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MOBILE BN'S - ROME

MAR. 11, 1946

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Subject: Mobile Battalion, PERA., Long Forces Sub-Commission, A.C.

LOA, N. 12 13 N	Date
GSO I	
GSO II	
GSO III	12/5
GSO IV	
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GSO VI	
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GSO XI	
GSO XII	
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GSO XXII	
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GSO XXIV	
GSO XXV	
GSO XXVI	
GSO XXVII	
GSO XXVIII	
GSO XXIX	
GSO XXX	

LT. COL. H. WIGGALL,
Cdr. Section, B.

On the 11th, March, 1946, a visit was made to the Long Mobile Battalion, as a result of which the following figures emerged.

Establishment	Officers	S.C.O.s	Men	Total
Effective	45	52	440	517
Present	21	52	415	488
	10	18	205	237

It will be observed that there is a considerable difference between the effective and present force. The difference is accounted for by men engaged on one following duties.

- On election duty at ANCONA, 95.
- At Grosseto, because of political trials, 50.
- At Civitavecchia, via to Local Com., 50.
- Reinforcement of COMA, in Rome and Province provinces, 51.
- Course of instruction, 60.
- Also, employment in other commands, 8.
- Leave, sick, sick leave etc, 61.

Total 352

In other words about three quarters of the Battalion were unavailable in the event of the Battalion being called out. The men at Ancona and Grosseto are incidentally out of their Section and Brigade areas. It can hardly be wondered therefore that the Commandant of the Battalion complained about not getting help to carry on with the training of his men.

Present. 10. 16. 109. 137.

It will be observed that there is a considerable difference between the effective and present surge. The difference is accounted for by men engaged on the following duties.

- On election duty at ASCOHA. 55.
- At Grossetto, because of political trials 50.
- At Livorno, bid to local COM. 50.
- Reinforcement of COM. in Rome and Provinces provinces. 30.
- Courses of instruction. 20.
- also, employment in other commands. 4.
- Leaves, sick, sick leave etc. 61.

Total. 292.

In other words about three quarters of the battalion were unavailable in the event of the battalion being called out. The men at Ancona and Grossetto are incidentally out of their section and Brigade areas! It can hardly be wondered therefore what the commandant of the battalion complained about not being able to carry on with the training of his unit.

Recently a copy of a letter written by General Grossetti of the COM., on the question of the loss and dispersal was circulated. It would appear that either he, or his subordinates have little regard to this instruction.

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Another point that must be noted is that although the present establishment of the mobile battalions was only fixed in a letter dated 20th February 1946 -- before this can be properly implemented, there is alleged to be further talk of minor changes. This neither helps the organization of the battalion, nor encourages those who are trying to do something.

Location. On the basis of the old organization, which is still in effect, the Battalion is dispersed as follows.

- Caserne Lodgeon Battalion C-2, and motor cycle Coy.
- Caserne Agay Motorized company.
- Caserne Olivelli Tank/ambulance company.

As in the case of the Home Mobile Battalion, I am of the opinion that the Battalion should be located in one barracks, so that it is a self contained unit.

Transport. The Battalion has

- 13, trucks --- 3 insufficient, 6 at ANGOA, the remaining 600 being available to the Battalion.
- 3, motor cycles --- all without tires. Since no motor cycle company.
- 14, Fiat L/35 tanks -- 4 at ANGOA, 2 being repaired, 1 beyond repair, and 7 available.
- 2, Ansaldo M/15 Tanks -- Both under repair.

There are the usual difficulties regarding spare, and the usual system of general repairs. No difficulty is experienced with regard to P.O.M.

Inventory. The following were in possession on 20.11.46.

Armstrongs, Plot mod.35.	40.
" Bren mod. 37.	6.
Muelle extra. Bren mod. 30.	22.
Moschetti auto. Beretta; mod.334.	407.
" " mod. 45.	1.
Moschetti, 2001.	22.
" 38, cal. 6.5.	147.
" 35, " 7.35.	2.
Moschetti auto, Beretta mod.34.	76.
" Moschetti, 1004.	11.

not being available to the Battalion.

- 3, motor cycles -- all without tires. None to spare; cycle company.
- 13, Fiat 5/15 tanks -- 4 at Ancon, 2 being repaired, 1 beyond repair, and 7 available.
- 4, Amalio 4/15 tanks -- both under repair.

There are the usual difficulties regarding spare, and the usual system of general repairs. No difficulty in experienced with regard to H.C.S.

Equipment. The following were in possession on Oct. 20, 1940:

- mitragliatrice, Fiat mod. 35. 20.
- " Breda mod. 37. 6.
- machine mitra. Breda mod. 30. 22.
- Moschetti auto. Beretta, mod. 33a. 207.
- " " mod. 45. 1.
- Moschetti, 1891. 82.
- " 38, cal. 6.5. 141.
- " 38, " 7.35. 2.
- Pistole auto, Beretta mod. 34. 75.
- " carbosiane, 1895. 11.

Some sort of standardization seems to be highly necessary. Also

the provision of further pistols.

Communications. The HQ. of the Battalion has no telephone of its

own! They are hoping to have it installed in the "near future".

Clothing. This appears to be as usual. Much less than expected, mostly one of each item.

Construction. Usual complaints of deficiencies of most items.

Conclusion. I am not of the opinion that this Battalion, as a mobile Battalion, could be called efficient. All it is in effect is a general reserve. With a certain amount of auxiliary arms and transport. If it is devised to make one unit efficient, it must

be properly equipped, and furthermore treated as a unit and not
detached personnel to any place that requires additional work.

W. S. Lewis

Chief, Bureau of A.S.S.

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