

Acc 10000/143/2548

140 /CR

ROCHE CYRIL

JUNE 1944 - July 1945

CC
HEADQUARTER ALLIED COMMISSION
A.P.O. 394
PUBLIC SAFETY SUB COMMISSION
SECURITY DIVISION

4 July 1945

TO: R.S.C. Emilia Region

Dear Lou,

Reference the attached AFHQ letter. I can
find no trace of the covering letter referred to in Para. 3.

Do you know where it may be?

Gino

C.B. HAYES,
Captain,
Security Division.

Capt. L.V. GALE
R.S.C. Emilia Region.

(AFHQ letter 8533 Fwd. to Capt Galt)

76

CONFIDENTIAL

1581

SUBJECT: Cyril ROCKE

Adv. HQ, Allied Armies in Italy

CONFIDENTIAL

AAT/4456/126/CSI(U)

TO: Capt. Gale,
Security Branch, Adv HQ ACC.

29 June 1944

1. Attached herewith are files on Lt. Col. and Mrs ROCKE, taken from the Questura at PERUGIA. They have been examined by this office, and only one document of particular interest was found; this has been pinned outside the file and appears to be a copy of a letter written by ROCKE to the Minister of the Interior on 17 May 41. Unfortunately it is only a copy. I suggest that an effort be made to secure the original which may well be in the files of the Ministry of the Interior.
2. I suggest that the passport of Mrs ROCKE, which is in her file, be returned to her.
3. With regard to the AMHQ signal dated 25 June, ^(if) of which you took a copy, please make enquiries at ROCKE's bank in ROME, (the used one), in case his bank account may prove of interest. I have asked Eighth Army to enquire at the PERUGIA banks.
4. Eighth Army is also arranging for the house which he occupied at PERUGIA to be searched. I presume you will do likewise in respect of his home in ROME.
5. I trust you have delivered to ROCKE the letter from the H.A. to General Alexander.

W. D. Gibson

Lt. Colonel,
G.S.I.(b).

SUBJECT:- Cyril ROCKE

SECURITY B/ O 477
HQ, ALLIED ARMS IN ITALY

- 9 LUG. 1944

CONFIDENTIALAAI/1156/125/GSI(b)7 Jul 44Security Branch,
Adv. A.C.C.

1. The attached memo was written by F.S.S., PERUGIA.
2. With regard to para 6, we have not yet received the statement referred to. When we do receive it, we will examine it and forward it to you only if it appears of value for your purpose.

*W.D. Gibson*Lt. Col.
G.S.I.(b)
HQ, A.A.I.

74

JTF

COPY

To: GSI(5) Main HQ Eighth Army

D/21/1722

From 55 F.S. Section

SUBJECT:- Lt.Col. ROCHE

1. The baggage of the Colonel has been searched. It contains large quantities of documents such as statements of accounts, cheques, letters, address books, copies of articles and his short biographical effort "The Faith of a Rebel".
2. These documents cast light on his associations and pre-war sentiments, though there is, at first sight, no incriminating material.
3. No traces of any account held by the Colonel are found in PERUGIA. Among the documents found in his baggage were correspondence with British and American Banks.
4. These documents are too bulky for transmission but are held at 4 Via GUIDO POGGI and can be collected on application to FSS in PERUGIA.
5. Lt. Col. ROCHE's maid is here in charge of his baggage and requests instructions on what course of action to take. Baggage amounts to about 12 Suitcases and 2 boxes.
6. Attached statement is by the secretary of the BRUFANT Hotel where Lt.Col. ROCHE was staying when we arrived.

Sgt. C.D. McConnell
Capt.
Field Security Officer

Field
3 July 44

points of Interest in letter dated 17 May 41 to the Minister of the Interior *Para 30*

1. Col. ROCKE stresses the fact that his wife has always displayed love of Italy and the Fascist regime, which was evidenced in 1935 by her offer of £. 1,800 to the Italian cause, a sum which she obtained from the sale of her jewellery.

2. He states that although he ^{realizes} ~~realizes~~ that the British government has driven its people into a bad and unjust war which is doomed to failure it is only his age which prevents him from offering his life for his country.

Translated Extract from newspaper cutting dated 30 July 1939.

"Rocke, who has never concealed his fervid admiration of Italy and Fascism, was a strong supporter of the Italian cause during the Abyssinian war and he demonstrated this by conferences, in Italy and America and in letters to the press and also to the notorious Archbishop of Canterbury, which were directed against the iniquitous sanctions and deplored the anti-Italian policy of Britain. 72

OFFICE OF THE SURGEON
HEADQUARTERS
2675TH REGIMENT
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
(PROVISIONAL)
APO 394

6 July 1944

SUBJECT: Medical Examination.

TO : Captain L. V. GALE, Security Branch.

1. Cyril E. Rocks was examined on 3 July 1944 at his billet.
2. Findings:
 - (1) Cystitis, acute, severe.
 - (2) Prostatic hypertrophy.
3. Recommend that the above mentioned officer be hospitalized for proper and adequate medical attention.

Henry A. Belafsky
HENRY A. BELAFSKY
Capt., M.C.
Surgeon

216 Via Montana, Rome

26th June 1944

Dear General

I beg you to receive me as soon as possible. For many years past including those preceding the present war I have done my utmost best to advance British interests. I have doubtless made mistakes for which I am sorry but I am ashamed of nothing I have done.

I attach a memorandum which sets out my pre-war political activities and which also shows what I have done and had done to me since the outbreak of war.

I beg you to have this document examined so that I may be given the chance to re-establish my honour and to vindicate myself. I ask you to grant me this favour for the sake of our old comradeship and for the honour of the regiment.

Yours sincerely

CYRIL ROUTE

General the Hon. Harold Alexander
Commander in Chief

I beg you to receive me as soon as possible. For many years past including those preceding the present war I have done my utmost best to advance British interests. I have doubtless made mistakes for which I am sorry but I am ashamed of nothing I have done.

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Yours sincerely

CYRIL ROUSE

General the Hon. Harold Alexander
Commander in Chief

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One important matter I forgot to mention in the attached Memorandum to General Alexander, namely that shortly before America entered the war I obtained permission from the Police to visit Mr. William Phillips, the American Ambassador, at his Embassy office in the Via Boncompagni on behalf of my mother-in-law, an American citizen, who was too old and in too ill health to return to America. I took this opportunity to volunteer political and military information from Germany. Mr. Phillips who had known me for several years expressed himself to be pleased by my offer and if asked to verify my statement. I do not think he will have forgotten the last time I saw him.

CYRIL ROCHE
Lt. Colonel retired

Rome 26th June 1944

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CYRIL ROOME
Lt. Colonel retired

Rome 26th June 1944

MEMORANDUM

For presentation to General Hon. H. Alexander G.C.B.,
D.S.O., etc.

From Lt. Colonel Cyril Nocke, retired.

I was a P. of W. of the Germans from October 19th till June 10, 1944; when I escaped from the hospital in which I was in Perugia because I heard on unimpeachable authority that I was to be sent to Germany with the last batch of German wounded in the same hospital who were to be evacuated that night. In the list in which my name appeared, included an ex-American Consul General Mr. Lester Maynard, most of the Italian Doctors of the hospital in which I was a prisoner and several of the more prominent men in Perugia known for their anti-fascist and pro-ally sympathies. When I was arrested on October 19th I was first of all taken to Concentration Camp No. 77 near Spoleto - together with certain political prisoners which included a Persian Diplomat, two American civilians and six Italians amongst whom was the ex-Prefect of the Province Signor Notariani. My connection with Prefect Notariani was as follows:-

On September 9th 1943 all the internees in Perugia had been officially liberated by the police authorities and we were told we were free to go where we wished. Mr. Walter Orebaugh, the American Consul in the principality of Monaco, and I immediately visited the Prefect and asked him to obtain an aeroplane to take us and certain other British subjects and American citizens to the nearest allied H.Q. The Prefect was most willing to help but had no transport of any sort so he sent a telegram in clear to Marshal Badoglio in Rome saying who we were and what we required. No answer was received and we were all re-arrested within 36 hours of our liberation. As I was wearing uniform at the time I was told that I should be handed over to the military authorities which was fortunate for me because when the Germans eventually arrested me in October I was treated as a military prisoner and not as a civilian enemy in plain clothes helping Italian officers and others to avoid military service and escape to the allied lines. A few days after our re-arrest that is about September 24th, when we knew that the Germans were going to occupy Perugia, several of us escaped from the hotel where we were interned and went into hiding. Mr Orebaugh the American Consul and his two clerks Miss Holden (British) and Miss Nicholls (American) got clean away, the Consul who was a young, strong man eventually reached America I believe via Naples and his two clerks were smuggled down to the Vatican in Rome disguised as nuns I understand. My wife and I were not so fortunate as we were betrayed after a few days by the man to whom we had paid 20,000 Lire to hide us. This individual Armando Mariotti, a restaurant keeper, escaped from Perugia with most of his fellow Republican Fascists between June 8th and 18th. The police official, one Campagnola by name who had shared the 20,000 Lire bribe did not however leave Perugia and he

I was a P. of M. of the Germans from October 19th till June 10, 1944, when I escaped from the hospital in which I was in Perugia because I heard on unimpeachable authority that I was to be sent to Germany with the last batch of German wounded in the same hospital who were to be evacuated that night. In the list in which my name appeared, included an ex-American Consul General Mr. Lester Maynard, most of the Italian Doctors of the hospital in which I was a prisoner and several of the more prominent men in Perugia known for their anti-fascist and pro-ally sympathies. When I was arrested on October 19th I was first of all taken to Concentration Camp No. 77 near Spoleto - together with certain political prisoners which included a Persian Diplomat, two American civilians and six Italians amongst whom was the ex-Prefect of the Province Signor Notariani. My connection with Prefect Notariani was as follows:-

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Germany. Mr. Lester Maynard, the ex-American Consul General and I immediately reported this individual to A.M.G. and he was imprisoned at once. On the night of October 19th when I was taken to the German Concentration Camp my wife was sent with me, the only woman of the party. But the German Commandant refused to admit a woman into the camp where conditions were very rough for the 1000-1500 prisoners many of whom were negroes - so my wife was to her despair separated from me and sent back to Perugia with the escort that had brought us out. Fortunately my wife's Italian is perfect and the Captain in charge of the escort when they arrived back in Perugia at about 3 a.m. dismissed his men and helped to hide my wife till she could get in touch with certain friends in the Red Cross who smuggled her in a few days into the Tuberculosis Department of the Hospital of Monte Luce.

Meantime I was being examined by the German Commandant by means of an interpreter. I did not divulge the fact that I knew German at all. I was kept standing for what seemed hours but refused to admit or deny any of the charges brought against me. I said I had been doing what I expected the German Commandant would have done had our positions been reversed. He said that might be so but that I would be compelled to speak and confess to all I had done and to say where Consul Orebaugh was and how the Prefect Notariani came into the picture. I was so weak by this time that he said he would re-examine me in the morning and I asked for medical assistance. He sent for his Doctor who examined me and who said I was not fit to lie on the ground and advised of my being taken to the Infirmary Hut. This was done and I was laid on some straw on a truckle bed. In the entrance to the Infirmary Hut was a small compartment containing one occupant only who when the Germans had left the hut began to whisper to me and to ask me who I was. He spoke Italian and told me he was a Jew prisoner but as he was a Doctor he was working as assistant to the German Doctor. His name was Levy and he came from Trieste. He told me I should probably be put through a severe examination next morning and might be doped. To counteract this he gave me two pills to make my heart play up. When I was aroused in the morning at 6 a.m. I swallowed these pills and could hardly walk to the hut where I was to be re-examined. I was offered some coffee of which I drank as little as possible, anyway my heart was so bad I could not even speak coherently and after a few minutes I was back again in the Infirmary where I was medically examined to see if I could be sent to Germany with the other prisoners leaving that night. Doctor Levy himself carried out most of the examination. He had advised me the night before to say I was suffering from enlargement of the prostate and to pretend great pain when examined. Unfortunately part of the examination consisted of passing a catheter into the bladder to draw off the urine. The catheter used was so thick that I suffered agony and inflamed the whole of the urethra so much so that I have now a chronic internal abscess. The result of the medical examination was that I was found unfit for the journey to Germany and was sent to the Military Hospital in Perugia where there were some 60-70 British prisoners including one officer Flight Lieutenant John King D.S.O., R.A.F., who after shooting down one German troop carrier into the sea off the coast of Sardinia was himself brought down by the second troop carrier. After 7 hours

into the camp where conditions were very rough for the 1000-1500 prisoners many of whom were negroes - so my wife was to her despair separated from me and sent back to Perugia with the escort that had brought us out. Fortunately my wife's Italian is perfect and the Captain in charge of the escort when they arrived back in Perugia at about 3 a.m. dismissed his men and helped to hide my wife till she could get in touch with certain friends in the Red Cross who smuggled her in a few days into the Tuberculosis Department of the Hospital of Monte Luce.

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3.

Perugia, where we shared a ward. This hospital was run by Italian Doctors, Italian Red X Sisters and nuns of the Order of St. Vincent de Paul all under German supervision. The Doctors, the Red X Sisters and nuns were goodness itself to all of us - and time and time again stood between us and deportation to Germany. At the end of December I was transferred from this hospital to another hospital where there were many German sick and wounded - and also most of the Italian civilians. It was the hospital in which my wife was concealed and she was eventually allowed to nurse me. The Swiss Legation in Florence were instrumental in obtaining this permission from the German authorities but besides nursing me she nursed wounded Germans, Italians and an occasional British prisoner. I was in bed in this hospital from the end of December to 10th June. The plan was that if I was threatened with deportation to Germany I should have an abdominal operation such as would make moving me very difficult. This plan fell through because the surgeons who were to have performed the operation were listed for deportation themselves and had to fly like myself and my wife at a moment's notice. Our escape was quite dramatic as first of all the few fascist orderlies had to be got out of the way and then with my head all bandaged up and in plain clothes we were smuggled out of the hospital by a back way by the nuns and a friendly orderly and I walked bent double holding the arm of my tame spy. We naturally met many Germans and Italians in the 2-3 mile walk across Perugia. My wife and I were hidden in a small house on the outskirts of the town. This house is situated on the main road of the German retirement from Perugia to Umbertide and Gubbio. During the next eight days and nights the roads on the outskirts of the town were bombed fairly heavily by our planes and twice by an obviously Fascist aeroplane which bombed the centre of the city causing I believe many casualties. One night when our Air Force bombed the road our place of hiding was near we fled out into the fields and ran into two German soldiers who had left Orvieto that morning and who helped us to a place of safety - these of course took us for Italians and as my wife speaks fluent German she picked up a little information, namely that the German Army no longer believed in victory - that it had lost its chance when it failed to invade England after Dunkerque, that peace was certain before September. Neither of the men had any love for Hitler but it is useless to say their moral was bad. Finally just before dawn they accompanied us back to our house of hiding - one carrying my bag and helping me over the rough going and the other doing the same for my wife. These two men like most of the men my wife nursed in hospital seemed to have little animosity against the British troops and she was given the impression that if it could be made known that Germany would be occupied only by British garrisons the German Army would probably surrender in a very short time.

Eventually after one or two narrow shaves we were told by our girl spy from Brufani's Hotel (the German Platzkommandant's H.Q.) that the last Germans had left and we could safely go up to the hotel as our people would be sure to be in the next day. So we took her advice and went up by the back streets to Brufani's Hotel on the afternoon of June 12th. On the next day there were a few Germans seen in the hotel and we had to escape down by a back staircase

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4.

most unpleasant suspense I ascertained that our spy had mistaken the telephone wires and insulation boxes of the last German Artillery C.P. for mines. This girl and the elderly housekeeper stayed up in the main body of the hotel despite a quite heavy shelling until the German C.P. left at 10 p.m. when they came down with the news that the Commandant of the rearward a Major with a Polish name was retiring from Monte Ripido the highest point in the north of the city at 11 p.m. (this was the night of the 19th). Just before dawn we went up into the hotel and I saw our people away down in the valley and went down to meet them. The first officer I met was Captain Ashley Ponsoby, Coldstream Guards, on patrol. He took me back to his Company H.Q. where I gave all the military information I had. After staying there for half an hour I returned to Perugia and on the way up the hill went into the villa (badly shelled) at the request of the proprietor who said his home had been German S.S. headquarters. He gave me such documents as he had found after the S.S. had left on the 17th June. I handed these papers over to A.M.G. in Perugia as soon as possible - one of the documents contained a list of names of interned women who were to be deported by German Concentration Camps from Perugia. My wife's name was the last on the list. The date of the document was 29th May and the covering letter was signed by Armando Rocchi the Prefect of the Province, a human devil responsible for countless murders during the last six months' reign of terror in Perugia.

On June 21st I gave all the military information I could to the G. Staff of 10 Corps (Colonel Philpotts C.S.O.1 and to Major Barrow C.S.O.2) and on June 21st and 22nd Mr. Maynard and I gave all the political and non-military information we had to A.M.G., F.S.S. and A.C.G. in Perugia. On the 23rd June I came down to Rome in the hope of seeing General Alexander who I was told was in or near Rome.

The reason I would be grateful for an interview with General Alexander is two-fold:-

- (1) to prove that from the day that war broke out September 3, 1939 I have done my utmost to serve my country;
- (2) to obtain General Alexander's permission to join our advance troops when they are across the Po.

My only daughter who has a British passport and is very English has 3 little children. Her husband is very anti-fascist. Their property near Vicenza has already been confiscated and his country house and property turned into a factory for motor engines. My daughter is well known to be my daughter and now that I have escaped I fear she may have been deported to Germany. She is aged 24 and has 3 little children under 4 years of age.

My son-in-law's father died as the result of exposure on the Carso in the last war. I went to the Vatican yesterday, June 24th, and saw Mr. Montgomery Counsellor to the British Legation to the Holy See, who in view of the stories current about me early in the war and referred to in the attached Memorandum, marked A, strongly advised me to put myself right with the military authorities.

was retiring from Monte Ripido the highest point in the north of the city at 11 p.m. (this was the night of the 19th). Just before dawn we went up into the hotel and I saw our people away down in the valley and went down to meet them. The first officer I met was Captain Ashley Pousonby, Coldstream Guards, on patrol. He took me back to his Company H.Q. where I gave all the military information I had. After staying there for half an hour I returned to Perugia and on the way up the hill went into the villa (badly shelled) at the request of the proprietor who said his home had been German S.S. headquarters. He gave me such documents as he had found after the S.S. had left on the 17th June. I handed these papers over to A.M.G. in Perugia as soon as possible - one of the documents contained a list of names of interned women who were to be deported by German Concentration Camps from Perugia. My wife's name was the last on the list. The date of the document was 29th May and the covering letter was signed by Armando Rocchi, the Prefect of the Province, a human devil responsible for countless murders during the last six months' reign of terror in Perugia.

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216 Via Nomentana, Rome.
25th June 1944.

My dear Cyril,

The accusation of your having spoken on the Italian Radio during the war is absolute nonsense. You can refer anybody to me who thinks you did so. It is true that on or about June 21, 1940, you stated on the Radio that the British Colony beyond military age still remaining in Rome were being well treated and that their relations need have no fear for their safety if they obeyed the instructions laid down by the American Embassy. I remember you also stated you were a loyal British subject who had been debarred from serving his country on account of age.

I happened myself to be in charge of the British Department of the Rome Radio from 1st January 1940 to September 1943. I also know that you and Betty were strictly interned at the very commencement and eventually sent away to Perugia.

I must tell you again how very happy and thankful I was to see you both back and safe. My wife and I have had very anxious moments about you especially when the news filtered through that you were in a German Concentration Camp on the charge of spying - but thanks to God all that is over.

Yours affectionately

ENRICO CAVALLETTI

P.S. The writer of the above is the Marchese Cavalletti whose wife is the daughter of a distinguished British naval officer. They were strongly opposed to the war as was their only son who was killed in Greece in 1941. The Cavallettis have been our intimate friends for nearly 30 years.

The accusation of your having spoken on the Italian Radio during the war is absolute nonsense. You can refer anybody to me who thinks you did so. It is true that on or about June 21, 1940, you stated on the Radio that the British Colony beyond military age still remaining in Rome were being well treated and that their relations need have no fear for their safety if they obeyed the instructions laid down by the American Embassy. I remember you also stated you were a loyal British subject who had been debarred from serving his country on account of age.

I happened myself to be in charge of the British Department of the Rome Radio from 1st January 1940 to September 1943. I also know that you and Betty were strictly interned at the very commencement and eventually sent away to Perugia.

I must tell you again how very happy and thankful I was to see you both back and safe. My wife and I have had very anxious moments about you especially when the news filtered through that you were in a German Concentration Camp on the charge of spying - but thanks to God all that is over.

Yours affectionately

ENRICO CAVALLETTI

P.S. The writer of the above is the Marchese Cavalletti whose wife is the daughter of a distinguished British naval officer. They were strongly opposed to the war as was their only son who was killed in Greece in 1941. The Cavallettis have been our intimate friends for nearly 30 years.

8 Via Natale del Grande, Rome.
25th June 1944.

Dear Colonel Roche,

I cannot tell you how delighted I am to know that both Mrs. Roche and yourself are safe, what a terrible time you must have had, thank God it is ended now.

It may interest you to know that I met General Hounsell the other day. I believe that he is on the General Staff but I am not quite sure. I spoke to him of you and mentioned your political activities against the policy of sanctions and that you had acted as you did for your country's sake as you believed that this policy would simply throw an "aggravated Italy into the arms of a revengeful Germany". I also told him that you had been informed that you were accused of being a British Fascist agent and also of having broadcasted in English against England. Furthermore I said that I knew these accusations to be absolutely without foundation and that I was in a position to testify on your behalf. Really I have never been able to understand why such accusations were levelled against you.

You will remember poor Bayard who was arrested as a spy in Palermo on May 24th, 1940. I can never forget how you begged the Queen of Italy to secure him a fair trial. He was sentenced to 30 years imprisonment and the last I heard from him was that he was still in the political prison at San Gimignano near Siena. I pray for news of him. I refused repatriation to be near my son.

I also want to thank you and Mrs. Roche for all your kindness to me and poor Bayard. I really believe that I could never have existed these last four years had it not been for your sympathy and support which gave me the courage to live.

With all best wishes to you both

Yours most sincerely

CONSTANCE McDONNELL

Dear Colonel Roche,

I cannot tell you how delighted I am to know that both Mrs. Roche and yourself are safe, what a terrible time you must have had, thank God it is ended now.

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With all best wishes to you both

Yours most sincerely

CONSTANCE MCDONWELL

The following is a list of the more prominent people who supported my anti-sanctions attitude in 1935-1937:-

Mr. J.L. Garvin of the Observer, Lord Rothermere, Lord Mottistone, Sir Arnold Wilson, the Bishop of Exeter, Mr. Arthur Bryant, Professor Jacks and several others.

At a meeting held at Brooks Club in December 1935 presided over by Lord Mottistone, just before my visit to America to speak against sanctions before the Foreign Policy Association it was unanimously agreed that this was the best step to be taken in British interests.

The following is a list of names of certain people who can either vouch for my having been interned since the commencement of the war or for my having been a prisoner of war in a German Concentration Camp since October 1943 and for my having escaped from hospital in Perugia to avoid being sent to Germany on June 10th 1944:-

Professor Rampegni (now in Perugia) for 25 years in practice in London and in charge of the British P. of W. in the Military Hospital at Santa Giuliana, Perugia. This brave Doctor was eventually imprisoned by the Fascists for helping British prisoners. He narrowly escaped with his life and had to go into hiding at the end.

Contessa Salvatore and her daughter Almena - Red Cross Sisters of Perugia to whom many British P. of W. owe their lives.

Professor Fidele, head surgeon of the Hospital of Monte Luce, Perugia, who ran great personal risk in preventing my being deported to Germany during the period January 1944 to June 9, 1944, when he himself with several other Doctors had to go into hiding at a moment's notice to avoid being sent to Germany as hostages.

Avvocato Mignini of Perugia, a brave member of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul who at great personal risk frequently brought food and necessities of life to British prisoners in hospital.

Raffaella Bertocchini, cashier to Brufani's Hotel during the whole of the German occupation of the hotel and their H.Q. from October 1943 to 10 p.m. June 19th 1944 when the last German Artillery O.P. left Perugia. This brave young lady who is young and pretty and who speaks German fluently, was working for the allies all along and constantly sent me news and useful information. She became engaged to be married to an Austrian Major to mask her preliminary activities. It was in the house of her parents that my wife and I were hidden after our flight from the hospital, from June 10th to June 18th.

An equally brave person is the housekeeper of Brufani's Hotel, an elderly woman named Maria Ottolini, who was largely instrumental in the escape of the American Consul Orebaugh and his two women clerks in October 1943. She also enabled ex-Consul

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An equally brave person is the housekeeper of Brufani's Hotel, an elderly woman named Maris Ottolini, who was largely his instrumental in the escape of the American Consul Orebough and his two women clerks in October 1943. She also enabled ex-Consul General Maynard to go into hiding on June 9, 1944. She was invaluable to several British and American female internees in Perugia. Both these women deserve the highest praise.

MEMORANDUM

A

The undersigned British subject, Lt. Colonel C.E.A.S. Roche, a retired officer of H. B. M. Army, now interned in Italy as an enemy citizen, presents his compliments to H.E. The Swiss Minister in charge of British Interests in Italy and will be grateful if the attached three letters may be kept in safe custody at the Swiss Legation in Rome during the period of the war. In the event of Colonel Roche's death before the end of the war, he would be grateful if the letters may be sealed and forwarded to the address indicated, as soon as may be possible after the Armistice. The three letters, which have been left open, are identically the same; each letter contains a signed copy of the statement attached to this memorandum. The letters are respectively addressed to the following persons:-

- (1) His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Foreign Office, London.
- (2) Charles Hutchinson, Esq.,
Messrs Hutchinson & Buchanan, Solicitors,
Ripon, Yorkshire, England.
- (3) N.D. La Contessa da Schio
Villa da Schio
Costozza di Vicenza, Italy.

Note: - Mr. Charles Hutchinson is Lt. Colonel Roche's cousin and the Contessa da Schio is his only daughter.

STATEMENT

On April 30, 1943, I was officially informed by the Swiss Legation in charge of British Interests in Italy that the application I had made in my letter dated April 7, 1943, to be repatriated together with my wife, Mrs. Elizabeth L. Locke, had been refused by the British Government.

I respectfully protest against this decision of the British Government which from previous correspondence I can only presume to have been arrived at for political reasons. I have no knowledge of what the charge against me may be.

With reference to my pre-war political activities I beg to make the following statement. From the spring of 1935 to September 3, 1939, I considerably opposed, in what I earnestly believed to be the interests of my country, the Foreign Policy of the British Government except for a short period in 1938 when Mr. Neville Chamberlain was Prime Minister. On August 8th, 1938, I was, with Mr. Chamberlain's approval, especially selected to convey a message of goodwill to Signor Mussolini from some seventy of the Prime Minister's personal friends and admirers in the House of Commons. The Prime Minister was fully informed by Sir Philip Dawson M.P. of my political activities during 1935-36-37 in the matter of the Policy of Sanctions and of my pro-Franco propaganda during the Spanish Civil War and furthermore he directed me to convey the message direct to Signor Mussolini and not through the usual diplomatic channels which I would have preferred to do. The real object of this visit to Mussolini was to find out unofficially what chance there was of his breaking off his alliance with Germany and what his price would be. This I ascertained the day after I had seen Mussolini (August 8, 1938) from his son-in-law Count Ciano the Foreign Minister. The price was (1) that Italy should be allowed to purchase 25 per cent of the Suez Canal shares with proportionate representation on the board - (2) that Italy should be allowed to purchase the majority of the shares of the Jibouti-Addis Ababa railway - (3) that the British Government should bring pressure to bear on France to allow the ninety thousand Italians in Tunis to have a free vote and to teach their own language in the schools. The British Government did not see its way to opening negotiations on this basis. On the conclusion of my mission Sir Philip Dawson M.P., Chairman of the Anglo-Italian Parliamentary Committee wrote me the following letter:-

House of Commons
August 24, 1938.

My dear Colonel Locke,

As Chairmen of the Anglo-Italian Parliamentary Group, may I say how much I appreciate the splendid work you have done for the cause we all have at heart and which has made it possible for our Group to be of real service.

tion I had made in my letter dated April 7, 1943, to be repatriated together with my wife, Mrs. Elizabeth L. Rocks, had been refused by the British Government.

I respectfully protest against this decision of the British Government which from previous correspondence I can only presume to have been arrived at for political reasons. I have no knowledge of what the charge against me may be.

With reference to my pre-war political activities I beg to make the following statement. From the spring of 1935 to September 3, 1939, I considerably opposed, in what I earnestly believed to be the interests of my country, the Foreign Policy of the British Government except for a short period in 1938 when Mr. Neville Chamberlain was Prime Minister. On August 8th, 1938, I was, with Mr. Chamberlain's approval, especially selected to convey a message of goodwill to Signor Mussolini from some seventy of the Prime Minister's personal friends and admirers in the House of Commons. The Prime Minister was fully informed by Sir Philip Dawson M.P. of my political activities during 1935-36-37 in the matter of the Policy of Sanctions and of my pro-Franco propaganda during the Spanish Civil War and furthermore he directed me to convey the message direct to Signor Mussolini and not through the usual diplomatic channels which I would have preferred to do. The real object of this visit to Mussolini was to find out unofficially what chance there was of his breaking off his alliance with Germany and what his price would be. This I ascertained the day after I had seen Mussolini (August 8, 1938) from his son-in-law Count Ciano the Foreign Minister. The price was (1) that Italy should be allowed to purchase 25 per cent of the Suez Canal shares with proportionate representation on the board - (2) that Italy should be allowed to purchase the majority of the shares of the Jibouti-Addis Ababa railway - (3) that the British Government should bring pressure to bear on France to allow the ninety thousand Italians in Tunis to have a free vote and to teach their own language in the schools. The British Government did not see its way to opening negotiations on this basis. On the conclusion of my mission Sir Philip Dawson M.P., Chairman of the Anglo-Italian Parliamentary Committee wrote me the following letter:-

House of Commons
August 24, 1938.

My dear Colonel Rocks,

As Chairman of the Anglo-Italian Parliamentary Group, may I say how much I appreciate the splendid work you have done for the cause we all have at heart and which has made it possible for our Group to be of real service.

Your patriotism and the generous way in which you spend your time and money in working for our

country is wonderful and I am very proud that I should be able to co-operate with you in your effort to bring about the resumption of the old friendship between Italy and Great Britain which, as the Prime Minister has rightly said, is the corner stone of our great policy for the maintenance of peace.

With kindest regards
Yours sincerely

(Signed) PHILIP DAWSON
Chairman of the Anglo-Italian Parliamentary Group.

To the best of my ability I continued to uphold the Prime Minister's Policy of Peace until after the agreement of Munich. At the end of August 1938 together with other British representatives of the Anglo-German Fellowship I went to Nuremberg as the guest of the German Government and during the three weeks I was in Germany I sent several unofficial reports on the military strength and political feeling in Germany to Sir Horace Wilson, K.C.B., the Prime Minister's Principal Private Secretary, at the latter's request. When I realised the "Peace of Munich" was doomed to failure I opposed that section of the British press which seemed to wish to make the public believe that war was inevitable over the question of Danzig and the Polish Corridor. The Anglo-German Fellowship was dissolved automatically on the outbreak of war. I had been proposed as member of this society by Lord Clive and Mr. Edward Tennant who were also present at the Nuremberg Festival. So much for my pre-war political activities. I was a friend of Lord Lloyds and a member of the Navy League and an ardent subscriber to a Society for increasing the British Air Force.

On September 3, 1939, when Great Britain declared war against Germany I was in Lausanne and I immediately telegraphed to the War Office and the Air Ministry offering my services in any capacity. These offers which I renewed again and again during the ensuing 8 months, were only declined because of my age, 63 years. I have the official replies of the War Office and the following is a copy of the last letter I received from England before the outbreak of war in June 1940:-

Air Ministry (Dept. O.A.)
King Charles Street
Whitehall, S.W.1.
12th May, 1940

Dear Hannon,

I write with reference to your letter to me of the 25th April, with which you sent me one received from Colonel Cyril Rocks, who is anxious to rejoin the Royal Air Force.

I have made very full enquiries about this, but I

With kindest regards
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12th May, 1940

Dear Hannon,

I write with reference to your letter to me of the 25th April, with which you sent me one received from Colonel Cyril Rooke, who is anxious to rejoin the Royal Air Force.

I have made very full enquiries about this, but I am sorry to say he is, unfortunately, much above the age limit for any sort of employment either in a flying capacity or even in branches in the non-flying side.

I much regret that I am unable to suggest anything for him with the Air Forces. We all admire his great spirit and his pluck, and I am indeed sorry that it is not possible to offer him an appointment.

Yours sincerely
(Signed) HAROLD BALFOUR

Sir Petrich Hannon M.P.
St. John's House
Smith Square, S.W.1.

I had returned to Italy from Switzerland at the end of 1939. During the winter of 1939 I was the guest of Marshal Balbo in Tripoli for six weeks. He flew me over 5000 miles of North Africa and I travelled all along the coast road from Tripoli to Tohruk by car. Marshal Balbo was very much opposed to Italy's entry into the war. He disliked the Germans and liked the British.

In June 1940 when I knew there was no possible chance of being able to serve my country in England because of my age I decided to remain in Italy. This decision, which was perhaps unwise, was actuated by the knowledge that my wife was in no state of health to undergo an arduous journey and we both wished to be near our daughter during her first confinement which was due to take place in June.

At the end of June I committed what afterwards transpired to be an unwise act, inasmuch as I made of my own free will a broadcast in English stating that British subjects beyond military age still remaining in Rome were being well treated and that their relations need have no fear for their safety. I further stated that I was a loyal British subject and only debarred from serving my country because I was too old. I never realised the harm I had done by this seeming innocuous statement made in good faith till an American official attached to the Swiss Legation informed me that I was reported to be Sir Oswald Moseley's agent in Italy and had been making weekly broadcasts against my own country. I denied these accusations and I think I convinced Mr. Perkins that there was no truth in them and that I was a loyal British subject. Incidentally I never even knew Moseley and have never been a member of any Fascist organisation in any country. I had been however like many far more prominent Englishmen an admirer of Mussolini's until June 10th, 1940. My wife and I were arrested by the Italian police early in July 1940 and strictly interned.

I can only conclude that my so-called pro-Italian sympathies during the sanctions period, even though they were actuated by what I earnestly believed to be a patriotic desire to serve British interests and to prevent Italy being driven into a continental

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I can only conclude that my so-called pro-Italian sympathies during the sanctions period, even though they were actuated by what I earnestly believed to be a patriotic desire to serve British interests and to prevent Italy being driven into a continental alliance inimical to those interests, when taken in conjunction with my unfortunate broadcast of June 21, 1940, and the fact that I elected to remain in Italy and did not apply for repatriation until the death of my wife's mother, Mrs. Louise B. Iddings, an

4.

American citizen aged 33 years on March 30th of this year 1943, have induced the British Government to deny to my wife and myself the right of repatriation. I respectfully protest against this decision and particularly do I do so in so far as it concerns my wife, who however unwise I may have been, is entirely innocent of any indiscretion whatsoever.

If I had been a Fascist agent as I was accused of being or in any way inimical to my country it is hardly credible that I should have been arrested and deprived of my passport and interned with my wife at the commencement of the war. It is true that owing to the dangerous state of my wife's health we were subsequently allowed to return to Rome for an urgent operation in a hospital. It is also true that since my wife's recovery 8 months ago we have been allowed to remain in Rome but this we were allowed to do only because my wife's mother was dying and could not be moved even to a hospital. Immediately after Mrs. Iddings' death ten days ago we were informed by the Police authorities that we were again to be sent away from Rome to Perugia, our original place of internment. We have always been under strict police surveillance.

One of my chief reasons for seeking repatriation and so voluntarily separating myself, perhaps for ever, from my only child, was to obtain an official inquiry into the accusations referred to above. As repatriation is to be denied us I can only reaffirm that my wife and I have always been loyal British subjects and if I survive the war it is my earnest desire to clear my good name at all costs. If I have been guilty of disloyalty then I deserve the severest penalty; and if I am not guilty, my character ought to be cleared as a matter of common justice. If on the other hand I fail to survive the war I am certain my wife and daughter will defend my honour by any legal means that they may be advised to employ.

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
A.P.O. 394
PUBLIC SAFETY SUB COMMISSION
SECURITY DIVISION

REF : SD/140 GR

15 July 1945

SUBJECT : Lt. Col. ROGUE

TO : G-2 (CI) AWHQ.

Reference GEI. 389.450/A.21 dated 29 June 45.

1. The letter in question was forwarded to Lt. Col. W.D. Gibson, GEI (b) HQ., AII with a brief written memorandum of which no copy was kept.

01213

JOHN W. CHAPMAN
Colonel J.A.C.D.
Director Public Safety
Sub-Commission.

GRH/af

CONFIDENTIAL

HEADQUARTER ALLIED COMMISSION
A.P.C. 394
PUBLIC SAFETY SUB COMMISSION
SECURITY DIVISION

140CR

4 July 1945

TO: R.S.C. Emilia Region

Dear Lou,

Reference the attached AFHQ letter. I can
find no trace of the covering letter referred to in Para. 3.

Do you know where it may be?

Ciao



J. B. HAYES,
Captain,
Security Division.

Capt. L.V. GALE
R.S.C. Emilia Region.

The letter in question was
forwarded on 15th August, 1944
Lt. Col. W.D. Gibson, S.S. 1 (6), H.Q. A.A.H.
(~~was 16 August 1944~~) with a brief written
memorandum of which no copy was kept.



CONFIDENTIAL

Chapman
Chapman

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CONFIDENTIAL

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2
APO 512, U.S. Army

GRI.389.450/A-21.

29 June, 1945.

SUBJECT: Lt. Colonel ROCKE. ←

TO : Security Division,
Public Safety Sub-Commission,
Allied Commission.

Reference para.2 of your SD/140(CR) dated 26 June,
1945.

1. It is noted that Captain Gale forwarded ROCKE's letter to his daughter to G.S.I.(b), Headquarters, A.A.I. for attention.
2. It is requested that the file reference and date (or approximate date) of the covering letter to Headquarters, A.A.I., be quoted in order to assist in the tracing of this important letter.

For the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2:

Security
Division
2/7
8533
File No 140CR
Action

G. Eyres Monsell.
G. EYRES MONSELL,
Lt. Colonel, G.S.
G-2 (CI) Section.

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CONFIDENTIAL

8588

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS ALGERIA COMMISSION

G. H. F.

PERSONAL SECURITY AND COMMISSION

SECURITY DIVISION

Ref: UN/ 140 (M)

Subject: Lt. Colonel BAKER.

To: 1 A.P.S.G., Office of A.C. of A. G-2 ✓

25th June, 1945

1. With reference to your GEL. 589.450/4-21 of 21st June, 1945 regarding Lt. Col. BAKER.

2. It is true that Lt. Col. BAKER wrote a letter to Contessa DA BUIO which he handed to me. The purpose of the letter, he said, was to ensure the collaboration of the Countess in revealing the whereabouts of all papers belonging to him, when she was to be interviewed by Field Security on Allied occupation of VENICE. I forwarded this letter to GSI (G) HXVI AAT for attention. No copy was taken at this office, but I can clearly recall that it contained no mention of Venice and was addressed to Contessa DA BUIO, Contessa di Vienna.

3. It seems quite obvious that, at that time the Colonel had no knowledge of the fact that his daughter was in Venice, otherwise the letter in question would have been addressed to Venice. Further, in his signed statement made at about the same time no mention was made about Venice, Contessa was the only place mentioned in regard to his daughter.

4. Also, Lt. Col. BAKER and his wife have many times contacted me for several months almost daily - to ask questions about his case - to obtain medicines which he needed at a time when he was technically our prisoner under a form of open arrest. I am quite certain that at no time during conversations which we have had up to about two months ago, has any reference whatsoever to Venice been made.

In mid May, 1945 I learnt for the first time from Lt. Col. BAKER that his daughter was in Venice. On that occasion he handed me a letter dated 1st May, 1945, addressed to the Countess in Venice. He asked me to forward it to her and I replied that I could do so through the proper channels. Within 48 hours, however, he telephoned me and later that day I interviewed him when he informed me that he had received all his papers from his daughter through a South African Major who had carried the letter (of which the one handed to me was a copy) to her in Venice. When I remarked that he had not previously mentioned to me having already sent the said letter through another officer he apologized and said that he had wanted her to make "double sure" that she received it quickly.

6. It is apparent that he sent the letter through the South African Major on the 1st May, 1945, and that his handing me a copy thereof on about the 14th May, 1945, was an afterthought to make his action appear more regular.

1. With reference to your GIL 359.454/4-24 of 21st June, 1945 regarding Lt. Col. Rodas.

2. It is true that Lt. Col. Rodas wrote a letter to Countess De Gontaut which he handed to me. The purpose of the letter, he said, was to ensure the collaboration of the Countess in revealing the whereabouts of all papers belonging to him, when she was to be interviewed by Field Security on Allied occupation of COCHIN. I forwarded this letter to GIL (b) here for attention. No copy was taken at this office, but I can clearly recall that it contained no mention of Venice and was addressed to Countess De Gontaut, Contessa di Vercelli.

3. It seems quite obvious that, at that time the Colonel had no knowledge of the fact that his daughter was in Venice, otherwise the letter in question would have been addressed to Venice. Perhaps, in his signed statement made at about the same time no mention was made about Venice; Countess was the only place mentioned in regard to his daughter.

4. Also Lt. Col. Rodas and his wife have many times contacted me for several months almost daily - to ask questions about his case - to obtain medicines which he needed at a time when he was technically our prisoner under a form of open arrest. I am quite certain that at no time during conversations which we have had up to about two months ago, has any reference whatsoever to Venice been made.

In mid May, 1945 I learnt for the first time from Lt. Col. Rodas that his daughter was in Venice. On that occasion he handed me a letter dated 1st May, 1945, addressed to the Countess in Venice. He asked me to forward it to her and I replied that I would do so through the proper channels. Within 48 hours, however, he designated me and later that day I interviewed him when he informed me that he had received all his papers from his daughter through a South African Major who had carried the letter (of which the one handed to me was a copy) to her in Venice. When I remarked that he had not previously mentioned to me having already sent the said letter through another officer he apologized and said that he had wanted her to make 'doubly sure' that she received it quickly.

6. It is apparent that he sent the letter through the South African Major on the 1st May, 1945, and that his handling me a copy thereof on about the 14th May, 1945, was an afterthought to make his action appear more regular. By such action he has made it impossible for the authorities to say with confidence that there are no further incriminating documents among those the whereabouts of which are known to his daughter. Doubtless she has forwarded only the most harmless documents, following the lines of the letter which was sent to her and which quite obviously would tell her all she needed to know. Lt. Col. Rodas did not ask directly that she forward the papers but the inference from his letter was that he expected her to do so.

7. The behaviour of Lt. Col. Rodas in taking this step was a breach of trust and of the just treatment he was accorded, and was unwelcome to his rank. It leaves room for the belief that there may have been other papers, reflecting upon his loyalty among those held by his daughter. By communication with her before the authorities (who did not know her whereabouts) had contacted her, he succeeded in circumventing proper investigation.

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6. From my conversations with him, it is clear that he intends to try to rehabilitate himself socially and to be accepted in his clubs as a much misinterpreted gentleman who has really done no wrong. He is likely to start a publicity campaign through the press for this purpose. It may be true that his conduct in Italy was perhaps not quite bad enough on the evidence available. We want original proceedings, but nevertheless the facts show disloyalty and continued leaning upon Fascism both before and during the war.

7. Probably the worst thing that Lt. Col. Howe did was to write a letter during the period of war with Italy, to the Minister of the Interior, in which he said, "I consider that my country has driven the English people into a war that is bad, unjust and doomed to failure". This in itself amounts technically to giving comfort to the King's enemies and such a letter might well have been used by the Fascists for propaganda. The fact that Lt. Col. Howe qualified his remarks by adding that he would nevertheless have fought for his country had he been able to do so, does not mitigate the offense. This signed letter was found in the files at the Museum of Perugia and was submitted to H.Q., A.I., with the previously mentioned report. (Paragraph 30 of the said report refers to this).

10. Although original proceedings are perhaps not warranted on the evidence available (although I am of the opinion that a technical conviction might be obtained) his actions have been such that he can hardly expect to retrieve the position of a loyal English gentleman and to be accepted as such. I have conveyed to him on a number of occasions that, in spite of the fact that to date no criminal proceedings are in course, he cannot, on the evidence already obtained be said to have been cleared of disloyalty. It would perhaps have considerable trouble with Lt. Col. Howe if these facts and the basis for them as outlined in this report were conveyed to him by an officer of higher rank than himself. His present activities are all part and parcel of an attempt to get a statement from the authorities that he has been "cleared of disloyalty". This would probably be followed by his having announcements made in the British and American Press to the effect that he had been so cleared.

11. He has endeavored at various times to involve me in a social acquaintance with him, doubtless with a view to getting me in the course of his publicity campaign to clear his name. I have refused his invitations with as much courtesy as possible. Several weeks ago however, he came to my office and informed me that he had appointed me the executor of his will and had left me a small legacy. I do not know whether this can be taken seriously or not but it seems clear that his object was to enlist me on his side in clearing his name. He gave as his reason for making this gesture "that he wished to record his appreciation of the fact, just and impartial manner of the investigation made by me into his case". He said that he was conveying the facts to General Sir Harold Alexander in a letter.

12. I would remark that at the outset of my investigations both the Colonel and his wife were extremely preying in a subtle manner and most arrogant in their demeanor but changed their attitude when it failed to have any effect. I can well understand that their daughter - Corinna M. SMITH - may have adopted the same attitude towards Capt. Stevens of 47 Port Security P.O., and may have been a most difficult person with whom to deal. It is quite clear that Lt. Col. Howe is prepared to go to almost

into a war that is bad, unjust and doomed to failure". This in itself amounts technically to giving comfort to the King's enemies and such a letter might well have been used by the Nazis for propaganda. The fact that Lt. Col. Hodge qualified his remark by adding that he would, nevertheless, have fought for his country had he been able to do so, does not mitigate the offense. This signed letter was found in the files at the posture of Hodge and was submitted to Hq. A.L., with the previously mentioned report. (Paragraph 30 of the said report refers to this).

10. Although original proceedings are perhaps not warranted on the evidence available (although I am of the opinion that a technical exception might be obtained) his actions have been such that he can hardly expect to retrieve the position of a loyal English gentleman and to be accepted as such. I have conveyed to him on a matter of confidence that, in spite of the fact that to date no criminal proceedings are in course, he cannot, on the evidence already obtained be said to have been cleared of disloyalty. It would perhaps have considerable trouble with Lt. Col. Hodge if these facts and the basis for them as outlined in this report were conveyed to him by an officer of higher rank than himself. His present activities are all part and parcel of an attempt to get a statement from the authorities that he has been cleared of disloyalty. This would probably be followed by his having arrangements made in the British and American Press to the effect that he had been so cleared.

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12. I would remark that at the outset of my investigation both the Colonel and his wife were extremely prevailing in a subtle manner and most arrogant in their demeanor but changed their attitude when it failed to have any effect. I can well understand that their daughter - Contessa Di Sella - may have adopted the same attitude towards Capt. Stevens of 47 Fort Security P.O.B., and may have been a most difficult person with whom to deal. It is quite clear that Lt. Col. Hodge is prepared to go to almost any lengths to re-establish himself.

Louis V. Gale

LOUIS V. GALE
CAPTAIN,
INVESTIGATING OFFICER.

SECRET

L. H. Haver May
JAMES H. CLARKE,
COLONEL, J. S. D., AIR CORPS
PUBLIC SAFETY AND CRIMINALS.

SECRET

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2
APO 512, U.S. Army

23/6
8360
110 (ROCKE)

GBL.389.450/A-21.

21 June, 1945.

SUBJECT: Lt. Colonel ROCKE.

TO : Security Division,
Public Safety Sub-Commission,
Allied Commission. (Attn: Major Harvey)

1. Forwarded herewith for your information is a copy of a letter written by Lt. Colonel ROCKE to the Supreme Allied Commander and a copy of our letter to Eighth Army requesting that enquiries be made into the allegations contained in Lt. Col. ROCKE's letter.

2. It would be appreciated if you would obtain confirmation of the following points:

(a) that ROCKE did in fact write a letter to the Countess DA SCHIO and handed it to an officer of the Security Division with the request that it be passed to his daughter in VENICE as soon as possible;

(b) that the Security Division were informed of the Countess' removal from COSTOZZA to VENICE;

(c) that the F.S. in VENICE or any other security authorities were informed by you of the address in VENICE in which she had taken up residence.

For the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2:

G. Eyres Monsell
G. EYRES MONSELL,
Lt. Colonel, G.S.
G-2 (CI) Section.

Incls: as above.

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SECRET

COPY

Clinica Bastianelli
Rome, 14th June 1945.

Dear Field Marshal,

I am confident you will approve of my having applied for a Court Martial.

I hope your Military Secretary will have shown you my letter to him dated 9th June.

I am sorry to say my daughter has been treated brutally and most unfairly.

The F.S.S. in Venice to cover their own gross mistake in not visiting her a month before bullied her and tried to frighten and bewilder her with methods resembling those I experienced from the Gestapo in a German Prison Camp in October 1943.

The young officer detailed to examine my daughter on or about June 4/5th as good as told her she was a liar and definitely told her she was an S.S. spy in German pay. In the end he grudgingly retracted the second accusation.

Apparently she was subjected to this treatment because, forsooth, she had, in good faith, sent the much wanted papers to Rome. This she did on May 14th.

Please forgive my saying so but if the F.S.S. had done their duty (and as I was assured by the A.C. Rome they would) my daughter would have been visited within at latest 48 hours of our troops reaching Venice and the papers handed over. They had her full address and her family is well known. They also had an open letter from me (given to the A.C. expert who examined me in July last year) telling her to hand over without question all my papers.

The last thing I wanted her to do was to send the papers to Rome and never asked her to do so.

She sent them because she reasoned that the sooner they were handed over to the people who had examined me in Rome the sooner I would be free and as no-one had been near her, though Venice ^{has} been/already occupied 12 days by our troops, she sent them down to Rome by her husband as anyone ignorant of military procedure and not trained as a Scotland Yard expert would naturally do.

The name of the officer who committed this offence against every tradition of the British army for courtesy and fairplay to women is Captain Stevens F.S.S.

I deeply regret having to trouble you with this complaint.

Sincerely yours

/s/ CYRIL ROCKE.

SECRET

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2
APO 512, U.S. Army

C O P Y

GBL.389.450/A-21.

20 June, 1945.

SUBJECT: Contessa DA SCHIO, Maria Luisa.

TO : G.B.I.,
Headquarters,
Eighth Army.

1. Attached is copy of a letter dated 14 June, 1945 addressed to the Supreme Allied Commander by Lt. Col. C.E.A.S. ROCKE in which serious allegations are made against the O.C., 47 Port Security Section, concerning the manner in which the interrogation of subject was conducted.
2. It is requested that enquiries be made into the facts of the case in order to determine whether there is any justification for the accusations levelled against the O.C., 47 Port Security Section.
3. It is further requested that you state whether there is any truth in the allegations in ROCKE's letter that the presence of his daughter in Venice was notified to Security Authorities by Allied Commission.
4. Please treat this matter as urgent.

For the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2:

/s/ G. EYRES MONSELL,
Lt. Colonel, G.S.
G-2 (CI) Section.

Incls: as above.

Copy to: Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2,
15th Army Group.
(with enclosure).

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HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED COMMISSION
C.M.F.
Public Safety Sub-Commission
Security Division.

27 May, 1945

Ref : SD/140 - CR
Subject : Lt. Col. Cyril ROCKE
To : A.C. of S. G-2 A.F.H.Q.
(Copy to: A.C. of S G-2 R.A.A.C.)

1. With further reference to Lt. Col. Cyril ROCKE, subject of previous Security Division and AFHQ reports, under investigation as a suspected British renegade:-
2. On 16th May 1945 Lt. Col. ROCKE came to my office and produced to me six files containing correspondence which he said, constituted all those of his personal papers which had been in the custody of his daughter Countess Maria Luisa DA SCHIO, at COSTOZZA and later at VENEZIA.
3. In the previous Security Division report it was shown that these papers had been mentioned by the Countess in a letter to her father in which she stated that she had carefully prepared a file of favourable papers to produce to Allied Authorities, eliminating everything to this detriment. (The letter was found in a search of Lt. Col. ROCKE's address and it was seen that he had attempted to erase the sentences summarised above.)
4. When Lt. Col. ROCKE handed me the above mentioned papers on 16 May 1945, he informed me that they had been obtained from Countess DA SCHIO by a Major WALLER (South African Forces) who had carried a letter to her from Lt. Col. ROCKE, in which it was requested that she forward the documents. (A copy of this letter which was handed to me by Lt. Col. ROCKE is attached). The address of the Countess at the time of delivery of the letter was Casa ALVERA, San Samuele, VENICE.

./.

- 2 -

5. I examined the contents of the files handed to me by Lt. - Col. ROCKE, but nothing of special interest was found therein other than substantiation of facts already known about him, namely that for many years, both prior to the war and during the war, - he was been a fervent admirer of Fascism and a strong opponent of sanctions. There is no evidence, however, of his having done anything criminally disloyal. Further enquiries in Rome have not elicited fresh evidence.
6. The files were all returned to him after examination.

Louis V. Gale

LOUIS V. GALE, Capt.

45

Clinica Reatielli
Rome, 1 May, 1945.

To the Countess Maria Louise de Schio
Casa Alverà
San Samuele, Venice

My darling child,

I am going to try and get this letter to you by the safe hand of a British officer and hope you may be able to send a quick reply to relieve the unbearable anxiety of your mother and myself. One brief letter has already gone to you through the Vatican which Henriette (Princess Barberini) took yesterday but this will probably reach you first.

The last news of you was a Red Cross message from Venice in January when you were all well, but we don't know what may have happened in the meantime; whether Alvise was taken off to Germany, or went into hiding, or what. We understand your house at Costesze di Vicenza was sequestered by the Fascists and with the outlying property turned into an aeroplane - engine factory, in which case it has probably been destroyed by aerial bombardment long since.

Mummy and I are fairly well considering all things but we have been through one long agony since our close arrest by the fascists in 1943 and my subsequent confinement in a German P.O.W. Camp near Spoleto. Luckily with the help of the Italian doctors I was made out too ill to be sent to Germany but finally on the 10 June 1944 I was to have been sent off to Germany that night with the last batch of German sick and wounded from Perugia: this time with the help of the nuns and a friendly hospital orderly I managed, by a miracle, to slip my guards and to go right across the city of Perugia with mummy and an Italian girl to the house of her parents where we remained hiding in the attics during the day time and in the fields

the safe hand of a British officer and hope you may be able to send a quick reply to relieve the unbearable anxiety of your mother and myself. One brief letter has already gone to you through the Vatican which Henriette (Princess Barberini) took yesterday but this will probably reach you first.

The last news of you was a Red Cross message from Venice in January when you were all well, but we don't know what may have happened in the meantime, whether Alvisio was taken off to Germany, or went into hiding, or what. We understand your house at Costozza di Vicenza was frequented by the Fascists and with the outlying property turned into an aeroplane - engine factory, in which case it has probably been destroyed by aerial bombardment long since.

Mummy and I are fairly well considering all things but we have been through one long agony since our close arrest by the Fascists in 1943 and my subsequent confinement in a German P.O.W. Camp near Spoleto. Luckily with the help of the Italian doctors I was made out too ill to be sent to Germany but finally on the 10 June 1944 I was to have been sent off to Germany that night with the last batch of German sick and wounded from Perugia: this time with the help of the nuns and a friendly hospital orderly I managed, by a miracle, to slip my guards and to go right across the city of Perugia with mummy and an Italian girl to the house of her parents where we remained hiding, in the attic during the day time and in the fields at night. During the next ten days, the German visited the little villa three times but brave old Giuseppe Martecchini never lost his nerve or his head and they failed to find us. During those ten days and nights we had several hair-breadth escapes from recapture as well as from our own bombs and shells.

At dawn on the 20 June I went out to meet the leading British patrol which was commanded by an officer of the Coldstream and I went with him to his battalion H.Q. and gave what information I could of the

(2)

German retirement which I had witnessed from our hiding place.

On June 23, Sunday and I came to Rome and I reported the next morning to British H.Q. I thought our troubles of the past few years were over but alas they were only beginning-- on the next day I was invited to go to A.C.C. headquarters in the Via Veneto and was there told that there was a very serious charge against me and that I was to be detained at the Hotel Flare pending a full investigation. I replied that I asked for nothing better. During the following week I was subjected to a most thorough investigation by a Scotland Yard expert, all my life for the past ten years was laid bare and every detail of my movements and correspondence gone into. The investigation was conducted with scrupulous fairness and I could not but remember how the German S.S. officer had made me stand for over an hour the night I was taken to the Concentration Camp.

It was soon apparent that there was no charge against me or the existing evidence and I should have been completely released right away, if I had not like a sentimental fool kept the last letter you wrote me, the one you sent me by hand in February 1944. When on the 10th June I made up my mind to escape from hospital I hurriedly tried to erase the sentences in which you referred to the private correspondence and newspaper cuttings about my anti-sanctions campaign which I had asked you to take care of when I was interned in 1940. In your letter you asked me what to do with this correspondence as you thought it might do me harm with our people if they found it. I tried to erase the sentence because I wanted to keep your letter but did not want it to be read if I were by chance killed making my escape. Several days before I learnt that my erasure had been read through by the experts I had told the investigating officer that there were a number of pre-war letters and newspaper cuttings in your charge which would prove many of my assertions of loyalty in all my

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told the Sheriff was a very serious charge against me and that I was to be detained at the Hotel Flors pending a full investigation. I replied that I asked for nothing better. During the following week I was subjected to a most thorough investigation by a Scotland Yard expert, all my life for the past ten years was laid bare and every detail of my movements and correspondence gone into. The investigation was conducted with scrupulous fairness and I could not but remember how the German S.I. officer had made me stand for over an hour the night I was taken to the Concentration Camp.

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Several days before I learnt that my erasure had been read through by the experts I had told the investigating officer that there were a number of pre-war letters and newspaper outtings in your charge which would prove many of my assertions of loyalty in all my actions and I think he believed me but unfortunately the press got hold of the wrong end of the stick and questions were asked in Parliament about my supposed anti-democratic activities. This compelled the authorities to detain me until they had had a chance to see the letters in your charge. However early in July I was released on parole and came to this hospital where I came near to passing out with dysentery and inflammation of the kidneys contracted when I was a

(2)

prisoner of the Germans. In addition during this illness old Bastia-
nelli had to amputate another two toes which, in my emaciated condition
did not improve matters. Mummy has been magnificently brave through-
out all and all our real friends have stood by us.

At the end of my investigation, when released on parole, I
gave the examining officer a short letter to you telling you to hand over
all my correspondence, newspaper cuttings etc. as I had nothing to
conceal. If this letter, which was written in July last, was given to
you, as I asked, by the Security Branch Officer detailed to question
you then all is well but my one preoccupation is that it may not have
been and that you in your anxiety to shield me may have destroyed
the letters. I can only pray that this is not so. I want the letters
for more than the authorities.

As I told the examining officer I have done nothing I am
ashamed of: I have never been a fascist in any shape or form despite
what the F.O. may have believed nor have I ever been either a paid
or unpaid agent of any foreign power or individual. Ever since 1918
when Djan presented Mussolini to me as the journalist who had done
more than anyone else to bring Italy into the last war on our side I
admired the man and I continued to admire him for years for exactly
the same reasons as Mr Winston Churchill and Mr Neville Chamberlain
admired him, because, like they did, I believed he had saved his country
from Bolshevik Chaos. These are Mr Churchill's own words and Mr Xaville
Chamberlain said as much and more when he sent me out to Rome on a
special mission to Mussolini in August 1938.

Like Mr Chamberlain and many other eminent English men I
opposed our policy in 1935-1936 because, as I said, I was convinced
this policy would only drive Italy, our oldest friend in Europe, who
had helped us so nobly in 1914-1918, into the arms of our bitterest
enemies.

cancel. If this letter, which was written in July last, was given to you, as I asked, by the Security Branch Officer detailed to question you then all is well but my one preoccupation is that it may not have been and that you in your anxiety to shield me may have destroyed the letters. I can only pray that this is not so. I want the letters for more than the authorities.

As I told the examining officer I have done nothing I am ashamed of: I have never been a Fascist in any shape or form despite what the F.O. may have believed nor have I ever been either a paid or unpaid agent of any foreign power or individual. Ever since 1918 when Dias presented Mussolini to me as the journalist who had done more than anyone else to bring Italy into the last war on our side I admired the man and I continued to admire him for years for exactly the same reasons as Mr Winston Churchill and Mr Neville Chamberlain admired him, because, like they did, I believed he had saved his country from Bolshevik Chaos. These are Mr Churchill's own words and Mr Neville Chamberlain said as much and more when he sent me out to Rome on a special mission to Mussolini in August 1938.

Like Mr Chamberlain and many other eminent English men I opposed our policy in 1935-1936 because, as I said, I was convinced this policy would only drive Italy, our oldest friend in Europe, who had helped us so nobly in 1914-1918, into the arms of our bitterest enemies.

Though I profoundly mistrusted our commitment to Poland in 1939, once we had given our word I did my utmost to rejoice the Army or the R.A.F. From 3 September 1939 till June 1940. Only my age stopped my repeated offers of service from being accepted.

All this you already know but I repeat it because it is exactly what I stated at my examination at the Hotel Flora in June - July last year.

(4)

D.V. this terrible cloud will soon pass and we shall all be together again once more.

Mummy has had several satisfactory letters from her trustees and business people in Cleveland and New York but they urge her to go to America without delay, and this she must do as soon as we have had a chance to talk things over with you and Alvise. Mummy is for too delicate and nervous to go alone and either you or I will have to go with her.

God bless you sweet heart and the three babes and Alvise and Maria. How grateful we are to the Alverdes, Marie and Rezi, Guido and Antonio and Ines for having given you shelter when driven from home. Our devoted love to you all.

Papa.

Your father, my darling, has given you all our news. I am adding these few lines ⁱⁿ to tell you all my very special love and blessings. These days of suspense and of waiting to hear from you are very hard to bear. You and Alvise and the sweet ^{infant} Piccolissimo are never out of my mind for an instant. God speed, I'll soon see you again.

My love please to dear Maria and the Alverdes.

Mamma.

CONFIDENTIALP. 138
KL

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2
APO 912, U.S. Army

CMI, 309.450/A-21.

21 May, 1945.

SUBJECT: Lt. Colonel Cyril ROOSE.

TO : Security Division,
Public Safety Sub-Commission.
Allied Commission.

1. Reference conversation Lewis - Harvey speaking
and paragraph 3 of the letter from this office to H.Q.,
A.A.F. dated 21 November, 1944 numbered as above.

2. It is requested that a report giving any infor-
mation on this matter which may have come to your notice
be submitted as soon as convenient.

For the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2:

E. Daly Lewis

E. DALY LEWIS,
Major, G.S.,
G-2 (CI) Section.

RECEIVED	26/5
FILED	7670
FILE NO.	140 (CR)
REMARKS	

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CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2
APO 512, U.S. Army

24 May, 1945.

G91.389.450/4-21.

SUBJECT: Lt. Colonel Cyril ROOSE.

TO : Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2,
Headquarters,
15th Army Group.

1. Reference conversation Lewis -- Russian speaking and further to the letter dated 21 November, 1944 from this office numbered as above.

2. It is requested that a report on the result of any search which may have been made at COSTOZZA may be submitted to this office as soon as possible.

For the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2:

E. Daly Lewis

E. DALY LEWIS,
Major, C.S.,
G-2 (CI) Section.

Copy to: Security Division,
Public Safety Sub-Commission,
Allied Commission.

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CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
A.P.O. 394
PUBLIC SAFETY SUB COMMISSION
SECURITY DIVISION

REF : SD/140-CR

25 May 1945

SUBJECT : Lt. Col. Cyril ROCKE

TO : Regional Commissioner, Emilia Region
(Att'n. Regional ~~Public Safety~~ Officer)
Security

1. A telephone request has been received today from G-2 AFHQ that a closing report be put on the case of Colonel ROCKE.

2. Primarily they want 15 Army Group to give the result of the search for documents at COSTOZZA and have written to them to that effect.

3. They would like us, however, to give a short report on how the documents came to be in the possession of ROCKE in Rome, what they consisted of and if there was anything likely to be useful as evidence.

4. Will you therefore submit a report on the final stages of ROCKE. I don't think, apart from the document question, any more useful information has come to light during the last six months.

[Signature]
JOHN W. CHAPMAN,
Colonel J.A.G.D.,
Director Public Safety,
Sub Commission.

SJH/nb

CONFIDENTIAL

Full
5/3/45

CHI-389,450/4-21

21 November 1944

SUBJECT: Lieutenant Colonel Cyril W. ROGER.

TO : A.C. of S., G-2, Home Allied Area Command.

1. This Headquarters has been informed by the War Office that it is not considered that present evidence against ROGER is sufficient to warrant his arrest or detention in the U.K.

2. ROGER should therefore remain under house arrest until such time as further evidence becomes available (AFHQ letter, reference CHI-389,450/4-21, dated 21 November 1944, to AM copy to HADJ refers).

For the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2:

G. B. HILL-DUNN,
Colonel, U. S.
G-2(GI) Section.

Copy to:

Allied Commission (attention Col. A.E. YOUNG) ✓

Seen by Col Young.
Capt. Hyde to see
Then File

Seen by W. G. Gage
Loops

Security
Division
Rec. 3
Book No. 3119 38
File No. HQ (Rocke)
ADJ. GEN.

GRI-389,450/A-21

21 November 1944.

SUBJECT: Lieutenant Colonel Cyril ROCKE.

TO : GSI, Headquarters, Allied Armies in Italy.

1. Reference your letter AAE/1456/125/GSI(B) dated 16 July 1944, in which you suggest that "Lieutenant Colonel ROCKE and his wife be dispatched to the U. K. and that his case be disposed of there in the manner deemed suitable".

2. A message has been received from the War Office to the effect that present evidence against ROCKE does not justify his arrest or detention in the U. K. The Security Service is, however, anxious that all possible steps be taken to procure fresh evidence in the case.

3. It is requested therefore that, when the military situation renders it possible, search should be made in COSTAZZA (1:250,000, G1557, -8 miles South of VICENZA) for the documents referred to in paragraph 28 of the Allied Control Commission report, or, if these cannot be found, that ROCKE's daughter, Gontessa DA SCRI be interrogated on the significance of the passage in her letter referring to these documents.

4. A copy of the Allied Control Commission report on ROCKE is enclosed for reference. (AAE 1456)

For the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2:

P. E. Merrill, D. C. G.
S. S. MERRILL-DILLON,
Colonel, G. S.,
G-2(CI) Section.

Copy to:

A.C. of S., G-2, P.A.A.C.
Allied Commission (attn. Col. A.E. YOUNG)

37
See
ds

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
SECURITY BRANCH
A.P.O. 394

18 July 1944

I Cyril Rocke Lt. Colonel (R) hereby undertake
to make no attempt to leave the Clinica Bastianelli 277
Viale Regina Margherita, Rome, except under the direction
or permission of Security Branch HQ. ACC. I shall receive
no visitors other than my wife.

Cyril Rocke

Lt.Col. (Ret)

How we shall deal with Haw Haws

If William Joyce, "Lord Haw Haw," should fall into our hands, what should we do with him?

No. This is not a test of your ingenuity in devising torture, nor is it a challenge to your wit to make the punishment fit the crime. It is a problem that, sooner or later, will confront the best legal brains in Britain.

For Lord Haw Haw has many offences of Joyce—broadcasting for the enemy—was not regarded when some of the laws relating to treason were enacted. And some of the Allied nationals who have gone to the microphone in enemy countries have spoken words so insignificant that their cases may merit less severe penalties than those of which William Joyce stands in peril.

Three ways

BUTLY and basically, there are three methods of bringing the Haw Haws to trial. All three would be heard in the civil courts—probably in the Old Bailey, although the last great treason trial, that of Sir Roger Casement in 1916, was transferred to the King's Bench Division of the High Court.

The three methods available for bringing Haw Haw—all the Haw Haws—to justice are:

Prosecution under the Statute of Treasons, enacted in the reign of Edward III, the King

who won Slag, our first sea fight, and Cressy.

Prosecution under the Treason Act, 1351—a piece of legislation lasting "for the duration," which, being modern, is simpler than the old fourteenth-century law, and

Prosecution under Defence Regulation 2A.

Under the first two, a verdict of "Guilty" automatically means the sentence of death; the judge is automatically bound to put on the block, as soon as the jury has delivered its verdict. The sentence is carried out by hanging.

Under the Defence Regulations the judge has discretion. The heaviest penalty he can order is penal servitude for life. In fact, prosecution under the Defence Regulations involves penalties similar to those in cases of manslaughter, where the judge's sentence may vary anywhere between life imprisonment and immediate release.

Glance at all three methods of prosecution. Roger Casement and he was "hanged by a cord," executed on a gallows from the gallows. Government as a consequence went to Germany, sought to form a force of Irish prisoners of war which the Germans would land in Ireland, hoped with this force to levy

war against Britain, then in the throes of Ypres and Cambrai.

He was arraigned under the medieval Act which laid it down that it was high treason if anyone were "adherent to the King's enemies in his realm, giving to them aid and comfort in the realm or elsewhere."

For four days in the High Court, for two days in the Court of Criminal Appeal, lawyers wrangled, drawing ever finer verbal threads of ambiguity, contended Casement's countryman, Sir John Sullivan, Casement had not "adhered to the King's enemies in the King's realm," but in Germany.

Sullivan's ingenuity was rewarded, largely by the eloquent advocacy of F. E. Smith (the great Birkenhead), then Attorney-General. Casement hanged.

But in 1940 it was felt that the Act, written in Norman-French with the accretions of centuries, enacting it was scarcely sure enough in its application for total war. So the Treason Act was introduced—the Act under which Casement, the Bolshoi, his weak, have been hanged since its enactment.

Not strange that the Haw Haws will not escape by merely being prosecuted under the wrong Act. If the Act in question does not apply to their case, they can be

re-arrested as they leave the court and tried under a different Act.

Now glance at the Haw Haws who, let us hope, will fall during the war or after it into our hands.

Need and shouders above them all is Joyce, the ex-Fascist of Britain. He is, ironically enough, the most likely to escape us. He claims he is not subject to British law. He claims he is Irish-American, being born of Irish parents in the United States.

If he pleads American nationality, he can safely be left to the compatriots of Roosevelt and Eisenhower to deal with. But if he claims allegiance to Eire, the possibility is much more difficult.

We could not prosecute him under the Treason Act, which applies only to British subjects, and except citizens of self-governing Dominions. We could prosecute under the Statute of Treasons (which Ireland was part of the King's directly administered territories) but in the interests of international good will we should be reluctant to do so.

Some others

OUR knowledge of the Haw Haws is scanty of names. They are in Berlin or Tokyo or were in Rome; but the name of Norman Billie Stewart has freely been mentioned as one of the German mouthpieces.

Bullie Stewart, the "Prisoner in the Tower" of a dozen years ago, would not be tried by court-martial, although the military court has the right to try for all serious offences. It is the practice for soldiers to be handed over to the civil power for non-military offences, of which murder and treason are two.

Not only men are Haw Haws. There is Amy Gillett, of Hull, who, before the war, was a J.P. in Queensland, Australia. There is Anne Thomas, who has been identified by her voice as quite another person.

There is a woman named "Mary Fraser," introduced by a German blind playing "Loch Lomond," or another named Margaret, or Margaret, White who have broadcast for the enemy.

There have been French Haw Haws—possibly Paul Perdonnet, known out of the French Government for swindling, and André Obrecht, both of whom were tried in their absence by French courts before the invasion of France.

And there is P. G. Wodehouse.

It is contempt of court to anticipate the sentence of a court. But it is permissible to say that legal experts are divided as to whether a prosecution of the famous humorist for broadcasts which in themselves were innocuous, would be wise.

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But in 1940 it was felt that an Act written in Norman-French, encrusting it was scarcely sure enough in its application for total war. So the Treachery Act was introduced—the Act under which Casement, the German spy, including Neumann, the Belgian, last week, had been hanged since his capture.

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And there is P. G. Wodehouse. It is contempt of court to anticipate the sentence of a court. But it is permissible to say that legal experts are divided as to whether a prosecution of the famous humorist for broadcasts which in themselves were innocuous, could be made to stick.

He might be arraigned under Defence Regulation 2A—but still he might successfully plead that he did no harm—he wanted to use the radio only to reassure his hundreds of friends, his hundreds of thousands of admirers, that he was still well.

Some others

Only two things are certain about the Ignoble Battalion of Haw-Haws.

We have the assurance of Mr. Attlee, given in Parliament, that they will be brought to justice.

We have the certainty that they will be tried by jury, under whatever Act or Regulation they are prosecuted.

The Haw-Haws may live in peace, but the Ignoble Battalion of Haw-Haws.

UNDER the Treachery Act it probably could not for the terms of the Act lay it down that the offence must give assistance to the naval, military, or air effort of the enemy, impede similar efforts of our own Forces, or impede the war effort.

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HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
SECURITY BRANCH
A.P.O. 394

Inter-Office Buck slip

(Date)

From	To
Col. YOUNG A.R.	
Major BARVEY S.J.	
Major HARE W.R.	
Major MCKAY J.A.	
Major ZANGBINO	
Capt. ELLIS A.H.	
Capt. FIELDER R.P.	
Capt. GALE L.V.	
Capt. GEACH F.G.	
Lt. WACKENZIE E.M.	
Lt. FEHR C.E.	
Clerks	
Signature Remarks/Recommendation Information Approval/Disposal Appropriate Action Investigation & Report Dispatch	

From:- Colonel A.R. Ross-Reynolds.

PROVOST MARSHAL'S OFFICE,
HEADQUARTERS,
ALLIED ARMIES IN ITALY.

CONFIDENTIAL

2nd August 1944.

Dear

Young,

I am returning herewith copy report which you lent me with regard to Lieut. Col. Roche. It is very interesting reading and I hope the authorities at home will take action.

Yours sincerely,

A. R. Ross-Reynolds

Colonel A.R. Young,
Deputy Chief,
Public Safety Sub-Commission,
Allied Control Commission.

Security Branch
Rec'd <i>4/8</i>
Book No. <i>1487</i>
File No. <i>Roche file</i>
Action

HEADQUARTERS

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION

SECURITY BRANCH

Reference:

16th July, 1944

Subject:

Lieutenant-Colonel Cyril Edmund ROOME (Retired).
- Fascist propagandist.

To:

Colonel A.E. YOUNG,
Director - Security Branch - H.Q. A.C.C.

1. With reference to Lieutenant-Colonel Cyril E. ROOME, a retired British officer, subject of Central Security Black List - Case No. 568, as a propagandist for the Italian Fascist Government since 1935:-

2. On 26th June, 1944, Colonel A.E. Young, in company with Major ZAMBILINO, Carabinieri Reali, traced Lieutenant-Colonel ROOME to 216 Via Mazziniana, Rome, the residence of the Marchese CAVALOTTI, with whom he had been staying since the previous day.

3. Lieutenant-Colonel ROOME was asked by Colonel Young to accompany him forthwith to Headquarters, Allied Control Commission - Security Branch, for questioning. On arrival at this Headquarters, he was told that his activities prior to the war and certain suspicions of activities in favour of the Italian Fascist Government during the war, necessitated his being detained pending investigations. He replied that he welcomed an investigation and said that he had in his possession a memorandum clarifying his position, which he desired be forwarded to General The Hon. Sir Harold Alexander, Commander-in-Chief, Allied Armies in Italy. He also made a request to be allowed to write a letter to accompany the memorandum and to make an addendum thereto. This, he was permitted to do, and the three documents were forwarded to the Commander-in-Chief, who replied on 27th June, 1944, that no useful purpose could be served by granting an interview to Lieutenant-Colonel ROOME whilst the investigations were in progress. (Copies of the above mentioned documents, which were found in Lieutenant-Colonel ROOME's possession, are attached to the copy of this report for submission to H.Q. - A.C.C., as are all other documents mentioned in this report, marked with a reference to the paragraph in which they are summarized. It is regretted that it has not been possible to obtain copies of the various documents for attachment to each copy of this report).

4. The letter to the Commander-in-Chief, requests an interview as soon as possible and states that the writer, although he has made mistakes, has done his best for many years prior to the war to advance British interests. He refers to his attached memorandum as a document setting out his pre-war political activities, and showing what he has done during the war and the manner in which he has been treated in Italy since the outbreak.

5. Lieutenant-Colonel ROOME, in his memorandum dated 25th June, 1944, addressed to the Commander-in-Chief, claims to have been a prisoner-of-war of the Germans from 19th October, 1943 to 16th June, 1944, when he says that he escaped from hospital on learning that he was about to be transferred to Germany. Prior to that time he was about

On 26th June, 1944, Colonel A.S. Young, in company with Major ZACHARY, Carabiniere, arrived at Headquarters, Allied Control Commission - Security Branch, for questioning. On arrival at this headquarters, he was told that his activities prior to the war and certain suspicions of activities in favour of the Italian Fascist Government during the war, necessitated his being detained pending investigations. He replied that he welcomed an investigation and said that he had in his possession a memorandum clarifying his position, which he desired be forwarded to General The Hon. Sir Harold Alexander, Commander-in-Chief, Allied Forces in Italy. He also made a request to be allowed to write a letter to accompany the memorandum and to make an addendum thereto. This, he was permitted to do, and the three documents were forwarded to the Commander-in-Chief, who replied on 27th June, 1944, that no useful purpose could be served by granting an interview to Lieutenant-Colonel ZACHARY whilst the investigations were in progress. (Copies of the above mentioned documents which were found in Lieutenant-Colonel ZACHARY's possession, are attached to the copy of this report for submission to H.Q. - A.A.I., as are all other documents mentioned in this report, marked with a reference to the paragraph in which they are summarized. It is regretted that it has not been possible to obtain copies of the various documents for attachment to each copy of this report).

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Lieutenant-Colonel ZACHARY, in his memorandum dated 25th June, 1944, addressed to the Commander-in-Chief, claims to have been a prisoner-of-war of the Germans from 19th October, 1943 to 10th June, 1944, when he says that he escaped from hospital on learning that he was about to be transferred to Germany. Prior to that time, he states he was interned by the Italians in PERUGIA. He had, however, been liberated on 9th September, 1943, at the time of the Armistice and, in company with Mr. Walter CUGLIARINI, former American Consul at IMMACO, caused the Prefect of Perugia to send a telegram to Marshal Badoglio, asking for provision of air transport to convey them, and other released internees, to the nearest Allied Headquarters. No answer was received, however, and they were re-arrested within 36 hours of their being liberated.

Continuing, he says that, as he was wearing the uniform of a British officer at the time of his re-arrest, he was handed over to the Italian Military. Subsequently, he escaped with his wife from the hotel in which they were interned, but after a few days in hiding they were betrayed

-2-

by a restaurant keeper - Armando MARIOTTI - whom they had bribed with 20,000 lire to keep them hidden. (A police official - named CARPAGLIA - who shared the bribe was subsequently pointed out to an A.M.G. officer in Perugia and he was arrested. MARIOTTI, however, escaped with "his fellow Republican Fascists.")

7. Lieut-Colonel Roche goes on to describe his experiences after being handed over to the Germans on 15th October, 1943, of his subsequent evasions of being sent to Germany, by feigning symptoms of enlargement of the prostate gland. In consequence he was transferred to the Military Hospital in Perugia where there were some 60-70 British prisoners. After transfer to another hospital where his wife happened to be concealed, the two escaped on 10th June, and remained in hiding until the arrival of Allied troops on 26th June, 1944. Subsequently, on receiving information that a villa nearby had been used as German S.S.H.Q. he went there and seized some papers which had been left behind, among them a list of Allied women to be transferred to Germany, in which list his wife's name appeared. He says that he handed these documents to an A.M.G. official.
8. Furthering his memorandum, Lieut-Col. Roche states that on 21st June he gave all the military information he had obtained to Colonel Phillips and Major Barron of "G" Staff - 10 Corps, whilst on that day and the following day, with Mr. Lester MAYNARD, ex American Consul-General, he gave all available non-military information to A.M.G. and Field Security officers.
9. Concluding the memorandum he says that on 24th June, 1944 he went to the Vatican and saw Mr. MONTGOMERY, British Counsellor to the Holy See, who referred him to military authorities.
10. In the addendum to his memorandum he says that he wishes to add that before America entered the War, he went to see Mr. William Phillips American Ambassador, and offered to supply any useful information which he might receive from Germany.
11. Attached to the memorandum are two letters, both dated 25th June, 1944. One is from Marchese Enrico CAVALLERI, Italian, who, as the official in charge of the British Department of Rome Radio, from 1st January, 1940 to September, 1943, vouches for the fact that Lieut-Colonel Roche spoke on the Italian Radio on one occasion only, i.e. on about 21st June, 1940, when he reassured relatives as to the safety and good treatment of the members of the British Colony remaining in Rome, and had stated that he had only been debarré from serving his own country by reason of his age. The writer also says that Lieut-Col. Roche and his wife were interned "at the very commencement." A footnote to the letter states that the writer's wife is the daughter of a distinguished British Naval Officer.
12. The other letter is from Mrs. Constance McDonnell, Via Natale del Grande 6, Rome, a British subject, holder of British passport No. 2262/34, issued on 11th October, 1934 by the British Consul at Rome. Mrs. McDONNELL is a widow aged 70 years and has eked out a meagre existence for some years doing secretarial work and typing for members of the British Colony in Rome, among them Lieut-Colonel Roche. In her letter she mentions only the latter's political activities against sanctions and expresses the opinion that these activities were carried out only for his country's sake. She says that accusations that he was a fascist agent and had broadcast in

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12. The other letter is from Mrs. Constance McDONNELL, Via Reale del Granio 8, Rome, a British subject, holder of British passport No. 2262/34, issued on 11th October, 1934 by the British Consul at Rome. Mrs. McDONNELL is a widow aged 70 years and has eked out a meagre existence for some years doing secretarial work and typing for members of the British Colony in Rome, among them Lieut-Colonel Roche. In her letter she mentions only the latter's political activities against sanctions and expresses the opinion that these activities were carried out only for his country's sake. She says that accusations that he was a fascist agent and had broadcast in English against England were absolutely without foundation. She says that she will never forget the efforts of Lieut-Colonel Roche to see that her son Bayard McDONNELL, arrested as a spy in Palermo in May 1940, received a fair trial. Her son was sentenced to 30 years' imprisonment and sent to SAN GIMIGNANO, near SIENA.
13. I have interviewed Mrs. McDONNELL who informed me that she has done secretarial work for Lieut-Colonel Roche since 1937, having typed manuscripts, articles, etc., mainly on the subject of sanctions. Subsequently she typed articles for him, mainly of a non-political character and letters on personal matters up till war broke out. All articles were for publication in English periodicals. She says that at no time, to her knowledge, has Lieut-Colonel Roche submitted articles, or had articles published in Italian newspapers or other Italian publications. She declares that Lieut-Colonel Roche has never revealed himself to her as other than a loyal British subject, although holding strong views on the need for maintaining Anglo-Italian friendship.

- 3 -

14. She states that she is quite sure that he has never broadcast from Italy against the English and, in fact, she was present with Lieut-Col. and Mrs. Roche at their home during the times of such a broadcast. (This does not eliminate the possibility of a recording having been made earlier by the Lieut-Colonel. She says, however, that she had heard the voice of the man who used to broadcast regularly during the war from Radio Rome, in English, and is certain that the voice was not that of Lieut-Colonel Roche.)
15. Attached hereto is also a copy of a list (forwarded by Lieut-Colonel ROCHE with his memorandum to the Commander-in-Chief) showing the names of persons who supported his anti-sanctions campaign; viz. Lord Mottistone, Lord Rothermere, the Bishop of Exeter, Sir Arnold Wilson, Mr. G.L. Gervin (of the "Observer") and Professor Jacks. The same document also contains a list of persons who can vouch for his having been interned since the commencement of war and of his having been, later, a prisoner-of-war in a German concentration camp (after October, 1943) and escaping from hospital in Perugia to avoid being sent to Germany, viz. Professor RAMPAGNI, Santa Giuliana Hospital, Perugia; Contessa SALVATORE and her daughter Alvena - Red Cross Sisters in Perugia; Professor FIDELL, Chief Surgeon, Monteluce Hospital, Perugia; Advocate MIGNINI of Perugia; Raffaele BARTOCCHI, Cashier at Stufani's Hotel, Perugia; Maria OTTOLINI, housekeeper at Stufani's Hotel.
16. is a final attachment to his memorandum to General the Hon. Sir Harold Alexander, Lieut-Colonel Roche added a copy of another memorandum, which he had lodged with the Swiss Minister in charge of British interests in Italy, asking him to forward copies of a statement Lt. Col. Roche had made to the following persons, in the event of the Lieut-Colonel's death:-
 (i) H.M. Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs,
 Foreign Office, London;
 (ii) Charles Hutchinson, Esq. (Lieut-Colonel Roche's cousin);
 (iii) Contessa da Schio, (his daughter) Contessa di Vicenza, Italy.
17. In the statement he protests against refusal by the British Government of his application for the repatriation of his wife and himself, made on 30th April, 1943. He goes on to say that from 1935 to 3rd September, 1939, he opposed the British Government's Foreign Policy, believing that such opposition was in the country's interests. In August, 1938 he claims to have been selected, with Mr. Neville Chamberlain's approval, to convey a message of goodwill to Mussolini from seventy of the Prime Minister's personal friends and admirers in the House of Commons. The Prime Minister, he says, had been fully informed by Sir Philip Dawson, M.P. of Lieut-Colonel Roche's anti-sanctions and pro-Franco activities. The real object of the mission he says was to find out Mussolini's "price" for breaking the Rome-Berlin Axis. The statement goes on to show the "price" quoted subsequently through Count Ciano, and of its proving no basis for opening of negotiations.
18. Continuing this statement, Lieut-Colonel Roche reproduces a copy of a letter dated 24th August 1938 from Sir Philip Dawson, as Chairman of the Anglo-Italian Parliamentary Group, in appreciation of Lieut-Colonel Roche's efforts.
19. Then, the Lieutenant-Colonel goes on to say that in August 1938 - together with other British representatives of Anglo-German Fellowship, to which he had been proposed by Lord Clive and Mr. Edward Tennant, - he went to Warendorf as the guest of the German Government, and during the three weeks in which he was in Germany he sent several unofficial reports on the military strength and political feeling in Germany to Sir Horace Wilson, K.C.B., the Prime Minister's Principal

16.

as a final attachment to his memorandum to General the Hon. Sir Harold Alexander, Lieut-Colonel Rocks added a copy of another memorandum, which he had lodged with the Swiss Minister in charge of British interests in Italy, asking him to forward copies of a statement Lt. Col. Rocks had made to the following persons, in the event of the Lieut-Colonel's death:-

- (i) H.M. Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Foreign Office, London;
- (ii) Charles Hutchinson, Esq. (Lieut-Colonel Rocks's cousin);
- (iii) Contessa de Senio, (his daughter) Castossa di Vicenza, Italy.

17.

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Then, the Lieutenant-Colonel goes on to say that in August 1938 - together with other British representatives of Anglo-German Fellowship, to which he had been proposed by Lord Glive and Mr. Edward Tennant, - he went to Nuremberg as the guest of the German Government, and during the three weeks in which he was in Germany he sent several unofficial reports on the military strength and political feeling in Germany to Sir Horace Wilson, K.C.B., the Prime Minister's Principal Private Secretary, "at the latter's request."

20.

Further, he says that on 3rd September, 1939, when Great Britain declared War against Germany, he was in Lausanne, and immediately telegraphed to War Office and Air Ministry offering his services, offers which he says he renewed again and again in the ensuing eight months, but the offers were declined on account of his age. In corroboration, Lieut-Colonel Rocks reproduces a letter written on 12th May, 1941 by Sir Harold Balfour, Air Ministry (Dept. O.A.) to Sir Patrick Hannon, M.P., regretting that owing to the Lieut-Colonel being much above the age limit, no employment could be offered to him.

21.

Lieut-Colonel Rocks, continuing the statement, says that he returned to Italy, from Switzerland at the end of 1939, and during the winter of that year, was the guest of the "pro-British, anti-German" Marshal Balbo, for six weeks in Tripoli.

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22. 1/2 June, 1940, he says, as (i) there seemed no possible chance to serve his country; (ii) his wife's health did not permit travelling and (iii) they wished to be with their daughter at her first confinement, he decided to remain in Italy.
23. At the end of June, 1940 he made a broadcast "of his own free will" in English reassuring relatives in England of British subjects in Rome as to the latter's safety and good treatment, including the broadcast a statement to the effect that he was a loyal British subject only deterred from serving his country because he was too old.
24. This he says later led to rumours that he was Sir Oswald Mosley's agent in Italy and had been making broadcasts against England. He denies having ever known Sir Oswald Mosley or of having been a member of any Fascist organization anywhere. He admits having been an admirer of Mussolini until 10th June, 1940.
25. Lieut-Colonel Rocks also says in the statement that he and his wife were arrested by Italian Police early in July, 1940 and were "strictly interned" although he agrees that he and his wife were subsequently allowed to return to Rome so that she might have an urgent operation. Further, he says that after his wife's recovery they were allowed to remain in Rome for a further period because his wife's mother was dying. Immediately after her death (ten days before making this statement) they were instructed that they were to be sent away again to Perugia.
26. Concluding the statement, Lieut-Colonel Rocks says that one of the chief reasons which prompted his applying for re-patriation was to obtain an official enquiry into the allegations made against him and to clear his name.
27. On 26th June, 1944, I made a search at 216, Via Nomentana, Rome, where Lieut-Colonel Rocks was staying at the time of his arrest. There I found a copy of a manuscript relating to a recording which the Lieut-Colonel had made for Mr. Denis Johnston of R.S.C. with a view to a subsequent broadcast. This was apparently made shortly after the Allies entered Perugia. According to the manuscript, Rocks said that the fascists had handed him over to the Germans in October, 1944 on a charge of "spying and encouraging Italian officers to desert." (This seems to be a gross exaggeration of events. There is no record and he is unable to produce any evidence in support of this statement.) In the proposed broadcast he went on to give a description of subsequent events upon arrival of Allied troops, his remarks being quite innocuous.
28. Also found at the above address was a letter from his daughter, Contessa da Soglio, headed "Costanza, 21st February, 1944," in which the following passage appears (overwritten in an endeavour to render it illegible):-
 "..... I have been over all your papers and have completely separated the family and purely personal from the political. My idea is to make a large sealed parcel of all the political files and Glade said parcel out of the way of any English or American investigation. If I had to put up English officers as I do Germans now, the question of your position would, I imagine, almost certainly crop up. I have prepared a file to keep on tap, containing all favourable documents referring to your offer of services, your pension warrant, letters requiring the replacement of your decorations and the letters from Mrs. McDermott's, also all letters from Mrs. McDermott concerning her son Mayard"

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29. I also made a search at Palazzo Bermonetti, 30, Monte Savello, Rome, where the following printed documents were found:
- (i) An open letter, dated 1st September, 1935, containing a vitriolic attack on the Archbishop of Canterbury and another distinguished Englishman, regarding their support of sanctions and opposition to Italian activities in Abyssinia.
 - (ii) The other document consists of an expression of thanks, dated 15th July, 1936, from Lieut-Colonel Roche to his friends for their sympathy during his campaign against sanctions, at which time "his honesty of purpose was in doubt." He endeavours to explain that all his activities were in his country's best interests.

A search of records at the Questura, Perugia, revealed a copy of a letter written by Lieut. Colonel Roche, addressed through the Regia Questura, Rome, to the Minister of the Interior. The purpose of the letter was to obtain on the grounds of his wife's need for an urgent operation, postponement of an order that they should leave Rome for Perugia. The following significant passages appear therein:-

(a) "Permit me to draw Your Excellency's attention to the love which my wife has always borne for Italy and the Fascist Regime, a sentiment which induced her to sell her jewellery for 41800 sterling in Autumn 1935, which sum she offered to the Italian cause"

(b) "I am sixty-five years of age, and although I consider that the Government of my country has driven the English people into war which is bad, unjust and doomed to failure, only my age has stopped me from offering my life for my country"

A cutting from "Il Popolo d'Italia" of 30th July, 1939, announces the wedding of his daughter Maria Louise Roche to the Conte de Schio. A translated extract therefrom is:-

"Roche, who has never concealed his fervent admiration of Italy and Fascism, was a strong supporter of the Italian cause during the Abyssinian War and he demonstrated this by conferences, in Italy and America and in letters to the press and also to the notorious Archbishop of Canterbury, which were directed against the iniquitous sanctions, and deplored the anti-Italian policy of Britain."

Search has also been made in the records of the Ministry of Propaganda, Rome, and certain documents consisting mainly of correspondence between Italian Fascist officials and Lieut-Colonel Roche, or concerning Lieut-Colonel Roche, have been extracted by me. These consist of the following:-

(A) File No. 9 III - 4 - 25.

29. 3.36

Letter from Lieut-Col. Roche to Ministry of Propaganda, referring to his visit three weeks earlier to Mussolini, who had expressed clearly certain duties and intentions regarding a project the Duce had asked him to place before him. On 12th March 1936 the Duce had asked him to stay in Rome and await instructions; on 21st March he had written to Mussolini asking for a decision as, owing to personal circumstances, he could no longer stay in Rome. Further, he stated, certain of his compatriots believed him to be a paid agent of the Italian Government, which, he averred, the Duce knew to be untrue. The letter states, moreover, that apart from the magnificent hospitality of the Italian Shipping Company when he travelled to New York, all other campaign expenses, amounting to about £-150,000 Lira were defrayed by the Lieut-Colonel personally, spontaneously, for a just cause. Also he had given all fees obtained for his debates in America to the Italian Red Cross and to Lady Alison's Anti-Slavery Fund. He and his family are proud, he says, of their financial independence and consider it an honour and a joy to have been able to contribute to a noble and fine cause. If the Duce wished it he would be honoured to

22.

31.

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A cutting from "Il Popolo d'Italia" of 31st July, 1939, announces the wedding of his daughter Maria Louise Roche to the Conte de Sebio. A translated extract therefrom is:-

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33.

15. 7.36.

Letter from ALFREDI to GRANDI, stating that 100,000 Lire had been placed in current account with the Banca d'Italia for reimbursement of Colonel Roche.

34.

29. 7.36.

Letter from Lieut-Col. Roche in Jersey to Baron ALCAI declining the offer of 100,000 Lire, on the grounds that he and his wife wished to preserve whatever little good they were privileged to do free from

- 6 -

mercenary taint. He begged to be allowed to devote the money to Italian charities.

35. 10. 8.36.

Copy of a letter from Lt-Col. Rocks to the Duce in which he affirmed that all his efforts were made as a loyal British subject in the true interests of his own country. He expressed the greatest admiration and respect for the Duce.

36. 14. 8.36.

Letter from Baron ALDOISI to ALFIERI drawing his attention to the letter from Lt-Col. Rocks declining the offer of money.

37. 19. 8.36.

Letter from ALFIERI to Ambassador in London asking for reimbursement of sum set aside for Lt-Col. Rocks.

38. 8. 10.36.

Letter from ALFIERI to ALDOISI stating that GRANT had informed him that the sum set aside for Col. Rocks had already been used by Grandi for propaganda expenses.

39. 20.12.36.

Letter from Lt-Col. Rocks to Mussolini stating that he had received no reply to his letter of 10.8.36. He added that his anti-sanctions Campaign had led to unjust and slanderous accusations against his competitors, alleging that he was a paid agent of the Italian Government.

40. 22.12.36.

Letter from Lt-Col. Rocks to Ambassador MANGROTTI referring to a promise made the previous evening by the ambassador to help the Lt-Colonel to clear his name. The latter requested that an announcement should be made of his refusal to accept payment. He said that he felt justified in asking that the money be donated to Italian charities in his daughter's name because only his wife's financial sacrifice had made his campaign possible.

41. 1.37.

Letter from ALDOISI to ALFIERI, stating that the Duce had approved Lt-Col. Rocks's suggestion and that the necessary arrangements could be made.

42. 18. 1.37.

Letter from ALFIERI to the President of the Council of Ministers praising Lt-Col. Rocks's energetic support of the Italian cause at the time of sanctions. It is added that in order to counter malicious rumors that he was a paid agent he had declined the offer and insisted that the 100,000 Lire be given to Italian charities in his daughter's name. The President was asked to nominate a suitable charity.

43. 18. 2.37.

Letter from Lt-Col. Rocks to MUSSOLINI, regarding the question of the 100,000 Lire payment. He maintained that in spite of all that had been alleged he had never been anything but a loyal Englishman, working in the true interests of his country.

28

37. 19. 8.36. Letter from ALPHERI to Ambassador in London asking for reimbursement of sum set aside for Lt-Col. Roche.
38. 5. 10.36. Letter from ALPHERI to ALDOISI stating that GRANELI had informed him that the sum set aside for Col. Roche had already been used by Grandi for propaganda expenses.
39. 20.12.36. Letter from Lt-Col. Roche to Mussolini stating that he had received no reply to his letter of 19.8.36. He added that his anti-Sanctions Campaign had led to unjust and slanderous accusations among his compatriots, alleging that he was a paid agent of the Italian Government.
40. 22.12.36. Letter from Lt-Col. Roche to Ambassador MARZUCCHI referring to a promise made the previous evening by the Ambassador to help the Lt-Colonel to clear his name. The letter requested that an announcement should be made of his refusal to accept payment. He said that he felt justified in asking that the money be donated to Italian charities in his daughter's name because only his wife's financial sacrifice had made his campaign possible.
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43. 18. 2.37. Letter from Lt-Col. Roche to MUSCOLINI, regarding the question of the 100,000 Lire payment. He maintained that in spite of all that had been alleged he had never been anything but a loyal Englishman, working in the true interests of his country.
44. 1.3.37. Letter from the President of the Council of Ministers to Ministries of Propaganda and of Interior, proposing that 100,000 Lire, offered to Lt-Col. Roche, be assigned to an orthopaedic hospital under the auspices of the Giornale d'Italia, and that a ward therein be named after Lt-Col. Roche's daughter.
45. 6. 3. 37. Letter from ALPHERI to Lt-Col. Roche stating that on account of his meritorious and impartial efforts in defending the just Italian cause, his request as to the disposition of the money had been complied with.

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46. 6.3.37 Letter from ALFIERI to President of Council of Ministries agreeing to pay the sum of 100,000 lire to the Istituto Ortopedico Preveratorio del "Giornale d'Italia" all' antica.
47. 6.3.37 Letter from Lt.Col. Roche to ALFIERI thanking the latter for his letter of 6.3.37 regarding the assignment of 10,000 lire to the Orthopaedic Hospital. Lt.Col. stated that his daughter was profoundly honoured; further, he thanked the Duce for his appreciation of his work on behalf of Italy. In conclusion he said that the letter from ALFIERI would always be his most treasured memory.
48. 12.3.37 Letter from Lieut-Colonel Roche to GRANDI offering his congratulations to the latter on his ennoblement, and expressing admiration for Grandi's delicate work. Lt.Col. Roche refers to a letter received from Grandi, dated 9th March, enclosing a copy of the "kind and generous offer" from ALFIERI; he intimates that he is going to ask Alfieri to publish the letter in the Italian Press, so that Lt.Col. Roche might be helped still further.
49. 29.3.37 Letter from GRANDI to ALFIERI enclosing a letter from Lt.Col. ROCHE to the Duce, together with a letter from the Lieutenant-Colonel expressing satisfaction at receiving Grandi's letter of congratulations for his past activities, but refusing re-embourcement.
50. 12.4.37 Letter from ALFIERI to GRANDI acknowledging receipt of the letter sent by Lt.Col. Roche to the Duce and stating that the publication of the letter mentioned by Lieutenant-Colonel Roche had already been effected.
- (B) File No. 6588
51. 17.2.40. Letter from Lt.Col. ROCHE to the Minister of Propaganda (Cultura Popolare) submitting the petitions of two of the Lieutenant-Colonel's Swedish friends - Baron Stenol von Holstein and Baron Ernst Bonde - asking for Mussolini's intervention in the Russo-Finnish war for the sake of other Scandinavian countries. Lt.Col. Roche states that the two petitioners were very active in pro-Italian propaganda in Sweden during the period of sanctions.
52. 23.2.40. Letter of thanks from PAVOLINI, Minister of Popular Culture acknowledging receipt and thanking Lt.Col. Roche for forwarding the petitions of his two Swedish friends.
53. 26.2.40. Letter from Lt.Col. Roche to PAVOLINI thanking him for his courteous letter, the contents of which, said Lt.Col. Roche, he was hastening to convey to his Swedish friends. Lt.Col. Roche expresses gratitude to the Duce for his interest.

27

48. 12.3.37

Letter from Lieut-Colonel Roewe to GRANDI offering his congratulations to the latter on his ennoblement, and expressing admiration for Grandi's delicate work. Lt.Col. Roewe refers to a letter received from Grandi, dated 9th March, enclosing a copy of the "Kind and generous offer" from ALFIERI; he intimates that he is going to ask Alfieri to publish the letter in the Italian Press, so that Lt.Col. Roewe might be helped still further.

49.

29.3.37

Letter from GRANDI to ALFIERI enclosing a letter from Lt.Col. ROEWE to the Duce, together with a letter from the Lieutenant-Colonel expressing satisfaction at receiving Grandi's letter of congratulations for his past activities, but refusing re-employment.

50.

12.4.37

Letter from ALFIERI to GRANDI acknowledging receipt of the letter sent by Lt.Col. Roewe to the Duce and stating that the publication of the letter mentioned by Lieutenant-Colonel Roewe had already been effected.

(2) File No. 6508

51.

17.2.40.

Letter from Lt.Col. ROEWE to the Minister of Propaganda (Cultura Popolare) submitting the petitions of two of the Lieutenant-Colonel's Swedish friends - Baron Sten von Holstein and Baron Ernst Bonde - asking for Mussolini's intervention in the Russo-Finnish war for the sake of other Scandinavian countries. Lt.Col. Roewe states that the two petitioners were very active in pro-Italian propaganda in Sweden during the period of armistice.

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Letter of thanks from PAVOLINI, Minister of Popular Culture acknowledging receipt and thanking Lt.Col. Roewe for forwarding the petitions of his two Swedish friends.

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Letter from Lt.Col. Roewe to PAVOLINI thanking him for his courteous letter, the contents of which, said Lt.Col. Roewe, he was hastening to convey to his Swedish friends. Lt.Col. Roewe expressed gratitude to the Duce for his interest.

54.

Enquiries and searches regarding the broadcasts alleged to have been made by Lieut-Colonel ROEWE on the Italian radio are being made through Psychological Warfare Branch - 2nd Section (Major Manley) but nothing of interest has been traced to-date in the Italian Broadcasting records or from discreet enquiries among persons who were connected with broadcasting. It would appear that Lt.Col. Roewe is by no means well known in broadcasting circles in Rome, and that his statement (copy attached) contains what is probably a true account of the very little broadcasting which he seems to have done. It seems certain that he is not identical with the man who gave regular broadcasts of propaganda against the English over the Italian Radio.

55.

Lieutenant-Colonel Roewe's account with the names of di Saurretti, has been examined over a long period. It has always been

an extremely modest account and there have been no credits or debits of an unduly large or otherwise suspicious character. By enquiries show that Lt. Col. Roake had no income apart from two hundred pounds per annum from shares in England, in addition to his Army pension. His wife, however, Mrs. Elizabeth Roake, had a private income of 2000 dollars per annum from the estate of her father, the late Lewis Morris IDWING, an American citizen. This income was paid to her through the National City Bank of Cleveland. Mrs. Roake's mother, now deceased, was an extremely wealthy woman and it is apparent that Lt. Col. Roake and his wife, who lived quite beyond their own means, were largely financed by her both before and during the war, up to her death in March 1942. She was very lavish in her generosity to them but, I am very reliably informed, had to take the Lieut. Colonel to task for his extremely extravagant spending of the sum of eight hundred pounds a year or so before the outbreak of war. The indications are that Lt. Col. Roake and his wife, however, regularly received capital funds from her. I am informed that Mrs. Roake has been left her mother's entire fortune, apart from the Banco di Serravalle neither Lt. Col. Roake nor his wife are known to have banking accounts.

56.

A statement has been taken under caution from Lieut. Colonel Roake and has been signed by him. A copy is attached to each copy of this report. In this statement he gives an account of his background, history and activities up-to-date. So far as the main facts are concerned, his statement would appear largely to be true, but it is certain that the detail, especially on all points favourable to him, is grossly exaggerated. In describing the circumstances of his detention, both by Italians and by Germans, he endeavours to give a picture of far more rigid detention than would appear actually to have been the case. In fact, both he and his wife seem to have been under a very loose system of detention under the Italians, who gave them very long extensions of time before sending them away from Rome. Certainly, their internment under the Germans, after the Ardennes, was more rigid; this may have been due, however, solely to Lt. Col. Roake's having assumed the uniform of a British officer on hearing of the Italian Government collapse, expecting immediate Allied occupation. It seems, from enquiries, to be quite true that they were on lists to be sent to "German Internment Camps" but there is nothing to indicate that the said camps were actually in Germany itself.

57.

Lieutenant Colonel Roake has also, in his statement, endeavoured to show that in all his activities he was genuinely acting in what he believed to be the best interests of his own country. He seems to have stepped short of any active disloyalty on which charges might be preferred against him, but there is ample evidence that both he and his wife had the greatest of admiration for Mussolini and the Italian Fascist Government. Recusants mentioned earlier in this report show that he positively "joined" upon time and especially so when he felt, during the war, that they would be victorious; he even conveyed these sentiments to an official of the Italian Government in a letter written during wartime expressing the view that the war which England was fighting was "bad, unjust and doomed to failure". He maintained that he used those expressions to curry favour with the Italian Government to enable him to keep his wife out of internment, because he was desperate about her health. He states also that it was her bad state of health which prevented him from making the "arduous" journey to England immediately war started in 1939, at which time they were in Switzerland. It is, however, significant that her health did

extremely extravagant spending of the sum of eight hundred pounds a year or so before the outbreak of war. The indications are that Lt. Col. Roake and his wife, however, regularly received ample funds from her. It is informed that Mrs. Roake has been left her estate, a entire fortune. Apart from the Banco di Sordani neither Lt. Col. Roake nor his wife are known to have banking accounts.

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58.

Although there seems to be no evidence to support charges against him, it is quite apparent that Lieut. Colonel Roake's activities from 1935 onwards, are more than sufficient to bring him within the scope of Defence Regulation 18 B (the extra-territorial regulations appended to Defence Regulations 1939 bringing British subjects abroad within the scope of all such Regulations). There is ample evidence to justify his detention under this Regulation. I have consulted Colonel A.E. Young, who has informed me that, even in the light of all the facts it is not considered likely that at the present

stage, he would present any danger to military security. It does, however, seem desirable that he be subjected to some control and that his movements be restricted, even if he is not interned. This would seem to be especially necessary, at least up to the time when some enquiry can be made at COSTOMBA (not yet in Allied hands) as to the significance of the passage in the letter (see paragraph 8 of this report) from his daughter, Contessa de Soglio.

59.

At Lieutenant-Colonel Roche's own request he was examined medically on 3 July, 1944 by Captain Henry A. MELASKEY, (As) Medical Officer, Headquarters - Allied Control Commission, who has issued a certificate to the effect that Lt. Col. Roche is suffering from (1) Cystitis - acute severe, and (2) Prostatic hypertrophy. The certificate recommends that Lt. Col. Roche be placed in hospital for proper and adequate medical attention. Lt. Colonel Roche has expressed a wish to be allowed to enter the Rome Clinic of his private surgeon - Signor BASFILLI. A copy of the certificate is forwarded to Lt. Colonel E.D. Gibson, C.S.O., C.S.I.(b), H.Q. - A.A.I.

Henry A. Melaskey
Louis V. Gels
Captain

S.J. Harvey, Major

For Colonel A.H. Young, Director -

Security Branch - A.C.C.

File
SUBJECT: 1st-col ROCKE, Cyril

SECRET

Office of the A G of S G-2
RONE ALLIED ARMY COMMAND
ONE

0/132/AR

20 Jul 44

S.S.I. (u).
Adv S.S.I.
A.S.I.

Major Harvey,
Security Branch, A.S.C.

Reference your letter AAI/1456/125/CSI(b)
dated 15 Jul 44.

1. 1st-col ROCKE has been transferred to the CLINICA SARMISTEIA, 277 Viale REGINA MARGHERITA, ROME, where the doctor who had previously treated him is in attendance.
2. 1st-col ROCKE was transferred on 18 Jul 44 and gave an undertaking not to move from the hospital and not to see any person other than his wife without having obtained permission from RONE Allied Army Command.
3. The hospital authorities were acquainted of his status and were told that periodical checks would be made to ensure that the conditions were being carried out.

Young (D.A.D. YOUNG)
1st-col.
S.S.

24

File *Security Branch*
5363

Subject:- Cyril ROOKE

IN ALLIED FORCES IN ITALY

HEALING

10 LUG 1944

A. C. C.

1st Allied Area Command

RESTRICTED

AAI/1436/123/031(b)

15 JUL 44

1. We have been informed that subject has been medically examined, and that it has been recommended that he be placed in hospital for proper and adequate medical attention in respect of the Cystitis and Prostatic hypertrophy from which he is suffering.
2. Please arrange for him to be removed at an early date to a suitable hospital. He need not be specially guarded, but he should be warned that he must make no attempt to leave the hospital until discharged as fit, when he should be again placed in confinement. He should be allowed to receive no visitors, except his wife. The hospital authorities should be advised of the situation and instructed to ensure as far as practicable that he does not have the opportunity of leaving the building.
3. Meanwhile, we are forwarding to A.F.H.Q. Captain GALE's full report on the case, with a request for disposal instructions.

W.D. Gibson - Lt. Col

f Brigadier,
 R.C.S. (I).

SP.

Copy to:- Security Branch, Adv H.Q., A.C.C. ✓

Hospital suggested by Mr Roke.

Clinica Bastianelli

244 Viale Regina Margherita

Rome

STUDY DESIGN

$$T(\mathbf{e})T(\mathbf{f})/50 = T(\mathbf{g})T(\mathbf{h})/20$$

91 002 16

100

1. A thorough enquiry and investigation has now been made into the activities of W-601. Confidential sources in the U.S. have revealed by documents and informants. The investigation has now been completed and confirmed by Capt. GALT of the A.C. Security Branch, and his report, together with relevant documents are attached for your consideration.
2. It appears that the evidence available in 1948 is not sufficient to support charges against W-601, but that there are adequate grounds for indictment in the U.S. under U.S. 18 B. To any, however, not aware of what information may be held against him in 1948.
3. We do not believe that he would now be likely to present any danger to our military interests, but it is considered undesirable that he should continue to reside in U.S. at liberty.
4. It is suggested therefore that he and his wife be deported to the U.S. and that his case be disposed of there in the manner deemed suitable.
5. The Bureau does not wish his case to be confused with W-601 in the least way to influence the handling of the case in any way.
6. W-601 is being removed from his place of special confinement to a hospital in 1948 for medical treatment. He will not be permitted to leave the hospital or to receive visitors other than his wife. Upon his discharge, he will be under continued under special arrangements.
7. May we please receive desired instructions in due course.

W. D. Gibson. Jr. (2)

$$2\pi \int_0^1 \sqrt{1-x^2} dx = \pi$$

1. A thorough ongoing and investigation has now been made into the activities of 11-021. All EXHIBITS in 11-021 as revealed by documents and information. The investigations are made and confirmed by Capt. GALT of the A.C.G. County District, and his report, together with relevant documents are attached for your consideration.
2. It appears that the evidence available in 11-021 is not sufficient to support charges against 11-021, but that there are attempts to prepare for indictment in the U.S. under 18 U.S.C. 162. No one, however, not aware of what information may be held against him in 11-021.
3. We do not believe that he would not be likely to present any danger to our military country, but it is considered rather inside that he would continue to reside in 11-021 at liberty.
4. It is suggested therefore that he and his wife be deported to the U.S. and that they have be allowed to return to the country desired suitable.
5. The 11-021 does not wish his own acquaintance with EXHIBITS in the past war to influence the handling of the case in any way.
6. EXHIBITS is being reviewed from his place of special confinement to a hospital in 11-021 for medical treatment. He will not be permitted to leave his hospital or to receive visitors other than his wife. Upon his discharge, he will be again confined under special arrangements.
7. We do please receive General instructions in our country.

W. D. Gibson. Jr. (2

Definition
 $\mathbb{A}_n, \mathbb{B}_n, (I) =$

Doyle, John - 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 2678, 2679, 2680, 2681, 2682, 26

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
SECURITY BRANCH
A.P.O. 394

30 June 1944

Statement of Lieut-Colonel Cyril ROCKE, D.S.O. (reta), 216 Via
Nomentana, Rome, who says :-

"I have been cautioned by Capt. L.V. Gale, Security Branch, Allied Control Commission, that I am not obliged to say anything unless I wish to do so, and that anything that I say may be given in evidence. I fully understand this caution but wish to make the statement which follows, of my own free will :-

Cyril Rocke.

I was born on 7th September 1878 at Birimagar, Kashmir of British parents, my father being in the Indian Medical Service - General George ROCKE - and Acting Resident at the time of my birth. Subsequently I received my education at the hands of private tutors.

In 1897 I entered Sandhurst and in 1898 I was gazetted to the East Surrey Regiment, served in India and throughout the South African War. I served during the last year of that war under General Sir Robert Baden Powell in the South African Constabulary. Afterwards I remained there as a Resident Magistrate until 1904. Then I rejoined my Regiment and served for many years in India. I was gazetted Captain in about 1905 prior to leaving for India. My service in India continued until September 1914 when I went to France as Camp Commandant to General Sir Michael Rimington, commanding the Indian Cavalry Corps. In about January, 1915 I transferred to the Royal Flying Corps having previously had some experience in amateur aeronautics.

During March 1915, I had a crash during flying operations and was unable to fly again. After a period of convalescence I rejoined the Indian Cavalry Corps as G.S.O. 2 - Intelligence. After a Staff College Course at St. Omer in France, I was transferred to the Irish Guards as a Major in about January 1916 and was second-in-command of 2nd Battalion in the Ypres salient until the Battalion went to the Somme, where I was given the Command.

Major, The Hon. Harold Alexander, now General Sir Harold Alexander, being then my second-in-command. During the action of the Somme I was awarded the D.S.O. and was wounded in action, taken prisoner, escaped, and got back to our lines. I was returned to England and spent three months in Hospital recovering from my wounds.

Whilst I was convalescing during the early part of 1917 I was sent out to Rome on a Government Mission to the Vatican. I stayed with him Count de SALIS, British Minister to the Holy See. I remained with him for three weeks, during which time I became engaged to Elizabeth IDING, a British ex-American Minister and Head of the

to do so, and that anything that I say may be given in evidence. I fully understand this caution but wish to make the statement which follows, of my own free will :-

Cyril Roche.

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Whilst I was convalescing during the early part of 1917 I was sent out to Rome on a Government Mission to the Vatican. I stayed with Count de SALLIS, British Minister to the Holy See. I remained with him for three weeks, during which time I became engaged to Elizabeth LINDSAY, daughter of the Hon. Lewis LINDSAY ex-American Minister and Head of the American Red Cross in Rome.

I returned to my command of 1st Battalion Irish Guards and shortly afterwards obtained leave to Rome, where I was married on the 25th March 1917, before the British Consul and in Private Chapel. After my leave - a fortnight - I returned to my command.

After receiving injuries following a shell burst in the Ypres Salient, on the eve of Pilkem Ridge Battle, I was sent to hospital at Le Touquet and on recovery was sent as G.2 Operations 20th Division. I remained in that capacity up to the Battle of Cambrai, when I was badly injured in the eyes, being blind for several months afterwards, coming back to hospital in London.

- 2 -

In June 1918 I was appointed Military Attache to the British Embassy in Rome. I retained that appointment for about three years and was then forced to retire owing to ill-health. From that time till the outbreak of war, my wife and I resided for equal periods each year in Italy and in England. We usually spent the summer of each year in England and the winter in Italy. We maintained a permanent residence in Italy at Palazzo Serroneta, Rome and also at 44 Via Sardegna, Rome.

My main associates in Rome were:

Lord Rennel of Rodd, Mr and Mrs Hugh Gaisford (ex-Consul General of Munich), Sir Ronald Graham (Ambassador in Rome until 1932), various naval and military attaches including Colonel Harold Stevens (now of BBC). After December 1935 I had no contact with the British Embassy for reasons which I shall describe later. Other intimate friends of mine were: Mrs Eugene Strong D.B.E. (Archaeologist) and Sir William McClure (Press Counsellor to Embassy).

Despite my breach with the British Embassy, I continued my friendly relations with the American Embassy until 1941 being on especially good terms with Mr. William Phillips, American Ambassador, to whom I offered to supply all the military information which I could after war broke out. I sent him two letters, not signed, addressed to his private house, one giving him an account of information I had obtained of propaganda value, through literature forwarded to me as an ex-member of the Anglo-German Fellowship. In the other letter were copies of periodicals published in Germany and obtained by me through the same source.

Among my main Italian associates were members of the "Caccia" Club, and a great many Italian Diplomats. I have been a member of the "Caccia" Club from 1913. The only member of the Italian Government with whom I was on cordial terms was Marshal BALBO, at whose invitation I went on a tour of Tripoli early in 1940, before Italy's entry into the war. As a result of this tour I wrote articles which appeared in "Country Life" and other periodicals. They were of non-political character.

Among other intimate friends are the Marchese and Marchesa Enrico CAVALETTI. The Marchesa is the daughter of a distinguished British Naval Officer, now deceased, and was a British subject prior to her marriage. They were anti-fascist and pro-British in their views, they were always entirely against the war. I have never been in any way connected with any form of Fascist organisation and have not at any time identified myself with the Fascist Government apart from sanctions.

Prior to 1935, I took no part whatsoever in any political matters except that in 1919-1920, in company with a member of the American Embassy - Military Attache in Rome - I made a joint representation, in favour of the disbanded soldiery of Italy at the Peace Conference in Paris. At that time, I also felt that Italy was being very inadequately rewarded for her assistance to England and I spoke very strongly on the subject before a Committee of the Peace Conference. So it will be seen that my strong feeling for Italy has been based on my desire for continued friendship between that Country and England, and certainly dates back before the advent of Fascism, for which creed I hold no particular brief.

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At the time when the British Government imposed "sanctions" against Italy - September 1935 - I was living in England and was seeing a great deal of an old friend, Mr. J.L. Garvin, Editor of the "Observer" and shared his views that the policy of sanctions was fraught with danger to the British Empire inasmuch as sanctions were not likely to be effective, and could only drive Italy, our best friend on the Continent of Europe, into the arms of our worst enemy Germany.

Whilst I was staying at the Guards Club early in September 1935

- 3 -

I read in the "Times" letters in favour of sanctions, by the Arch-Bishop of Canterbury, Lord Cecil, and Rt. Hon. George Barnes. Each of them revealed an abysmal ignorance of the true conditions and slavery in Abyssinia, on which subject I felt myself an authority having travelled extensively there.

I felt very angry at the stupidity of the policy advocated by them, which meant endangering our relations with a powerful and friendly State for an unworthy object - namely to support Abyssinia, a country which was very backward and where conditions of slavery were prevalent.

Accordingly, I wrote a letter, in exceptionally strong and perhaps intemperate terms. It was an open letter, written on Guard's Club note-paper, but after my angry mood had worn off I decided not to send it to the Press, but to send it to a lady who was a member of leading Roman society, of half-British parentage, and extensively pro-British, though at one time a great admirer of Mussolini's internal policy. As she had been in correspondence with me concerning the dangerous effect which the threat of sanctions was beginning to have on Anglo-Italian relations in Italy, I thought it might interest her to have a copy of my strong protest. One of the reasons that I did not send this letter to the "Times" or elsewhere was that I did not expect that it would be published in any case owing to my having inveighed so strongly against so eminent a personage as the Archbishop of Canterbury.

The lady to whom I had sent my letter replied shortly afterwards asking whether I had any objection to the Italian Government using it. I replied at once that she could put it to any use that she thought fit. Consequently, on October 14th 1935 the whole letter appeared in the Italian Press with the exception of one important sentence. The sentence which was omitted was to the effect that it was my opinion that "the policy of sanctions must inevitably drive Italy into the arms of Germany and so hasten another European War".

The next thing was that I received an invitation to go to Rome and to speak personally to Mussolini who was aware doubtless of my previous connection with the British Embassy in Rome.

On 16th November 1935, I saw Mussolini in Rome at the Palazzo Venezia and I did my best to persuade him not to allow this misunderstanding to antagonise his people against the British. He said that he was afraid that it would be a long time before normally friendly relations between the two countries were restored, unless something could be done at once. I advised him to make a direct appeal to the people of England, through the English Press, as a message of goodwill, to be published just before Christmas, with the knowledge that if he did this, certain eminent Englishmen whom I knew to feel as I did, would support this effort to repair the breach between the two countries, by making their own jointly signed representation to the English Press at the same time. Among the signatories there would have been two ex-cabinet ministers, I had in mind such people as Lord Mottistone, Lord Rothermere, the Bishop of Exeter, Sir Arnold Wilson, Mr. J.L. Garvin. Mussolini asked me to give him two days to consider this proposal.

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The lady to whom I had sent my letter replied shortly afterwards asking whether I had any objection to the Italian Government using it. I replied at once that she could put it to any use that she thought fit. Consequently, on October 4th 1935 the whole letter appeared in the Italian Press -with the exception of one important sentence. The sentence which was omitted was to the effect that it was my opinion that "the policy of sanctions must inevitably drive Italy into the arms of Germany and so hasten another European War".

The next thing was that I received an invitation to go to Rome and to speak personally to Mussolini who was aware doubtless of my previous connection with the British Embassy in Rome.

On 18th November 1935, I saw Mussolini in Rome at the Palazzo Venezia and I did my best to persuade him not to allow this misunderstanding to antagonise his people against the British. He said that he was afraid that it would be a long time before normally friendly relations between the two countries were restored, unless something could be done at once. I advised him to make a direct appeal to the people of England, through the English Press, as a message of goodwill, to be published just before Christmas, with the knowledge that if he did this, certain eminent Englishmen whom I knew to feel as I did, would support this effort to repair the breach between the two countries, by making their own jointly signed representation to the English Press at the same time. Among the signatories there would have been two ex-cabinet ministers, I had in mind such people as Lord Mottistone, Lord Rothermere, the Bishop of Exeter, Sir Arnold Wilson, Mr. J. A. Garvin. Mussolini asked me to give him two days to consider this proposal.

In the meantime however, the imposition of oil sanctions was proposed at Geneva on behalf of the British Government. On 20th or 21st November 1935 I was called to the Palazzo Venezia where Mussolini told me of these facts and said that this would make it quite impossible to make the friendly gesture which had been proposed to him.

He went on to say that he feared America might also cut off oil supplies, and that this would mean war with the British in the Mediterranean, since he intended to supply his troops in Abyssinia with oil at all costs.

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I thought therefore after due consideration that I saw my duty very clearly and I returned to London. The day before I left for London about 22nd November 1935, Mrs Arthur SIMON an old friend and a well known archaeologist asked me to speak informally to a considerable number of "non-official" British residents in Rome on the subject of the importance of alleviating Italian indignation against England. This address took place on about 23 - 24th November, at Ambassadors Hotel, Rome as there were too many interested people to be accommodated at Mrs Strong's home. This address, although there was nothing in the least disloyal in it, involved criticism of the foreign policy of our Government and quite naturally increased my unpopularity with the official British community in Rome.

When I reached London, I forwarded a memorandum to Mr. Ramsay McDonald through an American friend (at the latter's request) known mutually to Mr. McDonald and myself. In the memorandum, I told Mr. McDonald the whole story. Then I got into touch with the groups who were of the same mind as myself about sanctions, and a meeting was held at Brooks Club, over which Lord Mottistone presided. It was agreed unanimously that the best thing I could do in British interests was to go to America to see what could be done to prevent U.S.A. from imposing oil sanctions against Italy. On the eve of my departure from Claridges Hotel at the outset of my journey I received a summons to visit Mr. Ramsay McDonald at Hampstead. As this would have entailed my missing the boat, I sent him as full a report as I could through our mutual American friend (Mr. CHAMON) telling him of the events, the meeting of my group at Brooks Club, of my intended visit to America and its purpose.

I was in America from about 29th December 1935 to about 16th February 1936 and spoke in debate always with an English opponent (notably Sir Arthur WILKINSON) before the Foreign Policy Association of America and various other American societies, also I spoke on three or four occasions on the American Radio. The subject of all these talks was "The Policy of Sanctions" "Danger to Peace in Europe" and "Conditions in Abyssinia". In all these talks I prefaced my remarks by saying that although I was temporarily opposed to the Foreign Policy of my own Government, my opposition was actuated by one sole wish, and that was to serve the interests of my own country. I stressed on all occasions that the effect of sanctions could only bring about or provoke another European War with Italy, who had saved us at the beginning of the War, now against us. I would like to point out that I paid all my travelling and other expenses out of my own pocket. All the fees which I received from my lecturing I gave to Lady Simon (wife of Sir John Simon) for her anti-slavery fund. When I returned to Italy at about the beginning of March 1936 the Barone ALDO, who knew that I was not a rich man, caused an offer to be made to me through the Italian Embassy in London of 100,000 lire, then the equivalent of about 1,800 pounds. This offer I naturally declined to accept but agreed in 1937 (when I sought acknowledgement of my letter of refusal) that this sum should be allotted to the Orthopaedic Hospital for Children, Ariccia. A notice to this effect was published in the Italian Press.

During the subsequent years 1937-1938-1939 in fact right up to the outbreak of war, even up to about April 1940, I contributed numerous

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During the subsequent years 1937-1938-1939 in fact right up to the outbreak of war, even up to about April 1940, I contributed numerous articles and letters mostly concerned with the urgent need for re-armament and a hundredfold increase in the Air Force.

The only other subject was the necessity of placating Italy and detaching her from the German Alliance. These publications appeared in the "Morning Post", "The Tablet", "Saturday Review", "Weekly Review", "The Patriot", and the "New Pioneer". I do not remember ever having written and matter about the Spanish Civil War, although my sympathies were with General Franco, as I was honoured by being an intimate friend of King Alfonso of Spain.

In Spring of 1938, Lady Austen Chamberlain came to Rome to see Mussolini by whom she was received on a number of occasions. I had the privilege of meeting here several times and she told me that her object was similar to mine, namely to detach Italy from her alliance with Germany. Inspired by her expressed views, I decided to try to

get a message sent from representative British residents in the principle towns of Italy to Mr. Neville Chamberlain stating how grateful they were to him for his efforts to re-establish friendly relations between the two countries. Several hundred well known British residents did sign such a letter. I was a signatory to the document and the organizer but the letter was forwarded in the name of Mr. Hugh GALSFORD who received a charming reply from the Prime Minister which Mr. GALSFORD passed on to me.

A few weeks afterwards, I received a letter from Sir Phillip DAWSON M.P. asking me to address the Anglo-Italian Parliamentary Committee before the end of that Parliamentary Session. I accepted the invitation and addressed the Committee in July 1938, when about 60 M.P.s were present, Sir Phillip Dawson presiding. At the end of this address, which was particularly concerned with Italian colonization in Abyssinia and more particularly the deleterious effect which sanctions and British Government policy, with regard to General Franco, had had on Anglo Italian relations by cementing the Alliance between Italy and Germany. With a view to weakening this Alliance it was agreed unanimously, at the end of my address, that subject to the approval of the Prime Minister, a message of good-will should be sent by the Committee to Mussolini. Approval was given and Mr. Chamberlain insisted on seeing the message himself and, in the fact altered one word of the text, which was then sent to Mussolini. I was appointed by Sir Phillip Dawson to carry the message with the Prime Minister's full approval and consent after he had related my full activities with regard to sanctions from 1935 onwards. Mussolini was informed that I was the bearer of a message but would not receive the message until I supplied proof that the message had the consent and approval of Mr. Neville Chamberlain. Sir Phillip Dawson supplied proof to the Charge d'Affaires - Italian Embassy in London, and I accordingly delivered the message which was received very cordially, and I was guest of the Italian Government during the few days I was in Rome on this occasion. I was informed by Sir Phillip Dawson that the Prime Minister would very much like to know unofficially what prospects there were of carrying out his policy of detaching Italy from Germany and what Mussolini's price would be. I was granted a private interview, completely alone with Mussolini, immediately after he had arranged for the publication of the message of goodwill in that evening's paper. Then I asked him what prospects there were of the termination of the Rome - Berlin Axis. The results of that interview are recorded in my memorandum dated 10th April 1943 addressed to the British Foreign Minister and lodged with the Swiss Minister in Rome, to whom internecine were allowed access under Italian Police supervision. I lodged this with him, to be opened in the event of my death, so that my activities on behalf of England would be clear to the British Government.

On the day following my interview with Mussolini, who did not himself give me the terms of breaking the Rome-Berlin Axis, I went at his request to see Count Ciano, who gave me the terms enumerated in my aforementioned memorandum.

Casualty in conversation with CIANO on that day - 9th August, I asked him if he was going to the Nazi Party Congress at Nuremberg in September. Ciano said that his brother-in-law Count Magistrati (who had happened to be my Liaison Officer for two years whilst I was Military Attache) would be representing Italy, with the Italian Ambassador to Berlin. He asked me if I was going and I said that I had not received an invitation and did not expect to as I had no contacts in Germany. He asked if I would like an invitation and I replied in the affirmative. I thought no more

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the British Government. He replied that there was not the least objection. I immediately informed Lord Olive and Mr. Tennant of the facts and urged by them I went immediately to Frankfurt and from there by air to Croydon the next morning where Lord Brockton met me, after which I conveyed my news to him and he passed it on I believe to Sir Samuel Hoare.

A few days before Mr. Chamberlain's visit to Munich in 1938 I received in London a private letter sent to me from Italy by the Governor of Rome Don Piero COLOMBA, by private messenger to let me know his estimate of the European situation. He said in effect that only by a direct appeal from Mr. Chamberlain to Mussolini for intervention with Germany could war be avoided. I took the letter to Lady Austen Chamberlain who gave me a letter to her sister-in-law Mrs Neville Chamberlain asking her to receive me on a matter of interest. This was done so that the Prime Minister who was overwhelmed with work, might be acquainted with the subject more speedily than through other channels. I volunteered to fly to Italy at a moment's notice to see Mussolini if the Prime Minister required me to do so. I was told that if this was necessary I would be informed within the next twenty-four hours. Other arrangements were made officially however, through diplomatic channels within that time and the days following Mr. Chamberlain went to Munich.

I stayed in London until his return and heard his declaration in the House of Commons, when I was in the company of Lady Austen Chamberlain. A few days later I returned to Rome, this being about the last day of September 1938. I remained with my Wife and her Mother in her Mother's house in Rome until the summer of 1939 when the three of us went to Switzerland, immediately after my daughter's (Countess de Schio) wedding in July 1939. When War broke out with Germany on 3rd September 1939, I was in Lausanne, Switzerland. I immediately sent letters offering my services to the Country in any capacity. Lord Rottstone - Lord Gort (telegram) - Lord Fitzalan - Sir Patrick Hanson K.P., Admiral Peirse. Nothing came of this. I continued these applications right up to the eve of War with Italy, however because of my age, I did not immediately return to England, but went back to Italy (Rome) in October 1939, because my home was there, and because I still had hopes that Italy would not come into the War. Because of my knowledge of Italy's military unpreparedness, I had come to believe that Mussolini would not enter the War and that his part would be that of a useful non-belligerent, bargaining with both sides. I wished my own Country to get the benefit of that bargain: that was why I had originally opposed sanctions. Further my mother-in-law was in an extremely low state of health, though she did not die until 30th March 1943 in Rome after a long illness. It was quite impossible for my Wife to leave her at any time from 1939 onwards, and the journey back to Italy from Switzerland was a great strain. There was also the question of her own considerable reluctance to leave her home in Italy at her very great age after having lived in Rome for half a century. Therefore my Wife and I stood by her. For my part I considered that as my Country had been unable to utilize my services owing to my own age, it was therefore my duty to remain with my Wife and her Mother to look after their interests. In addition, my only daughter (Countess de Schio) was to have a baby, her first, and my Wife and I were most anxious to be near her at the end of

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On 15th November 1935, I made my first broadcast from Rome during the course of which I made a speech in English on the subject of Italy's action in Abyssinia. I said that, League of Nations notwithstanding, I considered Italy justified on moral grounds in her seemingly high-handed action in Abyssinia. Firstly she needed to secure her East African frontiers of Eritrea and Somaliland, and to abolish once and for all, slavery in Abyssinia. Several eminent people in Rome - including the French Ambassador - Count de Chambrun - congratulated me on the moderate tone of my broadcast and described its theme as the right way to appeal to the British people.

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My next and only other broadcast in Europe was towards the end of June 1940 when I spoke in English from Rome Radio and re-assured relatives in England that British subjects in Rome who were above military age were being well treated, and were in fact at liberty to move about Rome. In this broadcast I said that I had done my best to place my services at the disposal of my country. I made it quite clear in the broadcast that whatever I had said or done at the time of sanctions, had been actuated for what I believed to be in the interests of my country, of which the Italian Government was well aware. Beyond this I did not touch upon political subjects and offered no criticism of the British Government whatsoever, either directly or indirectly. My main purpose was to give re-assurance to relatives in England (to the best of my belief, very few British residents above or below military age were arrested during the first six weeks following Italy's entry into the War). The only other broadcasts which I have ever made were those mentioned earlier by me as having been made in America at the time of sanctions.

During the last few days of June 1940, my wife and I left with permission of the Italian Police to go to Vincenza, to be present at the birth of our first grandchild. On the morning following our arrival we were taken from our hotel to the Questura, where we were told that we were under arrest. After considerable difficulty we were placed under supervision, but allowed to remain until the birth of our grandchild about a week later. We then returned to Rome and were placed under strict surveillance of Police, a plain clothes guard being placed from time to time outside our house - Palazzo Sermoneta, Rome. On all public occasions a plain clothes police officer was placed inside the house to see that we did not go out. At normal times we were permitted to move about in Rome but it was apparent to me that we were frequently under close observation.

Officials at the Questura in Rome, although courteous, told me that we would have to leave Rome very shortly.

In May or June 1941, my wife and I were ordered by the Questura to leave within 24 hours of 48 hours (I forget which) and go to Perugia where we were to report to the Questura on arrival, a letter addressed to the Questura, Perugia, being handed to us. By great pressure and a letter to the Minister of Interior, I managed to extend our stay in Rome for about four to six weeks, after which we went to Perugia and at once reported to the Questura where our passports were taken from us and we were ordered to the small country village of Spello. I produced a medical certificate showing that my wife was in a very delicate state of health, and after some difficulty we were granted permission to remain in Perugia, but I was required to report twice daily to the Questura. Our movements were strictly limited both as to distance from our hotel and times for going out: no letters were allowed to be sent by us except to our daughter, such letters being censored by the Questura. Several other internees were in the hotel under like conditions. Perugia was a recognised centre of internment.

During 1941, my wife's condition became dangerous and the leading surgeon in the district (Monteluce Hospital, Professor VIGORE) and her doctor (Dr. DOMENICI) advised that she be sent back to Rome for an operation.

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During 1941, my wife's condition became dangerous and the leading surgeon in the district (Monteluce Hospital, Professor FIMILI) and her doctor (Dr. DOMINICI) advised that she be sent back to Rome for an operation. After immense difficulty, much opposition from the Questura and a delay of about three months my wife was permitted at about the end of November 1941 - to return to Rome for her operation. This was due to the insistence of Senator Professor Raffaele NANNI. I was permitted to accompany her because of my insistence and also because I needed skilled treatment for an open wound in my foot.

We reported to the Questura in Rome and entered BASTIANELLI's Clinic in Rome, where police called regularly to check up on us. My wife had a successful operation in December 1941 and we left the clinic during January 1942, with leave to go back to my wife's mother's house - Palazzo Selmoneta - for my wife's convalescence, having a doctor's certificate that the climate of Perugia would endanger her life.

Then our stay was extended after my wife's convalescence until about the beginning of June 1943 on account of her aged Mother's condition and her subsequent death on 30th March 1943. We were given about two months to clear up her affairs, and were then at short notice, told to go back to Perugia, a request which we made for internment near our daughter at Vincenza being refused. At Perugia the conditions of internment after our return in June 1943 became stricter and stricter, and eventually we found ourselves under very close armed guard with about 20 other internees at another hotel, our previous hotel being taken over by the Germans.

On 9th September 1943, all the internees, including ourselves, were released by the Italian Police. We tried to get transport by air, together with the American Consul - Mr. ORBACH - to Allied territory and the Prefect of Perugia sent a telegram to Marshal Badoglio making this request but without success. I might mention that when I accompanied Mr. ORBACH to the Prefecture I was wearing the uniform of Lt. Col. of the Irish Guards which I had concealed throughout the War. Within 36 hours, my wife and I were re-arrested with all the other internees, by the Italian Police. I was told that, as I was wearing British Military Uniform, I would be handed over to the Germans as a prisoner-of-war. This was told me by an agent of the Gestapo whose name I did not know. Several days later we heard that the Germans were coming almost at once to occupy Perugia and we therefore decided to go into hiding. We paid 20,000 lire to an Italian named Armando MARIOTTI to give us hiding on his premises. Within six days he had betrayed us and we were re-arrested by the Italian Military and were again interned at the Hotel D'Italia in Perugia under armed military guard.

On 19th October 1943 an Italian Major informed us at the Hotel that certain of the internees were to be sent to a concentration camp, fifty miles south of Perugia. At night I had as one of the internees selected, to get into a closed conveyance for the journey, but managed to smuggle my wife with me. We reached the camp at about 11 pm were we found that it was a camp under German control for prisoners-of-war. My wife was refused admission to the camp by the Commandant, and she was sent back to Perugia under the escort who had brought us out. The Captain in charge of the escort hid her until she could get admittance to Monteluce Hospital. At the camp I was interrogated, and later heard that I was to be sent to Germany, but by virtue of my medical condition (both feigned and genuine conditions) I was sent back in an ambulance with other sick prisoners to the Military Hospital at Santa Giuliana, Perugia. There, my wife was eventually given permission to visit me twice a week with the permission of the German Flato Kommandant.

However, on about 29th December 1943, prior to her receiving this permission, I was transferred by the German Commandant to the Hospital at Monteluce where they were sick and wounded were. I was there to undergo an operation for prostate. The Italian doctors there, especially Professor RIMBLE, kept postponing the operation until such time as there would be word of being sent to Germany. If my operation took place at such a time I could not be moved.

This plan failed, because, news which we received on 10th June 1944, made it imperative for both the surgeon and myself to leave the hospital to go into hiding. We had heard that we were to be sent to

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My wife joined me in hiding and we hid at the house of Giuseppe DATTOLINI, a local farmer in Perugia, whose daughter had been employed at German Headquarters in Perugia and who had managed to keep us informed of German local intentions.

We remained in DATTOLINI's house in hiding until 18-19th June 1944, when his daughter - Nella - came to tell us that the road was clear, the last of the Germans having left. During the afternoon we went to Barfari's Hotel which was empty except for a skeleton staff and we stayed there for the night. The next morning four Germans entered the hotel and we hid in the cellars.

After she told us that the hotel was being used as an observatory post for the time being and the German rearguard would leave Perugia at 11 p.m. that night 19th June 1944. At dawn on 20th June 1944 I saw British troops entering the town, so I put on my uniform and went out to meet them.

The first person whom I met was Capt. Ashley MURPHY of Goldstream Guards who took me back to his Company Headquarters where I gave him a considerable amount of military information.

Then I went into a villa which had been a German Police Headquarters where I seized certain papers which I later handed to the A.M.G. Officer - Captain SIMPSON. Among these documents was a list of the English and American internees to be sent to German concentration camps. This referred only to women and my wife's name was on the list. This list was dated 29th May 1944.

My name appeared on a much larger list of men to be sent to Germany, which included notable doctors and lawyers, and Mr. Lister MAYNARD, ex-American Consul General. This list was found at German Headquarters in Perugia by Nella BAROCCHI who told me of having found it. Then after leaving Capt. POMEROY and collecting the aforementioned papers, I returned to the hotel and later in the morning conducted British Medical Officers to the various hospitals in the district where I knew German wounded had been.

In the afternoon of that day - 20th June 1944, in the presence of Mr. Lister MAYNARD I gave a great deal of political information about that locality to Capt. SIMPSON and Capt. POLITTI.

On the morning of 21st of June 1944, I met an officer of 10 Corps who took me back to Corps Headquarters when I gave to Colonel PHILPOTTS and Major Jack BARROW all the military information which I had acquired especially during the last 10 days, which was fairly considerable because my place of hiding was right on the rear road of the German retreat, through the outskirts of Perugia. In the afternoon at Capt. POLITTI's special invitation, I was present in his office when representatives of about eight or nine political parties gave him nominations for Mayor of the Town. When asked by Capt. POLITTI, I expressed my opinion of the individuals concerned.

On 22nd June 1944, Mr. Lister MAYNARD and I signed a joint letter giving the names of certain local Italians who had persecuted internees, and who were still in Perugia. We gave this to Capt. SIMPSON of A.M.G. This was in the morning and in the afternoon I went to Capt. O'CONNELL - Field Security Section to hand over an Austrian prisoner, and an Italian prisoner, both of whom had been condemned to death by the Germans for sabotage, but who had escaped with the help of the Priest of the Prison a few days earlier and who had been hiding in the house of a friend of mine, Colonel RAMICHI, Italian Medical Service (one of the doctors who was on the list to be sent to Germany). Whilst in the P.S.S. Office waiting for Capt. O'CONNELL, I told another British officer, whose name I can't remember the whole of my story since the internment of my wife and I in Perugia.

American internees to be sent to German concentration camps. This referred only to women and my wife's name was on the list. This list was dated 29th May 1944.

My name appeared on a much larger list of men to be sent to Germany, which included notable doctors and lawyers, and Mr. Lister MAYNARD, ex-American Consul General. This list was found at German Headquarters in Perugia by Hella RAPPAPORT who told me of having found it. Then after leaving Capt. RAPPAPORT and collecting the aforementioned papers, I returned to the hotel and later in the morning contacted British Medical Officers to the various hospitals in the district where I knew German wounded had been.

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On 23rd June 1944, knowing that British authorities would obviously want an investigation into my position as an Englishman in Italy throughout the War with that country, I left for Rome. One of the things which strengthened my feelings that the authorities would require such an investigation was the fact that on the death of my mother-in-law in March 1943, I applied for repatriation of my wife and myself through the Swiss Delegation in Italy, in charge of British interests, it was refused.

With my wife who had a permit to travel, and wearing my British uniform, I travelled by Military transport to Rome. I had previously told the Senior A.M.G. Officers - Col. HENNER - and Col. HARTLEY - that I wished to go to Rome as it was most urgent for me to get in touch with General ALEXANDER. My aim was to have my position cleared up quickly and then, with the C in C's permission to go on with our forward troops to VINENZA to learn the fate of my daughter and her children.

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During the afternoon of 24th June 1944, I reported to Brigadier MATTHEWS 59th Area on my presence in Rome and the reasons for which I had come. He sent me to see Mr MONTGOMERY, British Counsellor at the British Legation to the Holy See, whom I went to see immediately. I told the main outline of my story to him and asked him to help me regularise and clarify my position. He said it was entirely a matter for military authorities, and he expressed the view that my duty should have been to have left my wife and family in Italy returning myself to England, at the outbreak of the war. He said that he was not aware that I had at any time been interned and that I had been seen in the Vatican since Italy's entry into the war. (This referred to a visit which I had paid to the Vatican early in 1940, when I was endeavouring to arrange for my aged mother-in-law, who was very ill, to go to America under the care of a Nun). This was vetoed by doctors who said that she was far too ill to make the journey to America.

After leaving Mr Montgomery's office I went back to Brigadier Matthew's office and told him of what had transpired, and gave him my address - C/o Marchese CAVALOTTI, 216 Via Nomentana, Rome.

On the 26th June 1944, Colonel L.S. YOUNG, Security Branch, A.C.C. in the company of Major Zanchino - Carabinieri Reali - called at the above address, and detained me pending these enquiries.

I should mention that on the 25th June 1944, I sent a letter and memorandum to General Sir Harold Alexander, requesting an interview and explaining my position and past activities.

Another point which is of great interest, is that on 22nd June, 1944 Mr Denis Johnston of BBC took a recording of a speech in English by me in which I described my experiences in Perugia, my previous mission to Italy on behalf of Mr Chamberlain, the reasons for my remaining in Italy after war had broken out, and finally my meeting with British troops on their entry into Perugia. I understand that this recording was to be broadcast after due approval of the censor. I made the recording at the instigation of Mr Johnston and other pressmen who approached me.

I should like to stress the point that the visit which I made to Tripoli in 1939 with Marshal Balbo (mentioned earlier in this statement) had nothing whatsoever to do with the Italian Government. I was solely and simply the guest of Marshal Balbo, and my wife accompanied me on the trip. Further during the course of the trip, which covered several thousand miles by aeroplane and car, I made a point of making contact with the British Consul General at Tripoli, and the Vice-Consul at Benghazi. I was able to give them useful information as to Marshal Balbo's attitude and his ardent wish for peace, of his admiration for everything British, and his dislike for everything German. I was able to demonstrate from what I had seen in Africa at least, Italy was quite unprepared for modern warfare.

I have never been in any way connected with a society called "St Georges Legion" or anything of a similar name. I have never been a member or associate of any Fascist organisation or organisations affiliated thereto or connected therewith. However, during my absence in America in 1935 British residents in Rome headed by Mrs Arthur Strong and Dr Moran formed a society called "Per Italia" the objects were non-political in general and were to

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My sole ambition has always been to cement Anglo-Italian friendship, as a thing apart from politics, and as a protection against German predominance in Europe. I have never at any time, received payment or expenses in any shape or form, nor any honours, nor decorations.

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Moreover I may say that my activities on behalf of Anglo-Italian friendship have cost me a great deal from my own pocket. In illustration of this, I must point out that in 1935 in order to finance my trip to America, without placing me under any obligation to anybody, my wife pawned her jewellery with Messrs Atterborough, London, for the sum of 500 pounds. The remainder of my expenses I raised through my bank. The jewellery was redeemed before the outbreak of War with Italy and is now at Atterborough's waiting collection. I have at no time received any official adverse comment upon my activities and certainly have received no intimation that my pension has been stopped, although I have drawn no pension since April 1940. The last communication which I had was from my bank manager Mr McEllen, National Provincial Bank, Ltd, Lincoln's Inn Branch, in reply to a letter from me offering help my pension for the period of the War to the British Treasury for War purposes, the other half to be given to my sister.

Neither my wife or I have at any time donated any money to any Fascist organization, British or foreign, nor to any political organization other than the Conservative Party. We have however, spent many thousands of lire to assist young Italians to escape from the Germans. I also helped to pay for the defence of Baynard MacDONNELL, a British subject charged by the Italians on 25th May 1940 with espionage and sentenced to 30 years imprisonment. I was able to use my influence in Court circles to avoid his paying the death penalty. Subsequently I assisted his British mother financially and otherwise. In Perugia my wife and I were also able to help financially former employees of the British Embassy. These were George ALFRED (half British parents) and his wife Ethel ALFRED (a British subject at birth) and his sister Miss ALFRED. I also did all that I could among British prisoners of War in hospital with me at Perugia.

I fully acknowledge the letter dated 17 May 1941, addressed to the Italian Minister of Interior (produced to me by Capt. Galea) in which I wrote at that time imploring the Minister to permit my wife to remain in Rome for an operation and let me stay with her. I enclosed doctors' certificates to show that for us to have left Rome for Perugia as we had been instructed, would have endangered her life. Anything which I may have said in that letter favourable to the Fascist Regime, can be attributed only to my desperate anxiety to get this concession for the sake of my wife's life. The reference in that letter to the sale of my wife's jewellery is quite inaccurate. The actual fact is that she merely pawned her jewellery with Messrs Atterborough (as mentioned earlier in my statement) to help pay for the expenses of my tour to America. From this we raised 500 pounds and the remaining 1300 pounds required by me was obtained by means of a loan from my bank and the sale of some of my shares. I cannot remember, at any other time during the War, except as above (and one other occasion when I wrote to CLANC to try to get my wife, her mother, and myself to Switzerland) having written any other letters to Italian authorities. Certainly not during the War I did not write any other letters coached in terms favourable to the Fascist Regime or in criticism of the British Government.

However, prior to 1938, I did have a certain amount of correspondence with Italian officials on the subject of the futility of their propaganda in America, my tour there against sanctions, and my subsequent refusal of any form of payment for expenses. During that time there was also some correspondence between myself and the Italian Ministry of Propaganda, and the Italian Embassy in London, to get an official acknowledgment from them of my renunciation of the money which they had offered me as expenses. The end of this correspondence, was a letter from ALFRED, stating that this sum of money had, as I requested, been donated to the Orthopaedic Hospital at ANICOLA. The letter ended to the effect that both the Duke and Alfiere had always realized that everything I had done in the matter of propaganda, had been done by me in the interests of my own country, as a loyal

to my sister.

Neither my wife or I have at any time donated any money to any Fascist organization, British or foreign, nor to any political organization other than the Conservative Party. We have however, spent many thousands of lire to assist young Italians to escape from the Germans. I also helped to pay for the defence of Baynard MacLellan, a British subject charged by the Italians on 25th May 1940 with espionage and sentenced to 30 years imprisonment. I was able to use my influence in court circles to avoid his paying the death penalty. Subsequently I assisted his British mother financially and otherwise. In Perugia my wife and I were also able to help financially former employees of the British Embassy. These were George LAMM (half British parents) and his wife Ethel LAMM (a British subject at birth) and his sister Elise LAMM. I also did all that I could among British prisoners of war in hospital with me at Perugia.

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had

I have ~~an~~ no account (operative) since Italy came into the War, and this also applies to my wife.

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Previously however, we had a joint account at Banca COMMERCIALE, Piazza d'Esplanade - Via Propaganda - Rome. Also there is a Safe Deposit Box in my wife's name at Banca Commerciale Italiana - Via Plebiscito - Piazza Venezia - Rome. The keys however, were requested by the Italian Government shortly after the outbreak of war. To the best of my belief this box contains nothing but two ivory fans. Although the box was in my wife's name, the contents belonged to her mother, and included some jewellery. The bulk of the contents were removed before requisitioning, at my advice and handed over to the rest of her jewellery, to my daughter - Contessa da Schio - to avoid the Fascists seizing it. Amongst the documents in the box which I left at Perugia, is a letter written by General BELLONI, Italian Commander of Perugia Area, at the time of the Armistice thanking me, and accepting my offer of services as liaison with British authorities. This officer paid me an official visit at Drufani's Hotel on 10th September 1943.

Adverting to what I have already stated regarding my correspondence with Italian Officials, I should like to add that I now remember that at the time of the Russo-Finnish War, having the request of two distinguished Swedish ex-diplomats (one of whom - Baron RONNE - was a friend of mine for 25 years) written a letter to the Minister of Popular Culture, asking to pass the Duce a petition from the two Swedish gentlemen, asking for his intervention in the Russo-Finnish War for the sake of Sweden. I don't remember the name of the Swedish ex-diplomat, neither do I remember whether the petition ever reached the Duce.

This statement has been read over to me by Capt. M.V. Gale, alterations have been made (and initialled by me) where necessary, and I certify this statement to be true.

3rd. July 1944.

Cyril Rocks.

Statement taken down and read over, and signatures witnessed by me.

Louis. V. Gale. Captain.
HQ. A.C.C. - Security Branch.

140 J *File*
HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
SECURITY BRANCH
A.P.O. 394

18 July 1944

I Cyril Roche Lt. Colonel (R) hereby undertake
to make no attempt to leave the Clinica Bastianelli 277
Viale Regina Margherita, Rome, except under the direction
or permission of Security Branch HQ. ACC. I shall receive
no visitors other than my wife.

Cyril Roche

Lt.Col. (Ret)

CONFIDENTIAL

C O P Y

ROUTINE
BR CIPHER MESSAGE
INFOLIO 16266
25 JUNE 44TOO 251003
TOR 260950FROM FREEDOM SIGNED SACMED
TO ADV AAI
F 64136 CITE FHGBI

CASE 568 CENTRAL SECURITY WAR BLACKLIST LIEUT COL CYRIL EDMUND ROCKE. HE HAS BEEN SALARIED PROPAGANDIST FOR ITALIAN GOVERNMENT SINCE 1933. VISITED TRIPOLI AS THEIR GUEST 1940. BROADCAST FROM ITALY JULY 1940. ALLEGED TO HAVE JOINED TENEGADE ST GEORGES LEGION. HAS BEEN DEPRIVED OF PENSION FOR BROADCASTING ACTIVITIES. HE IS REPORTED TO HAVE GREETED BRITISH TROOPS IN PERUGIA. HE SHOULD BE ARRESTED AND ALL EVIDENCE COLLECTED FROM PERSONAL PAPERS AND BANK ACCOUNTS. BROADCASTING RECORDS SHOULD SEARCHED FOR CONFIRMATION AND DETAILS OF BROADCAST

GSI(b)

1 ACTION

SMC ADV 1040B/26
T. T. 1140B/26
JMC

8

C O P Y

Headquarters
Allied Armies in Italy CMT

June 27 1944

1. Please inform Colonel Cyril Rocke that I have received his letter and memorandum of June 25th.
2. At the moment and under the present circumstances connected with the investigation of his case, no useful purpose would be served by my granting the Colonel an interview - in fact it might confuse the issue and do harm.
Full justice must be done, in his country's interest and in his own.
3. The Colonel must be treated with the respect and consideration due to his position until final judgement has been passed.

H. R. ALEXANDER.
General

EXTRACT FROM CENTRAL SECURITY WAR BLACK LIST.

CASE NO. 588.

Lt. Col. Cyril Edmund A.S. ROCKE.
(Formerly Cyril Edmund A.S. CURRIE).

Source : British.

7.40 in Rome. Last known address. Palazzo Sernoneta,
Monte Savello, ROME.

Born 7.9.73 at KASHMIR.

Nationality: British, Passport No. 1506/30/ROME/11.4.30

Occupation: Formerly in Irish Guards. Military Attache in ROME, 1918-20.

Description: Swashbuckling type.

Italian Propagandist.

Refuse all facilities. Report to C.S. at once.

3.11.40.

C.S. Ref. PF.44286/
3.17c.

MEMORANDUM

The undersigned British subject, Lt. Colonel C.E.A.S. Roche, a retired officer of H. B. M. Army, now interned in Italy as an enemy citizen, presents his compliments to H.E. The Swiss Minister in charge of British Interests in Italy and will be grateful if the attached three letters may be kept in safe custody at the Swiss Legation in Rome during the period of the war. In the event of Colonel Roche's death before the end of the war, he would be grateful if the letters may be sealed and forwarded to the address indicated, as soon as may be possible after the Armistice. The three letters, which have been left open, are identically the same; each letter contains a signed copy of the statement attached to this memorandum. The letters are respectively addressed to the following persons:-

- (1) His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Foreign Office, London.
- (2) Charles Hutchinson, Esq.,
Messrs Hutchinson & Buchanan, Solicitors,
Ripon, Yorkshire, England.
- (3) M.D. La Contessa da Schio
Villa da Schio
Costozza di Vicenza, Italy.

Note: - Mr. Charles Hutchinson is Lt. Colonel Roche's cousin and the Contessa da Schio is his only daughter.

C.F.A.S. Rocks, a retired officer of H. B. M. Army, now interned in Italy as an enemy citizen, presents his compliments to H.B. The Swiss Minister in charge of British Interests in Italy and will be grateful if the attached three letters may be kept in safe custody at the Swiss Legation in Rome during the period of the war. In the event of Colonel Rocke's death before the end of the war, he would be grateful if the letters may be sealed and forwarded to the address indicated, as soon as may be possible after the Armistice. The three letters, which have been left open, are identically the same; each letter contains a signed copy of the statement attached to this memorandum. The letters are respectively addressed to the following persons:-

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Note: - Mr. Charles Hutchinson is Lt. Colonel Rocke's cousin and the Contessa da Schio is his only daughter.

STATEMENT

On April 30, 1943, I was officially informed by the Swiss Legation in charge of British Interests in Italy that the application I had made in my letter dated April 7, 1943, to be repatriated together with my wife, Mrs. Elizabeth L. Rocks, had been refused by the British Government.

I respectfully protest against this decision of the British Government which from previous correspondence I can only presume to have been arrived at for political reasons. I have no knowledge of what the charge against me may be.

With reference to my pre-war political activities I beg to make the following statement. From the spring of 1935 to September 3, 1939, I considerably opposed, in what I earnestly believed to be the interests of my country, the Foreign Policy of the British Government except for a short period in 1938 when Mr. Neville Chamberlain was Prime Minister. On August 8th, 1938, I was, with Mr. Chamberlain's approval, especially selected to convey a message of goodwill to Signor Mussolini from some seventy of the Prime Minister's personal friends and admirers in the House of Commons. The Prime Minister was fully informed by Sir Philip Dawson M.P. of my political activities during 1935-36-37 in the matter of the Policy of Sanctions and of my pro-Franco propaganda during the Spanish Civil War and furthermore he directed me to convey the message direct to Signor Mussolini and not through the usual diplomatic channels which I would have preferred to do. The real object of this visit to Mussolini was to find out unofficially what chance there was of his breaking off his alliance with Germany and what his price would be. This I ascertained the day after I had seen Mussolini (August 8, 1938) from his son-in-law Count Ciano the Foreign Minister. The price was (1) that Italy should be allowed to purchase 25 per cent of the Suez Canal shares with proportionate representation on the board - (2) that Italy should be allowed to purchase the majority of the shares of the Jibouti-Addis Ababa railway - (3) that the British Government should bring pressure to bear on France to allow the ninety thousand Italians in Tunis to have a free vote and to teach their own language in the schools. The British Government did not see its way to opening negotiations on this basis. On the conclusion of my mission Sir Philip Dawson M.P., Chairman of the Anglo-Italian Parliamentary Committee wrote me the following letter:-

My dear Colonel Rocks,

House of Commons
August 24, 1938.

As Chairman of the Anglo-Italian Parliamentary Group, may I say how much I appreciate the splendid work you have done for the cause we all have at heart and which has made it possible for our Group to be of real service.

I respectfully protest against this decision of the British Government which from previous correspondence I can only presume to have been arrived at for political reasons. I have no knowledge of what the charge against me may be.

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Your patriotism and the generous way in which you spend your time and money in working for our

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country is wonderful and I am very proud that I should be able to co-operate with you in your effort to bring about the resumption of the old friendship between Italy and Great Britain which, as the Prime Minister has rightly said, is the corner stone of our great policy for the maintenance of peace.

With kindest regards
Yours sincerely

(Signed) PHILIP DAWSON
Chairman of the Anglo-Italian Parliamentary Group.

To the best of my ability I continued to uphold the Prime Minister's Policy of Peace until after the agreement of Munich. At the end of August 1938 together with other British representatives of the Anglo-German Fellowship I went to Nuremberg as the guest of the German Government and during the three weeks I was in Germany I sent several unofficial reports on the military strength and political feeling in Germany to Sir Horace Wilson, K.C.B., the Prime Minister's Principal Private Secretary, at the latter's request. When I realised the "Peace of Munich" was doomed to failure I opposed that section of the British press which seemed to wish to make the public believe that war was inevitable over the question of Danzig and the Polish Corridor. The Anglo-German Fellowship was dissolved automatically on the outbreak of war. I had been proposed as member of this society by Lord Clive and Mr. Edward Tennant who were also present at the Nuremberg Festival. So much for my pre-war political activities. I was a friend of Lord Lipkys and a member of the Navy League and an ardent subscriber to a Society for increasing the British Air Force.

On September 3, 1939, when Great Britain declared war against Germany I was in Lausanne and I immediately telegraphed to the War Office and the Air Ministry offering my services in any capacity. These offers which I renewed again and again during the ensuing 8 months, were only declined because of my age, 63 years. I have the official replies of the War Office and the following is a copy of the last letter I received from England before the outbreak of war in June 1940:-

Air Ministry (Dept. C.A.)
King Charles Street
Whitehall, S.W.1.
12th May, 1940

Dear Hannon,

I write with reference to your letter to me of the 25th April, with which you sent me one received from Colonel Cyril Rocks, who is anxious to rejoin the Royal Air Force. 3

I have made very full enquiries about this, but I am sorry to say he is, unfortunately, much above the age limit for any sort of employment either in a flying capacity or even

peace.

With kindest regards
Yours sincerely

(Signed) PHILIP DAWSON
Chairman of the Anglo-Italian Parliamentary Group.

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I much regret that I am unable to suggest anything for him with the Air Forces. We all admire his great spirit and his pluck, and I am indeed sorry that it is not possible to offer him an appointment.

Yours sincerely
(Signed) HAROLD BALFOUR

Sir Patrick Hannon M.P.
St. John's House
Smith Square, S.W.1.

I had returned to Italy from Switzerland at the end of 1939. During the winter of 1939 I was the guest of Marshal Balbo in Tripoli for six weeks. He flew me over 5000 miles of North Africa and I travelled all along the coast road from Tripoli to Tobruk by car. Marshal Balbo was very much opposed to Italy's entry into the war. He disliked the Germans and liked the British.

In June 1940 when I knew there was no possible chance of being able to serve my country in England because of my age I decided to remain in Italy. This decision, which was perhaps unwise, was actuated by the knowledge that my wife was in no state of health to undergo an arduous journey and we both wished to be near our daughter during her first confinement which was due to take place in June.

At the end of June I committed what afterwards transpired to be an unwise act, inasmuch as I made of my own free will a broadcast in English stating that British subjects beyond military age still remaining in Rome were being well treated and that their relations need have no fear for their safety. I further stated that I was a loyal British subject and only debarred from serving my country because I was too old. I never realised the harm I had done by this seeming innocuous statement made in good faith till an American official attached to the Swiss Legation informed me that I was reported to be Sir Oswald Mosley's agent in Italy and had been making weekly broadcasts against my own country. I denied these accusations and I think I convinced Mr. Perkins that there was no truth in them and that I was a loyal British subject. Incidentally I never even knew Mosley and have never been a member of any Fascist organisation in any country. I had been however like many far more prominent Englishmen an admirer of Mussolini's until June 10th, 1940. My wife and I were arrested by the Italian police early in July 1940 and strictly interned.

I can only conclude that my so-called pro-Italian sympathies during the sanctions period, even though they were actuated by what I earnestly believed to be a patriotic desire to serve British interests and to prevent Italy being driven into a continental alliance inimical to those interests, when taken in conjunction

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I can only conclude that my so-called pro-Italian sympathies during the sanctions period, even though they were actuated by what I earnestly believed to be a patriotic desire to serve British interests and to prevent Italy being driven into a continental alliance inimical to those interests, when taken in conjunction with my unfortunate broadcast of June 21, 1940, and the fact that I elected to remain in Italy and did not apply for repatriation until the death of my wife's mother, Mrs. Louise B. Iddings, an

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American citizen aged 83 years on March 30th of this year 1943, have induced the British Government to deny to my wife and myself the right of repatriation. I respectfully protest against this decision and particularly do I do so in so far as it concerns my wife, who however unwise I may have been, is entirely innocent of any indiscretion whatsoever.

If I had been a Fascist agent as I was accused of being or in any way inimical to my country it is hardly credible that I should have been arrested and deprived of my passport and interned with my wife at the commencement of the war. It is true that owing to the dangerous state of my wife's health we were subsequently allowed to return to Rome for an urgent operation in a hospital. It is also true that since my wife's recovery 8 months ago we have been allowed to remain in Rome but this we were allowed to do only because my wife's mother was dying and could not be moved even to a hospital. Immediately after Mrs. Iddings' death ten days ago we were informed by the Police authorities that we were again to be sent away from Rome to Perugia, our original place of internment. We have always been under strict police surveillance.

One of my chief reasons for seeking repatriation and so voluntarily separating myself, perhaps for ever, from my only child, was to obtain an official inquiry into the accusations referred to above. As repatriation is to be denied us I can only reaffirm that my wife and I have always been loyal British subjects and if I survive the war it is my earnest desire to clear my good name at all costs. If I have been guilty of disloyalty then I deserve the severest penalty; and if I am not guilty, my character ought to be cleared as a matter of common justice. If on the other hand I fail to survive the war I am certain my wife and daughter will defend my honour by any legal means that they may be advised to employ.

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