

ACC

10000/143/1008

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PRISONS, ATROCITIES, PIANOSA
AUG., SEPT. 1944

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
Administrative Section.

Ref. ACC/14234/PS.

24th September, 1944.

SUBJECT : Atrocities at Pianosa Prison.
TO : The High Commission for the Punishment of
Fascist Crimes.

1. The attached statement made by CHIGI Antonio regarding atrocities committed in Pianosa Prison, prior to Allied occupation, is forwarded for your information.

2. As CHIGI speaks very little English and no interpreter was available when he made the statement, it is probable that much fuller information can be obtained from him.

3. CHIGI is now employed in a Royal Air Force mess at San Vincenzo, near Grosseto, and arrangements can be made to communicate with him if necessary.

4. The statement that Anti-Fascists may still be detained in Pianosa prison is under investigation.

G. R. Upjohn

Gerald R. Upjohn,
Brigadier,
Vice President,
Administrative Section.

Enclosure: Statement. *18/E*

Copy to Region 8.

1574

APW/oa.

SSPX.

Statement by CHIGI, Antonio, No. 6 R.A.S.S., San Vincenzo, who saith:-

I am an Italian civilian employed at the Officer's Mess No. 6 R.A.S.S., San Vincenzo. In 1937 I was a skipper of a small coasting vessel named "TINA" registered at Genoa. From time to time I used to take Italians (men only) to Marseilles. They were all fugitives from the Italian police and were wanted for Anti-Fascist activities. For each person I took I received the sum of 2,000 Lira. On the 10th September I went to Trieste to negotiate a deal with regard to a new ship, and when I was in a café having a meal, an Italian Policeman came up to me and told me to come to the Police Station as he wanted to talk with me. I went with him to the police station and I was arrested and told that I would be charged for taking two men in my ship from Genoa to Marseilles. On 23.2.38 I was sentenced by the Tribunale di Trieste to 3 years, 9 months penal servitude. I was again brought for trial at Genoa on 8.12.1938 and sentenced to 3 years penal servitude and fined 2,500 Lira, and to serve 2 years in a compulsory labour camp at the finish of the sentence. On 29.7.39 I was sent to Pianosa prison. I led a normal prison life until August 1941 when a new governor came to the prison. His name was MASSEO, Carlo. He was a very ardent Fascist. In 1942 some of the prisoners used talk about Political subjects when they were walking out for exercise, and were denouncing the Fascist régime. Some other prisoners who were Fascists overheard their conversations and reported them to MASSEO. On this information MASSEO ordered the beating of about 50 persons. Out of the 50, five men were beaten to death. This happened on 17.9.43. The names of the five persons beaten to death were, TORRITELLI prisoner No. 52, BELUZZO prisoner No. 2727, MAGLIONE, a Swiss national, I can't remember his name and another Italian whose name I cannot remember. All these men are buried at Pianosa Cemetery. The men who survived the beating were taken to the prison hospital and later transferred to CAMPO DE MARINA on the Island of Elba. At this camp, according to information I received from other prisoners, they were beaten to death. I remember some of their names and they are as follows:- MARINO, FRANCHINA, 2 brothers DE LUCA and CAPASSO. There were 12 others but I do not remember their names. These persons were all buried at CAMPO DE MARINA. The main culprits of the beating were GALLO who is now a warder in the prison of SORRIENO DEL CINQUE, a doctor's assistant who I think is still in Pianosa. RICHENZI who was a storekeeper and PARIERI AND MUPO who were warders. MASSEI was a Corporal Warder and GARDELIECHIO was the thief of the hospital. CONSALI was the chief warder. These men are still at Pianosa prison. There were others who took part in the beating but I can not remember their names.

The prison director MASSEO Carlo is a native of Palermo and to the best of my knowledge he was transferred to a Prison in Florence.

In Pianosa prison, to the best of my knowledge, there are still many Anti-Fascists, Yugoslavs and Montenegrans who are pro-Ally, and have not been released by the Authorities. Some of the Italian anti-

Fascists were transferred to PORTO Longone prison on the Island of Elba.

Some of the prisoners who were eye witnesses to the atrocities were transferred to SOLTUSO prison, Piedmonte Province.

I finished my sentence at Pianosa prison on 10.6.44. When a R.A.P. unit came to Pianosa I started to work for an R.A.P. officer W/Lt. Green, and came to San Vincenzo with him.

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

Signed GHIACI ANTONIO

30.8.44.

The above statement was taken down by me at the dictation of GHIACI ANTONIO and signed in my presence.

Signed A.J. GURNEY Cpl.
R.A.P. S.I.B.

In the field
30.8.44.

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

Ref. ACC/14234/FS.

Tel. 483081 -257.

26th September, 1944.

SUBJECT : Pianosa Prison.

TO : R.P.S.O. Region 8.

1. A copy of a statement made by CHIGI Antonio regarding atrocities committed in Pianosa Prison prior to Allied occupation is enclosed.

2. The matter has been referred to the High Commission for the Punishment of Fascist Crimes, vide letter dated 26th September, 1944 attached.

3. Your attention is directed to the paragraph which reads:-

"In Pianosa prison, to the best of my knowledge, there are still many Anti-Fascists, Yugoslavs and Montenegrins who are pro-Ally, and have not been released by the authorities. Some of the Italian anti-Fascists were transferred to Portofino prison on the Island of Elba."

Would you please have this investigated and submit a report on the result.

John W. Chapman
John W. Chapman,
Colonel, J.A.G.D.,
Director, Public Safety
Sub-Commission.

1571

Enclosure: Statement.

APW/ca.

New file 142341

SECRET

1869
P. Safety 9102
(1A)

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
REGION IV
APO 394

Public Safety Division acf

22nd September 1944

File : PS/R4/6
Subject : Prisons. Atrocities at Pianosa.
To : The Director, Public Safety
Sub-Commission, A.C.C. HQ.



10/E

The attached papers are submitted for your information.

For the Regional Commissioner:

Public Safety Sub-Commission
Folio for action information

	INITIALS	DATE
D. P. S.		
D. D. P. S.		
Ex Officer		
PO. ILE		
Prisons		
Fire & C. D.		
Regn. & Licensing		
Adm. Officer		
REMARKS		

W. Wilson
for J. R. POLLOCK
LT. COLONEL
Chief, Public Safety Division
Region IV

1570

1330
Lt-Col. J. E. ...
Chief, Public Safety Division,
Region IV, ...

From: O.C., 97 F.S.

Date: 19 Sept. 44.

3564
1869
Ref 9741

1B

Subject: Atrocities at Sienese Prison.

1. Enclosed for your information and any action you may consider necessary is a copy of a report in connection with the above, which has been passed to me by LHM, F & SU Sub HQ, Italy.

2. It will be observed that the prison director, CARLO ... who is alleged to be responsible for the atrocities is believed to have been transferred to a prison in Florence.

Donald Ham

G.A.F.

Capt.
O.C., 97 F.S. Section,
Intelligence Corps.

156J

CONFIDENTIAL

ROYAL AIR FORCE
SPECIAL INVESTIGATION BRANCH
SUB HEADQUARTERS (1 LY)

SID/I/1497/44

To: Provost Marshal,
M.A.A.F. (Adv.)

Subject:

Origin:

Observations:

SECRET

ACTIVITIES AT PIANOSA PRISON

Letter dated 24th August, 1944 from D.A.F.M.,
No. 47 Flight.

On 29.8.44 in company with CPL.
HRESKOVIK, L., I contacted F/LT. HESKOVIK,
D.A.F.M., No. 47 Flight, Grosseto who informed
me that an Italian civilian, GHICI, Antonio was
employed at the Officers' Mess at No. 6 R.A.S.S.
San Vincenzo and had information with regard to
atrocities at the Italian prison at Pianosa
Island.

I proceeded to No. 6 R.A.S.S., San Vincenzo
and contacted F/LT. JONES, Administration Officer.
He informed me that his Unit had employed GHICI
as a batman in the Officers' Mess when the Unit
was stationed on the island of Pianosa and that
GHICI had moved with the Unit to its present
location.

I interviewed GHICI, Antonio and took a
statement from him (copy attached marked "A").
GHICI, Antonio is 56 years and has been
employed by several British Steamship companies
as an interpreter. He is in possession of
various discharge certificates from vessels of
the Cunard and White Star Lines, showing his
ability and character to be very good. The
last entry, however, is made on 15.1.15.

GHICI was released from prison on 10.6.44
and was employed at No. 6 R.A.S.S. on the 16.6.44.

Recommendation:

"A" I respectfully suggest that one copy of
this report be forwarded to the Officer
Commanding, No. 97 Field Security Section.

In the field
21.8.44

Special Investigator Branch
Sub Headquarters, Italy.

Special Investigator Branch
Sub Headquarters, Italy.

Approved

[Signature]

Letter dated 27th August, 1944 from D.A.P.S.,
No. 47 Flight.

Observations:

On 28.8.44 in company with CPL. HERRINGTON, L., I contacted F/LT. MESSERNEY, D.A.P.S., No. 47 Flight, Grosseto who informed me that an Italian civilian, GUCCI, Antonio was employed at the Officers' Mess at No. 6 R.A.S.S. San Vincenzo and had information with regard to atrocities at the Italian prison at Pianosa island.

I proceeded to No. 6 R.A.S.S., San Vincenzo and contacted F/LT. JONES, Administration Officer. He informed me that his Unit had employed GUCCI as a batman in the Officers' Mess when the Unit was stationed on the island of Pianosa and that GUCCI had moved with the Unit to its present location.

I interviewed GUCCI, Antonio and took a statement from him (copy attached marked "A"). GUCCI, Antonio is 36 years and has been employed by several British Steamship companies as an interpreter. He is in possession of various discharge certificates from vessels of the Cunard and White Star Lines, showing his ability and character to be very good. The last entry, however, is made on 15.1.15.

GUCCI was released from prison on 10.6.44 and was employed at No. 6 R.A.S.S. on the 16.6.44.

Recommendation:

"A" I respectfully suggest that one copy of this report be forwarded to the Officer Commanding, No. 97 Field Security Section.

In the Field
31.8.44

...
Special Investigation Branch
Sub Headquarters, Italy.

1500

...
Special Investigation Branch
Sub Headquarters, Italy.

Approved

Forwarded
at 11.11.44

...
Deputy Provost Marshal.

COPY

From: The Deputy Assistant Provost Marshal, No. 47 Flight,
Royal Air Force Police, CROSETTO.

To: The Deputy Provost Marshal, Provost & Security Unit,
Sub-Headquarters, ITALY.

Date: 24th August 1944

SECRET

Subject:- ATROCITIES AT PIONOSA PRISON

Sir,

I have to submit for your information, and any action deemed necessary, the following report.

On 22nd August 1944, I paid an initial visit to No. 6 Radar Administration and Service Section, San Vincenzo, where I saw P/LT. Jones, Administration Officer of that Unit.

In the course of our conversation he mentioned that CHIGI, Anthony, an Italian employed in the officer's mess had some information regarding atrocities at Pionosa Prison (Political).

At my request CHIGI, Antony was interviewed by me and from him I obtained the following particulars.

He, CHIGI, Antony, aged 36 years had been lodged in Pionosa Prison in 1937 until his recent release by Allied Forces.

His offence was that he was ferrying Anti-Fascists from Italy to Spain and France in his ship "Mina" of 500 tons and of which he was skipper and part owner.

On 17th April 1944 while he was in prison the Governor, CARLO, Mussec, ordered the death of 15 prisoners by clubbing and two were buried in Pionosa and the others in Marina di Campo, Elba.

CARLO, Mussec, is believed to be now in Florence. CHIGI, Antony stated that a warder named BAKER was still at Pionosa and that a warder named GALLO is at Soriano il Cimino Prison and that there are others who were concerned in the murders who are still in circulation in Allied Occupied Territory.

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From CHICI, Antony it was also learned that there had been political murders in San Vincenzo about which he appears to have information.

In the absence of an interpreter, I found it difficult to piece CHICI's story together as he speaks only broken English.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

Signed A. McSEVERN

Flight Lieutenant
D.A.F.M., No. 47 Flight
Royal Air Force Police
GROSSETO.

COPY

Statement by CHICI, Antonio, No. 6 P.A.S.S., San Vincenzo,
who said:-

I am an Italian civilian employed at the Officers' Mess No. 6 P.A.S.S., San Vincenzo. In 1937 I was a skipper of a small coasting vessel named "Gina" registered at Genoa. From time to time I used to take Italians (men only) to Marsellos. They were all fugitives from the Italian Police and were wanted for Anti-Fascist activities. For each person I took I received the sum of 2,000 Lire. On the 10th of September I went to Trieste to negotiate a deal with regard to a new ship, and when I was in a cafe having a meal, an Italian policeman came up to me and told me to come to the police station as he wanted to talk with me. I went with him to the police station and I was arrested and told that I would be charged for taking two men in my ship from Genoa to Marsellos. On 23.8.38 I was sentenced by the Tribunale de Trieste to 3 years 9 months penal servitude. I was again brought for trial at Genoa on 8.12.1939 and sentenced to 3 years penal servitude and fined 1,500 Lire, and to serve 2 years in a compulsory labour camp at the finish of the sentence. On 29.7.39 I was sent to Pianosa prison. I led a normal prison life until August 1941 when a new governor came to the prison. His name was MASSEU, Carlo. He was a very ardent Fascist. In 1942 some of the prisoners used talk about political subjects when they were walking out for exercise, and were denouncing the Fascist regime. Some other prisoners who were Fascists overheard their conversations and reported them to MASSEU. On this information MASSEU ordered the beating of about 50 persons. Out of this 50 five men were beaten to death. This happened on 17.9.43. The names of the five persons beaten to death were, TONITURI prisoner No. 52, BELLUZZO prisoner No. 9727, MAUTOMO, 1 Swiss National I can't remember his name and another Italian whose name I can not remember. All these men are buried at Pianosa Cemetery. The men who survived the beating were taken to the prison hospital and later transferred to CAMPO DE MARINA on the island of Elba. At this camp, according to information I received from other prisoners, they were beaten to death. I remember some of their names and they are as follows:- MARTINO, FRANCHINA, 2 brothers DE LUCA and CAPASSO. There were 12 others but I do not remember their names. These persons were all buried at CAMPO DE MARINA. The main culprits of the beating, GALLO who is now a warden in the prison of SORPIMO DEL CIMINO, BACT a doctor's assistant who I think is still in Pianosa, RIGHETTI who was a storekeeper and PALLERI and LUPO who were warders. MAGRI was a corporal warden and CARDELLI MURIO was the thief of the hospital. COMSALI was the chief warden. These men are still at Pianosa prison. There were others who took part in the beating but I can not remember their names. The prison director MASSEU Carlo is a native of Palermo and to the best of my knowledge he was transferred to a prison in Florence.

In Pianosa prison, the the best of my knowledge, there are still many Anti-Fascists, Yugoslavs and Montenegros who are pro-Allies, and have not been released by the authorities.

and was arrested. On 10.8.44 two men in my ship from Genoa to Marsolles. On 10.8.44 I was sentenced by the Tribunale de Trieste to 3 years 9 months penal servitude. I was again brought for trial at Genoa on 8.12.1944 and sentenced to 3 years penal servitude and fined 1,500 lire, and to serve 2 years in a compulsory labour camp at the finish of the sentence. On 29.7.45 I was sent to Pianosa prison. I led a normal prison life until August 1941 when a new Governor came to the prison. His name was MASSIMO, Carlo. He was a very ardent Fascist. In 1942 some of the prisoners used talk about political subjects when they were walking out for exercise, and were denouncing the Fascist regime. Some other prisoners who were Fascists overheard their conversations and reported them to MASSIMO. On this information MASSIMO ordered the beating of about 50 persons. Out of this 50 five men were beaten to death. This happened on 17.9.43. The names of the five persons beaten to death were, TORRENTI prisoner No. 52, BRUZZO prisoner No. 9787, MAGNONO, 1 Swiss National I can't remember his name and another Italian whose name I can not remember. All these men are buried at Pianosa Cemetery. The men who survived the beating were taken to the prison hospital and later transferred to CAMPO DE MARTINA on the island of Elba. At this camp, according to information I received from other prisoners, they were beaten to death. I remember some of their names and they are as follows:- MARINO, FRANCHINA, 3 brothers DE LUCA and CAPASSO. There were 12 others but I do not remember their names. These persons were all buried at CAMPO DE MARTINA. The main culprits of the beating, GALLO who is now a warder in the prison of SORTIERO DEL CINQUE, BACI a doctor's assistant who I think is still in Pianosa, RICHENZI who was a storekeeper and PAMIERI and LUPO who were warders. MAGNI was a corporal warder and CARDELINCHI was the chief of the hospital. COMBALI was the chief warder. These men are still at Pianosa prison. There were others who took part in the beating but I can not remember their names. The prison director MASSIMO Carlo is a native of Palermo and to the best of my knowledge he was transferred to a prison in Florence.

In Pianosa prison, the the best of my knowledge, there are still many anti-Fascists, Yugoslavs and Montenegrins who are pro-Allies, and have not been released by the authorities. Some of the Italian anti-Fascists were transferred to PORTO Lungone prison on the island of Elba.

Some of the prisoners who were eye witnesses to the atrocities were transferred to SOLUZO prison, Piemonte province.

I finished my sentence at Pianosa prison on 10.6.44. When a R.A.F. unit came to Pianosa I started to work for an S.A.F. officer F/Lt. Green, and came to San Vincenzo with him. I have read over the above statement and it is true.

30.8.44

Signed GHIOT ANTONIO

The above statement was taken down by me at the dictation of GHIOT Antonio and signed in my presence.

In the field
30.8.44

Signed A.J. GURNEY Cpl.
R.A.F.P. 3.I.B.

1557