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

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

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CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS, NO. 53
(& GENTILE, NICOLA)
SEPT. - DEC. 1943

AMGOT/1124/P.S.

43

CONFIDENTIAL

GENTILE / COLO -

CONFIDENTIAL

REPORTS

No 53

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 735016

LE NICOLO -

CONFIDENTIAL

REPORTS

No 53.

10000 143 144

THIS FOLDER
CONTAINS PAPERS
FROM SEPT 43
TO DEC 43
CATALOGUE.

0560

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 759016

1-17	18 Sept.	To C of S. U.S. Contingent
18-29	20 Sept	from Civ. Police
30-31	21 Sept	from Legal
32-33	21 Sept.	from Civil Police.
34	22 Sept.	To C of S. U.S. Contingent
35-39	23.10.53.	From C.I.C 7th Army H.Q. and to Civil Police Secn.
40-43	24.10.53	From Civil Police Secn.
44-45	9.10.53	From C.I.C. 7th Army H.Q. & to Civil Police Secn
46-48	18.10.53	From Civil Police Section
49-50	3.11.53	From C.I.C. 7th C.I.S. H.Q. McGlechon
51-52	7.11.53.	From Civil Police Section.
53	22.11.53.	Rpt., statement & documents from Spl. Police Section.
54-57	18.12.53	Rpt. & receipts & P.R. Division No. 1 Region from Spl. Pol Section.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 780176

SPECIAL REPORT

Subject

Corres. No.
AMGOT
1121
P5

59 CP/1

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
SICILY REGION HEADQUARTERS
APO 394.

TOWN ----- PROVINCE -----

DATE 18th December 1943.

To: Chief, Public Safety Division, Region No.1.

1. Further reference to attached correspondence: The decision of Legal Division as shown in your minute No.3 on attached report dated 22nd November 1943 and marked 53, has been noted on the records in this Section.

2. The property involved in this case has been disposed of as per the attached receipts marked 54, 55 and 56.

3. Papers returned herewith for information and with a recommendation that they be filed in Central Registry, No. 1 Region.

G. Richardson

G. Richardson, Major,
Special Police Section.

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

Corres. No.
AMGOT
1121
P5

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G. Richardson, Major,
Special Police Section.

4852

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

SPECIAL REPORT

Subject

Corres. No.
AMG 0 1
1124
95.

CPII
56.

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
SICILY REGION HEADQUARTERS
APO 512.

TOWN _____ PROVINCE _____

DATE 9th December 1943.

RECEIVED from the Chief, Public Safety Division, Sicily Region Headquarters, AMG, the undermentioned property taken from the possession of one Nicolà GENTILE ordered to be interned for an indefinite period :-

One leather wallet containing
(a) USA currency notes to the total value of 26 (twenty-six) dollars.
(b) Identity card No. 117027 issued Palermo 16th Feby 1942 in name of holder Nicolà GENTILE
(c) Motor car driving licence No. 1061 in name of holder Nicola GENTILE
(d) Various correspondence in name of owner Nicola GENTILE.

G Direttore
.....

Signature of witness .....
Sgt. Joseph Lucas

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

Corres. No.
AMGOT
1124
PS.

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(d) Various correspondence in name of owner Nicola GENTILE.

Il Direttore .....

Signature of witness .....
Sgt. Joseph Lucas

4851

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

0556

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

SPECIAL REPORT

Subject

Corres. No. AMGOT 1124 Re

CP/1

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

TOWN Carabinieri H.Q. PROVINCE City of Palermo.

DATE 5th December 1943.

RECEIVED from the Chief, Public Safety Division, Sicily Region Headquarters, AMG, one Smith and Wesson five chambered revolver No. 96785 taken from the possession of one Nicolà GENTILE ordered to be interned for an indefinite period.

Lieut., Carabinieri Reali.
(Liaison Officer)

4850

0357

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

SPECIAL REPORT

Subject

Corres. No.

54 CP/1

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

SICILY REGION HEADQUARTERS
APO 512

TOWN Caraninieri HQ PROVINCE City of Palermo,

DATE 10th December 1943.

RECEIVED from the Chief, Public Safety Division, Sicily Region Headquerters, Allied Military Government, (through Lieutenant Garassi, of the Carabinieri Reali, Liaison Officer) 35 (thirty-five) bales of cloth material.

Romano G.Battista fu Andrea
Per conto della Ditta
Gentile Ficarra e Romano

WITNESS .....

In. Garassi Pellistra.

18.9

53

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
SICILY REGION HEADQUARTERS
APO 512

RELATING TO NICOLO GENTILE, AGED 58, AN ITALIAN SUBJECT, IDENTITY CARD NO. 117027 ISSUED PALERMO ON 16TH FEBRUARY 1942, RESIDENT AT MONREALE, PROVINCE OF PALERMO, ALLEGED ACTING PREJUDICIAL TO THE SECURITY OF THE ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

- I N D E X -

	PAGE(S)
REPORT.....	1 - 7
COPY STATEMENT of BARONE Francesco.....	8 - 9
COPY STATEMENT of FARDELLA Gaetano.....	10 - 11
COPY STATEMENT of GARELLO Giuseppe.....	12 - 14
COPY STATEMENT of GIUSTINIANI Giorgio.....	15 - 16
COPY STATEMENT of MEADER, Major Munroe Harrison.....	17 - 19
COPY STATEMENT of MESSINA Giuseppe.....	20 - 21
COPY STATEMENT of ROMANO Giovanni Battista.....	22 - 24
ORIGINAL STATEMENTS OF ABOVE.....	25 - 37
ENVELOPE containing document marked 'B' to 'I'.....	38

CORRES. NO. AMGOT/1124/PS REFERS.

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

Special Police Section

- I N D E X -

	PAGE(S)
REPORT.....	1 - 7
COPY STATEMENT of BARONE Francesco.....	8 - 9
COPY STATEMENT of FARDELLA Gaetano.....	10 - 11
COPY STATEMENT of GARELLO Giuseppe.....	12 - 14
COPY STATEMENT of GIUSTINIANI Giorgio.....	15 - 16
COPY STATEMENT of MEADER, Major Munroe Harrison.....	17 - 19
COPY STATEMENT of MESSINA Giuseppe.....	20 - 21
COPY STATEMENT of ROMANO Giovanni Battista.....	22 - 24
ORIGINAL STATEMENTS OF ABOVE.....	25 - 37
ENVELOPE containing document marked 'B' to 'I'.....	38

CORRES. NO. AMGOT/1124/PS REFERS.

Special Police Section,
Civil Police Section,
Public Safety Division,
Sicily Region Headquarters.

22nd November 1943. 4818

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

SPECIAL REPORT

Subject

PERSONS IN CUSTODY.

Corres. No.

AMGOT/1124/PS.

CONFIDENTIAL

CP/1

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

SICILY REGION HEADQUARTERS
APO 512.

TOWN ------- PROVINCE -----

DATE 22nd November 1943

1.

To Chief, Public Safety Division, No. 1 Region.

Further reference to previous reports submitted by me under correspondence No. AMGOT/1124/PS appertaining to one Nicola GENTILE arrested and detained on 17th September 1943

(a) upon his own admission that he was 'wanted' by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Washington, D.C., for certain criminal offences in the U. S. A., and

(b) on security grounds; suspected of improperly attempting to secure favour for private individuals and business concerns whilst acting in the capacity of an employee of the Allied Military Government, thereby prejudicing the efficient operation and so bringing into disrepute the good name of that Authority.

During the investigation statements have been taken from the interested parties and these, together with copies are attached hereto for record; the following is a resumé of the facts and circumstances of the case to date.

On 7th September 1943, C. I. C. Agents of 7th Army H. Q., arrested a man named Nicolo ROMANO, No.17 Via Pietro D'Asaro, Palermo, for the unlawful possession of a large quantity of cloth which was found in his apartment at that address. Another man, Ignazio MAGLIO was concerned with him in possession of this cloth;he likewise was arrested.

The matter was passed by C. I. C. to the Civil Police Section for disposal and it was learned that residing with Romano in the apartment in question was Major Munroe Harrison MEADER, U.S. Corps of Engineers, then

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

Corres. No.

AMGOT/1124/PS.

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The matter was passed by C. I. C. to the Civil Police Section for disposal and it was learned that residing with Romano in the apartment in question was Major Munroe Harrison MEADER, U.S. Corps of Engineers, then attached to the office of the Custodian of Enemy Property, AMGOT. It was also ascertained that the Major had been introduced to ROMANO by Nicola GENTILE, the subject of this report. At this stage and before any enquiry was made the facts were reported for information and directions - directions were received by this Section to proceed with the enquiry.

On 15th September 1943, information was received in the Civil Police Section that Nicola GENTILE was formerly a 'gangster' in the United States and a fugitive from Justice - incidentally, an exchange of cables has confirmed that GENTILE has a substantial criminal

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

rec d there, but was no longe 'wanted' by the authorities.

On 17th September 1943, Major Hefford, of Civil Police Section, AMGOT H.Q., acting upon instructions visited Major Meader at AMGOT H.Q., 8 Via Bari, Palermo, and called upon him for a written statement as to his knowledge of and association with the suspect GENTILE.

Major Meader, in a signed statement, said that when he was the Civil Affairs Officer at Raffadali from 21st July to 25th August 1943, he employed GENTILE as an interpreter owing to the fact that he was the only one available for such employment. He adds that when he offered this employment, GENTILE at once volunteered information that he had convictions in Sicily for assault and for associating with undesirables, further, that he was a 'bail jumper' on a Federal Indictment in respect of offences against U. S. legislation governing white slavery and dangerous drugs.

The Major declared that he reported these facts to the S.C.A.O., Agrigento Province, and to C. I. C. He continued to use GENTILE as an interpreter until he was transferred to H.Q. in August and he occasionally used him after that date. Major Meader agreed that it was GENTILE who introduced him to Nicolo ROMANO.

After taking Major Meader's statement, Major Hefford, when leaving the headquarters building, observed GENTILE entering without producing any authority. He kept the suspect under observation and saw him enter Major Meader's office. Then Major Hefford intervened and detained GENTILE, bringing him to the Civil Police Section for enquiries.

Whilst so detained, GENTILE freely admitted that he was wanted for crime by the American Judicial Authorities. He was searched upon his arrival here and in his possession the following documents were found :-

(a) Visiting card of Major Meader upon which is written in the Major's handwriting, 'This man's past record in America is known to us and is not to be used against him'. Initialled M.H.M.

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

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(a) Visiting card of Major Meader upon which is written in the Major's handwriting, 'This man's past record in America is known to us and is not to be used against him'. Initialled M.H.M. Marked 'B'

(b) Visiting card of Major Meader on the reverse of which is an authority for GENTILE to visit Room 38 AMGOT at any time. Marked 'C'

(c) Small piece of paper bearing an open authority for a civilian to ride ina vehicle. Signed by Capt. Levitt on behalf of Col. Poletti. Marked 'D'

(d) Small piece of paper signed by Major Meader authorising GENTILE to possess a firearm. Marked 'E'.
(N.B. This firearm, a five chambered revolver of modern pattern was subsequently found improperly in the possession of another individual).

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

(e) Piece of paper bearing name and address of Major Meader. Marked 'F'

(f) Letter from Giovanni GIUTINIANI, Via Napoli 28, Palermo, to AMGOT asking assistance re business. Marked 'G'

(g) Letter from Gaetana FARDELLA, Via Bandiera No.2, Palermo, addressed to AMGOT also asking for favours in respect of his business. Marked 'H'

These original documents are attached to this correspondence for reference.

On the night of GENTILE's apprehension a warehouse of the Pirelli Rubber Company at Monreale, Palermo Province, was searched by Officers of Civil Police Section. In this warehouse were found 35 bales of cloth. a watchman on the premises named Giuseppe MESSINA, produced a document which he claimed had been given to him by GENTILE to explain the possession of the material if he were called upon to do so. This document, a small piece of paper, was seized. It bears, apparently in the handwriting of Major Meader, the words, 'The cloth stored here temporarily, belongs to S. Nicolo Gentile who is my special civilian assistant. Do not disturb it. (Signed) M. H. Meader, Major'. This piece of paper which is attached is marked 'I'.

During the course of subsequent investigation of the matters mentioned above, signed statements were taken from a number of persons connected with the case, as follow:-

Giorgio GIUSTINIANI, Via Napoli 28, Palermo, states that he has known GENTILE for about two and a half years, having purchased clothing material from the latter for family use during this period. He says that his own business, that of a transport contractor, has diminished considerably since the Allied occupation and in consequence he wrote a letter (the one marked 'G') to the Allied Military Government, Palermo, asking for assistance in re-establishing his business. Continuing, he says that whilst on his way to deliver the letter at the Prefettura, he met GENTILE in the street and on learning that he was employed as an interpreter to an American Major, he

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

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Gaetano FARDELLA, Via Venero 96, Monreale, in his statement says that he has known GENTILE for about four years and, on numerous occasions, has sold bales of cloth to the firm of GENTILE, ROMANO and PICCONE. FARDELLA says that about the end of July 1943 he saw GENTILE frequently in the company of an American Major and learned that he was the Officer's interpreter.

As his textile business had diminished to a low level, FARDELLA thought that it might be to his advantage to bring to the knowledge of the Allied Military Government the fact that he was a qualified pharmacist.

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

He there ore approached GENTILE who agreed to intercede on his behalf. GENTILE accepted a letter from FARDELLA addressed by the latter to the Allied Military Government. This is the document which was found in GENTILE's possession and which is attached hereto marked 'H'.

Giovanni Battista ROMANO (who states that he is not related to Nicolo ROMANO arrested by C. I. C. for unlawful possession as previously mentioned) says that he was introduced to GENTILE in October 1940 by the firm of AGNELLO Brothers, cloth manufacturers and dealers, of Via Macqueda, Palermo. The business which he conducted with his partner PICCONE was 'failing miserably' at that time and AGNELLO Brothers suggested that GENTILE should be accepted as a partner. As a result they continued in business as PICCONE, ROMANO, GENTILE and Company with premises at Via Roma 268, Palermo.

ROMANO declared that the 35 bales of cloth which were found at the Pirelli Rubber Company warehouse at Monreale was originally part of the stock held by the three partners in Palermo. Allied bombing of the City necessitated their removing this material to Raffadali. Subsequently, he says, GENTILE became employed by Major Meader as an interpreter and when the Major was transferred to Palermo (25th August) GENTILE, who was understood to be continuing in his service, decided to remove the cloth to the Pirelli warehouse in Monreale, being a close acquaintance of the vice-director, a certain Sig. GARELLA. ROMANO says that for this purpose an American Army truck was used under Major Meader's orders. Major Meader, Stefano PICCONE and Nicolo GENTILE arrived at the warehouse in an American 'jeep' car which accompanied the truck.

On the night the cloth was delivered to the warehouse, ROMANO was asked to call at GENTILE's house. He did so and there GENTILE handed him a Smith and Wesson .38 calibre revolver and ammunition, saying, "Take this pistol and give it to the watchman and tell him he can feel safer with it ". He carried out this instruction, giving the revolver to Giuseppe MESSINA, the watchman. He also gave MESSINA a note written by Major Meader respecting the possession of the cloth (both the revolver and the note are those found by Civil Police Section

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

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ROMANO stated that he could support possession of 23 bales of cloth by means of invoices entered into the firm's ledgers and identifiable in the books with the numbers stamped on the bales. As to the 12 remaining bales of cloth he said that during the bombing of Palermo the firm made many cash purchases of cloth, no receipts being given. We are unable to produce any evidence to prove to the contrary.

Giuseppe GARELLO, Via Antonio Veriziano 12, Monreale, a principal representative of the Pirelli Company, states that he made the acquaintance of GENTILE in April 1943 and through him secured for the Pirelli Company storage space at the San Pietro Church, Monreale.

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

5

- August 1943, after GENTILE had produced to him a piece of paper signed by Major Meader reading as if the cloth was already stored in the Pirelli warehouse, he permitted GENTILE to store the material there although he had refused a previous request which GENTILE had made unsupported by an authority from Major Meader. GARELLA has identified the document marked 'I' as being the piece of paper in question. GENTILE, incidentally, told him that the paper signed by the Major was in effect an order for the cloth to be stored in the warehouse and it was this document together with the insistence of GENTILE that influenced him into giving permission.

It will be seen from the statement of GARELLA that he also speaks of the material arriving in an Army truck and adds that soldiers were engaged in unloading the vehicle.

Francesco BARONE, day watchman at the Pirelli warehouse, states that the cloth was already in storage when he first took up his duties. He identified the piece of paper (marked 'I') as having been shewn to him by GENTILE who instructed him to produce it to any person enquiring about the property. He also identified the revolver as the one which GENTILE had supplied for protection purposes.

Giuseppe MESSINA, night watchman at the warehouse, says in his statement that although he has been employed by the Pirelli Company for about a year, he did not take up his duties at this particular warehouse until about 1st September 1943, at which time the cloth was already there. Subsequently on a number of occasions, he saw GENTILE who told him to take great care of the cloth saying that they were the property of his partner ROMANO and himself. Each week ROMANO used to pay Messina 140 lire for guarding the property. This man has identified the piece of paper (marked I) as having been shewn to him by GARELLA.

MESSINA likewise identified the Smith and Wesson revolver as being the one which ROMANO had given to him shortly after he took up his duties. It appears that ROMANO told him the paper from Major Meader also covered his possession of the revolver. MESSINA cannot read English and therefore accepted the explanation although

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

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In the first place it will be appreciated that these two watchman have committed an offence in possessing the firearm and ammunition without proper authority, but there are very strong and genuine extenuating circumstances in their case and no Court would convict them on the evidence available. The real culprit is obviously GENTILE who, unquestionably relying on his "influence" with AMGOT, led these two men into committing this technical offence; he has more or less incited them to commit this misdemeancur.

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

6

Again, in endeavouring to sum up GENTILE's true worth, it must be borne in mind that he was undoubtedly a close associate of Nicolo ROMANO in whose apartment a quantity of cloth illicitly obtained was found, and furthermore, it was he who was 'responsible' for Major Meader taking up residence at ROMANO's apartment - incidentally the proceedings against ROMANO have not, as yet, been concluded before the Court.

It also has to be remembered that GENTILE as the principal partner of GENTILE, PICCONE and ROMANO (Giovanni) Company, was, in effect, an appointee of AGNELLO Brothers, Via Maqueda, Palermo, a firm strongly suspected of dealing in the 'black market' in unlawfully obtained cloth. It is by no means unlikely that GENTILE is one of their agents in disposing of fabrics so obtained. It is perhaps significant that GENTILE was connected with two different premises where cloth has been found under suspicious circumstances and further, that in each instance the cloth was 'stored' under the protection of Major Meader of AMGOT upon whom it appears GENTILE exerted some influence - the Major's self-written statement supports this.

The letters from Giovanni GIUSTINIANI and Gaetano FARDELLA asking favours of the Allied Military Government, have particular significance; both of these individuals declare that their handing of the letters to GENTILE was 'accidental', spontaneous and done quite casually, no question of 'reimbursement' of any description to GENTILE being raised by any of the persons concerned. It is, however, a peculiar coincidence that both letters should have come into the possession of this criminal at the same time - it gives rise to very grave suspicion that he has been in the habit of 'accepting' letters of this character.

From all the facts disclosed in this enquiry, I have no hesitation in saying that this unscrupulous criminal has been exercising undue influence to obtain AMGOT protection for himself and others whilst engaged in questionable business dealings and was also using his association with Major Meader to gain improper advantage for native business people.

Notification has now been received from the Federal Bureau of Investigation through A.F.H.Q. that GENTILE is

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

Via Maqueda, Palermo, a firm strongly suspected of dealing in the 'black market' in unlawfully obtained cloth. It is by no means unlikely that GENTILE is one of their agents in disposing of fabrics so obtained. It is perhaps significant that GENTILE was connected with two different premises where cloth has been found under suspicious circumstances and further, that in each instance the cloth was 'stored' under the protection of Major Meader of AMGOT upon whom it appears GENTILE exerted some influence - the Major's self-written statement supports this.

The letters from Giovanni GIUSTINIANI and Gaetano FARDELLA asking favours of the Allied Military Government, have particular significance; both of these individuals declare that their handing of the letters to GENTILE was 'accidental', spontaneous and done quite casually, no question of 'reimbursement' of any description to GENTILE being raised by any of the persons concerned. It is, however, a peculiar coincidence that both letters should have come into the possession of this criminal at the same time - it gives rise to very grave suspicion that he has been in the habit of 'accepting' letters of this character.

From all the facts disclosed in this enquiry, I have no hesitation in saying that this unscrupulous criminal has been exercising undue influence to obtain AMGOT protection for himself and others whilst engaged in questionable business dealings and was also using his association with Major Meader to gain improper advantage for native business people.

Notification has now been received from the Federal Bureau of Investigation through A.F.H.Q. that GENTILE is not now wanted for his white slavery and narcotic crimes in America. His criminal record has not, as yet, been received from A.F.H.Q.

In consequence of the information received from F.B.I. and because no ~~offence~~ charge can be levelled against him from this Office, GENTILE was transferred from the Civil Prison, Palermo, to the Civilian Internees Camp, Via Malespina, Palermo.

Much more could be said, but little need be - GENTILE a man with a very unsavoury past, has been and always will be, a menace to the security and efficient operation of the Allied Military Government. Therefore I recommend that he remain in detention as a civilian internee and placed before a Review Board for formal classification into

1842

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

category A(a) - internment during hostilities.

G. Richardson, Major,
Superintendent, Special Pol. Section.

2nd Ind.

To Chief, Public Safety Division, No.1 Region

Forwarded. I agree herein and recommend as at 'A'. Urgent return of these papers is requested for the Civilian Internees Review Board now in progress.

B. J. Hefford, Major,
Superintendent, Civil Police Section.

File RpS 3d Ind.

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT SICILY REGION HQ APO 512 NOV 25 1943

TO Supt. Civil Police Section

Seen. Please have the case reviewed by the Review Board now sitting and forward result to this Division in order that the facts may be referred to Legal Division.

By Order of CHARLES POLETTI BRIG

RUSSELL A SNOOK
Lt Colonel
Chief Public Safety Division

4th Ind.

To Chief, Public Safety Division.

The case of GENTILE was carefully considered by 2nd Review Board (American Zone) on 25th November 1943. He was recommended to category A(a) - internment for indefinite period. Return of papers are requested for disposal of certain property of internee.

G. Richardson, Major,
Superintendent, Spec. Pol. Sec.

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

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B. J. Hefford, Major,
Superintendent, Civil Police Section.

File RpS 3d Ind.

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT SICILY REGION HQ APO 512 NOV 25 1943

TO Supt. Civil Police Section

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G. Richardson, Major,
Superintendent, Spec. Pol. Sec.

5th Ind.

To Chief, Public Safety Division.

Forwarded. Return of papers requested.

B. J. Hefford, Major,
Superintendent, Civil. Pol. Sec.

27/11/43

In accordance with 3d Ind. the foregoing ~~papers~~ was reviewed by Squadron Leader Dickie who approved the recommendation at A above

27/11/43
Approved
R A Snook

R A Snook
Chief P S Div 4861
Region I

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

CP/5

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

TOWN _____ PROVINCE _____

DATE 20 SEPTEMBER 1943

STATEMENT
OF

SURNAME (Block letters) BARONE

OTHERS NAMES FRANCESCO AGE 47

ADDRESS Via Giovanni Passello 30-Palerme- in No 32506-

issued at Palermo- OCCUPATION Day Watchman

WHO SAYS: -

" I have been cautioned by Major Richardson,Spe= cial Police AMGOT, that I am not obliged to say anything unless I wish to do so, but that anything I do say, will be taken down in writing and may be given in evidence. This has been read to me through the medium of an interpreter and to show that I fully understand this caution,I sign my name.

" BARONE Francesco "

I am a caretaker of the Pirelli Tire Co at their store at Monreale and I reside here. I have been employed here for 2 weeks but have been with the company for some I8 years.

I know a man named Nicolò Gentile, and that he has bails of cloth stored at these premises. I have no kno= wledge of Gentile's business or the reason for the cloth being here. I do not known the true owner of the cloth,but Gentile told me it was his property. You have shown me a piece of paper dated the I5 August I943, and which was taken possession of from me on the I7 August I943 by Lieut Gale of the Civil Police. That paper which is marked "I" was handed to me by Gentile who told me that I was to produce it to any person enquiring as to the cloth stored here. I should have told you that the cloth was here before I

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

OF

SURNAME (Block letters) BARONE

OTHERS NAMES FRANCESCO AGE 47

ADDRESS Via Giovanni Passello 30-Palermo- in No 32506-

issued at Palermo- OCCUPATION Day Watchman

WHO SAYS: -

" I have been cautioned by Major Richardson, Special Police AMGOT, that I am not obliged to say anything unless I wish to do so, but that anything I do say, will be taken down in writing and may be given in evidence. This has been read to me through the medium of an interpreter and to show that I fully understand this caution, I sign my name.

" BARONE Francesco "

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I know a man named Nicolò Gentile, and that he has bails of cloth stored at these premises. I have no knowledge of Gentile's business or the reason for the cloth being here. I do not known the true owner of the cloth, but Gentile told me it was his property. You have shown me a piece of paper dated the I5 August I943, and which was taken possession of from me on the I7 August I943 by Lieut Gale of the Civil Police. That paper which is marked "T" was handed to me by Gentile who told me that I was to produce it to any person enquiring as to the cloth stored here. I should have told you that the cloth was here before I arrived to take up duties as a storekeeper. I believe that it was received by my companion Messina, Giuseppe.. I cannot read or write English and do not know what is written on that piece of paper.

I have been shown a "Smith-Wesson " 38 calibre, NewDeparture model, nickle plated revolver, Serial No.96785 This was taken from a desk in the part of the building where I sleep and live, and when it was handed to me by Lieut Gale on I7 September, I943, it was fully loaded in the five chambers. I have no license or other authority for being in possession of this weapon or ammunition, and I have never made application for such authority. I found this in the drawer of the desk when I arrived about 2 weeks

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

CP/5

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

TOWN _____ PROVINCE _____

DATE _____

STATEMENT
OF

SURNAME (Block letters) _____

OTHERS NAMES _____ AGE _____

ADDRESS _____

WHO SAYS: -

ago. So I asked my companion about it, and he told me that it had been given to him by Nicolò Gentile to be used by us for our protection and the protection of the property in this store.
I have never had an occasion to use the weapon.

This statement has been read to me through an interpreter and it is true.

(Signed)- BARONE Francesco

Statement taken and Signature witnessed
by G. Richardson, Major, Special Police
Branch, through Pvt. Piscopo, Interpreter.

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

SURNAME (Block letters) _____

OTHERS NAMES _____ AGE _____

ADDRESS _____

WHO SAYS: -

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I have never had an occasion to use the weapon.

This statement has been read to me through an interpreter and it is true.

(Signed)- BARONE Francesco

Statement taken and Signature witnessed
by G. Richardson,Major, Special Police
Branch, through Pvt. Piscopo, Interpreter.

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

10 CP/5

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

SICILY REGION HEADQUARTERS

TOWN PALERMO PROVINCE PALERMO

DATE 11 October 1943

STATEMENT
OF

SURNAME (Block letters) FARDELLA

OTHERS NAMES GAETANO AGE 43 Years

ADDRESS Residence: Via Venero NO, 96 Monreale.

Office: Via Bandiera NO. 2, Palermo.

WHO SAYS: - I have been cautioned by Captain J.C.Wilimovsky, Jr. that I am not obliged to say anything unless I wish to do so, and that whatever I do say will be taken down in writing and maybe used or given in evidence.

GAETANO FARBELLA

I have known Nicolo Gentile for about 4 years now. On numerous occasions I have sold bolts of material (cloth) to his firm of Gentile, Romano and Piccone. My last sale of shirting material was made in June 1943. He paid me approximately 45,000 lires for about 650 metres of cloth. Gentile took the material from my home in Monreale where I had it stored and I believe he took it to Raffadale. Since it was private stock I made the sale a personal matter to Gentile who did not request a receipt. He paid me by check which was drawn on the bank named Casa Centrale di Risparmia. This was the last business transaction that I had with Gentile.

About the end of July or the beginning of August I noticed an American Major in the company of Nicolo Gentile almost every day. I saw them together in the vicinity of Gentile's house in Monreale. Gentile had informed me previously that the American major which he identified as being a representative of the Allied Military Government and that he was retained by the major as an interpreter. Because of the presence of the Allied troops my business was temporarily disrupted due to bombardments, etc.....

I felt that I should bring to the attention of the Allied Military Government the fact that I was experienced in the

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

SURNAME (Block letters) FARDELLA

OTHERS NAMES GAETANO AGE 43 Years

ADDRESS Residence: Via Venero NO, 96 Monreale.

Office: Via Bandiera NO. 2, Palermo.

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I felt that I should bring to the attention of the Allied Military Government the fact that I was experienced in the pharmacentical field as well as textiles. I was prompted by the fact that Nicolo Gentile being employed as interpreter by the American major that he could bring my background to the attention of the proper Allied authorities. Gentile agreed that he might be in a position to intercede for me. At no time was the subject of monetary renumeration brought up either by myself or Gentile relative to any favorable result. I wrote a letter addressed to Capo Degli Affari Civili dell A.M.G.O.T. dated 5/9/43 outlining my business experiences. My signature appears on this letter. I gave this letter to Gentile about two days later. I have never heard anything further to my letter of enquiry.

To my knowledge Nicolo Gentile has always been a reputable person in business transactions that we engaged in.

This statement has been read to me through the medium of an interpreter and is true.

1838

GAETANO FARDELLA

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 735016

CP/5

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

SICILY REGION HEADQUARTERS

TOWN PALERMO PROVINCE PALERMO

DATE 11 October 1943

STATEMENT

OF

SURNAME (Block letters) FARDELLA

OTHERS NAMES [redacted] GAETANO AGE 43 years

ADDRESS Residence: Via Venero NO. 96 Monreale.

Office: Via Bandiera NO. 2 Palermo.

WHO SAYS: -

This statement taken by Capt. J.C.Wilimovsky, Jr. Special Police Branch, Civil Police Section, AMG HQ. and interpreter Michael J. Trotta, T/4 Sgt. of the same department, Civil Police office Carabinieri Hq. Palermo.

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

OF

SURNAME (Block letters) FARDELLA

OTHERS NAMES [redacted] GAETANO AGE 43 years

ADDRESS Residence: Via Venero NO. 96 Monreale.

Office: Via Bandiera NO. 2 Palermo.

WHO SAYS: -

This statement taken by Capt. J.C.Wilimovsky, Jr. Special Police Branch, Civil Police Section, AMG HQ. and interpreter Michael J. Trotta, T/4 Sgt. of the same department, Civil Police office Carabinieri Hq. Palermo.

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

CP/5

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

TOWN CARABINIERI HQ. PROVINCE PALERMO

DATE I8/IO/I943

STATEMENT
OF

SURNAME (Block letters) GARELLO

OTHERS NAMES GIUSEPPE AGE 37

ADDRESS VIA ANTONIO VENEZIANO I2

MONREALE, PALERMO

WHO SAYS: -

Iam one of the principal representatives of the Pirelli Società per Azioni,operating in Sicily,and our registered address here is Via Napoli I7.

In april of this year,I became acquainted with a man named Nicolò Gentile who understood was a cloth merchant.We were desirous of acquiring sterage space in Palermo and through the medium of Gentile,we acquired the San Pietro church at Monreale.It was the property of the Chmuch and we rented from the archbishop of Monreale at a yearly rental of Lire 50.000

In about August,I943,Gentile came to me and asked if he could store in the church certain cloth owned by him and which at that time was at Raffadale.Gentile had done a service to us in procuring the warehouse but we could not accede to his request firstly because the stock and warehouse was under the control of the Civil Supply Division of A.M.G.O.T .and I had no desire to controvene any of their regulations,and secondly because the roof of the warehouse was in a bad repairs and the place would be unsuitable for the storage and safekeeping of cloth.At the same time I considered the possiblity of theft and the destruction the property by fire.For these reasons we were compelled to refuse Gentile's request.

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

SURNAME (Block letters) GARELLO

OTHERS NAMES GIUSEPPE AGE 37

ADDRESS VIA ANTONIO VENEZIANO I2

MONREALE, PALERMO

WHO SAYS: -

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This occurred whilst I was at the temporary office which is along side the warehouse at Monreale.

After this refusal Gentile left my office but returned a few minutes later with a letter or piece of paper signed by Major Meader of AMGOT.The document shown to me marked A is the one in question.I Can read English and I noted that it read as if the cloth was already stored at the warehouse.It also said that Gentile was Major Meader's civilian assistant.At this particular time,the cloth which Gentile wished stored at my warehouse was outside the warehouse in a motor truck of the American Army.By reason of my calling and the experience I have gained I can say positively that

4836

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

CP/5

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

TOWN _____ PROVINCE _____

DATE _____

STATEMENT
OF

SURNAME (Block letters) _____

OTHERS NAMES _____ AGE _____

ADDRESS _____

WHO SAYS:-

THe vehicle was of American make and the property of the American Army.It was a very large truck and appeared to be about a 2 I/2 ton truck.

When Gentile returned with a note from Major Meader,he told me that I was to store his cloth in my warehouse and that was an order of Major Meader.I point-ed out to Gentile that Major Meader's request was really in the form of a request,but he he explained to me that a request by an American officer was in fact an order.I have looked at Major Meader's note again and will agree that it reads as if the cloth was at that time already stored in the warehouse.I must admit that at the time of the incident I read it as being a request from Major Meader to Store the property. In consequence of what Gentile said and the note he produced from Major Meader I had no alternative but to give permission for the storing of the cloth.Incidently I understood that Major Meader was in Gentile's house,and therefore wrote this note juste after I had refused Gentile permission to store,the cloth.

The cloth,comprising 35 bails,was moved into the warehouse. There were a number of Americans with the truck and they unloaded the truck whilst civilian passersby helped to move the property into the warehouse.Gentile nor any other person has paid for the storage of his cloth.Gentile told me

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

OF

SURNAME (Block letters) _____

OTHERS NAMES _____ AGE _____

ADDRESS _____

PAGE 2

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The two occasions,a matter of days after,Gentile came to my office and said that Major Meader was at His home and wished to see me.I went there and Gentile introduced me to Major Meader.The Major told me that he wanted four tires for an Italian civilian car which he was going to requisition. I cannot remember the size he wanted,but I had to refuse,as all tires of the size he required had been out of stock of for some time as manufacture had ceased owing to the war.

4835

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 775016

CP/5

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

TOWN _____ PROVINCE _____

DATE _____

STATEMENT
OF

SURNAME (Block letters) _____

OTHERS NAMES _____ AGE _____

ADDRESS _____

PAGE +3+

WHO SAYS: -

I have met Major Meader on a second occasion and against at Gentile's house.This was also a matter of a few days afterward.Again the Major asked for tires and my partner went to Catania to try and get some but he was unsuccessfull.This all I know about Major Meader and Gentile. I have no knowledge of Romano,Gentile'spartner,with the exception t hat they are brothers-in law.

(signed) CARELLO, Giuseppe.

Statement taken and signature witnessed by G.Richardson Major,Special Police Section,through Private Piscopo, Interpreter.

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

SURNAME (Block letters) _____

OTHERS NAMES _____ AGE _____

ADDRESS _____

P A G E +3+

WHO SAYS: -

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(signed) CARELLO, Giuseppe.

Statement taken and signature witnessed by G.Richardson Major,Special Police Section,through Private Piscopo, Interpreter.

4834

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

CP/5

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

SICILY REGION HEADQUARTERS

TOWN PALERMO PROVINCE PALERMO

DATE 11 October, 1943

STATEMENT

OF

SURNAME (Block letters) GIUSTINIANI

OTHERS NAMES GIORGIO AGE

ADDRESS VIA NAPOLI No. 28, Palermo,

WHO SAYS: - I have been cautioned by Captain J,C, Wilimovsky Jr, that I am not obliged to say anything unless I wish to do so, that whatever I do say will be taken down in writing and maybe used or given in evidence,

GIORGIO GIUSTINIANI

I have known Nicolo Gentile for the past 2 1/2 years, I became acquainted with him when I went to his shop to purchase material for siuts and shirts for myself and family. To my knowledge Nicolo Gentile has enjoyed a good reputation because of his business dealings.

Because of the war and the recent bombings prior to the entrance of the Allied troops in Sicily it was difficult for me to engage in my business of transportation and cartage. On September 18th, 1943 I wrote a letter on my stationery and addressed it to the Military Command of Government of Allied Forces, Palermo. In substance of the letter was a request for any assistance that the Allied Government could give me to reestablish my business. My signature appears on this letter which I have identified.

I wrote this letter after making enquiries at the Prefettura. A member of the Carabinieri who I do not know suggested that I address a letter to the Military authorities in respons to my request, I followed his suggestion. A day or so after writing this letter, I planned to personally deliver this letter, after the lunch hour to the Allied Authorities at the Prefettura Palermo. On my way to lunch I met Nicolo Gentile on Via Napoli, near my home. I greeted him and asked him where he had been, for the past four or five months. He said that he had been at Raffadale and recently he had been working

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

O F

SURNAME (Block letters) GIUSTINIANI

OTHERS NAMES GIORGIO AGE

ADDRESS VIA NAPOLI No. 28, Palermo,

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Upon hearing that he was working for an American 1943 Major as an interpreter I explained to him that I had written a letter to the Allied Military Forces, asking them to aid me in reestablishing my business through the loan of a truck. Upon hearing this Nicolo Gentile replied quote, "let me have the letter and I'll take care of i it." (unquote)

In appreciation I suggested that he would be aiding me much since I am in need or work. At no time was the mention of money made by either myself or Nicolo Gentile relative to the favorable outcome of my request. I have never seen nor heard from Nicolo Gentile since the time and place when I had this conversation with him and had given him the letter.

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

16

CP/5

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

SICILY REGION HEADQUARTERS

TOWN PALERMO PROVINCE PALERMO

DATE 11 October, 1943

STATEMENT

OF

SURNAME (Block letters) GIUSTINIANI

OTHERS NAMES GIORGIO AGE

ADDRESS VIA NAPOLI 28 Palermo.

WHO SAYS: -

CONTINUATION

This statement has been read to me and is true. It has been read to me through the medium of an interpreter.

GIORGIO GIUSTINIANI

This statement taken by Capt. J. C. Wilimovsky, Jr. Special Police Branch, Civil Police Section, AMG HQ. and interpreter Michael J. Trotta, T/4 Sgt. of the same department, Civil Police Office Carabinieri Hq. Palermo.

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

OF

SURNAME (Block letters) GIUSTINIANI

OTHERS NAMES GIORGIO AGE

ADDRESS VIA NAPOLI 28 Palermo.

WHO SAYS: -

CONTINUATION

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GIORGIO GIUSTINIANI

This statement taken by Capt. J. C. Wilimovsky, Jr. Special Police Branch, Civil Police Section, AMG HQ. and interpreter Michael J. Trotta, T/4 Sgt. of the same department, Civil Police Office Carabinieri Hq. Palermo.

4832

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

CP/5

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

TOWN _____ PROVINCE _____

DATE 17 SEPTEMBER 1943

STATEMENT

OF MONROE H MEADER, Major CE
A.C.P. AMGOT HQ Sicily

SURNAME (Block letters) MEADER

OTHERS NAMES Munroe Harrison AGE _____

ADDRESS _____

OCCUPATION Major Ce ACP, AMGOT HQ Sicily

WHO SAYS: -

I. " When assigned to C.A.O. work in Agrigento Province under Lt Col McCaffrye I made my headquarters in Raffadali. This man was the only one available for an interpreter and I used him as such from about July 21st until reassigned to AMGOT HQ at Palermo about August 25th and subsequently on occasions here in Palermo.

2. As soon as I expressed a desire to use him as an interpreter he volunteered the following informations :

a) That he had a prison record in Sicily but not for criminal or political convictions; one when young for assault, another while under interrogation, but case not proven, another for "associating with the wrong people". Also that he was not permitted to leave the Kingdom of Italy.

b) That he was a bail-jumper on a Federal indictment for narcotiss and white slavery charges in N.Y. City. That he appeared before the Asst. District Attorney who came to Italy and gave him assistance but refused to return voluntarily to the U.S. unless the white slavery charge was dropped he deemed it disgraceful and being well able to clear himself of any

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

SURNAME (Block letters) STRADER

OTHERS NAMES Munroe Harrison AGE

ADDRESS

OCCUPATION Major Ce ACP, AMGOT HQ Sicily

WHO SAYS: -

I. " When assigned to C.A.O. work in Agrigento Province under Lt Col McCaffrye I made my headquarters in Raffadali. This man was the only one available for an interpreter and I used him as such from about July 2Ist until reassigned to AMGOT HQ at Palermo about August 25th and subsequently on occasions here in Palermo.

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b) That he was a bail-jumper on a Federal indictment for narcotiss and white slavery charges in N.Y. City. That he appeared before the Asst. District Attorney who came to Italy and gave him assistance but refused to return voluntarily to the U.S. unless the white slavery charge was dropped he deemed it disgraceful and being well able to clear himself of any connection with either charge.

c) That his business in the U.S. was a wholesale grocery (which included corn sugar) and an interest in a furniture store but that he had never engaged in bootlegging or any other criminal or illegal or political activity.

3. I reported this to Col. McC. (and to the C.I.C. in Agrigento who had his record substantially as it appears above and had no interest in him) and continued to use him as an interpreter. He was meticulously correct in his atti=

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

CP/5

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

TOWN _____ PROVINCE _____

DATE _____.

STATEMENT
OF

SURNAME (Block letters) _____

OTHERS NAMES _____ AGE _____

ADDRESS _____

WHO SAYS: -

tude and aided AMGOT there and in Palermo in many ways far more helpful than merely as an interpreter,and told me he would volunteer to return to America and stand the trial without any reservations if we so desired.

4. I reviewed this with Lt Col Harris when I arrived in Palermo and we decided not to attempt to employ him officially but to use his assistance to locate property and stuff of interest to the Controller of Property's Division Again he has been meticulously correct in his attitude, never requesting any favour for himself or others and his comments and information have invariably cross-checked with other sources.

5. It was he who introduced me to Nicolò ("Toto") Romano in whose apartment I have had my lodging. As to the latter,I was directly aware of a connection with XDG 3 which I am not a liberty to discuss.

6. In my opinion, any officer who can convince Nicolò Gentile of his sincerity and ability would receive the same direct unbiased information.

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

SURNAME (Block letters) _____

OTHERS NAMES _____ AGE _____

ADDRESS _____

WHO SAYS: -

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5. It was he who introduced me to Nicolò ("Toto") Romano in whose apartment I have had my lodging. As to the latter,I was directly aware of a connection with XDG 3 which I am not a liberty to discuss.

6. In my opinion, any officer who can convince Nicolò Gentile of his sincerity and ability would receive the same direct unbiased information.

7. Also in my opinion, he has the respect and the active aid of a large number of substantial citizens and this influence reaches into high circles in Rome.

8. From my own past experience of Sicilians,bootleggers, rum-runners, and people, I draw the following conclusions:

This man is not a criminal in our sense of the word.

He is a man of unusual moral integrity and beyond fear or avarice.

He undoubtedly belongs to one of the secret societies, (loosely termed the Mafia), and is highly

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 835016

19 CP/5

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

TOWN _____ PROVINCE _____

DATE _____

STATEMENT
OF

SURNAME (Block letters) _____

OTHER'S NAMES _____ AGE _____

ADDRESS _____

WHO SAYS: -

regarded for his ability as a concilliator and knowledge o: of human nature

He has also close connections with Italian Freemasonry

Signed MONROE H MEADER
Major Ce
ACP
AMGOT HQ.

Statement taken and signature witnessed by:

B. J. HEFFORD,
Major
Public Safety Division
A/Supt Civil Police.

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

STATEMENT

OF

SURNAME (Block letters) _____

OTHERS NAMES _____ AGE _____

ADDRESS _____

PAGE - 3 -

WHO SAYS: -

regarded for his ability as a concilliator and knowledge o: of human nature

He has also close connections with Italian Freemasonry

Signed MONROE H MEADER
Major Ce
ACP
AMGOT HQ.

Statement taken and signature witnessed by:

B. J. HEFFORD,
Major
Public Safety Division
A/Supt Civil Police.

4829

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

CP/5

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

TOWN _____ PROVINCE _____

DATE 20 September 1943

STATEMENT
OF

SURNAME (Block letters) MESSINA

OTHERS NAMES GIUSEPPE AGE 43

ADDRESS VIA RITORO 22 MONREALE -PALERMO-

I.C.N.6464390 -Issued at Palermo- Occupation-Night watchman

WHO SAYS: -

" I have been cautioned by Major Richardson,Special Police AMGOT,that I am not obliged to say anything unless I wish to do so,but that anything I do say,will be taken down in writing and may be used as evidence.This has been read to me through the medium of an interpreter and to show that I fully understand this caution,I sign my name.

MESSINA GIUSEPPE

I have been employed for the past year by the Pirelli Tire Co.as a storekeeper,and for the last 3 weeks have been at their storehouse at Monreale.I get 20 lire a day as pay from the Pirelli Co.When I arrived there I found in addition to the Pirelli stock 35 Bales of cloth.I received instructions from Sig.Garelli,one of the principal clerks of the Pirelli Co.in Palermo,to guard over the Pirelli stock and also the bales of cloth which I was told belonged to a man named Nicolò Gentile.I know that Gentile lives near here but he never came here whilst I was present.I always spoke to him in his own office.During the general conversations Gentile told me on a number of occasions that the cloth at this store was his own property.On a number of occasions at night I have seen an American Officer arrive in a car at Gentile's home. I do not know the name of the officer but I

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

STATEMENT

OF

SURNAME (Block letters) MESSINA

OTHERS NAMES GIUSEPPE AGE 43

ADDRESS VIA RITORO 22 MONREALE -PALERMO-

I.C.No6464390 -Issued at Palermo- Occupation-Night watchman

WHO SAYS: -

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MESSINA GIUSEPPE

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I remember now on one occasion about the beginning of the time I started to guard the property,Gentile was speaking to me outside the store when he said,"Look after that cloth very carefully,it belongs to me and my partner,ROMANO" At the end of every week(three weeks in all)in accordance with instructions from Gentile I used to meet the man Romano at the corner of the street,and on each occasion he handed

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

CP/5

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

TOWN _____ PROVINCE _____

DATE _____

STATEMENT
OF

SURNAME (Block letters) _____

OTHERS NAMES _____ AGE _____

ADDRESS _____

WHO SAYS: -

me I40 lire and he would say " that is for looking after our cloth" This I40 lire a week was over and above that I received from the Pirelli Co. I do not know if Gentile or Romano made payment to the Pirelli Co. I do not know if Gentile or Romano made payment to the Pirelli Co for the storage space.

I would like to say here and now that on no occasione since I have been watchman here,has any attempt been made by any person to steal any property from this store or to break and enter these premises without authority.I have no knowledge of any similar attempts during the past 6 months.

I have been shown a piece of paper marked "I" that was given to me by Sig.Garelli who told me to produce it to any person who might question me about the cloth. I cannot read what is on that paper,as I do not read or speak English.

When I started here some 3 weeks ago Gentile told me that he had given a revolver to ROMANO to give to me for my protection and about 3 days later Romano came to me and handed me a 5 chambered revolver loaded in each chamber? I took it from him (Romano) and he said "That is for your protection" I know,and I knew at the time that an authority was required to possess a firearm and ammunition and I asked Romano what I was to do if found in possession of it,and he said "That's all right,that's covered by the note that Garelli has given to you". I thought this was in order and

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

SURNAME (Block letters) _____

OTHERS NAMES _____ AGE _____

ADDRESS _____

WHO SAYS: -

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When I started here some 3 weeks ago Gentile told me that he had given a revolver to ROMANO to give to me for my protection and about 3 days later Romano came to me and handed me a 5 chambered revolver loaded in each chamber? I took it from him (Romano) and he said "That is for your protection" I know,and I knew at the time that an authority was required to possess a firearm and ammunition and I asked Romano what I was to do if found in possession of it,and he said "That's all right,that's covered by the note that Garelli has given to you".I thought this was in order and so took the weapon.I have never had occasion to use it, and if I had known that the written note in question did not cover the possession of the fire-arm I should have communicated with the police immediately.The revolver,N.96785, which you have shown to me is the one in question,and when we were asked to produce it on the I7th.September I943,we did so from a desk and it was loaded at the time.
This statement has been read to me through an interpreter and it is true.

(Signed) Messina Giuseppe

Statement taken and signature witnessed by G.Richardson, Major Special Police Branch,trough interpreter PVT.PISCOPO

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

22 CP/5

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

TOWN _____ PROVINCE _____

DATE 29 September 1943

STATEMENT
OF

SURNAME (Block letters) ROMANO

OTHERS NAMES GIOVANBATTISTA fu ANDREA AGE 46

ADDRESS Via Antonio Veneziano 173 Monreale, Palermo Prov.

OCCUPATION: Merchant I.C. 96315

WHO SAYS: - I have been cautioned by Capt. J.C. Wilimovsky Jr., Special Police, AMGOT, that I am not obliged to say a anything unless I wish to do so, but that anything I do say, will be taken down in writing and may be given in evidence. This has been read to me through the medium of an interpreter and to show that I fulley understand this caution, I sign my name.

Around October 1940, Picone Stefano and Romano G. Battista were introduced to Nicolò Gentile by the Agnello Bros. Co., Via Macqueda, Palermo. Piccone (my partner) and I were failing miserably in business, and the Agnello Bros. thought of coming to aid, by suggesting our taking in Gentile and make him a partner in our firm. We all three shared equally in the interests of our business, no one had the more say-so, we are always in accord with one another.

The 35 bales of bolted cloth was originally part of our stock here in Pal rmo. Bombing attacks forced us to store this cloth in Raffadali.

It is my understanding that immediately after the Allied invasion, an American Major established Official Headquarters at Raffadali. He procured the services of Nicolò Gentile, my partner, as his personal interpreter and I do not know whether or not he received a salary for this function. Sometime in August, I don't recall the date, I learned that Major Meader had been ordered to

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

SURNAME (Block letters) ROMANO

OTHERS NAMES GIOVANBATTISTA fu ANDREA AGE 46

ADDRESS Via Antonio Veneziano 173 Monreale, Palermo Prov.

OCCUPATION: Merchant I.C. 96315

WHO SAYS: - I have been cautioned by Capt. J.C. Wilimovsky Jr., Special Police, AMGOT, that I am not obliged to say a anything urless I wish to do so, but that anything I do say, will be taken down in writing and may be given in evidence. This has been read to me through the medium of an interpreter and to show that I fulley understand this caution, I sign my name.

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The 35 bales of bolted cloth was originally part of our stock here in Pal rmo. Bombing attacks forced us to store this cloth in Raffadali.

It is my understanding that immediately after the Allied invasion, an American Major established Official Headquarters at Raffadali. He procured the services of Nicolò Gentile, my partner, as his personal interpreter and I do not know whether or not he received a salary for this function. Sometime in August, I don't recall the date, I learned that Major Meader had been ordered to Palermo. Since Gentile was to remain in the Major's service, Gentile decided to move the 35 bales of cloth to the warehouse in Monreale. This warehouse is operated by the Pirelli Rubber Co. Gentile is a very close acquaintance of the vice director of the Pirelli Co., the man's name is CARELLA. I do not know his first name. The only address I can give for him is his business address, Via Arcivescovolo, Ufficio Pirelli. This cloth was moved from Raffadale to the Pirelli warehouse at Monreale by an American truck under the orders of Major Meader. To the best of my knowledge, nothing was paid for the use of this American Army truck. Major Meader, Piccone Stefano, and Gentile Nicolò arrived in a jeep that came with the truck.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 735016

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

TOWN _____ PROVINCE _____

DATE _____

STATEMENT

OF

SURNAME (Block letters) _____

OTHERS NAMES _____ AGE _____

ADDRESS _____

WHO SAYS: - The night after the cloth arrived, Gentile called me to his home and gave me a pistol saying "Take this pistol and give it to the watchman and tell him he can feel safer with it." I have been shown a Smith and Wesson 38 Cal. revolver, Ser. N°. 96785. I recognize it as being the weapon handed to me by Nicolò Gentile. They instructed me to give it to the watchman at the Pirelli warehouse.

The watchman's name is Messina Giuseppe I informed Messina Giuseppe of the instructions given to me by Nicolò Gentile, that is, to have the pistol and that he could feel safer with it.

During the process of unloading the truck, Major Meader went to Nicolò Gentile's house and remained there while the truck was being unloaded. Whilst he was in the house he wrote a note for the cloth that was being stored. This Gentile also gave to me to give to the watchman. I have been shown a note marked "I" given to me by Gentile which was to represent any queries made on the materials.

Of the 35 bails of cloth in storage 4825 Pirelli warehouse I can support their purchase up to approximately 23 bails by means of paid receipts in the company ledger. The tags or numbers appearing on the individual bolts of cloth, or the bails of cloth, will be substantiated by corresponding numbers on the paid bills.

The remaining bolts of cloth, of which the

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

SURNAME (Block letters) _____

OTHERS NAMES _____ AGE _____

ADDRESS _____

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The remaining bolts of cloth, of which the purchase I cannot support by receipt due to the fact that during the months of the extensive bombing of Palermo, each purchase from warehouses were sold on a cash and carry basis, no receipts given and I have supplied you with the names and addresses of the wholesalers from whom I purchased these bails of cloth. They will support the fact that we have purchased this material and did not supply us with a receipt, relative to the sale.

I have reviewed the letter marked "C" addressed to the Military Command of Allied Forces Palermo and signed by Giustiniani Giovanni and also, I have viewed the letter marked "H" addressed to the Chief CAO-AMGOT- Palermo and it is the first time I have seen these letters when they were shown to me in the AMGOT Civil Police Office

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

CP/5

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

TOWN _____ PROVINCE _____

DATE _____

STATEMENT
OF

SURNAME (Block letters) _____

OTHERS NAMES _____ AGE _____

ADDRESS _____

PAGE --3

WHO SAYS: - CC.RR. Palermo. I can supply no further information regarding the circumstances that surround these letters.

I am willing to assist in any way I can the ANGOT Civil Police Section CC.RR. Palermo, relative to the investigation that it is conducting.

From the time we closed our store, because of the bombing attacks, I have been required to use my personal funds to exist on. At the present I have no livelihood. I have been a member of the Fascist Party since 1933.

This statement has been read to me by Interpreter Pvt. Louis B.Piscopo and it is true.

ROMANO G. BATTISTA

Statement taken and signature witnessed by Jos. Wilimovsky Capt. Special Police Branch, through Private Piscopo, interpreter.

4824

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

OTHERS NAMES _____ AGE _____

ADDRESS _____

WHO SAYS: - CC.RR. Palermo. I can supply no further information regarding the circumstances that surround these letters.

I am willing to assist in any way I can the AMGOT Civil Police Section CC.RR. Palermo, relative to the investigation that it is conducting.

From the time we closed our store, because of the bombing attacks, I have been required to use my personal funds to exist on. At the present I have no livelihood. I have been a member of the Fascist Party since 1933.

This statement has been read to me by Interpreter Pvt. Louis B.Piscopo and it is true.

ROMANO G. BATTISTA

Statement taken and signature witnessed by Jos. Wilimovsky Capt. Special Police Branch, through Private Piscopo, interpreter.

4324

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

CF/5

AMGOT HEADQUARTERS,
PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION,
CIVIL POLICE SECTION,
PALERMO.

20 September 1943

25

STATEMENT

OF

SURNAME (block letters) BARONE

OTHER NAMES Francesco AGE 47 yrs.

ADDRESS Via Giovanni Paisello 30 Palermo

IC # 32506 - issued at Palermo

OCCUPATION Day Watchman

WHO SAYS :- I have been cautioned by Major Richardson, Special Police, Amgot, that I am not obliged to say anything, unless I wish to do so, but that anything I do say, will be taken down in writing and may be given as evidence. This has been read to me through the medium of an interpreter and to show that I fully understand its contents, I sign my name.

Barone Francesco

I'm a caretaker of the Fratelli Tire Co. at their store at Monreale & I reside here. I have been employed here for 2 weeks but have been with the company for some 15 years.

I know a man named Rinaldo GENTILE, and that he has bags of cloth stored at these premises. I have no knowledge of Gentile's [illegible] 1823 the reason for the cloth being

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

ADDRESS: Via Giovanni Paisello 30 Palermo

IC # 32506 - issued at Palermo

OCCUPATION: Day Watchman

WHO SAYS :- I have been cautioned by Major Richardson, Special Police, Amgot, that I am not obliged to say anything, unless I wish to do so, but that anything I do say, will be taken down in writing and may be given as evidence. This has been read to me through the medium of an interpreter and I now state I fully understand this caution, I sign my name.

Biagio Iannuzzo

I'm a caretaker of the Fratelli Tire Co. at their store at Modreale & I reside here. I have been employed here for 3 weeks but have been with the company for some 18 years.

I know a man named Nicolo GENTILE, and that he has bales of cloth stored at these premises. I have not knowledge of Gentile's business or the reason for the cloth being here. I do not know the true owner of the cloth but Gentile told me it was his property. You have shown me a piece of paper dated the 13th August 1943, and which was taken possession of from me on the 17th Sept 1943 by Lt Cole of the Field Police that paper which is marked "A" was handed to me by Gentile, who told me that I was to produce it to any person enquiring as to the cloth stored here. I should have told you

(overleaf)

Initials
B.I.

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

1323

that the cloth was here before I arrived to take up duties as a store keeper. I believe it was received by my Companion MESSINA, Giuseppe. I cannot read or write English and do not know what is written on that piece of paper.

I have been shown a "Smith & Wesson" 38 calibre, New Departure Model, nickle plated revolver, Serial #96785. This was taken from a desk on the part of this building where I sleep & live, and ~~I believe it was found by~~ handed by me to Lt. Gale, on 17th Sept. 1943, it was fully loaded in the five chambers. I have no license or other authority to be in possession of this weapon or ammunition, and I have never made application for such authority. I found this in the drawer of the desk when I arrived about 2 wks ago. So I asked my Companion about it, and he told me that it had been given to him by Nicolo Gentile to be used by us for our protection & the protection of the property in this store. I have never had an occasion to use the weapon.

This statement has been read to me through an interpreter & it is true.

X Baron Francisco

BZ

Statement taken & Signature

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

[illegible] It was found by [illegible] handled by [illegible] on 17th Sept. 1943. It was fully loaded in the five chambers. I have no license or other authority to be in possession of this weapon or ammunition, and I have never made application for such authority. I found this in the drawer of the desk when I arrived about 2 wks ago. So I asked my companion about it, and he told me that it had been given to him by Nicola Gentile to be used by us for our protection & the protection of the property in this store. I have never had an occasion to use the weapon.

This statement has been read to me through an interpreter & it is true.

Bruno Franceschi

BZ

Statement taken & signature witnessed by Lieutenant Major Special Field Report Service, Interpreter.

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

CP/5

26

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

TOWN Palermo PROVINCE Palermo

DATE 11-10-43

STATEMENT
OF

SURNAME (Block letters) FARDELLA

OTHERS NAMES GAETANO AGE 43 yrs.

ADDRESS Via Venero #96, Monreale (Cressidonea)

OFFICE: Via Bandiera #2, Palermo

WHO SAYS: -

I have been cautioned by Captain J. C. Wilimovsky, Jr. that I am not obliged to say anything unless I wish to do so, that whatever I do say will be taken down in writing and may be used or given in evidence.

Gaetano Fardella

I have known Nicolo Gentile for about 4 years now. On numerous occasions I have sold bolts of material (cloth) to his firm of Gentile, Romano and Piccone. My last sale of shirting material was made in June 1943. He paid me approximately

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

SURNAME (Block letters) FARDELLA

OTHERS NAMES GAETANO AGE 43 yrs.

ADDRESS VIA VENERO #96, MONREALE (RESIDENCE)

OFFICE: VIA BANDIERA #2, PALERMO

WHO SAYS: -

I have been cautioned by Captain J. C. Wilimovsky, Jr. that I am not obliged to say anything unless I wish to do so, that whatever I do say will be taken down in writing and may be used or given in evidence.

Gaetano Fardella

I have known Nicolo Gentile for about 4 years now. On numerous occasions I have sold bolts of material (cloth) to his firm of Gentile, Romano and Piccone. My last sale of shirting material was made in June 1943. He paid me approximately 45 000 Lires for about 650 metres of cloth. Gentile took the material from my home in Monreale where I had it stored and I believe he took it to Raffadale. Since it was private stock I made the sale a personal matter to Gentile who did not request a receipt. He paid me by check which was drawn on the bank named Cassa Centrale di Risparmia

-G.F.

G.F.

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

2.

CP/5

GOVERNO ALLEATO MILITARE

CITTÀ _____ PROVINCIA _____

DATA _____

DICHIARAZIONE DI

Cognome (lettere a stampa) _____

Nome _____ nato il _____

Paternitá e maternità _____

_____

Indirizzo _____

_____

Dichiara : This was the last business transaction that I had with Gentile.

About the end of July or the beginning of August I noticed an American major in the company of Nicolo Gentile almost every day. I saw them together in the vicinity of Gentile's house in Monreale. Gentile had informed me previously that the American major which he identified as being a representative of the Allied Military Government and that he was retained by the major as an interpreter. Because of the presence of the Allied Troops my business was

P.P.

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

Cognome (lettere a stampa) _____

Nome _____ nato il _____

Paternitá e maternità _____

_____

Indirizzo _____

_____

Dichiara : This was the last business transaction that I had with Gentile.

About the end of July or the beginning of August I noticed an American major in the company of Nicolo Gentile almost every day. I saw them together in the vicinity of Gentile's house in Montreale. Gentile had informed me previously that the American major which he identified as being a representative of the allied Military Government and that he was retained by the major as an interpreter. Because of the presence of the allied troops my business was temporarily disrupted due to bombardments, etc.

I felt that I should bring to the attention of the allied military Government the fact that I was experienced in the pharmaceutical field as well as textiles. I was prompted by the fact that Nicolo Gentile being employed as interpreter by the American major that

P.S.

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

CP/5

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

TOWN Palermo PROVINCE Palermo

DATE 11.10.43

STATEMENT
OF

SURNAME (Block letters) FARDELLA

OTHERS NAMES GAETANO AGE 43 yrs.

ADDRESS Via Venero #96, Mondeale (residence)

OFFICE: Via Bandiera #2, Palermo

WHO SAYS: - he could bring my background to the attention of the proper allied authorities. Gentile agreed that he might be in a position to intercede for me. At no time was the subject of monetary remuneration brought up either by myself or Gentile relative to any favorable result. I wrote a letter addressed to Capo degli Affari Civili dell' A.M.G.O.T. dated 5.9.43 outlining my business efferiences. My signature appears on this letter. I gave this letter to Gentile about two day later. I have never heard any thing further to my letter of inquiry.

8.21

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

SURNAME (Block letters) FARDELLA

OTHERS NAMES GAETANO AGE 43 yrs.

ADDRESS Via Venero #96, Monreale (residence)

OFFICE: Via Bandiera #2, Palermo

WHO SAYS: - he could bring my background to the attention of the proper allied authorities. Gentile agreed that he might be in a position to intercede for me. At no time was the subject of monetary remuneration brought up either by myself or Gentile relative to any favorable result. I wrote a letter addressed to Capo degli Affari Civili dell' A.M.G.O.T. dated 5.9.43 outlining my business efferiences. My signature appears on this letter. I gave this letter to Gentile about two day later. I have never heard any thing further to my letter of inquiry.

To my knowledge Nicolo Gentile has always been a reputable person in business transactions that we engaged in.

This statement has been read to me through the medium of an interpreter and is true.

Gaetano Fardella

(over)

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

4.

CP/5

GOVERNO ALLEATO MILITARE

CITTÀ _____ PROVINCIA _____

DATA _____

DICHIARAZIONE
DI

Cognome (lettere a stampa) _____

Nome _____ nato il _____

Paternitá e maternità _____

_____

Indirizzo _____

_____

Dichiara :

This statement taken by Capt J. C. Wilimovsky, Jr. Special Police Branch, Civil Police Section, AMG H.Q. and interpreter Michael J. Trotta, T/4 Sgt. of the same department Civil Police Office, Carabinieri Hq., Palermo.

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

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

TOWN CARABINIERI HQ. PROVINCE PALERMO

DATE 18/10/1943

STATEMENT
OF

SURNAME (Block letters) GARELLO ~~GIUSEPPE~~

OTHERS NAMES Giuseppe AGE 37

ADDRESS VIA ANTONIO VENIZIANO 12

MONREALE, PALERMO

WHO SAYS: - ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~

I am one of the principal representatives of the Pirelli Società per AZioni, operating in Sicily, and our registered address here is Via Napoli 17.

In April of this year, I became acquainted with a man named Nicolo GENTILE who I understood was a cloth merchant. We were desirous of acquiring storage space in Palermo and through the medium of Gentile, we acquired the San Pietro church at Monreale. It was the property of the Chruch and we rented from the Archbishop of Monreale at a yearly ~~xxxxx~~ rental of Lire 50,000. X

In about August, 1943, Gentile came to me and asked if he could store in the church certain cloth owned by him and which at that time was at Raffadale. Gentile had done a service to us in procuring the warehouse but we could not acced to his request firstly because the stock and warehouse was under the control of the Civil Supply Division of AMGOT, and I had no desire to controvene any of their regulations, and secondly because the roof of the warehouse was in a bad repairs and the place would be unsuitable for the storage and safekeeping of cloth. At the same time I considered the possiblity of theft and the destruction the property by fire. For these reasons we were compelled to refuse Gentile's request.

This occured whilst I was at the temporary office which is along side the warehouse at Monreale.

G.G.

G.G.

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

SURNAME (Block letters) GARELLO ~~GIUSEPPE~~

OTHERS NAMES Giuseppe AGE 37

ADDRESS VIA ANTONIO VENIZIANO 12

MONREALE, PALERMO

g.g.

WHO SAYS: - ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~

I am one of the principal representatives of the Pirelli Società per AZioni, operating in Sicily, and our registered address here is Via Napoli 17.

In April of this year, I became acquainted with a man named Nicolo GENTILE who I understood was a cloth merchant. We were desirous of acquiring storage space in Palermo and through the medium of Gentile, we acquired the San Pietro church at Monreale. It was the property of the Chruch and we rented from the Archbishop of Monreale at a yearly ~~xxxx~~ rental of Lire 50,000. X

g.g.

In about August, 1943, Gentile came to me and asked if he could store in the church certain cloth owned by him and which at that time was at Raffadale. Gentile had done a service to us in procuring the warehouse but we could not acced to his request firstly because the stock and warehouse was under the control of the Civil Supply Division of AMGOT, and I had no desire to controvene any of their regulations, and secondly because the roof of the warehouse was in a bad repairs and the place would be unsuitable for the storage and safekeeping of cloth. At the same time I considered the possiblity of theft and the destruction the property by fire. For these reasons we were compelled to refuse Gentile's request.

This occured whilst I was at the temporary office which is along side the warehouse at Monreale.

After this refusal Gentile left my office but returned a few minutes later with a letter or piece of paper signed by Major Meader of AMGOT. The document shown to me marked A is the one in question. I can read English and I noted that it read as if the cloth was already stored at the warehouse. It also said that Gentile was Major Meader's civilian assistant. At this particular time, the cloth which Gentile wished stored at my warehouse was outside the warehouse in a motor truck of the American Army. By reason of my calling and the experience I have gained I can say positively that the vehicle was of American make and the property of the American Army. It was a very large truck and appeared to be of about a 2 1/2 ton truck.

When Gentile returned with a note from Major Meader, he told me that I was to store his cloth in my

Giuseppe Garello

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 775016

CP/5

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

TOWN _____ PROVINCE _____

DATE _____

STATEMENT
OF

SURNAME (Block letters) _____

OTHERS NAMES _____ AGE _____

ADDRESS _____

PAGE 2

WHO SAYS: -

warehourse and that was an order of Major Meader. I pointed out to Gentile that Major Meader's request was really in the form of a request, but he he explained to me that a request by an American officer was in fact an order. I have looked at Major Meader's note again and will agree that it reads as if the cloth was at that time already stored in the warehouse. I must admit that at the time of the incident I read it as being a request from Major Meader to store the property.

In consequence of what Gentile said and the note he produced from Major Meader I had no alternative but to give permission for the storing of the cloth. Incidently I understood that Major Meader was in Gentile's house, and therefore wrote this note just after I had refused Gentile permission to store the cloth.

The cloth, comprising 35 bails, was moved into th warehouse. There were a number of American with the truck and they unloaded the truck whilst civilian passersby helped to move the property into the warehouse. Gentile nor any other person has paid for the storage of his cloth. Gentile told me that it would only be there a matter of a few days.

The two occasions, a matter of days after, Genile came to my office and said that Major Meader was at his home and wished to see me. I went there and Gentile introduced me to Major Meader. The Major told me that he wanted four tires for an Italian civilian car which he was going to

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

SURNAME (Block letters) _____

OTHERS NAMES _____ AGE _____

ADDRESS _____

WHO SAYS: -

warehourse and that was an order of Major Meader. I pointed out to Gentile that Major Meader's request was really in the form of a request, but he he explained to me that a request by an American officer was in fact an order. I have looked at Major Meader's note again and will agree that it reads as if the cloth was at that time already stored in the warehouse. I must admit that at the time of the incident I read it as being a request from Major Meader to store the property.

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The two occasions, a matter of days after, Genile came to my office and said that Major Meader was at his home and wished to see me. I went there and Gentile introduced me to Major Meader. The Major told me that he wanted four tires for an Italian civilian car which he was going to requisition. I cannot remember the size he wanted, but I ha to refuse, as all tires of the size he required had been 19 g.g. ~~requisitioned~~ out of stock for some time as manufacture had ceased owing to the war. X

I have met Major Meader on a second occasion and again at Gentile's house. This was also a matter of a few days afterward. Again the Major asked for tires and my gg. partner went to Catania to try and get some ~~for him~~, but he was unsuccessful. This all I know about Major Meader and Gentile. I have no knowledge of Romano, Gentile's partner, with the exception that they are brothers-in-law.

(overleaf) Giuseppe Farulla

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

CP/5

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

TOWN Palermo PROVINCE Palermo

DATE 11-10-43

STATEMENT
OF

SURNAME (Block letters) GIUSTINIANI

OTHERS NAMES GIORGIO AGE

ADDRESS Via Napoli #28, Palermo

WHO SAYS: -

I have been cautioned by Captain J. C. Wilmoneley Jr. that I am not obliged to say anything unless I wish to do so, that whatever I do say will be taken down in writing and may be used or given in evidence.

Giorgio Giustiniani

I have known Nicolo Gentile for the past 2½ years. I became acquainted with him when I went to his shop to purchase material for suits and shirts for myself and family. To my knowledge Nicolo Gentile has enjoyed a

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

SURNAME (Block letters) GIUSTINIANI

OTHERS NAMES GIORGIO AGE

ADDRESS Via Napoli #28, Palermo

WHO SAYS: -

I have been cautioned by Captain J. C. Wilmoneley Jr. that I am not obliged to say anything unless I wish to do so, that what-ever I do say will be taken down in writing and may be used or given in evidence.

Giorgio Giustiniani

I have known Nicola Gentile for the past 2½ years. I became acquainted with Lucia when I went to his shop to purchase material for suits and shirts for myself and family. To my knowledge Nicola Gentile has enjoyed a good reputation because of his business dealings.

4818

Because of the war and the re-cent bombing prior to the entrance of the Allied Troops in Sicily it was difficult for me to engage in my business of transportation and cartage. On September 18th, 1943 I wrote a letter on my stationery,

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

2.

CP/5

GOVERNO ALLEATO MILITARE

CITTÀ _____ PROVINCIA _____

DATA _____

DICHIARAZIONE
DI

Cognome (lettere a stampa) _____

Nome _____ nato il _____

Paternitá e maternità _____

_____

Indirizzo _____

_____

Dichiara: and addressed it to the Military Command of Government of Allied Forces, Palermo. In substance the letter was a request for any assistance that the Allied Government could give me to re-establish my business. My signature appears on this letter which I have identified.

I wrote this letter after making enquiries at the Prefettura & member of the Carabinieri who I do not know suggested that I address a letter to the Military Authorities in response to my de-

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

Cognome (lettere a stampa) _____

Nome _____ nato il _____

Paternitá e maternità _____

_____

Indirizzo _____

_____

Dichiara: and addressed it to the Military Command of Government of Allied Forces, Palermo. In substance of the letter was a request for any assistance that the Allied Government could give me to reestablish my business. My signature appears on this letter which I have identified.

I wrote this letter after making enquiries at the Prefettura. A member of the Carabinieri who I do not know suggested that I address a letter to the Military Authorities in response to my request. I followed his suggestion. A day or so after writing this letter, I planned to personally deliver this letter to the Allied Authorities at the Prefettura Palermo. On my way to lunch I met Nicolo Gebitta on via Napoli near my home. I greeted him and asked him where he had been

C4C

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

3.

CP/5

GOVERNO ALLEATO MILITARE

CITTÀ Palermo PROVINCIA Palermo

DATA 11.10.43

DICHIARAZIONE
DI

Cognome (lettere a stampa) GIUSTINIANI

Nome GIORGIO nato il

Paternitá e maternità Via Napoli #28, Palermo

Indirizzo

Dichiara: for the past four or five months. He said that he had been at Raffadali and recently he had been working as an interpreter for an American major.

Upon hearing that heroes working for an American major as an interpreter I explained to him that I had written a letter to the Allied Military Forces, asking them to aid me in reestablishing my business through the loan of a truck. Upon hearing this Nicolo Gentile replied quote " Let me have the letter and I will take care of it "

GG

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

Cognome (lettere a stampa) [illegible]

Nome GIORGIO nato il

Paternitá e maternità Via Napoli #28, Palermo

Indirizzo

Dichiara: for the past four or five months. He said that he had been at Raffadali and recently he had been working as an interpreter for an American major.

Upon hearing that heros working for an American major as an interpreter I explained to him that I had written a letter to the Allied Military Forces, asking them to aid me in reestablishing my business through the loan of a truck. Upon hearing this Nicolo Gentile replied quote "Let me have the letter and I'll take care of it." (un quote.)

In appreciation I suggested that he would be aiding me much since I am in need of work. At no time was the mention of money made by either myself or Nicolo Gentile relative to the favorable outcome of my request. I have never seen nor heard from Nicole Gentile since the time and place.

GG

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

4.

CP/5

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

TOWN _____ PROVINCE _____

DATE _____

STATEMENT
OF

SURNAME (Block letters) _____

OTHERS NAMES _____ AGE _____

ADDRESS _____

_____

WHO SAYS: - when I had conversation with him and had given him the letter.

This statement has been read to me and is true through the medium of an interpreter.

Major Lucio Testa

This statement taken by Capt. J. C. Wilimovsky, Jr. Special Police Branch, Civil Police Section, AMG, HQ. and interpreter Michael J. Trotta, T/4 Sgt. of the same department Civil Police Office. Carabinieri Ha

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

SURNAME (Block letters) _____

OTHERS NAMES _____ AGE _____

ADDRESS _____

_____

WHO SAYS: - when I had conversation with him and had given him the letter.

This statement has been read to me and is true through the medium of an interpreter.

Major Lucius Cadau

This statement taken by Capt. J. C. Wilimovsky, Jr. Special Police Branch, Civil Police Section, AMG, HQ. and interpreter Michael J. Trotta, T/4 Sgt. of the same Department, Civil Police Office. Carabinieri Hq. Palermo.

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

32

Sept 17, 1943

To: Civil Police

Subject: Nicolo Gentile
Residence: Opposite the cathedral in Monreale on the same street as the entrance to the Archbishop's residence. (Via Arcivescopile)

1. When assigned to CAO work in Agrigento Province under Col McCaffrey I made my headquarters in Raffadali. This man was the only available for an interpreter and I used him as such from about July 21st until reassigned to Amgot Hq at Palermo. about August 25th and subsequently on occasion here in Palermo.

2. As soon as I expressed a desire to use him as an interpreter he volunteered the following information:

a. That he had a prison record in Sicily but not for criminal or political convictions; one when young for assault, another while under interrogation but case not proven, another for "associating with the wrong people". Also that he was not permitted to leave the Kingdom of Italy.

b. That he was a bail-jumper on a Federal indictment for narcotics + white slavery charges in NY City. That he appeared before the Asst District Attorney who came to Italy and gave him assistance but refused to return voluntarily to the U.S. unless the white slavery charge was dropped, he deeming it disgraceful and being well able to clear himself of any connection with either charge.

c. That his business in the U.S. was a wholesale grocery (which included corn sugar) and an interest

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

under Col McCaffrey I made my headquarters in Raffadali. This man was the only available for an interpreter and I used him as such from about July 21st until reassigned to Amgot Hq at Palermo. about August 25th and subsequently on occasion here in Palermo.

2. As soon as I expressed a desire to use him as an interpreter he volunteered the following information:

a. That he had a prison record in Sicily but not for criminal or political convictions; one when young for assault, another while under interrogation but case not proven, another for "associating with the wrong people". Also that he was not permitted to leave the Kingdom of Italy.

b. That he was a bail-jumper on a Federal indictment for narcotics + white slavery charges in NY City. That he appeared before the Asst District Attorney who came to Italy and gave him assistance but refused to return voluntarily to the U.S. unless the white slavery charge was dropped, he deeming it disgraceful and being well able to clear himself of any connection with either charge.

c. That his business in the U.S. was a wholesale grocery (which included corn sugar) and an interest in a furniture store but that he had never engaged in bootlegging or any other criminal, or illegal, or political activity.

3. I reported this to Col McC (and to the C I C officers who had his record substantially as it appears above and had no interest in him) and continued to use him as an interpreter. He was meticulously correct in his attitude and aided Amgot there and in Palermo in many ways far more helpful than merely as an interpreter and told me he would volunteer to return to America and stand the trial without any reservations if we so desired.

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

33

Subject Nicolo Gentile Sept 19, 1943

4. I received this with Lt Col Harris when I arrived in Palermo and we decided not to attempt to employ him officially but to use his assistance to locate property and staff of interest to the Controller of Property's Division. Again he has been meticulously correct in his attitude, never requesting any favors for himself or others and his comments and information have invariably cross-checked with other sources.

5. It was he who introduced me to Nicolo ("Toto") Romano in whose apartment I have had my lodging. As to the latter, I was directly aware of a connection with XXG 3 which I am not at liberty to discuss.

6. In my opinion, any officer who can convince Nicolo Gentile of his own sincerity and ability would receive the same direct unbiased information and assistance.

7. Also in my opinion, he has the respect and the active aid of a large number of substantial citizens and this influence reaches into high circles in Rome.

8. From my own past experience of Sicilians, bootleggers, rum-runners, and people I draw the following conclusions:

This man is not a criminal in our sense of the word.

He is a man of unusual moral integrity and beyond fear or advance.

He undoubtedly belongs to one of the secret

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 778016

other sources.

5. It was he who introduced me to Nicolo ("Toto") Romano in whose apartment I have had my lodging. As to the latter, I was directly aware of a connection with XDG 3 which I am not at liberty to discuss.

6. In my opinion, any officer who can convince Nicolo Gentile of his own sincerity and ability would receive the same direct unbiased information and assistance.

7. Also in my opinion, he has the respect and the active aid of a large number of substantial citizens and this influence reaches into high circles in Rome.

8. From my own past experience of Sicilians, bootleggers, rum-runners, and people I draw the following conclusions:

This man is not a criminal in our sense of the word.

He is a man of unusual moral integrity and beyond fear or advance.

He undoubtedly belongs to one of the secret societies (loosely termed the Mafia) and is highly regarded for his ability as a conciliator and knowledge of human nature.

He also has close connections with Italian Freemasonry.

Monroe H. Meader
Major C E
A C P
Amgot Hq.

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

CF/5

34

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS,
PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION,
CIVIL POLICE SECTION,
PALERMO.

20 September 1943

STATEMENT

OF

SURNAME (block letters) MESSINA

OTHER NAMES Giuseppe AGE 43

ADDRESS Via Retro 22 Monreale. Palermo
IC # 6.464.340 - iss. at Palermo

OCCUPATION Night Watchman

WHO SAYS :- I have been cautioned by Major Robertson, Special Police, Allied, that I am not obliged to say anything, unless I wish to do so, but that anything I do say, will be taken down in writing and may be given as evidence. This has been read to me through the medium of an interpreter and I state that I fully understand this caution, I sign my name.

S/Messina Giuseppe

I have been employed for the past year by the Vitelli Tire Co. as a storekeeper, and for the last 3 weeks have been at their storehouse at Monreale. I get 20 Lire a day as pay from the Vitelli Co. When I arrived here I found in addition to the Vitelli stock, 33 bales of cloth. I received instructions from Sig. GARELLI, one of the principal clerks of the

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

ADDRESS: [illegible] Ave Astoria 22 Monreal. Province
IC # 6.464.390 ex. at Valens

OCCUPATION: Night Watchman

WHO SAYS :- I have been cautioned by Major Robertson, Special Police Agent, that I am not obliged to say anything, unless I wish to do so, but that anything I do say, will be taken down in writing and may be given as evidence. This has been read to me through the medium of an interpreter and I stand that I fully understand this caution, I sign my name.

[illegible] Giuseppe

I have been employed for the past year by the Vitelli Tire Co. as a clerk/keeper, and for the last 3 weeks have been at their clothhouse at Montreal. I get 20 Lire a day as pay from the Vitelli Co. When I arrived here I found an addition to the Vitelli stock, 35 bails of cloth. I received instructions from Sig GARELLI, one of the principal clerks of the Vitelli Co. in Salerno, to guard over the stock & also the bails of cloth which I was told belonged to a man named Nicola Pantile. I know that Pantile lives near here but he never came here whilst I was present. I 314 always spoke to him in his own office. During the general conversations Pantile told me on a number of occasions that the cloth at this time was his own property. For a number of

(overleaf)

Initials
M. G.

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

occasions at night. I have seen an American officer with him at Gentile's town. I do not know the name of the officer but I know that he was very tall, dark, & fair hair, & wears spects & I think I should be able to identify him again.

I remember now on one occasion about the beginning of the time I started to guard the property, Gentile was speaking to me outside the store when he said, "Look after that cloth very carefully, it belongs to me and my partner Romano," At the end of every week, (three weeks in all) in accordance with instructions from Gentile I used and to meet the man Romano at the corner of the street and on each occasion he handed me 140 Lire & he would say, "That is for looking after our cloth." This 140 Lire a week I was over & above that I received from the Tirelli Co. I do not know if Gentile or Romano made payment to the Tirelli Co. for the storage spell.

I would like to say here & now that on no occasion since I have been watchman here has any attempt been made by any person to steal any property from the store or to break & enter these premises, without authority. I have no knowledge of any similar attempts during the past 4 months.

I have been shown a piece of paper marked "J" that was given to me by Lt. TIRELLI, who told me to produce it to any person who might question me about the cloth. I cannot read what is on that paper, as I do not speak or read English.

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

of cherry wood, (three buckets in all) in accordance with instructions from Gentile I used used to meet the man Romano at the corner of the street and on each occasion he handed me 140 Lire & he would say, "That is for looking after our cloth." This 140 Lire a week was over & above that I received from the Pirelli Co. I do not know if Gentile or Romano made payment to the Pirelli Co. for the storage spell.

I would like to say here & now that on no occasion since I have been watchman here has any attempt been made by any person to steal any property from this store or to break & enter these premises, without authority. I have no knowledge of any similar attempts during the past 6 months.

I have been shown a piece of paper marked "J" that was given to me by Lt. O'KELL, who told me to produce it to any person who might question me about the cloth. I cannot read what is on that paper, as I do not speak or read English.

When I started here some 3 weeks ago Gentile told me that he had given a revolver to Romano to give to me for my protection, and about 3 days later Romano came to me & handed me a 5 chambered revolver loaded in each chamber. I took it from Romano & he said "That is for your protection." I know, & I knew at the time that an authority was required to possess a firearm & ammunition & so I asked Romano what I was to do if found in possession of it, and he said, "That's all right

H.Q.

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

CP/5

36

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS,
PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION,
CIVIL POLICE SECTION,
PALERMO.

.....194...

STATEMENT

OF

II

SURNAME (block letters) Giuseppe Messina

OTHER NAMES.....AGE.....

ADDRESS.....

.....

OCCUPATION.....

WHO SAYS :- Hutis covered by the note that CARELLI has given you." I thought this was in order & so took the weapon. I have never had occasion to use it & if I had known that the written note in question did not cover the possession of the firearm I should have communicated with the police immediately. The revolver No 96785 which you have shown to me is the one in question & when we were asked to produce it on the 17th Sept. 1943 we did so, from a desk & it was loaded at the time.

This statement has been read to me through an interpreter & it is true.

× Messina Giuseppe

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

ADDRESS.....

.....

OCCUPATION.....

WHO SAYS :- Thats covered by the note that CARELLI has given you." I thought this was in order + so took the weapon. I have never had occasion to use it. + if I had known that the written note in question did not cover the possession of the firearm I should have communicated with the police immediately. The revolver No 96785 which you have shown to me is the one in question + when we were asked to produce it on the 17th Sept. 1943, we did so, from a desk + it was loaded at the time.

This statement has been read to me through an interpreter + it is true.

× Nessimo Giuseppe

Statement taken & signature witnessed by: Alexander Major Special Police Bagnoo Mission Italian Troops, Intelligence

Initials
AG

(overleaf)

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

CF/5

36

HEADQUARTERS,
PUBL[illegible] SAFETY DIVISION,
CIVIL POLICE SECTION,
PALERMO.

21 Sept. 1945

SUMMARY

OF

SUNNAME (block letter) ROMANO

OTHER NAMES Giovanni Battista Guglielmo AGE 46

ADDRESS Via Antonio Veneziano 173
Monreale, Prov. of Palermo

OCCUPATION Corn Merchant Id. # 463157

WHO SAYS :- I have been cautioned by Capt. Jos. Wilimovsky Jr., Sec. Special Police, Cmgot, that I am not obliged to say any thing unless I wish to do so, but that any thing I do say, will be taken down in writing & may be given in evidence. This has been read to me through the medium of an interpreter & I show that I fully understand this caution, & sign my name.

Remarks: Battista Giovanni, Riesme, Lodi

Around October 1940, I was introduced to Nicolo Gentile by the Agnello Bros. Mfg. Co. Palermo (my partner) and I were failing miserably in business & the thought of coming to see Gentile and

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

ADDRESS Via Antonio Maggio, Torre Palma
Monrovia,

Corn Merchant 15th March 1941

OCCUPATION

WHO SAYS :- I have been cautioned by Sgt. Jos. Wilimovsky Jr., Sgt Special Police, Oregon, that I am not obliged to say any thing unless I wish to do so, but that any thing I do say, will be taken down in writing & may be given in evidence. This has been read to me through & the nature of an interpreter & to show that I fully understand this caution, I sign my name.

Romeo Pietro, Stefano Batteria

Around October 1940, I was introduced to Nicolo Gentile by the Agnello Bros. Mfg. Co. of Via Maggiore, Tuscon (my partner) and I were facing disastrously in business & the Agnello Bros thought of coming to our aid by suggesting that taking in Gentile and I make him a partner in our firm. I did & he then shared equally in the interests of our business, no one had the more say-so, we are always in accord with one another.

The 35 bales of cloth was originally part of our stock here in Tacoma. Bombing attacks forced us to store this cloth in Cascade.

(overleaf)

Initials
R.G.

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

It is my understanding that immediately after the Allied invasion, an American Major established official Headquarters at Caffadale. He procured the services of Nicolo DENILLI, my pastor, as his personal interpreter. I do not know whether or not he received a salary for this function. Sometime in August, I don't recall the date, I learned that Major Meader had been ordered to Palermo. Since Denilli was to remain as the Major's Liaison Officer he was to move the 35 bales of cloth to the warehouse in Monreale. This warehouse was owned by the Vitelli Rubber Co. Denilli is a very close acquaintance of the real owners of the Vitelli Co., the man's name is Joe VITELLI. I do not know his first name. The only address I can give for him is his business address Via Principe di Villafranca Vitelli. This cloth was moved from Caffadale to the Vitelli Warehouse at Monreale by an American truck under the orders of Major Meader. To the best of my knowledge, nothing was paid for the use of this American Army truck. Major Meader, Nicolo Lefano, and Denilli Nicolo rode in a jeep that came with the truck.

The night after the cloth arrived, Denilli called me to his home and gave me a pistol saying, "Take this pistol and give it to the policeman and tell him he can feel safer with it." He has shown shown me a Smith & Wesson .38 Cal. revolver, Ser. #96785. R.S. WATCHMAN

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

house on Normale. The warehouse is operated by the Pirelli Rubber Co. Gentile is a very close acquaintance of the ~~all~~ officers of the Pirelli Co., the man's name is to WRELL H. I do not know his first name. The only address I can get for him is his business address Via Arcivescovado Ufficio Pirelli. This cloth was moved from the Raffadale to the Pirelli Warehouse Sat Morning by an American truck under the orders of Major Meade. To the best of my knowledge, nothing was paid for the use of this American Army truck. Major Meader, Riccone Stefano, and Gentile Nicolo rode in a jeep that came with the truck.

The night after the cloth arrived, Gentile called me to his home and gave me a pistol saying, "Take this pistol and give it to the policeman and tell him that he can feel safer with it." ~~You~~ I have been shown shown a Smith & Wesson .38 Cal. revolver, Ser #96785. I recognize it as being the weapon handed to me by Nicolo Gentile. He instructed me to give it to the watchman at the Pirelli Warehouse. The watchmans name is MESSINA, Giuseppe. I informed MESSINA, Giuseppe of the instructions given to me by Nicolo Gentile, that is to have the pistol & that he could feel safer with it.

During the process of unloading the trucks Major Meade went to Nicolo Gentile's home and

R.G.

R.G.

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

CP/5

37

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS,
FIELD SAFETY DIVISION,
CIVIL POLICE SECTION,
PALERMO.

.....194...

STATEMENT

OF

SURNAME (block letters).....

OTHER NAMES.....AGE.....

ADDRESS.....

.....

OCCUPATION.....

II

WHO SAYS :- remained there while the truck was being unloaded. Whilst he was in the house he wrote a note for the cloth that was being stored. This, Gentile also gave to me to give to the watchman. I have been shown a note marked "A" given to me by Gentile which was to represent any queries made on the materials.

Of the 35 bails of cloth in storage at the Fiorelli warehouse I can support this purchase up to approximately 23 bails by means of said receipts in the company ledger. The tags by no. appearing on the individual bolts of cloth, or the bails of cloth, will be substantiated by corresponding numbers on the paid bills. The remaining bolts of cloth, of which the purchase I cannot support by receipt due to

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

ADDRESS.....

II

OCCUPATION.....

WHO SAYS :- Mr Gentile arrived there while the truck was being unloaded. Whilst he was in the house he wrote a note for the cloth that was being stored. This, Gentile later gave to me to give to the watchman. I have been shown a note marked "A" given to me by Gentile which was to represent any queries made on the materials.

Of the 35 bails of cloth in storage at the Arielli warehouse we can support this purchase up to approximately 23 bails by means of paid receipts in the company ledger. The tags or no. appearing on the individual bolts of cloth, or the bails of cloth, will be substantiated by corresponding numbers on the paid bills. The remaining bolts of cloth, of which the purchase I cannot support by receipt due to the fact that during the months of the extensive combing of Via Tasso each purchase from warehouse were sold on a cash + carry basis, no receipts given. I have supplied you with the names + addresses of the wholesalers from whom I purchased these bails of cloth. They will support the fact that we have purchased this material + did not supply us with a receipt, relative to the sale.

(overleaf)

Initials
R.G.

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

I have reviewed the letter marked "G" addressed to the Military Command of Allied forces Palermo and signed by Giustiniani Giovanni and also, I have viewed the letter marked "H" addressed to the Chief CAO - Aragot. Palermo and it is the first time I have seen these letters when they were shown to me in the Aragot Civil Police Office C.C.R.R. Palermo. I can supply no further information regarding the circumstances that surround these letters.

I am willing to assist in anyway I can the Aragot Civil Police Section C.C.R.R. Palermo, relative to the investigations that it is conducting.

From the time we closed our store, because of the bombing attacks, I have been required to use my personal funds to exist on. At the present time I have no livelihood. I have been a member of the Fascist Party since 1933.

This statement has been read to me by Interpreter Sgt. Louis J. Piscopo & it is true!

Romano Graziosi

Statement taken and signature witnessed by
Jos. Wilimovsky, Capt, Special Police
Branch, through Private Piscopo, Interpreter

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

information ~~I do~~ regarding the
R.S. surround these letters.

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Romano Pietrantes

Statement taken and signature witnessed by
Jos. Wilimovsky, Capt, Special Police
Branch, through Private Piscopo, Interpreter.

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

0649

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

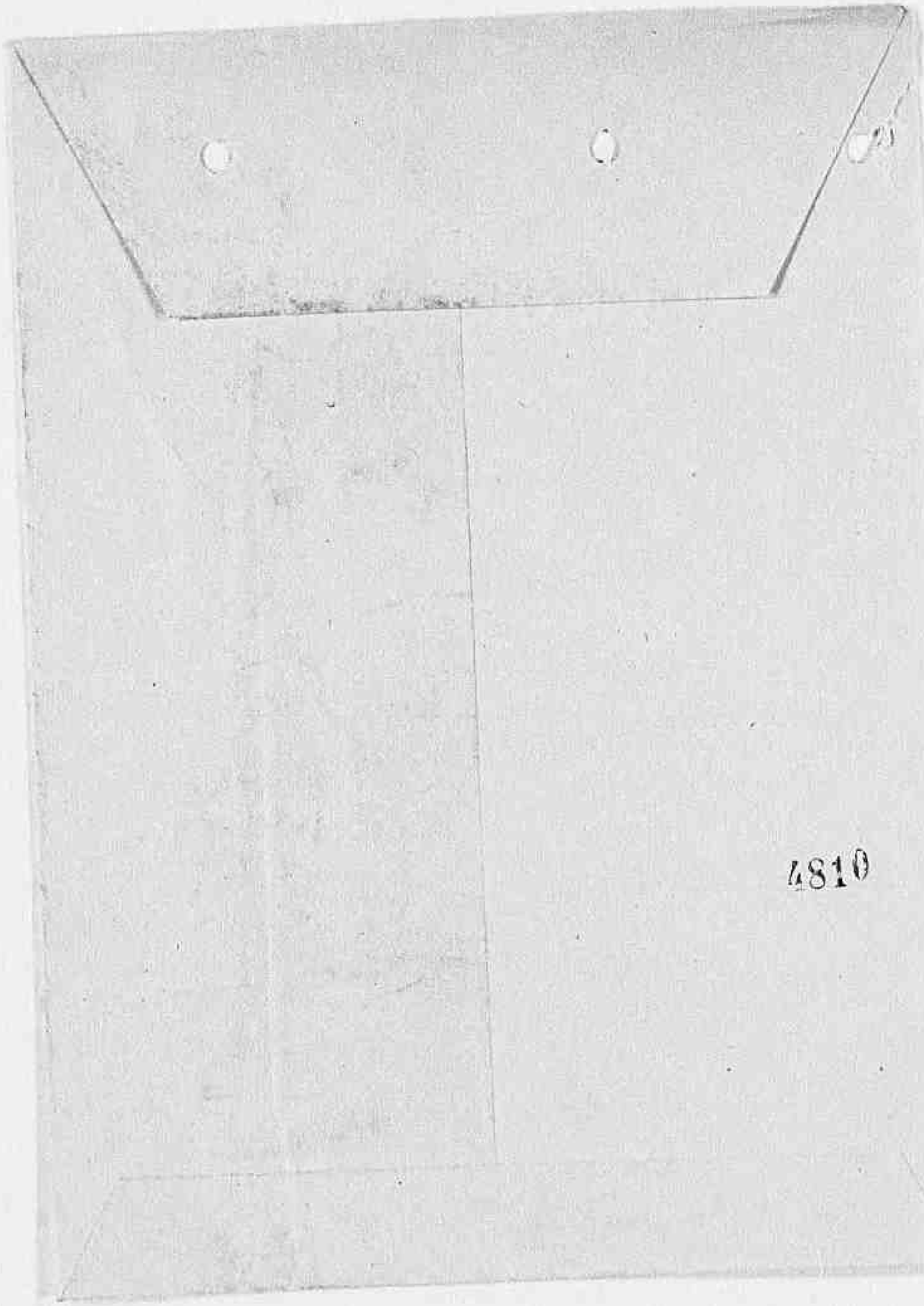
RE NICOLA GENTILE

CORRES. AMGOT / 1124 / PS.

ENCLOSURES

DOCUMENTS FOUND IN POSSESSION OF SUBJECT AND MARKED 'B' to 'I' INCLUSIVE.

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



0651

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 735016

To WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:
This must be kept record in America
is known to me and is not to be used
against him from.

Major Monroe Harrison Meader B

Corps of Engineers
Army of the United States

7th Army H.Q - Civil Affairs - Sicily

Lt Col Harris
Capt Bovard C

or Major Monroe Harrison Meader

Corps of Engineers
Army of the United States

0652

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

July 25, 1942

Dear Nick,

If you ever need anyone to vouch for you, refer them to me and I will tell them that Nicola Gentile, merchant of Rieti, and onetime resident of Raffadali has been of great help to the U.S. Army — and is a real man.

Best wishes,

Burt Reed
Lt. Col. 36 Div. Arty.
Camp Edwards, Mass.

0633

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

July 25, 1942

Dear Nick,

If you ever need anyone to work for you, refer them to me and I will tell them that Nicola Gentile, merchant of Palermo, and native resident of Raffadali has been of great help to the U.S. Army — and is a real man.

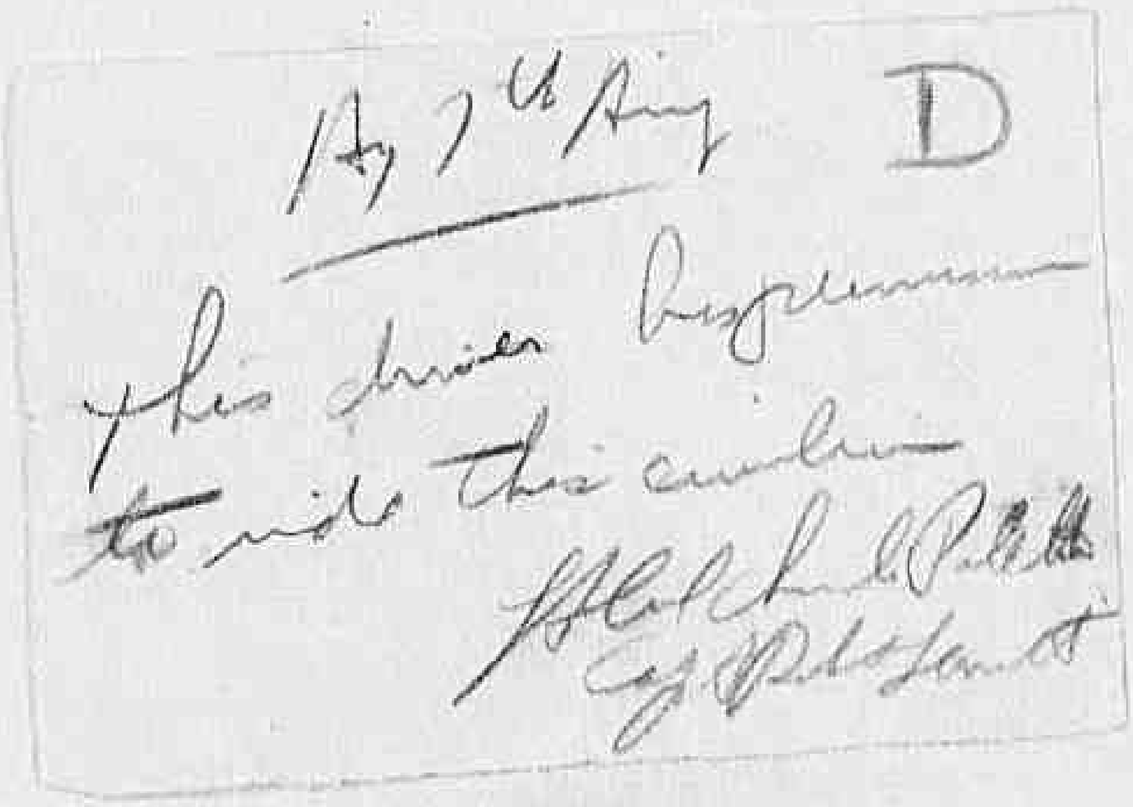
Best wishes,

— Matthew Ridgway

August HQ.
Pass S. Gentile, Nicola
to Room 38 at any time.

— Matthew Ridgway
Maj Gen

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



0635

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

61.

Raffadali July 22 1943

To whom it may Concern:

The Bearer: Nicolò Lecatile

By Occupation a :

Has permission to keep armas home: at

and Raffadali

Via Nazionale

By comando of Major General Truscott for George H. Mcaffrey

Lt. Col. Inf. Senior Civil Affaire Officer

by M. H. Meader

Major M. H. Meader
Civil Affaire Offcir RAFFADALI

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

F

Monroe Harrison Meader
Major, Corps of Engineers
Assistant Custodian of Allied and
Enemy Property in Occupied Territories
AMGOT
Allied Military Government of Occupied Territories
1+1 Force HQ 7th Army

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

Telegrammi: GIUSTINIANI - Emanuele 22
Telefono interprov. 13.594

GG

GIOVANNI GIUSTINIANI

CASA FONDATA 1901 (C. P. C. Palermo N. 78/55)

TRASPORTI E SPEDIZIONI

Traslochi - Imballaggi - Custodia mobili

ESPORTAZIONE

PALERMO 18th.September 1943

GG/GG. Via Napoli No.20

TO
THE MILITARY COMMAND
OF GOVERNMENT OF ALLIED FORCES
P A L E R M O

The undersigned Rag.Giorgio Giustiniani,Commissioner authorized by the R.Custom House in Palermo,proprietar and titular of the firm "Ditta Giovanni Giustiniani" has the honour to submit to that respectable Command,as follow:

His firm founded in 1901 is working in transports of goods oversea and in Sicily with motor cars. The firm is furnished of a valuable organization in workmen both for packing of household and transports.

In conseguence of war and consequent emergency,he has been compelled to reduce plenty of activities specially those make with motor cars having not any more of it at his disposition.

The under signed pray this respectable Command to help his necessities and if possible to assign him a motor car to continue traffic with Sicilian places and to avoid the danger that after 42 yeras of honest work,all this activities shall be stopped.

Trusting you will honour him with a favourable reply

Your very truly

GIOVANNI GIUSTINIANI

Le spedizioni si intendono sempre a rischio e pericolo del committente, anche se fatte a mezzo Ferrovie. La Merce viaggia a rischio del committente, anche se condotta con mezzi propri. L'incendio si effettuano soltanto se ordinate e pagate per contro del committente. Non si risponde di etc. etc. Reclami dichiarazione contraria tutte le altre condizioni s'intendono annullate.

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

'6'

G . B . R O M A N O

VIA ANTONIO VENEZIANO No.173

P M O N R E A L E

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

C. P. C. Palermo N. 78155

Telefono 13.594

CASA FONDATA NEL 1901

GIOVANNI GIUSTINIANI

TRASPORTI - SPEDIZIONI - TRASLOCHI

ESPORTAZIONE

PALERMO - VIA VITTORIO EMANUELE, 92 (locale proprio)

TO.

THE MILITARY COMMAND

OF GOVERNMENT OFALLIED FORCES

P A L E R M O

0666

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

AMGOT

August 15, 1943

To Allied Army Personnel:

The cloth stored here temporarily belongs to S. Nicolo Gentile who is my special civilian assistant. Do not disturb it.

15th Army HQ Civil Affairs Major CE

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

H

Gaetano Fardella

Via Bandiera N° 2

Palermo, li 5 Settembre 1943

Signor
Capo degli Affari Civili dell'A.M.G.O.T.
P A L E R M O

Da circa 20 anni mi sono occupato nella qualità di Procuratore Generale della Ditta Concessionaria per la vendita in tutta la Sicilia con sede a Palermo, della importante Casa di Prodotti Farmaceutici, Società Anonima per l'Industria Chimica di Basilea" Prodotti CIBA ", svolgendo la mia attività in tutta l'Isola.

Tale attività, per causa della attuale situazione, è cessata, pertanto chiedo l'onore di mettermi a Vostra disposizione per ogni eventuale collaborazione, nel caso aveste bisogno della mia modesta opera nel campo farmaceutico.

Anche nel campo tessili sono a Vostra disposizione, poichè mi sono pure occupato, di rappresentanze di case di Tessuti e Filati.

Per le mie referenze Bancarie, potete rivolgervi al Direttore della Cassa di Risparmio V.E. di VIA NAPOLI, Palermo.

Ringraziandovi, gradite distinti saluti.

F. Fardella

0552

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

I have been Attorney for pharmaceutical houses: Società Anonima per l'Industria Chimica di Basilea Prodotti CIBA — working throughout Sicily.

This activity stopped because of present situation. I therefore ask to be placed at your disposition for any collaboration in pharmaceutical fields as well as in the field of Textiles for I represented Textiles Concerns.

Bank references: Director of Cassa di Risparmio V. E. Via Napoli, Palermo

Ly Tandello

PALERMO
Comm. Prof. Dr. S. CANNIZZARO

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

Gaetano Fardella

[redacted]

Palermo

VIA BANDIERA N° 2

Al Signor

Capo degli affari Civili dell'A.M.G.O.T.

P A L E R M O

Per conoscenza al Signor Colonello Poletti

COPY

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
SICILY REGION HEADQUARTERS
APO 512

RELATING TO NICOLO GENTILE, AGED 58, AN ITALIAN SUBJECT, IDENTITY CARD NO. 117027 ISSUED PALERMO ON 16TH FEBRUARY 1942, RESIDENT AT MONREALE, PROVINCE OF PALERMO, ALLEGED ACTING PREJUDICIAL TO THE SECURITY OF THE ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

- I N D E X -

	PAGE(S)
REPORT.....	1 - 7
COPY STATEMENT of BARONE Francesco.....	8 - 9
COPY STATEMENT of FARDELLA Gaetano.....	10 - 11
COPY STATEMENT of GARELLO Giuseppe.....	12 - 14
COPY STATEMENT of GIUSTINIANI Giorgio.....	15 - 16
COPY STATEMENT of MEADER, Major Munroe Harrison.....	17 - 19
COPY STATEMENT of MESSINA Giuseppe.....	20 - 21
COPY STATEMENT of ROMANO Giovanni Battista.....	22 - 24
ORIGINAL STATEMENTS OF ABOVE.....	25 - 37
ENVELOPE containing document marked 'B' to 'I'.....	38

4809

CORRES. NO. AMGOT/1124/PS REFERS.

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

ALLEGED ACTING PREJUDICIAL TO THE
SECURITY OF THE ALLIED MILITARY
GOVERNMENT

- I N D E X -

PAGE(S)

REPORT..... 1 - 7
COPY STATEMENT of BARONE Francesco..... 8 - 9
COPY STATEMENT of FARDELLA Gaetano..... 10 - 11
COPY STATEMENT of GARELLO Giuseppe..... 12 - 14
COPY STATEMENT of GIUSTINIANI Giorgio..... 15 - 16
COPY STATEMENT of MEADER, Major Munroe Harrison..... 17 - 19
COPY STATEMENT of MESSINA Giuseppe..... 20 - 21
COPY STATEMENT of ROMANO Giovanni Battista..... 22 - 24
ORIGINAL STATEMENTS OF ABOVE..... 25 - 37
ENVELOPE containing document marked 'B' to 'I'..... 38

4809

CORRES. NO. AMGOT/1124/PS REFERS.

Special Police Section,
Civil Police Section,
Public Safety Division,
Sicily Region Headquarters.

22nd November 1943.

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

CONFIDENTIAL

CP/1

SPECIAL REPORT

Subject

PERSONS IN CUSTODY.

Corres. No.

AMGOT/1124/PS.

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

SICILY REGION HEADQUARTERS
APO 512

TOWN _____ PROVINCE _____

DATE 22nd November 1943

1.

To Chief, Public Safety Division, No. 1 Region.

Further reference to previous reports submitted by me under correspondence No. AMGOT/1124/PS appertaining to one Nicola GENTILE arrested and detained on 17th September 1943

(a) upon his own admission that he was 'wanted' by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Washington, D.C., for certain criminal offences in the U. S. A., and

(b) on security grounds; suspected of improperly attempting to secure favour for private individuals and business concerns whilst acting in the capacity of an employee of the Allied Military Government, thereby prejudicing the efficient operation and so bringing into disrepute the good name of that Authority.

During the investigation statements have been taken from the interested parties and these, together with 8 copies are attached hereto for record; the following is a resumé of the facts and circumstances of the case to date.

On 7th September 1943, C. I. C. Agents of 7th Army H. Q., arrested a man named Nicolo ROMANO, No.17 Via Pietro D'Asaro, Palermo, for the unlawful possession of a large quantity of cloth which was found in his apartment at that address. Another man, Ignazio MAGLIO was concerned with him in possession of this cloth; he likewise was arrested.

The matter was passed by C. I. C. to the Civil Police Section for disposal and it was learned that residing with Romano in the apartment in question was Major [illegible] MEADER, U.S. Corps of Engineers, then

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 735016

Corres. No.

AMGOT/1124/PS.

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The matter was passed by C. I. C. to the Civil Police Section for disposal and it was learned that residing with Romano in the apartment in question was Major Munroe Harrison MEADER, U.S. Corps of Engineers, then attached to the office of the Custodian of Enemy Property, AMGOT. It was also ascertained that the Major had been introduced to ROMANO by Nicola GENTILE, the subject of this report. At this stage and before any enquiry was made the facts were reported for information and directions - directions were received by this Section to proceed with the enquiry.

On 15th September 1943, information was received in the Civil Police Section that Nicola GENTILE was formerly a 'gangster' in the United States and a fugitive from Justice - incidentally, an exchange of cables has confirmed that GENTILE has a substantial criminal

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

record there, but was no longer 'wanted' by the authorities.

On 17th September 1943, Major Hefford, of Civil Police Section, AMGOT H.Q., acting upon instructions visited Major Meader at AMGOT H.Q., 8 Via Bari, Palermo, and called upon him for a written statement as to his knowledge of and association with the suspect GENTILE.

Major Meader, in a signed statement, said that when he was the Civil Affairs Officer at Raffadali from 21st July to 25th August 1943, he employed GENTILE as an interpreter owing to the fact that he was the only one available for such employment. He adds that when he offered this employment, GENTILE at once volunteered information that he had convictions in Sicily for assault and for associating with undesirables, further, that he was a 'bail jumper' on a Federal Indictment, in respect of offences against U. S. legislation governing white slavery and dangerous drugs.

The Major declared that he reported these facts to the S.C.A.O., Agrigento Province, and to C. I. C. He continued to use GENTILE as an interpreter until he was transferred to H.Q. in August and he occasionally used him after that date. Major Meader agreed that it was GENTILE who introduced him to Nicolo ROMANO.

After taking Major Meader's statement, Major Hefford, when leaving the headquarters building, observed GENTILE entering without producing any authority. He kept the suspect under observation and saw him enter Major Meader's office. Then Major Hefford intervened and detained GENTILE, bringing him to the Civil Police Section for enquiries.

Whilst so detained, GENTILE freely admitted that he was wanted for crime by the American Judicial Authorities. He was searched upon his arrival here and in his possession the following documents were found :-

(a) Visiting card of Major Meader upon which is written in the Major's handwriting, 'This man's past record in America is known to us and is

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

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(a) Visiting card of Major Meader upon which is written in the Major's handwriting, 'This man's past record in America is known to us and is not to be used against him'. Initialled M.H.M. Marked 'B'

(b) Visiting card of Major Meader on the reverse of which is an authority for GENTILE to visit Room 38 AMGOT at any time. Marked 'C'

(c) Small piece of paper bearing an open authority for a civilian to ride ina vehicle. Signed by Capt. Levitt on behalf of Col. Poletti. Marked 'D'

(d) Small piece of paper signed by Major Meader authorising GENTILE to possess a firearm. Marked 'E'.
(N.B. This firearm, a five chambered revolver of modern pattern was subsequently found improperly in the possession of another individual).

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

(e) Piece of paper bearing name and address of Major Meader. Marked 'F'

(f) Letter from Giovanni GIUTINIANI, Via Napoli 28, Palermo, to ANGOT asking assistance re business. Marked 'G'

(g) Letter from Gaetana FARDELLA, Via Bandiera No.2, Palermo, addressed to ANGOT also asking for favours in respect of his business. Marked 'H'

These original documents are attached to this correspondence for reference.

On the night of GENTILE's apprehension a warehouse of the Pirelli Rubber Company at Monreale, Palermo Province, was searched by Officers of Civil Police Section. In this warehouse were found 35 bales of cloth. a watchman on the premises named Giuseppe MESSINA, produced a document which he claimed had been given to him by GENTILE to explain the possession of the material if he were called upon to do so. This document, a small piece of paper, was seized. It bears, apparently in the handwriting of Major Meader, the words, 'The cloth stored here temporarily, belongs to S. Nicolo Gentile who is my special civilian assistant. Do not disturb it. (Signed) M. H. Meader, Major'. This piece of paper which is attached, is marked 'I'.

During the course of subsequent investigation of the matters mentioned above, signed statements were taken from a number of persons connected with the case, as follow:-

Giorgio GIUSTINIANI, Via Napoli 28, Palermo, states that he has known GENTILE for about two and a half years, having purchased clothing material from the latter for family use during this period. He says that his own business, that of a transport contractor, has diminished considerably since the Allied occupation and in consequence he wrote a letter (the one marked 'G') to the Allied Military Government, Palermo, asking for assistance in re-establishing his business. Continuing, he says that whilst on his way to deliver the letter at the Prefettura, he met GENTILE in the street and on learning that he was

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

On the night of GENTILE's apprehension a warehouse of the Pirelli Rubber Company at Monreale, Palermo Province, was searched by Officers of Civil Police Section. In this warehouse were found 35 bales of cloth. a watchman on the premises named Giuseppe/806 MESSINA, produced a document which he claimed had been given to him by GENTILE to explain the possession of the material if he were called upon to do so. This document, a small piece of paper, was seized. It bears, apparently in the handwriting of Major Meader, the words, 'The cloth stored here temporarily, belongs to S. Nicolo Gentile who is my special civilian assistant. Do not disturb it. (Signed) M. H. Meader, Major'. This piece of paper which is attached, is marked 'I'.

During the course of subsequent investigation of the matters mentioned above, signed statements were taken from a number of persons connected with the case, as follow:-

Giorgio GIUSTINIANI, Via Napoli 28, Palermo, states that he has known GENTILE for about two and a half years, having purchased clothing material from the latter for family use during this period. He says that his own business, that of a transport contractor, has diminished considerably since the Allied occupation and in consequence he wrote a letter (the one marked 'G') to the Allied Military Government, Palermo, asking for assistance in re-establishing his business. Continuing, he says that whilst on his way to deliver the letter at the Prefettura, he met GENTILE in the street and on learning that he was employed as an interpreter to an American Major, he says that GENTILE asked him for the letter, saying, "I'll take care of it".

Gaetano FARDELLA, Via Venero 96, Monreale, in his statement says that he has known GENTILE for about four years and, on numerous occasions, has sold bales of cloth to the firm of GENTILE, ROMANO and PICCONE. FARDELLA says that about the end of July 1943 he saw GENTILE frequently in the company of an American Major and learned that he was the Officer's interpreter.

As his textile business had diminished to a low level, FARDELLA thought that it might be to his advantage to bring to the knowledge of the Allied Military Government the fact that he was a qualified pharmacist.

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

He therefore approached GENTILE who agreed to intercede on his behalf. GENTILE accepted a letter from FARDELLA addressed by the latter to the Allied Military Government. This is the document which was found in GENTILE's possession and which is attached hereto marked 'H'.

Giovanni Battista ROMANO (who states that he is not related to Nicolo ROMANO arrested by C. I. C. for unlawful possession as previously mentioned) says that he was introduced to GENTILE in October 1940 by the firm of AGNELLO Brothers, cloth manufacturers and dealers, of Via Macqueda, Palermo. The business which he conducted with his partner PICCONE was 'failing miserably' at that time and AGNELLO Brothers suggested that GENTILE should be accepted as a partner. As a result they continued in business as PICCONE, ROMANO, GENTILE and Company with premises at Via Roma 268, Palermo.

ROMANO declared that the 35 bales of cloth which were found at the Pirelli Rubber Company warehouse at Monreale was originally part of the stock held by the three partners in Palermo. Allied bombing of the City necessitated their removing this material to Raffadali. Subsequently, he says, GENTILE became employed by Major Meader as an interpreter and when the Major was transferred to Palermo (25th August) GENTILE, who was understood to be continuing in his service, decided to remove the cloth to the Pirelli warehouse in Monreale, being a close acquaintance of the vice-director, a certain Sig. GARELLA. ROMANO says that for this purpose an American Army truck was used under Major Meader's orders. Major Meader, Stefano PICCONE and Nicolo GENTILE arrived at the warehouse in an American 'jeep' car which accompanied the truck.

On the night the cloth was delivered to the warehouse, ROMANO was asked to call at GENTILE's house. He did so and there GENTILE handed him a Smith and Wesson .38 calibre revolver and ammunition, saying, "Take this pistol and give it to the watchman and tell him he can feel safer with it ". He carried out this instruction, giving the revolver to Giuseppe MESSINA, the watchman. He also gave MESSINA a note written by Major Meader respecting the possession of the cloth (both the revolver and the note are those found by Civil Police Section

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

his partner PICCONE was 'failing miserably' at that time and AGNELLO Brothers suggested that GENTILE should be accepted as a partner. As a result they continued in business as PICCONE, ROMANO, GENTILE and Company with premises at Via Roma 268, Palermo.

4803

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ROMANO stated that he could support possession of 23 bales of cloth by means of invoices entered into the firm's ledgers and identifiable in the books with the numbers stamped on the bales. As to the 12 remaining bales of cloth he said that during the bombing of Palermo the firm made many cash purchases of cloth, no receipts being given. We are unable to produce any evidence to prove to the contrary.

Giuseppe GARELLO, Via Antonio Veriziano 12, Monreale, a principal representative of the Pirelli Company, states that he made the acquaintance of GENTILE in April 1943 and through him secured for the Pirelli Company storage space at the San Pietro Church, Monreale.

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

5

In August 1943, after GENTILE had produced to him a piece of paper signed by Major Meader reading as if the cloth was already stored in the Pirelli warehouse, he permitted GENTILE to store the material there although he had refused a previous request which GENTILE had made unsupported by an authority from Major Meader. GARELLA has identified the document marked 'I' as being the piece of paper in question. GENTILE, incidentally, told him that the paper signed by the Major was in effect an order for the cloth to be stored in the warehouse and it was this document together with the insistence of GENTILE that influenced him into giving permission.

It will be seen from the statement of GARELLA that he also speaks of the material arriving in an Army truck and adds that soldiers were engaged in unloading the vehicle.

Francesco BARONE, day watchman at the Pirelli 4804
warehouse, states that the cloth was already in storage when he first took up his duties. He identified the piece of paper (marked 'I') as having been shewn to him by GENTILE who instructed him to produce it to any person enquiring about the property. He also identified the revolver as the one which GENTILE had supplied for protection purposes.

Giuseppe MESSINA, night watchman at the warehouse, says in his statement that although he has been employed by the Pirelli Company for about a year, he did not take up his duties at this particular warehouse until about 1st September 1943, at which time the cloth was already there. Subsequently on a number of occasions, he saw GENTILE who told him to take great care of the cloth saying that they were the property of his partner ROMANO and himself. Each week ROMANO used to pay Messina 140 lire for guarding the property. This man has identified the piece of paper (marked'I') as having been shewn to him by GARELLA.

MESSINA likewise identified the Smith and Wesson revolver as being the one which ROMANO had given to him shortly after he took up his duties. It appears that ROMANO told him the paper from Major Meader also covered

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

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MESSINA likewise identified the Smith and Wesson revolver as being the one which ROMANO had given to him shortly after he took up his duties. It appears that ROMANO told him the paper from Major Meader also covered his possession of the revolver. MESSINA cannot read English and therefore accepted the explanation although the paper does not in fact authorise possession of the firearm. He adds that he was told by GENTILE on first taking up his duties that ROMANO had been given the weapon (by GENTILE) to hand to the watchman.

In the first place it will be appreciated that these two watchman have committed an offence in possessing the firearm and ammunition without proper authority, but there are very strong and genuine extenuating circumstances in their case and no Court would convict them on the evidence available. The real culprit is obviously GENTILE who, unquestionably relying on his "influence" with AMGOT, led these two men into committing this technical offence; he has more or less incited them to commit this misdemeanour.

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

Again, in endeavouring to sum up GENTILE's true worth, it must be borne in mind that he was undoubtedly a close associate of Nicolo ROMANO in whose apartment a quantity of cloth illicitly obtained was found, and furthermore, it was he who was 'responsible' for Major Meader taking up residence at ROMANO's apartment - incidentally the proceedings against ROMANO have not, as yet, been concluded before the Court.

It also has to be remembered that GENTILE as the principal partner of GENTILE, PICCONE and ROMANO (Giovanni) Company, was, in effect, an appointee of AGNELLO Brothers, Via Maqueda, Palermo, a firm strongly suspected of dealing in the 'black market' in unlawfully obtained cloth. It is by no means unlikely that GENTILE is one of their agents in disposing of fabrics so obtained. It is perhaps significant that GENTILE was connected with two different premises where cloth has been found under suspicious circumstances and further, that in each instance the cloth was 'stored' under the protection of Major Meader of AMGOT upon whom it appears GENTILE exerted some influence - the Major's self-written statement supports this.

The letters from Giovanni GIUSTINIANI and Gaetano FARDELLA asking favours of the Allied Military Government, have particular significance; both of these individuals declare that their handing of the letters to GENTILE was 'accidental', spontaneous and done quite casually, no question of 'reimbursement' of any description to GENTILE being raised by any of the persons concerned. It is, however, a peculiar coincidence that both letters should have come into the possession of this criminal at the same time - it gives rise to very grave suspicion that he has been in the habit of 'accepting' letters of this character.

From all the facts disclosed in this enquiry, I have no hesitation in saying that this unscrupulous criminal has been exercising undue influence to obtain AMGOT protection for himself and others whilst engaged in questionable business dealings and was also using his association with Major Meader to gain improper advantage for native business people.

Notification has now been received from the Federal Bureau of Investigation through A.F.H.Q. that GENTILE is not now wanted for his white slavery and narcotic crimes

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

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From all the facts disclosed in this enquiry, I have no hesitation in saying that this unscrupulous criminal has been exercising undue influence to obtain AMGOT protection for himself and others whilst engaged in questionable business dealings and was also using his association with Major Meader to gain improper advantage for native business people.

Notification has now been received from the Federal Bureau of Investigation through A.F.H.Q. that GENTILE is not now wanted for his white slavery and narcotic crimes in America. His criminal record has not, as yet, been received from A.F.H.Q.

In consequence of the information received from F.B.I. and because no ~~offence~~ charge can be levelled against him from this Office, GENTILE was transferred from the Civil Prison, Palermo, to the Civilian Internees Camp, Via Malespina, Palermo.

Much more could be said, but little need be - GENTILE a man with a very unsavoury past, has been and always will be, a menace to the security and efficient operation of the Allied Military Government. Therefore I recommend that he remain in detention as a civilian internee and placed before a Review Board for formal classification into

A/

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

7.

category A(a) - internment during hostilities.

G. Richardson, Major,
Superintendent, Special Pol. Section.

B J Hefford Major.
Supt Civil Police

4804

File RpS 3d Ind.

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT SICILY REGION HQ APO 512 NOV 25 1943

TO Supt. Civil Police Section

See. Please have the case reviewed by the Review Board now sitting and forward result to this Division in order that the facts may be referred to Legal Division.

By Order of CHARLES POLETTI RCAC

RUSSELL A SNOOK
Lt Colonel
Chief Public Safety Division

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

CP/5

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

TOWN _____ PROVINCE _____

DATE 20 SEPTEMBER 1943

STATEMENT
OF

SURNAME (Block letters) BARONE 4803

OTHERS NAMES FRANCESCO AGE 47

ADDRESS Via Giovanni Passello 30-Palermo- ie No 32506-

Issued at Palermo- OCCUPATION Day Watchman

WHO SAYS: -

" I have been cautioned by Major Richardson,Special Police AMGOT, that I am not obliged to say anything unless I wish to do so, but that anything I do say, will be taken down in writing and may be given in evidence. This has been read to me through the medium of an interpreter and to show that I fully understand this caution,I sign my name.

" BARONE Francesco "

I am a caretaker of the Pirelli Tire Co at their store at Monreale and I reside here. I have been employed here for 2 weeks but have been with the company for some 18 years.

I know a man named Nicolò Gentile, and that he has bails of cloth stored at those premises. I have no knowledge of Gentile's business or the reason for the cloth being here. I do not known the true owner of the cloth,but Gentile told me it was his property. You have shown me a piece of paper dated the 15 August 1943, and which was taken possession of from me on the 17 August 1943 by Lieut Cale of the Civil Police. That paper which is marked "T" was handed to me by Gentile who told me that I was to produce it to any person enquiring as to the cloth stored here.

I should have told you that the cloth was here before I arrived to take up duties as a storekeeper. I believe that

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

SURNAME (Block letters) BARONE 4801

OTHERS NAMES FRANCESCO AGE 47

ADDRESS Via Giovanni Passello 30-Palermo- id No 22506-

issued at -alermo- OCCUPATION Day Watchman

WHO SAYS: -

" I have been cautioned by Major Richardson,Spe=cial Police ARGOT, that I am not obliged to say anything unless I wish to do so, but that anything I do say, will be taken down in writing and may be given in evidence. This has been read to me through the medium of an interpreter and to show that I fully understand this caution,I sign my name.

" BARONE Francesco "

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I have been shown a "Smith-Wesson " 38 calibre, NewDepartura model, nicke plated revolver, Serial No.96785 This was taken from a desk in the part of the building where I sleep and live, and when it was handed to me by Lieut Gale on 17 September, 1943, it was fully loaded in the five chambers. I have no license or other authority for being in possession of this weapon or ammunition, and I have never made application for such authority. I found this in the drawer of the desk when I arrived about 2 weeks

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

4

CP/5

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

TOWN _____ PROVINCE _____

DATE _____

STATEMENT
OF

SURNAME (Block letters) _____

OTHERS NAMES _____ AGE _____

ADDRESS _____

 4800

WHO SAYS: -

ago. So I asked my companion about it.and he told me that it had been given to him by Nicolò Gentile to be used by us for our protection and the protection of the property in this store.
I have never had an occasion to use the weapon.

This statement has been read to me through an interpreter and it is true.

(Signed)- BARONE Francesco

Statement taken and Signature Witnessed
by T. Richardson,Major, Special Police
Branch, through Pvt. Biscoto, Interpreter.

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

SURNAME (Block letters) _____

OTHERS NAMES _____ AGE _____

ADDRESS _____

PAGE - 2 - 4805

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I have never had an occasion to use the weapon.

This statement has been read to me through an interpreter and it is true.

(Signed)- BARONE Francesco

Statement taken and Signature witnessed by T. Richardson, Major, Special Police Branch, through Pvt. Fiscone, Interpreter.

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

10

CP/5

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

SICILY REGION HEADQUARTERS

TOWN PALERMO PROVINCE PALERMO

DATE 11 October 1943

STATEMENT

OF

SURNAME (Block letters) FARDELLA

OTHERS NAMES GAETANO AGE 43 Years

ADDRESS Residence: Via Venero NO, 96 Monreale.

Office: Via Bandiera NO. 2, Palermo. 4795

WHO SAYS: - I have been cautioned by Captain J.C.Wilimovsky, Jr. that I am not obliged to say anything unless I wish to do so, and that whatever I do say will be taken down in writing and maybe used or given in evidence.

GAETANO FARDELLA

I have known Nicolo Gentile for about 4 years now. On numerous occasions I have sold bolts of material (cloth) to his firm of Gentile, Romano and Piccone. My last sale of shirting material was made in June 1943. He paid me approximately 45,000 lires for about 650 metres of cloth. Gentile took the material from my home in Monreale where I had it stored and I believe he took it to Raffadale. Since it was private stock I made the sale a personal matter to Gentile who did not request a receipt. He paid me by check which was drawn on the bank named Cassa Centrale di Risparmia. This was the last business transaction that I had with Gentile.

About the end of July or the beginning of August I noticed an American Major in the company of Nicolo Gentile almost every day. I saw them together in the vicinity of Gentile's house in Monreale. Gentile had informed me previously that the American major which he identified as being a representative of the Allied Military Government and that he was retained by the major as an interpreter. Because of the presence of the Allied troops my business was temporarily disrupted due to bombardments, etc.....

I felt that I should bring to the attention of the Allied Military Government the fact that I was experienced in the pharmaceutical field as well as textiles. I was prompted by the fact

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

SURNAME (Block letters) FARDELLA

OTHERS NAMES GAETANO AGE 43 Years

ADDRESS Residence: Via Venero NO, 96 Monreale.

Office: Via Bandiera NO. 2, Palermo.

WHO SAYS: - I have been cautioned by Captain J.C.Wilimovsky, Jr. that I am not obliged to say anything unless I wish to do so, and that whatever I do say will be taken down in writing and maybe used or given in evidence.

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I felt that I should bring to the attention of the Allied Military Government the fact that I was experienced in the pharmacentical field as well as textiles. I was prompted by the fact that Nicolo Gentile being employed as interpreter by the American major that he could bring my background to the attention of the proper Allied authorities. Gentile agreed that he might be in a position to intercede for me. At no time was the subject of monetary renumeration brought up either by myself or Gentile relative to any favorable result. I wrote a letter addressed to Capo Degli Affari Civili dell A.M.G.O.T. dated 5/9/43 outlining my business experiences. My signature appears on this letter. I gave this letter to Gentile about two days later. I have never heard anything further to my letter of enquiry.

To my knowledge Nicolo Gentile has always been a reputable person in business transactions that we engaged in.

This statement has been read to me through the medium of an interpreter and is true.

GAETANO FARDELLA

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 778516

CP/5

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

SICILY REGION HEADQUARTERS

TOWN PALERMO PROVINCE PALERMO

DATE 11 October 1943

STATEMENT
OF

SURNAME (Block letters) FARDELLA

OTHERS NAMES [redacted] GAETANO AGE 43 years

ADDRESS Residence: Via Venero NO. 96 Monreale.

Office: Via Bandiera NO. 2 Palermo.

4798

WHO SAYS: -

This statement taken by Capt. J.C.Wilimovsky, Jr. Special Police Branch, Civil Police Section, AMG HQ. and interpreter Michael J. Trotta, T/4 Sgt. of the same department, Civil Police office Carabinieri Hq. Palermo.

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

O F

SURNAME (Block letters) PARDELLA

OTHERS NAMES [redacted] CAETANO AGE 43 years

ADDRESS Residence: Via Venero No. 96 Monreale.

Office: Via Bandiera NO. 2 Palermo.

4736

WHO SAYS: -

This statement taken by Capt. J.C.Wilimovsky, Jr. Special Police Branch, Civil Police Section, AMG HQ. and interpreter Michael J. Trotta, T/4 Sgt. of the same department, Civil Police office Carabinieri Hq. Palermo.

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

12

CP/5

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

TOWN CARABINIERI HQ. PROVINCE PALERMO

DATE 18/10/1943

STATEMENT
OF

SURNAME (Block letters) CARELLO

OTHERS NAMES GIUSEPPE AGE 37

ADDRESS VIA ANTONIO VENEZIANO 12

MONREALE, PALERMO 4791

WHO SAYS: I

I am one of the principal representatives of the Pirelli Società per Azioni, operating in Sicily, and our registered address here is Via Napoli 17.

In april of this year, I became acquainted with a man named Nicolò Gentile who understood was a cloth merchant. We were desirous of acquiring storage space in Palermo and through the medium of Gentile, we acquired the San Pietro church at Monreale. It was the property of the Chmuch and we rented from the archbishop of Monreale at a yearly rental of Lire 50.000

In about August, 1943, Gentile came to me and asked if he could store in the church certain cloth owned by him and which at that time was at Raffadale. Gentile had done a service to us in procuring the warehouse but we could not accede to his request firstly because the stock and warehouse was under the control of the Civil Supply Division of A.M.G.O.T. and I had no desire to controvene any of their regulations, and secondly because the roof of the warehouse was in a bad repairs and the place would be unsuitable for the storage and safekeeping of cloth. At the same time I considered the possiblity of theft and the destruction the property by fire. For these reasons we were compelled to refuse Gentile's request.

This occurred whilst I was at the temporary of-

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

OF

SURNAME (Block letters) GARELLO

OTHERS NAMES GIUSEPPE AGE 37

ADDRESS VIA ANTONIO VENEZIANO 12

MONREALE, PALERMO 4791

WHO SAYS:

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This occurred whilst I was at the temporary office which is along side the warehouse at Monreale.

After this refusal Gentile left my office but returned a few minutes later with a letter or piece of paper signed by Major Meader of AMGOT. The document shown to me marked A is the one in question. I Can read English and I noted that it read as if the cloth was already stored at the warehouse. It also said that Gentile was Major Meader's civilian assistant. At this particular time, the cloth which Gentile wished stored at my warehouse was outside the warehouse in a motor truck of the American Army. By reason of my calling and the experience I have gained I can say positively that

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

CP/5

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

TOWN _____ PROVINCE _____

DATE _____

STATEMENT
OF

SURNAME (Block letters) _____

OTHERS NAMES _____ AGE _____

ADDRESS _____ 4790

WHO SAYS: -

The vehicle was of American make and the property of the American Army.It was a very large truck and appeared to be about a 2 1/2 ton truck.

When Gentile returned with a note from Major Meader,he told me that I was to store his cloth in my warehouse and that was an order of Major Meader.I point-ed out to Gentile that Major Meader's request was really in the form of a request,but he he explained to me that a request by an American officer was in fact an order.I have looked at Major Meader's note again and will agree that it reads as if the cloth was at that time already stored in the warehouse.I must admit that at the time of the incident I read it as being a request from Major Meader to Store the property. In consequence of what Gentile said and the note he produced from Major Meader I had no alternative but to give permission for the storing of the cloth.Incidently I understood that Major Meader was in Gentile's house,and therefore wrote this note just after I had refused Gentile permission to store,the cloth.

The cloth,comprising 35 bails,was moved into the warehouse. There were a number of Americans with the truck and they unloaded the truck whilst civilian passersby helped to move the property into the warehouse.Gentile nor any other person has paid for the storage of his cloth.Gentile told me

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

OF

SURNAME (Block letters) _____

OTHERS NAMES _____ AGE _____

ADDRESS 4790

WHO SAYS:-

The vehicle was of American make and the property of the American Army.It was a very large truck and appeared to be about a 2 1/2 ton truck.

When Gentile returned with a note from Major Meader,he told me that I was to store his cloth in my warehouse and that was an order of Major Meader.I point-ed out to Gentile that Major Meader's request was really in the form of a request,but he he explained to me that a request by an American officer was in fact an order.I have looked at Major Meader's note again and will agree that it reads as if the cloth was at that time already stored in the warehouse.I must admit that at the time of the incident I read it as being a request from Major Meader to Store the property. In consequence of what Gentile said and the note he produced from Major Meader I had no alternative but to give permission for the storing of the cloth.Incidently I understood that Major Meader was in Gentile's house,and therefore wrote this note just after I had refused Gentile permission to store,the cloth.

The cloth,comprising 35 bails,was moved into the warehouse. There were a number of Americans with the truck and they unloaded the truck whilst civilian passersby helped to move the property into the warehouse.Gentile nor any other person has paid for the storage of his cloth.Gentile told me that it would only be there a matter of a few days.

The two occasions,a matter of days after,Gentile came to my office and said that Major Meader was at His home and wished to see me.I went there and Gentile introduced me to Major Meader.The Major told me that he wanted four tires for an Italian civilian car which he was going to requisition. I cannot remember the size he wanted,but I had to refuse,as all tires of the size he required had been out of stock for some time as manufacture had ceased owing to the war.

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

14

CP|5

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

TOWN _____ PROVINCE _____

DATE _____

STATEMENT
OF

SURNAME (Block letters) _____

OTHERS NAMES _____ AGE _____

ADDRESS _____

PAGE +3+ 4793

WHO SAYS: -

I have met Major Meader on a second occasion and againxt at Gentile's house.This was also a matter of a few days afterward.Again the Major asked for tires and my partner went to Catanxa to try and get some but he was unsuccessfull.This all I know about Major Meader and Gentile. I have no knowledge of Romano,Gentile'spartner,with the exception t hat they are brothers-in law.

(signed) Garello Giuseppe.

Statement taken and signature witnessed by C.Richardson Major,Special Police Section,through Private Piscopo, Interpreter.

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

SURNAME (Block letters) _____

OTHERS NAMES _____ AGE _____

ADDRESS _____

PAGE +3+ 4793

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

CP/5

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

SICILY REGION HEADQUARTERS

TOWN PALERMO PROVINCE PALERMO

DATE 11 October , 1943

STATEMENT
OF

SURNAME (Block letters) GIUSTINIANI

OTHERS NAMES GIORGIO AGE

ADDRESS VIA NAPOLI No. 28, Palermo,

4794

WHO SAYS: - I have been cautioned by Captain J,C, Filimovsky Jr, that I am not obliged to say anything unless I wish to do so, that whatever I do say will be taken down in writing and maybe used or given in evidence,

GIORGIO GIUSTINIANI

I have known Nicolo Gentile for the past 2 1/2 years, I became acquainted with him when I went to his shop to purchase material for suits and shirts for myself and family. To my knowledge Nicolo Gentile has enjoyed a good reputation because of his business dealings.

Because of the war and the recent bombings prior to the entrance of the Allied troops in Sicily it was difficult for me to engage in my business of transportation and cartage. On September 18th, 1943 I wrote a letter on my stationery and addressed it to the Military Command of Government of Allied Forces, Palermo. In substance of the letter was a request for any assistance that the Allied Government could give me to reestablish my business. My signature appears on this letter which I have identified.

I wrote this letter after making enquiries at the Prefettura. A member of the Carabinieri who I do not know suggested that I address a letter to the Military authorities in respons to my request, I followed his suggestion. A day or so after writing this letter, I planned to personally deliver this letter, after the lunch hour to the Allied Authorities at the Prefettura Palermo. On my way to lunch I met Nicolo Gentile on Via Napoli, near my home. I greeted

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

OF

SURNAME (Block letters) GIUSTINIANI

OTHERS NAMES GIORGIO AGE

ADDRESS VIA NAPOLI No. 28, Palermo,

4794

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Upon hearing that he was working for an American Major as an interpreter I explained to him that I had written a letter to the Allied Military Forces, asking them to aid me in reestablishing my business through the loan of a truck. Upon hearing this Nicolo Gentile replied quote, "let me have the letter and I'll take care of it." (unquote)

In appreciation I suggested that he would be aiding me much since I am in need of work. At no time was the mention of money made by either myself or Nicolo Gentile relative to the favorable outcome of my request. I have never seen nor heard from Nicolo Gentile since the time and place when I had this conversation with him and had given him the letter.

0694

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

16

CP/5

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

SICILY REGION HEAD,UARTERS

TOWN PALERMO PROVINCE PALERMO

DATE 11 October, 1943

STATEMENT
OF

SURNAME (Block letters) GIUSTINIANI

OTHERS NAMES GIORGIO AGE

ADDRESS VIA NAPOLI 28 Palermo.

4793

WHO SAYS: -

CONTINUATION

This statement has been read to me and is true. It has been read to me through the medium of an interpreter.

GIORGIO GIUSTINIANI

This statement taken by Capt. J. C. Wilimovsky, Jr. Special Police Branch, Civil Police Section, A.G.C HQ. and interpreter Michael J. Trotta, T/4 Sgt. of the same department, Civil Police Office Carabinieri Hq. Palermo.

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

SURNAME (Block letters) GIUSTINIANI

OTHERS NAMES GIORGIO AGE

ADDRESS VIA NAPOLI 28 Palermo.

4793

WHO SAYS: -

CONTINUATION

This statement has been read to me and is true. It has been read to me through the medium of an interpreter.

GIORGIO GIUSTINIANI

This statement taken by Capt. J. C. Wilimovsky, Jr. Special Police Branch, Civil Police Section, AMG HQ. and interpreter Michael J. Trotta, T/4 Sgt. of the same department, Civil Police Office Carabinieri Hq. Palermo.

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

CP/5

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

TOWN _____ PROVINCE _____

DATE 17 SEPTEMBER 1943

STATEMENT

OF MONROE H MEADER, Major CE
A.C.o. AMGOT HQ Sicily

SURNAME (Block letters) MEADER

OTHERS NAMES Munroe Harrison AGE _____

ADDRESS _____

OCCUPATION Major CE ACo. AMGOT HQ Sicily 4792

WHO SAYS: -

1. " When assigned to C.A.O. work in Agrigento Province under Lt Col McCaffrey I made my headquarters in Raffadali. This man was the only one available for an interpreter and I used him as such from about July 22nd until reassigned to AMGOT HQ at Palermo about August 25th and subsequently on occasional tours in Palermo.

2. As soon as I approved a decision to use him as an interpreter he volunteered the following informations :

a) That he had a petition passed in Sicily but not for criminal or political convictions; one when young for assault, another while out on interrogation, but were not proven, another for "associating with the wrong people". Also that he was not permitted to leave the Kingdom of Italy.

b) That he was a bail-jumper on a Federal indictment for narcotics and white slavery charges in N.Y. City. That he appeared before the Asst. District Attorney who came to Italy and gave him assistance but refused to return voluntarily to the U.S. unless the white slavery charge was dropped he deemed it disgraceful and being well able to clear himself of any connection with either charge.

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

A.C.F. AMGOT HQ Sicily

SURNAME (Block letters) MEADER

OTHERS NAMES Munroe Harrison AGE

ADDRESS

OCCUPATION Major Ge ACr, AMGOT HQ Sicily 4792

WHO SAYS: -

1. " When assigned to C.A.O. work in Agrigento Province under Lt Col McCaffrye I made my headquarters in Raffadali. This man was the only one available for an interpreter and I used him as such from about June 43rd until reassigned to AMGOT HQ at Palermo about August 20th and subsequently on occasional tours in Palermo.

2. As soon as I expressed a desire to use him as an interpreter he volunteered the following informations :

a) That he had a prison record in Sicily but not for criminal or political convictions; one when young for assault, another while under interrogation, but none for arson, another for "associating with the wrong people". Also that he was not permitted to leave the Kingdom of Italy.

b) That he was a bail-jumper on a Federal indictment for narcotics and white slavery charges in N.Y. City. That he appeared before the Asst. District Attorney who came to Italy and gave his assistance but refused to return voluntarily to the U.S. unless the white slavery charge was dropped he deemed it disgraceful and being well able to clear himself of any connection with either charge.

c) That his business in the U.S. was a wholesale grocery (which included corn sugar) and an interest in a furniture store but that he had never engaged in bootlegging or any other criminal or illegal or political activity.

3. I reported this to Col. McC. (and to the C.I.C. in Agrigento who had his record substantially as it appears above and had no interest in him) and continued to use him as an interpreter. He was meticulously correct in his atti-

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

CP/5

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

TOWN _____ PROVINCE _____

DATE _____

STATEMENT
OF

SURNAME (Block letters) _____

OTHERS NAMES _____ AGE _____

ADDRESS _____

PAGE -2-

4791

WHO SAYS: -

Sade and aided ACGOT there and in Palermo in many ways far more helpful than merely as an interpreter, and told me he would volunteer to return to America and stand the trial without any reservations if we so desired.

4. I worked this with Lt Col Harris when I arrived in Palermo and we decided not to attempt to employ him officially but to use his assistance to locate property and stuff of interest to the Controller of Property's Division Again he has been meticulously correct in his attitude, never requesting any favour for himself or others and his comments and information have invariably cross-checked with other sources.

5. It was he who introduced me to Nicolò ("Toto") Romano in whose apartment I have had my lodging. As to the latter, I was directly aware of a connection with NDG S which I am not at liberty to discuss.

6. In my opinion, any officer who can convince Nicolò Gentile of his sincerity and ability would receive the same direct unbiased information.

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

SURNAME (Block letters) _____

OTHERS NAMES _____ AGE _____

ADDRESS _____

PAGE -2- 4791

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5. It was he who introduced me to Nicolò ("Toto") Romano in whose apartment I have had my lodging. As to the latter, I was directly aware of a connection with XDG 3 which I am not at liberty to discuss.

6. In my opinion, any officer who can convince Nicolò Gentile of his sincerity and ability would receive the same direct unbiased information.

7. Also in my opinion, he has the respect and the active aid of a large number of substantial citizens and this influence reaches into high circles in Rome.

8. From my own past experience of Sicilians, bootleggers, rum-runners, and people, I draw the following conclusions:

This man is not a criminal in our sense of the word.

He is a man of unusual moral integrity and beyond fear or avarice.

He undoubtedly belongs to one of the secret societies, (loosely termed the Mafia), and is highly

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

CP/5

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

TOWN _____ PROVINCE _____

DATE _____

STATEMENT
OF

SURNAME (Block letters) _____

OTHERS NAMES _____ AGE 47[illegible]

ADDRESS _____

PAGE -3-

WHO SAYS: -

regarded for his ability as a conciliator and knowledge of [illegible] of Italian policy.

He has also close connections with Italian Freemasonry

Signed MONROE E BRAMER
Major Cc
AGI
AMGOT HQ.

Statement taken and signature witnessed by:

B. J. HEFFORD,
Major
Public Safety Division
Allied Civil Police.

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

O F

SURNAME (Block letters) _____

OTHERS NAMES _____ AGE 47[illegible]

ADDRESS _____

PAGE -3-

WHO SAYS: -

[illegible] and knowledge of
of [illegible]

He has also close connections with Italian Freemasonry

Signed MONROE K KREADER
Major GC
AUS
[illegible]

Statement taken and signature witnessed by:

B. J. REDDED,
Major
Public Safety Division
A/Supt Civil Police.

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

20

CP/5

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

TOWN _____ PROVINCE _____

DATE 20 September 1943

STATEMENT
OF

SURNAME (Block letters) MESSINA 47[illegible]9

OTHERS NAMES GIUSEPPE AGE 43

ADDRESS VIA RICCO 22 MONREALE -ALBO-

I.C. No 6464390 -Issued at Palermo- Occupation-Night watchman

WHO SAYS: -

" I have been cautioned by Major Richardson, Special Police AMGOT, that I am not obliged to say anything unless I wish to do so, but that anything I do say, will be taken down in writing and may be used as evidence. This has been read to me through the medium of an interpreter and to show that I fully understand this caution, I sign my name.

MESSINA GIUSEPPE

I have been employed for the past year by the Pirelli Tire Co. as a storekeeper, and for the last 3 weeks have been at their storehouse at Monreale. I get 20 lire a day as pay from the Pirelli Co. When I arrived there I found in addition to the Pirelli stock 35 Bales of cloth. I received instructions from Sig. Carelli, one of the principal clerks of the Pirelli Co. in Palermo, to guard over the Pirelli stock and also the bales of cloth which I was told belonged to a man named Nicolò Gentile. I know that Gentile lives near here but he never came here whilst I was present. I always spoke to him in his own office. During the general conversations Gentile told me on a number of occasions that the cloth at this store was his own property. On a number of occasions at night I have seen an American Officer arrive in a car at Gentile's home. I do not know the name of the officer but I know that he was very tall, fair hair, and wears spectacles

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

OF

SURNAME (Block letters) MESSINA 4789

OTHERS NAMES GIUSEPPE AGE 43

ADDRESS VIA RITORO 22 MONREALE -PALERMO-

I.C.No.C464390 -Issued at Palermo- Occupation-Night watchman

WHO SAYS: -

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I remember now on one occasion about the beginning of the time I started to guard the property,Gentile was speaking to me outside the store when he said,"look after that cloth very carefully,it belongs to me and my partner, OMARO" At the end of every week(three weeks in all)in accordance with instructions from Gentile I used to meet the man Romano at the corner of the street,and on each occasion he handed

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 789016

CP/5

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

TOWN _____ PROVINCE _____

DATE _____

STATEMENT
OF

SURNAME (Block letters) _____

OTHERS NAMES _____ AGE _____

ADDRESS _____

PAGE 2

WHO SAYS: -

me 140 lire and he would say " that is for looking after our cloth" This 140 lire a week was over and above that I received from the Pirelli Co. I do not know if Gentile or Romano made payment to the Pirelli Co. I do not know if Gentile or Romano made payment to the Pirelli Co for the storage space.

I would like to say here and now that on no occasione since I have been watchman here,has any attempt been made by any person to steal any property from this store or to break and enter these premises without authority.I have no knowledge of any similar attempts during the past 6 months.

I have been shown a piece of paper marked "A" that was given to me by Sig.Garelli who told me to produce it to any person who might question me about the cloth. I cannot read what is on that paper,as I do not read or speak English.

When I started here some 3 weeks ago Gentile told me that he had given a revolver to ROMANO to give to me for my protection and about 3 days later Romano came to me and handed me a 5 chambered revolver loaded in each chamber? I took it from him (Romano) and he said "That is for your protection"

I know,and I know at the time that an authority was required to possess a firearm and ammunition and I asked Romano what I was to do if found in possession of it,and he said "That's all right,that's covered by the note that Ga=

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

SURNAME (Block letters) _____

OTHERS NAMES _____ AGE 47?0

ADDRESS _____

-2-

WHO SAYS: -

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This statement has been read to me through an interpreter and it is true.

(Signed) Messina Giuseppe

Statement taken and signature witnessed by G.Richardson, Major Special Police Branch,trough interpreter PVT.ISCO.

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

22 CP/5

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

TOWN _____ PROVINCE _____

DATE 29 September 1943

STATEMENT
OF

SURNAME (Block letters) ROMANO

OTHERS NAMES GIOVANBATTISTA fu ANDREA AGE 46

ADDRESS Via Antonio Veneziano 173 Monreale, Palermo Prov.

OCCUPATION: Merchant I.C. 96315

WHO SAYS: - I have been cautioned by Capt. J.C. Wilimovsky Jr., Special Police, AMGOT, that I am not obliged to say ar anything unless I wish to do so, but that anything I do say, will be taken down in writing and may be given in evidence. This has been read to me through the medium of an interpreter and to show that I fulley understand this caution, I sign my name.

Around October 1940, Picone Stefano and Romano G. Battista were introduced to Nicolò Gentile by the Agnello Bros. Co., Via Macqueda, Palermo. Piccone (my partner) and I were failing miserably in business, and the Agnello Bros. thought of coming to aid, by suggesting our taking in Gentile and make him a partner in our firm. We all three shared equally in the interests of our business, no one had the more say-so, we are always in accord with one another.

The 35 bales of bolted cloth was originally part of our stock here in Palermo. Bombing attacks forced us to store this cloth in Raffadali.

It is my understanding that immediately after the Allied invasion, an American Major established Official Headquarters at Raffadali. He procured the services of Nicolò Gentile, my partner, as his personal interpreter and I do not know whether or not he received a salary for this function. Sometime in August, I don't recall the

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

SURNAME (Block letters) ROMANO

OTHERS NAMES GIOVANBATTISTA fu ANDREA AGE 46

ADDRESS Via Antonio Veneziano 173 Monreale, Palermo Prov.

OCCUPATION: Merchant I.C. 96315

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 735016

23 CP/5

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

TOWN _____ PROVINCE _____

DATE _____

STATEMENT
OF

SURNAME (Block letters) _____

OTHERS NAMES _____ AGE _____

ADDRESS _____

WHO SAYS: - The night after the cloth arrived, Gentile called me to his home and gave me a pistol saying "Take this pistol and give it to the watchman and tell him he can feel safer with it." I have been shown a Smith and Wesson 38 Cal. revolver, Ser. N°. 96785. I recognize it as being the weapon handed to me by Nicolò Gentile. They instructed me to give it to the watchman at the Pirelli warehouse.

The watchman's name is Messina Giuseppe I informed Messina Giuseppe of the instructions given to me by Nicolò Gentile, that is, to have the pistol and that he could feel safer with it.

During the process of unloading the truck, Major Meader went to Nicolò Gentile's house and remained there while the truck was being unloaded. Whilst he was in the house he wrote a note for the cloth that was being stored. This Gentile also gave to me to give to the Watchman. I have been shown a note marked "I" given to me by Gentile which was to represent any queries made on the materials.

Of the 35 bails of cloth in storage at the Pirelli warehouse I can support their purchase up to approximately 23 bails by means of paid receipts in the company ledger. The tags or numbers appearing on the individual bolts of cloth, or the bails of cloth, will be substantiated by corresponding numbers on the paid bills.

The remaining bolts of cloth, of which the [illegible] cannot support by receipt due to the fact that

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 735016

SURNAME (Block letters) _____

OTHERS NAMES _____ AGE _____

ADDRESS _____

WHO SAYS: - The night after the cloth arrived, Gentile called me to his home and gave me a pistol saying "Take this pistol and give it to the watchman and tell him he can feel safer with it." I have been shown a Smith and Wesson 38 Cal. revolver, Ser. N°. 96785. I recognize it as being the weapon handed to me by Nicolò Gentile. They instructed me to give it to the watchman at the Pirelli warehouse.

The watchman's name is Messina Giuseppe I informed Messina Giuseppe of the instructions given to me by Nicolò Gentile, that is, to have the pistol and that he could feel safer with it.

During the process of unloading the truck, Major Meader went to Nicolò Gentile's house and remained there while the truck was being unloaded. Whilst he was in the house he wrote a note for the cloth that was being stored. This Gentile also gave to me to give to the Watchman. I have been shown a note marked "I" given to me by Gentile which was to represent any queries made on the materials.

Of the 35 bails of cloth in storage at the Pirelli warehouse I can support their purchase up to approximately 23 bails by means of paid receipts in the company ledger. The tags or numbers appearing on the individual bolts of cloth, or the bails of cloth, will be substantiated by corresponding numbers on the paid bills.

The remaining bolts of cloth, of which the purchase I cannot support by receipt due to the fact that during the months of the extensive bombing of Palermo, each purchase from warehouses were sold on a cash and carry basis, no receipts given and I have supplied you with the names and addresses of the wholesalers from whom I purchased these bails of cloth. They will support the fact that we have purchased this material and did not supply us with a receipt, relative to the sale.

I have reviewed the letter marked "C" addressed to the military Command of Allied Forces Palermo and signed by Giustiniani Giovanni and also, I have viewed the letter marked "H" addressed to the Chief CAO-AMGOT- Palermo and it is the first time I have seen these letters when they were shown to me in the AMGOT Civil Police Office

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

CP/5

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

TOWN _____ PROVINCE _____

DATE _____

STATEMENT
OF

SURNAME (Block letters) _____

OTHERS NAMES _____ AGE _____

ADDRESS _____

PAGE --3

WHO SAYS: - CC.RR. Palermo. I can supply no further information regarding the circumstances that surround these letters.

I am willing to assist in any way I can the ANGOT Civil Police Section CC.RR. Palermo, relative to the investigation that it is conducting.

From the time we closed our store, because of the bombing attacks, I have been required to use my personal funds to exist on. At the present I have no livelihood. I have been a member of the Fascist Party since 1933.

This statement has been read to me by Interpreter Pvt. Louis B.Piscopo and it is true.

ROMANO G. BATTISTA

4755

Statement taken and signature witnessed by Jos. Wilimovsky Capt. Special Police Branch, through Private Piscopo, interpreter.

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

OTHERS NAMES _____ AGE _____

ADDRESS _____

WHO SAYS: - CC.RR. Palermo. I can supply no further information regarding the circumstances that surround these letters.

I am willing to assist in any way I can the AMGOT Civil Police Section CC.RR. Palermo, relative to the investigation that it is conducting.

From the time we closed our store, because of the bombing attacks, I have been required to use my personal funds to exist on. At the present I have no livelihood. I have been a member of the Fascist Party since 1933.

This statement has been read to me by Interpreter Pvt. Louis B.Piscopo and it is true.

ROMANO G. BATTISTA

4785

Statement taken and signature witnessed by Jos. Wilimovsky Capt. Special Police Branch, through Private Piscopo, interpreter.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 778016

SPECIAL REPORT

Subject: Persons in Custody

Corres. No. AMSOI 1124

CP/1

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

No. 1 Region Headquarters.

TOWN Carabinieri H.Q. PROVINCE Palermo City.

DATE 7th Novr 1943.

1.

To Superintendent

Further reference to one Nicola GENTILE now detained at the Civil Prison, Palermo, for

(1) upon his own admission of being wanted by Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S.A., for criminal offences, and

(2) security grounds.

Through Island Base Section a cablegram has been received from the Federal Bureau of Investigation informing us that GENTILE is not now wanted for any offence in the U. S. A. This situation having been cleared he is now a person detained on security grounds and I therefore ask that he be transferred from the Palermo Prison to a proper place of detention pending submission of the facts.

C. Richardson, Major,
Supt., Special Police.

2.

To R.C.A.F.O., No. 1 Region.

Forwarded. 4784

7/11/43

E. J. Hefford, Major,
Supt., Civil Police.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 735016

Corres. No.
AMSOI
1124
PL

(1) upon his own admission of being wanted by Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S.A., for criminal offences, and

(2) security grounds.

Through Island Base Section a cablegram has been received from the Federal Bureau of Investigation informing us that GENTILE is not now wanted for any offence in the U. S. A. This situation having been cleared he is now a person detained on security grounds and I therefore ask that he be transferred from the Palermo Prison to a proper place of detention pending submission of the facts.

C. Richardson, Major,
Supt., Special Police.

2.

To R.C.A.P.O., No. 1 Region.

4784

Forwarded.

7/11/43

B. J. Hefford, Major,
Supt., Civil Police.

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

SPECIAL REPORT

Subject

Lessons

on

Custody.

Corres. No.

AMG01

1124

CP/1

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

No. 1 Region Headquarters.

TOWN Carabinieri H.Q. PROVINCE Palermo City.

DATE 7th Novr 1943.

1.

To Superintendent

Further reference to one Nicola GENTILE now detained at the Civil Prison, Palermo, for

(1) upon his own admission of being wanted by Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S.A., for criminal offences, and

(2) security grounds.

Through Island Base Section a cablegram has been received from the Federal Bureau of Investigation informing us that GENTILE is not now wanted for any offence in the U. S. A. This situation having been cleared he is now a person detained on security grounds and I therefore ask that he be transferred from the Palermo Prison to a proper place of detention pending submission of the facts.

G. Richardson, Major,
Supt., Special Police.

2.

To R.C.A.P.O., No. 1 Region.

Forwarded.

7/11/43

B. J. Hefford, Major,
Supt., Civil Police.

3 Ind.

7th November, 1943.

To; Capt Brown,
Superintendent of Prisons.

Please arrange for Gentile to be removed from the

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

Corres. No.
AMGOT
H24
P.I.

detained at the Civil Prison, Palermo, for

(1) upon his own admission of being wanted by Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S.A., for criminal offences, and

(2) security grounds.

Through Island Base Section a cablegram has been received from the Federal Bureau of Investigation informing us that GENTILE is not now wanted for any offence in the U. S. A. This situation having been cleared he is now a person detained on security grounds and I therefore ask that he be transferred from the Palermo Prison to a proper place of detention pending submission of the facts.

G. Richardson, Major,
Supt., Special Police.

2.

To R.C.A.P.O., No. 1 Region.

4783

Forwarded.

7/11/43

B. J. Hefford, Major,
Supt., Civil Police.

3 Ind.

7th November, 1943.

To; Capt Brown,
Superintendent of Prisons.

Please arrange for Gentile to be removed from the Central Prison, Palermo to the Civilian Internees Camp and report when this has been done in order that case may be completed.

Russell A. Snook,
Lt Colonel.
Chief, Public Safety Division.

Supt. NICOLA GENTILE. transferred to Civil Internees Camp. Palermo on 4th November 1943. as directed. Records letted.

Capt. Prisons

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

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

Carl Potter
CAO K Barracks

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

BUCK SLIP 3/21
Date

Sus: _____
Date

FROM		TO
	C.G. AMG	
	G. of S.	
	Exec Off	
	Economic Director	
	Industry & Commerce	
	Fuel	
	Agriculture	
	P. W. & Utilities	
	Labor	
	Interior	
	Information	
	Public Health	
	Legal	
	Public Safety	X
	Property Control	
	Education	
	Fine Arts	
	Shipping	
	Internal Transportation	
	Telecommunications	
	Hq, Commandant	
	C of Secretariat	
24	Message Center	
	G-1	
	G-4	
	Displaced Persons	
	Adjutant	
X	Flight Control	X

FOR:

_____ Recommendation & Remark
X Information & Guidance
_____ Approval or Disapproval
_____ Necessary Action
_____ Investigation & Report
_____ To note and return
_____ File
_____ Dispatch

REMARKS: _____

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

869

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS

Military Government Section

DSJ/AS/thh
24 October 1943

HEADQUARTERS
3 NOV 1943
AMGOT

MGS-383-8

SUBJECT: Detained Persons

TO : HQ AMG, CMF

1. Reference your 540/20/CPS of 20 October 1943.

2. As a result of a communication between this headquarters and G-2, regarding Nicolo GENTILE, the matter has been submitted to G-2, for action.

D. S. JACKLING,
Lt. Colonel

5752

0719

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

SPECIAL REPORT

Subject

PERSONS DETAINED

Corres. No.

504/20/CRS

CP/1

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT 20

TOWN CARABINIERI H.Q. PROVINCE PALERMO CITY

DATE 14th October 1943.

(1)

To Superintendent.

I submit herewith the attached copy cablegram received in this Office this day from the Federal Bureau of Investigation through 7th Army Headquarters relative to Nicolo GENTILE now detained at the Civil Prison, Palermo, suspected of security offences and also upon his own admission of being wanted by police of the U.S.A. for certain offences.

It is noted from the cablegram that GENTILE is not now wanted by the USA, but before our enquiry can be completed it will be necessary for us to have possession of the prisoner's criminal record.

In the circumstances, I suggest that that AFHQ be approached and asked to forward the record in question to this Office.

G. Richardson, Major,
Special Police Branch.

Local.

2 B.J. Stafford Major

4781

File copy

0720

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

LEP/ALH/lkw

G-2 (CI)

22 September 1943

11015

CONFIDENTIAL

PRIORITY

J EDGAR HOOVER DIRECTOR FBI WASHINGTON D C, INFO CG 15 ARMY GROUP G S I (b)
ATTN: LT. COL. YOUNG.

ADVISE IF WANTED AND FURNISH CRIMINAL RECORD OF FOLLOWING PERSON UNDER INVESTIGATION NICOLO GENTILE BORN SICILY TWELVE JUNE EIGHTY FIVE CMA BELIEVED FORMER RESIDENT NEW ORLEANS PAREN TO CG FIFTEEN ARMY GROUP G S I PAREN B PAREN ATTN LT COL YOUNG FOR J EDGAR HOOVER DIRECTOR F B I WASHINGTON D C FROM PATTON FROM KOCH CITE BAKER THIRTEEN CI PAREN ADMITS INDICTMENT NINETEEN THIRTY SEVEN FEDERAL DISTRICT COURT NEW YORK CLA WHITE SLAVE AND NARCOTICS X JUMPED EIGHTEEN THOUSAND DOLLAR BAIL AND FLED TO ITALY

888-C

Copy

14 Oct. 1943

To: CG 7th Army

Reference your 636 cite 813 CI of 22 Sept
Nicolo Gentile not report now wanted
by F.B.I. criminal record available
AFHQ if still desired.

From Hq 15th Army Group
111-200A

FILE

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

CONFIDENTIAL 46

CABLEGRAM

TO : J. Edgar Hoover, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Washington D.C.

Advise if wanted and furnish criminal record of following person under investigation - Nicolo GENTILE, born Sicily 12 June 85, believed former resident New Orleans, admits indictment 1937 Federal District Court New York, White Slave and Narcotics. Jumped 15000 dollar bail and fled to Italy.

4779

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

CONFIDENTIAL

401st C.I.C. GROUP (PROV.),
Hq. Island Base Command,
A.P.O. #758

HEADQUARTERS
P.S.
OCT 1943
1124/PS
AMGOT

7 October 1943

SUBJECT: Gentile, Nicolo.

TO : AMGOT Hqrs., Public Safety Division, Palermo.

1. With relation to your inquiry of September 23, 1943, concerning the above Subject, pending the obtaining of further information, it has been related that Subject is believed to have had considerable difficulty in the United States and to have, as a matter of fact, jumped bail.

2. He has resided in Mondello for sometime and is believed to have been employed as an interpreter for the Civil Affairs Officer in Mondello during the month of August, 1943. He is further believed to have, while acting in that capacity, utilized his position to extend favors to other officers and to instil the belief in the public that he carried considerable authority and weight. He is believed, at present, to be lodged in the Civil Prison in Palermo.

3. It is requested that you advise this office if a complete investigation of this matter is desired, providing it is within our jurisdiction as a matter of counter Intelligence.

For the Commanding Officer:

Mario E. Brod

MARIO E. BROD,
Capt., CMP (MI),
Executive Officer.

4778

Civil Police Section

For disposal

Rec'd 10/10

No. Unfortunately CPS.
This matter is already under investigation by this Section and will be reported on

Ricevuto 10/10
Ricevuto 12.10.43

504/20
11 OCT 1943

CONFIDENTIAL

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

AMGOT HQ S ILY
Public Safety Division
Civil Police Section
HQ CC. RR. Palermo

21 September 1943

TO : C.I.C. Seventh Army.

It would be appreciated if the attached cablegram could be sent for the Civil Police Section AMGOT H.Q.

RUSSELL A SNOOK
Lt Colonel
Supt Civil Police.

To: Col. Snook.
I had this telegram sent for you on Sept 22, 1943. Capt Lucas — C.I.C.

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

SUGGESTED CABLEGRAM

TO : J. Edgar Hoover, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Washington D.C.

Advise if wanted and furnish criminal record of following person under investigation - Nicolo GENTILE, born Sicily 12 June 85, believed former resident New Orleans, admits indictment 1937 Federal District Court New York, White Slave and Narcotics. Jumped 18000 dollar bail and fled to Italy.

6776

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

4-D

SUGGESTED CABLEGRAM

To:- J. Edgar Hoover, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Washington, D.C.

Arrested by AMGOT, 15 Army Group H.Q., and now in custody - Nicolo GENTILE, born 12.6.1885 Sicily, height 5'9", weight 210, oval face, clean shaven, hair grey brushed back thin on top, eyes brown, prominent nose, large mouth, stocky build, smart appearance, speaks good English, occupation a merchant. Information received that GENTILE was formerly resident New Orleans, Louisiana, and Rochester, New York. Admits being indicted in 1937 by Federal District Court, New York, for offences against White Slave and Narcotic Acts. Jumped 18000 dollar bail and fled by boat to Italy. Reply what action, if any, you desire.

Major
Special Police Branch

4775

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

CONFIDENTIAL

IBS-9-449

3rd Ind. FCS-vv

401st C.I.C. GROUP (PROV.), Hq. Island Base Section, A.P.O. #758, U.S. Army, 23 September 1943. TO: C.O., Hq. Island Base Sec., Office of I.O., U. S. Army, A.P.O. #550.

1. Investigation of black market activities are the responsibility of AMGOT and not CIC.

2. It is suggested that this be turned over to AMGOT for investigation and action they deem necessary.

Floyd C. Snowden
FLOYD C. SNOWDEN,
Major, M. I.,
Commanding.

2 Incls:
n/c.

HEADQUARTERS P S 105/1/3 AMGOT

AG 350.05 B (IBSIO) 4th Ind.
HQ ISLAND BASE SECTION, A.P.O. #550, 28 September 1943.

TO: Chief Provost Section, AMGOT, Palermo.

1. For your information and action.

2. We shall appreciate advice on disposition of this case.

For the Commanding Officer:

E. G. Hoyt
E. G. HOYT
Lt. Col., A.G.D.,
Asst. Adjutant General

2 Incls:
n/c

Sept. This case has been under investigation by the Detachment of Counter Intelligence Corps and will be reported on in due course.

Penalties May 43
Frequent Powers
1. 10. x 2.

4774

53246

CONFIDENTIAL

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

CONFIDENTIAL

HEADQUARTERS 7TH ARMY
CIC SECTION 307
APO 758

15 September 1943

SUBJECT: Black Market

TO : Ass't A.C. of S., G-2, C.I. Section, Headquarters 7th Army

1. Attached hereto is a memorandum from one of the most reliable informants of this office. Inasmuch as it deals with Black Market goods, it is recommended that it be sent to proper AMGOT authorities.

For the Commanding Officer:

M. E. PORTER
1st Lt., M.I.
Special Agent, CIC

AG350.05 B 1st Ind LEP/kfb
HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH ARMY, A.P.O. #758, U.S. Army 18 September 1943.

TO: Commanding Officer, Island Base Section, Attn: S-2

Forwarded as a matter of territorial jurisdiction.

For the Commanding General:

ALBERT A. LINDQUEST
Major A. G. D.
Assistant Adjutant General

46. (IBSIO) 2d Ind. GTB/rtb
(9-15-43)
HQ ISLAND BASE SECTION, Office of the I. O., APO #550,
19 September 1943.

TO: Commanding Officer, 401st CIC Group, APO #758.

1. This communication might give some light in regard to the alleged black market in relation to Agnello.

2. Forwarded for your information and action.

For the Commanding Officer:

G. T. BUELL,
Maj., Inf.,
Intelligence Off.

Rec'd 9/23/43

CONFIDENTIAL

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

AGNELLO RICCARDO & Fratelli
Via Maqueda,angolo Via Bari e Via Napoli.Palermo

Sfollati a Monreale vi trasportarono tutte le merci(ingentissime quantità di tessuti che poterono rivendere in parte a Monreale e altrove col sistema del mercato nero).
Finanziatori di organizzazioni fasciste.Fervente propagandista,sebbene qualcuno dei fratelli mostra di non esserlo stato fino al punto di farsi credere antifascista dai gonzi....
Il patrimonio dei F.lli Agnello ascende oggi a oltre 20milioni di lire.Essi hanno lucrato durante la guerra.
I tessuti trafugati ad altri commercianti del genere durante i saccheggi che precedettero e seguirono lo arrivo delle truppe liberatrici andarono a finire nei magazzini,decentratissimi,della ditta Agnello.
Non volendo subire i danni di tali saccheggi,n i magazzini di Palermo e in quelli decentratissimi,fra i quali il più importante in Monreale,pagarono una somma di circa L.250.000 attraverso tali Sinagra padre e figlio: Giacomo ed Enzo.Costoro,in unione ad un gruppo di delinquenti,fra i quali vi figurano altri noti ceffi abitanti attualmente Monreale, e fra essi certo Salvatore Romano,riuscirono ad impedire che i saccheggiatori si dirigessero verso i magazzini della ditta Agnello,che rimasta in possesso delle merci continuerà a rivenderle attraverso il mercato nero.

Si noti che i Fratelli Agnello hanno acquistato recentemente dei feudi per impiego di capitali.Che dispongono di automobili con Permit;che hanno appoggiato sempre i Sinagra,loro difensori,i quali dispongo di una automobile nº 8592 PA(Fiat tipo 1500).

1772

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

Textile operatives at Prato have fewer than all
the goods range of fabrics they once did
at Prato [illegible] by bloody murder.
They fabricate Tweed imitations. They purchase
Cashmere through intermediaries, always cut to be
made as dear as to make honestly believed the
cotton by hand.

The appearance of Agnello Pisa, arrayed in
20 million lire of loot, they leave after
dinner the wife.

The goods stolen to other manufacturers in the
Prato town during the subsequent proceedings followed
investigation into the Allied Arrivi person as [illegible]
destruct please out of town — belonging to Agnello from
Not mentioning to suffer the damages of each
Defendant in the absence of Pisa on will be of the thing
principally the one at Alessandro, they paid 1951
Innocent of about 250,000 lire through some
Lawyer, a father and a Son; James & Vincent.
Such people together with a group of scoundrels,
among whom are to be members [illegible] known
Cricket people living at Alessandro at present, among
Them a Mr Salvatori Romano, succeeded in

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

Just Briefing the robbers to reveal the warehouse of Agnello Bros. while the still having the goods on their hands will go on selling them through the Black market.

It is to be known that Agnello Bros. have purchased legally some farms & now their capital. They are their automobiles with a Permit; they have already purchased the Senators their defenders who are in possession of a Car bearing the # 8592 PA. (Fiat Coach 1500)

9/23/43

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

CONFIDENTIAL

34

SUBJECT : Major M.H. MEADER, C.E. AUS.

AMGOT/1124/PS

AMGOT H.Q. SICILY

22 September, 1943.

TO : Chief of Staff,
U.S. Contingent.

There is herewith re-submitted above file, augmented by further reports of investigation of one Nicola GENTILE.

In the course of routine investigations of Italian civilians, the name of Major MONROE H. MEADER, C.E. AUS., then on duty with the Custodian of Property, AMGOT H.Q., became involved.

My statement of the case submitted 12 September, 1943 was without recommendation in reference to Major MEADER as he is not in any way under the direction or jurisdiction of this Division. No recommendation is made at this time in respect to this aspect of the case, but the circumstances as reported, together with statement of Chief Legal Officer (21 September, 1943) are placed before you for such further action as may be directed by the Commanding General.

Lyman L. Bales
LYMAN L. BALES
Colonel, Infantry,
Commissioner of Public Safety.

Public Safety
(Col Bales) 9/22/43

The Decaso directs that Gov Section follow up the trial of Romero, and Magliocca. If Smith, it will help in determining the actions and Companies of Major Meader. We want all the facts and can set about further action pleas[illegible]

4769

0732

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

CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT : Maj. [illegible] R.H. MEADER, O.S. AUS.

AHQOT/1124/PS

AHQOT A.P.O. SIXTY

22 September, 1943.

TO : Chief of Staff,
U.S. Contingent.

There is herewith re-submitted above file, augmented by further reports of investigation of one Nicola [illegible].

In the course of routine investigations of Italian civilians, the name of Major HOWARD H. MEADER, O.S. AUS., then on duty with the Custodian of Property, AHQOT A.P.O., became involved.

My statement of the case submitted 12 September, 1943 was without recommendation in reference to Major MEADER as he is not in any way under the direction or jurisdiction of this Division. No recommendation is made at this time in respect to this aspect of the case, but the circumstances as reported, together with statement of Chief Legal Officer (21 September, 1943) are placed before you for such further action as may be directed by the Commanding General.

ARTHUR L. HOLLIS
Colonel, Infantry,
Commissioner of Public Safety.

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

AMGOT HQ SICILY
Public Safety Division
Civil Police Section
HQ CC. RR. Palermo

21 September 1943.

TO : Commissioner of Public Safety.

Reference the attached cablegram - since discussing this matter with you we have found that cablegrams can be sent through C.I.C. most directly, and I have therefore arranged accordingly.

RUSSELL A'SNOOK
Lt Colonel
Supt Civil Police.

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

SUGGESTED CABLEGRAM

TO : J. Edgar Hoover, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Washington D.C.

Advise if wanted and furnish criminal record of following person under investigation - Nicolo GENTILE, born Sicily 12 June 85, believed former resident New Orleans, admits indictment 1937 Federal District Court New York, White Slave and Narcotics. Jumped 18000 dollar bail and fled to Italy.

4760

CONFIDENTIAL

AMGOT/4029/1

AMGOT Hq., SICILY

21 September 1943

SUBJECT: Major Meader

TO : Commissioner of Public Safety--AMGOT

1. You have asked me for a report on the interview which Major Meader had with Lt. Col. Rowe and myself on 14 Sept., with reference to an Italian named ROMANO, Nicoto.

2. Major Meader called at this office on the afternoon of 14 Sept. and stated that he had just come from seeing Lt. Col. Snook at the Carabinieri Offices. He stated, with considerable indignation, that a man named ROMANO had been arrested by the Carabinieri 8 days previously on charges unknown to him, that no charges had yet been preferred against him, and that it was entirely wrong of Lt. Col. Snook to keep this man in jail without disclosing charges. Major Meader said he, Meader, worked in the Property Controller Division, and that ROMANO was of considerable assistance to the Division, and further, that he had a "personal interest" in the matter because he was living at ROMANO's apartment. Lt. Col. Chanler pointed out that this was a breach of regulations, and unfortunate as it might give ~~rise~~ to questions regarding Major Meader's interest in ROMANO's case. Major Meader stated, that he was primarily interested in obtaining ROMANO's services again for the purpose of getting some trucks for his Department. He also stated that he had not known of the regulations regarding living with Italians.

3. Major Meader stated that ROMANO had been highly recommended to him by an Italian named GENTILE. He admitted that he knew GENTILE was a known criminal in the United States who had escaped to Sicily after breaking his bail in the United States. He stated however that GENTILE had been of great help to him since he first met him in Agrigento (or Licata ?), and that he considered him a fine man and very helpful to, and cooperative with the Allied Forces. He also stated that he had had both ROMANO and GENTILE passed by G-2. He added that he believed the case against ROMANO was a frame-up because GENTILE had told him so.

4. There was after this some further discussion from which it appeared that ROMANO was in no way in the pay or employment of the Property Controller Division, but that it was through his help that certain motorcars for officers of AMGOT had been obtained. Major Meader stated that the assistance of ROMANO was needed at the present moment because the Property Controller Division wanted some trucks very badly and ROMANO knew where to get them.

5. Lt. Col. Chanler then told Major Meader that if Lt. Col. Snook decided to keep anybody in prison without disclosing charges, he was entirely free to do so for the purpose of investigating suspected offences without giving Major Meader any reasons, and that Lt. Col. Snook would receive the full support of this Division in the matter. Major Meader then left.

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

had with Lt. Col. Rowe and myself on 14 Sept., with reference to an Italian named ROMANO, Nicoto.

2. Major Meader called at this office on the afternoon of 14 Sept. and stated that he had just come from seeing Lt. Col. Snook at the Carabinieri Offices. He stated, with considerable indignation, that a man named ROMANO had been arrested by the Carabinieri 8 days previously on charges unknown to him, that no charges had yet been preferred against him, and that it was entirely wrong of Lt. Col. Snook to keep this man in jail without disclosing charges. Major Meader said he, Meader, worked in the Property Controller Division, and that ROMANO was of considerable assistance to the Division, and further, that he had a "personal interest" in the matter because he was living at ROMANO's apartment. Lt. Col. Chanler pointed out that this was a breach of regulations, and unfortunate as it might give rise to questions regarding Major Meader's interest in ROMANO's case. Major Meader stated, that he was primarily interested in obtaining ROMANO's services again for the purpose of getting some trucks for his Department. He also stated that he had not known of the regulations regarding living with Italians.

3. Major Meader stated that ROMANO had been highly recommended to him by an Italian named GENTILE. He admitted that he knew GENTILE was a known criminal in the United States who had escaped to Sicily after breaking his bail in the United States. He stated however that GENTILE had been of great help to him since he first met him in Agrigento (or Licata ?), and that he considered him a fine man and very helpful to, and cooperative with the Allied Forces. He also stated that he had had both ROMANO and GENTILE passed by G-2. He added that he believed the case against ROMANO was a frame-up because GENTILE had told him so.

4. There was after this some further discussion from which it appeared that ROMANO was in no way in the pay or employment of the Property Controller Division, but that it was through his help that certain motorcars for officers of AMGOT had been obtained. Major Meader stated that the assistance of ROMANO was needed at the present moment because the Property Controller Division wanted some trucks very badly and ROMANO knew where to get them.

5. Lt. Col. Chanler then told Major Meader that if Lt. Col. Snook decided to keep anybody in prison without disclosing charges, he was entirely free to do so for the purpose of investigating suspected offences without giving Major Meader any reasons, and that Lt. Col. Snook would receive the full support of this Division in the matter. Major Meader then left.

6. The foregoing is the substance of the interview which took place, together with the gist of the conversation. Lt. Col. Rowe was present and participated in the interview, and has confirmed that the foregoing is in accordance with his recollection.

W. C. CHANLER,
Lt. Col. AUS,
Chief Legal Officer.

jd

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

CP/1.

SPECIAL REPORT OF C. A. P. O.

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION
CIVIL POLICE SECTION

Confidential

TOWN CARABANIERI HEADQUARTERS

PROVINCE PALERMO

DATE 20th September 1943.

SUBJECT

PERSONS IN CUSTODY AND WANTED ELSEWEHERE.

CORRES. NO.

(1)

To Superintendent.

With reference to the attached instruction from the Commissioner, Public Safety Division, AMGOT Headquarters.

On 17th September 1943, in accordance with the directions of Superintendent, Major Hefford of this Office attended AMGOT H.Q. and there interviewed Major Munroe Harrison Meader, Civil Supply Division, and called upon him to submit forthwith a written statement covering his knowledge of and association with the suspect Nicola GENTILE. This he did, and attached hereto and marked 'A' is a copy of the statement in question. Comment is unnecessary owing to the self-explanatory nature of the document, but it will be seen by reference thereto that Major Meader for some time past has had full knowledge of the criminal history and activities of GENTILE.

When leaving the Headquarters, Major Hefford observed GENTILE entering the building. He noticed the suspect pass inside without first securing the necessary authority. The Major kept the man under observation and saw him enter the office of Major Meader. At this stage Major Hefford intervened, detained GENTILE and brought him to this Office for questioning and investigation.

Whilst so detained, the suspect was searched and in his possession was found a quantity of correspondence amongst which were a number of documents having bearing on this case. The following are examples and copies are attached hereto for information :-

1. Visiting card of Major Meader upon which is written in the Major's writing, 'This man's past record in America is known to us and is not to be used against him' initialled MHM. Marked 'B'

2. Visiting card of Major Meader on the reverse of which is an authority for GENTILE to visit Room 38 AMGOT at any time. Marked 'C'

3. Piece of paper bearing an open authority for civilian to ride in vehicle. Signed by Capt. Levitt on behalf of Col

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

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2. Visiting card of Major Meader on the reverse of which is an authority for GENTILE to visit Room 38 AMGOT at any time. Marked 'C'

3. Piece of paper bearing an open authority for civilian to ride in vehicle. Signed by Capt. Levitt on behalf of Col Poletti. Marked 'D'

4. Piece of paper signed by Major Meader authorising GENTILE to possess firearm. Marked 'E'

N.B. This firearm, a five chambered revolver of modern pattern, has been recovered from the improper possession of another individual at Via Ritoro 22, Monreale. It was fully loaded at the time it was seized by police and enquiries are now in hand to substantiate or otherwise any offence.

5. Piece of paper bearing name and address of Major Meader. Marked 'F'

(continued)

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

6. Letter from Giovanni Giutiniani, [redacted] Napoli No.28, Palermo to AMGOT asking assistance re business. Marked 'G'

7. Letter from Gaetana Fardella, Via Bandiera No.2, Palermo, to AMGOT asking assistance re business. Marked 'H'

N.B. It appears at first sight that the writers of these two letters, through the medium of GENTILE, are trying to find favour with AMGOT. This matter is now under close investigation.

Owing to the lateness of the hour, the questioning of GENTILE could not be completed, but it should be stated at the onset that he admitted he is a fugitive from American justice having at New York in 1937 absconded from a bail of 10,000 dollars whilst facing charges for dangerous drug and procuration offences. Owing to the abundance of material in our possession requiring investigation, the enquiries necessary may take some time, but immediately upon completion a comprehensive report of the facts together with details of offences, if any disclosed, will be submitted. In the meantime, GENTILE is in custody.

Incidentally, on the night of GENTILE's apprehension, a warehouse of the Pirelli Company at Monreale, Palermo, was searched by Officers from this Branch. In this warehouse were found 35 bales containing different types of cloth. A watchman who was present named Giuseppe MESSINA was called upon for an explanation as to the presence of this property and he then produced a document which he claimed had been given to him for production in such a case. This document is now in our possession, but a copy is attached hereto for information :-

8. Piece of paper bearing in Major Meader's writing, 'The cloth stored here temporarily belongs to S. Nicolo Gentile who is my special civilian assistant. Do not disturb it. Signed M.H.Meader, Major. Marked 'I'.

Investigation is now in hand to identify this property and as to whether GENTILE is in lawful possession of it. It is too early yet to make a statement in this direction, but immediately upon completion of our enquiries the result will be included in the comprehensive report.

Submitted for information.

G. Richardson,
Major,
Special Police Branch.

TO: Commissioner of Public Safety

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

absconded from a bail of 15,000 dollars whilst facing charges for dangerous drug and procuration offences. Owing to the abundance of material in our possession requiring investigation, the enquiries necessary may take some time, but immediately upon completion a comprehensive report of the facts together with details of offences, if any disclosed, will be submitted. In the meantime, GENTILE is in custody.

Incidentally, on the night of GENTILE's apprehension, a warehouse of the Pirelli Company at Monreale, Palermo, was searched by Officers from this Branch. In this warehouse were found 35 bales containing different types of cloth. A watchman who was present named Giuseppe MESSINA was called upon for an explanation as to the presence of this property and he then produced a document which he claimed had been given to him for production in such a case. This document is now in our possession, but a copy is attached hereto for information :-

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Submitted for information.

G. Richardson,
Major,
Special Police Branch.

TO: Commissioner of Public Safety 4783

Forwarded in accordance with your verbal direction of 15th. September, 1943.

RUSSELL A SNOOK
Lt Colonel
Supt Civil Police.

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

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

The following instructions was given verbally by Superintendent Civil Police Section on 15 September 1943.

It is alleged that a fugitve from justice fromthe United States a former gangster, one gentili, is at present in Sicily and has been very active in conection with certain United States officers of AMGOT. Major Meader of the Supply Division is in possession of futher details.

Will you please have a thoughour investigation of this report make and submited to me.

Fran Commissioner of Public Safety

Pending: SECRET Expeditious plans for finger printing of prisoners suspects. of having a previous record in the United States and in England in securing their criminal record.

DC. Keep this under cover and bring forward on 20/9/43

BFP. 15/9/43

AMGOT HEADQUARTERS,
PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION,
CIVIL POLICE SECTION,
PALERMO.

..17.September...1943..

S T A T E M E N T

OF: MONROE H MEADER, Major CE
A.C.P., AMGOT HQ Sicily

SUBJECT.
~~NICOLO~~ (block letters)....GENTILE.....

OTHER NAMES.....Nicolo.....AGE.....

ADDRESS.....Opposite the Cathedral in Monreale on the same street as the entrance to the Archbishops residence, Via Arcivescopale.....

OCCUPATION.....

WHO SAYS :-

1. " When assigned to C.A.O. work in Agrigento Province under Lt Col McCaffrye I made my headquarters in RAFFADALI. This man was the only one available for an interpreter and I used him as such from about July 21st until reassigned to AMGOT HQ at Palermo about August 25th and subsequently on occasions here in Palermo.

2. As soon as I expressed a desire to use him as an interpreter he volunteered the following information:

(a) That he had a prison record in Sicily but not for criminal or political convictions; one when young for assault, another while under interrogation, but case not proven, another for "associating with the wrong people". Also that he was not permitted to leave the Kingdom of Italy.

(b) That he was a bail-jumper on a Federal indictment for narcotics and white slavery charges in N.Y. City. That he appeared before the Asst. District Attorney who came to Italy and gave him assistance but refused to return voluntarily to the U.S. unless the white slavery charge was dropped he deemed it disgraceful and being well able to clear himself of any connection with either charge.

(c) That his business in the U.S. was a wholesale grocery

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

ADDRESS.....

entrance to the Archbishops residence, Via Arcivescovale.

OCCUPATION.....

WHO SAYS :-

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(c) That his business in the U.S. was a wholesale grocery (which included corn sugar) and an interest in a furniture store but that he had never engaged in bootlegging or any other criminal or illegal or political activity.

3. I reported this to Col. McC. (and to the C.I.C. in Agrigento who had his record substantially as it appears above and had no interest in him) and continued to use him as an interpreter. He was meticulously correct in his attitude and aided AMGOT there and in Palermo in many ways far more helpful than merely as an interpreter, and told me he would volunteer to return to America and stand the trial without any reservations if we so desired.

Initials .....

(overleaf)

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

4. I reviewed this with Lt Col Harris when I arrived in Palermo and we decided not to attempt to employ him officially but to use his assistance to locate property and stuff of interest to the Controller of Property's Division. Again he has been meticulously correct in his attitude, never requesting any favour for himself or others and his comments and information have invariably cross-checked with other sources.

5. It was he who introduced me to Nicolo ("Toto") Romano in whose apartment I have had my lodging. As to the latter, I was directly aware of a connection with XDG 3 which I am not at liberty to discuss.

6. In my opinion, any officer who can convince Nicolo Gentile of his own sincerity and ability would receive the same direct unbiased information.

7. Also in my opinion, he has the respect and the active aid of a large number of substantial citizens and this influence reaches into high circles in Rome.

8. From my own past experience of Sicilians, bootleggers, rum-runners, and people, I draw the following conclusions:

This man is not a criminal in our sense of the word.

He is a man of unusual moral integrity and beyond fear or avarice.

He undoubtedly belongs to one of the secret societies, (loosely termed the Mafia), and is highly regarded for his ability as a concilliator and knowledge of human nature.

He has also close connections with Italian Freemasonry.

Signed MONROE H MEADER
Major CE
ACP
AMGOT HQ.

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

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He has also close connections with Italian Freemasonry.

Signed MONROE H MEADER
Major CE
ACP
AMGOT HQ.

Statement taken and Signature witnessed by:

B.J. HEFFORD,
Major
Public Safety Division
A/Supt Civil Police.

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

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

B.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

"This man's past record in America is known to us and is not to be used against him" MHM.

MAJOR MONROE HARRISON LEADER.

Corps of Engineers
Army of the United States
Seventh Army HQ- Civil Affairs - Sicily.

PTO

4780

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

Lt Col Harris
Capt Bovard

or MAJOR MONROE HARRISON MEADER

Corps of Engineers
Army of the United States.

PTO

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

HQ 7th Army.

"This driver has permission to ride this civilian "

for Lt Col Charles Poletti
Capt. ?? Levitt.

4736

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

0749

61

TO WHO IT MAY CONCERN:

RAFFADALI JULY 22 1943

The Bearer: NICOLO GENTILE

By Occupation a:

Has permission to keep arms home: at.....
..Via Nazionale..... and....RAFFADALI.....
By comando of Major General Truscott for George H Mcaffrey
Lt Col. Inf. Senior Civil Affaire Officer.
By.....M.H. MEADER.....4747.

Major M.H. MEADER
Civil affaire offcir RAFFADALI.

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

MONROE HARRISON MEADER

Major, Corps of Engineers,

Assistant Custodian of Allied and Enemy Property in Occupied Territies.

A M G O T

Allied Military Government of Occupied Territories.

141 Force HQ Seventh Army.

- - - - - - -

47.2

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

GIOVANNI GIUSTINIANI - Via Napoli No. 28 - Palermo.

Date 18th September 1943.

to : The Military Command
Of Government of Allied Forces
P A L E R M O

The undersigned Rag. Giorgio Giustiniani, Commissioner authorized by the R. Custom House in Palermo, proprietor and titular of the firm " DITTA GIOVANNI GIUSTINIANI" has the honour to submit to that respectable Command as follows:

His firm founded in 1901 is working in transports of goods over-sea and in Sicily with motor-cars. The firm is furnished of a valuable organization in workmen both for packing of house-hold and transports.

In consequense of war and consequent emergency, he has been compelled to reduce plenty of activities specially those with motor-cars having not any more of it at his disposal.

The undersigned pray this respectable Command to help his necessities and if possible to assign him a motor-car to continue traffic with Sicilian places and to avoid the danger that after 42 years of honest work, all this activities shall be stopped.

favourable
Trusting you will honour him with a/reply

Yours very truly

GIOVANNI GIUSTINIANI.

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

14

19

GAETANO FARDELLA Via Bandiera No 2 Palermo

DATE 5th September 1943.

TO : Signor - Capo degli Affari Civili dell'AMGOT
Palermo.

Da circa 20 anni mi sono occupato nella qualità di Procuratore Generale della Ditta Concessionaria per la vendita in tutta la Sicilia con sede a Palermo, della importante Casa di Prodotti Farmaceutici, Società Anonima per l'Industria Chimica di Basilea Prodotti CIBA svolgendo la mia attività in tutta l'Isola.

Tale attività, per causa della attuale situazione è cessata, pertanto chiedo l'onore di mettermi a Vostra disposizione per ogni eventuale collaborazione, nel caso aveste bisogno della mia modesta opera nel campo farmaceutico.

Anche nel campo tessili sono a Vostra disposizione, poichè mi sono pure occupato, di rappresentanze di case di Tessuti e Filati.

Per le mie referenze Bancarie, potete rivolgervi al Direttore della Cassa di Risparmio V.E. di Via Napoli Palermo.

Ringrazianuovi, gradite distinti saluti.

G. FARDELLA.

1754

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

A M G O T

August 16, 1943.

18

TO : Allied Army Personnel.

The cloth stored here temporarily belongs to S. Nicolo Gentile who is my special civilian assistant.

Do not disturb it.

M.H. MEADER.
Major CE.

15 Army HQ Civil Affairs.

4703

Confidential

SUBJECT: Major M.H. Meader, C.E.

AMGOT H.Q., SICILY
AMGOT/1124/PS
September 18,1943

TO : Chief of Staff, U.S. Contingent.
AMGOT, 15 Army Group.

The enclosed file gives particulars of a case under investigation by the Civil Police Section of this Division, in which the conduct of Major Monroe H. Meader, C.E. of the Property Custodian's Division, must be brought to your notice.

The visit of Major Meader and Major Martin to Major Richardson, (vide: p. 2 of document 2A) was reported to me the same day and I fully approved the attitude taken by Major Richardson.

Lt. Col. Snook also reported Major Meader's visit to him and the threat to take the matter higher. I fully approved Lt. Col. Snook's action and what he said to Major Meader.

Lt. Col. Rowe's statement is merely included to complete the picture. Following Major Meader's interview with Lt. Col. Chanler the latter saw me about it and I was able to give him the rest of the story although I was not at that time in possession of the official report now forwarded.

I wish to draw your attention to the following points:-

1. Major Meader has been sharing an apartment with an Italian who now proves to be a bad character with five previous convictions.

2. The apartment has apparently been used for the storage of stolen property.

3. Major Meader has, no doubt unwittingly, allowed himself to be used as a stooge, under whose protection Romano has been able to indulge in nefarious practices if not in looting.

4. Major Meader has employed Romano, a man of limited means, (see statement of his mother at 3B) in an honorary capacity but without having him checked from the Security angle.

5. Major Meader endeavoured to persuade an officer of this Division to release his (Meader's) friend, for whose integrity he was prepared to vouch, by threatening to go over that Officer's head.

A further aspect of the case which came to light in Major Meader's interview with Col. Chanler, is being investigated separately but this also affects Major Meader.

1732

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

Major Monroe H. Meader, C.E. of the Property Custodian's Division, [illegible] be brought to your notice.

The visit of Major Meader and Major Martin to Major Richardson, (vide: p. 2 of document 2A) was reported to me the same day and I fully approved the attitude taken by Major Richardson.

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A further aspect of the case which came to light in Major Meader's interview with Col. Chanler, is being investigated separately but this also affects Major Meader.

Lemuel Bolles

LEMUEL L. BOLLES
Colonel, INF.
Commissioner of
Public Safety.

Returned personally
by C.S. as cont (Col Zeller)
for further comment.
Bolles

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

(10)

AMGOT HQ SICILY
Public Safety Division
Civil Police Section
HQ C.C. R.R. Palermo

16 September 1943

TO : The Superintendent.

I have to submit particulars of a case which has been under investigation by members of the Civil Police Section since the 7th September, 1943.

Briefly, the circumstances are as follows:

On 7th September, 1943, Special agents Joyce and French of C.I.C. came to this office and stated that they had arrested and lodged in Jail two Sicilians, Nicoto ROMANO ~~and~~ and Ignazio MAGLIO for suspected unlawful possession of cloth.

Major Richardson was directed to cause enquiries to be made into the case, and his report is attached at A, which takes the case up to and including 11th September.

On 12th September Major Richardson was placed on the sick-list and owing to shortage of staff, I took up the enquiry.

On the same date Major Meader again attended this office and was interviewed in my presence by Superintendent, when he enquired whether the case had been completed and whether the prisoners could be released.

The papers were subsequently returned to me by the Superintendent, with instructions to proceed with the investigation of the case. 47.1

On 13th September, I directed Vice Brigadieri INDIANO Angelo to go to the Jail and obtain statements from each of the prisoners. This he did.

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

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The papers were subsequently returned to me by the Superintendent, with instructions to proceed with the investigation of the case. 47.1

On 13th September, I directed Vice Brigadieri INDIANO Angelo to go to the Jail and obtain statements from each of the prisoners. This he did.

On 14th September, Major Meader again attended this office when he repeated his request for the release of the prisoner ROMANO, and upon being told by Superintendent that the matter was still under review, he (MEADER?) stated that he would take the case "upstairs" (presumed to mean that release would be sought from higher authority).

On the 15th September, I took statements from Luisa GHIUNGHILLI, occupier of the premises at which ROMANO resides; Mariana MARTINEZ, mother of MAGLIO, Beaggio MAGLIO, son of MAGLIO, and Franco LOYIACONO, brother-in-law of MAGLIO. (3A, B, C, & D).

All the statements taken indicate that prior to the occupation by Allied troops, MAGLIO was engaged in the buying and selling of cloth in a small way. He, however, is

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

(18)

a poor man, lives in extremely poor circumstances and so far as can be ascertained, never possessed sufficient money to pay for the material shown in the invoice. It must be pointed out that the invoice is made out to DITTA MANLIO Gaetana, who MAGLIO states, is his sister, and who, prior to the demolition of her premises by bombing, carried on business as a cloth buyer and seller. The address of this last named person cannot be ascertained.

At this point I would call attention to three suspicious circumstances concerning the Invoice:

1. The whole of the invoice is written in ink with the exception of the name of the purchaser, which has been typed.

2. Close scrutiny of the name on the invoice discloses that the original entry has been carefully erased and another inserted.

3. That the receipt for payment of the bill is given at a different town to that at which the cloth was bought.

I have obtained statements from the two C.I.C. agents, (4A48) and the substance of their story is that they visited ROMANO's premises twice on 7th September, once in the morning and again in the afternoon and that during the interval a quantity of the cloth had been removed. This is confirmed by the occupier of ROMANO's premises. They also state that when they visited ROMANO's premises in the afternoon, they passed him in the street in conversation with MAGLIO whereas the woman at ROMANO's lodgings states that he did not leave the premises between 1.15 pm. and the time of the officers second visit. Further, I found at MAGLIO's residence 7 bales of cloth which were not on the premises when they were searched by Brig. ANGELO on 7th September, and of which I hve now taken possession.

I have had the advice and assistance of two cloth experts. They state: (See 5A).

a That it was not possible to buy cloth of this des-

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

ious circumstances concerning the Invoice:

1. The whole of the invoice is written in ink with the exception of the name of the purchaser, which has been typed.

2. Close scrutiny of the name on the invoice discloses that the original entry has been carefully erased and another inserted.

3. That the receipt for payment of the bill is given at a different town to that at which the cloth was bought.

I have obtained statements from the two C.I.C. agents, (4A & B) and the substance of their story is that they visited ROMANO's premises twice on 7th September, once in the morning and again in the afternoon and that during the interval a quantity of the cloth had been removed. This is confirmed by the occupier of ROMANO's premises. They also state that when they visited ROMANO's premises in the afternoon, they passed him in the street in conversation with MAGLIO whereas the woman at ROMANO's lodgings states that he did not leave the premises between 1.15 pm. and the time of the officers second visit. Further, I found at MAGLIO's residence 7 bales of cloth which were not on the premises when they were searched by Brig. ANGELO on 7th September, and of which I have now taken possession.

I have had the advice and assistance of two cloth experts. They state: (See 5A).

a That it was not possible to buy cloth of this description in June 1943.

b That the cost of material of this quality even before the war (1939) would be considerably more than shown on the invoice.

c That if the material was bought after 1940, it is required by law to have certain numbers indicating price, quality, etc; on every metre of the cloth. - The sequestered cloth does not bear these marks.

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

(14)

The investigation of this case has been lengthy and involved, but the relevant factors are summarised below;

1. ROMANO is found in possession of a large quantity of valuable cloth which he states belongs to MAGLIO.

2. MAGLIO removes some of the cloth while the case is under investigation by C.I.C., and hides it. Only part of this cloth has been recovered.

3. When MAGLIO is seen he states that he bought the property in June 1943, and in support produces a receipt - obviously a forgery. He, however, cannot account for possession of the uniforms. His statement that he bought the material is clearly untrue in that it was not possible to buy such material at the price at any time, and that such material was not obtainable except by retail anywhere in the Kingdom of Italy.

There appears clear evidence of the following offences:

MAGLIO 1. Being concerned with ROMANO in the possession of property looted, stolen, or otherwise unlawfully obtained.

2. Forgery - For the purpose of procuring advantage to himself or others, did alter and make use of a private deed.

ROMANO 1. Being concerned with MAGLIO in the unlawful possession.

2. Aiding and abetting the forgery.

The investigation is being continued by the Carabinieri and the case will go before the Civil Court unless other offences are disclosed, when appropriate charges will be added.

I have attached copies of all the reports and statements that are available, for information.

Romano has a conviction

B.J. Hefford

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

part of this cloth has been recovered.

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ROMANO 1. Being concerned with MAGLIO in the unlawful possession.

2. Aiding and abetting the forgery.

The investigation is being continued by the Carabinieri and the case will go before the Civil Court unless other offences are disclosed, when appropriate charges will be added.

I have attached copies of all the reports and statements that are available, for information.

Romano has a conviction 2 years for unlawful wounding
Maglio has 5 convictions including one of 7 months imp for fraud.

B.J. Hefford
MAJOR.

For Commissioner of Public Safety.

RUSSELL A SNOOK
Lt. Colonel
Public Safety Division
Supt. Civil Police.

RAS/CE.

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

SPECIAL REPORT
OF C. A. P. O.

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION
CIVIL POLICE SECTION

2A.

SUBJECT
Arrest of two men for alleged unlawful possession of cloth.

CORRES. NO.

TOWN Carabinieri Headquarters
PROVINCE Palermo
DATE 12th September 1943

(1)

Superintendent,

On the afternoon of the 7th Sept. 1943, Special Agents, Joyce and French, of C.I.C. Detachment, 7th Army Hq., called at this office and stated firstly that they had arrested two Sicilians Nicoto Romano of 17 Via Pietro D'Asaro, Palermo, and Ignazio Maglio of 5 Alborgheria, Palermo, for their apparent unlawful possession of cloth, etc. at their addresses and secondly, that they had lodged the prisoners in the Civil Jail, Palermo. As the investigation from the security point of view, had been cleared up satisfactorily, the Agents handed the case over to me as there was a possibility that some criminal or Proclamation offences had been committed in connection with the cloth.

It appears that a letter (copy attached marked A) was received from Exp Det G3 - X2 Branch, in which it was suggested that an American Army officer was living with the prisoner Romano and that Romano was taking advantage of the officer's friendship, and looting private houses under the pretence of looking for Fascists.

4738

The Special Agents were given instructions to proceed on the investigation and the foregoing is the result.

During my interview with the officers, they handed me two documents, taken from the possession of the Prisoners, viz., a visiting card (attached marked B) in the name of Major Monroe

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

unlawful possession of cloth.

CORRES. NO.

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On the afternoon of the 7th Sept. 1943, Special Agents, Joyce and French, of C.I.C. Detachment, 7th Army Hq., called at this office and stated firstly that they had arrested two Sicilians Nicoto Romano of 17 Via Pietro D'Asaro, Palermo, and Ignazio Maglio of 5 Alborgheria, Palermo, for their apparent unlawful possession of cloth, etc. at their addresses and secondly, that they had lodged the prisoners in the Civil Jail, Palermo. As the investigation from the security point of view, had been cleared up satisfactorily, the Agents handed the case over to me as there was a possibility that some criminal or Proclamation offences had been committed in connection with the cloth.

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4738

The Special Agents were given instructions to proceed on the investigation and the foregoing is the result.

During my interview with the officers, they handed me two documents, taken from the possession of the Prisoners, viz., a visiting card (attached marked B) in the name of Major Monroe Harrison Meader, Corps. of Engineers, Army of the United States., on the reverse side of which is an authority in pencil signed by the Major, giving permission to Romano to use his motorcycle. The second document, (attached marked C) is an invoice in respect of the purchase of certain cloth. Apparently, this was produced by the prisoners to show their authority to possess the cloth. It will be noticed by scrutiny of this invoice that the heading has been tampered with recently.

As the Special Agents had not taken possession of the cloth, I sent to the addresses of the prisoners, Vice-Brigadieres Indiano Angelo and Michelotti Vasco, and they returned to this

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

office with 23 pieces of cloth of various colors found at the home of Romano and 8 grey-green overcoats and 2 pairs of brown colored trousers belonging to the Italian military authorities, found at the addresses of Maglio. The Vice-Brigadieres' report is attached marked D.

In view of the unusual circumstances of this case I decided that I should interrogate personally, the two prisoners, but to date, this has not been possible owing to the amount of work in this branch.

However, at about 4PM on the 11th Sept., Major Meader and Major Martin of Palermo Province, called at this office in relation to these Sicilians. They asked for circumstances of the case and also the identity of the informant. I told them that it would be highly improper to discuss these subjects whilst the case was sub-judice, and then, in as many words, Major Meader asked me to order their release saying that Romano was an agent of the Allies and was going to be sent to the mainland of Italy.

At the conclusion of the interview, I informed the Majors that the facts would be reported to the Superintendent, LT. Col. Snook.

I am not in a position to say whether or not offences have been committed in relation to the cloth, but there is an offence as regards the Italian Army uniform.

Directions are sought as to what action is to be taken, in view of Major Meader's request.

for G. Richardson
Major
Special Police Branch

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

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At the conclusion of the interview, I informed the Majors that the facts would be reported to the Superintendent, LT. Col. Snook.

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Directions are sought as to what action is to be taken, in view of Major Meader's request.

1747

for G. Richardson
Major
Special Police Branch

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

PIAZZA CASTELNUOVO 47
TEL L8-42

(11) A

AUG 28 '43.

From : Exp Det G3 - X2 Branch
To : Headquarters Seventh Army -G2 Section
To : C.I.C.
Subject : ROMANO Salvatore.

We are informed that the above named individual is living together with an American Army officer (probably a Captain) in an apartment situated in Via Pietro d'Asare No.17.

Taking advantage of this officer's friendship, and presumably in cooperation with him, Romano is raiding private houses under the pretence of looking for Fascists, but actually in order to loot them.

The stolen articles are being sold, according to our information, at black market prices.

The apartment seems to be stocked up with an important quantity of material, cloth and other articles greatly in demand.

For the dignity of our Army it would be advisable to look into this matter without delay. We suggest that the apartment be raided and, if important stocks are actually found, the owners be requested to produce the bills of sale which they should have if acquisition is legitimate.

4716

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

(10) D

PROCESSO VERBALE di perquisizione eseguita nei domicili di Romano Nicolò di Salvatore, abitante nella via Pietro D'Asaro n.17 e di Maglio Ignazio fu Biagio, commerciante in tessuti, abitante nel vicolo Settimo all'Albergheria n.5.

L'anno 1943 addì 8 settembre nell'ufficio della "Special Police" noi brigadiere Indiano Angelo e vicebrigadiere Michelotti Vasco, unitamente al sergente Michael G Trotta, riferiamo quanto segue:----------

Ieri 7 corrente per ordine avuto dall'ufficiale superiore addetto alla Special Police, ci siamo recati nei domicili di Romano ~~Salvatore~~ Nicolò di Salvatore, abitante nella via Pietro D'Asaro n.17 piano primo e di Maglio Ignazio fu Biagio, abitante nel vicolo Settimo all'Albergheria n.5, entrambi arrestati da agenti della polizia americana, per ivi procedere ad una ~~accurata~~ perquisizione domiciliare.----------

Infatti verso le ore 18 circa, recatici sul posto abbiamo trovati e sequestrati nell'abitazione del Romano Nicolò, coinquilino di Artusi Pietro in atto sfollato a Milano, abitante nella via Pietro D'Asaro n.17, primo piano N.23 pezze di stoffa di colore assortite.----------

Recatici poi nell'abitazione di Maglio Ignazio fu Biagio, abitante nel vicolo Settimo all'Albergheria n.5, abbiamo trovato e sequestrati N.8 cappotti di panno grigio verde, appartenenti all'amministrazione militare italiana e n.11 pantaloncini di tela color cachi, pure appartenenti all'amministrazione militare italiana.----------

Tutta la merce sequestrata nei predetti due domicili, è stata sequestrata ed a mezzo di una macchina americana è stata trasportata negli uffici della "Special Police.----------

Fatto letto e chiuso in data e luogo di cui sopra ci sottoscriviamo.------

Michelotti Vasco

Indiano Angelo

Trotta Michael G. Sgt.

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

(1) 3A.

STATEMENT:

LOUISA GIUNTINI, Via Che
Asola, 17

Romano has been living here 10-12 years. Romano was employed at the Municipio as a watchman. Romano visited the mainland often, but he only went to the mainland for sport, not to buy cloth. He never engaged in that business. The cloth was brought here about the end of August or early September, 1943. There were about 32 rolls altogether.

On 7th September, 1943, in the morning, one officer and another, with an interpreter came here, Romano was out. There was more cloth here in the morning than in the afternoon. Maglio took some stuff away with him, to his home. I think there were about 7 rolls.

Romano returned home about 1-1:15 P.M. He did not go out again until the officers called the second time. The rolls were removed before Romano returned home.

Maglio came here before 12 o'clock. When he came I told him he must bring the receipt with him at 3 o'clock, and he did in fact come here at 3 o'clock.

He told the officer he had removed some cloth and he asked the officer if he wanted to see the cloth. All of them then left.

3114

15 September, 1943

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

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

3 8

8

STATEMENT:

Martinez Mariana,
Vicolo Seventh,
Al Albergheira 5
- - - - - - - - -

I have lived here about 4 years. The man detained is my son and dealt in cloth. He lived here with me. I have a daughter who also deals in cloth. My son traded under his own name. My daughter is married. Her name is LOAYACONO, Gaetano, and she carried on her business at Via Casa Professa My son always lived with me. He last went to Italy in July, to buy cloth. He did not possess much money. He was convicted about 5 years ago for corruption and sentenced to 7 months. About 7 or 8 days ago, 7 rolls of cloth were brought here. There has never been any cloth here before. It must have been either of my sons brought it here. There are no ty ewriters here.

15, September, 1943.

4743

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

3.c
(7)

STATEMENT.

Maglio Beaggio.
5, Albergheria,
Palermo.
- - - - - - - - -

I was a soldier. I have only been here about a month, I came here 2, August, 1943.

The seven rolls of cloth were not here when the Carabinieri came. They came here on the 8th. September, 1943. I brought it here. My cousin told me to pick up the stuff, I think it was at No. 52.

I do'nt know why it was there, nor how long it had been there.

15. September, 1943.

4782

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

3.

(6)

STATEMENT.

LOYIACONO , FRANCO.

52, Via Cara Professo, Palermo.

The seven rolls of cloth came here about 4 or 5 days ago. Maglio went to Milan about a month ago and bought it for me. I did not pay for it. Maglio paid for it, but as my business had been bombed I refused it. Maglio brought it here. It was only here an hour or two. It arrived here about 1 oclock and left here about six oclock.

15, September, 1943.

4743

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

CONFIDENTIAL

(5) 4A.

HEADQUARTERS 7th ARMY
CIC SECTION 307
APO 758

15 September, 1943

SUBJECT: Search of an Apartment located on the Via Pietro d'Asaro, 17.

TO : Ass't. A.C. of S., G.2, C.I. Section, Headquarters 7th Army

1. Attached hereto is a memorandum with reference to search of an apartment located in the Piazza d'Asaro, 17.

2. Attention is invited to Recommendation of Agents.

For the commanding officer:

[redacted]
1st Lt., M.I.
Special Agent, CIC

4740

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

CONFIDENTIAL

4 & B

HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH ARMY
CIC SECTION
APO 758

September 11, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR THE OFFICER IN CHARGE

Subject: Search of an apartment located on the Via Pietro d'Asaro, No. 17.

Re : Stolen material presumably looted from private homes of leading Fascists.

Pursuant to instructions received from the Officer in Charge, these agents on September 7, 1943, visited an apartment situated on the second floor of a building located on the Via Pietro d'Asaro, No. 17, for the purpose of searching the premises reported to contain stocks of material, cloth and other articles, which were reportedly stolen from private homes. A person by the name of Romano, Salvatore is reported to be living in the apartment together with an American Army officer. It is believed that Romano is taking advantage of the officer's friendship, and presumably his occupation title, Romano is raiding private homes under the pretense of looking for Fascists, but actually in order to loot them.

These agents were informed on arrival by a woman, who describes herself as a friend of Romano's, that Romano and the officer, a major therein, were both away at the present time, but she expected the Romano to return about one o'clock in the afternoon. A search of the apartment revealed about fifty bolts of shirt and suit material stored in a room just left of the door leading into the apartment. These agents then set a time for their return and instructed the woman to have Romano present with the bills of sale for the material stored in the apartment.

On returning to the apartment in the afternoon, these agents observed Romano (recognized from a picture in the apartment) in conversation with a man on the corner of the Via Dante and Via Pietro d'Asaro about one half a block from the Romano apartment. Romano noticed these Agents and started for his apartment, arriving at the same time as these agents. Romano was requested to produce receipts for the material at which time he claimed that he had only permitted the owner of the material to store the material in his apartment. Romano claimed that he had sent for the owner of the material. The man arrived within a few minutes and proved to be the same man that had been speaking to Romano only a few minutes before the arrival of these Agents. The alleged owner of the material produced a doctored receipt, which did not include a receipt for the suit material. The two men related a very confusing story relative to the material and on two occasions contradicted each other on the alleged ownership. It was also discovered on this second trip to the apartment that more than half of the bolts of cloth had been removed. Neither of the two men could offer a satisfactory answer for the removal of the material.

These Agents informed both Romano and the other man, whose name was Ignazzo that they were under arrest. The men were jailed in the city jail and the matter reported to the proper authority.

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

(2)

Recommendation: It is recommended that the proper authority handle both angles of this case (black market activities and the Army Major's activities) as this matter exceeds the jurisdiction of this office.

Herbert H. Joyce
Special Agent CIC

Woodrow W. French
Special Agent CIC

4738

September 16, 1943 (2)

We, the undersigned, on the 16th day of September, 1943, at the request of the Superintendent of Civil Police, came to inspect merchandise which had been sequestered.

After having inspected the merchandise thoroughly, we have arrived at the following decision:.....

Firstly, that the merchandise does not correspond with the manufacturer's make, secondly, that the date of shipment, June 6, 1943. seems hardly possible because no shipments whatsoever were made into Sicily at that time. Then also, the price for every meter, taking into consideration that the merchandise has no type stamp and price listed on it, makes it look suspicious because every manufacturer, since 1940-41 have had to stamp this information on every meter.

Then too, we noticed on the receipt that the price of every meter at L.5.45 is extremely low for the quality of the goods which we examined and therefore we think that the receipt is for other material. The regular price for the material we examined is L. 15 approximately, for each meter.

This statement has been read to us and it is true.

Dr Giuseppe Ivaldi

Dott. IVALDI, Giuseppe
Via Ruggiero Settimo 84
PALERMO

Chiari Carlo

CHIARI, Carlo
Via Ruggiero Settimo 84
PALERMO

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

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Chiari Carlo

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PALERMO

4737

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

SUBJECT: Major M.H. Meader, C.E.

AMGOT H.Q., SICILY
AMGOT/112/PS
September 16, 1943

TO : Chief of Staff, U.S. Contingent.
AMGOT, 15 Army Group.

The enclosed file gives particulars of a case under investigation by the Civil Police Section of this Division, in which the conduct of Major Maurice H. Meader, C.E. of the Property Custodian's Division, must be brought to your notice.

The visit of Major Meader and Major Martin to Major Richardson, (vide: p. 2 of document 2A) was reported to me the same day and I fully approved the attitude taken by Major Richardson.

Lt. Col. Snook also reported Major Meader's visit to him and the threat to take the matter higher. I fully approved Lt. Col. Snook's action and what he said to Major Meader.

Lt. Col. Rosse' statement is merely included to complete the picture. Following Major Meader's interview with Lt. Col. Grunler the latter saw me about it and I was able to give him the rest of the story although I was not at that time in possession of the official report now forwarded.

I wish to draw your attention to the following points:-

1. Major Meader has been sharing an apartment with an Italian who now proves to be a bad character with five previous convictions.

2. The apartment has apparently been used for the storage of stolen property.

3. Major Meader has, no doubt unwittingly, allowed himself to be used as a stooge, under whose protection Ramano has been able to indulge in nefarious practices if not in looting.

4. Major Meader has employed Ramano, a man of limited means, (see statement of his mother at 3B) in an honorary capacity but without having him checked from the security angle.

5. Major Meader endeavoured to persuade an officer of this Division to release his (Meader's) friend, for whose integrity he was prepared to vouch, by threatening to go over that Officer's head.

A further aspect of the case which came to light in Major Meader's

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

by the Civil Affairs Section of this Division, [illegible] Major Maurice H. Nender, C.E. of the Property Custodian's Division, must be brought to your notice.

The visit of Major Nender and Major Martin to Major Richardson, (vide: p. 2 of document 2A) was reported to me the same day and I fully approved the attitude taken by Major Richardson.

Lt. Col. Snook also reported Major Nender's visit to him and the threat to take the matter higher. I fully approved Lt. Col. Snook's action and what he said to Major Nender.

Lt. Col. Rosse' statement is merely included to complete the picture. Following Major Nender's interview with Lt. Col. Chandler the latter saw me about it and I was able to give him the rest of the story although I was not at that time in possession of the official report now forwarded.

I wish to draw your attention to the following points:-

1. Major Nender has been sharing an apartment with an Italian who now proves to be a bad character with five previous convictions.

2. The apartment has apparently been used for the storage of stolen property.

3. Major Nender has, no doubt unwittingly, allowed himself to be used as a stooge, under whose protection Ramano has been able to indulge in nefarious practices if not in looting.

4. Major Nender has employed Ramano, a man of limited means, (see statement of his mother at 7B) in an honorary capacity but without having him checked from the Security angle.

5. Major Nender endeavoured to persuade an officer of this Division to release his (Nender's) friend, for whose integrity he was prepared to vouch, by threatening to go over that officer's head.

A further aspect of the case which came to light in Major Nender's interview with Col. Chandler, is being investigated separately but this [illegible] affects Major Nender.

7 Encl.

LIEUT. L. DOLLIN
Colonel, ITF.
Commissioner of
Public Safety.

Copy to:-
~~Col. Zellars~~
C. Cust. Property.
Civil Affairs Section

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

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