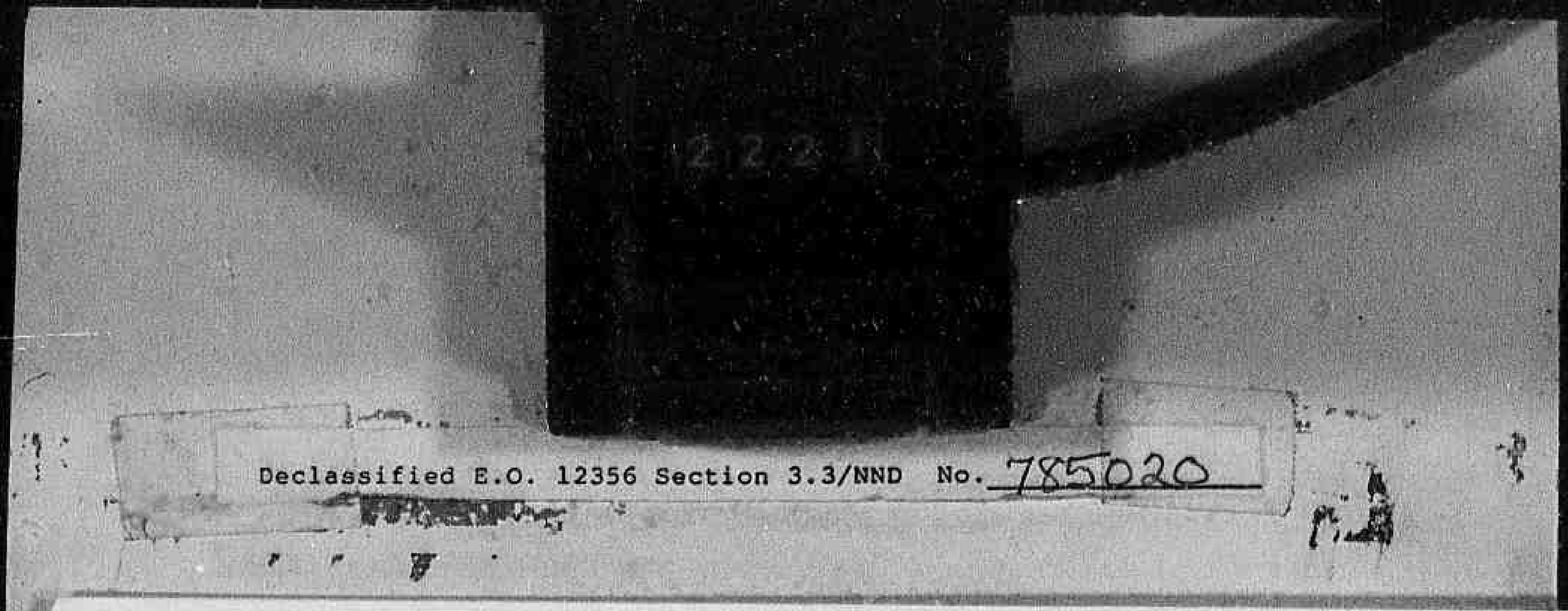


Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

ACC

10000/120/3642

811-AG

Aug

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

10000|20|3642. 811-AG Guards - Discipline

Aug. 9, 1945 - Nov. 13, 1945

GDCS 6168

REF FOLIO 279 A FILE 30A9 68A

Subject:- REPORT RELATIVE TO TRIBUNAL OF SOLDIERS ARRESTED BY ALLIED MILITARY POLICE:- ACTION TAKEN.

INFANTRY DIVISION, MANTOVA.
No. 15131/2

15 NOV 45.

HQ 56 B.L.U.

42A

Reference your letter G/1AG dated 11 OCT 45.

We are returning herewith proceedings concerning theft committed by the undermentioned soldiers and we give afect action taken:-

Cap Magg. BERARDI Francesco

Pte. LOCCI Tullio

Pte. PILIGI Armando

They have been reported to, the War Territorial Military Tribunal of TORINO (letter 4180/D 15 of the 2nd inst, from 76 Infantry Regiment, charged with desertion, theft to the detriment of Allied Military Administration, desertion of post and contravention of orders.

Cap Magg. BERARDI Savino praised with Mention in Order of the Day with the following citation:-

"Guard Commander of a post at Allied Recovery Dump, refused an offer in kind from two Senusies who wanted to buy his silence for a theft they had planned, and for reporting this to the competent authorities notwithstanding wider menace".

(SGD) Chief of Staff.

6108 Major

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

Cap Magg. BUSACCHI Francesco

Pte. LOCCI Tullio

Pte. PILISI Armando

They have been reported to, the War Territorial Military Tribunal of TORINO (letter 4180/D 35 of the 2nd inst, from 76 Infantry Regiment) charged with desertion, theft to the detriment of Allied Military Administration, desertion of post and contravention of orders.

Cap Magg. BERARDO Savino praised with Mention in Order of the Day with the following citation:-

"Guard Commander of a post at Allied Recovery Dump, refused an offer in kind from two Sentries who wanted to buy his silence for a theft they had planned, and for reporting this to the competent Authorities notwithstanding under menace".

(SGD) Chief of Staff.

A. [illegible] Major

6108

8/118

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

Ref No. SIB/64/A/45/147. RESTRICTED.

No. 64 Section,
Special Investigation Branch,
Corps of Military Police,
C. M. F.

6th October, 1945.

SUBJECT: - Persons in Custody.

(A) PILISI Armando, Soldato
(B) LOCCI Tullio, Soldato
both of:-
H.Q. Coy., 2nd Bn.76 Italian Inf. Regt.

Read & Submitted.
To Banks. Com
for
(A.D.) Captain,
D.A.P.M.
No.64 Section, S.I.B.

D.A.P.M.
64 Section,
Special Investigation Branch,
C.M. Police.

Sir,

On the 29th September, 1945, the above named were arrested by Cpl. NOBLE, 179 Provost Coy., C.M. Police, on a "Holding Charge" of:-

(A & B) "W.O.A.S." LARCENY. In that they being concerned with two other persons on the 29th September 1945, did feloniously steal two Jeep tyres and wheels, the property of the War Dept., from the 16 Ports Workshops Vehicle Park, R.E.M.E. Contrary to Italian Military Law.

Distribution.

The facts leading up to the arrest and evidence since obtained are as follows:-

At 1900 hours on the 28th September 1945, Guard duties commenced at the 16 Ports Workshops, R.E.M.E., situated in Via Francia, GENOA. The Guard comprised of nine soldiers with a Corporal Major in charge, all personnel were of the 2nd Bn. 76 Italian Infantry Regt.

The Corporal Major, REGANO Sabino stated that at 0045 hours on the 29th September 1945, he left the Workshop Building and went to visit and

Report & Statement

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

Read & Submitted.
Fo Banks. Capt.
for
(A.D.C.S.(A.D.)) Captain,
D.A.P.M.
No.64 Section,S.I.B.

Distribution.

Report & Statements.

O.C.56 B.L.U.
HQ. 60 Sub Area. ✓

O.C.16 Ports Workshops
R.E.M.E.

DAPM 60 Sub Area (2)

F i l e.

1 Q. Bch.

D.A.P.M.
64 Section,
Special Investigation Branch,
C.M. Police.

Sir,

On the 29th September, 1945, the above named were arrested by Cpl. NOBLE, 179 Provost Coy., C.M. Police, on a "Holding Charge" of:-

(A & B) "W.O.A.S." LARCENY. In that they being concerned with two other persons on the 29th September 1945, did feloniously steal two Jeep tyres and wheels, the property of the War Dept., from the 16 Ports Workshops Vehicle Park, R.E.M.E. Contrary to Italian Military Law.

The facts leading up to the arrest and evidence since obtained are as follows:-

At 1900 hours on the 28th September 1945, Guard duties commenced at the 16 Ports Workshops, R.E.M.E., situated in Via Francia, GENOA. The Guard comprised of nine soldiers with a Corporal Major in charge, all personnel were of the 2nd Bn. 76 Italian Infantry Regt.

The Corporal Major, REGANO Sabino stated that at 0045 hours on the 29th September 1945, he left the Workshop Building and went to visit and inspect the Sentry who was posted outside the R.E.M.E. Vehicle Park, which adjoins the main building of the Workshops.

He expected to find on Guard Soldato LOCCI, but instead he found soldato PILISI. Before he could question PILISI about the change over, he observed figures moving around inside the Vehicle Park. He ordered PILISI to challenge them, but he did not obey.

REGANO related, that he then challenged the persons inside the Vehicle Park and three people walked towards him. One he recognised as Soldato LOCCI, the missing sentry, the second was a Cpl.Maj.

contd/

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

was a Cpl. Maj./.....

from the H.Q. Company of his Unit and the third was an Italian civilian whom he did not know. The Corporal Major and the Italian civilian were each carrying a Jeep wheel and tyre.

The Corporal Major now known to be BUDRONI, told REGANO to keep quiet and at the same time offering him the sum of 10.000 Lire. REGANO refused the offer, whereupon he was told that they were four to his one. Corporal Major BUDRONI and the civilian then came out of the Vehicle Park and proceeded in the direction of San Pierdarena. Soldato LOCCI took over Guard and Soldato PILISI went to bed.

REGANO further stated, that he went back to the Workshops and made a written report of the incident to his Officer Commanding. When he saw that LOCCI and PILISI were asleep, he caused a telephone message to be sent to the British Military Police and the Carabinieri. The Carabinieri from Sampierdarena arrived at approximately 0330 hours, followed shortly by the British Military Police.

The two Italian Sentries were arrested and subsequently conveyed to the Carabinieri Police Station at Sampierdarena. While they were at this Police Station, both made statements. (Copies attached).

From the Statement of LOCCI, it can be seen that he admits being concerned in the theft and implicates Corporal Major BUDRONI and an Italian civilian whose name he did not know. Also, an English soldier was in the vicinity at the time of the theft. Efforts to trace this English soldier have so far been unsuccessful. It is thought that the soldier was passing along this road at the time of the theft. It has been established that he was not concerned in the theft.

PILISI stated, that LOCCI awakened him at 0030 hours and asked him to do his Guard while he went to the latrine. He went on Guard and was there when the Cpl. Maj. approached him

6106

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

whereupon he was told that they were four to his one. Corporal Major BUDRONI and the civilian then came out of the Vehicle Park and proceeded in the direction of San Pierdarena. Soldato LOCCI took over Guard and Soldato PILISI went to bed.

REGANO further stated, that he went back to the Workshops and made a written report of the incident to his Officer Commanding. When he saw that LOCCI and PILISI were asleep, he caused a telephone message to be sent to the British Military Police and the Carabinieri. The Carabinieri from Sampierdarena arrived at approximately 0330 hours, followed shortly by the British Military Police.

The two Italian Sentries were arrested and subsequently conveyed to the Carabinieri Police Station at Sampierdarena. While they were at this Police Station, both made statements. (Copies attached).

From the Statement of LOCCI, it will be seen 6106 that he admits being concerned in the theft and implicates Corporal Major BUDRONI and an Italian civilian whose name he did not know. Also, an English soldier was in the vicinity at the time of the theft. Efforts to trace this English soldier have so far been unsuccessful. It is thought that the soldier was passing along this road at the time of the theft. It has been established that he was not concerned in the theft.

PILISI stated, that LOCCI awakened him at 0030 hours and asked him to do his Guard while he went to the latrine. He went on Guard and was there when the Cpl. Maj. approached him.

On the 29th September, 1945, I interviewed PILISI. I made known to him my identity and the nature of my enquiries through the medium of an Interpreter. He stated that he did not wish to say anything further, to the statement that he had already made and repeated that he was not involved in the theft. This does not appear to be true, because the two Jeeps from which the the two tyres and wheels were stolen, were only about 15 yards inside the Vehicle Park, from the main entrance. The removal must have caused considerable noise, enough infact, to draw attention. Secondly, REGANO saw the persons inside the Vehicle Park, immediately he arrived

contd.

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

he arrived/.....

at the Sentry Post. There is little doubt that the theft was being carried out with the full knowledge of PILISI.

I then interviewed LOCCI. I made known my identity and the nature of my enquiries through the medium of an Interpreter. He said, "I have already made a statement about the whole affair to the Carabinieri Police, I have nothing further to say".

The accused were then placed in the Town Guard Room, GENOA.

On the 30th September, 1945, I saw No. 7642680 Cpl. IRWING, 16 Port Workshops, R.E.M.E. He stated, that he received a telephone message from the night-watchman at the Workshops, that two of the Guard had been caught stealing tyres from the Vehicle Park. He went immediately to the garage and inspected the two Jeeps in the Vehicle Park. One vehicle which he knew was minus one wheel, now had two wheels missing. The second Jeep was jacked up and had one wheel missing. He subsequently notified his OC.

It has been ascertained from the C.O., 2nd Bn. 76 Italian Infantry Regt., that Corporal Major BUDRONI is an absentee. A special patrol has been organised in the Genoa area to look for BUDRONI. A full description has been obtained and circulated to the civilian Police and to the 179 Provost Company, C.M. Police, in an effort to trace this soldier.

BUDRONI appears to be the only person who can establish the identity of the Italian civilian involved and the place where the tyres and wheels were disposed.

Systematic searches are being carried out in the Sampierdarena area to trace the property. These searches have so far proved unsuccessful.

A further report will be submitted, if further evidence is forthcoming to complete this case against BUDRONI and the Italian civilian.

All statements relevant to this case are herewith submitted.

Respectfully submitted

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

Guard Room, GENOA.

On the 30th September, 1945, I saw No. 7642680 Cpl. IRWING, 16 Port Workshops, R.E.M.E. He stated, that he received a telephone message from the night-watchman at the Workshops, that two of the Guard had been caught stealing tyres from the Vehicle Park. He went immediately to the garage and inspected the two Jeeps in the Vehicle Park. One vehicle which he knew was minus one wheel, now had two wheels missing. The second Jeep was jacked up and had one wheel missing. He subsequently notified his OC.

It has been ascertained from the C.O., 2nd Bn. 76 Italian Infantry Regt., that Corporal Major BUDRONI is an absentee. A special patrol has been organised in the Genoa area to look for BUDRONI. A full description has been obtained and circulated to the civilian Police and to the 179 Provost Company, C.M. Police, in an effort to trace this soldier.

BUDRONI appears to be the only person who can establish the identity of the Italian civilian involved and the place where the tyres and wheels were disposed.

Systematic searches are being carried out in the Sampierdarena area to trace the property. These searches have so far proved unsuccessful.

A further report will be submitted, if further evidence is forthcoming to complete this case against BUDRONI and the Italian civilian.

All statements relevant to this case are herewith submitted.

Respectfully submitted.

R.E. BRAKE. Sergeant.

Field. No. 64 Special Investigation Branch.

£105

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

16 Ports Workshops H.Q.
R. E. M. E.

30th September, 1945.

STATEMENT OF: - No. 7642680 Cpl. IRVING J.E.
16 Port Workshops,
R. E. M. E.

About 0300 hours on the 29th September, 1945, the night-watchman at the Workshops telephoned me at my billet and stated, that Corporal in charge of the Italian Guard, had caught two of his Guard stealing tyres from the Car Park, near to the Garage.

I went immediately to the Garage and was told that the two accused were sleeping. I telephoned the British Military Police who subsequently arrested the two Italian Guard. Prior to telephoning the Police, I went into the 16 Port R.EM.E.Car Park and inspected the two Jeeps in there. I found the rear of one Jeep jacked-up and one wheel missing. On the other Jeep a front wheel was missing and the front axle was lying on the ground, the other front wheel was untouched. I subsequetly notified Capt. SNOWDON, that the two tyres alleged to have been stolen came from the two Jeeps in the Car Park.

When I was in the Car Park on the 28th September, 1945, I noticed that one Jeep had three wheels and the other four wheels. On inspecting the vehicles when the alleged theft had been reported, one vehicle had two wheels and the other three wheels.

I have read over the above statement it is true and correct. 6164

Signed, by:

JAMES E. IRVING Cpl.

Statement taken down and signature witnessed by Sgt. BRAKE, 64 Section, S.I.B. C.M. Police

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

About 0300 hours on the 29th September, 1945, the night-watchman at the Workshops telephoned me at my billet and stated, that Corporal in charge of the Italian Guard, had caught two of his Guard stealing tyres from the Car Park, near to the Garage.

I went immediately to the Garage and was told that the two accused were sleeping. I telephoned the British Military Police who subsequently arrested the two Italian Guard. Prior to telephoning the Police, I went into the 16 Port R.EM.E.Car Park and inspected the two Jeeps in there. I found the rear of one Jeep jacked-up and one wheel missing. On the other Jeep a front wheel was missing and the front axle was lying on the ground, the other front wheel was untouched. I subsequetly notified Capt. SNOWDON, that the two tyres alleged to have been stolen came from the two Jeeps in the Car Park.

When I was in the Car Park on the 28th September, 1945, I noticed that one Jeep had three wheels and the other four wheels. On inspecting the vehicles when the alleged theft had been reported, one vehicle had two wheels and the other three wheels.

I have read over the above statement it is true and correct.

G104

Signed, by:

JAMES E. IRVING Cpl.

Statement taken down and signature witnessed by Sgt. BRAKE, 64 Section, S.I.B. C.M. Police on the 30 th September, 1945.

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

16 Ports Workshops, H.Q.
R.E.M.E.
30.9.45.

Statement of:- 7642680 Cpl. IRVING J.E.
16 Port Workshops,
R.E.M.E.

About 0300 hours on the 29th Sept. '45, the night watchman at the Workshops telephoned me at my billet and stated, that the corporal in charge of the Italian Guard, had caught two of his guard stealing tyres from the Car Park, near to the Garage.
I went immediately to the garage and was told that the two accused were sleeping. I telephoned the British Military Police who subsequently arrested the two Italian guard.
Prior to telephoning the Police, I went into the 16 Port REME Car Park and inspected the two jeeps in there. I found the rear of one jeep jacked up and one wheel missing. On the other jeep a front wheel was missing and the front axle was lying on the ground, the other front wheel was untouched.
I subsequently notified Capt. Snowdon, that the two tyres alleged to have been stolen came from the two jeeps in the Car Park.
When I was in the Car Park on the 28th Sept. '45, I noticed that one jeep had three wheels and the other four wheels. On inspecting the vehicles when the alleged theft had been reported, one vehicle had two wheels and the other three wheels.
I have read over the above statement it is true and correct.

Signed By. 6163
James E. Irving Cpl.

Statement taken down and signature witnessed by Sgt. Brake, 64 Section, S.I.B., C.M. Police on the 30th Sept. '45.

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

About 0300 hours on the 29th Sept. '45, the night watchman at the Workshops telephoned me at my billet and stated, that the corporal in charge of the Italian Guard, had caught two of his guard stealing tyres from the Car Park, near to the Garage.

I went immediately to the garage and was told that the two accused were sleeping. I telephoned the British Military Police who subsequently arrested the two Italian Guard.

Prior to telephoning the Police, I went into the 16 Port REME Car Park and inspected the two Jeeps in there. I found the rear of one Jeep jacked up and one wheel missing. On the other Jeep a front wheel was missing and the front axle was lying on the ground, the other front wheel was untouched.

I subsequently notified Capt. Snowdon, that the two tyres alleged to have been stolen came from the two Jeeps in the Car Park.

When I was in the Car Park on the 28th Sept. '45, I noticed that one Jeep had three wheels and the other four wheels. On inspecting the vehicles when the alleged theft had been reported, one vehicle had two wheels and the other three wheels.

I have read over the above statement it is true and correct.

Signed By. 6163
James E. Irving Lt.

Statement taken down and signature witnessed by Sgt. Brake, 64 Section, S.I.B., C.M. Police on the 30th Sept. '45.

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

COPY.

179 Provost Coy.
C.M. Police.

29th September, 1945.

STATEMENT OF: - J. NOBLE, Corporal
179 Provost Company,
Corps of Military Police.

I have to report that at GENOA on the 29th of September, 1945 about 0430 hrs. I was N.C.O. i/c EMERGENCY RESERVE accompanied by L/C CASH.

Acting upon instructions I proceeded to 16 Port Workshops where I contacted Capt. W. SNOWDON, O.C. of 16 Port Workshops R.E.M.E. who informed me that ILISA Armando, Soldato and LUCCI Tullio, Soldato of 76 Reggimento Fanteria, II bne., 8. Coy, Scuole Cantore, both members of the guard doing duty at 16 Port Workshops, had been seen at approximately 0115 hrs. by Caporale Magg. REGANO SAVINO of 76 Reggimento Fanteria, II Bne. 8 Coy., Scuole Cantore, to remove two JEEP WHEELS from the Workshops and hand over same to persons unknown, waiting outside the Workshops in a Car (No. not ascertained).

The two Soldati were arrested and escorted to Carabinieri Police Station, Sampierdarena, by the Carabinieri who were present prior to my arrival.

Signed. J. NOBLE, Cpl.

6162

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

MILITARY POLICE REPORT

Ref.:

To: OC, Provost Company.

Sir.

Submitted to Company Office on:

Submitted to APM on:

Distribution:

Remarks:

I have to report that at GENOA on the 29th of SEPTEMBER 1945 about 0430HRS I was N.C.O. i/c EMERGENCY RESERVE accompanied by 4 CARS.

Acting upon instructions I proceeded to 16 PORT WORKSHOPS where I contacted CAPT. W. SHOWDON, OC of 16 PORT WORKSHOPS R.E.M.E. who informed me that ILISA ARMANDO, SOLDAT & LUCCI TULLIO, SOLDAT of 76 REGIMENTO FANTERIA, II BNE, 8. COY, SCUOLE CANTORE, both members of the guard during duty at 16 PORT WORKSHOPS, had been seen at approximately 0115HRS by CAPORALE MAGG, REGANO SAVINO of 76 REGIMENTO FANTERIA II BNE 8. Coy, SCUOLE CANTORE, to remove TWO JEEP WHEELS from the WORKSHOPS & hand them to persons unknown, waiting outside the WORKSHOPS in a Car (No not ascertained)

The two Soldati were arrested & escorted to CARABINIERE POLICE STATION, SAN PIER D'ARENA by the CARABINIERE who were present prior to my arrival.

6161

Place GENOA. Signature J. A. Pobla. Cpl.

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

Submitted to APM on:

Distribution:

Remarks:

PORT WORKSHOPS where I contacted CAPT. W. SNOWDON, OC of 16 PORT WORKSHOPS R.E.M.E. who informed me that IUSA ARMANDO, SOLDAT & LUCCI TULLIO, SOLDAT of 76 REGIMENTO FANTERIA, II BNE, 8. COY, SCUOLE CANTORE, both members of the guard doing duty at 16 PORT WORKSHOPS, had been seen at approximately OIIGHRS by CAPORALE MAGG, REGANO SAVINO of 76 REGIMENTO FANTERIA II BNE 8. Coy, SCUOLE CANTORE, to remove TWO JEEP WHEELS from the WORKSHOPS & hand Bill Lang to persons unknown, waiting outside the WORKSHOPS in a Car(M^o not ascertained)

The two Soldati were arrested & escorted to CARABINIERE POLICE STATION, SAN PIER D'ARENA by the CARABINIERE who were present prior to my arrival.

6161

Place GENOA.

Date 29th SEPTEMBER. 1945.

Signature J. Bobb. Cpl.

Unit 1/6 PROVOST COMPANY C.M. PONCE.

(Do not cut this form or write in the margin)

Attachments:

PS86 1377 1M x 100 x 2 11-44

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

64 Section, S.I.B.
C.M. Police.
C. M. F.

29th September, 1945.

STATEMENT OF: Cpl. Major REGANO SABINO di Ricardo,
8th Company, 2nd Bn.
76 Infantry Regt. (Italian).

On the 28th September 1945, I was placed in charge of the Guard at the 16 Ports Workshop, R.E.M.E. in Via Francia, GENOA. The Guard Duties commenced at 1900 hours on the 28th September, 1945 and finished at 0700 hours on the 29th Sept.1945. The Guard comprised of nine men and myself.

At 0045 hours on the 29th September, 1945, I left the garage and went to the R.E.M.E. Car Park to visit and inspect the Guard. Instead of finding Soldato LOCCI on Guard, I found Soldato PILISI. On looking in the Car Park, which is surrounded by a barbed-wire fence, I saw figures walking around inside. I immediately shouted to PILISI to challenge them, but he did not obey my orders. I then challenged the people myself, and three persons walked up to the barbed-wire fence to me. I recognised two of the men who were from my Unit. One was a Cpl. Major from H.Q. Company and the other was Soldato LOCCI the missing Guard. The third man was an Italian civilian who I did not recognise.

The Cpl. Major and the civilian were each carrying a Jeep wheel with tyre attached. Soldato LOCCI took the rifle from Soldato PILISI and stood there as though on Guard. The Cpl.Maj. and Soldato LOCCI offered me 10.000 Lire, if I would keep quiet. I told them that I did not want their money. They told me to keep quiet as they were four to one. The Cpl.Maj. and the civilian made off towards the direction of San Pierdarena with the two Jeep's tyres and wheels. After their departure PILISI went to bed and LOCCI was relieved on Guard 5 minutes afterwards; time being 0100 hours. I then made a report to my CC. in writing, regarding the incident. I placed a Guard to watch these two soldiers, while I caused a telephone message to be sent to the Police. Two Carabinieri from Sanpierdarena arrived, shortly followed by the British Military Police. The Police arrested Soldato LOCCI and Soldato PILISI.

Description of civilian is as follows: height 5'10" ins, medium build, age 22 years, fair hair, thin shaped face, pointed features,

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

The Guard comprised of nine men and myself.

At 0045 hours on the 29th September, 1945, I left the garage and went to the R.E.M.E. Car Park to visit and inspect the Guard. Instead of finding Soldato LOCCI on Guard, I found Soldato PILISI. On looking in the Car Park, which is surrounded by a barbed-wire fence, I saw figures walking around inside. I immediately shouted to PILISI to challenge them, but he did not obey my orders. I then challenged the people myself, and three persons walked up to the barbed-wire fence to me. I recognised two of the men who were from my Unit. One was a Cpl. Major from H.Q. Company and the other was Soldato LOCCI the missing Guard. The third man was an Italian civilian who I did not recognise.

The Cpl. Major and the civilian were each carrying a Jeep wheel with tyre attached. Soldato LOCCI took the rifle from Soldato PILISI and stood there as though on Guard. The Cpl.Maj. and Soldato LOCCI offered me 10.000 Lire, if I would keep quiet. I told them that I did not want their money. They told me to keep quiet as they were four to one. The Cpl.Maj. and the civilian made off towards the direction of San Pierdarena with the two Jeep's tyres and wheels. After their departure PILISI went to bed and LOCCI was relieved on Guard 5 minutes afterwards; time being 0100 hours. I then made a report to my OC. in writing, regarding the incident. I placed a Guard to watch these two soldiers, while I caused a telephone message to be sent to the Police. Two Carabinieri from Sanpierdarena arrived, shortly followed by the British Military Police. The Police arrested Soldato LOCCI and Soldato PILISI.

Description of civilian is as follows: height 5'10" ins, medium build, age 22 years, fair hair, thin shaped face, painted features, wearing K.D. Slacks, K.D. Shirt, American type peak cap, spoke fluent Italian with Genoese dialect.

The Cpl.Maj. is about 5'8" high, approx 22 years old, very thin face, painted features, very dark complexion, thin build, black hair. Wearing K.D. slacks, and B.D. blouse, brown linen Italian shoes and Italian Military cap.

I have read over the above statement it is true and correct.

Signed. Cpl.Major, REGANO SABINO.

contd/

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

Signed. CPL.MAJOR, REGANO SABINO/....

Statement taken down and signature witnessed by Interpreter WEIL William in the presence of Sgt. BRAKE, R.E., 64 Section S.I.B. C.M. Police, on the 29th Sept.1945.

I certify that the above is a true translation from Italian into English to the best of my knowledge and ability.

WEIL William, Interpreter.

6159

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

64 Section SIB
C M Polizia – Genova.
29. Settembre 1945.

Dichiarazione di: Caporal magg. REGANO SABINO di Ricardo
8 comp. II Batt. 76 reg. fanteria

Giorno 28 Settembre 1945 sono stato comandato come capo-posto delle guardie all 16 Port workshops REME in Via FRANCIA. Il servizio delle guardie ha cominciato alle ore 19.00 giorno 28 Settembre e finiva alle ore 07.00 giorno 29 Settembre. Corpo di guardia era composto di nove uomini e me stesso.

Verso le ore 10.45 giorno 29. Settembre sono andato al parco delle macchine per ispezionare la guardia. Invece di trovare soldato Lossi in servizio ho trovato soldato Polizi. Guardando in autoparco che la attorno fila spinata, ho visto persone camminare dentro parco stesso. Ho ordinato Polizi di intimare le persone a fermarsi ma questo non ha obedito a miei ordini. Così io stesso ho gridato a queste persone e sono venuti verso di me tre persone. Ho riconosciuto due di loro perchè sono della mia unità. Uno era caporal maggiore della Compagnia Comando ed altro Fante Lossi uomo quale doveva essere di sentinella. Il terzo era un borghese e non lo conosco. Il caporal-maggiore e il borghese ~~avevano~~ portavano ognuno una ruota completa del jeep. Soldato Lossi ha preso il fucile del soldato Polizi e si è messo come in servizio. Caporal maggiore e soldato Lossi mi hanno offerto 10.000 lire per stare zitto. Ho risposto che non voglio il denaro. Chi hanno detto di stare zitto, perchè loro sono quattro contro uno. Il cap. magg. e borghese si sono allontanati in direzione di Sampierdarena con due ruote della jeep. Dopo la partenza di questi due soldato Polizi è andato a letto e Lossi è stato scambiato in servizio 5 minuti prima fardi questo è alle ore 01.00.

Poi ho fatto mio rapporto per mio ufficiale comandante per iscritto in riguardo dell'incidente. Ho ordinato a una guardia per sorvegliare questi due soldati ed io ho chiesto per messaggio telefonico alla polizia. Due carabinieri

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

[illegible] il resoconto di come successo
è me stesso.

Verso le ore 10.45 giorno 29 Settembre sono andato al paese delle macchine per ispezionare la guardia. Invece di trovare soldato Locci in servizio, ho trovato soldato Pilisi. Guardando in autoparco che le attorno fils spinato, ho visto persone camminare dentro parco stesso. Ho ordinato Pilisi di intimare le persone a fermarsi ma questo non ha obedito a miei ordini. Così io stesso ho gridato a queste persone e sono venuti verso di me tre persone. Ho riconosciuto due di loro perchè sono della mia unità. Uno era caporal maggiore della Compagnia Comando ed altro Fante Locci mano quale doveva essere di sentinella. Il terzo era un borghese e non lo conosco. Il caporal maggiore e il borghese ~~avevano~~ portavano ogni uno una punta completa del jeep. Soldato Locci ha preso il fucile del soldato Pilisi e si è messo come in servizio. Caporal maggiore e soldato Locci mi hanno offerto 10.000 lire per stare zitto. Ho risposto che non voglio il denaro. Chi hanno detto di stare zitto, perchè loro sono quattro contro uno. Il cap. magg. e borghese si sono allontanati in direzione di Sampierdarena con due punte della jeep. Dopo la partenza di questi due soldato Pilisi è andato a letto e Locci è stato accambiato in servizio 5 minuti prima tardi questo è alle ore 01.00.

Poi ho fatto mio rapporto per mio ufficiale comandante per iscritto in riguardo dell'incidente. Ho ordinato a una guardia per sorvegliare questi due soldati ed io ho chiesto per messaggio telefonico alla polizia. Due carabinieri da Sampierdarena sono arrivati e subito dopo di loro è arrivata la Polizia Militare Britannica. La polizia ha arrestato i due soldati Locci e Pilisi

La descrizione del borghese è: alto circa 175-176 cm
statura media
di anni circa 22
capelli chiari (castani)
faccia lunga (magra), e portava K.D uniforme e berretto americano con visiera, parlava perfettamente italiano in dialetto genovese.

118

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

Caporalmaggiore era resa 165 em alto d'anni 22 faccia
molto magra, colore della pelle molto scura, capelli
neri, corporatura magra (snella). Vestito in pantaloni
militari estivi e giacca inglese invernale. Portava scarpine
di tella kaglese. Parlo italiano con riserva.

La sopra-scritta dichiarazione è stata letta a me
e risponde alla verità.

Cap. magg. Rigano Sarino

La dichiarazione è stata presa dall'interprete Weil Wolfgang
in presenza del serg. Brake 64 SIB giorno 29. Settembre 1945

Weil Wolfgang

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

179 Provost Coy.
C.M. Police.

29th September, 1945.

STATEMENT OF: - Fante LOCCI TULLIO of Stefano, 23 years
8th Company, 2nd Bn.
76 Infantry Regt. (Italian)

On the 29th September, 1945 about 0030 hrs. I was on duty as a sentry at the Car-Park of the R.E.M.E. Jumping over the barbed wire, I entered the park in order to take away two Jeep wheels in cooperation with Caporal Maggiore BUDRONI and a civilian of whom I do not know the name. In the very moment on which I was getting out from the car park with the Cap. Magg. BUDRONI and the civilian, I heard the Corporal i/c the guards duty shout the challenge. I let myself fell to the ground and waited. As soon as I realize it was only the Corporal, I got up and approached the gate. "What are you doing there"? asked the Corporal i/c, while I was jumping over the barbed - wire. At that moment I heard an English soldier who stopped to have a look around. The Corporal i/c afraid of the presence of the English soldier, started shouting his challenge and saying "stop or I'll shoot you", still he was without arms. As soon as the English soldier had gone away, the Corporal asked me why I did not tell him anything. I told him that we were still in time to come to an agreement and with his consent we took the two wheels out. While the BUDRONI and the civilian were going away the English soldier of before came back and although he saw the two with the Jeep wheels, took no notice of them. Having finished the time of my duty, I was released and went to sleep without saying anything to anybody of what had happened. I point out that I did not threat the Corporal anyhow.

Signed. LOCCI TULLIO.

I certify that the above is a true translation of the original statement in Italian done

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

R.E.M.E. Jumping over the barbed wire, I entered the park in order to take away two Jeep wheels in cooperation with Caporal Maggiore BUDRONI and a civilian of whom I do not know the name. In the very moment on which I was getting out from the car park with the Cap. Magg. BUDRONI and the civilian, I heard the Corporal i/c the guards duty shout the challenge. I let myself fell to the ground and waited. As soon as I realize it was only the Corporal, I got up and approached the gate. "What are you doing there"? asked the Corporal i/c, while I was jumping over the barbed - wire. At that moment I heard an English soldier who stopped to have a look around. The Corporal i/c afraid of the presence of the English soldier, started shouting his challenge and saying "stop or I'll shoot you", still he was without arms. As soon as the English soldier had gone away, the Corporal asked me why I did not tell him anything. I told him that we were still in time to come to an agreement and with his consent we took the two wheels out. While the BUDRONI and the civilian were going away the English soldier of before came back and although he saw the two with the Jeep wheels, took no notice of them. Having finished the time of my duty, I was released and went to sleep without saying anything to anybody of what had happened. I point out that I did not threat the Corporal anyhow.

Signed. LOCCI TULLIO.

I certify that the above is a true translation of the original statement in Italian done to the best of my ability and knowledge.

Signed, EMILIO GHIGLIA,
Official Interpreter,
179 Provost Company.

Emilio Ghiglia

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

DICHIARAZIONE

Io sottoscritto Fante Locci Tullio di Silvio classe 1922 distretto Cagliari dichiaro che la sera del 29/9/45 alle ore ~~20~~ 24.30 circa mentre ero di sentinella al parcheggio di automezzi fuori uso (Reme) entrai nel recinto saltando il ~~rott~~ reticolato per asportare due ruote di Jeeps in collaborazione con il caporal-maggiore Budroni ed un signore in borghese di cui non conosco il nome. Nel momento in cui stavamo per uscire di nuovo ho sentito gridare alto-là dal capo posto subito mi sono buttato a terra ed ho ~~aspettato~~. Quando mi accorsi che non si trattava d'altro che il capo posto mi sono alzato e mi sono avvicinato al cancello 6

Cosa fai ?, chiesi al capo posto, e saltai di nuovo fuori del recinto. In quel momento mi accorgo che un militare Inglese si era fermato a guardare ed ho potuto ~~ricostruire~~ ricostruire la scena in questo modo. In quel momento il capo-posto essendosi impaurito da all'avvicinarsi del soldato inglese si è messo a gridare altolà o sparo non essendo neanche

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

classe 1922 distretto Cagliari dichiaro che la sera del 29/9/45 alle ore ~~20~~ 24.30 circa mentre ero di sentinella al parcheggio di automezzi fuori uso (Reme) entrai nel recinto saltando il ~~cell~~ reticolato per asportare due ruote di Jeeps in collaborazione con il caporal-maggiore Budroni ed un signore in borghese di cui non conosco il nome. Nel momento in cui stavamo per uscire di nuovo ho sentito gridare alto-là dal capo posto subito mi sono buttato a terra ed ho ~~aspettato~~. Quando mi accorsi che non si trattava d'altro che il capo posto mi sono alzato e mi sono avvicinato al cancello 6

Cosa fai ?, chiesi al capo posto, e saltai di nuovo fuori del recinto. In quel momento mi accorgo che un militare Inglese si era fermato a guardare ed ho potuto ~~ricostruire~~ ricostruire la scena in questo modo. In quel momento il capo posto essendosi impaurito ~~da~~ all'avvicinarsi del soldato inglese si è messo a gridare altolà o sparo non essendo neanche armato. Mentre si stava allontanando il suddetto militare Inglese il capo posto mi chiese << Perché non mi avete avvertito

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

prima ». Allora gli dissi che eravamo sempre in tempo e col suo consenso abbiamo tirato fuori le due ruote (con le gomme) Mentre si stavano allontanando Budroni e il bergamasco ecco che ritorna a passare il soldato Inglese che benchè vedendo i due ~~in~~ colle ruote non faceva nessuna osservazione e continuava la sua strada. Essendo arrivato il momento di smontare mi veniva dato il cambio e me ne andavo a dormire al corpo di guardia senza più parlare del fatto con nessuno.

Faccio presente che non ho fatta nessuna minaccia al capo posto.

In fede

Fante Locci Cullio

29/3/45

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

179 Provost Coy.
C.M. Police.

29th September,1945.

STATEMENT OF: - Fante PILISI ARMANDO,
8th Company, 2nd Bn.
76 Infantry Regt. (Italian)

On the 29th September,1945 at about 0030 hours, Fante LOCCI awoke me and asked me to do his duty while he was going to the latrine. I took my gun and without saying anything to the Corporal in charge, went to sobstitute him. The Corporal in charge approached the barbed - wire and looked inside the Car-park.

On the approaching of an English soldier, he started shouting "stop or I'll shout at you" to the people who were inside the enclosure. When the English soldier had gone, the Corporal approached LOCCI and asked him why he did not tell him anything. LOCCI answered that there wae s[illegible] time to come to an agreement. 0155

Signed. PILISI ARMANDO.

I certify that the above is a true translation of the original done to the best of my knowledge and ability.

EMILIO GHIGLIA, Interpreter.

Emilio Ghiglia

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

On the 29th September,1945 at about 0030 hours, Fante LOCCI awoke me and asked me to do his duty while he was going to the latrine. I took my gun and without saying anything to the Corporal in charge, went to sobstitute him. The Corporal in charge approached the barbed - wire and looked inside the Car-park.

On the approaching of an English soldier, he started shouting "stop or I'll shout at you" to the people who were inside the enclosure. When the English soldier had gone, the Corporal approached LOCCI and asked him why he did not tell him anything. LOCCI answered that there was still time to come to an agreement.

Signed. PILISI ARMANDO.

I certify that the above is a true translation of the original done to the best of my knowledge and ability.

EMILIO GHIGLIA, Interpreter.

Emilio Ghiglia

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

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

DICHIARAZIONE

Io sottoscritto fante Pilini Armando dichiaro che alla sera del 29/9/45 alle ore 24.30 circa mi trovavo di guardia all'ingresso del recinto prigionieri. Io prendevo il posto e nessuno avvertiva il caporale addetto a sostituirlo.

Il caporale posto a un certo punto si avvicinava e gridava dentro al recinto, ed al passare di un soldato inglese si metteva a gridare a quelli che erano dentro il recinto altolà o stai.

Quando il soldato inglese era passato, il caporale chiedeva a voce il perchè non l'avevano avvisato, e il prigioniero gli rispondeva che c'era sempre tempo per aggiustarsi.

29/9/45

Pilini Armando

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

CHARGE HOLDING.

Army Form B 252
(See King's Regulations)

76 Infantry (ITALIAN) Regiment

2nd Bn., Headquarters Battery / Squadron / Troop or Company

CHARGE against No. – Rank Soldato.

Name PHILISI Armando

Place In the Field. Date of Offence 29.9.45.

OFFENCE W.C.A.3. LARCENY. Being concerned together with three other persons, on the 29th Sept.'45, did feloniously steal two Jeep tyres and wheels, the property of the W.D., from the 16 Port Workshop Vehicle Park. Contrary to 18 (4) A.A.

Names of Witnesses:

14269812 Sgt. BRAKE. R.E.
64 Section, S.I.B., C.M.Police.

Signature of O.C. Battery, Squadron, Troop or Company

Punishment Awarded

By whom Awarded

6153

P.S.N. 186 - 250,000 - 11/45.

Adjutant.
P.T.O.

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

EVIDENCE

DOCUMENTARY.

REMARKS

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

SUBJECT:- Commendation - Cpl Major REGANO Sabino.

HQ 60 Sub Area
CMF

Tele No. 51001.

515/G

10 Oct 45.

Comd: MANTOVA Combat Group.

1. With reference to the unfortunate incident on the night of 28 Sep 45, when members of the guard at 16 Port W/Shops, provided by 2 Bn 76 Italian Inf Regt were caught stealing Jeep wheels and tyres.

2. I desire that my congratulations be conveyed to Cpl Major REGANO Sabino on his honesty and devotion to duty on this occasion. The action he took shows initiative and common sense, and I hope that the Regimental Commander will consider early promotion for this NCO, who has brought credit to his Regiment in a matter which is otherwise deplorable.

Già ricevuto direttamente - Elogio cap. magg. Regano del 76 Rgt Ftr -

(Sgd) ? ? ? ? ?
Colonel,
Commander.

RMC/PLR.

.....

Subject :- Commendation - Cpl Major REGANO Sabino.

56 BLU
8 G
14 Oct 45.

H.Q. Combat Group MANTOVA.

6152

1. The above copy letter is forwarded for your information.

Lt-Col,
for GS.

DP/wjs.

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

SUBJECT:- Commendation - Cpl Major REGANO Sabino.

HQ 60 Sub Area
CMF

Tele No. 51001

515/G

10 Oct 45.

Comd: MANTOVA Combat Group.

1. With referance to the unfortunate incident on the night of 28 Sep 45 when members of the guard at 16 Port W/Shops, provided by 2 Bn 76 Italian Inf Regt were caught stealing Jeep wheels and tyres.

2. I desire that my congratulations be conveyed to Cpl Major REGANO Sabino on his honesty and devotion to duty on this occasion. The action he took shows initiative and common sense, and I hope that the Regimental Commander will consider early promotion for this NCO who has brought credit to his Regiment in a matter which is otherwise deplorable.

Colonel,
Commander.

RMC/PIR

6151

Copy to:- 56 BLU

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

02169

66H

MRK V MELG NR020305
A/MEAV
FROM 91 GROUP PNR CORPS 021520A
TO 56 BLU
CSH GR54 BT

5A/6 (.) FOLLOWING SIGNAL RECEIVED THIS HQ FROM CV
1416(INDPT) IND PNR COY (.) QUOTE (.) SUBJECT FGCM
MANTOVA GRUPPI (.) REF INDIAN WITNESSES HELD IN GENOA(.)
REQUEST PLEASE YOU CONTACT 56 BLU ATTACHED MANTOVA GRUPPI TC
SPEED ~~THIS~~/L TRIAL (.) R ESSENTIAL THAT ~~THIS~~/ WITNESSES RETURN TC UNIT
AS SOON AS POSSIBLE (.) UNQUOTE (.) PLEASE ADVISE THIS HQ OF POSITION
SOONEST
BT 1630

SENT NR309/24 022115 HEM AR
RECDN NR 309/24 2115 HIRD BBB

GENL 2 XI.45.

See 6 Y M

3 NOV 1945

61.0

8/1 AG

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

Ref folio 24 A file 50 AG

61A

SUBJECT :- Report.

HQ MANTOVA Inf Div

12543/2

24 Oct 45

HQ 76 Inf Regt (ref folio 4000/D13 dated 15 Oct 45)

56 BLU (ref folio 8/1 AG dated 11 Oct 45.)

42A

1. Please find attached report concerning theft of two complete tyres. (Jeep).

2. Please sign on the reverse of the report, punishment awarded the persons involved, and return to this HQ.

61A9

3. Treat this matter as urgent.

GC/ajw

(SGD) A. PIGA Major
for Lt Col Chief of Staff

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

REF FOLIO 243A FILE 50/A4 58A

SUBJECT :- Murder of Indian Soldier.

HQ MANTOVA Inf Div

12632/2

56 BLU

P.M. 104 25 Oct 45

Pte PASSAMAI
: PIRODDA

54A

Following folio 12560/2 dated 22 Oct 45 and reference telephone conversation of the 24th with your Italian LO.

Please instruct all Indian and British witnesses quoted in Allied Court of Enquiry, to report to TURIN Terr HQ MILITARY Court, Via MONTEVECCHIO No 37 at 0900 hrs on the 27 Oct 45.

6148

(SGD) A. PIGA Major
for Lt Col Chief of Staff

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

Ref folio 235A f.e 50 48

54A

Subject:- Ptes PASSAMAI and PIRODDA charged with murder of an Indian soldier.

HQ MANTOVA Inf Div.
12560/2 Ris
P. M.104 - 22 Oct 45.

56 ELU.

53A

Following folio 6628/2 dated 21 Oct 45.

The two a/m soldiers have been moved to-day to the Military Prison of TURIN when they will be kept at the disposal of the PROCURATORE MILITARE DEL REGNO of the Territorial Military Court of TURIN.

GC/mh.

(Sgd) A. PIGA Major,
for Lt Col,
Chief of Staff.

58A

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

Ref folio 234A File SOAG 534

Subject :- Ptes PASSAMAI and PIRODDA charged for murder of an Indian soldier.

HQ MANTOVA Inf Div
6628/2
VARAZZE P.M.104-21 Oct 45.

56 BLU

Following your 12180 dated 13 Oct 45.

1. HQ 76 Inf Regt has, yesterday, sent by means of an officer, regulary charge to Territorial Military Court of TURIN, that will deal with the process as authorised by the PROCURATORE GENERALE DEL REGNO of the supreme Court.
This morning a DR of 76 Inf Regt has left for TURIN to deliver to the PROCURATORE DEL RE of that court copy of the authority received yesterday afternoon by GENOA Terr HQ.
The original documents of the enquiries done by the Allied authorities have been given personally to the President of the Military Court of TURIN (Gen CARASI) who passed in VARAZZE.
In the afternoon of Friday I had a telephone conversation with the PROCURATORE MILITARE to whom I have asked a quick settlement of the enquiry.
Yesterday afternoon the GOC has sent a telegram to the court asking that the first enquiry should be held without adjournment next Wednesday. We are waiting for reply.

GC/mh.

Ref 54A 6146

(Sgd) A. GUALANO Lt Col,
Chief of Staff.

51.A

SUBJECT: - F.G.C.M.-MANTOVA GROUP

Headquarters
60 Sub Area
C.M.F.
Tel No.
S/45/A
16 Oct 45

7 A.C.R.A.

1. The File concerning the murder of Pnr HARBIT SINGH - 1Al6 Ind Pnr Corps, is forwarded for your attention.-

2. A Court of Enquiry has been held, and Proceedings despatched to G2S and the Unit.-

3. At present 56 B.L.U. attached MANTOVA GROUP has been urged to hasten the holding of the F.G.C.M. of the Italian soldiers responsible for the murder of the s/s Indian soldier.-

4. 56 B.L.U. has put forward various difficulties concerning the convening of the F.G.C.M. (or Italian equivalent) and these have been represented to HQ 2 District.-

5. It is understood that HMA IO HQ 2 DISTRICT has clarified the situation and issued instructions to the MANTOVA GROUP concerning the convening of the F.G.C.M. to-day.-

6. It is imperative that this case be brought to trial with all speed, as the Indian witnesses who belong to 1Al6 Ind Pnr Corps are being held in GENOA and are required to join their parent Unit as soon as possible, prior to return to INDIA.-

7. This Unit has now moved from GENOA to PARMA. The Indian witnesses have been attached to 7 Ind Rest Camp in GENOA.-

6145

Lt Col
Colonel,
Commander.

Copy to: HQ 2 District
1Al6 Ind Pnr Corps
56 BLU.

8/1 AG

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

4. 56 B.L.F. has put forward various difficulties concerning the convening of the F.G.C.M. (or Italian equivalent) and these have been represented to Hq 2 District.-

5. It is understood that MAIA LO Hq 2 DISTRICT has clarified the situation and issued instructions to the MORTONA GROUP concerning the convening of the F.G.C.M. to-day.-

6. It is imperative that this case be brought to trial with all speed, as the Indian witnesses who belong to 1436 Ind Fur Corps are being held in GENOA and are required to join their parent Unit as soon as possible, prior to return to INDIA.-

7. This Unit has now moved from GENOA to TRIESTE. The Indian witnesses have been attached to 7 Ind Rest Camp in GENOA.-

6145

Colonel,
Commander.

Copy to: Hq 2 District
1436 Ind Fur Corps
56 BLU.

8/1 AG

17 OCT 1945

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

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

474

SUBJECT: Attachments

Headquarters
60 Sub Area
C.M.F.
Tel No.56305
6/45/A
14 Oct 45

1232 Ind Fwr Corps

Reference telephone conversation Capt. Steen - Capt. Lefroy, 13 Oct 45.

1. Please arrange to attach to Y Ind Rest Camp the Indian soldiers of 1416 Ind Fwr Corps who are being held by you, pending the Court Martial of the soldiers of MAMBUA GROUP who were responsible for the death of Pte HAVELT KING.

Major.
Asst A.Q.G.

Copy to: 1416 Ind Fwr Corps
HQ 2 District
56 HAA
Y Ind Rest Camp

(This HQ letter 6/45/A dated 10 Oct 45 refers.).

15 OCT 1945 6144

8/1AS

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

REF FOLIO 222A FILE 50/AG 46A

Subject:- Murder of Indian Soldier.

No 11694/2

7 Oct 45.

HQ 56 HLU

For Info: Italian Territorial Command of GENOA.

Following our phone message 10516/2 of the 4th Sept 45.

Enclosed for your information is a copy of the report on the investigation carried out by HQ 76 Inf Regt. on the murder of an Indian soldier which was committed on the 1st Sept 45.

PIGA, Major
for the Chief of Staff.

8/143
8/1 AG

COPY

Subject:- Murder of an Indian Soldier.

No 3726/D.13

21 Sept 45.

To:- HQ Combat Group, MANTOVA. (Office of the Chief of Staff.

Following our 3520/D.13 of the 3rd Sept 45.

From the investigations carried out by the HQ 2/76 and this HQ it is possible to reconstitute the following facts.

At about 2015hrs in the vicinity of guard post No 2 of 128 Petrol Depot in GENOA and more precisely in the square LARGO BARABINO,(where there is a fair) a quarrel arose between Indian soldiers and Italian soldiers off duty,,and belonging to various units, and also civilians.

It has not been possible to establish exactly the cause of the dispute as ther are different versions about the facts. It is not improbable that the dispute arose from remote causes as several disputes have often taken place at the fair for trifle reasons.

It also appears that the night before there was a quarrel between an Italian soldier and an Indian soldier about a woman, the quarrel ended without any serious consequences.

As said above, civilians intervened in the dispute amongst which were several"armed partisans", in fact the dispute changed into a fight.

The Indians attacked with belts and sticks, the attacked people began to throw stones.

The alarm was raised at guard post No2 by the NCOi/c guard, SCOTUZZI Giovanni(Strength of the guard 1 NCO Gd Com. 2 junior NCOs and 18 Men for 6 sentry posts)

During the scuffle several shots were fired by person taking part in the dispute.

Pte GALEONI, Saverio of 6Coy who was on sentry duty at that moment and a certain distance from the guard room, seeing that the dispute was approaching near to his post remained calm and firm at his post, firing 2 rounds in the air obliged the fighters to move away.

While the NCO, SCOTUZZI together with 2 guards doubled to the above post, the Alpine, Pte PASSAMAI Paolo of No 5 Coy who was taking shelter in the guard room took possession of a rifle and went out into the street. He was seen firing some shots, 3 rounds which he obtained according to his version from an unknown soldier which was on the spot. Also Pte PIRODDA, Agostino of the gun Coy was seen in the fight armed with a rifle. Incidently PIRODDA was returning to his unit AWOL.

According to the version of PIRODDA the rifle was handed to him by another soldier he does not know together with some rounds. PIRODDA also declares that he fired 3 shots in the air.

The fight during which an Indian soldier was killed came to an end when the Military Police arrived.

It has been ascertained that at the end of the fight Pte PASSAMAI returned the rifle to guard room.

In consequence of the investigations carried out by the Military Police Ptes. PASSAMAI and PIRODDA have been arrested.

According to the statements of the above 2 soldiers which have been confirmed by the version of other soldiers, PASSAMAI and PIRODDA fired shots only in the air and for the purpose of intimidating the crowd and defending themselves.

The Allied Authorities have not made known the results of their investigations.

The attitude of the guards before and

61-2

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

As said above, civilians intervened in the dispute amongst which were several"armed partisans", in fact the dispute changed into a fight.

The Indians attacked with belts and sticks, the attacked people began to throw stones.

The alarm was raised at guard post No2 by the NCOi/c guard, SCOTUZZI Giovanni(Strength of the guard 1 NCO Gd Com. 2 junior NCOs and 18 Men for 6 sentry posts)

During the scuffle several shots were fired by person taking part in the dispute.

Pte GALEONI, Saverio of 6Coy who was on sentry duty at that moment and a certain distance from the guard room, seeing that the dispute was approaching near to his post remained calm and firm at his post, firing 2 rounds in the air obliged the fighters to move away.

While the NCO, SCOTUZZI together with 2 guards doubled to the above post, the Alpine, Pte PASSAMAI Paolo of No 5 Coy who was taking shelter in the guard room took possession of a rifle and went out into the street. He was seen firing some shots, 3 rounds which he obtained according to his version from an unknown soldier which was on the spot. Also Pte PIRODDA, Agostino of the gun Coy was seen in the fight armed with a rifle. Incidently PIRODDA was returning to his unit AWOL.

According to the version of PIRODDA the rifle was handed to him by another soldier he does not know together with some rounds. PIRODDA also declares that he fired 3 shots in the air.

The fight during which an Indian soldier was killed came to an end when the Military Police arrived.

It has been ascertained that at the end of the fight Pte PASSAMAI returned the rifle to guard room.

In consequence of the investigations carried out by the Military Police Ptes. PASSAMAI and PIRODDA have been arrested.

According to the statements of the above 2 soldiers which have been confirmed by the version of other soldiers, PASSAMAI and PIRODDA fired shots only in the air and for the purpose of intimidating the crowd and defending themselves.

The Allied Authorities have not made known the results of their investigations.

The attitude of the guards before and after the fight were firm, and the NCOi/c guard employed his men methodically. This NCO failed in not taking all the precautions which could have prevented Pte PASSAMAI from taking the rifle, also Pte UNIDA,Mario who was on sentry at the entrence failed to carry out his duty i.e. preventing Pte PASSAMAI from entering the Depot and also taking a rifle out.

The NCO and the above sentry can be in part excused if we think that PASSAMAI took advantage of the confusion in the guard room. Pte PASSAMAI was also helped by the fact that having been on guard duty at the same place some days before he was well known to the guards and who did not suspect him and therfore it was easy for him to take the rifle.

61-2

.....2

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

In view of the above I have praised Pte GALEONI, Saverio, Class 1924 Military District of TARANTO, 6 Coy as sentry on duty at a Petrol Depot during which a violent scuffle arose near to his post between Allied Military, Italian Military and civilians, although exposed to shots and the throw of stones he remained firm and calm at his post and from which he kept away the dispute.

I have punished the NCO SCOTUZZI, Giovanni 6 Coy with 8 days close arrest for the following reason:-

> In charge of the guard in the vicinity of a place where a scuffle arosed, he did not prevent a soldier, who was not belonging to his guard from taking a rifle belonging to one of his guards and from joining the fight.
> Also Pte UNIDA, Mario 6 Coy has been punished with 10 days close arrest as he did not carry out fully his duty.

Giorgio Salvi
Colonel
OC 76

A certified true copy
G.Bertocco, Major
"A" Branch

6141

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

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

REF FOLIO 221A FILE 50/M4

45A

Subject:- Ptes PASSAMA and FIRODDA charged with murder of Indian soldier.

HQ Combat Group MANTOVA
12180/2
VARAZZE P.M. 104 - 13 Oct 45.

HQ 56 BLU.

40A

Reference para 4 of your 8/1 AG we inform you that orders have been given to 76 Inf Regt for proceeding against the above mentioned military charged with the murder of an Indian soldier.

At the same time, in order to speed up the prosecution, we have asked the Military Attorney General of the Supreme Court to pass the trial from the Military Territorial Court of LA SPEZIA to the court of TURIN as the former, competent for the jurisdiction of GENOA Area, has not yet started to function.

We have adequate reasons for believing that the trial will start during next week.

6140

/mh.

(Sgd) A. GUALANO Lt Col,
Chief of Staff.

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

Lt

SUBJECT :- LARCENY - Stealing of 2 Jeep Tyres & Wheels

42 A

56 BLU
8/1 AG

HQ Combat Group MANTOVA

11 Oct 45

Soldato PILISI Armando
Soldato LOCCI Tullio } HQ Coy II/76 Inf Regt

1. The attached Military Police Report SIB/G4/A/45/147 dated 6 Oct 45 is forwarded to you for information and necessary action. 41 A 24 Jan

2. Please return report with punishment awarded endorsed thereon.

In The Field
/ajw

See 6 of 41 Bde 61A

for
G1 3
Lt Col
GS

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

SUBJECT :- Court Martial.

HQ Combat Group MANTOVA

56 BLU
8/1 AG

9 Oct 45

Reference conversation Major GADSDON - Capt VITALIE.

1. The Court Martial of the men involved in the death of an Indian soldier should now be proceeded with as quickly as possible.

2. May 56 BLU be informed of the date and the location of the trial so that the necessary arrangements can be made for the attendance of witnesses.

In The Field
AWG/ajw

See 45A.

Lt Col
GS

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

REF FOLIO 210A FILE 50A4 39A.

SUBJECT :- Court of Enquiry - Death of Pnr NAUBIT SINGH.

HQ Combat Group MANTOVA

11961/2

VARAZZE 7 Oct 45

56 RLU

1. Please find attached the original copy of proceedings of Court of Enquiry in respect of the above named.

2. The copy was forwarded direct from HQ 60 Sub Area.

3. This HQ is already in possession of the Italian translation.

(SGD) A. PIGA Major
for Lt Col Chief of Staff

6137

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

SUBJECT: - Court of Enquiry - Death
of 362088 Pnr NAVHIT SINGH

Headquarters
60 Sub Area
C.M.F.
Tel No. 56305
6/45/A
5 Oct 45

HQ. MANTOVA COMBAT GRUPPO

1. Herewith copy of Proceedings of Court of Inquiry, in respect of above.

Major,
DAA & QMG.

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

30163. Wt.W18271/1276. 350,000. 8/42. K. & H., Ltd. G657/10. Forms A 2/64.

Army Form A 2.

*N.B. — The Form being applicable to any Board, or Committee, or Court of Inquiry, this blank to be filled in accordingly

The proceedings should be signed by the President and by each Member of the Board, etc

Attention is particularly drawn to the Rules for Courts of Inquiry contained in Rules of Procedure 124–125A, and especially to Rule 125A(5); also to paragraph 764, et seq., King's Regulations, 1940.

PROCEEDINGS of a* COURT OF INQUIRY

assembled at H.Q., 1416 (INDE) COY., IND PNR CORPS, GENOA.

on the 28th Sep., 1945 at 0900 Hours.

by order of H.Q. 60 SUB AREA.

.....

for the purpose of Investigating the circumstances whereby 362088 Pioneer N.U.R.T. SINGH was killed at GENOA, on 1st Sept. 1945 and recording the cause of the death.

PRESIDENT.

Major D.C. Chalmers, R.A.

MEMBERS.

Captain J.H. Rutter. 14/20 Hussars.
Captain J. Pearse. R.A.S.C.

IN ATTENDANCE.

The Court having assembled pursuant to order, proceeded to 0930

swear in the Interpreters:-

1. Captain B. Wilcox - Italian/English.
2. Q.M.Hawildar Punna Mall. - Indian/English.

The Court then proceeded to examine the Witnesses:-

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

1st Witness.

Captain M. Wirtheim, 274498 R. .M.C. having been duly sworn states:-

On the 1st Sep 45 at approximately 2100 hours I was called into Reception to see an injured man.

On examination I found an Indian soldier lying on a stretcher whose personal documents showed the following particulars: No: 362088 Pioneer N UB T SINGH., 1416 Coy. Medical examination revealed penetrating wound of his chest, with an entry wound somewhat to the right of the sternum and an exit wound in the left shoulder blade region. The face of the man was covered with blood and dried dirt. There were no signs of pulse or respiration. The pupils were rigid and did not react to light. The body surface was cool but still warm in the armpits. Death probably had occurred approximately one hour before admission.

Cause of death, severe injury to vital organs in the chest. (lungs and heart)

Date: 28/9/45. (sgd) M. Wirtheim.

2nd Witness.

Nor Y.D R.M. 362343 having been duly sworn states:-

On the 1st Sep 45 at 2000 hours I was walking from the town of Genoa and near 148 Petrol Depot. I saw some Italians and Indians fighting with belts. Shortly after an Italian soldier with a beard went to the Guard Tent and took out a rifle, there were two other Italian soldiers with him with rifles. The man with the beard ordered the other Italians to fire. This they did into a crowd of Indian soldiers. They fired several rounds.

I was ordered to go back to Camp and on my way I saw an Indian soldier lying on the road. This man I recognised as Pioneer N.UB T SINGH.

6135

(sgd) No. Y.D R.M. 362343.

Date: 28/9/45. (sgd) H. Wirtheim.

2nd Witness.

Hav Y.D R.M. 362343 having been duly sworn states:-

On the 1st Sep 45 at 2000 hours I was walking from the town of Genoa and near 126 Petrol Depot. I saw some Italians and Indians fighting with belts. Shortly after an Italian soldier with a beard went to the Guard Tent and took out a rifle, there were two other Italian soldiers with him with rifles. The man with the beard ordered the other Italians to fire. This they did into a crowd of Indian soldiers. They fired several rounds. I was ordered to go back to Camp and on my way I saw an Indian soldier lying on the road. This man I recognised as Pioneer R.US T SINGH.

6135

(sgd) Hav. Ind Rem. 362343.

I certify that the above statement is a true translation from Indian into English of what Sgt Y D R M has stated.

(sgd) [illegible] Hav Pnr [illegible]
362351 1416 Indian Pioneer Coy.,
I.P.C. CMF.

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

3rd Witness.

B/S S.NY.L 557393 having been duly sworn states:-

On the 1st Sep 45 at 1900 hours I was in the Fair Ground near 128 Petrol Depot, Genoa and I heard confusion near one of the stalls and saw some Indians and Italians fighting with their belts.

Some time later, about twenty to thirty minutes I saw three Italian soldiers go to the Guard Room of 128 Petrol Depot and return with rifles. I followed the Italians at a distance of about 15 yards, and watched them. They started shooting into the Indians with the butts of their rifles under their armpits. I did not see whether any Indian was wounded or not.

(sgd) E.S. Samyal.
557393.

4th Witness.

Roberto Domenico fu Francesco. 76 Reg. Infantry, 6th Coy., 2nd Batt. having been duly sworn states:-

On the 1st Sep 45 at approximately 2015 hours I was in the Guard Room of 128 Petrol Depot, Genoa, when I heard rifle shots and saw Civilians, Indian soldiers and Italian soldiers running away from the Fair Ground which was close to the Petrol Depot.

A short time later I saw an Italian soldier fire two rounds into a crowd of Indian soldiers. I saw one Indian soldier fall to the ground about 40 or 50 meters away. I did not see him get up and a crowd of Indian soldiers gathered round him. I was then ordered to return to the Guard Room.

6134

(sgd) Fante Roberto Domenico.

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

4th Witness.

Roberto Domenico fu Francesco. 76 Reg. Infantry, 6th Coy., 2nd Batt. having been duly sworn states:-

On the 1st Sep 45 at approximately 2015 hours I was in the Guard Room of 128 Petrol Depot, Genoa, when I heard rifle shots and saw Civilians, Indian soldiers and Italian soldiers running away from the Fair Ground which was close to the Petrol Depot.

A short time later I saw an Italian soldier fire two rounds into a crowd of Indian soldiers. I saw one Indian soldier fall to the ground about 40 or 50 meters away. I did not see him get up and a crowd of Indian soldiers gathered round him. I was then ordered to return to the Guard Room.

6134

(sgd) Foute Roberto Domenico.

I certify that the above statement is a true translation from Italian into English to the best of my ability of the statement of Roberto Domenico.

(sgd) B. Wilcox. Capt.
56 B.L.U.

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

5th Witness.

Pte SCANO STEFANO Di SALVATORE. 76 Reg Infantry, 6th Coy; 2nd Batt. having been duly sworn states:=

On the 1st Sep 45 at 2000 hours approximately, I was a member of the Guard on 128 Petrol Depot, Genoa where I heard confusion near the Fair. I went nearer the Fair and heard shooting. I saw a number of Indian soldiers running away from the Fair. I saw some Italian soldiers and civilians firing in the direction of the Indians. When most of the Indian soldiers had gone away I noticed one of them standing up in the road looking at another one who was lying on the road.

(sgd) Scano Stefano, Pte.

I certify that the above statement is a true translation from Italian into English to the best of my ability of the statement of Scano Stefano di Salvatore.

(sgd) B. Wilcox, Capt.
56 B.L.U.

Death was caused by the entry of a Bullet into the Chest causing severe injury to the Lungs and Heart.

President: D.C. Chalmers, Major R.A.

6133

Members: J.H. Rutter, Capt 14/20Hussars
J. Pearse, Capt. RASC.

Certified that the accused were present throughout the Proceedings. They declined to cross-examine or make any statement.
Certified that R.P. 4(a) (3) (a) (c)(6)

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

I certify that the above statement is a true translation from Italian into English to the best of my ability of the statement of Scano Stefano di Salvatore.

(sgd) B. Wilcox, Capt.
56 B.L.U.

Death was caused by the entry of a Bullet into the Chest causing severe injury to the Lungs and Heart.

President: D.C. Chalmers, Major R.A.

6133

Members: J.H. Rutter, Capt 14/20Hussars
J. Pearse, Capt. RASC.

Certified that the accused were present throughout the Proceedings.
They declined to cross-examine or make any statement.
Certified that R.P. 4(c),(d),(e),(f)&(9)have been complied with.

(sgd) D.C. Chalmers, Major R.A.
President.

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

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

38 A

SUBJECT: - Court of Enquiry

Headquarters
60 Sub Area
C.M.F.
Tel No. 56305
6/30/A
3 Oct 45

56 B.L.U.

36 A

Reference your 8/1AG dated 29 Sep 45.

1. The Sub Area Comdr does not agree with the extract from Col Salvi's letter referred to, in your above quoted letter. The soldiers were not armed, the sentry himself could not have considered his life in danger, and was not therefore justified in loading his rifle.

Major,
DAA & QMG.

4 OCT 19
6132
8/1

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

37.A

SUBJECT: - Pnr NAVRIT SINGH

Headquarters
60 Sub Area
C.M.F.
Tel No.56305
6/45/A
1 Oct 45

1239 Ind Pnr Coy

1. Please arrange to accomodate the Indian witnesses of 1416 Ind Pnr Coy until 56 FLU have held the Court Martial of the Italians of MANTOVA GIUSEPPI, who were responsible for the death of Pnr NAVRIT SINGH.

Major,
DAA & Q.M.G.

Copy to: 56 FLU

33 A

6131

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

34

36-A

56 BLU
8/1 AG

25 Sep 45

SUBJECT :- Court of Enquiry.

HQ 60 Sub Area.

34 A

Reference your 6/30/A dated 27 Sep 45.

1. The following is an extract from a letter from Col.SALVI Commanding 76 Inf Regt in which Pte SPANO serves :-

> " With regard to the incident, in agreement with what has been confirmed to me by Bn Commander, I am of the opinion that no blame should be put on the Sentry who, in respecting his orders tried to avoid all possible discussions in a calm manner and then when provoked and threatened and during the fight the rifle was charged and a round went off, wounding the British soldier in the palm of the hand."

P.T.D.

In The Field,
PJD/ajw

Lt Col
GS

6130

38 A

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

34 A

Headquarters
60 Sub Area
C.M.F.
Tel No. 56305
6/30/A
17 Sep 45

SUBJECT: - Court of Enquiry

56 B.L.U.

1. On 8 Aug 45 there was an accident at 128 Petrol Depot, in which 5/261768 Pte TAYLOR A. was injured by SPANO SALVATORE di GIOVANNI of 76 Regt FANTERIA C.C. II Battaglione P.M. 104.

2. A Court of Enquiry has been held recently by this HQ, to investigate the circumstances, and it has decided that both, Pte TAYLOR and the Italian soldier were equally to blame for the accident.

3. It is requested that this HQ be informed what disciplinary action has been taken against the Italian soldier concerned.

Major,
DAA & QMG.

Lee 15 A

Lee 36 A.

8/1 AG

28 SEP 6Ψ29

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

1 File 1 29A

Subject:- Court of Enquiry.

56 BLU
8/1 AG

27 Sep 45.

HQ Combat Group MANTOVA. 27A refers

Reference enclosed Convening Order for Court of Enquiry para 5.

1. The President desires the presence of the following witnesses of Combat Group MANTOVA :

Pte SCANO STEFANO SALVATORE
Pte ROBERTO DOMENICO

2. Should the Italian soldiers not wish to attend the Court of Enquiry, a signed statement by them stating that they have been given the opportunity of attending and refused will be taken to the Court of Enquiry, copy to this HQ.

3. Combat Group MANTOVA will supply an Interpreter.

In The Field.
PJD/mh.

(PJD)
Lt Col,
GS.

6128

27A

SUBJECT:- Court of Inquiry - Death of 362088
Pnr [illegible] SINGH

Headquarters
60 Sub Area
C.M.F.
Tel No.56305
6/45/A
25 Sep 45

97 Field Regt RA.
14/20 King's Hussars
OC RASC
1416 Ind. Pnr. Coy
56 ELU

1. A Court of Inquiry composed as under, will assemble at HQ 1416 Indian Pioneer Coy Genoa on Friday 28 Sep 45 at 0900 hrs for the purpose of investigating the circumstances whereby 362088 Pnr [illegible] SINGH was killed at Genoa on 1 Sep 45 and recording the cause of the death.

2. The Court will be composed as under:-

PRESIDENT: Major detailed by OC 97 Field Regt RA.

MEMBERS : Capt. or Lt. detailed by OC 14/20 King's Hussars
Lt. detailed by OC RASC.

3. All evidence will be taken on oath.

4. OC 1416 Indian Pioneer Coy will arrange to make available such Indian witnesses as the PRESIDENT may require, and for an Indian interpreter to be available for the Court.

5. 56 ELU will arrange to make available such witnesses from the [illegible] GRUPPI as the PRESIDENT may require. The Italian soldiers who are held under close arrest pending Court Martial should be given the opportunity of attending throughout the proceedings of the Court of Inquiry. 56 ELU will arrange to make them available, should they so desire to attend for the purpose of cross-examining witnesses.
56 ELU will also make available all Italian Interpreters.

6. The attention of the Court is drawn to GRO 40/44 KR(1940) para 577 and Unit Guide to Documentation (1944) Section 10 para 56.

6127

7. AFB 117 in respect of Pnr [illegible] SINGH will be attached to the proceedings.

8. The Court will not express an opinion.

9. OC. 1416 Ind. Pnr. Coy will prepare the necessary accm. and stationery for the Court.

10. The Proceedings will be recorded and [illegible]

[illegible] Court of Inquiry composed as under, will assemble at HQ 1416 Indian Pioneer Coy Genoa on Friday 28 Sep 45 at 0900 hrs for the purpose of investigating

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

1. A Court of Inquiry composed as under, will assemble at the 24th Indian Pioneer Coy Genoa on Friday 28 Sep 45 at 0900 hrs for the purpose of investigating the circumstances whereby 362088 Pnr [redacted] SINGH was killed at Genoa on 1 Sep 45 and recording the cause of the death.

2. The Court will be composed as under:-

PRESIDENT: Major detailed by OC 97 Field Rgt RA.

MEMBERS : Capt. or Lt. detailed by OC 14/20 King's Hussars
Lt. detailed by OC RASC.

3. All evidence will be taken on oath.

4. OC 1416 Indian Pioneer Coy will arrange to make available such Indian witnesses as the PRESIDENT may require, and for an Indian interpreter to be available for the Court.

5. 56 BLU will arrange to make available such witnesses from the GENOVA GRUPPI as the PRESIDENT may require. The Italian soldiers who are held under close arrest pending Court Martial should be given the opportunity of attending throughout the proceedings of the Court of Inquiry. 56 BLU will arrange to make them available, should they so desire to attend for the purpose of cross-examining witnesses.
56 BLU will also make available all Italian Interpreters.

6. The attention of the Court is drawn to GRO 40/44 KR(1940) para 377 and Unit Guide to Documentation (1944) Section 10 para 56. 6127

7. AFB 117 in respect of Pnr [redacted] SINGH will be attached to the proceedings.

8. The Court will not express an opinion.

9. OC. 1416 Ind. Pnr. Coy will prepare the necessary accm. and stationery for the Court.

10. The Proceedings will be recorded and signed by the PRESIDENT and MEMBERS of the Court and forwarded to this HQ together with 6 copies.

11. Copy of 64 SIB report will be forwarded to OC 97 Field Regt RA, under separate cover.

R Thompson
Major, Capt
DAA & QMG.

see 29A

Copy to: DAPM
64 SIB
HQ 2 DISTRICT

23A 24/9/45

26 SEP 1945

8/1 AS

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

Ref. No. 3H/63 /45/13.

23.A.

Subject: Persons Arrested - MURDER.

(a) Pte. [illegible] No.
(b) Pte. [illegible] No.
(c) Corp.Maj. [illegible] Battalion.

All of:- 78 Regt.Infantry, 6th Coy., 2nd Batt.

I N D E X.

No.

Result of report by No.2611/60, Sgt. [illegible], F.	1.
Report by No.2611/60, Sgt. [illegible], F.	2 - 8.
Statement of No.3/6126, Pte. [illegible]	9.
Statement of No.3/6115, Pte. [illegible]	10 - 11.
Statement of No.3/7393, B.S. [illegible]	12 - 13.
Statement of No.3/2343, Sgt. [illegible]	14 - 15.
Statement of [illegible]	16 - 17.
Statement of Sub/Lt. J. [illegible]	18 - 19.
Statement of [illegible]	20 - 21.
Statement of S/Maj. [illegible]	22 - 23.
Statement of Pte. [illegible]	24 - 25.
Statement of [illegible]	26 - 27.
Statement of Pte. [illegible]	28.
Statement of [illegible]	29 - 30.
Statement of [illegible]	31.
Statement of [illegible]	32.
Statement of [illegible]	33 - 34.
Statement of No.3/6126, Cpl. [illegible]	35.
Statement of Corp.Maj. [illegible]	36.
Statement of Cpl. [illegible]	37.
Statement of No.3/6207, Pte. [illegible]	38.
Statement of Capt. [illegible]	39.
Medical Report by Capt. L. [illegible]	40.
Statement of accused Pte. [illegible]	41.
Statement of accused Pte. [illegible]	42. - 43.
Statement of evidence by No.2611/60, Sgt. [illegible], F.	44 - 45.
Sketch plan of scene of crime.	46.

6126

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

Result of report by No.2611760, Sgt. [illegible], P.	1.
Report by No.2611760, Sgt. [illegible], P.	2 - 8.
Statement of No.3641[illegible], Pvt. [illegible] SAB.	9.
Statement of No.[illegible]115, Pte. [illegible] CHIAP.	10 - 11.
Statement of No.[illegible]7393, Pte. [illegible] ANTAO.	12 - 13.
Statement of No.3623[illegible], Sgt. [illegible] R.A.	14 - 15.
Statement of [illegible] Ugo.	16 - 17.
Statement of Sub Lt. J. [illegible].	18 - 19.
Statement of [illegible] R.[illegible].	20 - 21.
Statement of S.[illegible] [illegible] Giovanni.	22 - 23.
Statement of Pte. [illegible] [illegible].	24 - 25.
Statement of [illegible] Pietro.	26.
Statement of Pte. [illegible] [illegible].	27 - 30.
Statement of [illegible] [illegible].	31.
Statement of [illegible] [illegible].	32.
Statement of [illegible] [illegible].	33 - 34.
Statement of No.[illegible], Col. [illegible], R.A.	35.
Statement of Corp.Maj. [illegible] [illegible].	36.
Statement of Cpl. [illegible] Vittorio.	37.
Statement of No.[illegible]7, Pvt. [illegible] [illegible].	38.
Statement of Sgt. [illegible] [illegible].	39. 6126
Medical Report by Capt. [illegible].	40.
Statement of accused Pte. [illegible].	41.
Statement of accused Pte. [illegible].	42. - 43.
Statement of evidence by No.2611760, Sgt. [illegible], P.	44 - 45.
Sketch plan of scene of crime.	46.

33A
see 27A,

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

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

R.A.F.T.R.A.V.E.M.U.N.D.

Ref.No.Alw/64/A/45/CM.

No. 64 Section,
Special Investigation Branch,
Corps of Military Police,
C.M.F.
11th. September, 1945.

S.E.C.R.E.T.

Subject:- Serious Assault. MURDER.

(A) [illegible]
(B) [illegible]
Italian Suspects.
(C) Sergeant GIOVANNI fu BATTISTA.

All of:- 7th Regt. Infantry, 6th Coy. Ind. Att.

Brig. A. Whitfield.

Lt.Col. [illegible]
64 Section, Fields.

Lt.-Col.
No.64 Section,
Special Investigation Branch,
C.M.P. Fulton.

Sir,

I have to report that on Sunday and Monday, 2nd. and 3rd. September, 1945, I arrested accused "A" and "B" on a charge of MURDER. In the case of accused "C" he was reported for Neglect of Duty.

The facts of the case leading up to the arrest of the accused and evidence in support of the charge are contained in the full comprehensive report attached.

At about 1930 hrs. Saturday, 1st. September, 1945, No. 3641[illegible] Pte. [illegible], 1st Indian Armour Corps, was having a joy ride on the swings of a Fairground being held outside 126 Petrol Depot, when for a joke he tapped an Italian girl on the leg with his foot as he was going round, this girl who sat next to him apparently took no objection to this playful act, but when he got down from the swings an Italian soldier who was sat on the other side of her, came up to him and gave him a violent kick on the leg. Other Indian soldiers who were standing nearby saw this act of violence and remonstrated with the Italian soldier, whereupon several other Italian soldiers including the accused "A" and "B" joined in and a fight started. During this fight stones and sub belts were used by both sides.

6125

Accused "A" and "B" were then seen to run to the Petrol Depot, where members of their unit were on guard, accused "A" entered the Guard Room and in the presence of the Guard Commander, accused [illegible], he took a rifle belonging to a member of the guard, he then asked [illegible] for some ammunition, this he refused to give him, he then left the guard room with the rifle, accused [illegible] stated he made no attempt to stop him taking the rifle away.

Distribution.

Brig. A. Whitfield.
Lt.-Col. [illegible]
No. 2 District.
Deputy Judge Advocate (2)
7th Ind. Inf. Bde.
6th Coy. Ind. Att. Regt.
Provost Corps.
Files.

Statements.

Lt. Bilyard

Ref.
Secret.
No. 64 Section, C.I.D.

No.64 Section,
Special Investigation Branch,
G.H.Q. Police.

Sir,

I have to report that on Sunday and Monday, 2nd. and 3rd. September, 1945, I arrested accused "A" and "B" on a charge of Murder. In the case of accused "C" he was reported for Neglect of Duty.

The facts of the case leading up to the arrest of the accused and evidence in support of the charge are contained in the full comprehensive report attached.

PARTICULARS.

At about 1930 hrs. Saturday, 1st. September, 1945, No. 64126 Pte. [redacted], 1/19 Indian Pioneer Corps, was having a joy ride on the swings at a Fairground being held outside 128 Petrol Depot, when for a joke he tapped an Italian girl on the leg with his foot as he was going round, this girl who sat next to him apparently took no objection to this playful act, but when he got down from the swings an Italian soldier who was sat on the other side of her, came up to him and gave him a violent kick on the leg. Other Indian soldiers who were standing nearby saw this act of violence and remonstrated with the Italian soldier, thereupon several other Italian soldiers including the accused "A" and "B" joined in and a fight started. During this fight stones and web belts were used by both sides.

6125

Remarks & Instructions.

G.H.Q. M.P. C.I.D. APO.
M.P. 2 District.
Area Sub. Area (2)
Base.
G.H.Q. APO
Field Cash.
File.

Accused "A" and "B" were then seen to run to the Petrol Depot, where members of their unit were on guard, accused "A" entered the Guard Room and in the presence of the Guard Commander, accused [redacted] took a rifle belonging to a member of the guard, he then asked [redacted] for some ammunition, this he refused to give him, he then left the guard room with the rifle, accused [redacted] stated he made no attempt to stop him taking the rifle away.

Statements.

Both accused "A" and "B" were seen by other members of the guard, inclusive of accused [redacted] and other independent witnesses leaving the Petrol Depot with the rifles, it is not known where accused "B" got his rifle from, those two men were then seen to approach a crowd of Indian soldiers outside the Petrol Depot and start firing at them. The Indian soldiers then ran up the road at the side of the Petrol Depot past the Fairground with the two accused shooting them firing their rifles as they went along. About two hundred yards past the Fairground both the accused were seen to take careful aim with their rifles and fire directly at them, it was at this point that No. 64126 Pte. [redacted], 1/19 Indian Pioneer Corps, was seen to fall to the ground mortally wounded. Accused "A" and "B" then returned to the Petrol Depot with their rifles.

Field.

[signature]
Lt.
for Section, C.I.D.

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

R E S T R I C T E D.

Ref No. 2B/64/A/47/10.

2

No. 64 Section,
Special Investigation Branch,
Corps of Military Police,
C. M. F.

11th. September, 1945.

SUBJECT:- Person(s) Arrested - MURDER.

(A) Pte. ROSSANAI PAOLO di N.N.

(B) Pte. PERUSSA AGOSTINO di PIETRO.

Person Reported.

(C) Serg Major SCATTOLI GIOVANNI fu BATTISTA.

All of:- 7th Regt. Infantry, 6th Coy. 2nd Batt.

Read & Submitted.

D.A.P.M.
No. 64 Section,
Special Investigation Branch,
C.M. Police.

L.J. Bulyard
Captain.
D.A.P.M.
No. 64 Section, S.I.B.

Sir,

I have to report that on Sunday and Monday, 2nd and 3rd September, 1945, I arrested the above named Italian soldiers, with the exception of accused "C", (who is reported) on a charge of:-

(A) & (B) "MURDER. Being jointly concerned together, in that they at Via Della Interna, GENOA, on Saturday, 1st September, 1945, did feloniously kill one - No. 362080, Pnr. RABBIT SINGH, 1416 Indian Pioneer Corps. Contrary to Italian Law.

Distribution.

(C) "NEGLECT OF DUTY. In that he on Saturday, 1st. September, 1945, whilst carrying out the duty of Guard Commander, at 123 Petrol [illegible] did permit accused ROSSANAI (not on duty) to leave the Guard Room with a service rifle on charge to a member of the guard, named, PIRASTRU Franco. Contrary to Italian Military Law."

Report & Statements.

DPM. H.Q. SIB. ADM.
DAH. 2 District.
DAH. 60 Sub Area (2)
No. S.I.B.
O.C. 1416 Indian Pioneer Corps.

Accused (A) & (B) are now under arrest at the Town Guard Room, GENOA, pending trial. In the case of accused (C) he has been handed over to his Commanding Officer, Captain [illegible] to be dealt with.

61/24

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

Person Reported.

(C) Serg Major SCOTUZZI GIOVANNI fu BATTISTA.

All of:- 7th Reg. Infantry, 6th Coy. 2nd Batt.

Read & Submitted.

D.A.P.M.
No. 64 Section,
Special Investigation Branch,
C.M. Police.

Captain.
D.A.P.M.
No. 64 Section, S.I.B.

Sir,

I have to report that on Sunday and Monday, 2nd and 3rd September, 1945, I arrested the above named Italian soldiers, with the exception of accused "C", (who is reported) on a charge of:-

(A) & (B) "MURDER. Being jointly concerned together, in that they at Via Della Laterna, GENOA, on Saturday, 1st September, 1945, did feloniously kill one - No. 352068, Rnr. HARBIT SINGH, 1416 Indian Pioneer Corps. Contrary to Italian Law.

Distribution.

(C) "NEGLECT OF DUTY. In that he on Saturday, 1st. September, 1945, whilst carrying out the duty of Guard Commander, at 128 Patrol [illegible] RANO. did permit accused 7035/MAI (not on duty) to leave the Guard Room with a service rifle on charge to a member of the guard, named, PIRASTRU Franco. Contrary to Italian Military Law."

Report & Statements.

MPH. H.Q. SIB. AFH.
D.P.M. 2 District.
D.A.P.M. 60 Sub Area (2)
JG. S.I.B.
C.O. 1416 Indian Pioneer Corps.
File.

Accused (A) & (B) are now under arrest at the Town Guard Room, GENOA, pending trial. In the case of accused (C) he has been handed over to his Commanding Officer, Captain BERARDINELLI, to be dealt with.

Statements.

From a full investigation carried out by me into this occurrence, the following would appear to be the brief facts of the course of events leading up to the death of HARBIT SINGH, together with the evidence in support of the charges against the accused. Great difficulty has been experienced however in getting anything like a true story on how this trouble started, owing to the animosity existing between the Indian and Italian soldiers, who seem to resent each others presence.

contd/

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

others presence/

At about 1930 hours, on Sunday, 1st. September, 1942, No. J64126, Pioneer [redacted] RAM, 1239 Indian Pioneer Corps, was having a joy ride on the swings, at a fair ground being held outside 128 Petrol Depot, (See diagram "E"), on the seat next to him was an Italian girl and next to her was an Italian soldier, as he was going round [redacted] thought he would have a joke with the girl and tapped her lightly on the leg with his foot, the girl apparently took no objection to this, but when he got off the swings the Italian soldier who was sat next to her came up to him and gave him a violent kick on the leg. Several Indian soldiers who were standing nearby saw this act of violence on the part of the Italian soldier and remonstrated with him, other Italian soldiers then joined in and a fight started, this developed into a stone throwing battle during which it is alleged that civilians fired revolvers into the air to frighten the Indian soldiers away.

Accused [redacted] and [redacted] who were two of the Italian soldiers concerned in the fighting, together with another Italian soldier (unknown) went to the guard room at 128 Petrol Depot, (diagram "E") where members of their unit were on duty. [redacted] was seen to enter the guard room and take a rifle from the rack where members of the guard kept their rifles, he then approached the guard Commander, accused [redacted], to whom he related what was taking place and asked him for five rounds of ammunition. [redacted] told him he could not have any whereupon [redacted] ran out of the guard room taking the rifle with him.

It is not known where accused [redacted] got his rifle from, but he was seen carrying a rifle from the Main Gate of the Petrol Depot (DIAG "G") accompanied by accused [redacted] and the other unknown Italian soldier. The three soldiers then run up the road to the Fairground and on arriving at point "I" on diagram [redacted] and [redacted] were seen to fire their rifles directly at a crowd of Indian soldiers who were standing in a group approximately 100 yards away at point "B" on diagram.

Whilst this was taking place, accused [redacted] who had been summoned from the Guard Room by the sentry at the Main Gate (CANCELLO PRINCIPALE), together with another member of the Guard named [redacted] was approaching No.2 Post (Diag.L) when he saw [redacted] fire his first shot at the Indian soldiers. He shouted to [redacted] to stop but he took no notice of him.

When the Indian soldiers saw accused [redacted] and [redacted] firing at them they started running back along VIA [redacted] in the direction of No.) Post (Diag.K), both the accused followed them up the road firing their rifles as they went along, the other soldier who was with them did not accompany them to this part of the road, it is believed he stopped with the Indian soldiers at the Fairground.

6123

On reaching point "C" on diagram which is about 110 yards from the Fairground, both the accused were seen to stop and

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

Italian soldier (unknown) went to the guard room at 1st Patrol Depot, (diagram "A") where members of their unit were on duty. [redacted] was seen to enter the guard room and take a rifle from the rack where members of the guard kept their rifles, he then approached the guard commander, accused [redacted], to whom he related what was taking place and asked him for five rounds of ammunition. [redacted] told him he could not have any whereupon [redacted] ran out of the guard room taking the rifle with him.

It is not known where accused [redacted] got his rifle from, but he was seen carrying a rifle from the main Gate of the Patrol Depot (DIAG "C") accompanied by accused [redacted] and the other unknown Italian soldier. The three soldiers then ran up the road to the Fairground and on arriving at point "B" on diagram [redacted] and [redacted] were seen to fire their rifles directly at a crowd of Indian soldiers who were standing in a group approximately 100 yards away at point "D" on diagram.

Whilst this was taking place, accused [redacted] who had been summoned from the Guard Room by the sentry at the Main Gate ([redacted]), together with another member of the Guard named [redacted] was approaching No.2 Post (Diag.A) when he saw [redacted] fire his first shot at the Indian soldiers. He shouted to [redacted] to stop but he took no notice of him.

When the Indian soldiers saw accused [redacted] and [redacted] firing at them they started running back along VIA [redacted] in the direction of No.3 Post (Diag.A), both the accused followed them up the road firing their rifles as they went along, the other soldier who was with them did not accompany them to this part of the road, it is believed he stopped with [redacted] soldiers at the Fairground.

6123

On reaching point "C" on diagram which is about 110 yards from the Fairground, both the accused were seen to stop and after taking careful aim, fired at the Indian soldiers who were approx. 115 yards away, RABBIT SINGH was then seen to fall to the ground mortally wounded (DIAG. "E").

At this particular time none of the other Indian soldiers took much notice of RABBIT SINGH, they were more concerned about the two accused, who had continued up the road and had managed to overtake one of them near the railway lines on the right side of the road (DIAG. "E"). Accused [redacted] was in the act of striking this soldier with the butt of his rifle when an officer from 1416 Indian Pioneer Coy. [redacted] arrived on the scene and caught hold of him before he could do any harm to the soldier.

contd/

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

to the soldier./

FIRENZA then pointed the rifle at SUB. BAKHSH and told him to go away, SUB. BAKHSH refused to do so and asked him why he was assaulting this soldier, whereupon FIRENZA struck at him with his fist, but he managed to avoid the blow.

It was at this juncture that SUB. BAKHSH heard someone shout " Shoot all Indian bastards ", on looking to see who shouted he saw accused ROSSANAI standing a few yards away from him with the barrel of his rifle pointed directly at him. SUB BAKHSH then told them that if they wanted to shoot someone they must shoot him, when a voice from the factory marked "F" on diagram shouted " No Sparare, Buono Ufficiale". The identity of this person is not known.

The attention of SUB.BAKHSH was then drawn to the body of NAUBIT SINGH which was lying face downwards on the opposite of the road a short distance in rear of him (Diag.A). It is presumed the two accused followed his gaze for when they saw NAUBIT lying on the ground they turned round and ran back towards the fairground. The whole of this episode between SUB.BAKHSH and the two accused was witnessed by SOLDIER STEFANO who was on sentry duty at No.3 Post.(Diag.B)

SUB.BAKHSH then went across to where NAUBIT was lying,upon examining him he found he had been shot through the chest and was also bleeding from injuries to his face. After detailing two Indian soldiers to guard NAUBIT he ran back to his unit where he detailed two men to return with a lorry and take the injured man to hospital.He afterwards telephoned to the English Military Police.

Whilst this was taking place,accused ROSSANAI returned to the Guard Room with the stolen rifle and handed it to another member of the Guard FIRASTRU FRANCO,when this man examined the rifle he found it was his own,the last time he saw it was when he placed it in the rifle rack in the Guard Room after being relieved at 20.00 hrs.

At 2031 hrs.this date a telephone message was received by 179 Provost Coy.to the effect that a fight had broken out between Indian and Italian soldiers outside 128 Petrol Depot and that both parties were resulting to the use of firearms. On receipt of this message,in company with SGT.BROOKS also of this Section,I went to 128 Petrol Depot where I learned that an Indian Soldier now known to be NAUBIT SINGH had been taken to No.8 (Br) C.C.S. in a serious condition after being shot in this affray. It was later revealed that NAUBIT SINGH was found to be dead on arrival at hospital.

With the assistance of Interpreter MANCINI,attached to 179 Provost Coy.I questioned the Guard Commander,accused SCOTTI, but no useful information could be obtained from him at this time. I then carried out an examination of the Guards rifles and found that three of them had been recently fired,these belonged to SOLDIER DOMENICO,GALACH, NAVARRO and FIRASTRU FRANCO. These men together with accused SCOTTI and witness ROSSI UGO were later taken to my H.Q. for questioning.

I was then approached by No.552195 R.S.M.NEVAL and

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

witnessed by SCOTTI Silvio who was on sentry duty at No.3 Post.(Diag.E)

SUB.BAKISH then went across to where RAUBIT was lying,upon examining him he found he had been shot through the chest and was also bleeding from injuries to his face. After detailing two Indian soldiers to guard RAUBIT he ran back to his unit where he detailed two men to return with a lorry and take the injured man to hospital.He afterwards telephoned to the English Military Police.

Whilst this was taking place,accused ROSSANI returned to the Guard Room with the stolen rifle and handed it to another member of the Guard PINASTRU FRANCO,when this man examined the rifle he found it was his own,the last time he saw it was when he placed it in the rifle rack in the Guard Room after being relieved at 20,00 hrs.

At 2031 hrs.this date a telephone message was received by 179 Provost Coy.to the effect that a fight had broken out between Indian and Italian soldiers outside 128 Petrol Depot and that both parties were resulting to the use of firearms. On receipt of this message,in company with SGT.BRAKS also of this Section,I went to 128 Petrol Depot where I learned that an Indian soldier now known to be RAUBIT SINGH had been taken to No.8 (Br) C.C.S. in a serious condition after being shot in this affray. It was later revealed that RAUBIT SINGH was found to be dead on arrival at hospital.

With the assistance of Interpreter MANCINI,attached to 179 Provost Coy.I questioned the Guard Commander,accused SCOTTI,I, but no useful information could be obtained from him at this time. I then carried out an examination of the Guards rifles and found that three of them had been recently fired,these belonged to Rifle[illegible] 6122 MORESCHI,GALSON, NAVARRO and PINASTRU FRANCO. These man together with accused SCOTTI,I and witness ROSSI UGO were later taken to my H.Q. for questioning.

I was then approached by No.557395 R.S.SANYAL and No.362543 SGT.YAD RAM,both of 1416 Indian Pioneer Corps,they informed me that when the trouble started they were on the Fairground and saw everything that took place. They tried to get the Indian soldiers back to Camp but without success. When both sides started throwing stones they took cover behind the Swings (DIAG."F"),it was from this point that they saw three Italians soldiers leaving the Petrol Depot carrying rifles,as these soldiers drew near to them they noticed that one of them had a beard (this man was later identified as accused ROSSANI),they had also seen this man agitating the other Italians to fight the Indian soldiers.

Contd/

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

to fight the Indian soldiers.

SANIAL and [illegible] to state that when the soldiers reached the Fairground they all had their rifles pointed directly at the Indian soldiers who on seeing them started running up VIA [illegible] in the direction of their Camp. One of the Italian soldiers remained behind at the Fairground whilst accused [illegible] and the other soldier (later identified as accused [illegible]) continued up the road firing their rifles as they went along, directly at the Indian soldiers. Their statements are attached.

Enquiries were continued round the Fairground,but with the exception of witness BATORI [illegible],no additional information could be obtained on the matter. All that BATORI could state was seeing two Italian soldiers armed with rifles chasing the Indian soldiers along VIA [illegible],he could not identify these two soldiers.

On my return to D.[illegible]. I interviewed witness [illegible],who is employed as Interpreter by No.10 Fire Brigade Service,he informed me that when the fight started he also sought safety behind the fixings and made reference to having seen the two Italian soldiers, inclusive of the one with the beard,as referred to by [illegible] and [illegible],firing their rifles directly at the Indian soldiers.

With the assistance of interpreter [illegible] I again closely questioned accused [illegible] respecting the identity of the man with the beard,it was then revealed by [illegible] that this soldier, who is a member of his unit and is known to the men as "[illegible]", entered the Guard Room about 2010 hrs.and took a rifle from the rack in his presence,he further stated that after refusing to give him any ammunition he left the Guard Room with the rifle. When I asked him if he made any attempt to stop this man taking the rifle away he replied,"No".

The other three members of the Guard,[illegible], [illegible] and [illegible] were again questioned and they all admitted having seen accused [illegible] and [illegible] firing their rifles at the Indian soldiers. They could not tell me the names of the accused but they were later identified by them.

On Sunday,2nd.September,1945,I went to No.3 (Br.) C.C.S. and viewed the body of deceased [illegible]. The bullet that killed him had entered the body at the right side of the Sternum bone and had passed clean through the body. Efforts to trace this bullet had negative results. The Medical Report on the examination of the deceased which was carried out by [illegible] is attached.

On this date in company with interpreter [illegible] attached to this Section,I interviewed [illegible] 10th. Infantry Regt.at his H.Q. After making known my identity and the nature of my enquiry,he questioned members of the Guard in my presence as to the identity of the soldier with the beard.From their description he knew the soldier they referred to,he sent for accused [illegible] and handed him over to me,as being the person referred to by them. No questions were put to the accused at this

£121

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

as that when the fight started he also sought safety behind the wings and made reference to having seen the two Italian soldiers, inclusive of the one with the board, as referred to by SANI I and YAS RAM, firing their rifles directly at the Indian soldiers.

With the assistance of Interpreter MANCINI I again closely questioned accused SANTUCCI respecting the identity of the man with the board, it was then revealed by SANTUCCI that this soldier, who is a member of his unit and is known to the men as "BARBIERI", entered the Guard Room about 2010 hrs. and took a rifle from the rack in his presence, he further stated that after refusing to give him any ammunition he left the Guard Room with the rifle. When I asked him if he made any attempt to stop this man taking the rifle away he replied, "No".

The other three members of the Guard, [illegible], GALANTE and PIRASTRU were again questioned and they all admitted having seen accused [illegible] and [illegible] firing their rifles at the Indian soldiers. They could not tell me the names of the accused but they were later identified by them.

On Sunday, 2nd. September, 1945, I went to No.8 (Br.) C.C.S. and viewed the body of deceased MANCINI. The bullet that killed him had entered the body at the right side of the sternum bone and had passed clean through the body. Efforts to trace this bullet had negative results. The Medical Report on the examination of the deceased which was carried out by CAPT. [illegible] is attached.

On this date in company with Interpreter [illegible] attached to this Section, I interviewed CAPT. [illegible] 10th. Infantry Regt. at his H.Q. After making known my identity and the nature of my enquiry, he questioned members of the Guard in my presence as to the identity of the soldier with the beard. From their description he knew the soldier they referred to, he sent for accused [illegible] and handed him over to me, as being the person referred to by them. No questions were put to the accused at this time as I did not consider it in the interest of the case to do so at this stage.

Two other members of the Guard, [illegible] and [illegible] also admitted having seen the two accused chasing the Indian soldiers along Via [illegible] firing their rifles directly at them as they went along. In the case of [illegible], he was on guard duty on No.3 post (D.I.G.M) and had a clear view of all that took place including the incident between the accused [illegible] and [illegible]. The possibility of [illegible] being involved in this shooting was ruled out as it was proved he did not fire his rifle whilst on sentry

Contd/

6121

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

whilst on sentry

he was given five rounds of ammunition prior to going on duty, these he handed back to the Guard Commander on being relieved.

With respect to [redacted] he stated he was reading a paper near the Main Gate when the trouble started, he went along to the Fairground and whilst he was there he saw both the accused running up the road with rifles in their hands. He further stated that as accused [redacted] drew level with him he saw him raise his rifle and point it directly at a crowd of Indian and Italian soldiers standing near the Fairground. He shouted to [redacted] "Are you crazy, there are Italians there", whereupon he tilted the barrel and fired in the air. [redacted] could give no further information as he stated he went back to the Guard Room.

At my H.Q. later this date I interviewed accused [redacted], after verbally cautioning him I asked him if he had been involved in a fight at the Fairground the previous evening. He informed me that he was in a cafe when the trouble started and that on going outside to see what it was all about he was assaulted by five Indian soldiers and that he struck them back in self defence. When I asked him if he had stolen a rifle from the Guard Room at the Patrol Point, he replied in words to the effect that he took it to frighten the Indian soldiers away. To further questioning as to if he fired the rifle at the Indian soldiers near the Fairground the accused replied "No". He did admit however firing two rounds from the rifle as he went out of the gate of the Patrol Depot, he stated this ammunition was given to him by a member of the guard, but he did not know who this person was. He then elected to make a statement, this was taken down in writing under caution by Interpreter [redacted] and he afterwards signed same. (enclosed).

Also on this date I again interviewed accused [redacted] at my H.Q. he too elected to make a statement, this was taken down in writing under caution by Interpreter [redacted] afterwards signing same. (enclosed).

On Monday, 3rd. September, 1945, enquiries were continued at 14th Indian Labour Corps, [redacted] this unit was interviewed by me and with his assistance enquiries were made in the Company with a view to establishing the identity of the other soldiers concerned in this fight, no information was forthcoming at this time, the primary cause of this being due to the fact that quite a number of dialects are spoken by these men which necessitated the use of as many as two and three interpreters to question each man.

At 1900 hrs. this date, in company with Interpreter [redacted] attached to this section, I was making further enquiries at 143 Patrol Depot when I was approached by [redacted] who told me that he had recognised an Italian soldier on the Fairground as being the person who was with accused [redacted] when deceased [redacted] was shot. I immediately accompanied [redacted] to the Fairground and [redacted] pointed out to me two Italian soldiers on the opposite side of the road, [redacted] then pointed to one of these soldiers (now known to be accused [redacted]) being the soldier whom he had stopped from assaulting the Indian soldier with the butt of his rifle.

6120

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

on going outside to see what it was all about he was assaulted by five Indian soldiers and that he struck them back in self defence. When I asked him if he had stolen a rifle from the guard room at the Petrol Point, he replied in words to the effect that he took it to frighten the Indian soldiers away. To further questioning as to if he fired the rifle at the Indian soldiers near the Fairground the accused replied "No". He did admit however firing two rounds from the rifle as he went out of the gate of the Petrol Depot, he stated this ammunition was given to him by a member of the guard, but he did not know who this person was. He then elected to make a statement, this was taken down in writing under caution by Interpreter [illegible] and he afterwards signed same.(Produced)

Also on this date I again interviewed accused [illegible] at my H.Q. he too elected to make a statement, this was taken down in writing under caution by interpreter [illegible] afterwards signing same.(Produced)

On Monday, 3rd. September, 1945, enquiries were continued at 1416 Indian Labour Corps, [illegible] this unit was interviewed by me and with his assistance enquiries were made in the Company with a view to establishing the identity of the other soldiers concerned in this fight, no information was forthcoming at this time, the primary cause of this being due to the fact that quite a number of dialects are spoken by these men which necessitated the use of as many as two and three interpreters to question each man.

At 1900 hrs. this date, in company with Interpreter [illegible] attached to this section, I was making further enquiries at the Petrol Depot when I was approached by [illegible] who told me that he had recognised an Italian soldier on the Fairground as being the person who was with accused [illegible] when deceased [illegible] was shot. I immediately accompanied [illegible] to the Fairground and [illegible] VIA. Nicolo [illegible] I saw two Italian soldiers on the opposite side of the road, [illegible] then pointed to one of these soldiers (now known to be accused [illegible]) as being the soldier whom he had stopped from assaulting the Indian soldier with the butt of his rifle.

With the assistance of interpreter [illegible] I questioned [illegible] and he admitted being the soldier whom [illegible] spoke to on the night in question, but he denied assaulting the Indian soldier with the butt of his rifle, he stated he was in the act of stopping another Italian soldier from doing so, he could not tell me who this soldier was. At this time witness [illegible] who was passing in a vehicle stopped and told me this was the man (pointing to accused [illegible]) that he had seen with accused [illegible] when they fired at the Indian soldiers. I detained accused [illegible] at the Town Guard Room, Cumae, pending the results of my investigations.

Cont/

6120

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

pending the results of my investigations.

On Tuesday, 4th. September, 1945, I again made enquiries at 1446 Indian Pioneer Corps, with the assistance of SUB. BAKISH I questioned several men who were thought to have been concerned in the fighting, but with the exception of one man, witness DULI CHAND, none of the others apparently saw anything. In the case of DULI CHAND he stated he saw an Indian Corporal from 1239 Company standing with an Italian girl on the Fairground, when an Italian soldier approached the girl and tried to get her away from the Indian Corporal, a fight started between these two men and others joined in. DULI later picked out a Corporal from 1239 Company as being the person referred to by him, when this man was questioned, it was proved he was on duty in the Camp on the night in question, and at the time when DULI stated he saw him on the Fairground he was actually in conversation with two Officers in his billet. The statement of DULI should be treated with the utmost reserve.

Witness VARIO PIETRO who was also on guard duty at 128 Petrol Depot was again questioned by me this date, he admitted firing two shots from his rifle to frighten the Indian soldiers away, but was very reluctant to give any other information, I had this man detained at the Town Guard Room, as it was thought possible that he too had been involved in the shooting of the deceased. After completing my investigations I again questioned this man and he admitted he had not told me the truth as the two accused were friends of his and he did not want to get them in trouble, he went on to tell me that he was standing near the oil drums in the Petrol Depot (PLAN.J) and saw the two accused fire several shots directly at the Indian soldiers. He also saw them chase the Indian soldiers past the Fairground firing as they went along. His statement to this effect is attached.

Also on this date I interviewed witness BARTOLINI ROMANO, 5th. Coy, 7th Regt. Infantry, this man was standing near the Booths on the Fairground (PLAN.C) and saw accused PORCHAI firing his rifle directly at the Indian soldiers in VIA DELLA LANTERNA, he could give no information about accused PERODDA as he stated his view was obstructed by the Booths on the corner (PLAN.B).

On Wednesday, 5th. September, 1945, I received information from CAPT. S. BARDINELLI that accused PERODDA was a deserter from the 7th. Regt. Infantry, (Artillery Coy.), VERONA, also that he was a very dangerous character. This information was duly passed on to the NCO i/c, Town Guard Room, Genoa.

No. 4/689629 Cpl. SMITH, 128 Petrol Depot, was interviewed by me on Thursday, 6th. September, 1945, this NCO stated that he saw the fighting between the Indian and Italian soldiers at the Fairground and as he was making his way back to his Office to summon the Military Police he saw several Italian soldiers leaving the Main Gate of the Petrol Depot carrying rifles, he stated he could not recognise these soldiers again.

Additional enquiries were made in and around

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

Witness VARFO PIETRO who was also on guard duty at 128 Petrol Depot was again questioned by me this date, he admitted firing two shots from his rifle to frighten the Indian soldiers away, but was very reluctant to give any other information, I had this man detained at the Town Guard Room, as it was thought possible that he too had been involved in the shooting of the deceased. After completing my investigations I again questioned this man and he admitted he had not told me the truth as the two accused were friends of his and he did not want to get them in trouble, he went on to tell me that he was standing near the oil drums in the Petrol Depot (DIAG.J) and saw the two accused fire several shots directly at the Indian soldiers. He also saw them chase the Indian soldiers past the Fairground firing as they went along. His statement to this effect is attached.

Also on this date I interviewed witness BARTOLINI [illegible], 5th. Coy, 7th Regt. Infantry, this man was standing near the Booths on the Fairground (DIAG.C) and saw accused [illegible] firing his rifle directly at the Indian soldiers in VIA DELLA LANTERNA, he could give no information about accused [illegible] as he stated his view was obstructed by the Booths on the corner (DIAG.D).

On Wednesday, 5th. September, 1945, I received information from CAPT. [illegible] that accused [illegible] was a deserter from the 7th. Regt. Infantry, (Artillery Coy.) VERONA, also that he was a very dangerous character. This information was duly passed on to the NCO i/c, Town Guard Room, Genoa.

No. 3/689629 Cpl. SMITH, 128 Petrol Depot, was interviewed by me on Thursday, 6th. September, 1945, this NCO stated that he saw the fighting between the Indian and Italian soldiers at the Fairground and as he was making his way back to his office to summons the Military Police he saw several Italian soldiers leaving the Main Gate of the Petrol Depot carrying rifles. He stated he could not recognise these soldiers again.

Additional enquiries were made in and around the Petrol Depot for any other person who witnessed this occurrence, no information could be gained from these enquiries.

On Friday, 7th. September, 1945, in company with Interpreter [illegible] I interviewed [illegible] and [illegible] at the Town Guard Room. After verbally cautioning them I charged them with being jointly concerned together, in that they between 2000 hrs. and 2015 hrs. Saturday, 1st. September, 1945, they did unlawfully kill No. 962088 Pnr. MANSIT SINGH, 1446 Indian Pioneer Corps. The accused made no reply.

Contd.

C119

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

The accused made no reply

I then asked accused PIROGNA if he wished to make a statement and he replied, "Yes". This was taken down in writing under caution by Interpreter [illegible], he afterwards signed same (produced). In this statement the accused admits being one of the soldiers concerned in the fighting, but he stated he was injured in this first encounter with the Indian soldiers and that before the firing took place he was assisted to the M.I.Room of the 70th.Regt. Infantry, where he was attended to by two Corporals. After receiving treatment he went back to the Fairground where he saw several Partisans with Tommy Guns firing directly at a crowd of Indian soldiers standing in VIA BELLA LATTARIA, he went on to state about the episode with SUB.BAKHSH. Quite obviously this statement is a whole fabrication of lies, as in the first place when I interviewed the two Medical Corporals, PANNILARONI and MARCUSO, they informed me that accused PIROGNA whom they knew very well, did not enter their M.I.Room until 2240 hrs. They were certain about the time as it was dark when he came in, this means that he did not leave the Fairground until the Military Police arrived. In the second instant if Partisans had been firing Tommy Guns at a crowd of Indian soldiers a large number would have undoubtably have been killed or wounded. Enquiries have been made with respect to these allegations but without result.

It is most interesting to note that all the witnesses in this case have stated that none of the Indian soldiers were seen in possession of firearms and that when the two accused chased them along VIA BELLA LATTARIA, there were no other persons between them or the Indian soldiers. When the two accused fired their last shots at point "C" on diagram, there were no other persons within 400 yards to the rear of them, this rules out the possibility of any other person having fired the shot which killed deceased MAUBIT. The theory that MAUBIT might possibly have been shot from the opposite direction is also ruled out as only Indian soldiers were on this part of the road.

From the position of the body of deceased, when first seen by SUB.BAKHSH, (See Photograph Exh.2.), it is clear that the impact of the bullet had forced the body to turn round before falling to the ground, this would account for the injuries to the chin and mouth.

The rifle (No.12572) which was used by accused PORGNAI is now at this Office. I took possession of this rifle when I examined the rifles of the Guard on the night in question.

No information could be obtained as to where accused PIROGNA got his rifle, although evidence tends to suggest he also obtained this from the Guard Room, at the Petrol Depot.

Statements of all persons referred to in this report are attached, together with the statement of SUB.Dik SAHIB SINGH, who identified the body of deceased MAUBIT.

6118

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

well,did not enter their M.I.Room until 2240 hrs. They were certain about the time as it was dark when he came in,this means that he did not leave the Fairground until the Military Police arrived. In the second instant if Partisans had been firing Tommy Guns at a crowd of Indian soldiers a large number would have undoubtably have been killed or wounded.Enquiries have been made with respect to these allegations but without result.

It is most interesting to note that all the witnesses in this case have stated that none of the Indian soldiers were seen in possession of firearms and that when the two accused chased them along VIA BARRA LANTERNA,there were no other persons between them or the Indian soldiers. When the two accused fired their last shots at point "C" on diagram,there were no other persons within 100 yards to the rear of them,this rules out the possibility of any other person having fired the shot which killed deceased NAUBIT. The theory that NAUBIT might possibly have been shot from the opposite direction is also ruled out as only Indian soldiers were on this part of the road.

From the position of the body of deceased,when first seen by SUB.RAKHSH,(See Photograph No.2.), it is clear that the impact of the bullet had forced the body to turn round before falling to the ground,this would account for the injuries to the chin and mouth.

The rifle (No.15572) which was used by accused POSSENTI is now at this office. I took possession of this rifle when I examined the rifles of the Guard on the night in question.

No information could be obtained as to where accused PIRODDA got his rifle,although evidence tends to suggest he also obtained this from the Guard Room,at the Petrol Depot.

Statements of all persons referred to in this report are attached,together with the statement of SUB.JEMADAR SADHU SINGH, who identified the body of deceased,NAUBIT.

A detailed plan of the scene of the crime,drawn to scale by Cpl,STAMMERS,219 Works Section,R.E., is also attached.

Respectfully submitted.

Field. F.PAYNE. A/Capt.
A/STAFF CAPT.
No.64 Special Investigation Branch.

£118

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

1239, Indian Pioneer Coy.

STATEMENT OF :- N° 364126, Pnr. SHIMMA RAD,
1239 (Indian Coy.) Indian Pnr. Camp.

WHO STATES :-

At about 20.00 hours Saturday 1st September 1945, I was on the swings at the Fair Ground which was being held just outside the Petrol Depot. On the swing next to me was an Italian girl and in the swing next to her was an Italian soldier. While we were going round I tapped the girl with my foot just in form of a joke, she did not seem to take objection to this.

As I got down from the swing, the Italian soldier who was sitting next to me came to me and gave me a kick on the leg. There was a number of other soldiers from my Company and 1416 Coy standing near by, and they started to fight this Italian soldier. Several other Italian soldiers and civilians then joined in the fight. I became frightened and ran away back to my Camp.

When I got near to the gate of my billet I heard several rifle shots being fired but I did not take any notice of them.

I have nothing further to add to this statement, it has been read over to me by B.RANGANATH, and is true. I cannot identify the Italian soldier or woman.

Signed: SHIMMA RAD.

I certify the above statement is a true translation from Indian into English of what Pnr.SHIMMA RAD stated.

Signed: B. RANGANATH 6117 W.O.

Statement taken and signature witnessed by Sgt. F. PAYNE, 64, SIB. on Friday,

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

I was going round I tapped the girl with my foot just in form of a joke, she did not seem to take objection to this.

As I got down from the swing, the Italian soldier who was sitting next to me came to me and gave me a kick on the leg. There was a number of other soldiers from my Company and 1416 Coy standing near by, and they started to fight this Italian soldier. Several other Italian soldiers and civilians then joined in the fight. I became frightened and ran away back to my Camp.

When I got near to the gate of my billet I heard several rifle shots being fired but I did not take any notice of them.

I have nothing further to add to this statement, it has been read over to me by B.RANGANATH, and is true. I cannot identify the Italian soldier or woman.

Signed: SHIMMA RAD.

I certify the above statement is a true translation from Indian into English of what Pnr.SHIMMA RAD stated.

Signed: B. RANGANATH 6117 W.O.

Statement taken and signature witnessed by Sgt. F. PAYNE, 64, SIB. on Friday, 7th September 1945.

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

10/

1416 Company,
Indian Pioneer Corps.

STATEMENT OF :- Nº 362115
Pte. DULI CHAND
1416 Camp. Indian Pioneer Corps.

WHO STATES:-

At about 20.00 hours Saturady, 1st September 1945, I was on my own at the Fair Ground near the 128 Petrol Depot watching people on the stall where the swings were. About four yards away from me I saw a Corporal from the 1239 Indian Pioneer Coy. I do not know his name but I could recognise him again if I saw him, he was speaking to an Italian girl, I do not know this girl; but I have seen her with this Corporal on two previous occasions.

While the girl and the Corporal were conversing together I saw an Italian soldier approach the girl and start arguing with her, the girl then walked away, it seemed to me she did not want to have anything to do with the Italian soldier, suddenly this soldier caught hold of her arm and started to pull the girl against her will in the opposite direction. I then saw the Indian Corporal catch hold of the Italian soldier's arm to prevent him interfering with the girl, when another Italian soldier walked up to the Indian Corporal and hit him at the side of his neck with a webb belt.

This started a fight and several other Indian soldiers and Italian soldiers joined in, inclusive of a number of civilians, they all started throwing stones at the Indian soldiers. I together with a number of other Indian soldiers started running along the road at the side of the Petrol Depot in the direction of our Camp. On looking back towards the Fair Ground I saw two Italian soldier running up the road towards us carrying rifles, when about 50 or 60 yards from us they started firing at us, I heard several shots whine past me so I threw myself flat on the railway lines at the side of the road.

6116

I then heard several rifle shots which appeared to have been fired by the sentries inside the Petrol Depot. While I was lying on the railway lines I had a clear view of both Italian soldiers who were standing on the road firing at us, one of them had

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

I have seen her with this Corporal on two previous occasions.

While the girl and the Corporal were conversing together I saw an Italian soldier approach the girl and start arguing with her, the girl then walked away, it seemed to me she did not want to have anything to do with the Italian soldier, suddenly this soldier caught hold of her arm and started to pull the girl against her will in the opposite direction. I then saw the Indian Corporal catch hold of the Italian soldier's arm to prevent him interfering with the girl, when another Italian soldier walked up to the Indian Corporal and hit him at the side of his neck with a webb belt.

This started a fight and several other Indian soldiers and Italian soldiers joined in, inclusive of a number of civilians, they all started throwing stones at the Indian soldiers. I together with a number of other Indian soldiers started running along the road at the side of the Petrol Depot in the direction of our Camp. On looking back towards the Fair Ground I saw two Italian soldier running up the road towards us carrying rifles, when about 50 or 60 yards from us they started firing at us, I heard several shots whine past me so I threw myself flat on the railway lines at the side of the road.

I then heard several rifle shots which appeared to have been fired by the sentries inside the Petrol Depot. While I was lying on the railway lines I had a clear view of both Italian soldiers who were standing on the road firing at us, one of them had a beard and the other had black hair that was sticking up straight in Golly wog fashion, this soldier also had a tooth missing at the front. The two Italian soldiers by this time were getting closer to me so I got up and ran an along the railway lines and made my way back to my billet.

I did not see anything further take place after this. When the two Italian soldiers chased us along the road there were no other person between them and us, neither were there any person immediately in rear of the two Italian.

ctnd/.

6116

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

person immediately in/

rear of the two Italian soldiers. I think I could recognise these two men again if I saw them. Apart from the Indian Corporal I do not know who the other Indian soldiers were as they were from a different Company to me. I did not see any of the Indian soldiers with firearms. I have nothing further to add to this statement, it has been read over to me by Lub. J. BAKHSH, and it is the truth.

Signed: DULI CHAND.

I certify the above to be a true translation from Indian into English of what Pte. DULI CHAND has stated.

Signed: J.BAKHSH. Lub.

Statement taken and signature witnessed by Sgt. F. PAYNE, 64 S.I.B. on Wednesday 5th September, 1945.

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

12

1416 INDIAN PIONEER COY.

STATEMENT OF: -

No. 557395 B/S SANYAL
1416 Indian Pioneer Coy.

WHO STATES: -

I am Sergeant Clerk in the above unit to which I was posted two years previously. At about 2000 hrs., Saturday, 1st September, 1945 I was standing at the corner of a small road which runs between Via Sampierdarena and the road where the Petrol Depot is situated, watching various amusements at a Fair Ground, I was accompanied by a Sergeant from my unit named HAVILDAR YADRAM, when suddenly I heard several people shouting in the centre of the adjoining stree, on looking to see what the cause of the trouble was I saw several Indian soldiers being attached by several Italian soldiers and civilians who were using leather belts and hitting the Indian soldiers with them, I then saw the Indian soldiers take off their belts to defend themselves. Together with Sgt. YADRAM we went across to the Indian soldiers and told them to go back to their Camp, the soldiers were about to go back to their Camp when some of the civilians started throwing stones at them, I shouted to the civilians not to throw stones but they took no notice of me. I then saw several Indian soldiers retaliate by throwing stones. I realesed it was impossible for me to do anything to stop the fight so with Sgt. YADRAM we took cover behind the big stall with swings which was situated on the corner, also taking cover behind these swings was an Italian soldier with a badge on his arm bearing the words "Army Fire Service". I said to him "Can you do anything to stop this fighting?" and he replied in English: "As your fellows have started the fight you had better stop them". I told him it was too serious for me to try and stop. I then saw three Italian soldiers running towards the Main Gate of the Petrol Depot, I did not pay much attention to them but a few minutes later they returned carrying rifles, they ran past where we were standing with the barrels of the rifles pointed towards a crowd of Indian soldiers who were standing near the barbed wire fence of the Petrol Depot at the junction of the small road which adjoins Sampierdarena. When the three Italian soldiers passed me I saw that one of them had a beard, this man was shouting encouragement to the other two men. I then saw these three soldiers open fire on the Indian soldiers with their rifles, the Indian soldiers being unarmed ran back along the road to their Camp, with the three Italian soldiers running in pursuit. By this time the Italian civilians had taken cover

6114

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

in the centre of the adjoining stree, on looking to see what the cause of the trouble was I saw several Indian soldiers being attacked by several Italian soldiers and civilians who were using leather belts and hitting the Indian soldiers with them. I then saw the Indian soldiers take off their belts to defend themselves. Together with Sgt. YADRAM we went across to the Indian soldiers and told them to go back to their Camp, the soldiers were about to go back to their Camp when some of the civilians started throwing stones at them, I shouted to the civilians not to throw stones but they took no notice of me. I then saw several Indian soldiers retaliate by throwing stones. I realesed it was impossible for me to do anything to stop the fight so with Sgt. YADRAM we took cover behind the big stall with swings which was situated on the corner, also taking cover behind these swings was an Italian soldier with a badge on his arm bearing the words "Army Fire Service". I said to him "Can you do anything to stop this fighting?" and he replied in English: "As your fellows have started the fight you had better stop them". I told him it was too serious for me to try and stop. I then saw three Italian soldiers running towards the Main Gate of the Petrol Depot, I did not pay much attention to them but a few minutes later they returned carrying rifles, they ran past where we were standing with the barrels of the rifles pointed towards a crowd of Indian soldiers who were standing near the barbed wire fence of the Petrol Depot at the junction of the small road which adjoins Sampierdarena. When the three Italian soldiers passed me I saw that one of them had a beard, this man was shouting encourragement to the other two men. I then saw these three soldiers open fire on the Indian soldiers with their rifles, the Indian soldiers being unarmed ran back along the road to their Camp, with the three Italian soldiers running in pursuit. By this time the Italian civilians had taken cover round the various stalls in the Fair Ground, the only persons on the main road running alongside the Petrol Depot, were the Indian soldiers and the three Italian soldiers, there were no persons standing on the road between them. I followed the three Italian soldiers along the road about ten yards in rear of them.

contd/

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

in rear of them./.....

The three Italian soldiers continued shooting directly at the fleeing Indian soldiers, I followed the soldiers for about 100 yards and then I turned back as I was frightened the Italian soldiers would turn round and start firing at me. When I reached the Fair Ground again I saw an English Sergeant and he told me the Military Police would soon arrive. A short while later the Police arrived and I was questioned by a Police Sergeant whom I now know to be Sgt. F. Payne, 64 S.I.S. who took my particulars. At about 1900 hrs. Monday, 3rd September 1945, I was travelled along the road by the Petrol Depot when I saw SOB/LI BARHSH and Sgt. PAYNE, talking to one of the three Italian soldiers whom I saw firing at the Indian soldiers. Sgt. PAYNE arrested this man. I have nothing further to add to this statement, it has been read over to me and is true.

Signed.. B.S. SANYAL.

Statement taken and signature witnessed by Sgt. F. Payne, 64 S.I.S. on Tuesday, 4th September, 1945.

6113

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

14

1416 Coy.
Indian Pioneer.

STATEMENT OF: - No. 362343 Sgt. YAD RAM.
1416 Coy. Indian Pioneer Corps.

WHO STATES: -

At about 2000 hrs. Saturday, 1st September, 1945, I was standing near the swings on the Fair Ground outside the 128 Petrol Depot. At this time I was in company with Chief Clerk B/S SANYAL, when suddenly we heard an argument taking place nearby between several other Indian soldiers and Italian soldiers. On looking across to see what was wrong I saw several of the Italian soldiers about to strike the Indian soldiers with their belts, some civilians also started to join in the fight against the Indian soldiers. The Indian soldiers retaliated by taking off their belts. Together with B.S. SANYAL, we went across to the Indian soldiers and told them to go back to camp, as they were about to walk away, the Italian soldiers and civilians started to throw stones at them. During this affray I took particular notice of an Italian soldier with a beard, he seemed to be aggitating the other people fighting the Indian soldiers. By this time the fight was getting out of control, so SANYAL and myself took cover behind the swings on the corner of the small road which adjoins Sampierdarena and the road outside the Petrol Depot. While we were behind the swings we saw an Italian soldier with a badge on his arm with the words "Fire Fighting Service". B/S SANYAL asked this man if he could do anything to stop the fight, I do not know what he told SANYAL as he spoke in English, I do not understand English, this man made no attempt to stop the Italian soldiers from fighting. Just at this time I saw three Italian soldiers running along the road from the entrance to the Petrol Depot, they were all carrying rifles, as they passed me I saw one of them was the soldier with a beard that I had previously seen aggitating the Italian soldiers to fight the Indian soldiers they all had their rifles barrels pointed towards a group of Indian soldiers who were standing in the centre of the road outside the Petrol Depot. The indian soldier on seeing these three men with rifles ran along the road towards their Camp with the three men in pursuit. When the Italian soldiers, were about 50 or 60 yds from the

G12

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

what was wrong I saw several of the Italian soldiers about to strike the Indian soldiers with their belts, some civilians also started to join in the fight against the Indian soldiers. The Indian soldiers retaliated by taking off their belts. Together with B.S. SANYAL, we went across to the Indian soldiers and told them to go back to camp, as they were about to walk away, the Italian soldiers and civilians started to throw stones at them. During this affray I took particular notice of an Italian soldier with a beard, he seemed to be aggitating the other people fighting the Indian soldiers. By this time the fight was getting out of control, so SANYAL and myself took cover behind the swings on the corner of the small road which adjoins Sampierdarena and the road outside the Petrol Depot. While we were behind the swings we saw an Italian soldier with a badge on his arm with the words "Fire Fighting Service". B/S SANYAL asked this man if he could do anything to stop the fight, I do not know what he told SANYAL as he spoke in English, I do not understand English, this man made no attempt to stop the Italian soldiers from fighting. Just at this time I saw three Italian soldiers running along the road from the entrance to the Petrol Depot, they were all carrying rifles, as they passed me I saw one of them was the soldier with a beard that I had previously seen aggitating the Italian soldiers to fight the Indian soldiers they all had their rifles barrels pointed towards a group of Indian soldiers who were standing in the centre of the road outside the Petrol Depot. The indian soldier on seeing these three men with rifles ran along the road towards their Camp with the three men in pursuit. When the Italian soldiers, were about 50 or 60 yds from the Indian soldiers they started firing at them with their rifles. B/S SANYAL and myself then followed behind the three Italian soldiers to see what was taking place, it was during this period that I heard several other rifle shots which appeared to come from inside the Petrol Depot. As they went along the road I saw one of the Italian soldiers with the rifle go back into the Fair Ground but the remaining two soldiers inclusive of the man with the beard continued on after the Indian soldiers firing their rifles as they went. We followed these two soldiers along the road for a short distance and then we turned round and came back as we were frightened the Italian soldiers would turn round and see

contd/

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

round and see/.....

us and start firing at us. There were no other persons on this road only the two Italian soldiers and the Indian soldiers and ourselves, the remainder were waiting along the road at the side of the Fair Ground. After the firing ceased I saw these two Italian soldiers run back along the road and go in the direction of the gate leading to the Petrol Depot. After a few minutes the English Military Police, arrived and with the assistance of B/S SANYAL I related to a Military Police Sergeant what had happened. I have nothing futther to add to this statement. It has been read over to me by SCB/BAKHSH and is true.

Signed.. YAD RAM Sgt.

I certify the above statement is a true translation from Indian into English of what Sgt.YAD RAM has stated.

Signed. SCB/J. BAKHSH.

Statement taken and signature witnessed by Sgt. F. DAYNE, 64 S.I.B. on Wednesday, 5th September, '45.

G1119

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

16

No. 64 Section, S.I.B.
C.M. Police.

STATEMENT OF :- ROSSE UGO di ANTONIO,
10th Fire Brigade,
151 , Fire Fighting Ccy.

WHO STATES :-

I am a Dr.employed by the 10th Fire Brigade Srvice. At approx. 20.00 hours Saturday, 1st September, 1945, I was just about to leave my billet which was near 128 Petrol Depot, when I heard the sounds of several rifle shots being fired, these appeared to come from the direction of 128 Petrol Depot.

I ran to an adjoining road leading to the Petrol Depot where a Fair was being held. I saw a crowd of Indian soldiers in the centre of the road outside the barbed wire fence of the Petrol Depot, several of the Indian soldiers were throwing stones at some Italian soldiers and civilians who were standing about fifty yards away from them.

My attention was then drawn to four Italian soldiers who were running along the road carrying rifles, they appeared to have come from the Main Gate of the Petrol Depot. As they passed where I was standing I saw that one of them had a beard and another had black hair sticking up straight, these two men chased the Indian soldiers up the road past the Fair Ground, the other two soldiers stopped near me and fired their rifles in the air.

6110

I then saw the Italian soldier with a beard and the soldier with black hair fire their rifles directly at the retreating Indian soldiers.

At this time I saw an Indian Sergeant and a Private standing a few yards from me so I went across to them and asked them to get their men back to Camp

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

shots being fired, these appeared to come from the direction of 126 Petrol Depot.

I ran to an adjoining road leading to the Petrol Depot where a Fair was being held. I saw a crowd of Indian soldiers in the centre of the road outside the barbed wire fence of the Petrol Depot, several of the Indian soldiers were throwing stones at some Italian soldiers and civilians who were standing about fifty yards away from them.

My attention was then drawn to four Italian soldiers who were running along the road carrying rifles, they appeared to have come from the Main Gate of the Petrol Depot. As they passed where I was standing I saw that one of them had a beard and another had black hair sticking up straight, these two men chased the Indian soldiers up the road past the Fair Ground, the other two soldiers stopped near me and fired their rifles in the air.

6110

I then saw the Italian soldier with a beard and the soldier with black hair fire their rifles directly at the retreating Indian soldiers.

At this time I saw an Indian Sergeant and a Private standing a few yards from me so I went across to them and asked them to get their men back to Camp to prevent bloodshed, he spoke to me in English and said, "No, we want to see the Italian Officer." I paid no more attention to this man as I was more concerned with what was taking place between the two Italian soldiers who I had seen running after the Indian soldiers.

On looking along the road,

otnd./

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

along the road,/

about 100 yds away I saw the Italian soldier with the beard raise his rifle and fire two or three shots directly at the Indian soldiers, a few yards away from him was the soldier with black hair, he was also firing his rifle. Two or three minutes later I saw both these men come running back along the road towards me, I went up to the man with the beard and told him to go back to the Depot, the last I saw of these two men they were walking towards the Main Gate of the Petrol Depot.

I can recognise both these men if I saw them again. During the whole of this affray I did not see any Indian soldiers with firearms, the only persons I saw with them were the Italian Guard from the Petrol Depot, and one civilian who had a revolver in his hand, I saw this civilian fire a whole maggazine into the air from near the Swings.

On looking along the road towards the Indian soldiers Camp, I saw a crowd of Indian soldier standing round something on the road. I could not see what was wrong, a few minuets leter I saw a lorry pass me, on looking into the rear of it I saw a soldier lying in the back of it. I did not see what happened after this.

I have nothing further to add to this statement, it has been read over to me and it is true.

Sgd.: MOSSE UGO.

Statement taken and signature witnessed by Sgt. F. PAYNE, 64 Section S.I.B., on Tuesday, 3rd September, 1945.

6109

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

1416 Coy.
Indian Pioneer.

STATEMENT OF: Sob/Lt J. BAKHSH
1416 Indian Pioneer Coy.

WHO STATES: -

I am Officer i/c No.3 Platoon of the above unit. At about 2020 hrs. Saturday, 1st September, 1945, I was in the billet of my unit which is in rear of the 128 Petrol Depot when I heard the sounds of rifles shots being fired, they appeared to have come from the direction of the main road outside the Petrol Depot. I went outside the billet and on looking towards the Petrol Depot, I saw several Indian soldiers (from 1239 Coy.) running along the main road in the direction of their Camp. Immediately in rear of these soldiers I saw two or three Italian soldiers who were carrying rifles the muzzle of which were pointing directly at the Indian soldiers, the butts of the rifles were resting underneath their right armpit. I immediately ran to the scene and at a point at the side of the railway lines(which runs alongside the road) about ten yards to the right of the tall factory chimney I saw one of the Italian soldiers about to hit an Indian soldier with the butt of his rifle. I ran up to him and caught hold of his arm before he could do any harm to the Indian soldier and I asked him why he was hitting my man, he then turned on me and pointing his rifle at me he said, "Passa di la", which I knew meant "Go away". He then tried to strike me with his fist but I closed with him and stopped him. At this time several civilians shouted to this soldier from the side of the factory and I heard them say "No sparare, buono Ufficiale" the soldier then shouted "Non importa". About ten yards in rear of where I was talking to this soldier, I saw another Italian soldier with a beard, this man also had his rifle pointed in my direction with the butt resting underneath his right armpit, I heard this man shout "Shoot all the Indian, bastardo". My attention was then drawn to another Indian soldier who was lying on the ground a few yards to the rear of where I was standing and at a point about two feet from the barbed wire fence of the Petrol Depot, I think the two Italian soldiers saw this man lying on the ground also because they turned round and ran back towards the Fair Ground. I then ran across to where this Indian soldier was lying, I examined him and found he was bleeding from wounds in the chest and face. I listed his pulse but could detect no sign of life. I ordered two Indian soldiers to guard this man and I ran back

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

running along the main road in the direction of their Camp. Immediately in rear of these soldiers I saw two or three Italian soldiers who were carrying rifles the muzzle of which were pointing directly at the Indian soldiers, the butts of the rifles were resting underneath their right armpit. I immediately ran to the scene and at a point at the side of the railway lines(which runs alongside the road) about ten yards to the right of the tall factory chimney I saw one of the Italian soldiers about to hit an Indian soldier with the butt of his rifle. I ran up to him and caught hold of his arm before he could do any harm to the Indian soldier and I asked him why he was hitting my man, he then turned on me and pointing his rifle at me he said, "Passa di la", which I knew meant "Go away". He then tried to strike me with his fist but I closed with him and stopped him. At this time several civilians shouted to this soldier from the side of the factory and I heard them say "No sparare, buono Ufficiale" the soldier then shouted "Non importa". About ten yards in rear of where I was talking to this soldier, I saw another Italian soldier with a beard, this man also had his rifle pointed in my direction with the butt resting underneath his right armpit, I heard this man shout "Shoot all the Indian, bastardo". My attention was then drawn to another Indian soldier who was lying on the ground a few yards to the rear of where I was standing and at a point about two feet from the barbed wire fence of the Petrol Depot, I think the two Italian soldiers saw this man lying on the ground also because they turned round and ran back towards the Fair Ground. I then ran across to where this Indian soldier was lying, I examined him and found he was bleeding from wounds in the chest and face. I listed his pulse but could detect no sign of life. I ordered two Indian soldiers to guard this man and I ran back to my billet where I telephoned to the English Military Police and arranged to have one of our vehicles take the wounded soldier to Hospital. On Monday, 3rd September, 1945 I was passing alongside the Fair Ground near the Petrol Depot when I saw the same Italian soldier who I stopped from using the butt of his rifle on one of my men. I went to the Petrol Depot where I saw an English Military Police Sergeant whom I knew to be Sgt.F.PAYNE, 64 S.I.B. In company with Sgt. PAYNE we returned to the Fair Ground and on entering Via Sampierdarena I saw this same Italian soldier walking along the road in the direction of the Main Dock Gate. I pointed this man out to Sgt. PAYNE. This soldier whom I now know to be PIROTTA Agostino was questioned by Sgt. PAYNE

Contd/

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

questioned by Sgt. PAYNE/.....

and he admitted being the man I spoke to on Saturday evening 1st inst. Sgt. PAYNE arrested him. I have nothing further to add to this statement it has been read over to me and is true.

Signed. Sob/li J. BAKHSH.

Statement taken and signature witnessed by Sgt. F. PAYNE, 64 S.I.B. on Tuesday, 4th September, 1945.

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

20

6th S.I.B.
8th. Police.

STATEMENT OF :- DATURI RAIMONDO di N.N.,
Via Fr. Ansani N° 4-10,
GE-SAMPIERDARENA.

WHO STATES :-

I am a Tinsmith and reside with my wife and family at the above address. At about 2000 hrs. Saturday, 1st September, 1945, I was standing near the fair ground outside the English Petrol Depot watching the small electric cars going round, when I heard some people arguing in the small road in between the Fair Ground.

On looking to see what the cause of the trouble was, I saw several Indian and Italian soldiers fighting in the road, I noticed the Indian soldiers had taken off their belts and were hitting the Italian soldiers with them, quite a lot civilians also joined in the fight. The fight then turned into stone throwing by all parties civilians included so I took cover behind the swings on the corner of the junction.

A few minutes later I heard several rifle shots being fired and on looking round the side of the swings I saw two Italian soldiers running up the main road by the petrol Depot with rifles pointed directly at a crowd of Indian soldiers. I did see them fore their rifles but after they had gone out of sight up the road I heard several rifle shots which appeared to come from the direction of where I had seen the 2 Italian soldiers running.

6106

I then considered it wasrather dangerous to stop there so I left and returned to my house. I only saw a back view, of the soldiers' faces so I cannot identify them, but they only appeared to be short fellows. I have nothing further to add to this statement it has been read over to me and it is true.

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

Petrol Depot passing the small electric cars going round, when I heard some people arguing in the small road in between the Fair Ground.

On looking to see what the cause of the trouble was, I saw several Indian and Italian soldiers fighting in the road, I noticed the Indian soldiers had taken off their belts and were hitting the Italian soldiers with them, quite a lot civilians also joined in the fight. The fight then turned into stone throwing by all parties civilians included so I took cover behind the swings on the corner of the junction.

A few minutes later I heard several rifle shots being fired and on looking round the side of the swings I saw two Italian soldiers running up the main road by the petrol Depot with rifles pointed directly at a crowd of Indian soldiers. I did see them fore their rifles but after they had gone out of sight up the road I heard several rifle shots which appeared to come from the direction of where I had seen the 2 Italian soldiers [illegible].

6106.

I then considered it wasrather dangerous to stop there so I left and returned to my home. I only saw a back view, of the soldiers' faces so I cannot identify them, but they only appeared to be short fellows. I have nothing further to add to this statement it has been read over to me and it is true.

Signed: DATURI RAIMONDO.

I certify the above is a true translation from Italian into English to the best of my ability of the statement of DATURI RAIMONDO.

Signed: WILLIAM WEIL, Interpreter.

ctnd./

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785080

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

WILLIAM WEIL, Interpreter./

Statement taken and signature witnessed by Interpreter WEIL in the presence of Sgt. F. PAYNE, 64 H.I.B., on Friday, 7th September 1945.

No.64 Section,
Special Investigation Branch
C.M. Police
GENOA.

STATEMENT OF: - S/Maj. SCOTUZZI Giovenni fu Battista
76 Reg.Infantry,6th Coy. 2nd Batt.

WHO STATES: -

I have been cautioned by Sgt. F. PAYNE, 64 S.I.B. through the medium of Interpreter NEIL that I am not obliged to say anything unless I wish to do so but whatever I do say will be taken down in writing and may be given in evidence. To shew I fully understand this caution I sign my name.

Signed.. SCOTUZZI GIOVANNI.

At 1800 hrs. Saturday, 1st September, 1945, I took over the duties of N.C.O. i/c of the Italian Guard at 128 Petrol Depot. With 17 other ranks from my Unit. There are six sentry posts in this Depot and before posting the sentry, I read out their orders and gave each of them 5 rounds of ammunition, no other members of the guard received any ammunition until they went on duty. I also instructed them that if there was any trouble at all, they were to fire 2 rounds into the air to attract my attention. At about 2010 hrs. I was in the Guard Room, when I heard the sound of shot being fired from outside, at the same time another Italian soldier with a beard, whom I now know to be POSSAMAI Paolo, came into the Guard Room and said to me "Can't you hear there is trouble outside, some of our soldiers may be killed". This soldier took a rifle from the rack and asked me to give him some ammunition, I told him I would not give him any, he then ran outside carrying the rifle, I did not attempt to stop this man. By this time the firing outside increased and it was then I heard the sentry at the gate fire two shots from his rifle. I called the remainder of the guard and told them to stand by, I gave five rounds of ammunition to two of these men. They accompanied me to the Main Gate of the Depot. By this time there were numerous shots being fired from pistols rifles and revolvers. I told my men to take cover behind some oil drums. I could see numerous civilians, Italian soldiers and Indian soldiers all fighting near the Fair Ground outside the Main Gate. I also saw POSSAMAI running in the direction of where several Indian soldiers were standing he had his rifle pointed in their direction but the barrel appeared to be slanting upwards, I then saw him stop and raise the rifle with the butt resting [illegible]

6104

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

I fully understand this caution I sign my name.

Signed.. SCOTUZZI GIOVANNI.

At 1800 hrs. Saturday, 1st September, 1945, I took over the duties of N.C.O. i/c of the Italian Guard at 128 Petrol Depot. With 17 other ranks from my Unit. There are six sentry posts in this Depot and before posting the sentry, I read out their orders and gave each of them 5 rounds of ammunition, no other members of the guard received any ammunition until they went on duty. I also instructed them that if there was any trouble at all, they were to fire 2 rounds into the air to attract my attention. At about 2010 hrs. I was in the Guard Room, when I heard the sound of shot being fired from outside, at the same time another Italian soldier with a beard, whom I now know to be POSSAMAI Paolo, came into the Guard Room and said to me "Can't you hear there is trouble outside, some of our soldiers may be killed". This soldier took a rifle from the rack and asked me to give him some ammunition, I told him I would not give him any, he then ran outside carrying the rifle, I did not attempt to stop this man. By this time the firing outside increased and it was then I heard the sentry at the gate fire two shots from his rifle. I called the remainder of the guard and told them to stand by, I gave five rounds of ammunition to two of these men. They accompanied me to the Main Gate of the Depot. By this time there were numerous shots being fired from pistols rifles and revolvers. I told my men to take cover behind some oil drums. I could see numerous civilians, Italian soldiers and Indian soldiers all fighting near the Fair Ground outside the Main Gate. I also saw POSSAMAI running in the direction of where several Indian soldiers were standing he had his rifle pointed in their direction but the barrel appeared to be slanting upwards, I then saw him stop and raise the rifle with the butt resting under his right armpit and he then fired a shot towards the Indian soldiers, I do not know if any of the Indian soldiers were injured. When POSSAMAI fired at the Indian soldiers he was about 60 yards away from them, after he fired this shot I shouted to him to stop but he took no notice of me. I did not take any further notice of this man as I was more concerned for the safety of my men. A Sergeant from 128 Petrol

contd/

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

from 128 Petrol/.....

Depot then sent a message by one of my guard to withdraw all my men to the Guard Room, this order I complied with. When I got all the men in the Guard Room, I took check of the rifles and found that Pte. PIRASTRU's rifle was missing. he left the Guard Room and I saw POSSAMAI hand PIRASTRU the rifle that he stole from the Guard Room. Shortly after the English Military Police arrived and commenced enquiries.

I have nothing further to add to this statement, it has been read over to me and is true.

Signed. SCOTUZZI Giovanni.

I certify the above to be a true translation from Italian into English to the best of my ability of the statement of SCOTUZZI Giovanni.

WEIL William, Interpreter.

Statement taken and signature witnessed by Interpreter WEIL in the presence of Sgt. F. PAYNE, 64 S.I.B. on Sunday, 2nd September, 1945.

6103

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

No.64 Section
Special Investigation Branch
C.M. Police.
GENOA.

STATEMENT OF: - Pte. SCANO STEFANO DI SALVATORE
76 Reg.Infantry, 6 Coy. 2nd Batt.

WHO STATES: -

At 1800 hrs Saturday, 1st September 1945, with 16 other members of my Unit under the charge of Sgt. Maj. SCOTUZZI Giovanni, I mounted guard at 128 Petrol Depot. At 2000 hrs. I was posted on No.3 Post in the Depot, this is situated at the extreme end of the Depot and covers a point at right angles to the main road and the road leading to the Unit of the Indian Company. A few minutes after being posted I was walking near the last stack of oil drums when I heard a lot of people shouting on the main road outside the Depot, on looking along this road I saw a crowd of Indian soldiers running along the road in my direction, immediately in rear of them I saw two Italian soldiers chasing them, one of these soldiers comes from my billet. His name is POSSAMAI but we only know him as BARBER on account of him having a beard, the other Italian soldier comes from a different company, I do not know his name. Both of these soldiers had rifles, the barrels of which were pointing directly at the Indian soldiers, when they were at a point about twenty yards from the Italian soldiers they started firing at them, between them I think they fired about 8 or 10 shots. From where I was standing I could not see if any of these Indians were wounded. I then saw the Italian soldier who was with BARBER go up to two Indian soldiers and strike at them with the butt of his rifle, just then an Indian Officer went up to him and I saw him catch hold of the rifle. This Italian soldier then turned round on the Indian Officer and I saw him point the barrel of his rifle at him. I could not hear what was said between them. Whilst this was taking place I saw BARBER run back along the road towards the Fair Ground, after a minute or two I saw the Italian soldier run back towards the Fair Ground. I then saw the Indian Officer walking back towards where another Indian soldier was standing. I then saw him looking down at something on the roadway, on walking towards the fence I saw an Indian soldier on the road lying face downwards, when I drew closer to him I could see his face and neck were covered with blood. I saw

602

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

a point at right angles to the main road and the road leading to the Unit of the Indian Company. A few minutes after being posted I was walking near the last stack of oil drums when I heard a lot of people shouting on the main road outside the Depot, on looking along this road I saw a crowd of Indian soldiers running along the road in my direction, immediately in rear of them I saw two Italian soldiers chasing them, one of these soldiers comes from my billet. His name is POSSAMAI but we only know him as BARBER on account of him having a beard, the other Italian soldier comes from a different company, I do not know his name. Both of these soldiers had rifles, the barrels of which were pointing directly at the Indian soldiers, when they were at a point about twenty yards from the Italian soldiers they started firing at them, between them I think they fired about 8 or 10 shots. From where I was standing I could not see if any of these Indians were wounded. I then saw the Italian soldier who was with BARBER go up to two Indian soldiers and strike at them with the butt of his rifle, just then an Indian Officer went up to him and I saw him catch hold of the rifle. This Italian soldier then turned round on the Indian Officer and I saw him point the barrel of his rifle at him. I could not hear what was said between them. Whilst this was taking place I saw BARBER run back along the road towards the Fair Ground, after a minute or two I saw the Italian soldier run back towards the Fair Ground. I then saw the Indian Officer walking back towards where another Indian soldier was standing, I then saw him looking down at something on the roadway, on walking towards the fence I saw an Indian soldier on the road lying face downwards, when I drew closer to him I could see his face and neck were covered with blood. I saw a lorry come up a few minutes later and take this soldier away. When I saw the two Italian soldiers firing at the Indian soldiers there were no other persons standing between them, neither did I see anyone standing at the back of the two soldiers. At about 1900 hrs. Monday, 3rd September, 1945 I was standing on the road near the Petrol Depot when I saw the Indian Officer and an English Military Police Sergeant whom I now know to be Sgt.F. PAYNE, 64 S.I.B., talking to the soldier who was with BARBER when I

£102

contd/

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

with BARBER when I/.....

saw them firing at the Indian soldiers. I did not see any of the Indian soldiers with firearms, neither did I have the occasion to fire my rifle. I have nothing further to add to this statement, it has been read over to me and it is true.

Signed.. SCANO STEFANO.

I certify the above to be a true translation from Italian into English to the best of my ability of the statement of SCANO STEFANO.

Patanè Salvatore
PATANE' Salvatore, Interpreter.

Statement taken and signature witnessed by Interpreter PATANE' Salvatore in the presence of Sgt. F. PAYNE, 64 S.I.B., on Tuesday, 4th September, 1945.

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

I certify the above to be a true translation from Italian into English to the best of my ability of the statement of SCANO STEFANO.

Patanè Salvatore

PATANE' Salvatore, Interpreter.

Statement taken and signature witnessed by Interpreter PATANE' Salvatore in the presence of Sgt. F. PAYNE, 64 S.I.B., on Tuesday, 4th September, 1945.

6101

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

Town Guard Room
CESENA

26

STATEMENT OF:- VANNO, Pietro di Sebastiano
76 Regt. Inf. 6th. Coy.. Ind. Batt.

WHO STATES :-

At 1800 hours Saturday, 1st September 1945, in in company with other 17 members of my Unit we mounted Guard at 128 Petrol Depot. My sentry duty was from 22.00 hrs to midnight. At 20.00 hrs I was talking to GALBONI on Per 2 Post which is situated opposite the Fair Ground, when I saw a crowd of Indian soldiers fighting with a number of civilians and Italian soldiers. They all started throwing stones at each other. I was just about to leave GALBONI when I saw two Italians soldiers, who I now know to be POSSANAI and PIROTTA, running up the road from the direction of the main gate of the Petrol Depot towards the Fair Ground.

Both soldiers were carrying rifles when they reached the Fair Ground, both soldiers had their rifles pointed directed at a crowd of Indian Soldiers who were in the centre of the road. The Indian Sldiers then started to run up the road towards their Camp and POSSANAI and PIROTTA followed them, it was then I saw POSSANAI fire his rifle at the Indian Soldier. I don't think he hit any of them in this occasion. These two Italian Soldiers then chased the Indians up the road in the direction of the Indian Unit Camp, when they had gone about 100 yards along the road I saw POSSANAI and PIROTTA fire again several shots at the Indian Soldiers, at this particular time, there were no other persons firing firearms, neither were there any other persons on the road at this point apart from POSSANAI and PIROTTA the nearest persons were the civilians who were standing near the FAIR GROUND watching events. I never saw any of the Indian Soldiers with firearms, I did however see some Partisans who were sitting on the swings firing their revolvers into the air.

6100

These men did not move from this spot when

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

Italian soldiers. They all started throwing stones at each other. I was just about to leave GALESNI when I saw two Italians soldiers, who I now know to be POESAMAI and PIROTTA, running up the road from the direction of the main gate of the Petrol Depot towards the Fair Ground.

Both soldiers were carrying rifles when they reached the Fair Ground, both soldiers had their rifles pointed directed at a crowd of Indian Soldiers who were in the centre of the road. The Indian Sldiers then started to run up the road towards their Camp and POESAMAI and PIROTTA followed them, it was then I saw POESAMAI fire his rifle at the Indian Soldier, I don't think he hit any of them in this occasion. These two Italian Soldiers then chased the Indians up the road in the direction of the Indian Unit Camp, when they had gone about 100 yards along the road I saw POESAMAI and PIROTTA fire again several shots at the Indian Soldiers, at this particular time, there were no other persons firing firearms, neither were there any other persons on the road at this point apart from POESAMAI and PIROTTA the nearest persons were the civilians who were standing near the FAIR GROUND watching events. I never saw any of the Indian Soldiers with firearms, I did however see some Partisans who were sitting on the swings firing their revolvers into the air.

6100

These men did not move from this spot when I was standing with GALESNI I fired two rounds from my rifle into the air, I think GALESNI DID the same, we did this to frighten the Indian Soldiers away.

cntd.

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

...Indians soldiers away.

I did not see anything else happen after this as I went back to the Guard Room and after the firing (CEASED) a matter-of some ten minutes later I was ordered to go to my billet. I have nothing further to add to this statement it has been read over to me and is true.

Signed:- VAMPO Pietro

I certify the above statement is a true translation from Italian into English of the statement of VAMPO, Pietro.

Signed:- William, WOII

Statement taken and signature witnessed by interpreter WOII, in the presence of Capt G. PAYNE, 64 C.I.B. on Friday 7th Sept., 1945.

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

28

64 Section
Special Investigation Branch.
C.M. Police.

STATEMENT OF: - [redacted]. ROBERTO DOMENICO fu Francesco.
7o Reg. Infantry, 6th Coy.
2nd Batt.

Who states:-

On Saturday, 1st September, 1945, I was on Guard Duty at 128 Petrol Depot in company with 17 other members of my Company. At about 2000 hrs. I was talking with several other members of the guard in Guard Room when I heard the sound of pistol shots being fired which appeared to come from the direction of the Fair Ground near the main gate, this was followed by two pistol shots which I knew to be a signal from the soldier on duty at the gate indicating there was some trouble. We all hurried to the Rifle Rack and I took the first rifle that was handy, the others did the same. Before leaving the Guard Room Serg. Maj. SCOTUZZI Giovanni i/c Guard, gave us all five rounds of ammunition each, he told us not tofire our rifles unless we were in personal danger. I left the Guard Room and took up a position in the Compound a short distance from the Main Gate, near to some barrels of oil. A few minutes later whilst the firing of pistols and revolvers was at its height several Indian soldiers came over to the wire fence and started throwing stores at me, I fired one shot from my rifle into the air to frighten them away. I did not see any of these Indians with pistols or other firearms, the Indians ran away after I fired this shot. A few minutes later I saw an Italian soldier with a beard whom I now recognize as POSSAMAI Paolo, this man had a rifle in his hand, I saw several civilians struggle with him in an attempt to get the rifle away from him, but he sluded them and I saw him running towards several Indian soldiers with the rifle pointed at them, when about twenty yards away from the Indian soldiers started throwing stores at POSSAMAI and I saw him fire a shot at them, he immediately reloaded his rifle and fired a second shot at them and I saw one of the Indian soldiers fall to the ground, I did not see this man get up from the ground again as a large crowd of people had gathered round them. It was then I was approached by S.Major SCOTUZZI who ordered me to report back to the Guard Room. I do not know what happened after this. I have nothing further to add to this statement

[redacted]

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

the main gate, this was followed by two pistol shots which I knew to be a signal from the soldier on duty at the gate indicating there was some trouble. We all hurried to the Rifle Rack and I took the first rifle that was handy, the others did the same. Before leaving the Guard Room Serg. Maj. SCOTUZZI Giovanni i/c Guard, gave us all five rounds of ammunition each, he told us not tofire our rifles unless we were in personal danger. I left the Guard Room and took up a position in the Compound a short distance from the Main Gate, near to some barrels of oil. A few minutes later whilst the firing of pistols and revolvers was at its height several Indian soldiers came over to the wire fence and started throwing stores at me, I fired one shot from my rifle into the air to frighten them away. I did not see any of these Indians with pistols or other firearms, the Indians ran away after I fired this shot. A few minutes later I saw an Italian soldier with a beard whom I now recognise as POSSAMAI Paolo, this man had a rifle in his hand, I saw several civilians struggle with him in an attempt to get the rifle away from him, but he sluded them and I saw him running towards several Indian soldiers with the rifle pointed at them, when about twenty yards away from the Indian soldiers started throwing stores at POSSAMAI and I saw him fire a shot at them, he immediately reloaded his rifle and fired a second shot at them and I saw one of the Indian soldiers fall to the ground, I did not see this man get up from the ground again as a large crowd of people had gathered round them. It was then I was approached by S.Major SCOTUZZI who ordered me to report back to the Guard Room. I do not knew what happened after this. I have nothing further to add to this statement it has been read over to me and is true.

C098

Signed.. ROBERTO DOMENICO.

I certify the above statement is a true translation from Italian into English to the best of my ability of the statement of ROBERTO DOMENICO.

WEIL William.Interpreter.

Statement taken and signature witnessed by Interpreter WEIL in the presence of Sgt. F. PAYNE, 64 S.I.B. C.M.Police on Sunday, 2nd September, 1945.

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

29

64 S.I.B.
[illegible] Police

STATEMENT OF:- PISU [illegible]TULLIO di Pasquale,
76 Reg. Inf. 6th Coy. 2nd Batt.

WHO STATES:-

At 18.00 hours Saturday, 1st September 1945, I mounted guard at 128 Petrol Depot with 17 other members of my Unit under the charge of Seg. Mag. SCOTUZZI. At about 20.00 hours I was sitting near the Main Gate of the Petrol Depot reading a newspaper, when someone told me Italian soldiers and Indian soldiers were fighting in the Fair Ground. I ran to the corner of the ground where the swings were I saw a crowd of Indian and Italian soldiers fighting together, some civilians were also fighting.

I decided to keep out of this fight and stood beside the barbed wire fence of the Petrol Depot. While I was standing there I saw an Italian soldier whom I know as PIRODDA, this man had a rifle in his hand, as he passed me he fired one shot at the Indian soldiers who were standing on the corner of the Fair Ground. The Indian soldiers then started running up the road which runs alongside the Petrol Depot towards their Camp. Several of these Indian soldiers picked up stones and started throwing them at PIRODDA.

I then saw him reload his rifle and raise his rifle to his shoulder and fire directly at the Indian soldiers. I do not know if he hit any of them. My attention was then drawn to another member of my Unit named POSSAMAI, who also had a rifle in his hand, as this man drew level with me I saw him raisehis rifle which was pointed towards some Indian and Italian soldiers. I shouted to him: "Are you crazy, there are Italians there". He then pointed the barrel in the air and fired two shots in quick succession. I could see things were getting serious so I returned to the Main Gate of the Petrol Depot.

097

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

Petrol Depot reading a newspaper, when someone told me Italian soldiers and Indian soldiers were fighting in the Fair Ground. I ran to the corner of the ground where the swings were I saw a crowd of Indian and Italian soldiers fighting together, some civilians were also fighting.

I decided to keep out of this fight and stood beside the barbed wire fence of the Petrol Depot. While I was standing there I saw an Italian soldier whom I know as PIRODDA, this man had a rifle in his hand, as he passed me he fired one shot at the Indian soldiers who were standing on the corner of the Fair Ground. The Indian soldiers then started running up the road which runs alongside the Petrol Depot towards their Camp. Several of these Indian soldiers picked up stones and started throwing them at PIRODDA.

I then saw him reload his rifle and raise his rifle to his shoulder and fire directly at the Indian soldiers. I do not know if he hit any of them. My attention was then drawn to another member of my Unit named POSSAMAI, who also had a rifle in his hand, as this man drew level with me I saw him raisehis rifle which was pointed towards some Indian and Italian soldiers. I shouted to him: "Are you crazy, there are Italians there". He then pointed the barrel in the air and fired two shots in quick succession. I could see things were getting serious so I returned to the Main Gate of the Petrol Depot.

C097

It was here I was told by an English Sergeant to go back to the Guard-Room. I did not know who this Sergeant was. When I saw POSSAMAI and PIRODDA on the road firing at the Indian soldiers, I saw no other soldiers with rifles on this road, neither did I have my rifle with me at this time. I did hear

ctnd./

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

I did hear /

several pistol shots that were fired by civilians who were standing on the corner of the Fair Ground, but I saw no Indian soldiers with firearms. I have nothing further to add to this statement, it has been read over to me and is true.

Signed: PISU TULLIO.

I certify the above is a true translation from Italian into English of the statement of PISU TULLIO to the best of my ability.

Signed: WEIL WILLIAM, Interpreter.

Statement taken and signature witnessed by Interpreter WEIL in the presence of Sgt. F. PAYNE, 64 S.I.B., on Friday, 7th September 1945.

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

Signature [illegible], Interpreter.

Statement taken and signature witnessed by Interpreter WEIL in the presence of Sgt. F. PAYNE, 64 S.I.D., on Friday, 7th September 1945.

6096

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

31

No.64 Section,
Special Investigation Branch
C.M. Police:
GENOA.

STATEMENT OF: - BARTOLINI ROMANO FU CESIDIO
76 Reg.Infantry, 5th. Coy, 2nd Batt.

WHO STATES: -

At about 2000 hrs Saturday, 1st September, 1945, I was walking along Sampierdarena in the direction of the Fair Ground, when about 300 yrds. from the Fair Ground I heard several rifle shots which appeared to come from the direction of the Fair Ground, on arrival in a short street where part of the Fair was being held (This street being 100 yds. from the Petrol Depot) I saw a crowd of Italian civilians all collected together at one corner. I then saw three Indian soldiers running along the main road outside the Petrol Depot and going in the direction of their Camp, a minute later I saw an Italian soldier with a beard, whom I now know to be POSSANAI, run along the road in the same direction as that taken by the Indian soldiers, he was carrying a rifle the butt of which was resting underneath his right armpit and which was pointed in the direction of the Indian soldiers, there was no other persons in this road, between the Indian soldiers and POSSANAI. I saw POSSANAI stop and fire one shot in the direction of the Indian soldiers he then commenced to run forward again in their direction I could not see what happened after this from where I was stood as the corner building obstructed my view neither could I see if any other Italian soldiers followed POSSANAI so by this time the civilians had collected across the narrow street where I was stood, I did however hear several rifle shots being fired, these appeared to come from the same direction as that taken by POSSANAI. During the period I heard two rifle shots which appeared to come from a point inside the Petrol Depot, between No.2 and No.3 Post. As it was very dangerous where I was standing I returned to Sampierdarena and later returned to my Camp. I have nothing further to add to this statement it has been read over to me and it is true.

Signed.. BARTOLINI ROMANO.

I certify the above to be a true translation
from Italian into English to the best of my ability of

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

I heard several rifle shots which appeared to come from the direction of the Fair Ground, on arrival in a short street where part of the Fair was being held (This street being 100 yds. from the Petrol Depot) I saw a crowd of Italian civilians all collected together at one corner. I then saw three Indian soldiers running along the main road outside the Petrol Depot and going in the direction of their Camp, a minute later I saw an Italian soldier with a beard, whom I now know to be POSSAMAI, run along the road in the same direction as that taken by the Indian soldiers, he was carrying a rifle the butt of which was resting underneath his right armpit and which was pointed in the direction of the Indian soldiers, there was no other persons in this road, between the Indian soldiers and POSSAMAI. I saw POSSAMAI stop and fire one shot in the direction of the Indian soldiers he then commenced to run forward again in their direction I could not see what happened after this from where I was stood as the corner building obstructed my view neither could I see if any other Italian soldiers followed POSSAMAI so by this time the civilians had collected across the narrow street where I was stood, I did however hear several rifle shots being fired, these appeared to come from the same direction as that taken by POSSAMAI. During the period I heard two rifle shots which appeared to come from a point inside the Petrol Depot, between No.2 and No.3 Post. As it was very dangerous where I was standing I returned to Sampierdarena and later returned to my Camp. I have nothing further to add to this statement it has been read over to me and it is true.

Signed.. BARTOLINI ROMANO.

I certify the above to be a true translation 5095
from Italian into English to the best of my ability of the statement of Bartolini Romano.

WEIL William, Interpreter.

Statement taken and signature witnessed by Interpreter WEIL in the presence of Sgt. F. PAYNE, 64 S.I.S. on Tuesday, 4th September, 1945.

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

No.64 Section,
Special Investigation Branch
C.M. Police.

STATEMENT OF: - CALEONE SAVERIO di N.N.
76 Reg. Infantry, 6th Coy.
2nd Batt.

WHO STATES:-

At 1800 hrs. on Saturday, 1st September, 1945, I mounted Guard at the 128 Petrol Depot, with 17 other members of my unit, under the charge of S.M.SCOTUZZI. At 2000 hrs. I was posted on duty near the main gate. A few minutes after being posted my attention was drawn to the centre of the Fair Ground which was across the road immediately in front of where I was standing, I saw several Indian soldiers fighting with civilians, some of the Indian soldiers had taken off their belts and were hitting the civilians with them. Also in the crowd were Partisan soldiers dressed in civilian clothes, I could tell they were Partisans as they had the badge on their epaulettes, several of these Partisans drew revolvers from their pockets and started firing in the air. The Indian soldiers then came near the fence of the Depot close to where I was standing, I tried to make them understand they were not allowed near the fence whereupon they started to throw stores at me, I fired two shots from my rifle into the air to draw the attention of the Guard Commander and then I took come behind some oil drums nearby, while I was running across to the drums I saw an Italian soldier with a beard run out of the Guard Room carrying a rifle, this soldier I now know to be POSSAMAI. A short while later Serg.Major SCOTUZZI together with another member of the guard named ROBERTO came over to me, the firing at this time was very severe so ROBERTO and myself took cover behind the drums but the Sergeant did not take cover he stood at one side. From my position near these oil drums I could are POSSAMAI run out of the Main Gate and go along the road to where several Indian soldiers were standing, when about thirty yards from the Indian soldiers I saw POSSAMAI raise his rifle and place the butt under his right armpit with the barrel pointing directly at the Indian soldiers, I then saw him fire one shot at them but I do not know if he hit any of them. I saw several of the Indian soldiers running away but I did not see any of them with firearms. During

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

At 2000 hrs. I was posted on duty near the main gate. A few minutes after being posted my attention was drawn to the centre of the Fair Ground which was across the road immediately in front of where I was standing, I saw several Indian soldiers fighting with civilians, some of the Indian soldiers had taken off their belts and were hitting the civilians with them. Also in the crowd were Partisan soldiers dressed in civilian clothes, I could tell they were Partisans as they had the badge on their epaulettes, several of these Partisans drew revolvers from their pockets and started firing in the air. The Indian soldiers then came near the fence of the Depot close to where I was standing, I tried to make them understand they were not allowed near the fence whereupon they started to throw stones at me, I fired two shots from my rifle into the air to draw the attention of the Guard Commander and then I took come behind some oil drums nearby, while I was running across to the drums I saw an Italian soldier with a beard run out of the Guard Room carrying a rifle, this soldier I now know to be POSSAMAI. A short while later Serg.Major SCOTUZZI together with another member of the guard named ROBERTO came over to me, the firing at this time was very severe so ROBERTO and myself took cover behind the drums but the Sergeant did not take cover he stood at one side. From my position near these oil drums I could are POSSAMAI run out of the Main Gate and go along the road to where several Indian soldiers were standing, when about thirty yards from the Indian soldiers I saw POSSAMAI raise his rifle and place the butt under his right armpit with the barrel pointing directly at the Indian soldiers, I then saw him fire one shot at them but I do not know if he hit any of them. I saw several of the Indian soldiers running away but I did not see any of them with firearms. During this affray I heard Serg.Maj. SCOTUZZI shout the word "Stop" to someone but I do not know who he was refering to. I did not pay any further attention to POSSAMAI . I heard the Indians were going back to their Camp to get some machine guns, this Camp is situated in rear of the Petrol Depot and I was paying more attention to this than to the road. About fifteen minutes later the English Military Police arrived, all firing had ceased at this time. I have nothing further to add to this statement it has been read over to me and is true.

Signed. CALEONE SAVERIO.

contd/

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

I certify the above to be a true translation from Italian into English to the best of my ability of the statement of CALEONE SAVERIO.

Weil William, Interpreter,

Statement taken by Interpreter WEIL in the presence of Sgt. F. PAYNE, 64 Section, S.I.B. on Monday, 3rd September, 1945.

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

73

64 S.I.B.
C.M. Police.

STATEMENT OF:- PIRASTRU FRANCO di GIOVANNI,
76 Reg. Infantry,
6th Coy., 2nd Batt.

WHO STATES:-

At 18.00 hours Saturday 1st September 1945, I mounted guard at 128 Petrol Depot with 17 other members of my Company. I was immediately posted on N° 1 Post which is the Main Gate. At 20.00 hours I was relieved by UNIDA MARIO and I made my way back to the Guard Room where I placed my rifle in the rack, I handed the five rounds of ammunition which I was given before going on sentry to the Corporal of the Guard when he came to relieve me.

I then left the Petrol Depot and walked over to the Fair Ground, just as I arrived near the swings I saw Indian soldiers, Italian soldiers and civilians all fighting together. The Indian soldiers then started to throw stones. I did not join in the fight but kept to one side and a few minutes later I saw two Italian soldiers whom I know to be POSSAMAI and PIRODDA standing at the junction of the small road where the Fair Ground was held, and the road outside the Petrol Depot, they both had rifles, the butts of which were under their right armpits with the barrels pointed in the direction of the Indian soldiers.

I could see things were getting serious so I ran back to the Guard-Room, it was whilst I was on the way to the Guard-Room that I heard the sounds of several rifle shots, I could not see who was responsible for the firing of these. I did not leave the vicinity of the Guard-Room.

6093

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

20.00 hours I was relieved by UNIDA MARIO and I made my way back to the Guard Room where I placed my rifle in the rack, I handed the five rounds of ammunition which I was given before going on sentry to the Corporal of the Guard when he came to relieve me.

I then left the Petrol Depot and walked over to the Fair Ground, just as I arrived near the swings I saw Indian soldiers, Italian soldiers and civilians all fighting together. The Indian soldiers then started to throw stones. I did not join in the fight but kept to one side and a few minutes later I saw two Italian soldiers whom I know to be POSSAMAI and PIRODDA standing at the junction of the small road where the Fair Ground was held, and the road outside the Petrol Depot, they both had rifles, the butts of which were under their right armpits with the barrels pointed in the direction of the Indian soldiers.

I could see things were getting serious so I ran back to the Guard-Room, it was whilst I was on the way to the Guard-Room that I heard the sounds of several rifle shots, I could not see who was responsible for the firing of these. I did not leave the vicinity of the Guard-Room. After the firing had ceased POSSAMAI came up to the Guard-Room to where I was and handed me a rifle. On looking at the rifle I discovered it was my one. The last time I saw this rifle was when I placed it in the rack in the Guard-Room when I came off duty at 20.00 hours.

6093

cntd/.

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

duty at 20.00 hours./

I have nothing further to add to this statement; it has been read over to me and is the truth.

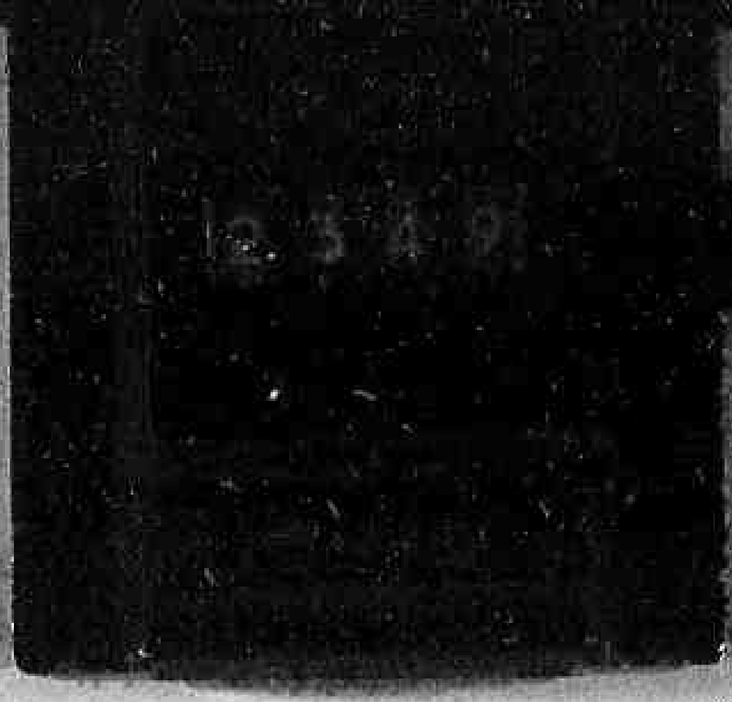
Signed: PIRASTRU FRANCO.

I certify the above to be a true translation from Italian into English to the best of my ability of the statement of PIRASTRU FRANCO.

Signed: WEIL WILLIAM, Interpreter.

Statement taken and signature witnessed by Interpreter WEIL in the presence of Sgt. F. PAYNE, 64 SIB, on Friday, 7th September 1945.

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



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

c0902

...ber 1945.
...ed at the press of 31.
PAWE, 64 STB, on Friday, 7th September 1

128 Petrol Depot.

STATEMENT OF :- N° S/ 689629 Cpl. SMITH R.E.,
128 Petrol Depot.

WHO STATES :-

I am employed as Corporal Clerk in the above Unit, to which I was posted twelve months ago. At about 20.00 hours Saturday, 1st September 1945, I was standing outside Fishgate Bar, which is near the Main Gate of the Petrol Depot when I saw a commotion along the road near the Fair Ground. I walked along to see what was happening when I saw an Italian soldier and two Indian soldiers fighting, I could not recognise these soldiers again.

After a few minutes it developed into a riot between Italian soldiers and civilians and numerous Indian soldiers. I was then making my way back to the billet to telephone for the Indian Police when I saw several Italian soldiers running from the Guard-Room inside the Depot, when these soldiers came onto the main road leading towards the Fair Ground, I could see three of them were carrying rifles.

Up to this time I did not hear any rifle shots or other firearms being used. By the time I reached my Company Office I heard rifle shots being fired presumably by the three Italians I had just seen on the road with them. I then decided it was to serious for the Indian Police to deal with so I rang up the English Military Police, they arrived about twenty minutes later when all the firing had ceased I could not identify any of the three Italians soldiers I saw with rifles. I have nothing further to add to this statement it has been read over to me and is the truth.

Signed:- SMITH R.E.

Statement taken and signature witnessed
by [illegible] on Thursday 6th Sept 1945

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

the Fair Ground. I walked along to see what was happening when I saw an Italian soldier and two Indian soldiers fighting, I could not recognise these soldiers again.

After a few minutes it developed into a riot between Italian soldiers and civilians and numerous Indian soldiers. I was then making my way back to the billet to telephone for the Indian Police when I saw several Italian soldiers running from the Guard-Room inside the Depot, when these soldiers came onto the main road leading towards the Fair Ground, I could see three of them were carrying rifles.

Up to this time I did not hear any rifle shots or other firearms being used. By the time I reached my Company Office I heard rifle shots being fired presumably by the three Italians I had just seen on the road with them. I then decided it was to serious for the Indian Police to deal with so I rang up the English Military Police, they arrived about twenty minutes later when all the firing had ceased I could not identify any of the three Italians soldiers I saw with rifles. I have noth ng further to add to this statement it has been read over to me and is the truth.

Signed:- SMITH R.K.

Statement taken and signature witnessed by Sgt.C. PAYNE, S.I.B. on Thursday, 6th Sept[illegible]5.

C001

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

36

64 S.I.B.
C.S. Police

STATEMENT OF:- Corp.Maj.FRANCIANONI, Giuseppe di Calogero.
75 Regt. Inf. 5th Coy. 2nd Batt.

WHO STATES:-

I am R.C.M. i/c of the Medical Room at the above Unit. At about 20.40 hrs. Saturday 1st Sept., 1945, I was on duty in the Medical Room when a soldier from my Battalion came in and told me that someone had given him a violent blow on the back, and that he was in great pains.

I examined him but could find no marks or bruises apart from a very slight swelling near his left kidney. I put a sterilised water dressing on his skin and he thenwent away.

It was dark when FERRARA entered the M.I. Roomand it is quite possible for him to have come in later than 20.40 hrs. I am certain he did enter the M.I. Room before this time. I have nothing further to adg to this statement it has been readb over to me and is true.

Signed:- FRANCIANONI, Giuseppe

I certify the above to be a true translation from Italian into English of the statement of FRANCIANONI, Giuseppe.

Signed:- Ottici Letterino

Statement taken and signature witnessed by Interpreter Ottici in the presence of Sgt. F.PAYNE 64 S.I.B. on Sunday, 9th Sept. 1945.

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

left kidney. I put a sterilized dressing on his skin and he then went away.

It was dark when PIRRONE entered the M.I. Room and it is quite possible for him to have come in later than 20.45 hrs. I am certain he did enter the M.I. Room before this time. I have nothing further to add to this statement it has been read over to me and is true.

Signed:- FRANCIANCHI, Giuseppe

I certify the above to be a true translation from Italian into English of the statement of FRANCIANCHI, Giuseppe.

Signed:- OPPICI Letterino

Statement taken and signature witnessed by Interpreter Oppici in the presence of Sgt. F.PAYNE 64 S.I.S. on Sunday, 9th Sept. 1945.

6090

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

84 S.I.B.
C.M. Police.

37

STATEMENT OF:- Corporal MARCUSO Vittorio di Francesco
76 Regt. Inf.4th Coy.,2nd Batt.

WHO STATES:-

I am Medical Orderly at the above Unit and I am assisted in this work by Corp.Maj.FRANCIARONI Giuseppe. At about 20.45hrs, Saturday, 1st Sept., 1945, I walked into the Medical Room where I saw a soldier from my Battalion, whom I know to be PIRODDA, standing at the side of the table, he was being attended to by Cpl.maj. FRANCIARONI for a slight injury to his back, when I asked him how he came to be injured he told me someone had struck him on the back, and he did not say what with. I looked at his back but could see no sign of any injury.

FRANCIARONI put some sterilized water dressing on his skin and he then went away. I am positively certain that PIRODDA did not come into the Medical Room before 20.40 hrs as it was dark at the time, it is quite possible that it was after 20.40 hrs when he came for treatement.

I have nothing further to add to this statement it has been read over to me and it is true.

Signed:- MARCUSO, Vittorio

I certify the above to be a true translation from Italian into English of the statement of MARCUSO, Vittorio.

Signed:- ORTICI Latterino

Statement taken and signature witnessed by Interpter ORTICI in the presence of Sgt. G. PARDY, 84 S.I.B. on Sunday, 9th September, 1945.

4803

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

slight injury to his back, when I asked him how he came to be injured he told me someone had struck him on the back, and he did not say what with. I looked at his back but could see no sign of any injury.

FRANCIAMENI put some sterilised water dressing on his skin and he then went away. I am positively certain that PINCUS did not come into the Medical Room before 20.40 hrs as it was dark at the time, it is quite possible that it was after 20.40 hrs when he came for treatement.

I have nothing further to add to this statement it has been read over to me and it is true.

Signed:- MANCUSO, Vittorio

I certify the above to be a true translation from Italian into English of the statement of MANCUSO, Vittorio.

Signed:- CUTICI Letterio

Statement taken and signature witnessed by Interpreter CUTICI in the presence of Lt. S. PAYNE, 64 C.I.P. on Sunday, 9th September, 1945.

C089

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

1416 Indian Pioneer Coy.

STATEMENT OF :- N° 362367 Sub. JEM SADHU SINGH.
1416 (Indian) Pioneer Coy.

WHO STATES:-

I received a message from Petrol Depot at about 20.15 hours on 1st September 1945 that your one man is injured along side the Depot. Come at once and take him. In the mean time I proceeded there in the truck with a small party and I recognised Naubat SINGH N° 362088 lying on the ground. I conveyed him to 8 C.C.S.

Signed: 362367 JEM SADHU SINGH.
1416 Indian Pioneer Coy.

Statement submitted to Sgt. F. PAYNE, 64 S.I.B. on Friday, 7th September 1945.

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

with a small party and I recognised Naubat SINGH N° 362088 lying on the ground. I conveyed him to 8 C.C.S.

Signed: 362367 JEM SADHU SINGH.
1416 Indian Pioneer Coy.

Statement submitted to Sgt. F. PAYNE, 64 S.I.B. on Friday, 7th September 1945.

8803

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

37

76 Regiment Infantry "NAPOLI"
Div. "MANTOVA"
2nd Battalion, 6 Coy.

STATEMENT OF:- Company C.O. GIUSEPPE BERARDINELLI, Capt.

WHO STATES:-

1) As Commanding Officer of 6th Coy Saturday 1st September 1945 I ordered 1 underofficer; 2 Corporals and 18 men on guard duty post N°2 at N° 128 British Petrol Depot.
The Commander of the guard post was S.M. SCORTUZZI GIOVANNI.

2) Pte. POSSAMAI and PIRODDA were not on duty and they had no authority to enter the guard room. Pte PIRODDA is a deserter from the Artillery Coy. N° 76 Regiment Infantry.

GENOA, 7th September 1945.

Signed: Coy. Commanding Officer
Capt. GIUSEPPE BARARDINELLI.

I certify that the above to be a true translation from Italian into English to the best of my ability of the statement of Capt. Giuseppe Berardinelli.

WIEL WILLIAM, Interpreter.

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

at N° 128 British Petrol Depot.
The Commander of the guard post was S.M. SCORTUZZI GIOVANNI.

2) Pte. POSSAMAI and PIRODDA were not on duty and they had no authority to enter the guard room. Pte PIRODDA is a deserter from the Artillery Coy. N° 76 Regiment Infantry.

GENOA, 7th September 1945.

Signed: Coy. Commanding Officer
Capt. GIUSEPPE BARARDINELLI.

I certify that the above to be a true translation from Italian into English to the best of my ability of the statement of Capt. Giuseppe Berardinelli.

WIEL WILLIAM, Interpreter.

2803

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

40

(C O P Y)

MEDICAL CASE SHEET

No. 3620C8 PTE. NAUBAT SINGH. 22 years
I.A.P.C. 1416 COY. Service: 3 3/12.

Disease: (GSW) PEN. WOUND CHEST.

History: At approx. 2030 hrs was found near the Nr.128 Petrol Depot, Genoa, lying on his face with a bleeding wound in his back. Did not show any signs of life when discovered. 10-15 minutes prior rifle fire was heard in the vicinity.

Nr.8(Br)C.C.S.
C.F.

On admission: 21.15 hrs.

Pulseless, no signs of respiration,
Pupils dilated, rigid, corneal reflex absent.
Bodysurface cool but still warm in the axillae,
Estimated time of death: Approx. 2015 hrs.

1. Face covered with blood, which is still oozing from nose, gums and lower, lacerated lip. One upper, frontal tooth very loose. Earth on lips and chin suggests that these injuries might have been caused secondarily by his fall upon his face.
2. A round, penetrating wound, 1/3" in diameter, entering the thorax through the second intercostal space, 1" to the right of the Sternum, Edges of wound clean.
3. A large, ragged wound, about 1" square, presumably the Exit wound of a projectile, found on the back, in the region of the upper, medial angle of the LT. SCAPULA.
4. Extensive Surgical Emphysema on Lt. side of thorax
5. Small, superficial, tangential wound on Lt. upper arm. (Possibly caused by another shot).
6. Shirt shows holes corresponding to location of the above described chest wounds.
7. None of the wounds showed effect of heat/flame

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

a bleeding wound in his back. Did not show any signs of life when discovered. 10-15 minutes prior rifle fire was heard in the vicinity.

Hr.8(Br)C.C.S.
C.F.

On admission: 21.15 hrs.

Pulseless, no signs of respiration,
Pupils dilated, rigid, corneal reflex absent.
Bodysurface cool but still warm in the axillae,
Estimated time of death: Approx. 2015 hrs.

1. Face covered with blood, which is still oozing from nose, gums and lower, lacerated lip. One upper, frontal tooth very loose. Earth on lips and chin suggests that these injuries might have been caused secondarily by his fall upon his face.
2. A round, penetrating wound, 1/3" in diameter, entering the thorax through the second intercostal space, 1" to the right of the Sternum, Edges of wound clean.
3. A large, ragged wound, about 1" square, presumably the Exit wound of a projectile, found on the back, in the region of the upper, medial angle of the Lt. SCAPULA.
4. Extensive Surgical Emphysema on Lt. side of thorax
5. Small, superficial, tangential wound on Lt. upper arm. (Possibly caused by another shot).
6. Shirt shows holes corresponding to location of the above described chest wounds.
7. None of the wounds showed effect of heat/fire/.

No other wounds or injuries could be discovered.
P.M. not performed.

0086

Cause of Death:
SEVERE DAMAGE TO VITAL INTRATHORACAL ORGANS/ LUNGS, HEART.

Genoa, Sep 1,45

Signed. M. WIRTHEIM
Capt. RAMC. O.M.O.

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

41

No.64 Section,
Special Investigation Branch
C.M. Police.

STATEMENT OF: - Pte. POSSAMAI Paolo di N.N.
76 Reg. Infantry, 5th Coy.
2nd. Battalion.

Who states:

I have been cautioned by Sgt. PAYNE,F., 64 S.I.S. through the medium of Interpreter Weil, that I am not obliged to say anything unless I wish to do so but whatever I do say will be taken down in writing and may be given in evidence. To shew I fully understand this caution I sign my name.

Signed. POSSAMAI Paolo.

At about 2000 hrs. Saturday, 1st September, 1945, I was sat in a Cafe in Via Sampierdarena, which is a short distance away from the English Petrol Depot. Also in the Cafe at this time were several Indian soldiers but I did not enter into conversation with them. A few minutes later I heard the sound of shots being fired and women screawing, I went outside the Cafe to see what was taking place, and saw several Indian soldiers fighting with Italian civilians and soldiers near the Fair Ground outside the main entrance to the Petrol Depot I went to the Indian soldiers in the Cafe and after telling them what was taking place I asked them to try and stop the other Indian soldiers from fighting, we all went outside the Cafe together, it was then I saw the other Indians using their belts and hitting the civilians with them. It was at this time four or five other Indian soldiers pounced on me from behind and started hitting me with their belts, I pushed them at one side and started to ran away, during the whole of this time the firing of pistols and revolvers was still going on, I saw severah Indian soldiers with various kinds of pistols and they were also flashing knives. I ran to the Guard Room at the Petrol Depot where other soldiers from my Company were on duty and I asked them to come along and stop the fighting, I did not see the Guard Commander I took a rifle from the rack which belonged to one of the guard, one of the other soldiers gave me three rounds of ammunition which I loaded the rifle with, I do not know who this soldier was. As I was running away from the Guard Room I fired two shots in the air to frighten

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

given in evidence. To shew I fully understand this caution I sign my name.

Signed. POSSAMAI Paolo.

At about 2000 hrs. Saturday, 1st September, 1945, I was sat in a Cafe in Via Sampierdarena, which is a short distance away from the English Petrol Depot. Also in the Cafe at this time were several Indian soldiers but I did not enter into conversation with them. A few minutes later I heard the sound of shots being fired and women screawing, I went outside the Cafe to see what was taking place, and saw several Indian soldiers fighting with Italian civilians and soldiers near the Fair Ground outside the main entrance to the Petrol Depot I went to the Indian soldiers in the Cafe and after telling them what was taking place I asked them to try and stop the other Indian soldiers from fighting, we all went outside the Cafe together, it was then I saw the other Indians using their belts and hitting the civilians with them. It was at this time four or five other Indian soldiers pounced on me from behind and started hitting me with their belts, I pushed them at one side and started to ran away, during the whole of this time the firing of pistols and revolvers was still going on, I saw severab Indian soldiers with various kinds of pistols and they were also flashing knives. I ran to the Guard Room at the Petrol Depot where other soldiers from my Company were on duty and I asked them to come along and stop the fighting, I did not see the Guard COMMANDER I took a rifle from the rack which belonged to one of the guard, one of the other soldiers gave me three rounds of ammunition which I loaded the rifle with, I do not know who this soldier was. As I was running away from the Guard Room I fired two shots in the air to frighten the Indian soldiers, after a few minutes the firing ceased and then some English Military Police arrived, I returned the rifle to the soldier who owned it, I do not know this soldier. I then returned to my Camp. I do not know if anyone was injured during this shooting affray. I have nothing further to add to this statement it has been read over to me and it is true.

6065

Signed.. POSSAMAI Paolo.

contd/

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

I certify the above to be a true translation from Italian into English to the best of my ability of the statement of POSSANAI Paolo.

Weil William, Interpreter.

Statement taken and signature witnessed by Interpreter WEIL in the presence of Sgt. F. LAYNE, 64 S.I.S. on Sunday, 2nd September, 1945.

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

Town Guard Room
GENOA.

STATEMENT OF: - PIRODDA AGOSTINO di Pietro
76th Reg. Artillery Coy.
SAVONA.

I have been cautioned by Sgt. F. PAYNE, 64 S.I.B. through the medium of Interpreter WEYL that I am not obliged to say anything unless I wish to do so but whatever I do say will be taken down in writing and may be given in evidence. To shew I fully understand this caution I sign my name.

Signed. PIRODDA AGOSTINO.

In July, 1945, I was posted to the above Company. About the 10th August, 1945, I went absent from my unit and came to GENOA, I was trying to get down to Naples to visit my family. At about 1800 hrs. Saturday, 1st Sept. 1945, I went to a Fair Ground which was being held near 128 Petrol Depot. I took part in various forms of amusements that was taking place and I met several other Italian soldiers from the 76th Reg. who were stationed in GENOA. At about 2000 hrs. I was standing talking to other Italian soldier in the small road where the Fair was being held where I saw an Indian soldier walk up to an Italian soldier and kick him on the leg, I then saw another Indian soldier go up to the two men had come to blow in an effort to separate them, I also went over to the Italian soldier to try and get him to go away, but other Indian and Italian soldiers joined in the fight during which they made use of their web belts. I joined in the fighting two and at one period I slipped and fell on the ground, before I could regain my feet I was struck in the small of my back by an Indian soldiers with a web belt. I got up from the ground with the assistance of several other Italian soldiers. I made my way to an Italian unit about 100 yds along the road from the Fair Ground, two Corporals rubbed some alcohol onto my back, I only remained there about two minutes and I then went back to the Fair Ground;on the way I heard several shots which appeared to have been fired by pistols and rifles, when I arrived at the Fair Ground I saw several Partisans at one end of the Fair Ground near the Petrol Depot, two of them had TOM Y Guns and the remainder had pistols, I saw them firing directly at a group of Indian soldier who were

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

In July, 1945, I was posted to the above Company. About the 10th August, 1945, I went absent from my unit and came to GENOA, I was trying to get down to Naples to visit my family. At about 1800 hrs. Saturday, 1st Sept. 1945, I went to a Fair Ground which was being held near 128 Petrol Depot. I took part in various forms of amusements that was taking place and I met several other Italian soldiers from the 76th Reg. who were stationed in GENOA. At about 2000 hrs. I was standing talking to other Italian soldier in the small road where the Fair was being held where I saw an Indian soldier walk up to an Italian soldier and kick him on the leg. I then saw another Indian soldier go up to the two men had come to blow in an effort to separate them, I also went over to the Italian soldier to try and get him to go away, but other Indian and Italian soldiers joined in the fight during which they made use of their web belts. I joined in the fighting two and at one period I slipped and fell on the ground, before I could regain my feet I was struck in the small of my back by an Indian soldiers with a web belt. I got up from the ground with the assistance of several other Italian soldiers. I made my way to an Italian unit about 100 yds along the road from the Fair Ground, two Corporals rubbed some alcohol onto my back, I only remained there about two minutes and I then went back to the Fair Ground;on the way I heard several shots which appeared to have been fired by pistols and rifles, when I arrived at the Fair Ground I saw several Partisans at one end of the Fair Ground near the Petrol Depot, two of them had TOMMY Guns and the remainder had pistols, I saw them firing directly at a group of Indian soldier who were standing at the end of the road which adjoins the road leading to the Indian Camp. I then walked along the road towards where the Indian soldiers were standing. A short distance along this road I saw an Italian soldier beating an Indian soldier [illegible] his rifle, a few yards away from this Italian soldier four other Italian soldiers were standing, I did not see any of these men with rifles, I do not know who these Italians were, neither did I see POSSARAI on this road. I went up to the Italian soldiers who was hitting the Indian with his rifle and took the rifle away from him, at this moment an Indian Officer arrived and he told me he had come to try and put a stop to the

C034

contd/

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

put a stop to the/.....

fighting. While I was talking to this Officer an Italian with a Fire Brigade Badge on came up with an English Sgt. and I walked with them back to the Fair Ground, here I left them and walked over to the Guardroom with the rifle I had taken from the Italian soldier. I went into the Guardroom and put the rifle in the rack where there were several others. I could not see if there was anyone in the Guardroom as it was too dark. I stayed talking outside the Guardroom with several member of the guard for about fifteen minutes, afterwards I left and made my way back to the Italian billet where I had received first aid treatment. I have nothing further to add to this statement, it has been read over to me and is true.

Signed PIRODDA AGOSTINO.

I certify the above statement is a true translation from Italian into English to the best of my ability of the statement of PIRODDA AGOSTINO.

WEIL William, Interpreter.

Statement taken and signature witnessed by Interpreter WEIL in the presence of Sgt. F. PAYNE, 64 S.I.B. on Friday, 7th September, 1945.

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

afterwards I left and made my way back to the Italian billet where I had received first aid treatment. I have nothing further to add to this statement, it has been read over to me and is true.

Signed PIRODDA AGOSTINO.

I certify the above statement is a true translation from Italian into English to the best of my ability of the statement of PIRODDA AGOSTINO.

WEIL William, Interpreter.

Statement taken and signature witnessed by Interpreter WEIL in the presence of Sgt. F. PAYNE, 64 S.I.B. on Friday, 7th September, 1945.

8083

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

Statement of evidence of:-

[redacted]

He states,

" I am a member of the Special Investigation Branch.

At about 2100 hrs. Saturday, 1st. September, 1945, as a result of enquiries that I had made, I interviewed accused SOUTHAI at 126 Petrol Depot. With the assistance of interpreter MANCINI I questioned him about the identity of an Italian soldier who was seen to enter the Petrol Depot at about 2000 hrs. He informed me that he knew this man but did not know his name. No further information could be obtained from him at this time.

Later this date I again interviewed accused SOUTHAI at my Headquarters, and questioned him as to the identity of the man with the beard, he informed me this man was a member of his unit who was known by the name of "BARBAK". To further questioning he revealed that this man entered the Guard Room at 126 Petrol Depot and in his presence he took a rifle from the rack belonging to a member of the Guard, after refusing to give him any ammunition he left the Guard Room with the rifle. When I asked him if he made any attempt to stop this man from leaving the Guard Room with the rifle he replied, "No".

On Sunday, 2nd. September, 1945, CAPT. MARCHINELLI, C/O, 76 Regt. Infantry, handed accused SOUTHAI over to me as being the person known as BARBAK. I did not question the accused at this stage as I did not consider it in the interest of the case to do so.

Later this date at my Headquarters, with the assistance of Interpreter [redacted] I again interviewed accused SOUTHAI, after verbally cautioning him I asked him if he had been involved in a fight at the Fairground the previous evening with some Indian soldiers. He informed me that he was in a Cafe when the trouble started with the Indian soldiers and on going outside the Cafe to see what the trouble was about he was assaulted by five Indian soldiers and that he struck them back in self defence. When I asked him if he took a rifle from the Guard Room at the Petrol Depot, he replied in words to the effect that he took it to frighten the Indian soldiers away. To further questioning as to if he fired this rifle at the Indian soldiers the accused replied, "No". When asked where he got the ammunition from for the rifle he stated he was given five rounds by a member of the guard, he could not tell me who this person was. He then elected to make a statement, this was taken down in writing under caution by Interpreter [redacted] and he afterwards signed same. (Produced)

Also on this date I interviewed accused SOUTHAI at my Headquarters, he too elected to make a statement, this was taken down in writing under caution by Interpreter [redacted]

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

later this date I again interviewed accused SCOTUZZI at my Headquarters, and questioned him as to the identity of the man with the beard, he informed me this man was a member of his unit who was known by the name of [redacted]. In further questioning he revealed that this man entered the Guard Room at 128 Petrol Depot and in his presence he took a rifle from the rack belonging to a member of the Guard, after refusing to give him any ammunition he left the Guard Room with the rifle. When I asked him if he made any attempt to stop this man from leaving the Guard Room with the rifle he replied, "No".

On Sunday, 2nd. September, 1945, CAPT. [redacted], Q/C, 76 Regt. Infantry, handed accused [redacted] over to me as being the person known as [redacted]. I did not question the accused at this stage as I did not consider it in the interest of the case to do so.

later this date at my Headquarters, with the assistance of Interpreter [redacted] I again interviewed accused [redacted], after verbally cautioning him I asked him if he had been involved in a fight at the Fairground the previous evening with some Indian soldiers. He informed me that he was in a Cafe when the trouble started with the Indian soldiers and on going outside the Cafe to see what the trouble was about he was assaulted by five Indian soldiers and that he struck them back in self defence. When I asked him if he took a rifle from the Guard Room at the Petrol Depot, he replied in words to the effect that he took it to frighten the Indian soldiers away. To further questioning as to if he fired this rifle at the Indian soldiers the accused replied, "No". When asked where he got the ammunition from for the rifle he stated he was given five rounds by a member of the guard, he could not tell me who this person was. He then elected to make a statement, this was taken down in writing under caution by Interpreter [redacted] and he afterwards signed same. (Produced)

Also on this date I interviewed accused [redacted] SCOTUZZI at my Headquarters, he too elected to make a statement, & this was taken down in writing under caution by Interpreter [redacted] and he afterwards signed same. (Produced)

6032

At about 1900 hrs. this date I was making enquiries at 128 Petrol Depot when as a result of what I was told I approached the accused PIRUDDA in VIA NICOLO BARABINO, after making known my identity to him, I asked him if he was the soldier who was concerned in the assault on an Indian soldier at the Fairground on Saturday, 1st. September, 1945. He told me he did not assault any of the soldiers but was preventing another Italian soldier from hitting one of the Indian soldier's with his rifle. I had him detained at the Town Guard Room, Genoa, pending the results of my investigations.

On Friday, 7th September, 1945, in company with Interpreter [redacted] I again interviewed the accused [redacted]

Cont.

I again interviewed the accused

[redacted] and PIRUDDA at the Town Guard Room, after verbally cautioning them I charged them with being jointly concerned together in that they, on Saturday, 1st. September, 1945, did unlawfully kill one [redacted] Indian

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

on Friday, /the September, 1945, in company with Interpreter Hill, I again interviewed the accused [illegible]

Cont.

I again interviewed the accused/

[illegible] and [illegible] at the Town Guard Room. After verbally cautioning them I charged them with being jointly concerned together in that they, on Saturday, 1st. September, 1945, did unlawfully kill one- No. [illegible] PTE. [illegible] of the Indian Pioneer Corps. The accused made no reply.

I then asked accused [illegible] if he wished to make a statement and he replied," Yes". This was taken down in writing under caution by Interpreter Hill and he afterwards signed same.(Produced).

[signature]

[illegible], SERGEANT.

64 Section, I.A.C.

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

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

1981

MAPS FILMED ON

35MM ROLL

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

Lib.

22A

56 BLU
8/1 AG.

19 Sep 45

SUBJECT :- Persons Arrested - Murder.

HQ Combat Group MANTOVA

Pte POSSAMAI PAOLO di N.N. } 76 Inf Regt.
Pte PERSEDA AGOSTINO di PIETRO }

1. Herewith S.I.B. report ref SIB/Q/A/45/130, dated 11 Sept 1945, together with Scale Plan of the scene of the crime, photographs taken at the scene of the crime and original statements in the case of the e/m soldiers who are charged with the murder of No.362088 Pnr MAHBIT SINGH, 1416 INDIAN Pioneer Coy., on 1 Sep 1945, forwarded for information.

2. GO Sub Area are convening a Court of Enquiry. Until this is held, no action is to be taken.

3. The soldiers arrested will probably then be tried by Italian Military Law.

4. You are requested to send this HQ, a progress report on this case as at 1300 hours every Sunday, until it is finally disposed of.

In The Field,
BJD/ajw

(P.J.)
for Lt Col,
GS.

6078

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

Subject:- Soldiers in Arrest.

56 B.L.U.

HQ 60 Sub Area
Tel. 52001
Pro/30
15 Sept 45

18A

POSSAMAI Paolo 76 Inf Regt
PITROLDA Agostino 76 Inf Regt

Confirming telephone conversation 56 B.L.U.-DAPM.

1. Please arrange to take into custody the a/m soldiers who are at present held in close arrest at the Town Guard Room, GENOA.

2. They are charged jointly with the murder of an indian soldier on 1 Sept 1945.

3. The SIE. report on the case is now completed and will be forwarded to you in the course of the next two days.

(F.S. Orwin) Capt.
DAPM.

Copy to: "A" Branch HQ 60 Sub Area
O.C. 60 Sub Area Transit Camp.

Sec 17 A
— 16 A
— 14 A

14 SEP 45

6078

3844a GHQP 3-44

ARMY FORM C 2136 (Large)

MESSAGE FORM

Register No. 4

Call	Srl. No.	Priority	Transmission Instructions

ABOVE THIS LINE FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY.

17-A

FROM (A) — Originator. — H.Q. "MANTOVA" COMBAT GROUP

Date-Time of Origin: 131700

Office Date Stamp

ARMY SIGNALS LZ 13 IX 43 B

For Action.

H.Q. 60 SUB AREA

TO

(W) For Information (INFO)

56 B.L.U.

Originator's No.

Message Instructions. GR

n. 01/5177 (.) notified
56 B.L.U. has notified this H.Q. that two italian soldiers were arrested by C.M.P. because accused of the murder of an indian soldier and are now guarded in GENOVA Transit Camp (.) We send serg.major LEGITTIMO Oronzo and four carabinieri of our Provost Section to take the two accused and close them in our prison at disposition of 60 Sub Area H.Q. (.)

COMANDO GRUPPO COMBATTIMENTO "MANTOVA"

Lieut Col.
Chief of Staff
H.Q. "Mantova" Combat Group

Sa 18 A

8077

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

Originator's No.

n. 01/5177 (.) notified
56 B.L.U. has notified this H.Q. that two italian soldiers were arrested by C.M.P. because accused of the murder of an indian soldier and are now guarded in GENOVA Transit Camp (.) We send serg.major LEGITTIMO Oronzo and four carabinieri of our Provost Section to take the two accused and close them in our prison at disposition of 60 Sub Area H.Q. (.)

Lieut Col.
Chief of Staff
H.Q. "Mantova" Combat Group

Sez 18 A

£07?

This message may be sent AS WRITTEN by any means except ..... WIRELESS. Signed.	If liable to be intercepted or to fall into enemy hands this message must be sent IN CIPHER. Signed.	Originator's Instructions. Degree of Priority.	Time	System	Op
			THI or TOR		
			Time Cleared		

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

Subject:- Court of Inquiry

Headquarters
60 Sub Area
Tel: 56205
442 ST

5 Sep 45

15-A

CONVENING ORDER

1. A Court of Inquiry composed as under will assemble at HQ 128 Petrol Depot on Friday 7 Sep 45 at 1000hrs to investigate the circumstances in which S/261768 Pte TAYLOR A of 128 Petrol Depot was injured on 3 Aug 45.

President:- Capt W DIGGLE RASC - 315 BPSS

Members:- ~~1 Subaltern to be detailed by CRASC 8 Con Tpt Colns.~~
1 Subaltern to be detailed by OC 42 BSD.
1 WO (attached from 40 MPRC) to be detailed by OC 128 Petrol Depot.

2. The Court will particularly determine:-

(a) The cause of the injury.

(b) Whether Pte TAYLOR A was on duty at the time he was injured.

(c) Whether the injury was caused by the fault of some other person.

3. Wherever possible witnesses should attend in person but where a witness is not available owing to the exigencies of the service, the original of his signed statement should be attached to the Proceedings and marked by the President who should state reasons for non attendance.

4. The President will arrange for the attendance of all witnesses. Italians from 2nd Bn 76 Inf Regt will be made available by 56 BLU.

5. OC 128 Petrol Depot will be responsible for the provision of an Interpreter.

6. Attention is drawn to KRs Para 774 (C) and GRO 40/44, and care will be taken to ensure that the provisions of RP 125(A) (B) are complied with.

7. Evidence will be taken on oath.

8. Proceedings will be recorded on AF A 2 and the original and three typewritten copies will be forwarded to ST Branch HQ 60 Sub Area together with AF B 117 without delay.

60/6

9. A copy of this Convening Order will be attached to the Proceedings.

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

in which S/261768 Pte TAYLOR A of 128 Petrol Depot was injured on 8 Aug 45.

President:- Capt W DIGGLE RASC - 315 BPSS

Members:- ~~1 Subaltern to be detailed by CRASC 8 Con Tpt Colm.~~
1 Subaltern to be detailed by OC 42 BSD.
1 WO (attached from 40 MPPC) to be detailed by OC 128 Petrol Depot.

2. The Court will particularly determine:-

(a) The cause of the injury.

(b) Whether Pte TAYLOR A was on duty at the time he was injured.

(c) Whether the injury was caused by the fault of some other person.

3. Wherever possible witnesses should attend in person but where a witness is not available owing to the exigencies of the service, the original of his signed statement should be attached to the Proceedings and marked by the President who should state reasons for non attendance.

4. The President will arrange for the attendance of all witnesses. Italians from 2nd Bn 76 Inf Regt will be made available by 56 BLU.

5. OC 128 Petrol Depot will be responsible for the provision of an Interpreter.

6. Attention is drawn to KRs Para 774 (C) and GRO 40/44, and care will be taken to ensure that the provisions of RP 125(A) (B) are complied with.

7. Evidence will be taken on oath.

8. Proceedings will be recorded on AF A 2 and the original and three typewritten copies will be forwarded to ST Branch HQ 60 Sub Area together with AF B 117 without delay. 60.6

9. A copy of this Convening Order will be attached to the Proceedings.

W Archibald
Major.
OC RASC.

DISTRIBUTION:-

315 BPSS (4) (copy statements and report attached)
~~CRASC 8 Con Tpt Colm (3)~~
42 BSD (2)
128 Petrol Depot (3)
56 BLU (2)
40 MPPC (1)

See 13 A
See 1-A
" 34 A

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

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

13-A

SUBJECT:- Injury

Headquarters
60 Sub Area
C.M.F.
Tel No.56305
26/16/A
3 Sep 45

O.C. RASC

S/261768 Pte TAYLOR A.
128 Petrol Depot RASC

1. Please arrange for a Court of Enquiry to be convened as early as possible to investigate how Pte Taylor became injured on 8 Aug 45.

2. Your attention is drawn to GRO 40/44 which will be strictly adhered to.

3. 56 B.L.U. will arrange to make available any witnesses from 2nd Bn 76 Inf Regt It. Army that the President of the Court may require.

Major.
DAA & QMG.

ms/

Copy to :- 56 BLU

Ans. 15 A.

4 SEP 1945 6075

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

Subject :- Guard Duties - Incidents.

File

56 BLU.
G1 G

11A.

30 Aug 45.

60 Sub Area.

Copy to :- Combat Group MANTOVA.

Enclosed are copies of reports of 3 incidents that have occurred at 56 BSD., it is requested that the strongest possible action be taken against the NCO i/c the installation as the effect on the Italian morale is serious when British troops behave in such a manner.

Lt-Col.
GS.

CMF
EHN/ec

6074

SUBJECT :- Incident at Guard Post No 14 which occurred on the 23 Aug 45.

HQ 76 Inf Regt
Combat Group MANTOVA

3388/D 13

P.M. 104 25 Aug 45

For your information and the information of the Military Territorial HQ concerned I am enclosing a copy of the report from the OC of 8 Coy about the above incident.

This is the third incident which has taken place at Guard Post No 14, and all these incidents have been caused by the same British NCO. We have reported the other two incidents with letters 3022/D 13 and 3258 respectively dated 5th and 19th Aug 45.

I wish to declare once more that we cannot tolerate any longer the present situation.

Therefore I depend with confidence upon a prompt action to be taken by the Allied Authorities concerned in order to put an end to these and other harmful incidents which are happening with a serious and frequent occurrence.

Said action will also keep away our men from a justified and eventual reaction. These men have behaved themselves even too correctly and submissively towards the provocative behaviour of irresponsible persons who should be sent away at once.

(SGD) Giorgio SALVI Col.

6075

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

This is the third incident which has taken place at Guard Post No 14, and all these incidents have been caused by the same British NCO. We have reported the other two incidents with letters 3022/D 13 and 3258 respectively dated 5th and 19th Aug 45.

I wish to declare once more that we cannot tolerate any longer the present situation.

Therefore I depend with confidence upon a prompt action to be taken by the Allied Authorities concerned in order to put an end to these and other harmful incidents which are happening with a serious and frequent occurrence.

Said action will also keep away our men from a justified and eventual reaction. These men have behaved themselves even too correctly and submissively towards the provocative behaviour of irresponsible persons who should be sent away at once.

(SGD) Giorgio SALVI Col.

6073

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

SUBJECT :- Guard Post No 14.

HQ 76 Inf Regt - 8 Coy
Combat Group MANTOVA

P.M. 104 23 Aug 45

HQ 76 Inf Regt

I inform this HQ that last night an incident took place at Guard Post No14.

The Cpl Magg CHIANTARETTO Giulio, Guard Commander on duty, whose action was correct, was able to avoid any harmful consequences.

This incident was caused by the same NCO responsible for the two previous ones, and this time he was wanting to drive a truck out of the Storehouse. The Guard Commander stopped him from doing so , and the British NCO, obviously drunk, in the presence of an interpreter, made some offensive remarks on the Italians in general, and on the Guard Commander.

After this the NCO went out on foot and later on the Guard Commander had to allow some British personnel to take out a truck in order to search for the NCO.

In view of the fact that the above mentioned Guard has not yet been provided with orders and of the scarce discipline of that unit, please will this HQ take the necessary action to stop this situation which can originate harmful and unpleasant troubles.

(SGD) ?????????????

6072

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

Guard Commander stopped him from doing so , and the British NCO, obviously drunk, in the presence of an interpreter, made some offensive remarks on the Italians in general, and on the Guard Commander.

After this the NCO went out on foot and later on the Guard Commander had to allow some British personnel to take out a truck in order to search for the NCO.

In view of the fact that the above mentioned Guard has not yet been provided with orders and of the scarce discipline of that unit, please will this HQ take the necessary action to stop this situation which can originate harmful and unpleasant troubles.

(SGD) ??????????????

6072

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

SUBJECT :- Report on the Incident which occurred at Guard Post No 14.

76 Infantry Regt
Combat Group MANTOVA

To :- Hq 2/76 Inf Regt

P.M. 104. 15 Aug 45

Reference the above, I communicate the following report as a result of the evidences given by the personnel of the Guard.

At 2030 hrs on the 12th Aug, Pte MURRU and other two men, who were all standing near the entrance gate, saw a truck, with a British NT Sgt on board, going out.

I wish to call the attention to the fact that this British NCO is the same person who caused the incident that I properly reported some time ago.

Before leaving the Car Park, the Sgt stopped the truck at the main gate and, addressing himself to a colleague, he expressed offensive remarks in respect of the Italian soldiers and with hand and mouth made gestures of which it was quite possible to understand the meaning that he intended to fire against the Italian soldiers.

At that moment Pte MURRU put a hand into his pocket in order to get a cigarette. The Sgt opened the side door and, standing on the running board, put his hand into the pocket of his coat as if he was going to reach for a weapon. Seeing the indifferent attitude of the soldiers who, during this incident, did not even answer him, he entered his truck and left.

All those present were of the opinion that he was drunk. At 0150 hrs the NCO returned accompanied by a woman. The Guard Commander and the Guard having recognised him and knowing through experience that soldiers of that unit could get in accompanied by woman, let him pass.

The NCO went to park his truck at the rear of the Storehouse and the sentry on duty, Pte MURRU, stopped him according to orders. The NCO raised both arms and came forward to be recognised. After this he entered his room, after having asked permission to take in this woman.

He came out after awhile and approached a sealed railway wagon which was being looked after by this guard. The sentry ordered him not to approach the wagon and to go back to his room. He obeyed but very soon came out again carrying some tools, and going a long way round he approached the railway wagon in question. Once again the sentry intervened and the NCO left on being ordered to. In the meantime the guard was changed and for the third time this NCO came out of his room, accompanied by the woman. Having got the woman on the truck he returned to the railway wagon, but the sentry on duty , Pte FARINELLI who had been warned by the previous sentry, noticed his movement and ordered him to keep away.

6071

At about 0300 hrs Pte FARINELLI, the sentry in front of the Storehouse

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

board, going out.

I wish to call the attention to the fact that this British NCO is the same person who caused the incident that I properly reported some time ago.

Before leaving the Car Park, the Sgt stopped the truck at the main gate and, addressing himself to a colleague, he expressed offensive remarks in respect of the Italian soldiers and with hand and mouth made gestures of which it was quite possible to understand the meaning that he intended to fire against the Italian soldiers.

At that moment Pte MURRU put a hand into his pocket in order to get a cigarette. The Sgt opened the side door and, standing on the running board, put his hand into the pocket of his coat as if he was going to reach for a weapon. Seeing the indifferent attitude of the soldiers who, during this incident, did not even answer him, he entered his truck and left.

All those present were of the opinion that he was drunk. At 0150 hrs the NCO returned accompanied by a woman. The Guard Commander and the Guard having recognised him and knowing through experience that soldiers of that unit could get in accompanied by women, let him pass.

The NCO went to park his truck at the rear of the Storehouse and the sentry on duty, Pte MURRU, stopped him according to orders. The NCO raised both arms and came forward to be recognised. After this he entered his room, after having asked permission to take in this woman.

He came out after awhile and approached a sealed railway wagon which was being looked after by this guard. The sentry ordered him not to approach the wagon and to go back to his room. He obeyed but very soon came out again carrying some tools, and going a long way round he approached the railway wagon in question. Once again the sentry intervened and the NCO left on being ordered to. In the meantime the guard was changed and for the third time this NCO came out of his room, accompanied by the woman. Having got the woman on the truck he returned to the railway wagon, but the sentry on duty , Pte FANNELLI who had been warned by the previous sentry, noticed his movement and ordered him to keep away.

E(50)71

At about 0300 hrs Pte FANNELLI, the sentry in front of the Storehouse saw the NCO coming towards him, who after making himself recognised, went straight towards the railway wagon in question, but on seeing that he was being followed he went away.

After half an hour he came back with a truck and the woman, and, leaving the vehicle at the gate he came out and went away.

Fifteen minutes later the sentry heard noises in the Storehouse and he quickly called the night watchman to see if there was anyone sleeping inside the Stores.

The night watchman, also having heard the noise, told the sentry to load his rifle and went to wake up the Guard Commander. In the meantime, the NCO threatened by the rifle, came out of the Storehouse, made himself recognised, and went into his truck. Shortly afterwards the night watchman returned

2/.....sheet

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

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

and opening the gate, he let the NCO get out.

The Guard Commander who was coming on the spot, could not stop the vehicle. The sentry noticed that the NCO was carrying a parcel but could not warn the watchman in time. After this the watchman noticed that the door of the Storehouse had been forced open. He immediately called the British WO on the spot.

The British Military Police took the case in hand and took statements from the Italian personnel involved. These statements correspond to this report.

(Sgd) ??????????????

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

76 Infantry Regiment - HQ II Bn

13 Aug 45

SUBJECT :- Theft at No 14 Guard Post.

Hq 76 Inf Regt

Copy to :- 56 BLU

It is reported that last night a theft was committed by a British NCO in one of the Stores at No 14 Guard Post which is manned by our Guard. The Allied Police, after having made enquiries, withdrew two bayonets from the Guard personnel in order to check as to whether these could have been used to force open the door of the Store. The Guard Commander, Sentry and Guard are to appear this morning in front of the Police to give evidence. A report follows.

Commander
Ten Col CIRO GAETA

PEP/ec

HQ Combat Group MANTOVA

Office of the Chief of Staff - 2 Sec - Ord & Pers.

2196/2

P.M. 104 9 Aug 45

SUBJECT :- Incident at Guard Post No 14.

56 BLU

We are enclosing a report coming from HQ 76 Inf Regt regarding an incident which occurred at Guard Post No 14 situated in the 58 BCD, VIA DUCA d' AOSTA GENOA caused by Allied soldiers.

Could you please make the necessary enquiries informing this HQ of the result.

(SGD) A. PIGA
for Chief of Staff

---

76 Inf Regt - 8 Coy

SUBJECT :- Report on the Incident at Guard Post No 14, VIALE DUCA d'AUSTA, at 58 BCD.

HQ 2Bn 76 Inf Regt

P.M. 104 1 Aug 45

For information of HQ 76 Inf Regt, on 1 Aug, at about 0130 hrs the following incident occurred at Guard Post No 14.

At the time stated the sentry, Pte MURGIA Pietro saw three people bunched together who wanted to enter the vehicle park. At 30 Metres distance he ordered them to halt. Of the three, one dressed in civilian clothes raised his arms and stopped. The other two, a soldier and a woman, stopped, remaining in the darkness, the guard asked them to come forward to be recognised. The civilian approached, declaring that he was employed as a driver in the Depot. In fact the guard recognised him as such and asked the other two to come forward. This was repeated by the driver without result, and the sentry went up to them to establish their identity. He was able to establish that one of the [illegible] Allied soldier in uniform who immediately started to shout and use abusive words in English which were easily understood. He then threw himself at the sentry in an attempt to get hold of the sentry's rifle. The sentry [illegible]

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

incident which occurred at Guard Post No 14 situated in the 58 BCD, VIA DUCA d' AOSTA GENOA caused by Allied soldiers.

Could you please make the necessary enquiries informing this HQ of the result.

(SGD) A. PIGA .
for Chief of Staff

---

76 Inf Regt - 8 Coy

SUBJECT :- Report on the Incident at Guard Post No 14, VIALE DUCA d'AUSTA, at 58 BCD.

HQ 2Bn 76 Inf Regt

P.M. 104 1 Aug 45

For information of HQ 76 Inf Regt, on 1 Aug, at about 0130 hrs the following incident occurred at Guard Post No 14.

At the time stated the sentry, Pte MURGIA Pietro saw three people bunched together who wanted to enter the vehicle park. At 30 Metres distance he ordered them to halt. Of the three, one dressed in civilian clothes raised his arms and stopped. The other two, a soldier and a woman, stopped, remaining in the darkness, the guard asked them to come forward to be recognised. The civilian approached, declaring that he was employed as a driver in the Depot. In fact the guard recognised him as such and asked the other two to come forward. This was repeated by the driver without result, and the sentry went up to them to establish their identity. He was able to establish that one of the [illegible] an Allied soldier in uniform who immediately started to shout and use abusive words in English which were easily understood. He then threw himself at the sentry in an attempt to get hold of the sentry's rifle. The sentry defended himself by threatening with a bayonet.

The civilian intervened saying that this person was the NCO of the Depot and tried to stop the incident.

Later another English soldier intervened with the NCO i/c Post and the British NCO threatened the NCO i/c Post using his large pocket torch which he was carrying.

At last he went away, went up to his own room, took his revolver and fired a shot in the air. Coming down once more, he got a vehicle, made the woman get in it and threatened the Guard pointing the Pistol three times in his face, and the same time, not ceasing to use abusive words and threats.

I have gathered this from statements taken from the Guard and the NCO i/c Post.

Coy Comd LUIGI GALLENI

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

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

5.A

76 INFANTRY REGIMENT

HQ 2ND BN

3430 13 Aug 45

Subject :- Theft at No. 14 Guard Post.

HQ 76 Inf Regt.

Copy to :- 56 HLU.

It is reported that last night a theft was committed by a British NCO in one of he stores at No. 14 Guard Post which is manned by our guard. The Allied police, after having made enquiries, withdrew 2 Bayonets from the guard personnel in order to chech as to whether these could have been used to force open the door of the store. The Guard Commander, sentry and Guard are to appear this morning in front of the police to give evidence. A report follows.

Commander
Ten Col CIRO GAETA

PEP/ec

6067

4-A

HQ Combat Group MANTOVA.

Office of the Chief of Staff - 2 Sec - Ord & Pers.

9196/2

PM 104 9 Aug 45.

Subject :- Incident at Guard Post No. 14.

56 HLU.

We are enclosing a report coming from HQ 76 Inf Regt regarding an incident which occured at Guard Post No. 14 situated in the 58 BCD, Via Duca d' Aosta GENOA caused by Allied soldiers.

Could you please make the necessary enquiries informing this HQ of the result.

See 10A

A Piga.
for LT-COL Chief of Staff

---

76 Inf Regt - 8 Coy.

PM 104 1 Aug

Subject :- Report on the Incident at Guard Post No. 14, Viale Duca d'Augsta, at 58 BCD.

HQ 2Bn 76 Inf Regt.

6066

For information of HQ 76 Inf Regt, on 1 Aug at about 0130 hrs the following incident occured at Guard Post No. 14 :-

At the time stated the sentry Pte MURGIA Pietro saw three people bunched together who wanted to enter the vehicle park. At 30 metres distance he ordered them to halt. Of the three, one dressed in civilian clothes raised his arms and stopped. The other two, a soldier and a woman, stopped, remaining in the darkness, the guard asked them to come forward to be recognised. The civilian approached, declaring he was employed as a driver in the depot. In fact the guard recognised him as such and asked the other two to come forward. This was repeated by the driver without result, and the sentry went up to them to establish their identity. He was able to establish that one of them was an Allied soldier in uniform who immediately started to shout and use abusive words in English which were easily understood. He then threw himself at the sentry in an attempt to get hold of the

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

Could you please make the necessary enquiries informing this HQ of the result.

See 10.A

A Piga.
for LT-COL Chief of Staff

---

76 Inf Regt - 8 Coy.

PM 104 1 Aug

Subject :- Report on the Incident at Guard Post No. 14, Viale Duca d'Aosta, at 58 BCD.

HQ 2Bn 76 Inf Regt.

6066

For information of HQ 76 Inf Regt, on 1 Aug at about 0130 hrs the following incident occured at Guard Post No. 14 :-

At the time stated the sentry Pte MURGIA Pietro saw three people bunched together who wanted to enter the vehicle park. At 30 metres distance he ordered them to halt. Of the three, one dressed in civilian clothes raised his arms and stopped. The other two, a soldier and a woman, stopped remaining in the darkness, the guard asked them to come forward to be recognised. The civilian approached, declaring he was employed as a driver in the depot. In fact the guard recognised him as such and asked the other two to come forward. This was repeated by the driver without result, and the sentry went up to them to establish their identity. He was able to establish that one of them was an Allied soldier in uniform who immediately started to shout and use abusive words in English which were easily understood. He then threw himself at the sentry in an attempt to get hold of the sentry's rifle. The sentry defended himself by threatening with a bayonet.

The civilian intervened saying that this person was the NCO of the Depot and tried to stop the incident.

Later another English soldier intervened with the NCO i/c Post and the British NCO threatened the NCO i/c Post using his large pocket torch which he was carrying.

At last he went away, went up to his own room, took his revolver and fired a shot in the air. Coming down once more, he got a vehicle, made the woman get in it and threatened the guard pointing the Pistol three times in his face, and the same time, not ceasing to use abusive words and threats.

I have gathered this from statements taken from the guard and the NCO i/c Post.

Coy Comd Luigi Galleni

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

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

2A

76 Inf Regt - Combat Group MANTOVA

Hq 2 Bn

3379 PM 104 9 Aug

Subject :- Incident at Petrol Point Guard Post.

HQ 76 Inf Regt (Discipline Office)

Copy to :- HQ 56 MLU.

I am attaching for necessary action a copy of the report of the incident which occured on the 8th inst at the Petrol Point between a sentry on duty and a British soldier. The report was made up by the Coy Commander.

For information :-

Copy of the statement has been handed on the 9th to a Capt of 56 MLU.

At 1400 hrs on the 9th two soldiers and the commander of the guard were taken and interrogated by the SIB GENOA, and then retruned to their unit.

Major Nicholson OC 772 Coy RASC has expressed to Ten MANTILLARO his pleasure at the fine work on the part of his men as they enforced so well the orders given them.

In my opinion no blame can be placed on the sentry who in order to enforce the orders given him, tried to avoid any discussion and conducted himself in a calm manner and only when confronted with threats of aggression, loaded his weapon which as a result of the struggle, was fired.

6005

1-A see 9A

Ten Col CIRO GAETA

76 INFANTRY REGIMENT
HQ COY
2 BN

1.A

REPORT ON AN INCIDENT AT NO.6 POST - PETROL POINT.

Last night at about 2220 hrs, two American soldiers and a British soldier accompanied by a woman, a certain JEANIVE LANY of French nationality arrived in a Jeep and stopped at the exit of the Petrol Point. Getting out of the vehicle the two American soldiers and the woman went towards the kiosk where oil is distributed while the British soldier turned the vehicle and stopped outside the gate on the autostrada.

The two Americans and the woman followed by the British soldier entered the kiosk.

Pte SPANO Salvatore on duty at the exit of the Petrol Point stooped the group and asked them where they were going and an American after having looked at him replied that they were going into the kiosk. The sentry replied that no one was permitted to approach the kiosk let alone enter it but the American, followed by the other three, replied " I, a sergeant may enter". The guard insisted that no one, NCO or officer was allowed to approach as this was the order but not withstanding this all the three soldiers and the woman entered the kiosk. The guard called the NCO of the Post.

Pte BILLONI Gaetano who was resting in the billets after having done a guard duty heard Pte SPANO call for the NCO i/c Post and knowing that the NCO would not be able to hear as he was making the rounds changing the guard, himself went to see what was happening.

Asking permission to enter the kiosk (the door having been closed in the meanwhile) he repeated that it was not possible to remain inside and invited them to leave.

Only the British soldier went outside saying "I may remain here because I work here". Pte BELLONI replied that he did not know him and therefore he did not know if he worked at the Petrol Point but invited the British soldier to go to the British HQ which is quite near to see if in fact he worked and was authorised to remain in the Petrol Point.

The Englishman relied "You don't believe what I say ? then I'm a liar". Pte BELLONI replied "That doesn't concern me at all, come with me to the HQ". The Englishman replied "Then I'm a liar" and made a few paces in the direction of the HQ and then pushed Pte BELLONI making him bump against the pavement. Pte BELLONI resisted and struggles ensued.

After several moments of scrapping Pte Bellonis and the English soldier were separated and at this moment one of the two American soldiers interfered in defence of the Englishman, the Italian sentry Pte SPANO arrived at the post and told them all to go away. The American soldier and Pte BELLONI withdrew meanwhile the Englishman advanced towards the guard trying to disarm him.

After the Englishman insisted that he wanted to disarm the sentry, the sentry withdrew a few paces loading the rifle which the British soldier held by the muzzle.

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

Pte SPANO Salvatore on duty at the exit of the Petrol Point stooped the group and asked them where they were going and an American after having looked at him replied that they were going into the kiosk. The sentry replied that no one was permitted to approach the kiosk let alone enter it but the American, followed by the other three, replied " I, a sergeant may enter". The guard insisted that no one, NCO or officer was allowed to approach as this was the order but not withstanding this all the three soldiers and the woman entered the kiosk. The guard called the NCO of the Post.

Pte BELLONI Gaetano who was resting in the billets after having done a guard duty heard Pte SPANO call for the NCO i/c Post and knowing that the NCO would not be able to hear as he was making the rounds changing the guard, himself went to see what was happening.

Asking permission to enter the kiosk (the door having been closed in the meanwhile) he repeated that it was not possible to remain inside and invited them to leave.

Only the British soldier went outside saying "I may remain here because I work here". Pte BELLONI replied that he did not know him and therefore he did not know if he worked at the Petrol Point but invited the British soldier to go to the British HQ which is quite near to see if in fact he worked and was authorised to remain in the Petrol Point.

The Englishman relied "You don't believe what I say ? then I'm a liar". Pte BELLONI replied "That doesn't concern me at all, come with me to the HQ". The Englishman replied "Then I'm a liar" and made a few paces in the direction of the HQ and then pushed Pte BELLONI making him bump against the pavement. Pte BELLONI resisted and struggles ensued.

After several moments of scrapping Pte Belloni and the English soldier were separated and at this moment one of the two American soldiers interfered in defence of the Englishman, the Italian sentry Pte SPANO arrived at the post and told them all to go away. The American soldier and Pte BELLONI withdrew meanwhile the Englishman advanced towards the guard trying to disarm him. 4

After the Englishman insisted that he wanted to disarm the sentry, the sentry withdrew a few paces loading the rifle which the British soldier held by the mussle. Continuing the struggle on order not to be disarmed and to free himself Pte SPANO finished up against the pavement, the British soldier not letting go of the rifle. In the struggle the English soldier trying to disarm the guard and the guard resisting being disarmed, a shot was fired which hit the English soldier in the hand.

Owing to the shot and having let go the rifle the English soldier fell to the ground, the two Americans and the woman running away. The NCO i/c Post Cpl/Magg USAI Giovanni and an employee of the Petrol Point intervened helping the English soldier to get up, the latter meanwhile repeating "Sanfariane" several times.

2/.....

Lee 2.A - 9A
Lee 15 A

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

Cpl/Magg USAI stopped an American vehicle that was passing and asked it to take the wounded Englishman to hospital. The Englishman tried to resist going to hospital and continued to say "Sanfariane Sanfariane" after which he gave in.

It is possible to call as witnesses the lady who was in company of the Americans JEANIVE LAMY and Mr FOSSATI Germano living in SAN PIERDARENA. Via Nicola, BARABENO 53. Flat No. 2.

This statement corresponds exactly to the version made by the lady JEANIVE LAMY immediately after the incident to S/Ten MODESTINI, Sgt/Magg DIVIDE, Cpl/Magg VETRUGNO and Sgt GENTILE, and later to Capt BERARDINELLI and to Lt MANTILLARO. At the request of an English Capt the police arrested Pte SPANO and Pte BELLONI. After about half an hour the Italian soldiers were accompanied to the camp and allowed to go free on the receipt signed by Capt BERARDINELLI.

PM 104 9/8/45

Signed

Ten MANTILLARO OC Coy.

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

PM 104 9/8/45

Signed

Ten MARTILLARO OC Coy.

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