

ACC 10000/143/2516 140/PFC CAMPORRI PIETRO FELICE

DEC. 1944

18 December 1944

File

MEMORANDUM

This was a matter of high operational importance. He will not be executed, is not in Allied custody and in no danger. All persons concerned were informed.

J. H. Harvey
Major,
May

15 DEC 1944

14057

Subject:- Piero Felice Campori

Civil Affairs Section,
HQ Allied Armies in Italy
TEL: FILPOT 132To:- Col. R. R. Cripps,
Civil Affairs Sec.,
HQ Allied CommissionDCCAO/14/8.1
14 Dec 44

15 DEC 1944

1. I am pleased to enclose for the information of Brigadier Upjohn correspondence reference Piero Felice Campori.

2. It has been considered that you would prefer to retain these papers on your file, after your Brigadier has perused them.

Phineas James

Lt. Colonel,
Chief Staff officer
for DCCAO

TO	DATE	INITIALS
COL. CHAPMAN	15/12/44	X
COL. YOUNG		
Lt. COL. WILCOX		
MAJ. DIXON		
MAJ. HANCOCK		
MAJ. HARRIS		
MAJ. HARRIS		
MAJ. HARRIS		
CAPT. POWELL		
CHIEF CLERK		

10

Colonel Monfort
DCCAO

12 Dec

I sent your letter to General Gruenther for his information and necessary action. ^{and has indicated} He went into the matter in considerable detail to the persons concerned that the matter could have been better handled.

The writer reports, obtained as the result of his investigation, are attached for your information and file. They give an interesting bit of information as to how the affair started.

L. L. L.
DCGS.

DCCAO	1	W
CSC	2	CH
ECON		
Ch. of Staff		
Transcription		
Ford		
Chief Clerk		
for INFO ACTION		



9

6057

C O N F I D E N T I A L

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY
Office of Provost Marshal
A.P.O. #464, U. S. Army

JCL/hw
6 December 1944

Memorandum:

To: Chief of Staff, Fifth Army, A.P.O. #464, U. S. Army.

On Friday 1 December at about 1200 hours the Provost Marshals office received a call from Col. Ryan, Chaplain Fifth Army from Rome to the effect that Monsignor Vagnozzi of the Vatican had requested that the execution of Capt. PIERO FELICE CAMPORI be stayed for one day pending presentation of new evidence. Monsignor Vagnozzi was supposed to have received the request ~~formally~~ from civilians who stated the Captain was being held in or near Florence and was to be executed the next day, 2 December. No information was given as to what the charges were against Captain Campori, nor by whom he was being held.

Chaplain Ryan requested this office to locate the captain and determine the particulars of his case so that decision could be made as to action to be taken on the request for stay of execution.

This office had no record of the case, so inquiries were then made by myself to various agencies. As near as I can recall, the following offices were called in attempt to locate the agency holding Captain Campori:

G-2, C. I. Section, Hq Fifth Army
C. I. C. Det, Hq Fifth Army Rear
S. I. B. Florence
P. S. S. O. Florence Command
P. B. S. PW Enclosure #334
A. P. M. Br. Incr. Hq Fifth Army Rear
P. M. - P. B. S.
A. P. M. - A. A. I.
Liaison Officer, 210 Div (It), G-4, Hq Fifth Army

I also received a call from General Hume, A. M. G. Fifth Army who stated that he had received a similar call from Chaplain Ryan at Rome and that his office had no knowledge of the case. The General stated that he had inquired at the Judge Advocate Section, Fifth Army, who also had no information. He asked me to convey this to Chaplain Ryan.

Sometime during the afternoon, I called Chaplain Ryan at Rome and told him that we had been unable to locate Captain Campori and requested that he obtain more information from the civilians as to exactly where and by whom the Captain was being held. He stated that he would see Monsignor Vagnozzi

C O N F I D E N T I A L

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that evening and would try to get more information. At about 1800 hours I received a call from a Colonel Purcell of A. A. I. who stated that he was attempting to locate Captain Campori. He also gave me the phone number of Brig. Upjohn, A. C. Hq in Rome who had authorized a stay of execution of one week in the event that the Captain could be located. Shortly after this I again called Chaplain Ryan and gave him this information from Colonel Purcell. He stated that he had no additional information on Captain Campori but would check further on his return to Fifth Army Headquarters. From this I assumed that the matter was not a pressing one, so made no further effort in the case.

No request for stay of execution was made to anyone by me as the unit or agency holding the Captain or responsible for his sentence was not located.

James C. Littlefield
JAMES C. LITTLEFIELD,
Lt. Colonel, C. M. P.,
Asst. Provost Marshal.

CONFIDENTIAL

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY
A. P. O. #464, U. S. Army
Office of the Army Chaplain

PJR/reb
6 December 1944

Memorandum:

To: The Chief of Staff.

On Friday, 1 December 1944, about 1130, I dropped into Chaplain Cahill's office in the Rome Area Command Headquarters, Piazza Venezia, Rome. The Chaplain was not in, but was expected back shortly. A minute or two after my arrival a telephone call came for Chaplain Cahill. The clerk advised the party that Chaplain Cahill was not in, but that Chaplain Ryan was there. The party asked to speak with me. It was my friend, Monsignor Egidio Vagnozzi, Official of the Papal Secretariat of State. He said he had a most urgent case, and could I possibly help him. One of his confreres, Monsignor Davack, also in the employ of the Vatican, had referred the case to him a few minutes previously. The case involved the execution of a Captain Cantori, who was to be executed in the Florence Area at noon, Friday, December 1. Monsignor Vagnozzi assured me that if the execution could be postponed for a day that sufficient evidence could be gotten to the proper authorities to save the man's life. He asked me to do everything in my power to contact the proper authorities and request a stay of execution. He said he had no further information on the case, which had been hurriedly presented to him by Monsignor Davack. I told him that I would do what I could to get the execution postponed, but that I would have to have more complete information on it. This he promised he would do, and the inclosure is a statement of the facts as known by Monsignor Vagnozzi. I immediately called the Fifth Army Provost Marshal's Office and gave Lt. Colonel Littlefield what information I had, asking him to take the action requested by Monsignor Vagnozzi. Shortly after noon I called General Hume and gave him the same information I had given to Colonel Littlefield.

Friday evening a Colonel Purcell and a Colonel Upjohn phoned me asking for the details on the case. I told them I would see Monsignor Vagnozzi that evening and find out what I could. I saw him, and was given verbally the information in the inclosure attached. 6

Later that night I called Colonel Purcell and repeated the information. He told me that he had no record of Captain

-2-

Cantor and, furthermore, a reprieve of one week would be granted to any executions that were to take place. We both agreed that there was something "phoney" about the case. I later called Colonel Upjohn, but he was out. Monsignor Vagnozzi was present when I made these calls. I then insisted that Monsignor Vagnozzi give me in writing all the information that he had on the case.

Patrick J. Ryan
PATRICK J. RYAN,
Fifth Army Chaplain.

1 Incl:
Letter of Monsignor Vagnozzi.

Vatican City
December 2, 1944

Very Rev. P. J. Ryan,
Colonel,
Chief Chaplain of the V Army.

My dear Father Ryan:

Concerning the case of Captain Enzo Felice Cantori, who was reported to be executed at noon on Friday, December 1, 1944, I beg to state the following:

Shortly after midnight of the same day, two men in plain clothes, who declared to be officers of the American Police Force in Rome, appeared at the apartment of Mrs. Carmen Cantori, at Via Alessandria 171 apt. 13, saying they had an extremely important message concerning her son Enzo Felice. The lady (who is around sixty years old) refused to unlock the door, saying she would admit nobody in the apartment at such hour of the night. Upon their insisting to be admitted in the house, she asked them to call the caretaker of the building. In the meanwhile her husband called over the phone the central Italian police station, and few minutes later two Allied Police men appeared at the apartment. They spoke with the two men, examined their papers and identified them. Then they were admitted in the house. One of them, tall and dark, who spoke Italian fluently, though with a marked foreign accent, told Mr. and Mrs. Cantori that their son would be shot at noon that same day: that with his life were involved the lives of several other Italian and American soldiers; if her daughter-in-law would write and sign a message to her husband, and they could reach Florence before noon he could be saved. Mrs. Cantori accompanied them to her daughter-in-law, who lives in another section of the city. She was told that her husband was in danger and it was necessary for her to transcribe a statement message already prepared and to sign it. She did it immediately, and she wrote also the address on an envelop. The message was so worded: "I have received your letter from the old lady. Today is the 29th month of our wedding. For the love of mine and for the love of your child come back to us alive now that the opportunity is offered to you. Love and kisses, your Lola" (Original text: "Ho ricevuto la tua lettera della donna anziana. Oggi è il 29° compleanno del nostro matrimonio. Per amore mio e per l'amore della tua creatura ritorna a noi vivo adesso che se ne presenta l'opportunità. Saluti e baci, tua Lola")

The mother, Mrs. Carmen Cantori, asked some explanations

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The mother, Mrs. Carmen Cantori, asked some explanations about the message, but she got no satisfactory answer. She insisted to accompany the two officers to Florence, to talk with her son and convince him to do everything possible to save his own life. They said they could not do it. She asked the tall fellow who spoke Italian what his name was, and he said, Captain (or Major, the lady does not remember exactly)

Bruno, giving Mrs office's address at Via Sicilia 59. He said he was of Russian origin. He said he and his companion were leaving for Florence immediately.

In the morning Mrs. Cantori got in touch with Monsignor Davack, employee of the Vatican, who referred to case to me at 11,20 AM. I telephoned to you immediately, and asked your cooperation. Since the time was so short, I could not enquire more into the case.

This morning I spoke over the phone with Colonel Hannaford, of the Allied Commission in Rome, Legal Subcommission, and told him all I knew about the case, gave him Mrs. Cantori's address and telephone number. He promised to investigate the case.

I am deeply grateful to you for your kind interest in the matter, and I feel I must give testimony to the splendid example of humanity and consideration on the part of the Allied Authorities in taking up the matter so earnestly to save a human life.

I hope a satisfactory explanation will be found about the two officers' visit to Mrs. Cantori and of the message they asked her daughter-in-law to sign.

With Best regards and good wishes I am

yours very sincerely

Luigi Verga

Official of the Italian Secretariat of State

Civil Affairs Section,
HQ Allied Armies in Italy
TEL: FILPOT 35 - 1

DCCA0/14/3.1
3 Dec 44

Subject:- Piero Felice Campori

To:- Commanding General,
U.S. Contingent,
HQ Allied Armies in Italy

Thru:- AG(US) AAI

1. At 1730 hours on 1 Dec 44, the AAI at HQ AAI, telephoned to say that a request had been received from the U.S. Provost, 5th Army, that immediate steps should be taken to stay the execution of a civilian by name of PIERO FELICE CAMPORI pending the hearing of further evidence. The matter was of extreme urgency as Campori was due to be executed on 2 Dec.

2. It was stated that the Vatican had knowledge of the additional evidence in favor of the condemned man and that such had been reported to the Chaplains Department of the Fifth Army and to the U.S. Provost, 5th Army, hence the request.

3. The telephone instruction was confirmed in a signal (Pro 224 of 1 Dec) copy attached.

4. As immediate action was necessary, the first step was to telephone the Deputy Chief of Staff, Civil Affairs Section, HQ Allied Commission, who agreed that the execution should be stayed for one week pending the hearing of any further evidence. The next problem was to locate Campori, and in an endeavour to trace him priority calls were put through to 5th and 8th Armies and to the Legal Sub-Commission of HQ Allied Commission, all of whom had no knowledge of his existence.

5. This Section could have abandoned the enquiry at this stage, but on humanitarian grounds, as it had been reported that a man had been condemned to die on the 2nd Dec, enquiries were made at AAI, to AFHQ at which CSI(b), Provost, G-5 and S.I.D. were respectively consulted and later, No. 1 District, Florence Command, and the Provost Marshal at PBS. All these calls which were priority were to no avail.

6. Colonel Littlefield, Provost Branch, 5th Army, was referred to and he stated that the information had been received through a Colonel RYAN of 5th Army Chaplains Department, who was then at the Excelsior Hotel, Rome. Colonel Ryan was accordingly telephoned and he stated that he would go to the Vatican and would telephone back between 2130 and 2200 hours the same evening to give some additional information. He did not telephone, and as a result, after three more calls, two to the Excelsior Hotel, Rome, and one to the Vatican, Colonel Ryan was contacted, when it transpired that the source of the information was Mons. BAGNOSI and there was no evidence that anyone by the name of Campori had been sentenced to death.

7. This information is submitted for such action, if any, as you may deem necessary. It is pointed out that there were numerous priority calls put through unnecessarily and, furthermore, that there was no alternative in the circumstances except to give certain information which normally should

1. At 1730 hours on 1 Dec 44, the AFM at HQ AAI, telephoned to that a request had been received from the U.S. Provost, 5th Army, that immediate steps should be taken to stay the execution of a civilian by name of PIERO PINOCE CAMPORI pending the hearing of further evidence. The matter was of extreme urgency as Campori was due to be executed on 2 Dec.

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7. This information is submitted for such action, if any, as you may deem necessary. It is pointed out that there were numerous priority calls put through unnecessarily and, furthermore, that there was no alternative in the circumstances except to give certain information which normally should not have been disclosed on the telephone.

Copies to:
HQ Allied Commission (for Brig. Upjohn)
Provost Marshal, HQ AAI

Nelson W. Monfort
NELSON W. MONFORT,
Colonel, A. U. S.
DOCAO

Rev 14
DEC-3 1944
0800 hrs
2 copies

ARMY FORM 02138 (Small)

MESSAGE FORM

Register No.

Call

Sel. No.

Priority

Transmission Instructions

ABOVE THIS LINE FOR SIGNALS USE ONLY

FROM
(A)

Originator

Date-Time of Origin

Office Date Stamp

HQ AAI

01 1800A

For Action

DCCAO Allied Commission HQ AAI

TO

(W) For Information (INFO)

P.M. Fifth Army
GSI(B) AAI

Message Instructions

OR

Originator's No.

Pro 224 (.) RESTRICTED (.) Reference conversation FRIEND JAMES - SITTERS (.)

US Provost Fifth Army request execution civilian PIERO FELICE CAMPORI Postponed (.)

No knowledge which region responsible (.) Any information to Col LITTLEFIELD

Provost Branch Fifth Army

THIS MESSAGE MAY BE SENT AS WRITTEN
BY ANY MEANS EXCEPT

WIRELESS

IF LIABLE TO BE INTERCEPTED OR TO
FALL INTO ENEMY HANDS, THIS MES-
SAGE MUST BE SENT IN CIPHERORIGINATOR'S INSTRUCTIONS
DEGREE OF PRIORITY

SIGNED

SIGNED

Time System Op

THI or TOR

Time cleared

6057

