

ACC

10000/143/1389

CAPT
JULY,

10000/143/1389

CAPTAIN CIOFFI, MICHELE, CCRR
JULY, AUG. 1944

HEADQUARTERS
 1st INF
 464 U.S. ARMY

5th August, 1944

203/2

2A

SUBJECT : CC.RR Captain GIOFFI, Michele.

TO : HQ ACC Public Safety Sub-Commission.

1. On entry into Livorno, Fifth Army Public Safety Officer saw the above named among the ranks of the CC.RR.
2. From information received and the fact that the insignia on his cap was minus the letters "VF", orders were given that GIOFFI would not be allowed to continue on duty until he had been screened by the CIC.
3. The attached C.I.C. report discloses this man's total unsuitability for continuance as a member of the CC.RR.
4. The last sentence in the final paragraph of the report has been referred back to the CIC. Their desire is that the CC.RR command be given an opportunity to express their wishes as to the disposal of the case. If it is desired that he be interned for the duration of the war in Italy the CIC will do so.

For the Commanding General:

E.F. MAYNE, Col. U.S.A.,
 Chief of Staff
 1st INF

ACC/14601/52/PS

1st INF

9 August, 1944

From : HQ ACC Public Safety Sub-Commission

To : Col. E.F. Mayne, Col., Chief of Staff
 1st INF

It is recommended that Captain GIOFFI Michele be turned over to the jurisdiction of the Commanding General CC.RR for final disposition of the case.

Supreme Headquarters, CC.RR has established a screening board for handling cases of this nature.

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PAUL G. KIRK,
 Colonel, Inf.
 Director Public Safety
 Sub-Commission

MMH/hgd

HEADQUARTERS
 AFG FIFTH ARMY
 APO 464 U.S. ARMY

5th August 1944.

203/2

SUBJECT: C.C.R.R. Captain CIOFFI, Michele.

TO : H.Q., A.C.C., Public Safety Sub-Commission.

1. On entry into Livorno, Fifth Army Public Safety Officer saw the above named among the ranks of the C.C.R.R.

2. From information received and the fact that the insignia on his cap was minus the letters "VF", orders were given that CIOFFI would not be allowed to continue on duty until he had been screened by the C.I.C.

3. The attached C.I.C. report discloses this mans total unsuitability for continuance as a member of the C.C.R.R.

4. The last sentence in the final paragraph of the report has been referred back to the C.I.C. Their desire is that the C.C.R.R. command be given an opportunity to express their wishes as to the disposal of the case. If it is desired that he be interned for the duration of the war in Italy the C.I.C. will do so.

For the Commanding General:

E.B. Mayne
 E.B. MAYNE,
 Colonel, U.D.F.,
 Chief of Staff,
 A.M.G. Fifth Army.

Copy to:

Major Holmgreen
 (for information and return).

/hdp

*Copy of attachment taken
 to CCR by Capt Mastroianni*

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COUNTER INTELLIGENCE CORPS
ADQUARTERS, FIFTH ARMY
APO 464rdb
29 July 1944MEMORANDUM FOR THE OFFICER IN CHARGE:

SUBJECT: CIOFFI Michele, Capt. of CC.RR of Livorno.

RE : Information on Subject.

Subject, the Commanding Officer of the Internal Company of Livorno, and the only Carabinieri Officer in Livorno at the time of the arrival of the Allies, presented himself to Allied authorities immediately after they were established in the city. Unfavorable information has been received in this office regarding Subject from the Committee of Liberation and from confidential informants in Livorno and Ardenza. It was reported that Subject was of Fascist sentiments and had collaborated with the Germans from the earliest moment, forcing his subordinates to swear allegiance to the Fascist Republic and stating publicly his confidence in a German victory. Subject was accused of taking part in the Special Tribunal which condemned to death CHIESA Oberdan, an anti-Fascist hostage. According to the Committee of Liberation, Subject had contacted them in June 1944 and had offered his services and the services of such Carabinieri as might remain in Livorno after the departure of the Guardia Nazionale Repubblicana, in the interest of maintaining public order. Subject never did any more than just that for the Committee and, in general, informants stated that his contribution has been favorable to the Germans and contrary to Allied interests.

On the 24 July 1944 a whole new complement of Carabinieri officers and men arrived in Livorno from Southern Italy to take over their customary functions under Allied supervision. Col. CARRAI Gino, the new commanding officer of the Legion of Livorno, immediately substituted Subject with Capt. CANDIRA Gaetano who took over the command of the Company of Livorno. It was reported to this office that a breach of Carabinieri discipline had occurred about this time when a non-commissioned officer or private had refused to give the proper military courtesies to Subject because Subject had removed the King's initials from his cap and was known to have sworn allegiance to the Fascist Republic.

An interrogation of Subject was conducted by this Agent in an effort to ascertain the truth or falsehood of the above accusations, and the following information was received. Subject was born at Rocca Imperiale, Province of Cosenza on 16 June 1904. A bachelor, he entered the Carabinieri service in 1923, and on 1 June 1942 was sent to command the Company of Livorno. He was in service at the time the CC.RR and the MVSN were fused to form the G.N.R. Subject took the oath of allegiance to the Republic and continued in his position until 24 July 1944.

According to Subject's statement, he himself remained in service for the purpose of maintaining public order, and he made every effort to avoid compromising himself in politics. Members of the MVSN entered every caserma of the Province where they formed a loyal Fascist nucleus. In February 1944, together with Lt. MAYER Enrico of the MVSN, Subject made a tour of the stations

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of his company for the purpose of receiving the oaths of allegiance to the Republic. According to Subject's statements, he did not threaten any Carabinieri who refused to swear allegiance; Carabinieri personnel who remained loyal to the Badoglio government were dismissed on leave, but were not denounced to the Fascist authorities, nor were they persecuted. Subject claimed that he even protected some non-commissioned officers such as the Maresciallo of Cecina, whose hostility to the Republic was well known.

Concerning his membership in the Special Tribunal, Subject gave the following explanation. Sometime in January 1944, the Maresciallo and a Carabinieri of the station of Rosignano Solvay were shot at by unknown attackers. The Maresciallo soon recovered but the Carabinieri, a young man of good character, was seriously wounded and is to this day paralyzed from the hips down. Since the Maresciallo was well known for his Republican sentiments, it was assumed that the attack came from anti-Fascist elements. The Prefect of Livorno, FAGDUELLE, and the Questore, MORAGLIA, both rabid Fascists, were afraid that the above-mentioned incident would be followed by others. In order to prevent any future acts of this nature, they were willing to arrest fifty anti-Fascists, of whom two or three were to be killed and the others held as hostages. For this purpose MORAGLIA brought CHIESA Oberdan, an anti-Fascist prisoner at Pisa, to Ardenza where he was confined in the caserma of the CC.FR.

On orders from FAGDUELLE, Subject took part in the Special Tribunal which was convoked according to Republican decree to consider crimes against the state. Members of the Tribunal were: Lt. Col. BARTOLINI of the MVSN (President of the Tribunal); Capt. CAROCCI of the MVSN; and Subject. Present but not members were Maj. PISANO; Don BIGINI, chaplain of the MVSN; and Lt. MAYER of the MVSN. According to Subject, CAROCCI, influenced by MAYER, was very active in trying to enforce (enforce) the wishes of the Prefect upon the other members of the court. Subject claimed that he was able to dissuade the court from condemning to death an anti-Fascist from Castiglione, along with CHIESA. In any event, the trial of CHIESA was a mere formality. There were no witnesses, no evidence was introduced, and there were no legal formalities. CHIESA was executed on the beach at Rosignano Solvay by a firing-squad of Carabinieri and MVSN under the orders of an MVSN Lieutenant. Subject attended but did not participate in the actual execution.

Subject stated that at the beginning of June he contacted Count RUELLE of the Committee of Liberation and offered to stay with his Carabinieri after the departure of the G.N.R. on 25 June 1944. Subject remained behind in service until 29 June 1944, when he was arrested together with his men by the Germans SS and placed under guard at Coteto near Livorno for about 12 days. Finally he succeeded in escaping, together with his men, and remained hidden until the arrival of Allied troops in Livorno.

AGENT'S COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

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Subject's explanations and excuses for his actions do not mitigate the facts. Subject remained in service after the 8th of September and swore allegiance to the Fascist Republic. Reliable information from confidential informants and statements received from Subject's own subordinates indicate that Subject used persuasion and threats to force his subordinates into the G.N.R. Subject always demonstrated his willingness to collaborate with the Germans for whom he carried on propaganda. By his own statements, Subject participated in the illegal condemnation to death of an innocent man and he remained in service with the same

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individuals whom he himself condemns at present as criminals. It is true that Subject made contact with the Committee of Liberation in June but his services for the Committee were of the slightest, and from every point of view it must be considered that Subject's entire activities were harmful to Allied interests. Subject is definitely not a reliable man and his continued presence in Livorno is not well viewed either by the civilian population or by his own subordinates.

Subject is about to return to Grosseto in the company of Maj. PISANO to be interrogated by Carabinieri authorities there. It is recommended that Subject be dismissed from the Carabinieri service at once, as a man who is so compromised by his relations with the Fascist Republic that he cannot be employed again as a Carabineiri officer in liberated Italy. It is not considered that Subject, in a civilian capacity, would constitute an immediate danger to Allied security.

/s/ Robert J. Cunningham,
ROBERT J. CUNNINGHAM,
Agent, CIC.

APPROVED: /s/ Stephen J. Spingarn,
STEPHEN J. SPINGARN,
Major, M.I.
Chief, CIC, 5th Army.

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