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CIVIL CENSORSHIP REPORTS
FEB. - APR. 1945

MINUTE SHEET NO. 1

DATE		PAGE
23 Feb.	^① Maj. W. Please prepare list of subjects referred to in p. 1. Done at p. 2.	1
	PRT. for Director	2.

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Headquarters Allied Commission
CIVIL CENSORSHIP GROUP
APO 394, U. S. Army

GEM/jm

SPECIAL REPORT NO. 126

24 April 1945

SUBJECT: Evasion of Censorship in Italy.

TO : G-2 (Communications Censorship), AFHQ, APO 513.

There are strong indications that evasion of censorship is on the increase throughout Italy. During the eight weeks ended Saturday, 14th April there were over 750 comment sheets on this subject, and whereas they were coming in at the rate of two or three a day during the early part of the period, the rate increased threefold during the later stages.

The great bulk of the evasions were through the means of intermediaries. Apart from letters being carried throughout Italy generally, many letters pass between Italy and other countries. During the period under review, for example, the following places have figured in the comment sheets: Argentina, Spain, Switzerland, Bulgaria, Casablanca, Egypt, Albania, Sweden, England and German occupied Italy. Legations and couriers have proved to be useful channels for correspondence.

Censorship has disclosed the following practices: Letters are sent to German occupied Italy via Switzerland. Letters coming from Switzerland are often posted in Rome, and so pass through our hands. The Italian Embassy in Ankara has been used to forward mail to Bulgaria. Commercial correspondence from Italy to Sweden has been forwarded through the Swedish Legation in Rome. It is stated that Allied aircraft carry letters to and from Albania. Couriers carry letters between liberated and German occupied Italy. Travellers from Egypt bring letters into the country, and the same thing applies to other places in North Africa.

Vatican mail channels have been used as a means of transmission. Other letters revealed that various individuals connected with the Vatican were used as intermediaries. Vatican couriers to the North of Italy and to Switzerland are regarded as safe carriers of letters. 476

Individuals crossing the front lines frequently carry letters with them. Such letters coming south are often posted in

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Rome or Florence and so pass through our hands. These letters also disclose that other letters have been delivered by hand. This type of traffic is increasing.

Both Allied and Italian military personnel have been involved in illicit mail practices. Italian civilians, when writing to Italian soldiers, sometimes enclose other letters to be handed by the soldiers to civilians in their locality. Civilians also hand letters to soldiers, and viceversa, for delivery to the addressees. Sailors are occasionally used as intermediaries in forwarding packages from the U.S.A. It was also discovered that a French chaplain was being used as an intermediary. Occasionally Italian civilians write direct to Allied soldiers. There were 37 cases of the use of the Italian civilian post by soldiers, of which four were Americans and the remainder Italians.

The following comments illustrate various types of censorship evasion:

"I received your kind note. Thank you so much for the package you brought for me from Madrid. I shall send someone to your house with a note of such a kind that you may not be worried about handing over the package to her." (21/3/45 - Rome, No. 11543)

"Yesterday I received your letter dated 26/3/45 and I hasten to send you a copy, made by Claudio, of the mail which arrived for you. There are six postcards and one letter. As I think the letter is very important, I write clearly for you the sender's address: Int. Mil. Ital. Vittorio Land (Zürich) Switzerland....."

On the enclosed sheet were copied the text of six postcards coming from occupied Italy. An excerpt from the letter reads: "I received here in Switzerland, where I am interned, news from German occupied Italy. Since I have the opportunity of acting as an intermediary between you and Mr. Fusio, in case you want me to, you may send me your news which I will forward to him as soon as possible." (20/3/45 - Rome, No. 11171)

"You can write to me, addressing the envelope in the following way: Fratnik Mariano, Lagazzone d'Italia, Corsica. Have this envelope put in another one addressed to R. Ambasciata di Italia, Anzani, Turonia." (20/2/45 - Rome, No. 10926)

"I sent you a few lines through Ina's brother-in-law who was going to Spain. I also gave some other letters to Feder's brother and some small parcels for Giovanni, but I

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don't know whether they have all been delivered. I also asked you to inform Gianni's family that both she and little Maria Teresa are well. Should you be able to have some news, for example through Antonia's aunt, you ought to go to see her and tell her to be so kind as to send your letter to Berne, through the courier, addressed to me. From there it will be forwarded to Geneva." (2/3/45 - Rome, No. 10325)

"I talked to Sandra who, having come from Rome to Terni, was able to inform me that all the letters sent to you by means of aunt Elena, which in their turn were consigned to a courier plying between Rome and Florence, were delivered by hand to Signor Garosi, your commercial traveller in materials." (24/3/45 - Rome, No. 11698)

"I am writing you a second letter through the same channels. If you are in time to reply, send me a short message in a double envelope. Address the outside envelope to 5th Army American Command, and the inside envelope to Capitano Zerobro, Commander 5th Mountain Battalion, Pabio Brigade. I warn you that the message must be brief. Ask the 5th Army Command to do their best to deliver the message. Above all I beg you to keep my address a secret." (16/3/45 - Rome, No. 11848)

"At last I can let you have my news. I enclose this letter in Cardinal Schuster's pouch." (4/4/45 - Rome, No. 11883)

I have just received a letter from your daughter and son-in-law in Buenos Aires, sent to me in the hope that I could forward it to you with greater safety. In the meantime, Mr. Danford, I beg you to answer your daughter's letter as soon as you receive this, addressing the letter to me - Dolla Fioni, via Adige 64, Rome, and I will forward it by a quick and safe way." (enclosed a note: The envelope contained a letter forwarded from Buenos Aires. (9/4/45) - Rome, No. 11855)

A letter forwarded to a civilian through a front line soldier: "Dear Signor Olivelli, thank you for forwarding to me my dear aunt's letter. I apologize for the trouble I am causing you by asking you the favour of forwarding this letter of mine." (2/4/45 - Rome, No. 11705)

A letter similar to the above: "Though I do not have the pleasure of being personally acquainted with you, I thank you for the favour you are doing me, and I apologize for the trouble I am giving you, but it is better so, as Pasquina says,

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otherwise there would be no possibility of corresponding.
 Please forward this letter of mine to my dear friend."
 (29/3/45 - Rome, No. 11708)

Gordon W. McKean

GORDON W. MCKEAN,
 Lt. Col. Cavalry,
 Civil Sensorship Officer.

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUB COMMISSION

B

AG/12/A/10.

Tel : 478290

SUBJECT : Censorship intercepts.

30 March 1945

TO : Col. Allied Censor Control Office
c/o ANG SIEWA.

1. I refer to your letter SIEW/84/EJP requesting information on the value of censorship intercepts to this Sub-Commission.

2. I am definitely of the opinion that these intercepts serve a useful purpose in helping us to form an over all picture of the local Government set up. They have also been useful on occasion in giving us advance information about complaints which eventually reached us through official channels some weeks later, thus enabling us to have the matter investigated beforehand and putting us in a position to answer promptly.

3. I have no suggestions for improvement to offer at present, but should any arise in the future I will communicate with you further.

for R. G. B. SPICER,
Colonel,
Director,
Local Government Sub-Commission.

WIG / cm.

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ALLIED CENSOR CONTROL OFFICE
c/o A.M.G.
SIENA

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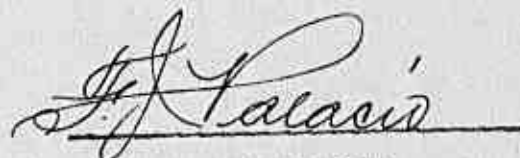
26 March, 1945

SUBJECT : Request, Information.
TO : Allied Commission, Local Government,
Sub-Commission.

Please be advised that this Office, in accordance with policy, is desirous of ascertaining, value of information disseminated.

We would appreciate a letter stating whether or not it has been of any value in your work.

Any suggestion for improvement or for information which you may now require will be immediately acted upon.



F. J. PALACIO
Capt., C.A.C.
Commanding.

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUB COMMISSION

AC/12/A/LG

Tel: 478190

SUBJECT: Civil Censorship Reports.

24 February 1945

TO : Civil Affairs Section.

1. With reference to your letter 4/14.1/UA of 22 February on the above subject, this Sub Commission would like to see extracts from civilian letters commenting on the following subjects:—

- (a) Prefects personally
- (b) Provincial Administration
- (c) Communal Administration

2. This Sub Commission is not interested in comments of a purely political nature and only wishes to see comments which have a bearing on Local Government administration.

WIC/pec

for
R. G. B. SPICER
Colonel
Director
Local Government Sub Commission

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

Ext : 469

Ref 4/14.1/CA

22 Feb 45

SUBJECT : Civil Censorship reports

23 FEB 1945

TO : Local Govt S/C ✓ MFA & A S/C
Legal S/C DP & R S/C
Education S/C Patriots Branch
PH S/C Devastated Areas
PS S/C

- 1 If Sub-Commissions will specify the subjects on which they would like to see extracts from civilian letters the necessary arrangements will be made.
- 2 It is requested that particulars of your requirements may reach this office by 1100 hrs 24 Feb.

S.H. White

S.H. WHITE Lt Col
for VP CA Section

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