

ACC

10000/143/270

10000/143/270

STEALING, A. M., P. O. L.
FEB., MAR. 1945

Minute -1-

C.A. Section:

1 B is a very interesting report on
activity of Carabiniere.

Chapman
Col - D.P.D.

(This minute will be typed after it has
been circulated to parties indicated
S/89/2000000)

402

translation N.C.

CC.NR. GENERAL COMMAND.

Rome 3-3-1945.

W/

Dear Colonel Wilcox,

In thanking very much for the kind communication I received with letter AC/14006/PS. dated 23-2-1945; I am glad to inform you that Serg. Maj. Gigliuzzo Michele, the vice brigadiere Cammarata Salvatore and Michelotti Vasco, the carabinieri Bonanno Giuseppe have been rewarded for their active collaboration in the investigation carried out, concerning the robbery of petrol and of diesel oil, from the military oil-pipes of Palermo.

I would be very grateful to you, Sir, if you would express all my thanks also to the Regional P.S. Officer of Sicily for the kind words who have taken part in this operation.

Many cordial greetings.

Commanding General
Taddeo Orlando.1

TO	INT	DATE
DIRECTOR		
DEPUTY DIRECTOR		

Too late to go to Sicily now (Ala)



COMANDO GENERALE DELL'ARMA
DEI CARABINIERI REALI

IL COMANDANTE GENERALE

Roma, 3 marzo 1945

Egregio Colonnello,

nel ringraziarla molto sentitamente della cortese comunicazione fattami con la lettera A.C./14006/P/S. del 23 febbraio u/s., sono lieto di darle assicurazione che il Maresciallo Maggiore CIGLIUZZO Michele, i vicebrigadieri CAMMARATA Salvatore e MICHELOTTI Vasco ed il carabiniere BONANNO Giuseppe sono stati adeguatamente premiati per la efficace collaborazione data nelle indagini relative al furto di benzina e di olio diessol dagli oleodotti militari di Palermo.

Le sarei molto grato, egregio Colonnello, se volesse far pervenire il mio vivo ringraziamento anche all'Ufficiale Regionale di P.S. della Sicilia per le gentili e cameratesche espressioni usate nei confronti dei militari dell'Arma che presero parte all'operazione di servizio.

Con saluti molto cordiali

mo off. Geo. Blum

Al T. Colonnello
V I L C O X
Sottocommissione Alleata di P.S.

R O M A

4050

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
Public Safety Sub-Commission
APO 394

Tel : 489081-365

23 February 1945

AG/14006/22/PS

SUBJECT : Commendations - CO.RR.

TO : Commanding General CO.RR.

1. The undermentioned extract from a report received at this Headquarters from the Regional Public Safety Officer, Sicilia Region, Allied Commission, in connection with the theft of large quantities of benzine and diesel oil from military pipe lines at Palermo, is forwarded for your information and with the request that suitable recognition be given the Carabinieri personnel concerned.

"Exceptionally good police work has been performed by Maresciallo Maggiore GIGLIUZZO Giuseppe, Vice-Brigadiere CAMMARATA Salvatore, Vice-Brigadiere NICHILOTTI Vasco and Carabinieri BONANNO Giuseppe. To my knowledge they have conducted this investigation at all hours of the day and night and have not spared themselves in bringing the case to a successful conclusion. I strongly recommend that their praiseworthy efforts be brought to the notice of the Commanding General of the Carabinieri Reali with a view to a suitable commendation being awarded to them for their zeal and efficiency in the case."

W
JOHN W. CHAPMAN
Colonel, J.A.G.D.
Director Public Safety
Sub-Commission.

Copy to: R.O. Sicilia Region
(Attn: R.P.S.O.)
Ref. RPS/676/JTM dated 12/2/45.

GRD/wg.

4049

1A
ALLIED COMMISSION

SICILIA REGION HEADQUARTERS

APO. 394

(PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION)

FILE NO: RFS/676/JTM.

DATE 12th February, 1945.

SUBJECT: Stealing of A.M. benzine and diesel oil.

TO: Headquarters, Allied Commission.

(For attn. of: Public Safety Sub-Commission).

1. Attached for information is a copy of the Carabinieri report on a recent case, referred to in the Monthly Reports for December and January, in which 31 persons have been denounced, 15 under arrest, for being concerned in stealing large quantities of benzine and diesel oil from military pipe lines between the Port and Uditore Depot, Palermo. A total of seven tubes have been discovered inserted in the pipe lines and Capt. Diggle, who is in charge of the depot, has estimated that some 22,475 gallons of benzine valued at approx. £ 1,100 and 9,835 gallons of diesel oil valued at £ 400-500 have been stolen. Photographs taken following the discovery of two tubes leading into a house are attached.

2. In view of the importance of this case to Allied Military interests a recommendation has been made to the Regional Legal Officer that it should be dealt with by A.M. Court.

3. Exceptionally good police work has been performed by Marescialle Maggiore GUGLIUZZO Giuseppe, Vice-Brigadiere CAMARATA Salvatore, Vice-Brigadiere MICHELOTTI Vasce and Carabinieri BONANNO Giuseppe. To my knowledge they have conducted this investigation at all hours of the day and night and have not spared themselves in bringing the case to a successful conclusion. I strongly recommend that their praiseworthy efforts be brought to the notice of the Commanding General of the Carabinieri Reali with a view to a suitable commendation being awarded to them for their zeal and efficiency in the case.

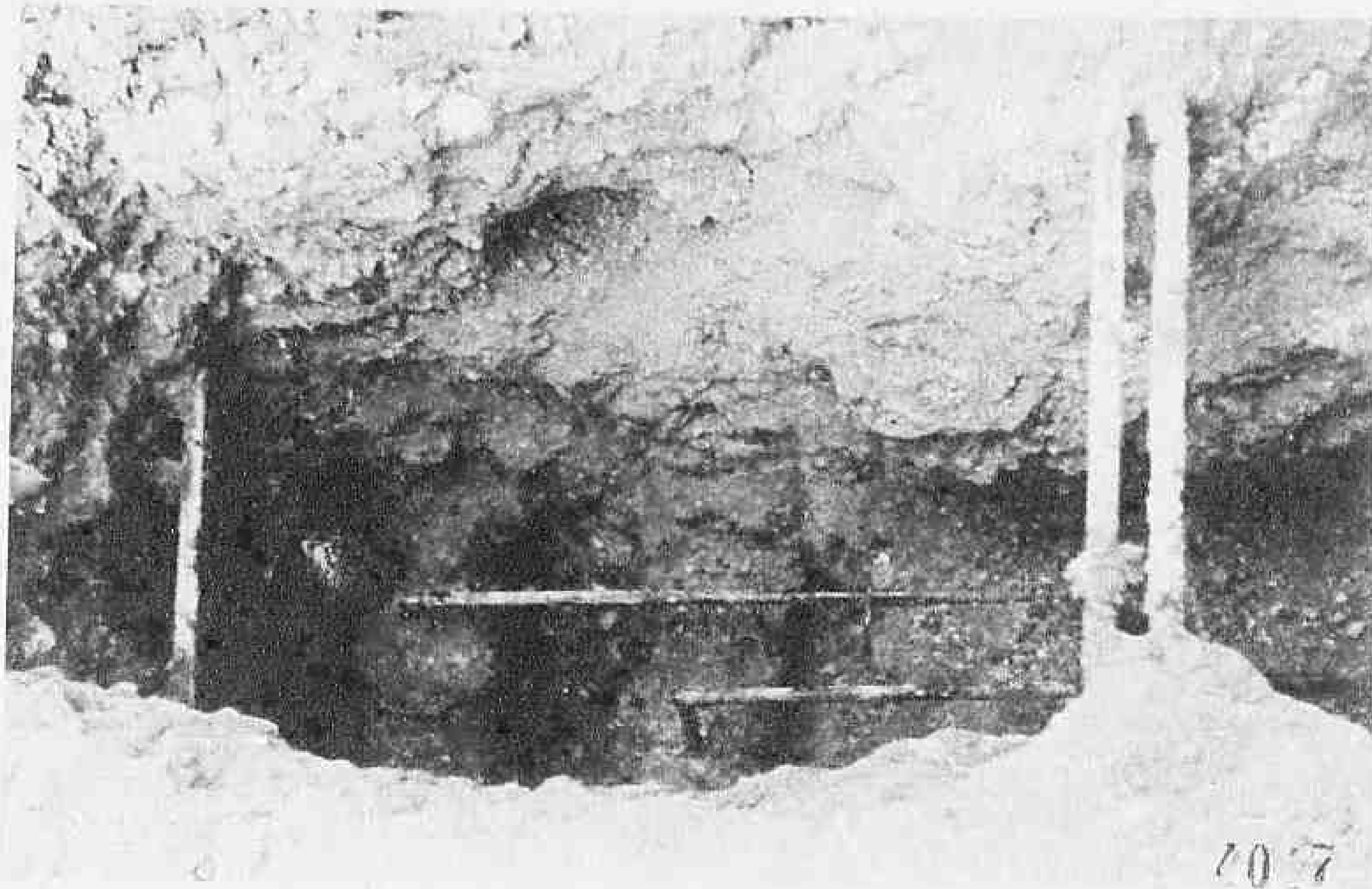
TO					
COL. CHAPMAN					
COL. YOUNG					
PLT. COL. WILSON					
MAJ. WILSON					
MAJ. HANCOCK					
MAJ. BALLANCE					

J. T. Manuel
J.T. MANUEL,
Major,
Public Safety Officer.

4038

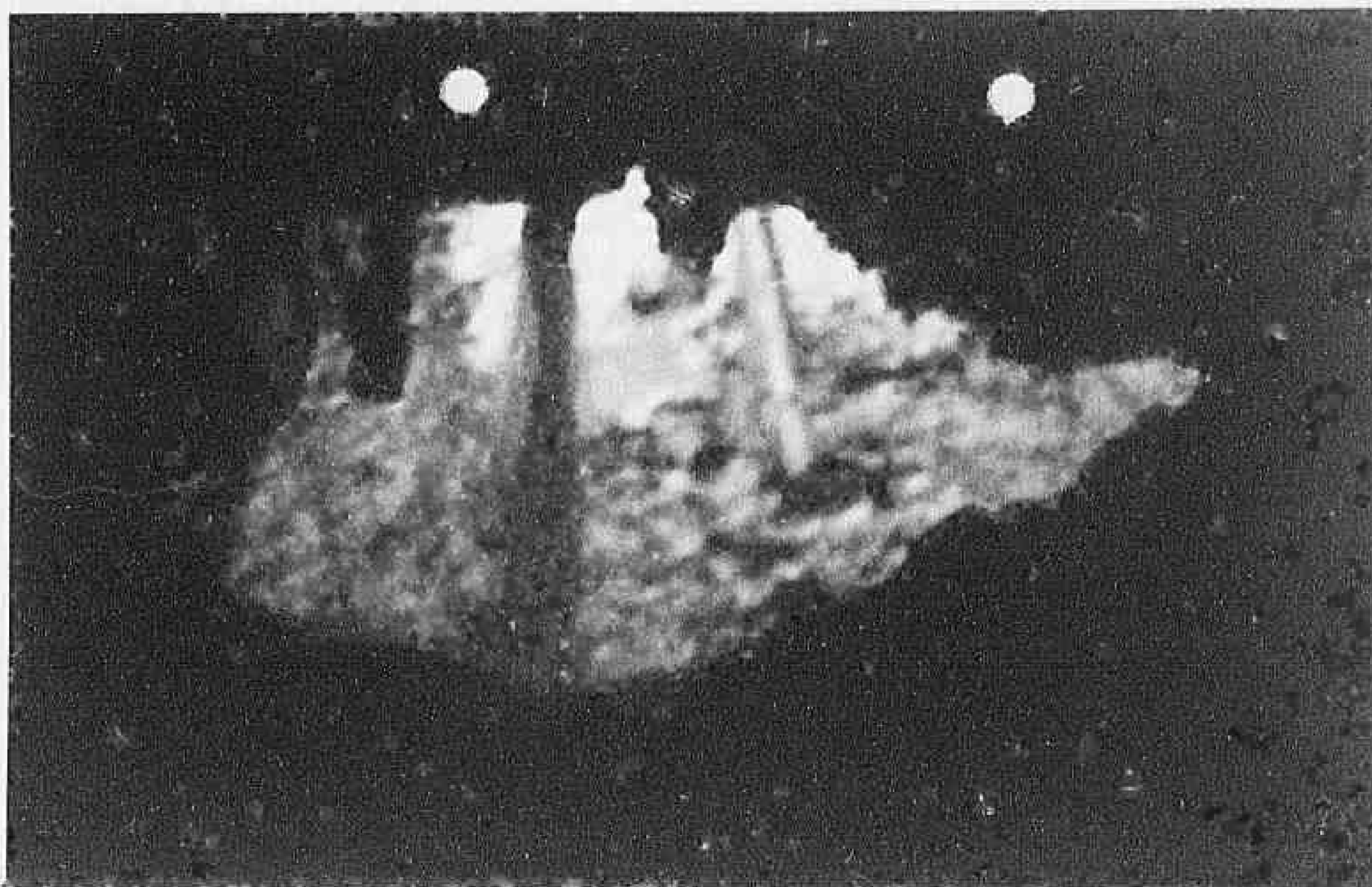
0885

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/RRH No. 7



0886

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 753434



C.R. TERRITORIAL REGION OF PALERMO 1B

Palermo, Olivuzza Station.

Denunciation against the persons specified in the attached list who were responsible for the crimes which are mentioned therein,-

On the 8th of February, 1945, in the office of Palermo Olivuzza C.R. Station, we, the undersigned, officers and agents of Judiciary Police, inform the proper Authority as follows,-

Having controlled the circulation of motor-vehicles, for several months, we have ascertained that many civilian motor-cars - functioning by petrol and naphtha - were circulating throughout the streets of this town and through the various villages of the Island with a consumption of carburating-oil which was superior to the quantity granted by the allotments.

On the other hand, it was well known that gasoline and naphtha were sold everywhere at high price. The Police had often seized various cans containing carburating-oil. However, it was not possible to find out its derivation, since this carburating oil was sold through various elements who were ready to face all eventualities.

The business was carried out in the various squares of the town, where many motor-vehicles were often parking and especially at "Piazza della Borsa" which is a notorious place for Black-Market. However, the carburating-oil was loaded in various parts of the city in order to avoid the vigilance services by the Police.

The Allied Authorities, who have their own Petrol and Naphtha Depot at Uditore, the oil-pipe line of which is included in the area from the harbour to the same Depot, were seriously preoccupied, for they were noticing every day, various shortages which, sometimes, amounted to 40 tons of gasoline and naphtha.

But, the continuous control and vigilance services which were performed by soldiers of the Royal Army in the various wells of the oil-pipe line and also in the Depot, were always negative. Sometimes, a violent shooting had taken place between the soldiers and unknown persons who attempted to steal into the Depot. However, these soldiers had not achieved their purpose and the shortages were seriously increasing.- Some arrests, which were effected, only served to establish a small theft of one or two gasoline cans. - The continuous inspections made by technical Personnel on all the oil-pipe line, which extends

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to the length of several kilometers, gave negative results. Evidently a great society, composed of persons allured by large profits, was working as they were sure of not being discovered.

Major MANUEL, who is attached to A.C. Public Safety Division, having noticed that these thefts were always increasing and that it was not possible to find out the responsible persons, entrusted us with careful investigations in order to identify the thieves. He also told us that this matter was of the most importance to the war efforts.

At first, we soon perceived that the service was a very difficult one, because the carburating oil was interfered with by several elements and also, as in present circumstances, it is not possible to rely on informers or the news spread by honest people.

However, having considered the situation, we initiated our services under the personal directions of Lt. Colonel LENTINI Attilio, Commander of the Internal Group of Palermo, and Captain LANDI Lando, commanding officer of the local Internal Company.

By numerous shadowings which have been carried out for many days, we have been able to detect some small elements who practised trading in carburating oil, while through other investigations, we were informed that many persons, living at Uditore and Malaspina who having no properties, had recently improved their financial condition.

However, it was necessary that some of us, disposed to sacrifice themselves in consequence of various dangers, could contact the thieves and receivers in order to succeed in obtaining the principal particulars of this Organization.

Carabinieri BONANNO and I, Vice Brigadier CAMMARATA, were entrusted with this special task. In fact, following several meetings with elements of the a/m Organization, we found out that many squads of these criminals succeeded in practicing various derivations in the principal oil-pipe line. These derivations of gasoline and naphta were discharged into the dwellings or gardens of the thieves who stole the quantity of petrol and naphta which was required by the black-market. The same subtractions had been practised so well that it was not possible to discover their place unless we could receive precise information, or alternatively, if BONANNO and I, CAMMARATA, could succeed in being informed of such secrets by some thieves or receivers.

Through the above investigations, we have been informed that the various thefts and almost all the sale of the carburating-oil occurred

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during night time and that the derivations were watched by some elements of the afore mentioned society in order to avoid being taken by surprise. Evidently, they were armed and ready to face all the eventualities.

Our investigations had succeeded in establishing that there were many illegal sources and, consequently, there were several squads of workers acting separately on their own account and without interference, with the exception of some receivers who acquired the carburating oil either from one or the other squads. A proper report will be made on each squad.

Being in possession of these precious particulars, on the night of 5th January, we went to Malaspina Alley in order to detect one of the derivations. At the entrance of this Alley, we caught three persons who were waiting for something which will be specified later.

These persons were identified as follows,-

FINAZZO Gaetano, a farmer, born in 1913 at Cinisi, residing at Via Malaspina, Palermo; MACALUSO Giovanni, a farmer, born in 1928 in Palermo, residing here at No. 68 Via Casalini; SPATOLA Domenico, a farmer, born in 1925 in Palermo, residing here at No. 12 Via Casamicciola. They were accompanied to our barracks. Then, we went to the warehouse of SIMONETTI Agostino, a mason, born on 1st June, 1910, in Palermo, residing here at No. 10 Castelnovo Street, and we abruptly entered his dwelling, stopping him on the first floor in order to question him. In the a/m warehouse, under a staircase, on the left side, we discovered a can containing a litre of naphta, whilst in the farther part of the same warehouse we found visible traces of carburating oil. We dug into the floor of the warehouse, but nothing was found. Being confident owing to the information already in our possession and to the discovery of the can containing naphta, although it was a small quantity, we compelled SIMONETTI to specify where the source was located. After having delayed in making a full confession in order to save his companions, he stated that the derivation was not in his own dwelling, but in Pietro FALSETTI's and that the carburating-oil passed into his warehouse through rubber tubes which extended between both the a/m houses by means of a hole. In fact, whenever he needed the carburating-oil, he only had to remove a stone which hid the hole.

As soon as we went to FALSETTI's house we noticed two women who were identified as FALSETTI Anna, housewife, born in 1923 at Balestrate and LUNETTO Maddalena, housewife, born in 1925 at Balestrate. The former was the daughter and the latter the sister-in-law of FALSETTI.

Apparently, on the ground nothing could be noticed, but, as soon as

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we had removed the beds and the various boxes, we discovered nearby a wall another illegal source, covered with a tile and consisting of two tubes, half an inch long, which were closed with a safety-seal.

We ordered some labourers to dig into the ground and we established that the work had been carried out with perfect technic, viz., by making two holes in the oil pipe to which two small tubes, half an inch long, had been applied. These tubes, then, entered FALSETTI's house and afterwards SIMONETTI's warehouse. At that point, the oil-pipe is about 1 and a half metre under the ground and the illegal sources were at the same depth from the street up to the dwelling, where they appeared on the surface after a right-angle. Evidently, such a perfect scheme was not thought of owing to there not being sufficient space in FALSETTI's house, but only, in order to avoid detection. In fact, SIMONETTI's warehouse, which is located in another street, was more secure, for the gasoline was received through the rubber-tubes, which, at the end of the legal operation, were hidden. This system was indeed very useful because the local Mobile Squad, which carried out a surprise search in the warehouse of SIMONETTI, only detected empty barrels and not the origin. Therefore, these actions could be continued without fear of being discovered and the criminals could get rich without any danger.

We questioned SIMONETTI, who attempted to appear a victim of the coercion of other persons. He declared that once he was at Malaspina Square and was approached by FALSETTI Pietro, a labourer, born on 15th August, 1900, at Balestrate, residing at No. 10 Via Tramontana, Palermo, and AMMANATO Antonino, a gilder, born on 19th September 1909 in Palermo, residing there at No. 11 Via Tramontana, Baglio, Trapani. They told him that an illegal source had been made in the house of FALSETTI and that they had intention of using SIMONETTI's warehouse in order to fill the barrels in a better way. SIMONETTI, who was also allured by large gains, accepted the request and made a hole in the afore mentioned wall. He afterwards informed us that a society had been formed in order to have better success and that each member of this association had a proper task. In fact, he said that this society was composed of the following persons, -

FALSETTI, owner of the dwelling where the taps had been placed. SIMONETTI owner of the warehouse where the barrels were filled up. AMMANATO, who provided to sell the carburating-oil. PARISI Felice, a mechanic, born on 14th August, 1918 in Palermo, residing there at No. 80 Via Mammara. He had made the illegal source. MATRANGA Giuseppe, a carpenter, born on 8th April, 1914, in Palermo, residing at No. 108 Via Cruillas, who had the task of cashier. LUNETTO Pietro, brother-in-law of FALSETTI, born on 14th May, 1918 at Balestrate, whose functions consisted in filling up the

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barrels and selling the carburating-oil.

As shown above, nine (9) persons composed this clique in addition to the various receivers who provided for the continuous sale of the gasoline and naphta. They worked without being disturbed and renouncing their own honest profession, which of course, would not give them the same large profits as those which they derived from the illegal activity. In fact, according to a technical survey, they could steal 100 litres of naphta and 100 of gasoline, every 5 minutes. The former was sold at 50 Lire a litre and the latter at 100 Lire a litre. They were very rich and continued to gain a lot of money since their operations, on account of the place where the illegal source was located, were carried out during night and day time.

SIMONETTI, continuing his declaration, specified that these profits were shared among the members and he, as the owner of the warehouse, and FALSETTI, as the owner of the dwelling, received half a share more than the others. (No. 1 Enclosure).

At day break, after having detected the illegal source behind a wall, which is located nearby Malaspina Alley, we discovered two bags containing two cans, a big pitcher and five empty barrels.

SPATOLA and MACALUSO, who were also questioned, declared that one can and the pitcher belonged to the former, whilst the other can belonged to the latter and that they went to that place in order to attempt to buy some gasoline which was to be sold (No. 2 and No. 3 Enclosures).

However, the truth is that they went there not to attempt the purchase of the a/m gasoline, but with the certainty of acquiring it as it was not the first time they went to that place, otherwise we could not have caught them, at 5,00 o'clock in the morning with the cans. In fact, if they had had some doubts or had not made previous arrangements, they would have gone in daylight to arrange the purchase of the carburating-oil. This fact shows that those persons sold the gasoline to everybody.

Continuing our investigations, on the same morning, at the warehouse of BUCOLA Michele, which is located at Piazza Malaspina, we discovered 41 empty barrels of gasoline and naphta. BUCOLA stated that these barrels had been brought to him by SINAGRA Pietro, a farmer, born on 5th February 1909 at Monreale, residing at No. 7 Piazza Malaspina, Palermo, who asked the a/m BUCOLA to keep them in his warehouse.

We, then, stopped SINAGRA for questioning. He, first of all declared

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to have acquired the barrels in order to sell them, but later, confessed that, once, AMMANATO Antonino told him to ask BUCOLA, ex employer of SINATRA, for permission to have 25 empty barrels, which were still on a truck, kept in the latter's yard. SINATRA accepted the request and after having heard BUCOLA's opinion, informed AMMANATO that the barrels could be kept in the a/a place. In fact, as soon as the truck entered the gangway, AMMANATO, helped by other persons, who could not be identified by SINATRA, put the barrels in the yard of BUCOLA. Later, FALSETTI Pietro made another two trips to that place and transported another 16 barrels which were situated at the same point. SINATRA, then, added that BUCOLA suggested to him that he should declare, if necessary, that the barrels belonged to him, SINATRA, (No. 4 Enclosure).

According to SINATRA's declaration, those barrels had been put in the yard. However, from our search it resulted that they were in BUCOLA's warehouse. Evidently, BUCOLA knew the person, who, later, provided to hide the barrels in his warehouse.

Of course, BUCOLA had no intention to specify all the circumstances, not because of being afraid of AMMANATO and his companions, but as he was interested like many other persons in the Malaspina area in facilitating the illegal action of the thieves. SIMONETTI's squad was working without any trouble.

Although SIMONETTI admitted that their activity had not had much luck, because often the carburating-oil, did not pass into the warehouse, nevertheless the presence of the 53 empty barrels of gasoline and naphta, which were found in BUCOLA's storehouse and its vicinity, is sufficient to show how their work was intensive. At this stage, the investigations which have been carried out, with a view to arrest SIMONETTI's companions, were negative.

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Following our inquiries we found out that another squad, which carried out the same actions of SIMONETTI's worked at Fondo RIELA, Malaspina, viz. the property of LIMA MANCUSO Salvatore, born in 1894 at Mussomeli, residing at No. 341, Corso Vittorio Emanuele, Palermo. In fact, on the morning of 11th January, we went to the a/m estate, where we found another person, GELOSO Antonino, a labourer, born on 20th September 1913 in the U.S.A., residing at No. 24 Via Giuseppe Maielli. He was inside a shelter where we found a loaded musket, Mod. 1891.

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We questioned him about the source of that fire-arm, and he answered us that the musket in question had been consigned to him by LIMA MANOUSO in order to guard the estate. We, therefore, asked him to take us to a small garden, located behind LIMA's cottage, a place which is surrounded by walls, 2 metres high and closed by an iron-gate, and we told him to dig into the place which had been pointed out to us. In fact, the earth had been removed and it was evident that the illegal source had been covered up after we had detected the previous one at SIMONETTI's dwelling. We, then, discovered a tube, half an inch wide, 5 metres long, and ending with a tap, which was situated at about 80 cms. under the ground. We also ordered him to accompany us to the other garden belonging to LIMA, where there were another two tubes for gasoline and naphta respectively. We asked GELOSO to give us an explanation on this case, but he said that he did not know anything about it. However, we confuted him by saying that the only entrance to the garden was at that point where there is the gate, the keys of which were held by him, as the custodian, and by his father, as the trustee. But he answered us saying that he was not able to give us any information. Anyway, he later confessed that the two subtractions had been made according to his plans. He, then, excused himself and stated that on account of a wound which he received on the right foot, caused by an accident with his hunting-rifle, he had been compelled to adopt makeshift measures for a living. Thus, taking advantage of the oil-pipe being extended to the a/m garden he decided to make some illegal subtractions in order to obtain gasoline and naphta.

For the purpose, it was necessary to have work and assistance of some of his companions, therefore, he requested the help of D'AGOSTINO Salvatore, a mechanic-driver, born on 30th September, 1918, in Palermo, residing at No. 70 Via Nazario Sauro, Uditore, who accepted his proposal. At the stage he authorized D'AGOSTINO to enter the land property and to perform the necessary labour.

In the meantime, whilst D'AGOSTINO had requested some labourers who had been working in the same estate to dig, GELOSO Angelo (father) son of the late Antonino and of the late Cangelosi Gaetana, born on June 23, 1889 at Giardinello, living at No. 54, Via Giuseppe Maielli, was informed about this fact and forbid D'AGOSTINO to carry on the work. This work was later re-started again and brought to a close.

Subsequently, a certain COLA DI TRAPANI, identified as DI TRAPANI Nicolò, son of Luigi and of Citarida Rosalia, born in 1908 at Palermo, living at Piazzetta Malaspina, went to see GELOSO (son); he had asked to have a part in this work and in addition had by mafia means attempted to have him put off-duty. He also explained

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that he had never been present at the distribution of gasoline, although he had received his own share from his companions; he also stated that he had sold twice his share to the said DI TRAPANI, taking once L. 1,200, and another time L. 800. He also stated that three cans of gasoline had been delivered in two occasions to LIMA MANGUSO's driver. (Encl. No. 5)

When D'AGOSTINO Salvatore was stopped, he, after feigning to be mad, not because he was really mad, but because the case was serious and he with his companions was the responsible person, confessed that GILOSO Antonino had proposed to him to make the illegal source. He had accepted that charge as it concerned the engineering part, whilst GILOSO Antonino interested himself with the excavation. While he was executing this work, a certain CITARDA Benededetto, son of Giovanni and of Guccione Vincenza, born on March 14, 1913, at Palermo, a labourer, living at No. 6, Via Trabucco, interfered; he having understood the work and the profit that could come from it, aspired to enter into the society. As he was a person who commanded respect, both him and GILOSO were obliged to submit to his request. He also stated that GILOSO (father) when he was aware of the work, got into a frenzy and called their attention to the fact that without the formal order of the legal owner, LIMA MANGUSO, he would not have permitted the continuation of the work, which owing to the complaints of GILOSO (father) had been temporarily suspended. Some days later, D'AGOSTINO who saw that the business gave good hopes, came back to the place and was surprised to see that the work had been started again. He questioned one of the workers (he was not able, or did not want to give his name), who answered that he was not entitled to make objections since the owner of the land, Mr. LIMA, had authorized the work. Therefore, the work had been completed and some days later 4 barrels of gasoline had been drawn out. D'AGOSTINO also explained that CITARDA Benededetto had required a rubber tube about 25 metres long, with the object to carry the carburent oil to a certain distance from the wall, in order to be more tranquil. He also explained how the gasoline was shared, viz. in equal parts, even with the owner of the land, whose carburent-oil was delivered to GILOSO. D'AGOSTINO himself stated that CITARDA Benededetto had presented himself to the tenant with a "mafia" attitude and much more he had gone there accompanied by some youths regarding whom he was not able to give any information, in order of course to be supported by them should D'AGOSTINO have rebelled. (Encl. 6 and 7).

When LIMA MANGUSO was questioned, he stated first of all that GILOSO was the trustee of the land, whilst his son Antonino was employed for other work. He denied that the musket which was found in his possession belonged to him. LIMA, as it be later shown, is a victim of the "mafia" in the Malaspina area. He, although he continued to be very wary, stated circumstances and facts which are sufficient to prove

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how dangerous this society was.

In fact, he explained that on the first days of October last, CITARDA Antonino from Malaspina had presented himself to him and had asked him to dismiss GELOSO Angelo as he wished to lease all the RIELLA land. He, LIMA, had replied that he did not intend to dismiss his trustee as he trusted him, and also because he did not want to rent his land, which he wished to directly cultivate. He also stated that a few days before CITARDA's visit he had received a threatening letter by which he was warned in a friendly manner that he, his wife and child should not go any more to the estate, for they would run the danger of death. Later, during the festivity days of the New Year, he had received a visiting card on a bulk thin cardboard, on which it was written "Our most sincere sympathy". Owing to such threats, he thought it was advisable not to go to his land, in order not to expose his life and to abandon his interests at the trustee's mercy. He closed his statements by saying that he could not know anything about what had been done in his own estate, and he explained that his trustee had the keys of the little garden and the care of all the RIELLA land, therefore, GELOSO, father, should have been acquainted with the fact.

He denied that he had received gasoline as a compensation for the supposed authorization of the illegal sources. (enclosures 8, 9 and 10).

The group of persons of whom we are speaking, as it appears from the same LIMA MARCUSO's statement, made use of intimidatory means to attain their purpose. CITARDA Benedetto, DI TRAPANI Nicolo' and CITARDA Antonino, used then the same means with their own accomplices. They of course, taking advantage of their family situation imposed their will upon LIMA MARCUSO and D'AGOSTINO and GELOSO.

The request to dismiss the trustee GELOSO, imposed on LIMA, was made, as it often happens, by a threatening letter and later, as a reminder, by a note of sympathy, which was very significant for a person living in the infamed zone of Malaspina and who has his interests there. LIMA did not surrender to the pressures made upon him for the dismissal of his trustee and for the rent of his property, because he had never dreamed of renting it and also because a small palace valued about several millions of lire, furnished and supplied with all modern comforts, existed there, but he was compelled, on account of the threats to abandon all his interests and not to go near the property under discussion. Thus, CITARDA and company had reached their objective as LIMA MARCUSO, in view of his excellent economical conditions, would never have permitted that such thefts should be carried out in his property, the profits of which would only have been gone to him in a very small part.

For the truth of the facts, we do not retain that D'AGOSTINO or some 4926

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other person took part in the intimidations of LIMA, but we are sure that these were carried out by CITARDA, DI TRAPANI and some other element not yet identified.

As seen by the statements of the said offenders, the gang was composed of CITARDA Benedetto, CITARDA Antonino, D'AGOSTINO Salvatore, GELOSO Angelo, GELOSO Antonino, GELOSO Giacomo, DI TRAPANI Nicolo', COMPAGNONE Filippo e Don TOTO', known as the BAVARESE.

That the profit of the various members had been of serious proportions and that the theft was not committed twice, is shown by the statement made by D'AGOSTINO who, spontaneously declared, in his favour, that on S. MARTINO's day he had distributed to the poor people of Uditore the sum of L.6,000. This act of generosity was not due to his kindness but because of the great profits which had come to him. As soon as the illegal sources were discovered, GELOSO Angelo, his son Giacomo, CITARDA Benedetto, CITARDA Antonino, DI TRAPANI and Don TOTO' went at large.

.....

Among the most important persons receiving the stolen gasoline is a certain SEIDITA Baldassare di Antonino and Di PRIULO Maddalena, born at Palermo on 26/4/1926, a dairyman, residing at No. 73 Via Crociferi, who almost everyday went to Piazza Della Borsa in order to engage clients for the purchase of the carburate.

After it was made well known that gasoline and naphta were obtainable, drivers and owners of cars almost always went to Piazza Malaspina and directly to SEIDITA who sold them openly, and not to the thieves who naturally acted with a certain circumspection.

After proper "lying in wait" operations, SEIDITA was arrested and upon interrogation he admitted his activity, but limiting it to only a few times. He began by declaring that about three months ago (all thieves and receivers of this stolen carburate having been discovered, in full accordance, stated that the activity had begun last November, while instead it had begun a long time before) he went to RIELLA estate to accompany a truck, the driver of which he could not identify, and who had to buy a barrel of naphta. When he reached there, he found there D'AGOSTINO Salvatore, Don Toto' the BAVARESE, a certain BENEDETTO, GELOSO Giacomo, to whom he asked for carburant-oil. Having received an affirmative reply, he began to transfer the naphta from an English container into an Italian one. In the meantime, a patrol of Carabinieri walked up and they all ran away. Later, whilst he was in Piazza Malaspina, from where he could assess the situation, he saw the same truck passing and having on board the naphta that the aforesaid person had sold to him. After a few days he returned to the place to purchase six cans of benzine.

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following an offer made by CITARDA Benedetto, which he had already sold to a client, the owner of Balilla car. The containers that are of some value were given to the client. The profit was high and therefore he could afford to give away the empty containers.

SEIDITA himself, further declared that later he had heard that some other illegal sources were in the home of Simonetti, he went there and found MATRANGA Giuseppe, from Crucillas, AMMANATO Antonino, FALSETTI Pietro and others whom he knew by sight, purchasing five barrels of naphta on behalf of a driver whose name he did not know, and whom he had met in Piazza della Borsa. He also admitted that he was not able to specify with accuracy how many times he went to the storehouse of SIMONETTI for the above mentioned operation, but confessed to have been there numerous times. He stated also that almost every day he went to Piazza della Borsa in order to offer his merchandise to the various drivers. (Attached 11).

SEIDITA, who by the work he was carrying on made an adequate profit, much superior to any normal employee or worker, had devised a simple and comfortable means to sell with easiness the carburant-oil. In Piazza della Borsa, where numerous vehicles stand still without or almost without fuel, he found the buyers whom he accompanied on board of the same vehicles to the place. The operation was easy, but remunerative, as within a few hours he succeeded in earning thousands of lire. He was the liaison between the various thieves, and the purchasers who mostly were unknown.

The gang of thieves were only interested in selling the carburant-oil through trusty persons and this was found in the person of SEIDITA, who although young and with no penal record, belonged to an authentic mafia family.

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While enquiries were in progress, it came to our knowledge that in a property located in the Pozzo Area (Uditore) barrels of benzine were hidden. Going to the spot, namely, in the property of a certain MAZZARA Vito, in Francesco Paolo, domiciled in Via Mammana, after an accurate inspection we found interred four barrels, three full and one half-full of benzine, also one full can of twenty litres. After sequestering the merchandise and after laborious investigations we were informed that the carburant oil belonged to a certain ZITO Santi, di Giacomo e di Tusa Gaetano, born at Palermo on 8/8/1911, a

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worker, domiciled in Via Mazzario Sauro 38, whom we have arrested.

Upon interrogation he said that about a month ago, while he was in company with SIRCHIA Giovanni, di Castano and di Torretta Giuseppe, born in Palermo on 30/4/1906, a worker, domiciled at Via Pozzo No. 12, he was approached by the above mentioned D'AGOSTINO Salvatore who had sold to him about six Barrels of benzine for L.80,000. He stated that D'AGOSTINO had conveyed the merchandise with his own truck, accompanied by Don Toto', the Bravarese. He added that the carburant-oil was sold by him, ZITO, and SIRCHIA to a person of Partinice and to other persons whom he was unable to indicate. Continuing his statements, he said that later SIRCHIA Giovanni went up to see him stating that he had also found a way to get benzine and was disposed to sell it to him, so that he could get a profit. In fact, after some days, although he did not confide to him the source where he obtained it, he informed him that before nightfall he would give to him some barrels of benzine. ZITO, who had accepted the offer, waited SIRCHIA until a certain hour, but as he saw that he was not coming he went to bed. At about midnight, he had been informed by SIRCHIA that the carburating-oil was at the established place at the disposal of ZITO and asked him for an advance of 20,000 Lire, for he had to settle a matter. As ZITO only had 10,000 lire and was also an associate of VERNANTE Rosolino, a labourer, born on 9th Oct. 1928, in Palermo, residing at No. 25 Via Pozzo, he went to the latter's house in order to obtain another 10,000 Lire. He received the money from VERNANTE's father and consigned the whole sum to SIRCHIA. On the next day, he completed the payment. However, the gasoline barrels, which had been sold by SIRCHIA, totalled five and the difference between those seized and those purchased by him, had been sold during the same morning to a person whom he was not acquainted with. ZITO, at last, confessed that it was well known at Uditore that D'AGOSTINO brothers, via. Salvatore and Rosario, COMPAGNONE Filippo, Don Toto', and others were all in agreement in committing the various thefts of carburating-oil. He, then, specified that, when he acquired, for the first time, the gasoline from D'AGOSTINO Salvatore, he had previously applied to his brother, Rosario D'AGOSTINO, who promised to supply the said carburant-oil and he did keep his promise, in fact, by sending him later, under his name, to his brother D'AGOSTINO Salvatore.

Afterwards, he could prove the agreements made by D'AGOSTINO and COMPAGNONE stating that he often heard them talking about carburating-oil and also saw them making accounts of gasoline and naphta which had been distributed to various customers. (No. 12 Enclosure).

When VERNANTE was arrested, he declared that once he had purchased

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some gasoline cans from D'AGOSTINO Salvatore and later, from SIRCHIA Giovanni, but denied having associated with ZITO (No. 13 Enclosure).

At this stage, it is necessary to point out, once again, that the group was composed of the following persons:-

- 1) CITARDA Benedetto.
- 2) CITARDA Antonino.
- 3) DI TRAPANI Nicolo'.
- 4) D'AGOSTINO Salvatore.
- 5) D'AGOSTINO Rosario.
- 6) GELOSO Angelo.
- 7) GELOSO Antonino.
- 8) GELOSO Giacomo.
- 9) COMPAGNONI Filippo.
- 10) Don Toto', known as the BAVARESE.
- 11) SIRCHIA Giovanni.
- 12) BRIDITA Balasare (who also belonged to the 1st Group).

The responsibility of all the members of this clique and the numerous continued thefts are clearly revealed by the facts which have also been proved by the confessions of the various people arrested. About the importance of the thefts it is not possible to specify anything because the shortage which occurred at the Coast Depot is very serious. Although we, the undersigned, consider that the whole shortage is not to be attributed to the a/m squads, nevertheless, we are sure that not two times, as the responsible persons have for obvious reasons stated, but numerous times they stole the carburating-oil. At Uditore and Malaspina, it was well-known that the carburating-oil was openly sold, especially during night time. In fact, many persons, including women, went to that place acquiring 10, 20, 30 litres of gasoline which they sold the next day. In this way, they made large profits, superior to those of any other worker. As to ZITO and PERRANTE, viz. the receivers, we consider that they were not members of the mentioned clique, but persons who committed the crime without realizing the consequences.

.....

On 4th January, during a search, which was carried out by surprise in SARCO FONTANA estate, Uditore, and precisely in a country-house where TANTILLO Pietro, a farmer, born on 10th Dec. 1908 in Palermo, residing at No. 140 Via Buenriposo, often stayed, we found two cans, containing petrol, in possession of the above named. We questioned him about the source of said cans, but he answered us that he did not know anything about them, because they had been found abandoned in the garden. (Enclosure 14).

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However, TANTILO's declaration cannot be taken into consideration, since the gasoline had not been abandoned in the garden. Indeed, TANTILO had stolen the petrol in the Depot by using the well-known means which he did not want to confess.

On account of the profits which were derived from the theft of the carbureting-oil, the price of which is really exorbitant, many persons ardently desired to gain money illegally. On the other hand, taking advantage of the oil-pipe being located in the vicinity of their dwellings or gardens, it was very simple to make the illegal deviation of the pipe line; in fact, some tubes, two taps, and the work of one or two mechanics were sufficient in order to steal all the carbureting-oil which was needed. It took only two or three hours of work, which was not hard, to fill up 10, 15, 20 gasoline barrels from which they derived a profit of 200,000 lire.

Allured by the knowledge that other people were working without troubles at a distance of only a 100 metres away, who were also in wealthy circumstances, the above mentioned persons immediately decided to have that source of wealth in their own houses. In fact, it resulted to us that at a country-house of the name Via Tramontana, some elements had made a third illegal deviation of the pipe-line.

On the morning of the 5th inst., we carried out a surprise search in DI TRAPANI estate and exactly in the house which is located on the right side of the s/m estate entrance. Nothing could be noticed. However, a manger which had recently been made there, confirmed the information we had received. Having demolished this manger, we noticed that at about 20 cms. under the ground there were two tubes, half an inch wide, applied to the oil-pipe which passed nearby the estate. The naphta could come out from one tube, while the other tubes could not bring any gasoline into the house, because the oil-pipe, owing to numerous thefts, was temporarily empty. We questioned the owner of the s/m dwelling, viz. IMBESI Luigi, a tinner, born on 14th May 1891 in Palermo, residing at No. 48 Via La Mantia, who first denied to owning the house where the illegal source had been detected. However, he later declared that in the first days of December last, he had been approached by his cousin DI TRAPANI Giuseppe, a mason, born on 10th February, 1902 in Palermo, residing at No. 13 Via Tramontana, who informed him that, by the work of the illegal source, he could get very rich and also specified that IMBESI only had to rent his warehouse to persons whom DI TRAPANI

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was to point out to him. Of course, if IMBESI accepted this proposal, he could have a part of the profits. IMBESI, as well as the other persons, had first not accepted the request. However, further to the insistence of his cousin, he decided to authorize the carrying out of the work. He, then, confessed that he had often gone to that house, while the work was being carried out, but denied having taken part in it. He also said that his cousin had consigned 28,000 lire to him. This sum was the part due to him. (No. 15 Enclosure).

We, then, stopped another persons for questioning, viz. TIMI Francesco, a mason and ex-internee, born on 10th May 1891 at Imola (Bologna) residing at No. 25 Via Montepellegrino, who, as related to us, was a member of the clique. In a few words, he confessed the illegal activity performed by the society and added that the members had told him the secret, only because they had intention to let him appear as the tenant of the warehouse, in view of the fact of his being a stranger. In fact, eventually, TIMI could run away without leaving his records and his companions could remain undetected. For this purpose he had received a sum of 8,000 Lire. However, as soon as he had stipulated the hire contract regarding the s/m house, he would receive another sum. (No. 16 Enclosure)

Having questioned DI TRAPANI, he confessed that in the first days of December, he had been approached by D'ARPA Giovanni, a labourer, born on 8th February 1891 in Palermo, residing at No. 5 Via Conigliera, who proposed to him the s/m illegal deviation and asked him to arrange a hire-contract for the country-house, so that he could work without any trouble. DI TRAPANI added that had accepted the request. In fact, he went to see his cousin IMBESI about the house. Afterwards, he declared that D'ARPA had engaged other persons, among whom there were TIMI, FIORE Carmelo, a labourer, born on 20th January 1901 in Palermo, residing at No. 70 Via Archimede, GIOVANNI, not better identified, and other people who had been entrusted with the work. (Enclosure No. 17).

Even the clique which was composed of the underlisted elements, was carrying out its activities in the same way as the others. The large profits of these squads are proved by the fact that, according to the statements of IMBESI, DI TRAPANI and their companions, the illegal source was made at IMBESI's in December. On 5th January, after we had detected the illegal source at SIMONETTI's dwelling the thefts of gasoline were not committed at IMBESI's. Afterwards, if we believe, IMBESI's declaration, according to which, the profits were shared among the members of the s/m squads (however, this is impossible because D'ARPA, an old grafter, has certainly received more than the others,) we can easily realize that IMBESI only needed a few days of work in order to gain 22,000 lire.

We could not have any particulars about the numerous receivers for we could not continue to carry out other investigations owing to the

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expiration of the time limit. We, therefore, denounce the below listed persons as responsible for the crimes mentioned herein.

.....
"F A L S E T T I 's GROUP"

- 1) FALSETTI Pietro, a labourer, born in 1902 at Balestrate, residing at No. 10 Via Tramontana (at large).
- 2) SIMONETTI Agostino, a mason, born on June 1st 1910 at Palermo, residing at No. 14 Vicolo Malaspina (he was stopped on 5th January, 1945, for questioning).
- 3) AMMARATO Antonino, a glider, born on 19th Sept. 1909, in Palermo, residing at No. 11 Via Tramontana (at large).
- 4) PARISI Felice, a mechanic, born on 14th August 1918, residing at No. 80 Via Mannara (at large).
- 5) MATRANGA Giuseppe, a carpenter, born on 8th April 1914, residing at No. 108 Via Crucillas (at large).
- 6) LUNETTO Pietro, a labourer, born on 14th May, 1918, residing at No. 10 Via Cenceria (at large).
- 7) CAROLLO Giuseppe, a cabinet-maker, born on 5th December, 1907, residing at No. 107 Via Badia (at large).
- 8) CAMBINO Tommaso..... at large).
- 9) Cesare, not better identified (unknown). (at large).
- 10) BRIDITA Baldassare, a dairyman, born on 26th April, 1926 in Palermo, residing at No. 73 Via Crociferi (he was stopped on 11th January for questioning).

RESPONSIBILITY. The first nine persons are responsible for continued thefts with aggravated circumstances., the last person is responsible for continued receiving of stolen goods, 648 Art., Penal Code, against AMG.

All of them are also responsible for association for delinquency. 416 Art. of the P.C.

.....
"C I T A R D A Benadetto's GROUP."

- 1) CITARDA Benadetto, a labourer, son of Giovanni and Guccione Vincenza, born on 14th March, 1913, residing at No. 6 Via Trebucco (at large).
- 2) CITARDA Antonino.....

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- 3) DI TRAPANI Nicolo', a merchant, son of Luigi and of Citarda Rosalia, born in 1908 in Palermo, residing at Piazzetta Malaspina, (at large).
- 4) D'AGOSTINO Salvatore, a mechanic and driver, son of the late Benedetto and of Gambino Maria, born on 30th Sept. 1918 in Palermo, residing at No. 70 Via Nazario Sauro, (he was stopped on 16th January, 1945, for questioning).
- 5) D'AGOSTINO Rosario, a driver, of the late Benedetto and Gambino Maria, born on 14th Oct. 1916 in Palermo, residing at No. 14 Via Girolamo Di Martino (Uditore), (at large.)
- 6) GELOSO Angelo, a labourer, son of the late Antonino and Sangelosi Gaetano, born on 23rd June, 1899, at Giardinello, residing at No. 54 Via Giuseppe Maielli, (at large).
- 7) GELOSO Antonino, a labourer, son of Angelo and Sagrama Benedetta, born on 20th Sept. 1913 in the U.S.A., residing at No. 24 Via Giuseppe Maielli, (he was stopped on 11th January, 1945).
- 8) COMPAGNONI Filippo, a labourer, of the late Giuseppe and of the late D'Agostino Giuseppa, born on 10th Sept. 1899 in Palermo, residing at No. 112 Via Nazario Sauro, (he was stopped on 16th January for questioning).
- 9) GELOSO Giovanni, a labourer, of Angelo and of Sagrama Benedetta, born on 8th Jan. 1922 at Giardinello, residing at No. 36 Via Buzzanga, (at large).
- 10) Don TOTÒ, known as the "Bavarese".
- 11) SINCHIA Giovanni, a labourer, son of Gaetano and Teresita Giuseppa, born on 10th April 1900, residing at No. 12 Via Pezzo (at large).
- 12) SPIDITA Salissara, a hairdresser, son of the late Antonino and of Priolo Maddalena, born on 25th April, 1926, residing at No. 73 Via Graciferi, (he was stopped on 11th January for questioning).

RESPONSIBILITY. The first eleven people are responsible for continued theft with aggravated circumstances. Art. 524, No. 2 - 625 of the Penal Code. SPIDITA is responsible for continued receiving of stolen goods. - 648 Art. of the Penal Code, against Allied Military Government. CITARDA Benedetto, CITARDA Antonino and DI TRAPANI Nicolo' are responsible for extortion. - Art. 629 of the Penal Code - against LIMA MARCUSO. All of them are, however, responsible for association for delinquency. Art. 416 of the Penal Code.

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FANTILLO Pietro, a farmer, son of Giovanni and DI GIUSEPPE Angela, born on 10th Dec. 1908 in Palermo, residing at No. 140 Via Buonriposo. He is responsible for theft, - Art. 524 - with the aggravated circumstances which are contemplated by Paragraph No. 2 of art. 625 of the Penal Code, against the Allied Military Government. He was arrested on 4th January, 1945.

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- 1) ZITO Santo, a labourer, son of Giovanni and Tusa Gaetana, born on 1st January, 1911, in Palermo, residing at No. 25 Via Nazario Sauro, (he was stopped on 25th January for questioning).
- 2) FERRANTE Rosolino, a labourer, son of Rosario and Chiovero Vincenza, born on 9th Oct. 1928, in Palermo, residing at No. 27 Via Pozzo, he was stopped on 25th Jan. 1945 for questioning).

RESPONSIBILITY. Both are responsible for continued receiving of stolen goods against Allied Military Government.

D'ARPA Giovanni 's GROUP.

- 1) D'ARPA Giovanni, a labourer, son of the late Gaspare and of Citarda Rosalia, born on 8th February, 1891, in Palermo, residing at No. 5 Via Conigliara, (at large).
- 2) DI TRAPANI Giuseppe, a mason, son of the late Francesco Paolo and of the late Carollo Vita, born on 10th February 1902, residing at No. 13 Via Tramontana, (at large).
- 3) IMESI Francesco, a mason, son of the late Domenico and of Bitonti Rosa, born on 10th February, 1891 at Imola (Bologna), residing at No. 25 Via Monte Pellegrino, (he was stopped on 1st January for questioning).
- 4) IMESI Luigi, a tinner, son of the late Angelo and of the late Lo Verso Concetta, residing at No. 48 Via La Mantia, (he was stopped on 4th February for questioning).
- 5) FIORI Carmelo, a labourer, son of Battista and of Trapani Maddalena born on 20th January, 1901, in Palermo, residing at No. 70 Via Archimede, (at large).
- 6) A certain GIOVANNI, not yet identified, (unknown).

RESPONSIBILITY. They are responsible for continued theft with aggravated circumstances against the Allied Military Government and for association for delinquency, - art. 416-624 and No.2 paragraph of Art. 625 of the Penal Code.

We also denounce G35030 Antonino and DI TRAPANI Giuseppe as responsible for illegal detention of war arms. 7027

The empty barrels, including the empty and full cans, have been consigned to the Allied Military Command. The tubes and the two muskets which were regularly registered will be deposited with the Master's Office of Palermo Tribunal. We inform you that DI TRAPANI's musket had been found during a search which was carried out in his country-house, located a few metres away from the house where we

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detected the illegal deviation.

The persons, who were stopped for questioning, were taken to the local prisons and are at the disposal of Palermo Court.

This statement of denunciation, which was compiled in three copies, is held by the Offices mentioned in the Distribution.

During the course of our enquiries, we have also stopped the following people for questioning, who were under suspicion. However, after having cleared their position, we have released them.

PAISETTI Anna, daughter of Pietro, LUNETTO Maddalena, daughter of the late Salvatore, SPATOLA Domenico, son of Antonino, MACALUSO G. Battista, son of Paolo, SEIDITA Giuseppe, son of Antonino, SEIDITA Ettore, son of Antonino, DI TRAPANI Giovauni, son of Francesco Paolo, PIZZUTO Giuseppe, son of the late Domenico, MAZARA Rosalia, daughter of Domenico, FINAZZO Gaetano, son of Francesco.

This statement has been read, confirmed and undersigned.

SIGNED.

- 1) VALLINI Marino - Carabinieri.
- 2) ANZALONE Angelo - Carabinieri.
- 3) PARLAGRECO Gaspare - Carabinieri.
- 4) MAGISTRO Michele - Carabinieri.
- 5) GUARINO Antonio - Carabinieri.
- 6) BONANNO Giuseppe - Carabinieri.
- 7) BONFIGLIO Sebastiano - Vice Brigadier.
- 8) MICHELOTI Vasco - Vice Brigadier.
- 9) CAMMARATA Salvatore - Vice Brigadier.
- 10) GUGLIUZZO Giuseppe - Marshall Major.
- 11) GARRASI G. Battista - Lieutenant.

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