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REFUGEES - YUGOSLAV

MAR. 1944 - FEB. 1945

SD/SAS/32

To: O.C. 76 P.S.S.
From: J. Martin, SGT.

Subject: Spicer Alfred, alias SPITZER

With reference to the above Yugo Slav subject, a Jew, at present staying in Rome at the Albergo Raimondi, the following information has been obtained on his activities.

1. Spicer Alfred fu Edmundo di Regina Leicht was born at Dugaresa 18 Dec. 1894. He has married and has two children. Before the war he was living at Zagreb where he was employed as Architect-Engineer.

2. When Yugo Slavia came into the war he was living at Zagreb and realising the dangers under a German occupation especially as he is a Jew, he moved with his family to Spalato which was later occupied by the Italians. At Spalato he was arrested by the Italians and deported to Italy where he and his family were interned. When the Allies came to Italy he was automatically released from a camp in the Lecce area. He then moved into a Refugee camp at Bari.

3. On 26 May 44 he left Bari with his family and his mother in law and sailed to Haifa and eventually took up residence in Jerusalem. On arrival at Jerusalem he reverted to the Jewish Agency as is customary for Jewish refugees for any help or advice that may be given by the Agency. In Jerusalem he lived in the Nachlat Schnevas quarter and one month after he arrived he obtained employment with the HIRINGS Service of Palestine H.Q. with a monthly salary of 30 pounds (Palestine). In the meantime he had made an application to the Yugo Slav Military in the M.E. to join the Yugo Slav Armed Forces.

4. On 9 Dec 44 he was instructed by the Yugo Slav Military Mission in Cairo to report to the 1st Batt Royal Yugo Slav Guards who were then stationed at Quastina, Palestine. On joining he was given the rank of Captain, equipped with battle dress and also received an advance of 50 pounds (Palestine). On 6 Dec 44 he left Lydda by train for Port Said with some 100 Yugo Slav soldiers and 4 other officers; these were a party of the 1st Echelon of the Royal Yugo Slav Guards. This party remained in Port Said for one day after which they embarked on a Norwegian ship the "Bergenfiord" for Taranto. When Spicer embarked at Port Said he had 80 Palestine pounds in his possession. Some of this he changed on the boat, the rest with exception of 5 pounds at Taranto where he disembarked on 31 Dec 44. He claims that he received 400 lire for a Palestine Pound.

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5. He remained in 186 Transit Camp at Bari Taranto for some 6-8 days after which he moved to Bari. At Bari he was interviewed by two Yugo Slav Partisan Officers. Spicer was then informed that his services where no longer required and the reasons being given were, he failed to volunteer for the partisans after his release from concentration in Italy, preferring to go to Palestine. Being a Jew he was being made an example of to other Yugo Slav Jews who contemplated doing the same thing. Spicer then realised that his position in Italy was hopeless and being with the Royal Yugo Slav Guards he could not expect much help from Yugo Slavs, especially the partisans who are strongly represented in Italy.

6. Spicer then moved to a refugee camp at Bari and he learnt from various refugees that a party of 900 Jewish Refugees were shortly due to leave Italy for Palestine and he thought it would be better for him if he could get the opportunity to go back to Palestine. On 14 Feb 45 he was given leave from No. 1 Transit Camp (Refugee) to come to Rome, for reasons stated as private business. Spicer says that this was to apply for a permit to go back to Palestine.

7. When questioned on his present financial state, Spicer stated that at the moment he had in his possession 10,000 lire and 5 Palestine Pounds which he had not changed. Since he has been in Italy he has received no payments from the Yugo Slav Authorities. It is presumed he landed in Italy with 3,000 lire and has spent 10,000 since he landed.
8. When questioned on his activities in Palestine Spicer stated that he was never interested in Jewish politics, mainly because he spoke no Hebrew and that he had no friends outside his family. He never went to the Jewish Agency except as a refugee and has never joined in any political activities whilst in Palestine. When he left Palestine he never contacted any Jewish organisation before leaving.
9. The Albergo Raimondi is mainly frequented by Jews and Jewish Refugees and a part of the hotel is a Jewish club for these refugees and it is thought that the funds are obtained through a Jewish international organisation. All the people staying in the hotel and refugee Jews. To these people Spicer was thought to be a Palestinian soldier, but they knew nothing of his activities.
10. Spicer is due to return to Bari on 14 Mar. 45 and he still hopes to return to Palestine, where his family still live and to resume his work with Hirings Service, or to go back to the Yugo Slav Mission in Cairo.

Field.

28 Feb. 45.

5618014-Sgt.

refugee Jews to...
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10. Spicer is due to return to Bari on 27 Mar. 45 and he still hopes to return to Palestine, where his family still live and to resume his work with Hirings Service, or to go back to the Yugo Slav Mission in Cairo.

Yield.

28 Feb 45

5618814 Sgt

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Security Br.

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SECRET
ROUTINE
FREEDOM
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HEADQUARTERS
13 MAR 1944
A. C. C.

E/C NO...10/13
REF NO...53603
PIED...121600
RECD...0309
HRM
OWY

EXCLUDING MOVEMENT OF PARTISAN REFUGEES UNDER 25500 MIDEAST QUOTE
SCHEME FOLLOWING IS THE PROCEDURE TO BE FOLLOWED IN THE FUTURE IN
MOVING YUGOSLAVS TO MIDEAST (A) AS PREVIOUSLY NO PERSONNEL TO BE
EVACUATED EXCEPT WITH PRIOR AGREEMENT MIDEAST AS NOTIFIED EITHER
DIRECT TO YOU OR RELAYED BY FREEDOM (TO DISPER BARI REPEATED PATINA
FOR LUSH, FORWARD COUNTER INTELLIGENCE AND MIDEAST SIGNED CINC CITE
PHASE THIS IS A FREEDOM PARAPHRASE)

(B) EITHER BRITISH OR AMERICAN OFFICER IS TO SIGN THE MOVEMENT
ORDER AND SUCH WILL BEAR AMERICAN OR BRITISH OFFICE STAMP. INCLUDED
IN THE MOVEMENT ORDER WILL BE THE MIDEAST

(C) ARRANGEMENT FOR SECURITY SCREENING AS PREVIOUSLY

(D) MOVEMENT ORDER SIGNED ONLY BY YUGOSLAVS WILL BE INVALID

AGC DISTRIBUTION:

Info.....C A Br..2
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