

785016

ACC

10000/143/1566

CRIM
NOV.,

785016

10000/143/1566

CRIMINAL IDENTIFICATION, FINGERPRINTS & PHOTOS
NOV., DEC. 1944

File 2A

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
Public Safety Sub-Commission
APO 394.

Ref. AC/14639/PS.

Tel. 489081 - 365

7th December, 1944.

SUBJECT : Fingerprint identification.

TO : H.E. The Director of Public Security, Ministry of
Interior.

1. The attached letter, dated 10th November, from Dott. Modica has been received from the Regional Public Safety Officer in Sicily.
2. The letter gives details of the material needed for re-establishing fingerprint identification in the various Questure in Sicily.
3. It is understood that Dott. Sorrentino of the Scuola di Polizia Scientifica has already prepared plans for equipping all Questure in liberated Italy with scientific equipment as far as it is available. Will you please therefore deal with the request contained in Dott. Modica's letter.

Chapman
P. JOHN W. CHAPMAN,
Colonel, J.A.G.D.,
Director, Public Safety
Sub-Commission.

Enclosure: Letter from Dott. Modica. - 1c.

Copy to: R.P.S.O., Sicily.

4155

APW/ca.

14634-1 H
ALLIED COMMISSION

SICILIA REGION HEADQUARTERS

APO. 394

(PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION)

FILE NO: RPS/612/RAS.

DATE

SUBJECT: Reorganization of Technical Police Services

Allied Commission Headquarters.

TO:

For the attention of,

Public Safety Sub-Commission.

TO	DATE
COL CHAPMAN	10/1/47
COL YOUNG	
LT COL WILCOX	seen
MAJ HANBURY	
MAJ BALLANCE	
CAPT POWELL	
CHIEF CLERK	

(1) The technical services which previously formed a part of the normal Italian police services have been interrupted. These services were an essential part of the police system and are urgently required in confronting the present situation of public safety. Therefore, I recommend that the reorganization of the services as presented herein be proposed to the Italian Government.

(2) FINGERPRINTINGS.

(a) Fingerprinting prior to the occupation was an essential part of the Italian police system. Fingerprints of persons arrested in certain categories of crimes were taken by the local Questura and a local file was maintained. The central file was maintained at Rome at the "Casellario Centrale d'Identificazione". The fingerprints served two main purposes,-

(1) To maintain a continuous and positive record of the criminals and,

(2) To determine whether a person arrested had a previous criminal record.

0 6 7 8

(1) The technical services which previously formed a part of the normal Italian police services have been interrupted. These services were an essential part of the police system and are urgently required in confronting the present situation of public safety. Therefore, I recommend that the reorganization of the services as presented herein be proposed to the Italian Government.

(2) FINGERPRINTINGS.

(a) Fingerprinting prior to the occupation was an essential part of the Italian police system. Fingerprints of persons arrested in certain categories of crimes were taken by the local Questura and a local file was maintained. The central file was maintained at Rome at the "Casellario Centrale d'Identificazione". The fingerprints served two main purposes,--

(1) To maintain a continuous and positive record of the criminals and,

(2) To determine whether a person arrested had a previous criminal record.

4154

(b) At one time exchange of fingerprints of known, suspected or possible international criminals was carried on between England, America (Federal Bureau of Investigation) and Italy.

(c) These services have been interrupted and in this Region are almost entirely inoperative. Fingerprint identification is internationally recognized in police organizations as an indispensable aid. Under present conditions the need in this Region is intensified. Many arrests of habitual criminals are being made but the means of maintaining a positive record of these individuals does not exist. Travel has been authorized which affords opportunity for the criminals to move from one part of the country to another where even



when arrested by the police they may be not identified. From the present conditions a new "crop" of criminals is being developed. A serious handicap will result years later when the police are confronted with the problem of identifying these criminals. While essential in every modern society today, identification based on fingerprinting as the most positive known method, is in normal times even more essential in Italy than in England and America, because of the repressive and preventive measures employed by the Italian police that require an even greater use of positive identification.

In this Region there are at large at least 600 wanted persons. To this number have been added those who have come from the mainland. Not only may these persons escape identification, but they may gain positions to which they are not entitled. Incidents have occurred where persons with criminal records have even been employed by the Allied Commission. There exists at present unconfirmed rumours that attempts of (illegal entry into) America are being made.

At present the police in their investigations are restricted to a period of 7 days to hold a prisoner on suspicion. This strengthens the old tendency to remain silent (omerta'), - for at the end of the period the individual is freed. Without a fingerprint system a criminal may continue to circulate without (information) of his past becoming known.

(d) The services can be instituted without great cost. Lack of equipment is the principal difficulty. The attached list contains the requirements to reinstitute the service in Sicily.

(e) In conjunction with the proposal that the fingerprint services be reinstituted emphasis should be placed on the use of the identity card.

(3) PHOTOGRAPHING.

The photographing services, while not so essential as fingerprints, should be reinstituted. The attached list also contains photographic equipment required to reinstitute the service in Sicily.

been employed by the Allied Commission. There exists at present unconfirmed rumours that attempts of (illegal entry into) America are being made.

At present the police in their investigations are restricted to a period of 7 days to hold a prisoner on suspicion. This strengthens the old tendency to remain silent (omerta'), - for at the end of the period the individual is freed. Without a fingerprint system a criminal may continue to circulate without (information) of his past becoming known.

(d) The services can be instituted without great cost. Lack of equipment is the principal difficulty. The attached list contains the requirements to reinstitute the service in Sicily.

(e) In conjunction with the proposal that the fingerprint services be reinstituted emphasis should be placed on the use of the identity card.

(3) PHOTOGRAPHING.

The photographing services, while not so essential as fingerprints, should be reinstituted. The attached list also contains photographic equipment required to reinstitute the service in Sicily.

(4) The use of other scientific aids to criminal investigations should also be reinstituted.

(5) Under Memo 8 July AAI/1408/GSI (b) the services of the "ISTITUTO DI MEDICINA LEGALE E DELLE ASSICURAZIONI DELLA R. UNIVERSITA' DI ROMA" e della "SCUOLA SUPERIORE DI POLIZIA" are referred to for the use of all security agencies. But it is indicated that these agencies are held primarily at the disposition

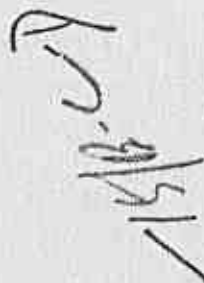
- 3 -

of the security agencies in the military forces. As these institutions are essential technical services it is recommended urgently that they be made available to the police and that the Italian Government be advised to reinstitute all technical services.

For the Regional Commissioner.



Russell A. SNCOCK,
Lt. Colonel,
Regional Public Safety Officer.



Enclosures as above.

0 6 8 2

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No.

785016

4152

151
Enclosures as above.

P.C. REGIONAL DIRECTION FOR SICILY.

FILE No. 356 - Reply to File No. RPS/014.1 of August 2, 1944.

TO - Allied Commission,
Public Safety Division, Palermo.

Nov. 10, 1944.

In reply to the above mentioned letter you are informed that the following material is needed for the fingerprint and identification sections of the various Questure in the Island,-

QUESTURA OF ENNA. It has never had a finger-print and identification Section.

QUESTURA OF CALTANISSETTA. It has never had a finger-print and identification Section. We propose to furnish it with a small portable finger-print set, as it once had, and which was destroyed.

QUESTURA OF RAGUSA. It has never had a finger-print and photography Section. However, we propose to supply it with a complete plant Section. 500 personal description cards and an equal number of fingerprint record cards.

QUESTURA OF CATANIA. Kgs. 2 of sodium sulphite crystals. Kgs. 3 sodium hyposulphite grains. Kg. 1 boric acid; also 200 cards with with respective fingerprint control sheets.

QUESTURA OF MESSINA. A machine trestle 13 X 18 ~~sized~~; a complete fingerprint set, containing small board, roller typographic ink, cutter, scales with weights, a calibrated litre, a magnifying lens, a background for photographic machine, an object shutter 1.5.5., three development basins, development and fixing chemicals (hydrochynone methol, sodium sulphite, sodium carbonate, boric acid, potassium bromide, potassium cyanide-iron, soda sulphite, powder and brushes to detect fingerprints, personal description cards and fingerprint sheets, glass fingerprint plates. It would also be necessary to repair the existing bronographer, the electric plant, to re-make window hangings for the exposure room, and if possible to provide ~~with~~ objective and chassis.

QUESTURA OF PALERMO. The two wooden lift-gates of the veranda need to be repaired (it is a matter of necessity for the closing of the exposure room) panes for the two verandas, white and blue linen curtains on the background ceiling and in the veranda of the exposure

- 2 -)

room, in order to regulate light; to repair the electric plant of the exposure room and the two wooden frames, white and ash coloured linen background dark room- black varnishing; to repair water reservoirs and light and water plants; to repair the window for the hermetic sealing of the dark room, two windows polished with emery for photograph machines sized 13 X 18, two black linen cloths to focus the machines; 9 electric bulbs of 100 candle power, of which 4 red.

SENSITIZED MATERIAL. 2 dozen photograph plates 6 X 9; 2 dozen plates 7 X 9; 8 dozen plates 9 X 13; 10 dozen plates 13 X 18; 15 packages of paper 9 X 13; 100 sheets each- 108 A 108 B 108 C- 10 packages of paper 13 X 18, 100 sheets each 108 A 108 B 108 C - 5 packages of paper 18 X 24, 100 sheets each 108 A 108 B 108 C.

CHEMICALS. Hyposulphite Kgs. 5 Ammonia grs. 200; 1 litre denatured alcohol; 3 litres of petroleum; 2 rubber bulbs for the automatic shutter.

QUESTURA OF AGRIGENTO. 400 sheets of enamelled paper 9 X 13; 100 sheets of enamelled paper 13 X 18; 5 dozen green plates 7 X 9; 10 dozen red plates 9 X 13; sodium hyposulphite Kgs. 3; soda sulphite Kgs. 3 sodium carbonate Kgs. 4; Methol grms. 100; hydrochynone grms. 100; boric acid grms. 200, potassium bromine grms. 50.

Also necessary for the functioning of the Section is a new photo-electric plant, owing to the fact that the bulbs they had for the lighting of the room are broken or burnt in consequence of war activity; it is not possible to find these bulbs on the Market. It is also necessary to furnish the Section with powders in order to take finger, palm or foot prints at the scene of crimes, and possibly a sufficient quantity of white and black adhesive paper, as well as a tube of fingerprint ink to detect fingerprints and some lamps for the bromographer, as well as the bulb for the dark room. Also necessary for the use of the personnel attached to the Section are 2 overalls and overcoats, and to authorize, as in the past, the purchase of soap and rags on the local market needed for maintaining neatness of the personnel, the acid basin, and other things.

QUESTURA OF SIRACUSA. 600 sheets of enamelled paper 9 X 13 of which 200 108 A - 200 108 B and 200 108 C - 300 sheets of enamelled paper

- 3 -

13X 18 of which 300 108 A-B-C- 200 sheets of enamelled paper 18 X 24 of which 100 108 A and 100 108 B- 24 X 30 enamelled paper, 6 X 9 plates, 7 X 9 plates; 12 dozen plates 9 X 12 three green; 13 dozen plates 9 X 13, (three red) 10 dozen plates 13 X 18 4 of which red; 3 anthiole and 3 "fiol", a dozen plates 18 X 24, orange coloured; a dozen plates 24 X 30 orange coloured; hyposulphite soda grain Kgs. 3, soda sulphite crystals Kgs. 3, soda carbonate Kgs. 2,500; anydre, methol 100 grms agfa, hydrochine grms. 100 agfa, starch for glue; iron-cyanide potassium grms. 100 sodium bisulphite, bicloride mercury grms. 100; boric acid grms. 500 potassium bromine grms. 100, red and black cloth to focus, objective Galileo double "matico" elastic 6,8 normal with diaphragm with two rings for iris-fixing the chamber, focus length F.8, it includes size 13 X 18 cms. metr. 108564, an intermediate 3 exposure for the machine 13 X 18.

QUESTURA OF TRAPANI. Enamelled paper 9 X 13, 400 sheets; enamelled paper 13 X 18 200 sheets; enamelled paper 18 X 24 25 sheets, 2 dozen plates 6 X 9; 2 dozen 7 X 9 plates; 2 dozen 9 X 12 plates; 5 dozen 9 X 13 plates; 2 dozen 13 X 18 plates; Kgs. 3 of sodium hyposulphite grains; Kgs. 2 of soda sulphite crystals; soda carbonate Kg. 1; anadride, methol 50 grms "Appula" hydrochinone grms. 100, grain starch glue grms. 500, boric acid grms. 500; No. 2 basins 13 X 18 and 18 X 24, a black cloth; two glass bottles two litres each, provided with a ground glass stopper, a cutter (the one existing is unserviceable) a small counterbalance (the one existing is unserviceable) an enamelled funnel, an envelope containing adhesive paper to remove fingerprints in examination of crime scenes.

The Regional Director.

MODICA.

0 6 8 6