

ACC

10000/143/255

BLACK MAP
APR., MAY

10000/143/255

BLACK MARKET OPERATIONS, 2 CDN. SOLDIERS
APR., MAY 1944

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
Public Safety Sub-Commission

Folio *4A* for action/information

C.P.S.....

D.C.P.S..... *AS*

Ex. Officer..... *W*

Police..... *W*

Fire & C.D.....

Regn. & Licensing.....

* Adm. Officer..... *W*

3407

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
Public Safety Sub-Commission

Folio/ A ~~action~~ information

C.P.S......

D.C.P.S. Aj.

Ex. Officer..... QW

Police..... AM

Prisons.....

Fire & C.D......

Regn. & Licensing.....

X Adm. Officer..... JS

RELAYS.....

.....

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PT 18/K.

3406

P. Safety

4A

To : Rear HQ. A.C.C., P.S. Sub-commission.
From : HQ. Region. 5, A.M.G.
Subject : Blackmarket Activities.
Ref : R5/514/5.
Date : 13th May 44.

Reference your letter ACC/14006/F3 dated 8th May 44,
we sent you a report of a Court Martial case concerning a Sgt.
Allen and Gnr. Holowinko, under above reference dated 9th May 44.

Where Allied Personnel are concerned it is difficult
to say what action is taken by units. Allied personnel involved
are taken over by the C.M.F. concerned who report to the units and
that is the last that is known of the case except where the
arresting officer is called as a witness, as in the above case.

For Regional Commissioner.

G. PICKERING.
Lt. Col.
R.F.S.O.

TC/JRS.

3405

7517

TO : Chief Public Safety Sub-Commission A.C.C. ✓
 FROM : R.P.S.O. Region 5.
 SUBJECT : Black Market Operations.
 REF : 35/514/5.
 DATE : 9th May 1966.

11-4133

14006/5

3A

3C
 Herewith report on recent case of alleged Black Market Operations.
 The matter was reported to Brig. LHM R.C. & M.C. Section, whose let-
 ter to Hq. A.A.I. is attached. 3B
 For information only.

For Regional Commissioner :

[Signature]
 S. P. S. O.
 Lt. Col.
 R.P.S.O.

3404

G.F.I.

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394

Regional Control and Military Government Section.

36

3 May 1944.

Ref: 311/49/CA.

SUBJECT: Black Market Operations.

TO : Headquarters,
Allied Armies in Italy,
(Admin Echelon.)

1. Two Canadian soldiers, a Sgt. ALLEN and a Gnr. MOLOWINSKI, of 1 Cdn Base Reinforcement Group, were caught driving a 15-cwt truck at 04.00 hours on 29 March, loaded with contraband and two Italian civilians, 50 miles off the route given on their trip ticket. Information received indicates that Gnr. MOLOWINSKI was acquitted by P.C.C.M. on 21 April and Sgt. ALLEN although found guilty of being absent without leave, was acquitted on the charges of improper and unauthorized use of vehicle and of carrying unauthorized civilian passengers.

2. In view of the fact that these two soldiers were caught carrying goods destined for the Black Market, the Chief Commissioner directs me to bring the matter to your notice.

Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner,
For Chief Commissioner.

RSN/JG.

- 2 -

- (a) While on active service did absent himself without leave from about 2100 hours on 28 March 1944, until about 0400 on 29 March 1944.
- (b) While on active service was concerned in the improper and unauthorized use of a W.D., vehicle.

Major F. Shawcross, CIG, 2nd Battalion, I.C.B.R.D., was the President of the Court and Captains R.D. Palk, and J.F.W. Tennant, both of the 6 Battalion R.C.A., were members. Capt. W.B. Bate, HQ I, C.B.R.G., was acting Judge Advocate General. Capt. H.R. Park, 14th Canadian Armoured Regiment, was the prosecutor and the prisoner was defended by Major J.L. Tyrer, B.C.D., 9th Canadian Armoured Regiment.

(6). I gave evidence upon the lines set out in paragraphs (1) to (4) of this report. Upon an objection by the defending officer, the Court ruled as inadmissible any evidence as to what was found on the vehicle and the conversation between the soldier and I in relation thereto. The Court similarly ruled in respect of a statement made by Holowinke when interrogated by the investigating officer, Capt. Park.

(7). As I understand it, Holowinke's defence was that he ^{was} an innocent party and acted solely under the instructions of the Sergeant.

(8). The hearing took up the whole of the day, at the conclusion of which Holowinke was acquitted.

(9). The following morning the Court sat to hear the case against Sergeant Allen, but Major Tyrer objected upon the grounds that the Sergeant would be prejudiced because of the Court's prior knowledge of his, the Sergeant's, connection with the case. The objection was sustained.

(10). On 26th April 1944, I attended and gave evidence before a Field General Court Martial at Ferins, Avellino Province, when Sergeant Allen was charged as follows:

- (a) While on active service did absent himself without leave from about 2100 hours 28th March 1944 and about 0400 hours 29th March 1944.
- (b) While on active service was concerned in the improper and unauthorized use of a W.D. vehicle.
- (c) While on active service permitted the carrying of unauthorized civilians on a W.D. vehicle.

The president of the Court was Major D. R. Cassen, Canadian Armoured Corps, 1st. Bn., 1, C.B.R.D., and the members were Capt. C.R. Douglas and J.H. Jones of the same Corps. Major D. D. Carrick,

3408

Armoured Regiment, was the prosecutor and the 9th Canadian Armoured Regiment.

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3406

The president of the Court was Major D. R. Cameron, Canadian Armoured Corps, 1st. Bn., 1, C.B.R.D., and the members were Capt. C.R. Douglas and J.H. Jones of the same Corps. Major D. D. Carrick, Canadian Section G. H. Q., 1st. Bohelon, A. A.L., was Deputy Judge Advocate General. Capt. Park and Major Tyrer were in presented and defended, respectively.

(11). I gave evidence upon the lines set out in paragraphs (1) to (4). Helowinke testified against the Sergeant alleging that the latter met the civilians and came to the arrangements and that he, Helowinke, acted under the orders of the Sergeant.

(12). The Sergeant's defence, as I understand it, was that he only went for a ride with Helowinke; had much wine en route; subsequently fell asleep in the cabin of the lorry; awakened when I stepped the vehicle, and then for the first time learned about the civilians, contraband, and his whereabouts.

(13). In respect to Helowinke's evidence, he apparently denied it strenuously.

(14). After deliberation, the Court acquitted Allen on charges (B) and (C), but found him guilty of being absent without leave. The punishment awarded was not communicated to me.

(15). I was not present when the Court gave its decision, but I learned that upon charges (B) and (C) they called upon themselves to decide whether they believed the story of Helowinke as against that of the Sergeant. Their decision is apparent from their findings.

(16). The whole case, from the start of the proceedings, presented, to my mind, a peculiar trend. I would respectfully point out the following number of factors which, when assessed, in my opinion, makes it difficult to understand the decisions of the Courts:

- (a) Why was Helowinke's statement rendered inadmissible? In it he apparently, so Capt. Park told me, convicted himself.
- (b) Why was the evidence of the property found on the truck and my conversation with Helowinke regarding it ruled out? I would have thought this evidence very material in the issue as to the improper and unauthorised use of the vehicle.
- (c) Was all due weight given to the time and place factors and the ready presentation of the admittedly irregular work ticket, to me, by Helowinke?
- (d) Was the evidence that at no time whilst Helowinke was in my custody did he mention he was acting under the orders of the Sergeant given due weight? One would have thought, if such was true, he would have mentioned it to me when he must have realised that I suspected him and the Sergeant when I queried the work ticket.
- (e) Why was Helowinke not also charged with carrying a civilian? Unless there are facts unknown to us the evidence warranted such a charge.
- (f) In view of Helowinke's defence that he was acting under orders of the Sergeant, could the Court request the attendance of the Sergeant to help them to decide the truthfulness of the accused, subject to whether the Sergeant elected to testify?

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- (e) Why was Helewinko not also charged with carrying civilians? Unless there are facts unknown to us the evidence warranted such a charge.
- (f) In view of Helewinko's defence that he was acting under orders of the Sergeant, could the Court request the attendance of the Sergeant to help them to decide the truthfulness of the accused, subject to whether the Sergeant elected to testify?
- (g) At what stage did the Court decide that Helewinko in the happenings, was acting under instructions to warrant his acquittal of being absent without leave.

(17). The decision in the case of the Sergeant did not surprise me because, after all, the Court had to decide whether they believed Helewinko. Apparently they did not, but then again my evidence, time; place; my conversation with the Sergeant, together with his answers that they lost their way and picked the civilians and seeds up on the roadside at Montague, did not seem to have had any effect.

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(18). In conclusion, I would record that the decisions in these cases have not helped in acting as a deterrent to others. There may, however, be a simple answer to it all, but I cannot even conjecture one bearing in mind the facts.

Yam Greenhill

T.W.M. GREENHILL, Lt.
P. P. O.
H.Q. Pegia Province
Lucera.

In the Field
3rd May 1944.

REAR HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
Public Safety Sub-Commission
APO 394

Boat
2A
May 8, 1944

ACC/14006/PS

SUBJECT : Black Market Activities.

TO : RPSO Region 5

1A refers
1. I am very interested in the report of Lts. Bolter and March on Black Market activities in the Foggia area.

I am sending a copy to the Executive Commissioner.

Would you be good enough to let me have some facts about the individual cases particularly those in which Allied personnel have been involved because I believe that this HQ ought to initiate some further action to deal with this very serious state of affairs.

A. E. YOUNG, Colonel
Deputy Chief, Public Safety
Sub-Commission

AEY/ASD

3399

TO : Rear H.Q. ACC. P.S. Sub-Commission
FROM : H.Q. Region 5 A.M.G.
SUBJECT : Black Market Activities.
REF. : R5/514/5.
DATE : 6 May 1944.

Attached report on Black Market Activities in Foggia Province is forwarded for your information.

For Regional Commissioner

S. Pickering
S. PICKERING
Lt. Colonel
R.P.S.O.

SP/RA

3398.

3861

SUBJECT : Black Market Activities.
 FROM : Lts. Bolter and Marsh.
 TO : PIP.S.O., Foggia Province.
 DATE : 1 May 1944.

Ref :

1. Following upon our report dated the 26 April 1944 we have continued our investigations in this Province and enquiries disclose the following facts.

(a). It has been found that the agent desirous of purchasing grain and other foodstuffs for persons in Naples and district, either contact the farmer himself or makes arrangements for an ordinary civilian to collect the grain at a central point from where it is later collected. Invariably the collection is made late at night. Several cases have come to our notice where the agent employed by the buyer at Naples, does reside in Foggia or district. He therefore has a good knowledge of the farms and means of supply in this district.

(b). To acquire the necessary vehicles for transportation contact is made either at military centres for drivers or through absentees at Naples.

(c). Large sums of money are paid to :

- (1). Drivers who are commonly paid the sum of 50,000 Lire per trip.
- (2). Foodstuffs. Cases have arisen where the sum of 4,000 to 5,000 Lire per quintal has been paid for grain. Correspondingly high prices have been paid for Fave and Ceci.
- (3). Vehicles. At least one case has come to our knowledge where stolen military vehicles have been acquired and in the case mentioned the sum of 500 dollars was paid at Naples.

(d). Invariably the vehicles with the contraband foodstuffs are used by night, and it is known of late that the main Naples road is being by-passed as much as possible.

(e). Information has been obtained that practically the whole of the grain and foodstuffs illegally obtained in this Province is taken to Naples, but at the moment the method of distribution there is not known to us.

(f). Several cases have come to our notice where large sums of money obtained usually by American drivers have been paid into the American Finance Office and transferred to the drivers account in the United States. So

To V.P. for info.
Continued
L.S. 1/5/44
9.5.44

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(f). Several cases have come to our notice where large sums of money obtained usually by American drivers have been paid into the American Finance Office and transferred to the drivers account in the United States. So far as we can ascertain there is no Central Bureau in this part of Italy where a check can be made and so long as this transfer of illegally obtained money can be carried out it appears that military personnel will take advantage of it.

2. ACTION TAKEN.

3397

We have continued enquiries as to the source of supply and have visited farms where it was believed illegal transactions had and were taking place. As a result varying quantities of grain and other cereals were found. A number of big farms had approximately the following quantities.

<u>Foggia District.</u>	Two Farms.	1,000 quintals of grain
		500 " of oats

(2) cont.

TO : P.P.3.O.

SERRACAPRIOLA DISTRICT.

Farms and Houses.

500 quintals of grain.
150 " of Pave.
50 " of Ceci.

CAMPOMARINO (Campobasso
Province.)

Two Farms

400 Quintals of Grain.
300 " of oats;
In each case the responsible authorities were informed the grain sequestrated and the necessary action is being taken under Italian law.

Considerable difficulty is experienced in these cases through the lack of transport by the authorities concerned and investigation entails considerable time and travel on account of the area.

3. CASES REVEALED.

On the night of the 19/20 April, 1944 Two American 6x6 Trucks which were in new condition, were stopped at San Severo by the Military Police.

It was then found that they had been driven by American soldiers who had been absentees for several weeks. They were also accompanied by three Italians from Naples who were responsible for buying the grain which the trucks contained. On being stopped the civilians jumped from the trucks and escaped. Two of the soldiers also succeeded in getting away from the police. The drivers were however arrested. The trucks and the grain which they contained were sequestered. The vehicles are stated to have been stolen at Naples.

We subsequently made enquiries which lead us to Naples and arrested an Italian civilian named ROMANO MASOCARLO of Palma. His house was also searched and two fully loaded revolvers were found together with the sum of 14,000 Lire. It was known that this man had been previously associated with other men in similar transactions. A search was made of a nearby station where grain had been stored and it was established that a previous load of grain had been delivered there but had since been removed. This man was identified by the drivers of the trucks in question as being one of the men who had accompanied them to Campomarino. He also admitted being an active member in the above mentioned transaction.

At the time we made enquiries with a view of tracing the other Italians involved but was unable to do so. A further visit is being arranged to effect the arrest of these men.

The person who made the contact with the farmer in this case is believed to be a man from Ortona which is situated near Foggia. According to some of the witnesses he was seen to be in possession of a large sum of money, approximately 82,000 dollars for the purpose

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The person who made the contact with the farmer in this case is believed to be a man from Ortona which is situated near Foggia. According to some of the witnesses he was seen to be in possession of a large sum of money which was stated to be approximately 82,000 dollars for the purpose of purchasing grain. His name or identity has not yet been established.

The American C.I.D., of Foggia district are interested in this case as it is believed that there is a ring of absentees operating many rackets in the docks area at Naples. Our enquiries lead us to believe that there is a definite connection between these absentees and Italian civilians using trucks for transport grain from Foggia into Naples. We will continue our enquiries with this branch of the American Army until the case is complete. They have rendered every possible assistance in all matters affecting us.

On the night of the 26 April, 1944 an attempt was made by an Italian civilian at Bari to obtain the services of an American driver and truck to fetch a load of grain from Serracapriola. This information came to our notice and through the agency of the American C.I.D., a truck was supplied.

This truck went to Serracapriola in accordance with the instructions of the two Italian civilians who came from Molfetta; near Bari. A total of 26 sacks of grain was collected from four houses by these people and loaded on the trucks. During this operation two members of the Municipal Guard were present, keeping watch and assisting in every possible way the illegal operation. After this lorry was loaded it left Serracapriola; leaving behind one of the Italian civilians for the purpose of purchasing grain for a second truck which was expected to arrive from Bari the following night. The loaded truck was intercepted at Foggia and the Italian civilian arrested and the grain sequestered.

The following night the second truck was sent to Serracapriola but before it's mission could be completed military police came on the scene and questioned the driver. It appears that the same two Municipal Guards who were on duty the previous night witnessed this and one immediately went and warned the agent from Bari of this incident. We eventually succeeded in finding the agent and the Municipal Guard, in a house where grain had been collected ready for dispatch. Several other places were visited in the same locality where grain had also been collected ready for disposal.

Both the Municipal Guards and the Italian civilian were arrested.

We will at the earliest possible moment pursue enquiries at Bari to find out if possible who is the brains behind this party. There is good reason to believe that this was not the first occasion on which an expedition had been sent out from Molfetta.

In the Field.

Signed _____ Lt. P.P.O.

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