

ACC/14602/3/PS

10000/143/1426

10000/143/1426

XITTA, (TRAPANI) INCIDENT
APR. - AUG. 1944

ACC/14602/3/PS.

XITTA, (TRAPANI) INCIDENT.

Folio	Ref. To	Date	Folio	Ref. To	Date
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44	14602	9-11-70			
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45	0005	4-11-70			
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XITHA, (TRAHANI) INCIDENT.

Folio	Ref. To	Date	Folio	Ref. To	Date
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no books kept

no over 4 May

10000 / 443 / 1426

10000	443	1426
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26 April 44

To Executive Comm.

I think you should see
Public Safety Officer in
job under very diff. of
the accused Helms in
Special Agent Court.
AFHQ what action is being
taken involved.

very good
the trial of

for a

with AFHQ

at the Board

Albany D.C.P.S.

to May 44 D.C.P.S.

The Executive Comm.
has decided to me to thank you for submitting
the file. etc. considers the report submitted
as excellent.

Approved

4/5/44

P.A. to R.A. Comm.

Capo Powell.

Did we have this file the Regis. Handson calls
him - I signed him within the next week or two.

atq

Uredo involucrata

Albany.
D.C. 92.

to Mary Ann.
D.C.P.S.

The Executive Committee
has directed me to thank you for submitting
the file. It approves the report submitted
as presented.

6/5/74

newly. *Phil.*

Capo Powell. Did we lose his file down here? Hundreds calls
lost - I suspect his intention to read week or two.

also

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 334
ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION

ACC/4428/6/L

15 Aug 44

SUBJECT: Kiska Incident, (Clash between French Troops and Civilians).

TO : HQ AMI (IMC) Attn: Brigadier MAJOR.

- 1 Since our last conversation relative to the above matter the Acting Chief Legal Officer at this HQ has made a further complete review of the record in this incident.
- 2 I enclose herewith copy of an extract of the report of the Regional Legal Officer, Region I, dated 8 Jun 44 which the Acting Chief Legal Officer advised me summarizes adequately and fairly the whole situation.
- 3 There would seem to be only three persons who have been mingled to be charged, MULLINO, SULLIVANO and AMATIA. A synopsis of the evidence against them is contained on page 2 of the extract of the report of Regional Legal Officer, Region I attached.
- 4 MULLINO might be charged for having in his possession hand grenades but this seems to be an extremely small part of the overall picture. There is nothing to show that he was using them against any member of the Allied Forces and therefore if he were tried at all he would have to be tried in an Italian Court for having possession of the hand grenades. A trial before an A.M. Court would be certain to end in acquittal.
- 5 The evidence against SULLIVANO would merely be that during a riot between Italian civilians and French soldiers he was arrested on the streets of AMIA and there was found on his person a drawing of AMIA which, for some reason unknown, was thought to be a defensive plan. It is hard to conceive that this is the violation of any statute and there could not appear to be any basis for trial in any Court, Allied Military or Italian.
- 6 Accordingly, so far as an Allied Military Court is concerned, a prosecution against either of the above two would be bound to fail and it would not therefore be right or just to charge them.
- 7 AMATIA seems to have been identified as having done some shooting but there is nothing to show that any casualties resulted. He probably could be charged for this action under 96 CP for having attempted to commit a crime. Theoretically he could be tried either in an Allied Military or an Italian Court. This is the only one of the accused against whom there would appear to be any substantial basis.
- 8 If as seems likely all the witnesses have since left the territory in which the acts occurred it would be hard to see how even the third of the above mentioned could be prosecuted successfully in any Court. Aside from the question of the presence of the witnesses there does seem to have been a great deal of prevention on the part of the French soldiers and the Acting Chief Legal Officer has doubt, on the record as it now stands, that there would be a conviction in the case or, if so, the sentence would be heavy.

- 2 I enclose herewith copy of an extract of the report of the Regional Legal Officer, Region I, dated 8 Dec 44, which the Acting Chief Legal Officer advises are summarized adequately and fairly the whole situation.
- 3 There would seem to be only three persons who have been singled to be charged, FULIGIANO, SCARTINO and AMATEA. A synopsis of the evidence against them is contained on page 2 of the extract of the report of Regional Legal Officer, Region I attached.
- 4 FULIGIANO might be charged for having in his possession hand grenades but this seems to be an extremely small part of the overall picture. There is nothing to show that he was using them against any member of the Allied Forces and therefore if he were tried at all he would have to be tried in an Italian Court for having possession of the hand grenades. A trial before an A.M. Court would be certain to end in acquittal.
- 5 The evidence against SCARTINO would merely be that during a riot between Italian civilians and French soldiers he was arrested on the streets of ALGERIA and there was found on his person a drawing of ALGERIA which, for some reason unknown, was thought to be a defensive plan. It is hard to conceive that this is the violation of any statute and there could not appear to be any basis for trial in any Court, Allied Military or Italian.
- 6 Accordingly, so far as an Allied Military Court is concerned, a prosecution against either of the above two would be bound to fail and it would not therefore be right or just to charge them.
- 7 AMATEA seems to have been identified as having done some shooting but there is nothing to show that any casualties resulted. He probably could be charged for this action under 56 GP for having attempted to commit a crime. Theoretically he could be tried either in an Allied Military or an Italian Court. This is the only one of the accused against whom there would appear to be any substantial charge.
- 8 If as seems likely all the witnesses have since left the territory in which the acts occurred it would be hard to see how even the third of the above mentioned could be prosecuted successfully in any Court. Aside from the question of the presence of the witnesses there does seem to have been a great deal of provocation on the part of the French soldiers and the Acting Chief Legal Officer has doubt, on the record as it now stands, that there would be a conviction in the case or, if so, the sentence would be heavy.
- 9 In view of the above situation I recommend
 - (a) that FULIGIANO and AMATEA be committed for trial before an Italian Court;
 - (b) that SCARTINO be released.

R. H. Kipp
 J. G. R. BURTON, Col.
 Chief, Adm Sec

Ext: 925
 GRL/vb

(Signed in stone & day)

BF Wang

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
Public Safety Sub-Commission

Folio 4A for action/information

C.P.S.....

✓ D.C.P.S.....

Ex. Officer.....

Police.....

Fire & C.D.....

Regn. & Licensing.....

Adm. Officer.....

REMARKS... *Min. from Ex. Com*

..... *Capt. Powell*

.....

Major Philip Maguire.

This is the Police report
from Regina I on the Tapani
incident.

Ex Comm would like you
to show it to Ben de Soria
after reading it through and
then let him have it back
as soon as possible, as
he has not yet read it
himself.

27/4

William
S. C.

At- Col. Shopp.

Major DE PANAFIBO has
read this file carefully on
behalf of Ben. DE Soria.

P.M. Maguire

Maj.

1 May 44

Lt. Col. G. SHIPP

I have shown this file
to Gen. DE SEVER and translated
the vital para. Sq for him.
He would like Major DE
PANAFIEU, on his return from
Tunis tomorrow, to see the
whole report.

P. D. Mangano

Major
28 Apr. 44.

I agree.

W/18/4

Presumably Major Mangano
will take the file -

See U 3/14

See Mangano

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
SICILY REGION HEADQUARTERS
APO 394.

SECRET 4 A

FILE - No. RPS/371.2

19th April, 1944.

SUBJECT - Trapani Incident.

TO - Chief, Public Safety Sub-Commission,
ACC., HQ. NAPLES.

SECRET
AUTH R.C.
INITIALS Jm
DATE 20/4/44

1. With further reference to the telegram from Regional Commissioner to Regional Control and Military Government Section ACC. HQ. respecting an incident at XITTA, province of Trapani, April 9, involving French soldiers and civilians, I am enclosing herewith copy of a report of investigation which contains the facts now in possession of Allied Control Commission respecting the actual incident, the action taken by Allied Control Commission to restore order, the measures adopted to prevent further incidents and the action which will be taken to proceed against the civilians concerned.

2. The situation is at present quiet and joint military and civilian measures have been adopted to prevent further incidents.

3. An investigation is now being conducted by the Italian police under close observation of Capt. E.W. HANBURY, Provincial Public Safety Officer, Allied Control Commission. When the facts are complete steps will be taken in accordance therewith to proceed against the civilians involved.

4. The facts respecting acts alleged to have been committed by the French troops will by agreement be turned over to GOC. No. 1 District for disposition.

5. Copies of the report have been sent to : -

GOC., No. 1 District
C.O., IBS.

For the Regional Commissioner.

R. A. Snook
Russell A. SNOOK,
Lt. Colonel,

Regional Public Safety Officer.

Encl. 1 Report by Major Richardson.

SECRET

MOST SECRET

1130

SECRET
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

SICILY REGION HEADQUARTERS
APO. 394

I PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION - SPECIAL POLICE SECTION I

FILE NO:
SUBJECT:
TO:

RPS. 371.2

DATE

17TH APRIL 1944

SEE BELOW

REGIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER, HQ REGION NO.1, ACC.

RELATING TO DISORDER BETWEEN FRENCH PARATROOPS
AND ITALIAN CIVILIANS AT XITTA, PROVINCE OF
TRAPANI, ON SUNDAY 9TH APRIL 1944

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G. Richardson

G. Richardson, Major,
Special Police Section.

SECRET

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

SICILY REGION HEADQUARTERS

APO. 394

(PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION - SPECIAL POLICE SECTION)

FILE NO: RPS 371.2.

DATE 17th April 1944.

SUBJECT: DISORDER BETWEEN FRENCH PARATROOPS AND ITALIAN CIVILIANS AT XITTA, PROVINCE OF TRAPANI.

TO: REGIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER, H.Q. REGION NO. 1, A.O.C.

1.

On the afternoon of 11th April 1944, in accordance with your instructions, I went to TRAPANI

- (a) to obtain all information possible concerning the incident at XITTA, Province of TRAPANI, on 9th April 1944, when a clash occurred between French Paratroops stationed nearby at PACERO, and local residents which resulted in death and injuries of varying degrees to certain individuals, also

- (b) to make a survey of the situation that led to this clash and the conditions prevailing since the incident.

2.

Immediately upon arrival at TRAPANI, I visited Major Wilson, the Provincial Commissioner (A.C.C.) and Captain HANBURY, our Public Safety Officer. Subsequently, I contacted Major KIRKWOOD and Lieutenant HAMILTON, Provost Marshal and Assistant Provost Marshal respectively and who are attached to the American Airborne Training Centre, Trapani. Major LECCEIS, Officer Commanding, Carabinieri Reali, Trapani, and a French Captain LE MIRIS, acting as Liaison Officer between the Allied Forces, A.C.C. and the 1st French Paratroop Regiment stationed at PACERO. From all these authorities data was obtained which gives a picture of what occurred before, at the time and after the incident under review. The particulars so obtained have been supplemented by information gained as a result of subsequent enquiries made at the scene. However, before proceeding with the story of events it will assist undoubtedly if at this stage a brief description is given of the location of the incident.

3.

XITTA, where the affray took place, is a small hamlet of some 500 inhabitants and is situated on the main TRAPANI - MARSALA road a distance of four kilometres from TRAPANI. This trunk road serves as the main street of the village and it is really the only means of entry and exit. There are a number of side streets, but these lead to the main road eventually.

1128

1. On the afternoon of 11th April 1944, in accordance with your instructions, I went to TRAPANI

(a) to obtain all information possible concerning the incident at XITTA, Province of TRAPANI, on 9th April 1944, when a clash occurred between French Paratroops stationed nearby at PACOCCO, and local residents which resulted in death and injuries of varying degrees to certain individuals, also

(b) to make a survey of the situation that led to this clash and the conditions prevailing since the incident.

Immediately upon arrival at TRAPANI, I visited Major Wilson, the Provincial Commissioner (ACC) and Captain HANBURY, our Public Safety Officer. Subsequently, I contacted Major KIRKWOOD and Lieutenant HALLIDAY, Provost Marshal and Assistant Provost Marshal respectively and who are attached to the American Airborne Training Centre, Trapani; Major LEGGIS, Officer Commanding, Carabinieri Reali, Trapani, and a French Captain LE MIR, acting as Liaison Officer between the Allied Forces, ACC, and the 1st French Paratroop Regiment stationed at PACOCCO. From all these authorities data was obtained which gives a picture of what occurred before, at the time and after the incident under review. The particulars so obtained have been supplemented by information gained as a result of subsequent enquiries made at the scene. However, before proceeding with the story of events it will assist undoubtedly if at this stage a brief description is given of the location of the incident.

XITTA, where the affray took place, is a small hamlet of some 500 inhabitants and is situated on the main TRAPANI - MARSALA road a distance of four kilometres from TRAPANI. This trunk road serves as the main street of the village and it is really the only means of entry and exit. There are a number of side streets, but these lead to the main road eventually. The inhabitants are practically all of the peasant class and in the past they have been considered law abiding.

Situated upon this trunk road in the direction of MARSALA a distance of two kilometers from XITTA is the village of PACOCCO with a population of 6,759. Again, the majority of the inhabitants here are of the peasant class and have also been looked upon as law abiding.

1128

5. The normal establishment of the Carabinieri at PACESCO is one non-commissioned Officer and six men. At the outbreak of war, however, this was increased by the addition of eighteen Carabinieri and this was the strength at the time of the incident. In the ordinary way the establishment is ample, but since the affair the strength has been augmented temporarily. I will refer to this particular augmentation later in the report. There is no separate Carabinieri Station for KITTA as this village, together with a number of other hamlets, is covered by PACESCO Station.

6. The township of PACESCO and the village of KITTA have no separate local authority and for administrative purposes they come within the jurisdiction of TRAPANI municipal authority.

7. I will now deal as near chronological sequence as is possible the events from the time of the arrival of the French troops in the district, to date. We are all aware of the inherent dislike of the French for the Italian and vice-versa and the reasons for same. This has shown itself in the reports these two "factions" have submitted concerning the incident in as much as they are at variance in some of the important details. Therefore, in reiterating the stories as told by the two 'sides', I will interpose with comment - comment based upon an examination of the reports compiled with the result of enquiries conducted personally at the scene by Captain HANBURY and myself; thus it is hoped we have obtained a fairly accurate perspective of the situation.

8. It may well be that in the near future we shall be in a position to correct or enlarge upon our present summing up of the situation as, in accordance with instructions, specialized Italian police investigators of the Office of the Director of Public Safety for Sicily, have left Palermo for MARANI to supervise and assist investigation by the local civil police agencies into the many complaints of the civilians, and they will undoubtedly return with useful data. When their reports and completed cases are received these will be submitted.

9. We have not overlooked the possibility that these Italian investigators may not display impartiality in their enquiries, thus, before their departure I took the opportunity of interviewing them and making it quite clear that A.C.C. required the enquiries conducted and reports submitted strictly in accordance with the international civil police policy. In

6.

The township of RABCO and the village of XITTA have no separate local authority and for administrative purposes they come within the jurisdiction of TRAZANI municipal authority.

7.

I will now deal as near chronological sequence as is possible the events from the time of the arrival of the French troops in the district, to date. We are all aware of the inherent dislike of the French for the Italian and vice-versa and the reasons for same. This has shown itself in the reports these two "factions" have submitted concerning the incident in as much as they are at variance in none of the important details. Therefore, in reiterating the stories as told by the two 'sides', I will interpose with comment - comment based upon an examination of the reports compiled with the result of enquiries conducted personally at the scene by Captain HAMBURY and myself; thus it is hoped we have obtained a fairly accurate perspective of the situation.

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9.

We have not overlooked the possibility that these Italian investigators may not display impartiality in their enquiries, thus, before their departure I took the opportunity of interviewing them and making it quite clear that A.C.O. required the enquiries conducted and reports submitted strictly in accordance with the international civil police policy. Incidentally, these investigators have been instructed that they are not to approach French military personnel during the course of their enquiries.

10.

Continuing, on or about 3rd April 1944, apparently unbeknown to the local Allied Military Command, a detachment of French paratroops some 1,000 strong, comprising the 1st French Paratroop Regiment under the command of one Colonel GELLES, arrived in the

TRAPANI area for training purposes and billeted themselves at a school building in the centre of PACESCO. It is understood the instructions as to billeting now in force were not adhered to - as this is a matter for the Military Command, no comment is made here.

11.

In close proximity to PACESCO and XITTA are a number of airfields under military control whilst at a camp - Karch Camp, TRAPANI - is located the American Airborne Training Centre under the command of one Colonel REARD, U.S. Army.

12.

It would have been thought that Colonel Reard, the Senior Allied Officer in the area, would be the Officer responsible for the good behaviour of all troops in the locality; this appears not to have been so however, as both the American and French Commanding Officers agreed that by existing orders the French were directly responsible to the French Command in Africa for all matters with the exception of training and the loan of equipment for such purpose. This is purely a military matter and therefore cannot be commented upon by this Headquarters, but it does seem that had this position as regards discipline been clarified and we informed of the anticipated arrival of French troops, this regrettable incident might have been averted - the known attitude of the two 'actions' towards each other would have been appreciated and, whereas the American Military Police with the assistance of the French Command could have taken adequate steps to maintain and enforce discipline amongst the French troops, we upon our part could have established similar measures in regard to the policing of the civilian population. This position has now been rectified, however, and appropriate action taken as described at a later stage.

13.

It must not be understood that extra policing arrangements were ignored completely as immediately upon the arrival of the French troops certain measures were taken by their command in collaboration with the Provost authorities of the American Airborne Command - as in the case of American and British troops brothels were put 'out of bounds' to all French military personnel whilst joint American and French police patrols 'covered' TRAPANI on foot; these patrols did not, however, extend to the 'suburbs' of XITTA and PACESCO where the French troops were quartered - incidentally, all French troops returning to their billet at PACESCO after visiting TRAPANI must of necessity pass through XITTA village. In addition, the French Command

12.

camp - Karch Camp, TRAPANI - is located the American Airborne Training Centre under the command of one Colonel READY, U.S. Army.

It would have been thought that Colonel Ready, the senior Allied Officer in the area, would be the Officer responsible for the good behaviour of all troops in the locality; this appears not to have been so however, as both the American and French Commanding Officers agreed that by existing orders the French were directly responsible to the French Command in Africa for all matters with the exception of training and the loan of equipment for such purpose. This is purely a military matter and therefore cannot be commented upon by this Headquarters, but it does seem that had this position as regards discipline been clarified and we informed of the anticipated arrival of French troops, this regrettable incident might have been averted - the known attitude of the two "factions" towards each other would have been appreciated and, whereas the American Military Police with the assistance of the French Command could have taken adequate steps to maintain and enforce discipline amongst the French troops, we upon our part could have established similar measures in regard to the policing of the civilian population. This position has now been rectified, however, and appropriate action taken as described at a later stage.

13.

It must not be understood that extra policing arrangements were ignored completely as immediately upon the arrival of the French troops certain measures were taken by their command in collaboration with the Provost authorities of the American Airborne Command - as in the case of American and British troops brothels were put 'out of bounds' to all French military personnel whilst joint American and French police patrols 'covered' TRAPANI on foot; these patrols did not, however, extend to the 'suburbs' of KIRIA and RACENGO where the French troops were quartered - incidentally, all French troops returning to their billet at RACENGO after visiting TRAPANI must of necessity pass through KIRIA village. In addition, the French Commander permitted his troops leave of absence during the evenings on weekdays and during the afternoons and evenings on Sundays.

14.

From accounts rendered by the Carabinieri, the French and American Commands and by A.C.C. locally coupled with the result of subsequent enquiries in the neighborhood, it is apparent that tension existed immediately upon the arrival of the French troops.

In short, the Italian 'aide' says that French soldiers having visited TRAPANI and when returning to PACHOCCO were under the influence of drink and on many occasions made unbecome advances to womenfolk on route. The French are also accused by the villagers of indiscriminate use of firearms. The French 'aide' allege that the French soldiers, many of whom are Italian speaking, were subjected repeatedly to insults by the civilians when returning to their billets.

15.

That such 'incidents' occurred on both sides is obviously true. Facts obtained from the American Troopst authority indicate the conduct of the French troops, but although we are not in possession of individual complaints of the French troops, it was clearly apparent from the behaviour of the villagers whilst Captain HANBURY and I were there that their animosity against the French was intense and that they had been guilty of the insults alleged.

16.

The following are extracts from the records of the American Military Police of the complaints received from the civilians:

- (1) 5th April 1944.
Gashier, young lady, in Aurora complained that French soldiers had accosted her and her mother as they were returning home from work. They were extremely bold, talked in loud tones using obscene language, tossed stones at the two terrified women and drew their pistols and fired in the air.
- (2) 5th April 1944.
A company, or a large part of one, broke into a dairymaid's house and stole some fifty-six cheeses. Some were returned and the remainder paid for. Case investigated by Lieutenant Blane (French Command).
- (3) 5th April 1944.
Adriana Diego, owner, reported French soldier and a civilian entered his home at Vela Sangoncello, ransacked the house and stole two sacks of grain weighing about 125 kilograms.
- (4) 7th April 1944.
Clemente, 12 Piaceta Gattini, Paceco. Entered complaint that French Officers entered his home, threatened him with a pistol, deprived himself and his wife of their only place to sleep. He slept four hours in a chair.

15.

That such 'incidents' occurred on both sides is obviously true. Facts obtained from the American Provost authority indicate the conduct of the French troops, but although we are not in possession of individual complaints of the French troops, it was clearly apparent from the behaviour of the villagers whilst Captain HANBURY and I were there that their animosity against the French was intense and that they had been guilty of the insults alleged.

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The following are extracts from the records of the American Military Police of the complaints received from the civilians:

- (1) 5th April 1944.
Cashier, young lady, in uniform complained that French soldiers had accosted her and her mother as they were returning home from work. They were extremely bold, talked in loud tones using obscene language, tossed stones at the two terrified women and drew their pistols and fired in the air.
- (2) 5th April 1944.
A company, or a large part of one, broke into a dairyman's house and stole some fifty-six cheeses. Some were returned and the remainder paid for. Case investigated by Lieutenant Blanc (French Command).
- (3) 5th April 1944.
Afrancesa Diego, owner, reported French soldier and a civilian entered his home at Vela Sanguonello, ransacked the house and stole two sacks of grain weighing about 125 kilograms.
- (4) 7th April 1944.
Giamonte, 12 Piazza Santi, Piacco. Entered complaint that French officers entered his home, threatened him with a pistol, deprived himself and his wife of their only place to sleep. He slept four hours in a chair. Would not return until French had been driven out and he had a place to sleep. Later modified his statement of threat by French Officers.

Case investigated by Lieut. Blanc (French Command). He found two French Officers were entirely peaceful and occupied merely a small room while a large chamber well

- 5 -

furnished with a great bed was left for Mr. Clemente and his wife.

- (5) 8th April 1944.
Ingressia, Via Dante 69, Piacenza. French Officers dispossessed this man, wife and child of their home. Case investigated by Lieut. Blanc and report made to French Colonel including a recommendation made as to the advisability of allowing the man to remain home.
- (6) 9th April 1944.
Five French soldiers picked up in clearly marked houses of prostitution.
- (7) Owner of Aurora restaurant entered complaint that French soldiers refused to pay for meals and wine purchased. Were four in number, had pulled a knife and stuck it into the wall. Search was made, but the four offenders could not be found.
- (8) 9th April 1944.
French soldier refused to pay for a meal at Maria's restaurant - a settlement was made.
- (9) 9th April 1944.
Basciano Giuseppe, Borgo Xitto - at 1930 hours on way to Piacenza from Trapani was stopped by French soldiers and relieved of all papers, money and personal property. Was taken to French Garrison and questioned until morning of 10/4/44. His valuables were not returned, but were turned over by the French to this office and here we returned what we had to him. Missing yet a watch, pocketbook, cigarette lighter, gloves and about 600 lire - one 500 lire note and the remainder in small notes.
- (10) 12th April 1944.
Tonio Giovanni Battista, 1310 - 150 metres on right side of the road before the camp - runs a house of prostitution. 10 or 12 French soldiers entered and had intercourse with the girls, then refused to pay and broke down a door into a private room, ransacked and broke open a trunk and stole 9000 lire and as they left took with them a phonograph. This man will be able to recognize one of the soldiers and also the phonograph if found. All this occurred about 2300 hours on 3rd April.

The foregoing illustrates the situation of

- (6) 9th April 1944.
Nine French soldiers picked up in closely marked houses of prostitution.
- (7) Owner of Aurora restaurant entered complaint that French soldiers refused to pay for meals and wine purchased. Were four in number, had pulled a knife and stuck it into the wall. Search was made, but the four offenders could not be found.
- (8) 9th April 1944.
French soldier refused to pay for a meal at Maria's restaurant - a settlement was made.
- (9) 9th April 1944.
Bussiano Giuseppe, Borgo Xitto - at 1930 hours on way to Lucca from Fregene was stopped by French soldiers and relieved of all papers, money and personal property. Was taken to French garrison and questioned until morning of 10/4/44. His valuables were not returned, but were turned over by the French to this office and here we returned what we had to him. Missing yet a watch, pocketbook, cigarette lighter, gloves and about 600 lire - one 500 lire note and the remainder in small notes.

- (10) 12th April 1944.
Fondo Giovanni Battista, 110 - 150 metres on right side of the road before the camp - runs a house of prostitution. 10 or 12 French soldiers entered and had intercourse with the girls, then refused to pay and broke down a door into a private room, ransacked and broke open a trunk and stole 9000 lire and as they left took with them a phonograph. This man will be able to recognize one of the soldiers and also the phonograph is found. All this occurred about 2300 hours on 3rd April.

The foregoing illustrates the ill-treated conduct of certain of the French troops, but I would suggest in relating the situation from these reports, too much reliance should not be placed on their authenticity as experience has shown that Sicilians, even in ordinary circumstances, are prone to exaggerate. Incidentally, these complaints have been turned over by the American authorities to the French Command.

We now arrive to the stage to discuss the various reports received concerning the major incident at Xitto on the evening of 9th April 1944: The Carabinieri recall to us of the state of uneasiness and resentment amongst the local inhabitants resulting from the alleged improper behaviour of the French soldiers and that the climax was reached on Sunday, 9th April.

19.

It is intimated by that authority that at about 8 pm on the day in question, a group of French paratroops, some of whom were drunk, when passing through XITTA on the way of their encampment at FACEDD interfered with the local residents. One of the Frenchman is said by the C.O. to have caught hold of a young woman by the hair. This action was witnessed by some young men who objected to the conduct and intervened. A quarrel ensued, blows were exchanged and shots were fired by the soldiers and the civilians retaliated in a like manner.

20.

On behalf of the French soldiers, Colonel CHILLIS, their O/C, who has caused statements to be taken from his personnel but which unfortunately are not in our possession at the present time, reports that as a result of enquiries he is satisfied five of his paratroopers were insulted by civilians assembled at the entrance to XITTA village. He adds, without further amplification, that a quarrel arose between the parties during which a pistol shot was fired by a civilian. It is also said that the civilians commenced to stone the troops and that the troops retaliated in a similar manner.

21.

In addition, the French Commander alleges the villagers opened fire with firearms against his troops and they, to quote his own words when translated, "being without arms, abranh while the firing was going on. Some of the Italians came out of the village and discharged firearms and began surrounding our troops".

22.

We are not prepared to accept either the C.O.'s or French reports as strictly correct or unbiased, but taking into consideration examination of these two reports, coupled with the enquiries at the scene subsequently, we feel that the following is a fairly accurate version of the commencement of the clash - in view of the very nature of this affair, previous 'incidents' and the status of the parties concerned. I am afraid we shall never be able to give a strictly accurate account of how the trouble arose.

23.

It would seem from all the information and evidence obtained that on this evening a large number of French paratroops, some of whom were under the influence of drink - three particularly were in such a state as they had to be carried by their comrades - were making their way on foot and in a quiet manner through XITTA en route from TRAHAI to FACEDD.

At this particular time an Easter dance was in

1123

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In addition, the French Commander alleges the villagers opened fire with firearms against his troops and they, to quote his own words when translated, "being without arms, shrunk while the firing was going on. Some of the Italians came out of the village and discharged firearms and began surrounding our troops".

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At this particular time an Easter dance was in progress at the village hall situated in the main street. A young girl who was walking to the dance unaccompanied was approached by a group of the returning paratroops. The girl, apparently fearing an assault ran into the dance hall screaming. At this stage it appears an Italian soldier on leave - as yet unidentified - intervened and remonstrated with the French soldiers; a quarrel arose and the throng were joined by civilians from the dance hall, villagers

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and further paratroops. Eventually, a civilian provoked a pistol and fired one shot. A second round jammed in the weapon and he was promptly disarmed and 'arrested' by the French. The local population then retaliated with stones and there can be no question that at this stage shots were exchanged by both sides.

26.

I doubt the accuracy of the French reports that firearms were not used, in fact, not carried by the soldiers at the time of the incident. The CC.RR. and the villagers all say that side arms were used by the French. Furthermore, the complaints received by the American Provost authorities indicate that such weapons have been used on previous occasions and, in addition, Captain HARBURY and I saw French soldiers (as distinct from their Officers) carrying pistols in THAPANI and on the MARSAALA road even after the incident. Incidentally, all the equipment, including firearms, of the French is of American manufacture.

27.

On the other hand, the report by the CC.RR. that the girl was pulled by the hair, is incorrect - whilst at KITLA I caused the girl in question, one GENNA Marie of Via Marsala, KITLA, to be located and interviewed. She declared she was not assaulted in the manner described, but merely feared an assault and ran into the dance hall to escape from further unwelcome advances by the French.

28.

At the present moment we are not in a position to state the identity of the soldiers or civilians who were responsible for the outbreak.

29.

Continuing, it appears that Colonel GALLIN, the French Commander, was in THAPANI at the time and was first informed of the occurrence by one of his non-commissioned Officers. In the meantime, information had been received by a Captain MEYER, the then C/O French troops at PACHCO. He gave certain instructions which resulted in a Captain VINCENT and a contingent of French paratroops armed with pistols, automatic rifles and light machine guns, hurrying to KITLA.

30.

It is then admitted by all parties that the troops cordoned off the village, placed machine guns at strategic points and prevented all civilians from leaving or entering the village. By this action the French Command took upon itself the responsibility of declaring the area a 'Military Zone' - such action, of course, was highly improper, but comment is not for this Headquarters but for higher Headquarters of the Military Command and AGC.

1133

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31.

There was sporadic firing; this increased and eventually the situation developed into a miniature battle. Lieut. HAMILTON, American Assistant Provost Marshal, was at Karch Camp at the time, a distance of about 4 kilometers away, and he distinctly heard the firing and saw evidence of tracer bullets in the sky - missiles apparently discharged from the French machine guns. It must be pointed out, however, that the firing was not all the work of the French; the villagers were also discharging firearms on the casualty list, still to be discussed, indicates.

1123

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The French soldiers then commenced a house to house search for firearms and were successful in locating certain weapons and ammunition.

33.

During these searches the deaths of two civilians occurred, whilst three received gunshot wounds. We are in possession of certain facts concerning the dead and wounded civilians, but at the present we merely have the French Commanders report that ten of his soldiers were wounded during the affray. At a later stage I will deal more fully with this casualty list.

34.

It was about 11 pm. that same day that the disturbance became known to Captain HAMBURY, Provincial Public Safety Officer, AGG. THAPAI. He proceeded at once to the local American Hospital where it was said military personnel were detained and he there found three French soldiers suffering from bullet wounds.

35.

At the same time, the Captain despatched Lieutenant TAYLOR, the then Assistant P.P.S. Officer (AGG), to KITHA to obtain information as to the situation. Upon this Officer's return, Captain HAMBURY heard that the village was virtually in a state of siege upon the orders of the French Colonel. Appreciating the delicate position and the fact that the French Command had declared improperly the area to be a Military Zone, the Captain realised that strong and immediate action was necessary to prevent further bloodshed. Consequently, he visited the French Colonel at his billet where, in the presence of Lieut. TAYLOR, he requested him to confine his troops to their camp area for the time being and to order the removal of road blocks and patrols at KITHA, if this was done, Captain HAMBURY intimated that he would take the necessary measures to control the civilian population and cause immediate investigation into their activities. Colonel GILLIS declined to take such steps immediately with the exception of confining his troops to barracks, but promised to withdraw his personnel from the village at 6 am the following day, 10th April.

36.

Appreciative of the difficulties faced by the C.O. RR in these circumstances, the Captain accompanied by Major LEONIS, O/C Carabinieri Regt. Trapani, went without further delay to KITHA. As the French had taken over the policing of the village completely, the local Carabinieri were more or less "useless" and as their continued presence might aggravate the already delicate situation, Captain HAMBURY requested Major LEONIS to order the withdrawal of all his men from the locality. This was done and the Captain informed the French Officer in charge that he must

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At the same time, the Captain despatched Lieutenant TAYLOR, the then Assistant P.P.S. Officer (AGO), to XITTA to obtain information as to the situation. Upon this Officer's return, Captain HAMBURY heard that the village was virtually in a 'state of siege' upon the orders of the French Colonel. Appreciating the delicate position and the fact that the French Command had declared improperly the area to be a 'Military Zone', the Captain realised that strong and immediate action was necessary to prevent further bloodshed. Consequently, he visited the French Colonel at his billet where, in the presence of Lieut. TAYLOR, he requested him to confine his troops to their camp area for the time being and to order the removal of road blocks and patrols at XITTA. If this was done, Captain HAMBURY intimated that he would take the necessary measures to control the civilian population and cause immediate investigation into their activities. Colonel GRILLI declined to take such steps immediately with the exception of confining his troops to barracks, but promised to withdraw his personnel from the village at 6 am the following day, 10th April.

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Appreciative of the difficulties faced by the CO. RR in these circumstances, the Captain accompanied by Major LECUIS, C/C Carabinieri Resili, Trapani, went without further delay to XITTA. As the French had taken over the policing of the village completely, the local Carabinieri were more or less 'useless' and as their continued presence might aggravate the already delicate situation, Captain HAMBURY requested Major LECUIS to order the withdrawal of all his men from the locality. This was done and the Captain informed the French Officer in charge that he must now accept full responsibility for the policing of XITTA until such time as the French troops were withdrawn when the CO. RR would return to perform their normal duties.

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37.

It appears that Captain HAMBURY's request to Colonel GRILLI to confine his troops to barracks until the situation had quietened, was put into effect. The French Officer, however, did not keep his promise

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regarding the withdrawal of troops and the removal of the road blocks and patrols from XITTA, so during the following morning (10th April), the Captain again visited him and drew his attention to the facts. The French Commander gave appropriate orders and all troops were withdrawn at 12.30 pm that day and the Garabiniert returned and took over the policing duties.

38.

Probably this is not an appropriate time to speak of the action taken by Captain HAMBURY in this matter. Maybe it will be said that he "reverted from AOC to AAG" methods - it is very easy to criticize after the event, but I am sure that every reasonably minded officer would have taken the same action in these particular circumstances. The greatest credit is due to the Captain by his demands for the confinement of French troops from XITTA and the temporary withdrawal of the Garabiniert from the scene. This strong action obviously alleviated an ugly situation and without doubt prevented further bloodshed and the spreading of the trouble to other areas.

39.

As has already been mentioned casualties were received by both "sides" during the conflict; in addition, we are in the receipt of complaints from the CG. RR that whilst the house searches were proceeding personal property was stolen from the residents by the French troops, further, that similar property was taken from civilians endeavouring to pass the road blocks. It has also been reported that 22 civilians were arrested and detained by the French, but these matters will be referred to more fully later.

40.

In view of the situation and the fact that at all costs further trouble must be avoided, a conference was held in the office of the Provincial Commissioner, AOC, Trepani, at 10. am, 11th April. This was attended by:-

- Colonel MEADY, U.S. Army.
- Colonel GILLIS, O/C French Troops.
- Major SAUER, French Army.
- Major WILSON, Provincial Commissioner, AOC, Trepani.
- Captain HAMBURY, Provincial Public Safety Officer, AOC, Trepani.
- Captain BURNHAM, Executive Officer, AOC, Trepani.
- Lieutenant WADE, U.S. Army, Assistant Provost Marshal.

12.20

The affair was discussed at length and the French Commander was informed of his rights and limitation. It was finally agreed that a French Officer be appointed to act as Liaison Officer with Captain HAMBURY and that

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In view of the situation and the fact that at all costs further trouble must be avoided, a conference was held in the office of the Provincial Commissioner, AOC, Trapani, at 10.30, 11th April. This was attended by:-

Colonel KADY, U.S. Army.
Colonel GILLIS, O/O French Troops.
Major WALSH, French Army.
Major SILSON, Provincial Commissioner, AOC, Trapani.
Captain HANBURY, Provincial Public Safety Officer, AOC, Trapani.
Captain BARNHAM, Executive Officer, AOC, Trapani.
Lieutenant WADDE, U.S. Army, Assistant Provost Marshal.

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The affair was discussed at length and the French Commander was informed of his rights and limitation. It was finally agreed that a French Officer be appointed to act as Liaison Officer with Captain HANBURY and that Officer should have power to arrive at decisions on behalf of the French command.

41.

A Captain LA MIR was so appointed and at 2.30 pm the same day he called upon AOC, Trapani, and the following arrangements were made:-

- (1) to establish four joint police patrols, comprising one French soldier and one Garabiniere, to patrol the area on foot

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on the distinct understanding that the former shall only intervene if a French soldier is involved, whilst the latter to intervene only in civilian matters.

- (2) that during the evenings a French non-commissioned Officer be detailed for duty at the Carabinieri Station at PADERO for liaison work with the Officer in charge of that Station during the times the joint police patrols are in operation.
- (3) that no French soldier be allowed to carry arms outside the camp area except on duty.
- (4) that all property seized from the Italian civilians be returned.
- (5) that the Carabinieri should institute a search in XITTA for the illegal possession of firearms.
- (6) that the Italian civilians held as prisoners be turned over to the G.O.R.R. through the American Provost authorities and written charges made within 48 hours.

It was after these arrangements had been made that I arrived at TRAPANI and I was present with Captain HANBURY when Captain IM MARS again visited and asked if ACC would agree to an additional patrol of one French Officer, one French non-commissioned Officer and four other ranks to patrol the district and supervise the conduct of the French soldiers. This was agreed to readily, but on the distinct understanding that the patrol should confine its activities to their own personnel and not interfere with purely civilian matters.

On the following day, with Captain HANBURY I visited XITTA and PADERO, viewed the situation, made certain enquiries and visited the Carabinieri Station at PADERO.

During the afternoon of that same day, Major COVANNY of G.S. VI, No. 1 District, representing G.O.S., No. 1 District; also Colonel SPHEMBLINS, Commanding Officer, H.Q. I.B.S., and Lieut. Colonel FINE, G.2., H.Q. I.B.S., arrived at TRAPANI. With Colonel READI, the local American Commander, they visited and conferred with the French Command.

The next day, 13th April, in company with Lieut. Col. FINE, Captain HANBURY and Major LECUIS of the G.O.R.R. I again visited XITTA and made enquiries in the village. It was apparent that feeling was still running high, but

42.

43.

44.

45.

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43.

On the following day, with Captain HAMBURY I visited XITTA and PACISCO, viewed the situation, made certain enquiries and visited the Carabinieri Station at PACISCO.

44.

During the afternoon of that same day, Major COVENTRY of G.S. VI, No. 1 District, representing G.O.C., No. 1 District; also Colonel STUBBINS, Commanding Officer, H.Q. I.B.S., and Lieut. Colonel FISH, G.2., H.Q. I.B.S., arrived at TRAPANI. With Colonel READY, the local American Commander, they visited and conferred with the French Command.

45.

The next day, 13th April, in company with Lieut. Col. FISH, Captain HAMBURY and Major LECOS of the CC.RR, I again visited XITTA and made enquiries in the village. It was apparent that feeling was still running high, but although the French soldiers had by this time been released from their "confinement" to barracks no untoward incident had occurred - this indicated that the emergency police arrangements were and are adequate.

46.

I have already spoken of the French policing arrangements, so at this stage will refer to those of the Carabinieri. Immediately this affair came to the knowledge of the Carabinieri authorities, 50 carabinieri were despatched forthwith from their headquarters in

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PALESTINE to TRAPANI as reinforcements. The squad is now standing by with 50 local Carabinieri, making 100 in all - this force is ample to deal with any civilian contingency in the area.

Major LUCIO, on his part, at once augmented the Carabinieri strength at PALESTINE (referred to in para. 3 of this report) by attaching to that Station temporarily two of his non-committed Officers and eighteen Carabinieri. This augmentation will remain until the situation has completely returned to normal.

47.

Dealing with the question of the casualties; the CO. RR report the following as regards the civilian population:-

DEAD

- (1) CRISTOFORO GIOVANNI DI VITO e di Vella Leonardo, born Trapani 16th October 1910.
- (2) MARINO GIUSEPPE fu Francesco e di Anna Caterina, born Trapani 27th August 1925.

WOUNDED

- (3) RAIMONINO SALVATORE fu Maria e fu Nicotino Francesco, born Trapani 14th October 1895 - now detained at hospital.
- (4) GIUSEPPE SALVATORE di Antonino e di Anna Maria, born Trapani 24th April 1926 - now detained at hospital.
- (5) COSTANZA Laura, no relatives at present as ascertained from Palermo - now detained at hospital.

48.

Although Captain HARTSHY and I have visited and examined the scenes of the two deaths and have come to certain conclusions, comment will not be made here; such will be included in a supplementary report to be submitted when the Italian Police investigations (referred to in para. 8 and 9 of this report) are completed and received by this office.

49.

As already stated the French Commander has declared that 10 of his paratroopers were wounded by firearms discharged by the civilians. We know of three cases, seen by Captain HARTSHY in the American Hospital, but reports are awaited in respect of the remaining seven.

50.

Regarding the complaints by the civilians that

47. dealing with the question of the casualties; the CG. RA report the following as regards the civilian population:-

DEAD

(1) CRISTOFORI GIOVANNI di Vito e di Vella Leonardo,
born Trapani 10th October 1910,

(2) MARINO VINCENZO di Francesco e di Emma Gasparina,
born Trapani 27th August 1925.

WOUNDED

(3) RAIMONINO SALVATORE di Mario e di Maria
Francesca, born Trapani 14th October
1895 - now detained at hospital.

(4) EMMA SALVATORE di Antonino e di Emma Maria,
born Trapani 24th April 1926 - now
detained at hospital.

(5) COSTANZA Laura, no relatives at Airo as evi-
denced from Palermo - now detained
at hospital.

48.

Although Captain HANBURY and I have visited and examined the scenes of the two deaths and have come to certain conclusions, comment will not be made hereof. Such will be included in a supply-entry report to be submitted when the Italian Police investigations (re-ferred to in para. 8 and 9 of this report) are com-pleted and received by this office.

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As already stated the French Commander has declared that 10 of his paratroopers were wounded by firearms discharged by the civilians. No more of these cases, seen by Captain HANBURY in the American Hospital, but reports are awaited in respect of the remaining seven.

50

Regarding the complaints by the civilians that personal property was stolen from them by the French troops during the "occupation" of Airo: These matters likewise are now under investigation by the Italian Police, so far the time being little need be said con-cerning them with the exception of giving a list of the alleged incidents. The information contained in this list is certainly formidable and it is suggested in view of all the circumstances, that we must be sceptical as regards its authenticity. The list reads:-

1118

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During search of houses.

- (1) from GERMA Antonino = 4,000 lire in notes;
40 packages of tobacco, 85 packets of
cigarettes and 25 cigars.
- (2) from MICELI Salvatore = 1,500 lire, gold chain
and silver pocket watch, some handkerchiefs
and two towels.
- (3) from ASARO Giacomo = 2,975 lire cash, gold bracelet,
gold chain, gold ring and pair of gold
ear-rings.
- (4) from PAPARELLA Eugenio = 5,500 lire cash and pair
of gold ear-rings.
- (5) from GIACALONE Rosina = two pairs of gold ear-
rings set diamonds and two gold rings.
- (6) from GIACALONE Santa = 500 lire cash.
- (7) from CRAGNANO Francesco = gold wristlet watch
and pair of gold ear-rings.
- (8) from MALTESE Bernardo = 8000 lire in notes.
- (9) from DI NICOLA Maria = 4,000 lire cash.

When searched in streets.

- (10) from ROMA Francesco = 11,000 lire in notes.
- (11) from PIERI Pierino = metal wristlet watch value
1,000 lire.
- (12) from GIUBILATO Ponzio = 20,038 lire in notes.

In regard to the serious offenses alleged committed by
certain civilians against the French troops: During the
house to house search, the soldiers found the following
described firearms and ammunition and these have been
passed as exhibits to the CC.RR through the American
authorities:-

- (1) 1 loaded shot gun
- (2) 1 shot gun
- (3) 2 automatic pistols
- (4) 2 loaders for shot gun
- (5) 7 loaders for shot guns
- (6) 1 machine gun belt
- (7) 35 cartridges
- (8) 150 pistol cartridges (7m/m)
- (9) 2 Italian grenades

1117

gold chain, gold ring and pair of gold earrings.

- (4) from PARMILLA Eugenio = 5,500 lire cash and pair of gold earrings.
 - (5) from GIACALONE Eosius = two pairs of gold earrings set diamonds and two gold rings.
 - (6) from GIACALONE Santa = 500 lire cash.
 - (7) from GRAMENARO Francesco = gold wristlet watch and pair of gold earrings.
 - (8) from MALTESE Bernardo = 8000 lire in notes.
 - (9) from DI NICOLA Maria = 4,000 lire cash.
- When searched in streets.
- (10) from ROMA Francesco = 11,000 lire in notes.
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- (3) 2 automatic pistols
- (4) 2 loaders for shot gun
- (5) 7 loaders for shot guns
- (6) 1 machine gun belt
- (7) 35 cartridges
- (8) 150 pistol cartridges (7m/m)
- (9) 2 Italian grenades
- (10) 5 kilos of gun powder
- (11) Quantity of shot gun cartridges.

1117

52.

Altogether 22 civilians were arrested and detained by the French and were later surrendered to the CC.RR through the American Provost Marshal as arranged between AGO and the French Liaison Officer. The French Command was requested to supply all evidence available

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in order that appropriate action could be taken against the offenders - to date the requested information has not yet reached this Headquarters.

53.

Serious allegations have been made that certain of the prisoners, whilst detained, were subjected to ill-treatment by the French. The G. H. M. reports that upon receiving the prisoners into their custody, six were in such a condition resulting from the alleged ill-treatment, that it was necessary to remove them immediately to hospital for treatment. The persons detained at hospital are:-

- (1) CRISTIANO Michele, born 17th March 1914.
- (2) AMATIA Carmelo, born 11th January 1914.
- (3) SCATURRO Ignazio, born 23rd December 1913
- (4) BASILIO Domenico, born 29th January 1914
- (5) AMATIA Alberto, born 2nd February 1919
- (6) INCHIARRA Antonino, born 26th October 1920.

The allegations are borne out to some extent by one MILITO Mariano, an interpreter in the employ of the American Provost Marshal. He attended the French Camp to assist in receiving the prisoners and it is there that he is said to have witnessed certain brutal acts.

54.

MILITO has made a written and signed statement to his authority in which he asserts that he was present when prisoners were subjected to interrogation by a French Captain VINCENT. He describes one incident when he heard cries emanating from the tent and later saw one of the prisoners leave the tent carrying his shirt, undershirt and coat over his arms. The man was crying and long wails were seen on his back.

55.

Continuing MILITO says that he was present in the tent when another prisoner was stripped to the waist by the French interrogators and lashed on the back and shoulders with a riding whip by a French sergeant and with a short heavy cane by Captain VINCENT.

56.

There is another witness to this alleged conduct, namely, Lieutenant MARSHALL, American Assistant Provost Marshal. He arrived on the scene and entered the tent in connection with the transfer of the prisoners when he saw one of them enter and make a salute. The Lieutenant did not notice the type of salute but Captain VINCENT maintained the prisoner did so in the French

57.

1116

- (1) ENRIQUE MICHALE, born 17th March 1914.
- (2) AMATELLA Carmelo, born 12th January 1914.
- (3) GUATTARO Ignazio, born 23rd December 1912
- (4) BASILIO DOMENICO, born 29th January 1914
- (5) AMATELLA Alberto, born 2nd February 1919
- (6) INQUILATERA Antonino, born 26th October 1920.

The allegations are borne out to some extent by one MILITO Mariano, an interpreter in the employ of the American Provost Marshal. He attended the French Camp to assist in receiving the prisoners and it is there that he is said to have witnessed certain brutal acts.

MILITO has made a written and signed statement to his authority in which he asserts that he was present when prisoners were subjected to interrogation by a French Captain VINCENT. He describes one incident when he heard cries emanating from the tent and later saw one of the prisoners leave the tent carrying his shirt, undershirt and coat over his arms. The man was crying and long weals were seen on his back.

Continuing MILITO says that he was present in the tent when another prisoner was stripped to the waist by the French interrogators and lashed on the back and shoulders with a riding whip by a French sergeant and with a short heavy cane by Captain VINCENT.

There is another witness to this alleged conduct, namely, Lieutenant MARSHALL, American Assistant Provost Marshal. He arrived on the scene and entered the tent in connection with the transfer of the prisoners when he saw one of them enter and make a salute. The Lieutenant did not notice the type of salute but Captain VINCENT maintained the prisoner did so in the Fascist manner. The Captain is then said to have arisen from his desk and struck the man on the nose with his fist with such force that the blood spouted a matter of ten feet away.

I will not deal further with these particular statements at this stage as they will be included and submitted with the cases against the French now under investigation.

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59.

In summing up this entire affair there is no doubt whatsoever that both the French troops and Italian civilians are equally to blame for what has occurred and are equally guilty of grave offenses. Therefore, in view of the unusual circumstances, it must be our policy to press for the prosecution to the full of all offenders where the evidence is available to permit this to be done. Without question the civilian offenders should appear before an Army Court, and when the evidence is received from the French authorities consideration may be given to the setting up of such a Court. On the other hand all evidence in substantiation of the civilian complaints against the French soldiers, as stated previously is being submitted today in order that it may be transmitted to the appropriate Military command through proper channels.

60.

On the 14th April 1944, upon the directions of A.C.O. H.W. No. 1 Viseriet, a conference was held at H.W. I.B.S., and this was attended by representatives of I.B.S., the French Command and A.C.O. G.C.O. discussed the situation at some length with Colonel Willis, the French Commander, and later he asked regarding the civil police arrangements. The position was explained by Regional Public Safety Officer, Region No. 1, A.C.O., who intimated that Court proceedings would be instituted against the civilian offenders if and when the necessary evidence was received.

61.

Copy translations of reports, etc. received from various authorities are attached hereto.

G. Richardson

G. Richardson, Major,
Special Police Section.

1115

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
TRAPANI HEADQUARTERS

12 April 1944.

SUBJECT: Disturbance of French Soldiers.

TO : Regional Public Safety Officer, Region I.

THRU : Regional Commissioner, Sicily Region No., A.C.3.
APO 394.

1. On Sunday March 9th 1944 at about 2500 hours I was informed that a disturbance between French soldiers and Italian civilians had broken out in Xitta, about 4 kilometres outside of Trapani and that one Italian woman was killed and three French soldiers wounded. I proceeded to the hospital of the American Army and found that two of the soldiers were wounded in the lower legs and a third shot through the cheek and was in a grave condition.

2. Lieut. Taylor went to the town in question and found that the French soldiers under the orders of their Colonel had taken over the town and had armed guards on the road and had established road blocks.

3. On the return of Lieut. Taylor I visited the French Commanding Officer at his billets and asked him to confine his troops to their camp area and to remove his road blocks and patrols. His reply was that he would do it at 0600 hours the next morning.

4. I went with the Major of the Carabinieri to the town and as the French Military had taken over the Police of the town I ordered the withdrawal of the Carabinieri and placed the full responsibility on the French Commander of the Guard.

5. The following morning I was again informed that the armed guards were still in the streets and that the citizens were not allowed out of their homes. I again visited the French Colonel and called his attention to the facts and he then ordered the withdrawal of his men. They were actually withdrawn about 1230 hrs. on the 10th of April and the Carabinieri took over the Police responsibility of Xita.

6. On Tuesday morning 11th of April at 1000 A.M. a conference was held in the office of the Provincial Commissioner. In attendance were Colonel Reddy of the United States Army, Colonel Geille and Major Faure of the French Army, Lieut. Waddle, U.S.A., assistant Provost Marshal, Major Wilson, F.C., Trapani, Capt. Brennan, Executive Officer, and myself. At the conference the situation was discussed and the French Colonel informed of his rights and his limitations. It was then agreed that an officer be appointed by the

1. On Sunday March 9th 1944 at about 2300 hours I was informed that a disturbance between French soldiers and Italian civilians had broken out in Xitta, about 4 kilometres outside of Trapani and that one Italian woman was killed and three French soldiers wounded. I proceeded to the hospital of the American Army and found that two of the soldiers were wounded in the lower legs and a third shot through the cheek and was in a grave condition.

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4. I went with the Major of the Carabinieri to the town and as the French Military had taken over the Police of the town I ordered the withdrawal of the carabinieri and placed the full responsibility on the French Commander of the Guard.

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7. Capt. Le Mire of the French Command visited this Office at 1400 hrs. and the following arrangements were made:

1114

- 2 -

- (i) To assign one French soldier for patrol with each carabinieri.
- (ii) That no French soldier be allowed to carry arms outside of the camp area except on duty.
- (iii) That all property seized from Italian citizens be returned.
- (iv) That the carabinieri would institute a search in Kita for illegal possession of firearms.
- (v) That the Italian civilians held as prisoners be turned over to the C.C.R.R. and written charges made within 48 hours.

8. The Italian civilians prisoners (22 in number) were turned over to the C.C. R.R. but 6 of them required hospitalization. The claim of the civilians was that they were mistreated by the French authorities while the French command claims that it might have happened while the riot was in progress.

9. The final report of persons injured or killed and is now complete and it results that 9 French soldiers were wounded by gunshot or grenade, 2 Italian citizens killed (one a woman), and three wounded (one woman).

10. In conclusion, it is felt that at this time the trouble has passed but due to the bitter feeling of the French people against the Italian Nation that this condition will not last very long and unless the French Commander can be made to realize that the situation is very dangerous and that they must take all the precautions that are necessary in order that some acts of their troops do not again antagonize the people which if it does occur will result in a very grave situation.

MONSIEUR H. HARRIS
Captain, C.M.P.,
F.S.S.C., - A.C.C.

FORWARDED:

RAY W. WILSON
Major, C.M.P.,
Provincial Commissioner,
A.C.C., - Trapani.

END/AM.

1113

4 E 2
4 E 2
COPY TRANSLATION OF REPORT RECEIVED FROM
GENERAL FRANCA, OFFICER COMMANDING, 6TH
BRIGADE, CARABINIERI REALI, H.Q. PALERMO

Palermo, 10th April 1944.

Subject - Public Order in Trapani Province.

I rewrite today's information from the Royal
Carabinieri Group of Trapani :-

"On the 9th April at 20.00 hours in Xitla-Paceo section (Trapani), the population was provoked by the actions of the French parachutists who had encamped in the vicinity. They started firing shots against the said parachutists. Four parachutists were wounded, one of whom was seriously injured. The French Command, for counteraction, ordered the town in a state of siege and proceeded to search the dwellings. A group of four militaries after having unsuccessfully searched the dwelling of mounted Carabiniere Schifano Michele, who is attached to the CC.RR Station of Ballottella, Trapani, on sick leave, fired several shots against the Carabiniere's wife who is the mother of four children and in pregnancy. This occurred because the aforesaid woman, having seen her husband with hands-up under the threat of an automatic rifle, started to scream.

The wounded person was urgently brought to the first-aid station of Trapani and considered in danger of life and unable to submit to an operation.

Although the intervention of the Control Commission was soon requested, we were unable to obtain suspension of the state of siege which is considered unnecessary and the cause of the provocation.

A Carabinieri vigilance service headed by me was 11.17
urgently disposed in order to prevent another probable reaction of the population in town."

Further information will be forwarded.

I rewrite today's information from the Royal Carabinieri Group of Trapani :-

"On the 9th April at 20.00 hours in Litta-Paceco section (Trapani), the population was provoked by the actions of the French parachutists who had encamped in the vicinity. They started firing shots against the said parachutists. Four parachutists were wounded, one of whom was seriously injured. The French Command, for counteraction, ordered the town in a state of siege and proceeded to search the dwellings. A group of four militaries after having unsuccessfully searched the dwelling of mounted Carabinieri Schifano Michele, who is attached to the CO. RR Station of Ballottella, Trapani, on sick leave, fired several shots against the Carabinieri's wife who is the mother of four children and in pregnancy. This occurred because the aforesaid woman, having seen her husband with hands-up under the threat of an automatic rifle, started to scream.

The wounded person was urgently brought to the first-aid station of Trapani and considered in danger of life and unable to submit to an operation.

Although the intervention of the Control Commission was soon requested, we were unable to obtain suspension of the state of siege which is considered unnecessary and the cause of the provocation.

A Carabinieri vigilance service headed by me was 1112 urgently disposed in order to prevent another probable reaction of the population in town."

Further information will be forwarded.

(Signed)

G. Paolantonio, Lieut. Col., for
A. Zrenca, General Commander of
Brigade.

18 11
COPY TRANSLATION OF REPORT RECEIVED FROM
CARABINIERI REGALTI, H. Q. PALERMO.

Palermo, 11th April 1944.

Subject - Public Order in Xittha - Paceco, Trapani.

Following the preceding communication, I rewrite the following information from Trapani CC.RR Group ; -

"In reference to No.28/21 information, I inform you that the public order in Xittha was apparently restored at 12.30 hours. The French Command called back its troops who were replaced by Carabinieri to perform vigilance service. I convinced the population to keep calm in order to prevent another reaction which was occurring due to the arrest of 22 persons held at the French encampment by order of the parachutists. We succeeded in having the arrested persons sent to the barracks. Five of these persons were treated at the hospital on account of various injuries and contusions caused by ill treatment.

We are awaiting eventual denunciations about the arrested persons.

After the state of siege has ceased; from investigations performed it resulted that the Carabiniere's wife died and a boy aged 18 was killed in his dwelling in Xittha by the troops who fired automatic rifle shots against the doors and windows of the dwellings. Also a group of three persons, composed of a woman and two young fellows were wounded by shots.

Ten of the French militaries were wounded.

Many thefts of money, jewels and various objects occurred during the searches of dwellings and persons.

During the night French troops returned to the encampments.

Following the preceding communication, I rewrite the following information from Trapani CC.NR Group : -

"In reference to No.28/21 information, I inform you that the public order in Xitta was apparently restored at 12.30 hours. The French Command called back its troops who were replaced by Carabinieri to perform vigilance service. I convinced the population to keep calm in order to prevent another reaction which was occurring due to the arrest of 22 persons held at the French encampment by order of the parachutists. We succeeded in having the arrested persons sent to the barracks. Five of these persons were treated at the hospital on account of various injuries and contusions caused by ill treatment.

We are awaiting eventual denunciations about the arrested persons.

After the state of siege has ceased; from investigations performed it resulted that the Carabinieri's wife died and a boy aged 18 was killed in his dwelling in Xitta by the troops who fired automatic rifle shots against the doors and windows of the dwellings. Also a group of three persons, composed of a woman and two young fellows were wounded by shots.

Ten of the French militaries were wounded. **1111**

Many thefts of money, jewels and various objects occurred during the searches of dwellings and persons.

During the night French troops returned to the encampments.

I believe that the situation is normal and will remain so, providing no other abuses are committed by the parachutists."

(Signed)

Armando Calabrò,
The Colonel Commander.

19.
4 G
COPY TRANSLATION OF REPORT RECEIVED FROM
GENERAL BRANCA, OFFICER COMMANDING, 6TH
BRIGADE, CARABINIERI REALI, N.Q. PALERMO

Palermo, 12th April 1944.

Subject - Public Order in Xitta-Paceco, Trapani.

I rewrite for your attention the following
information from the CC.MR Group of Trapani :-

"For some days a French parachutist unit has been located
at Paceco, Commune of Trapani. Since their arrival
these troops have given cause for complaint by the
population, because they systematically proceeded
with acts of violence against persons and things. And
in a special way of an evening they entered with
violence the private homes causing disturbance to the
women.

This state of affairs was mentioned by the Prefect,
through the Control Commission, to the French headquarters
but without obtaining any concrete result.

At 20.00 hours on the 9th April, in Xitta sector of
the abovementioned Commune, one group of parachutists,
some of them a little drunk were causing disturbance to
the inhabitants of the town and especially to the
women who were entering a small theatre to dance as it
was a feast day. At a certain moment one of the
parachutists grasped a young woman by the hair trying
to pull her towards him. This action aroused the
anger of the young fellows standing in the street who
started a dispute with the militaries. In the ensuing
conflict the young men punched and kicked the French
parachutists.

Some fire-arm shots were fired by the militaries. These
shots attracted the attention of the inhabitants who
went to the place of occurrence, some of whom
counter-attacked with arms. As soon as the parachutists
arrived from Paceco, many civilians who were in their
dwellings were arrested and their homes searched.

Numerous arm shots were fired against the doors and

information from the CC.RR group of Trapani :-

"For some days a French parachutist unit has been located at Paceco, Commune of Trapani. Since their arrival these troops have given cause for complaint by the population, because they systematically proceeded with acts of violence against persons and things. And in a special way of an evening they entered with violence the private homes causing disturbance to the women.

This state of affairs was mentioned by the Prefect, through the Control Commission, to the French headquarters but without obtaining any concrete result.

At 20.00 hours on the 9th April, in Xitta sector of the abovementioned Commune, one group of parachutists, some of them a little drunk were causing disturbance to the inhabitants of the town and especially to the women who were entering a small theatre to dance as it was a feast day. At a certain moment one of the parachutists grasped a young woman by the hair trying to pull her towards him. This action aroused the anger of the young fellows standing in the street who started a dispute with the militaries. In the ensuing conflict the young man punched and kicked the French parachutists.

Some fire-arm shots were fired by the militaries. These shots attracted the attention of the inhabitants who went to the place of occurrence, some of whom counter-attacked with arms. As soon as the parachutists arrived from Paceco, many civilians who were in their dwellings were arrested and their homes searched.

Numerous arm shots were fired against the doors and windows of the dwellings causing the death of a boy age 18 years who was in bed and the wounding of a woman and two lads.

A group of four or five parachutists entered the dwelling of mounted Carabiniere Schifano Michele, attached to this group and on sick furlough, and after having ordered the persons including the Carabiniere in civilian clothes, to keep their hands up under the threat of automatic rifles, searched unsuccessfully the home. As they did not succeed in opening the door of the lavatory in which there were sheltered the Carabiniere's wife, in a pregnant state, together with four children, they fired

(continued)

they fired.

two shots against the door and killed the lady.

After having completed the searches of the dwellings during which money, jewels and various objects were taken away (the Carabinieri have already been informed about his occurrence), the French Command ordered the state of siege which lasted until 12/30 hours of the next day in spite of the complaints of the Chief of Police of the A.C.C. in the Province, who was soon informed.

During the night of 9th/10th April 22 persons were arrested by the French parachutists and held at the French encampment of Paceco and were later accompanied to the CC.RR Barracks at the disposal of the A.C.C. Chief of Police. Six of these persons were brought to the local hospital on account of injuries and contusions caused by this maltreatment.

During the same night, French Military patrols searched the persons of people who were going through the Trempani-Paceco Highway. They robbed from some of them personal belongings and considerable sums of money as results from the denunciations forwarded to the CC.RR Station.

During the afternoon of yesterday and today the French troops were held at their encampments. Today, during the afternoon, by order of the A.C.C. Chief, the Carabinieri searched the dwellings of Paceco and Xitta for arms, but with a negative result.

Yesterday, after the state of siege had ceased, the Carabinieri performed patrol services in the country.

Beginning from today, by order of the A.C.C. the carabinieri performed patrol service together with the French parachutists.

Even though the tranquillity is apparently restored, I believe that if the Regiment is not transferred to the Province, acts of revenge may occur.

I do not know exactly how many French militaries were

Police of the A.C.C. in the Province, who was seen informed.

During the night of 9th/10th April 23 persons were arrested by the French parachutists and held at the French encampment of Paceco and were later accompanied to the CC.RR barracks at the disposal of the A.C.C. Chief of Police. Six of these persons were brought to the local hospital on account of injuries and contusions caused by this maltreatment.

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Yesterday, after the state of siege had ceased, the Carabinieri performed patrol services in the country.

Beginning from today, by order of the A.C.C. the carabinieri performed patrol service together with the French parachutists.

Even though the tranquillity is apparently restored, I believe that if the Regiment is not transferred to the Province, acts of revenge may occur.

I do not know exactly how many French militaries were wounded during the mentioned occurrence, because they were taken by their companions to their own infirmary. I believe that they amount to about ten casualties.

(Signed)

Amedeo Branca,
The General Commander of the
Brigade.

COPY TRANSLATION OF REPORT FROM CARABINIERI
REALI, TRAPANI, SETTING OUT NAMES OF CIVILIAN
CASUALTIES

Carabinieri RealI - Trapani Group

11th April 1944

Subject - Public Order at Xitite-Paceco, Trapani.

The following are the names of the civilians,
dead and wounded, in the incident of the 9th inst at
Xitite-Paceco :-

DEAD

1. CRISOMENTI Giovanna di Vito e di Vella Leonarda,
born Trapani 10th October 1910, married to
Carabiniere Schifano.
2. MARANO Giuseppe fu Francesco e di Genna Gterina,
born Trapani 27th August 1923.

WOUNDED

1. Tarentino Salvatore fu Mario e fu Florino
Francesca, born Trapani 14th October 1895,
now at hospital.
2. GENNA Salvatore di Antonino e di Genna Maria,
born Trapani 24th April 1926.
3. COSTANZA Laura, no relatives at Xitite as evacuated
from Palermo, now at hospital.
4. CRIGNANO Michele fu Giuseppe e fu Giordano
Leonarda, born Xitite 17th March 1914, now
at hospital.
5. AMANTIA Carmelo fu Giuseppe e di Spano Giuseppe,
born Xitite 11th January 1914, now at hospital
6. SCATURRO Ignazio di Rosario e di Augugliero
Antonine, born Xitite 23rd December 1910, now
at hospital.
7. AMANTIA Alberto fu Giuseppe e di Spano Giuseppe,
born Trapani 2nd February 1919, now at
hospital.
8. RAGINICO Domenico di Giuseppe e di Rescorta
Giuseppa, born Xitite 29th January 1914, now

Dead and Wounded, in the incident of the 9th March 1943.
Xitta-Teoeco :-

DEAD

1. CRISCHETTI Giovanni di Vito e di Vella Leonarda,
born Trapani 10th October 1910, married to
Carabinieri Schifano.
2. MARANO Giuseppe fu Francesco e di Genna Caterina,
born Trapani 27th August 1923.

WOUNDED

1. Terrantino Salvatore fu Mario e fu Florino
Francesca, born Trapani 14th October 1895,
now at hospital.
2. GENNA Salvatore di Antonino e di Genna Maria,
born Trapani 24th April 1926.
3. COSTANZA Laura, no relatives at Xitta as evacuated
from Palermo, now at hospital.
4. ERICIANO Michele fu Giuseppe e fu Giordano
Leonarda, born Xitta 17th March 1914, now
at hospital.
5. AKANTIA Carmelo fu Giuseppe e di Spano Giuseppe,
born Xitta 11th January 1914, now at hospital
6. SOLTURRO Ignazio di Rosario ei di Augugliaro
Antonino, born Xitta 23rd December 1911, now
at hospital.
7. AKANTIA Alberto fu Giuseppe e di Spano Giuseppe,
born Trapani 2nd February 1919, now at
hospital.
8. BASILICO Domenico di Giuseppe e di Raccorta
Giuseppe, born Xitta 29th January 1914, now
at hospital.
9. INCHIAPPA Antonino di Alessandro e fu Ruffa
Caterina, born Castelvetrano 28th October
1920, now at hospital.

The wounded numbers 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 are now in the
hospital and are being guarded as they had been arrested
by the French Command.

(Signed)

Giovanni Leccis, Major,
Carabinieri Reali, Trapani.

22
4 I
COPY TRANSLATION OF REPORT FROM CARABINIERI REALI.
TRAPANI, SETTING OUT DETAILS OF ALLEGED LARCENIES
BY FRENCH SOLDIERS TO DETRIMENT OF CIVILIANS.

Carabinieri Reali - Trapani Group

12th April 1944

List of persons who on the night of 9th instant were robbed by French paratroopers :-

At Litta whilst searching homes

1. GERNA Antonino fu Alberto e fu Licard Caterina, born Trapani 29th December 1888 - lire 4000 in bills, 40 packages of tobacco, 13 packages macedonian cigarettes, 52 packages indian cigarettes, 20 packages giuba cigarettes and 25 roma cigars.
2. NICOLI Salvatore fu Giuseppe, born Trapani 1st December 1905 - gold chain and silver pocket watch, lire 1500, some handkerchiefs and two towels.
3. ASARO Giacomo fu Francesco e fu Crescenti Caterina, born Trapani 6th October 1904 - gold bracelet, gold chain, gold ring, pair of gold ear-rings and lire 2975.
4. PAPARELLA Eugenio di Luigi e di Cirillo Anna, born Bari 29th May 1917 - lire 5500 and pair of gold ear-rings.
5. GIACALONE Rosina di Salvatore e di Grammatico Maria, born Paceco 1919 - 2 pairs gold ear-rings set diamonds and 2 gold rings.
6. GIACALONE Santa fu Salvatore e di Grammatico Maria, 40 years old - 500 lire.
7. GRACIANO Francesco di Michele e fu Grimaudo Antonio, born Paceco 28th April 1916 - gold wristlet watch and pair of gold ear-rings.
8. MALTESE Venerando di Francesco e fu D'Angelo Francesco, born Trapani 9th July 1905 - 8000 lire in bills.
9. DI NICOLA Maria fu Francesco e fu Ceramita Maria, born Paceco 50 years old - lire 4000

The above objects were taken away while the houses were being searched.

At Piazza San Giuseppe, Paceco, after personal search

10. POMA Francesco fu Salvatore e fu Novara Anna, born Paceco 1st January 1911 - 11000 lire in bills.

In vicinity of Paceco near the school after personal search

11. LIBRI Pierino di Marino e di Maglio Maria, born Lacerata 16th

1. GENTILE Antonino fu Alberto e fu Ignazio Caterina, born 29th December 1892 - lire 4000 in bills, 40 packages of tobacco, 13 packages macedonian cigarettes, 52 packages indian cigarettes, 20 packages guba cigarettes and 25 roma cigars.
2. NICOLI Salvatore fu Giuseppe, born Trapani 1st December 1905 - gold chain and silver pocket watch, lire 1500, some handkerchiefs and two towels.
3. ASARO Giacomo fu Francesco e fu Crescenti Caterina, born Trapani 6th October 1904 - gold bracelet, gold chain, gold ring, pair of gold ear-rings and lire 2975.
4. PAPARELLA Eugenio di Luigi e di Cirillo Anna, born Bari 29th May 1917 - lire 5300 and pair of gold ear-rings.
5. GIACALONE Rosina di Salvatore e di Grammatico Maria, born Paceco 1919 - 2 pairs gold ear-rings set diamonds and 2 gold rings.
6. GIACALONE Santa fu Salvatore e di Grammatico Maria, 40 years old - 500 lire.
7. GRAGNANO Francesco di Michele e fu Orlando Antonio, born Paceco 28th April 1916 - gold wristlet watch and pair of gold ear-rings.
8. MADRERI Venerando di Francesco e fu D'Angelo Francesco, born Trapani 9th July 1905 - 8000 lire in bills.
9. DI NICOLA Maria fu Francesco e fu Ceramita Maria, born Paceco 50 years old - lire 4000

The above objects were taken away while the houses were being searched.

AT Piazza San Giuseppe, Paceco, after personal search

10. POMA Francesco fu Salvatore e fu Novara Anna, born Paceco 1st January 1911 - 11000 lire in bills.

In vicinity of Paceco near the school after personal search

11. LIBRI Pierino di Marino e di Maggio Maria, born Macerata 16th January 1921 - metal wristlet watch value 1000 lire.

Near Cavalcavia - Vittoria, after personal search

12. GIUBILATO Ponzio di Francesco e di D'Amico Carmela, born Masara del Vallo 1st May 1916 - lire 20,038 in bills.

(Signed)

Giovanni Ischia, Major,
Carabinieri Reali, Trapani.

23
1
COPY TRANSLATION OF REPORT FROM FRENCH COMMAND

4 I
FROM: Colonel GILLIE, Commanding the 1st Para-troop Regiment

TO: Provincial Commissioner, AOC, Trepani Province

12th April 1944.

I have the honour to bring to your knowledge the facts which took place on the evening of Sunday, April 5th.

1.

A part of the 1st Para-troop Regiment, viz, 1st Company, 1st Battalion, 7th and 9th Companies, is camping in the village of PACECO, situated about four kilometres from TRAPANI on the MARSALA road.

Between the two localities there is the small village of XITTA, scattered on both sides of the main road. The village is not occupied by the troops.

Some permits had been issued to the soldiers to go to TRAPANI in the afternoon of the same day.

According to the orders issued to the troops all the men had to leave the town at 7.p.m and be back at the camp at 8.p.m.

Some patrols composed of both American and French soldiers, were wandering at TRAPANI at 7 o'clock and there were no more soldiers in the town. No incident up to that time had been signalled.

2.

At about 7.30pm a non-commissioned officer entered Russo's Hotel where I was eating, related that some soldiers coming back from TRAPANI had been attacked by the inhabitants of the village of XITTA and that many shots were forthcoming from the windows well as from the roofs of the houses, that some of our men were wounded and that our men, being without arms, had come out of the village.

In accordance with the Provost Marshal of A.B.T.C (Airborne Training Centre), I immediately ordered the patrols of TRAPANI to reach XITTA. 1727

On the other side I went there with the American Officers of A.B.T.C. We were a bit late owing to the necessity of taking arms at the Camp Kurtz (sent of A.B.T.C), and when we arrived at XITTA at about 20.30 hours, everything had been settled. Some

I have the honour to bring to your knowledge which took place on the evening of Sunday, April 9th.

1.

A part of the 1st Paratroop Regiment, viz, 1st Company, 1st Battalion, 7th and 9th Companies, is camping in the village of PACECO, situated about four kilometres from TRAPANI on the MARSALA road.

Between the two localities there is the small village of XITTA, scattered on both sides of the main road. The village is not occupied by the troops.

Some permits had been issued to the soldiers to go to TRAPANI in the afternoon of the same day.

According to the orders issued to the troops all the men had to leave the town at 7.p.m and be back at the camp at 8.p.m.

Some patrols composed of both American and French soldiers, were wandering at TRAPANI at 7 o'clock and there were no more soldiers in the town. No incident up to that time had been signalled.

2.

At about 7.30pm a non-commissioned officer entered Russo's Hotel where I was eating, related that some soldiers coming back from TRAPANI had been attacked by the inhabitants of the village of XITTA and that many shots were forthcoming from the windows as well as from the roofs of the houses, that some of our men were wounded and that our men, being without arms, had come out of the village.

In accordance with the Provost Marshal of A.B.T.C (Airborne Training Centre), I immediately ordered the patrols of TRAPANI to reach XITTA. ^{11.19.7} On the other side I went there with the American Officers of A.B.T.C. We were a bit late owing to the necessity of taking arms at the Camp Kurtz (seat of A.B.T.C), and when we arrived at XITTA at about 20.30 hours, everything had been settled. Some patrols were wandering in the village.

On his part, Captain MEYER, Officer Commanding the troops at PACECO, having been listening to the discharging of firearms at XITTA, adopted all the measures necessary to re-establish order and assure the protection of the soldiers returning to the camp.

Lieutenant MARTIN, Officer on duty at PACECO, arrived first on the place and related about the measures adopted to Captain VINCENT, Officer Commanding the 3rd Company, who had been charged by Captain MEYER to direct the operations.

(continued)

the operations./

ACCOUNT

10 Paratroopers wounded, one of whom seriously
1 Italian killed
1 Italian woman killed by a shot discharged
through a door which the woman refused
to open.

From the interrogations I made, it results that
five paratroopers coming back at about 7.15pm, had been
offended by Italian civilians assembled at the
entrance to the village. All the witnesses agree.

A quarrel arose, during which an Italian civilian
discharged a shot from a pistol against a paratrooper;
the Italian was disarmed.

A pitched battle arose; some stones were thrown
by the Italians against the paratroopers who replied in
the same way, when, on the spot many shots were fired
wounding some paratroopers.

The soldiers on leave, being without arms, shrank
whilst the firing was going on.

Some Italians coming out of the village and
discharging firearms, began surrounding our troops.

The firing did not finish and the paratroopers
were liberated only when some reinforcements arrived
from their Regiment.

A quick search in the various houses of the
village revealed some firearms, loaders and even hand
grenades. Many Italians armed have been caught.

The houses search was prosecuted till 12pm. An
armed squad guarded the ways out and in the meanwhile the
same was done by a unit of Italian Carabinieri till
Monday at about 12 noon at which time the American
authorities asked us to withdraw.

According to the instructions of the American
authorities, the Italian civilians arrested were
surrendered to the local authorities at PAGGIO in the
afternoon of April 10th.

During the course of the interrogations, on the
morning of Monday, all of them said they did not know
anything, they did not know anything, even those
arrested for having firearms in their hands.

According to all the statements of both Officers
and soldiers, it results that what occurred at the
beginning was only a pretext owing to the fact that it
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same was done by a unit of Italian Carabinieri till
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authorities, the Italian civilians arrested were
surrendered to the local authorities at PACCO in the
afternoon of April 10th.

During the course of the interrogations, on the
morning of Monday, all of them said they did not know
anything, they did not know anything, even those
arrested for having firearms in their hands.

According to all the statements of both Officers
and soldiers, it results that what occurred at the
beginning was only a pretext owing to the fact that it
seems impossible such a sudden attack on the part of
the Italians and the surrounding manœuvre developed
by them had not been done with premeditation. Another
fact confirms the same impression. The telephone
wire was cut in the small house near the railway road
at about 500 metres north of VITTA where the Corporal
Major RAMOUSSE went in order to call the P.C.

3.

According to the request of the American
authorities and in order to facilitate the job of the
police, the troops have been kept in their barracks
and they will stay there waiting new orders.

4.

CONCLUSION

My soldiers have been attacked by the civilians

the civilians/

when going back to their camp without arms. There was no provocation on their part.

I request:-

- (a) some measures to be adopted immediately in order to withdraw all the firearms in the possession of the Italian civilians
- (b) some sanctions particularly severe to be adopted against the Italians arrested with firearms in their hands and those having taken part against the troops
- (c) to let me know exactly whether I must or not ensure the protection of my personnel, or if that is a matter for the local police forces.
- (d) to let me know the exact attributions of the various organisations having to deal with the whole matter, that is to say of the local ACC or its representatives, the Provost Marshal of the A.B.T.C., the local police, etc.... their dependence upon each other and our position in front of them

Anyhow, it is absolutely necessary to rule as soon as possible all the problems concerning the security of the French soldiers camped in the area of TRAPANI.

The consignment of the troops in the camp is not to be considered anything but a temporary one. Ten paratroopers have been wounded and one of them very seriously; it is necessary that such a fact not be repeated.

To: The Representative of ACC
The Colonel Commanding the A.B.T.C.
The General Commanding the Air Troops - Chief of EMGA
This file.

1105

(Signed)

Colonel GELIA,
Officer Commanding.

25
4 K

COPY TRANSLATION OF LIST RECEIVED FROM
FRENCH COMMAND SHOWING ARMS AND AMMUNITION
RECOVERED BY FRENCH PARATROOPS FROM ITALIAN
CIVILIANS AT XITTA ON NIGHT OF 9TH/10TH

APRIL 1944

1	loaded shotgun
1	shotgun
2	automatic pistols
2	loaders for Italian machine gun
7	loaders for shotguns
1	machine gun belt
35	cartridges
150	pistol cartridges (7m/m)
2	Italian grenades
5	kilos of gunpowder
	Quantity of shotgun cartridges

(Signed) Captain MEYER,
Commandant
(1st French Paratroop Regiment)

1104

SECRET

4602

52039

7203

R. Public Safety

3A

APR 11 1965

NOTE

R47/13

SECRET

OPERATIONAL PRIORITY

1 DISTRICT 0336

AAI GSI RPTD MATR

FURTHER TO 0305 OF 12TH. BOOLEKING OF WOMEN NOT REPEAT NOT YET ESTABLISHED. FURTHER BOOLEKING NOT REPEAT NOT CHECKING AREA WHEN SLASH OCCURRED. 10 FRENCH CASUALTIES. POSSIBLE PREMEDITATED PROVOCATION ON PART CIVILIANS. 1 CIVILIAN CASUALTY OCCURRED WHEN PATROL ARRIVED. FURTHER CIVILIAN CASUALTY DURING SEARCH FOR ARMS. DETAILED REPORT BY G.C. FRENCH UNIT HELD. IS REQUESTED TO CONTINUE ENQUIRY. G.C. REINFORCEMENT CALLED FOR. FRENCH TROOPS CONFINED BARRACKS. DETAILED UNIT IN OUR 0335 OF 13TH TO SM. FULL REPORT FOLLOWS.

ADD DISC

1103

SECRET

SECRET

44/12 2236

SECRET

NONE

DISTWO

ACTION AAI (GRI) INPPG PATINA

HEADQUARTERS
12 APR 1944
A. C. C.

12

12/09558

6305

CITE

FOLLOWING IS PARAPHRASE OF REPORT RECEIVED FROM HQ NUMBER ONE
REGION. "SERIOUS" CLASH OCCURRED 9TH APRIL BETWEEN FRENCH TROOPS AND
LOCAL CIVILIANS IN SMALL SUBURBS OF THAPANI. WOMAN HAS BEEN KILLED.
FIREARMS USED ON BOTH SIDES AND CASUALTIES HAVE RESULTED. GEOZ(1)
ACTED TODAY. FURTHER REPORT WILL BE DISPATCHED.

AOC DISTR:

Head - P. A. G.	2
1st - P. A. G.	1
2nd -	1
3rd -	1
4th -	1
5th -	1
6th -	1

1101

SECRET

RESTRICTED

51979 SA

Public Safety

1A

N 40/11

RESTRICTED

NONE

STEREOTYPE FROM PARAGRAPHS

NATURAL FOR SUCH. SOE NUMBER 1 DISTRICT

APRIL 11/2051

APRIL 11/1781

S 9394

RWA-179

SEVERE DISTURBANCE OCCURRED 9 APRIL AT 2000 HOURS IN SMALL TOWN OF TRAPANI. POPULATION
 HEAVY. 10 PARATROOPS INJURED 1 SERIOUSLY. FRENCH COMMANDER ORDERED STATE OF SIEGE
 TAKING OVER TOWN. ARRESTED 23 ITALIANS AND MAKING HOUSES TO HOUSE SEARCHES DURING
 WHICH WIFE OF CARABINIERS WAS SHOT AND HAS SINCE DIED. UNDERSTAND FRENCH COMMANDER HAS
 NOW ORDERED TROOPS TO BARRACKS. PROVINCIAL COMMISSIONER REPORTED ALL QUIET 10 AND 11
 PLANS FROM MAINTENANCE OF PEACE CO-OPERATED WITH U.S. AND FRENCH LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS.
 HAVE ORDERED IMMEDIATE INVESTIGATION. WILL SEND FULL DETAILS WHEN AVAILABLE.

ACC-DIST

Action - CA Br. 2
 Info - Secy Gen.
 - Dep. CC
 - Public Safety
 - File
 - Plot.

1100

RESTRICTED

