

ACC

10000/142/937

10000/142/937

REPORTS FROM AMG, 8TH ARMY
NOV. 1943 - JAN. 1944

FOLIO	DATE	PER.	TO/FROM
1	3 11 43		
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7			

FROM: LT CHRISTIAN, A.C. 8 ARMY.

21

To: C.L.O., 15 Army Group, A.M.S. HQ.

13 JAN 1944

8th Army Area

~~180~~
Legally 13

Report on Allied Military Courts
for the Month of December, 1943.

A. Cases tried and findings.

Province of	Summary Ct.		Superior Ct.	General Ct.	Totals	Total cases
	E.G.	G.				
CHIETI	9	84	none	none	93	93
CAMPORBASSO	none	116	none	none	116	116
Totals	9	200			209	209

B. Convictions.

Province of	Curfew & Pass Violations	Theft & Poss. of Allied Prop.	Black Market	Looting	Poss. of Arms & Amm.	Violations It. Penal Code	Others	Total	
									CHIETI
CAMPORBASSO	34	25	14	none	4	3	20	110	110
Totals	44	45	14		8	9	51	201	201

25

Edwin Meserer

EDWIN MESERER, Maj. Gen.
SQUAD LEGAL OFFICER, A.M.S., 8th ARMY

Report on Allied Military Courts
for the Month of December, 1943.

A. Cases tried and findings.

Province of	Summary Ct.		Superior Ct.		General Ct.		Totals	Total cases
	N.G.	G.	N.G.	G.	N.G.	G.		
GHETTI	9	64	none	none	none	none	9	84
CAMPOBASSO	none	116	none	none	none	none	none	116
Totals	9	200					9	200

B. Convictions.

Province of	Curfew & Pass Violations		Theft & Poss. of Allied Prop.		Black Market		Looting		Poss. of Arms & Amm.		Violations & Penel Code		Total
	10	34	20	25	none	14	none	none	4	4	6	3	
GHETTI	10	34	20	25	none	14	none	none	4	4	6	3	91
CAMPOBASSO													110
Totals	44	44	45	45	14	14			6	6	9	3	201

28

Edwin Mercer
EDWIN C. MERCER, Maj. Grd.
SENIOR LEGAL OFFICER, 2nd S. INF. DIV.

202-
Loyal
A-12
B

12 DEC 1943

Campobasso, 26 Nov. '43

SUBJECT: Minutes of meeting CIO, 15 Army Group
with Major Mercer on 15 Nov. '43.

To: CIO, AMS Hq., 15 Army Group

1.- Receipt is acknowledged of copy of subject and following comment and further report on items discussed is concerning, and identified by, the like numbered paras. of subject report.

(a) Para. 1.- No appointments have, to the best of my knowledge, been made of Superior Courts to function in 8th Army Area. Attention is invited to the fact that any such appointment of undersigned should be dated, NUNC PRO TUNC, 1 Nov. '43.

(b) Para. 2.- Have as yet not been able to interview and instruct CIOs other than those in vicinity of Campobasso. Military Courts other than in the vicinity are not functioning.

(c) Para. 4.- Juvenile thefts are still an annoying problem. The only detention home for minors is in Naples, and travel is not permitted for purpose of transporting them there. In nearly every case I am satisfied that the parents encouraged the theft or at least had guilty knowledge of same. I have imposed stiff fines on juveniles with an alternative jail sentence. Luckily to date all fines have been paid. I insist on having parents in court trial.

(d) Para. 7.- The statement in the first sentence is not an exactly correct statement of the fact. The prison is located at Campobasso and the inmates there were thoroughly screened and eleven released prior to my appointment. This prison has now been taken over for billets and the prisoners transferred to the jail at Larino.

(e) Para. 9.- No cases have come to my attention for the making of any local orders by Group Captain Benson.

To: CLO, AMS Hq., 15 Army Group

1.- Receipt is acknowledged of copy of subject and following comment and further report on items discussed is concerning, and identified by, the like numbered paras. of subject report.

(a) Para. 1.- No appointments have, to the best of my knowledge, been made of Superior Courts to function in 8th Army Area. Attention is invited to the fact that any such appointment of undersigned should be dated, NUNC PRO TUNC, 1 Nov. '43.

(b) Para. 2.- Have as yet not been able to interview and instruct CACs other than those in vicinity of Campobasso. Military Courts other than in the vicinity ~~are~~ are not functioning.

(c) Para. 4.- Juvenile thefts are still an annoying problem. The only detention home for minors is in Naples, and travel is not permitted for purpose of transporting them there. In nearly every case I am satisfied that the parents encouraged the theft or at least had guilty knowledge of same. I have imposed stiff fines on juveniles with an alternative jail sentence. Luckily to date all fines have been paid. I insist on having parents in court ~~at~~ trial.

(d) Para. 7.- The statement in the first sentence is not an exactly correct statement of the fact. The prison is located at Campobasso and the inmates there were thoroughly screened and eleven released prior to my appointment. This prison has now been taken over for billets and the prisoners transferred to the jail at Larino.

(e) Para. 9.- No cases have come to my attention for the making of any local orders by Group Captain Benson.

2.- Will you please send me about 100 loose sheets of "Summary Military Court Record", and a like number of forms Nos. 6 (English and Italian), 8 and 11.

Edwin J. Mercer

EDWIN J. MERCER, Maj. Ord.
SENIOR LEGAL OFFICER, A.M.G., 8th ARMY

Received
1 copy for OC, AMG, Hq. 8th Army.

10-11-43

Subject: Legal Personnel of Region IV in 8th Army Area.

H.Q., A.S.G.,
15 Army Group,
C. I. P.

S. H. O.,
H.Q., A.S.G.,
Right Area.

MG/200/7

9 Dec. 1943

Reference your letter of 1. Dec. and para 6 of
your letter of 29. Nov to Colonel Willner, all Regional
personnel in 8th Army area are under the direct command of
S.C.A.C., MG, 8th Army, who can use them as he thinks fit.
Insistence on the subject is, however, very desirable.


H. L. JONES,
Lieut. Colonel,
Chief Legal Officer.

HRL/JC.

Copy to: HQ, MG, Region IV, Adv.
" " " " Main.

File 202

Subject:- Reports on Arrest.

ASC. HQ.,
15 Army Group,
C.S.F. 10

Ref. ASC/202/10
9 December 43.

Colonel H.G. Willmer, F.C.
Regional Chief Legal Officer,
Region IV (Main).

Dear

I have received copy of Major Mercer's letter to you of 29 November. Reference form J-1 drafted at Salerno, I am very doubtful of its desirability owing to its length, although I think we should have some such form.

2. Will you let me know what you and Shields think of Mercer's form?

3. I have done some work on a comprehensive legal directive but it is not yet finished. I shall be leaving here shortly and I am afraid I shall have to leave it to my successor to complete.

Yours


H. H. HOWE,
Lt. Colonel,
Chief Legal Officer.

RGR/ISI.

Copy to File 209.

Campobasso 1st Dec/ '43

SUBJECT: Lett of Col. Willmer of 25 No '43

TO: C L O , A M G Hq., 15 Army Group

Through : S C A O , A M G Hq., 8th Army

- 1.- Attached is copy of subject letter together with my reply.
- 2.- Also attached is note from Maj. Wilsford to me.
- 3.- Also attached is Form J 1, referred to in subject letter, together with form proposed by me.
- 4.- Your comment is invited on any of the material attached and your approval solicited to use of the proposed form as against Form NO. J 1

Edwin J. Mercer

EDWIN J. MERCER, Maj. Ord.
SENIOR LEGAL OFFICER, A.M.G. 8th ARMY

1 Copy for S C A O , A M G Hq., 8th Army

C.S.O. Ref page 7 para 6. Has any policy been laid down as to the powers of Army S.C.A.O.'s over Regional personnel in their command?

C.S.O. Regional personnel in 8th Army Area are under direct control of C.S.O. 7/12 P.O. /
Command of S.C.A.O.'s in command also have them to Reg Hq. for:

9

2. This is quite clear to Regeneri concerning the
 the S.P.A.O. Administration of Regeneri's personnel
 provided remains responsibility of R.C.O.s (to be held by
 return etc.).

8/20/50
 J. G. C. 150

A. M. G. ,
 Region IV
 25 November, 1943

Dear Colonel Mercer,

This letter is to introduce to you three Officers attached to Region IV, who are being sent across to join you with the 8th Army. They are:

Major G.M. Welsford (British)
 Captain Lockwood Thompson (U. S.)
 Captain Shirley R. Marsh (U. S.)

According to my present plans their ultimate destinations are intended to be:-

Major Welsford - Pescara and ~~Chieti~~ ~~Chieti~~
 Captain Thompson - Aquila, Foggia
 Captain Marsh - ~~Campobasso~~ ~~Campobasso~~

I have originally designated Major Levitt for Teramo, but with the prospect of Foggia being transferred to Region IV it appears probable that Major Levitt will have to remain where he is and that in due course I shall have to find another Legal Officer to proceed to Teramo. This I intend to do at a later date.

In giving you this information about the destination for which these Officers were originally designated, I do not in the least desire to tie your hands. For the moment they are passing directly under your control, and you will of course employ them wherever and however you please in your absolute discretion. If, however, you can so order things that, as the advance proceeds, these officers are left in the provinces for which they were designated, it will be a convenience and will facilitate my ultimate taking over of each province from you. At the same time I recognize, and I wish you to feel, that the matter is entirely in your hands. Possibly you may feel that it would be wiser for the moment to leave one of them in Foggia to help Major Levitt, until such time as more forward territory has been occupied. If so, I shall be very happy, and this will no doubt ease my task in taking over Foggia which I understand I may have to do very soon.

It is my regret that I have not as yet had an opportunity of meeting you personally, the more so as I regard it of some importance that I should preserve a liason with you so that the eventual taking over of Regional territory from you may be the easier. I regret that with the present difficulties of transport I see no immediate prospect of getting over to see you, but I should certainly like to do so at the earliest possible opportunity. Meanwhile, I am of course in touch with Lt. Col. Shields, your opposite number on this side, and two days ago I was happy to meet Lt/ Col. Rowe, who was fresh from seeing you. We talked over various things, which I understood he had already discussed with you, and I suggested to him that, with a view to insuring a consistent policy throughout the whole territory (whether under the 8th Army, or regional Control) he should issue a directive covering all these various points. He promised to do so, and to send an advance copy to each of us for our comments - so that whatever directive he ultimately issues, may be, so far as possible, agreed between us all.

The three Officers who are coming to you are without previous experience in A.M.G. But before they leave I am doing my best to put them in the picture, so far as I am able to do so from what I have heard and seen since arriving in Naples. May I ask you, so far as ~~you are~~ ^{you are} able to do so, to keep me in the picture as to what is happening over on your side? For instance, it would be of great assistance if you could always let me have a copy of any report you receive from any of the Officers attached to you, and of any report which you may render to Ho., 15th Army Group. My task in taking over territory from you will thereby be greatly facilitated.

I wish you all success, and hope that I may presently make your acquaintance.

Your sincerely,

M. G. Willmer, M. C.,
Colonel
Chief Legal Officer,
Region IV

P.S.- I am sending by Major Welsford copies of Form J. 1, on the scale of 100 per Officer (400 in all). This is the Form referred to in AMG/4002/I, dated 3 November 1943, and signed by Col. Pollock, which you may or may not have seen. As I understand it, the directions contained in Col. Pollock's letter are not pinging on you. At the same time the idea behind Form J 1 appeals to me as a good one, if it is capable of application in practice. I am accordingly sending you an initial supply of the forms, the use of which you can order or not as you think fit. I also attach copy of AMG/4002/I of 3 November 1943, in case you have not seen it.

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Campobasso, 29 Nov. '43

Col. H.C. Willmer, R.C.,
Chief Legal Officer, Region IV.

My dear Col. Willmer,

1.- Your letter to me of 25 Nov. was delivered ^{27 Nov} ~~today~~ by a transient officer, together with note from Maj. Walsford, copy of which I attach.

2.- I share your regret at not meeting you personally and shall look forward to that pleasure at the first opportunity.

3.- Apparently the three officers whom you mention in your letter have been placed by Lt. Col. Temperly. I assume that Maj. Levitt is remaining for the time being in Foggia.

4.- From the facts available to me disposition of the legal officers seems wise. I am at the present entirely without transport and will have to trust to luck and hitch hiking to contact them, with the exception of Capt. Marsh, whom I will probably see when he arrives at Campobasso.

5.- I assume that notwithstanding the present placing of these officers by Lt. Col. Temperly it is your desire that they be stationed as stated in your letter as soon as conditions warrant. This I will accomplish unless advised by you to the contrary.

6.- It is my understanding that the placing of Regional Legal Officers is a matter for your determination, and unless I feel that such disposition in any instance is presently unwise because of local conditions with which I can assume you are unfamiliar I would not think of disturbing same.

7.- The liaison which you suggest seems sound to me and I shall see that you get copies of such reports as might be of interest to you.

8.- There should be no difficulty under ¹³ this plan in ensuring a consistent policy throughout the whole territory. There is however a point to which I would like to invite your attention and discuss with you at our first meeting.

9.- So far as I have been able to discover the so called "spearhead officers" have not established courts of any kind and are extremely reluctant to start now. They shy at what seems to them a task which is novel, difficult, involved in technicalities and the making and keeping of perplexing forms and records.

10.- From my personal experience in following the Army

Chief Legal Officer, Region IV.

My dear Col. Wilder,

1.- Your letter to me of 25 Nov. was delivered ^{27 Nov} today by a transient officer, together with note from Maj. Welsford, copy of which I attach.

2.- I share your regret at not meeting you personally and shall look forward to that pleasure at the first opportunity.

3.- Apparently the three officers whom you mention in your letter have been placed by Lt. Col. Temperly. I assume that Maj. Witt is remaining for the time being in Poyala.

4.- From the facts available to me disposition of the legal officers seems wise. I am at the present entirely without transport and will have to trust to luck and hitch hiking to contact them, with the exception of Capt. Marsh, whom I will probably see when he arrives at Campobasso.

5.- I assume that notwithstanding the present placing of these officers by Lt. Col. Temperly it is your desire that they be stationed as stated in your letter as soon as conditions warrant. This I will accomplish unless advised by you to the contrary.

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9.- So far as I have been able to discover the so called "spearhead officers" have not established courts of any kind and are extremely reluctant to start now. They shy at what seems to them a task which is novel, difficult, involved in technicalities and the making and keeping of perplexing forms and records.

10.- From my personal experience in following the Army through Sicily this failure results in a contempt for our proclamations which persists until after the ^{actual} need for obedience has largely passed. So long as I remain in my present job I am determined that a swift justice and sure punishment will follow immediately on the heels of the assault forces. I have seen enough of the pace at which the spearhead officers travel to know that if this is accomplished it may for the time being be at the expense of

formalities of procedure, niceties of presentment of charges and the keeping of records other than those which are essential. As these officers become used to trying cases they will improve in their procedure and will be able to make a record which will not drive the reviewing officer to apoplexy.

11.- In the forward areas especially, if a case becomes a few days old it gets cold and the difficulties of getting it to proper trial make the final handling an extremely difficult task.

12.- Therefore I shall require your officers to try their cases while they are "hot" and I ask your indulgence if, while this is a forward area, the trials are of a somewhat dresshead variety.

13.- Thank you for directive A M G / 4002/ I of 5 Nov. and sample of Form J 1. I will have the officers in possession of the form use same, until and unless it is superseded. The difficulties mentioned in the directive as to witnesses are real, but I am not sure that Form J 1 is the answer. I have the objection that the form is too prelix to accomplish its object, and having for the present nothing better to do I have drafted a suggested form and will submit same to Lt. Col. Howe for approval. In the meanwhile I am having a few printed for local use. In the suggested form I have cut the material to a minimum. Of the two forms I have this comment:

a.- The average soldier in the field dislikes to either read or write, and will go to great lengths to avoid both.

b.- The use of Italian makes the document more formidable and is unnecessary for the reason that the Carabinieri are most meticulous in making out their verbal and do a good job on the form on which they are trained. Also they will be available as witnesses, so they have no use for the form. If a soldier bring in a prisoner, all they can do is shove the form at him in any event.

c.- The object is to have witnesses present if possible and that should be emphasized. Without the description of the outfit to which the witness is attached (and I assume this information is omitted for security reasons) it is next to impossible to locate the witness by name, rank and number. I have tried.

d.- There is nothing gained by the information required under "charge".

e.- The suggestion as to statement of facts is, I think, unnecessary. In my experience if you can get a soldier to write out a statement it is nearly always sufficient.

f.- The form does not suggest the loss of the officer.

Officers become used to trying cases they will improve in their procedure and will be able to make a record which will not drive the reviewing officer to apoplexy.

11.- In the forward areas especially, if a case becomes a few days old it gets cold and the difficulties of getting it to proper trial make the final handling an extremely difficult task.

12.- Therefore I shall require your officers to try their cases while they are "hot" and I ask your indulgence if, while this is a forward area, the trials are of a somewhat ~~crude~~ variety.

13.- Thank you for directive A M G / 4002/ II of 3 Nov. and sample of Form J 1. I will have the officers in possession of the form use same, until and unless it is superseded. The difficulties mentioned in the directive as to witnesses are real, but I am not sure that Form J 1 is the answer. I have the objection that the form is too prolix to accomplish its object, and having for the present nothing better to do I have drafted a suggested form and will submit same to Lt. Col. Howe for approval. In the meanwhile I am having a few printed for local use. In the suggested form I have cut the material to a minimum. Of the two forms I have this comment:

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b.- The use of Italian makes the document more formidable and is unnecessary for the reason that the Carabinieri are most reticulous in making out their verbal and do a good job on the form on which they are trained. Also they will be available as witnesses, so they have no use for the form. If a soldier bring in a prisoner, all they can do is shove the form at him in any event.

c.- The object is to have witnesses present if possible and that should be emphasized. Without the description of the outfit to which the witness is attached (and I assume this information is omitted for security reasons) it is next to impossible to locate the witness by name, rank and number. I have tried.

d.- There is nothing gained by the information required under "charges".

e.- The suggestion as to statement of facts is, I think, unnecessary. In my experience if you can get a soldier to write out a statement it is nearly always sufficient.

f.- The form does not suggest the locus of the offence.

g.- There is no attempt made to have accused confronted with the witness against him. It is this lack upon which I have always gagged in convicting upon statements. Obviously if the statement is taken before carabinieri this cannot be done and they would not know how to do it.

14.- I trust that form J 1 is not your particular baby.

0129

Sincerely yours

Edwin L. Mercer

EDWIN L. MERCER, Maj. Ord.
SENIOR LEGAL OFFICER, AMG, 8th ARMY

1 COPY TO G L O , A N G Hq., 15 Army Group

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AG Hq. 6
Foggia Province
26 Nov.

Dear Colonel Mercer,

The enclosed letter from Colonel Wilmer was shown by him to Capt. Thompson, Marsh and myself, and given to me open for delivery to you and for such other use as I might think fit in the event of my not seeing you. I showed it to Lt. Col. Imperly on arrival here, with the result that I am told I go to Chieti tomorrow, Captain Marsh shortly to Campobasso and Captain Thompson is remaining here.

With regard to the forms G. 1 I have divided them between Major Levilt, Capt.s Thompson and Marsh and myself and enclose some specimens for your use. If you wish us to bring them into use in the method indicated in Col. Pollock's letter I assume you will issue instructions to us to that effect, together with instructions as to procuring further supplies of the forms, whether we should endeavour to get this done locally or whether you will arrange for it to be done and the forms distributed later.

I hope I may be able to report to you in person in the near future, and that you will excuse this informal d.o. letter.

Yours sincerely

G. M. Welsford

Major R. Signals. 10

0131

Form No. J 1

**ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
GOVERNO MILITARE ALLEATO**

**Form to be completed on arrest of a prisoner who is to be brought before
an Allied Military Court.**

**Modulo che deve essere riempito all'atto dell'arresto di un prigioniero che deve essere
tradotto dinanzi ad un Tribunale Militare Alleato.**

IF. ON ARREST. the prisoner is taken before a military, naval or air force officer or N. C. O., this form must be completed by the person making the arrest and countersigned by the officer or N. C. O. On completion it will be handed over together with the prisoner to the Carabinieri or other person detaining the prisoner until he is brought to trial.

IF. ON ARREST, the prisoner is taken direct to the Carabinieri barracks, this form must be completed at the Carabinieri barracks by the person making the arrest and left with the Carabinieri.

SE. ALL'ATTO DELL'ARRESTO, il detenuto è condotto dinanzi ad un Ufficiale o N. C. O. dell'esercito, della Marina, o dell'Aviazione, il presente modulo deve essere riempito dalla persona che opera l'arresto e controfirmato dall'Ufficiale o dal N. C. O. Quando è stato completato dovrà essere consegnato insieme al detenuto ai Carabinieri o ad altra persona che abbia custodia del detenuto finchè egli non venga tradotto in giudizio.

SE. ALL'ATTO DELL'ARRESTO, il detenuto è condotto direttamente alla Caserma dei Carabinieri, questo modulo deve essere riempito nella caserma stessa dalla persona che ha operato l'arresto, e lasciato ai Carabinieri.

Name of Person Arrested:
Nome della persona arrestata:

9

Address of Person Arrested:
Indirizzo della persona arrestata:

Name, Rank and Number of Person making arrest:
Nome, grado e numero della persona che opera l'arresto:

CHARGE:

Modulo che deve essere riempito all'atto dell'arresto di un prigioniero che deve essere tradotto dinanzi ad un Tribunale Militare Alleato.

IF. ON ARREST, the prisoner is taken before a military, naval or air force officer or N. C. O., this form must be completed by the person making the arrest and countersigned by the officer or N. C. O. On completion it will be handed over together with the prisoner to the Carabinieri or other person detaining the prisoner until he is brought to trial.

IF. ON ARREST, the prisoner is taken direct to the Carabinieri barracks, this form must be completed at the Carabinieri barracks by the person making the arrest and left with the Carabinieri.

SE. ALL'ATTO DELL'ARRESTO, il detenuto è condotto dinanzi ad un Ufficiale o N. C. O. dell'Esercito, della Marina, o dell'Aviazione, il presente modulo deve essere riempito dalla persona che opera l'arresto e controfirmato dall'Ufficiale o dal N. C. O. Quando è stato completato dovrà essere consegnato insieme al detenuto ai Carabinieri o ad altra persona che abbia custodia del detenuto finché egli non venga tradotto in giudizio.

SE. ALL'ATTO DELL'ARRESTO, il detenuto è condotto direttamente alla Caserma dei Carabinieri, questo modulo deve essere riempito nella caserma stessa dalla persona che ha operato l'arresto, e lasciato ai Carabinieri.

Name of Person Arrested:
Nome della persona arrestata:

Address of Person Arrested:
Indirizzo della persona arrestata:

Name, Rank and Number of Person making arrest:
Nome, grado e numero della persona che opera l'arresto:

CHARGE:
(Such as (a) interfering with communications by cutting wire, (b) being in unlawful possession of firearms, (c) acquiring by gift or purchase any military equipment or war material belonging to the Allied Forces).

ACCUSA:
(Come per esempio (a) interrompeva le comunicazioni tagliando un filo, (b) era in illecito possesso di armi da fuoco, (c) otteneva, in dono o per acquisto, un capo di vestiario militare o un oggetto di materiale bellico appartenente alle Forze Alleate).

0133

INSTRUCTIONS RE ARRESTED CIVILIANS

Civilians arrested for offenses which concern the Allied Forces will be taken immediately before a Civil Affairs Officer, with witnesses, for trial. If postponement is necessary the CAO will see that charges are drawn and signed and will set the case for hearing the next day or soon after.

If a CAO is not available take accused before M. P. or Carabinieri or any Officer or N. C. O. where accused can be detained and make out statement of facts below, sign and have witnessed by person before whom taken and leave with him.

This does not take the place of testimony unless witnesses become unavailable, so follow the case and have witnesses present to testify at the trial.

IF THESE INSTRUCTIONS NOT FOLLOWED ACCUSED WILL BE RELEASED.

NAME of person arrested _____

ADDRESS of same _____

STATEMENT OF FACTS

At about _____ hours on the _____ day of _____ 194

at _____ (place) _____

If postponement is necessary the CAO will see that charges are drawn and signed and will set the case for hearing the next day or soon after.

If a CAO is not available take accused before M. P. or Carabinieri or any Officer or N. C. O. where accused can be detained and make out statement of facts below, sign and have witnessed by person before whom taken and leave with him.

This does not take the place of testimony unless witnesses become unavailable, so follow the case and have witnesses present to testify at the trial.

IF THESE INSTRUCTIONS NOT FOLLOWED ACCUSED

WILL BE RELEASED.

NAME of person arrested _____

ADDRESS of same _____

STATEMENT OF FACTS 8

At about _____ hours on the _____ day of _____ 194

at _____ I _____
(place)

(OVER)

(Continue statement, use for sketch or for summary of statements of other witnesses)

CROSS EXAMINATION

(If possible accused should be informed as to above statement and asked if there are any questions he wants asked of the accuser. If any additional information is so obtained the gist of it will be written here by person before whom statement taken.)

SIGNED

(Name)

(Rank)

(No.)

0136

CROSS EXAMINATION

(If possible accused should be informed as to above statement and asked if there are any questions he wants asked of the accuser. If any additional information is so obtained the gist of it will be written here by person before whom statement taken).

SIGNED

..... (Name) (Rank) (No.)

Above statement taken before me

*La dichiarazione suddetta fatta in-
nanzi a me.*

..... (Name) (Description)

Campobasso 1st Dec. '43
SUBJECT: Cat. Pollard as Superior Court Officer.
TO: Maj. John D. Ames, Hq., A M G, 8th Army.

- 1.- Receipt of your oa/13/ 56A on subject is acknowledged and officer has been advised of contents.
- 2.- In your letter you say " no Superior Courts can actually be held until policy is laid down in this Hq. from Lt. Col. Rowe, 15 Army Group."
- 3.- This is true regarding all Superior Court officers excepting undersigned. Upon assuming duties as Senior Legal Officer, 8th Army, I commenced trying cases as Superior Court in the confident expectation that a proper order would be entered dated as of 1st Nov/ '43 making the appointment. Receipts in these cases have gone forward and some have been submitted by Lt. Col. Rowe to the C O A O and sentences approved. This was done after Col. Rowe was advised of the difficulties which had arisen over the order of appointments. It is too late to back out now and I shall continue to try cases as Superior Military Court until forbidden to do so by competent authority.
- 4.- It is important that such order be made as soon as possible however.
- 5.- Please see that Col. Rowe gets copy of this letter.

EDWIN J. MERCER, Maj., G-1
SENIOR LEGAL OFFICER, 8TH ARMY

1 Copy to G L O, Hq. A M G, 15 Army Group.

AM 102/2

16. Nov. 43.

MINUTES OF MEETING WITH MAJOR MERCER, SENIOR LEGAL OFFICER, AMG, EIGHTH ARMY, HELD AT HQ., AMG., 15 ARMY GROUP on 15. Nov. 43.

Major Mercer reported at this H.Q. on a visit from 8th Army and the following matters were discussed.

1. APPOINTMENT OF MILITARY COURTS.

Under the existing procedure every C.A.O. and judicial officer has automatically an appointment enabling him to sit as a Summary Military Court. No difficulty as to Summary Courts therefore arises.

Superior and General Military Courts in task force, (i.e. Army) areas, have to be appointed by the G.O.C. Army, or by an officer acting under his authority and not being below a Divisional Commander. This procedure was laid down having regard to the difficulties which arose in dealing with 7th Army in Sicily where it was insisted that the chain of command should be followed. It was agreed that, with the present position of having a Senior AM officer attached to the staff of each Army, there was no reason why appointments of General and Superior Courts should not be made by the senior AM officer with the Army rather than by the Divisional or Corps Commander. Such a scheme would make for much smoother running and I agreed that I would discuss this proposal with AMG, 5th Army. (File AMG/210).

2. FUNCTIONING OF MILITARY COURTS.

Major Mercer stated Military Courts were generally not functioning on his taking up his appointment but that he had arranged for Summary Courts to sit in many places and that he was extending this policy. He was the only legal officer in the forward parts of 8th Army area and he was arranging for C.A.O.'s to sit. He stated that certain C.A.O.'s such as Major Millard had previously acted as magistrates, although they were not lawyers, and I agreed that there was no objection to appointing such C.A.O.'s to sit also as Superior Courts without a judicial officer. (File AMG/209).

3. APPEALS FROM MILITARY COURTS.

Major Mercer stated that he had found in his experience that some Italian advocates advised their clients after conviction to put in an appeal as a matter of course. Owing to the unnecessary work that this involved and the abuse of the process of the Courts which resulted, he had warned Italian advocates who followed this method that they would be likely to be refused appearance before the Military Courts if they advised their clients to put in an appeal where there was no reasonable ground for so doing. This action was approved by me. (File AMG/209).

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1. APPOINTMENT OF MILITARY COURTS.

Under the existing procedure every C.A.O. and judicial officer has automatically an appointment enabling him to sit as a Summary Military Court. No difficulty as to Summary Courts therefore arises.

Superior and General Military Courts in task force, (i.e. Army) areas, have to be appointed by the G.O.C. Army, or by an officer acting under his authority and not being below a Divisional Commander. This procedure was laid down having regard to the difficulties which arose in dealing with 7th Army in Sicily where it was insisted that the chain of command should be followed. It was agreed that, with the present position of having a Senior AMG officer attached to the staff of each Army, there was no reason why appointments of General and Superior Courts should not be made by the senior AMG officer with the Army rather than by the Divisional or Corps Commander. Such a scheme would make for much smoother running and I agreed that I would discuss this proposal with AMG, 5th Army. (File AMG/210).

2. FUNCTIONING OF MILITARY COURTS.

Major Mercer stated Military Courts were generally not functioning on his taking up his appointment but that he had arranged for Summary Courts to sit in many places and that he was extending this policy. He was the only legal officer in the forward parts of 8th Army area and he was arranging for C.A.O.'s to sit. He stated that certain C.A.O.'s such as Major Millard had previously ~~acted~~ as magistrates, although they were not lawyers, and I agreed that there was no objection to appointing such C.A.O.'s to sit also as Superior Courts without a judicial officer. (File AMG/209).

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3. APPEALS FROM MILITARY COURTS.

Major Mercer stated that he had found in his experience that some Italian advocates advised their clients after conviction to put in an appeal as a matter of course. Owing to the unnecessary work that this involved and the abuse of the process of the Courts which resulted, he had warned Italian advocates who followed this method that they would be likely to be refused appearance before the Military Courts if they advised their clients to put in an appeal where there was no reasonable ground for so doing. This action was approved by me. (File AMG/208).

4. JUVENILES.

The position with regard to juveniles was not satisfactory. Under present instructions any person under the age of 18 had to be treated as a juvenile, a welfare officer had to be contacted and special arrangements had to be made for dealing with juveniles in a special court. I stated that I was proposing to reconsider the matter and I thought that nobody above the age of 16 years should be treated as a juvenile. Major Mercer agreed and stated that with regard to persons under the age of 16 he would like it to be left with the officer on the spot as to how the juvenile was dealt with. I said I did not think this was wholly satisfactory but that I would consider the matter.

Contd/.....

5. ITALIAN CRIMINAL COURTS.

Major Mercer stated that Italian Tribunal and Praetore were being re-opened as fast as he could arrange this and that some were already hearing cases. In CALFORASSO he had summoned all the Italian advocates and at his request they had appointed a committee of three as an Italian Legal Advisory Committee. Major Mercer exercised no direct control over the Italian Courts as he had not the time but his instruction to the Committee was that any person who had been convicted by an Italian Court and who claimed that he had not been fairly tried owing to political feeling, or who claimed that he had been convicted under an Italian law which was discriminatory, could appeal to the Committee, who would submit a report to Major Mercer for action, if they felt the appeal was justified. I informed Major Mercer that I thought this was a proper and interesting experiment and that I would like to know how the procedure worked. He had had no cases sent to him by the Italian Committee as yet. With regard to personnel, Major Mercer reported that there were sufficient Italian judicial officers including judges and that they were all checked by Field Security before sitting. (File AMG/206).

6. ITALIAN CIVIL COURTS.

Major Mercer desired to know what the policy was with regard to the re-opening of civil courts. I instructed him that civil courts could be re-opened as soon as conditions justified, providing that the re-opening of such courts would not be allowed to effect any existing moratorium. (File AMG/206).

7. ITALIAN JAILS.

Major Mercer reported that he had heard that conditions in Italian jails were not good in 8th Army area and he did not know what action had been taken as to screening persons who were found in jail on first occupation. He had not thought that this was the responsibility of the Legal Department. I stated that I would discuss this with Prisons ~~and the military~~ and obtain a directive on the subject. (File AMG/206).

8. ITALIAN LAWS.

Major Mercer had come across no Italian laws of Fascist nature which were discriminatory and which required repeal. (File AMG/206).

9. PROCLAMATIONS AND ORDERS.

Major Mercer did not know what Proclamations and Orders had been published as he was away from H.Q. all the time. He stated this position would be remedied soon when he would be at H.Q. and I instructed him that he should then keep himself fully aware of all Proclamations and Orders that required posting and all local legislation peculiar to 8th Army area required to be made. I stated that it was the province of the S.L.O. to approve the drafting of all legislation originating within his area. I stated also that Major Mercer should ascertain what powers for making local orders Group Capt. Benson needed and if necessary submit a report so as to obtain the necessary authority and place the whole matter of local legislation on a proper basis. I instructed Major Mercer that copies of any local legislation should be forwarded to this H.Q. (File AMG/206).

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6. ITALIAN CIVIL COURTS.

Major Mercer desired to know what the policy was with regard to the re-opening of civil courts. I instructed him that civil courts could be re-opened as soon as conditions justified, providing that the re-opening of such courts would not be allowed to effect any existing moratorium. (File AMG/206).

7. ITALIAN JAILS.

Major Mercer reported that he had heard that conditions in Italian jails were not good in 6th Army area and he did not know what action had been taken as to screening persons who were found in jail on first occupation. He had not thought that this was the responsibility of the Legal Department. I stated that I would discuss this with Prisons ~~and obtain a directive on the subject.~~ (File AMG/206).

8. ITALIAN LAWS.

Major Mercer had come across no Italian laws of Fascist nature which were discriminatory and which required repeal. (File AMG/206).

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9. PROCLAMATIONS AND ORDERS.

Major Mercer did not know what Proclamations and Orders had been published as he was away from H.Q. all the time. He stated this position would be remedied soon when he would be at H.Q. and I instructed him that he should then keep himself fully aware of all Proclamations and Orders that required posting and all local legislation peculiar to 6th Army area required to be made. I stated that it was the province of the S.L.C. to approve the drafting of all legislation originating within his area. I stated also that Major Mercer should ascertain what powers for making local orders Group Capt. Benson needed and if necessary submit a report so as to obtain the necessary authority and place the whole matter of local legislation on a proper basis. I instructed Major Mercer that copies of any local legislation should be forwarded to this H.Q. (File AMG/205).

10. DIRECTIVES FROM HQ. AMG, PALERMO.

I informed Major Mercer that in future he would not receive any directives from Palermo and that the contents of the two directives dated 1st and 6th Nov under Ref. A GPF/4000/L which had been issued by Palermo were incorrect and were to be disregarded. (File AMG/207).

11. SUPPLY OF FORMS AND PROCLAMATIONS.

Major Mercer left particulars of his estimated requirements of forms and proclamations over the period of the next 3 months (AMG/205).

H. E. ROSE
H. E. ROSE,
Lieut. Colonel,
Chief Legal Officer.

*Copy handed to Major Mercer for review & return
I advise you by return for Major Mercer
HER/JG.*

AL 202/1

16 Nov 43

ADDRESSES OF MEETING WITH MAJOR WERNER, SWISS LEGAL
OFFICER, AIG, BIRKENHEAD, LONDON AT HQ, AIG, 15
ABBY GARDE ON 13 NOV 43.

+++++

Major Werner reported at this time on a visit from 6th Army
and the following matters were discussed.

1. APPOINTMENT OF MILITARY JUDGES.

Under the existing procedure every C.S.O. and judicial
officer has automatically an appointment enabling him to sit at a
Summary Military Court. No difficulty as to Summary Courts therefore
arises.

Superior and General Military Courts in task force (i.e.
Army) areas, have to be appointed by the C.S.O. Army or by an officer
acting under his authority and not being below a Major General.
This procedure was laid down having regard to the difficulties which
arose in dealing with 7th Army in Italy where it was insisted that the
main of command should be followed. It was agreed that with the
present position of having a Senior AIG officer attached to the staff
of each Army, there was no reason why appointments of General and
Superior Courts should not be made by the senior AIG officer with the
Army rather than by the Divisional or Corps Commander. Such a scheme
would make for much smoother running and I agreed that I would discuss
this proposal with AIG, 5th Army. (File AIG/240).

2. FUNCTIONING OF MILITARY COURTS.

Major Werner stated Military Courts were generally not
functioning on his taking up his appointment but that he had arranged
for Summary Courts to sit in many places and that he was extending this
policy. He was the only legal officer in the forward parts of 5th
Army area and he was arranging for C.S.O.'s to sit. He stated that
certain C.S.O.'s such as Major Miller had previously expressed as
registrates although they were not lawyers and I agreed that there was
no objection to appointing such C.S.O.'s to sit also as Superior Courts
without a judicial officer. (File AIG/209).

3. APPEALS FROM MILITARY COURTS.

Major Werner stated that he had found in his experience that
Italian advocates advised their clients after conviction to put in an
appeal as a matter of course. Owing to the unnecessary cost that this involved
and the abuse of the process of the courts which resulted, he had warned
Italian advocates who followed this method that they would be likely to
be refused appearance before the Military Courts if they advised their
clients to put in an appeal where there was no reasonable ground for so

Major Groer reported at this time, on a visit from 5th Army and the following matters were discussed:

1. APPOINTMENT OF MILITARY COURTS
Under the existing procedure every C.A.O. and judicial officer has automatically an appointment enabling him to sit at a Summary Military Court. No difficulty as to Military Courts therefore arises.

Superior and General Military Courts in task force, (i.e. Army), areas, have to be appointed by the C.A.O. Army or by an officer acting under his authority and not being below a Divisional commander. This procedure was laid down having regard to the difficulties which arose in dealing with 7th Army in Italy where it was insisted that the chain of command should be followed. It was agreed that with the present position of having a Senior Army officer attached to the staff of each Army, there was no reason why appointments of General and Superior Courts should not be made by the senior and officers with the Army rather than by the Divisional or Corps commander. Such a change would make for much smoother running and I agreed that I would discuss this proposal with AFM, 5th Army. (File AM/260).

2. FUNCTIONING OF MILITARY COURTS
Major Groer stated Military Courts were generally not functioning on his taking up his appointment but that he had arranged for Summary Courts to sit in many places and that he was extending this policy. He was the only legal officer in the forward parts of 5th Army area and he was arranging for C.A.O.'s to sit. He stated that certain C.A.O.'s such as Major Wilton had previously appeared as registrars although they were not lawyers and I agreed that there was no objection to appointing such C.A.O.'s to sit also as Superior Courts without a judicial officer. (File AM/260).

3. APPEALS FROM MILITARY COURTS
Major Groer stated that he had found in his experience that Italian advocates advised their clients after conviction to put in an appeal as a matter of course. Owing to the unnecessary work that this involved and the abuse of the process of the Courts which resulted, he had warned Italian advocates who followed this method that they would be likely to be refused appearance before the Military Courts if they advised their clients to put in an appeal where there was no reasonable ground for so doing. This action was approved by me. (File AM/260).

4. JUVENILES
The position with regard to juveniles was not satisfactory. Under present instructions 15 years or under the age of 15 had to be treated as a juvenile, a welfare officer had to be appointed and special arrangements had to be made for dealing with juveniles in a special court. I stated that I was proposing to reconsider the matter and I thought that nobody above the age of 16 years should be treated as a juvenile. Major Groer agreed and stated that with regard to persons under the age of 15 he would like it to be left with the officer on the spot as to how the juvenile was dealt with. I said I did not think this was wholly satisfactory but that I would consider the matter.

0144

ITALIAN CIVIL COURTS.

Major Groer stated that Italian Tribunale and Proctore were being re-opened as far as he could arrange this and that some were already hearing cases. In Carobiano he had arranged all the Italian advocates and at his request they had appointed a committee of three as an Italian legal advisory committee. Major Groer examined no direct confers over the Italian courts as he had not the time but his instruction to the committee was that any person who had been convicted by an Italian Court and who claimed that he had been fairly tried bring to political feeling, or who claimed that he had been convicted under an Italian law which was discriminatory, could appeal to the committee who would submit a report to Major Groer for action. If they felt the appeal was justified, I informed Major Groer that I thought this was a proper and interesting experiment and that I would like to know how the procedure worked. He had had no words sent to him by the Italian Committee as yet. With regard to personnel, Major Groer reported that there were judicial officers including judges and security before sitting. (File 100/206)

6. ITALIAN CIVIL COURTS.

Major Groer desired to know what the policy was with regard to the re-opening of civil courts. I informed him that civil courts could be re-opened as soon as conditions justified, providing that the re-opening of such courts would not be allowed to affect any existing arrangements. (File 100/206).

7. ITALIAN CIVIL COURTS.

Major Groer reported that he had heard that conditions in Italian jails were not good in the army area and he did not know what action had been taken as to screening persons who were found in jail on first conviction. He had not thought that this was the responsibility of the legal department. I stated that I would discuss this with Friend and Public Affairs and obtain a directive on the subject. (File 100/206).

8. ITALIAN CIVIL COURTS.

Major Groer had come across an Italian law of fascist nature which was discriminatory and which required repeal. (File 100/206).

9. ITALIAN CIVIL COURTS.

Major Groer did not know that regulations and orders had been published as he was away from N.O. all the time. He stated that position would be provided soon when he would be at N.O. and I instructed him that he should then have himself fully aware of all regulations and orders that required posting and all local legislation peculiar to the army area required to be made. I stated that it was the province of the S.O. to approve the drafting of all legislation originating within his area. I stated also that Major Groer should ascertain what powers for making local orders group arrangements needed and if necessary submit a report as to obtain the necessary authority and place the whole matter of local legislation on a

experiment and that I would like to know how the procedure worked. He had had my cousin sent to him by the Italian Committee at yet. With regard to personnel, Major Corcor reported that there were judicial officers including judges and Security before sitting. (File 100/206)

6. TRAILING CIVIL COURTS

Major Corcor advised to know what the policy was to the re-opening of civil courts. I instructed him that civil courts could be re-opened as soon as conditions justified, providing that the re-opening of such courts would not be allowed to affect any existing operations. (File 100/206)

7. ITALIAN JAILS

Major Corcor reported that he had heard that conditions in Italian jails were not good in 1943, very even and he did not know what action had been taken as to screening persons who were found in jail on first occupation. He had not thought that this was the responsibility of the Legal Department. I stated that I would discuss this with Prinos and Emilio before and obtain a directive on the subject. (File 100/206)

8. ITALIAN LAWS

Major Corcor had come across no Italian laws of fascist nature which were discriminatory and which required repeal. (File 100/206)

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9. PROSECUTIONS AND OTHERS

Major Corcor did not know what regulations and orders had been published as to how many from N.S. all the time. He stated this position would be remedied soon when he would be at N.S. and I instructed him that he should then keep himself fully aware of all proclamations and orders that required posting and all local legislation peculiar to San Francisco required to be made. I stated that it was the province of the S.I.C. to approve the drafting of all legislation originating within his area. I stated also that Major Corcor should ascertain what powers he was holding local orders through S.I.C. Bureau needed and if necessary submit a report so as to obtain the necessary authority and place the whole matter of local legislation on a proper basis. I instructed Major Corcor that copies of any local legislation should be forwarded to this N.S. (File 100/206)

10. LEGISLATION FROM N.S. AND BUREAU

I informed Major Corcor that in future he would not receive any directives from Palermo and that the contents of the two directives dated 1st and 3rd May under Ref. A 100/207/1 which had been issued by Palermo were incorrect and were to be disregarded. (File 100/207)

11. STATUS OF PRISON AND PROSECUTIONS

Major Corcor left particulars of his estimated requirements of forms and proclamations over the period of the next 3 months (100/205).

100/30

St. H. 100/11,
Lieut. Colonel,
Chief Legal Officer.

TO: Chief Legal Officer, 15 Arm. Group.

FROM: Lieut. H. G. T. Christians

SUBJECT: - Legal Report

The writer arrived in Foggia 16 Oct 43, and was detailed by SCAG Foggia Province to attend to legal matters there. Prior to arrival of the writer, the work was being done by Lieut. Cushman.

There were then no Italian courts functioning, all officials having fled.

There is an average of thirty cases per diem of offences against Proclamations. - All these are trivial, consisting of curfew offences. There were several cases of looting from bombed buildings, but nothing that could be called looting in the proper sense of that word.

The Record book was kept in the form prescribed by the AMCOT "RIBBI".

The writer increased sentences from small fines of 50 lire, to imprisonment up to twenty-one days, and when he left, as subsequently mentioned, the number of cases had dropped to two or three per day.

The prison was at Lucera, and Lieut. Cushman was dealing with this. There was one case of alleged sniping, and it was understood that the local Divisional Commander was to convey a General Court to deal with this. When the writer reported to 8th Army H.Q., he was informed by Group Captain Benson that the best way of dealing with this matter, was for particulars to be sent to him, and he could arrange the matter.

It is understood that Lieut. Cushman has no left Foggia, and an American Legal Officer, a Major, has relieved him.

PROVINCE OF COMPOSSE

On 20 Oct 43, the writer was detailed by SCAG, 8th Army, to make an inspection of the front from the legal standpoint, and to report to him. The gist of that report is as follows:

Most part of the Province is Allied hands is administered from (a) Compresso, and (b), from Lucera.

(a) The Town and surrounding district was being administered by the GAO, Capt. Crizzer, and the GAO Lieut. Simpson. The GAO had been opened by the Germans, and the only prisoners were those put in by I.S.G., and 33 who had returned voluntarily. There were then no offences against Proclamations. Proclamations 1, 2, 3, and 4 had been posted, with curfew and surrender of arms notices. The

Lieut. Cashman.

There were then no Italian Courts functioning, all officials having fled. There is an average of thirty cases per diem of offences against Proclamations. - All these are trivial, consisting of curfew offenses. There were several cases of larceny from bombed buildings, but nothing that could be called looting in the proper sense of that word.

The record book was kept in the form prescribed by the ANCAT "WHILE". The writer increased sentences from small fines of 50 lire, to imprisonment up to twenty-one days, and when he left, as subsequently mentioned, the number of cases had dropped to two or three per day.

The prison was at LUCCA, and Lieut. Cashman was dealing with this. There was one case of alleged sniping, and it was understood that the local divisional commander was to convey a General Court to deal with this. When *the wife* reported to 8th Army H.Q., he was informed by Group Captain Benson that the best way of dealing with this matter, was for particulars to be sent to him, and he could arrange the matter.

It is understood that Lieut. Cashman has no left toggis, and an American legal officer, a major, has relieved him.

PROVINCE OF CARPIGNA

On 20 Oct 43, the writer was detailed by DC, AAC, 8th Army, to make an inspection of the Front from the legal standpoint, and to report to him. The gist of that report is as follows

2

That part of the Province in allied hands is administered from (a) Campobasso, and (b), from Marino. (a) The town and surrounding district was being administered by the 600, Capt. Grizzard, and the Capo Lieut. Simpson. The 600 had been opened by the Germans, and the only prisoners were those put in by F.S.S., and 23 who had returned voluntarily. There were then no offences against Proclamations. Proclamations 1, 2, and 4 had been posted, with curfew and surrender of arms notices. The town was still under shell-fire. The F.S.S. had "vetted" all officials of the Tribunale and Pretorian Courts, and one Judge of the Tribunale was pronounced unsatisfactory.

It was arranged, that subject to a positive examination of all officials, the Tribunale and Pretorian Courts could open on 1 Nov 43. The Courts had to be re-accommodated in the Prefecture, owing to the requisitioning by the Military of the Tribunale Building.

The Courts mentioned did in fact open on the date mentioned.

Owing to the difficulty of communications, and the fact that Judges came on Circuit from Naples and Rome, Courts of Assize cannot function. Owing to transport difficulties, the Procuratore del Rey advised that civil cases could not be dealt with.

(confidential)

As of 1 Nov 43, there were five trivial cases for trial under the Proclamation, and one case, then under investigation by CAPO of alleged help to the Germans. These matters were reported to Major Mercer, who relieved the writer on that date.

(b) The Court Officials were "vetted" by U.S.S., and the Tribunale and Pretorian Courts commenced to function as above.

There were seventeen cases of alleged riot, and it was arranged that the writer should try these on 5 Nov 43.

Major Mercer has been informed of these matters. The same difficulty arises in regard to civil matters, as with Courts of Assize.

Prison- All prisoners had been freed by the Germans

GENERAL

CAO's having now received them, Proclamations 1, 2, 3, and 4 are automatically posed in new towns. Records of cases are being kept in the approved form, but there are no printed forms in circulation.

There was one case at LA TERMOLE, where the CAO had conducted a trial (a) without posting Proclamation No. 4, and (b) the conviction was for "wilfully disobeying". All the defendant had done, was to move after having been refused a pass by the CAO. The writer was relieved before he could go further into the matter, but Major Mercer agreed with him that the conviction should not stand.

This case also raised the question of the status of Italian soldiers. The Carabinieri reported that the prisoner was in fact an Italian Officer. The prisoner did not raise the matter in court. The writer asked for a ruling from Higher Authority upon the whole question.

In The field.

3 Nov 43.

W. H. Administration 1
Lieut.

Further to above: On 30 Oct 43 the writer, with CAPO and the Prisoner Mr. Key, visited the guard at CAMPO BASSO, and examined the prisoners. 8 men were

it was arranged that the writer should try these on
5 Nov 43.
Major Mercer has been informed of these matters.
The same difficulty arises in regard to civil
matters, as with Courts of Assize.

Prison- All prisoners had been freed by the Germans

GENERAL

CAO's having now received them, Proclamations I, 2, 3, and
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There was one case at St. TERMOLO, where the CAO
had conducted a trial (a) without posting Proclamation
No. 4, and (b) the conviction was for "wilfully disobeying
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was relieved before he could go further into the matter,
but Major Mercer agreed with him that the conviction
should not stand.

This case also raised the question of the status
of Italian soldiers. The Carabinieri reported that the
prisoner was in fact an Italian Officer. The prisoner did
not raise the matter in Court.
The writer asked for a Ruling from Higher Authority
upon the whole question.

In The Field,

3 Nov 43.

Administration 1
Lieut.

Further to above: - On 30 Oct 43 the writer, with
CAPO and the Procurator del Re, visited the yard at
CAMPO BASSO, and examined the prisoners. 7 were
released, and one was detained for a mental home.

6 of those released, five had no papers records of conviction
one had been badly wounded in another yard, and
the remaining four cases were 'political' i.e. Anti
Fascists. - All records with Major Mercer. There were
two alleged unconvicted cases in 1939 & 1942 respectively.
Major Mercer agreed that they must wait. Westcott - Lieut

See file 3/11
3 NOV.

0150