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148/PAT

GERMAN PROPAGANDA

Jan. 1944 - Feb. 1945

GERMAN PROPAGANDA

Jan. 1944 - Feb. 1945

Closed Oct. 20, 1945

SECRET

US/PAT

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

File - 4 FEB 1945

ASST 5 Feb 45

File 6 Feb 45

Examination for material

File - 4 FEB 1945

ASect 5 Feb 45

File 6 Feb 45

Closed 20 Oct 45

10000/425/423

THIS FOLDER

CONTAINS PAPERS

FROM JAN. 1944

TO FEB. 1945

CATALOGUE

SECRET

FILE	MINUTE SHEET No. 5	PAGE
148/PAT	DATE	5.
5th Feb 45.	10. To: Civil Affairs Section. Folio 5 is forwarded for signature, please. <i>Ans per. Signed 6 Feb 45.</i> V. P. J. C. SNEE, Major, Executive Officer.	

7086

folio 5 is forwarded for signature, please.

5.

Ans per. Signed 6 Feb 81

V.P.J.C. SMITH, Major,
Executive Officer.

148/PAT

This Sheet No 4

(~~22~~) 9

TO : Patriots.

Confirmation of conversation between VP, Major Drage and
Major Dillard re minutes (26) & (27).
7 x 8

1. It is agreed that PRO will handle the publicity direct with the Italian press.
2. C.I. Sec., however, should see in advance copies of releases before they are made.

3. Feb. 45.

W.C.S. Dillard
WILLIAM A.S. DILLARD
Major
C.I. Section

FILE
148/PAT
202/PAT

MINUTE SHEET No. 3

DATE

PAGE

2 Feb '45

207

Executive Officer, Patriots Branch

I do not like this at all. Are you not confusing information with propaganda? If you want to assuage a "spiritual crisis", as it seems, you certainly will not be wise to talk about "14 days rest" "sent home" "recruiting centres" "suitable work" and so on. Silence would be better than such half-hearted encouragement. To me it seems highly dangerous even to base propaganda on this information. Either we can give an answer or we can't: if our treatment of patriots is really as inept as the statement makes it sound, we had best keep quiet. The only possible type of reply to the German leaflet is in the sense of "Alexander does not betray but he does not make false promises" "Here you will find yourselves free as you have never been free" "The newly equipped army of Italian Liberation is ready to welcome you in its ranks" and so on. With 20 years' experience of radio I would say that no one could make useful propaganda out of the statement. I think Patriots Branch should produce much more material and then if necessary give it to PW3 or to us to knock into publicity shape.

Lowell Fielden

LOWELL FIELDEN, Major,
Public Relations Director

27.8

3rd Feb 45.

To: Civil Affairs Section.

374

want to assuage a "spiritual crisis", as it seems, you certainly will not be wise to talk about "14 days rest" "sent home" "recruiting centres" "suitable work" and so on. Silence would be better than such half-hearted encouragement. To me it seems highly dangerous even to base propaganda on this information. Either we can give an answer or we can't: if our treatment of patriots is really as inept as the statement makes it sound, we had best keep quiet. The only possible type of reply to the German leaflet is in the sense of "Alexander does not betray but he does not make false promises" "Here you will find yourselves free as you have never been free" "The newly equipped army of Italian Liberation is ready to welcome you in its ranks" and so on. With 20 years' experience of radio I would say that no one could make useful propaganda out of the statement. I think Patriots Branch should produce much more material and then if necessary give it to PWB or to us to knock into publicity shape.

Kenneth Fielden

KENNEL FIELDEN, Major,
Public Relations Director

27.8

3rd Feb 45.

To: Civil Affairs Section.

Ref Minute ⁷25 - Observations by PRO for your information. It has been arranged with PRO that the representative of "Italia Combatti" be interviewed by him.

B.L. Prager
B.L. PRAGER, Major
Executive Officer

3x4

25.3x4

3863

FILE	MINUTE SHEET No. 2	PAGE
148/PAT	DATE	
31st Jan 45.	To: C.A. Section, for the attention of the V.P. Confirming conversation Brigadier UFGJOHN - Major DRAGE. Please see folio 433 for your approval. Captain ISOLANI (British) who is in charge of the newspaper "Italia Combatti" is calling back on Friday, 2nd Feb, for the approved statement. B.L. DRAGE, Major Executive Officer.	4
31 Jan 45.	P.R.O. <u>416</u> We are anxious to combat German propaganda in ill treatment of patriots (see translation of a German leaflet at 34) with in the other hand promising too much. Do the approval of 34 for insertion in Italia Combatti <u>SPRINT</u>	3 4

(British) who is in charge of the newspaper "Italia Combatti" is calling back on Friday, 2nd Feb, for the approved statement.

[Signature]
B.L. DRAGL, Major
Executive Officer.

P.R.O. 416

We are anxious to combat German propaganda in ill treatment of patriots (see translation of a German leaflet at 388) without on the other hand promising too much. Do you approve of ~~387~~⁴¹ for insertion in Italia Combatti

SP241

31 Jan 48.

3

4

9862

FILE	MINUTE SHEET No. 8	DATE	PAGE
23 Jan.	(1) Maj. Willoughby's memo note is sent in your very own file.	<i>W. Willoughby</i>	1
14 Jan	(2) Major Drage, Report has been sent to PW's and NO's Special Force HQ. <i>Drage</i>	<i>Drage</i>	1
2 Feb 45.	To: C.A. Section. Reference Folio 2. Folio 1B contains a similar translation of this leaflet received on 23 Jan. Minutes 1 and 2 were action taken as a result.	<i>W. Drage</i> W. DRAGE, Major Executive Officer	2
2 Feb 45	(4) To: Patriots Please prepare a letter for VP's signature to 'AM 6 Fifth Army for a Thank AM 6 Fifth Army for folio (2); and the fact		

14 Jan

2 Feb 45.

(2)

Major Drage, Report has been sent to
PW's and NO's Special Force HQ. Dillard
may

3.

To: C.A. Section.

Reference Folio 2.

Folio 1B contains a similar translation of this leaflet
received on 23 Jan. Minutes 1 and 2 were action taken
as a result.

B.E. DRAGE, Major
Executive Officer

(4)

To: Patriots

Please prepare a letter for V.P.'s

Signature to 'AMG Fifth Army for
of Thank

for (2); and

b) inform them of the fact

that ACI had previously received

this information; and

c) of the action

in this information.

W.G.S. Dillard, Major

C.H. See

3 Feb 45

3861

3 Feb 45

2

2

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

Ref: DAB/rat

Subject: Propaganda among Patriots.

Rst: 525

To: SCAC, 1st FIFTH ARMY

5th Feb, 45.

2

Thank you for your letter dated 29th January, 1945,
on the above subject.

This information had previously been received by AC.
HQ. The matter has been handed over to GPO in order that the
necessary counter-propaganda methods may be considered.

BY COMMAND OF THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER

G. B. DAVEN.
Brigadier.
VP. CA. Section.

3860

(645)

29 12

THE TRUTH ABOUT WHAT IS BEING DONE FOR PATRIOTS WHEN
THEY COME THROUGH THE LINES TO LIBERATED ITALY.

Patriots are brought back to central points where there are established a number of Patriot Centres. Here they are given a hot bath, they are re-clothed and fed on the Italian Army scale of rations, and allowed to rest for a maximum period of ~~in these centres~~ of thirty days. During this period the Allied Officers who run the Centres deal with all questions of welfare. Those Patriots whose homes are in liberated territory are sent home: those who wish to volunteer for the Italian Army are sent away to recruiting centres, and those patriots who cannot go home because their homes are as yet unliberated are found suitable work.

Patriots who come through the lines and who are wounded are cared for in Italian Military Hospitals.

It will, therefore, be seen from the above that the Allied Authorities have recognised the Patriots and their efforts by giving authority that they shall be fed, clothed and hospitalised when necessary by the Military.

The Patriot Branch of the Allied Commission with its field organisation forward is doing a great deal to alleviate the difficulties and sufferings of the Patriots to help them to become citizens.

established a number of Patriot Centres. Here they are given a hot bath, they are re-clothed and fed on the Italian Army scale of rations, and allowed to rest for a maximum period of three days of thirty days. During this period the Allied Officers who run the Centres deal with all questions of welfare. Those Patriots whose homes are in liberated territory are sent home; those who wish to volunteer for the Italian Army are sent away to recruiting centres, and those patriots who cannot go home because their homes are as yet unliberated are found suitable work.

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3379

SECRET

To : Mr. TITCHENOR
Capt. ISOLARI

From: A.V. TAPLIN
No. 5 Detachment
No. 1 Special Force

SF/2 6

15 Jan 44

The following is a translation of a German leaflet dropped to patriots in the Apennines.

"Poor Patriots:

What are you doing in the mountains, now that the Allies have left you in the lurch; now that you are chased, day and night by Germans and Republicans; and now that Alexander has declared you twice traitors? Now are you going to live?

Present yourselves to the nearest German command with your weapons and we shall give you food and lodging. We promise not to arrest you and you can go back to your families. If you wish to work with us, you will not be obliged to go to Germany or to fight.

Remember that you are hated by everybody, even by the civil population, who, already suffering, fear your requisitioning of food and German reprisals."

During the last month the Gestapo and Republican police are reported to have been effecting a lively propaganda drive amongst the partisans in this area, and are spreading the rumour that all patriots overrun by Allied forces are disarmed, ill-treated, considered as prisoners of war and sent into concentration camps.

This rumour has been confirmed by many patriots who have been obliged to return to their places of residence in German occupied territory, in order to avoid what is described as "outrageous treatment".

The consequence of the above has been:

a) a serious spiritual crisis in many patriots, and

What are you doing in the mountains, now that the Allies have left you in the lurch; now that you are chased, day and night by Germans and Republicans; and now that Alexander has declared you traitors? How are you going to live?

Present yourselves to the nearest German command with your weapons and we shall give you food and lodging. We promise not to arrest you and you can go back to your families. If you wish to work with us, you will not be obliged to go to Germany or to fight.

Remember that you are hated by everybody, even by the civil population, who, already suffering, fear your requisitioning of food and German reprisals."

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This rumour has been confirmed by many patriots who have been obliged to return to their places of residence in German occupied territory, in order to avoid what is described as "outrageous treatment."

The consequence of the above has been:

- a) a serious spiritual crisis in many patriots, and
- b) many patriots have left their units and presented themselves to the recruiting centres for the Republican Army.

The writer of the above report submits that Allied agents should be sent across the lines to prevent the spreading of these rumours.

3858

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HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
FIFTH ARMY
APO 464

29 January 1945

SUBJECT: Propaganda Among Partisans.

TO : Chief Commissioner, Allied Commission, APO 394,
U. S. Army.

1. The following is a translation of a propaganda leaflet dropped from planes or otherwise circulated in the Aachen mountain area in which the Fifth Army is operating.

"Poor patriots!

"What are you doing in the mountains? Now that the allies have left you in the lurch, that you are chased day and night by the Germans and republicans and Alexander has declared that you are twice traitors, how are you going to live?

"Present yourselves to the nearest German command with your weapons and we shall give you food and lodging. We promise not to arrest you and you can go back to your families and if you will work with us you will not be obliged to go to Germany or fight.

"Remember that you are hated by everybody, even by the population who, already, sufficiently, exploited, fear your requisitioning of food and German reprisals."

2. One of the patriot leaders makes a report as to enemy propaganda among the partisan bands of which the following is a translation:

"In this last period the Gestapo and republican police are effecting a lively propaganda among the partisan bands, spreading the rumor that all patriots overrun by allied forces are disarmed, ill-treated, considered as prisoners of war and sent to concentration camps.

"This rumor has been confirmed by many patriots who

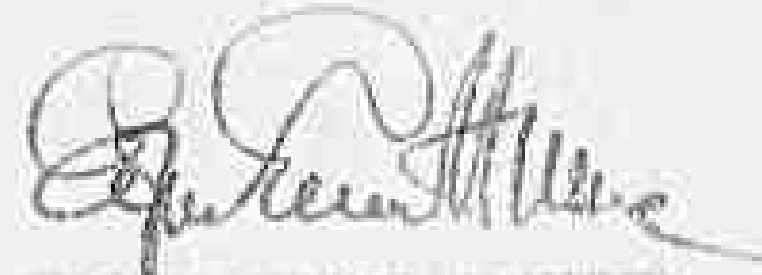
3857

have been obliged to return to their old place in German-occupied territory not to be subjected to an outrageous treatment.

"The first consequences of all this have been (1) serious spiritual crisis in many patriots; (2) many left their units and have presented themselves to the recruiting centers of the Republican Army.

"Agents should be sent beyond the lines to prevent the spreading of these rumors and to spread contrary ones."

3. This intelligence is furnished for your information.



EDGAR ESKINE HUME
Brigadier General, GSC
Senior Civil Affairs Officer
Fifth Army

EEH:hml

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148

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY

PATRIOT SECTION

RCL/mm

REF : 109/6
SUBJECT : German Propaganda.
TO : Lt. Col. F. Craig,
Director Patriots Branch
H.Q. Allied Commission.

Date : 21.I.I945

I am attaching hereto copy of correspondence which I have received from Lt. Col. De Marco, Italian Liaison Officer with G - 2 Section, Headquarters Fifth Army, for your information.

For the Commanding General,

R. C. Limbert
R. C. LIMBERT,
Captain,
Patriots Officer,
A.M.G. Fifth Army.

3855

COPY

HEAD QUARTERS FIFTH ARMY
ITALIAN LIAISON OFFICER WITH G - 2 SECTION.
THE OFFICER IN CHARGE.

January 17, 1944.

Dear Captain Limbert,

With reference to one conversation
of a few days ago I am sending you here enclosed copy of
the two documents, what I promised to send to you.

hoping that I will soon have the occasion of
seeing you again.

Very sincerely yours

/s/ Lt. Col. De Marco

To: Captain Limbert
S.C. for the Patriots
Via della Scala n. 68
FIRENZE.

TRANSLATIONREPORT OF PATRIOT LEADER FERRO PARIS ON THE SITUATION OF THE CRISIS
WHICH IS BEGINNING IN THE GERMAN PATRIOTS.

In this last period the Gestapo and Republican Police are effecting a lively propaganda amongst the Partisan bands, spreading the rumour that all patriots overrun by Allied Forces are disarmed, ill-treated, considered as PWs, and sent to concentration camps.

This rumour has been confirmed by many patriots who have been obliged to return to their old place in German-occupied territory not to be subjected to an outrageous treatment.

The first consequences of all this have been:

- serious spiritual crisis in many patriots;
- many left their units and have presented themselves to the recruiting centres of the Republican Army.

Agents should be sent beyond the lines to prevent the spreading of these rumours, and to spread contrary ones.

