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LT. COL. N. B. CAMASSA
FEB., MAR. 1944

Acc/14760/17/PS

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LT. COL. N. B. CAMASSA

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THIS FOLDER
CONTAINS PAPERS
FROM FEB 44
TO MARCH 44
CATALOGUE.

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

2A

15 March 1944

ACC/14760/17/75

SUBJECT: Lt. Col. N.B. CAMASSA. - Italian Army.

TO : Security Branch.
Headquarters ACC.

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The attached translation of letter received from Signora Angelica Camassa Guerritore, wife of Lt. Col. Camassa, through Il Segretario Particolare del Capo del Governo, is forwarded.

In view of the facts stated, may this case be reviewed at an early date.

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Paul G. Fire
PAUL G. FIRE
Colonel, Inf.
Chief, Public Safety
Sub-Commission

Encl.
Translation of letter
From Signora Camassa.

NR. 001653 DI PROT.



SEGRETERIA PARTICOLARE DEL CAPO DEL GOVERNO



Salerno 1578
U-1181
11A
2 MARZO 1944
Al Col. Aliv. Riccio Com. 1855 P-Security
Al Col. Aliv. Riccio



ALLA COMMISSIONE ALLEATA DI CONTROLLO

NAPOLI

SI TRASMETTE L'ALLEGATA LETTERA DIRETTA DALLA
SIGNORA ANGELICA CAMASSA GUERRITORE A S.E. IL MARESCIAL
LO BADOGLIO, CON VIVA PREGHIERA DI VOLERLA ATTENTAMENTE
ESAMINARE ONDE PRENDERE QUEI PROVVEDIMENTI CHE CODESTA
COMMISSIONE GIUDICHERÀ OPPORTUNI.-

IL SEGRETARIO PARTICOLARE DEL
CAPO DEL GOVERNO
(TEN. COL. G. VALENZANO)

Valenzi

SI TRASMETTE L'ALLEGATA LETTERA DIRETTA DALLA
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CAPO DEL GOVERNO
(TEN. COL. G. VALENZANO)



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Bari 4 febbraio 1944

S.E. Pietro Badoglio

Capo del Governo

BRINDISI

Eccellenza,
Dopo aver tentato tutte le strade possibili e disperate, ma inutilmente, non mi resta che importunarvi personalmente per fare luce e giustizia sul caso disperato di mio marito.
Nelle prime ore antimeridiane del 6 gennaio scorso, mio marito, il ten.col. Pilota della R.A. Nino Bixio Camassa, nell'ufficio di collegamento italiano presso il 2° District in Bari, ove si era recato per ritirare il lasciapassare delle autorità inglesi per poter ripartire a Lanciano la propria mobilia, veniva fermato e condotto al Campo di Concentramento 207° in Grumo (Bari).
Inutilmente da un mese mi sono interessata per il tramite del Ministero dell'Aeronautica presso le autorità britanniche per conoscere la sorte di mio marito, le accuse a lui mosse e le ragioni immediate dell'arresto.

Sinora non ho ricevuto che risposte evasive.
Cra, Eccellenza, io non vivo che di supposizioni e qui voglio esporvi le ipotesi sulle quali sarebbero fondate le ragioni del sospetto ed i provvedimenti effettivamente gravi presi contro mio marito.
Qualche giorno dopo l'armistizio di settembre, mio marito comandante del 54° Deposito Aereo di Taranto aveva l'ordine dal comando IV ZAT di recarsi con una autocolumna verso Ortona e Francavilla a Mare per unirsi ai due distaccamenti aeronautici del detto deposito ivi dislocati col compito di recuperare il materiale lì esistente e salvarlo dalla debacle del momento.

Evidentemente il Comando ZAT non prevedeva la residenza e la presenza germanica nel dare a mio marito l'ordine di partire. Tuttavia l'ordine fu dato ma la colonna all'altezza di Massafra fu fermata dalla situazione sorta dallo sbarco e dall'avanzata in quel settore delle prime pattuglie britanniche già a contatto con nuclei isolati di resistenza tedeschi. Naturalmente la colonna non potette più proseguire e mio marito diede ordine di rientro non senza prima aver collaborato con un reparto dell'Air Borne inglese all'occupazione di

ten.col. pilota della R.A. Nino Bixio Camassa, nell'ufficio di collegamento italiano presso il 2° District in Bari, ove si era recato per ritirare il lasciapassare della autorità inglese per poter ripartire a Lanciano la propria mobilia, veniva fermato e condotto al Campo di Concentramento 207° in Grumo (Bari).

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Ora, Eccellenza, io non vivo che di supposizioni e qui voglio esporvi le ipotesi sulle quali sarebbero fondate le ragioni del sospetto ed i provvedimenti effettivamente gravi presi contro mio marito.

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Al rientro mio marito sentì immediatamente il dovere di agire contro quattro sottufficiali che si erano rifiutati di partire con la colonna menzionata, deferendoli al tribunale Militare per abbandono di posto.

I quattro sottufficiali per salvarsi accusarono mio marito di essere voluto partire per raggiungere i tedeschi. Ne nacque una inchiesta affidata al generale di B.A. Tassore; da detta inchiesta mio marito ne uscì perfettamente illeso nel suo onore di soldato ma rimase, evidentemente i sospetti che si ripercossero immediatamente presso l'Intelligence Service. Quest'organo inglese interrogò mio marito ma dovette, almeno allora, convivere dell'infondatezza dei sospetti e così non prese

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provvedimenti contro mio marito in quanto l'inchiesta fatta dal Generale Tessore aveva dimostrato sufficientemente che l'ordine di partenza era venuto direttamente dal comandante la IV Squadra Aerea.

A Taranto le cose si chiusero così ma il Ministero dell'Aeronautica credette opportuno, forse per logica politica, collocare mio marito in Congedo Speciale con la data del 24 dicembre.

Se allora la questione si chiuse come mai dopo circa quattro mesi dai noti avvenimenti del settembre nuovamente mio marito è stato fermato e condotto in un campo di concentramento?

Ci è stato riferito che mio marito sarebbe stato fermato perchè nel periodo successivo al congedamento (24 dicembre 43-6 gennaio 1944)-in tredici giorni cioè-avrebbe esplicata attività non gradita alle potenze alleate. Accusa questa facilissima ad autoannullarsi in quanto è dimostrabile che mio marito ha trascorso il detto periodo fra la Prefettura, il P.W.B. americano ed altre ditte private per cercarsi un posto civile decoroso onde superare le difficoltà economiche derivate dalla posizione di congedo. Possono testimoniare l'Ecc. il Prefetto ed il signor GNudi del P.W.B. americano.

Ritengo ancora che siano sorti sospetti su mio marito (forse già sorvegliato dalle autorità britanniche per i fatti di Taranto) per la ragione che egli ha cercato di raggiungere Lanciano, località ancora prossima al fronte di battaglia. Il motivo invece che lo ispirava a recarsi in detta località non può dare luogo a sospetti.

1°-Egli andava fornito di un foglio di servizio, rilasciato e firmato dalle autorità italiane del Ministero della R.A., le quali, pur avendo l'incarico di recarsi a Lanciano per motivi di servizio, sapevano di favorire una umana aspirazione di mio marito: raccogliere la mobilia della sua casa per riportarla a Bari, presso la sua famiglia, famiglia sua di recente sfuggita alla rabbia germanica e rientrata a Bari in dicembre dal fronte del Moro dopo inaudite sofferenze e peripezie.

Noti, Eccellenza, che in circa trent'anni di vita militare unica ricchezza nostra è quella mobilia acquistata con inauditi sacrifici.

2° Se mio marito avesse avuto, sia al tempo dei fatti di Taranto come oggi l'intenzione di raggiungere l'altra... sponda non avrebbe dato istruzioni con lettera 23/9/43 (in mio possesso e sempre controllabile) a mezzo di persona trasferitasi da Taranto in Abruzzo in quei giorni di confusione, a me ed al suo unico figlio di rimanere in Abruzzo per attendere le truppe liberatrici ed ancora ricordando al suo unico figlio di non rispondere all'arruolamento bandito dalle autorità tedesche e dallo pseudo governo repubblicano.

Ed infatti dal 27 settembre sono stata da Francavilla a Lanciano, da Lanciano al Fiume Moro nascosta in casolari rustici, sotto l'inferno della battaglia ed al primo indiano veduto il 13 dicembre ho guadato il Moro, scalza, fra il fuoco di tutte le armi e sono rientrata a Lanciano e da Lanciano a mezzo AMGOT- a Bari, miracolosamente salvi ma privi di tutto.

3°-E' sospettabile un individuo che, pur sapendo di aver a suo carico una precedente inchiesta, chiede alle autorità britanniche direttamente una autorizzazione a recarsi a Lanciano? Non è forse purtoppo noto che non occorrono mezzi così pericolosi per passare dall'altra parte? E' facile constatare che io e mio figlio siamo qui e non dall'altra

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parte e che perciò mio marito non si sarebbe mai arrischiato a lasciarci in balia delle giuste rappresaglie britanniche. E' facile constatare che la nostra mobilia si trova a Lanciano presso Silvi in Viale dei Cappuccini palazzo Torre Brasile, in quanto abbiamo raccomandata la nostra mobilia ivi rimasta al Comando italiano dei RR.CC. Anche questo secondo sospetto quindi, Eccellenza, si annulla da solo. Passiamo alla terza ipotesi.

E' noto che subito dopo l'arresto di mio marito una lettera anonima contro di lui è giunta al Ministro dell'Aeronautica. E' facile sospettare che eguale lettera sia giunta alle Autorità Britanniche, costringendo queste per ragioni precauzionali a prendere i noti provvedimenti. Ma chi può avere interesse oggi a scatenarsi ancora contro mio marito, se non i quattro sottufficiali deferiti da mio marito al Tribunale Militare e non contenti di saperlo già in Congedo? Chi se non loro sorretti dal Ten. Carugno dei CC.RR.... anima nera dell'inchiesta condotta contro mio marito nel settembre e da un certo Senise interprete presso il 54° Deposito Aeronautico di Taranto che -pare-abbia fatto combutta con i quattro sottufficiali e con alcuni sottufficiali dell'Intelligence Service di Taranto??

Eccellenza, quanto vi ho esposto più sopra tende soprattutto a dimostrarmi che tutti i precedenti di mio marito furono a suo tempo esaminati in una severa inchiesta e fu dimostrato che dal giorno dell'armistizio egli fu soldato fedele al suo Re ed al vostro Governo. Non rimane pertanto contro di lui che la ostinata, coperta e non coperta, calunnia dei quattro sottufficiali.

Ora io mi rifiuto di credere che le autorità britanniche diano peso e valore alle anonime od alle subdole manovre di elementi non certo sereni (come i quattro sottufficiali!!) nel loro giudizio su un superiore che li ha deferiti al Tribunale Militare secondo i dettami della più sana disciplina.

Eccellenza, da un mese mio marito, in condizioni di salute preoccupantissime, giace in un campo di concentramento in uniforme, con medaglie al V.M. sul petto, tre guerre, una ferita in combattimento e circa trenta anni di servizio.

Abbiate per lui l'interessamento che un soldato merita e se non per lui almeno per me che a questa guerra ho offerto due fratelli ancor giovani ed un terzo fratello ho nei campi di prigionia dell'India, e cugini e nipoti ho perduto sui campi di battaglia di Russia e d'Africa. Eccellenza, mio marito arrestato il 6 gennaio presso il 2° District, fu poi condotto all'Ufficio di Polizia inglese di Via Dante 43 e di lì condotto al Campo di C.n. 207 in Grumo.

Eccellenza Badoglio, è una sposa ed una donna italiana che di questa guerra è stata con tutta la sua famiglia una vittima terribile che si rivolge a voi in nome della libertà riconquistata e della Patria che da questi sacrifici deve rinascere.

Bari via Etnea 8

Angela Luongo Guerritore

TRANSLATION

Bari 4 Feb. 44.

TO: His Excellency Pietro Badoglio

Chief of Government, Brindisi

Excellency,

After having tried all possible ways, useless and desperately, there is only one left to me to appeal to you personally in bringing light and justice on the desperate case of my husband.

In the early hours of 6 Jan., my husband went to the English authorities to get a pass to move his furniture to Lanciano when he was arrested and brought to the 207th Concentration Camp in Grumo (Bari).

I have tried for a month without success by way of the Minister of Aeronautics to find out from the British authorities the fate of my husband, the accusations against him and the immediate reason for his arrest.

Up to now I have received only evasive answers.

Now, Excellency, my life is filled with suppositions and here I wish to offer the hypotheses under which reasons might have been based to have brought such grave results against my husband.

A few days after the armistice in September, my husband commanded the 54th Air Depot at Taranto and had orders from the HQ IV ZAT to go with a convoy toward Ortona and Francaville a bare to join together the two detached aeronautic groups there and to gather up the material thereabouts and to save it from the debacle of the moment.

Evidently the ZAT HQ did not foresee the occupation and the stubbornness of the Germans when they gave such an order to my husband. However, the order was given and the convoy at Massafra heights was held up by the first waves of English troops already in contact with isolated German groups still resisting. Naturally the column could no longer proceed and my husband gave orders to turn back but not before first having collaborated with a detachment of English Air Force troops which occupied Massafra itself.

On re-entering my husband felt it his duty to immediately report four non-coms who had refused to leave with the above column, and turning them in to the Military Tribunal for abandoning their posts.

The four non-coms, in order to save themselves, accused my husband of having wished to leave in order to join the Germans. An inquest was made through General B.A. Tessore, from which my husband was cleared perfectly and unblemished in his honor of a soldier but the four non-coms evidently took the matter up immediately with the Intelligence Service. This English organ questioned my husband and evidently, at that time at least, was convinced of the lack of grounds made by the suspects (the four non-coms) and thus took no action against my husband inasmuch as the inquest made by General Tessore had shown sufficiently that the order to leave had come directly from the Commander of the IV Aerial Squadron.

At Taranto the matter was closed thus but the Minister of Aeronautics, for political reasons, to give my husband a special

the 51st Air Depot at Taranto and had orders to join together with a convoy toward Ortona and Francavilla a bare to join together the two detached aeronautic groups there and to gather up the material thereabouts and to save it from the debacle of the moment.

Evidently the ZAT HQ did not foresee the occupation and the stubbornness of the Germans when they gave such an order to my husband. However, the order was given and the convoy at Massafra heights was held up by the first waves of English troops already in contact with isolated German groups still resisting. Naturally the column could no longer proceed and my husband gave orders to turn back but not before first having collaborated with a detachment of English Air Force troops which occupied Massafra itself.

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The four non-coms, in order to save themselves, accused my husband of having wished to leave in order to join the Germans. An inquiry was made through General E.A. Tessore, from which my husband was cleared perfectly and unblemished in his honor of a soldier but the four non-coms evidently took the matter up immediately with the Intelligence Service. This English organ questioned my husband and evidently, at that time at least, was convinced of the lack of grounds made by the suspects (the four non-coms) and thus took no action against my husband inasmuch as the inquiry made by General Tessore had shown sufficiently that the order to leave had come directly from the Commander of the IV Aerial Squadron.

At Taranto the matter was closed thus but the Minister of Aeronautics thought it necessary, for political reasons, to give my husband a special leave starting 24 Dec. 43.

If the matter was closed, how come after 4 months of the above stated incidents that my husband was arrested and brought to a concentration camp?

I have been told that my husband might have been arrested because in the period of his leave (24 Dec. 43 - 6 Jan. 44), in 13 days, he might have had engaged in activity not favorable to the Allied powers, an accusation which is easily and self-eliminating in that it is easily proven that my husband spent the above period in going to the Prefettura, the P.M.B. (American), and other private concerns in search of a position whereby he might with dignity find himself some way to overcome the economic difficulties which arose as a result of his leave. The Prefetto and Mr. G. Nudi of the P.M.B. American can testify to the above.

I imagine that there might also be suspicions against my husband (possibly under surveillance by the British authorities for the Taranto matter) because of the fact that my husband had tried to reach Lanciano, which was still close to the battle front. However, the reason for his going there cannot give rise to suspicions.

1. He traveled with a service-letter of service issued and signed by the Italian authorities of the Ministry of R.A., who, having ordered him to go to Lanciano on matters of duty, knew that they were thus assisting him in his strong desire to gather up the furniture of

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his home and to take it back to Bari, to his family, a family which had recently fled from the German wrath and entered Bari in December, from the Moro front after untold sufferings and mishaps.

Note, Your Excellency, that in 50 years of military life, the only sign of wealth that we have is that furniture that we have acquired through untold hardships.

2. If my husband had wanted to, either at the time of the Taranto episode or later, join the other....side, he would not have given orders as per letter 23/9/43 (in my possession and always available) to me and to his only son, to remain in Abruzzo in those days of confusion, (through persons moving from Taranto to Abruzzo) and there to await the liberating troops, and also that he instructed his son not to join up with the enrollment program instituted by the German authorities and the pseudo-republican government.

In fact, on 27-Sept-44 since 27 September, I have been from Fracevillia to Lanciano, from Lanciano to the Moro River, hiding in isolated houses, under the hell of battle, and at sight of the first Indian on 13 Dec. I waded across the Moro, barefoot, amidst the fire of all types of weapons and returned to Lanciano and from Lanciano - with the help of ALBOT - to Bari, miraculously safe but deprived of everything.

3. Is an individual to be suspected, that, having undergone a recent inquest, asks of the British authorities directly an authorization to return to Lanciano? Isn't it too apparent that such dangerous means are not necessary to pass over to the other side? It is easy to prove that my son and I are here and not on the other side. And thus my husband would never have risked leaving us at the mercy of the British who would justly have had recourse against us. It is easy to prove that our furniture is at Lanciano at the home of SILVI at Viale dei Capruccini, Palazzo Torre Brasile, where we entrusted our furniture, under the guidance of the CCRH HQ.

Thus this second item of suspicion is of itself cancelled.

Let us now turn to the third hypothesis.

It is to be noted that immediately after the arrest of my husband, an anonymous letter was sent to the Minister of Aeronautics. It is easy to suspect that such a letter another letter of the same order might have been sent to the British authorities, inducing the latter to take precautionary measures in doing as they did. But who else might have taken such action against my husband except the four non-coms bent before the military tribunal by my husband and not satisfied in knowing that my husband was on leave or discharged? Who but they, backed up by Lt. Carugno of the CCRH black soul in the inquest against my husband in September and by a certain Senator, an interpreter with the 54th Aeronautic Depot at Taranto who - it seems - might have formed some sort of plot with the four non-coms and with other non-coms of the Intelligence Service at Taranto?

Excellency, all that I have told you above demonstrates that my husband was examined at a rigorous inquest and it was shown that

recent inquest, asks of the British authorities: "Isn't it too apparent that such demonstration to return to Lanciano? Isn't it too apparent that such serious means are not necessary to pass over to the other side? It is easy to prove that my son and I are here and not on the other side. And thus my husband would never have risked leaving us at the mercy of the British who would justly have had recourse against us. It is easy to prove that our furniture is at Lanciano at the home of SILVI at Viale dei Cappuccini, Palazzo Torre Brasile, where we entrusted our furniture, under the guidance of the CCRP HQ."

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It is to be noted that immediately after the arrest of my husband, an anonymous letter was sent to the Minister of Aeronautics. It is easy to suspect that such a letter another letter of the same order might have been sent to the British authorities, inducing the latter to take precautionary measures in doing as they did. But who else might have taken such action against my husband except the four non-coms bent before the military tribunal by my husband and not satisfied in knowing that my husband was on leave or discharged? Who but they, backed up by Lt. Carugno of the CCRP black soul in the inquest against my husband in September and by a certain Sniace, an interpreter with the 54th Aeronautic Depot at Taranto who - it seems - might have formed some sort of plot with the four non-coms and with other non-coms of the Intelligence Service at Taranto?

Excellency, all that I have told you above demonstrates that my husband was examined at a rigorous inquest and it was shown that from the day of the arrest he was a faithful soldier to his King, and to your government. Therefore, there remains only the culmy of the four non-coms.

Now I refuse to believe the British authorities would give credence to anonymous letters or treacherous maneuvers of uncertain elements (like the four non-coms!) in their actions upon a superior who has referred to them to the military tribunal along lines of the strict discipline.

Excellency, for a month now, my husband in precarious health, lies in a concentration camp, in uniform, with medals of V.M. on his chest, three warts, a wound in combat and about 30 years service.

Have the interest in him that a soldier merits and if not for him at least for me that in this war he - I have offered 2 brothers still young and a third brother in a prison camp in India, and cousins and nephews that I have lost on the fields of battle in Russia and in Africa. Excellency, my husband was arrested on 6 Jan. in District No. 8, from which he was conducted to Concentration Camp No. 207 in Grumo.

Excellency Bedoglio, it is a wife and a mother who in this war has been with all her family - a terrible victim that turns to you in the name of liberty regained and of the Country that is to be reborn as a result of these sacrifices..

Bari, via Istria 8

Signed (Angellica Camassa Guerritore).

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TRANSLATION

Peri 4 Feb. 44.

TO: His Excellency Pietro Badoglio

Chief of Government, Brindisi

Excellency.

After having tried all possible ways, useless and desperately, there is only one left to me to appeal to you personally in bringing light and justice on the desperate case of my husband.

In the early hours of 6 Jan., my husband went to the English authorities to let a pass to move his furniture to Lanciano when he was arrested and brought to the 207th Concentration Camp in Ortona, (Pari).

I have tried for a month without success by way of the Minister of Aeronautics to find out from the British authorities the exact fate of my husband, the accusations against him and the immediate reason for his arrest.

Up to now I have received only evasive answers.

Now, Excellency, my life is filled with suppositions and here I wish to offer the hypotheses under which reasons might have been based to have brought such grave results against my husband.

A few days after the armistice in September, my husband commandeered the 54th Air Depot at Taranto and had orders from the HQ IV AF to go with a convoy toward Ortona and Francavilla where to join together the two detached aeronautic groups there and to gather up the material thereabouts and to save it from the debacle of the moment.

Evidently, the HQ IV AF did not foresee the occupation and the stubbornness of the Germans when they gave such an order to my husband. However, the order was given and the convoy at Massafra heights was held up by the first waves of English troops already in contact with isolated German groups still resisting. Naturally the column could no longer proceed and my husband gave orders to turn back but not before first having collaborated with a detachment of English Air Force troops which occupied Massafra itself.

On re-entering, my husband felt it his duty to immediately report four non-coms who had refused to leave with the above column, and turning them in to the Military Tribunal for abandoning their posts.

The four non-coms, in order to save themselves, so used my husband of having wished to leave in order to join the Germans. An inquiry was made through General E.A. Tessera, from which my husband was cleared perfectly and unpublished in his honor of a soldier but the four non-coms evidently took the matter up immediately with the Intelligence Service. This English organ questioned my husband and evidently, at that time at least, was convinced of the lack of grounds made by the suspects (the four non-coms) and thus took no action against my husband inasmuch as the inquiry made by General Tessera had shown sufficiently that the order to leave had come directly from the Commander of the IV Aerial Squadron.

At Taranto the matter was closed thus but the Minister of Aeronautics thought it necessary, for political reasons, to give my husband a special

the 5th Air Depot at Taranto and had orders from the HQ IV AF to go with a convoy toward Ortona and Francavilla. I have to join together the two detached aeronautic groups there and to gather up the material thereabouts and to save it from the debacle of the moment.

Evidently the HQ IV AF did not foresee the occupation and the stubbornness of the Germans when they gave such an order to my husband. However, the order was given and the convoy at Massafra heights was held up by the first waves of English troops already in contact with isolated German groups still resisting. Naturally the column could no longer proceed and my husband gave orders to turn back but not before first having collaborated with a detachment of English Air Force troops which occupied Massafra itself.

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At Taranto the matter was closed thus but the Minister of Aeronautics thought it necessary, for political reasons, to give my husband a special leave starting 24 Dec. 43.

If the matter was closed, how come after 4 months of the above stated incidents that my husband was arrested and brought to a concentration camp?

I have been told that my husband might have been arrested because in the period of his leave (24 Dec. 43 - 6 Jan. 44), in 13 days, he might have had engaged in activity not favorable to the Allied powers, an accusation which is easily and self-evidencing in that it is easily proven that my husband spent the above period in going to the Prefecture, the P.S. (Municipal), and other private concerns in search of a position whereby he might with dignity find himself some way to overcome the economic difficulties which arose as a result of his leave. The Prefetto and Mr. G. Nudi of the P.S. M. Moriconi can testify to the above.

I imagine that there might also be suspicions against my husband (possibly under surveillance by the British authorities for the Taranto matter) because of the fact that he had tried to reach Lanciano, which was still close to the battle front. However, the reason for his going there cannot give rise to suspicions.

1. He traveled with a service-leaver letter of service issued and signed by the Italian authorities of the Ministry of R.A., who, having ordered him to go to Lanciano on matters of duty, knew that they were thus assisting him in his strong desire to gather up the furniture of

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his home and I took it back to Bari, to his family, a family which had recently fled from the German wrath and entered Bari in December, from the Negro front after untold sufferings and mishaps.

Note. Your Excellency, that in 30 years of military life, the only sign of wealth that we have is that furniture that we have acquired through untold hardships.

2. If my husband had wanted to, either at the time of the Taranto episode or later, join the other... side, he would not have given orders as per letter 23/9/43 (in my possession and always available) to me and to his only son, to remain in Abruzzo in those days of confusion, (through persons moving from Taranto to Abruzzo) and there to wait the liberating troops, and also that he instructed his son not to join up with the enrollment program instituted by the German authorities and the pseudo-republican government.

In fact, as of September 27, I have been from Francavilla to Lanciano, from Lanciano to the Moro River, hiding in isolated houses, under the hell of battle, and at sight of the first Indian on 13 Dec. I rushed across the Moro, herefort, amidst the fire of all types of weapons and returned to Lanciano and from Lanciano - with the help of MACE - to Bari, miraculously safe but deprived of everything.

3. Is an individual to be suspected, that, having undergone a recent inquiry, asks of the British authorities directly an authorization to return to Lanciano? Isn't it too apparent that such dangerous deeds are not necessary to pass over to the other side? It is easy to prove that my son and I are here and not on the other side. And thus my husband would never have risked leaving us at the mercy of the British who would justly have had recourse against us. It is easy to prove that our furniture is at Lanciano at the home of SILVI at Viale del Depressioni, Palazzo Torre Brasile, where we entrusted our furniture, under the guidance of the GILH H.

Thus this second item of suspicion is of itself cancelled.

Let us now turn to the third hypothesis.

It is to be noted that immediately after the arrest of my husband, an anonymous letter was sent to the Minister of Aeronautics. It is easy to suspect that such a letter another letter of the same order might have been sent to the British authorities, inducing the latter to take precautionary measures in doing as they did. But who else might have taken such action against my husband except the four non-coms sent before the military tribunal by my husband and not satisfied in knowing that my husband was on leave or discharged? Who but they, backed up by Lt. Garagnoli of the OCA... black soul in the inquiry against my husband in September and by a certain Senise, an interpreter with the 54th Aeronautic Depot at Taranto who - it seems - might have formed some sort of plot with the four non-coms and with other non-coms of the Intelligence Service at Taranto?

Excellency, all that I have told you above demonstrated that my husband was examined at a rigorous inquiry and it was shown that

3. Is an individual to be suspected, that, having undergone a recent inquest, asks of the British authorities directly an authorization to return to Lanciano? Isn't it too apparent that such denials mean are not necessary to pass over to the other side? It is easy to prove that my not and I were here and not on the other side. And thus my husband would never have risked leaving us at the mercy of the British who would justly have had recourse against us. It is easy to prove that our furniture is at Lanciano at the time of 1971 at Viale dei Capriccioli, Palazzo Torre Braccio, where we entrusted our furniture, under the guidance of the GCIAH No. 1.

Thus this second item of suspicion is of itself cancelled. Let us not turn to the third hypothesis.

It is to be noted that immediately after the arrest of my husband, an anonymous letter was sent to the Minister of Aeronautics. It is easy to suspect that such a letter another letter of the same order might have been sent to the British authorities, inducing the latter to take precautionary measures in doing as they did. But who else might have taken such action against my husband except the four non-coms bent before the military tribunal? My husband and not satisfied in knowing that my husband was on leave or discharged? No but they, backed up by Lt. Garugno of the GCIAH black soul in the inquest against my husband in September and by a certain Senise, an interpreter with the 54th Aeronautic Depot at Taranto who - it seems - might have formed some sort of plot with the four non-coms and with other non-coms of the Intelligence Service at Taranto?

Excellency, all that I have told you above demonstrates that my husband was examined at a rigorous inquest and it was shown that from the day of the arrest he was a faithful soldier to his King, and to your Government. Therefore, there remains only the calumny of the four non-coms.

Now I refuse to believe the British authorities would give credence to anonymous letters or treacherous maneuvers of uncertain elements (like the four non-coms!) in their actions upon a superior who has referred to them to the military tribunal along lines of the most exact discipline.

Excellency, for a month now, my husband in precarious health, lies in a concentration camp. In uniform, with medals of V.A. on his chest, three wars, a wound in combat and about 30 years service.

Have the interest in him that a soldier merits and if not for him at least for me that in this war he - I have offered 2 brothers still young and a third brother in a prison camp in India, and cousins and nephews that I have lost on the fields of battle in Russia and in Africa. Excellency, my husband was arrested on 6 Jan. in District No. 2, from which he was conducted to Concentration Camp N. 207 in Oruzo.

Excellency Petolic, it is a wife and a mother who in this war has been with all her family - a terrible victim that turns to you in the name of liberty regained and of the Country that is to be reborn as a result of these sacrifices..

Feri, via Istria 8

Signed (Angelica Cerrese Guer...)

