

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785017

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FORTUNATO VILLANI
JULY 1944

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
R.C. & M.C. SECTION
APO 394

Ref/T75/3/CA

14 July 1944

SUBJECT: FORTUNATO VILLANI.

TO : Mrs. Audrey Villani Kingsford,
Via Pizzo dei 3 Signori 8,
Rome (Montesacro)

With reference to your memorandum (undated) on the subject of your husband, the Italian Army Authorities have been approached and are now enquiring into the matter.

SV
NORMAN E. FISKE
Colonel
Deputy Executive
Commissioner

MP 204

Cor Pidsley, O Aug, Yc. 2

Can you please throw any
light on this case?

Edwin Major.

RC. M.G.

5/7/44.

I have told Italian Army Authorities
that we will not normally interfere in
their domestic matters.

I should say he has backed the
wrong horse & has lost his stake.

He must now take the consequences

W. Pidsley

Colonel
MMIA

5/17/44.

20303
BU. 10/17
see 3 ✓

Memorandum concerning col. Fortunato VILLANI.

In 1939 my husband was eligible to be placed on the Staff, but was not admitted because of my nationality (British).

In 1942 he was sent to Albania because of my nationality and I was under Intelligence Service supervision during his absence.

He returned to Italy in June 1943 and was placed at the disposition of the Inspectorate of Motorized Troops while waiting for the command of a regiment.

On July 23 he was taken ill with double pleurisy and was confined to bed until the end of October. After the events of September 8 therefore he could not hide nor could he become a member of a Partisan group.

On November 11 he was given 3 months convalescent leave by the Medical Board, but in January 1944 the Germans ordered all convalescent officers to go north. A short time before this an agent of the military intelligence service (previously seen by neighbours hanging round the house) called and asked for information regarding me and regarding my husband's status as a convalescent officer of the Royal Army. He realised therefore the impossibility of trying to hide (we have no relations either in Rome or further north) and was faced with the alternative of going North (without me or our boy of 11, leaving us without sufficient means to live - expenses of his illness were heavy - with the almost certain probability of being interned or worse by the German or Fascist S.S.) or of trying to find a job in which he could be of some use to his country and which would enable him to stay in Rome until the Allies arrived.

He finally succeeded in obtaining such a job through General Paldella (his Chief before he was sent to Albania and also his friend and therefore cognisant of my nationality) as head of the Ordnance Delegation in Rome, and has succeeded in salvaging and preserving a considerable quantity of military material (material hidden from the Germans and Fascists in various places and now at the disposition of the Italian military authorities).

His Delegation was transferred (by order of Graziani) to Viterbo, where, after delaying his departure as much as possible, he went on May 23, leaving all the material in Rome. After staying 2 days in Viterbo he returned to Rome, where, in spite of repeated and peremptory orders from General Magaldi to return to Viterbo, he remained on various trumped-up pretexts and not without considerable risk, waiting for the liberation of Rome.

He has prepared a report for the Italian military authorities, and I beg that you give orders that his case may be examined without delay so that he may be reinstated and not considered as an ex-Republican officer, since he was the latter in name only, and that solely because of my nationality. His case is unique and in helping him and therefore me, you would not create a precedent.

Audrey Villani Kingsford
via Picco dei 3 Signori 8,
ROME (Montesacro)

Tel. 891.083

see 3

2045

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