

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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10000/105/759

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10000/105/759

DEFASCISM, GOV'TL BODIES, MINISTRY OF
AVIATION
JULY 1944 - FEB. 1945

MINUTE SHEET

- 1 -

TO : VP CA Sec.

Reference Folio 10A.

1. The two Espionage Commissions of this Ministry have done a creditable amount of work and are applying themselves earnestly to the work at hand. Sqd Ldr de Haan and Plt Lt Morrow who accompanied me on my visits to the Commissions are filing separate reports to Air Vice-Marshal Bowen-Pearcet. They shared my favourable impression.

2. I requested Sqd Ldr de Haan to take up with the Minister the matter of bringing before the Espionage Commissions at the earliest possible date the cases of employees informally suspended (invited to stayaway from their offices) and with respect to whom ~~no~~ action may have been taken.

CA Sec.
10 Oct 44.

E.L. Palmieri
E.L. PALMIERI Major.
CA Sec.

MINUTES

2817

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016SECRET.Ref: 1005/64/238.14 February 1945.SUBJECT: Exemption.

14 FEB 1945

TO : Director, Air Corps (D-Exemption)

1. I refer to your NRSC/R/7/SPR LHM of 26 January 1945, on the subject of the removal of Colonel CAPESONE from office.

2. The Discrimination Tribunal is a Tribunal set up in the Air Ministry for its own purposes to advise the Minister on the conduct of officers since 8 September 1943. It is not a part of the statutory exemption machinery and has no power to acquit.

3. The Exemption Commission, however, does take cognizance of the findings of the Discrimination Tribunal just as it does of any other evidence whether for or against the accused. In the case of General CAPPA the Exemption Commission has agreed with the views of the Discrimination Tribunal and found General CAPPA not guilty.

4. The "Military Tribunal" referred to in your paras 6 and 7 is the exemption "appeal" commission. I do not think it desirable to ask the Italian Government to abolish the only appeal court there is for exemption proceedings. This court has before it more appeals lodged by persons found "guilty" than appeals by the High Commissioner against findings of "not guilty" and abolition would do away with their chance of review.

5. Although there may appear to be a plethora of proceedings in the case of service personnel, this is caused by the superimposition of the purely advisory Discrimination Tribunal on the normal procedure of Reg. 159.

6. As Colonel CAPESONE is the representative of the Air Ministry in the office of the High Commissioner as Liaison Officer and Adviser on Air Force matters, his removal is a matter entirely for the Air Ministry. I think interference on questions of personnel, where the responsibility is Italian, is inadvisable and impolitic.

: 516

Brigadier,
Chief of Staff.

Copy to: CA-Sec

21 DEC 1944

From : AIR FORCES SUB COMMISSION, H.Q. ALLIED COMMISSION

To : MAJOR PALMIERI, ROOM 56, ADMIN SECTION, H.Q. A.C.

Date : 20th December 1944

Ref. : AFSC/INT/17

Subject : Epuratation of Civilian Personnel at the
Air Ministry.-

The undersigned has endeavoured to contact you by 'phone on several occasions during the last few days, but you have not been in your office.

As Dr. Trojsi, President of the above Committee was absent for a few days at the Law Courts, the undersigned took the matter up with the Secretary, Dr. Carusso to whom he pointed out that there was no reason why they should delay proceedings pending receipt of instructions from the High Commissioner.

His attention was drawn to Decree 285 Art.2. He then admitted they held a list of names which had been submitted by the Air Ministry and in view of this they would proceed their work on the basis of this list.

P. de Haan
P. DE HAAN W/CDR INT
AIR VICE MARSHAL
AIR OFFICER COMMANDING

2815

11/2/44 *0/85*
MEMORANDUM FOR MAJOR E.L. PALMIERI

Herewith particulars of Commissions appointed by Italian Air Ministry in connection with defascising and also copy of letter in today's date to Chief of Cabinet of Italian Air Ministry informing them of your desire to meet the members of the Commission on thursday or friday next.

P. de Haan
P. DE HAAN
S/LDR INT. A.F.S.C.
for AIR VICE MARSHAL
AIR OFFICER COMMANDING

Sept. 15th. 1944

2814

C O 14A
From : AIR FORCES SUB COMMISSION, H.Q. A.C.C.

To : MAJOR PAEMIERI, ROOM 56, ADMIN SECTION, H.Q. A.C.C.

Date : 27th October 1944

Ref. : AFSC/INT/17/1 200

28 OCT 1944

Enunciation.

Herewith copy of a letter from the Air Ministry giving the names of Anselmo VALERIO and Michele BUSCAINI whom it is proposed to appoint as deputy presidents of the operation commissions.

In view of the fact that both these nominees are judges of the Court of Appeal will you please state whether they are known to you and whether you approve of their appointment.

P. Hudson
P. DE PAUL & SONS LTD
AIR VICE MARSHAL
AIR OFFICER COMMANDING

2813

2813

Roma 24 ottobre 1944

MINISTERO DELL'AERONAUTICA
CAVIERO DEL MINISTRO
Ufficio Affari Generali

ALLA AIR FORCE COMMISSION
A.C.C.
R.E.A.

Prot. n° 14085/AG/730 coll.

Oggetto Commissioni Ministeriali per l'operazione.

Con riferimento al precedente foglio, pari argomento, n. 5/35 del 21 agosto ult., e alla cortese lettera di risposta in data 22 dello stesso mese, si comunica che allo scopo di assicurare in ogni evenienza la continuità dei lavori delle Commissioni in oggetto, questo Ministero ha in animo di procedere alla nomina dei presidenti supplenti delle Commissioni medesime.

Detti supplenti sono stati designati dal competente Ministero di Grazia e Giustizia nelle persone di

Consigliere di Corte d'Appello
- ASSALMO VALENZI che sarebbe nominato Presidente supplente della Commissione di 1° grado per l'operazione del personale militare della R.A.

Consigliere di Corte d'Appello
- MICHELE VESCAINO che sarebbe nominato Presidente supplente della Commissione di 1° grado per l'operazione del personale civile della R.A.

Si prega far conoscere se vi sia nulla da obiettare da parte di codesta Sottocommissione.

d'ordine
p. il Capo di Gabinetto t.a.
l'UFFICIALE SUPERIORE ADDETTO
(T.Col.A.A.F.N. A. CASSINERIO)

812

323

From : AIR FORCE'S SUE COMMISSIONER, I.I. A.C.C.

To : MAJOR PALLERI, ROOM 26, ADMIN SECTION, H.C. A.C.C.

Date : 25th October 1944

Ref. : AFSS/IND/17

Exposition.

Received copy of a letter addressed by the President of the Commission of Exposition for Civilian Personnel of the Air Ministry to the Deputy High Commissioner for Exposition from which it would seem that matters are not proceeding very smoothly.

The undersigned would be glad of an opportunity of talking the matter over with you.

P. de Haran
P. DE HARAN SAID INT
AIR VICE MARSHAL
AIR OFFICER COMMANDING

X - Letter Palleri sent
to Secretary
Oct 27 -
Cabinier

P. de Haran - will take a number of 3 in
from Rome - take 1st
Screen.

From : AIR FORCES SUB COMMISSION, H.Q. A.C.C.

To : MAJOR PALMIERI, ROOM 36, ADMIN SECTION, H.Q. A.C.C.

Date : 17th October 1944

Ref : AFSC/INT/17/ I 152

Subject : "Personale Allontanato"

For your information herewith copy of a letter received from the Air Ministry which deals with a question of pay to officers and civilians having fascist qualifications.

Your remarks would be appreciated.

P. de Haan
P. DE HAAN S/LDR INT
AIR VICE MARSHAL
AIR OFFICER COMMANDING

*Let to General
by de Haan orally.*

151
RO HA, 14 ottobre 1944

MINISTERO DELL'AERONAUTICA
GABINETTO DEL MINISTRO
Ufficio Affari Generali

ALL'AIR FORCES SUB COMMISSION
A.C.C.
for S/Ldr de Hean

Prot. 10645/AC/638 Coll.

Oggetto : C o m u n i c a z i o n e

Gli Ufficiali in S.P.E. della R.Aeronautica, che attualmente non prestano servizio, si trovano in licenza in attesa di disposizioni ministeriali.

Fra essi, quelli che hanno qualifiche fasciste, sono invece in licenza rinnovabile di mese in mese, ad eccezione dei seguenti : Colonnelli A.A.R.n. KONINO Stefano e FRANCOIS Armando, Tenenti Colonnelli A.A.R.n. PEZZANI Giovanni, Lacuzzi Pietro, MASTRAGOSTINO Angelo e S.Tenente ORNATO Renato, ai quali è stato concesso di attendere, rimanendo in servizio, l'esito dell'esame della Commissione di epurazione, per particolari servizi resi dopo l'8 settembre, come già segnalato a codesta Sottocommissione con foglio 7160 del 9 settembre u.s.

Tutti gli ufficiali suddetti percepiscono gli assegni di pace e perdono, nei confronti di quelli in servizio, il soprassoldo di operazioni e la razione viveri.

Il personale civile di ruolo, non in servizio, ha attualmente lo stesso trattamento del personale in servizio ed è considerato a disposizione. Se, peraltro, ha qualifiche fasciste (marcia su Roma, sciarda littorio, ecc.),

Oggetto : C o m u n i c a z i o n e

Gli Ufficiali in S.P.E. della D. Aeronautica, che attualmente non prestano servizio, si trovano in licenza in attesa di disposizioni ministeriali.

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Il personale civile di ruolo, non in servizio, ha attualmente lo stesso trattamento del personale in servizio ed è considerato a disposizione. Se, peraltro, ha qualifiche fasciste (marcia su Roma, sciarpa littoria, ^{qualifica} spallina) perde soltanto lo stipendio che aveva all'8 settembre, con la sola maggiorazione del 30% senza indennità accessorie.

d'ordine

P. IL CAPO DI CABINETTO t.a.
L'UFFICIALE SUPERIORE ADDITTO
(T.Col.A.A.R.N. A. CASSINERIO)

2809

144A

From : AIR FORCES SUB COMMISSION, A.O.C.
To : MAJOR E.L. PALMIERI, ROOM 55, ADMIN SECTION, A.O.C.
Date : 4th October 1964
Ref. : AFSC/INT/17

I enquired from the two Air Forces Expiration Commissioners when their next two meetings will be held as it is your intention and mine to be present. The Commissioner for Expiration of Civil Personnel will be sitting on the 6th and 9th October from 0800 hours onwards. The Commission covering Military Personnel will be sitting on the 6th and 7th October. No time is stated but they will presumably be sitting during the morning.

Please let me know what date suits you best. If you will call for me we can then attend the meeting together.

I enclose the statistical return covering Military Personnel. Also this return does not seem very clear to me as they appear to have completed twenty one investigations and suspended twenty three.

P. de Haan / 2805

P. DE HAAN S/LDR. INT.
AIR VICE MARSHAL
AIR OFFICER COMMANDING

DF/3-21/KA

See also. Also see

13A

Dear Colonel White,

20 NOV 1944

Here are the copies of
my Press and comments on the
Cappa Case.

I am also attaching
a report on what Seccinardo
is said to have done in connection
with the Episcopate Tribunal.

The whole thing is naturally
very secret indeed, and I should
be grateful if we could have the
papers back when we have discussed
the matter with Brigadier Upjohn.

Yours.

W. A. B. B. B. B.

2807

AIR FORCES SUB - COMMISSION, ALLIED COMMISSION, HOME.

CC 7/7
NOV 18 1944

Dr/2.2.21

APPO/R/7/1750.477.

November 16th. 1944.

Confidential.

Dear Commander Stone,

I have again spoken to General Piacentini about General Cappe. This time he stated that he was about to advise Cappe to retire, in order to avoid passing through the Epuration Tribunal. He said that, owing to his past associations with De Vecchi, he might fare ill at the hands of the Tribunal.

I very much doubt this, as we have seen far worse cases absorbed by the Tribunal.

However, I told Piacentini that I did not agree with this at all, and that Cappe should be judged by the Tribunal, so that we get a definite result one way or the other, and so can make a decision as to whether he is to stay on or not.

I feel that, for some reason I am as yet unable to fathom, General Piacentini is playing for time, or perhaps is trying to wear Cappe down so that he will, in desperation, retire.

The Epuration Tribunal does not, of course, come under the Air Ministry, but under Scoccimarro, although the Air Ministry provides lists of the officers it requires to be epurated. I told Piacentini to ask the Tribunal to deal with Cappe's case at once.

I suggest that a word in season from you to Scoccimarro might ensure that Cappe gets a fair deal.

✓
W.B. Bunker. Bunker.

506

I very much doubt this, as we have seen far worse cases
absolved by the Tribunal.

However, I told Piacentini that I did not agree with this at
all, and that Cappa should be judged by the Tribunal, so that we get
a definite result one way or the other, and so can make a decision
as to whether he is to stay on or not.

I feel that, for some reason I am as yet unable to fathom,
General Piacentini is playing for time, or perhaps is trying to
wear Cappa down so that he will, in desperation, retire.

The Epuration Tribunal does not, of course, come under the
Air Ministry, but under Succinero, although the Air Ministry
provides lists of the officers it requires to be epurated. I told
Piacentini to ask the Tribunal to deal with Cappa's case at once.

I suggest that a word in season from you to Succinero might
ensure that Cappa gets a fair deal.

✓

W.B. Bunker. ⁵⁰⁶

P.S. I have to leave at 13.30
to-day for a conference
at Caserta, but hope to
be back at Easter by noon on Saturday, if you
wish to discuss this further with me.

W.B.

Commodore Rillery W. Stone,
Chief Commissioner,
Allied Commission,
RCHS.

1945

General Cappa of the Italian Air Force was head of the Secret Intelligence Front of the I.I.I. in Rome during the German occupation. Opinions differ as to the effectiveness and whole-heartedness of his efforts during this period.

2. When the Allies entered Rome Cappa had made General I.I.I. Commander, and later, on the formation of the Italian Government, he was made Chief of Liaison to the Air Minister, General Piacentini.

3. From the time of taking up his appointment it was clear that there was friction between him and General Piacentini. This came to a head about 2nd September 1944, when Piacentini told Cappa that he had received several defamatory letters about Cappa, and that in order to prevent a press campaign against him in the Communist newspaper L'Unita, he was going to send him home for about 20 days.

4. The letters were not shown to Cappa, but Piacentini told him that, amongst other things they alleged:-

(i) That while he was A.C.-in-C Italian Air Force in Rhodes, he, together with Se Vecchi, the Governor of Rhodes, made a great deal of money illegitimately.

(ii) That Cappa had also made money in the same manner with Cavallero.

(iii) That Cappa had shirked his duty as an Officer and disobeyed orders in that he did not leave for Sardinia when ordered to do so at the beginning of September 1943.

5. Cappa was then approached by an Officer who appeared to be acting as an intermediary between Piacentini and Cappa. He said that Piacentini was willing to make a pact with him, and that if he would go home he would prevent the press campaign, and would give him a Command later. If he did not do so he threatened that, whatever the decision made by the Tribunal which investigated the activities of Officers in Rome during the German occupation, Piacentini would see to it that he was held guilty, and that he would not prevent the press campaign.

6. On September 9th Piacentini forced a decision on the part of Cappa, who said he would go home as desired. Piacentini then asked him to remain in Office during his (Piacentini's) temporary absence in Paris. He also told Cappa that he had seen Scocimuro, who was a friend of his, and with whom he was apparently at school, and that he would use his influence with him at a later date in order that Cappa's expurgation trial would result favourably to him. 250

7. On September 21st, as far as the Air Force Sub-Commission was aware, Cappa was still in his post as Chief of Cabinet. On that date, however, during the course of an interview, General Piacentini told Air Vice-Marshal Owen-Hughes that Cappa had asked to go home. He said that a letter written by Cappa instructing convalescent Officers to report to the Germans had got into the hands of the Communist press who had threatened to launch a campaign against him to ruin General Cappa's

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with De Vecchi, the Governor of Rhodes, made a great deal of money illegitimately.

(14) That Cappa had also taken money in the same manner with Cavallieri.

(15) That Cappa had shared his duty as an Officer and disobeyed orders in that he did not leave for Bardonia when ordered to do so at the beginning of September 1945.

5. Cappa was then approached by an Officer who suggested to be acting as an intermediary between Piacentini and Cappa. He said that Piacentini was willing to make a pact with him, and that if he would go down he would prevent the press campaign, and would give him a Command later. If he did not do so he threatened that, whatever the decision made by the Tribunal which investigated the activities of Officers in Rome during the German occupation, Piacentini would see to it that he was held guilty, and that he would not prevent the press campaign.

6. On September 9th Piacentini forced a decision on the part of Cappa, who said he would go down as desired. Piacentini then asked him to remain in Office during his (Piacentini's) temporary absence in Bari. He also told Cappa that he had seen Soccolinuro, who was a friend of his, and with whom he was apparently at school, and that he would use his influence with him at a later date in order that Cappa's expurgation trial would result favourably to him. 280

7. On September 21st, as far as the Air Forces Sub-Commission was aware, Cappa was still in his post as Chief of Cabinet. On that date, however, during the course of an interview, General Piacentini told Air Vice-Marshal Brown-Munro that Cappa had asked to go home. He said that a letter written by Cappa instructing convalescent Officers to report to the Germans had got into the hands of the Communist press who had threatened to launch a campaign against him unless he was sent home. He was not going to fill General Cappa's job and thought he could be taken back in a month's time. After some argument General Piacentini promised to submit all the papers to the A.V.M.

8. On September 23rd it became known that General Cappa had been ordered to go home that morning.

9. Examination of the papers revealed the truth of the allegations that Cappa had given the instructions to the convalescent Officers to report to the Germans and had also given instructions for the 1st and 2nd Year Air Cadets at the Military Academy to go North with the Republican Government. In the view of the Sub-Commission it appeared certain that, unless these papers were forfeited Cappa would be held guilty by the Inquisition Tribunal. The papers were then returned to General Piacentini with a statement by the A.V.M. that he deliberately refrained from consent as the machinery for judging these cases was in existence and interference by him would be undesirable.

1946

✓

-2-

11. About 9th October it became known that the Discrimination Tribunal had absolved Gappa from any blame.

12. On 23rd October Gappa reported back from leave to the Air Ministry. General Piacentini was very affable and told him to stay at home until his case had been passed by the Expiration Tribunal.

13. Up to 16th November nothing further had been done in the case, in spite of pressure on General Piacentini by the A.V.C. On that date, at an interview General Piacentini said that he was about to advise General Gappa to retire in order to avoid having to pass through the Expiration Tribunal, at whose hands he thought he would fare badly.

14. The A.V.C. said that he considered that Gappa should be judged by the Tribunal so that a definite decision could be arrived at at once. General Piacentini promised to have this done without delay.

15. On 16th November Gappa received a letter from the President of the Expiration Tribunal, informing him that, as he did not leave for Germany when ordered to do so in early September 1943, he had been judged guilty, and subject to an explanation of his conduct, to be handed in within ten days, he would be retired.

16. On 18th November General Gappa wrote to the A.V.C. and reported the facts as given in para 14. The latter also states that the Minister of Air informed Gappa that the Military Discrimination Commission had entirely cleared him of all charges, and advised him to Category "A".

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REPORTS ON GAYRA CASE.

TOP SECRET.

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Up to 20th November the case stands as shown in paragraphs one to fifteen of the précis.

2. It will be observed that a great deal of the evidence shown in the précis comes from Gayra himself. This has reached the Sub-Commission through extremely reliable sources, and it will be observed that in nearly all instances action taken by Piacentini and the allegations against Gayra have followed suit. In particular the fact that accusing letters were in the hands of the Communist press is confirmed by Piacentini and the question of the instructions given to convicted officers and the first and second year Air Cadets is also confirmed.

3. It seems a curious fact that if Gayra was in so at all it was not at the hands of the Discrimination Tribunal, but it must be noted that General Brundage, President of the Tribunal, who had been called from retirement especially to take up this task, was subsequently found guilty at the hands of the Espionage Tribunal and sent into retirement again.

4. During the course of a discussion on discrimination, General Piacentini told the A.V.C. that he had an over-riding authority in the case of persons who had passed through the Discrimination Tribunal. He was at liberty to reverse any of their decisions if he thought necessary. The papers would then go to Lardini House who would comment on them if he thought fit, and then they would be returned to General Piacentini who had the final say in the matter. It seems odd, therefore, that Piacentini did not exercise his right in the case of Gayra and it appears that the only solution is that he shrunk from a step which would obviously be found out by the Allies and which would bring him into disrepute. If nothing more.

5. We know from very sources that Piacentini is tying himself in very closely with the Communist Party and that he is friendly with Scocciasarro who is responsible for espionage.

6. On first examination it seems the Espionage Tribunal have gone completely out of their ground in discussing Gayra for failing to go to Lardini. This, in the view of this Sub-Commission, is entirely a matter for the Discrimination Tribunal and whatever may have been the facts of the case, the Discrimination Tribunal have acquitted Gayra. Advice on this point is now being sought from Major Pulsteri.

7. There are therefore strong indications that Piacentini has used his influence with Scocciasarro to have Gayra sent into retirement.

8. In the view of this Sub-Commission it is a step which is likely to lower the morale of the Italian Air Force and therefore its capacity to aid the Allied war effort. With Piacentini in power it would be quite impossible, Italian being what they are, to find anyone who would openly express sympathy with ^{Cappa} but there must be very many who, having seen the head of the Secret Resistance

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5. During the course of a discussion on discrimination, General Piacentini told the A.F.F. that he had no over-riding authority in the case of persons who had passed through the Discrimination Tribunal. He was at liberty to reverse any of their decisions if he thought necessary. His parents would then go to Marshal Lannes who would comment on them if he thought fit, and then they would be returned to General Piacentini who had the final say in the matter. It seems odd, therefore, that Piacentini did not advise him right in the case of Cappa and it appears that the only solution is that he derived from a step which would obviously be found out by the Allies and which would bring him into disrepute, if nothing worse.
6. It now from many sources that Piacentini is tising himself in very closely with the Communist party and that he is friendly with Scocciasarro who is responsible for operation.
7. On first examination it seems the Operation Tribunal have gone completely out of their ground in dismissing Cappa for failing to go to Sardinia. This, in the view of this Sub-Commission, is entirely a matter for the Discrimination Tribunal and whatever may have been the facts of the case, the Discrimination Tribunal have acquitted Cappa. Advice on this point is now being sought from Major Palmieri.
8. There are therefore strong indications that Piacentini has used his influence with Scocciasarro to have Cappa sent into retirement.
9. In the view of this Sub-Commission it is a step which is likely to lower the morale of the Italian Air Force and therefore its capacity to aid the Allied war effort. With Piacentini in power it would be quite impossible, Italians being what they are, to find anyone who would openly express sympathy with ^{Cappa} but there must be very many who, having seen the head of the Secret Repertoire from in Rome dealt with in this manner, must be wondering if the same might not happen to them one day.
10. It may also be pointed out that the Operation Tribunal appears to have completely overlooked the provisions of articles 16 and 17 of the decree as to sanctions against Fascism which provide that any person distinguishing himself in the struggle against the Germans after the 14 September 1943 or who, by his acts, has effectively aided the Patriots or who has undermined the work of the Germans, or of the Republican Regime Government may be exempted from punishment.

20th November, 1944.

W. A. B. Buncaster
AM.

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
INTER OFFICE MEMO

From: Office of the Chief of Staff.

SUBJECT: Defascistisation - Italian Air Force.

TO: Deputy Chief of Staff,
Civil Affairs Section.

FILE No. 1505/1/COS.

3rd October, 1944.

1. Unless there is a distinct improvement within a week we should represent this to the Italian Government (Prime Mediator) in the strongest terms.

2. In the meantime I note that the High Commissioner will be "pressed". Will you ask Major Paladini to report on 10th October.

M.S.L. 2802
Chief of Staff. (1079)

602 10 sec 5-

144 HQ ACC. AND 300
NO. 5447 300 CH
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466 1 Oct 1738

DFE

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I have studied the Italian Press fairly ^{thoroughly} ~~deeply~~, and I find that there is a general complaint against the slow progress which is being made in de-fascistization, and that the regrettable events at the Lamsa trial are cited as being a manifestation of popular discontent with this movement. This is as it may be, but I do feel that the will of the Italian Government to get on with this work quickly, and our good faith as a driving force behind them and in backing them up, can be seriously criticized.

I had a long talk with the Air Minister, General Maccentini, yesterday evening, on this subject, and he feels exactly the same as I do in the matter, and is ready and willing to do all that he can to expedite it.

W. L. Bauman - Brewster - 2001

W.A.2. BOTTEN-HEUSCHKE,
AIR VICE-MARSHAL,
AIR CRAFT COMMANDER.

0001-9054/01/0005-0000\$10.00/0

I agree with Major Palford that we should start at the top and work downwards, and that there must be no exceptions whatever, and that the work should be got on with without delay and without quibbling over minor details.

I have studied the Italian Press fairly closely, and I find that there is a general complaint against the slow progress which is being made in declassification, and that the regrettable events at the Garino trial are cited as being a manifestation of popular discontent with this slowness. This is as it may be, but I do feel that the will of the Italian Government to get on with this work quickly, and our good faith as a driving force behind them and in backing them up, can be seriously criticized.

I feel most strongly that we should use whatever authority we have to press the Italian Government to proceed with this matter more quickly and on more logical lines.

I had a long talk with the Air Minister, General Piacentini, yesterday evening, on this subject, and he feels exactly the same as I do in the matter, and is ready and willing to do all that he can to expedite it.

W.C.

1st Ld

W.C. Barnard-Burster
1041

W.A.B. BOWEN-SHARCANT,
AIR VICE-MARSHAL,
AIR OFFICE COMMANDING.

Reference the above. I attach a letter from the [redacted] on the subject of pressing the High Commissioner and will particularly watch the processing of this Commission.

AIR FORCE/STP-COMMISSION,
AIR OFFICE COMMANDING,
RAF.
REF: APO/110/17.
DATE: 20th SEPTEMBER 1944.

G.P. OFFICE 1112.
T.P. Admin Sec.

1 Oct 44

✓ 5

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(8A)

ITALIAN AIR MINISTRY DEFASSCISING COMMISSIONS.

Major Palmieri special A.C.C. liaison officer for defascising expressed a desire to meet the members of the epuration commission at the Air Ministry. A meeting was arranged for 9.30 this morning at Via Umbria 2 where the Commission resides.

The Commission for epuration of military personnel with its chairman Comm. Gregori was present in its entirety as also Comm. Troise chairman of the Commission dealing with civil servants. Both these chairmen are judges of the Court of Appeal.

Major Palmieri began by outlining the views of the A.C.C. regarding epuration laying particular stress on the fact that the epuration of senior officers and higher grade civil servants was of higher importance than that of junior officers and minor officials.

His discourse was very soon interrupted as both chairmen obviously disagreed. It was pointed out that his views were in conflict with the letter of the law as laid down in the decrees against fascism. This led to further discussions.

Major Palmieri was very seldom being allowed to have his say. The question of the so called schede was brought up. That such individual forms should have to be completed had never been contemplated when the decree was drawn up. Was the Commission to start its work all over again?

It was suggested that such minor problems could easily be solved by consulting the assistant High Commissioner whose representative Dr. Calvi was present but abstained from taking any active part in the discussion. His attitude was that of an observer.

The chairman then turned to the question of who was and who was not a fascist. It was pointed out to us that the directives of the Chief Commissioner, dated May 24th, stated most clearly in list B who should be classified as a fascist, but subsequent instructions added other categories such as members of the Fiume Legion and of the OVRA. This had never been contemplated in the first instance.

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Major Palmieri was very seldom being allowed to have his say. The question of the so called schedule was brought up. That such individual forms should have to be completed had never been contemplated when the decree was drawn up. Was the Commission to start its work all over again?

It was suggested that such minor problems could easily be solved by consulting the assistant High Commissioner whose representative Dr. Calvi was present but abstained from taking any active part in the discussion. His attitude was that of an observer.

The chairman then turned to the question of who was not a fascist. It was pointed out to us that the correctives of the Chief Commissioner, dated May 24th, stated most clearly in list B who should be classified as a fascist, but subsequent instructions added other categories such as members of the Fiume Legion and of the OVRA. This had never been contemplated in the first instance.

It was pointed out to the chairmen of the commissions that the OVRA was the fascist secret police and members of the OVRA were therefore just about the worst of the paid fascist spies and common sense dictated that as such they should be expurgated forthwith.

The meeting was most inconclusive and when it broke up Major Palmieri remarked to me that it was the most unsatisfactory meeting he had ever attended.

The trouble appears to lie in the fact that the chairmen of both commissions are judges of the Court of Appeal and as such insist on applying the letter of the law which in this instance is embodied in the Gazzetta Ufficiale of the 29th July which they consider their legal code.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394
ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION

(6A)

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT : Defascism in the Italian Air Ministry

7850164

TO : Brig. Upjohn VP Admin Section

I have made representations to His Excellency Scocimarro regarding the Epuration Commissions of the Italian Air Ministry. The Presidents of the Commissions impressed me as being quarrelsome and captious, and lacking in administrative ability.

The general picture portrayed by Air Vice Marshall Bowen-Buscarlet and S/Cdr de Haan is quite accurate.

The work of these Commissions will be followed closely by the High Commissioners Office and by us.

E.L. Palmieri
E.L. PALMIERI
Maj. AUS.

CLP/cv

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5 AUG 1944
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From : AIR FORCES SUB COMMISSION

To : VICE PRESIDENT, ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION, A.C.C.

Date : 13th August 1944

Ref. : AFSC/INT/17

Defascising.-

The following are the names of persons appointed to the Commission on Defascising at the Italian Air Ministry.-

1.- COMMISSION DEALING WITH THE MILITARY PERSONNEL.-

S.E. Nicola MASCI
President of Section of
the Supreme Court of
Appeal.

President of the Commission

S.E. Ignazio DE FIRRO
1st President of the
Court of Appeal

Deputy of the above

Col. Pil. Spartaco BACCARI

Representing the Italian
Air Ministry

Ten.Cel.Pil.Giulio SCAETTA

Deputy of the above

Dr. Antonio CALVI

Representing the High Commission
for Defascising

2.- COMMISSION DEALING WITH CIVILIAN PERSONNEL.-

Comm. Alessandro GREGORI
Counsellor of the Court
of Appeal

President of the Commission 2797

Comm. Raffaele TORRISI
Counsellor of the Court
of Appeal

Deputy of the above

Avv. Ugo GARRONI
First Secretary

Representing the Italian
Air Ministry

Prof. Francesco SENSI
Chief Technical Head
Draftsman

Deputy of the aforementioned

Dr. Antonio CALVI

Representing the High Commission
for Defascising

P. de Haan

(P. de Haan)

S/Ldr Int.

for Deputy Director

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394
ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION

DE/2/AS

2Aug 44

SUBJECT : Defascism.

TO : Air Force Sub-Commission.

Reference your AFSC/INT/17 of 1 Aug.

- 1 A direction of the working and a translation of the decree for defascism are about to be issued which will assist to clarify the position.
- 2 Italians who have been suspended or not re-employed are not by Italian law dismissed. To regularise their position the Italian Government will have either to dismiss or re-instate them. The purge which has taken place is by ~~us~~ ~~means~~ for our purposes, that which is about to take place is by the Italians for their purposes, but we, because we have said that fascists will be removed are concerned to see that the Government does in fact deal with the question.
- 3 All the cases to which you refer will have to go before the Ministerial Commission in due course.

S.H. WHITE, Lt Col
for A/Head, Adm Sec.

Ext: 469
SMW/wc

795

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

From : AIR FORCES SUB COMMISSION, A.C.C.
 To : VICE PRESIDENT, ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION, A.C.C.
 Date : 31st July 1944
 Ref. : AFSC/INT/17

(27)

1 AUG 1944

Progress Report on Defascising of
Italian Air Ministry

1. Measures for the defascising of the Italian Air Force in its entirety were agreed upon some time ago and from the 1st August 1944 all Italian Air Force personnel who belonged to the Fascist party will, with few exceptions, be removed from the Service. The exceptions are some seven or eight officers who on the 8th September flew their aircraft to Allied occupied territory and have since been operating actively against the Nazi Fascist forces. These few cases are being specially investigated.

It will thus be seen that the epuration of the Italian Air Force (and consequently of the Italian Air Ministry) is already well in hand.

2. With regard to the defascising of the Italian Air Ministry proper, the Minister for Air has been notified by the President of the Council of Ministers that a Commission is being appointed consisting of a Judge of the Law Court, a representative of the Italian Air Force, a representative of the Civil Servants and a representative of the Italian Defascising Commission (Commissione di Defascistizzazione). The representative of the latter is Dott. Antonio Calvi. The names of the other three candidates have not so far been received but will be forthcoming shortly.

W.A. Bowen-Buscarlet : 79.

W.A. BOWEN-BUSCARLET
 AIR VICE MARSHAL
 Air Officer Commanding

A/362

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

SUBJECT : Defascism

TO :

Air Sub-Commission

DF/2.10/AS.

I have to inform you that the High Commissioner for Defascism has appointed the undermentioned person to be his representative in the Ministerial Commission of the Ministry of Aviation.

Dott. Antonio Calvi

2793

ADMIN SEC
29 Jul 44

S.H. WHITE Lt Col
For A/Ad. Admin Sec.

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