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Security Intelligence Reports(34)
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Sept. 1944 - June 1945

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY
APO LGL US ARMY

RCV/jad
25 June 1945

SUBJECT: Security Intelligence Report - Italian Troops with Fifth Army.

TO: Land Forces Sub Commission A.C. (WMAIA)
APO 394, US Army.

1. Reference your file No. S/L/106/1 of 7 December 1944.

2. General Security:

a. Morale: Since the liberation of Northern Italy and the termination of the war in Italy, morale among the Italian officers and men have been high. Was always lead to believe that they liked only peacetime soldiering, now I am convinced of it. Instead of ANGLs, 210 Division is consistently over its ceiling. Most of the troops are not now gainfully employed and appear to like it.

b. Anti-Allied Activities or Trends: None that I know of.

c. Illegal Storage of Arms or Ammunition: None

d. Political Activity: No officer within my knowledge has been spreading any propaganda or taking any part in any political activity.

e. Relations with and attitude towards Allied Troops: Very satisfactory as far as officers and soldiers are concerned.

f. Discipline: No problem.

g. Summary of Military Security: Not important now.

3. Personalities:

a. Information on higher leaders:

(1) General Officer, Commanding Territorial HQ No. 6, CERICA Angelo; appointment, General Staff, Lieutenant General; age 60. Reasonably cooperative, not obstructive, his political views are likewise no doubt as indicated above for other Italian officers but he is not engaging in any political activity to my knowledge. I consider him an efficient, capable and trustworthy officer. Understood General Clark recommended him for the American Legion of Merit.

(2) General Officer, Commanding 210 Division, CORTESE Giuseppe; appointment, General Staff, Brigadier General; age 56. Reasonably cooperative, not obstructive, his political views are no doubt as indicated above for other Italian

2. General Security:

- a. Morale: Since the liberation of Northern Italy and the termination of the war in Italy, morale among the Italian officers and men have been high. Was always lead to believe that they liked only peacetime soldiering, now I am convinced of it. Instead of ANOLs, 210 Division is consistently over its ceiling. Most of the troops are not now gainfully employed and appear to like it.
- b. Anti-Allied Activities or Trends: None that I know of.
- c. Illegal Storage of Arms or Ammunition: None
- d. Political Activity: No officer within my knowledge has been spreading any propaganda or taking any part in any political activity.
- e. Relations with and attitude towards Allied Troops: Very satisfactory as far as officers and soldiers are concerned.
- f. Discipline: No problem.
- g. Summary of Military Security: Not important now.

3. Personalities:

a. Information on higher leaders:

- (1) General Officer, Commanding Territorial HQ No. 6, GERICA Angelo; appointment, General Staff, Lieutenant General; age 60. Reasonably cooperative, not obstructive, his political views are likewise no doubt as indicated above for other Italian officers but he is not engaging in any political activity to my knowledge. I consider him an efficient, capable and trustworthy officer. Understand General Clark recommended him for the American Legion of Merit.
- (2) General Officer, Commanding 210 Division, CORTESI Giuseppe; appointment, General Staff, Brigadier General; age 56. Reasonably cooperative, not obstructive, his political views are no doubt as indicated above for other Italian officers but he is not engaging in any political activity to my knowledge. I consider him an efficient officer and possessing considerable energy. I recommend him for the Legion of Merit.

4. Conclusion: The above opinions and views are my own and based upon my own observations which of course are limited in scope. So far as I can determine, generally speaking, no serious disaffection, lack of loyalty or any other willful disloyal activity has or does exist among the Italian officers and men assigned or attached to Fifth Army which would be inimical to the interests of the Allies.

R. C. VAN KIRK
Major, Inf.,
Sr. (MIA) ID,
5th Army

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

Sr. (MIA) LO,
5th Army

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a. **Morale:** Absences without leave and desertions by Italian soldiers continue. The percentage of AWOLs among the IS-ITs is .020%, while the percentage for the ITI-ITs in this area is .0081. These absences are caused by a lack of discipline inherent in the Italian Army, and in not so much a question of morale. Much is being done to improve morale. Good food and clothes helps build up morale more than anything else. The distribution of reading matter, newspapers, and the establishment of recreation rooms also help. In addition to the "Via Patria" which is being distributed, 210 Division has a newspaper of its own which gives more local news and pertains just to 210 Division units.

b. **Propaganda, Pro-Foreign, Anti-Allied Activities or Trends:** None that I know of among the troops. *There is a great deal of propaganda work being done by the Germans and Italians in the area.*

c. **Illegal Storage of Arms or Ammunition:** None.

d. **Political Activity:** The Italian officers with whom I come in contact, apparently fear a communist Italy and are likely to favor continuing the monarchy. No officer within my knowledge has been spreading any propaganda or taking any part in any political activity.

e. **Relations with and attitude towards Allied Troops:** Very satisfactory as far as officers and soldiers are concerned.

f. **Discipline:** Improving.

~~g. Summary of Military Security:~~ *Very satisfactory.*

g. **Summary of Military Security:** Conditions here are very satisfactory.

3. Personalities:

a. **Information on higher leaders:**

(1) General Officer, Commanding ~~Detachment~~ *Parola No. 1*, CARICA Angelo; appointment, General Staff, Lieutenant General; age 60. Reasonably cooperative; not obstructive, his political views are likewise no doubt as indicated above for other Italian officers but he is not engaging in any political activity to my knowledge. I consider him an efficient, capable and trustworthy officer. He is the officer who originally arrested Mussolini.

(2) General Officer, Commanding 210 Division, CORTESE Giuseppe; appointment, General Staff, Brigadier General; age 56. Reasonably cooperative; not obstructive, his political views are no doubt as indicated above for other Italian officers, but he is not engaging in any political activity to my knowledge. I consider him an efficient officer and possessing considerable energy.

(3) General Officer, Commanding 231 Division, MAURIT MARCO; appointment, General Staff, Brigadier General; age 53. Have not had the contact with General MAURIT that I have had with the other two general officers in this area but he appears to be cooperative and capable.

b. **Dossier of Italian Officers:** *Reference your RS/1/25 of 1 January 1945. Expect to complete within a week.*

4. Conclusions: The above opinions and views are my own and based upon my own observations, which of course, are limited in scope. So far as I can determine, generally speaking, no serious disaffection, lack of loyalty or any other willful disloyal activity exists among the Italian officers and men assigned or attached to Fifth Army which would be inimical to the interests of the Allied cause.

R.C. VAN NERX,
Major, Infantry
Sr. (MIA) L.O.,
5th Army

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

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HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY
A.P.O. #464, U. S. Army

RCV/jad

Subject: Security Intelligence Report - Italian Troops with Fifth Army.

To : Land Forces Sub Commission A.C. (MILIA)
A.P.O. #394, U. S. Army.

1. Reference your File No. 3/1/106/1 of 7 December 1944.

2. General Security:

a. Morale: Absences without leave and desertions by Italian soldiers continue. The 210 Division US-Iti have been dropping men after 5 days AMOL instead of 30 as provided by Paragraphs 13 and 14. AFHQ letter AG 091, TIL/169 001-0, dated 16 November 1944, and MILIA Administrative Instructions No. 12, paragraphs 13 and 14, dated 1 December 1944. I computed the AMOLs among the US-Itis and ITIs as being a fraction over 1% and 2% among the Br-Itis but these percentages were obtained when the US-Itis were dropping men after 5 days. Have pointed out to the 210 Division that their status reports should be based on 30 day periods. Am not aware of any seditious or subversive influences likely to undermine morale.

b. Fascist, Pro-German, Anti-Allied Activities or Trends: None that I know of among the Italian officers and men. Among the civilian population, as definitely of the opinion that a large majority of the people in Florence are pro-Fascist and Anti-Allied. Our soldiers are insulted on the streets by civilians and are not received as they have been in Rome and other cities.

c. Illegal Storage of Arms or Ammunition: None.

d. Political Activity: The Italian officers with whom I come in contact, apparently fear a communist Italy and probably favor continuing the monarchy. No officer within my knowledge has been spreading any propaganda or taking any part in any political activity.

e. Relations with an attitude towards Allied Troops: Very satisfactory as far as officers and soldiers are concerned but not civilians.

f. Discipline: Improving.

g. Rumors, Indiscreet Talk and Breaches of Security: Very satisfactory.

h. Summary of Military Security: Conditions here are very satisfactory.

3. Personnel:

a. Information on higher leaders:

(1) General Officer, Commanding Delegation I, CARICA Angelo; appointment, General Staff, Lieutenant General; age 50. Reasonably cooperative, not obstructive, his political views are likewise no doubt as indicated above for other Italian officers, but he is not engaging in any political activity to my knowledge. Attached is a memorandum by General CARICA on the treatment of Partisans to which I subscribe in part. He prepared this upon my suggestion after having discussed a

a. **Morale:** Absences without leave and desertions by Italian soldiers continue. The 210 Division US-It1 have been dropping men after 5 days AWOL, instead of 30 as provided by Paragraphs 13 and 14, AFHQ letter AG 091.711/169 OCT-0, dated 16 November 1944, and AFHQ Administrative Instructions No. 13, paragraphs 13 and 14, dated 2 December 1944. I computed the AWOLs among the US-It1s and III-It1s as being a fraction over 1% and 2% among the Fr-It1s but these percentages were obtained when the US-It1s were dropping men after 5 days. Have pointed out to the 210 Division that their status reports should be based on 30 day periods. Am not aware of any seditious or subversive influences likely to undermine morale.

b. **Fascist, Pro-German, Anti-Allied Activities or Trends:** None that I know of among the Italian officers and men. Among the civilian population, as definitely of the opinion that a large majority of the people in Florence are pro-Fascist and Anti-Allied. Our soldiers are insulted on the streets by civilians and are not received as they have been in Rome and other cities.

c. **Illegal Storage of Arms or Ammunition:** None.

d. **Political Activity:** The Italian officers with whom I came in contact, apparently fear a communistic Italy and probably favor continuing the monarchy. No officer within my knowledge has been spreading any propaganda or taking any part in any political activity.

e. **Relations with an attitude towards Allied Troops:** Very satisfactory as far as officers and soldiers are concerned but not civilians.

f. **Discipline:** Improving.

g. **Rumors, Indiscreet Talk and Breaches of Security:** Very satisfactory.

h. **Summary of Military Security:** Conditions here are very satisfactory.

3. Personalities:

a. **Information on higher leaders:**

(1) General Officer, Commanding Delegation I, CERICA Angelo; appointment, General Staff, Lieutenant General; age 60. Reasonably cooperative, not obstructive, his political views are likewise no doubt as indicated above for other Italian officers, but he is not engaging in any political activity to my knowledge. Attached is a memorandum by General CERICA on the treatment of Partisans to which I subscribe in part. He prepared this upon my suggestion after having discussed a partisan directive with him.

(2) General Officer, Commanding 210 Division, GONNERS Giuseppe; appointment, General Staff, Brigadier General; age 56. Reasonably cooperative; not obstructive, his political views are no doubt as indicated above for other Italian officers but he is not engaging in any political activity to my knowledge. I consider him an efficient officer and possessing considerable energy.

(3) General Officer, Commanding 231 Division, NANNI Mario; appointment, General Staff, Brigadier General; age 53. No contact with him yet.

b. **Dossier of Italian Officers:** Reference your IS/1/123 of 1 January 1945. Expect to have this completed by the 15th of this month.

4. Conclusion: The above opinions and views are my own and based upon my own observations, which of course, are limited in scope. So far as I can determine, generally speaking, no serious disaffection, lack of loyalty or any other willful disloyal activity exists among the Italian officers and men assigned or attached to Fifth Army which would be inimical to the interests of the Allied cause.

D.C. VAN KIRK,
Major, Infantry,
Sr. (MMIA) L.O.,
5th Army.

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

Sr. (MMIA) L.O.,
5th Army.

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HEADQUARTERS FBI WASH DC
 1. C. Wash, U. S. Army

12/13/44
 18 December 1944

Subject: Security Intelligence Report - Italian Troops with Fifth Army.

To : Land Forces Sub-Commission L.C. (MIA)
 A.F.C. #394, U. S. Army.

1. Reference your file No. S/1/106/1 of 7 December 1944.

General Security:

a. Morale: Absences without leave and desertions by Italian soldiers continues but the situation is definitely improving. Copy is enclosed of reply by Capt. Chocoma, Italian L.C., to the letter of CIO 5th Army of 10 October 1944. Your 14/27/1 of 4 November 1944 also refers. Am not aware of any seditions or subversive influences likely to undermine morale.

b. Fascist, Pro-German, Anti-Allied activities or trends: None that I know of.

c. Illegal storage of arms and ammunition: None

d. Political activity: The Italian officers with whom I come in contact, apparently fear a communistic Italy and probably favor continuing the monarchy. No officer within my knowledge has been spreading any propaganda or taking any part in any political activity. However one goes, there is evidence of the civilians favoring communism. For example, I attended an Italian civilian cinema, "The Battle of the Quirine" and the crowd cheered Joe Stalin more than the people in Arkansas or Texas would cheer General MacArthur's picture when it appears on the screen.

e. Relations with and attitude towards Allied Troops. Very satisfactory.

f. Discipline: Improving.

g. Rumors, indiscreet talk and breaches of security: Very satisfactory.

h. Summary of Military Security: Conditions here are very satisfactory.

3. Personalities:

a. Information on higher leaders:

(1) General Officer, Commanding 210 Division, CORTESE Guiseppe; appointment, General Staff, Brigadier General; age 58. Reasonably cooperative, not obstructive, his political views are no doubt as indicated above for other Italian officers, but he is not engaging in any political activity to my knowledge. I consider him an efficient officer and possessing considerable energy.

soldiers continue but the situation is definitely improving. Copy is enclosed of reply by Capt. Ciccogna, Italian L.O., to the letter of SIC 5th Army of 10 October 1944. Your AQ/27/1 of 1 November 1944 also refers. We not aware of any seditious or subversive influences likely to undermine morale.

b. Fascist, Pro-German, Anti-Allied activities or friends: None that I know of.

c. Illegal Storage of arms and ammunition: None

d. Political activity: The Italian officers with whom I come in contact, apparently fear a communist Italy and probably favor continuing the monarchy. No officer within my knowledge has been spreading any propaganda or taking any part in any political activity. However one goes, there is evidence of the civilians favoring communism. For example, I attended an Italian civilian cinema, "The Battle of the Garfagnina" and the crowd cheered Joe Stalin more than the people in Arkansas or Texas would cheer General MacArthur's picture when it appears on the screen.

e. Relations with and attitude towards Allied Troops. Very satisfactory.

f. Discipline: Improving.

g. Rumors, Indiscreet Talk and Breaches of Security: Very satisfactory.

h. Summary of Military Security: Conditions here are very satisfactory.

3. Personalities:

a. Information on higher leaders:

1. General Officer, Commanding 210 Division, CORTESI Giuseppe; appointment, General Staff, Brigadier General; age 56. Reasonably cooperative, not obstructive, his political views are no doubt as indicated above for other Italian officers, but he is not engaging in any political activity to my knowledge. I consider him an efficient officer and possessing considerable energy.

2. *the present commandant of the prison at Ravenna*

4. Conclusion: The above opinions and views are my own and based upon my own observations, which of course, are limited in scope. So far as I can determine, generally speaking, no serious disaffection, lack of loyalty or any other willful disloyal activity exists among the Italian officers and men assigned or attached to 5th Army, which would be inimical to the interests of the Allied cause.

R.O. VAN NISK,
Major, Infantry,
Sr. (MIA) L.O.,
5th Army

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Munich
by [unclear] [unclear]

Italian Absentees

RCV/jad

XXXX

XXXX

Sr

LFSCAC

18 Dec

MMIA LO

(MMIA)

1944

For your information and necessary action.

R.C.VAN KIRK,
Major, Infantry,
Sr. (MMIA) L.O.,
5th Army

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY
A.P.O. #464, U. S. Army

RCV/jad
25 October 1944

Subject: Morale of Italian Troops.

To : G-4, Fifth Army.

1. Noted.

2. The "official Italian source" as indicated in the CIC's report on morale conditions should be disclosed in order to assist in making a proper evaluation of this report. No report, however, on morale conditions of Italian troops can be judged on the same basis as Allied troops for the Italians have lost a war and they have the status of Co-belligerents and not Allies.

3. AFHQ policy requires that the Allies should show sympathy for the Italian officers' and soldiers' difficulties and consideration for their legitimate needs. They should be treated fairly in all things and given encouragement. Good will should be shown them without familiarity and consideration without weakness. It is the duty of the Italian Army personnel to co-operate willingly with Allied directives and we are enjoined to see that they do co-operate. The policy towards them is "firmness without rudeness".

4. AFHQ has determined the supply policy for the Italian troops and has set the scale of issue for clothing, equipment and rations to them. Any additional clothing or equipment beyond the scale must be approved by NATOUA.

5. Ref.Par 3 basic communication. The question of pay of Italian officers and men is a matter for the Italian War Ministry.

6. Ref.Par 5a basic communication. Concur absolutely, and I have personally recommended to my headquarters that when men are tried and sentenced by the Italian Military courts, that the sentences should be more severe. Have pointed out that Allied soldiers may be shot for offenses that Italian soldiers are getting away with. General Cortese, CG, 210 Division, has recommended that Italian prisoners be sent to the Island Elba. I agree with General Cortese's views.

7. Ref.Par 5b basic communication. If Allied officers will comply with AAI and 5th Army directives, they will report such Italian officers, as described to me, and I will ask my headquarters to demobilize them. This is being done as rapidly as we find such officers.

8. Ref.5c basic communication. For a period of time, last summer, the oil and salt was in short supply, but that is not true now and the last time I investigated, the Italians were receiving more than the scale. The Italian transportation situation has been reviewed many times during the last few months with the result that it has improved. It is suggested that no reasonable request

made by any Italian unit upon 5th Army Transportation Section, has been refused, and I know of no Italian unit going hungry because of a failure of transportation. My experience has been that all Italian requests for transportation must be screened carefully, otherwise, they will be doing just what the report suggests, running a convoy of trucks "to make their own purchases at distant markets". (underscoring mine)

9. Ref.Par 5d basic communication. Approximately 140 tons of clothing have just been issued to Italian troops in 5th Army and they are equipped to scale.

10. Ref.Par 5c basic communication. It is contrary to our CCS policy to issue newspapers, magazines and radios to the Italians but the Italian War Ministry can, if they so elect.

R.C.VAN KIRK,
Major, Infantry,
Sr. (MMIA) L.O.,
5th Army

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY
A.P.O. #466, U. S. Army

RCV/jed
25 October 1944

Subject: Security Intelligence Report-Italian Troops with Fifth Army.

To : Headquarters, Military Mission Italian Army,
A.P.O. #394, U. S. Army.

1. Reference your L/306 of 10 May 1944.

2. General Security:

a. Morale: The absences without leave and desertions are still too large. An inclosing copy of report on morale conditions made by GIC and my reply thereto. G-2, Fifth Army, refused last summer to ask for a security report on Italian Troops in Fifth Army, when I suggested he do so.

b. Fascist, Pro-German, Anti-Allied Activities or Trends: None that I am aware of.

c. Illegal Storage of Arms and Ammunition: None

d. Political Activity or Propaganda: The Italian officers whom I meet appear to fear a communistic Italy and are always apprehensive, of course, of the future.

e. Relations with and attitude towards Allied Troops: Satisfactory.

f. Discipline: Based upon our standards, unsatisfactory.

g. Summary of Military Security: I would rate as satisfactory.

3. Personalities:

a. General Cortese: Reasonably co-operative and satisfactory from an Allied point of view.

4. Conclusions: The above opinions and views are my own and based upon my own observations, which of course, are limited in scope. So far as I can determine, generally speaking, no serious disaffection, lack of loyalty or any other willful disloyal activity exists among the Italian officers and men assigned or attached to 5th Army, which would be inimical to the interests of the Allied cause.

N.C. VAN KIRK,
Major, Infantry,
Sr. (MIA) L.O.,
5th Army

Draft

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY
A.P.O. #464, U. S. Army

RCV/Jad
27 September 1944

Subject: Security Intelligence Report-Italian Troops with Fifth Army.

To : Headquarters, Military Mission Italian Army,
A.P.O. #394, U. S. Army.

1. Reference your L/106 of 10 May 1944.

2. General Security:

a. Morale: The absences without leave or desertions by Italian soldiers have reached alarming proportions, especially among the replacements arriving or about to be sent to this area. This, of course, is an indication of low morale or lack of proper discipline upon the part of these Italian soldiers.

b. Fascist, Pro-German, Anti-Allied Activities or Trends: None that I am aware of.

c. Illegal Storage of Arms and Ammunition: None.

d. Political Activity or Propaganda: The Italian officers whom I meet appear to fear a communistic Italy and are always apprehensive, of course, of the future.

e. Relations with and ~~attitude~~ ^{attitude} Towards Allied Troops: Satisfactory.

f. Discipline: Based upon our standards, unsatisfactory.

g. Summary of Military Security: I would rate as satisfactory.

3. Personalities:

a. General Cortese: Reasonably co-operative and satisfactory from an Allied point of view.

b. Major Pollestra Rocco, 210th Division, has requested a discharge and as previously stated, is personally obnoxious to me and

2. General Summary:

- a. Morale: The absences without leave or desertions by Italian soldiers have reached alarming proportions, especially among the replacements arriving or about to be sent to this area. This, of course, is an indication of low morale or lack of proper discipline upon the part of these Italian soldiers.
- b. Fascist, Pro-German, Anti-Allied Activities or Trends: None that I am aware of.
- c. Illegal Storage of Arms and Ammunition: None.
- d. Political Activity or Propaganda: The Italian officers whom I meet appear to fear a communistic Italy and are always apprehensive, of course, of the future.
- e. Relations with and Attitude Towards Allied Troops: Satisfactory.
- f. Discipline: Based upon our standards, unsatisfactory.
- g. Summary of Military Security: I would rate as satisfactory.

3. Personalities:

a. General Cortese: Reasonably co-operative and satisfactory from an Allied point of view.

b. Major Pollestra Recco, 210th Division, has requested a discharge and as previously stated, is personally obnoxious to me and radical in his views. I recommend that his request be granted.

c. Captain De Medici has been relieved and assigned to Rome. He has been replaced by Captain Cigogna who was with 5 Army previously and went to 8th Army. He appears to be more competent than Captain De Medici, more co-operative ^{and} a better organizer. I am certain he will cause things to run more smoothly in the future.

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4. Conclusions: The above opinions and views are my own *and* based upon my own observations, which of course, are limited in scope. So far as I can determine, generally speaking, no serious disaffection, lack of loyalty or any other willful disloyal activity exists among the Italian officers and men assigned or attached to 5th Army, which would be inimical to the interests of the Allied cause.

R.C. VAN KIRK,
Major, Infantry,
Sr. (MMIA) L.O.,
5th Army

G-4

2nd Lt. FULCIERI PAOLUCCI di CALBOLI BARONE

RCV/jad

Sr.	Sr.	27
MMIA	MMIA	Sept
LO	LO	1944
5th	8th	
Army	Army	

For your information. Copies are being
forwarded to British Increment and to HQ.
MMIA.

R.C. VAN KIRK,
Major, Infantry,
Sr. (MMIA) L.O.,
5th Army.

OPNS. FILE

G-4

2dLt FULCIERI PAOLUCCI di CALBOLI BARONE

Sr	HQ	27
MMIA	MMIA	Sept
LO		1944

1. Reference your 1/103/2 of 30 August 1944.

2. For your information. Copies are being forwarded to British Increment, 5th Army and Sr.MMIA LO 8th Army.

P.C.VAN KIRK,
Major, Infantry,
Sr.(MMIA) L.O.,
5th Army.

OPNS. FILE

G-4

2ndLt. FULCIERI PAOLUCCI di CALBOLI BARONE

RCV/jad

Sr	Brit	27
MMIA	Incr.	Sept
LO	5th	1944
	Army	

For your information. Copies are being
forwarded to HQ MMIA and Sr. MMIA LO 8th
Army.

R.C. VAN KIRK,
Major, Infantry,
Sr. (MMIA) L.O.,
5th Army

OPNS. FILE

2nd Lt. FULCERI PAGLUCCI DE' CALBOLI, Barone.

4 Sr.(MIA) 15
Sept.
L.O.(MIA) 1944
L.O.
Army

Inviting your attention to the 3rd. Ind.

R.C.VAN KIRK,
Major, Infantry,
Sr.(MIA) L.O.
5th Army.

OPNS. FILE

OFFICE G-4
 FILE NO. _____
 SUBJECT _____

Subject: SON OF ITALIAN AMBASSADOR TO MADRID

Ind. No. _____ From _____ To _____ Date _____ RCV/jad

~~MMIA~~
~~L.O.~~
 MMIA
 L.O.

G-4
 Exec

5 Sept.
 1944

For the information of G-2.

R.C. VAN KIRK,
 Major, Inf.
 MMIA L.O.
 5th Army.

OPNS. FILE

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY
A. P. O. #164, U. S. ArmyRCV/jsh
30 August 1944

Subject: Security Intelligence Report - Italian Troops with Fifth Army.

To: General S-2 Officer, Military Mission, Italian Army,
A. P. O. #174, U. S. Army.

1. General Security:

a. Morale: Typical complaints and grievances by Italian soldiers continue, but not to the extent that morale is seriously impaired. The absence without leave continues because of a lack of proper discipline, by both officers and men.

b. Fascist, Pro-German, Anti-Allied Activities or Trends: None that I am aware of.

c. Illegal Storage of Arms and Ammunition: None.

d. Political Activity - Propaganda: The officers are always arguing politics, but they are like a weather vane, one way, one day, another the next.

e. Relations with and Attitude Towards Allied Troops: Satisfactory.

f. Discipline: Based upon our standards, unsatisfactory.

g. Summary of Military Security: I would rate as satisfactory.

2. Personalities:

a. General Cortese: Reasonably co-operative and satisfactory from an Allied point of view.

b. Major Pollestra Rocco, 210th Division; is an excellent interpreter and an informed is a good medic, but he is personally obnoxious to me and radical in his views. Could well be demobilized.

c. Captain de Medici: Will report when I see you.

3. Conclusions: I have never been able to get G-2-CI, 5th Army, to ask for any reports from the American Units to which Italian Units are attached. The above views are based upon my personal interviews and observations.

R. C. VAN KIRK,
Major, Infantry,
M.S.I.A. - L.C.,
Fifth Army.

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SECRET