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PILFERAGE

1154
1167

July 19, 1945 - Nov. 10, 1945

Subject:- Robbery at 3 Food Depot - Milan.

14

ST. MMIA. IO. N.W. ITALY
c/o Signal Office Genoa

STG/20

10 Nov 45

To:- ADST HQ. M.M.I.A. RUBE (2)
Senior MMIA. IO. N. ITALY MILAN (1)

Herewith details of robbery at the 3 Distribution Depot Milan for information.

R
S/Capt. RASC.
ST. MMIA. IO.
N. W. ITALY.

encl.

ASL/ly

1167

Trasl. lrDIREZIONE DI COMMISSARIATO
MILAN

No. 2599/17

Milan, 6 November 1945

Subject:- Robbery at Food Depot - Milan.

To :- M.M.I.A. LO. GENOVA

You are informed that on the night 31 Oct/ 1 Nov a robbery took place at Food Depot Milan.

Robbery in question was effected in the premises at the ground-floor (corner Via Vincenzo Monti-Via Giorgio Pallavicino) used as Food Depot. Grating of window facing Via Pallavicino was found forced; from such grating a rectangle of cm.80x50 has been taken away following the cutting by means of shears of 4 iron bars 2 cm. thick; also the metal net after the grating has been cut.

The hole effected in the grating is about 2 meters high from the ground floor and through this hole were taken away sacks and cases. Foodstuffs stolen were the following:-

- Herrings, in tins - 49 cases containing 100 3 1/4 ozs.
tins each - Kgs. 450,800
- Toasted coffee beans - 22 bags " 665
- Ground coffee - 7 cases (30 lbs. each plus one tin
and a half) " 98,698
- Sugar - 41 boxes (25 lbs. each) " 464,325
- Pepper - 1 case (24 tins, 1 lb. each) plus 13 tins
1 1/2 lb. each " 16,996
- 4 cases (14 compositions each) intended for Allied
Forces.
- 40 empty bags.

It is presumed that the pilferage has been effected by unknown persons after midnight of 31 Oct inasmuch as the Offr i/c of the Depot Lt. Longo Enrico after his usual inspection at 2130 hrs. and the closing of the street door of billet in Via Pallavicino, II at about 2400 hrs. remarked no abnormalities.

Since the door of the depot inside the Barracks was found intact, it has resulted from the investigation carried out by Lt. Longo with OC the Barracks Major Pacifico Giuseppe (Supply Corps) that the stolen items have been carried away through the hole effected from the outside and this in fact is evidenced by pieces of cases, tags and empty bags found in Via G. Pallavicini and on the meadow nearby where presumably the foodstuffs have been loaded on some vehicle.

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As soon as Lt. Longo had knowledge of the robbery he informed forthwith the OC the Besozzi Barracks and CC.RR. Station of Porta Magenta by telephone, and this Directorate.

After the investigation effected on the spot by a N.C.O. of the said CC.RR. Station and Major Catalisano Giuseppe of this Directorate, the Offr i/c of the Depot arranged to stop provisionally the hold and ordered that a N.C.O. and two soldiers sleep in the depot until repair works were finished and this in order to avoid other eventual pilferages.

Lt. Longo got in touch with the "Squadra Volante" of the Police and successively with the Squadra Mobile of the R. Questura of Milan and on the 2nd inst. disposed for the withdrawal from the Depot of the R. Questura of the following items which formed part of the robbery:-

- Sugar - 10 cases (25 lbs. each) Kgs. 113,250
- Herrings, in tins - 10 cases (100 tins each) " 92,500
- Toasted coffee beans - 13 bags (net weight) " 372,500
- Ground coffee - 1 case (30 lbs. net weight) " 13,590
- Pepper - 1 box containing 24 tins 1 lb. each " 10,872

Above items, as reported by Dr. Grego commanding the Squadra Mobile of the R. Questura, have been requisitioned in a Depot located in Via Olmetto, 3 where they have been stored by a person up to now unknown.

To sum up, the following items have been lost:-

- Herrings Kgs. 358,800 = lbs. 792
- Toasted coffee beans" 292,500 = " 645
- Ground coffee " 85,108 = " 187
- Sugar in lumps " 351,075 = " 775
- Pepper " 6,124 = " 13
- 4 boxes compositions for Allied troops (14 rations each)
- 40 empty bags.

Guards belonged to the 4 Coy 502 Terr.Guard Bn and were the following:-

- Caporale Gambella Mario
- Pt. Vaghi Pt. Giudice
- " Veronese " Giuliani
- " Giuliano " Zudas.

N.C.O. charged for the inspection of the guards was Sgt. Egiziano Amerigo who, from the results of the first investigation, absented himself without leave from 2330 hrs. of 31 Oct to 0800 hrs. of 1st inst. so rendering possible the robbery for the missing inspections outside the Barracks

- 3 -

as laid down in the written orders.

Above Sgt. has been confined pending final responsibilities to his charge.

Night guard service has been now intensified with personnel ordered daily by OC Besozzi Barracks, Major Pacifico.

s/ Colonel Director

A. Grippo

1164

Subject: Inspection at Milan Food Depot.

By order of this Directorate I have gone to the Food Depot of Milan in order to inspect two groups of olive oil barrels which have been found full of water by said Depot. The first group consisting of 8 barrels has been shown to me stored at a Depot of Magazzini Generali of Milan lent temporary to the Dir. di Commissariato. It has been said to me that this Depot is not guarded neither by personnel of Supply Corp nor by military guard. When the work is stopped this Depot is closed and door sealed.

I have found the barrels stacked near others of same shipment and having found them unsealed I have effected a test of contents by a proper pump. All the 8 barrels resulted full of water nearly limpid without that disgusting strong odour mentioned in report delivered by the escorting party to the Consignee of 2 Bulk Depot at Rivarolo.

The Officers who made out the declaration furnished me following particulars:

- Shipment has been unloaded from the same wagon on the railway-junction of the Docks and the Commission who were present at the unloading wanted to test contents of the barrels which appeared all sealed and with tags in which the following was written: "Commissione Militare di ritiro dall'ammasso di Cerignola" signed by Capt. (Pharmacist) Giacomo Favia of Dir. Commissariato Bari. The first tested barrel resulted, according to the said Commission, full of water so that this operation was repeated on all barrel. Other 7 barrels resulted in said conditions. I am of the opinion that the declarations made by said officers do not agree with the actual chronological succession of facts, since the chief of the escorting party, according to his written declaration, maintains that barrels were carried to the Docks so that it may be assumed that the unloading of the wagon has been effected at "Farini" Railway-Sidings and not at Docks' Railway-junction. The fact that barrels have been found sealed by the Commissione di Ritiro" at the loading Station could infer the connivance of said Commission in substituting olive oil with water but, in this case, having the substitution taken place long time ago the water should appear as a fetid emulsion caused by a long journey.

Let me point out to another fact: in transit at Turin I have found at the Food Depot another shipment originating from the same Commission of Cerignola. I have effected a test on about 20 barrels and they resulted full of oil.

Second group of barrels. This group consists of 7 barrels and have been shown to me at the Food Depot, Milan, stacked near other shipments, some of them withdrawn by Dir. Commissariato from local British depots. The Consignee of the Depot affirms that most of these barrels have arrived unsealed and that, at the inspection, resulted full of water. In spite of the fact that there is no guaranty for the sender who has no alternative but to control the facts after they have

= 2 =

taken place, I inspected the 7 barrels and ~~from~~ a part of them resulted a strong oleic emulsion and ~~from~~ another part ~~the barrels~~ appeared containing variable quantities of oil and water already stratified.

In order to achieve an exact result, ~~from the inspection~~ barrels should be inspected after a long time; quantities of recoverable olive oil could then be approximately determined. I therefore charged the Consignee of Food Depot to establish the approx quantities of water and olive oil contained in each barrel.

I am not of the advice of OC I Sec. Comm. of Milan i.e. to hand over the contents of barrels to Soap Factories. A considerable quantity of olive oil could be recovered after decanting of liquids or after that same have been separated from water by means of a special "centrifuga".

s/ S/Lt. G. Striglia

DIREZIONE DI COMMISSARIATO

Report of the officer sent by this Directorate to Milan.

..... for information.

2. 1162

Translation: lr

DIREZIONE DI COMMISSARIATO OF GENOA

No. 4967/D

28 Sept 1945

Subject:- Attack on armed guards at Marabotto Barracks
(2 Dist. Depot)

To:- MMIA.LO. GENOA

(tel. conversation refers)

You are informed that at 2:15 26th inst. some unknown persons, armed with automatic weapons, fired at the guards of Distribution Depot located in Genova Cornigliano Marabotto Barracks.

The attack came from the shore of Polcevera river where some heaps of stones and gravel permit to evil-minded persons to take refuge from the counter-offensive of the guards.

The armed guard, constituted by 1 Officer and 35 ORs of the 2 Coy - 519 Guard Bn, reacted by fire and helped by the personnel in service at the Depot, swept the shore of the river and neighbourhood. 8 civilians were arrested but resulting no charges on them were successively released by the Military Police.

The guards at the Depot informed promptly the Military Command, this Directorate and CC.RR. of Genoa-Sestri and Genoa Cornigliano so that carabinieri of the said Stations and reinforcements of the 2 Coy-519 Guard Bn rushed to the place.

No losses had to be suffered by the guards, some insignificant damages to the building and no losses to the supplies stored at the Depot.

s/ Col. Giuliani

12/1
■ 1161

Subject: Pilferage attempt at 42 B.S.D.

STG/20

DIREZIONE COMMISSARIATO
G E N O A

(5)

12 Sept. 1945

No. 299/D/Ris.

To: - M.M.I.A. L.O. GENOA

Please be informed that on the 11th inst. during loading of flour at 42 B.S.D. the following has happened:

At 1005 hrs Dvr Picchi Mario of the 3 S.T. Company (driving lorry No. L. 5175635) taking advantage of the fact that 7 lorries were simultaneously unloading, loaded on his lorry one sack of sugar, helped in this by two civil labourers of the 42 B.S.D. . The sack was taken away from a near lying stack.

Pvt. Forestieri of the 2 Bulk Depot, charged for the checking of the loading, was at the moment by Lt. Adami of said Depot to give him particulars relating to the load of said lorry. Of this momentary absence availed Pvt. Picchi to load his lorry with the sack of sugar.

Pvt. Picchi and the two civil labourers have been detained by Command of 42 B.S.D. pending their delivery to the Military Police.

↑
S.I.B.

Col. Giuliani

1160

Subject:- Incident at Food Distr. Depot - Genova-Cornigliano

DIREZIONE COMMISSARIATO
G E N O A

N; 297/D/Ris.

File
STG/20
Genoa, 12 Sept. 1945

To: MMIA. LO.

GENOA

(H)

In compliance with teleph. request of 10th inst. herewith enclosed please find report of S/Lt. Mirabile Giovanni, Vice-Consignee of the Food Depot, relating to incident which took place at said Depot in the night 9/10 inst.

s/ Col. Giuliani

Direzione di Commissariato
< MAGAZZINO DISTRIBUZIONE VIVERI REGIONALE

REPORT on incident which took place during the night 9/10/Sept.45

In the night 9/10 Sept. at 0140 a hand-grenade was thrown by unknown persons against the two sentries Cannas Virgilio and Cogoni Alfonso on duty along the fencing-wall of "Marabotto" Barrack and precisely along the two walls which divide said Barrack with Military Bakery and Polcevera river.

Said sentries replied with their rifles and the sentry on the terrace of shower-bath building, after having raised an alarm, joined them. N.C.O. Sussistenza Corp, Gregorio Vincenzo then phoned to CC.RR. Station of Sampierdarena asking for reinforcements but they replied it was not possible owing to strength deficiency.

Then came S/Lt. Mirabile Giovanni who phoned immediately to 2nd Gd Coy of the 1st Gd Rgt. and also to General Hq. & Territorial Command and to Direzione Commissariato. In the meantime he gave necessary orders that all soldiers available be sent with their arms to the most vulnerable points of Depot and also that the three sentries attacked be reinforced by other soldiers.

In the meantime two soldiers went out of the Barrack and crossed the bridge on the Polcevera river (Via Cornigliano). They went down to the river, in the opposite part of the depot, in order to attack brigands on the bank, but these latter after having reacted with some shots retreated towards said bridge and in spite of the attack of the two soldiers succeeded in escaping.

Towards 0230 hrs. came on the place an armoured car and a lorry on board of which were about 30 carabinieri under command of a N.C.O. of the Mobile Bn of Genoa, who swept all the neighbourhood and the Polcevera river.

At about 0300 hours, when Capt. Regardi Luigi of the 2nd Gd Coy came with 54 armed soldiers, all the neighbourhood was searched for the second time, and every sentry was reinforced by another man and a machine gun with three men was placed on the terrace from the part of the river. Capt. Regardi with other three officers of his unit remained on the spot until 0430, then returned to his Hq. leaving at the Depot a reinforcement of 18 men with arms.

It is pointed out that all personnel of the guard and especially Corporal Major DI GIAMBATTISTA Nicola have been very active showing courage and determination in defending the integrity of the Depot.

S/Lt. G. Mirabile

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It is pointed out that all personnel of the guard and especially
Corporal Major DI GIAMBATTISTA Nicola have been very active
showing courage and determination in defending the integrity of
the Depot.

V.: Col. Giuliani

s/ S/Lt. G. Mirabile

1158

Subject:- Pilferage from Food Distribution Depot, Genoa.

2

M.M.I.A. IO.,
GENOA

✓ STG/20

3 September 1945

To:- HQ. M.M.I.A. ROME (for S & T).

On the morning of 28th August 1945 I was informed by the Commissariato Genoa that a pilferage of 2190 lbs of tinned cheese had taken place from the Food Distribution Depot, Genoa.

I inspected the building at about 1100 hours 28th August and report as follows:

1. The place of entry was in the rear of the building and not under the "eye" of the Guard.
2. It was necessary to remove a wire guard prior to forcing the window and it is not understood how the Guard did not hear any disturbance whilst he was patrolling the yard about 30 yds away.
3. In order to remove the cases of cheese steps had to be made and for this purpose other cases of cheese were used; the height from the floor to the window ledge being approx 6 feet.
4. The Guard stated that they heard no undue noise during the night.

A. W. H. M.
Captain, RASC
STAGLIA IO, N.W. Italy

ACC/go

1157

Translation CC/gc

MILITARY TERRITORIAL HEADQUARTERS GENOA
Commissary Directorate

REPORT TO ASCERTAIN THE ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE
CONSIGNEE OF 2 FOOD DISTRIBUTING DEPOT IN REGARD TO THEFT
PERPETRATED THE NIGHT OF 28 AUGUST 1945.

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On 29 August 1945, in Genoa, the undersigned Commission formed by the Military Commissary Directorate of Genoa with order of the day N° 59 of 28 August 1945 as per instructions set forth in Art. 26 of Administrative Rule, headed by Colonel Pietro Giuliani, Commissary Director, and formed by Lieut Col Antonio Rettura, Commissary, Chief 1st Section, Major Nicola Amalfitani, Chief Finance Office of above Directorate and by Lieut Giorgio Striglia, Commissary, reported to the Food Distributing Depot.

The following has been disclosed:

- On the morning of 28 August 1945, Signora Mori Pina informed the military personnel of food Depot that she discovered a window of said Depot facing Vico del Creto -Genoa-Corhigliano, which was torn up, with the metal grating broken and with the safe-bars removed, so that she thought of a theft.

- According to the above, the Commission provided to freeze all movements in Food Depot to start an inventory of existing items for the purpose of ascertaining the amount of loss and the type or types of items stolen.

- Upon checking the accountancy documents and the effective control of items existing in the place where the robbery was perpetrated, it was disclosed that only a quantity of canned cheese was missing.

- the balance on paper for such item was of 7338.234 Kgs, whilst the actual balance was of 6344.415 Kgs with a discrepancy of 993.819 Kgs.

- it is logical, therefore, that the amount of stolen cheese is of 993.819 Kgs.

- as a consequence of damage suffered by the Military Administration, the Commission proceeded to screen all elements to ascertain the administrative responsibility.

- it was ascertained that there are no elements against the consignee of 2 Food Distributing Depot to blame him for not securing a proper guarding, since the warehouses are protected by strong doors and locks as well as by a regular guard service.

- nevertheless, it was disclosed that the Consignee did not sufficiently explain the written "ORDERS", which are known by all guarding personnel, to the first guard shift; such explanation, if given, could have changed the limits of surveillance entrusted to the guards and perhaps the criminal act could have been avoided.

- an investigation is being carried out by the CC.RR. of Sampierdarena to determine further penal responsibilities.

- In accordance with the above, the Consignee is not involved in the administrative responsibility since the loss was caused by unforeseen circumstances.

- the patrimonial loss, according to prices fixed by circular from Ministry of War - 44 - letter 66 of 26 Febr 44 of the Military Journal, is of 39,752.76 lire.

Compiled, red, closed and signed at the Direzione Commissariato of Genova on above mentioned date.

THE COMMISSION:

/s/ Lieut Giorgio Striglia, Comm/to

/s/ Major Amalfitani Nicola, Finance

/s/ Lieut Col Antonio Rettura, Comm/to

■ 1155

THE DIRECTOR OF COMMISSARY
/s/ COLONEL PIETRO GIULIANI

SUBJECT: PilferagesO.C. R.A.S.C.
60 Sub-AreaCopy to: - MILA Genoa.
O.C. Italian Air Force
Garrison - Genoa.203 D.I.D., R.A.S.C.
Tel No 43481
6/8/45

10 July 45

For some time past I have been very suspicious of Italian Military Units receiving more rations than their entitlement and close watch has been kept on them and the civilian labour carrying the supplies to their vehicles.

At approx 1700 hrs. 7th July 45 a Lieut. Giuffre of the Italian Air Force Garrison, asked if he could have potatoes in lieu of fresh Veg and was told no as it was not an issue to Italian Military Units, he appeared annoyed at this and left the indent office.

Some five minutes later my issuer Pte Gardener reported to me that he had caught two men belonging to Lieut. Giuffre putting potatoes on Giuffre's vehicle whilst he was weighing the Veg Giuffre's himself was standing at the entrance of the bay appearing not to notice what was going on.

Giuffre's and the other two men whose names are Bianchi and Petriccioli were brought before me for questioning, the two men would not commit themselves and Giuffre stated that he had no knowledge that potatoes were being loaded on to his vehicle but admitted that there was 100 Kgs. on that should not have been there.

The potatoes were off loaded and put back into store.

H. Skifford
Capt RASC
Commanding

1154

Recd 11/7/45

FILE: S/T - RATIONS

0186