

ACC

10000/136/483

10000/136/483

MMIA REPORTS
SEPT. 1946 - JAN. 1947

CONFIDENTIAL

JAN 11 1947

CONFIDENTIAL

LAND FORCES SUB COMMISSION A.C.

(M. M. I. A.)

Commander: Major General D.H. GOURBURN. DSO

Report No 37 - Activities during the month of December

1. YULI LOCAL ONE

Main HQ - Rome

(51 Officers)

Outstations

Type 'A' Liaison Unit

(6 Officers) at TURIN, MILAN, BOLZANO
FLORENCE, NAPLES, UDINE

Type 'B' Liaison Unit

(3 Officers) at GENOVA, BOLOGNA, ROMA,
LIVORNO, FLORENCE.

No 12 Liaison Unit

(11 Officers) at ROMA
85 Officers on establishment

2. SIRACUSI STATE

Strength state of the Italian Army as at 1st Dec 46 is as follows:

Actual Strength

US-III
IR-III
INTEGRAL ARMY
GARIBOLDI

4,044
75
119,567
65,494

3. ORG

There have been no alterations to ITALIAN War Establishments.

4. RD

(a) Engineer Stores required for training at the Engineer School
CIVILAVECCHIA have now been released by War Ministry from PAVIA
and are being collected.
No further progress in obtaining the Army held stores at CANTONIA.

(b) The set of RAILWAY Porters Equipment released from ESED MESSE for
the Engineer School is now being collected.

(c) There is no question now of moving the Specialist Bn. of the
Engineer School to ROMA.

5. SIGS

8253-1/4

057

Main HQ - Rome

(1 Office)

Outstations

Type 'A' Liaison Unit

(6 Officers) at PERIM, MILAN, SOLEMANO
STONAVOL, M. P. LUG, UDINE

Type 'B' Liaison Unit

(3 Officers) at S. V. A. BOLZANO, ROMA,
LUGLI, P. L. P. LUG.

No 12 Liaison Unit

(11 Officers) at ROMA
25 Officers on establishment2. STRENGTH

Strength state of the Italian Army as at 1st Dec 46 is as follows:

Actual Strength

US-III	4,041
IN-III	75
IN-III	119,367
IN-III	65,154

3. ORG

There have been no alterations to Italian War Establishments.

4. RE

(a) Engineer Stores required for training at the Engineer School CIVITAVECCHIO, have now been released by War Ministry from PAVI. and are being collected.

No further progress in obtaining Mac ALAN held stores at CANCELLO.

(b) The set of BAILEY Pontoon Equipment released from 53RD ALSTRE for the Engineer School is now being collected.

(c) There is no question now of moving the Specialist Bn. of the Engineer School to ROMA.

5. SHCS

(a) Training of Signal Tradesmen at Italian School of Signal is progressing satisfactorily, as is also, the re-building and re-conditioning of class rooms and mess room.

(b) Visits to Signal School and War Ministry have been successful and suggestions for improvement of training were made.

...../2

(2)

8253-1/4

057

6. CC.RR.

(a) Organisation.

The strength of CC.RR. on 30 November 46 was 65,494, this increase being mainly due to a large intake of recruits. During November 1,120 recruits were enlisted and a further 1,300 are being enlisted. It is gratifying to note that recruiting is progressing more satisfactorily and it may be taken as an indication of the markedly improved prestige of the CC.RR. in the public eye.

(b) Expiration.

The Expiration Committees are working hard to complete their task and despite the difficulties of obtaining evidence, a considerable number of cases are dealt with. During October and November the following cases were dealt with:-

38 Officers: 36 acquitted, 1 discharged, 1 referred to higher authority.
607 NCOs : 24 discharged, remainder acquitted.

It will be observed that the Committee's decisions appear lenient. However for the majority of cases active collaboration with the enemy did not exist.

(c) Training.

The course for would be NCOs commenced at FLORENCE on 15 Nov. 46 and is being attended by 700 CC.RR. 2,400 recruits are undergoing training at ROBE, FURTH, BARI, and CASLIERI.

(d) Transport.

During the month ending 25 Dec 46, 30 L/Cs, 3 H/Cs and 1 P/V were released to CC.RR. The improvement in CC.RR. transport situation due to action taken by MILA with the Ministry of War can be seen from the following table:-

	H/O	P/V	L/C	A/C	O/V
31 March 1946	1596	746	493	28	23
30 November 1946.	1925	910	1050	166	22
W.E.	2731	1006	2239	168	56

The figures do not give a true picture of the improvement because number of the vehicles held on 31 March have since become BLR or have been re-requisitioned. It is also pointed out that on 31 March, only 61.3% of the total vehicles were efficient. On 30 Nov 46, 80.8% were efficient. This is due not only to increased and command workshops but also

The Epuration Committees are working hard to complete their task and despite the difficulties of obtaining evidence, a considerable number of cases are dealt with. During October and November the following cases were dealt with:-

38 Officers: 36 acquitted, 1 discharged, 1 referred to higher authority.
607 NCOs : 24 discharged, remainder acquitted.

It will be observed that the Committee's decisions appear lenient. However for the majority of cases active collaboration with the enemy did not exist.

(c) Training.

The course for would be NCOs commenced at FLORENCE on 15 Nov. 46 and is being attended by 700 CC.RR. 2,400 recruits are undergoing training at ROME, FURIN, BARI, and CASERTA.

(d) Transport.

During the month ending 25 Dec 46, 30 L/Cs, 3 M/Cs and 1 P/V were released to CC.RR. The improvement in CC.RR. transport situation due to action taken by MIA with the Ministry of War can be seen from the following table:-

	N/O	P/V	L/O	A/O	956 O/V
31 March 1945	1596	746	453	26	23
30 November 1945	1925	910	1050	166	22
W.E.	2731	1006	2239	166	56

The figures do not give a true picture of the improvement because a number of the vehicles held on 31 March have since become BIR or have been re-quisitioned. It is also pointed out that on 31 March, only 61.5% of the total vehicles were efficient. On 30 Nov 46, 80.9% were efficient. This is due not only to increased services being provided by Territorial Command workshops but also by the training of CC.RR. as mechanics and the installation of workshops in the Legions themselves. Although it will be seen that the NCOs have not nearly been reached, at least CC.RR. have been enabled to get out of the impasse in which they were before MIA took control and their almost dependence on civil transport has been greatly reduced and in some cases eliminated. CC.RR. greatly appreciate the improved situation which has strengthened their morale and added to their prestige.

...../3.

(13)

(e) Communications

CHQ HQND is now connected by wireless to the following Legion
HQS: 1

Turin
Milan
Bologna
Florence
Naples
Catanzaro
Messina

w/r equipment is now being installed at PALESTINO. The high power transmitter and generator have now been brought from the ex Polish Depot at IESI and are being installed at GND.

(f) Arms and Ammunition.

The 3,300 MATTING automatic pistols assigned to CC.RR have been allocated to various Legions. They are at present being collected from the Detached Artillery Section at BRASOLA. A further assignment of 3,300 pistols has been made to CC.RR. The latter have already been detached from the BRASOLA factory to the Ministry of War.

(v) Public Utility.

the public safety situation in BULGARIA has very greatly improved and this is largely due to the skillful employment of the Mobile Bns. under the command of Col. BOUMIAK (CO. PR. BULOGLIA Legion).

7. MENTION.

(a) The Italian Medical Store at TUNICCA continues to receive quantities of captured stores from ALLIED sources.

(b) (5) DPP

3 cases of typhus fever were reported as having occurred amongst military personnel at LAIBMO during November. 5,244 were occupied on 30 NOV.45. or 10,047 hospital beds occupied. 025

CO. I. P.O.

(a)	Numerical state of repatriation	No. of ICW at beginning of repatriation (b)	No. repatriated during December (c)	No. still to be repatriated (d)
(e)	Country Holding			

W/T equipment is now being installed at PALERMO. The high power transmitter and generator have now been brought from the ex-Polish Depot at IESI and are being installed at GIG.

(F) Arm and Ammunition.

The 3,300 MORTAR automatic pistols assigned to CC.RR have been allocated to various Legions. They are at present being collected from the Detached Artillery Section at BUESCIA. A further assignment of 5,500 pistols has been made to CC.RR. The latter have already been detached from the BUESCIA factory to the Ministry of War.

(G) Public Safety.

The public safety situation in ILLIT has very greatly improved and this is largely due to the skilful employment of the Mobile Bus, under the command of Col. ECKHA(CC.RR. POLOGNA Legion).

7. MEDICAL.

(a) The ITALIAN Medical Store at PLEBENE continues to receive quantities of captured stores from ALLIED sources.

(b) HEALTH

3 cases of Typhus fever were reported as having occurred amongst military personnel at PALERMO during November. Of 10,047 hospital beds equipped, 5,244 were occupied on 30 NOV. 46.

8. I. POW.

(a) Numerical state of repatriation

Country Holding	No. of IPW at beginning of repatriation (b)	No. repatriated during December (c)	No. still to be repatriated (a)
BRITISH	393,065	21,229	19,418
OTHERS	827,300	2,747	7,868
GRAND TOTAL	1,350,136+	25,975	27,286
+ Includes 123,751 US held - now repatriated.			

(b) Policy and Planning.

Agreement was reached with GUK. ILLIT for the return of 2,300 IFCW who were voluntarily deferred for six months; these POW will be available at PORT SAID in early January and will be picked up by ITALIAN shipping in two lifts, probably 10 and 20 January. Nearly 24,000 IFCW were repatriated during the month of December; most of these were from various parts of the BRITISH EMPIRE. It is estimated that only 20,000 IFCW are now in BRITISH hands and that they will be returned to ITALY by late February or early March. A further 2,000 IFCW were returned from YUGOSLAVIA during December; it is reported that these men arrived in fairly good condition.

(c) Finance.

During the month of December 1946 the remittance passed through this office by IFCW held in BRITISH custody, to their families, totalled £1,266. Statements of account in respect of ITALIAN FWA repatriated from BRITISH custody, amounting to £2,000, were forwarded to the ITALIAN Government for payment.

Following ASAC or are since December 1946, no more matters concerning IFCWs or US custody will be dealt with by this office.

10 Jan 46.
ter

Major General.
GOC. MIL.
CS

Distribution: War Office MIL LONDON - 1
Exe. Commission, AS. - 45
Soviet Representative - 1
1-12 MIL

Internal: : PA to GOC - 1
: Day Comd - 1
: Historical Reports - 2
: Circulators - 2

054

they will be returned to Italy by late February or early March. A further 5,000 IPGW were returned from UGOSIA/IA during December; it is remarked that these men arrived in fairly good condition.

(c) Finance.

During the month of December 1946 the redoubts passed through this office by IPGW held in BRITISH custody, to their families, totalled 21,266. Statements of account in respect of IPGWs repatriated from BRITISH custody, amounting to 22,266, were forwarded to the ITALIAN Government for payment.

Following AFHQ orders since December 1st 46, no more matters concerning IPGWs or US custody will be dealt with by this office.

10 Jan 46.
tor

Major General.
GOC. MIL.

Distribution: War Office LIA LONDON - 1
Exo. Commissioner, AG. - 45
Soviet Representative - 1
1- 12 Blue 12

Internal. : Pa to GOC
Dep Comd
Historical Section
Circulators

054

121

CONFIDENTIAL

LAND FORCES SUB COMMISSION, A.C.

(M.M.I.A.)

Commander: Major General, E.H. GOULBURN, D.S.O.

REPORT No 35 - Activities during month of October

1. MMIA LOCATIONS

Main HQ - ROME

(39 Offrs)

Outstations

Type 'A' Liaison Units

(6 Offrs) at TURIN, MILAN, BOLZANO,
FLORENCE, NAPLES, UDINE

Type 'B' Liaison Units

(3 Offrs) at GENOA, BOLOGNA, ROME,
BARI, PALERMO

No 12 Liaison Unit

(16 Offrs) at ROME

106 Offrs on Establishment

2. STRENGTH STATE

Strength State of the Italian Army as at 1st Oct is as follows:-

	<u>Ceiling</u>	<u>WE</u>	<u>Actual Strength</u>
US-ITI	85,000	4,651	4,433
BR-ITI	107,000	160	118
INTERIM ARMY	140,000	125,712	136,474
CARABINIERI	75,000	75,000	63,654
			053

3. DISBANIMENT (BR-ITI)

(a) 474 Mobile Workshops have now been disbanded. This leaves three BR-ITI Units. Numbers of personnel have not altered, as those disbanded have been sent to 832 and 833 S/L detachments.

361 Pool of Liaison officers remains at a strength of 30.

(b) With effect from Nov 5, HQ Central Military Schools will cease to exist. The Administrative functions concerned will be taken over by No 8 Territorial Command HQ, while the

2253-1/CC

CC
NOV 15 1946

1. UNIT LOCATIONS

Main HQ - ROME (39 Offrs)

Outstations

Type 'A' Liaison Units (6 Offrs) at TURIN, MILAN, BOLZANO, FLORENCE, NAPLES, UDINE

Type 'B' Liaison Units (3 Offrs) at GENOA, BOLOGNA, ROME, BARI, PALERMO

No 12 Liaison Unit (16 Offrs) at ROME

106 Offrs on Establishment

2. STRENGTH STATE

Strength State of the Italian Army as at 1st Oct is as follows:-

	<u>Ceiling</u>	<u>VE</u>	<u>Actual Strength</u>
US-ITI	85,600	4,651	4,433
BR-ITI	107,000	160	118
INTERIM ARMY	140,000	125,712	136,474
CARABINIERI	75,000	75,000	63,654

053

3. DISBANDMENT (BR-ITI)

(a) 471 Mobile Workshops have now been disbanded. This leaves three BR-ITI Units. Numbers of personnel have not altered, as those disbanded have been sent to 832 and 833 S/L detachments.

861 Pool of Liaison officers remains at a strength of 30.

(b) With effect from Nov 5, HQ Central Military Schools will cease to exist. The Administrative functions concerned will be taken over by No 8 Territorial Command HQ, while the Training side will be the responsibility of the various Inspectorates.

The School of Cooperation will come directly under S.M.E.

(c) W/Es

An Infantry Inspectorate has been formed - the Establishment has been decided on and passed, and will be issued when printed.

2/.....

4. G Branch

4. Developments and activities of this section during the month are as follows:

- (a) All Engra Stores in the I.R.S.D.D. at Cencello were handed over by G.H.Q. to A.R.A.R.
- (b) An Italian Engra Officer visited the Depot at Cencello and noted Ingr equipment available. The War Ministry were given first list of stores etc. for which they should bid before disposal by A.R.A.R. begins
- (c) The consignment of Signal stores received from PONTICAGNANO during July is in process of being distributed. 557 E.O.D. Sub-Depots at PONTICAGNANO and LA PICCOLA were visited on 23 and 25 Oct and 1st and 2nd Nov with a rep of the "Direzione Generale del Genio" in order to earmark the signal equipment which the Italian Army will take before A.R.A.R. begins to sell in the civilian market. A working party under an Italian officer is now engaged in concentrating this material so that it can quickly be moved to Rome when the release is received.

- (b) Permission has been received from G.H.Q. to dispose of all messages and letters of classifications CONFIDENTIAL and below to the D.M. via the Italian Ministry of War Signal Office. The Ministry has already agreed to grant the necessary facilities. A.R. Signals WOC will be on duty at the Ministry of War Signal Office from 0800 to 1800 hrs daily in order to maintain a separate Signal Register and to facilitate the rectification of errors in routing etc.

6. CC.RR.Organisation

- (a) The strength of CC. at 30 Nov 46 was 63,654, a decrease of nearly 400 on the previous month's figure. The hope of reaching anything in the neighbourhood of the W/L is very faint, and it becomes more and more obvious that under the present circumstances the maximum figure likely to be achieved is 65,000, the old W/L. Beside unemployment and poverty, this service which offers free food and clothing still only attracts the poor peasant class of Southern Italy, whose standard of living is very low. Unless the pay is substantially increased, it seems probable that the loss due to releases etc., will soon exceed the intake of new recruits.

Communications

- (b) The training of personnel in W/L and the installation of equipment continues to make good progress under the direction of Col Celli, himself a wireless enthusiast. G.H.Q. is now in communication with Genoa and Turin, and it is hoped that Milan will soon be brought onto the net. Difficulties due

5. (a) The consignment of Signal stores received from POFISCAKIANO during July is in process of being distributed. 557 B.O.D. Sub-Depots at POFISCAKIANO and LA FIORELLA were visited on 23 and 25 Oct and 1st and 2nd Nov with a rep of the "Direzio Generalo del Genio" in order to remark the signal equipment which the Italian Army will take before A.R.A.R. begins to sell in the civilian market. A working party under an Italian officer is now engaged in concentrating this material so that it can quickly be moved to Rome when the release is received.
- (b) Permission has been received from G.H.Q. to dispose of all messages and letters of classifications CONFIDENTIAL and below to the DMOs via the Italian Ministry of War Signal Office. The Ministry has already agreed to grant the necessary facility. A.R. Signals VCO will be on duty at the Ministry of War Signal Office from 0800 to 1800 hrs daily in order to maintain a separate Signal Register and to facilitate the rectification of errors in routing etc.

6. CC.RR.

Organisation

- (a) The strength of CC. at 30 Sep 46 was 63,65, a decrease of nearly 400 on the previous month's figure. The hope of reaching anything in the neighbourhood of the W/I is very faint, and it becomes more and more obvious that under the present circumstances the maximum figure likely to be achieved is 65,000, the old W/I. Despite unemployment and poverty, this service which offers free food and clothing still only attracts the poor peasant class of Southern Italy, whose standard of living is very low. Unless the pay is substantially increased, it seems probable that the loss due to releases etc., will soon exceed the intake of new recruits.

Communications

- (b) The training of personnel in W/I and the installation of equipment continues to make good progress under the direction of Col Gulli, himself a wireless enthusiast. G.H.Q. is now in communication with Genoa and Turin, and it is hoped that Milan will soon be brought onto the net. Difficulties due to the lack of power of the transmitter at Rome will be overcome by the installation of a high power transmitter assigned to CC. from the Polish Ordnance Depot, Iesi. Very little progress is reported in the extension of telephone facilities between stations and HQs, the main difficulty being lack of funds.

3/.....

(2)

6 (Contd)

(c) Of all transport held by CC., 30.25% are efficient. Of those inefficient, the chief cause is lack of tyres and tubes. CC. are now purchasing tyres direct from Firelli. An order has been placed for 900 tyres and tubes and it is expected that they will be received shortly.

Armoured Cars

(d) The 20 Magdounds in workshops are still off the road.

Arms and Ammunition

(e) 1100 Beretta pistols have been assigned to CC. by the War Ministry. This still leaves a deficiency of 50,328 against entitlement.

Ammunition generally is in short supply.

CC. has now received its full quota of 338 SIGs in the proportion of one to every four men, excluding the Mobile Battalions which have one per man.

Morale

(f) One small matter, as it may appear, has caused bitterness and dissatisfaction throughout CC. This is the application of the "Premio delle Repubbliche" an award of 3,000 lire to all employees. CC. received 1,500 lire only, and even this was scaled down in the case of single men. CC. regard the "Premio" as a gift to employees to mark the founding of the Republic, and consider it should be given to all, irrespective of their economic conditions, or such considerations as free clothing and rations.

7. MEDICAL NOTES

The Italian Medical Stores at MONTENAPOLI are still receiving quantities of captured stores from Allied sources.

About 70 tons were received during the month and are now being priced and handed over to the Italian Army.

A quantity of Italian Medical Mobilization Equipment and captured (German) Medical Equipment at MONTENAPOLI, remains to be sent to FLORENCE.

Visit. DADME visited 1,2,3,4,7 Territorial Commands during the period 26th to 31st Oct. 46.

8. POW

(a) Numerical State of Repatriation

Country holding	No of POWs at beginning of repatriation		No still to be repatriated	
	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
BRITISH				35
England & Scotland		158,029		-
North Africa		45,152		13,031

(d) The 20 Staghounds in workshops are still off the road.

Arms and Ammunition

(e) 1400 Beretta pistols have been assigned to CC. by the War Ministry. This still leaves a deficiency of 50,328 against entitlement.

Ammunition generally is in short supply.

CC. has now received its full quota of 138 SMGs in the proportion of one to every four men, excluding the Mobile Battalions which have one per man.

Morale

(f) One small matter, as it may appear, has caused bitterness and dissatisfaction throughout CC. This is the application of the "Premio della Repubblica" an award of 5,000 lire to all employees. CC. received 1,500 lire only, and even this was scaled down in the case of single men. CC. regard the "Premio" as a gift to employees to mark the founding of the Republic, and consider it should be given to all, irrespective of their economic conditions, on such considerations as free clothing and rations.

7. MEDICAL STORES

The Italian Medical Stores at FLORENCE are still receiving quantities of captured stores from allied sources.

About 70 tons were received during the month and are now being priced and handed over to the Italian Army.

A quantity of Italian Medical Mobilization Equipment and captured (German) Medical Equipment at MILANO, remains to be sent to ^{0.1}

Visit. DADMS visited 1,2,3,4,7 Territorial Commands during the period 20th to 31st Oct. 45.

8. PCW

(a) Numerical State of Repatriation

Country holding	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
	No of PWs at beginning of repatriation	No repatriated during October	No still to be repatriated.	
BRITISH				
England & Scotland	158,029	-	-	35
North Africa	45,152	-	-	-
East Africa	42,857	4,946	13,031	-
West Africa	1,000	-	-	-
South Africa	40,285	891	14,741	-
Middle East	58,520	-	-	-
India	33,302	499	5,924	-
Australia	17,657	2,796	13,728	-
Gibraltar	541	-	15	-
Persia	2,000	-	-	-
TOTAL	397,343	8,222	47,474	

4/.....

- 4 -

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
(Contd) TOTAL	397,343	8,922	47,474
<u>OTHERS</u>			
French N. Africa	37,300	8	7,487
Russia	20,000	-	-
Germany & Switzerland	635,000	-	-
France	35,000	35	9,560
Balkans	100,000		
TOTAL	827,300	43	17,047
GRAND TOTAL	1,348,394 +	8,965	64,521

+ Includes 123,751 U.S. held - now repatriated.

(b) (i) Although reports in the Heel are now closed to Allied shipping generally, authority has been obtained for all ships carrying Italian POW to off-load at Naples

(ii) Reports received through Italian reps in London indicate that a plan has been formed for the mass repatriation of the remaining 48,000 IPW. No official information has yet been received from the British War Office. The report received states that it is planned to complete repatriation from India by mid-December and to repatriate 70% of the remainder by the end of February 1947.

11 Nov 1946
/sb

DISTRIBUTION: War Office HQ 4 LONDON
Executive Commissioner AC
Soviet Representative AC
1 - 12 BLUG

1
- 45
- 1
- 12

W. G. C.
Major General, GOC, MIA

Russia	20,000	8	7.487
Germany & Switzerland	635,000	-	-
France	35,000	-	-
Balkans	100,000	35	9.560
TOTAL	827,300	43	17.047
GRAND TOTAL	1,348,394 +	8,965	64.521

+ Includes 123,751 U.S. held - now repatriated.

(b) (i) Although ports in the Aegean are now closed to Allied shipping generally, authority has been obtained for all ships carrying Italian PW to off-load at Naples.

(ii) Reports received through Italian reps in London indicate that a plan has been formed for the mass repatriation of the remaining 48,000 IPW.

No official information has yet been received from the British War Office. The report received states that it is planned to complete repatriation from India by mid-December and to repatriate 70% of the remainder by the end of February 1947.

12 Nov 1946
/sb

Major General, GOC, MIA
Major General,
GOC, MIA

DISTRIBUTION: War Office MI 4 LONDON
Executive Commissioner AC
Soviet Representative AC
1 - 12 BLUs

INTERNAL : PA to GOC
Dep Comd
Circulators

(2)

CONFIDENTIAL

LAND FORCES SUB COMMISSION, A.C.

(M N I A)

Commander: Major General E.H. GOULBURN, D.S.O.

REPORT NO 33 - Activities during month of August

For easy reference activities are grouped under subject headings.

1. MMA LOCATIONS

Main HQ - ROME

Outstations

Type 'A' Liaison Units (6 Offrs) at TURIN, MILAN, BOLZANO, FLORENCE, NAPLES, UDINE

Type 'B' Liaison Units (3 Offrs) at GENOA, BOLOGNA, ROME, BARI, PALERMO

No 12 Liaison Unit (16 Offrs) at ROME

2. ITALIAN ARMY STRENGTHS

	<u>Ceiling</u>	<u>WE</u>	<u>Actual Strength</u>
US-ITI	83,000	4,485	4,378
BR-ITI	107,000	377	442
INTERIM ARMY	140,000	129,060	109,340
Carabinieri	75,000	75,000	64,120

3. ORG(a) the following W/E have been approved:-Survey Unit
HQ M.T. Units - SME

Units are gradually transferring to the new W/E, but owing to eqpt shortage at the moment, this will take some time to complete.

(b) Br-Iti Disbandments
During the month the u/m units have been disbanded:-

8253-1/cc

029

8253-1/cc

029

1. MMIA LOCATIONS

Main HQ - ROME

OutstationsType 'A' Liaison Units (6 Offrs) at TURIN, MILAN, BOLZANO, FLORENCE,
NAPLES, UDINE

Type 'B' Liaison Units (3 Offrs) at GENOA, BOLOGNA, ROME, BARI, PALERMO

No 12 Liaison Unit (16 Offrs) at ROME

2. ITALIAN ARMY STRENGTHS

	<u>Ceiling</u>	<u>WE</u>	<u>Actual Strength</u>
US-ITI	83,000	4,485	4,378
BR-ITI	107,000	377	412
INTERIM ARMY	140,000	129,060	109,340
Carabinieri	75,000	75,000	64,120

3. ORG(a) the following W/E have been approved:-Survey Unit
HQ M.T. Units - SME

Units are gradually transferring to the new W/E, but owing to eqpt shortage at the moment, this will take some time to complete.

(b) Br-Iti Disbandments
During the month the u/m units have been disbanded:-HQ 840 Static S/L Coy
844 Static S/L Pl

861 Pool of Liaison Offrs has been reduced from 119 Offrs to 30.

This now leaves four Br-Iti Units in existence.

...../2

①

- 2 -

(c) General

A new Orbat has now been completed, and is expected to be issued in the very near future.

On Aug 8 and 9 the "six monthly" BUU conference was held - full minutes were published and sent to all concerned.

4. TRG(a) General

An Italian Mobile Trg Team has been formed to carry out inspection of trg methods employed at CARs, Schools and Centres with the object of improving and standardizing instruction and employment of time. This team was trained by 13 Corps, on the lines of British Mobile Teams.

(b) CARs

The trg of the second intake of recruits is now in progress. The "call-up" was satisfactory.

GSO I Trg visited the CAR at OMO and reported that the trg and administration were satisfactory.

(c) Schools

Progress continues to be made at all schools.

Recent releases of trg eqpt and technical stores have added considerably to the standard of instruction.

(d) Div R

GSO I Trg inspected the trg being carried out by the 6th and 8th Alpini Divs in Nos 4 and 5 Terr Comd.

Units were seen on pl exercises and on individual trg in rock climbing and specialised Alpini trg. The standard of morale was excellent, high, and reflected on the extreme keenness shown by all ranks to work under most arduous mountain conditions. British Arms were in process of being distributed down to Bn level, and all ranks showed an enthusiastic interest in their new weapons.

5. Carabinieri(a) Activities

Representations have been made to the Ministry of War regarding the slow delivery of eqpt of all types to CC, and a considerable improvement has resulted. Another matter which has been taken up is the neglect of Legions South of Rome. Steps have been taken to ensure that in future these "poor cousin" Legions will receive their fair share of releases of eqpt etc.

(b) Organisation

CC wish to increase the number of Legions on the grounds that some of the existing Legions are unwieldy, e.g. Naples city would consist of one Legion, and a new Legion would be formed to supervise the four provinces previously administered from Naples. The scheme does not have much to recommend it in that it merely entails superimposing a new "Commandi Legione" over already existing "Comandanti Legione".

Q58

- (a) General
An Italian Mobile Trg Team has been formed to carry out inspection of trg methods employed at CARs, Schools and Centres with the object of improving and standardizing instruction and employment of time. This team was trained by 13 Corps, on the lines of British Mobile Teams.
- (b) CARs
The trg of the second intake of recruits is now in progress. The "call-up" was satisfactory.
GSO I Trg visited the CAR at COMO and reported that the trg and administration were satisfactory.
- (c) Schools
Progress continues to be made at all Schools.
Recent releases of trg egpt and technical stores have added considerably to the standard of instruction.
- (d) Div 21
GSO Trg inspected the trg being carried out by the 6th and 8th Alpini Regts in Nos 4 and 5 Terr Comd.
Units were seen on pl exercises and on individual trg in rock climbing and specialised alpini trg. The standard of morale was excellent, very high, and reflected on the extreme keenness shown by all ranks to work under most arduous mountain conditions. British Arms were in process of being distributed down to Bn level, and all ranks showed an enthusiastic interest in their new weapons.

5. Carabinieri

- (a) Activities
Representations have been made to the Ministry of War regarding the slow delivery of egpt of all types to CC, and a considerable improvement has resulted. Another matter which has been taken up is the neglect of Legions South of Rome. Steps have been taken to ensure that in future these "poor cousin" Legions will receive their fair share of releases of egpt etc.
- (b) Organisation
CC wish to increase the number of Legions on the grounds that some of the existing Legions are unwieldy, e.g. Naples city would consist of one Legion, and a new Legion would be formed to supervise the four provinces previously controlled from Naples. The scheme does not have much to recommend it in that it merely entails superimposing a new "Comandi Legione" over already existing groups, companies etc. It is not thought that this scheme will succeed owing to the additional expense involved.
- (c) Comm
No 19 IP Sets with accumulators etc have now arrived and the W/I egpt is at last complete. Courses have been started and 48 men are under instruction.

...../3

①

(d) Tpt

Since the last monthly report a considerable improvement of releases of tpt has been made. 112 vehicles of all classes were released in July, and up to 25 Aug 46, 62 have been released. Some Legions, notably Milan, has M in excess of W/E. These Legions will have to surrender their surplus to other Legions with little MT, and arrangements are being made to this end.

(e) Arms and Amn

No Beretta pistols Mod. 34 have been received but 5,000 have been delivered to the Ministry of War and assigned to CC. 1,800 Beretta Mitra have been received and are being distributed. There is still a shortage of nearly 7,000. Ministry of War have been asked to make available 28 Staghound ACs as a reserve for CC.

(f) Morale

No change since last report.

(g) Trr

A course has been started at Rome for training a number of men in the use of the mine detector, a consignment of which has been received.

(h) General

The total strength of CC is 63,109 (31 July 46). This shows a decrease of 1,011 on the previous month's total. It is obvious that recruitment is making little headway. The main causes of this failure are poor pay and uncertainty as to the future of the Corps. GHQ, CC take a more optimistic view and regard the falling off of recruiting as only temporary.

6. ADA(a) Retirement

The Decree in force for the compulsory and voluntary retirement of surplus officers is likely to be implemented any time after 17 Sep. Officers who wish to retire voluntarily were given three months in which to make application, these three months are up on the 17 Sep. It is understood that a number will be compulsorily retired before any applications for voluntary retirement are considered.

(b) Demobilisation & Call-up

The demobilisation for some 67,000 men was scheduled for Aug, these consisted of approximately 52,000 of the 1922 and 23 classes, 4,000 of the 1924 class, 11,000 old soldiers of the 1925 class. With this demobilisation the strength of the Army fell below the 140,000 ceiling allowed, but will be brought back to a little under full strength with the call up during Aug of 42,000 of the 1925 class.

(c) Public Relations

As a result of a report from Turin that public relations as between the Army and the local press were bad, representation was made to the Ministry of War. The Ministry sent to Turin an officer of the Press, and Propaganda Office, to collaborate with the local Military Terr Comd, with good results.

- (f) Morale
No change since last report.
- (g) Mr.
A course has been started at Rome for training a number of men in the use of the mine detector, a consignment of which has been received.
- (h) General
The total strength of CC is 63,109 (31 July 46). This shows a decrease of 1,011 on the previous month's total. It is obvious that recruitment is making little headway. The main causes of this failure are poor pay and uncertainty as to the future of the Corps. GHQ, CC take a more optimistic view and regard the falling off of recruiting as only temporary.

6. ADM.

- (a) Retirement
The Decree in force for the compulsory and voluntary retirement of surplus officers is likely to be implemented any time after 17 Sep. Officers who wish to retire voluntarily were given three months in which to make application, these three months are up on the 17 Sep. It is understood that a number will be compulsorily retired before any applications for voluntary retirement are considered.
- (b) Demobilisation & Call-up
The demobilisation for some 67,000 men was scheduled for Aug, these consisted of approximately 52,000 of the 1922 and 23 classes, 4,000 of the 1924 class, 11,000 old soldiers of the 1925 class. With this demobilisation the strength of the Army fell below the 140,000 ceiling allowed, but will be brought back to a little under full strength with the call up during Aug of 42,000 of the 1925 class.
- (c) Public Relations
As a result of a report from Turin that public relations as between the Army and the local press were bad, representation was made to the Ministry of War. The Ministry sent to Turin an officer of the Press, and Propaganda Office, to collaborate with the local Military Terr Comd, with good results.

7. SIGNALS

Good progress continues to be made at the Italian School of Signals, Cecchignola.

The Signal Controlled Stores situation is still in process of being sorted out. Full details will be given when a complete census is available of the stores received from JOD and subsequently issued to the various subordinate formations. It can be stated now, however, that no serious shortages are anticipated,

4

7. SIGNALS (cont'd)

The question of nomenclature of signal trades has been discussed with the Ispettorato del Genio and full agreement has been reached.

It has been decided that the Italian Ministry of War will assume responsibility for codes and code-signs in the Italian Army w.e.f. 1 Oct 46. The necessary books and documents have been prepared by the Ministry or are in the course of preparation.

8. ENGR

(a) Representation was made by Comd S.M.E. concerning the inadequate state of MT at the School for fulfilling administrative and trg needs. This resulted in the School being allotted 3 more Italian lorries and the situation has now improved.

(b) A proposal that the new site for the S.M.E. should be at S. BAUDIL was turned down at the War Ministry for the reason that the barracks at Sabaudia were to be reserved for the Artillery. The site for the S.M.E. has been provisionally fixed for CAPUA.

(c) Approx 90 tons of Engr Stores were drawn during the month from the E.S.B.D. at Cancelli and issued to the S.M.E. on "call" to provide sufficient trg stores for recruit and other courses.

(d) Two sets each of Bailey Bridge were issued to the Engr Bns of the "Folgore" and "Friuli" Divs to make good requirements.

(e) The new W/E for the Div Engr Bn can be expected in print shortly. A big deficiency in junior offrs will exist when stage two of the formation of separate Engr and Signal Corps is implemented. So far, it appears, no plan has been made for providing the necessary Offrs.

9. MEDICAL

(a) Medical Stores 956
The Italian Medical Stores at Florence continue to receive stores from CMF, MEF and East African Comd. During month approx 20 tons of stores were handed over to the Italians. All machinery at Merano has now been sent to Florence, a large quantity of medical stores still remain to be sent to Florence.

(b) Health Notes
Of 11,581 beds available 6,210 were occupied on 30 July 46.

(c) Visits
The DADM visited Nos 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 Terr Comds during the period 20 to 31 Aug 46.

8. ENGR

- (e) Representation was made by Comd S.M.E. concerning the inadequate state of MT at the School for fulfilling administrative and trg needs. This resulted in the School being allotted 3 more Italian lorries and the situation has now improved.
- (b) A proposal that the new site for the S.M.E. should be at SABAUDIA was turned down at the War Ministry for the reason that the barracks at Sabaudia were to be reserved for the Artillery. The site for the S.M.E. has been provisionally fixed for CAPUA.
- (c) Approx 90 tons of Engr Stores were drawn during the month from the E.S.B.D. at Cancelllo and issued to the S.M.E. on "can" to provide sufficient trg stores for recruit and other courses.
- (d) Two sets each of Bailey Bridge were issued to the Engr Bns of the "Folgores" and "Friuli" Divs to make good requirements.
- (e) The new W/E for the Div Engr Bn can be expected in print shortly. A big deficiency in junior offfrs will exist when stage two of the formation of separate Engr and Signal Corps is implemented. So far, it appears, no plan has been made for providing the necessary Offfrs.

9. MEDICAL

- (a) Medical Stores
The Italian Medical Stores at Florence continue to receive stores from CMF, MEF and East African Comd. During month approx 20 tons of stores were handed over to the Italians. All machinery at Merano has now been sent to Florence, a large quantity of medical stores still remain to be sent to Florence.
- (b) Health Notes
Of 11. 581 beds available 6,240 were occupied on 30 July 46.
- (c) Visits
The DADMS visited Nos 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 Terr Comds during the period 20 to 31 Aug 46.

10. POW

- (a) Italian POW as under were repatriated during the month of Aug:-

From Brit hands.....26,740

From other sources.....499
27,239

...../5

- 5 -

(b) India

Nearly 8,000 prisoners were returned during the month. Only 19% of the original number held in India now await repatriation.

(c) UK

1,445 PW out of 158,029 are left in the UK. This virtually completes the UK repatriation programme, since some hundreds of PW have voluntarily deferred their repatriation to assist in agriculture.

(d) Australia

The "MORETON BAY" arrived at the end of Aug in Naples with 500 PW (sick and compassionate cases). The "KATOOMBRA" is expected shortly with 600. No further information has been received regarding repatriation in large numbers.

(e) Middle East

All co-operators have now been returned; repatriation of non-co-operators is progressing and should be completed by mid-Sept.

(f) Others

The position in S. Africa and E. Africa is unchanged. PW continue to return at the rate of 2,000 a month from each country, but no plans for mass repatriation exist. With the completion of Middle East repatriation it is hoped to speed up this comparatively slow rate. A few PW have been sent through Vienna from Russia.

(g) Compassionate & Welfare

Correspondence involving 150 compassionate and welfare cases were dealt with during the month. Authority for release was given in 65 cases. 542 Welfare cases were investigated, covering the forwarding of mail and enquiries re PW from their families and vice versa.

(h) Specialists & Neo Fascists

445 letters, dealing with release of Fascists and Germans in Italy and repatriation of Specialists, were received, and issued. 821 S. Tyroleans were released from LATIMER Camp during Aug.

(j) Finance

Remittance forwarded by PW held in British hands through IPW Division, MIA totalled 11,600 pounds. Statements of credit balance in respect of PW repatriation from British and US custody totalling £31,696 were forwarded to the Italian Govt for payment. 711 items (envelopes, parcels and suitcases containing impounded valuables and personal effects) were forwarded to the Italian Red Cross for distribution to the owners. 33 claims for non-receipt of remittances, a few claims for non-payment of family allowances, and a few special requests for payment of remittances were received and passed to the Italian Govt for investigation and payment where possible. 304 claims against the Allied Authorities either for restitution of impounded properties or for statements of final credit balance were dealt with.

10 Sep 46

M. W. H. H. H.
B. G. S.
Major General
M. M. I.

(e) Middle East

All co-operators have now been returned; repatriation of non-co-operators is progressing and should be completed by mid-Sept.

(f) Others

The position in S. Africa and E. Africa is unchanged. IPW continue to return at the rate of 2,000 a month from each country, but no plans for mass repatriation exist. With the completion of Middle East repatriation it is hoped to speed up this comparatively slow rate. A few IPW have been sent through Vienna from Russia.

(g) Compassionate & Welfare

Correspondence involving 150 compassionate and welfare cases were dealt with during the month. Authority for release was given in 65 cases. 512 welfare cases were investigated, covering the forwarding of mail and enquiries re IPW from their families and vice versa.

(h) Specialists & Neo Fascists

445 letters, dealing with release of Fascists and Germans in Italy and repatriation of Specialists, were received, and issued. 824 S. Tyroleans were released from LATIMER Camp during Aug.

(j) Finance

Remittance forwarded by IPW held in British hands through IFM Division, MMLA totalled 11,600 pounds.

Statements of credit balance in respect of IPW repatriation from British and US custody totalling £31,696 were forwarded to the Italian Govt for payment.

711 items (envelopes, parcels and suitcases containing impounded valuables and personal effects) were forwarded to the Italian Red Cross for distribution to the owners. 33 claims for non-receipt of remittances, a few claims for non-payment of family allowances, and a few special requests for payment of remittances were received and passed to the Italian Govt for investigation and payment where possible. 304 claims against the Allied Authorities either for restitution of impounded properties or for statements of final credit balance were dealt with.

10 Sep 46

lh

DISTRIBUTION : Executive Commissioner A.C.
Soviet Representative A.C.

INTERNAL : PA to GOC
Dep Comd
Circulators

- 45
- 1
- 1
- 1
- 2

M. W. Hope
B.G.S.
Major General
M. M. I.

①

CSA

0080