

ACC 10000/143/2615

149.01/MP

POLTRONIERI MARIO - SCARPELLINI VIRGILIO

MAR. - Ap. 1944

(C) MARIO - SCARPELLINI VIRGILIO (ENEMY AGENTS)

- Ap. 1944

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HEADQUARTERS

A.C.C

SECURITY BRANCH

A.P.O
394

26th. April. 1944.

S.B./311.5/149

SUBJECT. Enemy Agents. (POLTRONIERI Mario, and SCARPELLINI Virgilio)

TO. A.C. of S., G-2 (C.I) Fifth Army.
Col. A.E.Young, Director, Security Branch, A.C.C.

1. On the 12th. April, 1944, the above named Enemy Agents appeared before a General Allied Military Court at Santa Maria on a charge of Espionage on behalf of the Enemy.

2. The Court was composed of:-

Major W.Waugh. U.S.Army. (PRESIDENT)
Wing Cmdr. H.M.Dickie. British.
Major W.G.Elder. Canadian Army.

3. The prosecution was conducted by:-

Lt. Col. J.L.Willis. British.

The defence was conducted by:-

Capt. H.L.Glenn. U.S.Army.

4. The case was heard in Caserta, and the Court entered pleadings of "Not Guilty" on behalf of both prisoners.

5. The hearing lasted two days - 12th and 13th April, 1944 - and after hearing evidence on behalf of the prosecution and the defence, the Court returned a verdict of "Guilty" against SCARPELLINI, whom they sentenced to be "Shot to death", and a verdict of "Not Guilty" against POLTRONIERI.

6. The prisoner POLTRONIERI was taken into custody by the C.I.C., at the conclusion of the case, and I understand, will be interned for the duration of the war.

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7. The case against POLTRONIERI was made difficult to prove, as, when he ultimately confessed he stated that he was afraid of SCARPELLINI and that was why he told a false story in the first place. This difficulty was increased by the witnesses who could not clearly recollect whether POLTRONIERI was interviewed separately, which would have enabled

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enabled/ him to tell the true story in the first place . In his confession he stated, that before they crossed the lines he told SCARPELLINI that he had no intention of returning to the Germans and intended telling the Allies the truth in the first place. POLTRONIERI also stated that when he said this, SCARPELLINI threatened to kill him.

8. The prisoner SCARPELLINI gave evidence on behalf of POLTRONIERI, and bore out all POLTRONIERI had said . Under these circumstances the Court had no alternative but to return a verdict of "Not Guilty" in the case of POLTRONIERI, as there was a complete absence of the element of "INTENT".


W. R. Hare.
Captain.

Security Branch, A.C.C.

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A.C.C.
SECURITY BRANCHAPRIL
5 1944

Subject: Enemy Agents (PULTRONIERI Mario and SCARPELLINI Virgilio).

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

1. On the 11th of March 1944 the two subjects were arrested by British troops early in the morning while crossing from the German to the Allied lines near Minturno.
2. Their story in substance was to the effect that they had escaped from the Germans who had forced them to work for them, and they desired to work for the Allies.
3. The two Subjects continued with this story through the various interrogation points - which will be dealt with in more detail later - until they reached RIF.
4. At RIF they first of all continued with this same story, but eventually admitted that this story was wrong and admitted being enemy agents. The agent SCARPELLINI has completed several missions for the Germans prior to this one.
5. The witnesses who are available to testify in this case, and what they can be expected to say is as follows:

SERGEANT S. CAMPOSE, MP Platoon, 28th Infantry Division, U. S. Army, from whom a statement has been taken, copy attached, will say that during the morning of 11 March 1944 he was in charge of the P.W. Collecting Point. At about 1030 hours, the two subjects were brought to their P.W. Collecting Point by an American Officer, who stated that he had received Subjects from British Troops who had arrested Subjects earlier that day in the forward area. This witness says that Subjects were eager to talk and told the following story: "Our home is about 600 kilometers from here. We have been working for the Germans, making dugouts and gun emplacements for three months. We were badly treated by the Germans. They gave us only one piece of bread per day, and once when we complained about it they beat us. So we decided to escape and come over to your side."

J. C. GRAY, Special Agent, CIC, from whom a statement has been taken, copy attached, will say, that during the morning of 11th March, 1944 he was on an inspection tour of the forward areas, and called at the P.W. Forward Collecting Point, in the vicinity of Minturno. This was at about 1130 hours and Sgt. Campose told him of the receipt of the Subjects. The sergeant said to this witness that the two Subjects had

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something to say about the enemy. This witness states that this conversation took place in the presence of the Subjects but as they had previously informed him that they do not speak English he does not think they understand what Campese said to him. This witness then transported the Subjects to 88th Infantry Division PW Cage and they told their separate stories. Notes were made of the story at the time by this witness and a copy of these notes is attached. The story was told by the Subjects to this witness, separately, and through an Italian - English Interpreter T/Sgt. MILICI Giacchino, MP Platoon 88th Infantry Division, from whom a statement has been taken, copy attached. The following day 12 March 1944 this witness handed Subjects to OSI(b), 10 Corps to which unit they told a similar story as told to Special Agent Gray. Before handing the Subjects over to O.S.I.(b), 10 Corps they were searched in the presence of Gray and the following property was found in their respective possession.

POLTRONIERI:

One black leather wallet.
Two snapshot photographs.
2025 Lire in Italian Currency.
1900 Lire in AMG Currency.

SCARPELLINI:

One leather wallet.
2073 Lire in Italian Currency.
5801 Lire in AMG Currency.
Ten snapshot photographs.
Nine religious tracts.
One comb.

HORSFALL, J. Captain. OSI(b), 10 Corps, from whom a statement has been taken - Copy attached - from which it will be seen that on 12th March 1944 his unit received Subjects for CIC, 88th Infantry Division, U.S. Army. This officer interrogated them both in Italian and at no time did they say they were Enemy Agents, but as he was suspicious of them he passed them back to RIF, 5th Army through 278 P.S. Section.

With reference to the evidence of Captain J. Horsfall I submit that it will not be necessary to call him, as he made his statement in my presence, and I can produce it as hearsay evidence, more to complete the chain of evidence than anything else.

While the Subjects were at the Forward PW Collecting Point on the 11th March 1944, they were interrogated by 2nd Lt. Wolfgang Lehmann, U. S. Army to whom they told the story of escaping from the Germans. A statement has been obtained from Lehmann, a copy of which is attached, but I submit that his evidence will not be necessary.

COZZETTA Luigi, SEM Agent, Italian, from whom a statement has been taken, copy attached. It will be seen from this statement that this witness is engaged at RIF, Prisoner of War Enclosure #326, Fifth Army, and that the Subjects were received there from 278 P.S. During the morning of 11 March 1944, this witness interrogated POLTRONIERI who purported to give his history since 1938.

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Subject was telling this story until about 1150 hours when he was supplied with food, and witness went to eat. The story was continued about 1230 hours and Poltronieri suggested to this witness that he should tell Scarpellini to talk. This witness left Poltronieri and went to see Scarpellini, ~~and what happened there will be dealt with later.~~ The witness returned to Poltronieri about 15 minutes later and handed him paper, pen and ink and invited him to write his true story. Subject wrote his story - a copy of which is attached ^{to} in which he admits being a German Agent, but states he did not intend ^{to} to the Germans with any information.

1st Lt., Melio A. TORINI, Officer Commanding RLP, Prisoner of War Enclosure #326, Fifth Army, from whom a statement has been taken - copy attached - who will say that Subjects were received at his Interrogation Point on 13 March 1944 under similar circumstances as mentioned by the last witness. This witness did not interrogate Subject - SCARPELLINI - until 14 March 1944. It is interesting to note that the description of this Subject under the name of VIRGILIO, which is subject's first name, was in possession of this witness before the arrest of this Subject, but Subject was not informed of this. This witness interrogated SCARPELLINI and made notes of what the latter said at the time. These notes are included in statement of witness, which is similar in substance to the false story Subject had told from the time of his arrest. During the afternoon Subject - SCARPELLINI confessed to being a German Agent and went so far as to say he was not afraid although he felt certain that he would have to face the firing squad.

The Subject made his statement of Confession in his own handwriting, a copy of which is attached. This Subject (SCARPELLINI) admitted having made a previous Espionage journey into Allied Lines, and on the 15th March 1944, he made another statement in his own handwriting setting out the information he had taken back to the Germans on his last mission.

There can be no doubt about SCARPELLINI being an enemy agent, and there should be no difficulty in obtaining his conviction.

In the case of POLTRONIERI, there may be some difficulty in obtaining a conviction as he states that he did not intend to return to the Germans with any information. He states that he told SCARPELLINI of his intentions not to return before they were arrested, and this is born out by SCARPELLINI. Against this there are the facts that although interviewed several times by different units he told a false story for several days, which is hardly ~~consistent~~ with his alleged intention not to return with information to the enemy.

Under the circumstances I suggest both Subjects be charged with Espionage.

W. R. HARE
W. R. HARE,
Capt. AOC,
Security Branch.

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ENEMY AGENTS

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88th Inf. Div.STATEMENT OF S. CAMPESE, SGT., AND F. PRATT, PFC, M.P. PLATOON, 88th INF. DIV.

I, Sergeant S. Campese and I, Pfc F. Pratt, MP Platoon, 88th Infantry Division, state that we were in charge of the forward P.W. collecting point near Minturno on 11 March 1944 and received at that point on said date about 1030 o'clock two civilians named POLTRONIERI, Mario and SCARPELLINI, Virgilio. They were brought in by liaison officer, Lt. Theobald of the 350th Infantry Regiment, 88th Infantry Division. Lt. Theobald stated that the two men were apprehended that morning by the 2nd Squad of the 5th Recce Troop (British, since removed).

These men were eager to talk and told us in substance the following story:

"Our home is about 600 kilometers from here. We have been working for the Germans, making dugouts and gun emplacements for three months. We were badly treated by the Germans. They gave us only one piece of bread per day and once when we complained about it they beat us. So we decided to escape and come over to your side."

At this point Special Agent J. G. Gray and Agent Michael J. Baglio, CIC, arrived at the collecting point and we turned POLTRONIERI and SCARPELLINI over to them with the information stated above.

29 March 1944

/s/ Sgt. S. Campese
SGT. S. Campese,
MP Platoon,
88th Inf. Div.

/s/ Pfc. F. Pratt
PFC, F. Pratt,
MP Platoon,
88th Inf. Div.

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COUNTER INTELLIGENCE CORPS
88th INFANTRY DIVISION

STATEMENT OF J. G. GRAY, SPECIAL AGENT, CIC, 88TH INFANTRY DIVISION

I, J. G. Gray, Special Agent, CIC, 88th Infantry Division, make the following statement regarding the apprehension, interrogation and disposition of POLTRONIERI, Mario and SCARPELLINI, Virgilio.

On the morning of 11 March 1944, while on an inspection tour of forward areas, in the company of Agent Michael Baglio, I stopped at the Prisoner of War Forward Collection Point, in the vicinity of Minturno. This was at approximately 1130 hours. Sgt. S. Campese, M.P. in charge of the collecting point, delivered to me the Subjects named above. Sgt. Campese stated in substance "These two men were brought to the collecting point about 1030 hours and have interesting information to tell us about the enemy. They came through the lines today and were delivered to me by Lt. Theobald of the 350th Infantry Regiment. They have just begun to tell me their story."

After transporting POLTRONIERI and SCARPELLINI to the 88th Infantry Division P.W. Cage, and securing the services of T/Sgt Giacchino Milici, M.P. as interpreter, I heard the following story from POLTRONIERI:

29 March 1944

/s/ J. G. Gray
J. G. GRAY,
Special Agent, CIC

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POLTRONIERI's Story

My home is in Marcana, province of Mantova, and I am twenty seven years old. I have taken my mother's name since I am illegitimate. Later my mother married and has several children to my stepfather. I have served several years in the Italian Navy. At the time of the Armistice my ship was at Trieste. We had orders to scuttle it and then flee. I went to my home for a short period, but left when I got into a fight with a Fascist Carabinieri who came to my home to arrest my uncle for anti-fascist activities. To escape arrest I fled South and reached Rome sometime in November 1943. There I was soon arrested by the Germans and forced to work for them. I worked on the roads near Pontecorvo, December 5 to December 9, and was taken to Cassino where I worked on the roads between Cassino and San Giorgio for awhile. I also worked during this period on defenses in Cassino and often had to carry ammunition to the front lines for the Germans.

On the 28th of December 1943 I was taken to Itri where I worked until three days ago, the 8th of March, when I escaped. I asked to go to the latrine and instead of returning to the house, where we were staying I ran into the woods. Soon I met SCARPELLINI, whom I knew only during my time at Itri. We had not known each other well, but decided to stay together. We spent the first two nights after our escape, at Fondi, and last night March 10th, we came to Scauri in the hope of crossing to Allied territory. It was dark when we got to Scauri and we hid in a brick kiln there. Soon we heard a German patrol coming along and decided to follow it, since we knew it would be coming toward the English lines. The patrol left the road at one point and then came back to it again, and I am sure this section of the highway is mined. About midnight we reached the last German defense and saw German machine gun nests.

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They looked dangerous but we knew it was now or never, so we made a dash for it. They heard us and began to fire. We fell flat and lay there for a long time. Later we inched our way forward and about dawn came to the English lines. I tripped over a pull cord to a land mine but luckily I caught myself in time and did not set it off. The English beckoned us to come toward them, as they were not going to take the chance of coming to get us. They brought us back to the collecting point about 1030 o'clock."

SCARPELLINI was next interrogated and told us his story: (See next page).

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SCARPELLINI's Story

"I am a native of Ranica in the province of Bergamo, where I was born on 22 January 1925. My father's name is Emilio Scarpellini, my mother's name is Parisio Bertina. They are living at Ranica at present with four of my sisters and brothers. I was living at home at the time of the Armistice, soon after the Armistice the Germans took me from my home for forced labor. I have been working for them ever since until the time of my escape on the 8th of March 1944. Most of the time I have been working in the vicinity of Itri, building entrenchments, road blocks and carrying ammunition. I have known POLTRONIERI, my companion for about a month, when he was brought to Itri to assist in the same kind of labor as I was engaged in.

I escaped the Germans in the following manner. Both of us were friendly with a German soldier named Max, who was one of those in charge of us. He trusted POLTRONIERI and me and did not guard us closely. On the 8th of March, three days ago, I asked permission to go to the latrine, which was a little distance from the house in which we were staying. I walked behind it and then ran into the woods. After walking for about 10 minutes I met POLTRONIERI who had also escaped. We stayed in the mountains in hiding and worked our way south. On the evening of the 10th of March we reached Scuri. We followed a German patrol toward the front lines. About midnight we came upon some German machine gun positions. We ran past them. They heard us and fired but did not hit us. We lay low until dawn when we advanced into the English lines. Soldiers brought us back to where you found us.

The money, in Allied Currency (approx. 5600 lire) was given to me by ~~37~~ 37-lish prisoners for whom I did favors. The Germans pay no attention to this money and throw it around carelessly. The Italian money (approx. 2300 lire)

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I earned during the period I worked for the Germans."

POLTRONIEU and SCARPELLINI were turned over to Lt. W. Lehmann for tactical interrogation (See Lt. Lehmann's enclosed statement and report). On 12 March 1944, I took them to 10th Corps (British) PWS where they were delivered to the custody of the FSO, along with the report of interrogation which the FSO requested.

/s/ J. G. Gray
J. G. Gray
Special Agent, CIC

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M.P. PLATOON
88th Inf. Div.

STATEMENT OF GIACCHINO MILICI, T/Sgt., M.P. Platoon, 88th Infantry Div.

I, T/Sgt. Giacchino Milici, M.P., 88th Infantry Division, acted as interpreter for the interviews of POLTRONIERI, Mario and SCARPELLINI, Virgilio and certify that I have read the enclosed reports and that Agent Gray, CIC, has given a true account of the interviews.

/s/ Giacchino Milici
/t/ T/Sgt., Giacchino Milici,
M.P. Platoon,
88th Inf. Div.

29 March 1944

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88th Infantry Division

STATEMENT OF LEHMANN, WOLFGANG J., 01318811, 2nd LT., Inf., PW Interrogator

I, 2nd Lt. Wolfgang J. Lehmann, 01318811, as a P. W. interrogator attached to the 88th Infantry Division.

✓ On 11th of March 1944 I interrogated POLTRONIERI, Mario and SCARPELLINI, Virgilio for tactical information. POLTRONIERI requested to be interrogated alone, stating that he trusted no one. When questioned as to his recent movements he stated the following: "I am POLTRONIERI, Mario, by profession a sailor. My home is in Marcana, province of Mantova. I fled northern Italy and arrived in Rome late in November 1943, where I was apprehended by the Germans and forced to work on roads near Pontecorvo from the 5th to the 9th of December 1943. I was then taken to Cassino and San Giorio where I worked on roads, defenses and carried ammunition until the 28th of December 1943. On the 28th of December 1943 I was sent to Itri, where I built defenses and carried ammunition until the 8th of March 1944. I and SCARPELLINI, Virgilio escaped from the Germans and we went to Formia. We remained in Formia the 9th of March and the night of 9th and 10th of March 1944. On the 10th of March we went to Ceauri. During the night of the 10th to 11th of March we followed a German patrol to a point between the lines. We remained in "no man's land" for the rest of the night and walked over into the American lines the morning of the 11th of March."

was this correct?
→ POLTRONIERI, Mario, when questioned concerning troop units in the vicinity of Formia stated that the Russian troops in this area were two distinctive insignia: 1) collar patches with white crossed sabers on red background 34) a red-yellow-blue shield on the left sleeve of the uniform. POLTRONIERI also stated that these troops had their own officers. All these statements were corroborated by SCARPELLINI, Virgilio. Since none of a large number of civil-

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ians interrogated by myself later corroborated this information I believe it to be false.

Furthermore, I believe it extremely unlikely that POLTROBISERI and SCARPELLINI would be able to give the detailed information concerning Formia if they had spent only one day in Formia.

/s/ Wolfgang J. Lehmann
WOLFGANG J. LEHMANN,
2nd Lt., Inf.
F. W. Interrogator,
88th Inf. Div.

29 March 1944

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STATEMENT BY
Capt John Campbell HORSFALL - Intelligence Corps re

SCARFELLINI Virgilio

POMTRONIERI Marco

check
The above two Italian civilians were received at 10 Corps PW on 12 March 44 from C.I.C. Detachment 88 Inf Div (U.S.). They were interrogated the same day at SASSA by myself and passed back to 5 Army P.I.P. under suspicion of being enemy agents. At no time during the interrogation, which was carried on in Italian between myself and the two suspects separately, did they admit to being employed by the German Intelligence Service.

/s/ J. Horsfall
J. HORSFALL
Capt

10 Corps
In the Field
5th April 1944.

This statement made in my presence, and signature witnessed by me on 5th April, 1944, at Forward HQ., Fifth Army.

W. R. HARE,
Capt.
Security A.C.C.

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FIFTH ARMY
REFUGEE INTERROGATION POST
PME #326

4 April 1944

SUBJECT: POLTRONIERI, Mario, a confessed agent.

TO : AG of S, G-2 (G1 Section) Hq. 5th Army, APO #464, U. S. Army

Subject was sent to the Refugee Interrogation Post on 13 March 1944 by the 278 PS Section for further interrogation. He was first interrogated by this office on 14 March 1944 during the morning and gave the following narrative as his first story:

That his name was POLTRONIERI, Mario and that he was born at Macaria, Province of Mantova on 4 April 1920. His place of residence was given as Via Staziolo #10, Macaria and his employment as a laborer.

1938 - Volunteered in the Italian navy and completed a course of study in signaling at Pola.

1939 - Embarked on the ship "MAS 530" at Venice.

1940 - Transferred to the Navy Command at Messina. In July of this year transferred to Trapani.

8/2/41 - Transferred to Brindisi and later in the year to Taranto.

12/41 - Went home on a 20 day furlough but did not return consequently was a deserter at that time.

3/42 - Found by the authorities and sent to jail at Taranto for his desertion. During this same year he was transferred to La Spezia, where he was tried for desertion and given a three (3) year sentence. Sentence suspended.

8/42 - Transferred to Venice. Again deserted in June of 1943.

11/43 - Returned home. Knowing that the Carabinieri were searching for him and wanted him to present himself to the police of Verona, he went to Rovereto. He was there 10 days visiting at the home of his fiancée. Her name is MESCOLA 31 Via Santa Maria #40. Returned home on 21 November 1943.

24/11/43 - Went to San Martino D'Allargine at the home of his uncle. While there he went to bar one night and encountered a Fascist with whom he fought. During the same night he fought with the Commissario of the Fascio of San Martino D'Allargine.

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Returned home during the Month of November. The night after his return the Carabinieri came to the house and he escaped from back window. Left home the next day, for Parma. There he went to the ALBERGO MILANO and stayed there one day. The following day he went to BOLOGNA. He was at Bologna one day and then went to PRATO. That same night he went to CAMPI BISENZIO to visit a friend, LACCARELLI, Fioravanti. The next day he went to a "Cafe" with Laccarelli where he met two soldiers who asked him whether he wanted to cross the front lines with them, into Allied territory. During this same day he and the two soldiers leave for Florence in a Bus.

Subject claimed that he had gone to these various places in order to avoid being taken into custody by the Carabinieri.

At this point interrogation of subject was discontinued. He was given a can of C-Rations instead of being brought to the regular RI mess. The rations were given him in the interrogating room. Interrogation of subject started at approximately 1000 hours.

When the undersigned returned from lunch approximately 1230 hours he told the undersigned that he should contact his partner, SCARPELLINI, Virgilio, and tell him "to talk". The undersigned then left the room and went to the room where SCARPELLINI was being interrogated. About 15 minutes later the undersigned returned to POLTRONIERI and gave him paper, pen and ink and asked that put his story in the form of a statement. He stated that he would and admitted that he was an agent. Subject stated that he had no intentions of returning to German territory and further stated that he had told SCARPELLINI while they were crossing the lines that they should surrender themselves and tell all. SCARPELLINI corroborated subject by saying that POLTRONIERI had indicated a desire not to return to German territory.

Attached hereto is the original of subject's confession or statement. Subject finished his statement at about 1630 and was then taken to the Carcere at Aversa with SCARPELLINI for the night. He was given 2 cans of C-Rations and 2 cans of biscuits plus cigarettes and blankets.

On 15 March 1944 subject was removed from the Carcere and taken back to the RI for further interrogation. During this interview he gave this office information regarding personalities at FIUGGI. That night he was taken to the Fifth Army Security Jail with SCARPELLINI.

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HEADQUARTERS
FIFTH ARMY
G-2 SECTION

TRANSLATION DEPARTMENT

24 March, 1944

Translation of attached document is as follows:

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14 March, 1944

I, the undersigned POLTRONIERI Mario di N.N. and of Poltronieri Giuseppina, was born in MARCARIA, province of Mantua, on the 4th of April, 1920. I enrolled in the CREM of Pola in 1938, in the capacity of student signalman with Army serial number 49111. When I finished the course, they had me scheduled to go to Venice on board MAS 550. From Venice, I was transferred to Sicily, to the Augusta base. At this base I remained for a period of five months. Then, in the city itself, I was hospitalized for an operation for appendicitis. I was operated on, on the 23rd of May, 1940. When I was discharged from the hospital, ~~in~~ I received a convalescence furlough of 20 days.

On the 10th day of June, 1940, war broke out against England. I was recalled and, during the month of July I was on board ship, moving on towards Messina.

On the 20th of September, 1940, Messina^{NO} sent me on duty on the SS. della Colombaia, at Trapani. On the 8th of February, 1941, I embarked on the R.C.M. "Pulmine", at Brindisi, and landed at Naples on the 10th or 12th of June, 1941, in order to go to Brindisi.

Then I boarded the "Stige" at Taranto. They gave me a 20 day furlough.

I have been at Taranto, La Spezia, finally, at Venice where I fled from my unit. I went to ~~Legnano~~ Legnano, then Mantua, Brescia, Bergamo. Around the end of August, I was already at Varese and, during the first few days of September, I was at Intra. On the 8th of September occurred the Armistice and, a few days later, I fled to my home and began to work by dealing in contraband in order to earn something to eat.

During November, as a consequence of an argument with a "squadrismo" and the commissioner of the "Fascio", (both members of the Fascist party), I was forced to flee from my home and try to reach the English and American lines.

I stopped for almost the whole month of December between Pontecorvo and S. Giorgio; actually, in the valley so-called "Romita", waiting for the advance, and I was without food or rather I only ate grass. Then I decided to pass the line, and I began to go in the direction of the front at Rocca d'Avandro, where the Germans picked me up and made me construct some shelters.

On the 25th of January, I escaped from them and I took the road towards

I, the undersigned **POLTRONIERI Mario di N.N.** and of **Poltronieri Giuseppina**, was born in **MARCARIA**, province of Mantua, on the 4th of April, 1920. I enrolled in the **CREM** of Pola in 1938, in the capacity of student signalman with Army serial number 49111. When I finished the course, they had me scheduled to go to Venice on board **MAS 550**. From Venice, I was transferred to Sicily, to the Augusta base. At this base I remained for a period of five months. Then, in the city itself, I was hospitalized for an operation for appendicitis. I was operated on, on the 23rd of May, 1940. When I was discharged from the hospital, ~~in~~ I received a convalescence furlough of 20 days.

On the 10th day of June, 1940, war broke out against England. I was recalled and, during the month of July I was on board ship, moving on towards Messina.

On the 20th of September, 1940, ^{HO} **Messina** sent me on duty on the **SS. della Colonnaia**, at **Trapani**. On the 8th of February, 1941, I embarked on the **R.C.M. "Fulmineo"**, at **Erincisi**, and landed at Naples on the 10th or 12th of June, 1941, in order to go to **Prinivisi**.

Then I boarded the "Stige" at Taranto. They gave me a 20 day furlough.

I have been at Taranto, La Spezia, finally, at Venice where I fled from my unit. I went to ~~Legnano~~ **Legnano**, then **Mantua**, **Brescia**, **Bergamo**. Around the end of August, I was already at Varese and, during the first few days of September, I was at Intra. On the 8th of September occurred the Armistice and, a few days later, I fled to my home and began to work by dealing in contraband in order to earn something to eat.

During November, as a consequence of an argument with a "squadrismo" and the commissioner of the "Fascio", (both members of the Fascist party), I was forced to flee from my home and try to reach the English and American lines.

I stopped for almost the whole month of December between **Pontecorvo** and **S. Giorgio**; actually, in the valley so-called **"Romita"**, waiting for the advance, and I was without food or rather I only ate grass. Then I decided to pass the line, and I began to go in the direction of the front at **Rocca d'Erandro**, where the Germans picked me up and made me construct some shelters.

On the 25th of January, I escaped from them and I took the road to **ards** **29** **Cassino**, and I tried again but it was impossible. From there, I decided to return; I took the **Via Appia** and began to walk in the direction of Rome, following the route: **Via Aquino - Arco - Pindamonie S. Germano - Prosinone - Alatri**, **Piumicino - Fuggi**, where I was stopped by Fascists and they brought me to the barracks, where I found a naval warrant officer. He interrogated me and asked me for my documents and I told him that I had no documents. He asked me "why" and I answered him that the Germans had taken them away from me. He asked me in what branch I belonged and I told him, naval assistant head-signalman. Then he began to speak to me in a very confidential way and he told me that he had entered the service in order to get something to eat for his children but that he did not belong to the party. Then he asked me for my name and I did not know whether to give him my real name or rather a false one and so I gave him a false name of **Florio ATOS**, which was that of a friend of mine whom I knew in **Valle Romita**. Thus, he gave me sergeant's stripes and a declaration saying that he knew me for

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some time and that I had even been in the service with him. Then he signed it and brought it to his commanding officer. The latter called me and asked me if I had a family and I answered "no"; that I was alone in the world, and that I had always lived in the Institute down at Catania and that I had been born in Milan. Then he said: "Very well". "Are you faithful to Mussolini?" Then I answered him that I was very faithful to him. And he said, "Good. Have stripes given to him because his uniform is waiting for him." And so I was given my uniform.

That very night, the warrant Officer BRUCI Alfredo brought me to the "UNIVERSAL" hotel because he said that there were over there some variety performers and that we would spend a pleasant time, and, in fact, we did so. From that night on, I frequented this place where I saw all these youths who drank and sang (and said, "We are always in the front lines and perform very important missions.") And they made the young girls present see the occupation money and showed off their importance).

One evening I returned and I did not see them any longer. That was the evening of the 8th of February. The waiter told me: "Say ATOS, do you know that a fellow from your town showed up? When he comes from the show, I'll present him to you." So, I waited. After a short while, the waiter said: "Here he is" and presented him. Then he ordered a bottle of wine, we drank together, then he began to speak. He told me that he already had been four times in occupied territory and that he furnished information to the Germans. Then I asked him: "Could I get into this same work with you?" He answered, "Of course. Right now I am looking for young men which the Lieutenant told me to hire for this work. You come here tomorrow and I'll speak personally to the Lieutenant." The following day, at 1000 hours, I went to the inn and went to wake him up. While SCARPELLINI was washing himself, this Lieutenant came in and saw me in the room of SCARPELLINI and asked me who I was. I told him that I was a non-com in the militia and that I had an appointment with SCARPELLINI in order to talk with his Lieutenant. Then he answered me: "I am his Lieutenant. What do you want?" "I, Lieutenant, would like to enter into your service. I am a fellow who is not afraid and know how to keep quiet. I know a lot of things in which I could be of use to you." "Put of what type of work did you want to talk about with me?" "From what I have been able to learn from not only SCARPELLINI but also from others in your service, the work that they are doing is an espionage work and I would be very happy if you would let me take part in it and you will see that I will well serve you."

Finally, seeing that I really knew everything, he asked me for my militia identification papers and gave me five cigarettes and 500 liras. The following day, I had already transferred from the militia to the German command.

After a few days, the Lieutenant came again to take us away and he explained to us what we were supposed to do here: "You will go to Naples; You, Piorillo, who know well the port, shall enter and refer to SCARPELLINI all of the ships that are in the port. He will return here to us to report ~~xxxx~~ his information. Here are 2500 liras for each of you and 2000 in occupation money." He brought us on our way with his vehicle and brought us near Frosinone. There, another official brought us to Pico. The following day, a vehicle brought us to Scauri and we were consigned to an officer who gave us something to eat and then handed us over to a patrol with the passport.

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One evening I returned and I did not see them any longer. That was the evening of the 8th of February. The waiter told me: "Say ANOS, do you know that a fellow from your town showed up? When he comes from the show, I'll present him to you." So, I waited. After a short while, the waiter said: "Here he is" and presented him. Then he ordered a bottle of wine, we drank together, then he began to speak. He told me that he already had been four times in occupied territory and that he furnished information to the Germans. Then I asked him: "Could I get into this same work with you?" He answered, "Of course. Right now I am looking for young men which the lieutenant told me to hire for this work. You come here tomorrow and I'll speak personally to the lieutenant." The following day, at 1000 hours, I went to the inn and went to wake him up. While SCARPELLINI was washing himself, this lieutenant came in and saw me in the room of SCARPELLINI and asked me who I was. I told him that I was a non-com in the militia and that I had an appointment with SCARPELLINI in order to talk with his lieutenant. Then he answered me: "I am his lieutenant. What do you want?" "I, lieutenant, would like to enter into your service. I am a fellow who is not afraid and know how to keep quiet. I know a lot of things in which I could be of use to you." "But of what type of work did you want to talk about with me?" "From what I have been able to learn from not only SCARPELLINI but also from others in your service, the work that they are doing is an espionage work and I would be very happy if you would let me take part in it and you will see that I will well serve you."

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I did all this in order to succeed in passing the lines and to arrive, after

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such a long time and after so much suffering, to where I wanted to go.

14 March, 1944.

Signed: POLTRONIERI MARIO

Translated by:
Lt. C.J.E.

3/24/44.

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FIFTH ARMY
REFUGEE INTERROGATION POST
PTO #926

4 April 1944

SUBJECT: SCARPELLINI, Virgilio, a confessed agent.

TO : AG of 3, G-2, (G2 Section), Hq. 5th Army, APO #464, U. S. Army

Subject was sent to the Refugee Interrogation Post on 13 March 1944 by the 278 Pz Section accompanied by a "PT Case Commitment Form" indicating "interrogated by G2 10 Corps. Story may be genuine but worthy of further RIF investigation." This commitment form indicates that the G2C, 28th Division arrested subject.

Subject was first interrogated in the routine manner on the morning of 14 March 1944. Although subject's name appeared on a suspect list and his description fitted that given to this office by TESSORO, Vincenzo, also a confessed agent, of a "VIRGILIO" who TESSORO stated had been employed by the Germans, he was not cross-examined during the first interrogation. This was done on the theory that it would be easier to trap him on later interrogation if he gave a long false detailed account on preliminary interrogation. His first story is as follows:

He stated that his name was SCARPELLINI, Virgilio and that he was born at Ronico, Province of Bergamo on 22 January 1925 of Italian parents. His residence was given as Via De Capitano Isidoro #18. His father is Emilio and mother PARISEO, Martina. He stated that he was single and spoke only the Italian language. He was a Fascist for a period of 12 years and his Fascist connections continued until the fall of Mussolini on 25 July 1943. He denied having any criminal credit and asserted that he had crossed into Allied Territory on 11 March 1944 by crossing the lines at Seuri.

Subject stated that on the date of the fall of Fascism on 25 July 1944 he was residing at his home at Ronico working as a "Tessitori" (Garment worker) in the Tessitura Giovauchino, Roffi at Ronico. The factory was located near the town Cathedral. He continued this employment until 10 August 1944 at which time he went to work at the "Societa' Italiana Palmine" at Palmine, which is a town located 19 kilometers from Ronico. This plant was engaged in the manufacture of bombs and ammunition and he was employed as a bomb inspector. - He traveled back and forth from home and work by bicycle.

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He was employed at this place until about 3 November 1943. His work was not regular and during one of his off days he was captured by the Germans with seven other young men. He remembered the following: CONTINIS, Andrea; RUGGIERI, Abele; TERALON, Carlo; CHOTI, San Paolo. They were taken into custody on the outskirts of Panice and taken to the German Command in a truck. The bicycles were loaded on the truck also. Subject then stated that he and TERALON, Carlo were taken to Bologna whereas the others were taken elsewhere. The trip to Bologna was by truck. Immediately after their arrest they were taken to Bergamo and then on either the 4th or 5th of November 1943 they were taken to Bologna. They arrived at Bologna on either the 5th or 6th of November. There they were taken to a camp containing several barracks and which was located near the San Ruffillo railroad station. He was unable to describe the barracks. He spent either 12 or 13 days in Bologna. He had no duties to perform here and stated that there were approximately 30 other individuals there. He stated that he later understood that he was to be taken to PERCARE and TERALON and six others were to be taken to ROMA. Instead he was taken to ROMA and he does not know where the others finally were transferred.

Departed from Bologna on about the 16th of November and arrived at Rome on the next day. This trip was also made by German truck. He was quartered at the Ciampino Air Field near Rome. After spending 2 or 3 days there he claims to have been taken to Prosinone by truck. He spent about 20 days there without working during the entire period. He was quartered with others in 2 buildings approximately 4 kilometers north of Prosinone. He could not describe the buildings other than to say that one was white and the other painted with several colors.

Subject then stated that on 21 February 1944 he was transferred to Itri and remained there for approximately 1 month and 20 days. Here he met POLTRONIERI, Mario. At Itri he claimed to have been employed digging entrenchments, gun emplacements, etc. He remained at Itri until 3 March 1944 when he escaped. The escape, he claimed, had been planned by he, and POLTRONIERI approximately 3 days before they actually escaped. The escape was made by pretending that they were going to the toilet.

According to subject, he had no money when he went to work for the Germans and that the Germans had paid him 43 Lira per day. The Allied money which he carried he claimed to have received from a group of 19 Allied prisoners who had escaped from German Prisoner of War Camps and who were hiding in the mountains between Formia and Itri awaiting an opportunity to cross into Allied territory. He claimed that the money was given him because he was able to tell them that there were very few Germans between them and Allied territory.

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AGENT'S NOTES: Subject's story was obviously false from the following standpoint:

- (1) He carried more money than he could account for at 43 Lira per day that he claims to have received from the Germans.
- (2) The Germans do not ordinarily pay as much as 43 Lira per day to single men under any circumstances and certainly not if conscripted and forced to work.
- (3) The treatment subject received enroute is not the usual treatment given to individuals taken by the Germans for forced labor battalions.
- (4) The dates he claimed to have stayed at certain places did not account for all of the time available.
- (5) He claimed that escaped allied POW's gave him a sum which approximated \$60.00 (exact amount is not remembered at this date by the undersigned). This could be nothing but false because first of all the Germans strip our prisoners of the money they carry and secondly no escaped prisoner would pay such a sum for the information he allegedly gave. Having been in the mountains they would have just as much information as subject regarding the strength of the Germans as any particular point.

MELIO A. TONINI
1st Lt MI
Commanding M. I. P.

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FIFTH ARMY
REFUGEE INTERROGATION POST
PHE #326

4 April 1944

SUBJECT: SCARPELLINI, Virgilio, a Confessed Agent.

To : AG OF G. C-2, (CI Section), Hq. Fifth Army, APO #464, U. S. Army

Subject was admitted to the Refugee Interrogation Post on 13 March 1944 with papers from the 273 PS Section for further "RIP investigation." First interrogation of subject was conducted by the undersigned on 14 March 1944 commencing at about 1000. A copy of the first narrative given by subject is attached hereto and by this reference made a part of this report.

Subject's first narrative was completed at about 1200 but since there appeared little doubt in the mind of the undersigned that he was an enemy agent, he was not taken to the regular RIP room. Instead he was given C-Rations in our interrogating room. After his lunch interrogation was again commenced with Rex Roth, Special Agent CIC and Luigi Cossetta, Agent GIC present. He was pointed out his discrepancies in his story and told that he need no longer lie because we had definite proof that he was an enemy agent. Subject hesitated but after having been shown where his story was incorrect and told that he had been seen at Arpino and that on January 6th, 1944 he had gone on leave or vacation to his home. This information had been furnished us by PRIMO, Vincenzo previously. Subject finally admitted that he was an Agent and that he had crossed the lines on three previous occasions. He further stated that would talk and that he wanted us to know that he was not afraid although he felt certain that he would have to face the firing squad.

At this stage subject was given a pen and paper and told to write his complete story in the form of a statement. He was permitted to remain in one of the interrogating rooms alone except for occasional interruptions by the undersigned or COSSETTA and ROTH. These interruptions were merely for the purpose of seeing what he was writing.

The narrative as given by subject on reinterrogation appears in a memorandum dated 14 March 1944 and which has already been furnished your office. Subject's written statement is attached hereto.

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After having interrogated subject and obtaining his written statement he was reinterrogated with regard to information he might have regarding other personalities engaged as agents and any information regarding German intelligence. The results of this interview also appear in the memorandum dated 15 March 1944.

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Subject at this time was also interrogated with regard to PADRINO, Vincenzo and TAPOLI, Giorgio and their intent to return to German territory after making their way into Allied territory for espionage purposes. He stated they did intend to do this and made the attached statement.

Between 1700 and 1800 hours subject was taken to the Carcere at Aversa for the night. Both he and POLTRONIERI were given two (2) cans of C-rations and two (2) cans of biscuits. This was to serve for the evening meal and breakfast. In addition they were given blankets and cigarettes.

On 15 March 1944 at about 1800 hours subject was removed from the Carcere and returned to the Refugee Interrogation Post. He was taken to the Carcere overnight because he had confessed and it would have been inadvisable to place him with other suspects. On the other hand it was not deemed advisable to place him in the Fifth Army Security Jail as yet inasmuch as we hoped to obtain more information on the following day.

Subject was interrogated very little on the 15th but was permitted to set forth in detail in his handwriting all information which he had brought to the Germans from his previous missions. He did this of his own accord and in a room where he was alone. The original of this statement is attached hereto.

Subject was given his noon meal at the Security Office of PCP #326, or at the kitchen. The exact place cannot be remembered at this date. At approximately 1800 hours subject was removed to the Fifth Army Security Jail.

MELIO A. TONINI
1st Lt MI
Commanding RIF

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HEADQUARTERS
FIFTH ARMY
G-2 SECTION
TRANSLATION DEPARTMENT

25 March 1944

Translation of attached Document is as follows:

14 March, 1944

I, the undersigned Virgilio SCARPELLINI, following the fall of Mussolini, found myself in the ranks of the 26th Anti-Aircraft M.A. Legion. Then I was transferred to Civitavecchia to the 508th Battery. After the Armistice, precisely on September 9th, I ran away from Civitavecchia and enrolled in the 67th Blackshirt Legion of Bologna. I remained there until November 20th, and then ran away to the front to fight. Three of us deserted the Legion. Myself, a certain BRUNO MONTALDI, and BRUNO CONSORTE. Arriving at Florence, we met two Germans returning from leave and heading for Cassino. From Firenze we went to Rome and from Rome to Roccasecca, where the two soldiers explained our intentions to their officers. These explained that it would be more advisable to enter and take part in the intelligence service. We joined this service.

1). On the 23rd of November, we arrived at Roccasecca, and on the 27th, I and the others, my two friends, left this town to cross the front lines to collect information. San Carlo was the first town that we came to in enemy territory, then San Martino and Sessa Aurunca, and we returned by the same route. I returned into the German lines by using the password "PADUA". From the lines they took me and my two companion to Roccasecca, precisely the same day. In enemy territory, my two friends and myself had to observe insignias which the soldiers carried on their shoulders and on their vehicles.

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2). We remained 12 days at Roccasecca, in the villa of the engineer GIANGRANDE, who has taken refuge in some other locality, and then again we had to go into English territory with the purpose of observing insignias on the vehicles and on the soldiers. We left Roccasecca and they took us to Sante Elia and we crossed the front lines. We went to Venafro, Vairano, Teano, Pietramelara, Roccamonfina, S. Martino, S. Carlo, Rocca d'Evandro and then we entered the German lines by using the password "REMO". From the front, they brought us again to Roccasecca, where we arrived on the 23rd of December. Only two of us arrived because the third had left first and had not returned.

3). On the 24th of December, we were brought to another headquarters at Arpino. On the 26th, we departed again. At Arpino, we met five others, one a German and four others whose names I do not remember. After leaving Arpino, we went to Pisco, then to Castelforte where we crossed the line and arrived at Lauro, Collole, Mondragone, Cancelli, Capua, S. Maria, Piana di Calazzo, Sessa Aurunca, Roccolise, Lauro, and again through the German lines with the password, "PADUA". They then took me to Arpino, the following day, which was the 4th of January. On the 6th, they sent me on leave and, for compensation for my services, they gave me 2700 liras, given to me by Lieutenant FOIS.

4). During the leave, I went to my home town of RANICA, in the province of Bergamo. On the 1st of February, I returned to Roccasecca, from where they took me to Fluggi because the headquarters had been transferred. I stayed here, alone, until the end of February and met a certain FIORILLO MARIO ATOS, who later entered our service.

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On the 9th of March, we left together from Fiumi and they took us to Pico, then to Itri, Formia and Scauri, where we crossed the front and we consigned (??) ourselves to the English lines. The English brought us to various headquarters and finally to Celliole, and Sessa Aurunca, from where they sent me to a concentration camp, where my story ends. This time I was supposed to go to the Naples port, to see how many ships were there, if they were arriving or leaving, and I was supposed to return by using the password: "PAVIA".

1). The first time, I had "PADUA" as my password, which was to stay in effect from November 27th until December 2nd.

2). The second time, I had "REMO" as my password, which was to stay in effect from the 13th of December until the 24th.

3). The third time, I had "PADUA" as my password, which was to stay in effect from the 26th of December until January 5th.

4). The fourth time, I had "PAVIA" as my password, which was to stay in effect from the 9th of March to the 25th. My other companion had, as a password ? , which was to stay in effect from the 9th of March to April 10th.

The first two months they did not pay me; later, I was paid 200 liras for going into enemy territory and 25 liras in ours.

My intentions were to go to the front and fight, but they convinced me that this (work) was more useful and finally I accepted to take part in the aforementioned service. They did not threaten my family in case I would not have participated in this service. I returned willingly to the German lines because my convictions were that, through the Germans, Italy would really be reformed.

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I would have returned even this time if I had not been caught. My

→ friend proposed to me to remain here in the English lines, but I answered "NO"; but when I thought the matter over, I was uncertain. He brought to my attention the night which the Anglo-Americans possessed in comparison to the Germans and proposed to me to declare why we had passed over on this side. I answered that they would shoot us and he insisted to the contrary.

To sum up the matter, I refused his proposal because I was afraid we would lose each other in going back, singly, which was the way we would have gone back to the German lines in the event they had not caught us.

14 March 1944.

Signed: SCARPELLINI Virgilio.

Translated by:

Lt. P.J.C.
3/25/44

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HEADQUARTERS
FIFTH ARMY
G-2 SECTION
TRANSLATION DEPARTMENT

31 March, 1944

Translation of the attached document is as follows:

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INFORMATION WHICH I HAVE GIVEN TO THE GERMAN HEADQUARTERS

(1)

27 November, 1943

This is what I reported to Lieutenant Von Fals upon my return from my first mission. At Sant Carlo, the soldiers in position and the vehicles that were stopped bore the following insignia:

See sketch #1.

At Sant. Martino, vehicles and men were in transit who bore the following insignia:

See sketch #2.

Near the cemetery of Sessa Aurunca, there was a camp containing vehicles and "small carts" (not more clearly specified), bearing the following insignia:

See sketches #3 and #4.

At Sessa Aurunca, there was a sign bearing the insignia of a Divisional Headquarters, as follows:

See sketches #5 and #6.

This is all that I saw on my first mission. 1 December, 1943.

Signed,

Scarpellini Virgilio

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The following is what I reported the second time to Lieutenant Von Fals upon my return from my mission to Roccasecca.

On the Venafro front, front-line soldiers bore the following insignia.

See sketch #7.

On the road between Venafro and Vairano, at a road crossing, the following sign indicated a camp containing soldiers with trucks:

See sketch #8.

On the road which, from Vairano leads to Teano, always in transit could be seen the following insignias and numbers:

See sketches #9, #10, #11 and #12.

At a road corner, there was the following sign:

See sketch #13.

23 December, 1943.

Signed,

Scarpellini Virgilio

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S E C R E T

PAGE THREE

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At another road crossing, there were two tents and a large sign bearing the following writing:

See sketch #14.

Four kilometers before Teano, there was a small field for reconnaissance planes.

At Teano, there were ~~xxx~~ very many vehicles halted and soldiers who bore the following insignia:

See sketch #15.

Between Teano and Pietramelara, was the same insignia, plus the following:

See sketch #16.

Upon returning from Teano, there were the same insignias at Roccamonfina. The same insignia with this sign:

See sketch #17.

I have seen the same insignias also at Sant. Martino and at Sant. Carlo.

23 December, 1943.

Signed,

Scarpellini Virgilio

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S E C R E T

PAGE FOUR

28 December, 1943.

The third time, I reported to the captain at Arpino, upon returning from my mission, the following insignias.

At Lauro, at Celliole and on the road of Mondragone, soldiers and vehicles bore the following insignias:

See sketch #18, #19 and #20.

At Mondragone there was the same insignia with the number:

See sketch #21.

Between Mondragone and Cancellio, 25 artillery pieces of 125 mm calibre, and the machines which towed them, bore the following insignia:

See sketches #22 and #23.

At Cancellio there was the usual insignia of the black cat; At Cancellio and Capua, machine-gun and anti-aircraft positions; twelve barrage balloons were down on the ground at the bridge of Capua which they protect.

4 January, 1944

Signed,

Scarpellini Virgilio

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HEADQUARTERS
FIFTH ARMY
G-2 SECTION
TRANSLATION DEPARTMENT

31 March, 1944

Translation of the attached document is as follows:

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PAGE ~~III~~ FIVE

26 December, 1943

At Capua, soldiers and vehicle parks bore the following insignia with various numbers:

See sketch #24.

At Santa Maria, C.V., the same insignias, with this one added:

See sketches #25 and #26; See sketch #27.

On the plain of Calasce, there were many tents.

On the Casilina road there was much traffic of vehicles and armored cars.

At Sessa Aurunca, there were the following insignias:

See sketches #28 and #29.

Then I returned to Laure and to the lines.

This is what I saw the third time.

4 January, 1944

Signed,

Serpellini Virgilio

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9 March, 1944

The fourth time, Lieutenant Fais told me to look at all the insignias. Also, I was supposed to get information in Naples which ~~was~~^{was} going to be furnished by another friend of mine who would be employed at the port as a stevedore and could observe all the ships that arrived and left. My friend who crossed the lines with me is called Fiorillo Mario Ates. At Senza Aurunca, I saw soldiers who bore the following insignias :

See sketch #30.

The Lieutenant then told me to buy some cigarettes, some tea and some coffee. But I was unable to do this.

I affirm that I have written these six pages and illustrated all of the insignias.

15 March, 1944

Scarpellini Virgilio

Witnessed: Rox Roth
Melio A. Tenini
Luigi Cassetta (?)

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

STATEMENT OF CLAUDE J. BOVE, 1ST LT., F.A., O-325275 - TRANSLATOR

I hereby certify that I have translated from Italian to English, to the best of my ability, the statements (on pages 13, 14, 15, 16, and 17) made by:

POLTRONIERI, Mario

and statements (on pages 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29 and 30) made by:

SCARPELLINI, Virgilio

I checked these translations on 11 April 1944 in the presence of Captain W. R. Hare. I have initialed each page of the original statement and the translation.

Claude J. Bove
CLAUDE J. BOVE,
1st Lt., F.A.

These documents were checked and this statement was made in my presence on 11 April 1944.

W. R. Hare
W. R. Hare, Capt.,
Security Branch, A.C.C.

TOP SECRET

SECRET

General Villegas, Military Court
Santa Maria.

12-11-44

Court. Major W. Wagon (US Army Pres)

1st Lieut H.M. Dickie (Br)

Major W.G. Elder (Canadian)

Interpreter 1st Lt RALPH CASTELL
32631867. 5th Army H.Q. P. 2 (Br)

Prosecution 1st Lt J.L. Wilkin (Br)

Defence Capt H. R. Glenn (US Army)

Application for case to be held in camera.
Granted.

Defendants charged and Court entered
plea of Not Guilty.

Case closed by Prosecution.

1209496
1st Lt Campbell is a 1st Lt in the HP Station

of 82nd Air Div. I have seen the box prison 10

before on the 11th March 1944 at Collecting post

I was operating south of Mueharno. They were brought to me by the Liaison Officer (Lt. Theobald) of 350th Inf. (Object by defence on what Theobald said to this witness)

Objection Sustained

My duties are not to interrogate but to collect evidence. They talked voluntarily. I asked for their address and where their home was. More than that I did not. They first told me they worked for the Germans digging gun emplacements and dugouts. They said they had been employed for a few months. They claimed they were not well treated and were only given one piece of bread per day.

X by President of Court.

Their hands were quite dirty - to me they were just two other people. I did

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not notice whether their hands gave
 the appearance of having done heavy work.
 Gray (Plt. Lt. C. I. C.) I was working with
 Sgt. J. D. I first saw the two
 accused on 11th March 1944 at an
 Advance Collecting Post and I took them
 away from there and subsequently
 interviewed them ~~the~~ separately. There
 was an interpreter Sgt. Guichard M. H.
 Poltrone. What we in substance the
 following story that he had seen
 a sailor for several years & at the
 time of the arrest the ship was at
 a Port in the Adriatic. On the orders
 of the Commanding Officer the ship

was scuttled and the sailors fled. He went
to his home and remained there for
several days at Marscon. There was
some trouble with an official, he got
into a fist fight with this official, and
fled his home. He came back alone,
surrounding these conditions. He was
then he was picked up by the Germans,
taken to Portofino and forced to work.
From there he was taken to vicinity of
Cassino and worked on the road between
Cassino & San Giorgio. Then he was
brought to the vicinity of Viterbo. He escaped
the Germans on the road by asking
the policeman to go to Subiaco. Instead
of returning he was joined a few
moments by Scapellato Virgilio.
Together they came they came to Viterbo.

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and from there to Searsville. On the night
 of 10th March they followed a German patrol
 toward our lines. About midnight they
 came upon German machine gun position.
 Assuming it was new or near they made
 a dash past the gun. The German soldier
 saw them and fired. They fell flat, and
 proceeded on their hands & knees.
 About daybreak they came upon
 English soldiers. Just at the time
 Polkison tripped over a mine wire.
 English soldiers beckoned to them to
 come forward. as it was too dangerous
 for them to go past. From there they
 were brought back to collecting point.
 Where I saw them.

Confession Story

Said he was born & brought up in town
 of Rancien that he was 19 yrs old and

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done his military service shortly after
the American Revolution went to his
home and took him for forced labor.
He had worked since then in the vicinity
of St. Louis. He escaped on 8th March by
asking permission to go to Baltimore &
returning into the Maryland. He joined
Kilbride and came with him through
Towson to Peare. After arriving at Peare
he lived with family to Kilbride's.
He gave me particulars about the family.
I searched Peare's papers and books
and articles. I found considerable
amount of money, 5600 lire allied
currency, 2300 lire of Italian currency.
He would show to me I am not a liar
as he would not for the accused.
When I asked him how he got the

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 Allied currency, he stated that English
 prisoner had given it to him. Further, the
 Germans paid not attention to this money
 and threw it around quite carelessly.
 When I asked him how he got the Italian
 currency, he stated he received it
 from the Germans in payment for his
 work.

I searched Polronieri and found a
 considerable amount of Allied
 & Italian currency — less than Seafelline
 I cannot remember the exact figures
 I think I took a note at the time
 Yes, I did 2400 Lire Italian; 1900 Lire
 Allied currency.

This sort of the money was quite rapid
 and there is possibility of some mistake
 X Defence.

When you saw these two men 7
 were they in line today
 Yes

Q Did you return them to the Guard
together?

A Yes.

Q Did you interrogate them separately?

A Yes.

Q Except for period of interrogation
sessions were together?

A Yes.

Q At the stage of story where R & L
referred to English troops. Recalled
to them, what did they say they
did before that?

A The incident of kidnapping of one. The
one preceded this.

Q Did they say they had seen the
English troops before the time mentioned
To the best of my knowledge it
was prior.

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Did they say who signalled first
or were seen by English troops first
I don't recall

As you recall where they made
their appearance known to the English
troops before the English troops made
their presence known to the

I can't say.

X President

Did either of the witnesses say whether
they knew each other before that time
I asked the that question and
their stories appear to be for certain
What is your recollection of what
each said

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I believe I said they had known
each other months & I said they had only
known each other 4 or 5 days, which was

one of the discrepancies which made
me suspicious.

Did either of the boys whom they had
planned their escape.

One of the claimed - refused answers
for notes - no note or subject -

Then gave us your best recollection.

To best of my recollection Kemp
said the two had planned to escape
before hand.

Did they give you any reasons as to
why he planned to escape.

Only that he had made friends with
a German soldier by name of Max,
I believe. I believe he implied it.

~~Max's business.~~ Max the German
soldier trusted the and allowed the
center prison.

Was one of those favors going to

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Latrine without a Guard

I don't want to swear that
After they told you - Scapellato - that
English Soldier gave him money. Did
you ask why.

I did but I cannot exactly recall
his answer. But my recollection is they
had give it to him for favors he did
not elaborate on.

X. L. Dickie.

In answer to what you said that I
had planned to escape. But I tell
you they had planned escape together.
I said, as I recall, they had nothing
planned, that he not Scapellato.

Do you recall whether P. M. Watson
to you made any reference to German
Soldier called Max.

no I do not recall, I am only
certain that one of them did.

X by Defense

Did P. give you info or I give
info to you re German Corp.

~~not~~ not to me, but to Al Robinson.

Robinson - 01318811 ~~etc~~ 268 HQ Coy, AFMB

I am a prisoner of war interrogator.

I first saw the accused, who I identified
on the 10th March altho Iy not too sure
now you reminded me it could have
been 10th or 11th March. I interrogated
the partly together and partly separately.
I began to interrogate one and
asked the to draw signs they had
seen on enemy uniforms. The found
one could help the other out. Robinson
told me he had fled from northern Italy.

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where his home was and he told me
he went to Rome where arrived late in
November 1943. He said that at Rome he
was taken by the Germans who took him
to the vicinity of Fontenova and forced
him to work for the Germans in that area.
I believe this was from 8th to 9th December
but am not too sure of date — to 12th.
He was taken to Cassino & San Giorgio.
He was forced to work for the Germans there.
I believe it was until 28th December 1943.
He was then taken to the vicinity of the
where he met sea fellows and he told me
that on 8th March he escaped from the
Germans. They took them to France where they
stayed a day and a night but I am not
sure of the dates. Then they made their
way to France, and during the night

P says they followed a German Pilot thru
the river's bend to the river. They showed
them to early morning and the came
out to our lines. ~~What did Campbell~~
I did not question Campbell as
to his movements before then. He confirmed
the statements of P as to their movements.
I asked Polissone briefly what he had
seen near Lanna. I asked him more
thoroughly what he had seen near Lanna
and on to the front. He gave me a
great deal of information about Lanna.
particularly, but I don't recall all
the information he gave me, but the
main part concerned a number of
Russian troops around Lanna. He told
me there were 100 to 200 Russian troops
in area of Lanna & they had a defense

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 uniform for the Geneva Convention that on
 their left sleeve they wore a shield with a
 red yellow & blue column that they wore
 color patches with crossed sabres. That
 they also told me they had their own
 office & they were armed.

X Ray Defence.

A Where did you interrogate the accused
 Q I began to interrogate them at the
 New Cage at SS #120 & later at my
 Office at Carraro.

A Mr Gray CIO had told you had
 he not that they had some
 information about the Geneva Convention.

Q I don't recall where he he did
 or not.

Where he was arrested at the Prison.

X Ray Conference.

A Where did you interrogate the accused
Q I began to interrogate them at the
PW Cage at Separados & later at my
Office at Carano.

A Mr Army CMC had told you that
he was that they had some
information about the Germans.

Q I don't recall whether he did
or not.

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Where he was used at the PW Cage
when you got there

Yes in custody of 14th
the all people in cage together
two in two all times - I don't
quite understand Question

Are they all in one enclosure.

Yes the two were together.

After you had finished your
interrogation did you return the to

the two cages

yes

Were they returned to the same part-

of the cage

Sadly, don't know because I don't
have charge of cage, I turned the
over to P.P.D.

I first got one of these a man
began to question him by himself
there were myself interpreter and two
witnesses there were two other witnesses
where they were interrogated. I had

the knowledge to a man. I separated the

Yes
 Were they returned to the same part
 of the cage
 Really, don't know because I don't
 have charge of cage, I turned the
 over to N.Y.P.D.

I first got one of these 2 men &
 brought to Division R by himself
 there were myself, Skypeter and two
 accused. There were no other evidence
 where they were interrogated. I had
 the brought to a room. I separated the
 accused but brought them together
 for me to refresh the memory of the
 other on sight they had seen on the man
 side of line. Campbell remained
 there - I am not sure. ~~He~~
 As I was about to leave the cage to
 go to my office at Carano I asked

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to be interrogated alone. He did not tell me he was afraid of Sharpelline. Polhemus had told me Russians were there with Germans, & also that there might be U.S. & others amongst the Sharpelline. Polhemus confirmed the story of Russian soldiers. Polhemus gave me most of information. He told me about German W.D. & a motor truck and where he said he saw tanks in vicinity of Tomin. I have not interrogated any Russians or Jews because they are not used in the line.

TONINI. Ltr. USA 01280496. RP

Have evidence of interrogation of Polhemus at Ltr. 2 13-

Defence made application that change of location be made in the line.

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Russian soldiers. Poloniere gave me
most of information - he told me about
German HQ & a radio link and where
he said he was living in vicinity of
Tommie. I have not interrogated
any Russians or others because they
are not used to the line.

TONIN. Lr. USA 01280496. R.P.
Gave evidence of interrogation of Poloniere
at L.P.E. 13 -

2

Defence made application that charge
of Espionage be withdrawn against Poloniere.
Not endeavored, but have been found
in the zone with intent; & extended
to return to England.
dies up to L.P.
Surrender - yes. Still all ??
Prosecution has made out a ~~charge~~ but

Defendant - Polloneeri (named by court need
 not take stand etc) I wish to give evidence
 I am 21 years on 22 April 1944
 My home is ~~Massena~~ Massena, Massena, Massena
 I was a deserter from Italian Army.
 I first deserted from the Italian Army from 1st Jan 1942
 a ship at Taranto in December, 1941.
 I was re-arrested and I deserted again
 from Venice during Nov or Dec 1942.
 I was again arrested and at the time of
 the arrest I was in prison at the time and I
 escaped. I deserted twice because I did not
 want to fight against the English. My feelings
 are individualist and against execution
 of Hitler is against. (Followed statement)
 I wanted to leave Germany and territory,
 because I couldn't stay there any longer
 because they were doing things I couldn't
 tolerate, they were mistreating women. The
 Gestapo were saying men & women from the
 houses & looking them up in prison.

it ship at Varenas in 1942.
 I was released and I deserted again
 from Venice during Nov or Dec 1942.
 I was again arrested and at the time of
 the arrest I was in prison at the time and I
 escaped. I deserted twice because I did not
 want to fight against the English. My feelings
 are individual and against association
 of the Italians are against. (Should state that)
 I wanted to leave Germany-occupied territory
 because I couldn't stay there any longer
 because they were doing things I couldn't
 tolerate, they were mistreating women. The
 Germans were going over & coming from the
 houses & looking the up in houses.

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Pantellini called to give evidence
for Vallone.

Did you introduce P to German intelligence
service?

At that time did you believe P intended
to assist the Germans?

If you had thought he would not have
acted loyally for the Germans would
you have introduced him to them?

When did you first notice he had changed
his outlook?

What if you opinion made him
change his mind, ~~or did you~~?

~~Do you think~~
Do you think for his determination
that he was frightened of carrying out
his mission?

~~What if you had~~

If at any time you introduced
P to what he has done

If you had thought he would not have
worked loyally for the Germans would
you have introduced him to them?

When did you first notice he had changed
his outlook?

What if you openly made him
change his mind, ~~see to you?~~

~~Do you think~~

Do you think for his desperation
that he was frightened of coming out-
his mission?

1

~~Do you think~~

If at any time you intended
to kill P for what he has done,
why your present attitude?

Pollonieri - Not Guilty
Scampellone - Guilty - No 1 to death.

They say the word "dangerous" is often used - would you mind if I use it?

Does P believe I'm a real agent - if so does it he think it dangerous to tell he ~~say~~ he (P) did not intend to carry out the mission which will in German territory when I could have told Germans about this.

Surely, the last way to carry out your mission was to get proper clearance as a Refugee, and the argument between S & P at point one was a difference of opinion. No last way of carrying out your mission.

On evidence of S & P as shown as well as cunning of the two, ~~there is no doubt that~~ ~~he would not go back~~

of the two of them and the danger
to call the ~~day~~ the (P) did not
intend to convey the message
which will in German territory
where I could have told German.
about the

Finally, the last way to carry on
your Honor can be get proper
clearance as a Refugee, and the
argument between S & P at point
there was a difference of opinion
as to best way of carrying out
your common mission

evidence of P - P is shown as more
ing of the two, ~~because I did not~~

The two of them or send
a dangerous job & ~~PW~~ Capt
you say I look at
lightly

2 2 5 9