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Declassified S.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

ACC

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EXPLOSION IN BARI HARBOUR
APR., MAY 1945

2027

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"Minute" - sheet.

C.A.S. File 3a for information

P.S. SK
10 Apr 1948
Note (B) Ostrombank 16
10 AM 48

2

Copy of "A" taken to C.A.S.
by [unclear]
species.

C.A.S. File 3a for information
3.

Wall Dorothy
close
days

Yours
(B)

P.S. SK
12 Apr 48

A. Executive Commission

for information. The City Commission has been in touch
10 AM 16
Ostrombank 16
C.A.S.

24/4 noted - 7

case.

5/6

5

202

785016

file 50 for information

Warren Motter
School
Buses

Mark AB

P.S. S/C
8/24/45

A. Executive Commission
to information. The A.I.C. Commission has been in to day
to obtain information. 10 AM.
P.A. 10 AM.

24/4 noted - 7

5

CASE.

Left 4 A/cr Com's has seen + file is returned to you.

Office of EC
24 Apr 45

E. G. Shuler

2029

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RISERVO PERSONALE

Comando Generale dell'Arma dei Carabinieri Reali

UFFICIO SERVIZIO - SITUAZIONE E COLLEGAMENTI

N. 323/5 di prot. R.P.

Roma, li 12 aprile 1945

" Allegato "

Risposta a

del

OGGETTO: Esplosione di un piroscafo alleato nel Porto di Bari.-

ALLA COMMISSIONE ALLEATA -
- Sottocommissione per la P.S. -

R O M A

Da seguito al foglio n°323/4 R.P. in data 10 corrente.-
Il Comandante del Gruppo Interno CC.RR. di Bari comunica
le seguenti precisazioni:

Il 9 corrente, alle ore 12 circa, nel porto di Bari (ban-
china n°14), si verificò improvvisamente lo scoppio della na-
ve americana "HENDERSON" di circa 8.000 tonnellate, carica
di esplosivi e di nafta.

Lo scoppio investì altre due navi vicine appiccandovi il
fuoco. Una di esse, l'italiana "LUCIA COSULI", con a bordo
del carburante, fu rimorchiata al largo, dove continuò a bru-
ciare. L'altra nave, la "KNOLL", con carico prevalente di ve-
stuario, rimase solo in parte danneggiata.-

Sulle cause del sinistro si formulano parecchie ipotesi,
ma non si ha modo ancora di fare delle precisazioni, per quan-

....

- 2 -

to si escluda generalmente la possibilità di sabotaggio. Secondo versione accreditata negli ambienti della polizia alleata si farebbe risalire la causa determinante all'imprudenza di qualche fumatore.

La nave esplosa aveva un equipaggio di circa 80 uomini, dei quali, finora, non si hanno notizie. La compagnia Nazario Sauro aveva sul posto circa 200 operai ed impiegati dei quali solo una trentina hanno risposto all'appello. La banchina n° 14 ha riportato gravi danni e una interruzione.

Tre gru sono scomparse ed altre tre rese inservibili. I vari capannoni in legno ed in muratura rasi al suolo; pressoché distrutta l'attrezzatura portuale della zona.

La formidabile esplosione colse di sorpresa e con effetti terrificanti il personale italiano ed alleato che per ragioni di lavoro o di servizio si trovava sul posto. molte vittime si ebbero per la violenta proiezione di schegge e di nafta infiammata.

Particolarmente danneggiato il rione di Bari Vecchia dove si verificarono crolli di abitazioni. Numerosi stabili sono rimasti pericolanti e quindi inabitabili. Tutta la città ha risentito dello spostamento di aria causato dalla esplosione. Quasi tutti i vetri sono andati in frantumi; gli infissi divelti e danneggiati specie nella zona di Bari Vecchia e nelle vie del centro più vicine al porto. Anche alcune chiese della città vecchia hanno subito danni.

Il numero delle vittime ancora oggi non si può precisare, ma supera indubbiamente le cifre comunicate con le precedenti segnalazioni.-

. / . . .

- 3 -

La caserma della Legione Carabinieri ha risentito sensibilmente degli effetti dello spostamento di aria. Molti vetri e delle vetrate sono andati in frantumi; sensibili danni agli infissi.

Molto apprezzata in pubblico l'opera di soccorso immediatamente spiegata dagli alleati e dalle autorità civili e militari, che si sono prodigate nel porgere aiuto agli infuonati e nel rimuovere le vittime.

Tutti gli ospedali civili ed alleati hanno accolto indistintamente i numerosi feriti che affluivano, procedendo al ricovero dei più gravi ed alle medicazioni di quelli più leggeri.

Parecchi degli infuonati sono stati trasferiti con mezzi occasionali anche negli ospedali dei comuni vicini.

Il Prefetto, che ha riportato leggera ferita alla testa, ha subito disposto per la revisione di tutti gli immobili da poter adibire ad alloggio dei senza tetti, mettendo a disposizione dell'EOA una prima somma di tre milioni per soccorsi assistenziali. Presso il Comune di Bari ha cominciato a funzionare l'ufficio assistenza sinistrati con personale apposito, eliminando ogni superflua burocrazia al fine di raggiungere sollecita, pratica ed efficace assistenza ai bisognosi. La popolazione, in un primo tempo terrorizzata, si è mantenuta disciplinata e rassegnata alla dura prova cui è stata sottoposta.

Sono in corso altre iniziative.

Le autorità civili e militari, ed oggi anche S.E. GASPAROTTO, in rappresentanza del governo, hanno visitato tutti i

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•/••

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degenti presso gli ospedali recando loro parole di conforto e di solidarietà.-

p. IL GENERALE COMANDANTE
-Brunetto Brunetti-
- Il Gen. di Div. Alfredo Ferrari -

Tecniche

2033

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Commissioning Granted C.C.R.R. 24

No 323/2

TO	INIT	DATE
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER		
EX-CHIEF C.R.		
PROSECUTOR		
ADM. OFFICER		
SECURITY		
CHIEF CLERK		

Rome 9 April 1945.

Subject: Explosion of an ~~Allied~~ ship, in the Port of Bari.

To: Allied Commission, Public Safety S/C. Rome

At about twelve o'clock today, 9th April, there has been an outbreak of fire, on a ~~Allied~~ Ship in the Port of Bari. The cause of it, is not known (Unknown if it was loaded of ammunition, or if it was a Tanker)

The explosion, for its violent displacement of air, has had repercussion on all the Buildings of the City. It is now in course, to ascertain the number of victims, and the entity of damages.

In just the one C.C.R.R. Barracks, situated on the seafront, there has been twenty Carabinieri injured, 512, one of them seriously.

Commanding General
Reserved for further news. Brunetto Brunetti.

*Transtate*
RISERVATO E RISONALE

Comando Generale dell'Arma dei Carabinieri Reali

UFFICIO SERVIZIO - SITUAZIONE E COLLEGAMENTI

N. 323/2 di prot. R.P.

Roma, li 9 aprile 1945

Risposta al

del

n.

Allegati n.

OGGETTO: Esplosione di un piroscafo alleato nel porto di Bari.-

ALLA COMMISSIONE ALLEATA -

- Sottocommissione per la P.S. -

R O M A

Verso le ore 12 di oggi, 9 aprile, nel porto di Bari è scoppiata, per cause non ancora precise, una nave alleata (ignorasi se trattisi di piroscafo carico di munizioni o di una petroliera).

Lo scoppio, per il violento spostamento d'aria, ha avuto ripercussione sugli stabili della città.

E' in corso di accertamento il numero delle vittime e l'entità dei danni.

Nella sola caserma della Legione C.R.R., sita lungo mare, vi sono 20 militari dell'arma feriti, di cui uno in modo grave.

Riserva di ulteriori notizie.-

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IL GENERALE COMANDANTE
-Brunetto Brunetti-

Brunetti

2033

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TRANSLATION. mo.

CARABINIERI HEADQUARTERS COMMAND

Rome 10th April, 1945.

Ref. No. 323/2 R.V. dated 9th April, 1945.

No. 323/4.

SUBJECT : Explosion of an Allied ship in the Port of Bari.

TO : A.C., Public Safety Sub-Commission.

With reference to letter No. 323/2, dated 9th instant, I transcribe the following cable No. 323/7 sent on the 10th instant by the C.C.R.R. Bari Command:-

"On the 9th instant at about 12 hours, in the port of Bari a ship loaded with petrol and bombs exploded for unknown reasons just a few minutes after the unloading was started.

In consequence of the explosion another ship loaded with petrol took fire.

As a result of the explosion many buildings have been damaged and windows broken.

The dead so far ascertained are 6 soldiers and 267 civilians; 103 soldiers and 1,724 civilians have been wounded, among whom also H.E. the Prefect."

For COMMANDING GENERAL

- Brunetti Brunetti -

DIVISIONAL GENERAL

- Alfredo Ferrari -

*Recd Apr 10 1945
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• translation ?

CCRR.HQ.

Rome 10th April 1945

Reply...: n:323/2 R.P. dated 9th April. n: 323/4

Subject: Explosion of an Allied steamer in the Port of Bari.

To: A.C. Public Safety subCommission.

With reference to ~~your~~ letter n:323/2 dated 9th instant, I transcribe the following cable n:382/7 sent on the 10th instant by the C.C.R. Bari Command:

"On the 9th, at about 12 hrs., in the port of Bari, for unknown reasons exploded a ship loaded with petrol and bombs, just few minutes after the unloading was started.

In consequence of the explosion another ship ~~took~~ fire, loaded this too with petrol.

As a result of this explosion also many buildings have been damaged and windows broken.

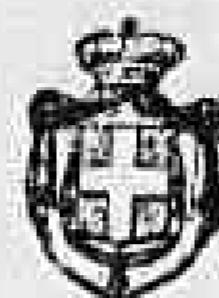
The death of six soldiers has been ascertained; 267 civilians are dead; 103 soldiers and 1.724 civilians have been wounded, among whom also H.E. the Prefect."

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Commanding General

-Brunetto Brunetti-

Division General: Alfredo Ferrari.

RISERVATO PERSONALE

Comando Generale dell'Arma dei Carabinieri Reali

UFFICIO SERVIZIO - SITUAZIONE E COLLEGAMENTI

N. 323/4 di prot. R.P.

Roma, li 10 aprile 1945

Risposta al

del

Allegati n.

OGGETTO:

Replosione di un piroscafo alleato nel Porto di Bari.

ALLA COMMISSIONE ALLEATA

- Sottocommissione per la Pubblica Sicurezza -

R O M A

A seguito del foglio n.323/2 R.P. del 9 corrente, trascrivo il seguente teleggramma n.322/7 spedito in data 10 corrente dal comando della compagnia CC.RR. di Bari Internaz.

""Ore 12 circa 9 corrente Porto Bari cause finora imprecise verificavasi improvviso scoppio piroscafo carico carburanti et bombe poco dopo iniziare operazioni scarico. Seguite esplosione incendiavasi altro vicino piroscafo carico carburante. Esplosione ha avuto ripercussioni stabili lesionando notevolmente diverse abitazioni et altri edifici quartiere vecchio et danneggiando inflesi nonché vutri numerosi altri stabili. Si sono accortati nei militari morti et 267 civili nonché 103 militari et 1.724 civili feriti tra cui leggermente anche Eccellenza Prefetto.""

P. IL GENERALE COMANDANTE

- Brunetto Brunetti -

Il Generale di Divisione Alfredo Ferrari

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Translation.

MINISTRY OF FINANCE

14/7/45 15th May 1945.

N. 34B R.

Subject : Explosion in the Bari Port.

To : A.C. Finance Sub-Commission
To : A.C. F.S. S/C.

Re.

For your information we transcribe the following letter, dated 15th April 1945, which Major Beattie, Commander of the English Military Police at the Bari Port, has sent to the Commander of the Bari GG.FF. Legion:

"I am very glad that you have accepted my gratitude and my great satisfaction for the excellent work and spirit shown by the men of the Finance Guard at the Bari Port during the disaster which has occurred on Monday 9th April 1945. No one has spared himself in the service and I firmly hold that this is in accordance with the traditions of the Finance Guard."

Division General
Commanding General
(G.B.Oxilia)

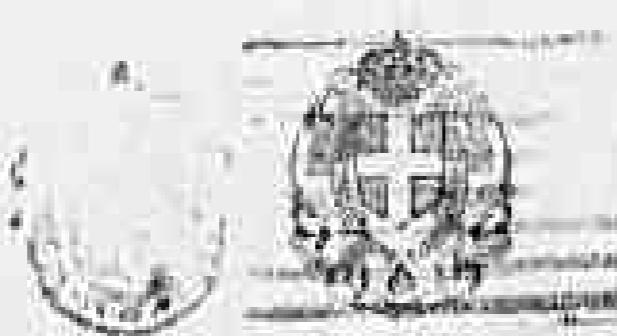
rv.

Please initial receive 1.66

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785016



H.M. 11

- 8 MAG 1945

Roma

Ministero delle Finanze

COMANDO GENERALE R. GUARDIA DI FINANZA

- Ufficio Servizio -

Direzione

Per l' 348 R. Ser. Mayade

Suppl. al f. 348
Dm. 10

OSSERVAZIONE
OGGETTO Esplosione nel porto di Bari.

ALLA COMMISSIONE ALLEATA
-Sottocommissione Finanza- R O M A
ALLA COMMISSIONE ALLEATA
-Safety Police- R O M A

Per notizia si comunica, qui di seguito, la lettera del 13 aprile u.s. che il maggiore Beattie, Comandante della polizia militare inglese del porto di Bari, ha inviato al Comandante della Legione R. Guardia di Finanza di quella città:

" Mi è cosa molto gradita che accettiate il mio ringraziamento ed il mio vivo compiacimento per l'eccellente opera prestata e lo spirito dimostrato dai militari della Guardia di Finanza al Porto di Bari durante il disastro di lunedì 9 aprile 1945.

Tutti si sono prodigati nel servizio in modo esemplare e ritengo fermamente che ciò è conforme

.//.

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alle tradizioni della Guardia di Finanza.""

IL GENERALE DI DIVISIONE f.g.s.
COMANDANTE GENERALE
(G.B.Oxilia)

G. Oxilia

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ALLIED COMMISSION
LIASON OFFICE
BARI
18 APR 1945

6A

April 24, 1945

Subject: Explosion in an ammunition ship in Bari. 10 AM.
Ref.: IB/71.
To: Allied Commission H.C. G.H.Q. (Am. Ammunition Supply)

1) I have to report that after a hurried tele over from Lt. Col. Turner-Coles on Friday 6th April 1945, I assumed duty as Allied Commission Liaison Officer South-Eastern Italy with H.Q. in Bari at 11.30 hrs. on Thursday 12th April '45.

2) As is now well known a severe explosion had occurred in an ammunition ship at about 12.00 hrs. on Monday, 9 April '45.

3) In the course of my messages through the town and later in the vicinity which discussed people had been scattered and fled and law and order apparently restored and maintained. I have myself noticed no signs of panic amongst the population and these observations are confirmed by the Prefect of Bari whom I interviewed yesterday morning. The Prefect further assures me that there is no apparent tendency even towards "jitteriness" amongst the civilian population.

4) When regard is had to the dimensions of the explosion and to the extensiveness of the damage which has been done it is a tribute to the manner in which the Allied Armed Services and the civilian authorities faced up to the numerous difficulties which invariably follow in the wake of such a disaster that even outward normality has been so rapidly restored.

5) Capt. Jones who was acting during my absence on duty in Rome ascertained within a few minutes of the explosion that all A.C. personnel had escape injuries although the A.C. Offices were badly damaged, all windows and many doors having been wrecked. He thereafter immediately telephoned a short report to A.C. H.Q. and then proceeded to the docks area and gave all the assistance he could within a very short period, for the removal and safety

the rapidity with which civilian people had been concentrated and fed and law and order segmentally maintained. I have myself noticed no signs of panic amongst the population and these observations are confirmed by the Prefect of Bari whom I interviewed yesterday morning. The Prefect further assures me that there is no apparent tendency even towards "jitteriness" amongst the civilian population.

- 4) When regard is had to the dimensions of the explosion and to the extensiveness of the damage which has been done it is a tribute to the manner in which the Allied Armed Services and the civilian Authorities faced up to the numerous difficulties which invariably follow in the wake of such a disaster that even outward normality has been so rapidly restored.
- 5) Capt. Jones who was acting during my absence on duty in Rome ascertained within a few minutes of the explosion that all A.C. personnel had escapee injuries although the A.C. Offices were badly damaged, all windows and many doors having been wrecked. He thereafter immediately telephoned a short report to A.C. H.Q. and then proceeded to the docks area and gave all the assistance he could. Within a very short period ferry services and ambulances consisting of every kind of vehicle were carrying victims to the various hospitals. The first injured were being attended to five minutes after the explosion.
- 6) Immediate steps were taken in conjunction with Town Major 50 to re-house families who had lost their homes and the distribution of food supplies was got under way. Air raid shelters were visited by Capt. Jones who had no difficulty in calming people who had taken refuge there under the impression that a great air raid was taking place. The excellent work done and the coolness and efficiency displayed by the Allied Forces as a whole did much to restore order in a situation which might easily have become dangerously chaotic.
- 7) The Prefect has expressed to me his appreciation of the assistance and cooperation he has had from the Military.

W.H.F.

- 2 -

Authorities in rapidly re-housing, feeding and attending to the many hundreds of people rendered injured or rendered homeless by the explosion. I myself saw an example of this assistance and co-operation yesterday (13 April '45) when, thanks to the efforts of 54 Area, the Prefect was able to re-house a further hundred families. One of the problems now calling for resolution is the re-housing of some 150 prostitutes who at the time were, I understand, undergoing treatment in one of the hospitals damaged by the explosion.

8) According to the latest figures obtainable from the British portion of No. 98 General Hospital, Allied Forces casualties are as under:

KILLED	41
INJURED	132
MISSING	not yet known

9) The Prefect has supplied me with the following figures in respect of Italian civilian casualties:

KILLED	360
INJURED	1730
MISSING	not yet known
HOMELESS but accommodated	217 families
HOMELESS non accommodated	30 families

It is possible that accommodation will still have to be found for a further 300 families at present living in houses which are considered unsafe.

A. J. Dawson
Lt. Col. Dawson,
Allied Commission
Liaison Officer

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MISSING not yet known
KILLED 360
INJURED 1730
MISSED not yet known
HOMELESS but accommodated 217 families
HOMELESS non accommodated 30 families

8) The Prefect has supplied me with the following figures in respect of Italian civilian casualties:

It is possible that accommodation will still have to be found for a further 300 families at present living in houses which are considered unsafe.

A. Dawson

Lt. Col.
Allied Commission
Liaison Officer

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TO	W.M. 10/4
DIRECTOR	13/4
DEPUTY DIRECTOR	13/4
EXEC. OFFICER	13/4
POLICE	13/4
UC. & REG.	13/4
PRISONS	13/4
JAIL	13/4
ARMED FORCES	13/4
A.D.A. OFFICER	13/4
SECURITY	13/4
SUBDIV : EXPLOSION	13/4
TO	A.S. 2.3. S/U.

No. 323/6 1.7.

SUBDIV : EXPLOSION

In continuation of letter No. 303/4 1.7., dated 10th instant:-

The Comander of the Royal Internal Security Group communicates the following details:-

On the 9th instant at about 1200 hours, in the Port of Mori, slipway No. 14, there suddenly exploded the American ship "Henderson" of about 3,000 tons, carrying a cargo of explosives and petrol.

The explosion hit two nearby ships causing them to take fire. One of them the Italian "Mascia Giacinta", carrying fuel, was towed out to sea, where she continued to burn. The other ship, the "Mascia", carrying clothing, was only partly damaged.

As to the cause of the disaster there are many hypotheses but it has not yet been possible to arrive at accurate details. Although the possibility of sabotage is generally excluded, according to accredited versions among the Allied Police the cause would appear to be the imprudence of a sailor.

The exploded ship had a crew of about 30 men of whom, up to now there is no news. The Messerio Saito Company had on the spot about 200 workmen and employees of whom only 30 have returned to the toll-call. The ship No. 14 has suffered serious damage and interruption.

The Japanese have discontinued and another three have been

Rec'd
A.S.
10/4/44
P.W.

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the explosion left two nearby ships capsizing from 50
feet high. One of them was Italian "Lucio Soglio", carrying
fuel, was towed out to sea, where she continued to burn. The
other ship, the "Whale", carrying clothing, was only partly
damaged.

As to the cause of the disaster there are many theories
but it has not yet been possible to arrive at accurate details.
Although the possibility of sabotage is generally excluded,
according to accredited versions actions of a third police file
cause could appear to be the ignorance of a smoker.

The explosion left a crater of about 30 feet in width,
as to how there is no news. The Argentino Army Company had
on the spot about 100 workmen and employees of whom only 20
have replied to the roll-call. The mine No. 14 has suffered
serious damage and interruption.

Three cranes have disappeared and another three have been
rendered useless. The various storerooms in wood and
brick have been reduced to the ground; some installations
the zone are practically destroyed.

The terrible explosion caught by surprise and with
terrifying effects the Italian and British personnel who for
work or service reasons were on the spot. There were many
victims from the violent hurling of explosives and burning
petrol.

Old Town was particularly damaged where many houses
burned. Most buildings have remained in a dangerous
condition and are therefore uninhabitable. All the city
got the air displacement caused by the explosion. Nearly
all windows were broken and signatures bent and damaged exceedingly.

In Old Town and the central streets nearest to the Port.
Also some churches in the old city sustained damage.

The number of victims cannot even to-day be established
but it undoubtedly exceeds the figures given in previous
reports.

The tracks of the bombardier Legion felt strongly
the effects of the air raid. Many windows and much
other glass were smashed and were very much damaged to
figures.

The public gave much appreciated the instant aid work
and rescue work immediately undertaken by the Allies and the
Civil and Military Authorities, who extended themselves in
giving help to the injured and removing the victims.

All civil and allied hospitals received indiscriminately
the numerous wounded who were flowing in, giving beds to the
more dangerously wounded.

Many wounded have been transferred by any means available
to hospitals in the nearby countries.

The prefect, who suffered a bullet wound on the head,
immediately ordered the requisition of all buildings capable
of housing the helpless, placing at the disposition of the
DGA a first sum of 3 million francs for rescue and welfare work.
At the instance of Dept Office the Bureau for assistance to
all surviving prisoners is already functioning with the appropriate personnel.
All surviving prisoners being eliminated, with the aim
of surviving at speed, practical and efficient assistance
for the need.
The population, at first terrified,
has now been stabilized.

Other enterprises for assistance are in course of
preparation.

The civil and military authorities, and the numerous

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many wounded have been transferred by air means available to hospitals in nearby countries.

The Prefect, who assumed a direct control on the head, immediately ordered the recruitment of all buildings capable of housing the homeless, placing at the disposition of the DSA a first sum of 3 million for rescue and welfare work. At the same time the Prefecture has asked the assistance of the Bureau of Economic Planning with the economy personnel. Measures is already functioning being eliminated with the aim of saving the numerous bureaucracy being eliminated, with the aim of surviving at speedy, practical and efficient assistance to the needy. The population, at first terrified, has remained disciplined and resigned to the hard trials to which it has been submitted.

Other enterprises of assistance are in course of preparation.

The civil and military authorities, and today 310 D.L. members, represent the government, have visited all those in hospital, giving them words of comfort and solidarity.

TO THE GENERAL COMMAND
- Brunetto Brunetti -
THE NATIONAL GUARD
- Alfredo Terzani -

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
 A.P.O. 394
 PUBLIC SAFETY SUB-COMMISSION
SECURITY DIVISION

REF : SD/600

10 April 1945

SUBJECT : Explosion in Pari Harbour

TO : Director, Public Safety Sub-Commission ✓

1. At 1200 hours, 9 April 1945 a British ammunition ship exploded in Pari harbour. Many neighboring ships were set on fire and damages were done to the city. The Headquarters suffered damages and many were wounded. Col. DE LUCA of S.I.P., Lt. Col. DELL'AGLIO and another or 8 others were sent to a hospital. Lt. Col. GISMONDI of Finance Guards was wounded.

2. There is no information available as to how the explosion occurred, or the name of the vessel.

S.J. Harvey
 S.J. HARVEY
 Major,
 Security Division.

SJH/af

TO	INIT	DATE
DIRECTOR		
DEPUTY DIRECTOR	AS	1945
EXEC. OFFICER		
ADM. OFFICER	CH	11-2
SECRETARY		
ADVISOR		
CLERK		

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translation M.C.

MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR

name 9-4-15
n: 1697

Subject: Accident.

To.....: A.C. Public Safety sub Commission.
Cabinet of the under Secretary of the Interior.Phonogram arrived at 14,45 hrs from the Bari Prefecture.

This morning at about 12 o'clock, for unknown reasons, the oil-tanker anchored in this port, exploded.

Serious damages, investigations are being made in regard to the number of the victims.

Several hundred of wounded among whom the under-signed, in consequence of chips of glass blown out, by the explosion.

All the windows of the Prefecture, Questura, public offices, and private houses, are broken.

The population is very excited but disciplined.

Further news will be furnished.

TO	INIT	DATE
DIRECTOR		
DEPUTY DIRECTOR		
EXEC. OFFICER		
POLICE	OPW	11/4
LIC & REG.		
PRISON		
ADM.		
SECURITY		
CHEM. LAB.		

Signed: Antonucci

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translation

MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR

Room 9-4-15
n: 1697

Subject: Accident.

To.....: A.C. Public Safety sub Commission.
Cabinet of the under Secretary of the Interior.

Phonogram arrived at 11, 15 hrs from the Bari Prefecture.

This morning at about 12 o'clock, for unknown reasons, the oil-tanker anchored in this port, exploded.

Serious damages, investigations are being made in regard to the number of the victims.

Several hundred of wounded among whom the under-signed, in consequence of chips of glass blown out, by the explosion.

All the windows of the Prefecture, Questura, public offices, and private houses, are broken.

The population is very excited but disciplined.

Further news will be furnished.

Signed: Antonucci

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Mod.839



9 Aprile 1945

FONOGRAMMA IN ARRIVO

Ore 14.45 Dalla R.Prefettura di Bari

Al Gabinetto del Sottosegretario all'Interno

Alla Direzione Generale della P.S.

n°1697 - Gab.

Circa ore 12 stamane per cause non ancora precise saltava in aria petroliera ancorata questo porto. Danni rilevanti et in corso accertamenti numero vittime.

Diverse centinaia feriti tra cui leggermente sottoscritto in dipendenza schegie vetri protetti dallo scoppio. Infissi et vetri uffici pubblici specialmente R.Prefettura et R.Questura et abitazioni private divelti et infranti e carteggio devastato.

Popolazione allarmatissima mantiensi disciplinata.

Riservomi ulteriori notizie.

firmato ANTONUCCI

Trasmette Dr Dultio

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Trasmette Dr Dultio

Riceve Giarino

2054