

ACC 10000/12016244

6/23

ORGANIZATION INFANTRY BATTALIONS

Dec. 9, 1944 - Jan. 25, 1945

ORGANIZATION INFANTRY BATTALIONS

Dec. 9, 1944 - Jan. 25, 1945

8160
8195

COMAL GRUPO DI COMBATTIMENTO "TEGNANO"
- Sezione Operazioni - Informazioni -

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n° 01/298 di prot.

P.M.155, 6 febbraio 1945 (ore 0800)

O g g e t t o : vice comandante di battaglione.-

ALLA " " " 52^ " " " B I U = S E D E =

^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^

Riferimento conversazioni verbali avute in Manziana circa l'assegnazione di un capitano quale vice comandante a tutti i battaglioni di fanteria.

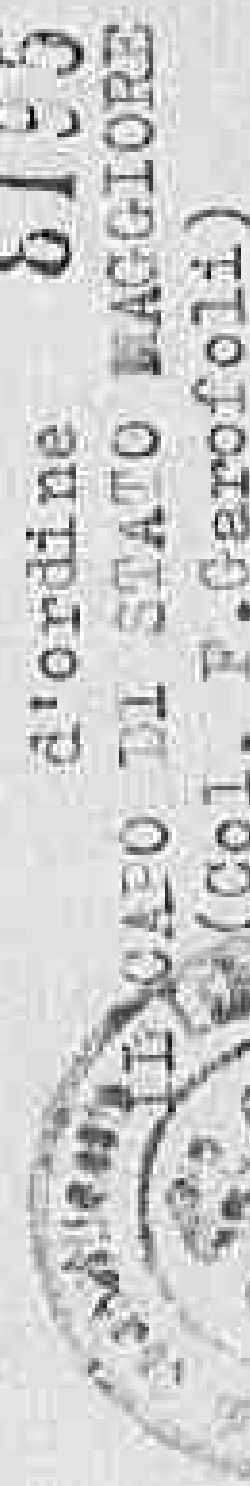
Si ritorna sull'argomento per rappresentare che l'assegnazione di detto ufficiale, riconosciuta indispensabile dalle autorità inglesi, ha carattere di urgenza in relazione allo stato di approntamento del gruppo di combattimento. Per tanto si prega di voler cortesemente sollecitare le prefate autorità inglesi per l'approvazione della proposta e per la conseguente assegnazione da parte dello Stato Maggiore Italiano degli ufficiali occorrenti.-

d'ordine 8135
LE CAIO DI STATO MAGGIORE
(Col. F. Garofoli)

AILA non 52 non B D U = S E D E =

Riferimento conversazioni verbali avute in Manziana circa l'assegnazione di un capitano quale vice comandante a tutti i battaglioni di fanteria.

Si ritorna sull'argomento per rappresentare che l'assegnazione di detto ufficiale, riconosciuta indispensabile dalle autorità inglesi, ha carattere di urgenza in relazione allo stato di appiottamento del gruppo di combattimento. Pertanto si prega di voler cortesemente sollecitare le prefate autorità inglesi per l'approvazione della proposta e per la conseguente assegnazione da parte dello Stato Maggiore Italiano degli ufficiali occorrenti.-



d'ordine 8195

IL CAPO DI STATO MAGGIORE
(Col. P. Garofoli)

Garofoli

Subject: Division of Transport into Echelons - Artillery Regt.

52 British Liaison Unit,
CMF.

26 Jan 45.

G/1A/21

HQ LEGNANO.

Further to this HQ letter G/1A/20 dated 25 Jan 45.

1. The attached shows the division of transport of Artillery Regt into echelons, as suggested by Major Collenette.
2. It will be noted that there is no "F" Ech in the Infantry Bn. The Artillery "A" Ech is really the equivalent of the Infantry "F" and "A" Ech.

TPL/BS

Al
Major,
GSOII. 8194

ARTILLERY REGT.Division of Transport into Echelons (excl Trailers)

TYPE OF VEHs.	REGT HQ		4x25PR		1x17 PR		1x40MM		TOTAL FOR	
			BTYS		BTY		BTY		REGT	
	"A"	"B"	"A"	"B"	"A"	"B"	"A"	"B"	"A"	"B"
Motor cycles	4	1	28	-	3	1	11	4	46	6
Carb reese	-	-	12	-	-	-	-	-	12	-
Carb 2 str & 4 str	4	-	16	4	5	1	5	1	30	6
Carriers Universal	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	3	-
Trucks-15 cwt	6	4	36	12	6	2	5	2	53	20
Lorries-3 ton	1	4	4	24	2	4	5	4	12	36
Tractors, with guns	-	-	48	-	8	1(a)	12	-	68	1(a)
TOTALS (incl M/cs)	15	9	144	40	27	9	38	11	224	69

NOTE: (a) This is a spare tractor, without a gun.

File
Subject: Division of Transport into Echelons - INFANTRY BN.

52 British Liaison Unit,
OAF.

25 Jan 45.

G/1A/20

HQ LEGNANO.

The following notes are forwarded on the subject of the division of the Inf Bn transport into echelons, based on the practice which is now common throughout the British Army:-

1. Object.

The object of dividing transport into echelons is to ensure that unnecessary vehicles are kept out of the fighting area. The number of vehicles at Inf Bn HQ and forward of it MUST be kept down to the minimum essential for the fighting of the battle, and strict orders on this subject will be necessary. Non-essential vehicles in the forward area mean that some vehicles cannot be hidden and will be observed by enemy OPs, resulting in heavy shelling and mortar fire and unnecessary casualties to troops and vehicles.

2. Echelons.

Transport is divided into 3 Echelons, as follows:-

- (a) "F" Echelon.- Consisting of fighting vehicles together with a very limited number of essential administrative vehicles.
- (b) "A" Echelon - Consisting of a limited number of admin vehicles, which are not required to be forward but which must be within reasonable distance of Bn HQ.
- (c) "B" Echelon.- Consisting of the remainder of the transport of the Inf Bn.

3. Control of Echelons.

(a) When in the line.

(i) "F" Echelon.- Movement of these vehicles within the forward area is naturally controlled by the Bn Comd through the Coy and Pl Comds, according to the tactical situation.

(ii) "A" Echelon.- These vehicles are usually "brigaded" i.e. centralized under control of Regt HQ, and located

8103

echelon of the Inf Bn transport into echelons, based on the principle which is now common throughout the British Army:-

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The object of dividing transport into echelons is to ensure that unnecessary vehicles are kept out of the fighting area. The number of vehicles at Inf Bn HQ and forward of it MUST be kept down to the minimum essential for the fighting of the battle, and strict orders on this subject will be necessary. Non-essential vehicles in the forward area mean that some vehicles cannot be hidden and will be observed by enemy OPs, resulting in heavy shelling and mortar fire and unnecessary casualties to troops and vehicles.

2. Echelons.

Transport is divided into 3 Echelons, as follows:-

- (a) "P" Echelon.- Consisting of Fighting vehicles together with a very limited number of essential administrative vehicles.
- (b) "A" Echelon - Consisting of a limited number of admin vehicles, which are not required to be forward but which must be within reasonable distance of Bn HQ.
- (c) "B" Echelon.- Consisting of the remainder of the transport of the Inf Bn.

3. Control of Echelons.

(a) When in the line.

(1) "P" Echelon.- Movement of these vehicles within the forward area is naturally controlled by the Bn Comd through the Coy and Pl Comds, according to the tactical situation.

(1i) "A" Echelon.- These vehicles are usually "brigaded" ie. centralised under control of Regt HQ, and located somewhere in the vicinity of Regt HQ. The area will be selected by Regt HQ staff, who will also control the movement of the brigaded "A" Echelon.

OC HQ Coy is normally the Officer i/c Bn "A" Echelon and the Regt MT Officer (or senior HQ Coy Comd) is normally i/c the "brigaded" "A" Echelon.

Movement of individual vehicles from "A" Echelon area forward to Bn HQ (replenishment of ammo and petrol and bringing up the hot meal, for example) is of course permitted, but such vehicles are not allowed to remain forward and must return to "A" Echelon area as soon as their task is completed.

8123

Furthermore, the road may sometimes be under enemy observation and, except for motor-cycles and single vehicles in daylight, will have to be done after dark.

(11) "B" Echelon - All "B" Echelon transport is normally centralized under Divisional (Gruppo) control, and the "B" Echelon area is selected by Gruppo HQ and located near Gruppo HQ.

Bn HQ Officer is normally i/c Bn "B" Echelon, and next HQ Officer (or senior Bn HQ Officer) is normally i/c the "B" Echelon of the Regt.

Bn QM and his staff should also be located at "B" Echelon, in order that he can be in close touch with the admin services of the Gruppo.

(b) When not in the line.

"A" Echelon transport will remain the same in the rest area, on the orders of that Command. Provided the rest-period is not of very short duration, "B" Echelon transport can also rejoin the line.

(c) When the Gruppo is ordered to move up from a rest area to a forward-concentration-area (prior to going into the line) it is sometimes advisable to detach the "brigaded" "A" Echelon and "divisional" "B" Echelon before the move starts and put them as separate serials in the march tables.

In any case, both "A" and "B" Echelon transport will have to be detached from the latter move forward from the Gruppo forward concentration area, and then move to their allotted areas. This may lead to confusion and congestion on the roads within the concentration area.

A suggested arrangement, therefore, is that:-

(1) All "B" Echelon transport as centralized in the rest-area before the move starts, and move as one serial in the Gruppo March Table to an allotted area.

(2) "A" Echelon transport is "brigaded" in the forward concentration area after Bn have moved forward from it.

4. Attached Appx "A" shows the 4th transport of an Italian Inf-Bn divided into the 3 Echelons, based on British practice. This Appx should be studied together with this HQ letter G/1A/10 dated 26 Dec 44 (Organization of the Infantry Bn).

near Gruppo HQ.

Bn MT Officer is normally i/c Bn 'B' Echelon, and Regt MT Officer (or senior Bn MT Officer) is normally i/c the 'B' Echelon of the Regt.

Bn QM and his staff should also be located at 'B' Echelon, in order that he can be in close touch with the admin services of the Gruppo.

(b) When not in the line.

'A' Echelon transport will remain the Bn in the rest area, on the orders of Regt Comd. Provided the rest-period is not of very short duration, 'B' Echelon transport can also remain in the Bn.

(c) When the Gruppo is ordered to move up from a rest area to a forward-concentration-area (prior to going into the line) it is sometimes advisable to detach the "brigaded" 'A' Echelon and "divincolated" 'B' Echelon before the move starts and put them as separate serials in the March Table.

In any case, both 'A' and 'B' Echelon transport will have to be detached from the before the latter move forward from the Gruppo forward Concentration area, and then move to their allotted areas. This may lead to confusion and congestion on the roads within the concentration area.

A suggested arrangement, therefore, is that:-

- (i) All 'B' Echelon transport is centralized in the rest-area before the move starts, and moves as one serial in the Gruppo March Table to an allotted area.
- (ii) 'A' Echelon transport is "brigaded" in the forward concentration area after Bn have moved forward from it.

4. Attached Appx 'A' shows the transport of an Italian Inf-Bn divided into the 3 Echelons, based on British practice. This Appx should be studied together with this HQ letter, G/IA/10 dated 28 Dec 44 (Organisation of the Infantry Bn).

5. Paragraphs 1-3 above will also apply to the vehicles of other units in the Infantry Regt, namely mortar Coy and 3/7th gun Coy, and it will be necessary for you to work out the echelons for these Coys.

In principle, these paragraphs will also apply to other units of the Gruppo. Details for the Artillery will be forwarded in a separate letter, to follow.

.....3

6. In general, the amount of transport within the Gruppo is considerable, and our experience has shown that the Echelon system and composite groups of transport as mentioned above, result:-

- (a) Easy control of transport by HQ staffs.
- (b) Less congestion on the roads.
- (c) Location of the different groups is known by all, as each group will be allotted a specific area in Gruppo/regtl orders.
- (d) Reinforcements, equipment, replacement vehicles and weapons, etc, can be passed forward systematically through each Echelon.

This subject is important, and it is considered essential that instructions are issued to units concerned. The main point is that non-essential vehicles must be kept out of the forward areas, and therefore Gruppo (or Inf Regt) HQ should lay down the maximum number of vehicles which are permitted in "F" and "A" Echelons for each unit (Bn, Mortar Coy, A/Tk Gun Coy, etc) and which must be strictly adhered to.

T21/86

Y.H. Lieut-Col.
U.S.O.I.

Copy to: C. Training Increment.

APPX "A"

INFANTRY BATTALION.

Division of Transport into Babelong (excl motor cycle-)

COY OR SUB-UNIT	VEHICLE	"F" ECH	"A" ECH	"B" ECH	TOTAL
BN HQ	Car 2 ptr 4x2 (or Jeep in 11th)	1	-	-	1
	Car 4 ptr 4x2	-	1	-	1
	Truck 15 cwt 4x2 Gd	1(a)	-	-	1
HQ COY					
HQ PL	Trucks 45 cwt 4x2 Gd	1(b)	2(c)	-	3
	" " " Water	-	1	-	1
	Lorries 3 ton 4x2 Gd	-	6(d)	2(e)	8
	Trailer Water	-	-	4	4
SIGNALS PL	Trucks 15 cwt 4x2 Gd	1(f)	1(g)	1(h)	3
COMPOSITE PL	Truck 15 cwt 4x2 Gd	1(i)	-	-	1
	Lorries 3 ton 4x2 Gd	-	1(j)	1(k)	2
SUPPORT COY					
HQ PL	Car 2 ptr 4x2 (or Jeep in 11th)	1	-	-	1
	Truck 15 cwt 4x2 Gd	-	1(l)	-	1
	Lorry 3 ton 4x2 Gd	-	-	1(m)	1
MORTAR PL	Trucks 45 cwt 4x2 Gd	1(n)	1(o)	1(p)	3
	Carriers Mortar	5	-	-	5
CARRIER PL	Trucks 15 cwt 4x2 Gd	1(q)	1(r)	-	2
	Carriers Universal	13	-	-	13
A.TK.PL	Truck 15 cwt 4x2 Gd	-	1(s)	-	1
	Carriers Loyd	5	-	-	5
3 RIFLE COYS (Each)	Trucks 15 cwt 4x2 Gd	-	2(t)	1(u)	3
	Carrier Universal	1	-	-	1
	Car 2 ptr 4x2 (or Jeep) = 2				
	" 4 " 4x2 = 1				
	Trucks 15 cwt 4x2 Gd = 24				
	" " " Water = 1				
	Lorries 3 ton " Gd = 11				
	Trailer Water = 1				
	Carriers Universal = 16				
	" Mortar = 5				
	" Loyd = 5				
	66				
TOTALS		34	22	10	66
		(incl of tracked vehs.			

APPX "A" (COMED)

NOTES

- (a) This is for Medical officer, stretchers, and medical stores (see also Note (B) below)
- (b) suggest this should be the office truck for Adjutant and ID,
- (c) 1 of these for HQ Coy Cooks truck and 1 for HQ Coy's blankets, greatcoat etc.
- (d) These are allocated as follows:-
- 1 - for Bn reserve am
 - 1 - for Bn ration truck (for collecting rations daily from supply point)
 - 1 - for RT fitters, and tools, repairs etc
 - 3 - for rifle boys look-trucks (one each)
- (e) These for Bn and his stores
- (f) For signal stores, cable etc
- (g) For signal stores etc
- (h) For carrying equipment of Assault Pioneer sections
- (i) For Bn petrol
- (j) For carrying tools and stores of Artillery section
- (k) This for support Coy look-truck
- (l) This for support Coy stores etc
- (m) For reserve am
- (n) For reserve am and stores
- (o) For stores etc
- (p) This for reserve am; stores etc
- (q) This for reserve am; stores etc
- (r) For reserve am stores etc
- (s) For blankets, greatcoats, stores etc
- (u) For balance of stores etc

6213

(A) The composition of Echelons as shown in this appx is for normal country with fair roads. However, if the Gruppo is operating in very hilly country with tracks and few and bad roads, the composition of the Echelons would require modification, subject always to the important consideration that the number of vehicles at end forward of Bn HQ must be kept to the minimum.

For example - it might be necessary to put all 3 tan lorries at "B" Ech, replacing them at "A" Ech as far as possible with 15 civi trucks from "B" Ech. Also, if the country is very difficult, it may be necessary for carriers of the Carrier Pl to fetch the hot meal, greatcoat, etc, from "A" Ech and convey them to the forward rifle boys.

(B) From our experience it has been found that the Carrier Pl will seldom carry more than 15 civi trucks and often these sections are sufficient for

- supply needs
- 1 - for BM fitters, and tools, etc. (one each)
 - 3 - for rifle coo-coo trucks (one each)
- (e) These for BA and his stores
 - (f) For signal stores, cable etc
 - (g) For signal stores etc
 - (h) For carrying equipment of Assault Pioneer sections
 - (i) For BM petrol
 - (j) For carrying tools and stores of Artillery section
 - (k) This for support Coy dooko-truck
 - (l) This for support Coy stores etc
 - (m) For reserve BM
 - (n) For reserve BM and stores
 - (o) For stores etc
 - (p) This for reserve BM; stores etc
 - (q) This for reserve BM; stores etc
 - (r) For reserve BM stores etc
 - (s) For blankets, greatcoats, stores etc
 - (u) For balance of stores etc

8129

(A) The composition of Echelons is shown in this appx is for normal country with fair roads. However, if the group is operating in very hilly country with tracks and few and bad roads, the composition of the Echelon would require modification, subject always to the important consideration that the number of vehicles at and forward of BN HQ must be kept to the very vital minimum.

For example - it might be necessary to put all 3 ton lorries at "B" Ech, replacing them at "A" Ech as far as possible with 15 cwt trucks from "B" Ech. Also, if the country is very difficult, it may be necessary for carriers of the Carrier Pl to fetch the hot meals, greatcoats, etc, from "A" Ech and convey them to the forward rifle Coy.

(B) From our experience it has been found that the Carrier Pl will seldom operate as a complete Pl, and often these sections are sufficient for most tasks. The fourth section can be usefully employed as follows:-

- 1 carrier for BM load, for reserve etc
- 1 carrier for medical officer, for casualties
- 1 carrier for one Assault Pioneer section and its equipment

NOTE: The surplus personnel of this section would go to "B" Ech.

(C) Administration of "A" and "B" Ech.

"A" Ech. - Officer i/c BN "A" Ech - 03 HQ Coy.

All cooking for troops in forward area will be done at "A" Ech, therefore personnel at "A" Ech, can be fed there.

.....2

2.

"B" Ech. - Officer i/c Bn "B" Ech - BN HQ Officer. In this position he can go forward to "A" Ech to liaise with the Bn fitters regarding evacuation or repair of vehicles, and he is also in touch with LAB and Workshops.

Rations for personnel at "B" Ech, including personnel LDB (Left out of battle), will have to be drawn separately from the rest of the Bn, and "B" Ech must therefore have cooks and cooking equipment.

8188

Subject: Organization of Infantry Bn.

52 Brit Liaison Unit

CAF

10 Jan 45

To: HQ LEGNANO

G/1A/8

Reference LHM HQ letter G/1A/10 dated 26 Dec 44.

1. A slight mistake was made in table (iii) - (transport) - of Appendix 'A' forwarded with our above-mentioned letter.

2. Against "trucks 15 cwt 4x2 GS" under "Total - HQ Coy", the figure should be 8 and not 7.

It will be noted, therefore, that the vehicles of Battalion HQs have in each case been included in the column "Total - HQ Coy".

The total number of trucks 15 cwt 4x2 GS in an Infantry Battalion remains at 24.

PL/hjj

PL

Major.
GSO II.

Copy to "C" Training Increment.

Subject: Organization of the Rifle Coy.

52 British Liaison Unit,
CMF.

30 Dec 41.

"G" Training Increment.

G/1a/15

Attached herewith are 4 copies of the detailed organization of the Rifle Coy, which has been distributed by HQ Legnano Gruppo down to all officers of rifle companies.

IPL/NS

HL
Major,
GDOI.

8186

ORGANIZATION OF RIFLE COMPANY

PERSONNEL	PISTOL 4 12 AND 30 CALIBERS	RIFLE 5 30 CALIBER	TEAM 2-5	BRN SECTION	2 nd SECTION	PLAT
<u>Commander</u> (Captain) (1)	1					
<u>HQ Platoon</u> (10)						
<u>Commander</u> (Subaltern) (1)	1					
<u>HQ Section</u>						
1 Warrant Officer (xx)		1				
1 Cpl (Pay & A/c)(2) (x)		1	2			
2 DNs						
2 Orderlies (xx)		2				
<u>Signal Section</u>						
1 Sgt		1				
2 Cpls		2				
2 Ptes		2				
<u>Adm Section</u>						
1 Sgt		1				
No 1. Amn number (Cpl)(9) (x)						
Nos 2, 3, 4. Amn numbers (2)(x)		3				
1 Medical Cpl						
3 Stretcher-bearers		1				
1 Cook Cpl		1				
3 Cooks		3				
1 Armourer Mechanic		1				
5 Drivers		5				
<u>TOTAL - HQ PLATOON</u>						
(2 officers and 37 ORs)	2	23	2	1 (10)	-	1 (10)

PERSONNEL	RIFLES 12 REG 30 REG 40 REG	SMO & C 40 REG	BREN MORTAR PIAT	2"
<u>ALPHE PLATOON (11)</u>				
<u>HQ Group</u>				
1 Subaltern (Pl Comd) (1)	1			
1 Sgt (Pl Sgt) (2)				
1 Runner		1		
<u>Bren Group</u>				
1 NCO (3)		1		
No 1 Bren-runner (5)			1	
No 2 (7)	1			
No 3 (7)	1			
<u>PIAT Group</u>				
1 NCO (4)	1			
1 Pte				1
<u>2" MORTAR GROUP</u>				
1 NCO (5)	1			
1 Junior NCO (5)	1			
1 Pte (6)				1
<u>3 RIFLE COMPANIES (12) each:-</u>				
<u>RIFLE Group</u>				
1 NCO (Section Comd)		1		
4 Ptes	4			
<u>Bren Group</u>				
1 NCO (3)		1		
No 1 Bren-runner (9)			1	
No 1 Amn number (2)	1			
No 2 & 3 Amn numbers (7)	2			
<u>TOTAL - RIFLE PLATOON</u>				
(1 officer and 41 ORs)	1	8	4	1
	27			
<u>TOTAL - RIFLE COMPANY</u>				
(5 officers and 155 ORs)	5	26	13 (8)	4
	104 (8)			

<u>HQ Group</u>	1 Subal Lecn (Pl Comd) (1)	1				
	1 Sgt (Pl Sgts) (2)		1			
	1 Runner					
<u>Bren Group</u>						
	1 NCO (3)		1			
	No 1 Bren-runner (9)			1		
	No 2 (7)	1				
	No 3 (7)	1				
<u>Plat Group</u>						
	1 NCO (4)	1				
	1 Pte					
<u>2nd Machine Gun Group</u>						
	1 NCO (5)					
	1 Junior NCO (5)	1				
	1 Pte (6)	1				
<u>3 RIFLE SECTIONS (12) each:-</u>						
<u>RIFLE GROUP</u>						
	1 NCO (Section Comd)		1			
	4 Ptes	4				
<u>Snack Group</u>						
	1 NCO (3)		1			
	No 1 Bren-runner (9)			1		
	No 1 Amn number (2)	1				
	Nos 2 & 3 Amn numbers (7)	2				
<u>TOTAL - RIFLES PLATOON</u>	(1 officer and 41 ORs)	1	27	8	4	1
<u>TOTAL - RIFLES COMPANY</u>	(3 officers and 135 ORs)	5	104	26	13	4
			(8)		(8)	

353

NOTES.

- (1) - Will carry 1 pr of binoculars, 1 compass, and 1 map-case
- (2) - Will carry 2 Bren magazines each
- (3) - Will carry spare-parts wallet
- (4) - Will carry 3 PIA. bombs
- (5) - Will carry 2 cases of 2" mortar bombs
- (6) - Will carry 1 case of 2" mortar bombs
- (7) - Will carry 4 Bren magazines each
- (8) - 13 Rifles and 1 Bren are in Coy reserve
- (9) - Will carry 3 Bren magazines, 1 of which will be on the gun
- (10) - Personnel marked with a cross (X) will form the Section for the defense of Coy HQ. They will use the Bren or PIA or both according to circumstances. The PIA and its ammunition will normally be carried in the Coy carrier - unless there is a possibility of enemy tank attack when it will be carried by the personnel marked with 2 crosses (XX).
- (11) - The maximum number of shovels and picks should be carried - if possible 1 pick or shovel per man. Every man in the Platoon will carry 2 hand grenades, the type will depend on the particular operation.
- (12) - The organization of the Rifle Section may vary according to circumstances, and the Rifle group can be increased by men taken from the Bren Group.

SECRET

ORGANIZZAZIONE DELLA COMPAGNIA FUCILIERI SECONDO L'ESPERIEN-ZA EFFETTUATA PRESSO L'ESERCITO INGLESE.

E L E M E N T I					Pistole più 12 cartucce	Fucili più 50 cartucce	Thompson più 6 caricatori	Bren	Mortai 2 pollici	Plat
Comandante (1)					1	1	1	1	1	1
Plotone comando (10)					1	1	1	1	1	1
Comandante (1)					1	1	1	1	1	1
Squadra comando					1	1	1	1	1	1
- 1 maresciallo	(x)				1	1	1	1	1	1
- 1 caporale (2)	(x)				1	1	1	1	1	1
- 2 staffette su moto	(x)				1	1	1	1	1	1
- 2 staffette a piedi					1	1	1	1	1	1
Squadra collegamenti					1	1	1	1	1	1
- 1 sergente					1	1	1	1	1	1
- 4 soldati					1	1	1	1	1	1
Squadra servizi					1	1	1	1	1	1
- 1 sergente					1	1	1	1	1	1
- 1 porta munizioni (9)	(x)				1	1	1	1	1	1
- II - III - IV porta muniz. (2) (x)					1	1	1	1	1	1
- 6 portafanti					1	1	1	1	1	1
- 4 cuccinieri					1	1	1	1	1	1
- 1 armaiolo					1	1	1	1	1	1
- 5 conduttori					1	1	1	1	1	1

3112

E L E M E N T I											
Comandante (1)											
Plotone comando (10)											
Comandante (1)											
Squadra comando											
- 1 maresciallo						(10)					
- 1 caporale (2)						(10)					
- 2 staffette su moto						(10)					
- 2 staffette a piedi						(10)					
Squadra collegamenti											
- 1 sergente											
- 4 soldati											
Squadra servizi											
- 1 sergente											
- 3 porta munizioni (9)						(10)					
- II - III - IV porta muniz. (2)						(10)					
- 6 portafertiti											
- 4 cuccinieri											
- 1 armaiolo											
- 5 conduttori											
Pistole più 12 cartucce	1										
Fucili più 50 cartucce	1										
Thompson più 6 cartucce	1										
Bren	1										
Mort. 2 pollici	1										
Plat	1										
						1	23	2	1	-	1

8182

= 3 =

N O T E

- (1)- Avrà inoltre: 1 binocolo, 1 bussola e 1 porta carte.
- (2)- Portano inoltre 2 caricatori per Bren ciascuno.
- (3)- Porta anche la borsa per accessori.
- (4)- Porta inoltre 3 bombe per il Piat.
- (5)- Porta inoltre 2 cassette di bombe.
- (6)- Porta inoltre 1 cassetta di bombe.
- (7)- Portano 4 caricatori per Bren ciascuno.
- (8)- 13 fucili e 1 bren sono di riserva.
4 fucili e il Bren debbono essere sempre portati al seguito della compagnia;
9 fucili possono stare presso il magazzino di compagnia.
- (9)- Porta 3 caricatori per Bren di cui 2 nelle giberne e 1 nell'arma.
- (10)- Il personale segnato con una crocetta (x) formerà la squadra armata per la difesa del comando di compagnia. Useranno il Bren o il Piat (e tutti e due contemporaneamente) a seconda della situazione.
Il Piat e relative munizioni sono trasportati dal carrier della compagnia, e meno che si preveda un attacco di carri nemici. In tal caso, il Piat e relative munizioni verranno portati dal personale contrassegnato da due crocette (xx).
- (11)- Nel plotone fucilieri:
- occorre portare il massimo numero di badili e gravine; se possibile un badile e un gravina per uomo;
- ciascun uomo del plotone, deve portare 2 bombe a mano.
Il tipo della bomba dipende dal genere delle operazioni.
- (12)- L'organizzazione della squadra fucilieri può variare, a seconda della situazione, nel senso che il nucleo fucilieri

8183

- (3)- Porta anche la borsa per accessori.
- (4)- Porta inoltre 3 bombe per il Piat.
- (5)- Porta inoltre 2 cassette di bombe.
- (6)- Porta inoltre 1 cassetta di bombe.
- (7)- Portano 4 caricatori per Bren ciascuno.
- (8)- 13 fucili e 1 bren sono di riserva.
4 fucili e il Bren debbono essere sempre portati al seguito della compagnia;
9 fucili possono stare presso il magazzino di compagnia.
- (9)- Porta 3 caricatori per Bren di cui 2 nelle giberne e 1 nell'arma.

(10)- Il personale segnato con una crocette (x) formerà la squadra armata per la difesa del comando di compagnia. Useranno il Bren o il Piat (o tutti e due contemporaneamente) a seconda della situazione. Il Piat e relative munizioni sono trasportati dal carrier della compagnia, e uno di essi prevede un attacco di carri nemici. In tal caso, il Piat e relative munizioni verranno portati dal personale contrassegnato da due crocette (xx).

(11)- Nel plotone fucilieri:

- occorre portare il massimo numero di badili e gravino; se possibile un badilo e un gravino per uomo;
 - ciascun uomo del plotone, deve portare 2 bombe a mano.
- Il tipo della bomba dipende dal genere delle operazioni.

(12)- L'organizzazione della squadra fucilieri può variare, a seconda della situazione, nel senso che il nucleo fucilieri può essere aumentato di qualche unità traendola dai porta munizioni del nucleo Bren. La cosa però non deve pregiudicare il già scorso numero di caricatori per Bren portati al seguito dell'arma.

8189

SECRET

Subject: Organisation of Platoons of Support Coy
of an Infantry Battalion.

52 British Liaison Unit,

CLF.

29 Dec 44.

C/1A/13

Copy to "C" Training Increment (3 Copies)

HQ LEGWANG.

Further to para 6 of this HQ Letter G/1A/10 dated 26 Dec 44.

1. Attached Appendices show the suggested organisation for

MORTAR Platoon - Appx "A"
 CARRIER Platoon - Appx "B"
 A/TX Platoon - Appx "C"

of the Support Coys of Infantry Battalions in this Group.

2. The following notes on these organisations are given:-

(a) Wireless.

The wireless lay-out for the Support Coy has been notified in this HQ letter C/1A/11 dated 27 Dec 44.

Wireless operators, who are held on the strength of HQ Pl of Support Coy, have not been shown in the attached Appendices, but it must be remembered that, when allotted to Platoons, the wireless set and one or both operators will normally be carried in the Pl Comd's Carrier, and that room must therefore be allowed for them.

(b) Stretcher-bearers.

Stretcher-bearers are held on the strength of HQ Pl of Support Coy, and these also have not been shown in the attached Appendices. The Platoons of the Support Coy may often be dispersed over a wide area and it may be advisable for these stretcher-bearers to be allotted to the Platoons. Consequently room must be found for them, either in Pl Comd's Carrier or elsewhere.

(c) Batmen.

No provision is made in the WF for batmen for Pl Comds. Batmen must therefore be found from the personnel of the Pl.

(d) Brooms, Pliers and 2" Mortars.

WF of these weapons in the Support Coy is:-

Brooms - 16
 Pliers - 6

8179

Further to para 6 of this HQ letter 6/1A/10 dated 20 Dec 44.

1. Attached Appendices show the suggested organisation for

MORIAN Platoon - Appx "A"
 CARRIER Platoon - Appx "B"
 A/TK Platoon - Appx "C"

of the Support Coys of Infantry Battalions in this Gruppe.

2. The following notes on these organisations are given:-

(a) Wireless.

The wireless lay-out for the Support Coy has been notified in this HQ letter 6/1A/11 dated 27 Dec 44.

Wireless operators, who are held on the strength of HQ Pl of support Coy, have not been shown in the attached Appendices, but it must be remembered that, when allotted to Platoons, the wireless set and one or both operators will normally be carried in the Pl Comd's Carrier, and that room must therefore be allowed for them.

(b) Stretcher-bearers.

Stretcher-bearers are held on the strength of HQ Pl of Support Coy, and these also have not been shown in the attached Appendices. The Platoons of the Support Coy may often be dispersed over a wide area and it may be advisable for these stretcher-bearers to be allotted to the Platoons. Consequently room must be found for them, either in Pl Comd's Carrier or elsewhere.

(c) Batmen.

No provision is made in the WM for batmen for Pl Comds. Batmen must therefore be found from the personnel of the Pl.

(d) Brens, PIAs and 2" Mortars.

WM of these weapons in the Support Coy is:-

Brens - 16
 PIAs - 6
 2" Mortars - 14

8173

These should be allotted as follows:-

Brens.

Mortar Pl - 2. (Sub allotted 1 per section)
 Carrier Pl - 12. (Sub allotted 1 to each carrier
 less Pl Comd's Carrier)
 A/Tk Pl - 2. (Sub allotted 1 per Detachment)

.....2

2.

PLATs. mortar Pl - 2. (Sub allotted 1 per section)
Carrier Pl - 4. (Sub allotted 1 per section)

2" mortars.

Carrier Pl - 4. (Sub allotted 1 per section)
A/Tk Pl - 2. (Sub allotted 1 per Detachment)

The above allocation leaves 8 - 2" Mortars spare in the Support Coy - 48 in the Gruppo, and it is suggested that they are distributed as follows:-

1 to each Infantry Regt HQ = 2

4 to 6-pr Gun Coy of each

Rent = 8

4 to Mortar Coy of each Reg = 8

to HQ Pl of each Rifle Coy= 18

The remainder = $\frac{12}{2} = 2$ per Inf Bn, as Bn reserve.

48.

3. It is requested that the contents of this letter are forwarded by you to all Bn Comds, in order that all Bns work on the same basic organizations.

A copy of this letter is being sent to "C" Training Increment.

TPL/NS

Hutchinson
Major,
CSOIL.

8178

APPX "A"
ORGANISATION OF MORTAR PLATOON
OF INFANTRY BATTALION.

SUB UNIT	VEHICLE	PERSONNEL	OPFR	SQTS	ORLS	PTEs
PLATOON HQ	Carrier	Pl Comd (Subaltern) Driver Pte (Goniometrist) Pte	1			1 1 1 1
	Motor-cycle	Orderly				1
	Motor-cycle	Orderly				1
	15 cwt truck (Ammunition)	Driver Sgt (Pl Sgt) 2 Ptes (Arm numbers)		1		1 2 2
	15 cwt truck (Ammunition)	Driver 2 Ptes (Arm numbers) Pte (Signaller)				1 1 1
	15 cwt truck (Stores etc)	Driver Armourer Mechanic Pte (Signaller)				1 1 1
1 SECTION	Carrier No 1	Sgt (also NCO i/c 1 sec Driver Cpl 2 Ptes (Mortar numbers)	1		1	1 1 2
	Carrier No 2	Sgt Driver Cpl 2 Ptes (Mortar numbers)	1		1	1 1 2
	Carrier No 3	Sgt (also NCO i/c 2 sec Driver Cpl 2 Ptes (Mortar numbers)	1		1	1 1 2
2 SECTION	Carrier No 4	Sgt Driver Cpl 2 Ptes (Mortar numbers)	1		1	1 1 2
	Carrier No 4	Sgt Driver Cpl 2 Ptes (Mortar numbers)	1		1	1 1 2
	Carrier No 4	Sgt Driver Cpl 2 Ptes (Mortar numbers)	1		1	1 1 2
TOTAL	5 Carriers 2 M/cs 3 Trucks (15 cwt)	37 All ranks	1	5	4	27

1 SECTION	Motor-cycle	Driver	1
	Motor-cycle	Pte (Goniometrist)	1
	15 cwt Truck (ammunition)	Pte	1
	15 cwt Truck (ammunition)	Orderly	1
	15 cwt Truck (Stores etc)	Orderly	1
	Carrier No 1	Driver	1
		Sgt (Pl Sgt)	1
		2 Ptes (AMR numbers)	2
		Driver	1
		2 Ptes (AMR numbers)	2
2 SECTION	Carrier No 2	Pte (Signaller)	1
		Driver	1
		Sgt	2
	Carrier No 3	Driver	1
		Sgt (also WCO i/c 1 Sec)	1
		Driver	1
		Cpl	1
	Carrier No 4	2 Ptes (Mortar numbers)	2
		Sgt	2
		Driver	1
TOTAL	5 Carriers	37 All ranks	27
	2 M/cs 3 Trucks (15 cwt)		

8157

APPX "B"

ORGANISATION OF THE CARRIER PLATOON
OF AN INFANTRY BATTALION.

SUB UNIT	VEHICLE	PERSONNEL	OPTR	SPTS	ORLS	PTEs
PLATOON HQ	Carrier	Pl Comd (Subaltern) Driver Pte	1			1 1 1
	Motor-cycle	Orderly				1
	Motor-cycle	Orderly				1
	15 cwt truck (Ammunitions blankets etc)	Driver Pte				1 1
	15 cwt Truck (stores)	Driver Pte (Pl storeman)				1 1
1 SECTION	Carrier No 1	Sgt (NCO i/c 1 & 2 Sections)	1			
		Cpl Driver Pte (Bren-runner)		1		1 1 1
	Carrier No 2	Cpl Driver Pte (Bren-runner) Pte		1		1 1 1
	Carrier No 3	Cpl Driver Pte (Bren-runner) Pte		1		1 1 1
	Carrier No 4	Cpl Driver Pte (Bren-runner) Pte		1		1 1 1
2 SECTION	Carrier No 5	Cpl Driver Pte (Bren-runner) Pte		1		1 1 1
	Carrier No 6	Cpl Driver Pte (Bren-runner) Pte		1		1 1 1
	Carrier No 7	Cpl Driver Pte (Bren-runner) Pte		1		1 1 1
3 SECTION	Carriers - Nos 7, 8, 9	As for 1 Section		1	3	81876

Motor-cycle Orderly	Motor-cycle Driver	15 cwt Truck (Ammunition blankets etc)	15 cwt Truck (Stores)	Driver Pte (Pl storeman)	1	1	1	1	1
Carrier No 1	Sgt (NCO i/c 1 & 2 Sections)				1				
Carrier No 2	Cpl Driver Pte (Bren-runner)				1				
Carrier No 3	Cpl Driver Pte (Bren-runner)				1				
Carrier No 4	Cpl Driver Pte (Bren-runner)				1				
Carrier No 5	Cpl Driver Pte (Bren-runner)				1				
Carrier No 6	Cpl Driver Pte (Bren-runner)				1				
3 SECTION	Carriers - Nos 7, 8, 9.	As for 1 Section			1	3	6	18	0
4 SECTION	Carriers - Nos 10, 11, 12.	As for 2 Section				3	9		
TOTAL	13 Carriers 2 M/cs 2 Trucks (15 cwt)	57 All ranks			1	2	12	42	

ORGANISATION OF THE ANTI-TANK PLATOON
OF AN INFANTRY BATTALION.

APPX "C"

SUB UNIT	VEHICLE	PERSONNEL	OPTR SGTs	ORLS PTEs
PLATOON HQ	Carrier Loyd	Pl Comd (Subaltern) Driver Armourer Mechanic Orderly Driver Sgt (Pl Sst)	1	1 1 1 1
1 DETACHMENT	Motor-cycles 15 cwt Truck		1	1
	Carrier Loyd No 1 (towing gun)	Sgt (NCO i/c Det) Driver Cpl) gun numbers 2 Ptes)	1	1 2
	Carrier Loyd No 2 (Ammunition)	Cpl) gun numbers Pte) Driver Pte (Ammunition No)	1	1 1 1
2 DETACHMENT	Carrier Loyd No 3 (towing gun)	Sgt (NCO i/c Det) Driver Cpl) gun numbers 2 Ptes)	1	1 2
	Carrier Loyd No 4 (Ammunition)	Cpl) gun numbers Pte) Driver Pte (Ammunition No)	1	1 1 1
TOTAL	5 Carriers Loyd 1 M/c 1-15 cwt Truck	24 All ranks	1 3 4	16

6175

Subject: Reallocation of Weapons within the Gruppo.

52 British Liaison Unit,
CMF.
28 Dec 44.

DMT AFHQ.

G/1A/12.

1. I have been approached by Gen UTILE Commanding Legnano Gruppo, who requests the following reallocation of weapons.

The addition of two ISMGs to each rifle group, making a total of 3 ISMGs and 3 rifles in the group. These ISMGs to come from Arty and Drivers, and to be replaced by the rifles of the rifle group.

2. The reasons for the exchange are:

(a) The increase in morale and offensive spirit which this alteration would give to the Italian infantry soldier.

(b) Increased firepower in the assault, and in meeting the final phase of an enemy attack.

3. From what I have observed the Italian is not rifle-minded and does not appear to have much faith in the bayonet when in his own hands. I have told Gen UTILE that I consider our section organisation to be more effective, but he remains very insistent that he will obtain better results out of his troops on the proposed reallocation.

4. I therefore forward this suggestion to you for an early decision please. Meanwhile training continues on the British establishment.

FME/NS

[Signature]

8174
Lt-Col.
G.S.C.I.

Subject: Wireless lay-out.

52 British Division Unit,
CWP.

27 Dec 44.

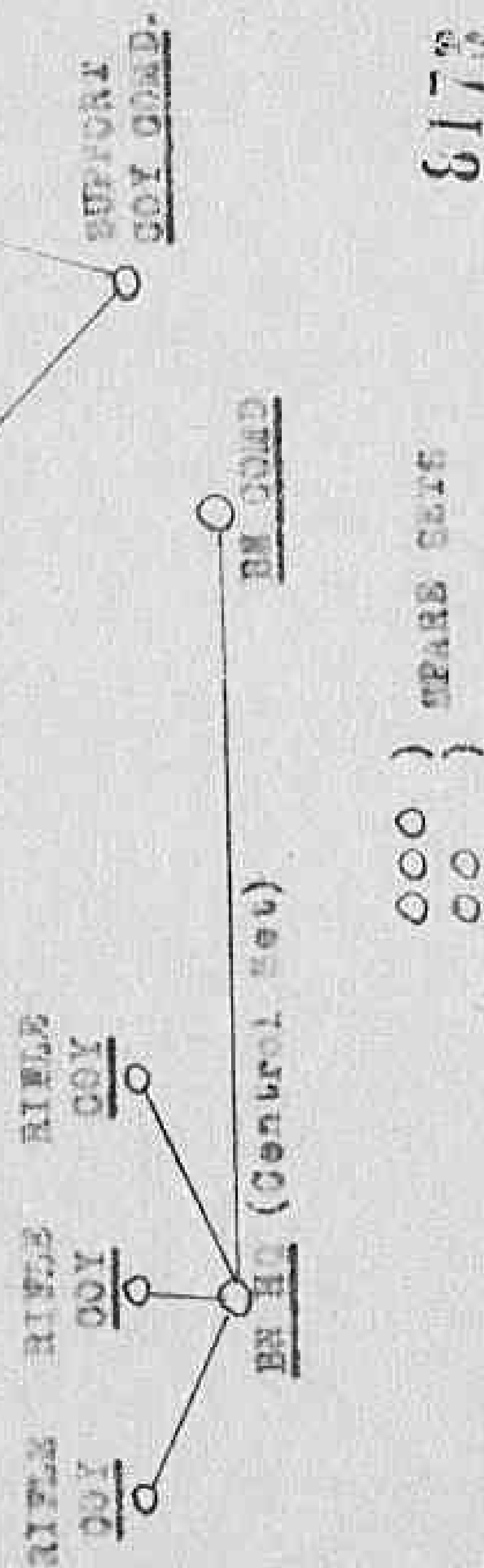
3/16/11

HQ. LEGHEND.

A. INFANTRY BATTALION.

1. No of wireless sets is 13 and the number of wireless operators is 26. Distribution of operators in Bn is :-
Signal Platoon - 8 Op's and 8 Ptes = 16
Support Coy - 5 Op's and 5 Ptes = 10
Total 26

2. Below is shown the standard lay-out which will be adopted for the wireless communications of an Infantry Bn in this Gruppe:-



3. It will be seen that there are 5 spare sets. 3 of these should be carried by the Rifle Coys (one set to each), and the other 2 should be at BN HQ. All 5 sets are naturally available for the Bn Comd to use as he thinks fit according to the operational situation, but normally each of the Rifle Coys will hold 1 spare set as a first reserve.

4. It will also be seen that the Support Coy (Coy Comd Mortar and Carrier Pls) is NOT on the Bn net. It is felt that the Support Coy Comd will normally be with the Bn Comd or fairly

1. No of wireless sets is 11 and the number of wireless operators is 26. Distribution of operators is as follows:-

Signal's Platoon - 3 Opls and 3 Ptes = 16
Support Coy - 3 Opls and 3 Ptes = 10

Total 26

2. Below is shown the standard lay-out which will be adopted for the wireless communications of an Infantry Bn in this Group:-



OOO } SPARE SETS
OO }

8173

3. It will be seen that there are 5 spare sets. 3 of these would be carried by the Rifle Coys (one set to each), and the other 2 should be at Bn HQ. All 5 sets are normally available for the Bn Comd to use as he thinks fit according to the operational situation, but normally each of the Rifle Coys will hold 1 spare set as a first reserve.

4. It will also be seen that the Support Coy (Coy Comd Mortar and Carrier Pls) is NOT on the Bn net. It is felt that the Support Coy Comd will normally be with the Bn Comd or fairly close to him.

5. (a) Since the present 10 pieces of operators (with 3 spares) on the strength of the Support Coy, it will be necessary for 4 operators (with 2 spares) to be transferred now from the Support Coy to the Signal's Platoon to come under the direct control of the Bn Signal Officer.

(b) Please issue orders for this to be done forthwith.

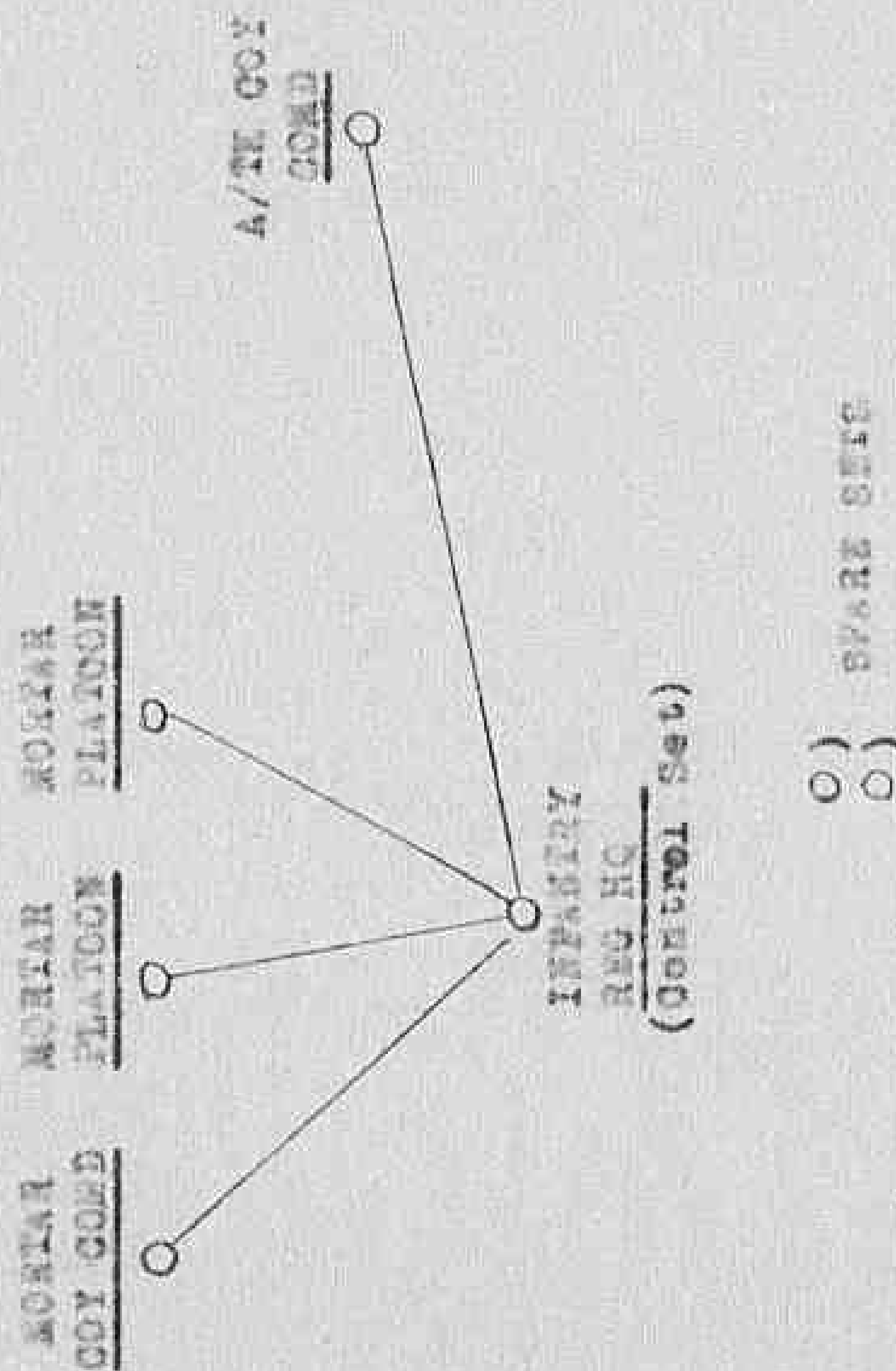
B. MORTAR AND A/TK COYS IN INFANTRY RECT.

1. No of wireless sets is 7 and the number of operators is 10.
2. Distribution of operators in RE is:-

Rect HQ (HQ Platoon) - 1 Cpl and 3 Puss = 4
 Mortar Coy (HQ Platoon) - 3 Cpls and 3 Puss = 6

Total 10

3. Below is shown the standard lay-out which will be adopted for the wireless communications of the Mortar and A/Tk Coys in the Infantry Rect in this Group:-



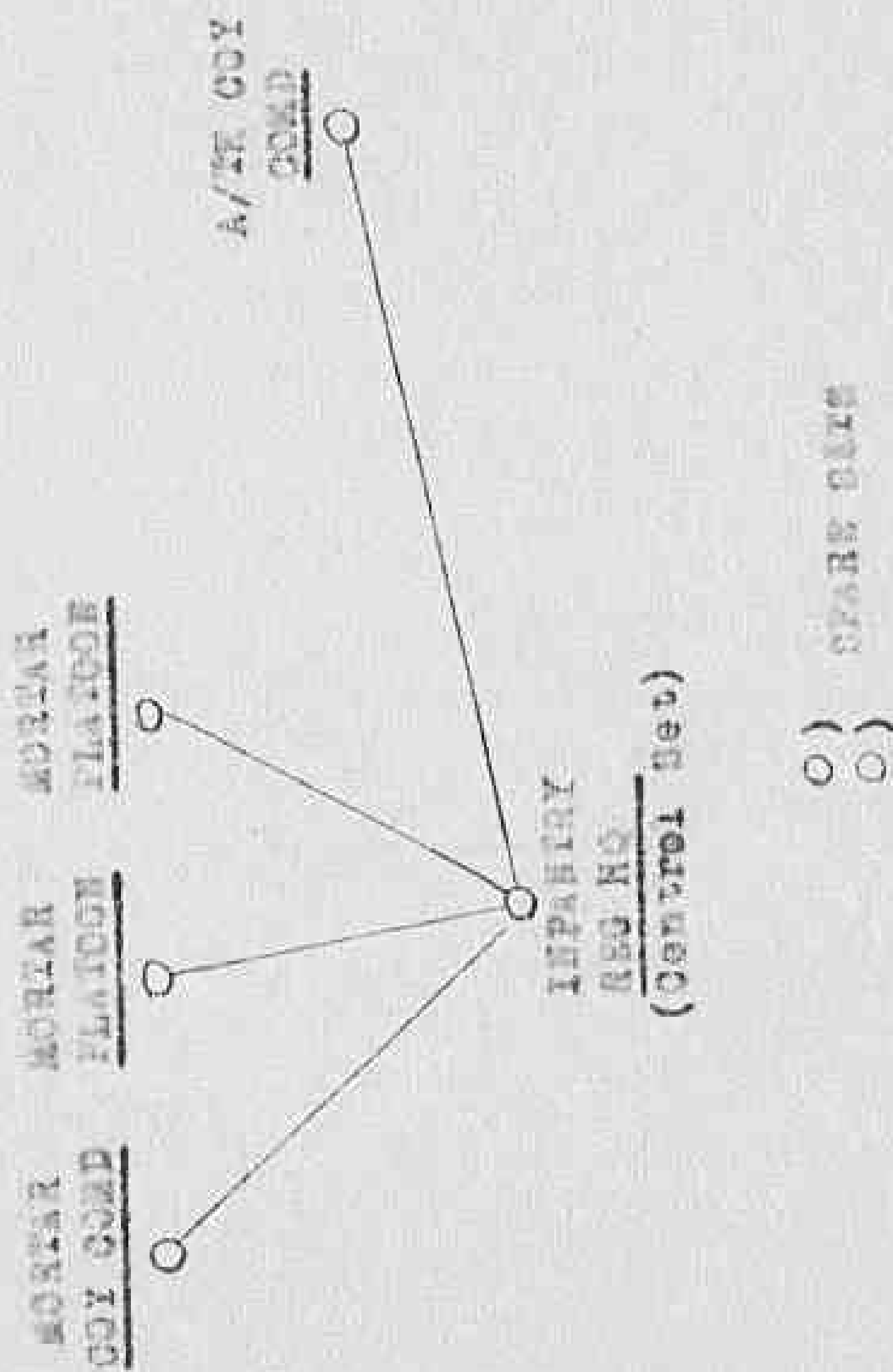
4. The 2 spare sets are normally available for the Rect Comd to use as he thinks fit according to the operational situation, but it will be noted that the RE does not allow any operators for these spare sets.

5. (a) Since the present RE places 4 operators in the HQ Platoon of the Infantry Rect HQ and none in the A/Tk Coy, it will be necessary for 2 operators (with 1 set) to be transferred from the HQ Platoon of Inf Rect to the HQ Platoon of the Gun Coy. 8172

- (b) Please issue orders for this to be done forthwith.

NOTE: The above mentioned modifications are not to be considered

for the wireless communications of the mortar and A/LK Coy and the Infantry Regt in this group:-



3. The 2 spare sets are normally available for the Regt Comd to use as he thinks fit according to the operational situation, but it will be noted that the SS does not allow any operators for these spare sets.

4. (a) Since the present SS places 4 operators in the HQ Platoon of the Infantry Regt HQ and none in the A/LK Coy, it will be necessary for 2 operators (with 1 set) to be transferred from the HQ Platoon of Inf Regt to the HQ Platoon of the Gun Coy. 8172

(b) Please issue orders for this to be done forthwith.

NOTE: The above mentioned modifications are not to be considered as official amendments to the War Establishment.

WPC/MS

W
Major,
GSO II.

Copy to: "C" Training Increment
OC 51 Genio Bn.
Surrey.

SECRET.Subject: Organization of the Infantry Bn.

52 British Liaison Unit,
CMF.

26 Dec 44.

C/1A/10

HQ LEGNANO.

1. The attached Appendix "A" - (i) WE of an Infantry Bn,
(ii) Distribution of Cpls and
Pltes by duties,
(iii) Transport.

shows the present official WE of the Infantry Bn consequent on the abolition of the Explorata Platoon and other recent amendments (notified to you in MMIA Letter S/8/29/20 dated 23 Nov 44 under cover of our A/2/18 dated 27 Nov 44).

It will be noted that the present WE is now - Officers 30
Other Ranks 737.

Certain suggestions for further amendments to the WE of the Infantry Bn are now under discussion between MMIA and AA1, and they will be notified to you as and when they are authorized.

2. Attached Appendix "B" shows the same official WE in diagrammatic form.

3. Ref the 3 Subalterns in Bn HQ and HQ Platoon of HQ Coy.

(a) Bn HQ - 2 - One of these should be the Bn Intelligence Officer. The other should be transferred to the HQ Platoon of HQ Coy and should be the Bn QM.

(b) HQ Pl of HQ Coy - 1 - This Subaltern should be the Bn MF Officer.

This is a suggested arrangement for introduction within all Bns at once, and may later be an official amendment to the WE.

4. Ref the Subaltern who formerly commanded the Explorata 6171 and who is now unemployed.

At the moment there is no provision in the WE for a Bn LO at Rect HQ and we have recommended to MMIA that an official amendment should be published showing this subaltern as the Bn LO to Rect HQ and on the strength of Rect HQ.

Meanwhile, it is strongly recommended that these Subalterns

1. The attached Appendix "A" -- (i) WE of an Infantry Bn.
(ii) Distribution of CPLs and Ptes by duties,
(iii) Transport.

shows the present official WE of the Infantry Bn consequent on the abolition of the Explorata Platoon and other recent amendments (notified to you in MMIA letter 3/3/29/20 dated 23 Nov 44 under cover of our A/2/18 dated 27 Nov 44).

It will be noted that the present WE is now - Officers 30
Other Ranks 737.

Certain suggestions for further amendments to the WE of the Infantry Bn are now under discussion between MMIA and AAI, and they will be notified to you as and when they are authorized.

2. Attached Appendix "B" shows the same official WE in diagrammatic form.

3. Ref the 3 Subalterns in Bn HQ and HQ Platoon of HQ Coy.

(a) Bn HQ - 2 - One of these should be the Bn Intelligence Officer. The other should be transferred to the HQ Platoon of HQ Coy and should be the Bn QM.

(b) HQ Pl of HQ Coy - 1 - This Subaltern should be the Bn MT Officer.

This is a suggested arrangement for introduction within all Bns at once, and may later be an official amendment to the WE.

4. Ref the Subaltern who formerly commanded the Explorata Platoon 6171 and who is now unemployed.

At the moment there is no provision in the WE for a Bn LO at Rect HQ and we have recommended to MMIA that an official amendment should be published showing this subaltern as the Bn LO to Rect HQ and on the strength of Rect HQ.

Meanwhile, it is strongly recommended that these Subalterns are appointed as Bn LOs and are trained in their duties forthwith.

5. Ref the organization of HQ Company. As mentioned above, Appendices "A" and "B" show the official organization. Lt-Col ELLIOT has already discussed with Gen ULLIE the question of the organization consequent upon the introduction of the 2 Assault Sections in the Pioneer Platoon, and of the Sniper and Intelligence Sections. A modified organization for HQ Coy, based on this discussion is shown at Appx "C".

2.

6. Further letters, dealing with (a) Wireless lay-out in Inf Bn,
(b) Organisation of the Platoons
of the Support Coy of the
Inf Bn,

will follow shortly. The detailed organisation of the Rifle Coy
and the Rifle Platoon has already been dealt with, at FIEDIMONIE.

7. It is requested that the contents of this letter, and of
those mentioned in para 6 above, are forwarded by you to all
Battalion Commanders, in order that all Bns work on the same basic
organisations.

It is realised of course, that Bn Comdrs may wish to make
minor alterations here and there.

Copies of all these letters are being forwarded to the
Officers of "C" Training Increment.

TPL/WS

fl
Major,
GSOII.

Copy to : "C" Training Increment.

8170

(1) WAR ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INFANTRY BATTALION

APEX "A"

DETAIL

	BATTALIONS HQ	HQ COMPANY				SUPPORT COMPANY				3 RIFLE COYS (Each)				TOTAL - INFANTRY BATTN.
		HQ PLATOON	SIGNALS PLATOON	PIONEER PLATOON	TOTAL HQ COY	HQ PLATOON	3" MORTAR PL	CARRIER PL	A.TK PLATOON	TOTAL-SUPPT COY	HQ PLATOON	3 RIFLE PLS (EACH)	TOTAL-RIFLE COY	
Officer Commanding (Lt-Col)	1													1
Adjutant (Capt or Sub)	1													1
Medical Officers (Subs)	2													2
Majors														
Captains		1			1	1				1	1		1	5
Subalterns	2	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	4	1	1	4	21
TOTAL - OFFICERS	6	2	1	1	4	2	1	1	1	5	2	1	5	30
Warrant Officer		1			1									1
Pay & Accounts, Sats		1			1	1				1	1		1	5
Ration Sats											1		1	3
Signals, Sats			3		3						1		1	6
Armourer Sats		1			1									1
MT Sergeant		1			1									1
Sgt-Majors or Sats		2		4	6	1	5	2	3	11		2	6	35
TOTAL - WOs & Sats		6	3	4	13	2	5	2	3	12	3	2	9	52
Corporals		7	8	4	19	9	4	12	4	29	6	9	33	147
Privates		34	35	23	92	22	27	42	16	107	23	30	113	538
TOTAL - Cpls & Ptes		41	43	27	111	31	31	54	20	136	29	39	146	685
TOTAL - OTHER RANKS		47	46	31	124	33	36	56	23	148	32	41	155	737
TOTAL - AN INFANTRY BATTALION.	6	49	47	32	128	35	37	57	24	153	34	42	160	767

8119

APPX "A" (CONT'D)

DETAIL

[illegible]

"	Numbers
Armourers Mechs	
Ass Sec Pns Ptes	
Blacksmiths	
Carpenters - Cpls	
" Ptes	
Clerks - Cpls	
Clerks - Ptes	
Cooks - Cpls	
Cooks - Ptes	
Motor-cyclists	
Drivers	
Driver Mechs	
Electricians	
General Duty-men	
Goniometrist	
Gun numbers - Cpls	
" " Ptes	
Masons - Cpls	
" Ptes	
Mechanics	
Medical Ords - Cpls	
Stretcher Bearers	
Mortarmen 2"- Cpls	
" " Ptes	
Mortarmen 3"- Cpls	
" " Ptes	
Orderlies	
Pay & Accounts - Cpls	
Rifle & LMG Nos - Cpls	
" " ptes	
Signallers - Cpls	
" Ptes	
Swd & Fullerphone Ops	
Telephonist-linemen	
Wireless Ops - Cpls	
" " Ptes	
IntellSec - Cpls	
" " Ptes	
Snipers - Ptes	
TOTAL - AN INFANTRY BN.	

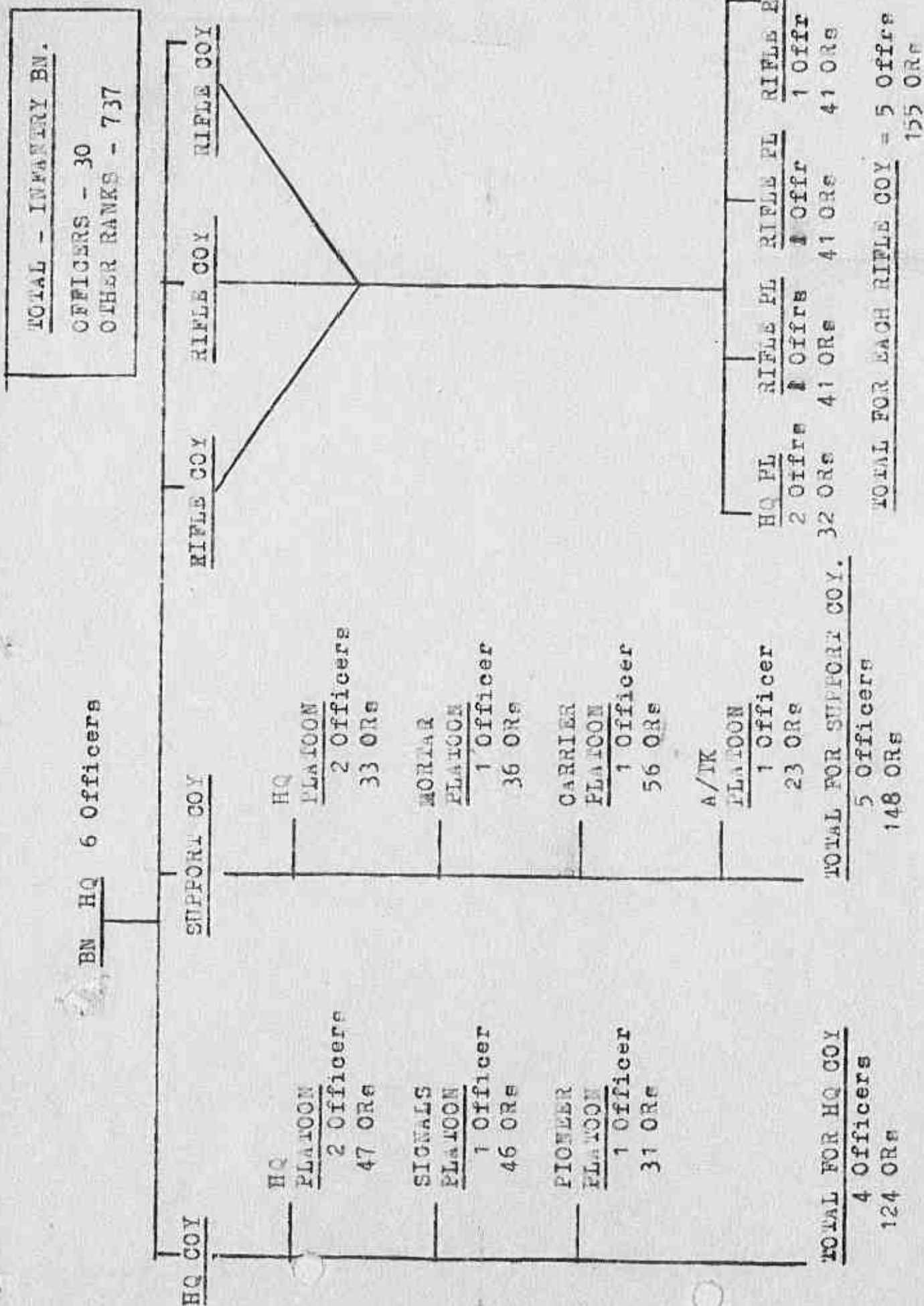
(111) TRANSPORT

APPX "A" (CONT'D)

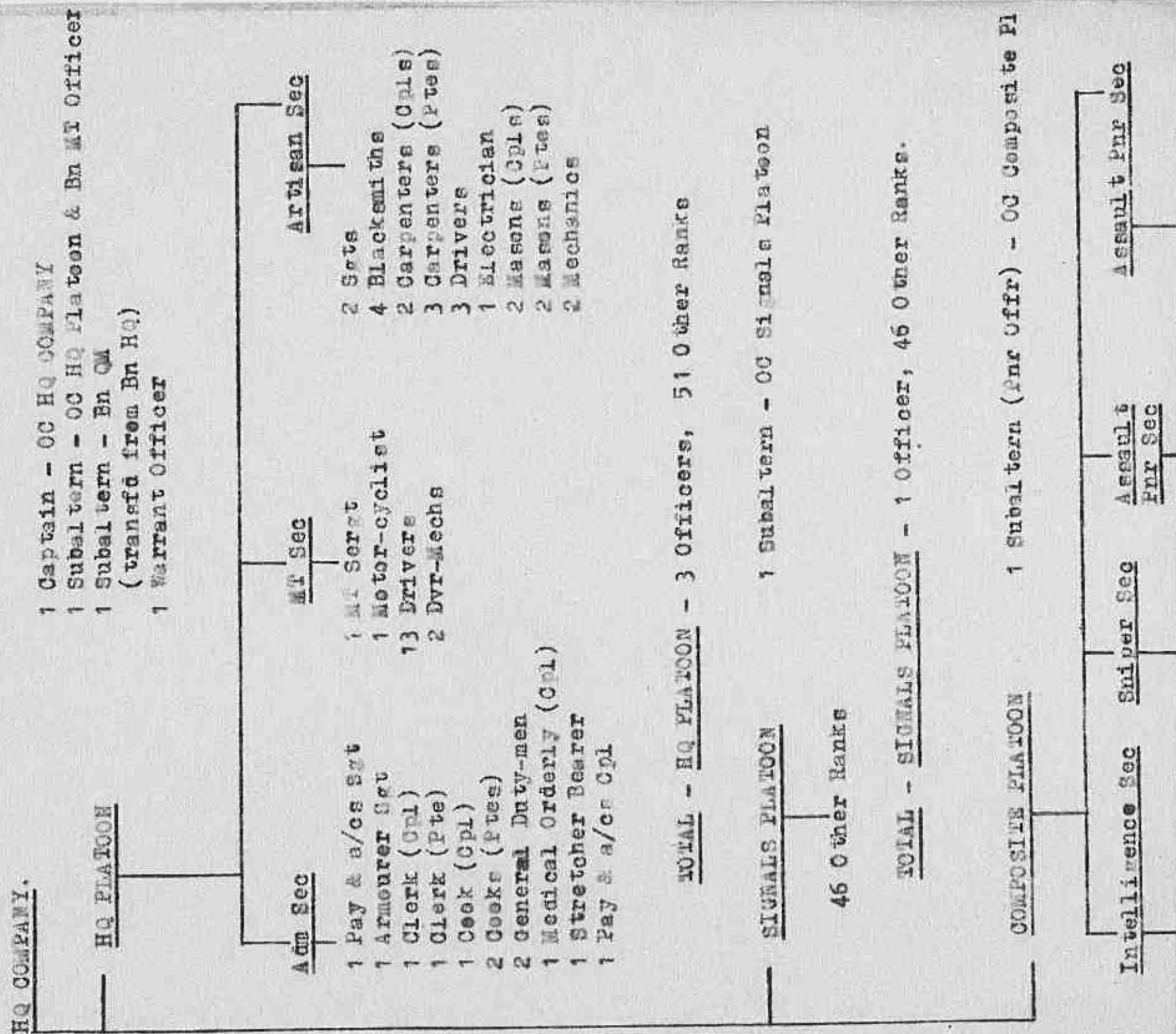
	HQ COMPANY				SUPPORT COY				3 RIFLE COYS (EACH)				TOTAL - BATTALION.	
	BATTALION HQ	HQ PLATOON	SIGNALS PLATOON	PIONEER PLATOON	TOTAL - HQ COY	HQ PLATOON	1 ST BATTAL PLATOON	CARRIAGE PLATOON	A/TK PLATOON	RIFLE - SUPPLY COY	HQ PLATOON	3 RIFLE PLS (Each)		TOTAL-RIFLE COY
Motor-cycles - Solo		1	3		6	1	2	2	1	6	2		2	10
Cars 2 seater, 4x2	1				1	1				1				2
Cars 4 seater, 4x2	1				1									1
Trucks 15 cwt 4x2 CB	1	3	3	1	48	1	3	2	1	7	3	3	3	24
Trucks 15 cwt 4x2 Water		1			1									1
Lorries 3 ton 4x2 CB		8		2	10	1				1				11
Trailer - Water		1			1								1	1
Carriers Universal							13			13	1		1	16
Carriers Mortar							5			5				5
Carriers Loyo								5		5				5

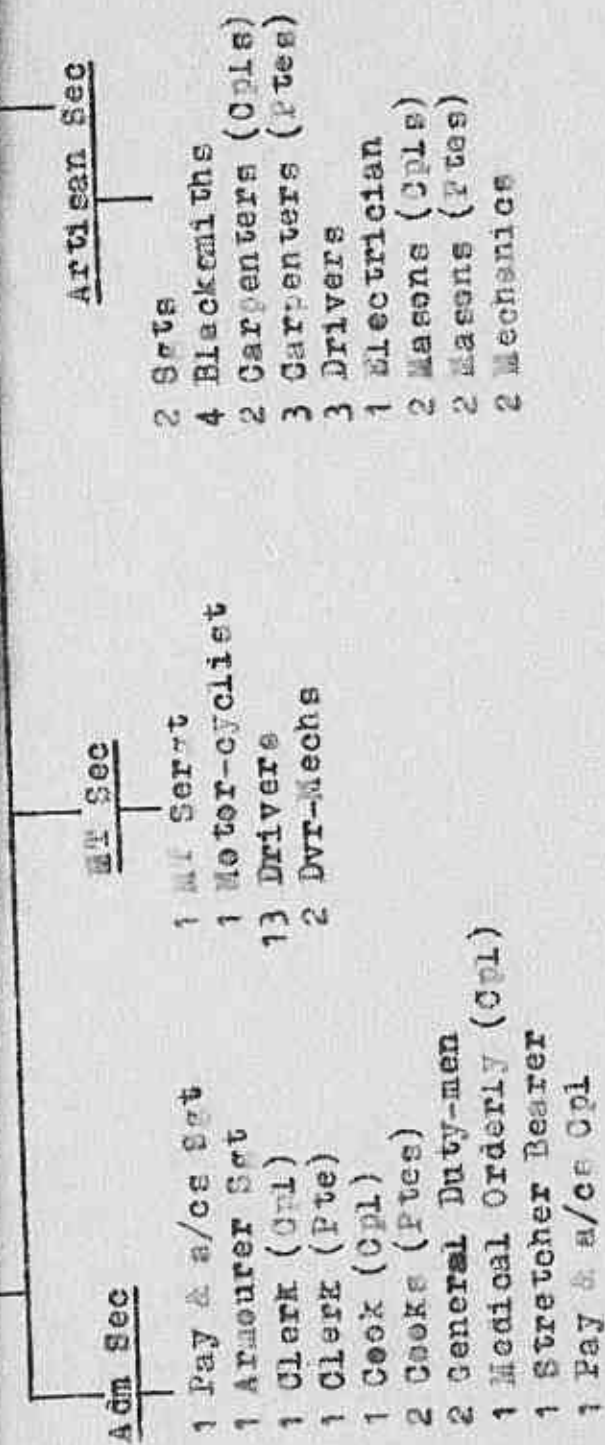
Diagram showing Organisation of the Infantry Battalion

APPX "B"



APPENDIX "C"

MODIFIED ORGANIZATION OF HQ COMPANY
OF THE INFANTRY BATTALION.



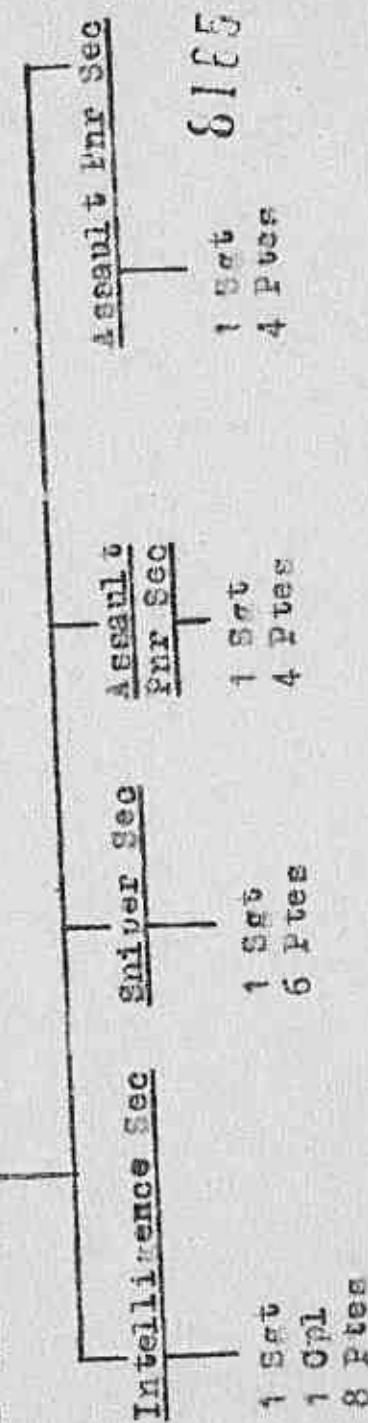
TOTAL - HQ PLATOON - 3 Officers, 51 Other Ranks

SIGNALS PLATOON 1 Subaltern - OC Signals Platoon

46 Other Ranks

TOTAL - SIGNALS PLATOON - 1 Officer, 46 Other Ranks.

COMPOSITE PLATOON 1 Subaltern (Pnr Offr) - OC Composite Pl



TOTAL - COMPOSITE PLATOON - 1 Officer, 27 Other Ranks

TOTAL FOR HQ COMPANY - 5 OFFICERS, 124 OTHER RANKS.

APPENDIX "G" (CONT'D)

NOTES ON MODIFIED ORGANISATION OF H. COMPANY.

1. In brief, the main differences from the official organisation are as follows:-

(a) HQ PLATOON - This is more an administrative platoon than an operational one, and therefore the Sniper and Intelligence Sections have been taken out of it and the Artisan Section of the Pioneer Platoon has been included in it.

This Platoon has 2 Subalterns - one is the OC Platoon and also the Bn AI Officer, and the other (transferred from Bn HQ) is the Bn CM.

(b) COMPOSITE PLATOON - This is an operational platoon and includes the 2 Assault Sections of Pioneers and the Sniper and Intelligence Sections. The Pioneer Officer will be the OC Pl for general administration. In operations the Pioneer Officer will command the 2 Assault Sections, and the Bn Intelligence Officer (Subaltern in Bn HQ) will be responsible for the work of the Intelligence and Sniper Sections.

2. It will be noted that the PIONEER Platoon as such has been dispensed with, the Artisan Section now being in the HQ Platoon and the Pioneer Officer and 2 Assault Sections being in the Composite Pl.

3. Except for the addition of 1 Subaltern from Bn HQ, this modified organisation involves no alteration in the strength of the Coy, but is merely a redistribution of the personnel within the Coy, and is of course applicable only in LEBNAHO Groups and must not be considered as an official amendment.

Subject :- Org of Inf Bn in Combat Gp.

51 British Liaison Unit

To :- M.M.I.A.

G 5/4

Copy - 50 BLU
52 BLU
53 BLU
56 BLU

Ref 53 BLU's G.3 - 11 of 28 Nov, please note that the following are my comments :-

1. Serial No 1

(a) I agree that the second M.O. is redundant.
(b) I agree that it is essential to have a Bn 2i/c. He should be an addition to the present W.E.

Serial No 2

(a) & (b) I consider that this is a matter of internal arrangement within the Gruppo. No necessity to amend the W.E.

Serial No 3 (a)

It is, of course, absurd to agree to the formation of Assault Sections to the Pioneer Pl and then give it NO means of vet. Jeeps are essential for this work. There are, I believe, no more available. I note that the Deposito Mobile has 4 jeeps. I have yet to see anyone from an Ordnance Field Park even remotely near the firing line and consider that jeeps might be taken from the Deposito Mobile. This however would only equip one Bn.

Carriers would be better than nothing but in my opinion, jeeps are essential for assault pioneers.

2. Scout Pl.

It was agreed by the W.E. Committee to delete the Scout Pl. The men were distributed to the Pioneer and Bn H.Q. I have already suggested to you that the surplus officer be used as a Liaison Officer with Regt H.Q. in a similar manner as all British Inf Bdes who have three Liaison officers. These have proved invaluable for passing of orders etc in battle.

The officers referred to are being used as I.Os in this Gruppo.

I now note that this officer is being offered by 55 B.L.U. to W.E. Committee in part exchange for the

6183

1. Serial No 1

(a)
(b)

I agree that the second M.C. is redundant.
I agree that it is essential to have a Bn
S1/c. He should be an addition to the
present W.E.

Serial No 2

(a) & (b)

I consider that this is a matter of internal
arrangement within the Gruppo. No necessity
to amend the W.E.

Serial No 5

(a)

It is, of course, absurd to agree to the
formation of Assault Sections to the Pnr
Pl and then give it NO means of tot. Jeeps
are essential for this work. There are, I
believe, no more available. I note that
the Deposito Mobile has 3 jeeps. I have
yet to see anyone from an Ordnance Field
Park even remotely near the firing line
and consider that jeeps might be taken
from the Deposito Mobile. This however
would only equip one Bn.

Carriers would be better than nothing
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and Bn H.Q. I have already suggested to you that the surplus
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manner as all British Inf Bdes who have three liaison officers.
These have proven invaluable for passing of orders etc in battle.

The officers referred to are being used
as I.Os in this Gruppo.

81f3

I now note that this officer is being
ordered by 33 B.I.U. to W.E. Committee in part exchange for the
Bn S1/c and presumably the vehicles for the Assault Pioneers.
This is unsound to my mind. I hope the necessity for I.Os will
be appreciated.

They will have to be provided and unless
they are supplied by the now surplus Scout Pl officers they will
be - by time honoured custom - taken from the ordinary W.E. of
the Inf Bn.

Field

11 Dec 44
BWWC/JB

Lieut Colonel
General Staff

B.W. Waller

Subject: Organisation of Inf Bn.

52 British Liaison Unit,
CAF.

20 Dec 44.

3/1/26.

Land Forces Sub Comm AC (MIA).

Reference your SS463 of 12 Dec and 53 BJU G3-12 of 7 Dec 44.

The following comments on these proposals are forwarded hereunder:-

1. Ref Serial 1(a) (Bn HQ) - Not agreed. Provided Medical Officers are available, there seems no objection to having 2, and there may often be sufficient work for both of them.
2. Ref Serial 1(b) (Bn HQ) - Agreed that the provision of a Bn 2 i/c is essential.
3. Ref Serial 1(c) (Bn HQ) - Agreed that one subaltern should be Intelligence Officer. Agreed that the second subaltern should be transferred to HQ Coy, and that he should be the Bn CM.
4. Ref Serial 2(a) (HQ Coy) - This proposal is not agreed. It can also be applied to the Coy Comds of the Rifle Coys and the Support Coy, who are all shown in the same way as HQ Coy Comd, i.e. in the HQ Pls. They are in the HQ Pls and do not command them - they obviously command all the Pls in their Coy. The HQ Pls are the equivalent of the British Coy HQs, and there seems no point in forming a separate Coy HQ in addition to the HQPl.
5. Ref Serial 2(b) (HQ Coy) - See also para 3 above. This proposal does not seem to warrant an official amendment to the HE. Sub division of the HQ Pl into 2 (or more) is probably a matter for domestic arrangement within the Bns. Also, it should be noted that snipers and "1" Sec are now officially part of HQ Pl.
6. Ref Serial 3 (Pnr Pl) - Not agreed. It is felt that in operations

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3. Ref Serial 1(c) (Bn HQ) - Agreed that one subaltern should be Intelligence Officer. Agreed that the second subaltern should be transferred to HQ Coy, and that he should be the Bn QM.
4. Ref Serial 2(a) (HQ Coy) - This proposal is not agreed. It can also be applied to the Coy Comds of the Rifle Coys and the Support Coy, who are all shown in the same way as HQ Coy Comd, i.e. in the HQ Pls. They are in the HQ Pls and do not command them - they obviously command all the Pls in their Coy. The HQ Pls are the equivalent of the British Coy HQs, and there seems no point in forming a separate Coy HQ in addition to the HQPl.
5. Ref Serial 2(b) (HQ Coy) - See also para 3 above. This proposal does not seem to warrant an official amendment to the PL. Sub division of the HQ Pl into 2 (or more) is probably a matter for domestic arrangement within the Bns. Also, it should be noted that snipers and "1" Sec are now officially part of HQ Pl.
6. Ref Serial 3 (Pnr Pl) - Not agreed. It is felt that in operations the 2 assault secs of the Pnr Pl can be carried in carriers from the Carrier Pl. and that additional carriers are not reqd. The assault sec should be 1 Art and 4 Pnr, and the Pnr Pl Comd could travel on the carrier with one or other of the Assault secs.

2.

- c. It is suggested that the subaltern who commanded the former Explorata Platoon, should be retained, and that he should be the Bn LO to the Rect HQ. (At present the Rect HQ does not include any Bn LOs.) He should be provided with M/C. Together with his vehicle and batman, he could be added to the WE of the Rect HQ.



Lt Col.
G.S.O.I.

IPL/SS.

Copy to: 53 British Liaison Unit.

8181

Subject: Organisation of Rifle Platoon52 Brit Liaison Unit,
Camp.

2 Dec 44.

HQ LEGNANO.

9/1/23.

1. The detail of the Rifle Platoon organisation demonstrated at the Tactical School CMTC is slightly different from that on which the Legnano Gruppo is now working.

2. The main differences are as follows:-

LEGNANO Gruppo.(a) Rifle Section.Rifle Group - 1 NCO and
4 privates.Bren Group - 1 NCO and
4 privates.Total 10.CMTCRifle Section

Rifle Group - 1 NCO and 6 private

Bren Group - 1 NCO and 2 private

Total 10.(b) Bren Group NCO

Team and 6 men.

(c) 2" Mortar GroupTotal mortar bombs
carried - 30.Bren Group NCO

Rifle and 50 rds.

2" Mortar Group

Total mortar bombs carried - 20.

In action, it does not matter very much whether Rifle Groups are 1 NCO and 4 or 1 NCO and 6. In nearly every case, the whole Section, and very often the whole Platoon (less possibly the Fire Section), will go in to the assault - the Bren runners firing from the hip and the other personnel of the Bren groups using their bayonets with the rest of the Section.

Our Platoon organisation of the Bren group of 1 NCO and 4 privates has the advantage of a plentiful supply of ammunition always with the gun.

3. When the 2 slight amendments (see para 4 below) have been made to our present organisation, this organisation will be firm and will be adopted throughout all Infantry Battalions within the Gruppo during the forthcoming training.

4. The following amendments are necessary:

(a) War Establishment of the Rifle Pl is 1 Officer and 41 ORs. Our present organisation is 1 Officer and 42 ORs.

8189

(a) Rifle Section.
 Rifle Group - 1 NCO and 5 private
 4 privates.
 Bren Group - 1 NCO and 2 privates
 4 privates.
Total 10.

(b) Bren Group NCO
 Rifle and 50 rds.
Total 10.

(c) 2" Mortar Group
 Total mortar bombs
 carried - 30.
 2" Mortar Group
 Total mortar bombs carried - 20

In action, it does not matter very much whether Rifle Groups are 1 NCO and 4 or 1 NCO and 6. In nearly every case, the whole Section, and very often the whole Platoon (less possibly the Fire Section), will go in to the assault - the Bren runners firing from the hip and the other personnel of the Bren groups using their bayonets with the rest of the Section.

Our Platoon organisation of the Bren group of 1 NCO and 4 privates has the advantage of a plentiful supply of ammunition always with the gun.

3. When the 2 slight amendments (see para 4 below) have been made to our present organisation, this organisation will be firm and will be adopted throughout all Infantry Battalions within the Gruppo during the forthcoming training.

4. The following amendments are necessary:

(a) War Establishment of the Rifle Pl is 1 Officer and 41 ORs. Our present organisation is 1 Officer and 42 ORs. Therefore, to conform to the WE numbers, the No 4 of the Bren group of the HQ Section will be deleted.

(b) In all Bren groups in the Rifle Pl the NCO 1/c and not the No 2 will carry the spare parts wallet.

5. Will you please ensure that it is clearly understood by the students attending the Junior Leaders Course at CMTC from 12-22 Dec that the organisation of the Rifle Pl which they will see demonstrated during the course is not to be adopted by them on return to their Bns.

Copy to: File G/3.

Major,
 GS011.

1169