

MR 300 Sec. 8 -- ITALY -- WARFARE

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MR 300 Sec. 8 -- ITALY -- WARFARE

April, May, 1944

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Map Room  
Box 92

April, May, 1944

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WAR DEPARTMENT  
CLASSIFIED MESSAGE CENTER  
**INCOMING MESSAGE**

May 31, 1944

From: Hq AAI  
To: A.F.H.Q. Algiers  
No: 02814

Part 2 of WOSTEL No 13. Our 0 2814 of May 29th refers. Personal for Wilson for approval prior to despatch personal to Marshall and Brooke.

Regrouping.

We f 2359 hrs May 30th 5 Corps assumed responsibility down to incl Hermon force sector. New boundary between 5 Corps and 8 Army all excl 8 Army Rd junc H.200333-1141-0943-0244 OPI G.8653 thence line of rd to Pescina G.7381. Polcorps passed to comd this Hq 30 May and is moving as soon as possible to reorganize in Campobarro area before passing to comd 5 Corps. CIL is being gradually withdrawn from under comd 10 Corps and units are passing to comd 5 Corps in addition units of Nembo Div recently arrived from Sardinia for incorporation in CIL are passing to comd 5 Corps. Intention is to relieve 10 Ind Div 4 Ind Div and 7 Armd Bde by Polcorps and Corps of Italian Liberation, formations so relieved will pass to comd 8 Army. When Polcorps passes to comd 5 Corps Hq 5 Corps will be known as "5 Corps Group". In 5 Army sector Hq 2 Corps was relieved by Hq 4 Corps and Hq 2 Corps has assumed responsibility for the sector north and east of Velletri from Hq 6 Corps. FEC has assumed responsibility for the sector temporarily held by 4 US Corps. Regrouping of 5 Army now as follows. Right to left.

FEC. 2 DIM. 4 DMM. 3 DIA. and 1 DMI in reserve.  
2 Corps. SSF 3 US Div 85 US Div (plus one RCT 88 US Div).  
6 Corps. 36 Div 34 Div 1 Armd Div 45 Div. 4 Corps and 88 US Div (less one RCT) in reserve. Army troops. 1 (query 3) Br Inf Div 5 Br Inf Div. Boundries. 8 Army and 5 Army no change. FEC and 2 US Corps w e f 311200B all incl 2 Corps Littoria G.090193 - rd junc

CM-IN-592 ( 1 Jun 44)

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JCS LETTER. 7-5-72  
BY DBS. DATE

MAY 21 1973

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NLR 101  
By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

24-78724

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No: O 2814

- Page Two -

142294 - M Lupone (158384) - Rd at 125505. 2 US  
Corps and 6 US Corps w e f 300500B all incl 6 US Corps  
rd junc 806633 - Frascati - Rd junc 063375 - Cisternia  
025325 - 011236. 6 US Corps and 5 Army Tps (Br Divs)  
all incl 6 US Corps 855242 - 861330 - 810380 - 786392 -  
762450.

T.O.O. 312000B

Footnote: 2814 is CM-IN-23322 (30 May 44) OPD

ACTION: OPD

INFORMATION: Gen Arnold  
Gen Bissell  
Col Park  
Statistics  
Log

CM-IN-592 (1 Jun 44)

1901Z

bjm

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**INCOMING MESSAGE**

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EYES ONLY

From: CG US Army Forces in North African Theater of Operations, Algiers, Algeria

To: War Department

Mr: B-12825

31 May 1944

B-12825 TOPSEC to AGWAR for Marshall for his eyes only from FAIRBANKS from Devers.

Tomorrow is a critical day in this battle. Starting on the right of the 8th Army front there is very little change. In the center the 8th Indian has captured Monte San Giovanni, extending the line from there to Frosanone which was captured by the 78th Division. The French have pushed forward their line to a point at 3839 and point 2835. They are rapidly clearing up the area to Highway 6 as far north as Valmontone.

The 36th in a brilliant attack today advanced their line to 9954, occupying all of the high ground to the north of Velletri which is surrounded tonight. This advance was so rapid that the 85th Division which was on its right was ordered to attack at 2 O'clock instead of waiting until tomorrow morning and has now pushed forward a few miles. The Howze Force, consisting of 1 Battalion of the 6th Infantry and 1 Battalion of the 13th Armored Regiment, has advanced to 0852. The 3rd Division will jump off tomorrow at daylight, driving north toward Highway 6 to cut it. There has been little change on the 6th Corps front. The 34th and 45th and the 1st Armored Divisions have failed to advance. On the left of the line the 1st and 5th British Divisions have advanced their line a couple of miles to the northwest.

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E.O. 11652, Sec. 5(E) and 5(D) or (E)  
OSD letter, May 4, 1972

By DES Date MAY 21 1973

CM-IN-58

(1 June 44)

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EYES ONLY

~~TOP SECRET~~  
EYES ONLY  
*Col Park*

*3 as Italy*

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# INCOMING MESSAGE

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EYES ONLY

Page 2.

~~TOP SECRET~~

From: CG US Army Forces in North African Theater of Operations, Algiers, Algeria

Nr: B-12825

31 May 1944

*Commander of II Corps*

A report, unverified, from Keyes states that he has the Germans on the run and is organizing a pursuit and requests that the rest of the 88th Division which has been moving up to that front be pushed rapidly forward.

No Sig.

ACTION: General Handy

INFO : General Arnold  
General Bissell  
Admiral King  
Colonel Park  
Field Marshal Dill  
LOG

EYES ONLY

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E. O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D) or (E)

OSD letter, May 3, 1972

By DBS

Date MAY 21 1973

GM-IN-58

(1 June 44) 0153Z

ejv

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By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

WAR DEPARTMENT  
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INCOMING CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

OPERATIONAL PRIORITY

From: Allied Force Headquarters, Algiers, Algeria

To: War Department

NR: F 52927

31 May 1944

G-2 summary. F52927 TROOPERS, AGWAR info MIDWEST, SHAW, NORRIS, Fairbanks, SONFO, Fargo for MacFarlane, PERBASE for Cave from G-2 FREEDOM signed Wilson site FISH.

1. Last special summary 28th May. 4142-1227E

2. On Adriatic and mountain fronts no change. Enemy's withdrawal continues in direction of Sora and Frosinone. Cohesion of front being maintained and no evidence that any one division entirely pulled out but enemy must shortly begin to get divisions into column of route for the disengagement into the mountains. From Valmontone to sea enemy appears to be virtually back on his prepared defense line. Degree of resistance varies. At point of Allied advance battle is still fluid with enemy making local counter attacks with tanks. Little opposition reported on line of the railway north east of Velletri but resistance fiercer south of Lavinio. Appreciate enemy intends to hold a line Palestrina to sea if possible until his forces in the centre have disengaged and debouched again on the Rome-Pescara lateral. To meet Allied break through south of Alban Hills there appears to be a secondary line across Campagna. Enemy is therefore probably more concerned lest Allies turning Colli Laziali position to north and combined strenuous resistance probable here. In general enemy's prospects difficult. Heavy defensive fighting inevitable on line Valmontone to sea and even if successful divisions engaged likely need

CM-IN-23678 (31 May 44)

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BY DBS, DATE

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**OPERATIONAL PRIORITY**

-page 2-

From: Allied Force Headquarters, Algiers, Algeria

NR: F 52927

31 May 1944

rest even before very battered formations retiring in  
confuse can reach relative safety of Arcoli Dada Avenzano  
lateral. Maintenance general Trans-Italian line south of  
Rome thus seems doubtful possibility at best.

No Sig

ACTION: G-2

INFO : CC/S, CGAAP, OPD, Col Park

CM-IN-23678 (31 May 44) 1104Z jb

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# INCOMING MESSAGE

URGENT  
EYES ONLY FOR MARSHALL

*[Handwritten: 31 May 1944]*

From: AFHQ Command Post, Caserta, Italy

To: War Department

Nr: B-12814

31 May 1944

B-12814 TOPSEC to AGWAR for Marshall for his eyes only from FAIRBANKS from Devers.

The Germans are apparently withdrawing to the north-west pivoting on the high ground north of Velletri.

On the 8th Army front they are fighting strong rear guard action.

I visited Cori today and was in the vicinity of Artena. The 85th and 88th Divisions have been moved up into this area, the 88th in reserve and the 85th to take up the line west of Artena with a view of attacking to the north and west.

In the general advances, the Italians reached 905480; the New Zealanders have reached Brocco with patrols in Sora; the 8th Indian reached Arpino with patrols in Isola. Strangelagalli is clear. The 6th Armored Division is advancing along Highway 6 and has reached a point about 3 miles from Frosinone. The French have cleared Ceccano and advanced 2 miles west. They have also occupied Carpineto.

No change on the 3rd Division front. The 36th Division has advanced to the road at a point 2 miles northeast of Velletri. The 34th and 36th are on a line Velletri-Peintrira. The 1st Armored Division has reached a point at 8844, and extends to the southwest to a point 8440. The 45th Division is pushing up on their right. The British 1st and 5th Divisions extend the line to include Ardea.

CM-IN-23445 (31 May 44)

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BY DSS, DATE 23

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INCOMING MESSAGE

URGENT

EYES ONLY FOR MARSHALL

Page 2.

~~TOP SECRET~~

From: AFHQ Command Post, Caserta, Italy

Nr: B-12814

31 May 1944 *alt. 16/15*

Situation is generally satisfactory. The 36th attacks tonight and the 3rd and 85th on the 1st. The drive is to secure the Albano Hills, which should loosen the whole position and permit a rapid drive to the north and east of Rome. It is believed that the Germans are moving 2 more Divisions, 1 from France and 1 from Denmark and that these 2 Divisions will be thrown in against the 2nd and 6th Corps.

No Sig.

ACTION: Gen Handy

INFO: Gen. Arnold  
Gen Bissell  
Agn King  
Col Park  
Field Marshal Dill  
Log

CM-IN-23445

(31 May 44)

0256Z blw

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**INCOMING MESSAGE**  
~~TOP SECRET~~

30 May 1944

*Not seen*  
FROM: Fairbanks from General Gammell signed Wilson cite  
PHCOS

TO : War Office for Lord Burnham  
AGWAR for General Surles (BAS Washington pass)  
Rptd: AFHQ Algiers for General Rooks.

NR : B 12810

30 May 1944

~~TOP SECRET~~  
This has been a day of steady but not spectacular  
advances on the fronts of the 8th and 5th Armies.

On the right in 10 Corps sector the Italians have  
advanced several miles westwards in the hills against minor  
opposition. Further to the south the New Zealand Division  
meeting with some opposition have gained several miles and  
are now approaching the town of Sora. In the 8 Indian  
Division sector north of Highway 6 Arpino has been captured  
and elements of Recce units are reported in Isola.

5 Canadian Arm'd Division continued its advance on  
Frosinone but is still 2 or 3 miles short of that place.

On the 5th Army front Ceccano has now been captured  
by the French and Goums have advanced through the hills and  
have reached Carpineto 7 miles north of Sezze.

On the 4 Corps sector the 85 Division which was  
withdrawn from the line has been transferred to the 2 Corps  
sector and is now concentrated in reserve south of Artena,  
leaving 88 Division only in the line north of Sezze.

In the 2 Corps sector in the Artena arm'd patrols  
have been edging forward towards Highway 6, but this road  
has not yet been definitely cut. No attack in the Valmontone  
area has as yet developed. On the 6 Corps front the situation  
opposite Velletri is unchanged. The enemy attempted to stage  
a counter attack north east of Velletri but was repulsed.  
Further to the west the 45 Division and the British 1 and 5

(continued)

CM-IN-23902 (31 May 44)

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JCS MEMO, 1-17-78  
BY DSS, DATE

MAY 21 1973

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# INCOMING MESSAGE

NR: B12810

30 May 1944

Page Two

Divisions have made some considerable advance and the line now generally runs South West from a point on the Carrocetta Albano road 2 miles south of Albano through the town of Ardea to the sea.

The general picture is therefore slow but steady advance on the 8th Army front where the enemy is holding as before with rear guards covering extensive demolitions. On the 5th Army front reinforcements are being moved round to the left flank from the 4 Corps sector. As yet no further major attack has been made in the Ardena area. On the 6 Corps front South of Lake Albano the enemy is being driven back to his main position which has not yet been broken.

T.O.O 302220

ACTION: Gen. Surles

INFO : CC/s  
Gen. Arnold  
OPD  
Gen Bissell  
Col. ~~Bar~~  
Log

CM-IN-23902 (31 May 44) 1516Z hmv

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**INCOMING MESSAGE**

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FROM: H.Q. AAI

TO: A.F.H.Q.

Number: 0.2814 29 May 1944

*Not  
mess*

WOSTEL. 13. PERSONAL FOR WILSON for approval prior to  
despatch PERSONAL to MARSHALL and BROOKE.

SUMMARY REPORT To 1200 hours 28 May. OPERATION DIADDEM.

PART ONE. EIGHTH ARMY'S advance from HITLER LINE across  
River MELFA and LIRI continues but progress slow. 13 Corps  
on right have had difficulty from mines and bad tracks and  
SIX ARMD DIV came up against stiff rearguard opposition  
from enemy in hills south-east south and south-west of  
ARCE. EIGHTH ARMD DIV was moved forward through ROCCASECCA  
round right flank to assist SIX ARMY DIV in their advance  
and both divs are now pushing forward with enemy rearguards  
withdrawn north of ARCE during last twenty-four hours. On  
left sector of EIGHTH ARMY CANADIANS have had difficulty  
with bridging operations over both MELFA and LIRI rivers  
but these now completed and arm elements pushing forward  
between ROUTE SIX and R. SACCO have reached general line  
north and south through POPI. In centre of sector between  
SIX ARMD DIV AND FIVE CANADIAN ARMD DIV 78 Div is pushing  
forward and has elements of two bdes supported by tanks  
across River LIRI. 38 BDE on right directed on STRANG-  
OLAGALLI and 36 BDE along HIGHWAY SIX. Further north in  
EIGHTH ARMY 10 CORPS sector NEW ZEALAND DIV are advancing  
with objective SORA and on their right ITALIAN troops have  
advanced into mountains with the object cutting VILLETTEA-OPPI  
road. FIVE ARMY forces meanwhile continued advance against  
varying opposition between EIGHTH ARMY and bridgehead  
sectors. On right FRENCH CORPS are up to River SACCO as far  
west as CRECCANO and hold high ground further west again  
approx 2000 yards north and north-west of GUILANODI ROMA  
and PROSSEDI. On left TWO U S CORPS has handed over  
responsibility of sector to FOUR U S CORPS and 85 US DIV  
less one RCT has been pulled into reserve for future use in  
bridgehead sector as is case with HQ TWO US CORPS. Substantial  
advances also made on this front with the main Axis up-road  
PRIVERNO to CARPINETTO. Leading elements now approx half-way  
between these towns holding high ground each side of road.  
CM-IN-23996 (31 May 44)

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*col  
Park  
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FROM: H.Q.AAI

Page 2

Number: 0.2814

29 May 1944

Between there and bridgehead sector little enemy opposition and towns of NORMA and BASSIANO occupied. In bridgehead sector after capture of CORI arm elements pushed north rapidly and succeeded in reaching ARTENA against only slight opposition. Positions round ARTENA now consolidated with whole of THREE U S DIV plus tank force now in vicinity. Elements of HERMAN GOERING DIV already identified this area and further advance to cut HIGHWAY SIX and capture VALMONTONE likely meet stiff opposition. CC 'B' of ONE US ARMED DIV now withdrawn from this sector and whole div concentrated North-west of CISTERNA for another attack. 36 US DIV relieved CC 'A' in drive on VELLETRI and at present holds firm line about two miles to East, South-east and South of town with elements attacking towards town itself. As operations to cut HIGHWAY SIX had proceeded well new offensive was launched on 26 May employing 34 U S DIV right 45 U S DIV centre and ONE BRITISH DIV left in North-west direction with object breaking through enemy's defensive line which is known to run from VELLETRI in South-west direction to sea. Good progress made in this attack and ONE U S ARMED DIV having as stated above concentrated for purpose passed through infantry. Latest reports show leading arm elements astride roads leading North in squares 8842 and 8639. Whole of original salient astride road ANZIO-ALBANO cleared of enemy and both village of APRILIA and factory area now in our hands. On extreme left FIVE BRITISH DIV directly under command FIVE ARMY (as is ONE BRIT DIV) advancing to conform with ONE BRIT DIV on their right.

CM-IN-23996

(31 May 1944)

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FROM: H.Q.AAI

Page 3

Number: 0.2814 29 May 1944

Third Part of WOSTEL No. 13.

Reference H.A. AAI message Number 0.2814

LOCATION STATEMENT

FIVE CORPS

|               |        |
|---------------|--------|
| Main and Rear | H.4195 |
| 10 Ind Div    |        |
| Main          | C.3512 |
| Rear          | 03513  |
| 18 Ind Bde    | C.3317 |
| 20 Ind Bde    | C.3314 |
| 5 Ind Bde     | C.3111 |
| 4 Ind Div     | C.3201 |
| 7 Ind Bde     | C.2908 |
| 11 Ind Bde    | C.2903 |
| D Force       | H.2490 |
| 7 Armd Bde    | C.3102 |

EIGHTH ARMY

|                                 |        |
|---------------------------------|--------|
| TAC                             | G.7425 |
| Main                            | H.0007 |
| Rear                            | H.2403 |
| 6 SA Armd Div                   | G.9316 |
| 11 SA Armd Bde                  | G.9516 |
| 12 SA Mot Bde                   | G.9017 |
| 24 Guards Bde                   | G.8920 |
| 10 Corps Main                   | H.0618 |
| Rear                            | H.3026 |
| Herman Force                    | H.1243 |
| Ital Mot Gp                     | H.0832 |
| 2 NZ Div                        | G.9827 |
| 4 NZ Armd Bde                   | H.1396 |
| 5 NZ Inf Bde                    | G.8527 |
| 6 NZ Inf Bde                    | H.0928 |
| 2 Polcorps moving to conc area. |        |
| 8 Ind Inf Div                   |        |
| Main                            | G.7524 |

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FROM: H.Q. AAI

Number: 0.2814

29 May 1944

**TOP SECRET**  
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|                  |        |
|------------------|--------|
| 17 Ind Bde       | G.9117 |
| 19 Ind Bde       | G.7524 |
| 21 Ind Bde       | G.7524 |
| 6 Armd Div main  | G.8416 |
| 26 Armd Bde      | G.8017 |
| 1 Gds Bde        | G.8216 |
| 78 Div Main      | G.7423 |
| 11 Bde           | G.7323 |
| 36 Bde           | G.8017 |
| 38 Bde           | G.8118 |
| 1 Cdn Armd Bde   | G.8118 |
| 9 Armd Bde       | G.7323 |
| 1 Cdn Corps Main | G.7220 |
| 5 Cdn Armd Div   | G.6824 |
| 5 Cdn Armd Bde   | G.7822 |
| 11 Cdn Inf Bde   | G.6724 |
| 1 Cdn Inf Div    | G.6919 |
| 1 Cdn Bde        | G.6820 |
| 2 Cdn Bde        | G.7018 |
| 3 Cdn Bde        | G.6920 |
| 25 Tk Bde        | G.7614 |

FIVE ARMY

Main N.0288

Forward F.8618

Rear N.0787

|       |        |
|-------|--------|
| Fec   |        |
| Main  | G.5510 |
| Rear  | M.9998 |
| 1 DMI | G.7811 |
| 1 Bde | G.8111 |
| 5 RTM | G.9400 |
| 3 DIA | G.6412 |
| 3 RTA | G.7409 |
| 7 RTA | G.6120 |
| 4 RTT | G.7108 |
| 4 DMN | G.4420 |

CM-IN-23996

(31 May 1944)

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FROM: H.Q.AAI

Page 5

Number: 0.2814 29 May 1944

|                |        |
|----------------|--------|
| 1 RTM          | G.6704 |
| 2 RTM          | G.7504 |
| 6 RTM          | G.5216 |
| 2 Armd Gp      | G.5512 |
| 4 Corps Main   | G.4505 |
| 88 Div         | G.3015 |
| 349 Inf        | G.4711 |
| 350 Inf        | G.4708 |
| 351 Inf        | G.5210 |
| 6 Corps        |        |
| Adv            | F.9723 |
| Main           | F.8818 |
| 1 SSF          | G.0948 |
| 1 Regt SSF     | F.9718 |
| 2 Regt SSF     | F.9717 |
| 3 Regt SSF     | F.9619 |
| 3 US Div       | G.0643 |
| 7 Inf          | G.0646 |
| 15 Inf         | G.0645 |
| 36 Div         | G.0435 |
| 141 Inf        | G.0134 |
| 142 Inf        | G.0035 |
| 1 U S Armd Div | F.9829 |
| 143 Inf        | F.9839 |
| 34 Div         | G.0134 |
| 133 Inf        | F.9933 |
| 135 Inf        | F.9934 |
| 168 Inf        | G.7034 |
| 45 Div         | F.9327 |
| 157 Inf        | F.9534 |
| 179 Inf        | F.9126 |
| 180 Inf        | F.9328 |
| 1 Brit Div     | F.9025 |
| 2 Bde          | F.8525 |
| 3 Bde          | F.8524 |
| 1 Bde          | F.8524 |

CM-III-23996

(31 May 1944)

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FROM: H.Q.AAI

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Number: O. 2824 29 May 1944

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5 Brit Div  
13 Bde  
15 Bde  
17 Bde  
1 Armd Gp

F.8124  
F.8223  
G.8427  
F.7927  
F.8824

T.O.O. 292100B

ACTION: OPD

INFO:

Gen. Arnold  
Gen Bissell  
Col Park  
Statistics  
Log

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From: H. Q. AAI

To: A.F.H.Q.

No: O. 2814

29 May 1944

WOSTEL. 13.

Personal for Wilson for approval prior to dispatch Personal to Marshall and Brooke.

Summary Report to 1200 hours 28 May. Operation DIADEM.

Part 1. Eighth Army's advance from Hitler Line across River Melfa and Liri continues but progress slow. 13 Corps on right have had difficulty from mines and bad tracks and 6 Armd Div came up against stiff rearguard opposition from enemy in hills south-east south and south-west of Arce. 8 Ind Div was moved forward through Roccasecca round right flank to assist 5th Armd Div in their advance and both divs are now pushing forward with enemy rearguards withdrawn north of Arce during last 24 hours. On left sector of 8th Army Canadians have had difficulty with bridging operations over both Melfa and Liri rivers but these now completed and armd elements pushing forward between Route 6 and R. Sacco have reached general line north and south through Pofi. In centre of sector between 6 Armd Div and 5 Canadian Armd Div 78 Div is pushing forward and has elements of 2 Bdes supported by tanks across River Liri. 38 Bde on right directed on Strangelagalli and 36 Bde along Highway 6. Further north in 8 Army 10 Corps sector New Zealand Div. are advancing with objective Sora and on their right Italian troops have advanced into mountains with the object cutting Villetta-Opi road. 5 Army forces meanwhile continued advance against varying opposition between 8th Army and bridgehead sectors. On right French Corps are up to River Sacco as far west as Ceccano and hold high ground further west again approx 2000 yards north and north-west of Guilanodi Roma and Frossedi. On left 2 U. S. Corps has handed over responsibility of sector to 4 U. S. Corps

CM-IN-23322

(30 May 44)

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No: 0. 2814

Page 2.

and 85 US Div less one RCT has been pulled into reserve for future use in bridgehead sector as is case with Hq 2 US Corps. Substantial advances also made on this front with the main Axis up-road Priverno to Carpinetto. Leading elements now approx halfway between these towns holding high ground each side of road. Between there and bridgehead sector little enemy opposition and towns of Norma and Bassiano occupied. In bridgehead sector after capture of Cori arm'd elements pushed north rapidly and succeeded in reaching Arterna against only slight opposition. Positions round Arterna now consolidated with whole of 3 US Div plus tank force now in vicinity. Elements of Herman Goering Div already identified this area and further advance to cut Highway 6 and capture Valmontone likely meet stiff opposition. CC 'B' of 1 US Arm'd Div now withdrawn from this sector and whole div concentrated North west of Cismerna for another attack. 36 US Div relieved CC 'A' in drive on Velletri and at present holds firm line about 2 miles to East, South-east and South of town with elements attacking towards town itself. As operations to cut Highway 6 had proceeded well new offensive was launched on 26 May employing 34 US Div right 45 US Div centre and 1 British Div left in North-west direction with object breaking through enemy's defensive line which is known to run from Velletri in South-west direction to sea. Good progress made in this attack and 1 US Arm'd Div having as stated above concentrated for purpose passed through infantry. Latest reports show leading arm'd elements astride roads leading North in squares 8842 and 8639. Whole of original salient astride road Anzio-Albano cleared of enemy and both village of Aprilla and factory area now in our hands. On extreme left 5 British Div directly under command 5 Army (as is 1 Brit Div) advancing to conform with 1 Brit Div on their right.

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Part 3.

Reference H.Q. AAI message Number 0. 2814

Location Statement

**Five Corps**

|               |        |
|---------------|--------|
| Main and Rear | H.4195 |
| 10 Ind Div    |        |
| Main          | C.3512 |
| Rear          | C.3513 |
| 10 Ind Bde    | C.3317 |
| 20 Ind Bde    | C.3114 |
| 5 Ind Bde     | C.3111 |
| 4 Ind Div     | C.3201 |
| 7 Ind Bde     | C.2908 |
| 11 Ind Bde    | C.2903 |
| D Force       | H.2490 |
| 7 Armd Bde    | C.3102 |

**Eighth Army**

|                                 |        |
|---------------------------------|--------|
| TAC                             | G.7425 |
| Main                            | H.0007 |
| Rear                            | H.2403 |
| 6 SA Armd Div                   | G.9316 |
| 11 SA Armd Bde                  | G.9516 |
| 12 SA Mot Bde                   | G.9017 |
| 24 Guards Bde                   | G.8920 |
| 10 Corps Main                   | H.0618 |
| Rear                            | H.3026 |
| Herman Force                    | H.1243 |
| Ital Mot Gp                     | H.0832 |
| 2 NZ Div                        | G.9827 |
| 4 NZ Armd Bde                   | H.1396 |
| 5 NZ Inf Bde                    | G.8527 |
| 6 NZ Inf Bde                    | H.0928 |
| 2 Polcorps moving to cone area. |        |

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|                  |        |
|------------------|--------|
| 8 Ind Inf Div    |        |
| Main             | G.7524 |
| 17 Ind Bde       | G.9117 |
| 19 Ind Bde       | G.7524 |
| 21 Ind Bde       | G.7524 |
| 6 Armd Div main  | G.8416 |
| 26 Armd Bde      | G.8017 |
| 1 Gds Bde        | G.8216 |
| 78 Div Main      | G.7423 |
| 11 Bde           | G.7323 |
| 36 Bde           | G.8017 |
| 38 Bde           | G.8118 |
| 1 Cdn Armd Bde   | G.8118 |
| 9 Armd Bde       | G.7323 |
| 1 Cdn Corps Main | G.7220 |
| 5 Cdn Armd Div   | G.6824 |
| 5 Cdn Armd Bde   | G.7822 |
| 11 Cdn Inf Bde   | G.6724 |
| 1 Cdn Inf Div    | G.6919 |
| 1 Cdn Bde        | G.6820 |
| 2 Cdn Bde        | G.7018 |
| 3 Cdn Bde        | G.6920 |
| 25 Tk Bde        | G.7614 |

Five Army

|         |        |
|---------|--------|
| Main    | N.0288 |
| Forward | F.8618 |
| Rear    | N.0787 |
| Pec     |        |
| Main    | G.5510 |
| Rear    | N.9998 |
| 1 DMI   | G.7811 |
| 1 Bde   | G.8111 |

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|            |        |
|------------|--------|
| 2 Ede      | G.7214 |
| 2 DIM      | G.5918 |
| 5 RTM      | G.9400 |
| 3 DIA      | G.6412 |
| 3 RTA      | G.7409 |
| 7 RTA      | G.6120 |
| 4 RTT      | G.7108 |
| 4 DMM      | G.4420 |
| 1 RTM      | G.6704 |
| 2 RTM      | G.7504 |
| 6 RTM      | G.5216 |
| 2 Armd Gp  | G.5512 |
| 4 Corps    |        |
| Main       | G.4505 |
| 88 Div     | G.3015 |
| 349 Inf    | G.4711 |
| 350 Inf    | G.4708 |
| 351 Inf    | G.5210 |
| 6 Corps    |        |
| Adv        | F.9723 |
| Main       | F.8818 |
| 1 SSF      | G.0948 |
| 1 Regt SSF | F.9718 |
| 2 Regt SSF | F.9717 |
| 3 Regt SSF | F.9619 |
| 3 US Div   | G.0643 |
| 7 Inf      | G.0646 |
| 15 Inf     | G.0645 |
| 36 Div     | G.0435 |
| 141 Inf    | G.0134 |
| 142 Inf    | G.0035 |

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(30 May 44)

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|               |        |
|---------------|--------|
| 1 US Armd Div | F.9829 |
| 143 Inf       | F.9839 |
| 34 Div        | G.0134 |
| 133 Inf       | F.9933 |
| 135 Inf       | F.9934 |
| 157 Inf       | F.9534 |
| 179 Inf       | F.9126 |
| 180 Inf       | F.9328 |
| 1 Brit Div    | F.9025 |
| 2 Bde         | F.8525 |
| 3 Bde         | F.8524 |
| 18 Bde        | F.8524 |
| 5 Brit Div    | F.8124 |
| 13 Bde        | F.8223 |
| 15 Bde        | G.8427 |
| 17 Bde        | F.7927 |
| 1 Armd Gp     | F.8824 |

T.O.O. 292100B

ACTION: OPD  
INFO: Gen Arnold  
Gen Bissell  
Col Park  
LOG

CM-IN-23322

(30 May 44)

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**INCOMING MESSAGE**

May 29, 1944

**From:** Fairbanks from General Gamwell  
**To :** War Office for Lord Burnham and  
AGWAR for General Surles (HQS Washington pass)  
Rptd. A.F.H.Q. Algiers for General Rooks  
**No :** B 12794

Signed Wilson cite FEUCS.

No advance of decisive importance has taken place today on the Eighth Army front north of highway 6, 8 Indian Division has made progress north of Arce which town has been occupied. 6 Armoured Division has also reached the river some 2 miles west of that place.

On the front of the Canadian Corps, further progress has been made west of Ceprano and has reached a point on highway 65 miles west of the town.

On the front of 2 French Corps advance has reached a point just south of Ceccano and further minor advances have been made in the hilly country to the west of that place.

On the front of the 4 American Corps which has taken over the general area north east and north west of Seize, the line of 88 Division is unchanged.

Two American Corps now controls the north eastern portion of the Bridgehead front as far west as Artena. In this area there has been no action of importance.

On the 6 Corps front considerable opposition was met in an attack against the enemy's positions in the Velletri area

CM-IN-23089 (30 May 44)

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Number B 12794

Page 2

which was attacked by the 36 Division.

South west of Velletri an attack by the 34 Division made good progress and reached the general line of the road from Carrocetta running northwards towards Albano Laziale. The enemy counterattacked in this area and forced a withdrawal of some 1200 yards at one point, but last reports place 1 combat command of the 1 American Armoured Division still holding its position astride this road three miles north of Carrocetta.

The general picture is therefore that the enemy is opposing the advance of the 8th Army with rearguards covering heavy demolitions. On the front of the 5th Army after an initial advance contact has now been made with the enemy's main defences south west of Velletri where very stiff opposition is being encountered.

T.O.O.292225

ACTION: Gen Surles

INFORMATION: Gen. Arnold  
OPD  
Gen. Bissell  
Col. Park

CM-IN-23089 (30 May 44) 1623Z 1cc

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From : Adv C.P. A.F.H.Q.

To : War Office (For Lord Burnham)  
AGWAR (For General Surles) (B.A.S. Washington Pass)  
Rptd. Number Two District (For General Wilson)  
A.F.H.Q. (For General Rooks)

Number: B 12761

From General Gamell cite FHCOS.

This has been a day of steady by NOT spectacular progress. On the right the NEW ZEALAND Division has made a small advance at BELMONTE and West of TERELLE North of MONTE CAIRO. North of Highway six, Eight Indian Division have pushed North from ROCCOSECCA some two miles up the MELFA VALLEY. Astride Highway six six armoured Division were still encountering rearguard resistance in the Area of ARCE and no news has been received that this place has yet been taken.

On the Canadian Corp from the Canadian armoured Division has taken CEPRANO, and the one Canadian Division also crossed the LIRI RIVER West of the Reservoir North West of SAN GIOVANNI. On the FIFTH ARMY Front the French have pushed further to the North and the West and are now on the line of CASTRO DEI VOLSCI to a point two miles West of CECCANO.

On the front of two AMERICAN CORPS PIPERNO and SEEZE are now firmly in our hands. Traffic is moving freely along the VIA APPIA from TERRACINA to CISTERNA AND THERE ARE NO enemy in the Low Ground of the PONTINE Marshes.

On the Front of Six Corps on the BRIDGEHEAD, our hold on the Area round ARTENA has been strengthened and elements of three Division are now in this Area from which they can control movement along HIGHWAY SIX through VALMONTONE.

Further to the South West 34th and 45th Divisions are in close contact with the enemy in the VELLETRI Area from which a portion of the 1st AMERICAN Armoured Division has been withdrawn for rest and reorganization.

On the left 1st British Division has extended its front to the East and in conjunction with 45 AMERICAN Division was this afternoon threatening CARRACETO from the East and from the South.

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NO: B12761

Page 2

The general picture therefore is that the advance of EIGHTH ARMY continues but has NOT been rapid. In the mountainous Area South of the line SAN GIOVANNI CECCANO the French have made considerable advances which continue to threaten the enemy's right flank facing EIGHTH Army. The whole of the Low Ground between TERRACINA and the BRIDGEHEAD is now under our control thus enabling the AMERICAN 6 CORPS to be rapidly reinforced. This will probably take place commencing with part of 85 US Division within the next 24 hours. In the BRIDGEHEAD there have been advances on all fronts except on the Left opposite 5 BRITISH Division, but contact has NOT yet been made with the enemy's main position which runs from the Sea through VELLETRI and VALMONTONE and thence to the North East.

The enemy appears to be fighting rear guard actions in front of EIGHTH ARMY to enable him to occupy this line without interference from us or without having his Army broken in two. It remains to be seen whether he will achieve this.

T.O.O. Nil

ACTION: BPR

INFO : CC/S  
CG AAF  
OPD  
G-2  
Col. Park  
Log

CM-IN-22297

(29 May 44)

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**URGENT**

**FOR GENERAL MARSHALL'S EYES ONLY**

**From: CG, AFHQ Command Post, Caserta, Italy.**

**To: War Department**

**Br: B 12779**

**29 May 1944**

B 12779 ~~SECRET~~ to AGWAR ~~SECRET~~ for Marshall  
for his eyes only from FAIRBANKS from Devers.

Very slow but steady advance by the Eighth Army.  
The New Zealand Brigade has reached a point 1,000 yards  
north of Atina. The Eighteenth Indian has advanced to  
Mount Nero and the line then approached Arce 1,000 yards  
west of Ceperano.

On the Fifth Army Front there has been a steady  
but slow advance along the entire front. The pocket in the  
vicinity of Artena has been extended slightly and Velletri  
is invested.

While the advance today has been slow and steady  
the troops have been getting into position for a major  
attack tomorrow. The Polish Corps is resting. The Sixth  
Corps will attack tomorrow morning with a view of pushing  
the First Armored Division to the northwest between Highway  
7 and the railway.

CM-IN-21890

(29 May 44)

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**URGENT**

**FOR GENERAL MARSHALL'S EYES ONLY**

**Page 2**

**From:** CG, AFHQ Command Post, Caserta, Italy.

**Nr:** B 12779

**29 May 1944**

I am still very optimistic that the German Army is so weakened that it will not be able to stop south of Rome.

**No Sig**

**ACTION:** General Handy

**INFORMATION:** General Arnold  
General Bissell  
Admiral King  
Colonel Park  
Field Marshal Dill  
LOG

CM-IN-21890

(29 May 44) 0127Z

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**INCOMING MESSAGE**

May 28, 1944

~~SECRET~~

From: AFHQ ADV CP

To : War Office (For Lord BURNHAM  
AGWAR (For General SURLS) (BAS Washington pass)  
RPTD: AFHQ Algiers (For General ROCKS)

No : B12777

CITE FHCOS. FROM GENERAL GAMMEL SIGNED WILSON.

During today progress has been made in some sectors. On the right ATINA has been seized and some Troops are across MELFA River immediately Northwest of ATINA.

In the vicinity of ARCE we have advanced some two miles immediately on the East of the town while close fighting has taken place near MONTE PICCOLO to the South of ARCE. In the CEPRANO sector we have gained the CEPRANO-ARCE road for about two miles Northeast from CEPRANO and have slightly increased our gains to the WEST of the LIRI.

On the left (previously Bridgehead sector) progress has been made on the front to the Northwest of CISTERNA. CARROCETTA (on ANZIO-ALBANO LAZIALE road) is reported as being almost completely surrounded by our Troops while gains of from one to two miles have been made on the five miles of front to Northeast of CARROCETTA.

Elsewhere there have been NO changes of any major importance and the general result of the day is thus some gains resulting from continued pressure but NO sensational change anywhere on the front.

T.O.O. 282040

ACTION: Gen Surles

INFO : CC/S  
Gen Arnold  
OPD  
Gen Bissell  
Col Park  
LOG

CM-IN-22296 (29 May 44) 1643Z df

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WAR DEPARTMENT  
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May 28, 1944

From: AFHQ Algiers

To : War Office

Agwar

Rptd: Middle East SHAFF NORBS FAIRBANKS SOMTO (two Dist pass)  
FARGO for MACFARLAND PENBASE for CAVE (BRITMAN pass to Agwar)

No : F 51808

Signed Wilson cite FREGBI.

G2 Summary.

ONE: Last special summary 26 May.

TWO: General picture shows little major change. On the Adriatic and central mountain sectors situation still constant. From Atina to Sezze the enemy is everywhere withdrawing on a fairly well coordinated front employing the familiar rearguard tactics of mines, booby traps and demolitions together with local counter attacks when seeking to gain time or retain temporarily a tactical feature. In general however enemy unable organize such elaborate obstacles as in last Autumn's withdrawal and debris of battle as much a hindrance to movement as planned obstructions. From Sezze North East of Highway 6 enemy opposition local and not serious. Resistance at point of Allied advance towards Valmontone where identifications show enemy has brought down mixed force from 92nd Infantry and Hermann Goering Divisions. Latter believed to have suffered severely from fighter bomber attacks during move South. Task presumably to keep open Highway 6 as long as possible then cover Palestrina - Colli Laziali gap whilst forces from main front disengage Northwards through Alatri and Sora. South of Highway 6 enemy back on defence line skirting Colli Laziali thence to Anzio road and Westwards to sea. Little change yet in latter sector. Enemy will have to hold line Palestrina to sea with whatever reinforcements coming in from North, 362nd Infantry, 3rd PG, 65th Infantry and 4th Parachute Divisions. Whether general trans-Italian line Eastwards to river Foro or Pescara can be established

CM-IN-22300

(29 May 44)

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Number: F 51808

May 28, 1944

Page 2

[REDACTED]

and held depends on success of withdrawal in centre. Serious congestion likely on few available roads and enemy believed already suffering considerable disorganization and heavy casualties all kinds. No tabulated estimates latter yet possible but good reason believe 71st, 94th, 715th Infantry and 90th PG Divisions have had very heavy losses. Casualties also considerable in 362nd Infantry, 26th Panzer and 1st Parachute Divisions. Prisoners tired and dissillusioned by failure of Luftwaffe to cover ground operations.

T.O.O. 281200

ACTION : G-2

INFO : CC/S  
CG AAF  
OPD  
Col Park  
Log

CM-IN-22300

{29 May 44}

1652Z vh

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~~URGENT~~  
MARSHALL'S EYES ONLY

~~SECRET~~

From: CG AFHQ Command Post, Caserta, Italy

To : War Department

Nr : B 12764

28 May 1944

Cite B 12764 Top Sec to AGWAR for Marshall for his eyes only from FAIRBANKS from Devers.

There has been a steady advance all along the front today, 27th May.

On the Eighth Army Front the Canadian Corps has captured Cepuano.

The French have pushed along high ground to a point two miles west of Ceccano. The Second Corps has made itself secure on the high ground north of Roccagorga-Sezze-Roccamassima.

The Sixth Corps has broadened out its front in the Ardena-Velletri area with elements across that road. There have been slight advances and improvement of position on the left of the Sixth Corps line.

CM-IN-21115

(28 May 44)

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URGENT  
MARSHALL'S EYES ONLY

~~SECRET~~

From: CG AFHQ Command Post, Caserta, Italy

Nr : B 12764

28 May 1944

Page 2

My opinion is that the German will not be able to stop south of Rome. At the moment he is using strong rear guards in an effort to slow up the Eighth Army so that he can establish himself on the line south of Rome. He has thrown in the entire Hermann Goehring Division north of Velletri. There are many indications that he is very short of all kinds of supplies, including food. Some prisoners captured today have been taking beans out of the fields and cooking them for food. Others are extremely hungry.

No Sig

ACTION: General Handy

INFO : General Arnold  
General Bissell  
Admiral King  
Colonel Park  
Field Marshal Dill  
Log

CM-IN-21115

(28 May 44)

0158Z

ejv

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WAR DEPARTMENT  
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May 28, 1944

From : A.F.H.Q.  
To: S.H.A.E.F. (For Foord)  
War Office  
AGWAR (For WDGBI)  
No: F 51944

CITE FHGBI

SIGNED WILSON FROM SLOANE.

First impression of a section of the Adolf Hitler Line follows:  
Section is that between 731777 and 730160. Following general  
impressions resulted from this examination.

- A. The line was very thin consisting of nothing but a string of rather widely dispersed pillboxes garnished with wire and mines. Construction was well sited and it was obvious that great amount of labour had been devoted to its preparation.
- B. Outstanding constructions were divided into two classes. Firstly. Large and elaborate pillboxes of very thick concrete and steel construction sunk well into the ground or with earth in a gentle grassy slope around them. Interiors were divided into two and sometimes three compartments designed to provide both fighting and somewhat cramped living quarters for six men. A remarkable feature of pillboxes of this type which were seen is that number of them had final and most essential fitting omitted, namely the turret. In its place was a fitting for cupola. This together with impressive shelters for six inmates would seem to indicate that they were designed mainly as formidable gun placements. In place of gun enemy had to content himself with one or two MGS.

CM-IN-22289 (29 May 44)

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Number: F 51944

May 28, 1944

Page 2.

Secondly. Small steel ready made two man pillboxes were also found, these of the type previously reported.

- C. One of the larger type of pillboxes was exceptional in that it did have a turret mounting a very long gun on it. Examination of ammunition indicated it to be a 7.5 CM KWK four two, thus raising suspicion that turret and gun were designed for panther tank.

Conclusion are that constructions appear to be fairly standardized and that therefore we are likely to find Prototypes in the areas around the Festung EUROPA.

Further details will be sent.

T.O.O. N11

ACTION: G-2

INFO : CC/S  
CG AAF  
OPD  
Col Park  
LOG

CM-IN-22289 (29 May 44) 1637Z mmd

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WAR DEPARTMENT  
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May 26, 1944

From: G2 AFHQ Algiers

To : War Office

AGWAR

Rptd: Middle East SHAEF Adv C. P. AFHQ. NORBS  
FARGO PENBASE SOMTO (2 Dist please pass)

Number: F51116

G-2 Summary

Signed Wilson cite FPGBI

ONE Last Special Summary 24 May.

TWO On Adriatic flank enemy shows signs being prepared pull in most forward positions but no indications any intention leave main defence line. Strength this sector reduced apparently to 278 Infantry Divisions (probably not yet complete and prisoners believe one of three Regiments remaining Pesaro) and about half 334 Infantry Division. No changes noted in mountain sector of 114 Jaeger and 5 Mountain Divisions South of Maiella. Identifications show considerably more of 44 Infantry Division being used in fighting North of Highway 6. Divisional frontage presumed therefore extended Southwards. Fall of Castrocielo and Allied threat to Roccasecca village presumably forcing withdrawal of Division to Melfa River line. This likely to have repercussions further North. Little heavy fighting astride Liri plane but Allied progress slowed by mines, craters and demolitions. Consider 90 PG Division may have disengaged to Ceprano or even further to Frosinone. Traffic Northwards from latter also observed past two days. Enemy still holds fairly firm front West of Liri to road Vallecorsa - Frosinone. Identifications suggest 26 Panzer Division now possibly astride Liri and 305 Infantry Division pulled back being replaced by strong battle Group from two Regiments 334 Infantry Division. Consider enemy likely

CM-IN-20690

(27 May 44)

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Number: F51116

May 26, 1944

Page 2

continue all measures keep Allied Advance slow this sector to protect Ceprano and Frosinone and road exits to North as long as possible. From West of Vallecorsa to West of Zezze position is fluid with local enemy resistance at Priverno and Sezze. Pontine area now abandoned by enemy and front is in theory continuous to bridgehead where enemy now faced with serious breach South Colli Laziani. Consider anxiety maintain route Frosinone - Rome as long as possible may lead enemy to switch back mobile units from main front (EG 90 PG Division) to meet Allied thrust South of Valmontone.

THREE Prisoners report toxic gas dump Palestrina. No details.

T.O.O. 261800B

ACTION: G-2

INFO : CC/S  
CG AAF  
OPD  
Col. Park  
Log

CM-IN-20690

(27 May 44)

1507Z vh

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**INCOMING MESSAGE**

~~TOP SECRET~~

From: AFHQ ADV CP from General Gammell cite FHCOS

To : War Office for Lord Burnham  
Agwar for General Surles (BAS W pass)  
Rptd No 2 District for General Wilson  
AFHQ for General Rooks.

No : B 12752

26th May 1944

On 8th Army. Front progress was again good today. In the north the New Zealanders and Poles occupied the town of Terelle and Monte Cairo without opposition. To the West, the Indians continued their advance through the town of Roccasecca with motorised patrols as far as two miles to the north. 13 Corps and one Canadian Corps advancing North West up Liri valley have crossed River Melfa and are now 1 mile South West of the town of Arce and 2 miles Southwest of Ceprano.

In Fifth Army Zone, French Corps made advances to the North and North West, averaging 1500 to 2000 yards, and capturing Amaseno. US 2 Corps on left of French continued its advance towards the bridgehead, concentrating its effort in the mountains north of the Pontine marshes and making advances up to 4000 yards.

In the bridgehead area, 6 Corps made good progress. All resistance overcome in Cisterna and the advance continued to the northeast, capturing town of Cori. Armoured recon units are reported just south of Arterna.

The day has been characterised by hard fighting all along the front and satisfactory progress has been made.

ACTION: Gen Surles

T.O.O. 262205B

INFO : CC/S, Gen Arnold, OPD, Gen Bissell, Col Park, Log.

CM-IN-20691

(27 May 44)

1513Z

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**URGENT**

**GENERAL MARSHALL'S EYES ONLY**

**From: CG AFHQ Command Post in Caserta, Italy**

**To: War Department**

**NR: B12754**

**26 May 1944**

**B12754 to AGWAR for Marshall for his eyes only  
[REDACTED] from FAIRBANKS from [REDACTED]**

Terrelle and Mount Cairo were vacated by the enemy today and occupied by the New Zealanders and the Poles. To the left the Eighth Army advanced to the general line from G 7231-Mount Grande-point at 6326, then the 63 grid to the Liri River.

In the Fifth Army sector the French mopped up San Giovanni and occupied Mount San Cotalda, Mount Solo, Castro Dei Volsci, Mount Quallerdici and Amaseno. The Second Corps continued its advance, occupying Mount Fortino, then along the Amaseno River to where it enters the Pontine Marshes. Elements have also seized Sezze.

Today I visited the bridgehead and toured the entire front with Truscott. The Third Division and Special Service Force are pushing rapidly to the north and have elements in Ardena where they cover Highway 6 at Valmontone. The Sixth Corps changed front to its left and is driving south of Velletri directly along Highway 7 toward Rome, with Combat A of the First Armored Division leading, then the

**CM-IN-20376 (27 May 44)**

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URGENT

GENERAL MARSHALL'S EYES ONLY

~~SECRET~~

-page 2-

From: CG AFHQ Command Post in Caserta, Italy

NR: B12754

26 May 1944

34th and 45th Divisions in order with the 36th Division in reserve. They have reached a line just south of Velletri and north of the River Dei Prefetti.

All division commanders were pushing and driving hard and will continue to do so during the night. There are signs of considerable weakening on the part of the enemy. He has now withdrawn the 4th Paratroop Division to the north and there are indications that the Hermann Goehring Division is arriving at Valmontone. All divisions are up to the strength in men as well as tanks and equipment. I am extremely optimistic and believe there is a great opportunity to bag most of this army. Many prisoners are being secured. In one case a whole battalion surrendered to the 3rd Division. The number captured by the Fifth Army alone is now 12,000. Our casualties are considered light in view of the rapid and continuous advance. It is Clark's intention to move the 85th Division rapidly across the Pontine Marshes to the vicinity of Cisterna where he will rest it and follow immediately with the 91st Division, parts of which are now landing in Italy.

By tomorrow night the pattern should be clear as to what may be the enemy's intention. At this time he is ordering all units to hold at all costs, which is playing

CM-IN-20376 (27 May 44)

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**URGENT**

**GENERAL MARSHALL'S EYES ONLY**

**-page 3-**

**From: CG AFHQ, Command Post in Caserta, Italy**

**NR: B12754**

**26 May 1944**

**into our hands.**

**The Tactical Air Force has continued its excellent work, giving close support to the armies, and there are now signs of the destruction to roads, communications, supplies and troops caused by their activity.**

**No Sig**

**ACTION: Gen Handy**

**INFORMATION: Gen Arnold  
Gen Bissell  
Col Park  
Log**

**CN-IN-20376 (27 May 44) 0358Z bjm**

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**INCOMING MESSAGE**

FOR GENERAL MARSHALL'S EYES ONLY

**EYES ONLY**

From: Headquarters Mediterranean Allied Air Forces in  
Caserta, Italy

To: War Department

No: B 12740 26 May 1944

Cite B 12740 to AGWAR for Marshall for his eyes  
only from Fairbanks from Devers

The 8th Army has made slow progress beyond the  
river Melfa. The Polish have made no advance. The 6th  
Armored Division has bypassed them and reached a point  
7126. The 5th Armored division is 1 mile beyond the  
river.

On its Right the 5th Army has made considerable  
progress. The French, fighting hard, have reached the  
line San Giovanni-Pastena and have captured Mount Calvillii,  
Mount Rotondo and Mount Civitella. Crittenbergers 4th  
Corps takes over command of the 85th and 88th Divisions;  
Keyes 2nd Corps goes to the bridgehead. The 88th Division  
has secured Mount Curio with advance elements across the  
stream at the foot of the mountain. The 85th Division has  
elements in the foot hills across the Piperno - Pontine  
Marshes road at 31516. The Pontine marshes are clear all  
the way to the high ground. The 91st Reconnaissance has  
pushed elements into the outskirts of Sesse.

In the bridgehead the Special Service Force is South  
of Cori. Elements of the 1st Armored Division have reached  
0741 and 99388. The 3rd Division has made considerable

CM-IN-19428 (26 May 44)

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*Col Parks*  
COPY No. 17

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**FOR GENERAL MARSHALL'S EYES ONLY**

**EYES ONLY**

**From:** Headquarters Mediterranean Allied Air Forces in  
Caserta, Italy

**No:** B 12740 26 May 1944

progress beyond highway 7 and has reached the line 9834-0636. No changes on the rest of the line. The chances are still very good to cut off the German Army although there are indications that he has brought elements of the 334th Division south against the advance force of the bridgehead and that the Hermann Goehring Division is arriving in small dribblets.

No Sig.

**ACTION:** Gen Handy

**INFO :** Gen Arnold  
Gen Bissell  
Col Park  
Log

CM-IN-19428 (26 May 44) 0319Z mcs

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URGENT

EYES ONLY

MARSHALL EYES ONLY

From: AFHQ Command Post, Caserta, Italy

To: War Department

Nr: B-12724 25th May 1944

Cite B 12724 to AGWAR for Marshall for his eyes only from FAIRBANKS from Devers.

Situation generally good. The Polish Corps has made no advance but has a firm hold on the Villa S Lucia-Piedemonte line. The 5th Canadian Armored Division has advanced along highway 6 and is now beyond the Melfa River.

The French Corps has made little advance. It is now facing a line generally N Giovanni-Pastena.

The 2nd Corps has continued its advance to the west and holds firmly the high ground overlooking Pipeno, extending to the south to include the coast 3 miles west of Terracina. The 91st Reconnaissance Squadron using 3 to 5 different roads is making an effort tonight to reach the beachhead across the Pontine marshes. The demolitions are thorough here and this may be difficult.

In the bridgehead the Special Service Force under pressure of severe tank attack withdrew slightly and then regained their objectives and are ready to attack. The 3rd Division is all around Cisterna but has not cleaned it up as yet. The 1st Armored Division has secured its objectives 2,000 meters north of the railroad. No change on the rest of the front.

CM-IN-18613 (25 May 44)

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**INCOMING MESSAGE**  
~~SECRET~~

**EYES ONLY**

Page 2

From: AFHQ Command Post, Caserta, Italy

Nr: B-12724 25th May 1944

WZ  
Situation in bridgehead considered exceptionally satisfactory and I look for further advances tomorrow. It is believed the enemy has used up his reserves and is short of supplies, that he will fight his usual stubborn delaying action with mines, tanks, machine guns and demolitions.

I visited the front west of Terracina today; saw Keys, Coulter, Sloan and many of their troops. They are all in excellent condition and are flushed with the power of success.

The Division and Corps Engineers are doing a remarkable piece of work in making roads passable. They have built two roads right straight across the mountains which will carry truck and tank transportation. Too much praise cannot be given to the Air Force which has made a maximum effort in supporting the advance of the ground forces. At no time except when clouds are very low are planes absent from the air overhead. The 6 new 8 inch guns just received in the theatre are all in action and filling an essential need. Tactical Reconnaissance reports heavy enemy movement northwest on highway 6 from Ceprano.

No Sig

ACTION: Gen Handy

INFO : Gen Arnold, Gen Bissell, Col. Park, Log

CM-IN-18613 (25 May 44) 0313Z JB

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From: ADV CP A.F.H.Q.

To : War Office (for Lord Burnham)  
and AGWAR (for General Surles) BAS Washington pass.  
Rptd AFHQ for General Rooks.

No : B12732

25th May 1944.

FROM GENERAL GAMMELL SIGNED WILSON CITE PHCOS.

On Eight Army front good progress has been made today and it appears that Thirteen and Canadian Corps are across the River Melfa South of Highway Six with the Sixth British Armoured, Fifth Canadian Armoured and First Canadian Infantry Division from right to left. On the right of Sixth Armoured the Eighth Indian are pushing North of Highway Six on Castrociole with the object of pinching out the enemy still opposing the Polish Corps. In the Fifth Army area there has been little change on the fronts of the French Corps and the Second American Corps, except that patrols from the Main front and those from the Bridgehead moving South East from Littoria joined hands this morning. On the Bridgehead front the advance has moved past Cisterna to the South East and North West, though last reports state that resistance has not been finally overcome in the town.

North West of Cisterna the progress of the First American Armoured Division is uncertain, but latest reports place their leading elements four miles East and a mile South of Velletri.

The general picture is therefore good progress by the Eighth Army, but the advance from the Bridgehead has not been sufficiently rapid as yet to achieve decisive results.

T.O.O. 251950

ACTION: Gen Surles

INFO : CC/S, Gen Arnold, OPD, Gen Bissell, Col Park

CM-IN-20025

(26 May 44)

1924Z

22M

*seems superceded by  
IN 20376 of 26th*

*3 as Italy*

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WAR DEPARTMENT  
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From: G2 AFHQ Algiers

To : War Office  
AGWAR  
Rptd SHAER  
Middle East  
Fairbanks  
Fargo  
Penbase  
Norbs  
Sonto (Two dist please pass)

No : F 50283 May 24th, 1944

Signed Wilson cite FHGBI G2 Summary.

PARA ONE. Last special summary May 22nd.

PARA TWO. Main Front. No activity Adriatic to Monte Cairo. Enemy still resisting in vicinity Piedimonte. Liri sector of Hitler line pierced yesterday on Aquino flank despite determined opposition. Situation Pontecorvo not entirely clear but village believed evacuated by enemy and general indications point to at all event limited withdrawal on whole Liri sector. West of river enemy still firm but counter attacks yesterday limited to one action northeast Pico. From identifications appreciate 305th Infantry Division with 2 regiments from Adriatic now on 26 Panzer divisions right west of Pico. Apparently supported by elements if not whole 1027 GF showing demands made on bridgehead forces even greater than already apparent. Enemy resistance from Lencola to sea appears largely local. Not known if Terracina still held. Coordinated stand westwards from Pico now hardly within enemys capabilities and forces operating on this sector will be faced with increasingly delicate task if hitherto firm anchor of main Liri sector of Hitler line also become fluid. Enemy in this case likely attempt at all costs maintain some continuity of line whilst pivoting main front from coast to north of Frosinone in order to cover roads away through Alatri and Sora. Attempt to maintain contact between ten and fourteen armies also likely for as long as possible to prevent Allied

CM-IN-18959 (25 May 44)

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Page #2

wedge thrusting up from highway seven to Frosinone.  
Hitherto fairly firm defense Terracina presumably designed  
to delay this.

PARA THREE. Bridgehead. Information scanty. Initial  
enemy resistance to yesterday's attack towards railway on  
both sides Cisterna not intense suggesting some tactical  
surprise. Later stiffened. Enemy minefields major  
obstacle. Local counter attacks with tanks. Enemy re-  
sistance from both sides Anzio road. Five hundred prisoners  
taken during first day.

T.O.O. 241900

ACTION: G-2

INFO : CCB  
CGAAF  
OPD  
Col. Park  
LOG

CM-IN-18959

(25 May 44)

1542Z

ejv

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NLR 101  
By RT, NARA, Date 4/13/94

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WAR DEPARTMENT  
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**INCOMING MESSAGE**

From: HQ, SOMTO

To : AFHQ, ALGIERS FOR G3 Sp Ops  
Rptd: AGWAR, UNITY  
WAR OFFICE  
GHQ EAST AFRICA 163  
C in C MED  
7th Army  
AAI  
Fairbanks  
HQ, MAAF  
GHQ MIDDLE EAST

No : 130

24 May 1944

SOM Daily SITREP No. 39.

PART ONE.

Air Operations.

ONE. Night 23/24. Successful Italy one failed Italy three.

Sea Operations:

ONE. Night 21/22. Successful France one. Night 22/23 successful Albania one.

PART TWO.

Reports from the field. One Yugoslavia.

A. ONE. BLO reports that Germans have abandoned repairs on railway Koprivnica (SA23) Nasice (SG26) and are working on road Koprivnica-Vinkovci (RX08)

B. ONE. Fighting on road Benkovac (WU29) - Seradin (WU57) continues. 350 enemy dead two tanks and MT destroyed.

TWO. Albania.

A. ONE. Union firmed report that mules entering Korca approx

CM-IN-18957

(25 May 44)

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BY DBS, DATE

MAY 21 1973

*Col Park*

22

*300 Italy*

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PAGE #2

17 May were commandeered by Germans and sent in 100 trucks to Jannina.

TWO. German troops Himara (M10) reported short of food and willing to surrender to British not Partisans.

THREE. Column of eight light tanks and 12 MT arrived Delvine (R48) from Greece night 16.

B. ONE. Small Partisan raid on German port near Barmash (M81) road mined and destroyed one MT.

TWO. Toad M13Z Graasv (Araash?) (R58) not on 500000 map and one T 45 destroyed.

THREE. Italy.

A. ONE. There is reported to be large concentration camp for recently rounded up Italian patriots at Sforzacosta in province of Macerata.

FOUR. Other Countries.

Nothing to report.

T.O.O. 241740E [REDACTED]

ACTION: General Bissell

INFO : CCS  
General Arnold  
OPD  
Col. Park  
Log

CM-IN-18957 (25 May 44) 1541Z

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FROM: SOMFO  
TO: AFHQ Algiers for G-3 Special Ops.  
Rptd AOWAR (B.A.S. Washington please pass)  
S.H.A.E.F.  
War Office  
C IN C Med.  
Force 163.  
Seventh Army  
AA1.  
Adv CP A.F.H.Q.  
By MAAP  
Middle East

NO: G/127

23rd May

SOM DAILY SITREP NO 38

PART 1

AIR OPERATIONS.  
Night 22/23 May. Successful NIL failed YUGOSLAVIA 3 GREECE 2  
ITALY 1.

SEA OPERATIONS. Nothing to Report.

PART 11

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BY DCS, DATE

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Reports from FD.

1. YUGOSLAVIA.
  - (A) GERMANS reported setting up workshops and requisitioning buildings at SINY (XQ14). New airfield completed at BOROVO (RX29) said to be regarded as one of major air bases in YUGOSLAVIA.
  - (E) Activity PZNS SLOVENIA and April beginning May includes destruction 5 locos 51 wagons 156000 (148000)? LIRES? petrol pumps and transformers at LITLJA (RD31)\*.

2. ALBANIA.

CM-IN-18866(25 May 44)

*Col Rank*

22

*300 Italy*

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- (A) Nothing to report.
- (B) PZM strength reported now 20000 under arms and rapidly increasing. Bridghead at BORN (M20) still held by PZM. Area KUHITZ (Wes) 9 and 10 May 5 Bde killed 13 Germans and took 20 PW with all arms and equipment in series of typical minor ops.

3. ITALY

- (A) Nothing to report.
- (B) In NE Italy local org in plains mostly compromised owing lack security. NEH gps comparatively well equipped but badly located for attacking comms.
- (C) Nothing to report.
- (D) Arrest of PADUA organizer and W/T operator reported in SITREP (group missed) confirmed.

4. OTHER COUNTRIES.

Nothing to report.

T.O.O. 23 MIL.

\* Check reads RD 61.

ACTION: Gen Bissell

INFO: OC/S  
Gen Arnold  
OPD  
Col Park

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CM-IN-18866 (25 May 44)

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**TOP SECRET**

**MOST IMMEDIATE**

May 23, 1944

From: AFHQ

To : War Office  
AGWAR  
Fairbanks

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JCS LETTER, 7-5-72  
BY DBS, DATE

MAY 21 1973

Number: F49794

For Lord Burnham, General Surles repeated for Devers from Gammell signed Wilson cite FHCOS.

Again there is little change in the general situation. At last report the Poles were still heavily engaged just to the west of Piedmonte. The Canadians have made a slight penetration of the forward defenses east of Pentecorvo.

The French have beaten off heavy counter attacks by infantry supported by tanks in San Leucio area and recovered ground which they were forced temporarily to yield. They continue to hold Pico despite enemy counter attacks yesterday while making small advances further to the west.

The Second United States Corps likewise have made further advances to the northwest and now hold Monte Calvo, Monte Marino, Monte Autoni and Monte Copiesio. Previous reports that they were in Terracina have not been substantiated and the enemy now appears to hold that place.

Early this morning simultaneous attacks on all fronts were launched: By the 8th Army, the main front of the 5th Army and from the beachhead. No results are yet available but the critical stage of the battle is now at hand and the results of the next few days should tell.

No Sig

ACTION: OPD

T.O.O. 231900B

INFO : CC/S, Gen Arnold, Gen Bissell, Col Park, Gen Surles,  
Log

CM-IN-17690 (24 May 44) 0147Z jb

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URGENT

**EYES ONLY**

MARSHALL AND WILSON EYES ONLY

From: AFHQ Command Post, Caserta, Italy

To: War Department

NR: B 12715

23 May 1944

B 12715 to AGWAR for Marshall for his eyes only  
and to Freedom for Wilson for his eyes only from FAIRBANKS  
from Devers

No change on the right of the Eighth Army front.  
The Canadians have pierced the Hitler Line at Pontecorvo.  
The French have failed to advance. There has been hard  
fighting all along the line but the Second Corps has  
continued its advance and now holds, in addition to  
✓ Mount Alto, Mount Curio and Sonnino. They have tanks in  
the outskirts of Terracina and hold the high ground  
overlooking the city. By morning the Second Corps  
should be able to advance rapidly along Highway 7 toward  
the bridgehead.

In the bridgehead the fighting has been fierce  
but satisfactory. The Special Service Force has crossed  
Highway 7 and reached the railroad track at 0630. The  
Third Division has reached the railroad track generally  
south of Cisterna. The First Armored Division using  
snaker to get through the minefield has reached the rail-  
road track where it crosses the Mole River. Elements of  
the Forty Fifth Division on its left have crossed the  
railroad track and reached a point in the vicinity of  
965355. Their line then extends to the southwest to a

CM-IN-17678 (24 May 44)

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*3. as Italy*

24-43058AB 20000

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# INCOMING MESSAGE

URGENT

EYES ONLY

MARSHALL AND WILSON EYES ONLY

-page 2-

From: AFHQ Command Post, Caserta, Italy

NR: B 12715

23 May 1944

point 92532. The First British Division no change. The Fifth British Division reached their second objective at 760312. They succeeded in getting a tank across the river at 766307. The casualties in the bridgehead today were 800 which we consider light for the magnitude of the attack. Prisoners captured were 500.

There are many indications that the enemy is withdrawing from in front of the French and the Eighth Army. Tactical reconnaissance noted over 240 trucks on the roads this PM but were unable to do much about it because of a low cloud cover.

I am still optimistic.

No Sig

ACTION: Gen Handy

INFO : Gen Arnold  
Gen Bissell  
Col Park ✓  
Log

CM-IN-17678 (24 May 44) 0127Z jb

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From : AFHQ ALGIERS

To : WAR OFFICE  
ADWAR (WAR WASHINGTON TARS)

Rptd: SHAER, GHQ MIDDLE EAST FORCES,  
SOMTO (2 district pass)  
MORBS, FARGO, PEBASE, FAIRBANKS

Number: F49356 22 May 1944

Signed Wilson cite FHGBI. G-2 Summary.

One. Last special summary 20 May.

Two. Present enemy order of battle main front (See also  
F46743 of 16 May.

(A) Independent Adriatic Group. 993 GR of 278  
Infantry Division in former 578 GR Sector 577 GR of 305  
Infantry Division. 334 Infantry and 114 Jaeger Divisions with  
Regimental dispositions unchanged.

(B) LI Mountain Corps. 5 Mountain and 44 Infantry  
Division no changes except probably LI Bn still with 100  
Mountain Regt and elements 132 GR transferred to area  
Piedimonte. Not known whether 44 Division Hq again controlling  
own units. Considered probable. 1 Parachute Division (Monte  
Oaire - Aquino) with following units forward: II Bn 721 JR,  
4 Mtn Bn, II Bn 100 Mtn Regt, I and III Bns 1 para Regt, I  
and II Bns 4 para Regt, 190 Recce unit and 585 anti tank Bn.  
3 para Regt, II Bn 741 JR and Parachute MG Bn unlocated. 90  
PG Division (Aquino - Liri) with 361 PGR, 576 GR (BODE), 190  
assault gun Bn and probably 115 tank Bn. 115 PGR believed  
pulled out.

(C) 1 XIV Panzer Corps with 26 Panzer Division  
(Liri West of Pico) with 9 PGR and mixed force consisting of  
II Bn 578 GR (305 Division).  
200 PGR (90 PG Division) II Bn 104 PGR (15 PG Division) 334  
Fusilier Bn, 194 GR (71 Division). 67 PGR not contacted.  
No tank identifications. Division controlling sector west of  
Pico - exclusive Lenola unknown. Probably Hq 15 PG Division  
with remnants 71 Division, 441 114 and 115 Recce Units and

CM-IN-17537 (23 May 44)

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8 [REDACTED]

Number: F49356

22 May 1944

Page 2.

305 Fusilier Bn. 94 Infantry Division (Lenola - Terracina) with remnants own regiments and I and III Bns 104 PGR (15 PG Division) 26 and 400 Recce units and 104 Fusilier Bn.

Three. Enemy situation. Very quiet on Adriatic flank. Enemy evidently making new changes here and replacing 305 by 278 Infantry Division from Istria. Change-over apparently about half complete. No evidence any withdrawals in mountain sector Maiella - Monte Cairo. Sharp enemy reaction to own patrols. Stubborn fighting Piedimonte area but enemy getting worst of battle there. Aquino-Pontecorvo sector of Hitler line holding at present. Own advance elements report thick wire belt but this not serious obstacle. Defence at present mainly heavy anti-tank screen with enfilading fire from Piedimonte flank. Situation threatening for enemy sector Pontecorvo - Pico where 26 Panzer Division put in piecemeal to endeavour check French advance and clear connecting road. Opposition still stiff but own troops reported working north of Pico and approaching S Giovanni on Liri flank. Pico position thus difficult but enemy still believed planning further counter-attack. This may absorb more reinforcements. On rest of front opposition generally slight except in area Lenola and enemy believed back on defence positions west of line Lenola-Pondi-Terracina. Diversion at any rate major elements 26 Panzer division from Adriatic indicative enemy AFOS 305 S concern and doubt of ability to prevent general disorganization south of Liri and turning of Hitler line astride Liri valley. Reinforcements thrown in piecemeal to stop threat to Liri flank. This not yet successful and main portion of Hitler line now forms distinct salient. Enemy possibly at least hoping be able use Hitler line as temporary check while regrouping for counterattacks especially south of Liri or for conduct of rearguard actions in event general withdrawal being necessary. Available forces now barely adequate for either but appreciate decision to withdraw not yet taken and attempt may still be made to find further forces and counterattack to restore Pontecorvo-Pico line. Bridgehead quiet.

Four. Stop press. Element I Bn 71 PGR of 29 PG Division identified area Terracina.

T.O.O. 221930

ACTION: G-2

INFO : CCS, CG AAF, OPD, Col Park, Log

CM-III-17537 (23 May 44) 1841Z [REDACTED]

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