

1289
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

ACC

10000/120/3272

A/239/200

MAY-July

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

10000/120/3272

A/239/200 Legal

Soldiers Under Sentence

MAY-July

5274
5291

1282

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

6

Subject : Sers. Mess. Antonio CADORIN.

Land Forces Sub Comd. A.C.
H.M.I.A.
R O B E.
A 239
26 Jul 45

To : Ministry of War.

Reference your 11575/1/1 dated 9 Jul 45.
110.5.15

1. The appeal in respect of the above named has been favourably considered by the Legal Sub Commission AG.
2. A copy of their letter AG/4083/23/L dated 25 Jul 45 addressed to the Minister of Pardon and Justice is forwarded herewith for your information.

MA

Major General,
H.M.I.A.

/VH1

5292

Translation

264 (A239) (105)

From:- Ministry of War.
To:- M.M.I.A.

Ref:- 115175/11
Date:- 9.VII.45.

Subject:- Sergeant Antonio Cadorn.

Attached herewith ^{application} ~~request~~ for pardon, which we beg you to examine, ^{in favour} ~~presented by~~ Sergeant Antonio Cadorn, son of Giovanni Battista, born in 1918 and sentenced to 6 years imprisonment from the 14th July 1944 by the General Military Court of Avellino, further to incidents which occurred at Benevento on the 25th May 1944.

Such application has been forwarded to ~~the office~~ ^{the office} by the ~~Swedish~~ ^{Swedish} Minister in Rome, who is very much concerned about the N.C.O. in question.

P.T.O.

TV AN 9/2

Roma, - 9 LUG 1945

39

ALLA LAND FORCE SUE COMMISSION
A.C. (M.N.I.A.)

R O M A

Ministero della Guerra
Gabinetto

Divisione Leg. 1/1
Dist. 2/15/75 / 1/1
Mo. 5.15

Risposta al Foglio del
Dir. Leg. 1/1

OGGETTO serg. ass. Antonio CADORIN

A.

Con preghiera di benevolo esame trasmetto l'unita domanda di grazia in favore del Serg. Magg. Antonio CADORIN, di Giovanni Battista, classe 1919, condannato ad anni 6 di reclusione con sentenza 14 Luglio 1944 dalla General Military Court in Avellino, in seguito agli incidenti avvenuti a Benevento il 25 maggio 1944.-

Detta domanda mi è stata trasmessa dal Ministro di Svezia a Roma, vivamente interessato alla sorte del sottufficiale in questione.-

Gradirò conoscere a suo tempo le decisioni adottate.-

TRANSMISSION
IN {
Data 10/7/45

IL MINISTRO

Man

3290

OGGETTO SERG. MAGG. ANTONIO CADORIN

A.

Con preghiera di benevolo esame trasmetto l'unita domanda di grazia in favore del Serg. Magg. Antonio CADORIN, di Giovanni Battista, classe 1919, condannato ad anni 6 di reclusione con sentenza 14 Luglio 1944 della General Military Court in Avelli no, in seguito agli incidenti avvenuti a Benevento il 25 maggio 1944.-

Detta domanda mi è stata trasmessa dal Ministro di Svezia a Roma, vivamente interessato alla sorte del sottufficiale in questione.-

Gradirò conoscere a suo tempo le decisioni adottate.-

TRANSAZIONI	
IN	2000/900
	Uscite 10/7/45
OUT	1200
	11/2

IL MINISTRO

[Signature]

3290

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

1285

Translation

267 (A 239) (25)

From:- Ministry of War.

Ref:- 115175/11

To:- M.M.I.A.

Date:- 9.VII.45.

Subject:- Sergeant Antonio Cadarin.

Attached herewith ~~request~~ application for pardon, which we beg you to examine, ~~presented by~~ ^{in support} Sergeant Antonio Cadarin, son of Giovanni Battista, born in 1918 and sentenced to 6 years imprisonment from the 14th July 1944 by the General Military Court of Avellino, further to incidents which occurred at Benevento on the 25th May 1944.

Such application has been forwarded to ~~the office~~ ^{me} by the ~~Swedish~~ ^{Swedish} Minister in Rome, who is very much concerned about the N.C.O. in question.

P.T.O.

I shall be grateful to know
what decisions have been taken.

Tucini

Carter
a

1288

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

TV RA 9/7

Roma, 9 IUG 1945

39

ALLA LAND FORCE SUB COMMISSION
A.C. (M.M.I.A.)

R O M A

Ministero della Guerra
Gabinetto

Divisione Leg. 115175 / I / Delegato Mio
No. 5.15

Risposta al Foglio del
Dir. Leg. 34

OGGETTO serg. magg. Antonio CADORIN

A.

Con preghiera di benevolo esame trasmetto l'unita domanda di grazia in favore del Serg. Magg. Antonio CADORIN, di Giovanni Battista, classe 1919, condannato ad anni 6 di reclusione con sentenza 14 Luglio 1944 dalla General Military Court in Avellino, in seguito agli incidenti avvenuti a Benevento il 25 maggio 1944.-

Detta domanda mi è stata trasmessa dal Ministro di Svezia a Roma, vivamente interessato alla sorte del sottufficiale in questione.-

Gradirò conoscere a suo tempo le decisioni adottate.-

TRANSLATION
134 { Date 19/7/45

3290

IL MINISTRO

[Signature]

OGGETTO serg. magg. Antonio CADORIN

A.

Con preghiera di benevolo esame trasmetto l'unita domanda di grazia in favore del Serg. Magg. Antonio CADORIN, di Giovanni Battista, classe 1919, condannato ad anni 6 di reclusione con sentenza 14 Luglio 1944 dalla General Military Court in Avellino, in seguito agli incidenti avvenuti a Benevento il 25 maggio 1944.-

Detta domanda mi è stata trasmessa dal Ministero di Svezia a Roma, vivamente interessato alla sorte del sottufficiale in questione.-

Gradirò conoscere a suo tempo le decisioni adottate.-

TRANSMISSION	
IN	10/7/45
OUT	12/2

IL MINISTRO

[Signature]

3290

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Translation.

Subject: Sergeant Antonio Cadoni.

Foligno Div.

detained in the Civil Prison of Avellino.

On the 25th May, 1944, at Benevento, at that time under the jurisdiction of Allied Administration, two patrols of paratroopers of the Foligno Group, whose duty was to maintain order, clashed, whereupon arms (fire) were used, accused with English coloured troops, Indians to be precise.

From enquiries conscientiously carried out and duly examined it appears that:

As in that zone frequent fights occurred between paratroopers and soldiers of the Allied Forces, Foligno H.Q., recently transferred from Sanabria, laid on an armed patrol to control Italian paratroopers with a view to put an end to these unhappy incidents.

As usual, on the 25th of May 1944 the said patrols were out, when the patrol under Sergeant Cadoni Antonio heard shots coming from the direction of the zone within their beat. Having discovered the exact spot, the sergeant and the

4 patrol ropes in his patrol went 2
immediately to the spot, where they
learned of the happenings. The preceding
patrol had been ~~provoked~~ provoked
(as proved later by witnesses during the trial),
and assaulted with ^{various implements} ~~tools~~ by Indian Soldiers.

The junior N.C.O. in charge of the attacked
patrol, was prostrate seriously wounded
in the head. On arrival the Cadorn
patrol were fired upon. Sergeant
Cadorn tried in vain to pacify things.
He was obliged to put his patrol under
arrest, who were at that moment
had ^{been joined} ~~intermingled~~ with the first patrol,
not being able to ^{recognize} ~~separate~~ them, in
order to intimidate them fired a shot
in the air. Following this, other shots
were fired and in the subsequent violent
struggle & confusion, three Indian Soldiers
were killed by a party or parties impossible
to trace.

As the said incident occurred late in
^{mid} ~~the~~ morning, Cadorn, the only N.C.O. left,
managed to reunite his men and it was
due to his coolness that greater

consequences were avoided. On arrival³ of Allied Police, the paratroopers were arrested. The matter would not have been so easy and without inconvenience had it not been for the high standard of discipline shown by Cadorn, who did everything in his power to calm his men, thus saving the local Italian H.Q. a great deal of trouble.

A series of unfortunate circumstances put the soldiers arrested in a precarious situation, after they were imprisoned at Benevento. Confident that their ~~local~~ H.Q. (Foligno) would take the matter up, they expected their release to be imminent, when three days after the incident occurred the Foligno Group was ^{transferred} ~~displaced~~, and they then found themselves isolated and without help.

At the trial, starting on the 30th of July at Avellino and lasting two weeks, ^{the council spontaneously without fees undertook} ~~for national solicitors defended~~ ^{the defense of} the paratroopers (these paratroopers had ^{helped} considerably, the population of

13. ~~elements~~ ⁴ with public order duties that they had carried out), but, owing to the different procedure of Allied Courts the defense pleaded by the abovementioned lawyers led to a dead end. The debate was somewhat confused and this was in no minor part due to the insurmountable difficulty of deciding who was directly responsible in each particular instance. It ensued that the British Officer acting as prosecutor, instead of asking for a sentence against the accused, lauded the court the description of the trial and the court sentenced Sergeant Codrion because he was 1/2 patrol to 6 years, sentenced two of the soldiers to 3 years each and acquitted the other seven.

It later became known that the prosecuting Officer verbally 5286

and privately expressed his
admiration for Sergeant Cadorn
"who acted with courage and good
judgment".

Consequently when the area came
under Italian administration, the
defense court applied immediately
to Naples Court. General Morigi,
C.O. of the Folgore Div. and Major
Valletta did not miss the opportunity
to encourage the paratroopers by
promising that they would do the
necessary, but it should be borne
in mind that their duties did not
allow them to do so. During the
appeal, the Court of Naples reduced
the sentence to a third: 2 years for
Sergeant Cadorn and 1 year for the
other two soldiers, whose time was
up on the 25th of May, and they were released.
Cadorn is at present in the civil prison
at Anellina.

Cadorin's people live at Selva di Volpago ⁶
(Treviso). From the 8th. Sept. 1945 they
have had no news from their son Antonio,
who at that time was with his Div.
in Sardinia. Sergeant Cadorin's present
condition is due to his carrying out an
unpleasant ~~dirty~~ task. The war is over.
His old people (hoping he is still alive)
are waiting for him, four sisters and
a ~~disabled~~ ^{minor} brother, all depending on
their parents. To the parents, only their
son Antonio Cadorin and brother Gino
Cadorin were of any help. The latter,
proud of his brother fighting with the
Falga, during the long and exhausting
struggle with the Germans in the North,
was a partisan with the partisans. For
the partisan war, and for his country
Gino Cadorin gave himself: his young
life.

The family ~~was~~ ^{is} mourning a fallen one,
dispairing over a missing one.

The sorrow of this family is increased[?]
by the knowledge that their only grown up
son is in prison, ~~less~~ paying for a crime
which was not his, not committed by him.

Restoration of Sergeant Cadavin's
liberty would be at one and the same
time an act of justice to a brave
soldier and of mercy to a good family
which the war has so sorrowfully stricken.

Renzo Dandini.

Center.

H

GES.:

Serg. Magg. Antonio Cadorin,
della Divisione Folgore.
Detenuto nel Carcere Civile di Avellino.

Il giorno 25 Maggio 1944, a Benevento, a quel tempo zona sottoposta all'amministrazione alleata, due pattuglie di paracadutisti del Raggr.to Folgore, adibite al mantenimento dell'ordine, venivano in scontro armato con truppe di colore inglesi, e precisamente indiani.

Notizie obbiettivamente raccolte e vagliate danno dei fatti la seguente versione:

Poichè nella zona accadevano con qualche frequenza zuffe fra paracadutisti e manfrì delle Forze Alleate, il Comando italiano della Folgore, ivi da poco trasferitosi dalla Sardegna, stabilì un servizio di ronda armato per controllare i paracadutisti italiani al fine di impedire il sorgere e il ripetersi di tali spiacevoli incidenti.

Come nei giorni precedenti, il 25 Maggio 1944 uscirono queste ronde, quando quella comandata dal Serg. Magg. CADORIN Antonio udì dei colpi di arma da fuoco nella zona destinata alla sua sorveglianza. Individuato il luogo, vi si portò rapidamente con i 4 paracadutisti della sua ronda ed allorchè giunto si rese subito conto dell'accaduto: la pattuglia che lo precedeva era stata provocata (come risultò poi da testimonianze rese al processo) ed aggredita con attrezzi da lavoro da militari indiani. Il graduato che comandava la pattuglia aggredita, giaceva gravemente ferito al capo. Il sopraggiungere della ronda Cadorin fu accolto a fucilate. Invano il Serg. Magg. Cadorin ebbe a tentare e con non poca ed energica fermezza opera di pacificazione. Fu costretto ad arrestare la sua pattuglia, alla quale intanto s'erano aggiunti gli uomini della prima e non potendo sottrarsi, a scopo intimidatorio, sparò un colpo in aria. A questo, altri fecero seguito e nel confuso e violento tafferuglio tre militari indiani vennero uccisi e ad opera di chi fu purtroppo impossibile stabilire.

Essendosi tale incidente svolto in pieno mattino, riuscì al Cadorin, unico graduato rimasto, a riunire i suoi uomini e si deve al suo

Il giorno 25 Maggio 1944, a Benevento, a quel tempo zona sottoposta all'amministrazione alleata, due pattuglie di paracadutisti del Raggr.to Folgore, adibite al mantenimento dell'ordine, venivano in scontro armato con truppe di colore inglesi, e precisamente indiani. Notizie obiettivamente raccolte e vagliate danno dei fatti la seguente versione:

Poichè nella zona accadevano con qualche frequenza zuffe fra paracadutisti e manfrì delle Forze Alleate, il Comando italiano della Folgore, ivi da poco trasferitosi dalla Sardegna, stabilì un servizio di ronda armato per controllare i paracadutisti italiani al fine di impedire il sorgere e il ripetersi di tali spiacevoli incidenti.

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Essendosi tale incidente svolto in pieno mattino, ⁵²⁸³ il Cadorin, unico graduato rimasto, a riunire i suoi uomini e si deve al suo sangue freddo se fu tuttavia possibile evitare più gravi conseguenze. Giunta la polizia mista alleata, questa arrestò i paracadutisti italiani. Ma non sarebbe stata cosa tanto agevole e scevra di inconvenienti senza l'alto spirito di disciplina spiegato anche in questo frangente.

te dal Cadorin che si adoperò a tutt'uomo per calmare gli animi dei suoi uomini, risparmiando in tal modo serie noie al Comando italiano della piazza.

Purtroppo, un complesso di cause concomitanti rese precaria la situazione degli arrestati, tradotti al carcere di Benevento. Fidenti nell'interessamento del loro Comando (Folgore) s'attendevano imminente la scarcerazione, quando, tre giorni dopo l'accaduto, inviato in zona d'impiego il Raggr.to Folgore, essi vennero a trovarsi isolati e lontani da ogni valido appoggio.

Al processo, celebratosi il 30 Luglio ad Avellino e durato due settimane, quattro avvocati si assunsero spontaneamente e con assoluto disinteresse la difesa dei paracadutisti (del cui servizio d'ordine, sia detto per inciso, la popolazione di Benevento ebbe non poco vantaggio), senonchè, per la diversa procedura della Corte Alleata, inefficace si dimostrò la loro opera valorosa. Il dibattito fu alquanto confuso e a ciò contribuirono non poco l'insormontabile difficoltà di stabilire a chi esattamente risalissero le particolari responsabilità. Ne conseguì che l'ufficiale inglese rappresentante l'accusa in luogo di chiedere per i prevenuti sentenza di condanna, rimise alla Corte la definizione del Giudizio e questa condannò il Serg. Magg. Cadorin, perchè comandante di pattuglia, a sei anni, a tre anni ciascuno altri due militari ed assolse gli altri sette. Si seppe poi che l'ufficiale rappresentante l'accusa, ebbe ad esprimere in forma privata parole di ammirazione nei riguardi del Serg. Magg. Cadorin "che agì con coraggio e buon senso".

Passata in seguito la zona sotto l'amministrazione italiana, il Collegio di difesa si affrettò a ricorrere in appello presso la Corte di Napoli. Il generale Morigi, comandante la Divisione Folgore ed il Maggiore Valletti non mancarono di far giungere ai loro paracadutisti espressioni di solidarietà e promesse di interessamento ma è da ritenere che gli avvenimenti nei quali erano impegnati, ne gli abbiano ostacolati. In sede di appello, la Corte di Napoli ridusse la pena ad un terzo: 2 anni al Serg. Magg. Cadorin ed 1 anno agli altri du soldati, che il 25 Maggio di quest'anno scadute la loro pena sono stati liberati.

Il Cadorin si trova tutt'ora nel carcere civile di Avellino.

valido appoggio.

Al processo, celebratosi il 30 Luglio ad Avellino e durato due settimane, quattro avvocati si assunsero spontaneamente e con assoluto disinteresse la difesa dei paracadutisti (del cui servizio d'ordine, sia detto per inciso, la popolazione di Benevento ebbe non poco vantaggio), senonchè, per la diversa procedura della Corte Alleata, inefficace si dimostrò la loro opera valorosa. Il dibattito fu alquanto confuso e a ciò contribuì non poco l'insormontabile difficoltà di stabilire a chi esattamente risalissero le particolari responsabilità. Ne conseguì che l'ufficiale inglese rappresentante l'accusa in luogo di chiedere per i prevenuti sentenza di condanna, rimise alla Corte la definizione del Giudizio e questa condannò il Serg. Magg. Cadorin, perchè comandante di pattuglia, a sei anni, a tre anni ciascuno altri due militari ed assolse gli altri sette. Si seppe poi che l'ufficiale rappresentante l'accusa, ebbe ad esprimere in forma privata parole di ammirazione nei riguardi del Serg. Magg. Cadorin "che agì con coraggio e buon senso".

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Il Cadorin si trova tutt'ora nel carcere civile di Avellino.

- - -

La famiglia del CADORIN risiede a Selva di Volpago (Treviso). Dall'8 Settembre 43 ignora la sorte del figlio Antonio che a quell'epoca trovavasi con la sua Divisione paracadutisti in Sardegna. Solo l'espletamento di un compito ingrato ha posto il Serg. Magg. Cadorin Antonio nella

condizione in essere. La guerra è terminata. A casa lo attendono (che non disperano sia vivo) i vecchi genitori, quattro sorelle ed un fratello minore, tutti e cinque a carico dei genitori. A questi, soli il figlio Antonio Cadarin ed il fratello Gino Cadarin erano di sollievo e di aiuto. Quest'ultimo, orgoglioso di sapere il fratello combattente nella Folgore, nella lunga ed estenuante lotta condotta contro i tedeschi al nord, fu patriota con i patrioti. Ed alla guerra partigiana, ed alla Patria Gino Cadarin ha dato tutto se stesso: la sua giovane vita.

La famiglia piange un Caduto, dispera per un lontano. Sia risparmiato il dolore, a questa famiglia, di sapere l'unico figlio valido chiuso in un carcere, a scontare una colpa non commessa, non sua.

Ridonare la libertà al Serg. Magg. Antonio CADORIN 'un atto di giustizia verso un bravo soldato e di pietà insieme verso una buona famiglia che la guerra ha tanto dolorosamente provato.

Roma, li 26 Giugno 1945.

Renzo Dandini

Renzo Dandini

Cognato del Serg. Magg. Cadarin.

1302

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

dorin ha dato tutto se stesso: la sua giovane vita.

La famiglia piange un Caduto, dispera per un lontano. Sia risparmiato il dolore, a questa famiglia, di sapere l'unico figlio valido chiuso in un carcere, a scontare una colpa non commessa, non sua.

Ridonare la libertà al Serg. Magg. Antonio CADORIN, un atto di giustizia verso un bravo soldato e di pietà insieme verso una buona famiglia che la guerra ha tanto dolorosamente provato.

Roma, li 26 Giugno 1945.

Renzo Dandini

Renzo Dandini

Cognato del Serg. Magg. Cadorin.

5281

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Subj: ITALIAN STORES - Removal by Allied Troops.

(H)
Land Forces Sub Comm. A.C.
M.M.I.A.
R O M E .
A 270.
21 July 45.

To : H.Q. No. 1. District. C.M.F.

1. The attached copy translation of a letter from the Italian Ministry of War is forwarded for your attention please.
2. It is requested that you will please advise this Hq as to what reply should be given to the Ministry of War.

SPA

S.P. ARCHER, Major.
for Major General,
M.M.I.A.

/ent.

5280

(2)

Subject: Italian Army Soldiers under Sentence.

LAND FORCES SUB-COMM A.C.,
(M.M.I.A.) R O M E

A 239

14

July, '45.

To : Ministry of War.

Serg. MAIA. CADORIN, Antonio.

Reference your II5I75/I/I dated 9 July, '45
II0.5.I5

(Gabinetto).

1. Your request for remission of sentence at present being served by the above named Italian NCO has been passed to the Legal Sub Commission, A.C. for consideration.

2. You will be advised as soon as legal opinion has been received on this matter.

SPA

S.P. ARCHER, Major.

for Major General,
M.M.I.A.

5279

MMIA

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
Civil Affairs Section
APO 394

(V)

~~Attch~~
A239

File

Tel : 476709

25 May, 1945.

AG/14215/PS

~~9/12~~
25/5

(K) SP

SUBJECT : Prison Accommodations - Overcrowding.
TO : G-5 Section AFHQ.

1. Four recent communications from the Ministry of Grace and Ministry of the Interior, translations of which are attached, are forwarded for your information and with the request that the critical overcrowding of civilian prisons throughout Italy be given renewed consideration by your Headquarters.
2. Communication A represents an appeal from the Ministry of Grace and Justice for the release of Montesarchio Prison (near Benevento) to be used for the custody of persons sentenced on political grounds. This prison is now under Allied Military control and reportedly houses Italian Military prisoners.
3. Communications B & C refer to the overcrowded conditions of Mirate and S. Teresa prisons (Florence) wherein an appeal is made for the return to civilian control of at least a part of Mirate prison to accommodate the overflow from S. Teresa. This Commission has knowledge of past disturbances in S. Teresa, the last one, of 1 May 1945, resulting in the escape of 63 inmates. Over 100 Italian soldier prisoners are in Mirate prison which, with a capacity of 1200, has been almost entirely taken over by Allied Military authorities as a holding center for Allied prisoners. Reports from AMG personnel in Tuscany region indicate that only one half of the requisitioned space at Mirate prison is actually being used, unused accommodations for approximately 400 prisoners being available if a release of this space could be obtained.
4. Communication D refers to present conditions at Regina Coeli where, with a normal capacity of approximately 800, the population is 2083. The succession of riots in this prison have caused damage which is irreparable while the prisoners are confined there. Complete evacuation of Regina Coeli appears to be the only means by which reconstruction can be effected, and the Ministry's request that Allied authorities release facilities now being used as concentration camps offers an equitable solution.

5273

1306

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

- 2 -

to an almost continuous state of unrest in this prison. The last riot in Regina Coeli took place 20 May 1945.

5. The latest recapitulation of returns on prisons on the mainland, Sicily and Sardinia indicate that 95 main Judicial prisons have an excess population of from 30 to 100 percent. This figure does not include prisons in the four Northern Regions, but incomplete reports reflect equally serious conditions in this area also.

6. It is therefore the opinion of Allied Commission that the possibility of relief of these conditions should be examined immediately. Proposals already advanced include the de-requisitioning of civilian jails by Allied authority, transfer of Italian Military prisons from civilian prisons back to the custody of the Italian Army, and evacuation of such concentration camp facilities as can be made at this time. The consideration of G-5, Allied Force Headquarters, is urgently requested.

For the Chief Commissioner :

G.R. UPJOHN Brig.
VP CA Sec.

Copy to : MCLA. ✓

5277

COPY

URGENT

A.

MINISTRY OF GRACE & JUSTICE

14th May 1945

No. 1326/10.9

SUBJECT : Montesarchio (Benevento) prison occupied by Indian prisoners.
TO : A.C. P.S. S/C

It appears to this Ministry, that the Montesarchio prison, by order of the Allied Military Command of Benevento, is at the present time used as prison for Indian prisoners.

In view of the serious situation of prison establishments in Campania and Lazio, absolutely insufficient to hold the numerous prisoners there confined, who are always increasing, this Administration would urgently need to re-occupy this establishment, with the intention to gather there the most part of the political prisoners, who scattered as they are in the prisons for common prisoners give rise to earnest preoccupation for the continuous disturbances which occur in the establishments.

Therefore, the Commission is earnestly requested to take into favourable consideration the a/m request, issuing with courteous urgency, opportune instructions in this regard. If necessary, officials of this Administration could visit the establishment under discussion together with representatives of the Commission.

For the Minister
Aurisma.

B.

TRANSLATION

MINISTRY OF GRACE & JUSTICE

15 May 1945

No. 1207/1.10.C

Subject : Situation in the Florence Judicial prison.
TO : A.C. P.S. S/C and for information
Ministry of the Interior - P.S. Directorate.

Enclosure No. 1.

The Ministry of the Interior - P.S. General Directorate - with letter No. 10.36081/11200 A dated 7th instant, copy of which is herewith enclosed, in pointing out the serious inconveniences brought about by the overcrowding of prisoners in the insufficient premises of the S. Teresa prison in Florence, has prospected the necessity that the Brate prison be put at the disposal of this Administration or at least the third wing and that the Italian soldiers there confined be transferred elsewhere.

As the Florence prison problem earnestly troubles this Ministry, the Allied Commission is requested to take into favourable consideration the proposals made in the a/m letter.

An acknowledgment would be appreciated.

For the Minister

Aurisma.

5276

1 COPY TRANSLATION

MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR
No. 10.36081/11200 A

7th May 1945.

SUBJECT : Situation in the Florence prison.

TO : Ministry of Grace & Justice.

For the necessary measures, report of which would be appreciated, we transcribe the following letter received from the Florence No. 1092 dated 19th April 1945.

" During the last period I have received several reports from the Police bodies, in which statements are made in regard to the serious inconveniences brought about by the over-crowding of the Florence prison and the consequent regrettable demonstrations of the prisoners due to their confinement in not suitable premises.

The number of the prisoners confined in the S. Teresa prison is roughly double to its capacity, to the detriment of the vigilance possibilities and hygienic necessities and this is due to the fact, that the Murate prison is almost completely used by the Allied Authorities.

About 200 prisoners, who pretend to be partisans, are making continuous protests, claiming to be unduly detained; in truth these are to the greater part ex-convicts arrested by the Allied police, because found in possession of arms or disobeying food-control regulations, who believe, that they can take advantage bringing about the patriotic question. Insubordinate persons are under discussion, who incite the prisoners to demonstrations. The prison guards are disarmed and do not use, on the other hand, the necessary energy, also because they fear that indeed partisans are under discussion, who could, released from prison take revenge upon them.

The CC.RR cannot carry out an efficacious vigilance service inside the establishment, inasmuch as the prisoners as soon as they notice them, commence to insult and scorn them.

P.S. Agents have been employed for the vigilance service inside the establishment, but even this measure is insufficient.

On the 18th March 1945, an attempted breakout has taken place, which it has been possible to repress, but frequent riots still occur.

It would be necessary that the Ministry uses its good offices with the Allied Commission to the effect that consideration be given to the possibility of placing at the disposal of the Italian Authorities, if not the whole Murate prison, at least the so called "third wing", allowing the transfer of roughly 100 prisoners from the S. Teresa prison.

Thus a reason for discomfort and discontent would be eliminated, inasmuch as the S. Teresa prison due to its cubiform is not suitable to receive prisoners awaiting trial, who are obliged to stay the whole day in very small

- 12 -

Cont. C.

cells and isolated, while the excessive overcrowding of the S. Teresa prison has made it necessary to employ the special cells for punishment, which have been also used for the billeting of the prisoners.

Furthermore, at the present time about 120 Italian soldiers are confined in the Murata prison at the disposal of the CC.R., to be transferred elsewhere. To the greater part these soldiers depend from the Rome Military Court and others are awaiting to be returned to their Corps. The latter cannot be transferred as the CC.RR have not the necessary means of transport. For the former as soon departure had been in view, but has not taken place, because, it seems, the Rome Military Court should transfer itself to Florence for the trial, but this transfer has not yet occurred.

The Ministry is requested to use their good offices so that these prisoners be transferred elsewhere, or that the Military Court institutes other premises for their custody.

"I allow to myself to point out the seriousness of the a/n/ situation and the urgency of its solution."

For the Minister
Sgd. illegible.

COPY TRANSLATION
No. 1.20.5

MINISTRY OF GRACE & JUSTICE

D.
18th May 1945.

SUBJECT : Evacuation of prisoners from the "Regina Coeli"
prison in Rome - Concentration Camp.

To : A.C. P.S. S/C

As known, the serious situation of the "Regina Coeli" judicial prison in Rome, due to the frequent riots of the prisoners there confined, demands prompt and energetic measures, with a view to guarantee, not only the safety of the establishment, but also quiet to the town-life.

The evacuation of the majority of the prisoners is one of the most urgent measures. But destructions and serious damages, produced by war operations to the Lazio prison institutions, prevent the putting into effect of any transfer of prisoners whatsoever from Rome to the prison of the neighbouring country.

In view of such a situation, this Ministry's opinion would be to transfer numerous prisoners to some concentration camp, well-understood adequately equipped.

Therefore earnest request is made to the Commission, to the effect that, considering the prison exigencies of the Capital particularly serious and delicate at the present time, the proposal be taken into favourable consideration, i.e. to use for the purpose some concentration camp existing in the Lazio Province or vicinity, a camp already supplied with the necessary equipment.

An acknowledgement would be appreciated.

For the Minister
Volpe.

5271

11310