

ACC 10000/143/2334

600/001

GAMING HOUSE

Sept. - Oct. 1945

MINUTE SHEET

VP.

AC is not the servant of the SAC.  
It AFTR for counter intelligence reasons prefer  
that the Gaming House remain open and that  
management it is referred to management B.  
that is sufficient for us.

X Actually  
before order X The RC had no knowledge of these facts  
has sufficient  
the order  
It was is told not to enforce the order  
I think he should suffice. The fewer that know  
the reason the place is not to be closed with better  
understand we cannot be sure that others with  
not see the subject in mind

Handwritten initials

Necessary action & return	Filing
Signature	Despatch
Translation	Circulation
REMARKS S.I.S.T. advised we warned generally to obey all laws, including specifically the foreign exchange and currency laws.	

Security ✓ Letters sgd for dispatch

CAS.  
9/21/52

3412

6301

SECURITY DIV:	
TRANSLATION	
NO. TO FILE	
FILE NO.	
FILE BY	

*CA*

*Sir*  
*Mr. Harvey*  
 Decided to keep this  
 file, personally  
 Answer unnecessary  
 + undesirable.  
 File # 3440

HEADQUARTERS  
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT  
REGION LOMBARDIA  
APO 894

SECRET

*Security PS*

Office of Regional Commissioner.

19 OCT. 1945

19 OCT. 1945

R/ 0525.

17 October 1945.

To : Civil Affairs Section,  
HQ. - Allied Commission.

1. I refer to your SD/600.001 of 8 Oct 45.
2. In accordance with your suggestion I have instructed PG Cono to inform his Prefect that it is intended to suspend the order until further notice.
3. Since receiving your letter the attached telegram from the former owners of the CASINO at CAMPIONE, S.A.I.T., has been received. I am unable to answer it for lack of their address and would be grateful if you could reply to it and inform them of the decision taken.

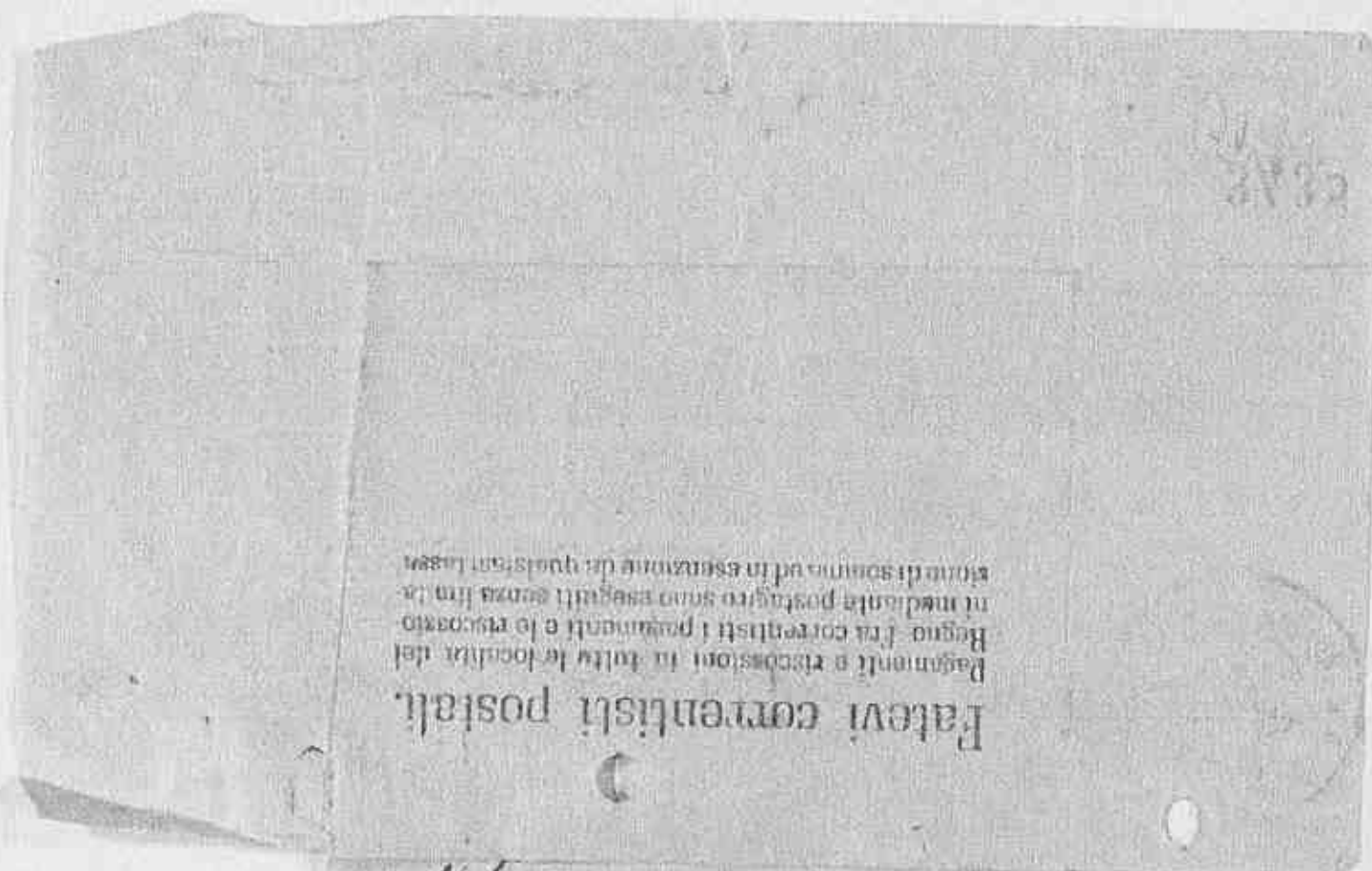
*A. N. Hancock*

A. N. HANCOCK,  
Colonel,  
Regional Commissioner

Security
Division
22/10
Book No. 1552
File No. 600.001
Action . . . . .

5072





Fatevi correntisti postali.  
 Pagamenti e riscossioni in tutte le località del  
 Regno. Fra correntisti i pagamenti e lo riscosso  
 ni mediante posteggio sono eseguiti senza lim. la  
 stione di somme ed in esenzione da qualsiasi tasse.

156  
 COL. H. COCK CHIEF  
 COMMISSION LOMBARDA  
 REGIONE MILANO - COMANDO, A  
 F. H. d.

**SECRET****HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION  
APO 394  
CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION**ED/600.001

9 Oct 45

**SUBJECT : Gaming House, Campione d'Italia.**  
**TO : G-5 Section, AFSA.**

Reference your G-5: 004 of 7 Oct 45.

- 1 The Regional Commissioner has been informed that the closing order should not be enforced.
- 2 It is pointed out that control by ANI is expected to cease in the near future.

FOR THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER :

M. GARR, Brig.  
VP CA Section.

MPS.

343:

**SECRET**

1357

6695

SECURITY BK

SECRET

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS  
G-5 Section  
APO 512

NPS/as

G-5: 004

7 October 1945

SUBJECT: Campione D'Italia.

TO : Headquarters, Allied Commission, APO 394.

1. Reference conversation Major Harvey (Security Division)-  
Lt Colonel Seagrave, 4 October 1945, it is understood that the  
closure of the Casino, Campione D'Italia, ordered by AMG is  
considered unsatisfactory by the security officials in the  
area. G-2 at this Headquarters has requested the views of  
this Section.

2. Request that report on the present status of the mat-  
ter be submitted to this Headquarters. This report should  
cover the reasons for the closure and your recommendations.

For the Asst. Chief of Staff, G-5:

*Norman P. Seagrave*  
NORMAN P. SEAGRAVE  
Major, GSC



<b>Security</b>
<b>Division</b>
Rec'd... 5/10...
Book No 1339.
File No 600.01
Action.....

3430

SECRET



**SECRET**

~~SECRET~~

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION  
APO 924  
CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

Ref: SD/600.001

8 Oct 45

SUBJECT: Gaming House.

TO: PC, LOMBARDIA Region.

I enclose a report of Security Division on the subject of the Gaming House at Orzinuovi d'Italia.

It is considered that the recommendation in para 9 should be followed.

FOR THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER:

M. GAUR, Brig.,  
TF CA Section.

343

**SECRET**

1356

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION  
PUBLIC SAFETY SUB COMMISSION  
SECURITY DIVISION

SECRET

4th October, 1945

Ref: SD/600.001

Subject: Gaming House.

To : V.P., C.A. Section.

SECRET  
1945

1. As directed, I have seen Col. E.B. Nichols, A.C. of S., G-2, AFHQ., on the matter of the Gaming House at Campione d'Italia. He has sent a report to G-5 for a decision as to whether or not the order closing the house should be rescinded. G-5 has replied that, as they only have the G-2 angle it would not be proper for them to give an opinion, especially as the matter had not been referred to them by the Regional Commissioner concerned, through this Headquarters.

2. I informed Lt. Col. Seagrave, G-5 of your knowledge of the matter, and he said that it was a matter with which you yourself could deal, or, if you preferred, refer to G-5. I promised to let him know the decision.

3. The whole of the papers in my possession are attached. Briefly the position is that at CAMPIONE D'ITALIA, in the province of Como, is a well known gaming house situated on the shores of Lake Como. It is surrounded by Swiss territory, and special steamers run across the lake from Lugano taking Swiss nationals who wish to play. Before the war it was run by a Company S.A.I.T., the most prominent member of which was a certain BELLONI, but speculation in currency and contravention of Italian laws regarding foreign moneys caused it to close shortly before the start of the war.

4. The town of CAMPIONE depends on the casino for its finances. The casino was re-opened by another company S.I.S.T., in September, 1945, and the new manager is a man absolutely trustworthy from an Allied point of view, with a partisan background. He has agreed to cooperate fully with British and American intelligence agencies, whose aim is to lure certain notorious Nazis who are sheltering in Switzerland over on to Italian territory, preferably en masse. The place is set fair as it stands from an intelligence point of view.

5. The other side of the picture is that the former Company wants to re-commence its activities in the Casino. BELLONI is badly compromised with Republican Fascism, and there is on record a newspaper where he was publicly thanked for a donation to the Fascist Republican cause. His son was the Air Attache at Madrid for the Fascist Republicans from March, 1944 until the end of hostilities. Col. Poletti had been approached by BELLONI, and subsequently made an order closing the casino under the present management. This order has not been put into effect, and BELLONI is still in possession of the casino, who sees their

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6. The present position is that the Provincial Commissioner of Como has instructed the Prefect to close the casino, but in view of further developments to take no action if for technical reasons the premises have not yet been closed down, in fact.
7. The issue really boils down to which of the two interested parties will run the house. That it will in fact operate in the future is certain, as the finances of the Commune depend upon it. The Allied interest is in keeping the place open from a long term intelligence point of view. On the other side it has the duty of closing undesirable gambling haunts; the R.F.S.O., however, states there is no objection to this place from a Public Safety point of view.



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8. Col. Nichols is not interested in which party runs the Casino, so long as it is open. He does point out however, that if BELIACI or his associates are in charge it is almost certain that his schemes will not come to fruition.

9. In a short time the role of the Allies will be purely advisory in this area. The solution may be found in merely not enforcing the closing order if the present Regional Commissioner is reluctant to override the decision of his predecessor in so short a time, and I think Allied interests will best be served if the premises are permitted to remain open under a trustworthy and cooperative management, such as the new one.

SJH/

*S. J. Harvey*  
S. J. HARVEY,  
Major,

Security Division.

3432

... and I think allied interests will have to be...  
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*S. J. Harvey* Maj  
S. J. HARVEY,  
Major,  
Security Division.

SJH/

3432

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TOP SECRET

2. G-5 G-2 2 Oct 45

1. This Section prefers not to overrule the Regional Commissioner's decision without first calling for a full report from the Allied Commission as to the grounds upon which the original decision was based, particularly since this matter has not been raised to this Headquarters through SAC channels.

2. In view of the security considerations involved, this section will be glad to call for such a report if you so desire.

For Asst. Chief of Staff, G-5:

*[Handwritten Signature]*  
Lt. Colonel, USA

Incl:  
n/c

NRS/wew

TOP SECRET

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION  
APO 394  
CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

Tel. Ext. 525

SUBJECT: Gaming House.

24 Sep 45.

TO: Public Safety S/C (Attn. Security Division).

Col. HANCOCK, Regional Commissioner LORRAINE Region, phoned me this afternoon at 1600 hrs on the following subject:

A Gaming House has been opened in COMO Province at a place called CASINO DE ITALIA. To get to this Gaming House one has to go through SWITZERLAND.

Col. POLINI, late Regional Commissioner, wrote a letter to the Provincial Commissioner, in full agreement with Col. HANCOCK, ordering that the Gaming House should be closed as Gaming Houses were not allowed in AEM Territory.

While this was going on it transpired that a British Intelligence Unit known as SOI had some particular interest in getting this place opened. When SOI heard that AEM were trying to close the place down they wrote to AFHQ and have since got the letter back endorsed by AFHQ that the house should remain open.

It is understood that Col. E.S. NICHOLS, G-2, AFHQ has been handling the matter.

Col. POLINI, who is at present in ROBE had, previous to Col. HANCOCK, taking it over, dealt with it personally and knows all the details so Col. HANCOCK suggested it might be a good thing to get hold of Col. POLINI but this may be difficult.

Col. HANCOCK wants to get the matter cleared up and he does not propose to cancel the closing order unless he gets instructions from this Headquarters. In the meantime he is marking time.

Can we take the matter up with AFHQ and get the matter settled?



*MB*

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M. CAMP, Brig.,  
VF CA Section.

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HEADQUARTERS  
 ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT  
 LOMBARDIA REGION  
 Regional Public Safety Office

See  
 1176

28 September 1945.

1/10.  
 1230

PS/18

SUBJECT : Gaming House - Como.  
 TO : HQ. A.G. Public Safety Sub-Commission  
 (Attn. Major Harvey).

1. Attached is a copy of a report submitted by the R.S.O. with regard to the Casino at Campione, which was prepared after a meeting between Major Smith, the R.S.O. and myself.
2. Col. Nichols G.S.C. Asst. AC of S.G-2 asked that action be suspended until Maj. Smith could obtain a further decision through A.F. HQ.
3. The Regional Commissioner has asked V.P - C.A. for instructions after acquainting him as to the facts. Meanwhile the P. C. of Como has instructed the Prefect to close but in view of latest developments to take no action if for technical reasons the Casino has not yet in fact closed down.
4. There is no objection to this place from the Public Safety Division point of view.

For the Regional Commissioner,

1 encl.

HWFF/ns



*N.W.F. Fowler*  
 N.W.F. FOWLER, Major 3426  
 RPSO, LOMBARDIA REGION.



0 3 1 5

Secret  
=====

HEADQUARTERS  
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT  
LOMBARDY REGION  
APO 394  
Regional Security Officer  
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Ref. S/ I449

September 26th, 1945.

SUBJECT:- Campione Casino - CAMPIONE (Prov. of COMO)  
TO:- Regional Commissioner

1. During August 1945, this R.S.O. was informed by Maj. SMITH, C.O. N°3 S.C.I. Unit., that it was hoped that the Casine at Campione would shortly be opened under new management and with the knowledge and support of Allied Security, more particularly his Unit and the S.I.M.

2. Maj. SMITH added that arrangements had already been made to introduce selected agents into the management or staff of the Casino. He stated that the main advantage to Security was to apprehend German or other enemy agents, some of whom were known to be in Switzerland and would conceivably be enticed to Campione, well known for its gaming and other attractions. He added that there would be no threat to Allied Security and that no Italians, other than the local residents - entirely dependent upon the Casino and other amenities for their livelihood, would be admitted. This would be a very simple matter in so far as the Commune of Campione is entirely surrounded by Swiss territory. Moreover, the play would be in Swiss Francs.

3. In conclusion, Maj. SMITH asked me to explain this matter to the Regional Commissioner if the question were ever raised - he would be prepared to give a full

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.../...

R/ S/1449

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26/9/45

explanation of the Allied Security interests in the re-opening of the Campione Casino.

4. On Wednesday last week, Maj. SMITH called to say he had been informed that the Casino, which had been opened for several days and which had necessitated considerable expenditure and trouble on the part of the promoters, was to be closed by order of Col. POLETTI. ~~It was closed by the Italian Authorities and the contract terminated.~~

5. Subsequently, you will recall Maj. SMITH and I discussed the matter with you. I understand that the case was submitted to AC HQ. for a decision.

6. It has been reported that the Company which previously ran the Campione Casino ceased to function prior to the outbreak of war owing to speculation with currency and contravention of Italian Laws concerning foreign moneys. Certain names have been referred as being concerned with this Company and include :

Avv. RIBOLDI - Rag. ZANOTTI - Sig. PAPA - and a certain Sig. BELLONI - the latter a former managing director of the San Remo Casino.

These men - more particularly BELLONI - were compromised with Fascism and I believe that in the case of BELLONI, he was publicly thanked for a donation to the Republican Fascist cause. I believe the document is in possession of Maj. SMITH.

7. Irrespective of any litigation between interested parties, in my opinion it would be desirable to allow, or at any rate not prevent, the Campione Casino to operate. As far as the Police regulations go, I understand that the R.P.S.O. is submitting a report to you.

Copy to :  
 - AC HQ. (Security Div.)  
 - N°3 S.C.I. Unit.  
 - R.P.S.O.

*A. E. Heath*  
 A. E. HEATH  
 Major I.C.  
 Regional Security and  
 Intelligence Officer

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