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BLU REP CONFERENCE (JAN 1946)5039
5076

JAN 1946

COVER I

MINUTES OF M.M.I.A. CONFERENCE.

HELD AT H.Q. M.M.I.A. ROME.

28 - 29 January, 1946.

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"Q" Points - 29 January 1946.

Col. GS	
GSO (F9)	
Des. GS	
GSO II (S4)	
GSO II (1)	
GSO II (V9)	
GSO II (SD)	
GSO II (O-647)	
O (Ref)	

MOTOR TRANSPORT.

1. The general situation as regards Italian Army transport was explained. This may be summarised as follows:-

The former Combat Divisions have retained the British vehicles in their possession on the 15 November 45. In addition, a number of British motorcycles have recently been made available for the CC.RR.

The remainder of the Italian Army is equipped with old Italian vehicles, the majority of which are in need of replacement.

2. A limited number of British spare parts are being made available in the immediate future, and the C.A.R.E. at Bologna is to become the Italian Army Base Workshop for all M.T. repairs to British vehicles. It is hoped this will be functioning by the end of March. The situation as regards the maintenance of British vehicles is most unsatisfactory and energetic steps are being taken with C.H.Q. to obtain a more satisfactory supply of the necessary parts.

3. As regards Italian Army vehicles, a very large number of repairable vehicles are now awaiting workshop overhaul. There is no shortage of Italian spare parts, but the type situation is serious and negotiations are still proceeding to afford the War Ministry a fair proportion of the civilian type manufacture and repair.

4. The A.D.M.E. gave a brief review of the technical difficulties of the Italian Army repairs service. Each Territorial Command, however, has got an Army workshop at its disposal. CC.RR vehicles must be repaired at the nearest Army workshop. It is not practicable to establish CC.RR workshops on parallel lines to the Army.

ARMAMENT.

5070

1. It is understood, but not yet officially confirmed that the policy regarding the armament of the Italian Army is as follows:-

The Italian Army, less CC.RR, to be supplied with British War-like equipment. The CC.RR to be re-equipped with the most modern Italian weapons, an adequate supply of which will be available when Italian arms can be withdrawn from the Army units.

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2. The unsatisfactory position regarding the release to the War Ministry from C.E.M. Dumps in the north has been represented to C.H.Q. It is noted that the present policy, which resulted in 2 District "Freezing" Italian Arms and ammunition will be changed, and that the War Ministry will gain control of all Italian Arms and ammunition wherever located.

Every endeavour is being made to secure the release of sufficient British arms to enable C.A.R.'s, to be completed in this respect by 15 March 46.

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ACCOMMODATION.

1. Generally speaking, the Allies have now released all military barracks urgently required by the Italian Army, and the needs of C.A.R.'s. are provided for.
2. In the special programme reporting the state of readiness of C.A.R.'s, mention is made of "scasels" of equipment, accommodation stores, clothing, etc. B.L.U.'s. will press the local Territorial Command to obtain copies of these scales which the War Ministry say have been issued.

SUPPLIES.

1. The food situation of the Italian Army is precarious and has been met during recent months only by loans from Allied depots. The Italian Government is being pressed to guarantee the repayment of these loans and the future food supply of the Army. Meanwhile, considerable diversion from the authorized ration scale is to be anticipated. In general discussion on welfare and morale, it was emphasized that the low rate of pay might be accepted without loss of morale if some issue of food in kind could be made to soldiers' dependents.
2. It was suggested that Allied "local resources officer" was obtaining food supplies at lower rates than the representative of the Commissariat. B.L.U.'s. were invited to submit details of any suggested disparities.

CLOTHING.

1. The clothing situation generally is not unsatisfactory. The Army clothing and boot factories are in operation, and given due economy, the Army, including the C.C.R. should be adequately maintained in this respect during the present year. A new uniform in the British battle dress style is being designed, and may be available for issue early in 1947.
2. The boot situation does not permit the issue of more than one pair per man. Unit repair arrangements and exchange of repairable boots for reconditioned boots are therefore most important and require supervision.

W. B. B. B.

R. A. CURRIE Lt. Col.
A.Q.M.G. M.S.I.A.

5073

Distribution:-

List "A" less 17, 18 and 19.
List "B"
File Q.253.

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W. B. 102

R. B. CHURCHES Lt. Col.
A.C.M.G. M.A., I.A.

5073

Distribution:-

List "A" less 17, 18 and 19.
List "B"
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6/33/3

MINUTES OF MIA CONFERENCE

Held at HQ MIA, Rome 28-29 Jan 1946

CC.RR. Points

Insufficient time was available for a general discussion on Carabinieri, but the following points raised by BLUs were interesting and of considerable value to CC.RR. Section.

1. 10 BLU. CC.RR. Regional Police or part of the Army?

GS I CC.RR. stated that CC.RR. were part of the Army and would continue to be part.

2. 10 BLU. Requested directive on CC.RR. with special reference to training.

GS I CC.RR. said that a training directive will be included in the Italian Army Training Manual.

3. 6 BLU asked for adjustments to be made in CC.RR. strength to create reserves

GS I CC.RR. said question was at present being examined.

4. CC.RR. lack of telephones

GS I CC.RR. said that information was being asked for regarding communications.

5. Advisability of supplying tear gas or smoke bombs to CC.RR.

It was agreed that this would be useful for defence of barracks, and provision would be made accordingly.

6. Possibility of increased armament for CC.RR.

GS I CC.RR. said it was the intention to arm all CC.RR. with musket and revolver and for dangerous duties, such as arms raids, rounding up bandits, road blocks, etc, automatic weapons would be issued, on a generous scale.

7. Special requirements of the CC.RR. organisation and equipment in the Appennines.

GS I CC.RR. said the provision of special equipment and transport for certain localities is necessary and it was hoped to be able to supply it.

8. Military Field Telephones for CC.RR.

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8. Military Field Telephones for CC.RR.

Special Officer stated that Italian Units are insufficient to be able to install and maintain. Wireless is recommended and under consideration.

9. Mobile Battalions. Future use and dispersal of strength

GS I CC.RR. said that no static dispersal would be permitted. Battalions

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Col. GS	Res
GSO I (C)	Am
Do. G3	
GSO II (C)	
GSO II (C)	
GSO II (C)	
GSO II (C)	
GSO II (C)	
GSO II (C)	

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DATE: 2/8/2

- 2 -

must be kept intact. No objection to use in reduced strength to produce calming effect where troubles of a minor nature are expected, or occurring. Such units, however, must immediately return to the Battalion HQ.

7 February 1946

H. Michall

H. MICHAEL
Lt. Colonel,
G.S.O.I.
for Major General
M. M. I. A.

Distribution:-

List "A" (less serials 17,18,19)
List "B"

5073

MINUTES OF MIA CONFERENCE

held at HQ MIA, Rome 28-29 Jan 1946

G POINTS - 28 Jan 1946Present

Chairman Brig. M.W. Hope, D.S.O.

Lt Col A W Gibbon OBE
Lt Col P M Egerton MBEMaj P W Hamilton
Maj P P Duffy MC
Maj E D Ryatt
Maj H S H N Johnstone
Maj P D H Fungelley
Maj D S L Gragdon
Maj J C Peak
Maj H A R Ferro
Maj S E Sweeney
Maj R E Hector MVO, MCCol W Pidsley DSO, OBE MC
Lt Col L R Albert
Lt Col A R C Southby OBE
Lt Col V L Medlam
Lt Col H Nicholl
Maj R P Christie
Maj A A Binnington
Maj J L W Cheyne
Maj R G A Groves-Raines
Maj C F Baumann MBE
Maj R L H de Thierry MC
Maj R P Fielders
Maj W H Writter
Maj R C Ven Kirk
Maj X R Nelson
Maj R G Coulestone
Maj J W Eburn
Capt J J Ward
Capt L W MannGSO I
GSO IGSO II
GSO II
DAA-QMG
GSO II
GSO II
DAA-QMG
GSO II
GSO II
GSO II
GSO II
GSO IICol 4/2
Asst G-3
GSO I(SD)
GSO II(Trg)
GSO II(CORR)
GSO II(Trg)
GSO II(SD)
GSO II(VE)
GSO II(Int)
GSO II(L)
GSO II(CORR)
Asst G-1
Asst G-4
SO II RE
SO II RSigs
Asst G-4
GSO III (SD)SD POINTS1. Object of Conference.

EGS in his opening remarks stated, after introducing himself, that the object of the Conference was primarily for MIA to hear the views of the BLUs rather than for BLUs to hear the views of MIA. He also made the following general points:

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ACTION

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26.

6/8/46

7/1/46

J. W. Hope

A. R. C. Southby

Maj F W Hamilton
 Maj F P Duffy MC
 Maj E T Byatt
 Maj H S H N Johnstone
 Maj P D H Bengelloy
 Maj D S L Gregson
 Maj J C Peak
 Maj H A R Ferro
 Maj S E Sneezy
 Maj R E Hector AVO, MC
 Col W Pideley DSO, OBE MC
 Lt Col L R Albert
 Lt Col A R C Southby OBE
 Lt Col W L Medlam
 Lt Col H Mighell
 Maj R P Christie
 Maj A A Binnington
 Maj J L W Cheyne
 Maj R G A Groves-Baines
 Maj C F Baumann MBE
 Maj R L H de Thierry MC
 Maj R P Fielders
 Maj W H Writer
 Maj R O Van Kirk
 Maj K R Nelson
 Maj R G Copleston
 Maj J W Eburah
 Capt J J Ward
 Capt L W Mann
 GSO II
 GSO III
 DAA-QMG
 GSO II
 GSO II
 DAA-QMG
 GSO II
 GSO II
 GSO II
 GSO II
 GSO II
 Col A/2
 Asst G-3
 GSO I(SD)
 GSO I(Trg)
 GSO I(CORR)
 GSO II(Trg)
 GSO II(SD)
 GSO II(VE)
 GSO II(Int)
 GSO II(L)
 GSO II(CORR)
 Asst G-4
 Asst G-4
 SO II RE
 SO II RSigs
 Asst G-4
 GSO III (SD)

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SD POINTS1. Object of Conference.

SGS in his opening remarks stated, after introducing himself, that the object of the Conference was primarily for MIA to hear the views of the BLUs rather than for BLUs to hear the views of MIA. He also made the following general points:

- (a) Policy. The ITALIAN Army less CORR is to be equipped with Br arms and vehs.

ACTION

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ACTION.

(b) Inf Divs. The Inf Divs are to remain on a two bde basis. There was a considerable body of ITALIAN opinion in favour of converting to a three bde basis. This had received careful consideration. There were, however, difficulties due to a shortage of ceiling cover, eqpt, and money, necessary to provide the additional Regt and the full services necessary for a three bde division. The only way to overcome these difficulties would be to reduce the number of Divs from five to three. This would mean disbanding two of the existing divs. It had been felt however that it would be a mistake to disband formations which, as Combat Gps and Inf Divs had done such good work and built up such esprit de corps. It had been decided therefore that there was no alternative but to remain on the two bde org for the moment anyway.

(c) Inf Regts (late Indep Regts). The Inf Regts in each Territorial Hq would be org on the same WEs as the Inf Regts of the Inf Divs. This will simplify training. It is intended also to make them interchangeable with the Inf Regts of the Inf Divs.

It is anticipated that at a later date the Internal Security Divs will convert to the same org.

The EGS emphasised that the Territorial Inf Regts were not to be considered as in any way inferior to the Inf Regts of Inf Divs. It is important that there should be no suggestion that these Regts are lower-grade units.

2. WE of 'A' and 'B' Type BLUs.

(a) Addition of Camp Commandant to 'A' Type BLU and extra tpt to 'B' Type BLU.

It was agreed that there would be insufficient work for a whole time Camp Commandant in either an 'A' Type or 'B' Type BLU. One additional officer for each BLU was however considered necessary, particularly for the supervision of training at CAPS etc. The provision of tpt for this officer was discussed particularly with ref to a 'B' Type BLU.

It was agreed to recommend to GHQ, CAP the addition of one trg officer (Maj) for both types of BLUs and one car for 'B' Type BLUs, only. It was considered unlikely that GHQ would agree to the addition of a car to the WE of an 'A' Type BLU and that an M/C was unsuitable.

It was agreed by all BLUs that this extra officer would offset the need for a Camp Commandant and that with the addition of this car the scale of tpt for 'B' type BLUs would be adequate.

(b) Interpreters.

(i) 'A' Type BLUs. CSO I 10 BLU urged that one BR Officer should be added to the WE for interpreter and liaison duties and that ITALIAN interpreter officers held against the Inter-Ext should be regular officers. It was agreed to recommend to GHQ the addition of a BR or Major.

5071

G(SD)
MADA

(c) an organ (have many organs). The Inf Regts in each Territorial HQ would be org on the same WEs as the Inf Regts of the Inf Divs. This will simplify training. It is intended also to make them interchangeable with the Inf Regts of the Inf Divs.

It is anticipated that at a later date the Internal Security Divs will convert to the same org.

The EGS emphasized that the Territorial Inf Regts were not to be considered as in any way inferior to the Inf Regts of Inf Divs. It is important that there should be no suggestion that these Regts are lower-grade units.

2. WE of 'A' and 'B' Type BLUs.

(a) Addition of Camp Commandant to 'A' Type BLU and extra tpt to 'B' Type BLU.

It was agreed that there would be insufficient work for a whole time Camp Commandant in either an 'A' Type or 'B' Type BLU. One additional officer for each BLU was however considered necessary, particularly for the supervision of training at CARs etc. The provision of tpt for this officer was discussed particularly with ref to a 'B' Type BLU.

It was agreed to recommend to GHQ, CMF the addition of one trg officer (Maj) for both types of BLUs and one car for 'B' Type BLUs, only. It was considered unlikely that GHQ would agree to the addition of a car to the WE of an 'A' Type BLU and that an M/C was unsuitable.

It was agreed by all BLUs that this extra officer would offset the need for a Camp Commandant and that with the addition of this car the scale of tpt for 'B' type BLUs would be adequate.

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MFA

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(b) Interpreters.

(1) 'A' Type BLUs. GSO I 10 BLU urged that one BR Officer should be added to the WE for interpreter and liaison duties and that ITALIAN interpreter officers held against the Incr Est should be regular officers.

It was agreed to recommend to GHQ CMF the addition of a BR or MALTESE officer for interpreter duties to the WE and to request Ministry of War to review their present policy of posting only reserve officers to BLU increments with a view to ensuring a supply of young regular officers.

Afternote. Ministry of War have agreed to provide one Regular Army interpreter with each 'A' type BLU.

G(3D)
MFA

(ii) 'B' Type BLUs. The provision of interpreters for 'B' Type BLUs will be considered by HQ MFA.

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Subject : Conferences.

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21 JAN 46

British Liaison Unit.
(Tel No. 152965 Ext 107).

Ref G/35/24.

18 Jan 46.

HQ MMIA - for Major FEAK.

The under mentioned Officer from 3 B.L.U. will attend the conference in
ROME on 28 - 29 Jan.

Lt Col FMM ECERTON. MBE.

CME.
PME/LGB.

FILE: G/33/3
DATE: 2/25/

Lt Col.
G.S.

Col. GS
GSO I (D)
Dep. G3
GSO II (G)
GSO II (I)
GSO II (W)
GSO III (S)
GSO III (O & A)
G (19)

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See Major Feak.
mark 21/.

Subject: Conference 28/29 Jan 46.

1 British Liaison Unit.

A 12.

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

Ref your 0167 dated 10 Jan 46, herewith consolidated
list under headings G and A/Q of the points this HQ wish to raise
for discussion at the Conference.

G.

Field.
15 Jan 46.
FWH/RH.

J. D. W. ... Major
Lieut Colonel,
General Staff.

590

19/1/46

5053

