

ACC 10000/143/2465

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CLANDESTINE RADIO STATIONS

JUNE 1945

6/29/58/1
Ref 55-

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE
WASHINGTON



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DEPARTMENTAL RECORDS BRANCH, T.A.G.O.

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SECURITY DIVISION
FIVE
MAY 1954

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CONTAINS PAPER

FROM

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JUNE 1944

CATALOGUE

SCREENED

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

HEADQUARTERS

LOMBARDIA REGION

4th June, 1945.

SUBJECT :- Clandestine Radio Stations: / "Radio Como".

TO :- Lt.Col. C.E. Francis.

Sir.

1. I have to report that notification has been received from P.W.B. that a radio station known as "Radio Como" was broadcasting daily from Via S. Elia I, Como.

2. I have now visited this address and seen Captain NIOI ^{who} Clizio, (du Basilio, born Tarra Nova (Sardinia) 15-7-15.) runs the station. They broadcast daily news, gramophone records, talks by partisans etc. They have also fitted a microphone up in the local Court and broadcast the trials of two local fascists who were sentenced to death and shot. Eighteen people are employed at the station, which is in Nioi's own house. Several rooms were fitted up as offices and one as a studio.

3. I found two transmitters there, both Fascist Republican Air Force transmitters. One was fitted into a trailer caravan, which had belonged to the Republican Air Force.

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4. At Inzano del Parco, 15 km from Como there is a Fascist Republican Air Force stores. On 29th April, 1945, the Brigata Fiamma, a partisan brigade of which Captain Nioi is the commanding officer, captured this store and took away these two transmitters, which they brought to Como. They fitted them up and have used one of them daily ever since.

5. Capt. Nioi said that on 26th May, 1945, an Italian Air Force Captain named Fedele arrived from the Italian Air Ministry in Rome and asked them to broadcast daily weather reports for the Italian Air Ministry. They have not yet been

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Sir,

1. I have to report that notification has been received from F.W.B. that a radio station known as "Radio Como" was broadcasting daily from Via S. Elia I, Como.
2. I have now visited this address and seen Captain NIOI Clivio, (Fu Basilio, born Terra Nova (Sardinia) 15-7-15.) who runs the station. They broadcast daily news, gramophone records, talks by partisans etc. They have also fitted a microphone up in the local court and broadcast the trials of two local fascists who were sentenced to death and shot. Fifteen people are employed at the station, which is in Nioi's own house. Several rooms were fitted up as offices and one as a studio.
3. I found two transmitters there, both Fascist Republican Air Force transmitters. One was fitted into a trailer caravan, which had belonged to the Republican Air Force.
4. At Arzano del Parco, 15 km from Como there is a Fascist Republican Air Force stores. On 28th April, 1945, the Brigata Piana, a partisan brigade of which Captain Nioi is the commanding officer, captured this store and took away these two transmitters, which they brought to Como. They fitted them up and have used one of them daily ever since.
5. Capt. Nioi said that on 26th May, 1945, an Italian Air Force Captain named Fedele arrived from the Italian Air Ministry in Rome and asked them to broadcast daily weather reports for the Italian Air Ministry. They have not yet been able to do this, but have been trying to get the necessary data daily from a local source.
6. On Saturday 2nd June, 1945, I went to Como with Major Giles, IV Corps Signals. We put one transmitter in a lorry we had brought for the purpose and the same lorry towed the trailer, containing the second transmitter, away. They have been taken to a Captured Heavy Material Dump at Verona under 5th Army.
7. The partisans protested at my closing the station down, but did not resort to violence or cause any trouble. They produced a Lt. Col. Arcidiacono, of the Italian Air Force.

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The Colonel said he had been authorized by General Biffi, acting on behalf of the C.I.E. in Milan, to safeguard and take charge of all Republican Air Force property and equipment. I told the Colonel that these transmitters had been captured from the Republicans and were now being used by the partisans. The partisans were being wound up and closed down, and turning all their arms, equipment etc over to the Allies. I had both transmitters properly labelled so that if at some future date higher Authorities decide to turn these two transmitters over to the Italian Government, or Italian Air Force, they can easily be identified.

Richard J. Harvey
Major

Copies to:- Mr. D. Gnudi, CC. PWB. No. 16 Unit, for his information.
Major S.J. Harvey, Security Branch, Hq? Allied Commission, for his information.

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ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT.

HEADQUARTERS.

LOMBARDIA REGION.

4th June, 1945.

SUBJECT :- Clandestine Radio Stations; "Radio Franchi".

TO :- Lt. Col. C.I. Francis.

Sir.

1. I have to report that notification was received from P.W.B. that a radio station known as "Radio Franchi" was broadcasting from an address in Via Filodrammatici, Milan.

2. I knew that this was part of an Italian Mission put into northern Italy by No. I. Special Force during the resistance period. I therefore contacted Major de Hann of No. I Special Force. He said that the mission had now finished its work and saw no reason why the transmitter should continue to work. He said the mission had done splendid work during the resistance period. Some of the members had been shot, other sent to Daccau, but the remainder had carried on.

3. I then interviewed Dott. Edoardo SOGNA at his office in Via Filodrammatici. He said they had two transmitters. One fitted up in an old Italian Fascist Ambulance, and the other in a factory at Via Sempione 93, Milan. This is a factory owned by Allochio and Brocchini, who used to manufacture radios for the Italian Navy. Both transmitters were made from spare parts for Italian Naval radios. Dott. Sogna said that the transmitter in the ambulance had never been used, but that the one in the factory was built to work on a wavelength close to Radio Milan. If the partisans had been unable to capture

10 Lt. Col. C.T. Francis.

Sir,

1. I have to report that notification was received from P.W.B. that a radio station known as "Radio French" was broadcasting from an address in Via Filodrammatici, Milan.
2. I knew that this was part of an Italian Mission put into northern Italy by No. 1, Special Force during the resistance period. I therefore contacted Major de Hann of No. 1 Special Force. He said that the mission had now finished its work and saw no reason why the transmitter should continue to work. He said the mission had done splendid work during the resistance period. Some of the members had been shot, other sent to Tacana, but the remainder had carried on.
3. I then interviewed Dott. Edoardo Sogna at his office in Via Filodrammatici. He said they had two transmitters. One fitted up in an old Italian Fascist Ambulance, and the other in a factory at Via Scapione 93, Milan. This is a factory owned by Allochio and Braochini, who used to manufacture radios for the Italian Navy. Both transmitters were made from spare parts for Italian Naval radios. Dott. Sogna said that the transmitter in the ambulance had never been used, but that the one in the factory was built to work on a wavelength close to Radio Milan. If the partisans had been unable to capture Radio Milan, then they would use this transmitter as a rival so to speak, in order to give the partisans and the people instructions during the street fighting period.
4. Radio Milan was in fact soon captured during the fighting. However, Radio "French" was used to give instructions to the partisans. After the liberation of the city they continued to broadcast news, gramophone records, talks, especially dealing with the deeds done by the partisans.

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5. The "Branchi Mission" were Liberals and not in anyway extremists.
6. I examined the transmitters and found the one in the factory to be very large. It would require to be dismantled before it could be got out of the factory. I consulted Major Giles, IV Corps Signals. On 29th May, 1945, one of his men drove the ambulance away containing the transmitter, whilst other Signal Corps men commenced to dismantle the big transmitter in the factory.
7. Both transmitters, ^{also} being disposed of by IV Corps Signals by turning them over to Captured Enemy Materials Dumps under the control of 5th Army.

Richard Fielder
Major.

Copy to Mr. D. Gault; OC. PWB. Unit 16, for his information.

Major S.J. Harvey. Security Branch. Hq. Allied Commission

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