

Trieste: An Historical Perspective of the TRUST Command

Items taken from the periodicals of the day



compiled by: Chuck Nobles
2103 Benjamin Ln
Bloomington IN 61701

email: cnobles@insightbb.com

Trieste: An Historical Perspective of the TRUST Command

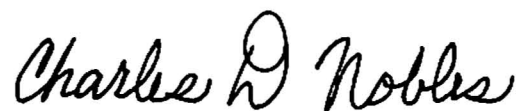
This document was compiled to provide for the "TRUST Troopers" who served in the Free Territory of Trieste during the late 1940s and early 1950s a record of the events that occurred during their stay.

While TRUST was one of the more choice commands in the United States Army at the beginning of the Cold War, it was not a quiet backwater. Constant training, closely supervised by battle-forged NCOs, hammered the replacement troops into a highly motivated, efficient combat-ready force. Without a doubt the men of TRUST were prepared for anything that was likely to come along--from repelling armed incursion from the East, to quelling civilian uprising, to coping with booby traps and the occasional sniper, to parading in rigidly starched uniforms and glistening brass and spit-shined combat boots to awe the visiting Congressman (including one from California, a young Richard M. Nixon) or Senator on a junket. These men were living, breathing recruiting posters showing what a United States soldier should be.

Service in TRUST was unique among all of the U.S. Commands. It was formed as the first of the United Nations police operations, designed to keep Italy and Yugoslavia from militarily occupying the coveted port city of Trieste, while the politicians stumbled into a peaceful solution to a particularly thorny problem. TRUST existed before the Berlin airlift, before China became a Communist country, when Israel was still Palestine, when England still ruled Egypt. It was under the auspices of the UN Security Council, serving under a British Major General military governor, that the 5000 men of TRUST, along with an equal number of British troops, were to protect the newly created Free Territory of Trieste. Officially formed on May 1, 1947 out of elements of the 88th Infantry Division, they served until October 26, 1954, when the zone to which they were assigned was given over to Italy.

Backs to the sea, cut off from effective help from other U.S. Commands, and facing the guns of the Communist East, they anchored the southern end of the NATO line on at an historic invasion route. These 5000 were the cork in the bottle, keeping the peace in a not-so-peaceful time.

I am proud to have been one of those TRUST Troopers.



Charles D. Nobles, former sergeant
Tank Company-351st Infantry Regiment

Taken from the Soldiers Knowledge Sheet dated February 1953

I. HISTORY OF TRUST

By the terms of the Italian Peace Treaty which came into force on 15 September 1947, a Governor was to have assume office at the earliest possible moment. Pending assumption of office by the Governor, the Free Territory of Trieste was to continue to be administered by the Allied Military Government has remained in the Free Territory of Trieste to fill the gap left by the non-implementation of the Italian Peace Treaty by the United Nations.

To support the policies of the Allied Military Government, the United States in February 1947 organized a force of 5,000 men from elements of the 88th Infantry Division then present in the area on security duty. The force was designated Trieste United States Troops or TRUST as it is better known. In the spring of 1947 headquarters TRUST moved to Miramare Castle and TRUST became the representative of the United States in the Free Territory, which it is today.

II. MISSION OF TRUST

The mission of TRUST is to maintain order in the Free Territory of Trieste and to support the policies of the Allied Military Government until such time as the Governor is appointed by the United Nations and sees fit to dismiss the force.

III. ORGANIZATION OF ALLIED FORCES

Headquarters British and American Forces is responsible for the supervision AMG Allied Military Government, BETFOR (British Element Trieste Force) and TRUST (Trieste United States Troops).

IV. ORGANIZATION OF TRUST

Headquarters TRUST in the downtown area is the center of activities for the Special Units. In the Banne, and Opicina areas are the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the 351st Infantry Regiment while the 3rd Battalion of the Regiment is located in downtown Trieste. Under the special units the following are located separately for the infantry; Headquarters Company TRUST Headquarters TRUST, 88th Recon, 281st Military Police Company, 7100 AMG, 17th CIC, 98th Army Band, 508th Signal, 517th and 7106 Engineers, 23rd Ordnance, 23rd Quartermaster, and the 7th Station Hospital.

XIII. LOCATION OF ALLIED TROOPS IN THE F T T

Downtown Trieste	All Special Units, 3rd Battalion of 351st Infantry also Allied Military Government Hqs, BETFOR Hqs, 24th Brigade Hqs, 1st Bn North Straffordshire Regiment, the Loyal Regiment.
Banne	517th Engineer Combat Company, 2nd Battalion of 351st Infantry, Tank Company

Opicina	1st Battalion of 351st Infantry, Regimental Headquarters of 351st Infantry
Miramare	Headquarters TRUST
Sistiana	TRUST NCO Academy, TRUST Replacement Center
Duino	88th Recon Company, Commander of all Allied Forces

INFORMATION ON THE FTT

1. The Free Territory of Trieste is divided into Zone "A" and Zone "B".
2. The American and British Forces occupy Zone "A" and Zone "B".
3. The border of Zone "A" facing Yugoslavia is clearly marked with black and white concrete imbedded markers. The markers are 6 feet high and 5 inches in diameter and are about 50 yards apart, depending on the terrain. In the vicinity of roadblocks where the border crosses principal roads, the markers are red and white. The border of Zone "A" is still marked by angle-irons, rocks, and stumps painted yellow.
4. Roadblocks on main roads are manned by outposts consisting of VG Police and American and British Troops.
5. There are 16 outposts along the border of Zone "A".
6. Outpost 1 (between Duino and Monfalcone) through Outpost 6 are manned by US troops and VG Police.
7. Outpost 3 through Outpost 16 (between Lazzaretto and Capodistria) are manned by British troops and VG Police.
8. Outposts 1 and 2 are the only ones authorized for use by American Forces. Outpost 1 is normally the only one used of the two posts.
9. An exit pass or leave papers and ID card are required for personnel when crossing the border into Italy and all military personnel and civilian must have their passports in their possession.
10. VG Police are authorized to stop and inspect all Allied Personnel and to refuse to pass anyone without proper papers.
11. No American personnel are authorized to cross either water or land boundaries of Zone "A" without specific written permission and violation of this order is a Courts Martial offense.
12. There are buoys and triangular markers at the south end of Zone "A" near outpost 16 marking the water boundary between Zone "A" and Zone "B".



MAP PRINTED on July 15, 1946, in The Blue Devil, U. S. army newspaper published weekly by the 88th Division, which guards the temporary frontier of Venezia Giulia. Note how the Yugoslav border will envelop Gorizia, strategic bridgehead at the Isonzo River, if Italian peace treaty drafted at Paris is ratified.

Tito Resents British Grip on Trieste New York Herald Tribune	1945 May 5	p.1
Yugoslavs' Willful Grab at Trieste Poses Danger for Charter Makers Newsweek	1945 May 28	2
Commission to Study Italo-Yugoslav Boundary Problem Intelligence Review, Issue 1	1946 Feb 14	4
Venezia Giulia: Area of Dispute Intelligence Review, Issue 3	1946 Feb 28	5
Trieste: Prize City Newsweek	1946 Mar 18	8
Europe: Background for Misunderstanding Newsweek	1946 Apr 8	9
Slain Yank is Symbol of Tito's Power New York Daily Mirror	1946 May 8	10
Trieste: Battleground for Peace Collier's	1946 May 18	12
Second Meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers, Paris Yale Avalon Project	1946 May 20	21
Conference: Bitter Words, Startled Feelings Newsweek	1946 May 20	23
Is a Red Coup Planned in Trieste? Newsweek	1946 Jul 1	27
Yanks, Yugoslavs In Border Battle Associated Press	1946 Jul 13	28
Yugoslav, Italian Border Settlement Complicated Intelligence Review, Issue 26	1946 Aug 8	29
Firing on Flier Stiffens U.S. Stand on Tito United Press	1946 Aug 20	30
Trieste Time Bomb Ticks Away at Paris Detroit News	1946 Aug 22	31
Morgan Line Closely Guarded, but Easy to Cross Detroit News	1946 Sep 2	33
Trouble Spots Plague the World Life	1946 Sep 2	34
Tito Pens Apology, Rants Over Indemnity Boston Herald	1946 Sep 2	35
Ministers: Labor Lost Newsweek	1946 Dec 2	36
Security Council and Trieste United Nations Weekly	1947 Jan 21	37
Security Council and Trieste Intelligence Review, Issue 53	1947 Feb 20	45
Trieste Line Stirs Worry Oregon State	1947 Mar 1	48
"TRUST" To Be Blue Devil Brigade's Short Title Blue Devil	1947 Mar 1	50
Gorizia Chicago Herald-American	1947 Mar 23	51
Trieste and Security Council Intelligence Review, Issue 59	1947 Apr 3	53
Establishment of Trieste United States Troops General Orders Number 1	1947 May 1	56

Security Council Considers Trieste Governorship		
United Nations Weekly	1947 July 1	p.58
Two Years After – Good Ad for Peacetime Army Found in Troops at Trieste		
The Cleveland Press	1947 Aug 19	60

Doc2002.2_Trieste.pdf pages 62–127

Italian Troops to Face Yugoslavs on New Line		
Stars and Stripes	1947 Sep 14	p.62
Italian Peace Treaty in Effect: Troop Movements Begin Today		
Independent Daily Newspaper	1947 Sep 16	63
Yanks Foil Yugo Entry Into Trieste		
Stars and Stripes	1947 Sep 17	64
Burst of Yank Fire at Trieste Halts Tito Men		
Chicago Daily Tribune	1947 Sep 17	66
Men of OP 5 Stop Yugoslav City Entry		
Blue Devil	1947 Sep 19	67
Jugoslavs Return 2 Americans on 15 September		
Blue Devil	1947 Sep 19	69
Congressman Lauds Yanks Who Held Line at Trieste		
Stars and Stripes	1947 Sep 20	70
Series of Touchy Events After R-Day Diplomatically Handled by All of 351		
Spearhead	1947 Sep 24	72
G Company Returns, Leaves Pola in Matter of Minutes		
Spearhead	1947 Sep 24	75
351st CO Praises Conduct of All Officers and Men		
Spearhead	1947 Sep 14	76
The First Test: 351 Tradition Holds		
Spearhead	1947 Sep 24	77
The Communist Plan for Chaos		
Newsweek	1947 Sep 29	77
Out of the Shadows		
Time	1947 Oct 6	79
The Problem of Trieste		
Intelligence Review, Issue 92	1947 Nov 20	80
Trieste: Fuse of World War III		
Saturday Evening Post	1948 Mar 20	82
Tito Expands Trieste Force		
New York Journal American	1948 Mar 28	90
Italy		
Time	1948 Mar 29	90
5000 GIs to Parade in Trieste Army Day		
New York World Telegram	1948 Mar 31	92
Trieste to Italy		
Life	1948 Apr 5	92
Yugoslav Zone of Trieste Communized by Tito Forces		
Christian Science Monitor	1948 May 17	93
Italy Scores Yugoslavs in Border Rifts		
Christian Science Monitor	1948 May 21	94
Army Reports Yugos Holding 5 Americans		
Stars and Stripes	1948 Jun 19	96
Yugos Release Detained GIs		
Stars and Stripes	1948 Jun 23	96

Free Territory of Trieste			
Stars and Stripes	1948 Jun 27		p.96
Tito Puts Russia on Spot With Trieste Charge in UN			
Christian Science Monitor	1948 Jul 29		97
U.S. Condemn Trieste Setup			
Stars and Stripes	1948 Aug 5		98
Letters Reveal Yugos Sought War on Trieste			
Stars and Stripes	1948 Aug 7		98
Soldiers Two			
This Week	1948 Aug 8		99
Communists			
Time	1948 Sep 6		109
Former TRUST CG Receives Citation			
Blue Devil	1948 Sep 10		105
Stalin's Balkan Dilemma			
Christian Science Monitor	1948 Sep 25		106
Yugos Seize 3 Britons Near Trieste			
Stars and Stripes	1948 Nov 4		108
UN Shelves Russ Move for Trieste Chief			
Stars and Stripes	1949 Feb 23		109
Know Your Neighbor Trieste			
Troop I&E Bulletin	1949 Feb 27		109
Peace Treaty Not Workable With Regard to Free Territory			
Department of State Bulletin	1949 Mar 6		123
Governorship of Free Territory of Trieste			
United Nations Weekly	1949 Mar 15		124
UK Trieste Soldier Killed By Yugo Border Patrol			
Stars and Stripes	1949 Jul 13		127

Doc2002.3_Trieste.pdf pages 128–196

Trieste – Choose Your Partner			
Time	1950 May 1		p.128
Soviet Conduct Makes Settlement of Trieste Problem Impossible			
Department of State Bulletin	1950 Jun 26		128
Letter from Trieste			
New Yorker	1950 Oct 21		129
Trieste Bomb Jars AMG Headquarters			
Associated Press	1951 Sep 28		136
Offer Half Million Lire for Bombing Information			
Blue Devil	1951 Oct 21		136
Colonel Wheeler Assigned 351 CO			
Blue Devil	1951 Nov 10		137
Trieste – City Without a Country			
Collier's	1952 Aug 2		138
Trouble Spot			
Time	1953 Aug 3		145
Tito Demands 'Modifying' of Trieste Step			
Stars and Stripes	1953 Oct 19		147
6 Italian, Yugo Divisions Massed on 75-Mile Border			
Stars and Stripes	1953 Oct 21		150
Yank Departure to End Trieste's Military Paradox			
Stars and Stripes	1953 Oct 22		151

Allied Trieste Troops Keep Calm Despite Threats of Trouble		
Stars and Stripes	1953 Oct 22	p.153
The Troublesome Territory of Trieste Stirs Up Big New International Ruckus		
Time	1953 Oct 26	154
Trieste's Relation to the Defense of South Europe		
Department of State Bulletin	1953 Nov 2	155
Yanks, British Bring End to Trieste Riots		
Associated Press	1953 Nov 6	156
Trieste, City of Fire and Blood		
Life	1953 Nov 16	157
U.S., U.K. to Cease Administering Zone A of Trieste		
Department of State Bulletin	1953 Dec 18	158
Administration of the British-US Zone of Trieste During 1952		
Department of State Bulletin	1953 Dec 23	159
Trieste, Today a Free Territory – Tomorrow ?		
TI&E, HQ, Armrd Cntr, Ft Knox	1954 undated	169
Trieste Accord Initialed		
New York Times	1954 Oct 6	175
Triestenes Cheer Return to Italy As New Accord is Announced		
New York Times	1954 Oct 6	175
Shortcomings Seen by Tito in Agreement		
Stars and Stripes	1954 Oct 8	176
Zone B Village Takes Changeover Quietly		
Stars and Stripes	1954 Oct 8	177
Marilyn's Competition Too Much for Trieste		
Stars and Stripes	1954 Oct 8	177
More U.S. Troops Leave Trieste		
Stars and Stripes	1954 Oct 9	178
Trieste Agreement Brings Departure of U.S. Troops		
Blue Devil	1954 Oct 9	179
Diplomatic Triumph		
Time	1954 Oct 11	180
Peace Comes to the Adriatic		
Time	1954 Oct 18	181
Trieste Celebrates End of Old Dispute		
Life	1954 Oct 18	182
Four-Power Agreement on Trieste		
Department of State Bulletin	1954 Oct 18	183
Letter to the troops from General Dabney		
Headquarters TRUST	1954 Oct 24	190
Last of US Troops Ready to Leave Trieste by Ship		
Stars and Stripes	1954 Oct 24	191
About Face		
Time	1954 Oct 25	192
Yugos Advance to New Border		
Stars and Stripes	1954 Oct 26	194
Trieste Transferred Amid Confusion		
New York Herald Tribune	1954 Oct 27	194
Italians March Into Trieste		
Stars and Stripes	1954 Oct 27	195