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ITALIAN ARMY, SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS
AUG. 1944

Confidential

Army Sub Commission (ASIA)
M.D., A.S.C.
ROME

0/6/1/F
Aug 4

My Dear Captain STONE

Attached is a copy of my G/6/1/F of 15 August, subject:-
Strength of Italian Army, which has been issued in accordance with an AAI
directive.

I do not wish this document to be given general circulation,
so would you please treat this copy as being for your personal information.

cc/

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Enclaved. in ahead
Maj Gen
Army Sub Comm, ACC

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091711-4928
Gen P. M. ...

Confidential

Army Sub Commission (ASIA)
 Lt. Col., A.C.C.,
 POB

C/6/1/F
 15 AUG 44

Subject:- Strength of ITALIAN Army

1. Herewith Copy No. 45 of our C/6/1/F of 15 Aug 44, addressed to Minister of War and Chief of Staff S.M.R.E. for information.
2. This is a registered document and will be treated as **SECRET**.
3. Please sign and return attached receipt.

JTH/oc

Lt Col,
 G.S.

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Col KERR	(2)
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AA & CMC	
Dep C4	
Asst C4	
Staff Capt "A"	
MAJ BLATT	
S.O.R.E.	
S.O.R.A.	
S.O.R. Sigs	
A.D.S.T.	
E.A.D.S.T.	
L.A.D.M.S.	
D.A.D.O.S.	
D.A.D.M.E.	
D.A.D.L.	
Nov L.O.	
Col SIMONS	
MLA, LO FIFTH Army	
" " EIGHTH Army	
" " POLCORPS	
" " C.I.L.	
" " 1 District	
" " 2 District	
" " 3 District	
" " 60 Sub Area	

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3. Please sign and return attached receipt.

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GSO III(Int)	12
AA & QMG	13
Dep Cdr	14
Asst Cdr	15
Staff Capt "A"	16
MAJ BYATT	17
S.O.R.E.	18
S.O.R.A.	19
S.O.R. Sigs	20
A.D.S.T.	21
D.A.D.S.T.	22
D.A.D.M.S.	23
D.A.D.O.S.	24
D.A.D.M.E.	25
D.A.D.L.	26
MOV L.O.	27
COL SIMONS	28
MLA. 10 FIFTH ARMY	29
" EIGHTH ARMY	30
" POLCORPS	31
" C.I.L.	32
" 1 District	33
" 2 District	34
" 3 District	35
" 60 Sub Area	36
" NIPLES (2)	37/38
" BARI	39
" CALANZARO	40
MAJ FIELDMAN	41
War Diary (2)	42/43
Spares (6)	44/49

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1/14/44
Lt Col,
G.S.

Receipt is acknowledged of MIA letter G/6/1/F dated 15 Aug 44, Copy(1cs)
No.....

Date.....44

Sgd.....
Unit/Appt.....

SUBJECT: Strength of Italian Army.

SECRET

Army Sub Commission, MMIA.
H. O., A. O. C.

ROME.

G/6/L/F
15 Aug 44.

To: Minister for War
Chief of Staff, S.M.R.E.

1. I am to advise you that the total strength of the Italian Army on 31 Aug 1944, will not be in excess of 364,000 all ranks. The principal categories for the purpose of present planning are shown at Appx. "A". (Categories are numbered in brackets for reference, and such numbers will hereafter be shown on strength and other returns of the Italian Army.)

2. Administrative Installations - Category 1)

- a. Normally under Italian command.
- b. Includes troops for administration, supply etc., as specified in letter this Hq, AQ/8 dated 29th July.
- c. Limitations prescribed in letter, this Hq, AQ/2 dated 23rd. June, apply to following units:

War Ministry
 GRANATIERI Battalion acting as Guard and
 escort of Royal Household.
 Royal Military Academy.
 Comando Supremo (SMC) less SIM units carried
 under Category (5c.)

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- d. The ceiling of 27,000 will not be exceeded, and will include personnel assigned to the units under this category who are absent for any reason from the unit to which assigned.
- e. Information Centres (formerly Transit Camps) on Mainland only, maximum of 3 all ranks per Centre in 27 Centres.

3. Combat Formations - Category (2)

- a. The ceiling includes all troops, detachments, or individuals, assigned to or earmarked for inclusion in Combat formations, including C.I.L. as presently constituted.
- b. Includes personnel undergoing training.

1. I am to advise you that the total strength of the Italian Army on 31 Aug 1944, will not be in excess of 364,000 all ranks. The principal categories for the purpose of present planning are shown at Appx. "A". (Categories are numbered in brackets for reference, and such numbers will hereafter be shown on strength and other returns of the Italian Army.)

2. Administrative Installations - Category 1

- a. Normally under Italian command.
- b. Includes troops for administration, supply etc., as specified in letter this Hq, AQ/3 dated 29th July.
- c. Limitations prescribed in letter, this Hq, AQ/2 dated 23rd. June, apply to following units:

War Ministry
GRAMATTIERI Battalion acting as guard and escort of Royal Household.
Royal Military Academy.
Comando Supremo. (SMC) less SIM units carried under Category (5c.)
- d. The ceiling of 27,000 will not be exceeded, and will include personnel assigned to the units under this category who are absent for any reason from the unit to which assigned.
- e. Information Centres (formerly Transit Camps) on Mainland only, maximum of 3 all ranks per Centre in 27 Centres.

3. Combat Formations - Category (2)

- a. The ceiling includes all troops, detachments, or individuals, assigned to or earmarked for inclusion in Combat formations, including C.I.L. as presently constituted.
- b. Includes personnel undergoing training.
- c. Includes 185 Parachute Bn, NEMBO.
- d. Includes Delegation "A" and attached troops.

4. Service Units Under Allied Command - Category (3)

- a. General.
 - (1) Variations between the subdivisions of Category (3) will be the subject of Allied orders. Personnel surplus in one particular sub category will be retained and counted against the deficiency in another category.

contd sheet 2/..

Sheet 2.

4. Service Units Under Allied Command - Category (3) (CONTD.)

a. General (Contd.)

- (2) The figures shown do not include CC, RR attached to any formation included.
- (3) No demobilisation of any personnel presently assigned to this category except in accordance letter this Ho. AC/17 of 20 Jun.
- (4) May include personnel in SARDINIA, or elsewhere earmarked for inclusion in this category.
- (5) Personnel surplus to other categories who are qualified for service will be earmarked for inclusion in this category within the ceiling.

b. Allied Garrison SARDINIA - Category (3a.)

This is the 205 Div now organised in SARDINIA, with a total strength of 9,000 all ranks. This strength will be maintained.

c. British Command, - Category (3a.)

Includes troops now assigned to:

- A.F.H.C.
- A.L.I.
- EIGHTH ARMY.
- POLCORPS.
- 1 District.
- 2. District.
- 3. District.

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5. AA & CD - Category (4)

Includes all AA & CD as shown in this H.O. letter, G/3 of 4 Aug.

6. Internal Security Troops - Category (5)

a. A.C.C. - Category (5a)

Includes units presently under command A.C.C., less 13 and 164 Mine Clearance Companies which are on temporary loan to A.C.C. and which will be absorbed into Category 2.

b. Guard Battalions - Category (5b.)

18 Guard Battalions - strength 800 all ranks -

- (1) Organised in six "Guard Regiments", numbered 1 - 6
- (2) The battalions will be numbered 501 - 18 inclusive. 501 - 505 battalions are already organised and will

where earmarked for inclusion in this category.

- (5) Personnel surplus to other categories who are qualified for service will be earmarked for inclusion in this category within the ceiling.

b. Allied Garrison SARDINIA - Category (3c.)

This is the 205 Div now organized in SARDINIA, with a total strength of 9,000 all ranks. This strength will be maintained.

c. British Command, - Category (2a)

Includes troops now assigned to:

- A.F.H.Q.
- A.A.I.
- EIGHTH ARMY,
- POLCORPS,
- 1 District,
- 2. District,
- 3. District.

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023

5. AA & CD - Category (4)

Includes all AA & CD as shown in this H.Q. letter, G/3 of 4 Aug.

6. Internal Security Troops - Category (5)

a. A.C.C. - Category (5a)

Includes units presently under command A.C.C., less 13 and 164 Mine Clearance Companies which are on temporary loan to A.C.C. and which will be absorbed into Category 2.

b. Guard Battalions - Category (5b.)

18 Guard Battalions - strength 800 all ranks -

- (1) Organised in six "Guard Regiments", numbered 1 - 6
- (2) The battalions will be numbered 501 - 18 inclusive. 501 - 505 battalions are already organized and will be maintained at a strength of 800, with necessary replacements being assigned for this purpose.
- (3) 506 - 517 Guard Battalion will be designated by you and earmarked for employment. They will be organized on a strength of 800 all ranks.
- (4) 518 Guard Battalion, will for the time being, include the following units with present designations and at present strength, plus another unit to be organized by you to bring the strength of the battalion to 800 all ranks :-

Sheet 3.

6. Internal Security Troops - Category (2) (CONTD.)

b. Guard Battalions - Category (5b.) (CONTD.)

(4) (CONTD.)

550 Train Guard Coy	6	-	146
107 Bn Territoriale	27	-	171
5 Coy 120 Regiment	6	-	155
520 Guard Company	5	-	77
New Unit.	5	-	202
	49	-----	751

(5) Six Regimental Hqs, each with a strength of 40 all ranks, will be organised for the administration of these battalions. The personnel will be included under category (5b.) As these battalions will generally be under Allied Operational Command, the function of the Regimental Hq will be administrative only, and the assignment of battalions to regiments will vary according to the actual location of the battalions.

c. SIM - Category (5c)

- (1) Includes all elements of SIM under Allied command including personnel from Army, Navy, Air Force, CC.FF, all of which will be incorporated in Army.
- (2) Exact instructions will be given later affecting this organisation.

d. Two Divisions - SICILY - Category (5d.)

- (1) See Appendix "C" for organisation of Garrison in SICILY.
- (2) Each Division to be organised in accordance with Appendix "B" from elements of present SABAUDA Div.
- (3) Surplus specialist personnel can be transferred to Mainland for inclusion in other categories, within the ceiling. Surplus personnel not transferred to other categories will be demobilised.

e. One Division SARDINIA - Category (5e.)

- (1) See Appendix "D" for organisation of Garrison in SARDINIA.
- (2) Division to be organised in accordance with Appendix "B" from elements of present CALABRIA Div and will

- (5) Six Regimental Hqs, each with a strength of 40 all ranks, will be organised for the administration of these battalions. The personnel will be included under category (5a.) As these battalions will generally be under Allied Operational Command, the function of the Regimental Hq will be administrative only, and the assignment of battalions to regiments will vary according to the actual location of the battalions.
- c. SIM - Category (5c)
- (1) Includes all elements of SIM under Allied command including personnel from Army, Navy, Air Force, CC.FR, all of which will be incorporated in Army.
 - (2) Exact instructions will be given later affecting this organisation.
- d. Two Divisions - SICILY - Category (5d.)
- (1) See Appendix "C" for organisation of Garrison in SICILY.
 - (2) Each Division to be organised in accordance with Appendix "B" from elements of present SABAUDA Div.
 - (3) Surplus specialist personnel can be transferred to Mainland for inclusion in other categories, within the ceiling. Surplus personnel not transferred to other categories will be demobilised.
- e. One Division SARDINIA - Category (5e.)
- (1) See Appendix "D" for organisation of Garrison in SARDINIA.
 - (2) Division to be organised in accordance with Appendix "B" from elements of present CALABRIA Div and will include personnel of the:
 - Port Security Battalion, CAGLIARI.
 - 236 Inf Regiment.
- f. Internal Security Troops - Category (5f.)
- (1) Includes troops assigned to defence of vital points in CALABRIA and maintaining the L of C in CALABRIA.
 - (2) Includes Regimental Headquarters for Guard Battalions of Category (5b.)

Sheet 4.

6. Internal Security Troops - Category (2) (CONTD)

f. Internal Security Troops - Category (5F.) (CONTD.)

- (3) Does not include any personnel employed in Area, District or other Headquarters, not specifically authorized by this Hq, or in transit camps operation, or operation of depots.
- (4) All troops in this category will be subject to direct Allied Command as ordered from time to time.

7. Reinforcements - Category (6)

- a. Includes all personnel within the ceiling which cannot be specifically assigned to units or categories.
- b. Will include Liaison and Interpreters Unit to be organized, which will include all Liaison and Interpreter personnel, not ~~originally~~ ^{originally} assigned to other categories.

8. CC.RR. - Category (7)

Includes CC.RR. organically assigned to military formations. These will be shown separately on Strength Returns.

9. Garrison in SICILY.

Reference Appendix "C";

- (1) Reduction will be effected without delay.
- (2) Various categories of parts of the Garrison are shown in Appendix "C".
- (3) Strengths shown include all Army personnel to remain in SICILY.

10. Garrison in SARDINIA

Reference Appendix "D";

- (1) Various categories of parts of the Garrison are shown in Appendix "D".
- (2) All personnel in SARDINIA surplus to the ceiling fixed will either:
 - a. Be earmarked for inclusion in the other categories and eventually transferred to Mainland.
 - b. Be demobilised if their homes are in SARDINIA.

7. Reinforcements - Category (4)

- a. Includes all personnel within the ceiling which cannot be specifically assigned to units or categories.
- b. Will include Liaison and Interpreters Unit to be organised, which will include all Liaison and Interpreter personnel, not ~~originally~~ ^{organically} assigned to other categories.

8. CC, RR - Category (7)

Includes CC, RR organically assigned to military formations. These will be shown separately on Strength Returns.

9. Garrison in SICILY.

Reference Appendix "C":

- (1) Reduction will be effected without delay.
- (2) Various categories of parts of the Garrison are shown in Appendix "C".
- (3) Strengths shown include all Army personnel to remain in SICILY.

10. Garrison in SARDINIA

Reference Appendix "D":

- (1) Various categories of parts of the Garrison are shown in Appendix "D".
- (2) All personnel in SARDINIA, surplus to the ceiling fixed will either:
 - a. Be earmarked for inclusion in the other categories and eventually transferred to Mainland.
 - b. Be demobilised if their homes are in SARDINIA.
 - c. Be formed into units of "congedand" to be brought to the Mainland for demobilisation in accordance with orders which will be issued when the numbers are known.

11. Strength Returns of the Italian Army will show each individual or Unit in a definite category, in accordance with para 1.

12. Not later than 25 August a list of Units carried under categories (1), (2), (4), (5) and (6) and those destined for Category (3) showing:

Sheet 5.

12. (CONT.)

- a. Designation of Unit and category.
- b. Authorised strength.
- c. Present Location.
- d. Actual strength including personnel temporarily absent.
- e. Ration Depot from which rations are to be drawn in the month of September.

- will be submitted to this Hq. Units in these categories will, after 31st August, be authorised to draw rations only as specifically approved by this Hq, in the number and from the Ration Depot specified.

tvs.CPK.
encls.

J. B. ...
Major General.
Army Sub Comm, A.C.C.

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APPENDIX "A" to
 WIA letter G/O/A/F
 Dated 15 AUG 44

ITALIAN ARMY

1. Administrative Installations	27,000
2. Combat Formations, including G.I.L.	57,000
3. Service Units under Allied Command	
(a) P.B.S.	51,000
(b) FIFTH Army	10,000
(c) Allied Garrison SARDINIA	9,000
(d) Allied Garrison CORSICA	5,000
(e) British Command	93,000
4. A.A. & C.D.	9,000
5. Internal Security troops, including	
(a) A.C.C.	3,000
(b) 18 Guard Battalions(800)	11,400
(c) S.I.M.	1,500
(d) 2 Divs SICILY	10,000
(e) 1 Div SARDINIA	5,000
(f) Internal Security troops	4,100
6. Reinforcements, sick in hospital, not assigned to units, and unassigned personnel, including Liaison Officers, Interpreters, etc.	10,000
7. C.C.R.R., including C.C.R.R. assigned to Military Garrison Formations.	55,000
	<u>364,000</u>

IMPORTANT NOTES

- A. It is stressed that the above categories are solely for the purpose of current planning and can NOT be regarded as final.
- B. All strengths shown above are the total establishments of units and include all personnel assigned whether present or absent, on leave, without leave, in hospital, etc.

cc/

APPENDIX "B" to
MIA letter G/6/1/E
dated 15 Aug 44

INTERNAL SECURITY DIVISION

ORGANISATION

- 1 Division HQ
- 2 Brigade HQs
- 4 Inf Regiments
- 1 Engineer and Signal Bn
- 1 Medical Unit
- 1 Supply and Ordnance Unit
- 1 M.T. Unit

Div HQ(HQ and Staff)(excluding CC.RR)		100
2 Brigade HQs(HQ and HQ Platoons)each	25	50
Infantry Regiment(HQ and HQ Platoon)	34	
2 Inf Bns(HQ and HQ PL 44 x 2)	88	
4 Rifle Co(124 x 4)	496	
2 Sign Co(150 x 2)	300	
1 Regt Sp Co(6 MG and 6 Mortars)	170	
	<hr/>	
	1088	
Total 4 Inf Regts		4352
Engineer and Signal Bn HQ	15	
Engr Company	146	
Signal Company	162	
	<hr/>	
	323	323
Medical Unit		75
Supply and Ordnance Unit		25
M.T. Unit		75
		<hr/>
		5000

cc/

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APPENDIX "C" to
MMA letter C/6/1/P
dated 15 Aug 44

ITALIAN Army Garrison in SICILY (less CC.BR)

Under ITALIAN Comd

Military HQ SICILY	-	Cat (1)	150
SARAGNA Div	-	Cat (5d)	5,000
" "	"	" "	5,000

SERVICES - Cat (1)

		<u>Offrs</u>	<u>ORs</u>	
<u>Commissariato</u>				
Sussistenza	One Regional HQ	15	30	45
	with attached officers	3	-	3
	One Sussistenza Coy	2	18	20
	One Bulk Supply Depot	3	30	33
	One Bakery	2	8	10
	Three Distribution Depots	2	18	60
Vestario	} (-	8	45	53
Casermaggio				
Equipaggiamento				
Medical	Details will be advised separately	50	350	400
	One M.T. Ambulance Section	1	40	41

Under ALLIED Comd

908 Lav Artieri Coy	-	Cat (3c)	152
145 A.A. Group	-	Cat (4)	150

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NOTE. Personnel for Movement Control and any other service may be recommended by Ministry of War for separate consideration.

cc/

APPENDIX "D" to
MIA letter G/6/1/E
dated 15 Aug 44

ITALIAN Army Garrison in SARDINIA
(less OG,RR)

Under ITALIAN Comd

Military ID SARDINIA - Cat (1) 150
CALABRIA Div - Cat (50) 5,000

SERVICES - Cat (1)

		<u>Offrs</u>	<u>ORs</u>	
<u>Commissariato</u>				
Sussistenza	One Regional HQ	15	30	45
	with attached officers	4	-	4
	One Sussistenza Coy	2	18	20
	One Port Detachment	2	15	17
	One Bulk Supply Depot	3	30	33
	Three Distribution Depots	2	18	60
	One Bakery	2	8	10
Vestario	} (-	10	36	46
Casermaggio				
Equipaggiamento				
Medical	Details will be advised separately	82	598	680
	One M.T. Ambulance Section	1	40	41
Motor Transportation				
(att to 205 Div)	Two M.T. Platoons	1	36	74

Under ALLIED Comd (ITALIAN ADMINISTRATION)

205 Div - Cat (50) 9,000
AA & CD - Cat (4) 5,338

20,568

NOTE. Personnel for Movement Control and any other service may be recommended by Ministry of War for separate consideration.

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