

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

ACC

10000/120/3512

G 4

May

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

10000/120/3512

G 4

Security

1189
1227

May - Nov. 1945

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

CONFIDENTIAL

Subject :- Shooting of three civilians on 24 Nov 45

To :-
Comd
HQ 7 AGRA

1 British Liaison Unit
TURIN

G 4

Col W MORTIMER
Regional Commissioner
PIEMONTE

I enclose herewith full report of the above case, made by Major SESSICH, Commander of the 1st Bn 23rd Regt, together with statements of evidence of all the witnesses in the case and attached as Appendices numbers 1 - 15.

Field
2 Dec 45
PWH/RET

SSP
Lt Col
General Staff

1227

22 INF REPT "CREMONA"Mo 4955/G
Biella, 27 Nov 45Subject :- Report on inquiry re incident which occurred on the night
of 24 Nov on the CIGLIANO - VILLAREGGIA roadTo :- 22 Inf Rept "CREMONA" - VERCELLI

On the night of the 24 Nov my unit at IVREA, on food control duty on behalf of AMB AOSTA, and commanded by 2/Lt MAZZANZANICA Giuseppe, sent out a patrol conforming with the letter of the Provincial Statistic-Economic Office of Agriculture of AOSTA, of which I attach a copy. His duty was to patrol the road IVREA - CALUSO - VILLAREGGIA - CIGLIANO - BORGOMARINO - IVREA. The patrol on board the truck consisted of 5 personnel in charge of Cpl TABAGLIO Ottorino, and of two officials of the a/m office.

The patrol left IVREA at 1800 hrs. At about 2000 hours it came across a civilian truck at about 1 km from VILLAREGGIA. The patrol, in order to check the cargo of the civilian car, signalled for it to stop in the following manner:

(a) By going from the left to the right of the road and vice versa for a distance of about 60 metres

(b) By flashing the established light signals from a very short distance.

(c) By shouting loudly when the two trucks passed each other.

(d) By firing a burst of MG in the air when the civilian truck, after having passed the patrol instead of stopping increased its speed.

(e) By firing a second burst of MG in the air a few seconds after the first (with reference to this the personnel and officials' statements differ from that of the civilian driver given verbally, wherein he says that the second burst of MG was directed against the truck and not in the air. However, I would like to point out that on being questioned he did not appear to be quite sure of what he stated).

(f) On the orders of Cpl TABAGLIO Ottorino, Pte MONTANARI Alberto, fired the third burst 20 seconds after the first two; the Pte aimed at the wheels of the vehicle.

(g) Pursuing the civilian vehicle which was ~~going~~ proceeding at its maximum speed (refer to statement of driver TESSIERE Angelo) towards VILLAREGGIA, a quarter of an hour later they came across the vehicle. The vehicle had stopped in front of the restaurant owned by Signor CARRA, where the passengers had bought refuge. The patrol searched the vehicle but found it empty; they also discovered that three passengers had been injured by the third burst of MG. The patrol immediately took the injured persons to the surgery of Dr ROSSI Antonio in

The patrol left IVREA at 1800 hrs. At about 9000 hours it came across a civilian truck at about 1 km from VILLAREGIA. The patrol, in order to check the cargo of the civilian car, signalled for it to stop in the following manner:

- (a) By going from the left to the right of the road and vice versa for a distance of about 60 metres
- (b) By flashing the established light signals from a very short distance.
- (c) By shouting loudly when the two trucks passed each other.
- (d) By firing a burst of M2 in the air when the civilian truck, after having passed the patrol instead of stopping increased its speed.
- (e) By firing a second burst of M2 in the air a few seconds after the first (with reference to this the personnel and officials' statements differ from that of the civilian driver given verbally, wherein he says that the second burst of M2 was directed against the truck and not in the air. However, I would like to point out that on being questioned he did not appear to be quite sure of what he stated).
- (f) On the orders of Cpl TAMBURO Ottorino, Pte MONTAMARI Alberto, fired the third burst 10 seconds after the first two; the Pte aimed at the wheels of the vehicle.
- (g) Pursuing the civilian vehicle which was ~~seen~~ proceeding at its maximum speed (refer to statement of driver TESSIERE Angelo) towards VILLAREGIA, a quarter of an hour later they came across the vehicle. The vehicle had stopped in front of the restaurant owned by Signor CARRA, where the passengers had sought refuge. The patrol searched the vehicle but found it empty; they also discovered that three passengers had been injured by the third burst of M2. The patrol immediately took the injured persons to the surgery of Dr ROSSA Antonio in GIELIANO.

From the statements with regard to this incident, ²²⁸ the under-mentioned particulars have been obtained:

- (1) The patrol was on food control duties as per attached order of the Provincial Statistic-Economic Office of Agriculture of AOSTA, issued according to the instructions of the Allied Authorities.
- (2) Since the civilian truck did not stop, the patrol rightly thought that they were dealing with contraband people. This was apparently confirmed by the fact that the passengers, due to the cold weather, were sheltering under a huge tarpaulin which presumably was concealing material instead of people. It is possible that the civilian vehicle which was caught up by the patrol a quarter of an hour after it was lost sight of, apart from carrying the orchestra people heading for FOGLIZZO, was also carrying explosives material which was abandoned before the patrol caught up with them.
- (3)

/to sheet 2 (4) ...

- 2 -

- (4) Private MONTANARI fired the first two bursts of MG in the air; the third - at least he intended to - was fired against the wheels of the civilian vehicle on the orders of Cpl TABALLO, who in turn was following the instructions given by 2/Lt MEZZANZANICA.
- (5) 2/Lt MEZZANZANICA in his turn was obeying instructions issued by the Allied Authorities, represented by the Provincial Commission of AOSTA, Major HOWELL, who ordered him "to use all means possible in order that the law might be respected," and also to instructions issued in letter No. 01/2747 dated 20 Aug 45 of this Div's HQ.

In view of the above, I maintain that the person responsible for this incident is the driver of the civilian vehicle TESSIERE Angelo, who lives in CIGLIANO and did not halt when he was ordered to do so.

On my part, I praise the behaviour both of Cpl TABALLO and of Pte MONTANARI who carried out their duty according to the instructions issued by the Colonel, after having ascertained that the facts comply with what 2/Lt MEZZANZANICA stated, and for this reason I have rewarded the personnel with 500 lire each for: "When on food control duties they have carried out their responsibility and according to the instructions given them by their superiors when a civilian truck did not obey their orders."

From information obtained, the injured persons are out of danger. I attach in triplicate a copy of:-

Statement by 2/Lt MEZZANZANICA Giuseppe

" " Cpl TABALLO Ottorino

" " Pte MONTANARI Alberto

" " Civilian Driver TESSIERE Angelo

Passenger VALPESGA Paolo

Statements by the patrol personnel: Privates TALLONI Angelo, SCIONI Aldo, DANIELI Gino.

Statements of the two officials on food duties:

Geometra Pietro THOMPSON and Geometra ROSSIO Domenico.

Order for carrying out the duty by the U P S E A of

AOSTA.

Message No. 302 dated 25 Nov 45 where I forwarded the

first information given by 2/Lt MEZZANZANICA.

Statement, in a closed envelope, of the CC ER of CIGLIANO VERCELLINE.

(Signed) Marcello SESSON, Major

Provincial Commission of AOSTA, Major HOWELL, who ordered him "to use all means possible in order that the law might be respected," and also to instructions issued in Letter No. 02/2747 dated 30 Aug 45 of this Div's HQ.

In view of the above, I maintain that the person responsible for this incident is the driver of the civilian vehicle TESSIERE Angelo, who lives in CIGLIANO and did not halt when he was ordered to do so.

On my part, I praise the behaviour both of Cpl TABALLO and of Pte MONTANARI who carried out their duty according to the instructions issued by the Colonel, after having ascertained that the facts comply with what 2/Lt MEZZANZANICA stated, and for this reason I have rewarded the personnel with 500 lire each for : "when on food control duties they have carried out their responsibility and according to the instructions given them by their superiors when a civilian truck did not obey their orders."

From information obtained, the injured persons are out of danger. I attach in triplicate a copy of :-

Statement by 2/Lt MEZZANZANICA Giuseppe

" " " Cpl TABALLO Ottorino

" " " Pte MONTANARI Alberto

" " " Civilian Driver TESSIERE Angelo

" " " Passenger VALPIGA Paolo

Statements by the patrol personnel : Privates TALLONI Angelo, SCIONI Aldo, DANIELI Gino.

Statements of the two officials on food duties :
Geometra Pietro TROMBETTO and Geometra ROSSIO Domenico.

Order for carrying out the duty by the U P S E A of AOSTA.

Message No. 362 dated 26 Nov 45 where I forwarded the first information given by 2/Lt MEZZANZANICA.

Statement, in a closed envelope, of the CG RR of CIGLIANO VERCELLI.

(Signed) Marcello SUGGICH, Major

1223

APPENDIX 1

C O P Y
HQ 22 INF REGT
VERCELLI

No. 2691
28 Nov 45

Subject :- Use of Arms by the Patrol of
I Bn, on food control duties,
which took place on the night
of 24 Nov 45 between VILLAREGGIA
and CIGLIANO

To :- HQ CREMONA Inf Div

The Comd I Bn has forwarded direct to your HQ a copy of all documents relating to the incident in question.

I was informed of the incident at about 1200 hrs 25 Nov by Comd I Bn, Major SESSICH, and instructed him to proceed to the spot and carry out the necessary inquiries. I told him - that if the personnel had complied with the orders issued - to reward them with 500 Lire - in accordance with what I had already laid down if they succeeded in carrying out their duties.

The personnel acted in accordance with instructions given them and this is confirmed by the statements of the two officials from the Provincial Statistic-Economic Office of Agriculture.

If the civ veh in question, apart from carrying 5 persons, had a piano, drum, jazz drum, trumpet, 2 violins and book stands, it seems unlikely that it could also carry contraband merchandise.

The driver, and two other persons sitting in the cabin, ^{are} was very unwise not to stop when ordered to do so by the mil veh. I exclude on the part of the patrol personnel any sense of vengeance or excess in the use of arms. I believe, that Pte MONTANARI Alberto intended to fire on the wheels of the veh, also because a low aim is the surest, but with a weapon like the Thompson against a veh in motion at a distance of 50 ms and by night, it is quite probable that the shots at the truck went 50cms higher than they were intended to be, that is level with the body of the truck.

It should be noted, however, that newspapers often publish the news about vehs charging through rd blocks and for this reason there is no point in being lenient.

I am taking no action against the patrol personnel nor against 2/Lt MEZZANZANICA, who was in charge of the detachment.

of 24 Nov 45 between VILLAREGGIA
and CIGLIANO

To :-- HQ CREMONA Inf Div

The Comd I Bn has forwarded direct to your HQ a copy of all documents relating to the incident in question.

I was informed of the incident at about 1200 hrs 25 Nov by Comd I Bn, Major SESSICH, and instructed him to proceed to the spot and carry out the necessary inquiries. I told him - that if the personnel had complied with the orders issued - to reward them with 500 Lire - in accordance with what I had already laid down if they succeeded in carrying out their duties.

The personnel acted in accordance with instructions given them and this is confirmed by the statements of the two officials from the Provincial Statistic-Economic Office of Agriculture.

If the civ veh in question, apart from carrying 5 persons, had a piano, drum, jazz drum, trumpet, 2 violins and book stands, it seems unlikely that it could also carry contraband merchandise.

The driver, and two other persons sitting in the cabin, ^{are} were very unwise not to stop when ordered to do so by the mil veh. I exclude on the part of the patrol personnel any sense of vengeance or excess in the use of arms. I believe, that Pte MONTANARI Alberto intended to fire on the wheels of the veh, also because a low aim is the surest, but with a weapon like the Thompson against a veh in motion at a distance of 50 ms and by night, it is quite probable that the shots at the truck went 50cms higher than they were intended to be, that is level with the body of the truck.

It should be noted, however, that newspapers often publish the news about vehs charging through rd blocks and for this reason there is no point in being lenient.

I am taking no action against the patrol personnel nor against 2/Lt MEZZANZANICA, who was in charge of the detachment.

Signed AUGUSTO D'AMICO 1224
Comd 22 Inf Regt.

22 THIRTY FIRST "ORIONA"
HQ 1st BN

APPENDIX 2

STATEMENT by 2/Lt MARIANINO GIUSEPPE di Mennaro of Nebuloni
Toscona, born at Parabiago on the 24 May 1922, and who
belongs to the 4th Coy

On the 26 Nov 45, at the Hotel Oriente in IVREA, where we are
stationed, the a/m officer made the following statement in the
presence of Major Marcello Scodich, OC of the 1st BN and 2/Lt
Balestiere Amabile, with the object of clarifying certain points
regarding the accident which occurred on the night of the 24 Nov
on the VILLARUSSIA - CIGLIANO road. Replying to questions he
said:

I gave my patrol commanders the following orders in order to
enforce vehicles to comply with regulations:

- (1) All signals were to be made by the use of an electric torch,
with which all patrols are supplied.
- (2) After a signal to stop by torch, endeavours are made to deviate
the vehicle from the centre of the road.
- (3) Should a vehicle disregard this signal, a burst of TMS is
fired in the air.
- (4) In case of persistent disregard of the aforesaid warnings,
the vehicle wheels are fired upon.

Replying to further questions, he said:

The Allied Authorities to whom I am responsible for effecting
this duty have given no instructions to use all means at my disposal
for the enforcement of the law. Col TABALLO acted in complete
obedience to my instructions.

(Signed) GIUSEPPE MARIANINO

Bellocchio Amibale, with the object of clarifying certain points regarding the accident which occurred on the night of the 24 Nov on the VILLARUSSA - GELLANO road. Replying to questions he said:

I gave my patrol carmen the following orders in order to enforce vehicles to comply with regulations:

- (1) All signals were to be made by the use of an electric torch, with which all patrols are supplied.
- (2) After a signal to stop by torch, endeavours are made to deviate the vehicle from the centre of the road.
- (3) Should a vehicle disregard this signal, a burst of T&E is fired in the air.
- (4) In case of persistent disregard of the aforesaid warnings, the vehicle wheels are fired upon.

Replying to further questions, he said:

The Allied Authorities to whom I am responsible for effecting this duty have given no instructions to use all means at my disposal for the enforcement of the law. Col. TASSANO acted in complete adherence to my instructions.

(Signed) Giuseppe MAZZANZANO

1223

22 DEATHY RITE "CRIMINAL"APPENDIX 2

STATEMENT by Corporal TABALLO Ottorino of the late Francesco and
Eusebio Iolanda born in Montirone on February 7, 1921,
District of Brescia, 4th Coy

On the 26 Nov 1945 in IVREA at the Hotel Oriente, before Major
Marcello Secchi, Commander of the 1st Bn and 2/Lt Balsoglio Annibale
acting as secretary, the a/m Corporal appeared in order to be ques-
tioned regarding the incident which took place on the night of 24 Nov
45 on the GIULIANO - VILLAREGGIA road, during which as Chief of the
patrol on food duties, he gave orders to fire at a civilian vehicle
which had not halted on being signalled to do so.

On being questioned he said:

On the night of 24 Nov 45 while I was on a truck on the IVREA -
VILLAREGGIA - GIULIANO road, on food duties, I saw a civilian truck
which I ordered to stop both by shouting aloud as well as flashing
signals and by driving our car from one side of the road to the other.
As the civilian car in question did not stop, I ordered the personnel
of my patrol to fire a burst of MG in the air. The order was carried
out by Pte MONTANARI, but the car did not stop. Therefore I ordered
my personnel to fire a second burst in the air. The order was again
carried out by Pte MONTANARI, but even so the car did not halt and
increased its speed instead. In view of the above I ordered Pte
MONTANARI to fire at the wheels of the civilian car. The order was
carried out at once, but unfortunately three persons among those on
board the truck were injured. (I do not know whether this was due
to Pte MONTANARI missing the aim or to the fact that the shots may
have ricocheted from the road to the civilian truck). After a
quarter of an hour we caught up with the car at VILLAREGGIA and carried
the wounded persons to a local doctor.

The Reply: The car was searched but we did not find any contraband
merchandise. The passengers of the car may have got rid
of it before we caught up with them.

The Reply: Before stopping the car we thought that there were no
persons on the truck, (since as they later stated they were
beneath the tarpaulin), but only material.

The Reply: The orders I gave the patrol before departing were in
accordance with those I received from 2/Lt MEZZANZANICA.
Pte MONTANARI carried out my orders. I have nothing else
to add.

(Signed) TABALLO Ottorino

Marcello Scasich, Commander of the 1st Bn and 2/Lt Baldoftoro Annibale acting as secretary, the 2/m Corporal appeared in order to be questioned regarding the incident which took place on the night of 24 Nov 45 on the CIRILIANO - VILLAREGGIA road, during which as Chief of the patrol on food duties, he gave orders to fire at a civilian vehicle which had not halted on being signalled to do so.

On being questioned he said:

On the night of 24 Nov 45 while I was on a truck on the IVREA - VILLAREGGIA - CIRILIANO road, on food duties, I saw a civilian truck which I ordered to stop both by shouting aloud as well as flashing signals and by driving our car from one side of the road to the other. As the civilian car in question did not stop, I ordered the personnel of my patrol to fire a burst of 83 in the air. The order was carried out by Pte MONTANARI, but the car did not stop. Therefore I ordered my personnel to fire a second burst in the air. The order was again carried out by Pte MONTANARI, but even so the car did not halt and increased its speed instead. In view of the above I ordered Pte MONTANARI to fire at the wheels of the civilian car. The order was carried out at once, but unfortunately three persons among those on board the truck were injured. (I do not know whether this was due to Pte MONTANARI missing the aim or to the fact that the shots may have ricocheted from the road to the civilian truck). After a quarter of an hour we caught up with the car at VILLAREGGIA and carried the wounded persons to a local doctor.

The Reply : The car was searched but we did not find any contraband merchandise. The passengers of the car may have got rid of it before we caught up with them.

The Reply : Before stopping the car we thought that there were no persons on the truck, (since as they later stated they were beneath the tarpaulin), but only material.

The Reply : The orders I gave the patrol before departing were in accordance with those I received from 2/Lt MEZZANZANICA. Pte MONTANARI carried out my orders. I have nothing else to add.

(Signed) TADAMILIO OTTORINO

1222

APPENDIX 1

C O P Y

STATEMENT by Pte MONTANARI Alberto, of the late Achille and Savini Ersilia, born 8 June 1923, in ROME.

On 26 Nov, at the hotel ORIENTE, IVREA, Major SESSICH interrogated the above named private with regard to the incident which occurred on the night of 24 Nov on the VILLAREGGIA -CIGLIANO rd, when he fired upon a civ veh for failing to stop when signalled to do so.

Replying to questions he said :-

On the night of 24 Nov, in company with three other soldiers and under cmd of the patrol leader, Cpl TABAGLIO Ottorino, and two members of the Provincial Statistical Office

proceed REGGIA, which failed to comply with our signal to stop, despite our efforts at signalling, shouting and driving our veh zig-zag fashion along the rd. Therefore, on receiving orders from Cpl TABAGLIO I fired two bursts in the air, but on seeing the veh accelerate instead of stopping, I fired directly at it. The civ veh did not even stop after the third burst, but on being followed we came across it, outside a tavern owned by a Mr CARRA in VILLAREGGIA.

On searching the veh, no goods of a contraband nature were found, but blood stains were visible on the floor of the veh. On entering the tavern we were informed that 3 persons had been wounded by the shots I had fired, and that they had been taken to Dr BOBBA Antonio in CIGLIANO to receive medical attention.

I fired, as I have already said, at the orders of the patrol cmd, on three distinct orders of command, such as "the veh is not stopping one of you fire a burst in the air". At this order, and as I had my weapon ready, I fired. The patrol cmd on seeing the veh accelerate instead of obeying our signal, ordered another burst of fire directed on the wheels. I complied with this order. It was only afterwards that I learned that my shots had wounded three persons.

My intention was only that the veh should stop. I exclude all possibilities that our signals and shouting could have passed unobserved by the occupants of the civ veh.

I have nothing further to add to this statement.

Replying to questions he said :-

On the night of 24 Nov, in company with three other soldiers and under comd of the patrol leader, Cpl TABAGLIO Ottorino, and two members of the Provincial Statistical Office

proceed

REGGIA, which failed to comply with our signal to stop, despite our efforts at signalling, shouting and driving our veh zig-zag fashion along the rd. Therefore, on receiving orders from Cpl TABAGLIO I fired two bursts in the air, but on seeing the veh accelerate instead of stopping, I fired directly at it. The civ veh did not even stop after the third burst, but on being followed we came across it, outside a tavern owned by a Mr CARRA in VILLAREGGIA.

On searching the veh, no goods of a contraband nature were found, but blood stains were visible on the floor of the veh. On entering the tavern we were informed that 3 persons had been wounded by the shots I had fired, and that they had been taken to Dr BOBBA Antonio in CIGLIANO to receive medical attention.

I fired, as I have already said, at the orders of the patrol comd, on three distinct orders of command, such as "the veh is not stopping one of you fire a burst in the air". At this order, and as I had my weapon ready, I fired. The patrol comd on seeing the veh accelerate instead of obeying our signal, ordered another burst of fire directed on the wheels. I complied with this order. It was only afterwards that I learned that my shots had wounded three persons.

My intention was only that the veh should stop.

I exclude all possibilities that our signals and shouting could have passed unobserved by the occupants of the civ veh.

I have nothing further to add to this statement.

Interrogating Officer

Marcello SESSICH Major

Officer present

2/Lt Annibale BALSOPIORE.

(signed) MONTANARI Alberto 1221

APPENDIX 5

Ufficio Nazionale Statistico Economico dell'Agricoltura

IVREA
24 Nov 45.

Subject :- Order for carrying out duties.

To :- S/Lt MESSALANTICA

The duty order for 24 Nov 45 is the following :-

No. 1 Veh to accompany the officials concerned, to the Corn Stores
in - PAVONA - CASTELLAMONTE - VALPERGA - SALASPA - S GIORGIO
- BUSIGLIER - S GIUSEPPE

No. 2 Veh to carry out mobile patrol duties for vehs carrying cereals
and to survey mills.
On the night of 24 Nov, a night mobile patrol will be carried
out by No. 2 vehs, at the following hrs :-

Departure 1800 hrs - to return at 2300 hrs.

Another mobile patrol will be carried out in the morning of
25 Nov during the following hrs :-

Departure 0400 hrs - to return at 1000 hrs.

(signed) GEOM TRONFETTO

Countersigned,

Marcello BERNINI

1220

Subject :- Order for carrying out duties.

To :- 2/Lt MEZANZANICA

The duty order for 24 Nov 45 is the following :-

No. 1 Vch to accompany the officials concerned, to the Corn Stores
in - PAVONA - CASTELLAMONTE - VALPENA - SALASPA - S GIORGIO
- BUSSELIN - S GIUSEPPE

No. 2 Vch to carry out mobile patrol duties for vch carrying canals
and to survey hills.

On the night of 24 Nov, a night mobile patrol will be carried
out by No. 2 vch, at the following hrs :-

Departure 1000 hrs - to return at 2300 hrs.

Another mobile patrol will be carried out in the morning of
25 Nov during the following hrs :-

Departure 0400 hrs - to return at 2000 hrs.

Counter-signed,

Marcello GESSICH
OO 1/22 Bn.

(signed) GERM TROMPETTO

1220

1012
Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

Page 6

COPY

IVREA 26 November 1945

STATEMENT by Private TALLON Angelo of N.E. and TALLON Carolina, Private DANIELI Gino, late of ADAMO, Private SCIONI Aldo of Giuseppe, of the 4th Coy and at present with the detachment at IVREA.

We, the undersigned, were present when the incident on the VILLARBICIA-CIGLIANO road took place on the night of 24 Nov 45. At the time we were on a food control duty. Private MONTANARI Alberto fired 3 bursts of MG (the first two in the air and the third at the vehicle's wheels) in order to stop a civilian vehicle which had increased its speed when we first signalled it to stop. We were present at the cross-examination of Cpl TARABLO Astorino and of Private MONTANARI Alberto and having heard their statements, we corroborate what they have said. We have nothing to add.

(Sgd)

TALLON Angelo
DANIELI Gino
SCIONI Aldo

1219

App 7

C O P YIVREA
28 Nov 45

STATEMENT by Sigs Geom Pietro TROMPETTA and ROSSIO Domenico who belong to the Prov Statistical Economical Office of Agriculture, and who are witnesses of the incident which took place on the evening of 24 Nov 45 at 2000 hrs, on the VILLAREGGIA - CIGLIANO rd, between Mil personnel belonging to I Bn (det at IVREA), who were carrying out food control duties, and some civilians.

We, the undersigned on food control duties with personnel from "CREMONA" declare /-

On the evening of 24 Nov 45, at 2000 hrs, we left IVREA on duty and went on the VILLAREGGIA - CIGLIANO rd. When we had passed VILLAREGGIA by about 1km a veh was seen on the rd.

Signals were made for the veh to stop, but the veh carried on, although 5 soldiers were sitting in the back of an open mil veh. (We the undersigned do not admit that the men travelling in the civ veh did nor hear the shouts of the soldiers; also there was no glass in the cabin of the veh in which the civilians were travelling.)

We heard the shouts of the mil personnel, although we were sitting in a closed cabin and the engine was running. Three bursts of MG were fired by one of the CREMONA personnel. The first two went up in the air and the third one hit the veh, which did not stop. Instead of that, the veh increased its speed, and we then lost sight of it.

We met the veh at the start of the village of VILLAREGGIA, next to the restaurant run by Sig CARRA (we do not remember his christian name), after we had been following it for about a quarter of an hour. When we reached the veh, which was already empty, (none of us realised that there were passengers in the rear of the veh hidden underneath a tarpaulin); we noticed there was blood in the veh.

When we entered the restaurant we found out that the three persons in the veh who had been injured were Sig PERINOTTI Domenico, son of Michele (CIGLIANO), SANTIA, Antonio son of Ernesto (MONCRIVELLO) BARBA Giuseppe son of Domenico (CIGLIANO). The first named was seriously injured, the other two lightly injured.

We, together with the military personnel, escorted the three injured men to Dr BOBBA Antonio of CIGLIANO, who treated them.

PERINOTTO Domenico was sent to the hospital of VERCELLI, SANTIA, Antonio to the hospital of TURIN and BARBA Giuseppe to his house.

We are not in the position to say whether this veh was carrying

food control duties, and some civilians.

We, the undersigned on food control duties with personnel from "CREMONA" declare /-

On the evening of 24 Nov 45, at 2000 hrs, we left IVREA on duty and went on the VILLAREGGIA - CIGLIANO rd. When we had passed VILLAREGGIA by about 1km a veh was seen on the rd.

Signals were made for the veh to stop, but the veh carried on, although 5 soldiers were sitting in the back of an open mil veh. (We the undersigned do not admit that the men travelling in the civ veh did not hear the shouts of the soldiers; also there was no class in the cabin of the veh in which the civilians were travelling.)

We heard the shouts of the mil personnel, although we were sitting in a closed cabin and the engine was running. Three bursts of MG were fired by one of the CREMONA personnel. The first two went up in the air and the third one hit the veh, which did not stop. Instead of that, the veh increased its speed, and we then lost sight of it.

We met the veh at the start of the village of VILLAREGGIA, next to the restaurant run by Sig CARRA (we do not remember his christian name), after we had been following it for about a quarter of an hour.

When we reached the veh, which was already empty, (none of us realised that there were passengers in the rear of the veh hidden underneath a tarpaulin); we noticed there was blood in the veh.

When we entered the restaurant we found out that the three persons in the veh who had been injured were Sir PERINOTTI Domenico, son of Michele (CIGLIANO), SANTIA, Antonio son of Ernesto (MONCRIVELLO) BARBA Giuseppe son of Domenico (CIGLIANO). The first named was seriously injured, the other two lightly injured.

We, together with the military personnel, escorted the three injured men to Dr BOBBA Antonio of CIGLIANO, who treated them.

PERINOTTO Domenico was sent to the hospital of VERCELLI, SANTIA, Antonio to the hospital of TURIN and BARBA Giuseppe to his house.

We are not in the position to say whether this veh was carrying contraband items, because as we have already stated we met the veh a quarter of an hour after it had passed us on the rd.

In our opinion we are certain that the men in the veh heard the shouts of the mil personnel to stop, and saw the flash signals. When we reached the veh, the mil personnel searched it, without finding anything of importance.

Signed Geom TROMPETTA Pietro
ROSSIO Domenico/.

APPENDIX 8C O P YMESSAGE

From HQ I Bn
To HQ 22 Inf Regt "CREMONA"

No. 362
BIELLA
25 Nov 45

2/Lt MEZZANZANICA comd the detachment on train control duties at IVREA, today 25 Nov at 1445 hrs, sent the following communication.

" From 5 Section IVREA HQ to HQ I Bn BIELLA.

Yesterday, 24 Nov at about 2000 hrs, a veh of this unit was on patrol carrying the relative armed personnel and in charge of Cpl TABAGLIO, plus an official of the U N P S E A of IVREA, Geom TROMPETTA. They were carrying out food control duties on the VILLAREGGIA - CIGLIANO rd, when they saw a civ veh approaching from the opposite direction. Signals by torch were made for the veh to stop, although the veh decreased speed on approaching, it increased speed when it neared the patrol.

Although the patrol shouted for the veh to stop it continued moving. Cpl TABAGLIO ordered Pte MONTANARI to fire a burst of MG in the air. This failing Pte MONTANARI fired another burst from a distance of approx 50 ms. The civ veh having disappeared, the patrol truck started on its way back. Arriving at VILLAREGGIA they saw the civ veh, which had stopped in front of the restaurant. Many people were gathered around the veh.

On nearing the veh they noticed that three persons were injured; two slightly and one seriously.

Cpl TABAGLIO took the injured persons to CIGLIANO to a local doctor. In the meantime, the CC RR arrived on the spot and started carrying out investigations. The veh returned to its unit at 0100 hrs 25 Nov.

(signed) 2/Lt MEZZANZANICA

Received by :- 2/Lt PRUDENTE

Sent by :- 2/Lt MEZZANZANICA

25 Nov 45

2/Lt MEZZANZANICA comd the detachment on train control duties at IVREA, today 25 Nov at 1445 hrs, sent the following communication.

" From 5 Section IVREA HQ to HQ I Rn BIELLA.

Yesterday, 24 Nov at about 2000 hrs, a veh of this unit was on patrol carrying the relative armed personnel and in charge of Cpl TABAGLIO, plus an official of the U N P SE A of IVREA, Geom TROMPETTA. They were carrying out food control duties on the VILLAREGGIA - CIGLIANO rd, when they saw a civ veh approaching from the opposite direction. Signals by torch were made for the veh to stop, although the veh decreased speed on approaching, it increased speed when it neared the patrol.

Although the patrol shouted for the veh to stop it continued going. Cpl TABAGLIO ordered Pte MONTANARI to fire a burst of MG in the air. This failing Pte MONTANARI fired another burst from a distance of approx 50 ms. The civ veh having disappeared, the patrol truck started on its way back. Arriving at VILLAREGGIA they saw the civ veh, which had stopped in front of the restaurant. Many people were gathered around the veh.

On nearing the veh they noticed that three persons were injured ; two slightly and one seriously.

Cpl TABAGLIO took the injured persons to CIGLIANO to a local doctor. In the meantime, the CC RR arrived on the spot and started carrying out investigations. The veh returned to its unit at 0100 hrs 25 Nov.

(signed) 2/Lt MEZZANZANICA

Received by :- 2/Lt PRUDENTE

Sent by :- 2/Lt MEZZANZANICA

1217

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

App 9

C O P Y

Dr Antonio BOBBA

MO

CIGLIANO VERCELLI

CIGLIANO

24 Nov 45

To :- OC, CC RR

I have to inform you that I have this evening at about 2030 hrs treated Sig PERINOTTI Domenico son of Michele, Class 1907. Wounded by SA fire in the right cheek and ~~head~~ ^{arm}. Probably the bullet entered the base of the skull and came out through the cheek.

The accident took place on the CIGLIANO-VILLAREGGIA rd (near the Seminary). The patient has since been treated and was suffering from severe shock. Has had an injection of serum anti-tetanus, and has been sent to the hospital of VERCELLI.

Should be fit in 60 days.

(signed) A BOBBA Dr

Note :- The accident took place on the CIGLIANO - VILLAREGGIA Rd.

I have to inform you that I have this evening at about 2030 hrs treated Sir PERINOTTI Domenico son of Michele, Class 1907. Wounded by SA fire in the right cheek and ~~head~~. Probably the bullet entered the base of the skull and came out through the cheek.

The accident took place on the CIGLIANO-VILLAREGGIA rd (near the Seminary). The patient has since been treated and was suffering from severe shock. Has had an injection of serum anti-tetanus, and has been sent to the hospital of VERCELLI.

Should be fit in 60 days.

(signed) A BOBBA Dr

Note :- The accident took place on the CIGLIANO - VILLAREGGIA Rd.

1216

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

APPENDIX 10

C O P Y

Dr Antonio BOBBA
MO
CIGLIANO VERCELLI

CIGLIANO
24 Nov 45

To :- OC, CC RR

I have to inform you that I have tonight treated SANTHIA, Antonio son of Ternesto from MONCRIVELLO and who belongs to the 1905 class.

The above named was wounded by SA fire in the left thigh (externally). Bullet went through his thigh.

I then sent him to his house in MONCRIVELLO, to be treated by Dr GRILLO. Nervous shock;

Should be fit in 30 days.

(signed) A BOBBA Dr.

NB :- Incident took place on CIGLIANO -VILLAREGGIA Rd near the seminary.

Dr Antonio BOBBA
MO
CIGLIANO VERCELLI

CIGLIANO
24 Nov 45

To :- OC, CC RR

I have to inform you that I have this evening, at about 2030 hrs treated Sir BARBA Giuseppe son of Domenico, Class 1905. The a/n was wounded by SA in the thigh (internally). Bullet went through his thigh. Grave shock due to contusion in the testicles.

I have to inform you that I have tonight treated SANTHIA, Antonio son of Ternesto from MONCRIVELLO and who belongs to the 1905 class.

The above named was wounded by SA fire in the left thigh (externally). Bullet went through his thigh.

I then sent him to his house in MONCRIVELLO, to be treated by Dr GRILLO. Nervous shock;

Should be fit in 30 days.

(signed) A BOBBA Dr.

RE :- Incident took place on CIGLIANO -VILLAREGGIA Rd near the seminary.

Dr Antonio BOBBA

MO

CIGLIANO VERCELLI

CIGLIANO

24 Nov 45

To :- OC , CC RR

++

I have to inform you that I have this evening, at about 2030 hrs treated Sir BARDA Giuseppe son of Domenico, Class 1905.

The a/m was wounded by SA in the thigh (internally). Bullet went through his thigh. Grave shock due to contusion in the testicles.

Has been treated and given an injection of serum anti-tetanus and taken to his home.

Should be fit in 30 days.

(signed) A BOBBA Dr

The accident took place on the CIGLIANO-VILLAREGGIA Rd (near the Seminary)

1215

APPENDIX II

STATEMENT by EUGENE THOMPSON ANGELO, of the late Giuseppe and Pollic Maria, born 1904 and living in CHICAGO, driver of the civilian vehicle which was fired upon by a patrol on the night of the 24th inst

In the 33 rd barracks at CHICAGO, on the 26 Nov, Mr THOMPSON was interrogated by Major Secondo Marcello regarding the accident in question. On being questioned he said:

I maintain that I did not see any luminous signals made by the military car on the night of the 24th.

Neither did I see any indication intimating that I should drive into the side of the road.

On arriving at the cross-road I noticed a vehicle but did not discern it to be a military one.

I never heard any shouting which is purported to have taken place on the part of the military; neither did I see the soldiers who were in the back of the vehicle.

Having passed the vehicle in question, and having proceeded about 30 metres, we heard a burst of rifle fire but it did not hit us.

Then seconds must have elapsed between the first and second burst of fire which hit us.

As I thought it was an attack by bandits, I did not consider it wise to stop. I was not able to accelerate in as much as the vehicle was already going at its maximum speed, and I do not think we were exceeding 35 - 40 km per hour.

My companions were all of the same opinion as myself.

The extent of my possessions at the time amounted to about 500 lire. My companions too, had very little with them.

The military car overtook us at VILLABRUGLIA ten minutes after our arrival.

The people on board my vehicle were under cover of a tarpaulin, which makes me think that the reason why the military fired on us was that they thought the tarpaulin concealed a load of merchandise.

In actual fact I was carrying the members of an orchestra with their instruments to attend a dance which was being held in NOBILIZZO.

(Signed) ANGELO THOMPSON

one military car on the night of the 9th.

Neither did I see any indication intimating that I should enter into the side of the road.

On arriving at the intersection I noticed a vehicle but did not discern it to be a military one.

I never heard any shouting which is purported to have taken place on the part of the military; neither did I see the soldiers who were in the back of the vehicle.

Having passed the vehicle in question, and having proceeded about 60 metres, we heard a burst of rifle fire but it did not hit us.

All seemed quiet until we elapsed between the first and second burst of fire which hit us.

As I thought it was an attack by bullets, I did not consider it wise to stop. I was not able to accelerate in as much as the vehicle was already going at its maximum speed, and I do not think we were exceeding 25 - 30 km per hour.

My companions were all of the same opinion as myself.

The extent of my possessions at the time amounted to about 500 Lira. My companions too, had very little with them.

The military car overtook us at VILLARICA ten minutes after our arrival.

The people on board my vehicle were under cover of a tarpaulin, which makes me think that the reason why the military fired on us was that they thought the tarpaulin concealed a load of merchandise.

In actual fact I was carrying the weapons of an orchestra with their instruments to attend a dance which was being held in VILLARICA.

(Signed) ANGELO TRESCORE

1214

APP. 12

C O P Y

STATEMENT BY TESSIERE ANGELO, GIOIELLO ALDO, PROF. ZACCAMUNTI and TESSIERE GIOVANNI.

On the 24 Nov at 2330 hrs the a/m persons were interrogated by MARCONCIOLLO GINO DAMIANO PASINALE, and the following is their statement:

The vehicle in question, a FIAT 501, license plate 10379 VC, owned and driven by TESSIERE ANGELO, was carrying the a/m persons and also PERINOTTI DOMENICO, VALPUGA PAOLO, BARRA GIUSEPPE and BARRA ANTONIO. The van was put at our disposal free of charge and without responsibility by the owner. We left GIOIELLO at about 1045 hrs to go to BOULIARD where we were to play for a game.

At approx 0000 hrs, and at a distance of about 200 ms from the boundary of the territory of MONCARVILLE, in the TURBENT district, we noticed a car approaching us from the opposite direction, and it had only one head-lamp alight. Neither we nor they dipped lights, neither did we see any signal which could have been interpreted as an order to stop. As we passed each other, we did not notice anything out of the ordinary. After having passed the van, at the distance of about 100ms from the territory of MONCARVILLE, we heard a burst of gun fire and immediately after, two more. Not knowing who the occupants of the other van might be, and on discovering we had wounded persons aboard, we considered it wise to accelerate and seek safety in VALLAUGLIA. On arrival there, we pulled outside Mr DARRA's tavern and unloaded the wounded persons, namely PERINOTTI DOMENICO, BARRA GIUSEPPE, and BARRA ANTONIO, to whom we immediately gave first aid.

Shortly afterwards the patrol from the IVMA command arrived and on hearing the particulars they told us that it was they who fired upon us.

Not being able to find a doctor in VALLAUGLIA, the wounded were taken by the patrol van to Dr BARRA ANTONIO in CIGLIANO.

They were given medical attention and Dr BARRA made a regular report on the state of their wounds. At the Doctor's suggestion PERINOTTI was taken to VIGONALI hospital, whilst the other two were taken to their respective homes.

Once examined they replied - We neither heard nor saw any signals. TESSIERE ANGELO, TESSIERE GIOVANNI and ZACCAMUNTI all agree who were seated in the cabin of the van - say - We did not see any light signal and would add, even pursuing one was made by the use of a torch, it would not have been observed owing to the glare of the head lamp of the lorry. From where, it is presumed it came from. Neither did we hear any voice, or any other signal of an acoustic nature calling upon us to stop.

TESSIERE ANGELO in reply to a question said - The head lamp of the mil van which was central was also a dazzling one.

We have nothing to add or change in regard to this statement.

1024

11.5

ability by the enemy. We left CIVILIAN at about 1045 hrs so to go to
POULIANO where we were to play for a dance.

At approx 2000 hrs, and at a distance of about 200 ms from the
boundary of the territory of MONTEVILLIO, in the TROMPORE district, we
noticed a car approaching us from the opposite direction, and it had
only one head-lamp alight. Neither we nor they dipped lights, neither
did we see any signal which could have been interpreted as an order to stop.
As we passed each other, we did not notice anything out of the
ordinary. After having passed the veh, at the distance of about 100ms
from the territory of MONTEVILLIO, we heard a burst of rifle fire and immediately
after, two more. Not knowing who the occupants of the other
veh might be, and on discovering we had wounded persons aboard, we
ceased it wise to accelerate and seek safety in VILLARUGLIA. On arrival
there, we pulled outside Mr GAZZA's tavern and unloaded the wounded
persons, namely PERIVANT DAMENICO, NABA GIUSEPPE, and SANTI A ANTONIO,
to whom we immediately gave first aid.

Shortly afterwards the patrol from the IVREA command arrived and
on hearing the particulars they told us that it was they who fired upon
us.

Not being able to find a doctor in VILLARUGLIA, the wounded were
taken by the patrol veh to Dr NABA Antonio in CIVILIANO.

They were given medical attention and Dr NABA made a regular report
on the state of their wounds. At the Doctor's suggestion PERIVANT was
taken to VIGORANI hospital, whilst the other two were taken to their
respective homes.

When questioned they replied - We neither heard nor saw any signals.
TROMPORE Angelo, TROMPORE Giovanni and MARCHETTI Michele who were
seated in the cabin of the veh - say - We did not see any light signal
and would add, even procuring one was made by the use of a torch, it
would not have been observed owing to the glare of the head lamp of the
lorry, from where, it is presumed it came from. Neither did we hear any
voices, or any other signal of an acoustic nature calling upon us to stop.

TROMPORE Angelo in reply to a question said - The head lamp of the
mil veh which was central was also a dazzling one.

We have nothing to add or change in regard to this statement.

1213

Read and signed by / GIROLAMO ALDO
TROMPORE ANGELO
TROMPORE GIOVANNI
MARCHETTI MICHELE

Countersigned by / BARBARO PASQUALE
MARCOVALLIO GREGO

APPENDIX

15

C O P Y

STATEMENT by SIF VALPERGA Paolo of CIGLIANO, born 1907, and who on the night of 24 Nov was in the civ veh which was fired upon by a mobile patrol.

On 26 Nov, the above named person was interrogated at the CC RR bks by Maj SESSICH with regard to the incident in question.

Cross examined he said:-

I was on the veh, together with Mr GIOLITO Aldo, SANGHIA Antonio, PERINOTTO Domenico, and being under cover of a tarpaulin, I was unable, therefore, to see what was happening on the rd.

We never heard shouts coming from the mil veh, neither did we see - owing to being under cover - signals of any description.

We were proceeding to FOGLIZZO where we were to have played for a dance. Nobody was hit by the first burst of fire. The interval between the first and second burst of arms fire was only a few seconds. It was at this time that the people with me were wounded.

I have no further statements to make.

(Signed) Paolo VALPERGA

Interrogating Offr

Marcello SESSICH Major

Witnessed

Annibale BAISOFIORE 2/Lt.

On 26 Nov, the above named person was interrogated at the CC RR
bks by Maj SESSICH with regard to the incident in question.

Cross examined he said:-

I was on the veh, together with Mr GIOLITO Aldo, SANTHIA Antonio,
PÉRINOTTO Domenico, and being under cover of a tarpaulin, I was
unable, therefore, to see what was happening on the rd.

We never heard shouts coming from the mil veh, neither did we see
- owing to being under cover - signals of any description.

We were proceeding to FOGLIZZO where we were to have played for
a dance. Nobody was hit by the first burst of fire. The interval
between the first and second burst of arms fire was only a few
seconds. It was at this time that the people with me were wounded.

I have no further statements to make.

(Signed) Paolo VALPERGA

Interrogating Offr

Marcello SESSICH Major

Witnessed

Annibale BALSOFIORE 2/Lt.

1212

C O P Y

APPENDIX 14

Lazione Territoriale del CC RR di Torino

Hq of GIULIANO Vercellotto

26 Nov 45.

Judicial Report with reference to the serious wounds of PERINOTTI Giuseppe Domenico of Michele, BARBA Giuseppe of the late Domenico and of SANT'ANTONIO of the late Tonetto, due to a burst of Thompson fired by Fte MONTANARI Alberto of 22 Inf Regt, located in VERCELLI, at 2300 hrs 24 Nov, in the Trappone Region of the Comune of MONGRIVELLO, VERCELLI Province.

Yesterday, 24 Nov, at about 2300 hrs, Dr BORBA Antonio of GIULIANO, asked me, by telephone to go to his surgery since there were some seriously injured persons. Together with CC RR GIULIANO Francesco, I went to the s/m surgery.

The Doctor handed over to me the injured persons :-

PERINOTTI Domenico of Michele, class 1907 - received a bullet wound in the right symphysis (cheekbone) region and in the cervical (skull base) region (probably the bullet entered through the cervical (skull base) region and went out through the symphysis (cheekbone) region) with probably a cut of the right plexus; prognosis reserved. Will recover in approx 60 days.

BARBA Giuseppe of the late Domenico, class 1905 - with a bullet wound in his thigh, the bullet went straight through; prognosis reserved. Will recover in approx 30 days.

SANT'ANTONIO of the late Tonetto, class 1905 of MONGRIVELLO - bullet wound through the left thigh; bullet went straight through. Will recover in approx 30 days.

PERINOTTI was laid out on a mattress in the house of Dr BORBA; he was unconscious and, therefore, could not be interrogated. He was immediately taken to the civ hospital of VERCELLI.

The other injured persons were taken home, and it was impossible to interrogate them.

From investigations carried out it appears that

Yesterday, 24 Nov, at about 2200 hrs, Dr BOBBA Antonio of CIGLIANO, asked me, by telephone to go to his surgery since there were some seriously injured persons. Together with SS RR GIOVANELLI Francesco, I went to the a/s surgery.

The Doctor handed over to me the injured persons :-

PERINOTTI Domenico of Michele, class 1907 - received a bullet wound in the right symphatic (cheekbone) region and in the cervical (skull base) region (probably the bullet entered through the cervical (skull base) region and went out through the symphatic (cheekbone) region) with probably a cut of the right pleura; prognosis reserved. Will recover in approx 60 days.

BARBA Giuseppe of the late Domenico, class 1905 - with a bullet wound in his thigh, the bullet went straight through; prognosis reserved. Will recover in approx 30 days.

SANTU' Antonio of the late Francesco, Class 1905 of MONTEVUELLO - bullet wound through the left thigh; bullet went straight through. Will recover in approx 30 days.

PERINOTTI was laid out on a mattress in the house of Dr BOBBA; he was unconscious and, therefore, could not be interrogated. He was immediately taken to the civ hospital of VERCELLI.

The other injured persons were taken home, and it was impossible to interrogate them.

1211
From investigations carried out it appears, that at about 2000 hrs 24 Nov, on the CIGLIANO - VILLAREGIA Provincial rd, coming from the latter town and heading for CIGLIANO, there was a mil vet - 3 1879139 -, with the undementioned mil personnel on board armed with Thompsons.

The vet was driven by Pte SUFFI Ilario of the late Antonio, class 1925 - in the cabin with him were Signor ROSSIO Domenico of the late Mario, class 1901, born in Pont CANAVESE and domiciled at PIEDARNA with Geronzi TRONTERA Pietro of Vittorio, class 1919, born and living in IVREA, both officials of the U P S A of IVREA. All three were unarmed.

1. Cpl TABALLI Ottavino of the late Francesco, class 1921, born in MONTRENE BRUGLIA and residing at GUBBI (BRESCIA).
2. Pte SCIONI Aldo of Giuseppe, class 1923, born and residing in DARSURRIA (CAGLIARI)

3. Pte DANIELI of the late Alano, class 1923, born and residing in CORNA (VERGHE)

4. Pte MONTANARI Alberto of the late Achille, class 1923, born and residing in CORNA.

5. Pte FALLOM Angelo of N F born at INCOLO (VICENZA), class 1923.

All belonging to 4 Coy 1 Bn 83 Inf Regt CREMONA Inf Div. Detachment of IVREA.

...../2

APPENDIX

The veh arriving in the TROMPETA region, came of MONTEVILLIO, came across the veh No. 10279 VC, coming from CIGLIANO VINCIGLIANO and heading for VIGILIZZO. The veh was driven by its owner TESSIERE Angelo of the late Giuseppe and the late Maria, born on 27 Oct 04 in CIGLIANO, where he is also living. He is a carpenter. At his side were TESSIERE Giovanni of Ludovico, class 1920, born and residing in CIGLIANO, carpenter, and Prof. SAGGIANI Amleto of Vito, class 1918, born in CIGLIANO and living in Turin, Via Montebello 22; the veh also carried musical instruments and the following persons:-

1. Gen. GIOLITO Aldo of Giovanni class 1906.
2. PERINOTTI Domenico of Michele born in CIGLIANO on 8 Dec 1907 - 1930.
3. VALPESCA Paolo of Attilio, aged 53 - mechanic.
4. BARBA Giuseppe of the late Domenico, - maker of wooden shoes.
5. SARTIA Antonio of the late Teodoro, aged 30, born and living in MONTEVILLIO, - carpenter - and the others born and living in CIGLIANO.

The civ veh had no sooner passed the mil veh when immediately Pte MONTANARI Alberto (from a distance of approx 40 - 60 metres to 80 - 60 metres, ascertained this morning on the spot) fired three bursts with his M3, wounding seriously the up persons who were together with GIOLITO and VALPESCA, under the tarpaulin, in order to shelter themselves from the weather.

1. PERINOTTI Domenico
2. BARBA Giuseppe
3. SARTIA Antonio.

When he was fired upon TESSIERE Angelo instead of stopping continued going on. When he reached VIGILIZZO he stopped in front of the restaurant owned by CARA Antonio, where they helped out the injured persons and administered first aid.

After Pte MONTANARI had emptied the magazine of his M3, the mil veh turned round and started to pursue the civ veh. Arriving at VIGILIZZO they found that the veh had stopped outside the restaurant of CARA.

Mr. TROMPETA and Mr. MOSCO with the mil personnel entered the restaurant and found that there were three injured persons. Placing them on the mil veh, they took them to Dr. BOBBA at CIGLIANO, where they received the necessary medical attention.

On that same night PERINOTTI, on the Doctor's advice, was taken to the civ hospital of VIGILIZZO; the other two were taken to their homes.

TROMPETA, MOSCO, and ZUVERI state that approx 1 km after VIGILIZZO

...and the others born and living in
CIELIANO.

The civ veh had no sooner passed the mil veh when immediately Pte MONTANARI Alberto (from a distance of approx 48 - 60 metres to 58 - 60 metres, ascertained this morning on the spot) fired three bursts with his M2, wounding seriously the w/m persons who were together with GIOLINO and VALPESCA, under the tarpaulin, in order to shelter themselves from the weather.

1. PERINOTTI Bonifacio
2. BARRA Giuseppe
3. SANTIA Antonio.

When he was fired upon TESSIERE ANGELO instead of stopping continued going on. When he reached VALLARUGLIA he stopped in front of the restaurant owned by GARRA Antonio, where they helped out the injured persons and administered first aid.

After Pte MONTANARI had emptied the magazine of his M2, the mil veh turned round and started to pursue the civ veh. Arriving at VALLARUGLIA they found that the veh had stopped outside the restaurant of GARRA.

Mr TROMPETA and Mr ROSSIO with the mil personnel entered the restaurant and found that there were three injured persons. Placing them on the mil veh, they took them to Dr BOCCA at CIELIANO, where they received the necessary medical attention.

On that same night PERINOTTI, on the Doctor's advice, was taken to the civ hospital of VERCELLI; the other two were taken to their homes.

TROMPETA, ROSSIO, and ZUFFI state that approx 1 km after VALLARUGLIA they came across a vehicle approaching from the opposite direction. Their truck slowed down and ROSSIO with an electric torch signalled to the veh to stop. This continued going at a normal speed and passed them by. The mil veh stopped, and the personnel in the back shouted for the other veh to stop but their shouts were unheard. Pte MONTANARI seeing that the truck did not stop, fired a burst of M2, then a second, then a third from the ground to the air, but the veh still continued going on. Immediately, the mil veh turned back, and started to pursue; on arriving at VALLARUGLIA they found the civ veh, outside the restaurant of GARRA.

TESSIERE ANGELO, TESSIERE Giovanni and ZACCAGNINI Amilcare who were in the cabin of the civ veh, stated that they had not seen any signals nor heard any shouts, coming from the mil veh, which they met in the TROMPETA region, and which they passed at a normal speed.

...../3

Immediately afterwards, they heard no bursts; not knowing
 where these were coming, they increased their speed on reaching
 VILLANOVIA they stopped in front of the restaurant of CAMA where they
 lowered down the injured person and gave them first aid. A short time
 later the patrol under Sign. TRONCETTI's command arrived.

The Mayor of CIGLIANO, MR. PATTI was present during the
 cross-examination.

Attached are two statements, one by TRONCETTI, ROSSIO and the
 2/2 military personnel; and the other signed by TESSIERE Angelo,
 TESSIERE Giovanni, GIOVINO Aldo and Prof. LAZZARINI Adolfo.

This morning, the 25 Nov, the undersigned at 1100 hrs, together
 with Gen. GIOVINO Aldo, TESSIERE Angelo, TESSIERE Giovanni and VAPPENGA
 Paolo met at the place of the incident to carry out investigations.

At about 800 metres on the way to CIGLIANO, we met the military
 vehicle, having on board, a British Police Sgt; Gen. TRONCETTI, who
 commanded the patrol which went out on the 24th; an officer from the
 "Granona" Division; other military personnel; and an agent of the Food
 Control Office in civilian clothes.

Having stopped, we went to the place where the incident took
 place. On my instructions, Gen. GIOVINO carried out an inspection to
 identify where the incident had taken place, the exact spot with the
 necessary measurements, and where the persons were wounded. The result
 is:-

21.40 metres measured from the N.E. angle of the wall which
 encloses the Seminary of MONTEVIELLO in the direction towards CIGLIANO;
 Sign. TESSIERE and the s/m, including Gen. TRONCETTI, agreed to the spot
 where the persons were wounded. The civilian people, and driver TESSIERE
 state that they heard the first shot at a distance of 90.00 metres
 towards CIGLIANO; this also being measured from the same angle of the
 MONTEVIELLO Seminary. At 40.20 metres towards CIGLIANO at the point
 where the first shots were heard, we found a cartridge in the middle
 of the street, and 10 metres ahead towards CIGLIANO, on the extreme
 right of the same road we found other cartridges, totalling 14. It is
 to be noted that the extreme right of the road leads in the direction
 of VILLANOVIA.

At about 1.40 metres towards CIGLIANO we identified the tracks
 of the military vehicle when it turned round to follow the civilian
 vehicle.

The width of the track was 2.30 metres.

Paolo met at the place of the incident to carry out investigations.

At about 300 metres on the way to GIULIANO, we met the military vehicle, having on board, a British Police Sgt; Gen. THOMPSON, who commanded the patrol which went out on the 24th; an officer from the "Oronina" Division; other military personnel; and an agent of the Food Control Office in civilian clothes.

Having stopped, we went to the place where the incident took place. On my instructions, Gen. GIULIANO carried out an inspection to identify where the incident had taken place, the exact spot with the necessary measurements, and where the persons were wounded. The result is:-

31.40 metres measured from the N.E. angle of the wall which encloses the Seminary of MONTEVIVELLO in the direction towards GIULIANO; Sgt. TESSORE and the a/m, including Gen. THOMPSON, agree to the spot where the persons were wounded. The civilian people, and driver TESSORE state that they heard the first shot at a distance of 99.80 metres towards GIULIANO; this also being measured from the same angle of the MONTEVIVELLO Seminary. At 40.20 metres towards GIULIANO at the point where the first shots were heard, we found a cartridge in the middle of the street, and 10 metres ahead towards GIULIANO, on the extreme right of the same road we found other cartridges, totalling 14. It is to be noted that the extreme right of the road leads in the direction of VILLARUSSA.

At about 1.40 metres towards GIULIANO we identified the tracks of the military vehicle when it turned round to follow the civilian vehicle.

The width of the tracks were 5.30 metres.

From what has been stated above, it appears that the distance where the shots were fired, and where the men were injured was 190m 48-60 metres and 58-60 metres.

This may vary since the cartridges were found in distinct places.

There were no signs on the road to show that the shots were fired directly at the ground. The road on which the incident took place is not asphalted, but it's condition is good. On the two sides of the road there are two ditches. The average width is 7.00 metres as measured from each side of the road (excluding the ditches).

The width was measured from the point where the tracks of the military vehicle were found.

From the tracks it was possible to see that, when the vehicle turned round, it's rear wheels almost went into the ditch at the left side of the road (going towards VILLARUSSA).

The musicians present, described how they passed the military vehicle, and declared that their vehicle

was on the extreme right of the road, and that the distance between one vehicle and the other was a few centimetres.

Photographs have been taken, and a diagram will be forwarded (scale 1:500) for the use of the members of the Court of Inquiry.

On board the vehicle was a piano, a bass, a drum and a jazz drum, saxophones, two trumpets, two violins, a concertina, some music staves, which were all placed in the back of the vehicle.

The vehicle had no sides to it, and some small boards were fitted and covered with tarpaulin in order to shelter the piano and the persons.

After the incident, the bullets were found in the middle of the body of the vehicle. Bloodstains were found on the left of the vehicle. Other bloodstains were found on the license-plate, on the tail-light, above the license-plate, on the spare wheel, on the front mud-guard, and also on the tarpaulin. Bullets had gone through the drum which was placed at the back of the vehicle, and there were other bullet-holes on the tarpaulin. The military vehicle had only one head-lamp in the middle of the radiator, while the civilian vehicle had two normal head-lamps.

I have made five copies of the a/m report. One copy will be forwarded along with the medical certificates of Dr. ROSSI, plus the questioned persons statements. The 14 cartridges and a bullet splinter to the PRISON of SANT'ANA for the necessary legal action with regard to Private MONTANARI Alberto. A copy to the Inf Regt of VERCELLI, one to the CG. Nr. of VERCELLI, and one to the AM Police of IVREA (as requested by the British NCO -). The fifth copy will be kept by this HQ.

(Sd) Maresciallo BALBATO Pasquale.

1034

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

the persons.

After the incident, the bullets were found in the middle of the body of the vehicle. Bloodstains were found on the left of the vehicle. Other bloodstains were on the licenseplate, on the tail-light, above the license-plate, on the spare wheel, on the front mud-guard, and also on the tarpaulin. Bullets had gone through the screen which was placed at the back of the vehicle, and there were other bullet-holes on the tarpaulin. The military vehicle had only one head-lamp in the middle of the radiator, while the civilian vehicle had two normal head-lamps.

I have made five copies of the a/m report. One copy will be forwarded along with the medical certificates of Dr. BOBBA, plus the questioned persons statements. The 14 cartridges and a bullet splinter to the PRISONERS of SANTANA for the necessary legal action with regard to Private NORMAN HART ALBERTO. A copy to 28 Inf Regt of VERONIA; one to the CC.MR. of VERONIA, and one to the AMI Police of IVREA (as requested by the British HQ -). The fifth copy will be kept by this HQ.

(823) Maresciallo BARBATO Pasquale.

1208

CC RR HQ CROLIANO

APPENDIX 15

Subject :- Gross-Brandition by Police Sgt Maj BARBATO Pasquale
of TRONPENTA, ROSSIO, ZUFFI, Cpl TABAGLIO, SCIONI,
DANIELI, MONTANARI, TALLON

On the 24 Nov 45 at 2300 hrs the a/m people appeared before me, Maresciallo Capo BARBATO Pasquale and to questions put they answered that :

At 2000 hrs on the 24 Nov, truck No L 4379139 belonging to the CREMONA Div. was coming from VILLARUGLIA (AOSTA) and going towards CROLIANO. At about 1 km from VILLARUGLIA the driver ZUFFI and the two officials in the cabin of the truck saw a civilian vehicle approaching them.

The military truck slowed down and signor ROSSIO signalled by torch for the civilian vehicle to stop.

The civilian vehicle going at a normal speed approached the military truck and did not stop but continued going.

The military truck stopped and the personnel at the open back of the truck shouted at the civilian vehicle to stop, but it continued going on.

From a distance of about 150 metres, Pte MONTANARI, seeing that the civilian vehicle did not stop, fired two bursts of MG in the air and another from the ground to the air, but still the civilian vehicle continued going.

The military truck then turned round and started in pursuit of the civilian vehicle.

At VILLARUGLIA they came across the civilian vehicle which had stopped in front of the restaurant owned by Signor CARRA-ANTONIO.

All the personnel in the truck entered the restaurant and found three persons, PIERLUIGI DOMENICO, SANTI: ANTONIO and BARBA Giuseppe injured by bullets. They were being assisted by the other persons who were in the civilian vehicle, i.e. 5 in number.

The wounded were carried to CROLIANO by the military truck and handed over to the local Doctor BOBBA.

Sgt. TRONPENTA, ROSSIO and the military truck driver ZUFFI, were unarmed, while the rest of the personnel were all armed with

TSMA's. They were on night duty road patrol to control the transportation of cereals.

We therefore confirm the a/m letter :

- 1 Gen. TRONPENTA Pietro
- 2 ROSSIO Domenico
- 3 TABAGLIO Ottorino
- 4 MONTANARI Alberto
- 5 TALLON Angelo
- 6 ZUFFI Ilario
- 7 SCIONI Aldo
- 8 DANIELI Gino

With reference to the a/m letter, we send a copy to the CC RR of VERCELLI and a copy is being kept by us.
Done, read and confirmed

(Signed) BARBATO Pasquale, Maresciallo

by torch for the civilian vehicle to stop.

The civilian vehicle going at a normal speed approached the military truck and did not stop but continued going.

The military truck stopped and the personnel at the open back of the truck shouted at the civilian vehicle to stop, but it continued going on.

From a distance of about 250 metres, Pte MONTANARI, seeing that the civilian vehicle did not stop, fired two bursts of MG in the air and another from the ground to the air, but still the civilian vehicle continued going.

The military truck then turned round and started in pursuit of the civilian vehicle.

At VILLAREGGIA they came across the civilian vehicle which had stopped in front of the restaurant owned by Signor CARRANTONIO.

All the personnel in the truck entered the restaurant and found three persons, PERINELLI DOMENICO, SALVIA ANTONIO and BARBA GIUSEPPE injured by bullets. They were being assisted by the other persons who were in the civilian vehicle, i.e., 5 in number.

The wounded were carried to CIVILIANO by the military truck and handed over to the local Doctor BOBBA.

Sig. TRONPERTA, ROSSIO and the military truck driver ZUPPI, were unarmed, while the rest of the personnel were all armed with RIFLES. They were on night duty road patrol to control the transportation of cereals.

We therefore confirm the a/m letter:

1. Gen. TRONPERTA Pietro
2. ROSSIO DOMENICO
3. TADALIO OTTORINO
4. MONTANARI ALBERTO
5. TALLON ANGELO
6. ZUPPI ILARIO
7. SCIONI ALDO
8. DANIELI GINO

With reference to the a/m letter, we send a copy to the CC RR of VERCELLI and a copy is being kept by us.

Done, read and confirmed

(signed) BARBATO PASQUALE, Maresciallo

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

Subject:- Civil Police Patrols

51 BLU

I. 112/14

HQ 7 AG-RA

20 Nov 45

Ref your G 4 of 17 Nov 45.

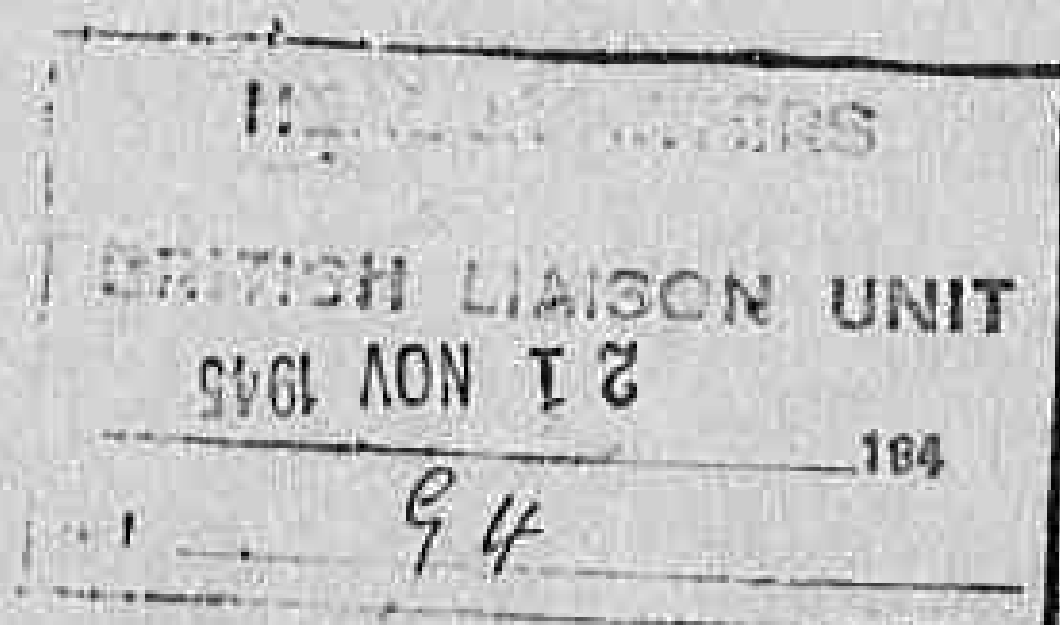
1. I will take up the question of reorganisation of police in ACQUI with AMG.
2. Meantime military intervention in ACQUI to support the Carabinieri on night patrols or in searching personnel at dances may be taken .
3. I notice that a recent successful co-operation between 4th Gruppo Artillery of 7th Regt CREMONA with the Carabinieri has produced a good haul of arms.

Q.1. 
Yours copy
to
Lacuna

Wm. Fokam

Brigadier
Commander

D



120v

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

Subject :- Military intervention in Police Operations

51 British Liaison Unit

G 4/8

To :- HQ
7 AGFA

The following report from Cremona Div is forwarded for your decision. It would appear that AMG Public Security officer should be approached with a view to re-organisation of police in ACQU, since any intervention by Cremona troops would bring only a temporary advantage.

Field
16 Nov 45

 Lt Col
General Staff 200

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

HQ Inf Div CREMONA
C O S Office
Operations & Service Section

No 01/4701

TORINO 13 Nov 45

Subject :- Military Intervention in Police Operations

Herewith copy which deals with the above mentioned subject, coming from HQ 21 Inf Regt for onward transmission to AMG.

This HQ is of the opinion that, details regarding the situation at ACQUI, merit consideration.

Sgd

A TAGLIONI Major
for Chief of Staff

1204

HQ 21 Inf Regt "CREMONA"
Operational Office

No 3102/di prot

ASTI 9 NOV 45

Subject :- Military Intervention in Police Operations.

The garrison command in ACQUI, asked me if I would sanction the use of troops to aid the local Carabinieri and police in the local dance hall, where, it is noted that many youths are armed with revolvers, whilst the military personnel are unarmed. Military intervention would reinforce the present lack of personnel of the CC.PP. and the PS.

Because of the orders in force I could not comply with the above request, but, I do think it opportune that the situation in ACQUI be brought to the attention of the Allied Authorities, and calling for a decisive intervention by the local A.G.

The commander of the ACQUI garrison tells me that Carabinieri and agents of the PS do not patrol after 2200 hrs because they do not consider themselves capable, or sure of being able to cope with local delinquency.

If this be the case, it seems that it would be fit either, to augment their number or, substitute them with personnel of a harder character.

The insistence of the garrison commander, in asking for reinforcements, is aimed solely for the purpose of being able to put his men on an equal footing with disturbers of public security. This matter, therefore merits the authorities close attention.

Sgd G GERVASONI Col

of the CC.PP. and the PS.

Because of the orders in force I could not comply with the above request, but, I do think it opportune that the situation in ACQUI be brought to the attention of the Allied Authorities, and calling for a decisive intervention by the local A.G.

The commander of the ACQUI garrison tells me that Carabinieri and agents of the FS do not patrol after 2200 hrs because they do not consider themselves capable, or sure of being able to cope with local delinquency.

If this be the case, it seems that it would be fit either, to augment their number or, substitute them with personnel of a harder character.

The insistence of the garrison commander, in asking for reinforcements, is aimed solely for the purpose of being able to put his men on an equal footing with disturbers of public security. This matter, therefore merits the authorities close attention.

Sgd G GERVASONI Col

1203

Subject :- Gruppi F S S

C O N F I D E N T I A L

To :-
G S I
2 District

51 British Liaison Unit

G 4

Ref your GSI/2202 of 23 Aug 45.

1 When the CREMONA GRUPPO took over a sector of the line in the Eighth Army area last January, an FS Sec was formed and given a short course by British FS personnel.

2 It was made up to the strength of a normal British FS Sec, and started to work under British supervision. The personnel were all taken from the ranks of Carabinieri, and it was strongly urged that the WE should be altered to include an official FS Sec, but still it does not exist officially.

3 Shortly before the final adv from the Senio the Gruppo took on full security duties, and dealt with two or three enemy agents in a satisfactory manner; they continued well until the end of hostilities.

4 At the moment, due to demobilisation, the Sec has lost some of its best men, and now consists of 1 Offr and 7 men, though every effort is being made to find suitable reinforcements. Owing to these circumstances little continuity has been achieved in their work as a whole; which has consisted of Military Security. It seems that the recent successes in the collection of arms are due to other means rather than the FS Sec of the Gruppo, and it is felt that trg of new recruits will have to take place before the Sec can be at full strength and co-operate in Allied Security coverage.

5 A copy of security reports will in future be fwded to your HQ.

Field
25 Aug 45
JLS/RGT

Mr. Swainfield Capt
for Lieut Colonel 1202
General Staff

1 When the OREMONA GRUPPO took over a sector of the line in the Eighth Army area last January, an FS Sec was formed and given a short course by British FS personnel.

2 It was made up to the strength of a normal British P 3 Sec, and started to work under British supervision. The personnel were all taken from the ranks of Carabinieri, and it was strongly urged that the W E should be altered to include an official FS Sec, but still it does not exist officially.

3 Shortly before the final adv from the Senio the Gruppo took on full security duties, and dealt with two or three enemy agents in a satisfactory manner; they continued well until the end of hostilities.

4 At the moment, due to demobilisation, the Sec has lost some of its best men, and now consists of 1 Ofpr and 7 men, though every effort is being made to find suitable reinforcements. Owing to these circumstances little continuity has been achieved in their work as a whole; which has consisted of Military Security. It seems that the recent successes in the collection of arms are due to other means rather than the FS Sec of the Gruppo, and it is felt that the trng of new recruits will have to take place before the Sec can be at full strength and co-operate in Allied Security coverage.

5 A copy of security reports will in future be fwded to your HQ.

Field
25 AUG 45
JLS/RGT

*cc. Swatfield Capt
for Lieut Colonel 1202
General Staff*

11043

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

HEADQUARTERS 2 DISTRICT
GENERAL STAFF INTELLIGENCE
C.M.F.

File: GSI/2202.

23 August 1945.

SUBJECT: Gruppi FSS.

TO: 52 BLJ.
51 BLJ.
56 BLJ.

1. It is understood that a FSS is attached to each of the Gruppi. The exact composition of these FSS is however not clear to this HQ.
2. It is desired to use these FSS for Security coverage in 2 District: but before any steps are taken in this direction it is desired to see exactly what type and quality of work they are producing at the present time.
3. This HQ will be grateful if you will arrange to forward copies of the Gruppi FSS reports to GSI(b) HQ 2 District together with a note of the composition of these FSS.

O.B. Hall

Lt Col.
GS.

BRITISH LIAISON UNIT	
24 AUG 1945	194
REG.	G-4

120-

23 August 1945.

SUBJECT: Gruppi FSS.

TO: 52 BLJ.
51 BLJ. ✓
56 BLJ.

1. It is understood that a FSS is attached to each of the Gruppi. The exact composition of these FSS is however not clear to this HQ.
2. It is desired to use these FSS for Security coverage in 2 District; but before any steps are taken in this direction it is desired to see exactly what type and quality of work they are producing at the present time.
3. This HQ will be grateful if you will arrange to forward copies of the Gruppi FSS reports to GSI(b) HQ 2 District together with a note of the composition of these FSS.

BRITISH LIAISON UNIT
24 AUG 1945
G-4

Lt Col.
GS.

120-

OBH

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

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

Re: Mobile Camera

54 British Infantry Unit

To: FM
7 AFRA

Herewith a copy of GCHQ letter 01/1355 dated 21 Sep 45
for your consideration, please.

Field
14 Sep 45
JBY/JS


Major,
General Staff. 1500

04/30/55

24 Sep 45

Subject :- Mobile Columns

To :- 54 WAF

Your HQ, in its letter 12/4, dated 23 Aug, proposed the formation of a mobile column for 7 Army Regt. At the same time it is suggested that 7 Army Regt. be reorganised into 14 companies required to form the two mobile columns destined for 24 & 22 Inf Bde.

The mobile column of 7 Army Regt. has already been formed, as already communicated in letter 01/2946 dated 1 Sep 45.

The men allotted for German duties and the present situation showed the formation of the two remaining mobile columns. From the total number of 12/4, dated 17 Sep, and the Regt. letter No 1 of 7 Army Regt. (12/50) agree on the advisability of the employment of such columns.

Therefore, repeating once again that I have already mentioned upon in para 2 of my letter 01/2352 dated 20 Sep, I beg you please to instruct 7 Army Regt. to give us the 14 companies provided.

If such is not possible, I would arrange to form the two other mobile columns providing them with a substitute (German and 15-arms). I would, however, like to avoid such a measure so as not to diminish and diminish transport which is already deficient to meet normal needs. Furthermore, columns are not quite adaptable for long journeys on roads, which would be the normal employment of them in the role of mobile columns.

(Signed) Clarence Williams,
C O C
General Contact Group

1198

Year 1961, in the letter of 22 Aug dated 22 Aug planned the formation of a mobile column for 7 Army Regt. At the same time it is advised that 7 Army Regt requested the 14 Division required to form the two mobile columns destined for 24 & 22 Inf Regts.

The mobile column of 7 Army has already been formed, as already communicated in letter of 29 Sep dated 1 Sep 61.

The work allocated for personnel duties and the present situation demand the formation of the two remaining mobile columns. From the total letter of 12/79 dated 17 Sep and the Regt Order No 1 of 7 Army (17/50) agree on the advisability of the employment of such columns.

Therefore, requesting once again that I have already mentioned upon in para 2 of my letter of 19/552 dated 22 Sep, I beg you please to mention 7 Army to give us the 14 Division personnel.

If such is not possible, I would arrange to form the two other mobile columns providing them with a substitute (carriers and 45-mm). I would, however, like to avoid such a measure as far as possible and immediate transport, which is already deficient to meet normal needs. Furthermore, carriers are not very suitable for long journeys on roads, which would be the normal employment of them in the role of mobile columns.

(Signed) Clemente Padellaro,
G. O. C.
Commander Coastal Group

1193

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

Subject :- Mobile Columns

SECRET

To :-
Chief of Staff
Cremona Gruppo

51 British Liaison Unit

G 4

Ref this HQ letter G 4 date 19 Aug enclosing a draft scheme for three mobile columns.

7 AGRA have applied for 14 Dingoes for use by the Inf regts. The column from 7 Arty regt is to be constituted at once. Will you please issue the necessary orders.

Field
22 Aug 45
JBS/RGT

[Signature]
Lieut Colonel
General Staff

1198

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

Subject:- Mobile Columns

SECRET

G15/39

HQ 7 AGRA

20 AUG 45

2 District

During my visit to the CREMONA Gruppo on 19 Aug I discussed the question of res mob cols both with Gen PRIMERA and with Lt Col WEBB CARTER. Their idea is to arrange for a mob coln from each Inf Regt (hde) and one from the 7 Arty Regt see draft scheme att.

Their total holdings in small armed cars of various types is at present 16 as follows :-

7 Arty Regt	=	14	(GMC & Standard Beaverettes)
Engineers		2	(GMC)

The mob coln from the arty regt is therefore taking shape at once, but an issue of a further 14 dingoes or similar vans will be necessary before the inf regts can follow suit. I therefore strongly recommend the issue of these vans to the CREMONA Gruppo if available please.

CMF
JARG

W. R. P.

Brigadier
Commander.

Copy to:- 51 DLU ✓

HEADQUARTERS
BRITISH LIAISON UNIT
21 AUG 1945
CMF.

1197

SECRET

Subject :- Mobile Columns

To :-
7 A G R A

51 British Liaison Unit

G 4

Chief of Staff
Gruppo CREMONA

Ref question of mobile columns for Gruppo CREMONA
I attach a draft scheme which envisages three columns -
one for 7 Arty Regt and one for each of the two Inf Regts.

The Arty possess already 4 armd cars - GMC and
Standard Beaverettes. The Engineer Bn also possess
two GMC. It is suggested that the 7 Arty provide two
GMC for one Inf Regt and the Engineers provide two GMC
for the other Inf Regt.

The Arty can produce their own column forthwith.
14 Dingo's or equivalent must be produced from outside
sources for the Inf Regts' columns.

Wireless sets can be provided from Gruppo resources.

Field
19 Aug 45
BWOC/ROF

B.W.C.
Lieut Colonel
General Staff

1196

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

Mobile Column - 7 Arty Regt.

Veh No	Type	Personnel	Eqpt	Arms	Total	
					Offrs	ORs
1	GMC Armd Car	1 Offr - Capt 1 Dvr 2 Ops W/T	W/T Stn No 22	1 Pistol .38 1 LMG Bren 2 TSMGs	1	3
2	GMC Armd Car	1 Offrs - Subaltern 1 Dvr 2 Ops W/T	W/T Stn No 22	1 Pistol .38 1 LMG Bren 2 TSMGs	1	3
3	GMC Armd Car	1 Dvr 1 NCO 2 ORs		1 LMG Bren 3 TSMGs		4
4	as No 3					
5	as No 3					
6	Standard Beaverette	1 Dvr 2 ORs		1 LMG Bren 2 TSMGs		3
7	As No 6					
8						
9						

1105

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

Personnel	Eqpt	Arms	Total		Remarks
			Offrs	ORs	
1 Offr - Capt 1 Dvr 2 Ops W/T	W/T Stn No 22	1 Pistol .38 1 LMG Bren 2 TSMGs	1	3	Column comd with W/T link to RHQ 7 Arty Regt.
1 Offrs - Subaltern 1 Dvr 2 Ops W/T	W/T Stn No 22	1 Pistol .38 1 LMG Bren 2 TSMGs	1	3	Deputy comd. W/T on same frequency as No 1. Available as :- (a) Spare radio for comd. (b) Leader of a detached section maintaining comm with column comd.
1 Dvr 1 NCO 2 ORs		1 LMG Bren 3 TSMGs		4	
1 Dvr 2 ORs		1 LMG Bren 2 TSMGs		3	

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

- 2 -

Totals

Vehs	Personnel	Arms	Wireless Sets No 22
5 GMCs	2 Offrs	2 Pistols .38	2
4 Beaverettes	30 ORs	9 Brens	
		21 TSMGs	

Notes

1. Column consists of a comd in a GMC with two sections each of 4 armd cars. One section in GMCs and the other in Beavers.
2. Provision has been made for the two sections to function separately while remaining in communication with each other.
3. Column to be constituted entirely from resources of 7 Arty Regt; to be billeted at ACQUI; to be exercised under conditions of surprise.
4. Column to be self contained for 24 hrs, with rations, water, wireless batteries, spare petrol, 1st line arm.

119*

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

- 2 -

Arms	Wireless Sets No 22
2 Pistols .38	2
9 Brens	
21 TSMGs	

h two sections each of 4 armd cars. One section in GMCs and the other section in Standard Beaverettes.
ctions to function separately while remaining in communication with each other and with the regtl cmd.
resources of 7 Arty Regt; to be billeted at ACQUI; to be exercised under it's cmd.
, with rations, water, wireless batteries, spare petrol, 1st line amm.

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

Mobile Column - INF REGT

Veh No	Type	Personnel	Eqpt	Arms	Total Offrs ORs	
1	GMC Armd Car	1 Offrs - Capt 2 Ops W/T 1 Dvr	W/T Stn No 22	1 Pistol .38 1 IMG Bren 2 TSMGs	1	3
2	GMC Armd Car	1 Offr - Subaltern 2 Ops W/T 1 Dvr	W/T Stn No 22	1 Pistol .38 1 IMG Bren 2 TSMGs	1	3
3	Dingo	1 Dvr 2 ORs		1 IMG Bren 2 TSMGs		3
4						
5						
6						
7	as veh No 3					
8						
9						

Totals

<u>Vehs</u>	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Arms</u>	<u>Wireless Sets No 22</u>
2 GMCs	2 Offrs	2 Pistols .38	2
7 Dingos	27 ORs	9 Brens	
		18 TSMGs	

1103

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

Personnel	Eqpt	Arms	Total		Remarks
			Offrs	ORs	
1 Offrs - Capt 2 Ops W/T 1 Dvr	W/T Stn No 22	1 Pistol .38 1 IMG Bren 2 TSMGs	1	3	Column comd, with W/T link to HQ Inf Regt.
1 Offr - Subaltern 2 Ops W/T 1 Dvr	W/T Stn No 22	1 Pistol .38 1 IMG Bren 2 TSMGs	1	3	Deputy comd. W/T on same frequency as No 1. Available as:- (a) Spare radio for comd. (b) Leader of a detached section maintaining comm with column comd.
1 Dvr 2 ORs		1 IMG Bren 2 TSMGs		3	

<u>Arms</u>	<u>Wireless Sets No 22</u>
2 Pistols .38	2
9 Brens	
18 TSMGs	

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

- 2 -

Notes.

1. Column consists of a comd in a GMC with 2 sections each 4 armd cars. First section of 4 dingoes and second s ocmd) and 3 dingoes.
2. Four wireless ops to be provided by 44 Sigs Coy. All other personnel to be provided by the A/tk coy of an In
3. One GMC from 29 Fd Coy and one from 77 Fd Coy to be transferred to 21 Inf Regt, and two GMC's from 7 Arty Regt Inf Regt.
4. Seven dingoes to be provided for each regt by AGRA. These to be handed over and have Italian drivers, as an dvr is not praticable either for maintenance or comd.
5. All arms to be provided by A/tk coy.
6. Wireless sets to be provided by 44 Sigs Coy. If necessary 7 Arty Regt could hand over to 44 Sigs Coy 2 wirel
7. Columns to be billeted with the A/tk coy. To be exercised under the comd. To be self contained for 24 hrs w batteries, spare petrol, 1st line amn.

1136

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

- 2 -

C with 2 sections each & armd cars. First section of 4 dingoes and second section of 1 GMC (for deputy

by 44 Sigs Coy. All other personnel to be provided by the A/tk coy of an Inf Regt.

from 77 Fd Coy to be transferred to 21 Inf Regt, and two GMC's from 7 Arty Regt to be transferred to 22

each regt by AGRA. These to be handed over and have Italian drivers, as an attachment of vehs with BRIT maintenance or comd.

oy.

4 Sigs Coy. If necessary 7 Arty Regt could hand over to 44 Sigs Coy 2 wireless sets No 22.

/tk coy. To be exercised under the comd. To be self contained for 24 hrs with, rations, water, wireless

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

Subject :- Political Disturbances

To :-
General G Zanussi
Gruppo Cremona

C O N F I D E N T I A L

51 British Liaison Unit

G 4

In acknowledging your N.01/963 of 5 May 45 I must emphasise that, however sympathetic all officers of the B L U are concerning the personal troubles of the officers and men of the Gruppo, they cannot become involved in political matters which are not only outside the scope of the B L U but on which subject the Army Comd has very definitely forbidden any participation by British personnel.

Field
1 May 45
IM/RGT

D. Zanussi
Lt Col
General Staff

1191

W.01/963 Op Ris Pers C.T.

C O P Y

P.M64, 5 May 45

To :-

Lt Col MACRAE

51 B L U

Attached is a report received by me from an officer returning from Udine. I have no possible means of checking this but I know full well how hostile the Yugoslav communists are to all that is Italian and I consider the situation to be serious.

I request that you be kind enough to refer the matter to higher authority. For my part I ask for nothing better than that the "Cremona" should take up arms once again as an advance guard on the frontiers of Italy.

(Signed) Giacomo Zanussi

To :-

HQ

Gruppe Cremona

P M 64, 5 May 45

I would like to bring to the notice of C O Cremona the political and military situation in the areas of Udine, Gorizia, Fiume, Trieste, as it has been reported to me by Col Luigi Olivieri, C of S of troops in Udine area.

- 1 In the Gorizia area the Germans, before leaving, distributed arms to the Chetniks and left the area in their hands ; these have already come in conflict with Tito's troops in the streets of Gorizia ; on the arrival of the Allies the Chetniks were rounded up and sent to Southern Italy and they were told that they would be sent on to Egypt to King Peter and organized into a regular Army. The Allies however have treated them as P O W.
- 2 The Friuli area was liberated by the patriots before the arrival of the Allies with the help of the civilian population and no incidents.
- 3 After the patriots at Friuli had freed their area and after the arrival of the Allies (in small strength) the troops of Marshal Tito arrived and also those of 9 Corps (Slavs and Italians who were in Jugoslavia on 8 Sep 43). They occupied Cividale, Tarcento and Tricesime, they appointed Mayors, closed all stores, and

(Signed) Giacomo Zenussi

FM 64, 5 May 45

To :-
HQ
Gruppo Cremona

I would like to bring to the notice of G O Cremona the political and military situation in the areas of Udine, Gorizia, Trieste, as it has been reported to me by Col Luigi Olivieri, C of S of troops in Udine area.

- 1 In the Gorizia area the Germans, before leaving, distributed arms to the Chetniks and left the area in their hands; these have already come in conflict with Tito's troops in the streets of Gorizia; on the arrival of the Allies the Chetniks were rounded up and sent to Southern Italy and they were told that they would be sent on to Egypt to King Peter and organized into a regular Army. The Allies however have treated them as P O W.
- 2 The Friuli area was liberated by the patriots before the arrival of the Allies with the help of the civilian population and no incidents.
- 3 After the patriots at Friuli had freed their area and after the arrival of the Allies (in small strength) the troops of Marshal Tito arrived and also those of 9 Corps (Slavs and Italians who were in Yugoslavia on 8 Sep 43). They occupied Cividale, Tarcento and Tricesimo, they appointed Mayors, closed all stores, and published proclamations as if they were a regular army of Yugoslavia.
- 4 The authorities of Friuli informed the Military HQ of the area who passed on the information to the Allies. The British Colonel living in Udine took the matter up and he removed the Yugoslav authorities and confirmed the Friulani ones; the Yugoslavs however always remained in office.
- 5 Small allied forces went to Gorizia, Trieste and Fiume and established commands there: at Gorizia some shots were fired by Yugoslavs on allied troops.
- 6 At Gorizia, before the arrival of the co-belligerent troops,

...../sheet 2

- 2 -

all men between the ages of 17 and 50 were called up and enlisted in Tito's army. All those who had Italian political ideas were rounded up at night and imprisoned. Some were later released and some sent to Aidussina.

7 Also at Gorizia there are several people, including women who are in possession of arms and ready to commence the battle; their numbers are however too small and they are waiting the help of Italians who have already been freed.

8 Colonel Olivieri also reports that the following occurrences have happened in Udine

- (a) at S Leonardo Tito's troops fired on the Italian flag and pulled it down.
- (b) at Frepette it was ordered that no Italian flag should be displayed.
- (c) at Ponte S Quirine a slovene patrol stopped all men up to 40 years old.
- (d) at Pulfero a slovene threatened a young Italian with a pistol; this caused a hostile demonstration and the and the Juscelay police retired to S Pietro al Natissone where there was a Friulian Mayor (?).
- (e) at Cormona the allies appointed a friulian Mayor; an hour later Tito's troops arrived; the Allies had to intervene to solve the problem.
- (f) at Carnia 18000 Cossacks have blown up the bridge across the Fella; they are living on the civil population and are behaving in an insolent and overbearing manner. The Allies have promised to intervene; the patriots can do little as they are in small numbers and the area is so vast.
- (g) about 200 Germans under Capt Niemann well armed (LMC and mortars) is laying waste the Arzino Valley killing and setting fire to the villages.

Resumé

The aggression of the Slavs in the areas of the 1914 boundary is continuous and gives rise to serious problems; all the civilians are clamouring for the intervention of the Italian troops to safeguard them from the menace of these disorganised troops who are committing every sort of crime.

(Signed) Capitano Aladino Iodatti
HQ Gruppo Cremona

their numbers are however too small and they are waiting the help of Italians who have already been freed.

8 Colonel Clivieri also reports that the following occurrences have happened in Udine

- (a) at S Leonardo Tito's troops fired on the Italian flag and pulled it down.
- (b) at Prepetto it was ordered that no Italian flag should be displayed.
- (c) at Ponte S Quirino a slovene patrol stopped all men up to 40 years old.
- (d) at Polfero a slovene threatened a young Italian with a pistol ; this caused a hostile demonstration and the and the Jugoslav police retired to S Peitro al Natissone where there was a Friulian Mayor (?).
- (e) at Cermogna the allies appointed a friulian Mayor ; an hour later Tito's troops arrived ; the Allies had to intervene to solve the problem.
- (f) at Carnia 18000 Consacks have blown up the bridge across the Fella ; they are living on the civil population and are behaving in an insolent and overbearing manner. The Allies have promised to intervene ; the patriots can do little as they are in small numbers and the area is so vast.
- (g) about 200 Germans under Capt Niemann well armed (LMG and mortars) is laying waste the Arzino Valley killing and setting fire to the villages.

Resumé

The aggression of the Slavs in the areas of the 1914 boundary is continuous and gives rise to serious problems ; all the civilians are clamouring for the intervention of the Italian troops to safeguard them from the menace of these disorganised troops who are committing every sort of crime.

(signed) Capitano Aladino Ledetti
HQ Gruppo Cremona

1189

1065