

ACC 10000/143/2694

266/02 EW

WEISS EMANUEL

Apr. - Sept. 1945

CONFIDENTIAL

HEADQUARTERS LIGURIA REGION
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
A.P.O. 394
PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION

REF : LIG/SAF/643

25th September 1945

SUBJECT : British Renegade
- Emanuel WEISS.

TO : Director, Public Safety Sub-Commission
Hq. Allied Commission, C.M.F.
(Attn. Major HARVEY, Security Div.)

Security

Division

Rec'd 28/9

Book No 1181

File No 266.01 (EW)

Action ...

1. With reference to above named British Renegade, subject of H.Q. A.C. correspondence SD/266.02 of 10th May, 1945 and 26th June 1945.
2. Forwarded herewith are original documents and reports which have remained in the custody of Captain L.V. GALE and which are now returned for docketing in Security Division files or for transmission to G-2, A.F.H.Q. at your discretion.
3. These documents consist of :
 - (i) Original, signed statement made by Emanuel WEISS on 21 April 1945 at Terni "R" Internee Camp.
 - (ii) Statement of witness :
Mr. Peter PUECHA - British Subject.
 - (iii) Statement of Mr. Sydney Prior THOMAS.
witness - British subject.
 - (iv) Correspondence G/P 3417/BR (G-2 RAAC) of 16th April 1945, attaching G-2 AFHQ Correspondence of 11th April 1945 calling for investigation of the facts re Emanuel WEISS.
 - (v) Report of 276 F.S. Section, regarding preliminary interrogation of Emanuel WEISS.
 4. The British passport of WEISS was taken from him by 278 F.S. Section and should still be in their possession (Sergeant F. Reynolds). It was not seen by me, as the particulars were contained in the 276 F.S. Section report.

Louis V. Gale

LOUIS V. GALE, Capt.
Regional Security Officer.

Forwarded with attachments as requested. *W. J. McLeod*

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Louis V. Gale

LOUIS V. GALE, Capt.
Regional Security Officer.

Forwarded with attachments as requested. *M. J. Hefford*
M. J. HEFFORD, Lt. Col.
Regional Public Safety Officer.

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Headquarters
 Allied Commission
 C.M.F.
 Public Safety Sub-Commission
 SECURITY DIVISION.

21 April, 1945.

STATEMENT of Emanuel WEISS, Via Quattro Fontane 147, Rome, sound engineer, a British subject by birth who says: -

I have been cautioned by Captain L.V. Gale that I am not obliged to say anything unless I wish to do so, and that anything I say will be committed to writing and may be used in evidence. I hereby certify that I fully understand the implication of the caution. 00024

E. Weiss.

My correct name is Emanuel WEISS and I was born on 26th September 1903 at Zeist, Holland. My father was Emil Henry WEISS, a British subject, born 7th February 1869 at Wyck, England both of his parents being British subjects. My mother was Jacoba VAN ZANTEN, who was of Dutch nationality prior to her marriage. The distant origin of my father's family was Swiss, but the last three generations have been born and bred either in England or in British Dominions. My father died

E. Weiss.

2

registered particulars of my birth at the
British Consulate, either at Rotterdam or
Amsterdam. I obtained my first British
passport in ¹⁹²¹~~1920~~, or in about that year.
I came to England for the first time in
January, 1935 on a business trip which
lasted four days. I received the whole of
my education in Holland, at a High
School in Utrecht and at the University
of Utrecht. My earlier studies at the
University were medical studies which
lasted three years, but at the end of that
period, ¹⁹²¹ I wished to give up the
study, and therefore my parents sent me
away for my training to a hospital at
NIESKY, Germany, where the Director was a
friend of my father. They considered that
if I trained there under the guidance of
my father's friend - a man named SCHMIDT
that my interest in becoming a doctor of
medicine would be revived, as my studies
would be of a more practical nature. After
about six months I left the hospital,
however, and took up work as an ordinary
apprentice in an electrical shop in NIESKY.
I stayed there for three years, worked
and studied, and became qualified at
the local Chamber of Commerce as an
electrical technician. In 1924-25, I left
Germany and became employed by Philips
Works Eindhoven, Holland as a mechanic
and later as an assistant radio engineer
on research work in connection with sound
amplifiers. My employers then sent me to

G. H. W.

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Poland, first to their Warsaw works and then travelling in Poland for about 13 months, explaining sound tracks and amplifying developments. I went back to Eindhoven in about 1928-1929 and was then employed on new developments of Philips Works in connection with sound installations for cinemas, in the course of which I travelled throughout Holland. I also spent a few months in Locarno, Switzerland and in Madrid, Spain also supervising sound installations in cinemas, and demonstrating Philips models and cables. In 1932 I left Philips Works and went to Amsterdam where I opened up business on my own account a service agency for sound equipment for cinemas. Owing to difficulties with Philips Works in connection with patents and their stopping my supply of spare parts I was obliged to close my business down at the end of 1933. From that time until 1936 I worked in Amsterdam as a sound engineer ^{with} a firm known as "CINETONE". In June, 1936, I accepted an offer from an Italian firm S.A.F.A. (Societa Anonima Film Attualita) Via Mondovì 31-33, Rome, and went to Rome in their employ as a sound engineer. On ~~the~~ April 1937, I went to Budapest and there married Eva MARENTE, a Hungarian, on 10th April, 1937. I was only in Budapest for about 1st Jan.

E. Van

4.

days and immediately after my marriage came back to Rome with my wife. On 7th February, 1938, my daughter - Evelyn Milita - was born. My wife was interned in July, 1940 with the child but I was permitted to continue to work for SAFA until about the end of December, 1940. Although I made repeated enquiries and protests at the "Ufficio Stranieri" - a department of the former Questura Centrale, I was unable to find out why my wife and child were interned and I was left free. It is my opinion that it was the influence of my employers, who regarded me as indispensable as a sound engineer, which prevented my being interned. In January, 1941, I asked to be interned with my wife but at about that time was informed that she had been given permission to go to her mother's home in Budapest. I tried to get permission of the Italian authorities to go to Spain in February, 1941 to take up employment with "BASSOLI FILMS" but was refused a permit. In March, 1941 I was arrested and sent to an internment camp at Monte Chiarigato, Parma Province. I must say that, after my permit to work for SAFA was cancelled in December 1940, I did no work of any kind up to being interned, but lived on my savings. On 10th September, 1943, the day of the Italian Armistice, I managed to escape, with many others from the internment camp.

E. Milita

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at Monte Chiarugolo, but I was recaptured with about forty others in the same district, by German S.S. We had been informed that the internment camp had been abandoned and therefore had come back there in the hope of recovering some of our personal possessions.

The Germans, who found us just outside the Camp, took us inside again and the next morning I was taken with

group of other prisoners to the Artillery Barracks at Reggio Emilia. I was there until early October, 1943 and during that time did some interpreting from Italian into German, for the German medical officer there who was examining old and new internees, some of whom were subsequently released. Just after this I was approached by a German S.S. officer, ^{named STOCK} who was in command of the camp, who said that he had heard that I was always worried at the idea of perhaps being sent to Germany, and that there was a chance to avoid being sent, namely to accept a position as interpreter at the "Ordnungskommandatur" in Reggio Emilia. I asked him what work this would involve and he said that I would be required to interview Italian Civilians who called at the office of the Ordnungskommandatur, and to translate the objects of their visits to the German officer in charge. The Ordnungskommandatur was at Villa Borzacche, Viale Timavo 57, Reggio Emilia. I said that I thought it

W. H. H.

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rather a strange request to make of an internee and asked to be allowed to see the office and the German officer there to find out more details. He took me there and I saw the German officer in charge at the Ostkommandatur - Lieutenant Ludwig KUHN who told me that it was merely interviewing local Italians, who were calling in connection with enquiries about relatives who had been taken into custody by German military, and also requests for passes and permits. I told Lieutenant KUHN that I would think the matter over.

I at once discussed it with Mr Albert DE GRAAN, a Dutch internee, who was Camp leader. He advised me to accept the position as it seemed harmless enough. I said that I would like to speak with Mr STEFFANS, the visiting representative from the Swiss Legation, British Interests Department, Rome, whom I knew to be in Reggio Emilia on that day - 1-2 October, 1943. DE GRAAN took me during the afternoon (we had not gone back to the camp as I met him near the Ostkommandatur after I left Lieutenant KUHN) into the town and whilst we were walking Mr STEFFAN pulled up in his car near us and asked us both to get in. We did so and were taken to a hotel where we had lunch with Mr STEFFAN. Before we

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J. W. G. 10

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 Had left the car I told Mr STEFFANS
 of the offer made to me by the Germans,
 and he advised me to accept the job,
 as it did not appear to be work
 which was to the detriment of British
 interests. The next day I reported
 for duty at the Ostschlesien commandation as
 an interpreter without even asking
 what the payment was. In fact I did
 not expect to be paid anything and was
 very surprised when, about six weeks
 later, a German sergeant there called
 me in to receive payment of wages
 at 2,200 lire per month. Throughout
 the time that I was employed there,
 my work was entirely confined to
 interpreting - I had no other duties
 whatsoever. I acted solely as the
 personal interpreter of Lieutenant KUHN
 in his dealings with the civil population
 and every matter interpreted by me was
 purely of a civilian character. I was
 not even required to interpret any cases
 where civilians denounced or gave inform-
 ation about other civilians. Matters of
 this character would be dealt with
 by another German Unit. Lieutenant
 KUHN's office had no connection whatsoever
 with intelligence matters so far as I
 know. The majority of civilians who
 called at the office, and for whom I

R. W. W.

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interpreted, were persons seeking permits for travel, curfew, telephone permits and telegram permits. Also I interpreted at interviews between Lieutenant KUHN and various local tradespeople, in matters relating to repairs to German billets and other entirely domestic matters.

- ¶ About a month after starting work with Lieutenant KUHN, I managed to get a permit to leave the confines of the 50031 internment camp (then at a school) and to live in the town of Reggio Emilia. I was to live at the home of a school teacher - Mrs. BERTOLINI, Via Emilia San Stefano 22, Reggio Emilia where I stayed throughout the remainder of my employment, until 10th March, 1945, when I ceased work and left Reggio Emilia. During the time of my employment with Lieut. KUHN my pay was raised on several occasions, without my asking, from 2,200 lire per month up to 3,150 lire per month at the time when I left. At the above address I shared rooms with my friend Mr. DE GRAAN, who obtained the permit for me, who exercised some influence on me, and who was himself employed at the Platzkommandatur (District Command) which directed and was a command superior to the Ortskommandatur (Local Command). I used to eat two meals every day at the Albergo Posta where I was in the town. I became acquainted with

John W. W.

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a number of the townspeople, and those with whom I was on friendly terms were anti-fascists. They knew of my position and the nature of the work I was doing but none of them considered that I was doing anything wrong. Among these people were Vithouso MOTTI, Conte SCARPINELLI, Signor LARI, Eugenio MALNATI, Antonio DI PANE (Director of Albergo Posta), Signora Gina BIGLIARDI, Agosto TRUCCO, Anita TRUCCO, Carlo VISCONTI.

- During the first month or so of my employment with Lieut KUHN, he was invited to dinner one evening by VISCONTI, who wanted a permit or permits of various kinds in connection with his chess business. KUHN asked me to go along with him as interpreter and I did so. I used to frequent regularly the Albergo Posta with my friends, in the evenings, drinking wine and talking. Occasionally, Lieutenant KUHN would come in, would talk with me in German, or would watch card games which were sometimes in progress. I might say that in my conversations with Lieut. KUHN I found that he was anti-Nazi to an amazing degree for a German officer.
- I made a number of trips outside Reggio Emilia, on pleasure, with the friends I have mentioned. Only once did I leave Reggio Emilia with Lieut. KUHN. That was on business when I accompanied him as interpreter to Bologna. The matter concerned
- G. W. W.

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an application made by the Italian authorities in Reggio, for the release of a number of torrappeople in Bologna who had been arrested wrongfully by German military. Lieut KUHN was not normally concerned with matters of arrest but on this occasion was specially directed by the Platzkommandatur to go to Bologna to investigate. At Bologna we went to the Caserma Rossi, Lieut KUHN went into a German Military Office and came out after a few minutes saying that the matter had already been arranged and that I would have no

interpreting to do. In September, 1944 I heard from KUHN that a detachment of German S.D. (Schutzdienst) were coming to Reggio Emilia to take over internee matters. I therefore decided to try to get back my British passport which I knew to be in the custody of the Platzkommandatur, in a wooden box with documents of other internees. DE GRAN, who worked there, told me all this. One day, when the whole staff of the Platzkommandatur were at lunch and the office was unguarded, I walked in and took my passport, knowing from DE GRAN that no record was kept of the documents held. The absence of the passport was never subsequently noticed. The German S.D. came into the town and took up apartments at Viale Sordani 29 under a ~~Lieut~~ LEIPHOLD, but they never interfered with me in any way and I had nothing to do with them, except that on 8 March, 1945, I heard that I was about to be sent

LW.

Blair

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North to Parma for transport to Germany.

EW. I therefore went to see ^{Captain} ~~Lieutenant~~ LEIPOLD but he told me that he could do nothing as the order came from a higher command and no information was available on the subject of my removal to Parma. I decided to escape from the district, to cross the lines and present myself to an Allied Command. With the assistance of

EW. Signor TRUCCO and a partisan whom I knew - known as "TANGO" (husband of TRUCCO's maid) I succeeded in getting away passing through ~~Quarta~~ Quarta Zona, Viano, Baisa, Gova, Bivago. I crossed the line at a spot between Bivago and Barga, where I presented myself with other persons who had travelled with me, to the Carabinieri and then to an Allied Command. Then

EW under Military Police supervision we went to Barga Fornaccio di Barga, Viareggio, Florence and reached Rome on 24th March, 1945.

P. On my arrival in Rome I went to find Mr DE GRAN, who had escaped from Reggio Emilia in May, 1944 and who I knew was likely to be found at the office of A.G.I.P. in Rome. He took me to see a certain Colonel Edwards at an office in front of Cinecitta. Whilst in Rome I also made contact with an intimate friend of mine, Charles LIBBY, British, of "D" Section, P.W.B. This statement has been read to me by Captain L.V. Gale and it is true, except for that part

E.W. 1100

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of it on page 10 which deals with the way
in which I got my passport back. Actually
I did not take it from the office of the
Platz Kommandant, but received it directly
from Lieutenant KUHN, who told me that if
the S.D. came I would never get it back. He
knew that I was going to escape and said
as he gave me the passport, "I hope you'll
get your liberty back very soon."

J. Weiss.

Statement taken down, read over and
signature witnessed by me, in the
presence of Lieut. Claude J. BOVE, American
AFHQ Section (C.I)
officer, G-2, ~~RAAE~~.

Louis R. Gale, Captain
Investigating Officer
Headquarters Allied Commission
C.I.F.

Claude J. Bove,
1st Lt. FA,
AFHQ, G-2 Section (CI)

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STATEMENT of Mr. Peter PRECHA

British subject, (British passport-

No 56 issued at Durazzo, Albania

15.1.40, renewed by Swiss Consulate

(British Interests) Como on 14.3.45)

Accountant and Secretary, residing

at Albergo Principe, Via Guido da

Castello, Reggio Emilia, who says:-

At the time of the Italian declaration

I was in Tirana, Albania

as Accountant and Secretary to a

firm of builder's supply contractors

— Metani and Company, Tirana. I was

invested shortly afterwards and sent

in December, 1940 to Bari, Italy, then

being conveyed directly to Montecchiarelli,

Province of Parma in an internment camp.

Then I made the acquaintance of

Emmanuel WEISS, Rudolf, and Albert

DE GAAN, Dutch subject. On 11 September

1943 we were all transferred to the

Artillery Barracks, Reggio Emilia and

after a few days WEISS and DE GAAN

left the barracks. Later DE GAAN

returned to the camp and informed

the camp house - Mr Sidney THOMAS

15.1.40, renewed by Swiss Consul
(British Interests) Como on 14.3.45)
Accountant and Secretary, residing
at Albeo Principe, Via Guido da
Castello, Reggio Emilia, who says:-

At the time of the Italian declaration
of war I was in Triana, Albania
as Accountant and Secretary to a
firm of builder's supply contractors

— Metani and Company, Triana. I was
arrested shortly afterwards and sent
in December, 1940 to Bari, Italy, the
being conveyed directly to Montecchiarelli,
Province of Parma in an internment camp.

Then I made the acquaintance of
Emmanuel WEISS, British, and Albert
DE GAAN, Dutch subject. On 11 September
1943 we were all transferred to the
Artillery Barracks, Reggio Emilia and
after a few days WEISS and DE GAAN
left the barracks. Later DE GAAN
returned to the camp and informed
the camp lease - Mr Sidney THOMAS
and myself (I was his deputy) that
both were working as interpreters
for German commandos. Subsequently

W. Reuber

2.

we learned from DE GRAN that he, himself was employed at the PLATZ KOMMANDANTUR, which WEISS was at the ORT KOMMANDANTUR, and that they shared a flat in the town. I was at no time approached either by WEISS or DE GRAN for advice as to the ethics, legality or otherwise of the work they were undertaking for the Germans. From that time onwards WEISS ceased all connection with the camp and so far as I know did not return to visit the camp even on one occasion, although he was in the town, to my knowledge, for the next two years, working for the Germans. At some time afterwards WEISS continued to receive the British subsidy and on two occasions I went to the ^{ORTS} ~~PLATZ~~ KOMMANDANTUR to see him and to pay him his subsidy against receipt. I was only permitted to interview him in the corridor, and therefore did not see what was going on there. Even on those occasions, I never raised any question as to there being any objection as to his being employed there. I visited the apartment on one occasion to ask DE GRAN to secure certain privileges for the internees. As he was not in, I left a message with WEISS. Subsequently,

over the me.
over one signature
in later town,
Lorenz, J. J.
Security Officer
A.S.

action by WEISS & DE GRANN for advice as to the ethics, legally or otherwise of the work they were undertaking for the Germans. From that time onwards WEISS ceased all connection with the camp and so far as I know did not return to visit the camp even on one occasion, although he was in the town, to my knowledge, for the next two years, working for the Germans. At some time afterwards WEISS continued to receive the

British subsidy and on two occasions I went to the ^{CHRISTIAN AND SONS} ~~CHRISTIAN AND SONS~~ to see him and to pay him his subsidy agency receipt. I was only permitted to interview him in the corridor, and therefore did not see what was going on there. Even on those occasions, I never raised any question as to their being any objection as to his having employees there. I visited them apartment on one occasion to ask DE GRANN to secure certain privileges for the internees. As he was not in, I left a message with WEISS. Subsequently the privileges were granted on DE GRANN'S application. This statement has been read to me and it is true.

Peter Brecha

Witnessed by me, J. G. [illegible]
Secretary of the [illegible]
A.A.S.

45

STATEMENT of Mr. Sydney RICH THOMAS,
British subject (British passport No.
C. 129710 issued 1.4.40 at Turin)
Commercial correspondent, residing at
Refugees Centre (Allied Nationalities)
Artillery Barracks, Reggio Emilia, who
says:—

On 10 June 1940, within a few minutes
of the declaration of war by Italy,
I was arrested and interned at
Turin. After brief periods of confinement
in various camps I was conveyed to
a camp at MONTECCHIAUGOLA, Province of
Parma, where I made the acquaintance
of Emanuel WEISS, British subject of
Dutch origin, and Albert DE GAAN,
Dutch subject. These two persons were
at all times very close friends and
always managed to keep together.
In September, 1943 we were all
transferred to the Artillery Barracks,
Reggio Emilia. DE GAAN immediately
commenced work for the Germans as an
interpreter at the PLATZ KOMMANDATUR,
although at first for some weeks he
continued to live in the camp. He said
that he was doing this in "to prevent
interests of the Internees —" "I should

Refugees Centre (Allied Forces)
Artillery Barracks, Reggio Emilia, who
says:—

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of the declaration of war by Italy,
I was arrested and interned at
Turin. After brief periods of confinement
in various camps I was conveyed to
a camp at MONTECHIAVAGRO, Province of
Parma, where I made the acquaintance
of Emanuel WEISS, Baltic subject of
Dutch origin, and Albert-DE GRAAN,
Dutch subject. These two persons were
at all times very close friends and
always managed to keep together.
In September, 1943 we were all
transferred to the Artillery Barracks,
Reggio Emilia. DE GRAAN immediately
commenced work for the Germans as an
interpreter at the PLATZ KOMMANDANTUR,
although at first for some weeks he
continued to live in the camp. He said
that he was doing this in "to protect"
interests of the internees — "to prevent"
them being sent to Germany". Shortly
afterwards WEISS left the camp to live
in the town with DE GRAAN and I
learned from the latter that WEISS
had met V. Zhovner.

2.
 was employed as an interpreter at the OATSKOMMANDATUR. He at no time consulted me about this matter and even when I subsequently met him in the town he did not raise the question in any form, although he knew that I was the elected camp leader. WEISS at no time afterwards took any interest whatsoever in the camp and I do not believe that he ever again visited there. On ~~one~~ ^{the} occasions I went to the OATSKOMMANDATUR ~~to~~ ^{to} work Mr. PRACHA ~~was always~~ ^{was} to pay WEISS his Butcher subsidy. I was not allowed to enter the building and WEISS was called to speak with us on the doorstep outside. Neither WEISS, nor any other person applied to me or his behalf for permission or advice regarding his undertaking this work. Had I been asked I would definitely have prohibited his undertaking the work. This statement has been read to me and it is true.

Henry V. Thomas.

Statement taken down, read over and signature witnessed by.

Leoni J. Lee, Captain

Security Officer. H.V.S.

CONFIDENTIAL

ROME AREA ALLIED COMMAND
Office of the AC of S, G-2
APO No. 794 US Army.

Capt Gale

G/P3A17/RR

16 Apr 45

SUBJECT : WEISS Emanuel.

TO : CC, 276 PS Section.

Reference your SEC/12 dated 5 Apr 45.

1. Attached herewith are instructions concerning subject, received from AFHQ.
2. Please arrange with Major HARVEY, Security Division, AC, for the arrest of subject and his removal to "R" Internee Camp.

Security
Division
11/4
6750
File No 1266.02
AC 1308

D.A.D. Young
(D.A.D. YOUNG)
Lt. Col.,
G.S.

Copy to :- Major HARVEY, Security Division, AC.

Lt Reynolds 276 PSS will phone you re papers in the process

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rd

CONFIDENTIAL

HOME AREA ALLIED COMMAND
Office of the AC of S, G-2
APO No. 794 US Army.

G/P31.17/TR

18 Apr 45

SUBJECT : WEISS Emanuel.

TO : Commandant, "R" Internee Camp.

1. Instructions have been received from AFHQ that the above named British subject at present in ROME, shall be arrested and taken to "R" Internee Camp, on a charge of adhering to the King's enemies.
2. Arrangements are therefore being made with Security Division AC for the case to be dealt with in the same way as the case of SPERONI, and subject should be brought to your camp in the course of the next few days.

Security
Division
17/4
67/19
File No 26602
AC 1001

D.A.D. Young
(D.A.D. YOUNG)
Lt. Col.,
G.S.

Copy to :- Major HARVEY, Security Division, AC.

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RD

CONFIDENTIAL

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2
APO 512, U.S. Army

Security
Division
Rec'd. 15/4
Book No. 6692
File No. 266.02
Action

GBI.389.450/A-60.

11 April, 1945.

SUBJECT: WEISS, Emanuel.

TO : Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2,
Rome Area Allied Command.

Col. Cole

1. Reference your G/P3417/Ex dated 6 April, 1945 and further reference GBI.389.701/PP/1074 dated 10 April 1945 from this office.

2. It is agreed that as WEISS served for a considerable period at a German Headquarters he should be arrested on the charge of adhering to the King's enemies.

3. It is requested that the case be handled in the same manner as that of John SPANZI and that, after a statement has been taken from him under caution by an officer of the Security Division of the Allied Commission, that WEISS be despatched under escort to "R" Internee Camp.

For the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2:

P. Quas Romo. U.S.A.

S.S. HILL-DILLON,
Colonel, U.S.,
G-2 (CI) Section.

Copy to: Security Division, ✓
Public Safety Sub-Commission,
Allied Commission.

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CONFIDENTIAL

To: OC 276 IS Section

Subject: Weiss Emanuel in Emil Henry

1. Att are copies of report on interrogation of a/n Br subject, who was passed to this office by Col EDWARDS, CSIC, to whom he had presented himself voluntarily.
2. This man was employed as an interpreter at the office of the ORSTROMMANDANTUR, REGGIO EMILIA from Oct 43 - Mar 45, at the end of which period he crossed to AOT in order to avoid being sent to GERMANY, he states. It is thought that this work was performed without undue pressure being put on him, and that the services rendered for which he received 3,140 lire per month, were probably satisfactory. Subject states that he disliked the position intensely and that he undertook the work in order to avoid being sent to GERMANY. It does not, however, appear that any definite threat was made to him, and it is therefore considered more than probable that he accepted the position in order to avoid the restrictions placed on him.
3. It appears that there is a possible case against this man on a charge of "adhering to the king's enemies" - under Defence Regulations Instructions as to further action are therefore requested.
4. While there is no solid proof that this man may be of interest from a C.I. angle, in view of certain weaknesses in the story e.g. the ease with which he removed his passport from the offices of the PLANTON-AIDANTUR, REGGIO EMILIA the casual way in which the QUESTURA, REGGIO EMILIA passed him the information that he was to report to S.D. offices ready to move to PAVIA.
the ease with which the escape from REGGIO EMILIA was effected
the fairly high proportion of coincidences in the story

it is suggested that :

- a) the man be re-interrogated along the same lines by this Sec
- b) a copy of this report be passed to SUI for further inquiries by them.

FIELD.

PC
157.

Interrogation of WEISS Emmanuel fu Emil Henry

1.

1. The a/n British subject in possession of British passport No 1344 (issued AMSTERDAM, 25 Jan 40) was born in ZAIST, HOLLAND, 26 Sep 1903 - father Emil Henry WEISS; mother Jacaba VAN ZANTEN.
2. He studied as an engineer in HOLLAND until 1921, and then held various posts in POLAND and SPAIN as engineer, and later as sound engineer at CINEPHONE Studios, AMSTERDAM.
3. His later history is as follows:
- 1936 Came to ROME as sound engineer for SOCIETA ANTONIA FILM ASSOCIATA, offices Via MONDOVI 21/33, ROME. President Comm. MANONINELLI: Director Comm. D'AVANZELLI Mario.
- 1937 14 Apr Married MARCELE Iva, Hungarian, at BUDAPEST. Continued to live in ROME with her at Via CERVINATI No 46. One child was born in ROME 1938.
- Jul 1940 Wife and child arrested as British subjects. He himself was not disturbed by the Italian authorities until
- Dec 1940 when permit to work at SAVA was stopped. (Subject can give no explanation of this state of affairs)
- Jan 41 Presented himself at the Questura and asked to be allowed to join his wife. Request granted but on the same day he learned that his wife had been given permission on to leave the camp and go to her home in BUDAPEST.
- Feb 41 Made an effort to leave the country to take up employment in SPAIN. Visa obtained from American Consul (see passport) but permission to leave the country refused by Italian authorities.
- 19 Mar 45/41 Arrested as a D subject and taken to concentration camp at MONTE CHIARUGOLO, Prov of PARMA. He remained there until the Armistice in Sep 43. (He states in regard to the entries in his passport - pages 19 and 21, that in the first instance the entries were made automatically by the Swiss authorities and in the second that he reminded the German officer in charge of internees at REGGIO EMILIA that his passport needed renewing. This officer therefore forwarded his passport to the Swiss Legation in MILAN who returned it when completed)
- 8 Sep 43 Escaped from Conco traction camp at MONTE CHIARUGOLO.
- 10 Sep 43 Recaptured by the Germans, taken back to the camp and

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live in Rome with her at Via CERVINIA No 46. One child was
born in Rome 1938.
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passport needed renewing. This officer therefore forwarded
his passport to the Swiss Legation in MILAN who returned
it when completed)
- 8 Sep 43 Escaped from concentration camp at MONTE CHIARUOLO.
- 10 Sep 43 Recaptured by the Germans, taken back to the camp and
shortly afterwards moved to the Artillery Barracks, REGGIO
Emilia.
- Between the last date and the beginning of Oct he acted as
interpreter for some old people who were to be interviewed
by the Medical Officer at the barracks, with a view to
release.
- Oct 43 In consequence of this action, as he states, he was called
into the office of the Commandant of the camp, a certain SS
officer, STOCK) and informed that an interpreter was needed
at the office of the ORNSTEIN ANDERSON, REGGIO EMILIA. It was
pointed out that the only way to avoid being sent to

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Germany was to accept the position. He was not enthusiastic but allowed himself to be taken to that office at VIALE CINEMA No 17, Villa BORMACCHIE. He did not accept the position immediately, but told them he would give an answer on the following day, as he had a supper appointment with a Mr STEPHENS, representative of the Swiss Consul, ROSE, (who was paying a routine visit to REGGIO EMILIA in connexion with internee affairs) of whom he intended to ask advice. He met STEPHENS at the Albergo SAN MARCO along with a Mr DE GRAN. STEPHENS suggested that it would be better to keep on friendly terms with the Germans, and WEISS therefore accepted the position.

Oct 43-Mar 45

Worked as interpreter at QUESTONMANTURUM, REGGIO EMILIA. The officer in charge was a Lt KUHN, avuncular man, described as anti-Nazi but pro-German. Appears to have been in an Alpen jaeger regiment as for some time he wore an eidelweiss on his uniform. He appears to have been the German equivalent of the British Town Major, - he was responsible for the billeting of troops and the issue of permits to civilians. Subject's duties consisted of dealing with civilians who came to the office, requesting 'permits', information etc. KUHN it was stated invariably accepted his decision in such matters. Asked how he had usually formed an opinion in these matters he said that he merely concerned himself with the validity of the motives there being no Black List to be checked. Asked how he knew when people who should not have movement permits for security reasons presented themselves he said he did not know and that it was more than probable that many such had actually received them.

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Subject's relations with KUHN appear to have been, especially in the later stage extremely cordial. On one occasion they dined together at the house of a Mr VISCONTI at REGGIO EMILIA, and on one occasion, KUHN came to subject's apartment and invited him to go for a drink at the Albergo POSTA. They met quite frequently, by accident - subject states, at the later hotel, and usually had a few drinks together.

Subject was living in apartments let to him by a Miss BERTOLINI, a school teacher at REGGIO, at Via EMILIA SAN STEFANO 22. He was in possession of a document stating that he was a British subject and had given his word that he would not leave REGGIO EMILIA without permission. For his services he received 3,140 lire per month.

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His most important acquaintances in REGGIO EMILIA were Sig. NOTTI, Sig. SCARFIMELLI, Sig. IARI, Sig. MARINATI, Sig. VISCONTI, Sig. DI PALE, Sigma DIGILLARDI, Sig. TRUCCO. Subject was introduced to TRUCCO on 21 Sep 43, by a Mr DE GRAM, who was interned with subject at the Art Barracks. A friendship sprang up between them to the extent that TRUCCO usually came to breakfast at Via Emilia 5. Stefano when he came into work from his home at ALBERGO some 8 kilometres outside REGGIO. He was manager of A.G.I.P. REGGIO and owned a house at Via 28 Ottobre, which he had vacated on account of the bombardments. He was now living on a farm at ALBETO with his wife Anita and two children.

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Subject was also in the habit of having lunch with TRUCCO every day and visited him at the farm occasionally at week ends - perhaps ten times in all.

Main events during the period Oct 43 - Mar 45 are as follows:

- Mar 43 Went to CASTELLUMARO to stay for two days with a Jean CRANZLO, brother - in - law of TRUCCO,
- Jan 44 Went three times to PAPA in ten days to take KUNN's dog to the Italian Vet Hosp there. Each time he went and returned with the mail courier.
- Spring 44 Went to BACHOLO in PIANO to visit internee friends who, not having been released, had been transferred there from REGGIO
- May 44 Went to a small place outside VIOMIA with Sig. MAGGI, in the later's car, to visit the later's fiancée.
- Easter 44 Given a few days leave. Went to COMO for the trip, using Magiati's car and a permit furnished by KUNN.
- 15 Aug 44 To BOLOGNA with KUNN and a Dott. SERRA of the Questura, to look into the matter of certain arrests made in the area by S.S. BOLOGNA. (It appears that several people with good party and political records had been arrested, representations had been made by the Podesta and the Podests, and the German Command at REGGIO had promised to intervene. KUNN, it was stated was not normally concerned with arrests, but had been sent to represent the major in charge at the PLAZZONMANTOUR) This was the only time that KUNN asked subject to accompany him outside REGGIO on duty.

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Sep 44 Obtained passport without the knowledge of the authorities in the following manner. A certain number of internees had been released under supervision. Their documents were kept in an open box in the office of a Lieut REIMANN, of the IA/IC Dept of the PLAZZONMANTOUR at No 10/20000 VIALE TRIUNFO. They had not been listed, since REIMANN appears to have been extremely unethical. At the beginning of Sep 44, subject heard that a det of S.D. was coming to REGGIO and would take over internee affairs. He therefore decided to remove his passport, if possible, hoping that the loss would not be discovered in the transference. He there slipped into REIMANN's office one lunch time while all offices at the PLAZZONMANTOUR were empty and extracted

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 there slipped into REIMANN's office one lunch time while all
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 his passport. The loss was never discovered. He states
 that he was in possession of the details necessary to do
 this, because in his capacity as interpreter he had often
 accompanied people who came to ORSTKOMMANDANTUR for inform-
 ation, to the offices of the IA/IC Dept at the PLAZZAKOMMAN-
 TUR.

Sep 44.
 A det of S.D. arrived at RUCCIO at the beginning of Sep.
 Took up offices at 23, VIALE TRIAVO. Officer in charge
 was a Lieut WIRTHOLD. Subject states that he did not know
 either this officer or any other members of the staff
 personally and that he went only once to the office (see
 below). He believes that a certain THUMARI was employed

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by xxxxx S.D. in that area. About Jan 45 the S.D. offices were moved to Via ZENONI No 8.

8 Mar 45

At about 1030am while in the office, he received a telephone call from a certain ROCKMANN (also an internee believed also British, employed as interpreter at the Food Control Office.) ROCKMANN informed him that Dott BRAU of the Ufficio Stranieri had just rung him up to tell him that he must be ready to move to PAVIA on the following Sunday (11 Mar), and for that purpose he was to be outside the offices of the S.D. with 20 kilos of luggage at 1600 hrs on that date. Since BRAU did not know subject's telephone number he had asked ROCKMANN to pass the information on to him. This was the only intimation received by subject of his proposed trip. He was extremely disturbed at the news but remained working in the office until lunch time. He had lunch and then at about 1500 hours he went along to the S.D. office at Via ZENONI No 8 in order to demand further information. He was shown in to Lt BRIPHOLD by an Italian employed there (who he did not know). He requested information and was informed by that officer that nothing could be done as the order had come from a higher command. Subject thereupon told BRIPHOLD that he had not the slightest intention of presenting himself, was told not to be stupid, that he would be arrested and punished and the interview closed. Subject returned to his own office.

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9 Mar 45

TRUCCO came to breakfast about 0800. WEISS explained the situation and asked for help. The matter of a possible escape had been discussed between them and subject states he used the words "Now is the time, I shall have to escape". It appears that TRUCCO's said at ALBINLO was carried to a man named TAGNO who was in contact with the partisans in that area. TRUCCO promised to speak to TAGNO to enlist his aid in passing WEISS over to them, in order that they could help him to cross into AOF. At 0900 hrs he went to the office and remained there working - he was very busy that morning - until 1230. He had lunch with TRUCCO at the Albergo POSTA (where he always ate) 1300-1330 hrs. He then went to his apartment with TRUCCO and while they were preparing luggage to be left at the Albergo POSTA ROCKMANN came. Subject told him that he intended to escape but gave no details of the plan he had in mind. He then went to the office where he remained

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10 Mar 45

Got up about 0700. Made breakfast. Waited for TRUCCO who arrived about 0800 with the news that he had arranged the matter with TAGNO. At 0830 he went to the office and

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and was very busy there until 1245. 1300 - lunch with TRUCCO at the POSTA. Both returned to subject's flat where they packed a valise for the journey - putting in it, shirt, shoes he is now wearing, a type of windproof, brush, comb, tooth brush, tooth paste, piece of soap, safety razor, blades, a few packets of cigarettes and a wallet, ~~xxx~~ 2 tins of corned beef and a packet of MORLOCK'S Vitamin tablets which he said he had obtained from the Red Cross organization some considerable time before. He left his apartment about 1500 with TRUCCO called round at the later's house in REGGIO EMILIA and left with him for ALBERO, both on bicycles, at about 1600 hrs. (The bicycle he was using belonged to TRUCCO's wife and had been left "in deposito" in REGGIO EMILIA for about a year.) There is a road block just off the CIRCUNNAVIGAZIONE STRADA outside REGGIO EMILIA which they avoided by taking the secondary rd. They arrived at TRUCCO's home at about 1730. At 2100 TAGNO arrived at to give instructions for the following day. At 2230 he went to bed. At 2300 there was a visit from partisans in the area, who had come round to all the houses in the district to remove the lists of occupants placed by the German authorities in all houses. He did not see them personally.

11 Mar 45

Got up at 0500, breakfast 0515: met TAGNO behind the house at 0530. Set off across the fields passing VIZZANI on the right. Passed a group of partisans and then waited for two men, fathers of partisans, who wished to be taken to QUARTO ZONA, the first leg in the journey. About 0800, the two men arrived and all four proceeded to the partisan post QUARTO ZONA - a deserted farm about an hour's walk from VIANO. They arrived between 0930 -1000. They ate with the partisans there and TAGNO then went back. At 1300 the chief of the band RAGNO, took subject to a little house nearby and handed him over to a girl who was to accompany him on the next stage of his journey to 1° Posta di Blocco. They passed the main rd nr VIANO (carefully as German patrolmen were up and down there), and arrived at the 1° Posta di Blocco at about 1530. This place consists apparently of a group of deserted houses occupied by about 20 partisans. About five or ten minutes later he set off again with two partisans for BASSO. The partisans are described as very young, and armed with automatic rifles, and with hand grenades in their belts. It was a very hot day, and they stopped several times for a drink of water.

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he had met there - a certain FROX GREGO, who been employed previously at the Food Control Office, REGGIO EMILIA, and who had escaped to BALBO to avoid arrest. ROCKMANN and WITTS went to bed at about 2200 - both sleeping in the same bed.

12 Mar 45

Left BALBO about 1030 with ROCKMANN, the partisan and the partisan's wife (mentioned above). They walked for about three hours along a rd, the partisans in front, arm in arm, and then arrived at a small place of which the subject does not know the name nor can he point to it on the map. There he was taken to a house at the back of an empty church, where there were about 20 partisans resting and cleaning arms. Here they ate and rested, but set off almost immediately in company of two other partisans, passing the River SECCHIO after about two hours walking. At 1900 they arrived at GOVA. (Subject is not sure whether GOVA is in fact QUARA - and despite the fact that GOVA is not shown on the map, seemed fairly convinced that the latter was actually the name he heard. It is described as being smaller than BALBO and as consisting of about 100 houses stretching along both sides of the rd.) Here he was taken to a church where there were 5 or 6 priests. He was given food and told that a Major DAVIES of the Br Army was there. He therefore went to see Maj DAVIES to discuss his position as a Br; subject who had been employed by the Germans. They discussed the matter for about half an hour, and DAVIES told him to report to TSS when he arrived in AOT. (This officer is described as dressed in WD, tall, normal build and with a marked stutter, about 45 yrs old). He slept with the partisans at their HQ that night.

13 Mar 45

Rose about 0700 hrs. went to see Maj DAVIES and wrote down for him all he knew about REGGIO EMILIA. Set off about 1000 with ROCKMANN and two partisans, arriving at a little place the name of which he does not know, where they stayed for the rest of the day, resting, and eating and sleeping at the Partisan HQ there.

14 Mar 45

Set off for GTVAGO in the company of two partisans and ROCKMANN arriving there at 1400. Here he was presented to the Capo Guida and met a certain Frits SCHNAPPER (Dutchman) who had been interned with him but who had escaped and was now acting as liaison officer between the partisans and the Br Forces. SCHNAPPER, who was on duty, allowed subject to use his bed for the night in a house occupied by a shoemaker, his wife and two children. As it was

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15 Mar 45

Got up about 0800, waited for instructions for the next stage of the journey and was finally told to be ready to move off at 1630. (At midday he remembers very distinctly that he ate polenta) At 1630 a party of about 150, including 10 guides, a number of partisans, German POW several women, of whom one was carrying a baby, himself and ROCKMANN set off. The journey appears to have been something of a nightmare: his memory of it is very vague, but he can recall climbing up out of valleys and going

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down again three times. Several people dropped out on the way, including the woman carrying the baby.

At 0700 they met an American patrol. Between 0830 - 0900 they arrived at BARGA. They were sent to CRRR where he believes all members of the party except himself were interrogated by an American. At 1630 they were sent to TORREACI DI BARGA (Rockmann being left behind for medical attention to his feet) Here they stayed the night.

Interrogated by Americans and then sent to VIAREGGIA. Stayed there two days until

Sent to FLORENCE, to a PW Camp, and from there passed to a Repatriation Centre where he stayed the night. From there to a refugee centre where he stayed four days.

To AREZZO by lorry and from there to ROME by train.

Three nights at Albergo VIGNONA, and then to an apartment in Via 4 Fontane, of which he is not certain of the number.

R
Sgt.

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16 Mar 45

17 Mar 45

19 Mar 45

24 Mar 45

25 Mar 45

2 Apr 45

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
PUBLIC SAFETY SUB COMMISSION
SECURITY DIVISION

SD/266.02(EW)

18th September, 1945.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This is to certify that the passport of MR EMANUEL
WEISS Albergo Posta, Reggio Emilia, is at present held by this
office.



W
JOHN W. CHAPMAN,
COLONEL, J.A.G.D.,
DIRECTOR, PUBLIC SAFETY
SUB COMMISSION.

Send passport to
Sig DE GRAAN Alberto
Via dell Tritone 181 00019
Roma

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
A.P.O. 394
PUBLIC SAFETY SUB COMMISSION
SECURITY DIVISION

REF : SD/266.02 (EW)

26 July 1945

SUBJECT : Emanuel WEISS

TO : Record Bureau, Displaced Persons &
Repatriation Sub Commission A.C., CMF.

1. Reference your letter of 23rd July 1945.
2. You should address your correspondence for
Subject to "R" Civilian Internee Camp, Terni, Italy.


JOHN W. CHAPMAN,
(Colonel J.A.G.D.,
Director Public Safety,
Sub Commission.

TFC/nb

00018

JW/BR

RECORD BUREAU
DISPLACED PERSONS & REPATRIATION
SUB COMMISSION A.C. C.M.F.

Security
Division
Rec'd. 25/7
Book No. 985
File No. 266.02 (WE)
Action

23rd July 1945.

TO: Security Division,
H.Q. ALLIED COMMISSION.

On 25.3.45. Mr. Emanuel WEISS, Via Cerveteri 46, Rome, asked us to forward a Red Cross enquiry/message to his wife in Budapest. We have now received a reply message for him, but have not been able to deliver it. We understand that he moved to Via delle 4 Fontane 147, piano 5, in Rome, and from that address we obtained the information that he had been arrested and interned by the British authorities. We understand that he is a British subject of Dutch origin, and was born in Zeist 26.9.03.

It would be appreciated if you could inform us as to where the reply message we have received for Mr. Weiss should be forwarded.

R. M. Knott
R. M. KNOTT, ERCS
CONTROLLER RECORD BUREAU.

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"R" Civilian Internee Camp
Tennis.

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
C.M.P.
PUBLIC SAFETY SUB COMMISSION
SECURITY DIVISION

Ref : SD/256.02/LM3

26 June 1945

Subject : British Renegade - Investigation Report

To : A.C. of S. G-2 A.F.H.Q.
(Copy to A.C. of S. G-2 R.A.A.G.)

1. With further reference to Emanuel WEISS, British renegade, subject of A.F.H.Q. G-2 correspondence - C.F.I. 389.450/A-60 - dated 11 April 1945, and R.A.A.G. G-2 reference G/P247/HR of 16 April 1945, regarding whom an Interim Security Division report was submitted on 10 May 1945 :-
2. Investigations in the Reggio Emilia area have now been completed by us, and each of the witnesses to whom reference was made in the interim report, have been interviewed. No further evidence has, however, been obtained to show the precise nature of the work performed by WEISS on behalf of the Germans, although each witness confirms that WEISS was employed as an interpreter at the German ORTS KOMMANDATUR. From my enquiries it seems that the ORTS KOMMANDATUR was not a Civil Affairs organisation as suggested by WEISS, but was a German military office concerned in work similar to that of a Town Mayor, including welfare of German troops and general military routine, billeting etc.
3. Statements (copies attached) have been taken from two witnesses - Mr. Sydney Prior THOMAS and Mr. Peter FREZZA - both British subjects, formerly leader and vice-leader respectively of the Allied internees at Reggio Emilia during the time when WEISS left the internment camp to work for the Germans.
4. The evidence given by the above, however, accomplishes little beyond confirming the circumstances of WEISS taking up his employment with the Germans. The salient points are that WEISS took up this work without even consulting them and that his motives must have been personal and selfish ones because he at no time, in the two years which followed, visited the camp, nor did he in any other way show interest in the welfare of the other internees - he plainly ignored their existence.
5. His work as an interpreter for the Germans may have been innocuous

Subject : British Renegade - Investigation Report

To : A.C. of S. C-2 A.P.H.Q.
(Copy to A.C. of S. C-2 R.A.A.C.)

1. With further reference to Emanuel WEISS, British renegade, subject of A.P.H.Q. C-2 correspondence - C.R.I. 339.450/A-60 - dated 14 April 1945, and R.A.A.C. C-2 reference G/P347/HR of 16 April 1945, regarding whom an interim Security Division report was submitted on 10 May 1945 :-

2. Investigations in the Reggio Emilia area have now been completed by me, and each of the witnesses to whom reference was made in the interim report, have been interviewed. No further evidence has, however, been obtained to show the precise nature of the work performed by WEISS on behalf of the Germans, although each witness confirms that WEISS was employed as an interpreter at the German ORTS KOMMANDATUR. From my enquiries it seems that the ORTS KOMMANDATUR was not a Civil Affairs organisation as suggested by WEISS, but was a German military office concerned in work similar to that of a Town Mayor, including welfare of German troops and general military routine, billeting etc.

3. Statements (copies attached) have been taken from two witnesses - Mr. Sydney Prior THOMAS and Mr. Peter FREDIA - both British subjects, formerly leader and vice-leader respectively of the Allied internees at Reggio Emilia during the time when WEISS left the internment camp to work for the Germans.

4. The evidence given by the above, however, accomplishes little beyond confirming the circumstances of WEISS taking up his employment with the Germans. The salient points are that WEISS took up this work without even consulting them and that his motives must have been personal and selfish ones because he at no time, in the two years which followed, visited the camp, nor did he in any other way show interest in the welfare of the other internees - he plainly ignored their existence.

5. His work as an interpreter for the Germans may have been innocuous in the military sense but he was, undoubtedly, entrusted to see things which were confidential. This can be seen from the fact that the above mentioned witnesses were never allowed to see him in the office where he worked at the ORTSKOMMANDATUR, but had to talk to him either in a corridor or outside.

6. By the very fact of his having undertaken work for the enemy (without any possible defence that he did so in order to assist other internees) there seems to be a prima facie case of "adhering to the King's enemies" or "doing acts with intent to assist the enemy" contrary to the Treasons Acts and Defence Regulation 2A, respectively.

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7. On the evidence available, however, the case does not seem to be one which would incur a heavy penalty, as no specific act directly detrimental to Allied interests can be proven. My enquiries suggest that he merely performed the mechanical task of a useful interpreter for the German Lieutenant having command of the ~~ORIENTAL~~ ~~ORIENTAL~~ ~~ORIENTAL~~. In any case, however, his conduct was disgraceful and from an ethical standpoint, disloyal and unworthy in the extreme, in accepting such a situation from selfish motives. The aid which he gave to the Germans as an interpreter may have been small and ineffective, but it was nevertheless "aid to the enemy" and the law is not concerned with "degree of guilt". Definitely, since there can be no pretence of a mitigating motive he has committed a moral and technical offence against British law and prosecution against him seems desirable, as against any other person who aided the enemy in whatsoever manner, great or small.

8. The original, signed statements of WEISS and the witnesses remain in the custody of Captain L.V. GALT

Louis V. Galt

Louis V. GALT,
Captain,
Investigating Officer
Security Division

1st Ind.

It may be considered inadvisable to occupy the time of the Court and the expense of transporting witnesses over such "small fry" as WEISS, however much he merits punishment.

SLH

JOHN W. CHAPMAN,
Colonel J.A.C.D.,
Director Public Safety
Sub-Commission

LWG/bd

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8. The original, signed statements of WITNESSES and the witnesses remain in the custody of Captain L.V. GALE

Louis V. Gale

Louis V. GALE,
Captain,
Investigating Officer
Security Division

1st Ind.

It may be considered inadvisable to convey the time of the Court and the expense of transporting witnesses over such "small fry" as WEISS, however much he merits punishment.

S.A.

JOHN W. CHAPMAN,
Colonel J.A.C.D.
Director Public Safety
Sub-Commission

END

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SECRET

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
A.P.O. 394
PUBLIC SAFETY SUB COMMISSION
SECURITY DIVISION

STATEMENT of Mr. Sydney Prior THOMAS, British subject (British passport No. C.129710 issued 1.4.40 at Turin) commercial correspondent, residing at Refugees Centre (Allied Nationals) Artillery Barracks, Reggio Emilia, who says:-

On 10 June 1940, within a few minutes of the declaration of war by Italy, I was arrested and interned at Turin. After brief periods of internment in various camps I was conveyed to a camp at MONTECHIARUGOLA, Province of Parma, where I made the acquaintance of Emanuel WEISS, British subject of Dutch origin, and Albert DE GRAAN, Dutch subject. These two persons were at all times very close friends and always managed to keep together. In September 1943 we were all transferred to the Artillery Barracks, Reggio Emilia. DE GRAAN immediately commenced work for the Germans as an interpreter at the PLATZKOMMANDATUR, although at first for some weeks he continued to live in the camp. He said that he was doing this in the interests of the internees, "to prevent" them being sent to Germany. Shortly afterwards WEISS left the camp to live in the town with DE GRAAN and I learned from the latter that WEISS was employed as an interpreter at the ORTSKOMMANDATUR. He at no time consulted me about this matter and even when I subsequently met him in the town he did not raise the question in any form, although that he knew that I was the elected Camp Leader. WEISS at no time afterwards took any interest whatsoever in the camp and I do not believe that he even again visited there. On one occasion I went to ORTSKOMMANDATUR with Mr. PRECHA, to pay WEISS his British subsidy. I was not allowed to enter the building and WEISS was called to speak with us on the doorstep outside. Neither WEISS, nor any other person applied to me on his behalf for permission or advice regarding his undertaking this work. Had I been asked I would definitely have prohibited his undertaking the work. This statement has been read to me and it is true.

/s/ Sydney P. Thomas

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Statement taken down, read over and signature witnessed by.

subject (British passport No. C.129710 issued at
at Turin) commercial correspondent, residing at
Refugees Centre (Allied Nationals) Artillery Barracks,
Poggio Emilia, who says:-

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statement has been read to me and it is true.

/s/ Sydney P. Thomas

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Statement taken down, read over and signature witnessed
by.

Louis V. Gale, Captain.

Security Officer. A.M.G.

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
A.P.O. 394
PUBLIC SAFETY SUB COMMISSION
SECURITY DIVISION

STATEMENT of Mr. Peter PRECHA, British subject, (British passport No. 56 issued at Durazzo, Albania 15.1.40, renewed by Swiss Consul (British Interests) Como on 14.3.45) Accountant and secretary, residing at Albergo Principe, Via Guido da Castello, Reggio Emilia, who says:-

At the time of the Italian declaration of war I was in Tirana, Albania as accountant and Secretary to a firm of builder's supply contractors - Metari and Company, Tirana. I was arrested shortly afterwards and sent in December, 1940 to Bari, Italy, then being conveyed directly to Montechiarugola, Province of Parma in an internment camp. There I made the acquaintance of Emanuel WEISS, British, and Albert De GRAAN, Dutch subject. On 11 September 1943 we were all transferred to the Artillery Barracks, Reggio Emilia and after a few days WEISS and De GRAAN left the barracks. Later De GRAAN returned to the camp and informed the Camp Leader - Mr. Sidney THOMAS and myself (I was his deputy) that both were working as interpreters for German Commands. Subsequently we learned from De GRAAN that he, himself, was employed at the PLATZKOMMANDATUR, whilst WEISS was at the ORTSKOMMANDATUR, and that they shared a flat in the town. I was at no time approached either by WEISS or De GRAAN for advice as to the ethics, legality or otherwise of the work they were undertaking for the Germans. From that time onwards WEISS ceased all connection with the camp and so far as I know did not return to visit the camp even on one occasion, although he was in the town, to my knowledge, for the next two years, working for the Germans. For some time afterwards WEISS continued to receive his British subsidy and on two occasions I went to the ORTSKOMMANDATUR to see him and to pay him his subsidy against receipt. I was only permitted to interview him in the corridor, and therefore did not see what was going on there. Even on those occasions, he never raised any question as to there being any objection as to his being employed there. I visited their apartment on one occasion to ask De GRAAN to secure certain privileges for the internees. As he was not in, I left a message with WEISS. Subsequently, the privileges were granted on De GRAAN's application. This statement has been read to me and it is true.

(British passport No. 90 issued to [redacted] interests)
15.1.40, renewed by Swiss Consul (British interests)
Come on 14.3.45) Accountant and secretary, residing
at Albergo Principe, Via Guido da Castello, Reggio
Emilia, who says:-

At the time of the Italian declaration of war I was in Tirana, Albania as Accountant and Secretary to a firm of builder's supply contractors - Metari and Company, Tirana. I was arrested shortly afterwards and sent in December, 1940 to Bari, Italy, then being conveyed directly to Montecassiano, Province of Parma in an internment camp. There I made the acquaintance of Emanuel WEISS, British, and Albert DE GRAAN, Dutch subject. On 11 September 1943 we were all transferred to the Artillery Barracks, Reggio Emilia and after a few days WEISS and DE GRAAN left the barracks. Later DE GRAAN returned to the camp and informed the Camp Leader - Mr. Sidney THOMAS and myself (I was his deputy) that both were working as interpreters for German Commands. Subsequently we learned from DE GRAAN that he, himself, was employed at the PLATZKOMMANDANTUR, whilst WEISS was at the ORTSKOMMANDANTUR, and that they shared a flat in the town. I was at no time approached either by WEISS or DE GRAAN for advice as to the ethics, legality or otherwise of the work they were undertaking for the Germans. From that time onwards WEISS ceased all connection with the camp and so far as I know did not return to visit the camp even on one occasion, although he was in the town, to my knowledge, for the next two years, working for the Germans. For some time afterwards WEISS continued to receive his British subsidy and on two occasions I went to the ORTSKOMMANDANTUR to see him and to pay him his subsidy against receipt. I was only permitted to interview him in the corridor, and therefore did not see what was going on there. Even on those occasions, he never raised any question as to there being any objection as to his being employed there. I visited their apartment on one occasion to ask DE GRAAN to secure certain privileges for the internees. As he was not in, I left a message with WEISS. Subsequently, the privileges were granted on DE GRAAN's application. This statement has been read to me and it is true.

/s/ P. Precha

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Statement taken down, read over and
signature witnessed by me

Louis V. Gale, Captain
Security Officer A.M.C.

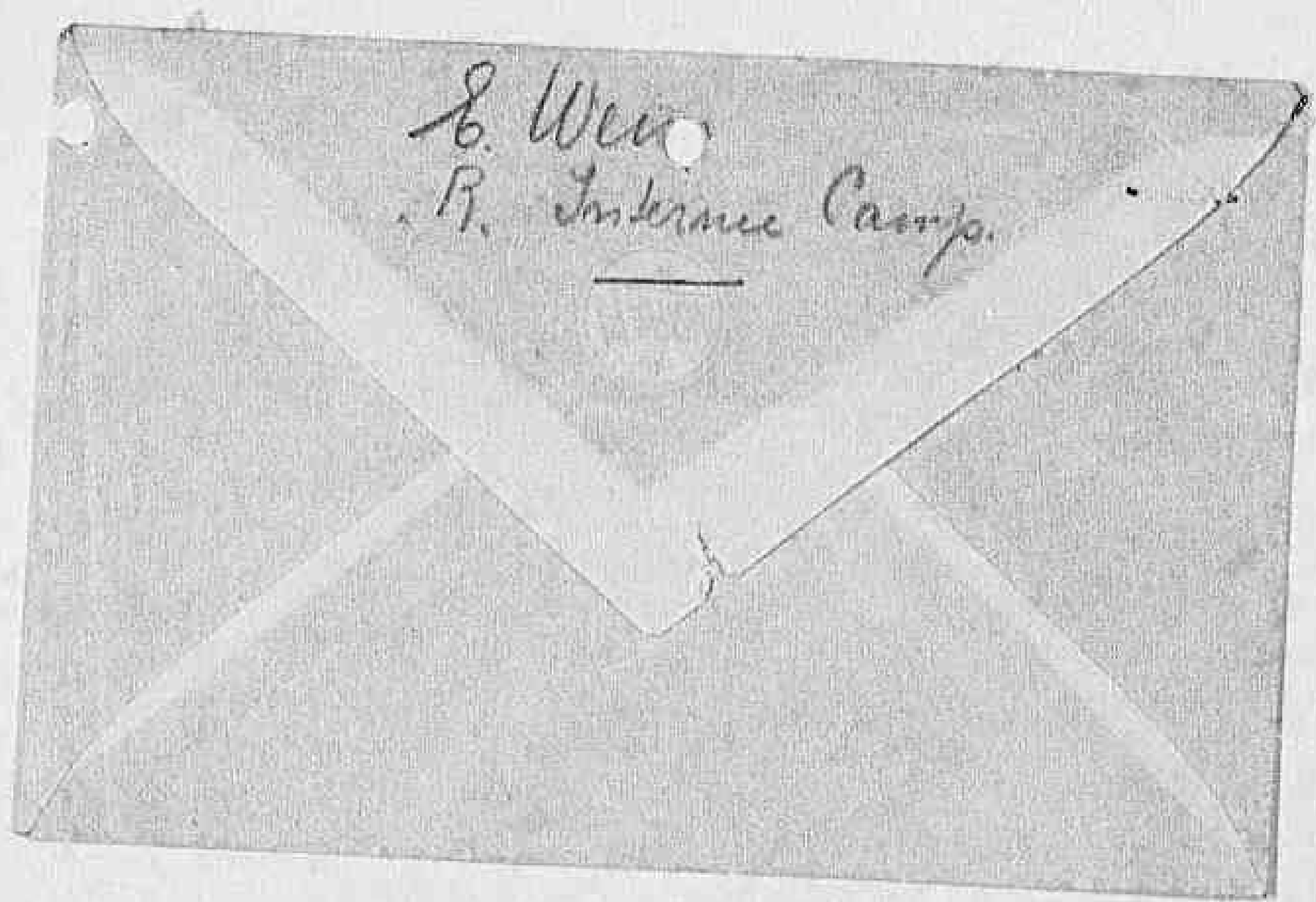
Capt. Gale. 
Police Division G. 2

SECURITY
DIV

A. C. C.
Via Veneto.

00014 Roma

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Il mio posto perduto, denaro perduto
tutto. Ora cominciano tutto decapo
Mia Mamma in Olanda. Anche da lei
senza niente da Dicembre '43.

Ed io mi trovo adesso qui in questo
prigione. Ho mai voluto e mai
fatto male almeno con pensiero.

Quando potrò essere una prigioniera
cattolica, Amabile. Date mi ancora
una occasione di comunicare da capo
e di dimostrare i miei veri sentimenti.
Vi chiedo un'altra volta perdono per
il disturbo, e anche di aver scritto
questo in italiano, e non in Inglese
ma non sono in grado.

Con grande stima

vostra

E. Weiss

Mai sono stato uno di loro! Ho mai
 partecipato a una dimostrazione o festa
 di loro. Anche dopo diverse inviti per la
 festa di Natale. Durante le ore di ufficio
 lavoravo come un internato. Dopo il
 tempo dell'ufficio viveva la mia vita.
 Durante il lavoro ho tentato sempre di
 aiutare i anti-fascisti, e ostacolare i
 fascisti. Una pena per questo nato quando
 fu informato in ottobre dal Sign. Trecco,
 di essere molto prudente, perché era
 sulla lista nera della Federazione.
 Questo pericolo però passava. Quando poco
 dopo quasi tutta la Federazione veniva
 trasferito in alta Italia.

Odia i tedeschi, ma non aveva
 il coraggio, di scappare, avendo paura
 per la sua moglie e bambini che si
 trovavano a Budapest, tutti sotto i
 tedeschi. Sono mai stato in relazione
 amichevole con i tedeschi salvo come
 già detto con il ten. Kuhn, ufficiale dell'
 Ortskommandantur. Questo amico aveva

10 Maggio, 1945.

Egregio Capitano,

Perdonatemi se Vi disturbo con queste righe, ma la mia coscienza non mi lascia in pace. Dopo avere pensato molto sul mio interrogatorio mi risulta di fare una correzione e cioè il mio stipendio mensile non era 3 ma 4.200 L.

Sul mio tempo passato con i tedeschi a Reggio Em., volevo aggiungere ancora il seguente:

Dopo che il mio amico Sign. de Gruen, che avevo già prima accettato un posto come interprete, mi aveva persuaso che era l'unica mossa di salvarsi per non essere portata in Germania, e avevo ricevuto dal Sign. Heffers, della legazione Prussiana, la conferma che potevo accettare senz'altro il posto di interprete al Wehrkommandantur, come diceva Sign. Heffers senza conseguenze, ho sofferto più che uno pio immaginare moralmente. Quando uno dei tedeschi poteva leggere le mie pensieri o anima sarebbe stata frucidata sul posto.

TRANSLATION

10 May 1945.

Dear Captain,

Pardon me if I disturb you with this letter, but my conscience does not leave me in peace. After I have been thinking about my interrogation it appears that I have a correction to make regarding my last salary which was 4,200 instead of 8.

Regarding the period which I have passed with the Germans in Reggio Emilia, I have to add the following information:

"After my friend De Graon had been accepted as an interpreter with the Germans, I thought it would be the only way I could save myself from being brought in Germany and I received ~~to~~ confirm from Signor Steffelo of the Swiss Legation that I could accept a job as an interpreter at the "High Command", as he said, without consequences. I have morally suffered more than one can imagine, if the Germans could read my thoughts or soul they would have killed me. I have never been one of them! never taken part to their discussions or any of their feasts, not even after being invited many times to their Christmas party. During the working hours I worked as an interné and after work I was living my own life. I was always trying to help the Anti-Fascists and to harden the Fascists. The proof of this was given when Signor Trucco informed me that I was on the Federation's black list. This danger passed being that all the Federation was transferred in North Italy.

I hated the Germans very much but I didn't have the courage to show it because I was afraid of my wife and baby who were at Budapest, and are still under the Germans. I have never been friend of the Germans except, as I already said, with Lt. Kilia, "High Command Officer". This friendship was carried on slowly, when I understood his anti-Nazi sentiments. He knew very well my feelings. His friendship for me was very convenient for protection in case of an eventual political complication by the Fascists. When Budapest was liberated I thought of escaping as I was informed by the Questura of Reggio that I was to be transferred in Germany with the other internées. I swear that all this is the truth and all my friends can be the witnesses. Dear Captain please help me when possible.

Yours so much, I have been

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I hated the Germans very much but I didn't have the courage to show it because I was afraid of my wife and baby who were at Budapest, and are still under the Germans. I have never been friend of the Germans except, as I already said, with Lt. Kili, "High Command Officer". This friendship was carried on slowly, when I understood his anti-Nazi sentiments. He knew very well my feelings. His friendship for me was very convenient for protection in case of an eventual political complication by the Fascists. When Budapest was liberated I thought of escaping as I was informed by the Questura of Reggio that I was to be transferred in Germany with the other internees.

I swear that all this is the truth and all my friends can be the witnesses. Dear Captain please help me when possible.

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This war has made me suffer so much, I have been far from my wife and baby for five years, 18 months that I receive no news from them, I lost my job, money and all. I have to start my life all over again. My mother is in Holland and haven't received any news from her since December 1943. And here I am in this position. I have never harmed anyone. When will I be freed, Captain? Give me once more a chance to start again and demonstrate my sentiments. I again ask you to pardon me for having disturbed you and also for having written this in Italian and not in English as I am not in a position to do so.

cc.

/s/ E. WEISS

HEADQUARTERS,
426th C.I.C. DETACHMENT,
APO # 512, U.S. Army

ARREST SLIP

20 April 1945
(Date of Arrest)

NAME: WIKES Emmanuel Drill Henry - Father
(Last) (First) (Paternity)

ADDRESS: Quattro Fontane 147, Rome.

CHARGE: (1) Adhering to the King's enemies - Treason Acts
(2) Doing acts with intent to assist the enemy - Defense Regulations.

PLACE OF ARREST: HQ, Allied Commission, Via Veneto, Rome.

ARRESTED BY: Captain L. V. GALK, HQ, Allied Commission, C.M.F.

AGE: 41 BIRTH DATE: 26 September 1903 PLACE: Zeist, Holland
BIRTH

HT: 5'7" WT: 163 lbs EYES: BROWN HAIR: DK. BROWN

WHERE CONFINED: "A" Internee Camp

WITNESSES: Captain L.V. GALK and Lt. CLAWIE J. BOWE (G-2, RAC)

FINAL DISPOSITION: -----

PERSONAL PROPERTY OF ARRESTEE: 4189 lire; Foreigner's sojourn in Italy pass dated 6 April 1945

signed by Commissario PS Questura Via Genova; 2 house keys; one brown wallet
containing various pictures, phone numbers.

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Louis V. Galk
(Signature)

ADDRESS: Quattro Fontane 147, Rome.

CHARGE: (1) Adhering to the King's enemies - Treason Acts
(2) Doing acts with intent to assist the enemy - Defence Regulations.

PLACE OF ARREST: HQ, Allied Commission, Via Veneto, Rome.

ARRESTED BY: Captain L. V. GALE, HQ, Allied Commission, C.M.P.

AGE: 41 BIRTH DATE: 26 September 1903 BIRTH PLACE: Zeist, Holland

HT: 5'7" WT: 163 lbs EYES: Brown HAIR: Dk. Brown

WHERE CONFINED: German Internee Camp

WITNESSES: Captain L.V. GALE and Lt. Claude J. BOWE (G-2, RAC)

FINAL DISPOSITION: -----

PERSONAL PROPERTY OF ARRESTEE: 4189 lire; Foreigner's sojourn in Italy pass dated 6 April 1945

signed by Commissario PS Questura Via Genova; 2 house keys; one brown wallet

containing various pictures, phone numbers.

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Louis V. Gale
 (Signature)

Security Division - H2, Allied Commission.
 (Title)

CMB

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
A.P.O. 394
PUBLIC SAFETY SUB COMMISSION
SECURITY DIVISION

11 May 1945

REF : SD/266.02-EW

SUBJECT : British Renegades - Emanuel WEISS

TO : AG of S., G-2, AFHQ

1. The attached report by Captain GALE refers to the arrest of Emanuel WEISS, a British Subject, for adhering to the King's Enemies.

2. Although it has been necessary to take Captain GALE away from cases of this nature, which are not, strictly speaking, Allied Commission matters, I have instructed him in this case to complete the enquiries at Reggio Emilia, in conjunction with Lieutenant BOVA to avoid a possible duplication of witnesses.

3. Captain GALE has been posted as Security Officer to Emilia Region, and will be able to obtain the further information in the course of his normal duties.

JWC.

JOHN W. CHAPMAN,
Colonel J.A.G.D.,
Director Public Safety,
Sub Commission.

Copy to: AG of S., G-2, RAAC

SJH/nb

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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
C.M.F.
PUBLIC SAFETY SUB COMMISSION
SECURITY DIVISION

10 May, 1945

Ref : BD/266.02/LWG

Subject : British Renegade - Interim Report
Manuel WEISS

To : A.C. of S. G-2 A.F.H.Q.
(Copy to A.C. of S. G-2 R.A.A.C.)

1. With reference to Manuel WEISS, British renegade, subject of A.F.H.Q. - G-2 correspondence - C.B.I. 382.450/A-60 dated 14 April, 1945, and R.A.A.C. - G-2 reference G/P3447/HR of 16 April, 1945 :-
2. At 1030 hours on 20 April, 1945, I saw Manuel WEISS at Headquarters Allied Commission, Security Division, where he had been directed, in the company of Lt. Claude J. BOVE (G-2 R.A.A.C.), after having reported, in accordance with instructions, to 276 P.S. Section at 1000 hours.

3. I told WEISS, in the presence of Lieut. C.J. BOVE, that I was going to take him into custody on charges that he, as a British subject, had (1) adhered to the King's enemies (2) and had done acts with intent to assist the enemy, namely by undertaking certain employment under a German Command in Reggio Emilia.

4. WEISS was at once cautioned by me that he was not obliged to say anything unless he wished to do so and that anything he said would be committed to writing and might be used in evidence. He replied, "I will be quite ready to explain everything whenever you wish. I have done a foolish thing and I want it to be put right, although I have done no harm".

5. I then took him to 147 Via Quattro Fontane, Rome, where I made a search of a room which he occupied but where nothing of interest was found. He was allowed to collect personal belongings and was afterwards conveyed under escort of Lieut. C.J. BOVE and myself to "B" Internes Camp, Terni, when he was placed in specially segregated quarters.

6. On 21 April 1945, in company with Lieut. C.J. BOVE, I interviewed WEISS at the camp and further cautioned him that he was not obliged to say anything. He then volunteered a statement which I took down in writing and which he signed after it had been read over to him and he had been permitted

DDJ

10 May, 1945

Ref : SD/266.02/LVG

Subject : British Renegade - Interim Report

Emmanuel WEISS

To : A.C. of S. G-2 A.E.H. (Copy to A.C. of S. G-2 R.A.A.C.)

1. With reference to Emmanuel WEISS, British renegade, subject of A.E.H.C. - G-2 correspondence - C.B.I. 389.430/A-60 dated 11 April, 1945, and R.A.A.C. - G-2 reference G/P3417/BR of 16 April, 1945 :-
2. At 1030 hours on 20 April, 1945, I saw Emmanuel WEISS at Headquarters Allied Commission, Security Division, where he had been directed, in the company of Lt. Claude J. BOVE (G-2 R.A.A.C.), after having reported, in accordance with instructions, to 276 F.S. Section at 1000 hours.

3. I told WEISS, in the presence of Lieut. C.J. BOVE, that I was going to take him into custody on charges that he, as a British subject, had (1) adhered to the King's enemies (2) and had done acts with intent to assist the enemy, namely by undertaking certain employment under a German Command in Reggio Emilia.

4. WEISS was at once cautioned by me that he was not obliged to say anything unless he wished to do so and that anything he said would be committed to writing and might be used in evidence. He replied, "I will be quite ready to explain everything whenever you wish. I have done a foolish thing and I want it to be put right, although I have done no harm".

5. I then took him to 147 Via Quattro Fontane, Rome, where I made a search of a room which he occupied but where nothing of interest was found. He was allowed to collect personal belongings and was afterwards conveyed under escort of Lieut. C.J. BOVE and myself to "H" Internee Camp, Terni, when he was placed in specially segregated quarters.

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6. On 21 April 1945, in company with Lieut. C.J. BOVE, I interviewed WEISS at the camp and further cautioned him that he was not obliged to say anything. He then volunteered a statement which I took down in writing and which he signed after it had been read over to him and he had been permitted to make alterations.

7. Arising from his statement there are a number of enquiries to be made, and a further report will be submitted when these have been completed. A copy of WEISS's statement is attached to this report.

8. A point of immediate interest, however, is that, in his statement, WEISS has declared that in accepting a position as interpreter to Lieut. KUMM of the German OFFSEKOMMANDATUR in Reggio Emilia, he was largely acting on the advice and counsel of a certain Mr. Albert DE GRUAN, a Dutch subject who was interned with him at Reggio Emilia, and who was himself employed as an interpreter at the German PLATZ KOMMANDATUR in Reggio Emilia, and with whom he shared rooms after the latter had secured permission of the Germans for WEISS to live in the town.

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9. It was DE GRAM who took WEISS to see Colonel Edwards of CNDIC, shortly after WEISS's arrival in Rome after crossing the lines from Reggio Emilia. DE GRAM, who is understood to be now a senior official at the C.I.P. (Compagnia Italiana Petroli), Rome, (and who is apparently known to Colonel Edwards) seems to be worthy of enquiries as to his own activities as a Dutch subject, who adhered to the enemy by taking up employment under a German Command.

10. Another interesting point is that WEISS, when quite properly questioned by me to clear up ambiguities relating to the alleged manner in which he recovered his British passport from the German WATZKOMBANDATUR, retracted a statement made earlier to Sergeant J. RYNDERS of 276 P.B. Section and later to me, that he had "stolen" it back from the above mentioned German Office when it was unguarded. WEISS admitted that this statement was a lie and that he had, in fact, received the passport directly from the German officer, Lieutenant KUEHN of the OTTS KOMMANDATUR.

11. In view of this revelation it seems that KUEHN must have been aware of WEISS's intention to "escape". It is suggested, therefore, that there is some reason to believe that WEISS crossed the lines with German connivance as a German agent and that his earlier story to Sgt. RYNDERS of having crossed with aid of partisans is fiction.

12. Similarly, it may be that DE GRAM, who crossed the lines into Allied territory in about May, 1944, was also sent under German instructions. If he, in fact, "escaped", (as WEISS says in his statement) it seems strange that his close associate - WEISS - who was living with him, was not suspected by the Germans of complicity. Instead, he was able to continue working for the Germans as an interpreter and to live in the town quite at liberty.

13. A detailed interrogation of WEISS by a counter-intelligence Unit might provide useful information. He should, in this event, be further cautioned that anything said by him might be used in evidence.

14. DE GRAM might well be questioned on similar lines and his activities both with the Germans in Reggio Emilia and here in Rome since his arrival sometime after May, 1944, be closely enquired into. It should be borne in mind that DE GRAM is of Dutch nationality.

15. It is suggested that steps be taken at the earliest opportunity, to have enquiries made of residents in Reggio Emilia, and to obtain statements of evidence from them, as to the degree of collaboration with the Germans of both WEISS and DE GRAM.

16. In this connection the following names of residents of Reggio Emilia who knew both men are supplied :-

Vittorino MOTTI
Gente SCARFANELLI
Signor LARI
Eugenio MALINATI

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which he recovered his British passport from the German Office when it was unguarded. WEISS admitted that this statement was a lie and that he had, in fact, received the passport directly from the German officer, Lieutenant KRAM of the CHIEF COMMANDANT.

11. In view of this revelation it seems that KRAM must have been aware of WEISS's intention to "escape". It is suggested, therefore, that there is some reason to believe that WEISS crossed the lines with German connivance as a German agent and that his earlier story to Sgt. KRAMMERS of having crossed with aid of partisans is fiction.

12. Similarly, it may be that DE GRAAN, who crossed the lines into Allied territory in about May, 1944, was also sent under German instructions. If he, in fact, "escaped", (as WEISS says in his statement) it seems strange that his close associate - WEISS - who was living with him, was not suspected by the Germans of complicity. Instead, he was able to continue working for the Germans as an interpreter and to live in the town quite at liberty.

13. A detailed interrogation of WEISS by a counter-intelligence unit might provide useful information. He should, in this event, be further cautioned that anything said by him might be used in evidence.

14. DE GRAAN might well be questioned on similar lines and his activities both with the Germans in Reggio Emilia and here in Rome since his arrival sometime after May, 1944, be closely enquired into. It should be borne in mind that DE GRAAN is of Dutch nationality.

15. It is suggested that steps be taken at the earliest opportunity, to have enquiries made of residents in Reggio Emilia, and to obtain statements of evidence from them, as to the degree of collaboration with the Germans of both WEISS and DE GRAAN.

16. In this connection the following names of residents of Reggio Emilia who knew both men are supplied :-

Vittorio NOTTI

Conte SCARFANELLI

Signor LARI

Eugenio BALMATTI

Antonio DI PANIS (Director of the Albergo Posta frequented by WEISS and DE GRAAN)

Signora Gina BIELLANDE

Agosto TRUCO and wife

Carlo VISCONTI

Signorina BERTOLINI (Via Emilia San Stefano 22, Reggio Emilia where WEISS and DE GRAAN resided)

Louis V. Galt

Louis V. GALT, Captain,
H.Q. Allied Commission,
Security Division

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HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED COMMISSION
C.M.F.
PUBLIC SAFETY SUB-COMMISSION
SECURITY DIVISION

SECRET

21 April, 1945

Statement of Emanuel WEISS, Via Quattro Fontane 147, Rome, sound engineer,
a British subject by birth who says: -

I have been cautioned by Captain L. V. GALE that I am not
obliged to say anything unless I wish to do so, and that any-
thing I say will be committed to writing and may be used in
evidence. I hereby certify that I fully understand the impli-
cation of the caution.

(s) E. WEISS

My correct name is Emanuel WEISS and I was born on 26th September 1903 at
Zeist, Holland. My father was Emil Henry WEISS, a British subject, born 7th
February 1869 at Wyke, England both of his parents being British subjects. My
mother was Jacoba Van ZANTEN, who was of Dutch nationality prior to her marriage.
The distant origin of my father's family was Swiss, but the last three generations
have been born and bred either in England or in British Dominions. My father duly
registered particulars of my birth at the British Consulate, either at Rotterdam
or Amsterdam.

I obtained my first British passport in 1921 or in about that year. I came
to England for the first time in January, 1935 on a business trip which lasted
four days.

I received the whole of my education in Holland, at a High School in
Utrecht and at the University of Utrecht. My earlier studies at the University
were medical studies which lasted three years, but at the end of that period,
in 1921, I wished to give up the study, and therefore my parents sent me away
for my training to a hospital at NIESKY, Germany, where the Director was a
friend of my father. They considered that if I trained there under the guidance
of my father's friend - a man named SCHMIDT - that my interest in becoming a
doctor of medicine would be revived, as my studies would be of a more practical
nature.

After about six months, I left the hospital, however, and took up work as
an ordinary apprentice in an electrical shop in NIESKY. I stayed there for
three years, worked and studied, and became qualified at the local Chamber of
Commerce as an electrical technician.

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Statement of Emanuel WEISS, via Quattro Fontane 147, Rome, sound engineer,
a British subject by birth who says: -

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obliged to say anything unless I wish to do so, and that any-
thing I say will be committed to writing and may be used in
evidence. I hereby certify that I fully understand the impli-
cation of the caution.

(s) E. WEISS

My correct name is Emanuel WEISS and I was born on 26th September 1903 at
Zeist, Holland. My father was Paul Henry WEISS, a British subject, born 7th
February 1869 at Wyke, England both of his parents being British subjects. My
mother was Jacoba Van LAATHE, who was of Dutch nationality prior to her marriage.
The distant origin of my father's family was Swiss, but the last three generations
have been born and bred either in England or in British Dominions. My father duly
registered particulars of my birth at the British Consulate, either at Rotterdam
or Amsterdam.

I obtained my first British passport in 1921 or in about that year. I came
to England for the first time in January, 1925 on a business trip which lasted
four days.

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Utrecht and at the University of Utrecht. My earlier studies at the University
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in 1921, I wished to give up the study, and therefore my parents sent me away
for my training to a hospital at NISSKY, Germany, where the Director was a
friend of my father. They considered that if I trained there under the guidance
of my father's friend - a man named SCHMIDT - that my interest in becoming a
doctor of medicine would be revived, as my studies would be of a more practical
nature.

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After about six months, I left the hospital, however, and took up work as
an ordinary apprentice in an electrical shop in NISSKY. I stayed there for
three years, worked and studied, and became qualified at the local Chamber of
Commerce as an electrical technician.

In 1924-25, I left Germany and became employed by Phillips Works, Eindhoven,
Holland as a mechanic and later as an assistant radio engineer on research work
in connection with sound amplifiers. My employers then sent me to Poland,
first to their Warsaw works and then travelling in Poland for about 13 months,
explaining sound tracks and amplifying developments.

I went back to Eindhoven in about 1928-1929 and was then employed on new
developments of Phillips Works in connection with sound installations for
cinemas, in the course of which I travelled throughout Holland.

I also spent a few months in Locarno, Switzerland and in Madrid, Spain
also supervising sound installations in cinemas, and demonstrating Phillips
models and cables.

In 1932 I left Phillips Works and went to Amsterdam where I opened up

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business on my own account - a service agency for sound equipment for cinemas. Owing to difficulties with Phillips Works in connection with patents and their stopping my supply of spare parts I was obliged to close my business down at the end of 1933. From that time until 1936 I worked in Amsterdam as a sound engineer with a firm known as "CINERONE".

In June, 1936, I accepted an offer from an Italian firm S.A.F.A. (Societa Anonima Film Attualita), Via Mondovi 31-33, Rome, and went to Rome in their employ as a sound engineer. In April 1937, I went to Budapest and there married Eva HARNOTT, a Hungarian, on 15th April, 1937. I was only in Budapest for about ten days and immediately after my marriage came back to Rome with my wife.

On 7th February, 1938, my daughter - Evelyn Milita - was born. My wife was interned in July, 1940 with the child but I was permitted to continue to work for S.A.F.A. until about the end of December, 1940. Although I made repeated enquiries and protests at the "Ufficio Stranieri" a department of the former Questura Centrale, I was unable to find out why my wife and child were interned and I was left free. It is my opinion that it was the influence of my employers, who regarded me as indispensable as a sound engineer, which prevented my being interned.

In January, 1941, I asked to be interned with my wife but at about that time I was informed that she had been given permission to go to her mother's home in Budapest. I tried to get permission of the Italian authorities to go to Spain in February, 1941 to take up employment with "RASOLI FILMS" but was refused a permit.

In March, 1941 I was arrested and sent to an internment camp at Monte Chiarugale, Parma Province. I must say that, after my permit to work for S.A.F.A. was cancelled in December 1940, I did no work of any kind up to being interned, but lived on my savings.

On 10th September, 1943, after the Italian Armistice, I managed to escape, with many others from the internment camp at Monte Chiarugale, but I was recaptured with about forty others in the same district, by German S.S. We had been informed that the internment camp had been abandoned and therefore had come back there in the hope of recovering some of our personal possessions. The Germans, who found us just outside the Camp, took us inside again and the next morning I was taken with a group of other prisoners to the Artillery Barracks at Reggio Emilia.

I was there until early October, 1943 and during that time did some interpreting from Italian into German, for the German medical officer there who was examining old and sick internees, some of whom were subsequently released.

Just after this, I was approached by a German S.S. officer named STUCK who was in command of the Camp, who said that he had heard that I was always worried at the idea of perhaps being sent to Germany, and that there was a chance to avoid being sent, namely to accept a position in the German Army.

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Anonymous Film Attendant), was removed from my employment as a sound engineer. In April 1937, I went to Budapest, and there married Eva MARSHALL, a Hungarian, on 15th April, 1937. I was only in Budapest for about ten days and immediately after my marriage came back to Rome with my wife.

On 7th February, 1938, my daughter - Evelyn Milka - was born. My wife was interned in July, 1940 with the child but I was permitted to continue to work for S.A.F.A. until about the end of December, 1940. Although I made repeated enquiries and protests at the "Ufficio Stranieri" a department of the former Questura Centrale, I was unable to find out why my wife and child were interned and I was left free. It is my opinion that it was the influence of my employers, who regarded me as indispensable as a sound engineer, which prevented my being interned.

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In March, 1941 I was arrested and sent to an internment camp at Monte Chiarugale, Parma Province. I must say that, after my permit to work for S.A.F.A. was cancelled in December 1940, I did no work of any kind up to being interned, but lived on my savings.

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I was there until early October, 1943 and during that time did some interpreting from Italian into German, for the German medical officer there who was examining old and sick internees, some of whom were subsequently released.

Just after this, I was approached by a German S.S. officer named STUCK who was in command of the Camp, who said that he had heard that I was always worried at the idea of others being sent to Germany, and that there was a chance to avoid being sent, namely to accept a position as interpreter at the "Ortskommandatur" in Reggio Emilia. I asked him what work this would involve and he said that I would be required to interview Italian civilians who called at the office of the Ortskommandatur, and to translate the objects of their visits to the German officer in charge. The Ortskommandatur was at Villa Noracchio, Viale Rimovo 57, Reggio Emilia. I said that if I thought it rather a strange request to make of an internee and asked to be allowed to see the office and the German officer there to find out more details. He took me there and I saw the German officer in charge at the Ortskommandatur - Lieutenant Ludwig KUHLE who told me that it was merely interviewing local Italians, who were calling in connection with enquiries about relatives who had been taken into custody by German military, and also requests for passes and permits. I told Lieutenant KUHLE that I would think the matter over.

I at once discussed it with Mr. Albert DE GRAAN, a Dutch internee, who was Camp leader. He advised me to accept the position as it seemed harmless enough.

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I said that I would like to speak with Mr. STEFFANS, the visiting representative from the Swiss location, British Interests Department, Rome, whom I knew to be in Reggio Emilia on that day - 1-2 October, 1943.

DE GRADU took me during the afternoon (we had not gone back to the camp as I met him near the Ortskommandatur after I left Lieutenant KUHNI) into the town and whilst we were walking Mr. STEFFAN pulled up in his car near us and asked us both to get in. We did so and were taken to a hotel where we had lunch with Mr. STEFFAN. Before we had left the car I told Mr. STEFFAN of the offer made to me by the Germans and he advised me to accept the job, as it did not appear to be work which was to the detriment of British interests.

The next day I reported for duty at the Ortskommandatur as an interpreter without even asking what the payment was. In fact I did not expect to be paid anything and was very surprised when, about six weeks later, a German sergeant there called me in to receive payment of wages at 2,200 lire per month.

Throughout the time that I was employed there, my work was entirely confined to interpreting - I had no other duties whatsoever. I acted solely as the personal interpreter of Lieutenant KUHNI in his dealings with the civil population and every matter interpreted by me was purely of a civilian character. I was not even required to interpret any cases where civilians denounced or gave information about other civilians. Matters of this character would be dealt with by another German Unit.

Lieutenant KUHNI's office had no connection whatsoever with intelligence matters so far as I know. The majority of civilians who called at the office, and for whom I interpreted, were persons seeking permits for travel, curfew, telephone permits and telegram permits. Also I interpreted at interviews between Lieutenant KUHNI and various local tradespeople, in matters relating to repairs to German billets and other entirely domestic matters.

About a month after starting work with Lieutenant KUHNI, I managed to get a permit to leave the confines of the internment camp (then at a school) and to live in the town of Reggio Emilia. I went to live at the house of a school teacher - Miss HERTOLMI, Via Emilia San Stefano 22, Reggio Emilia where I stayed throughout the remainder of my employment, until 10th March, 1945, when I ceased work and left Reggio Emilia.

During the time of my employment with Lieutenant KUHNI my pay was raised on several occasions, without my asking, from 2,200 lire per month up to 3,140 lire per month at the time when I left.

At the above address I shared rooms with my friend Mr. DE GRADU, who obtained the permit for me, who exercised some influence on me, and who was himself employed at the Ortskommandatur (District Command) which directed and was a Command superior to the Ortskommandatur (Local Command). I used to eat two meals every day at the Albergo Posta whilst I was in the town. I became acquainted with a number of the townspeople, and those with whom I was on friendly terms were anti-fascists. They knew of my position and the nature of the work I was doing but none of them considered that I was doing anything wrong.

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Throughout the time that I was employed there, my work was entirely confined to interpreting - I had no other duties whatsoever. I acted solely as the personal interpreter of Lieutenant KUNN in his dealings with the civil population and every matter interpreted by me was purely of a civilian character. I was not even required to interpret any cases where civilians denounced or gave information about other civilians. Matters of this character would be dealt with by another German Unit.

Lieutenant KUNN's office had no connection whatsoever with intelligence matters so far as I knew. The majority of civilians who called at the office, and for whom I interpreted, were persons seeking permits for travel, curfew, telephone permits and telegram permits. Also I interpreted at interviews between Lieutenant KUNN and various local tradespeople, in matters relating to repairs to German billets and other entirely domestic matters.

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During the time of my employment with Lieutenant KUNN my pay was raised on several occasions, without my asking, from 2,200 lire per month up to 3,140 lire per month at the time when I left.

At the above address I shared rooms with my friend Mr. DE CRAN, who obtained the permit for me, who exercised some influence on me, and who was himself employed at the Platzkommandatur (District Command) which directed and was a Command superior to the Ortskommandatur (Local Command). I used to eat two meals every day at the Albergo Posta whilst I was in the town. I became acquainted with a number of the townspeople, and those with whom I was on friendly terms were anti-fascists. They knew of my position and the nature of the work I was doing but none of them considered that I was doing anything wrong. Among these people were Vittorino MOTTI, Conte SCARFANELLI, Signor LARI, Eugenio MALINATI, Antonio DI PANI (Director of Albergo Posta), Signora Gina FIGLIARDI, Agostino TRUCCO, Anita TRUCCO, Carlo VISCONTI.

During the first month or so of my employment with Lieutenant KUNN, he was invited to dinner one evening by VISCONTI, who wanted a permit or permits of various kinds in connection with his cheese business. KUNN asked me to go along with him as interpreter and I did so.

I used to frequent regularly the Albergo Posta with my friends, in the evenings, drinking wine and talking. Occasionally, Lieutenant KUNN would come in, would talk with me in German, or would watch card games which were sometimes in progress. I might say that in my conversations with Lieutenant KUNN I found

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that he was anti-Nazi to an amazing degree for a German officer.

I made a number of trips outside Reggio Emilia, on pleasure, with the friends I have mentioned. Only once did I leave Reggio Emilia with Lieutenant KUHN. That was on business when I accompanied him as interpreter to Bologna. The matter concerned an application made by the Italian authorities in Reggio, for the release of a number of transpeople in Bologna who had been arrested wrongfully by German military. Lieutenant KUHN was not normally concerned with matters of arrest but on this occasion was specially directed by the Platzkommandatur to go to Bologna to investigate. At Bologna we went to the Caserma Rossi, Lieutenant KUHN went into a German Military Office and came out after a few minutes saying that the matter had already been arranged and that I would have no interpreting to do.

In September, 1944 I heard from KUHN that a detachment of German S.B. (Sicherheitsdienst) were coming to Reggio Emilia to take over internment matters. I therefore decided to try to get back my British passport which I knew to be in the custody of the Platzkommandatur, in a wooden box with documents of other internees. DE GRAAF, who worked there, told me all this. One day, when the whole staff of the Platzkommandatur were at lunch and the office was unguarded, I walked in and took my passport, knowing from DE GRAAF that no record was kept of the documents held. The absence of the passport was never subsequently noticed.

The German S.B. came into the town and took up offices at Viale Trieste 29 under a Captain LEIPOLD, but they never interfered with me in any way and I had nothing to do with them, except that on 8 March, 1945, I heard that I was about to be sent north to Parma for transit to Germany. I therefore went to see Captain LEIPOLD but he told me that he could do nothing as the order came from a higher command and no information was available on the subject of my removal to Parma. I decided to escape from the district, to cross the lines and present myself to an Allied Command.

With the assistance of Signor TRUCCO and a partisan whom I knew - known as "TANZO" (husband of TRUCCO's maid) I succeeded in getting away passing through Quarta Zena, Viareggio, Baisa, Gova, Cavigio. I crossed the lines at a spot between Cavigio and Baisa, where I presented myself with other persons who had travelled with me, to the Carabinieri and then to an Allied Command. Then under Military Police supervision we went to Fornaccio di Barga, Viareggio, Florence and reached Rome, on 24th March, 1945.

On my arrival in Rome I went to find Mr. DE GRAAF, who had escaped from Reggio Emilia in May, 1944, and who I knew was likely to be found at the office of A.G.I.P. in Rome. He took me to see a certain Colonel Edwards at an office in front of Cinecittà. Whilst in Rome I also made contact with an intimate friend of mine, Charles LEBY, British, of "W" Section, P.W.B.

This statement has been read to me by Captain I. V. GALE and it is true, except for that part of it on page 10 which deals with the way in which I got my passport back. Actually I did not take it from the office of the Platz-

I made a number of trips outside Reggio Emilia, on pleasure, with the friends I have mentioned. Only once did I leave Reggio Emilia with Lieutenant KUH. That was on business when I accompanied him as interpreter to Bologna. The matter concerned an application made by the Italian authorities in Reggio, for the release of a number of transpeople in Bologna who had been arrested wrongfully by German military. Lieutenant KUH was not normally concerned with matters of arrest but on this occasion was specially directed by the Platzkommandatur to go to Bologna to investigate. At Bologna he went to the Caserma Rossi, Lieutenant KUH went into a German Military Office and came out after a few minutes saying that the matter had already been arranged and that I would have no interrupting to do.

In September, 1944 I heard from KUH that a detachment of German S.D. (Sicherheitsdienst) were coming to Reggio Emilia to take over internment matters. I therefore decided to try to get back my British passport which I knew to be in the custody of the Platzkommandatur, in a wooden box with documents of other internees. DE GRAM, who worked there, told me all this. One day, when the whole staff of the Platzkommandatur were at lunch and the office was unguarded, I walked in and took my passport, knowing from DE GRAM that no record was kept of the documents held. The absence of the passport was never subsequently noticed.

The German S.D. came into the town and took up offices at Viale Tevere 29 under a Captain LEIPOLD, but they never interfered with me in any way and I had nothing to do with them, except that on 8 March, 1945, I heard that I was about to be sent north to Parma for transit to Germany. I therefore went to see Captain LEIPOLD but he told me that he could do nothing as the order came from a higher command and no information was available on the subject of my removal to Parma. I decided to escape from the district, to cross the lines and present myself to an Allied Command.

With the assistance of Signor TRUCCO and a partisan whom I know -- known as "TAMBO" (husband of TAMBO's maid) I succeeded in getting away passing through Quarta Zona, Viano, Balin, Gova, Civego. I crossed the line at a spot between Civego and Barga, where I presented myself with other persons who had travelled with me, to the Carabinieri and then to an Allied Command. Then under Military Police supervision we went to Farnaccio di Barga, Viareggio, Florence and reached Rome, on 24th March, 1945.

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This statement has been read to me by Captain I. V. GALE and it is true, except for that part of it on page 10 which deals with the way in which I got my passport back. Actually I did not take it from the office of the Platzkommandatur, but received it directly from Lieutenant KUH, who told me that if the S.D. came I would never get it back. He knew that I was going to escape and said as he gave me the passport, "I hope you'll get your liberty back very soon."

(s) E. WISS

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Statement taken down, read over and signature witnessed by me, in the presence of Lieutenant Claude J. BOWE, American officer, AFHQ, G-2 Section (CI).

Claude J. Bove
CLAUDE J. BOWE,
1st Lt. F.A.
AFHQ, G-2 Section, (CI).

LOUIS V. GALE, Captain,
Investigating Officer,
Headquarters, Allied Commission, C.M.F.

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