

ACC 10000/143/2596

149.01 /MD

DE MONTIS - COLLETTA VINCENZO

Ap. 1945

Chief Com

SD/449.01 ✓

24 April 1945

SUBJECT : Security Cases Pending before AMG Courts.

TO : Commanding General,
Rome Area Allied Command.

The Chief Commissioner directs me to reply to your letter reference AG.574(G-2) G-44 dated 14 April 1945.

1. This Commission, in a letter reference SD 449.01/LWA dated 16 April, recommended that COLLETTA and DE MONTIS be interned. Copy of the letter was sent to your G-2 Section.
2. It is understood that the CIC agent, who is the chief witness in the cases against the remaining accused, is in the United States but will be returning in the very near future.
3. There will be no difficulty in convening the Court when the CIC officer is available, but his evidence is essential to the prosecution.

NORMAN E. FISKE
Colonel
Acting Executive Commissioner.

0466

See Captain Kern

SUBJECT: DE MONTIS Mario
COLLETTA Vincenzo

CONFIDENTIAL

Office of the AG of S G-2
ROME AREA ALLIED COMMAND
CMT

G/P827/BR

14 Nov 44

Capt GALE,
Security Branch,
ALCOM ✓

3

Copy to: No. 1 SCI Unit
File P/252

1. AFHQ have requested that the cases of the above named Subjects should be prepared for trial before an AMG Court.
2. Will you please therefore take all necessary action to prepare these cases for trial. Full information concerning Subjects can be obtained from No. 1 SCI Unit.

PT

Security
Division
Rec'd. 5/11
Exch. 2916
File No. 149
Action

Young (D.A.D. 24 NG)
Lt. Col.,
G.S.

TOP SECRET

301/712/1122

19th September, 1944.

To: A.C. of S, G-2, A.F.H.Q. (4)
G.S.I(b); H.Q., A.A.I. (1)
G.S.I(b) Main 8 Army H.Q. (1)
G-2 Fifth Army (1)
G-2 P.A.A.C. (1)
No. 2 G.C.I. Unit (1)
No. 3 S.G.I. Unit (1)
S.G.I. Unit 2 (1)
D.S.M. (1)
C.S.D.I.G. (1)
G.I.O. (1)
Staff Officer Security
Adriatic Coast
File

Subject: Interrogation Report DE MONTIS Mario

Attached are first and second G.I.M. O.S. Interrogation reports on DE MONTIS Mario.

2. It is recommended that DE MONTIS, who accepted a mission from the G.I.S. but appears to have had no intention of carrying it out, be interned for the duration.

D.S.M. (1)
C.S.D.I.O. (1)
C.I.O. (1)
Staff Officer Security (1)
Ariatic Coast (1)
File (1)

Subject: Interrogation Report DE MONTIS Mario

Attached are first and second S.I.E. C.S. Interrogation reports on DE MONTIS Mario.

2. It is recommended that DE MONTIS, who accepted a mission from the C.I.S. but appears to have had no intention of carrying it out, be interned for the duration.

Captain
For Major M. 1 S.O.I. Unit
23

INTERROGATION REPORT ON DE MONTIS MARIO FU LUIGI.

NARRATIVE.

At the request of the C.S. Section attached to the British Eighth Army, agents from the G.S.I. (b) Main H.Q. Eighth Army arrested DE MONTIS Mario and on 7 Aug. 44, handed subject to Major CC. RR. DI PIAZZA Francesco Paolo and Lt. CC. RR. DE CIUTTIIS Vincenzo, who took him to Siena for detention.

The search carried out on his person did not reveal any document of interest. From the moment of his arrest, subject did not have any contact with outsiders.

PERSONAL DETAILS

DE MONTIS Mario fu Luigi and di Natili Irma, born 4 Dec. '20, in Rome.

- Address : 88 Via Cesare Beccaria
- Student
- Enrolled with the F. Recce Squadron H.Q. 13th British Army Corps.
- Cover name (never used by subject): MARESCHI Mario.
- Symbol assigned to subject by G.I.S.: No. 017

PAST HISTORY

- Feb. '40 -Called up and posted to 76th Inf. Regiment-Agrigento.
 - Jun. '40 -Volunteered for parachutist corps.
 - Sep. '40 -Parachutist training at Tarquinia.
 - May '41 -In Viterbo, assigned to 1st Parachutist Regiment, "Folgore".
 - Jun. '41 -Went to Merano with Bn.
 - May '42 -Returned to Viterbo and later transferred to Ceglie Messa-
piche.
 - Jul. -Aug. '42 -Transferred with Bn. to Florence.
 - Apr. '43 -Transferred with Bn. to Montenero d'Idria (Slovenia).
- After ten days in Slovenia, subject returned to Viterbo,

interest. From the moment of his arrest, subject did not have any contact with outsiders.

PERSONAL DETAILS

DE MONTIS Mario fu Luigi and di Natili Irma, born 4 Dec. '20, in Rome.

- Address : 88 Via Cesare Beccaria
- Student
- Enrolled with the F. Recce Squadron H.Q. 13th British Army Corps.
- Cover name (never used by subject): MARESCCHI Mario.
- Symbol assigned to subject by G.I.S.: No. O17

PAST HISTORY

- Feb. '40 -Called up and posted to 76th Inf. Regiment-Agrigento.
- Jun. '40 -Volunteered for parachutist corps.
- Sep. '40 -Parachutist training at Tarquinia.
- May '41 -In Viterbo, assigned to 1st Parachutist Regiment, "Folgore".
- Jun. '41 -Went to Merano with Bn.
- May '42 -Returned to Viterbo and later transferred to Ceglie Messapicche.

- Jul.-Aug. '42 -Transferred with Bn. to Florence.
- Apr. '43 -Transferred with Bn. to Montenero d'Idria (Slovenia).
After ten days in Slovenia, subject returned to Viterbo, where he was declared unfit for military service for the period of three months and granted sick leave.
-Subject obtained another three months sick leave. During this period, he met Capt. COZZER Giuseppe, parachutist and was invited to work as a clerk in the office of the "Folgore", periodical of the Parachutist Division, located in 40 Corso d'Italia, Rome. There subject remained until the armistice.
After the armistice, there followed a period of general confusion.

Oct. 9. 43

- 2 -

As the Germans besieged the city of Rome, Capt. GOZZER with others decided to resist the German occupation. Subject was ordered by Capt. GOZZER to cooperate with Capt. MAGLIANO, Lt. VACCARINI and Pte. ROTINO Renato, all of the Para. Div. Capt. GOZZER was in contact with the leaders of the Italian Communist Party in Rome. GOZZER sent subject to the "Folgore" Div. H.Q. to see what was happening there. While in Rome, subject met parachutist COLLETTA Vincenzo, veteran from S. Italy. Subject introduced him to Capt. GOZZER, who charged COLLETTA with the formation of a section of anti-German elements in Tagliacozzo, where the latter lived with his family.

20.9.43

At the invitation of COLLETTA, subject went with him to Florence and thence to S. Marinella (Civitavecchia), where he met para. capt. FARACI Giuseppe, who was there awaiting the arrival of Capt. SALA Eduardo, to whom he hoped to hand over the charge of the men, to be free himself to proceed to his home in Venice.

Oct. '43

Capt. SALA granted subject permission to return to Rome, as he had declared that he had no intention of serving the German cause.

Nov. '43

On his return to Rome, COLLETTA warned subject that he was wanted as he had imprudently expressed his anti-German sentiments during his stay in Marinella. Meanwhile Capt. GOZZER was arrested in Rome by the nazifascists, and subject, for fear of being compromised, remained in hiding at his home until late Dec. '43. COLLETTA learned that a certain serjeant parachutist FRAU from Sardinia that subject was accused of having sabotaged a lorry belonging to the P.R.F. During this period, subject had contacts only with COLLETTA.

The following elements are suspected of having denounced DE MONTIS Mario as a Communist: Capt. D'ABRUZZO Manlio, Lt. VACCARINI, Pte. ROTINO Claudio, Sjt. Maj. CHILARDINI

Oct. '43

Nov. '43

veteran from S. Italy. Subject introduced him to Capt. GOZZER, who charged COLLETTA with the formation of a section of anti-German elements in Tagliacozzo, where the latter lived with his family.

-At the invitation of COLLETTA, subject went with him to Florence and thence to S. Marinella (Civitavecchia), where he met para. capt. FARACI Giuseppe, who was there awaiting the arrival of Capt. SALA Eduardo, to whom he hoped to hand over the charge of the men, to be free himself to proceed to his home in Venice.

-Capt. SALA granted subject permission to return to Rome, as he had declared that he had no intention of serving the German cause.

On his return to Rome, COLLETTA warned subject that he was wanted as he had imprudently expressed his anti-German sentiments during his stay in Marinella. Meanwhile Capt. GOZZER was arrested in Rome by the nazifascists, and subject, for fear of being compromised, remained in hiding at his home until late Dec. '43. COLLETTA learned from a certain sergeant parachutist FRAU from Sardinia that subject was accused of having sabotaged a lorry belonging to the P.R.F. During this period, subject had contacts only with COLLETTA.

The following elements are suspected of having denounced DE MONTIS Mario as a Communist: Capt. D'ABRUÑO Manlio, Capt. ALVINO Corradino, W.O. BRULLO Claudio, Sjt. Maj. CHILARDINI or GHIRARDINI. De Montis learned from other parachutists that the O.R.'s mentioned above joined the German S.S.

CONTACT WITH ENEMY ORGANIZATION.

Dec. '43

Jan. '43

- In late December, subject came out of his hiding as he was never bothered by nazifascists.
- In early January, subject met a certain "Angelo" in Pizzala Flaminio-Rome.

- 3 -

Subject had met him after the armistice in the office of the "Folgore", working with Capt. BRUZZESE Umberto, director of the said periodical. Subject was never on intimate terms with this individual. "Angelo" greeted subject and asked him if he had reported to some Military H.Q. in response to the call to arms of all men of the classes from '16 to '25. Speaking of parachutists, Angelo told subject that many of them were doing special services for the Germans, such as crossing the lines to bring over sums of money and collect military information. "Angelo" offered subject such a job. Subject, knew that by joining up he would no longer be wanted and decided to accept the offer. He asked "Angelo" for more detailed information in this respect and gave him his address and telephone number. (363076).

After some days, "Angelo" called him on the 'phone and arranged an appointment for the days after, at the Bar Tabacchi in Piazza Fiume. "Angelo" stated that he was to go there with an individual, tall and slim, with whom subject was to speak. On arriving at the rendez-vous, subject was approached by an individual, who introduced himself as BORROMEI and offered subject work for the G.I.S. Subject asked if he could speak of the matter to another companion of his, and the individual having consented, subject spoke to COLLETTA Vincenzo, whom he introduced to BORROMEI at a subsequent meeting.

BORROMEI conducted the two to a building in front of the War Ministry Bldg. in Via IX Settembre. There, they were received by an individual in civilian clothing, whom subject believes to be a German Senior Officer. Where they filled in two forms, with the following particulars: Full name, parents' names, age, private address, assignment to the orders of "Emile", and the undertaking that they were not to speak to any one of service matters, under pain of the death penalty, according to an article of the German Penal Code. They were asked if they had cover names, and COLLETTA chose the cover name of "GIUSA", while subject, on BORROMEI's suggestion, chose that of "Mareschi". They both

subject, knew that by joining up he would no longer be wanted and decided to accept the offer. He asked "Angelo" for more detailed information in this respect and gave him his address and telephone number. (363076).

After some days, "Angelo" called him on the 'phone and arranged an appointment for the days after, at the Bar Tabacchi in Piazza Fiume. "Angelo" stated that he was to go there with an individual, tall and slim, with whom subject was to speak. On arriving at the rendez-vous, subject was approached by an individual, who introduced himself as BORROMEI and offered subject work for the F.I.S. Subject asked if he could speak of the matter to another companion of his, and the individual having consented, subject spoke to COLLETTA Vincenzo, whom he introduced to BORROMEI at a subsequent meeting.

BORROMEI conducted the two to a building in front of the War Ministry Bldg. in Via EX Settembre. There, they were received by an individual in civilian clothing, whom subject believes to be a German Senior Officer.

There they filled in two forms, with the following particulars: Full name, parents' names, age, private address, assignment to the orders of "Emile", and the undertaking that they were not to speak to any one of service matters, under pain of the death penalty, according to an article of the German Penal Code. They were asked if they had cover names, and

COLLETTA chose the cover name of "CIUSA", while subject, on BORROMEI's suggestion, chose that of "Mareschi". They both handed in three photographs each, one of which was attached to the aforesaid form. They assured that they were prepared to undertake any sort of mission and were given an appointment for the next day at a hotel located in front of the Finance Ministry Bldg, where they were to meet BORROMEI, who was to introduce them to a German Capt. PEINAN, who, in his turn, was to accompany them to a locality in ²⁰ forward area, and was to give them instructions for their mission.

- 4 -

TRAINING HISTORY.

DE MONTIS received no special training. He declared that a German lieutenant in Bussi, showed him a register containing the emblems of the British Units and the badges worn by Allied troops and some topographical maps of the region that they would come across on their way beyond the lines.

CIRCUMSTANCES LEADING TO THE PRESENT MISSION.

On the day prior to their departure, BORCKMEI handed subject and COLLETTA the sum of five or six thousand lire, and besides that the sum of Lit. 1250, half the price of a pair of shoes that they were to buy, and the G.I.S. documents. This document was in booklet form, green in colour, and written in German, containing the photograph of the holder, with the real name, stamp with the Nazi eagle and wording to the effect that all civil and military authorities were to render every assistance to the bearer, when requested. Capt. PELMAN handed these documents to the agents just prior to their departure on their mission.

19.1.44 - At 14.00 hours, Capt. PELMAN picked up subject and COLLETTA, who were waiting at the Piazzale di Porta Vinciana, in a green Ford car. The vehicle was driven by a German soldier, native of Merano, by name LEPARDI or CHERARDI. On their way to Bussi, they made a short stop at L'Aquila. In Bussi they stopped in a sort of courtyard near the shipyards, where there were several wooden huts. They entered into a small house where they met a German lieutenant WILLY or VALLY, by name, and a civilian who claimed to be a parachutist lieutenant, besides being a film actor, who played the role of "Trenal Haik" (or "Kammamuri" - subject does not remember which) in the film entitled "Due Tigre" and another film adapted from a novel by Salgari, and to prove the truth of his statement, he showed subject a picture of himself in the make-up of an Indian. Subject declares that he would be able to recognize the individual if the photos of the actors who worked in the film mentioned were shown to him. They passed the night in a house, about 200m. distant from the shipyards, on the road that leads to Bussi. There they

On the day prior to their departure, BORROMEI handed subject and COLLETTA the sum of five or six thousand lire, and besides that the sum of £1250, half the price of a pair of shoes that they were to buy, and the G.I.S. documents. This document was in booklet form, green in colour, and written in German, containing the photograph of the holder, with the real name, stamp with the Nazi eagle and wording to the effect that all civil and military authorities were to render every assistance to the bearer, when requested. Capt. PEIMAN handed these documents to the agents just prior to their departure on their mission.

19.1.44 - At 14.00 hours, Capt. PEIMAN picked up subject and COLLETTA, who were waiting at the Piazzale di Porta Vinciana, in a green Ford car. The vehicle was driven by a German soldier, native of Merano, by name LEPPARDI or CHERARDI. On their way to Bussi, they made a short stop at L'Aquila. In Bussi they stopped in a sort of courtyard near the shipyards, where there were several wooden huts. They entered into a small house where they met a German lieutenant WILLY or WALLY, by name, and a civilian who claimed to be a parachutist lieutenant, besides being a film actor, who played the role of "Premal Haik" (or "Kammamuri" - subject does not remember which) in the film entitled "Due Tigre" and another film adapted from a novel by Salgari, and to prove the truth of his statement, he showed subject a picture of himself in the make-up of an Indian. Subject declares that he would be able to recognize the individual if the photos of the actors who worked in the film mentioned were shown to him. They passed the night in a house, about 200m. distant from the shipyards, on the road that leads to Bussi. There they remained two days and two nights. During this period, they went with Capt. PEIMAN and a German soldier to a locality about three hours by car from Bussi, and the German soldier having come to know that subject and his companion were parachutists, asked of a certain F. S. M. A. Q. J. A. who carried out some missions across the lines.

21.1.44 - In the afternoon PEIMAN explained to subject and his companion the nature of their mission and the itinerary that they were to follow: Mission: Observe the emblems of the British units, from their M.L., which is worn by Allied troops, route signs and eventual existence of armored units in the vicinity of the front.

- 5 -

Itinerary : Bussi-Villetta. Barrea-Alfedena-Forli del Sannio-Carrovilli and Ignone. From this city, following a curve indicated on the map, they were to return to the German lines. COLLETTA was to go through the villages, while subject was to keep clear of them and remain near the British lines. They each received the sum of Lit. 3000. The pass-word for their return across the German lines was "Jiffy". On giving their pass-words, on their return, they were to ask for an officer to whom they were to communicate their symbols-017 for subject and 018 for COLLETTA. The officer would then telephone Capt. PELMAN who would pick the agents up. Soon after this, Capt. PELMAN gave other instructions to the civilian who brought subject and COLLETTA from Rome to Bussi, and to the "film star". Subject declares that the two individuals had instructions to proceed to Bari to spy on shipping in the port. The two individuals were to be sent on their mission for about a month. The mission of subject and his companion was to take four or five days. Capt. PELMAN accompanied the two from Bussi to Villetta.

HISTORY OF THE MISSION ITSELF.

21.1.44 - They left Bussi in a car. On arrival at Villetta, PELMAN left the two to the care of a group of soldiers with whom they remained until 22,00 hours on 22 Jan. 44.

22.1.44 - At about 22,00 hours, the agents left Villetta in the company of a sergeant of the German Alpine Corps. The N.C.C. showed them on a map the exact point where they were to cross the lines. He then asked them for their names and subject wrote on a piece of paper, the numbers 017 and 018. Asked for his name, the sergeant replied "Ich bin ein Unteroffizier des Kaisers" (I'm an N.C.C. of Kaiser). Subject declared that when stopped at the British post, they asked him if he had ever heard such a sentence. They arrived at Barrea and proceeded for about one kilometer on foot. From there, accompanied by a patrol of about 12 men, they made their way to Alfedena. The N.C.C. stated that he had guided some 50 agents across the lines, and that he considered him a specialist in such work. From Alfedena, the agents proceeded on their own for about 200 metres on the motor highway until they lost

0 4 7 8

instructions to the aviator who brought back the two
Rome to Bussi, and to the "film star". Subject declares that the two
individuals had instructions to proceed to Bari to spy on shipping
in the port. The two individuals were to be sent on their mission for
about a month. The mission of subject and his companion was to take
four or five days. Capt. PELMAN accompanied the two from Bussi to
Villetta.

HISTORY OF THE MISSION ITSELF.

21.1.44 - They left Bussi in a car. On arrival at Villetta, PELMAN left
the two to the care of a group of soldiers with whom they remained
until 22,00 hours on 22 Jan. 44.

22.1.44 - At about 22,00 hours, the agents left Villetta in the company
of a sergeant of the German Alpine Corps. The N.C.C. showed them on
a map the exact point where they were to cross the lines. He then
asked them for their names and subject wrote on a piece of paper, the
numbers 017 and 018. Asked for his name, the sergeant replied "Ich bin
ein Unteroffizier des Weisers" (I'm an N.C.C. of Weiser). (Subject de-
clared that when stopped at the British post, they asked him if he had
ever heard such a sentence.) They arrived at Barrea and proceeded for
about one kilometer on foot. From there, accompanied by a patrol of
about 12 men, they made their way to Alfedena. The N.C.C. stated that
he had guided some 56 agents across the lines, and that he considered
him a specialist in such work. From Alfedena, the agents proceeded on
their own for about 200 metres on the motor highway until they lost
their way, owing to the road being buried under the heavy snow.

23.1.44 - In the morning they found themselves near Acquaviva and after
resting for the whole of that day, they proceeded to Forlì del Sannio,
where they arrived that same evening. In the hotel at Forlì del Sannio
they were stopped by a civil police agent and conducted to the C.C.R.
N.C.C. because they did not have the necessary travel permits.

23-27.1.44 - Subject and his companion remained at Forlì del Sannio for
the disposal of the F.S.S.

- 6 -

- 28.1-9.2.44 - In Carovilli, always at the disposal of the F.I.S.S.
 9-10.2.44 - In Cantalupo, held at the disposal of A.M.G.
 10-14.2.44 - In Campobasso, at the disposal of the District H.Q. where they expressed their wish to enrol in an Italian paratrooper unit commanded by a British Army Paratrooper Capt. GAY.
 14-15.2.44 - At the request of the Allied Police, the agents were interned in the Campobasso G.P., and thence sent to the refugee camp.
 16.2.44 - Transferred to the refugee camp of Campo Marino.
 17.2.44 - Transferred to Vasto, for interrogation by a Br. Capt. Return to Campo Marino.
 18.2.44 - To Ternoli, for interrogation at an Italian office, after which the detainees returned to Campo Marino.
 19.2.44 - Sent to Monte Odorisio to report to the H.Q. of the 209th It. Division "Monte Grappa".
 20.2.44 - Sent to Casoli to be enrolled in the P. Recco Squadron. In Casoli, they took part in action in the Palombara region. The unit was later moved to Rocca Scelanga and thence returned to Casoli. From Casoli, the unit moved to Sesto Campano (early April '44).
 Apr. 44 - Both subject and his companion obtained ten days' leave which they spent in Naples. Where they put up at the Pensione Buonanno-Angiperto Galleria-for 3/4 days. COLLETTA told subject that he intended to return across the lines and invited subject to follow him. Subject refused. From Naples, they proceeded to Rocca Scelanga. COLLETTA asked subject to report that they had separated and that he (COLLETTA) had gone to Bari to look up a brother of his. Subject accepted to tell this 'story' only when his companion promised him, that if stopped by the Germans, he would state that subject was ill and in no condition to stand the hardships of the return journey.
 From Rocca Scelanga subject reported to his unit and told the officer who asked of COLLETTA, the 'story' that his companion had gone to Bari. Since then, subject heard no more of COLLETTA, until the liberation of Rome. Subject learned, that COLLETTA, after crossing the lines was stopped by German soldiers, and hastened to give the pass-word "LILLY", but they did not understand him and condemned him for a fortnight with the labour service. He was later recognized

ed in the Campobasso area, and returned to the camp.

16.2.44 - Transferred to the refugee camp of Campo Marino.
17.2.44 - Transferred to Vasto, for interrogation by a Br. Capt.
Return to Campo Marino.

18.2.44 - To Ternoli, for interrogation at an Italian office, after which the detainees returned to Campo Marino.

19.2.44 - Sent to Monte Odorisio to report to the M.O. of the 209th It. Division "Monte Grappa".

20.2.44 - Sent to Casoli to be enrolled in the F. Rocco Squadron. In Casoli, they took part in action in the Palombara region, the unit was later moved to Rocca Scialenga and thence returned to Casoli. From Casoli, the unit moved to Sesto Campano (early April '44).

Apr. 44 - Both subject and his companion obtained ten days' leave which they spent in Naples: There they put up at the Pensione Buonanno-Angiporto Galleria-for 3/4 days. COLLETTA told subject that he intended to return across the lines and invited subject to follow him. Subject refused. From Naples, they proceeded to Rocca Scialenga. COLLETTA asked subject to report that they had separated and that he (COLLETTA) had gone to Bari to look up a brother of his. Subject accepted to tell this 'story' only when his companion promised him, that if stopped by the Germans, he would state that subject was ill and in no condition to stand the hardships of the return journey.

From Rocca Scialenga subject reported to his unit and told the officer who asked of COLLETTA, the 'story' that his companion had gone to Bari. Since then, subject heard no more of COLLETTA, until the liberation of Rome. Subject learned, that COLLETTA, after crossing the lines was stopped by German soldiers, and hastened to give the pass-word "LILY", but they did not understand him and condemned him for a fortnight with the labour service. He was later recognized by a German officer and was conducted to an office of the F.I.S. COLLETTA told subject that he had told his part of the 'story'. Subject asserts that he does not know whether his companion furnished information to the Germans. After COLLETTA's departure, subject told Capt. GAY the story of his adventures, from 8 Sept. '43 until COLLETTA's departure. He also furnished the officer with the names and descriptions of personalities of the F.I.S., the localities he visited, the indications of the places where he put up, in short, all that he believed for the compilation of the present report.

- 7 -

Capt. GUY told him not to worry as he would have thought of advising the British authorities concerned.

INTERROGATOR'S COMMENTS.

Subject talked freely. He has been very helpful and has tried to furnish every possible detail, to facilitate the identification of the G.I.S. elements. It is however strange that subject accepted to work for the nazifascists when he was being wanted by them, for having expressed his hostility to the Germans-he put his head into the noose.

The fact that he did not intend to carry out his espionage mission is demonstrated by his unwillingness to return across the German lines, even though he had many chances to do so when on patrol duty in no man's land.

DE MONTIS denies having introduced COLLETTA to "Angelo" while he confirms that SCARAMEI introduced COLLETTA to him. That subject did not go to Baron VASSELLI may be explained by the fact that they were arrested soon after crossing the lines. Subject explained that he chose to spend his leave in Naples because he was quite well acquainted with the city.

It is however believed that the oneking of subject's story with that of COLLETTA, may bring forth other particulars that may interest the C.I. Service.

CONCLUSION.

Although subject did work for the G.I.S. he is not considered to be a spy, because he did not return across the lines and freely confessed to Capt. GUY of the F.R. ace Squadron. He moreover, expressed his wish that the British Authorities be informed of the orders that subject had received from the G.I.S.

RECOMMENDATION.

Inasmuch as we do not know what may emerge when subject's story will be checked...

to work for the nazifascists when he was being wanted by them, for having expressed his hostility to the Germans-he put his head into the noose.

The fact that he did not intend to carry out his espionage mission is demonstrated by his unwillingness to return across the German lines, even though he had many chances to do so when on patrol duty in no man's land.

DE MONTIS denies having introduced COLLETTI to "Angelo" while he confirms that COLLETTI introduced COLLETTI to him. That subject did not go to Baron VASSELLI may be explained by the fact that they were arrested soon after crossing the lines. Subject explained that he chose to spend his leave in Naples because he was quite well acquainted with the city.

It is however believed that the checking of subject's story with that of COLLETTI may bring forth other particulars that may interest the C.I. Service.

CONCLUSION.

Although subject did work for the G.I.S. he is not considered to be a spy, because he did not return across the lines and freely confessed to Capt. G.Y. of the F.R. ce Squadron. He moreover, expressed his wish that the British authorities be informed of the orders that subject had received from the G.I.S.

RECOMMENDATION.

Inasmuch as we do not know what may emerge when subject's story will be checked with that of COLLETTI, arrested by the Rome C.S. Centre, no proposals are being advanced.

16

Sgt. Pieroni Giuseppe - Brigadiere
de Ciutiis Vincenzo Tenente

P.M. 135-15 Aug. 44

2nd INTERROGATION REPORT ON DEMONTIS MARIO.

NARRATIVE.

Subject was brought from Siena to Rome on 19 Aug. 44. From the time he left Siena until his entry into Regina Coeli Gaol, subject did not have any contact with third parties.

PERSONAL DETAILS

as in first interrogation report.

PAST HISTORY

As in first interrogation report.

HISTORY OF CONTACT WITH ENEMY ORGANIZATION.

Subject was subjected to a second interrogation on 27 Aug. 44 at 8,30 hours.

Besides confirming his previous statements made during the first interrogation, subject further declared:

"The German lieutenant whom I indicated as 'Villi' or 'Valli' is undoubtedly the individual known to my friend COLLETTA as BUZZON.

"'Angelo' never gave his telephone number, although I gave him mine together with my address".

"I admit having imprudently accepted an espionage mission from the G.I.S. but as COLLETTA can bear testimony, I did not carry out my mission".

"When with the F. Recce Squadron, I did my duty loyally and courageously.

"The C.O. Capt. GAY always held me in high esteem."

"COLLETTA, too, while with the British Unit, did his duty and did not shrink when his task meant hardships and danger"

"We saw action and many of our companions have lost their lives".

"The horrible picture of the villages destroyed and the cruel methods of the Germans, in the theatre of operations, towards the population of the Abruzzi region, were the principal reasons which induced COLLETTA to desert the Squadron.

As in first interrogation report.

HISTORY OF CONTACT WITH ENEMY ORGANIZATION.

Subject was subjected to a second interrogation on 27 Aug. 44 at 8,30 hours.

Besides confirming his previous statements made during the first interrogation, subject further declared:

"The German lieutenant whom I indicated as 'Villi' or 'Valli' is undoubtedly the individual known to my friend COLLETTA as BUZZON.

"'Angelo' never gave his telephone number, although I gave him mine together with my address".

"I admit having imprudently accepted an espionage mission from the G.I.S. but as COLLETTA can bear testimony, I did not carry out my mission".

"When with the F. Recce Squadron, I did my duty loyally and courageously."

"The C.O. Capt. GAY always held me in high esteem,"

"COLLETTA, too, while with the British Unit, did his duty and did not shrink when his task meant hardships and danger"

"We saw action and many of our companions have lost their lives".

"The horrible picture of the villages destroyed and the cruel methods of the Germans, in the theatre of operations, towards the population of the Abruzzi region, were the principal reasons which induced COLLETTA to desert the Squadron.

"COLLETTA was very fond of his parents, and especially of his mother and returned to Rome in the hope of being helpful to her in the case of need."

"When I accepted the espionage mission from the G.I.S. I intended to go to Aversa, to my god-father's - Baron Giuseppe Vaselli, who could have given us the necessary help to remain liberated Italy until the arrival of allied troops in Rome.

TRAINING HISTORY

As in first interrogation report.

CIRCUMSTANCES LEADING TO THE MISSION ITSELF.

As in first interrogation report.

- 2 -

HISTORY OF THE MISSION.

as in first interrogation report.

INTERROGATOR'S COMMENTS

Subject seemed very outspoken and straight forward during the interrogation. Full of spirit and keen on adventure, he accepted the mission to be able to get away from Rome, then not a hospitable city for soldiers who did not have their documents in order and also with the hope of going to his god-father, Baron VASELLI, in Atessa, where he hoped to remain until he could return to Rome after its liberation.

He told every detail of his mission and that of his friend COLLETTA and exerted every effort to furnish all particulars that may help in the tracing of the so-called "Angelo", BORROMEI or BATTISTI, the individual who accompanied him to Bussi and the parachutist lieutenant whom he met while in Bussi.

Subject refused to accompany COLLETTA on his return to the German lines and on returning to his unit after his leave he exposed all the facts of the case to Capt. BUI, his C.O.

CONCLUSION.

Subject did accept an espionage mission, but as he had no intention of carrying it out, he cannot be considered a spy.

RECOMMENDATION.

It is proposed that subject be put up for trial in an Allied Military Court.

Sgd. Riccardo Pasta -M/110 CC.RR.

going to his god-father, Baron VASELLI, in Atessa, where he hoped to remain until he could return to Rome after its liberation.

He told every detail of his mission and that of his friend COLLETTA and exerted every effort to furnish all particulars that may help in the tracing of the so-called "Angelo", BORROMEI or BATTISTI, the individual who accompanied him to Bussi and the parachutist lieutenant whom he met while in Bussi.

Subject refused to accompany COLLETTA on his return to the German lines and on returning to his unit after his leave he exposed all the facts of the case to Capt. MAY, his C.O.

CONCLUSION.

Subject did accept an espionage mission, but as he had no intention of carrying it out, he cannot be considered a spy.

RECOMMENDATION.

It is proposed that subject be put up for trial in an Allied Military Court.

Sgd. Riccardo Pasta -M/110 CC.RR.

A P P E N D I X

Personalities.

"ANGELO"

-about 1.75 m; robust; fair hair; blue eyes; clean-shaven
broad and high forehead, regular nose, slightly square-
faced; intelligent look, very pleasant.
Recruiting agent for G.I.S.-civilian clothing.

BARROMEL (alias BARBISI)

-about 1.73 m.; slim; straight brown hair; grey eyes; clean-
shaven; about 30 years of age; well dressed, in civilian
clothing and in uniform of the Italian Army (Cavalry).
L.O. between the direction of the G.I.S. and the recruiting
agents.

?

-about 1.70 m; robust; pear-shaped head; reddish hair;
typical German face; looks very much like "Dr. Jekyll"
In the administration office of the G.I.S.-subject took
him for a major in the German Army.

PELMAN, Capt.

-about 1.65 m.; round face; watery blue eyes; thin fair
hair; clean-shaven; regular build; wore the uniform of a
captain of the German Alpine troops (Alpine star on left
sleeve).

Accompanied agents-instructed them on their missions.

"EMILE"

-about 1.80 m; regular build, rather robust; thick black
mustache; straight black hair; military bearing; known as
"colonel". Dressed in civilian clothing, with military
raincoat as those used by the carabinieri and Italian
A.F. and naval officers.

Chief of the group to which subject belonged.

Subject never had any contact with him.

?

-about 1.70 m.-robust; black hair; thick black mustache;
dark complexion; thick neck, looks as if he did not shave any,
eyebrows united; big hands, boils on face; espionage agent.
Went to Bari on espionage mission, went to Busi with
subject and companion.

VILLY or VALLEY - about 1.75 m.; very slim; clean-shaven; straight fair hair

well combed; accompanied two civilians from Rome to Bari

shaven; about 30 years of age; well dressed, in civilian clothing and in uniform of the Italian Army (Cavalry). L.O. between the direction of the G.I.S. and the recruiting agents.

- about 1.70 m; robust; pear-shaped head; reddish hair; typical German face; looks very much like "Dr. Jekyll". In the administration office of the G.I.S. - subject took him for a major in the German Army.
- about 1.65 m.; round face; watery blue eyes; thin fair hair; clean shaven; regular build; wore the uniform of a captain of the German Alpine troops (Alpine star on left sleeve).

Accompanied agents - instructed them on their missions.

- about 1.80 m; regular build, rather robust; thick black mustache; straight black hair; military bearing; known as "colonel". Dressed in civilian clothing, with military raincoat as those used by the carabinieri and Italian A.F. and naval officers.

Chief of the group to which subject belonged.

Subject never had any contact with him.

- about 1.70 m. - robust; black hair; thick black mustache; dark complexion; thick neck, looks as if he did not shave. Big, dark eyebrows united; big hands, boils on face; espionage agent. Went to Bari on espionage mission, went to Bussi with subject and companion.

VILLY or VILLY - about 1.75 m.; very slim; clean shaven; straight fair hair well combed; accompanied two civilians from Rome to Bussi.

Useful Information.

13

Rendez-vous for G.I.S. agents - Bar Tabacchi in Piazza Fiume, Via XX Settembre-Bldg. in front of the War Ministry - BORROMEI took subject and COLLETTA there to enrol them for the G.I.S. Albergo Reale - opposite the Finance Ministry Bldg. - there subject met Capt. PETLAN - he also declared that he saw the person whom he took to be a major, going towards the rooms of the hotel - this leads to the belief that G.I.S. elements were lodged in the hotel.

It seems that the Germans do not lay mines on the mountain paths to leave the road free to agents who return to the German lines on fulfilment of their missions.

Sd/ - De Giutis - Lt. CC.RR.

PETLAN, Capt.

"EMILE"

APPENDIX

INVESTIGATIONS carried out on personalities mentioned in DE MONTIS interrogation report.

"EMILE" has been identified as CAPELLARO Emilio, alias "Emil KAPPEL" di Giuseppe and di Margherita née PARDANOFF, born 5 Mar. 11 in Adriaticopolis, singer. Former address in Rome-220 Via Nomentana. He was known to the G.I.S. as "Colonel". Arrested by C.S. agents and brought to Naples.

The individual who proceeded from Rome to Bussi with subject and COLLETTA has been identified as ROCCINI Luigi di Ezio and di Margherita née Pagano, born 13 Dec. '19 in Cairo. Clerk-formerly employed in Civitavecchia.

It has been known that while in Rome, he was lodged at the albergo "Reale" from 20-28 Apr. and from 18-21 and 25-30 May '43. He has since moved north probably to Florence.

He was introduced into a G.I. Organization by his cousin ALIQUO Renato fu Filippo and fu Maria née Rocchini, b. 7 Aug. '06 in Cairo. Address-27 Viale delle Provincie, arrested for espionage activities and handed over to the C.I.C., which unit has sent him for internment in a concentration camp.

The said organization was directed by the German ROSSETTI (cover name), identified as CLEMENTE di Clemente and di Frieda MHLIG, b. 20 Feb. '98 in Reichenberg. Since the outbreak of the present war, he worked openly in Italy, and had informers of all nationalities working for him.

His description is as follows:

1.90 m. - slim-brown hair-reddish complexion-oval face-small mustache-no beard-scar on cheek-excellent Italian.

The building to which COLLETTA and subject were conducted is the one located at 4 Via XX Settembre. They were taken to the pensione Hannover on the 4th floor, then requisitioned by the Germans and used as espionage centre.

0490

He was known to the G.I.S. as "Colonel". Arrested by U.S. agents and brought to Naples.

The individual who proceeded from Rome to Bussi with subject and COLLETTA has been identified as ROCCINI Luigi di Ezio and di Margherita née Pagano, born 13 Dec. '19 in Cairo. Clerk-formerly employed in Civitavecchia.

It has been known that while in Rome, he was lodged at the Albergo 'Reale' from 20-28 Apr. and from 18-21 and 25-30 May '43. He has since moved north probably to Florence.

He was introduced into a G.I. Organization by his cousin ALIQUO Renato fu Filippo and fu Maria née Rocchini, b. 7 Aug. '06 in Cairo. Address-27 Viale della Provincia, arrested for espionage activities and handed over to the G.I.C., which unit has sent him for internment in a concentration camp.

The said organization was directed by the German ROSSETTI (cover name), identified as CLEMENTE di Clemente and di Frieda MHLIG, b. 20 Feb. '98 in Reichenberg. Since the outbreak of the present war, he worked openly in Italy, and had informers of all nationalities working for him.

His description is as follows:

1.90 m.-slim-brown hair-reddish complexion-oval face-small mustache-no beard-scar on cheek-excellent Italian.

The building to which COLLETTA and subject were conducted is the one located at 4 Via XX Settembre. They were taken to the Pensione Hannover on the 4th Floor, then requisitioned by the Germans and used as espionage centre.

In spite of the fact that photographs of the actors who took part in the films entitled "Dae figri" and "I pirati di Malasia", adapted from novels by Salgari, were shown to subject the identification of the so-called parachutist lieutenant, has so far been impossible.

12

His description is as follows:

1.67 m.; rather robust; dark wavy hair; broad forehead; dark complexion; oval face with prominent nose; thin lips with ends curled upwards; age about 23; Roman accent.

0 4 9 1

Spores

TOP SECRET

SOI/712/924

30th August, 1944

To: A.O. of S, G-2, A.F.H.Q.
 G.S.I(b), H.Q., A.A.I.
 G.S.I(b) Main 8 Army H.Q.
 G-2, Fifth Army
 G-2, R.A.A.C.
 No. 2 S.O.I. Unit
 No. 3 S.O.I. Unit
 S.O.I. Unit 2
 D.S.II.
 C.S.D.I.O.
 C.I.O.
 Staff Officer Security
 Adriatic Coast
 File

(4)
 (1)
 (1)
 (1)
 (1)
 (1)
 (1)
 (1)
 (1)
 (1)
 (1)
 (1)

Subject: COLETTA Vincenzo di Luini (Interim Report)

Attached are translations of - (i) the C.S. Interrogation of COLETTA Vincenzo, and (ii) C.S. REE's covering letter to C.S. Section, 8 Army.

There appears to be little doubt that COLETTA is an enemy agent. The period which he spent with "F" Reece Squadron, however, needs further clarification. Evidence on this point should be available shortly from F.S., 8 Army and from the interrogation of De MONTIS Mario, also of "F" Reece Squadron, who has, it is understood, been arrested and is awaiting transport to Rome.

A decision on the disposal of COLETTA can not be given until the information referred to above is received.

Captain

For Major No. 1 S.O.I. Unit

0 4 9 2

Subject: COLETTA Vincenzo di Luigi (Interim Report)

Attached are translations of - (1) the G.S. Interrogation of COLETTA Vincenzo, and (11) G.S. ROSE's covering letter to G.S. Section, 8 Army.

There appears to be little doubt that COLETTA is an enemy agent. The period which he spent with "F" Recce Squadron, however, needs further clarification. Evidence on this point should be available shortly from F.S., 8 Army and from the interrogation of De MONTIS Mario, also of "F" Recce Squadron, who has, it is understood, been arrested and is awaiting transport to ROME.

A decision on the disposal of COLETTA can not be given until the information referred to above is received.

Captain

For Major No. 1 S.O.I. Unit

TOP SECRET

SUI/712/914

30th August, 1944

Subject: COLETTA Vincenzo di Luigi

COLETTA Vincenzo was arrested in Rome, 57, Via Cava on 10.7.44.

Under interrogation he declared that in January 1943 he was employed by a German agent (a certain Angelo) to enter Allied occupied territory for the purpose of carrying out espionage, and especially to gather information on Allied M.I. signals. He crossed the lines, but at Forlì del Senio was arrested by the Carabinieri and handed over to the British Security Authorities. After an unsuccessful attempt at evasion, he was sent to Campobasso where he remained with the "F. Recce Squadra".

On the expiry of the leave, which the British authorities granted to him, he once again crossed the lines to get back to his family in Rome. Stopped by the Germans he explained that he could not fulfill his mission as he had been kept under arrest by the Allies for a period of 40 days. He was paid an advance of L. 5000 and received a further L. 7800 at the end of his mission.

The confession of COLETTA is important, although it is incomplete, and is nothing but a denial of his having taken an active part in the mission for which he seemed to have received the sum of L. 7800.

In order to obtain further details, and for the completion of a complete report, it would seem necessary to ask the F.S.S. for all information that they may have in hand in this regard, which has enabled them to classify COLETTA as an enemy agent. Also to arrest and interrogate DE MONTIS Mario, who - it seems - is still with the "F. Recce Squadra" and who, besides being accused of complicity by COLETTA, is also guilty of having been the intermediary between subject and the German interrogation report on COLETTA.

Attached is a copy of the interrogation report on COLETTA.

Subject is at present detained in Regina Coeli Gaol for this Centre.

Sd/.. Manlio GIORDANO.

Major CC.RR. C.G. Rome Centre

On the expiry of the leave, which the British authorities granted to him, he once again crossed the lines to get back to his family in Rome. Stopped by the Germans he explained that he could not fulfill his mission as he had been kept under arrest by the Allies for a period of 40 days. He was paid an advance of £5000 and received a further £7800 at the end of his mission.

The confession of COLETTA is important, although it is incomplete, and is nothing but a denial of his having taken an active part in the mission for which he seemed to have received the sum of £7800.

In order to obtain further details, and for the completion of a complete report, it would seem necessary to ask the F.S.S. for all information that they may have in hand in this regard, which has enabled them to classify COLETTA as an enemy agent. Also to arrest and interrogate DE MONTIS Mario, who - it seems - is still with the "F. Recce Squadron" and who, besides being accused of complicity by COLETTA, is also guilty of having been the intermediary between subject and the German interrogation report on COLETTA.

Attached is a copy of the interrogation report on COLETTA.

Subject is at present detained in Regina Coeli Gaol for this Centre.

Sd/.. Manlio GIORDANO.

Major UG. RR. O.C. Rome Centre

To: 8th Army C.S. Section.

Copy to: Bonsignore Section, S.I.M.,
Naples, Bari, Cagliari and Catania C.S. Centres.

10

SCI/712/984

Interrogation Report on COLLETTA Vincenzo

30.8.44.

Preamble

Subject was arrested on 10.7.44. at the Via delle Cave, 57, by Maresciallo RUCIOTTI Augusto and Carabinieri MARIA Matteo.

He was conducted to the C.C. It. Section H.Q. in Via Palestro, where he has had no contacts with other detainees or with outsiders.

At 13.00 hours of that same day, he was taken to 87, Via del Tritone and neither in this latter locality, has subject had any contact with strangers. On 13.7.44. he was brought to Regina Coeli Jail. The search carried out on his person and in the premises did not reveal anything incriminating.

Personal Details

COLLETTA Vincenzo: Born 7.10.16. Rome.
Parents: Luigi and Goppal Luigi.
Residence: Rome, Via delle Cave, 57.
Single.

Past History

- 10.2.36. Subject was called up and posted to Vigna di Valle to attend a special course of training for motorists of the I.A.F.
- Nov. 38. He was transferred to the "Stormo Bombardamento Veloci" (Guidonia).
- Mar. 37. Mobilized with his unit and transferred to Spain, where he took part in action.
- July 37 Subject was repatriated.
- 5.9.39. Subject was transferred to the 91st Infantry Regiment in Turin, as punishment for handling a A.F. Sergeant. He was posted to the detachment at Bardonecchia.
- Dec. 39. Subject returned to his Unit H.Q. in Turin.
- Jun. 40. He saw action on the Western Front (France) as an infantryman. After the armistice he returned to Turin with his Unit.
- 1.10.40. At his request, subject was transferred to the Parachutist Corps and posted to Piacenza.
- Mar. 41 Transferred to the "Meibo" Dn.

Personal Details

OGIERA, Vincenzo: Born 7.10.16. Rome.
Parents: Luigi and Giosetta Luigi.
Residence: Rome, Via della Gora, 37.
Single.

Past History

- 10.2.36. Subject was called up and posted to Vigna di Valle to attend a special course of training for motorists of the I.A.F.
- Nov. 38. He was transferred to the 12th Stormo Bombardamento Veloce (Guidonia).
- Mar. 37. Mobilized with his unit and transferred to Spain, where he took part in action.
- July 37. Subject was repatriated.
- 5.9.39. Subject was transferred to the 91st Infantry Regiment in Turin, as punishment for mishandling a A.F. Sergeant. He was posted to the detachment at Bardonecchia.
- Dec. 39. Subject returned to his Unit H.Q. in Turin.
- Jun. 40. He saw action on the Western Front (France) as an infantryman. After the armistice he returned to Turin with his Unit.
- 1.10.40. At his request, subject was transferred to the Parachutist Corps and posted to Tarquinia.
- Mar. 41. Transferred to the "Mambo" Bn.
- May 42. He left with his battalion for Ceglie Messapico, whence he proceeded to Lecce.
42. Transferred to Florence.
- Mar. 43. Transferred with his Unit to Croatia.
- May 43. Transferred to S. Pancrazio di Puglia.
- Jul. 43. To Barcellona (Messina) with his Unit.
- 8.9.43. This Unit was incorporated in the German "Falk" Division.

During the weekend, he arrived at Magliano Sabino, where his unit was ordered to bring the vehicle assigned to him to Florence. In Cortona (Arezzo), the vehicle ran short of petrol and subject was left at liberty. He went to Tagliacozzo where his family then resided.

Nov. 43. To evade the Germans, subject left for Rome. There he met his contact, Captain De Montis, who introduced subject to the Para. Captain (Oscar Giuseppe), later arrested because of anti-Nazi activities.

Contact with Enemy & Recruitment

In the beginning of Jan. 1944, DE MONTIS Mario introduced subject to a certain "Angelo" at an appointment arranged near the Ministry of War building. Angelo proposed to the two that they work for German I.S. with missions in Allied occupied territory.

COSENTINI and DE MONTIS both accepted, with the intention of crossing the lines and arriving at Ancona, where they would have sought refuge with Baron VASARELLI, De Montis's godfather.

Circumstances Leading to the Present Mission

On their enrolment, ANTONIO paid to each of the two the sum of L. 6000 and arranged an appointment for 16 June at Porta Pinciana. There he introduced them to a German captain, who conducted them in a car to Bussi (Pescara), whence he had come to Rome. In the car they proceeded on their journey to Alfedena (L'Aquila), where they crossed the lines and arrived at Forlì del Sannio.

There they were halted by carabinieri and handed over to the British Security Authorities at Garavilli.

During the subsequent interrogation, they did not make any mention of their espionage mission for fear of being shot as spies. Five days later, they made a vain attempt at escape. They were then conducted to Campobasso, where they enrolled with the 7th Reconnaissance Squadron stationed at Casoli (Chieti).

Fearing possible reprisals against their families, they decided that one of them should return to Rome. COSENTINI was chosen and instead of reporting to his unit at the expiry of his leave, he deserted.

Stopped by a German patrol, he was taken to An. H.Q. where he was interrogated. He did not reveal the fact that he had been sent across the lines by the Germans. He was sent to work as German prisoner, and two days later was sent to Sulmona, to be again subjected to interrogation. Neither then did he refer to his mission. He was then taken to Prieola (Chieti) where he was recognised by Lt. BUZON, who had previously met him at Bussi and knew of his mission. Subject told him that he had not returned because he was ill and that the mission was not yet fulfilled because they had been captured soon after crossing the lines. After their

COAST GUARD and 20 MINUTES before they would have sought refuge in the boats the lines and arriving at LINGSAU where they would have sought refuge in the boats VASELIT, De Montigny's codification.

Circumstances leading to the Present Mission

On their enrollment, ANTONIO paid to each of the two the sum of L. 6000 and arranged an appointment for 16 June at Porta Pinciana. There he introduced them to a German captain; the conducted them in a car to Bussi (Pescara), whence he had come to Rome. In the car they proceeded on their journey to Alfedena (L'Aquila), where they crossed the lines and arrived at Forlì del Sannio.

There they were halted by carabinieri and handed over to the British Security Authorities at Garovilla.

During the subsequent interrogation, they did not make any mention of their espionage mission for fear of being shot as spies. Five days later, they made a vain attempt at escape. They were then conducted to Campobasso, where they enrolled with the "P. Peace Squadron" stationed at Casoli (Chieti).

Fearing possible reprisals against their families, they decided that one of them should return to Rome. COLANGE was chosen and instead of reporting to his unit at the expiry of his leave, he deserted.

Stopped by a German patrol, he was taken to En. H.Q. where he was interrogated. He did not reveal the fact that he had been sent across the lines by the Germans. He was sent to work at Gesso Palace, and two days later was sent to Sulmona. He was sent to interrogations. Neither then did he refer to his mission. He was then taken to Prigola (Picti) where he was recognized by Lt. BUZON, who had previously met him at Bassi and knew of his mission. He told him that he had not return because he was ill and that the mission was not yet fulfilled because they had been captured soon after crossing the lines into Allied occupied territory and detained for 40 days. After their release he had to come for his sick friend.

He convinced the officer of the truth of his statements and on 28 April, he was once again left at liberty to return to Rome. The officer informed him that the Captain (who had accompanied him to Busset) would have rung him up.

In fact, while in Rome, he received a phone call requesting him to report at the Pensione Mafiosa. There he was interrogated by a certain MAF. CHIES. COLETTA repeated the statements he had previously made to Lt. BUZZON, adding the detail that while in limited territory, he had been interrogated only by the Military Police.

- 5 -

He was paid the sum of L. 7800 and then told to be prepared to undertake other missions.

On the 27th May, 1944, he had orders to report to MANCHES in Via Mercadante No. 5 and was asked to leave on another mission. He refused alleging that he was in failing health. He was then told that in case Rome should fall within the next fortnight he was to return across the lines and ask to be taken to Lt. GRAY of the I.G. Army Command.

History of the Mission L'Esprit

Subject crossed the lines from Formi del Gennio to Alfedena on the 22nd Jan, 1944. He was to remain in Allied occupied territory for 6 days and the pass word was 'MILLIE'. He was to take note of the Allied M.T. signs. In Allied occupied Italy he stopped at Fedi del Gennio, Carovilli, Campobasso, Sesto, Campano, Naples and Rocca Seclenga.

On return he crossed the lines at Montemaro on 15 April 1944.

Comments

During interrogation subject behaved like a man desirous of talking and at the same time anxious to avoid disclosing too much.

As a matter of fact he did not explain why - (a) he went to Naples, an important centre for espionage activities; (b) when he obtained his leave, he went to Naples and Rocca Seclenga, where he had no interest whatsoever, whereas his original intention was to go to Abasco to Baron Vaselli; (c) he received a payment of L. 7800 for a mission which ended without any success.

On the other hand, it cannot be taken for granted that subject did not report, at least, what had been in Allied occupied territory, and in particular what he had seen in Naples.

The very fact that the Germans, by no means dismayed by the negative results of his first mission, paid him and proposed to send him on a second mission, proves without any shadow of a doubt the fact that he did communicate some sort of information, and that the Nazis trusted in him is demonstrated by the fact that he was invited to report to the G.I. Army H.Q. after the fall of Rome.

The interrogation of DE LAMING, who it is believed is still with the 'P. Recco Squadron' would prove to be very interesting and would help to clear many points that are still confused.

It would also furnish further particulars to enable the identification of 'ANARCHA'.

Conclusion

On return he crossed the lines at Montemaro on 15 April 1944.

Comments

During interrogation subject behaved like a man desirous of talking and at the same time anxious to avoid disclosing too much.

As a matter of fact he did not explain why - (a) he went to Naples, an important center for espionage activities; (b) when he obtained his leave, he went to Naples and Rocca Sabazia, where he had no interest whatsoever, whereas his original intention was to go to Athens to Baron Vaselli; (c) he received a payment of L. 7800 for a mission which ended without any success.

On the other hand, it cannot be taken for granted that subject did not report, at least, that he had been in Allied occupied territory, and in particular that he had seen in Naples.

The very fact that the Germans, by no means dismayed by the negative results of his first mission, had him and proposed to send him on a second mission, proves without any shadow of a doubt the fact that he did communicate some sort of information, and that the Nazis trusted in him is demonstrated by the fact that he was invited to report to the G.I. Army H.Q. after the fall of Rome.

The information of DE JUVES, who it is believed is still with the "F. Rocca Sabazia" would prove to be very interesting and would help to clear many points that are still confused.

It would also furnish further particulars to enable the identification of "ANGELUS".

Conclusion

GUSTAV VINCENS is, without doubt, guilty of espionage on behalf of the German I.O.

Recommendation

It is proposed that subject be denounced to the Allied Military Court

APPENDIX #1

List of personalities of the G.I.S. mentioned in this report

1. ANGELO Recruiting agent in Rome, Ht. about 1.75 m. Slim build; chestnut hair; chestnut eyes; oval face; clean-shaven; age about 30.
(N.B. De MONTES Martin, of the 72. Recon Squadron, should be able to furnish other particulars to enable him to be identified. De MONTES also knew his telephone number.)
2. BUZON Lt. At Bussi he met subject, who did not see the officer. At Pricoli (Umbria) he recognised subject, and revealed the fact that he knew of subject's mission. He interrogated subject and also advised him that he would be called by Captain MALCHES. COLETTA has not been able to give the description of Buzon, nor has he given any particulars as to the exact job of the Lt.
3. A Captain who conducted subject from Rome to Bussi, whence he had come. Subject has not been able to furnish any particulars whatsoever in this regard.
4. GRAF, Lt. Of the I.C. Army Command. After the fall of Rome, subject was to report to him. Subject had never met him and is therefore unable to furnish any details.
5. MALCHES, Captain of the G.I.S. in Rome. Asked COLETTA of the mission assigned to him and later, proposed other missions to subject. Subject is unable to furnish his description or other details.

SECRET

PL/RWA

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS

Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2

B-389-701-PF-366.

17 Oct 44.

SUBJECT: COLLETTA, Vincenzo a "CIU3A".

TO : A.S. of S. G-2 RAAC.

Further to this headquarters B-389-701-PF-366 dated 27 Sep 44.

The following extracts from an interrogation of two agents, the brothers GORGA, may be of value in the further interrogation of subject:

1. From OSDIV AAI (East) 7.13 dated 21 May 44, "Personality No. 11:

COLLETTA, Enzo, (or Vincenzo) Italian-German agent. He had been across to Allied occupied territory on a mission from which he returned after 2 1/2 months. In the meantime his passport had been cancelled or altered and he was arrested and placed in jail by the Germans, together with the two British agents mentioned above. While in jail these two talked about their mission. Recognised by BUZONI, COLLETTA was taken out of jail and gave away the two ~~xxxx~~ British agents. When Colletta arrived at BRITTOOLI he was dressed in British uniform. Held rank of Sgt. Was sent home on leave. Height about 1.75 m, athletic figure, long face dark complexion, dark hair brushed back, clean shaven, dark eyes. Approx Age 26.

2. From S/2 dated 20 Jul 44, 03 315 FSS to CSI(b) HQ 2 District CMF:

2 Apr 44 COLLETTA Enzo arrived at BRITTOOLI with two Italians (names unknown). GORGA did not see them that day as it was late when they arrived and he was asleep. 3 Apr 44 GORGA spoke with COLLETTA and one of the Italians and was told that the third member of the party which had arrived the previous night, had been taken to the detention camp at VIVITAJANA after being interrogated at BRITTOOLI.

COLLETTA told GORGA that he (COLLETTA) had been arrested by the Germans at a road block near GUSTAFSTADT.

0 5 0 3

JOLLETTA, Enzo, (or Vincenzo) Italian-German agent. He had been across to Allied occupied territory on a mission from which he returned after 24 months. In the meantime his passport had been cancelled or altered and he was arrested and placed in jail by the Germans, together with the two British agents mentioned above. While in jail these two talked about their mission. Recognised by BUZONI, JOLLETTA was taken out of jail and gave away the two dress British agents. When Colletta arrived at BRITTOLI he was dressed in British uniform. Held rank of Sgt. Was sent home on leave. Height about 1.75 m, athletic figure, long face dark complexion, dark hair brushed back, clean shaven, dark eyes. Approx Age 26.

2. From 3/2 dated 20 Jul 44, CG 315 PSS to GSI(b) HQ 2 District JMF :

2 Apr 44 JOLLETTA Enzo arrived at BRITTOLI with two Italians (names unknown). GORGA did not see them that day as it was late when they arrived and he was asleep.

3 Apr 44 GORGA spoke with JOLLETTA and one of the Italians and was told that the third member of the party which had arrived the previous night, had been taken to the detention camp at CIVITAVANNA after being interrogated at BRITTOLI.

JOLLETTA told GORGA that he (JOLLETTA) had been arrested by the GERMANS at a road block near GUARDIAFERRA where he had arrived after crossing the lines from ACT. Soon after his arrest, JOLLETTA met the two Italians who eventually arrived with him at BRITTOLI on the night of 2 Apr 44. GORGA is not certain whether JOLLETTA said that he met them at the road block near GUARDIAFERRA or at the GERMAN HQ at PALERNA where all three were held as suspects having crossed from ACT.

JOLLETTA said that from PALERNA he and the other two Italians were passed to the detention camp at CIVITAVANNA, before being sent on to BRITTOLI. (The time spent between their arrival at GUARDIAFERRA and arrival at BRITTOLI was approximately five days).

On arrival at BRITTOLI, JOLLETTA was recognised by the German officers as one of their agents, and JOLLETTA immediately denounced the other two Italians as British agents, - they had confided this information to JOLLETTA during the time between their arrival in ACT and their

- 2 -

~~the~~ arrival at BRITOLI. The two Italians were immediately interrogated at BRITOLI. One of them refused to admit that he had crossed into ACT on a mission for the British and was removed to JIVITAGUANA on 3 Apr 44. The other admitted under interrogation that he was a British agent and he remained at BRITOLI. This Italian told GCHQ that he had been sent by a British HQ on a mission into ACT with a friend to find a suitable place for dropping parachutists and to pick up two British captains who were in hiding at a place no more than a day's journey from BRITOLI.

GCHQ does not remember the name of the place where the two British captains were to be picked up, but believes that it was either CEMANA or FIANELLA.

GCHQ does not know which Allied HQ sent this Italian on a mission, from what point in ACT this Italian left or at exactly which point he crossed the lines into ACT. The Germans offered to accept this Italian into their service as a "double-crossing" agent. If he should refuse to accept this offer, or if he did not carry out the instructions given him by the Germans, reprisals would be taken against his family the location of which was known to the Germans in ACT. This Italian accepted the German offer. The German HQ at BRITOLI decided to send this Italian to the spot where the two British captains were in hiding waiting to be picked up. A German warrant officer in civilian clothes was to accompany the Italian taking the place of the friend who had crossed with him from ACT. Once they had picked up the two British captains they were to act as though they really intended to conduct them across the lines into ACT. At a point near the front, they were to be fired on (in sham) by the Germans. At this point the German warrant officer was to pretend to be mortally wounded, and the Italian was to take to his heels. GCHQ was to give the Italian believes that the point of this rather complicated "mise en scene" was to give the Italian a cover story which would bear the closest scrutiny on his arrival in ACT.

From the place of the arrest of the two captains, the Italian was to proceed directly into ACT and indicate to the Allied command a point for the landing of parachutists (pre-arranged with the Germans) where an ambush would be prepared for them. (The details of this plan for the

The Germans offered to accept this Italian into their service as a "double-crossing" agent. If he should refuse to accept this offer, or if he did not carry out the instructions given him by the Germans, reprisals would be taken against his family the location of which was known to the Germans in AOT. This Italian accepted the German offer. The German HQ at BRITOLI decided to send this Italian to the spot where the two British captains were in hiding waiting to be picked up. A German warrant officer in civilian clothes was to accompany the Italian taking the place of the friend who had crossed with him from AOT. Once they had picked up the two British captains they were to act as though they really intended to conduct them across the lines into AOT. At a point near the front, they were to be fired on (in sham) by the Germans. At this point the German warrant officer was to pretend to be mortally wounded, and the Italian was to take to his heels. GORGA was to give the Italian believes that the point of this rather complicated "mise en scene" was to give the Italian a cover story which would bear the closest scrutiny on his arrival in AOT.

From the place of the arrest of the two captains, the Italian was to proceed directly into AOT and indicate to the Allied command a point for the landing of paratroopists (pre-arranged with the Germans) where an ambush would be prepared for them. (The details of this plan for the arrest of the two captains and the Italian's despatch into AOT were told to GORGA both by COLLETTA and by the German warrant officer).

6 Apr 44 The Italian and the German warrant officer left BRITOLI to put the plan into effect.

7 Apr 44 They returned and said that the two British captains had been arrested by a German search party before their arrival.

10 Apr 44 The Italian left BRITOLI to rejoin his HQ in AOT. GORGA did not see him go, but was told by the German warrant officer that he had been sent off unaccompanied on a mission for the Germans. GORGA gave the following description of this Italian :-

Height: 1.60 m.

Age: 18 yrs

Hair: dark, thick.

Face: normal features, clean-shaven.

Build: Solid.

- 3 -

Dress: Peasants clothes.
Spoke English, French and German well.
GCRJA stated that this Italian gave the impression
of being very intelligent.
GCRJA does not know from which part of N. ITALY his
parents come.

For the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2.

SS HILL-DILLON.
Colonel, G.S.
G-2 (CI) Section.

Copy to :- No. 1 SCD Unit.

DRAFT

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
A.P.O.394
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER

REF : SD/149.01

19 April 1945

SUBJECT : Security Cases Pending

TO : Brigadier General Commanding RAAC

1. The cases against the suspected enemy agents COLETTA and DE MONTIS have been examined by Security Division Public Safety Sub Commission, AC., and application has already been made that they be interned.

2. With regard to MARTINI-ZACCAGNI, BIANCHI and BADIO, the Legal Sub Commission is prepared to hold a Special ANG Court to deal with their case, but reports that in all three cases that CIC agents, who are the principal witnesses, are either in the United States, or are unavailable owing to other circumstances.

3. It is accordingly suggested that consideration should be given to the internment of the men in question.

ELLERY W. STONE,
Rear Admiral, USNR
Chief Commissione.

CBH/nb

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED COMMISSION
C.M.F.
PUBLIC SAFETY SUB-COMMISSION
SECURITY DIVISION.

16th April, 1945.

Ref: S.D. 149.01/LWG.

SUBJECT: Suspected Enemy Agents : -
DE MONTIS Mario
COLETTA, Vincenzo.

TO : Civil Affairs Section.
(Copy to A.C. of S, G-2, RAC).

1. With reference to correspondence 1003/21/EC (Civil Affairs Section) dated 13 April 1945, and AG371(G-2)G-44 (RAC) of 11 April, 1945 regarding outstanding security cases in the Rome Area : -
2. Examination of all relevant documents and reports (SCI/712/1122, 19.9.44 - SCI/712/914 - AFHQ-B389-701-PP-366, 17.10.44) regarding the above-mentioned Italians, and full enquiries as to the circumstances of arrest by Italian S.I.M., have now been completed.
3. Although it is quite apparent from the statements made by the two men that they had been engaged by the Germans as "short-term" agents, there is no evidence to show that either of them had carried out a mission for the German authorities, or that they intended to do so.
4. In the case of DE MONTIS Mario, it seems quite clear that he had no intention of performing a mission. Shortly after crossing the lines he joined an Italian Parachute Unit, "P" Recce Squadron, under British Command (Captain GAY), made no attempt to re-cross the lines and served satisfactorily up to the time of his arrest. Further, he admitted voluntarily and freely to Captain GAY, the facts of his engagement by the Germans. It is recommended that no prosecution be undertaken against him.
5. His companion COLETTA Vincenzo also served in "P" Recce Squadron, but deserted after several months and crossed back into German occupied territory, ostensibly to visit his family in Rome. This may, or may not, be the truth but, in any case, under the Hague Convention, Chapter 2, Article 29, having returned to the territory of the other belligerent, he cannot, on being arrested subsequently, be dealt with as a spy, in respect of that particular

1. With reference to correspondence 1008/21/EC (Civil Affairs Section) dated 13 April 1945, and AG371(G-2)G-44 (RAAC) of 11 April, 1945 regarding outstanding security cases in the Rome Area :-
2. Examination of all relevant documents and reports (SCI/712/1122, 19.9.44 - SCI/712/914 - AFHQ-B389-701-PP-366, 17.10.44) regarding the above-mentioned Italians, and full enquiries as to the circumstances of arrest by Italian S.I.M., have now been completed.
3. Although it is quite apparent from the statements made by the two men that they had been engaged by the Germans as "short-term" agents, there is no evidence to show that either of them had carried out a mission for the German authorities, or that they intended to do so.
4. In the case of DR MONTIS Mario, it seems quite clear that he had no intention of performing a mission. Shortly after crossing the lines he joined an Italian Parachute Unit, "F" Recce Squadron, under British Command (Captain GAY), made no attempt to re-cross the lines and served satisfactorily up to the time of his arrest. Further, he admitted voluntarily and freely to Captain GAY, the facts of his engagement by the Germans. It is recommended that no prosecution be undertaken against him.
5. His companion COLETTA Vincenzo also served in "F" Recce Squadron, but deserted after several months and crossed back into German occupied territory, ostensibly to visit his family in Rome. This may, or may not, be the truth but, in any case, under the Hague Convention, Chapter 2, article 29, having returned to the territory of the other belligerent, he cannot, on being arrested subsequently, be dealt with as a spy, in respect of that particular mission.
6. With regard to his arrest in Rome, after Allied advances and occupation of that city, there is no evidence by way of any overt act or otherwise that he remained here to carry out a mission for the Germans.
7. Therefore it is recommended that in this case, no prosecution be undertaken against COLETTA Vincenzo, but that in view of the grave doubts about him, he be interned indefinitely as a security danger.
8. With regard to his companion - DR MONTIS Mario - in spite of his having served satisfactorily in "F" Recce Squadron and having freely admitted the general facts to the British Commanding Officer, it has to be borne in mind that he was aware of COLETTA's intention to re-cross into German territory, and he made no attempt to prevent this. Therefore, his indefinite internment as a likely security danger, also seems amply justified.

Louis V. Gale
 LOUIS V. GALE, Captain

0 5 1 0

1900