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820.13

GREEK + CANADIAN TROOPS - ITALY

Sept. 1944 - Feb. 1945

Ref: P/820.13

19 February 1945

The Political Section of the Allied Commission presents its compliments to the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and, with reference to their memorandum no. 6/172/64 of the 16th January, regarding incidents at STATE and MIRA in which Allied troops were involved, has the honour to transmit to them herewith extracts from official reports rendered by the appropriate military authorities in that regard.

Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

2 Encls: Extracts from Official Reports
on incidents at STATE and MIRA

2533

8/20-12

HEADQUARTERS
SOUTHERN REGION, ALLIED COMMISSION
PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION

Ref: PS/ 15.1

Date 6 Feb. 45

SUBJECT: Behaviour of Greek Troops.

TO : HQ. ALCOM (attention Political Section). ✓

1. Reference your 820.13 dated 19 January 1945
and Memo. No. 6/172/84 dated 16 January 1945.

2. Attached are copies of extracts from S.I.B.
reports on the two incidents referred to affecting
Greek troops in Statte and Barra.

For the Regional Commissioner:

WS.
CN/jag.

Do you see any
objection to forwarding
these reports as
they stand to the
HQ, PA?

G. Richardson
G. RICHARDSON
Major,
Regional Public
Safety Officer.

2533

No
-ms

Through the medium of an interpreter I interviewed the Exile Officer, Zita Domenico, who informed me that on the evening of the 14th December, 1944, he and his family were sitting at the table, when an explosion took place in the passageway at the side of his home. This explosion caused the glass of the window at this side of the house to break.

He did not leave the house to investigate but was informed the next morning by persons in the street, that the explosion had caused by a bomb which had been thrown by a Greek soldier.

Zita pointed out to me the spot where the bomb had exploded. I examined the spot, and apart from a slight powdering of the stone of the wall, and a few marks which might have been caused by shrapnel on the opposite wall, there was nothing to indicate what type of bomb had been used. Certainly it was not a British grenade, as, in such a confined space it would have severely damaged the walls of the two houses between which the passageway runs.

Enquiries made at houses, which, it is alleged, the Greeks entered in their pose as Police, revealed that on admittance, the Greeks stayed only a few minutes, during which time they looked around the house for any Italian sailor who may have been hiding there. They did no damage but quietly left the houses.

I later interviewed Lt. EMERSON Mario, who informed me that on the 15th November, 1944, he was travelling in his car along Via Crespiano, STATA, when he was stopped by Greek soldiers who were armed with Tommy-guns. They gave him to understand that they were looking for Italian sailors. When they saw he was dressed in civilian clothes they allowed him to proceed. As he was starting away, another group of Greek soldiers tried to open the door of the car, and then struck the hood with some hard instrument, causing it to dent.

As he was driving away he heard a gun-shot, and the rear window of the car broke into pieces. He then continued his journey without any further incident.

The Municipal Guard, PIZZOLLA Francesco, now stationed at Taranto, had been interviewed and a statement obtained from him.

PIZZOLLA states that on the evening of the 15th November, 1944, he was walking along Via Diaz, when, for no reasons whatsoever by six or seven Allied soldiers, one of whom, with a knuckleduster on his fist, punched him on the right eyebrow. He fell to the ground and was kicked several times. After the Greeks left him he crawled to a shop where he received First Aid.

PIZZOLLA then goes on to report in his statement happenings related to him by other persons. None of the persons mentioned in this report are able to recognise the Greek soldiers again.

I was unable to find any person who actually saw a Greek

I examined the spot, and apart from a slight powdering of the stone of the wall, and a few marks which might have been caused by shrapnel on the opposite wall, there was nothing to indicate what type of bomb had been used. Certainly it was not a British grenade, as, in such a confined space it would have severely damaged the walls of the two houses between which the passageway runs.

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I was unable to find any person who actually saw ²⁵³¹ a soldier throw a grenade.

Enquiries at camps in the Staging Area with a view to tracing the Greek soldiers, have met with no success, probably due to the fact that it is believed the Greeks in question have since left this Area, and also partly due to the great length of time which has elapsed before the report of these incidents reached this office for investigation.

From enquiries made, it would appear that the Greek soldiers were nursing some grievance against Italian sailors in general.

The report on these happenings submitted by the Carabinieri, appears to be highly superfluous, every incident apart from one, being greatly exaggerated. In the Carabinieri report it states that some hand grenades were thrown under the window of the Police Officer, whereas only one is now stated to have been thrown, and concerning which no witness can be traced. This report also states that several shots were fired against the car of Lt. ETTORE MARLO, breaking the windows, whereas in actual fact, only one shot was fired and only one window was broken. There is also no evidence of the fact that the Greeks, when they entered houses, broke doors and windows, as suggested by Carabinieri report. These incidents happened on the 15th November, 1944, and not on the 14th, as stated by the Carabinieri.

Enquiries are still continuing with a view to tracing the Greek soldiers, and should any useful information come to hand, action will be taken and a further report submitted.

Respectfully Submitted.

(signed) G. HANSON, Serjt.,
67 Section, S.I.B.

EXTRACT FROM REPORT FROM
CL SECTION S.I.P.

At about 1800 hours on 25th December 1944, about seven dark skinned soldiers went to the house of Mignano Rocco, at 408, Corso Sirena, Barra, apparently looking for women. Mignano was in nearby cafe at the time, but he was informed of the incident by his small son. Mignano, together with other civilians who were in the cafe, went to his house and persuaded the soldiers to go away. They did this, but before doing so one of the soldiers pulled out a small knife and pricked Mignano's face or neck with it. They then went down some stairs into a courtyard, where one of the soldiers scratched the face of Sagnotta Lucia age 18, as he was trying to seize hold of her. About the same time, Scognemiglio Paolo, age 34, a civilian who had left the cafe with Mignano, received a slight cut in the back, which he alleges was caused by a knife stab received from one of the soldiers.

The behaviour of the soldiers was the probable cause of the attack by Italians on Lebanese soldiers shortly afterwards, and it seems that most of the soldiers attacked were those who had been concerned in the previous incidents.

About thirty yards away from 408 Corso Sirena a small road leads off to the billet of No.3 Section, 1227 (Levant) A.W. Coy B.S. nearly half a mile away. The road widens at the junction, and on the corner there is a small water fountain which is referred to in some of the attached statements. Sappars Jamal, Barbarian, El Turkie and Daimed, all of the above mentioned unit, were near this junction when they were attacked by a crowd of about fifty Italians. Two other soldiers who were passing at the time, L/Cpl Amour, of the same Section, and Pte. Kouzaris, a Cypriot from No.2 Section of the unit, were also attacked. The Italians surrounded the soldiers and struck them with sticks and knives, one Italian also striking El Turkie with the butt end of a rifle, causing cuts and bruises to El Turkie's face. The soldiers were beaten about the face and Jamal was knocked to the ground apparently unconscious. The soldiers of No.3 Section were eventually able to escape, and they then made their way back to their billet, Jamal being the last to leave.

It appears that KOUZARIS was knocked unconscious by a blow over the head and was still lying in the roadway after other soldiers and civilians had left. Two Cypriots, Sergeants Demetriou and Yiassimides unaware of what had happened, came along the road and saw Kouzaris. They tried to assist him to his feet and at the same time sent another soldier to No. 1227 (Levant) A.W. Coy. B.S. to obtain transport in order to convey Kouzaris back to his billet. Shots were then fired from different sections so the two Sergeants left Kouzaris and ran away.

Meanwhile the injured Lebanese soldiers had arrived at No.3 Section billet. Apparently Sappars Barbarian was the first to arrive and he informed the Lebanese soldiers present that they

bulled out a small knife and pricked Mignano's face or neck with it. They then went down some stairs into a courtyard, where one of the soldiers scratched the face of Sarmouta Lucia age 18, as he was trying to seize hold of her. About the same time, Scognamiglio Paolo, age 54, a civilian who had left the safe with Mignano, received a slight cut in the back, which he alleges was caused by a knife stab received from one of the soldiers.

The behavior of the soldiers was the probable cause of the attack by Italians on Lebanese soldiers shortly afterwards, and it seems that most of the soldiers attacked were those who had been concerned in the previous incidents.

About thirty yards away from 406 Corso Sirena a small road leads off to the billet of No.3 Section, 1227 (Levant) A.M. Joy R.B. nearly half a mile away. The road widens at the junction, and on the corner there is a small water fountain which is referred to in some of the attached statements. Saperes Jamal, Sarmoutian, El Turkie and Daimed, all of the above mentioned unit, were near this junction when they were attacked by a crowd of about fifty Italians. Two other soldiers who were passing at the time, L/Cpl Amour, of the same Section, and Pte. Kouzaris, a Syrian, from No.2 Section of the unit, were also attacked. The Italians surrounded the soldiers and struck them with sticks and knives, one Italian also striking El Turkie with the butt end of a rifle, causing cuts and bruises to El Turkie's face. The soldiers were beaten about the face and Jamal was knocked to the ground apparently unconscious. The soldiers of No.3 Section were eventually able to escape, and they then made their way back to their billet, Jamal being the last to leave.

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Meanwhile the injured Lebanese soldiers had arrived at No.3 Section billet. Apparently Saperes Sarmoutian was the first to arrive and he informed the Lebanese soldiers present that their comrades had been attacked by civilians and Jamal had been killed. Upon hearing this about twenty to thirty of the personnel rushed to the rifle and ammunition store and after knocking over the sentry, Saperes Raimoia, who was standing outside the store door, they burst open the door and took away rifles and ammunition. They then ran towards Barra, firing shots in all directions.

In Corso Sirena there is an archway at each address leading to a courtyard, and from here a common stairway has openings at each floor to lead to several humble dwellings around the court-

yard. It is apparent that some of the soldiers ran up the stairways of some of the houses and fired shots through the closed doors. At No. 573 Corso Sirena shots were fired through several doors on the first floor, and in one of the rooms, Corzolino Lucie, a woman aged 60, was killed by a shot which struck her in the left side of the stomach, after it had passed through the leg of a three year old boy, De Luca Domenico, who was sitting on her knees.

Borriello Filippo and his wife, Raiela Concetta were both wounded when shots were fired through the closed door of their house at 356 Corso Sirena. Borriello being wounded in the thigh and his wife in the chest. It is also alleged that soldiers broke into the house of Germaine Giuseppe at 452 Corso Sirena and struck him on the left elbow with a rifle butt.

Another civilian, Grosso Annibale, age 46, of 429 Corso Sirena, Barra, was wounded in the leg by a bullet when standing in the street outside No. 373. He apparently had been in the same room as the dead woman but had left shortly after she had been killed, in order to return to his home. While doing this he received his wound.

Sergeant M. F. Clark, the British M.C.O. in charge of No. 3 Billet had heard the soldiers rushing out, and after he had found what had happened he went out in pursuit of the Lebanese soldiers. On his way into Barra he overtook some of these men, and he took them with him along the road until he arrived at the junction with Corso Sirena. Shots were still being fired from the various directions, some of them being tracer ammunition fired into the air.

At about the same time, Lieut. W.M. Woodhouse, who was orderly Officer at the unit HQ about a mile away, arrived on the scene he having heard of the injury sustained by Kouzaris. Together with Serg. Clark he was able to get several soldiers to the junction. The shooting then stopped and the Lebanese were put on to a lorry which had arrived from the unit. The soldiers were then driven back to 5 Section Billet, where they handed in the rifles and what was left of the ammunition to the storekeeper. The seriousness of the shooting array was not known at this time, and consequently no check was made to ascertain which of the Lebanese soldiers were in possession of rifles.

Kouzaris was not found and he was still missing from his billet when a roll call was made later that night. Lieut. Woodhouse not being satisfied that he had previously gone to the right place asked Serg. Demetrious and Viatrimides to take him to the spot where they had seen Kouzaris lying. They took him to near the entrance of a courtyard about ten yards away from the fountain. There they found a field service cap which was marked inside with the regimental number of Kouzaris, though the soldier concerned could not be found.

broke into the house of ... struck him on the left elbow with a rifle butt.

Another civilian, Gresco Amabile, age 46, of 429 Gresco Sirena, Berra, was wounded in the leg by a bullet when standing in the street outside No. 873. He apparently had been in the same room as the dead woman but had left shortly after she had been killed, in order to return to his home. While doing this he received his wound.

Sergeant M.F. Clark, the British M.C.O. in charge of No. 5 Billet had heard the soldiers rushing out, and after he had found what had happened he went out in pursuit of the Lebanese soldiers. On his way into Berra he overtook some of these men, and he took them with him along the road until he arrived at the junction with Corso Sirena. Shots were still being fired from the various directions, some of them being tracer ammunition fired into the air.

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2528

At about 1045 hours the following day, L/Cpl M.S. Thomson, 103 T.C. Coy 3.M. Police, was on duty on the autostrada when his attention was drawn to a soldier who was lying unconscious in a garden at the side of the autostrada, some three miles from where he had last been seen. He was cold and damp, as if he had been lying there all night, and he was immediately moved to NOI R.A.F. General Hospital, Torre del Greco. He was later transferred to the 68th General Hospital, where he died on the morning of 27th December, 1944, as a result of head injuries. This soldier was Pte Kouzaris.

Extensive enquiries have been made, but it was soon apparent that little assistance would be obtained from either the Lebanese

soldiers on the Italian population, as both parties realized that at least one of their members had been responsible for the killing of another person. It seems reasonable to assume that Kouzaris was moved by civilians between the time they attacked the soldiers and the arrival of the Lebanese with rifles, probably first to a house, and later at night to the spot where he was found. Several carts are kept in some of the courtyards and if one of these were used, and a route taken to avoid Section Billet and the HQ of the same company, then a small road would take under the autostrada. Kouzaris was found in a garden separated from this small road by a wall, and from the slight depression where he was lying it would seem that he had been thrown over the wall. It seems unlikely that he could have walked there himself, as besides his injury, he would find difficulty in climbing the wall. To get into the garden from the autostrada it is necessary to go down a steep bank at the bottom of which is a ditch. With these points in mind enquiries were made to trace Italians who had moved or injured Kouzaris, but no information of any value could be obtained. The area of Barra is notorious from a crime point of view, and no doubt any civilian who did give information to the Police would eventually suffer through action taken by his neighbours.

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back at the bottom of which is a ditch. With these points in mind enquiries were made to trace Italians who had moved or injured Kouzeris, but no information of any value could be obtained. The area of Berre is notorious from a crime point of view, and no doubt any civilian who did give information to the Police would eventually suffer through action taken by his neighbours.

2527

Ref: P/820.13

29th January 1945

The Political Section of the Allied Commission presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and, with reference to their memorandum No. 6/240/114 of the 23rd January, regarding certain incidents which are reported to have taken place between the Allied Forces and the Italian civil population, has the honour to state that it is the earnest wish of the Supreme Allied Commander, Mediterranean Theatre that relations between the Allied troops and the civil population shall be as cordial as possible and that the armed forces are constantly being reminded of their obligations in this respect. As the Ministry state regrettable incidents of the kind mentioned are unfortunately bound to happen in the course of war operations and the Allied authorities therefore sincerely trust that they may count on the active support and collaboration of the Italian civil authorities in preventing such incidents or in minimising the effects of such incidents.

The Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
Palazzo Chigi,
ROME

2525

820.13

C.O.S.

(I)

The attached memo. (no. 6/240/114 of Jan. 23rd) from the High. is a curious document. The correspondence began with complaints about the behaviour of Greek & Canadian troops in the Rimini area. When pressed for details, however, the High. states that they do not wish to initiate enquiries since "incidents of this sort are unfortunately bound to happen in the course of war operations." Nevertheless the High. keeps on the watch of issuing orders to stop such incidents. Then follows the odd statement that "some wayos had even been compelled to resign their posts to the High. of the AMG." I don't know what this means to do with it. Finally, ref. is made to the dangerous driving of the Greek troops.

I think that we can merely reply that it is the current with the stated that relations between the troops & the civil population shall be as cordial as possible & that the troops are constantly being reminded of their obligations in this respect. But you may wish to take up the question of the wayos more explicitly.

26/1/1945

W.H.H.

however, the Maj. states that they do not wish to initiate enquiries since "incidents of this sort are unfortunately bound to happen in the course of war operations". Nevertheless the Maj. keeps on the watch & issuing orders to stop such incidents. Then follows the oral statement that "some mayors had even been compelled to resign their posts as the result of the AME." I don't know what this has to do with it. Finally, ref. is made to the dangerous driving of the Reich troops.

2. I think that we can merely reply that it is the result with the Stokes & other relations between the troops & the civil population shall be as cordial as possible & that the troops are conscientiously reminded of their obligations in this respect. But you may wish to take up the question of the mayors more explicitly.

26/1/1945

Pol Sec.

I think a reasonable interpretation of the ref to mayors is that incidents have been too much for them. I read it as a remark merely to lend emphasis. No action intended by this Office. Returned to you for action as suggested by you.

28 Jan 45

W. J. W. J. W.

E. J. Hadden Capt
Office of C.O.S.(A. S. HULFORD)
Asst. Pol. Sec.
Political Section

Ministero degli Affari Esteri

O
6/240/114 ✓MEMORANDUM FOR THE POLITICAL SECTION A.C.

With letter n.P/220.13 of November 30th, Admiral Stone, in answering a letter of Marchese Visconti Venosta concerning some incidents which took place at Jodi and Cattolica, informed that the Commander in Chief, Allied Armies in Italy, requested that "names of witnesses and all further particulars" be furnished in order "to arrange for a thorough investigation".

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs wish to point out that it was not in their intentions to cause inquiries to be made or to obtain the punishment of the responsible parties. Incidents of this sort are unfortunately bound to happen in the course of war operations. The Ministry for Foreign Affairs intended solely to point out to the High Allied Command the convenience of imparting strict instructions in order that such incidents be as far as possible avoided and repressed by the Commands of the smaller units, not only in the interest of the civilian population but also of the harmony that is in our warmest wishes should continue to subsist between the Allied troops and the Italian civilian population.

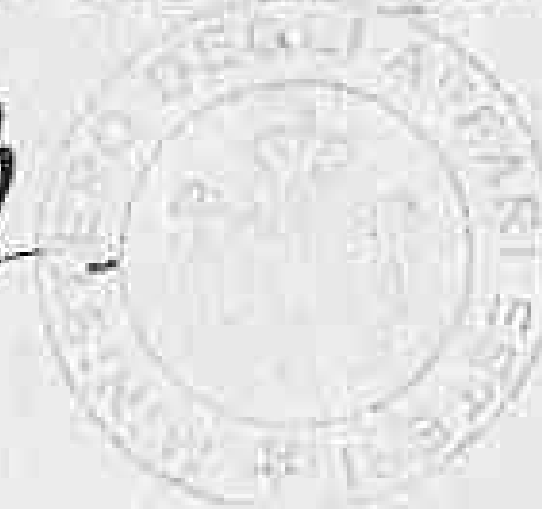
The specific case that had been subject of Marchese Visconti Venosta's letter, was founded on reliable information which had reached the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, according to which in the provinces of Rimini and Forlì, soon after their liberation, a certain animosity had been spreading as regards the Allied troops owing to incidents caused by some detachments of troops and single soldiers. Some mayors had even been compelled to resign their post to the representatives of the AMI.

In any case these incidents, which took place at the time of the occupation of that region by the Allied troops, have been so numerous and well known that it should not be difficult for the Allied High Command to collect all the necessary evidence as regards the facts stated in the preceding memorandum and in particular as regards the bitter feelings of those populations caused by the unexpected treatment meted out to them by the Allied troops.

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs furthermore take this opportunity to draw the Allied Commission's attention on the great number of road accidents which they believe might be avoided by a closer observance of the traffic rules.

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs would be very grateful if the Allied Commission would approach the competent Military Authorities with a view to obtaining that the necessary measures be adopted in order to reduce as far as possible the number of these regrettable incidents.

ROME, January 28th, 1945.



Ref: 820.13

19 January 1945

SUBJECT: Behaviour of Greek Troops

TO : Headquarters, Southern Region.

1. Reference letter No. PS/15.1, 5 December 1944 from the Regional Public Safety Officer, Southern Region.
2. Attached is a copy of a further memorandum from the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs regarding incidents in which Greek Soldiers are involved.
3. The Political Section would be grateful if these incidents could be investigated and a report submitted in due course.

By command of Rear Admiral STONE:

H. L. d'A. HOPKINSON

A/Vice President, Political Section

2 Encl: Memo No. 6/172/3 dtd 16.1.45

820.13

Ministero degli Affari Esteri

MEMORANDUM FOR THE POLITICAL SECTION A.C.

With reference to Memorandum n° 8/1053, 416 of November 17th, 1944, and previous correspondence concerning the behaviour of Greek troops in Italy, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs has to bring to the attention of the A.C. the following incidents:

1.- On November 14th, 1944, in Stabbe (Teramo) some groups of Greek soldiers, who were killed in the surroundings, hit a municipal policeman and threw a hand-grenade under the window of a private house. Other armed soldiers broke into various houses causing damages. On the road Stabbe-Teramo Greek soldiers stopped a motorcar carrying Mario ELLORI, a lieutenant in the Medical Corps, let it go, and then fired on the running car, breaking its window. The population of Stabbe, greatly alarmed, partly evacuated the village.

2.- On December 25th, 1944, at 7 p.m. in Barra (Naples) some Greek soldiers broke into the house of Marco MICIANO and attempted to rape the latter's wife and daughter. Not having succeeded in their intentions the same soldiers later turned up in a place called "Crocetile" and assassinated two girls who were rescued by Italian soldiers. Shortly afterwards a number of Greek soldiers returned to "Crocetile", fired several rifleshots and threw hand-grenades at private houses killing a Luola COZZOLINO and injuring 5 other persons one of whom was found stabbed. Some Greeks even went so far as to fire shots into the ²⁵²² of private houses, after the population, terrified at the slaughter,

P. S. D.

0-873

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

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maître. *[Signature]*

Rome, January 16th 1945

22

0874

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

785016

Pol Sec. 5368
~~11/11~~Subject: Incidents - Behaviour of Allied Tps in Forward Areas.Land Forces Sub Comm. A.C.
(M.L.I.A.) R O M E .
AQ/8/1

10 Dec 44

MINISTRY OF WAR

Ref your 302799/CA of 27 Oct and 304668/CA of 18 Nov 44.

The matter has been referred to the Commander-in-Chief, Allied Armies in Italy, who has pointed out that although the incidents referred to in this memorandum are given as facts, there is in no case supporting evidence produced to show that the alleged acts were performed by Allied troops. If the Italian Government will assist by furnishing names of witnesses and all further particulars at their disposal, the C-in-C will be prepared to arrange for a thorough investigation to be made.

F. J. Noakes

F. J. NOAKES Col.
For Major General.
M.L.I.A.

SPA/hh

Copy to: HQ AC (2) for Chief of Staff Section .
- Political Section. -

12 DEC 1944

2521

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

Tel: 735

Ref: 3609/38/COS

9 December 1944.

SUBJECT: Discipline - Allied Troops.

TO : Land Forces Sub-Commission (LMIA).

1. Herewith is letter from HQ AAI dated 4 Dec 44, reference 5063/74/A(PB) for such action as you consider necessary.

2. For your information also attached are copies of the following:

Letter from HQ AAI dated 22 Nov 44.

Letter to Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs dated 30 Nov 44 prepared by Political Section.

Letter to HQ AAI dated 4 Dec 44.

3. Please forward to this Office a copy of your acknowledgment to HQ AAI.

L. W. Gipp
Brigadier,
Chief of Staff.

Incl:
as above

✓ Copy to: Political Section.

2520

Ref: 820

8 December 1944

SUBJECT: Behaviour of Greek Troops

TO : Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

1. Reference Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Memoranda No. 6/442/198 dated September 7th and No. 6/1053/445 dated November 17, 1944.

2. The information contained in the memoranda under reference was brought to the attention of the appropriate Allied Authorities which now have replied as follows:

a. With regard to the first memorandum, it is stated that; "the note from the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs attached to your letter, is substantially true, it being more or less a copy of the telegram sent by local C.C.R.R. to all concerned.

"Major Bond, A.P.M. 52 Area, personally conducted an enquiry at the farm, and being satisfied that a certain amount of stealing and damage had taken place (although there was no means of checking whether the amounts stated by the farmer were correct) communicated with the Greek Military Authorities on the spot.

"The Greek Commander (210 HBU att 3 Greek Mountain Bde.) has agreed to recompense the farmers claim (when found to be genuine) through Claims and Hirings, Taranto. I have been in communication with Claims and Hirings and am informed that the claim has been settled for 9,000 lire.

"There will be no recurrence from this unit since it has left the district."

b. As regards the second memorandum, it is stated that; "the incidents referred to are some of a large number carried out by Greek and to a lesser extent Negro American troops.

"The matter recently became extremely serious and necessitated military patrols in Campomarino; from units in the area; to prevent the Greeks carrying out armed robberies etc., which they openly stated were reprisals against the Italians for atrocities committed during the occupation of Greece.

"The situation has now improved to a very great extent; as all the Greek troops have left the area.

"The military commanders have been kept fully informed as to the position both by this Office and Town Major Termoli.

"There is an American military police detachment in Termoli; who, now that the Greeks have gone will be able to fully cope with the situation as regards their coloured troops.

WILLIAM W. SCHOTT
Vice President, Political Section

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
HEADQUARTERS
SOUTHERN REGION, ALLIED ~~COMMISSION~~ COMMISSION
PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION

Ref: PS/ 15.1

Date 5 December 1944

SUBJECT: Behaviour of Greek Troops.

TO : HQ. Allied Commission.
(Attention Political Section).

1. Copies of reports on the behaviour of Greek troops, which have already been forwarded in reply to letters AC/14030/5/PS dated 7th November, 1944 and ACC/307/160/CA dated 9th September, 1944, are forwarded for your information reference paragraph 2 (a) and 4, of your No 820 dated 23rd November 1944.

2. No particulars have reached this Headquarters of the incident referred to in paragraph 2 (c) of your No 820 dated 23 November, 1944. However, the ZPSO of Bari Zone has been instructed to make an investigation, and as soon as his report is to hand you will be furnished with a copy.

For the Regional Commissioner:


G. RICHARDSON
Major,
Regional Public
Safety Officer.

GRD/jag.

2518

COPY

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

Ref. XX T/PPS/6

15th September 44.

Subject:- Behaviour of Greek Troops.

To :- Regional Public Safety Officer,
Headquarters Southern Region,
Allied Control Commission.

With reference to your letter PS/15.1 dated 11th September, 1944, the facts in this case have been fully reported to Headquarters Region 2.

The note from the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs attached to your letter, is substantially true, it being more or less a copy of the telegram sent by local CC.RR. to all concerned.

Major Bond, A.P.M. 92 Area, personally conducted an enquiry at the farm, and being satisfied that a certain amount of stealing and damage had taken place (although there was no means of checking whether the amounts stated by the farmer were correct) communicated with the Greek Military Authorities on the spot.

The Greek Commander (210 BUI att 3 Greek Mountain Bde.) has agreed to recompense the farmers claim (when found to be genuine) through Claims and Hirings, Taranto. I have been in communication with Claims and Hirings and am informed that the claim has been settled for 9,000 lire.

There will be no recurrence from this unit since it has left the district.

(signed) M. Strand Captain,
Zone Police Officer....

2517

COPY

HQ. AC-Poggia Zone
in Lucera

SUBJECT: Discipline of Allied Troops

TO : Public Safety Sub-Commission-A.C.-HQ.

FROM : Z.P.S.O.-Poggia Zone

REF. : TP/5028

DATE : 14/11/1944

Copy to:
Southern Region.

With reference to your letter AC/14030/5/PS, dated
7th November 1944.

" The incidents referred to are some of a large
number carried out by Greek and to a lesser extent Negro
American troops.

The matter recently became extremely serious and
necessitated Military patrols in Campomarino; from units in
the area: to prevent the Greeks carrying out armed robberies
etc which they openly stated were reprisals against the
Italians for atrocities committed during the occupation
of Greece.

The situation has now improved to a very great
extent; as all the Greek troops have left the area.

The military commanders have been kept fully
informed as to the position both by this Office and Town
Major Termoli.

There is an American military police detachment in
Termoli; who, now that the Greeks have gone will be able
to fully cope with the situation as regards their coloured
troops."

(signed) E Cocks Capt.-
Z.P.S.O.-Poggia Zone.

2516

C O P Y

Ref: P/820.13

30 November 1944

Dear Marchese Visconti Venosta:

In a memorandum dated the 2nd of November the Ministry of Foreign Affairs informed the Allied Commission of certain allegations in regard to the behaviour of Canadian and Greek troops of the Eighth Army in the zone of Jesi and Cattolica. The matter has been referred to the Commander-in-Chief, Allied Armies in Italy, who has pointed out that although the incidents referred to in this memorandum are given as facts, there is in no case supporting evidence produced to show that the alleged acts were performed by Allied troops. If the Italian Government will assist by furnishing names of witnesses and all further particulars at their disposal, the C-in-C will be prepared to arrange for a thorough investigation to be made.

Very truly yours,

ELLERY W. STONE
Commodore, USNR
Chief Commissioner

His Excellency Marchese Giovanni Visconti Venosta
Undersecretary of State for Foreign Affairs
Italian Government
Rome

2515

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
POLITICAL SECTION
APO 394

Ref: B20

23 November 1944

SUBJECT: Behaviour of Greek Troops

TO : Regional Commissioner,
Southern Region

1. Reference R.C. & M.C. Section letter ACC/307/160/CA dated 9 September 1944, to Regional Commissioner, Southern Region, on the above subject.

2. The Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has informed the Political Section of the following incidents caused by Greek troops in the Southern Region:

a. On Oct. 13th more than a thousand Greek soldiers billeted at Campomarino (Campobasso) looted several houses firing at random. They stated that their behaviour was meant as revenge for the violences carried out by Italian soldiers in Greece.

b. The same soldiers tried finally to break into the Regia Carabinieri's barracks in Campomarino.

c. Another incident occurred at Carbonara (Bari) in which a Greek corporal John Karvallas was implicated.

3. It would be appreciated if you would investigate the facts of the above incidents and inform the Political Section of the circumstances involved.

4. In addition, it is requested that this office be informed of the facts obtained during the investigation conducted in accordance with letter under reference. Any recommendations which you may be able to make that will aid in preventing similar occurrences in the future would be most helpful.

By command of Commodore STONE:

2514

WILLIAM W. SCHOTT
Vice President, Political Section

*Ministero degli Affari Esteri*

M. 6/1053/HMB

MEMORANDUM FOR THE POLITICAL SECTION A.C.

With reference to Memorandum n° 6/442/198 dated September 7th and for further information of the Political Section as regard the behaviour of Greek troops in Italy, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs beg to bring to the notice of the A.C. the following incidents:

- 1) - On Oct. 13th more than a thousand Greek soldiers billeted at Campomarino (Campobasso) looted several houses firing at random. They stated that their behaviour was meant as revenge for the violences carried out by Italian soldiers in Greece.
- 2) - The same soldiers tried finally to break into the Reali Carabinieri's barracks in Campomarino.
- 3) - Another incident occurred at Carbonara (Bari) in which a Greek corporal Tohn Kervellas was implicated. *Colly*

Rome, November 17th 1944

2513



08831

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
EIGHTH ARMY

Political Section,
H.Q. Allied Commission,
A.P.O. 394.

QA/118/115A
13 Nov 44

1. Reference your letter 820 of 6th November, 44.
2. Your letter asking for report in respect of "aide-memoire" from the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in respect of discipline of certain troops in the Eighth Army area, has been referred to the Army Commander, who will no doubt reply direct through A.A.I.

*I am afraid this
should have been
addressed to*
Group Captain,
Officer Commanding,
H.Q., A.M.G. EIGHTH ARMY.
A.P.N.Q.

HEADQUARTERS
17 NOV 1944
A.

I mentioned this matter to 2512
Harding and he bears no
ill feeling!
Mr. Smith. *18 Nov 20.*

820

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
POLITICAL SECTION
APO 394

Ref: 820

6 November 1944

TO : AME 8th Army
Attn: Group Captain C.E. Benson, D.S.O.
S.C.A.O.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs have communicated to the Political Section the annexed aide-memoire containing certain allegations in regard to the behaviour of Canadian and Greek Troops of the 8th Army operating in the Zone of Josi and Cattolica. It is requested that a report may be furnished on the incidents in question in order that a reply can be sent to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

By command of Commodore Stone:-

H. L. S'A HOPKINSON
Acting Vice President, Political Section

2511

R. MINISTERO DEGLI AFFARI ESTERI
IL SEGRETARIO GENERALE

Roma, 28 OTT 1944

All:1

Caro Caccia,

Le invio, qui allegato, un pro-memoria
contenente alcune notizie sul comportamento di
truppe canadesi e greche appartenenti all'8^a Ar-
mata e che hanno operato nella zona di Jesi e
Cattolica.

Le sarò molto grato se Ella vorrà se-
gnalare gli incresciosi incidenti verificatisi,
ai competenti Comandi Militari.

Molto cordialmente

R. Puri

Signor HAROLD CACCIA
Vice Presidente della
Commissione Alleata

= R O M A =

2510

R. MINISTERO
DEGLI AFFARI ESTERI
— — —
IL SEGRETARIO GENERALE
— — —

Rome, 28th October, 1944.

11/03316/13

Dear Caccia,

I enclose herewith an Aide-Memoire containing some information concerning the behaviour of Canadian and Greek troops of the 8th Army, operating in the zone of Jesi and Cattolica.

I shall be most grateful if you will kindly point out to the competent Military Commands the unfortunate incidents that have taken place.

Yours sincerely,

sgd. R. PRUNAS

encl.

Harold A. Caccia Esq.,
Vice President
Allied Commission
Political Section.
R O M E.

2509

COPY

R. MINISTERO DEGLI AFFARI ESTERI

AIDEMEMOIRE

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs takes leave to give hereunder particulars on the behaviour of Canadian and Greek troops of the Eighth Army in the zone of JESI and CATTOLICA, during the recent break through operations on the GOTHIC Line.

All this area was completely mopped up by the Canadians, particularly by the 1st Division. Each house was visited and all the civilians' effects were systematically taken away and destroyed. In the majority of cases the inhabitants were left with the clothes they were wearing at the time.

The Convent, known under the name of "BEATO SANTO", near MOMBARTROCCIA, was completely looted. During the last days of German occupation, a considerable number of civilians, refugees from nearby villages, had taken refuge, with all their goods, in the Convent which had been subjected to artillery fire and had been heavily damaged. The Allied troops entered through the gaps in the walls, pillaging everything. The civilians endeavoured to stop the plundering, arranging turns for guarding the entrances. For "security" reasons the order was then given to evacuate the locality within 2 hours, leaving to the evacuees the purely indispensable.

The troops, having remained undisturbed masters of the Convent (only the Prior of the Convent, Father Santo having remained), were thus able in all tranquillity to carry out their acts of vandalism and sacrilege, carrying away the sacred robes, the votive offerings and the effigy of the Patron Saint.

The small Townships of CATTOLICA and RICCIONE (particularly the last) sustained similar treatment. The people, already sorely tried by the Germans, who were anxiously awaiting the liberating troops, were terrorized. The Greek troops joined the Canadians and together, out of revenge, destroyed and smashed everything.

At S LORENZO a farmer was killed out of pure brutality and his farm was set on fire. At RICCIONE, the Major and Marchese Antenori, given their good knowledge of English, endeavoured to restrain this behaviour of the Allied troops. They addressed to this effect some of the units, but with no practical results.

In the immediate neighbourhood of CASTELLO di GRADARA, about the middle of September, a girl was brutally assaulted by six drunk Canadians and left in a pitiful condition. The girl was taken to the Military Hospital of CATTOLICA by some Canadian officers, but the Medical Officer of the Allied Command refused her admittance. She was then taken back to GRADARA, where the local Carabinieri made an official statement on the incident.

The flags of the CASTLE of GRADARA, valuable remains of the MALATESTA family, were taken away.

RIMINI, almost completely destroyed, was looted by the Greeks and the same treatment underwent the farm houses in the immediate neighbourhood of the city.

The House of the Karamare Sisters, fraction of RICCIONE, was pillaged and destroyed: the Mother Superior took refuge in the Villa Zolli (22 Viale Roma).

2503

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At S. Lorenzo in CORREGGIANO, the Mother Superior of the Pro-Orphans Home was present, but unable to prevent it, to the pilfering on the part of Canadian troops, of all the beds and bed-clothes of the poor orphans.

The property of Prince Ruspoli di Poggio Suasa at SAN LORENZO in CORREGGIANO (RIMINI) has been much destroyed by war operations in that zone. Furthermore, many articles (silver, pictures, furniture, linen, mattresses, porcelains, statues, books, personal effects) of great artistic value have been looted by Canadian troops after the liberation of the zone. The same is to be said in respect of the farmers' houses. Some of the farmers have been robbed of their money under the pretext of controlling the documents in their wallets.

The articles taken from Villa Ruspoli had been walled in in different hiding places. The search for these hiding places appears to have been most thorough inasmuch as the walls show clear traces that an axe has been used everywhere there might possibly have been a vacuum behind the walls. The Patron's Church underwent the same treatment.

The Ruspoli family have denounced the fact to the AMG of the Eighth Army (Group Captain BENSON).

An enquiry is at present in course.

ROME, 2nd November 1944.

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HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
R.C. & M.G. SECTION
APO 394

Ref 307/160/CA

9th September, 1944

SUBJECT: Behaviour of Greek Troops

TO : Regional Commissioner, Southern Region

1. I enclose copy of a note from the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and would be obliged if you will make an early investigation and report to this HQ.

Robert E. Fisher
ROBERT E. FISHER
Colonel
Deputy Executive Commissioner

22

22/11 No record is
old of answer
being received
W.W.W.

Copy to: Political Section

2507

G U F X

6/442/198

R. MINISTERO
degli
AFFARI ESTERI

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSIONPOLITICAL SECTION

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been informed that on the 17th ult. at 1 o'clock p.m. about one thousand Greek troops, stationed in the vicinity, plundered from the Francesco Farm, the property of Ruggero Brothers, in Agro di Crispino (Taranto), 3 quintals of cheese, 3 sheep, 2 lambs, 15 turkeys and some poultry, all amounting to a considerable value. Having failed to find any wine, the soldiers destroyed several earthenware wine-jars, damaged freshly-sown fields and injured two farmers. The occurrence has greatly alarmed the nearby agricultural population.

Although this incident is not of a particularly serious character, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, however, considers it advisable to report it to the Political Section of the A.C.C. inasmuch as, happening a few days after the arrival in Italy of the first Greek troops, it might be followed by more serious ones if such acts of indiscipline were not immediately and officially repressed.

ROME, 7th September 1944.

2506

