126	63	189	-	189
HEAVY TANKS – Carri pesanti	76	38	114	-	114
SELF PROPELLED MOUNT GUNS (from 75 to 100 m/m) – Pezzi semoventi (da 85 a 120 m/m)	60	30	90	-	90
– Cannoni contraerei (3,7 A.A.) ANTI AIRCRAFT GUNS	152	76	228	5	223
GUNS FOR HEAVY ARTY REGTS (105 m/m) – Cannoni per rgt.art. pes. (155 m/m) (12 units)	32	16	48	-	48
HOWITZER FOR HEAVY ARTY REGT (149 m/m) – Obici per rgt. art. pes. (183 m/m) Medium (4.5 units)	32	16	48	-	48
GUNS FOR MEDIUM ARTY REGTS (114 m/m) – Cannoni per rgt.art.pes. campale (114 m/m) medium	80	40	120	-	120
HOWITZER FOR MEDIUM ARTY REGT. (5.5 inch) – Obici per rgt.art. pes. campale (5,5 L.A.)	80	40	120	5	115
GUNS FOR COASTAL ARTY. BATT. – Cannoni per gruppo artiglieria da costa	12	6	18	-	18

Universal carrier (all [illegible]) [illegible] 1453.

Unclassified E.O. 13065 Section 3-402/NNDC No. T85020

- Dingo	92	46	138	-	138
LIGHT TANKS - Carri leggeri	285	143	428	-	428
MEDIUM TANKS - Carri medi	126	63	189	-	189
HEAVY TANKS - Carri pesanti	76	38	114	-	114
Self Propelled Anti GUNS (from 75 to 120 m/m). - Pezzi semoventi (da 85 a 120 m/m)	60	30	90	-	90
- Cannoni contraerei (3,7 A.A.) ANTI AIRCRAFT GUNS	152	76	228	5	223
GUNS FOR HEAVY ARTY REGTS (155 m/m) - Cannoni per rgt.art. pes. (155 m/m) (12 each)	32	16	48	-	48
HOWITZER FOR HEAVY ARTY REGT (149 m/m). - Obici per rgt. art. pes. (149 m/m) (45 each)	32	16	48	-	48
GUNS FOR MEDIUM ARTY REGT. (105 m/m) - Cannoni per rgt.art.pes. campale (114 m/m)	80	40	120	-	120
HOWITZER FOR MEDIUM ARTY REGT. (5.5 inch) - Obici per rgt.art. pes. campale (5,5 M.A.)	80	40	120	5	115
GUNS FOR COASTAL ARTY. DEFF. - Cannoni per gruppo artiglieria da costa	12	6	18	-	18
Uniformi tariere (vedi foglio 58) rifatto ad agosto.					1453,

(compresa una congrua riserva)

Occorrono inoltre i materiali di caricamento e gli strumenti per la costituzione di:

	Reggimenti	Gruppi	Batterie
Da 6 lbs.		18	48
" 17 "	48	16	48
" 25 "		75	157
" 40 m/m		35	82
semoventi	1	6	18
da costa	2	1	4
di cannoni pesanti campali	5	14	38
di obici pesanti campali		8	21
di cannoni pesanti	1	3	7
di obici pesanti		3	7
contraerei pesanti	4	15	42

N O T E:

= I calibri delle artiglierie semoventi, contraeree, pesanti campali e pesanti sono stati segnati a solo scopo indicativo; saranno concretati in base agli accertamenti del materiale disponibile.-

= La cifra relativa alle autoblindo già in possesso dell'esercito italiano non comprende lo stesso materiale ceduto ai Carabinieri.-

STATO MAGGIORE R. ESERCITO UFFICIO SERVIZI

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NND No. T8502

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

(3)

G.H.Q., G.M.F.

Subject:- Surplus 6 pdr A/TK guns held Surplus by Italian Army

8359/GT

26 Aug 46

SD.

To:- ORD

BGS		
GSO I (SD)		
Dep G III		
GSO II (SD)		
GSO II ( )		
GSO III (SD)		
GSO	(TRG)	
G II (L)		

RECEIVED 27 AUG 46 1703 (DATE)

1. The 6 pdr A/Tk guns held surplus to WE by the Italian Army will not now be handed in to Ordnance.

2. These equipments will be stored by them as operational reserves.

For Info Ltr Ref 22

T.E.A. SHUTTLEHEAD, Captain,
for Brigadier,
DDST.

TRAN/CE

Copy to:- MEIA - Your SD/109/4 of 20 Aug 46

Q - SD 109

GRD - G(TRG)

27/13c

MMIA - GT
FILE SD/109/R
DATE 27/8/46

SUBJECT : Transfer of RNZF Weapons to the ITALIAN Army

LAND FORCES SUB COM AC (ITALY)
(469001 Sect 401) 30/109/2
26 AUG 46

TO : GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
M(ED) FORCE

1. Following the meeting at CASERTA on 30 Jul at which COS ENGA and Chief of Staff were present and at which plans for the ITALIAN Army were discussed, the War Ministry was invited to submit a tentative list of RNZF weapons required for the ITALIAN Army taking into consideration their possible requirements for the post Treaty Army and to incl weapons not at present allowed under Armistice Terms.

They were warned that surplus weapons were in the process of being demilitarised and that approx figures were required as soon as possible if they wished to save anything from the wreck.

2. After considerable delay this HQ has received a letter from War Ministry, and has sent a reply, copies of both letters are attached. 50/109 folio 47 - folio 48 see folio 53A.

3. It is hoped that as a result the War Ministry will be persuaded to fwd their tentative list of requirements in the meanwhile this HQ will be glad to receive details of the scales of the various RNZF weapons that may be transferred direct from NZEF to ITALIAN Armies.

4. It is suggested that the prices to be charged for the following weapons are required :-

5.5 How
3.7. AA
25 pr
17 pr
6 pr
40 mm AA
Rifles & Bayonets
Brens
PIATs
Thompsons
Sten Guns

6.

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NND NO. 785120

SECRET

1. Following the Meeting at CASERTA on 30 Jul at which SOS NATO and Chief of Staff were present and at which Arms for the ITALIAN Army were discussed, the War Ministry was invited to submit a tentative list of SHAEF weapons required for the ITALIAN Army taking into consideration their possible requirements for the Post Treaty Army and to incl Weapons not at present allowed under Armistice Terms.

They were warned that surplus weapons were in the process of being demilitarised and that approx figures were required as soon as possible if they wished to save anything from the wreck.

2. After considerable delay this H has received a letter from War Ministry, and has sent a reply, copies of both letters are attached.

3. It is hoped that as a result the War Ministry will be persuaded to put their tentative list of requirements in the meanwhile this H will be glad to receive details of the costs of the various SHAEF weapons that may be transferred direct from SHAEF to ITALIAN Armies.

4. It is suggested that the prices to be charged for the following weapons are required :-

5.5 How
3.7. AA
20 pr
17 pr
6 pr
40 mm AA
Rifles & Bayonets
Bren
PIATs
Flamethrow
3 in Mortar
2 in Mortar
Pistols

/2

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

5. The delay in forwarding lists of ITALIAN requirements is very much regretted particularly as it is understood that the programme of demilitarisation of weapons has been proceeding at a great pace and is in fear that already all surplus weapons of certain natures have been destroyed and consequently none will now be available to meet ITALIAN requirements.

Any action that can be taken to retain a percentage of remaining weapons lawful against a possible ITALIAN bid will be appreciated.

Ser No 4243.

M.W.Hope.
BSS

Major-General,
M. L. I. A.

MMH/ell

Internal Distribution

35

WO } War Ministry letter
CAB } 1/3627/Serv of 22 Aug refers

591

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NND No. T 65020

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

49

SUBJECT : 6 Pdr A./Tk Guns

LAND FORCES SUB-COM AC (SEIA)

SD/102/2

26 Aug 46

TO : GENERAL HEADQUARTERS G(SD) BRANCH.
& NAVAL HEADQUARTERS

38

Reference your letter SD/2146/4 of 21 Aug.

Indian War Ministry confirm that they can absorb the surplus stocks of 6 Pdr A./Tk Guns.

for Capt.
Major General,
F. E. I. A.

GSO/rr

Copy to: Ministry of War

Internal: G(Training)
GSO II (Liaison) - Reference conversation with
'Q' War Ministry - 26 Aug
WRD

598

42

SUBJECT : Issue of British weapons to the Israeli Army

Appx 2

[illegible] 26 Aug 48

TO : [illegible]

Ref 50

SD/109 folio 47

Ref your letter I/8527/Gen (a) dated 25 Aug 48.

1. This HQ has received your request for information on the procedure for the payment of Israeli forces be [illegible] and it has indeed your suggestion that "cash price" only should be charged.

2. The answer will be passed to you as soon as it is received but it is thought possible that there may be considerable delay as the matter may have to be referred to London.

3. As the speed of turning surplus arms into scrap is continuing daily it is essential that some figure representing possible [illegible] requirements should be drafted as soon as possible in order to try and ensure that weapons likely to be required for the [illegible] army are not destroyed.

4. It is explained that any figures received at this stage will be regarded purely in the nature of possible requirements and will not constitute an offer.

No attempt will be made to force the Isr Ministry ultimately to accept weapons in excess of the quantities that they can afford to pay for when prices are known.

597

M. W. Hope.
B.G.S
for Major-General,
M. E. L. S.

mm/ell
Copy to :- GPO (G(D) Branch)
Internal distribution

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

Ref your letter I/3627/ dtd 23 Aug 44.

1. This H.Q. has noted your request for information on the procedure for the payment of Amount Owing to ASC, and it has backed your suggestion that "scrap price" only should be charged.

2. The answer will be passed to you as soon as it is received but it is thought probable that there may be considerable delay as the matter may have to be referred to COUNCIL.

3. As the process of turning surplus guns into scrap is continuing daily it is essential that some figure representing possible [illegible] requirements should be submitted as soon as possible in order to try and ensure that weapons likely to be required for the [illegible] Army are not destroyed.

4. It is emphasised that any figures received at this stage will be regarded purely in the nature of possible requirements and will not constitute an order.

No attempt will be made to force the War Ministry ultimately to accept weapons in excess of the quantities that they can afford to pay for when prices are known.

597

M. W. Hope.
B.G.S.
for Major-General,
M. I. A.

kmf/dl
Copy to :- GHQ (G(SD) Branch)
Internal Distribution

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

SD/109/2 41

TRANSLATION

FROM : MINISTRY OF WAR — REF : 4/2566/Serv.

TO : ARMY AND MT GEN.DIR — DATE : 14.8.46
MMIA (For info.)

SUBJECT:- Settlement of scale of issue of 25 & 17 pdr. guns and Artillery trailers.-

Further to and amending letters 4/1934/Serv. and 4/2119/Serv. dated respectively 5/7 and 18/7/46.

1. The MMIA, replying in the attached copy of the letter (only for the MT & Arty.Gen.Dir. & the Arty Inspectorate) to the second of the above letters, has laid down the final numbers of 25 & 17 pdr. guns and Artillery trailers which will be released to the Italian Army.

2. In respect of the above we request you to kindly order as follows:

(a) 25 pounders.
14 are still to be released and not 33 as stated in MMIAs letter, attached. The misunderstanding has been clarified.
Of the above:
- 12 will remain temporarily stored at the Naples Artillery Directorate pending issue to Infantry Brigade Artillery Groups;
- one will be sent to 7 Arty.Rgt. belonging to the Cremona Div (I) one will be sent & stored at the Piacenza Arty.Dir. as a reserve for maintenance, together with the other four to be withdrawn from the School of Arty., whose final scale of [illegible] (including the Civitavecchia detachment) is laid down as 56 guns instead of 60.
The scale of issue for the Lecce Mil.Academy is finally laid down as 4 Guns.

(b) 17 pounders.
Up to date 113 have been released. Total requirement for the Army has been laid down as 125. Therefore, 12 have still to be released. Of the 113 guns already released, 60 are still at Naples (2) 39
Of these 60 :
- 45 will be sent to the Units shown in the first paragraph of the a/m. letter, with the exception of the Arty.School to which, over and above the 2 guns already sent for the Civitavecchia detachment, another 3 guns instead of 8 will be later sent to Maccarese. The scale of issue and total number for the School of Artillery is laid down finally as 16 guns instead of 21;
- 2 will be sent to the Lecce Mil.Academy whose scale of issue is laid down finally as 4 guns;
- 12 will be temporarily stored at the Naples Arty.Dir. pending issue to Infantry Brig.Arty.Groups;
- 1 together with the 12 that are still to be released i.e. total of 13, will be sent and stored at the Piacenza Artillery Directorate, as a reserve for maintenance.

MMIA - 'G'
FILE SD/109/2
DATE R/23/8/46

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

Further to and amending letters 4/1254/Serv. and 4/2119/Serv. dated respectively 5/7 and 18/7/46.

1. The MMIA, replying in the attached copy of the letter (only for the MT & Arty.Gen.Dir. & the Arty Inspectorate) to the second of the above letters, has laid down the final numbers of 25 & 17 pdr.guns and Artillery trailers which will be released to the Italian Army.

2. In respect of the above we request you to kindly order as follows:

(a) 25 pounders.
14 are still to be released and not 33 as stated in MMIAs letter, attached. The misunderstanding has been clarified.
Of the above:
- 12 will remain temporarily stored at the Naples Artillery Directorate pending issue to Infantry Brigade Artillery Groups;
- one will be sent to 7 Arty.Rgt.belonging to the Cremona Div (I)
one will be sent & stored at the Piacenza Arty.Dir.as a reserve for maintenance, together with the other four to be withdrawn from the School of Arty., whose final scale of [illegible] the Civitavecchia detachment) is laid down as 56 guns instead of 60.
The scale of issue for the Lecce Mil.Academy is finally laid down as 4 Guns.

(b) 17 pounders.
Up to date 113 have been released. Total requirement for the Army has been laid down as 125. Therefore, 12 have still to be released.
Of the 113 guns already released, 60 are still at Naples (2) [illegible]
Of these 60 :
- 45 will be sent to the Units shown in the first paragraph of the a/m. letter, with the exception of the Arty.School to which, over and above the 2 guns already sent for the Civitavecchia detachment, another 3 guns instead of 8 will be later sent to Bracciano. The scale of issue and total number for the School of Artillery is laid down finally as 16 guns instead of 21;
- 2 will be sent to the Lecce Mil.Academy whose scale of issue is laid down finally as 4 guns;
- 12 will be temporarily stored at the Naples Arty.Dir.pending issue to Infty Brig.Arty.Groups;
- 1 together with the 12 that are still to be released i.e.total of 13, will be sent and stored at the Piacenza Artillery Directorate, as a reserve for maintenance.

MMIA "G"
FILE SD/109/2
DATE R/23/8/46

(c) Trailers.-
575 have been released up to date whilst the total requirement for the Army has been laid down as 575. Therefore,2 are still to be released.
Of the trailers already released, 27 are at present at Naples in the Civitavecchia store & with the 2 which are still to be released gives the total of 29.
Of these 29 trailers :
- 2 will be sent to the Lecce Academy, the scale of issue previously laid down as 6,will be modified accordingly.
- 27 will be temporarily stored at Naples pending issue to Infantry Brigade Artillery Groups (9 Trailers per group)

BGS	[illegible]
GSO 1 (SD)	
Dep G III	
[illegible] (SD)	
[illegible]	
[illegible]	
G II (L)	

3. Please issue the necessary instructions informing this SL.when transfers have taken place and finally settled.

signed LUCIFI GEN.

P.T.O.

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 1-402/NND No. 765020

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

SUBJECT : Arms

LAND FORCES SUB COM, A.C.(MELA)
(489081 Ext 401) SD/97
25 AUG 46

TO : MINISTRY OF WAR

Owing to their special commitments it is strongly recommended that CC.RR. detachment of 150 personnel at Naples, have their Sten Guns replaced by T.S.M.G's as soon as possible.

R.P. Chamier Major

Major General,
M. M. I. A.

RMC/rr

Copy to: Major C.E. Hayes (CC.RR. - GSO II)

Internal: 'Q'
SD/109/2

59.

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

SUBJECT : 6 [illegible] AAA Gun Sites

Land forces sub unit ad (AUS)
(APO 887 Bat 210) 10/400/A
23 Apr 45

TO : Commanding Officer

1. Information has been received from this Hqs that they do not anticipate release of any of the newly four 6 pounder anti tank guns at present held by the Italian Army suitable to be withdrawn.

2. These guns may therefore be retained by you as assets as in reserve against possible later commitments to the Army should not be held by formations or units supplied to it but should be concentrated all in one gun park, situated and guarded up.

3. It is requested that you will inform this Hq of the location of this gun park and of the date by which all guns will be collected there.

for Major General,
A.A. & Q.M.G.

Lieut Col

59

Attch/nil

Internal distribution

G(TRS)
S.O.
CSO

SUBJECT: Surplus 6 Pdr A/TK Guns.

LAND FORCES SUB-COMM, MC. (MELA.)
(489081 Ext. 401) SD/109/2
20 Aug 46

TO : MINISTRY OF WAR

Reference this HQ letter Q. 158 of 17th June 46.

6 Pdr Anti-Tank guns which you hold surplus to War Establishment will not now be handed in. Instead they will be retained and it is recommended that they should be stored as operational reserves.

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

SGC/ab

Copy to : GHQ for G(SD)
GHQ for Q
10 ELU

Internal : G(Trg)
'Q'
ORD
REME
SD/39/2
SD/109

59

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

SUBJECT: Maintenance of BRITISH Equipment.

LAND FORCES SUB-COMM, AC (MKIA)

(489081 Ext. 218) SD/109

10 Aug 46

TO : MINISTRY OF WAR

1. Considerable quantities of Small Arms, Arty and other BRITISH Equipment have recently been or are about to made available to the ITALIAN Army.

2. At the same time actual strengths of units are in many cases far below War Establishments.

If therefore a mass of new equipment is issued down to sub-units e.g. to platoon, company or equivalent level, there is a grave risk that for lack of manpower this equipment will either not be properly cleaned and maintained or else that all available men will be employed on its maintenance to the detriment of training or other duties.

3. It is consequently recommended by this HQ that all weapons and equipment in excess of that normally handled by the actual number of men available be held in centralised stores at not lower that battalion or equivalent level and there kept either "greased up" or regularly cleaned. For instance where only enough men are actually available to form one 25 Pdr troop in a battery the remaining guns should be held centralised under Regimental or even Divisional arrangements and NOT issued and held by the battery.

4. Your consideration and views are requested.

59

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402(d)(3) NND No. 785020

TO : MINISTRY OF WAR

1. Considerable quantities of Small Arms, Arty and other BRITISH Equipment have recently been or are about to made available to the ITALIAN Army.

2. At the same time actual strengths of units are in many cases far below War Establishments.
If therefore a mass of new equipment is issued down to sub-units e.g. to platoon, company or equivalent level, there is a grave risk that for lack of manpower this equipment will either not be properly cleaned and maintained or else that all available men will be employed on its maintenance to the detriment of training or other duties.

3. It is consequently recommended by this HQ that all weapons and equipment in excess of that normally handled by the actual number of men available be held in centralised stores at not lower that battalion or equivalent level and there kept either "greased up" or regularly cleaned. For instance where only enough men are actually available to form one 25 Pdr troop in a battery the remaining guns should be held centralised under Regimental or even Divisional arrangements and NOT issued and held by the battery.

4. Your consideration and views are requested.

ARCS/sb

Major General,
M. M. I. A.

Internal: 'Q' - GRD - G(Trg)
SD/109/2

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 1-402/NNDC NO. 18520

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

3 1

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

SD/109/2

3.5

SUBJECT: MMG for Inf Regts.

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

(489081 Ext 218) SD/109/2

27 Jul 46

TO : MINISTRY OF WAR — 22 —

Ref your A/2087/Serv dated 16 Jul and this HQ SD/109/2 dated 3 Jul.

1. This HQ agreed to the substitution of the BR D.A. Gun MG for the VICKERS .303inch MMG in MG Platoons of support Coys of Inf Bns.

2. In view however of the different characteristics of the BREDA and the VICKERS, it is for consideration whether it would not be advisable to form a MMG Coy at each Inf Regt HQ, this coy to be equipped with VICKERS MMG. Such a coy was in fact desired by you in discussion in Nov 45, but was omitted from WE as a result of anticipated shortage of manpower within ceiling and of equipment.

3. The BREDA is understood to be air cooled, magazine fed, and incapable of sustained, indirect fire at long ranges.

4. The VICKERS is water-cooled, belt fed, and specially intended for sustained indirect fire at ranges of up to 3000 yds with Mk VII ammunition or 4000 yds with Mk VIII Z ammunition.

5. The VICKERS is therefore invaluable in a defensive fire plan. This HQ therefore suggests that the present Hy Mortar Coy of each Inf Regt could be turned into a Support Coy containing two Mortar Platoons as at present plus three MMG platoons each armed with four VICKERS MMG.

6. It is calculated that the additional personnel required would be not more than 130 per Regt (based on BRIT WEs) Total committment for twenty six Regts = 3380. This number is now available within ceiling. 5911

7. 12 VICKERS MMG per Regt total 312. would be required. These plus reserve guns are immediately available in the number already released for the ITALIAN Army.

8. In order that the weapons may either be immediately handed over to the ITALIAN Army or else returned to BRIT Ord as not required by you, you are requested to make a very early decision on this matter and to inform this HQ without delay. Detail of establishment can be worked out later.

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

Ref your 4/2087/Serv dated 16 Jul and this HQ [illegible]

1. This HQ agreed to the substitution of the BREDA 8mm MG for the VICKERS .303inch MMG in MG Platoons of support Coys of Inf Bns.

2. In view however of the different characteristics of the BREDA and the VICKERS, it is for consideration whether it would not be advisable to form a MMG Coy at each Inf Regt HQ, this coy to be equipped with VICKERS MMG. Such a coy was in fact desired by you in discussion in Nov 45, but was omitted from WE as a result of anticipated shortage of manpower within ceiling and of equipment.

3. The BREDA is understood to be air cooled, magazine fed, and incapable of sustained, indirect fire at long ranges.

4. The VICKERS is water-cooled, belt fed, and specially intended for sustained indirect fire at ranges of up to 3000 yds with Mk VII ammunition or 4000 yds with Mk VII Z ammunition.

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7. 12 VICKERS MMG per Regt total 312. would be required. These plus reserve guns are immediately available in the number already released for the ITALIAN Army.

8. In order that the weapons may either be immediately handed over to the ITALIAN Army or else returned to BRIT Ord as not required by you, you are requested to make a very early decision on this matter and to inform this HQ without delay. Detail of establishment can be worked out later.

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

ARCS/rr

Internal: G(TRG)
'Q'
ORD
SD/103
SD/39/2

Ver min copy by hand of Lt Col Southby.

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. 135920

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDG NO. 795020

4 BLU
4/GB/7
26 July 46

Subject: Arms for Territorial Tegts. 6th Alpini.

To: MMIA (for Q)

1 AUG 1946
RECEIVED

1.- The British arms for the 6th Alpini (the Territorial Infantry Rgt. of 4 Territorial Command) have not yet arrived.

2.- This is greatly upsetting to the training programme of the above quoted regiment, which are suffering since the recruits who are arriving from C.A.R. now have to be taught weapon training on Italian arms with consequent loss of time and fall in morale.

3.- Can an estimated date of arrival for the arms please be given in order to help the planningside of training? If they cannot be expected in the near future may all possible action be taken to expedite them.

4.- The serious nature of the deficiency in bayonets for British rifles is also pointed out. Range courses for this rifle should be fired with the bayonet fixed. At the moment there is a deficiency in this T.C. of five thousand bayonets (FRIULI and CAR), it is supposed that the British arms for territorial Infantry Rgt. will also be deficient of bayonets.

5.- It is believed that GHQ has been asked by MMIA for permission to manufacture British bayonets in Italy. Is any information yet available as to how far this matter has gone?

TO SEE	
A/Q	
Q	
Q 1	
Q 2	
QED	
REMS	

Lt.Col. G.S.

Copy to: MMIA (G Trg)

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

COPY

93

FROM : MMLA

TO : 1 BRITISH LIAISON UNIT

REF : SD 3914

261000 B

UNCLASSIFIED

23.

REF YOUR Q.7 OF 19 (.)

HASTENING ACTION ALREADY TAKEN WITH GENERAL STAFF AT WAR MINISTRY

ROUTINE

SD/109/1

G(SD)

A,R,C. SCUTHBY, Lt Col

5

SUBJECT: Reorganisation of Internal Security Divisions

EASTERN FORCES HED QUR, A.P.O. (MEA)

(A85081 Ext 401) 20/13/2

26 Jul 46

TO : [redacted]

Ref your A/2113/Secy dated 18 July 1946.

1. From the table prepared by this H.Q. and submitted to A.F.H.Q. it is calculated that 360 x 25 Pr guns are required by the Italian Interim Army. This figure includes 12 x 25 Pr guns for the new Mixed Artillery Battery for the Internal Security Brigades.

2. It will be seen that these figures show a discrepancy of 6 x 25 Pr compared with the figures submitted by you on the Appendix to the letter under reference. This discrepancy is accounted for by the fact that this H.Q. considers 96 x 25 Prs are sufficient for the Trg establishments including the Military Academy.

3. A.F.H.Q. have made an allowance of an additional 7 x 25 Prs for maintenance purposes and it is presumed that this will cover the requirement for reserve mentioned in your para 2.

4. On the figures as set out above there are 33 x 25 prs still to be issued.

5. This H.Q's figures for 17 Pr guns show an increase on those submitted by you of 9 x 17 Prs. This increase accounted for by the fact that 27 x 17 Prs have been allotted to the training establishments, including the Academy. In addition to the 119 x 17 Prs demanded by this H.Q.; this figure includes 12 x 17 Prs for the Mixed Artillery Battery for the Internal Security Brigade, A.F.H.Q. have allotted 6 x 17 Prs for maintenance which again will cover your reserve requirement.

6. It is estimated by this H.Q. that your requirement of Artillery Trailers No 27 is as follows:-

58 for training establishment including the Academy;
490 for Infantry Divisions and 27 for the Internal Security Brigades.
Total 575.

Application to A.F.H.Q. will be made for an addition 2 x Artillery Trailers No 27 to bring your holdings up to the total stated above.

58

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

Ref your A/2119/serv dated 18 July 1945.

1. From the staff tables prepared by this H.Q. and submitted to A.F.H.Q. it is calculated that 510 x 25 Pr guns are required by the Italian Interim Army. This figure includes 16 x 25 Pr guns for the new Mixed Artillery Battery for the Internal Security Brigades.

2. It will be seen that these figures show a discrepancy of 5 x 25 Pr compared with the figures submitted by you on the appendix to the letter under reference. This difference is accounted for by the fact that this H.Q. considers 56 x 25 Prs are sufficient for the 5 training establishments including the Military Academy.

3. A.F.H.Q. have made an allowance of an additional 7 x 25 Prs for maintenance purposes and it is presumed that this will cover the requirement for reserve mentioned in your para 2.

4. Of the figures as set out above there are 33 x 25 prs still to be issued.

5. This H.Q's figures for 17 Pr guns show an increase on those submitted by you of 9 x 17 Prs. This increase accounted for by the fact that 27 x 17 Prs have been allotted to the training establishments, including the Academy. In addition to the 119 x 17 Prs demanded by this H.Q. this figure includes 12 x 17 prs for the Mixed Artillery Battery for the Internal Security Brigade, A.F.H.Q. have allotted 6 x 17 Prs for maintenance which again will cover your reserve requirement.

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58 for training establishment including the Academy;
490 for Infantry Divisions and 27 for the Internal Security Brigades.
Total 575.

Application to A.F.H.Q. will be made for an addition 2 x Artillery Trailers No 27 to bring your holdings up to the total stated above.

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

M/rr

Internal: G(S)
G(S)/46/2
G(S)/103/2

58

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NND NO. 795020

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

COPY
TRANSLATION

FROM: M. of W. Ref: 4/2119/Serv.

TO : M.M.I.A. Date: 18.7.46

Subject: Reorganisation of Internal Security Divisions.

Reply to letter SD/13/2 dated 2 Jul and ref your letter Q/138 notified by phonogramm Q/171 dated 22.6.46, Q/136 dated 8 Jul 46.

1. From the return of 17 & 25 pdr guns and Artillery trailers shown in the attached list it appears that, in order to complete the scales laid down for the Army 13 - 25 pdr guns and 3 trailers are still required.

These stores are required:

12 - 25 pdrs and 3 trailers for the 3 Infantry Brigades formed from the present I.S. Division and 129 pdrs for the "Cremona" Division.

2. We ask you to kindly consider the advisibility of the Italian Army having some guns for reserve, we ask you therefore to kindly request the Supreme H.Q. to release:-

25 pdr guns	No 19	(6 for reserve)
17 " "	No 3	(an extra 3 reserve; 6 in all)
Artillery trailers	No 3	

Sgd. LIUZZI
Gen.

SD Distr.

SD/13/2
SD/16/2
SD/109/2
Q
ORD

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

SITUATION OF GUNS 25 - 17 PDR AND 5.5 GUNS AS AT 1830

ARTILLERY	REQUIREMENTS					AVAILABILITY					Unit
	Academy	Arty Central School	5 Inf Divs	3 Inf Bdes	Total	Academy	Arty Central School	5 Inf Divs	3 Inf Bdes	Total	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Guns 25-Pdrs	4	60	240	12	316	-	44	161	-	205	
Guns 17 Pdrs	2	16	80	12	110	-	11	40	-	51	
Arty Trailers No 27	6	96	480	24	576	-	52	325	-	377	

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

Appx letter G/2169/Ops dated 18 Jul 46

ATTENTION OF UNITS 25 - 17 ITEM AND TRAINING FOR ARMY

TROOPS			AVAILABILITY					Materiel released by WLR as per letter G/150 dated 22/6 amended as per sig G/371 dated 25/6 and with letter G/155 dated 6/7	Difference between 5 and 10, 11.
3 Inf Divs	3 Inf Bdes	Total	Academy	Arty Central School	5 Inf Divs	5 Inf Bdes	Total		
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
240	12	316	-	44	141	-	185	98	- 13
30	12	340	-	11	40	-	51	62	+ 3
490	24	576	-	52	325	-	377	196	+ 3

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

SUBJECT: MMG for Inf Bns.

SD/109/2

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

(489081 Ext 218) SD/109/2

23 Jul 46

TO : MINISTRY OF WAR 27

Ref your 4/2087/Serv dated 16 Jul.

1. Your proposal to substitute the BREDA MG for the .303in VICKERS MG as the standard MMG for Inf Bns throughout the ITALIAN Interim Army is agreed by this H.Q.

2. 681 VICKERS MMG have recently been made available by BRIT Ordnance, which with 24 already in your possession would make a total of 713 against an entitlement of MMGs of 686. Hand over of these weapons will now be stopped and you are requested to prepare for handing back the 24 already in your possession.

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

AMCS/rr

Internal: G(Trg)
'Q'
CRO

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

0. 2 Copies 00 Disr. 24

SD/109/2

Q

TRE

ORD

TRANSLATION

FROM: M. of W.

REF: 4/2087/Serv

TO : M.M.I.A.
(To Cabinet HQ. for info.)

DATE: 16/7/46

See File 29

SUBJECT: Heavy M/G for Inf.

Inf. Divs. independent inf. Regts. and Central school of Infantry have still not received the "vickers M.C." which, are being issued by Allied Depots.

In view of the fact that:

- "Breda" M.Gs Model 37 Calibre (8) are available in Italian stores insufficient quantity to meet requirement for all interim army units;
- large quantities of ammunition are like- wise available for these weapons;
- "Breda" M.G", is a 1st Class weapon, this S.M. would like this weapon to be issued to Army Units, to replace the vickers M.G.

The issue of "Breda" M.G. would be effected in a very short time.

We point out the above for your approval.

58.

BGS
G-O I (SD)
Dep G III
G-O II (SD)
G-O II (I)
G-O III (SD)
[illegible]
[illegible]

Sgd. LIUZZI
Gen.

J.T.

MMIA - 'G'
FILE 50/109/2
DATE 22/7

221445

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

SD/109/2
26

SUBJECT: Arms for ITALIAN Army

LAND FORCES SUB COM, A.C. (MMIA)
(49908) Mtg #48 SD/109/2
12 Jul 43

TO : GENERAL MAP DIVISION (X(ES) 4 Copies

1. The Ministry of War agree to the withdrawal of all STEN Machine Carbines at present held and their replacement by TzeT as the standard weapon for the ITALIAN Army.

2. Details of withdrawal of STENS and issue of TzeC will be arranged between Q Ministry of War, Q MMIA, and your Q Branch.

for Major General
M. M. I. A.

AEC3/rr

Internals 4(Eng)
'Q'
CRB

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

COPY.

25

TRANSLATION SD/109/2 Q

FROM : S.M.R.E.

TO : Gen Directorate of Art.
MMLA for Inf.

Ref: 4/2067/Serv

Date: 14 July 1946

SUBJECT : W.E. 40 m/m bofer guns.

Q 12-1-A

Further to letter 4/1925/Serv. dated 7th instant.

1. The number of 40 m/m bofer guns on W.E. for the Interim Army is : 206 distributed as under:

Military Academy of Lecce	2
Central School of Artillery	24
Inf.Divisions	180
Total number	206

2 - 150 guns are now being issued by British Depots to the Territorial Military Command of Naples. These guns will be dispatched under escort or held at the Art. Directorate as shewn in list enclosed.

3 - Transport requests to be addressed to SM's Transport Office.

4 - Please, issue instructions accordingly and report on completion.

General

(Sgd) Giorgio Liuzzi)

58

Copy : G(SD) —
G(Ass)

SM	
G [illegible] (A)	
Deputy	
GSO (SD)	
GSO (Ass)	
GSO [illegible]	
GSO [illegible]	
G II (S)	

MMLA - Q.G.
FILE SD/109/2.
DATE 8/22/7.

22/000

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

0

0 9/2 attach 15

Appendix attached to letter G 4/2067/Serv. of 14 July 1946

W.E. of 40 mm bofer guns

Unit	Location	O. W.E.	E. STOCK	S. TO BE DISPATC.	REMARKS
Academy	Lecce	2	-	2	O = W.E.
Art.School	Bracciano	20	8	12	E = Stocks
Art.School Detch.	Civitavecchia	4	-	4	S = To be dispatched
35 Field Arty	Trento	36	11	25	(1) Guns supplied by Allies are 150: 11 of them are to be held at the Art.Directorate of Naples Art. Rgts. of Inf. Div.will have the following organisation ;2 groups of 3 batteries, 6 guns each
11 " "	Brescia	36	12	24	
7 " "	Chieri	36	12	24	
155 " "	Piacenza	36	12	24	
184 " "	Lucca	36	12	24	
	Totals	206	67	139	

581

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

9 Distr
7 SD/109/2
Q
Cord.

TRANSLATION

FROM M. of W.

TO : M.M.I.A.
(ref. letter SD/109/2 dated 14 June). 15

REF: 4/1902/Serv

DATE: 15/7/46

SUBJECT: Automatic Carbines - Re - egipping of Reqts. and Inf. Divs.

1 - Further to request made in the a/m letter we would inform you that "Thompson" authomatic carbines may be used;
- to replace the 2-442 automatic Sten carbines at present on issue to CAR and the 2 batts allocated to the "Legnano" Div. to replace the "Aquila" and "Aosta" alpine batts.
- to complete scale of issue for all other army units.

2 - We ask you to kindly consider the above arrangement as tempory until such time as this S/M has finally decided whether to replace the "Thompson" carbine with the "Beretta" carbine.

Vs. Info 1 in 7.6. 10, 16.

581

Sgd. LIUZZI
Gen.

BGS	Allied
GSO 1 (SD)	
Dep G (I)	
GSO (SD)	
G (I)	
GSO (I)	
GSO (G)	
G II (L)	

MMIA - G
FILE SD/109/2.
DATE R/19/7.

19128

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

SD 109/2

SD/109/2 / 18.

FILE

26/230/30.

M.E.I.S.

MINISTRY OF WAR

10 B.I.U. 12 B.I.U.

Q.971

UNCLASSIFIED

14

REFERENCE RELEASES IN Q.138 OF 22 JUNE (.) IMPORTANT FOLLOWING ITEMS BE GIVEN PRIOR COLLECTION BY YOU ASSISTED BY 12 BIU(.) SERIAL I QTY 16 (.) SERIAL II QTY 14(.) SERIAL III QTY 6 (.) SERIAL IV QTY 3(.) SERIAL V QTY 3(.) FOREGOING ALLOCATED TO ONE(.) REMAINING ITEMS TO BE COLLECTED BY YOU ASSISTED BY 10 BIU FOR DISTRIBUTION TO REST OF ARMY(.) ITEMS AS FOLLOWS(.) SERIAL I QTY 40(.) SERIAL II QTY 77(.) SERIAL III QTY 176(.) SERIAL IV QTY NIL(.) SERIAL V QTY NIL(.) EXHIBIT 557 BOD HAVE 48 HOURS NOTICE PRIOR TO COLLECTION(.)

579

MMIA - 'G'

FILE SD/109/2

DATE 12/27/6.

INTERNAL:G(2)
:Q A/cs
:QMG
:REGTS

Q.M.I.INT. MAJOR

BGS	
GSO I (SD)	
Dep G III	
GSO I (SD)	
GSO II (C)	
GSO II (SD)	
GSO I (LDC)	
G II (S)	

270900

SUBJECT: Machine Carbines - Re-equipment of Inf Regts and Divs.

LAND FORCES SUB-COMM, AG. (MMIA)

(489081 Ext 400) — SD/109/2 —

14 Jun 46

TO : MINISTRY OF WAR

1. As you are aware, in accordance with current BRITISH practice in this Theatre, ITALIAN Gruppi were equipped with Thompson Machine Carbines.

2. By the time that issues of arms were made on loan to CAR's, no further reserves of Thompsons were available in the Theatre and Stens were issued in lieu.

3. We are now informed by [illegible], CMF that it has been decided to standardise the BRITISH Army with Stens, and that it will be necessary to withdraw all Stens at present on loan to CAR's.

As against this, large stocks of Thompsons Machine Carbines will become available in BRITISH reserves in this country, and it will be possible to issue sufficient of these to standardise Thompsons as the Machine Carbine for the whole ITALIAN Army, up to full W.E.

4. You may consider that the ultimate Machine Carbine for the ITALIAN Army should be the Beretta, but as it is likely to be some time before sufficient quantities of these can be produced, for equipping the whole Army, we recommend that you should accept Thompsons as an interim measure.

5. Will you please say if you will accept Thompson Machine Carbines

(a) In replacement of the Stens now on loan to CAR's but shortly to be withdrawn.

(b) For completing all units of the ITALIAN Army to W.E.

6. Instructions as regards the handing back of Stens to BRITISH Ordnance will be issued separately.

M. W. Hope
Brigadier GS
for Major General,

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NND No. 763020

1. As you are aware, in accordance with current BRITISH practice in this Theatre, ITALIAN Gruppi were equipped with Thompson Machine Carbines.

2. By the time that issues of arms were made on loan to CAR's, no further reserves of Thompsons were available in the Theatre and Stens were issued in lieu.

3. We are now informed by GHQ, CMF that it has been decided to standardise the BRITISH Army with Stens, and that it will be necessary to withdraw all Stens at present on loan to CAR's.

As against this, large stocks of Thompsons Machine Carbines will become available in BRITISH reserves in this country, and it will be possible to issue sufficient of these to standardise Thompsons as the Machine Carbine for the whole ITALIAN Army, up to full W.E.

4. You may consider that the ultimate Machine Carbine for the ITALIAN Army should be the Beretta, but as it is likely to be some time before sufficient quantities of these can be produced, for equipping the whole Army, we recommend that you should accept Thompsons as an interim measure.

5. Will you please say if you will accept Thompson Machine Carbines

(a) In replacement of the Stens now on loan to CAR's but shortly to be withdrawn.

(b) For completing all units of the ITALIAN Army to W.E.

6. Instructions as regards the handing back of Stens to BRITISH Ordnance will be issued separately.

Lee 4/16, 18, 37

57

M. W. Hope
Brigadier GS

M.W.H./sb

Major General,
M. M. I. A.

Internal: "G"
ORD
30/39/2

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

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

FILE NO : PRE DOR 254

SUBJECT : Manpower for ITALIAN Army.

TO : 'Q'

CODE NO : ORI

Land Forces Sub-Commission A.C. NMIA.

(ref your SD/109/4 of 6 June)

Ref our SUB/01/30 of 5 and 6 June.

1. AMLA have now informed us of a recent decision to reduce the total entitlement of the ITALIAN Army for 6 pr A.T. guns to 95.

Allowing for 12 months maint of 6 guns this means retention of 100 guns.

2. Will you therefore please amend our letter of 5 Jun to read :-

Guns to be withdrawn SD/109/4 24

3. Please also amend Appx 'A' to our letter of 6 Jun to read :-

Serial 13 / 6 pr /102 / 0.5 / 6 / 6 /

4. For NMIA

Para 2 above amends para 4 of your letter.

RECEIVED

A. [illegible]

577

H. W. MAILSON,
Major General,
Chief of General Staff.

BGS	
GSO I (SD)	
Dep G III	
GSO [illegible]	
GSO II (-)	
GSO III (SD)	
GSO I (TEC)	
G II (C)	

MMIA - 'G'
FILE 50/109/4
DATE 8/15/6

G(SD) Branch
CS) CMF

SUB/31/30

14 Jun 45

SD Dist

SD/109/4

Q Rmen

SD/109/4

SD/109/4

15.

Para letter

5015

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

SUBJECT: Mortars - Re-equipment of Infantry Regts and Divisions.

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

(185081 Ext 218) SD/109/2

13 Jun 46

TO : MINISTRY OF WAR

Ref this HQ SD/109 dated 10 Apr, SD/109/2 dated 6 May and 20 May, and your 2680/G dated 26 Apr and 3216/G dated 12 May.

1. It is now learnt from AFHQ that NO BRITISH mortars either 4.2", 3" or 2" are at present available in this theatre for issue to the ITALIAN Army.

2. In these circumstances you are requested to state as soon as possible (this HQ SD/109/2 dated 20 May refers) whether you are prepared to standardise on ITALIAN 81mm mortar for Regt Mortar Coys and Infantry Bn 3" Mortar Pls and on ITALIAN 46 mm mortars for Rifles Pls of Infantry Bns.

3. On receipt of your views, this HQ can if necessary take action to obtain authority for you to manufacture these weapons.

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

AM03/rr

Internal: 'Q'
GSO

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

SD/109/2 11

Q

(3)

G(SD) Branch,
GHQ, CMF.

ORD

TELE NO : FREEDOM 254

SUBJECT : Weapons for ITALIAN Army.

ESD/81/38

Land Forces Sub Commission A.C. (MMIA) 11 Jun 46

COPY TO : Q
Ord

Confirming Tele conversation Lt Col SOUTHBY - Maj ELLIS on 7 Jun.

1. It has been decided to standardise Machine Carbines for the ITALIAN Army on the TSC 45, of which sufficient quantities are available to make up the ITALIAN Army complete to WE.

2. All Sten MCs held by the ITALIAN Army will be withdrawn and returned to ORD under instructions to be issued by Q branch GHQ.

Ref 7bl 13/16, 18 action taken see SD/109/2 of 14 June 13.

W.E.I/as

H. W.M. MACLEOD,
Major General,
Chief of General Staff.

575

BGS	
GSO 1 (SD)	
Dep G III	
GSO II (SD)	
GSO II ( )	
GSO II (SD)	
GSO I (EC)	
G II (E)	

MMIA - 'G'

FILE SD/109/2

DATE 12/13/6

RECEIVED 12 JUN 1946
(D.A.Q.)

12 12 5-0

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

AIDE MEMOIRE FOR GOC

11A

Situation of Release and Issue of Arms
- Interim Italian Army -

Release has been granted by G(SD) GHQ for all weapons demanded by MMIA with a misporkled issue of 4.2 in Mortars and 40 mm Guns.

Issue is still uncertain as CMD GHQ are unable at present to say exactly how many of each weapon are in fact available.

Sufficient Rifles, Sub MGs and Brens are available completely to equip 1S Divs and Inf Regts.

2 in and 3 in Mortars for these fmns are at present doubtful.

Small Arms for Service Units are available.

Guns have been released with exception of 40 mm but we have at present no infmn as to availability.

Adec

7 June 46

S01/09/3

57

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

SUBJECT: 6 Pr A/tk Guns for ITALIAN Army.

SD/109/2

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

(489081 Ext. 401) SD/109/2

6 Jun 46

TO : MINISTRY OF WAR

1. According to the latest information held at this HQ the total number of 6 pr A/Tk guns held in the ITALIAN Army is 202.

2. Working on the war establishments that have been either approved by the War Establishment Committee, or which are due to be discussed in the near future, it is calculated that the total number of 6 pr A/Tk guns required by the ITALIAN Army is 102, made up as follows:-

(a)	each Infantry Divisional A/Tk Regt	16 guns
	Total for five Regts	80 guns
(b)	Total for Training Establishments	22 guns
	Grand TOTAL	102 guns

3. The reduction is accounted for by the fact that at the present moment each Inf Regt of the five Infantry Divisions has a 6 pr A/Tk Coy, which it has been decided to abolish.

4. It will be necessary therefore, for all guns held in excess of the total requirement of 102 to be returned to BRITISH Ordnance Depots. Further details regarding disposal will be issued by "Q" Branch this HQ.

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

AAB/jw

Copy to: GENERAL HEADQUARTERS (G (SD))

Internal: G (Trg)
"Q"
ORD
REME

Files : SD/39/2
SD/109

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

9

SUBJECT: Re-equipment of Infantry Regts and Divisions.

LAND FORCES SUB-COMM, AC. (MMIA)

SD/109/2

20 May 46

TO : MINISTRY OF WAR.

Ref this HQ letters SD/109 dated 10 Apr, SD/109/2 of 6 May, your 2680/G dated 26 Apr and 3216/G dated 17 May.

Is it to be understood that you now wish to equip Regt Mortar Coys with ITALIAN 81 mm Mortars irrespective of whether or not BRITISH 4".2 or 3" Mortars can be made available ?

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

ARCS/sb

Internal: Q
ORD

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

Translation

SD Dist 8

From M.OF W.
To M.M.I.A.

see form 2 reply Ref. 3216/G
Date 17/5/46.

Subject Armament for Recce and Infantry Divs. - Mortars.

In reply to letter SD/109/2 dated 6 inst.

1 - Due to an omission or a negative in translation, the first para of your letter (SD/109 dated 10 April 1946) has been received at this S.M.R.E. in and affirmative form, and namely that "4.2" mortars would be put at the disposal of the Italian interim army".

2 - This pointed out, and with reference to our letter 2680/G dated 26 April 1946, we ask you to consider the first para cancelled.

3 - Italian type mortar, referred to in the second para of same letter, is the 81mm one, already on issue to the Italian army.

DAK.

G.Liuzzi.

MOVEMENT

SD DIST
G(SD)
G(TRG)
Q
ORD

MMIA - 'G'
FILE SD/109/2
DATE 21/5/46.

BGS	
GSO I (SD)	
Dep G III	
GSO II (SD)	
GSO II ( )	
GSO II (SD)	
GSO I (TRG)	
G II (L)	

571

18-10-00

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

0 0 0 7

NHIA

4 HU

10/7.30 B

SD 3195

UNCLASSIFIED

REF TOR 2/CE/5 - 30 DATED 6 (.) REF TOR EA SD/109/2 DATED 9

AND SD/13/2 DATED 10

SD/13/2 Ltr No 203

09/10/57

ROUTINE

— SD/109/2 —
SD/13
SD/13/2

C(10)

A.R.S., SOUTHSEA, 21 Oct

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

SUBJECT: Arms - Transfer of weapons to the Italian Army.

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

SD/109/2

9 May 46

TO : MINISTRY OF WAR

1. AFHQ release has been received for the following equipment to you on loan. The equipment is for issue to Internal Security Divisions and Inf Regts including Alpini. The equipment should be available in June.

2. 'Q' Branch MMIA will arrange detail direct with your 'Q' Branch.-

Item	Qty
Pistols .38	1,792
Rifles .303	22,312
TMCs	8,792
LMG (Bren)	2,304
2" Mortar	414
3" Mortar	276
PIAT	938
Pistol Signal	1,804
MMG (Vickers)	368
Rifles (Sniper)	322

for Major-General,
MMIA.

ARCS/rr

Copy to: List 'B'

Internal: 'Q'
ORD
SD/13
SD/46

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

BEST COPY POSSIBLE

SUBJECT: Small Calibre Weapons .22".

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

SD/109/2

7 May 46

TO : MINISTRY OF WAR

Ref your 25892/52 dated 26 Apr 46.

1. It is noted that the ITALIAN Army possesses no equivalent to the BRITISH .22" rifle and that the cost of producing .22" tubes for .303 rifles is expected to be excessive.

2. Technical considerations affect your proposal to manufacture reduced charge cartridges for use on the 30 yd range.

3. If most undesirable changes in zeroing of sights and point of aim are to be obviated when rifles are used on 30 yd ranges, it is necessary that the ballistics of your reduced charge cartridge and bullet shall be such that at 30 yds range with sights set at 200 yds the mean point of impact shall be 1.34 ins above the actual point of aim.

4. Alternatively it might be possible to print special targets with the visible point of aim in different relations to the mean point of impact.

5. Expert technical tests would be necessary, and could be provided by arrangement with this HQ.

6. There is no objection to your modifying say 500 BRITISH .303 cartridges by reduced charge and bullet for experimental purposes.

7. Please inform this HQ when preparations for tests are complete, as a BRITISH ballistics expert and a BRITISH training officer would like to attend.

for Major General,
M. M. I. R.

AHQR/jw

Internal: G (Trg)

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

1. It is noted that the ITALIAN Army possesses no equivalent to the BRITISH .22" rifle and that the cost of producing .22" tubes for .303 rifles is expected to be excessive.

2. Technical considerations affect your proposal to manufacture reduced charge cartridges for use on the 30 yd range.

3. If most undesirable changes in zeroing of sights and point of aim are to be obviated when rifles are used on 30 yd ranges, it is necessary that the ballistics of your reduced charge cartridge and bullet shall be such that at 30 yds range with sights set at 200 yds the mean point of impact shall be 1.34 ins above the actual point of aim.

4. Alternatively it might be possible to print special targets with the visible point of aim in different relations to the mean point of impact.

5. Expert technical tests would be necessary, and could be provided by arrangement with this HQ.

6. There is no objection to your modifying say 500 BRITISH .303 cartridges by reduced charge and bullet for experimental purposes.

7. Please inform this HQ when preparations for tests are complete, as a BRITISH ballistics expert and a BRITISH training officer would like to attend.

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

ARGS/jw

Internal: G (Trg)

n/;

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDC NO. T8502

RECEIVED 6.76 7 MAY 1946

SOFA 'Q'

SD/109/2

FROM : PERSON 254

SUBJECT : Transfer of weapons to Italian Army

TO : SOS

COPY TO : GHQ (2)
MMA (ref your SD/109/1 of 27 Apr)

G(SD) Branch
GHQ, CMF

SD/109/3

6 May 46

Note 8/ enclose

Note 5A enclose (Covers E)

WP

1. The following weapons are authorised for direct transfer to the Italian Army under the provisions of MMA - transfer to be on loan as before. These weapons are for issue to Internal Security Mtns and Independent Units, and totals shown represent a slight alteration to the figures given in the CMF's(MMA ref SD/109 of 6 Dec) under part 3 and 4 of this summary.

Serial	Item	Qty	Increase	Decrease
1	Pistols .38	1792	-	201
2	Rifles .303	22,512	-	1307
3	LMG's	1792	2106	-
4	LMG (Bren)	2304	-	44
5	2" Mortar	414	-	18
6	3" Mortar	276	-	18
7	PIAT	288	-	33
8	Pistol Signal	1344	-	105
9	MMG (Vickers)	368	-	16
10	Rifles (Bolger)	322	-	14

one letter of 9 May confirms 'Q' & Int's

567

2. These weapons are required early in June, MMA will make all arrangements direct with you.

3. Please advise this Branch, copy MMA, of all instructions.

Lt. Col. Capt.

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

provider to be an issue to police. Those weapons now for issue to Internal Security Five and Independent Coys, and totals shown represent a slight alteration to the figures given in the MEF's(SEA Def Sp/107 of 6 Dec) under part 3 and 4 of this summary.

Serial	Item	Qty	Increase	Decrease
1	Pistols .38	1732	-	103
2	Rifles .303	22,912	-	1297
3	LMG's	2792	2100	-
4	LMG (Bren)	1304	-	44
5	2" Mortar	414	-	18
6	3" Mortar	276	-	12
7	PIAT	930	-	33
8	Pistol Signal	1016	-	163
9	SMG (Vickers)	308	-	16
10	Rifles (Snipers)	328	-	16

567

2. These weapons are required early in June, HQMA will make all arrangements direct with you.

3. Please advise this branch, copy HQMA, of all dispositions.

RGS	
GSO 1 (MID)	
Dep G (S)	
GSO 1 (Int)	
GSO 1 (Ops)	
GSO 1 (Ops)	
GSO 1 (Ops)	
A/A (G)	

SD/109/2
R/7/5.

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

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

SUBJECT: Re-equipment of Infantry Regts and Divisions.

LAND FORCES SUB-COMM, AC. (MEIA)
SD/109/2
6 May 46

TO : MINISTRY OF WAR.

Ref your letter 2680/G dated 26 Apr 46.

1. My SD/109 dated 10 Apr 46 stated in para 1 that NO repeat NO 4.2 in. mortars could be made available to you.

Para 1 of your above quoted letter therefore seems to have missed the point. Clarification is requested.

2. Ref para 2 of your letter to which calibre ITALIAN type do you refer ?

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

ARGS/sb

Internal: 'Q'

Declassified E.O. 12065 Section 3-402/NNDG NO. 795020

SUBJECT: .22 Rifles and .22 RF Ammn.

LAND FORCES SUB-COMM, AC. (MMIA)

SD/109/2

6 May 46

TO : GENERAL HEADQUARTERS (G (SD))

SD/109 (Vol II) folio 75

Ref your MSD/81/3A dated 3 Apr 46.

1. Ministry of War state that ITALIAN Army have never possessed any equivalent to the BRIT .22 rifle, nor is there any similar ITALIAN civilian weapon.

2. They state further that, although it would be possible to manufacture .22 tubes for .303 rifles, in their opinion the cost would be excessive in view of the small numbers required by them. Figures are being examined.

3. It is therefore regretted that the ITALIANS are unlikely to be able to assist in meeting BRITISH commitments.

for Major General,
M. M. I56.

ARCS/sb

17/6/5

Internal: C(IRC)

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

Translation

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

folio 190 (Cover P) SO/109/2

Ref. 2680/G
Date 26/4/46.

Ref SO/109 of 10. April.

Subject Armament for Infantry Divs and Regts.- Mortars

1 - We thank you for the decision taken by the War Office tp put 4.2" mortars at the disposal of the Italian army in the near future.

We would be therefore grateful to your mission if you would kindly - as soon as possible - put a specimen of a 4.2" mortar at the disposal of this S.M. with a small amount of ammunition and relative instructions in order to permit us to pass judgement of same.

2 - Concerning the armament of Regt.Mortar Coys.,it seems convient to this S.M.,for uniformity and economical reasons,to issue Italian type,of which a sufficient availability exists in stores.

DAK

G.Liuzzi.

Cancelled Para 1 by WO 8.

S O Dist
SO alone Att.

our letter quoted in ref SO/109/2 dated 5 March

56

BGS	
GSO 1 (SD)	init
Dep G III	
GSO	

MMIA - 'C'
FILE SO/109/2
DATE 8/6/5