

ACC

10000/142/660

CASE OF CONTE ALVISE
AT SAN REMO)
JULY - DEC. 1945

10000/142/660

CASE OF CONTE ALVISE BRAGADIN (LOOTING OF HIS PROPERTY
AT SAN REMO)
JULY-DEC. 1945

4087/10

(L/A)

HEADQUARTERS
LIGURIA REGION
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
APO 394

Lig/HQ/65

GCR/pm
4 December 1945.

SUBJECT : Conte Alvise BRAGADIN's Property

TO : Headquarters Allied Commission
(Attn: Chief Legal Officer)

(Z.A)

Ref. Lig/HQ/65 of to day's date. (3 Dec)

The documents which should have been enclosed with
the above quoted letter are sent herewith.

28

[Signature]
GC.RAFFETY Lt.
R.A.
Regional Legal Officer.

105-100-10000	
CLO	
DCLO	
Chief Counsel	
CJO	
Italian Division	
CL RKS	
10 DEC 1945	

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
LEGAL SUB-COMMISSION

/mda

AC/4087/10/L.

7 December 1945

SUBJECT : Conte Alvise BRAGADIN's Property.

TO : The Regional Commissioner LIGURIA Region.

1. Reference your No. IAg/HQ/65 of 3rd Dec. '45.
2. I should be obliged if the documents enclosed in this Sub-Commission's letter of 15th November could be returned as soon as possible.

By command of Rear Admiral STONE.

MUSGRAVE THOMAS
Italian Branch,
for Chief Legal Advisor.

27

4087/10
HEADQUARTERS
LIGURIA REGION
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
APO 394

Lig/ HQ/65

CGR/pm.
3 Dec. 1945.

SUBJECT : Conte Alvise BRACADIN's Property.

TO : Headquarters Allied Commission
(Attn: Chief Legal Officer)

Your ref. AC/4087/10/1 of 15 Nov. 1945.

1. The affairs of Conte Bragadin have been engaging my attention for some time and he has more than once explained his case to me in person.

2. It is true that a large amount of valuable property was removed by certain persons named by Bragadin from his residences in the last days of April. But documents have been produced which purport to authorize such confiscation on behalf of the Committee of National Liberation representing the Italian democratic government in that region at the period of the removal of the goods. A large amount of the property so removed was then sold by public auction whereit was bought by many of the present possessors who claim that they bought for value in good faith.

It is clear that these facts make a complicated situation which can only be determined by the Italian Courts.

3. As to the actual possession of the property pending a legal decision there has been an unfortunate succession of conflicting orders. In response to an application by Bragadin on June 15th the Procuratore del Regno of Imperia Province ordered the sequestration of all the property. A large number of the purchasers then petitioned the Procuratore and he authorized the return of the Property to the purchasers on August 15th.

assistant
Major McKenna, the Public Safety Officer at that

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(Attn: Chief Legal Officer)

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united
Major McKenna, the Public Safety Officer at that time of Imperia, then made a quite independent enquiry and issued on Sept. 4th. an order for sequestration. This order was made without any reference to or authority from me or the Provincial Commissioner and without the knowledge of either of us at that time. The result of this order was that the property was handed over to a lawyer representing Bragadin and was stored in premises belonging to him. In my opinion the order of Major McKenna showed an unwarrantable disregard of the order previously given by the Procuratore del Regno and unduly favoured Bragadin's claim. On the advice of my legal

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II.

Officer I directed that this order be revoked and instructions given at the same time that the goods be held in the custody of the Court authorities pending a final decision. My instructions were put into effect through Cpt. Garrigue.

4. It is fully appreciated that it is of the utmost importance that these matters should be dealt with by the competent Italian Courts as soon as possible and every pressure is being brought to bear to ensure an early trial.

5. The documents enclosed by you are returned herewith.

J. G. Selby
J. G. SELBY

Colonel
Regional Commissioner.

25

LEG. SUB-COMMISSION			
CLO			
DCLO			
Chief Counsel			
CLO			
Italian Section			
CL RKS			
DEC 1945			

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 374
Legal Sub-Commission

C/1087/10/A.

MT/2c.
15 November 1945.

SUBJECT : Conte Aloise BRAGADIN : Looting of his property at San Remo.
TO : Regional Commissioner, LIGURIA Region.

1. I enclose a copy of two letters to the Allied Commission from Conte Aloise BRAGADIN regarding the looting by communists at San Remo of valuable property belonging to him and his relatives.
 2. He alleges that the matter was investigated by the Carabinieri who made a full report to the Procuratore del Regno naming the persons responsible for entering villas belonging to him and looting their contents worth over Lire 12,000,000, but that the Procuratore took no steps to have the offenders arrested, nor to have any inquiry held.
 3. On p. 3 of the letter it is stated that Major W.A.B. Mc Kenna, Public Safety Officer in Imperia, after full investigation and after hearing the reports of the Carabinieri and other local authorities, issued with the approval of the provincial Commissioner an order sequestering all the stolen property that could be found. This order of sequestration, it is stated, was on Major Mc Kenna's departure for England revoked by the Civil Affairs Officer in San Remo, Capt. Garrigue, which had the effect of restoring all the property of Conte Bragadin that had been recovered to the persons into whose hands it had wrongfully come.
 4. If the facts stated in the enclosed letter are correct, the circumstances under which an order such as Capt. Garrigue is said to have given allowing the offenders to regain the stolen property call for an immediate and full investigation.
 5. Would you therefore take immediate steps in this connection and submit to this HQ a full report on the facts at your earliest convenience.
 6. Please return enclosed documents.
- By command of Rear Admiral STONE:

G.G. HANNAFORD, Lt. Col.
Deputy Chief Legal Advisor.

Ricevuto dal Sig. Enrico Ida Magadin
per Tran
 L. Lire per milione
 per

2/5 1945
 1.000.000.-
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Bureau of the American People
 F. G. ...

Bureau of the American People
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Bureau of the American People
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Rome, November 12th, 1945.

To the Allied Commission,
Rome.Subject:
Alvise Bragadin, Imperia & S.Remo.

On July 16th, 1945, the undersigned, Alvise Bragadin, resident of San Remo, province of Imperia, Liguria, had the privilege of submitting to your High Authority a full report on facts occurred in San Remo, since the very first days of liberation, by action of certain members of the local communist party and of local organs (C.L.N., Police, etc.) entirely controlled by communist representatives.

Said exposition of facts concluded with the following requests:

1°- that the block of accounts belonging to me and to my wife, as requested by the local C.L.N., be revoked after a proper investigation;

2°- that instructions be given, through right channels, in order to expedite action and to close with definite resolutions, inspired to justice, the penal proceedings open, since the end of May 1945, on my complaint, before the Tribunal of San Remo, but manifestly disregarded and never concluded, against certain members of the local communist party, who had committed common crimes of robbery and loot of high valued goods and equipment (worth over 12 million lire) belonging to me, to my relatives, and to other people represented by me.

As to No. 1, after due investigation of the case, either by the Finance Sub-Commission in Rome and by the Finance Officer for Liguria, the charges made up by the local C.L.N. against my financial activities were recognized without foundation, and therefore the accounts of myself and my wife were unblocked, as per decision taken by this Finance Sub-Commission on the 18th of August, n.13052/F.

In regard to Nos. 2 and 3, no progress has been obtained so far toward the right settlement of the case, on account of the following events.

Having the matter been referred by the Allied Commission to the Provincial Commissioner of Imperia, and his delegation to the Provincial Public Safety Officer in Imperia, Major W.A.E. McKenna, Br., this officer made a thorough impartial investigation of all facts in the case, and ascertained that an unwarrantable robbery had been committed on the first days of liberation, under a long before preorganized plan, by a band of armed men, all communists, acting on orders of their heads, for the purpose of financing the local party expenses with the ready sale of valuables belonging to me and others connected with me, all designated as "capitalists".

However, when the Provincial Public Safety Officer Major McKenna came to this conclusion, certain acts had already occurred in the penal proceedings dragging for long months before the King's Prosecutor at San Remo, Mr. Rombi. This judicial representative of the law, continually kept by the communist party under fear of possible reprisals, had done nothing in line with the arrest of the men responsible for the crimes, although they had been specifically named in a full report received by him from the local Carabinieri, as the men who had committed the robbery, sold the stolen goods, and cashed in the money so obtained. Not even a formal inquiry was started

- 2 -

by said Prosecutor for many months after the unquestionable results of the Carabinieri investigations; in fact the people responsible for the crimes admittedly occurred are still free and unpunished at this date/continuing to trouble the community, not having been called even to a summary examination which would have undoubtedly resulted in the proof of their guiltiness.

Nevertheless the King's Prosecutor, confronted with the fact admitted by all parties that the valuables in question had been taken away from their rightful owners and had been disposed of by their unlawful/dealers, ordered to the Carabinieri to proceed to the seizure of whatever articles, stolen, they could trace. A certain amount of less valuable goods was found and seized in the hands of a furniture dealer, himself a communist, who had been committed by his party to the retail sale of certain articles. Other pieces were found and seized in the hands of incautious buyers who had bought them directly from the storehouses of the communist party, or had bought them right on the spot where the robbery had been committed while it was in progress. A larger part of furniture, carpets, tapestries, paintings, and other household equipment, was found by the Carabinieri in two storehouses kept by the communist party under the watch of a storekeeper, who readily admitted to the searching Carabinieri that he had sold, as party trustee, a large amount of similar goods belonging to me or to my represented people, and that he had kept full records of all articles sold, of the buyers' name, and of the money turned in to the party. The goods found in said storehouses were delivered by the Carabinieri to myself, in presence of and without any opposition from the representatives of the communist party.

But most of the people who had ~~stolen~~ bought the stolen goods, headed by a lawyer named Pirro, himself a buyer, did not content themselves with the conservative seizure ordered by the K. Prosecutor until a final disposition could be made, after a regular trial, by the Tribunal. Having met the refusal of the communist party for any repayment of the money already cashed in, said lawyer Pirro turned his attention toward other directions, and engineered a scheme intended to make believe that the robbery had been committed not by civil members of the communist party, but by a partisan organization (garibaldini division) under requisition urgently required by war operations (never occurred), and authorized by the C.L.N. of SanRemo on the same day of its first assembling, April 27th '45, before the A.M.G. had come to take control of the local Government.

The falsehood of such documents was plainly evident for the contradictions laying in their statements, and for the declarations rendered by the same members of the C.L.N., who had never approved nor even discussed such measures. Besides other authentic documents proved that the commander of the garibaldini division had received from me, on the first days of liberation, a contribution of 500.000 lire in cash for the immediate needs of his partisans, who therefore had no need whatsoever, nor even desire, to deprive me of my property according to Pirro's fiction.

Said postume fabricated deliberations of the C.L.N. of SanRemo, written out at the end of June 1945, under the ^{pretended} date of April 27th, were submitted to and passed by the C.A. Officer of SanRemo, Capt. Garigue, Br., who since the first days of his entry in office had been in strict and

- 3 -

exclusive contact with the extremist members of the local C.L.N., fully controlling that body and any other local activity.

With this claim of authentication the adulterated deliberations of the C.L.N. were presented by the lawyer Pirro to the King's Prosecutor who under pressure issued an order revoking the seizure of those stolen articles who had been bought by incautious buyers (like said lawyer Pirro) thus restoring to these people the free disposal of my own property.

However the higher General King's Prosecutor, sitting in Genoa, on notification of such unbelievable order, after examination of the proceedings, formally requested said Prosecutor in SanRemo to inquire at once into the veracity of the documents presented to him, adding that in any case it was doubtful the right of disposal by the C.L.N. of private property for purposes manifestly unjustifiable. Since then over two months have ~~been~~ elapsed without any action taken by said prosecutor in SanRemo, who evidently has so acted in accord with the local political bodies and the C.A.O. Capt. Garigue, who has held this office in SanRemo until a short time ago.

It was under such displeasing situation that the Provincial Public Safety Officer in Imperia, Major McKenna, after ~~concluded~~ his investigation, having heard the reports of the Carabinieri and other local authorities, issued, in the name of the Allied Military Government, and in accord with the Provincial Legal Officer then in charge, ~~by~~ under approval of the Provincial Commissioner, an order of seizure of all goods and articles stolen, whether bought or not by other parties, giving notice of such seizure to all authorities concerned, and making provisions that said goods and articles should be kept under conservative sequestration by a responsible consignee named in the person of an impartial and outstanding legal man, a lawyer belonging to the Rome bar, Giulio Burali d'Arezzo, residing in Rome, Piazza Adriana 5.

This solution could satisfy any bona fide interested party, but it did not so for the people who feared the consequences of a regular trial when one day or the other it will finally be celebrated.

Therefore they waited until Major McKenna returned to England on the first days of November, and took advantage of the fact that Capt. Garigue had been transferred at the same time from SanRemo to the provincial offices in Imperia, as Legal Officer, for securing from this latter a second order revoking the seizure provided for by the P.S. Officer Major McKenna, and restoring thus the robbers or the buyers therefrom in the possession of the property which -by admission of everybody- surely belonged to ~~me or~~ ^{me or} to my represented people.

At this point, after having pointed out to the Provincial Commissioner in Imperia the discrepancy existing from the orders issued, in the name of the A.M.G., by the P.S. Office and by the present Legal Officer, I have requested said Commissioner to defer the execution of the conflicting provisions, and I now beg this Higher Commission that the case be finally disposed by the proper authority according to the rights recognized to the property owners.

Alvise Bragadin, Grand Hotel, Rome.



ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT PROVINCE OF IMPERIA

REF: 18/PP30/45.

Date 13 September 1945.

Subject: Count & Countess Bragadin & Granchilis Irede.

To: Avv. Giulio Burali d'Arezzo.
Piazza Adriana 5, Rome.

With reference to all articles of furniture, clothing apparel, etc., which was seized on or about 27 April 45 to 2 May 45, property of the a/m from the Villas Aida, Roverizia and Evelina at San Remo, Imperia Province, you are notified that all the effects that have been traced have been sequestered by order of A.M.G. on 4 September 45, notices to this effect have been served upon the Procuratore del Regno, San Remo, the President CLN San Remo, and Captain CC.RR. Company San Remo, by me personally on that date.

You are hereby authorized to take possession of the aforesaid articles and to arrange for their legal disposal. You are authorized to delegate this authority to whatever assistants you might deem necessary.

W.A.E. McKenna
W.A.E. McKenna,
Major, P.S.C.

Copies for information to: Procuratore del Regno.)
President CLN) San Remo.
Capt. Comp. CC.RR.)

TRADUZIONE.

Con riferimento a tutti gli oggetti di mobilio, vestiario ecc. che furono asportati il 27 Aprile o uno di quei giorni fino al 2 Maggio 45, e che erano di proprietà del summozinato, dalle Ville Aida, Roverizia ed Evelina di S. Remo (Prov. di Imperia) vi si notifica che tutti gli effetti che sono stati rintracciati sono stati sequestrati per ordine dell'AMG il 4 Settembre 45; lo stesso giorno ho personalmente dato notizia a questo riguardo al Procuratore del Regno di S. Remo, al Presidente del CLN di Sanremo e al Capitano della Compagnia CC.RR. di S. Remo.

Siete con questa autorizzato a prendere possesso dei predetti articoli e a prendere accordi perché ne sia disposto legalmente in merito. Siete autorizzato a delegare questo diritto a qualunque ~~XXXXX~~ assistenti voi riteniate necessario.

TO THE ALLIED COMMISSION - ROME.

Alvise Brazedini and wife
Aida Genter in Brazedini.

As a subject of Italian extraction who obtained the full American citizenship on June 15th, 1925 (certificate of naturalization n. 2134159, District Court of the U.S., Southern District of New York), and thereafter, having temporarily left the States (March 1930) on a round trip to Italy, was compelled to remain over here by subsequent strong adverse events, including the long period of unrest and wars fought by and in Italy from 1935 to date, I beg to submit to your attention the following facts:

On August 1944, while residing with my wife in San Remo, Imperia, I was arrested by the German SS, on the charge of supporting financially the Italian partisans gathered in the nearby mountains. In fact, since June 1944, I had met several times in San Remo (on the Appennine hilltops back of San Remo) the head of a band of faithful soldiers, loyal to monarchy. I gladly offered to him (Dr. Rubini, a lieutenant in the Alpine regular troops) all possible help, being his band in pressing need of assistance on account of difficulties with the other bands of that section, all Communist. Soon after Dr. Rubini was called somewhere else and his band was dissolved; I put then substantial funds at disposition of two organizers of food and clothes supplies for partisans, Carlo Benza, a lawyer, and Mario Squarzini, a manager of the bank Credito Italiano, all from San Remo.

These facts, reported somehow to the Germans, were under examination during my detention at the SS headquarters in San Remo, when from the inquiry came out the information that my wife possessed by herself, at that time, a remarkable estate, not only in properties, but also in cash money, bonds, industrial stocks, dresses, furs, and jewels, mostly brought over from the U.S.

When it was known that, after my arrest, my wife had taken all these valuables up to a villa we own in the mountains of San Remo, the commander of the German SS decided to let me free in San Remo late at night of August 19th, 1944, and personally arrested my wife, up in San Remo at the break of the following day August 20th, taking away, with her, all her jewels, furs, dresses, ready money, bank books to bearer, keys to bank safe deposit boxes, all articles of clothing belonging to myself, and an important stock of reserve food supplies stored for my event up in the mountains.

Under the charge of being a Russian citizen of Jewish extraction, my wife was submitted to a very hard prison treatment, in strict isolation, vexed by continuous threats of corporal punishment, left with no food for several days, and very scarce maintenance thereafter, no other sleeping and personal accommodations being allowed than a wooden board or some straw full of vermin. Her physical and mental conditions became rapidly so bad that she had to be transferred from San Remo to Marassi, the ill-famed jail of Genoa, where she was put among common law offenders, in no better material and moral surroundings.

As soon as I knew the charges contrived against my wife, I worked day and night for her rescue. As the Germans maintained for their purposes that our marriage in Italy was void of any effect, I secured authentic papers proving that we had married in Milan before the City officials under a regular permit issued by the Ministry of Interior according to Italian regulations. As to the Jewish extraction, the Russian pope living in San Remo attested and

- 2 -

that her father and mother, known to him, were arrian orthodox, only a distant second cousin being of Jewish blood.

But, notwithstanding such proofs, my wife continued to be detained in jail; the high value of the goods taken from her representing the real purpose of her imprisonment. In fact she was actually ordered to be transferred to the Bolzano concentration camp (which meant her loss), when I succeeded at the very last moment to obtain her release through the offices of a German SS Colonel, unknown to me but interested in the case by Albino Ausio, a resident of San Remo, Villino Mende, who presented the Colonel with a jewel for which I paid 450,000 lire (end of September 1944).

My wife came out of jail in extremely pitiful conditions, with insect bites and contusions all over her body, interior diseases and above all a terrible nervous break down which was giving much apprehension for her health as to the goods taken from her, only jewels, bank books and keys to safe depository boxes were reluctantly given back complete. Cash money, dresses and furs were only partially returned. Other articles, including my clothes and all foodstuffs, were retained.

Stories over the capture and return of my wife's jewels, furs, etc., well known in San Remo - went around for many months in that small town, so that, in order to avoid any painful remembrance and even the sight of places and Germans so repulsive to her, I took her to Valtresia, on the lake of Como, then still very quiet, where she could recuperate from the dreadful trial she had gone through.

In the meantime I had already taken away from our residence in San Remo (villa Mide, Salara 19), and I had put in well hidden storage places, all movable equipment existing in that property owned by my wife (furniture of high value, household goods, tapestries, carpets, lighting fixtures, works of art, paintings, pateries, vases of all makings, silver-plate, china and some glass works, house linen clothes of all kinds, rare books, family's old documents, a concert grand piano, many radiolas, 4 large fridges, 4 new bicycles, the remainder of my wife's wardrobe and all my personal clothing outfits). Our home, villa Mide, was since then left and never taken back by us, as it was continuously occupied, from August 1944 to date, by many German military units, by bombardment damaged peoples, and later again by a German command, until it was taken over by an American mission, which still is living there.

All said articles were stored and closed up (end of September 1944) under protection of solid stone walls, in the basements of two contiguous villas, one named villa Evelina, Corso Inglese 119, owned in equal parts by my wife and myself, and the other one named villa Ravarolo, via Roccastrada 4, owned by the heirs of a young lady who had died in July 1944, soon after her marriage, said heirs being away, and being the property entrusted to me until the inheritance division, I put in the same storages a large quantity of furniture, similar household equipment, and numerous trunks of personal effects belonging to said heirs, among which there was a very large and complete new trousseau of dresses, furs, lingery, house linen, etc., of the highest value, left by the late lady.

The estimated value of all joint articles deposited in said storages amounted to well over 12-14 million liras, but the major part of said arti-

- 3 -

also could not be duplicated today at any cost.

The packing-up, the transportation, and the storing in safety of all equipment and goods above said was done by two of my dependants, a chauffeur-valet, named Natale Garcheri of Imperia, and a chief guardian of villa side, Giuseppe Fornaroli of San Remo. These two men were in fact very well acquainted with the consistency, the quality, and therefore the high value, of all articles stored. They were very highly paid and well treated by me, as it is my long standing custom to do with all my dependants, in the house, in the office, in the works. These two were particularly favored and most intimately entrusted with all my private affairs. They lately revealed to be: one an active socialist and the other a fervent communist, working together (with the knowledge and under direction of their parties), before under cover, and later in the open, against my personal safety and the safety of whatever we have, my wife and myself. One, Garcheri, is the guiding brain, working behind all schemes tried against me; the other, Fornaroli, is the executor directing all actions on the ground.

At the beginning of February 1945, I thought advisable, on account of the rapid turn the war events were taking, to have all members of my family back home, in order to be all present there at the moment of liberation. Therefore, the health of my wife having satisfactorily improved during the four months elapsed, I took her back from Poltrasio to Allassio, where I have some property and a rented villa, and where my son and his family live, near the shipyard we managed in Andora (6km west of Allassio).

The chauffeur-valet Garcheri, always respectful and solicitous on the surface, took the office of steward, in our house in Allassio, in charge of all servants. The guardian Fornaroli was still at his place in San Remo, in charge of villa side, then occupied by a German command, for whose account he had taken up several paid positions, while his wife was serving them as a maid. Under similar arrangement he was obtaining many advantages from the Germans, while he enjoyed those secured from myself (a high salary, the gratuitous use of a furnished house, and the full disposition at his pleasure of all produce grown up in the place).

Things went along with no disturbance until the first days of April 1945, when unexpectedly a faithful personal chambermaid we had had with us for over ten years was convinced by Garcheri to leave our house with a pretext of having to return to the native village. I found soon after that she had taken instead a new position right in Allassio, secured to her by Garcheri. I found also that for many days no new personnel sent by the local agency reported to our house because they had been discouraged by the same Garcheri to take any position with us. It was evident the design intended to isolate us from independent servants, in order to remain alone in charge of the house, and then to work without encumbrances at the right moment. As I had already caught Garcheri while he was searching into my papers, or was listening behind doors to what was said by us, my doubts of an unfair play were fully confirmed, and I dismissed at once Garcheri from my service.

But still more we had to learn on April 13th, 1945, when one of my lawyers, Secondo Arforni of Imperia, near Imperia, himself an old socialist leader quite overzealous to using violence in politics, having come to Allassio visiting us, informed my wife of reports he had received concerning some action

- 4 -

(not specified) to be taken by the extremists against me on the very first days of liberation, before the arrival of the Allied troops. Said Infesai confirmed also to me that Rinaldo Garofani was a "declared enemy" of mine, that he (Garofani) was a dependent of the extremist organization, in continuous contact with the heads of it. Finally Infesai suggested that my wife and myself should go right away to his house in Taggia, taking with us all our valuables on hand. He could guarantee that no disturbance would have harmed us if we had stayed there, and he assured me to be in position to secure for me a "salvocondotto" from the new prefecture of Imperia as soon as the provincial Liberation Committee, entered in power, would have assumed this authority. (In fact Infesai was later on proposed as prefect; but the actual nomination went to another lawyer from Imperia, Viale, now in charge of that office, where on the role of prefect's chauffeur and confidential man, intriguing among personnel and bureaux, can be found nothing else than the above said Rinaldo Garofani, exponent of the socialist party, directly represented in the local Liberation Committee by his own brother).

If the Infesai's warnings could not be disregarded on account of his political position, nevertheless I could not accept his offer for many reasons, the most important one laying in the fact that I had nothing to fear on account of previous political activities, which, as to myself, were all, having always attended exclusively to my very exacting business enterprises. If lately (June 1944) I had been interested in a party, this one was the democratic-Christian party, to which I contributed with a difficult liaison service, from September 1944 to April 1945, when all kind of communications were entirely destroyed between San Remo and Genoa, and people travelling by their own means were strictly checked up, even if in possession of permit.

However I thought advisable to consult on this matter a high man who had organized all work for the demo-Christian party in Western Liguria, with whom I had had since a year close relations on account of what I was doing myself for the same cause. This man was Don Luigi Roccaforte, apostolic delegate for the diocese of Ventimiglia and rector of San Siro Cathedral in San Remo. When he heard the report of Infesai's warnings, he immediately exclaimed: "That's the work of communists", and took upon himself to speak to a recognized strong leader and organizer of that party, a man called Farina, an undertaker, residing in San Remo.

Farina, when questioned by Don Roccaforte, felt so powerful and free from any hindrance against his wishes, that he had no embarrassment to confirm the existence of a plan by which certain already picked citizens, as soon as the Germans would abandon the town, should be deprived of all their movable property by the communist town forces expressly organized and instructed for that purpose. He added that this general despoiling plan had no political aim, but it had been studied on account of the urgency of obtaining ready cash money or valuables promptly convertible in money, during the first days of liberation, in order to cover the communist party local expenses, such as establishment of headquarters and sections through the city, salaries for office and propaganda workers, press and publicity costs, etc.

Finally Farina admitted that the first to receive such treatment and to be "reduced to zero" by his party would have been the undesignated Bragadin, in as much as it was known that he and his wife possessed a large quantity of goods, at that time hidden, already subject of interest by the Ger-

- 5 -

ness, which could be taken with the less efforts and the largest results.

When such situation was examined in consultation between Don Boccadoro and myself (April 17th, 1945), it was made clear to me the behaviour of my ex-dependant Garcheri, who evidently had been instructed to keep me and my wife under his control, so that at the right time we could promptly be taken in Alessio, with everything we had there (and Garcheri knew all about it), while in San Remo whatever else was there would be peacefully robbed by other co-workers. If the danger of an inside work by Garcheri had been removed by his dismissal, nevertheless it appeared now as worth of attention (the prophesy, reported to me and by me disdainfully disregarded, that Garcheri had made, a few days before, speaking to the wife of my property manager in Alessio, Piero Bolara (via Cristoforo Colombo 36), and saying, with reference to me and my wife, "the Count can be considered right now 'as non-existent, the Countess can be accounted for at 90% as I will try 'to save her, but all their riches will certainly be ours").

As a result of our consultation, it was decided by Don Boccadoro and myself that we should go immediately to Genoa in order to put the case before the central Liberation Committee for Liguria, still in the conspiracy period, being out of question any appeal to the local committee in San Remo, which was then (as it is still now) completely in the hands of said Farina. (It is a fact that communists, socialists, and garibaldini representatives work strictly together, with bawling boldness, in the C.L. of San Remo, supporting anything Farina may decide to do, while the other parties, or are absent from representation, or are indifferent, or are powerless against whatever is imposed on them).

Don Boccadoro and myself started for Genoa on the following day (April 18th, 1945), being understood that on our return, in a few days, I would have removed all goods stored in the basements of villa Evelina & villa Roverisio. But unfortunately my car broke down on the way to Genoa and we had to postpone the trip until the morning of April 23rd, 1945, arriving in Genoa late in the afternoon, when no sign was yet in evidence of a sudden change. In fact we made normal appointments for the next morning, but overnight the government of the city and surrounding region passed unexpectedly to the C.L. for Liguria, which entered immediately in power (April 24th, 1945). However, on account of stubborn fighting going on in different sections of the city, we were not able to see, on that day, the members of the Committee we wanted to meet, while, under the circumstances developed and the warnings so clearly received I was very anxious to return right back to Alessio, where I had left my wife and my relatives.

Therefore, after having met the representative of the Cardinal and Archbishop of Genoa, from whom we received an official letter mentioning me as "praiseworthy for the good cause", we went with Padre Ottoneo, rector of the Istituto Brecco (where I used to go on my periodical visits to Genoa), to see two members of the C.L. for Liguria, representing in it the demo-Christian party: Dr. Antonio Ioli, regional secretary, and avv. Rinalondo, preside for the province of Genoa. Informed on the case, they readily gave me the following certificate, literally translated:

"PARTY OF CHRISTIAN DEMOCRACY - Regional Secretary's Office.

"We declare that Count Alvisio Bregadin of San Remo has made himself 'highly well meritorious for the cause of the national antifascist libera-

- 5 -

"tion - Consequently we invite the partisan forces, the SAP organizations, and the C.L. of all localities in the provinces of Savona and Imperia to take due notice of what is above stated.

"Genoa, April 26th, 1945.

"On behalf of the Regional Secretary's Office: (signed) Antonio Iol, member of the C.L.M. for Liguria."

With these documents we started back on April 27th, 1945, but on account of serious and frequent interruptions left on the road by the Germans before leaving, we arrived to Allassio only at noon of April 28th, 1945. There it was ready, waiting for me, an armed squad of the local SAP with the order of my arrest. That squad had been accompanied and directed to my house by the above named Natale Carcheri, my ex-chauffeur and steward, who presented himself as a member of the C.L.M. of Imperia.

From April 28th to May 3th, 1945, I was kept in prison in Allassio with no regular charge filed against me. Nor was I questioned by an inquiring body under regular proceedings; only vague stories of my pretended intimacy with high fascist officials were asked from me by single men, as which I did not even answer to. Later I found out that such ridiculous tales had been sent around by the ever present Natale Carcheri.

In the meantime some killing had been done and was still in progress during the first days of my imprisonment. In the middle of night some armed squads used to enter with such uproar into my prison calling loudly my name, and to my answer they replied to keep ready because they will have again called for me later. It was evident the purpose of such malicious play which did not impress me at all; but unfortunately similar methods succeeded with my wife, who was not allowed to see me or even to communicate with me for many days while she was instead informed by several people, including Natale Carcheri, that I was in a dangerous position and that there was the possibility of a grave verdict being issued against me.

In such state of mind, while she was frantically trying to obtain my release, ready to do anything for it, Dr. Robutti, a socialist, head of the local Liberation Committee, obtained from her the payment of one million lire towards a fund alleged to be raised for the benefit of the garibaldini. After such payment was executed, my wife was finally allowed to see me. When I heard of the payment made, I could help to highly disapprove it, although understanding the circumstances and appreciating the motives which had resolved my wife on such a move. But I could foresee how people, not knowing the full facts, would have ascribed such large payment to some offense I wanted to be cancelled, while instead I was tetragon to any suspicion or accusation that possibly could be devised against me. Besides I thought, ¹² if it happened, that such high payment would not have been followed by my release, but on the contrary it would have aroused the unlimited wants of other local Committees, which, as it was clear by now, were mainly and eagerly interested in making quick money, wherever it could be found, through forced collections.

In fact, as soon as the news went out of our payment of one million lire to Allassio, the C.L. of San Remo requested my removal and delivery in their hands. One of its members came to get me over there, where I arrived on May 10th, 1945. I was immediately introduced before the Committee, apparently waiting for me. The secretary, Maschia, a socialist, spoke for all, stating that they did not know yet what charges could be brought against me, that the Commission of Justice would ~~advisedly~~ look into it, that on the other

- 7 -

had a decree issued by the Liberation Committee for North Italy, having force of law, allowed the local Committee to impose a special taxation on wealthy people in proportion of their estates, that the Finance Commission would investigate about it with reference to my case, but that for the time being I was requested to pay two million lire, but, considering what we had already paid in Alessio, I should have to pay at once to the C.L. of San Remo another sum of one million lire, as a contribution to funds to be distributed to the garibaldini.

I protested over the legality of such proceedings, and at my vote-making every ample reserve - ~~as~~ I declared that I could do nothing before I had consulted my bank and had looked into the state of my affairs. Thereupon I was given some time for a definite answer and was allowed to take rooms at the Hotel Europa in San Remo.

Soon after my checking in there, my property manager in San Remo, Attilio Pademonte, Via Vittorio 2, came to see me. He had very bad news for me. From April 28th to May 2nd, 1943, just a few days before, a band of armed men of the GAP organization, all communists, guided by my gardener Fornaroli, above mentioned, also a communist, had taken away all goods and equipment belonging to villa Aida and to some other people toward which I am responsible for any loss. This action had been forcedly executed by Fornaroli and his company, pointing their arms against the watchmen kept on the storages, Giovanni Gomeris & Angelo Gandolfo, both of San Remo, who were intimidated to keep themselves far away if they wanted to save their lives. Said manager Pademonte, promptly informed, had secured on the morning of April 27th a written order from the C.L. of San Remo, signed by one of its members, enjoining anyone concerned to stop the above said operations, just started at that time, but Fornaroli and his followers, when shown by Pademonte with such an order, put him aside with the usual heavy manners and threats, told him that they had other orders to comply with, and concluded mocking him as a representative of a man (myself) who by that time counted for nothing and probably did not exist any more.

The transportation of all goods to be taken away lasted several days. Besides Fornaroli, two other men organized it: Palegi, a cabinet-maker, communist, and Zappa, a dealer in ice, also a communist. Two trucks were used for the work, driven by Lantari Pietro, dealer in foodstuffs, and Benzo Merio, coal dealer, this latter president of a local sub-committee, all followers of Parina, the head man of the communist party. Many smaller articles were carried away on carriages and hand-carts. This job was taken up by an upholsterer, Luigin Pajelanga, himself a communist, who had many minor collaborators. Some of the goods stolen were taken by Fornaroli himself over to his house where later three trunks, which originally contained very valuable articles of clothing, were found nearly empty, with some smaller items left over. Many people have seen Fornaroli's wife wear dresses belonging to my wife. One of my fur-lined overcoats was seen in Fornaroli's apartment, together with some of our pillows, whole pieces of linen-cloth and other textile goods still rolled up. But the largest part of all stolen furniture, household goods, fridges, carpets, paintings, radiolas, a concert piano, many trunks of table and bed linen, many boxes containing silver-, china-, and glass-ware, were brought over to the headquarters of the communist party in San Remo, Via Vittorio 26, where it was put in a store and later transfer-

red into two other stores in via Cassana 2 and 6, taken over by the communist party. Only 15 woolen mattresses, two bicycles, a radio, and few other items, were by a brigade of garibaldini, under a regular written requisition and a full receipt issued by the brigade, now in my possession.

The sale of the goods stolen started for some articles right on the spot of crime, where many onlookers had gathered to see with amazement what was going on. Of course every buyer knew that the goods did not belong to the sellers, but these latter reassured the others saying that everything was done under orders from the C.L. (meaning Farina), that they would better buy right away at low price rather than buying the next day at the auction (never held) to be open on a public square in San Remo. A large lot of furniture was taken by a dealer in such goods, Vaccandio Angelo, Corso Inglese 19, who still has some pieces in his place of business, while the rest has been resold to different private buyers, all known and located. But the most important part that has been sold was disposed of right on the stores of the communist party, by an especially designated keeper, Rovetta Emanuele, employee at the party Headquarters. In fact the sale still continues, now secretly, while many other articles and boxes are still hidden at the headquarters of the party, or in the house of Berneroli's relatives, or even in personal care of some prominent communist.

I was just considering the very grave consequences of what had been reported to me, when in the same afternoon of that atrocious day, May 5th, 1945, the commander of the local garibaldini division, Guglielmo Vittorio, known as "Vittò" or "Ivano", came to see me, saying that I was requested by the chief of police (mayor) in Imperia, a man called "Curto", well known in that section as superior commander of a group of communist divisions. Vittò invited me to go with him to see this man. When we reached Imperia, Vittò entered alone into the office of Curto with a small leather case supposed to contain the proofs of my guiltiness. I was left waiting in the anteroom for nearly two hours, when Vittò reappeared with his papers telling me to follow him. We went down to the cellars of the building where a strict confinement prison was kept; there I was shown over the place and was requested to give my name and other personal data to the jailer, but as this latter began to write Vittò changed his mind and asked me to go with him back to San Remo. Rather puzzled, trying to understand what was going on, I entered Vittò's car.

Vittò sat near me, and saying that he appreciated the way I had behaved myself and the words I had spoken in the morning before the C.L., he asked me to understand his urgent need of money for maintenance of his garibaldini and for allowances to be paid to the boys going home. I made clear that I was willing to help the boys who had merited a reward for their conduct, but I wanted to answer first to the charges which seemed to be in store for me, thus making my position plain and sound in front of anyone. He answered that I should have more comprehension for the methods used by the new bodies in command, adding that I should forget this matter of charges, etc.

When we arrived to San Remo, he invited me at the headquarters of his division, where, being alone in his office, he asked me to pay in his hands the sum of one million lire for distribution among the boys to be dismissed from service. I consented to do so, pointing out however the great harm done to me by the robbery organized under orders from the communist party. Although a communist himself, he answered that he considered that action nothing else

- 2 -

then a "furto" (theft), that his division of Garibaldi had nothing to do with such a crime, and that he would see to it that the 15 mattresses and other things now used by his men under a regular requisition receipt in my possession would be returned to me as soon as possible. On leaving, as he gave orders to his chauffeur to take me back to the hotel, I showed him the leather case left in the car with my incriminating documents. He laughed and told me to take it with me and to consider the incident closed. On the way back to the hotel I saw that the case contained some private letters and other papers taken in my studio in Milan, which had been searched several times during my detention. None of these papers had whatsoever relation to any eventual offense which could possibly be made up against me.

At this point, I ingeniously thought that no more disturbances would break therefrom the peace of my house, and that the only thing left for me to do was to recuperate all our goods stolen and to comply with the request of the Garibaldi division commander, believing in his sincerity and appreciating his rude but apparently frank manners. In this sense I reassured my wife who in the meantime had reached San Remo, much anxious over my sort.

The next day, May 5th, 1945, we met at the hotel Major Jack Bartosh, A-1-C to the Commanding General of the American 5th Army. He was the first American and Allied officer to reach San Remo. He found that he knew some of our good London friends, Mr. Duncan Sandys, Minister of the Cabinet, and his wife Diana Churchill, the Prime Minister's daughter, who had been in Italy for some time as our guests before the war broke out, and with whom we had maintained congenial contacts until the hostilities made impossible further communications.

When Major Bartosh learned of the troubles we had gone through, he called Dr. Cristof, president of the C.I. San Remo, and, asking me in his presence not to give out any more money under forced requests, he told said official to make sure that nothing should happen against us until the expected American troops should arrive and the Allied Military Government would be established.

In fact these two reassuring events materialized on May 6th, 1945. Just a few hours before, during the last night of uncontrolled license, a ruthless run-about had been carried out, taking away several people from their homes, robbing and scouring and beating them and finally putting them in jail, while others had been more expeditiously killed. A message had been sent to us late in the afternoon of the 7th by Anselmi, advising us to leave the hotel at once on account of some rations in view for the following night. I went to the house of some friends, where commander Vittò went at once two of his men for our protection. However nobody called at the hotel for me, probably on account of the timed warning given by Major Bartosh to Dr. Cristof (known also by Vittò).

When Vittò came to visit us in the evening of the same May 8th, 1945, I paid to him 500,000 lire, which he had solicited from me, although the banks had been closed by the Allied Command. I had to borrow money from friends in order to make up the sum. Vittò, or Ivano, gave me his receipt for the money, which I now have in my possession. Later on I knew, however, by complaints of the Garibaldi, that no money whatsoever was paid to them out of the sum given by me, the general assumption being that my money had been retained and divided up among the chiefs of the organization. This in-

- 10 -

cident and some other facts in which Vittò later played an important part opened my eyes in regard to his true character, changing my first impression on his sincerity.

As soon as the A.E.G. representative in San Remo took office, I tried to see him, but unfortunately he could not give any audience in the first days of his entry.

In the meantime my wife, as owner of most of the goods stolen, laid a complaint before the Police Commissioner of San Remo, not knowing then that such important body was entirely in the hands of the communist party, which meant of Farina. In fact, having been specified in said complaint all facts above related, the agent who happened to receive the document, new to the policy of the office, arrested Fornaroli in the afternoon of that day, May 10th; but early the next morning Fornaroli was let free by order of the Committee (Farina), as the Chief of Police later admitted. On the books of the prisoners' camp, where Fornaroli had been taken, he was discharged with the following words: "Released by the American Command", which of course was a false entry. Thereafter the agent who arrested Fornaroli was promptly dismissed from service.

The file of my wife's complaint aroused the anger of Farina and his communists. Since then a strong effort has been continuously made by these men, with all possible means, including an eventual physical suppression, in order to stop me from uncovering their crimes.

They started right away, on May 11th, 1945, instructing the local C.E. to write to me an official letter requesting my appearance before the Committee for payment of the "contribution agreed". I did not go there because the President himself, Dr. Cristel (a so-called independent working with the extremists) had called in advance at my hotel, soliciting the payment of at least one billion lire, as a part of 20,000,000 lire (1) which - as they had in mind - I was supposed to pay. I answered that I would not make any payment before the banks reopened and before I had seen the A.E.G. officer in charge. Besides I remembered Dr. Cristel the complaint filed by my wife and - reasonably delivered to him also in copy the day before. He admitted flatly, in the name of the Committee, any responsibility for what had happened, trying to put the blame on some unknown youngsters out of the control of the Committee. Finally I informed him that, as my contribution was supposed to furnish funds for the garibaldi, I had advanced 500,000 lire to the division commander Vittò just for that purpose.

I thought that the news should satisfy him; instead he sent in a few days a letter saying that all the money should be paid to him, and went away uttering threats of all sort of measures against me.

8

Indeed on the next morning, May 12th, 1945, being out of town the A.E.G. officer, I thought advisable to see, with my wife, the American higher officer present, Major Paul Goodard, in command of a battalion from the 5th Army. When he heard all the circumstances of the case and received a copy of the complaint filed by my wife, he ordered that Dr. Cristel, Vittò, the chief of Police named Bianchi, and ourselves, should appear before him the next morning for a hearing and his consequent decisions.

But just at the same time (morning of May 12th), the Committee called led by Dr. Cristel, sustained by Farina, had ordered the arrest of myself,

- 11 -

of my wife and my son, with no charge showing what crime, all three together, we had committed. Vittò, who assisted to the Committee meeting and consented to the arrest, came to the hotel advising me to pay immediately the "one million lire" requested by the Committee, adding that we should leave out of the case the American or Allied Authorities if we wanted to live in peace. This was the last time I spoke to Vittò, being our relations entirely broken up ~~and~~ thereafter. Of course I did not even listen to his proposal.

While we were finishing such a talk, a squad of the local SAP (police organization) came in with the expected order of arrest signed by a young police agent, named Galleri Gino, a student, hitherto dressed up as a seminarist, but since a very short time transformed in a partisan, looking for an ambitious political career up in the ranks of the communist party. He would do anything in order to ingratiate himself in the eyes of Farina, in whose hands he acts as a blind instrument.

When commander Vittò^{saw} the order of arrest of my entire family, he went to see Galleri and returned with the same order from which my wife's name had been struck out. He asked me to follow the SAP men as there was nothing else to do.

I was taken to the Police Commissioner (Villo Glicina), where Galleri told me to wait because an American officer wanted to question me. Such officer never appeared, and I found later on that no officer whatever had made such request to Galleri. In fact, the opposite happened, in as much as, my wife having promptly informed Major Woodward of my arrest, this gentleman sent an officer (Capt. Carlson) for investigation. He ordered my return to the hotel and called there Dr. Cristof, Bianchi and Galleri, asking them under what charge I had been arrested. For some time they limited themselves to vague accusations, like my inscription to the Fascist party and a contribution made by me and my wife to a subscription for firing arms promoted some time before by the Fascist party, to which practically everybody in high position in San Remo had been requested to send their already established quota. Finally Galleri, after having hinted the existence of very secret documents that would have caused an "explosion" when they would arrive to Rome, drew out of his pocket a denounce, charging me of collaborationism with Germans, signed by my gardener, the well known Giuseppe Fornaroli, and supported by another communist, Roberto Loriga, who had formerly occupied for some time, with his family, our residence in San Remo, villa Aida, as a needy party damaged by bombardments and had formed ^{since} at that time a private partnership with Fornaroli for their personal and exclusive use of our produce. This man wanted to retake definite possession of our property in association with Fornaroli, and therefore he was one of those who wanted to see me out of the way. 7

When the Army interpreter who accompanied Capt Carlson read said paper he could not help to exclaim: "This is a joke". However, confronted with the real insistence of Galleri, Capt Carlson agreed on my being confined in the hotel under an American guard, as there strong suspicion that the police wanted to get hold of me for some purpose which may have ended with the usual unexpected "incident". (Just in those days some prisoners waiting trial had been taken at night from the concentration camp and killed. Besides another crime had made shiver the population of San Remo: two young brothers, Bertrand, undertakers, only competitors of Farina, had

- 12 -

been forcedly taken from their homes at night, brought up in the hills and shot. The next morning their merchandise was requisitioned by order of the C.L. and taken over to the Farina's establishment. The authors of both actions, all well known, were yet undisturbed and are still walking freely about town).

But the solution proposed by Capt Carlson did not satisfied Calleri and Cristel, who were reclaiming my entering the prisoners' concentration camp, although there was no warrant of arrest against me issued in due form. The wish of Calleri was finally met, and I was accompanied to the camp by Capt Carlson who made the commander of the camp personally responsible for any harm would have come to me.

The next day, ~~Monday 11th, 1945~~ ^{May} Major Woodward held the hearing that he had ordered the previous morning. My wife was present in my behalf; also Cristel, Pitts, Calleri and Rinnahi. The Major gave to these people three days time in order to submit proofs and documents which would substantiate an accusation by which I should be kept in prison. At the same time Major Woodward ordered a thorough investigation of my case by the different organs of the American police, which investigation was carefully carried out during the following two weeks.

I remained under detention at the prisoners' concentration camp of San Remo from ~~May 12th to May 27th, 1945~~ ^{May 12th to May 27th, 1945}, while Calleri was frantically searching for documents and proofs that never substantiated. In fact, the American investigation having been closed on May 27th, I was sent free on that day by order of the American Military Command, then held by Lt. Col. Greyer, 113th Regiment, Major Woodward having left San Remo with his Battalion about ten days before. The A.M.C. officer, Capt Foster, had followed the case, coming to see me at the prisoners' camp after having received the information on my real position.

Naturally this conclusion did not satisfy Farina, and with him his followers Cristel, Rinnahi, Calleri and other scoundrels. In fact they started soon, anew, a campaign of threats (we were informed every day, by different people, of our imminent arrest; several boys came to warn me relating that Calleri had given instructions to other boys, one known as "Tempesto", to shoot me at night at the first favorable occasion). At the same time a fresh study was carried out looking for way and means intended to put me in confinement, in as much as they always feared my action in prosecuting them at law, or their executors, like Ferneroli and company, thus proving the bad work of their party.

It is a fact that, on the following day of my release, ~~Monday 28th, 1945~~ ^{May 28th, 1945}, I had already submitted my own complaint against Ferneroli and others direct to the King's Prosecutor attached to the ordinary Tribunal in charge of common crimes. Another original of said complaint I had delivered to the Captain of Carabinieri, just arrived in town with his men. Proceedings on such complaint started however only on June 11th, 1945, when the King's Prosecutor ordered the seizure of all goods stolen wherever they could be found, and on the days of ~~June 12th, 13th, and 17th, 1945~~ ^{June 12th, 13th, and 17th, 1945}, a considerable part of furniture, some carpets and boxes were found, part in the store of Vaccandio, part in the houses of people who had bought from him, the rest in the stores of the communist party. However no other act has been taken up to know, nearly two months after the filing of the complaint, by the Authorities who received it; no inquiry has been even ordered nor executed with hearings of suspected man and wit-

- 11 -

nesses, while the goods still in the hands of the robbers are shifted to other hiding places, or are sent to other cities, as Turin (specially lady dresses, furs and lingerie), or are carried away by the same authors of the robbery, like Berneroli who has gone with his wife and trunks to Sondrio, near the Austrian border.

At the same time the buyers of articles stolen do not want to return what they have bought unless their money is paid back to them by the sellers or by so. The situation has become so critical for the communist party, openly responsible for the robbery, that, under suggestion of a lawyer, Giulio Pirro, himself a buyer of stolen furniture, that party is trying to shift such responsibility on the shoulders of the garibaldini. The assumption is that these boys, in the first days of liberation, acted as combatants who could satisfy in any manner their wants, without incurring a charge of common crime. But, without committing the scheme, it is a well known fact that these boys arrived in San Remo on the afternoon of April 20th, while all Germans and other fascist troops had evacuated the place since April 24th.

Working however on such assumption, a series of manipulated documents has been issued under the signature of the Liberation Committee of San Remo, dated nothing less than April 23rd and April 27th. According to these astonishing documents the Committee would have consented that the garibaldini division, under orders of commander Vittò or Ivano, took possession of all our belongings, sold everything right away and used the money for their own needs.

These fabricated papers have been accompanied by a declaration, dated June 18th, 1945, signed by the same Vittò, who on May 3th told me that what had happened was nothing less than a "furto" (theft). He now declares to have ordered, under his own responsibility, that the goods stored in the deposits of villa Reolin (belonging to my wife) and of villa Roverino (belonging to the heirs of a lady not even our relative) be taken away by his men, be sold on the spot, and be immediately converted in cash in order to meet the urgent needs of his division. With another declaration, dated June 22nd 1945, the supposed Liberation Committee, whose president is Mr. Cristofari who always denied any responsibility for the robbery, confirms everything commander Vittò has said, and issued certified copies of all papers to the lawyer Pirro, who files them with the King's Prosecutor. This done, Pirro requests the Prosecutor to revoke all seizures ordered by the Carabinieri to date, and the trick seems to have worked according to plan.

However there are hundreds of facts to prove that all is just another crime of false in public acts, which the Italian law punishes severely. It is sufficient to say that no member of the Committee knows of such deliberations taken in April or June; that the man who held the presidency of the C.L. at the end of April (Cristofari entered office on May 1st), avv. Rino Bobba refuses any knowledge or responsibility of such acts. Two men who were close to the Committee on those first days, avv. Carlo Benas, now Prosecutor before the Court, and avv. E. Manuel Giomondi, now vice-prefetto of Imperia, relate that no deliberation of the kind was ever taken by the Committee, and that in fact my name was used for the first time by the Committee only after the news had come of my wife's contribution in Alessio for one million lire (May 2nd, known in San Remo one or two days later).

But notwithstanding these and other established facts, the Prosecutor has practically stopped the proceedings on the filing of the false documents, instructing in the same sense the Carabinieri, and alleging to me the opportu-

- 14 -

nity to go along, taking in consideration the feelings going around on such case, the men we have to contend with, and finally having in mind my own safety for which he shows much fear. On the same line my recent meetings with the Carabinieri were concluded, although, as I know, this body is well acquainted, through personal investigations, with the real standing of facts, interests and relations.

On top of all these unpleasant circumstances, two more facts have recently developed which have made necessary for me to lay my case before your high authority.

On June 19th, 1943, new charges against me have been presented by the communist police agent Galleri to the chief of police of Imperia, Curto, above mentioned, who immediately requested by arrest and extradition to Imperia, which measures however were not consented to, not by the higher Italian police authorities, nor by the A.M.I. officer in San Remo. Thereafter, the file containing the supposed charges and proofs against me was sent to the Prosecutor before the extraordinary Court in San Remo judging fascist crimes. To date no accusation has been brought against me by said Prosecutor, and from what I understand the matter is staying in abeyance waiting for more conclusive documents promised by Galleri but never presented.

On June 11th, 1943, probably as a result of the same indiscriminate activities against me, the bank accounts and the safe deposit boxes belonging to me and to my wife have been blocked by order of the Finance officer, A.M.I. Imperia. Until today I have been unable to know the motives which caused such a measure, so grave and harmful to us, nor I have been in position therefore to prove our innocence, and consequently to ask that said order be revoked. I understand only that such measure should probably have been ordered by an authority sitting in Rome. Inquiries made at the High Commissariat for sanctions against fascists show that no such order has been given or requested from there.

I hope that the length of this note will be excused in consideration of the intricate facts in the case and the necessity of relating them in all details in order to avoid further confusion and misguidance.

Concluding my exposition of facts, I beg to submit to your consideration my following demands:

1st. that the possibility be granted to me of showing why the order relative to the block of accounts and safe deposit boxes belonging to me and to my wife should be revoked;

2nd. that instructions be given, through the proper channels, in order to expedite action and to close with definite resolutions, inspired only by justice, the proceedings still open, one against me before the Prosecutor for the extraordinary Court, and the other against Fornarelli etc before the King's Prosecutor for common crimes;

3rd. that a strict investigation be made by independent bodies into the activities of those men above named (Carabinieri, Farina, Galleri, Bianchi, Guglielmo Vittorio known as Ivano, Lardera, Pirro and others) who with malicious actions, well known to the population, have disturbed and still disturb the regular course of justice, and therefore the peace of the people, remaining, this notwithstanding, unpunished in their position where

- 15 -

they continue to misuse influence and power.

As to myself, I beg to submit a memo of my life attainments, attached hereto, and the following references:

- Rome: - Avv. Giuseppe Spaturo, Undersecretary for Interior Affairs;
Admiral Italian Royal Navy Alberto Lais, via Vittoria Colonna, 21.
- Genoa: - Rev. Padre Ottomello, rector Istituto Arcoco, via Arcoco;
Dr. Antonio Ioli, member of the C.I.L. Liguria;
- San Remo: - Avv. E. Manuel Simonini, vice-prefetto of Imperia;
Don Luigi Bonadaro, prevosto of San Siro Cathedral;
- London: - Mr. Duncan Sandys, M.P., 79 Chester Square, S.W.1, and his wife
Mrs. Diana Churchill - Sandys;
Sir Thomas Moore, M.P., 1, Banover Terrace, Regent's Park, N.W.1;
Mr. Alister Macdonald, I.B.A., 23 Avenue Road, Regent's Park, N.W.3.

I beg to remain,

Respectfully

Rome July 16th, 1945

Olivia Bragadin,
Rome - Grand Hotel,
San Remo, Corso Inglese, 21.

E. L. ALVISE BRAGADIN di Giovanni, PATRIZIO VENETO.

- 1882 - Born from a very old Venetian family, one of the twelve which founded Venice and retained full control of that Government for over a thousand years.
- 1900 - Graduated from classic high school.
- 1903 - Graduated from the Naval Academy at Leghorn, as General Staff Officer in the Italian Royal Navy.
- 1904 - Appointed Ensign in the active list.
- 1905 - Commanded to the Navy Department in Rome, where he was entrusted with special offices; lately as head of the "Ufficio Leggi e Decreti", and Secretary to the "Consiglio superiore della Marina Mercantile". Author of many technical publications, among others the "Italian Navy Law" and "Diritto marittimo in tempo di guerra".
- 1915 - Secretary of the Italian Prize Court, and Secretary to the Italian Shipping Control Commission.
- 1916 - Expert and Executive Officer to the Conference of British and Italian Ministers at Vellezza (transportation, shipping and finance).
- 1916-1917 - Italian representative in the Interallied Committee for Shipping and Raw materials, with office in London (Italian Commercial Delegation).
- 1917 - Attached to the Italian Embassy at Washington; member of the Italian War Mission to the U.S.;
- 1917-18 - In charge of the Italian Shipping and Transportation Office in New York.
- 1919 - Passed to the Navy Reserve List; called to the office of General Representative in the U.S. of the Banca Italiana di Sconto; organizer of the new American Bank "Italian Discount & Trust Company", later on merged with the Guaranty Trust Company.
- 1920 - Applied for American citizenship papers, fully obtained in 1921.
- 1921-21 - Vice-President of several American companies, connected with the "Societa Navigazione Italo-Americana", S.N.I.A., of Torino, and with the Fiat interests. Said American companies owned and operated several steamships for general transportation, shipyards in Pascagoula, Miss., and Galveston Texas, lumber mills in Houston, Texas, coal mines in West Virginia, a building in New York City (32 B'way), where the general offices of the organization were kept. On behalf of the Italian State Railways, a large shipping contract was carried on for many years, under which a large number of cargo-boats was operated and 150,000 tons per month were shipped from the U.S. to Italy.
- 1922-27 - When a full strike in all American coal mines was declared stopping all activities, he retired to Florida in order to recuperate his health worn out after many years of strenuous work. Interested in real estate properties in Florida, developing country farms and town residential sections.
- 1927-30 - Returned to N.Y., taking interest in an Italo-American organization, proposing to reconstruct the center of Milan. Prepared in New York all

technical and financial plans necessary for that work and secured the cooperation of American interests (Paramount Corporation, Lawrence & Stern banking house, and large contractors as Fuller Co. and Hegeman Harris Corporation).

- 1930- Having come to Milan for inspection of the Italian company established there (Società Costruzioni Italo-Americane, SCIA), found that the Director in charge of it had largely misused the financial resources already transferred to Italy. This fact made necessary to change plans of organization, and obliged Bragadin to stay in Milan in order to take over the management of said Italian company and fully reorganize it.
- 1930-43- Executed the reconstruction program above said in accord with the plan of Milan. Under said program a large residential area close to piazza del Duomo - where very old, unsanitary, and ill-famed blocks of small houses were still inhabited - was fully razed; 2500 families were transferred from there to new quarters on the outskirts of Milan; the entire zone was razed to ground and then reconstructed under a special zoning plan with high class modern tall buildings, built on the basis of a plan for office and apartment house operation. Said work was completed in 1943 by order of the Federazione Fascista di Milano. In fact, without considering the public utility work done for 12 years, the property interests already acquired on the sites, the very expensive foundation work already laid down in the ground for the last construction project consisting in an imposing 18-story building and a large cinema theatre to be operated by American film production companies, the local Fascio ordered that the site be reserved for their own use and therefore stopped all work in progress.
- 1943-44- Having seen destroyed the full accomplishment of his project for which he had hardly labored for 15 years, Bragadin sold all interests he had in Milan and retired to San Remo.
- Oct. 43- Acquired a shipyard for construction of wooden motorships in Ancona (Abruzzo), and operated since then under a strict policy of building ships for owners' account without launching them. He is now working on finishing said ships and putting them at sea.

A detailed memo of all activities undertaken by Alvine Bragadin is attached hereto. Said memo has been confirmed in all its parts by a full investigation of Bragadin's position made recently by the American special service in San Remo and other localities of Northern Italy.

Alvine Bragadin has a son, Marc'Antonio, born in 1906, also graduated from the Naval Academy in Leghorn and appointed Staff Officer in the Italian Navy, where he has attained the rank of "Capitano di corvetta", now on the complement list. This son, being commanded to the Office for the Chief of Staff until the armistice, was dismissed from active service in October 1943. Thereafter he took the position of Director of the above mentioned shipyard, where he is still working in charge of all technical management. He is also a member of the "Comitato di Liberazione Nazionale" of Ancona (Abruzzo).

1499