

ACC 10000/143/2617

149.01/ES

SERRA EVODIO

(ENEMY AGENTS)

JUNE 1944

SECRET
HEADQUARTERS
A.C.C.
A.P.O. 394

SB/311.5/149.

16th June, 1944.

SUBJECT : Enemy Agents (SERRA Evodio).

TO : Col. A.E. YOUNG, Director, Security Branch, A.C.C.
G.S.I.B., A.A.I.
G.S.I.B., 5 Corps.

1. With further reference to my report of 11th June 1944 respecting subject.
2. On the 14th June 1944 subject was arraigned before a General Allied Military Court, which sat at CAPOBASSO, on a charge of serving the Germans as a spy in Allied Occupied Italy.
3. Owing to the nature of the charge and the possibility of a sentence of death in the event of a conviction, the Court entered a plea of "Not Guilty" on behalf of subject.
4. After hearing the evidence of the prosecution, and an address by the officer defending - subject having declined to give evidence on his own behalf - the Court returned a verdict of "Guilty" and sentenced subject to death.
5. The hearing lasted only three parts of the day.
6. The composition of the Court was :-

Col. W.E. BEHRENS	(British)	President.
Lt. Col. A.R. TROXELL	(U.S. Army)	
Maj. C.L. DEWING	(U.S. Army)	

The Prosecution was conducted by :-
Maj. T.A. BOYD-CARPENTER (British).

The Defence was conducted by :-
Maj. H.P. KUCERA (U.S. Army).

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WRH/BM.


W.R. HARE,
Major,
Security Branch,
H.Q., A.C.C.

2337

SECRET

HEAD OFFICE

ACC

SECURITY BRANCH

APC 394

11 June 1944

52/311.5/149

SUBJECT: Enemy Agents (SZERA Zwodlo)

TO : Regional Legal Officer, Region V, 4 HQ
G.S.I.B., A.A.I.
G.S.I.B., 5 Corps

1. On the 25th of March, 1944, at about 0800 hours, the subject was stopped by a Polish sentry on duty about one mile behind the front line, in the MONIA WILA district.

2. The sentry is Stanislaw Stanislaw, a private in the 10th Rifle, 5 ARMS Division, and Polish Corps. A statement has been taken from this soldier, copy attached.

3. It will be seen from the statement of Stanislaw that he stopped subject in the open country, and there are no roads or paths in the vicinity. The soldier then took subject to his HQ (5 ARMS Div., and Polish Corps). No interrogation took place here as neither could speak the language of the other.

4. At the HQ Subject was first interrogated by 2nd Lt. Julian PIKOWSKI, F.S.O., 5 ARMS Div., and Polish Corps from whom a statement has been taken, copy attached.

5. The details of the interrogation are contained in the statement of 2nd Lt. PIKOWSKI, and are to the effect that Subject had endeavored to find work in German Occupied Italy, but had been unsuccessful. As a result, Subject decided to come to Allied Occupied Italy to find work and was arrested shortly after he had crossed the line. When searched, amongst other property, was found 5,082 Lire.

6. This interrogation was conducted through the aid of an interpreter, and in an endeavour to check the story, 2nd Lt. PIKOWSKI, handed Subject over to Cpl. M. FALCINI, who speaks Italian.

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Subject was stopped by a Polish sentry on duty about one mile behind the front line, in the MONIA GINA district.

2. The sentry is ~~xxxxxx~~ Stanislas, a private in the 10th Airles, 5 ARS Division, and Polish Corps. A statement has been taken from this soldier, copy attached.

3. It will be seen from the statement of Stanislas that he stopped Subject in the open country, and there are no roads or pathways in the vicinity. The soldier then took Subject to his HQ (5 ARS Div., and Polish Corps). No interrogation took place here as neither could speak the language of the other.

4. At the HQ Subject was first interrogated by 2nd Lt. Julian PIMKOWSKI, P.S.O., 5 ARS Div., and Polish Corps from whom a statement has been taken, copy attached.

5. The details of the interrogation are contained in the statement of 2nd Lt. PIMKOWSKI, and are to the effect that Subject had endeavored to find work in German occupied Italy, but had been unsuccessful. As a result, Subject decided to come to Allied occupied Italy to find work and was arrested shortly after he had crossed the line. When searched, amongst other property, was found 3,082 Lire.

6. This interrogation was conducted through the medium of an interpreter, and in an endeavour to check the story, 2nd Lt. PIMKOWSKI, handed Subject over to Cpl. M. PALAZZO, who speaks Italian.

7. A statement has been taken from Cpl. M. PALAZZO, from which it will be seen, Subject was interrogated by 2nd Lt. PIMKOWSKI, of the Italian Brigade, to which he was subsequently the same story, i.e., that he was looking for work.

8. I have not taken a statement from Capt. RICHARDS, as he is not a ~~xxxxxxxix~~ readily available to give evidence as is Cpl. PALAZZO, who speaks Italian fluently, and was present during the whole of the interrogation. The statement referred to in Cpl. PALAZZO's statement as having been signed by Subject, will be available in Court.

9. The Subject was then sent to 5 Corps HQ on the 7th of

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April, where he was interrogated by the O.C. - Lt. N. M. ROBERT - in Italian. A statement was taken from him. (Note: copy attached).

10. Here again subject told the same story of searching for work, but was visited with suspicion by the authorities. As a result he was taken under military escort to Nazi Prison.

11. On the 10th and 11th of May 1944 subject was interrogated as part of Capt. G. A. ZEMANOVICH, Intelligence Officer, TSCM when a statement was taken from him, copy attached.

12. Subject first of all told the same story to Capt. ZEMANOVICH, but when cross-examined on some inconsistencies he admitted having been sent to Allied Occupied Italy by the German Intelligence Service on an espionage mission.

13. It will be seen from the statement of Capt. ZEMANOVICH that Subject admitted having accepted the mission because he was destitute and wanted the money he was to be paid on completion of the mission - amount not known - to enable him to marry a girl who resides in German occupied Italy.

14. The foregoing is a simple story of an espionage mission that failed, and from the evidence that is available there is little doubt that Subject intended to complete his mission which was to obtain the numbers and markings of Allied vehicles, which, had he been successful, would have given the German Command valuable information, and undoubtedly led to loss of life and resources for the Allies.

15. It will be seen that through the story told by the Subject, that it was a simple tale, which is too difficult to "fall down on" under cross-examination. It will also be seen from the statement of the first witness that it was never even properly established whether in fact the Subject had not completed his espionage mission and was on his way back to the German lines.

16. Another interesting point is, that although nothing was mentioned by 2nd Lt. ZEMANOVICH about espionage to the Subject, the latter said "I am not a spy". This I submit is strong evidence of Subject attempting to conceal his real intentions in Allied Occupied Territory.

17. As it does not matter in a case of espionage whether or not the mission was completed, I feel that Subject is a dangerous German Agent, and I suggest he be arraigned before a General Allied Military Court and charged with being a German Agent found at 0600 hours on the 28th of March 1944 in the vicinity of MONTAQUILLA, then occupied by Allied forces, endeavouring to obtain information

13. It will be seen from the statement of Capt. BERNARDINOLO that Subject admitted having accepted the mission because he was destitute and wanted the money he was to be paid on completion of the mission - amount not known - to enable him to marry a girl who resided in German occupied Italy.

14. The foregoing is a simple story of an espionage mission that failed, and from the evidence that is available there is little doubt that Subject intended to complete his mission which was to obtain the numbers and names of Allied vehicles, which, had he been successful, would have given the German Command valuable information, and undoubtedly led to loss of life and resources for the Allies.

15. It will be seen that through the story told by the Subject, that it was a simple tale, which is was difficult to 'fall down on' under cross-examination. It will also be seen from the statement of the first witness that it had never been properly established whether in fact the subject had not completed his espionage mission and was on his way back to the German lines.

16. Another interesting point is, that although nothing was mentioned by 2nd Lt. SIMONELLI about espionage to the subject, the letter said "I am not a spy". This I submit is strong evidence of Subject attempting to conceal his real intentions in Allied occupied territory.

17. As it does not matter in a case of espionage whether or not the mission was completed, I feel that Subject is a dangerous German agent, and I suggest he be arraigned before a General Allied Military Court and charged with being a German agent found at 0800 hours on the 29th of March 1944 in the vicinity of MONTAULIA, then occupied by Allied forces, endeavouring to obtain information useful to the enemy with intent to communicate such information to the enemy.

Handwritten signature
J. R. HARRIS
Major

Security Branch.
J. R. HARRIS

2341
CAMFOB4330.

5 June 1944.

Statement of SKOPIEC Stanislaw, Pte. 15th. Rifles, 5 KUES Division, 2nd Polish Corps, who said:-

At about 0500 hrs. on the 29th. March 1944, I was on Sentry Duty at a Mortar position about one mile behind the front line.

Dawn was breaking and I saw a civilian approaching me. There was no road or pathway anywhere about, and I called on the man to halt. He stopped, saying Comrad ! Comrad ! and I took him to my Officer.

I cannot say definitely but to the best of my recollection the man was proceeding towards the front line.

I do not know the man's name, but I believe I should recognise him.

Statement taken by me through Capt. PARULAT and Capt. BENROWICZ, interpreters.


W.K. HARE,
Major.

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Campobasso.

4 June 1944

Statement of PIKOWSKI Julian, 2nd. Lieut. F.S.O. 5 KMS Division
2nd. Polish Corps, who said:-

At about 1000 hrs on the 29th. March 1944, I was stationed at MONTAGUILLA (H.Q., F.S.S.) and an Italian was brought to me, who it was said had been discovered crossing the Front Line.

The man gave the name of SERRA Evodio from Genova, and said he had come from German Occupied Italy. The man explained that he left Genova on 5th March 1944 in an endeavour to find work. He said he travelled to Florence, Rome and other places until he found himself near the front line at SORA, having failed to find work. He stated that he was shown a way through the lines by an old man and came to Allied Occupied Italy with the sole purpose of finding work.

I did not ask SERRA if he had had any association with the German Intelligence Service but towards the end of my interrogation of him he said " I am not a spy ".

I then handed SERRA over to an Italian Officer who took a statement from him. My Sgt. EJSKONT was present.

I then sent SERRA under escort to the Corps P.W. Cage. I searched SERRA and found, amongst other property, 3082 Lire in Italian currency, no A.M.G. or British Military money.

This statement taken by me through Capt. PARROT and Capt. BERROWICZ. interpreters.

[Signature]

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This statement taken by me through Capt. PARISI and Capt. BERKOWICZ. interpreters.


W.E. HANE,

Major.

Statement of SERRA Evodio made to F.S.O., 5 Kres. Div.

On 29 March 44 at 1000 hrs., a civilian apprehended by a reconnaissance platoon of 15th Rifle Bn., 5 Kres. Div., was brought in under escort from them. This individual had been found in the 15th Rifle Bn. area at 0530 hrs. going in the direction of the enemy lines.

At the F.S. Section he made the following statement :-

My name is SERRA Evodio, son of Giovanni and Campestro Celestina, born in GENOA on 24 Dec. 1912, single, Italian nationality, official of a private transport and travel Agency SALATA & FERRANDO, GENOA, San LUCCA Street. (He cannot remember the number). I lived in GENOA at N° 4 GORIZIA St. Room 12. During the last two and a half years I was employed by the UNIONE ITALIANA TRAMVIE ELETTRICHE in GENOA (BOCCA-DASSE) as a messenger.

I left GENOA on the 5 Mar 44 and travelled by train to FLORENCE to find a better job. I have to care for my mother who is in receipt of a pension of 300 Lira monthly granted by the Municipality of GENOA by whom her husband (my father) had been employed as a messenger. I also have a brother and a sister. My brother is 41 years old and my sister 42. They are living on their own and do not help my mother. I, as an usher (messenger), received 300 Lira monthly. I have no savings. The sum of 3081 Lira found on me is the result of the sale of a VOIGTLANDER camera and a greatcoat. I arrived in FLORENCE on 7 Mar 44. For five days I looked for work but found nothing. I then went to ROME where I stayed five to six days but did not look for a job. From ROME I went to the village of PINIATRO MAGGIORE near NAPLES where I have two friends the brothers DEL VECCHIO Pietro and Giuseppe. I knew them from the school for employees of the Customs (Oct. 1931 - Sept. 1932). I thought that with their help I could find a job. But as I was a stranger to this town I could not find them and I then went to the village of SORA using various means of transport. I believe that I arrived in this village on 22 Mar. 44 staying in the house of a man unknown to me. Here I got the idea to cross the lines with the intention of finding a job on the other side. I mentioned this to my landlord who introduced me to a man called VINCENZIO. The latter agreed to help me to cross the lines on payment of 1000 Lira. As I did not wish to lose my money I offered to exchange my new suit for his old one. After four days in SORA we left at 0200 hours on 27 Mar 44 taking different roads and endeavouring to avoid meeting anybody. We spent the night of 27 - 28th in an empty building. The following day we marched till the evening and stopped on a hill. Here VINCENZIO pointed out a river, told me to keep to the right hand side until I came to a fork, then to turn right about a hundred metres further on. I should then be at the front line. I went in this direction but at a certain moment as I climbed a mountain, I heard a shout. I then saw a soldier with his rifle pointing in my direction. I was apprehended, passed to another soldier who brought me to some more soldiers. I did not see any German patrols on my way. During the four days I spent in SORA, I stayed in the house. Nobody asked me for my documents during the journey. Description of VINCENZIO is: about 40 years old, medium height, brown hair, clean shaven, wears a beret. I paid no attention to anything else. signed :- 2/Lt. J. PIWKOWSKI. FSO. 5.KRES.DIV.

Statement made by Cpl. Dr. PALEJEW M., M.O. at H.Q. 5 Kres.Div'n.

On 30 Mar 44 acting on an order received from 2/Lt. PIWKOWSKI J., F.S.O. 5 Kres. Div. F.S.S., I went to SCAPOLI with an apprehended civilian named SERRA Evodio to have the latter interrogated by Capt. RICCHEZZA, G.S.I.(b) Italian Brigade. 2/Lt. PIWKOWSKI explained to me that he wished to obtain confirmation of SERRA's statement concerning his attempt to cross the line. We were escorted by Sgt. BISMONT A. an M.C.O. from 5 Kres. Div. F.S.S.

Immediately after our arrival, Capt. RICCHEZZA started his interrogation of SERRA in my presence.

SERRA Evodio stated that he is an official permanently living in GENOA, but as his pay was small he decided to go to Southern Italy to look for a better paid job. He left GENOA on 5 Mar 44 for FLORENCE where he did not find employment and went on to ROME. Here he spent a few days. Capt. RICCHEZZA asked him what kind of Troops he saw in ROME, military objects, the effects of air-raids, etc... SERRA did not answer, explaining that he had seen nothing. Pressed by Capt. RICCHEZZA he stated that he was in ROME during an air raid but refused to say anything about the A.A. defences or objects bombed, mentioning only that a wing of the "PALAZZO delle FINANZE" had been destroyed.

From ROME he went to SORRA intending to proceed to FIGNIATARO MAGGIORE near NAPLES, where two friends of his, brothers, were living. He could not remember their names. One of them served together with him in the Army in ROME.

In SORRA his landlord introduced him to a man VINCENZIO who for the sum of 1000 Lira would help him to cross the line. Instead of 1000 Lira he gave him his suit. After a few days in SORRA they left together. Arriving at a certain point VINCENZIO told him to go on alone after having given him explanations of the route to follow. Questioned about the route taken with VINCENZIO he replied that he did not know, neither did he see any German troops or equipment. SERRA MAINTAINED that he went from SORRA to the British front line and not vice-versa. Capt. RICCHEZZA did not ask him if he is an enemy agent.

Regarding the moment of arrest, he stated that when he heard shouts from a soldier whom he had not seen before, he stopped immediately and put his hands up. Ordered to come nearer he did so and was taken to a group of soldiers by whom he was searched superficially. Afterwards he was brought to the F.S.S.

Capt. RICCHEZZA wrote the statement and SERRA signed.

Back in the section I reported to 2/Lt. PIWKOWSKI that Capt. RICCHEZZA could not obtain any more information from SERRA than what he had stated before in the Section.

I have nothing else to report.

Signed : Dr. M. Palejew, Cpl.

STATEMENT BY LT. N.M. ROGER, 175486 R.E., O.C. 5 CORPS

P.I.P., on:-

SERRA Evodio

I, the undersigned, state the following:-

On 7 APR 44 the a/m was brought to this R.I.P., then located at GUGLIONESE. He was handed over by Polish escort in the afternoon.

He was registered immediately and interrogated by me. I considered his story suspicious and handed him over the same afternoon to 209 P.O.W. Camp for forwarding through P.O.W. Channels to 2 S.C.I.U. BARI, for further interrogation. A letter was sent 7 APR 44 to 2 S.C.I.U. advising them to expect the a/m.

During the time subject was at the R.I.P. he was always under supervision.

The story given by a/m was as follows:-

1932-37 Guardia di Finanza at TURIN. Invalided out.
Various jobs, finally working for Tramway Coy.
GENOA.

5 MAR 44 Dismissed and left for FLORENCE by train to look for work.

16 " " Left for ROME, ~~MEIXIMA~~ hitch hiking.
He stayed in a street near Viale VENTURO APRILE.

20 " " Went to SORA (Frosinone) but could give no reason for doing so. Here he contacted a certain 'Vincenzo', whose surname he does not know. He then decided to cross the line in the hopes of a well paid job in Allied territory. 'Vincenzo' offered to guide him for 1,000 lire which was never paid.

After leaving SORA he had no idea of the route

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After leaving SORA he had no idea of the route he took and he never bothered to ask the guide. Just before reaching the line, 'Vincenzo' left him and he crossed alone.

29 " " He wandered on not knowing in which direction until he was picked up by the Poles. He said he was aiming for PIGNATORO (NAPLES).

1 JUN 44

L. M. Roper # 175486
(O.C. 5 Corps R.I.P.)

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C.S.D.I.C. (Sub Centre EAST)

Statement of Capt. G.A. GENNAROPOULO, Intelligence Officer.

Subject:- Interrogation of Evodio SERRA.

I interrogated the above named, in Italian, on 10 and 11 May 44, at C.S.D.I.C. (Sub Centre EAST).

I asked him for his movements ever since he left school which he readily gave.

When it came to dealing with his movements as from Feb 44, he at first tried to convince me that he was a mere refugee who had decided to cross the lines with a view of finding work in Allied Occupied Territory.

I then pointed out the inconsistency of his story and mentioned the names of certain German agents with whom he was supposed to have had contacts.

When faced with this evidence and after a lot of hesitation he stated: "Well, I will tell you the truth NOT because I am afraid, but only because I want to."

He then told me that he had been in contact with the Germans Intelligence Service who sent him across the lines on a mission.

He was very vague on his description of his briefing by the Germans I.S. but he did say that his mission was to obtain number and markings of Allied vehicles and troops.

When I asked him what area he was to cover and how long he was to remain on this side of the lines, he said he had received NO instructions on the subject.

In answer to my question, he stated that he had been interrogated on several occasions and places after his capture, but that this was the first time he had mentioned to anyone that he had any connections with the German I.S.

As result of further interrogation he informed me that he had accepted the mission because he was destitute and could NOT obtain work, and wanted to get married to a girl who is in German Occupied Italy.

He informed me that he had been paid by the Germans 2000 Lire before crossing the lines, but he did NOT say and I did NOT ask him what he was to receive on completion of his mission.

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Thunberg.

Capt.
C.S.D.I.C. (Sub Centre EAST).

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