

GENERAL DIRECTIVE No. 1

RESTRICTED

26th January 1945

1. 111 Fd Regt is now directly under command of HQ LFA and is to stay in present area for about 6 weeks for rest, refit and training, after which we must be ready for any role we may be called upon to fulfil.

Locations are:-

212 and 476 Btys	-	SANTERAMO
211 Bty	-	3 Miles NW GRAVINA
RHQ, LAD and B Echelon	-	VALENZANO, moving later to ALTAMURA

The period will be divided into two:-

- a) First two weeks (29 Jan to 10 Feb) will be devoted to inspections and check of equipment, work on living accommodations and sports grounds, and day leave passes into BARI. Training will be limited to P.T., smartening up drill and weapon training, and should aim at being a complete change from normal training.
 - b) The remaining four weeks will be devoted to intensive individual training, the object being first to make every man proficient in his own job and teach him a second job. During this period, occasional Troop, Bty and Regt exercises will be carried out, and some arty practice.
2. Leave.

Sufficient leave vacancies are being allotted to the regt to allow 7 days leave to all ranks, except those who have been on leave during the last two months. Of these 25% are at 52 Rest Camp, BARI and the remainder at ROME. To obviate dislocation of training, a complete troop with a proportion of Bty and Regt HQ's should be sent on leave together and training should be organised on a troop by troop basis as far as possible.

The leave allotment is not yet firm, but each Bty will be prepared

to send one troop on leave from 13 - 20 Feb and the other from 27 Feb - 6 Mar. There will also be an allotment of about 30 vacancies to cover the balance of the Bty and Regt HQ.

3. Day Leave

Up to 20% of unit strength may be sent into BARI daily in unit transport. As no meals are provided in BARI parties should normally be sent in after the mid-day meal, and will leave the town by 22:30hrs. These visits will take precedence over training until every man has had the opportunity to go three times. Men must be properly dressed and will be warned that bad behaviour will lead to this privilege being withdrawn. Transport will not be left unattended.

4. Inspections have been arranged as follows:-

(a) REME inspection and repair of small arms:-

29 Jan	-	212 Bty
30 Jan	-	476 Bty
31 Jan	-	211 Bty
1 Feb	-	RHQ

(b) REME inspection of gun trailers and optical instruments.

29 Jan a.m.	-	212 Bty
29 Jan p.m.	-	476 Bty
30 Jan a.m.	-	211 Bty
30 Jan p.m.	-	RHQ

(c) REME inspection of MT - starting with 212 Bty on 29 Jan, approximately 16 vehicles per day on programme to be arranged by Tech Adjutant.

(d) REME inspection and repair of Signal equipment - starts about 1 Feb. Details later.

(e) COs inspection of unit lines, guns and vehicles - provisionally

212 and 476 Bty - 3 Feb

211 Bty and RHQ - 5 Feb

- (f) Kit checks to be held by Btys as soon as possible and indents for deficiencies submitted to QM.
5. (a) Check of G1098 equipment has just been completed. Bty Commanders will re-check lists for deficiencies and forward amendments to QM as soon as possible.
- (b) Overhaul of vehicles earmarked for new engines is being begun immediately by LFA REME workshops; vehicles will be sent in as called for.
- (c) There will probably be a good many transport details during the first three weeks. This is unavoidable and it is hoped that they will diminish.
6. Accommodation
- a) Marching in states of all accommodation occupied will be made out, certified by an officer and forward to RHQ in duplicate. They will include a list of all removable fittings and all breakages and damage in the buildings when taken over, showing the date. Further losses and damage will be paid for in cash by the men occupying the billet, and the money held in a barrack damage cash fund.
- b) OC 212 Bty will act as OC for troops in SANTERAMO. He will be responsible for all accommodation occupied by the Regt and for local discipline and will organise the facilities in the following paras jointly for 212 and 476 Btys.
- c) In each unit location there will be:-
- i) A Canteen. Padre will assist with welfare equipment.
 - ii) A hall, large enough to seat a whole Bty, suitable for lectures, film shows, etc.
 - iii) A football ground per Bty.
 - iv) Hot showers or wash-downs for use after game.
 - v) A P.A.C. for protection against V.D.
- d) The scale of oil for heating and cooking is one seventh of a pint per man per day. It is hoped to get this increased, but the greatest economy is essential.

7. Smartening-up

Now that we are back in Italy, and reasonably concentrated, I with the greatest attention to be paid to smartness and turn out of men and vehicles and "esprit de corps" generally, with special reference to:-

- a) Marching and rifle drill and saluting. A high standard of guard mounting and sentry drill.
- b) Correct dress, especially correct wear of Caps GS.
- c) Cleanliness and tidiness of billets and unit lines.
- d) Close liaison and healthy rivalry between Btys.
- e) General physical fitness.

Slovenly habits, such as smoking whilst driving, or going about without hats and with battledress unbuttoned must be eradicated. They can be if all officers and NCOs do their job properly. We must show the world that we have not developed any Commando habits, and that a Field Regt can beat any Infantry Battalion when it comes to smartness.

8. Sport

I am very anxious to organise sport on as wide a basis as possible. I should like every man to get a game of some sort, in addition to a cross country run, at least once a week. Any competition organised within Btys should aim at getting as many men as possible to play, rather than the few gladiators.

I think it is essential for men who have been playing a game, or on a run, to get a hot shower or wash-down immediately afterwards.

9. V.D.

Every man will as soon as possible, be given a lecture on VD, which is extremely prevalent in this part of Italy. They will be warned that every prostitute in these parts is infected and that the only certain protection is personal continence, which only calls for a little self-control and personal pride. They will also be warned that:-

- a) Contraction of VD results in the loss of proficiency or trade pay for a long period.
- b) A man who cannot control himself is obviously unfit to control others and will forfeit his chance of promotion' if already an NCO he may be reduced in rank.
- c) Concealment of VD will be tried by court martial.

A nominal roll will be kept of men attending such lectures. Any man contracting VD will be brought if front of me, though not unfortunately, on a charge.

The attractions of the unit canteen can do much to keep down VD, particularly in SANTERAMO.

10. Training

- a) Appendix A shows the subjects to be covered during the first two weeks.
- b) During the second week small cadre classes in gun drill, driving and maintenance, and signalling will be run regimentally, the object being to rub up the knowledge of Bty and Troop NCO instructors for the ensuing individual training period. The students - three NCO's per Bty in each subject - should be earmarked now.
- c) Individual training will start on 12 Feb. Details later.