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INDUSTRY & COMMERCE, BLACK MARKET,  
FILE NO. 312.10  
DEC. 1943

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312.10

HEADQUARTERS  
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT  
BLACK MARKET COMMITTEE

ED/RJM/vmi

ED/21

31 December 1943

Subject: Report of Black Market Committee for December 1943

To: Deputy Chief of Staff (O and S.I.), AMG

1. The Black Market Committee did not hold a meeting in December because of the disruption in operations caused by the move in location of headquarters. The sub-commissions represented on the committee continued operations along lines suggested by the committee, but these operations are being covered in the reports rendered by those sub-commissions.

2. This report is rendered in accordance with the provisions of para. 2c, Admin. Order No. 1, AMG, dated 9 November 1943.

*R.J. Morthland*

R.J. Morthland  
Captain, Infantry  
Secretary

*P.G. Kirk*

P.G. Kirk  
Colonel, Infantry  
Chairman

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*dg*

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B.K.  
HEADQUARTERS  
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

20 December 1953

SUBJECT: Unauthorized Purchase of Civilian Food-stuffs  
and Conveyance of Civilians.

TO : A.F.H.Q. Adv. Adm. Echelon.

1. These Headquarters have been making a concerted effort to control the black market in those portions of Italy for which they are responsible, particularly in so far as food-stuffs are concerned. In addition, efforts are being made at all times to control the movement and distribution of civilian foods of which there is not a surplus, so that minimum civilian requirements can be met.

2. It is suspected that a ring of black-market operators <sup>4584</sup> may be working out of the camp (formerly used for civilian internees) at Ferramonti, near Tarsia in the Province of Cosenza.

3. On December 15 at approximately 11:55 A.M. immediately in front of the entrance to the camp; Col. Charles M. Spofford accompanied by two other officers belonging to these Headquarters, personally witnessed the following:

An army vehicle (Air-Corps 2½ ton truck, X-41987, Hq.-47) driven by Cpl. Randall Curry, 15th Air-Force Hq., A.P.O. 520, drove up to the camp with a trailer. In the truck and trailer were found the following:

- a) Two full grown live oxen
- b) 76 Kilos of poultry
- c) A number of sacks of fruit and vegetables
- d) Four civilians, all from the camp, who were:  
Siegfried Schaubne  
Ludwig Reiss  
Desider Sonnenfeld  
Henry Insler



4. The driver of the vehicle produced a form letter signed by 1st Lt. Samuel D. Watson, 15th Air Force Hq., Mess Officer, authorizing Siegfried Schauchne to ride in army vehicles, and to act as buyer for the Air-Corps Mess. No authority was offered for the presence of the other civilians in the truck. They stated that it was necessary for them to go to the mess to slaughter the oxen.

5. The driver stated that he had been on the road for 6 or 7 days with Schauchne looking for food.


6. Schauchne is a German internee and it is believed that the other passengers were likewise enemy aliens.

7. It is believed that this activity is irregular from several points of view, and is also contrary to the orders governing the purchase of civilian foods, particularly fresh meats, (PBS Circular No. 16 dated 12 November 1943.) 4579

8. Although it has not yet been established in this case it is believed highly probable from investigation and inquiry in Cosenza that these former internees use credentials they receive from the army and their reputation flowing therefrom to develop a black market trade among civilians on a very considerable scale. The Commandant of the Ferramonti Camp exhibited to the undersigned copies of five or six "authorizations" from various officers, both British and American, rendered to these former internees.

9. Instructions have been given to A.M.G. officers to make special efforts to investigate and prosecute any black-market activities of this group. Steps are also being taken to tighten up the camp administration, to control, so far as possible, practice of this sort.

10. It is respectfully requested that appropriate steps be taken by your headquarters to prohibit or restrict the practice of mess officers of giving credentials to civilians to purchase for army account, and the purchase of foodstuffs, other than those designated as surplus, as provided in PBS Circular No. 16 referred to in par 7.

  
CHARLES M. SPOFFORD,  
Colonel G.S.C.  
D.C.C.A.O. HQ. A.M.G.



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