

ACC 10000/143/2558

140/03B

PERSONALITIES REG. III

(WINE CASE)

Feb. - May 1944

HEADQUARTERS
REGION 3, ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394 - US ARMY

14 May 1944

R/3039

MEMORANDUM:

TO : Regional Control & Military Government Section
Headquarters, Allied Control Commission
ATTENTION: Executive Commissioner

1. On the basis of talks I have had with Lt. Colonel Borg and with the Commissario Prefettizio of the Hotel Excelsior, the attached letter from Lt. Colonel Borg dated May 3, 1944 and the attached letter from the Commissario Prefettizio of the Hotel Excelsior dated May 9, 1944.

2. I recommend that the case be closed.

Charles Poletti

CHARLES POLETTI
Lt. Colonel
Regional Commissioner

CP/pm

INCL: 2

Letter from Col. Borg
3 May 1944
Letter from Commissario Prefettizio
9 May 1944

2.

*I agree.**MM 16/5/44**17/5*

*NO FURTHER ACTION - Return file
to Sec Br.*

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Confidential.Lieut.Colonel Foletti.

Naples, 3rd.May 1944

Reference interview this morning and Brigadier Lush's letter addressed to you, letter No. 99/249/CA dated 20 April 1944:-

Para 1. If my position in connection with the cellar at the Excelsior Hotel, Naples, can be called that of a wine merchant, it was assigned to me by Lt.Col. KRAEGE, in detail, and I was merely carrying out his instructions to the letter throughout.

- Para 2. (a). All the wine etc. removed by me has been accounted for, paid, and money received by the Hotel through the Banca Commerciale Italiana, Agenzia No. 6. A list of all transactions was given by me to Captain Fielders some time back.
- (b) The position of wine dealer was surrendered by me towards the middle of February 1944 when the Hotel Management were told that no further withdrawals of liquors were likely to be made until the opening of the Hotel for Allied Officers. There will be no further control on the remaining stock.
- (c) As far as I am concerned, and also as far as Engineer Platania and Mr. Rubini are concerned, the whole matter is as clean as can be. It was thoroughly investigated by Lt.Col. the Lord Forester in the presence of the above mentioned gentlemen; He was satisfied that the whole matter was above board, and stated so in my presence to Captain Fielders sometime in late March or early April.

The Enclosure

Lieut.Colonel.R.M.A.

HEADQUARTERS.

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION.

Security Branch.

13th April, 1944.

SUBJECT:- Disposal of wine from the Excelsior Hotel.

Ref.No :- SP/3II.5/I40.03.

TO :- Colonel A.E.Young, Director - Security Branch.

1. I have to report that the Excelsior Hotel, Naples, is owned by the Compagnia Italiana dei Grandi Alberghi of Venice. It was damaged by a bomb in August, 1943, and then set on fire by the retreating Germans when they left Naples.

2. Giovanni RUBINI, who says he was the Company's manager in this City, remained behind when the Allies entered Naples, but none of the directors are in liberated Italy. Michele PLATANIA, a consulting engineer, who had done work for the company for 40 years, although not an actual employee of the company, also remained behind in Naples. Together they are trying to get the hotel repaired and running again. PLATANIA has been granted powers as "Prefectural Commissioner" for the company and now operates the company's banking account in Naples.

3. In October, 1943, when the Allies entered Naples there was a large stock of undamaged wine in the cellar of the Excelsior Hotel. One day soon afterwards, an Italian named Aloschi and an Allied Major came and saw RUBINI. They said they were going to open a club and as they knew the cellar of the hotel was full of wine, wanted to buy it, otherwise they said it would be requisitioned. RUBINI refused to sell the wine without an official order from the Allied Military Government, and the two men left.

4. A few days later on the 24th October, 1943, RUBINI and PLATANIA went to the Municipio and saw Col. KRAEGER. They went to him for advice, as in their eyes he was the Governor of the town. They asked him the four following questions:-

(a) If matters not of prime necessity for the prosecution of the war can be requisitioned? Col. KRAEGER replied "No".

(b) Can liquor be sold under Allied Law? Col. KRAEGER replied "Yes".

(c) Can we sell our stock? Col. KRAEGER replied, "Yes".

(d) Am I forced to sell to these two people, or have my stock requisitioned? Col. KRAEGER replied, "No".

5. Col. KRAEGER told them he would like to see Aloschi and the Major, and he told them to go back and make an inventory of the wine. They returned in a few days and

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 - (d) Am I forced to sell to these two people, or have my stock requisitioned? Col. KRAEGER replied, "No".
5. Col. KRAEGER told them he would like to see Aloschi and the Major, and he told them to go back and make an inventory of the stock of wine. Both men returned again in a few days and Col. KRAEGER, Aloschi being present. Col. KRAEGER told Aloschi that they could not sell the wine, and also that an inventory was being made to him.
6. When the inventory was completed RUBINI and PLATANIA returned and handed Col. KRAEGER a complete list of the wine. He handed it to Lt. Col. BORG, who was present for the first time. RUBINI had divided the wine into four parts, as he wished to sell some to three other hotels in order to raise money to pay for the repairs of the hotel. But he wished to retain a fourth portion for use in the Hotel. RUBINI, whose statement is attached and marked "A" says he was told again not to dispose of the stock.
7. Later RUBINI returned alone and saw Lt. Col. BORG, who told him that he did not want the stock of wine sold to the other three Hotels.

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8. RUBINI says Lt. Col. BORG said the wine was now frozen and would be sold to Allied Officers at fixed prices. It was arranged that Lt. Col. BORG would give Officers notes, signed by him, to present at the Excelsior Hotel, authorizing them to have the amount of wine specified in the notes. The Officers would pay Lt. Col. BORG, who would then place the money into the Company's Banking Account.

9. On 10th December, 1943, an interview took place between Lt. Col. BORG and RUBINI. Col. KRAEGER was not present according to RUBINI. Lt. Col. BORG gave RUBINI details of the prices Allied Officers were to be charged per bottle. RUBINI says he pointed out that the prices were far too low, and only about one quarter of the price then ruling in Naples. He says he told Lt. Col. BORG that much of his wine was old and most valuable, and could not possibly be replaced at the price it was going to be sold at to Officers. RUBINI says he tried to get out of this arrangement, but could not do so. PLATANIA, whose statement is marked "B", confirms what RUBINI says about these interviews and arrangements.

10. On one occasion PLATANIA told Lt. Col. BORG that he was afraid some of the wine was being stolen as the premises were badly damaged. Lt. Col. BORG asked if he would like a guard and PLATANIA said he would and the next day 12 soldiers arrived and guarded the hotel for about one month.

11. Wines and Spirits were drawn regularly from the Excelsior Hotel commencing on the 17th November, 1943. According to RUBINI, except for the first three consignments, which took place on the 17th, 18th and 30th November, 1943, he always received notes signed by Lt. Col. BORG from the Officers fetching the wine. RUBINI has these notes in his possession now.

12. On the 17th and 18th November, 1943, RUBINI was present when the wine was withdrawn and made a record of what was removed. He has sent to Lt. Col. BORG, copy attached marked "E", a list of all the wines and spirits withdrawn on the 17th and 18th November, 1943, and from the 5th December, 1943, onwards, for which he holds notes. He is quite satisfied that the list is complete, save for the wines and spirits removed on the 30th November, 1943.

13. On 30th November, 1943, RUBINI went home in the afternoon taking the key of the cellar with him. According to Emanuel PINI, the portiere, and Pietro PICCARI, the caretaker, whose statements are marked "C", Lt. Col. BORG arrived at the Excelsior Hotel shortly after dark with a truck. When he found that the cellar door was locked and the key not available, he ordered the cellar door to be forced. This was done by Nicholas Anthony LOMBARDI, whose statement is marked "D", then a corporal and now a private. The two Italian employees were present at the time. A quantity of wines and spirits were carried out and put in the truck, but neither of the two Italians made a record of what was removed.

14. The cellar door could not be locked for the night and em

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14. The cellar door could not be locked for the night and employees packing cases were placed against it. The two Italian employees say they marked the position of these cases. In the morning they found that they had been disturbed, which suggested that someone had entered the cellar during the night, but the employees cannot say if any of the stock was missing. Lombardi and two others members of the guard, who I have interviewed, deny stealing any of the stock, or entering the cellar during the night. When RUBINI arrived in the morning he was told what had occurred by the two Italians. He examined the cellar door and saw that it had been forced.

15. I have examined the cellar door myself and find that it bears signs of having been forced.

16. When the guard was withdrawn after about one month each man was given one bottle of whisky free, on Lt.Col.BORG's orders.

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17. RUBINI sent three letters to Lt. Col. BORG, dated 21st December, 4th January, and 19th ~~XXXX~~ February, 1944, copies marked "J" to Lt. Col. BORG, asking for notes to cover the wine withdrawn on 17th 18th and 30th November, 1943, and confirmation of the prices fixed by Lt. Col. BORG on the 10th December, 1943. Lt. Col. BORG replied by letter, dated 22nd February, 1944, copy marked "G". No mention is made in this letter of notes to cover the wine taken away on these three dates and the price to be paid per bottle by Officers.

18. Lt. Col. BORG has paid 213,800 lira into the Banking Account of the Company, and has a further balance of 9,000 lira, which has probably been paid into the Bank by now, making a total of 222,800 lira.

19. Lt. Col. BORG has supplied me with a list of all the wines and spirits sold to each Officer, cost per bottle, and total, which amounts to 222,800 lira. Copy of list marked "H".

20. RUBINI has taken another inventory of his stock and has supplied me with ONE LIST ONLY, marked "J", which sets out the stock ~~XXXX~~ as per his inventory of 12-II-43, the stock as per his inventory of 30-3-44, and the difference. The figures actually are:-

12-II-43. 12034 bottles.

30-3-44. 10330 bottles.

Difference 1704 bottles, which includes four broken bottles.

21. No Allied Officer has checked the stock in the cellar, either in the first place or in March, 1944. RUBINI says it took him eight days to complete the last inventory.

22. The present position, leaving out 7 Fausti and 2 Damigiane, about which there is no disagreement, is as follows:-

RUBINI. Bottles.
(a) Shortage as shown by his two inventories.
Document marked "J".

1700.

(b) From the list kept by him of all the stock withdrawn, except on the 30-II-43.
Document "H". (He accepts this figure except for stock taken on 30-II-43.)

1041.

Lt. Col. BORG.

(c) Withdrawals as set out in his letter of 22nd February, 1944. Marked "G."

1206.

(d) Detailed list of all wine supplied to each Officer, Document "H".

1202.

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12-II-43. I2034 bottles.

30-3-44. I0330 bottles.

Difference I704 bottles, which includes four broken bottles.

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RUBINI.

(a) Shortage as shown by his two inventories.
Document marked "H".

(b) From the list kept by him of all the stock withdrawn, except on the 30-II-43.
Document "E". (He accepts this figure except for stock taken on 30-II-43.)

Lt.Col.BORG.

(c) Withdrawals as set out in his letter of 22nd February, 1944. Marked "G."

(d) Detailed list of all wine supplied to each Officer, Document "H".

23. Which figure is correct it is impossible to say, but RUBINI is satisfied that I041 bottles have been removed, together with an unknown quantity on 30th November, 1943. Perhaps Lt.Col.BORG's figure of I262 includes the stock removed on that occasion when the door was forced.

24. RUBINI's shortage of I700 bottles (not counting the four broken bottles) appears to be inaccurate due to (1) mistakes in the counting of the stock, and (2) thefts by civilians before the guard was mounted and then thefts by the guard. If it is accurate, however, then a very great deal of wine must have been removed on the night of the 30th November, 1943.

25. Finally I would add that RUBINI and PIATANIA went quite voluntarily to the Municipio to seek the advice of Col. KRAEGER,

Bottles.

I700.

I041.

I206.

~~I262~~
I262.

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otherwise the existence of this stock of wine might never have been known to members of Region 3. RUBINI and PLATANIA both say their chief object was to raise money to pay for the repair of the hotel. Their stock was not requisitioned, but frozen, and then sold at a price much below that which they could have obtained if they had sold it in open market.

26. Attached hereto are statement sent by PLATANIA, marked "KN", and RUBINI, marked "LN", to Lt. Col. Lord Forester, Region 3. Also a file of papers, marked "LN", received from Lt. Col. Lord Forester.

Richard Forester

Captain,
Security Branch.

26. Attached hereto are statement sent by PLATONIA, marked "W",
and RUBINI, marked "W", to Lt. Col. Lord Forester, Region 3.
Also a file of papers, marked "W", received from Lt. Col. Lord
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Richard Seiders

Captain.

Security Branch.

HEADQUARTERS.

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION.

Security Branch.

29th March, 1944.

Giovanni Rubini says:-

I live at Via Santa Lucia 133, Naples. I have been employed since 1927 by the Compagnia Italiana dei Grandi Alberghi, of Venice, the owners of the Excelsior Hotel. At the time of the Armistice, I was the Naples Branch Manager. The Excelsior is the only hotel owned by this Company in Naples, but they own many in different parts of Italy.

The Excelsior Hotel was damaged by a bomb in August, 1943, and set on fire by the Germans when they retreated from Naples. When the Allies arrived Signor Platania and I were the only two responsible persons connected with the company left in Naples.

One day late in October, 1943, an Allied Major, believed American, and Signor Aloschi came to the hotel. Aloschi is the proprietor of the Super Garage, Via Nazario Sauro, Naples. I saw them. Aloschi said they were going to open a club. He said he knew the cellars of the Hotel were full of wines and spirits, and that they wanted to buy the wines, otherwise the stock would be requisitioned.

I said that if I had an official order from the Allied Military Government I would do as I was told, but without an official order I would refuse to sell the stock. The Major gave his name as Major Mark. I do not know where he came from.

Two days afterwards I went with Signor Platania and saw Col. Kraege at the Municipio. We went to him for advice as he was the head of the Allied Military Government in Naples. It was the 24th October, 1943.

I said that two gentlemen had presented themselves at our hotel and said they would like, and had the intention of requisitioning all the wines at the hotel. I then asked Col. Kraege the following questions and said we should like to know exactly:-

- (1) If matters not of prime necessity for the prosecution of the war can be requisitioned? Col. Kraege replied, "No".
- (2) Can liquor be sold under Allied Law? Col. Kraege replied, "Yes".
- (3) Can we sell our stock? Col. Kraege replied, "Yes".
- (4) Am I forced to sell to these two people or have my stocks requisitioned? Col. Kraege said, "No".

He told me to make an inventory of the stock. He asked me to return to

of Venice, the owners of the Excelsior Hotel. I was the Naples Branch Manager. The Excelsior is the only hotel owned by this Company in Naples, but they own many in different parts of Italy.

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He told me to make an inventory of the stock. He said he would like to see Aloschi and Major Mark. I returned to the hotel and commenced to make an inventory of the stock, which I completed by the 12th November, 1943.

A few days after my first meeting with Col. Kraege I returned with Platania and again saw Col. Kraege. Aloschi was present. Col. Kraege told Aloschi that I was making an inventory of the wine and that I could not sell it. Aloschi attended as the result of a letter sent to him by Col. Kraege. Major Mark was not present, and I have never seen Aloschi or Major Mark again.

When I had completed my inventory I returned and saw Col. Kraege with Platania. Lt. Col. Borg was present for the first time. I handed Col. Kraege a list of the whole of the stock in our wine cellar, and he handed it to Lt. Col. Borg.

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I had split the stock of wine up into four parts with a view to disposing of it to raise money to pay for the repairing of the hotel. Lt.Col.Borg said that we were to leave the list with him and return in a few days. In the meantime we were not to dispose of the stock.

After a few days I returned and Lt. Col.Borg said that he did not want us to sell the wine to the other Hotels in the way we had proposed to do. He said he wanted us to keep the stock in the hotel, and that it had been decided that the hotel would be taken over for senior Allied Officers. Lt.Col.Borg said that if he wanted to assign wine to Allied Officers, or Allied Units, he would write out a note authorising the person presenting the note to have wine. Lt. Col.Borg said that the stock was now frozen.

I asked Lt.Col.Borg what price I was going to get per bottle for the different wines and spirits. He said I should be paid the official price. I said that the official price was too low. Lt. Col.Borg said that the prices had been stabilised by the Allies. He said it was war and that we must make sacrifices. I mentioned that we had wines 30 and 40 years old and that it was most difficult to fix prices for such wines, which were most valuable. My argument was in vain.

I did not want to enter into this agreement, but had to do so as I could not get out of it, as these Allied Authorities had all the power. I was told by Lt. Col. Borg that we should get the following prices for our wines:-

Vermouth Marsala	-	50 Lira.	per bottle.
Italian Liqueur	-	150 "	"
Whisky, Gin	-	300 "	"
Foreign Wines	-	100 "	"
Foreign Champagne	-	150 "	"
Italian Spumante	-	75 "	"
Port, Sherry, Malaga	-	100 "	"

I wrote down these prices in the presence of Lt.Col.Borg saying that they were too little. These prices were only about one quarter of the prices then being paid in Naples. If I am able to replenish my stock of wine I shall have to pay four or five times as much as these prices.

Col.Kraege was not present at this interview, which took place in Lt.Col.Borg's office on 10th December, 1943.

Lt. Col. Borg said that he would place all the money raised from the sale of wine into our Banking Account.

Wines and spirits have been obtained regularly from our cellar by Allied Officers. On 17th and 18th November, 1943, consignments were taken away. I have no note or receipt from Lt. Col. Borg for these two consignments, or a third consignment on 30th November, 1943. However I was present when the wine was removed on 17th and 18th November, 1943, and made a record of what was removed on these occasions. Lt.Col.Borg was also present.

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One the occasion of the 30th November, 1943, a truck was used after dark. That night I had the key of the wine cellar in my possession, and the cellar was left locked when I left to go home. In the morning I found that the cellar door had been broken open. My employees (Plini and Piccari) told me that Lt. Col. Borg arrived in a truck, with an interpreter named Frederici. Lt. Col. Borg gave orders for the door to be forced and then soldiers from the guard helped to fill the truck with wines and spirits.

I have received notes, and retained them, ~~ME~~ all other consignments of wine authorised to be removed by Lt. Col. Borg.

On 21st December, 1943, I wrote to Lt. Col. Borg asking for

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written confirmation of the prices I had had to agree to on 10th December, 1943, and for notes to cover the amount of wine removed on 17th, 18th and 30th November, 1943. I received no reply and wrote again on 4th January, 1944. Also a third letter on 19th February, 1944, when I received a reply, copy marked G, from Lt. Col. Borg, dated 22nd February, 1944.

The prices Lt. Col. Borg said we should be paid for wine when I saw him on 10th December, 1943, were about the price per bottle that we originally paid for the wine when we bought it. I cannot say what price we actually paid as our records have been destroyed in the fire caused by the Germans.

A total of 212,800 lira has been paid by Lt. Col. Borg into our Banking Account for the sale of wine.

Some thefts of wine may have taken place, having been committed by the guard, or possibly by civilians before the guard was mounted.

I gave Lt. Col. Borg a list of all the wine removed from our cellar, except the wine removed on 30th November, 1943, when I do not know what amount of wine was removed. Copy of list attached and marked E. I made the list up from the notes sent by Lt. Col. Borg with Officers fetching the wine, and from the records I kept of the wine removed from the cellar on 17th and 18th November, 1943. I gave this list to Lt. Col. Borg on 16th March, 1944.

This is a complete list of wine removed from our cellar, except for the 30th November, 1943. I am satisfied it is true and correct.

I produce a list, marked J, which sets out the wine as per my inventory of the 12th November, 1943, the wine now in stock, as per my inventory of the 30th March, 1944, and the difference. I have done the inventories myself and to the best of my knowledge and belief the figures are true and correct.

(Signed) Giovanni Rubini.

Statement made by Rubini, interpreted and read over in Italian to him by Lt. Carl E. Fehr. Security Branch, A.C.C. 29th March, 1944.

Col. Borg, dated 22nd February, 1944.

The privates Lt. Col. Borg said we should be paid for wine when I saw him on 10th December, 1943, were about the price per bottle that we originally paid for the wine when we bought it. I cannot say what price we actually paid as our records have been destroyed in the fire caused by the Germans.

A total of 213,800 lira has been paid by Lt. Col. Borg into our Banking Account for the sale of wine.

Some thefts of wine may have taken place, having been committed by the guard, or possibly by civilians before the guard was mounted.

I gave Lt. Col. Borg a list of all the wine removed from our cellar, except the wine removed on 30th November, 1943, when I do not know what amount of wine was removed. Copy of list attached and marked E. I made the list up from the notes sent by Lt. Col. Borg with Officers fetching the wine, and from the records I kept of the wine removed from the cellar on 17th and 18th November, 1943. I gave this list to Lt. Col. Borg on 16th March, 1944.

This is a complete list of wine removed from our cellar, except for the 30th November, 1943. I am satisfied it is true and correct.

I produce a list, marked J, which sets out the wine as per my inventory of the 12th November, 1943, the wine now in stock, as per my inventory of the 30th March, 1944, and the difference. I have done the inventories myself and to the best of my knowledge and belief the figures are true and correct.

(Signed) Giovanni Rubini.

Statement made by Rubini, interpreted and read over in Italian to him by Lt. Carl E. Fehr. Security Branch, A.C.C. 29th March, 1944.

HEADQUARTERS.

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION.

Security Branch.

28th March, 1944.

Michèle PIATANIA says:-

I am a Consulting Engineer and live at Parco Margherita 4, Naples. My office is at Via S. Lucia 173, Naples. From time to time during the past 40 years I have carried out work for the Società dei Grandi Alberghi d'Italia of Venice, the owners of the Excelsior Hotel.

This hotel was damaged by a bomb in August, 1943, and then set on fire by the Germans when they retreated from Naples at the end of September, 1943. When the Allies arrived in Naples on 1st October, 1943, Signor Rubini was the only senior member of the hotel staff remaining. He was head of the Administration.

When the Allies arrived I took upon myself the responsibility for the reconstruction of the hotel and of looking after the Company's interests.

One day at the end of October, 1943, a Signor Alongi or Alonchi called at the Excelsior Hotel with an Allied Officer. I do not know if the Officer was British or American. They saw Rubini and told him they must requisition wine in the Excelsior cellars. As soon as they had gone Rubini came and told me.

About 2 days afterwards Rubini and I went to see Colonel Kraege at the Municipio. We told Col. Kraege what had occurred, as I suspected everything might not be in order and the Officer's threat to requisition the wine not authorised. We asked what we should do. Col. Kraege said he did not know anything about it, but that he would like to see the Italian Alonchi and the Major. Col. Kraege wrote a letter to Alonchi asking him to call and see him at the Municipio at a certain time.

Col. Kraege told me not to move any of the stock of wine, but to return to see him at the time specified in his letter to Alonchi. Lt. Col. Borg was not present at this interview.

A few days afterwards I returned again to see Col. Kraege with Rubini at the appointed time. Alonchi was present, and spoke in English to Col. Kraege. I could not understand the conversation.

Col. Kraege told Rubini and I that nothing (meaning the wine) was to be touched or moved from the hotel, and that he was taking care of everything. I told Col. Kraege that I was proposing to sell part of the stock of wines to the S. Lucia and Vittorio hotels, and retain only a portion of the wine for the Excelsior. I told Col. Kraege that lists had been drawn up setting out how much wine was going to be sold to each hotel and how much retained. Col. Kraege asked me to let him have these lists.

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Col. Kraege told me not to move any of the stock of wine, but to return to see him at the time specified in his letter to Alonghi. It. Col. Borg was not present at this interview.

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55

My reason for selling some of the wine was to raise money for the repairing of the hotel, which was largely destroyed and quite unusable as an hotel.

Col. Kraege did not say that he was going to requisition the wine, but merely that it must not be moved.

A few days later I again saw Col. Kraege with Rubini and we took copies of the lists of wine, which we handed to Col. Kraege.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX Six or seven days later Rubini and I went again and saw Col. Kraege. Col. Borg was present at this interview for the first time, together with another officer, whose name I do not know.

-2-

Lt. Col. Borg had the list of wine which we had previously handed to Col. Kraege. Lt. Col. Borg told us that we must not touch the wine as it was now frozen. It was to be assigned by the Allied forces as required. Rubini asked what prices would be paid and Lt. Col. Borg said he would stabilize the prices.

I was not given anything in writing to say that our stock of wine was frozen and going to be used by the Allies.

Later Lt. Col. Borg came to look at the hotel and our stock of wine. I told Lt. Col. Borg that I was afraid some of the wine was being stolen as the premises were badly damaged and open to anyone to get in and reach the cellars.

Lt. Col. Borg asked me if I would like a guard and I said "yes." The next day 12 soldiers arrived and guarded the hotel for about one month, by which time repairs had been carried out to render the stock of wine safe. I did not have to pay for the guard or to feed them.

Rubini arranged with either Lt. Col. Borg or Col. Kraege that wine was only to be supplied to Officers who arrived with authorities signed by Lt. Col. Borg. I was not present on this occasion.

One day about the end of November, 1943, Lt. Col. Borg came and looked over the Hotel. Col. Kraege may have come as well, but I cannot now be certain. Lt. Col. Borg said they needed premises to accommodate senior Officers and required 85 rooms and about 100 beds. He looked round the hotel. He then said the premises seemed suitable and that the Allies would take the hotel over. Lt. Col. Borg confirmed this by letter.

Lt. Col. Borg arranged for me to see the Officer in charge of finance at the Banca d'Italia. I do not know if he was British or American. He listened to my story and sent me to the Banca Commerciale Italiana, where I was granted credits to finance the repairs of the hotel. I also had to go to the Prefect and obtain the necessary authorisation to exercise power as "Prefectural Commissioner" for the management of the Excelsior Hotel.

I have not received any money from Col. Kraege, Lt. Col. Borg, or any other Officer, except for the sale of wine, in order to assist me in carrying out the repairs to the hotel.

I have had nothing to do with the supplying of wine to Officers. Rubini has done this.

On three occasions I have received notification from Lt. Col. Borg and from the Bank, that money has been paid into our account for wine bought by Allied Officers. So far I have received 213,800 lire, all of which has been paid into our account.

I do not know how much Lt. Col. Borg charges for a bottle of

54

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On three occasions I have received notification from Lt. Col. Borg and from the Bank, that money has been paid into our account for wine bought by Allied Officers. So far I have received 213,800 lira, all of which has been paid into our account.

I do not know how much Lt. Col. Borg charges for a bottle of wine, whisky etc. I do not know what price per bottle the wine is sold at and we have nothing in writing as to the price to be paid. I was told that the wine was frozen and my hands were forced.

(Signed) Michele Platania.

Statement made by Michele Platania, interpreted and read over in Italian to him by Lt. Carl E. Fehr, Security Branch, A.C.C. on 29th March, 1944.

HEADQUARTERS.

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION.

Security Branch.

Ist April, 1944.

FLINI Emanuel says:-

I live at Vico II. Alabardieri 37, Naples, and I am employed at the Excelsior Hotel as a portiere.

About the end of November, 1943, about 5-0pm on afternoon, Lt. Col. Borg arrived with a truck. He came into the hotel and asked for Signor Rubini. I told him Rubini had just left for the day. It was dark at the time. Lt. Col. Borg said, "I have got to get into the cellar to get some wine out". I told him I did not possess the keys as Rubini had them. I told him that he would have to return in the morning. Lt. Col. Borg said that he could not return in the morning as he had work to do. There was a Major, an interpreter and some soldiers, part of the guard, with Lt. Col. Borg.

Lt. Col. Borg then said, "Come on. We want to go down." I then took them down the cellar. We went down with a candle and reached the cellar door. Lt. Col. Borg demanded that I opened the door to the wine cellar. I replied that I did not possess the keys.

Lt. Col. Borg then ordered a corporal to open the door. The Corporal then forced the door by bodily pressure, forcing the woodwork round the lock, which broke.

I then had to hold the candle whilst Lt. Col. Borg ordered the soldiers to carry out whisky, at least 40 bottles, about 40 bottles of Gin, a quantity of different wines, a case of Pelligrino containing 40 half bottles. Altogether 9 or 10 cases holding 200 or perhaps 250 bottles in all.

The Colonel ordered the soldiers to put the wine into the truck and to close the cellar door as best they could. He reminded them that at any rate there was a guard on the premises.

Lt. Col. Borg made notes upon a wine card whilst the men were carrying out the wine.

Piccari and I put empty wine cases against the cellar door for the night. In the morning I found that the wine cases had ~~been moved~~ been moved, as if someone had been inside the cellar during the night, but it was impossible to say if further wine was missing. Later a locksmith repaired the door.

This was the only time the cellar door was forced, and we always put packing cases in front of the cellar door in a certain way, and so could tell if they had been disturbed. Also Piccari and I put a thread across the top of the door, which would have been broken any night, if anyone had managed to open the door. This

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There was no other means of access to the cellar which had been walled up in August, 1943.

(Signed) E. Plin-i.

This statement has been read to me in Italian by Lt. Fehr/^{and} is the truth. I was with Plini on the occasion when the cellar was forced. I confirm this statement which is the truth.

(Signed) Piccardi Pietro.

Statement taken by me, read over and interpreted by Lt. Fehr.

(Signed) Richard Wielders. Capt.

HEADQUARTERS.

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION.

Security Branch.

II-4-44.

Nicholas Anthony LOMBARDI says:-

I am a Private in the American Army attached to C.A.S., which is a part of A.M.G.

During the month of November, 1943, I was in Region 3 A.M.G. at Naples. I spent almost the whole of this month doing guard duty at the Excelsior Hotel at Naples.

During the month I was on guard duty three lots of wine were removed from the cellar. Lt. Col. Borg came on the first occasion, and Major Smith came for the second and third consignments. Major Smith arrived with notes from Lt. Col. Borg.

On the occasion Lt. Col. Borg came, Rubini had gone home with the cellar key and the cellar door was locked. The caretaker, Pietro, did not possess a key. Lt. Col. Borg went down to the cellar door and ordered the caretaker to force the door, but he was not strong enough. Then Lt. Col. Borg ordered me to force the door and I did so by pushing it in by bodily pressure.

Lt. Col. Borg then got seven of us, all members of the guard, to carry out wine and whisky. I do not know how much was removed, Lt. Col. Borg made a list of it.

The caretaker came into the cellar with a candle, and the wine was carried up and put in a truck.

Afterwards I helped the caretaker and the other man employed there, to place a number of empty boxes in front of the cellar door for the night.

This forcing of the door took place on the first occasion that wine was removed when I was present.

I have no knowledge at all of any of the guard going into the cellar and stealing wine.

(Signed) Nicholas A. Lombardi.

Statement taken down by me, read over to and signed by Lombardi at Caserta at 1-50pm II-4-44.

(Signed) Richard Fielders.
Captain.

I am a Private in the American Army attached to C.A.S., which is a part of A.M.G.

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Statement taken down by me, read over to and signed by Lombardi at Caserta at 1-50pm II-4-44.

(Signed) Richard Fielders.
Captain.

17 Novembre 1943 Sig. Colon. BORG

8 Wisky Parke Lane
3 " White Horse
24 " Kincaid's
4 " Canadian Club
2 " Johnnie Walker
10 Gordon Dry Gin
6 Beaujolais

totale 57 bt.

18 Novembre 1943 Sig. Colon Kraege

1 Benedectine
1 Pippermint g. f.
2 Wisky Jonnie Walker
2 Recioto Valpolicella
2 Gordon Dry Gin
1 Wisky White Horse

totale 9 bt.

2 Dicembre 1943 Major Smith

4 Fusti VERMOUTH CINZANO ROSSO
2 DAMIGIANE MARSOUTH BANCIA ROSSO
3 FUSTI MARSALA WOODHOLSE

} tutta l'esistenza

145 bots Vermouth Cinzano Secco
13 " " Nolly Prat Francese
17 " " Cora Bianco
84 " " Martini secco
100 " " Marsala Florio orig. 1926
115/1 " " Champagne Delbech & C. E. 1919
81/2 " " small " " " "
198 Nierstneiner Vino del Reno

3 Dicembre 1943

3 Bt. Cognac Prunier
3 " Champagne Moet & Chandon sec
2 " Whisky Special Club Wilson

5 Dicembre 1943 Lt. M.A. Armstrong

5 Bt. Cognac Rene Briand

18 Novembre 1943 Sig. Colon Kraege

1	Benedectine	
1	Pippermint g. f.	
2	Wisky Jonnie Walker	
2	Peciotto Valpolicella	
2	Cordon Dry Gin	
1	Wisky White Horse	
		totale 9 bt.

2 Dicembre 1943 Major Smith

4	FUSTI VERMOUTH CINZANO ROSSO	)	tutta l'esistenza
2	DANIGIANE MARSOUTH BANCIA ROSSO	)	
3	FUSTI MAFSALA WOODHOUSE		
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2	" " Whisky Special Club Wilson	

5 Dicembre 1943 Lt. M.A. Armstrong

5	Bt. Cognac Rene Briand	
2	" " Rhum Negrita	
7	" " Gin Beefeater's	

9 Dicembre 1943

18	Bt. Citran Gran Vin Bordeaux rosso	
11	" " Whisky Special Club Wilson	

9 Dicembre 1943

2	Cognac Rene Briand	
---	--------------------	--

11 Dicembre 1943

7 Marsala Florio
2 Wisky special Club Wilson
2 Gin Beefeater's Cat

11 Dicembre 1943 Lt. Col. Finch

2 Whisky Wilson
2 Cognac Prunier
2 Rhum Negrita

14 Dicembre 1943

12 Chablis Village Borg. Bianco
12 Beaujolais Borg. Rosso
6 Whisky Wilson
3 Gin Beefeater's
2 Cognac Rene' Briand

14 Dicembre 1943

16 Bots. Champagne Veuve Cliquot Brut 1929

16 Dicembre 1943 Lt. Col. Nielson

6 Soave Superiore
2 Gin Beefeater
2 Whisky Wilson

21 Dicembre 1943 Major Gill

2 Cognac Rene' Briand

23 Dicembre 1943

1 Cognac Rene' Briand
6 Champagne Veuve Cliquot G. American

2 Cognac Premier
2 Rhum Negrita

14 Dicembre 1943

12 Chablis Village Borg. Bianco
12 Beaujolais Borg. Rosso
6 Whisky Wilson
3 Gin Beefeater(s)
2 Cognac Rene' Briand

14 Dicembre 1943

16 Ecots. Champagne Veuve Cliquot Brut 1929

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2 Whisky Wilson

21 Dicembre 1943 Major Gill

2 Cognac Rene' Briand

23 Dicembre 1943

1 Cognac Rene' Briand
6 Champagne Veuve Cliquot G. American

23 Dicembre 1943

2 Whisky Wilson

24 Dicembre 1943 (Federici)

12 Ch. Gancia Asti Spumante

7 Gennaio 1944

12 Marsala Florio

5 Whisky Club Wilson

13 Gennaio 1944

3 Whisky Club Wilson

26 Gennaio 1944

2 Whisky Wilson
2 Gin Seager's
12 Champagne Delbecq Brut 1914
3 Cognac Rene' Briand
1 Liq. Menta Sacco

29 Gennaio 1944 Gilardi

12 Marsala Florio
2 Cognac Rene' Briand
2 Kummel Allasch
2 Chartreuse gialla

23 Febbraio 1944

9 Ch. Gancia Riserva Reale
1 Cognac Rene' Briand

26 Gennaio 1944

2 Whisky Wilson
2 Gin Seager's
12 Champagne Delbech Brut 1914
3 Cognac Rene' Briand
1 Liq. Menta Sacco

29 Gennaio 1944 Gilardi

12 Marsala Florio
2 Cognac Rene' Briand
2 Rumle Allesch
2 Chartreuse gialla

23 Febbraio 1944

9 Ch. Gancia Riserva Reale
1 Cognac Rene' Briand

COPY

19th Febb. 1944

To The Colon. B O R G

A. M. G.

N A P L E S . .

Dear Sir,

Will Youmbe kind enough to give me a soon as possible the
 answers of mj two letters.
 It is necessaire for me for the book keeping.
 Thank You very much in advance
 Yours allways faithfully.

(G. Rubini,)

----- Naples 4st Gen. 1944 -----

Dear Colon. Borg.

Till today I am without any answer of my letter from the 21th.
 Dec. 1943.
 Please will You bee good enough to give me kindly coruse of the
 agreed on regulation.
 It is although necessarie to decide the quantity disposable of
 the Hotel Excelsior.
 It is necessary for myself that I am not dar coruse at the
 managment as You wish to have.
 Scusmi please, Dear Sir , will You kindly accept anticipation my
 thanks.
 I am Yours faithfully.

(G. Rubini)

----- Naples 21st Dec. 1943 -----

Dear Sir ,

It is necessarj for registering all my inventories, to have the
 list of the wines and liquors that were taken without any note on November
 17 th. , 18 th an 30 th 1943.
 I would like have also the list of prices that were agreallj with
 You fixed.
 If there is nothing in the contrary , beg you warmlj to let me have
 these two list, even as simple notes.
 I tank You verrj much in advance , sending You mj verrj best sincerslj
 wishes for a Merry Christmas.

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Yours respect full.

(G. Rubini)

48

C O P Y

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
NAPLES PROVINCE

MUNICIPIO

A.M.G., February 22, 44.
HQ. NAPLES

Mr. Rubini,

Via Santa Lucia,
Naples.

According to my records the following wines were withdrawn from
your cellar on various dates:

Benedictine	bottles	1	
Peppermint	"	1	
Whiskey	"	97	
Gin	"	62	
Valpolicella	"	2	
Chablis	"	24	
Beaujolais	"	16	
Rhum	"	19	
Bordeaux white	"	12	
Ve.m. Ital.	"	29	
Wiestreimer Rhine	"	198	
Cherry Brandy	"	4	
Marie Brizard	"	6	
Chateau Citran	"	30	
Gonzales	"	15	
St. Emilian	"	15	
Perrier Jouet	"	9	
Courvoisier	"	4	
Baesac	"	2	
Madeira	"	5	
Gancia Spumante	"	12	
Marsala	"	34	
Rene' Briand	"	15	
Kummel	"	2	
Chartreuse	"	3	
Prunier	"	7	
Moet & Chandon	"	9	
Graves Superieur	"	6	
Delbeck	"	167	1/2
Menta Sacco	"	1	
Veuve Clicquot	"	16	
San Pellegrino	"	24	
Fusti	"	4	47

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Via Santa Lucia,
Naples.

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ve.m. Ital.	"	29
Wiestreimer Rhine	"	19
Cherry Brandy	"	4
Marie Brizard	"	6
Chateau Citren	"	30
Gonzales	"	15
St. Emilian	"	9
Perrier Jouet	"	4
Courvoisier	"	2
Baesac	"	5
Madeira	"	12
Gancia Spumante	"	34
Marsala	"	15
Rene' Briand	"	2
Kummel	"	2
Chartreuse	"	7
Prunier	"	9
Moet & Chandon	"	6
Graves Superieur	"	167
Delbeck	"	1/2
Menta Sacco	"	1
veuve Clicquot	"	16
San Pellegrino	"	24
Cinzano	"	4
Gancia Rosso	"	4
Marsala Woodhouse	"	2
Cinzano secco	"	3
Noilly	"	14
Core	"	13
Martini	"	17
Marsala	"	84
	"	100

The total amount collected is 190.200 liras deposited with the Banca Italiana, Agenzia No. 6 plus 26.600 liras loose cash held by me and which will also be deposited to the a/c of Excelsior Hotel, Naples.

It is not reckoned that much stuff will be taken out of your cellar and I hope to be in a position to replenish most of the Vermouth before the Excelsior Hotel is re-activated.

S/ S.J. BORG;
T/ S.J. BORG.

STATEMENT OF SALES - EXCELSIORLt Col KRAEGE

Bots.	Rate	Amount	
1 Benedictine	300	300	
1 Peppermint	300	300	
2 Whisky	300	600	
2 Gin	300	600	
2 Valpolicella	100	200	
2 Whisky	300	600	
6 Chablis	100	600	
6 Beaujolais	100	600	
3 Whisky	300	900	
		<u>4.700</u>	4700

Lt Col BORG

2 Whisky	300	600	
1 Beaujolais	100	100	
2 Gin	300	600	
2 Whisky	300	600	
1 Whisky	300	300	
3 Vermouth	100	300	
3 Madeira	100	300	
3 Fort	100	300	
16 Veuse Cliquot	300	4.800	
3 Wisky	300	900	
9 Gancia	100	900	
1 Rene' Erland	300	300	
		<u>10.000</u>	10.000

Lt Col Doherty

2 Gin	300	600	
7 Whisky	300	2.100	
		<u>2.700</u>	2.700

Major Straus

7 Gin	300	2.100	
6 Whisky	300	1.800	
6 Rhum	200	1.200	
		<u>5.100</u>	5.100
		Carried	22.500

45

- 2 -

Major GRAY

Bt. Fd. 22500

<u>Qts.</u>		<u>Rate</u>	<u>Amount</u>	
4	Beaujolais	100	400	
12	Whisky	300	3.600	
12	Gin	300	3.600	
12	Bordeaux	100	1.200	
6	Vermouth	50	300	
2	Cherry Brandy	200	400	
6	Rhum	200	1.200	
5	Marie Brizard	300	1.500	
18	Chateau Citran	100	1.800	
			<u>14.000</u>	14000

Lt col KINCAID

4	Whisky	300	1.200	
2	Gin	300	600	
			<u>1.800</u>	1800

Offrs Mess Naples Province

14	Whisky	300	4.200	
2	Gin	300	600	
3	Porto	100	300	
2	Vermouth	50	100	
1	Rhum	200	200	
1	St. Emilion	100	100	
			<u>5.500</u>	5500

Offrs Mess 26 Posillipo

12	Chateau Citran	100	1.200	
12	Chablis	100	1.200	
9	Perrier Jouet	300	2.700	
12	Port	100	1.200	
12	Whisky	300	3.600	
12	Gin	300	3.600	
4	Courvoisier	300	1.200	
2	Cherry Brandy	200	400	
2	Vermouth	50	100	
			<u>15.200</u>	15200
			Carried	<u>59000</u>

44

Lt DI ANTONIO

3	Whisky	300	900	
2	Gin	300	600	
1	Rhum	200	200	
			<u>1.700</u>	1700
			Carried	<u>60700</u>

- 3 -

Lt AMORUSO

Bt.Fd. 60700

<u>Bots</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Amount</u>	
1 Marie Briard	300	300	
1 Gin	300	300	
2 Vermouth	50	100	
1 Rhum	150	150	
		<u>850</u>	850

Mrs TORRENE

2 Baesac	100	200	
1 Gin	300	300	
1 Vermouth	50	50	
2 Whisky	300	600	
3 St.Emilion	100	300	
1 Madeira	100	100	
		<u>1.550</u>	
12 Gancia	100	1.200	
		<u>2.750</u>	2750

Mr GILARDI

3 Gin	300	900	
3 Whisky	300	900	
6 Vermouth	50	300	
1 Marie Briard	300	300	
		<u>2.400</u>	2400

Capt GUIDETTE

6 Vermouth	50	300	
3 Whisky	300	900	
4 Vermouth	50	200	
		<u>1.400</u>	1400

Mr GILARDI (Cont:)

7 Marsala	100	700	
2 Whisky	300	600	
2 Gin	300	600	
12 Marsala	100	1.200	
5 Whisky	300	1.500	
3 Marsala	100	300	
12 Marsala	100	1.200	
2 Rene' Briand	300	600	
2 Kummel	300	600	
2 Charhouse	300	600	
		<u>7.900</u>	
		7900	
		<u>7600</u>	

Carried

43

- 4 -

Col MARSHALL

Et. Pd. 76000

<u>Bots</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Amount</u>	
3 Whisky	300	900	
3 Prunier	300	900	
3 Moet Chaudon	300	900	
2 Rene' Briand	300	600	
2 Whisky	300	600	
		<u>3.900</u>	3900

Lt W.A. ARMSTRONG for General?

5 Rene' Briand	300	1.500	
2 Rhum	150	300	
7 Gin	300	2.100	
		<u>3.900</u>	3900

Lt Col WINCH

4 Madeira	100	400	
11 St. Emilion	100	1.100	
2 Whisky	300	600	
2 Prunier	300	600	
2 Rhum	150	300	
		<u>3.000</u>	3000

Major GILL

2 Brandy	300	600	
----------	-----	-----	--

Major FIDDY

6 Chablis	50	300	
6 Beaujolais	50	300	
3 Whisky	300	900	
3 Gin	300	900	
2 Rene' Briand	300	600	
		<u>3.000</u>	3000

Lt Col NIELSON

6 Geaves	100	600	
2 Gin	300	600	
2 Whisky	300	600	
		<u>1.800</u>	
			1800
			Carried 92200 42

- 5 -

A Mess 46 Div.

Bt.Fd. 92200

<u>Bots</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Amount</u>	
1 Rene' Briand	300	300	
6 Moet Chandon	300	1.800	
		<u>2.100</u>	2100

Lt Col WARREN

2 Whisky	300	600	
2 Gin	300	600	
12 Delbech	300	3.600	
3 Rene' Briand	300	900	
1 Menta Sacco	300	300	
		<u>6.000</u>	6000

Major SMITH Allied Offrs Club

145 Vermouth	50	7.250	
13 Noilly	50	650	
17 Cora	50	850	
64 Martini Vermouth	50	4.200	
100 Marsala	50	5.000	
115 Delbech	300	34.500	
81 Delbech (small)	150	12.150	
198 Wiestreiner	100	19.800	
		<u>84.400</u>	84400

Major SMITH (Cont:)
Fusti

4 Cinzano Rosso	20.100
3 Woodhouse Marsala	12.300

Damigiane

2 Vermouth Gancia	5.700	
	<u>38.100</u>	38100

GuardBots

12 Whisky

Free - - Total 222800

Deposits:	16/12/43	62000
	18/12/43	125200
	23/2/44	26600
	1/4/44	9000
		<u>222800</u>

41

Compagnia Italiana dei Grandi Alberghi
 Amm. ALBERTO EXCELSIOR - NAPOLI
 Ufficio Prov.: Via Santa Lucia, 173

INVENTARIO "CANTINA" DELL'HOTEL EXCELSIOR DI NAPOLI

Assistenza
 el 12.11.943
 INTERE MEZZE
 Cessioni
 AMMANCHI
 ecc. del
 14.11.943
 el 30.3.44
 ESISTENZA ACCERTATA
 AL 30 MARZO 1944
 =====

VINI ITALIANI BIANCHI			
Scave superiore	25	76	
La Pieve di R. Jenni	1	1	
VINI ITALIANI ROSSI			
Valpolicella superiore	91	476	
idem idem idem		III	
Monte d'Ore		173	
Capri Tiberio	2	34	
Capri Scala	2	213	
Lacrima Christi Scala		60	
Talerno Rosso "	11	108	
idem idem		13	
Pilotico Vino speciale		12	
Reciotto di Valpolicella	10	50	
VINI DI BORDEAUX ROSSI			
Chateaux Letour		5	
idem Grand Laroze Serget		29	
idem Ducrè Beaucailon		3	
St. Julien 1919		3	
Chateaux Leoville Poyferré	1	27	
Grand Vin de Leoville Lasc. 14		1	
Chateaux Léoville Lasc. 920	15	268	
Chateaux Pichon Long. 1919	4	46	
Chateaux Pichon Longueville		2	
Chateaux Léoville Barton		2	
St. Julienne Grand Cru		3	
Chateaux P. Clement		274	

101	Seave superiore	25	76
2	La Pieve di H. Jenni	1	1
	VINI ITALIANI ROSSI		
567	Valpolicella superiore	91	476
	idem idem idem		111
173	Monte d'Oro		173
36	Capri Tibario	2	34
215	Capri Scala	2	213
60	Lacrima Christi Scala		60
119	Falerno Rosso "	11	108
	idem idem		13
	idem idem		12
12	Filottico Vino speciale		50
60	Reciotto di Valpolicella	10	
	VINI DI BORDEAUX ROSSI		
5	Chateaux Letour		5
29	idem Grand Larose Serget		29
3	idem Ducre Beaucillon		3
3	St. Julien 1919		3
28	Chateaux Leoville Poyferré	1	27
1	Grand Vin de Leoville Lasc. 14		1
283	Chateaux Léoville Lasc. 920	15	258
50	Chateaux Pichon Long. 1919	4	46
2	Chateaux Pichon Longueville		2
2	Chateaux Léoville Barton		2
3	St. Julien Grand Cru		3
274	Chateaux P. Clement		274
1	Chateaux Pontet Canet		1
7	Medoc		7
350	Chateaux Citron Gren Vin	42	308
	idem idem idem	26	387
		210	40

2386 537

2193

(PAGINA N° 2)

AL 12.11.1943

Intere mezze

GESTIONI BOG

ESISTENZA
ACQUANTATA
AL 30 MARZO
1944-----

segue Vini di Bordeaux Rossi

72	St. Julien	72
117	idem	117
127	Saint Estéphe	125
23	idem	23
324	Saint Emillion	508
83	idem	83
48	Chateau P.C.	46
123	Monopole Kressmann	119
19	Chateau Pontet Canet 1922	19
201	Chateau Pontet Canet 1923	201
5	Chateau La Dominique 1904	5
261	Chateau d'Armaillig Gren Vin	261
4	Chateau Lafotte	4
123	Chateau la Lagune Gren Vin	118
249	Chateau Brulac	244
55	VINI DI BORDEAUX BIANCHI	
7	Chateau de Saincerre	55
112	Chateau d'Yquem	7
79	Graves 1922	106
5	Graves Monopole Dry	73
2	Barsac 1920	5
	Barsac 1923	2
81	VINI DI BURGOGNA ROSSI	
3	Macon 1923	81
81	Macon 1923	3
7	Beaujolais	73
1	Moulin e Vent	7
12	Fleurie	1
	Aloxe Corton	12

127	Saint Estéphe	2	125
	idem		23
524	Saint Emilion	16	508
	idem		83
48	Chateau P.G.		48
123	Monopole Kressmann	4	119
19	Chateau Pontet Canet 1922		19
201	Chateau Pontet Canet 1923		201
5	Chateau Le Domenique 1904		5
261	Chateau d'Armaillig Gren Vin		261
4	Chateau Lafotte		4
123	Chateau La Lagune Gren Vin	5	118
249	Chateau Brulac	5	244
	VIN DE BORDEAUX BLANCHE		
55	Chateau de Saincerre		55
7	Chateau d'Yquem		7
112	Graves 1922	6	106
79	Graves Monopole Dry	6	73
5	Barsac 1920		5
2	Barsac 1923		2
	VIN DE LONGOCHIA ROSSI		
81	Macon 1923		81
3	Macon 1923		3
91	Beaujolais	18	73
7	Moulin a Vent		7
1	Fleurie		1
12	Aloxe Corton		12
4	Gren Chambertin 1918		4

29.15 123

2176

62

39

(PAGINA 1° 3)

AL 12.11.1943

INTERE MEZZE

ESISTENZA ACCLAR-
TATA IL 30 MARZO
1944. =====cessioni
ecc.

VINI DI BORGOGNA BIANCHI

2	Chablis Village 1918	2
1	Chablis Village 1920	1
15	Chablis Village 1923	3
21	Chablis 1920	9
6	Chablis 1923	5

VINI DELLA MOSELLA

5	Piesporter	38
10	Moselblümchen	10
	idem	2
133	Brauneberger	133
11	Montrachet 1915	11
	idem	3

VINI DEL RENO

198	Niersteiner	198
18	Rüdersheimer	2
37	Piesporter	Medi Mosella
27	Alsheimer-Caseler	27
	idem	37
12	Marcobrunner	12
29	Zentinger Schloss	29

CHAMPAGNE ITALIANE

3	Cinzano extra secco da 1/4 (per cocktails)	3
1469	Cinzano ASTI SPUMANTE	1469
28	idem	28
	idem	7
10	Cinzano Secco	12
	idem	8
8	Cinzano Riserva Pr. Piemonte	2
2	Cinzano extra secco	

Chablis 1920

Chablis 1923

VINI DELLA MOSELLA

Piesporter

Moselblümchen

idem

Brauneberger

Montrachet 1915

idem

VINI DEL RENO

Niersteiner

Rüdersheimer

Piesporter

Alsheimer-Caseler

idem idem

Marcoorunner

Zentinger Schloss

CHAMPAGNE ITALIANA

Cinzano extra secco da 1/4 (per cocktails)

Cinzano ASTI SPUMANTE

idem idem

Cinzano Secco

idem idem

Cinzano Riserva Fr. Piemonte

Cinzano extra secco

idem idem

15

21

6

5

10

133

11

198

18

37

27

12

29

3

1469

28

10

12

8

2

36

12

5

38

10

2

133

11

3

198

2

Wedt Moselle

27

37

12

29

3

1469

28

7

12

8

2

36

204 121

1904

207

38

(PAGINA N° 4)

AL 12.11.1943

INTERE NELLE

757

51

69

27

371

46

4

30

26

96

18

CHAMPAGNE FRANCOISI

1

2

6

2

30

115

4

3

3

98

Ernest Irroy demi sec

Ernest Irroy brut

DELBACH & C.1e

Sec gout Americain

Extras secco

idem idem

Brut 1914

idem

Brut 1919

idem

MOET & CHANDON

White star

Sec

MUN G. H. & C.

Tres sec

idem

ESISTENZA ACCOR-

TATA AL 30 MARZO

1944. =====

743

51

69

27

369

33

4

30

26

96

18.

1

2

6

2

54

18

27

=====

=====

=====

=====

=====

95

Quantity	Item	Unit	Price
27	idem	idem	27
371	Gancia Riserva Reale	2	369
46	idem	idem	33
4	Martini secco	13	4
30	Martini semi secco		30
26	Martini Lacrima Christi Spumante		26
96	Martini Riserva Montelera (spec.)		96
18	Scola Christi (Lacrima spec.)		18.
1	Ernest Irroy demi sec	1	1
2	Ernest Irroy brut	2	2
6	Sec gout Americain		6
2	Extras secco		2
55	idem	1	54
30	Brut 1914	12	18
27	idem		27
115	Brut 1919	115	=====
81	idem	81	=====
4	White star	4	=====
3	Sec	3	=====
3	Tres sec	3	=====
98	idem	3	95
22	Gordon rouge Tres sec 1933		22
40	Gordon Rouge Très sec		40
37	idem		37
11	Extras Dry		11
95	idem		95

AL 12.II.1943	(PAGINA N° 5)	MISSIONE	ESISTENZA ACCER
=====		1930.	TATA AL 30.3.
INTRE MLZ2L		=====	1944. = = = =
I	Segue Champagne Francese		
	Munn G.H. G. American		1
	idem idem		7
2	LANSON PIRE & FILS		
	Brut		2
	FOUMERY & GRINO		
4	Drapeau Americain		4
I	Extras sec		1
	LOUIS RODERER		
5	Sec		5
	idem		4
21	Carte Blanche		21
	idem		5
3	Brut 1913		3
	idem		5
	DE ST. MARCEAUX & C.		
4	Extras dry		4
	PERRIERE-JOUE		
17	Extras sec	9	8
	idem		4
14	Gran vin brut		14
	idem		1
3	Reserve Cuvée Brut		3
	idem idem		75
	HEIDSEICH & C.		
13	Dry Monopole Brut		13
I	Red top G. American		1
	idem idem		42
	VUVE CLICQUOT PONSARDIN		

Brut	2	
<u>FOMMERY & CRENO</u>		
Drapeau Américain	4	
Extras sec	1	
<u>LOUIS RODEMER</u>		
Sec	5	
idem	4	
Carte Blanche	21	
idem	5	
Brut 1913	3	
idem	5	
<u>DE ST. MARCEAUX & C.</u>		
Extras dry	4	
<u>PERRIER-JOULET</u>		
Extras sec	17	9
idem	4	
Gran vin Brut	14	
idem	1	
Réserve Cuvée Brut	3	
idem idem	75	
<u>HEIDSEICH & C.</u>		
Dry Monopole Brut	13	
Red top G. Américain	1	
idem idem	42	
<u>VEUVE CLICQUOT PONSARDIN</u>		
Brut 1929	16	1
brut	15	15
Sec Gout Américain	42	12

36

162 143

/.

37

VINI DI DESSERT

4 Fusti VERMOUTH CINZANO ROSSO

Pusto n° 72633	Netto Kg.	100.100
" " 72634	"	" 116.300
" " 72632	"	" 117.200
3 " 19520	"	" 60.200

2 Damigiane VERMOUTH GANCIA ROSSO

1° Damig. Netto Kg.	55.500
2° " " "	57.000

3 Fusti MARSALA WOODHOUSE (giunti a mezzo Casa Beccaro)

Pusto N° 10673	Netto Kg.	100.=
" " 10675	"	" 99.=
3 " " S.M.	"	" 46.=

Bottiglie

I45
37
28
18
40
16
13
247
155
84+ 2
40
11
29
13

Vermouth Cinzano Secco
Vermouth Martini & Rossi
" Cinzano Rosso
3 Cora Bianco
" Cora Rosso
" Gancia Bianco
" Noilly Prat Francese
Marsala Florio 1926
Marsala Woodhouse
Vermouth Martini secco
Madeira superioze Garret
Malaga Vicio P.M.
Porto Gonzales
Porto Barros Almeida

ASSISTENZA
ACQUARTATA
AL 30.3.44
=====

ASSISTENZE
AL 30.3.44
=====

108.100
116.300
117.200
60.200

55.500
57.000

100.000
99.
48.

761.300

145
31
1
18
4
13
139
16
84
8
18
6
27
36
16
108
139
2
32
11
11
13

"	"	72632	"	"	117.200	117.200	=====
5	"	19320	"	"	60.200	60.200	=====
2 Damigiane VERMOUTH GANCIA ROSSO							
1°	Damig.	Netto	Kg.	55.500		55.500	=====
2°	"	"	"	57.000		57.000	=====
3 Fusti MARSAIA WOODHOUSE (giunti a mezzo Casa Beccaro)							
	Pusto	N°	10573	Netto	Kg.	100.=	=====
"	"	"	10675	"	"	99.=	=====
5	"	"	s.n.	"	"	48.=	=====

Bottiglie

I45	Vermouth Cinzano Secco	I45	=====
37	Vermouth Martini & Rossi	31	6
28	" Cinzano Rosso	I	27
I6	5 Cora Bianco	I8	=====
40	" Cora Rosso	4	36
I6	" Gancia Bianco		I6
I3	" Noilly Prat Francese	I3	=====
247	Marsala Florio 1926	I39	I08
I55	Marsala Woodhouse	I6	I39
84+ 2	Vermouth Martini secco	84	2
40	Madeira superiore Garret	8	32
II	Málaga Vicio P.M.		II
29	Porto Gonzales		II
I3	Porto Barros Almeida	I8	I3

ACQUA MINERALE

80 MEZZA BOTT. =
+ 5 a. p.

San pellegrino

50

35

876 + 2

85

/.

35

436

AL 12.II.1943

(PAGINA N° 7)

W I S K I E S

8	Perk Lane	3	=====
6	White Horse	6	=====
2	Jonnie Walker Red Label	2	=====
4	Canadian Club	4	=====
92	Special Club Wilson	66	26
92	Kincaid's	92	=====
	Antiquary		4
50	Gordon Dry Gin	57	3
46	Booth's High Dry Gin	1	45
48	Gin Luxardo Italiano		48
23	Gin Donney Italiano		23
167	Gin Beefeaters Dry Gin e Black Cat	21	146
112	Seager's Dry Gin	4	108
I	Gordon 's Orange Gin	I	=====

WINE CHAMPAGNE COGNAC

38	Marie Brizard XXX	9	29
28	Brance Vecchio e Medicinal (14 bott. da 2 litri)	28	
6	Armagnac		6
4	Courvoisier XXX 15 anni	4	=====
8	Martell XXX	3	3
2	Jannetty XXX	2	=====
33	René Briand	20	13
7	Pedro Domecq	1	6
13	Prunier	10	3

LIQUORI ITALIANI ED ESTERI

6	Anice Mistra Branca	6
4	Ron Baccardi & C.	4
21	Rhum Demerara	11
10	Rhum Negrita Bardonet	4

92	Special Club Wilson	66	25
92	Kincaid's	92	=====
	Antiquary		4
60	Gordon Dry Gin	57	3
45	Booth's Haig Dry Gin	1	45
48	Gin Luxardo Italiano		48
23	Gin Donney Italiano		23
167	Gin Beebeaters Dry Gin e Black Cat	21	146
112	Seeger's Dry Gin	4	108
1	Gordon's Orange Gin	1	=====
	WINE CHAMPAGNE COGNAC		
38	Marie Brizard XXX	9	29
28	Branca Vecchio e Medicinal (14 bott. da 2 litri)		28
6	Armagnac		6
4	Courvoisier xxx 15 anni	4	=====
8	Martell XXX	5	3
2	Hennessy XXX	2	=====
33	René Briand	20	13
7	Pedro Domecq	1	6
13	Pronier	10	3
	LIQUORI ITALIANI ED ESTERI		
6	Anice Mistra Branca		6
4	Ron Baccardi & Co.		4
21	Rhum Demerara	10	11
10	Rhum Negrita Bordinet	4	6
1	Wodka		1
6	Kummel Allasch	2	4
		32.9	
			32

(PAGINA N° 8)

Al 12.11.1943

ESISTENZA ACCLER=
TATA AL 30. 3.
1944. =====CASSONI
LCC.

segundo Licenzi italiani ed Esteri

Kummel Relskip	3	3
Pernod	3	3
Gropps extra fine	8	8
Anaro Cora	12	12
Anisette Meletti	4	4
Grand Marnier Cordon Rouge	1	1
" " Lapostolle	1	1
Bédécetone D.O.M. Pecamp	1	1
Chartreuse Verte (Terragone)	12	12
" " June	4	4
Triple Sec Cointreau	7	7
Curacao Fockink	4	4
Curacao Marie Brizard	7	7
Cherry Brandy Keering	2	2
" " Marie Brizard	7	7
" " Fockink	10	10
Arac Batavia	3	3
Crème de Cassis	1	1
Apricot Brandy	4	4
Veille Cure Cénon	1	1
La Prunelle	1	1
Piippermint Marie Brizard	3	3
Menta Sacco	5	5
Anisette Marie Brizard	5	5
Cordial Campari	1	1
Marschino Luxardo	16	16
Aurum Grandi	22	22
Select	11	11
Amer Picon	12	12
Fernet Branca	14	14

12	Amaro Cora		12
6	Anisette Meletti	2	4
1	Grand Marnier Cordon Rouge		1
1	" " Lepostolle		1
1	Bénédictine D.O.M. Recomp	1	=
12	Chartreuse Verte (Farragone)		12
5	" " Jaune	2	4
7	Triple Sec Cointreau		7
4	Curacao Fockink		4
7	Curacao Marie Brizard		7
2	Cherry Brandy Heering		2
7	" " Marie Brizard	7	=
10	" " Fockink		10
3	Arag Batavia		3
1	Crème de Cassis		1
4	Apricot Brandy		4
1	Veille Cure Cénon		1
1	La Prunelle		1
3	Pippermint Marie Brizard		3
6	Menta Sacco	1	5
5	Anisette Marie Brizard		5
1	Cordónal Campari	1	=
16	Maraschino Luxardo		16
22	Aurum grand		22
11	Select	1	10
12	Amer Picon		12
14	Fernes France		14
18	Roberbero Zucca		18
6	Pippermint Chavin	2	6

192

33

216

./.

(PAGINA No 9)

NOTES

Богородице Ликури Ивли-ви сѧ естери

4	Pimpermint Get Frère	2	2
5	Perro china Bisleri	5	5
12	Mareschino Drioli	12	12
13	Ceresella	13	13
9	Coco Buton	9	9
22	Rhum Jamaica Botle Axc.	17	5
2	Triplo Secco Luxardo	1	1
2	Santa Vittoria Cinzano		2
6	Arquebuse Alpestre Originale	10	6

[illegible]

Napoli, il 30 Marzo 1944.

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No.

785016

RESISTENZA ACQUA=
DATA AL 30. 3.
1944. =====

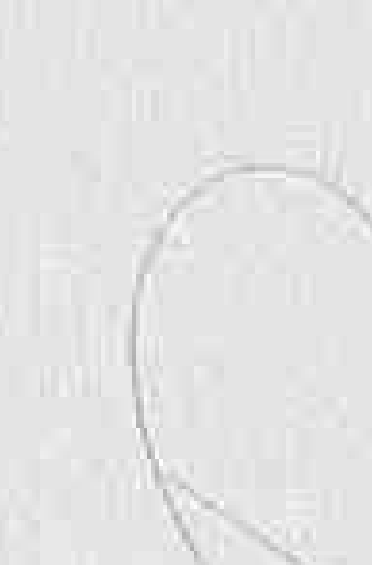
Q. 2.




814
524
324

[illegible]

Napoli, 11 30 Mayo 1944.



 John W. Alden

81	52	11	20
			1700

ING. MICHELE PLATANIA
NAPOLI

Naples 18th March 1944

Compagnia Italiana dei Grandi Alberghi

to the Rt. Hon.ble Lord Colon. Forester
Execution Office A.M.G.
Region 3

Naples

My Lord,

Following the explanations required yesterday both by you and Colonel Borg, concerning the management of the canteen of the Excelsior Hotel during the period in which the hotel is closed, I beg to confirm all that I said yesterday, that is no quantity as well as no lot of the goods of the canteen has been given up neither sold to civilians or merchants nor however brought out by the Excelsior Hotel Administration.

That being unrightly clarified, I take this opportunity to point out how the understanding with the A.M.G. was reached as far as the canteen is concerned:

On the beginning of last November two gentlemen, known in Naples and in company of an officer of the Allied Forces, came to our office where they were introduced to Mr. Rubini, an employee of the Excelsior who remained in Naples even after the closing of the hotel, and told him to be charged with an order to seize the canteen of the Excelsior and for this purpose they would have returned on a fixed day of the week with a lorry to take away all the goods therein.

Soon after, Mr. Rubini reported such notices to me and as neither the way by which the request was advanced nor the two gentlemen's interference in the matter appeared clear to me, I decided to refer everything to the A.M.G. and called at Colonel Krieg, by that time Governor of the town. He was not aware of that, and ordering not to move anything from the canteen, required the persons involved to confer with him.

After two days the order was withdrawn and then Mr. Rubini having in the meantime received a petition from the G. Lucie Hotel of Naples and the Vittoria Excelsior Hotel of Sorrento asking for an assignment of the above goods, sent a proposal of allowances both for these hotels and the Excelsior itself to Colonel Krieg. The latter decided not to move anything from the canteen, so that the Excelsior acted in conformity.

In October last I took care to have the large openings of the ground-floor of the Excelsior walled up, because nearly every night thefts occurred inside the hotel where thieves searching

to the Rt. Hon.ble Lord Colon. Forester
Execution Office A.M.G.
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Soon after, Mr. Rubini reported such notices to me and as neither the way by which the request was advanced nor the two gentlemen's interference in the matter appeared clear to me, I decided to refer everything to the A.M.G. and called at Colonel Kries, by that time Governor of the town. He was not aware of that, and ordering not to move anything from the canteen, required the persons involved to confer with him.

After two days the order was withdrawn and then Mr. Rubini having in the meantime received a petition from the S. Lucia Hotel of Naples and the Vittoria Excelsior Hotel of Sorrento asking for an assignment of the above goods, sent a proposal of allowance both for these hotels and the Excelsior itself to Colonel Kries. The latter decided not to move anything from the canteen, so that the Excelsior acted in conformity.

In October last I took care to have the large openings of the ground-floor of the Excelsior walled up, because nearly every night thefts occurred inside the hotel where thieves seraching in the subterranean stole machinery, steel ropes and three chimney-clocks, robberies which were reported to the police.

The canteen which is located separately and far from the open premises and also strongly locked was never forced.

In the first fortnight of last November, Colonel Borg came to my office in S. Lucia street, to see the Excelsior and during his

ING. MICHELE PLATANIA

SAPORI

2nd sheet to the letter to the Rt.Hon.Lord Col. Forester = A.M.C.-Naples

visit he told me about his programme of renewing part of the Excelsior to lodge senior officers and asked me for a technical-financial plan.

I informed him about the robberies occurred and of no safety in those days, he promised me to send a military guard to the Excelsior.

The following day 12 soldiers settled in the hotel.

Some days after, Colonel Borg wanted to see the canteen and of the goods therein was made an inventory which was handed to him. He disposed that nothing should have been taken away and that the necessary quantities for the future Excelsior hotel-keeping exercise would have been taken into account.

In the meantime the wall to the premises having been completed and owing to the behaviour of the 12 soldiers who went around the hotel opening locked doors, appropriating themselves of private objects and once they removed some obstacles put on purpose in front the door of the canteen and it seems that a certain group of bottles of whisky laid near the entrance resulted less, I asked for the guard to be dismissed and after my insisting it was withdrawn.

In the period from December 1943 to February 1944, Colonel Borg together with Mr. Rubini examined many times the prices which could have been applied to the various commodities of the canteen with a view to settle the consignment of the goods made every now and then to the A.M.C. against a regular delivery order signed by Colonel Borg. In support to these consignments the Compagnia Italiana Grandi Alberghi has received three remittances through the Banca Commerciale Italiana.

All above said is as much as may directly or indirectly have a relation to the management of the canteen of the Excelsior Hotel, for which you required explanations.

To complete the arrangements in course, I beg to bring to your knowledge the present state of activity of the Excelsior:

The arrangements for restoring the hotel were brought to an end through the active and attentive interest of Colonel Borg. A plan to refitting two wings of the hotel was made and it includes 85 rooms and 40 baths. Further, the relative expenses have been estimated and a consequent financial understanding with the Banks to support the works has been reached.

Colonel Borg wanted the proceedings for my appointment as a representative of the Compagnia Italiana Grandi Alberghi, to be made with a view to empower me to take the necessary steps to look after the works and deal with the financial branch.

The Extraordinary Commissary of Naples, Gr. Uff. Solimena, made

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Colonel Borg wanted the proceedings for my appointment as a representative of the Compagnia Italiana Grandi Alberghi, to be made with a view to empower us to take the necessary steps to look after the works and deal with the financial branch.

The Extraordinary Commissary of Naples, Gr. Uff. Solimena, made his authorization together with that of Colonel Borg. Then in conformity of the disposition of the law, I was legally appointed as an extraordinary commissary for the Excelsior Hotel, by the Prefect, with the powers necessary to make every arrangement in connection to the programme of rebuilding and keeping the hotel.

The works commenced in December last and will be finished by
next April.

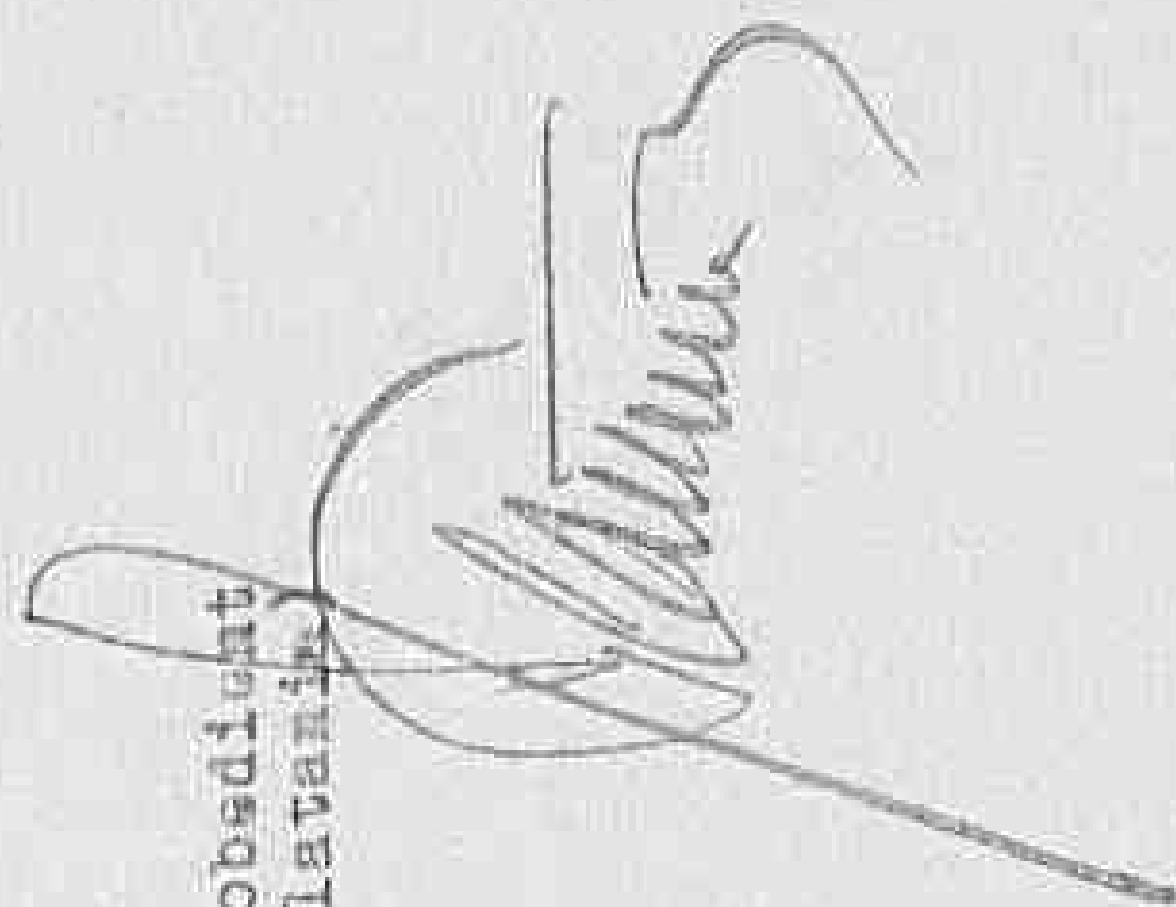
ING. MICHELE PLATANIA
NAPOLI

3rd sheet to the letter 18th March 44 to the Rt. Hon. Lord Col. Forester
A.M.G. - Naples -

According to the programme for the hotel-keeping exercise, announced to me by Colonel Borg, the Administration of the Excelsior has already provided for the personnel and everything necessary. It is understood that the hotel, requisitioned to lodge senior officers, will be managed by the Compagnia Italiana Grandi Alberghi as far as personnel, service, implantations, kitchen, restaurant etc. are concerned, for which it is necessary to establish an administrative and control detail.

I am, My Lord,

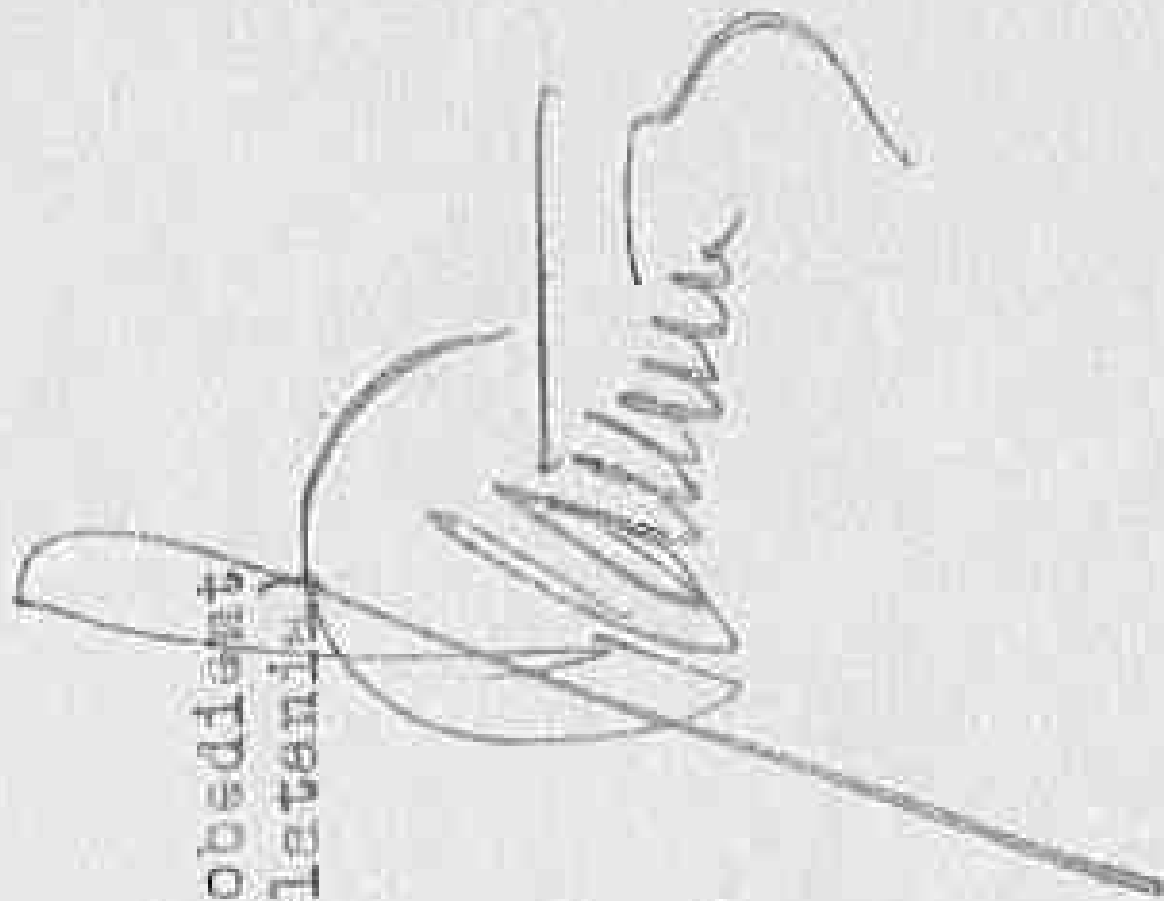
Your obedient
(Ing. M. Platanis)



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I am, My Lord,

Your obedient,
(Eng.M. Platania)





ALBERGO EXCELSIOR
NAPOLI
DIREZIONE

Naples 19th March 1944

NAPOLI

to the Colonel Lord Forester
A.M.G. - H.Q. Reg. 3
Naples
=====

Dear Sir,

As a result of an interview of the 16th March 1944 I beg to append as follows:

- 1) = The inventory of the Excelsior cellar was originally made in the first half of November 1943 as the request of the A.M.G. (Col. Carl A. Kraege). The contents were to be decided amongst 4 civilian agents.
- 2) = Before such partition took place, different instructions were received and instead of division, the cellar was blocked by Col. Kraege. After such block various successive consignments were made to Military Personnel upon presentation of an official check signed by Col. Borg.
- 3) = For such consignments the following sums have been paid to the account of the Excelsior with the Banca Commerciale Italiana - Agency N° 6:

a) on 17/12/43	Lire 62.000,00
b) " 20/12/43	" 125.200,00
c) " 24/2/44	" 26.600,00

213.800,00
=====

- 4) = From the amounts drawn by the A.M.G. and from a rough check of remains, it appears there is a slight discrepancy in figures which may be attributed to any of following:

A temptation on the part of the soldiers garrisoning the cellar day and night for over a month.

Inexact delivery of bottles withdrawn from the cellar by the parties sent for such purpose.

Possible entry of civilians before guard was mounted.

It is necessary to have an accurate inventory made of the remains before the actual deficit can be ascertained assuming the fact inven-

tory to have been correct.

In order to effect such check and to enable me to submit accurate figures, an accurate check and inventory is being drawn out which I hope to submit to you sometime this week.

I am, Sir,

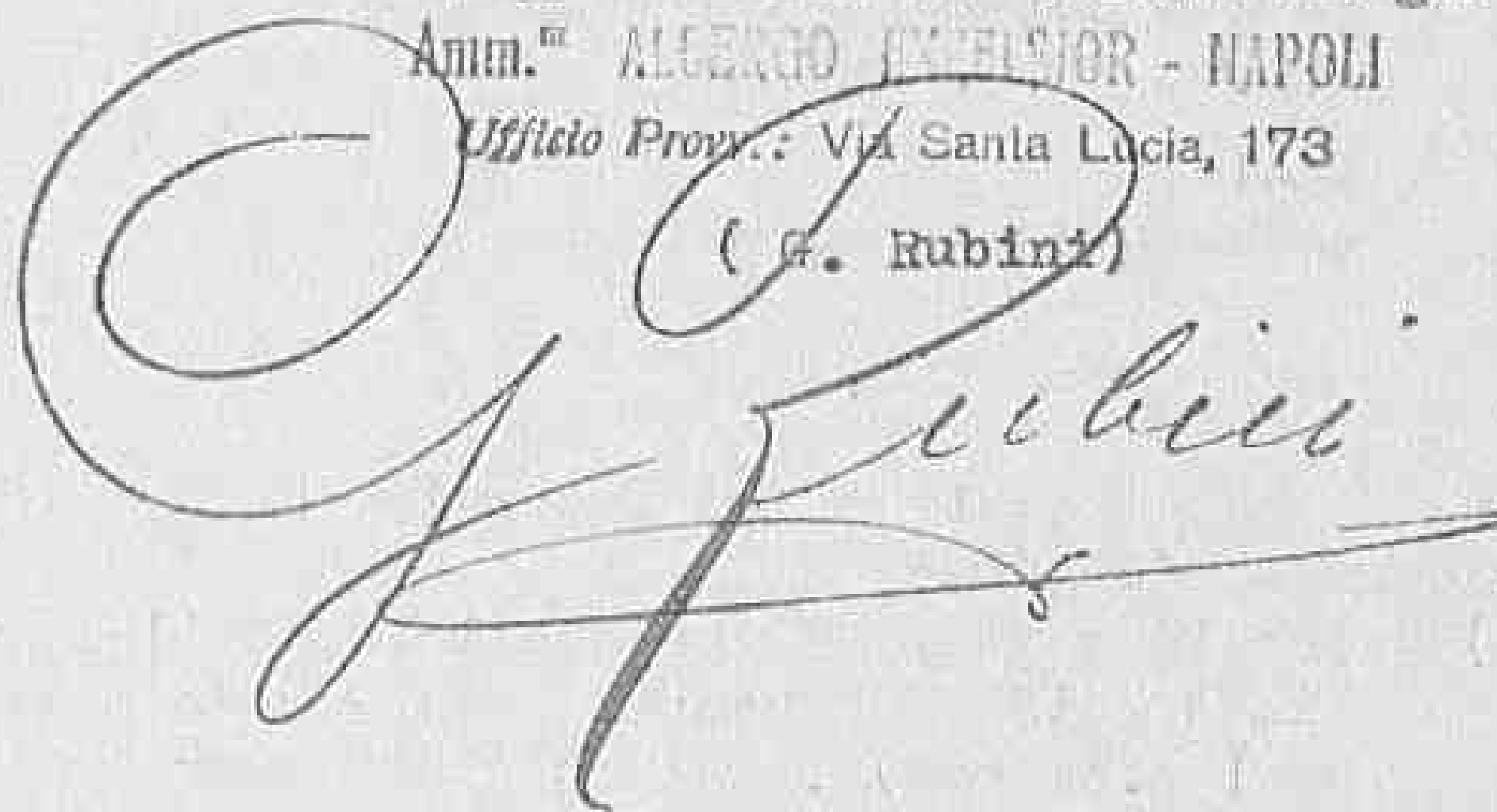
Sincerely Yours.

Compagnia Italiana dei Grandi Alberghi

Amm.^o ALBERTO RUBINI - NAPOLI

Ufficio Prov.: Via Santa Lucia, 173

(G. Rubini)

A large, stylized handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'G. Rubini', is written over the typed name and address. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'G' and a long, sweeping underline.

Ref. 140.03

HEADQUARTERS
REGION 3, ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394, U.S. Army

435 R

9 March 1944

SUBJECT: Report on disposal of Wine Stores
TO : Hq A.C.C., (Attention Colonel Young)

1. The enclosed report from Lieutenant Colonel Borg explains the situation in regard to the disposal of the Wine Stores at the Excelsior Hotel. Lt Col Borg holds all the receipts.

Forester
LORD FORESTER
Lt Col., R.H.G.,
Executive Officer

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
HEADQUARTERS NAPLES PROVINCE

7 March 1944

TO: Lt. Col. The Lord Forester
FROM: Lt. Col. S.J. Borg
SUBJ: Excelsior Wine Cellar

Reference attached ACC letter which you handed over to me this afternoon, the following facts are known to me on the above subject:

Middle November 1943: I happened to be in Col Kraege's office at the Municipio when Mr. Rubini was discussing Excelsior cellar with Col Kraege. Mr. Rubini had contracted an agreement with three different civilian firms for the partition of the liquors in the Excelsior cellar. As Mr. Rubini had no authority to dispose of this stuff, it was blocked and Col Kraege asked me to look after the stock and issue wines etc to AMG Officers and messes whom he, Col Kraege, approved. Mr. Rubini was told not to issue any liquors without Lt Col Borg's signature and official AMG rubber stamp. The stock was not checked; slips of paper were given for wines withdrawn from Mr. Rubini.

17 November 1943: First lot of liqueur withdrawn.

Up to date: The following officers and messes have received Excelsior liqueur:

Lt Col Kraege; Lt Col Borg; Lt Col Doherty; Col Lewis; Major Strauss; Major Gray; Lt Col Kincaid; Officers Mess, Naples Province; Officers Mess, 26 Posillipo, Lt DiAntonio; Lt Amoroso; Mrs. Tornabene; Mr. Gilardi; Capt Guidette; Col Marshall; Lt Armstrong for General Clark; Lt Col Finch; Maj. Gill; Major Paddy; Lt Col Nielson; "A" Mess 46 Division; Lt Col Warren and Major Smith for Allied Officers' Club, biggest purchaser to the extent of 122,500 lire.

Major Gray drew two lots, one on 20/11/43 amounting to 12,200 lire and another on 9/12/43 amounting to 1,800 lire.

Charges for bottles were made, the highest priced bottle being 300 lire and the money collected has already been put to the credit of the Excelsior Hotel with the Banca Commerciale Italiana, Agency No. 6, receipts for which are held. The money has been duly acknowledged by Mr. Rubini.

The Excelsior Hotel has been damaged extensively, and at one time entrance to the cellar was easy from the sea-side. Eng. Platania, had asked me if a guard could be placed on the liqueur as he had suspicions that people had already broken into the cellar. I do not remember when he asked for this guard, I judge it was in December. Col Kraege agreed to such guard and

Major Gray det. filed the guard from his company. The guard was relieved after Engineer Platania had had the windows of the lower floor blocked with stone. As these men were guarding Excel for liqueur I promised them a bottle of liqueur each on termination of duty if all went well. They got their promise fulfilled and the 12 bottles of whiskey they received from me have been put against Excelsior account.

As regards para 8 I would like that verified as I did not withdraw 30 bottles of champagne on the 23 February 1944. I hope my signature is not being forged.

Sales have now stopped as the remaining stock will be utilized by the Excelsior Hotel which is being partially repaired for use by AMG as a Senior Officers' Hotel, and the stock is still blocked.

As regards para 11 Region 3 advanced no money. A power of Attorney was given to Eng. Platania by the Prefect Cavaliere and Platania made his arrangements with the Banco di Napoli. No instructions on this subject were given to Mr. Rubino as the details of this transactions are not known to me. Nor do I know the name of the solicitor. I understand that Platania is satisfied with the way he raised money for repairs and that he did not avail himself of my introduction to Lt Col Nielson.

As regards para 5. Demands for liqueurs were collected and one trip made, on the 9 December 1943. This is the only time I went by truck as the demand was larger than usual. The following officers were given wines on this occasion.: Major Gray; Officers' Mess Naples Province; Officers' Mess 26 Posillipo; Mr. Gilardi; Col Marshall; Lt Col Finch; Major Gill and Major Peddy.

Present Situation

Remaining stock is still blocked under the care of Mr Rubini and is earmarked for the Senior Officers' *club* which is due to open sometime in April. The stock is still the responsibility of Eng Platania and Mr. Rubini who demanded the termination of the guard.

S. J. BORG
Lt Col

HEADQUARTERS
REGION 3, ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
A.F.O 394 -U.S. ARMY
Office of Regional Finance Officer

Ref.No.365/1/F

15 March 1944.

Subject: Compagnia Italiana dei Grandi Alberghi - Albergo
Excelsior.

TO: Regional Executive, Hq. Region 3, A.C.C.

1. The first time the above name came to my attention, to the best of my recollection, was early in December when Lt.Col. Borg then C.A.O. of Naples City called my office. As I recall our conversation; - Col. Borg stated that he had in mind having part of the Excelsior Hotel repaired to be used as quarters for senior AMG officers and wanted to know if AMG could advance funds to the hotel. If I remember correctly I told him that I knew of no authority I had to advance AMG funds to a privately owned hotel and that the only way I knew of that the hotel could receive financial assistance would be in the nature of a bank loan. I told Col. Borg that if the bank wanted to make a loan I would not object (in fact I stated that I was not attempting to check all their loans as that would be a physical impossibility) but stated that I would not order any bank to make any loan that the bank's management did not consider a proper credit risk. I did tell him that I would authorize the unblocking of the account (it was blocked because head office of the company is in Venice) if the bank was satisfied that the local manager had authority to sign and that none of the funds would go to enemy occupied territory.

2. Shortly thereafter, Ing. Michele Platania, Manager of the hotel talked on me and as I recall it, I told him practically the same thing.

3. I authorized the Banca Commerciale Italiana, (the bank of account) to unblock the amount under conditions outlined in par.2 and told them to be prepared to consider making a loan, but that I would not ask them to make any loan that they did not consider a proper credit risk. I believe the hotel also had another bank account but do not remember at just which bank it was carried.

4. As I understand it Platania made applications for loans at the Banca Commerciale Italiana, Banco di Napoli and Banca d'America e d'Italia. The last two banks declined the loan because of its long term nature but the Banca Commerciale Italiana granted a L.5.000.000 credit. I asked the Manager of Banca Commerciale Italiana to write a letter outlining his transactions with the company which is attached.

5. Notwithstanding the fact that I had told all concerned that no advances of AMG funds could be made, I had the Regional Accountant go through all the vouchers of Col. Borg, and as far as he could find out no advances were made direct to the Hotel Excelsior. Attached is his statement to that effect. I also asked the Naples Province P.O. to go through his records with the same purpose in mind. Attached is statement to Maj. Clarke (Maj. Rogers - the regular Provincial P.O. is ill in bed and Maj. Clarke attached from A.C.C. is acting Provincial P.O.) to the effect that the office of the Provincial do not disclose any advances having been made to the Excelsior Hotel.

6. To sum up, as far as I can ascertain, no one in Region 3, Finance Section has authorized any advances of AMG funds to the Excelsior Hotel, nor has that hotel received any AMG funds unless some vouchers have been faked, and I have no reason to believe that to be the case.

3 Incl.

DJH/AM

David J. Nielson

David J. Nielson
Lt. Col. A.U.S.
Regional Finance Officer

BANCA COMMERCIALE ITALIANA
Management

Naples, March 15th, 1944.

To the kind attention of Lt.Col. David J. Nielsen

Account of the Italian Company of Grand Hotels - Excelsior
Hotel.

There existed at our Bank a current-account with a balance of 35.600,93 Lire, blocked because the Main Office of the Company is situated in territory occupied by Germans.

This account was unblocked according to your authorization of December 9th, 1943 and the sum of Lire 35.000.- were paid on December 12th 1943 to Mr. Giovanni Rubini, employee of Excelsior Hotel, regularly authorized in due time by the "CICA" to effect operations on the current-account. This account presents today a credit balance of 86.572,15 Lire.

OUR FINANCING

The financing has been decided on January 10th, 1944 and as a start, in order to help Ing. Platania, not yet in possession of necessary authorization to exercise administrative powers as Prefectural Commissioner (Commissario Prefettizio), we permitted withdrawals in the measure of 200.000.- Lire; after having obtained from Ing. Platania the Decree of his appointment we have granted a credit of 5.000.000 Lire.

Withdrawals are effected in an account registered in the name of "Ing. Michele Platania in his quality of Prefectural Commissioner for the Management of Excelsior Hotel in Naples", account which presents today a debit balance of 742.521,30 Lire and a movement as per attached sheet.

(signed)

Stanislao Fusco

Credit

17/12/43	Lire	187.200.-
competences	"	67,60
15/1/44	"	20.000.-
31/1/44	"	13.000.-
24/2/44	"	26.600.-

Line 246.867,60

Banca Commerciale Italiana

Sede di Napoli

Direzione

REC'D 15-MAR

Napoli 15/3/944

Alla gentile attenzione del Lt.Col.DAVID J.NIELSON, Esq.

Conto della Compagnia Italiana Grandi Alberghi=Albergo Excelsior.

Esisteva un conto corrente con un saldo di Lit. 36.600,95 bloccato in quanto la Sede Centrale della Compagnia risiede in territorio occupato dai tedeschi.

Il conto fu sbloccato con vostra autorizzazione del 9/12/43 e furono pagate Lit. 35.000.= il 12/12/43 al sig. Giovanni Rubini, impiegato dell'Albergo Excelsior, regolarmente autorizzato, a suo tempo, dalla "CICA" a compiere operazioni sul conto corrente. Questo conto presenta ad oggi un saldo creditore di Lit. 86.672,15.=

IL NOSTRO FINANZIAMENTO.

Il finanziamento fu deciso il 13 gennaio 1944 ed in un primo momento, per andare incontro all'ing. Platania, non ancora fornito dei poteri di Commissario Prefettizio per la gestione, permettemmo prelievi in conto fino a Lit. 200.000.=, poi, ottenuto dal detto ing. Platania il decreto di nomina abbiamo concesso un credito di Lit. 5.000.000.=

I prelievi sono fatti in un conto intestato "Ing. Michele Platania quale Commissario prefettizio per la gestione dell'Albergo Excelsior in Napoli", conto che presenta oggi un saldo debitore di Lit. 742.521,30 ed ha avuto movimento come da specchietto accluso.

Amle. Fusi

Conto ING. MICHELE PLATANIA quale Commissario Prefettizio
per la gestione dell'Albergo Excelsior - Napoli

<u>Date</u>		<u>Avere</u>
23/12/43	Lit. 25.000.=	17/12/43 Lit. 187.200.=
31/12	67.000.=	competenze 67,60
"	5.420.=	15/1/44 20.000.=
5/1/44	35.000.=	31/1 13.000.=
6/1	22.000.=	24/2 26.600.=
10/1	15.000.=	
13/1	7.000.=	
16/1	15.000.=	
29/1	13.000.=	
3/2	30.764.=	
4/2	50.000.=	
7/2	2.000.=	
9/2	1.500.=	
10/2	74.000.=	
12/2	2.500.=	
16/2	107.000.=	
19/2	100.000.=	
21/2	10.000.=	
23/2	129.204,90	
26/2	100.000.=	
1/3	50.000.=	
4/3	100.000.=	
6/3	30.000.=	
	<u>Lit. 989.388,90</u>	<u>Lit. 246.867,60</u>

Michele Platanio

HEADQUARTERS
REGION 3 ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394. U.S. ARMY
OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL ACCOUNTANT
FINANCE DIVISION

File Ref: F/RA/Borg.

15 March 1944

To : Regional Finance Officer.

From : Regional Accountant.

Subject : F.O. NAPLES CITY ACCOUNTS.

The accounts and vouchers for the Finance Officer, Naples City, for November, December, January and February have been re-examined and no payments by Lieut. Colonel Borg to the Excelsior Hotel can be traced.



Captain,
R.M. PEARSON,
Regional Accountant,
Region 3.

RMP/AT

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
FINANCE OFFICE
NAPLES PROV.
=====

March 15, 44

Subject: Advance of Funds to Excelsior Hotel, Naples

From : Major John W. Clarke

To : Lt. Col. David J. Nielson, R/ P. O.

1. Your query as to whether or not this office advanced any funds to the Excelsior Hotel, Naples.
2. The records of this office do not reveal any advance to the Excelsior Hotel, Naples.
3. Major H. Mead Rogers states to his memory no advance was made to Excelsior Hotel, Naples by this office.


John W. Clarke,
Major, C.M.P.

Naples Finance Office, Naples Province.

HEADQUARTERS.

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION.

SECURITY BRANCH.

28th February, 1944.

SUBJECT :- Selling of wine by a Region 3 Officer.

TO :- Colonel A.E. Young.

I. I have to report that as a result of information obtained by Captain Scotten I have made enquiries and ascertained the following facts.

2. About the first week in November, 1943, a guard of 12 American IMs from Region 3 were placed on guard round the Excelsior Hotel, Via Partenope. (On the front opposite the Fort Dell'Ovo.) This hotel had been damaged by bombs and then burnt by the Germans before they left.

3. The guard was under the command of Major Gray (American) Region 3. It remained there for about a month, but before the end it was reduced to 9 men. Major Gray told the guard that they were guarding ammunition, which was in the cellar of the hotel. The only occupant of the damaged hotel was a caretaker named Pietro.

4. Eventually the guard discovered that they were in fact guarding wines and spirits; the remainder of the hotel stock.

5. During the last week the guard were there, Lt. Col. Borg, (British) Region 3, arrived with Major Gray, with a truck driven by an Italian. They filled the vehicle with cases of loose bottles of champagne, whisky, and assorted wines and liquors. Members of the guard assisted in the loading. This happened on at least two other occasions before the guard left, each time Lt. Col. Borg and Major Gray arriving with the truck.

6. Members of the guard were allowed one bottle each upon application. They received their share from Major Gray at his own apartments.

7. Two members of the guard have been traced and interviewed. One member accompanied the truck on the first occasion, when he says deliveries were made at a number of offices, including the Municipio. (Addresses of others not known). The delivery was made after dark.

8. To-day Captain Scotten and I have interviewed the caretaker. He confirmed this story and said that about half the stock had been taken away. He said that Lt. Col. Borg took away about 30 bottles of champagne four or five days ago.

9. We then saw Signor Rubini, the administrator for the Company which owns the hotel, (Societa dei Grandi Alberghi d'Italia of Venice.) He was with an ex-employee, Marieni, who acted as interpreter.

10. Rubini, who thought we were seeking to purchase wine, said that the whole of the stock had been BLOCKED by Lt. Col. Borg. We asked him if the wine had been requisitioned, or bought, and he said that it had simply been blocked. In the first place it had been blocked by a Colonel, whose name he could not pronounce properly, but which sounded like Colonel Kraege. Then he said, Lt. Col. Borg took charge and arranged for the wine to be taken away.

Ref 507/5/144.03

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11. Rubini said that money had been advanced by Region 3, to enable the hotel to be repaired, and the wine, which Lt. Col. Borg had taken over, was being debited against the money advanced for the repairs. Rubini declined to say how much the wine had been sold for, or give any details. He said that an agreement had been drawn up with Lt. Col. Borg and Col. Wilson (Region 3 Finance) and that this agreement was in the possession of a solicitor, a copy being at Region 3 Headquarters.) He said he could not give us details because of instructions he had received from Lt. Col. Borg. Rubini refused to give us the name of the solicitor. He also declined to take us to the solicitor to see the Agreement. All these things he declined to do, saying it was on the instructions of Lt. Col. Borg.

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12. Rubini said about 3000 bottles had been taken away and that only ~~about~~ about 150 bottles remained. This was quite different to the information supplied by the caretaker. Rubini declined to show us the cellar and let us examine the stock, again on Lt.Col.Borg's instructions. Rubini said that this officer had taken an inventory of the stock and was the only person who knew what was left.

13. Rubini said we should have to go and see Lt.Col.Borg and if he would let us purchase wine, he would give us a note to bring to Rubini, who would then let us have the wine specified in Lt.Col. Borg's note. Rubini said he could not say how much we should have to pay Lt.Col. Borg per bottle. The caretaker confirmed this method of obtaining wine.

14. Rubini said some of the wines had gone to Officers Clubs and ~~mentioned~~ mentioned the Orange Grove and the P.B.S. Club.

15. Rubini asked how we knew of the existence of the wine, which was supposed to be a secret. He said if we saw Lt.Col. Borg we must not say we had questioned him, otherwise he would get into trouble.

16. Before we left Rubini said that there was other wine in the cellars of the Santa Lucia Hotel, (next door) which had been blocked by the Allied "Traffic" Control under Col. Forbes. He thought we might be able to secure wine from Col. Forbes. (6623rd Regulating Coy. U.S.Army.)

Richard J. Lewis
Captain.

17. Both Rubini and the caretaker disclosed the fact that a number of Allied Officers had arrived with notes signed by Lt.Col.Borg recently. Rubini said he had supplied them with the wines and spirits described in Lt.Col.Borg's notes.

Richard J. Lewis
Captain.

Headquarters
Allied Control Commission

29. MAR 44

Giovanni Rubini Says: —

I live at Via Santa

Lucia 133, Naples. I have

been employed since 1927 by

the Compagnia Italiana Grandi

Alberghi of Venice, the owners

of the Excelsior Hotel. At the

time of the Armistice I was

the Naples Branch Manager

of the Company. She

Excelsior is the only Hotel owned

by this company in Naples. But

the company owns many Hotels

in ~~different~~ ^{other} parts of Italy.

She Excelsior Hotel was

damaged by an Allied bomb in

August 1943 & set on fire by

the Germans when they retook

from Naples. When the

Allies arrived Signor Placida

& I were the only two

responsible persons connected with

the Company — left in Naples

late ¹⁹⁴³ October.

One day in November. 1943

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 by this company in Naples. But
 the company owns many Hotels
 in ~~different~~ ^{other} parts of Italy.

The Excelsior Hotel was
 damaged by an Allied bomb in
 August 1943 & set on fire by
 the Germans when they retreated
 from Naples. When the
 Allies arrived Signor Platania
 & I were the only two
 responsible persons connected with
 the Company left in Naples.

One day ^{late} in ^{October} ~~November~~ 1945, ¹⁴ am
 Allied Major, believed American
 and Signor Alloschi, came to the
 Hotel.

Alloschi is the proprietor
 of the Super Garage, Via Nazario
 Sauro, Naples. I saw them.
 Alloschi said that they were

DR,

saw, to open a club. Alaschi said he knew the cellar of the Hotel was full of wines & spirits, and that ~~Alaschi~~ they wanted to buy the stock, otherwise it would be requisitioned.

Richards said that if he had an Official order from Allied Military Government ~~he~~ I would do as ~~he~~ I was told, but without an Official order ~~he~~ I would refuse to sell the stock.

The Major gave her name as Major M. Mark. I do not know where ^{he came from.}

Two days afterwards I went with Superior Platoon & saw Col.

Knapp. ^{at the time} It was 24th October 1943. ^{for advice as he was the head of the} I asked Col Knapp ^{agency} people

the following questions:-

I said ~~that~~ Two gentlemen have presented themselves at our Hotel & said they would like to buy the intention of requisitioning all liquors & wines at the Hotel. We would like to know

where exactly

is it in the north of the line

requisitioned.

Rubini said that if the Skad an Official order from Allied Military Government ~~the~~ I would do as the War told, but without an Official order ~~the~~ I would refuse to sell the stock.

The Major gave her name as Major M. Mark. I do not know where ^{he came from}.

Two days afterwards I went with Sepin ^{or to Munich} Plalaria & saw Col. Kraege. ^{It was 24th Oct that he came as he was the head of the} I asked Col. Kraege ^{actually} ^{hopla} 1943.

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exactly

is if matter not of prime necessity for the prosecution of the war can he requisitioned

Col Kraege replied "No"

Q. 2. Can liquor be sold under Allied Law.

Col Kraege said "Yes".

3

3- Can we sell our stock.
Col Kraege said "Yes".

4- On 8 then forced to sell to
these two people or have my
stocks repurchased.

Col Kraege said "No". He
also told me to make an
inventory of the stock. He
also said he would like to
see Alaschi & Major Mark.

I returned to the Hotel &
commenced to make an inventory
of the stock of wine, which I
completed on 12th November 1943.

A few days after my
first meeting with Col Kraege
& I returned with Signor Platani.

~~Signor~~ ~~Sau~~ & again saw
Col Kraege. Signor Alaschi

was present. Col Kraege
told Alaschi that I was

making an inventory of the
wine & that I could not
sell it. Alaschi attended

as the result of a letter sent
to him by Col Kraege. ~~Alaschi~~

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first meeting with Cal Kwage
& I returned with Signor Platania
& ~~again~~ ~~said~~ & again I saw
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told Alaschi that I was
making an inventory of the
wine & that I could not
sell it. Alaschi attended
as the result of a letter sent
to him by Cal Kwage. Major
Mark was not present & I
have not seen Alaschi or
Major Mark again.

When I had completed
my inventory I return & saw
Cal Kwage with Platania.

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Lt Col Bong was present for the first time. I handed Col. Kraege a list of the whole of the stock of wine in our cellar. Col Kraege handed the list to Lt. Col Bong.

I had split up the stock of wine into 4 parts, with a view to disposing of it, to raise money to pay for the repairing of the Hotel.

Lt Col. Bong said that we were to leave the list with him & return in a few days. In the meanwhile we were not to dispose of the stock.

After a few days ~~the~~ ~~list~~ I returned to Lt Col.

Bong said that he did not want us to sell the wine to the other Hotels in the way we proposed to do. He said he wanted us to keep the stock in the Hotel & that it had been decided that in the Hotel would be taken

Lt. Col. Bog.

I had split up the stock of wine into 4 parts, with a view to disposing of it, to raise money to pay for the repairing of the Hotel.

Lt. Col. Bog said that we were to leave the tent with him & return in a few days. In the meantime we were not to dispose of the stock.

After a few days ~~the~~ ~~the~~ I returned & Lt. Col.

Bog said that he did not want us to sell the wine to the other Hotel in the way we proposed to do. He said he wanted us to keep the stock in the Hotel & that it had been decided that

the Hotel would be taken over for ^{all} Senior Officers. Lt.

Col. Bog said that if he wanted to assign the ^{wine} stock to officers

or Allied units, that he would write out a note authorizing the person presenting the note to

15

have wine. Lt. Col. Bag said the stock was now frozen. I asked Lt. Col. Bag what prices he was going to get per bottle. Lt. Col. Bag said that I should. He paid the official price. I paid the official price was too low. Lt. Col. Bag then said that the prices had been stabilized by the allies ~~and~~ ~~must abide by them~~. He said it was low & we must make something.

I mentioned that we had been 30 & the gear old said they were not valuable. ~~I could not say he was~~ ~~concerned with~~ I said it was difficult to pay prices for such wine. ^{any amount was in wine.}

No agreement was made that Lt. Col. Bag or anyone else could have a percentage of the money raised from the sale of this wine.

Col. Krage was not present at this interview, which

said the official price was too low. Lt Col. Boy then said that the prices had been established by the allies ~~and~~ must abide by ~~them~~. He said it was war & we must make sacrifices.

by mentioned that we had
werner 30 & 40 gears old said
they were not valuable, & ~~could~~
~~said~~ ~~was~~ he ~~conferred~~ with
I said it was difficult to
get prices for such wine.

That El. Vol. Box or anyone
else could have a percentage
of the money raised from the
Sale of this wine.

Col Knagge was not present at this interview, which took place in St Col-Bapt's office on 10th December 1943.

Mr. Col. Bay said he
would place all ~~the~~ money
raised from the sale of wine
into our banking account.

Q 6
I did not want to enter into
this agreement, but had to do
so as I could not ^{otherwise} get out of
it, as ~~these~~ ^{the} ~~Albion~~ ^{Albion} had all the power.

I wanted by 1st (or 2nd) Bazaar to be included
Charge Allied Officers the following
prices for our wine:—

Vetrouh-
Maxida 30 kusia

liquor - Grain - 150

Foreign Liquors - 4 hr, Whiskey 3000

Longin	100
--------	-----

Feverign Champagne 1870

Hibiscus Spumens 75

Part. Sherry Malaga. 100

I wrote down there prices ^{in the}
presence of Lt Col Borg ^{with} ^{the} ^{late.}

prices were only about $\frac{1}{4}$ of
the prices then ~~being~~ paid in Naples.

If I am ever able to replenish my stock of wine, I shall have to pay very much more than these prices, four or five times as much from then onwards.

spirits etc were obtained
regularly by Allied Officers from
our stock.

change Allied Officers' prices for our wine:-

Vermouth	Malaga	50	lira
Brandy	St. Emilion	150	"
Foreign Cognac	Whisky	300	"
Foreign Cognac		100	"
Foreign Champagne		150	"
St. Emilion		75	"
Port, Sherry Malaga.		100	"

I wrote down these prices in the presence of Lt Col Borg ^{who was} ~~supposed to~~ ^{the} these prices were ~~very~~ ^{very} abundant & of the prices then ~~being paid~~ ^{being paid} in Naples. If I am ever able to replenish my stock of wine, I shall have to pay very much more than these prices, four or five times as much from the crowded bins. Spirits etc were obtained regularly by Allied Officers from our stock.

On 17th & 18th November 1943, consignments were taken away. On 30th November 1943, further wine was taken away. ~~On~~ On this last occasion in a truck after dark. I have no note from Lt Col or receipt.

I ~~think~~ ^{that} ~~the~~ two previous
 consignment. ~~there~~ ^{three}
 Bag to cover ~~these~~ ^{three} However I kept a
 record of what was removed
 on 17th & 18th November ^{as shown here personally} & of the
~~that~~ wines sent out in the
 list for these two dates are
 correct.

On 21st Dec 1943, I wrote
 to Mr Cal Bog asking for
 written confirmation of the prices
 I had had agreed to ~~between~~ ^{on} 10-12-43
 & for notes to cover the amount
 of wine removed on 17th & 18th
 & 30th November 1943. I
 received no reply & wrote again
 on 4th Jan 44. Also a
 third letter on 14 Feb 44.

I received a reply from
 Mr Cal Bog, dated 22-2-44.
 I have kept the address used
 by Cal Bog for all the other
 consignments.

A total of 213.500 - Lira
 has been paid by Cal Bog
 into our bank account
 for the sale of wine.
 11

list for there two dates are correct.

On 21st Dec 1943, Letter to Col Bag asking for written confirmation of the price I had had ~~to~~ ~~agree~~ ~~to~~ ~~agree~~ ~~to~~ on 10-12-43 & for notes to cover the amount of wine removed on 17th, 19th & 30th November 1943. I received no reply & wrote again on 4th Jan 44. Also a third letter on 19 Feb 44.

I received a reply from

Col Bag, dated 22-2-44.

I have kept the notes raised by Col Bag for all the other consignments.

A total of 213.800 Lira has been paid by Col Bag into our bank account for the sale of wine.

11

Some thefts of wine may have taken place, having been committed by the Guard, & the possible entry of civilians before the Guard as mentioned.

I produce a list which

sets out the wine as per my original inventory of 12-11-43. The wine as per my inventory of 30-3-44, and the difference. I have done the two inventories myself & to the best of my knowledge & belief the figures are ~~true~~ correct.

(X) That night I had the key of the cellar in my possession & the cellar was left locked. In the morning I found the cellar door had been ~~broken open~~ forced. Two employees told me that Dr. Carl Bopp arrived in a truck, interpreted Fredericki & 12 men, (the guards). Dr. Carl Bopp gave orders for the door to be forced & then the men helped to fill the truck with wine & spirits.

Sincerely,
 J. Kovach

Guerrero Rubini further says: -

The prices Dr Col Borg said we would be paid for the wine when I saw him on 10-12-43 were about the price per bottle we originally paid for the wine when we bought it. I cannot

say what price we actually ^{have been} paid on our records ~~and~~ destroyed in the fire covered by the Germans.

Dr Col Borg was present when the wine was taken away on 11th & 18th November 1943.

I saw Dr Col Borg a list of all the wine with ^{Dr Col Borg} ~~Dr Col Borg~~ from our cellar, except ^{for the wine} ~~for the wine~~ 30th November 1943, ~~then~~ on which ^{when} I do not know what amount

was removed. I made the list up from the notes sent by Dr Col Borg with Officer Fletcher wine & from the records kept by the ^{Dr Col Borg} ~~Dr Col Borg~~ of the wine received by ^{Dr Col Borg} ~~Dr Col Borg~~ 16th November 1943.

paid for the wine & beer we
bought it.

Say what price we actually
paid on our records ^{have I been} ~~and~~
destroyed in the fire caused
by the Germans.

1st Col Bof was present
when the wine was taken away
on 11th & 18th November 1943.

I saw 1st Col Bof a
lot of all the wine ^{in the wine} ~~for the wine~~
from our cellar, except ^{for the wine} ~~for the wine~~
30th November 1943, ~~which~~ on ~~which~~
~~date~~ ^{when} I do not know what amount

was removed. I made the
-list up from the notes sent by
1st Col Bof with officers fetching
wine & from the records I kept
draft of the wine removed on
12th & 18th November 1943. I
saw 1st Col Bof then list on 18th
March 1944.

This is a complete list of the
wine removed from our cellar.

except for the 30th November 1943.

I am satisfied it is true & correct.
J. J. J. J.

Headquarters.
Allied Control Commission.

50883.

28 MAR 44.

Michele Platania says: -

I am a consulting engineer and live at Parco Margherita 4, Naples, and my office is at via S. Lucia 173 from time to time for 40 years.

I have owned our work for the Società dei Grandi Alberghi di Italia di Venice, the owners of the Excelsior Hotel, the S. Lucia Hotel.

The Excelsior Hotel was damaged by bombs and then set on fire by the Germans when they retreated in September 1943. Upon the arrival of the Allies into Naples there only Signor Rubini left of the senior members of the Hotel staff. Rubini was head of the Administrative Branch.

Then the Allies arrived I took upon myself the responsibility for the reconstruction of the Hotel and also the

and my office is at Via S.
Lucia 173
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set on fire by the Germans when
they retreated in September 1943.
Upon the arrival of the Allies
in Naples there only Signor
Rubini left of the senior
members of the Hotel staff. Rubini
was head of the Administrative
Branch.

When the Allies arrived
I took upon myself the
responsibility for the reconstruction
of the Hotel and also the
responsibility of looking after
the Company's interests.

One day in November 1943
a Signor Alangi or Alanci called
at the Hotel Excelsior with an
Allied Officer. - not known if British
or American. Where they saw Rubini.
They told Rubini that they must

negotiation ~~the~~ wine in the Excelsior cellars. As soon as they had gone Rubini came & told me.

About 2 days afterwards I went to see Col. Kraege at the Municipio. ~~We~~ told Col. Kraege

what had occurred as I suspected everything was not as he in order & the Officers threat to requisition ~~the~~ wine caused Rubini to come with me. We asked what

we should do. Col. Kraege said he did not know anything about it, but said he would like to see the Italian Alonci, to find out all about it.

Rubini ~~knew~~ Alonci Alonci, ~~was~~ ~~was~~ ~~a~~ ~~wine~~ ~~merchant~~ owner of the ~~distillery~~ ~~a~~ ~~garage~~.

Col. Kraege wrote a letter to ~~the~~ Alonci asking him to call at the Municipio & see him on a certain time and date.

Col. Kraege told me next

Municipio. We told Col Kraege
 what had occurred as I suspected
 every thing might not be in order
 & the Officer stated to requisition
 the wine immediately. Rubini
 came with me. We asked what
 we should do. Col. Kraege
 said he did not know anything
 about it, but said he would
 like to see the Italian Alonci,
 to find out all about it.

Rubini knew Alonci
 Alonci, who was a wine merchant.
 Rubini knew Alonci as the
 owner of the ~~garage~~ garage.

Col. Kraege wrote a
 letter to ~~the~~ Alonci asking
 him to call at the Municipio
 & see him on a certain time and
 date.

Col. Kraege told me not
 to move any of the stock of wine,
 but to return to see him
 at the time specified by
 him in his letter to Alonci.
 Lt Col. Borg was not
 present at this interview.

I could not understand and the conversation.

Col. Knaege, through an interpreter, said to me ^{that} ~~there~~ ^{was} nothing was to be bought or moved from the Hotel, meaning the wine in the cellar, and that he was taking care of everything. Col. Knaege asked me to get an inventory of the stock of wine in the cellar taken and produce it to him.

I told Col. Knaege that I had proposed to sell the stock of wine to the S. Lucia, & Vittorio Hotels, and retained a third portion for the Excelsior Hotel.

I told Col. Knaege that three lists had been drawn up setting out the wine to be sold to each Hotel and the wine to be retained. Col. Knaege asked me to let him have the lists.

My reason for selling some of the wine was to raise money for the Hotel, which was largely

4

destroyed unusable as on Hotel.

Col. Kraege did not say he was going to requisition the wine, but merely that it must not be moved.

Two days later I again saw Col. Kraege with Rubini, when we took copies of the three lists of wine. There were handed to Col. Kraege.

Since in seven days I also Rubini & I went again & saw Col. Kraege, with war with Lt Col. Borg. I also met for the first time, & another Officer, whose name I do not know.

Lt. Col. Borg had the list of wine. He told us we must not touch the wine as it was now frozen. It ^{was to be assigned} ~~was~~ he ~~was~~

by the Allied forces as required. Rubini asked what prices would be paid & Lt Col Borg said he would stabilize the prices.

I was not given any thing in writing that our stock of wine

Two days later I again saw Col. Kraege with Rubini, when we took copies of the three lists of wine. There were handed to Col. Kraege.

Seven or seven days later Rubini & I went again & saw Col. Kraege, with war with Lt Col. Borg. was I met for the first time, & another officer, whose name I do not know.

Lt. Col. Borg had the list of wine. He told us we must not touch the wine as it was frozen. It ^{was to} ~~be~~ ^{be assigned} ~~be~~ ^{be} assigned.

By the Allied forces as required. Rubini asked what prices would paid & Lt Col Borg said he would stabilize the prices.

I was not given anything in writing that our stock of wine was frozen, & going to be used by the Allies.

Later Lt. Col. Borg came to look at the Hotel & our stock of wine. I told Lt Col. Borg that I was afraid some of the

Stock of wine was being stolen as the premises were badly damaged & open for anyone to get in & reach the cellar.

Lt Col. Borg asked me if I could like a guard & I said "Yes". The next day 12 soldiers arrived & surrounded the Hotel for about one month, by which time repairs had been carried out & reached the stock of wine safe. I did not have to pay for the guard or feed them.

Rubini arranged with either Lt Col. Borg or Col Knape that wine was only to be supplied to Officers who arrived with authorization signed by Lt Col Borg. I was not present on this occasion.

One day at the end of November 1943, Col Knape & Lt.

Col Borg came & looked over the Hotel, also the stock of wine. Lt Col Borg said they needed 85 rooms.

boarded like a general & I said "Yes". The next day 12 soldiers arrived & surrounded the Hotel for about one month, by which time repairs had been carried out & renewed the stock of wine safe. I did not have to pay for the food or feed them.

Rubini arranged with either Lt Col. Borg or Col Knauge that wine was only to be supplied to Officers who arrived with authorization signed by Lt Col Borg. I was not present on this occasion.

One day at the end of November '44? ~~Col Knauge & Lt Col Borg~~ came & looked over the Hotel, also the stock of wine. Lt Col Borg said they needed 85 rooms, about 100 beds etc. to accommodate ~~the~~ Senior Officers. He and Col Knauge had a look round the Hotel. Lt Col. Borg said the premises seemed suitable, and that the Allen would take it over.

to
Lt. Col. Borg confirmed this
by letter produced.

Lt. Col. Borg arranged for me
to see the Officer in Charge of Finance
at the ~~Bank of~~ Banca d'Italia.
I do not know if he was British
or American.

He listened long
to my report re the Banca
Commerciale Italiana, where I
was granted credits to
finance the repair of the Hotel.

I also had to go to the
Prefect & obtained authorization
to exercise administrative powers
for the Excelsior Hotel.

I have one copy of these
Prefectural Powers & the Banca
has the other copy.

I have not received
any money from Col. Borg.
Lt. Col. Borg or any other Officer,
except for wine, in order to
assist me in carrying out the
repair.

I have had nothing to do
with the supplying of wine to

or American. He listened long
to my report on the Banca
Commerciale Italiana, where I
was granted credits to
finance the repair of the Hotel.

I also had to go to the
Prefect & obtained authorization
to enclose administrative papers
for the Excelsion Hotel.

I have one copy of these
Prefectural Papers & the Bank
has the other copy.

I have not received
any money from Col. Maggi.
Mr. Col. Bag for any other Officer,
except for wine, in order to
assist me in carrying out the
repair.

I have had nothing to do
with the supplying of wine to
Officers. Rubini has done this.

On various times & times I have
received notification from the
Bank & from Mr. Col. Bag from
time to time that money
has been paid into our

7

Bank account for wine bought
by Allied Officers.

I do not know how
much Lt. Col. Bog charges for
a bottle of wine, Whiskey, etc.
We have nothing in writing ~~and~~
about the value per bottle and
I cannot ~~be~~ he certain if
the correct amount of money
is paid into the Bank, because
I do not know what it is
sold for. I ~~that~~ was
~~advised~~ told that the wine
was frozen and my hands
were forced.

I have no agreement,
verbal or in writing, that Lt.
Col. Bog. or any other Officer
can have for himself any profit
from the sales of the wine.

I was never at any time
told what prices the wine
would be sold at.

We have so far received \$12,800
from the Bog for wine, which
has been paid with our Banking

a bottle of wine, Whiskey, etc.
 We have nothing in writing ~~and~~
 above the value per bottle and
 I cannot ~~be~~ be certain if
 the correct amount of money
 is paid into the Bank, because
 I do not know what it is
 sold for. I ~~was~~ was
~~ordered~~ told that the wine
 was frozen and my hands
 were forced.

I have no agreement,
 verbal or in writing, that Lt.
 Col. Bog. or any other Officer
 can have for himself any profit
 from the sales of the wine.

I was never at any time
 told what prices the wine
 would be sold at.

We have so far received \$12,500

from the sale of wine, which
 has been paid with our Bank's
 check.

Respectfully,
 (Signature)

Blind Emanuele says:

I live at 1100 N. Albandirina 37

Thaples. I am employed at the
Excelsior Hotel as a Portiere.

Round the way end of
November 1943, at about 5 PM one
day, Dr. Col Bay arrived with a
truck. He asked for Reinier.

I told him he was over & had
just left.

At the time.

Dr. Col Bay said "I

have paper into the cellar to get
some stuff out". I told him I

did not possess the keys & that he
would have to return in the
morning. Reinier said Col Bay said he

could not return tomorrow as

the band told to do.

There were a dozen with Col Bay. Also
some of the soldiers who formed
the guard. Dr. Col Bay

said "Come on we want to

go down" & I then took them 5

down to the cellar

We went down with a

Round the very end of
 November 1943, at about 5pm one
 day, Lt Col Bray arrived with a
 truck. He asked for Reinert.
 I told him he was away & had
 just left. It was dark at
 the time. Lt Col Bray said "I
 have keys into the cellar to get
 some stuff out." I told him I
 did not possess the keys & that he
 would have to return in the
 morning. ^{substituted} Col Bray said he
 could not return tomorrow as
 he had to do. ^{where}
 was a Major with Col Bray, ^{was it}
 some of the soldiers who formed
 the guard. Lt Col Bray
 said "Come on we want to
 go down" so I then took them
 down to the cellar.

We went down with a
 candle & reached the cellar
 door. Col Bray demanded that
 I open the door. I said I
 had not got the key.
~~The~~ Lt Col Bray then ordered
 a Corporal to open the door & he
 did.

the Confocal forced the descent by facility pressure, breaking the bond work round the back.

I then found the

Candle, While PILLAR

~~Pietro~~ the Conventine,

6. Liberty and Box ordered

The following A-Category are:

Filing, Advance 40 bottles, above &

6. a. inability to pull out
 b. (the) rope pulls each direction

subant no bottles care

Q. Pekinensis, 40 half-bottles.

Reflections by the Carpenters' Guild

2.0e bottle. in Jars 250 bottles

The Cabinet claimed the

Solutions to Part the wine with

the tracks & to clear the cellar

up as best they could.

City ^{in credit money} ~~with the~~ ^{on a} ~~place~~ ^{new} Canal

While the time was being

removed.

the post-hacking contest against

the cellar door for the night.

On the morning of found

That the Housing Center had been

needed as if someone had been

Whilst Col Ray cleared
the bottles to canvas over
whisky at least 40 bottles,
4 in about 40 bottles, about
4 in quantity & different
types of wine each containing
about 50 bottles. It came

of Pellixinos, 40 half-bottles,
Chateau 4 to 10 cases, about
200 bottles or perhaps 250 bottles.

She coloured coloured the
solutions to put the wine in.

The trucks & to clear the cellar
up as best they could. ^{He said there was}
Buty made down in a ^{very} and

Whilst the wine was being
removed.

We put packing cases against
the cellar door for the night.

In the morning I found
that the packing cases had been
moved as if someone had been
in during the night. It was
impossible to say if further
wine was missing. Later a

locksmith repaired the door.

She was the only time the

Ellini

cellar door was forced, & we always put the packing cases in front of the cellar door in a certain way or could tell if they had been disturbed. Also me (Picciani & I) put some thread across the top of the door, which ~~was~~ would be broken if anyone opened the door. This was the only occasion the door was opened without authority.

There was no other access to the cellar, which had been walked up in August 1943.

Efflin

Shin & Latimer had been read to me in Glendon by Dr. J. E. & is the truth. I was with Plini on the occasion when the cellar was forced. I am giving this statement with in the truth.

Picciani Gilto

Caserta.

11-4-44

Nicholas Anthony Lombardi says:-

I am a Private in the American Army attached to C. A. S., which is a part of AMG.

During the month of November 1943 I was in AMG Region III Naples. I spent almost the whole of this month doing guard duty at the Excelsior Hotel, Naples.

During the month I was on guard duty, three lots of wine were removed from the cellar. Lt Col Bog came on the first occasion, Major Smith came for the second consignment and the third. Major Smith arrived with notes for Lt Col Bog.

On the occasion Lt Col Bog came Rubini had gone hand³ with the cellar key & the cellar

Nicholas A. Lombardi

~~They~~ & the cellar door was locked.
The caretaker, Pietro, did not
possess a key. Lt Col Bog went
down to the cellar door & ordered
the caretaker to force the door,
but he was not strong enough.
Then Lt Col Bog ordered me to
force the door & I did so by
pushing it with bodily pressure.

Lt Col Bog then got seven
of us, all members of the guard,
to remove wine & whiskey. I do
not know how much was
removed, but Lt Col Bog
made a list of it.

The caretaker came down
into the cellar with a candle.

The wine was carried up
& put in a truck.

Afterwards I helped the 2
caretaker & the other man who

Michael Lombardi

W & Red there, to place
a number of empty boxes in front
of the cellar door.

This forcing of the door took
place on the first occasion
that wine was removed when I
was present.

I have no knowledge at
all of any of the guard going into
the cellar to steal wine.

Nicholas H. Lombardi
Statement taken down by me.
Read over & signed by Lombardi
at Caserta at 1:50 pm 11-4-44.

Richard Reider.

Captain

