

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785017

ACC

10000/109/1571

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785017

10000/109/1571

THEFT & VIOLATION OF MAIL
DEC. 1943 - MAY 1944

SUBJECT:

The Orphanage - Theft of Red Cross Parcels

TOP SECRET.

RE: ALLIED ARMY IN ITALY.

AAJ/5416/1/A(78).

27 May 44.

2nd Lt. R. S. McIntosh.

Ref 25/2134 of 23 May 44, and your letter of same reference, dated 4 May 44 and addressed to AMM.

1. Entrustments have been received from AMM that the cases of the four Italian Officers in question are to be dealt with as war criminals.
2. A Court of Inquiry will therefore be assembled under your direction, as early as possible, in accordance with AMM directive 51/2/3305/AS of 5 Feb 44, a copy of which was forwarded to you with AMM letter of the same reference dated 15 Feb 44.

3. The terms of reference will be as follows:-

"To record all relevant evidence concerning the allegation that Colonel ALBERTO, Captain TRIVIERI, Captain CARANO and Captain CASALINO or divers acting in 1943 stole clothing, foodstuffs and other articles the property of the British Red Cross Society intended for use of British prisoners of war."

4. In addition to any other witnesses who may be able to give relevant evidence the following witnesses should be called before the Court:-

Captain G. P. HADLEY, 72 General Transport Company, 1480.

(This witness must be prepared to deal with the allegations raised by Captain TRIVIERI in his statement that Red Cross parcels were looted by British soldiers from the building in the 70th Camp before the inventory was made. It is noted that Captain HADLEY in his statement to the witness said that this building was looked up when he first went to it. He should be prepared to state if it be the case that the building was unlocked in his presence and that there was no opportunity for soldiers to take away any of the parcels before the inventory was taken).

Captain H. H. HARRIS (who should produce the statements made by Colonel ALBERTO, Captain TRIVIERI, Captain CARANO and Captain

3361

3. The terms of reference will be as follows:-

"To record all relevant evidence concerning the allegation that Colonel ALBERTUS, Captain PROVIER, Captain GARRANO and Captain CASALUPO on diverse dates in 1943 stole clothing, foodstuffs and other articles the property of the British Red Cross Society intended for use of British prisoners of war."

4. In addition to any other witnesses who may be able to give relevant evidence the following witnesses should be called before the Court:-

Captain G.H. HASTON, 72 General Transport Company, IAGO.

(This witness must be prepared to deal with the allegations raised by Captain PROVIER in his statement that Red Cross parcels were looted by British soldiers from the building in the POW Camp before the inventory was made. It is noted that Captain HASTON in his statement to the A.I.B. has said that the building was locked up when he first went to it. He should be prepared to state if it be the case that the building was unlocked in his presence and that there was no opportunity for soldiers to take away any of the parcels before the inventory was taken).

CHIEF W.F. MENN (who should produce the statements made by Colonel ALBERTUS, Captain CASALUPO, Captain GARRANO and Captain PROVIER).

Sergeant A. STELLER.
Corp HARRY ARMANDO MERRIDITH.
Soldato ALDO KHANZINI.
Soldato PIO ROMANOWI.
Soldato FRANCESCO GUGLINO.
Corp GEORGIO RUFO.
Detente FRANCESCO GARRANO.
Detente GIACINTELA.
Orchestra GARGO.
Lieut Nello ARSOLINI.
Capt Nicola CALABRE.
Tullo MARIOLA.

A witness in a position to do so must give evidence of the contents of each parcel before it had to be destroyed by reason of deterioration.

P/A

- 2 -

5. All the accused persons must be present during the proceedings and the constitution and procedure of the Court will be strictly in accordance with the instructions given in the above-quoted AMHQ letter. Evidence will be taken on oath.

6. The officers concerned are reported to be in 571 POW Camp. Any necessary arrangements will be made by you with HQ No 5 District and HQ Allied Central Commission for their transfer to your District.

CMO/ea.

C. H. Paton
Brigadier,
DAO.

Copy to:- Executive Commissioner,
Allied Central Commission;
HQ No 5 District;
AMHQ.

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
R.C. & H.G. Section
APO 324

4 March 1944.

Ref/279/21/CA

SUBJECT: Theft of Mail

TO : HQ, ACPF (Admin. Echelon) CWP.

Reference your 3047/A.2 of 30 January 1944, a copy of a report on the case of BASTORE Giovanni is enclosed, in accordance with the request in the last paragraph of your letter under reference.

HUGHAN E. FLUXE,
Colonel, Cavalry,
Deputy Executive
Commissioner.

Incl
As above.

3559

27 FEB Recd

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
Legal Sub-Commission
APO 394

ACC/4083/L

RHW/jpl

25 February 1944

SUBJECT: Mail Thefts.

TO: Deputy Executive Commissioner.

1. In accordance with letter of Colonel Spofford then D.C.C.A.O. dated 31 January 1944. AMG/319. I am reporting the case of PASTORE Giovanni.

2. The accused was arrested in MATERA, Region II, where he was found with certain Allied Property, the result of a mail theft in Bari on 4 January 1944. The accused was tried on two charges:

(a) Interference with communication by mail. Proclamation No. 2, Article I, Section (13);

(b) Being in possession of Allied Property. Proclamation No. 2, Article II, Section (40).

3. A General Military Court convicted the accused on both charges and on the first charge sentenced him to death. On his second charge there was an alternative sentence of 20 years.

4. As the act under the first charge was committed at Bari, unoccupied territory, where the Proclamation had no effect, the reviewing authority has found it necessary to reverse the conviction under the first charge because of the lack of jurisdiction. The 20 year sentence under the second charge has been affirmed.

5. The first charge apparently was based on interference with communication rather than on robbery, because it was felt that as the mail might be destined for occupied territory, the act of interference in unoccupied territory became a continued offence in occupied territory, thus giving an Allied Military Court jurisdiction. This theory could not be supported, and there was no proof of destination.

6. Under powers reserved upon restoration of territory Allied Military Courts may now function in territory restored to the Italian Government. This includes Apulia where Bari is located, but only for crimes committed after 10 February 1944. While it is not expected that Allied Military Courts will function extensively in territory under the administration of the Italian Government, one can always be convened to try a case of extraordinary importance affecting the Allied interest, when it is not thought that an Italian Court can efficiently deal with it.

- 2 -

7. The record in the PASTORE case indicates that the mail cars which were robbed were not under proper guard and one of them was left unlocked. //

Richard H. Wilmer

RICHARD H. WILMER

Lt. Col. C.A.C.

Deputy Chief Legal Officer.

Extract from

(File 279)

The Star & Stripper Feb 23/44

Five Neapolitans Jailed For Theft

NAPLES, Feb. 23—Found guilty of attempted theft of soldiers' mail, five Italian civilians today began jail sentences ranging from 18 months to five years, following trial in the AMG superior court.

The five-year term was meted out to Vincenzo Baccio, 25, who was convicted of throwing a mail sack out of a government truck. The four other civilians were jailed for removing pieces of mail from a sack still within the hold of a ship in which they were working. All five were residents of Castelluccio, a small Neapolitan suburb, and their ages ranged from 12 to 32 years.

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

785017

279
19 Feb Recd
1143
17

REAR HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION.
LEGAL SUB-COMMISSION.
APO 394.

18th February, 1944.

REFERENCE : ACC/4083/L.

TO : R.C., M.C. Section, H.Q., Allied Control Commission.

SUBJECT : Theft of Allied Mail.

1. Reference your 279/9/CA of 8 Feb 1944, attached in copy of my letter addressed to the Under Secretary of Justice on the above subject.

2. I shall keep you posted on further developments.

A. R. THACKERAN.
Major,
for Chief Legal Officer.

8
3356

ES/mow.

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
LEGAL SUB-COMMISSION
APO 394.

16
18th February, 1944.

ACC/4083/L.

SUBJECT : Theft of Allied Mail.

TO : H.E. The Under Secretary of State.
Ministry of Pardon and Justice.

My attention has been called by the Allied military authorities to the prevalence of thefts of Allied mail perpetrated at railway sidings of Bari and in other localities under control of the Italian Government. I am informed that the following Italian civilians have been arrested by Allied authorities on 17 Dec 1943 for theft of Allied parcel mail and handed over to Italian civil authorities :-

PALMIOTTO GIUSEPPE	Via Grossis No. 1 GIOVINAZZO.
CERRATTINI WALTER	Via Imbriani No. 15 BARI.
TRENTANUE VINCENZO	Via Martulli No. 4 MODUGNO
BARBONI ERICO	Via Pisacani No. 21 BARI.
VITUCCI GIUSEPPE	Via Ravanis No. 12 MODUGNO
GIORDANO VINCENZO	Via Carulli No. 7 BARI

In order to establish an effective deterrent the above accused who have been released from arrest pending trial, should be reconsigned to prison, their trial expedited and heavy sentences imposed if charges are sustained. A report on the outcome of each case is requested.

In view of the serious consequences which are bound to follow such thefts I wish to solicit your assurance that rigorous means of both preventive and punitive character will be applied forthwith to forestall any recurrence of such offences.

May I suggest that, following the practice adopted by you in the past in an analogous situation, a directive be issued by you on this subject to all R. Procuratori residing within the territory under Italian control. Such directive would emphasize the necessity of handling all similar offences in the manner indicated in the above cases. Furthermore, the directive would instruct the Procuratori to proceed with utmost rigor and expediency and to report to you all cases of such thefts which have occurred or which may occur in the future within their districts, indicating the outcome of each proceeding. I shall then be able to obtain from you any information received in response to the above directive and route it to the interested military authorities.

(Sgd) A. R. THACKRAH.

A. R. THACKRAH.
Major,
for Chief Legal Officer.

10 FEB Recd

HEADQUARTERS

UNITED STATES MILITARY GOVERNMENT

REGION II

5 Feb 46

Ref: 2201/51/5

Subject: Theft and Violation of Mail

To : DODARD ASD

1. Ref LVD/ASD/mrd of 1-2-44, the importance attaching to the thefts in question had already been appreciated, and one of the culprits is to be tried on Feb 8th by a General Court at Meters consisting of

Chief Judicial Officer ASD

DODARD Region II

DODARD Region II

2. Investigations by the SIS give hope that shortly others implicated may be brought to trial. But since these are in King's, Italy, difficulty may arise as to the matter of jurisdiction. Since the investigations and preparation of the prosecution will be intricate, application has been made for the loan of an officer from the special Prosecutions branch to report to this HQ.

It was notified sometime ago that this branch is fully occupied for the present, but it would be greatly appreciated if in view of the seriousness of the matter one of its officers could be spared. When names of the persons implicated are known, a list will be forwarded.

W. R. L. L. L.

G. H. McCARTHY
Lt. Col., Infantry
HEAD

3554

Copy sent to Legal 4/2

279
9 FEB Recd
7 FEB 1944
435
14

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394.

ACC/000.5/AS

7 Feb 44

SUBJECT: Theft of Mails.

TO: Exec. Commissioner, for attention Col. C.M. Spefford.

10-13
Attached for your information are copies of letters showing the action taken on receipt of your OSI/327 of 1 Feb 44.

A trial for theft of mail bags is taking place in Region II today. We will let you have particulars as soon as they have been received.

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

Remedy sent
RA

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394
Administrative Section

ACC/000.5/AS

2 February 1944

SUBJECT: Theft and Violation of Mail.

TO : Legal Sub-Commission
Public Safety Sub-commission.

1. Reference D.C.C.A.C. letter to Regions I, II, III, IV, dated 1 February 1944 (OSI/327), copies direct to you.
2. Will you please advise this office of any action taken by you and of any information you may receive in the matter in the future.

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

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
LEGAL SUBCOMMISSION

ACC/4083/L

2 February 1944

SUBJECT: Theft and Violating Mail

TO : RCLO's (through RGAO's) Region 1,2,3, and 4

1. Reference /OSI/327 from Col Spofford to RGAO's dated 1 February 1944.

2. Your monthly reports henceforth should contain details of any mail theft cases whether they are tried in Allied Military Courts or Italian Courts. Any case of particular importance should also be reported to the Legal Subcommittee promptly and separately.

RICHARD H. WILMER,
Lt. Col.
Deputy Chief Legal Officer

CONFIDENTIAL

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
Public Safety Sub-Commission
APO 394

ACC/14612/PS

2 February 1944

SUBJECT: Theft and Violation of Mail

TO : HCAPO, Reg's I, II, III, IV.

1. The C in C is disturbed at the prevalence of thefts of mails, apparently by Italian civilians, especially at BARI and FOGGIA railway sidings, where three notable cases have occurred during Jan'44.

2. Certain Italian civilians have been arrested in connection with these thefts. In consideration of the effect on the morale of the Troops caused by failures in the delivery of mails, and also of the security aspect, I have to request that the serious view taken of these cases may be made known to those of your officers who are responsible for dealing with such matters, as a guide to them in regard to the action to be taken.

3. It is desired that you take special precautionary measures to prevent the occurrence and repetition of such offences within the area subject to your jurisdiction, and that severe penalties be urged when any offenders are brought to trial.

PAUL G. KIRK
Colonel, Infantry
Chief, Public Safety
Sub-Commission

CONFIDENTIAL

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
Public Safety Sub-Commission
APO 394

ACC/14612/PS

SOGGETTO: Furti e Violazioni della Posta

AL : Gen. Picche.

1. Il Capo Commandante e' molto disturbato in riguardo ai furti della posta, apparentemente commessi da borghesi italiani, specialmente nelle spellature ferroviarie a Bari e a Foggia dove tre casi notevoli hanno avuto luogo durante il mese di Gennaio 1944.

2. Alcuni borghesi italiani sono stati arrestati per questi furti. In considerazione dell'effetto sulla morale delle truppe per via della mancanza della loro posta e anche nell'aspetto di sicurezza, debbo richiedere che questo grave aspetto sia fatto noto a tutti gli uffici che hanno responsabilita' in questi affari come una guida nel corso deprendero a proposito.

3. E' desiderato che precauzioni speciali siano prese ad impedire le occorrenze e ripetizioni di tali offese nel territorio sotto la sua giurisdizione e che severe condanne siano inflitte sugli imputati portati dinanzi ai tribunali per le sopradette violazioni.

PAUL G. KIRK,
Colonel, Infantry,
Chief, Public Safety
Sub-Commission.

ADJUTANT
ALLIED CENTRAL COMMISSION
R.C. & H.C. Section
APO 394

8 February 1944.

Ref/RTD/3/CA.

SUBJECT: Theft of Allied Mail.

TO : Legal Sub-Commission.

1. Attention is invited to letter of this office dated 31 Jan 1944, Ref/AM/119.
2. Attached is copy of letter from A.P.H.C. Adv. Mts. Nichols, C.H.F., 3047/A dated 5 Feb 1944 with enclosure.
3. It is requested that every effort be made to bring the accused to trial at a very early date and that this office be advised of the steps which have been and are being taken in the process.

NORMAN E. FINE.
Col., Cavalry,
D/Executive Commissioner.

Copies to: Lt. Col. Cripps.
Public Safety Sub-Commission.

B/H
12/2
3.3.44
Noted
9/2

SUBJECT:-

Theft and Violation of Mail

279

A. B. 2600

AFHQ, Adv. Adm. Echelon,
CMF

3047/A

5 Feb '44

The D.C.C.A.O.,
Headquarters Allied Military Government,
A.P.C. 394.

1. With reference to your letter Ref/OSI/327 of 1 Feb '44, the action taken is appreciated.
2. Particulars of a previous case which occurred in Dec '43 are attached. It is understood that owing to congestion in the Italian Courts there is liable to be some three months delay before trial and that the accused have been released from arrest, pending trial.
3. It is most desirable, from the military point of view, that the individuals concerned should be dealt with as promptly as possible, and that if convicted, a serious view should be taken of their cases. Such action will then act as a deterrent.

CMF/AH.

G. Ol. 10/10/44
Major-General,
D.C.C.A.O.

Particulars of Case.

17 Dec '43.

Theft of Canadian parcel mail
at BARI.-----

Civilians arrested and handed
over to Italian Civil Authorities.

PALMIOTTO GIUSEPPE
CIEBATTINI WALTER
TRENTADUE VINCENZO
BARBONI ENRICO
VITUCCI Giuseppe
GIORDANO VINCENZO

Via Grossis No.1 GIOVINAZZO.
Via Imbriani No. 15 BARI.
Via Martulli No.4 MODUGNO.
Via Pisacani No.21 BARI 6
Via Ravanas No.12 MODUGNO.
Via Carrulli No. 2 BARI.

785017

279
6 FEB Recd

2514

RC-HG
See 6

HEADQUARTERS
REGION 3, ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
A.F.O. 394, U.S. Army

RMcC/ry
3/6042/L

4 February 1944

Subject: Theft and violation of mail.

To : Hq. A.M.G., A.F.O. 394, U.S. Army.

1. Reference is made to letter your headquarters to R.C.A.Cs, Region I, II, III, IV, 1 February 1944, subject as above (LYD/AMG/mrd).

Handwritten: Van Dusen

2. Inclosed is a copy of instructions based on the reference letter put out today by this headquarters.

For the Regional Civil Affairs Officer:

Handwritten: Douglas N. Batson
DOUGLAS N. BATSON,
1st Lt., C.M.P.,
Actg Asst Adj Gen.

1 Incl:
Copy of letter.

Handwritten: see by staff officer
334
HA

HEADQUARTERS

MEMO TO: ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

A.P.O. 194, D.D. Army

Encd/2
3/5043/2

4 February 1944

Subject: Theft and violation of mail.

To : Senior Civil Affairs Officers, Provinces of Naples, Avellino, and Benevento.

1. Instructions received from Headquarters Allied Military Government under date of 1 February 1944 on the above subject are republished for your guidance as follows:

" 1. A. E. H. Q., Adv. Adm. Section has reported that a number of thefts of Allied mail have occurred, apparently by Italian civilians. At Bari and Foggia railway sidings there were three notable cases reported during January. Certain Italian Civilians have been arrested in connection with these thefts.

" 2. In consideration of the effect on the morale of the troops caused by failures in the delivery of mails, and also of the security aspect, a serious view must be taken of such cases.

" 3. Accordingly, it is requested that special efforts be exerted to apprehend the perpetrators of such thefts, and also that, after their conviction, substantial sentences be meted out for this type of offense.

" 4. Reports of sentences imposed both by Allied and Italian Courts in this type of case will be submitted through the Legal Sub-Commission.

1. Instructions received from Headquarters Allied Military Government under date of 1 February 1944 on the above subject are republished for your guidance as follows:

" 1. A. P. H. Q., Adv. Adm. Section has reported that a number of thefts of Allied mail have occurred, apparently by Italian civilians. At Bari and Foggia railway sidings there were three notable cases reported during January. Certain Italian civilians have been arrested in connection with these thefts.

" 2. In consideration of the effect on the morale of the troops caused by failures in the delivery of mail, and also of the security aspect, a serious view must be taken of such cases.

" 3. Accordingly, it is requested that special efforts be exerted to apprehend the perpetrators of such thefts, and also that, after their conviction, substantial sentences be meted out for this type of offense.

" 4. Reports of sentences imposed both by Allied and Italian Courts in this type of case will be submitted through the Legal Sub-Commission.

2. You will take the necessary action to carry the above instructions into effect.

3. The reports required by the last paragraph of the instructions quoted above will be made by you in the case of A.M.G. courts in your respective provinces, and will be forwarded to this Headquarters in duplicate. Reports as to Italian courts will be handled entirely by the officer of the Legal Division of this Hq. in charge of Italian courts.

By order of Lieutenant Colonel BRADLEY

Jul 1

334
DORLAND R. BROWN,
1st Lt., G.M.G.,
Actg Asst Adj Gen.

Copy to Major Holt,

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

785017

Copies of all documents
were sent to Col. Cupps and
Public Safety and Legal
Sub-Committees.

Let. 1

UD

3342

SUBJECT: Theft and Violation of Mail

To : Lt. Col. Griggs:

Here are the documents which we sent from
this office. I have sent a copy of each to Public
Safety and Legal without comment. Will you please
follow up?

LEWIS H. VAN HORN, JR.
Major, USA.

for CHARLES E. STAFFORD
Colonel, U.S.A.
D.C.C.A.C.

2

file

RECEIVED
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/28/84 BY 3081947 revised
1 February 1948

Ref: 101/27.

SUBJECT: Theft and Violation of Mail

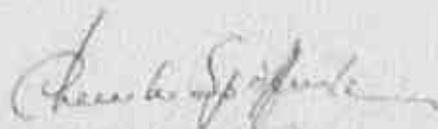
Re: A.M.S., Region I, II, III, IV

1. A.M.S., Div. 100, Chicago has reported that a number of thefts of filled mail have occurred, apparently by Italian civilians. At least one P.O. in Chicago has been arrested in connection with these thefts. Several other civilians have been arrested in connection with these thefts.

2. In consideration of the effect on the morale of the troops caused by the thefts of mail, and also of the security aspect, a serious view must be taken of such cases.

3. Accordingly, it is requested that special efforts be made to apprehend the perpetrators of such thefts, and also that, after their conviction, substantial sentences be imposed for this type of offense.

4. Reports of offenses should be made by United States Courts in this type of case will be considered through the legal channels.



Charles E. Spafford
Colonel, U.S.A.
D.C.

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
APO 394

Ref/OSI/327.

LVD/AMG/mrd

1 February 1944

SUBJECT: Theft and Violation of Mail

TO : A.F.H.Q., Adv. Adm. Echelon, C.M.F.

1. Attention is invited to letter of your office dated 30 January 1944, reference 3047/A.2.

2. A most serious view will be taken of cases of the nature mentioned; and action will be instituted through this office to assist in apprehending offenders and bringing them to justice.

3. Instructions will be issued so that your Headquarters will be informed of any sentences passed on civilians who are convicted in the Allied Military Courts and, as far as possible, also in the Italian Courts, of thefts of this nature.

CHARLES M. SPOPPORD
Colonel, G.S.C.
D.C.C.A.O.

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

785017

279.

original letter from
A74Q sent to Col.
Cripps for Legal &
Public Safety in
Salem.

Feb. 1

Wash. D.C.

7850, 7

Date _____

Suspense _____

FROM	TO
Deputy President	
Chief of Staff	
Vice Chief of Staff (Col. Spafford)	✓
Public Relations Officer	
Liaison Section	
Military Section	
Political Section	
Econ. & Admin. Section	
Communications Section	
Administrative Directorate	
Economic Directorate	
Finance Sub-Commission	
Public Works-Mines Sub-Commission	
Agric., Forests-Fisheries Sub-Com	
Legal Sub-Commission	
Education Sub-Commission	
Executive Officers	
G-1	
G-4	
Adjutant General	
Files	
Personnel	
Publications	
Message Center	
Miscellaneous	
Pool of Interpreters	
Archives & Reference Library	
Hq. Commandant	

FOR:

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

REMARKS:

CONFIDENTIAL

HEADQUARTERS
ARMED SERVICES WASHINGTON
AUG 394

1A
31 January 1962

AFM/AFM/AFM.

SUBJECT: Theft and Violation of Mail
TO : Legal Administration

1. Attached is copy of letter of 30 January 1962 on this subject from A.F.M., A.F.M., Advance Administrative School, A.F.M.
2. It is requested that appropriate action be taken in accordance with the suggestions made in the basic letter.

Encl. 1

Colonel, A.F.M.
Colonel, A.F.M.
A.F.M.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT:- Theft and Violation of Mail.

AFHQ, Mr. Adm. Schuler,
C.S.F.
3047/A.2
30 Jan '44.

The Deputy Resident,
Allied Control Commission.

1. The C in C is disturbed at the prevalence of thefts of mails, apparently by Italian civilians, especially at Bari and Foggia railway sidings, where three notable cases have occurred during Jan '44.

2. Certain Italian civilians have been arrested in connection with these thefts. In consideration of the effect on the morale of the Troops caused by failures in the delivery of mails, and also of the security aspect, I have to request that the serious view taken of these cases may be made known to those of your officers who are responsible for dealing with such matters, as a guide to them in regard to the action to be taken.

3. It would be appreciated if instructions could be issued so that this R.O. is inflexible of the sentences passed on civilians who are convicted of thefts of this nature.

A. C. M. [Signature]

Major [Signature]
D.C.A.C.

Old/All.

107841