

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785020

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Officer C

NOV 1941

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A1/9

Officer Only - Confidential Report - Territorial Command

NOV 1946 - Dec. 1946

(212/213)

SECRET

Major A.K. EDWARDS-WYLLIE, DEVONS
GSO II
2 BRITISH LIAISON UNIT
DO/Z

Dec. 20th 46.

Dear Smithy

Herewith series of "thumb nail sketches"
as requested in your DO/6 of 14 Nov.

You will observe that I have been able to give only fragmentary details of past war services of the officers concerned; this is because I have never been particularly interested, unless in exceptional cases, in the pre-liberation record of the Ity officers with whom I have been in contact, my estimation of their character and rehabilitation being based on what I could see or could estimate from their present activities. Percy Thropp's view is the same and in view of the confidential nature of the reports required it has not been advisable to ask for factual details in the past month.

I have confined the reports to those officers we know really well, they being the people we meet most frequently officially and socially. Reports on the others with whom I am acquainted would be too fragmentary to be of value.

The present series of sketches is as "true to life" as a detached observer can make them without the assistance of a "trick cyclist" and the latest Ity Army List.

The sketches are attached as appendices to this letter.

A report on General FORCIERO was forwarded under cover of our A 1/9 of 2 Dec.

M.S. *Alw?*

Lt Col A.R.C. SMITHY, DSO, Rifle Bde
GSO I (ED)
LAND POWERS SUB COM AC (MILA) R O M H

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I have confined the reports to those officers we know really well, they being the people we meet most frequently officially and socially. Reports on the others with whom I am acquainted would be too fragmentary to be of value.

The present series of sketches is as "true to life" as a detached observer can make them without the assistance of a "trick cyclist" and the latest City Army List.

The sketches are attached as appendices to this letter.

A report on General PERIERO was forwarded under cover of our A 1/9 of 2 Dec.

M.S. *Am?*

1st Col A.R.O. SCOTLAND, DRS, Rifle Bde
CSO I(SD)
LAND FORCES SUB COM AC (MIA) R O M F

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APPENDIX 'A'

MAGLIANO Emilio, Gen di Brigata
Comandante Fanteria 2 Comiliter, GENOVA

Age 54. Served in 1914-18 war with Alpini troops in N. ITALY. Served in Abyssinian campaign 1936 and in W. Desert 1940-42. On 8 Sep 43 refused further service and remained in hiding: subsequently organised active partisan resistance. Taken prisoner by S.S. and later escaped to continue his partisan activities.

Active, intelligent, physically fit, sense of humor, well educated. Pro-British and French. Every good officer indeed and one fitted for high command.

MARINELLI Enrico, Gen di Brigata
Comandante Artiglieria 2 Comiliter, GENOVA

Age 53(?). Served in France 1914-18 war. Service in 1940-45 war prior to 43 not known. In Sep 43 fled to mountains near Genoa and claims to have organised partisan bands and served until end of war as partisan leader or organizer.

Cleatly and precise in appearance and manner. A type more likely to be encountered in the Vatican than the offices of a military command. No personality and unlikely to issue a direct order but possibly a good Desk Room Boy.

CORDARO DI MONTEMELO Alberto, Gen di Brigata
Comandante Divisione Mantova

Age 36. Served in 1914-18 war. Entirely taken prisoner 1941 in Desert, and spent 3-4 years as POW in India.

Intelligent, active, exuberant, charming. A good leader but rather "dated" in military affairs. Temperamentally inclined to "grudge" about conditions rather than to take active steps to alter them. Pro-British.

BUACCI Enrico, Gen di Brigata
Comandante Fanteria Divisione Mantova

Age 55(?). Served in France 1914-18 war. Service in 1940-45 war prior to '43 not known. In Sep 43 fled to mountains near Genoa and claims to have organized partisan bands and served until end of war as partisan leader or organizer.

Clearly and precise in appearance and manner. A type more likely to be encountered in the Vatican than the offices of a military command. No personality and unlikely to issue a direct order but possibly a good head room boy.

CORDARO DI MONTAZEMMO Alberto. Gen di Maata
Comandante Divisione Mankova

Age 56. Served in 1914-18 war. Eritrea taken prisoner 1941 in Desert, and spent 3-4 years as POW in India.

Intelligent, active, exuberant, charming. A good leader but rather "dated" in military affairs. Temperamentally inclined to "grease" about conditions rather than to take active steps to alter them. Pro-British.

MEACCI Ettore. Gen di Brigate
Comandante Fantasia Divisione Martora

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Age about 50. Served in 1914-18 war. Has never served outside Italy. Fat "comfortable" type whose character and outlook is difficult to assess. Doesn't talk much but listens attentively. A man who, in company, stands a little apart and gives the impression of storing up scraps of information in the hope that some day they may be put to use. Rather lethargic in manner, which might cover a more dynamic character than is apparent at first glance.

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INDEX 'A' Cont

AMBROGI LAURO, Colonnello C.O.
Comandante Legione Territoriale C.O.

Age 52. Served in 1914-18 war. No details of subsequent Active Service. Extremely able and efficient. Controls his legion as would a good Lt Col by giving orders, and, by personal inspection, ensuring that they are properly carried out. Active and fairly fit. Pro-British.

CHIAPARINO GUIDO, Colonnello Art
Capo di S.M. 2 Comiliter, Genova

Age 50. Served in 1914-18 war and judging from his ribbons has seen much Active Service elsewhere. Efficient, calm, with the essential qualities of a good Lt Col. Political tendencies not known but always extremely willing to co-operate with the BR.

SALVI GIORGIO, Colonnello Inf
Comandante 76 Regg. Ftr Mantova

Age 49. Served in 1914-18 war. From 1940-43 served as Official 61 Stato Maggiore and claims to have taken some part in surrender negotiations with Col Taylor at Rome in 1943. Probably one of the most efficient officers in this Territorial Command. A martinet, self-organized, inclined to lose his temper and be rude even when rudeness is not warranted. Intelligent and original. Knows every detail of the unit under his command and clever at improvisation. Fit and active. Very Pro-Italian, rather anti-British and anti-monarchist. Gives one the impression that if the Interim It Army had been left to him to re-organize it would have been as good if not better without any help from Allied or other sources.

FINZI SANDRO, Colonnello Inf
Comandante 114 Regg. Ftr Verona

Age 49. Alpini. Served in 1914-18 war. Active 1940-42. Later POW in Germany for 2 years. Commands his Bde in an efficient manner. Intelligent, calm, a good idler, extremely active.

Age 50. Served in 1914-18 war and judging from his ribbons has seen such active service elsewhere. Efficient, calm, with the essential qualities of a good U. S. Political tendencies not known but always extremely willing to co-operate with the BLM.

SAINT GIOVANNI, Colonello Etr
Commandante 76 Reg. Etr Mantova

Age 49. Served in 1914-18 war. From 1940-43 served as Official at Stato Maggiore and claims to have taken some part in surrender negotiations with Col Taylor at Rome in 1943. Probably one of the most efficient officers in this territorial command. A martinet, self-undisciplined, inclined to lose his temper and be rude even when rudeness is not warranted. Intelligent and original. Knows every detail of the unit under his command and clever at improvisation. Fit and active, Very Pro-Italian, rather anti-British and anti-monarchist. Gives one the impression that if the Italian Key Army had been left to him to re-organize it would have been as good if not better without any help from Allied or other sources.

SAINT GIOVANNI, Colonello Etr
Commandante 114 Reg. Etr Mantova

Age 49. Alpini. Served in 1914-18 war. Africa 1940-42. Later POW in Germany for 2 years. Commands his Bde in an efficient manner. Intelligent, calm, a good mixer, extremely active.

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APPENDIX 'A' Cont

HUGO FRANCESCO, Colonello Ftz
Comandante 2 C.A.R.

Age 50. Served in 1914-18 war. Britain and Africa 1940-43. Alpini and Paracondistiti. A very able Staff Officer and organizer. Quiet, efficient, well liked and respected by his officers and men. Beneath an unassuming exterior conceals drive, efficiency and tenacity. Has a great admiration for British methods and British people. Intelligent but not forward enough to provide himself with a position worthy of his merits.

MARINI GILVIO, Colonello Art
Comandante 155 Pant Art Batterie

Age 45. Served 1914-18 war. Abyssinian campaign '36. Africa 1941-42. Later taken POW by Germans and imprisoned for two years. Fat, "comfortable" type with no apparent force of character or personality but intelligent and observant. Inclined to defer to others but if left to his own resources could make quite a good show of any command. Pro-monarchist.

VIGILERO REMIGIO, Colonello Ftz
Comandante 2 Pant Ftz, 2nd Div

Age 52. Served as al-fund in 1914-18 war and in Italy Desert Forces in 1940-42. Became partisan leader after Sep 43 and had many unpleasant experiences on being captured by German S.S. A quiet, earnest and tenacious little man with administrative gifts who, when given a difficult job to do, would slog away quietly and efficiently gaining the respect of his officers and men but little praise or credit from unscrupulous higher authority.

MICHELLOTTI DOMENICO, Gen. Colonello Art
Deputy C of 3, 2 Cavalier

Age about 44. A Stato Maggiore Officer who would probably be far too highly strung to be any good at any more active employment. Served in Ethiopia during the 1936 campaign. Gives the impression of being more of a jittery year-man than a good Staff Officer. Not, one author, particularly popular.

Age 45. Served 1914-18 war. Abyssinian campaign '16. Africa
"comfortable" type with no apparent force of character or personality but
intelligent and observant. Inclined to defer to others but if left to his
own resources could make quite a good show of any command. Pro-monarchist.

VIGILERO Remigio, Colonello Rtr
Comandante 2 Rgt Rtr, CNR

Age 52. Served as alpinist in 1914-18 war and in Ity Desert Forces
in 1940-42. Became partisan leader after Sep 43 and had many unpleasant
experiences on being captured by German S.S. A quiet, earnest and tenacious
little man with administrative gifts who, when given a difficult job to do,
would slog away quietly and efficiently gaining the respect of his officers
and men but little praise or credit from undiscerning higher authority.

MONALZATTI Domenico, Ten. Colonello Art
Davuty C of S. 2 Division

Age about 44. A stark Mayhew officer who would probably be
far too highly strung to be any good at any more active employment.
Served in Ethiopia during the 1936 campaign. Gives the impression of being
more of a jittery yes-man than a good Staff Officer. Not, one gathers,
particularly popular.

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EDIX 'A' Cont

GIULIANO Antonio, Ten. Colonnello Per
Capo di S.M. Divisione Mantova, VARESE

Age 49. Served in 1914-18 war and went to Russia with Ity Forces and served there during 1914-18. Member of original surrender commission on 5 Sep 43. Expecting promotion very shortly, possibly to command of an Ity Regt in Mantova Div. Fat, volubal, practical - a typical Central Italian type in character, appearance and manner. Ambitious and willing to hunt with fox or hounds as circumstances dictate. A good man in his present job, capable, efficient and possessed of drive.

ANTONIO Alberto, Ten. Colonnello Per
Capo Ufficio Operazioni e Addestramento, 2 Comiliter

Age about 40. A stato Maggiore officer who knows his job. Not a very pleasant personality but probably one of the most efficient Staff Officers in the HQ. A studious, unathletic type, would probably not be much good at field work. A little too shifty and polite to inspire much confidence.

LUCIANA Guido, Ten. Colonnello Per
Vice Comandante 2 C.A.B.

Age 49. Served in 1914-18 war. Later in Spain and Exithes. Organised and formed the first Italian Parachute Regt in 1940. Captured in Western Desert 1942. Not a "Staff" type. A "pocor", vain but observant, boastful yet capable; a soldier of experience and a powerful leader.

DI IEO Alberto, Maggiore Alpini
Maggiore Ufficio del Ufficio

Age about 35. Alpini. Has seen little active service in last war. Has ability above the ordinary, being active and enthusiastic in all matters relating to the formation of a really efficient Ity Army. To him is due, in association with the Commander of the C.A.B., the efficient try-up of the 2000th at GEMO, (2 C.A.B.). Has an eye for detail, an insatiable thirst for new methods of training and is ambitious for command of troops. One of the very best officers in his rank in this Command.

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Age about 40. A Stato Maggiore officer who knows his job. Not a very pleasant personality but probably one of the most efficient staff officers in the HQ. A studious, unathletic type, would probably not be much good at field work. A little too shifty and polite to inspire real confidence.

LUSIGNA Guido, Ten. Colonnello Per
Vice Comandante 2 C.A.R.

Age 49. Served in 1914-18 war. Later in Spain and Ethiopia. Organized and formed the first Italian Parachute Regt in 1940. Captured in Western Desert 1942. Not a "staff" type. A "passeur", vain but observant, beautiful yet capable; a soldier of experience and a fierce leader.

DI LEO Alberto, Maggiore Alpini
Divisione Adetto del Ufficio

Age about 35. Alpini. Has seen little active service in last war. Has ability above the ordinary, being active and enthusiastic in all matters relating to the formation of a really efficient Icy army. To him is due, in association with the Commander of the CAR, the efficient methods of the recruits at CUREO, (2 CAR). Has an eye for detail, an insatiable thirst for new methods of training and is ambitious for command of troops. One of the very best officers in his rank in this Command.

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MARTINATO Frederico, Maggiore Vet
Director of V and N Services, 2 Cavalier

Age about 35. Holds down, together with two subordinate officers, a job for which there is little or no justification. Is reported to have taken up veterinary work to keep his parents quiet and now to have forgotten all he learnt. Has always had staff jobs and declares that he would rather readen his commission than handle sick animals. A good-time Charlie of very little use.

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Telephone:
Rome 489081 Ext 380

LAND FORCES SUB-COMM, AC (MMIA) CMF

231 A

10 Dec 46

2 BLU

Subject:- Confidential Report.

Reference your confidential letter A 1/9 of 2 Dec 46.

1. It is confirmed that the original report dated 28 Oct 46 did reach this HQ and is in the possession of the B.G.S.

MHR/wf

M. H. Renshaw
Lt-Col,
AAG, MMIA.

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13 DEC 1946

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CONFIDENTIAL

(3)

Subject:- Confidential Report

2 British Liaison Unit.
Tel: 56575
A 1/9

2 Dec 46

To:- HQ, M.M.I.A., ROME

See fol 1

1. Herewith copy of Confidential Report on General FORGIERO telephone conversation today MYRNE - MOTT refers.
2. It is regretted that it was not possible to be more explicit during the conversation but as all telephone calls emanating from this HQ are tapped and dictaphoned the necessity for security is obvious.
3. In view of the confidential nature of the attached report which was first dated and despatched on 28 Oct may it please be confirmed that the original letter did not in fact reach your HQ.

Ans.

Major.
G IL

GENOVA.

AKEE/KJS.

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CONFIDENTIAL

Subject:- Confidential Report - General FORCIERO

2 British Liaison Unit.
Tel: 56575
A 1/9

2 Dec 46

To:- HQ, M.M.I.A., ROME

1. It is becoming evident that the units of this Territorial Command are not welded together as a corporate body under the direction and control of the GOC 2nd Territorial Command. The dependant formations and units are reasonably efficient, indeed they could be described as satisfactory from most points of view, but this state of efficiency is a result of the efforts of their commanders and does not necessarily depend on the direction, supervision, knowledge and ability of the GOC.

2. It is difficult to produce any concrete facts on which the GOC can be criticised, in fact at the conclusion of interviews with him one is left with the impression of his attempting to convey that everything is running so smoothly in the Territorial Command that one's visit has been superfluous. One can never feel sure whether this "phony" optimism is due to indifference or to an attempt to mask his apparent lack of ability. On several occasions it has been found that he was not acquainted with conditions within units of which an active and capable commander would have been well aware.

3. It is not easy exactly to assess the character and capabilities of members of the staff at Territorial Command owing to a certain atmosphere of amiable vacuity which permeates the headquarters and which is readily discernable to the regular visitor. It is considered that a shaking up process is desirable after which a sounder appreciation of the individual members of the staff could be made. This shaking up process should normally be initiated by the commander and would in due course have its effects on all units in this Territorial Command.

4. In an important formation such as 2 Territorial Command including as it does an Inf Div it is considered essential that the GOC be active and possessed of a character, personality and temperament strong enough to inspire all units under his command and weld them into a unified body.

5. It is the considered opinion of this BLS that General FORCIERO is either not possessed of these qualities or is not sufficiently energetic to use them.

6. It is not intended that this should be considered as a final adverse report on General FORCIERO's capabilities but, undoubtedly, there are grounds for suggesting his posting to an administrative position not directly connected with the command of a formation such as this.

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GENOVA.

AKCB/KTS.

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[Handwritten signature]

Major.
G II.

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[illegible]

also the a great deal of direct action, the last being about 1890, in which I and my party took the vessels to sail along about a dozen, Captain Caplan, including the Greek was living in answer for their hypotheses, action and the the whole matter is now being cleared up, it is very light and I feel the very pleasant.

There is also evidence of things being done as to a certain extent uncoordinatedly in London & they had been to be pointed out. There has now received information that the existing situation is also being in a way discussed and that we have to take into account the fact.

[illegible]

one would, even if he did not make his
in his own mind, that the world is
our help is needed in the quality of
last one, the more of the world that is
the more of the world that is

2. There is something you feel you could do in this nature, etc. (with permission of a local group) - they can make an inquiry to the national office regarding such content.

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