

ACC 10000/143/2584

149.01 /MB

BERNE MARIO

Apr. - May 1944

SUBJECT: - BERNE Memo.

Executive Commissioner,
A.C.C.

A/m is an enemy agent who was tried and convicted
of espionage but his sentence was subsequently quashed.

He is being interned for the duration of the war
in 371 PW Camp.

A copy of his arrest report is forwarded herewith.

14901 Berner
Security B

Headquarters
Allied Armies in Italy

5-3536

CONFIDENTIAL

MAI/1456/48/GI(b)

31 May 44.

for **DMurray Capt**
Brigadier,
B.G.S.(I).

Copy To: - G.S.I. Eighth Army.

39

GIU. 1944
2125

0028

ARREST REPORT

JB

NAME:- BERNE
CHRISTIAN NAMES:- Mario di Antonio
DATE OF BIRTH:- 1 Sep 1921
PLACE OF BIRTH:- Valle d'Istia, POLA
RANK & UNIT:- Marinaio Scilte, Battaglione S.MARCO, Parachutist.
DATE & CIRCUMSTANCES OF ARREST:- BERNE was arrested at TORRELLA del SANNIO (CAMPOBASSO) on 13 March 1944. He was tried and convicted for being an enemy agent but his sentence was quashed. He is now to be interned in 371 PW Camp for the duration, on the authority of G.S.I.(b), HQ. A.A.I.

31 May 44

DMurray 38pt
for B.G.S.(I):
HQ, AAI

149.01
Baker

HEADQUARTERS
AMC FIFTH ARMY (FIELD)
LEGAL DIVISION
APO 464 U.S. ARMY

CONFIDENTIAL

29 May 1944.
208/CA/96.

SUBJECT : Case of BERNE Mario.

TO : Lt Col J.L. Willis, ACC HQ.
Public Safety Sub-Commission, ACC HQ,
(attention Lt. L.V. Gale)

1. The conviction and death sentence imposed on the above-named Berne Mario by General Military Court on 12th May 1944 have been quashed on review by the Chief Commissioner.

2. Copy letter from the Chief Legal Officer dated 24th May 1944 is enclosed for your information.

H.M. Dickie W/Cdr.
H.M. DICKIE, W/Cdr., R.A.F.,
S.L.O., AMC 5th Army.

C O P Y

REAR HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
Legal Subcommittee
APO 394

GEU/gmf

24 May 1944.

ACC/4083/26/L

SUBJECT: BERNER Mario.

TO : SIO 5th Army.

1. I return the record in the above case.
2. The conviction has been quashed by the Chief Commissioner but the interment of the accused has been directed for the duration of the hostilities against Germany.
3. The Chief Commissioner quashed the conviction for the reason that the statement signed by the accused was in his view wrongly admitted.

Though greater latitude is allowed in AMG Courts in admitting so-called confessions or admissions, having regard to military exigencies, yet the admission of such documents must be carefully scrutinised by the Court. In this case the document was prepared in English by an Officer (who was not called as a witness) and who apparently was writing up the statement from his recollection of an interview some days previously. This document was signed by the accused after it had been translated orally to him. In these circumstances the Chief Commissioner thinks that the document should not have been relied upon.

Apart from the foregoing the case was neither well nor satisfactorily presented though this feature by itself would not of course have led to a quashing though it might have effected the sentence.

4. You will please draw the attention of those responsible for the preparation of the prosecution to the above facts so that in future no difficulty may arise.

In this connection will you inform the prosecuting officer that it is not only his right but his duty to refuse to conduct a case of this gravity unless all witnesses who should be available are made available and that no critical documents should be tendered to the Court unless the witnesses who were concerned in making it are available so that the circumstances in which the document was prepared and signed may be fully investigated by the Court.

5. Your action in regard to Agati was approved by the Chief Commissioner.

(Sgn) G. R. UPJOHN, Colonel
Chief Legal Officer.

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
SECURITY BRANCH

Ref: SB/311.5/149.01

16 May, 1944

Subject: Prosecution of Enemy Agent
- BERNÉ Mario di Antonio

To: Colonel A.E.Young, Director - Security Branch - A.C.C.

With reference to my reports of 15 and 23 April 1944,
regarding the above mentioned Italian:-

Mario BERNÉ appeared before the Allied Military
General Court on 8 and 12 May, 1944, charged with "serving the
enemy as a spy" - the charge being made under Proclamation 2,
Article 1, Paragraph 1.

The members of the Court were - Major W.F.Waugh (Am),
Major Collins (Am) and Major W.G.Elder (Br). The prosecution was
conducted by Lieut-Colonel J.L.Willis and the defence was represented
by Captain H.Jones. Both Counsel are British officers.

After hearing the witnesses for the prosecution,
mentioned in my previous reports, and after hearing the case for
the defence, including the evidence on oath of the accused, the
Court brought in a verdict of "Guilty" and sentenced the accused
to death. An appeal was forwarded to the Military Governor on
14 May, 1944 but the result is not yet known.

35
Louis H. Galt
Lieut.

Copy to Main 8 Army

Captain

for Colonel A.E.Young - Director
Security Branch - A.C.C.

BERNE Mario.
AGATI Girolamo

File Copies (2)

HEADQUARTERS,
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION,
(SECURITY BRANCH).

Reference. SB/311.5/149.01.

SECRET.
April 1944.

Subject:- Prosecution of Enemy Agents -
BERNE Mario and AGATI Giriamo.

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

1. With reference to my report dated 15th April 1944, regarding the above-mentioned Italians, detained as suspected enemy agents.
2. A statement has now been made by Mario BERNE in which he now admits having been sent by a German Headquarters, across the lines to obtain military information and to prepare the ground for saboteurs who were due to follow later. His statement was committed to writing and was signed by him after being carefully read over to him in Italian, by Captain J.V. COOPER, No.2 S.C.I. Unit.
3. There seems to be a prima facie case against BERNE in respect of charges of serving the enemy as a spy and conspiracy to take part in acts of sabotage.
4. After consultation with Lt.Col. W.D. GIBSON, G.S.O.1(I) and Lt.Col. Willis (Legal Branch, A.M.G.), it has been decided not to press ~~charges~~ charges against AGATI, as there is no admissable evidence to substantiate a prima facie case, owing to the circumstances in which statements were taken from him shortly after his arrest.

Louis V. Gale

LOUIS V. GALE, Lieut.
for Colonel A. E. YOUNG,
Director, Security Branch,
H.Q. A.C.C.

SANTA MARIA CAPUA VETERE

23rd April 1944.

Statement of Mario BERNE, born 1 September, 1921, at VALLE d'ISTUA, who says:-

In 1933 I served as a mechanic in the naval shipyards at POLA and in July, 1941 I was attached to the Depot SAN MARCO Regiment at POLA, being transferred in September, 1941 to the GRADO Battalion, SAN MARCO at LEXHORN. In September, 1942 I was transferred to TARQUINIA where I underwent a parachutist course and in December, 1942 I went to TOULON, France. In February, 1943 I returned to TARQUINIA with my Battalion and remained there until the Armistice. After the Armistice I spent some time with my unit at PIOGGIO DEL RITIRO under ~~Brigade~~ Naval B-4 Lieutenant Mario ROSSI but subsequently, in November, 1943, after the disbandment of my unit, went to TRIESTE where my sister lived. After a short time there I learned from the press and radio that men of the SAN MARCO Regiment were being called up and I accordingly presented myself at Battalion Headquarters at LA SPEZIA and was posted to the 10th Flotilla MAS. In December, 1943, I was sent to FLORENCE, but in January, 1944 was transferred to CAPENA after a short stay at IESOLO. On 6th March, 1944, with Lieutenant Giorgio SANTARELLI, 2nd Capo Ariano DONELLA and Sergeant Giroloma AGATI I was taken by car to a German Headquarters between CAPENA and MORLUPO, where I was informed that, with three others, I had been chosen for a mission, which meant that we would be taken to a certain port, given fishermen's clothes and the instructions for our particular mission.

On the 7th March, 1944, with the three other men whom I have mentioned, at about 0500 hrs I was taken to a village near PESCIANA and there a certain Lieutenant KAISER gave us certain instructions. According to these instructions AGATI and I were to go through the lines via MONTENERO - ROCCASICULA, TERMOLI and FOGGIA to SAN SEVERO, obtaining, if possible, military information, on the way. AGATI's instructions were that he was then to go on to RODI GARGANO, where he was to try to find employment and whilst waiting for my arrival was to try to find a boat to take me back to German occupied territory North of PESCARA. AGATI was to remain at RODI GARGANO and there was to wait for a boat to arrive with other men and a cargo of explosives. My own instructions were to go from SAN SEVERO inland (not along the coast) to ISTONIA and from that point I was to proceed along the coast to LAKE LESCINA and eventually to RODI GARGANO where I was to meet AGATI. On the way, I was to find places suitable for landing and storing explosives at a later date. Then I was to return by boat to a point North of PESCARA and give myself up to any German post, giving the password "HER", saying that I wished to see Major TUND or Lieutenant KAISER, to either of whom I was to give any information I had collected. SANTARELLI and DONELLA were to go to PESCARA to await my return. Then they were to load explosives and would then sail in the boat to RODI GARGANO. There they would meet AGATI who would inform them of the place and details arranged by him and myself for storage of the explosives. In the event of no boat being found by AGATI and myself, we were to return to CAPENA.

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I wish to state that both AGATI and I had made up our minds to give ourselves up as refugees, without telling anyone that we had crossed the lines on a mission for the Germans. This statement is true. It has been read to me in Italian by Captain Cooper.

...../over.

- 2 -

Statement taken down in writing by Lieutenant L.V. GALE.

Signatures witnessed by:-

Louis V. GALE, Lieut.,

J. Cooper, Capt.

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION.
(SECURITY BRANCH.)

SECRET

Reference: SB/311.5/149.01. 15 April 1944.

Subject:- Prosecution of Enemy Agents.

- (i) AGATI Girolamo fu Salvatore, Born 29 Aug 1915 at SYRACUSA, SICILY.
- (ii) BERNE Mario, di Antonio, Born 1 Sep 1921 at POLA, ITALY.

To: Colonel A.E. Young,
Director, Security Branch, H.Q. A.C.C.

1. With reference to the above-mentioned Italians who are held in custody by G.S.I(b), 8th Army, under directions of Lieut-Colonel W.D. Gibson, G.S.O.1(I), as enemy agents.
2. The facts of this case are that, at about 1745 hrs on 13 Mar 44 the two Italian civilians were seen by a Polish road patrol at the junction of the TORELLA - DURONIA - BAGNOLI roads, talking to about six other civilians.
3. Corporal Walenty PONIECKI, of 2nd Polish Corps Field Security Section, who was a member of the patrol (for control of movement of civilians) has signed a statement attached, marked "A" - in which he says that he singled these two men from the group, as being somewhat different and suspicious types, appearing to have been travelling, particularly as one of them (AGATI) was carrying a "military type" knapsack.
4. The Corporal notified to BERNE, who was standing beside AGATI, to come over to him. BERNE pointed to his leg, as if to indicate that he was lame. Therefore AGATI was called away from the group first, and was questioned by the Corporal and a member of the Carabinieri who was with the road patrol.
5. AGATI, when questioned said that he was going to TORELLA, having been recommended by a shoe-repairer at DURONIA to go there, where he might find work with the Allied military. He produced an identity card - No. 12197861 issued on 20 Aug 1942 at SYRACUSE and also showed the Corporal a piece of paper with some writing in Italian, which AGATI purported to be a recommendation written by the shoe-repairer, for AGATI to obtain work with Allied troops. (A copy of the paper in question is submitted herewith - marked "B" - and it will be seen that it is a paper signed by "Adolfo DEL SOLE" directing AGATI and BERNE - described therein as "two soldiers" - to report to the English Command at CAMPOBASSO).

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6. Corporal PONIECKI then asked AGATI the direct question, "When did you last see the Germans?" and he replied "Three days ago", saying that he had crossed the lines with his companion - BERNE at AVEZZANO.
7. On hearing this, the Corporal decided to take them to No.3 Detachment Field Security Office, TORELLA for further interrogation. On the way to that office, both men said that they were Italian sailors who had escaped from the Germans (they did not say why).
8. At TORELLA both men were searched immediately on arrival and the Corporal says that a number of articles (as shown on the attached list - marked "C") were found in their possession. The men were then asked separately to name the place where they had crossed the lines. AGATI said "At VEZZANO", whereas BERNE named a place which sounded to the Corporal like "VILLA PORRA" (later evidence shows that it was probably "VILLA BARREA" which BERNE mentioned). The next morning the Corporal reported the facts to his Commanding Officer.

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9. The evidence as given above can be corroborated by Sgt. Mieczyslaw KURA, of No. 3 Detachment, 2nd Polish Corps Field Security Section, and by Carabinieri Agostino MOCVERRO of the CC.RR. TORELLA. No statements have been taken from these two witnesses but I am reliably informed that the account which they have previously given tallies in detail with that given by Corporal PONTICKI.

10. On 14 Mar 44, the day following the incidents mentioned above, Lieut. Antoni JARUZELSKI, Officer Commanding the 2nd Polish Corps Field Security Section went to TORELLA and at once conducted a further search of the two individuals.

11. The Lieut. (whose statement is attached - Marked "D") says that he found 12,500 Lire in a contraceptive fixed between the legs of BERNE, this money including twelve notes of the "1,000" denomination, two of which were new notes, all being in Italian currency. In his wallet he had 938 lire in that currency.

12. When AGATI's wallet was searched 12,500 lire was found in one compartment. This included twelve notes, mostly new, of the "1000" denomination. In another compartment of his wallet the sum of 303 lire in Italian currency was found.

13. Corporal PONTICKI showed the Lieut. in the presence of the prisoners, the articles which he had taken from them on the previous day. Lieut. JARUZELSKI confirms that they were as shown on the attached list - "C".

14. BERNE, questioned separately, explained to the Lieut. that he had hidden his money in this peculiar manner because he feared being robbed. He said that he had escaped from a German concentration camp at FIANI and had subsequently worked as a chauffeur, that his domicile was at POLA and that he had been an Italian sailor.

15. AGATI was then interrogated separately by the Lieut. and told a similar story also saying that he had been in FRANCE during the war.

16. After interrogating these men Lieut. JARUZELSKI, took them to DURONIA where he made them point out the shoe-repairer's shop mentioned earlier by them. Then he went inside and questioned the shoe-repairer who recognised the description of the two men and said that they had come to his shop on the previous day to have their shoes repaired. They had asked him to give them a note to help them find work with the military at CAMPOBASSO. The note (copy attached - marked "B") produced to him by the Lieut. he acknowledged as having been written by him for the purpose.

17. Lieut. JARUZELSKI's evidence regarding this note is "hearsay" and it seems desirable that the shoe-repairer - Adolfo DELS SOLE of DURONIA be recalled as a witness. This man's note found on AGATI, seems to have an importance bearing on the case since the only reasonable conclusion is that it was obtained by the two men with the object of providing them with sufficient evidence of "bona fide" intentions, to carry them through any casual interrogation "on the road".

18. After leaving the shoe-repairer's shop Lieut. JARUZELSKI took the two Italians to his headquarters at VINCHIATURO and again questioned them closely. AGATI said that he had never been a member of the Fascist Party and had, in fact,

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18. After leaving the shoe-repairer's shop Lieut. JARUZELSKI took the two Italians to his headquarters at VINCHIATURO and again questioned them closely. AGATI said that he had never been a member of the Fascist Party and had, in fact, been made to pay 3,000 Lire for refusing to join the "Fascist Youth" organisation. He went on to give a story of service in the Italian Navy from 1935 onwards, subsequent release in 1937, and his recall to the "SAN MARCO" Battalion in 1939. Subsequently he served as a Sgt. Major and in May, 1943, was in TOULON, FRANCE, with occupying troops. In September 1943, he was released from service and went to POLA to stay at the home of his friend - Mario BERNE - where the latter's "mother and sister" were also staying. After a few days, he said, BERNE and he were arrested by the Germans and placed in a Concentration Camp at FIANO, near RCATE. On 9th March 1944, they escaped, reached VILLETTA BARREA and crossed the River SANGRO, by means of a tree lying across the river, to CASTEL DI SANGRO.

19. BERNE, under separate interrogation, also told a story of service in the Italian Navy, being posted to an arsenal at TOULON in about March 1942, meeting AGATI there about five months later (it was observed by the Lieut. that AGATI had only mentioned having been in TOULON in May 43). The remainder of his story was similar to that of AGATI, relating to the latter's having stayed at BERNE's home at POLA, their arrest by the Germans and subsequent escape.

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20. It is noteworthy that the Lieut. asked each of these men a number of questions relating to the description of the interior of BERNE's house and their replies were so widely different (as illustrated in the Lieut. statement) that their story seemed most unlikely to be true.

21. Lieut. JARUZELSKI says that, whilst he did not actually confront the men with the actual discrepancies or inconsistencies in their stories, he made it quite clear to both of them that they were under the strongest suspicion of being enemy agents. He says that the searching, detailed nature of his questions to AGATI would be sufficient to indicate to the latter that he was trapped.

22. The Lieut. assertion as above is to a great extent borne out by the fact that, before he had completed his interrogation of BERNE, an NCO handed him a note from AGATI, urgently requesting a further interview. This request was at once granted and on appearing before the Lieut. on this occasion (i.e. for the third time) AGATI said that he was prepared to tell everything in return for the Lieutenant's promise that he would be allowed to go to his family at SYRACUSE. The Lieutenant made the required promise.

23. AGATI then went on to say that he had been sent by the Germans, with BERNE, to cross into Allied territory to prepare the ground for actual saboteurs who were due to arrive at a later date. He went on to give details of their movements as instructed by the Germans, and said that BERNE was a strong Fascist believed to know likely collaborators. BERNE's job was to seek out such persons and find accommodation for the party of saboteurs.

24. No further information was forthcoming from BERNE when the Lieut. continued his interrogation which had been interrupted by AGATI's written request.

25. Both were subsequently interrogated by Captain John Vernon COOPER, No. 2 S.C.I. Unit. AGATI gave further details which showed that he and BERNE were part and parcel of a conspiracy, including ten to twelve other persons (Saboteurs due to arrive later) to carry out acts of sabotage on a large scale. AGATI and BERNE were to make the initial arrangements for storing of explosives and housing of the saboteurs. For their work they were paid 11,00 lire each and promised a bonus on their return. (A copy of the evidence which Captain Cooper will give, in relation to the above, is attached - marked "E").

26. BERNE when interrogated by Captain Cooper, refused to speak.

27. The evidence outlined as above leaves ^{no} room for doubt that both AGATI and BERNE were sent by the Germans to obtain information to assist saboteurs. Further, they were to take an actual part in acts to aid and abet the said saboteurs, namely the storage of explosives and keeping the actual saboteurs hidden. Thus, it would appear that there is a strong case ~~ago~~ against each of them both as agents seeking information useful to the enemy, and active participation in a conspiracy to carry out acts of sabotage.

28. Both of them came through our lines clandestinely and were questioned on the road after having penetrated a considerable distance into our territory. They then maintained a pose of being genuine escapees from the Germans. BERNE has

made the required promise.

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27. The evidence outlined as above leaves room for doubt that both AGATI and BERNE were sent by the Germans to obtain information to assist saboteurs. ^{no} Further, they were to take an actual part in acts to aid and abet the said saboteurs, namely the storage of explosives and keeping the actual saboteurs hidden. Thus, it would appear that there is a strong case ~~ago~~ against each of them both as agents seeking information useful to the enemy, and active participation in a conspiracy to carry out acts of sabotage.

28. Both of them came through our lines clandestinely and were questioned on the road after having penetrated a considerable distance into our territory. They then maintained a pose of being genuine escapees from the Germans. BERNE has maintained this false pretence throughout, whilst AGATI maintained it on each of four separate interrogations, separate from the other man (i) on the road (ii) At No. 3 Detachment Office, TORELLA to the Corporal (iii) At the same office on the following day to the Lieut. (iv) At the F.S. H.Q. VINCHIATURO to the Lieut. On the fifth occasion, after he must have realized, from the nature of the questions, that he was trapped, he admitted the facts. It is noteworthy too, that AGATI was found in possession of the note from the shoe-repairer, which might have helped them to bluff their way through any casual interrogation on the road.

29. There is no doubt that both men have every intention of carrying out the mission upon which they had been sent by the enemy. The only difference between them is that BERNE has more courage and has stuck to his story, inconsistent or otherwise. AGATI undoubtedly intended to carry out this mission, if it could be accomplished easily, and his intention did not wilt until he realized that he was already caught. Absence of intention cannot be claimed in his defence - absence of the necessary courage was the only thing which prevented him from overcoming the difficulties of carrying out his intention.

30. BOTH AGATI and BERNE are, therefore, clearly "Spies" as defined in Chapter 2, Article 29 of the Hague Convention, as well as conspirators in sabotage, and should pay the extreme penalty. *Both AGATI and BERNE are, therefore, clearly "Spies" as defined in Chapter 2, Article 29 of the Hague Convention, as well as conspirators in sabotage, and should pay the extreme penalty.*
Louis V. GALE, Lt. for Colonel A.E. YOUNG,
Director Security Branch, H.Q. A.C.C.

12th April, 1944

Statement of Corporal Poniecki WALENTY,
No. 164/P/1918/III, 2nd Polcorps Field Security Section,
No. 3 Detachment, who says:-

On 13th March, 1944, I was engaged on patrol in connection with control of movement of civilians in TORELLA and DURONIA and BAGNOLI, in company with Sergeant Mieczyslaw KURA, and a Carabiniere. Whilst returning from BAGNOW, at the road junction of the three roads leading to these towns, P.W. at about 1745 hours P.W. I saw about eight civilians in a group. Among them, were two men, talking together, who struck me as suspicious types, mainly because one of them (later known to be AGATI) was carrying a traveller's - military type - knapsack. I called his companion (BERNE) to come to me but he made a sign that he was lame and I therefore called AGATI to come over to me. I then asked him where he was going and he said, "I want to go to TORELLA, because I was told at DURONIA, that in TORELLA I might find work with the Military. A shoe repairer at DURONIA told me that." He showed me, at my request, an identity card and a piece of paper on which was some writing in Italian. The latter, he said, was a recommendation from the shoemaker, to get him (AGATI) work with the Allied Military. I looked at his identity card No. 12197861, dated 20 August 1942, issued at NARNI, Syracuse. I asked him how long ago he had seen the Germans, and he said "Three days ago" saying that he had crossed the lines at AVEZZANO. P.W. with his companion- BERNE P.W. On hearing this I decided to take them to the No. 3 Detachment F.S.S. Office at TORELLA, for further interrogation. On the way they both said that they were Italian sailors and had escaped from the Germans. They did not say why they had decided to flee across the lines from the Germans. I did not, however, understand all that they said as my Italian is not very good. The Carabiniere who was with us heard all that passed. We took the two men to the Caserma Carabiniere at TORELLA and searched them and found many articles, as shown in the list handed to me by Lieutenant GALE. I asked them separately where they had crossed the German lines. AGATI said "at AVEZZANO" whilst BERNE said "At Villa POREA" (I am not sure of the latter place, but I am certain that it was a place quite different from AVEZZANO). On the following day I went to 2 Polcorps F.S.S. H.Q. and reported the facts to Lieutenant JARUZELSKI, my commanding officer. This statement has been read to me and it is true.

(Sgd) Poniecki WALENTY, Corporal.

Statement taken down and read over by me through Lieutenant JARUZELSKI

Signature witnessed by me (Sgd) Louis V. GALE, Lieutenant.

Copy of note from shoe-repairer at DURONIA
produced by AGATI Girolami

"DURONIA MARELLA

CAMPORASSO

2 soldato a Camporasso io lorano detto

di presentarsi dal comando inglese

il diricento

DEL SOLE Adolfo"

LIST OF PROPERTY found in possession of
AGATI Girolamo and BERNE Mario

AGATI One magnetic compass, make unknown, set at 112 East
by S.East

Two lemons
Five white handkerchiefs
One dynamo hand torch, make unknown
One pair of paratroop boots
One half-pint aluminium bottle, German manufacturer
Two rubber preservatives, Italian manufacture
One penknife, civilian, Italian manufacture
Two field dressings - French manufacture
One field dressing - manufacture U.S.A.
Italian lire - 13203
One false identity card No. 12197861
One wallet with word "AFFA" on lining.
Miscellaneous articles

BERNE

Ration card for clothing material
One magnetic compass set 112 East by S.East, make
unknown.
Two identity cards Nos. 10211813 and 33253, differing
in description of colour of eyes
Italian lire - 13430 (12500 lire thereof concealed
in rubber preventative)
One pair of Paratroop boots
Quantity of cigarette papers (no tobacco)
One new notebook
One half-pint aluminium bottle - German manf.
One pocket lamp
One French field dressing
One pair of nail scissors
One fountain pen
One box of matches
One knife - civilian pattern - Italian manf.

12th April 1944

Statement of Lieutenant Antoni JARUZEISKI, Officer Commanding Field Security Section 2nd Polish Corps, who says:-

At 0800 hours on 14th March, 1944, I was informed by Corporal Poniewski WALENTY, a member of No. 3 Detachment of my F.S. Section, that in company with Sergeant KURA of that detachment, he had arrested two suspicious Italian civilians who had claimed to be refugees from German occupied territory, who were detained at TORELLA. I went at once to TORELLA and I searched the two men thoroughly, and I found 12,500 lire in a contraceptive fixed between the legs of one who gave the name of BERNE. This money was in Italian currency and the 12,000 lire was in notes of the denomination "1,000", two of them being very new notes. I found in AGATI's (the second suspect's) wallet - in one compartment 12,500 lire in Italian currency all in new notes and mostly in "1,000" notes. Elsewhere on BERNE I found 938 lire in his wallet. Also I found in another compartment of AGATI's wallet 303 lire. Corporal PONIEWSKI also showed me, in the presence of the prisoners, the articles which he had taken from them on arresting them the day before. The lists shown me by Lieutenant Gale agree in detail with the articles produced to me at TORELLA. The names given by the two men were AGATI Girolamo and BERNE Mario, and they were in possession of identity cards in those names. I asked "BERNE" why he had hidden the bulk of his money in this fashion and he said that he had done so because he feared being robbed. I then asked him where he had come from. He said that he had escaped from the German Concentration Camp at FIANI, and that afterwards he had worked as a chauffeur. He said that his domicile was at POLA Province, that was done quite separately from the other suspect. I then went to AGATI and he told me the same story exactly, including that he was an Italian sailor, and said that he had been in France during the war. I then took the two men to DURANIA and made them point out the shop of the shoemaker whom they had mentioned to Corporal PONIEWSKI the day before. Then I went into the shop, described the two men to him and he recognized the descriptions as those of two men who had come to him the day before to get their shoes repaired and who had asked him to give them a note of introduction to enable them to find work at Campobasso with the military. He acknowledged a note (handed to me by the Corporal) as one which he had written for the two men for that purpose. After this I took the two men to my office at VINCHIATURO and again questioned them, but more closely. AGATI said that he had never been a member of the Fascist Party and had been made to pay 3,000 lire for refusing to join the "Fascist Youth". He was called up to the Italian Navy in 1935, serving at POLA and abroad, being released in December, 1937 at NAPLES, subsequently working for "DITTA SPERO" a firm at Syracuse, Sicily, his birthplace. He was recalled in July, 1939 and served in the "SAN MARGO" Battalion as a Sergeant, subsequently being transferred to LIVORNO (Tuscany) as a Sergeant-Major. He left LIVORNO in about March, 1943 and went to France with the 2nd Company of the SAN MARGO Battalion and in May 1943 was in TOULON, France with occupying troops. On 8th September, 1943 he was sent to LA SPEZIA where he was released from service. After that, he said, he went to stay with his friend - BERNE Mario - at POLA with the latter's "Mother and sister". He was there for a few days only and was then taken by the Germans - one afternoon late in October - with his friend BERNE and was placed in a Concentration Camp at FIANO, near Rome. They escaped on 9th March, 1944 from the Concentration Camp and went from VILLETTA BARREA, across the River Sangro, over a tree lying across the river, to CASTEL DI SANGRO, which brought them into Allied territory. Mario BERNE was then interrogated. He, too, said that he had never been a member of the Fascist Party but had belonged to

in possession of identity cards in those names. I asked "BERNE" why he had hidden the bulk of his money in this fashion and he said that he had done so because he feared being robbed. I then asked him where he had come from. He said that he had escaped from the German Concentration Camp at FIANI, and that afterwards he had worked as a chauffeur. He said that his domicile was at POLA Province, that was done quite separately from the other suspect. I then went to AGATI and he told me the same story exactly, including that he was an Italian sailor, and said that he had been in France during the war. I then took the two men to DURONIA and made them point out the shop of the shoemaker whom they had mentioned to Corporal PANIECKI the day before. Then I went into the shop, described the two men to him and he recognized the descriptions as those of two men who had come to him the day before to get their shoes repaired and who had asked him to give them a note of introduction to enable them to find work at Campobasso with the military. He acknowledged a note (handed to me by the Corporal) as one which he had written for the two men for that purpose. After this I took the two men to my office at VINCHIATURO and again questioned them, but more closely. AGATI said that he had never been a member of the Fascist Party and had been made to pay 3,000 lire for refusing to join the "Fascist Youth". He was called up to the Italian Navy in 1935, serving at POLA and abroad, being released in December, 1937 at NAPLES, subsequently working for "DITTA SPERO" a firm at Syracuse, Sicily, his birthplace. He was recalled in July, 1939 and served in the "SAN MARGO" Battalion as a Sergeant, subsequently being transferred to LIVORNO (Tuscany) as a Sergeant-Major. He left LIVORNO in about March, 1943 and went to France with the 2nd Company of the SAN MARGO Battalion and in May 1943 was in TOULON, France with occupying troops. On 8th September, 1943 he was sent to LA SPEZIA where he was released from service. After that, he said, he went to stay with his friend - BERNE Mario - at Pola with the latter's "Mother and sister". He was there for a few days only and was then taken by the Germans - one afternoon late in October - with his friend BERNE and was placed in a Concentration Camp at FIANO, near Rome. They escaped on 9th March, 1944 from the Concentration Camp and went from VILLETIA BARREA, across the River Sangro, over a tree lying across the river, to CASTEL DI SANGRO, which brought them into Allied territory. Mario BERNE was then interrogated. He, too, said that he had never been a member of the Fascist Party but had belonged to G.I.L. from 1928 to 1938, then joining the Italian Navy as a volunteer, afterwards serving in TARANTO and abroad. At end of 1940 he went to LA SPEZIA and in April 1941 to POLA. In about March 1942 he was posted to an arsenal at TOULON and, about five months later, he met AGATI there, for the first time, meeting the latter in the course of collecting rations. He said that with AGATI he was disarmed at the time of the Armistice and kept in a "Caserma Coloniale" for a few days, then being escorted to Genoa by a German Guard, and was offered either to work for the Germans or to serve as a soldier. He was allowed to proceed then to POLA and took AGATI with him to his (BERNE's) house, where after a few days they were arrested by the Germans and escaped in March, 1944. At this point in the interrogation I was handed a note from AGATI, by my Sergeant, on which AGATI had written that he wished to speak at once to an officer. Before relating what subsequently transpired, I must mention that at the points where each man stated that they had lived together in BERNE's house, I asked each of them certain questions as to that menage and particulars as to the interior of the house with the following results:- AGATI said the two of them slept in the same room in separate beds. BERNE said there was only one bed and a mattress on the floor. AGATI said that the colour of the walls in the room were white. BERNE said

Continued: Statement of Lieutenant Antoni JARUZELSKI, Officer Commanding Field Security Section 2nd Polish Corps, who says:-

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they were of another colour - I cannot remember which colour - but I know it was not white that he mentioned. AGATI said the floor was of one substance and BERNE said another. (One said the floor was of "wood" and the other said of "stone" but I cannot remember precisely which one of them said "wood" or "stone"). The times given by the two men as to the time of their arrest by the Germans were also greatly at variance. After receiving AGATI's note I broke off my interrogation of BERNE and sent him away under escort and had AGATI brought to my office. I must say that during the interrogation of AGATI prior to this, I had shown him in every way possible that he was under the greatest possible suspicion as an enemy spy and he had every reason to believe that he was trapped, particularly from the nature of the questions ~~and~~ as I have given them above. On coming to my office, he said that before speaking he wanted me to promise that if he told everything, he would be allowed to go to his family in Syracuse, Sicily. He declared that, after I had made the promise, that he had been sent by the Germans, with BERNE, to cross into Allied territory and prepare the ground for actual saboteurs. Who would arrive at a later date. He said that he crossed the lines at the Front in the region of ALFADENA being brought to that town by German car. On 10 March, 1944 at 0100 hours they were left by the Germans and told to cross a bridge over the Sangro River, but fearing that they might encounter Allied sentries they crossed by a tree, lying further along, across the river. Their instructions, received from the Germans, were - after crossing the river - to go straight to CAMPOBASSO. They were also told that they would have to spend the night at ROCCASICURA or CAROVILLI, and that afterwards they could rest at DURONIA or TORELLA. Also they were instructed not to proceed along main roads, and to avoid Carabinieri and military vehicles. They were to buy bicycles on reaching CAMPOBASSO, afterwards they were to go to FOGGIA and the central parts of Southern Italy. He said that he had been a member of the SAN MARCO PARACHUTIST BATTALION. He gave me certain particulars of other enemy agents and saboteurs. He said that BERNE, as a strong fascist, said to know likely collaborators in Allied territory, was to pave the way for saboteurs who were coming later and was to find them suitable lodgings etc. for their purpose. No further information was forthcoming from BERNE when I continued the interrogation of him. This statement has been read to me and it is true.

/s/ A. JARUZELSKI, Lt.

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STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE to be given by Capt. John Vernon COOPER, No. 2 S.C.I. Unit, regarding interrogation on 21 March, 1944 of AGATI Girolamo and BERNE Mario

AGATI stated that he was born on 29 August 1915 at Syracuse. He was educated in Syracuse and in 1935 joined the Italian Navy, serving later at POLA and then in Croatia until 1937 as a sergeant. From 1937 he was in the Milizia at Syracuse and in 1940 joined the SAN MARCO Battalion, serving at POLA - LA SPEZIA - and LIVORNO attending, among other courses for training as a parachutist and saboteur. He said that in about November or October, 1942 he went for service to TOULON, France. In February, 1943 he returned to his previous depot at TARQUINIA and it was there disbanded and he worked on the land for some time. At the end of December, with others he went, under threat of German concentration camp, if he failed to comply, to LA SPEZIA and later to IESOLO, at about the end of December. On about 15 February, 1944 he went to CAPENA where the German authorities gave him and BERNE the instructions for their mission. They left CAPENA on 9 March, 1944 and went by car to AVEZZANO - PESCIANA - PESCOASCHIOLI and from there to a point near LARREA and thence on foot to ALFADENA. Two other persons - SANTARELLI and DONNELLA - also German agents - were with them at that time. AGATI was instructed to go to RODI and try to find a fishing boat and afterwards was to write to Posta FERMO, SAN SEVERO, making a rendez-vous with SANTARELLI, who was also charred with finding a fishing boat. On meeting, AGATI was to explain where explosives were to be discharged and stored for use of a party of saboteurs who were to arrive later. Then, when all arrangements ~~xxxx~~ had been made the two boats were to be used to run a shuttle service, carrying explosives. AGATI's appointment with SANTARELLI was to be made after eight days of leaving on the mission. The pay was to be 1000 lire for expenses with a bonus on return.

12th April, 1944

Statement of Corporal Pomicchi WALENTY,

Nº 164/P/1918/III, 2nd Air Corps Field Security
Section, Nº 3 Detachment, who says:-

On 13th March, 1944, I was engaged on
patrol in connection with control of movement
of civilians in TORRELLA, DURONIA and BAGNOVA,
in company with Sergeant Michozyslaw KURA, and
a Carabiniere. Whilst returning from BAGNOVA,

at the road junction ^{Road about 17.5 miles S.W.} of the three roads leading
to these towns, I saw about eight civilians in

a group. Among them, were two men, talking
together, who struck me as suspicious types,
mainly because one of them (later known to be
AGATI) was carrying a traveller's - military type
- bagpack. I called his companion (BENCI) to

come to me but he made a sign that he was lame
and I therefore called AGATI to come over to me.
I then asked him where he was going and he said,

"I want to go to TORRELLA, because I was told at
DURONIA, that in TORRELLA I might find work
with the military. A shoe repairer at DURONIA
told me that." He showed me, at my request, an

identity card and a piece of paper on which was
some writing in Italian. The latter, he said, was

a Carabinieri. Whilst returning from BAGNOLI, and
 at the road junction of the three roads leading
 to these towns, I saw about eight civilians in
 a group. Among them, were two men, looking
 together, who struck me as suspicious types.
 mainly because one of them (later known to be
 AGATI) was carrying a traveller's - military type
 - knapsack. I called his companion (BENZI) to
 come to me but he made a sign that he was lame
 and I therefore called AGATI to come over to me.
 I then asked him where he was going and he said
 "I want to go to TORRELLA, because I was told at
 DUSONIA, that in TORRELLA I might find work
 with the military. A shoe repairer at DUSONIA
 told me that." He showed me, at my request, an
 identity card and a piece of paper on which was
 some writing in Italian. The latter, he said, was
 a recommendation from the Allies military.
 (AGATI) wrote with the Allies military. I looked
 at his identity card N° 12197861, dated 20 August,
 1942, issued at NARNI, Syracuse. I asked him how
 long ago he had seen the Germans and he said
 "Three days ago" saying that he had crossed with
 him at AVEZZANO. On leaving this I decided
 to take them to the N° 3 Detachment F.S.S. Office
 at Treviso, for further interrogation. On the
 21st August 1942.

— 1 —

Conioides D. & Leach figs.

Statement taken down and read over by me

through Lieutenant JAROZELSKI.

High above artresses lay me
 Robin. Kate
 Friend ever.

2

12th April 1944

Statement of Lieutenant Antoni JARUZELSKI,
Officer Commanding Field Security Section 2nd
Polish Corps, who says: -

At 0800 hours on 14th March, 1944, I was informed by Corporal Poniewski WAFENTY, a member of W.F. Detachment of my F.I. Section, that in company with Sergeant WRA of that detachment, he had arrested two suspicious Italian civilians who had claimed to be refugees from German occupied territory, who were detained at TORRELLA. I went at once to TORRELLA and I searched the two men thoroughly, and I found 12,500 lire in a coinless envelope fixed between the legs of one who gave the name of BERSE. This money was in Italian currency and the 12,000 lire was in notes of the denomination "1,000", two of them being very new notes. I found in AGATI's (the second suspect's) wallet - in one compartment - 12,500 lire in Italian currency - all in new notes and mostly in "1,000" notes. Elsewhere on BERSE I found 938 lire in his wallet. Also I found 204 in another compartment of AGATI's wallet - 303 lire. Corporal PONIEWSKI also showed me, in the presence of the prisoners, the articles which he

arrested two suspicious Italian civilians who had
 claimed to be refugees from German occupied
 territory, who were detained at TORRELLA. I went
 at once to TORRELLA and I searched the two men
 thoroughly, and I found 12,500 lire in a contraceptive
 fixed between the legs of one who gave the name of
 BERNE. This money was in Italian currency and the
 12,000 lire was in notes of the denomination "1,000",
 two of them being very new notes. I found in AGATI's
 (the second suspect's) wallet - in one compartment -
 12,500 lire in Italian currency - all in new notes
 and mostly in "1,000" notes. I also found in BERNE's
 I found 938 lire in his wallet. Also I found 20
 in another compartment of AGATI's wallet - 303 lire.
 Corporal PONIECKI also showed me, in the
 presence of the prisoners, the articles which he
 had taken from them on arresting them the day
 before. The list shown me by Lieutenant Gale agreed
 in detail with the articles produced to me at
 TORRELLA. The names given by the two men were
 - AGATI, Girolamo and BERNE, and they
 were in possession of identity cards in those names.
 I asked ~~AGATI~~ BERNE why he had hidden the bulk of
 his money in this fashion and he said that he
 had done so because he feared being robbed.
 My Auredor, Lt.

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I then asked him where he had come from. He said that he had escaped from the German concentration camp at FIANI, and that after-wards he had worked as a chauffeur. He said that his domicile was at P.O.A. Prowia, that he was an Italian sailor. This questioning was done quite separately from the other suspect. I then went to AGATI and he told me the same story exactly, including that he was an Italian sailor, and said that he had been in France during the war. I then took the two men to DIRONIA and made them point out the shop of the shoemaker whom they had mentioned to corporal POMIECKI the day before. Then I went into the shop, described the two men to him and he recognized the descriptions as those of two men who had come to him the day before to get their shoes repaired and who had asked him to give them a note of introduction to enable them to find work at Compagnano with the military. He acknowledged a note (handed to me by the corporal) as one which he had written for the two men for that purpose. After this I took the two men to my office at VINCHIAVANO and again questioned them, pretty-
more closely. AGATI said that he had never been a member of the Fascist Party and had been made to pay 3,000 lire for refusing to join the "Fascist Party". He was called up to the Italian

DURONIA and made them point out the shop of the shoemaker whom they had mentioned to Corporal PONTRELLI the day before. Then I went into the shop, described the two men to him and he recognized the descriptions as those of two men who had come to him the day before to get their shoes repaired and who had asked him to give them a note of introduction to enable them to find work at competence with the military. He acknowledged a note (handed to me by the corporal) as one which he had written for the two men for that purpose. After this I took the two men to my office at VINCENZIARDO and again questioned them, but more closely. ATATI said that he had never been a member of the Fascist Party and had been made to pay 3,000 lire for refusing to join the "Fascist Youth". He was called up to the Italian Navy in 1935, serving at Port and abroad, being released in December, 1937 at NAPLES, subsequently working for "DITTA SPIRO" a firm of hydraulic machinery, his workplace. He was recalled in July, 1939 and served in the "SAN MARCO" Battalion as a sergeant, subsequently being transferred to LIVORNO (Tuscany) as a sergeant-major. He left LIVORNO in about March, 1943 and went to

Macerata, etc.

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France with the Liaison Company of the 5th MARS
 Battalion and in May 1943 was in Bordeaux, France
 with occupying troops. On 8th September, 1943
 he was sent to LA SPEZIA where he was released
 from service. After that, he went, he went to
 stay with his friend - BERNÉ Mario - at Pola
 with the latter's "mother and sister". He was
 there for a few days only and was then taken
 by the Germans - one afternoon late in October
 - with his friend BERNÉ and was placed in a
 Concentration Camp at FIANO, near Rome. They
 escaped on 9th March, 1944 from the concentration
 camp and went from VIGEVANZOLA, across the
 Po river, over a line lying across the river, to
 CASTEL DI SANGA, which brought them into
 Allied territory. Mario BERNÉ was then
 interrogated. He, too, said that he had never
 been a member of the Fascist Party but had
 belonged to G.I.L. from 1928 to 1938, then joining
 the Italian Navy as a volunteer, afterwards
 serving in TARANTO and abroad. At end of 1940
 he went to LA SPEZIA and in April 1941 to POLA.
 In about March 1942 he was posted to an
 Arsenal at TOLON and, about five months
 later, he met AGATI there, for the first time,
 meeting the latter in the course of collecting
 rubble.

concentration camp at FIANO, near Rome. They escaped on 9th March, 1944 from the concentration camp and went from VIGEVAN BARREA, across the River Stagno, over a line lying across the River, to CASTEL DI SAN GALE, which brought them into Allied territory. Mario BÉRENE was then

interrogated. He, too, said that he had never been a member of the Fascist Party but had belonged to G.I.L. from 1928 to 1938, then joining the Italian Navy as a volunteer, afterwards serving in TARISSO and abroad. At end of 1940 ¹⁸ he went to LA SPEZIA and in April 1941 to POLA. In about March 1942 he was posted to an

armored at TOULON and, about five months later, he met AGATI there, for the first time, meeting the latter in the course of collecting rations. He said that with AGATI he was disarmed at the time of the Armistice and kept in a "cavanna coloniale" for a few days, then being escorted to Genoa by a German Guard, and was offered either to work for the Germans or to serve as a soldier. He was allowed to proceed then to POLA and took AGATI with him to his (BÉRENE's) house, where after a few days

AGATI, etc.

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They were arrested by the Germans and escaped in March, 1944. At this point in the interrogation I was handed a note from AGATI, by my sergeant, in which AGATI had written that he wished to speak to one of an officer. Before relating what subsequently transpired, I must mention that at the points where each man stated that they had lived together in BERNE's house, I asked each of them certain questions as to that man's name and particulars as to the interior of the house with the following results: —

AGATI said the two of them slept in the same room in separate beds. BERNE said there was only one bed and a mattress on the floor. AGATI said that the colour of the walls in the room were white. BERNE said they were of another colour — I cannot remember which colour — but I know it was not white that he mentioned. AGATI said the floor was of one substance and BERNE said another. (One said the floor was of "wood" and the other said of "stone" but I cannot remember precisely which one of them said "wood" or "stone"). The times given by the two men as to the time of their arrest by the Germans were also greatly at variance.

After

each of them certain questions as to that
 arrange and particulars as to the interior
 of the house with the following results:—
 AGATI said the two of them slept in the same
 room in separate beds. BEANE said there was
 only one bed and a mattress on the floor.
 AGATI said that the colour of the walls in the
 room were white. BEANE said they were of another
 colour - I cannot remember which colour - but I know
 it was not white that he mentioned. AGATI said
 the floor was of one substance and BEANE said
 another. (One said the floor was of "wood" and the
 other said of "stone" but I cannot remember
 precisely which one of them said "wood" or "stone".
 The times given by the two men as to the
 time of their arrest by the Germans were also
 greatly at variance. After receiving
 AGATI's note I broke off my interrogation of
 BEANE and sent him away under escort and
 had AGATI brought to my office. I must say
 that during the interrogation of AGATI prior
 to this, I had shown him in every way possible
 that he was under the greatest possible suspicion
 as an enemy spy and he had every reason to
 believe that he was trapped, particularly from
 the nature of the questions as I have given them
 above. In coming to my office, he said that
 (AGATI's note) the

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before speaking, he wanted me to promise that if he told everything, he would be allowed to go to his family in Syracuse, Sicily. He declares then, after I had made the promise, that he has been sent by the Germans, with

BENE, to cross into Allied territory and prepare the ground for the actual saboteurs. who would arrive at a later date. He said that he crossed the lines at the front in the region of ALFADENA being brought to that town by German car. On 10th Nov, 1944 at 0100 hours they were left by the Germans and told to cross a bridge over the Sangro River, but - fearing that they might encounter Allied sentries they crossed by a tree, lying further along, across the river. Their instructions, received from the Germans, were - after crossing the river - to go straight on to CAMPOBASSO. They were also told that they would have to spend the night at ROCCASICURA or CAROVILLI, and that afterwards they could rest at DURONIA or TORELLA. Also they were instructed not to proceed along main roads, and to avoid Carabinieri and military vehicles. They were to buy bicycles or reaching CAMPOBASSO, afterwards they were to go to FOGGIA and the central parts of Southern Italy. He said that he had the

by German car. On 10th March, 1944 at 0100 hours they were left by the Germans and told to cross a bridge over the Dange River, but fearing that they might encounter Allied sentries they crossed by a tree, lying further along, across the river. Their instructions, received from the Germans, were - after crossing the river - to go straight on to CAMPOBASSO. They were also told that they would have to spend the night at ROCCASCURA or CAROVILLI, and that afterwards they could rest at DOROVIA or TORELLA. Also they were instructed not to proceed along main roads, and to avoid Carabinieri and military vehicles. They were ¹⁶ busy bicycles on reaching CAMPOBASSO; afterwards they were to go to FOGGIA and the central parts of Southern Italy. He said that he had been a member of the SAN MARCO PARACHUTIST BATTALION. He gave me certain particulars of other enemy agents and saboteurs. He said that BEANE, as a strong fascist, said to know likely collaborators in Allied territory, was to pave the way for saboteurs who were coming later and was to find them suitable lodgings etc. for their purpose. No further information was forthcoming from BEANE when I continued the interrogation of him. This statement has been read to me and it is true. *H. Accurately. L.*

CSDIC (Sub-centre East) AAI

Report No. Ib/5
14 Apr 44

SECRET

Interrogation Report on an Italian Detainee

Name: Mario BERNE, born Valle d' ISTRIA 1 Sept 24
Source No: Ex 418
Place of Interrogation: CSDIC (Sub-centre East) AAI

The above is referred to in this Report as "DP" - Detained person.
Figures in brackets after names refer to list of personalities at Appx A
to the Report.

1. Introduction

DP started by lying. He eventually was persuaded to tell what appears to be the truth. His story tallies in most of its details with that given by Girolamo AGATI (Report No Ib/5). It should be noted, however, that the dates re movements do NOT correspond.

2. HISTORY AND MOVEMENTS

a) Prior to Armistice

1933. Mechanic in the naval shipyards at POLA.
Jul 1941. Called up and attached to Depot San Marco Regt POLA.
Sept 1941. Transferred to GRADO Bn (S. Marco) at LEGHORN.
Nov 1941. DP was transferred with 40 other men to LA SPEZIA as bodyguard to Admiral TUR.
Feb 1942. Admiral TUR and his bodyguard embarked on cruiser "TARANTO" and went to LEGHORN.
Sept 1942. These men were transferred ashore to GRADO Bn, where they remained for twenty days. DP and a few others were transferred to TARQUINIA where they followed a parachutist course. S. Marco Bn Parachutists transferred to HYERES for a fortnight then to TOULON.
Dec 1942. Returned to TARQUINIA with Bn and remained there until Armistice.
Feb 1943.

b) Post Armistice

Sept 1943. After Armistice Tenente di Vascello Mario ROSSI ordered his men to resist any German attempt to disarm them. The whole Bn, less a Pl of 30 men who were left behind in the Barracks, moved out to PIOGGIO DEL RITIRO. Later, however, ROSSI decided to disarm his unit. The men returned to barracks, where they were granted 70 days leave.
DP, after various adventures, including an escape from a concentration camp and 20 days spent with Italian partisans

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1. REFERENCE

DP started by lying. He eventually was persuaded to tell what appears to be the truth. His story tallies in most of its details with that given by Girolamo AGATI (Report No 1b/5). It should be noted, however, that the dates re movements do NOT correspond.

2. HISTORY and MOVEMENTSa) Prior to Armistice

1933. Mechanic in the naval shipyards at POLA.
 Jul 1941. Called up and attached to Depot San Marco Regt POLA.
 Sept 1941. Transferred to GRADO Bn (S. Marco) at LECHORNI.
 Nov 1941. DP was transferred with 40 other men to LA SPEZIA as bodyguard to Admiral TUR.
 Feb 1942. Admiral TUR and his bodyguard embarked on cruiser "TARANTO" and went to LECHORNI.
 Sept 1942. These men were transferred ashore to GRADO Bn, where they remained for twenty days. DP and a few others were transferred to TARQUINIA where they followed a parachutist course.
 Dec 1942. S. Marco Bn Parachutists transferred to RIVIERA for a fortnight then to TOULON.
 Feb 1943. Returned to TARQUINIA with Bn and remained there until Armistice.

b) Post Armistice

Sept 1943. After Armistice Tenente di Vascello Mario ROSSI ordered his men to resist any German attempt to disarm them. The whole Bn, less a Pl of 30 men who were left behind in the Barracks, moved out to FIOGGIO DEL RITIRO. Later, however, ROSSI decided to disband his unit. The men returned to barracks, where they were granted 70 days leave.
 DE, after various adventures, including an escape from a concentration camp and 20 days spent with Italian partisans in the ISTRIA region, succeeded in reaching his house in Oct 43.
 Nov 43. Having spent a few days in his native town with friends DE went to TRIESTE where his sister lived.

3. AFTER RE-ENLISTMENT

While in TRIESTE DE learned from press and radio that Tenente di Vascello BUTTAZZONI (2) of the S. Marco Regt was calling up all his men.
 Nov 43. DE presented himself at Bn HQ LA SPEZIA and was posted to the X Flottiglia M.S.

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SECRET

- 2 - CSDIC (Sub-centra East) LAL Report No Ib/6

Dec 43.

DP, together with Lt CIAPPI (24), Sjt BARTOLETTI (25) and Sailer VILLA (26), was sent to FLORENCE, where CIAPPI was to open a recruiting office. They were billeted for a few days at the GRAND HOTEL before moving to the former Corps HQ in Piazza S. MARCO. (Note: the latter has been taken over by the Germans who were using the 1st and 2nd floors as HQ. DP and the rest were quartered on the 3rd floor.)

Jan 44.

Ten days later Capitano di Fregata GERINI-FERRONI (27) arrived and took over the running of the FLORENCE office. DP was sent back to LA SEZZIA and the following day to IESOLO where his Bn was.

Feb 44.

From there DP was sent with a group of 30 men to CAPENA. A group of 10 men was sent on an expedition towards PLANO where, according to information received, there were escaped PW and/or spies. The party returned with 2 German deserters and 2 escaped PW.

4. MISSION

6 Mar 44.

DP, Lt Giorgio SANTARELLI (42), 2nd Group minus DIAMILLA (13) and Sjt Girolamo AGATI (Report No Ib/5) were taken by car to a German HQ situated in a large villa, between CAPENA and MORLupo, 3 km from CAPENA and 50 m WEST of the road. They were received by a Maj TUND (comment: according to AGATI the name is THUMIN or THUM). DP heard that this Major was a Count. Lt CIAPPI (4), Lt FRASCHINI (6) and 2/Lt RAGAZZI (see Report No Ib/5 Appx 4, No 8) were also present. DP was informed that he and the three others had been chosen for a Mission. They would be taken to a certain port where they would be given fisherman's clothes and a fishing boat and would then be given instructions as to what they would have to do. Toward 0500 hrs DP and the three others were driven to a village near PESCIANA where they were received by Lt KAISER (see Report No Ib/5 Appx A No 11). The latter gave them new instructions.

7 Mar 44.

- a) DP and AGATI were to go through the lines via MONTE NERO to ROCCA SICURA, TERNOLI, FOGGIA and eventually reach S. SEVERO, obtaining if possible military information on the way.
- b) AGATI would then proceed to RODI GARGANO where he would endeavour to find employment and, whilst waiting for DP to arrive, would try to find a boat to take DP back to enemy occupied territory NORTH of PESCARA. AGATI would then remain at RODI GARGANO and wait for a boat to come with men and explosives.

- c) DP was to go from S. SEVERO inland (not along the coast) to ISTONIA, and from ISTONIA along the coast to Lake LESINA and eventually RODI GARGANO where he would meet AGATI. On the way he was to find suitable places where explosives could be landed and stored at a later date.

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where his Bn was.

From there DP was sent with a group of 30 men to CAIENA. A group of 10 men was sent on an expedition towards FILINO where, according to information received, there were escaped PW and/or spies. The party returned with 2 German deserters and 2 escaped PW.

Feb 44.

4. MISSION

6 Mar 44.

DP, Lt Giorgio SANTARELLI (12), 2° ORO and Primo DOMELLA (13) and Sjt Girolamo AGATI (Report No Ib/5) were taken by car to a German HQ situated in a large villa, between CAIENA and MORLUPO, 3 km from CAIENA and 50 m WEST of the road. They were received by a Maj TUND (comment: according to AGATI the name is THUMIN or THUM). DP heard that this Major was a Count. Lt CLAPPI (4), Lt FRASCHINI (6) and 2/Lt RACALZZI (see Report No Ib/5 Appx A No 8) were also present.

DP was informed that he and the three others had been chosen for a Mission. They would be taken to a certain port where they would be given fishermen's clothes and a fishing boat and would then be given instructions as to what they would have to do.

Toward's 0500 hrs DP and the three others were driven to a village near PESCIARA where they were received by Lt KAISER (see Report No Ib/5 Appx A No 14). The latter gave them new instructions.

a) DP and AGATI were to go through the lines via MONTE NERO to ROCCA SICURA, TERNOLI, FOGGIA and eventually reach S. SEVERO, obtaining if possible military information on the way.

b) AGATI would then proceed to RODI GARGANO where he would endeavour to find employment and, whilst waiting for DP to arrive, would try to find a boat to take DP back to enemy occupied territory NORTH of PESCARA. AGATI would then remain at RODI GARGANO and wait for a boat to come with men and explosives.

c) DP was to go from S. SEVERO inland (not along the coast) to ISTONIA, and from ISTONIA along the coast to Lake LESINA and eventually RODI GARGANO where he would meet AGATI.

On the way he was to find suitable places where explosives could be landed and stored at a later date. DP would then return by boat to NORTH of PESCARA and give himself up to any German post, giving the pass word "BER" and mention that he wished to see Maj TUND or Lt KAISER. The latter were to be given the information DP would have collected on the way.

d) SANTARELLI and DOMELLA were to go to PESCARA and wait for DP's return. They would load the explosives and then they and other men would sail in the boat to RODI GARGANO where they would meet AGATI who would inform them of the place selected by him and DP for the storage of the explosives.

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7 Mar 44.

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- e) In case a boat could NOT be found DP and AGATI would return to CEFEM by the same route. They received 11,000 lire each to cover expenses and were promised a bonus and a leave on their return. DP and the three others remained at PESCIUM for 4 days owing to a snow storm.
- 11 Mar 44. At 1300 hrs a car drove DP and AGATI to PESCIUM. A German soldier in Alpine uniform, escorted the pair. They spent the night at PESCIUM.
- 12 Mar 44. They were driven to VILLETTA BARRE, which they reached towards 1700 hrs. They rested in an abandoned furnished house and towards midnight were driven towards ALFEDENA. The truck got stuck on the way on account of heavy snow and the pair, together with their German escort, reached a German outpost. A Lieut ordered a patrol to take the pair near the lines. Near ALFEDENA DP and AGATI were shown the way and the patrol returned after warning the pair of the presence of Polish troops in the neighbourhood.
- 13 Mar 44. DP and AGATI walked until they reached ROCCA SICURA. They were compelled to take shelter in an abandoned house in the outskirts, due to the heavy gale and snow storm. They proceeded again on their journey until they reached DURONIA.
- 15 Mar 44. AGATI insisted on having his shoe mended and they entered DURONIA, where they found a shoemaker.
- Note: DP stated that both he and AGATI had made up their minds to give themselves up as refugees without stating that they had crossed the lines on a Mission.
- They asked the shoemaker if there was a British HQ in the neighbourhood. The shoemaker told them that there was a Polish HQ in a small village (DP could NOT remember the name). The pair walked towards it; as soon as they left DURONIA they stopped a truck in which were Polish soldiers and a carabinieri and gave themselves up. They were taken to a Polish HQ near CASTELLASSO where they were interrogated separately.

G.A.G

R. Glynn Faithfull

R. Glynn Faithfull,
Capt.,
Officer i/c CSDIC (Sub-centre East)
AAI.

Distribution as for Report No Ib/5

13 Mar 44.

near ALFREDA. DP and AGATI were shown the way and the patrol returned after warning the pair of the presence of Polish troops in the neighbourhood.

15 Mar 44.

DP and AGATI walked until they reached ROCCA SICURA. They were compelled to take shelter in an abandoned house in the outskirts, due to the heavy gale and snow storm. They proceeded again on their journey until they reached DURONIA. AGATI insisted on having his shoe mended and they entered DURONIA, where they found a shoemaker.

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G.A.G.

R. Glynn Faithfull

R. Glynn Faithfull,
Capt.,
Officer i/o CSDIC (Sub-
centre East) AAI.

Distribution as for Report No Ib/5

13

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SECRET

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Appendix A

P E R S O N A L I T I E S

1. ? CIAPPI

Lieut (Army), parachutist. Instructor at TARQUINIA, collaborated with the Germans, started recruiting office in FLORENCE.

Height 1.74 m, athletic figure, oval face, dark complexion, dark hair brushed back, cleanshaven, eyes (?).

Late Dec 43 replaced by Capitano di Fregata CERINA-FERRONI and appointed LO between ROME and San Marco Bn.

2. ? BARTOLETTI

Sgt in San Marco Regt.

Height 1.70 m, robust build, long face, chestnut hair, eyes (?), cleanshaven.

3. Carlo VILLA

Sailor in the San Marco Regt.

Height 1.80 m, fat, flat face, chestnut hair brushed back, hazel eyes, cleanshaven.

4. ? CERINA-FERRONI

Capitano di Fregata of the San Marco Regt. Ex-naval officer. Took over the FLORENCE recruiting office from Lt CIAPPI (see No 1).

Height 1.70 m, thin, oval face, lighter and salt hair brushed back, eyes (?) squinted, cleanshaven.

In Jan 44 returned to LA SPEZIA to take command of San Marco Regt replacing Capitano di Vascello BEDESCHI.

5. ? BEDESCHI

Capitano di Vascello. CC of San Marco Regt at LA SPEZIA.

In Jan 44 removed from his office for having intrigued and obtained the arrest of Prince BOGHESE (see Report No Ib/5 Appx A No 1) by order of Mussolini. The latter was released by a direct order from HITLER and BEDESCHI was placed under arrest.

6. ? FRASCHINI

Lieut (Army) attached to San Marco Regt. Met by DP in Maj TUND's (see Report No Ib/5 Appx A No 9) office. Also LO between ROME and San Marco Regt.

Height 1.72 m, athletic figure, energetic face, chestnut hair brushed back, eyes (?), cleanshaven.

7. ? BANDINI

Sailor San Marco Bn.

Height 1.62 m, normal figure, round face, dark hair brushed back, eyes (?), cleanshaven.

3. Carlo VILLA

Sailor in the San Marco Regt.
Height 1.80 m, fat, flat face, chestnut hair brushed back, hazel eyes, cleanshaven.

4. ? CERINIA-FERRARONI

Capitano di Fregata of the San Marco Regt. Ex-naval officer. Took over the FLORENCE recruiting office from Lt CLAFFO (see No 1).

Height 1.70 m, thin, oval face, copper and salt hair brushed back, eyes (?) squinted, cleanshaven.

In Jan 44 returned to LA SPEZIA to take command of San Marco Regt replacing Capitano di Vascello BEDESCHI.

5. ? BEDESCHI

Capitano di Vascello. OC of San Marco Regt at LA SPEZIA. In Jan 44 removed from his office for having intrigued and obtained the arrest of Prince BONCHESI (see Report No Ib/5 Appx A No 1) by order of Mussolini. The latter was released by a direct order from HITLER and BEDESCHI was placed under arrest.

6. ? FRASCHINI

Lieut (Army) attached to San Marco Regt. Met by DP in Maj TUND's (see Report No Ib/5 Appx A No 9) office. Also LO between ROSE and San Marco Regt.

Height 1.72 m, athletic figure, energetic face, chestnut hair brushed back, eyes (?), cleanshaven.

7. ? BANDINI

Sailor San Marco Br.

Height 1.62 m, normal figure, round face, dark hair brushed back, eyes (?), cleanshaven.

Appendix B 12

1. DP states that the recruiting office of the San Marco Bn in FLORENCE for/issued posters calling/volunteers. One of these posters represented a young man dressed in the uniform of the San Marco Regt. It was headed "Btg S. MARCO, X Flottiglia MAS". A list of the various depts (Guastatori, Arditi, Moutatori, Paracadutisti) followed. Another poster read approx as follows:

"Paracadutisti, accorrate alle armi per vendicare i vostri fratelli caduti sui campi di battaglia nella lotta contro il comune nemico".

2. Most of the men taken on by the FLORENCE Office had previously been in the Italian special service tps. There were only a few new recruits.

HEADQUARTERS,
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION,
(SECURITY BRANCH).

Reference: SB/311.5/149.01.

SECRET.
April 1944.

Subject: Prosecution of Enemy Agents -
BERTS Mario and AGATI Girdano.

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

1. With reference to my report dated 15th April 1944, regarding the above-mentioned Italians, detained as suspected enemy agents.
2. A statement has now been made by Mario BERTS in which he now admits having been sent by a German Headquarters, across the lines to obtain military information and to prepare the ground for saboteurs who were due to follow later. His statement was committed to writing and was signed by him after being carefully read over to him in Italian, by Captain J.V. COOPER, No. 2 S.G.I. Unit.
3. There seems to be a *prima facie* case against BERTS in respect of charges of serving the enemy as a spy and conspiracy to take part in acts of sabotage.
4. After consultation with Lt.Col. W.D. GIBSON, A.C.C.I(I) and Lt.Col. Willis (Legal Branch, A.M.C.), it has been decided not to press ~~stronger~~ charges against AGATI, as there is no admissible evidence to substantiate a *prima facie* case, owing to the circumstances in which statements were taken from him shortly after his arrest.

Louis V. Gale
LOUIS V. GALE, Lieut.
for Colonel A. E. YOUNG,
Director, Security Branch,
H. Q. A.C.C.

SANTA MONICA CABLE, VENTURE

Have good luck.

statement of Mario Gallo, born 1 September, 1921, at Villa d'Isoia, who says:-

In 1935 I served as a mechanic in the naval engineering at sea and in July, 1941 I was attached to the 1st Air Force Regiment at sea, being transferred in September, 1941 to the 60th Battalion, 1st Air Force at CASABON. In September, 1942 I was transferred to the 10th Battalion where I underwent a period of training and in December, 1942 I went to NASSAU, BRUNSWICK. In February, 1943 I returned to CASABON with my battalion and remained there until the end of the war. After the end of the war I spent some time with my wife at NASSAU and then I went to NASSAU, BRUNSWICK, but subsequently, in November, 1945, after the disbandment of my unit, went to NASSAU where my sister lived. After a short time there I learned from the press and radio that none of the 10th Battalion members were being called up and I accordingly presented myself at Battalion Headquarters at NASSAU and was posted to the 10th Battalion. In December, 1945, I was sent to NASSAU, but in January, 1946 was transferred to CASABON after a short stay at NASSAU. In 1946, with Lieutenant Giorgio KILIAN, 2nd Air Force Regiment and Sergeant Giovanni KILIAN, I was taken by car to a German Headquarters between CASABON and NASSAU, where I was informed that, with three others, I had been chosen for a mission, which meant that we would be taken to a certain port, given fishermen's clothes and the instructions for our particular mission.

On the 7th March, 1944, with the three other men whom I have mentioned, at about 0500 hrs I was taken to a village near KASSEL and there a certain Lieutenant KASSEL gave us certain instructions. According to these instructions KASSEL and I were to go through the lines via KASSEL - KASSEL - KASSEL and KASSEL to KASSEL, obtaining, if possible, military information, on the way. KASSEL's instructions were that he was then to go on to KASSEL, where he was to try to find employment and whilst waiting for my arrival was to try to find a boat to take me back to German occupied territory North of KASSEL. KASSEL was to remain at KASSEL and there was to wait for a boat to arrive with other men and a cargo of explosives. My own instructions were to go from KASSEL inland (not along the coast) to KASSEL and from that point I was to proceed along the coast to KASSEL and eventually to KASSEL where I was to meet KASSEL. On the way, I was to find places suitable for landing and storming explosives at a later date. When I was to return by boat to a point North of KASSEL and give myself up to my German post, giving the password "KASSEL", saying that I wished to see Major TULL or Lieutenant KASSEL, to either of whom I was to give my information I had collected. KASSEL and KASSEL were to go to KASSEL to await my return. When they were to load explosives and would then sail in the boat to KASSEL. There they would meet KASSEL who would inform them of the place and details arranged by him and myself for storage of the explosives. In the event of no boat being found by KASSEL and myself, we were to return to KASSEL by the same route. We received 11,000 lire each as expenses and were promised a bonus and leave on our return. We remained at KASSEL for four days owing to a snowstorm, but at about 1500 hours on 11 March 1944, escorted by a soldier in Alpine uniform we went by car to KASSEL, and on 12th March 1944

and was posted to the 10th Flotilla HQ. In December, 1943, I was sent to Santa Fe, but in January, 1944, was transferred to Santa Fe after a short stay at Santa Fe. On 6th March, 1944, with Lieutenant Giorgio Maffei, 2nd Capo Giuseppe Maffei and Lieutenant Giovanni Maffei I was taken by car to a German Headquarters between Santa Fe and Santa Fe, where I was informed that with three others, I had been chosen for a mission, which meant that we would be taken to a certain port, given fishermen's clothes and the instructions for our particular mission.

On the 7th March, 1944, with the three other men whom I have mentioned, at about 0800 hrs I was taken to a village near Santa Fe and there a certain Lieutenant Maffei gave us certain instructions. According to these instructions Maffei and I were to go through the lines via Santa Fe - Santa Fe - Santa Fe and I were to go through the lines via Santa Fe - Santa Fe - Santa Fe. Maffei's instructions were that he was then to go on to Santa Fe, where he was to try to find employment and whilst waiting for my arrival was to try to find a boat to take me back to German occupied territory North of Santa Fe. Maffei was to remain at Santa Fe and there was to wait for a boat to arrive with other men and a cargo of explosives. My own instructions were to go from Santa Fe inland (not along the coast) to Santa Fe and from that point I was to proceed along the coast to Santa Fe and eventually to Santa Fe where I was to meet Maffei. On the way, I was to find a place suitable for landing and storing explosives at a later date. When I was to return by boat to a point North of Santa Fe and give myself up to any German post, giving the password "Maffei", saying that I wished to see Major Maffei or Lieutenant Maffei, to either of whom I was to give my information I had collected. Maffei and Maffei were to go to Santa Fe to wait for my return. Then they were to load explosives and would then sail in the boat to Santa Fe. When they would meet Maffei who would inform them of the place and details arranged by him and myself for storage of the explosives. In the event of no boat being found by Maffei and myself, we were to return to Santa Fe by the same route. We received 11,000 lire each as expenses and were promised a bonus and leave on our return. We remained at Santa Fe for four days owing to a snowstorm, but at about 1300 hours on 11 March 1944, escorted by a German soldier in a light uniform we went by car to Santa Fe, and on 12th March, 1944 were driven to Santa Fe which we reached at about 1700 hours. Towards midnight we were driven in the direction of Santa Fe. The truck got stuck on the way and so eventually reached a German outpost, with our escort. A Lieutenant ordered a patrol to take us near to the lines. Near Santa Fe we were given directions and the patrol left us, after warning us of the presence of Polish troops in the neighbourhood. Maffei and I then walked on until we reached Santa Fe where we sheltered in an abandoned house on the outskirts, owing to a heavy gale and a snowstorm. Eventually we went on our way until we reached Santa Fe where Maffei insisted on having his shoes mended. We asked the shoemaker if there was a British Headquarters in the neighbourhood and he said that there was a Polish Headquarters in a small village (I don't remember the name). However, we walked towards the village and then, on the way, stopped a truck in which were a carabinieri and some Polish soldiers, and we gave ourselves up to them, afterwards being taken to a Polish Headquarters near to Santa Fe where we were questioned separately.

I wish to state that both Maffei and I had made up our minds to give ourselves up as refugees, without telling anyone that we had crossed the lines on a mission for the Germans. This statement is true. It has been read to me in Italian by Captain Cooper.

...../over.

100

1987-1988

subject: presentation of my paper

- (1) DE 22 subvencion de alimentos, item 22, de 1982
de 20/12/82 SF, 20/12/82.
- (15) De 22 subvencion de alimentos, item 1, de 1982 de
20/12/82 SF, 20/12/82.

To: General A. A. Young
Alaska, Security Council, U. S. Capitol

1. With reference to the above-named Italian who was held in custody by the A.I.C. 8th reg., and a detachment of Italian-Austrian A.I. 1st reg., as enemy agents.
2. The date of his case was that, at about 1745 hrs on 13 Mar 44, the two Italian divisions were seen by a patrol and captured at the junction of the Tiber and Arno rivers, leading to about the river confluence.
3. General Roberto Battaglia, of the Italian Army Staff, formerly acting as a member of the patrol (see report of movement of divisions) has been a witness attached, called "A" - in which he says that he captured these two men in a detached position, called "A" - he says that he captured these two men on the 13th, as being members of the Italian Army Staff, and that they were seen to have been travelling, particularly as one of them (A.I. 1st reg.) was carrying a machine gun.
4. The Italians mentioned in the report, who are standing nearby, the same was seen by him. Battaglia pointed to him, on 12 to indicate that he was Italian. The report, A.I. 1st reg. was called away from the patrol staff, and was mentioned by the Italian staff, and was mentioned by the Italian staff, and was mentioned by the Italian staff.

5. GALT, upon questioning, said that he was going to Columbia, Kentucky, being escorted by a chauffeur as directed to go there, where he might find out with the listed military. He presented an identity card - No. 1487341 issued on 20 Aug 1944 at Columbia and also showed the beyond a picture of paper with card written in Italian, which GALT purported to be a recommendation written by the chauffeur. For GALT to obtain words with listed names - and it will be seen that they are similar to submitted heretofore - "Hacked" - and it will be seen that it is a paper signed by "Hacked" and "Hacked" and "Hacked" - and it will be seen that beyond the "Hacked" - no word to the English language as shown in the above.

6. What did you do when you were asked to give the devotion?

GIORGIA MARIA CAPELA VETERAN

23rd April 1944.

Statement of Maria Capela, born 1 September, 1921, at Vagos d'Alentejo, who says:-

In 1933 I worked as a mechanic in the naval shipyard at Lagos and in July, 1941 I was attached to the 1st Battalion of the 1st Infantry being transferred in September, 1941 to the 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry at Faro. In September, 1942 I was transferred to the 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry at Faro. In September, 1942 I went to Faro. In February, 1943 I returned to Faro with my Battalion and remained there until the Armistice. After the Armistice I spent some time with my unit at Lagos and then went to Faro. In November, 1943, after the disbandment of my unit, went to Faro where my sister lived. After a short time there I learned from the press and radio that men of the 1st Infantry Regiment were being called up and I accordingly presented myself at Battalion Headquarters at Faro and was posted to the 10th Platoon. In December, 1943, I was sent to Faro, but in January, 1944, was transferred to Faro after a short stay at Faro. On 6th March, 1944, with Lieutenant Giorgio Salazar, 2nd Capo of the 10th Platoon and Sergeant Girolamo Salazar I was taken by car to a German headquarters between Capela and Faro, where I was informed that, with three others, I had been chosen for a mission, which meant that we would be taken to a certain port, given fishermen's clothes and the instructions for our particular mission.

On the 7th March, 1944, with the three other men whom I have mentioned, at about 0500 hrs I was taken to a village near Faro and there a certain Lieutenant Salazar gave us certain instructions. According to these instructions Salazar and I were to go through the lines via Faro - Faro - Faro - Faro and I was to go through the lines via Faro - Faro - Faro - Faro on the way. Salazar's instructions were that he was then to go on to Faro, where he was to try to find employment and whilst waiting for my arrival was to try to find a boat to take me back to German occupied territory North of Faro. Salazar was to remain at Faro and there was to wait for a boat to arrive with other men and a cargo of explosives. My own instructions were to go from Faro to Faro inland (not along the coast) to Faro and from that point I was to proceed along the coast to Faro, Faro and eventually to Faro where I was to meet Salazar. On the way, I was to find places suitable for landing and storing explosives at a later date. Then I was to return by boat to a point North of Faro and give myself up to any German post, giving the password "Faro", saying that I wished to see Major Salazar or Lieutenant Salazar, to either of whom I was to give my information I had collected. Salazar and I were to go to Faro to await my return. When they were to land explosives and would then sail in the boat to Faro. There they would meet Salazar who would inform them of the place and details arranged by him and myself for storage of the explosives. In the event of no boat being found by Salazar and myself, we were to return to Faro by the same route. We received 11,000 lire each as expenses and were promised a bonus and leave on our return. We remained at Faro for four days waiting to a ship, but at about 1300 hours on 11 March 1944, escorted by a boat

German Headquarters between CAPRIA and HOROUBO, where I was informed that with three others, I had been chosen for a mission, which meant that we would be taken to a certain point, given fishermen's clothes and the instructions for our particular mission.

On the 7th March, 1944, with the three other men whom I have mentioned, at about 05.00 hrs I was taken to a village near PASADIA and there a certain Lieutenant BUKALSKI gave us certain instructions. According to these instructions BUKALSKI and I were to go through the lines via HOROUBO - PASADIA - PASADIA - HOROUBO and I were to go through the lines via HOROUBO - PASADIA - PASADIA - HOROUBO. BUKALSKI's instructions were that he was then to go on to HOROUBO, where he was to try to find employment and whilst waiting for my arrival was to try to find a boat to take me back to German occupied territory North of PASADIA. BUKALSKI was to remain at HOROUBO and there was to wait for a boat to arrive with other men and a cargo of explosives. My own instructions were to go from HOROUBO inland (not along the coast) to PASADIA and from that point I was to proceed along the coast to HOROUBO and eventually to HOROUBO where I was to meet BUKALSKI. On the way, I was to find places suitable for landing and storing explosives at a later date. When I was to return by boat to a point North of PASADIA and give myself up to my German post, giving the password "BOK", saying that I wished to see Major BOK or Lieutenant KILICK, to either of whom I was to give my information I had collected. BUKALSKI and ANKEL were to go to PASADIA to await my return. Then they were to load explosives and would then sail in the boat to HOROUBO. There they would meet BUKALSKI who would inform them of the place and details arranged by him and myself, we were to return to HOROUBO and details arranged by him and myself, we were to return to HOROUBO. I received 11,000 lire each as expenses and were promised a bonus and leave on our return. He remained at PASADIA for four days going to a snowstorm, but at about 1300 hours on 14 March 1944, escorted by a soldier in a light uniform we went by car to PASADIA, and on 15th March 1944 were driven to HOROUBO which we reached at about 1700 hours. Towards midnight we were driven in the direction of HOROUBO. The truck got stuck on the way and we eventually reached a German outpost, with our escort. A Lieutenant ordered a patrol to take us near to the lines. Near PASADIA we were given directions and the patrol left us, after warning us of the presence of Polish troops in the neighbourhood. BUKALSKI and I then walked on until we reached HOROUBO where we encamped in an abandoned house on the outskirts, owing to a heavy gale and a snowstorm. Eventually we went on our way until we reached PASADIA where BUKALSKI insisted on having his shoes mended. He asked the shoemaker if there was a British Headquarters in the neighbourhood and he said that there was a Polish Headquarters in a small village (I can't remember the name). However, we walked towards the village and then, on the way, stopped a truck in which were a carabinieri and some Polish soldiers, and we gave ourselves up to them, afterwards being taken to a Polish Headquarters near to CAPRIA where we were questioned separately.

I wish to state that both BUKALSKI and I had made up our minds to give ourselves up as refugees, without telling anyone that we had crossed the lines on a mission for the Germans. This statement is true. It has been read to me in Italian by Captain Cooper.

...../over.

- 2 -

Statement taken down in writing by Lieutenant L.V. Galt.

Signatures witnessed by:-

Louis V. Galt, Lieut.,

J. Cooper, Capt.

MEMORANDUM
FOR THE DIRECTOR, FBI
(Security Matter)

DATE: 10/11/51

RE: 10/11/51

SUBJECT: Investigation of New York

- (1) 10/11/51, New York, from 10/11/51
- (2) 10/11/51, New York, from 10/11/51

TO: Director, FBI
FROM: New York, 10/11/51

1. This reference is to the above-captioned New York letter dated 10/11/51, captioned "New York, 10/11/51, as above captioned."

2. The above of this case are that, at about 1745 hours on 10/11/51, the New York letter was received by a New York letter dated 10/11/51, captioned "New York, 10/11/51, as above captioned."

3. The above of this case are that, at about 1745 hours on 10/11/51, the New York letter was received by a New York letter dated 10/11/51, captioned "New York, 10/11/51, as above captioned."

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5. The above of this case are that, at about 1745 hours on 10/11/51, the New York letter was received by a New York letter dated 10/11/51, captioned "New York, 10/11/51, as above captioned."

5. The evidence as given above can be corroborated by Sgt. Christopher Miller, of the 1st Battalion, 2nd Polish Corps Field Security Section, and by Sergeant Christopher Miller of the 1st Battalion. The statements have been taken from these two witnesses but I am reliably informed that the account which they have previously given tallies in detail with that given by Corporal Miller.

10. On 14 May 1945, the day following the incidents mentioned above, Lieut. Robert J. Miller, Officer Commanding the 2nd Polish Corps Field Security Section went to the 1st Battalion and was conducted a further search of the two individuals.

11. The Lieut. (whose statement is attached as Exhibit "D") says that he found 12,500 lire in a circumlocution placed between the legs of Miller, this money consisting of two notes of the "1,000" denomination, two of which were new notes, all being in Italian currency. In his wallet he had 988 lire in that currency.

12. When Miller's wallet was searched 12,500 lire was found in the compartments. This included twelve notes, mostly new, of the "1,000" denomination. In another compartment of his wallet the sum of 500 lire in Italian currency was found.

13. Corporal Miller showed the Lieut. in the presence of the witnesses, the articles which he had taken from them on the previous day. Lieut. J. Miller confirms that they were as above on the attached list "A".

14. Lieut. J. Miller, questioned separately, explained to the Lieut. that he had hidden his money in this peculiar manner because he feared being robbed. He said that he had escaped from a German concentration camp at Posen and had subsequently worked as a chauffeur, that his daughter was at Milan and that he had been an Italian exile.

15. Miller was then interrogated separately by the Lieut. and told a similar story also saying that he had been in Milan during the war.

16. After interrogating these men Lieut. J. Miller took them to the 1st Battalion where he made them point out the circumlocution where mentioned earlier by them. Then he went inside and questioned the circumlocution who recognized the description of the two men and said that they had come to his shop on the previous day to have their shoes repaired. They had asked him to give them a note to help them find work with the military at Milan. The note (copy attached - marked "B") produced to him by the Lieut. he acknowledged as having been written by him for the purpose.

17. Lieut. J. Miller's evidence regarding this case is "true" and is so far as possible that the circumlocution - which was said of Miller - he called as a witness. This man's note found on Miller, seems to have an important bearing on the case above the only reasonable conclusion is that it was obtained by the two men with the object of providing them with sufficient evidence of "being false" intending to carry them through any court investigation "on the road".

18. After leaving the circumlocution who Lieut. J. Miller took the two individuals to his headquarters at Posen and again questioned them closely.

20. He subsequently told the Agent, asked each of these men a number of questions relating to the description of the interior of the house and their replies were so widely different (as illustrated in the above statement), that their story seemed most unlikely to be true.

21. Agent, immediately suggested, whilst he did not actually confront the men with the actual discrepancies or inconsistencies in their stories, he made it quite clear to both of them that they were under the strongest suspicion of being enemy agents. He says that the searching detailed nature of his questions to 13-20 would be sufficient to indicate to the latter that he was trapped.

22. The Agent, considered as above is to a great extent borne out by the fact that, before he had completed his interrogation of 13-20, an 11th landed him a note from 13-21, suggesting a further interview. This request was at once granted and on appearing before the Agent, on this occasion (i.e. the third time), 13-21 said that he was prepared to tell everything in return for the Agent's promise that he would be allowed to go to his family at 13-22. The Agent made the required promise.

23. 13-21 then went on to say that he had been sent by the Germans, with 13-22 to cover into Allied territory to prepare the ground for actual saboteurs who were due to arrive at a later date. He went on to give details of their movements as instructed by the Germans, and said that 13-22 was a strong phoney believed to know highly confidential information. 13-21's job was to make out each person's and their movements for the party of saboteurs.

24. No further information was forthcoming from 13-21 when the Agent, continued his interrogation whilst he had been interrupted by 13-21's written request.

25. Both were subsequently interrogated by Captain John Vernon Dwyer, No. 2 A.C.I. Unit. 13-21 gave further details which showed that he and 13-22 were part and parcel of a conspiracy, including ten to twelve other persons (saboteurs due to arrive later) to carry out acts of sabotage on a large scale. 13-21 and 13-22 were to make the initial arrangements for storing of explosives and burning of the saboteurs. For their work they were paid 11,21 live each and provided a bonus on their return. (A copy of the evidence which Captain Dwyer will give, in relation to the above, is attached - marked "B").

26. 13-22 was then interrogated by Captain Dwyer, refused to speak.

27. The evidence outlined as above leaves room for doubt that both 13-21 and 13-22 were sent by the Germans to obtain information to assist saboteurs. Further, they were to take an active part in acts to aid and abet the said saboteurs, namely the storage of explosives and keeping the actual saboteurs hidden. Thus, it would appear that there is a strong case ⁴⁰ against each of them both as regards making contributions useful to the enemy, and active participation in a conspiracy to carry out acts of sabotage.

28. Both of them came through our lines clandestinely and were mentioned in the end after having penetrated a considerable distance into our territory. They then maintained a pose of being genuine enemies from the Germans. 13-21 has been interviewed at an early stage of the investigation and 13-22 interviewed at an early stage of the investigation.

A

1203 April, 1964

Statement of Corporal Donald
No. 100/11918/III, and Robert Field Security Section,
No. 5 statement, also August

On Thursday, 1964, I was engaged on patrol in connection with control of movement of civilians in the area of the airport and the airport, in company with Sergeant Donald, and a Carabinieri. Whilst returning from the airport, at the junction of the three roads leading to the town, i.e., at about 1740 hours. I saw about eight civilians in a group. They were, some were men, talking together, who seemed to be suspicious of me, mainly because we of them (civilians) were to be seen. I was carrying a traveller's bag which was a bag. I called the sergeant (Robert) to come to us but he made a sign that he was late and I therefore called him to come over to us. I then asked him where he was going and he said, "I want to go to the airport because I was told at the airport, that in the airport, I might find something the military." I then suggested he should, told me that, "he should go, at my request, on identity card and a piece of paper on which was some writing in Italian. The latter, he said, was a recommendation from the airport, to get him (civilians) with him, the Italian military. I looked at his identity card No. 100/11918/III, dated 10 August 1962, issued at the airport, I asked him how long ago he had seen the sergeant, and he said "about 1000" saying that he had crossed the line at 1000. I, with his conversation, looked at him on hearing this I decided to take them to the No. 3 detachment. I, at the airport, the further information. As the way they both said that they were Italian soldiers and had escaped from the airport. They did not say they they had decided to flee across the line from the airport. I did not, however, understand all that they said as my Italian is not very good. The Carabinieri did not wish to leave all that seemed. I took the two men to the airport Carabinieri at the airport, and convinced them and found they were Italian, as shown in the last section to me by the sergeant. I asked them separately where they had crossed the German line. Robert said "at the airport" which Robert said "at the airport" (I am not sure of the latter place, but I am certain that it was a place quite different from the airport). On the following day I went to the airport (No. 100/11918/III) and reported the facts to the sergeant, my commanding officer. This statement has been read to me and it is true.

(100) continued earlier, (continued).

Statement taken down and read over by an English interpreter at the airport.

Statement witnessed by me (100) Robert F. Field, Carabinieri.

Copy of note from shoe-repairer at DURONIA
produced by AGATI Girolami

"DURONIA FARELLA

CAMPOBASSO

2 soldato a Campabasso io lorano detto
di presentarsi dal comanto inglese

il diricento

DEL SOLE Adolfo"

C

LIST OF PROPERTY found in possession of
AGATI Girolamo and BERNE Mario

AGATI

One magnetic compass, make unknown, set at 112 East
by S. East
Two lemons
Five white handkerchiefs
One dynamo. hand torch, make unknown
One pair of paratroop boots
One half-pint aluminium bottle, German manufacturer
Two rubber preservatives, Italian manufacture
One penknife, civilian, Italian manufacture
Two field dressings - French manufacture
One field dressing - manufacture U.S.A.
Italian lire - 13203
One false identity card No. 12197861
One wallet with word "LPPA" on lining.
Miscellaneous articles

BERNE

Ration card for clothing material
One magnetic compass set 112 East by S. East, make
unknown.
Two identity cards Nos. 10211813 and 33253, differing
in description of colour of eyes
Italian lire - 13430 (12500 lire thereof concealed
in rubber preventative)
One pair of Paratroop boots
Quantity of cigarette papers (no tobacco)
One new notebook
One half-pint aluminium bottle - German manf.
One pocket lamp
One French field dressing
One pair of nail scissors
One fountain pen
One box of matches
One knife - civilian pattern - Italian manf.

[illegible]

[illegible]

10

STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE to be given by Capt. John Vernon COOPER, No. 2 S.C.I. Unit, regarding interrogation on 21 March, 1944 of AGATI Girolamo and BERNE Mario

AGATI stated that he was born on 29 August 1915 at Syracuse. He was educated in Syracuse and in 1935 joined the Italian Navy, serving later at POLA and then in Croatia until 1937 as a sergeant. From 1937 he was in the Milizia at Syracuse and in 1940 joined the SAN MARCO Battalion, serving at POLA - LA SPEZIA - and LIVORNO attending, among other courses for training as a parachutist and saboteur. He said that in about November or October, 1942 he went for service to TOULON, France. In February, 1943 he returned to his previous depot at TANQUINIA and it was there disbanded and he worked on the land for some time. At the end of December, with others he went, under threat of German concentration camp, if he failed to comply, to LA SPEZIA and later to IRSOLA, at about the end of December. On about 15 February, 1944 he went to CAPENA where the German authorities gave him and BERNE the instructions for their mission. They left CAPENA on 9 March, 1944 and went by car to AVEZZANO - PESCIANA - PESCASEROLI and from there to a point near BARREA and thence on foot to ALFADENA. Two other persons - SANTARELLI and DONNELLA - also German agents - were with them at that time. AGATI was instructed to go to RUDI and try to find a fishing boat and afterwards was to write to Posta FERMO, SAN SEVERO, making a rendez-vous with SANTARELLI, who was also charged with finding a fishing boat. On meeting, AGATI was to explain where explosives were to be discharged and stored for use of a party of saboteurs who were to arrive later. Then, when all arrangements ~~were~~ made the two boats were to be used to run a shuttle service, carrying explosives. AGATI's appointment with SANTARELLI was to be made after eight days of leaving on the mission. The pay was to be 1000

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