

ACC 10000/143/2608

149.01/OL

LEMMA ORSOLO - IRRERA PLACIDO - MENIC

MAY 1944

A ORSOLO - IRRERA PLACIDO - MENICHELLI GIOVANNI (ENEMY AGENTS)

MAY 1944

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HEADQUARTERS

ACC

SECURITY BRANCH

APO.394

Lemma

S.E./311.5/149.

23rd. May, 1944.

SUBJECT. Enemy Agents. (MENECILLI Giovanni; IRRERFA Placido;
and LEMA Orsalo.)TO. A.C. of S., G-2 (C.I) Fifth Army.
Col. A.E. Young. Director, Security Branch, A.C.C.

1. On the 19th. May, 1944, the above named were arraigned before a General Allied Military Court sitting at Santa Maria, on a charge of being found in the vicinity of Mondragone on the 8th. March, 1944, in possession of wireless transmitting and receiving sets, with intent to obtain and transmit Military information to the enemy; having crossed from German occupied territory posing as refugees.

2. The Court was:-

Lt. Col. W.H. Chapman.	(President)	U.S. Army.
Lt. Col. E.P. Morton.		U.S. Army.
Capt. T.E. Ramsay.		U.S. Army.

3. The prosecution was conducted by:-

Lt. Col. J.L. Willis.	British Army.
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The defence was conducted by:-

Capt. Howell Jones.	British Army.
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4. The hearing lasted four days (19th to 22nd. May 1944 inclusive) and the result was:-

MENECILLI was found Guilty and sentenced to imprisonment for the remainder of his natural life.

LEMA and IRRERFA were both Acquitted.

5. The prosecution called ~~five~~ ^{SEVEN} seventeen witnesses in an endeavour to prove the case against the accused. After hearing all this evidence, the Court retired to consider their verdict. They were absent for two and a quarter hours, and eventually returned and gave judgment as stated in paragraph 4.

6. The only reason I can suggest that LEMA and IRRERFA were Acquitted is because their homes are in Sicily, and the Court accepted their evidence that they accepted the German Intelligence Mission as a means of returning home, and they had no intention of transmitting information to the Germans.

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(Page No.2)

7. To some extent this was corroborated by the fact that they had left their wireless sets in a disused house before being caught. The prisoners said they had abandoned their wireless sets, but I do not believe this - although the Court apparently did.

[Signature]
 W. H. Hare.
 Captain.
 Security Branch.

Executive Commissioners

This case is typical of case being handled by Capt. Hare and Mr. Gale and, although the result is not up to standard (for a reason we are unable at the moment to explain) I thought you might be interested in having a look at the papers.

Security Branch
 May 25. H.H.

John A. McKearney Capt.

Thank you - hard work with - this time.
 disappointing results - but very good work.

[Signature] 25/11

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

12 May 1944
ARB/RO

Subject: Letter of Transmittal.

To: Judge Advocate General, Fifth Army.


1. Attached herewith are papers in reference to the apprehension of MENECHELLI, Giovanni, IRRERA, Placido and LEMMA, Orsalo, confined enemy agents.

2. It is requested that the above be brought to trial as soon as practicable.

3. At the present time all material witnesses are available for court summons.

4. MENECHELLI, IRRERA and LEMMA are at present in the special custody of Headquarters Allied Armies in Italy.

For the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2:


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

Incls:

- (a) Cover letter, Capt. W.R. Hare, Security Office, AOC and statements as per index included therein in duplicate.
- (b) Two sets of 19 photographs each.

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APO.394

S.B./311.5/149.

23rd. May, 1944.

SUBJECT. Enemy Agents. (MENECHILLI Giovanni; IRRERRA Placido;
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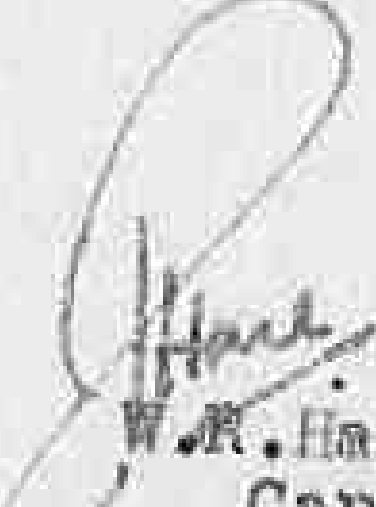
5. The prosecution called ~~seventeen~~ ^{seven} witnesses in an endeavour to prove the case against the accused. After hearing all this evidence, the Court retired to consider their verdict. They were absent for two and a quarter hours, and eventually returned and gave judgement as stated in paragraph 4.

6. The only reason I can suggest that LEMMA and IRRERRA were Acquitted is because their homes are in Sicily, and the Court accepted their evidence that they accepted the German Intelligence Mission as a means of returning home, and they had no intention of transmitting information to the Germans.

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W.R. Hare.
Captain.
Security Branch.

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HEADQUARTERS

A.C.C.

Security Branch

A.P.O. 994

S.B./311.5/149

11 May 1944

Subject: Enemy Agents (BENECHIELLI, Giovanni, INTERRA, Placido, LERMA, Graale).

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

1. On the 8th of March 1944, the above named subjects were arrested at Mondragone suspected of being enemy agents in Allied territory.

2. The story as to how they proceeded from Rome to Mondragone in possession of wireless transmitting and receiving sets is as follows.

3. A statement has been taken from Frans SCHUTZMAN, age 29, a music publisher of No. 30, Via Lombardia, Rome, whose nationality is Dutch. A copy of this statement is attached.

4. It will be seen from the statement of SCHUTZMAN that he had been in Rome since 1940 and from the time Italy entered the war has endeavored to obtain a passage to one of the countries of the United Nations.

5. It was not until March 1944 that he was able to make any definite plans, and then, as a result of some people he knew in Rome he was picked up at his address at 12 Midnight on the 7 March 1944 in a civilian motor truck.

6. On the truck was the driver and the two men who were arranging the trip, all of whom sat in front.

7. SCHUTZMAN, with an Italian named PROFETTA, were in the back.

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8. They first of all called at a hotel in Via Veneto where they picked up the subjects - IERMA and IVERNA. They went on to a hotel in Corso Umberto where they picked up subject MENSCHELLI. It will be seen from the statement of SCHUTZMAN that these three men also rode in the back of the truck and carried with them hand baggage.

9. SCHUTZMAN states that it was obvious they knew each other from their manner of greeting and the way they kept together and talked in whispers between themselves.

10. The party then proceeded through the night to Gaeta, where they arrived about 0900 hours on the 8th March 1944.

11. They alighted from the truck at the cemetery at Gaeta and remained in the vicinity of the cemetery all day.

12. Whilst they were waiting SCHUTZMAN said to the party, i.e., IVERNA, IERMA, MENSCHELLI and PROFFTA, that they should report to the Allied authorities as soon as they crossed the line. PROFFTA agreed to do this, but the other three said they had no intentions of reporting to the Allied authorities as this would mean they would have to join the Italian army of Badoglio.

13. At 1900 hours the five men were taken to a boat in which they were to make the crossing from Gaeta to that part of Italy occupied by the Allies. There were two men who were going to row the boat.

14. The two subjects IVERNA and IERMA were sick most of the journey whilst subject MENSCHELLI and SCHUTZMAN spent most of the time bailing out the water. As far as SCHUTZMAN can remember nothing of importance was said during the journey.

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15. The boat beached at Spiagga Di Limato which can be identified on photograph 1 a.

16. Whilst dealing with the photographs I would here mention that photograph 1 a, 1 b, and 1 c when placed together give a panoramic view of the place where the boat landed including the various points of contact made by the persons after landing which will be dealt with in more detail later. Other photographs of the particular places referred to by the witnesses are attached and will be referred to by their numbers.

17. The seven people left the boat and walked up the beach in the direction of a small house. Photograph No. 2 shows the side of the house the seven approached and photograph No. 3 is taken from the house in the direction the seven men approached from.

18. As SCHUTZMAN was the only member of the party who could speak English he went ahead with a piece of white material on a stick. He saw soldiers in the house already referred to, and shouted "Are you American" and the reply came "Yes". He turned around and informed the other six in Italian that it was quite safe to go to the house.

19. All seven went up to the house, some went inside including SCHUTZMAN, and the others remained at the door. Unfortunately SCHUTZMAN cannot remember in too much detail what happened at the house except that the American soldiers gave them some food and he asked them the way to the nearest Allied officer. The Americans could not supply the transport and directed them to the main road telling them they would soon pick up a truck that would take them to an Allied officer.

20. All seven walked on to the main road. The subjects IMBIA, LEMMA and MENEGHELLI told SCHUTZMAN that they did not want to be taken to an Allied officer but would make their own way South.

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21. The remaining four, i.e., SCHUTZMAN, PRONETTA and the two men who rowed the boat waited until they were picked up by a lorry who took them to an Allied officer to whom they told their story.

22. The next witnesses ^{are} ~~is~~ the five American soldiers who were in the hut and they are:

Pvt. Joseph A. Angelo, 35533392.

Cpl. Paul Stelmazewski, 36306374.

Pvt. Clarence E. Hammer, 35544286.

Sgt. Albert H. Redler, 20432682.

Pvt. Robert A. Davis, 35510697.

The statements of the above named are attached and are to the effect that the impression gained was that the seven men were all refugees.

23. After the three subjects left the four men the next that is known of them is what is told in the statement of LUBRANO Salvatore di Giuseppe, a copy to which is attached. It will be seen from the statement of this witness that he was attending his vineyard at about 1030 hours on the 8th March when three men approached from the direction ^{of} ~~from~~ the main road. These three men have been identified by this witness as the three subjects. Two of the men spoke to him one asking how they could get to Mondragone without being seen by the Finances Guards on the road. This witness pointed away over the Casino di Transita hill to the Via Appia Antica. Another of the men asked this witness where they could find food and lodging in Mondragone and he directed them to ~~the house~~ ^{his} his own house where he said they could stay for one night. LUBRANO states that they told him their homes was in Sicily and he told them that they would have to present themselves to AMG, Mondragone in order to get a pass to join their families in Sicily.

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One of the subjects said that if they presented themselves to the Americans they would be put in a concentration camp but this witness told them they would not, and it would be easy to get a pass to get to Sicily. The three subjects had hand luggage with them and this witness suggested they leave their luggage with him and he would bring it on with him in his cart that evening. This they refused to do saying they would carry their packs themselves. The last this witness saw of them as they were walking over the Casino Di Transita Hill.

24. Photograph No. 5 can be identified by this witness as the track leading from the main road which the three subjects took to his vineyard. Photographs 6 a and 6 b show the Casino Di Transita hill from Lubrano's vineyard and also on the extreme right of 6 b can be seen the main road which is the direct road into Mondragone the subjects should have taken had their visit to Allied territory been an honest one.

25. The main road referred to in the last paragraph has a Finance Guard check post opposite the Casino Di Transita hill and the Guards change over duties at 12 o'clock noon each day.

26. At about 1140 hours on the 8th of March CACACE Francesco, a Finance Guard stationed at Mondragone was proceeding to relieve the check post referred to in the last paragraph.

27. Photographs No. 7 a and 7 b show a panoramic view from the top of Casino Di Transita hill looking towards Mondragone. On the extreme right of 7 b is the main road along which CACACE was proceeding.

28. Whilst proceeding along this road CACACE noticed the figure of a man carrying hand luggage coming down the Casino Di Transita hill. CACACE waited for the man to join the main road. Photograph No. 8 shows where CACACE was at the time he first saw the man coming down the hill.

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29. The man who was coming down the hill is now known to be MENECHELLI. CACACE stopped him by telling him to halt. He then asked MENECHELLI if he had been stopped by the Finance Guard on the road opposite the Casino di Transita hill. MENECHELLI replied that he had and that now he was on his way to report to the American Command at Mondragone.

31. CACACE had not gone very far along the road when he met Lo FARD coming off duty from the Casino di Transita check point, on his bicycle. CACACE told Lo FARD that he had seen MENECHELLI cross the hill in order to avoid the Guards and told Lo FARD he should take MENECHELLI to the Finance Station in Mondragone.

30. This witness was proceeding on duty on foot and he allowed MENECHELLI to go and then hurried on to relieve his two colleagues, one of whom he knew had a bicycle, on which he could overtake MENECHELLI and take him to the Finance Station in Mondragone.

32. The next witness is MARILLI, Angelo, Finance Guard who was CACACE's companion on duty that afternoon. MARILLI was riding a bicycle when he saw MENECHELLI walking along the road towards Mondragone. He stopped him and said "Halt, where do you come from and MENECHELLI replied that he had come from Gaeta and was a refugee from the Germans.

33. MARILLI asked MENECHELLI several routine questions and then said he would accompany him to the Finance Guard stationed in Mondragone. On the way MARILLI asked MENECHELLI if he had been stopped by the Finance Guards at the Casino di Transita and MENECHELLI said that he had and that it was his intention to report to the American authorities in Mondragone and that he then wanted to go to Portici where he hoped to find his mother.

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34. At this point MARULLI and MENECHELLI were overtaken by LA FARO coming off duty from the Casino di Transito check point. LA FARO stopped, and MARULLI asked him if MENECHELLI had reported to him at the check point. LA FARO said that he hadn't.

35. MARULLI then handed over MENECHELLI and his papers and property asking LA FARO to take MENECHELLI to the Finance Station in Mondragone.

36. The next witness is LA FARO Salvatore and he corroborates the latter part of MARULLI's evidence.

37. After taking charge of MENECHELLI he took him to the Marsiello of the Finance Guard in Mondragone where MENECHELLI said he would like to talk to the Marsiello alone.

38. The witness MARULLI in company with the Marsiello of the Finance Guard of Mondragone took MENECHELLI to the office of the CIC, 88th Division in Mondragone. Here they were interviewed by Thomas A. Lucid, an Agent of the Counter Intelligence Corps.

39. Lucid interviewed MENECHELLI through an interpreter --- Joseph Luongo, an American soldier attached to the CIC as an interpreter.

40. Lucid ordered the subject to be searched and amongst other things on his person was found the equivalent of over \$2,000 in various currencies (Italian Lire, French Francs, American and British notes).

41. In his hand luggage was found a wireless transmitting and receiving set and also a book containing codes.

42. The details of what happened at this interview is set out in detail in the statement of Thomas A. Lucid and ~~the~~ ^{at} the eff **56**

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that ~~MEMORIELLI~~ admitted he was a German Agent and that his mission was to proceed to Naples, set up residence there, ~~stay~~ and transmit radio messages to the Germans with regard to all troop movements in and about the city. ~~MEMORIELLI~~ also told this witness that there were six other men who had travelled with him on the boat from Genoa, two of whom had radio sets.

43. To keep the story in its correct sequence I will now leave the statement of Lucid and return to that part of the story where ~~MEMORIELLI~~ parted company from ~~IRERA~~ and ~~LEMA~~, and I will return to the statement of Lucid at a later stage.

44. It will be remembered that the witness Lubrano Salvatore di Giuseppe saw the three subjects crossing the Casino di Transito hill and the foregoing deals with what ~~MEMORIELLI~~ did. The next evidence as to what ~~IRERA~~ and ~~LEMA~~ did is contained in the statement of ~~BENEDIVOGNA~~ Brania who is ~~was~~ a resident of Mondragone.

45. At 1330 hours of the 8th March outside the Duke's palace at the entrance of the Via Appia ~~BENEDIVOGNA~~ saw ~~IRERA~~ and ~~LEMA~~ talking to some woman. ~~BENEDIVOGNA~~ went up to them and asked ~~LEMA~~ and ~~IRERA~~ what they were looking for. They showed him a slip of paper on which was written the address S. Lubrano Via Nazario Sauro. ~~BENEDIVOGNA~~ told them that they had made a mistake as the person who they were looking for resides at Via Sennentini and he directed them to this address.

46. The next that is known of the ^{movements} ~~movement~~ of ~~LEMA~~ and ~~IRERA~~ is from CAPUTO TO, Giuseppe, age 31, a mechanic who resides at Via Degli Abruzzi, Mondragone, from ^{whom} ~~whom~~ a statement has been taken, copy attached.

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47. At about 1230 hours 8 March 1944, CAPOTOSTO was in the Via Duce Degli Abruzzi, Mondragone, proceeding to his shop at Corso Umberto. He saw INGERA and LEMMA talking to the last witness (BENGLIVIGNA). As he passed them BENGLIVIGNA asked CAPOTOSTO where Via Mazzuro Sauro was. From the statements of BENGLIVIGNA and CAPOTOSTO it is not quite clear what happened during this conversation, but it is clear from the statement of CAPOTOSTO that he took them from the Via Degli Abruzzi to Piazza Umberto and indicated to them Via Sementini.

48. The details of the conversation are set out in CAPOTOSTO's statement but I would draw attention ^{to} that part of the conversation where CAPOTOSTO told them they would have to get an AMG pass if they wanted to go to Naples which, in fact, is the town they said they were heading for. This witness, in fact, pointed out both the AMG office and the Carabinieri office to the two men but neither subjects ^{to} went ^{of} either ~~in~~ these offices.

49. Photograph No. 9 shows the AMG building with the American and British flags flying from it and photograph No. 10 shows the AMG building clearly marked, ^{as} the day in question. The witness CAPOTOSTO will give evidence to the fact that he pointed out the AMG building to the subjects and offered to take them to it.

50. The witness CAPOTOSTO took the two subjects to No. 70 Via Sementini which in fact is the address of Lubrano Salvatore di Francesco, a cousin of Lubrano Salvatore di Giuseppe whom they spoke to in the vineyard. It will be seen from this that they were inadvertently sent to the wrong address by the people they had spoken to in Mondragone.

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51. At this address ---No. 78 Via Sarentini---they saw AVERBANO, Concetta, the wife of Labrano Salvatore di Francesco. It was soon obvious that a mistake had been made as will be seen from the statement of AVERBANO, Concetta, copy attached.

52. The details of the conversation are set out in the statement from which it will be seen the two subjects ~~passed~~ posed as refugees from German occupied Italy endeavouring to make their way to their homes in Sicily.

This witness advised them that they would need a pass from the American authorities and they replied they would see about it the following morning.

53. At about 1500 hours the husband of this witness returned home and took them to the address they were looking for which was No. 50 Via Mauzuro Seuro.

54. A statement has been taken from the husband Labrano, Salvatore di Francesco, copy attached. It will be seen from the statement that he was taking them to the address of his cousin and on the way they were stopped by Carabinieri in plain clothes.

55. The conversation that took place was similar to what took place in the house, i.e. the subjects passing as refugees. But there is one interesting point that I would like to bring out and that is that this witness offered to conduct the two subjects to the American authorities but they refused.

56. Whilst walking along with this witness in the Piazza Roma they were approached by TIMPANI, Domenico, a Carabinieri from the Mondragone Station.

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57. This Carabinieri had been sent out to search for the two subjects as the result of information supplied by MANSOVELLI.

58. This witness asked the subject for his papers and one of them replied "We would like to present ourselves to the American authorities."

59. This witness was in the company of three other Italian officials. He ordered the three others to take the two subjects to the CIC office. This witness went to the address of Lubrano, Salvatore di Francesco and collected the hand luggage they had left there.

60. I will now leave the statement of this witness and return to it later.

61. We now return to the statement of Thomas A. Lucid, CIC Agent, who was present at the CIC office when DUTRA and LEMMA were taken there.

62. Through the interpreter Imonge, who has already been referred to, Lucid interrogated DUTRA and LEMMA. At first they insisted claiming that they were refugees from Costa but eventually admitted that they were enemy agents. The full details as to how this admission came about is contained in the statement of Lucid.

63. However, I would point out ^{that} according ^{to} ~~the~~ the statement of Lucid they first of all claimed to be refugees; they stated the large sum of money found in their possession represented their savings and earnings; when they admitted having left Costa with wireless sets they stated they had thrown them in the sea, but later admitted having hidden them in a building near the vine-yard of Lubrano.

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64. They eventually admitted, in the case of IREMA, that his mission was to proceed to Messina, set up his radio and send messages to the Germans with regard to the whereabouts of:

1. U. S. 7th Army,
2. 2nd Arm'd Division. (Armored)
3. 1st and 9th U. S. Infantry Division.
4. 82nd Airborne Division.
5. British 5th Division,
6. All ship movements.

In the case of IREMA, his mission was to proceed to Palermo and report by radio to the Germans all ship and troop movements in and about that area.

65. We have now reached the stage where the two subjects --- IREMA and IREMA admitted having hidden their wireless sets and we will return to the statement of the witness TASPINI, Domenico.

66. It will be seen from this statement that TASPINI in company with Vice Brig. GULLO, SIM, they went to a building at Casino di Transito and there found the two wireless sets and equipment that had been hidden there by IREMA and IREMA.

67. Although not mentioned in the statement they were accompanied by the subject IREMA who showed them the building and where the equipment was hidden.

68. It will be seen from photograph No. 6 A, practically in the center a small building. This is the building referred to. Photograph No. 11 A is a close-up of the building. Photographs 11 B, 11 C, 11 D, and 11 E are of the interior of the building. The last four have captions attached showing in detail where and how the property was hidden.

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69. Statements have been taken from Sbragi, Enrico and Gullo, Giuseppe, both SDI Agents. The statement is the same for both men and was taken by Pvt. Joseph P. Luongo, interpreter to the SIC. A copy ^{of} which ~~is~~ is attached. This statement deals with the searching of the three subjects; and their mission. Although not mentioned in the statement the witness GULLO can give evidence of the finding of the wireless equipment in the house near the Lubrano's vine-yard.

70. It is appreciated that this is not an easy case to prove, but I feel that the three subjects should be arraigned before a General Allied Military Court charged with having been found at Mondragone on the 5th March 1944 with intent to collect information for the enemy and transmit such information to the enemy by radio.

71. The witness SCHUTZMAN is the one referred to by witnesses as "The one who speaks English" and it is clear from his statement that from the time he left Rome he had every intention of reporting his arrival in Allied occupied territory to the first Allied officer at the earliest opportunity, which he in fact did. He endeavored to persuade the other six members of the party to do likewise, but only three followed SCHUTZMAN's advice. It is quite clear from the available evidence that the three subjects took every possible step to avoid collision or contact any way with either Allied or Italian officials.

72. Unfortunately for MENECHELLI he did not know, that having been successful in evading the Finance Guard check point at Casino di Transito, he was ~~1/4~~ to run into the relief officers as they came on duty. When stopped MENECHELLI was carrying property that would readily mark him as an **50** enemy agent to wit, a radio transmitting and receiving set.

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This individual is 35 years of age and intelligent. Having been stopped under the circumstances already described he did the only thing an intelligent man could possibly do and that was to ~~re~~^{veal} his possession of the wireless set before it was found by an investigating officer. But, not before, he had endeavored to lie his way past the two Finance Guards, CAGACE and MARULLI.

I submit that his subsequent actions in admitting that he had been sent over by the German Intelligence Service, and the fact that he "ratted" on his companions is no indication that had he not been caught he would not ^{have} ~~carried~~^{ied} out his mission for the enemy.

73. In the case of the two subjects INFERA and LEENA, the same remarks apply as far as their actions are concerned, up to the time they left ~~INFERA~~, as apply in the case of the latter.

74. There is a difference in that they left the bulky espionage equipment, to wit the radio sets in the house near Lubrano's vineyard. But, I would point out that they did not throw away their code books, which were found in the bags they left in the house of Lubrano Salvatore di Francesco.

75. The evidence shows in no uncertain way that, they had numerous opportunities, in fact, offers of help, to present themselves to the Allied authorities, all of which they refused.

76. It is not until the two subjects are faced with the Carabinieri, TAMPINI, Domenico, who it was obvious to them, intended to take them into custody, did they ask to see an American officer.

77. It will be seen from the statement from the OIC Agent, ⁴⁹⁸ Lucid, that all three agents first of all told stories of being refugees

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and it was not until IMERA and LORRA were pressed on the point that they divulged the whereabouts of the radio sets.

78. It may be said in defence that these three enemy agents had no intentions of carrying out the mission assigned to them, but it is difficult to understand why they did not fall in ^{with} the suggestion of the witness SCHUTZMAN that they go to the first Allied officer and tell their story openly.

79. It is also difficult to understand why IMERA and LORRA took such pains to hide their wireless sets and evade all officials. The action of MENCHELLI in carrying his wireless set with him, in my submission, was only a brazen attempt to get through our lines with his equipment the first time; whereas IMERA and LORRA intended to return to their sets during the night and evade the control points during the hours of darkness.

80. Although not mentioned in the statement of CIO Agent, Lucid he can give evidence of two military posts that the subjects had to pass on their way from Spiagga di Limata to Mondragone. The photograph No. 4 shows one of these points and he can point to others on the panoramic photographs which already have been mentioned.

81. The photographs were taken by Robert Francis Stubenrauch in the presence of and direction of CIO Agent Lucid.

W. R. HARE,
Captain.

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The following is the evidence that Frans SCHUTZMAN, age 29, a music publisher of No. 30 Via Lombardia, Rome, whose nationality is Dutch, can be expected to give in the case against MENECHELLI, Giovanni, IRRERA, Placido, and LEMMA, Cresco, suspected enemy agents.

1. I resided in Rome since 1940, all the time, endeavoring to find a means of joining the United Nations.
2. It was during December 1943 that I learned from certain friends in Rome that there would be a possibility of crossing the front in Italy and joining the British and American Forces.
3. It was not until March 1944 that I was able to make any definite plans. At this time I arranged to travel to Gaeta and from there by boat to that port of Italy occupied by the Allied Forces.
4. At about 5 o'clock P.M. on the 7th of March the persons who were arranging this trip for me called at my address. At about 6:30 P.M. one of the men left and returned a few moments later with another Italian named PROFETTA, who was also, trying to make the journey.
5. We remained at my address until 12 o'clock mid-night. When the two men who were arranging the journey, PROFETTA and myself, left the building.
6. In the street we found an old civilian motor truck waiting for us. The two men who were arranging the trip sat with the driver and PROFETTA and myself rode in the back.
7. We went to a hotel in Via Veneto and picked up two other men, who I believe are the two men I now know as LEMMA and IRRERA. We then went to a very large hotel in the Corso Umberto and there picked up another man whom I now know as MENECHELLI.

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8. These last three men rode in the back of the truck and it was quite obvious that they knew each other from their manner of greeting each other and the way they continually spoke in whispers between themselves.

9. Before leaving Rome one of the men who was arranging the trip said that if we were stopped by the Italian Police or German patrols we were to say that we were working with the T. C. D. organization. We were stopped several times but always made the same reply, as mentioned above, and we were allowed to proceed.

10. We travelled all night and during this time MENECHELLI said he had fought in Africa and that the Australians and the British were engaged in raping and in robbing. This surprised me and I said that I knew that the U.N.P.A. had robbed the Italian dead after air-raids. MENECHELLI then said that I was a foreigner and that I should not speak of such things.

11. We arrived at the cemetery at Gaeta about 9 o'clock A. M. and got off the truck. We waited there all day and whilst there I said to INFERA, LEMMA and MENECHELLI and PROFETTA that we should report to the Allied authorities as soon as we crossed the lines. PROFETTA agreed with this but the other three said that they had no intentions of reporting to the Allied authorities who would only hand them over to the Italian authorities which would mean that they would have to join up with the Italian army.

12. Nothing else of importance happened during the day as far as I can remember and at 7 o'clock P.M. all five of us went down to the beach, with the two men who were arranging the trip, and there found a small rowing boat and two men who eventually rowed the boat.

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13. At this time, 7 o'clock P.M., it was dark and we all seven got into the boat. MENECHELLI, PROVITA, and LERMA sat forward, IRRERA and myself sat in the stern. IRRERA and LERMA were sick most of the way and MENECHELLI and myself spent most of the time bailing out the water which leaked into the boat.

14. As far as I can remember nothing of importance was said on the journey.

15. We eventually reached shore and we all got out of the boat and walked up the beach.

16. I could see a small house in the distance and we walked towards it. As we got nearer I saw there were some men in it and I shouted out "Are you American" and the reply came "Yes".

17. I was carrying a piece of white material on a stick and I turned around to the others and told them in Italian that it was quite safe to come along.

18. We all went out to the house, some of us entered and some remained at the door. The Americans gave us something to eat and as I was the only one of the party who spoke English I asked them to direct us to the nearest Allied Officer, in fact, I asked for transport to take us there.

19. They said they could not provide us with transport but said that if we went to the main road which was close by and stopped a truck, we should have little difficulty in finding Allied Officers down the road.

20. I translated this to the other six and all but MENECHELLI, IRRERA, and LERMA, agreed to do this. These other three said that they would make their own way south and left us four standing on the road.

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21. I did not see these men again that day.

22. The remaining four of us had no difficulty in getting a ride in a truck and eventually being taken to an Allied Officer to whom I told the whole story.

23. The three men, MEMICHELLI, INFERA and LERMA were each carrying hand luggage.

This statement was taken on the 10th May 1944 by Captain

W. R. HARE.

W. R. HARE.
Captain.

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I, Pvt. Joseph A. Angelo, the undersigned freely make the following statement.

On the morning of March 8, 1944 I was stationed with 4 other soldiers in a stone house near the Spiaggia di Lisata. At about 0800 hours I was standing on the upstairs back-porch overlooking the beach when I noticed a group of 7 men approaching from the direction of the water. One of them, a tall fellow was carrying a pole with what appeared to be a white flag attached. They approached our building and when about 50 feet away one of them spoke to me and asked if I was an American soldier. I said that I was. Nothing more was said at the time.

These men are described as follows to the best of my recollection:

#1) (The person who asked the question as to whether I was an American soldier) Male, 30 years, about 5' 6" in height, 160-5 lbs., medium build, brown curly hair, no mustache, fair complexion. Spoke English fairly well, with some sort of foreign accent. He was dressed in light gray riding breeches, civilian type, good-fitting sport jacket, no hat, wore a tie, low-cut tan shoes and short socks (leaving some exposed part of the lower limbs between sock and bottom of breeches). Carried a tan suitcase about 2 1/2' x 1 1/2' x 1'.

#2) Male, 44 years, about 5' 6", 150 lbs, medium build, straight black hair not too plentiful, unshaven, dark complexion, did not speak English, dressed in light shorts on arrival. Brown Fedora, tie, low black shoes, wore socks, dark coat. Described as a Captain in Italian Navy by #1. I did not notice #2 carrying any bag.

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Pvt., 35533792,
Sv. Btry, 935th P. A. Bn. 43

#3) Male, 35 years, 5' 7", 180 lbs., chunky build, dark complexion, black hair. Dressed in dark maroon overcoat, light tan Fedora hat, wore a tie, black trousers, black shoes. Spoke a little English. I do not recall him carrying any baggage though he may have. When the 7 first approached they all seemed to be carrying something although I cannot recall precisely what each one carried except in the described instances.

#4) Male, 40 years, 5' 10", 160 lbs, slender build, dark-complexion, thin face, heavy beard, black-hair, dark brown eyes. Dressed as civilian, brown Fedora hat, dark overcoat, dark brown trousers, wore a tie, dark shoes.

#5) Male, 35 years, 5' 6", 150 lbs, mustache, medium build, dark coat, fedora hat.

#6 & #7) Can describe only vaguely as similar to #5, said nothing and kept in background. But they did carry small valises resembling overnight bags.

After #1 had asked me the question described above. I went inside the building, went down stairs to the kitchen where there was a fireplace and told Pvt. Hamner and Cpl. Paul Stolaszewski that there were 7 men approaching outside. A few minutes after I heard a knock on the outer-door Pvt. Hamner answered the door. Standing there were #1, #2 and #3. #1 was the first to speak and he remarked that we had a nice warm-looking fire. I invited them to come inside and have a little of the heat. This they did and were soon followed by the other 4. They all brought what baggage they were carrying. #1 opened his large suitcase. #1 then asked how many soldiers were in the house. I replied that there were quite a few. Then #1 spoke in Italian with #4 for a half minute or so and then asked if we had a radio in the house. I told him that we did not. During the ensuing conversation #1 would speak in Italian with #3 and #2 before speaking in English.

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Pvt., 35-39392, SV. BRAY. 935th P.A.

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#1 then asked if there were many American Troops in the area. I said there were quite a few. Then after speaking with #3 and #4 in Italian he asked if the Americans had taken over this front. I replied that they had. I asked #1 if they had come from Gaeta. He replied that he had come from Rome to Gaeta by automobile and from Gaeta by rowboat, and that all 7 were refugees. He said the trip took 12 hours on the water, and was a pretty rough journey. I filled a canteen cup with coffee and gave it to the 7 to pass around. #1 then pointed out some American C. I. bread we had on a foot locker and he asked if it was American bread. I replied it was. At this #1 then went to a small valise which he had placed on the floor near the entrance and brought some dark brown bread. I did not see into this valise when he did this. #1 then said that there was some German bread that looked like it was fairly fresh. Then #1 went to his suit-case at the western wall of the room opened it and took out one of several bottles. I looked into the large suit-case when he took out the smaller one and saw only what appeared to be clothing inside. He closed this right away. In the smaller case there were only bottles of what appeared to be toilet articles. #1 then offered us a drink from the bottle he took saying it was whiskey. The bottle had a foreign label and the words, 7 volts. Stelmazewski and I each accepted a drink. Stelmazewski laid the bottle down on the fire-place. #1 picked it up and returned it to the case. The 7 kept talking amongst themselves and then #1 took out his wallet extracted some Italian money of high denomination, 1000 lire notes I believe, and he asked if same was good in Naples. I told him it was. #1 then appeared to translate this fact of the money being good in Naples which they others received with an apparent show of surprise and eagerness. Then #1 stated that they were all heading for Naples. He seemed to have quite a bit in his wallet.

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Pvt., 35532392
Sv. Btry, 935th P. A. Bn.

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He then asked if I could buy food in Naples. I said that he could. Then he asked if he could buy coffee in Naples. I told him that I did not think so. Then he extracted pictures of his wife and child. From the picture she appeared to be quite good looking, a blonde. #1 then stated that he had not seen his wife or child in 4 years, that she was at present in Copenhagen. He then stated that he wished to join the American or British Army. He also declared that he had one sister in Hollywood, a "movie star". He didn't mention her name or show a picture of her, but he stated that after the war he hoped to join her in America. #1 then stated that the war was just starting for us, that for him it had been going on since 1940.

Then he asked if we had a truck with which we could give them a ride to Mondragone. I asked Sgt. Redler, who had entered the room about 10 minutes before, if it would be possible to give them a lift. Redler said no that it could not be done. #1 repeated his request but was still refused. He, as well as the others seemed disappointed at this and a little peeved. He then picked up his bag and the others did likewise and made for the door. As they left #1 noticed a sign on the door which read "935th F. A." This he read aloud as follows "Guh! Field Artillery!"

During all this time #5, 6, and 7 stayed in the background and alternating in standing watch outside the door.

It was about 9:30 when they left.

JOSEPH A. ANGELO,
Pvt., 35533392,
Av. Btry, 935th F. A. Bn.

*Not called**9*

I, Cpl. Paul Stelmassowski, the undersigned freely make the following statement,

On the morning of March 8, 1944 I was stationed in a stone house near the Spiaggia di Lineta with 4 other soldiers. At about 0800 I was awakened by Pvt. Angelo who told me that a group of men were approaching our house. I immediately got up, put on my shoes, (I had been sleeping in my clothes) and looked out over the back porch, from where Angelo had seen them coming. I could see 3 men about 50-75 feet north of the house going towards a second group of 4 men who were about 100 yards away. One of the second group was carrying a pole with a white scarf or flag attached. The nearer group of 3 men were shouting to the others what seemed to be directions to come on to the house. The only word I could recognize was "Americans". I then went back to my bed, laced my shoes, awakened Sgt. Bodler, informed him of what was happening and made my way downstairs. When I arrived the first three were entering and were followed a few minutes later by the remaining four.

The description of the seven were as follows:

#1) Male, 30 years, 5' 8", 170 lbs, stocky build, light curly hair, light blue eyes. Dressed in new light tan shoes, light tan sweater, light tan or gray riding breeches, civilian Fedora hat. White, red and blue striped socks. Spoke English fairly well, but very slowly.

#2) Male, 40 years, 5' 10", slim-light build, dark hair, light skin, mustache. Wore dark blue overcoat, dark Fedora hat, black low shoes. Was in shorts and wore white navy jumper. Described by #1 as a former "Captain" in the Italian Navy.

PAUL STELMASZESKI,
Cpl. 36306374,
Serv. Str. 935th F. A. Bn.

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#3) Male, 45 years, 5' 9", 175 lbs, stocky build, ruddy complexion, dark hair, mustache (full). Spoke English slightly. Carried a light-colored bag.

#4) Male, 40 yrs. 5' 10", 130 lbs, slender build, thin-faced, mustache. Wore a dark colored suit, dark Fedora hat. Wore a tie, dark over-coat. Carried a small valise. Had a wife in Naples.

#5) Male, 45 years, 5' 8", 180 lbs, heavy build. Wore a mustache, dark complexion. Black overcoat, dark suit. DID not seem to enter into any of the conversations. Sat on his overcoat which was thrown over his baggage.

#6 & #7) Cannot describe because they were outside most of the time but one of them wore a grey overcoat.

As I entered the room #1 came up to me, shook my hand and said "Good America, that's where I'm going after the war." After that he stated that he had a sister in Hollywood and that he was going to go there after the war. He then showed pictures of himself and his wife. He stated that he had been born in Paris and raised in Holland. During all the conversation #1 would answer or ask questions and also translate for the others who only spoke Italian. He asked how many American troops were in the vicinity. I said I didn't know, that we had just come there. Pvt. Mameer had been making coffee and offered them a canteen cup for all 7. They admired our American bread and then #1 went to his large bag and brought out what he called German bread. I seemed fairly fresh looking to me. #1 man also took a pair of trousers and a clean pair of socks out of his suitcase for #2. While they were eating their bread #1 pointed out that #2 had been a Captain in the Italian Navy and that #4 had a wife in Naples. He stated that they were refugees, that they had hitch-hiked from Rome to Gasta where they secured a boat. It took them over

PAUL STELMASZEWKI, 38
Cpl. 36306374,
Sv. Batry, 935th F. A.

12 hours he said to come over and the going was quite rough. A couple of times #1 stated that he wanted to see the nearest American authorities in order to try and enlist in the American or British Armies and that he would sure like to get a lift. I did not receive the impression that he spoke for all or any others when he said he wished to see the American Authorities. All the time that #1 was speaking with us he was carrying on a conversation with the others in Italian. At one time in the beginning he asked if we had a radio in the house. Angelo replied that we did not have one. He also asked how many troops were in the vicinity. Angelo said there were quite a few. He took some money out of his wallet, which contained quite a bit, and showed us some new Allied Military Currency and new Italian Lire notes. The others also took out there wallets and held out some money. He asked if such money was acceptable in Naples. Angelo and myself replied that it was. He seemed to translate this statement to the others who appeared to be anxious over the fact but who seemed to express surprise and relief to learn that the money was acceptable. They all asked the direction of Napoli and #1 framed the question asking which was the way to Naples. I told them it was down the coast and pointed in the direction.

During the time while #1 was talking with the others I mentioned to Pvt. Hammer that I thought they were asking too many questions. The latter agreed and I said we ought to take them to the M.P.'s, but by this time Sgt. Redler had left and the truck was gone.

#1 man stated that they wouldn't be able to make it by themselves, that he would like it if we could take them in. About this time they began picking up their baggage and left the room.

PAUL STELMASZESKI,
Cpl. 34906374,
Sv. Btry 939th F. A.-Bn.

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As they did so #1 muttered something about the Italian Police which I didn't quite catch on to. Then he shook hands with me, said he'd like to meet me again and went out with the others. I stayed in the room then and heard one of them outside remark "Huh, Field Artillery!". About a minute later I returned to the door and looked after them to see them making off in a group in the direction of the road to Mondragone. I watched them until they disappeared behind the nearest house. After that I did not see them again.

PAUL STELMASZESKI,
Cpl. 36306374,
Sv/ Btry. 935th F. A. Bn.

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I, Sgt. Albert H. Redler, ASN 20432682 the undersigned freely make the following statement:

On the morning of March 8, 1944 I was stationed with 4 other soldiers in a stone house near the Spiaggia di Lineta. At about 0800 hours I was awakened by Stelaszewski who informed me that there were some refugees in the house. About 15 minutes later I descended to the room where I saw 7 men, dressed in civilian clothes having their baggage between the door and the fireplace.

The only member I could describe was one who spoke English fairly well.

Male, 32 years, 5' 9", 160 lbs., medium build, light, straight hair. Dressed in light tan knickerbocker pants. Wore a front button, full sleeved sweater, light grey. Wore new light grey or tan shoes with crepe or gum soles. Wore socks. Spoke English fairly well but rather slowly.

I can not describe any of the others.

I stayed by myself, drank some coffee and left the room a short time later. I did not have any conversation with any members of the group but when #1 asked Angelo if he could get a truck to take them to Mondragone, Angelo asked me if it could be done and I answered "No Soap". I heard #1 mention to Angelo that they had come from Rome to Gaeta by motor and by rowboat from Gaeta to our beach. He also stated that they had been on the water for about 12 hours. I vaguely recall that he stated that he wished to get in touch with the American authorities in Mondragone. He also stated that he wished to join American or British armies. He showed us his passport containing a picture of himself and his wife, who seemed very attractive. He declared that she was at that time in Copenhagen and that he had not seen her in 4 years.

ALBERT H. REDLER
Sgt. 20432682
Ser. Ptry, 935th P. A. Bn.

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Shortly after this I walked out of the room and went to work outside camouflaging our truck. I did not see any more of these persons since that time.

ALBERT H. REDLER,
Sgt. 20432682,
Ser. Btry. 935th F. A. Bn.

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I, Pvt. Clarence E. Hammer, the undersigned, freely make the following statement:

On the morning of March 8, 1944 four other soldiers and myself were stationed in a stone house near the Spiaggia di Limata. At about 0800 Pvt. Angelo came down from upstairs to report that he had just seen a group of men approaching our house from the beach road. A few minutes after this there was a knock on the door. I opened it and saw three men standing there and four others coming up.

#1) Male, 27-30 years, 5'8", 165 lbs, medium build, light complexion, light brown hair, blue eyes, dressed in tan sport-style coat, tan knickers that came down to the top of his socks which were brightly colored. He wore light grey-oxfords with thick soles. He spoke English fairly well.

#2) Male, 30-32 years, 5' 10", 175 lbs., medium, ruddy complexion, brown hair, wore a full mustache, wore brown cap, tan overcoat, blue trousers. Wore a red scarf. Carried a small tan square valise about 2' x 1 1/2' x 1/2', as well a larger satchel. Described by #1 as having a wife in Naples.

#3) Male, 40 years, 5' 9", 190 lbs, chunky build, ruddy complexion, dark hair. Wore a heavy grey overcoat, dark blue scarf, dark felt hat, long trousers, black low shoes. Carried a small black suit-case.

#4) Male, 35 years, 5' 7", 155 lbs, slender build, hardy-looking, tanned complexion. Wore no trousers, only white shorts, light-weight, grey overcoat high shoes. Wore a round, beret-type-hat. Described by #1 as an Italian Capt.

#5) Male, 25 years, 5' 6", 155 lbs, medium light complexioned, upshaven, wore a sort of sailors outfit, short blue-coat, blue trousers, dark shoes. Seemed to stay outside most of the time.

#6 & #7) Were in the background I cannot describe them.

I answered the knock on the door and # 1 said. "Americans?". I replied Yes,

CLARENCE E. HAMMER,
Pvt. 35544286,
Serv Battery.

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and invited them in. They looked hungrily at our fire and stated that they had been rowing for 12 hours and were cold. The Captain (#4) displayed his hands which were swollen and blistered from rowing according to #1. I told them ^{to get} next to the fire and that we were making some coffee and that they could have some when it was ready. #1 took some bread out of his valise which he said was German bread. I tasted some and found it to be fresh. He also took out a small bottle of liquor and offered it around 2 of the boys drank some but I did not. I passed along a cup of coffee which they drank.

#1 then carried on a mixed conversation with us and his companions in English and Italian. Especially with #2,3,4. He asked how many soldiers were in the house. I replied vaguely and Angelo said there were quite a few. I told him there were more than he saw around the house. He then asked if we had a radio I said we hadn't. I told him that more Americans were coming up and that they were going to take over the entire front. At this he seemed surprised.

#1 showed us a passport he had with pictures of himself and wife and child, whom he said he had not seen in four years. His wife he said was in Copenhagen. He said he had a sister in Hollywood. He claimed that they had come by automobile from Gaeta and had left there in a boat to escape the Germans. He stated that he would like to go into Mondragone to wash up and go on to Naples for one of the others #2 had some business to take care of in Naples. He stated that he would like to join the American or British Armies. He also asked where the American Police were located in Mondragone. He asked several times if we could give him a lift into Mondragone, and said they would pay us. One of these times Sgt. Redlar was in the room and he stated that it wouldn't be possible to give them a ride. #1 asked if French Francs were any good in Naples. I said no that they were not. Then he asked if some large denomination, large sized, Italian notes were acceptable ³¹ Naples. I said yes, as did Angelo. This information he translated to the others ³² who received the news with apparent interest.

CLARENCE E. HAMMER, Pvt.
3554/286, Sv. Btry 935th

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After about an hour or so #1 made a final request for a lift from all and when he received no answer he gave the signal to the others who picked up their bags and began to leave the room. I did not watch them as they left but I heard one, I believe if was #1, say "Huh! Filled Artillery!".

I did not see them again.

CLARANCE E. HAMMER,
Pvt., 35544286,
Serv. Battery.

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I, Pvt. Robert A. Davis freely make the following statement.

On the morning of March 8, 1944 I was stationed with 4 other soldiers in a large stone house on the coast near the Spiagga di Linata. At about 0845 hours I was awakened by talking in the kitchen room of the house. I dressed and descended to find Pvt. Angelo, Hammer and Sgt. Redler and Stelmazowski and 7 strangers. They were described as follows:

#1) Male, 32 years, 5' 7", 165 lbs, medium build, light-brown hair, fair complexion, dressed in long-knickers, light tan in color, tan sport coat, finger tip style, darkish tan shoes, oxford style, thick soled. Spoke fairly good English slowly.

#2) Male, 38 years, 5' 9", 160 lbs., slender-build, thin faced, light complexion. Wore dark felt hat, dark overcoat and trousers, black shoes.

I cannot describe any of the others because they were pretty close together by their baggage and I did not particularly notice them. Moreover I stayed in the room only a short time. I asked #1 where he was from and he replied that he was from Holland, that he came down from Germany. I asked him if he had ever been in Rome and if he knew if there were any German soldiers in Rome. He said that he had been in Rome and that there were a good number of German soldiers in the city. I asked how he came from Rome to Gaeta. He answered that they had gotten a ride in a car from Rome to Gaeta. From there he said they came to our beach by boat. I said nothing further to any of them nor did any of them say anything to me. The only other incident I remember is that number #1) man gave a drink to two of the boys.

I left the house at about 9:00 o'clock and did not see any of the 7 again.

ROBERT A. DAVIS,
Pvt., 35510697,
935th F. A. Bn.

3029

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I, Salvatore Lubiano, di Giuseppe the undersigned freely make the following statement.

On the 8th of March 1944 at about 1030 hours I was tending to my vineyard which is located about 500 meters north of Casino di Transe at the base of the 2nd hill before the mountain Cicola and off the Gulf Road about 300 meters. I saw 3 men approaching along a path which leads from the road in my direction. They are described as follows:

#1) Male, 23 years, 5' 10", 160 lbs, slender build, brown hair, fair complexion, unshaven. Had a tan hat tied to his pack. Wore a Trench coat, light tan, black military shoes, long trousers, carried a valise.

#2) Male, 25 years, 5' 6", 135 lbs, blond hair, drawn face, fair complexion, unshaven. Wore a trench coat, carried a hat, grey green Italian Military breeches, black boots, carried a pack and a brief case (portfolio).

#3) Male, 23 years, 175 lbs, husky build, black hair, dark eyes, dark complexion, full mustache. Wore a grayish colored overcoat, grey-blue breeches, black military shoes, grey stockings, felt hat on pack. Carried a pack.

#1 passed by me about 3 meters away and followed a cart road to an abandoned small storehouse (masseria) where he stopped, took off his pack, sat down and smoked a cigarette. Numbers 2 and 3 approached. When I saw them, jokingly, I told them to stay away because there were mines. I looked at the breeches #2 wore and said you're a Sergeant. He said no, but that he was an officer in a Tank Company, stationed at Rome. Then I asked them where they had come from. #3 replied that they had come from Gasta in a boat to escape the Germans, and that they were on their way to Sicily to meet their families. #3 then asked how could they go into Mondragone without being seen by the Finance Guards stationed on the Road. I pointed out a cart road and a path that led over the Casino di

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Transe hill to the Via Appia Antica. #2 asked me if they could find food and lodging in Mondragone. I told them it would be pretty difficult to find a suitable place in Mondragone ^{For} from the town had been badly mined by the Germans. However I told them that if it would only be for one night they could stay at my house. #2 asked me if it would be possible for all three to stay and eat in my house tonight. I replied yes, but only for one night. I gave them my address and name which #2 wrote in his notebook. I then told them to present themselves to AMI and he would give them a pass to join their families in Sicily. #2 then said that if they presented themselves to the American authorities they would be put in a concentration camp. I told them that was not so but that they would easily receive a pass to go to Sicily. #2 replied that perhaps the next day they would report to the American Official and ask for a pass to visit Sicily. I told them that if they intended to stay in Mondragone that night to leave their packs with me and I would bring them in with me in my cart later in the evening. To this #2 replied that they were able to carry the packs themselves. After this they moved on at about 11 o'clock and they joined #1 who had been waiting for them at the Masseria. I did not watch steadily then but shortly afterwards I saw them walking to the top of the hill over which they soon disappeared at about 11:30.

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I, Cagase, Francesco, P.G.O. a member of the Mondragone Station freely make the following statement:

On the 8th day of March 1944 at about 11:40 A.M. while on my way to my post at the Casino di Transito to relieve one of the guards then on duty I noticed a man carrying a pack and baggage coming over the hill top to the left of an old abandoned building above the Casino di Transito. He was following a small path that lead away from the P.G. posted at the Casino di Transito while he descended and crossed the field to the main road on which I had been walking, I waited until he came up close to me. He was a man about 30 years of age, 5' 10", 140 lbs, thin faced slender build, small mustache wore a hat, overcoat, dark trousers and low shoes. I was the first to speak as I crossed the road to halt him. I asked him if he had been halted by the P.G. at the Casino di Transito. He said he had been and that he had told them he intended to go to the office of the American Command in Mondragone at 4:00 P.M. He further asked how long it would take him to get into Mondragone because he wanted to contact his parents as soon as possible and afterwards to present himself to the Allied Military Government. I offered to stop the first cart that came by to give him a lift to Mondragone. He replied that it did not look like there were many carriages coming by and that he'd be better off if he walked into town. I had been stalling in the hope that the patrol coming off duty would come along and accompany him to our Caserma for further interrogation. He moved on however and I hurried on towards the Casino di Transito in order to tell the guards there to stop him on their way into town. On my way I met Le Faro, on his bicycle and told him that I had seen this man crossing the hill top and avoiding our guard post and that he ought to be brought to our Caserma. Le Faro then pedaled after him while I took up my post at the Casino di Transito. This was about 12:15 - 12:30. There I was joined by Maresilli, P.G. about 20 minutes later. I have nothing further to add.

CAGASE, Francesco

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I, Marulli, Angelo F.G.G. of the Mondragone Station freely make the following statement:

On the 8th day of March 1944 at about noon I was riding my bicycle north on the Lido road on my way to my post at the Casino di Transito. The other member of my patrol Casace, Francesco had preceded me on foot and was about 200-300 metres ahead of me when I had just passed about 100 metres beyond the Fiume Relli. Here I noticed a man proceeding on foot in my direction on the opposite side of the road. He was carrying a pack on his back and small compact valise in his hand. His appearance did not look right to me and aroused my suspicion so I halted, dismounted from my bicycle and crossed over in front of him. His description is as follows: Male, 30 years, 5' 10", 140 lbs., slender build, tan complexion, dark eyes, sharp nose, small mustache. He wore a dark brown felt hat, a dark overcoat, low black shoes, and long dark trousers. I was the first to speak when I said "Halt -(Ferma) where do you come from?" He replied that he had come from Caeta, a refugee from the Germans. I asked him if others had come with him and he replied that two others had arrived with him. I asked him how was it that he was able to come from Caeta in a boat without being shot. He only shrugged his shoulders at that and did not answer. I then asked him if he had paid any money to make the journey. He replied he had paid a small amount. I asked him for his documents and he gave me his identity card. I asked him if he had other documents. He nodded in affirmation and gave me his other papers. From these I learned that his name was MENICHELLI and that he had been a radio operator with the grade of "Antante di Battaglio." I held all his documents for further examination. Then I told him that in view of the fact that he was heading for Mondragone that I would accompany him into town altho my intention was to conduct him to the Caserma. So we headed for Mondragone both walking, he-- carrying his baggage and I wheeling my bicycle. I noticed that his valise appear-

MARULLI, ANGELO
F. G. G.

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ed heavy and I offered to let him place it on the bicycle, which he accepted.

While we were walking towards Mondragone I asked him if he had passed by the Casino di Transito and if he had been halted by the Finance Guards posted there. He stated that he had been halted at the Casino di Transito and that he told the guards there that by 4:00 P.M. he intended to present himself to American command in Mondragone. I asked him what was his destination and he replied that he would go first to Mondragone. Afterwards he intended, he said, to go to Naples where he had personal business to transact and then to Partici where he hoped to find his mother still alive. He told me that in Mondragone he wished to speak to an English or American official. At this point I was overtaken by F. G. G. Lo Faro, Salvatore who was riding a bicycle and who was followed about 200 yards by Sciorca, Soverio--who were just coming off duty at the Casino di Transito.

Lo Faro halted when he reached us and I asked him if Menichelli had passed by the Lo Faro and Sciorca at the Casino di Transito. Lo Faro said emphatically denied this and looking at Menichelli, he said "Do you have the courage to say you passed before us at the Casino di Transito?". Menichelli said nothing. I then asked Lo Faro if Menichelli had not stopped and spoken to them at the Casino di Transito and told them that he had intended to report to the American command, at 4:30 P.M. Lo Faro reiterated that Menichelli had not passed by or talked with them. I then gave Lo Faro all of Menichelli's papers and the valise. Sciorca had come up and joined us meanwhile and together they led Menichelli away towards the Caserma. I then went to my post at the Casino di Transito where I joined the F. G., Cacace. I have nothing further to add.

MANELLI, Angelo
F. G. G.

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I, LO FARO, Salvatore, on the 8th of March was stationed at Casino di Transito when at about 1150 my colleague CARACI came up to me and said, "did you halt an individual carrying a pack and a valise?" I said "No". I immediately got on my bike to overtake this individual. Before I got up to this individual I noticed that MARULLI (F.O.) had already halted him and was taking him to the caserma. When I reached the individual and Marulli I immediately asked, "By what street did you pass?" The individual responded, "I passed by the main road." I then told him, "you have the courage to say that you passed by the main road." He responded, "I was halted by some soldiers on the side road and I was questioned by them." I immediately took his valise from Marulli's bike and his documents were given to me by Marulli. I then began to accompany him to the caserma. While walking along the road I said to him, "How is it that you escaped from the Germans?" He said, "I came from Rome to Gaeta in a German auto and the Germans helped us secure a boat which would enable us to complete our journey." I then asked him, "did you pay for the journey?" He answered, "a little". He then said "I would like to present myself to the American and British authorities here in Mondragone." I then said, "When we reach the caserma the Marshall will arrange a meeting for you with the American authorities." I then asked him where he was from and he responded, "I was born at Florence, but my family resides at Tripoli, but I would like to visit some of my relatives who reside in a little town near Naples."

I took him to the office of the Marshall and when I presented him to the Marshall the individual said, "I would like to talk to the Marshall alone." I withdrew from the room, but it was only a matter of seconds before the Marshall hurried out of the office with this individual and took him to the CIC.

Description: Male, c. 33 yrs., 5'10", 160 lbs., drawn face, tan complexion, sharp nose, small mustache, black, curly hair. wore a dark overcoat, soft felt hat, grey trousers, dark brown shoes (low). carried over hip a gabardine trench coat.

[Gaetano Sinaro did not have anything to do with the individual.]

3 May 1944

LO FARO, Salvatore

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~~BENIGNO~~ BENIGNO.

I, ~~BENIGNO~~, Erminia, on the 8th day of March at about 1:30 p.m. I was walking by the Dukes Palace (at the entrance to the Via Appia) when I noticed two strangers talking to some women. #1 was about 25 years old, 5' 11" tall, 140 lbs. tan complexioned, wore a small mustache, regular nose, no hat, wore a sport jacket with tucked in sides, light gray breeches, long gray stockings, black military shoes. Carried a small pack on his back.

#2 was about 25 years old, 5' 6" tall, and 140 lbs. (Cannot give further description). My brother and I approached the scene and I said "What are these two looking for?" #1 showed me a slip of paper upon which was written the address of S. Lubrano Via Nauso Sauro. I then told him "No you have made a mistake. The person you are looking for resides at Via Sementive." #1 said "Very well, where is Via Sementive?" I responded, "go to the Piazza Roma and there you will be told how to get to the home of S. Lubrano". With this they left us and when I last saw them they were heading in the direction of the city.

~~BENIGNO~~ BENIGNO.~~BENIGNO~~, Erminia

STATEMENT

I the undersigned, Capotosto Giuseppe di Emerigildo, 31 yrs old, residing in Mondragone, Via degli Abruzzi, mechanic, declare the following:

About 1330 hrs, on March 8, 1944, while on Via Duca degli Abruzzi, I was going to Corso Umberto where I have my shop. When I reached the fountain which is near the angle of Via Appia Antica, I noticed two refined-looking individuals talking with Vincenzo and Erminio Bengivegna, two brothers, resident in Mondragone.

I became curious at the sight of two new faces, and lessened my pace. The Bengivegna brothers asked me where Via Nazario Sauro was. I asked who wanted to know. One of the strangers, the shorter of the two, took a notebook from his pocket, and stated he was in search of a certain Lubrano Salvatore. I said that I knew him because, in childhood, we had gone to school together.

I accompanied both to Piazza Umberto and indicated Via Sementini.

While walking, I asked from where they came. They replied that they had fled from Rome and embarked at Gaeta and had arrived at Mondragone by sea. They had paid a very considerable sum of money for the trip. Upon my questioning them, they told me that life at Rome was normal, while at Gaeta, people were hungry, so much that they were impelled to eat herbs. They asked me how life was in the liberated part of the country. To which I replied everything was progressing moderately well. They inquired, how they might proceed to Naples. I told them that an A.M.G. pass was needed because no one could be farther than 10 kilometers from his residence. I indicated in Corso Umberto the A.M.G. office. They uttered these precise words: "In fact, we could present ourselves to the Carabinieri office. I also pointed out in Corso Umberto, the Carabinieri office.

I recall that the above mentioned strangers had a south Italian ac-

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cent and in appearance to be quite refined persons. Both carried on their shoulders a haversack and I noticed that one had a leather valise.

One was approximately 1.78 meters tall, 25 yrs old, medium build, dark hair, dark eyes, dark eyelashes, with a rather long face and full mustache, average size nose, average size mouth, dark. He wore light grey stockings and a ^{dark} cap.

The other was about 1.64 meters tall, 22 yrs old, medium build, light blonde eyelashes, blonde hair, blue eyes, average size nose and mouth, oval face. He wore black boots and had on a light raincoat and a cap.

I have nothing else to add.

Mondragone April 27, 1944

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STATEMENT

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I the undersigned, Aversano Concetta di Antonio, 32 yrs old, res/ at Mondragone: Via Sementini # 78, housewife, declare the following:

About 1400 hrs, March 8, 1944, two distinguished looking individual presented themselves at my house in Via Sementini #78 and asked if I was the wife of Lubrano Salvatore. I answered in the affirmative and asked where they had seen my husband. "Working in the field", they answered. I was amazed and told them that my husband is a "Mediatore" (functionary for I.M.C.) and not a farmer and that they had probably spoken to Lubrano Salvatore di Giuseppe residing at Via Mazauro Sauro # 50, my husband's cousin who bears the same name. The above mentioned ^{realized} then that they had mistaken the residence and were now ~~in~~ in Via Sementini, where I live with my husband, Lubrano Salvatore di Francesco. They told me of having met, in the vicinity of "Casino di Tranzo", Lubrano Salvatore di Giuseppe, who at their request, had granted them permission to stay one night at his home. They asked if my husband could accompany them to Lubrano Salvatore di Giuseppe in Via Mazauro Sauro. I quickly went out in search of my husband and returned shortly after, not having been able to find him. When I asked where they had come from, they both answered that they had fled from Rome in an automobile, that they had arrived at Gaeta, from where they embarked later to reach Mondragone. From there, they planned to go to Sicily, where their families reside. They asserted, moreover, that they were fugitives from Rome fleeing because of the German manifesto that decreed the induction into military service of all young men, beginning April 18, 1944. All those that ~~not~~ reporting would be shot. They talked of the German persecution of the Ital. people. I asked them how they could get to Sicily since the rail-ways were not operating as a result of the air bombardments and German demolitions. They asked me for advice. I told them to go to Via Elena (house of former mayor) where the American Hdqrs. was located. Here they could procure a pass

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to Sicily. They replied that they would see about it the following morning. Since they showed signs of being tired and hungry, I brought two chairs, bread and sausages. They told me further that they had met some American soldiers in a house on the beach of Mondragone, who were kind to them and offered coffee.

At about 1500 hrs, my husband arrived and they began conversing with him. Later they left with my husband for cigarettes and a cup and of coffee. They returned, took their baggage and left presently with my husband to proceed to Lubrano Salvatore di Giuseppe's house in Via Nazario Sauro # 50.

The strangers did not show me any identification papers nor did they tell me their names.

I recall that one was about 1.78 meters tall, age 26, medium build, dark wavy hair, dark eyes, average size nose, average size mouth, rather a long face, dark complexion and full mustache. Wearing gray jacket, gray knickerbockers with light stockings and high shoes. He carried a haversack and a leather valise.

The other was about 1.64 meters tall, approximately 22 yrs old, medium build, blonde hair, blue eyes, average size nose and mouth, blonde eyelashes, oval face and ruddy complexion. He wore a gray jacket, breeches, black boots and he carried a haversack and a leather valise.

I have nothing else to add.

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I, LUBRANO, Salvatore di Francesco freely make the following statement.

On the 8th of March 1944 I returned to my home in the via Sennentini #78 at about 1430 hours. There I saw two strangers with my wife. I asked of her who these people were and she showed a slip of paper bearing the address of the house of my cousin, LUBRANO, Salvatore di Giuseppe, via Nazario Sauro #50. As soon as the two men saw me both of them at the same time said, "this is not the man who gave us that slip of paper." I then told them to wait in my house awhile until my cousin, who had given them the address should return from his farm and that then I would accompany them to his house.

I would describe these two persons as follows:

- (1) Male, 23 years, 5'10", 150 lbs. medium, tan complexion, full mustache. wore a felt hat, color not known, dark shoes. carried a dark brief case and a field pack.
- (2) Male, 22 yrs., 5' 6", 135 lbs., slender, pale complexion. wore felt hat, breeches, black riding boots.

I asked them how they came to be in Mondragone. Number 1 stated that they supposed to report to the German military command at Rome for military service and in order to avoid this they fled from ~~Rome~~ Rome to Gaeta in a truck. Neither one made any mention of anything they took on the journey from Rome to Gaeta. Arriving at Gaeta, he said, they left from the spiaggia di Giliena in a boat with five others. There was no further information from either one with regard to the boat ride. Number 2 stated that when they had beached their boat they met some American soldiers with whom they had something to eat. Number 1 then said they met my cousin in his vineyard. He stated that they passed by an American camp on the way into Mondragone. Then I gave them some bread and wine. Number 2 and Number 1 both spoke in turn telling me that the Germans were very cruel to the people and to them in Rome and that they had high hopes of finding their families. Number 1 stated he was going to Messina to locate his family. Number 2 did not state where he expected to

LUBRANO, Salvatore

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to find his family. Number 1 then showed my wife and me photographs of his fiancée and family. Number 1 declared that first both of them would go to Naples. Number 1 said that they intended to spend that evening in my cousin's house. About this time, 1500 hrs., Number 1 suggested we go outside and get some American cigarettes. This we did-leaving the house. They carried the brief cases with them. Meanwhile we talked along the way and in the piazza I suggested that they should go to the American authorities and seek their aid in rejoining their families. I even offered to accompany them. Their reaction to this news was unfavorable. They did not take up the suggestion, but said that if they went to the American authorities they would probably be put in a concentration camp. I said no, the Americans will help you and in fact give you a pass to see your families. Then they said nothing for a little while. Then Number 1 said that for the present they had come a long way and were tired and were interested in getting a long sleep. In the morning he declared "we shall see (vederemo)", that after they were rested up they would ~~perhaps~~ perhaps present themselves to the American authorities. We went to the coffee shop opposite the cathedral, stayed for 10-15 minutes, came out at about 1730, and proceeded along the sciantina towards the piazza. Here we were stopped by three Carabinieri ^(and two in plain clothes) who took the two into custody. One Carabinieri, TIMPARI, came with me to my home to recover the packs that the two had left.

3 May 1944

LUSKANE, Salvatore

I said " we would like to present ourselves to the American authorities." (When we halted them they appeared to be resigned to their fate, as if to say what is the use.)

to the left of the room in which there was carefully hidden a compass, wire and a radio tube.

Behind the blocked off wall over to the right hand side there were four ~~sets~~ radio sets and two earphones. In the interior of the Gratto and out of reach was a key board and a compass, which articles could not be reached without tearing ~~the~~ L

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down the wall.

The radio sets were cleverly hidden behind the wall and they were found easily because #1 accompanied me to the Masseria and showed me the exact spot in which these sets were hidden.

The descriptions of these two men are as follows:

#1.) Male, 30 years old, 5' 11", 160 lbs, set face, tan complexioned, black hair and black eyes, regular nose, full mustache, wore soft felt hat-- was dressed elegantly-- ~~do~~ not remember anything of his clothes. Carried a portfolio.

#2) Male, 28 years, 5' 5", 140 lbs, drawn face, light complexioned, blonde hair, blue eyes. wore a soft felt hat and a light trench coat and long trousers.

TIMPANI DOMENICO

STATEMENT

I, Thomas A. Lucif, Counter Intelligence Corps Agent, attached to CIC Detachment, 6773, freely make the following statement.

At about 1300 hours on March 8, 1944, the Maresciallo of the Finance Guard came to my office in Mondragone to tell me that his patrols had apprehended a stranger who admitted having arrived by boat on the Mondragonian shore. When apprehended he had asked to speak with an American or British Official. The Maresciallo who was in charge of the Finance Guards working under CIC 88th Division Jurisdiction immediately brought him to our office.

This man's appearance was that of a man who did not look as though he had suffered too badly at the hands of the Germans. He was fairly well dressed and not in ragged clothing as might be expected. I immediately began to question him thru Joseph Luongo, interpreter. Meanwhile all of his papers and belongings were taken over and searched by Spragi, Enrico, and Gullio, Giuseppe, Italian Secret Service personnel attached to CIC.

At first Subject claimed to be merely a refugee from Gasta who had slipped away from the Germans in a small boat along with six other persons. He told me that they had left Gasta at about 7:30 P.M. on March 7th and arrived above Mondragone early in the morning of March 8th. At that time the search of his belongings revealed that he was carrying a two-way radio operating set complete with crystals as well as a considerable sum (over \$8000) of money in various Allied currencies. On discovering this equipment and money I told Subject whose name was Menechelli that he was an enemy Agent and would be interrogated and

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treated as such and that he had been caught red-handed and might as well admit everything he knew. In saying so I made no promise of immunity or favor but simply told him that he would save a lot of time and words if he told all that he knew as quickly as possible. He replied that he knew there was no hope for him anyhow and agreed that he could gain nothing by holding back any of the story. I then asked him about the six others who had come with him. He replied that four of them had received a lift in an Allied truck heading in the direction of Naples, and that he and the remaining two had taken off in the direction of Mondragone on foot. They left him, eventually, he said, to proceed to Mondragone on a different road than that by which he approached the town. I asked him what espionage equipment if any the others had and he replied that the two who were on foot in the vicinity of Mondragone had carried radio equipment similar to his own.

Among Benicelli's equipment and papers was a slip of paper with a strange arrangement of letters and figures on it. Lt. Riback recognized it as a code system. I told Benicelli that here was his code system for transmitting over the wireless set. At first he said nothing but later he admitted it was. I asked him if he hadn't secured all of his various kinds of money from the German Intelligence Office, for the purpose of carrying on his espionage mission. He confessed that this was so. I asked him to tell me his mission. I told him that he might as well do so for we could only learn the truth from the others and that lying would gain him nothing. He then admitted that his mission was to go to Naples, set up a residence and from there transmit messages by radio with regard to all troop movements in and about the city.

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Then in company with CIC interpreter Luongo, Stragi, Gulle and Menecchilli we rode out the Lido road to retrace the steps taken by the group. Meanwhile a message was flashed to all control points to pick up the four in the truck and a dragnet was spread for the remaining two on foot in the vicinity of Mondragone. The four who travelled by truck were apprehended at Capua and at about 6:00 P.M. Irrera, Lanza, the two remaining members of the boat, were apprehended by CIC Agents in the public square of Mondragone.

They were immediately brought to CIC office where they, too, were interrogated and searched. Both claimed to be merely refugees from Gaeta, having bought passage in a truck from home to Gaeta and from there to Mondragone by boat. Both carried considerable sums of money on their person, but when asked where they got it they replied that it represented their savings and earnings. Then, finally, they were asked the question of where their radio sets were hidden. At first they claimed complete ignorance of the whereabouts of any radio sets. After steady and repeated interrogation they finally admitted that they had had sets but had tossed them out into the sea before the landing was made. Later when the point was pressed home again they finally admitted that they did have radios hidden in Mondragone. Lanza then was dispatched to lead two of our personnel to the spot in order to recover same. Both Lanza and Irrera told how they had walked towards Mondragone after arriving on the beach by boat from Gaeta with Menecchilli and four others. The other four had received a lift in an Allied truck, they stated, and Menecchilli, Lanza and Irrera walked along the vine-yard of Labrano, Salvatore of whom they inquired how to get into Mondragone without having to pass the Finance

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Guard at the Casino di Transita. Having been shown a path they followed it over a hill past the guard post. There they separated, they said, with Menichelli cutting back to the shore road into town and Irrera and Lanza followed the Via Appia Antica into Mondragone.

Under questioning, after informing Irrera that he must accept the consequences of his acts he was asked to tell about his mission, training and code signs and symbols. This he proceeded to do stating that he had intended to go to Messina there, set up his radio, and send messages with regard to the whereabouts of:

1. U. S. 7th Army.
2. 2nd Armored Division.
3. 1st and 9th U. S. Infantry Division.
4. 82nd Airborne Division.
5. British 5th Division.
6. All ship movements.

Lanza finally let go and informed us that his mission was to go to Palermo and report on all ship and troop movements in and about the area.

At first both Irrera and Lanza, like Menichelli before them, sought to say that the large sums of money they had in their possession were of their personal account. When confronted with the statement, however, that the money was given to them in Rome by German Intelligence Officers, they resignedly assented and gave particulars as outlined in the interview conducted for CIC by SIM Agents Sbragi, Marico, and Galle, Giuseppe.

Upon completion of the preliminary examinations and search all three plus all clothes, papers, V/T sets, and money were turned over to Capt. Horsfall, 1st British Corps for further interrogation.

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At no time did any of the three make claim that they had intended to renage on their missions for the Enemy or turn themselves in to the American or British authorities on landing.

Thomas A. Lucid

Agent, CIG.

Mondragone, 9 March, 1944

SUBJECT: A Report Concerning the Arrest of 3 Enemy Agents.

About 1:00 P.M. on the 8th of March two P.G. brought into the CIC office an individual who was arrested at the Casino di Transite - (about 4 kilometers from Mondragone).

He was identified as Menichelli Giovanni di Creste and di Antolini, born at Florence 20/5/1909 having his domicile at Tripoli Via Oberdreaan N.37, there he served as "Astante di Battaglia" (Marshal) of the 7th Radar Telegraphic Regiment.

An inquisition was made of his person and his belongings, and there was found in his possession a radio (both for transmitting and receiving) which was of a German make. There was also found documents which were used to transmit coded messages. Moreover there was found in his possession a huge sum of money which totalled 250,000 liras.

At the CIC office he was interrogated briefly and it was discovered that he disembarked at 7:30 A.M. at the Spaggiadi di Liana about 6 kilometers from Mondragone, having come from Gasta together with six other persons who were to serve as enemy agents.

With the help of the local Carabinieri an intense search was begun in Mondragone to apprehend the other individuals, a search which extended as far as the Volturno. After some hours of intense searching, with the aid of fathers and the description furnished by Menichelli, Brig. Sbragi, together with Vice Brig. Guallo Giuseppe, Calvagno Giuseppe, Carabinieri Orlando Camillo and Timpani Domenico arrested two of these 7 individuals and accompanying them to the CIC office they were identified as follows:

PVT. JOSEPH P. LUONGO
Interpreter, CIC

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Irrera Flascio fu Giovanni e di Ingegneri Annunziata, born 10 Feb., 1919, at Messina, residing at Via Regina Elena #1. He was a radio operator in the aviation corps (2nd C.A.P.T.A.) at Rome. He was granted a discharge 27 Sept. 43.

Lesma Orsola di Antonio e di ~~Antonietta~~ Zuzho Orsola, born at Palermo 20 Dec. 1920, residing in the Via Emidio Amori N.57. Radio operator in the 2nd C.A.P.T.A. at Rome. He was granted a discharge 27 Sept. 1943.

Lesma and Irrera, together with all their belongings were diligently searched, and there was found in their possession the huge sum of 250,000 liras. Moreover, there was found two diagrams which served as signs (cintonomia) for transmitting and receiving messages. Taking into consideration these diagrams we were left without a doubt that they possessed radio sets. At first their replies were vague and confused concerning the whereabouts of these two sets but after further interrogations they admitted that they had in their possession two radio sets which they had hidden in an abandoned house located near the Casino di Transito. Lesma, accompanied by personnel of the CIC brought us immediately to this abandoned house and showed us where he and Irrera had carefully hidden their radio sets, which sets were of German make.

As is noted in the detailed interrogations, it was easily seen that the above mentioned were agents employed by the enemy. After they had attended a course of study at Rome (also at Florence) they left from Gaeta 7:30 A.M. on the 7th of March to land at the Mondragonian Spiaggia, because they had been told by the Germans that the Spiaggia was not guarded. After they had disembarked each one was to take up residence in the particular city assigned to them by the enemy, and in these cities each one was to carry out his particular espionage activities.

PVT. JOSEPH P. LUONJO
Interpreter, CIC

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Since these above agents did not have a cipher it was found that to transmit their messages they would have to use a conventional phrase which consisted of 31 letters. Errera was given the phrase "Clodia e una bella buona donna di casa," Lanza: "Il cuore di una donna e fuoco che arde" - (the heart of a woman is like a fire that burns!)

Errera, Lanza and Menichelli had in their possession three identical books, and identical copies were possessed by the Germans because these books were to serve as the key in transmitting and receiving messages.

Lanza was to operate in Palermo, Sicily and he was to communicate the following:

1. The residence of the "Command" (officials) of the 7th American Army.
2. The whereabouts of the American 82nd Airborne Division.
3. The whereabouts of the British 5th Airborne Division.
4. The arrival and the departure of Allied ships from the various Sicilian ports.
5. Their whereabouts of the 1st, 2nd and 9th American Inf. Divs.
6. The arrival of troops, materials and their destination.

Errera was to operate in Messina, Sicily and he was to communicate:

1. The departure and arrival of Allied ships in that port.
2. The number of troops and materials and their destination.
3. Lastly, all important military information.

Menichelli - it was impossible to procure all the necessary information concerning Menichelli's duties because he was taken to Sessa soon after his arrest by Capt. Horafall of F.S.S. But Errera and Lanza stated that Menichelli was assigned to Naples and he was to communicate the arrival and the departure in that port of all Allied ships, and he was also to note the number of troops, materials, their destination, and other important military information.

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
SECURITY BRANCH
APC 394

RELATION:

15 May 1944.

As I have already declared at 1900 hours of the 6th March 1944 (I say the 6th March because it seems to me that this date is exact) Cappellaro came to my house in Via Cheren No. 4 to take me off and I went to his home in Via Nomentana, I do not know the number.

In Cappellaro's home I found Mr. Olandese, who had also to come to Naples and Mr. Pook, a friend of Cappellaro.

I remained in Cappellaro's house until 2400 hours. At 2400 hours we went out and found a small truck which we entered. Cappellaro sat down in the front, beside the driver, and Pook, Mr. Olandese and I sat inside.

We stopped first at Pook's house, a street which I have described to you, but whose name I do not remember.

Pook got out and returned a little later with a blanket, two pillows and net basket in which was some food.

Pook remounted the truck and we went off Via Veneto where we stopped near the pavement opposite the Imperial Hotel.

Cappellaro got out of the truck and went into the Hotel.

A little later Cappellaro came back with two other men who were back carrying a haversack in their hands. Cappellaro got in again beside the driver and the two men got inside carrying their sacks which they laid down at their feet.

We just exchanged greetings with these two men.

The truck went on and stopped at Corso Umberto a few yards beyond the Plaza Hotel.

Cappellaro got out again and went into the Plaza from which he came out again a little later with another man, who was carrying a haversack on his shoulders. It seems to me that he was carrying a portfolio. This man mounted the truck and greeted the two men who had come out of the Imperial Hotel. Cappellaro got in beside the driver again.

The truck, went along Corso Umberto, the Colosseum and Forta S. Giovanni and took the Frosinone road.

During the journey through Rome we were stopped several times by German and Italian military patrols. Cappellaro spoke to them and showed some documents. The patrols looked at the documents and let us go on. During the journey, I exchanged a few words with Olandese, while the other travellers spoke among themselves. From their accent, I got the impression that at least two of them were of Sicilian origin.

The following morning at about 0700 hours we reached Gaeta.

However before we reached Gaeta, I noticed that a Fiat 500 was following the truck. The latter stopped near the cemetery and so did the Fiat, from which two men alighted and they spoke

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to Cappellaro and Pook.

I asked Cappellaro who they might be and he replied that they were members of the Todt organization and that they not represent did any danger as they were being well paid. The Fiat 500 and the two men stayed beside me near the cemetery where we remained the whole of the time we spent at Gaeta. We spent the whole day at Gaeta. Our long association caused us to talk among ourselves and the three men said that they were dealers in stockings and that they had fled from Rome to avoid being enrolled by the Germans and that they intended to enroll in Badoglio's army, but first they wanted to go to Sicily to see their families of whom they had had no news. In the conversation there was talk of the manner in which we ought to have reacted at the moment of the Allied disembarkation in the freed parts of the country.

I proposed, and Olandese agreed with me, that we should present ourselves immediately to the Allied authorities, but the three men were of the opposite opinion, saying that they, if they surrendered immediately to the Allied authorities, would be immediately enrolled and would not be able to go and see their families. No joint decision was arrived at about 1830 hours. Cappellaro introduced two other fellow travellers who, I learned later, were called NACCA Mario, a second lieutenant in the navy and CIANO Erasmo, a sailor; they were to sail the boat from Gaeta to Mondragone.

At 1930 Cappellaro lead us on to the beach where there were several boats. He pointed out one of them to us and seven of us got in while Cappellaro and Pook remained at Gaeta. I noticed nothing out of the ordinary during the journey, the two men whom we had met at Gaeta (Nacca and Ciano) did the rowing and we, in our turn, had to look after baling out the water from the boat, which having lain out in the sun for some days, was letting in water through some of the seams. Having got as far as Mondragone, as we thought, we waited away from the beach until daylight to avoid danger. About 0600 hours we disembarked on the beach and left our boat on the sands.

A little distance away there was a little house which seemed uninhabited to which we went and in which there was a group of American soldiers who received us very cordially and regaled us. The soldiers then pointed out the main road to us where we could find a long to take us to the Allied Command. Having reached the main road, we again discussed what we ought to do. I, Olandese, Nacca and Ciano were agreed to present ourselves to the Allied Command, the other three refused to follow our example declaring that they wanted to reach their families. I declared that the danger of immediate enrolment by the Italian military authorities was improbable. But the three insisted in their opinion and went away, while we remained, awaiting for the passage of some vehicle to get a lift to the nearest Military Command.

A little later along came a truck (I cannot remember whether American or English) and Mr. Olandese, who spoke English, stopped it and asked the driver to give us a lift to an Allied Command.

The rest is known to you.

Naples 13 May 1944.

/S/

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Witnessed by Arthur W. Anderson, Lt. I S.S.I.

Extract from "M" on:-

LENA Orsola
IRRERA Placido.
MENICHELLI Giovanni.

1. LENA and IRRERA together.

LENA. Listen, let us agree not to say anything. We came here with a purpose. What we have done was done for the Government, the only one that counts, Rome.

IRRERA. They have not caught all of us (laughter) Let us try to escape tonight.

2. LENA, IRRERA and MENICHELLI.

MENICHELLI. You will not be condemned because you have not worked for the Germans, the Maresciallo told me.

IRRERA. Your position is not safe, you did work for them.

LENA. It is in our own interest to start work as soon as possible. What a pity poor GILBERTI got caught. He had a fine office in Naples.

IRRERA. If they set us to work for them, we will have everything we want. One could easily get to Palermo, accompanied by an Officer, acquire his confidence, and then gently, gently, it is easy.

3. IRRERA and MENICHELLI.

IRRERA. And what is our assignment? (Note the tense "is")

MENICHELLI. To organise Fascist Forces, if possible to sabotage Naples Aerodrome, to guard against landings.

MENICHELLI. The interrogator told me he would leave me out in the rain so that the ideas would sprout in my head.

IRRERA. When one does not want to speak one must suffer.

MENICHELLI. Why tell them anything? To do so is to help them.

2. LEMMA, IPPERRA and MENICHELLI.

MENICHELLI. You will not be condemned because you have not worked for the Germans, the Maresciallo told me.

IPPERRA. Your position is not safe, you did work for them.

LEMMA. It is in our own interest to start work as soon as possible. What a pity poor GILIBERTI got caught. He had a fine Office in Naples.

IPPERRA. If the set us to work for them, we will have everything we want. One could easily get to Palermo, accompanied by an Officer, acquire his confidence, and then gently, gently, it is easy.

3. IPPERRA and MENICHELLI.

IPPERRA. And what is your assignment? (Note the tense "is")

MENICHELLI. To organize Fascist Forces, if possible to sabotage Naples Aerodrome, to guard against landings.

MENICHELLI. The interrogator told me he would leave me out in the rain so that the ideas would sprout in my head.

IPPERRA. When one does not want to speak one must suffer.

MENICHELLI. Why tell them anything? To do so is to help them.

IPPERRA. SANTILLO, the Neapolitan, used to transmit his messages so badly no one could ever understand him. To transcribe his messages into clear was terrible. But he was willing, poor chap.

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4. LEMMA, IPPERRA and MENICHELLI.

LEMMA. He frightened me he was studying me so closely. I did not know that GILIBERTI had mentioned my name.

MENICHELLI. The others did not mention my name, so as not to compromise themselves.

He asked me if I did not know another person named GIOVANNI, a fair man. I immediately understood he was referring to GILIBERTI. It was the Captain who asked me not the one with the skirt.

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IRREERRA. I told him, "Why not shoot me and be done with it, you would be doing me a favour".

MENICHELLI. Tomorrow they will treat you badly, the next day well. You must therefore have patience. You must go on telling lies.

LEMA. They want to know the names of those who are being sent over here. "But who knows those names" I replied. (laughter)

MENICHELLI. I cannot understand why they have not put microphones in this room, just think what they would have learnt if they had. The Germans have sent over spies without counting the cost. However, I feel the English have caught a lot of them. This radio business has not turned out well, the first expedition failed, and now the second one also. I speak Arabic, but I won't tell them so. If I get sent to Africa it will be useful to me.

5. IRREERRA and MENICHELLI.

MENICHELLI. I told him that instead of being stopped by a Guardia di Finanza, it was I who stopped him. When I was stopped I thought I would try a big gamble.

MENICHELLI. What a pity I did not tell them I had to send a message from Naples on the 20th, I should have gained eight days. However there are still five days left to the 28th.

IRREERRA. I cannot make out what they are driving at with all these different questions, but I stick to what I have already said.

MENICHELLI. Yes, Yes, it is always necessary to do that.

IRREERRA. You with all your stories have got us properly in the soup.

MENICHELLI. Never mind, tell them I am a fervent follower of Hesse, that I only revealed this in prison. I don't care in the slightest if they say I am done for. In the first place they need us, and that is why they treat us so well. There are two points to be stressed, firstly that after my long military training I did not want it to fall into disuse, and, considering that BADOGLIO was

the second one also. I speak Arabic, but I won't tell them so. If I get sent to Africa it will be useful to me.

5. IRRERRA and MENICHELLI.

MENICHELLI. I told him that instead of being stopped by a Guardia di Finanza, it was I who stopped him. When I was stopped I thought I would try a big gamble.

MENICHELLI. What a pity I did not tell them I had to send a message from Naples on the 20th, I should have gained eight days. However there are still five days left to the 26th.

IRRERRA. I cannot make out what they are driving at with all these different questions, but I stick to what I have already said.

MENICHELLI. Yes, Yes, it is always necessary to do that.

IRRERRA. You with all your stories have got us properly in the soup.

MENICHELLI. Never mind, tell them I am a fervent follower of Messe, that I only revealed this in prison. I don't care in the slightest if they say I am done for. In the first place they need us, and that is why they treat us so well. There are two points to be stressed, firstly that after my long Military training I did not want it to fall into disuse, and, considering that BADOGLIO was bound to win, I came over to this side. Secondly, there is the question of MESSE. To return to the question of why I took the right-hand road, well, I was afraid of the soldier on the other.

IRRERRA. But he was only there to guard the camp, not to watch for passers-by.

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MENICHELLI. Remember, you must always answer as you did the first time. Do not add anything. Do not say anything of what we have been talking about here. Tell them that we have been together, but nothing else.

IRRERRA. I told them that I met you in the street and that is all.

6. LEMTA, IRRERRA and MENICHELLI.

LEMTA. If only things had gone well, today we would be

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would be/ in a fine house in POSILLIPO.

IRREPPA and MENICHELLI. Hear, Hear.

LEMA. There is only one thing to do, and that is to keep up the game. After all we are only doing our duty.

LEMA. Up to the first, second, or even the third of April there will still be time. I am hoping still.

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