

ACC

10000/143/480

SHOOTING
MAY - JUL

10000/143/480

SHOOTING INCIDENT BETWEEN CCRR & CANADIAN SOLDIER
MAY - JULY 1944

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

file
GA

ACG/14030/4/PB.

6th July, 1944.

SUBJECT : Shooting Incident at Mercatello (Salerno).

TO : Hq., Allied Armies in Italy.

1. Reference is made to your letter AAI/5130/A(PB) of 30th June '44.
2. On 12th, 14th and 15th June 1944 at Mercatello (Salerno) a Court of Inquiry was held to investigate the incident. A copy of the findings of the Court is enclosed for your information.
3. It is not proposed to take any further action in the matter.

PAUL G. KIRK,
Colonel Infantry,
Chief Public Safety
Sub-Commission.

5020

AFW/lg.

P.S.

It is understood that a report in this matter is being submitted by Commander 94th Sub-Area through Co. 3 District to Hq., AAI.

SUBJECT: Shooting Incident at Marzabito (Salerno)

11034/3

8A-57A

HQ ARMY ARMY AIR FORCE

ASL/5130/A(ES)

28 Jun 44

Public Safety Sub-Commission
ASL

Re: your ASL/5130/3/ES dated 20 May 44.

5021

Will you please forward the information provided in para 3
of your above-quoted letter.

W. H. ...
20 64

HE/AM

Copy to: - Executive Commission ASL

UFFICIO DI COLLEGAMENTO
CON
COMMISSIONE ALLEATA CONTROLLO

7A

Transmission phono received on 11th June, 1615 hrs:

"" Da Comando RR.CC. Italia Liberata
A Commissione Alleata di Controllo - Sottocommissione
Pubblica Sicurezza

N. 83/7 - Riservato -

Seguito foglio N. 83/6 riservato dell'8 corrente comunico che
domani 12 andante Cap. RR.CC. Franci parteciperà riunione Corte
Alleata a Mercatello. Non occorrerà pertanto comandare a detta
riunione il Maggiore Zanchino.

Firmato Generale Pièche

Per conoscenza a Legione RR.CC. - Napoli. ""

T R A N S D A T I O N =

"" From HQ Royal Carabinieri liberated Italy
To Allied Control Commission - Public Safety Sub-Commission

N. 83/7 - Restricted

Following note No. 83/6 restricted dated 6th instant I
inform that tomorrow 12th instant Capt. Royal Carabinieri
FRANCI will take part at the meeting of Allied Court in
Mercatello. It will not be therefore necessary to send
Major ZANCHINO to the same meeting.

126

Signed General Pièche

For information to Royal Carabinieri "Legione" - Naples ""

 *Pièche*

10030/4 6A

TRANSLATION

CC. RR. HQ LIBERATED ITALY.

28 June 1944

83/6

SUBJECT : Capt. FRANCI PAOLO
TO : ACC P. S. Sub-Commission.
ATTN : CC. RR. Legion Command Naples.

Whereas Capt. Franzi Paolo cannot participate in the meeting of the Allied Court in Mercatella (Canadian Convalescent Camp) on the 12 June 44, because of the fire conflict station and Canadian soldiers, will you please request the CC. RR. Major Zaccaro to be present at the above meeting at the disposal of the Allied Command of Naples.

The Commanding General
Giuseppe Picche.

025

RISERVATO

COMANDO ARMA CARABINIERI REALI DELL'ITALIA LIBERATA
UFFICIO SEGRETERIA E RISERVATO

N. 83/6 di prot. Ris. P. M. 135 li 8 giugno 1944

Risposta al :: del :: n. :: Allegati n. ::

OGGETTO: Capitano FRANCI Paolo.

ALLA COMMISSIONE ALLEATA DI CONTROLLO
= SOTTOCOMMISSIONE PER LA PUBBLICA SICUREZZA = SALERNO

e, per conoscenza:

AL COMANDO DELLA LEGIONE CARABINIERI REALI DI NAPOLI

In previsione che il Capitano dei Carabinieri Reali FRANCI Paolo non possa partecipare il 12 corrente alla riunione della Corte Alleata a Mercatello (Canadian Convalescent Camp) a seguito del conflitto a fuoco svoltosi fra militari dell'Arma di quella stazione e soldati Canadesi, prego di voler richiedere per detta riunione l'intervento del Maggiore dei CC.RR. ZANCHINO Alfredo a disposizione del Comando Alleato di Napoli.-

IL GENERALE COMANDANTE
= Giuseppe Pièche =

502*

Subject:- Court of Enquiry

14030/2

94 Sub Area
Phone 233
516/18/A

5A

3 Jun 44

Public Safety Sub Commission ACC(3)
PC Salerno
Cdn Sec GHQ 1 Ech
30 Cheshires
1 Cdn Con Depot

3A

Ref this HQ letter of even ref dated 29 May 44.

The Court of Enquiry is postponed until 1000 hrs 12 Jun 44.

W. L. ...
Cdr

h Maj
DAA & JMG

1-ew
TOS.....B
HE

SUBJECT: Shooting Incident between
Carabinieri & Canadian Soldier

Public Safety (Beau)
CONFIDENTIAL

HQ ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

AAI/5069/37/47

12 May 44

Executive Commissioner,
ACC.

IA

Further to this HQ letter of even number dated 12 May 44, Cdn
Sec GHQ I Ech have sent to this HQ copies of certain statements
taken by their Military Police. These are forwarded in case they
are of use.

HEADQUARTERS
12 MAY 1944

5024
Brigadier,
DAC.

JDE/PA

*Seen by Staff Capt A G. Sablone
and P.S.O. Salino.*

LofCProv/5-4-15

4B

D.A.P.M.
1 C.B.R.Gp.

Re. B-76032 L/Cpl. Gillis A.H. - Cdn Provost Corps - Deceased.

1. Forwarded herewith preliminary investigation in this case. *4C/F*
2. I concur in the fact that there is sufficient evidence to warrant the arrest of Veltre CIRO and Lebrutto GUISEPPE, Carabinieri of Mercatello and Ferracano EGIVES and Vuolo MARIO, Questure Police, Salerno, on suspicion of murder.
3. 66 S.I.B. are not contemplating such action at the present time.
4. Enquiries continued.

D.D.-21-4-44.

14 Apr 44.

Distribution:
DAPM (2)
Town Major
File

J.H.A.
(H.F. Law) Capt.
Officer Commanding
No. 1 Cdn L of C Prov Coy.

*For info of commander
& to be passed to 18th
W.C.S.*

LofCProv/5-4-15

4C

Officer Commanding
No. 1 Cdn L of C Provost Coy.

Re. B-76032 L/Cpl. Gillis A.H. - Cdn Provost Corps. Deceased.

1. During the am of 6 Apr 44 acting on instructions received and in response to a telephone message from the D.A.P.M. 1 CBRGP., stating that two Canadian soldiers had been shot, the occurrence taking place in the Salerno Area, I patrolled to #1 Canadian Conv Depot to make enquiries into the incident.
2. I learned that in the early hours of 6 Apr 44 L/Cpl. Gillis A.H., had been shot and subsequently died on the way to Hospital, and that Pte Charette E.J., Cdn Provost Corps had been shot and wounded and was in 58th Gen Hosp (British) in a serious condition. There had been a third soldier, L-105961, Gnr Bourassa F.A., #1 Cdn Conv Depot with the above two soldiers at the time of the shooting, who had received facial injuries.
3. I first obtained the following statement from L-103961, Gnr Bourassa F.A., 1st Anti Tank Regt R.C.A. at present on strength 1 Cdn Conv Depot. BEGINS: I left camp at 1900 to 1915 hrs on the evening of 5 Apr 44. I went to meet L/Cpl. Gillis, Cdn Provost Corps and L/Cpl. Charette of the same Corps. They told me to meet them at the R.R. Station to go raiding with them. I was doing R.P. duties at the camp at the time. They told me not to say anything to anyone so I figured they were going raiding for blankets. I met them at the R.R. Station and we had two bottles of red wine between the three of us. At about 10 or 1030 we left the station and went to a house nearby and listened outside. We didn't hear anything so went across the highway to a yellow house and rapped at the door and asked for "Vino". The people said no and showed us the way to another house and a man from there took us to another house where we got two bottles of vino paying 300 lire. We also got a piece of sausage from this house. We then went back to the highway and started raiding carts. We got five fish about six or eight inches long, about 1 1/2 doz eggs. The two Provost took about 500 lire from four people on the carts. A couple of more carts came along and the Provost took papers from them, then four or five more carts came along but they carried charcoal in bags. We then started home and saw a truck coming behind us going towards Salerno so we made motions, that we wanted the truck to stop. We searched it but found nothing. Later another truck came along and we stopped it. When the truck was moving slow some jumped out of the cab and some from the cab shooting at the same time. The Cpls told me not to say anything about raiding, that's the last I heard them say. The people that jumped off the truck were Italians and some appeared to be in dark colored uniform. There was a red or orange stripe down the front. They were all hollering. I saw two Italians with rifles, they had uniforms on and one had a pistol. Whilst the shooting was going on

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4. The following statement was taken from L/Cpl. R.M. Goulet, Regt No. D-56133 - Cdn. Provost Corps, at present on strength 1 Cdn Conv Depot. BEGINS: At approx 0050 hrs 6 Apr 44, Pte Cardinal and another soldier and myself were lying awake talking when we heard

Page two

shots. There were five shots in a group, then 2, then 2 more. They sounded alike. I slipped on my greatcoat and boots only and ran to the Guard Room, a distance of about 20 yards and there saw the L/Cpl i/c and asked him if he heard anything. He answered he heard shots. I asked him if he investigated and he said he looked around but could not see anything. I noticed the guard room clock at and noted it was exactly 0050 hrs. I then took one of the R.Ps, Pte Adams and followed by the L/Cpl. on duty and another Pte we went to the far end of the camp by the R.R. tracks where I thought the shots had come from. On arrival at the R.R. tracks I noticed a soldier approaching in our direction from over the tracks. I noted he was bleeding in two places on his right cheek. I asked him what he was doing and for his identification. I was answered that his paybook had been taken away by some civilians and other Italians in uniform, that had red patches of some kind on the collar. I then turned him over in custody of Pte Adams and returned to the guard room. There I was told that Pte Charette had just been brought in and that he was wounded. I proceeded to the M.I. room where I saw Pte Charette dressed in a shirt. The outside of his shirt on the left was soaked with blood. His tunic lay on a bench but I didn't examine it. I tore the shirt off and saw a wound on his arm on the left bicip muscle also a wound under the arm and another under the left shoulder blade and as it was not bleeding I did not do anything but tell the orderly to get the M.O. I then notified Capt King, Camp Adj. He told me he was getting in touch with the British S.I.B. and that I was to be at their disposal. I returned to my quarters and got dressed and awaited the arrival of the S.I.B. Two Sgts came, a Sgt Wood and Sgt. Coulsey. In the meantime Pte Charette had been taken to 58th Gen Hosp. The Sgts decided to interrogate him and I accompanied them to 58th Gen Hosp and we found Charette in a delirious condition. While there we were informed that a Canadian soldier had been brought in and on arrival was found to be dead. The paybook he was carrying showed him to be L/Cpl. Gillis. I was asked to identify him so in company with the two Sgts and a medical orderly I was shown to the morgue and shown the body which I recognized as L/Cpl. Gillis. We all left and returned to camp. At approx 0530 hrs in company with the two Sgts and Pte Bourassa we went to the scene of the shooting, Pte Bourassa as guide, and looked for any evidence that might be there. We could not find anything. We then came back and the two Sgts questioned Bourassa. They did not take a statement at that time. Bourassa was then returned to the guard room and the two Sgts left. At approx 0620 hrs I went, in company with L/Cpl. Sauriol, and proceeded to the scene of the shooting. I found one misfired cartridge and five empty cases, the whole spread over a distance of 50 to 60 yds. I handed these over to Sgt. Coulsey 66 Sec S.I.B. at approx 0930 hrs. When I first saw Bourassa at approx 0100 hrs he seemed to be in an agitated condition. His breath smelled of drink but in my opinion he was sober. I have known L/Cpl. Gillis and Pte Charette for about two weeks and have worked with them on one raid. At no time have I ever seen them with arms of any sort.

ENDS.

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ENDS.

5. L/Cpl. Charette E.J. Regt No. L-23022 No. 1 Provost Coy, at present on strength #1 Cdn Conv Depot was next interviewed and stated as follows. BEGINS: On the evening of April 5th 1944, I left camp at approx 1830 with L/Cpl. Gillis to visit some Italian friends of mine at the R.R. station approx ½ mile from 1 Cdn Conv Depot. We arrived at about seven o'clock. At about seven thirty Gnr Bourassa whom we had an appointment with arrived and we ordered a couple of wine and drank them between the three of us. We dined with the women that were there until about nine o'clock. We left and went on the way home and decided to get some more wine. We had to cross the highway and stopped at a house. The man there took us to another house across a ravine where we got three bottles of wine. We started back. About 2145 hrs and on the main road heading towards Salerno we noticed several carts heavily loaded. We decided to stop a few and see what they had. The first one handed us about nine hundred lire, which we kept. The next cart, the driver started to cry saying they didn't have anything. All they had was one and ten lire which didn't amount to much and we then chased them on. I then heard a truck coming which sounded like a loaded

page three

Itie truck. We stopped it and told all the prople to get off. It was loaded with wine barrels and a few other things. I lookin in a little grip and saw some eggs. I took about a dozen and a few fish. The traffic was pretty heavy so we told them to go on. Then we hid for a while. The traffic then was mostly towards S. Leonardo which we didnt bother. We then saw a truck coming towards Salerno. I got on the road and waved it down. As it slowed down just about where we were, a couple of Carabinieri jumped out. I noticed the cap and white belt. I shouted for Gods sake run, they have files. I ran around the truck and one made a grab for me. I ran towards the front of the truck and started down the road in front of the truck. It was then they started firing. They fired about five shots when I felf one hit me. I got to a ditch and down in the bushes near a stream and took off my web belf and tunic and washed my face as I was choking with blood. I then got the little money I had belonging to the people we had stopped and left it along with my web belt beside the back. When I heard the truck start off I went back to the road and managed to stop an American truck which took me back to the Cdn Conv Depot. There were about three M.Os who tended to me and then sent me here to 50th Gen Hosp. At no time since coming to the Cdn Conv. Depot have I or L/Cpl. Gillis had arms of any sort nor did we have any on the night of April 5th 1944. ENDS.

I then checked on the injury to L/Cpl Charette and learned the bullet had entered just below the left shoulder blade and came out in the left arm pit and then on through the left arm. This soldier was not in fit condition to question thoroughly and has since been operated on. When he is in a fit state further details can then be obtained.

6. I then checked the scene of the shooting and found a distance of approx 60 yds from a point where, the first empty cartridge was found to a gateway on the right side of the road, that is, looking in the direction of Salerno. It was in that direction Gillis and Charette ran. Gillis had been picked up opposite the gateway about four feet from the side of the road and apparently Charette had run into the entrance to the drive through the gateway. This is consistent with the course of the bullet as he must have been turning when struck. I then checked at the house situated at the end of the driveway and found that a British soldier had come that morning and found the web belt. This was later verified by the S.I.B. (British) and that Section is now in possession of the belt, having found it in the location stated by Charette, but no money was found with the belt.

7. I then interviewed Major J.E. Craik, Pathologist 50th Gen Hosp. He informed me that he had performed a P.M. on Gillis and had forwarded his report to the British S.I.B. in Salerno and did not have a spare copy. I requested him to give me a summary of his findings which were as follows: I did a P.M. examination on the body of an adult male identified to me as L/Cpl. Gillis of #1 Cdn Conv Depot. I found a gunshot wound of the chest, the entry being at the back, the exit on the front of the chest. The bullet had gone straight through the spine, lung and heart. Death was due to a gunshot

to the people we had stopped and left it along with my web belt beside the back. When I heard the truck start off I went back to the road and managed to stop an American truck which took me back to the Cdn Conv Depot. There were about three M.Os who tended to me and then sent me here to 58th Gen Hosp. At no time since coming to the Cdn Conv. Depot have I or L/Cpl. Gillis had arms of any sort nor did we have any on the night of April 5th 1944. ENDS.

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8. I learned that Lieut F.C. Abbott of 157 Bty, 56 L.A.A. Regt had been at the scene and superintended the removal of Gillis to Hosp. I interviewed him at his Regiment and obtained the following statement: BEGINS: At about 0030 hrs 6 Apr 44 I was coming back from Salerno to camp in the direction of Pantecagnano, at a point approx one half mile from Marcatello. I saw a body of a soldier lying about four feet from the left hand side of the road. I pulled up and so did an 8 cwt in front of me. I conducted a brief examination of the body and found only a small injury on his hand and that he was breathing very heavily. I had him put on board the 8 cwt. As I was first approaching I saw the lights of a stationary vehicle which started up just as we picked up the body. I tried to stop it to guarantee the safety of the party crossing the road with the injured soldier but the vehicle came straight on. It did, however, pull up about 20 yds past me, but I told him to carry on. This was an Italian truck. I then led the party to 58th British Gen Hosp. I handed the soldier over to the M.O. i/c but he had died on the way. At the hospital I assisted in

page four

removing his personal belongings, I found no firearms. I did not notice any firearms at the point where the soldier was picked up. After picking up the soldier on the road another soldier came running up to me as I started my jeep shouting, "Take me away, they are after me". He appeared to be under the influence of drink and could not answer my questions properly. I told him to come with me to the hospital to have his face dressed but he ran away. When I approached the scene I saw no other vehicle within close proximity to the truck that started up.

9. I next obtained a statement from the Maresciallo of the Carabinieri at Marcatello: Maresciallo Gianneli Commandant of Carabinieri, Marcatello, this statement obtained through L/Cpl. Marcelin - Interpreter, 1 Cdn L of C Provost Coy. BEGINS: At 10 or 1030 April 5th 1944, I had two or three complaints from some five civilians that they were held up on the road near a bridge about five hundred metres from Marcatello and had had stolen from them 50,000 lire. I called the British Investigation Branch and meanwhile three more civilians came and complained that four Canadians had held them up. Two Carabinieri from Salerno and two civilian police arrived and informed me that people were complaining about being held up. I and 2 of my own men, Veltre Giro and Lebrutto Giuseppe, accompanied by two Carabinieri from Salerno station, Della Torre and Di Palma and civilian Police Ferracano Egides and Vuolo Mario. We proceeded to the highway with the last three civilians who had complained, riding on a truck which carried wine barrels. We went as far as S. Leonardo and didn't see anything so turned around and came back towards Salerno I saw two soldiers, one was in the road with his hand up stopping us. The other was searching a civilian car which they had stopped. I and one Carabinieri got off the truck. The soldier who was on the road stopping us ran behind a civilian car they had stopped. The other soldier was searching four of five civilians who were passengers in the car. Myself and one Carabinieri, Schrutto Giuseppe and two civilians grabbed the soldier who was searching the civilians. There was firing coming from behind the car at this time. We put the soldier in the cab of the truck. He was calling for help from his friends. I got in with my pistol in my hand. I then got out as there was firing still going on. Just at this time a small military vehicle came along. I saw a soldier on the ground and saw two soldiers lift him in this vehicle. Then the soldier who was in the cab got out and ran away. There was other vehicles stopped because they couldn't get by us. I saw only one soldier helped into the truck and this truck went right away. We searched the surrounding area for other soldiers but couldn't see any so went on and reported to the Salerno station. When I was going towards S. Leonardo I saw four soldiers sitting on the side of the road, two had pistols in their hands. I didn't stop at this time. On the way back when the soldier stopped us he had one hand up and one hand in the front of his tunic. The soldier we caught hold of didn't have a gun. He was searched by either Raiola Carmine or Della Femina who gave me a picture of the soldier. I did not fire any shots and Lebrutto Giuseppe did not fire. The other Carabinieri and civilian police did the firing. All had

ians that they were held up on the road near a bridge about five hundred metres from Marcatello and had had stolen from them 50,000 lire. I called the British Investigation Branch and meanwhile three more civilians came and complained that four Canadians had held them up. Two Carabinieri from Salerno and two civilian police arrived and informed me that people were complaining about being held up. I and 2 of my own men, Veltre Ciro and Lebrutto Giuseppe, accompanied by two Carabinieri from Salerno station, Della Tarre and Di Palma and civilian Police Ferracane Egido, Gualo Mario. We proceeded to the highway with the last three civilians who had complained, riding on a truck which carried wine barrels. We went as far as S. Leonardo and didn't see anything so turned around and came back towards Salerno I saw two soldiers, one was in the road with his hand up stopping us. The other was searching a civilian car which they had stopped. I and one Carabinieri got off the truck. The soldier who was on the road stopping us ran behind a civic car they had stopped. The other soldier was searching four of five civilians who were passengers in the car. Myself and one Carabinieri, Schrutto Giuseppe and two civilians grabbed the soldier who was searching the civilians. There was firing coming from behind the car at this time. We put the soldier in the cab of the truck. He was calling for help from his friends. I got in with my pistol in my hand. I then got out as there was firing still going on. Just at this time a small military vehicle came along. I saw a soldier on the ground and saw two soldiers lift him in this vehicle. Then the soldier who was in the cab got out and ran away. There was other vehicles stopped because they couldn't get by us. I saw only one soldier helped into the truck and this truck went right away. We searched the surrounding area for other soldiers but couldn't see any so went on and reported to the Salerno station. When I was going towards S. Leonardo I saw four soldiers sitting on the side of the road, two had pistols in their hands. I didn't stop at this time. On the way back when the soldier stopped us he had one hand up and on the front of his tunic! The soldier we caught hold of didn't have a gun. He was searched by either Raiola Carmine or Della Femina who gave me a picture of the soldier. I did not fire any shots and Lebrutto Giuseppe did not fire. The other Carabinieri and civilian police did the firing. All had rifles. ENDS.

10. Lebrutto Giuseppe, Carabinieri - Marcatello Station was then interviewed and the following obtained: EGIDIO: I accompanied Marcatello Giannello Guido on the night of April 5th 1944 together with Veltre Ciro, Ferracane Egido, Gualo Mario of the Questure of Salerno in a truck driven by a civilian. The truck had wine barrels in it. The Maresaiallo and myself was in the front with another civilian and the driver we left there and drove to S. Leonardo and turned around and after crossing a bridge a Canadian soldier stopped us. The soldier that stopped us was in the middle of the road. Another soldier was at the back of another truck that was stopped facing S. Leonardo and the driver was with him. As soon as we got out of the truck two shots came in our direction. I tried to cover myself. I hid myself beside the front wheel of our truck on the right side of the truck. The Maresaiallo gave orders to shoot. I did not shoot back because I was afraid but some shooting was done by the Questure men and Veltre Ciro. The Maresaiallo did not shoot because he only had a pistol. I did not move from beside the front wheel

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of the truck until it started away. The Maresaiallo said, "We will go". I being on the running board all the way to the Carabinieri station in Mercatello. After we started and had gone about 150 metres I noticed a small car on the side of the road and on the right side of the machine I saw two soldiers picking up a soldier by the shoulders and feet and put him in the small truck (Camionette) They put him in rapidly. Our truck kept on going. We stopped at the Carabinieri station in Mercatello and the Maresaiallo called upstairs for his coat and Carabinieri brought it down. On the way in there was two civilians, the Maresaiallo, Veltre Giro in the cab. I was standing on the running board. The questure rode on the back with the wine barrels. After Maresaiallo got his coat five of us rode in the cab to Salerno. I was on the right side of the driver, the Maresaiallo and two civilians on the left. I did not see the Maresaiallo or civilians put a soldier on the truck. I stayed by the front wheel of the truck covering my face with my hands. When we left the scene the truck the soldiers had stopped was still there. It was a big truck like we were riding on. When I got off our truck. I saw two soldiers shooting. I heard two shots only. The soldier who stopped us did not have a gun. Only had his hand in front of his tunic. When the truck stopped this soldier moved to the side of the road and I heard two shots, he was about three metres away from the back of the other truck. On the way to S. Leonardo I did not see any soldiers. When we left the scene I did not see any other trucks except the two belonging to the soldiers I already mentioned. ENDS.

11. Veltre Giro, Carabinieri, Mercatello Station was next interviewed. He stated as follows BEGINS: I work in civilian clothes As I returned from a beat at 2300 hrs April 5th 1944, there was some excitement in front of the station. People wanted to see the Maresaiallo about being held up on the highway. First some civilians, they a truck stopped in front of the station. At the same time two agents from the Questure in Salerno came over. They were armed with rifles. The Maresaiallo said since no assistance has come from the Military Police let us try and catch one ourselves. The Maresaiallo the driver and one Carabinieri sat in the cab of the truck. I and the two Questure and some civilians sat on the back with the barrels. The barrels were full of wine. Going towards S. Leonardo hear an isolated house I saw four soldiers they each had a pistol in their hand. Since they didn't try to stop us we went on our way. As soon as we reached S. Leonardo we turned around and came back towards Salerno. Near the isolated house one soldier tried to stop us and we saw on the opposite side of the road a small truck. I was stopped and three soldiers were surrounding three civilians. I did not notice any guns on the soldiers. First the Carabinieri ~~450~~ ⁴⁵⁰ rutto Giuseppe got out then the Maresaiallo, then the driver then the rest of us. The civies that were with us got under the truck. As soon as the soldier saw the Carabinieri, three ran away and one was held by the Maresaiallo and the driver and Carabinieri. The soldiers ran in the direction of Salerno. Our truck which was heading towards

front wheel of the truck covering my face with my hands. When we left the scene the truck the soldiers had stopped was still there. It was a big truck like we were riding on. When I got off our truck. I saw two soldiers shooting. I heard two shots only. The soldier who stopped us did not have a gun. Only had his hand in front of his tunic. When the truck stopped this soldier moved to the side of the road and I heard who shots, he was about three metres away from the back of the other truck. On the way to S. Leonardo I did not see any soldiers. When we left the scene I did not see any other trucks except the two belonging to the soldiers I already mentioned. ENDS.

11. Veltrè Ciro, Carabinieri, Mercatello Station was next interviewed. He stated as follows BEGINS: I work in civilian clothes As I returned from a beat at 2300 hrs April 5th 1944, there was some excitement in front of the station. People wanted to see the Maresaiallo about being held up on the highway. First some civilians, they a truck stopped in front of the station. At the same time two agents from the Questure in Salerno came over. They were armed with rifles. The Maresaiallo said since no assistance has come from the Military Police let us try and catch one ourselves. The Maresaiallo the driver and one Carabinieri sat in the cab of the truck. I and the two Questure and some civilians sat on the back with the barrels. The barrels were full of wine. Going towards S. Leonardo hear an isolated house I saw four soldiers they each had a pistol in their hand. Since they didn't try to stop us we went on our way. As soon as we reached S. Leonardo we turned around and came back towards Salerno. Near the isolated house one soldier tried to stop us and we saw on the opposite side of the road a small truck. I was stopped and three soldiers were surrounding three civilians. I did not notice any guns on the soldiers. First the Carabinieri ~~458~~ ⁴⁵⁸ ~~putto~~ ^{putto} Giuseppe got out then the Maresaiallo, then the driver then the rest of us. The civies that were with us got under the truck. As soon as the soldier saw the Carabinieri, three ran away and one was held by the Maresaiallo and the driver and Carabinieri. The soldiers ran in the direction of Salerno. Our truck which was heading towards Salerno had the lights out. The other truck heading towards S. Leonardo had the lights on. When the soldiers ran about 10 metres towards S. Leonardo they began shooting. The Maresaiallo gave orders to shoot and I shot one shot and the two agents shot, but I don't know how many times. The others were holding the one soldier and did not shoot. The soldier started to scream and they let him go and I was told that before they let him go the Maresaiallo took away a wallet with some pictures and correspondence. Then that Maresaiallo and the driver and one Carabinieri got in the cab of the truck and the rest of us on the back of the truck. As we got on the truck and moved a little I saw a small truck stop and two soldiers picked up a soldier from the ground. I don't know if he was dead or wounded. As we were stopped we were not ioned to keep on going so we did. On the way to S. Leonardo I was riding on a wine barrel on the back of the truck. On the way back as soon as the truck stopped I saw soldiers run in the direction of Salerno and when the Maresaiallo said shoot I pointed my gun in that direction and shot. It was dark and I could not see. I saw the soldiers run and heard some shooting and then the Maresaiallo gave the orders to shoot. When we arrived at the station in Mercatello the Maresaiallo dropped me off and went on to Salerno. ENDS.

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13. Ferracane Egides, Criminal Police, Station of Salerno, Questure, was then interviewed and the following statement obtained BEGINS: On the night of April 5th 1944, I and Vuolo Mario was on duty on a beat from the R.R. Station to Theatre Verdi. I met a civilian that had a wound on the nose and another who had been punched on the cheek and these people complained that some soldiers had held them up and robbed 11000 lire from them. This happened at Marchifare. We walked down to the R.R. station and met three civilians with a car who complained they had been held up by about four soldiers who had stolen 2 rings and some money from one and 11000 lire, from another 20000 and from the other 2 rings and a watch. We continued on to Marcatello and was overtaken by a car going in the S. Leonardo direction. We went to the Carabinieri station at Mercatello. When we arrived a truck with wine barrels on it was parked outside and the people were up-stairs. Complaining to the Maresaiallo. The Maresaiallo said we will go to the place the holdups took place. We had been patrolling in Salerno with two Carabinieri but they had gone off shift before we left for Marcatello. There was about 10 or 12 civies, Vuolo Mario, myself and four Carabinieri from Marcatello got on the truck and went towards S. Leonardo. Going towards S. Leonardo and at Marchifare I saw four soldiers near a wall hiding themselves. I didn't see any arms. We went on the S. Leonardo and turned and came back. When we approached Marchifare I saw a small truck and a soldier was searching four or five civies including a Captain of the Italian Army. One other soldier was in the middle of the road stopping our truck with his hand up. When the truck stopped he came towards our truck with two other soldiers behind. The first people from our truck was the Maresaiallo, One Carabinieri and the driver. The soldiers did not see us on the truck as we were on top of the wine barrels. When we saw the three soldiers we came down from the truck to get them. The soldiers ran towards S. Leonardo, the Maresaiallo, One Carabinieri and three civies and the Italian Captain held the one who had been searching the small truck. As the other three ran the began firing four or five shots. The Maresaiallo ordered all of us to fire. Vuol Mario did not fire but I did, only one shot but that was on a slant, in the air. The Carabinieri fired six or seven shots. Two Carabinieri had rifles and one had a pistol. The Maresaiallo had a pistol also a sword in his hand. He drew it out and shouted fire. After the shooting I saw one soldier on the ground, he was about 40 metres in front of our truck. Our truck had the lights on and it was a moon light night. The Maresaiallo, the driver and one Carabinieri put one soldier in the truck, he was the soldier who had been searching the civies. One civie searched the soldier for his documents, then the Maresaiallo ordered everyone into the truck and we went about 20 metres when three soldiers stopped us. They were picking up a wounded man. When we stopped the soldier who was in the cab got out and ran towards S. Leonardo. The soldiers then told us to go on which we did. Three Carabinieri got off the truck at Mercatello. One Carabinieri, the Maresaiallo and we two drove on to Salerno. The Maresaiallo and Carabinieri went to the station Principal and requested that re-enforcements be available should anything else happen. When we got off the truck Mario found that a Carabinieri had forgotten his rifle. He brought it to the Questure Hdqts and found

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14. The driver of the truck, Raimla Carmine 64 Via Ligea, Salerno, was then interviewed and the following obtained BEGINS: I was coming from Grotalia and was going to Via Tre Sul Mare on the night of April 5, 44. Before reaching Marcetello we were held up by three soldiers with red patches on their arm, they said they were Canadian Police. They told all people to get off the truck, there were three people in the cab and two riding behind. Two soldiers stood in front of us with their hands in their tunic while one searched us from behind. They made us stand behind with our hands crossed in front of us. One guarded us and one soldier climbed on the truck and took three suitcases from the truck. He saw some eggs which he said were contraband. I said they weren't contraband. The soldiers asked for documents and was shown the permit for the wine. They said the wine was contraband and wanted some money and if I wanted to go on I must pay 2000 lire. I said I didn't have 2000 so they said I must pay 1000 and again I said I didn't have any money. Then three wagons arrived going towards Salerno. The

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soldiers stopped them and searched them too when another wagon came which the soldiers stopped. Then they told us to go on. I then drove to the Maresaiallo in Marcatello. When I arrived there other civies were there also complaining. Then the Maresaiallo said we will go towards S. Leonardo. At the place we had been stopped a Carabinieri who was in the cab with me saw soldiers on the side of the road. We didn't stop but went on to S. Leonardo and turned and came back. I didn't see how many soldiers there were. On the way back I saw a small truck topped headed towards S. Leonardo. When we came in sight of this truck I saw one soldier in the road with his hand up to stop us and I saw another soldier beside the truck and I saw an Italian Officer beside the soldier. When the soldier stopped us the Maresaiallo and one Carabinieri got out of the truck from the left side, my truck is a right hand drive, there was the Maresaiallo, two Questure, four Carabinieri, and eight civilians. When I got out I went to the front of my truck. I had put my lights off. The civies caught hold of one soldier, only civies caught him. The soldier who had halted us then ran towards Salerno. I did not see any of the soldiers with guns either the first time they stopped us or the second time when the Carabinieri were with us, when the soldier ran towards Salerno I heard shots, just as I was getting out of my truck. The shots came from the other side of the truck. I don't know in which direction they were going. There was five, six or seven shots. When everything was quiet I saw someone run after the soldier that went towards Salerno. I heard two more shots. I don't know whether it was a civie or Carabinieri then the other soldier was brought to the cab and put in. They everyone got on as we started off. There was a Carabinieri on my right, on my left the soldier and then two civilians and the Maresaiallo on the running board hanging on to the side. After travelling about 200 metres we saw two vehicles on my left. They told me to halt. It was a soldier with a peaked cap on who stopped me. I saw two soldiers lifting another, then the soldier waved me on. When we halted this time there was a civilian car behind us so one civilian tried to take the soldier who was in the cab of out truck to the civilian car but I heard the soldier ran away. I went on and stopped Marcatello, I don't know how many got off there, then we went on to Salerno. When I got out of my truck at the scene of the shooting there wasn't a Carabinieri by the front wheel. I did not see one there at all. ENDS.

15. A statement was then taken from Dela Femmina Dominico, Via Marines #2, Salerno, a passenger in the truck EGIMS: I was on the truck driven by Raiala Carmine on the night of April 8th 1944, coming to Salerno. When we were stopped about one kilo from Marcatello by four soldiers who said they were Canadian Police. They searched our truck and our suitcases but didn't take anything. They wanted 2000 lire but I said we didn't have any money and then they asked for 1000 lire and again I said I didn't have any money. They then let us go. As some wagons came. We went to the Carabinieri and reported the hold-up. Then the driver, myself, two Carabinieri and the Maresaiallo got into the cab of the truck. There was 7 or 8 civilians, three of four Questure got on the back. We went to S. Leonardo, turned around and came back again. On the way to S. Leonardo I saw two soldiers near

of my truck. I had put my lights off. The civies caught him. The soldier who had halted us then ran towards Salerno. I did not see any of the soldiers with guns either the first time they stopped us or the second time when the Carabinieri were with us, when the soldier ran towards Salerno I heard shots, just as I was getting out of my truck. The shots came from the other side of the truck. I don't know in which direction they were going. There was five, six or seven shots. When everything was quiet I saw someone run after the soldier that went towards Salerno. I heard two more shots. I don't know whether it was a civie or Carabinieri. Then the other soldier was brought to the cab and put in. They every-one got on as we started off. There was a Carabinieri on my right, on my left the soldier and then two civilians and the Maresalallo on the running board hanging on to the side. After travelling about 200 metres we saw two vehicles on my left. They told me to halt. It was a soldier with a peaked cap on who stopped me. I saw two soldiers lifting another, then the soldier waved me on. When we halted this time there was a civilian car behind us so one civilian tried to take the soldier who was in the cab of out truck to the civilian car but I heard the soldier ran away. I went on and stopped Marcatello, I don't know how many got off there, then we went on to Salerno. When I got out of my truck at the scene of the shooting there wasn't a Carabinieri by the front wheel. I did not see one there at all. ENDS.

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16. The owner of the wine was then located and a statement obtained, Casino Pasquale, Via Parlone #39. BEGINS: I was coming from Grotalis on the way to Salerno with a load of wine. There was three

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people in the cab and two riding behind who we were giving a ride. About two kilos from Mercatello we were stopped by three or four soldiers who said they were Canadian Military Police. I say three or four because I was asleep owing to the fact that we were going steady for three nights without sleep. As we stopped one soldier was in the center of the road. First he put up one hand then he put up two hands lengthwise. The other two soldiers were on each side of the cab and had one hand in their tunics. I did not see any firearms. They opened both doors and told us to dismount which we did. They took us behind the truck and one soldier guarded us while the other looked over the truck and took two suitcases from the top of the truck. The soldier who guarded us said wine is contraband and they wanted 2000 lire to let us pass. We said we didn't have any money then they wanted 1000 lire before they would let us go. I showed them my documents for the wine which they said was'nt legal. One soldier said that's no good. At that time three wagons came along and they stopped those. Another wagon came by our truck. They let us go then, but kept our documents for the wine. Then we went to the Maresaiallo at Mercatello and reported what happened. At that time six civilians came and complained that they had been held up by American soldiers. One Italian soldier said they took five thousand lire from him and three civilians had fifty thousand lire taken from them. The Maresaiallo knowing we had a truck told us to drive him and Carabinieri and Questure to the place we had been held up. I don't know how many got on the truck. We started for S. Leonardo and on the way I saw four soldiers sitting against a wall. One had a white belt on. I didn't see any firearms. We turned around at S. Leonardo and headed for Mercatello. I was riding on the back of the truck with me were two or three Catabinieri, two Questure and five or six civilians. At the same place we were stopped before there was a soldier in the road and stopped us the same way. I saw a truck which was pointing towards S. Leonardo and three civilians and one Italian officer. A soldier was with them, we all got off the truck, our motor was shut off but the lights were on. I then heard the Maresaiallo say to the soldier (Alto) meaning stay where you are. Just then I heard a shot. I didn't know which way it was fired from. When I heard the first shot I stayed behind the truck. I heard seven or eight more shots. When the firing stopped I saw some civilians and Carabinieri taking a soldier to the cab of our truck. The truck didn't move so I got off and went in front of the engine on the left side of the truck. I wanted to see why we weren't moving. I looked in the cab but didn't see the soldier so I got in the cab. We started off and went about 7 or 8 metres and I saw a soldier trying to stop us. We slowed down and I saw two soldiers picking up another by the arms and legs then the other soldier motioned us to go on. At this time I saw two or three army vehicles facing S. Leonardo. We proceeded to Mercatello where the Maresaiallo ordered his men off the truck and we went on to Salerno. At no time did I see the soldiers with firearms. The Maresaiallo had a pistol and sword. ENDS.

17. During the investigation this far conducted several other persons names have been learned who will now be interviewed as soon

that's no good. At that time three wagons came along and they stopped those. Another wagon came by our truck. They let us go then, but Mercatello and reported what happened. At that time six civilians came and complained that they had been held up by American soldiers. One Italian soldier said they took five thousand lire from him and three civilians had fifty thousand lire taken from them. The Maresalio knowing we had a truck told us to drive him and Carabinieri and Questure to the place we had been held up. I don't know how many got on the truck. We started for S. Leonardo and on the way I saw four soldiers sitting against a wall. One had a white belt on. I didn't see any firearms. We turned around at S. Leonardo and headed for Mercatello. I was riding on the back of the truck with me were two or three Carabinieri, two Questure and five or six civilians. At the same place we were stopped before there was a soldier in the road and stopped us the same way. I saw a truck which was pointing towards S. Leonardo and three civilians and one Italian officer. A soldier was with them, we all got off the truck, our motor was shut off but the lights were on. I then heard the Maresalio say to the soldier (Alto) meaning stay where you are. Just then I heard a shot. I didn't know which way it was fired from. When I heard the first shot I stayed behind the truck. I heard seven or eight more shots. When the firing stopped I saw some civilians and Carabinieri taking a soldier to the cab of our truck. The truck didn't move so I got off and went to the front of the engine on the left side of the truck. I wanted to see why we weren't moving. I looked in the cab but didn't see the soldier so I got in the cab. We started off and went about 7 or 8 metres and I saw a soldier trying to stop us. We slowed down and I saw two soldiers picking up another by the arms and legs then the other soldier motioned us to go on. At this time I saw two or three army vehicles facing S. Leonardo. We proceeded to Mercatello where the Maresalio ordered his men off the truck and we went on to Salerno. At no time did I see the soldiers with firearms. The Maresalio had a pistol and sword. ENDS.

17. During the investigation this far conducted several other persons names have been learned who will now be interviewed as soon as possible. As will be noted in the statements obtained to date, many, and in some cases, important discrepancies appear and a great deal of detailed enquiry is now necessary to enable me to arrive at a definite conclusion as to the individual responsible for the death of L/Cpl. Gillis.

18. In my opinion there is now sufficient evidence to warrant the arrest, on suspicion of Murder of two Carabinieri and the two Questuras. I have mentioned this point to the Officer i/c 66 S.I.E. Sec. C.M.P. but he does not contemplate such action at this time.

19. Enquiries are continuing and further reports will be submitted as soon as possible.

W. Dick
(W. Dick) Lieut.

13 Apr 44
No. 1 Cdn. L of C Provost Coy.

AD

STATEMENT BY: 20761342, Cpl. Sawyer, 310th Bomb Group (M) (Photo Section)

On the night in question, I am not sure of the date, about 2330 hours we were coming from Salerno to Casale Airfield. About a half mile out of Marcetello, we were going to St. Leucio. I saw a man lying on the left hand side of the road. The driver stopped the truck and we got out to pick him up and a civilian truck that was parked about 50 feet facing us started the motor and came towards us. A British officer tried to stop it. The driver finally did slow down about ten feet past us. Then the British officer flagged him on. The lights were on that truck at the time it was stopped and when it started, I did not see any other vehicle ahead of us and we did not pass any vehicle on the way to the hospital with the soldier we picked up. On the way to the hospital, I covered the soldier's tunic so he would be comfortable. I did not find any fire arms on him and did not see any fire arms at the place we picked him up.

~~Sworn and subscribed to before me on this 14th day of April, 1944.~~

Robert M. Sawyer

ROBERT M. SAWYER,
20761342, Cpl.,
U.S. Army

Sworn and subscribed to before me on this 14th day of April, 1944.

William C. Bramble

WILLIAM C. BRAMBLE,
Capt., U.S.,
310th Bomb Group,
Investigating Officer.

2014

4E

STATEMENT BY: 330079 Tpr. Frederick W. Andrews, 213 A.I.O. Section, Attach 13,
3/0th Bomb Group (M), U.S.A.A.F.

On the night in question, I am not sure of the date, I was coming from Salerno around midnight. There was Cpl. Sawyer and Pts. Crouch with me, while I was driving. Cpl. Sawyer told me to stop as there was a man lying on the left hand side of the road. I didn't see the man until Cpl. Sawyer told me to stop, for I was looking ahead. I pulled by the man about ten yards and stopped. Ahead of me was a big truck, with its head lights on, about 50 to 75 feet away. The truck was stopped and facing me on my left hand side of the road, heading towards Salerno. I did not see any vehicle ahead of me going the same way, nor any stopped ahead of me, heading my direction. As we were picking up the soldier, the truck that was stopped ahead of us started and came towards us. In the meantime, a British officer pulled up behind us, in a jeep, and stopped. He was assisting us and tried to stop the truck to guarantee our safety with the soldier across the road. This truck did not stop until it had passed us. We placed the soldier in my truck and Cpl. Sawyer and Pts. Crouch got in the back of the truck with the soldier. Before I moved off to proceed to the hospital, I just started the engine of my truck up when a soldier ran past my truck, blood on his face, and jumped over the wall. I tried to get him to come with us, but he kept on running, and hollering, "they got me, too." I did not see any fire arms at the place we picked up the soldier. The British officer led our way to the Hospital. I did not overtake any vehicle on the way.

F. W. Andrews

FREDRICK W. ANDREWS,
330079, 213 A.I.O. Sect.

Sworn and subscribed to before me this 14th day of April, 1944.

William C. Bumble

WILLIAM C. BRUMBLE,
Capt., A.C.,
Investigating Officer,
3/0th Bomb Group (M).

4F

STATEMENT OF: 6402757 Pte. Crouch, B., 213 A.I. Section, attached
3/0th Bomb Group (M), U.S.A.A.F.

On the night in question, I don't remember the date, I was proceeding from Salerno to Caulo Airfield with Cpl. Sawyer and Driver Andrews. When approximately five miles out of Salerno, I hear Cpl. Sawyer cry out that there was a soldier lying on the left hand side of the road. We stopped almost immediately and got out and went back to investigate. Almost at the same time, a British officer arrived on the scene. When finding that the soldier was in pretty bad shape, the officer suggested that we should take him to a hospital. While carrying him across the road to the truck, I saw a large Italian ^{TRUCK} coming towards us, which the officer tried to stop. It did so after passing about ten yards. We then put the soldier in the truck. To my knowledge, there were no fire arms on the soldier or in the area in which we found him. I did not see any other vehicles ahead of us; only the one that the British officer tried to stop. I, along with Cpl. Sawyer, rode in the back of the truck to the hospital with the injured soldier.

B. CROUCH,
6402757, 213 A.I. Sect.

B. Crouch.

Sworn and subscribed to before me this 14th day of April, 1944.

William C. Bramble

WILLIAM C. BRAMBLE,
Capt. A.C.,
Investigating Officer,
3/0th Bomb Group (M).

501

Subject:- Court of Enquiry

94 Sub Area
Phone 233
516/18/ta

3A1

29 May 44

Public Safety Sub Commission ACC (3)
PC Salerno
Cdn Sec GHQ 1 Ech
30 Cheshires
1 Can Con Depot

1492A refers.
also legal file 4136/L

1. A Court of Enquiry composed as set out below will assemble at 1 Canadian Convalescent Depot at 0900 hrs on 5 Jun 44 to inquire into and report upon an incident involving Canadian and CC RR personnel which occurred during the night 5/6 Apr 44 for the guidance of the Sub Area Commander in deciding upon his proper course of action.

PRESIDENT: Major CROSSMAN, Legal Sub Commission,
Allied Control Commission

MEMBERS: Major GREEN, PFC Salerno Province
Officer to be detailed by Cdn Sec GHQ 1 Ech
Officer to be detailed by 30 Cheshires
CC RR officer whose attendance will be arranged
by Rear HQ Allied Control Commission.

2. Major GREEN will arrange for the attendance of witnesses and provision of interpreters as necessary.

3. Evidence will be on oath and proceedings recorded on AF A 2.

4. 1 Can Con Depot will provide accommodation, manuals, stationery etc.

Approved until
12 June 1944.

[Signature]

TGS.....B
HB

2 Maj
DAA & QMG

REAR HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
Public Safety Sub-Commission.

File 2A

ACC/1403/3/13.

20 May 1944.

[Handwritten mark]

SUBJECT : Shooting Incident at Mercatello (Salerno).

TO : Headquarters A.A.I.

*1A
13/54*

1. Reference is made to your letter AAI/5069/17/A(PS) dated 13th May 1944 addressed to the Executive Commissioner A.C.C.
2. Arrangements have been made with the Officer Commanding 94 Sub-Area to hold a full enquiry into the conduct of the GCHH who were concerned in the shooting incident between Canadian Soldiers and Carabinieri at Mercatello, Salerno, on 6th April 1944.
3. The result of the enquiry will be communicated to you in due course.

File (Legal) #136/2

[Handwritten signature]

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

AEW/ls.

refer

SUBJECT: Shooting Incident between Carabinieri
and Canadian soldier.

CONFIDENTIAL.

H.Q. ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY.

AAI/5069/17/A(PS).

18 May 44.

Executive Commissioner,
ACC

1. It is alleged that No L-28022 Pte. CHARENTE S.J. of Can. Provos. Corps, No 1 Co. was shot and killed on 6 Apr 44. at MEBICATSLIA by members of the Carabinieri.

2. It is requested that this case may be investigated and careful consideration given to the question of whether criminal charges should be brought against the Carabinieri concerned.

3. Will you please keep this HQ informed of the progress of the case.

HEADQUARTERS
17 MAG. 1944
A. C. C.

JDP/JLR

Copy to 'A' No 3 District
Pro (papers returned herewith, your
Pro 53 of 6 May refers)

[Signature]
Brigadier.
D.A.G.

5007

1342