

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

785017

ACC

10000/109/1567

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10000/109/1567

RED CROSS PARCELS
FEB. - JULY 1944

7 6 JUL 1944

S-5270

11

2A 1311

Subject: War Criminals - theft of Red Cross parcels

TOP SECRET

H. No. 2 District C/P
25/213
1 July '44

N/R

To: ADDRESSEES AS BELOW

Further to this H. letter dated 17 June '44.

Herewith order for the assembly and proceedings
of a COURT of INQUIRY at 1000 hours on Thursday 6 July '44
at the Town Major's Office, LECC.

Ch. J. J. J. J.
Colonel i/c Administration

DISTRIBUTION

H. 52 Area (2)
H. 65 Garrison (3)
34 Town Major
Comdt 371 IW Camp
OC 419 Field Security Section
Officer i/c J.G.'s Branch (3)

COPY

H. 52

To: ADDRESSEES AS BELOW

Further to this H. letter dated 17 June '44.
Herewith order for the assembly and proceedings
of a COURT of H. VIET at 1000 hours on Thursday 6 July '44
at the Town Major's Office, LSCCA.

Colonel i/c Administration

DISTRIBUTION

- H. 52 Area (2)
- H. 65 Garrison (3)
- 34 Town Major
- Comdt 371 PW Camp
- OC 419 Field Security Section
- Officer i/c J.G.'s Branch (3)
- H. 101
- Executive Commission AG
- H. No. 3 District
- H. 94 Sub Area
- PSI(b)
- Provost
- DJAG H. 101

CONV
to:

3009

TOP SECRET

Order for the assembly and proceedings of a COURT OF INQUIRY pursuant to the AFHQ directive reference GI/H/3308/A.3, dated 6th February 1944

1 The Court will be constituted as under :-

PRESIDENT: Major J.T. EXAMINER, RASC., Deputy Judge Advocate, Legal Staff Pool, attached No.2 District CEF.

MEMBER: Lieutenant L.J. GHOSH, RA.

2 The court will be held at the Town Major's Office, LECCE in accordance with detailed instructions issued under this H letter 25/215a, dated 27 June 1944.

3 The terms of reference for the court are as follows :-

"To record all relevant evidence concerning the allegation that Colonel M.H. JAMES, Captain TRIVISI, Captain G. RANO and Captain C. S. LINO on divers dates in 1943 stole clothing, foodstuffs and other articles the property of the British Red Cross Society intended for the use of British prisoners of war."

4 The evidence of all witnesses will be taken on oath and the proceedings will be recorded on AFHQ in accordance with the directions in the above-mentioned directive.

5 Colonel M.H. JAMES, Captain TRIVISI, Captain G. RANO and Captain C. S. LINO will be present throughout the proceedings.

6 The proceedings will be forwarded by the President to the convening officer under TOP SECRET cover.

1 The Court will be constituted as under :-

PRESIDENT: Major J.T. MCKINLEY, M.B.E., Deputy Judge
Advocate, Legal Staff Pool, attached No.2
District C.P.

MEMBER: Lieutenant L.J. CHOCT, RM.

2 The court will be held at the Town Major's Office, LECCE
in accordance with detailed instructions issued under this H
letter 25/213A, dated 27 June 1944.

3 The terms of reference for the court are as follows :-

"To record all relevant evidence concerning the
allegation that Colonel M.B. JENSE, Captain TRIVISI,
Captain G. RANO and Captain GABALINO on divers dates
in 1943 stole clothing, footstuffs and other
articles the property of the British Red Cross
Society intended for the use of British prisoners
of war."

4 The evidence of all witnesses will be taken on oath and
the proceedings will be recorded on AFA 2 in accordance with
the directions in the above-mentioned directive.

5 Colonel M.B. JENSE, Captain TRIVISI, Captain G. RANO and
Captain GABALINO will be present throughout the proceedings.

6 The proceedings will be forwarded by the President to the
convening officer under TOP SECRET cover.

DATE 3 July, 1944

E. J. Jones
Major-General
Commanding No. 2 District
Convening Officer

3008

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
R.C. & M.C. Section
APO 394

9

Ref/277/7/CA.

7 February 1944.

SUBJECT: Alleged Larceny of Red Cross Commodities.

TO : D.C.A.O., A.F.H.Q. Adv. Adm. Echelon, C.E.F.

1. Attention is invited to letter of your office dated 31 Jan 44, reference J112/A2.
2. The matter has been taken up with the Italian Government by the Chief Commissioner himself. A copy of the letter of the Chief Commissioner to Marshal Badoglio is attached.
3. This office will follow the case closely until it has terminated by Command of Lieut. General MATTEIPLANE.

M. S. LAURI.
Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

B/V 12/2
3007

785017

 $4/2.$

Date _____

Suspense_____

FROM	TO
Deputy President	
Chief of Staff	
Vice Chief of Staff	
Public Relations Officer	
Liaison Section	
Military Section	
Political Section	
Secu. & Admin. Section	
Communications Section	
✓ Administrative Directorate Sect.	
Economic Directorate	
Finance Sub-Commission	
Public Works Mines Sub-Commission	
Agric., Forests-Fisheries Sub Com.	
Local Sub-Commission	
Education Sub-Commission	
Executive Officers	
G-1	
G-2	
Adjutant General	
Files	
Personnel	
Publications	
Message Center	
Miscellaneous	
Pool of Interpreters	
Archives & Reference Library	
Hq. Commandant	
<i>cc. of B. (C.I.S.I.) Alpha ✓</i>	

FOR:

Signature	_____
Remarks / Recommendation	_____
Information only	_____
Approval / Disapproval	_____
Appropriate Action	_____
Investigation & Report	_____
Dispatch	_____

REMARKS: Attn: Major Van Rensen

3006

To: Major Van Dusen. (Staff of Dec. 10).

Subject: attached paper. — 392

1. The legal intervention will do all possible to follow up this matter.

2. ~~From~~ ~~it is felt~~ it is felt that it is not really one that comes within their scope entirely, in view of the fact that it is very largely a matter between the British and Indian Army, and therefore one for Military Section.

The legal branch being really the instrument for ^{conveying} conveying out any trials and giving guidance in the matter of prosecution and framing the charges.

3. This is for your information and I suggest you pass Military Section to keep in the trial too.

R.R. Rogers

P.A. 2/8
To: Col. Spofford-7
Feb. 3

Brigadier Duchesne talked with me about this letter. He thinks it is a matter of the highest importance and that the men will be white-washed unless ACC carefully follows the case with the Italian authorities. A Bd. of Inquiry on a somewhat similar matter has already whitewashed some Italians.

The Brigadier handed the matter over to the Legal Subcommittee in Brindisi on Jan. 20. They have collected a good deal of information on the subject and are going to pass it on to us via Gen. MacFarlane when it arrives in Naples with their recommendations.

It seems to me that, since the matter arises in Lecce, the best available course is to take vigorous action through the Italian Courts, with an ACC officer following the case through to the end.

(OD)

5
COPY.

67 Special Investigation Section,
Brindisi Detachment:-----

Reference :- SIS/67/Br/A/43/30

Subject:- Alleged Larceny of British Red Cross Material.

To:-
Officer Commanding
H.Q. 67 S.I.S.
Corps of Military Police,
Taranto.

Sir,

Reference my report SIS/67/Br/43/30 dated 12/12/43.

I mentioned in this report about a paper being found and which had been signed by ten Warrant Officers (Prisoners of War) demanding better living conditions in the camp and when a search was instigated, the paper at that time could not be found, but subsequent enquiries have proved successful. It will be seen from this statement that the living conditions in the camp were very poor and that Red Cross parcels were in urgent demand.

I respectfully suggest that this document is truly a valuable article of evidence.

I respectfully suggest that copies of this document be forwarded to the appropriate authorities for their information.

21.1.44.
Brindisi.

S/d. WILLIAM M NZ93. C.S.M.
67 Special Investigation Section.

Reference my report S13/67/Br/43/30 dated 12/12/43.

I mentioned in this report about a paper being found and which had been signed by ten Warrant Officers (Prisoners of War) demanding better living conditions in the camp and when a search was instigated, the paper at that time could not be found, but subsequent enquiries have proved successful. It will be seen from this statement that the living conditions in the camp were very poor and that Red Cross parcels were in urgent demand.

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21.1.44.
Brindisi.

S/d. WILLIAM M NESS. C.B.M.
67 Special Investigation Section.

COPY.

4
British Prisoner of War Camp.
Brindisi.
17/4/45.

The Commandant,
Transit Camp,
Brindisi.

Sir,

The English, New Zealand and South African Warrant Officers in this camp on behalf of their N.C.Os, and men respectfully ask for your consideration and assistance in obtaining for them their rights and Necessities enumerated hereunder.

- (1) All rights and privileges for Prisoners of War as laid down by International Rules and Regulations.
- (2) A Copy of International Rules and Regulations for British Prisoners of War.
- (3) An increase in the existing ration scale by 100 percent.
- (4) Hot baths and disinfection.
- (5) Canteen facilities.
- (6) Regular payment of money due.
- (7) That the one lire per day allowed for the purchase of extra rations be spent on more solid food such as potatoes, rice, oatmeal or macaroni, etc.
- (8) That application be made to the Red Cross for a representative to visit this camp and that Red cross parcels be obtained.

Trusting you will favour this, our application with every scope within your power.

We have the honour to be Sir,
Yours obediently,

(SGD) W. Murdoch, W.O.II
Arthur B. King, W.O.II
S.H. Harwell, W.O.II
H. Pearson, Staff Sgt.
G.H. Vales, C.Q.M.S.

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- (3) An increase in the existing ration scale by 100 percent.
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Yours obediently,

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H. Pearson, Staff Sgt.
G.H. Vales, C.Q.M.S.
C.E. West
G. Enel, W.O.II
H. Smith, W.O.II
Jacoirads, H.

3001

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394.
Administrative Section

277
15 FEB 1944

ACC/080./AS

3 February 1944

SUBJECT: Red Cross Parcels

TO : ~~EXECUTIVE COMMISSION~~
D.C.C.A.C. H.Q., A.C.C. A.P.C. 394.

1. Attached for information are copies written and signed by Chief Commissioner in this matter.

2. Legal Sub-Commission will follow this matter up, and report as to the steps taken by the Italian Government in the matter, in particular, by the Minister of Justice.



R.R. CRIPPS.
Lt. Colonel,
for the Vice President Administrative Section.

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 396

100/080./AS

2 February 1944.

SUBJECT: Theft of Red Cross Parcels.

TO : Commanding Officer, Military Mission to the Italian Army.

1. Reference your letter of 20 January 1944 (I/103).
2. I have referred the file on the Tufurano matter to Marshal Badoglio for immediate action and have also called his attention to the Lecce matter requesting and immediate report.

Lieutenant General,
Chief Commander,
Allied Control Commission.

COPIES TO:

POLITICAL SECTION,
LEGAL SUB-COMMISSION,
PUBLIC SAFETY SUB-COMMISSION,
EXEC. COMMISSIONER

Herewith for information, a copy of the action taken in this matter.

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APC 394

ACC/OSO./AS

2 February 1944.

To His Excellency Marshal Pietro Badoglio.

Dear Marshal Badoglio:

I have the honor to present to Your Excellency a file with respect to thefts of Red Cross and other property destined to captured British soldiers who were confined in the prisoner of war camp at Tukuran.

It is reported that four Italian officers, Col. Albanese and Captains Carano, Trevisi and Casolini implicated in this affair are now in custody at Bari. It may well be that other Italian officers and also some Italian other ranks are involved.

While those involved in this matter might be tried as war criminals for violation of Art. 37 of the Prisoners of War Convention Geneva 1929 to which Italy was one of the signatories, I would prefer to have them tried by an Italian Military Tribunal provided this may be done promptly.

At this time I would like to call Your Excellency's attention to a similar affair, which occurred at the prisoner of war camp at Lecce, on which a file has already been submitted to your Ministry of War for investigation and as to which the Allied Control Commission has not as yet received any report showing the results of the investigation and the action to be taken. The witnesses who made the investigation can be made available at short notice.

I regard these as very serious matters, and request that the necessary investigation be completed by your authorities at an early date and that I be kept advised from time to time as to what action is being taken. When trials have been had, I request that I be furnished with copies of the determinations of the Military Tribunal and the sentences imposed.

Most sincerely,

Lieutenant-General,
Chief Commissioner,
Allied Control Commission.

Copy to the President

0338