

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No.

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No.

785015

10000/101/464

KILLING OF ITALIAN POW'S BY GUARDS
JUNE - SEPT. 1944

LIST OF PAPERS

B

File under No. 3836-X(4)

KILLING OF IT PWs BY GUARDS

HQ ACC, APO 394
Sec'y Gen.

SERIAL NUMBER	FROM-	DATE	TO-	SYNOPSIS
#1903/17007	BONOMI	27 JUNE	ACC	
A/CC 3836	STONE	1 JULY	AFHQ	
A/CC 3836	"	1 "	BONOMI	
G-S-3836-8	AFHQ	7 "	STONE	

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND

No. 785015

3454

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

SERIAL NUMBER	FROM--	DATE	TO--	SYNOPSIS
#1903/PROT A/CC 3836 A/c 3836 G-5-3836-8	BONOMI STONE " AFHQ	27 JUNE 1 JULY 1 " 7 "	ACC AFHQ BONOMI STONE	

3454

Instructions.—When papers on a subject become numerous they will be numbered serially and brief entries made on this form.

File under No. 383.6-X(8)

KILLING OF IT PWs BY GUARDS

HQ ACC, APO 394
Sec'y Gen.

785015

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
Office of the Acting Chief Commissioner
APO 394

JAQ/ajp

A/CC 383.6-1

14 September 1944

Subject: Killing of Italian POW by Guard

To : Lt. Col. J. A. Campbell,
Director WED & IPCW Sub-Commission

1. Copy of G-5: 383.6-8 letter from AFHQ, dated 10 September,
and enclosure are attached for your information.

2. Please put up for the Acting Chief Commissioner's signature
appropriate reply to H. E. Bonomi's letter No. 1903 di prot, dated 27
June 44. Your draft should have the concurrence of the Political Sec-
tion and the Legal Sub-Commission.

For the Acting Chief Commissioner:

J. A. QUAYLE
Major, R. A.
Chief Staff Officer

2 Incls:
as in para 1 above.
Plus Ltr No. 1903 di prot, fr Bonomi.

FILES A

51208

Hq ACC - Sec'y Gen.
DISPATCHED
Date Recd 15 Sept 1944
Via [Signature]
Index [Signature]

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No.

785015

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 Section
APO 512

CF/AMB/1asc

G-5: 383.6-8

10 September 1944

SUBJECT: Killing of Italian Prisoner of War by Guard.

TO : Headquarters, Allied Control Commission, APO 394

171

13 Sept 1944
AKL

1. On 1 July 1944, you requested information on the above subject, which we are endeavouring to obtain for you. (Your file No. A/CS 383.6)

2. Information has been received respecting P.W. Angelo Belli, number 21 on the Italian Government's list. Copy of information furnished by G-1 SOS is forwarded to you herewith.

For the Asst. Chief of Staff, G-5:

CHARLES FAIRMAN,
Lt. Colonel, JAGD,
Legal Advisor.

Incl: as above.

see "A" Files

3452

C O P Y

File No AG 201-P-Carab, Angelo Belli (Italian PW).

SUBJECT: Killing Italian Prisoners of War by Guards.

2. G-1 G-1 26 July 1. A board of inquiry consisting
SOS NATO 1944 of U.S. Army officers was appointed
on 31 July 1943, to investigate the
facts and incidents leading to the
death of Italian Prisoner of War
Angelo Belli, subject of the attached
complaint. The following is a summary
of the findings of the board.

a. The facts discovered and found by the Board show that at about 0600 on 27 July 1943, the deceased, Angelo Belli, in company with two other prisoners of war, approached the fence of the enclosure in Prisoner of War Camp No. 100 North Africa at a point between Guard Tower 12 and 19 and were bartering with the guard in Tower No. 18 for cigarettes and soap. During this exchange of money for goods there was considerable movement of the prisoners and they went very near or actually to the fence which was posted with a sign written in Italian stating: "It is prohibited to pass this line. The one who passed is considered an attempt to escape and the guard will fire". The guard in Tower No. 19 from a position approximately 550 feet away, noting the prisoners near the fence ordered them to go back and endeavored to signal them by waving to get away from the fence, but the prisoners did not do this, whereupon the guard fired and instantly killed Angelo Belli.

b. The evidence further developed that at the time of the fatal shot the prisoners were engaged in conversation among themselves, dividing the cigarettes which they had secured from the other guard and it is entirely probable that they did not hear the orders of the guard or see him when he signaled them to retreat from the fence. There is no evidence that the prisoners were actually trying to escape; however, from a distance of 550 feet the guard could clearly see that they were at or against the fence which was a strict violation of instructions to the prisoners and all guards had also been instructed to keep the prisoners away from the wire fence.

SUBJECT: Killing Italian Prisoners of War by Guards.

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b. The evidence further developed that at the time of the fatal shot the prisoners were engaged in conversation among themselves, dividing the cigarettes which they had secured from the other guard and it is entirely probable that they did not hear the orders of the guard or see him when he signaled them to retreat from the fence. There is no evidence that the prisoners were actually trying to escape; however, from a distance of 550 feet the guard could clearly see that they were at or against the fence which was a strict violation of instructions to the prisoners and all guards had also been instructed to keep the prisoners away from the wire fence.

c. After considering all the evidence
the Board found that the deceased met his death as a result of his own misconduct and that the guard, even though he may have used bad

bad judgement in shooting the deceased, his sole motive was the performance of his duty and he was acting in line of duty when he fired the fatal shot.

/s/ R.F.ALBERT,
/t/ R.F.Albert,
Colonel, GSC,
A.C.of S,G-1.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

/s/ R.F. ALBERT,
/t/ R.F. Albert,
Colonel, GSC,
A.C. of S, G-1.

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he fired the fatal shot.

705015

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 Section
APO 512

CMS/CF/as

G-5: 383.6-8

DS/3 1611
10 JUL 1944 7 July 1944

SUBJECT: Killing of Italian Prisoners of War by Guards.

TO : Headquarters, Allied Control Commission, APO 394.
(Attention: Acting Chief Commissioner).

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of 1 July on the above subject, with a letter of Premier Bonomi inclosed. The complaint of the Italian Government has been brought to the attention of the United States and British Governments, and request has been made, to those Governments and to the appropriate staff sections of this headquarters, for information upon which a reply may be based. (See inclosed copies) It will be evident that the collection of this information will necessarily involve a considerable delay.

Incl: - *held by DCS file only*

Copy of letters of
6 July to
Asst. C/S CAD WDGS
Dir. of CA, War Office
A C/S G-1 (A)
DAG - G-1 (B)

CHARLES M. SPOFFORD
Colonel, G.S.C.
Asst. Chief of Staff, G-5

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34/4/44
+ DCS file

10c

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DSG 441

BSS/bjp

1 JUL 1944

A/CC 383.6

1 July 1944

Dear Prime Minister Bonomi:

Your letter No. 1903 of 27 June 1944, relative to "Killing of Italian POW by guards", has been referred to Allied Force Headquarters with a request that information be furnished upon which reply to you can be based.

Yours very truly,

ELERY W. STONE
Captain, USMC
Acting Chief Commissioner

His Excellency Ivanoe Bonomi
The President of Council of Ministers
Italian Government

cc. Army S/C

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1012

Dec

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DSG/hjp

A/CC 383.6

DSG 440
1 JUL 1944

1 July 1944

SUBJECT: Killing of Italian POW by Guards

TO : Allied Force Headquarters, APO 512
(attention: G-5 Section)

1. Reference is made to attached translation of letter No. 1903 from Prime Minister Bonomi, to the Commission, dated 27 June 1944, above subject.

2. It is requested that information be furnished upon which reply to the Italian Government can be based.

ELLERY W. STONE
Captain, USAR
Acting Chief Commissioner

1 Incl
As per para 1

cc - Army S/C

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Decla 9

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TRANSLATION

THE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

No. 1903 di prot.

27 June 44

SUBJECT: Killing of Italian POW by Guards.

TO THE ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
ROME

The Italian Government, through the Protecting Powers, has come to know about the serious facts in connection with the killing of 24 Italian soldiers in the camps where they were detained as POW. These killings took place during the brief period from April to August, 1943.

Although the documents furnished are probably incomplete, we have the sad impression that in the majority of cases the killings took place without sufficient justification, and that no penal measures have been taken against the responsible murderers.

The attached table contains the information necessary to identify the cases that we are deploring and the essential circumstances in which the killings took place, insofar as the Italian Government has gathered from the reports it has received.

The Allied Control Commission can well understand the dread with which the Government must pause to reflect the miserable end of these poor Italian soldiers. Moreover, it will no doubt imagine the feelings which must spring in the hearts of the families when they will be informed, as it is the duty of the Government to do so, of the incidents which accompanied the unexpected end of their beloved, while the latter were in the custody of the Allied Powers.

Particular attention is being given to the incident involving the Indian officer who as soon as he saw Cape Maniolo Calderoni, who was unarmed, and inside the prison camp, walking towards his barracks, shot him with a pistol at close quarters, wounding him fatally.

The Italian Government wishes to ask the Allied Control Commission to explain to the British Government and to the United States Government the profound impression that these killings have made on the Italian government and people, and the necessity of throwing clear and objective light on these grave incidents.

These Governments too will feel the necessity of taking penal measures, if they have not as yet done so, rendered necessary by the disclosures they may have made in the matter; as it seems from the report of the facts of the cases the guards are not always greatly responsible, but those who have given them rigid and exaggerated orders which are justified in penal institutions but not in the camps of honored soldiers fallen in captivity.

The Italian Government will be grateful if information will be sent in regard to the measures that will be adopted.

For the protection of the families concerned, so hard hit, the Government

requests that the indemnities will be paid to them, in the earliest time, and which are due to them according to Art 3 of the IV Hague Convention of 18 Oct 1907 (the belligerent party...will be responsible for all the acts committed by persons belonging to its Armed Forces).

I shall await your kind communications on this sad project.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

/s/ Bonomi

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TRANSLATION

Order No.	Rank	Regist Name	Camp	Date of killing	Remarks
1.	46437	Soldato MUNI Archimede	Camp 21	2/5/43	Particulars missing
2.	177030	S. Ten. Art DES GRANCES Alberto	Camp 24	11/5/43	Particulars missing N.D.
3.	177624	S. Ten. Art. SEI Frederico	Camp 24	11/5/43	Particulars missing a) IND
4.	48500	Tenente ITALIA Francesco	Camp 27	24/5/43	Particulars missing
5.	7183	Int. Civ. BOVANI Nello	Central Int.	27/6/43	Particulars missing
6.	116609	S. Ten. PETRONCINI Vico	Camp 25	27/5/43	Attempted escape. 2nd Lt. Petroncini climbed across the barbed wire fence guard with a rifle and fell. The guard fired again. Corp. Calderoni, also seen Petroncini fall, was going to Indian officer who, thus inside the at close quarters, wounding him fatally. Killed by a rifle shot fired by the barbed wire. He was shot not attempted at all justified. The act of approval justification for killing.
8.	57655	Soldato IPTIC Munziato	Camp 23	14/8/43	Killed by a guard's rifle shot, guard barbed wire. The court has ascertained the opinion that the killing was not has been taken against this guard. Unquestionably mentally ill. Killed 5 metres from the post guard to fire upon him, a buddy to the guard cried out to them to get Federico received 17 splinters of the killing was not justified.
9.	335620	S. Ten. MARTINELLI Esio	Camp 24	12/6/43	Killed for not having answered the him near the barbed wire fence. No poor victim.
10.	291437	Capo Sq. FEDERICO Pasquale	Camp 16 Wing V	23/7/43	Killed for having unconsciously at that precedes the barbed wire fence made no attempts to escape. The charge of murder, was acquitted.
11.	76406	b) SOUTH AFRICA Cap.le ERAI Giuseppe	Camp 357 Tanga-Kenya	19/8/43	Particulars missing.
12.	Tenente	VIRONE	Camp 156 Kenya	3/2/42	Killed by a rifle shot by the guard barbed wire with a bag of provisions escaping, the attempt had not yet camp.
13.		VASSALO Giovanni	Kenya Camp 360	10/6/43	Killed by a shot from the rifle of
14.	Soldato	Ribaudo Gaetano	Kenya	13/7/43	
15.	142891	Soldato PARONE Celestino	Zonderwater Camp		

ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR KILLED BY SENTINELS

	Camp	Date of Killing	Remarks
made	Camp 21	2/5/43	Particulars missing
FRANCES Alberto	Camp 24	11/5/43	Particulars missing N.B. 1 to 10
Proderico	Camp 24	11/5/43	Particulars missing a) INDIA
IA Francesco	Camp 27	24/5/43	Particulars missing
II Nello	Central Int.	27/6/43	Particulars missing
PONCINI Vico	Camp 25	27/5/43	Attempted escape. 2nd Lt. Petroncini, the moment he was trying to climb across the barbed wire fence of the camp, was fired upon by the guard with a rifle and fell. The guard, seeing him on the ground fired again. Corp. Calderoni, also intending an escape attempt, having seen Petroncini fall, was going toward his wing. He was met by an Indian officer who, thus inside the camp, fired upon him with a pistol at close quarters, wounding him fatally.
O Munnieto	Camp 23	14/8/43	Killed by a rifle shot fired by the guard because he was near the barbed wire. He was shot not attempting to escape. The firing was not at all justified. The act of approaching the barbed wire is not justification for killing.
INELLI Ezio	Camp 24	12/6/43	Killed by a guard's rifle shot, guard declaring he was cutting the barbed wire. The court has ascertained the contrary and has expressed the opinion that the killing was not justified at all. No measure has been taken against this guard.
RICO Pasquale	Camp 16 Wing V	23/7/43	Unquestionably mentally ill. While he was 3 metres from the wash basins and 5 metres from the protesting wire, he personally asked the guard to fire upon him, a buddy trying to pull him away. That instant the guard cried out to them to get away and immediately after fired. Federico received 17 splinters of a machine-gun bullet. Evidently the killing was not justified.
Giuseppe	Camp 357 Tanga-Kenya	19/8/43	Killed for not having answered the guard's intimation, who had seen him near the barbed wire fence. No hint of escape on the part of the poor victim.
ME	Camp 156 Kenya	3/2/42	Killed for having unconsciously stood on the other side of the wire that precedes the barbed wire fence by 3 metres. The poor victim had made no attempts to escape. The guard, who was held for bearing on a charge of murder, was acquitted.
ALO Giovanni	Kenya Camp 360	10/6/43	Particulars missing.
ado Gastano	Kenya	13/7/43	Killed by a rifle shot by the guard because he was found near the barbed wire with a bag of provisions. Even if he had intended escaping, the attempt had not yet begun. He was killed <u>inside</u> the camp.
CE Celestino	Zonderwater Camp		Killed by a shot from the rifle of the colored guard. The guard

- 2 -

Order No.	Rank	Name	Camp	Date of Killing	Remarks
16. 16629	Soldato	MONACI Adolfo	Camp 352	8/5/43	was held for trial and, having been murdered, was sentenced to only 7 days
17. 360672	Soldato	LANCELLA Giuseppe		19/5/43	Killed by a rifle shot by the guard camp which was considered "off limit"
18. 348644		HENGALASCHI Alessandro		11/5/43	Killed by a rifle shot by the guard camp to the other.
19. 318642		MILANO Giuseppe		Apr 43	Killed by a rifle shot by the guard camp which was considered "off limit"
20. 148421	Sergente	ALVEZI Ettore			Particolare missing.
21. 365023	Sergente	DANUCCIO Salvatore			Killed by shots fired by guarding personnel outside the camp. It is not determined if he was stopped without being killed instantly. escape is not a crime, but merely determined by only 30 days of detention, Art 50 Convention.)
22.	o) NORTH AFRICA Carab.	BRILLI Angelo	Camp 100	27/7/43	Killed by the guard of the guard tower engaged in conversation, near the guards of a nearby tower.
23. 35377	f) GREAT BRITAIN Soldato	VARELA Alberto	Indicazione avuta dal Foreign Office	8/4/43	Killed aboard a ship which was transited by a rifle shot fired by a guard who, seeing the latrine, feared he would be assassinated. He had made no sign of attacking the guard, but had been without any purpose.
24. 8431	g) AMERICA Serg. Maggiore	DE FALCO Antonio	Camp Clark Missouri	28/7/43	Killed because he was attempting to move from one section to another within the camp. Again a disciplinary failure, which resulted in death.

TRANSLATION

- 2 -

Name	Camp	Date of Killing	Remarks
MONACI Adelmo	Camp 352	8/5/43	was held for trial and, having been found guilty of intentional murder, was sentenced to only 7 days imprisonment with hard labour. Killed by a rifle shot by the guard because he was in a section of the camp which was considered "off limits".
LANCELLA Giuseppe		19/5/43	Killed by a rifle shot by the guard as he went from one section of the camp to the other.
BERGAMASCHI Alessandro		11/5/43	Killed by a rifle shot by the guard because he was in a section of the camp which was considered "off limits".
MILANO Giuseppe		Apr 43	Particulars missing.
ELVEZI Ettore			Killed by shots fired by guarding patrols of the camp because they were outside the camp. It is not disclosed that they could not be stopped without being killed instantly. (Note that the attempt to escape is not a crime, but merely disciplinary failure punishable by only 30 days of detention, Art 50 and Art 54 of the Geneva Convention.)
DANUCCIO Salvatore			
BELLI Angelo	Camp 100	27/7/43	Killed by the guard of the guard tower of the camp while he was engaged in conversation, near the sentry wire, with one of the other guards of a nearby tower.
VABRA Albarto	Indicazione avuta del Foreign Office	8/4/43	Killed aboard a ship which was transferring him to America, by a rifle shot fired by a guard who, seeing 2 prisoners returning from the latrine, feared he would be assailed. The POW were unarmed and had made no sign of attacking the guard. The attack would have been without any purpose.
DE FALCO Antonio	Camp Clark Missouri	28/7/43	Killed because he was attempting, contrary to orders given, to pass from one section to another within the general barbed wire fence. Again a disciplinary failure, which should not have been punished with death.

COPY

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