

ACC 10000/147/539 T/55/5 COMMUNICATIONS BOARD MINUTES OF MEETINGS

OCT 1946

BOARD MINUTES OF MEETINGS

(1st Part)

1946

SECRET

X 210/1

Minutes of Meeting of C.O. and Co.C. Signal Units
at CSO's Office, CSO's Office on 22 Oct 45

Present:-

Brigadier A.E. Morrison, CBE.
Lt-Col T.H. Paterson, CBE.
Lt-Col I.P. Melkington
Lt-Col H.O. Ferguson

Lt-Col A. Hill
Representative
Major L.C. Udell, MBE.
Capt C.W. Budge
Capt L.W. Pook
Capt J.A. Branton Douglas
Lt-Col E.P. Blake
Lt-Col H.D. Harvey

Lt-Col P.W. Soileau, CBE, UK Signals 1 Arm Div was unable to attend
due to sickness.

CSO CSO's Office
13 Corps Signal Regiment
1 L of C Signal Regiment
1 L of C Signal Regiment (also
representing CSO 3 District)
8 Air formation Signal Regiment
Sig O 83 (US) Div
1 Indep L of C Signal Squadron
2 AA Signal Troop
1 AAA Signal Squadron
1 Air Support Signal Troop
CSO 1 (Sig) CSO's Office
LMD, AMHQ

1. Opening

CSO defined the objects of the Meeting as part of his policy of keeping all in the picture. He warned that some points that would be mentioned are only in the planning stage and are also Secret, and would therefore NOT be discussed outside the meeting.

2. Visits by CSO's Staff

CSO said his Staff had been instructed to get out and visit Units and Formations. They would come as his representative and could be tasked on all questions under the CSO's control, but must NOT be expected to give decisions on policy matters.

3. Treaty with ITALY

CSO outlined the plans for occupation of ITALY and TERRITORY GUARDIA to follow ratification of the Peace Treaty with ITALY. Points for consideration

1st Col. S.P. Hines
1st Col. D.D. Harvey
1st Col. S.W. Sealeau, OMS, US Signal 1 April 51; was unable to attend
due to sickness.

1. Opening

CSO defined the objects of the meeting as part of his policy of keeping all in the picture. He wished that some points that would be mentioned are only in the planning stage and are also Secret, and would therefore NOT be discussed outside the meeting.

2. Visits by CSO's Staff

CSO said his Staff had been instructed to get out and visit Units and Formations. They would take his representatives and would be tackled on all questions under the CSO's control, but that NOT be expected to give decisions on policy matters.

3. Peace Treaty with ITALY

CSO outlined the plans for cessation of ITALY and VENEZIA GUELIA to follow ratification of the Peace Treaty with ITALY. Points for consideration included :-

(a) How much will political factors affect civil communications and how much will we be able to rely on civil organizations continuing to function?

(b) What communications will be required during the ^{42.7} ~~42.6~~ period?

4. Post War Army

CSO said certain troops were earmarked for the Post War Army. When no longer required, these would NOT be disbanded but released to other strengths and eventually be moved out of the Theatre as troops. War Office had ruled that all equipment and vehicles should be retained. We were finding out whether all vehicles or only technical ones were intended to be kept.

...../to Sheet two.....

1

Sheet Two

4. Post War Army (cont'd)

Sufficient men must be included in cables to look after equipment and vehicles and must have long enough to serve in the Army to be able to hand things over on arrival at their permanent station.

5. Run-down of Theatre

CSO gave certain planning dates for run-down of the present 3 District.

There was some general discussion on the organization of the Squads of 1 of C Signals which would remain at Gambia, RMCS and RMCDS respectively. It was agreed that the disbandment of HQ 1 of C Signal Regiment would save manpower, but would complicate administration and personnel matters amongst others.

Nothing definite was decided.

6. Responsibilities of 1 of C Signal Regiment

CSO elaborated on his policy as set out in letter X 64 of 15 October.

Lt-Col Makkloppel asked who was responsible for the maintenance of "trails" on circuits provided by 1 of C Signal Regiment. CSO said that the Formation Signals which provided the "trail" was responsible for its maintenance.

Lt-Col Makkloppel complained of the inefficiency of TELVE in the IDME provider. CSO will take up with TELVE. Some specific cases of inefficiency would help our case.

CSO recalled the Meeting that we use civil line communications system. Therefore civilians must be allowed to run the system themselves, though we can assist. If civilians cannot meet our requirements, we must make our own arrangements but there is no question of the army producing projects for the civilians to carry out.

7. S.D.S.

CSO said a new S.D.S. for N. ITALY had been worked out, and was being sent round to units for their remarks. The object was to avoid duplication of services, particularly those of Air Formation Signals.

Lt-Col Patterson recommended that if S.D.S. was to go to and from U.K. and S. ITALY by rail, we should NOT attempt to make use of casual Air services, as this procedure often causes bad delay. CSO agreed.

CSC substantiated his policy as not out in letter 2 (3) of 15 October.

Lt-Col Melikojan asked who was responsible for the maintenance of "tails" on circuits provided by 1st of C Signal Regiment. CSC said that the Formation Signals which provided the "tails" was responsible for its maintenance.

Lt-Col Melikojan complained of the inefficiency of TWT in the UHFZ province. CSC will take up with WFL. Some specific cases of inefficiency would help our cause.

CSC reminded the meeting that we use civil line communications systems. Therefore civilians must be allowed to run the system themselves, though we can assist. If civilians cannot meet our requirements, we must make our own arrangements but there is no question of the army providing premises for the civilians to carry out.

8.D.2.

CSC said a new S.D.S. for N. ITALY had been worked out, and was being sent round to units for their remarks. The object was to avoid duplication of services, particularly those of Air Formation Signals.

Lt-Col Paterson recommended that if S.D.S. was to go to and from U.K. and S. ITALY by rail, we should NOT attempt to make use of central Air services, as this procedure often causes bad delays. CSC agreed.

Lt-Col Melikojan considered a number of delays were due to civilians being in SDOs, who mis-routed S.D.S. CSC agreed, but said that such could be done by a carefully organized system in SDOs.

9. Maintenance of U.O. Cable

Maintenance of all U.O. Cable is the responsibility of 4221 of C Signal Squadron. However any unit in whose area a breakdown occurs should see that a party does go out on the fault.

9. Telegrams to 28 (US) Div

Lt-Col Paterson asked if this could be phased as it carried little traffic. CSC vetoed the suggestion as it is an operational link.

...../to sheet through.....

LA

Spent three10. DEMO Exchanges

Lt-Col HILL asked if this could be used as a switching centre. CSO said it would NOT switch, as it is for the use of C-404 and other VIPs at DEMO only.

11. Summary

CSO summarized the officer position including estimated vacancies till the end of the year.

Lt-Col Pardner said he could employ 7.0m. in lieu of Officers as Duty Signal Officers. CSO's branch will endeavour to find some.

12. CSO

CSO gave a summary of strength by grades against minimum working strength.

CSO's policy would be to keep units up to minimum working strength. If, to do this, it was necessary to take personnel temporarily from 1 Armoured Signal Regiment, they would be returned to that Regiment before it leaves the Theatre. C.O. must bear this in mind.

Lt-Col HILL asked if any more Tele-Mechs would be available. CSO said no into it.

13. General Administration of Small Units

CSO's policy was that the C.O. of a Major Signal Unit to whom a minor one was attached had similar responsibility towards it as a CR Signals has towards one of his Brigade Signal Groups. He was thus responsible for all except its operational employment and local administration.

Where the C.O. of the Major Signal Unit did not know of its operational requirements in manpower, he should be guided by its minimum working strength.

14. Signal Park

Units should indent for any requirements now so as to allow the

12.

Q10

CSS gave a survey of strength by trades against minimum working strength.

CSS's policy would be to keep units up to minimum working strength. If, to do this, it was necessary to take personnel temporarily from 1 Armored Signal Regiment, they would be returned to that Regiment before it leaves the Theater. C.O.s must bear this in mind.

Lt-Col Hill asked if any more Tele Medics would be available. CSS will go into it.

13.

General Administration of Signal Unit

CSS's policy was that the C.O. of a Major Signal Unit to whom a minor one was attached had similar responsibilities towards it as a CR Signal has towards one of his Brigade Signal Troops. He was thus responsible for all except its operational employment and local administration.

Where the C.O. of the Major Signal Unit did not know of its operational requirements in manpower, he should be guided by its minimum working strength.

14.

Signal Park

Units would inform for any requirements how far as to clear the Signal Park as much as possible.

15.

Staff Officers for CSS Branch, HQ

CSS asked C.O.s for any nominations for the following.

SSO 3 - For Administration and Training
SSO 2 (Telecomm)

422

16.

Lt-Col Hill P.L. Observation Centre

Lt-Col Hill said that he would still run those courses for his own unit. He would let other Unit Commanders know when he runs a course so that they can send men or it if they wish.

...../to about four.....

1 B

Exhibit Four17. Returning

CSC said he wanted to get Owen returned to a minimum and C.O. should let him know if they considered there were too many.

Returns should be received on time and in such a way as to be really helpful. Any details not asked for, which might be of assistance, should be added in the "Remarks" column.

1st Col Ferguson asked that he should be told what returns will come from units, now under 3 District. When 3 District disbursals. This will be arranged.

18. Points raised by C.O.

(a) 1st Col Ferguson asked if C1 and C3 V.I. Office data could be combined. CSC said "NO".

(b) 1st Col Ferguson said Priority Messages were 30% to 40% of the total. CSC will take up.

(c) 1st Col Ferguson said that 1 MRA had asked him for the loan of an officer temporarily for a non-signals duty. Should he supply? CSC said we must do our share of personnel duties, as far as we can. In this case 1st Col Ferguson should contact Col 1 MRA and tell him of the strain under which Signals are working at present.

(d) Major Dill said that HQ 247 Area agree to his Squadron HQ remaining in BOLONGA when Col Area HQ moves to REUNION. CSC said that he considered it dangerous for Signal Officer to be in a different locality from his C.O., but final decision rests with C.O. and 1st Col Ferguson.

(e) Capt Brunton Douglas said that some of his technical vehicles, particularly "gin palaces", were old and worn out. CSC said he would examine possibility of giving him some vehicles from 13 Corps Signal Regiment, all C.O.s. should see that technical vehicles are used for their proper purposes, NOT as "gin palaces".

CSC said "NO".

(e) Lt-Col Paterson said Priority Messages were 30 % to 40 % of this total. CSC will take up.

(f) Lt-Col Hall said that 1 MRA had asked him for the loan of an officer temporarily for a non-Signals duty. Should he comply? CSC said we must do our share of garrison duties, as far as we can. In this case OC 1 MRA Signal Squadron should contact Comd 1 MRA and tell him of the strain under which Signals are working at present.

(g) Major Usher said that HQ 217 area agree to his Squadron HQ remaining in KOLAKA when Sub Area HQ moves to BLOTHING. CSC said that he considered it dangerous for Signal Officer to be in a different locality from his Comd, but final decision rests with OC D Insep L of C Signal Squadron.

(h) Capt Brunton Douglas said that some of his technical vehicles, particularly "gin palaces", were old and worn out. CSC said he would examine possibility of giving him some vehicles from 13 Corps Signal Regiment. All C.O.s should see that technical vehicles are used for their proper purposes, NOT as "primabellas".

/R

Brigadier,
Chief Signal Officer.

26 October 46

DISTRIBUTION:

OC 1 Corps Signal Regiment
OC Signals & Land Div
Sig C 88 (US) Div
OC 4 Air Formation Signal Regiment
OC 1 L of C Signal Regiment
OC 1 MRA Signal Squadron
OC 2 Air Signal Troop
OC 1 Air Support Signal Troop
MRA (for G II Signals)

CSC 1 MRA
1 MRA 1 MRA 1 MRA 1 MRA 1 MRA
Comd Signal Squadron
MRA (for Sig C)
2 MRA (for G II Signals)
OC 1 L of C Signal Regiment
OC 1 L of C Signal Regiment
OC 1 MRA Signal Squadron
Comd Officer, MRA VUELIA GALLIA
(All Brunton Officers CSC
(Brunton 1 MRA 1 MRA

1c

1952 0.1