

ACC 10000/143/2664

260/07

FRENCH FOREIGN LEGION

AUG. - NOV. 1944

SECURITY MATTER

FILE

MINUTE INDEX

No of sheet	date	File No. of Ans'd Ltr.	From whom To whom	subject
1	18 Jul.			<i>Embassment of Italians</i>
2.	13 Nov.			<i>alleged murder of French noble at 380.</i>

French Representative. Allied Commission.

The attached relates to the murder of the French sailor at Bari, about which you requested information.

Will you please return after perusal.

S. J. Harvey
S. J. HARVEY,
Major
SECURITY DIVISION
PUBLIC SAFETY SECTION 10

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

HEADQUARTERS
SOUTHERN REGION, ALLIED COMMISSION
LEGAL DIVISION
APO 394, U.S. Army

(2)

L-9628 F.

24 November 1944

SUBJECT: Alleged murder of French Soldier at Bari.

TO : Director, Public Safety Sub-Commission,
A.C., H.Q., C.M.F. ←

1. Your SD/260.07 dated 13 November 1944 addressed to R.P.S.O., S.R., refers.
2. I attach hereto a report from L.O., Apulia & Calabria which gives all the necessary information.
3. Major Boyd-Carpenter presided over the General Military Court which tried the case and thus speaks with first-hand and direct knowledge of it.

For the Regional Commissioner:

L.F. Dawson

L.F. DAWSON,
Lieut. Colonel, G.L.,
Reg. Chief Legal Officer
Southern Region, A.C.

LFD/no

ENCL-
1 report d/d 21 Nov 44
from L.O. Apulia & Calabria

Security
Level
Book No. 3149
File No. 260.07

Copy to -R.P.S.O., Southern Region.

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

ALLIED COMMISSION
LEGAL OFFICE
BARI

21 Nov. 44

Ref.: BZ/LEG/2/6163/O

Subject :- Case of RENNA Cosimo

To :- R.C.L.O., Southern Region A.AC., -- NAPLES --

1. Attached is copy letter received by Public Safety Officer this HQs. from Public Safety Sub-Commission.
2. Although General de Sevin's question refers to trial of an Italian for murder of a French soldier at BARI it is assumed that enquiry relates to trial of RENNA Cosimo for murder of a French sailor, PIETRONI Francesco, at MARTINA FRANCA.
3. As the disclosure to a French authority of particulars of proceedings of or evidence before an Allied Military Court would appear to raise an issue of principle, Public Safety Sub Commission have been informed through Zone Public Safety Officer that all relevant material is being submitted to you.
4. Proceedings in case of RENNA Cosimo were forwarded to your HQs. under reference BZ/LEG/2/6148b dated 21st October 1944.
5. In case however record is NOT at present in your possession, attention is invited to filling brief resume of the facts.
6. The accused RENNA Cosimo, a member of the Regia Marina, was charged under Articles 575 and 577 (3) of the Italian Penal Code with premeditated murder, and there was also a minor charge of carrying of arms under Art. 699 of the Penal Code. The facts were that at about 1600 hrs on the afternoon of 23rd of July the accused, together with another Italian sailor, the deceased, and 3 other French sailors were drinking in a cafe at MARTINA FRANCA. There is no doubt that the French personnel concerned were drunk. A quarrel arose and two French sailors, one of whom was the deceased, drew revolvers and after one had been disarmed by the Italians, the accused fell to the floor with the deceased, who still had his revolver. The struggle continued on the floor, and during it the accused who had been handed a knife by the other Italian, stabbed the deceased twice.
7. In the circumstances the Court came to the conclusion that the accused, who had been threatened by two intoxicated sailors armed with revolvers, and who was engaged in a struggle with one of them, acted in self defence found him NOT guilty of the charge.
8. So far as the second charge is concerned, as there was no

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7. In the circumstances the Court came to the conclusion that the accused, who had been threatened by two intoxicated sailors armed with revolvers, and who was engaged in a struggle with one of them, acted in self defence found him NOT guilty of the charge.
8. So far as the second charge is concerned, as there was no evidence of possession of the knife, save for a few seconds, by the accused save for that of the other sailor, and as the accused in evidence denied it a reasonable doubt on the point existed with the consequence that the accused was acquitted as this charge also.

9. Although having regard to the view taken by the Court of the evidence, it was NOT necessary for the Court to come to any finding on the question of cause of death, it may be material to add that on the evidence the deceased was stabbed on 23rd July at MARTINA FRANCA, that he was admitted to MARTINA FRANCA hospital on that day, that by the 27th of July he was well on the way to recovering but that on that day, at the insistence of French doctors and against the advice of the Italian surgeon in charge of the case, he was moved to 98 General Hospital TARANTO, that he was moribund on admission, and died shortly after midnight on 28th July. It may be added that the MARTINA FRANCA - TARANTO road is and was at the material time extremely bad.

/s/ J.A. Boyd-Carpenter

/t/ J.A. BOYD-CARPENTER
Major, L.C.
Apulia & Calabria.

SJH/nb

CONFIDENTIAL

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
A.P.O. 394
PUBLIC SAFETY SUB COMMISSION
SECURITY DIVISION

Ref : SD/260.07 2899.

13 November 1944

Subject : Alleged murder of French soldier at Bari

To : R.P.S.O. Southern Region

1. A request has been made by General de Sevin the French Representative to Allied Commission for brief details of the alleged murder of a French soldier at Bari.

2. The only information he has is based on an article in the Gazzetta del Mezzogiorno - Daily Newspaper of Bari of 14th October 1944 where it stated that an Italian soldier in the course of a melee killed a French soldier and was subsequently acquitted by an Allied Court Martial.

3. Could any further details be supplied please.

SJH
JOHN W. CHAPMAN,
Colonel J.A.G.D.,
Director Public Safety,
Sub Commission.

CONFIDENTIAL

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HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
SECURITY BRANCH
APO 394

OWP/ndp

①

Ref. : SB/260 07 18th July 1944
SUBJECT : French Foreign Legion
TO : Colonel Young.

According to your instructions I have checked the subject matter and have found the following.
It has been verified that the French Army had offices in Rome and Naples for the purpose of enrolling Italian citizens in the French Foreign Legion. Terms were a length of service of 5 years at the end of which 20000000 francs were to be paid out. The accepted applicants had to report to Naples for a last physical examination, and from there were shipped to French North-Africa for training and service in the colonies.

However, two of my informants seeking enrollment were told that enrollments with the French Foreign Legion were terminated, and that also other already enrolled but not yet shipped out Italians, will not be called anymore to serve with the Legion. It seems that an order from above had already stopped the procedure.

Carl E. Fehr Lt
CARL E. FEHR
Lieutenant
Security Branch

1st Ind.

Ref. : SB/260 07 18th August 1944
HQ. A.C.C. Security Branch, A.P.O. 394
To : Office of the Acting Chief Commission A.C.C.

FOR THE DIRECTOR :

John A. McKay
JOHN A. MCKAY
Major
Security Branch

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HEADQUARTERS
 ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
 Office of the Acting Chief Commissioner
 APO 394

LDD/ajp

A/CC 014.13

7 August 1944

SUBJECT: Recruiting of Italian Citizens by French Foreign Legion

TO : R.C. & M.G. Section, Hq. ACC
 (For: Security Branch)

1. Reference is made to PRE/R10, Public Relations Branch ACC, 4 August, subject: "Trend of copy filed by correspondents", extract as follows:

"SEVAREID (CBS): .."Winston Churchill in the Commons named with praise all the peoples who are fighting together to cleanse the soil of Italy, but made no mention of the Italian, whose soil this happens to be; Italian Democrats have fought for us here, and if their partisans have done more than their regular troops, it is because we have not permitted some of their regular soldiers to fight Official agreement has been made that the Italian army shall be increased but the situation today is such that the only way an Italian of principles, and there are many, can be sure of fighting the enemy, is by joining the French Foreign Legion; the Legion has a recruiting centre in Rome..".

2. Reference is also made to PRE/R10, Public Relation Branch ACC, 3 August, subject: "Trend of copy filed by correspondents", extract as follows:

"BUCKLEY (Reuter): Many young Romans are flocking to volunteer for the French Foreign Legion. Crowds often group round the French office in the Via del Solario and it is estimated that about 30/40 young men are enrolled daily. In all about 1500 are believed to have joined so far, including some ex-officers and soldiers of the Italian army. The French authorities say that no recruiting is actually done in Rome but that suitable applicants are sent to southern Italy for selection and eventual incorporation."

3. Attention is directed to that portion of the statement "... and there are many, can be sure of fighting the enemy, is by joining the French Foreign Legion; the Legion has a recruiting centre in Rome."

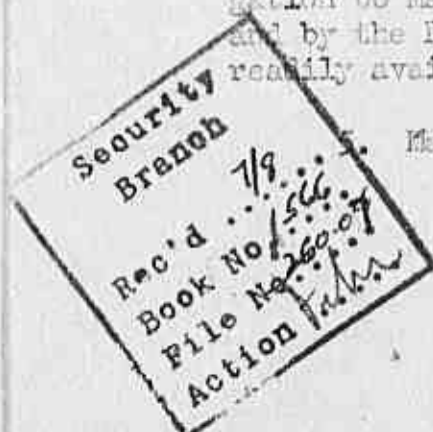
4. The Acting Chief Commissioner directs that an immediate investigation be made to determine whether or not Italians are being recruited for and by the French Foreign Legion and facts regarding the matter which are readily available.

5. May such report be expedited.

For the Acting Chief Commissioner:

L. D. Densmore
 L. D. DENSMORE
 Colonel, Sig C
 Chief Staff Officer

2



Da informazioni assunte presso il Comando dell'Armata Francese in Italia, con sede al Palazzo Vidoni al Corso Vittorio Emanuele, gli arruolamenti di cittadini italiani nella Legione Straniera che a cura del Comando predetto si stavano effettuando negli scorsi giorni, non hanno più luogo.

Secondo quanto ha dichiarato un sottufficiale della Polizia francese addetto all'Ufficio Informazioni, anche quei cittadini italiani che sono stati già arruolati, non saranno più chiamati a prestare servizio in detta Legione.

Secondo notizie assunte negli ambienti italiani, il Comando dell'Armata Francese aveva aperto l'arruolamento nella Legione Straniera di volontari italiani, ai quali veniva promesso un trattamento economico uguale a quello concesso ai militari francesi, con l'obbligo della ferma per anni cinque al termine della quale sarebbe stato dato un premio di 100.000 franchi.

Roma, 10 agosto 1944

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