

ACC

10000/143/1085

CERIN
(JULY

10000/143/1085

CERINI, ANGELO & ALLEGED FASCISTS
(JULY 1944 - MAR. 1945); MAR. - JUN. 1946

See p 2 on answer
query on p 1. Draft reply to Brig
Law p 3 for approval. H.S. 616

Force.
Can you
Dr Reid's black inkline letter?

12/6/6

Ac

Sir. Letter in question is marked X in enclosed file. Please also see minute in that file addressed to you. 9850

Minute No. 8

17th June, 1946

TO: Executive Commissioner.

That box is a letter which I propose to send to Captain Peñi.

Unless you feel otherwise I do not propose to make any reference to Captain Reids uncorroborated allegations in his article in the "New Statesman", or say what I really think of his attitude in this matter.

I think a bare statement of facts is best.

Mr. C. B. Dyer
H. Unit, Brigadier. #31716
Yp. Co. Section.

VP CATH.

I agree - but coffee. The first three should go to

AT-120 for transmission to W.O. Deputis

P.O. 25.

Letter signed. File returned

10.05.
Letter signed. File returned
No further action.
Hudson. Wg. M
C. A. Nelson
2/6

See p. 96

Ex Comm.

Thur CHS. 988.

I

The information contained in 4H is not entirely accurate and further inquiry is in hand, especially with regard to the allegation re Trecocks, to enable a definite reply to be sent to Capen Reid.

7-6-46.

Mr. G.

E. J. Byrd Colonel.

A. S. S/C

2

Correspondence is returned for your retention. Original has been dispatched by this office a copy retained for EC files. P. 10/5

3

V.P. CHS.

388

Inquiry now complete. Attached letter to Capen Reid for signature if approved.

14-6-46.

E. J. Byrd Colonel

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
Civil Affairs Section
APO 394

AC/14360/PS

20th June 1946

Dear Sir,

In reply to your letter (undated) concerning the alleged persecution of ANGELO CERINI fu Biagio of VIVARO ROMANO, Province of Rome, I have to inform you that extensive enquiry has been made and the following facts have been disclosed:-

The Allied Screening Commission paid Cerini ten thousand lire (10,000) on 8th Sept. 1944, for aid given by him to two P.O.W.s (Presumably yourself and Sgt. Turner).

Inquiry shows that following your escape, Cerini, although questioned, was not placed under arrest nor was he ceaselessly persecuted.

On 26th June 1944 Cerini was appointed Sindaco of Vivaro, which position he held until 2nd November 1945 when, as a result of public disorder Cerini and his 2 brothers in law were arrested by the Carabinieri and denounced to the Italian Courts. Proceedings are pending. Cerini meanwhile has been granted provisional liberty.

With regard to the five alleged Fascists mentioned in your letter:-

Niccolo' MONTATO was arrested by the Germans and sentenced to 3 years imprisonment.

Angelo PETRUCCI was arrested on 21-2-46 and is still detained on charges of collaboration with the Germans.

The remainder have been subjected to epuration proceedings. Cerini's son has not been arrested.

From the foregoing it is obvious that the allegations made by Cerini are without substance and no action on the part of the Allied authorities is necessary.

Yours Truly

M. CARR, Brigadier
W. CA. Section.

To Capt. Ian D. Reid
88 Chelsea Gardens
Chelsea Bridge Road
LONDON SW1, England.

3866

TRANSLATION C.C

9a

R. QUESTURA DI ROMA

8 June 1946

N.055084 U.P. A.4.A.

Reply to letter N.PSL-S.1/515 of 3 April 1946

TO : ALLIED COMMISSION
Public Safety S/C
R O M E

SUBJECT : Presumed fascists - CERINI Angelo - VIVARO Romano

Measures taken after the denunciation of CERINI Angelo have giving the following ascertainments:

During the Nazi-Fascist period and for three months Nov. 1943 to Jan. 1944 - the family of Cerini Angelo (fu Biagio) from Vavaro Romano, kept in their house the two following Allied prisoners, English Capt. Jan. D. REID and another Allied soldier. In Jan. 1944 the town of Vivaro was surrounded by the Germans and in such occasion, many Allied soldiers, who had previously took refuge in civilian houses were captured.

Such round up was made possible when some Germans, feigning to be Allied prisoners themselves, made the necessary ascertainments and the acquaintance with those kept hidden in civilian houses.

It was then that Capt. REID and other soldier could escape from the roundup as it seems that no secret information was given against them.

It results that Cerini for such fact was not persecuted either by the Germans nor by the connationals.

Only after the mentioned roundup, Cerini, being summoned to appear in the townhall, was interrogated by the town guard PETRUCCI Angelo in the presence of the communal employee TROIANI Francesco merely to have news of the two prisoners he kept in his house. Cerini answered that he did not know where they had gone to, and therefore the episode ended there.

It follows that if Petrucci had ever in mind to denounce Cerini and the two English prisoners to the Germans, it would not have been possible for them to escape as the fact was known to anyone in the town.

The persons qualified in the statement by Cerini to be passionate fascists are:

1) MONTALTO Nicola, communal secretary of Vicovaro Romano, an inscribed fascist since 1934. During the German roundup in town, he was arrested for not notifying in due time the German authorities of the presence of Allied prisoners and for he having given their favour all the while. The same was tried by a fascist court and condemned to 3 years imprisonment, but the time was not

(2)

carried out in full for the arrival of the Allies.

2) PAFI Romolo - presently under purging proceedings. His position is not yet defined. What is known is that he lived in Castelmadama from 1934 until the arrival of the Allies.

3) TROIANI Francesco - municipal employee, discriminated by the Purging Committee - 31/7/46.

4) SPORZA Antonio - formerly political secretary and then "podestà" (Sindaco) of Vivaro Romano. Presently he is under penal proceedings for supposed administrative misdeeds as "podestà" in the years 1938-1940. It has been ascertained that he never collaborated with the Germans but on the contrary, was kept prisoner for some days as a supposed detainer of firearms.

5) PETRUCCI Angelo - town-guard, still under arrest since 21/2/46 prosecuted as collaborator.

6) MAZZETTI Giuseppe - town postmaster, who for 20 years was fascist administrative secretary in Vivaro. Committed to the Purging Commission was at first threatened suspension from service but afterwards was confirmed.

Reports affirmed by Cerini that he was subjected to persecution by local fascists and that he was ~~never~~ arrested does not correspond to truth.

On June 26th 1944 Cerini was appointed sindaco of Vivaro and on the following Nov. 1st he with three of his brothers in law along with another individual, tried to disturb public order by suborning the population against the communal secretary MONTALTO Nicola with the intention to force him lawfully away from his office.

As Cerini and his comrades did not succeed in their intent they closed with force the communal building, declaring that it would be reopened only when the Prefecture had sent another secretary.

The superior orders arrived to the effect that the communal Office should be reopened at once, but as Cerini and the others refused, they were arrested by the local CC.RR (not by the persons mentioned in Cerini's statement) and denounced in the state of arrest to the Ascoli Pretura where the penal proceeding are still pending.

It is not likewise true that Cerini's son has been arrested as none of them has ever been arrested nor denounced for either common or political crimes.

Not even proved that arrests have been made in Vivaro for listening to the British broadcasting station.

Besides, the son of Cerini, a CC.RR "vice-brigadiere, had been relieved from service after regular disciplinary proceedings for scarce efficiency and unfitness.

It results that Cerini, as an individual rather acidous and vindictive, exploiting the gratefulness of mentioned Capt. Reid, believes in seeing enemies everywhere and avails himself of any means in order to injure them.

(3)

We inform that Cerini is a semi-inalphabet having merely a 3rd class elementary education, and lives under the influence of his cousin, Rev. Petrucci Francesco residing in Tivoli who may certainly be the instigator and author of all the denunciations presented by the same Cerini.

The mentioned Reverend is known to be a grudging individual, quarrelsome with vindictive instincts.

For the news we report that the newspaper "Italia Libera" --5/5/1946 n. 105--appeared with an article undesignated by Jan Reid with the title "ingiustizie in Italia", in which are reported among other things, and with almost the same words contained in the denunciation, the facts of Vivaro Romano as denounced by Cerini.

The Questore
/s/ Verdiani.

3860


 Mon. P.
(Servizio anagrafico)

R. QUESTURA DI ROMA

N. 055084 Div. U. P. Categ. A. 4. A

Risposta a nota N. PST-S. 1/515

del 3 aprile 1946

Addi 8 Giugno 1946

 OGGETTO: Presunti fascisti - Cerini
Angelo fu Biagio - Vivaro Romano.

 Al la Commissione Alleata
Ufficio R.A.A.A.C.
presso Questura Via S. Vitale

R O M A

Dagli accertamenti praticati in merito a quanto ha formato oggetto della denuncia di Cerini Angelo, allegata alla nota a cui rispondo, è risultato quanto appresso:

Effettivamente nel periodo nazi-fascista e per circa tre mesi, dal novembre 1943 al gennaio 1944, la famiglia di Cerini Angelo fu Biagio da Vivaro Romano ospitò nella propria abitazione il Capitano inglese Jan D. Reid ed altro militare alleato, allora prigioniero.

Nel gennaio 1944, il Comune di Vivaro Romano fu circondato dai tedeschi e nella circostanza furono arrestati diversi prigionieri alleati che erano rifugiati in abitazioni civili del luogo. E' stato accertato che il rastrellamento fu possibile a seguito di notizie precise raccolte da militari tedeschi che, conoscendo bene la lingua inglese e la lingua americana, si erano portati in precedenza sul luogo, e, simulando di essere fuggiaschi anche loro, ebbero modo di prendere contatto con i prigionieri alleati e di identificare i rispettivi rifugi.

Nell'occasione, il predetto Capitano Reid e l'altro militare che era con lui poterono sfuggire alla cattura in quanto sembra che nessuna spe-

Add 8 Giugno

1945

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Angelo fu Biagio - Vivaro Romano.

A/ la Commissione Alleata

Ufficio R.A.A.A.C.

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Non risulta peraltro che il Cerini per tale fatto sia stato perseguitato o abbia avuto alcun fastidio né da parte dei tedeschi né da parte di connazionali. Solamente dopo il rastrellamento di cui sopra il Cerini

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- 2 -

chiamato un giorno in Municipio fu interrogato dalla guardia comunale Petrucci Angelo, alla presenza dell'applicato comunale Troiani Francesco, per avere notizie dei due prigionieri che teneva in casa. Il Cerini rispose che ignorava dove essi fossero andati e l'episodio non ebbe alcun seguito.

Questo e non altro ha saputo riferire il Cerini in merito alle persecuzioni subite e si fa presente che il Petrucci ha chiesto tale notizia a solo titolo di curiosità, anche perché il fatto era notorio nel piccolo comune di Vivaro Romano. Che se poi il Petrucci avesse voluto denunciare il fatto nell'epoca ai tedeschi od alla polizia nazi-fascista ben diversa sarebbe stata la sorte che avrebbe potuto toccare tanto al Cerini quanto ai due prigionieri alleati.

Le persone segnalate dal Cerini nella sua denuncia come fascisti sfegatati sono state identificate come segue:

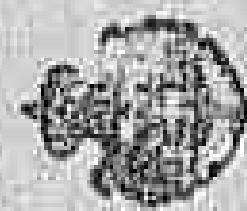
- 1) Montalto Nicola segretario comunale di Vivaro Romano già iscritto al fascio dal 1934 quale impiegato. Negli il 16 gennaio 1944, e precisamente nel rastrellamento fatto a Vivaro Romano, fu arrestato per non avere avvertito i tedeschi della presenza di prigionieri alleati nella zona e di favoreggiamento ad essi e sottoposto a procedimento penale fu condannato ad anni tre di reclusione che non scontò interamente per il sopraggiungere degli Alleati.
- 2) Pafi Romolo trovosi in atto sotto giudizio di epurazione e la sua posizione non è stata ancora definita. Egli però dal 1934 fino all'arrivo degli Alleati risiedeva a Castelmadama.
- 3) Troiani Francesco applicato comunale, discriminato dalla Commissione di Epurazione il 31 luglio 1946.
- 4) Sforza Antonio già segretario politico e successivamente podestà di Vivaro Romano. Egli trovosi in atto sotto procedimento penale per pesunte malefatte amministrative allorché negli anni 1938 - 1939 era podestà. Consta che egli non ha collaborato con i nazi-fascisti dai mesi invece fu arrestato e detenuto per vari giorni siccome denunciato

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- 5) Petrucci Angelo guardia comunale, trovosi arrestato dal 21/2/1946 perché imputato di collaborazionismo.



R. QUESTURA DI ROMA

N. Div. Categ. Add. 194

Risposta a nota N. OGGETTO:

del 194

- 3 -

6) Mazzetti Giuseppe ufficiale postale, il quale fu per venti anni segretario amministrativo del fascio di Vivaro. Deferito alla Commissione di epurazione gli fu in un primo tempo comminata la sospensione dal servizio per due mesi e successivamente revocata.

Non risponde a verità, come asserisce il Gerini, che egli sia oggetto di persecuzione da parte dei fascisti locali e che degli stessi sia stato mai arrestato.

Il 26 Giugno 1944 il Gerini fu nominato sindaco di Vivaro Romano ed il 1° novembre successivo egli con tre suoi cognati e con un altro individuo cercarono di turbare l'ordine pubblico e di sobillare la popolazione contro il segretario comunale Sig. Montalto Nicola che volevano estromettere abusivamente e senza le forme di legge dall'ufficio. Non essendo riusciti nell'intento il Gerini e gli altri chiusero con la forza la sede del comune, dichiarando che avrebbero riaperto subito quando la Prefettura avesse inviato un nuovo segretario. Essendosi poi rifiutati, malgrado gli ordini superiori, di riaprire l'ufficio il Gerini e gli altri furono arrestati dall'Arma dei M. CC. del luogo e, non dalle per-

N. Div. Categ. 194
 Risposta a nota N. 194
 Adm. 194
 OGGETTO:

- 3 -

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Non risponde poi a verità che un figlio del Cerini sia stato arrestato in quanto nessun figlio del predetto è stato mai arrestato o denunciato né per reati comuni né per reati politici.

Non consta neppure che in Vivaro siano stati mai fatti arresti di persone che assoltavano ladrocinio inglese.

Si soggiunge che il figlio del Cerini, vice brigadiere del CC.NR. è stato licenziato dall'Arma a seguito di regolare procedimento disciplinare per scarso rendimento e per infondatezza.

In definitiva dalla severa inchiesta condotta non è risultato che il Cerini sia oggetto di persecuzione da parte di chicchessia ed egli stesso, invitato a specificare quali lagnanze abbia a muovere, non è stato in grado di precisare. Non consta neanche come si può rilevare dalle informazioni di cui sopra che i fascisti del luogo spadroneggino o governino il paese.

È risultato invece che il Cerini, individuo alquanto solido e vendicativo, sfruttando la riconoscenza del Capitano inglese Reid, crede di vendere nemici ovunque avvalendosi di tutti i mezzi. Si fa presente che il Cerini è un semianalfabeta, avendo frequentato solo la terza elementare e vive sotto l'influenza del cugino, il Sacerdote Petrucci Francesco, residente a Tivoli il quale certamente è l'istigatore e l'autore di tutte le denunce inoltrate dallo stesso Cerini. Il detto sacerdote Petrucci è notoriamente conosciuto come individuo astioso, litigioso e con istinti vendicativi.

Per opportuna notizia si comunica che sul quotidiano "Italia Libera" del 5/5/1946 n.105 è apparso un articolo a firma Jan Reid dal titolo "ingiustizie in Italia", nel quale sono riportati fra l'altro, e pressoché con le stesse parole delle denunce, i fatti di Vivaro Romano così come denunciati dal Cerini.

IL QUESTORE

(Ciro Verdiani)

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IL QUESTORE

(Ciro Verdiani)

Verdiani

Ric

PERSONAL

Ref: Ac/14630/15.

10. June 1946.

Thank you for your letter regarding Captain Reid's allegations and copy of "New Statesman and Nation" which I return herewith.

I referred the story to Public Safety for investigation and it would appear that Cerini's story to Captain Reid was greatly exaggerated. Cerini was, as you observed, Sindaco of Vivaro and was paid 10,000 lire by the Allied Screening Commission for aid rendered to two POW's.

We received a letter from Captain Reid in March 1946 to which we did not reply, partly because he ended with a threat to the effect that if he did not get a satisfactory answer he would have the matter raised in the House of Commons, but mainly because it was never our intention to make exhaustive enquiries about a case in which we most certainly had no grounds for interfering.

As a matter of interest, one of Captain Reid's so-called Fascists was imprisoned by the Germans for aiding Allied POW's.

The Quastore is still proceeding with enquiries into five other alleged Fascists mentioned in Captain Reid's letter and it is now intended to forward a full reply to Captain Reid immediately these enquiries are completed.

(Sgd) M. S. Lushy

Brigadier Alban Low, CBE, MC,
Commander,
Headquarters,
Home Area Allied Command.

3860

Copy to: Ex. Com.

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

A P O 394

Office of the Executive Commissioner

DRAFT

June 1946

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Brigadier Alban Lowe, CBE, MC

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
Public Safety Sub-Commission
APO 394

Tel : 478427

3 June 1946

- 4 GIU. 1946

JUN 4 1946

AC/14321/23

SUBJECT : Press Comments.

TO : Executive Commissioner,
thru VP. CA. Section.

1. With reference to attached.

2. A letter was received at this Ho. in March 1946 from Capt. Jan Reid in which he stated that Angelo Cerini had rendered him and others unvaluable assistance from Nov. 43 to Jan. 44 and that now Cerini and his family were being more or less persecuted by former fascists who were still a power in the village of Vivaro.

3. The letter was passed to L.O. Rome for enquiry and it now appears that Cerini is Sindaco of Vivaro. He was paid 10,000 lire by the Allied Screening Commission on 8-9-44 for aid rendered to 2 P.O.W.s and it would seem Cerini's story to Capt. Reid was greatly exaggerated.

Enquiry is still proceeding by the Questore into 5 other alleged fascists mentioned in Capt. Reid's letter.

4. A full reply will be forwarded to Capt. Reid immediately enquiries are completed.

E. J. EYE, Colonel
Acting Director.

EJB/ac

Incl. P.S. Capt. Reid ended up his letter with a threat that if he did not get a satisfactory answer (in words to that effect) he would have the matter raised in the House of Commons. Capt. Reid's letter was not acknowledged because of the above but mainly because it was never the intention that exhaustive enquiries should be made about a case in which we will almost certainly have no grounds for interfering. Unfortunately Capt. Reid's letter was sent to R.A.A.C. & the matter has taken much longer than intended. P.S. S/C are getting the correspondence back as quickly as possible. MC. 4/6/46



5A

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
Public Safety Sub-Commission
APO 394

Tel : 478427

3 June 1946

AG/1A321/23

SUBJECT : Press Comments.

TO : Executive Commissioner,
 thru VP. CA. Section.

newspaper

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E. J. Byr
E. J. BYR, Colonel
Acting Director.

EJB/ae

Incl.

3856

4A
ALLIED COMMISSION
LIAISON OFFICE R. A. A. C.
QUESTURA BLDG. VIA S. VITALE
Tel. 478895

Ref. PSL- S/1/1914 Rome, 22nd May 1946

To : Public Safety Sub-Commission, AC/HQ.

Subject : Alleged Fascist.

I reply to your letter ref. AC/14057/PS dated 27th March 1946 on the above subject, I have to inform you that I have made enquiry and ascertained the following facts.

Allied Screening Commission report having paid Angelo Cerini of Vivaro Romano on the 8th Sept. 44 the sum of L. 10.000 for 2 P.O.W.s, no claim has been received by them for or on behalf of Renzo.

Cerini was denounced by them to G-2 (Br) (PW) 3 Distr. letter 824/744/ASC. 3-1/SSS/RB/7 dated 7/2/1945 also to 276 FSS (Capt. Rafter) Rome, letter JF/AL/1048/2 dated 18th Aug. 45.

Application was made on 18th Oct. 45 by them for the repatriation of Cerinis' son Luigi then a P.O.W. in Egypt.

Cerini who was the Mayor of Vivaro Romano was arrested on 2/11/1945 by the CC.RR. and will be tried for "interruption of public offices and threats to a public official".

Montalto, accused by Cerini in Capt Reids' letter was arrested by the Germans on 15/1/1944 charged with aiding P.O.W.s and sentenced to 3 years imprisonment. (see copy of CC.RR. report ref. 322/8-3 dated 4/11/1945 attached).

Cerinis' file at the Questura contains the following other documents of interest:

- (1) - letter dated 16/2/46 from Ministry of Interior to Questura of Rome enclosing for necessary enquiries a letter from Cerini Angelo to Capt. J. Reid alleging persecutions of families who helped allied P.O.W.s by fascists in Vivaro (Tivoli);

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- (2) - letter dated 18/4/46 from Ministry of Interior to Questura of Rome enclosing for necessary enquiries the same letter as above from Cerini Angelo to Capt. J. Reid received by the s/m Ministry from Italian Embassy in London through the Ministry of the Foreign Affairs.

Encls.: 1.
RTM/TO

E.L.H. Milhouse
R.T. Milhouse, Lt. Col.
A.C. Liaison Officer

TRANSLATION

Ref. 322/8-3

Subisco, 4th.11.45

Report from CC.RR. Command of Subisco.

Subject: Public Order in Vivaro Romano.

To : CC.RR. Coy Command Tivoli.

On 1.11.45 CC.RR. Sergeant BRILLI Giocondo, Commanding the CC.RR. Station of Riefreddo, received a note signed by Cerini Angelo the Town Mayor of Vivaro Romano asking him to go urgently to that town. The sergeant did so and visited Cerini at approximately 18.45 hrs. the same date. Cerini informed him that the situation in Vivaro was a very serious one, since the population would not tolerate any longer the presence of the Communal Secretary Montalto Nicola, alleging he was a fascist inculpable of doing his job, a German spy, and therefore that same morning a protest demonstration against the secretary had been held by ex-servicemen, who were not satisfied with their allowances. It was therefore necessary to dispatch the secretary out of the town and closed down the communal offices till the arrival of a new secretary.

Sergeant BRILLI retorted that such action was not a legal one, but later he was forced to give up and held a meeting of the CLN members and the town council which had resigned on March 1945. All of them were secretly interrogated by BRILLI and the most nearer to fire the secretary and to close down the communal offices, appeared to be the following:

- 1°) The Town Mayor Cerini Angelo father's name BRIGIO;
- 2°) De Angelis Domenico father's name Pasquale, CLN Member as representative of Democrats Party;
- 3°) De Angelis Giovanni father's name Pasquale;
- 4°) De Nicola Felice father's name Carmine, CLN Member as representative of Action Party;
- 5°) Petrucci Felice father's name Luigi, CLN Member as representative of Liberal Party.

Meantime some sixty persons gathered in the vicinity and started shouting that the people's will was to fire Montalto and close down the Communal Offices. Sergeant BRILLI talked to them in an attempt to explain that it was not legal to use compulsion to remove the secretary, that the Communal Offices should not be closed because

On 1.11.43 CC.RR. Sergeant Ermili Secondo, Commanding the CC.RR. Station of Riofreddo, received a note signed by Cerini Angelo the Town Mayor of Vivaro Romano asking him to go urgently to that town. The sergeant did so and visited Cerini at approximately 18.45 hrs. the same date. Cerini informed him that the situation in Vivaro was a very serious one, since the population would not tolerate any longer presence of the Communal Secretary Montalto Nicola, alleging he was a fascist incapable of doing his job, a German spy, and therefore that same morning a protest demonstration against the secretary had been held by ex-servicemen, who were not satisfied with their allowances. It was therefore necessary to dispatch the secretary out of the town and closed down the communal offices till the arrival of a new secretary.

Sergeant Ermili retorted that such action was not a legal one, but later he was forced to give up and held a meeting of the CLN members and the town council which had resigned on March 1943. All of them were secretly interrogated by Ermili and the most heeger to fire the secretary and to close down the communal offices, appeared to be the following:

- 1°) The Town Mayor Cerini Angelo father's name Biero;
- 2°) De Angelis Domenico father's name Pasquale, CLN Member as representative of Democrats Party;
- 3°) De Angelis Giovanni father's name Pasquale;
- 4°) De Nicola Felice father's name Carmine, CLN Member as representative of Action Party;
- 5°) Petrucci Felice father's name Luigi, CLN Member as representative of Liberal Party.

Meanwhile some sixty persons gathered in the vicinity and started shouting that the people's will was to fire Montalto and close down the Communal Offices. Sergeant Ermili talked to them in an attempt to explain that it was not legal to use compulsion to remove secretary, that the Communal Offices should not be closed because they were public offices and that he would make report on the matter to the Provincial Authorities.

he was not successful however because above mentioned persons appeared to be very infuriated in their accusations against the secretary. The argument went on till midnight at which time the demonstrators claimed that the key should be handed over to Sergeant Ermili. The first one to hand it over was the Town Mayor Cerini, then the Communal Guard Cerini Michele, and the Communal Employee Di Pietro Pietro. The last one was secretary who uselessly showed his unwillingness.

- 2 -

At 0.30 hrs. of November 2nd, 1945, the Communal Offices were closed down.

During the demonstration the a/m persons called the secretary a thief, German spy, a fascist, an unexpert.

On 2.11.45 I proceeded to Vivero and reopened the Communal Offices. I questioned Cerini Angelo, De Angelis Domenico, De Angelis Giovanni, De Nicola Felice and Petrucci Felice. All of them confirmed their will, on account of the population to fire Montalto and keep the Communal Offices shut till the arrival of a new secretary. They said they had wanted and caused so much to compel the Prefecture of Rome to discharge Montalto.

Petrucci Enrico, chairman of the CIN, member of the Demochristian Party and Moglioni Mariano Socialist member of the CIN were contrary to the system followed. Some of a/m persons explained their "popular" to remove the secretary and to close the Communal Offices, laying fault on the demonstration occurred on 1.11.45 by ex-servicemen. Such demonstration never took place and therefore Cerini Angelo is responsible for the all facts since he, of his own idea summoned the CC.RR. Sergeant to acknowledge his own will, and that of the other four a/m persons and of some other fifty persons who had convened there.

They can not be considered as the majority of the population which kept thoroughly apathetic and refused to protest against the secretary.

Sergeant Brilli deemed it not wise to oppose with violence the closing down of the offices, since was accompanied only by a CC.RR. and had not chance of forcing his will. He accepted the key to avoid sabotage against the Communal documents.

Cerini Angelo, De Angelis Domenico, and Giovanni, Petrucci Felice, all of them brothers in law, and De Nicola Felice were arrested at 20.00 hrs on 2.11.45 and taken to the jail of Arsoli. They will be tried for interruption of public Offices, threats to a Public Official.

The Communal Offices were reopened on 2.11.45 at 16.00 hrs. and the secretary was reintegrated in his office. Further investigations are being made on the accusations against Montalto, who on 16.1.44 was arrested by the Germans and taken to Regensburg. Coeli Prison on charge of helping accepted FGAs. He was sentenced to three years imprisonment and was released only when the Allies took over.

Then the arrested were again taken away on 2.11.45 at 20.15.

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They can not be considered as the majority of the population which kept thoroughly apathetic and refuses to protest against the secretary.

Sergeant Zucchi deemed it not wise to oppose with violence the closing down of the offices, since was accompanied only by a CC.33. and had not chance of forcing his will. He accepted the key to avoid sabotage against the Communal documents.

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When the arrested were been taken away on 2.11.45 at 20.15 hrs. some thirty persons (evidently arrested's relatives) made a protest and their low number makes believe that the legal action was taken without the population approval.

I left in Vivaro 5 CC.33s and an MCC.

I ordered the closing down of wine shops, bars etc. till the situation is normal again.

Don Francesco Petrucci, brother of one of the persons arrested and the Town Mayor's cousin certainly had a hand in appraisal action. He is the Parrish of Tivoli but his highly he is concerned in what is going on in his birthplace.

THE MARCELLINO MAGGIORANI
Commanding - Vittorio Campanelli.

ALLIED COMMISSION
PUBLIC SAFETY LIAISON OFFICE
A. A. C. QUESTURA - VIA SAN VITALE
TEL. 478895

Ref. PSL₁

Rome,

24th May 1940

To;

Col. Bye

PS S/C ACHA

FOR YOUR

✓ Information

please

Perusal & Return, please

Necessary action, please

Investigation & Report, please

Onward transmission

REMARKS

Ref your teleph. conversation
with Lt Col Millhouse -

Unk sign

FOR LT. COL.
R. T. MILLHOUSE, L. O.

3850

SECRET

3A

ALLIED SCREENING COMMISSION

C M F

18 AUG 1944

JP/AL/1048/2

SUBJECT: Cerini Angelo, Vivaro Romano, Province of Rome.

TO: 276 P.S.S.
59 Via Sicilia,
Rome.

for attention of Capt. Rafter

Enclosed are two copies (translations) of a statement made by the above-named who rendered assistance to Allied escapees.

The statement contains the names of six "German collaborators" who, it is understood, are still living at Vivaro Romano.

(Sgnd) J.F. Lieut.
for Officer Commanding
Allied Screening Commission (Italy)
C.M.F.

Enclosures: 2

3854

COPY

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ALLIED SCREENING COMMISSION (ITALY)

C.M.F.

SECRET

7th. Feb. 1945.

824/744/ASC-3-1/SSS/RB/7

To: GS (INT)
HQ. No. 3 District.

Subject:- Denunciation

Attached are translations, in duplicate, of statements made to this Commission by Crisantemi Dorotea and Moglioni Biagio of Vivaro Romano (Rome Province) - (Road Map of Italy 1/200,000, Sheet 17, Map Ref. 618.889), concerning the activities of alleged fascists, as a result of which, 31 Allied POW were recaptured, and a helper of escaped prisoners was shot.

S.S. SELBY
Major
for Officer Commanding
Allied Screening Commission (Italy)
C.M.F.

3851

encls: 4

C O P YTRANSLATION OF THE STATEMENT MADE BY MOGLIONI BIAGIO

To the Allied Command,
Prisoner of War Centre.

Since 13th. September 1943, English and American prisoners passed through the village of Vivaro Romano. 42 of them stayed on permanently, whereas others stopped only in order to take some food and rest, and then went on their way. These prisoners slept at first on the outskirts of the village for fear of the fascist spies. When the winter approached these prisoners came to take shelter in the village houses. Some villagers sheltered one, some two: they were not considered as prisoners any more but members of the families. We felt quite safe but there were fascist spies amongst us.

On the night of 16th. January, Salvatore Cortellese, who went to a village nearby, was surprised by a German patrol. He came back and advised all the families, who had prisoners, and they all fled. But the village was surrounded by the Germans, and of the 42, 31 were captured and 11 were saved. The following fascists were responsible for this capture:

- 1) Mazzetti Quintilio and his daughter.
- 2) Falchi Stanislao and family
- 3) De Angelis Cesare and daughter
- 4) Papi Romolo and wife.
- 5) Petrucci .. Angelo son of late Francesco
- 6) Trociani Francesco and daughter
- 7) Cara Giovanni.
- 8) Moglioni Vincenzo and daughters (son of the late Liberato)
- 9) Mezzaroma Francesco
- 10) De Angelis Agata
- 11) Moglioni Domenica daughter of late Giovanni.

The above mentioned fascists were also responsible for the capture of 8 heads of families, who were all imprisoned. Cerini Meriano, son of Francesco was the victim of a shower of machine-gun fire.

I had two prisoners in my house in the village, and 8 in my farm house in the country at "Fonte Damiano". These 8 were captured by the Germans and the farm house was burnt down. The two who were staying in the village with me escaped from the Germans, hid in the woods together with other POW who had escaped, and I made a wooden hut for them where they stayed with other escaped comrades. They did not leave the place until the Allied occupation, and I brought them everything they needed in the way of food and clothes.

Fascist spies shadowed me, but they never caught me as I never took the same way. The fascist Petrucci Angelo, attached to the German police called me to the village square and told me that if within four days I did not report the prisoners, who were in the woods, he would have me arrested.

I did not betray the POWs so I was denounced to the German Command. During the night the Germans knocked at the door of my house. I was prepared, and by means of a rope I let myself down from a window on

3850

the fourth floor, and escaped into the woods where I spent a few days, together with the prisoners. My wife and my sister brought us everything we needed. I went back to my house, and while I was working in the country was told by a relation of mine to run away as the Germans and the fascist police were looking for me.

So I went back to the woods, and stayed there with my Anglo-Saxon friends until the Allied occupation.

That day we came back from the woods triumphant; I went back to my family with my two prisoners, and we celebrated the event for two days. Then I took them to the Allied Command in Arsoli.

Attached are chits left by the prisoners.

(signed) Moglioni Biagio
Via Porta Nuova No. 5
Vivaro Romano
(Rome)

Vivaro Romano, 18th. July, 1944.

C O P YTRANSLATION OF THE STATEMENT MADE BY CERINI DOROTEA CRISANTEMI 37

To the Allied Office - for verification of Prisoners of War.

I, the undersigned, Cerini Dorotea widow of Crisantemi, declare to have given assistance for ten months to an English POW.

For nearly five months I provided him with food, lodging and clothes, without fear of the Germans or Fascists in Vivaro Romano. But soon I realised that strange people were going around in the village, and we learned that these were German spies in disguise, who were kept informed by the Fascists.

On January 16th. villagers who wish to go to a nearby village, were stopped and searched by the Germans, and then released.

One of the villagers Cortellessa Salvatore, went back to Vivaro, by an unknown route, and warned me that the village was surrounded by German troops.

On my part I immediately warned the English Prisoner staying in my house, and succeeded in hiding him, and evading the German search. At the same time I went to warn two other POWs who were in a barn, but they were caught an hour after. 31 English prisoners were taken on that day, and 8 villagers were sent to jail for five months, and one villager Cerini Mariano, was shot down by the Germans while going to warn some POWs, hidden in a barn. He left an invalid wife and three young children.

I defied death and faced the threats of the fascists who wanted me to betray where the prisoner was. They never knew anything, and at the cost of the death of all my family, I did not speak.

For three months I kept the prisoner in the wood, taking him what he needed. When I used to go to the wood I was spied upon by the Fascists, who used to follow my movements with binoculars from the square of the village. However, they never succeeded in finding out the place where I was going as I always took new paths, not caring for the rain, mud or snow. As I was cleverer than the German police, as the fascist gentlemen called themselves thus.

The last two months, the prisoner fell ill, and I kept him in my house. I consulted a doctor, not of the village, as I was afraid of being discovered by the fascists. I procured all the necessary medicines and had to go very far to get them. I saved his life as he would certainly have died had he remained another two days in the wood. 10/0

Among the fervid Fascists and Gerarchi, those responsible for the capture of the prisoners are :-

2.

Francesco Troiani and daughter
Giuseppe De Angelis. Political Secretary
Cesari De Angelis and family
Quintilio Mazzetti and daughter
Stanislao Falchi and daughters
Faustina and Giuseppina Moglioni
Domenica Moglioni daughter of late Giovanni
Mariano Proietti son of late Marco
Angelo Petrucci son of late Francesco: German police.
who insulted me continually: after the round-up
he used to come to my house every day, saying
that if I did not betray the prisoner he would
have my house and family burnt. So as to stop
the Germans from searching my house, I had to
give him everything he asked for.

Giovanni Cara son of Paolo and wife.

Romolo Pafi.

Agata De Angelis married to Moglioni

Francesco Cara, Royal Carabinieri.

These were responsible for the death of 21 prisoners
because they were bombed while being taken to Germany, and
those who were saved, were arrested by them.

In addition to this prisoner, I maintained another for
two months, October and November.

Prisoners passed through daily, and I did not fail to help
them, giving them food and shelter.

One of these left me a chit which was found by the Germans
on the day of the round-up, and as a slur they took away
all my things.

As to the truth of what has been stated, you can obtain
information from:

Mr. Leonard Dodd
15 Corbett Street,
Smethwick,
Staffs.
England.

He suffered what we suffered, and therefore we ask the
Allied troops to do justice as quickly as possible.

signed Crisantemi Dorotea

My address is:
Mrs. Dorotea Crisantemi
Vivaro Romano
(Prov. of Rome)

3846

3B

DQ/226

Headquarters,
Rome Area Allied Command.

16th May, 1946

My dear Martin

You may be interested to see the accompanying "New Statesman and Nation" dated 20 April, page 279. I have sent an excerpt to De Burgh of the Allied Screening Commission for any action he may think desirable. I also gave the thing to Millhouse to read and he has been making some enquiries from which it appears that there has been previous correspondence between Captain Reid and your Commission and also between him and the Italian Embassy in London. It seems from what Millhouse tells me that Angelo Corini is not quite the simple and kindly old man he is represented to be and indeed was at the end of last year the Mayor of his village. I understand that he is now in chocke. None of my business of course but I thought you would be interested to see the article. Will you be good enough to return the paper to me when you have read it.

Yours ever
Alban Lewis

Brigadier M.S. Lush, C.B., C.B.E., M.C.,
Executive Commissioner,
H.Q. Allied Commission.

*CA Bz**Any comment?**AL/L/s*

3840



HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
Public Safety Sub-Commission
APO 394

14057
Tel : 478421

27 March 1946

SUBJECT : Alleged Fascist.

TO : Lt. Col. Millhouse,
Liaison Officer, Rome.

1. Reference attached.
2. Will you please have discreet enquiry made into the allegations made and report in due course.

EJB/ae

EJB
E. J. B. Colonel
Deputy Director.

2 Encls.

Letter from : James Reid Captain

Cdr of The Black Watch (R.H.R.)

51st Highland Vt

Investigation : of certain CERINI family persecuted 3860, etc
(Gilda CERINI, Nando CERINI, Francesco CERINI, Antonio SFORZA,
Angelo CERINI) -

ALLIED [REDACTED] COMMISSION
INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: SUBJECT letter from Capt. HEID

FILE No. _____

TO : P.S. Sub Commission ✓

25 March 1946

The attached letter is passed to you for action. It is suggested that Lt. Col. MILLHOUSE, Liaison Officer at R.A.A.C. might make discreet enquiries and forward a report in due course.

TO	INIT	DATE
DIRECTOR	Upt	27/3
DEPUTY DIRECTOR	EJH	27/3
EXEC OFFICER		
CHIEF		
LIC & REG.		
PRISONS		
ADM. OFFICER		
SECURITY		
CHIEF CLERK		

M. Carr

M. CARR, Brig.
VP CA Section

3844

280

Report concerning ANGELO CERINI (BINGIO) -
VIVARO ROMANO - PROVINCIA DI ROMA

To: Allied Commission
Rome

MAR 11 1946

From: Captain Ian S. REID
88 Chelsea Gardens
Chelsea Bridge Road
LONDON S.W.1

I wish to make the following report
concerning the a/m Italian peasant.

As an escaped British regular officer
P.O.W., I lived for three months, from November
1943 - January 1944 with CERINI & his family.
At great risk to their own lives, they fed,
sheltered & looked after me and an Australian
sergeant, called Claude Turner. They treated us
with the utmost generosity & kindness.

(Cont 3)

P.T.B.

In January the village was betrayed to the Germans by the local fascists. Vivaro was surrounded & searched, ^{twenty} British prisoners being captured. Fortunately Turner & I were not, on this occasion, recaptured, & no trace of us was found in Cerini's house. The fact that we had been living there was however known to the Germans, owing to the fascist betrayal. For the next ~~three~~ four months CERINI & his family were ceaselessly hunted & persecuted both by the Germans & the fascists.

When I succeeded in escaping from Germany in March 1945 I made a full report to H.I.G., the War Office, & asked that Cerini's services to us should be recognised.

Recently, & almost a year since I made this report, I have received

3. This letter from Cerini. He states that the same fascists, who collaborated with the 48 German, are still in authority & are still persecuting him. They actually had the impertinence to arrest his son, who fought for the Allies in the liberation of Rome, for denouncing them as fascists. He further states that I must write to him at an address in TIVOLI, since the village postman at Vivaro is a fascist. The names of the other fascists are as follows:-

- (i) NICOLA MONTALTO
- (ii) ROMOLO PAFI
- (iii) FRANCESCO TROIANI
- (iv) ANTONIO SFORZA
- (v) ANGELO PETRUCCI 7850

I consider that I have a right to ask that this ~~is~~ iniquitous state of affairs be immediately rectified, since it has continued for nearly a year since the liberation

P.T.O.

4.

I can vouch absolutely for the integrity & honesty of ANGELO CERINI. He is a simple old man, with no axe to grind. I know that he is concerned less with material recompense than with the dispensation of elementary justice. Such a situation as at present exists is surely extremely bad for the Allied reputation for good faith.

In his last letter Cerini states that the fascists have arrested his family & also all those who used to listen to the B.B.C. during the German occupation.

I would be grateful if you could inform me what immediate steps are being taken in this matter. I will willingly supply any further information desired. If you feel that there is nothing you can do, I shall feel bound to take it up politically.

Yours truly,
 Ian D. Reid Captain
 late of: The Black Watch (R.H.R.)
 51st Highland Div.

