

ACC 10000/143/2588

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BERSELLI GIUSEPPE

SEPT. - OCT. 1944

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THIS FOLDER
CONTAINS PAPERS
FROM 29 SEP 44
TO 23 OCT 44
AT A LOGUE

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SECURITY DIVISION
FILE
MINUTE SHEET

No. of sheet	Date	File No. of ans'd STR	From to	Subject
1.	23. Oct.			BERSELLI Giuseppe - m
2.				DEL SOLE Remo GRASSELLI Cesare BUTTAZZONE Nino MAZZOCCO TABARINI SWIR PETER CAFFARELLI TENNISTOCK FABONO Eleanora -
3.				CRESCENZIO Mario -

see file 149 m. 295

see file 149 m. 296 -

0152

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS

ACC

PUBLIC SAFETY SUB-COMMISSION

SECURITY DIVISION

APC.994.

SP/511.5/149.

23rd. October, 1944.

SUBJECT. BERSELLI Giuseppe. (Enemy Agent)

To. A.C. of S., G-2 (CI) H.Q., Fifth Army.
The Director. Public Safety Sub-Commission. HQ. ACC.

- I. With further reference to Subject.
2. On the 16th. October, 1944, Subject was arraigned before a General Allied Military Court, which sat at Florence, charged with Espionage.
3. The Court was composed as follows:-
Major William F. Waugh. (A) President.
Major G.A. Banlet. (B)
Capt. F.C. Bader. (A)
Capt. G.M. Davis. (B)
Capt. H.G.T. Christians. (B)
4. The prosecution was conducted by:-
Capt. E.S. Blacklock. (H)
and the Defence was conducted by:-
Capt. W.T. Fielding. (B)
5. Owing to the serious nature of the charge and the possibility of a sentence of death should a verdict of 'Guilty' be returned, the Court entered a plea of 'Not Guilty' on Subject's behalf.
6. The trial lasted two and a half days, and after hearing the evidence for the prosecution, and the Subject who gave evidence on his own behalf, the Court returned a verdict of 'Guilty' and sentenced Subject to be shot to death.

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W.P. HARE
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 Major.

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HEADQUARTERS FIFTH ARMY
Office of the A.C. of S., G-2
A.P.O. #464, U. S. Army

AMH/esa
7 October 1944

Subject: BASSILLI, Giuseppe, Alleged Enemy Agent

To: Judge Advocate, Fifth Army, A.P.O. #464, U. S. Army

1. Attached hereto papers in reference to the apprehension and interrogation of Giuseppe BASSILLI, confessed enemy agent.
2. It is requested that subject be brought to trial as soon as practicable.
3. For security reasons it is considered that the trial should be held in Camera.
4. It is further requested that the President of the Court advise the accused at the opening of the Court, that in the event he is acquitted, he will nevertheless be interned immediately after the trial as he is considered a danger to Allied security.
5. All witnesses are available and may be contacted through this office. BASSILLI is confined in the Santa Teresa Prison, Florence.

For the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2:

ARTHUR R. BLON,
Major, Infantry,
Asst. A.C. of S., G-2.

Encl:

Ltr. Security Branch, Hq. AGC
6 October 1944, subject:
BASSILLI, Giuseppe (alleged
Enemy Agent) in duplicate
w/inclosures.

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HEADQUARTERS
ACG
Security Branch
APO 394

SB/311.5/149

5 October 1944
WRH/he

Subject: BERSILLI Giuseppe (alleged enemy Agent)

To: A.C. of S., G-2(CI), HQ Fifth Army.

1. The evidence that is available to be presented to a General Allied Military Court, to prove that Subject was an enemy Agent who intended to carry out his mission is that of the following two witnesses:-

(a) CASCINO Vincenzo, a Lieutenant of the Italian Army.

(b) Capt. John G. PAIRWEATHER of No. 3, SOI Unit.

There is another witness, a Lt. VIRRO, of the Italian Army, who in fact arrested Subject in Florence on the 27th August 1944, but he is not available at the moment; although every effort is being made to trace him, and it is hoped he will be available during the next few days.

2. The witness, Lt. CASCINO, can tell the story broadly of what happened prior to the arrest, but altho he was in the vicinity and in fact saw Lt. VIRRO arrest Subject, he did not hear what one said to the other.

3. It will be seen from the statement of Lt. CASCINO that after 8 Sept 1943, he became a member of the Italian Underground Movement. On 20 March 1944, in company with Lt. VIRRO, also a member of the Italian Underground Movement, he volunteered to work with the German Intelligence Service.

4. The object of this was to identify the members of German Intelligence Service--of whatever nationality. There were in fact three Italian Officers who did this at the same time, but the third Officer does not enter into this case.

5. On 10 April 1944, these three Italian Officers, and twentyone other Italians--including Subject--left Rome for a school for Saboteurs at VENIS in Croatia.

6. What happened from that time until the date of arrest of Subject is dealt with in some detail in the Statement of Lt. CASCINO,--copy attached.

7. After the Allies arrived in Florence, Lt. CASCINO & Lt. VIRRO, who had already reported to the Underground Movement and the Allied Command, were engaged rounding up the German Agents and Saboteurs they knew were in Florence.

8. At about 1000 hours on 27 August 1944, Lt CASCINO was in company with Lt. VIRNO when they saw Subject near the Piazza Vittoria, Florence.

9. Subject was alone and Lt CASCINO saw Lt. VIRNO stop Subject and point a pistol at him. Subject raised his hands above his head, and Lt. CASCINO went to fetch an Allied Military Police Patrol.

10. Having found an Allied Military Police Patrol, Lt. CASCINO took the Patrol to where Lt VIRNO had Subject detained.

11. Lt. VIRNO and the Police Patrol then escorted Subject to the Office of No. 3, SOI Unit, which at that time was in the Excelsior Hotel, Florence.

12. Lt. CASCINO did not speak to Subject during this time, neither did he hear any of the conversation that passed between Lt. VIRNO and the Subject.

13. It is on this point that if at all possible, Lt. VIRNO should be available.

14. From here the story is taken up by Capt. Fairweather of No. 3, SOI Unit, from whom a statement has been taken--copy attached.

15. This statement is self-explanatory and I will not deal with it in detail.

16. Briefly it is to the effect that Capt. Fairweather interrogated Subject who admitted being a German Agent.

17. He admitted having been left behind in Florence with instructions to obtain Political Information; Information on the relations between the Italian Government and the Allies; and Information about the Partisans--their organization and activities. He had to remain in Allied Occupied Territory until the end of September 1944, and then return to the German lines.

18. It will be seen that Subject told Capt. Fairweather that he had no intention of carrying out his mission for the Germans, but intended proceeding to Naples to join his brother.

19. It would be difficult for any Court to believe this when Subject had made no attempt to leave Florence, and in fact had lived at two addresses in Florence from the time the Germans left until the date of his arrest.

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20. Whilst I feel there is sufficient evidence at the moment to take Subject before a General Allied Military Court on a charge of Espionage in Florence on the 27th August 1944, I feel that the case for the prosecution would be materially strengthened by the attendance of Lt. VIRNO who is at the moment not available.

21. I suggest this case be held over until Lt. VIRNO can be called as a witness.

W. R. Hare
W. R. HARE
Major

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S.C.I. No. 3.

FLORENCE

29 September 1944.

STATEMENT OF CASINO VINCENZO, AGE 25, A LIEUTENANT IN THE ITALIAN ARMY,
VIA SAN ROMO No. 1, ROME. (AT PRESENT RESIDING AT ALBERGO STELLA D'ITALIA,
FLORENCE) WHO SAID:-

I have been engaged in the Italian Underground Movement ever since the 8th September 1944. On 20th March 1944 with three other officers of the Underground Movement I volunteered to the Germans to attend their school for saboteurs at VENIS with the object of knowing who the saboteurs were. On the 10th April 1944, with my other three friends and twenty-one other Italians I went to VENIS in Croatia. One of the twenty-one other Italians was a certain HERSELLI Giuseppe. After we had completed our course of instructions we were given certain missions in Allied Occupied Territory. I and one of the three officers already mentioned, Lt. VINO, came to Florence, and as soon as possible reported to the Underground Movement there, and to the Allies when they arrived. I knew that HERSELLI was in Florence on a mission for the Germans and after the Allies arrived Lt. VINO and I went to look for HERSELLI and other saboteurs I knew were in Florence working or intending to work for the Germans. At about 1000 hours on the 27th August 1944 I was in company with Lt. VINO near Piazza Vittoria, Florence, when we met HERSELLI who was alone. Lt. VINO left us and crossed the road to meet HERSELLI. I did not hear what Lt. VINO said, but I saw HERSELLI put his hands above his head, and Lt. VINO point a pistol

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CERTIFICO CHE LA PRESENTE DICHIARAZIONE MI E STATA LETTA IN ITALIANO
DA UN INTERPRETE E CORRESPONDE A VERITA.

(signed) VINCENZO CASCIANO.

I HAVE INTERPRETED THIS TO THE BEST OF MY ABILITY.

(signed) MARIA MICHAELIDES OISOUPTEFF.

NO - () C I Unit
C. M. F.

4. 10. 44

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STATEMENT OF CAPTAIN F. INWEATHER REGARDING THE INTERROGATION OF

----- Giuseppe BERSELLI -----

1. On 27th. August, 1944, Lt. VIANO who acted as a special agent of No. 3 S.C.I. Unit, arrived in S.C.I. offices in the EXCELSIOR HOTEL. He presented to me Giuseppe BERSELLI whom he had arrested that day and said 'THIS IS ONE OF THE SABOTEURS'. This was said in the presence and hearing of BERSELLI - I thereupon interrogated him and he told the following story :-

2. Up to the 8th. September, 1943, BERSELLI had served with his Unit in the Italian Army. On that date they were disbanded and he returned to his civilian job with the Istituto Ospitalieria at MANTOVA.

3. Later in September 1943, BERSELLI met a friend named Guido DALZANI who suggested they should volunteer for espionage on behalf of the Germans. BERSELLI agreed and they reported to two SS officers then in MANTOVA, named SCHUBERNIGG and Sgt. Maj. AGOSTINI. They were told they would be called for later when required.

4. In March, 1944, they were instructed to present themselves at the German Embassy in ROME. This they did, arriving in ROME on 19 th. March 1944. They were interviewed by Lieut. SCHUBERNIGG, Major HASS and other unknown German officials. A form of declaration binding them to secrecy was signed by them and they were informed that during the period of training their salary would be 5000 lire monthly.

5. On 10th. April, 1944, BERSELLI was sent with 23 other Italians to a Sabotage school at 100 kms. from BELGRADE.

6. After a course which lasted 1 and a half months, they all returned to ITALY, where BERSELLI was granted a week's leave at home. After the week, he presented himself at the SS. HQ., VERONA and was ordered to go to SS.HQ., at P.RMA.

7. At PARMA, BERSELLI was instructed to return home and await until he would be required to cross the ALLIED lines.

8. On 3rd. July, 1944, BERSELLI was again called to the SS. HQ., at PARMA. There he was interviewed by Lt. SCHUBERNIGG and Major HASS. The following morning he received orders through an interpreter named SCOTTERA to go to FLORENCE on an espionage mission for which he was paid 50,000 lire in advance.

returned to his civilian job with the Istituto Ospitaliera at MANTOVA.

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 9. BERSELLI's instructions were to collect the following information ; -
 - a. POLITICAL
 - b. RELATIONS BETWEEN ITALIAN GOVERNMENT AND ALLIES
 - c. ORGANISATION AND ACTIVITIES OF PARTISANS.
- He was to live quietly in lodgings and await the arrival of the Allies.
- At the end of September he was to repress into the German controlled area using the pass-word 'SANTA CLARA' and asking for 'IC'.
10. In accordance with these instructions, he moved from the Albergo ATLANTICO, where he had at first stayed, into lodgings with a family named SALVATORE in VIA PRINCIPE AMADEO, FLORENCE.
 11. On 27th. August, 1944, BERSELLI was seen in Piazza VITTORIO by Lt. VIRNO who arrested him for the Allies.
 12. BERSELLI denies that he intended to carry out his espionage mission. When questioned as to his reasons for accepting the espionage mission, he stated that he wished to join his brother in NAPLES. When I asked him if he had applied to AMG for permission to go South

Page 2

BERSELLI Giuseppe Interrogation (Cont'd)

to NAPLES, he said he had NOT done so as he did NOT think such permission would be granted.

When searched, BERSSELLI had 9938 lire in his possession.

John L. Fairweather
143453. *Captain*

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