

ACC

10000/135/698

135/698

SARDINIA
AUG. 1944 - DEC. 1945

STATO MAGGIORE DELLA R. AERONAUTICA
UFFICIO

I 912.

1911

Prot. n° 6/ 30873-Roma 11 1-12-1945-

RISERVATO PERSONALE

AIR FORCES SUR COMMISSION

-Int. Sect. =

OGGETTO: Aeroporto ELMAS.-

Per opportuna conoscenza si comunica che in questi ultimi giorni, sui muri di due locali dell'aeroporto di Elmas, occupati dagli Inglesi, sono state vergate le seguenti scritte in inglese, avverse al Colonnello comandante la base inglese:

""WATCH YOUR STEP BRIDEN -WHAT A O.C. . WESOT ! ""



IL CAPO UFFICIO "I",

Gen. Col. Mario Santini,

[Handwritten signature]

*Translation Given by
A.C. The words "Briden" on 8/12
Briden has already been
applied*

1605

COMANDO NUCLEO AERONAUTICA DELLA CAMPANIA
Ufficio Comando

n.di prot. 00019/C.A.

I 722

Napoli li. 20.I.1945

ALLO STATO MAGGIORE DELLA R.A.
e per conoscenza:

ALLA DIREZIONE DEI SERVIZI
ALLA DIREZIONE DI COMMISSARIATO
ALLA DIREZIONE DEL DEMANIO
ALLA DIREZIONE DELLE COSTRUZIONI DEL
MINISTERO DELL'AERONAUTICA

= ROMA =

OGGETTO: Materiale proveniente dalla Sardegna.

Il giorno 27 Dicembre 1944 giunse al Porto di Napoli
proveniente dalla Sardegna, il piroscafo Sanfeugh con 113 tonnellate
di materiale vario delle P.Aeronautica.-

In seguito ad ordine telefonico di codesto Stato Maggiore
fu provveduto allo scarico, trasporto ed accantonamento di
tale materiale sull'Aeroporto di Nisida.

In data 4 Gennaio 1945 sempre dalla Sardegna è giunto
il piroscafo Michelien con circa 400 tonnellate di materiale che è
stato normalmente avviato all'Aeroporto di Nisida ed il cui accantonamento
è tuttora in corso.

Attualmente è sotto scarico il piroscafo Samleyte
con circa 100 tonnellate di materiale.

E' inoltre previsto l'arrivo di altri piroscafi dalla
Sardegna ed in seguito dall'Africa Sottentrionale.

A tal riguardo questo Comando fa presente le seguenti
difficoltà ed inconvenienti riscontrati:

a)- nella città di Napoli e dintorni non esiste possibilità di requisiti
sicure località da adibire a magazzino.

b)- l'Aeroporto di Nisida, ove attualmente tale materiale si sta accantonando,
non dispone di vasti spazi adatti per poter sistemare,

Il giorno 27 Dicembre 1944 giunse al Porto di Napoli proveniente dalla Sardegna, il piroscafo Sanfaugh con 113 tonnellate di materiale vario della R. Aeronautica.

In seguito ad ordine telefonico di codesto Stato Maggiore fu provveduto allo scarico, trasporto ed accantonamento di tale materiale sull'Aeroporto di Misida.

In data 4 Gennaio 1945 sempre dalla Sardegna è giunto il piroscafo Richelen con circa 400 tonnellate di materiale che è stato normalmente avviato all'Aeroporto di Misida ed il cui accantonamento è tuttora in corso.

Attualmente è sotto scarico il piroscafo Samleyte con circa 300 tonnellate di materiale.

E' inoltre previsto l'arrivo di altri piroscafi dalla Sardegna ed in seguito dall'Africa Settentrionale.

A tal riguardo questo Comando ha presente le seguenti difficoltà ed inconvenienti riscontrati:

a) - nelle città di Napoli e dintorni non esiste possibilità di requisire località da adibire a magazzino.

b) - l'Aeroporto di Misida, ove attualmente tale materiale si sta accantonando, non dispone di vasti spiazzi ove poter sistemare, sia pure temporaneamente, per lo meno il materiale non deteriorabile all'aperto (automezzi, rimorchi, carri officina ecc.)

L'unico spazio disponibile, ove sono stati sistemati i rimorchi sbarcati dal piroscafo Richelen, sarà esaurito ¹⁶⁰ ~~100~~ l'accantonamento di quello del piroscafo Samleyte occorre tener presente che trattasi di una spianata confinante col mare e spesso inondata dalle mareggiate così frequenti in questa stagione. come è noto a codesto S.M. l'aviorimesse è sprovvista di coperture e pertanto inadatta al ricevimento di materiale. Tuttavia è stato necessario accantonare in essa 91 motori, numerose gabbie con materiale speciale e circa 1800 elementi di bersacca. E' necessario far notare che la quasi totalità dei motori non è impiegabile sui velivoli in dotazione. Sarebbe pertanto opportuno che dalla Sardegna non fosse inviato del materiale di nessuna utilità, specie quando questo incontra forti difficoltà nelle operazioni di scarico come nel caso dei motori.

././

Il materiale speciale e gli elementi di baracche non possono essere lasciati a lungo all'aperto, senza che ne sia compromessa l'efficienza.

a)- unici locali disponibili sono due ampie grotte, la prima delle quali è stata già completamente ripulita col materiale del piroscopo Semfeugh e nella seconda si sta sistemando quello del piroscopo Richelieu.

Sarà ancora possibile scontentare in quest'ultima soltanto parte del materiale imbarcato sul Semfeugh, ma occorre considerare che in tal modo questi locali non sarebbero dei magazzini, ma soltanto dei depositi ove il materiale viene stivato in modo tale che sarebbe impossibile o quanto meno difficile e faticoso ottemperare a qualsiasi richiesta di smistamento di esso. Ad ogni modo tali grotte sono alquanto umide e non adatte ad accantonamento prolungato di ogni tipo di materiale.

e)- il materiale viene caricato nelle stive frangiate e quello di altri enti, il che complica enormemente le operazioni di scarico (piroscofo Semfeugh). Il materiale minuto (cassette, cernio) è insufficientemente o per niente scortato (piroscofo Richelieu e Semfeugh). Gli uomini di scorta non conoscono completamente l'entità del materiale ed esso sfidato, ed i locali ove esso è stato stivato. I verbali di accompagnamento sono incompleti e del tutto inconsistenti (materiale demanio del piroscopo Richelieu).

Per il piroscopo Semfeugh la Impezione di Commissariato con l'uno o l'altro del 12/1/1945 ha preannunciato l'arrivo di materiale vario (formaggio ecc.) ma nessuna nota di scorta ne conosce la presenza a bordo, né esso è contemplato nella polizia di carico.

Per l'assoluta mancanza degli automezzi necessari al trasporto del materiale (sono state effettuate circa 500 corse di automobili pesanti dati in prestito dagli alleati), per la indisponibilità di locali adatti all'immagazzinamento, per la incompletezza dei verbali di accompagnamento, i quali, quando vi sono, citano il numero dei coili ma non quello che in essi è contenuto, questo comando si trova in seria difficoltà oltre che per la sistemazione, anche per la presa in carico di tale materiale.

A tale scopo occorrerà procedere all'apertura di tutti i coili ed all'inventario del materiale, o eventuale alla quale finora non si è potuto provvedere perché il personale dell'aeroporto di Mielia, rimpiazzato da altri che non hanno familiarità con gli elicotteri, è ap-

e)- il materiale viene caricato nelle stive frammisto a quello di altri enti, il che complica enormemente le operazioni di scarico (piroscafo Samleyte). Il materiale minuto (osservatorio, demanio) è insufficientemente o per niente accertato (piroscafo Richelieu e Samleyte). Gli uomini di scorta non conoscono completamente l'entità del materiale ed esso è affidato, né i locali ove esso è stato stivato. I verbali di accompagnamento sono incompleti e del tutto inesistenti (materiale demanio del piroscafo Richelieu).

Per il piroscafo Samleyte la Direzione di Comissariato con l'ono n. 91/csm. del 12/I/1945 ha presunzionato l'arrivo di materiale vario (formaggio ecc.) ma nessun uomo di scorta ne conosce la presenza e bordo, né esso è contemplato nella polizza di carico.

Per l'assoluta mancanza degli automezzi necessari al trasporto del materiale (sono state effettuate circa 600 corse di automezzi pesanti detti in prestito dagli alleati), per la indisponibilità di locali adatti all'immagazzinamento, per la incompletezza dei verbali di accompagnamento, i quali, quando vi sono, citano il numero dei colli ma non quello che in essi è contenuto, questo Comando si trova in seria difficoltà oltre che per la sistemazione, anche per la presa in carico di tale materiale.

A tale scopo occorrerà procedere all'apertura di tutti i colli ed all'inventario del materiale, operazione alla quale finora non si è potuto provvedere perché il personale dell'aeroporto di Nisida, rinforzato da tutti gli olei anti disponibili presso gli Enti dipendenti, è ancora impegnato nello scarico e nell'accantonamento del materiale.

Tali difficoltà sono state prospettate al Tm. Col. GUSONI dello S.M., venuto a Napoli a rendersi conto della situazione.

Questo Comando ha già disposto il montaggio nell'avvicinamento di due baracche di legno per un occorrenza immagazzinamento di 1603 del materiale attualmente stivato nelle grotte, in modo da poter consentire anche in essa una opportuna sistemazione del rimanente. Ma prima di un mese le baracche non potranno essere pronte in quanto l'avvicinamento è ingombrato di materiale.

Inoltre il materiale che richiede maggiore cura e sorveglianza (viveri, coperte, lenzuola, ecc.) sarà sistemato in parte nei locali già destinati al Centro raccolta Prigionieri quali dormitori del personale di truppa rimpatriante.

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In considerazione di quanto sopra, nel mentre si assicura che anche per il futuro tutto sarà fatto con la stessa precisione in omaggio alla quale l'ufficio Invernoli e Sbarchi del R. Esercito ha ritenuto doveroso adattare alla delegazione trasporti il perfetto funzionamento degli ordini della R.A. (si esclude per lo M.V. copia della lettera), questo Comando propone:

- 1°-sia temporaneamente sospeso l'arrivo di ogni altro piroscalo, per poter avere la possibilità, ed il tempo di inventariare e sistemare il materiale attualmente accantonato o quello ancora sotto carico;
- 2°-allo scopo di poter consentire l'arrivo di altro materiale, sia disposto l'urgente ritiro del seguente materiale: Branda ad A, lattini bine, carpi luce, officine trichero, canni fotografici, elementi di batterie, carrelli, estintori;
- 3°-sia disposto lo smistamento di tutto il rimanente materiale non prima del 15 febbraio p.v., onde consentire prima l'inventario e l'immagine;
- 4°-per qualsiasi ritiro di materiale sia dato un preavviso di almeno 5 giorni;
- 5°-siano invitati gli Eserciti interessati affinché i verbali di carico siano completi e dettagliati, il personale di scorta sufficiente e che gli uomini di scorta, o lo scorta, si evitino eventuali manomissioni da parte del personale del porto addetto allo stivaggio (Siresurfo Michelieu) non si allontanino dal porto addetto ad ogni arricco, specialmente durante il carico;
- 6°-sia opportunamente ridisposto l'ordine del funzionamento del Centro Raccolte Frigoriferi in considerazione del fatto che tutto il personale dell'aeroporto di Nizza, già esistente, è da circa tre mesi impegnato nelle operazioni relative al materiale in oggetto.

Si ritiene inoltre opportuno far presente che lo scrivente Comando è riuscito ad effettuare il trasvolto dell'Immes mole di materiale dal porto all'Idroscalo di Nizza, solo in quanto il Comando Alleato funzione al porto, comprendendo dell'impossibilità da parte del Comando scrivente di trasportare con i camionini autorizzati italiani e dispozione le centinaia di tonnellate di materiale, buona parte del quale molto ingombrante, preposto da chi scrive, da essere a disposizione moltissimi automezzi che hanno effettuato in alcuni giorni.

- 3)-sia disposto lo smistamento di tutto il rimanente materiale non prima del 15 febbraio p.v., onde consentire prima l'incidentario e l'immagine-
sintetico;
- 4)-per qualsiasi ritardo di materiale sia dato un preavviso di almeno 5
giorni;
- 5)-siene invitati gli Rvvi interessati affinché i veicoli di carico sieno
completi e letterali, il personale di scorta sufficiente e che gli
Uomini di scorta, allo scopo di evitare eventuali malintesi da par-
te del personale del porto annesso allo stabilimento (piratesio Michelien)
non si allontanino dal materiale ed essi affidato, specialmente daren-
te il carico;
- 6)-sia opportunamente rinviato l'inizio del funzionamento del Centro Rac-
colta Informazioni in considerazione del fatto che tutto il personale
dell'Aeroporto di Misica, già esiguo, è da oltre un mese impegnato nel-
le operazioni relative al materiale in oggetto.

Si ritiene inoltre opportuno far presente che lo scrivente
Comando è riuscito ad effettuare il trasporto dell'1 mezza mole di mate-
riale dal porto all'Idroscalo di Misica, solo in quanto il Comando Allente
funzionante al porto, compenetrandosi dell'impossibilità da parte del Co-
mando scrivente di trasportare con i propri mezzi automezzi italiani a dispo-
nizione la quantità di tonnellate di materiale, buona parte del quale mol-
to ingombrante, preposto da lui scrive, ha preso a disposizione moltissimi
automezzi che hanno effettuato in alcuni giorni fino a 400 viaggi. La cor-
tesia dimostrata dagli Alleati nel mettere a disposizione gli automezzi è
stata anche dovuta da un interesse egualitario in quanto il materiale stavo-
to avrebbe tenuto ingombrare le banchine per mesi interi se il trasporto ave-
se dovuto essere effettuato con i camion di cui questo Comando poteva
disporre. Si è corso anche il pericolo di vedere abbattuto in acqua del per-
sonale alleato parte del materiale, in quanto nel Porto di Napoli **16020-**
hanno infatti scaricati di materiale alleato di ogni specie, e molto più
imponente e costoso del nostro, ed è necessario che la banchina restino
sgombrare al più presto.

Tale pericolo è stato evitato solo in virtù del cordia-
li rapporti esistenti fra il Comando scrivente e quello alleato.

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Con tali autorizzati, in relazione alle disposizioni dei rispettivi Enti, dovrà essere trasportato il materiale richiesto o fino a destinazione o alla stazione per eventuale carico su vagoni.

Questo Comandante, residente fin d'ora di dove la massima assistenza al personale che verrà di volta in volta inviato a Missioni per le operazioni di carico del materiale.

Il Comandante
 T. to Gen. Col. A. A. T. O. - L. ENTRO IL ACCADE

1601

MEMORANDUM FOR A.V.M. W.A.B. BOWEN-EUSCARLET

Interview with Gen. Gaeta.

Gen. Gaeta referred to conditions in Sardinia. He wished me to speak with you about his work there. He, in accord with Gen. Almona Cat, was of the opinion that the appointment of Gen. Rigolone is unnecessary in view of the fact that the work was already well in hand, and that a new man would only disrupt matters.

He referred to one troublesome case - Col. MARTINI. This officer is doing a thorough job of feathering his own nest. It appears that he is being protected by a certain Lt. STERN, an American, late of 306 Group. Stern was posted away, but in some way or other Gen. WERNER (Florence) was approached and influenced to appoint STERN as head of the War Damage Indemnity Office at CAGLIARI. Stern and Martini have signed a contract by which the latter is to become Director of a concern to supply canned meats and refrigerators. (Whether Stern acted on his own initiative or at the instigation of a third party is not known).

25th January 1945

H.L. MORROW S/IDR TWT.

was appointed and authorized to appoint Stern as head of the War Damage Indemnity Office at CAGLIARI. Stern and Martire have signed a contract by which the latter is to become Director of a concern to supply canned meats and refrigerators. (Whether Stern acted on his own initiative or at the instigation of a third party is not known).

25th January 1945

H. L. MORROW S/YDR INT.

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Dec I a F / M

AIR FORCES SUB COMMISSION
ALLIED COMMISSION
R O M E

1 novembre 1944

Gent.mo Signor Generale,

La ringrazio per la Sua cortese comunicazione del 29 corrente con la quale Ella mi segnala il fatto che il Ten. Col. Pilota MAURENTI Adriano fa ora parte di una società denominata "Industria Sarda Metalli" con sede a Cagliari.

Abbiamo già una pratica riguardante questo e le informazioni che Ella ci comunica sono di in dubbio interesse.

(M. de Haan)

Prege.mo Siglor
Gen. Alfredo AGOSTI

MINISTERO DELL'INTERNAZIONALE

MEMORANDUM FOR A.V.M. BOWEN-EUSCARLET.-

You will remember the report on Sardinian I.A.F. black marketeers. It will interest you to know that one of them at all events is establishing his business on very sound business principles.

Herewith is a copy of the deed of partnership entered into by Cav.Uff. Adriano MANENTI alias Lt/Col. MANENTI. The Company is to be known as Geometra Ennio Gerini & Co. The Company at first established with a capital of 400,000 lire was with a new deed increased to 800,000 lire.

31st October 1944

14A

H.Q. CAGLIARI

A "SARDINIAN METAL CO." has been formed by Col. ACCARDI
and Lt/Col. MANENTI

The legal document carries the heading

VICTOR EMANUEL

by the Grace of God and the wish of the Nation
KING OF ITALY

The Capital is stated to be 800,000 Lire (£ 2,000)

The Company, so the document runs, has as its
general aim "the development of local industrial and
commercial resources through the creation of a factory for
the manufacture of common and easily marketed articles made
from melted down scrap aluminium, its alloys and eventually
other metals".

1597

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Following receipt subsequently of letter from A.A.I. stating that all except Martari could be removed, it was decided to leave the whole question with General Gaeta to solve as any action on our part might compromise him.

Wabern - Berner

1596

SECRET

8505
cos.

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

EWS/hjp

Office of the Chief Commissioner

APO 394

A/CC 250-2

141

6 September 1944

SUBJECT: Elimination of Fascist elements from the Italian Air Force

TO : Commander-in-Chief, Allied Armies in Italy

1. I refer to your HQ Signal DCGS/277 of 28 August 1944 addressed to the Allied Control Commission for action.

2. The Air Forces Sub-Commission, acting in accordance with the recent provisions concerning the elimination of Fascist elements from the Italian Air Force, had issued instructions through the Italian Air Ministry for the return of Lt. Col. Luigi Rusco and Capt. Pietro Saulini from Sardinia to the Mainland to await their trial.

3. The Brigadier General Commanding the Allied Garrison of Sardinia objects to the removal of these officers on the score that they are indispensable, having occupied key positions as Italian Commanders at the Air Bases of Decimomannu and Alghero respectively for several months. It was also stated that they had rendered excellent services to the Allied war effort and have been co-operative in every way. The views of this Commanding General have apparently received your support through the medium of your Signal quoted in paragraph 1.

4. I wish to point out that the defascization of the Italian Air Force is a matter of considerable political importance, and we are being pressed from all sides for it to be carried out with the utmost despatch. Moreover I cannot agree that any officers are entirely indispensable or irreplaceable. These two officers, having had records of Fascist activities, would be naturally only too willing to accept shelter from the Allies, and would endeavor to ingratiate themselves by working hard in their aid.

5. On recommendation of the Air Forces Sub-Commission, I have, therefore, to request that these officers may be relieved at once and sent back to the Mainland.


ELLERY W. STONE
Captain, USNR
Acting Chief Commissioner

1595

SECRET

TOPSEC8505
cos

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COPY

ACC ROME FOR ACTION RPT AAI FOR INFO TO TAF MORSICA, ALLIED
 GARRISON COMMANDER, SARDINIA
 ADV AAI

73/28

NONE

AUG 28/1800

TOP SECRET

OPERATIONAL PRIORITY

CITE: DOGS 277

IT IS EXPECTED THAT ALLIED AIR ACTIVITIES IN SARDINIA WILL BE CLOSED OUT IN NEAR FUTURE. ITALIAN AIR AND ARMY OFFICER PERSONNEL NOW ASSOCIATED WITH THOSE ACTIVITIES ARE GIVING EXCELLENT COOPERATION AND SERVICE DISCHARGE, TRANSFER OR OTHERWISE REPLACING THIS PERSONNEL IS HIGHLY UNDESIRABLE AT THIS TIME SINCE ALLIED COMMANDERS WILL NOT HAVE TIME TO BECOME ACQUAINTED WITH NEW PERSONALITIES WHO WOULD THEMSELVES NOT HAVE TIME TO BECOME FAMILIAR WITH NEW ASSIGNMENTS. IN ANY EVENT NO ITALIAN AIR OR ARMY OFFICER NOW ENGAGED IN WORK PRIMARILY ASSOCIATED WITH ALLIED ACTIVITIES IN SARDINIA SHOULD BE RELIEVED OR DISCHARGED FROM HIS PRESENT ASSIGNMENT TO DUTY WITHOUT FIRST OBTAINING CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL WEBSTER, ALLIED GARRISON COMMANDER IN SARDINIA. IT IS DESIRED THAT YOU ISSUE APPROPRIATE INSTRUCTIONS TO THAT EFFECT TO ITALIAN AIR AND WAR MINISTRIES EARLIEST

ACC DISTR.

ACTION: Army Sec
 Air Sc
 INFO: Secy Gen
 A/cc
 File (Skeleton)
 Brig Lush

see 4

TOPSEC

August 29/0023

1594

1 more held

SECRET

11 SEP 44

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1st Ind.

LLI/tjg

ADV HQ ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY, APO 777, U.S. Army, 8 September 1944.

TO: Commanding General, Mediterranean Allied Tactical Air Force,
Corsica, APO 650, U.S. Army.

For comment.

For the COMMANDER-in-CHIEF:

L. L. Lemnitzer
 L. L. LEMNITZER,
 Major General, U.S. Army,
 Deputy Chief of Staff.

250.

2nd Ind.

XAG-EJC-wjh

HQ, MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED TACTICAL AIR FORCE, APO 650, U.S. ARMY, 12
September 1944.TO: Commanding General, Allied Garrison of Sardinia, APO 650, U.S. Army.
(Att- Brig. Gen. Robert M. Webster)

For comment.

By command of Major General CANNON:

Edward J. Culliton
 EDWARD J. CULLITON
 Major, A. G. D.,
 Ass't. Adjutant General. 12/1

- 2 -

SECRET

1593

1400

A700

S E C R E T

250. 3rd Ind. A-1-1
HQ ALLIED GARRISON OF SARDINIA, APO 534, US ARMY, 19 Sept 1944.

To: COMMANDING GENERAL, Mediterranean Allied Tactical Air Force,
APO 650, US ARMY.

Subject to the following exceptions, this headquarters has no further interest in the disposition of Italian Air Force officers.

Lt. Colonel Luigi Russo to continue as Base Commander, Decimomannu until October 3, 1944.

Colonel Aleardo Martire to continue in his present assignment as Chief of Italian Procurement Agency for Sardinia and not to be relieved without the concurrence of this headquarters.

Robert M. Webster
ROBERT M. WEBSTER
Brigadier General, USA
Commanding

250. 4th Ind. A/1e
HQRS MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED TACTICAL AIR FORCE, APO 650, U. S. Army, 3 October 1944.
TO: ADVANCED HEADQUARTERS, ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY, APO 777, U. S. Army.

1. MATAF will have no interest in either of the individuals mentioned in basic communication as of 3 October 1944.

2. It must be pointed out that our most important job at the moment is to defeat the Hun. Colonel Aleardo Martire and Lt. Colonel Luigi Russo have been of considerable help in assisting us to accomplish this task. The defascization of the Italian Air Force cannot affect the ultimate defeat of Germany one iota, and should not be permitted to interfere in any detail, although small, with that objective.

For the Commanding General:

Edward J. Cullerton
EDWARD J. CULLETON
Major, A. G. D.
Ass't. Adjutant General

- 3 -

S E C R E T

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SECRET ⁸⁵⁰⁵ ^{Dec 5} ^{US} *Cof S.*8/25/56
OCT 10 1944
HJP

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5th Ind.

LLL/tjg

ADV HQ ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY, APO 777, U.S. Army, 6 October 1944.

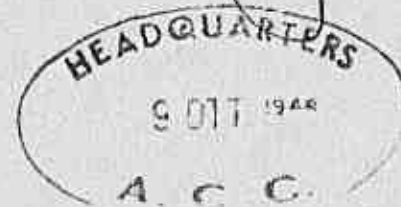
TO: Allied Control Commission, APO 394, U.S. Army.

Attention is invited to the preceding indorsement.

9 OCT Recd

For the COMMANDER-in-CHIEF:

L. L. Lemnitzer
 L. L. LEMNITZER,
 Major General, U.S. Army,
 Deputy Chief of Staff.



- 4 -

SECRET

1 *Spone field* 1591

DISCIPLINE.

74

Translation of letter from Gen. PIACENTINI Minister for Air
dated Oct. 4th. 1944

1. Lt/Col. Pilot Adriano MAMENTI has been serving with an American Command in Sardinia during the last ten months.
2. He was last winter posted to an operating ^{Engl} Unit, but the officer did everything possible in order not to obey the order received and was successful in evading his obligations thanks to the support he obtained from the American Authorities.

In this manner the officer infringed his military obligations which were that his first duty was to fight side by side with the Allies.

3. Recently reports state that this officer is carrying on certain activities which are not compatible with his rank as an officer.

Whilst further enquiries are being made he has lost the confidence of his inferiors and for this reason it was decided to place him on unofficial suspension for one month renewable month by month.

It now appears that the Allied Authorities also oppose the action taken in this case and for the second time have countermanded an order given by the Minister, thus favouring an officer who is looking after his own personal interests and is an opportunist without any sense of duty or sacrifice towards his country.

Sgd. Gen. Piacentini

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Sgd. Gen. Piacentini

1590

DISCIPLINE

6A

MEMORANDUM FOR A.V.M. BOWEN-BUSCARLET

Ref. attached summary of report on officers in Sardinia, submitted for perusal by Gen. Piacentini.

When Gen. Gaeta called this morning he explained that the reason why Martire and his collaborators were able to behave in the manner they did was that they blackmailed Gen. Cavallarin threatening him with immediate arrest by the Americans as a Fascist and Squadrist.

Oct. 12th 1944

F. Lindholm
ipa

DISCIPLINE 5A

SUMMARY OF CONFIDENTIAL REPORT ON CERTAIN I.A.F. OFFICERS
STATIONED IN SARDINIA

Col. Aleardo MARTIRE.-

When Chief of Supply Services in Sardinia he started a dump at a point 10 km from OLBIA where he accumulated foodstuffs and sundry other stores regarding which no records were kept. It is known that considerable quantities of these stores found their way into the black market and the civilian population of OLBIA spoke openly of the illicit profits Col. MARTIRE was making on the sale of Air Force stores. It is also reported that when an Italian ship was hit during an Allied raid and was beached not far from OLBIA he used his M/T to salvage as much material as possible including a considerable quantity of clothing and then reported the ship a total loss. Other officers involved in these malpractices are Captain DE LEONARDI and the latter's C.O. Col. SALERNO.

Losses suffered by the R.Aeronautica due to deterioration of material dumped in the open at point 10 km from OLBIA, misappropriation, illicit trading, maladministration on the part of Col. MARTIRE are reported to run into tens of millions.

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2.- At a time when the I.A.F. was short of parachutes he appropriated 40 parachutes from unserviceable a/c, Captain PARLATO, his faithful collaborator going shares with him on this deal. Captain PARLATO is at present in Sicily.

3.- When the Germans left Sardinia col. MARTIRE used a R.Aeronautica M/T to collect material from German supply dumps and had them stored in premises rented by him at SAN LUCI. None of this material was ever handed over to the R.Aeronautica.

4. It is reported that he cornered a lot of I.A.F. furniture.

5. He ~~de~~-requisitioned a number of cars and many premises

the latter being put to improper use. Medical officers can supply evidence on what took place.

6. He used R.Aeronautica M/T to collect seven tons of firewood which he had delivered to "La Fiorentina" Dye Works, the bill for the firewood was then sent to the R.Aeronautica but the payment was refused and up to July this bill had not been paid.

7. He put in fictitious claims for allowances which were disallowed. He none the less managed to cash in on them.

8. His record whilst in Libya is notoriously bad.

9. His activity in favour of the Americans also comprises the recruiting of female personnel, the R.Aeronautica premises being turned into a vulgar but very well patronised employment agency. Personnel was also obtained by him through advertisements in the "Unione Sarda".

He first ingratiated himself with the Americans when he helped to pick up two Americans who came down by ~~with~~ parachute in September 1943, close to Decimo airfield. On this occasion he behaved in a very correct and friendly manner towards the Americans with the result he was very favourably reported on and was the subject of praise by Algiers broadcasting station.

It is said that he endeavoured to invest some of his profits by the purchase of a schooner but the deal ^{was} thanks to Allied favouritism he was

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It is said that he endeavoured to invest some of his profits ⁱⁿ ~~by~~ the purchase of a schooner but the deal did not come off. Thanks to Allied favouritism he was enabled to fly to Rome on June 6th, long before any other Air Force Officer was allowed to travel to Rome. It is said that his journey to Rome was mainly undertaken with a view to putting some of his valuables in safety.

1588

4A
CCL. RUSSO

C.C. Decimo Mannu. This man is quite notorious. On one occasion when a large consignment of cigarettes was flown to Decimo he appropriated the entire stock and made a false statement to the effect that the cigarettes had been stolen. Since then he has never been short of cigarettes. He requisitioned a villa in which he had little parties with plenty of food and drink, during which parties such proceedings took place regarding which the less said the better.

He is also criticised about his attitude towards other officers. On one occasion at the officer's mess he threw a glass of wine at an elderly lieutenant who apparently was ^a much respected officer.

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1587

3A

Captain CRISTOFANI

56th M/T Depot R.Aeronautica. In June 1943 was placed under arrest on charges of having misappropriated and sold R. Aeronautica M/T spares, tyres, etc. Was to have been tried by Court Martial but was only awarded a few months fortress arrest. He was protected by MARTIRE with whom he collaborated. When CRISTOFANI was arrested MARTIRE had a heart seizure fearing that he would be involved.

LT. DON BIANCHI

Chaplain to the R.Aeronautica. Quite apart from his religious ministrations he devoted much time to illicit traffic whilst managing the Airmen's canteen. He ignored all regulations and boasts of having made a fortune.

Captain VISANI

Like all Messing Officers he is "naturally open to suspicion" and is believed to have accumulated a considerable fortune.

Captain ZEDDA

Of the Reparto Servizi Villaciro and Chilivani. Enjoys the same reputation as MARTIRE and RUSSO. Requisitioned a number of residences in which he^{was} stalled R.Aeronautica

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Of the Reparto Servizi Villaciro and Chilivani. Enjoys the same reputation as MARTIRE and RUSSO. Requisitioned a number of residences in which he ^{was} stalled R. Aeronautica furniture. Trafficked in wines and appropriated material from German dumps.

Medical Officers

Cap. MARRONGIU

Prof. CARDIA

" SINOLA Mario

diverted medical stores to improper purposes.

1586

Translation

From : ITALIAN AIR MINISTRY

To : AIR FORCES SUB COMMISSION

Date : Oct 1st 1944

Ref. : 3/8570

EPURATION

1. In accordance with the existing law regarding the suspension of personnel holding Fascist qualifications I have, since July 23rd, given orders to the Sardinian Command to the effect that 12 officers of that area be suspended and placed in the "pending" category.

2. Later, the Sardinian Command informed me that they had carried out my orders in all cases except those of 4 officers, who, since they are working with and at the disposition of the Allies, cannot be dealt with owing to the energetic opposition of the American Command. The names of the officers in question are as follows :

Lt/Col. RUSSO Giocchino
Major SERRA Daniele
Capt. SAULINI Pietro
Major COBBI Luigi (Liaison)

3. Since my attempts to have these officers removed has met with refusal and bad feeling, I have instructed the Sardinian Command - in order that justice be applied equally to all concerned - to approach the local Allied Command and explain that this epuration is not only the political desire of the Country but also of the Allied Commission and that such obstructionism on the part of the Allied Sardinian Command merely serves to frustrate the intentions of the United Nations who are backing the Italian Government if the epuration is not carried

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4. However, since the request of the Sardinian Command is at the moment without success and the American Authorities have stated that they wish to retain the services of these officers, I should appreciate the intervention of the A.F.S.C. in order that the matter be handled with the least friction. I have of course no objection to the allotment of substitutes for these officers.

5. I await your favourable comment on the matter.

Signed P. PIACENTINI

MEMORANDUM FOR A.V.M. BOWEN-EUSCARLETLT/COL. PILOT NERIO BRUNETTI

On the 21st August Gen. Piacentini wrote a letter stating that it had come to his knowledge that the above Officer was in close touch with the Americans and was supplying them information on Japan.

Gen. Piacentini warned us that this officer was artful and crafty and a doubtful type and that it would not be advisable for him to be sent to the States.

On the 25th August a letter was sent to C.I.O. M.A.A.F. enclosing translation of Gen. Piacentini's letter of warning.

On Oct. 4th I was informed by Lt/Col. Santini that O.S.S. H.Q. 267th Reg. (Prov.) has asked for his release in order to send him to the States.

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Squadrist. Italian
alleged he shot an American
Officer escaping from prison

P. Brunetti
Y.M.

Oct. 5th 1944

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Speculated he shot an Italian
alleged escapee from a German
Office in Piacenza.*

*P. Santini
Y.M.*

Oct. 5th 1944

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