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10000/143/1088

LAW, RE POSS
JUN. 1946

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LAW, RE POSSESSION & CARRYING OF ARMS BY CIVILIANS
JUN. 1946

VP C.A.S.

see sec 1A

18.6.46.

P.S. S/C.

NSed. Detained 1/2 file but as the
matter seems to be dormant I am
returning it to you.

16/8/46

M. Campbell
V.P.C.A.S.

sp

E. J. Dye. Colonel. *sp*

3890

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
Public Safety Sub-Commission
APO 394

Tel : 473427

17 June 1946

MEMORANDUM

Italian Law on Possession and
Carrying of Firearms by Civilians

TO : VP. CA. Section.

1. Firearms, explosives used for war purposes.

The Public are excluded from the possession of firearms, ammunition or explosives connected with war purposes, except as war trophies.

To hold such weapons as trophies it is necessary to obtain a permit from the Ministry of Interior thru the Questura.

2. Ordinary Firearms.

Pistols, whether automatic or revolvers, may be acquired without a permit. Possession must be immediately notified to the Police. If carried, a permit must be obtained from the Prefect thru the local Police - Questura.

Permits are valid for 1 year. They are granted for protection of life and property subject to character enquiries being satisfactory. The permit authorizes the holder to carry a pistol, it does not specify the type or number of the weapon.

There is no limit or supervision on the purchase of ammunition.

On conviction for crime, permits may be revoked.

3. Firearm Dealers.

All firearm dealers are registered with Police and their records of sales and acquisitions are open to inspection by the Police. There are heavy penalties for offences by unlicensed firearm dealers. P.S. Reg. N. 35.

4. Shot Guns.

The procedure is the same as for pistols except that the permit to carry is issued by the Questura and not the Prefect.

5. General:

Members of the fighting services may carry a firearm without a permit whilst performing duty as members of such Forces.

Police, the Prefect and members of the Courts may carry a firearm at any time without a permit.

6. In general the regulations are on similar lines to those in England - except that they are loose and leave loop holes which give wonderful opportunities for evasion of the law.

In particular the free acquisition of firearms without a certificate (the only provision being that notification of the acquisition by the buyer should be given to the Police), further the fact that the permit to carry applies to any pistol (the type and number not being shown), almost invites the public to commit irregularities.

There appears to be no check at all on ammunition, which is really as essential as a check on firearms.

It is obvious that at the present time the Police are not enforcing the law to any degree with regard to firearms in this country. This may be understood when it is remembered that the Police themselves recently purchased large numbers of automatic arms through illegal channels.

EJB/ae


E. J. BYE, Colonel
Acting Director.

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