

ACC

10000/143/707

ARREST OF
MANNER OF
MAY - JULY

10000/143/707

ARREST OF ALLIED NATIONALS BY ITALIANS,
MANNER OF
MAY - JULY 1944

Acc/14073/3/PS

10

Arrest of Allied Nationals by Italians
Manner of

Folio Ref 10 Date

~~Index Ref 10 Date~~

Direct of Allied Nationals by Nations
 Manner of

Folio Ref No Date
~~2000-10-10~~

10000 / 143 / 707

THIS FOLDER
 CONTAINS PAPERS
 FROM MAY 44
 TO JUL 44
 CATALOGUE

Private Sheet.

Letter

1

Forwarded for information. This Sub-Commission has called for a report from the C.I. 23.33, respecting the conduct of the C.I. 23.33, please see 12.

Letter, Please return to legal

Shore

John E. Young, Colonel,
Deputy Chief, Public
Safety Sub-Commission.

6076

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
Public Safety Sub-Commission
APO 394

14A

file

20 July 1944

ACC/14073/3/PS

SUBJECT: Allied Ex-PWs - Alleged ill-treatment

TO : R.C. & M.C. Section (through Admin Section)

1. Reference you letters 58/14/CA dated June 6, 1944 and 58/20/CA dated June 22 1944
2. Inclosed find a report submitted by the Commanding General of the GCRB.

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

4271

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394
ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION

ACC/14073/3/PS

24 Jul 1944

SUBJECT: Alleged Ill-treatment of EX-POW's.

TO : RC & MG Section.

Reference 58/14/GA of 6 Jun 44 and 58/20/GA of 22 Jun.

It appears that there is much to be said in favour of the action taken by the CORR. It also does not appear that the rights of the prisoners were denied them, and in view of the fact that the prisoners have been released, it is recommended that AAI be advised to drop the matter.


R.R. CRIPPS, Colonel,
for Acting Head Admin Section.

Encls: 3 copies of report of HQ CORR of Liberated Italy
dated 15 Jul 1944.

4270

Translation RV.

Hq. CC.RR. of Liberated Italy.

N. 231/4 R.P.

Rome, 15 July 1944.

Answer to the letter of ACC/14601/PS 3/6/1944

Subject : Arrest of Greek citizens by CC.RR.

To : A.C.C. Public Safety Sub-Commission Rome.

In answer to the demand of the above mentioned letter, the "Legione" of the CC.RR. of Bari states the following:

About 1330 hrs the 4th of May 1944, after the train Bari-Napoli N.3536, had started from the railway-station of Brindisi, the Infantry Captain Guido Bisognosi, of the Italian military Command, Bari, followed by the Cpl. Turco Pietro of the CC.RR., entered into the car reserved for civilians, to perform his Military Police duties. While he was proceeding towards the head of the train, in the fourth car, he noticed two soldiers who seemed to belong to the Allied troops in the company of a woman who was leaning with both her arms on the window and her body stretched lengthwise and obstructing the whole passage-way.

When they asked permission to pass, the two Allied soldiers did not move, so that the officer and the corporal had to squeeze their way through. Meanwhile in the fifth car two Italian mislocated soldiers were stopped. The officer ordered Cpl. Turco to accompany them to the car reserved for soldiers, and to deliver them to the Carabinieri.

Corporal Turco having approached the two Allied soldiers and the woman (who at the moment was embraced with one of the soldiers, identified as Christodoulou Pavlos di Michele and di Maria Terbinea, born in Petrasse on February 1922) asked again permission to pass but they responded with hostile threats and gestures.

The corporal notwithstanding all this, ignored everything and continued to ask for passage so that he could carry on the performance of his duties. They answered - "what duties" - "take a seat" and threatened him with close fists as he went by.

The corporal being obliged to report to his Captain, had to go by the same point where he again asked permission to pass. This caused great resentment and opposition on the part of the soldiers. Cpl. Turco then asked the woman for identification-papers (later identified as - Caggiano Anna di Pasquale and di Catone Margherita, born in Atene Lucanio (Salerno) on the 24th of July 1918 and residing at Via Braidello, Bari) and at the same time asked her to enter another compartment so that she would not become involved in any incident. But the woman opposed said request and her two companions answered "she must remain" - "you must leave" "go away you fool". They spit at his face and attempted to strike him with their fists. Corporal Turco having been attacked unexpectedly, slapped Christodoulou Pavlos in the face, while the other friend (identified later as Bojuerhb Tainta di Giorgio and di Saveria Michailove, born in Montenegro on 17/11/1913) threw himself

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upon the corporal.

The woman (Caggiano) then shouted words which attacked the honor and prestige of the CC.RR.

The corporal seeing that he was in a precarious position and not wishing to make use of his pistol began to withdraw so that he could get nearer to the car where he had left the 2 Carabinieri. While he was falling back Stjepic Gospoda (di Golbo and di Giovanni Vucjevic, born on 26 August 1925 at Rocche di Cattaro (Yugoslavia), residing in Bari, via de' Romiti 250) and joined the aggressors, shouting in Italian - "Villains! Villains! We have killed many of them! . . . one of us, 2000 RR. dead!"

Meanwhile the two soldiers, supported by the two women, continued to kick and spit at the corporal until the corporal succeeded to free himself by jumping off the train, pursued by the two soldiers and women, as it was about to stop at the Fasano Station.

The corporal took out his pistol and invited the three to get back into the car while the Carabinieri Fassante and Grasso joined him.

Notwithstanding this, the two soldiers rushed upon the corporal and the 2 Carabinieri and a violent struggle ensued which caused great reaction on the part of the passengers who had become enraged at the soldiers and women, as a result of the insulting remarks made against the Italians and CC.RR. During the fight Christodoulou suffered injuries recoverable within 5 days.

While the crowd of passengers was gathered around, the two Allied soldiers continued to shout "dogs of Italian!" It was then that the station Master signalled the train to depart. Having seen the passengers on the train reassembling and manifesting aggressive action against the 2 Allied soldiers, Captain Bisogni ordered the train to continue on its way to Bari, while the four a/m persons were confined by the Carabinieri in a compartment of the train.

When the train arrived at the Bari station, while Captain Bisogni was reporting the incident to the Military Command at that station, the corporal made them alight from the train and immediately informed the English Military Command in Bari, who after hearing what had occurred, approved the action taken by the Carabinieri and ordered the corporal to accompany the four prisoners to the Italian Police.

The four were brought to CC.RR. station in Bari and then to the Bari main Hq., and ultimately transferred to the local Judiciary Prison at the disposal of the "R. Procura del Re" (King's Prosecutor), which was informed of the case through a report submitted by the CC.RR. main Hq. in Bari. The report contained the following conclusions:

Christodoulou Pavlos and Bojnerko Taint - assaulting and offering resistance to public officials; Stjepic Gospoda and Caggiano Anna - interfering with public officers in performance of their duty, as provided under art. 336-338 and 341 C.P.C.

Based upon the information received in regard to the action taken by the Italian Judiciary Authorities, it seems that "Procuratore del Re of Bari (King's Prosecutor) continued to interrogate the prisoners on the 8th of the same month, using an interpreter, Stjepic Gospoda, who understood both languages.

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Prior to said interrogation, an Allied Officer asked the director of the "Judiciary" Prison in Bari to confer with the prisoners for military reasons, and even though under the Italian law, it was not permissible, the "Procuratore del Re" of Bari granted him permission.

On the 9th of the same month the records were forwarded to the R. Procura del Re in Brindisi, but the prisoners did not leave because in the meanwhile an Allied Officer had verbally communicated to the "Procuratore del Re" of Bari, that the matter involved two prisoners of war. The "Procuratore del Re" asked Major Simcock of the A.C.C. in Bari, for a written statement to that effect.

Upon the receipt of letter, the "Procuratore del Re" of Bari, notwithstanding he was unauthorized to do so, according to the Italian law, ordered the immediate release of the two soldiers to the Allied Authorities and also informed the "Procuratore del Re" in Brindisi by telegraphic message about said matter.

The director of the Judiciary Prison in Bari has stated that the 2 Allied soldiers had asked to see representative from their respective governments and that he immediately contacted the English Command of the 315 F.S.S. in Bari.

After four days, the two soldiers were interviewed by Eng. Rex from C.I.C. Office.

The hungerstrike by Christodoulou Pavlos lasted only 1 day. He refused soup but ate all of his bread ration.

The judicial authorities in Brindisi, have started proceedings against the two women, Stjepic Gospeda and Caggiane Anna.

The soldiers and 2 Women were released in Bari between 12th and 16th of May 1944.

Commanding General
- Giuseppe Fiàche -

4261

RISERVATA PERSONALE

COMANDO ARMA CARABINIERI REALI DELL'ITALIA LIBERATA
UFFICIO SERVIZIO E SITUAZIONE

N. 231/4 di prot. R.P. Roma, li 15 luglio 1944

Risposta al la lettera del AGC/14601/n. ^{PS} 3/6/1944 Allegati

OGGETTO Arresto di cittadini greci da parte dei Carabinieri Reali.

A/LA COMMISSIONE ALLEATA DI CONTROLLO
 -Sottocommissione per la Pubblica Sicurezza- ROMA

In merito a quanto chiesto colla lettera cui si risponde, la legione CC.RR. di Bari, riferisce quanto segue:

Verso le ore 13,30 del 4 maggio 1944, dopo l'avvenuta partenza del treno bisettimanale Bari-Napoli n. 3536 dalla stazione ferroviaria di Brindisi, il capitano di fanteria Guido Bisogni, del comando militare italiano di stazione di Bari, accompagnato dall'appuntato dei CC.RR. Turco Pietro, si portò nelle vetture riservate ai viaggiatori civili che trovavansi in quel convoglio, per eseguire le rituali operazioni di controllo militare. Mentre procedeva verso la testa del treno, arrivato quasi alla fine della quarta vettura, notò due militari - in apparenza dell'esercito alleato - in compagnia di una donna, che appoggiati con le braccia allo sportello e con tutto il corpo indietro spinto fino a toccare la porta dello scompartimento prospiciente, ostruivano quasi completamente il corridoio di passaggio.

Chiesto permesso, i due militari alleati non si mossero affatto, tanto che l'ufficiale e l'appuntato riuscirono, a stento e di fianco, a procedere oltre.

Intanto nella quinta vettura vennero fermati due militari italiani sbandati, che dietro ordine dell'ufficiale, l'appuntato Turco accompagnò nella vettura riservata ai militari, per consegnarli ai carabinieri Passante Pasquale e Grasso Genna-

2 -

ro che facevano parte della scorta CC.BB. sul treno.

Nell'eseguire tale incombenza, l'appuntato Turco giunto nuovamente vicino ai due militari alleati ed alla donna - che in quel momento era abbracciata con uno di essi e precisamente al Christodoulou Pavlos di Michele e di Maria Zerbinos, nato a Patrasso nel febbraio 1922 - e chiesto di nuovo permesso, venne fatto oggetto a rimostreanze ostili con gesti poco riguardoosi.

Ciò non pertanto l'appuntato non raccolse tali provocazioni, chiedendo solo di poter passare, dovendo compiere un atto del suo servizio, al che le suddette persone seccate gli risposero: "Ma che servizio, sedete! sedete!", minacciandolo alle spalle, mentre egli si allontanava, con pugni tesi e facendogli le corna.

L'appuntato Turco, dovendo ancora ritornare sui suoi passi per rimettersi a disposizione del capitano Bisogni, giunto ancora vicino alle persone in questione, fu costretto a chieder loro di lasciarlo passare, ciò che suscitò in esse un vivo risentimento e la manifesta volontà di opporsi alla formulata sua richiesta. Il Turco chiese allora alla donna, identificata poi per Caggiano Anna di Pasquale e di Catone Mergherita, nata ad Atene Lucenio (Salerno) il 24 luglio 1918 e residente in Via Braidello di Beri, casalinga, i documenti di riconoscimento, invitandola nello stesso tempo ad entrare nello scompartimento e ciò per evitare che alla si trovasse coinvolta nell'incidente, che i due stranieri chiaramente dimostravano di voler provocare.

La donna però si oppose recisamente a tale richiesta e con essa i suoi due compagni, che inveirono contro il Turco, con le frasi: "Lei deve restare! Sei solo tu che devi andartene!... Vattene via cornuto!" e sputando ripetuta-

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4260

3 -

mente in viso al graduato, che tentarono colpire anche con pugni.

L'appuntato Turco così improvvisamente aggredito, li precedette nell'azione, colpendo con uno schiaffo al viso il Christodoulou Pavlos, mentre il suo compagno identificato poi per Bojuerhb Tainth di Giorgio e di Severia Michailove, nato in Montenegro il 17/11/1913, gli si avventava addosso.

In tale circostanza la Caggiano, spalleggiando i due stranieri, pronunciò frasi inconsulte e ledenti l'onore e il prestigio dei CC.RR..

Il Turco, vistosi a mal partito onde non ricorrere all'uso immediato delle armi, cominciò ad indietreggiare allo scopo di avvicinarsi al vagone in cui aveva lasciato gli altri due carabinieri in servizio di scorta e che nell'occasione avrebbero potuto così dargli man forte. Mentre così faceva tenendo a bada i due stranieri che tentarono anche di disarmarlo, uscì da uno scompartimento la Stjepica Gospada fu Golko e di Giovanna Vuchovic, nata il 26 agosto 1925 a Bocche di Cattaro (Jugoslavia) residente in Bari Via de' Romita n. 250, che si unì ai tre, gridando in italiano: "Vigliacchi....Vigliacchi! ne abbiamo ammazzati molti!...uno di noi, venti carabinieri morti".

Intanto i due stranieri continuavano a sputare addosso all'appuntato ed a colpirlo con calci, spalleggiati dalle due donne, finchè esso raggiunto lo sportello ed essendo il treno in procinto di fermarsi alla stazione di Fesano, riuscì a divincolarsi saltando a terra seguito dagli stranieri e solo della donna slava.

Allora l'appuntato Turco estratta la pistola invitò tutti a risalire, mentre i carabinieri Fessente e Grasso lo raggiun-

- 4 -

gevano per dargli eventuale aiuto.

I due stranieri malgrado ciò, si avventarono sull'appuntato ed i due carabinieri venendo a vivace colluttazione, mentre i viaggiatori stessi, reagivano in difesa per l'offesa fatta agli italiani ed ai carabinieri.

Nella colluttazione generale seguitane, il Christodoulou riportava ferite laceri contusa alla regione occipitale sinistra ed escorizzazioni multiple sulla mano destra, dichiarate guaribili in 5 giorni.

Mentre la folla dei viaggiatori faceva ressa attorno ai contendenti, i due militari alleati continuarono a gridare: "Can di italiani!....ce la vedremo" e fu allora che il capo stazione dette il segnale di partenza al treno, sollecitato in ciò dal capitano Bisogni. E poiché si formarono nuovamente degli assembramenti di viaggiatori, che manifestavano intenzioni aggressive contro i due militari alleati, il capitano Bisogni fece proseguire subito il treno per Bari, mentre le quattro persone coinvolte nei fatti sopra descritti, vennero rinchiusi, ad opera dei carabinieri, in stato di fermo, in uno scompartimento del convoglio.

All'arrivo alla stazione di Bari, mentre il capitano Bisogni si portava immediatamente a quel comando militare di stazione per riferire in merito, l'appuntato Turco fece scendere sul marciapiede i due stranieri e le due donne, informando subito e succintamente il comando della polizia inglese della stazione ferroviaria di Bari, che approvando l'operato dei carabinieri di scorta al treno, invitò il Turco ad accompagnare i quattro fermati alla polizia italiana, per gli ulteriori incombenzi di competenza.

Pertanto gli stessi furono portati alla stazione CC.RR. di Bari scalo e quindi a quella di Bari principale, da dove vennero, nello stesso giorno, tradotti alle locali carceri

- 5 -

giudiziarie e messi a disposizione della R.Procura del Re di Bari - informata dell'occorso con rapporto giudiziario n.230 del 5 successivo della stazione CC.RM. di Bari principale, siccome responsabili:

il Christodoulou Pavlos ed il Bojuerhb Tainth di violenza, resistenza ed oltraggio a pubblici ufficiali;

la Stiepcie Gaspada e la Caggiano Anna di oltraggio a pubblici ufficiali art.336-338 e 341 C.P.C.-

Per quel che è stato possibile apprendere circa l'azione svolta dall'autorità giudiziaria italiana nei fatti in questione, risulta che il signor Procuratore del Re di Bari ricevuto il rapporto giudiziario della stazione CC.RM. di Bari principale, eseguì l'interrogatorio dei detenuti nella giornata dell'8, assumendo come interprete la Stiepcie Gaspada, che conosceva bene entrambe le lingue (greca-slava ed italiana).

Prima del detto interrogatorio effettivamente un ufficiale alleato aveva chiesto al Direttore del Carcere Giudiziario di Bari di conferire con i detenuti per esclusive ragioni militari e benché ciò, per la legge italiana, non fosse consentito, data la prevalenza delle asserite necessità belliche, il sig. Procuratore del Re di Bari lo autorizzò.

Il giorno 9 gli atti processuali furono rimessi, per competenza, alla R.Procura del Re di Brindisi, ma i detenuti non furono fatti partire subito, perchè nel frattempo un ufficiale alleato, aveva verbalmente comunicato al sig. Procuratore del Re di Bari, che si trattava di due prigionieri di guerra.

A detto ufficiale alleato, maggiore Simcock dell'ufficio della Commissione Alleata di Controllo di Bari, venne risposto che occorreva una comunicazione scritta in tal senso.

Quando tale comunicazione pervenne al sig. Procuratore

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del Re di Bari, pur essendo egli incompetente per legge ad eseguire atti esecutivi, ordinò l'immediata consegna dei due detenuti Christodoulou Pavlos e Bojuerhb Tainth alle Autorità Alleate, perchè procedessero esse a loro carico, dandone di ciò comunicazione telegrafica al sig. Procuratore del Re di Brindisi.

Anche il direttore delle Carceri Giudiziarie di Bari ha riferito che i due militari alleati sopra detti, che erano stati assegnati in una stessa cella, gli chiesero effettivamente di vedere i rappresentanti dei loro rispettivi governi, e tale loro richiesta fu telefonicamente da lui trasmessa al comando inglese della 315 F.S.S. di Bari.

Solo dopo quattro giorni, i due arrestati, vennero visitati dall'ingegner Fox addetto all'ufficio C.I.C..

Lo sciopero della fame da parte del Christodoulou Pavlos, durato solo un giorno, si limitò alla rinuncia della minestrina (che secondo lui era amara perchè fatta con cicorie e patate) mentre però consumava regolarmente la sua razione di pane.

L'autorità giudiziaria di Brindisi, sta ora procedendo solo a carico delle donne Stiepee Gospada e Caggiano Anna, per il reato di oltraggio a pubblici ufficiali.

Esse unitamente ai due militari alleati, furono scarcerate tra il 12 ed il 16 maggio u.s. in Bari.

IL GENERALE COMANDANTE

- Giuseppe Pièche -

4261

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

13th July, 1944

AGC/14601/2/PS

SUBJECT : Arrest of Greek subjects by CC.RR.

TO : Commanding General CC.RR.

1. Reference our letter AGC/14601/41/PS dated June 3rd, 1944.

2. Will you please expedite enquiries and inform us as soon as possible.

PAUL G. KIRM,
Colonel, Inf.
Chief, Public Safety
Sub-Commission

CEAH/hgd

4260

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
REGION 2

REF: 2201/70/A

5 July 1944

SUBJECT : Escaped Allied POWs - In re Christodoulou
TO : Internees & Displaced Persons Subcommittee
c/o ACC Main - Rome
copy to : C.I.O., Legal Subcommittee ACC, Salerno. ✓

1. Ref IDP/934/106-2 of 30.5.44, the Procuratore del Re Bari was immediately asked for a full inquiry and explanation.
2. A copy of his reply which was at last received, is attached, and since this was considered entirely unsatisfactory, he was instructed to send another. He has since notified that he has taken a months holiday.
3. Since in this and in other respects, this official has been found highly unsatisfactory, application has been made to the CIO for his removal from office.

John T. ZELLARS
Col. Inf.
Regional Commissioner

42.9

(Translated copy)

19.6.44

N° 4344

Subject: Proceeding against Christodoulou Pavlis and others.
To: L.O. Bari.

In reply to your note of the 14 June, I have the honour of communicating that on the 7 May a denouncement against Christo Doulou Paolo - Boynuhb Taruth - Stiepen Gaspada - Caggiano Anna, was received in this Office, persons accused of resisting with violence to three soldiers of the Carabinieri. This Office proceeded to the interrogatory of the prisoners and then the papers were sent to the Procuratore del Re of Brindisi for competence on the 9 May, because the crime happened at the Railway Station of Fasano.

On the 11 May this Office received a communication of your Legal Office, stating that the first two accused are prisoners of war, and, as such, make part of the Allied Forces. And as they had not yet been transferred to Brindisi, I disposed for them to be handed over to the Command of the Allied Forces competent for their trial.

If your Office requires more detailed particulars, you will have to apply to the Procuratore of Brindisi.

The Procuratore del Re

(sgd) C. Tallarigo

4250

SECRET

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

ACC/14073/3/23

4th July, 1944

SUBJECT : Greek Subjects.

TO : Executive Commissioner.

1. Reference your 314/154/0A dated 1 July, 1944.
2. No definite information is available concerning the 7 Greek subjects mentioned in copy signal from AFHQ.
3. It is known that:
 - a) During July 1943, 13 Greek subjects were in prison at Viba Valentia.
 - b) During August 1943 71 Greek subjects were in prison at Presida.
 - c) 25 Allied soldiers including Greeks and Yugoslavs were held in jail by the Italian authorities at Catanzaro. They were released by forward troops of 1 Canadian Div. in Sept. 1943.
4. Regarding 1 (c). Two of the Greeks concerned were:
 - a) PAULSON John. Canadian Subject of Greek origin. British Secret Service Agent (now with HQ 13 Corps)
 - b) PUMORA Avramdio. Greek army officer and agent (now with 13 Corps)

It is possible that these two men might be in a position to give further information concerning the 7 Greeks subject of enquiry.

5. If the names of the persons concerned were circulated by the Ministry of Grace and Justice to all prisons, it might be possible to obtain further information from prison records. This has not been done in view of the SECRET nature of this enquiry.

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

PJW/hgd

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS,
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION,
AFC 394.

14073/3

Regional Control and Military Government Section.
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18

Ref: 314/154/C1.

2nd July 1944.

8A

SUBJECT: Greek Subjects.

TO : Security Branch.

There is attached for your information copy
signal received from A.F.H.Q. with regard to the arrest
and imprisonment of certain Greek subjects. Will you
please investigate and report as soon as possible.

E. H. May

HERMAN S. PETER,
Colonel, Deputy
Executive Commissioner.

JSB/JG.

Copy to: Public Safety S/Com. } Can you give any information?
Displaced Persons S/Com. } 1950

COPY ----- INCOMING MESSAGE.

SECRET.

2625

TO : AOC MAIN

FROM : AMHQ SIGNED SACRED

REF. NO : 066599

DATE and TIME OF ORIGIN: JUNE 30 1844

SIGNAL MESSAGE CENTER No. 82/01

CLASSIFICATION : SECRET

PRECEDENCE : DEFERRED

OFFICE OF ORIGIN : CITE..PHLIA

UNDERSTOOD HERE THAT FOLLOWING GREEK SUBJECTS WERE ARRESTED AND
SENT PRISONS OR CONCENTRATION CAMPS ITALY AS RESULT THEIR PRO-ALLIED ACTIVITIES.
SGT. MAJOR VAFIADIS ALEX. AFKOURASTOS NICOLAS. SAKELLARIOU CONST.
NICOLOPOULOS HARAL. AHI. EX ATHENS. STROUMOUKAKIS PEN EX PIRAEUS. BOUAS
B EX KALAMIS ? FILIPPOU CONST EX MACEDONIA. REQUEST YOU SUPPLY ANY
INFORMATION IN YOUR POSSESSION CONCERNING THEM.

AOC MAIN DIST:

Action.....C A Br.....2
Info.....Dep C.G.
Sec Br
File
Float.....2

4250

DATE AND TIME OF RECEIPT....JULY 01 0545

SECRET.

REAR HEAD HATERS
MIND CONTROL COMMISSION
Public Safety Sub-Commission
APO 394

AGC/14531/41/P2

1st July, 1944

SUBJECT : Alleged ill-treatment of Allied Ex-POWs

TO : SC & IS Section.

Reference: AGC/58/28/CA dated 22 June 1944.

This matter is still under investigation by CG, IS who have been requested to expedite their enquiries.

A report will be forwarded to you as soon as one is received from CG, IS.

Paul S. Kiri
PAUL S. KIRI,
Colonel, Inf.
Chief, Public Safety
Sub-Commission.

4254



Reg 14073/3
Riservato personale

COMANDO ARMA CARABINIERI REALI DELL'ITALIA LIBERATA
UFFICIO SERVIZIO E SITUAZIONE

N.56/28-2 di prot. Ris.Pers.

P.M.135, 11 28 giugno 1944

Risposta al foglio del 23 corr. n.ACC/14073/3/PS Allegati n.

OGGETTO: Arresto di cittadini greci da parte dei CC.RR.

A/LA COMMISSIONE ALLEATA DI CONTROLLO
Sottocommissione per la Pubblica Sicurezza S A L E R N O

La risposta al foglio n°ACC./14001/41/PS del
3 giugno corrente, subirà ancora il ritardo di qual
che giorno essendosi resi necessari degli accerta-
menti laboriosi in località varie.

4254
P. I L G E N E R A L E C O M A N D A N T E
- Giuseppe Pièche -
IL COLONNELLO CAPO DI S.M.
-Romano dalla Chiesa-

Romano dalla Chiesa

TRANSLATION

CC.RR. COMMAND IN LIBERATED ITALY

56/28-2

28 June 1944

6A

SUBJECT : The arresting of Greek citizens by CC.RR

TO : Allied Control Commission
Public Safety Sub-Commission

The reply to ACC/14601/41/PS dated 3 June 44 shall be delayed a few days, because laborious investigations must be made in various localities.

for the Commanding General
Giuseppe Pieche
Col Romano dalla Chiesa

4250

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

File 5A.

14073/3
ACC/~~14601~~/41/PS

23 June 1944

SUBJECT: Arrest of Greek Subjects by CC.RR

TO : CC, CC.RR

Will you please expedite reply to our ACC/14601/41/PS
dated 3 June 1944.

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

425

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

Ref/58/20/CA

22 June 1944

SUBJECT: Allied Ex-B.O.W's Alleged ill-treatment.

TO : Admin Section (for Public Safety, Legal and
Interior Sub-Commissions.)

Reference is made to this Headquarters letter
58/14/CA of 6 June 44. Can any information be supplied
now re the alleged ill-treatment?

NORMAN E. FISKE
Colonel
Deputy Executive
Commissioner

Copy to:

AAI (Your 5063/42/A(PS) of 20 June refers)

4250

Lt. Col. Wilson

Plend.

PA 7/6 (3A)

For Signature of
agrees to

→ Major Ballance

✓ Med. 1st Lt.

See also
these notes
with - this

BF 23/6/44

not

have to write to BAF

✓ there is a lot of translation
(etc)

1st June 1944

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

9393

6 June 1944

Ref/58/14/CA

SUBJECT: Allied Ex-P.Ws. - Alleged Ill-treatment.

TO : Admin Section (for action of Public Safety, Legal,
Interior Sub-Commissions).

1. Attached are copies of correspondence with H.Q., A.A.I. enclosing reports of ill-treatment to one CHRISTODOULOU, Pavlos (Greek) and TATIC Vojeslav (Yugoslav), both escaped prisoners of war, travelling from Naples to Bari under A.C.C. movement orders.

2. Will you please have investigations instituted and report (in triplicate), in accordance with H.Q., A.A.I.'s. letter of 23 May 44.

NORMAN E. FISKE
Colonel,
Deputy Executive
Commissioner.

HE/PRE.

Please make inquiries and if investigation discloses justification make the strongest representations with a view to these responsible being suitably dealt with (incl. the particulars) and to ensure that persons travelling with proper A.C.C. papers are not improperly detained, and that ^{allied interests} ~~persons~~ whom it is found necessary to arrest are handed over at once to the proper authority. Please ~~also~~ ask for a report of the action taken against the persons concerned. Legal has a copy of the correspondence and ~~has~~ ^{may} a certified true copy of the same. ~~has not been informed.~~ PTO.

8 JUN 1944

Please prepare report asked for for VP's signature



14073/3 12 July 1944

T.P.S.

Have you received the facts
& report on this case yet -
esp. as to disposal!

W. H. H.

For VP H. H. Sec

Sgt. BARBER

Please bring up 2.5 June 44
 Check up good on 9 2 July 1944

Matter is in hand - but report has not been
 returned to PS - will be expected for about 2 weeks
 NH.

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
Public Safety Sub-Commission

Relio for action/information

X C.P.S. *PSK*

P.O.P.S.

A. Officer.

X Police. *By Mr.*

Prisons.

Fire & C.D.

Regn. & Licensing.

✓ Adm. Officer.

Remarks. *It is our last action*

on this matter

.....

.....

COPY.

SUBJECT:- Allied Ex Ps/W.

2B
HQ ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY

AAI/5063742/A(PS)

2 June 44.

Executive Commissioner A.C.C.

Reference this HQ letter AAI/5063742/A(PS) of 20 May and your letter 58/8/CA dated 30 May.

Herewith, for your information, copy of letter A2/431 dated 10 May received from Greek Representative to the Allied PW Repatriation Unit and copy of letter from CSDIC (Sub Centre East) No.2 District No. CSDIC/E/2/8/0544 dated 15 May.

Brigadier
D.A.G.

AH/IM.

4241

COPY

26
Bari 16 May 1944

Greek Representative

• W Sub-Commission
D.P. Sub-Commission
42/434

TO: PW and DP Sub-Commission

SUBJECT:-- Escaped Greek PW arrested by the Italian Police

I have the honour to bring to your knowledge that on 5 instant CHRISTODOULOU PAVLOS, escaped Greek PW was travelling on the train running from NAPLES to BARI. He had been instructed by the AGC to report at BARI to the Greek representative. At a station near FALLESSE an incident occurred following which Carabinieri who were travelling on the same train intervened and handled CHRISTODOULOU, had him arrested and escorted him handcuffed (CHRISTODOULOU was in uniform) to the Carabinieri. A warrant of arrest was made out and signed by an AGC (copy is herewith attached) and CHRISTODOULOU was placed in the local jail where he remained until 12 May 1944.

On 9 inst the LC I & DP sub-commission informed me that a Greek subject was detained in the local jail and showed me the documents which were in his hands i.e.

- (a) Movement order issued in CHRISTODOULOU's name by the AGC
- (b) CHRISTODOULOU's identity document.

(These documents have been handed to the LC by an American civilian who had visited the above named detainee at the jail).

Major SMOCK (the LC) communicated immediately with the local Allied Authorities and the Prosecutor (Procuratore del Re) and for four days exhausted all endeavours to have CHRISTODOULOU released from jail. In the meantime, the detainee seeing that he was not allowed to communicate with either the Allied Authorities or the local Greek representative, went on hunger strike. In any other place or country even an ordinary prisoner would have been allowed to communicate with his lawyers.

The prosecutor stubbornly refused to give way to Major SMOCK's demand although the latter pointed out that:-

- (a) The detainee was travelling with a proper movement order issued by the Allied Forces to which he belonged.
- (b) The detainee was in uniform.
- (c) He had been ill-treated by members of the Italian Police Forces.
- (d) No interrogation had been carried out for five whole days after CHRISTODOULOU had been imprisoned, which is contrary to any principles of any civilized country.
- (e) His arrest was not notified to any Allied authorities.
- (f) He (The Prosecutor) had forbidden to the Greek representative to communicate with the detainee.
- (g) The detainee was interrogated in an office, in Italian, without any interpreter being present, whilst detainee hardly understood or spoke Italian.

42/40

at a station near the same train intervened unhandled CHRISTODOULOU, had him were travelling on the same train intervened unhandled CHRISTODOULOU, had him arrested and escorted him handcuffed (CHRISTODOULOU was in uniform) to the Carabinieri. A warrant of arrest was made out and signed by an MCO (copy is herewith attached) and CHRISTODOULOU was placed in the local jail where he remained until 12 May 1944.

On 9 inst the IC I & D2 sub-commission informed me that a Greek subject was detained in the local jail and showed me the documents which were in his hands i.e.

- (a) Movement order issued in CHRISTODOULOU's name by the ACC
- (b) CHRISTODOULOU's identity document.

(These documents have been handed to the IC by an American civilian who had visited the above named detainee at the jail).

Major SIMON (the IC) communicated immediately with the local Allied Authorities and the Prosecutor (Procuratore del Re) and for four days exhausted all endeavours to have CHRISTODOULOU released from jail. In the meantime, the detainee seeing that he was not allowed to communicate with either the Allied Authorities or the local Greek representative, went on hunger strike. In any other place or country even an ordinary prisoner would have been allowed to communicate with his lawyers.

The prosecutor stubbornly refused to give way to Major SIMON's demand although the latter pointed out that:-

- (a) The detainee was travelling with a proper movement order issued by the Allied Forces to which he belonged.
- (b) The detainee was in uniform.
- (c) He had been ill-treated by members of the Italian Police Force.
- (d) No interrogation had been carried out for five whole days after CHRISTODOULOU had been imprisoned, which is contrary to any principles of any civilized country.
- (e) His arrest was not notified to any Allied Authorities.
- (f) He (The Prosecutor) had forbidden to the Greek Representative to communicate with the detainee.

(g) The detainee was interrogated in an office, in Italian, without any interpreter being present, whilst detainee hardly understood or spoke Italian.

The Prosecutor stated that it was not in his competence to release the detainee but it seems it was in his competence to keep him in jail.

The attitude adopted by the Bari Prosecutor transgressed every principle of justice and his obligations towards the Allied Authorities. His attitude towards an escaped PW who had just crossed the lines can only be explained by the fact that he personally as well as the local Italian Authorities have tried to ignore Allied instructions and showed their hatred against individuals who ought to have found respect and good treatment.

The attitude adopted by the Italian Authorities, undermining the orders issued by the Allied Authorities, may hamper the endeavour to trace any Greek escaped PW or displaced persons in future.

- 2 -

This attitude is also contrary to the principle for which the Democracies are fighting. Freedom and Justice, which can only be achieved if the Allied Authorities made an example of this case to prevent it becoming precedent and took action against the Bari Prosecutor, the MOC who signed the warrant of arrest and those who kept the escaped Greek PW in jail for over the normal 24 hours without allowing him to communicate with anyone.

The Greek Representative
to the PW Sub-Commission
and I & DF Sub-Commission

(sgd) ? ? ? ? ?

for

COMMANDER JOHN ELLISSIMO

Copy to Greek Representation
to the Advisory Council for Italy.

attached

- 1) Copy of special report of GNDIC
- 2) Warrant of the arrest of the Italian Carabinieri

COPI

SUBJECT: Special Report

SECRET

OSDIO (Sub Centre East)
No. 2 Distdot CMT

OSDIO/E/2/8/0544

To: Major SLEDOCK DESS

Copy to: Greek Representative PW Sub-Commission
Yugoslav Representative PW Sub-Commission
HQ OSDIO CMT

The following information has been obtained from interrogation of:-

- (a) Pavlos CHRISTODOULOU (Greek)
 - (b) Vojislav TATIC (Yugoslav)
- who were interrogated at your request on 12 May 44.

1. PARABLE

Both sources were former POW who had escaped and crossed over to Allied occupied territory. The Allied Authorities in Naples gave them a movement order, placed them on a train and instructed them to travel to BARI and report to the representatives of their respective governments there. During the voyage the incident described below occurred and both sources were arrested by the Italian authorities, handcuffed and placed in BARI jail, where they remained from 5 to 12 May 44.

2. STATEMENT

Sources left NAPLES on 2 May 44 by the 1600 hrs train, which was crowded.

They had to stand in the corridor. A few km from BARI, while CHRISTODOULOU was conversing with a young Italian woman, both leaning out of the window, a Carabinieri pushed past him, without apologising or asking to be allowed to pass.

CHRISTODOULOU was annoyed and said literally: "no buono, perche non fare costi", expressing with his hands that the Carabinieri ought first to have asked him (CHRISTODOULOU) to make way. The Carabinieri did not reply and went away. A few moments later he returned and again pushed his way through. CHRISTODOULOU protested this time in Greek. They came to words, each speaking his own language, which the other did not understand. Suddenly and without provocation, the Carabinieri delivered CHRISTODOULOU a kick in the stomach. CHRISTODOULOU doubled up in pain. TATIC who during these proceedings was standing on the other side of the young woman came to rescue. The Carabinieri kicked him too, and drew his pistol.

In the meantime several other CCAR and Italian civilian policemen attracted by the altercation, intervened and manhandled both sources. CHRISTODOULOU was thrown on the floor. He was hit with the handle of a bayonet, and some one hit him on the back of the head (according to TATIC, CHRISTODOULOU was hit with a piece of an earthenware spittoon which the offender broke under his heel), causing a wound which started bleeding. TATIC too was punched and kicked.

The fight eventually came to an end. CHRISTODOULOU lit a cigarette when a Carabinieri came over with a chain which he threw over CHRISTODOULOU's neck. CHRISTODOULOU said that he wanted to see the Greek Representative on arrival and offered no resistance. He put out his hands and his wrists were chained. He was then left into an empty compartment. TATIC was also arrested taken to the same compartment

(a) Pavlos CHRISTODOULOU (Greek)
 (b) Vojislav TATIC (Yugoslav)
 who were interrogated at your request on 12 May 44.

1. PARABLE

Both sources were former POW who had escaped and crossed over to Allied occupied territory. The Allied Authorities in Naples gave them a movement order, placed them on a train and instructed them to travel to BARI and report to the representatives of their respective governments there. During the voyage the incident described below occurred and both sources were arrested by the Italian authorities, handcuffed and placed in BARI jail, where they remained from 3 to 12 May 44.

2. SUMMARY

Sources left NAPLES on 2 May 44 by the 1600 hrs train, which was crowded. They had to stand in the corridor. A few kms from BARI, while CHRISTODOULOU was conversing with a young Italian woman, both leaning out of the window, a Carabinieri pushed past him, without apologizing or asking to be allowed to pass.

CHRISTODOULOU was annoyed and said literally: "no buono, perche non fare cosi", expressing with his hands that the Carabinieri ought first to have asked him (CHRISTODOULOU) to make way. The Carabinieri did not reply and went away. A few moments later he returned and again pushed his way through. CHRISTODOULOU protested this time in Greek. They came to words, each speaking his own language, which the other did not understand. Suddenly and without provocation, the Carabinieri delivered CHRISTODOULOU a kick in the stomach. CHRISTODOULOU doubled up in pain. TATIC who during these proceedings was standing on the other side of the young woman came to rescue. The Carabinieri kicked him too, and drew his pistol.

In the meantime several other CC.RR and Italian civilian policemen attracted by the altercation, intervened and manhandled both sources. CHRISTODOULOU was thrown on the floor. He was hit with the handle of a bayonet, and some one hit him of the back of the head (according to TATIC, CHRISTODOULOU was hit with a piece of an earthenware spittoon which the offender broke under his heel), causing a wound which started bleeding. TATIC too was punched and kicked.

The fight eventually came to an end. CHRISTODOULOU lit a cigarette when a Carabinieri came over with a chain which he threw over CHRISTODOULOU's neck. CHRISTODOULOU said that he wanted to see the Greek Representative on arrival and offered no resistance. He put out his hands and his wrists were chained. He was then left into an empty compartment. TATIC was also arrested taken to the same compartment and was chained to CHRISTODOULOU by the wrists. The young Italian woman with whom CHRISTODOULOU had spoken was also brought in, as well as a young Yugoslav girl. The latter during the fight had tried to shield TATIC and had been kicked. Three or four CC.RR mounted guard outside the compartment.

On arrival at BARI the four prisoners were taken to the local jail. CHRISTODOULOU and TATIC were placed in the same cell. They asked to see the Representatives of their respective governments but seeing that nothing of the sort was being done they went on hunger strike.

Four days after their imprisonment they were seen by an American Civilian unknown to them. When he left he carried away some of their documents. Only the day after were they taken out and interrogated in an office in town. The interrogation was conducted in Italian. They were then returned to jail where they remained until 12 May 44.

COPY.

26

I.O's COMMENTS

- a) It is pointed out that when these two persons were arrested they were both in uniform and were travelling with proper documents, including identity cards and movement order.
- b) The two sources, although foreign nationals, were arrested by Italian authorities, who failed to hand them over to the local F.S.S. or to inform the representatives of their respective governments.
- c) Though the two Sources repeatedly asked to see their Government's representatives, their request was not granted and they were kept in jail for four days before anyone was allowed to see them.
- d) Their first interrogation took place only after they had been seen by the American.
- e) According to Sources, the interrogation was conducted in Italian, a language hardly understood by either of them, and without assistance of an interpreter.

42/4

(sgd) R. Glynn Faithfull Capt,

Officer i/c SCDIC (Sub Centre EastP C.M.F.

O.F.Y.

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

27

Ref/58/8/CA

30 May 1944

SUBJECT:- Allied Ex Ps/W.

TO : HQ. AAI (A(PS))

Reference letter AAI/5063/42/A(PS) of 26 May 44 may we be informed

- a) the nature of the alleged ill-treatment to which the persons named were subjected.
- b) where the alleged ill-treatment took place and some idea as to dates.

On receipt of this information it will be placed in the appropriate quarters for investigation.

4245

sgd W. Drifffield White Major,
for Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner,
For Chief Commissioner.

COPY.

CONFIDENTIAL. 29

HQ ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY.

AAI/5063/42/A(ps).

28 May 44.

Executive Commissioner A.C.C.

Ref Allied P/W Repatriation Unit (N.A) letter 104/2/HQ dated 25 May 44 (copy to HQ., A.C.C.)

1. It is requested that the alleged ill treatment by the Italian authorities of the Greek HAVLOS CHRISTODOULOU and the Yugo-Slav VOJESLAV TATE may be investigated, and that if it is established that any person has acted improperly suitable action should be taken against him.
2. Will you please keep this H.Q., informed of the progress of the case.

Brigadier,
D.A.G.

JDF/IV.

Copy to:- P/W Repatriation Unit (N.A) C.M.F.

4214

ARMED TRANSPORTATION
 PUBLIC SAFETY SUB-COMMISSION
 AND 194

ACC/4601/41/PS

June 3, 1944

SUBJECT : Arrest of Greek subjects
 by G.S.M.

TO : General Cunningham No. 12.

1. The following documents are attached:

- a) Letter dated 18th May 1944 from G.S.M. to the
 Displaced Persons Sub-Commission.
- b) Letter dated 16th May 1944 from the Greek
 representative to the Displaced Persons Sub-Commission.
- c) Letter dated 10th May 1944 from the Displaced
 Persons Sub-Commission to the Legal Sub-Commission.

2. These papers contain allegations that two escaped Greek
 prisoners of war were improperly arrested, ill-treated and
 detained by G.S.M. at Paris.

3. Will you please have this matter fully investigated
 as far as the G.S.M. are concerned in order that the Greek
 representatives may be informed of the facts. It will be
 appreciated if the enquiry is completed as speedily as
 possible.

4. The warrant of arrest referred to in letter dated 16th
 May 1944 was not enclosed.

Blawie 4241
 A. E. YOUNG, Colonel
 Deputy Chief, Public
 Safety Sub-Commission

HEADQUARTERS
INTERNEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS SUB-COMM.
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394

18

IDP:934/106-2

30 MAY 1944

SUBJECT : Escaped Allied P.W. Arrested by Italian Police.

TO : Director Legal Sub-Commission,
Allied Control Commission,
APO 394, U.S. ARMY.

1. The Greek Representative accredited to the P.W. Sub-Commission takes a serious view of the seemingly high handed action of the Italian Police and legal authorities in this matter, and his view is fully endorsed by the Director of this sub-commission.
2. It would appear on the reports submitted by the Greek Rep. and by C.S.D.I.S. (copies attached hereto) that just and reasonable facilities to defend themselves or to obtain assistance from their Representatives were denied to these P.W.
3. This sub-commission would be grateful for your opinion regarding this case. May the Italian authorities be so instructed that no repetition of this type of case may occur in the future.

For the Director.

C.F. FOTHERSILL
Lt. Colonel,
Deputy Director.

4240

Greek Representative
COPY

Bari 16 May 1944

P.W. Sub-Commission

D.P. Sub-Commission

TO: P.W. & D.P. Sub-Commission.

SUBJECT: Escaped Greek P.W. arrested by the Italian Police.

I have the honor to bring to your knowledge that on 3 instant CHRISTODOULOU DAVLOS, escaped Greek P.W. was traveling on the train running from Naples to Bari. He had been instructed by the AGO to report at Bari to the Greek Representative. At a station near Brindisi an incident occurred, following which Carabinieri who were traveling on the same train intervened unhandled CHRISTODOULOU, had him arrested and escorted him handcuffed (CHRISTODOULOU was in uniform) to the "Carabinieri". A warrant of arrest was made out and signed by an AGO (copy is herewith attached), and CHRISTODOULOU was placed in the local jail where he remained until 12 May 1944.

On 9 inst the L.O. IAD, P. Sub-Commission informed me that a Greek subject was detained in the local jail and showed me the documents which were in his hands i.e.:

- (a) Movement order issued in CHRISTODOULOU's NAME BY THE AGO
- (b) CHRISTODOULOU's identity document.

(These documents have been handed to the L.O. by an American civilian who had visited the above named detainee at the jail) Major SIMCOCK, (the L.O.) communicated immediately with the local Allied Authorities and the Prosecutor (Procuratore del Re) and for four days exhausted all endeavors to have CHRISTODOULOU released from jail. In the meantime, the detainee seeing that he was not allowed to communicate with either the Allied Authorities or the local Greek Representative, went on hunger strike. In any other place or country even an ordinary prisoner would have been allowed to communicate with his lawyers.

The Prosecutor stubbornly refused to give way to Major SIMCOCK's demand although the latter pointed out that.

- (a) The detainee was traveling with a proper movement order issued by the Allied Forces to which he belonged.
- (b) The detainee was in uniform.
- (c) He had been ill treated by members of the Italian Police Force.
- (d) No interrogation had been carried out for five whole days after CHRISTODOULOU had been imprisoned, which is contrary to any principles of any civilized country.

- (e) His arrest was not notified to any Allied Authorities.
- (f) He (the Prosecutor) had forbidden the Greek Representative
- (g) The detainee was interrogated in an office, in Italian, without any interpreter being present, whilst detainee hardly understood or spoke Italian.

The Prosecutor stated that it was not in his competence to release the detainee but it seems it was in his competence to keep him in jail.

The attitude adopted by the Bari Prosecutor transgressed every principle of justice and his obligations towards the Allied Authorities. His attitude towards an escaped P.W. who had just crossed the lines can only be explained by the fact that he personally as well as the local Italian Authorities have tried to ignore Allied instructions and showed their hatred against individuals who ought to have found respect and good treatment.

The attitude adopted by the Italian Authorities, undermining the orders issued by the Allied Authorities, may hamper the endeavour to trace any Greek escaped P.W. or displaced persons in future.

This attitude is also contrary to the principles for which the Democracies are fighting: Freedom and Justice, which can only be achieved if the Allied Authorities made an example of this case to prevent it becoming precedent and took action against the Bari Prosecutor, the NCO who signed the warrant of arrest and those who kept the escaped Greek P.W. in jail for over the normal 24 hours without allowing him to communicate with any one.

The Greek Representative
to the P.W. Sub-Commission
and I & DP Sub-Commission

For COMMANDER JOHN
HELISSINOS.

Copy to Greek Representation
to the Advisory Council for Italy.

Attached

- (i) Copy of a special report of CMBIC
- (ii) Warrant of arrest of the Italian Carabinieri.

4230

COPY

SUBJECT : Special Report

CSDIC (sub-centre East)
No. 2 District, GMPTOP SECRETCSDIC/E/2/8/0544

TO : Maj. BIRDOCK, DPSC.

15 May 44.Copy to: Greek Representative PW Sub-Commission
Yugoslav Representative PW Sub-Commission
HQ CSDIC, GMP.

The following information has been obtained from interrogation of a) Pavlos CHRISTODOULOU (Greek)
b) Vojislav TATIC (Yugoslav)
who were interrogated at your request on 12 May 1944

1. BREATHING.

Both Sources were former PWs who had escaped and crossed over to Allied occupied territory. The Allied authorities in NARIN gave them a movement order, placed them on a train and instructed them to travel to BARI and report to the representatives of their respective governments there. During the voyage the incident described below occurred and both Sources were arrested by the Italian authorities, handcuffed and placed in BARI jail, where they remained from 3 to 12 May 44.

2. QUARANTINE.

Sources left NARIN on 3 May 44, by the 1500 hrs. train, which was crowded. They had to stand in the corridor. A few kms from BARI, while CHRISTODOULOU was conversing with a young Italian woman, both leaning out of the window, a Carabinieri pushed past him, without apologising or asking to be allowed to pass.

CHRISTODOULOU was annoyed and said literally: "no bene, perche non fare assai", expressing with his hands that the Carabinieri ought first to have asked him (CHRISTODOULOU) to make way. The Carabinieri did not reply and went away. A few moments later he returned and again pushed his way through. CHRISTODOULOU protested this time in Greek. They came to words, each speaking his own language, which the other did NOT understand. Suddenly, and without any provocation, the Carabinieri delivered CHRISTODOULOU a kick in the stomach. CHRISTODOULOU doubled up in pain. TATIC who was standing on the other side of the young woman, came to the rescue. The Carabinieri kicked him too, and drew his pistol.

In the meantime, several other CO.RE and Italian civilian policemen, attracted by the altercation, intervened and manhandled both Sources. CHRISTODOULOU was thrown onto the floor. He was hit with the handle of a bayonet, and someone hit him on the back of the

head (according to TATIC, CHRISTODOULOU was hit with a catherine wheel spittoon which the offender broke under his heel), causing a wound which started bleeding. TATIC too was punched and kicked.

The fight eventually came to an end. CHRISTODOULOU lit a cigarette when a Carabinieri came over with a chain which he threw around CHRISTODOULOU's neck. CHRISTODOULOU said that he wanted to see the Greek representative on arrival and offered NO resistance. He put out his hands and his wrists were chained, he was then led into an empty compartment. TATIC was also arrested, taken to the same compartment and was chained to CHRISTODOULOU by the wrists. The young Italian woman with whom CHRISTODOULOU had spoken was also brought in, as well as a young Yugoslav girl. The latter during the fight had tried to shield TATIC and had been kicked. Three or four G.C.R. mounted guard outside the compartment.

On arrival at BARI the four prisoners were taken to the local jail. CHRISTODOULOU and TATIC were placed in the same cell. They asked to see the representatives of their respective governments but, seeing that nothing of the sort was being done, they went on hunger strike.

Four days after their imprisonment they were seen by an American civilian unknown to them. When he left he carried away some of their documents. Only the day after were they taken out and interrogated in an office in town. The interrogation was conducted in Italian. They were then returned to jail where they remained until 12 May 44.

3. I.S.'s COMMENTS.

a) It is pointed out that when these two persons were arrested they were both in uniform and were travelling with proper documents, including identity cards and a movement order.

b) The two Sources, although foreign nationals, were arrested by Italian authorities, who failed to hand them over to the local FSS or to inform the representatives of their respective governments.

c) Though the two Sources repeatedly asked to see their Government's for four days before anyone was allowed to see them.

d) Their first interrogation took place only after they had been seen by the American.

e) According to Sources, the interrogation was conducted in Italian a language hardly understood by either of them, and without the assistance of an interpreter.

4230

R. Glynn Faithfull,
Captain

Officer i/c CSBIC (Sub-Centre East,) CME

0973