

ACC

10000/143/1003

PRESS COMMENT  
JULY 1944 - 00

10000/143/1003

PRESS COMMENT & CRITICISM OF PRISON ADMINISTR.  
JULY 1944 - OCT. 1945

Minute Sheet

R.H.D.

-12

Attention is invited to H.A. Will you take  
action please.

15 Sept. 1945-

Chapman  
Col. H.A.D.

2 -

Col. Chapman.

Letter on file was sent to the  
newspaper in question.  
ref. file

gpb pro

Talked to Achille on the telephone. He  
will write us asking whether there is any  
objection from the com rship point of view.

MX

Hop. ~~Robert~~ Pearson

Per. oxilia  
 still on

re col. personally  
 on this

(exists course)  
 in 1941 &  
 1942 -

To P. R. O.

Regret that circuit availability does  
 not permit of fixed line calls ~~to~~ Rome  
 Switzerland at present moment -

121

Oct 15, 1945

W W Sandler

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION  
APO 394  
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

GSB/cb

R105/PRB

9 October 1945

SUBJECT: Telephone Communication Rome-Berne

TO : Lt.Col. Scudder, Communications S/C.

Reference attached.

Mr. Scanziani is accredited to AC as a neutral correspondent.

Is it possible to authorize his request?

*Stewart Brown*  
STEWART BROWN,  
Director,  
Public Relations Branch.

|                    |            |
|--------------------|------------|
| Director           | <i>WJH</i> |
| Asst. Director     |            |
| Chief Telephone    |            |
| Chief Postal       |            |
| Asst. Chief Postal |            |
| Chief Clerk        |            |
| Chief Electrician  |            |

1210

|       |      |
|-------|------|
| CLERK |      |
| REPS  |      |
| FILE  | 2253 |
|       | 2110 |

9 OCT 1945

ANTONIO SCANZIANI  
CORRISPONDENTE PER L'ITALIA  
ROMA  
Via Archimede 25  
TELEF. 873-813

SALA CAMERA OSCURA  
VIA D'ARCA S. MARCO, 25  
TELEFON. 873-813 - 873-814  
INTERURBANI 873-813

*Agenzia Telegrafica Svizzera*  
(Schweiz. Depeschenzentrale - Agence Telegraphique Suisse)

ANNO DI FONDAZIONE 1862  
SEDE CENTRALE: BERNA  
UFFICI: GENEVA, BASEL, GINEVRA, LUGANO,  
SEN GENEVRA ASSOCIATI.

ROMA, 6 ottobre 1945

AL PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH  
R o m a  
=====

Oggetto: Comunicazione telefonica stampa ROMA-BERNA

Il sottoscritto, giornalista e cittadino svizzero, corrispondente da molti anni dell'Agenzia Telegrafica Svizzera, deve compiere ogni giorno una comunicazione telefonica stampa ad ora fissa con la propria redazione di B e r n a. Prega voler cortesemente sollecitare dal col. Scudder la voluta autorizzazione alla Azienda per i servizi telefonici di Stato.

Con osservanza

*Antonio Scanziani*  
(Antonio Scanziani)  
via Archimede 25  
telefono 873-813

bot. Achille - Transitorio Poste e Telegrafi -  
681048

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION  
APO 394  
PUBLIC RELATIONS BRANCH

DO/IP

Ref. 112/PRB

17 September 1945

ALLA REDAZIONE DI "CANTACHIARO"  
Via della Mercede, 42

Abbiamo ricevuto dall'Ufficiale Regionale per la Sicurezza Pubblica di Torino una lettera fortemente risentita per l'articolo apparso su "Cantachiaro" il 24 Agosto u.s. intitolato "Storia segreta dell'evasione fascista." I fatti riportati nell'articolo sono puramente inventati e non hanno il minimo fondamento di verità.

Bisogna riconoscere che la diffusione di notizie false, specialmente in questo campo delicatissimo, non può che turbare l'opinione pubblica italiana. Riteniamo quindi che sarebbe opportuna una smentita dei fatti cui si accenna nel suddetto articolo. Questo è anche il desiderio dell'Ufficiale Regionale, il quale ci ha detto che, se una smentita non venisse pubblicata, egli si troverebbe costretto a proibire la vendita del "Cantachiaro" nel territorio sotto la giurisdizione del Governo Militare Alleato.

Saremo grati se ci verrà inviata una copia di "Cantachiaro" non appena la smentita verrà pubblicata.

G. STEWART BROWN

Director,  
Public Relations Branch

1210

13 SEP. 1945

HEADQUARTERS  
PIEMONTE REGION  
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT  
APO 394

OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER

REF : PR/PS/37/10

SUBJECT : Torino Prison - Administration  
TO : A.C. HQrs (Attn Public - Safety Sub-Commission)  
DATE : 8th August 1945

4A

|                 |      |
|-----------------|------|
| TO              | 1422 |
| DEPT. OK        | 1422 |
| DEPUTY DIRECTOR | 1422 |
| EXEC. OFFICER   | 1422 |
| PO. REC.        | 1422 |
| LIC. & REG.     | 1422 |
| PRISONERS       | 1422 |
| ADM. OFFICER    | 1422 |
| SECURITY        | 1422 |
| CHIEF CLERK     | 1422 |

1. Enclosed is a copy of a publication named CANTACHIARO issued in Rome on the 24th August 1945, together with a translation of an article therein entitled "Secret Story of Fascist Escapes".

Although it is evident that the contents of the publication are the product of warped minds the article to which I take exception has been written by a vicious liar or lunatic. The allegations are entirely untrue, but it may be that the more gullible Italians in the South will attach credence to the article.

2. Avv. Gallo, Director of Torino prison, has asked for the strongest possible action to be taken against the printers and publishers.

3. It is appreciated that this and other publications are not subject to censorship and I request that:

- The publishers be required to print and publish in the next edition of CANTACHIARO an admission that the entire article complained of is false and
- that a copy of the paper containing the denial is sent to me.

4. If the persons concerned do not comply I shall ask Provincial Commissioners through the Regions to prohibit the sale of the publication in A.M.G. territory and I have no doubt they will agree.

1216

REF : PR/PS/37/10

SUBJECT : Torino Prison - Administration  
 TO : A.C. HQrs (Attn Public - Safety Sub-Commission)  
 DATE : 8th August 1945 *dep*

1. Enclosed is a copy of a publication named CANTACHIARO issued in Rome on the 24th August 1945, together with a translation of an article therein entitled "Secret Story of Fascist Escapes".  
 Although it is evident that the contents of the publication are the product of warped minds the article to which I take exception has been written by a vicious liar or lunatic. The allegations are entirely untrue, but it may be that the more gullible Italians in the South will attach credence to the article.

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  - a) The publishers be required to print and publish in the next edition of CANTACHIARO an admission that the entire article complained of is false and
  - b) that a copy of the paper containing the denial is sent to me.

4. <sup>1916</sup> If the persons concerned do not comply I shall ask Provincial Commissioners through the Regions to prohibit the sale of the publication in A.M.G. territory and I have no doubt they will agree.

For the Regional Commissioner

*H. Mighall*

H. MIGHALL

Major,

Regional Public Safety Officer.

## Translation

## SECRET STORY OF FASCIST ESCAPES

(from 'CANTACHIARO' 24th August 1945)

In Turin a new kind of business has begun: that of prisoners. Up to now about 100 of them have got out of prison in small groups. They were thieves, murderers, criminals and principally political prisoners i.e. 'fascists'.

Is there a fascist organization which bribes, helps, and works in the darkness? No, there is nothing of the kind. In Turin there is no FODRIA lying in continual wait.

Then, who is helping these fascists to escape from the prison? The 'volunteers of liberty' are doing it.

Who are they? Are they members of a new religious order? Are they gentle christian souls vowed to the redemption of men who have lost their liberty? They are nothing of this kind. The 'volunteers of liberty' (who are not to be mistaken with the partisans who fought on the mountains) are some kind of a 'milizia' of C.L.N. and appeared suddenly on the day of the liberation of Turin, raining blows on.....shadows, and shooting like mad at.....clouds.

They entered the prison of Turin.....not exactly like that..... not to stay there as prisoners, but to act as guards. They occupied immediately a very strategical position: the 'custody' warehouse. They were led by a Squadrista doctor and followed by a crowd of directors, secretaries, girl-typists, etc..

The Administrative Offices were 'requisitioned' but the warehouses were 'requisitioned' even more. Boots, leather, linen, blankets, suits, cloth, typewriters, calculating machines, to the value of 121- hundreds of millions were considered as personal booty.

But this is not all.

Naturally, not all the 'volunteers of liberty' could stay in the prison of Turin as guards and give themselves to spiritual %.

.../.

(2)

exercises.....Many of them remained outside.....for a short time. In fact, after a few days they, too, entered the prison. This time they did not go there as guards, but as prisoners. Some of them had been recognized as robbers, thieves and murderers of very respectable persons. Others had not been able to hide their arms well enough and had been punished for not having surrendered them. Thus an absurd situation was created: the gaolers 'volunteers of liberty' were guarding other detained 'volunteers of liberty'. Such was the irony of Fate, and the jail was undoubtedly the end of their Fate.

But there is a saying: "dog does not eat dog". The detained 'volunteers of liberty' were allowed to pay visits to their more fortunate colleagues: the gaolers 'volunteers of liberty'. Dances were organized. They also had shooting competitions - a Swiss sport - and they now needed only money. Therefore they started making restrictions: the 'other' prisoners were not allowed to receive any mail, or cigarettes, or wine.

Parcels were 'requisitioned'. Mail, cigarettes, and wine were still allowed with duty tariffs which went to the 'Volunteers of Liberty' (both gaolers and prisoners). Black market was started for the other prisoners: cigarettes cost 500 lire a packet, wine 1000 lire a litre, mail..... 10 lire for each centigram of weigh.

The business increased and prospered. An 'x' amount of money was required to get a breath more of air, another 'y' amount of money to go as far as the end of the wing, and another 'z' amount of money to take one step out of the door.

Nothing less than an 'x' plus 'y' plus 'z' sum was required to get definitely out of prison.

Furthermore they 'requisitioned' all the money and any object of value, which money

(3)

.../.

value belonging to those who were being held on suspicion by the police, which money and objects did never go into the personal accounts of the prisoners.

The prisoners had to arrive naked to the end!

At last the scandal spread and became well-known.

The Allies replaced 60 'volunteers etc' with 60 Carabinieri.

However, the crowd of directors, vice-directors, secretaries, girl-typists and girl-employees remained in the administration.

Things are still at the same standard since there are 60 Carabinieri whereas the strength of the Volunteers of Liberty is 6000 men.

An interesting detail: when the fascists are released the 'volunteers etc' are so kind as to telephone the anti-fascists that.....

... 'vengeance will be done'.

Can one be more kind and polite than this?

transl/A.

(Translation L.S.)

20 AGO. 1945

3A

Rome Aug. 23 -1945

JUDICIAL PRISON  
Direction of ROME

N° I7824

ALLIED COMMAND  
SUB COMMISSION of P.S.14229  
2

SUBJECT - Prisoner TIRONE Luigi

About the prisoner TIRONE Luigi, of whom the news paper have said so much about, I believe the opportunity to inform this Sub-Commission that he enter this prison on the morning of the 12 inst. Coming from the judicial prison of Volterra transferred direct by the Carabinieri.

From that moment he as never gone out from the prison, as it result clear in the register of the prison and that he, has received food parcels from the family on the 14-16-17 and 20 inst.

The General Inspector

Directing

/s/illegible

| TO              | INITIAL | DATE |
|-----------------|---------|------|
| DIRECTOR        | 11/9    | 11/9 |
| DEPUTY DIRECTOR | 11/9    | 11/9 |
| EXEC. OFFICER   | 11/9    | 11/9 |
| POLICE          |         |      |
| S.C. Y. D.      |         |      |
| Prison          | 11/9    | 11/9 |
| SECURITY        |         |      |
| CHIEF CLERK     |         |      |

n A.

28 AGO. 1945 DIREZIONE  
DELLE  
CARCERI GIUDIZIARIE  
di Roma

Roma, li 23 agosto 1945 194  
Via della Lungara, 20

COMANDO ALLEATO  
Sotto commissione Pubblica Sicurezza  
Via Veneto

17824  
N. Fil. Fasc. Lett.

Allegati

R O M A

Risposta al f. --- N. ---  
Uff. Div. Sez. Tit. Fasc. Lett.

OGGETTO: Detenuto TIRONE LUIGI.

Circa il detenuto Tirone Luigi, del quale si occupano ampiamente i giornali, ritengo opportuno di segnalare che egli è entrato in questo carcere la mattina del giorno 12 corrente, proveniente dal carcere giudiziario di Volterra, con traduzione diretta dei Carabinieri.

Da quel momento egli non è più uscito dal carcere, come risulta chiaramente dai vari registri del carcere stesso e dal fatto che egli ha ricevuto pacchi di generi vittuari dalla famiglia nei giorni 14 - 16 - 17 e 20 del corrente mese.

L'Ispettore Generale  
Dirigente



120

2A  
14 August, 1944

Memo to : D.P.S.

1. Col. Poletti and Col. Pollock have agreed to take no action in this case. They are satisfied that Regina Coeli prison is well run, and that the problems are properly dealt with by Capt. Freeman.

2. Major Fielden, P.R.O. has been seen, and the matter discussed. It is agreed that there is a certain amount of truth in the article in Avanti, although steps had been taken to put things right prior to the publication of the article.  
(See 1 B Para 1.A)

3. It would be possible to arrange for the leader writer of AVANTI to visit Regina Coeli. However, under all the circumstances of this case, and bearing in mind that the Italian Government will become responsible for the prison on 15th August 1944, it has been agreed to take no further action.

4. It is understood that Col. Poletti proposes to take action in Court against the proprietors of a Rome newspaper in connection with a particularly scurrilous article on AMG Administration.

*Frank J. Wilson*  
FRANK J. WILSON, Major.  
Prisons Division.

1A

7 August, 1944.

TO : C.P.S.

1. The criticisms contained in the article in "AVANTI" are as follows :

- (a) Staff carry letters from prisoners to friends at 500 lire each.
- (b) Cleanliness of cells leaves much to be desired.
- (c) Crowding increasing.
- (d) Food uneatable and scarce.
- (e) Political prisoners in Allied Custody and supervised by Allied personnel have good and abundant food and enjoy a model prison.
- (f) Situation is reversed, when compared with patriots and anti-fascists under German custody.

2. There appears to have been some substance in (a) since guards have been transferred, and one is awaiting trial.

3. The comment at (b) is unjustified, the cleanliness of cells has been improved since our occupation.

4. Any increase in the prison population has been caused by Italians offending against our Proclamations. Special steps are taken to deal quickly with minor offenders. Courts are held each morning to deal with about 60 curfew cases. Such people are not confined more than 12 hours.

There are 735 cells in the building : 201 are given over to Security arrests. The fact that security prisoners are confined one in each cell, has probably caused the comment at (e) that they enjoy a model prison. The comment is unjustified when it is remembered that conditions were worse before our arrival.

5. As to (d) and (e), the Prison ration scale is adhered to for ordinary prisoners. This scale was reviewed by Executive Commissioner 3 months ago, and the scale is as generous as the supply position will permit. One cause of complaint (in prisons generally) is the lack of

120

- 2 -

meat ; this is not available, but a bouillon cube is issued daily to each prisoner. As the security prisoners are fed on U.S. Army 'B' rations they would get a proportion of canned meat, and this has probably caused comment.

6. To sum up, there is some truth in (a), and as to (e) the security prisoners, by the nature of their offences, are confined separately and fed on army rations. The other points raised are unjustified and give a false impression of prison administration under Allied control.

7. Suggested that Major FIELDEN, Public Relations Officer be seen. The true position could be explained to him and steps taken to ensure that uninformed and incorrect comment on prison matters does not appear again in AVANTI.

We might first find out if Col. Poletti is taking any action in this matter.

*Frank J. Wilson* MHT.

FRANK J. WILSON  
Major Inf.  
PRISONS DIVISION.

FJW/C.

120\*

## ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

Public Safety Division, Rome

Headquarters, Prison Superintendent

4th August 1944

To

Col. TOLBERT - Regional Commissioner

Lt. Col. GILLOCK, Chief - Public Safety Division

Col. Nick, Chief, Public Safety Sub-Commissioner

SUBJECT: Editorial Criticism of Regina Coeli -

1 - The undersigned calls attention to an article in "L'AVANTI" (translation attached) of this date, in which vicious and false accusations are made regarding conditions in Regina Coeli. For Your consideration the following is presented.

A - Passing of letters has been under investigation for several weeks. Two cases have come to light; one about two weeks ago, in which cages and sotto-cages were transferred and restriction of privilege for two common prisoners ensued; and a recent case in the security wing - thoroughly investigated by security agencies here - and resulting in the arrest of a guard and his preparation for trial before Superior Court on charges of violation of Proclamation 1, Article 5, sections 15 and 42.

B - Cleanliness. According to both inmates, Prison officials and everyone else who has a valid basis for an accurate opinion, Regina Coeli is cleaner than ever before in its history.

C - Crowding - Increasing as reported. Would be far less serious if the civil population showed more respect for law and order. In any event conditions are less crowded than under German or Fascist regimes.

D - Food - Political prisoners are receiving U.S. Army "B" ration. This is not available to common prisoners. Supplementary rations are being received according to Military directives and official reports that the common prisoners are being fed "as well or better than the Carabinieri on duty in Rome".

2 - The undersigned requests:

a - That reasonable military authority easily themselves as to the actual condition at Regina Coeli.

b - That steps be taken to prevent recurrence of this type of comment from newspapers which are permitted to operate under military authority.

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT  
Prisoner Capt. C. H. D.

SUBJECT: Material violation of Regina Coeli -

1 - The undersigned calls attention to an article in "VARIET" (translation attached) of this date, in which vicious and false accusations are made regarding conditions in Regina Coeli. For your consideration the following is presented.

A - Reading of letters has been under investigation for several weeks. Two cases have come to light; one about two weeks ago, in which a case and sotto-cases were transferred and restriction of privilege for two common prisoners ensued; and a recent case in the security wing - thoroughly investigated by security agencies here - and resulting in the arrest of a guard and his preparation for trial before Superior Court on charges of violation of Proclamation 1, Article 5, Sections 15 and 42.

B - Classification. According to both inmates, prison officials and every one else who has a valid basis for an accurate opinion, Regina Coeli is cleaner than ever before in its history.

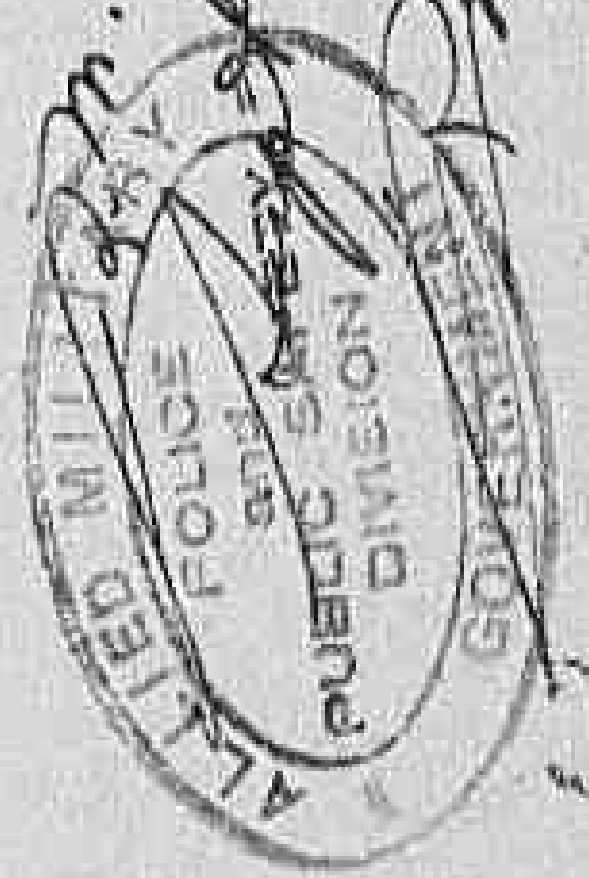
C - Crowding - Increasing as reported. Would be far less serious if the civil population showed more respect for law and order. In any event conditions are less crowded than under German or Fascist regimes.

D - Food - Political prisoners are receiving U.S. Army "B" ration. This is not available to common prisoners. Supplementary rations are being received according to Military Directive and similar reports that the common prisoners are being fed "as well or better than the Carabinieri on duty in Rome".

2 - The undersigned requests:

a - That reasonable military Authority satisfy themselves as to the actual condition at Regina Coeli.

b - That steps be taken to prevent recurrence of this type of comment from newspapers which are permitted to operate under military authority.



Freeman Capt 1247D

Translation of article in the newspaper "AVANTI" of Friday 4 August 1944

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We have received a number of protests concerning the treatment of common prisoners in Regina Coeli. There has been a change in the directorship of the penal institute, but the system remains unchanged. Indeed the personnel employed for the supervision of the prisoners, continues the ignoble speculation of transmitting notes and letters to the relatives of the prisoners for a payment of 500 lire; the cleanliness of the cells - more than ever now - leaves much to be desired; the crowding of the same is increasing; the food has become even more uneatable and scarce. On the other hand the political prisoners who are in Allied custody, and supervised by Allied personnel, have good and abundant food and enjoy the treatment of a real model prison. That is to say the situation is reversed: when in the past the patriots and anti-fascists were in their place under German custody.

---

CELLS OF THE PRISONS "REGINA COELI" AVAILABLE FOR THE DETAINMENT  
OF PRISONERS

|          |                        |                       |                  |
|----------|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| 1° wing- | cells n. 60 - Capacity | "if for three"        | n. 180 prisoners |
|          |                        | "if for one"          | n. 60            |
| 2° wing- | cells n. 136           | "if for three"        | n. 408           |
|          |                        | "if for one"          | n. 136           |
| 3° wing- | cells n. 46            | "if for three"        | n. 138           |
|          |                        | "if for one"          | n. 46            |
| 6° wing- | cells n. 63            | "if for three"        | n. 189           |
|          |                        | "if for one"          | n. 63            |
| 7° wing- | cells n. 145           | "if for three persons | n. 435           |
|          |                        | "if for one"          | n. 145           |
| 8° wing- | cells n. 80            | "if for three"        | n. 240           |
|          |                        | "if for one"          | n. 80            |

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Total n. 530 1590

ALLIED DEPARTMENT

|          |                                                                                                       |     |
|----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| 3° wing- | cells n. 126, actual capacity, because now there is one prisoner for each cell, excepting the workers | 135 |
|          | "if for three"                                                                                        | 378 |
| 4° wing- | cells n. 75, actually there are <sup>combined</sup> <del>estimated</del> 70 prisoners                 | 70  |
|          | "if for three"                                                                                        | 225 |

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Total 603 205

Indeed if you put one prisoner for each cell, the building

|          |                        |                       |                    |
|----------|------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 1° wing- | cells n. 60 - Capacity | "if for three"        | n. 180 prisoners   |
| 2° wing- | cells n. 136           | "if for one"          | n. 60              |
| 3° wing- | cells n. 46            | "if for three"        | n. 408             |
| 6° wing- | cells n. 63            | "if for one"          | n. 136             |
| 7° wing- | cells n. 145           | "if for three"        | n. 138             |
| 8° wing- | cells n. 80            | "if for one"          | n. 46              |
|          |                        | "if for three"        | n. 189             |
|          |                        | "if for one"          | n. 63              |
|          |                        | "if for three persons | n. 435             |
|          |                        | "if for one"          | n. 145             |
|          |                        | "if for three"        | n. 240             |
|          |                        | "if for one"          | n. 80              |
|          |                        | <b>Total</b>          | <b>n. 530 1590</b> |

## ALLIED DEPARTMENT

|          |                                                                                                       |                |
|----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| 3° wing- | cells n. 126, actual capacity, because now there is one prisoner for each cell, excepting the workers | 135            |
| 4° wing- | cells n. 75, actually there are <sup>estimated</sup> 70 prisoners                                     | 70             |
|          | "if for three"                                                                                        | 225            |
|          | <b>Total</b>                                                                                          | <b>603 205</b> |

Indeed if you put one prisoner for each cell, the building can contain n. 735 prisoners; if you put three for each cell n. 2187 **1204**

Rome, July 29 1944

The Commandant S. Masta

1037