

785016

ACC

10000/143/1702

785016

43/1702

SCREENING OF RAILWAY EMPLOYEES
MAR. - JUN. 1944

PB COPY

File 9A

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
Transportation Sub-Commission
APO 394

Our Reference : ACC/Tn/16/117
Date : 8 June 1944.

TO : Public Safety Sub-Commission, ACC.

SUBJECT: Screening of Railway Employees.

1. Reference is to your ACC/14763/TS of 19 May '44, and my ACC Tn/16/129 of 22 May, and ACC Tn/16/132 of 24 May '44.

2. I am informed by the Undersecretary of State for Railways and Highways that applicants for service in the Italian State Railways are required to produce

(a) 'Penal' certificate given by the competent judiciary authority

(b) 'Certificate of good behaviour' given by the applicant's residential commune.

3. A register is kept of all employees.

L.E. VINING,
Lieut-Colonel,
Director, Transportation Sub-Commission, ACC.

ACC/14763/PS

1st IND

10/6/44

FROM: HQ., ACC, Public Safety Sub-Commission.

TO : R.P.S.O. Region I (thru RC.)

SUBJECT: Screening of railway employees.

1170

With ref to previous correspondence, the above copy letter is forwarded for your information and observation.

A.E. YOUNG, Colonel,
Deputy Chief, Public
Safety Sub-Commission.

Headquarters

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
Transportation Sub-Commission
APO 394

Our Reference : ACC/Tn/16/147
Date : 8 June '44

TO : Public Safety Sub-Commission, ACC.

SUBJECT : Screening of Railway Employees.

1. Reference is to your ACC/14763 PS of 19 May '44, and my ACC Tn/16/129 of 22 May, and ACC Tn/16/132 of 24 May '44.
2. I am informed by the Undersecretary of State for Railways and Highways that applicants for service in the Italian State Railways are required to produce
 - (a) 'Penal' certificate given by the competent judiciary authority
 - (b) 'Certificate' of good behaviour given by the applicant's residential commune.
3. A register is kept of all employees.



L. E. VINING
L.E. VINING,
Lieut-Colonel,
Director, Transportation Sub-Commission, ACC.

COPY

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
Transportation Sub-Commission
APO 394

Our reference: ACC Tn/16/108.
Date 6 May 1944.

TO : Undersecretary of State for
Italian Railways and Highways.

SUBJECT: Screening of Railway Employees - Sicily.

1. Reference is made to attached copies of letters and documents received from ACC Officers in Sicily regarding misconduct of certain railway employees.
2. Theft and bribery in attempt to commit theft are serious offences. The action of Carabinieri in firing and making arrests is highly commendable. However, your attention is especially directed to statements of Major Hefford, particularly paras 4 to 7 inclusive.
3. It would appear that Dr. Tucco must accept responsibility for conditions and take vigorous and effective measures to correct improper conditions and summarily dismissing from railway service any employees found involved in cases of theft and dishonesty.
4. If Dr. Tucco is hesitant to act because of any lack of authority it is assumed that you will take necessary action to clothe him with authority.
5. It is possible that undesirable or dishonest persons have been employed in the Sicilian Railways, possibly without their real characters or crime histories being known. What is the procedure for verifying and checking both characters and histories?

(SGD)

L.E. VINING, Lt. Col.,
Director, Transportation
Sub-Commission, ACC.

COPY

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
Transportation Sub-Commission
APO 394

Our reference: ACC Tn/16/132
Date : 24 May 44.

TO : Public Safety Sub-Commission, ACC.

SUBJECT : Screening of Railway Employees.

1. Reference is to your ACC/14763/RS of 19 May 44, and my ACC Tn/16/129 of 22 May 44.

2. A reply has now been received from the Undersecretary of State for the Italian Railways on this matter, a digest being as under :-

- (a) All railwaymen implicated in the robbery have been suspended without pay.
- (b) The Undersecretary of State for Railways in all cases of robbery, whether established or presumed takes this course when arrests have been made.
- (c) Subsequent action is dependent on the findings of the subsequent tribunal.
- (d) The State Railways do not engage any servants who have previous bad characters.
- (e) In the case of the head train men Romeo Antonio, whose actions are regarded as questionable, further enquiries are being made.
- (f) Compartimento Chiefs under the rules governing employees have the right to suspend staff in cases of this kind.
- (g) When there is any cause for suspicion concerning the honesty of employees, Compartimento Chiefs make full enquiries, in order to ascertain what proof there is existent concerning the employees honesty or otherwise.
- (h) The Undersecretary has already addressed an appeal to all railwaymen, urging them to respect the property of others, above all, the goods of the Allied Armies. Offences against this order will be punished severely.

- (c) Subsequent action is dependent on the findings of the subsequent tribunal.
- (d) The State Railways do not engage any servants who have previous bad characters.
- (e) In the case of the head train man Romeo Antonio, whose actions are regarded as questionable, further enquiries are being made.
- (f) Compartimento Chiefs under the rules governing employees have the right to suspend staff in cases of this kind.
- (g) When there is any cause for suspicion concerning the honesty of employees, Compartimento Chiefs make full enquiries, in order to ascertain that proof there is existent concerning the employee's honesty or otherwise.
- (h) The Undersecretary has already addressed an appeal to all railwaymen, urging them to respect the property of others, whose ill, the goods of the Allied Armies. Offences against this order will be punished severely.
- (i) He would be grateful if information could be passed to him at all times in order that immediate steps can be taken with all the power the circumstances demand, to enforce these orders. He has requested the Commissioner of Police at Palermo to enquire into the past behaviour of the men concerned in this case.
3. A copy of General di Reimondo's letter to the Compartimento of Naples, Bari, Reggio, Palermo and Cagliari, the Delegation in Cardania, and the Central Committee of the Railwaymen's Union in Naples is appended for you information.

(SOD) L. Z. VINCIG, Lt. Col.
Director, Trans. Sub-Com, RSO.

Ind 1.

From: P.S. Sub-Com., 40 Salerno
To: RPSO Region I. *Th. AC*

27 May 1944.

The above is forwarded in reply to your RPS 000.5 dated 26 April 44, and I should be glad to have any further information you may have in the matter.

ERP/t

A. E. YOUNG, Colonel,
Deputy Chief, Public
Safety Sub-Commission.

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
Transportation Sub-Commission
APO 394

14763 ACP/gfh 6A

Our Reference : ACC Tn/16/132

Date : 24 May 44
gh

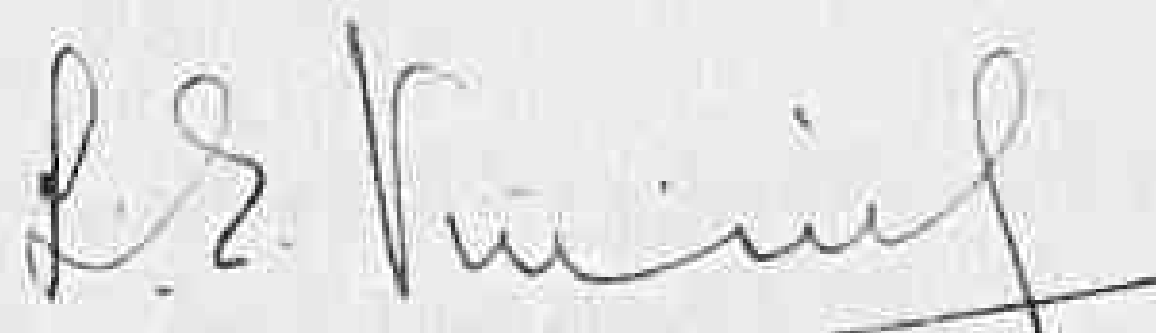
TO : Public Safety Sub-Commission, ACC.

SUBJECT : Screening of Railway Employees. 3A

1. Reference is to your ACC/14763 PS of 19 May '44, and my ACC Tn/16/129 of 22 May '44.
2. A reply has now been received from the Undersecretary of State for the Italian Railways on this matter, a digest being as under :-
 - (a) All railwaymen implicated in the robbery have been suspended without pay.
 - (b) The Undersecretary of State for Railways in all cases of robbery, whether established or presumed takes this course when arrests have been made.
 - (c) Subsequent action is dependent on the findings of the subsequent tribunal.
 - (d) The State Railways do not engage any servants who have previous bad characters.
 - (e) In the case of the head train man Romeo Antonino, whose actions are regarded as questionable, further enquiries are being made.
 - (f) Compartimento Chiefs under the rules governing employee's have the right to suspend staff in cases of this kind.
 - (g) When there is any cause for suspicion concerning the honesty of employees, Compartimento Chiefs make full enquiries, in order to ascertain what proof there is existant concerning the employee's honesty or otherwise.
 - (h) The Undersecretary has already addressed an appeal to all railwaymen, urging them to respect the property of others, above all, the goods of the Allied Armies. Offences against this order will be punished severely.
 - (i) He would be grateful if information could be passed to him at all times in order that immediate steps can be taken with all the power the circumstances demand, to enforce these orders. He has requested the Commissioner of Police at Palermo to enquire into the past behaviour of the men concerned in this case.

1166

3. A copy of General di Raimondo's letter to the Compartimento of Naples, Bari, Reggio, Palermo and Calceri, the Delegation in Sardinia, and the Central Committee of the Railwaymen's Union in Naples is appended for your information.



L.E. VINING,
Lieut-Colonel,
Director, Transportation Sub-Commission, ACC.

COPIA ba

Ministero delle Comunicazioni
Ferrovie dello Stato
SOTTOSCRITTARIO DI STATO

Napoli, 11 4 maggio 1944
N. 2145/1.4/4.3 SEPT.

OGGETTO: Contorno del personale.

AI COMPARTIMENTI F.S. DI NAPOLI-MANI-RUSCIO C.-VALERMO
ALLA DELEGAZIONE F.S. SARAGHA CIGLIARI
AL COMITATO CENTRALE
SINDACATO FERROVIARI ITALIANI NAPOLI

In talune seghezioni di furti di merci, eccetto di trasporto ferroviario, pervenute negli ultimi tempi a questo sottosegretario, è apparsa serietà da parte del nostro personale.

La cosa mi ha dolorosamente sorpreso e non mancherà di destare in tutti gli organi preposti all'esercizio delle ferrovie statali la più viva deplorazione. L'alto prestigio che all'amministrazione deriva da una tradizione di decenni di lavoro e rettitudine rischia di risultarne compromessa.

Si badi che, nel maggior numero dei casi, il danno degli atti criminali è stato patito da merci delle autorità alleate. Oggi che l'occhio dello straniero è affisso sul nostro paese più che mai dev'essere presente alla coscienza di tutti l'impegno solenne di salvaguardare in ogni campo il buon nome del paese.

Intende che gli uffici dipendenti in indirizzo facciano oggetto di speciale foglia disposizioni un severo monito per gli agenti che si siano resi responsabili di irregolarità, o addirittura di reati per trafugamento di merci. Si richiami tutto il personale al rigoroso adempimento delle proprie doveri, che implica anche la vigilanza su quei pochi che con le loro malafatte pregiudichino la giusta fama di onestà della razza.

I colpevoli vengano e verranno esemplarmente colpiti in sede penale e disciplinare. Ma gli organi direttivi di questa amministrazione debbono svolgere assidua opera di persuasione, intesa ad evitare il ripetersi

sa correttezza da parte del nostro personale.

La cosa ci ha dolorosamente sorpreso e non mancherà di destare in tutti gli organi preposti all'esercizio delle ferrovie statali la più viva deplorazione. L'alto prestigio dell'amministrazione deriva da una tradizione di decenni di lavoro e rettitudine rischiosa di risaltarne compromessa.

Si badi che, nel maggior numero dei casi, il danno degli atti criminali è stato patito da morci della Autorità Alleata. Oggi che l'occhio dello straniero è fissato sul nostro paese più che mai dev'essere presente alle coscienze di tutti l'impeto assente di salvaguardare in ogni campo il buon nome del paese.

Intende che gli uffici dipendenti in indirizzo facciano oggetto di speciale foglio disposizioni un severo monito per gli agenti che si siano resi responsabili di irregolarità, e addirittura di reati per tralignamento di sensi. Si richiami tutto il personale al rigore e adempimento del proprio dovere, che include anche la vigilanza su quei pochi che con le loro malefatte pregiudicano la giusta fama di onestà della ferrovia.

I colpevoli vengono e verranno esemplarmente colpiti in sede penale e disciplinare. Ma gli organi direttivi di questa amministrazione debbono svolgere assidue opere di persuasione, intesa ad evitare il ripetersi di fatti che causano così profonde rammariche.

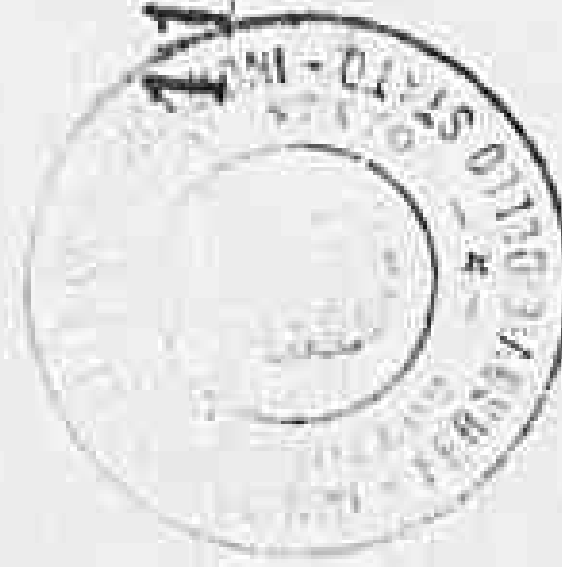
Invito il disdegno Ferrovieri Italiani, cui legittimamente sta cuore con la tutela dell'interesse economico la dignità morale del ferroviere, a collaborare a tale nobile compito.

Gradirà ricevere copia del foglio disposizioni di cui sopra, con la assicurazione che in ogni ufficio ed impianto ne è stata diffusione a tutti i dipendenti.

IL SOTTOSCRITTO RICHIO DI STATO

F. to G. Di Reimonde

1165



HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
Transportation Sub-Commission
APO 394.

Our reference: ACC Tn/16/129.
Date : 22 May, 1944.

TO : Public Safety Sub-Commission,
HQ ACC. (Rear). APO 394.

SUBJECT: Screening of Railway Employees.

1. Reference your ACC/14763/PS dated 19 May 1944.
2. Attached letter, which was sent to the Undersecretary of State for Italian Railways and Highways is forwarded for your information.
3. Further communication will be addressed to you on receipt of reply from the Undersecretary of State for Italian Railways and Highways.

L.S. VINING,
Lieut-Colonel,
Director, Transportation
Sub-Commission, A.C.C.

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
Transportation Sub-Commission
APO 394.

Our reference : ACC Tn/16/108.
Date : 6 May 1944.

TO : Undersecretary of State for
Italian Railways and Highways.

SUBJECT : Screening of Railway Employees - Sicily.

1. Reference is made to attached copies of letters and documents received from ACC Officers in Sicily regarding misconduct of certain railway employees.

2. Theft and bribery in attempt to commit theft are serious offences. The action of Carabinieri in firing and making arrests is highly commendable. However, your attention is especially directed to statements of Major Hafford, particularly paras 4 to 7 inclusive.

3. It would appear that Dr. Fusco must accept responsibility for conditions and take measures and effective measures to correct improper conditions and summarily dismiss in cases of theft and dishonesty.

Director, Transportation
Sub-Commission, A.C.C.

HEADQUARTERS

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
Transportation Sub-Commission
APO 394.

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Date : 6 May 1944.

TO : Undersecretary of State for
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3. It would appear that Dr. Tucco must accept responsibility for conditions and take vigorous and effective measures to correct improper conditions and summarily dismiss from railway service any employees found involved in cases of theft and dishonesty.

4. If Dr. Tucco is hesitant to act because of any lack of authority it is assumed that you will take necessary action to clothe him with authority.

5. It is possible that undesirable or dishonest persons have been employed in the Sicilian Railways, possibly without their real characters or crime histories being known. What is the procedure for verifying and checking both characters and histories?

(SGD)

L.E. VINDING, Lt. Col.,
Director, Transportation
Sub-Commission, A.C.C.

1st IND.

ACC/14762/PS

FROM: Public Safety Sub-Com. Hq ACC.
TO : R.P.S.O. Reg. ~~IX~~.

Passed to you for Comment.

A.E. YOUNG, Colonel,
Deputy Chief, Public
Safety Sub-Commission.

1164

Director, Transportation
Sub-Commission, A.C.C.

HEADQUARTERS

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
Transportation Sub-Commission
APO 394.

Our reference : ACC Tn/16/108.
Date : 6 May 1944.

TO : Undersecretary of State for
Italian Railways and Highways.

SUBJECT : Screening of Railway Employees - Sicily.

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2. Theft and bribery in attempt to commit theft are serious offences. The action of Carabinieri in firing and making arrests is highly commendable. However, your attention is especially directed to statements of Major Hefford, particularly paras 4 to 7 inclusive.

3. It would appear that Dr. Tucoo must accept responsibility for conditions and take vigorous and effective measures to correct improper conditions and summarily dismiss from railway service any employees found involved in cases of theft and dishonesty.

4. If Dr. Tucoo is hesitant to act because of any lack of authority it is assumed that you will take necessary action to clothe him with authority.

5. It is possible that undesirable or dishonest persons have been employed in the Sicilian Railways, possibly without their real characters or crime histories being known. What is the procedure for verifying and checking both characters and histories?

(SUD)

L.E. YOUNG, Lt. Col.,
Director, Transportation
Sub-Commission, A.C.C.

1st IND.

ACC/14763/PS
FROM: Public Safety Sub-Com. Hq ACC.
TO : R.P.S.O. Reg. IX.

Passed to you for Comment.

A.E. YOUNG, Colonel,
Deputy Chief, Public
Safety Sub-Commission.

1164

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
Transportation Sub-Commission
APO 394.

Pub Safety 4A
(Rear HQ)
LEV/cg.
J8584

Our reference : ACC Tn/16/129.
Date : 22 May 44.

TO : Public Safety Sub-Commission,
HQ ACC. (Rear).
APO 394.

SUBJECT: Screening of Railway Employees.

1. Reference your ACC/14763/PS dated 19 May 44.
2. Attached letter, which was sent to the Undersecretary of State for Italian Railways and Highways is forwarded for your information.
3. Further communication will be addressed to you on receipt of reply from the Undersecretary of State for Italian Railways and Highways.

L.E. Vining

L.E. VINING,
Lieut-Colonel,
Director, Transportation Sub-Commission, ACC.

Forward copy of RPSO Reg 15 for his direction.

24 May 44

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HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
Transportation Sub-Commission
AFO 394

Our reference : ACC Tn/16/ 108.

Date : 6 May 44.

TO : Undersecretary of State for
Italian Railways & Highways.

SUBJECT : Screening of Railway Employees - Sicily.

1. Reference is made to attached copies of letters and documents received from ACC Officers in Sicily regarding misconduct of certain railway employees.
2. Theft and bribery in attempt to commit theft are serious offences. The action of Carabinieri in ~~shooting~~ and making arrests is highly commendable. However, your attention is especially directed to statements of Major Hefford, particularly paras. 4 to 7 inclusive.
3. It would appear that Dr. Tucco must accept responsibility for conditions and take vigorous and effective measures to correct improper conditions and summarily dismiss from railway service any employees found involved in cases of theft and dishonesty.
4. If Dr. Tucco is hesitant to act because of any lack of authority it is assumed that you will take necessary action to clothe him with authority.
5. It is possible that undesirable or dishonest persons ^{have} been employed in the Sicilian Railways, possibly without their real characters or crime histories being known. What is the procedure for verifying and checking both characters and histories?

L.E. VINING,
Lieut-Colonel,
Director, Transportation Sub-Commission, ACC.

785016

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

File 3A

May 19, 1944

ACC/14763/PS

SUBJECT : Screening of Railway Employees.

TO : Transportation Sub-Commission.

1. We shall be glad to receive an early response to our
ACC/14763/PS dated 26 April 1944.

A. E. Young
A. E. YOUNG, Colonel
Deputy Chief, Public
Safety Sub-Commission.

NEAR HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
Public Safety Sub-Commission
APG 394

26 April 1944.

ACC/14763/PS.

SUBJECT : Screening of Railway Employees.

TO : Transportation Sub-Commission.

1. The attached report and enclosures have been received from the Public Safety Officer, Region I, regarding an attempt to bribe CC.RR acting as police guards on a train bound for Caltanissetta.
2. This Sub-Commission is in agreement with the views expressed by Major Hefford in his report dated 19th April 1944.
3. It would be appreciated if this Sub-Commission could be informed of any action taken as regards the screening of railway employees.

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

PAW/hgd

Enclosures:

Report dated 19th April 1944 from Region I — 1A
PS Officer letter dated 15th April. Confidential PS Commissioner, Palermo Criminal records of 4 railway employees. — 1B

Report dated 1st April from CC.RR Commander. — D

Report dated 10th March from CC.RR. Region Palermo. — 1F

2A

2. This Sub-Commission is in agreement with the views expressed by Major Hefford in his report dated 19th April 1944.

3. It would be appreciated if this Sub-Commission could be informed of any action taken as regards the screening of railway employees.

Byrd

May

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

TAW/hgd

Enclosures:

Report dated 19th April 1944 from Region I — 1A
PS Officer letter dated 15th April. Confidential — 1B
mental PS Commissioner, Palermo Criminal records.
of 4 railway employees.
Report dated 1st April from CC.RR Commander. — 1C
Report dated 30th March from CC.RR. Legion Palermo. — 1E

1161

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
SICILY REGION HEADQUARTERS
APO 394.

FILE : RPS 000.5. 19th April, 1944.

SUBJECT : Screening of Railway Employees.

TO : Regional Public Safety Officer,
Region 1 Headquarters. 18/4

1. I have to submit particulars of an occurrence on 29th March, 1944, in which an attempt was made to bribe in the course of their duties two members of the Carabinieri who were acting as police guards on a train laden with medical supplies and bound for Caltanissetta.

2. It will be seen that ROMEO, Antonio, Head train man, together with others, offered 10,000 lire to the Carabinieri as an inducement to them to permit the robbing of the train at a certain spot. The Carabinieri refused, but the conspirators persisted and when the train was compelled to stop through a defective engine an attempt was, in fact, made to rob the train with the result that the Carabinieri intervened and fired their muskets, killing one man, and arresting others.

3. In the course of the investigation into this case it transpired that ROMEO had been previously charged with certain offences and was a very shady character.

4. I followed up the case with Dr. Castellani, Chief of the Railway Police, and he expressed the view that a large number of railway employees were of questionable character, and suggested that the antecedents of all railway employees should be checked and that all those with previous convictions for theft or similar offences, should be discharged.

5. Later I saw Dr. TUCCIO, Director of Railways for Sicily, in company with Lt. Colonel LINDBERGH, ACC, and Dr. Tuccio agreed that there were a lot of undesirable characters at present employed on the railways, and he also agreed that in substantiated

man, together with others, offered 10,000 lire to the Carabinieri as an inducement to them to permit the robbing of the train at a certain spot. The Carabinieri refused, but the conspirators persisted and when the train was compelled to stop through a defective engine an attempt was, in fact, made to rob the train with the result that the Carabinieri intervened and fired their muskets, killing one man, and arresting others.

3. In the course of the investigation into this case it transpired that ROMEO had been previously charged with certain offences and was a very shady character.

4. I followed up the case with Dr. Castellani, Chief of the Railway Police, and he expressed the view that a large number of railway employees were of questionable character, and suggested that the antecedents of all railway employees should be checked and that all those with previous convictions for theft or similar offences, should be discharged.

5. Later I saw Dr. TUCCIO, Director of Railways for Sicily, in company with Lt. Colonel LINDBERGH, ACC, and Dr. Tuccio agreed that there were a lot of undesirable characters at present employed on the railways, and he also agreed that in substantiated cases these employees should be discharged. He pointed out however, that this responsibility rested on the Ministry and not on himself, although in certain serious cases employees could be discharged by him. I gathered that his regulations did not specify that an employee should be discharged for dishonesty.

6. Numerous cases are being brought to light of thefts by railway employees, and enquiries indicate that the majority of thefts are committed by or with the connivance of railway personnel. This state of affairs should not be allowed to continue.

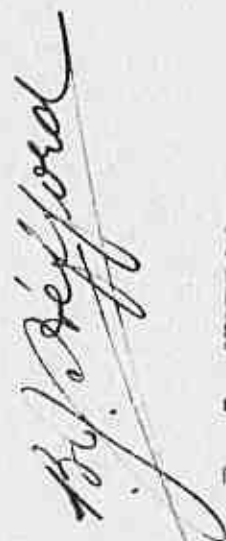
7. The subject is of particular importance to us at the moment having regard to the large quantities of Allied Foodstuffs and other military supplies being conveyed by train. The danger of attempts being made to steal such supplies is ever present under existing conditions in Sicily. ^{1,160} it is essential that Railway

(2)

employees may be trusted to safeguard them rather than assist in their being stolen.

8. The recently organised independent railway police force is doing good work, but their numbers are small. When the total complement has been recruited it will only amount to some 500 for the whole of the Island. If, however, the honesty of the railway personnel cannot in some measure be guaranteed, then I submit that a Police Force ten times this size will be insufficient to deal with larcenies alone, quite apart from all the other duties they are called upon to perform.

9. I therefore strongly recommend that this matter be taken up through the appropriate Sub-Commission of ACC, with a view to the immediate issuance of an order by the proper Italian Ministry directing an examination into the characters and antecedents of all railway employees, and the discharge of all convicted criminals and other employees with criminal tendencies or whose integrity is in doubt. In addition it should be made known that any employee convicted in future of a criminal offence would be liable to immediate dismissal.



B. J. HEEFORD,
Major,
Asst/Regional Public Safety Officer.

B. J. Hefford

B. J. HEFFORD,
Major,
Asst/Regional Public Safety Officer.

Enclosures : Copies of reports on attempted theft of medical supplies from a train proceeding to Caltanissetta.

1ST IND.

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION, SICILY REGION HEADQUARTERS, APO 394.
RPS 000.5. 20th Apr. 1944

TO : Public Safety Sub-Commission, Rear H.Q. Allied Control Commission.
THRU : Channels.

It is recommended that this matter be taken up with a view to the issuance of an order on the lines indicated in para. 9 of basic report.

For the Regional Commissioner :

Russell A. Snook
RUSSELL A. SNOOK,
Lt. Colonel, C.M.P.,
Regional Public Safety
Officer;

Palermo 15th April 1944.

1B

SUBJECT : Information.

TO : Major HEFFORD,
Superintendent of Civil Police

P A L E R M O

I inform you that Chief engine-driver ROMEO ANTONINO (181299),
is more than a drunkard, he is a dishonest person.

In fact I have determined to take away from him the train-tickets
Mod. CI. 204.

He was involved in the offence of robbing parcels and is now arrested in Galtanissetta for having attempted to bribe the Carabinieri on escort-service of a freight train at Galtanissetta Xirri and for having tried, together with other persons, to remove the seal from the freight-cars attached to the train, with the intention of robbery.

From investigations performed, no charge results against labourers Calisto Giovanni, Pinto Pietro and Lo Coco Antonino.

THE COMPARTMENTAL P.S. COMMISSIONER
Castellani Dr. Umberto

0722

785016

escort-service of a freight train at Galtanissetta Xirbi and for having tried, together with other persons, to remove the seal from the freight-cars attached to the train, with the intention of robbery.

From investigations performed, no charge results against labour-

ers Calisto Giovanni, Pinto Pietro and Lo Coco Antonino.

THE COMPARTMENTAL P.S. COMMISSIONER
Castellani Dr. Umberto

1157

Palermo 15th April 1944.

ROSEO Antonino

- 1933 - Acquitted (as the acts are not a crime) from the charge
the charge with unnatural rape, and obscene exhibitions in
public streets.
- 1936 - 3 days suspension - for not having consigned a passenger to
Cefalu'-Station, for regulation, who was travelling with a
fell due ticket.
- 1936 - 1 day suspension ; for having submitted various requests to
CEM offices of Palermo, Messina and Reggio Calabria and obtained
a subsidy more than that permitted.
- 1939 - Involved and put on trial (not yet completed) for stealing parcels.
- 1944 - Charged with cooperating in the theft against the Administration
committed by a passenger (matter in progress)
- 1944 - Arrested by the Carabinieri on 29 March in Caltanissetta.

GALICATO Giovanni and PINTO Pietro

- 1944 - Arrested by the Carabinieri on 29th March in Caltanissetta

LO COSO Antonino

- 1943 - Arrested by the P.S. (matter in progress)
- 1944 - Arrested by the Carabinieri on 29th March in Caltanissetta

- 1936 - 3 days suspension - for not having consigned a passenger to Cefalu'-Station, for regulation, who was travelling with a fell due ticket.
- 1936 - 1 day suspension , for having submitted various requests to CSM offices of Palermo, Messina and Reggio Calabria and obtained a subsidy more than that permitted.
- 1939 - Involved and put on trial (not yet completed) for stealing parcels.
- 1944 - Charged with cooperating in the theft against the Administration committed by a passenger (matter in progress)
- 1944 - Arrested by the Carabinieri on 29 March in Caltanissetta.

CALIOLO Giovanni and FILINO Pietro

- 1944 - Arrested by the Carabinieri on 29th March in Caltanissetta

LO GORGIO Antonino

- 1943 - Arrested by the P.S. (matter in progress)
- 1944 - Arrested by the Carabinieri on 29th March in Caltanissetta

Palermo 1st April 1944.

SUBJECT : Attempted theft in the train Palermo-Caltanissetta.

In reference to the verbal request I rewrite the following phone-message received yesterday from Caltanissetta Group:-

" " " Regarding to-day's phone-message No. 23/69 I communicate:

On the 29th March, at about 16hrs upon the arrival of a railway-convoy, (coming from Palermo and bound to Caltanissetta) at S. Jataldo Miniano depot (Caltanissetta), the Carabinieri on escort-service, Appuntato Bruno Vincenzo and Auxiliary Carabinieri Salvo Michelangelo, attached to the railway Central Station of Palermo, were approached by unknowns. These persons together with the chief of train, offered the Carabinieri a bribe of 10,000 lire, attempting to corrupt them, and then to remove the seal from the freight-car, which contained medicinals. The carabinieri kept the sum but did not consent such illegal action. They decided to proceed against the unknowns and at the arrival of the train at Caltanissetta. The railway-convoy continued on its way, but due to a defect of the engine it stopped at the distance of 119 Km. away from the above mentioned station. A group of six persons, taking advantage of this stop attempted to rob in the above mentioned car and assaulted the carabinieri who immediately intervened and succeeded in killing one of the unknowns, who a little while before, had consigned the sum and arrested the brake-man Calisto Giuseppe.

Four other unknowns, two of whom identified as brake-man Lo Coco and Pinto, ran away, all belonging to the aforesaid group.

The sum was seized and the chief of train Romeo arrested.

Investigations are in progress, in order to identify and arrest the fugitives.

Signed: The Internal Commander Capt. FALIANI.

THE COLONEL COMMANDER
Armando Calabro

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Four other unknowns, two of whom identified as brake-man Lo Coco and Pin- to, ran away, all belonging to the aforesaid group.

The sum was seized and the chief of train Romeo arrested.

Investigations are in progress, in order to identify and arrest the fug- itives.

Signed: The Internal Commander Capt. TALLANI.

THE COLONEL COMMANDER
Armando Calabro

1157

LEZIONE TERRITORIALE DEI CARABINIERI REALI DI PALERMO
STAZIONE DI CALTANISSETTA

No of Report 140

Caltanissetta, 30/3/1944.

JUDICIAL REPORT

crime of attempted bribery in damage of Carabinieri Bruno Vincenzo and helping Carabinieri Salvi Michelangelo and attempted medicinal robbery in damage of the Allied Control Commission made by the head-train-man ROMEO ANTONIO fu Vincenzo and fu Garofalo Teresa, born on 4/1/1892 at Palermo, there living in Via Gioemi No. 102 and by the brake-man GILBERTO GIUSEPPE di Francesco and Ducato Vincenzo, born on Sept. 18, 1925 at Bagheria, there living in Via Pellitteri n. 8. =====
LO 3300 and LO PINO, not knowing their generalities, belonging to the railroad movement organization of Palermo State, and 3 civilians unidentified of which one was killed by the following legitimate use of musket from the above said Carabinieri,

Last evening at 8,10, March 29, 1944, Carabinieri Bruno Vincenzo fu Domenico, class of 1904 and Carabinieri Salvi Michelangelo di Giuseppe, class of 1921, both belonging to the principal Station of Palermo, left Palermo directed for Caltanissetta, escorting train No. A. 8336/8640, composed of 10 cars full of drugs, the baggage-car and a locomotive.

At the Station of Bagheria, the head-train-man on duty, Romeo Antonio fu Vincenzo and fu Garofalo Teresa, born at the 4/1/1892 at Palermo, and there living, via Gioemi No 32, started a conversation with Carabinieri Salvi, complaining about the high cost of living. In a station after Roccapalumba, Romeo offered the sum L. 10.000 to the Carabinieri if he allowed him to open a car and take a part of what was in it.

At the refusal of the Carabinieri, Romeo still insisted, and at the Station of Marianopoli he returned to the subject, followed by the brake-man Calisto Sinigaglia, born the 18/5/1923 at Bagheria and there living, Via Pellitteri No. 8, and other two friends, a certain Lo Coco and Pinto.

In this station three civilians boarded the train with whom the brake-man had a long conversation during the stop at the Station.

At the station of M. S. Cataldo, the three civilians and the head-train-man invited the Carabinieri Salvi to follow them to a locality a few metri distance from the end of the train and there one of the civilians, while the others watched, planned the L. 10.000 in the hands of the Carabinieri who took the sum and returning to the baggage-car informed the other Carabinieri.

They decided that as soon as the train arrived at Caltanissetta, they would have arrested the 3 civilians, the head-train-man and the brake-man and in the attempt to open the cars.

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At the refusal of the Carabinieri, Romeo still insisted, and at the Station of Marinopolli he returned to the subject, followed by the brake-men Galisto Ciaragge, born the 18/9/1923 at Bagheria and there living, Via Pellitteri No. 6, and other two friends, a certain Lo Coco and Pinto.

In this station three civilians boarded the train with whom the brake-man had a long conversation during the stop at the Station.

At the Station of Minnani S. Cataldo, the three civilians and the head-train-man invited the Carabinieri Salvi to follow them to a locality a few metri distance from the end of the train and there one of the civilians, while the others watched, placed the L. 10.000 in the hands of the Carabinieri who took the sum and returning to the baggage-car informed the other Carabinieri.

They decided that as soon as the train arrived at Galtanissetta, they would have arrested the 3 civilians, the head-train-man and the brake-man and in the meanwhile they would prevent, with force, any attempt to open the cars.

The train, stopped at No. 119 because of a break down in the front locomotive (another locomotive was attached to the train at the Station of Minnani S. Cataldo) the three civilians and the three brake-men descended the train and together, approached the middle cars and were about to break the lock, when the two Carabinieri who had understood their movements, called "halt", pointing their guns.

At this call, they left the train, but then the man who placed the money in the hands of the Carabinieri, climbed on the train and was about to break the lock while the other five were standing with their hands in their pockets as if they were about to pull something out of them.

Since the group of six persons who were decided at any cost to break the lock and take what was in the cars with their aggressive mood constituted a grave peril for the safety of the Carabinieri and men for the approaching of evening, the Carabinieri decided to make use of their first-arms and fired a few shots toward the group.

1156

At the shots, the three civilians and two brake-men ran off in the country, while the third climbed on a railroad car where he was caught by the Carabinieri and declared in state of arrest. The Carabinieri ran after the others but it

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was not possible to catch them. One of the civilians, he who tried to open the car, covered 80 metri and then fell to the ground-grooving.

Then the Carabinieri reached him, with the help of other railroad men they brought him to the baggage-car where after a few minutes he died because of wounds received from the fire-arms of the Carabinieri.

As soon as the train arrived at Caltanissetta about 23 o'clock, the Carabinieri proceeded to the arrest of the head-train-man Romeo Antonio who together with the brake-man Galisto were accompanied by the Carabinieri to this Command informing us about what had happened and consigning the sum of L. 10.000

The corps remained at the local rail-road station, guarded by the other Carabinieri awaiting articles were found in the pockets of the corps.

1) An old brown leather bill-fold containing the sum of lire 787, two train tickets - one for the trip Bagheria - Roccapalumba and the other without specified trip and a german musket cartridge.

2) A pair of woolen military gloves - two handkerchiefs, a piece of cord about 30 centimetri long.

These articles will be brought to the Tribunal of Caltanissetta together with the 10.000 liras given to the Carabinieri.

After many investigations made it has not yet been possible to identify who the dead man is, but investigations are still being carried out also to identify the other two civilians who escaped, and the brake-man Lo Coco and Pinto.

The head-train-man Romeo and the brake-man Galisto, after questioning made by this Office, have declared themselves innocent, but since their responsibility is ascertained they have been put under arrest and brought to the local jail house.

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1944 March 30, in Caltanissetta - in the CC.RR. Station.

Statement made by the head-train-man ROMEO ANTONIO, fu Vincenzo and fu Garafola Teresa, born at Palermo the 14/1/1892, there living in Via Gio-anni No. 102.

" Yesterday, March 25, 1944 I was sent as head-train-man with train No. 8146/8610 Palermo-11

cord about 30 centimetri long.

These articles will be brought to the Tribunal of Caltanissetta together with the 10.000 lire given to the Carabinieri.

After many investigations made it has not yet been possible to identify who the dead man is, but investigations are still being carried out also to identify the other two civilians who escaped, and the brake-men Lo Coco and Pinto.

The head-train-man Romeo and the brake-man Galio, after questioning made by this Office, have declared themselves innocent, but since their responsibility is ascertained they have been put under arrest and brought to the local jail house.

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1944 March 30, in Caltanissetta - in the C.C.R.R. Station.

Statement made by the head-train-man ROMELO ANTONIO, fu Vincenzo and fu Carmela Teresa, born at Palermo the 14/1/1892, there living in Via Gio-emi No. 102.

" Yesterday, March 29, 1944 I was sent as head-train-man with train No. 8336/8610 Palermo-Caltanissetta. The train was composed of 10 cars containing drugs and a locomotive. The train left Palermo at 8.10 hrs and on board there were the two Carabinieri as escort and five brake-men that I know only with the names of Li Vecchi, D'Alessandro, Lo Coco, Pinto, and Galio.

At Termini about 10 persons boarded the train, headed for Roccapalumba. They were 3 civilians and ex employees, the civilians paid their tickets plus fine. The civilians descended regularly at Roccapalumba. At Marianopoli, three civilians boarded the train and paid their tickets for Caltanissetta. Arriving at Marianopoli S. Cataldo the train stopped for about 30 minutes and then re-started but at 11.15 the driver stopped the train because of a breakdown in the machine. I got out of the train to see what had happened and after assuring myself while returning to the baggage cars I heard about 10 musket shots therefore I looked out the window since the explosion was on the opposite side from where I boarded the train and I saw several civilians running off. I approached the spot to see what had happened and I learned from the Carabinieri and train personnel that those who were running off had tried to break the lock of a rail-road car. I then saw that a civilian had been shot and was brought to the baggage car on orders given by the Carabinieri.

1155

D.R. When the civilian reached the baggage car he was dead.

D.R. During the trip I discussed the cost of living and other things, but

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I did not say anything about stealing the cars. I did not give them any sum of money nor did I see any one do so.

D.R. It is not true that Miniani S. Cataldo I spoke to the civilians who there tried to rob the car.

D.R. At Miliana S. Cataldo I descended the train only for services and I quickly boarded the baggage-car. This can be confirmed by Grisafulli Alfio 1st class operator, Special Office, V zone, Caltanissetta, Marana Giuseppe, Via Roccaforte, Bagheria and Sasso Gaetano f-on Capodonorlando and his wife Foto Rosaria, I have nothing more to say.

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1944, March 31 - Caltanissetta - Office of C3.RR.

Questioning of Galisto Giuseppe di Francesco and of Ducato Vincenzo, born the 18/10/1925 at Bagheria, there living in Via Pellitteri No. 8, brake-man.

" Yesterday I was put on service on train N. 8336/8610 from Palermo directed to Caltanissetta as brake-man and assigned to the next to the last train. Arriving at km. 119 between Miliana S. Cataldo and Caltanissetta Kirbi the train stopped and I saw looking out of the window, that 5 or 6 persons were near the car ahead of me and were trying to open the car, but all at once the Crapiniere started to fire and I retired into the train. A little later a Carabiniere asked me for my card and then brought me into the baggage-car where I saw a dead man whom I did not know.

D.R. When in the baggage and when the train was in movement I heard that the brake-man Pinto and Lo Cico were missing.

D.R. I do not know at what station the civilians who attempted the theft boarded the train.

D.R. I do not know any thing about the bribing of the Carabinieri by the head-train-man and the civilians because I never went into the baggage-car during the trip.

D.R. I do not know if the theft had previously been planned by the service men and the civilians because I have always been at my post.

D.R. Since I have been on railroad service (1st Dec. 1942) I have covered the line Palermo-Caltanissetta about 15 times.

ing at Km. 119 between Miriana S. Cataldo and Caltanissetta Xirbi the train stopped and I saw looking out of the window, that 5 or 6 persons were near the car ahead of me and were trying to open the car, but all at once the Carabinieri started to fire and I retired into the train. A little later a Carabinieri asked me for my card and then brought me into the baggage-car where I saw a dead man whom I did not know.

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I know no more.

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