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German Atrocities =
Oct 1944

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

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German Atrocities In Northern Italy
Oct. 1944

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Pol. SecHE
EWS/dfe

A/CO 250-1

23 October 1944

My dear Mr. Ambassador:

Many thanks for your letter of the 20th October. The Italian Government have been asked whether they can provide any additional information on atrocities in Northern Italy. In the meantime you will have seen from my letter of yesterday to Mr. Goshie that General Alexander has already issued a public warning on this subject. I am sorry that I had not been informed of this before the last meeting of the Advisory Council.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Ellery W. Stone

ELLEARY W. STONE
Commodore, USNR
Acting Chief CommissionerThe Honorable Alexander Kirk
U.S. Representative to the
Advisory Council for Italy
Via Vittorio Veneto, 119
Romecc: Mr. Caccia, Political Section
Chief of Staff Section
'A' Files

5807

He
J.

PARAPHRASE of telegram from American Legation, Bern, No. 157,
dated October 27, noon 1944.

478, October 25, for Foreign Affairs from Magistrati.

Northern Italy Liberation Committee again has pointed out that according to information from Milan it is increasingly evident that Neo-fascists and Germans are barbarously maltreating the liberty of volunteers. These volunteers, if captured, are sentenced summarily to be hanged. The Committee again protests, on basic principles of humanity, against those criminals who are responsible, directly or indirectly, for such action and urgently requests once more the Royal Italian Government to take the steps necessary, directly or through Governments of the United Nations, to cause the cessation of these cruel methods, at the same time appealing to international public opinion.

541.14

Copy to IMFA
30 Oct 44

5806

HNS/dfo

WJ
~~11/11~~

A/CU 2006

3 November 1944

Dear Mr. Gossie:

In accordance with the wishes expressed on October 20 at the 23rd meeting of the Advisory Council for Italy, the Allied Commission enquired from the Italian Government whether they could provide any additional information on atrocities committed in Northern Italy. I now enclose a copy of a further memorandum on this subject received from the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Ellery W. Stone

ELLERY W. STONE
Commodore, USN
Acting Chief Commissioner

Mr. John L. Gossie
Chief of Secretariat
Advisory Council for Italy
Via Vittorio Veneto, 119
Rome

cc: G-5 Section AFHQ
British Resident Minister, AFHQ
U.S. Political Advisor, AFHQ
U.S. Representative, A.C.I.
British High Commissioner
Chief of Staff
Political Section ✓
"A" Files

541.14

5805

Italian Ministry
of
Foreign Affairs.

Rev. 6/878/384

MEMORANDUM FOR THE POLITICAL SECTION, A.C.

To the German atrocities already reported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the Political Section, A.C. in previous Memoranda, must be added the horrible mass murder of the almost entire population of St. Anna di Stazzema, prov. of Lucca (about 600 inhabitants) by the German S.S., on Aug. 12th last.

The following particulars have now come to hand :

" On the pretext that a German soldier had been killed, in circumstances not clearly specified, about 300 S.S., subdivided into squads, entered the village and immediately began the massacre. The men were absent as they had fled in order to avoid the law on forced labour. The first squad of murderers ordered out of their homes about 100 old people, the women and children and sent them out of the village, but as soon as these unfortunate people were grouped on the road, a German Officer fired his Tommy-gun, killing five women. The others immediately entered the two nearest houses to save themselves. The Germans then made fast the doors and from the windows dastardly attacked the unfortunate inmates with hand-grenades and flame-throwers. Not satisfied with this, the bloodthirsty Germans extracted the bodies from the two houses (some of them still alive) and after having tied them to the railings surrounding a Cross on the square, fired against them hundreds of shots. They then crowded Church pews and furniture round the bodies, setting fire to the tragic heap.

The other squads meanwhile had not been idle; rushing about the village they set fire to the houses, massacring all those that had taken refuge.

At the end of the horrible massacre, 514 bodies were collected in the village; other bodies were found amongst the ruins of the demolished homes and among the remains of the pyres."

ROME, 27th October, 1944.

SM/cie

~~WS~~
~~HH~~

/AC 2006

1 November 1944

Early in October information was received from your Ministry of Foreign Affairs that German atrocities in Northern Italy were increasing to an appalling extent, and at the same time a request was made that the United Nations should intervene urgently. Since then General Alexander, Commander-in-Chief of Allied Armies in Italy has issued a warning to German officers and men, a copy of which is attached.

This Headquarters is now requested by the Advisory Council to inquire whether, in view of General Alexander's declaration, the Italian Government still wishes the intervention of the United Nations in this matter.

ELMER D. STONE
Commander, USM
Acting Chief Commissioner

The Presidency of the Council of Ministers
Italian Government

Jams

cc: British High Commissioner
U.S. Representative, A.C.I.
AFHQ, Attention Chief of Staff
AFHQ, G-5 Section
Hq AAI
Chief of Staff, AC
Political Section, AC

541.14

5803

C 2 2 2 X

WARNING

to German officers and men

by General Sir H. R. Alexander, Commander-in-Chief,

Allied armies in Italy.

1. Reports of atrocities - killings of hostages, mass reprisals against innocent civilians, torturings and the like - committed by German troops in Northern Italy are becoming daily more frequent.
2. I therefore call the attention of all German officers and men in Northern Italy, who otherwise might give or carry out orders to commit such atrocities, to the following:
3. The fact that in, for example, a certain village Italian patriots - whether or not wearing uniforms, arm-bands or other recognizable insignia - may have attacked German soldiers is not, according to the law of nations or any other legal or moral code, a justification for collective reprisals upon the population of the village, nor for the killing of persons without due legal trial and conviction.
4. Officers or men giving or carrying out orders for such acts are war criminals.
5. In accordance with the agreement made between the governments of Great Britain, the Soviet Union and the United States of America at Yalta in November 1943, it is provided that all German officers and men who are accused of committing war crimes shall immediately after the war be returned to the countries in which they are accused of having committed these crimes, to be tried according to the laws of these countries.
6. I have ordered all Italian patriots and Italian civilians in German-occupied territory to make careful, written note of the names, units and other particulars of German officers and men who have given or carried out orders for the commission of the crimes.
7. As a result of this order, names and particulars have been reported to my Headquarters of German officers alleged to have been accessories to, amongst many others, the following war crimes:

On March 24th 235 Italians taken from prisons in Rome were murdered by SS troops in the Ardeatine caves near the Via Appia Antica.

Between the 14th and 19th of April, 1944, troops of the Hermann Goering division carried out a massacre in the comune of Itala. Of the 103 bodies which were recognizable on recovery; 30 were women, 15 children under 15 years old, and 3 children under 4 years old. An old woman of 84 and a baby of 6 months were among those shot.

On the 21st of June troops of the 85 Mountain Regiment murdered 15 civilians in Sestriere

On the 29th of June troops of the Hermann Goering Division entered the village of Civitella in the Val di Chiana and began a systematic destruction of the village with flame throwers and grenades. The villagers were mostly in the church at the time. The women and children were taken out and delivered to the roads; the men, including the 80 year old priest, were

5802

3. The fact that in, for example, a certain village Italian patriots - whether or not wearing uniforms, arm-bands or other recognizable insignia - may have attacked German soldiers is not, according to the Jac Gentius or any other legal or moral code, a justification for collective reprisals upon the population of the village, nor for the killing of persons without due legal trial and conviction.

4. Officers or men giving or carrying out orders for such acts are war criminals.

5. In accordance with the agreement made between the governments of Great Britain, the Soviet Union and the United States of America at Teheran in November 1943, it is provided that all German officers and men who are accused of committing war crimes shall immediately after the war be returned to the countries in which they are accused of having committed these crimes, to be tried according to the laws of these countries.

6. I have ordered all Italian patriots and Italian civilians in German-occupied territory to make careful, written note of the names, units and other particulars of German officers and men who have given or carried out orders for the commission of the crimes.

7. As a result of this order, names and particulars have been reported to my headquarters of German officers alleged to have been accessories to, amongst many others, the following war crimes:

On March 24th 1945 Italians taken from prisons in Rome were murdered by SS troops in the Ardeatine caves near the Via Appia Antica.

Between the 14th and 19th of April, 1944, troops of the Hermann Goering division carried out a massacre in the commune of Elia. Of the 103 bodies which were recognizable on recovery, 50 were women, 15 children, under 15 years old, and 3 children under 4 years old. An old woman of 84 and a baby of 6 months were among those shot.

On the 21st of June troops of the SS Mountain Regiment murdered 15 civilians in Caserio.

On the 29th of June troops of the Hermann Goering Division entered the village of Civitella in the Val di Chiana and began a systematic destruction of the village with flame throwers and grenades. The villagers were mostly in the church at the time: the women and children were taken out and driven to the woods; the men, including the 80 year old priest, were machine-gunned, and their bodies thrown on the burning buildings.

On the 2nd of October German troops in the village of Roncolelido backed to death 8 Italians with axes.

8. All information received of such alleged atrocities or war crimes is recorded at my headquarters, and is thence transmitted to the Italian Government and to the Allied War Crimes Commission.

/signed/ H. A. Alexander

Commander in Chief
Allied Armies in Italy.

5802

DRAFT

Letter to Mr. Goshie from Commodore Stone

~~23rd Oct 20~~
or October 20
23rd

In accordance with the wishes expressed at the last meeting of the Advisory Council for Italy, the Allied Commission enquired from the Italian Government whether they could provide any additional information on atrocities committed in Northern Italy. I now enclose a copy of a further memorandum on this subject received from the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Enclosure
memo of
27 Oct.

Copies to:

G-5 Section, AFHQ
British Resident Minister, AFHQ
U.S. Political Adviser, AFHQ
U. S. Ambassador
British Ambassador

Drafted by Mr. Caccia
Political Section
29 October 1944

5801

DRAFT

Letter to Mr. Kirk from Commodore Stone:

Many thanks for your letter of the 20th October. The Italian Government have been asked whether they can provide any additional information on atrocities in Northern Italy. ^{*} In the meantime you will have seen from my letter of yesterday to Mr. Goshie that General Alexander has already issued a public warning on this subject. I am sorry that I had not been informed of this before the last meeting of the Advisory Council.

* 1) Robert told me today it was being checked

2) I gave copy to Robert of Gen Alex' statement

Drafted by Mr. Gaccia
Political Section
23 October 1944

Atk

3/x

541.13

5800

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
POLITICAL SECTION
APO 394

Ref : 541.13

22 October 1944

MEMORANDUM TO: G-5 Section, Allied Force Headquarters
Copy to: British Resident Minister,
U. S. Political Adviser,
U. S. Representative to the
Advisory Council for Italy,
British High Commissioner

SUBJECT : Enemy Atrocities in Northern Italy.

The Allied Advisory Council in Italy at their last meeting on the 20th October had under consideration the letter from Lieutenant General J. A. H. Gansell on the subject of "Enemy Atrocities in Northern Italy", which you enclosed in your Memorandum M.O.2 of the 9th October. In the meantime, C-in-C, Allied Troops in Italy has already acted upon the evidence of atrocities which has been brought to him and enclosed is a copy of the warning which P.W.S. have already issued in General Alexander's name on the 19th October. Enclosed is, also, a copy of a letter addressed to the Secretary to the Advisory Council informing him of this.

For the Chief Commissioner:-

H. A. GANSELL
Vice President, Political Section

2 Encs:

- 1 - Copy of warning by C-in-C.
- 2 - Ltr to Secretary to A.C.I.

5799

COPY

to German officers and men

by General Sir H. R. Alexander, Commander-in-Chief.

Allied Armies in Italy.

1. Reports of atrocities - killings of hostages, mass reprisals against innocent civilians, torturings and the like - committed by German troops in Northern Italy are becoming daily more frequent.
2. I therefore call the attention of all German officers and men in Northern Italy, who otherwise might give or carry out orders to commit such atrocities, to the following:
3. The fact that in, for example, a certain village Italian patriots - whether or not wearing uniforms, arm-bands or other recognizable insignia - may have attacked German soldiers is not, according to the Jus Gentium or any other legal or moral code, a justification for collective reprisals upon the population of that village, nor for the killing of persons without due legal trial and conviction.
4. Officers or men giving or carrying out orders for such acts are war criminals.
5. In accordance with the agreement made between the governments of Great Britain, the Soviet Union and the United States of America at Geneva in November, 1943, it is provided that all German officers and men who are accused of committing war crimes shall immediately after the war be returned to the countries in which they are accused of having committed these crimes, to be tried according to the laws of those countries.
6. I have ordered all Italian patriots and Italian civilians in German-occupied territory to make careful, written note of the names, units and other particulars of German officers and men who have given or carried out orders for the commission of war crimes.
7. As a result of this order, names and particulars have been reported to my Headquarters of German officers alleged to have been accessories to, amongst many others, the following war crimes:

On March 24th 535 Italians taken from prisons in Rome were murdered by 20 troops in the Ardeatine caves near the Via Appia Antica.

Between the 14th and 19th of April, 1944, troops of the Hermann Goering division carried out a massacre in the comune of Sita. Of the 103 bodies which were recognizable on recovery: 50 were women, 15 children under 15 years old, and 5 children under 4 years old. An old woman of 84 and a baby of 6 months were among those shot.

On the 21st of June troops of the 85 Mountain Regiment murdered 15 civilians in Cervino.

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- 2 -

On the 29th of June troops of the Hermann Goering Division entered the village of Civitella in the Val di Chiana and began a systematic destruction of the village with flame throwers and grenades. The villagers were mostly in the church at the time; the women and children were taken out and driven to the woods; the men, including the 80 year old priest, were machine-gunned, and their bodies thrown on the burning buildings.

On the 2nd of October German troops in the village of Roncolelido hacked to death 6 Italians with axes.

5. All information received of such alleged atrocities or war crimes is recorded at my Headquarters, and is thence transmitted to the Italian Government and to the Allied War Crimes Commission.

(signed) H. H. Alexander

Commander-in-Chief
Allied Armies in Italy.

5797

-233-

/AC 230-1

22 October 1944

Dear Mr. Goshie:

With reference to the discussion at the Advisory Council on the 20th October about German atrocities in Northern Italy there has just come into my hands a copy of a public warning from the Commander-in-Chief, Allied Forces in Italy, on this subject. I enclose a copy of this warning which was broadcast by P.B.B. on the 19th October and which will be further disseminated in leaflet form. It appears that the whole question had been brought to the attention of General Alexander through other channels not only in his capacity as Commander of Allied operations at the front but also as Commander of Patriotic activities behind the lines. In view of the immediate action which General Alexander has taken on the evidence presented to him, the Advisory Council may wish to reconsider the terms of the recommendation which they had intended to forward to the Supreme Allied Commander, Mediterranean.

Sincerely yours,

ROBERT M. STONE
Commander, USAR
Acting Chief Commissioner

Encl.

Mr. John L. Goshie
Chief of Secretariat
Advisory Council for Italy
Via Vittorio Veneto, 119
Rome

cc: Political Section (7)
Chief of Staff
"A" Files

5796

Extracted from the IL POPOLO dated 20 October 44

**Deciso ammonimento
del gen. Alexander
contro le rappresaglie
tedesche in Italia**

Il generale Alexander ha ammonito le truppe tedesche dell'Italia settentrionale che un attacco di patrioti italiani contro reparti tedeschi non può giustificare azioni di rappresaglia contro la popolazione di quel villaggio.

Dopo aver riferito alcune atrocità del genere commesse da soldati tedeschi, il generale Alexander ha dichiarato che nomi e particolari sono stati raccolti da patrioti italiani e trasmessi al governo italiano e alla Commissione alleata per i crimini di guerra.

Ufficiali e soldati tedeschi responsabili di atrocità verranno processati da tribunali militari.

5795

424/4/14.

British Consulate,

ROME.

20th October, 1944.

Your letter No. 47/150/4 of October 10th regarding the Italian Government's request that a warning should be given to the Germans about their atrocities in the North of Italy.

2. We have seen a copy of the Political Section's memorandum to G.S., A.P.H.Q., No. 541.13 of October 4th, but we decided to take no action on it in view of the attitude of H.M. Government as set forth in their telegram No. 1106 of September 30th to you.

3. We have on previous occasions drawn the attention of the Foreign Office to the Italian Government's anxiety regarding their nationals in enemy or enemy-occupied country, but have not remarked any enthusiastic reaction. In the present instance, perhaps, it would nevertheless be well to inform the Foreign Office of the contents of the Italian Government's memorandum for the purposes of record. I would suggest that you initiate action.

4. I am sending copy of this letter to Harold Caccia.

Sir A. Rumold, Lt.,
Office of the Resident Minister,
A.P.H.Q.,
Mediterranean Command,
CASSIN.

R MINISTERO DEGLI AFFARI ESTERI

P

Telegramma in PARIENZA N. 6015 2105

Oggetto: MONITO ALL'ESERCITO TEDESCO OPERANTE IN ITALIA

Data: 26.10.44

Diritto a: R. Legazione Italiana - BERNA -

Tramite: C.A.

Testo originale: 368 - ottobre 26. -

Mio 324 del 12 ottobre. Il 19 ottobre Generale Alexander ha fatto radiotrasmettere monito all'esercito tedesco operante in Italia. In esso è riaffermato fra l'altro che ufficiali e soldati comunque implicati atrocità perpetrate Italia Settentrionale saranno considerati criminali di guerra e come tali processati a guerra ultimata. Patrioti italiani e abitanti territori occupati dalla Germania hanno avuto ordine registra re accuratamente nomi e reparti ed ogni altro dettaglio circa tedeschi responsabili delitti guerra.

VISCONTI VENOSTA

NOT FOR DESPATCH
TEXT IN CIPHER ENCLOSED

COPIA 8.2

5702
5793

Oggetto: MONITO ALL'ESERCITO TEDESCO OPERANTE IN ITALIA.

Data: 26.10.44

Indirizzo: R. Legazione Italiana - BERNA -

Tramite: C.A.

Testo originale: 368 - ottobre 26. -

Mio 324 del 12 ottobre. Il 19 ottobre Generale Alexander ha fatto radiotrasmettere monito all'esercito tedesco operante in Italia. In esso è riaffermato fra l'altro che ufficiali e soldati comunque implicati atrocità perpetrate Italia Settentrionale saranno considerati criminali di guerra e come tali processati a guerra ultimata. Patrioti italiani e abitanti territori occupati dalla Germania hanno avuto ordine registra- re accuratamente nomi e reparti ed ogni altro dettaglio circa tedeschi responsabili delitti guerra.

VISCONTI VENOSTA

NOT FOR DESPATCH
TEXT IN CIPHER ENCLOSED

COPIA 11.2



SPEDITO

5702
5793

541.14

R. MINISTERO DEGLI AFFARI ESTERI

P

Telegramma in PARTENZA

N.º coll: 1914

Oggetto: Persecuzioni poliziesche Italia del Nord.
 Data: 12-10-44
 Tramite: C.A.A.

Diretto a: R.LEGAZIONE ITALIANA - BERNA

Testo: (originale) N.º

324 - ottobre 12 -

Suo 403 del 4 corrente.

R.Ministero ha già prospettato Commissione Alleata opportuni-
 tà adottare misure richieste. Sono in corso intese al riguardo.

PRUNAS

NOT FOR DESPATCH

TEXT IN CIPHER ENCLOSED



5792

5792

OK
21/11/44~~38501~~ 591.14

0660

Oggetto: Persecuzioni poliziesche Italia del Nord.

Data: 12-10-44
Tramite: C.A.

Diretto a: R.LEGATIONE ITALIANA - BERNA

Testo: (originale) N°

324 - ottobre 12 -

Suo 408 del 4 corrente.

R.Ministero ha già prospettato Commissione Alleata opportuni-
tà adottare misure richieste. Sono in corso intese al riguardo.

PRUNAS

NOT FOR DESPATCH

TEXT IN CIPHER ENCLOSED

Consegnato a:

il:

~~38501~~ 541.14



5792

5792

OK
16 October 1944
ESPEDITO

0681

Office of the Resident Minister,
Central Mediterranean.

47/150/Lt.

10th October, 1944.

I don't know whether you sent any report to the Foreign Office about the Italian Government's request that a warning should be given to the Germans about their atrocities in the north of Italy (see Harold Caccia's note to G-5 of October 4th of which he sent you a copy).

Fred Reinhardt has telegraphed a summary to the State Department and asked for their instructions. Would you also like to refer the question to the Foreign Office, or would you prefer us to do it? G-5 have left it to the U.S. Political Adviser's Office and ourselves to settle what ought to be done and will not reply to the Central Commission until they hear from us.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Harold Caccia.

A. Rambold.

A. S. Halford, Esq.

5791

→ Pol. Sec 5475
~~H.C.~~
 ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
 G-5 Section
 APO 512

G-5: 010.2

9 October 1944

SUBJECT: Enemy Atrocities in Northern Italy.

TO : Headquarters, Allied Control Commission, APO 394.
 (Attention: Political Section).

1. Your memorandum of 4 October 1944 (Ref 541.13) brought to the attention of this Headquarters a telegram from the National Committee of Liberation in Northern Italy to the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs respecting enemy atrocities in Northern Italy. This matter has been brought to the attention of the President in Office of the Advisory Council for Italy for consideration and advice by the Advisory Council. A copy of the letter on the subject is annexed for your information.

Charles M. Spofford
 CHARLES M. SPOFFORD
 Brigadier General, G.S.C.,
 Assistant Chief of Staff, G-5.

Copy to:
 British Resident Minister
 U. S. Political Adviser
 U. S. Representative ACI
 British High Commissioner

HEADQUARTERS
 14 OCT 1944
 A. C. C.

Noted
EW

At today's Ad. Council a resolution was decided upon recommending action.

At 27

5790

9 October 1944

The President in Office
Advisory Council for Italy.

My dear Sir:

I have to inform you that the Italian Ministry for Foreign Affairs has received a communication from the National Committee of Liberation in Northern Italy which states that German atrocities in Northern Italy are increasing to an appalling degree, and requests the urgent intervention of the United Nations to recall the enemy to the observance of humanitarian laws.

You are requested to bring this matter before the Advisory Council for consideration with a view to advising upon the best means to cause the enemy to cease its program of atrocities in Northern Italy.

For the Supreme Allied Commander, Mediterranean Theatre:

J. A. H. GABRIEL
Lieutenant General
Chief of Staff.

5789

Pol. Sec.

PARAPHRASE of Telegram Received

URGENT

Persecutions by police in Northern Italy increase daily, state Milan reports from National Liberation Committee of North Italy. Hostages are massacred en masse and political prisoners are cruelly tortured. The Royal Government is requested by the Committee of Liberation (Magistrati's 408, October 4, to Ministry of Foreign Affairs) to ask United Nations Governments to intervene through diplomatic channels and to demand, under threat of serious reprisals if necessary, that the most elementary principles of humanity be observed by the Germans and those neo-Fascists whom they control. The Liberation Committee asks further that as much publicity as possible, and in the most appropriate manner, be given steps taken.

541.124

Repeated to Department.

HARRISON

ESPEDITO

578

File

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
POLITICAL SECTION
AND 394

RMS : 541.13

4 October 1944

MEMORANDUM TO: C-1, Allied Force Headquarters
 COPIES TO: British Resident Minister,
 United States Political Advisor,
 E.C. Representation A.C.C.
 British High Commissioner

SUBJECT: Actions of Retaliation Carried out by the Germans
 Against the Civilian Population in Occupied Italy.

1. The Italian Ministry for Foreign Affairs have drawn our attention to the following telegram which they have received from the National Committee of Liberation in Northern Italy: "German persecutions in Northern Italy are increasing to an appalling degree, political prisoners are being subjected to barbarous tortures and hostages are being executed. The National Committee of Liberation asks for the urgent intervention of the United Nations through normal diplomatic channels to recall these German and Fascist criminals to the observance of humanitarian laws threatening reprisals. Give maximum publicity through appropriate propaganda channels".

2. At the same time the Italian Ministry for Foreign Affairs have provided a memorandum, copy enclosed, setting out such detailed information as is in their hands on this subject. In doing so they suggest that a fresh warning should be given to Germany that such conduct will not pass unnoticed. They proposed that any such warning should be given simultaneously by the Allies and the Italian Government and should be published through the press and radio.

3. We should be glad to know what reply should be returned to the Italian Government. It would undoubtedly have a considerable effect not only with the Italian Government but also with public opinion generally in this country should it be considered possible to take action in this matter.

For the Acting Chief Commissioner:

H. A. GARRIA
 Vice President, Political Section

5786

1 Encl: Memorandum, subject as above.

ROUGH TRANSLATION

R. MINISTERO
DEGLI AFFARI ESTERI

IL SEGRETARIO GENERALE

1/619

Rome, 27th September 1944

Dear Caccia,

As I had occasion to inform you verbally yesterday, the following telegram has been received from the National Committee of Liberation of Northern Italy :

"German persecutions in Northern Italy increasing in appalling measure, political prisoners being inflicted severe moral and physical tortures, hostages being massacred. N.C.L. asks intervention of United Nations to proceed urgently through normal diplomatic channels to recall German and Fascists criminals to be observance of humanitarian laws threatening reprisals. Give maximum publicity through suitable propaganda. "

I consider it necessary that the attention not only of Germany but also of international public opinion should be drawn on these increasing German persecutions and outrages. I am of opinion that not only a fresh and firm warning should be given to Ger-

Harold A. Caccia Esq.,
Vice President,
Allied Control Commission
Political Section.
R O M E.

many through the normal diplomatic channels but also and above all that such warning should be publicized, with suitable comments, through the press, the radio, etc.

In order to render this action more efficient and also in view of its political effects on the German home front, the warning to Germany should be given simultaneously by the Allies and the Italian Government.

I should be extremely grateful if you would kindly examine the question with the least possible delay, informing me, in due course, of the outcome.

Cordially yours,
sgt. R. PRUNAS

MINISTERO DEGLI AFFARI ESTERI

Roma, 27 SET. 1944

IL SEGRETARIO GENERALE

619
Caro Caccia,

come ebbi a dirLe verbalmente ieri, ci é di recente pervenuto il seguente telegramma dal Comitato di Liberazione Nazionale dell'Alta Italia :

"Persecuzioni tedesche in Alta Italia assumono un crescendo spaventoso, con torture e sevizie dei prigionieri politici, e massacri degli ostaggi. C.L.N. chiede intervento Nazioni Unite perché provvedano d'urgenza per le normali vie diplomatiche a richiamare gli aguzzini tedeschi e fascisti al rispetto delle norme umanitarie minacciando rappresaglie. Dare massima diffusione con idonei mezzi di propaganda".

Mi sembra assolutamente necessario che sull'aggravarsi delle persecuzioni tedesche in Alta Italia venga richiamata l'attenzione

Harold A. CACCIA Esq.
Vice President - Allied Control Commission
Political Section

./.

R O M A

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non soltanto della Germania, ma anche dell'opinione pubblica internazionale. A mio avviso occorrerebbe quindi non soltanto rivolgere, per il normale tramite diplomatico, un nuovo chiaro ed energico monito al Governo tedesco, ma anche e soprattutto dar notizia pubblica, con opportuni commenti di tale monito a mezzo della stampa, radio ecc.

Per dare maggiore efficacia alla cosa ed anche per gli utili riflessi politici che ciò potrebbe avere nel campo interno, occorrerebbe che il monito alla Germania venisse contemporaneamente rivolto dagli Alleati e dal R. Governo.

Le sarei vivamente grato se volesse esaminare la questione con la massima possibile urgenza e rimango in attesa di un Suo cortese cenno in proposito.

Molto cordialmente

R. Benini

ACTIONS OF RETALIATION CARRIED OUT BY THE GERMANS AGAINST THE
CIVILIAN POPULATION IN OCCUPIED ITALY.

It is impossible for the moment to furnish complete data as the informations which reach the Italian Government are necessarily fragmentary. The facts reproduced in this note are exclusively those which have been controlled beyond all doubts. Naturally they are largely inferior to reality. Only after the liberation of all the national territory it will be possible to complete them so as to give a full account of the atrocities carried out in such great numbers by the Germans in Italy.

IN PIEDMONT: killed, 613 men, 27 women, 11 children; deported to Germany, 3.250 men; two villages destroyed; 50 farms burnt.

Retaliations in which the spirit of cruelty of the Germans was put into particular evidence: on the 19/9/43 the Germans, after having machine-gunned the population of Boves (Cuneo); burnt the parish priest alive in the square, killing another one whilst he was administering the Sacraments: the 24/7/44 the village of Ceva was completely burnt and the population in flight was machine-gunned by the Germans.

IN LOMBARDY: killed 933 men, 303 women, deported to Germany 1.300 men.

Retaliations in which the spirit of cruelty of the Germans was put into particular evidence: in november 1943, at Marchirolo (Varese) shot 8 civilians, some of which were buried alive; the 15/7/44 at Bergamo, the Germans, omitted, for retaliation, to sound the alert as a result of which about 1.000 workmen perished in a factory during the air raid.

IN VENETO - TRENTINO - VENEZIA GIULIA - killed, 79 men and 5 women.

Retaliations in which the spirit of cruelty of the Germans was put into particular evidence: on the 19/7/44 at Triest, 15 civilians were hanged to the trees in the road and were left exposed for several days.

IN EMILIA : killed, 22 men; 14 villages burnt in the Modenese Appenines.

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IN LIGURIA: killed, 98 men, 13 women and 1 children; deported to Germany, 7.00 workmen.

IN THE MARCHE: killed, 55 men, 6 women, 2 children.

Retaliations in which the spirit of cruelty of the Germans was put into particular evidence: on the 2/6/44, Lt. Filipponi, chief of a Band of Partisans, presented himself to the German military authorities so as to take on himself the responsibility of some incidents which took place at Caldarola (Macerata) against the Germans and therefore avoid retaliations against the civilian population: he was hanged and the retaliations were carried out just the same.

IN TUSCANY: killed, 847 men, 72 women, 32 children.

Retaliations in which the spirit of cruelty of the Germans was put into particular evidence: on the 20/6/44, at Civitella della Chiana (Arezzo), 250 civilians on the 350 inhabitants of the entire village were shot; on the 14/7/44, at Molin dei Falchi (Arezzo) 48 civilians, after having been tortured were blown up with dynamite and the Germans prevented the parish priest from providing for the burial.

Reports of these last days point out that the atrocities committed by the Germans in northern Italy increase daily in number and gravity, particularly in the immediate rear of the front. The Germans, in preparation of the imminent retreat, carry out operations of repression against the patriots on a scale unheard of until now.

It is reported that in the city of Bologna, about 10.000 persons have been deported by the German and Fascist authorities. Also at Bologna, Padua, Ferrara and Verona, Triest and numerous other localities of Northern Italy, scores of patriots and of hostages have been shot in the course of these recent weeks. In several cases their bodies were left exposed to the public and the religious authorities were prevented for several days from giving them burial.

At Triest, the execution of 7 Germans carried out by the patriots was recently revenged by the murder of 77 triestini, hanged to the trees of one of the most important streets of the town.

On the 24 September ult. near Bologna, 7 patriots ~~5762~~ condemned for anti-German activity by court marshal and immediately shot. For the same reason, on the same day, 4 patriots were shot at Reggio Emilia and other ten at Turin.

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