

ACC 10000/143/2610

149.01 /CP

PELLEGRINI CARLO - ALBERTI EMILIO

JAN. 1944 - Nov. 1946

Lio - A
RINI CARLO - ALBERTI EMILIO - ACQUA GAETANO

JAN. 1944 - NOV. 1946

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
A.P.O. 794
PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION
SECURITY SUB DIVISION

REF : SD/149.05
SD/149.01-CP —

12 November 1946

SUBJECT : ACQUA Gaetano
BEVILACQUA Emilio

TO : Legal Division

1. The attached AFHQ letter G.I. 389.701/PF/31, dated 8 November 1946 and enclosures are forwarded for information and any action you deem advisable.

2. ACQUA appeared before an Allied Military Court on 27 March 1944 charged with "serving the enemy as a spy". He was convicted and sentenced to death. The sentence was commuted on 22 April 1944 to one of 20 years imprisonment.

3. BEVILACQUA appeared before an Allied Military Court at FLORENCE on 10 January 1945 charged with espionage and was sentenced to 20 years imprisonment.

E.J. BYE,
Colonel,
Director,
Public Safety Division.

Enclosures :- AFHQ letter G.I. 389.701/PF/31
dated 8.11.46 and two copy letters from
relatives.

AHS/no

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
SECURITY BRANCH

Ref: SE/311.5/149.01

16 May, 1944

Subject: Prosecution of Enemy Agents

- PELLEGRINI Carlo fu Carlo
- ALBERTI Emilio di Giovanni
- ACQUA Gaetano fu Gaetano

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

With reference to my report dated 22 March, 1944,
regarding the above-mentioned Italians :-

PELLEGRINI, ALBERTI and ACQUA appeared before the
Allied Military General Court on 27 March, 1944, charged with -
"serving the enemy as spies" - the charge being framed under Proclam-
ation No. 2, Article 1, Paragraph 1.

The members of the Court were - Colonel Carter (Am),
Major W.F. Waugh (Am) and Major W.G. Elder (Br). The prosecution was
represented by Major Woodward (Am), whilst Captain H. Jones (Br) appeared
for the defence. After hearing the witnesses for the prosecution
mentioned in my previous report, and after hearing the case for the
defence - including evidence given on oath by each of the accused, the
Court returned a verdict of "Guilty" against each of them and they were
sentenced to death.

The sentence was commuted on 22 April, 1944, on appeal
to the Military Governor, and the sentence was reduced in each case to
20 years imprisonment.

Louis F. Gale
Lieutenant

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Copy to Main S Army.

For Colonel A.E. Young - Director,
Security Branch - A.C.C.

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HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
(SECURITY BRANCH)

22 March, 1944

SUBJECT: Prosecution of Enemy Agents -

- (i) PELLEGRINI Carlo fu Carlo,
born 30 November, 1925 at Rome.
- (ii) ALBERTI Emilio di Giovanni,
born 17 July, 1927 at Rome.
- (iii) ACQUA Gaetano fu Gaetano
born 26 January, 1926 at Rome.

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

1.

With reference to the above-mentioned Italians, who are held in custody by G.S.I.(b) - 8th. Army, under directions of Lieut-Colonel W.D.Gibson, D.G.S.(I), as enemy agents : -

2.

The facts of this case are that, during the early morning of 22 January, 1944, these three Italians were seen sheltering under a rock thirty or forty yards forward of a British position at CASTEL DI SANGRO, by members of "B" Coy. Royal Irish Fusiliers. One of the three men (not yet identified but believed to be Fellegrini) waved to the Unit in question and a small party was sent out to bring them into our lines. It is not disputed by the prosecution that the three men deliberately drew attention to themselves, BUT IT IS CERTAIN THAT, IN ANY CASE, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN IMPOSSIBLE FOR THEM TO HAVE MOVED FROM THE PLACE WHERE THEY WERE FOUND WITHOUT BEING SEEN BY THE BRITISH UNIT, UNLESS THE THREE MEN HAD WAITED UNTIL NIGHTFALL BEFORE MOVING ON, AND EVEN THEN THEIR CHANCES OF REMAINING UNDETECTED WOULD HAVE BEEN VERY SMALL. However, the Unit concerned accepted them as being, most likely, genuine refugees, and passed them on to the 88 F.S. Section - FORLI Detachment - to go through the normal routine procedure for refugees.

3.

Staff Sergeant Ralph Beaumont FLETCHER, N.C.O.
i/c FORLI Detachment - 88 F.S. Section - has made a signed statement (copy attached - marked "A") showing what sub-

who are held in custody by G.S.I.(b) - 8th. Army, under directions of Lieut-Colonel W.D.Gibson, D.G.S.(I), as enemy agents : -

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3.

Staff Sergeant Ralph Beaumont FLETCHER, N.C.O. i/c FORLI Detachment - 88 F.S. Section - has made a signed statement (copy attached - marked "A") showing what subsequently transpired. He says that the three Italians were brought to his office by the Sergeant-Major of "B" Company - Royal Irish Fusiliers - who gave him the brief facts as above and said that they had indicated that they came from ROME. S/Sergeant Fletcher then questioned them individually as to their movements. PELLEGRINI said that he had fled with the other two from ROME about ten days previously in order to avoid being forced into labour for the Germans and that it was his intention to visit his aunt in NAPLES. ALBERTI told the same story and said that his intention was to visit "relatives" in NAPLES. ACQUA's story was similar except that he intended to go to FOGGIA. (He did not say why he wished to go to that particular place, but it will be shown later in this report that he had an ulterior motive for wishing to go there).

4.

During his initial interrogation of these men, S/Sergeant Fletcher asked them whether they had any information of military value to disclose, particularly as to the

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strength of German troops in ROCCAFASO. The information which the three men then gave was later shown to be greatly exaggerated and misleading, in the light of a considerable weight of evidence to the contrary in the hands of 38th Irish Brigade (Major Clarke) and other evidence obtained from genuine refugees.

5. Sergeant Fletcher says that he then searched the three Italians but found nothing of special interest upon them, except that ACQUA was in possession of a 500 lire note - Allied Military Currency - No. AO9488986A - which he said he had obtained from a British prisoner-of-war at OVINDOLI. Each of the men had in his possession about 3,000 lire in Italian currency.

6. Continuing his statement, S/Sergeant Fletcher says that his suspicions were aroused by the fact that ALBERTI and PELLEGRINI wore underclothes of precisely the same pattern whilst the suits, overcoats and hats of all three were brand new, of the same pattern and bearing the same maker's marks. Under questioning, ALBERTI said that his underclothing was given to him by his father who was a Carabiniere, and that his suit, overcoat and hat were purchased in Rome. ACQUA told the same story as to the three last-mentioned articles, whilst PELLEGRINI said that he had been given all his clothing, including underclothing, by the Germans at OVINDOLI. He was also wearing German military boots which he said he obtained from the same source, all for work which he had done for the Germans.

7. Later on the same day, Sergeant Fletcher again questioned PELLEGRINI as to the latter's movements on the German side of the lines during the ten days which he had claimed to have taken in fleeing from Rome. In conducting this second interrogation, Sergeant Fletcher says that he was bearing in mind that PELLEGRINI, at the initial interrogation had declared that all three men had come on foot from Rome, setting out at 1400 hours on 12th January, 1944, the only lift which they had received, having been for a distance of about 20-30 kilometers, shortly after leaving Rome. When questioned for the second time, PELLEGRINI changed his story

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Later on the same day, Sergeant Fletcher again questioned PELLEGRINI as to the latter's movements on the German side of the lines during the ten days which he had claimed to have taken in fleeing from Rome. In conducting this second interrogation, Sergeant Fletcher says that he was bearing in mind that PELLEGRINI, at the initial interrogation had declared that all three men had come on foot from Rome, setting out at 1400 hours on 12th January, 1944, the only lift which they had received, having been for a distance of about 20-30 kilometers, shortly after leaving Rome. When questioned for the second time, PELLEGRINI changed his story and said that, with the others, he had obtained a lift by German truck from ROME to OVINDOLI. They had stayed there for 5-6 days, leaving on 19 January, 1944, on foot, during the evening, and had crossed the River SANGRO on the night of 21 January, 1944. In illustrating his movements on these last two days, he said that he passed through SULMONA at 4pm. (1600 hours) on 20 January, 1944. Sergeant Fletcher then pointed out to him that this meant that in two days he had travelled a distance of about 200 kilometres through mountainous and difficult territory, and that THIS WAS A TASK WHICH WAS CLEARLY IMPOSSIBLE, PARTICULARLY WITHOUT A REGULAR GUIDE.

8.

It was also pointed out to him by Sergeant Fletcher that his physical condition and the condition of his boots and clothing bore no evidence whatsoever of such an arduous journey. When confronted with all these facts and the obvious incongruities in his story PELLEGRINI broke down, wept and asked to be allowed to make a confession to a priest. This he was allowed to do and subsequently signed a written statement

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which he made in the presence of the Priest, the Mayor and the Secretary of the town, and in which he admitted that he and the other two men were German agents, and gave details of the mission upon which they had crossed the lines.

9.

Later the same day, Sergeant Fletcher further questioned ACQUA and during the course of this second interrogation, asked him questions as to detail, based upon what PELLEGRINI had said, thus indicating to the former that the facts of the true nature of their activities were already known. In consequence, ACQUA also made a signed statement admitting that he had crossed the lines as a German agent and, following this, the third man - ALBERTI - who had been present in the room throughout the time that Acqua was being questioned, asked for a pencil and paper and also made a statement to similar effect, which he signed.

10.

Sergeant Fletcher, concluding his statement, draws attention to two special points. Firstly, he says that, when first questioned, ACQUA denied any knowledge of the German language, but when confronted (shortly before making his signed statement) with the knowledge obtained from PELLEGRINI that his mother was of German birth and that he was known to have spent some years in Germany, ACQUA admitted to a perfect knowledge of the German language. The second point to which the Sergeant draws attention is that PELLEGRINI, when asked further questions to illustrate his statement, said that, among other things, the Germans had required him to observe particularly the nationalities of Allied fighting troops and specially to identify divisional signs. He was shown photographs of such signs, by the Germans, and prominent among those shown was the "battle-axe".

11.

PELLEGRINI's signed statement (copy attached - marked "B") shows that he was a deserter from the "Nembo" Parachute Division and had made up his mind to go to TREVISO to see his uncle. Whilst waiting at Termini (ROME) Railway Station for a train to go there, he met the other two men who were not previously known to him. ACQUA, dressed as a Lieutenant of Italian Engineers wanted to go to MILAN, whilst ALBERTI wished to go to SPEZIA. (It was later ascertained that this meeting happened on 15th January, 1944). As no trains were running owing to bomb damage, the three men spent about two days and nights at ACQUA's home. On the 16th January, 1944, the three men were taken to the railway station at Termini (ROME) and put on a train for TREVISO.

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12.

Continuing his statement, PELLEGRINI says that, after dinner, they drove to a German Headquarters at OVINDOLI where each of them was given a particular mission. His own instructions were to go through the lines to CASTEL di SANGRO -

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VILLA SANTA MARIA - ROCCASALEGNA - CASOLI - and PENNA
PIEDIMONTE. He was to obtain information as to the
number and nationalities of Allied troops, the nature
of their arms and any similar military information. He
says that ALBERTI had instructions of a like character
in respect of the ALFADENA area, whilst ACQUA was to go
for a similar purpose to ISESNIA - FOGGIA - BARI and
TERMOLI. (It will be observed that FOGGIA seems to have
been a focal point in ACQUA's instructions, and the fact
that he stated, when questioned in the first instance,
that he was a refugee on his way to FOGGIA, is some
indication that he intended to fulfil his mission for
the German Command). Next, says PELLEGRINI, he went
with ALBERTI and ACQUA in an Alfa Romeo car with a German
driver to AQUILA, also carrying three prisoners-of-war,
who were dropped at a concentration camp on arrival there.
They left AQUILA in the car and went on to ROCCARASO where
they stayed for a day, then going on to ROCCA GUARIGLIA
being escorted on from there on foot by a German patrol
to the River SANGRO which they crossed by boat. It was
then dark and they remained in the open on the hillside
before CASTELLO di SANGRO throughout the night, then
in the morning walked up to the Castello and, according to
PELLEGRINI reported to the British.

13.

ALBERTI's written statement (copy attached -
marked "C") shows that a friend of his in Rome proposed
that he should undertake a "risky and well paid" mission
into Allied territory. He accepted and was introduced to
a German Lieutenant who promised to use him. From that
point to its conclusion, his statement gives a story of
their movement after leaving Rome which tallies closely
with that of PELLEGRINI, although he does not refer to
the other two men directly, speaking of "I" in relation
to events as far as OVINDOLI and referring to "We" for
subsequent events. He implements PELLEGRINI's statement
by saying that "we" got lost on a hill after crossing the
River SANGRO and were refused help by a German patrol.
The following morning "we" climbed the hill and within
five minutes were in front of British positions.

14.

ACQUA's written statement (attached - marked "D")
shows that he met a German Lieutenant in Rome who offered

being escorted on from there on foot by a German patrol to the River SANGRO which they crossed by boat. It was then dark and they remained in the open on the hillside before CASTELLO di SANGRO throughout the night, then in the morning walked up to the Castello and, according to PELLEGRINI reported to the British.

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14.

ACQUA's written statement (attached - marked "D") shows that he met a German Lieutenant in Rome who offered him the job of going through the lines and afterwards reporting what he had seen. ACQUA says that on the same day he went to OVINDOLI where the German Lieutenant's Headquarters were situated. His story from that point onwards is similar to that of ALBERTI, except that he does not refer to the others either directly or indirectly, speaking of "I" throughout the statement, as if he were alone in his movements. He, too, states that the direction was lost on the hill after crossing the Sangro River and that he spent all night on the hill before moving over it and after a few minutes coming on to the British position.

15.

Captain J.V.COOPER, S.I.(b), will give evidence¹⁰ of having questioned the three prisoners on 29th January, 1944. (A statement of the evidence which he will be able to give, is attached - marked "E"). The statements which they made to him conform closely to the facts already outlined in this report, except that they are in greater

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detail. PELLEGRINI and ALBERTI admitted to him having received 1,000 lire and 900 lire respectively, from the Germans, whilst ACQUA was to have been paid on his return. Captain Cooper further shows that ACQUA emphatically denied Pellegrini's allegation that he was to contact other German agents in BARI. Apart from the above-mentioned points, Capt. Cooper's evidence would appear to be relevant only as corroboration of the evidence of other witnesses or to demonstrate precise details on any fact in dispute.

16.

There is no doubt whatsoever that the three men had every intention of carrying out their respective missions for the German Command, whose offer they appear, on their own admissions to have accepted very readily. They came through our lines in civilian clothes and the fact that THEY COMMENCED THEIR JOURNEY THROUGH THE LINES AT NIGHT, would indicate that they intended to get through clandestinely if possible. It seems that it was only the fact of their having lost their direction after crossing the River Sangro that caused them to abandon their intention of coming through clandestinely but to adopt the false pretence of being genuine refugees from German oppression. They maintained this pose until PELLEGRINI realised that he was "trapped" by his own mistakes and the incongruities in his story of their movements, with the added weight of the evidence provided by their error in wearing identical clothing, each of them telling different stories as to how they had come into possession of such clothing. These factors were their downfall and it is certain that had they not been detected through these mistakes, they had every intention of obtaining information of military value to the enemy, and conveying it back across the lines to the German Command. Evidence of ACQUA's intention to do so is shown by the fact that when claiming to be a refugee he stated that he wished to go to FOGGIA, which was one of the principal places to which the Germans had sent him.

17.

Accordingly it is submitted that each of these men comes well within the scope of Chapter 2, Article 29 of the Hague Convention, as "SPIES", AND THEY SHOULD BE MADE TO PAY THE EXTREME PENALTY.

18.

The antecedents and history of the

17.

Accordingly it is submitted that each of these men comes well within the scope of Chapter 2, Article 29 of the Hague Convention, as "SPIES", AND THEY SHOULD BE MADE TO PAY THE EXTREME PENALTY.

18.

The antecedents and history of the three men, prior to the events which are the subject of this report, are given in Captain Cooper's statement of evidence.

19.

Application should be made to the Court for a hearing "in camera" owing to the most secret nature of the facts to be revealed in evidence.

Copies to be forwarded to:- Lt.Col.W.D.Gibson, D.G.S (I)
G.S.I.(b) - 8th Army
Legal (Prosecutor)

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

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HEADQUARTERS.

ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION.
SECURITY BRANCH.

88 F.S. Section. H.Q.
13th March, 1944.

Statement of Staff Sergeant Ralph Beaumont FLETCHER, IO850581. 88 F.S.
Section. H.Q. who says:-

On 22nd January, 1944, I was the N.C.O. in charge of the FORLI Detachment, 88 Field Security Section. During the morning of that day the Sergeant Major of "B" Coy, Royal Irish Fusiliers, handed over to me three Italians, saying that they had been seen sheltering under a rock thirty or forty yards forward of a British position at Castel di Sangro.

One of them waved to members of the above unit and a party was sent out and brought them in. The Sergeant Major told me that the three Italians had indicated to him that they came from Rome. He told me he was passing them on to me to go through the routine procedure for refugees.

I immediately questioned them individually and they gave their names as Carlo FELLEGRINI, EMILIO ALBERTI and GAETANO ACQUA, respectively.

FELLEGRINI said that he and the others had fled from Rome about ten days previously to avoid being taken by the Germans there for forced labour. He said that it was his intention to go to Naples to visit his aunt. ALBERTI told me precisely the same story and that he intended to visit relatives in Naples. ACQUA also told the same story, but said that he intended to go to Foggia.

During these initial interrogations I asked each of them whether, as refugees, they could give me any information of military value, in particular, as to the strength of German troops in ROCCARASO. Each of them said that there were six Companies of German Infantry and a number of Armoured Cars there. This information was greatly at variance from reports received from a party of fifteen Italians on the same day, who were passed as genuine refugees. They said that there were in ROCCARASO no more than about 60 Germans soldiers and a few trucks. I checked this information at the time (that is the information received from FELLEGRINI and his two companions) with Major Clarke, of the 38th Brigade, 1st Royal Irish Fusiliers, who said that according to his advanced patrols and from the nature of the territory, it was impossible that six companies of German Infantry were there.

Later I took part in a search of the three men. Nothing of special interest was found on them, but as far as I remember each of them was in possession of about 3,000 lire, all in Italian currency, except for one 500 lire note, which was of Allied Military issue - No. A. 09488986A. - which was found in ACQUA'S possession. He said that this he had obtained from a British prisoner of war at OVINDOLI in exchange for an Italian currency note.

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PELLEGRINI said that he and the others had fled from Rome about ten days previously to avoid being taken by the Germans there for forced labour. He said that it was his intention to go to Naples to visit his aunt. ALBERTI told me precisely the same story and that he intended to visit relatives in Naples. ACQUA also told the same story, but said that he intended to go to Foggia.

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Later I took part in a search of the three men. Nothing of special interest was found on them, but as far as I remember each of them was in possession of about 3,000 lire, all in Italian currency, except for one 500 lire note, which was of Allied Military issue - No. A. ~~1111~~ 09488986A. - which was found in ACQUA'S possession. He said that this he had obtained from a British prisoner of war at OVINDOLI in exchange for an Italian currency note.

My suspicions, however, were strongly aroused by the fact that ALBERTI and PELLEGRINI wore underclothes of precisely the same pattern and that the suits and overcoats and hats of all three were brand new and of exactly the same pattern, and bearing the same maker's marks. Whilst they were searched together I asked ALBERTI where he had obtained his underclothing. He replied that he had got them from his father, who was a Carabinieri. I asked PELLEGRINI the same question immediately afterwards and he told me that the Germans at OVINDOLI had given them to him, with his suit, overcoat and hat. ALBERTI then said that his suit, overcoat and hat were purchased in Rome. ACQUA on questioning, said the same thing. PELLEGRINI was wearing German Military boots, which he said had also been given to him at OVINDOLI. The other two men were wearing boots, which I identified as Italian Paratroop boots.

Later the same day, at about 1400 hours, I again questioned PELLEGRINI as to his movements on the German side of the lines during the ten days which he had claimed to have taken in fleeing from Rome. I might mention here that during my initial interrogation, PELLEGRINI had said that all three had come on foot from Rome, starting on 12th January, 1944, at 1400 hours. He had said that the

Page 2.

only lift which they had had was for a distance of 20-30 kilometers shortly after leaving Rome and that they had then continued the journey on foot, to the Sangro, without any conveyance or any contact with other persons, avoiding main roads all the way. On my again questioning him, he changed his story, and said that he had in fact, with the others, had a lift by German truck from Rome to OVINDOLI, where he had stayed for 5-6 days, leaving on 19th January, 1944, on foot during the evening, crossing the river Sangro on the night of the 21st January, 1944.

He also said that he passed SUIRONA at 4-0pm on 20th January, 1944, I pointed out to him that this meant that he had travelled in 2 days a distance of 200 kilometers (about) through mountainous and difficult territory, a task which was clearly impossible, particularly without a regular guide. I also indicated to him that his physical condition, and the condition of his boots and clothing, bore no evidence whatsoever of such an arduous journey. When confronted with all these facts he broke down, wept and asked to be allowed to make a confession to a priest.

This he was allowed to do and he subsequently made a signed and written statement in the presence of the Priest, the Mayor of Sangro, the secretary of Sangro, and myself. The written statement which Lt. Gale has just produced to me is the one made by FELLEGRINI under the circumstances which I have just explained.

Later the same day I again questioned ACQUA and asked him questions based upon what FELLEGRINI had said, thus indicating to him that I was aware of the true nature of his mission. He then made a signed statement in my presence. I acknowledge the statement shown to me by Lt. Gale as being that made by ACQUA. Whilst I was questioning ACQUA on the lines I have indicated, ALBERTI was present in the same room and must have heard all that was being said. He thereupon asked for a pencil and paper and made a signed statement himself. That statement is the one which Lt. Gale has produced to me. It was made and signed in the presence of Corporal Henry Bernard Dawson, I7 Field Security Section, who forwarded it to me.

On 23rd January, 1944, at about mid-day, I handed the three prisoners to Captain Bloodworth for passing to the appropriate interrogation centre.

Another point which I ought to mention is that ACQUA, when questioned by Corporal Dawson and myself, at first denied all knowledge of the German language, but shortly before making the written statement he was confronted with the fact that his mother (according to FELLEGRINI'S statement) was of German birth and that he was known to have spent some years in Germany. He then admitted to a perfect knowledge of the German language. I must add that I also asked FELLEGRINI further questions to illustrate his statement and he informed me that among other things he was to observe particularly the Nationalities of Allied fighting troops and specially to identify Divisional signs. He was shown photographs of such signs by the Germans, prominent among which was the "battle axe". This statement has been read to me and it is true.

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(Signed) R.B.Fletcher. S/Sergt.
T0350581.

Statement taken down, read over and signature witnessed by me.

(Signed) Louis V. Gale. Lieutenant.
P.279377. H.Q. A.C.C. Security Branch.

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
SECURITY BRANCH.

SIGNED STATEMENT BY PELLEGRINI CARLO.

I have been employed during the last time by the Ministero dell' Agricoltura e Foreste. When this Ministero has been transferred TREVISE I remained without work and, thereupon, I tried to underwrite myself to the Parachute troops "Nembo". But knowing that after being attached to this unit I must leave Rome in order to go to Spoleto and from Spoleto to Hamburg (Germany) where there is a great airfield and the soldiers before commencing their training must declare allegiance to Hitler.

I deserted twice and I tried to escape by train in order to go to Treviso where an uncle of mine lives; he is a Colonel. The boots I am wearing were given to me in Foligno where I was stationed in a parachute unit. It was a Parachute H.Q. which was later transferred to Spoleto.

Occasionally at Termini railway station I met these two men who were my companions during the travel, and whose statement I don't know. One of them, a Lieutenant in the Engineers, invited us to his house because the trains were not running. For two days I was his guest. Then we returned to the station. I was intending to leave for Treviso, the Lieutenant for Milan, and Alberti for Spezia. However, this was impossible because the railway had been bombed.

On our return from the railway station Alberti met a friend, a native of Spezia, who was in the Parachute unit "San Marco". I was then arrested by a patrol because I was dressed in parachute uniform. I was taken to the Ministry of War. While I was being taken away, Alberti's friend, who was a stranger to me, spoke to me and promised that he would try everything he could to prevent me being shot. I didn't know how he was going to do this. Two hours later Alberti's friend arrived with a German Lieutenant, and they set me free.

Outside the Ministry of War there was an Alfa Romeo car. I got in the car with Alberti's friend, whose name is Brambilla, the German Lieutenant, and a Yugo Slav woman who was a friend of Brambilla's. The driver was a German soldier, who drove to a restaurant in a street near where we all had dinner. Also in the car were Acqua Gastano and Alberti Emilio. The German Lieutenant paid 500 lire for the dinner, and during the meal Alberti explained how he was able to effect my liberation. He said that I was not shot because they had been able to obtain my release on the condition that I was going to do German espionage work, and therefore I must collaborate with them.

I was going to escape, but I found that it was impossible because

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I was going to escape, but I found that it was impossible because there were seven persons present. After dinner we went in the car and drove to Ovindoli, and I slept at the Albergo Montevalino, which I found was a German espionage H.Q. where everyone received a particular job.

My job was to go through the lines and then to CASTEL DI SANRO * VILLA SANTA MARIA - ROCCASCALEGNA - CASOLI - PENNA PIEDIMONTE in order to obtain military information, such as the number of troops, nationalities, types of arms etc. Alberti's job was to go to ALBANO, and to cover all the area round Cassino.

Acqua Gaetano's job was to go to Isernia - Foggia - Bari - Termoli - and in Bari to meet other German agents (whose names I do not know) who are already there. 6

Alberti, Acqua, a German driver, three prisoners and I left OVINOLI with the Alfa Romeo car to Aquila. There were brought the three prisoners to a concentration camp. From Aquila we went in the car to Roccaraso, where we stayed for a day. On 20th. Jan, accompanied by two Germans we reached ROCCA GUARIGLIA where there were about 60 Germans.

I didn't see any guns because we were forbidden to look around. In the Church there was ammunition. From ROCCA GUARIGLIA with a patrol of seven Germans we went to the River Sangro, and near a destroyed farmhouse we found another party patrolling the bank of the river. The first patrol had brought a boat from ROCCA GUARIGLIA in which we crossed the river.

We crossed the river and stepped before CASTELLO and we stayed out in the open all night. This morning we went up to the Castello, and when we saw the English we reported immediately to them, stating that we were Italians.

In OVINDOLI there are anti aircraft Bofors guns around the town, and on the top of Monte Arpino. At the Albergo Monte Velice there is a German espionage H.Q. and while I was there an Italian came in, having carried out a mission. There are mines from CADISPOLI to MACCARESE, also guns, and the area has been artificially flooded.

I followed my two companions with the only purpose of going through the lines in order to reach my aunt in Naples. Her name is Anna(illegible) living at Vico Leone alla Dogana N.7.

I am an orphan, and I cannot work because I have a chest disease. I did not try to travel alone because I could not shake myself free from

my two companions, also they took me away from Rome in a hurry and threatened to take my life. I am only 18 years old.

I state that this is the first time that I was in (illegible) I know that the Germans are going to attack on this front, and therefore they sent us here in order to obtain information regarding the number of troops. The attack is to take place in ten days, and we have been ordered to return in six days. Whatever has been written by the lawyer TULLIO CASACCHIA is the truth. I have made this statement in the presence of Staff Sergeant FLETCHER.

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
SECURITY BRANCH.

STATEMENT BY ALBERT EMILIO DI GIOVANNI.

23. Jan, 44.

At ROME I met an old friend with a black beard who proposed that I should undertake a mission into Allied Territory - risky and well paid. Having accepted, I went to see his Tenente - FISCHER - who promised to use me.

I left ROME at 4 o'clock in the afternoon. We arrived at OVINDOLI at 0100 hours at the Espionage H.Q. For two days nothing was done. I left OVINDOLI at 5 o'clock on 19 Jan, 44. We passed by Aquila where three prisoners we were carrying were dropped - one Scot and two French. We left Aquila for SCANO where we stopped with engine trouble. We stopped for seventeen hours, and then another truck came, put at our disposition, and we went to ROCCARASO, where we arrived at 1000 hours and at 1200 hours we left again for ROCCACINQUEMIGLIA with three men who were carrying a machine gun, amm, food and an inner tube.

We arrived there at 0300 hours on 22 Jan, 44. That evening we left with a patrol for the Sangro; at 2200 hours we became lost on the side of a hill, and were refused help by a German patrol. On the morning of the 23rd we climbed the mountain, and within five minutes we were in front of English positions, where a Captain had us accompanied to this (FORLI) H.Q.

HEADQUARTERS.
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION.
SECURITY BRANCH.

TRANSLATION OF SIGNED STATEMENT BY ACQUA GAETANO.

23-I-44.

I met in Rome a German Lieutenant, who offered me to work with him. He stated that my job was to go through the line and after relate what I had seen. The same day we went to Orindoli, where was his H.Q. I remained there for two or three days and after I have been sent in mission. I left on 5 oclock in the afternoon the 19 Jan with a car to the Sangro line.

I stopped first in Scanne, place where I would have to go on. I stayed a night in Scapno and the day after in the afternoon I left again with a car to Sulmona. From Sulmona I went on to Reccarase.

In Reccarase I stopped almost two hours. Then I went to Roccacinquemiglia with a mules column. I arrived at Roccacinquemiglia at 11 in the night. I stayed there a day and a half. The night on 22 accompanied by soldiers I crossed the Sangro river with a boat. At 21 I went over the Sangro. I knew that my first job was to reach Castello del Sangro. But, crossing over mountains, I lost the right direction. I stopped awhile in order to keep a little rest and then I went on. Feeling tired I stopped on the top of a hill, which I climbed up. I was hoping to find out the area where I was moving to.

I spent all the night on the top of the hill and with sunshine I moved again. But after five minutes I went just before an english position.

A Captain ordered a soldier to accompany me to Castel del Sangro. I have been accompanied to a H.Q. as prisoner. This is absolutely the truth.

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
SECURITY BRANCH

STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE obtained by Captain J.V.COOPER
No.2 S.I.(b) Unit, from interrogation on 29 January, 1944 of +
the undermentioned :-

1.

PELLEGRINI Carlo fu Carlo, born 30 November, 1925 at Rome; mother - TROPEANI Amchia - resides at Via Oreste Salamone 83, Rome. Attended school for professional training in Rome but had to leave early owing to the family's financial straits. He was employed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry but at the time of the Armistice was in Rome without a job. When the Germans began to round up youths he enlisted in the "Nembo" Parachute Division. He subsequently deserted from MACCARESE and made his way back to Rome, from where he intended to get a train to TREVISO to see his uncle.

On 15 January, 1944 he went to Termini (Rome) Railway Stn. to catch a train for TREVISO, where he met ACQUA and ALBERTI who likewise were waiting for trains for Milan and Spezia respectively. This was the first time he had met either of them. All train services were dislocated and they could not travel and at ACQUA's invitation the other two stayed with him at his house, where they remained for two days. When later they were returning from a visit to the railway station, they met a friend of ALBERTI, and at the same time, PELLEGRINI was arrested by a military patrol as a deserter, at which time he was still wearing his parachute trooper's uniform.

ALBERTI's friend said that he would get him released and shortly afterwards came to the Ministry of War with a German Lieutenant and effected his release. They left the Ministry of War in an Alfa Romeo in which were also ACQUA, ALBERTI and a woman, and then lunched together in a restaurant, during which the German Lieutenant said that he must do espionage work for the Germans in exchange for his having been liberated.

During the afternoon, the whole party left in the car for OVINDOLI which they reached at about 11.p.m. They stayed there 2-3 days, during which ACQUA became friendly with a French prisoner-of-war and they spoke together in excellent German. They received their instructions from a German Lieutenant.

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During the afternoon, the whole party left in the car for OVINDOLI which they reached at about 11 pm. They stayed there 2-3 days, during which ACQUA became friendly with a French prisoner-of-war and they spoke together in excellent German. They received their instructions from a German Lieutenant and were told that they must obtain all possible military information regarding direction of convoys, distinctive signs (the battle-axe - yellow on black background was particularly mentioned), nationalities of fighting troops, gun positions and aerodromes. The areas allotted to them were as follow:

PELLEGRINI	-	Castel di Sangro - Villa Santa Maria -
		Roccascalegna - Penna - Piedimonte.
ALBERTI	-	Alfadena - Cassino.
ACQUA	-	ISERNIA - FOGGIA - BARI - TERMOI.

According to PELLEGRINI, ACQUA was also to contact existing German agents in Bari. Each man was given a password to use on returning through the lines. They were told to return within 5-7 days, except ACQUA, who was given longer. PELLEGRINI was given 1000 lire, ALBERTI - 900 lire, whilst ACQUA was told that he would be paid on his return.

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PELLEGRINI? ACQUA, and ALBERTI, the Scottish prisoner, two French prisoners, and a German driver left OVINDOLI in the Alfa-Romeo about 18th January, 1944. They deposited the prisoners at AQUILA and went on to SCANNO, where the car broke down. The Germans procured another car but owing to the road being impassable they went to ROCCARASO via SULMONA. From ROCCARASO the party went with a mule column, accompanied by German guides to ROCCACINQUEMIGLIA, arriving at 2300 hours on 20th January, 1944. They stayed there until the night of 21 January and then crossed the River SANGRO in a boat. They wandered about for a while and slept in the open for the rest of the night. In the morning they woke to find themselves near the castle at CASTEL di SANGRO and were taken prisoner by English soldiers, without an attempt to escape.

2.

ALBERTI Emilio di Giovanni; mother - Di CRESCINI Sesta. Parents reside - Via Lorenzo Campeggi int 128. Born 17 July, 1927 at Rome. After leaving school became a wood-worker. His father was a Carabinieri. On 11 September, 1943 went to a military training school at CAPANELLI, where Italian youths were being trained by the Germans. On 5th October, 1943 he was transferred to a preliminary parachute training school at FURBANA. On Xmas Day he deserted but was arrested by an Italian Parachute Officer and was sent back to SPEZIA. On 2 January, 1944 he was given 13 days leave, which he spent with his mother. On 15th January he went to Termini (Rome) Railway Station to get a train back to SPEZIA. There he met the other two men; both were waiting for trains, ACQUA intending to go to Milan as an interpreter. From this point onwards his story was identical with that of PELLEGRINI. He gives the areas of his own mission for the Germans as - ALFADENA - ACQUAFONDATA - SAN VITTORE.

3.

ACQUA Gaetano fu Gaetano; mother - SCHMIDT Emmy (born at Halle, Germany) resides at Via Annia 48, Rome. Subject was born on 26th January, 1926 at Rome. Studied at a Catholic school and at the Istituto Massimo, Rome until about five years ago. Subsequently he worked for the Federazione Italiana di Consorzi Agrari and later for Ente Ricupero Italiana Antarchici. At the time of the Armistice he was unemployed but early in January, 1944 was selected to go as an interpreter at MILAN, with the rank of 2nd Lieutenant.

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His account from 15 January, 1944, when the three met at Termini Railway Station, agrees substantially with those of the other two men, with the exception that he emphatically denies that it was suggested he should contact already existing agents in BARI. Also, he says that, before the luncheon party, in Rome, the German Lieutenant promised to give him work there as an interpreter.

(Signed) J.V.COOPER Captain.
No.2 S.I. (b) Unit.

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