

ACC

10000/132/49

221.1
German Embas
June - Nov 194

10000/132/49

221.1 23
German Embassy At Rome
June - Nov 1944

W.W.

Ref the correspondence on the German Embassy Property.

After going to the CA Section and looking thru their file, I made the following report:

On 28 Sept Mr Caccia (Political Section) wrote to Col Shipp stating that he had spoken to Col Mayne in the premises of the Swiss Legation's letter, who said that this matter should be referred to G-1 5th Army.

On 29 Sept RC & MG Section wrote to HQ AAI of which we have a copy.

On 1 Oct ACC ADV Main Hq AAI wrote to G-1 AG (US) Adv Hq AAI asking for an investigation and reply so that it could be transmitted to the Swiss Legation.

On 3 Nov Civil Affairs Section, Hq AAI made a reply to Civil Affairs Section, AG stating that the typewriters and stationery - subject of the inquiry, was not removed by them. They also requested FWB on the 17th Oct to check with their HQ in Rome of which a reply to this further inquiry has not been received.

BUT, getting back to the letter originated by the Swiss Legation, I believe that it is in the possession of the G-1 AG (US) Adv Hq AAI and, since there isn't any action to be taken by this section, let's just say that we've had it and file all this correspondence (namely three letters) in file 13.

Hoping that you will agree that this is a closed case.

Gus

Agree W.W.W.

1830

2 Dec 44

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

Ref : 460/46/CA

6 Nov 44

SUBJECT : German Embassy Property

TO : Political Section ✓

Reference 460/39/CA of 29 September 1944 to Liaison Officer at HQ.A.A.I. copy to you, there is forwarded to you copy reply from L.O. dated 3 November 1944.

J. R. Criss Maj.
R.R. CRISS COL
CSO-CA Sec.

1 Enclosure

*File is with Civ Affairs Section
(460/CA)*

Reply is awaited.

*2 Dec 44
DND*

1829

3495

C O P Y

Subject : German Embassy
Property

Civil Affairs Section
HQ Allied Armies in Italy
TEL : FILPOT 132

3 NOV

TO : Civil Affairs Sec.
HQ Allied Commission

1. Reference your 460/CA of 27 Oct 44.
2. G-1/AG(US) have referred this question to HQ 5 Army who state that the typewriters and stationery, which was the subject of your enquiry, were not removed by them.
3. On the 17th of October, they requested PWB Branch at this HQ to check with their HQ in Rome and a reply to this further enquiry has not yet been received.
4. When this comes to hand, this section will be pleased to communicate with you further.

/s/ Lt Col.
Chief Staff Officer
For DCCAO

1828

4784

COPY

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

Phone:
476808

Ref/460/390A

29 Sep 44.

SUBJECT: German Embassy Property.

TO: Lt. Col. Friend James,
ASC HQ, HQ AAI.

1. The attached letter from the Swiss Legation, Rome, dated 18 Sep 44 dealing with German Embassy property is forwarded for your attention. It appears that a certain number of typewriters and stationery have gone missing. They may have been removed by officers of the Counter Intelligence Corps of the 5th Army under Major Springan.
2. We shall be obliged if you will take the matter up with G-1 Fifth Army and let us know the result in due course.
3. For your information there is also sent a copy of Mr. H.A. Caccia's note to Lt. Col. Shipp.

J.S. PRATT, Major.

for

NORMAN E. FISKE,
Colonel,
Deputy Executive Commissioner.

Copy to: Political Section.

1827

Mr. Schott: (

Reference the attached memorandum from the Swiss Legation (Foreign Interests Section).

I remember the two radio sets for I had them brought up to our office. Immediately after, Mr. Caccia had Czajkowski (driver) take them to a place to have them repaired. There is nothing in our files in this respect and just another one of those things that Mr Caccia dealt with personally. We can only wait till Czajkowski returns and ask him as to the whereabouts of the radio sets.

X He has now returned and is closing them sets up (they are with repair shop)

Foreign Interests

MEMORANDUM.

to the Allied Commission, Political Section.

The Swiss Legation, Foreign Interests Division, presents its compliments to the Allied Commission, Political Section, and has the honour to present the following facts:

After the searching of the German Embassy by the Allied Forces, two radio receiving sets appeared to have been damaged by the explosion which occurred in the opening of the safes. Mr. Caccia kindly offered to repair these two radio receiving sets, and they were delivered, at the end of July to the Political Section of the Allied Commission.

The Legation would be grateful if these two sets could now be returned.

The Swiss Legation takes the opportunity to renew its thanks for the courtesy.

Rome, November 8, 1944.
Som/ns.


1826

Copy

Foreign Interests

MEMORANDUM

to the Allied Commission, Political Section

The Swiss Legation, Foreign Interests Division, presents its compliments to the Allied Commission, Political Section, and has the honour to present the following facts:

After the searching of the German Embassy by the Allied Forces, two radio receiving sets appeared to have been damaged by the explosion which occurred in the opening of the safes. Mr. Gaceta kindly offered to repair these two radio receiving sets, and they were delivered, at the end of July to the Political Section of the Allied Commission.

The Legation would be grateful if these two sets could now be returned.

The Swiss Legation takes the opportunity to renew its thanks for the courtesy.

Rome, November 8, 1944
SDF/na.

21/11/44

Dhe
Mayer Heston / Mr. Hapkinson
conversation by phone: Heston to
purchase tubes in black market
and would pay for them.

I believe Mr. Heston is dealing with this
at the R.C.?

Yes.

11/11/44

11/11/44
14/11/44

1825

SECRET
ALLIED **SECRET** COMMISSION
INCOMING MESSAGE

Pol Sec file
3199

TO: AFHQ US POLITICAL ADVISOR ACTION BRITISH RESIDENT MINISTER INFO
SIGNAL MESSAGE CENTER No: 11/09
FROM: ACC ADV FROM STONE CLASSIFICATION: **SECRET**
REFERENCE No: ADV 333 PRECEDENCE: **PRIORITY**
DATE AND TIME OF ORIGIN: JUL082145 OFFICE OF ORIGIN:

PLEASE DELIVER FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO SWISS REPRESENTATIVE ALGIERS FROM
SWISS MINISTER DE STOUTZ. REFERENCE ACC ADV 87 JUNE 26. ACC MAIN
PLEASE PASS. MESSAGE BEGINS PARA MATTER OF ENTERING GERMAN EMBASSY
ROME WAS PUBLISHED HERE IN LOCAL PRESS WITHOUT ANY MENTION OF THE
CATEGORICAL RESERVE MADE BY THE SWISS LEGATION. PLEASE CONFIRM TO
BERN THAT ALL RESERVES WERE MADE AND THAT THE ALLIES DECLARE THAT THEY
ASSUME ENTIRE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR ACTION



ACC MAIN DIST

Info-Action Tel Sec

*Info- CSO
Depee
Sac BR
Pub Rel BR
File
Float(2)*

1824

SECRET

DATE and Time of RECEIPT JUL090145

Distribution:

TAKEN FROM THE GERMAN EMBASSY, ROME - PERIOD 8th to 23rd JUNE, 1944

EXPLOSIVES:

- 1,400 lbs Plastic Explosives (Nobles)
- 80 Incendiaries (Various)
- 2 Drums Cordtex
- 2 Drums Safety Fuse
- 40 C.E. Primers
- 50 Limpets
- 20 Clams
- 65 Flower Pots
- 3 drums Miscellaneous Explosives
- 4 Boxes matches fuses
- 36 L'delays
- 40 German Stick Grenades
- 10 German Egg Grenades
- 15 prepared Charges
- 25 Wooden Box Mines
- 8 Electrical Detonators
- 4 Plastic Charges placed in lumps of coal for sabotage purposes

RADIO EQUIPMENT

- 1 Transformer 300 watt
- 1 Allocchio-Bacchini and 60 Receiver Type O-O-9
- 1 Receiver Type ARAT SAFAR
- 1 Transformer Wedovielli Rousseau 220-1220 volts
- 1 Rotary Converter Broco Marelli Type RAC C/100/4 500-1000 volts, 27-230 volts.
- 2 Italian "Raddizzatore" Mains Transformer
- 2 German Filter
- 2 German Transformer (Mains)
- 1 Transformer Rectifier SAFAR
- 1 Allocchio-Bacchini Wavemeter
- 1 Italian Agents Transmitting and Receiving Set
- 2 Italian Transmitting and Receiving Set
- 1 Receiver IN 5 Italian Air
- 3 Dual Frequency Transmitter Allocchio-Bacchini
- 1 Italian Transmitter Allocchio-Bacchini RA 350
- 2 Small Receiver and Transmitter
- 1 Receiver Allocchio-Bacchini Type O.C.9
- 1 VHF Transmitter
- 1 VHF Receiver

To
Mr. Jan Rieber
A.C.C.

1823

To: Mr. Rieba
 From: Frank Shea
 PWR News Editor

PUBLIC RELATIONS
 ADVANCE A.P.H.C.
 C.M.P.

FOR RELEASE IN ROME AND ALGIERS AT 1100H HOURS ON 7 JULY 1944

ALLIED POLICE HEADQUARTERS MEDITERRANEAN THEATRE -- Fourteen hundred pounds of plastic explosives, a large quantity of other explosives useful in acts of sabotage, and enough material for five radio transmitters were removed by Allied authorities from the German Embassy in Rome between June 8 and 23, with a representative of the Swiss Minister present as an official observer.

Acting on reliable information that German sabotage agents had been drawing explosives from a dump concealed in the German Embassy, Allied officials notified the Swiss Minister in charge of German interests as Protecting Power of their intention to search the premises in order to safeguard Allied lives.

Accompanied by a representative of the Swiss Minister, responsible officials of the Rome Area Command entered the Embassy. They found the main explosive dump in the garden of the Embassy, in a cellar built into the old Roman wall which ran through the grounds. Nearly all the explosives were packed in containers as though for airborne use, except for 25 wooden box mines and a quantity of German grenades, which were in cases. Some of the plastic explosives had been made up to resemble lumps of coal, a device often used by saboteurs.

Much of the cache was found to be in an "unstable" condition and extremely unsafe, constituting an immediate hazard to life and property in the surrounding district. It was decided to dispose of this by weighted immersion in a deep part of the Tiber River.

While loading the last of the explosives in a scout car, for no apparent reason one or two incendiaries started to burn; this ignited some of the detonators and in an instant the garden undergrowth was a mass of small explosions and fires. Quick action in driving the loaded scout car away prevented what would have been a disastrous explosion.

As it was, efforts to scatter the remaining explosives were unsuccessful and small explosions and fires continued for several hours before they could be brought under control.

A list of the explosives and radio material is printed on the reverse side of this sheet.

A search of the Embassy buildings and grounds revealed additional small quantities of radio materials, plastic explosives, grenades and fuses. An inventory of all items seized was given to the Swiss Minister, who was informed that the action was taken entirely on the responsibility of Allied authorities, who were acting to protect the safety of Allied forces in the area. Throughout the operation a Swiss representative was present, acting as a diplomatic observer.

When the search was completed on June 23, the premises were restored to Swiss protection.

/CONTINUED OVERLEAF

AFHQ U.S. POLITICAL ADVISOR ACTION BRITISH RESIDENT MINISTER INFO

ACC ADVANCE

SECRET

333

July 8

PRIORITY
POLITICAL

PLEASE DELIVER FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO SWISS REPRESENTATIVE ALCIERE
FROM SWISS MINISTER DE STOUTZ PD PAREN TO AFHQ UNDER SUBJECT POL-
ITICAL ADVISOR ACTION BRITISH RESIDENT MINISTER INFO FROM ACC
ADVANCE FROM STONE REFERENCE ACC ADV EIGHT SEVEN JUNE TWO SIX PAREN
MESSAGE BEGINS PARA MATTER OF ENTERING GERMAN EMBASSY ROME WAS
PUBLISHED HERE IN LOCAL PRESS WITH OUT ANY MENTION OF THE CATE-
GORICAL RESERVES MADE BY THE SWISS LEGATION PD PLEASE CONFIRM
TO BERN THAT ALL ^{EC} ~~RESERVATIONS~~ WERE MADE AND THAT THE ALLIES
DECLARE THAT THEY ASSUME ENTIRE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR ACTION

1822

LIST OF GERMAN-OWNED PROPERTY
IN ROME

1. DEUTSCHE BOTSCHAFT (Quirinal) - - - - - Via Conte Rosso 25
2. DEUTSCHE LICH ORSTERNPICHISCHE
BOTSCHAFT - - - - - Via Pergolesi 5
3. KUNSTLICH TSCHETOSLOWAKISCHE
BOTSCHAFT - - - - - Via Maria Luisa di Savoia
4. VILLA MASSIMO (ARHOLDSCHES STIFTUNG) - - Via Bonaventura
5. VILLA MASSIMO - - - - - Via Boiardo
6. ARCHAEOLOGISCHES INSTITUT - - - - - Via Sardegna 79
7. HISTORISCHES INSTITUT - - - - - Viale Martiri Fascisti
8. KUNSTWISSENSCHAFTLICHES INSTITUT - - - Palazzo Zuccheri
9. DEUTSCHE SCHULE - - - - - Via Savoia
10. VILLA AMELUNG - - - - - Via di Villa Patrizi
11. DEUTSCHES EVANGELISCHES
DIAKONISSENHEIM - - - - - Via Alessandro Farnese 18

ROME AREA COMMANDOUTGOING MESSAGEREF. NO: _____ CLASSIFICATION: TOP SECRET DATE: 17 JUNE 1944TIME DATE: _____ PRECEDENCE PRIORITYORIGINATING SECTION: "S" FORCE APPROVED: _____

TO: HQ AAI

P. GLYN ROBERTS, Capt. GS
for R. J. C. CAVE, Maj. GS

YOUR SIX EIGHT SEVEN OF ONE TWO JUNE FEEL THAT PUBLICITY AT
PRESENT STAGE IS MOST UNDESIRABLE FROM BOTH POLITICAL AND
SECURITY ASPECT PD SUGGEST NO STEPS ARE TAKEN TILL FULL REPORTS
AND INVENTORIES ARE IN HANDS OF ABLE FOX HOW QUEEN AND SWISS
GOVERNMENT HAS RECEIVED REPORT FROM ITS REPRESENTATIVE PD FULL
REPORTS FOLLOWING IN TWO OR THREE DAYS

SMITH

REF: AI-122

NOTE: The above message is being delivered today 17th June
personally by Colonel Smith late of "S" Force to HQ AAI
with the ~~recognized~~ knowledge and approval of Brig-Gen
HOWARD ~~MA~~ 62 4th Army.

✓ Copy passed by hand to Mr CACCIA and Mr REBER of ACC. (Political)

P. Glyn Roberts
Capt

17 June 44

XC
June 17, 1944.

MEMORANDUM TO: Commanding Officer, S Force.

1. This Memorandum is submitted in accordance with your instructions for a report on the activities of the Political Section on the entry of S Force into Rome.
2. Our main objective had been to make contact as soon as possible after the liberation of the city with General Bencivenga who, with Allied approval, had been appointed by Marshal Badoglio in charge of the city in any interim between German withdrawal and Allied entry. We were to explain to him and to the leaders of the political Parties in Rome what plans had been made for the reconstruction of the Italian Government, and to try to persuade them to take no precipitate action until they had had a chance of discussing these matters with Marshal Badoglio and the Party leaders in the South of Italy. In order to have the best chance of achieving this objective, it was essential that we should be among the first to see Bencivenga and the political leaders, for instance before they could see the press or decide on any courses which would be embarrassing.
3. In the upshot, we were able to discuss matters with General Bencivenga immediately on his arrival at Campidoglio at 7:00 o'clock on the morning of June 5, and he thereupon arranged for an interview with the leader of the Rome politicians, Signor Bonomi at 8:00. Both General Bencivenga and Signor Bonomi accepted the Allied proposals without question and Signor Bonomi summoned a meeting of the Rome Committee of the Six Parties for 11:30 that morning where these proposals were unanimously endorsed. We should like to go on record that this result was in very large measure due to our being able to enter the city with S Force. Long political discussions resulted later, but all the Rome Party had by then been tied down to a program which suited the Allies.
4. Our next main duty was to establish contact with the British and American representatives to the Vatican which we did at 10:00 a.m. on the morning of June 5, and this enabled relations between the Vatican and the Allied authorities concerned to be established at once through the properly-accredited British and American representatives.
5. Our other duties were to be at the disposal of all sections of S Force for any political question that arose. The principal question has been the search for and discovery of armaments in the German Embassy premises, about which a separate report has already been submitted.
6. From experience in Rome, we would strongly recommend that representatives of the State Department and Foreign Office should on

-2-

future occasions be among the first to enter any capital city in Europe which is taken from the Germans. As it is very difficult if not impossible for civilians to maintain themselves in an army area, it is of great assistance if they can be attached to some force such as S Force which can accept responsibility for all administrative matters.

Joint Vice Presidents,
Allied Control Commission
(Harold Gaccia, Samuel Reber)

1818

SECRET
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
INCOMING MESSAGE

2181

TO: AFHQ RPTD HQ ACC AND ROME AREA COMMAND

SIGNAL MESSAGE CENTER No:

FROM: ADV AAI

CLASSIFICATION: SECRET

REFERENCE No: (B) 455

PRECEDENCE: NONE

DATE AND TIME OF ORIGIN: JUN 22

OFFICE OF ORIGIN: CITE/NONE

REFERENCE YOUR ~~F59331~~ F59331 CITE FHGBI DATED 14 JUNE. WE DO NOT THINK THAT VATICAN IS GENUINELY ANXIOUS FOR WEMMER TO BE RELEASED AND RETURNED THERE AT EARLY DATE. MOREOVER EVIDENCE OF COLLABORATION WITH SICHERHEITSDIENST COULD NOT BE USED. UNDERSTOOD LIKELY THAT SHORTLY ONLY 1 OTHER GERMAN REP BESIDES WEIZSACKER WILL BE ALLOWED REMAIN VATICAN. SUGGEST THEREFORE THAT WEMMER REMAINS IN CUSTODY IN ROME UNTIL FOREIGN OFFICE AND STATE DEPARTMENT GIVE RULING ON THIS MATTER AND UNTIL PROBABLE TRANSFER OF WESWAC AND OTHERS TO SPECIAL ESTABLISHMENT IN SOUTH ITALY PENDING REPATRIATION. CONSIDER DEFINITELY UNDESIRABLE FROM SECURITY VIEWPOINT THAT WEMMER SHOULD NOW BE RELEASED AND RETURNED TO VATICAN. WE HAVE NO SECURITY OBJECTION TO RELEASE OF VON KESSEL AND HIS RETURN TO VATICAN



ACC DIST
INFO/ CA BR
DCC
SEC BR
POL SEC
FILE
FLOAT

1817

DATE and Time of RECEIPT JUN 24

Distribution:

SECRET

SECRETARIAT OF STATE
OF HIS HOLINESS

No. 80309

From the Vatican, June 6, 1944.

TRANSLATION

Pursuant to its Note of May 5 relative to the arrest of Minister Wemmer, of the German Embassy, the Secretariat of State of His Holiness has the honor to inform the Chargé d'Affaires of the United States of America to the Holy See that a second member of the same Embassy, namely the Counselor Albrecht von Kessel, would appear to have been arrested yesterday during the day, as he did not return to the home of Counselor Wollenweber (Via Adda 53) with whom he was residing nor did he return to the German Embassy since about noon yesterday.

The German Embassy supposes that these two gentlemen might have been interned in the barracks of the 81st Regiment and it requests the immediate intervention of the Secretariat of State. The Secretariat of State finds itself obliged again to intervene with the Chargé d'Affaires of the United States of America in order that this incident may be settled as rapidly as possible. The Secretariat of State cannot believe that members of the diplomatic Corps accredited to the Holy See can receive treatment contrary to their diplomatic status, respect for which the Holy See cannot fail to defend.

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The Secretariat of State therefore asks the Chargé d'Affaires of the United States of America to be kind enough
1816
to

Mr. Harold H. Tittmann
Chargé d'Affaires of the United States of
America to the Holy See

-3-

to intervene once again with the competent authorities in the sense desired.

The Secretariat of State takes the occasion to renew assurances of its high consideration.

(OFFICIAL SEAL OF THE)
(SECRETARIAT OF STATE)
(OF HIS HOLINESS)

1815

1 8 0 0

1815

(SECRETARIAT OF STATE)
(OF HIS HOLINESS)

SEGRETERIA DI STATO
DI SUA SANTITÀ

No. 80309

Dal Vaticano, le 6 Juin 1944.

La Secrétairerie d'Etat de Sa Sainteté, faisant suite à sa Note du 5 de ce mois relative à l'arrestation du Ministre Wemmer, de l'Ambassade d'Allemagne, a l'honneur de faire savoir à M. le Chargé d'Affaires des Etats Unis d'Amérique près le Saint Siège qu'un second membre de la même Ambassade, le Conseiller Albrecht von Kessel doit avoir été arrêté de même dans la journée d'hier, car il n'a pas fait retour au domicile du Conseiller Wollenweber (Via Adda 53) auprès duquel il s'était transféré, ni ne s'est plus présenté à l'Ambassade d'Allemagne depuis environ midi de la journée d'hier.

L'Ambassade d'Allemagne suppose que ces deux messieurs pourraient bien avoir été internés à la caserne du 81.ème Régiment d'Infanterie, et elle demande une intervention rapide de la Secrétairerie d'Etat.

La Secrétairerie d'Etat se voit obligée d'intervenir à nouveau auprès de M. le Chargé d'Affaires des Etats Unis d'Amérique pour que cet incident soit réglé le plus rapidement possible. Elle ne veut pas croire que des membres du Corps Diplomatique accrédité près le Saint Siège puissent être objet de mesures contraires à leur qualification diplomatique, pour le respect de laquelle le Saint Siège ne peut manquer d'interposer sa défense.

COPY

le Saint Siège qu'un second membre de la même Ambassade, le Conseiller Albrecht von Kessel doit avoir été arrêté de même dans la journée d'hier, car il n'a pas fait retour au domicile du Conseiller Wollenweber (Via Adda 53) auprès duquel il s'était transféré, ni ne s'est plus présenté à l'Ambassade d'Allemagne depuis environ midi de la journée d'hier.

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1814

La Secrétairerie d'Etat prie en conséquence M. le Chargé d'Affaires des Etats Unis d'Amérique de vouloir bien intervenir

M. Harold H. Tittmann
Chargé d'Affaires des Etats Unis d'Amérique
près le Saint Siège

-2-

intervenir à nouveau auprès des Autorités compétentes dans le sens désiré.

Elle saisit l'occasion pour lui renouveler l'assurance de sa considération bien distinguée.

(OFFICIAL SEAL OF THE)
(SECRETARIAT OF STATE)
(OF HIS HOLINESS)

1804

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

1813

(SECRETARIAT OF STATE)
(OF HIS HOLINESS)

Sent 7/8 6:53 P

Foreign Interests.

M E M O R A N D U M .

The Swiss Legation, Foreign Interests Section,
presents its compliments to the Political Section of
the Allied Control Commission, and would appreciate if
the attached telegram could be transmitted to Mr.
Schlatter of the Swiss Consulate in Algiers.

The Swiss Legation takes the opportunity to renew
its thanks for the courtesy.

R o m e, July 8, 1944.

Enclosure:
1/.

1812

SCHLATTER CONSULAT SUISSE ALGER

AFFAIRE PERQUISITION AMBASSADE ALLEMANNE ROME A ETE RELATEE
ICI DANS PRESSE LOCALE SANS AUCUNE MENTION DES RESERVES
CATEGORIQUES FAITES PAR LEGATION SUISSE stop VEUILLEZ
COMPRENDRE BIEN QUE TOUTES RESERVES FURENT FAITES ET QUE
ALLIES DECLARERONT ASSUMER SEULS RESPONSABILITE ENTIERE
LEUR ACTION

LEGATION SUISSE INTERETS

Rome, le 8 juillet 1944.

1811

M Foreign Interests.

M E M O R A N D U M.

The Swiss Legation, Foreign Interests Division, presents its compliments to the Political Section of the Allied Control Commission and has the honor to acknowledge receipt of the Memorandum dated June 24, 1944 regarding the properties owned by the German Government in Rome and to confirm that these have been returned to the Legation's protection.

R o m e, July 3, 1944.

The Swiss Legation, Foreign Interests Division, presents its compliments to the Political Section of the Allied Control Commission and has the honor to acknowledge receipt of the memorandum dated June 24, 1944 regarding the properties owned by the German Government in Rome and to confirm that these have been returned to the Legation's protection.

Rome, July 3, 1944.

1810

filed
4 June 1944

MEMORANDUM.

The Swiss Legation, Foreign Interests Division, Rome, would appreciate the A.C.C. taking the necessary measures for the reassignment to its protection of the German Consulate located at Via Crispi 122, Naples, which at present is occupied by the A.C.C. Control of Property (Lieut-Col. Grant). The building is the property of the German Government.

As soon as the above-mentioned consulate is reassigned to the Legation's protection, an application will be submitted to the competent authorities with a view to securing permission for one of its members to establish himself in the building, as it is proposed to use it as offices for the Foreign Interests Section of the Legation in Naples.

1810

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R o m e, June 26, 1944.

SM/AS

1809

COPY

Official Report

SECRET

To:

Colonel G. T. Smith,
5th Army

Sir,

I have the honor to report that in compliance with your orders I proceeded on the 8th of June, 1941, with the detachments under my command to the German Embassy in Rome, to search the buildings and the grounds, in the presence of the Protecting Power (the Swiss Legation) for a cache of explosives, which was alleged to be within the Embassy grounds, by an informer, who accompanied the party. The buildings and grounds were also to be searched for material and documents, the use of which could be counted as an abuse of diplomatic privilege.

It had been arranged that Mr. Carlo Sommaruga, Counselor of the Swiss Legation, accompanied by his assistant Capt. Leonardo Trippi, should be present to witness the search which commenced at 13:00 hours.

The party was led to a door which obviously gave access to a cellar, built into the old Roman wall, which ran through the grounds. Eventually the door was forced, and Capt. Trippi was the first person to see the contents of the cellar. Capt. Trippi being satisfied that the information given had been genuine, a detachment under Capt. Shaw proceeded to search the cellar, and carry out the explosive in the grounds for checking. The considerable amount of Plastic explosive, (as detailed in appended list) gave off a heavy odor, and was in a very unstable condition, but luckily it was packed in a very portable manner. Practically all the explosive was packed loosely in containers, similar to airborne containers, with the exception of the Italian box mines, which were stacked upon each other, and the German stock grenades which were encased. Checking was eventually finished and as it was by then late in the evening, a guard was set upon the cache for the night.

Next morning, the 9th inst. the Plastic explosive after examination was found to be extremely unsafe, and if detonated, would cause terrific damage and loss of life in the surrounding district. Therefore it was decided to sink the entire cache in a deep part of the River Tiber. Loading of the explosive onto a Detachment Scout Car then commenced, and all went well until only about 100 lbs of Plastic, 10 Italian box mines and a few miscellaneous incendiaries and fuses and charges were left in lumps of coal, remained. For no apparent reason one or two incendiaries started to burn - then detonators started to crack and in a flash the undergrowth was a mass of small explosions and fires. Immediately Cpl Smith leapt into the Scout Car and drove it 100 yards away. But for this quick action the entire load of explosive could have been detonated, and the result indescribable. Sgt. Whitby and his men tried to drag the remaining 100 lbs of Plastic

1808

-2-

from the fires and explosions which were occurring everywhere, but quickly realized that it was useless and ran for cover. They had barely gone 30 yards when the Plastic exploded, followed a few moments later by a second detonation caused by the charges made up in lumps of coal. Quite a considerable fire started at the entrance of the cellar, resulting from the explosion, added to which, a small quantity of small arms ammunition which also had been stored, exploded from time to time, and flew in all directions. Gradually the fire was controlled, and hours later, died away. The load of explosives in the Scout Car was then driven away, and sunk in the river with weights attached.

Before commencing to search the buildings and the remainder of the grounds for any further explosives, the Swiss Legation was informed that all wireless material could be taken as well as explosives, but documents which were small diplomatic archives would not be seized though they would be thoroughly investigated and if necessary photographed and a final inventory taken, with copies to all parties. In this manner the search was carried out.

The actual Embassy building was searched and nothing found. The "bancellery" was then searched, in process of which six or seven safes were opened, but revealed nothing of an unusual nature. Remaining buildings on the grounds to be searched, then consisted of:

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|
| a. Porter's Lodge | b. Block of Offices |
| c. A Small Bungalow | d. 3-single storey barrack blocks. |

Buildings a, b, and c produced nothing unusual, but the barrack blocks were found to contain a certain amount of radio equipment, part of which was in a barrack block labelled FUNKSTELLE, and the remainder, in another block which had the appearance of a storeroom. In addition, a few documents were found, and some miscellaneous articles, such as bottles containing chemicals, were taken for analysis.

Passages leading underground, possibly to the catacombs, were searched in turn with no result, and finally the grounds were thoroughly combed for any further explosives which resulted in a discovery of a further 10 lbs of Plastic explosive, 6 Stick grenades, and 12 'L' delay fuses which were disposed of. The search being completed, a final inventory of the material and documents to be taken away was made one copy of which was handed to HQ, A.C.C. for delivery to the Swiss Legation.

The date of the termination of the search, was the 23rd June, and on that date Detachment under my command withdrew from the Embassy which was returned to the Swiss Legation.

I have the honor to remain, Sir,

(signed) J. A. Ward,

Major
Commanding No. 30 Commando

1807

COPY

INVENTORY OF DOCUMENTS AND EQUIPMENT TAKEN FROM THE
GERMAN EMBASSY ROME
PERIOD 8th - 23rd JUNE

Explosives

1. 1,400 lbs Plastic Explosive (Möhles)
2. 80 Incendiaries (Various)
3. 2 Drums Cordtex
4. 2 Drums Safety Fuse
5. 40 C. A. Primers
6. 50 Limpets
7. 20 Cans
8. 65 Flower Pots
9. 3 Drums Miscellaneous Explosives
10. 4 Boxes matches fuses.
11. 36 Lt. Delays
12. 43 German Stick Grenades
13. 10 German Egg Grenades
14. 15 Prepared Charges.
15. 25 Italian Wooden Box Mines.
16. 8 Electrical Detonators
- 16 A 4 Plastic Charges Placed in Lumps of Coal for Sabotage purposes.

Radio Equipment

17. 1 Transformer 300 Watt
18. 1 Allocchio-Bacchini 4 60 Receiver Type O-0-9
19. 1 Receiver Type ARAT SAPAR
20. 1 Transformer Wedovelli Acouscan 220-1220 Volts.
21. 1 Rotary Converter Ercole Marconi Type RAC C/100/4
500-1600 volts 27-230 volts.
22. 2 Italian Westinghouse "Radurizzatore" Mains Transformer.
23. 2 German Filter
24. 2 German Transformer (Mains)
25. 1 Transformer Rectifier SAPAR
26. 1 Allocchio-Bacchini Wavometer
27. 1 Italian Agents Transmitting & Receiving Set
28. 2 Italian Transmitting & Receiving Sets.
29. 1 Receiver AR 5 (Italian Air)
30. 3 Small Frequency Transmitter Allocchio-Bacchini
31. 1 Italian Transmitter Allocchio-Bacchini RA 350
32. 2 Small Receiver & Transmitter
33. 1 Receiver Allocchio-Bacchini type O.C.9
34. 1 VHF Transmitter
35. 1 VHF Receiver
36. 3 Handbooks on Italian A. T. Transmitter RA 325/THR Ar 18
SAR Model 536
37. 4 Beta Gramophone Records (for investigation and return)
38. 4 Card Indexes Italian and German Addresses.
39. 1 C.P. Cylinder from Wireless Room
40. 5 Reels of Film
41. 1 Miscellaneous Collection of Chemicals.
42. 1 Italian Parachute Harness

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- 43. 1 Engraving Process Documents
- 44. 1 Micro Photography Documents
- 45. 1 Dokumente über die Alleinschuld Englands am Bombenkrieg gegen die Zivilbevölkerung.

(signed) J. A. Ward Major

Officer Commanding
No. 30 Commando

1805

1815