

ACC

10000/124/311 PD-2/N

COM
P.O.
REL
DE

10000/124/311 PD-2/N COMMADER LUIGI PODESTA, AND
P.O. WRITER ARTURO BEGERA.
RELEASE FROM YUGO-SLAV HANDS
DEC. 45 - SEPT. 47

0744

785020

Allied Force Headquarters
ITALIAN NAVAL BRANCH
APO 794

PD-2/H/ 248

18 August 1947

Subject: COMMANDER LUIGI PODESTA' AND P.O. WRITER ARTURO BERGLERA.
To: MINISTRY OF DEFENCE, NAVY.
Reference: (a) Ministry of Defence, Navy's ltr. B. 1562 of 3 March, 1947.
(b) Naval Sub-Section, Italian Military Affairs Section's ltr.
PD-2/H/69 of 6 March, 1947.

1. It is regretted that no tangible progress has been made in this matter although energetic action has, and continues to be taken, on high Military and Diplomatic levels to secure the release of the two men.

2. As soon as any definite news is received, it will be immediately communicated to you.

(Sgd) G. L. WARREN

REAR ADMIRAL,
DIRECTOR, ITALIAN NAVAL BRANCH.

20 AUG 1947 2406

Navy
CONFIDENTIAL.

SUBJECT : Commander Luigi PODESTA and PO Writer Arturo BERGERA.

GHQ CMF.

TRANSIT/A-2.

29 July 47.

TO : Allied Force Headquarters,
G-5 Section (for Italian Naval Branch for Rear Admiral WARREN),
ROME.

Further to this GHQ letter TRANSIT/A-2 of 8 July 47.

A copy of the British Political Adviser's letter 30/150/9 of 23 July 47 is forwarded herewith for your information.

Will you please inform the Ministry of Marine of the action taken by H.M. Ambassador at Belgrade. ✓

Any further information received from the British Political Adviser will at once be forwarded to you.

Major General
Major General,
GOC, CMF.

Copy to : AFHQ (for Britpolad)
Tao GHQ
Col 'A'
G(Ops & SD)
GSI



2405

C O P Y

Office of the British Political Adviser,
to the Supreme Allied Commander,
A.E.H.Q., C.M.F.

50/150/9

23rd July 1947.

To : GHQ CMF
FROM : British Political Adviser
Copies : G-5 Section Rome (For Italian Naval Branch).
SACS
G-2
N.L.O.
Subject : Commander Luigi Podesta and
P.O. Writer Arturo Bergera.

Your signal AG2/00646 of 4 July.

H.M. Ambassador at Belgrade states that on receipt of my original report of 27th February he addressed a letter to the Yugoslav Minister of Foreign Affairs informing him of the facts and stating that H.M. Government hoped the Yugoslav Government would now find it possible to release these two men.

I think the Ministry of Marine should be told this.

2404

(SIGNED)
P.W. Scarlett
British Political Adviser.

Office of the British Political Adviser
to the Supreme Allied Command,
A.F.H.Q., C.M.F.

35/150/9.

29th July, 1947.

To:- G.H.Q., C.M.F.

From:- British Political Adviser.

Copies:- G-5 Rome (for Italian Naval Branch) ✓
SAOS.
G-2.
N.L.O.

Subject:- Commander Luigi Podesta and
P.O. Writer Arturo Bergera.

Reference is made to our memorandum
30/150/9 of 23rd July.

It would be appreciated if you
would amend the above-quoted reference to
read "35/150/9."

Dr. V. Mansfield

for British Political Adviser.



2403

COPY.

Office of the British Political Adviser
to the Supreme Allied Commander,
A.F.H.Q., C.M.F.

30/150/9.

23rd July, 1947.

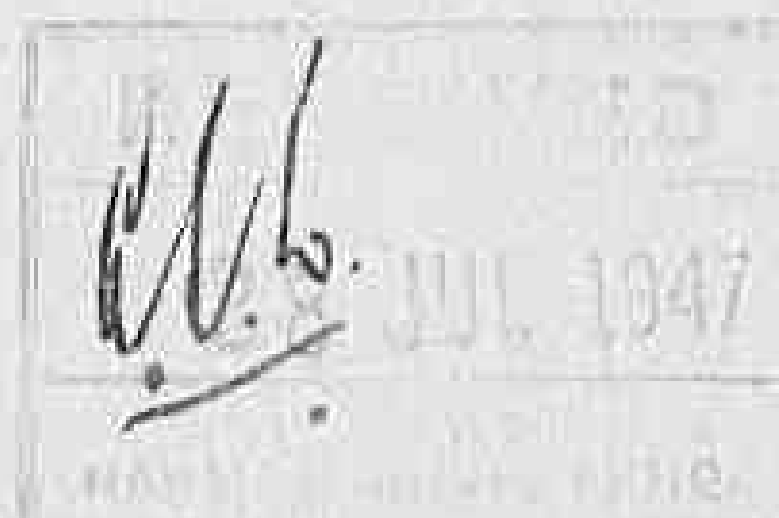
To:- G.H.Q., C.M.F.
From:- British Political Adviser.
Copies:- G-5 Rome (for Italian Naval Branch) ✓
SACS.
G-2.
N.L.O.
Subject:- Commander Luigi Podesta and
P.O. Writer Arturo Bergera.

Your signal AG2/00646 of 4th July.

H.M. Ambassador at Belgrade states that on receipt of my original report of 27th February he addressed a letter to the Yugoslav Minister of Foreign Affairs informing him of the facts and stating that H.M. Government hoped the Yugoslav Government would now find it possible to release these two men.

2. I think the Ministry of Marine should be told this.

P.V.
P.V. Scarlett
British Political Adviser.



2402

Navy
CONFIDENTIALSUBJECT :- Commander Luigi PODESTA and PO Writer Arturo MERGERA.GHQ CMBTRANSIT/A-28 Jul 47

Allied Force Headquarters,
G-5 Section (for Italian Naval Branch for Rear Admiral WARREN)
ROME.

1. Reference your letter PD-2/N/102 of 23 April 47, this GHQ signal AG2/00646 of 4 July 47 to the British Political Adviser AFHQ (copy to you) and TAG GHQ signal C-in-C/389 of 4 July 47.
2. Please find a copy of this GHQ letter TRANSIT/A-2 dated 2 May 47 (despatched in reply to your PD-2/N/102 of 23 April 47) enclosed herewith.
3. You will be informed immediately a reply to this GHQ signal AG2/00646 of 4 July 47 is received from the British Political Adviser.

TRG/cc's.

S. A. R. Connor
may
h
Maj Gen,
GCC CMB

Copy to:- AFHQ (for BritPolad)
TAG GHQ
Colonel 'A'
G(SD)
GSI



C O P YS E C R E T

SUBJECT :- Commander LUIGI PODESTA and
PO WRITER ARTURO BERGERA.

GHQ CMETRANSIT/A22 May 47

Allied Force Headquarters,
Italian Naval Branch.

Reference your PD-2/N/102 of 23 Apr 47.

The British Political Adviser has submitted a full report on the case of subjects named to the Foreign Office, stating that the Military Authorities in Italy are anxious for everything possible to be done on a diplomatic level to help the Italians in Yugoslav custody.

You will be informed of subsequent developments.

(Sgd) A.G. Whitlaw J/Comdr. ← ?

for

Lt-General,
General Officer Commanding-in-Chief.

2100

20368/52.

Ministero degli Affari Esteri

D.G.A.P. - Uff. IV.

Rough translationMEMORANDUM FOR THE ALLIED GENERAL HEADQUARTERS

Further to previous memorandum N.15/04518/33 dated February 14th, 1947, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs begs to report here below a communication received by the Italian Ministry of Marine:

" Commander Podestà and his secretary Bergera Arturo were recently transferred from an O.Z.N.A. prison to the Lubiana judicial prison. It appears, however, that they are still kept at O.Z.N.A.'s disposal. The defence of the case presents some difficulty. An Attorney at Law has been appointed for the defence of the a/n detained persons."

Pursuant to the information previously given by the Italian Ministry of Marine concerning the task entrusted upon Commander Podestà and petty-officer Bergera and the charge brought against them by the Yugoslav Authorities, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs would be grateful if the Allied General Headquarters would renew their steps with a view to obtaining that the a/n Italian service men may soon be released. 2394

27 June 47.

G - 5 Section A.F.H.Q. Rome (R) A - 2 GHQ CMT.

CONFIDENTIAL

From: TAC GHQ.

Please pass following to Rear Admiral Warren from General Harding.
Reference your FD-2N/192 of 26th June received yesterday.

I am sorry you have had so much difficulty but I am told a letter (Reference NO. Transit A2 of 2nd May 47) on subject you mention was sent to you by GHQ on 2nd May, informing you that a full report had been sent to London with a request for action through diplomatic channels. Duplicate this letter together with further information available if any will be sent to you at once, as I have no direct contact with Yugo-Slav authorities except on purely local matters the question to which you refer must be dealt with through diplomatic channels. Consequently I cannot accept any responsibility in regard to it except to act as a channel of communication, but I have given instructions to my staff to make sure that any information received at GHQ is passed to you at once.

2. As I am handing over command to General AIREY today please address any further correspondence on this subject to him or to Chief of Staff GHQ.

DTG 04 1050B July.

Ref No. C in C /389.
Sigs Serial 6975.

RAAC

P/L

T.O.R..a.m./5/7/47

CYS

2398

0753

IMPORTANT

A.F.H.Q. (For BRIT POLAD) (R) AFHQ (For SACB & GSI)
G - 5 Section AFHQ (For I.N.B.) Rome.

SECRET

From: G.H.Q. C.M.F.

AG2/COS46.

G?

GSI Liaison Office AFHQ letter SB / 389-IG-(35) March 47. Informed this HQ that you had submitted a full report to Foreign Office regarding case of Italian nationals BERGERA and POBETA and that we would be kept informed of developments.

2. AFHQ Italian Naval Branch state Italian Naval authorities are requesting that urgent steps be taken to secure release of subjects.
3. Please contact Foreign Office and report progress made earliest.
4. G-5 Section AFHQ for Italian Naval Branch your PD - 2/R/C2 dated 23rd April 47 and our Transit A - 2 dated 2nd May 47 refer.

No DTG.

47

Sign serial No. 7016.
Dist: O - 6, 20, 21, 30g.
RAAC

P/L

T.O.R. ... a.m. / 7/7/47

OY3

This signal must be
PARAPHRASED
before being shown to
British or U.S. non-official
authorities

2397

Allied Force Headquarters
 ITALIAN NAVAL BRANCH
 APO 794

PD-2/N/ 122

26 June 1947

Dear General Harding,

I am writing to you personally as I have been completely unable to obtain a reply to a number of letters addressed to your Headquarters relating to a matter which I consider to be of considerable importance.

Since December 1945 the Italian Naval Authorities have been requesting that urgent steps be taken to secure the release of Commander LUIGI PODESTA and P.O. writer ANTONIO BERGERA, who were captured by the Yugoslav authorities while carrying out work behind the enemy lines on behalf of a British Intelligence organisation. I have received repeated "hastenings" but have not yet been able to give a definite reply.

As mentioned in my letter No. NSC/5915 of 30th January 1947, I consider that a definite moral obligation rests with the Allies to secure the release of these two men. No reply has yet been received to this letter or to my signal timed 200922B/March 1947 or to my further letter No. PD-2/N/102 of 23rd April.

I am aware that the matter is also being dealt with on a diplomatic level and that possibly great efforts are being made to clear the matter up, but nevertheless I feel compelled to ask you to instruct the appropriate department to reply to my various communications, stating what progress has been made in the case.

Yours sincerely,

REAR ADMIRAL

2336

Lieutenant General Sir John Harding, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C.,
 General Officer Commanding in Chief, Central Mediterranean Forces.

Allied Force Headquarters
ITALIAN NAVAL BRANCH
APO 794

FD-2/N/ 102.

23 April 1947

Subject: COMMANDER LUIGI PODESTA' AND P.O. WRITER ARTURO BERGERA.
To: GENERAL OFFICER COMMANDING, CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN FORCES.

1. Since December 27th 1945 the Italian Naval authorities have been requesting that urgent steps be taken to secure the release of the subject officer and rating who were captured by the Yugoslav authorities while carrying out work behind the enemy lines on behalf of a British Intelligence organisation. I have received repeated "hastenings" but have not yet been able to give a definite reply.

2. As mentioned in my NSC/5915 of 30th January 1947 I consider that a definite moral obligation rests with the Allies to secure the release of these two men. No reply has yet been received to this letter or to my signal timed 200922B/March 1947. or to my PD-2/N/02 of 28th April.

3. I am aware that the matter is also being dealt with on a diplomatic level and possibly that great efforts are being made to clear the matter up, but nevertheless I must ask you to instruct the appropriate department to reply to my various communications stating what progress has been made.

(Sgd) G. L. WARREN
REAR ADMIRAL,
DIRECTOR, ITALIAN NAVAL BRANCH.

2395

25 APR 1947

NAVAL MESSAGE

CHQ CWP INFO G-2 AFHQ

FROM: I.M.B. AFHQ HQ

Unclassified.

Request reply may now be given to letter number MSC/5915 of 30th Jan: regarding release of FORESTI and BERGERA from Yugoslav territory.

...20 0922H/March...

Dist: 0-6 10 1A Log
2 H/M G-2 AFHQ.

2394

T/P(RAAC)

P/L

TOD

A.M. 20th:

RF

20/3/47

DAS/8003/CS

4 March 1947.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Further to my memorandum of 24 February 1947, file DAS/8003/CS, I have been advised that Allied Force Headquarters is dealing with the matter concerning the detention of Italian naval personnel by Yugoslav authorities and that information will be forwarded when available.

/s/ Ellery W. Stone

ELLERY W. STONE
Rear Admiral, USNR
Chief

Italian Military Affairs Section

RECEIVED

6 MAR 1947

NAVAL SUP SECTION

Dist.

U.S. Embassy (Mr. Byington)
Br. Embassy (Mr. Malcolm)
7 S/S ✓
Chief M&S

2393

PM 2/N/ 89

6 March 1947.

From: Naval Sub-Section, Italian Military Affairs Section.
To: Ministry of Defense, Navy.
Subject: Arturo BERGERA.
Reference: (a) Ministry of Marine's ltr. B. 1562 of 3 March 1947.

1. I have to inform you that everything possible is being done to secure the release of the subject officer and rating both by Italian Military Affairs Section and through diplomatic channels.
2. I will communicate with you immediately if any progress is made.

W. W. BROWN,
COMMANDER, NAVAL SUB-SECTION,
FOR REAR ADMIRAL,
DIRECTOR, NAVAL SUB-SECTION, IMAS.

8 MAR 1947

07/020/3
1776

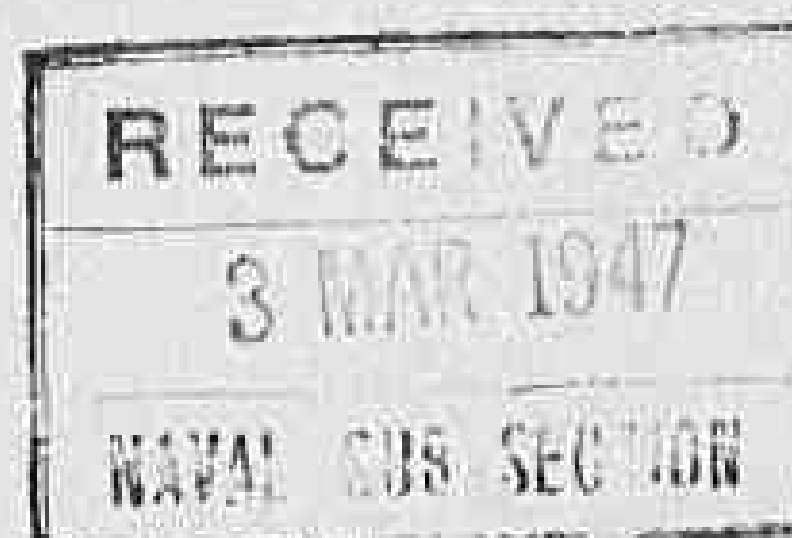
2392

From: MINISTRY OF DEFENCE - MARINE (Cabinet)
To : N.S.S. - I.M.A.S. - A.F.H.Q. - Rome.
Date: 3rd March, 1947.
Ref.: B.4562.

Subject: Commander Luigi Podesta' and P.O. Writer Arturo Bergera.

It would be appreciated if you could inform us whether the I.M.A.S. has succeeded in obtaining from the Yugoslav Authorities, the release of Commander Luigi Podesta' and P.O. Writer Arturo Bergera, mentioned in our letter B.656, dated 26th January, 1946.

The Chief of Cabinet
(Sgd). G. MARINI.



2391



REPUBBLICA ITALIANA
Ministero della Marina
MINISTERO DELLA DIFESA - MARINA
GABINETTO

INDIRIZZO TELEGRAFICO: MARINA - ROMA

Prot. N. 13.1562 Regole

ARGOMENTO: Capitano di Fregata PODESTA' Luigi
2° Capo Furiere Arturo BERGERA

Si prega comunicare se è stato possibile a cotesta Commissione di insistere presso le Autorità Jugoslave per il rilascio del Capitano di Fregata Luigi Podestà e del 2° Capo Furiere Bergara Arturo di cui al foglio di questo Ministero B.556 del 26 gennaio u.s.

d'ordine

IL CAPO DI GABINETTO
C. di V. G. Marini

Marini

2399

INM/8003/CS

24 February 1947.

SUBJECT: Detention of Italian Naval personnel by Yugoslav authorities.

TO : G-5 Section, Allied Force Headquarters, APO 512.

1. There is forwarded a memorandum dated 17 February from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs relating to the arrest by Yugoslav partisans of Commander Luigi FODRATA and N.C.O. Arturo SANGERA of the Italian Navy who had been sent to Trieste in 1944 in accordance with plans of British authorities.

2. Action by AFHQ is requested in the second paragraph of the memorandum.

3. It is the view of the Deputy U.S. Political Adviser to AFHQ that since inquiries through diplomatic channels on such cases have proved "most ineffective because of the complete absence of any cooperation on the part of the Yugoslav Government", a query might usefully be instituted by the Allied Military Authorities in Venezia Giulia with the Yugoslav Military Mission. The British Embassy has no objection.

4. The memorandum of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been acknowledged with the statement that it has been forwarded to AFHQ for appropriate action.

/s/ Ellery W. Stone

ELLERY W. STONE
Rear Admiral, USNR
Chief

Italian Military Affairs Section

Incl.

Copy to G-3 AFHQ

DISTRIBUTION:

US Embassy (Mr. Syington)
Et Embassy (Mr. Malcolm)
Naval S/S
Chief IMAS

RECEIVED
24 FEB 1947

NAVY SECTION 2389

MINISTERO DEGLI AFFARI ESTERI
D.G.A.P. Uff. IV^o

n° 15/04518/33

Rough translation

MEMORANDUM FOR THE HEAD QUARTERS ALLIED FORCES
(I.H.A.S.)

- - - - -

- 1) The Ministry of the Navy has apprised this Ministry of the following:

On September 4, 1944, while war operations were still in progress, Commander Luigi PODESTA' of the Italian Navy together with H.C.O. Arturo BERGESSA, were, in accordance with the British authorities, despatched to Trieste in order to counter-act German sabotage activities in that harbour.

Between May 3rd and 5th, 1945, they were arrested by Yugoslav partisans on charge of being British agents and of having fostered anti-slav propaganda. They were later on transferred to the Central Political Prison of the OZNA at Ljubljana together with other Italian military and civilian prisoners.

From reliable information it appears that the two a/m prisoners were questioned only twice during the two years' imprisonment. Their conditions are very bad.

The Allied Commission's attention was called upon the matter in December 1945, but, up to this moment, no result was obtained by them.

- 2) The Ministry of Foreign Affairs would be obliged to the H. A. F. if they could kindly take into consideration the possibility of a further examination of the a/m case with the competent Yugoslav authorities, in order to secure the release and repatriation of the two prisoners in concern.

Rome, February 14th, 1947

2388

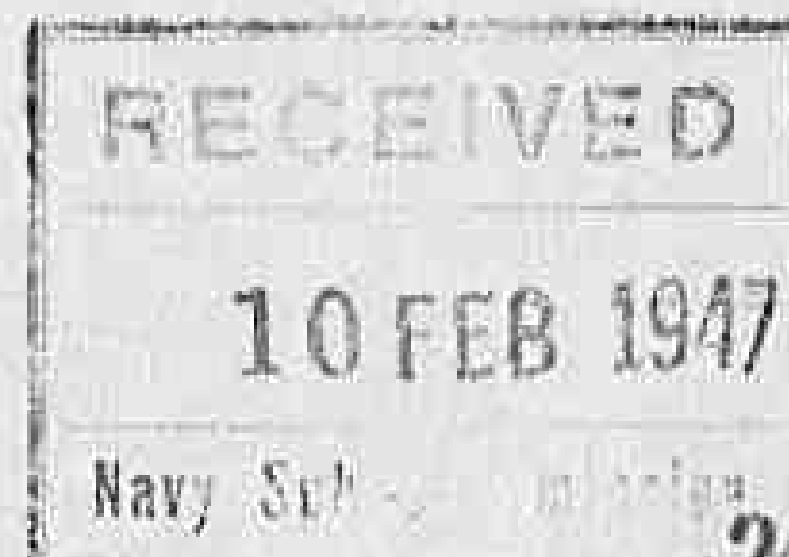
138*Army*Subject: Italian Co-operatorsGHQ CMPTransit/A-27 Feb '47Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2
A.F.H.Q.Commander Luigi FODESTA
P.O. Writer Arturo BERGERA

May we have your comments please on the attached
correspondence, in order to reply to HQ Allied Commission,
as to the position of the above named Italians.

AGW/crw.

John D. ...
Lt-General.
E.O.C-in-C.

Copy To: HQ Allied Commission Navy Sub Commission :-
(your NSC/5915 of 30 January '47 refers.)



2387

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
ITALIAN MILITARY AFFAIRS SECTION
NAVAL SUB SECTION
P.P.C. 794

PD-2/N/ 11

5 February 1947

From: Director, Naval Sub Section, Italian Military Affairs
Section.
To: Deputy Adjutant General, General Headquarters.
Subject: Commander Luigi PODESTA' and P.O. Writer Arturo BERGERA.
Reference: (a) Navy Sub-Commission ltr. NSC/5915 of 30 January 1947.
Enclosure: (A) Corrected copy of reference (a).

1. It is requested that reference (a) be destroyed and enclosure
(A) substituted therefore.

M. W. ZEROLI,
COMMANDER, U. S. NAVY,
PO: REAR ADMIRAL,
DIRECTOR, NAVAL SUB SECTION, IMAS.

061600/r
786

7 FEB 1947

2386

NSC/5915
30 January 1947.

From: Navy Sub-Commission, Headquarters Allied Commission.
To: Deputy Adjutant General,
General Headquarters.
Subject: Commander Luigi BOMBASTA and P.O. Writer Arturo BERGERA.
Reference: (a) Ministry of Marine's P. 514 of 18 January 1946,
with attached memorandum.
(b) I.S.L.D. 103/P1/2 of 25 January 1946.
(c) Ministry of Marine's P. 656 of 26 January 1947.

1. Copies of references (a) (b) and (c) are attached.
2. It is considered essential that some adequate reply be forwarded to the Ministry of Marine concerning the release of subject officer and rating. From the evidence at present available to the Navy Sub-Commission it would be appear that a definite moral obligation rests upon the Allies, and Great Britain in particular to secure this immediate release.
3. It is requested that this matter be treated as most urgent.

REAR ADMIRAL,
CHIEF, NAVY SUB-COMMISSION, A.C.

1 FEB 1947

2385

From: MINISTRY OF MARINE (Cabinet)
To : N.S.C. - A.C.
Date: 26th January 1947
Ref.: B.656

Subject: Commander Luigi PODESTA' and P.O. Writer Arturo BERGERA

With reference to your letter NSC/4511, dated 29th January 1946,
you are informed that the above two men are imprisoned in the O.Z.N.A.
prisons at Lubiana.

The Navy Sub Commission is requested to take steps to secure
their release.

By direction
CHIEF OF CABINET

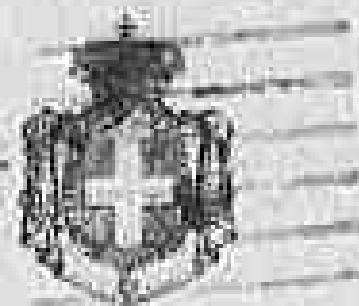
RECEIVED

28 JAN 1947

Navy Sub-Commission

JLP/P.
27

2383



Ministero della Marina
GABINETTO

INDIRIZZO TELEGRAFICO: MARINA - ROMA

Prot. N° 656 Allegati

ARGOMENTO: Capitano di Freg. Luigi PODESTA' e
2° Capo Fur. Arturo BERGERA.

Con riferimento al foglio di codesta C.A.
NSC/4511 del 29 gennaio 1947 si comunica che
i due militari in argomento sono tutt'ora de-
tenuti nelle prigioni dell'E.Z.N.A di Lubiana.

Si prega codesta C.A. voler insistere ul-
teriormente per il loro rilascio.

d'ordine
IL CAPO DI GABINETTO
C. di V. G. MARINI

Marini

Mod. 40

Roma 20 GEN 1947

COMMISSIONE ALLEATA
- Sottocommissione Navale -

NSC/4511
29 January 1946

From: Navy Sub-Commission, Hq. Allied Commission.
To : Ministry of Marine, Rome.
Subject: Lt. Comdr. Luigi POBESTA
P.O.Wtr. Arturo BERGERA.

1. With reference to your letter B.514 dated 18th January 1945, the Navy Sub-Commission has been advised that this matter has already been taken up by Allied Force Headquarters, G-2 (C.I.) and a copy of your memorandum has been forwarded in further support of the request for steps to be taken to effect release and repatriation.

G. R. MINTZ,
CAPTAIN, U. S. NAVY,
FORREAR ADMIRAL
CHIEF, NAVY SUB-COMMISSION, AG.

30 JAN 1946

PD-2
2382

TOP SECRET

To: Naval Sub-Commission, A.C., ROME.
From: I.S.L.D., R.A.A.C., C.M.F.
Ref: EO3/P1/2
Date: 25 January 1946

Subject: Lt. Cdr. Luigi PODESTA'
P.O.Wtr. Arturo BERGERA

Reference conversation between Lt. Cdr. Davis and Miss Hollick, this is to confirm that the above were attached to a Mission sent in by this organisation, and the claim for assistance in getting them released is a genuine one.

We have already taken up this case with G.2.(C.I.), and are forwarding to them, in further support of our request, a copy of the letter and memorandum from the Ministry of Marine, which you passed to us to see. We return herewith your copies.

Signature
Major,
for O.C., I.S.L.D., R.A.A.C.

2381

From: MINISTRY OF MARINE (Cabinet)
To: N.S.C. - H.Q. - A.C.
Date: 18th January 1946
Ref: B.514

Subject: Lt. Cdr. Luigi PODESTA'
P.O.Wtr. Arturo BERGERA

With reference to your letter NSC/4358 of 4th
January 1946, forwarded herewith is a memorandum showing
the particulars required.

CHIEF OF CABINET

2380

Particulars in respect of Lt. Cdr. (Now Cdr.) PODESTA' Luigi and
ex-P.O.Wtr. BERGERA Arturo, requested by the Navy Sub Commission
in its letter NSC/4358 dated 4/1-46

a-b) Lt.Cdr. PODESTA' Luigi

Son of the late Luigi and Rosa FACCIO, born at Genoa on 1st March 1898 resident at Piazza Sforza Cesarini No.41, Rome, moved to Trieste at the end of December 1944, in order to carry out a mission of the most delicate nature on behalf of the British Authorities, in collaboration with the Italian Army Staff, Intelligence Dept., - he lodged with Miss. Maria Luisa ROCCO of Via Virgilio No.2

P.O.Wtr. BERGERA Arturo

Son of the late Carlo and of Maria MAGANZA, born at Lanzo Torinese (Turin) on 23rd September 1905, home address at Lanzo Torinese (Turin), living at Via Virgilio No.2, Trieste, at the house of Miss Maria Luisa ROCCO.

c) Lt.Cdr. PODESTA' left a British base on foot on 4th September 1944, together with Lieut. (now Lt.Cdr.) MARCHINI Attilio, having final instructions from Major (or Lt.Cdr.?) Page.

Lt.Cdr. PODESTA' was given the cover-name "PUCCINI" and Lieut. MARCHINI that of "BOSSELLI".

Having crossed the enemy lines they were arrested by the Germans and interrogated several times. They were transferred from one prison to another, from one Command to another, until they arrived in the Corticella (Bologna) concentration camp, reserved for those who were to be deported to Germany.

On the evening of 20th September 1944 they managed to escape, reaching Bologna, Milan, Verona, and Trieste in turn.

The position of Lieut. MARCHINI, who was too well known in the Trieste area, became more and more precarious and so Lt.Cdr. PODESTA' authorised him to return to Milan whence he was recalled to Rome by the Base.

At Trieste Lt.Cdr. PODESTA', contacted P.O. BERGERA Arturo with caution, and went to live in the same house with him in January 1945.

-2-

Together they improved the organisation, particularly in respect of anti-sabotage activities in the port in which - with the aid of members of the Republican Navy and other favourable circumstances assisting, they achieved a brilliant success.

On 6th February 1945 Lt.Cdr. PODESTA' was arrested by the S.S.; two hours later BERGERA, and later still their landlady her mother and a friend, suffered the same fate.

They were all accused of belonging to the clandestine Committee of National Liberation in Trieste.

The charge was brought against them by a certain COLLOTTI, Chief of the Political Inspectorate, in the pay of the German secret police.

The situation was serious for everyone. Lt.Cdr. PODESTA' succeeded, however, in keeping COLLOTTI in his hands owing to the great influence which he exercised over him and his mistress.

In the end COLLOTTI assisted him, in the hope of saving himself by an about-face, having in view the approaching German catastrophe.

COLLOTTI gave the Germans to understand, therefore that PODESTA' and his collaborators were working with him.

After about a month and a half all of them were set free. Only Lt.Cdr. PODESTA' was obliged to go to the Inspectorate frequently to avoid causing the S.S. to suspect the trick.

In this manner the whole Milan-Trieste network was saved.

On 26th April COLLOTTI, realising that no-one was helping him any more, again denounced Lt.Cdr. PODESTA' and BERGERA to the S.S., but it was now too late; their mastery was crumbling on every front.

On 1st May Lt.Cdr. PODESTA' became Commanding Office of the I.R.N. at Trieste, assisted by BERGERA, but a few hours later Tito's bands entered the town. The C.L.N. had to give up its arms.

Lt.Cdr. PODESTA' and BERGERA succeeded in carrying the money which was at the Command to a safe place.

Leading Coxn. MANISCALCO arrived in time to take it to the house of Colonel PONZO (Collaborator with the PODESTA' group) and upon his return MANISCALCO was killed.

2377

-3-

On 2nd May 1945 Lt.Cdr. PODESTA' and BERGERA presented themselves at the "New Zelanders" Headquarters, where it was decided not to recognise Lt.Cdr. PODESTA' as a collaborator until confirmation was received from Rome.

On 3rd May Lt.Cdr. PODESTA' and BERGERA went to see Colonel PONZO. While they were talking to Mrs. PONZO a Tito patrol arrived with an arrest warrant for Colonel Ponzo, who was accused of pro-Italian sympathies and of keeping arms in his house (a false accusation). Since the Colonel was not at home, Lt.Cdr. PODESTA' was arrested as a hostage. BERGERA, upon British advice, tried to present himself at the prison, saying: "The Allies order that Mr. PODESTA' be set free". He, too, was arrested, and PONZO presented himself the following morning.

The slava' charge against PODESTA', and consequently against BERGERA, were those of trickery.

Major PAGE, who went to Trieste for the express purpose, was unable to have them set free.

d) Lt.Cdr. PODESTA' Luigi was requested by the Special Group of the Italian Army Staff - Intelligence Service - in collaboration with the 810th Italian Service Squadron - Liaison Officer: Major PAGE of I.S.L.D., R.A.A.C. - Cover name for mission: CORN - task: strategic information on Trieste area.

Authority to sanction the assignment of Lt.Cdr. PODESTA' to this service from 1st August 1944, was requested from Marina Roma by the General Staff - Intelligence Service in its letter 36601/PAV dated 25th September 1944.

With regard to P.O. Wtr. BERGERA Arturo, he was already at Trieste, where he had been since 8th September 1943, at which time he was serving in the Captain of the Port's Office there.

At the end of September 1943 he requested his discharge, and immediately began the work against the Nazi-Fascists, gathering information concerning the port and the Navy, ready for the appropriate time to save the equipment and the constructional work of the port, keeping himself informed of the position of mines which the Germans were to explode at the moment of their surrender.

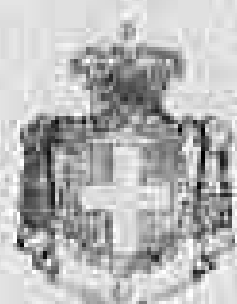
Before entering into contact with Lt.Cdr. PODESTA', he collaborated with the "NEMO" party directed by Lt.Cdr. ELIA at Milan, to which BERGERA passed information from Trieste.

Sgd. : Agostino Calosi
Captain I.R.N.
Departmental Head.

Rome, 15th January 1946.

2376

GGG/P.



Ministero della Marina
GABINETTO

INDIRIZZO TELEGRAFICO: MARINA - ROMA

Prot. N° B. 514 *Allegato*

ARGOMENTO Capitano di Corvetta Luigi PODESTA'
Capo Furiere 2^a cl. Arturo BERGERA.-

SEGRETO
URGENTE

Con riferimento al vostro foglio
NSC/4358 in data 4 Gennaio 1946, si
trasmette un promemoria contenente
le notizie richieste.-

IL CAPO DI GABINETTO
C. di V. G. MARINI

Dati relativi al Cap. di Corv. (ora Cap. di Fregata) PODESTA' Luigi e all'ex Capo Fur. di 2° cl. BERGERA Arturo, richiesti dalla S.Com-missione Navale con lettera NSC/4358 in data 4/1-46:

a - b) = CAP. CORV. CO PODESTA' Luigi

Figlio del fu Luigi e di Rosa FACCIO - nato a Genova il 1° marzo 1898 - residente a Roma, Piazza Sforza Cesarini n. 41 - trasferitosi a Trieste alla fine del mese di dicembre 1944, per compiere una missione delicatissima per conto del Servizio inglese in collaborazione con lo Stato Maggiore del R. Esercito - Ufficio Informazioni, prendendo alloggio presso la Sig.na Maria Luisa ROCCO - Via Virgilio n. 2.

CAPO FUR. 2° CL. RICH. BERGERA Arturo

Figlio del fu Carlo e di Maria MAGANZA - nato a Lanzo Torinese (Torino) il 23/9-1905 - domiciliato a Lanzo Torinese (Torino) - residente a Trieste Via Virgilio n. 2 presso la Sig.na Maria Luisa ROCCO.

c) = Il Comandante PODESTA' è partito dalla Base inglese, a piedi, il 4 settembre 1944, assieme al Capitano di Porto (ora Maggiore) MARCHINI Attilio, con le ultime istruzioni verbali ricevute dal Magg. PAGE.

Al Com.te PODESTA' venne assegnato il nome di copertura "PUCCINI", al Cap. MARCHINI quello di "BOSSELLI".

Attraversate le linee nemiche; vennero arrestati dai tedeschi e sottoposti a più interrogatori. Trasferiti da una prigione all'altra, da un Comando all'altro, fino a giungere nel campo di concentramento di CORTICELLA (Bologna), riservato per coloro che dovevano essere deportati in Germania.

La sera del 20 settembre 1944 riescono ad evadere ²⁷⁵deg-

a - b) = CAP. CORV. C° PODESTA' Luigi

Figlio del fu Luigi e di Rosa TACCO - nato a Genova il 1° marzo 1898 - residente a Roma, Piazza Sforza Cesarini n. 41 - trasferitosi a Trieste alla fine del mese di dicembre 1944, per compiere una missione delicatissima per conto del Servizio inglese in collaborazione con lo Stato Maggiore del R. Esercito - Ufficio Informazioni, prendendo alloggio presso la Sig.na Maria Luisa ROCCO - Via Virgilio n. 2.

CAPO FUR. 2° CL. RICH. BERGERA Arturo

Figlio del fu Carlo e di Maria MAGANZA - nato a Lanzo Torinese (Torino) il 23/9-1905 - domiciliato a Lanzo Torinese (Torino) - residente a Trieste Via Virgilio n. 2 presso la Sig.na Maria Luisa ROCCO.

c) = Il Comandante PODESTA' è partito dalla Base inglese, a piedi, il 4 settembre 1944, assieme al Capitano di Porto (ora Maggiore) MARCHINI Attilio, con le ultime istruzioni verbali ricevute dal Magg. PAGE.

Al Com.te PODESTA' venne assegnato il nome di copertura "PUCCINI", al Cap. MARCHINI quello di "BOSSELLI".

Attraversate le linee nemiche; vennero arrestati dai tedeschi e sottoposti a più interrogatori. Trasferiti da una prigione all'altra, da un Comando all'altro, fino a giungere nel campo di concentramento di CORTICELLA (Bologna), riservato per coloro che dovevano essere deportati in Germania.

La sera del 20 settembre 1944 riescono ad evadere ²⁷⁵ e raggiungere successivamente Bologna, Milano, Verona e Trieste.

La situazione nei riguardi del Cap. MARCHINI, troppo conosciuto negli ambienti triestini, si fa sempre più precaria e

.../...

- 2 -

per tanto il Com.te PODESTA' lo autorizza a ritornarsene a Milano da dove la Base lo richiama a Roma.

Il Com.te PODESTA', a Trieste, prese con cautela i necessari contatti con l'ex Capo Fur. di 2° cl. BERGERA Arturo, andando nel mese di gennaio 1945 ad abitare nella stessa casa.

Entrambi migliorarono l'organizzazione, specie per quanto si riferisce all'opera di antisabotaggio al porto che, con l'appoggio di appartenenti alla Marina repubblicana e con il concorso di altre favorevoli circostanze, riuscì brillantemente a risolvere.

Il 6 febbraio 1945 il Com.te PODESTA' viene arrestato dalle SS.; due ore dopo il BERGERA e più tardi la loro padrona di casa, la madre di questa ed una sua amica, subivano la stessa sorte.

Tutti erano accusati di appartenere al C.L.N. clandestino di Trieste.

A fare la denuncia fu certo COLLOTTI, Capo dell'Ispettorato Politico, al soldo della polizia segreta germanica.

La situazione era per tutti grave. Il Com.te PODESTA' riuscì tuttavia a tenere il COLLOTTI nelle sue mani per il grande ascendente che esercitava su di lui e la sua amante.

Infine il COLLOTTI finì per aiutarlo, nella speranza di salvarsi con un voltafaccia, in vista dell'approssimarsi della catastrofe tedesca.

Il COLLOTTI fece perciò comprendere ai germanici che il PODESTA' ed i suoi collaboratori lavoravano con lui.

Dopo circa un mese e mezzo tutti furono liberati. Soltanto al Com.te PODESTA' fu fatto obbligo di recarsi ^{28/2} presso l'Ispettorato, per evitare che le SS. sospettassero del truo-

co.

tutto la rete di Trieste e di Milano

Il Com.te PODESTA', a Trieste, prese con cautela i necessari contatti con l'ex Capo Tur. di 2° cl. BERGERA Arturo, andando nel mese di gennaio 1943 ad abitare nella stessa casa.

Entrambi migliorarono l'organizzazione, specie per quanto si riferisce all'opera di antisabotaggio al porto che, con l'appoggio di appartenenti alla Marina repubblicana e con il concorso di altre favorevoli circostanze, riuscì brillantemente a risolvere.

Il 6 febbraio 1945 il Com.te PODESTA' viene arrestato dalle SS.; due ore dopo il BERGERA e più tardi la loro padrona di casa, la madre di questa ed una sua amica, subivano la stessa sorte.

Tutti erano accusati di appartenere al C.I.N. clandestino di Trieste.

A fare la denuncia fu certo COLLOTTI, Capo dell'Ispettorato Politico, al soldo della polizia segreta germanica.

La situazione era per tutti grave. Il Com.te PODESTA' riuscì tuttavia a tenere il COLLOTTI nelle sue mani per il grande ascendente che esercitava su di lui e la sua amante.

Infine il COLLOTTI finì per aiutarlo, nella speranza di salvarsi con un voltafaccia, in vista dell'approssimarsi della catastrofe tedesca.

Il COLLOTTI fece perciò comprendere ai germanici che il PODESTA' ed i suoi collaboratori lavoravano con lui.

Dopo circa un mese e mezzo tutti furono liberati. Soltanto al Com.te PODESTA' fu fatto obbligo di recarsi ^{29/1} all'Ispettorato, per evitare che le SS. sospettassero del trucco.

Con questo sistema tutta la rete di Trieste e di Milano fu salva.

..../..

Il 28 aprile il COLLOTTI, accortosi che nessuno più lo aiutava, denunciò nuovamente il Com.te PODESTA' ed il BERGERA alle SS., ma ormai era troppo tardi: il dominio stava crollando su tutti i fronti.

Il 1° maggio il Com.te PODESTA' divenne Comandante della R. Marina a Trieste, coadiuvato dal BERGERA, ma poche ore dopo le bande di Tito entrarono in città. Il C.I.N. dovette cedere le armi.

Il Com.te PODESTA' ed il BERGERA riuscirono a portare in salvo il denaro che si trovava al Comando.

Il Sottonocchiere MANISCALCO arrivò in tempo a portarlo a casa del Colonnello PONZO (collaboratore del gruppo PODESTA') ed al ritorno il MANISCALCO fu ucciso.

Il 2 maggio 1945 il Com.te PODESTA' ed il BERGERA si presentano al Comando inglese dei "New Zealanders", il quale decide non riconoscere il Comandante quale suo collaboratore, prima di ricevere conferma da Roma.

Il 3 maggio il Com.te PODESTA' ed il BERGERA si recano dal Colonnello PONZO. Mentre stavano chiacchierando con la signora, arriva una pattuglia di Tito con il mandato di cattura per il Colonnello PONZO, accusato di avere esultamenti italiani e di tenere in casa armi (accusa falsa). Poiché il Colonnello non si trovava in casa, il Com.te PODESTA' fu arrestato quale ostaggio. BERGERA consigliato dagli inglesi tentò di presentarsi alla prigione dicendo: "Gli Alleati ordinano la scarcerazione del Sig. PODESTA'". Fu arrestato anche lui e il PONZO si presentò la mattina seguente.

L'accusa degli slavi a PODESTA' e quindi a BERGERA

è quella del doppio gioco.

Il Megg. PACE che si era recato espressamente a Trie-

2373

minio stava crollando su tutti i fronti.

Il 1° maggio il Com.te PODESTA' divenne Comandante della R. Marina a Trieste, coadiuvato dal BERGERA, ma poche ore dopo le bande di Tito entrarono in città. Il C.I.N. dovette cedere le armi.

Il Com.te PODESTA' ed il BERGERA riuscirono a portare in salvo il denaro che si trovava al Comando.

Il Sottosegretario MANISCALCO arrivò in tempo a portarlo a casa del Colonnello PONZO (collaboratore del gruppo PODESTA') ed al ritorno il MANISCALCO fu ucciso.

Il 2 maggio 1945 il Com.te PODESTA' ed il BERGERA si presentano al Comando inglese dei "New Zealanders", il quale decide non riconoscere il Comandante quale suo collaboratore, prima di ricevere conferma da Roma.

Il 3 maggio il Com.te PODESTA' ed il BERGERA si recano dal Colonnello PONZO. Mentre stavano chiacchierando con la Signora, arriva una pattuglia di Tito con il mandato di cattura per il Colonnello PONZO, accusato di avere sentimenti italiani e di tenere in casa armi (accusa falsa). Poiché il Colonnello non si trovava in casa, il Com.te PODESTA' fa arrestato quale ostaggio. BERGERA consigliato dagli inglesi tentò di presentarsi alla prigione dicendo: "Gli Alleati ordinano la scarcerazione del Sig. PODESTA'". Fu arrestato anche lui e il PONZO si presentò la mattina seguente.

L'accusa degli slavi a PODESTA' e quindi a BERGERA

è quella del doppio gioco.

Il Magg. PAGE che si era recato espressamente a Trieste non è riuscito a liberarli.

.../...

2373

- 4 -

a) = Il Cap. Corv. di Compl. PODESTA' Luigi è stato richiamato dal Gruppo Speciale dello Stato Maggiore R. Esercito - Servizio Informazioni, in collaborazione con l'8100 ITALIAN SERVICE SQUADRON - Ufficio di collegamento NAGE. FACH dell'I.S.I.D. del R.A.A.C. - Nome della missione "GCRN" - Compito: informazioni strategiche zona di Trieste.

Il nulla osta per la sanzione dell'assegnazione del Comandante PODESTA' al predetto Servizio dal 1° agosto 1944, è stato chiesto a MARINA-ROMA dello Stato Maggiore Generale - Servizio Informazioni - con foglio n. 36601/FAV in data 25 settembre 1944.

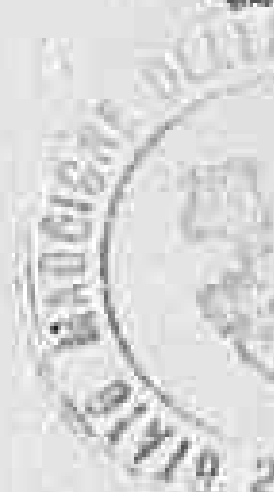
Per quanto riguarda il Capo Fur. di 2° cl. VERONICA Arturo, egli si trovava già a Trieste, fin dalla data dell'8 settembre 43, ove prestava servizio presso quella R. Capitaneria di Porto.

Alla fine di settembre 1943 chiese il congedo, mettendosi subito a lavorare clandestinamente contro i nazi-fascisti, raccogliendo notizie sul porto e la Marina, atte al momento opportuno per salvare il materiale, e la struttura del porto, tenendosi sempre al corrente della posizione delle mine che i tedeschi avrebbero dovuto far brillare al momento della resa.

Prima di entrare in contatto con il Cap. te PODESTA', collaborò con la missione "MEMO" diretta dal Cap. Corv. ELIA a Milano, ove il VERONICA faceva pervenire le notizie da Trieste.

Roma, 15 gennaio 1946

2372



IL CAPO REPARTO

Capitano di Vascello

(Messa Colli)

dell'I.S.L.D. del R.A.I.C. - Nome della missione "CORNO" -
Compito: informazioni strategiche zona di Trieste.

Il nulla osta per la sanzione dell'assegnazione del Comandante PODESTA' al predetto servizio del 1° agosto 1944, è stato chiesto a MARINA-ROMA dallo Stato Maggiore Generale - Servizio Informazioni - con foglio n. 36601/PAV in data 25 settembre 1944.

Per quanto riguarda il Capo Num. di 2° el. BERONERA Arturo, egli si trovava già a Trieste, fin dalla data dell'8 settembre 43, ove prestava servizio presso quella R. Capitania di Porto.

Alla fine di settembre 1943 chiese il congedo, mettendosi subito a lavorare clandestinamente contro i nazi-fascisti, raccogliendo notizie sul porto e la Marina, atte al momento opportuno per salvare il materiale, e la struttura del porto, tenendosi sempre al corrente della posizione delle mine che i tedeschi avrebbero dovuto far brillare al momento della resa.

Prima di entrare in contatto con il Com.te PODESTA', collaborò con la missione "YEMO" diretta dal Cap. Corv. ELIA e Milano, ove il BERONERA faceva pervenire le notizie da Trieste.

Roma, 15 gennaio 1946

2372



IL CAPO REPARTO
Capitano di Vascello
(Agostino Calod)

[Handwritten signature]

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
Navy Sub-Commission APO 394

NSC/4358
4 January 1946

S-E-C-R-E-T

From: Navy Sub-Commission, Hq. Allied Commission.
To: Ministry of Marine, Rome.
Subject: Lt. Cdr. Luigi FURESTA and P.O. Wtr. Arturo BERGERA.

1. With reference to your letter B.15629 dated 27th December 1945, it is requested that the following information be furnished in order that necessary steps may be taken to apply for the release of the above named:

- a) Domiciles of officer and rating.
- b) Date and place of birth of officer and rating.
- c) The particulars of the mission on which they were sent.
- d) By whom the mission was authorized. Copies of relative correspondence should be furnished.

H. W. ZIROLL,
COMMODORE, U. S. NAVY,
FOR REAR ADMIRAL
CHIEF, NAVY SUB-COMMISSION, AC.

1 7 JAN 1946

2371

From: MINISTRY OF MARINE (Cabinet)
To : N.S.C. - H.Q. - A.C.
Date: 27th December 1945
Ref.: B.15629

Subject: Lt.Cdr. PODESTA' Luigi - P.O.Wtr. BERGERA Arturo.

1. On 4th September 1944 Lt.Cdr. PODESTA' Luigi and P.O.Wtr. BERGERA Arturo were sent on a special task behind the enemy lines and they were arrested by Yugoslav Partisans in Trieste on 3rd and 5th May 1945 respectively on charges of having disseminated anti-slaw propaganda.

2. It is learned from a good source that Lt.Cdr. PODESTA' and BERGERA were transferred recently, by the Yugoslav Authorities, from the Mental Institution of Lubiana - which is being used as a prison - to Concentration Camp No.114 near Koceva (Novo Mesto).

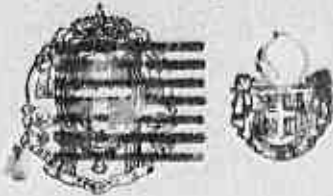
3. It is requested that the necessary steps may be taken for the release of the above servicemen.

Sgd. THE MINISTER

GGE/P.

2370

BEST COPY POSSIBLE



Roma, 27 DIC. 1945

Ministero della Marina

GABINETTO

INDIRIZZO TELEGRAFICO: MARINA-ROMA

Prot. N.° B.15629 *Allegati*

Al NAVY SUB-COMMISSION
HEADQUARTERS, A.C.

ARGOMENTO: Cap. Corv. PODESTA' Luigi - Capo Fur. 2^a BERGERA Arturo.

1. Il Cap. Corv. PODESTA' Luigi ed il Capo Fur. 2^a BERGERA Arturo, inviati in missione speciale oltre le linee nemiche il 4 settembre 1944, furono arrestati dai partigiani jugoslavi a Trieste, rispettivamente il giorno 3 e 5 maggio 1945 con l'accusa di aver svolta propaganda antislava.
2. Da buona fonte si apprende che il Comanda PODESTA ed il BERGERA sono stati recentemente trasferiti dalle autorità jugoslave dal Manicomio di Lubiana, adibito a prigione, al Campo di Concentramento n. 114 presso Kocevi (Novo Mesto).
3. Si pregherebbe voler fare gli opportuni passi onde ottenere la liberazione dei militari di cui sopra.

IL MINISTRO 2363

[Handwritten signature]

0 7 8 7