

ACC/14760/16/PS

10000/143/1634

785016

10000/143/1634

COL. ACAMPORA  
DEC. 1943 - APR. 1944

ACC/14760/16/P3

56

Col. ACAMPORA

| <u>Lot's</u> | <u>Referred to</u> | <u>Date</u> |
|--------------|--------------------|-------------|
| 1.           | Aug S.C.           | 20/3/04     |

1806

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

785016

10000 / 143

1634

THIS FOLDER  
CONTAINS PAPERS  
FROM DEC. 43  
TO APR. 44  
CATALOGUE.

MINUTE SHEET

① Included for information of  
Capt. Dow, DEC.

Army HQ

and returns to HQ

23/5/44

Glenn  
for DEC.

Subject - ACAMPORA Col

Hq District CMF 24A  
202, 1 CSI

9 APR 44

371 PW Camp

Copy to:- AGO Public Safety Commission (ACC/14760/16/PS refers;  
CSI(b) AMI

Authority is given for the release of the a/n  
Italian officer held as an internee in your camp.

1303

L. Kennard Capt  
Lieutenant Colonel  
General Staff

361





# MINISTERO DELLE FINANZE

COMANDO SUPERIORE DELLA R. GUARDIA DI FINANZA  
DELL'ITALIA LIBERATA

DIVISIONE - Segr. Office

Salerno, li 6 april 1944

Prot. N. 25 R.P.

Risposta a nota N. Acc/14760/16/PS

del 5 april 1944

All. N.

Tc: Paul G. KIRK

Colonel, Infantry, Chief

Public Safety Sub - Commission

S A L E R N O

OGGETTO: Col. Acampora

I answer at once yours acc/14760/16/PS of 5.th.  
April 1944.

I confirm that Col. Acampora will not be reappointed  
in No. 2 District.

Telefono N. 13.793

GENERAL COMMANDING  
(Oreste Moricca)

185016

HEAD HEADQUARTERS  
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION  
Public Safety Sub-Commission

22A

5 April 1944.

ACC/14766/16/VS

SUBJECT: Col. ACAMPORA

TO : General Moricca  
Comando della R. Guardia di Finanza, Salerno.

Col. Acampora is about to be released from military detention upon the understanding that he will not be re-employed by the R. Guardia di Finanza in No. 2 District.

Since in accordance with the terms of your letter of 23rd March this assurance has already been given on your behalf, I should be glad if you would confirm to me in writing that Col. Acampora will not be re-appointed in No. 2 District.

PAUL G. KIRK,  
Colonel, Infantry,  
Chief, Public Safety  
Sub-Commission

APX/1

INTER-OFFICE MEMO

4 April 1944

SUBJECT: Colonel Acampora

TO : Col. Young, Public Safety

Reference attached letter #1651 March 30 and letter April 3 from Minister of Foreign Affairs relative to above officer.

DCC requests information with respect to status of this officer. What is holding the matter up? DCC requests that you provide the information as quickly as possible.



L. D. DENSMORE  
Lt. Col., S.C.  
PA to DCC

U R G E N T   P L E A S E

4th April

Placed Major Walter GS(1B) 2 Div: and told him assistance would be given the Acampora would not be re-employed in 2 Div. matter promised immediate release. Capt Stone DCC offered personally of re. 22.

357

R. MINISTERO  
DEGLI  
AFFARI ESTERI

MEMORANDUM

for the  
POLITICAL SECTION (A.S.C.)

This Ministry would much appreciate an early reply to memorandum no. 977 of March 2nd, concerning Col. Giovanni Acampora and thanks in advance the Political Section (A.S.C.) for its kind attention in this matter.

RP



Salerno, March 30th, 1944.

356

1070. P. L. L.  
3413. 1070

R. MINISTERO

DEGLI

AFFARI ESTERI

21C

The wife of Col. Acampora (who, as is recalled, was arrested last January), has this morning called on His Excellency Jung, imploring his intervention in order to obtain the release of her husband.

Signora Acampora states that the British Authorities in Bari informed General Mericca (Commander of the Guardia di Finanza) that the enquiries made in respect of Col. Acampora had given favourable results, and that the proceedings against him were withdrawn.

Col. Acampora, however, is still under arrest at Padula. His actual release is believed to be now exclusively dependent on the decisions of the Allied Control Commission.

His Excellency Jung would be personally most obliged if he were given the possibility of assuring Signora Acampora that the situation of Col. Acampora had been definitely cleared.

SALERNO, April 3rd, 1944.

obtain the release of her husband.

Signora Acampora states that the British Authorities in Bari informed General Moricca (Commander of the Guardia di Finanza) that the enquiries made in respect of Col. Acampora had given favourable results, and that the proceedings against him were withdrawn.

Col. Acampora, however, is still under arrest at Padula. His actual release is believed to be now exclusively dependent on the decisions of the Allied Control Commission.

His Excellency Jung would be personally most obliged if he were given the possibility of assuring Signora Acampora that the situation of Col. Acampora had been definitely cleared.

SALERNO, April 3rd, 1944.

785016

CONFIDENTIAL

PEAR HEADQUARTERS  
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION  
Public Safety Sub-Commission

20

4 April 1944.

ACC/14760/15/PS

SUBJECT: Col. Acampora.

TO : C.O.C.  
HQ No. 2 District, C.M.P.

19A

Reference 2022/41 GSI, 28 March 44.

Assurance has been received at this Headquarters from the  
Commanding General C.C.F. that Col. Acampora will not be re-employed  
in No. 2 District.

Under these circumstances I shall be glad if you will  
release Col. Acampora as early as possible and inform this HQ when  
this has been done.

A. E. YOUNG, Col.,  
C.C.F.S.

785016

SUBJECT: Col ACAMPORA

CONFIDENTIAL

HQ 2 District CMF  
2022/41 GSI

Public Safety Division ACC  
Attention Col YOUNG.

28 Mar 44  
*R*

GSI(b) AAI

This HQ agrees in principle to the release of Col  
ACAMPORA.

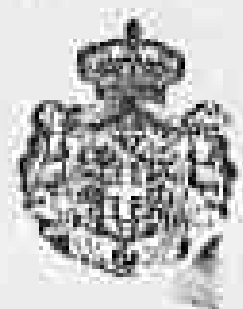
8A - In view of the events set out in this HQ report  
2022/41 GSI of 14 Mar 44, it is not considered desirable  
that he should assume any appointment in No 2 District.

As soon as Italian Military authorities' assurance  
on this point is received his immediate release will be ordered  
by this HQ.

353

JHC

*Ad. Young*  
Major-General  
Commanding 2 District  
*Replied*  
*20 A*



## MINISTERO DELLE FINANZE

COMANDO E DELLA R. GUARDIA DI FINANZA

18A

DIVISIONE Segr. Office

Salerno, li 23 = 3 = 944

Prot. N. *Y/Rid. Rev.*  
 Risposta a nota N. *Acc/14760/16/PS*  
 del  
 All. N.

Al Col. PAUL G. KIRK  
 Public Safety Sub-Commission  
 Allied Control Commission  
 APC 394

OGGETTO: Col. Acampora

I beg to answer immediately to your kind communication.

Col. Acampora will certainly need a long rest in order to recover from the shock that he has received.

At any rate, I had already decided for his suspension for an indefinite length of time from his office duties; and so it will be done, complying in such a way also to your wishes.

Thanking you again, I remain

sincerely yours

IL GENERALE COMANDANTE  
 (Oreste Moricca)

Received 0930  
 24 Feb 1944  
 (W)

*O. Moricca*

Seen  
 abg.  
 file.

352

Chief of Staff P H  
14760 JAN 1966

Colonel JOHNSON, Chief  
of administrative staff No 2  
DISTRICT will ring you  
personally later today about  
arrest of Col HAN FORTA.

He is finding out reasons for  
arrest, on whose instructions,  
whether future arrests  
can be this I think  
authorities working 351 Dtdy

351/

Ch. B.

1820

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

785016

B/F. 27/3/44

Re. 14<sup>A</sup>

✓ 3

HEAD HEADQUARTERS  
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION  
Public Safety Sub-Commission  
APO 371

22 March 1944

ACC/21760/16/TS

SUBJECT: COL. ACAMPORA

TO : HQ 2 District, U.M.F.

Reference your 2022/11 001, 14 March 1944

1. Your report upon the arrest and detention of Col. Acampora is appreciated.

2. Having regard to your final paragraph I should be glad if you could take steps to release Acampora, if this has not already been done, and let me know when he has been freed.

3. The desirability of his re-employment is being considered by this sub-Commission in consultation with the Italian Government and the decision reached will be communicated to you in due course. In the meantime arrangements will be made for him to be suspended from duty following his release.

A.E. YOUNG, Col.  
For Chief, Public Safety  
Sub-Commission

Noted  
✓

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

File  
15A

ACC/14760/16/PS

22 March 1944

SUBJECT: Col ACAMPORA

TO : Gen. MORICCA, HQ AC.M., Salerno.

1. It is anticipated that Col. Acampora will be released from military detention in the near future.
2. Since the question of his suitability to remain in office has now been raised, I shall be glad if you will arrange for him to be suspended from duty following his release, until proper consideration can be given to the matter.

PAUL G. KIRK  
Colonel, Inf.  
Chief, Public Safety  
Sub-Commission

PGK/hgd

14 A 6  
107 109 110

15 March 1944

MEMO FOR: Public Safety Sub-Commission  
Attn: Col. Young

1. Returned herewith is your file on Col. Acampore, previously held at this office.
2. Request that this office be informed when word on this matter is received from ACMF, so that General MacFarlane and Captain Stone, who are interested, may be advised of progress on the case.

*Frank J. Slaughter*  
FRANK J. SLAUGHTER  
Captain, AGD *L.H.B.*  
Deputy Secretary General

2022/41 CSI

HQ 2 District CSF

14 Mar 44

Col Young,  
Public Safety Sub Commission,  
A C C

-----

Dear

*Young*

I attach a full report on ACAMPORA. - 12A

It is awfully difficult to deal with these cases of Italian Army officers - as you no doubt know.

It was always considered in peace time in Italy that only the bad officers were ever sent to Southern Italy and the islands - 2 Dia Miel is infested with them. Naturally, the Italian Army authorities try to cover up deficiencies, but the sins of omission and commission go on being committed, and when enquiries are made one is told that the officer concerned "didn't mean to do it".

The one thing we cannot stand for is any sort of unrest amongst the Italian Army, Navy or Airforce on our I. of C which I'm afraid this ass, however unwittingly, was responsible for. That is why his internment was ordered.

Though I'm now satisfied that there was no evil intent, do use your influence to have him retired before he makes a fool of himself and trouble for the Italians and ourselves again.

Your original file is enclosed.

Yours ever.

*AS Math*

CONFIDENTIAL

HQ 2 District CLF  
2022/11 CSI

14 Mar 44

A. SUBJECT: Col ASHES

Public Safety Sub Commission  
Attention: Col YORRE  
ADJ  
AAI

Around the end of Dec 43, early Jan 44, FSS in their routine reports stated that Fascist propaganda was being spread among Italian troops stationed in KATILLANO and that as a result there was a certain unrest noticeable there.

It will be appreciated that any signs of unrest amongst Italian Armed Forces on the L of C must be viewed with the gravest concern by Allied Military authorities. Orders were therefore given by this HQ for a very thorough investigation to be made.

On 15 Jan 44 a report was submitted by G3 M5 FSS enclosing a number of signed statements from which it appeared that, on Christmas Day, several were distributed by Col ASHES to the men of the Special Unit at KATILLANO of the Guardia di Finanza, based on FANT. In each parcel was a pamphlet containing a selection of MOSCOW'S Gita and Fascist hymns (copies encl). 44

No information was sent to Col ASHES's detachment and it appeared astonishing that he - presumably a responsible officer - could have done such a thing. Even with the story true that he had ordered the offending items to be torn out and this had not been done, he, as senior officer, remained responsible; and the fact remained that his action had caused the trouble.

Normally this HQ would have requested VITA to ask the Italian authorities to remove him; however during the same period the unfortunate case of Col CALASSA, of CC 54 Detached to Regia Aeronautica TARANTO, was being dealt with.

This man had attempted to join the Germans after the Armistice taking with him his car and all the stores he could collect: he was responsible for carrying out sabotage of the ASHES airfield, which he has since admitted and given information of the whereabouts of missing parts of installations: moreover he had helped several Germans to escape.

CALASSA's conduct was investigated by the Italian Military authorities, and the Court of Enquiry ordered that he be brought before a District Court. When the matter was left as far as the Allied authorities were concerned.

On 4 Jan 44, CALASSA appeared in HQ 2 Dist for an authority to visit Eighth Army area. His Comodoro FOSCHI, FSS, was immediately contacted and the immediate arrest and internment, which was carried out on 6 Jan

of the Am. via Lt. PILLANZA, based on RABT: in each parcel was a handwritten note  
a selection of Mussolini's dicta and Fascist hymns (copies encl) - 14 M

No information was given to Col. AKA-BABA's detachment and it appeared establishing that he - presumably a responsible officer - could have done much a thing. Even were the story true that he had ordered the offending items to be torn out and this had not been done, he, as an officer, remained responsible: can the fact remain that his action had caused the trouble.

Normally this HQ would have requested AKA to ask the Italian authorities to release him: however during the same period the unfortunate case of Col. CAMASSA, ex CG St. Bergamo Italia, was being dealt with.

This man had attempted to join the Germans after the Armistice ending with him the end of all the stores he could collect: he was responsible for carrying out sabotage of CHOTIALENE airfield, which he has since admitted and given information of the whereabouts of missing parts of installations: moreover he has helped several Germans to escape.

CAMASSA's conduct was investigated by the Italian Military authorities, and the Court of Inquiry ordered that he be brought before a Disciplinary Court. The matter was left as far as the Allied authorities were concerned.

On 4 Jan 44, CAMASSA appeared in HQ 2 Dist for an authority to visit High Army areas. Air Comodoro ROSSETT, ADC, was immediately contacted and requested his immediate arrest and internment, which was carried out on 6 Jan 44 by 233.

After a good deal of thought in view of the gravity of the offense of causing unrest among Italian Armed Forces and of the results of CAMASSA's case it appeared that the wisest course would be to exercise the overriding power of arrest held by the Allied Military Authority and order the arrest and internment of CAMASSA.

It may be of interest that when he was arrested, CAMASSA boastfully admitted ordering the ganglions to be included.

Unquestioned since then among Italian Army officers in No 2 Dist Lead one to suppose that CAMASSA is a complete fool rather than a knave: but even irresponsible people can do a lot of harm, and in this case, whatever the intention, harm was, in fact, done.

It would appear therefore that there is no objection from a Security point of view to the man's release, from internment, but a very considerable cost to his re-employment in any responsible capacity in the Italian Army.

OS makt's

Major-General  
Commanding 2 District

Aug 15 to mid December

LSD/nsp

9 March 1944

My dear don Renato Prunas:

This is to acknowledge receipt of and thank you for your letter  
N. 777 of 2 March 1944 with reference to Col. Giovanni Acampora.

The matter is being further investigated and it is hoped that we  
can give you a report in the near future.

Yours very truly,

MILRY W. STONE  
Captain, USMC  
Deputy Chief Commissioner

His Excellency don Renato Prunas  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Italian Government

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

10 A

7 Mar 44  
Date

Res. file 10760/  
at 2.00 p.m. 7/3/44

| To | From                                                 | To                                                                                                                                                         | From                       |
|----|------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
|    | Chief Commissioner<br><del>XXXXXXXXXX</del>          |                                                                                                                                                            | Labor                      |
|    | Deputy Chief Commissioner<br><del>XXXXXXXXXXXX</del> |                                                                                                                                                            | Education                  |
|    | A. D. C.                                             |                                                                                                                                                            | Interior                   |
|    | Secretary General                                    |                                                                                                                                                            | Public Health              |
|    | P. R. O.                                             | ✓                                                                                                                                                          | Public Safety (Col. YOUNG) |
|    | Mil. Sec.                                            |                                                                                                                                                            | Public Utilities           |
|    | Comm. Sec.                                           |                                                                                                                                                            | Agriculture                |
|    | Pol. Sec.                                            |                                                                                                                                                            | AG                         |
|    | Econ. & Admin. Sec.                                  |                                                                                                                                                            | Hq. Comdt.                 |
|    | Fin. Sub-Sec.                                        |                                                                                                                                                            | Transportation O.          |
|    | Legal Sub-Sec.                                       |                                                                                                                                                            | Supply Officer             |
|    | G-2                                                  |                                                                                                                                                            | Billeting O.               |
|    | Army                                                 |                                                                                                                                                            | Stenographic Section       |
|    | Navy                                                 |                                                                                                                                                            | File Section               |
|    | Air                                                  | ✓                                                                                                                                                          | Deputy Secretary General   |
|    | P/W                                                  | Forwarded in connection<br>with previous paper on this<br>subject which has already been<br>furnished you. Please see Capt<br>Stone reference this<br>last |                            |
|    | War Material Disposal                                |                                                                                                                                                            |                            |
|    | Displaced Persons                                    |                                                                                                                                                            |                            |
|    | Industry                                             |                                                                                                                                                            |                            |

- For your information
- For comment
- Contents noted
- For necessary action
- For necessary action & return
- For compliance
- For file.

*[Signature]*  
(initials)

R. MINISTERO  
DEGLI  
AFFARI ESTERI

1829  
106  
N: 947

At the beginning of February this Ministry, at the request of the Ministry of Finances, drew the attention of Captain Stone, Deputy Chief Commissioner, A.C.C., on the following matter:

On December 25, 1943 Col. Giovanni Acampora of the RR. Guardie di Finanza, had some Christmas gift packages distributed to a Unit of the Guardie di Finanza of Rutigliano.

Due to an oversight a pamphlet containing also Fascist hymns was included in the package. After the distribution Col. Acampora asked one of the soldiers to show him the contents of the package he had received and, having noticed the pamphlet, gave immediate instructions that the same be withdrawn from all packages.

Col. Acampora was, however, denounced probably by one of his subordinates, and arrested in Bari by the Allied Authorities at the end of January.

On February 5th the information previously given to Capt. Stone was implemented by a letter by which he was informed that the Presidenza del Consiglio, in an effort to eliminate all printed matter having a pro-fascist propaganda value, had sent pertinent instructions to all Ministries to this effect.

Following the letter and the detailed information given on the case under consideration, Capt. Stone let be known verbally that he had asked the Allied Authorities to examine the possi-

1 8 3 0

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Following the letter and the detailed information given on the case under consideration, Capt. Stone let be known verbally that he had asked the Allied Authorities to examine the possibility of releasing Col. Acampora.

The Ministry of Finances has now informed that Col. Acampora is as yet under arrest.

This Ministry would therefore appreciate to know which

R. MINISTERO  
DEGLI  
AFFARI ESTERI

-2-

are the intentions of the Allied Authorities in regard to Col. Acampora and if he is being held for reasons other than those that caused his arrest, and that, it is reiterated, were purely due to a very regrettable oversight and certainly not to the desire of spreading Fascist propaganda.

With the occasion this Ministry wishes also to point out the advisability that the Italian Government should be previously informed by the Allied Authorities when action, such as that taken against Col. Acampora, is being contemplated. This especially if the person involved is a Government official or a member of the armed forces and, moreover, is carrying out his duties in territory under direct control of the Royal Government.

R.E.  
Salerno, March 2nd, 1944



1 3 3 2

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With the occasion this Ministry wishes also to point out the advisability that the Italian Government should be previously informed by the Allied Authorities when action, such as that taken against Col. Acampora, is being contemplated. This especially if the person involved is a Government official or a member of the armed forces and, moreover, is carrying out his duties in territory under direct control of the Royal Government.

R.E.  
Salerno, March 2nd, 1944



1833

785016

3 March 44

To Administrative Section  
For Public Safety Sub-Com.  
Attention: Col. Young

Captain Stone would like you  
to handle this matter please.

L. D. DENSMORE  
Lt. Col., Signal Corps,

341

1.5

POW

SUBJECT: Arrest of Col ACAMPORA

SECRET

20 FEB '44

HQ 2 District CMT  
2022/41 G

ACC

14 Feb 44

Ref your 250.3 dated 5 Feb

It is appreciated that your suggestion that Col ACAMPORA should be released is based on Col JUNG's aide memoire.

It is pointed out that arrests are only ordered by this HQ when there are strong reasons which make such arrests desirable. The reasons for arrests on Security grounds are not given to the Italian authorities; indeed it is highly undesirable that they should be passed to them.

For your information, however, the distribution of Fascist literature was only one of the reasons for Col ACAMPORA's arrest and internment.

It is submitted that the question of the release of the Colonel is necessarily one for the Allied Military authorities and not the Italians.

JHC

*AS Maltby*  
Major-General  
Commanding 2 District

1835

785016

COPY

70  
EWS/hjp

In reply refer to:  
250.3

7 February 1944

SUBJECT: Arrest of Colonel Acampora

TO : Colonel Sisley, Two District, Bari

Supplementing my letter of 5 February, there is forwarded herewith a translation of instructions issued by Marshal Badoglio for the purpose of preventing a repetition of future incidents similar to the case of the subject officer.

For the Deputy President, Allied Control Commission:

ELLERY W. STONE  
Captain, USNR  
Acting Chief of Staff

1 Incl:  
Instructions, Marshal Badoglio  
N. 801 Pres. Cons., 4 Feb 44

339

7B

On or about December 20th, Col. Acampora gave instructions for the preparation of 320 Christmas packages, to be distributed as a gift amongst the components of the newly formed unit of the "Guardie di Finanza" in Rutigliano.

Also in view of the difficulty of finding on the market, a sufficient number of small gifts to make up the necessary packages, it was decided to make use of the available small stock of stationery existing at the canteen: namely writing paper, Regimental P.C.s., and postage-free military P.C.s. For the same reason it was decided to throw in a small pamphlet of patriotic hymns which had been printed last May for distribution on the occasion of the Anniversary of the Foundation of the Corps, falling July 5th.

The packages were brought to Rutigliano for distribution, on the morning of December 25th.

On the same day, Colonel Acampora who happened to be at Rutigliano, having asked one of the soldiers to show him the contents of the package distributed to him, immediately noticed that the pamphlet, which he had not examined previously, contained also a number of fascist hymns. He accordingly gave immediately instructions to the Commander of the Unit, Lt. Col. Murgia, that the pamphlet be withdrawn and the incriminated hymns cancelled.

This is confirmed in the enclosed statement by Col. Murgia, himself who has also pointed out, however, that in carrying out these orders, a number of packages may have been overlooked. (Enclosure No. 1)

It is beyond all doubt that there was no intention on the part of Col. Acampora or his officers of distributing fascist propaganda. The inclusion of the pamphlet was purely due to an oversight, or rather to the fact of not having taken the precautionary measures of causing its previous careful examination.

The same applies to the free-postage P.C., bearing an inscription signed "Mussolini". The fact also being that such inscriptions had become so common, that they were more often than not passed unnoticed.

It is believed that denunciation against Col. Acampora may have been made by revenue officer Michele Lattanzio. The latter is at present under arrest on the charge of continued theft. (Enclosure N. 2)

Instructions are under way in order to call the attention of all Italian authorities on the immediate necessity of a thorough examination of all printed matter still existing in depots or in circulation, in order to eliminate all that contains reference which might have a propaganda value in favour of the fascist regime.

COPY

EWS/hjp

In reply refer to:  
250.3

5 February 1944

SUBJECT: Arrest of Colonel Acampora

TO : Colonel Sisley, Two District, Bari

1. The subject Italian officer who commands the Guardia di Finanza at Bari was arrested recently on the grounds, I am informed, of distributing Fascist literature. A protest was received from Col. Guido Jung, Under-Secretary for Finance, stating that if this officer were guilty of treasonable acts, the Italian Government would have either brought about his removal or caused his arrest.

2. In this connection, this Commission has just received an aide memoire, which is enclosed herewith. Because of the possibility that distribution of such material might unwittingly occur, as in this case, because all stocks have not been destroyed, new instructions are to be issued in this regard as set forth in the last paragraph on page two of the attached.

3. If no other charges have been brought against this officer, it would appear that the arrest was unnecessary and that he should be released. The Italian Government is prepared to reprimand him for failing to supervise the material included in the Christmas packages in question.

4. I should be grateful if you would advise me what action is taken.

For the Deputy President, Allied Control Commission:

ELLERY W. STONE  
Captain, USMC  
Acting Chief of Staff

1 Incl:  
Aide Memoire with 2 Incls.

B1 JA

Colonel ACANTORA

Commander of the "Legione della Regia Guardia di Finanza" of Bari  
 Chief of the "Regia Guardia di Finanza" in the four Provinces  
 Was arrested at Bari by Allied police officers on the 29th  
 January; No previous notice was given to the Italian authorities.

The Italian officer notified yesterday to MIRA was

Grand BELIO Nicola arrested on instruction  
 from HQ. in London. Arrested in Bari.

See attached letter - 6046C

1839  
Was arrested at Bari by Allied police officers on the 29th  
January; No previous notice was given to the Italian authorities.

The Italian officer notified yesterday to MIRA was  
Giovanni BELLIO  
for his, in London. Arrested in Bari.  
See attached letter - 6046

File -

Will make

336

785016

30 JAN 1944

CONFIDENTIALSUBJECT: - Arrest of General BELLOMO NicolaMilitary Mission  
to ITALIAN ARMY  
I/103  
29 Jan 44Hq 2 DistrictCopy to: Allied Control Commission  
AMIA LO 2 District

Ref att translation of a pro-memoria from Italian War Ministry.

Could you please state reasons for the arrest of the a/m officer.

*Chief of Staff*  
 Reason notified to General Clark McEllerault Cpt  
 ABC right as "on instructions from" for Brig  
 War office in London 30/1. (about a duty)

785016

TRANSMISSION

30 JAN 1944

3074

SUBJECT:- Pro-memoranda for M.M.I.A.

Italian War Ministry

29 Jan 44

5c

Military Mission to Italian Army

9 CORPS inform us that Div Gen BELLOMO NICOLA was arrested yesterday morning in BARI by an F.S.S. Capt and 4 N.C.Os.

Gen BELLOMO, accompanied by the above offr and an N.C.O. at about 1700 hrs returned to his own office and house for personal documents and clothing. The General asked to be allowed to communicate with 9 CORPS HQ and the English Capt stated that this was unnecessary because the War Ministry and CORPS HQ would be fully informed by the British authorities. The General was accompanied to the concentration camp at GROMO (BARI).

9 CORPS asked Brig PALMER (6 B.S.A.) the reason for the arrest and he replied that he had no knowledge of the matter.

Gen BELLOMO (a recalled officer) is President of the Commission for the dissolution of the M.V.S.N. and it was intended to retain him until completion of this job (now nearly finished) and then demobilise him.

The General at the time of the Armistice distinguished himself in fights against the Germans and personally leading Italian soldiers: he was wounded 11 times and taken to BARI hospital.

Please inform us of reasons for the arrest.

COPY

SECRET

G.S.I.(b).,  
H.Q.,  
2 District.

From:- O.C.,  
315 Field Security Section.

Subject:- Distribution of Fascist Pamphlets in RUTIGLIANO.

Enclosed are a number of signed statements with translations, and a copy of a pamphlet, the Fascist character of which is unmistakeable.

Statement No. 1 by Michele LATTANZIO, a 'finanziere' stationed with the Battaglione Speciale N.R. at RUTIGLIANO is to the effect that on Christmas Day, the Col. ACAMPORA, commander of the Legion of the Guardia di Finanza, based on Bari, went to RUTIGLIANO to visit the battalion. With him, he brought Christmas parcels for the men (about 400) and gave the order for their distribution). Pamphlets identical with the one enclosed were found in all the parcels.

Statement No. 4 by Mario MARCELLI, also a 'finanziere,' confirms this.

Statement No. 5 is by Sargente AVELLA of the Colonna Volontari, who was at RUTIGLIANO on Christmas Day. He says that he heard of the distribution of the pamphlets and that ACAMPORA was responsible for their distribution.

ACAMPORA has not previously come to the notice of this section, and the Questura and CC.RR records on him are not very illuminating. He was appointed to his present command in May of last year. In Nov. of last year, LATTANZIO, who had escaped from Rome and crossed the German lines to rejoin his family at BITONTO, told the story of his escape to PWB and it was subsequently used in a broadcast. He was summoned from RUTIGLIANO to the command of the Legion in Bari, where he was reprimanded (on the orders, he believes of ACAMPORA) for giving this information and threatened with imprisonment. (The first paragraph of statement No. 1, the supplementary statement No.2, and No. 3, a copy of a previous statement made on Dec. 14 to the Colonna Volontari refer to this incident).

334

P.T.O.

- 2 -

Ten. Col. MARENCO, second in command at the Legion, who, it was reported, was on cordially bad terms with his superior, was approached in the hope that he might have information which would indicate whether ACAMPORA was directly responsible for the inclusion of the pamphlets in the parcel. MARENCO gave no information of value. He no doubt realised where the enquiries were leading, as on 14 Jan., he came to this office to volunteer the information that ACAMPORA had originally ordered the inclusion of the pamphlets in the parcels but had subsequently ordered his adjutant to expugn the Fascist contents. MARENCO stated that the adjutant unfortunately forgot to do this.

It looks as though this was an attempt to white-wash ACAMPORA, and the command of the Legion, having had time to realise which way the wind is blowing, is obviously trying to put itself in the right, as on 10 Jan. the Battalion at RUTIGLIANO made an attempt to withdraw the pamphlets and about 50 (out of a total of 400) were collected. There can however be no question of a real desire to rectify a genuine mistake, as the pamphlets were left in circulation from 25 Dec. until 10 Jan.

15 Jan. '44.

(signed) A. R. Perkins

Capt.,  
O.C.,  
315 F.S.S.

JS

188

COPY

TRANSLATION.

I, the undersigned, Mario MARCELLI, 25 years of age, guardia di finanza serving at Rutigliano, declare on my honour the following:-

The booklet with the yellow cover and the inscription-  
14 Legione Territoriale della Regia Guardia di Finanza,  
"Uniti Patriotici," and containing the following Fascist  
songs: "Giovinezza," "The Legionaries' Song," "The March  
of the Legions," "The Young Fascists' Song," "The Leg-  
ionary's Prayer," etc., was found by me in the parcel  
which I was given as a present at Christmas. Apart from  
the booklet, the parcel contained, five packets of writing  
paper and envelopes, about 200 grammes of dried figs,  
and some jam.

The parcel was wrapped up and bound with string. The  
outside wrapping was of old official paper. I was in  
hospital at the time, and a friend came to deliver my  
parcel. All the finanzieri at Rutigliano received similar  
parcels, and all found in their respective parcels, the  
booklet which is referred to. There were nine of us  
in hospital, and all of us discovered a copy of the  
booklet in our parcel.

I add that the parcels were distributed on the same day  
on which Col. AGAPORA came from Bari by car, and that  
they were distributed on the order of Col. AGAPORA,  
according to what my friends have told me.

2 Jan. '44.  
MARI.

Signed:- Mario MARCELLI.

COPY

SECRET

G.S.I.(b).,  
H.Q.,  
2 District.

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315 Field Security Section.

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334

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15 Jan. '44.

(signed) A. R. Perkins  
Capt.,  
O.C.,  
315 F.S.S.

JS

A88

COPY  
TRANSLATION.

I, the undersigned, Mario MARCELLI, 25 years of age, guardia di finanza serving at Rutigliano, declare on my honour the following:-

The booklet with the yellow cover and the inscription: "Legione Territoriale della Regia Guardia di Finanza, 'Inni Patriottici,' and containing the following Fascist songs: "Movimento," "The Legionaries' Song," "The March of the Legions," "The Young Fascists' Song," "The Legionary's Prayer," etc., was found by me in the parcel which I was given as a present at Christmas. Apart from the booklet, the parcel contained, five packets of writing paper and envelopes, about 200 grams of dried figs, and some jam.

The parcel was wrapped up and bound with string. The outside wrapping was of old official paper. I was in hospital at the time, and a friend came to deliver my parcel. All the Finanzieri at Rutigliano received similar parcels, and all found in their respective parcels, the booklet which is referred to. There were nine of us in hospital, and all of us discovered a copy of the booklet in our parcel.

I add that the parcels were distributed on the same day on which Col. ACASPORA came from Bari by car, and that they were distributed on the order of Col. ACASPORA, according to what my friends have told me.

2 Jan. '44.  
MARL.

Signed:- Mario MARCELLI.

COPY

TRANSLATION.

I, the undersigned, AVELIA Carmine di Francesco, 25 years of age, Sgt. of the Corpo Volontari, domiciled at Rutigliano, and at present at the Caserma Piana affirm the following on my honour:-

My family lives at Rutigliano, and I often go home. At Christmas, I learnt that the Guardia di Finanza at Rutigliano had been given in their Christmas parcels, booklets similar in every way to the one I have been shown, with a yellow cover, bearing the title:- "11 Territorial Legion of the Guardia di Finanza, "Salentina," and with the sub-title:- "Patriotic Songs." In it were "Giovinezza, "The Legionaries' song," "The March of the Legions," "The Young Fascists' Song," "The Legionary's Prayer." I was astonished that such booklets should have been distributed to the Italian armed forces, and thought that it might be the work of some defecist, but later got to know that it was Col. AUA PORA who had ordered the distribution of the booklets in the parcels.

I got hold of three of them, and brought them to the HQ of the Corpo Volontari, and gave a copy each to the avvocato SCARACCHIA, and Ten. TASSI, who made enquiries on their own account, with what result, I do not know. I have no further knowledge of this matter, except that I know that all of the 'Munzieri' at Rutigliano received a copy of the booklet with their Christmas parcel.

END

COPITRANSLATION.

I, the undersigned, Michele LATTANZIO, in amplification of what I have already stated in the first paragraph of my declaration of 29 Dec. '43, affirm that I suspect that the Maresciallo STAVIANO was acting in the name of the Col. CAMERON on his orders, as the Maresciallo could not have known the Col.'s reasons for being angry with me. If the Maresciallo behaved in this way, it is obvious that he had received orders to that effect from the Col. Moreover, he himself in his office, in presence of all the clerks, compelled me to sign a declaration setting out how I had come to know signor RE ZIO, who introduced me to Major Robertson.

3 Jan. '44.  
Autigliano.

Signed: Michele LATTANZIO.

TRANSLATION.

I, the undersigned, Michele LATTANZIO, guardia di finanza, serving at RUTIGLIANO with the Battaglione Speciale R. would like to add the following to my previous declaration of 14 Dec:-

1. With regard to the severe reprimand which the Marescaillo OTTAVIANO gave me on the orders of Col. ACAMPORA, I should like to make it clear that in the "ufficio matricola" on the second floor, in the presence of all the clerks, he said:- "My dear Michele, get this quite clear. You'll finish up in gaol. You've got to supply me with a declaration, showing who gave you permission to communicate certain things to the British authorities, which were subsequently broadcast. "I affirm that Col. ACAMPORA threatened me with imprisonment, after which I referred the matter to Major Robertson for help. He sent Capt. Howard with me, and he spoke with the Col. and the matter was smoothed out. After his talk with Capt. Howard, Col. ACAMPORA promised to transfer me from RUTIGLIANO, but although he has never implemented this promise, but he has made me pay for my uniform, although he knew that I had to discard my previous uniform in order to get away from Rome, so as not to fall into the Germans' hands.
  2. About 1200 hours, on 25 Dec. 43, a lorry arrived in RUTIGLIANO from Bari with parcels for the personnel of the battalion. Col. ACAMPORA, accompanied by Capt. BARIARI arrived about 1100 hours by car. He gave the order to Col. MURGIA to have distributed to each company store a number of parcels corresponding to the number of men with the company on that day. The parcels were wrapped in old official paper, and tied up with string. As soon as they were distributed, we opened them, and found the following in each parcel:- five packets of airmail paper and envelopes, two small packets of jam, a few dried figs, a packet of hair shampoo, and a booklet, on the cover of which was printed:- "11 Territorial Legion of the Regia Guardia di Finanza, "Salentina." Patriotic Hymns." "The contents were Fascist songs, among which were:- "Giovinezza", "The Legionary's Song" "The March of the Legion", "The Young Fascists' Song", "The Legionary's prayer," etc.
- I should like to make it quite clear that Col. ACAMPORA gave Col. MURGIA the order for the distribution of the parcels.
- The whole of the battalion can bear witness to this statement in as far as it concerns the contents of the parcels. In confirmation of it, it would be possible to interrogate Finaziere LIECI, (at present discharged, and living in Lecce, - his address can be obtained from the office of 4 Coy) MARCELLO, PALANTE, MATTEI and ZIZZARI, - all now serving at Rutigliano. I attach a copy of the booklet to which I have referred above.

29 dec. 43.

(Signed) Michele LATTANZIO.

TRANSLATION

Enclosure No. 1

AFFLUENCE (?) CENTER ROYAL REVENUE GUARDS  
OF RUTIGLIANODECLARATION

By request, I declare as follows:

Last Christmas there were distributed by order of HQ of the 11th Legion of the Royal Revenue Guards "SALENTINA" (Bari) a certain number of gift packages, to the Royal Revenue Guards Battalion of Rutigliano, under my command; these packages were delivered in a small Legion truck and given to the adjutant major, in the presence of Battalion officers and Col. Acampora, who had come to greet the battalion, composed mostly of men from other units and from units still in enemy territory.

These gift packages, as well as I can remember, contained: stationery, patriotic post cards of the Corps, dried figs, marmalade and a small pamphlet, a collection of patriotic and military songs (I do not know whether all packages had this last item).

I was able to find this out by examining some packages of the men who had already received them; Col. Acampora was present, and gave orders that, in regards to the songs, all fascist hymns should be deleted. This was done on the following days, even for those in the hands of the men who were in the hospital, or absent for other reasons.

Regarding this matter, although all the men had been prohibited from singing any fascist song, I repeatedly requested my battalion officers to personally oversee the deletions, even of the word "duce", included in the "Prayer of the Revenue Guard". I was informed of the deletions, I well remember, (while I was in bed, under doctor's orders, because of a leg lesion caused by a fall) in the first days of January, and this because I was anxious that no pamphlet should escape the order of deletions.

So much for the truth.

The Lt. Col. ex-Commander  
of the Battalion

/s/ Murgia

Sgt Sorisi - Transl.  
/hjp

- - - 330

TRANSLATION

Enclosure No. 2

HQ. AFFLUENCE (?) CENTER, ROYAL REVENUE GUARDS OF RUTIGLIANO

Resume of charges against Revenue Officer LATTANZIO Michele, in regards to stolen military clothing and equipment:

This revenue Officer was caught stealing a coat, shirts, under-clothing, and personal articles of other officers and men, of leaving the post while restricted to quarters, on two different occasions, and stolen articles were found in houses of civilians, who were also put under charges, as receivers of stolen goods.

Two separate charges were made against the defendant, for thefts occurring within a few days of each other.

THE LT. COL. COMMANDING,

/s/ Francesco Murgia

Rutigliano, 31 January 1944

Sgt Sorisi - Transl.  
/hjp

1853

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8 FEB 1944Z 476

EMS/hjp

2A

In reply refer to:  
250.3

7 February 1944

SUBJECT: Arrest of Colonel Acampora

TO : Colonel Sisley, Two District, Bari

1A

Supplementing my letter of 5 February, there is forwarded here-  
with a translation of instructions issued by Marshal Badoglio for the  
purpose of preventing a repetition of future incidents similar to the  
case of the subject officer.

For the Deputy President, Allied Control Commission:

ELMER W. STONE  
Captain, USMA  
Acting Chief of Staff

1 Incl:  
Instructions, Marshal Badoglio  
M. 801 Pres. Cons., 4 Feb 44

201 Acampora

On or about December 20th, Col. Acampora gave instructions for the preparation of 320 Christmas packages, to be distributed as a gift amongst the components of the newly formed unit of the "Guardia di Finanza" in Rutigliano. 2387  
15

Also in view of the difficulty of finding on the market a sufficient number of small gifts to make up the necessary packages, it was decided to make use of the available small stock of stationery existing at the canteen; namely writing paper, Regimental P.C.s., and postage-free military P.C.s. For the same reason it was decided to throw in a small pamphlet of patriotic Hymns which had been printed last May for distribution on the occasion of the Anniversary of the Foundation of the Corps, falling July 5th.

The Packages were brought to Rutigliano for distribution, on the morning of December 25th.

On the same day, Colonel Acampora who happened to be at Rutigliano, having asked one of the soldiers to show him the contents of the package distributed to him, immediately noticed that the pamphlet, which he had not examined previously, contained also a number of fascist Hymns. He accordingly gave immediately instructions to the Commander of the Unit, Lt. Col. Murgia, that the pamphlet be withdrawn and the incriminated hymns cancelled.

This is confirmed in the enclosed statement by Col. Murgia, himself who has also pointed out, however, that in carrying out these orders, a number of packages may have been overlooked. (Enclosure N. 1)

It is beyond all doubt that there was no intention on the part of Col. Acampora or his officers of distributing fascist propaganda. The inclusion of the pamphlet was purely due to an oversight, or rather to the fact of not having taken the precautionary measure of causing its previous careful examination.

The same applies to the free-postage P.C., bearing an inscription signed "Mussolini". The fact also being that such inscriptions had become so common, that they were more often than not passed unnoticed.

It is believed that denunciation against Col. Acampora may have been made by revenue officer Michele Lattanzio. The latter is at present under arrest on the charge of continued theft. (Enclosure N. 2)

Instructions are under way in order to call the attention of all Italian authorities on the immediate necessity of a thorough examination of all printed matter still existing in depots or in circulation, in order to eliminate all that contains references which might have a propaganda value in favour of the fascist regime.

5 FEB 1944

TRANSLATION

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AFFLUENCE (?) CENTER ROYAL REVENUE GUARDS  
OF RUTIGLIANODECLARATION

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These gift packages, as well as I can remember, contained: stationery, patriotic post cards of the Corps, dried figs, marmalade and a small pamphlet, a collection of patriotic and military songs (I do not know whether all packages had this last item).

I was able to find this out by examining some packages of the men who had already received them; Col. Acampora was present, and gave orders that, in regards to the songs, all fascist anthems should be deleted. This was done on the following days, even for those in the hands of the men who were in the hospital, or absent for other reasons.

Regarding this matter, although all the men had been prohibited from singing any fascist song, I repeatedly requested my battalion officers to personally oversee the deletions, even of the word "duce", included in the "Prayer of the Revenue Guard", I was informed of the deletions, I well remember, (while I was in bed, under doctor's orders, because of a leg lesion caused by a fall) in the first days of January, and this because I was anxious that no pamphlet should escape the order of deletions.

So much for the truth.

The Lt. Col. ex-Commander  
of the Battalion

/s/ Murgia

Sgt Sorisi - Transl.  
/hjp

785016

5 FEB 1944

2387

TRANSLATION

Enclosure No. 2

1G

HQ. AFFLUENCE (?) CENTER, ROYAL REVENUE GUARDS OF RUTIGLIANO

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THE LT. COL. COMMANDING,

/s/ Francesco Murgia

Rutigliano, 31 January 1944

Sgt Sorisi - Transl.  
/hjp

325

