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

785021

ACC

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

785021

10000/141/200

PREFECT OF SASSARI, OTTAVIANO
JUNE, JULY 1944

ACC 4/1/48

(PREFECT OF SASSARI-OTTAVALLO)
REGION VI

No

Precis

REMARKS

I

To RC Region VI 22 June , 44 observing upon the unfavourable opinion
formed regarding the a/n Prefect Specific reports asked from (A) RC
and (B) PC before interviewing the M.O.I.

REPLY

Page

Minute sheet No. 1

Date

July 10th 1964. We have taken all actions, let
us know when 10th. Govt. ~~actual~~ actual
10th. not 10th

8.

July 24th 1964. Regim II for info. L

03081

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

785021

487

24
- May Region VI for info. ✓

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
INTERIOR SUB COMMISSION
APO 394

ACD/4/1/12/Int

24 July 1944

SUBJECT: OTTAVIANO, late Prefect of Sassari

TO : EC, Region VI

1. Below, for your information, copy of a telegram from the Minister of Interior to the above-named.

WVNL/jgt

E. G. B. STICHER
Colonel
Director
Interior Sub-Commission

TELEGRAMMA

MINISTRO OTTAVIANO
SASSARI

Roma, 22 luglio 1944

e per conoscenza:
ALTO COMMISSARIO PER LA SARDEGNA
CAGLIARI

CON MANIFESTAZIONE IN CORSO VIGILIA SULLA LUNA COLLOCATA A DISPOSIZIONE QUESTO MINISTRO PER IL PROVVEDIMENTO SOSTITUIRE QUESTO VICE MINISTRO VIGILIO RAGGIUNGERE QUESTO QUESTO MINISTRO PUNTO IN CORSO DETERMINAZIONE SUI SUCCESSORI.

MINISTRO BUCCHI

(Translation)

YOUR ATTENTION IS DRAWN TO ASSIGNMENT BY THIS MINISTRY STOP THE TO MAKING CONSIDERATION VICE MINISTER VIGILIO WHEN COME IMMEDIATELY TO THIS MINISTRY STOP ARRANGEMENTS BEING MADE FOR YOUR SUCCESSION.

MINISTER BUCCHI

18/10
 Regulation no. 40 — Interior — 24. 7. 44 — Rome

Ministry of the Interior
 Cabinet

Rome 22nd July ⑦
 To A.C.C.
 Interior Subcom.

File no. 726 Incl. 1.

Subject: Prefect of Sassari

We forward for your
 reference a copy of the telegram with
 which ~~was ordered the placing at~~
~~disposal (removal from assignment)~~ of
 Prefect Dr. Vincenzo Ottaviano was
 ordered from his office of assignment.

By order of the Minister

1810

Ministero dell'Interno C. C. Gabinetto

2 luglio 1944

1A

Divisione 7126 | Allegato 1

R. O. M. A.

Oggetto: Prefetto Sassari.

Si trasmette per conoscenza copia del telegramma con il quale è stato disposto il collocamento a disposizione del Prefetto Dott. Vincenzo OTTAVIANO.

D'ORDINE DEL MINISTERO

Scritta

Ministry of the Interior
Cabinet

7B

Copy of Telegram
in departure
addressed to Prefect Ottaviano,
and for ref. to ^{Sassari}
the High Commissioner for
Sardinia, Cagliari

Rome 22nd July 1944

Text: With a provision in course
Your Ex. is ordered from assignment
by this Ministry stop see to making
consignment Vice Prefect Vicario ^{then come}
immediately to this Ministry stop
arrangements being made for your successor
Minister Bonomi

C O P I A

Mod. 897

7C

MODULARIO
I - h - 1590

MINISTERO DELL' INTERNO

Gabinetto

OGGETTO

N.

TELEGRAMMA

In partenza

indirizzato a } PIRELLA OTTAVIANO
 e per conoscenza: } SASSARI
ALTO COMMISSARIO PER LA SARDEGNA
CACCIARI

Roma, li 22 luglio 1944 ore

Spedito da

(Testo)

CON PROVVEDIMENTO IN CORSO VOSTRA ECCELLENZA
 E' COLLOCATA A DISPOSIZIONE QUESTO MINISTERO PUNTO

PROVEDA EFFETTUARE CONSEGNE VICE PREFETTO VICARIO

AGGIUNGENDO SUBITO QUESTO MINISTERO PUNTO E' IN CORSO

DESTINAZIONE SUI SUCCESSORI

MINISTRO BONOMI

482

Cam/Co

1726
 HEADQUARTERS
 ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
 REGION 6 - APO 397

Antenor
CONFIDENTIAL

9 July 1944

TO : HQ ACC (Rear)-Interior Sub-Commission.

SUBJECT : Prefect of Sassari - OTTAVIANO.

REFERENCE : L/1439.

45 JUL 1944

1. I refer to your ACC/1/5/INT dated 22 June 1944 and as requested, I enclose my report on the above official. I am in constant touch with my Provincial Commissioner at Sassari on this matter, and know that his views correspond with my own. I therefore, do not think it necessary to forward a separate report by him.

2. As you may know, I have been keeping the above Prefect under observation ever since my arrival on the Island. The matter was the subject of my letter L/1423 to RC & MG Section dated 25 May 1944. When I discussed the case with the High Commissioner before writing the letter above referred to, the latter was of the opinion that Ottaviano, in view of his difficult task, should be given yet a further trial, and I did not at that time press the matter further. I have not since received any reply from RC & MG Section. There is no sign of improvement in Ottaviano's administration of his Province.

3. I entirely concur in the views you express in your letter under reply.

Mc Carr
 Brigadier
 Regional Commissioner 481

In Union SC.
CONFIDENTIAL

HEADQUARTERS
 ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
 REGION 6 - APO 397

85217

5 July 1944
 15 JUL 1944

TO : HQ AOC(Reas)-Interior Sub-Commission.

SUBJECT : Prefect of Sassari - OTTAVIANO.

REFERENCE : L/1429.

1. I refer to our discussion regarding the above Prefect during your recent visit to Sardinia. As stated verbally then, I have during the past few months formed a very unfavorable opinion of this official. After due consideration, I feel bound to ask for Ottaviano's replacement. My reasons for this request are as follows:

a) He does not in my opinion carry out his duties as Prefect with the necessary efficiency. He does not possess any of the qualities necessary for successful leadership. He is weak and too inclined to be swayed by the opinions of others. He lacks energy, and I feel that he has not sufficient general capacity or strength of character to hold the office of Prefect of Sassari. The administration of his Province has given rise to many popular complaints, and I feel that his replacement is necessary in the public interest.

b) His was a Fascist appointment, i.e., 15 June 1943.

c) He is reported by my Provincial Commissioner to surround himself with Fascists or persons tainted with Fascism. For instance, he retained in office one, Polchi (an ex-Federal Inspector) as Direttore of the Consiglio dell'Economia.

2. In view of what is stated above, I should be obliged by your making the necessary representations to the Italian Government for the replacement of Ottaviano by a more suitable and competent man. The High Commissioner is in agreement with me that a new Prefect is required at Sassari.

M. Carr
 M. Carr

M. CARR
 Brigadier
 Regional Commissioner

HEADQUARTERS
ARMED CONTROL COMMISSION
INTERIOR SUB COMMISSION
APO 394

ACC/14/1/14/Int

7 July 1944

SUBJECT: Prefect of Sassari - OTTAVIANO

TO : Colonel A. E. Young, Director Security Branch

1. I acknowledge with thanks your letter of 4 July 1944, reference: SR/3115/251.01 with enclosed reports of Captain Fielders. I shall return the latter report when I have finished using it.

2. Please be assured that I have been greatly concerned about this matter and that I have already taken some steps ~~in the matter~~.

RRC/jet

for *R. G. B. Speier*
R. G. B. SPEIER
Colonel
Director
Interior Sub-Commission

479

1516

REAR HEADQUARTERS
MILITARY CONTROL COMMISSION
INTERIOR SUB COMMISSION
APO 394

ACC/4/1/48/Int

7 July 1944

SUBJECT: Prefect of Sassari - OTTAVIANO

TO : RC, Region VI

1. Reference my letter of 22 June 1944, ACC/4/1/48/Int.
2. I have received a copy of a Security Report on Sardinia from the Director of Security Branch which confirms my views concerning the Prefect of Sassari.
3. However, I should be most grateful to receive your views supported by specific facts, as well as those of your P.O. of Sassari.

RHE/jgt

for R. G. B. SPICER
Colonel
Director
Interior Sub-Commission

478

1517

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
ADVANCE HQ
SECURITY BRANCH.
A.P.O. 394

(2)

4 July 1944

Ref. SB/3115/231.01

Subject: Prefect of SASSARI

To : Col. R. SPICER.-Director Interior Sub-Commission.

1) As you are aware this Branch has recently undertaken a Security survey of Sardinia, the results of which have been discussed with G.S.I. (b) HQ AAI.

2) As a result AAI are apprehensive of the military security aspect of allowing the present Prefect of SASSARI to remain in office, since it is considered he is disloyal to the Allied cause and a potential threat to military security.

3) I should be glad therefore if you would be good enough to use your influence with the Italian Government to persuade them to remove the official, OTTAVIANO, Vincenzo. The objections of AAI have of course been made to me personally but nevertheless represent their official attitude.

4) I enclose a report on Sardinia from my Capt. Fielders for your information. I should be glad if you would return it to me when it has served your purpose.

Alamy

A. L. YOUNG

Colonel,

DIRECTOR SECURITY BRANCH.

477

15th June 1944. 28.

SECRET

ARMY 6. A.C.C.

Subject: Military Security Situation in Sardinia.To: Colonel A.M. Young, Director,
Security Branch, A.C.C.

Ref No.

Sir,

1. As the result of my own observations and from conversations with many Sardinians, both civilian and military, I am quite satisfied that the situation is better than it was during the autumn of 1943, but it is most certainly not yet satisfactory.
2. In the autumn of 1943 there were about 250,000 Italian troops in Sardinia, underfed and mostly cold, getting one good meal a day. Most of them looked really hungry. (Other remarks, not the officers). Now I am told that the total is about 150,000 troops and is still being reduced by more hundreds of units to the mainland. Further, the Italian troops now get a much larger ration, thanks to German food, and they no longer look starved.
3. At the time of the armistice there were a number of Blackshirt Fascist Militia legions in the North of the island, said to number about 30,000 men. About 200 of the Militia and over 1,000 of the Nerbo Paratroop Division went with the Germans. Other Militia troops tried to join the Germans, but were prevented from doing so. These Fascist Militia legions, which have now for the most part been absorbed into the Italian Army, were full of the most ardent Fascists.
4. In vast majority, perhaps 90% of the people are anti-Fascist, but in the Italian Army the position is vastly different. Estimates vary, but there is no doubt that with the majority of the Italian Army in Sardinia the allies are NOT Fascist. Also there are very many active and ardent Fascists, both officers and men, still in the Army. However, in spite of this feeling many of the troops are loyal. There was a little fighting between the Germans and the Italians here, and a number of units which later came from Corsica had fought against the Germans.
5. The Commander-in-Chief of the Italian Army in Sardinia is General MAGGI (an ex-Fascist) who served on the staff of the Fascist General GAVARINI. General MAGGI is hated and distrusted by the people here.
6. In Corsica, where General MAGGI was Commander of the Italian troops, it is said that MAGGI ordered about 2,000 German prisoners to be released and returned at BUSTO. Afterwards they fought the Italians before embarking for the mainland of Italy. It is also said the General MAGGI ordered the Bersagliere units, which were stationed on some heights overlooking Bastia to withdraw even before being ordered by the Germans, thereby saving the capture of Bastia by the Germans.

them to Italian food, and they no longer fear the Germans.

3. At the time of the Armistice there were a number of Blackshirt Fascist Militia legions in the North of the Island, said to number about 30,000 men. About 200 of the Militia are over 1,000 of the Herbo Paratroop Division went with the Germans. Other Militia groups tried to join the Germans, but were prevented from doing so. These Fascist Militia legions, which have now for the most part been absorbed into the Italian Army, were full of the most ardent Fascists.
4. The vast majority, perhaps 90% of the people are anti-Fascist, but in the Italian Army the position is vastly different. Estimates vary, but there is no doubt that with the majority of the Italian Army in Sicily the Allies are NOT Fascist. Also there are very many active and ardent Fascists, both officers and men, still in the Army. However, in spite of this feeling many of the troops are loyal. There was a little fighting between the Germans and the Italians here, and a number of units which later came from Corsica had fought against the Germans.
5. The Commander-in-Chief of the Italian Army in Sicily is General Micaletti an ex-Fascist who served on the staff of the Fascist General Cavallone. General Micaletti is hated and distrusted by the people here.
6. In Corsica, where General Micaletti was Commander of the Italian troops, it is said that Micaletti ordered about 2,000 German prisoners to be released and returned to Italy. Afterwards they fought the Italians before embarking for the mainland of Italy. It is also said the General Micaletti ordered the Herbyshire unit, which were considered as some help in overcoming Bastia to withdraw even before being engaged by the Germans, thereby making the capture of Bastia by the Germans much easier. Lastly that after the Armistice General Micaletti delayed taking action against the Germans for at least two days, thus giving the Germans vital time to organize.
7. I do not know if these allegations are true, but many anti-Fascists in Northern Corsica will at once repeat them to you if General Micaletti's name is mentioned. During the autumn of 1943, I personally interviewed a number of Army officers, from Corsica to Leghorn, and perhaps a dozen other places, all of whom fought in Corsica. They all tell much the same story, but I was never able to find evidence to show that any of these allegations actually happened as the result of a direct order from General Micaletti. I have never read any report about the fighting in Corsica.
8. A number of Italian officers who were friendly towards the Allies and who co-operated wholeheartedly with us have now been transferred and ordered to the mainland. Amongst General Micaletti, Lt. Col. Carboni, Major Della Rocca Major Pella.

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9. At the beginning of December 1943, orders came from the Badoglio Government for about 500 Carabinieri in Gerardinia to be retired. General MAGGI allowed this order to be put into effect, in spite of the fact that there was some crime in Gerardinia then over before. The trouble that a quarter of a million half-starved soldiers were giving our enemy, he imagined. The Carabinieri are the best organized and the most loyal body in Gerardinia. At the time the loyalty of sections of the Italian Army, especially the militia, was doubted, and a few days later the General Martin plot came to light. The order to retire these 500 Carabinieri was then stopped by the Allies.

10. About the same time, late November or early December 1943, Colonel RAVENHILL, Commander of the Carabinieri in Gerardinia, and of course responsible to General MAGGI, sent a circular letter to Carabinieri Officers ordering them to report upon the nature of enquiries made by Allied officers and all Allied activities. General MAGGI denied all knowledge of this and blamed Col. RAVENHILL.

11. I have always thought that General MAGGI did not tell the truth over this matter and events this week seem to justify my belief. General MAGGI visited General and amongst these officers he saw was Lt. Col. MAGGI, Italian Army Intelligence in Cassino. At 1100 hrs on 7 June 1944, Lt. Mediano called to see Lt. Col. MAGGI at the Colonel's request. Lt. Mediano is one of the Italian Officers attached to the Allied Control Commission in Cassino. Lt. Col. MAGGI told the Agent that he required more information about A.C.C. activities in his reports and that everything Allied officers did must be reported. Lt. Mediano immediately on his return to his office reported the matter to Major MAGGI, A.C.C. Provincial Commissioner, who in turn reported to his Brigadier.

12. There another Italian Officer I have learnt that General MAGGI told Lt. Col. MAGGI that he must tighten up on all Italian officers working with the Allies and obtain more information from them about Allied activities.

13. General MAGGI has done very little to get rid of Fascist any influence. There are still very many Squadrists, Federal courtesies, Political courtesies and high ranking Fascists Militia officers still holding commissions in the Italian Army here, from Colonel downwards.

14. As an example of what occurs in the Italian Army here, the following is an account given to me of my C.I.C. colleagues of a speech made on 10 May 44, 1 by General MAGGI to about 30 Italian Officers in Cassino:-

"The English people and the Americans are not our Allies, they are Allies of each other. The Allies are overpowering our troops and they are causing a crisis in our troops' functions". Speaking about the Allied propaganda the General stated that both the Allies and the Germans too, are telling many things which are not true. The families of officers in German occupied territory are well and have

officer reported to the A.C.C. that he required more information about A.C.C. activities in his told the lieutenant. That he required more information about A.C.C. activities in his reports and that everything Allied officers did must be reported. 14. Colonel immediately on his return to his office reported the matter to Major [redacted], A.C.C. Provincial Commissioner, who in turn reported to his Brigadier.

12. From another Italian officer I have learnt that General [redacted] told Lt. Col. [redacted] that he must tighten up on all Italian officers working with the Allies and obtain more information from them about Allied activities.

13. General [redacted] has done very little to get rid of Fascist [redacted] officers. There are still very many Squadristi, Fascist couriers, political commissaries and high ranking Fascist Militia officers still holding commissions in the Italian army here, from Colonel downwards.

14. As an example of what occurs in the Italian army here, the following is an account given to one of my C.I.C. colleagues of a speech made on 10 May 44, by General [redacted] to about 30 Italian officers in [redacted]:

"The English people and the Germans are not our Allies, they are Allies of each other. The Allies are impoverishing our troops and they are causing a crisis in our troops' functions". Speaking about the Allied propaganda the General stated that both the Allies and the Germans too, are telling many things which are not true. The families of officers in German occupied territory are well and have everything. For the same reason the officers who leave their families in the hands of the Germans should be calm and do their very best. The Allies are organizing my Corps which will be kept in our native country for five years. Speaking about the internal situation, the General stated, that the Italians should not expect anything from the Allies and the Germans. In conclusion the General remarked that [redacted] fought against the Germans in [redacted]."

15. This version was given to us by a high ranking Italian officer who was present. Similar versions were given to us by a number of other [redacted].

16. Towards the end of May a similar speech, perhaps a little more [redacted] ally, is alleged to have been made by Colonel [redacted] to about 100 officers and men of the 53rd Italian A.A. Regiment of Artillery. The speech was made near [redacted] (near [redacted] province). However, in this case the information has not yet been verified and we only have the version of one Italian [redacted] who was present at the time.

17.....

- 3 -

17. To my knowledge there have only been four attempts to leave Sardinia and join the enemy. Only one has been successful when an Italian L.A.S. boat disappeared and my have reached the enemy. In the other three cases, which were unsuccessful air attempts made. Officers were involved in each case, especially in the case of General MARINI, (Pascist Militia) when only three of the sixteen persons arrested were civilians. Most of the officers arrested were Fascist Militia.
18. The Fascist air officers hope and believe that the Germans will reinforce the Italian front and recapture Italy, Sicily and Sardinia, (1) if the second front is defeated, and/or (2) if Germany makes a separate peace with Russia.
19. I am told by two members of the Sassari anti-Fascist Committee that Colonel ZIMMELI addressed some Italian officers at Nuoli, near Sassari, after the liberation of Corsica, when he is alleged to have said, "The day with the Allies took him was a day of mourning, but Fascism will come back".
20. All the coast of Sardinia is guarded by Italian troops and they share the defense of the airfields and one Naval Base at La Maddalena.
21. The security at Cagliari, which is the only port, and/or airfield, where civilians can leave for Italy and Sicily, is quite good. Italians can only leave by permit and can only enter Sardinia through Cagliari by permit. There is an American Naval Port Security Officer and G.I.C. personnel is attached to the American Air Corps at Cagliari.
22. The only other civilian traffic to and from Sardinia is with Corsica, which is also done by permit through S. Teresa Gallura, La Maddalena and possibly Olbia. (Boatsmen called Tortanova). S. Teresa Gallura and Olbia are entirely in Italian hands and control, but the Royal Navy has taken over the island base of La Maddalena.
23. Captain Roberts, R.N. Naval Officer in Charge at La Maddalena, has ED SECURITY OFFICER. Anyone may enter and leave La Maddalena at will by simply walking aboard the Italian ferry which goes backwards and forwards to the little port of Sestu in Sardinia. No permit is necessary. There are few to many civilians and especially out of work Italian sailors on the island of La Maddalena. Their presence is not necessary.
24. The Straits of Bonifacio are under the control of the Royal Navy and there are observation posts on the islands in the Straits, as well as Radar.
25. The third and last aspect affecting the security of the island of Sardinia is the Fascist Prefect of Sassari, GIOVANNI VINCENZO. He is said to have been a member of the Fascist Party since 1936. He was appointed Prefect during the Fascist regime. At the present time he is still surrounded by almost the whole of his Fascist advisors, who held the same offices with him before the 25th July 1945. Just in addition two ex-members: Dott. Michele PACHINI, ex-Federal Inspector, is still Director of the "Consiglio dell' Economia". He was an active Fascist up till the

by porters and can only enter by the Italian Navy Port Security Officer and C.I.C. personnel is attached to the Italian Air Corps at Cagliari.

22. The only other civilian traffic to and from Sardinia is with Corsica, which is also done by permit through S. Gressa Gallura, La Maddalena and possibly Olbia. (Sometime called Terranova). S. Gressa Gallura and Olbia are entirely in Italian hands and control, but the Royal Navy has taken over the island base of La Maddalena.

23. Captain Roberts, R.N. Naval Officer in Charge at La Maddalena, has no security clearance. Anyone may enter and leave La Maddalena at will by simply walking aboard the Italian ferry which goes between and forward to the little port of Pula in Sardinia. No permit is necessary. There are far too many civilians and especially out of work Italian sailors on the island of La Maddalena. Their presence is not necessary.

24. The Straits of Bonifacio are under the control of the Royal Navy and there are observation posts on the islands in the Straits, as well as Radar.

25. The third and last aspect affecting the security of the island of Sardinia is the Fascist Prefect of Sassari, OTTAVIANO VINCENZO. He is said to have been a member of the Fascist Party since 1926. He was appointed Prefect during the Fascist Regime. At the present time he is still surrounded by almost the whole of his Fascist advisors, who hold the same offices with him before the 25th July 1943. Just to mention two examples: Dott. Michele PALLINI, ex-Federal Inspector, is still Director of the "Consiglio dell' Economia". He was an active Fascist up till the end and since the arrival of the Allies is alleged to have made anti-Allied remarks to his staff. Dott. Sanio PRINCIVALLI, ex-Fascist and the Prefect's Chief of Cabinet, PRINCIVALLI's brother is the General PRINCIVALLI, who has taken the oath of allegiance to Mussolini recently, and pledged to fight against the Allies. 484

26. The Prefect, like General MALLI, has done little to get rid of the Fascists from office. On the contrary he seems to be doing all he can to protect his Fascist friends.

27. Recently eight Fascists were arrested. Their names were submitted by the Sassari Anti-Fascist Committee to the Italian High Commissioner, General PINO, with a recommendation for internment. The General agreed and ordered their arrest. After a few days all eight men had to appear before a Committee consisting of the Prefect, Prosecutor Solito, the Lt. Col. in charge of Carabinieri and the Justice. All eight men were released, but are now subject to arrest and a few other petty restrictions. The Lt. Col. of Carabinieri is a General MALLI, having been sent to replace Major MALLI, who was so friendly and co-operative with the Allies. The Justice had not been in Sassari a week at the time, having only just been appointed. He is over 70 years of age and of course unavailable to the Prefect.

28.

- 4 -

28. The Sassari Anti-Fascist Committee have protested to the Allies over the release of these eight men, and there is very considerable dissatisfaction amongst the people, who thought that at least something was going to be done.

29. Members of the Sassari Anti-Fascist Committee who we have interviewed say that the Prefect co-operates with them over little things, but not over big things.

30. Major Dellar, the A.C.C. Provincial Commissioner for Sassari, has already requested his Brigadier suggesting the Prefect be removed. His views on the subject are similar to those of my G.I.C. colleagues and myself. The Prefect of Cagliari has already been removed and I am told by Lt. Col. Price, the Provincial Commissioner for Cagliari, that the new man appears to be a big improvement.

31. The people cannot understand why the Allies just look on and allow such things to happen, let alone remove the Prefect and General Magli. The prestige of the Allies gets lower and lower, while the Fascists get bolder and more outspoken. Our recruits are definitely beginning to lose faith in us as they think we are powerless to act. Sardinia has always been Allied Central Commission and never Allied Military Government. In Italy and Italy security personnel accompanied the troops, interned and also turned out of office very many Fascists. This procedure has been completely lacking in Sardinia and the island has never been cleared of Fascism, although the local Anti-Fascist Committee are now trying hard, but as already stated, in Sassari they are meeting stern opposition from the Prefect.

32. The removal of General Magli and the Prefect and with known anti-Fascists put in their places, would, I am sure, soon bring about the complete rooting out of Fascism in Sardinia. The people want it and would readily co-operate. The Allies would gain in prestige and it would be still more popular if the new Prefect was a hard.

33. In this report I have tried honestly not to be an alarmist, but to be balanced. I have tried to show that there is still potential trouble in Sardinia if things went wrong in Italy for the Allies. While our armies are achieving success I do not think any trouble will occur. The root of the trouble, namely, far too many Fascists still in office, especially, and potentially, very dangerous, these holding commissions in the Army, could so easily be remedied by the speedy removal of the two men chiefly responsible for these Fascists still being there. Two known anti-Fascists holding these two key positions would never tolerate all the great number of Fascists working in positions around them.

34. Finally, with regard to La Maddalena, there is much really no security and the job has never been tackled. The base is becoming important and is now used by submarines, minesweepers and P.2. boats, British and American. If security is to be maintained up in this Naval Base, Allied security personnel will have to be brought in and given the necessary power to enforce their orders.

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32. The removal of General MUGLI and the Prefect and with known anti-Fascists put in their places, would, I am sure, soon bring about the complete rooting out of Fascism in Savina. The people want it and would readily co-operate. The Allies would gain in prestige and it would be still more popular if the new Prefect was a hard.

33. In this report I have tried honestly not to be an alarmist, or to be biased. I have tried to show that there is still potential trouble in Savina if things went wrong in Italy for the Allies. While our Allies are achieving success I do not think any trouble will occur. The MOOT of the FASCISTS, namely, far too many Fascists still in office, especially, and potentially, more dangerous, those holding commissions in the Army, could so easily be removed by the speedy removal of the two men chiefly responsible for these Fascists still being there. Two known anti-Fascists holding these two key positions would never tolerate all the great number of Fascists working in positions around them.

34. Finally with regard to La Maddalena, there is more really no security and the job has never been tackled. The base is becoming important and is now used by submarines, minesweepers and P.T. boats, British and American. If security is to be maintained up in this Naval Base, Allied security personnel will have to be brought in and given the necessary power to enforce their orders.

473
Sgt/ Edward PIERSON, Captain,
Security Branch, I.C.C.

Copy to: C.I.C. Detachment, Savina, for their information.

REAR HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
INTERIOR SUB COMMISSION
APO 594

4/48
ACG/4/6/Int

22 June 1946

SUBJECT: Prefect of Sassari - OTTAVIANO

TO : MC, Region VI

1. Sardinia is Royal Italy. It has not, therefore, been through any AMG purge, and she stands with Puglia in a different position from any other area of Liberated Italy.

2. I have formed a most unfavourable opinion of the above-named Prefect, and in this, I am supported both by you as Regional Commissioner, and by the Provincial Commissioner of Sassari.

3. Facts:

- (1) He is a Mussolini appointee, e.g., June 15, 1943.
- (2) Previously Grade V in Ministry of Interior, Rome.
- (3) Is reported by the Provincial Commissioner to surround himself with ardent fascists.
- (4) Has recently appointed one MALINI, an ex-Federal Inspector as Direttore of Co-operative Economia - approved, presumably, by the High Commissioner.

4. He pretends anti-Fascism, as all Italian officials do, but he is a most unsatisfactory person, in my opinion, to hold the important office of Prefect, and if not dealt with under Espionage, should be at least removed from this and any other official appointment.

5. With your approval, I propose to interview the Minister of Interior (now the Prime Minister) and suggest his removal, but before I do so, I should like to be supported by specific reports from you as (1) Regional Commissioner, and (2) from your Provincial Commissioner, Sassari.

6. Every care would be taken to ensure that the Prefect of Sassari, OTTAVIANO, if removed from office, was replaced by a competent man.

R. G. B. Spicer 472
R. G. B. SPICER
Colonel
Director
Interior Sub-Commission

RGAS/jgt

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