

ACC 10000/143/2600 149.01/GG GALVAGNO CLAUDIO

Feb. - May 1944

0682

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS  
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION  
SECURITY BRANCH

Ref: SB/311.5/149.01

16th May, 1944

Subject: Prosecution of Enemy Agent.

- GALVACNO Claudio di Marcello

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

With reference to my report dated 24 March, 1944  
regarding the above mentioned Italian :-

Claudio GALVACNO appeared before the Allied Military  
General Court on 26 March, 1944. The members of the Court were -  
Colonel Carter (Am) - Major W.G.Elder (Br) - Captain H.Jones (Br).

The case for the prosecution was conducted by Major  
Woodward (Am) and for the defence by Lieutenant Mackenzie.

After hearing the various witnesses, mentioned in my  
earlier report, for the prosecution and after hearing the case for the  
defence, including evidence given on oath by the accused person, the  
Court found him "Guilty" of "serving the enemy as a spy" and  
sentenced him to death. The charge was framed under Proclamation  
No.2, Article 1, paragraph 1.

The sentence was commuted on 15 April, 1944 on appeal  
to the Military Governor, to 20 years imprisonment - the tender age  
of the condemned youth being the deciding factor.

*Louis J. Gal*

**13** Lieutenant.

Copy to Main S Army.

for Colonel A.E.YOUNG, Director  
Security Branch - A.C.C.

SECRET  
HEADQUARTERS  
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION  
SECURITY BRANCH

21 March, 1944

SUBJECT: Prosecution of Enemy Agent -  
GALVAGNO Claudio di Marcello,  
born Venice, 10 November, 1926

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

1. With reference to the above-mentioned Italian,  
who is held in custody by G.S.I.(b) - 8th Army, under the  
directions of Lieutenant-Colonel W.D. GIBSON, D.G.S. (I), as  
an enemy agent :-

2. The circumstances of this case are that Claudio  
GALVAGNO was taken into custody during the night of 26th  
January, 1944, by members of 11th Canadian Lorrried Infantry  
Brigade (actual members not now identifiable) about 2 kms.  
from ORSOGNA, having come from the direction of the German  
lines. He was wearing civilian clothing and it is clear that  
at that time he was accepted as being, most likely, an ordinary  
refugee. During the remainder of the night, he was placed in  
a cottage behind the lines with other refugees and later on  
27th January, 1944 was handed over to 290 F.S. Section as a  
refugee being possibly in possession of useful military  
information. Nothing was elicited there of military value,  
nor on the other hand to give rise to suspicion about him.

3. Accordingly, on 28th January, 1944, he was brought  
to Captain Anthony S. WHITE, G.3.(I), 4th Indian Division at  
Castelfrantano, as a matter of routine, to be questioned in  
the normal manner with ordinary refugees, as a man likely to  
give interesting information. He was interrogated by Capt.  
WHITE and Captain FITENI, General List, attached to 8th Army  
Pool of Interpreters.

4. Captain WHITE has made a signed statement as to  
what GALVAGNO said during the interrogation (Statement of  
Captain WHITE attached - marked "A"). It is shown in the  
statement that GALVAGNO told them that

2. The circumstances of this case are that Claudio GALVAGNO was taken into custody during the night of 26th January, 1944, by members of 11th Canadian Lorrried Infantry Brigade (actual members not now identifiable) about 2 kms. from ORSOGNA, having come from the direction of the German lines. He was wearing civilian clothing and it is clear that at that time he was accepted as being, most likely, an ordinary refugee. During the remainder of the night, he was placed in a cottage behind the lines with other refugees and later on 27th January, 1944 was handed over to 290 F.S. Section as a refugee being possibly in possession of useful military information. Nothing was elicited there of military value, nor on the other hand to give rise to suspicion about him.

3. Accordingly, on 28th January, 1944, he was brought to Captain Anthony S. WHITE, G.3.(I), 4th Indian Division at Castelfrentano, as a matter of routine, to be questioned in the normal manner with ordinary refugees, as a man likely to give interesting information. He was interrogated by Capt. WHITE and Captain FITENI, General List, attached to 8th Army Pool of Interpreters.

4. Captain WHITE has made a signed statement as to what GALVAGNO said during the interrogation (Statement of Captain WHITE attached - marked "A"). It is shown in the statement that GALVAGNO told them that he came from Lido di Venezia, where his father had perfumery shops, that he had been sheltering two Jews in his home and that it had come to the knowledge of the Police. In consequence, he had been given 2,000 lire by his father who told him to get away to the Allies as best he could. He said that he had travelled by train to ANCONA and thence by German military lorry, afterwards crossing the lines without difficulty and giving himself up to the first Allied troops he had met. Throughout the interrogation he asserted that he was a genuine refugee and certainly gave no indication that he was connected with German Intelligence.

5. It may be deemed advisable to secure the appearance at Court, in addition to Captain WHITE, of Captain FITENI who acted as interpreter during the interrogation.

12

6. On the instructions of Captain WHITE, GALVAGNO was taken by Captain FITENI to G.S.I. (a) - 13 Corps (Capt. ALLEN) whose suspicion was aroused by the fact that GALVAGNO was wearing a new hat bearing the name of a manufacturer or dealer

PAGE 2

in SULMONA, whereas he had claimed to have come from Venice. Consequently, he was then handed over to 412 F.S. Section at PAGLIETA, by whom he was searched and questioned.

7. Lance-Corporal Geoffrey EASTON of 412 F.S. Section has made a signed statement (copy attached - marked "B") in which he shows that during the afternoon of 28th January, he was called to Capt. Allen's office where GALVAGNO was handed over to him and the Captain's suspicions as above were told to the Lance-Corporal. L/Cpl.EASTON at once searched the suspect but found nothing of any consequence and he had only a small sum of money in his possession.

8. Under interrogation he said that, with several persons, who like himself were trying to escape from the Germans, he came through the English lines. He said that he had been in trouble with the Germans in Venice through his association with two Jews, and had been suspected of aiding British people to escape from that city. In consequence, he said, his house in Venice had been searched by the German authorities, and that was why he was trying to escape.

9. Lance Corporal EASTON pointed out the new hat bearing the SULMONA name, which was rather in contradiction of his story of having come from Venice. GALVAGNO explained that he had changed clothes on the road, including his hat, with a man whom he had met on way, in order to make his identification by the Germans more difficult. The Lance-Corporal could get no more information from him and he constantly refused to answer questions, declaring many times that he was a genuine refugee. Before placing him under guard of the Maresciallo CCRR. Paglieta, the Lance Corporal told him that his story COULD NOT BE BELIEVED. Concluding his statement, Lance-Corporal EASTON states that he was present throughout a subsequent interrogation of this man by Corporal K.J.MIDDLETON.

10. Corporal Kenneth John MIDDLETON, 412 F.S. Section, in a signed statement (attached - marked "C") says that at about 0900 hours on 29th January, 1944, GALVAGNO was brought back to the office of 412 F.S. Section by the Maresciallo - Luigi GIORDANI - who told him that during the night the

0 6 8 6  
said, his house in Venice had been searched by the German authorities, and that was why he was trying to escape.

9.  
Lance Corporal EASTON pointed out the new hat bearing the SULMONA name, which was rather in contradiction of his story of having come from Venice. GALVAGNO explained that he had changed clothes on the road, including his hat, with a man whom he had met on way, in order to make his identification by the Germans more difficult. The Lance-Corporal could get no more information from him and he constantly refused to answer questions, declaring many times that he was a genuine refugee. Before placing him under guard of the Maresciallo CCRR. Paglieta, the Lance Corporal told him that his story COULD NOT BE BELIEVED. Concluding his statement, Lance-Corporal EASTON states that he was present throughout a subsequent interrogation of this man by Corporal K.J. MIDDLETON.

10.  
Corporal Kenneth John MIDDLETON, 412 F.S. Section, in a signed statement (attached - marked "C") says that at about 0900 hours on 29th January, 1944, GALVAGNO was brought back to the office of 412 F.S. Section by the Maresciallo - Luigi GIORDANI - who told him that during the night the man had confessed to him that he had been sent across the lines by the Germans to get information for them on military matters. The Corporal continued to question him and GALVAGNO admitted that he had volunteered, three months earlier, to undertake a mission which would mean his crossing the lines into Allied territory. He went on to say that he had been introduced to the German Command by an interpreter in their employ in Venice, whom he had met casually. GALVAGNO said that he left Venice on 18th January, 1944, on orders from the German Command to go to BUSSI. There he was given his detailed instructions and was told that, if it became necessary, on going through the lines, he was to say that he had escaped from the Germans. His instructions were to pass through the lines and to note Allied troops (in particular - New Zealand troops) and material and to find out the numbers and types of tanks and other military vehicles. On returning through the lines he was to ask for a particular German Major. He said that this was the first occasion upon which he had passed through the lines and that the Germans had

SECRET

PAGE 3

not given him any money but had promised to pay him 2,500 lire on his return. Towards the conclusion of the interrogation, GALVAGNO said that he had only done this for money and that he would work for the Allies if we paid him.

11.

A statement of the evidence of Capt. J. V. COOPER No. 2 Unit, S.I.(b), who next interrogated GALVAGNO, is attached - marked "D". He will be able to give evidence in corroboration of the main facts as given by the two witnesses from 412 F.S. Section but can implement their evidence as follows:

12.

GALVAGNO, under interrogation, admitted that from 3rd November, 1943 until 18th January, 1944, he was employed by the Germans in Venice as an informer. His function was to report on civilian opinion, persons listening to the B.B.C., concealment of arms and similar matters. Also, before crossing the lines, he was supplied with fresh civilian clothing by the Germans.

13.

On GALVAGNO's own admission to Captain COOPER, his only reasons for accepting this work for the Germans were - (a) Trouble at home (b) He was impressed by the good behaviour of the Germans in Venice and (c) He would thus get permission to be out after curfew and be allowed to carry arms.

14.

A report from CSDIC (Sub-centre East) C.M.F. - Report No. 130 of 23rd February, 1944, corroborates in greater detail (mostly not relevant to this prosecution) the evidence already disclosed herein. However, it shows in addition that GALVAGNO, on his own confession, as an informer of the Germans in Venice, helped in the arrest or arrested 43 escaped Allied prisoners-of-war, and, in the process betrayed to the authorities in Venice several Communists or anti-fascists and others who helped British escapees in hiding. He did this whilst posing as the friend and collaborator of such persons. It is submitted that the evidence in this paragraph is both necessary and relevant to Court proceedings to show the motive activating his crossing of the lines and to show the extent of his

was to report on civilian opinions, persons  
B.B.C., concealment of arms and similar matters. Also, before  
crossing the lines, he was supplied with fresh civilian  
clothing by the Germans.

13.

On GALVAGNO's own admission to Captain COOPER, his only reasons for accepting this work for the Germans were - (a) Trouble at home (b) He was impressed by the good behaviour of the Germans in Venice and (c) He would thus get permission to be out after curfew and be allowed to carry arms.

14.

A report from CSDIC (Sub-centre East) C.M.F. - Report No. 130 of 23rd February, 1944, corroborates in greater detail (mostly not relevant to this prosecution) the evidence already disclosed herein. However, it shows in addition that GALVAGNO, on his own confession, as an informer of the Germans in Venice, helped in the arrest or arrested 43 escaped Allied prisoners-of-war, and, in the process betrayed to the authorities in Venice several Communists or anti-fascists and others who helped British escapees in hiding. He did this whilst posing as the friend and collaborator of such persons. It is submitted that the evidence in this paragraph is both necessary and relevant to Court proceedings to show the motive activating his crossing of the lines and to show the extent of his connection and collaboration with the German Military Authority in Venice. Accordingly, it seems desirable that the CSDIC interrogator who obtained these facts be present at Court to testify to them.

10

15. There can be no doubt that GALVAGNO had every intention of completely fulfilling his mission as an agent of the German Command. In the first place, prior to crossing our lines, he had been an informer of the worst type for the Germans and their collaborators. For mercenary reasons alone, during a period of over two months during which he worked for them in Venice, he betrayed not only Allied escapees but also several of his own countrymen, whilst posing as their friend and helper, and may therefore have been responsible for sending some of the latter to their death. Next, he crossed our lines, wearing civilian clothes given him by the Germans. It is significant that when he subsequently passed through FIVE DIFFERENT UNITS

SECRET



SECRET

PAGE 4

HE MAINTAINED THROUGHOUT TO EACH OF THOSE UNITS THAT HE WAS A REFUGEE FROM NAZI OPPRESSION. IT WAS NOT UNTIL HE HAD BEEN TRAPPED BY HIS OWN MISTAKE IN NOT HAVING A SATISFACTORY STORY TO EXPLAIN HIS POSSESSION OF A HAT MADE IN SULMONA, AND THAT IT HAD BEEN FORCED UPON HIM THAT HIS STORY WAS NOT BELIEVED, AND FURTHER, THAT HE BECAME SEPARATED FROM GENUINE REFUGEES AND PLACED IN A CELL, THAT HE DECIDED TO TELL THE TRUE FACTS.

16.

It is therefore submitted that GALVAGNO is a "spy" within the meaning of Chapter 2, Article 29 of The Hague Convention AND SHOULD BE MADE TO PAY THE EXTREME PENALTY.

17.

The antecedents and history of GALVAGNO, prior to the events which form the subject of this report are contained in the statement of evidence of Captain COOPER.

18.

Attention is drawn to the necessity that these cases be conducted by the Court, in camera, owing to the most secret nature of most of the facts which will have to be revealed in evidence.

*Louis V. Gale*  
Louis V. GALE

Lieutenant

HQ. A.C.G. Security Br.

Copies to be forwarded to:

Lieut-Colonel W.D. GIBSON, D.G.S. (I)  
G.S.I. (b) - 8th Army.  
Legal (Prosecutor)

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

*Len,*

*The facts appear to be quite clear.*

to be revealed in evidence.

*Louis V. Gale*

Louis V. GALE  
Lieutenant  
HQ. A.C.C. Security Br.

Copies to be forwarded to:

Lieut-Colonel W.D. GIBSON, D.G.S. (I)  
G.S.I. (b) - 8th Army.  
Legal (Prosecutor)

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

*See,  
The prob officer to be given clear.  
aly.  
23 Nov 44*

SECRET

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION  
SECURITY BRANCH.

4th. Indian Division, H.Q.  
13th. March, 1944.

STATEMENT OF CAPTAIN ANTHONY S. WHITE, 4th. Indian Division  
H.Q. G.3 (I), who says:-

An Italian, giving the name of GALVAGNO Claudio, was brought to my office in Castel'frentano on 28th. Jan, 1944 by Lieutenant RIGG, O.C. 290 F.S. Section. He had been handed on to the F.S. Section by the 11th. Canadian Lorried Infantry Brigade.

GALVAGNO was interrogated by Captain FITENI, General List, attached to 8th. Army pool of interpreters, in my presence. GALVAGNO stated that he came from LIDO di VENEZIA, where his father was a proprietor of perfumery shops. He said that he had been sheltering two Jews in his home, and that this had been reported to the Police. His father had thereupon given him 2,000 lire and had told him to get away to the Allies as best he could. He stated he had travelled by train as far as ANCONA and thence onwards on German military lorries. He had succeeded in crossing the lines without difficulty, and had given himself up to the first Allied troops he had met.

This man was handed over as an ordinary refugee, likely to be in possession of interesting information. Throughout the interrogation he asserted that he was a genuine refugee, and certainly gave no indication that he was in any way connected with German intelligence. On my instructions he was taken by Capt. FITENI and handed over to GSI H.Q. 13 Corp.

(Signed Anthony S. White)

in my presence. GALVAGNO stated that he came from LIDO di VENIZIA, where his father was a proprietor of perfumery shops. He said that he had been sheltering two Jews in his home, and that this had been reported to the Police. His father had thereupon given him 2,000 lire and had told him to get away to the Allies as best he could. He stated he had travelled by train as far as ANCONA and thence onwards on German military lorries. He had succeeded in crossing the lines without difficulty, and had given himself up to the first Allied troops he had met.

This man was handed over as an ordinary refugee, likely to be in possession of interesting information. Throughout the interrogation he asserted that he was a genuine refugee, and certainly gave no indication that he was in any way connected with German intelligence. On my instructions he was taken by Capt. FITENI and handed over to GSI H.Q. 13 Corps.

(Signed Anthony S. White)

Statement taken down and signature witnessed by Lonis V. Gale,  
Lieutenant.

SECRET

B

HEADQUARTERS  
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION  
SECURITY BRANCH.

412 F.S. Section,  
12th. March, 1944.

STATEMENT OF Lance Corporal Geoffrey EASTON, 45434,  
412 F.S. Section, who says:-

During the afternoon of 28th. Jan. 1944 I was called to the office of Capt. Allen G.S.I. (a) 13 Corps, who informed me that he had a man detained there, who had come from enemy occupied territory, who had been handed over to him by an advance unit as a person warranting some suspicion. Capt. Allen said that one of the reasons which had aroused suspicion was that the man was wearing a hat fairly new and with a clean lining, bearing the name of the manufacturer or dealer in SULLMONA, which appeared very suspicious in view of the man having said that he had come from Venice. I then took the man, who gave his name as GALVAGNC Claudio to the 412 F.S.S. detachment, Paglieta office, and interrogated him;

I searched him before questioning him, but all that he had in the way of property was a small wallet containing private papers, apparently of no consequence, and a very small sum of money. He said that he had already been searched at least three times. Under interrogation he said that with several persons, who like himself were trying to escape from the Germans, he came through the English lines. He said that he had been in trouble with the Germans in Venice through his association with two Jews, and had been suspected of aiding British people to escape from that city;

In consequence, he said, his house in Venice had been searched by the German authorities. That was why he was trying to escape. I said that I disbelieved his story, and pointed out that his possession of an apparently new hat bearing a SULLMONA maker's name did not tally with his story of having come from Venice. He replied that, thinking the Germans would be searching for him, he changed clothes on the road, including his hat, with a man who he met on the road. He said that he did this in order to

fairly new and was a manufacturer or dealer in SULLONA, which appeared very suspicious in view of the man having said that he had come from Venice. I then took the man, who gave his name as GALVAGNO Claudio to the 412 F.S.S. detachment, Paglieta office, and interrogated him;

I searched him before questioning him, but all that he had in the way of property was a small wallet containing private papers, apparently of no consequence, and a very small sum of money. He said that he had already been searched at least three times. Under interrogation he said that with several persons, who like himself were trying to escape from the Germans, he came through the English lines. He said that he had been in trouble with the Germans in Venice through his association with two Jews, and had been suspected of aiding British people to escape from that city;

In consequence, he said, his house in Venice had been searched by the German authorities. That was why he was trying to escape. I said that I disbelieved his story, and pointed out that his possession of an apparently new hat bearing a SULLONA maker's name did not tally with his story of having come from Venice. He replied that, thinking the Germans would be searching for him, he changed clothes on the road, including his hat, with a man who he met on the road. He said that he did this in order to make identification difficult for the Germans.

I could get no more information from him, and he constantly refused to answer many questions, declaring many times that he was a genuine refugee. I then placed him under guard of the maresciallo, CCRR, of Paglieta, at the local CCRR caserma.

Before placing him under guard as above, I impressed upon him that his story could not be believed. The next morning 29th. Jan. 1944 he was brought to the Paglieta detachment office by the maresciallo, who informed Cpl. Middleton and I that he had confessed during the night to having been sent through the lines by the German command to gather military information. I was present throughout the interrogation of this man by Cpl. Middleton. (Signed) 45434 G. EASTON L/Cpl.

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS  
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION  
SECURITY BRANCH.

412 F.S. Section,  
12th. March, 1944.

STATEMENT of Corporal Kenneth John MIDDLETON; 412 F.S.  
Section, who says:-

On 29th. January, 1944 at about 0900 hours, an Italian named GALVAGNO Claudio, di Marcello, was brought to me at 412 F.S.S. detachment, Paglieta, Province Chieti, by the maresciallo GCRR - Luigi GIORDANI - who told me that during the night this man had confessed to him that he had been sent by the Germans to cross the line to get information for them on military matters.

Therefore I questioned GALVAGNO, who told me that he had volunteered three months earlier in Venice to undertake a mission which would mean his crossing the lines into Allied territory. He went on to say that he had been introduced to the German command in Venice by an interpreter in their employ, who he had met casually. He then said that the German command in Venice instructed him to go to BUSSI.

He said that his route was by train from Venice which he left on 18th. Jan, 1944 to BOLOGNA - SANTARCHANGELO ANCONA - and S. BENEDETTO, thence by German truck to about two kilometres from CHIETI. From there he went on foot to the town of CHIETI, arriving there on 22nd. January, 1944. He said that he left CHIETI during the night of 23rd. Jan, 1944 passed Stazione BUCHIANNICO and presented himself at a German Headquarters.

There he met two other youths who he learned were named Carlo and Gennaro. On 25th. Jan, 1944 with these two youths he left the German H.Q. for BUSSI and on the morning of 26th. Jan, 1944 his instructions were given to him by the German command at BUSSI.

He was told that if it became necessary he was to say that he had escaped from the Germans. His orders were to pass through the lines and to note Allied troops and material, in particular New Zealand troops, and to find out

0 6 9 6

a mission which would mean his crossing the lines into Allied territory. He went on to say that he had been introduced to the German command in Venice by an interpreter in their employ, who he had met casually. He then said that the German command in Venice instructed him to go to BUSSI.

He said that his route was by train from Venice which he left on 18th. Jan, 1944 to BOLOGNA - SANTARCHANGELO ANCONA - and S. BENEDETTO, thence by German truck to about two kilometres from CHIETI. From there he went on foot to the town of CHIETI, arriving there on 22nd. January, 1944. He said that he left CHIETI during the night of 23rd. Jan, 1944 passed Stazione BUCHIANNICO and presented himself at a German Headquarters.

There he met two other youths who he learned were named Carlo and Gennaro. On 25th. Jan, 1944 with these two youths he left the German H.Q. for BUSSI and on the morning of 26th. Jan, 1944 his instructions were given to him by the German command at BUSSI.

He was told that if it became necessary he was to say that he had escaped from the Germans. His orders were to pass through the lines and to note Allied troops and material, in particular New Zealand troops, and to find out the numbers and types of tanks and other military vehicles. To assist him in identifying such vehicles he was given photographs to study;

6

On returning through the lines he was to present himself to any German unit and say he wished to see Major ILBRAND or HILDEBRANDT, "Ic Corpo d'Armata". He stated to me that this was the first occasion on which he had passed through the lines; further he said that the Germans had given him no money; but had promised to pay him 2,500 lire on his return.

He told me that the German organization under which he was employed was known as the "FELDGENDARMERI"

SECRET



SECRET

Later the same day I took the prisoner, with his property (this consisted of a wallet containing personal papers which appeared to be innocuous, and a negligible amount of money) to Section H.Q. at ATESSA, where I was told that the case would be further dealt with by S.I.b. I would add that towards the conclusion of my interrogation he said that he only did it for money, and that he would work for us if we paid him.

This statement has been read to me and it is true.

(Signed) K.J. Middleton. Cpl.

Statement taken down and signature witnessed by Louis V. GALE, Lieut.

0 8 9 8

Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

5

SECRET

GALE, Lieut.

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS  
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION  
SECURITY BRANCH

STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE obtained by Captain J.V. COOPER  
from interrogation of GALVANO CLARDO on 3rd February, 1944

Claudio GALVANO was born at Lido, Venice on 19th November, 1926 son of GALVANO MARCELLO and SIOKDI DOMENICO. His parents are still alive and his father owns a perfumery business in Venice. On his own admission his school record was bad and he was a source of trouble to his parents.

Towards the end of October, 1943, through a former employee of his father, he was introduced to the German Military Authority (Feldgendarmerie) for whom the said former employee was acting as an interpreter. He was taken on by them as an informer and his function was to report on civilian opinion, persons listening to the I.B.C., concealment of arms and similar matters.

He commenced this work on about 3-4th November, 1943 but after some weeks he was asked by the Germans to go to BUSSI to do special work for which he would be well paid. GALVANO accepted the mission and on 18th January, 1944, left Venice by train for S. Benedetto del Tronto. Thence he went by truck to CHIETI where he arrived on 22nd January at about 1400 hours, when he presented himself to the Feldgendarmerie. At 1700 hours on 23rd January, he left with a German Lieutenant and an interpreter and went to Lucchianico, where he remained the night, leaving for BUSSI the next day; where he was given photographs of British tanks to study and was given fresh civilian clothing.

On the morning of 26th January, he was instructed by a German Lieutenant to go to Castelmontano area and to ascertain :-

- (i) The number, type and location of British tanks.
- (ii) The nature of troops in the district - whether Canadian, Indian or New Zealand (particularly the last-named).

No question of payment was mentioned but he understood from other agents whom he met that he would get 2,500 lire for each successful mission. On the completion of his mission, he was to return to the German lines, wherever convenient and ask for a particular Major

He commenced this work on about 3-4th November, 1944. Some weeks he was asked by the Germans to go to BUSSI to do special work for which he would be well paid. CALVANO accepted the mission and on 18th January, 1944, left Venice by train for S. Benedetto del Tronto. Hence he went by truck to GILBERT where he arrived on 22nd January at about 1400 hours, when he presented himself to the Feldgendarmarie. At 1700 hours on 23rd January, he left with a German Lieutenant and an Interpreter and went to Lucchianico, where he remained the night, leaving for BUSSI the next day; where he was given photographs of British tanks to study and was given fresh civilian clothing.

On the morning of 25th January, he was instructed by a German Lieutenant to go to Castel Frentano area and to ascertain:-

- (i) The number, type and location of British tanks.
- (ii) The nature of troops in the district - whether Canadian, Indian or New Zealand (particularly the last-named).

No question of payment was mentioned but he understood from other agents whom he met that he would get 4,500 lire for each successful mission. On the completion of his mission, he was to return to the German lines, wherever convenient and ask for a particular Major

4  
At about 1500 hours on 26 January, he left BUSSI in a German car with an interpreter and a German soldier as driver and went to a German Headquarters near PRUORO. Owing to conditions making it impossible for him to cross the line in that sector, he was taken on to another German Headquarters in the ORSONA area where he arrived at 2300 hours. He was then taken by German soldiers to a point about 500 yards from the British lines, where they left him after indicating the route he should take. After this he walked on for about 500 yards when he was stopped by a British soldier.

On CALVANO's own admission, his reasons for taking on this work for the Germans were: (a) Trouble at home (b) He was impressed by the good behaviour of the Germans in Venice and (c) He would thus get permission to be out after curfew and be allowed to carry arms.

(Signed) J.V. COOPER Captain

SECRET

SECRET

A

4th Indian Division H.Q.  
13th March, 1944.

Statement of Captain Anthony J. WHITE,  
4th Indian Division H.Q. G.3(I), who says:

An Italian, giving the name of GALVANO Claudio,  
was brought to my office in Cantalupo,  
on 20th January, 1944, by Lieutenant RISS, O.C.  
290 F.S. Section. He had been landed on 6-  
11th F.S. Section by 11th Bavarian Landed  
Infantry Brigade. GALVANO was interrogated  
by Captain FITENI, General Staff, attached to  
8th Army Pool of Interpreters, in my presence.  
GALVANO stated that he came from LICO DI  
VENIZIA where his father was the proprietor  
of perfumery shops. He said that he had been  
sheltering two Jews in his home and that  
this had been reported to the Police. His  
father had therefore given him 2,000 lire  
and had told him to get away to the  
Alps as best he could. He stated that  
he had travelled by train as far as AREONA  
and thence onward in German military  
trucks. He had succeeded in crossing the  
line without difficulty.

like F.S. Section by 11th Canadian Landed  
 Infantry Brigade. GALVAGNO was interrogated  
 by Captain FITZM, General Staff, attached to  
 8th Army Pool of Interpreters, in my presence.  
 GALVAGNO stated that he came from LIDO DI  
 VENEZIA where his father was the proprietor  
 of perfumery shops. He said that he had been  
 sheltering two Jews in his home and that  
 this had been reported to the Police. His  
 father had therefore given him 2,000 lire  
 and had told him to get away to the  
 Alps as best he could. He stated that  
 he had travelled by train as far as ANICONA  
 and thence onward in German military  
 train. He has succeeded in crossing the  
 Alps without difficulty and had given  
 himself up to the first Allied troops he met.  
 This man was handed over as an ordinary refugee  
 likely to be in possession of interesting information.  
 Throughout the interrogation he asserted that he  
 was a genuine refugee and certainly gave no  
 indication that he was in any way connected  
 with German Intelligence. On my instructions he  
 was taken by Capt. FITZM and handed over to  
 G.S.I. H.Q. 13 Corps.

W.H. S. White.  
 Witness when done by signature witnessed  
 by:- Louis P. Gale. Licut

SECRET

B

412 F.S. Section

12th March, 1944.

Statement of Lance-Corporal Geoffrey EASTON.

NS 45434, 412 F.S. Section, who says:-

During the afternoon of 20th January, 1944,  
I was called to the office of Captain

ALLEN, G.S.I(a), 13 Corps, who informed me

that he had a man detained there, who

had come from enemy occupied territory,

having been handed over to him by an

advanced unit: as a person warranting

some suspicion. Captain ALLEN said that

one of the reasons which had aroused

suspicion was that the man was wearing

a hat, fairly new and with a clean lining,

bearing the name of a manufacturer or

dealer in SUMNERA, which appeared very

suspicious in view of the man being said

that he had come from Venice. I then took

the man, who gave his name as GALVANO

Claudio, to 412 F.S.S. Detachment Paglietti

Office and interrogated him. I searched

him before questioning him but all that he

had in the way of property was a small

wallet containing private papers, apparently of

some suspicion. Captain Altis said that  
 one of the reasons which had aroused  
 suspicion was that the man was wearing  
 a hat, fairly new and with a clean lining,  
 bearing the name of a manufacturer or  
 dealer in SULONWA, which appeared very  
 suspicious in view of the war having said  
 that he had come from Venice. I then look  
 the man, who gave his name as GALVAGNO  
 Blandio, to 412 F.S.S. Detachment Pagliolo  
 Office and interrogated him. I searched  
 him before questioning him but all that he  
 had in the way of property was a small  
 wallet containing private papers, apparently of  
 no consequence and a very small sum of money.  
 He said that he had already been searched  
 at least three times. Under interrogation,  
 he said that with several other persons,  
 who like himself were trying to escape  
 from the Germans, he came through the  
 English lines. He said that he had been  
 in trouble with the Germans in Venice though  
 his association with two Jews was held  
 as suspicious of aiding English people.

SECRET



escape from that city. In consequence, he said, his house in Venice had been searched by the German authorities. That was why he was trying to escape. I said that I disbelieved his story and pointed out that his possession of an apparently new hat bearing a SU-MOST maker's name, did not tally with his story of having come from Venice. He replied that, thinking the Germans would be searching for him, he changed clothes on the road, including his hat, with a man whom he met on way. He said that he did this in order to make identification difficult for the Germans. I could get no more information from him and he eventually refused to answer many questions, declaring several times that he was a genuine refugee.

I then placed him under guard of the Carabinieri, C.C.R.R. of Paglietta at the local Carabinieri Caserma. Before placing him under guard as above I expressed upon him that his story could not be believed.

The next morning, 29th January, 1944, he was brought to the Paglietta Detachment Office, by the Carabinieri who informed Corporal Maddalena

Lat, until a man whom he met on way.  
 He said that he did this in order to  
 make identification difficult for the  
 Germans. I could get no more information  
 from him and he constantly refused to  
 answer many questions, declaring several  
 times that he was a genuine refugee.  
 I then placed him under guard of the  
 Maresciallo, C.C.R.R. of Pagliola at the locale  
 Carabinieri Caserma. Before placing him  
 under guard as above I expressed upon him  
 that his story could not be believed.

The next morning, 29th January, 1944, he was  
 brought to the Pagliola Detachment Office, by  
 the Maresciallo who informed Corporal Middleton  
 and I that he had confessed during the night  
 to having been sent through the line by the  
 German Command, to gather military information.  
 I was present throughout the interrogation of  
 this man by Corporal Middleton. This  
 statement has been read to me and it is true.

45434 of Carlson HCP  
 Field Security Section

Statement taken down and signature witnessed  
 by: *Emil J. Cas*

*Travis*

SECRET

412 F.S. Section.

12-12 March, 1944  
Statement of Corporal Kenneth John  
MIDDLETON, 412 F.S. Section, who says:—

On 29th January, 1944 at about 0900  
hours, an Italian named CALVAGNO  
Claudio, di Marcello, was brought to me  
at F.S.S. 412, Detachment Pagliata, Province  
Trieste, by the Maresciallo C.C.R.R. - Luigi  
GIORDANI - who told me that during the  
night this man had confessed to him that  
he had been sent by the Germans, across  
the line to get information for them on  
military matters. Therefore I questioned  
CALVAGNO, who told me that he had  
volunteered three months earlier in Venice  
to undertake a mission which would  
mean his crossing the lines into Allied  
territory. He went on to say that he had  
been introduced to the German Command  
in Venice by an interpreter in their employ;  
when he had met casually. He then  
said that the German Command in Venice  
instructed him to go to BUSSI. He  
said that his route was by train from

right- this man had confessed to him  
he had been sent- by the Germans, across  
the line to get information for them on  
military matters. Therefore I questioned  
GAVAGNO, who told me that he had  
volunteered three months earlier in Venice  
to undertake a mission which would  
mean his crossing the lines into Allied  
territory. He went on to say that he had  
been introduced to the German Command  
in Venice by an interpreter in their employ,  
whom he had met casually. He then  
said that the German command in Venice  
indicated him to go to BUSSI. He  
said that his route was by train from  
Venice, which he left on 16th January, 1944  
to BOLOGNA - SANTARCANGILO - ANCONA and  
S. BENEDETTO, thence by German truck to  
about 2 kms from CHIETI. From there he  
went on foot into the town of CHIETI,  
arriving there on 22nd January, 1944. He  
said that he left CHIETI during the night  
of 23rd January, 1944, passed through BUCHIANICO  
, and presented himself at a German Headquarters.  
There he met ~~two~~ <sup>one</sup> other ~~of~~  
ST. ...

was named "Carlo" and "Germano". On

25th January, 1944, with these two youths,  
he left the German H.Q. for BUSSI, and

on the morning of 26th January, 1944 his  
instructions were given to him by the German

Command at BUSSI. He was told that, if it

became necessary, he was to say that he had  
escaped from the Germans. His orders were

to pass through the lines and note Allied

troops and material (in particular - New

Zealand troops) and to find out the number

and types of tanks and other military vehicles.

To assist him in identifying such vehicles he

was given photographs to study. On returning

through the lines he was to present himself

to any German unit and say that he wanted

to see Major Jaborand or Felddebrandt, I.C.

Corpo d'Armatea". He stated to me that

this was the first occasion on which he

has passed through the lines. Further, he

said that the Germans had given him no

money but had promised to pay him 2,500

lire on his return. He told me that

the German organisation under which he was

employed, was known as the "FEDEGENDARMERI".

Later the same day I took the prisoner

and types of tanks and other military vehicles. To assist him in identifying such vehicles he was given photographs to study. On returning through the lines he was to procure himself to any German unit and say that he wanted to see Major S. Brand or Feldwebel, "Ic Corps d'Armata". He states to me that this was the first occasion on which he has passed through the lines. Further, he said that the Germans had given him no money but had promised to pay him 2,500 lire on his return. He told me that the German organization under which he was employed, was known as the "FELD GENDARMERI".

Later the same day I took the prisoner with his property (which consisted of a wallet containing personal papers which appeared to be innocuous - and a negligible amount of money) to Section Headquarters at ALESSA, where I was told that the case would be further dealt with by F.S.I.(6). I would add

that towards the conclusion of my interrogation that he "only did it for the money" and that he would work for us if we paid him. This

statement has been read to me and it is true.

Statement taken over signature  
witness by: - [Signature]

[Signature]

0711