

ACC 10000/143/2618

149.01 / HS

Spärer Hermann - DEGIAMPIETRO GIORGIO

Ap. 1944

GERMAN - DEGIAMPIETRO GIORGIO

(ENEMY AGENTS)

Apr. 1944

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS

A.C.C

Security Branch.

APC.394.

27th. April, 1944.

S.B./311.5/149.

SUBJECT. Enemy Agents. (SPRATER Hermann, alias, DEGIAMPIETRO Giorgio)

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

1. On the 29th. December, 1943, the above named, in company with PUCCIA Antonio and DESANTIS Vincenzo, crossed the lines from German Occupied Italy.
2. The three men were stopped by a British Patrol and directed through the regular Refugee channels for interrogation.
3. After telling false stories, PUCCIA and DESANTIS admitted having crossed the lines on behalf of the German Intelligence Service, and were ultimately arraigned before a General Allied Military Court, and sentenced to twenty years imprisonment, respectively, on a charge of Espionage.
4. The Subject was more difficult to break down, and it was not until his interrogator - Capt. Fairweather. S.C.I., - had promised Subject he would not be prosecuted, did he tell his story.
5. The account of this interrogation, and the result, is shown in the attached statement of Capt. Fairweather. In addition, this Officer is emphatic that the confession of Subject was made under a promise of favour, and he would have no alternative but to give evidence to this effect, should Subject be prosecuted on a charge of Espionage.
6. As the confession of an Enemy Agent is usually the only direct evidence as to 'intention' that is available in charges of this type, they must be obtained under such circumstances that no suggestion can be made that they were obtained under duress of any kind. It will therefore be appreciated that in this case this important piece of evidence from the point of view of the prosecution, had been rendered almost valueless.
7. In an endeavour to obtain corroboration of Subject's confession, and also to obtain other evidence to support a charge of Espionage against Subject, I interviewed PUCCIA and DESANTIS.
8. On the 22nd. April, 1944, I went to the Island of Procida, in

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Page 2.

in/

company with Capt. Cooper, S.C.I., who acted as interpreter, and in the prison there, interviewed PUCCIA and DESANTIS.

9. These two men expressed their willingness to give evidence on behalf of the prosecution, but all they could say was that the first time they saw Subject was two or three days before they crossed the lines. They did not speak to him until a few hours before they crossed the lines, and then nothing was said about the missions of any of them - Subject had a different mission from the other two. In fact these men could not give any evidence that would carry the prosecution any further.
10. This does not carry the prosecution further than proving that Subject did cross the line clandestinely, but does not in any way prove that he intended to obtain information useful to the enemy, or take such information back.
11. Consequently, we are left with direct evidence only to the effect that Subject clandestinely crossed the lines, but only his confession as to his intentions after crossing. This statement, I feel, would not be admitted by a Court in evidence as it was made under a promise of favour.
12. I have submitted this case to Lt. Col. J.L. Willis, who usually prosecutes this type of case, and he concurs with my opinion as set out above.
13. Under these circumstances, I submit that with the evidence available, this is not a proper case to take before a General Allied Military Court.

W.R. Hare.
Captain.

Security Branch.

STATEMENT OF CAPTAIN J.G. FAIRWEATHER of No. 3 S.C.I. UNIT
REGARDING THE INTERROGATION OF HERMANN SPRARER ON 29TH./30TH.
DECEMBER, 1943

1. On the morning of the 29th. December 1943, I arrived at 35 F.S. Section H.Q., at SESSA. I was there informed that three Italians named PUCCIA, De SANTIS and DEGIAMPIETRO had just been brought in for interrogation, suspected of espionage.
2. In one of the rooms of the H.Q., I saw Sgt. VASSALLO interrogating SPRARER (whom he believed to be named DEGIAMPIETRO). I spoke aside with the sergeant who informed me that de SANTIS and PUCCIA had already confessed that they were spies. He was then commencing to interrogate SPRARER.
3. About quarter of an hour later I returned to the room and heard VASSALLO inform SPRARER that he himself had formerly been a spy and that he was an Italian. Here he showed a false identity card to that effect. He then stated that just as he, after confessing, had been given a good job, so might SPRARER if he told the truth.
4. At this point I interrupted and asked the sergeant to send SPRARER to me at once and I would continue his interrogation.
5. I commenced by informing SPRARER that as his comrades PUCCIA and de SANTIS had already confessed to being spies, he had better confess also. He then said "I'm not talking", but as I persisted he added "What would you do were I to admit it"? This kind of conversation went on for about ten minutes, at the end of which

6 I had however, not time to take his full story that day. I accordingly left instructions for him to be held in solitary confinement and for no one else to be allowed to interrogate him.

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units in that area. 6

8. The following day I returned and took details of SPRARER's story.
9. SPRARER stated that he had served with the 8 German Army Corps on the Russian front. Thence he had been recalled to INNSBRUCK for further W/T training.

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2. In one of the rooms of the H.Q., I saw Sgt. VASSALLO interrogating SPRARER (whom he believed to be named DEGIAMPIETRO). I spoke aside with the sergeant who informed me that de SANTIS and PUCCIA had already confessed that they were spies. He was then commencing to interrogate SPRARER.
3. About quarter of an hour later I returned to the room and heard VASSALLO inform SPRARER that he himself had formerly been a spy and that he was an Italian. Here he showed a false identity card to that effect. He then stated that just as he, after confessing, had been given a good job, so might SPRARER if he told the truth.
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6. I then decided to interrogate PUCCIA and de SANTIS before continuing with SPRARER. Later in the afternoon I recommenced the interrogation of SPRARER.
7. Just as it was getting dusk, SPRARER confessed his true nationality and the nature of his mission, which was to go to NAPLES and ISERNIA and to report Railway movements between those places together with identification marks and location of Allied units in that area. ∅
8. The following day I returned and took details of SPRARER's story.
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10. From INNSBRUCK SPR ARER was sent to SOPRA BOLZANO where he was interviewed by a German Intelligence Officer. This officer informed him that in view of his knowledge of Italian he had been selected for espionage duties.

11. SPRARER protested against his new employment and asked to return to his Unit. He was ordered to do his duty and thereafter signed a contract binding him to carry out espionage. His training then was continued including, learning details of Allied Units, equipment etc.

12. On about 20th. December, SPRARER was ordered to report to the German Intelligence H.Q. at the pensione FLAVIA, ROME. Here he was informed that he was to cross the Allied lines with a W/T set and establish himself in NAPLES.

13. From ROME, SPRARER was taken to ARPINO and thence to an Intelligence H.Q. at ROCCASECCA, taking with him a W/T set. On the way, he let this set fall and one valve was broken. He was told to put the set right at ROCCASECCA.

14. After waiting some time at ROCCASECCA, SPRARER heard that the state of the lines was unsuitable for the crossing of agents. He was therefore taken back to ROME.

15. At ROME, SPRARER was interviewed by the Captain in charge of the Intelligence H.Q. He was informed that the damage done to his W/T set constituted an act of sabotage and left him open to a court-martial. He was informed that as a punishment, he would cross the lines with some Italians on a less important mission to prove that he was prepared to do his duty.

16. Subsequently SPRARER was taken back to ROCCASECCA. Here, on 28th. December, he was introduced to PUCCIA and de SANTIS who were to accompany him. He was given 2000 lire in new notes and conducted through the lines.

17. Up to the time of his capture, SPRARER had not made up his mind about his future plans. He did NOT know if he intended to fulfil his mission or not. Moreover, he was full of indignation at the treatment he had received at the hands of the Germans. Subsequently he had little time to make up his mind as he was captured almost at once.

18. SPRARER informed me he did not at once admit the truth because he did not know how he would be treated when we knew he was a German.

19. Generally, SPRARER told the truth after he had once broken down. He at first however, withheld the names of his fellow agents under training.

20. SPRARER admitted that he destroyed the bank Notes he was paid by the Germans after capture, as he realised that they would incriminate him.

John G. Lawrence
No. 3. S.C.I. UNIT Captain.

STATEMENT OF CAPTAIN J.G. FAIRWEATHER of No. 3 S.O.I. UNIT
REGARDING THE INTERROGATION OF HERMANN SPRAKER ON 29TH./30TH.
DECEMBER, 1943

1. On the morning of the 29th. December 1943, I arrived at 35 F.S. Section H.Q., at SASSA. I was there informed that three Italians named PUCCIA, de SANTIS and DEGIAMPIETRO had just been brought in for interrogation, suspected of espionage.

2. In one of the rooms of the H.Q., I saw Sgt. VASSALLO interrogating SPRAKER (whom he believed to be named DEGIAMPIETRO). I spoke aside with the sergeant who informed me that de SANTIS and PUCCIA had already confessed that they were spies. He was then commencing to interrogate SPRAKER.

3. About quarter of an hour later I returned to the room and heard VASSALLO inform SPRAKER that he himself had formerly been a spy and that he was an Italian. Here he showed a false identity card to that effect. He then stated that just as he, after confessing, had been given a good job, so might SPRAKER if he told the truth.

4. At this point I interrupted and asked the sergeant to send SPRAKER to me at once and I would continue his interrogation.

5. I commenced by informing SPRAKER that as his comrades PUCCIA and de SANTIS had already confessed to being spies, he had better

6 I had however, not time to take his full story that day. I accordingly left instructions for him to be held in solitary confinement and for no one else to be allowed to interrogate him.

7. Just as it was getting dusk, SPRAKER confessed his true nationality and the nature of his mission, which was to go to NAPLES and ISERNIA and to report Railway movements between those places together with identification marks and location of Allied units in that area. φ

8. The following day I returned and took details of SPRAKER's story.

9. SPRAKER stated that he had served with the 8 German Army Corps on the Russian front. Thence he had been recalled to LINDSEY for further W/T training.

STATEMENT OF CAPTAIN J.G. FAIRWEATHER of No. 3 S.O.I. UNIT
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6. I then decided to interrogate PUCCIA and de SANTIS before continuing with SPRARER. Later in the afternoon I recommenced the interrogation of SPRARER.
7. Just as it was getting dusk, SPRARER confessed his true nationality and the nature of his mission, which was to go to NAPLES and ISERNIA and to report Railway movements between those places together with identification marks and location of Allied units in that area. ϕ
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John G. Saurath
Captain.
No. 13. S.C.I. UNIT

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