

Verbundkatalog Kalliope

Questions about Italien Soldier.

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QUESTIONS ABOUT ITALIAN SOLDIER

1. How strong is Italian Army now?
2. How many divisions are in line?
3. Are all the Italian soldiers volunteers?
4. What is the average age of Italian soldier?
5. Which civilian professions and sectors of Italian society are mostly represented in the Italian Army? (Peasants? Workers? Students?)
6. Which parts of the country are mostly represented? (South? Central sector? North?)
7. Are there many soldiers with families living in German-occupied regions?
8. Have many of the present Italian soldiers formerly been Partisans?
9. Is there any organized co-ordination between Partisan activities and Army strategy?
10. Have many of the present Italian soldiers and officers formerly been ~~members~~ *in the Army before the change of regime?*
11. What kind of military training do Italian soldiers get, before being sent to line? How long does training take?
12. What is an Italian soldier's monthly pay? (From Private upwards)
13. What is an enlisted man's daily routine, as long as he is in rear areas?
(At what time does he get up in the morning? -- Is there a morning roll call?
How much time off does he have?
What kinds of punishment?
Are there regular inspections of personal equipment, etc?)
14. What are his daily food rations? Does he get wine with every meal?

more.

(QUESTIONS: continued)

15. How much of his personal equipment (uniform and weapons) is of American origin?
16. Is there an Italian Red Cross?
17. Is there anything comparable to the American "P.X."? Any kind of military canteen?
18. How many cigarettes per day?
19. According to what kind of principles are Italian officers selected? Is there an Officers' Candidate School? Do many officers come from the ranks?
20. Is there much personal contact between officers and enlisted men?
21. Are any efforts being made to provide soldiers with political instruction and orientation? (Lectures, etc)
22. Are there any Italian military publications? (Newspapers, magazines)
23. Are soldiers interested in politics? Are there many political discussions or disputes among the men?
24. What are the Italian soldiers' favourite songs? Is "Lilly Marlene" popular? Is "Pistol-packing Mama" popular? Other American songs?
25. Do Italian soldiers like American films? Which American actors are most popular?
26. Are living conditions now rather better, or rather worse, than they were under Mussolini?

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Questions about Italian soldiers

1) 300,000, of which 60,000 belonging to Combat Groups, 40,000 more acting in the immediate vicinity of the front line (serving with Allied Units as muleteers etc., and suffering casualties to 14%) and 120,000 employed in auxiliary services in the territory (PBS, harbour services, railways, etc.). Many of these are specialized and are furnishing a very efficient work (Italians in dependance of PBS repaired over 3,000 trucks in one month, Co.ys in Leghorn Harbour discharged in one month about 100,000 tons of material). 80,000 more for security, territorial services, training units, central organization (Royal Carabinieri are not considered in the above figures).

3) Not all. There is a considerable percentage of volunteers. There might be many more, as there are thousands asking to volunteer, but they cannot be enlisted as the fixed ceiling for fighting troops (established by the Allies) has already been reached. About 1000 in each combat group are volunteers. Garibaldi Division, now back from the Balkans, where it has been fighting since 1943 with Tito's troops, has asked to be employed on the Italian front. All the applications are for fighting units.

2) Four Combat groups are now on the front line (about 40,000 troops One more is in the final stage of training.

4) The Italian Army includes enlisted men born from 1914 to 1924. Many others, belonging to other classes, whose families are in occupied territories, are kept in the Army. As a rule, the younger classes (1917 to 1924) are employed on the front line, while the older ones in the rear for auxiliary services.

5) As military service is compulsory in Italy, and Italy is a chiefly agricultural country, Italian soldiers are mostly peasants, labourers and ~~warlike~~ farmers; but they are only slightly outnumbered by workers, the latter belonging to the big industrial areas of Northern Italy. Students are numerous, especially among officers.

6) Northern and central Italy, because the units which were in South and in the islands happened to be mainly constituted with conscription from Northern districts. Moreover, many men of the liberated territories have been released, whereas all those of the occupied territories are still in the Army.

7) Yes.

8) Yes, quite a lot. Recently many partisans have been enlisted and

sent to the combat groups. Other partisan units are being constituted and will be attached to combat groups, mainly with scouting and patrolling duties. Other partisan units ~~are~~ are being employed directly by the Allies and do not belong to the Italian Army.

9) There is a very intimate organized cooperation (e.g., the capture of Massa Carrara, Ravenna, Monte Belvedere). There are liaison missions with the partisan HQ.s in the North and all partisan units follow instructions by wireless telling them which fighting or sabotage actions must be carried out, in connection with the Allied Armies strategy.

10) Yes.

11) Long and accurate. Italian soldiers are mainly veterans, having from three to seven years service. They are now being trained in specially organized camps, with Allied arms and equipment. For a first period of over two months, they get acquainted with the new arms and equipment; this is followed by a period of tactical training and manoeuvres. Results have proved excellent.

12) Private	500	lire	a	month	
Corporal	600	"	"	"	
L/ Sgt.	700	"	"	"	(rough figures)
Sergeant	1600	"	"	"	
Sgt. Major	2500	"	"	"	
WO (NCO)	4000	"	"	"	

Fighting units and soldiers in auxiliary services in the immediate rear of the line have an additional daily allowance of respectively 45 and 32 lire (same for all ranks).

13) There is reveille, morning roll call, about three hours off daily. Punishments are: confinement to barracks, and prison (maximum one month prison).

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14) Allied ration, B scale (supplements to front line troops); $\frac{1}{2}$ liter wine daily.

15) Troops depending from Americans have American clothing and equipment. Combat groups have British equipment. Non-auxiliary troops and central organizations use Italian clothing.

16) Yes.

17) It is being organized, chiefly for fighting troops. Much being done already.

18) Ten Italian cigarettes to front troops, five to others.

19) Physical fitness, ~~wh~~ school degree, military attitude. Any NCO can get a commission if he passes the required degree and a test.
~~FOI WAWXWNCN~~ No cadet ~~training~~ training school is functioning at present. Only Lecce Academy for regular officers.

20) Yes.

21) No. Army is meant to be unpolitical. All efforts are being made to direct soldiers in view of the common war effort.

22) There is a daily paper for the Army ("Patria") which started one month ago; weekly magazines, one for the Army, one for the Navy, one for the Air Force.

23) Not much.

24) Italian soldiers, like American songs very much. Sometimes Italian words are adapted to them. But favourite songs are still old songs of World War I. "Lili Marleen" not very popular.

25) Very much. Favourite actors: Clark Gable, Charles Boyer, Gary Cooper, ~~Errol Flynn~~, Charles Laughton, Rytta Hayworth, Ginger Rogers, Catharine Hepburn, Deanna Durbin, Loretta Young.

26) Worse than in ordinary times. In some cases, perhaps better than in the last few months before the armistice.

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