

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785015

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CUSTODY OF GERMAN LOOT/BOOTY
MAY 1945

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HEADQUARTERS

15 ARMY GROUP LIAISON MISSION

12 May 1945

LIAISON DETACHMENT
15TH ARMY GROUP
BOZZANO, ITALY

REFERENCE: AC/14. HEAD

SUBJECT: War Booty.

COMMANDING GENERAL

HQ 15th Army Group.

(Attention General Clerk).

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1. This HQ on night 9th May received visit from Priest and two peasants of the village of Clos who reported that some nights previously a band from their village had shot up a German truck that the truck contained a chest of money which was hidden in the Priest's House would the Allies come and fetch it. This was done. The chest contained a specification of the contents which was over 8 (eight) million lire in notes and over 11 million in bankers drafts. The contents of this chest was found to be intact.

It is most strongly recommended that the village receive a recognition of its enterprise and honesty. Enquiry has been made and the village is of an exceedingly good type: It has been instrumental in rescuing or succouring a large number of Allied Personnel either Special Services or shot down Airmen, over 30 are said to have been saved, one man alone is credited with saving a dozen. Some were hidden for over two months. They have certificates from persons assisted and can supply their names for verification.

Another curious fact is that quite a proportion of the village speaks English quite a number have resided in America and almost as many persons as now reside in the village who were born here are now in America.

The village also handed over the receipt for a second chest said to contain 10 million lire which was taken from them by threats but which it is hoped to get in. The villagers have traced the car and got the car number and the name of the person who took the money.

The village is also of very good type in another respect. It has a community spirit and a spirit of self help. It has recently built at its own expense a most beautiful church. It has obtained the plans and specifications of an alms house for aged couples and an infant asylum. The villagers say they ask no reward for any individual concerned but if the Allies would allow to the community some grant to the cost of building of the Alms House as a recognition

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I recommend that 10% of this sum be allotted to the village in recognition of what they have done.

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I would ask that this matter may be referred personally to Field Marshall Alexander and would also ask that the matter be treated as one of special urgency as the effect which a decision will create will largely be lost if a decision is long delayed.

I also recommend that the leader of the band which effected the capture and handed the money over intact, Francis Francisco, of Cloz should receive some recognition.

J.R. BURRILL Colonel.
15th Army Group Liaison Mission.

J.R. BURRILL
COLONEL, FA
CHIEF OF LIAISON DETACHMENT
15TH ARMY GROUP.

Please hand to Lt. Colonel WHITE the Lire which were taken from
the Germans.

Bolsano.
10. May 1945.

Lt. Colonel.
for G.O.C. 15 Army Group.

Received packages (unexamined) said to contain Lire.

Bolsano.
10. May 1945.

Lt. Colonel.
for G.O.C. 15 Army Group

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