

SEBBA
Personal

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HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH ARMY
G-2 STRATEGIC SERVICES SECTION
APO 758 US ARMY

17 February 1945

SUBJECT: SEBBA Case

TO : Major Wentworth

1. We understand from Major Coleman that Sebba, the man who accidentally wounded or killed "Tony" while in training, must be court martialled, thereby officially putting the matter under Army jurisdiction which may be the right procedure since our outfit is attached to and serving the 7th Army.

To our mind there are various angles to the problem which are worthwhile considering:

a) Our agency is supposed to be a "Secret Intelligence agency", dealing principally with civilian agents of all nationalities and working with us voluntarily. They are on a contract basis; have full knowledge of the risk involved and in case of death their families are taken care of by our Agency - in the same way as an Insurance company would do.

b) We are servicing the Army. The Army wants results and is not interested in the details of internal set-up of our agency because it is supposed to be a secret one.

c) If a trial is decided upon we may be obliged to answer unnecessary questions pertaining to our set-up and activities, thereby making a breach of security.

d) We understand Sebba has to be court martialled in order to protect him against possible claims of the deceased agent's family. This assumption may not be entirely correct since the man is under contract and his case cannot be compared to that of a GI who was regularly drafted.

e) We are not in any way trying to protect Sebba but are merely taking our own interests under consideration because:

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(a) Sebba stated that he had been instructed to teach OB and nothing else since the boys had been interviewed for the first time on the 16th February and their assignment could not yet be decided. Furthermore, Sebba attended a meeting, held by the head of briefing, during which it was stated that no close combat was to be taught for the time being, and

(b) For security reasons written instructions pertaining to the work are not issued. This fact might not be understood at a trial presided over by Army officers. In such a case certain of our perhaps not to the "lay" mind altogether understandable aspect of our work might have to be explained - with possible embarrassment all around.

2. While the case is still under investigation would it not be possible to feel out competent authorities at 7th Army Headquarters in such an impersonal way that we would not be committed.

J. E. WILLARD
1st. Lt. Cav.

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