

ACC

10000/143/710

ALLEGED MURDER
OCT., NOV. 1944

10000/143/710

ALLEGED MURDER OF BR. & RUSSIAN NATIONALS, BARI
OCT., NOV. 1944

1407

FILE

TO	INIT	DATE
COL. G. H. DM. R.	Wish	25/11
COL. YOUNG	As	29/11
LT. COL. W. C. R.		
MAJ. LUCKMAN	9R	28/10
MAJ. WILSON	Op	29/10
MAJ. HANBURY	T	
MAJ. BALLANCE		
CAPT. POWEL		
CHIEF CLERK		

It is not agreed that file
 4329
 should be shown to Russian
 delegation. Holo

DIA

**HEADQUARTERS
SOUTHERN REGION, ALLIED ~~CONTROL~~ COMMISSION
PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION**

Ref: PS/ 15.1

Date 17 Nov. 44

SUBJECT: Alleged murder of British and Russian nationals
at Bari.

TO : Headquarters, Allied Commission.
(Attention of the Director, Public Safety
Sub-Commission).

1. The attached papers received at this H.Q. from
DAPM, 62 Section, S.I.B., C.M.P., C.M.F., through our
Zone Public Safety Officer, Bari Zone, relate to an
investigation into the alleged murder of an Officer of
the Russian Army and a British (Maltese) merchant seaman
at Bari on 17 Oct 44.

2. Forwarded for your information - in view of the
unusual circumstances of this case and although a copy
of the S.I.B. report has been passed to C/C, Russian
Base, Bari, you may consider that the papers should be
seen by the Russian Delegation to the Allied Commission.

For the Regional Commissioner:

Richardson 320
G. RICHARDSON
Major,
Regional Public
Safety Officer.

GR/tp.

Enclos. - 1 copy case papers.

CONF

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rio (Tram-driver).....	Seeing two soldiers at tram stop - one with drawn pistol. Seeing bodies on return.
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.....	Seeing drunken soldier with pistol. Hearing cries and two shots.
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.....	Seeing bodies shortly after incident.
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CONFIDENTIALRef:- S1362/44/A/1316.

Your Ref:-

62nd Section,
Special Investigation Branch,
C.M. Police,
Gen. Med. Forces,
28th October, 1944.

Subject:- Murder of British and Russian Subjects.
1. BUFFALA Guiseppe, (British Maltese Seaman).
2. Junior Lieut. YADZEMSKIAN, George G. Russian Base, Bari.

To:- D.A.P.M.,
62nd Section,
S.I.B., C.M.F.

READ & SUBMITTED.

W. H. L. O'Connell
Capt.
D.A.M., 62 Section.

DISTRIBUTION:-

Report & Statements:-

APM 54 Area.
OC Russian Base.
APM RAF (For AOC BAF)
Brit. Vice Consul.
ZPO AOC BARI. —
DEM 3 Dist.
DEM SUB AFHQ.
FILE.

Statements:-

On Tuesday, 17th October, 1944, at approximately 2030 hours, an incident occurred in Via Della Piera, Bari, near the Railway level crossing, which resulted in the death of a British Merchant Seaman, Guiseppe BUFFALA, Ship's Fireman, aged 58 years, Seaman's Regd. No. D18.A. 933750 (British Maltese), (Home address:- c/o Mr. A. Stafford, 4 Tyne Lane, Tyne Looke, South Shields, Co. Durham), serving on the S.S. 'Empire Collins', and a Russian Officer, Junior Lieut. George G. YADZEMSKIAN, of the Russian Base, Bari.

Enquiries into this affair have produced certain facts which in themselves give a story which is by no means complete.

Shortly after commencing this investigation, instructions were received through the APM 54 Area, to the effect that on no account was the Russian Unit concerned to be approached further, regarding this matter. In addition, certain Yugo Slav Partisan soldiers have been mentioned as possible witnesses, but again it is forbidden to question members of this Force and although all possible help has been given by the 'Z' Military Mission, very little useful evidence has been obtained from this quarter.

Consequent upon the above, there are obvious discrepancies in the continuity of the facts, but after intensive enquiries the following evidence has been collected:-

At about 2000 hours on Tuesday, 17th October, 1944, the 230 Provost Company 'Standby' truck was travelling along Corso Trieste in a northerly direction. When in the vicinity of No. 2 District Building, Cpl. Lapscombe of the 230 Provost Company who was riding in the driver's cab of the truck, saw the figures of two men in the roadway whom he subsequently identified as Russian soldiers. They appeared to be drunk and this impression was given strength by the fact that one of them stepped dangerously into the path of the vehicle causing the driver to swerve sharply in order to miss him.

On Tuesday, 17th October, 1944, at approximately 2030 hours, an incident occurred in Via Della Piersa, Bari, near the Railway level crossing, which resulted in the death of a British Merchant Seaman, Giuseppe RUSSIA, Ship's Fireman, aged 58 years, Seaman's Regd. No. DIS.A. 938750 (British Maltese), (Home address:- c/o Mr. A. Stafford, 24 Tyne Lane, Tyne Docks, South Shields, Co. Durham), serving on the S.S. 'Empire Collins', and a Russian Officer, Junior Lieut. George G. YADZHENKIN, of the Russian Base, Bari.

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Consequent upon the above, there are obvious discrepancies in the continuity of the facts, but after intensive enquiries the following evidence has been collected:-

At about 2000 hours on Tuesday, 17th October, 1944, the 230 Provost Company 'Standby' truck was travelling along Corso Trieste in a northerly direction. When in the vicinity of No. 2 District Building, Cpl. Lipscombe of the 230 Provost Company who was riding in the driver's cab of the truck, saw the figures of two men in the roadway whom he subsequently identified as Russian soldiers. They appeared to be drunk and this impression was given strength by the fact that one of them stepped dangerously into the path of the vehicle causing the driver to swerve sharply in order to miss him.

A few minutes after this, an Italian soldier, Pte. Tognetti Enrico, was returning from Bari along Corso Trieste towards his barracks and when in the vicinity of the Maritime Railway Station, he passed the two Russian soldiers who were walking northwards in the same direction as himself. They had their arms linked and appeared to be drunk and merry. One of them stopped for some reason but the other made him move on. Tognetti walked on and did not see them again.

At about 2005 hours the two Russian soldiers were seen near the American Air Force Headquarter Building in the same road, still walking northwards. On this occasion, three Italian youths and a girl were out walking and when they reached the American HQ Building they paused to turn back. At that moment the Russian soldiers who had been coming up behind them, passed by and

Continued.....

READ & SUBMITTED.

W. A. Cooper
Capt.
DAWM., 62 Section.

DISTRIBUTION:-

Report & Statements:-

APM 54 Area.
OC Russian Base.
APM RAF (For AOC BAF)
Brit. Vice Consul.
ZPO AOC BARI. —
DFM 3 Dist.
DFM SIB AFHQ.
FILE.

Statements:-

/passed by and

all this party noticed that one of them was carrying a pistol in his right hand. This man, after passing the witnesses returned and spoke to them, bidding them 'Buona Sera' and shaking hands with them. He did repeat the word 'Signora' but it was taken that he only used this word as a term of politeness. In order to shake hands with them he stuck his pistol in his belt, not in it's holster. It was agreed by the witnesses that he was slightly drunk but in no way offensive. His friend, the other Russian soldier then returned and taking his arm led him away towards San Cataldo, in the same direction that they had been previously walking.

They are next seen in the vicinity of the Railway crossing near the outward tram stop known as the 'Mosola'. The Crossing itself is known as the San Cataldo Crossing. The time on this occasion is about 2025 hours, and is consistent with their progress up to this point. They are seen here by several witnesses who despite slight variations, dependent no doubt on their particular position, give a more or less clear picture of the respective positions of the Russians at this point. The evidence of some of the witnesses from this point onwards, deteriorates owing to the fear which the happenings produced in them.

Maioresno Francesco, aged 62 years, a railway employee, was on duty at the San Cataldo Railway Crossing at this time. At about 2030 hours a train was due from Parco Nord to the Dock and he left his hut which is close to the road and went onto the pavement to stop the tram which at that moment was approaching from the direction of Bari. He saw two soldiers but does not know what nationality they were. Both were walking northwards but were about twenty metres apart. One was out in the centre of the road and slightly in advance of the other who was walking in the tramlines and very close to Maioresno. This second man was drunk, but the other was not near enough for Maioresno to form an opinion of his condition. Maioresno, realizing the danger to the man nearest to him in view of the approaching tram, got hold of the man's arm and directed him onto the pavement where he stood facing the tram which almost immediately pulled up at the spot where the soldier had been walking. The other man who had continued a few paces also stopped and stood waiting. The passengers then began to alight from the tram and Maioresno saw the soldier nearest to him who was between he and the tram, draw a pistol from the holster which was hanging at his right side. Maioresno knowing the man was drunk, immediately took fright and ran away, concealing himself behind his hut.

The tram driver, Di Gesti Saverio who gives the time of this happening as about 2020 hours, saw the soldier on the pavement at the side of his tram and the Railwayman just behind him. He identifies the soldier as Russian. Di Gesti states that the Russian was holding the pistol in his right hand, on a level and slightly in front of him. He also chest with the muzzle pointing straight in front of him. He also observed the other Russian standing in the roadway on the left of the tram and put his distance as about eight metres away. This second man was indistinct, being out of range of the light. Both men appeared to be waiting for something but made no effort to interfere in any way with the passengers who were leaving the tram. No one lingered about

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Cavazzoli Accide the Controller or Inspector of the tram 324 who was standing beside the driver, confirms the driver's statement as to the positions of the two Russians. He also states that a girl who was dismounting saw the Russian with the pistol, was afraid and stepped back. However, at the urging of her family who had already descended, she dismounted and went round the back of the tram. He further states that when she reached a position which brought her in line between the two Officers, the one on the pavement made a motion beckoning her back out of the way. No confirmation of this action can be obtained. Apart from this action, neither of the Officers interfered with any of the passengers, nor were they interfered with.

It is pointed out at this stage that there are differences between the statements of the driver and controller of the tram which

Continued.....

/the tram which

are possibly due to over-imagination on the part of one or the other, but they do not materially affect the course of the evidence.

The girl referred to, Loperfido Lina, aged 19 years, remembers seeing the man on the pavement. She states that he appeared to be walking slowly towards San Cataldo and he was drunk. In his right hand hanging down by his side he carried a pistol. (This witness was shown a number of pistols and revolvers of different make and calibre and picked out a Colt .45 as being the nearest approach to the one carried by the soldier. In appearance this make of weapon is very similar to the Russian type carried by these men). She was afraid and hung back on the tram until her father came back and escorted her away. She passed behind the tram, across the road and then along the pavement towards Via Dei Mercati and cannot remember seeing anyone else. At the moment of entering Via Dei Mercati she glanced round and saw the silhouette of a man whom she took to be the soldier she had previously seen. According to her, he was then almost level with them and by the sea wall. After walking a distance of about one hundred metres she heard cries from the direction of the sea. She asserts that the cries were not in Italian but cannot define what language the cries were in. Shortly afterwards the cries ceased and then came the sound of a shot followed shortly afterwards by another shot. The family then reached and entered home.

At the time the tram was at the 'Moscia' stop, where the Russians had been seen as described above, an Italian soldier, Saverio Basile, aged 29 years, left the Caserma Gendar, which is on the same road but about 150 yards nearer San Spirito, and proceeded towards the tram stop with a view to meeting his fiancée whom he expected to arrive from Bari on that tram. He saw the tram leave the stop and crossed the road in front of it, onto the pavement on the Harbour side of the road. The tram passed him going towards San Cataldo. He was then about twenty three yards from the railway crossing. After the tram had passed he looked towards Bari and in the lights of a car he saw a civilian coming towards him on the same side of the road. The civilian was crossing the railway lines and had almost reached the pavement. He was hurrying and looking behind over his left shoulder, at the same time crying, 'Hello, Hello' in a frightened voice. A few paces behind him and slightly to his left was a soldier of undefined nationality. This soldier was walking in the same direction as the civilian. Five or six yards behind this soldier and slightly to his left was another soldier of similar appearance to the first. He was walking after the first two. Both soldiers were shouting in an unknown language. The car then passed, leaving darkness, but immediately there came the sound of a pistol shot from the direction of the third man. The cries of 'Hello' immediately changed to cries of pain. Saverio realized that he was in the line of fire and immediately ran away over the road in a direction at right angles to that in which the soldiers were walking. After he started running, he heard the cry of 'Hello' repeated two or three times getting successively weaker until it finally stopped. He had reached the other

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He now return to Maiorano the railwayman. After taking shelter behind his hut, he waited until the tram had continued its journey and then as things appeared to be quiet, he peeped out of his place of concealment. He could see a man whom he took to be the soldier who had frightened him. This man was halfway over the crossing and walking towards San Cataldo, in a line with the pavement. Maiorano could not see anyone else and, plucking up courage entered his hut, but immediately heard a shot from somewhere outside. This greatly renewed his fears and he decided to get away from the spot and go towards the

Continued.....

Sheet 4.

/go towards the

Locks. Acting on this impulse he left his hut and was making his way towards the Docks when he saw a flash and heard the sound of a shot from the direction of San Cataldo, that is the direction in which the soldier had gone. This must have completely unnerved him, because, when interrogated he stated that he did not shout but hurried away towards the Docks. There is little doubt however, that the shouting heard by other witnesses at this time, was this man shouting in his fear. Majorano went towards the Docks until he met some soldiers from the AA site further down the line and after explaining as best he could that there had been some shooting, he returned to the road with them. On mounting the pavement on the San Spirito side of the crossing he saw a civilian lying dead on the pavement. About fifteen metres further on in the direction he had seen the flash, he saw the body of a soldier lying on the pavement. He did not pay much attention to them after the first glance but returned to his hut.

Gunner Baker, who was on duty at an AA site about 160 yards from the Railway crossing heard two bangs at about 2030 hours. He did not hear any other sound which might have been made by firearms.

Several people then attracted by the cries of the Railway crossing keeper arrived on the scene, but as yet it has not been possible to trace who was the first on the scene.

One of the early arrivals was a Gunner Kelloway who is employed as a cook on an AA site situated about fifty yards from the Railway crossing. Kelloway who has a knowledge of 'First Aid' first saw the civilian and after forming the opinion that he was dead, examined the Russian soldier who was still alive. The Russian was unconscious and Kelloway realizing the urgency of medical aid, stopped a passing lorry and had the Russian conveyed to the 98th British General Hospital. Kelloway states that he was holding the wrist of the Russian during the journey to Hospital and noticed the pulse beats stop just before arrival at the Hospital. In his statement Kelloway states that the Russian soldier did not speak the whole time he was with him and that on arrival at the Hospital he noticed that there was no pistol in the soldier's holster.

Mr. Tamplin of Kelloway's unit, who had accompanied Kelloway to the scene, after seeing the bodies informed his Unit Headquarters asking that the proper authorities be informed. Tamplin states that he noticed that the soldier's holster did not contain a pistol before his removal to Hospital.

Cpl. Cohen, RASC who was passing at the time Kelloway was examining the Russian, stopped to give assistance. He states that during the examination he noticed that the soldier's holster was open and asserts that the pistol was then in the holster.

During this time the train had continued its journey to the terminus and was returning along the Via Della Pira, along the sea front. The train reached the stadium stop on the return journey at the terminus. The train was about four hundred yards from the

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During this time the tram had continued its journey to the terminus and was returning along the Via Della Fiera, along the sea front. The tram reached the Stadium stop on the return journey at about 2035 hours. This stop is about four hundred yards from the scene of the occurrence. A number of passengers mounted the tram at this place and they stated that a short time before they had heard the sound of shots coming from the direction of Bari. Remembering the Russian soldier who had been on that road with a pistol, and not wishing any unpleasant incident, the Controller, Cavazzoli, rode the tram front with the driver. He states that when they reached the tram by-pass (this is roughly two hundred yards on the San Spirito side of the Railway crossing) he saw one of the Russian Officers walking rapidly in the direction of San Spirito, on the Harbour side of the road. The driver did not see this man. On arrival at the inward 'Moscia' stop which is on the San Spirito side of the crossing, the Controller saw the bodies on the pavement. He descended to have a look at them and asserts that the body of the Russian was that of the same man he had seen

Continued.....

Sheet 5.

5
/he had seen on the harbour side of the tram with a pistol in his hand, on the outward journey. He cannot give any further useful information.

The driver cannot give much help in this direction except that he states that when the tram pulled up at the scene, amongst the number of people already present were about six Yugo Slav Partisans. These have not been traced.

All the people it has been possible to trace who arrived on the scene shortly after the occurrence, have been questioned closely regarding the whereabouts of the dead Russian Officer's pistol. Only one, Cpl. Cohen states that the pistol was present, all the others remember seeing the open holster but not the pistol, some definitely stating that it was missing.

At 2100 hours, Sgt. Moon was on duty at the Enquiry Office of the 2nd Provost Company when he received a telephone call from the 92 Bty. LAA Regt., reporting an occurrence in the Via Della Piana near the Railway Crossing. He immediately despatched the 'Standby' truck under the charge of Cpl. Lipscombe. Cpl. Lipscombe arrived on the scene at approximately 2140 hours. He found the body of the civilian lying face downwards on the pavement at the spot indicated on the attached map. He examined him, formed the opinion that he was dead and searched the pockets for means of identification. In the inside jacket pocket he found an Identity Card giving the particulars of 'G. Bugeia' as shown at the beginning of this report. From bystanders he then gathered the information that there had been the body of a soldier nearby, but this had already been taken to Hospital, so he instructed the truck-driver L/Cpl. Dear to return to Headquarters and inform the SIB. Pending the return of the truck-driver, Cpl. Lipscombe busied himself keeping onlookers away from the body.

At 2425 hours on Tuesday, 17th October, 1944, I was at the SIB Headquarters when I was informed by the clerk on duty that an incident had occurred at the Railway crossing near the Stadium, in which a British Merchant Seaman had been killed and a Russian soldier seriously wounded. I immediately went to the spot indicated, accompanied by Sgt. Coulson of this Section.

On arrival at the San Cataldo Railway crossing at 2440 hours, I saw a small number of people standing on the pavement on the Harbour side of the road, a few yards north of the crossing. On the pavement, about four yards from the crossing was the body of a man lying face upwards, head towards the road and feet towards the sea. The body was that of a man, 55-60 years of age, crown of the head bald and grey hair near the temples. It was of normal build and 5 feet 3 inches to 4 inches in length. It was fully clothed with the exception of hat, collar and tie, and had trousers and jacket of a grey colour. The eyes were open and glaring. The mouth was slightly open showing a full set of teeth with the exception of one missing from the front right of the upper jaw. At the top of the forehead above the right eye, was a lacerated wound, which appeared to have been caused by a hard object,

of the 230 Provost Company when he received a telephone call from the 92 Bty. LAA Regt., reporting an occurrence in the Via Della Piana near the Railway Crossing. He immediately despatched the 'Standby' truck under the charge of Cpl. Lipscombe. Cpl. Lipscombe arrived on the scene at approximately 2140 hours. He found the body of the civilian lying face downwards on the pavement at the spot indicated on the attached map. He examined him, formed the opinion that he was dead and searched the pockets for means of identification. In the inside jacket pocket he found an Identity Card giving the particulars of 'G. Bugela' as shown at the beginning of this report. From bystanders he then gathered the information that there had been the body of a soldier nearby, but this had already been taken to Hospital, so he instructed the truck-driver L/Cpl. Dear to return to Headquarters and inform the SIB. Pending the return of the truck-driver, Cpl. Lipscombe busied himself keeping onlookers away from the body.

At 2125 hours on Tuesday, 17th October, 1944, I was at the SIB Headquarters when I was informed by the clerk on duty that an incident had occurred at the Railway crossing near the Stadium, in which a British Merchant Seaman had been killed and a Russian soldier seriously wounded. I immediately went to the spot indicated, accompanied by Sgt. Coulson of this Section.

On arrival at the San Cataldo Railway crossing at 2140 hours, I saw a small number of people standing on the pavement on the Harbour side of the road, a few yards north of the crossing. On the pavement, about four yards from the crossing was the body of a man lying face upwards, head towards the road and feet towards the sea. The body was that of a man, 55-60 years of age, crown of the head bald and grey hair near the temples. It was of normal build and 5 feet 3 inches to 4 inches in length. It was fully clothed with the exception of hat, collar and tie, and had trousers and jacket of a grey colour. The eyes were open and glazing. The mouth was slightly open showing a full set of teeth with the exception of one missing from the front right of the upper jaw. At the top of the forehead above the right eye, was a lacerated wound, which appeared to have been caused by a hard object, possibly the fall to the ground, but it did not appear to have bled much. The hands were lying by the sides and bore a quantity of drying blood. There were no signs of contusions or wounds on the hands. The shirt front was saturated in blood and there was a large pool of blood on the right side of the body on the pavement. The extremities of the hands were cold to the touch but the chest was warm. The man was obviously dead. On raising the shirt it was possible to see an open wound on the right chest, obviously where the majority of the blood had come from.

Cpl. Lipscombe who was present then informed me that when he arrived, the body had been lying over the pool of blood on the right,

Continued.....

Sheet 6.

/on the right,

in a face downwards position. Not seeing a visible wound on the back he had then turned the body over to examine it.

My attention was then drawn to a large pool of blood on the pavement about fifteen yards on the San Spirito side of the body. I was informed that a Russian soldier who had since been transported to Hospital had been found lying in this spot.

With the aid of vehicle headlights, I then made a closer examination of the scene. From the spot where the Russian had been lying was a trail of blood splashes leading into the road, but these were later ascertained to have been caused by carrying the body into the vehicle from the pavement for transportation to Hospital.

In the Railway lines about two yards from the edge of the pavement were spots of blood. These formed a trail leading to the pavement directly to the first steel standard carrying the overhead power cables for the tram. On this standard is a directional sign and a speed limit sign. At a height of five feet three inches to four inches on this standard were some large bloodstains, consistent with a person with blood on his hands having clutched the standard for support. At the foot of the standard, on the kerb edge, was a large splash of blood. The trail then continued over the pavement towards the sea wall where they stopped at an aperture in the wall. Here was another big pool of blood on the wall and pavement. The trail then returned over the pavement, this time slightly northwards of the other trail and growing larger until it terminated in the large pool of blood at the side of the body.

Further search of the area failed to produce anything useful, and owing to the mediocre lighting arrangements and disorganisation of traffic on this main road, coupled with the danger of evidence being obliterated or neutralized by the number of people being attracted to the scene, it was decided to leave further examination until daylight.

The body of Bugaia was then moved to Hospital in the 250 Provost Company truck under the charge of Sgt. Coulson, who was instructed to obtain all information possible about the Russian soldier who had previously been taken there.

I returned to SIB., HQ., with one or two persons who appeared to be able to give information.

I then learned of the two Russian Officers who had been seen in the vicinity of the Railway crossing prior to the occurrence, and shortly afterwards, Sgt. Coulson returned from the Hospital with the news that the Russian soldier was dead. He brought with him the soldier's Identity Card but as this was printed in Russian, it was impossible to glean any information from it.

Sgt. Coulson was then sent by me to the Dock's to find Bugaia's position of the body.

In the railway lines about two yards from the edge of the pavement were spots of blood. These formed a trail leading to the pavement directly to the first steel standard carrying the overhead power cables for the tram. On this standard is a directional sign and a speed limit sign. At a height of five feet three inches to four inches on this standard were some large bloodstains, consistent with a person with blood on his hands having clutched the standard for support. At the foot of the standard, on the kerb edge, was a large splash of blood. The trail then continued over the pavement towards the sea wall where they stopped at an aperture in the wall. Here was another big pool of blood on the wall and pavement. The trail then returned over the pavement, this time slightly northwards of the other trail and growing larger until it terminated in the large pool of blood at the side of the body.

Further search of the area failed to produce anything useful, and owing to the mediocre lighting arrangements and disorganisation of traffic on this main road, coupled with the danger of evidence being obliterated or neutralized by the number of people being attracted to the scene, it was decided to leave further examination until daylight.

The body of Bugaia was then moved to Hospital in the 232 Provost Company truck under the charge of Sgt. Coulson, who was instructed to obtain all information possible about the Russian soldier who had previously been taken there.

I returned to SIB., HQ., with one or two persons who appeared to be able to give information.

I then learned of the two Russian Officers who had been seen in the vicinity of the Railway crossing

/is roughly six

miles. The time of the occurrence is more or less fixed at 2030 hours. A man getting a lift on a motor vehicle could do this journey comfortably in fifteen minutes. When I saw Lieut. Lebedev at about 0200 hours he appeared to be still influenced by drink. An Officer of the Russian Headquarters, relieved him of his pistol which he was wearing in a holster at his right side. The pistol was immediately sent to the Armourer's for examination, but before it went the magazines were examined and whilst one had a full complement of eight bullets the other had six. I do not know which was the reserve magazine. I arranged for someone to identify the dead body and was promised a report of the Armourer's examination, the following day. However, before I received the report I was instructed not to pursue enquiries at the Unit and therefore have received no further information from that source.

At 0530 hours on the 18th October, 1944, GDM Gross and Sgt. Coulson re-visited the scene of the occurrence and conducted a minute search of the surroundings for any evidence they could find. At 0745 hours, GDM Gross found a flattened spent cartridge case from an automatic pistol, lying inside the tram track, at a spot about 25 feet from the place where the dead Russian Officer had been found. It is not possible to determine the make of weapon the cartridge has been fired from, without expert examination and comparison with other types of cartridges. The cartridge is being held at this Office pending further instructions.

Extensive enquiries have been made with a view to tracing further witnesses. The Docks, Camps (Allied and Italian), Installations etc., in the vicinity of the scene have been visited. Enquiries through the Carabinieri and Questura have been made and advertisements inserted in various publications, but no useful information beyond the above has been obtained.

The reports of Autopsies on the bodies of the two men, carried out by Major R. L. deWaal, Pathologist, 98th British General Hospital, in the presence of Russian Medical Authorities, are attached.

A plan of the scene of the occurrence, marked with the positions as described by the various witnesses, is attached herewith.

In view of the obvious incompleteness of the evidence, I will not attempt a discussion of the case, but submit this report as representing the present position. Should any further useful information be forthcoming, it will be transmitted immediately.

In the Field.

W. H. COOPER, Capt.
INAM. 52nd Section, Special Investigation Branch.

for someone to identify the dead body and was promised a report of the Armourer's examination, the following day. However, before I received the report I was instructed not to pursue enquiries at the Unit and therefore have received no further information from that source.

At 0530 hours on the 13th October, 1944, CSM Gross and Sgt. Coulson re-visited the scene of the occurrence and conducted a minute search of the surroundings for any evidence they could find. At 0715 hours, CSM Gross found a flattened spent cartridge case from an automatic pistol, lying inside the tram track, at a spot about 25 feet from the place where the dead Russian Officer had been found. It is not possible to determine the make of weapon the cartridge has been fired from, without expert examination and comparison with other types of cartridges. The cartridge is being held at this Office pending further instructions.

Extensive enquiries have been made with a view to tracing further witnesses. The Docks, Camps (Allied and Italian), Installations etc., in the vicinity of the scene have been visited. Enquiries through the Carabinieri and Questura have been made and advertisements inserted in various publications, but no useful information beyond the above has been obtained.

The reports of Autopsies on the bodies of the two men, carried out by Major H. L. de Gaul, Pathologist, 98th British General Hospital, in the presence of Russian Medical Authorities, are attached.

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In view of the obvious incompleteness of the evidence, I will not attempt a discussion of the case, but submit this report as representing the present position. Should any further useful information be forthcoming, it will be transmitted immediately.

In the Field.

W. H. G. O'NEIL. Capt.
DAM. 62nd Section, Special Investigation Branch.

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62nd Special Investigation Section,

C.M.F.

18th October, 1944.

No. 261/271, Cpl. J.A. LINDGREN, 230 Provost Company, C.M.F.,
States:-

On Tuesday, 17th October, 1944, I was on 'Standby' duty from 1100 hours to 0630 hours on the 18th October, 1944. At about 2045 hours, I was travelling in the 'Standby' truck along Corso Trieste in a northerly direction.

When in the vicinity of 2 District Building, I suddenly saw two figures in the roadway ahead. When I first saw them they were about twenty yards ahead and as we drew nearer, one of them stepped forward into the path of the vehicle, presumably to get a lift. This action caused the driver to swerve the vehicle to miss him and as we passed both figures I caught a glimpse of their uniform and recognised them as Russians. From the brief glimpse I had of them and the foolish way in which the man stepped in front of the vehicle, I formed the opinion that they had been drinking too much.

At 2100 hours, I was at Headquarters when I received a call to Corso Della Vittoria. On arrival at a spot a few yards on the San Spirito side of the Railway crossing, I saw a crowd of civilians surrounding the body of a man who was lying face downwards on the pavement. I looked at my watch and noticed the time as 2110 hours. I could see no injuries on the back of the man and turned him face upwards. I then saw that his shirt front was saturated with blood and a pool of blood had formed at a spot on the pavement which he was covering before I moved him. I then noticed spots of blood on the pavement in the vicinity and these formed a trail which appeared to go from the pavement into the roadway.

When I turned the body over I touched the arm which was cold to the touch, but I then felt the chest and noticed that it was quite warm. I formed the opinion that the man was dead and felt in the pockets for means of identification. The body was that of a man of about 60 years, medium build, length about 5'7", almost bald. He was dressed in a navy blue single breasted jacket and trousers. In the inside pocket of the jacket I found a British Seaman's Identity Card made out to 'G. Bugala'.

From the Italian bystanders I learned that another body had been nearby but had been transported to Hospital.

I immediately sent the truck driver, 1/Cpl. Dear, back to Headquarters to notify the SIB. After his departure and pending the arrival of the SIB I kept the spectators away from the body and surrounding area. Shortly afterwards the SIB (Capt. Cooper and Sgt. Coulson) arrived and took charge.

(Signed) J. LINDGREN, Cpl.

Statement taken and signature witnessed by me at SIB HQ on Wednesday, 18

action caused the driver to swerve the vehicle to miss him and as we passed both figures I caught a glimpse of their uniforms and recognized them as Russians. From the brief glimpse I had of them and the foolish way in which the man stepped in front of the vehicle, I formed the opinion that they had been drinking too much.

At 2100 hours, I was at Headquarters when I received a call to Corno Della Vittoria. On arrival at a spot a few yards on the San Spirito side of the Railway crossing, I saw a crowd of civilians surrounding the body of a man who was lying face downwards on the pavement. I looked at my watch and noticed the time as 2110 hours. I could see no injuries on the back of the man and turned him face upwards. I then saw that his shirt front was saturated with blood and a pool of blood had formed at a spot on the pavement which he was covering before I moved him. I then noticed spots of blood on the pavement in the vicinity and these formed a trail which appeared to go from the pavement into the roadway.

When I turned the body over I touched the arm which was cold to the touch, but I then felt the chest and noticed that it was quite warm. I formed the opinion that the man was dead and felt in the pockets for means of identification. The body was that of a man of about 60 years, medium build, length about 5'7", almost bald. He was dressed in a navy blue single breasted jacket and trousers. In the inside pocket of the jacket I found a British Seaman's Identity Card made out to 'A. Pagella'.

From the Italian bystanders I learned that another body had

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62nd Section,
Special Investigation Branch,
Corps of Military Police,
21st October, 1944.

Statement of Private (Driver) TOGHETTI Enrico, No. 9 Company,
Sussistenza, Viale Vittoria, Bari, who saith:-

I am employed in the above Italian Military Unit as a driver.
On Tuesday evening the 17th October, 1944, I visited Bari to see a girl friend. I left my friend at the 'Cinema Italia', which is in the vicinity of the Central Railway Station, Bari, at 1930 hours and commenced to return to my billet on foot. I arrived in Corso Trieste on the Dock side of the Marittima Railway Station at about 1950 hours. I turned left and continued in the direction of the Stadium and I was walking on the left hand side of the road. At about 300 metres from the Railway crossing in Corso Della Fiera, I saw by the lights of a passing motor vehicle, two Russian Officers walking in the same direction as me, on the footpath. They appeared to be drunk or very merry and were walking arm in arm. They were walking a little zig-zag, but not from one side of the pavement to the other. The Russian walking on the inside stopped for a moment and the other Russian made him move on. Both of the Russians were of normal build, one being a little taller than the other. I walked past these Russians, as I was in a hurry, and they continued walking slowly, and I eventually out-distanced them. When I passed the two Russians, I saw an American Negro soldier standing against the wall of a building which adjoins an American Car park. This building is the last large building on the left before you arrive at the level crossing. I passed the Russian soldiers at about 1955 hours. I do not know whether they were in possession of pistols. I could not recognise either of these Russians again.

I have read over the above statement and it is true and correct.

(Signed) TOGHETTI ENRICO.

Statement taken and signature witnessed in the presence of GCM Cross
62 Section, SIB in Bari on the 21st October, 1944, and translated to
the best of my ability.

(Signed) J.G. CROSS, GCM, SIB

(Signed) KEMDA SELJAN, Official SIB
Interpreter.

10
62nd Special Investigation Section,
C.M.P.
20th October, 1944.

ROMANO NICOLA, aged 20 years, living at 96, Via Dante Alighieri,
Beri, states:-

I am a clerk but unemployed.

At about 2000 hours on Tuesday, 17th October, 1944, I was with my friends, Abrescia Antonio, Zono Giacomo and a girl Glorci Lucia, walking from Via Trevisani into Via Della Fiera towards San Cataldo. We were on the pavement on the opposite side of the road to the Dock and when near the American Headquarters, we stopped to turn back.

At that moment I saw two Russian Officers coming up behind us on the footpath and walking towards San Cataldo. They passed by on the inside of the pavement and I noticed that the one nearest us had a pistol in his right hand which he was swinging by his side in a normal manner. When they had gone by for two or three paces the one with the pistol in his hand came back to us, at the same time sticking the pistol between his belt and jacket, not in the holster. He shook hands with each of us saying, 'Signora, Signore, Buona Sera'. He was slightly drunk, but in

At that moment I saw two Russian Officers coming up behind us on the footpath and walking towards San Cataldo. They passed by on the inside of the pavement and I noticed that the one nearest us had a pistol in his right hand which he was swinging by his side in a normal manner. When they had gone by for two or three paces the one with the pistol in his hand came back to us, at the same time sticking the pistol between his belt and jacket, not in the holster. He shook hands with each of us saying, 'Signora, Signora, buona sera'. He was slightly drunk, but in no way offensive. Then his friend came back and without speaking to us got hold of the first man's arm and led him away towards San Cataldo.

When they walked away they were talking to each other in a language I could not understand. I do not know whether they were arguing or not.

As soon as they walked away, we walked back to Via Trevisani. They were both tall, of a similar height, robust appearance. I cannot give any more description and cannot tell of any difference in appearance between them. I did not notice whether the second man had a pistol or not.

The only other people I noticed about at the time were some Americans standing in the doorway of the American Headquarters. That is all I know.

This statement has been read over to me and it is true.

62 Secti,
Special Investigation Branch,
Corps of Military Police.
22nd October, 1944.

Statement of Miss CIANGI Lucia, No. 71 Via Indipendenza, Bari,
aged 19 years, who said:-

On the evening of the 17th October, 1944, I was with my friends, Abbrescia Antonio, Romano Nicola and Zonno Giacomo, in Corso Della Vittoria about 100 metres from the Bari side of the Marittima Station. We were standing on the pavement on the left hand side of Corso Della Vittoria, as you travel towards the Stadium, and the time was about 1955 hours.

At about this time, two Russian Officers approached us, they were coming from the direction of Bari. One of the Russian Officers passed us and the other came amongst us. This latter Officer said, "Signora, Signora, Signora, buona sera". I replied, "O.K." and this officer then shook hands with all of us. The other officer who had walked a few paces ahead, returned, and took his friend by the arm and they both walked away. I noticed that the officer who had spoken to us, had a pistol in his right hand, but I do not know what he did with it, when he shook us all by the hand.

Neither of the Russian Officers were insolent or familiar in any way except for the shaking of hands. The Officer who shook hands with me appeared to be a little drunk. I could not recognise either of the Officers again.

I have read over the above statement and it is true.

(Signed) CIANGI LUCIA.

Statement taken and signature witnessed in the presence of
CSM Cross, 62 Section, SIB in Bari on the 22nd October, 1944, and
translated to the best of my ability.

(Signed) J.G. CROSS CSM SIB.

(Signed) HEDDA SELJAN,
Official Interpreter, SIB.

officer then shook hands with all of us. The other officer who had walked a few paces ahead, returned, and took his friend by the arm and they both walked away. I noticed that the officer who had spoken to us, had a pistol in his right hand, but I do not know what he did with it, when he shook us all by the hand.

Neither of the Russian Officers were insolent or familiar in any way except for the shaking of hands. The Officer who shook hands with me appeared to be a little drunk. I could not recognise either of the Officers again.

I have read over the above statement and it is true.

(Signed) OLAFI LUOLA.

Statement taken and signature witnessed in the presence of CSM Gross, 62 Section, SIB in Bari on the 22nd October, 1944, and translated to the best of my ability.

(Signed) J.G. CROSS CSM SIB.

(Signed) MEDDA SMILAN,
Official Interpreter, SIB.

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62 Section,
Special Investigation Branch,
Corps of Military Police.
22nd October, 1944.

Statement of Mr. Zonno Giacomo, 15 Via Indipendenza, Bari, aged 22 years,
who said:-

On the 17th October, 1944, at about 2000 hours, I was with my friends, Abbrescia Antonio, Romano Nicola and Miss Giandi Lucia, in Corso Della Vittoria, about 100 metres from the Marittima Railway Station, Bari side, and we were standing on the pavement on the left hand side of the road as you look in the direction of the Stadium.

I saw, at about this time, two Russian Officers approaching us, one of them had a pistol in his hand and was twirling it around his finger. One of the Officers passed us and the one in possession of the pistol came amongst us, then walked round us, saying at the same time, "Signora, Signora, Buona Sera". He then put the pistol between his belt and the front of his jacket. After putting his pistol away, he shook hands with all of us. His friend who was a few paces ahead then returned, and took his friend by his arm and led him away.

The officer in possession of the pistol appeared to be under the influence of drink, and I distinctly remember smelling

the pistol came through the door. He then put the pistol between time, 'Signora, Signora, Buona Sera'. After putting his pistol away, his belt and the front of his jacket. His friend who was a few paces ahead he shook hands with all of us. His friend by his arm and led him away. then returned, and took his friend by his arm and led him away.

The officer in possession of the pistol appeared to be under the influence of drink, and I distinctly remember smelling the odour of Vino when this Officer spoke to us. I do not know whether the other Officer was in possession of a pistol at the time.

I could not recognise either of these two Officers again. I have read over the above statement and it is true and

correct.

(Signed) ZORNO GIACOMO.

Statement taken and signature witnessed in the presence of CSM Cross 62 Section, SIB, in Bari on the 22nd October, 1944, and translated to the best of my ability.

(Signed) J.G. CROSS CSM.

62 Section,
Special Investigation Branch,
Corps of Military Police.
17th October, 1944.

Statement of ABBRESOIA ANTONIO, 72, Via Napoli, Bari, Oler,
aged 20 years, who saith:-

Today, 17th October, 1944, at about 2040 hours, I was in company with my friends, Zorzo Giacomo, No. 15 Via Indipendenza, Rosano Nicola, No. 396, Via Dante Alighieri and a girl friend Lucia, whose address I do not know, but I know her house.

At the above time, I was near the Marittima Station, Bari, and was conversing with my friends, when from behind us came two Russians, one of them passed by and the other, with a pistol in his right hand, tried to force his way among us. The Russians were coming from the direction of the Docks in the direction of the Stadium and were walking on the pavement on the opposite side of the road to the tram lines.

The Russian with the pistol started to speak to us and at the same time he pushed his pistol between his belt and the front of his trousers. He said in Italian, 'Signora, signora' and at the same time

tried to force his way even at us. The Russians were coming from the direction of the docks in the direction of the Stadium and were walking on the pavement on the opposite side of the road to the tram lines.

The Russian with the pistol started to speak to us and at the same time he pushed his pistol between his belt and the front of his trousers. He said in Italian, 'Signora, signora' and at the same time moved towards the girl Lucia. I replied in Italian, 'Si ma signora, buona sera, buona sera' which means 'my wife, goodnight, goodnight'. The other Russian then returned and tried to take his friend away. We then went away in the direction of the Docks, and the Russians proceeded towards the Stadium.

The Russian in possession of the pistol was a tall man and was wearing a cap similar to an English Officer and a jacket with gold buttons fastened to the neck. They were definitely officers, because their epaulettes had golden bars on them.

This incident took place a few paces on the Stadium side of an entrance to an American Headquarters where some American Negro soldiers were standing.

I took my girl friend home, had some food at my house and prepared to go to work. I arrived at the Docks at about 2145 hours and I got into a military vehicle which transports the Italian workers and English Engineers to the Cataldo Quay. It was necessary for the vehicle to travel along Corso Della Vittoria, now known by

62nd Special Investigation Section,

C.M.P.

20th October, 1944.

MAIORANO Francesco, aged 62 years, living at No. 3, Casa Contonieri,
Via Napoli, Bari,
States:-

I am a Railway Employee.

On Tuesday, 17th October, 1944, I was on duty at the San Cataldo level crossing which is on the Via Della Piera, from 0530 hours to 2130 hours.

At about 2030 hours a train was coming from Parco Nord to the Docks and I saw that the tram was also coming from Bari.

I went onto the pavement to stop the tram which was then about two hundred metres away and saw two foreign military. I do not know what Army they belonged to. The first one nearest to me was walking in the tram lines towards San Cataldo. He was a tall slim man. I

know what Army they belonged to. The first one nearest to me was walking in the tram line towards San Cataldo. He was a tall slim man. I cannot give a better description. The other man who appeared to be similar to the first was about twenty metres away, halfway over the road and near the tram lines towards San Cataldo. He was also walking towards San Cataldo. The first man was drunk and swaying a bit. I took hold of his arm, and directed him onto the pavement. There, he stood facing across the road and when the tram stopped he was facing the tram a short distance from it. The second man who had walked on a few paces also stopped.

The passengers then began to dismount and the first military who was standing slightly in front of me, between me and the tram, then drew his pistol from his holster which was at his right side. I was afraid and without waiting to see anyone I ran away and got behind the Railway Hut. While this was happening the train from Parco Nord to the Docks passed by.

Very shortly afterwards the tram passed on and all seeming quiet I peeped out to the road and saw one man whom I took to be the first military I had seen, walking towards San Cataldo. He was about halfway over the level crossing and in a line with the footpath nearest the sea. I could not see anyone else but could see the lights of the tram in the distance.

I then entered my hut and immediately I heard a shot but don't know where it

Sheet 2.

/on the San

Spirito side of the Railway crossing with the pavement close up to the left of the tram. At the Moscia stop, I saw a military man dressed similar to the two who had been at the spot previously. I could not say definitely if it was one of them or not. He was lying on the pavement face upwards. He was approximately in the centre of the pavement with his head pointing towards the road and his feet towards the sea. There was blood on the pavement near his middle as if he was bleeding from the back, and he appeared to me to be dead. There were about ten people surrounding the body when we arrived. About six of them were Yugo Slav Partisans and the remainder Italian civilians. I cannot remember seeing anyone on the road at all from the start of the return journey to reaching Moscia. I dismounted together with the passengers (about ten) to have a look at the man but the Partisans told us to go away as there were enough people there. However, the Controller took a lighter and looked at the man's face and told me that it was the man we had seen with the pistol.

It was then that I noticed about four or five metres on the Bari side of the body of the military was the body of a civilian. He was lying on the pavement face downwards with his feet towards the docks and his head towards San Cataldo, the head being nearer to the edge of the pavement than the feet. This body was of an old man, middle height and dressed in light clothes. He was bald-headed. I did not approach him and there was no-one near him. The Controller then said that we had better fetch the Police so I drove the tram to Via Francesco D'Assisi where the Controller descended and informed the English Military Police who are billeted there.

Sheet 2.

/possibly clean

shaven, square fat face, complexion rosy, build, stout, uniform of a Russian Officer with bright epaulettes, peaked cap.

With reference to the signal given by the first Russian Officer mentioned, to the girl for her to get back out of the way.

I formed the impression that the signal was given to prevent the girl being shot, should this officer giving the signal fire his pistol.

I have read over the above statement and it is true and correct.

(Signed) GAVAZZOLI ACCIDE.

Statement taken down in Italian and signature witnessed by CSM Cross 62 Section SIB in Bari on the 18th October, 1944, and translated to the best of my ability.

(Signed) J.C. CROSS CSM SIB

(Signed) VLADIMIR LU

the best of my ability.

(Signed) J.G. CROSS CSM SIB
(Signed) VIANO LUIGI,
Interpreter.

0037

62nd Special Investigation Section,
CAF.

21st October, 1944.

LOPERFIDO Lina, aged 19 years, living with her parents at 45, Via
Del Mercati, Bari, states:-

I am a Student.

At about 2020 hours on Tuesday, 17th October, 1944, my
parents, my sisters and myself, mounted the tram at Piazza Massari.
There were a number of passengers but the tram was not full.

We arrived at the Moscia stop at about 2030 hours. My
family and I alighted, I can't remember in what order, but it was from
the front end of the tram on the sea-side. When I alighted I saw on
the pavement about one metre away and slightly to my left, a Russian
soldier. He was very tall, robust, had a peak cap, dark uniform with
long jacket, not Battledress, and wore high military boots. He
appeared to be walking very slowly towards San Cataldo and was unsteady
on his feet so I immediately thought he was drunk. In his right hand
which was

31
62 Section,
Special Investigation Branch,
Corps of Military Police,
19th October, 1944.

Statement of No. 1796932 Gunner BAKER A, 92/34 LIA Regiment, RA.,
who saith:-

I am a gunner in 92 Battery RA which is situated along the sea wall near the railway lines which cross Corso Della Vittoria. The first gun-pit is about 50 yards from this railway crossing and the last gun-pit is about 220 yards from the railway crossing.

At about 2030 hours on the evening of the 17th October, 1944, I was on duty in a gun-pit which is about 160 yards from the railway crossing. At about this time I distinctly heard two bangs which might have been from a pistol a rifle or even a motor car.

The reason I recall these two bangs was due to the fact that Bomdr. Tamplin came to the gun-pit ten minutes later to use the 'phone and he told me that two Italians had been shot near the railway crossing.

I did not hear any other firing at the time and I cannot say whether the two bangs that I heard

22/
62 Section,
Special Investigation Branch,
Corps of Military Police.
19th October, 1944.

Statement of Del BECARO Andrea, di Orlando, of 20th Regiment of Artillery
88 Battery, Bari, who saith:-

I am a soldier belonging to No. 20 Artillery Regiment,
attached to 92/54 LAA Regiment, RA.

On the 17th October, 1944, at about 2030 hours, I was
resting in my camp which is situated in the vicinity of the 'Stazione
Marittima'. Whilst I was resting, I heard the railway crossing gate
keeper on duty at the railway crossing, call for assistance. I and
four or five other comrades hearing this, we ran to the spot where the
gatekeeper was standing. The gatekeeper was in possession of a lantern
and we followed him to where he thought he heard shots coming from.
We found, about 100 metres from the railway crossing, a man wearing
civilian clothes, and he was lying on the pavement on the right side
of the road in a pool of blood. About 15 metres further along I saw
another man who was wearing a Russian Officers uniform, lying on the
same footpath, also in a pool of blood.

I would like to add that when I first heard the gatekeeper
calling for assistance I immediately went to call the British cook,
Kelloway (1063068) and Bomdr. Tamplin and I told them that the Gate
keeper at the railway crossing was shouting for assistance and that he
(the Gatekeeper) had heard shots being fired. We then

