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SUPPRESS  
JAN., FEB.

10000/143/1056

SUPPRESSION OF UDINE COMMUNIST WEEKLY  
JAN., FEB. 1946

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION  
Public Safety Sub-Commission  
APO 394

4A

Tel : 478427

12 February 1946

AC/14335/PS

SUBJECT : Suppression of Communist  
Newspaper in Udine.  
TO : Assistant Press Attaché  
U.S. Embassy.

1A

1. With reference to your letter dated 23/1/46 on above subject.
2. Enquiry shows that in consequence of the article published in the Communist newspaper "Lotta e Lavoro", the Carabinieri arrested BORTOLUSSI Luigi and FORTUNA Loris, Director and Chief Editor of the newspaper. They were denounced to the Procuratore del Regno.
3. On 19th January 1946 the author of the letter published in the article on 17th Jan retracted his allegations and the retraction was published in the Udine newspaper "Libertà".
4. On 19th January the Provincial Commissioner of Udine ordered the suspension of the newspaper "Lotta e Lavoro" pending the result of the proceedings against the Director and Chief Editor.  
The paper was permitted to resume publication on 1st February.  
On 4th February the paper published a further article which amounted to an apology for the original article.
5. The case against BORTOLUSSI and FORTUNA is awaiting trial, meanwhile they have been given provisional liberty.

6. Copies of the newspaper articles are attached for information.

EJB/as

E. J. EYE, Colonel  
Deputy Director.

341\*

4B

TRANSLATED EXTRACT TAKEN FROM THE  
NEWSPAPER "LOTTA E LAVORO" DATED 17 JANUARY 1946

A HOWL OF INDIGNATION RISES FROM THE PRISONS OF SPILATO STREET  
THE ROYAL CARABINIERI DISCIPLINED APPRENTICES OF THE NAZI MASTERS

torture cinically a detained partisan  
- I managed to count 25 blows with a stick, then they put my fingers  
in the pincers I fainted away three times.

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We report, integrally, the letter that a young partisan detained in  
the prisons of Spileto street, succeeded in sending it to the F.d.G.  
(Fronte della Gioventù) in Tavegnacco:

Udine, 5 Jan 46

"Companion FAUSTO, I am in good health and hope the same from  
you. I do not know how to thank you for the benefit I have had from  
our companions "frontisti", thanks to you. I beg you to thank very  
much our companions in my name and tell them that we hope to be soon  
all together for ever.

Dear FAUSTO, I inform you that on Mas' day I have been interro-  
gated for 4 hours by the royal fascist carabinieri. I managed to count  
good 25 blows with a stick, then they put my fingers in the pincers,  
you can imagine, I fainted away three times. I cried that I am  
innocent and shall cry it till I die. I am innocent and cannot say  
anything else.

I apologise for my simple writing, but my head is a little  
stunned.

I greet you as a "frontist" and I beg you to greet all our  
companions in my name, hoping that we shall be soon all together.  
I am companion GIGI".

It is time to put an end to it!  
Those who are not able, or do not want, to guard the fascists  
in order not to let them run away, those who are not able to stop  
the hurtful activity of the speculators which starve the population,  
those who, instead of watching the criminal activity of the "Squadre  
d'Azione Mussolini" overturn the houses of honest workers looking  
for hypothetic stocks of sub-machine-guns, can be compared to the  
brutes of the S.D. or of the M.S. They are torturing with a  
disgusting cynicism the brave partisans who fought on the mountains  
against the traitors and did not know that a crowd of brutes, <sup>3418</sup>  
torturing defenceless creatures in the cellars.

The howl of indignation and humiliation rising from the torture  
places of the Carabinieri, still royal ones, is heard by the  
shuddering souls of all partisans, and also by the whole population.  
People do not want to hear anymore about cruel systems.

in the pincers I fainted away three times.

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We report, integrally, the letter that a young partisan detained in the prisons of Spaleto street, succeeded in sending it to the P.d.G. (Fronte della Gioventù) in Ravenna:

Udine, 5 Jan 45

"Companion FAUSTO, I am in good health and hope the same from you. I do not know how to thank you for the benefit I have had from our companions "frontisti", thanks to you. I beg you to thank very much our companions in my name and tell them that we hope to be soon all together for ever.

Dear FAUSTO, I inform you that on Xmas' day I have been interrogated for 4 hours by the royal fascist carabinieri. I managed to count good 25 blows with a stick, then they put my fingers in the pincers, you can imagine, I fainted away three times. I cried that I am innocent and shall cry it till I die. I am innocent and cannot say anything else.

I apologise for my simple writing, but my head is a little stunned.

I greet you as a "frontist" and I beg you to greet all our companions in my name, hoping that we shall be soon all together.

I am companion GIGI".

It is time to put an end to it!

Those who are not able, or do not want, to guard the fascists in order not to let them run away, those who are not able to stop the hurtful activity of the speculators which starve the population, those who, instead of watching the criminal activity of the "Squadre d'Azione Mussolini" overturn the houses of honest workers looking for hypohetic stocks of sub-machine-guns, can be compared to the brutes of the S.D. or of the W.M.S. They are torturing with a disgusting cynicism the brave partisans who fought on the mountains against the traitors and did not know that a crowd of brutes were torturing defenceless creatures in the cellars.

The howl of indignation and humiliation rising from the torture places of the Carabinieri, still royal ones, is heard by the shuddering souls of all partisans, and also by the whole population.

People do not want to hear anymore about cruel systems.

And these actions against the fighters for Liberation have to cease, because they are much like revenges and because they are against all principles of Liberty and Justice for which the best Italians have fought and did win.

And let it be very clear that these infamous actions have to be justified.

The partisans, the population of whole Friuli, ask to the Commander of the Carabinieri, to the Procuratore di Stato and to

the questore:

- 1) the immediate identification and punishment of the guilty persons;
- 2) that the names of those who use such unhuman systems be punished;
- 3) that guarantee be given in order that such criminal actions might never happen again;
- 4) that the population representatives, the fighters for liberty and the Reporters, be authorized to interview the prisoners of any political tendency, in order to know which are the systems adopted during the interrogations.

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TRANSLATED EXTRACT TAKEN FROM  
 THE NEWSPAPER "L'OTTA E LAVORO" DID. 4 FEB 46

4c  
 L O Y A L T Y  
 THE ACCUSATIONS OF THE PRISONER CRISTOFOLI  
 against the Carabinieri did not correspond to the truth

We have the duty to explain to our readers the facts and circumstances which caused our arrest and the temporary suspension of our newspaper, owing to the publication of a letter coming from the Spalato Street prisons. To-day A.M.G. gave us the authorisation to carry on our newspaper.

We shall say at once and frankly that this is an accident in our work because our good faith has been breached. In fact, the author of the sensational letter has lied, he has written falsely and for that reason we feel it our duty to publish that the torture which he alleged to have undergone by two Carabinieri, has been invented by him.

This has been declared by the prisoner Cristofoli himself to an Enquiry Commission first, and then to us when, changed once more into guests of the Spalato Street prisons, owing to a measure that we like to define of doubtful lawfulness, we had the opportunity to interrogate him. Cristofoli confirmed that he had written falsely in order to move to pity and to recall the attention on the fact of being in prison meanwhile he assures to be innocent.

Regarding the title and the comments explaining the prisoner's letter, we acknowledge to have let ourselves be carried away by sentiment, but let it be clear that, being erroneously persuaded of the truth of the fact, also because relatives and friends allegedly had seen bruises on the right hand of the prisoner, we had the intention to address our remarks exclusively to those hypothetical Carabinieri that we supposed to be the authors of a serious transgression.

Therefore, we protest firmly against the accusation of having had the intention to offend the Carabinieri. Our past time as fighters for Liberty, as prisoners, as persons saved from death, as persons returned from the teutonic penitentiaries, might have rendered us particularly soft in regards to the infernal systems of the fierce Nazis, but this would never authorise us to hit an institution and a mass of men like the Carabinieri: many of these, officers and agents, have been our companions in jails and during the fight for Liberation.

"The Carabinieri - et esse the newspaper 'UNITA' of 18 Nov 1945 - are sons of the population. This the Carabinieri should not forget, but the population must remember it."



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"The Carabinieri - et ests the newspaper 'UNITA' on 18 Nov 1945 - are sons of the population. This the Carabinieri should not forget, but the population must remember it."

and ourselves, as good communists, do not forget it even if our good faith has been breached, and shall never forget it.

The Redaction.

TRANSLATED EXTRACT TAKEN FROM THE NEWSPAPER "LIBERTÀ" DTD. 19 JAN 46

REGARDING A PUBLICATION OF THE  
NEWSPAPER "LOTTE E LAVORO"

47

To the Manager of the newspaper "Libertà", Udine

In matter of an article published by the newspaper "Lotta e Lavoro" on the 17 inst. which title is: "A howl of indignation rises from the prisons of Spalato Street. The Royal Carabinieri, disciplined apprentices of the Nazi masters, torture cinically a detained partisan. I managed to count 35 blows with a stick, then they put my fingers in the pincers. I fainted away three times." I send to you the attached declaration and beg you to publish it on the daily newspaper "Libertà".

The Questore  
(Dr. U. Durante)

The Questore of Udine sends the declaration which we publish:

"I, undersigned Cristofoli Luigi di Giacomo e di Cuperli Antonia, born on the 21 June 1906 in Tavagnacco, living there, for the time being detained for premeditated homicide and robbery; in the Matricula Office of the Judiciary prisons of Udine, on the 17 Jan 46, at 17 hrs., in presence of the Vice Questore Zoratti Avv. Luigi, of the Lt. of the Carabinieri Reali, Caroppo Giulio and of the agents pertaining to the prison, Domenico De Leonibus, Iride Francesco and Padovano Antonio, declares:

on the 15 Dec 45 in the Carabinieri barracks of Feletto Umberto I have been arrested by the Commander and took cognizance of a warrant of arrest issued on my account by the examining Magistrate of the Court of Udine, Dr. Bertoldo, for premeditated homicide on the person of Barazzutti Giobatta and for robbery at his cost. On same day I have been taken to the prisons of Spalato Street.

From that day I have never seen any carabinieri again. I beg to inform that when I have been arrested by the brigadiere of Feletto Umberto, the latter has been very kind to me and even gave me some cigarettes.

On this day I have not been interrogated neither by the carabinieri, nor by the magistrates and therefore it is not true that I have been interrogated for 4 hours and neither it is true that I have been tortured in that day or in any day.

I declare that I have written a letter to my companion Fausto Munini from Tavagnacco, stating that I have been ill-treated by the Carabinieri during an interrogation lasted 4 hours on this day and that writing so I had the intention to move to pity my companions. I

from the prisons of Spalato Street. The Royal Carabinieri, disciplined apprentices of the Nazi masters, torture cynically a detained partisan. I managed to count 25 blows with a stick, then they put my fingers in the pincers. I fainted away three times." I send to you the attached declaration and beg you to publish it on the daily newspaper "Libertà".

The Questore  
(Dr. U. Darente)

The Questore of Udine sends the declaration which we publish:

"I, undersigned Cristofoli Luigi di Giacomo e di Caberli Antonia, born on the 24 June 1906 in Tavagnacco, living there, for the time being detained for premeditated homicide and robbery: in the Matricula Office of the Judiciary prisons of Udine, on the 17 Jan 46, at 17 hrs., in presence of the Vice Questore Zoratti Avv. Luigi, of the Lt. of the Carabinieri Reali, Caroppo Giulio and of the agents pertaining to the prison, Domenico De Leonibus, Iride Francesco and Padovano Antonio, declares:

on the 15 Dec 45 in the Carabinieri barracks of Peletto Umberto I have been arrested by the Commander and took cognizance of a warrant of arrest issued on my account by the examining Magistrate of the Court of Udine, Dr. Bertoldo, for premeditated homicide on the person of Barazutti Giobatta and for robbery at his cost. On same day I have been taken to the prisons of Spalato Street.

From that day I have never seen any carabinieri again. I beg to inform that when I have been arrested by the brigadiere of Peletto Umberto, the latter has been very kind to me and even gave me some cigarettes.

On Xmas' day I have not been interrogated neither by the carabinieri, nor by the magistrates and therefore it is not true that I have been interrogated for 4 hours and neither it is true that I have been tortured in that day or in any day.

I declare that I have written a letter to my companion Fausto Munini from Tavagnacco, stating that I have been ill-treated by the Carabinieri during an interrogation lasted 4 hours on Xmas' day and that writing so I had the intention to move to pity my companions. I also hoped that my letter would settle quickly my process, because I declare myself innocent.

I took the initiative of my action and have not asked for the advice of anybody.

I regret that my letter has been published by the press with an unfavourable comment of the Carabinieri who really treated me much differently than stated in the newspaper "Lotta e Lavoro".

Upon my word on all above.

signed: Cristofoli Luigi

signed: Avv. Zoratti, Vice Questore  
Caroppo Giulio, Lt. CC. RR.  
De Leonibus Domenico and  
Iride Francesco, agents pertaining to the prison.

# ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

## PROVINCE OF UDINE

3A

CONFIDENTIAL

(PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION)

To: Col. E.J. BYE, Deputy Director Public Safety S/C.  
 Subject: H.Q. Allied Commission, Rome.  
 Ref. No: UDI/PSO/15/E

DDPS -  
Bl 2-

Date: 7th February, 1946

Reference your AC/14335/PS dated 24th January, 1946.-

1. The following are the brief facts of the case to which your Memo refers:-

On 17th January, 1946, an article appeared in the bi-weekly Communist Newspaper "Lotta e Lavoro" published in Udine which contained a grave attack on the Carabinieri Reali. The article reproduced a letter written by a detainee in Udine prison alleging that he had been tortured by the Carabinieri in the prison and a most scurrilous editorial comment followed the letter. A translated copy of this article is attached marked 'A'. As a result of the publication of this article the Carabinieri arrested BORTOLUSSI Luigi and FORTUNA Loris resp. director and chief editor of the above paper and denounced them to the Procuratore del Regno for outrage of a Public Officer and outrage of an Administrative Body of the State.

2. On 19th January, 1946, the author of the letter reproduced in "Lotta e Lavoro" denied his allegations and this denial was published in the Udine Newspaper "Libertà". A translated copy of this article is attached marked 'B'.

3. On the same date (19/1/46) the Provincial Commissioner in consequence of this grave and baseless attack on the Carabinieri ordered the suspension of the paper pending the result of the Court proceedings against the Director and Chief Editor. After discussing the matter in Rome this order was later amended and the paper was permitted to resume publication as from 1st February, 1946.

4. On 4th February, 1946, the "Lotta e Lavoro" published a further article (a translated copy of which is attached marked 'C') which in effect is an apology for their original article concerning which they were misled owing to the proved falseness of the letter written from the prison.

5. The present position is that the two accused BORTOLUSSI and FORTUNA have been given provisional liberty by the judiciary authorities pending the hearing of the case, the papers concerning which have been submitted to the Ministry of Grace and Justice for directions as to proceedings.

*J. T. Manuel*  
 J.T. Manuel  
 Major  
 P.P.S.O.-Udine Prov.

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION  
Public Safety Sub-Commission  
APO 394

2A

see 1A

3A

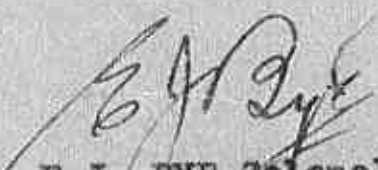
AG/14335/PS

CONFIDENTIAL

24 Jan; 46.

SUBJECT : Suppression of Newspapers.  
TO : Provincial Commissioner Udine  
(Attn Provincial Public Safety Officer).

1. On 22nd January 1946 the Rome Communist Newspaper "Unità" published a story to the effect that the Udine Communist Weekly, "Lotta e Lavoro" had been suppressed for attacks on the Italian Police.
2. Confirmation and all essential details are required as soon as possible for confidential information.
3. Will you please have discreet enquiry made and report result as early as possible.

  
E.J. BYE Colonel  
Deputy Director  
Public Safety S/O.

EJB/ac

340°



THE FOREIGN SERVICE  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

23 January 1946

1A  
AMERICAN EMBASSY

Rome, Italy

SUBJECT: Suppression of Communist Weekly Paper  
TO : Public Safety Officer, AMG, Udine Province  
Through: Public Safety Sub-Commission, AC, Rome  
Att'n. Col. CHAPMAN

1. We wish to call your attention to a story in the January 22 issue of "UNITA", Rome Communist daily, re: the suppression of the Udine Communist weekly, "Lotta e Lavoro", for attacks upon the Italian police.
2. Confirmation and pertinent facts are requested for confidential information of this office.
3. Your interest will be appreciated.

Respectfully,

*Gene Caprio*  
Gene Caprio  
Assistant Press Attache

320'

