

ACC 10000/143/2699 266.02/01
(1)

J.C.A. SPERNI
MAR. - OCT. 1945

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

REF. : SD/266.02/1 ←

12 October 1945

SUBJECT : British Renegades John C. A. Sperni,
Gerald Sperni.

TO : K.C. Denton Esq, Visa Dept, British Embassy.

1. I believe you are fully aware of the cases of the above named, who were arrested and placed in Terni internment Camp for consideration as to whether they should be prosecuted.
2. In the case of Gerald this was not practicable and he was released.
3. He is now asking for the return of his Italian passport, which is attached hereto.
4. Capt. Gale who prepared the cases against them is of the opinion that the passport should not be returned, as their claim to Italian nationality is dubious and they were obtained from the Italian consulate in London by a friend of the family in a somewhat irregular way. 000006
5. Gerald Sperni is of no further interest to Allied Military Security, but I would be glad of any observations you may care to make on his application for the return of his passport.

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

Copy to : SD/266.02/1
SD/266.01/4

SJM/lm.

J.C.A. SPERNI.

S.D. 266.02

1 2 3 7

Security Division File copy

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED COMMISSION

C.M.F.

PUBLIC SAFETY SUB-COMMISSION
SECURITY DIVISION.

REPORT

FOR

PROSECUTION

OF

JOHN CHARLES ANTHONY SPERNI

alias OLIVIANI SPERNI.

BRITISH REMEDADE

000005

- paras. 1 - 20 General History of case (para. 16. Lt.-Colonel S.I. BERRY, G-2, (PW), AFHQ - remarks re assistance given by SPERNI in organisation for aiding escaped Allied prisoners-of-war).
- " 21 - 33 Summary of Statement by Mr. H. J. MURPHY, American, Special Agent, 426 C.I.C Detachment.
- " 34 - 36 Summary of Statement by Mr. Dante GIMDI, American, A.F.H.Q. P.M.B. Unit No. 12, Chief of Italian Documents.
- " - 37 Summary of Statement by Miss Margaret Primrose KIM, British, personal secretary to Mr. D. GIMDI.
- " 38 - 40 Summary of Statement by Aldo DOMENICHINI, Italian, P.M.B employee, formerly of Ministry of Popular Culture, Rome.
- " 41 - 43 Summary of Statement by Francesco RADOLATO, Italian, P.M.B employee, also previously of above Ministry.
- " - 44 Result interview with General AME (former Chief of Italian Intelligence - S.I.M) re SPERNI.
- " 45 - 47 Summary of statement by Captain Michele FRANKI, officer of former Italian S.I.M.

Information given by

00005

PROSECUTION

OF

JOHN CHARLES ANTHONY SPERNI

alias GIOVANNI SPERNI

BRITISH REMEDADE

- Paras. 1 - 20 General history of case (Para. 16. Lt. Colonel S.I. BERRY, G-2, (PW), AFHQ - remarks re assistance given by SPERNI in organization for aiding escaped Allied prisoners-of-war).
- " 21 - 33 Summary of Statement by Mr. H. J. MURPHY, American, Special Agent, 426 C.I.C Detachment.
- " 34 - 36 Summary of Statement by Mr. Dante GARDI, American, A.P.N.O. P.W.B. Unit No. 12, Chief of Italian Documents.
- " - 37 Summary of Statement by Miss Margaret Primrose KIM, British, personal secretary to Mr. D. GARDI.
- " 38 - 40 Summary of Statement by Aldo DOMENICHINI, Italian, F.W.B employee, formerly of Ministry of Popular Culture, Rome.
- " 41 - 43 Summary of Statement by Francesco RADOLATO, Italian, P.W.F employee, also previously of above Ministry.
- " - 44 Result interview with General AME (former Chief of Italian Intelligence - S.I.M) re SPERNI.
- " 45 - 47 Summary of statement by Captain Michele FRANCHI, officer of former Italian S.I.M.
- " 48 - 49 Summary of documentary evidence regarding information given by SPERNI to Fascist Ministry of War.
- " 50 - 52 Summary of statement by Giovanni PANTZA, formerly of Italian Consulate, London, regarding issue of Italian passport to SPERNI.
- " 53 - 78 Summary of Statement made under caution by SPERNI to Captain L. V. GALE, HQ, Allied Commission.
- " 79 - 93 Summary of Statement made by Captain L. V. GALE, HQ, Allied Commission re arrest of SPERNI and searches etc.
- " 94 - 100 Comments on case by Captain L. V. GALE.

- - - - -

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED COMMISSION

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

INDEX

INDEX TO PROSECUTION REPORT

* JOHN CHARLES ANTHONY SPERRI & GIOVANNI SPERRI

British Renegade -

Pages	(1)	-	(13)	Report by Captain L. V. GALE, Security Division, HQ, Allied Commission.
"	(14)	-	(17)	Statement of Mr. Harry J. MURPHY Special Agent 426th C.I.C. Detachment - U. S. Army.
"	(18)	-	(19)	Statement of Mr. Dante GNUDI, A.P.H.Q. P.W.B. Unit No. 12.
"	"	-	(20)	Statement of Miss Margaret Primrose KIM, Personal Secretary to Mr. GNUDI, A.F.H.Q. P.W.B. Unit No. 12.
"	(21)	-	(22)	Statement of Sig. Aldo DOMENICHINI, employee of P.W.B. Unit No. 12, Ministry of Popular Culture, Rome.
"	"	-	(23)	Statement of Sig. Francesco BADOLATO, employee of P.W.B. Unit No. 12, Ministry of Popular Culture, Rome.
"	"	-	(24)	Statement of Dr. Michele FRANCHI, former Captain of Servizio Informazioni Militari, Rome.
"	(25)	-	(26)	Statement of Giovanni PANTZA, Italian Foreign Office, Rome. Former official at Italian Consulate, London.
"	(27)	-	(35)	Statement of John Charles Anthony SPERRI.
"	(36)	-	(37)	Statement of Captain L. V. GALE, Security Division, HQ, Allied Commission.
"	(38)	-	(44)	List and description of Documents seized at Ministry of Popular Culture, Rome. (Marked "J").
"	"	-	(45)	Translation of Document among those seized as above (marked "K") regarding information given by SPERRI to Italian Intelligence.

00004

1240

Pages	1	-	13	Report by Captain L. V. GALE, Security Division, HQ, Allied Commission.
"	14	-	14	Statement of Mr. Harry J. MURPHY Special Agent 426th C.I.C. Detachment - U. S. Army.
"	18	-	19	Statement of Mr. Dante GNUDI, A.F.H.Q. P.W.B. Unit No. 12.
"	-	-	20	Statement of Miss Margaret Primrose KING, personal secretary to Dr. GNUDI, A.F.H.Q. P.W.B. Unit No. 12.
"	21	-	22	Statement of Sig. Aldo DOMENICHINI, employee of P.W.B. Unit No. 12, Ministry of Popular Culture, Rome.
"	-	-	23	Statement of Sig. Francesco DADOLATO, employee of P.W.B. Unit No. 12, Ministry of Popular Culture, Rome.
"	-	-	24	Statement of Dr. Michele FRANCHI, former Captain of Servizio Informazioni Militari, Rome.
"	25	-	26	Statement of Giovanni PANTAZZA, Italian Foreign Office, Rome. Former official at Italian Consulate, London.
"	27	-	35	Statement of John Charles Anthony SPERNI.
"	36	-	37	Statement of Captain L. V. GALE, Security Division, HQ, Allied Commission.
"	38	-	44	List and description of documents seized at Ministry of Popular Culture, Rome. (Marked "J").
"	-	-	45	Translation of document among those seized as above (marked "K") regarding information given by SPERNI to Italian Intelligence.
"	46	-	48	Three documents seized at offices of P.W.B. Unit No. 12 relative to SPERNI's employment there (marked "L").
"	49	-	51	Copy and translation of letter, 23.4.41, written by SPERNI to Italian Military Intelligence (S.I.M.) offering his services (marked "M").
"	52	-	53	Copy and translation of letter, 8.8.41, written by SPERNI to Fascist Commissariat for Immigrants, asking for financial aid (marked "N").
"	53	-	-	Copy and translation of letter, 5.6.41, from (continued)

00004

- 2 -

Pages (53)	- (continued)	Inspectorate of Radio and Television informing him of his release from collaboration work as from 6th August 1941. (Marked "O").
"	(54)	Letter from SPERNI, 26.7.41, to Inspector of Radio and Television re allegation of unpunctuality (marked "u").
"	(55)	Copy letter from Inspectorate of Radio and Television, 26.7.41, to SPERNI reminding him for unpunctuality. (Marked "u").
"	(55) - (continued)	Copy receipt, dated 3.7.41, signed by SPERNI for salary advance of 1,000 lire from Ministry of Popular Culture. (Marked "u").
"	(56) - (57)	Copy letter from SPERNI, 25.5.43, to Swiss Legation, British interests, claiming British nationality and asking for financial aid. (Marked "u").
"	(58)	Copy letter from Swiss Legation, British interests, 12.6.43, to SPERNI replying to his request for aid. (Marked "u").
"	(58) - (59)	Copy letter from SPERNI, undated, to SWISS Legation, in reply to above supporting his claim to be considered a British subject. (Marked "u").
"	(60)	Copy letter from SPERNI, 12.3.45, to Dr. de SALIS, International Red Cross asking for aid, as an interned British Subject. (Marked "u").
"	(61)	Translation by Mr. H. J. MURPHY, C.I.C. of document, dated 31.7.41, found at Ministry of Popular Culture, referring to information supplied by SPERNI to Italian Intelligence. (Marked "u").
"	(62)	Translation by Mr. H. J. MURPHY, C.I.C. of newspaper article found at Ministry of Popular Culture. (Marked "u").

00063

Louis V. Gale

LOUIS V. GALE, Captain,
Headquarters, Allied Commission

" 55 - (continued)

" 56 - 57

" - 58

" 58 - 59

" - 60

" - 61

" - 62

for unrecapitulation. (Marked "R").

Copy receipt, dated 3.7.41, signed by SPERNI for salary advance of 1,000 lire from Ministry of Popular Culture. (Marked "R").

Copy letter from SPERNI, 25.5.43, to Swiss Legation, British interests, claiming British nationality and asking for financial aid. (Marked "R").

Copy letter from Swiss Legation, British interests, 12.6.43, to SPERNI replying to his request for aid. (Marked "R").

Copy letter from SPERNI, undated, to SWISS Legation, in reply to above supporting his claim to be considered a British subject. (Marked "R").

Copy letter from SPERNI, 12.3.45, to Dr. de SALIS, International Red Cross asking for aid, as an interned British subject. (Marked "R").

Translation by Mr. H. J. MURPHY, C.I.C. of document, dated 31.7.41, found at Ministry of Popular Culture, referring to information supplied by SPERNI to Italian Intelligence. (Marked "R").

Translation by Mr. H. J. MURPHY, C.I.C. of newspaper article found at Ministry of Popular Culture. (Marked "R").

00003

Louis V. Galt

LOUIS V. GALT, Captain,
Headquarters, Allied Commission,
Security Division.

SECRET

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

14 April 1945.

AFHQ Ref. : D-389.450/a-25
S.D. Ref. : 266.02
SUBJECT : British Renegades - Prosecution Report
 - SPERNI John Charles Anthony
 born 16 August 1912, at London.
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 further reference to John Charles Anthony SPERNI, subject of previous Security Division correspondence and A.F.H.Q. correspondence as shown above : -

2. Enquiries into the activities of this man have now been completed and it would appear that the evidence obtained is sufficient to justify his prosecution on charges of (1) adhering to the King's enemies and (2) doing acts with intent to assist the enemy, contrary to the Treason Acts and Defence Regulation 2A, Defence (General) Regulations 1939, respectively.

3. The facts which the prosecution seems to be able to prove are that SPERNI together with a British woman, posing as his wife (Rhonagh Maureen ROSS - subject of separate report to be submitted) and with other members of the SPERNI family, left England in June, 1940, after the Italian declaration of war, to go to Italy, obtaining Italian passports by virtue of a claim to Italian nationality dependent upon the birth of SPERNI's paternal grandfather at Parma, Northern Italy.

4. It is apparent that SPERNI, at a time when British prospects in the war's events appeared at low ebb, considered it more to his personal advantage to favour his claim to Italian nationality. Therefore, in May 1940, he applied for, and obtained, Italian Passport No. 939991/446, issued by the Italian Consulate in London on 11th May, 1940. Enquiries show that, to all intents and purposes, this passport is authentic and in no way a forged document, but according to SPERNI's own statement to an American Counter Intelligence Agent - Harry J. MURPHY (Statement attached - marked "A") its issue was facilitated by bribing an Italian Consular official named PANEZZA. (The latter has been questioned and has made a statement - attached marked "B", as to the circumstances of the issuing of the passport but makes no mention, nor was he confronted with the question of bribery in obtaining the passport.)

5. However, even accepting the Italian passport as a document issued authentically, it is apparent both from statements of SPERNI and PANEZZA, that the Italian

00002

S.D. Ref. : 266.02
 SUBJECT : British Renegades - Prosecution Report
 - SPERNI John Charles Anthony
 born 16 August 1912, at London.
 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 further reference to John Charles Anthony SPERNI, subject of previous Security Division correspondence and A.F.H.Q. correspondence as shown above : -
2. Enquiries into the activities of this man have now been completed and it would appear that the evidence aired is sufficient to justify his prosecution on charges of (1) adhering to the King's enemies and (2) doing acts with intent to assist the enemy, contrary to the Treason Acts and Defence Regulation 2A, Defence (General) Regulations 1939, respectively.
3. The facts which the Prosecution seems to be able to prove are that SPERNI together with a British woman, posing as his wife (Rhonagh Maureen ROSE - subject of separate report to be submitted) and with other members of the SPERNI family, left England in June, 1940, after the Italian declaration of war, to go to Italy, obtaining Italian passports by virtue of a claim to Italian nationality dependent upon the birth of SPERNI's paternal grandfather at Parma, Northern Italy.
4. It is apparent that SPERNI, at a time when British prospects in the war's events appeared at low ebb, considered it more to his personal advantage to favour his claim to Italian nationality. Therefore, in May 1940, he applied for, and obtained, Italian Passport No. 93991/446, issued by the Italian Consulate in London on 11th May, 1940. Enquiries show that, to all intents and purposes, this passport is authentic and in no way a forged document, but according to SPERNI's own statement to an American Counter Intelligence Agent - Harry J. MURPHY (statement attached - marked "A") its issue was facilitated by bribing an Italian Consular official named PANIZZA. (The latter has been questioned and has made a statement - attached marked "G", as to the circumstances of the issuing of the passport but makes no mention, nor was he confronted with the question of bribery in obtaining the passport.)
5. However, even accepting the Italian passport as a document issued authentically, it is apparent both from statements of SPERNI and PANIZZA, that the former did not renounce British nationality to obtain the Italian passport, and that from all points of view he is a British subject and liable to British law and legislation. He has at no time whilst in England registered with police as an alien.
6. SPERNI, having obtained the Italian passport, succeeded in placing his name and that of his "wife" and two children on a repatriation list prepared at the Italian Consulate and submitted to British Foreign Office after the Italian declaration of war. Then, on the authority of the approved repatriation list he succeeded in leaving England for Italy with his alleged "wife" and their two children. Other members of the SPERNI family (subjects of separate reports to be submitted) succeeded in doing likewise.

30062

- 2 -

- 2
7. After arriving in Rome during June, 1940, he was questioned by officials of the Italian Intelligence Service - S.I.M. (Servizio Informazioni Militare) - and gave them such topographical information on English coastal defences as he was capable of giving. It is true that the information which he was able to give was probably of little value to the enemy and that some of it was doubtless invented in order to impress them for reasons of personal advantage. Nevertheless, he gave them what purported to be useful information and it seems that only his incapacity to give accurate and useful information, rather than his unwillingness to do so, prevented him from being more precise and valuable to the enemy. Furthermore, from the evidence of a document found during a search of SPERNI's flat (attached - marked "M") it can be shown that he offered his services to the Italian S.I.M. in "any capacity whatsoever". This leaves very little doubt as to his sympathies and intentions at the time in question.
 8. Shortly after his arrival in Rome, SPERNI made the acquaintance, through a person whom he had met on board the repatriation ship, of Marchese Ranieri di SURELLO, chief of the English Propaganda Section of the Fascist Ministry of Popular Culture, and through the latter obtained employment as a collaborator - translator and announcer - in war commentaries and news in English and general propaganda in English directed against and combatting British Radio Propaganda.
 9. Documentary evidence in the form of inter-departmental correspondence found at the Ministry of Popular Culture can be produced showing that SPERNI between 21 June 1940 and 20 April 1941 collaborated in 774 separate news broadcasts in English on the Italian Fascist Radio for payment of fees amounting to 22,310 lire (Exhibits Nos. 39-41, 43-45, 48, 50, 52, 53 on attached list marked "J").
 10. A separate set of correspondence found in the files of the Ministry of Popular Culture (Exhibits Nos. 10-19 in list) confirms exactly the number of news broadcasts and amount of fees as shown above in paragraph 9. Exhibit No. 9 in list attached, also shows that in August 1940 SPERNI took part in 5 radio propaganda sketches for payment of 467 lire.
 11. Applications signed by SPERNI, requesting payment of fees for broadcasts, (Exhibits Nos. 1-2, 20, 25-28 on attached list marked "J") show that beyond the period above, ie. after 20 April, 1941, he made 164 further news broadcasts for fees amounting to 7223 lire, up to 5 August 1941, when, according to correspondence found in a search of the Ministry (See Exhibit No. 21 in list), he was dismissed from his service as a "collaborator".
 12. It seems reasonably clear from SPERNI's own statement and from correspondence found at the Ministry of Popular Culture that owing to his lack of discipline and rather unpleasant personality he made himself generally unpopular and that his dismissal was largely due to these general factors, his unpunctuality and "Cockney accent", than to any specific act committed by him, although he claims in his statement that the dismissal followed his being found in unauthorized possession of a Reuters news report. (See Exhibit No. 65 in list).

valuable to one of SPERNI's flat (attached - marked "M") if during a search of SPERNI's flat (attached - marked "M") it was found that he offered his services to the Italian S.I.M. in any capacity whatsoever. This leaves very little doubt as to his sympathies and intentions at the time in question.

8. Shortly after his arrival in Rome, SPERNI made the acquaintance, through a person whom he had met on board the repatriation ship, of Marchese Ranieri di SORELLO, chief of the English Propaganda Section of the Fascist Ministry of Popular Culture, and through the latter obtained employment as a collaborator - translator and announcer - in war commentaries and news in English and general propaganda in English directed against and combatting British Radio Propaganda.
9. Documentary evidence in the form of inter-departmental correspondence found at the Ministry of Popular Culture can be produced showing that SPERNI between 21 June 1940 and 20 April 1941 collaborated in 774 separate news broadcasts in English on the Italian Fascist Radio for payment of fees amounting to 22,310 lire (Exhibits Nos. 39-41, 43-45, 48, 50, 52, 53 on attached list marked "J").
10. A separate set of correspondence found in the files of the Ministry of Popular Culture (Exhibits Nos. 10-19 in list) confirms exactly the number of news broadcasts and amount of fees as shown above in paragraph 9. Exhibit No. 9 in list attached, also shows that in August 1940 SPERNI took part in 5 radio propaganda sketches for payment of 467 lire.
11. Applications signed by SPERNI, requesting payment of fees for broadcasts, (Exhibits Nos. 1-2, 20, 25-28 on attached list marked "J") show that beyond the period above, ie. after 20 April, 1941, he made 164 further news broadcasts for fees amounting to 7223 lire, up to 5 August 1941, when, according to correspondence found in a search of the Ministry (See Exhibit No. 21 in list), he was dismissed from his service as a "collaborator". 3031
12. It seems reasonably clear from SPERNI's own statement and from correspondence found at the Ministry of Popular Culture that owing to his lack of discipline and rather unpleasant personality he made himself generally unpopular and that his dismissal was largely due to these general factors, his unpunctuality and "Cockney accent", than to any specific act committed by him, although he claims in his statement that the dismissal followed his being found in unauthorized possession of a Reuters news report. (See Exhibit No. 65 in list).
13. Shortly after his dismissal, he secured work as a news writer in the Rome office of Associated Press and, after America's declaration of war, he continued ostensibly (according to his own statement) to act for that news agency through the medium of the neutral Andi Press Agency, Buenos Aires, by acting as representative of the latter agency in Rome. Andi Press, he claimed, was really subsidiary to and under the control of Associated Press of America.
14. Even in this venture he seems to have been playing a "double-game". He had the full recommendation and approval of S.I.M. and the Ministry of Popular Culture for acting as Rome representative of Andi Press Agency, and from documents found at the Ministry of Popular Culture (Exhibits Nos. 56-64 in attached list) it is clear that he was under instructions of the Director General of the Foreign Press Service (Signor ROCCO) to use the Andi Press Agency for disseminating Italian Fascist propaganda and news in America. Exhibit No. 64 in the list emphasizes this fact particularly. The other

- 3 -

exhibits mentioned above treat very largely with the assistance which he had rendered to S.I.M and the Italian Ministry of War and leave little doubt as to this assistance having amounted to treason.

15.

He continued in Rome as the representative of Andl Press Agency until 14th February, 1942, when he was arrested by Italian police and subsequently interned, first at a concentration camp at Ariano Irpino and later in a "concentration area" with his "wife" and children. Following the Armistice with Italy he secured his release from internment and shortly afterwards, with his "wife" and two children returned to Rome. Thereafter, he became employed, through an Irish priest - Father MADDEN - in an organisation for aiding escaped Allied Prisoners-of-War, which was directed by Major (now Lieutenant-Colonel) S. I. DERRY, G-2 (PW), Allied Forces Headquarters.

16.

Lt. Colonel S.I. DERRY, G.S.O.I., G-2 (PW) A.F.H.Q has confirmed that the part of SPERNI's statement (copy attached) page seven thereof, referring to SPERNI's work on behalf of escaped prisoners, is true. Lt. Colonel DERRY stated that SPERNI carried out useful and satisfactory work in this connection and was paid a standing amount of 4,000 lire per month and amounts varying between 100-140 lire per day for maintaining each prisoner whom he was instrumental in sheltering.

17.

On 19th April, 1943, German S.S. Police searched SPERNI's house and there found two escaped prisoners - an American private and a South African lance-corporal. SPERNI was arrested and subsequently tried before a German Military Tribunal and sentenced to 15 years imprisonment. He succeeded in escaping from Regina Coeli Prison Rome, on 1st June, 1943, with the aid of an auxiliary Italian policeman, during the confusion of an attempted escape by other prisoners. He remained in hiding until the occupation of Rome by the Allies on 4th June, 1944.

18.

Thereafter he obtained work as a news editor with Psychological Warfare Branch but after about two months he left, as far as can be ascertained, of his own accord. From that time until his arrest by Captain L.V. GALE, HQ, Allied Commission and Captain R.A. ARCHER on 5 February, 1945, he apparently lived on the sale of his effects and by translations into English for Italians in Rome.

19.

From the brief general story, as above, of SPERNI's activities, it seems clear that he is a worthless individual with no real sense of loyalty to any country and that his attitude changed with the rise and fall of the war's events, so that little regard can be paid to his later work on behalf of escaped Allied prisoners-of-war in Rome, which, in any case, was probably only regarded by him as a means of making a living during the German Occupation.

20.

The worthless character of SPERNI and the disloyal motives underlying his activities will be seen clearly from the more detailed evidence which is summarised below. It will be noted that SPERNI has, at all times, claimed just whichever nationality suited his purpose best. From my interviews with him, when his statement, under caution, was taken it was apparent that his main defence is that he is an Italian subject. But there seems more than enough evidence to show that, in fact, he is a British subject with a perhaps flimsy claim also to Italian nationality. Certainly, he has never renounced

16. Lt. Colonel S.I. DERRY, G.S.O.I., G-2 (PW) A.F.H.Q. has confirmed that the part of SPERNI's statement (copy attached) page seven thereof, referring to SPERNI's work on behalf of escaped prisoners, is true. Lt. Colonel DERRY stated that SPERNI carried out useful and satisfactory work in this connection and was paid a standing amount of 4,000 lire per month and amounts varying between 100-140 lire per day for maintaining each prisoner whom he was instrumental in sheltering.
17. On 19th April, 1943, German S.S. Police searched SPERNI's house and there found two escaped prisoners - an American private and a South African lance-corporal. SPERNI was arrested and subsequently tried before a German Military Tribunal and sentenced to 15 years imprisonment. He succeeded in escaping from Regina Coeli Prison Rome, on 1st June, 1943, with the aid of an auxiliary Italian policeman, during the confusion of an attempted escape by other prisoners. He remained in hiding until the occupation of Rome by the Allies on 4th June, 1944.
18. Thereafter he obtained work as a news editor with Psychological Warfare Branch but after about two months he left, as far as can be ascertained, of his own accord. From that time until his arrest by Captain L.V. GALE, HQ, Allied Commission and Captain R.A. ARCHER on 5 February, 1945, he apparently lived on the sale of his effects and by translations into English for Italians in Rome.
19. From the brief general story, as above, of SPERNI's activities, it seems clear that he is a worthless individual with no real sense of loyalty to any country and that his attitude changed with the rise and fall of the war's events, so that little regard can be paid to his later work on behalf of escaped Allied prisoners-of-war in Rome, which, in any case, was probably only regarded by him as a means of making a living during the German Occupation.
20. The worthless character of SPERNI and the disloyal motives underlying his activities will be seen clearly from the more detailed evidence which is summarised below. It will be noted that SPERNI has, at all times, claimed just whichever nationality suited his purpose best. From my interviews with him, when his statement, under caution, was taken it was apparent that his main defence is that he is an Italian subject. But there seems more than enough evidence to show that, in fact, he is a British subject with a perhaps flimsy claim also to Italian nationality. Certainly, he has never renounced his British nationality, in spite of the fact that he succeeded in obtaining an Italian passport by some means. The evidence which can be given by the various witnesses is as follows: -
21. Mr. Harry Joseph MURPHY, American citizen, Special Agent attached to Headquarters, 426th Detachment Counter-Intelligence Corps (Statement attached marked "A") will say that towards the end of July 1944, acting on instructions, he commenced investigations into the background of John Charles Anthony SPERNI, known as Giovanni SPERNI.
22. He caused a search of the records of the Ministry of Popular Culture to be made. Subsequently ~~few~~ files were handed to him by Mr. Dante GNUDI, American citizen, P.W.B. Unit No. 12 (see later). Mr. MURPHY has agreed that the documents described in the attached list (marked "J") conform with the

4

contents of the four files which he examined at the time together with Mr. GNUDI. Subsequently, Mr. MURPHY retained the documents under lock and key for a month and then returned them to Mr. GNUDI. He has drawn special attention, however, to three documents which he found in the files, two of which do not appear in the list compiled by Captain Gale (Copy of list attached - marked "J").

23. The document which appears in the said list (No. 22 thereon) is a letter from Colonel AME, Chief of S.I.M. under the Fascist Regime, to the Minister of Popular Culture, recommending that approval be given for SPERNI to act as correspondent of the "Andi Press Agency" as records showed that he had voluntarily given information arising from his profound knowledge of English territory."

24. The two documents which do not appear in the list, were extracted by Mr. MURPHY for the purpose of compiling his report, and were apparently mislaid between that time and the occasion when Mr. GNUDI handed me the files for examination.

25. Mr. MURPHY has declared, however, that translations of the two missing documents were made at the time and compared by him with the originals. He has guaranteed the accuracy of these translations, which are attached marked "W" and "X".

26. One of these documents consists of a memorandum dated 31 July, 1941 from the Inspector for Radio and Television to the Chief of the Cabinet of the Minister of Popular Culture, stating that Captain FRANCI of S.I.M. had declared that he made use of SPERNI at the time when the latter returned from London, to gather information of a technical character on the conditions of road communications in England. FRANCI is stated, in the letter, to have asked that SPERNI be not discharged from his position for unauthorized possession of a news transmission (more or less innocuous) but to be fined or suspended. (Attached marked "W").

27. The other document consisted of a newspaper article, apparently written by SPERNI, drawing attention to the inefficient propaganda system of the Fascist Government (Attached marked "O").

28. On 19th August, 1944, Mr. MURPHY questioned John Charles Anthony SPERNI, after properly cautioning him. SPERNI then gave an account of his history and background. He said that he was born on 16 August 1912 in London and that he was married to Rhonagh Maureen ROEB-SPERNI, with whom he was living at Via Belluno 8, Rome. He then gave an account of his employment in England, mostly with well-known automobile firms, from 1930 until shortly before he left for Italy in June, 1940.

29. SPERNI gave as his motive for leaving, that he decided in May, 1940 to go there to "make some money" and was also prompted by a spirit of adventure. Having been refused permission of the English authorities to leave, he contacted a Mr. PALZA at the Italian Consulate in London and after payment to the latter of a bribe of fifty pounds, succeeded in obtaining an Italian passport being based on the fact of the birth

23. The document which appears in the said list (No. 25 therein) is from Colonel AME, Chief of S.I.M. under the Fascist Regime, to the Minister of Popular Culture, recommending that approval be given for SPERNI to act as correspondent of the "Andi Press Agency" as records showed that he had voluntarily given information arising from his profound knowledge of English territory."
24. The two documents which do not appear in the list, were extracted by Mr. MURPHY for the purpose of compiling his report, and were apparently mislaid between that time and the occasion when Mr. GIMUDI handed me the files for examination.
25. Mr. MURPHY has declared, however, that translations of the two missing documents were made at the time and compared by him with the originals. He has guaranteed the accuracy of these translations, which are attached marked "W" and "X".
26. One of these documents consists of a memorandum dated 31 July, 1941 from the Inspector for Radio and Television to the Chief of the Cabinet of the Minister of Popular Culture, stating that Captain FRANCI of S.I.M. had declared that he made use of SPERNI at the time when the latter returned from London, to gather information of a technical character on the conditions of road communications in England. FRANCI is stated, in the letter, to have asked that SPERNI be not discharged from his position for unauthorized possession of a news transmission (more or less innocuous) but to be fined or suspended. (Attached marked "W").
27. The other document consisted of a newspaper article, apparently written by SPERNI, drawing attention to the inefficient propaganda system of the Fascist Government (Attached marked "O").
28. On 19th August, 1944, Mr. MURPHY questioned John Charles Anthony SPERNI, after properly cautioning him. SPERNI then gave an account of his history and background. He said that he was born on 16 August 1912 in London and that he was married to Rhonagh Maureen ROBE-SPERNI, with whom he was living at Via Belluno 6, Rome. He then gave an account of his employment in England, mostly with well-known automobile firms, from 1930 until shortly before he left for Italy in June, 1940.
29. SPERNI gave as his motive for leaving, that he decided in May, 1940 to go there to "make some money" and was also prompted by a spirit of adventure. Having been refused permission of the English authorities to leave, he contacted a Mr. PAZZA at the Italian Consulate in London and after payment to the latter of a bribe of fifty pounds, succeeded in obtaining an Italian passport, the claim to such passport being based on the fact of the birth of SPERNI'S paternal grandfather in Parma, North Italy.
30. Continuing his story to Mr. MURPHY, SPERNI stated that he arrived in Italy on a repatriate ship and his passport was later confiscated by the Fascist Police. (This, in fact, is not true. It will be shown that from SPERNI'S own statement made later to Captain CAIE, he actually gave it for safe custody to a friend - Achille CICHERO).
31. He said that he was unemployed from June 1940 to February 1941 but then he secured work with Associated Press and afterwards with the "Andi Agency", outwardly a neutral agency, but in fact a subsidiary of Associated Press. SPERNI then went on to tell a story of having continued to work for the Andi Press Agency until 27 February 1942 when Italian Police raided his office and found his British Masonic certificate, this incident leading to his arrest and internment.

- 5 -

32. The remainder of his story dealt with his release from internment after the Italian Armistice, his subsequent activities in aiding escaped Allied prisoners-of-war in Rome, his arrest by the Germans, his being sentenced to death by a German Military Tribunal for harbouring escaped prisoners, his subsequent escape and his employment by F.W.B after Allied Occupation.
33. He said that the story as above gave the full main facts of his movements and activities. Mr. MURPHY then pointed out that it was known that SPERNI had been employed as a broadcaster in English at the Fascist Ministry of Popular Culture. SPERNI admitted that he had been thus employed but said that he had "so worded his broadcasts as to make Fascism appear foolish." Confronted by Mr. MURPHY with the finding of the letters regarding his employment with and recommendation by S.I.M., he denied all knowledge of both Colonel AME and Captain FRANCHI.
34. Mr. Dante GNUDI, American citizen, Allied Forces Headquarters, Psychological Warfare Branch, Unit No. 12, Chief of Italian documents, (statement attached marked "G"), will say that he personally located three of the four files previously mentioned (Exhibits Nos. 1-3 on attached list "J") and was present when the fourth file (Exhibit No. 4 in attached list "J") was located by Aldo DOMENICHINI an employee of F.W.B. Mr. GNUDI examined the contents of the four files in company with Mr. MURPHY into whose temporary custody he gave the files, the latter returning them after about a month. Both witnesses agree that the list of documents (attached - marked "J") is accurate in describing the contents of the files. Mr. GNUDI, on 7th March, 1945 handed these files to Captain L.V. GALE, Headquarters, Allied Commission, in whose custody they have since remained.
35. Evidence can also be given by Mr. GNUDI in rebuttal of a statement made by SPERNI (attached - marked "H" - page 8, paragraph 5 thereof) that it was only through the latter's efforts, including introduction to P.W.B of DOMENICHINI, that any file was found relating to him. Apparently, SPERNI, in his statement, wished to make it plain that he had a clear conscience regarding his activities, because according to other parts of his statement, he had been "toning-down" Fascist Radio propaganda. (It will be observed that his conscience was not quite so clear when questioned earlier by Mr. MURPHY, when he made no mention of the period of employment on the Fascist Radio as a broadcaster in English, claiming instead to have been unemployed during that time).
36. Mr. GNUDI will also be able to give evidence of having found among the records of psychological Warfare Branch, three documents (copies attached marked "L") relating to SPERNI's application for employment under P.W.B after Allied Occupation, in which SPERNI clearly describes himself as a "British subject". Later, in his statement to Captain L. V. GALE, SPERNI seems to have adopted a defence against the charges which were indicated to him, by claiming to have been an Italian subject from the date of issue of the Italian passport (May, 1940). The documentary evidence mentioned above and other evidence (See later) will show that SPERNI is a British subject and at all times still regarded himself as such.
37. Miss Margaret Primrose KING, British, Personal Secretary to Mr. GNUDI, Chief of Italian documents, A.F.H.Q P.W.B Unit No. 12 (statement attached

00058

1251

another file whilst searching

that he had no worded his presence. Confronted by Mr. MURPHY with the finding of the letters regarding his employment with and recommendation by S.I.M., he denied all knowledge of both Colonel AMF and Captain FRANCI.

34. Mr. Dante GNUDI, American citizen, Allied Forces Headquarters, Psychological Warfare Branch, Unit No. 12, Chief of Italian documents, (statement attached marked "D"), will say that he personally located three of the four files previously mentioned (Exhibits Nos. 1-3 on attached list "J") and was present when the fourth file (Exhibit No. 4 in attached list "J") was located by Aldo DOMENICHINI an employee of P.W.B. Mr. GNUDI examined the contents of the four files in company with Mr. MURPHY into whose temporary custody he gave the files, the latter returning them after about a month. Both witnesses agree that the list of documents (attached - marked "J") is accurate in describing the contents of the files. Mr. GNUDI, on 7th March, 1945 handed these files to Captain L.V. GALE, Headquarters, Allied Commission, in whose custody they have since remained.

35. Evidence can also be given by Mr. GNUDI in rebuttal of a statement made by SPERNI (attached - marked "M" - page 8, paragraph 5 thereof) that it was only through the latter's efforts, including introduction to P.W.B. of DOMENICHINI, that any file was found relating to him. Apparently, SPERNI, in his statement, wished to make it plain that he had a clear conscience regarding his activities, because according to other parts of his statement, he had been "toning-down" Fascist Radio propaganda. (It will be observed that his conscience was not quite so clear when questioned earlier by Mr. MURPHY, when he made no mention of the period of employment on the Fascist Radio as a broadcaster in English, claiming instead to have been unemployed during that time).

00058

36. Mr. GNUDI will also be able to give evidence of having found among the records of Psychological Warfare Branch, three documents (copies attached marked "L") relating to SPERNI's application for employment under P.W.B. after Allied Occupation, in which SPERNI clearly describes himself as a "British subject". Later, in his statement to Captain L.V. GALE, SPERNI seems to have adopted a defence against the charges which were indicated to him, by claiming to have been an Italian subject from the date of issue of the Italian passport (May, 1940). The documentary evidence mentioned above and other evidence (See later) will show that SPERNI is a British subject and at all times still regarded himself as such.

37. Miss Margaret Primrose KING, British, Personal Secretary to Mr. GNUDI, Chief of Italian documents, A.F.H.Q. P.W.B. Unit No. 12 (statement attached - marked "C") will testify to having located a further file whilst searching through certain miscellaneous files at the request of Captain L.V. GALE. (She examined the contents and has agreed that part (5) in the list of Exhibits (Nos. 56-65) accurately describes the documents which she saw in the file. On 7th March, 1945, she handed the file to Captain L.V. GALE in whose custody it remains.

(STATEMENT ATTACHED - MARKED "D")

38. Aldo DOMENICHINI, employee of Psychological Warfare Branch, corroborates the evidence of Mr. GNUDI as to the finding of a fourth file (Part (4) of List of Exhibits). He also confirms that SPERNI had nothing to do with his being engaged by P.W.B. or in locating the files on SPERNI. The witness says, however, that SPERNI whilst employed in the Ministry building by P.W.B. might have had access to the files and could perhaps have hidden papers referring to himself. (Mr. GNUDI has now stated, however, that in any case American

- 6 -

personnel were always present in the room where the files were stored and there would have been no opportunity for SPERNI to search in there).

39. DOMENICHINI, in his statement, said that he had known SPERNI since 1941, and believed the latter to be a sincere anti-fascist. (It can here be pointed out that DOMENICHINI was himself a member of a clandestine anti-fascist group and SPERNI is the type who would express his views according to the company in which he found himself).
40. DOMENICHINI said that he did not know the precise nature of SPERNI's work in the Radio section of the Ministry of Popular Culture, but believed that he translated bulletins into English.
41. Francesco BADOLATO, radio engineer, employed by Psychological Warfare Branch, (statement attached - marked "E") will say that in his capacity as Chief of the Technical Services of the former Ministry of Popular Culture from 1935 until the Allied Occupation of Rome, he had known Giovanni SPERNI from 1940 onwards as an announcer in English and was often present in the broadcasting studio when SPERNI was speaking at the microphone. At first, SPERNI was occupied in reading, the Italian War Bulletin in English at 1300 hours regularly.
42. After some time had elapsed, SPERNI also commenced to take part in a radio programme of conversations in English commencing at 2300 hours, on several occasions being assisted by a woman who was described as his sister. Signor BADOLATO does not understand English and cannot, therefore, testify as to what was said during the broadcasts.
43. At that time SPERNI claimed to be an Italian subject but when Signor BADOLATO met him, after the Allied Occupation of Rome, at the offices of P.W.B., and asked why SPERNI was there, the latter replied "Because I am English".
44. A statement (copy attached - marked "F") has been taken from Captain Michele FRANCI, ex-officer of the Servizio Informazioni Militare under the former Fascist Government. He formerly served with S.I.M. under Colonel AME (now General AME) who was interviewed regarding documents found in the Ministry of Popular Culture, recommending SPERNI as a man who had been of great use to S.I.M. on account of the information he had given. General AME acknowledged having signed the original letter of recommendation (No. 22 in list of Exhibits attached - marked "J") but said that he was unable to recollect upon what information from SPERNI the recommendation had been based. He said that the letter had been instigated by Captain FRANCI.
45. Captain FRANCI in his statement, has said that shortly after Italy's entry into the war, whilst serving as a Lieutenant in the former S.I.M., having a knowledge of English, he was given the task of interrogating Giovanni SPERNI, who had just arrived from England with other re-patriates. The object of the interrogation was to obtain data relative to English defensive preparations to prevent landings in England from sea and air. The information supplied by SPERNI, he stated, was inaccurate and of little importance and dealt generally with coastal outline and the direction of the coastal roads.

00057

41. Francesco BADOLATO, radio engineer, employed by psychological warfare branch, (statement attached - marked "E") will say that in his capacity as Chief of the Technical Services of the former Ministry of Popular Culture from 1935 until the Allied Occupation of Rome, he had known Giovanni SPERNI from 1940 onwards as an announcer in English and was often present in the broadcasting studio when SPERNI was speaking at the microphone. At first, SPERNI was occupied in reading, the Italian War Bulletin in English at 1300 hours regularly.
42. After some time had elapsed, SPERNI also commenced to take part in a radio programme of conversations in English commencing at 2300 hours, on several occasions being assisted by a woman who was described as his sister. Signor BADOLATO does not understand English and cannot, therefore, testify as to what was said during the broadcasts.
43. At that time SPERNI claimed to be an Italian subject but when Signor BADOLATO met him, after the Allied Occupation of Rome, at the offices of P.W.B. and asked why SPERNI was there, the latter replied "Because I am English".
44. A statement (copy attached - marked "F") has been taken from Captain Michele FRANCI, ex-officer of the Servizio Informazioni Militare under the former Fascist Government. He formerly served with S.I.M. under Colonel AME (now General AME) who was interviewed regarding documents found in the Ministry of Popular Culture, recommending SPERNI as a man who had been of great use to S.I.M. on account of the information he had given. General AME acknowledged having signed the original letter of recommendation (No. 22 in list of Exhibits attached - marked "J") but said that he was unable to recollect upon what information from SPERNI the recommendation had been based. He said that the letter had been instigated by Captain FRANCI.
45. Captain FRANCI in his statement, has said that shortly after Italy's entry into the war, whilst serving as a Lieutenant in the former S.I.M., having a knowledge of English, he was given the task of interrogating Giovanni SPERNI, who had just arrived from England with other re-patriates. The object of the interrogation was to obtain data relative to English defensive preparations to prevent landings in England from sea and air. The information supplied by SPERNI, he stated, was inaccurate and of little importance and dealt generally with coastal outline and the direction of the coastal roads.
46. Subsequently, SPERNI who was in difficult financial straits with a family to support, asked several times for his assistance in securing a post for SPERNI, and finally asked for a letter of recommendation to assist him in obtaining a position with an Argentine information service (Andi Press Agency). As a result, Captain FRANCI caused a letter of recommendation to be sent to the Ministry of Popular Culture, exaggerating the value of the information given by SPERNI, solely to find him a position and save him from his serious economic plight.
47. There seems to be no doubt that the evidence of both General AME and Captain FRANCI, is influenced by their wish not to appear as officers who carried out their work with enthusiasm under the former Fascist Government. In this connection, it is pointed out that certain of the documents found in the records of the Ministry of Popular Culture (No.s. 56-59 in list of Exhibits) show that SPERNI, although perhaps not capable of giving useful technical

- 7 -

information, gave treasonable aid to the enemy through S.I.M at that time, in other ways.

48. Exhibit No. 59 in Lists of Exhibits (Full translation attached - marked "K") shows that SPERNI, upon arrival in Italy from England, "voluntarily presented himself to the Ministry of War in order to furnish all the data in his possession which could be of service to Italy during war operations. Among the more urgent requests made to him was that of loaning as many of his documents as possible (identification card, pass, papers bearing the heading of English firms etc) which, after having been re-produced, were to be used by German parachutists. Among the documents in question, SPERNI included his enrolment card in a Masonic Lodge."

49. Further, the above mentioned exhibit, which is a copy memorandum (unsigned) of the Ministry of Popular Culture Directorate General for Foreign Press Service, shows that "officers came from Berlin to interrogate him and bring up-to-date the maps upon which were marked the English industrial firms".

50. A statement has also been taken from Giovanni PANIZZA, an official of the Italian Consulate in London until outbreak of war with Italy. He was questioned as to the authenticity of Italian passport No. 939991/446 issued on 11 May, 1940 in London to Giovanni SPERNI.

51. PANIZZA states that the passport was genuine and properly issued and acknowledged his signature on page 3 of the passport as the Consular official who issued it. He has stated that he had only a slight knowledge of SPERNI having seen the latter on only one occasion in London (yet he admits later in his statement having recognized SPERNI in the streets of Rome afterwards). He has agreed, from his experience of Italian passport control, that the passport would have been issued to SPERNI without the latter's renouncing his British nationality. PANIZZA added that he had no knowledge whatsoever of SPERNI's employment or activities after arrival in Italy in June 1940.

52. There seems little doubt that PANIZZA is identical with the Italian Consular official "PANIZZA" mentioned in the statement of Mr. Harry J. MURPHY, American Special Agent C.I.C. whom SPERNI claimed to have paid fifty pounds as a bribe to obtain the passport. This is probably the truth of the matter and enquiries in London will probably establish that PANIZZA was a close associate of both SPERNI and the latter's father. PANIZZA in his statement, admitted to having met Giovanni SPERNI (Senior) a number of times at Italian meetings in London.

53. Giovanni SPERNI (Junior), subject of this report, after arrest made a statement under caution, which he signed, to Captain L.V. GALE (Headquarters, Allied Commission) in the presence of Captain R. A. ARCHER, (D.A.P.M. 76 S.I.B Section C.M.P.) and Lieutenant Claude J. ROVE (American officer attached to G-2, Rome Allied Area Command).

54. In the statement (copy attached - marked "H") he gave his correct names etc., as - John Charles Anthony SPERNI, born 16th August, 1912 at St. Pancras; father - Giovanni Celeste Geraldino SPERNI, born in London, 1888 of Italian parents; mother - Annie SPERNI nee CHALLIS, born in London of British parents.

- 7 -

information, gave treasonable aid to the enemy through S.I.M at that time, in other ways.

48. Exhibit No. 59 in Lists of Exhibits (Full translation attached - marked "K") shows that SPERNI, upon arrival in Italy from England, "voluntarily presented himself to the Ministry of War in order to furnish all the data in his possession which could be of service to Italy during war operations. Among the more urgent requests made to him was that of loaning as many of his documents as possible (identification card, pass, papers bearing the heading of English firms etc) which, after having been re-produced, were to be used by German parachutists. Among the documents in question, SPERNI included his enrolment card in a Masonic Lodge."

49. Further, the above mentioned exhibit, which is a copy memorandum (unsigned) of the Ministry of Popular Culture Directorate General for Foreign Press Service, shows that "officers came from Berlin to interrogate him and bring up-to-date the maps upon which were marked the English industrial firms".

50. A statement has also been taken from Giovanni PANIZZA, an official of the Italian Consulate in London until outbreak of war with Italy. He was questioned as to the authenticity of Italian passport No. 939991/446 issued on 11 May, 1940 in London to Giovanni SPERNI.

51. PANIZZA states that the passport was genuine and properly issued and acknowledged his signature on page 3 of the passport as the Consular official who issued it. He has stated that he had only a slight knowledge of SPERNI having seen the latter on only one occasion in London (yet he admits later in his statement having recognized SPERNI in the streets of Rome afterwards). He has agreed, from his experience of Italian passport control, that the passport would have been issued to SPERNI without the latter's renouncing his British nationality. PANIZZA added that he had no knowledge whatsoever of SPERNI's employment or activities after arrival in Italy in June 1940.

52. There seems little doubt that PANIZZA is identical with the Italian Consular official "PANIZZA" mentioned in the statement of Mr. Harry J. MURPHY, American Special Agent C.I.C. when SPERNI claimed to have paid fifty pounds as a bribe to obtain the passport. This is probably the truth of the matter and enquiries in London will probably establish that PANIZZA was a close associate of both SPERNI and the latter's father. PANIZZA in his statement, admitted to having met Giovanni SPERNI (Senior) a number of times at Italian meetings in London.

53. Giovanni SPERNI (Junior), subject of this report, after arrest made a statement under caution, which he signed, to Captain L.V. GALE (Headquarters, Allied Commission) in the presence of Captain R. A. ARCHER, (D.A.P.M. 76 S.I.B Section C.M.P.) and Lieutenant Claude J. ROVE (American officer attached to G-2, Rome Allied Area Command).

54. In the statement (copy attached - marked "H") he gave his correct names etc., as - John Charles Anthony SPERNI, born 16th August, 1912 at St. Pancras; father - Giovanni Celeste Gerardo SPERNI, born in London, 1888 of Italian

49. Further, the above mentioned exhibit, which is a copy memorandum (unsigned) of the Ministry of Popular Culture Directorate General for Foreign Press Service, shows that "officers came from Berlin to interrogate him and bring up-to-date the maps upon which were marked the English industrial firms".
50. A statement has also been taken from Giovanni PANIZZA, an official of the Italian Consulate in London until outbreak of war with Italy. He was questioned as to the authenticity of Italian passport No. 939991/446 issued on 11 May, 1940 in London to Giovanni SPERNI.
51. PANIZZA states that the passport was genuine and properly issued and acknowledged his signature on page 3 of the passport as the Consular official who issued it. He has stated that he had only a slight knowledge of SPERNI having seen the latter on only one occasion in London (yet he admits later in his statement having recognized SPERNI in the streets of Rome afterwards). He has agreed, from his experience of Italian passport control, that the passport would have been issued to SPERNI without the latter's renouncing his British nationality. PANIZZA added that he had no knowledge whatsoever of SPERNI's employment or activities after arrival in Italy in June 1940.
52. There seems little doubt that PANIZZA is identical with the Italian Consular official "PALIZZA" mentioned in the statement of Mr. Harry J. MURPHY, American Special Agent C.I.G. whom SPERNI claimed to have paid fifty pounds as a bribe to obtain the passport. This is probably the truth of the matter and enquiries in London will probably establish that PANIZZA was a close associate of both SPERNI and the latter's father. PANIZZA in his statement, admitted to having met Giovanni SPERNI (Senior) a number of times at Italian meetings in London.
53. Giovanni SPERNI (Junior), subject of this report, after arrest made a statement under caution, which he signed, to Captain L.V. GALE (Headquarters, Allied Commission) in the presence of Captain R. A. ARCHER, (D.A.P.M. 76 S.I.B Section C.M.P.) and Lieutenant Claude J. ROVE (American officer attached to G-2, Rome Allied Area Command).
54. In the statement (copy attached - marked "H") he gave his correct names etc., as - John Charles Anthony SPERNI, born 16th August, 1912 at St. Pancras; father - Giovanni Celeste Geraldino SPERNI, born in London, 1888 of Italian parents; mother - Annie SPERNI nee CHALLIS, born in London of British parents.
55. He went on to give an account of his education at Hastings Grammar School and of his various forms of employment, mainly in the motor trade, after leaving school in 1929 until he left England in June, 1940.
56. SPERNI claimed that he had never engaged in any form of political activity in England except aiding his father, a Municipal Reform Candidate, at borough elections in St. Pancras, where the latter was Mayor in 1937-38. (SPERNI failed to mention that whilst in London, he made application to become inscribed in the Italian Fascist Party (P.M.F) but left England before acceptance and renewed the application on arrival in Italy - see copy of Exhibit attached - marked "M" found in search of SPERNI's house at Via Belluno 8, Rome).
57. Continuing his statement, SPERNI said that, except for annual holidays

spent in France, and a brief period in that country employed as a reception clerk at various hotels, he had not been away from England since his birth. He had never been in Italy prior to leaving for that country as a "repatriate" in June 1940.

58. He stated that he married Rhonagh Maureen ROEB, a British subject, in May, 1937 in London (but was unable to state at which church) and that they had two young children.

59. (His alleged "wife" who will be the subject of similar charges in connection with broadcasts which she made on the Fascist radio, said (in a statement to be submitted with a separate report) that they were not married until July, 1940 on board the Italian re-patriate ship "Conte Rosso". There seems little doubt that these two persons are not married and there is no record of such a marriage in Italian records in Rome. It seems scarcely possible that SPERNI, himself, would forget a marriage ceremony in which he was the groom on board the ship. Further, his sister - Nancy SPERNI (also the subject of a separate report, though charges are not at present contemplated) who travelled on the same ship, when questioned by me had no knowledge of such a ceremony having taken place either in England or on board the said ship, although she said she had always accepted them as being husband and wife).

60. SPERNI went on to say that particulars of his birth were registered at the Italian Consulate in London by his paternal grandfather - Sante SPERNI. From the latter, an Italian patriot, he came to have a great respect for his Italian origin (yet he did not visit that country until 1940 when Italy became an enemy of England in a war which at that time appeared to be going extremely badly for England).

61. He has said that in March, 1940 (in fact it was May 1940) he made application at the Italian Consulate for an Italian nationality and an Italian passport, and he gives what appears to be a reasonable account of the procedure through which he went at the Consulate to obtain it. His motive, he said, was to leave England to avoid the likelihood of being interned if Italy entered the war as many persons of distant German nationality had been interned to his knowledge after war broke out.

62. On 10th June 1940, after the Italian declaration of war he went to the Italian Embassy and had his name and that of his "wife" and two children placed upon a list for repatriation to Italy as Italian subjects. It happened that the official who was preparing the list and who added their names was the same official who had handed him his passport - a man whom he believed was named ROVERI. (It would seem, from his memory after the lapse of five years for names of certain of the officials at the Italian Consulate in London, that he was closely acquainted with them - particularly PANIZZA and ROVERI - and that his Italian passport was obtained largely due to their efforts. Similarly it would appear that it was through them that his name and that of his "wife" and children were placed on the repatriation list).

63. Furthering his statement he gave particulars as to his leaving England

59.

(His alleged "wife" who will be the subject of similar charges in connection with broadcasts which she made on the Fascist radio, said (in a statement to be submitted with a separate report) that they were not married until July, 1940 on board the Italian re-patriate ship "Conte Rosso". There seems little doubt that these two persons are not married and there is no record of such a marriage in Italian records in Rome. It seems scarcely possible that SPERNI, himself, would forget a marriage ceremony in which he was the groom on board the ship. Further, his sister - Nancy SPERNI (also the subject of a separate report, though charges are not at present contemplated) who travelled on the same ship, when questioned by me had no knowledge of such a ceremony having taken place either in England or on board the said ship, although she said she had always accepted them as being husband and wife).

60.

SPERNI went on to say that particulars of his birth were registered at the Italian Consulate in London by his paternal grandfather - Sante SPERNI. From the latter, an Italian patriot, he came to have a great respect for his Italian origin (yet he did not visit that country until 1940 when Italy became an enemy of England in a war which at that time appeared to be going extremely badly for England).

61.

He has said that in March, 1940 (in fact it was May 1940) he made application at the Italian Consulate for an Italian nationality and an Italian passport, and he gives what appears to be a reasonable account of the procedure through which he went at the Consulate to obtain it. His motive, he said, was to leave England to avoid the likelihood of being interned if Italy entered the war as many persons of distant German nationality had been interned to his knowledge after war broke out.

62.

On 10th June 1940, after the Italian declaration of war he went to the Italian Embassy and had his name and that of his "wife" and two children placed upon a list for re-patriation to Italy as Italian subjects. It happened that the official who was preparing the list and who added their names was the same official who had handed him his passport - a man whom he believed was named ROVERI. (It would seem, from his memory after the lapse of five years for names of certain of the officials at the Italian Consulate in London, that he was closely acquainted with them - particularly PANIZZA and ROVERI - and that his Italian passport was obtained largely due to their efforts. Similarly it would appear that it was through them that his name and that of his "wife" and children were placed on the repatriation list).

63.

Furthering his statement he gave particulars as to his leaving England with other repatriates at Glasgow on SS. "Monarch of Bermuda", later transferring to the Italian ship "Conte Rosso" on which he went to Messina, Sicily, afterwards being taken to Rome, where he stayed at the Hotel SENATO at the expense of the Italian Government.

64.

He stated that a few days after lodging at this hotel, he was approached by two men who subsequently proved to be Italian intelligence officers who asked him questions as to coastal defences in England and to whom he gave an exaggerated and false idea of such defences and defences in depth in England. He said that he drew for them and described mythical concrete emplacements adapted for defence against tanks, enemy aircraft and parachute troops, and drew for them a sketch of the said emplacements. (At the request of Captain L.V. GALE, he re-produced as near as he could from memory, the sketch which he had drawn for the Italian officers. A copy of the sketch is attached to page 3 of SPERNI's statement).

65. He added that he had at no other time been in circumstances where information of a military character had been asked of him; neither had he offered or given such information. (He made no mention of having offered his services to S.I.M. "in any capacity", nor did he mention having voluntarily offered information at the Ministry of War and having given up his British identity card and other British documents, including his Masonic certificate for copying and use by German parachutists - as shown in previously mentioned exhibits.)
66. Shortly after his arrival in Rome, he said, through a ship's acquaintance he was introduced to Marchese Ranieri di SORBELLO, Head of the English Section of the Radio and Television Department at the Fascist Ministry of Popular Culture. He learned from his contact with SORBELLO that the latter was born of an American mother, and was pro-British in sympathies, and held the view that America would soon come into the war at Britain's side.
67. SPERNI gained the impression that SORBELLO was deliberately sabotaging the Fascist propaganda effort in English, and therefore when invited by SORBELLO to collaborate, accepted a position on his staff.
68. Thereafter, SPERNI said, he was engaged in translating from Italian into English the news from the various world agencies and used to read the news in English over the radio about once or often twice each day. He said that his work was confined to news summaries on account of his "Cockney" accent. (There is, however, the evidence of Signor BADOLATO that SPERNI took part in conversations. Also, there is among the exhibits an application signed by SPERNI, for payment of fees for broadcasting 5 radio propaganda sketches in August 1940 (Exhibit 3 in attached list).)
69. He claimed that nothing which he had ever written or read over the Italian radio was truly against or detrimental to England. (No manuscripts relating to his broadcasting work have been found but doubtless the monitoring service of the B.B.C. will be able to provide this evidence in conjunction with the dates and times already established in this report).
70. (It would appear, in any case, that SPERNI's statement regarding SORBELLO's activities and his own activities "on behalf of Britain" on the Fascist Radio, is quite ridiculous and scarcely needs rebuttal. They must both have given some considerable satisfaction to the Fascist Government as SPERNI was retained for more than a year and SORBELLO, as head of the English department for a much longer period).
71. SPERNI, continuing his statement, said that in February or March 1941, he was arrested by Italian police, accused of propaganda favouring the enemy, but released after six hours of interrogation. On his return to the Ministry, he told his colleagues of the incident and after being cold-shouldered by them tendered his resignation, but when leaving the building was handed a letter dismissing him. After that time, he said, he did no broadcasting or translating, but about six weeks later, after demanding payment for his ultimate broadcasts, he was given a position sorting news put out by British and American agencies. (Indisputable documentary evidence previously mentioned in this report shows, however, that he was engaged on broadcasting and propaganda up to and including August, 1941).

00054

66. Shortly after his arrival in Rome, he said, through a ship's acquaintance, he was introduced to Marchese Ranieri di SORBELLO, Head of the English Section of the Radio and Television Department at the Fascist Ministry of Popular Culture. He learned from his contact with SORBELLO that the latter was born of an American mother, and was pro-British in sympathies, and held the view that America would soon come into the war at Britain's side.
67. SPERNI gained the impression that SORBELLO was deliberately sabotaging the Fascist propaganda effort in English, and therefore when invited by SORBELLO to collaborate, accepted a position on his staff.
68. Thereafter, SPERNI said, he was engaged in translating from Italian into English the news from the various world agencies and used to read the news in English over the radio about once or often twice each day. He said that his work was confined to news summaries on account of his "Cockney" accent. (There is, however, the evidence of Signor BAPOLATO that SPERNI took part in conversations. Also, there is among the exhibits an application signed by SPERNI, for payment of fees for broadcasting 5 radio propaganda sketches in August 1940 (Exhibit 3 in attached list).
69. He claimed that nothing which he had ever written or read over the Italian radio was truly against or detrimental to England. (No manuscripts relating to his broadcasting work have been found but doubtless the monitoring service of the B.B.C. will be able to provide this evidence in conjunction with the dates and times already established in this report).
70. (It would appear, in any case, that SPERNI's statement regarding SORBELLO's activities and his own activities "on behalf of Britain" on the Fascist Radio, is quite ridiculous and scarcely needs rebuttal. They must both have given some considerable satisfaction to the Fascist Government as SPERNI was retained for more than a year and SORBELLO, as head of the English department for a much longer period).
71. SPERNI, continuing his statement, said that in February or March 1941, he was arrested by Italian police, accused of propaganda favouring the enemy, but released after six hours of interrogation. On his return to the Ministry, he told his colleagues of the incident and after being cold-shouldered by them tendered his resignation, but when leaving the building was handed a letter dismissing him. After that time, he said, he did no broadcasting or translating, but about six weeks later, after demanding payment for his ultimate broadcasts, he was given a position sorting news put out by British and American agencies. (Indisputable documentary evidence previously mentioned in this report shows, however, that he was engaged on broadcasting and propaganda up to and including August, 1941).
72. Towards the end of July, 1941, he said, he was found in unauthorized possession of a sheet of paper containing a Reuter's news report regarding the sinking of the Bismarck and a statement of the British Home Secretary regarding persons detained under 13B. He was able to show that these matters were harmless enough but was nevertheless dismissed for breach of the rules of the Ministry. SORBELLO was sympathetic towards him and showed him a file containing a police report which showed that he was suspected of being a British Intelligence agent and that only lack of evidence prevented SPERNI's arrest. (No document of this nature has, however, been found in the search of the Ministry records).
73. Shortly afterwards, through SORBELLO's introduction, he secured a position as assistant to Mr. Richard G. MASSECK, American, Associated Press representative

in Rome, and continued to work with the latter until America's entry into the war, thereafter continuing under arrangements made earlier in conjunction with Mr. MASSOCK, to serve the interests of Associated Press by acting as the representative of the ostensibly neutral "Andi Press Agency" an Argentine agency which was in reality, a subsidiary of Associated Press of America.

74. SPERNI stated that, through the influence of SORBELLO with Signor GRANDI and Signor ROCCO (Director General of the Foreign Press Service) he succeeded in obtaining the necessary permit to act as representative of the Andi Press Agency. (It is apparent from documents found, already mentioned in this report that this permission was granted with the object of using the Andi Press Agency for Italian propaganda purposes in America, and it seems clear that SPERNI was playing a "double-game").

75. He continued his work as representative of Andi Press Agency until 14th February 1942 when Fascist Police arrested him, placed him in Regina Coeli Gaol for three months, afterwards sending him to a concentration camp at Ariano Irpino, and in June-July 1942 transferring him to a concentration area at S. Angelo in Vado where he was allowed to stay with his wife under restrictions. According to his statement, whilst there, he was twice brought before a Local Tribunal on denunciations of having expressed anti-Fascist views, being fined 500 lire on one occasion and cautioned on the second occasion, when there was lack of evidence to convict him. (There seems no reason to dispute that as the fortunes of war changed into Allied hands he may have given expression to mild anti-fascist sentiments with a view to quoting them at a later date to Allied authorities).

76. After these incidents, SPERNI said, he had trouble with local Fascists by whom he was threatened. Accordingly, he applied for, and was granted, the transfer of himself, wife and children to another concentration area at CANTIANO.

77. There he remained until the Italian Armistice when he was released, afterwards taking up residence with his wife and family in Rome. The remainder of his statement deals with his activities in sheltering escaped Allied prisoners-of-war in the organisation directed by Father MADDEN and Major DERRY, G-2, Allied Forces Headquarters, then in Rome on a special mission. 00050

78. SPERNI, in concluding his statement, said that his British passport, which he said expired in 1934, had been lost when his sisters removed his effects from his flat in London, at a time when he was away in hospital. He said that he had given his Italian passport, in March 1944, to a Mr. Achille CICHERO, a clerk at the Italian Consulate, for safe custody. (Enquiries verified the facts regarding the custody of the Italian passport by Mr. CICHERO who handed in the passport which is now in the possession of Captain L. V. GALE).

79. Captain L. V. GALE, Headquarters - Allied Control Commission, Security Division, in his statement (attached - marked "I") gives an account of the handing to him, by Mr. D. GNUDI and Miss M. P. KING of Psychological Warfare Branch, of the five files mentioned in this report, referring to Giovammi SPERNI, which were found among records of the Ministry of Popular Culture.

75. He continued his work as representative of Andi Press Agency until 14th February 1942 when Fascist Police arrested him, placed him in Regina Coeli Gaol for three months, afterwards sending him to a concentration camp at Ariano Irpino, and in June-July 1942 transferring him to a concentration area at S. Angelo in Vado where he was allowed to stay with his wife under restrictions. According to his statement, whilst there, he was twice brought before a Local Tribunal on denunciations of having expressed anti-Fascist views, being fined 500 lire on one occasion and cautioned on the second occasion, when there was lack of evidence to convict him. (There seems no reason to dispute that as the fortunes of war changed into Allied hands he may have given expression to mild anti-fascist sentiments with a view to quoting them at a later date to Allied authorities).
76. After these incidents, SPERNI said, he had trouble with local Fascists by whom he was threatened. Accordingly, he applied for, and was granted, the transfer of himself, wife and children to another concentration area at CANTIANO.
77. There he remained until the Italian Armistice when he was released, afterwards taking up residence with his wife and family in Rome. The remainder of his statement deals with his activities in sheltering escaped Allied prisoners-of-war in the organisation directed by Father MADDEN and Major DERRY, G-2, Allied Forces Headquarters, then in Rome on a special mission. 00033
78. SPERNI, in concluding his statement, said that his British passport, which he said expired in 1934, had been lost when his sisters removed his effects from his flat in London, at a time when he was away in hospital. He said that he had given his Italian passport, in March 1944, to a Mr. Achille CICHERO, a clerk at the Italian Consulate, for safe custody. (Enquiries verified the facts regarding the custody of the Italian passport by Mr. CICHERO who handed in the passport which is now in the possession of Captain L. V. GALE).
79. Captain L. V. GALE, Headquarters - Allied Control Commission, Security Division, in his statement (attached - marked "J") gives an account of the handing to him, by Mr. D. GNUDI and Miss M. P. KING of psychological Warfare Branch, of the five files mentioned in this report, referring to Giovanni SPERNI, which were found among records of the Ministry of Popular Culture. He states that he examined their contents and found them as in List of Documents attached - marked "J".
80. He states that in company with Captain R. A. ARCHER and Lieutenant Claude J. BOVE, he arrested SPERNI at 1530 hours on 5 February, 1945, at Via Belluno 8 (Apartment 6), Rome. After being properly cautioned SPERNI said: "Any suggestion that I have ever done anything to assist the enemy is ridiculous. In fact I have done quite the contrary and have been twice in prison at German and Italian hands, and was sentenced to death by the Germans for helping escaped Allied prisoners. This matter will be easily cleared up".
81. A search was made of SPERNI's apartment and certain documents were found and seized by Captain GALE. (Lt. C. J. BOVE who was present throughout and examined the documents can give corroborative evidence of the finding of the

- 11 -

documents and their nature). Copies of the documents, together with translations where necessary, are attached marked "M" to "V". The description of the documents thus seized are: -

82.

Copy of a letter in Italian by Giovanni SPERNI dated 23 April 1941 addressed to "Servizio Informazioni Militare" asking for employment with that Service "in any capacity deemed best and contingent to the aforementioned Service." The letter also shows that SPERNI applied for membership of the Italian Fascist Party in London, and renewed the application in Italy. (This copy letter was found on a table in a spare or maid's room. It was folded and concealed under a clip with which a number of news cablegrams were fastened. SPERNI, when this quantity of cablegrams was found, hastened to explain each cablegram individually as being harmless in content. They were seized however, and on further examination the aforementioned letter was found hidden as described).

83.

Copy letter in Italian, from Giovanni SPERNI dated 8 August 1941 to Special Commissariat for Immigration, mentioning his repatriation, and his employment on Fascist Radio as an editor-announcer in English. States that he was discharged on 15 April 1941 but resumed on 1 May 1941 as a collaborator in the News Office of the Inspectorate but again ceased to be employed on 5 August 1941. He asks financial aid from the Commissariat. (This letter was found as in paragraph 82 above, similarly folded and concealed among news cablegrams).

84.

Letter dated 5 August, 1941 from Inspectorate of Radio and Television to Giovanni SPERNI releasing him from "collaboration" as from 6 August. (Found as in paragraphs 82 and 83 above, similarly concealed).

85.

Copy Memorandum dated 26 July, 1941 from Giovanni SPERNI to Inspectorate of Radio and Television relative to his hours of service in the News Department apparently in answer to an allegation of unpunctuality. (Found as in paragraphs 82-84 above, similarly concealed).

86.

Memorandum dated 26 July, 1941 from Inspectorate of Radio and Television reprimanding Giovanni SPERNI for unpunctuality. (Found as in paragraphs 82-85 above, similarly concealed).

87.

Receipt dated 3 July, 1941 signed by Giovanni SPERNI for sum of 1000 lire received from Ministry of Popular Culture as advance of salary. (Found as in paragraphs 82-86 above, similarly concealed).

88.

Copy letter from Giovanni SPERNI, dated 25 May 1943 to Swiss Legation, British Interests Department, in which SPERNI states that he is a British subject and the illegitimate son of John Charles Gerald SPERNI and Annie CHALLIS, both British subjects by birth. The letter also states that his British passport was lost in February, 1942 after his arrest by Italian Police. It adds that he was informed in 1940 by the Italian Consul in London that, by virtue of his having an Italian paternal grandfather, he could enter Italy on an Italian passport, without renouncing or infringing on his British citizenship. The letter deals briefly with his repatriation to Italy, employment by "Associated Press" and "Andi Press". It then describes his interest in the Italian Police and adds that he understood that he was arrested by the Italian Police and that he understood that he was made by the writer

Italian Fascist Party in London, and renewed the application in Italy. (Found copy letter was found on a table in a spare or maid's room. It was folded and concealed under a clip with which a number of news cablegrams were fastened. SPERNI, when this quantity of cablegrams was found, hastened to explain each cablegram individually as being harmless in content. They were seized however, and on further examination the aforementioned letter was found hidden as described).

83. Copy letter in Italian, from Giovanni SPERNI dated 8 August 1941 to Special Commissariat for Immigration, mentioning his repatriation, and his employment on Fascist Radio as an editor-announcer in English. States that he was discharged on 15 April 1941 but resumed on 1 May 1941 as a collaborator in the News Office of the Inspectorate but again ceased to be employed on 5 August 1941. He asks financial aid from the Commissariat. (This letter was found as in Paragraph 82 above, similarly folded and concealed among news cablegrams).
84. Letter dated 5 August, 1941 from Inspectorate of Radio and Television to Giovanni SPERNI releasing him from "collaboration" as from 6 August. (Found as in paragraphs 82 and 83 above, similarly concealed).
85. Copy Memorandum dated 26 July, 1941 from Giovanni SPERNI to Inspectorate of Radio and Television relative to his hours of service in the News Department apparently in answer to an allegation of unpunctuality. (Found as in paragraphs 82-84 above, similarly concealed).
86. Memorandum dated 26 July, 1941 from Inspectorate of Radio and Television reprimanding Giovanni SPERNI for unpunctuality. (Found as in paragraphs 82-85 above, similarly concealed).
87. Receipt dated 3 July, 1941 signed by Giovanni SPERNI for sum of 1000 lire received from Ministry of Popular Culture as advance of salary. (Found as in paragraphs 82-86 above, similarly concealed). 00052
88. Copy letter from Giovanni SPERNI, dated 25 May 1943 to Swiss Legation, British Interests Department, in which SPERNI states that he is a British subject and the illegitimate son of John Charles Gerald SPERNI and Annie CHALLIS, both British subjects by birth. The letter also states that his British passport was lost in February, 1942 after his arrest by Italian Police. It adds that he was informed in 1940 by the Italian Consul in London that, by virtue of his having an Italian paternal grandfather, he could enter Italy on an Italian passport, without renouncing or infringing on his British citizenship. The letter deals briefly with his repatriation to Italy, employment by "Associated Press" and "Andi Press". It then describes his interestment by the Italian Police and adds that he understood that he was arrested because he was a British subject. An emphatic protest is made by the writer against being considered an Italian subject. He declares that he has never been inside Italy or any Italian possession prior to 1940 and has never made any renunciation, anywhere, of his British nationality. He asks for financial assistance and re-patriation of his wife and children, as he, in any case, being of military age could not re-patriate. (Found among letters in a deed box in drawing room of SPERNI's flat).
89. Letter from Swiss Legation, British Interests Department, dated 12 June 1943, to Giovanni SPERNI referring to his letter (above) of 25 May, 1943, suggesting that he was of dual nationality and that the onus of proving nationality definitely was upon SPERNI, and that meanwhile no relief payments could be made. (Found among letters in a deed box in drawing room of SPERNI's flat).

- 12 -

12

90. Copy letter, undated, from Giovanni SPERNI apparently in answer to letter (above) 12 June 1943 from Swiss Legation, British Interests Department, quoting an opinion that the Italian authorities were in error in considering him an Italian. He admits in this letter that he is not legally married to the mother of his children (Rhonagh Maureen ROSS-SPERNI - see paragraphs 58 and 59).

91. He also states that he has made application for a certificate of Italian citizenship but had not been able to get permission to go to Rome to collect it. It is added by SPERNI that he had consulted an Italian solicitor who had advised him that he was not of dual nationality, and that this would only apply if his father had taken Italian citizenship. This, he states in the letter, was not done, and moreover that he is not his father's legal son; further, Italian nationality, he says, cannot apply to the second generation. Finally, it is added that "Miss ROSS" is willing to swear an affidavit that she is not married to him, and therefore, in any case, remains a British subject. (Found among letters in a deed box in drawing room of SPERNI's flat).

92. Copy letter, dated 8 May, 1943, from Giovanni SPERNI, and signed by him, to Dr. De SALIS, Delegate in Italy of the International Red Cross. SPERNI, as a British subject, interned with his wife and two children, asks for food parcels. (Found among letters in a deed box in drawing room of SPERNI's flat).

93. Captain L. V. GALE gives the full circumstances under which a statement, under proper caution, and in every legal sense voluntary, was taken from SPERNI during 6th-7th February, 1945 (copy attached - marked "H") in the presence of Captain R. A. ARCHER and Lieutenant C. J. BOWE. He also gives an account of the subsequent transfer on 8 February 1945 of SPERNI to special quarters at "E" Internee Camp, Terni.

94. This appears to be a case on which no further comment is necessary and it is suggested that on the facts submitted in this report, there is already ample evidence upon which to base a prosecution of SPERNI on the charges indicated in the opening paragraphs of this report.

95. In the meantime, search for further evidence will be continued and in the event of additional evidence (such as manuscripts of his radio talks etc) being obtained a supplementary report will be submitted. Doubtless, in any case, the B.B.C. Monitoring Service will be able to supply evidence of the nature of SPERNI's broadcasts, which in conjunction with evidence of dates and times of his broadcasts established by enquiries in Rome and mentioned in this report will amount to conclusive evidence.

96. The various exhibits (including SPERNI's Italian passport) in this case - seized as evidence from the Ministry of Popular Culture, and during search of SPERNI's flat - are in the custody of Captain L. V. GALE, Headquarters, Allied Commission. The forwarding of these exhibits elsewhere would be inadvisable and would perhaps render it necessary to call as witnesses any

91. He also states that he has made application for a certificate of Italian citizenship but had not been able to get permission to go to Rome to collect it. It is added by SPERNI that he had consulted an Italian solicitor who had advised him that he was not of dual nationality, and that this would only apply if his father had taken Italian citizenship. This, he states in the letter, was not done, and moreover that he is not his father's legal son; further, Italian nationality, he says, cannot apply to the second generation. Finally, it is added that "Miss ROSS" is willing to swear an affidavit that she is not married to him, and therefore, in any case, remains a British subject. (Found among letters in a deed box in drawing room of SPERNI's flat).

92. Copy letter, dated 8 May, 1943, from Giovanni SPERNI, and signed by him, to Dr. De SALIS, Delegate in Italy of the International Red Cross. SPERNI, as a British subject, interned with his wife and two children, asks for food parcels. (Found among letters in a deed box in drawing room of SPERNI's flat).

93. Captain L. V. GALE gives the full circumstances under which a statement, under proper caution, and in every legal sense voluntary, was taken from SPERNI during 6th-7th February, 1945 (copy attached - marked "H") in the presence of Captain R. A. ARCHER and Lieutenant C. J. BOVE. He also gives an account of the subsequent transfer on 8 February 1945 of SPERNI to special quarters at "R" Internee Camp, Terni.

94. This appears to be a case on which no further comment is necessary and it is suggested that on the facts submitted in this report, there is already ample evidence upon which to base a prosecution of SPERNI on the charges indicated in the opening paragraphs of this report.

95. In the meantime, search for further evidence will be continued and in the event of additional evidence (such as manuscripts of his radio talks etc) being obtained a supplementary report will be submitted. Doubtless, in any case, the B.B.C Monitoring Service will be able to supply evidence of the nature of SPERNI's broadcasts, which in conjunction with evidence of dates and times of his broadcasts established by enquiries in Rome and mentioned in this report will amount to conclusive evidence.

96. The various exhibits (including SPERNI's Italian passport) in this case - seized as evidence from the Ministry of Popular Culture, and during search of SPERNI's flat - are in the custody of Captain L. V. GALE, Headquarters, Allied Commission. The forwarding of these exhibits elsewhere would be inadvisable and would perhaps render it necessary to call as witnesses any further person who might handle them. Making photographic copies of them, also, in view of their number, would be uneconomical with present small resources of photographic material.

97. The exhibits seized at the Ministry of Popular Culture are fully described in List "J" and an actual typed copy and translation of a most important one is attached marked "K". Actual typed copies and translations of each of the documents seized at SPERNI's flat are submitted with this report.

98. Therefore it is suggested that this report and attachments be used as the basis for obtaining legal consent for prosecution and that the original exhibits remain for safe custody in the possession of Captain L. V. GALE, Headquarters, Allied Commission, until a decision has been reached regarding the trial of SPERNI, which it is understood may have to take place in England.

99. A full report with a view to the prosecution of SPERNI's "wife" - Maureen Rhonaga ROSS-SPERNI, will follow this report immediately. Under instructions

00051

from G-2, A.F.H.Q she is not under arrest, having two children and being in an advanced stage of pregnancy.

100. Subsequently to the above, a full report will be submitted regarding the remaining members of the SPENZI family in Italy about whom extensive enquiries have been made.

Louis V. Galt

LOUIS V. GALT, Captain
Investigating Officer
Headquarters, Allied Commission
Security Division.

00050

HEADQUARTERS,
Allied Commission,
C.M.F.
Public Safety Sub-Commission,
Security Division

14
A

15 March 1945.

STATEMENT of Mr. Harry Joseph MURPHY, American citizen, Special Agent, attached to Hqs. 426th C.I.C. Detachment, APO #512, U.S. Army, who says:-

In July 1944, on instructions from Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2 Branch, Rome Allied Area Command, I commenced investigations into the background of John Charles Anthony SPERNI, alleged to have made broadcasts on the Fascist Radio in Rome.

I caused a search of the records of the Ministry of Popular Culture, Rome, to be made, and towards the end of July 1944, I was there handed, four files relating to the subject of my enquiries. These were handed to me by Mr. Dante GNUDI, American citizen, Chief of Italian Documents, Psychological Warfare Branch, Unit No. 12, Allied Forces Headquarters. The files were:-

- (i) Blue "Administrative" File, marked "C.O. Vol. 1".
- (ii) Green "Administrative" File, marked "C.O. Vol. 2".
- (iii) Red "Personal" File, marked "12264", and
- (iv) White "Radio" File, marked P.238.

00019

Together with Mr. GNUDI, I examined the contents of these files and acknowledge that they were consistent with the list shown to me by Captain L.V. Gale, Allied Commission. I retained the files in my office, for about a month, where they were kept under lock and key, only I, myself, having access to them. They were then returned by me, personally, to Mr. GNUDI.

On 19 August 1944, I questioned John Charles Anthony SPERNI, after having told him of his rights, namely that he was not compelled to say anything to me and that anything which he said might be used in evidence. I had in view, at that time, the possibility that he might perhaps be charged under an Allied Proclamation, although my instructions were merely to enquire into his general background and activities.

He told me that he was born on 16 August 1912, in London, England, and that he was married to Rhonagh Maureen ROSS-SPERNI, a British subject, born on 9 October 1914, at Brighton, England. He said that they were living with their two children at Via Belluno #8 (Apartment #6), Rome.

His father - John SPERNI, Sr. - he said, was a retired structural engineer, last known to be residing at 36 Doughty Street, London W.C. 1.

His mother - Anne SPERNI, nee CHALLIS - was believed to be living at Stroud, Gloucestershire, England.

SPERNI gave his various past places of employment as follows:-

1930 - 1933: Worked for his father on engineering construction.
 1933 - 1934: Employed by Miller Machinery Company, London, and was supposed to go to work for them in South Africa, but the contract never materialized.
 6 mos. of 1934: He was employed as an automobile buyer for Price & Clark Co., London.
 1935 - 1936: He had his own automobile business - buying and selling cars.
 1936 - 1938: He was manager of Smith and Hunter Automobile Co., but the firm went into bankruptcy in 1938.
 4 mos. of 1938: He worked as a buyer for the Dodge Automobile Co.
 1938 - June 1939: He had his own automobile agency under the name of S & G Motors, Edmonton, London, working with a man named "Gabriel".
 June '39 - May '40: Free lance buying and selling of automobiles.

In May 1940, he decided to come to Italy and see if he could make some money. He declared that he was prompted more by the spirit of adventure than by any other motive. He also added that his paternal grandfather owned some property in the Province of Piacenza.

He said that at first, he tried to get permission of the English authorities to leave, but that this was denied. He then went to the Italian Consulate, where he contacted a Mr. PAZZA, who told him that by procuring a copy of the birth certificate of his paternal grandfather, an Italian passport could be obtained for SPERNI. The latter obtained the birth certificate, paid a bribe of fifty pounds to PAZZA and received the passport. This he said was later confiscated by the Italian Police.

In June 1940, he said, after the Italian declaration of war, he left England on a repatriate ship - "Conte Rosso" - and on arrival in Italy, was immediately put under curfew restrictions.

Subsequently, from June 1940 - February 1941, he was unemployed, but then, through his friend - Marchese di SORDANO - he secured work with Associated Press, under Mr. Richard MASSOCK, Chief of that news service in Italy. MASSOCK later suggested that SPERNI be appointed as a correspondent for a subsidiary news agency, known as the "Andi" Agency. This was accomplished by MASSOCK, and the "Andi" Agency, though outwardly an Argentinian Agency, was actually a subsidiary agency for Associated Press. When Italy declared war on the United States, in December 1941, the whole of the property of Associated Press was transferred to the "Andi" Agency.

SPERNI said that he continued to work for the "Andi" Agency until 27 February 1942, when Italian Police broke into his office and found a copy of his British Masonic certificate. He was taken to the Questura and detained.

there for three days, then, sent to Regina Coeli Prison, and held in solitary confinement for 27 days. After that, he was transferred to the Ariano Irpino Transit Camp, Pesaro Province.

Meanwhile, he said, his wife had been transferred to the mountain village of Sant Angelo in Vado, Pesaro Province. She succeeded in contacting Marchese di SORBELLO, and succeeded in getting SPERNI transferred to Sant Angelo in Vado, where he was placed under restrictions, being unable to leave the town at any time, and unable to leave his house after the tolling of the Angelus.

In June 1943, he had a fight with some of the town Fascists and through the intervention of Mr. STEFFAN, of the Swiss Legation, he and his wife were sent to Cantiano, Pesaro Province, where he remained until 8 September 1943, the day of the Italian Armistice, when he left Cantiano and made his way back to Rome. There, he secured a car, returned to Cantiano and then brought his wife to Rome.

He said that from 15 September 1943, until 19 April 1944, he was occupied with hiding escaped prisoners-of-war. He declared that through his cooperation with Major Perry of "A" Force, and the priests of St. Patrick's Church, a system was established for hiding and feeding Allied prisoners-of-war.

Continuing his story, SPERNI said that on 19 April 1944, his house was raided by German S.S., who found an American Private - Nicholas HUNGARIAN and a British Lance-Bombardier - Leslie MANDY - on the premises. SPERNI was arrested and taken to Via Tasso, where he was kept for 29 days, during which time he received beatings with a bull whip, at the hands of a German non-commissioned officer, named KRUPP. Afterwards, he was lodged in Regina Coeli Gaol, was brought to trial by the Germans and was sentenced to death. On 4 June 1944, at 7 a.m., he escaped from prison and remained in hiding until the Allies arrived in Rome, that night.

On 6 June 1944, he secured a position with Psychological Warfare Branch, in Rome, and was employed there until about the end of July 1944, when he met a Mr. KENNEDY, of Associated Press, who said that he might be able to employ him, but up to the date of my interviewing, nothing had transpired, as Mr. KENNEDY was away on a trip to the North.

SPERNI said that this was the main story of his movements and activities since his arrival in Italy. I then called his attention to the fact that he had omitted to tell me of his employment by the Ministry of Popular Culture, as a broadcaster in English. He then admitted that he had been thus employed, but that he had worded his broadcasts so as to make Fascism appear foolish.

I then drew his attention to the fact that two letters had been found in the Ministry records, which indicated that he had been employed as an informant by the Italian S.I.M. (Servizio Informazioni Militare), in which letters appeared the names of Colonel AME and Captain FRANGI, of that organ-

(17)

isation. He disclaimed all knowledge of these two officers and of the letters and said that they might have been written on his behalf, at the request of one of his friends.

The above-mentioned letters were translated and translations, compared by me with the originals. I certify that the translations thereof, shown to me by Captain L. V. Gale, Allied Commission are those which I compared with the originals and are accurate translations of them.

I wish also to draw special attention to the newspaper article, written by SPERNI, a copy of which was found in the records of the Ministry of Popular Culture. I certify that the translation produced to me by Captain L.V. Gale, is that compared by me with the original article and is an accurate translation.

I have read over this statement and it is true.

Harry J. Murphy
HARRY J. MURPHY,
Special Agent,
Headquarters,
426th C.I.C. Detachment.

Statement taken down and signature witnessed by me.

Louis V. Gale
LOUIS V. GALE, Captain,
Hqs., Allied Commission,
G.M.F., Security Division.

00046

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED COMMISSION
PUBLIC SAFETY SUB-COMMISSION
SECURITY DIVISION.

7th March, 1945.

Statement of Mr. Dante GNUDI, American citizen, Allied Forces Headquarters, Psychological Warfare Branch, Unit No. 12, who says:

Since 28th June, 1944 I have been in charge of the re-organization and re-assembly of the records of the Ministry of Popular Culture, Rome.

Towards the end of July 1944, I received a request from Mr. Harry J. Murphy, Special Agent 426th American C.I.C. Detachment - for a search of the Ministry records to trace any available documents regarding a "Giovanni SPERNI".

My search resulted in my finding several index cards in that name showing that SPERNI was the subject of four files under the respective sections "Administrative" (2), "Personal" and "Radio". I succeeded in locating (i) Administrative file (blue) marked C.O. Vol. 1, (ii) Administrative file (green) marked C.O. Vol. 2, and (iii) Personal file (red) marked "12264". Being unable to locate the "Radio" file, I called in Signor Aldo DOMENICHINI, former employee in the Ministry's registry, who knew the approximate location of the said file in a filing room on the third floor. I was at his side when he located the Radio file (white) marked P.25 S. In company with Mr. H.J. Murphy of C.I.C. I went through the papers in these files and can say that what I saw in them corresponds with the papers particularised in the list shown to me by Captain L.V. Gale, Allied Commission, to whom I am making this statement. The aforementioned files were handed by me to Mr. Murphy for further examination. He retained the files until about the last week in August 1944 and then returned them to me. Since that time I have kept them under lock and key, no person other than myself and my secretary - Miss Margaret Primrose KING, British subject, having access to them. I now hand them into the custody of Captain L.V. Gale.

SPERNI had nothing to do with the introduction of DOMENICHINI for assistance in locating records. The latter's services for that purpose were acquired through an American sergeant - Sgt. FUNARO - of P.W.B. Radio, who had learned from DOMENICHINI of the latter's experience in the Records registry of the former Ministry of Popular Culture and who recommended him to me.

SPERNI was himself provisionally employed as a news writer in Radio News Section P.W.B. for a few weeks from [redacted] was never officially approved

1274

Since 28th June, 1944 I have been in charge of the re-organization and re-assembly of the records of the Ministry of Popular Culture, Rome.

Towards the end of July 1944, I received a request from Mr. Harry J. Murphy, Special Agent 426th American C.I.C. Detachment - for a search of the Ministry records to trace any available documents regarding a "Giovanni SPERNI".

My search resulted in my finding several index cards in that name showing that SPERNI was the subject of four files under the respective sections "Administrative" (2), "personal" and "Radio". I succeeded in locating (i) Administrative file (blue) marked C.O. Vol.1, (ii) Administrative file (green) marked C.O. Vol.2, and (iii) Personal file (red) marked "12264". Being unable to locate the "Radio" file, I called in Signor Aldo DOMENICHINI, former employee in the Ministry's registry, who knew the approximate location of the said file in a filing room on the third floor. I was at his side when he located the Radio file (white) marked P.25 S. In company with Mr. H.J. Murphy of C.I.C. I went through the papers in these files and can say that what I saw in them corresponds with the papers particularised in the list shown to me by Captain L.V. Gale, Allied Commission, to whom I am making this statement. The aforementioned files were handed by me to Mr. Murphy for further examination. He retained the files until about the last week in August 1944 and then returned them to me. Since that time I have kept them under lock and key, no person other than myself and my secretary - Miss Margaret Primrose KING, British subject, having access to them. I now hand them into the custody of Captain L.V. Gale.

SPERNI had nothing to do with the introduction of DOMENICHINI for assistance in locating records. The latter's services for that purpose were acquired through an American sergeant - Sgt. FUNARO - of P.W.B. Radio, who had learned from DOMENICHINI of the latter's experience in the Records registry of the former Ministry of Popular Culture and who recommended him to me.

SPERNI was himself provisionally employed as a news editor in Basic News Section P.W.B. for a few weeks from 6th June 1944, but the employment was never officially approved and lapsed automatically.

The

00025

-2-

(19)

The three documents which I have handed to Captain L.V.Gale are (i) SPARMI's signed application for employment in which he describes his citizenship as "British", (ii) P.W.B news and monitoring section's acceptance of him for duty as a News Editor. (iii) Particulars for his Personnel Record Card. These three documents were extracted by me from the records of P.W.B. Personnel Department.

This statement has been read to me and it is true.


Dan Gnudi,
Chief Italian Documents, Italy.

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


Louis V. Gale, Capt.
H.Q. Allied Commission,
Security Division.

in which he accepted the news and monitoring section's acceptance of him for duty as a News Editor. (iii) Particulars for his Personnel Record Card. These three documents were extracted by me from the records of P.W.B. Personnel Department.

This statement has been read to me and it is true.



Dan Gnudi,
Chief Italian Documents, Italy.

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



Louis V. Gale, Capt.
H.Q. Allied Commission,
Security Division.

00044

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED COMMISSION
PUBLIC SAFETY SUB-COMMISSION
SECURITY DIVISION

8th March, 1945.

Statement of Miss Margaret Primrose KING, Personal Secretary to Chief of Italian Documents, Allied Forces Headquarters, Psychological Warfare Branch, Unit No.12, who says:-

On the morning of 6th March, 1945, in the absence of Mr. Dante GNUDI, Chief of Italian Documents, I searched through miscellaneous files recently sorted, at the request of Captain L.V.Gale, Allied Commission.

Among the newly sorted files in a file room on the second floor of the Ministry of Popular Culture, I found a further file relating to Giovanni SPERNI, viz Foreign Press Section File No.3/82/1943 (red file). I examined the contents of this file and agree that they are as set out in the list shown to me by Captain Gale, to whom I handed the file on 7th March, 1945 for retention by him. This statement has been read to me and it is true.

Margaret P. King
Margaret P. King

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

Louis V. Gale

Louis V. Gale, Capt.
H.Q. Allied Commission,
Security Division.

8th March, 1945.

Statement of Miss Margaret Primrose KING, Personal Secretary to Chief of Italian Documents, Allied Forces Headquarters, Psychological Warfare Branch, Unit No.12, who says:-

On the morning of 6th March, 1945, in the absence of Mr. Dante GNUDI, Chief of Italian Documents, I searched through miscellaneous files recently sorted, at the request of Captain L.V.Gale, Allied Commission.

Among the newly sorted files in a file room on the second floor of the Ministry of Popular Culture, I found a further file relating to Giovanni SPERNI, viz Foreign Press Section File No.3/82/1943 (red file). I examined the contents of this file and agree that they are as set out in the list shown to me by Captain Gale, to whom I handed the file on 7th March, 1945 for retention by him. This statement has been read to me and it is true.

Margaret P. King
Margaret P. King

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

Louis V. Gale
Louis V. Gale, Capt.
H.Q. Allied Commission,
Security Division.

00043

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

10 March 1945

Translation of attached document is as follows:

6 March 1945

I, the undersigned, declare that I have known Mr. Giovanni SPERNI during 1941. At that time I wanted to take English lessons. Having talked it over with some of my friends, the name of Mr. SPERNI was mentioned to me. I was told that he had left England, where he was born, a short time ago and that he therefore knew English very well.

I knew that he worked in the Radio Branch but I did not know exactly what his work was; I have always been under the impression that he translated bulletins.

Very courteously, he accepted to teach me. At that time, he appeared to me to be a sincere anti-fascist. He condemned and criticised sharply Mussolini's action in that he had refused the advice and offers of England and had bound himself to Hitler to the point of dragging Italy into a war which was contrary to its true interests.

The opinion I formed then in my mind was that even though he was of Italian origin and, for that motive, had come to Italy, still, he maintained alive the ideals of English democracy, up to the point that I believed that he might have come to Italy with "political or military purposes".

This opinion was confirmed by the fact that after a few lessons, SPERNI was arrested by the Fascist Police and sent to a concentration camp.

From that moment on I did not see SPERNI again until a few days after 8 September 1943. He was on Via Due Macelli with his wife when I met him. We cordially greeted each other and he told me how he had been freed with the coming of the Armistice and that while coming to Rome and his train was blocked because of the incident at Monterotondo, even he found himself obliged to fight in order not to be captured by the Germans. I urged him to continue our lessons as before and we did this four or five times but shortly thereafter he asked me to excuse him on the ground that he had not the time. He told me, in confidence, that he had much to do to assist Allied prisoners of war; he harbored them in his home and went to look for them in the country, bringing food and clothing to them. From that moment on, we rarely saw each other.

In the course of these brief meetings, Mr. SPERNI came to know my political ideas and the activity which my group was carrying out. He promised, or rather we came to the agreement, that we would collaborate upon the editing of a sheet in English of our clandestine newspaper and he would have seen to its distribution to Allied prisoners-of-war who crossed the "lines". At that time, he showed me a correspondent's press card of the "Associated Press" and led me to believe that he was English.

00012

I, the undersigned, declare that I have known Mr. Giovanni SPERMI during 1941. At that time I wanted to take English lessons. Having talked it over with some of my friends, the name of Mr. SPERMI was mentioned to me. I was told that he had left England, where he was born, a short time ago and that he therefore knew English very well.

I knew that he worked in the Radio Branch but I did not know exactly what his work was; I have always been under the impression that he translated bulletins.

Very courteously, he accepted to teach me. At that time, he appeared to me to be a sincere anti-fascist. He condemned and criticised sharply Mussolini's action in that he had refused the advice and offers of England and had bound himself to Hitler to the point of dragging Italy into a war which was contrary to its true interests.

The opinion I formed then in my mind was that even though he was of Italian origin and, for that motive, had come to Italy, still, he maintained alive the ideals of English democracy, up to the point that I believed that he might have come to Italy with "political or military purposes".

This opinion was confirmed by the fact that after a few lessons, SPERMI was arrested by the fascist Police and sent to a concentration camp.

From that moment on I did not see SPERMI again until a few days after 8 September 1943. He was on Via Due Macelli with his wife when I met him. We cordially greeted each other and he told me how he had been freed with the coming of the Armistice and that while coming to Rome and his train was blocked because of the incident at Monterotondo, even he found himself obliged to fight in order not to be captured by the Germans. I urged him to continue our lessons as before and we did this four or five times but shortly thereafter he asked me to excuse him on the ground that he had not the time. He told me, in confidence, that he had much to do to assist Allied prisoners of war; he harbored them in his home and wanted to look for them in the country, bringing food and clothing to them. From that moment on, we rarely saw each other.

In the course of these brief meetings, Mr. SPERMI came to know my political ideas and the activity which my group was carrying out. He promised, or rather we came to the agreement, that we would collaborate upon the editing of a sheet in English of our clandestine newspaper and he would have seen to its distribution to Allied prisoners-of-war who crossed the "lines". At that time, he showed me a correspondent's press card of the "Associated Press" and led me to believe that he was English.

00012

On 19 April 1943, while we were holding a meeting of the Directive Committee in my home, I was arrested by the German S.S. and, along with my father and three other members, we were arrested and jailed on Via Tasso. We were arrested because of information given by a certain Pio GUADAGNO (an informant of the S.S.) who had succeeded in entering our ranks, and, because of which, there is now a trial going on with orders for his arrest.

I found out then that during the same day, Mr. SPERMI was also arrested. Later, he told me himself that he, during the interrogations, always denied having known me and that he knew anything of our clandestine activity.

After the arrival of the Allies, I presented myself in the office of P.W.B. on Via Veneto, in order to make my ~~own~~ secure a position. I left my application

22
with Signorina CORSI, the Secretary of Mr. SPINO. That same afternoon, I received a call and two days later I was given a job as "bookkeeper" with P.W.D.-Warehouse on Via Flaminia, where, actually, I worked for two days.

When I went again to the Personnel Office to ask Mr. FRANCISCO to assign me to an office not so far away, since at that time there was very much work in the Personnel Office, I was assigned there, working directly for Mr. FRANCISCO himself.

At that time, I met Mr. SPERNI who was going to see Major WANNY and he invited me to go with him to hand over the documents which I had taken away from the Republican-Fascists. I presented myself and Major WANNY exchanged a few courteous words with me. Knowing that I was working in the office he told me that perhaps he had need of me for about fifteen days in order to do some research work.

One day, while I was with Sergeant FURARO (American) in order to look up some file records, Mr. GNUDI came in, made my acquaintance, and later asked for me from the Personnel Office. Since July 1944, I have been working in the office of Mr. GNUDI.

During the month of August, SPERNI came to ask me for some information. I, before giving it to him, asked for authorization from Mr. GNUDI who requested to meet Mr. SPERNI. At that time, Mr. SPERNI expressed a few views in my favor. This seemed strange to me since Mr. GNUDI already knew me and liked me. I felt almost displeased at this inopportune recommendation, so much so that I excused myself to Mr. GNUDI.

Not much later, Mr. GNUDI came to my room, asking me to accompany him to the Radio files to look for the application of SPERNI. It was then found among the applications of personnel released, classified: "p.25/S - Giovanni Sperti".

Today, I can not help but ask myself why SPERNI, during the first few days after the arrival of the Allies, working as he was with the Monitoring Section where his door was opposite the open door of the Radio Files (when the Files still had not been taken over by Mr. GNUDI), he did not think of hiding his application?

(s) AIDO DOMENICHINI

Statement made to me and all signatures witnessed by me after reading over.

(s) LOUIS V. GALE, Capt.
Security Division
Allied Commission.

00021

me to an office not so far away, since at the time I was assigned there, working directly for Mr. FRANCESCO the Personnel Office, I was assigned there, working directly for Mr. FRANCESCO himself.

At that time, I met Mr. SPERNI who was going to see Major MANLEY and he invited me to go with him to hand over the documents which I had taken away from the Republican-Fascists. I presented myself and Major MANLEY exchanged a few courteous words with me. Knowing that I was working in the office he told me that perhaps he had need of me for about fifteen days in order to do some research work.

One day, while I was with Sergeant FUGARO (American) in order to look up some file records, Mr. GNUDI came in, made my acquaintance, and later asked for me from the Personnel Office. Since July 1944, I have been working in the office of Mr. GNUDI.

During the month of August, SPERNI came to ask me for some information. I, before giving it to him, asked for authorization from Mr. GNUDI who requested to meet Mr. SPERNI. At that time, Mr. SPERNI expressed a few views in my favor. This seemed strange to me since Mr. GNUDI already knew me and liked me. I felt almost displeased at this inopportune recommendation, so much so that I excused myself to Mr. GNUDI.

Not much later, Mr. GNUDI came to my room, asking me to accompany him to the Radio files to look for the application of SPERNI. It was then found among the applications of personnel released, classified: "P.25/S - Giovanni Sperni".

Today, I can not help but ask myself why SPERNI, during the first few days after the arrival of the Allies, working as he was with the Monitoring Section where his door was opposite the open door of the Radio Files (when the files still had not been taken over by Mr. GNUDI), he did not think of hiding his application?

(s) ALDO DOMENICHINI

Statement made to me and all signatures witnessed by me after reading over.

(s) LOUIS V. GALE, Capt.
Security Division
Allied Commission.

Translated by:
Claude J. Bove
Claude J. Bove,
1st Lt. F.A.

00041

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

10 March 1945

Translation of attached document is as follows:

Statement of SIGNOR BADOLATO Francesco, radio engineer, Radio Roma, - who
(Psychological Warfare Branch), private address - Via Lucca 33, Rome, - who
says : -

Rome, 6 March 1945.

"I, the undersigned FRANCESCO BADOLATO, in my capacity as Chief of the
Technical Services of the ex-Ministry of Popular Culture, from 1935 up to the
liberation of Rome, have known, since the latter half of 1940, SIG. GIOVANNI
SPERNI, who was presented to me as radio announcer in English, attached to the
English Department.

At first, SPERNI was occupied in reading over the microphone, at 1300 hours,
the Italian War Bulletin, translated into English. This, I saw personally done
by him.

After some time, SPERNI took on also the duty of reading in English a program
destined for Great Britain; a program consisting of conversations which began at
2300 hours. I believe that it was about 1941.

Because of my work, I have often been present at these broadcasts and therefore
I saw SPERNI in person at the microphone.

For some time, about 8 or 10 occasions, during the reading of the conversations
at 2300 hours, SPERNI was seen to be assisted in the studio by a Signorina who was
presented to me as SPERNI's sister. Since I do not speak English, I can give you
no indication of the texts which SPERNI and the Signorina had to read.

SPERNI declared himself to be an Italian citizen.

I saw SPERNI again several days after the liberation of Rome, in the offices
of P.W.D. - in the ex-Ministry of Popular Culture and, after greeting him, I asked
him: "How is it you are here?" And he answered: "Because I am English".

Later on, I had no other occasion to speak to SPERNI.

(s) FRANCESCO BADOLATO

0000

6 March 1945

Statement written and signed in my presence.

Rome, 6 March 1945.

"I, the undersigned FRANCESCO BADOLATO, in my capacity as Chief of the Technical Services of the ex-Ministry of Popular Culture, from 1935 up to the liberation of Rome, have known, since the latter half of 1940, Sig. GIOVANNI SPERNI, who was presented to me as radio announcer in English, attached to the English Department.

At first, SPERNI was occupied in reading over the microphone, at 1300 hours, the Italian War Bulletin, translated into English. This, I saw personally done by him.

After some time, SPERNI took on also the duty of reading in English a program destined for Great Britain; a program consisting of conversations which began at 2300 Hours. I believe that it was about 1941.

Because of my work, I have often been present at these broadcasts and therefore I saw SPERNI in person at the microphone.

For some time, about 8 or 10 occasions, during the reading of the conversations at 2300 hours, SPERNI was seen to be assisted in the studio by a Signorina who was presented to me as SPERNI's sister. Since I do not speak English, I can give you no indication of the texts which SPERNI and the Signorina had to read.

SPERNI declared himself to be an Italian citizen.

I saw SPERNI again several days after the liberation of Rome, in the offices of P.W.B. - in the Ex-Ministry of Popular Culture and, after greeting him, I asked him: "How is it you are here?" And he answered: "Because I am English".

Later on, I had no other occasion to speak to SPERNI.

(s) FRANCESCO BADOLATO

6 March 1945

Statement written and signed in my presence.

(s) LOUIS V. GAIE, Captain.

Translated by:
Claude J. Bove
Claude J. Bove,
1st Lt. F.A.

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

4 April 1945

TRANSLATION of Statement made by Michele FRANCHI di Guido is as follows :-

I, the undersigned Dr. Michele FRANCHI di Guido, a resident of Rome in Via Ajaccio n. 20, a Doctor in Jurisprudence, upon request made by Captain I. V. GALE and Lieutenant C. J. BOVE, inasmuch as the vague recollections will permit, due to the long period of time which has elapsed, and inasmuch as my conditions of health will allow, do declare as follows:

I was attached to the Military Intelligence Service in the capacity of Lieutenant, later Captain, in the Reserves recalled to the colors, from the end of the year 1939 to 1943. Shortly after the return to Italy of our Ambassador and Italian Nationals resident in England, I received orders to interrogate a certain Giovanni SPERNI, who also was being repatriated, in order to obtain at that time data relative to defences prepared upon the Island to prevent a landing made from the sea and from the air. The nature of the information given to me seemed to me to be of an inaccurate character and of little importance since it reflected generally the coastal outline with the natural breaks and the direction of the coastal roads.

From that time onward, I did not see SPERNI again. However, about a month later, if I recall well, he communicated to me that he had been dismissed from the Ministry of Culture, Radio Service, and he asked me if I could help him find another position. Obviously, I could not help him. Several times later, in order to obtain a position with an information service, I believe it was Argentinian, he requested a letter of recommendation. This was given to him in which the nature of the information which he had given some time previously was exaggerated for the sole purpose of ultimately obtaining for him an occupation by which he could save himself and his family from the serious economic situation in which they found themselves.

I do so declare.

(s) MICHELE FRANCHI

Rome, 4 April 1945.

Witnessed : - Louis V. GALE, Captain,
HQ, Allied Commission, Security Div.

Claude J. BOVE, 1st Lt.,
G-2, R.A.A.C.

Translated by:

Charles J. Bove

TRANSLATION of Statement made by Michele FRANCHI di Guido is as follows :-

I, the undersigned Dr. Michele FRANCHI di Guido, a resident of Rome in Via Ajaccio n. 20, a Doctor in Jurisprudence, upon request made by Captain L. V. GALE and Lieutenant C. J. BOVE, inasmuch as the vague recollections will permit, due to the long period of time which has elapsed, and inasmuch as my conditions of health will allow, do declare as follows:

I was attached to the Military Intelligence Service in the capacity of Lieutenant, later Captain, in the Reserves recalled to the colors, from the end of the year 1939 to 1943. Shortly after the return to Italy of our Ambassador and Italian Nationals resident in England, I received orders to interrogate a certain Giovanni SPERMI, who also was being repatriated, in order to obtain at that time data relative to defences prepared upon the Island to prevent a landing made from the sea and from the air. The nature of the information given to me seemed to me to be of an inaccurate character and of little importance since it reflected generally the coastal outline with the natural breaks and the direction of the coastal roads.

From that time onward, I did not see SPERMI again. However, about a month later, if I recall well, he communicated to me that he had been dismissed from the Ministry of Culture, Radio Service, and he asked me if I could help him find another position. Obviously, I could not help him. Several times later, in order to obtain a position with an information service, I believe it was Argentinian, he requested a letter of recommendation. This was given to him in which the nature of the information which he had given some time previously was exaggerated for the sole purpose of ultimately obtaining for him an occupation by which he could save himself and his family from the serious economic situation in which they found themselves.

I do so declare.

Rome, 4 April 1945.

(s) MICHELE FRANCHI

Witnessed : - Louis V. GALE, Captain,
HQ, Allied Commission, Security Div.

Claude J. BOVE, 1st Lt.,
G-2, R.A.A.C.

Translated by:

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

00029

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED COMMISSION
C.H.F.
PUBLIC SAFETY SUB-COMMISSION
SECURITY BRANCH.

Rome, 5 April 1945

Statement of Giovanni PANIZZA, Italian Civil Servant, attached to Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Rome, who says: -

"From 1925 until May, 1940, I served under the Italian Foreign Office, with Consular Officers in Manchester, Liverpool and London. From 1937 onwards I was attached to the Italian Consulate in London, as vice-chancellor. Among my duties was the signing of certain administrative documents, including passports.

I recognize the Italian Passport No. 939991/446, issued 11th May, 1940, as one which was signed by me in London, and I acknowledge my signature on page 4 therein and also on page 5.

This passport refers to a certain Giovanni SPERNI, born 16 August 1912, in London. I do not know this man personally but having seen him on one occasion in London and several occasions in Rome, I know him by sight. I, however, knew his father (also named Giovanni SPERNI) personally, having seen him and conversed with him at a few Italian meetings and functions in London. His father was well known at the Italian Consulate and among the Italian colony, because of his having been Mayor of St. Pancras.

As to the passport in question, I can only say that it is an authentic Italian passport, one of many signed by me, at the time of issue, after it had been handed to me, duly completed by a clerk. I had nothing to do with the enquiries or procedure which preceded the issue of Italian passports in London, and my duty in that respect was confined to appending my signature. I usually had no contact with the applicant for a passport. Certainly, I had no personal contact with Giovanni SPERNI (Junior) in connection with the issuing of the passport already mentioned. Neither did I have any dealings with his father or any other member of the SPERNI family, in connection with passports. I did not know his wife at the time I was in London but I think I have since met her on one occasion in the street in Rome, when I recognized her husband who was accompanying her. I have not met any other members of the SPERNI family.

I cannot now remember whether the particulars of the wife and children of Giovanni SPERNI (Junior) were included on the passport at the time of my signing it.

I do not know whether this man made any form of renunciation of British nationality, but I can say that the passport could well have been issued without such a formality. This is based on my experience of issuing passports in England to persons of dual British and Italian nationality.

Although I cannot say for certain, I think that the particulars relating to Giovanni SPERNI in the passport were written by his father (Giovanni SPERNI Senior).

of Foreign Affairs, Rome, who says: -

"From 1925 until May, 1940, I served under the Italian Foreign Office, with Consular Officers in Manchester, Liverpool and London. From 1937 onwards I was attached to the Italian Consulate in London, as vice-chancellor. Among my duties was the signing of certain administrative documents, including passports.

I recognize the Italian Passport No. 939991/446, issued 11th May, 1940, as one which was signed by me in London, and I acknowledge my signature on page 4 therein and also on page 5.

This passport refers to a certain Giovanni SPERNI, born 16 August 1912, in London. I do not know this man personally but having seen him on one occasion in London and several occasions in Rome, I know him by sight. I, however, knew his father (also named Giovanni SPERNI) personally, having seen him and conversed with him at a few Italian meetings and functions in London. His father was well known at the Italian Consulate and among the Italian colony, because of his having been Mayor of St. Pancras.

As to the passport in question, I can only say that it is an authentic Italian passport, one of many signed by me, at the time of issue, after it had been handed to me, duly completed by a clerk. I had nothing to do with the enquiries or procedure which preceded the issue of Italian passports in London, and my duty in that respect was confined to appending my signature. I usually had no contact with the applicant for a passport. Certainly, I had no personal contact with Giovanni SPERNI (Junior) in connection with the issuing of the passport already mentioned. Neither did I have any dealings with his father or any other member of the SPERNI family, in connection with passports. I did not know his wife at the time I was in London but I think I have since met her on one occasion in the street in Rome, when I recognized her husband who was accompanying her. I have not met any other members of the SPERNI family.

I cannot now remember whether the particulars of the wife and children of Giovanni SPERNI (Junior) were included on the passport at the time of my signing it.

00033

I do not know whether this man made any form of renunciation of British nationality, but I can say that the passport could well have been issued without such a formality. This is based on my experience of issuing passports in England to persons of dual British and Italian nationality.

Although I cannot say for certain, I think that the particulars relating to Giovanni SPERNI in the passport were written by Maresciallo (Pubblica Sicurezza) Alfred NOTTARA, then attached to the Italian Consulate in London. I do not recognize the writing of the person who added particulars of his wife. I do not know which official dealt with the formalities which preceded the issue of the passport.

I have no idea as to SPERNI's activities in Rome or as to his employment here. This statement has been read over to me by Captain L. V. GALE, Allied Commission and it is true.

(3) GIOVANNI PARLIZZA

- 2 -

Statement taken down, read over and signature witnessed by me, in presence
of Lieutenant C. J. BOVE, U. S. Army.

(s) LOUIS V. GALE, Captain,
HQ, Allied Commission,
Security Division.

C. J. Bove
C. J. Bove,
1st Lt. F.A.,
G-2 Section, R.A.A.C.

00037

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

6 February, 1945.

Statement of John Charles Anthony SPERNI, automobile engineer, residing at Via Belluno 8 (Flat 6), Rome, 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 may say will be committed to writing and may be used in evidence. I hereby certify that I fully understand the implication of the said caution.

(Signed) JOHN SPERNI.

My correct name is John Charles Anthony SPERNI, and I was born on 16th August 1912 at St Pancras, London. My father is Giovanni Celeste Geralderno SPERNI, who was born in London in October 1888, of Italian parents. My mother - Annie SPERNI nee CHALLIS - was born in London and is of British parentage. Both of my parents are living. The latest address of my mother is "Star Cottage", Amberley, Gloucestershire. That of my father is 36 Doughty Street, London, W.C.1.

I was educated at Holborn Estates Grammar School and Hastings Grammar School, leaving the last-mentioned school in 1929. For a short time afterwards I worked for my father in London, in a private concern known as Nurroads Limited, builders and constructional engineers.

Subsequently, until 1938, I worked for a number of firms in the motor trade. Among these were, Pride and Clarke Ltd, Brixton; W. J. Aldington, Ltd, St Martin's Lane, W.C. 2; Smith and Hunter Ltd, Baker St, W.

Early in 1939, I went into partnership with Celt GABRIEL, a Welshman from Bettwys-y-Coed, N. Wales, in a motor sales business at 299 Hertford Road, Lower Edmonton, under the trade name of "Fisher Motors", controlled by S and G Motors Limited, a company which we had registered in London. This business continued actively until about February 1940 when, owing to war circumstances, business came to a standstill.

Then, until about April 1940, I was engaged in the manufacture and sale of air raid precaution signs, partly on my own account and partly for Kirkpatrick Limited, Bond Street, W. From that time until I left England in June 1940, I earned a living by transacting occasional car sales among old clients of mine.

Throughout my life in England I have never engaged in any form of political activity, except to aid my father in borough elections in St Pancras, where he was a Municipal Reform Party candidate, and who was Mayor of St. Pancras in 1937 to 1938. I was and still am a member of Masonic Lodge 5506 ("Endeavour" Lodge) in London.

at Via Bellinella 1291
I have been cautioned by Captain L. V. GAIE that I may say will be committed anything unless I wish to do so and that anything I may say will be committed to writing and may be used in evidence. I hereby certify that I fully understand the implication of the said caution.

(Signed) JOHN SPERNI.

My correct name is John Charles Anthony SPERNI, and I was born on 16th August 1912 at St Pancras, London. My father is Giovanni Celeste Geraldmo SPERNI, who was born in London in October 1888, of Italian parents. My mother - ANNIE SPERNI nee CHALLIS - was born in London and is of British parentage. Both of my parents are living. The latest address of my mother is "Star Cottage", 36 Doughty Street, London, W.C.1. That of my father is 36 Doughty Street, London, W.C.1. Amberley, Gloucestershire.

I was educated at Holborn Estates Grammar School and Hastings Grammar School, leaving the last-mentioned school in 1929. For a short time afterwards I worked for my father in London, in a private concern known as Nurrods Limited, builders and constructional engineers.

Subsequently, until 1938, I worked for a number of firms in the motor trade. Among these were, Pride and Clarke Ltd, Brixton; W. J. Aldington, Ltd, St Martin's Lane, W.C. 2; Smith and Hunter Ltd, Baker St, W.

Early in 1939, I went into partnership with Celt GABRIEL, a Welshman from Bettwys-y-Coed, N. Wales, in a motor sales business at 299 Hertford Road, Lower Edmonton, under the trade name of "Fisher Motors", controlled by S and G Motors Limited, a company which we had registered in London. This business continued actively until about February 1940 when, owing to war circumstances, business came to a standstill.

Then, until about April 1940, I was engaged in the manufacture and sale of air raid precaution signs, partly on my own account and partly for Kirkpatrick Limited, Bond Street, W. From that time until I left England in June 1940, I earned a living by transacting occasional car sales among old clients of mine.

Throughout my life in England I have never engaged in any form of political activity, except to aid my father in borough elections in St Pancras, where he was a Municipal Reform Party candidate, and who was Mayor of St. Pancras in 1937 to 1938. I was and still am a member of Masonic Lodge 5506 ("Endeavour" Lodge) in London.

From the age of 15 I have been abroad only for holidays in France for a few weeks every year, and once for a period of six months worked as a reception clerk in hotels at various French resorts, on an employment exchange scheme, in about 1933. Apart from the above I have not visited any countries outside England until coming to Italy for the first time in June 1940.

To continue giving my own personal particulars. I married Miss Rhonagh Maureen ROSE, a daughter of Northern Irish parents, born 9th October 1914 at Brighton, Sussex. We were married in May 1937 in London and have two children - Greenagh Mary Ann born 23rd August 1938; Angela Teresa Amanda, born 24 April 1940.

My addresses, after my marriage, were all in London :- 11 Coburg Mansions, Handel Street, W.C.1; 66 Cambridge Terrace, W.1; 123 Rosebery Square, W.C.1; 9 Doughty Mews, W.C.1., in order of dates of residence.

At the time of my birth, particulars were registered at the Italian Consulate

by my paternal grandfather - Sante SPERMI, an Italian patriot, and formerly a member of the Garibaldi Army of Liberation. Under his influence in my very early days I was taught to have a great respect for my Italian origin, and through his influence and my subsequent contact with French people, I developed a very strong antipathy for all things German.

On my own initiative, in March 1940, I made enquiries at the Italian Consulate in London as to my status and nationality under Italian law. Upon giving an Italian official there, particulars of my birth and parentage, he informed me that I had a claim to Italian nationality and could apply for a passport. I filled out a form of application at once, giving particulars of my birth, that of my father and of my paternal grandfather. The official informed me that enquiries would have to be made in Parma, Northern Italy, to check the particulars given. I was invited to call at the Italian Consulate again in about a week. This I did, and was issued with an Italian passport which included particulars of my wife and two children. On both occasions when I visited the Italian Consulate I was alone.

My motive in making application for Italian nationality and an Italian passport was to leave England as soon as possible. I wished to leave England to avoid the likelihood of being interned and separated from my wife and child (she was then expecting a second child), which had happened to so many persons of only distant enemy (German) nationality up to that time. I discussed these matters with my father, brothers and other members of the family.

Although I received the Italian passport in March 1940, I neglected by oversight to register with Police in London as an alien. Thereafter I considered myself an Italian citizen, although I cannot remember having signed any paper renouncing any claim to British nationality.

Altogether, however, ten or more forms were filled in by various officials at the Italian Consulate on the occasion of my third and final visit there. These were signed by me including one headed "Atto di Sottomissione" and there may have been a form for renunciation of British nationality among them, but I cannot say definitely that there was such a form. Afterwards, when the forms had all been completed and signed by me I had to wait downstairs in the Italian Consulate until, eventually, the passport was handed to me.

I must make it clear that I visited the Italian Consulate on three occasions altogether. The first visit was during the first few days of March when particulars of my birth and ancestry were taken by an official. He then went away to examine files to see whether my birth had been registered at the Consulate. When he came back he said that he had been unable to find any record but said that he would wire to Parma, Northern Italy, for verification, Parma being my paternal grandfather's birthplace. He told me to call again in about three or four days bringing with me copies of the birth certificates of my father and my paternal grandfather and my paternal grandmother.

On about 4-5th March 1940, I again called at the Italian Consulate, when I saw the same official whom I believe was the Vice Consul; I am not sure of his name but I believe it was "CHIOSTERI" or some similar name. I handed the documents, previously requested, to him and he passed them to a clerk. He then told me to call again in about a week.

00035

1 2 9 3

that I had a claim to Italian nationality and could apply for a passport. I filled out a form of application at once, giving particulars of my birth, that of my father and of my paternal grandfather. The official informed me that enquiries would have to be made in Parma, Northern Italy, to check the particulars given. I was invited to call at the Italian Consulate again in about a week. This I did, and was issued with an Italian passport which included particulars of my wife and two children. On both occasions when I visited the Italian Consulate I was alone.

My motive in making application for Italian nationality and an Italian passport was to leave England as soon as possible. I wished to leave England to avoid the likelihood of being interned and separated from my wife and child (she was then expecting a second child), which had happened to so many persons of only distant enemy (German) nationality up to that time. I discussed these matters with my father, brothers and other members of the family.

Although I received the Italian passport in March 1940, I neglected by oversight to register with Police in London as an alien. Thereafter I considered myself an Italian citizen, although I cannot remember having signed any paper renouncing any claim to British nationality.

Altogether, however, ten or more forms were filled in by various officials at the Italian Consulate on the occasion of my third and final visit there. These were signed by me including one headed "Atto di Sottomissione" and there may have been a form for renunciation of British nationality among them, but I cannot say definitely that there was such a form. Afterwards, when the forms had all been completed and signed by me I had to wait downstairs in the Italian Consulate until, eventually, the passport was handed to me.

I must make it clear that I visited the Italian Consulate on three occasions altogether. The first visit was during the first few days of March when particulars of my birth and ancestry were taken by an official. He then went away to examine files to see whether my birth had been registered at the Consulate. When he came back he said that he had been unable to find any record but said that he would wire to Parma, Northern Italy, for verification, Parma being my paternal grandfather's birthplace. He told me to call again in about three or four days bringing with me copies of the birth certificates of my father and my paternal grandfather and my paternal grandmother.

On about 4-5th March 1940, I again called at the Italian Consulate, when I saw the same official whom I believe was the Vice Consul; I am not sure of his name but I believe it was "CHICSTERI" or some similar name. I handed the documents, previously requested, to him and he passed them to a clerk. He then told me to call again in about a week.

On 11th March, 1940 or thereabouts, I again attended the Consulate (for the third time) bringing with me six passport photographs as requested on my second visit. On this third and final visit I first went into a general office and handed in the photographs. Then I was taken into various offices, in one of which my physical measurements were taken, and in other offices where I was required to sign various of the ten or more forms previously mentioned. After waiting for about an hour I was called to a counter where my passport was handed to me on payment of about 35/= or 37/=. With the passport I was given a certificate bearing the Italian Consulate's official stamp, declaring that I, the bearer, was an Italian citizen.

After getting my Italian passport I did not again go to the Italian Consulate, but on the day when the Italian Government declared war - 10th June 1940 - I went to the Italian Embassy where I placed the names of myself, my wife and our two children (the second child had been born five weeks earlier) on a list for repatriation to Italy, for which purpose I produced my passport. Actually the man who wrote my name on the list was the same cashier who had handed me my passport

at the Italian Consulate during March, 1940. I think that his name was ROVERI.

There were other officials at the table where the lists were being made out and I was told to call again the following day. This I did but was told by an Embassy employee at the door that I would have to call again on the next day, as no information was as yet available. During the next day or two I again called at the Italian Embassy in the afternoon and was informed that trains would be leaving that evening. I was told how much luggage I could take for each person travelling and the time and other particulars of the train.

I was allowed to take five pounds sterling for each member of my family. I was given no tickets or other travel documents but produced my passport in the presence of Consular officials at Euston Station.

With my wife and our two children I was taken on "A" train leaving Euston at about 8 PM for Glasgow on 12th June 1940 (or 13th June 1940). At Glasgow, after examination by English Customs officials, with my family I boarded the S.S. "Monarch of Bermuda". After about fourteen days laying off North-West Scotland we eventually went to Lisbon, where we stayed four or five days. We then went on to Messina, having transferred to S.S. "Conte Rosso", Sicily, where we disembarked on 2nd July, 1940.

Immediately after disembarking we were ferried to the Mainland and went on immediately by train to Rome via Naples. We were then lodged in the Albergo SENATO, Rome, where we stayed for about a month at the expense of the Italian Government.

On about the third day of my stay at this hotel, I was approached, whilst alone, in the lounge, by two men, who commenced to talk to me in general terms about the war. They led the conversation to ask me my opinion about England's defenses and preparedness for war, but kept to generalities. On this occasion, they told me that they were from Milan and were merchants. I did not at that time suspect them of any ulterior motive.

During the next two or three days I saw them and had conversations with them on four occasions, on one of which only one of them was present. This was my third conversation with either of them and was on the day following their first approaching me. This man's questions on general British military and British public morale were pointed and I therefore asked him whether he was a police officer. He replied that he was an intelligence officer of some kind and produced a Ministry of War identity card which bore the name "GREEN" and a photograph of the bearer.

He implied to me that I ought to be able to give useful information about England, having lived there for so long and having just come from there in time of war. He told me that I was to meet him and his "Chief" (the other older man) at 11 AM on the next day in the hotel lounge. I kept the appointment with them and in answer to questions I gave them an exaggerated and false idea of the coastal defenses and defenses in depth in England.

My story was completely fabricated and should have appeared ridiculous. I even invented for their information a story of England being defended by a series of lines of concrete emplacements, hidden and adapted for defence against tanks, enemy aircraft and parachute troops.

I even drew for them a sketch of this hypothetical defence, showing them that these emplacements consisted of two concrete towers (8' square) placed at various

I was given no tickets or other travel documents but produced my passport in the presence of Consular officials at Euston Station.

With my wife and our two children I was taken on "A" train leaving Euston at about 8 PM for Glasgow on 12th June 1940 (or 13th June 1940). At Glasgow, after examination by English Customs officials, with my family I boarded the S.S. "Monarch of Bermuda". After about fourteen days laying off North-West Scotland we eventually went to Lisbon, where we stayed four or five days. We then went on to Messina, having transferred to S.S. "Conte Rosso", Sicily, where we disembarked on 2nd July, 1940.

Immediately after disembarking we were ferried to the Mainland and went on immediately by train to Rome via Naples. We were then lodged in the Albergo SENATO, Rome, where we stayed for about a month at the expense of the Italian Government.

On about the third day of my stay at this hotel, I was approached, whilst alone, in the lounge, by two men, who commenced to talk to me in general terms about the war. They led the conversation to ask me my opinion about England's defenses and preparedness for war, but kept to generalities. On this occasion, they told me that they were from Milan and were merchants. I did not at that time suspect them of any ulterior motive.

During the next two or three days I saw them and had conversations with them on four occasions, on one of which only one of them was present. This was my third conversation with either of them and was on the day following their first approaching me. This man's questions on general British military and British public morale were pointed and I therefore asked him whether he was a police officer. He replied that he was an intelligence officer of some kind and produced a Ministry of War identity card which bore the name "TORE" and a photograph of the bearer.

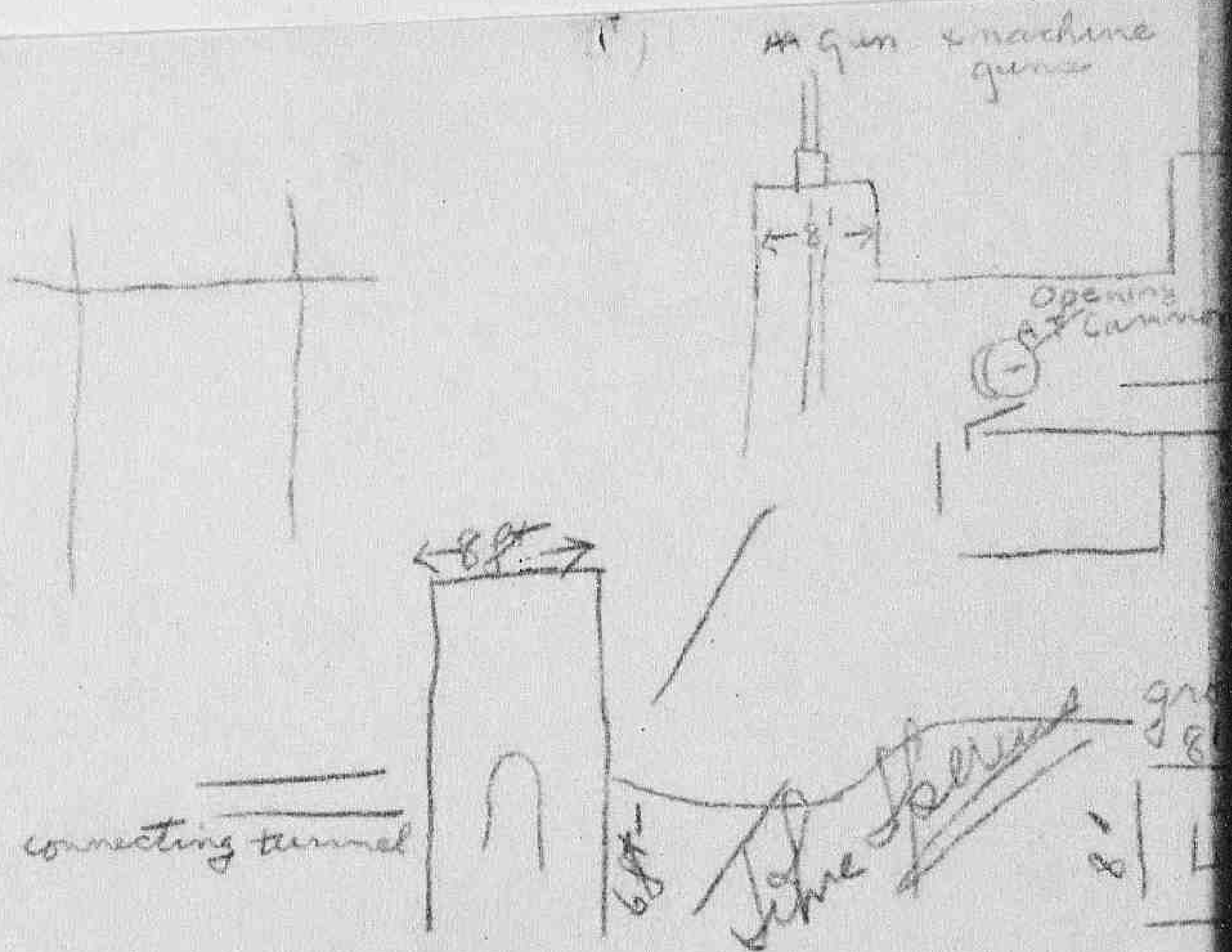
He implied to me that I ought to be able to give useful information about England, having lived there for so long and having just come from there in time of war. He told me that I was to meet him and his "Chief" (the other older man) at 11 AM on the next day in the hotel lounge. I kept the appointment with them and in answer to questions I gave them an exaggerated and false idea of the coastal defenses and defenses in depth in England.

My story was completely fabricated and should have appeared ridiculous. I even invented for their information a story of England being defended by a series of lines of concrete emplacements, hidden and adapted for defence against tanks, enemy aircraft and parachute troops.

I even drew for them a sketch of this hypothetical defence, showing them that these emplacements consisted of two concrete towers (8' square) placed at various distances apart, according to width of roads etc, being intercommunicable and based on a subterranean concrete block through which a tunnel connected the two towers; the concrete block was supposed to be sunk to a depth of about six feet, but had about two feet of construction above ground for the purpose of giving a field of fire to an anti-tank gun. On the top of each tower was a retractable light anti-aircraft gun and also machine-guns were contained in the towers.

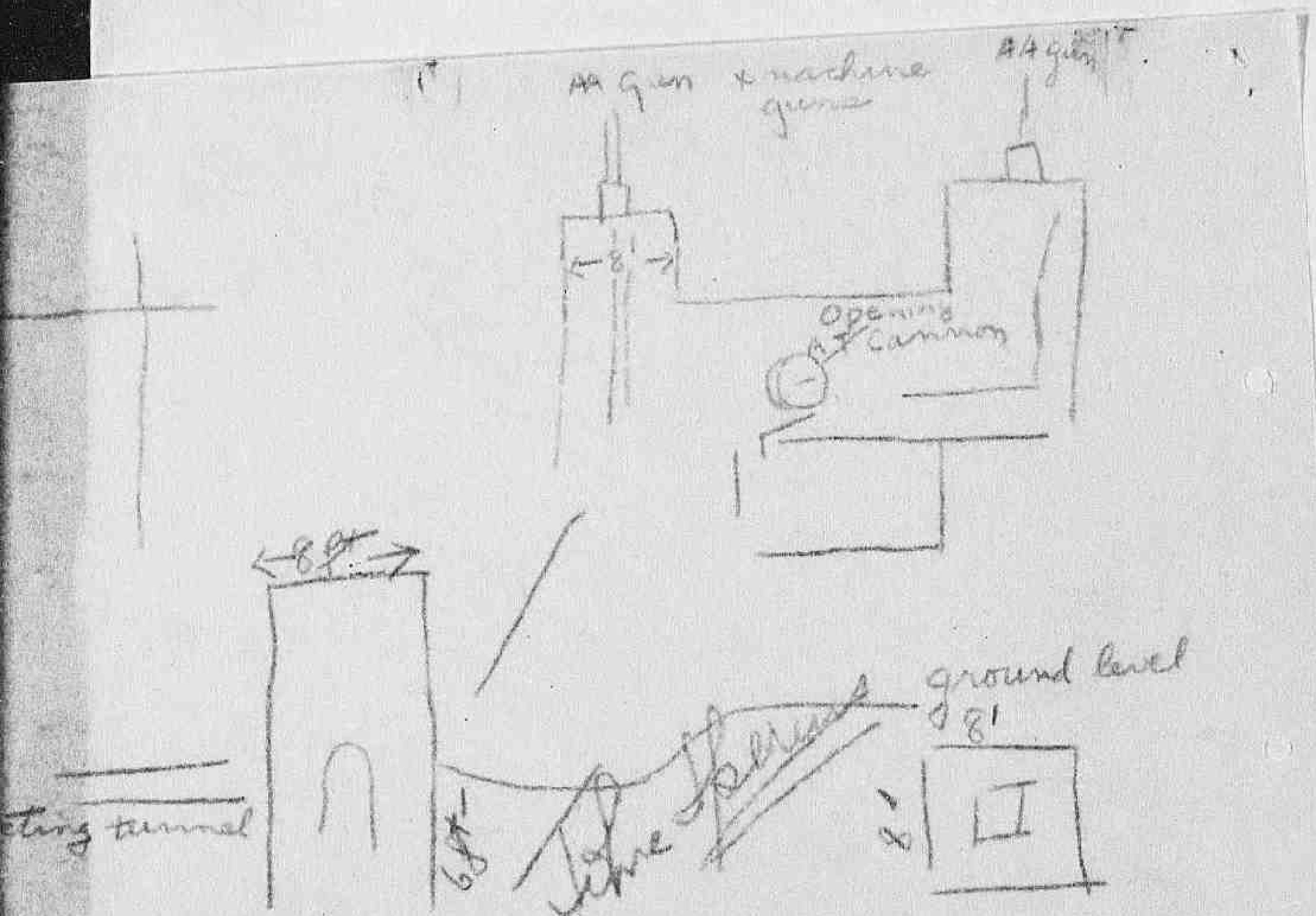
I said that these emplacements were to be found every two miles along the roads and in the fields and were cleverly camouflaged. They asked me how I knew all this and I told them that I had been working as an engineer on the construction of these emplacements. I told them that they were each manned by about twelve men.

The sketch which I have just drawn and handed to Captain Gale, bearing my



man, 12 men
00033

average width 30' according to
width with narrow part



12 men
00033

- 4 -

signature is a true representation of the one I drew for the two men who questioned me as stated previously.

Apart from the above I gave them no information purporting to be in detail and I have not seen them since. I have never at any other time been in circumstances where information of a military character has been asked from me. Neither have I ever offered or given information of a military character.

I may say that it had been my intention on coming to Italy to go to PARMA, N. Italy and to make a living from property there, belonging to my father.

In Rome, however, I again met a young Italian whom I had known on the boat, and about two weeks after my arrival there, he introduced me to a certain Marchese Ranieri di SCORBELLO, of Perugia, in an apartment near Via due Macelli, where about five other persons were present. From the trend of their conversation I gathered that they were all anti-fascists and that SCORBELLO was head of the English department of Rome Radio. He spoke to me in perfect English.

About three or four days after I was called to the office of a certain Signor TELESIO, Head of the Foreign Branch at the Ministry of Popular Culture. The request for me to go to see him was made by telephone to my hotel. I accordingly went to see him and he called Marchese SCORBELLO into his office, gave him my name and told him to take me to his office and explain to me what was wanted of me. SCORBELLO did so and told me that he was seeking a collaborator who spoke English well and thought that I might be suitable.

During the two to three hours conversation I had with him he conveyed to me that he was of pro-British sympathies, that he was of the opinion that America would soon come into the war at Britain's side, and he said that his own outlook on life was American, as he had an American mother, and he had taught at Yale University.

He gave me the impression that he was deliberately sabotaging the Fascist propaganda effort. He declared that he and his friends were upset when Italy declared war, and they literally went into mourning, and did not eat for a day or two. Another thing which gave me the impression that he was anti-fascist was that in testing my ability to read and translate from Italian he gave me a typewritten petition to the King of Italy, which was violently anti-fascist and anti-Nazi in character.

He also said that two of his best friends - CANALE and Prince William ROSPIGLIOSI - had been dismissed from his department for pro-British sentiments, in some way concerned with their having refused to broadcast certain anti-British propaganda. CANALE, he said, had actually been put in prison, but Prince ROSPIGLIOSI, owing to family influence had managed to avoid arrest but was placed under constant surveillance.

I saw him on two or three further occasions and during these interviews he gave me to understand that he hated the Germans and Fascist Italy's alliance with them and that the Fascists had ruined Italy and set the country back seventy years. He told me that he had been completely revising the fascist propaganda he was receiving for broadcasting. He said that he was doing this in a manner which

and about two weeks after my arrival there, he and about five other persons were present. From the trend of their conversation I gathered that they were all anti-fascists and that SORBELLO was head of the English department of Rome Radio. He spoke to me in perfect English.

About three or four days after I was called to the office of a certain Signor TELESIO, Head of the Foreign Branch at the Ministry of Popular Culture. The request for me to go to see him was made by telephone to my hotel. I accordingly went to see him and he called Marchese SORBELLO into his office, gave him my name and told him to take me to his office and explain to me what was wanted of me. SORBELLO did so and told me that he was seeking a collaborator who spoke English well and thought that I might be suitable.

During the two to three hours conversation I had with him he conveyed to me that he was of pro-British sympathies, that he was of the opinion that America would soon come into the war at Britain's side, and he said that his own outlook on life was American, as he had an American mother, and he had taught at Yale University.

He gave me the impression that he was deliberately sabotaging the Fascist propaganda effort. He declared that he and his friends were upset when Italy declared war, and they literally went into mourning, and did not eat for a day or two. Another thing which gave me the impression that he was anti-fascist was that in testing my ability to read and translate from Italian he gave me a typewritten petition to the King of Italy, which was violently anti-fascist and anti-Nazi in character.

He also said that two of his best friends - CANALE and Prince William ROSPIGLIOSI - had been dismissed from his department for pro-British sentiments, in some way concerned with their having refused to broadcast certain anti-British propaganda. CANALE, he said, had actually been put in prison, but Prince ROSPIGLIOSI, owing to family influence had managed to avoid arrest but was placed under constant surveillance.

I saw him on two or three further occasions and during these interviews he gave me to understand that he hated the Germans and Fascist Italy's alliance with them and that the Fascists had ruined Italy and set the country back seventy years. He told me that he had been completely revising the fascist propaganda he was receiving for broadcasting. He said that he was doing this in a manner which would render the propaganda less convincing.

He went on to say to me that not having been brought up under fascism, and having a British mentality, and not appearing to be a "yes" man to fascism, he preferred me to work with him to any others who were likely to be sent to him to fill the gaps in his staff. He told me that it was not a comfortable atmosphere in which to work, that it was in fact dangerous, as there were "snoopers" around, but that he would guide me. I accepted his offer and commenced to work under him in July 1940.

Thereafter I was engaged in translating from Italian into English the various pieces of news issued by different World news agencies. Also, I used, on average to read the news in English over the radio about once, and often twice, a day.

My activities were entirely confined to the translation and reading of the News Summary in English. They said at the Ministry that my voice, having a "Cockney" accent was not suitable for other broadcasts and that letters of complaint had been received from members of the Italian public about its being used on the radio.

(32)
In my opinion, nothing which I have ever written, or read over the Italian radio, was truly against or detrimental to England in any convincing fashion. I continued this work until, so far as I can remember, late in February or March 1941 when I was arrested one day when leaving the Ministry of Popular Culture, taken to the Castro-Pretorio-Questura, who questioned me as to my past history, my contacts in Italy and they alleged that I was engaged in carrying on propaganda in favour of the enemy. After about six hours interrogation, however, I was freed.

To cover myself I went back to the Ministry the next day and related the events to my colleagues and feigned great indignation but I was generally cold-shouldered.

Consequently I went to see the deputy-chief of the Radio and Television Department and told him that I was leaving the department. However, just before leaving the building I received a note dismissing me therefrom. After this dismissal in February or March 1941, I did no broadcasting or translating of any kind. Six weeks later, during which time I had demanded payment constantly for my previous work, they offered me the job of sorting the news as put out by American and British agencies, but did not pay me the amount outstanding from my previous work.

I accepted the new work and continued in it until about July 1941 being paid for that work, which amounted only to routine office work. I had, of course, been paid for some of my translating and broadcasting, but the final amount for which I demanded payment was never paid.

In actual fact, I was not really short of money, my wife and I being in possession of personal objects, jewellery etc. to sell, but I did not want the Fascist authorities, who were already suspicious of me, to believe that I had other sources of income, which they would have believed had I not made my claims for payment of money due.

Towards the end of July 1941, whilst engaged on my work of sorting the British and American news reports, two plain-clothes men with Signor PESSON, the Inspector of Radio and Television, came into the office and I was at once searched.

In one of my pockets they found a sheet of paper, which contained a Reuter's news report of the sinking of the Bismarck and a statement of the British Home Secretary regarding the number of people who had been detained under Regulation 188.

My possession of these news reports was strictly against the rules of the Ministry of Popular Culture and was punishable by arrest and imprisonment. They told me that they were investigating a leakage of news information from the department and stated that they suspected me because the leakages had occurred only during my period of employment. The fact that the sinking of the Bismarck had already appeared in an Italian newspaper that morning, and as the news regarding the Regulation 188 was obviously not of any consequence in Italy, as I explained that my possession of it was not of interest as to what was happening to my relatives and friends in England, they took no action against me except to dismiss me and keep me under surveillance for several days afterwards.

000021

Consequently I went to see the deputy-chief of the Radio and Television Department and told him that I was leaving the department. However, just before leaving the building I received a note dismissing me therefrom. After this dismissal in February or March 1941, I did no broadcasting or translating of any kind. Six weeks later, during which time I had demanded payment constantly for my previous work, they offered me the job of sorting the news as put out by American and British agencies, but did not pay me the amount outstanding from my previous work.

I accepted the new work and continued in it until about July 1941 being paid for that work, which amounted only to routine office work. I had, of course, been paid for some of my translating and broadcasting, but the final amount for which I demanded payment was never paid.

In actual fact, I was not really short of money, my wife and I being in possession of personal objects, jewellery etc. to sell, but I did not want the Fascist authorities, who were already suspicious of me, to believe that I had other sources of income, which they would have believed had I not made my claims for payment of money due.

Towards the end of July 1941, whilst engaged on my work of sorting the British and American news reports, two plain-clothes men with Signor PESSON, the Inspector of Radio and Television, came into the office and I was at once searched.

In one of my pockets they found a sheet of paper, which contained a Reuter's news report of the sinking of the Bismarck and a statement of the British Home Secretary regarding the number of people who had been detained under Regulation 18B.

My possession of these news reports was strictly against the rules of the Ministry of Popular Culture and was punishable by arrest and imprisonment. They told me that they were investigating a leakage of news information from the department and stated that they suspected me because the leakages had occurred only during my period of employment. The fact that the sinking of the Bismarck had already appeared in an Italian newspaper that morning, and as the news regarding the Regulation 18B was obviously not of any consequence in Italy, as I explained that my possession of it was not of interest as to what was happening to my relatives and friends in England, they took no action against me except to dismiss me and keep me under surveillance for several days afterwards.

00021

A short time afterwards I went to see Marchese SCORBELLO and told him what had happened and he made some enquiries about my position and later told me that the question of arresting me was in the balance and that I should act very carefully.

In fact, he showed me a file containing a police report showing that in "competent quarters" I was ~~seriously~~ suspected of being a British Intelligence agent and that only lack of evidence prevented action being taken against me.

SCORBELLO told me to go to the office of International News Service which he understood was in need of somebody like myself for news writing. He told me to see Prince ROSPIGLIOSI and say that I had been sent by him (SCORBELLO). I went there and Prince ROSPIGLIOSI told me that, actually, it was Mr. Richard G. MASOCK (American), Director of Associated Press in Italy, who required assistance.

Therefore, I went to see MASOCK, and told him the whole story of my connection.

tion with the Radio and Television Department of the Ministry of Popular Culture, and of my arrest, and dismissal from translating and broadcasting, of my re-engagement for the sorting of British and American news reports and of my dismissal again after the finding of the news sheet in my pocket.

As Massock was an American, and SCIBELLO had told me that I could trust him implicitly, I was quite open with MASOCK and told him that in the English section of the broadcasting department we had been all anti-fascists. This was in the early days of August 1941 and I was immediately engaged by Mr. MASOCK for Associated Press. My work was news reporting, translating and news writing generally. This work continued until December 1941 when America entered the War, and when Mr. MASOCK was immediately arrested.

Prior to his arrest we had discussed the question of how we were to continue, if possible, the Associated Press News Service in Italy, in the event of America entering the war.

SCIBELLO HAD told me that during the last war United Press had succeeded in continuing a news service from Germany, after American entry into the war, by availing themselves of the collaboration in Berlin of a man of dual German-American nationality, who operated in Germany as the representative of what was ostensibly a neutral newspaper and who was therefore able to convey his news to United Press in America, through the neutral country concerned. SCIBELLO also told me that United Press had already made a similar arrangement in Italy at the present time.

I mentioned these facts to Mr. MASOCK and he suggested that it might be possible for me to act in the same way for Associated Press. Accordingly, I agreed, and by some means of his own, Mr. MASOCK succeeded in sending a letter secretly to Associated Press in America, suggesting that I be appointed representative in Italy of some news agency of a neutral country, subsidiary to Associated Press.

I saw the reply which came shortly afterwards, again through Mr. MASOCK's own secret channels. This reply approved of the suggestion and nominated the Andi Press Agency, Buenos Aires, as the Agency which I was ostensibly to represent in Italy. I was to expect a letter from the Andi Agency offering me the post. This came soon afterwards through normal channels and I at once replied accepting the offer.

Immediately, I commenced the necessary steps to obtain the Italian Government's permission to act as the correspondent for the neutral agency. After about a month, through the influence of SCIBELLO with Signor GRANDI and Signor ROCCO (Director General of the Foreign Press Service. Later a Minister of the first Badoglio Government) and Signor TELESIO, I succeeded in obtaining the necessary permit to act as the representative of the Andi Press Agency.

As the next step the sale was arranged of the whole of the office effects, files and furniture of Associated Press, to the Andi Press Agency. It was arranged that MASOCK would continue to use the office on behalf of Associated Press whilst this remained possible.

00030

After his arrest I continued the work through Andi Press Agency, but being

for Associated Press. My work was news reporting, translating and news writing generally. This work continued until December 1941 when America entered the War, and when Mr. MASSOCK was immediately arrested.

Prior to his arrest we had discussed the question of how we were to continue, if possible, the Associated Press News Service in Italy, in the event of America entering the war.

SCREBELLO HAD told me that during the last war United Press had succeeded in continuing a news service from Germany, after American entry into the war, by availing themselves of the collaboration in Berlin of a man of dual German-American nationality, who operated in Germany as the representative of what was ostensibly a neutral newspaper and who was therefore able to convey his news to United Press in America, through the neutral country concerned. SCREBELLO also told me that United Press had already made a similar arrangement in Italy at the present time.

I mentioned these facts to Mr. MASSOCK and he suggested that it might be possible for me to act in the same way for Associated Press. Accordingly, I agreed, and by some means of his own, Mr. MASSOCK succeeded in sending a letter secretly to Associated Press in America, suggesting that I be appointed representative in Italy of some news agency of a neutral country, subsidiary to Associated Press.

I saw the reply which came shortly afterwards, again through Mr. MASSOCK's own secret channels. This reply approved of the suggestion and nominated the Andi Press Agency, Buenos Aires, as the Agency which I was ostensibly to represent in Italy. I was to expect a letter from the Andi Agency offering me the post. This came soon afterwards through normal channels and I at once replied accepting the offer.

Immediately, I commenced the necessary steps to obtain the Italian Government's permission to act as the correspondent for the neutral agency. After about a month, through the influence of SCREBELLO with Signor GRANDI and Signor ROCCO (Director General of the Foreign Press Service. Later a Minister of the first Badoglio Government) and Signor TELESIO, I succeeded in obtaining the necessary permit to act as the representative of the Andi Press Agency.

As the next step the sale was arranged of the whole of the office effects, files and furniture of Associated Press, to the Andi Press Agency. It was arranged that MASSOCK would continue to use the office on behalf of Associated Press whilst this remained possible.

00036

After his arrest I continued the work through Andi Press Agency, but being limited to forwarding of news through the Italian Cable system during the first few weeks, my news was always arriving too late. Then, through representations made by the Argentine Embassy, at the request of Andi Press Agency, Buenos Aires, and myself, I was allowed to file news by telephone direct to the Andi Press Agency office in Berne, Switzerland.

As a good "cover" I received a letter from Andi Press Agency, Buenos Aires, that I was to receive my instructions through their Berlin representative - who was designated Chief Correspondent in Europe (Signor JIMENEZ). In fact, however, my instructions were coming from the Andi Press Agency representative in Berne, Switzerland, who in point of fact was Mr. Frank (?) HAWKINS an American, whose office was merely an annexe to the Associated Press Agency Bureau in Berne. Actually he was Chief of Associated Press in Switzerland and up to a month ago was still acting in that capacity, so far as I know.

I kept up my work as representative of Andi Press Agency until 14th February, 1942, when I was arrested by the Fascist police and placed in Regina Coeli Gaol without charges or trial. Then I remained for about three months without being given any explanation as to why, except that they did suggest that I was carrying

on espionage work, that I was anti-fascist and had British contacts in Italy.

Then I was sent into a concentration camp at Ariano Irpino, near Foggia, where I stayed for a further three months. In about June-July 1942 after many applications, I was sent to the concentration area at S. Angelo in Vado where I was allowed to live with my wife and children. There we remained until June 1943, during which time we received 22 lire per day for subsistence and 50 lire per month for rent. I supplemented this by doing repair work on my own account of bicycles, sewing machines etc.

Whilst at S. Angelo in Vado I was twice brought before the Local Committee (Local Officials and Carabinieri) having been denounced for expressing views which were considered anti-fascist. On one occasion I was fined 500 lire and on the second occasion, they said there was not enough proof to convict me, but that any repetition of my anti-fascist views in the future would result in my being sent back to a concentration camp, which the Committee had the power to impose. As a result of feeling among local fascists, who threatened me with violence, I appealed to the Carabinieri for protection. It was decided that they would send me with my wife and our two children to another concentration area - CANTIANO. In June 1943 we went there and stayed until 17th August 1943 when, after the fall of the Fascist Government, I was released through offices of Minister ROCCO. I went to Rome to try to find an apartment for myself and family. I was in Rome for about two weeks, staying at SORBELLO's apartment, which was frequented by anti-fascist, anti-German elements. I was unable to find an apartment for my family but SORBELLO, who had been ordered to CENIO FERRARA, left me the keys of his flat. However, three days later his brother came from Perugia and I handed the keys over to him.

I then rejoined my wife at CANTIANO and after three days returned to Rome with my wife. We found that SORBELLO's brother had left for Perugia, taking the keys of the apartment with him. Therefore we went to the Albergo Gasparis and stayed there for about ten days, but we still could not find an apartment, so we returned to our children at CANTIANO.

After two or more days I again went to Rome alone to seek an apartment once more. This was on 8th September 1943, and on arrival in Rome the following day, the German occupation of Rome was in progress. I slept in Rome one night and then went straight back to CANTIANO. We left immediately with the children and came back to Rome. I still had about 5,000 to 6,000 lire obtained from sale of my effects.

During early October I aided escaped British prisoners-of-war by finding billets for them, giving them small amounts of money and old clothing. One place at which I found shelter for three escaped prisoners was at the house of Mr. ZANCHETTA a wine dealer in Via Pescara, Rome.

In other cases I took money, parcels and clothing to escaped prisoners at ANTICOLI CORRADO, three times on my own account and once with money, provisions and clothing supplied at the Swiss Legation by Captain TRIPPI, Swiss officer acting as Inspector of prisoners-of-war camps. To him I returned the receipts given to me by the prisoners, who gave their names and numbers.

As I was unable after the above-mentioned visit, to get further money and supplies from Captain TRIPPI, I contacted Father MADDEN an Irish priest at St. Patrick's Church, Via Boncompagni, Rome, and through him until 19th April, 1943,

00029

1305
(Local Officials and Carabinieri) having been denounced for expressing views which were considered anti-fascist. On one occasion I was fined 500 lire and on the second occasion, they said there was not enough proof to convict me, but that any repetition of my anti-fascist views in the future would result in my being sent back to a concentration camp, which the Committee had the power to impose. As a result of feeling among local fascists, who threatened me with violence, I appealed to the Carabinieri for protection. It was decided that they would send me with my wife and our two children to another concentration area - CANTIANO. In June 1943 we went there and stayed until 17th August 1943 when, after the fall of the Fascist Government, I was released through offices of Minister ROCCO. I went to Rome to try to find an apartment for myself and family. I was in Rome for about two weeks, staying at SORBELLO's apartment, which was frequented by anti-fascist, anti-German elements. I was unable to find an apartment for my family but SORBELLO, who had been ordered to GENO FERRARA, left me the keys of his flat. However, three days later his brother came from Perugia and I handed the keys over to him.

I then rejoined my wife at CANTIANO and after three days returned to Rome with my wife. We found that SORBELLO's brother had left for Perugia, taking the keys of the apartment with him. Therefore we went to the Albergo Gasparis and stayed there for about ten days, but we still could not find an apartment, so we returned to our children at CANTIANO.

After two or more days I again went to Rome alone to seek an apartment once more. This was on 8th September 1943, and on arrival in Rome the following day, the German occupation of Rome was in progress. I slept in Rome one night and then went straight back to CANTIANO. We left immediately with the children and came back to Rome. I still had about 5,000 to 6,000 lire obtained from sale of my effects.

During early October I aided escaped British prisoners-of-war by finding billets for them, giving them small amounts of money and old clothing. One place at which I found shelter for three escaped prisoners was at the house of Mr. ZANCHETTA a wine dealer in Via Pescara, Rome.

In other cases I took money, parcels and clothing to escaped prisoners at ANTICOLI CORRADO, three times on my own account and once with money, provisions and clothing supplied at the Swiss Legation by Captain TRIPPI, Swiss officer acting as Inspector of prisoners-of-war camps. To him I returned the receipts given to me by the prisoners, who gave their names and numbers.

00029

As I was unable after the above-mentioned visit, to get further money and supplies from Captain TRIPPI, I contacted Father MADDEN an Irish priest at St. Patrick's Church, Via Boncompagni, Rome, and through him until 19th April, 1943, obtained money and supplies for escaped prisoners. I understood that all this was arranged through ~~St~~ Father O'FLAHERTY and the British Embassy in the Vatican. There is a list of prisoners who were helped by me, among the papers found at my house.

On 19th April 1943, I was arrested by German S.S. who stated that they had received information that I had been aiding escaped Allied prisoners. On searching they found an American escapee and a South African in my house (Nicholas HERNANDEZ and L/Cpl Leslie MANDY, Union Defence Force). I was taken to Via Tasso (German S.S. H.Q.) and was kept there for 29 days, being subjected to violence on four occasions during interrogation to establish who were the personalities behind the organisation for aiding escaped prisoners. I did not divulge any information whatever.

Later I was brought before a Military Tribunal (German) and was sentenced to

death for "aiding enemy troops to escape" and "possession of arms". This was about ten days before Rome was occupied by the Allies. On 1st June, 1943, during the confusion of an attempted escape by other prisoners, I managed to get out of the Regina Coeli Gaol, wearing an auxiliary police armband given to me by a sympathetic prison guard.

I hid in an apartment of a friend of mine in Via Parioli (Captain Antonio FERRI, now of 5 Piazza Bologna, Roma) until the entry of the Allies. Subsequently, I gave assistance to American Intelligence C.I.C. in rounding up fascists. On 5th June 1943 I met casually in the street a certain Peter RHODES, American, who gave me a lift. He talked about journalism on the way and I gave him my address. Later, he sent word to me that he would need my assistance on the News Desk of Psychological Warfare Branch. I went there and worked for him for about the first two months of the Allied Occupation, editing news. I never received any pay although the work was exacting and I was working for fifteen or more hours a day. Therefore I gave the work up of my own accord.

Whilst working at Psychological Warfare Branch I was able to render assistance to Major MANLEY of "D" Section and to Mr. D. GNUDI. They were having difficulty in finding personal files, and in sorting files in general, which were in a chaotic condition.

I brought to them a friend of mine, an anti-fascist, Sig. Aldo DOMENICHINI - 3 or 30, Via Quintino Sella, Rome - an Italian functionary of the Ministry of Popular Culture, who had been dismissed by the fascists for refusing to go North. I knew that he was just the man who could help P.W.B. to locate the files they were seeking and to give them the general lay-out of the filing system. I might say that, had I had a guilty conscience about my activities in Italy, I had ample opportunity both before and after the Allied Occupation of removing my own personal file of which I knew the exact location and contents.

Since I left P.W.B. I have lived on the proceeds of the sale of two wireless sets which I owned and for which I obtained 40,000 Lire, and by buying and selling motor-car spares, also by doing English translations for Italians.

During the past month I have been engaged at S. Angelo in Vado on the organization of a Rest and Convalescent Centre for 450 Squadron R.A.A.F. voluntarily, as I knew the district and could get them the right staff and equipment there. I came back from there just over a week ago.

With regard to the question of my nationality documents, I wish to say that my Italian passport was handed by me to Mr. Achille CIGHERO, Italian, a clerk at the American Consulate, for safekeeping, sometime in March, 1944, and only a short time ago he told me that he had it in a safe.

My British passport which expired in 1934 was lost following a motor-car accident which kept me in hospital for 5-6 weeks, during which time my effects were removed from my flat by my sisters Rita and Nancy and the passport was mislaid.

I wish to state that owing to the long lapse of time I am not able to guarantee the accuracy of the dates mentioned in this statement but to the best of my belief they are correct. This statement has been read to me by Captain L.V. GALE in the presence of Captain R. ARCHER and Lieutenant C. BOWE and it is a true statement.

two months of the Allied Occupation, during which I was working for fifteen or more hours a day, although the work was exacting and I was working for fifteen or more hours a day. Therefore I gave the work up of my own accord.

Whilst working at Psychological Warfare Branch I was able to render assistance to Major MANLEY of "D" Section and to Mr. D. GNUDI. They were having difficulty in finding personal files, and in sorting files in general, which were in a chaotic condition.

I brought to them a friend of mine, an anti-fascist, Sig. Aldo DOMENICHINI - 3 or 30, Via Quintino Sella, Rome - an Italian functionary of the Ministry of Popular Culture, who had been dismissed by the fascists for refusing to go North. I knew that he was just the man who could help P.W.B. to locate the files they were seeking and to give them the general lay-out of the filing system. I might say that, had I had a guilty conscience about my activities in Italy, I had ample opportunity both before and after the Allied Occupation of removing my own personal file of which I knew the exact location and contents.

Since I left P.W.B. I have lived on the proceeds of the sale of two wireless sets which I owned and for which I obtained 40,000 lire, and by buying and selling motor-car spares, also by doing English translations for Italians.

During the past month I have been engaged at S. Angelo in Vado on the organisation of a Rest and Convalescent Centre for 450 Squadron R.A.F., voluntarily, as I knew the district and could get them the right staff and equipment there. I came back from there just over a week ago.

With regard to the question of my nationality documents, I wish to say that my Italian passport was handed by me to Mr. Achille CICHERO, Italian, a clerk at the American Consulate, for safekeeping, sometime in March, 1944, and only a short time ago he told me that he had it in a safe.

My British passport which expired in 1934 was lost following a motor-car accident which kept me in hospital for 5-6 weeks, during which time my effects were removed from my flat by my sisters Rita and Nancy and the passport was mislaid.

I wish to state that owing to the long lapse of time I am not able to guarantee the accuracy of the dates mentioned in this statement but to the best of my belief they are correct. This statement has been read to me by Captain L.V. GALE in the presence of Captain R. ARCHER and Lieutenant C. BOWE and it is a true statement.

/s/ JOHN C. SPERMI

Statement taken down, read over and signature witnessed by me in the presence of Captain R. ARCHER, D.A.P.M. 7th Section S.I.B., G.M.P. And Lieutenant Claude J. BOWE, United States Army, attached G-2, R.A.A.C.

/s/ LOUIS V. GALE

Countersigned :-

/s/ R. A. ARCHER, Capt., D.A.P.M.
/s/ Claude J. BOWE, 1st Lt, F.A.

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

19 April 1945

STATEMENT of Captain Louis Vivian GALE, Investigating Officer, Headquarters - Allied Commission, Public Safety Sub-Commission, Security Division, who says: -

In January 1945 I examined records at the Ministry of Popular Culture, Rome, occupied by Psychological Warfare Branch, Unit No. 12, Allied Forces Headquarters.

These records, which referred to Giovanni SPERMI, were produced to me by Mr. Dante GNUDI, an American citizen, Chief of Italian Documents, attached to the above-mentioned unit of Psychological Warfare Branch. They consisted of four files: -

- (1) Blue File marked "Collaboratori. C.O. 1".
- (2) Green File marked "C.O." "2".
- (3) Red File marked "12264".
- (4) White File marked "p.25" "3".

I examined and listed the contents of the above files at the time and the contents were as described in the List of Documents signed by me and submitted with this statement.

On 7th March, 1945, the above-mentioned files and their contents were handed into my custody by Mr. Dante GNUDI. A further examination of the contents showed that they still agreed with the original list made by me.

On the same date I was handed a fifth file relating to Giovanni SPERMI by Miss Margaret Primrose KING, Personal Secretary to Mr. GNUDI: -

- (5) Red File marked "Direzione Generale per il Servizio della Stampa Estera" "3/82" "1943".

The contents of this file were examined by me and were as described in the aforementioned List of Documents. The file has since remained in my custody with the previously mentioned four files and they have remained under lock and key, nobody having access to them but myself.

At 1530 hours on 5 February 1945 I arrested John Charles Anthony SPERMI (also known as Giovanni SPERMI) at his apartment - 8 Via Belluno, (Flat 6), Rome - on which occasion I was accompanied by Captain R.A. ARCHER, D.A.P.M. 76 Section S.I.B., C.M.F. and Lieut. Claude J. BOVE, U.S. Army, attached to G-2, Rome Allied Area Command.

00027

In January 1945 I examined records at the Ministry of Popular Culture, Rome, occupied by Psychological Warfare Branch, Unit No. 12, Allied Forces Headquarters.

These records, which referred to Giovanni SPERMI, were produced to me by Mr. Dante GRUDI, an American citizen, Chief of Italian Documents, attached to the above-mentioned unit of Psychological Warfare Branch. They consisted of four files: -

- (1) Blue File marked "Collaboratori. C.O. 1".
- (2) Green File marked "C.O." "2".
- (3) Red File marked "1226A".
- (4) White File marked "p.25" "3".

I examined and listed the contents of the above files at the time and the contents were as described in the List of Documents signed by me and submitted with this statement.

On 7th March, 1945, the above-mentioned files and their contents were handed into my custody by Mr. Dante GRUDI. A further examination of the contents showed that they still agreed with the original list made by me.

On the same date I was handed a fifth file relating to Giovanni SPERMI by Miss Margaret Primrose KING, Personal Secretary to Mr. GRUDI: -

- (5) Red File marked "Direzione Generale per il Servizio della Stampa Estera" "3/32" "1943".

The contents of this file were examined by me and were as described in the aforementioned List of Documents. The file has since remained in my custody with the previously mentioned four files and they have remained under lock and key, nobody having access to them but myself.

At 1530 hours on 5 February 1945 I arrested John Charles Anthony SPERMI (also known as Giovanni SPERMI) at his apartment - 8 Via Belluno, (Flat 6), Rome - on which occasion I was accompanied by Captain R.A. ARCHER, D.A.P.M. 76 Section S.I.B., C.M.P. and Lieut. Claude J. BOVE, U.S. Army, attached to G-2, Rome Allied Area Command.

I introduced myself and the officers accompanying me to SPERMI and told him that I was going to take him into custody on charges that he, as a British subject (1) had adhered to the King's enemies, (2) had done acts with intent to assist the enemy, contrary to the Treasons Acts and Regulation 2A, Defence (General) Regulations, 1939 respectively.

I cautioned him that he was not obliged to say anything unless he wished to do so and that anything which he said might be used in evidence. He replied, "My suggestion that I have ever done anything to assist the enemy is ridiculous. In fact I have done quite the contrary and have been twice in prison at German and Italian hands, and was sentenced to death by the Germans for helping escaped Allied prisoners. This matter will be easily cleared up."

He raised no objections to his flat being searched, and accordingly a thorough

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

23 March 1945.

LIST OF FILES AND DOCUMENTS FOUND
IN THE MINISTRY OF POPULAR CULTURE,
ROME - re JOHN CHARLES ANTHONY SPERMI
- also known as GIOVANNI SPERMI -

(1) Blue File (Administrative)
Marked "Collaboratori", "C.O.", Vol. cl
Contents:

Forms of application, signed by Giovanni SPERMI requesting payment of fees for broadcasts as follows:

1. 31 broadcasts during July, 1941 - 1365 lire
(No. 1 in File)
2. 36 broadcasts during 26 May - 30 June 1941 - 1585 lire
(No. 2 in File)
3. 5 radio propaganda sketches August 1940 - 467 lire
(No. 10 in File)

Administrative letters between Inspector of Radio and Television and Administration-Personnel Section of Ministry regarding fixing of his fee at 40 lire per broadcast, as follows: -

4. Letter 1, July 1941
(No. 5 in File)
5. Letter 2, July 1941
(No. 7 in File)
6. Letter 7, July 1941
(No. 6 in File)
7. Letter 6, July 1941
(No. 4 in File)
8. Letter 14, July 1941
(No. 3 in File)

Administrative letters between above Departments requesting payment of fees to SPERMI for broadcasts as follows: -

9. 5 radio propaganda sketches - August 1940
Letter (No. 9 in File) dated 29.8.40. - 467 lire
10. 64 news broadcasts in English - 21.1.41 - 20.2.41
Letter (No. 11 in File) dated 23.2.41. - 1980 lire

000023

38
"J"

(1) Blue File (Administrative)
Marked "Collaborator", "C.O.", Vol. 11"
 Contents:

Forms of application, signed by Giovanni SPERNI requesting payment of fees for broadcasts as follows:

1. 31 broadcasts during July, 1941 - 1365 lire (No. 1 in File)
2. 36 broadcasts during 26 May - 30 June 1941 - 1585 lire (No. 2 in File)
3. 5 radio propaganda sketches August 1940 - 467 lire (No. 10 in File)

Administrative letters between Inspector of Radio and Television and Administration-Personnel Section of Ministry regarding fixing of his fee at 40 lire per broadcast, as follows: -

4. Letter 1, July 1941 (No. 5 in File)
5. Letter 2, July 1941 (No. 7 in File)
6. Letter 7, July 1941 (No. 6 in File)
7. Letter 8, July 1941 (No. 4 in File)
8. Letter 14, July 1941 (No. 3 in File)

00023

Administrative letters between above Departments requesting payment of fees to SPERNI for broadcasts as follows: -

9. 5 radio propaganda sketches - August 1940 - 467 lire
 Letter (No. 9 in File) dated 29.8.40.
10. 64 news broadcasts in English - 21.1.41 - 20.2.41 - 1980 lire
 Letter (No. 11 in File) dated 23.2.41.
11. 48 news broadcasts in English - 21.2.41 - 20.3.41 - 1560 lire
 Letter (No. 12 in File) dated 24.3.41.
12. 90 news broadcasts in English - 21.12.40 - 20.1.41 - 2505 lire
 Letter (No. 13 in File) dated 22.1.41.
13. 94 news broadcasts in English - 21.11.40 - 20.12.40 - 2435 lire
 Letter (No. 14 in File) dated 24.12.40.
14. 126 news broadcasts in English - 21.10.40-20.11.40 - 3595 lire
 Letter (No. 15 in File) dated 23.11.40.
15. 103 news broadcasts in English - 21.9.40 - 20.10.40 - 2965 lire
 Letter (No. 16 in File) dated 23.10.40.

- 2 -

16. 107 news broadcasts in English - 21.8.40 - 20.9.40
Letter (No. 17 in file) dated 21.9.40. - 3055 lire
17. 88 news broadcasts in English - 21.7.40 - 20.8.40
Letter (No. 18 in file) dated 24.8.40. - 2505 lire
18. 10 news broadcasts in English - 21.6.40 - 20.7.40
Letter (No. 19 in file) dated 22.7.40. - 280 lire
19. 44 news broadcasts in English - 21.3.41 - 20.4.41
Letter (No. 20 in file) dated 26.4.41. - 1430 lire

(2) Green File (Administrative)
Marked "C.O." Vol. "2"
Contents : -

20. Signed application by Giovanni SPERNI requesting payment of 222 lire for 5 broadcasts between 1-5 August 1941.
(No. 2 in file)
21. Letter dated 30 August, 1941 from Director, Personnel Division to Administration Division stating that the services of the "collaborator" Giovanni SPERNI had been dispensed with, as from 6 August, 1941.
(No. 1 in file)

(3) Red File (Personal)
Marked "12264"
Contents : -

22. Letter dated 28 November, 1941 from Colonel AME, Chief of "Servizio Informazioni Militare" (S.I.M.) to Minister of Popular Culture, recommending that approval be given for Giovanni SPERNI to act as correspondent for the South American "Andi" Press Agency. The writer states that S.I.M. wished to recommend SPERNI of whom they had favourable records, arising from useful information which he had given voluntarily from his profound knowledge of English territory. In conclusion, Colonel AME states that if approval be given to SPERNI, both the thanks of S.I.M. and the writer, personally, will be accorded to the Minister.
(No. 1 in file)
23. Copy letter dated 4.12.41 from Minister of Popular Culture, in reply to letter from Colonel AME as above, stating that a copy of the Minister's letter to Home and Foreign Ministries, was being forwarded to the Colonel, from which the latter would understand the Minister's good intentions regarding SPERNI.
(No. 2 in file)

24. Letter dated 14.11.41 from Pubblica Sicurezza to Minister of Popular

Letter (No. 19 in file) dated 22.7.40.

19. 44 news broadcasts in English - 21.3.41 - 20.4.41 - 1430 lire
Letter (No. 20 in file) dated 26.4.41.

(2) Green File (Administrative)
Marked "C.O." Vol. "2"
Contents : -

20. Signed application by Giovanni SPERNI requesting payment of 222 lire for 5 broadcasts between 1-5 August 1941.
(No. 2 in File)
21. Letter dated 30 August, 1941 from Director, Personnel Division to Administration Division stating that the services of the "collaborator" Giovanni SPERNI had been dispensed with, as from 6 August, 1941.
(No. 1 in File)

(3) Red File (Personal)
Marked "12264"
Contents : -

22. Letter dated 23 November, 1941 from Colonel AME, Chief of "Servizio Informazioni Militare" (S.I.M.) to Minister of Popular Culture, recommending that approval be given for Giovanni SPERNI to act as correspondent for the South American "Andi" Press Agency. The writer states that S.I.M. wished to recommend SPERNI of whom they had given favourable reports, arising from useful information which he had given voluntarily from his profound knowledge of English territory. In conclusion, Colonel AME states that if approval be given to SPERNI, both the thanks of S.I.M. and the writer, personally, will be accorded to the Minister.
(No. 1 in File)

23. Copy letter dated 4.12.41 from Minister of Popular Culture, in reply to letter from Colonel AME as above, stating that a copy of the Minister's letter to Home and Foreign Ministries, was being forwarded to the Colonel, from which the latter would understand the Minister's good intentions regarding SPERNI.
(No. 2 in File)

24. Letter dated 14.11.41 from Pubblica Sicurezza to Minister of Popular Culture, giving results of enquiries regarding Giovanni SPERNI. Encloses copy of SPERNI's certificate as a member of an English Masonic Lodge. States that SPERNI had recently been employed by Associated Press. Adds that SPERNI had said that he left the Italian Radio (where he spoke in English) because "they were always watched over."
(No. 3 in File)

(4) White File (Radio)
Marked "P.25" "S"
Contents : -

Signed applications by Giovanni SPERNI for payment of fees for broadcasting as under : -

- 3 -

- (40)
25. 5 broadcasts, 1-5 August 1941.
(No. 68 in File). - 222 lire
26. 31 broadcasts, July 1941.
(No. 67 in File). - 1365 lire
27. 25 broadcasts, 1-25 May, 1941.
(No. 59 in File). - 1101 lire
28. 36 broadcasts, 26 May-30 June 1941.
(No. 58 in File). - 1585 lire
29. Letter from Inspector of Radio and Television to Administrative and Personnel Section, dated 10.7.41, requesting payment of last two items above. - 1101 lire
(No. 60 in File)
30. Copy of note (written), dated 2.7.41 from Inspector of Radio and Television to Administration and Personnel Section, acknowledging reduction of fees for SPERNI to 40 lire per broadcast. (Attached to Memorandum from Administration and Personnel Section, dated 1.7.41 making this reduction).
(No. 56 and 55 in File)
31. Copy letter, dated 1 July, 1941, from Inspector Rome Television stating that SPERNI had collaborated with the Political Section of the Inspectorate from 1st May, 1941, without payment, pending fixing of the amount of his fees. States that SPERNI is in straightened circumstances, his child gravely ill, and requests advance of 1,000 lire.
(No. 54 in File)
32. Certificate dated 27 June 1941 signed by Inspector of Rome Television showing that SPERNI collaborated with the Inspectorate up to 15 April 1941 when he was suspended during internal re-organization. He again took up service on 1st May, 1941 but had received no payment since that date.
0002j
(No. 51 in File)
33. Letter, dated 19.6.41, signed by Giovanni SPERNI, addressed to Inspector (Radio and Television) stating that he ceased employment under the English office of the Inspectorate News Section on 15.4.41 and had since received no payment. He requests certificate to this effect so that he may claim from the Committee for Persons re-impatiated from Abroad, as he finds himself in bad financial circumstances.
(No. 47 in File)
34. Letter, dated 25.6.41, from Inspector Radio and Television to Administration Section requesting increase of fee to SPERNI from 40 lire to 50 lire per broadcast stating that "his task is of a delicate character and calls for special application on his part."
(No. 46 in File)

28. 36 broadcasts, 26 May-30 June 1941.
(No. 58 in File).
29. Letter from Inspector of Radio and Television to Administrative and Personnel Section, dated 10.7.41, requesting payment of last two items above.
(No. 60 in File)
30. Copy of note (written), dated 2.7.41 from Inspector of Radio and Television to Administration and Personnel Section, acknowledging reduction of fees for SPERNI to 40 lire per broadcast. (Attached to Memorandum from Administration and Personnel Section, dated 1.7.41 making this reduction).
(No. 56 and 55 in File)
31. Copy letter, dated 1 July, 1941, from Inspector Rome Television stating that SPERNI had collaborated with the Political Section of the Inspectorate from 1st May, 1941, without payment, pending fixing of the amount of his fees. States that SPERNI is in straightened circumstances, his child gravely ill, and requests advance of 1,000 lire.
(No. 54 in File)
32. Certificate dated 27 June 1941 signed by Inspector of Rome Television showing that SPERNI collaborated with the Inspectorate up to 15 April 1941 when he was suspended during internal re-organization. He again took up service on 1st May, 1941 but had received no payment since that date.
(No. 51 in File)
33. Letter, dated 19.6.41, signed by Giovanni SPERNI, addressed to Inspector (Radio and Television) stating that he ceased employment under the English office of the Inspectorate News Section on 15.4.41 and had since received no payment. He requests certificate to this effect so that he may claim from the Committee for Persons re-impatiated Abroad, as he finds himself in bad financial circumstances.
(No. 47 in File)
34. Letter, dated 25.6.41, from Inspector Radio and Television to Administration Section requesting increase of fee to SPERNI from 40 lire to 50 lire per broadcast stating that "his task is of a delicate character and calls for special application on his part."
(No. 46 in File)
35. Letter, dated 16.6.41, from Administration to Inspector Radio and Television, proposing reduction of SPERNI's fee to 40 lire for each daily broadcast.
(No. 42 in File)
36. Written memorandum, dated 6.6.41, signed by Inspector Radio and Television, suggesting payment of 50 lire for each broadcast by SPERNI as from 1 May, 1941. It is stated that his service occupies him from 8 AM to 2 PM.
(No. 41 in File)
37. Letter, dated 25.4.41, from Administration Section to Inspector Radio and Television, quoting letter from Commissariat of Immigration and Colonization, requesting particulars regarding dismissal of SPERNI who

had asked for special aid.

(No. 36 in File)

38. Letter, dated 7 May 1941, from Inspector Radio and Television, to Administration Section, stating that Giovanni SPERNI was no longer being used for transmission in English and was no longer a member of the English Department, having been transferred on 1 May, 1941 to the Secretary of Directorate, Division 2, for selection of radio news working mornings and afternoons. Proposes a salary of 1600 lire per month for this work.

(No. 34 in File)

39. Note written and signed by Inspector Radio and Television, dated 23 April 1941, to Administration, Division 3, asking for payment to SPERNI for broadcasts during period 21 March to 20 April, 1941 : -
22 broadcasts at 30 lire - 660 lire
22 broadcasts at 35 lire - 770 lire.

(No. 31 in File)

40. Similar note, dated 21 March 1941, for broadcasts between 21 February and 20 March 1941 : -
24 broadcasts at 30 lire - 720 lire
24 broadcasts at 35 lire - 840 lire.

(No. 30 in File)

41. Similar note, dated 22 February, 1941 for broadcasts between 21 January and 20 February, 1941 : -
26 broadcasts at 35 lire - 910 lire
32 broadcasts at 30 lire - 960 lire
2 broadcasts at 25 lire - 50 lire
4 broadcasts at 15 lire - 60 lire.

(No. 29 in File)

42. Memorandum, dated 3.2.41, from Inspector Radio and Television, to SPERNI stating that as from that date he would carry out the first two English transmissions of the day, except on Thursday which was to be his regular day of liberty.

(No. 27 in File)

43. Note, dated 21.1.41, from Inspector Radio and Television, to Administration Section, requesting payment to SPERNI of fees for broadcasts during 21.12.40 - 20.1.41 for news transmissions : -
17 broadcasts at 35 lire - 595 lire
49 broadcasts at 30 lire - 1470 lire
8 broadcasts at 25 lire - 200 lire
16 broadcasts at 15 lire - 240 lire.

00022

(No. 25 in File)

44. Similar note, dated 22 December, 1940 for broadcasts during 21.11.40 - 20.12.40 : -
19 broadcasts at 15 lire - 285 lire
20 broadcasts at 25 lire - 500 lire
20 broadcasts at 30 lire - 600 lire.

39. Note to Administration, dated 21 March 1941, for broadcasts between 21 February and 20 March 1941 : -
for broadcasts during period 21 March to 20 April, 1941 : -
22 broadcasts at 30 lire - 660 lire
22 broadcasts at 35 lire - 770 lire
(No. 31 in File)

40. Similar note, dated 21 March 1941, for broadcasts between 21 February and 20 March 1941 : -
24 broadcasts at 30 lire - 720 lire
24 broadcasts at 35 lire - 840 lire
(No. 30 in File)

41. Similar note, dated 22 February, 1941 for broadcasts between 21 January and 20 February, 1941 : -
26 broadcasts at 35 lire - 910 lire
32 broadcasts at 30 lire - 960 lire
2 broadcasts at 25 lire - 50 lire
4 broadcasts at 15 lire - 60 lire
(No. 29 in File)

42. Memorandum, dated 3.2.41, from Inspector Radio and Television, to SPERNI stating that as from that date he would carry out the first two English transmissions of the day, except on Thursday which was to be his regular day of liberty.
(No. 27 in File)

43. Note, dated 21.1.41, from Inspector Radio and Television, to Administration Section, requesting payment to SPERNI of fees for broadcasts during 21.12.40 - 20.1.41 for news transmissions : -
17 broadcasts at 35 lire - 595 lire
17 broadcasts at 30 lire - 470 lire
49 broadcasts at 25 lire - 200 lire
8 broadcasts at 15 lire - 240 lire
16 broadcasts at 15 lire - 240 lire
(No. 25 in File)

00022

16 broadcasts during 21.11.40

44. Similar note, dated 22 December, 1940 for broadcasts during 21.10.40 - 20.12.40 : -
19 broadcasts at 15 lire - 285 lire
20 broadcasts at 25 lire - 500 lire
55 broadcasts at 30 lire - 1650 lire
(No. 24 in File)

45. Similar note, dated 21 November, 1940, for broadcasts during 21.10.40 - 20.11.40 : -
31 broadcasts at 25 lire - 775 lire
93 broadcasts at 30 lire - 2790 lire
2 broadcasts at 15 lire - 30 lire
(No. 22 in File)

46. Copy letter dated 17 November 1940 from Inspector of Radio and Television to Giovanni SPERNI, reprimanding him for being (a) 4 minutes late on 16.11.40 for transmission of war commentary at 1300 hours and (b) 1 minute late for news transmission at 1535 hours on 16.11.40.
(No. 20 in File)

- 5 -

47. Application by SPERNI, dated 31.10.40, to Administration Section, asking for a certificate showing his employment as editor-announcer at the Inspectorate of Radio, the certificate being required in order to obtain a ration card.
(No. 16 in File)
48. Written request from Inspector Radio and Television, dated 22.10.40 to Administration Section asking for payment of fees to SPERNI FOR broadcasts of news in English during 21.9.40 to 20.10.40 : -
78 broadcasts at 30 lire - 2340 lire
25 broadcasts at 25 lire - 625 lire.
(No. 15 in File)
49. Letter, dated 26.9.40, from Administrative Section to Inspectorate of Radio and Television, stating that enquiries regarding Giovanni SPERNI have proved favourable. Authorization is given for his employment in regard to the service of news in English.
(No. 13 in File)
50. Written note, dated 20.9.40, from Inspector of Radio and Television requesting payment to Giovanni SPERNI for broadcasts between 21 August and 20 September, 1940 : -
76 broadcasts at 30 lire - 2280 lire
31 broadcasts at 25 lire - 775 lire.
(No. 12 in File)
51. Application signed by Giovanni SPERNI, for payment of fees for "collaboration in 5 radio sketches during August, 1940". Amount of fees claimed - 467 lire.
(No. 10 in File)
52. Written note, dated 22.8.40, from Inspector Radio and Television, requesting payment to SPERNI for broadcasts between 21.7.40 and 20.8.40 : -
31 broadcasts at 25 lire - 775 lire
56 broadcasts at 30 lire - 1680 lire
1 broadcast at 50 lire - 50 lire.
(No. 9 in File)
53. Written note, dated 20.7.40, from Inspector of Radio and Television requesting payment to SPERNI for broadcasts 21 June - 20 July 1940 : -
4 broadcasts at 25 lire - 100 lire
6 broadcasts at 30 lire - 180 lire.
(No. 5 in File)
54. Letter, dated 15 July, 1940, from Administration Section to Inspector Radio and Television authorizing the employment of Giovanni SPERNI as editor and announcer of news in English, subject to results of enquiries about his being satisfactory.
(No. 3 in File)

00021

... dated 7 July, 1940, from Inspector of Radio and Television to

broadcasts of news in English during 21.9.40 to 20.10.40 :-
78 broadcasts at 30 lire - 2340 lire
25 broadcasts at 25 lire - 625 lire.

(No. 15 in File)

49. Letter, dated 26.9.40, from Administrative Section to Inspectorate of Radio and Television, stating that enquiries regarding Giovanni SPERNI have proved favourable. Authorization is given for his employment in regard to the service of news in English.

(No. 13 in File)

50. Written note, dated 20.9.40, from Inspector of Radio and Television requesting payment to Giovanni SPERNI for broadcasts between 21 August and 20 September, 1940 :-
76 broadcasts at 30 lire - 2280 lire
31 broadcasts at 25 lire - 775 lire.

(No. 12 in File)

51. Application signed by Giovanni SPERNI, for payment of fees for "collaboration in 5 radio sketches during August, 1940". Amount of fees claimed - 467 lire.

(No. 10 in File)

52. Written note, dated 22.8.40, from Inspector Radio and Television, requesting payment to SPERNI for broadcasts between 21.7.40 and 20.8.40 :-
31 broadcasts at 25 lire - 775 lire
56 broadcasts at 30 lire - 1680 lire
1 broadcast at 50 lire - 50 lire.

(No. 9 in File)

53. Written note, dated 20.7.40, from Inspector of Radio and Television requesting payment to SPERNI for broadcasts 21 June - 20 July 1940 :-
4 broadcasts at 25 lire - 100 lire
6 broadcasts at 30 lire - 180 lire.

(No. 5 in File)

54. Letter, dated 15 July, 1940, from Administration Section to Inspector Radio and Television authorizing the employment of Giovanni SPERNI as editor and announcer of news in English, subject to results of enquiries about his being satisfactory.

(No. 3 in File)

55. Letter, dated 7 July, 1940, from Inspector of Radio and Television to Administration and Personnel Section, requesting authority to employ "Ing. Giovanni SPERNI" as editor-announcer of news in English, remuneration to be on the approved scale. States that SPERNI was recently repatriated from England and was without means with a wife and two children to support. Describes him as being inscribed in the Fascist Party, P.M.F. in London.

(No. 2 in File)

(5) Red File (Foreign Press)
Marked 3/82/1943
Contents :-

56. Copy memorandum, undated but among October 1943 papers in file, made in

Ministry of Popular Culture, Directorate General of Foreign Press Service, relative to SPERNI. Memorandum treats with information furnished by SPERNI voluntarily to Ministry of War. Full translation submitted separately.

(No. 3 in File)

57. Letter dated 11 August 1943 from Ministry of Popular Culture to Ministry of the Interior, Directorate General of Public Safety, wherein is declared that SPERNI has given important information to S.I.M.

(No. 17 in File)

58. Memorandum dated 9 August 1943, from Directorate General of Foreign Press, Ministry of Popular Culture, to the Minister himself, in which memorandum it is declared that SPERNI rendered important services to the country as per letter received from Colonel AME of S.I.M., dated 28 November 1941.

(No. 21 and 22 in File)

59. Letter dated 14 January 1943 from Ambassador ROCCO, Director General of Foreign Press, to CARMEINE SEMISE, Head of Rome Police, indicating plea by writer on SPERNI's behalf on the basis of past sentiments, information rendered to S.I.M and general fascist tendencies of SPERNI.

(No. 23 in File)

60. Letter dated 1 March 1942 from Ambassador ROCCO, Director General of Foreign Press, to John TALVACCHIA, "Prefetto del Regno, Capo di Gabinetto della Camera dei Fasci e delle Corporazioni, Segretario Particolare del Ministro di Grazia e Giustizia" in Rome, wherein a plea is made for SPERNI. Redeeming points mentioned on SPERNI's behalf are SPERNI's intimate friendship with Dino GRANDI and the very favorable letter written by Colonel AME, head of S.I.M.

(No. 48 in File)

61. Letter dated 19 January 1942 from Ambassador Rocco, Director General of Foreign Press, to Carmine SEMISE, head of Rome Police, wherein is stated that SPERNI's correspondent service with ANDI was an attempted experiment for which S.I.M had favorably given its approval to SPERNI for continuing it.

(No. 61 in File)

62. Memorandum dated 1 January 1942, found in files of Ministry of Popular Culture (3/82/1943) which states that SPERNI made the remark he was happy to keep his double Italian and English nationality so that "which-ever way matters go after the war, it will allow me to remain at ease". ("comunque vadano le cose mi permette dopo la guerra di essere a posto").

(No. 74 in File)

63. Letter dated 28 November 1941, written by Colonel AME, head of S.I.M and directed to Prefect LUCIANO, Ministry of Popular Culture, in which he mentions amount of information given by SPERNI voluntarily to S.I.M.

(No. 90 in File)

58. Memorandum dated 9 August 1943, from Directorate General of Foreign Press, Ministry of Popular Culture, to the Minister of Culture, in which memorandum it is declared that SPERNI rendered important services to the country as per letter received from Colonel AME of S.I.M., dated 28 November 1941.
(No. 21 and 22 in File)
59. Letter dated 14 January 1943 from Ambassador ROCCO, Director General of Foreign Press, to CARME SEMISE, Head of Rome Police, indicating plea by writer on SPERNI's behalf on the basis of past sentiments, information rendered to S.I.M and general fascist tendencies of SPERNI.
(No. 23 in File)
60. Letter dated 1 March 1942 from Ambassador ROCCO, Director General of Foreign Press, to John TALVACCHIA, "Prefetto del Regno, Capo di Gabinetto della Camera dei Fasci e delle Corporazioni, Segretario Particolare del Ministro di Grazia e Giustizia" in Rome, wherein a plea is made for SPERNI. Redeeming points mentioned on SPERNI's behalf are SPERNI's intimate friendship with Dino GRANDI and the very favorable letter written by Colonel AME, head of S.I.M.
(No. 48 in File)
61. Letter dated 19 January 1942 from Ambassador Rocco, Director General of Foreign Press, to Carmine SEMISE, head of Rome Police, wherein is stated that SPERNI's correspondent service with ANDI was an attempted experiment for which S.I.M had favorably given its approval to SPERNI for continuing it.
(No. 61 in File)
62. Memorandum dated 1 January 1942, found in files of Ministry of Popular Culture (3/82/1943) which states that SPERNI made the remark he was happy to keep his double Italian and English nationality so that "which-ever way matters go after the war, it will allow me to remain at ease". ("comunque vadano le cose mi permette dopo la guerra di essere a posto").
(No. 74 in File)
63. Letter dated 28 November 1941, written by Colonel AME, head of S.I.M and directed to Prefect LUCIANO, Ministry of Popular Culture, in which he mentions amount of information given by SPERNI voluntarily to S.I.M.
(No. 90 in File)
64. Letter dated 7 November 1941, from Ambassador ROCCO, Director General of Foreign Press, Ministry of Popular Culture, to the Minister of Popular Culture, wherein is explained how ANDI Press Agency would be the outlet of Italian information and propaganda to the South American Continent, (for Associated Press). SPERNI, in his capacity as Rome correspondent, had willingly agreed to cooperate in such endeavors just as a certain BOSCHETTO had agreed to do the same for United Press, through the South American newspaper, "LA PRENSA".
(No. 91 of File)
65. Carbon copy of letter dated 12 July 1941, unsigned and directed to a PAUL? wherein is explained that John SPERNI was removed from his position as radio announcer only because of the reason that he had a strong "cockney" accent. He was still considered favorably enough to be given

- 7 -

(44)

another position within the Ministry of Popular Culture.
(No. 101 in file)

Termin. H. Galt
Captain
A.Q. Ac. Security Div.

LWG/CJB

1001

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

22 March 1945.

Translation of attached document is as follows:

MINISTRY OF POPULAR CULTURE
DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR FOREIGN PRESS SERVICE
DIV. II

MEMORANDUM RELATIVE TO JOHN SPERNI

Relative the enrollment of John SPERNI in a Masonic Lodge, during his stay in England, it is pointed out, after having been duly interrogated, that SPERNI has confirmed, in good faith, that which the Ministry of the Interior reports. He added that, upon his return to Italy at the outbreak of hostilities, he voluntarily presented himself to the Ministry of War in order to furnish all of the data in his possession which could be of service to Italy during the war operations. Among the more urgent requests made to him was that of loaning as many of his documents as possible (identification card, pass, papers bearing the headings of English firms, etc.) which, after having been re-produced, were to be used by German parachutists. Among the documents in question, SPERNI included his enrollment card in a Masonic Lodge. (A copy of the reproduction of the latter was then obviously sent to the Ministry of the Interior).

That SPERNI had, by means of this gesture along with other information rendered, greatly contributed to the Axis war effort is evident by the fact that several officers came from Berlin especially sent to interrogate him and to bring up to date, on the basis of his words, the maps upon which were marked the English industrial firms. (In his capacity as contractor for road works, SPERNI had the opportunity to travel throughout England up to the eve of the entrance into war).

In reference again to the enrollment in the Masonic Lodge, it is to be noted that such enrollment was permitted by our Authority in England, even for those who were enrolled in the Fasci and that, as a matter of fact, almost all of the more important members of the Italian Colony and the Fascio Italiano of London belonged to a lodge. Thus it was that the social as well as political function of Masonry in England was recognized and it was not desired to deny to the Italians, especially to those of the professional class, this strong aid to them in obtaining positions in competition with the English.

00018

MINISTRY OF POPULAR CULTURE
DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR FOREIGN PRESS SERVICE

DIV. II

MEMORANDUM RELATIVE TO JOHN SPERNI

Relative to the enrollment of John SPERNI in a Masonic Lodge, during his stay in England, it is pointed out, after having been duly interrogated, that SPERNI has confirmed, in good faith, that which the Ministry of the Interior reports. He added that, upon his return to Italy at the outbreak of hostilities, he voluntarily presented himself to the Ministry of War in order to furnish all of the data in his possession which could be of service to Italy during the war operations. Among the more urgent requests made to him was that of loaning as many of his documents as possible (identification card, pass, papers bearing the headings of English firms, etc.) which, after having been re-produced, were to be used by German parachutists. Among the documents in question, SPERNI included his enrollment card in a Masonic Lodge. (A copy of the reproduction of the latter was then obviously sent to the Ministry of the Interior).

That SPERNI had, by means of this gesture along with other information rendered, greatly contributed to the Axis war effort is evident by the fact that several officers came from Berlin especially sent to interrogate him and to bring up to date, on the basis of his words, the maps upon which were marked the English industrial firms. (In his capacity as contractor for road works, SPERNI had the opportunity to travel throughout England up to the eve of the entrance into war).

In reference again to the enrollment in the Masonic Lodge, it is to be noted that such enrollment was permitted by our Authority in England, even for those who were enrolled in the Fasci and that, as a matter of fact, almost all of the more important members of the Italian Colony and the Fascio Italiano of London belonged to a Lodge. Thus it was that the social as well as political function of Masonry in England was recognized and it was not desired to deny to the Italians, especially to those of the professional class, this strong aid to them in obtaining positions in competition with the English.

Translated by:
Claude J. Bove
Claude J. Bove,
1st Lt. F.A.

00018

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

10 March 1945.

Copy of Application for Employment made out by JOHN CHARLES SPENT with
PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE BRANCH.

PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE BRANCH
APPLICATION FOR EMPLOYMENT
(NATIVE CIVILIAN)

NAME.....JOHN CHARLES ANTHONY SPENT.....
ADDRESS.....8 Via Balluno Rome.....
DATE OF BIRTH.....16 August 1912.....PLACE OF BIRTH.....London, England.....
MARITAL STATUS.....Married.....NUMBER OF DEPENDENTS.....3 (Wife and two children)
USUAL EMPLOYMENT.....News correspondent and Journalism.....
EMPLOYMENT PAST TEN YEARS.....Journalism.....
.....
.....
CITIZENSHIP.....British.....
EDUCATION.....Salesian College Parnborough, Hants, England, Mercers School, London.
.....London Matriculation certificate.....
DEGREES HELD.....nil.....WHEN OBTAINED.....
MILITARY SERVICE.....None.....

I, the undersigned, certify that the statements made above are full and
true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

.....
SIGNATURE WITNESS.....JOHN SPENT
SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT.....
(use reverse side for additional space)

(NATIVE CIVILIAN)

1 3 2 7
Date.....June 6, 1944.....
NAME.....JOHN CHARLES ANTHONY SPERMI.....
ADDRESS.....8 Via Belluno Rome.....
DATE OF BIRTH.....16 August 1912.....PLACE OF BIRTH.....London, England.....
MARITAL STATUS.....Married.....NUMBER OF DEPENDENTS.....3 (Wife and two children)
USUAL EMPLOYMENT.....News correspondent and Journalism.....
EMPLOYMENT PAST TEN YEARS.....Journalism.....

CITIZENSHIP.....British.....
EDUCATION.....Salesian College Parnborough, Hants, England; Mercers School, London.....
DEGREES HELD.....None.....WHEN OBTAINED.....
MILITARY SERVICE.....None.....

I, the undersigned, certify that the statements made above are full and true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

.....
SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT
JOHN SPERMI

.....
SIGNATURE WITNESS

(use reverse side for additional space)

A true copy of original.

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

00017

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

12 March 1945

Copy of Application made out by NEWS & MONITORING Section of PSYCHOLOGICAL
WARFARE BRANCH for JOHN CHARLES SPENNI.

A.T.H.Q.
P.W.F.
NEWS & MONITORING
RAF AREA COMMAND

DATE. JUNE 6, 1944

NAME JOHN CHARLES ANTHONY SPENNI

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS News editing, production of news in English from

Italian sources.

TYPE OF WORK TO BE DONE News editor.

WHERE AND WHEN TO REPORT Reported June 6, 1944 to Captain Parker, Basic News

NEED TEMPORARY OR PERMANENT Temporary.

(s) Signature illegible

CHARLES J. PARKER
CAPTAIN, AUS.

A true copy of original.

Claude J. Bove
Claude J. Bove,
1st Lt. P.W.

00016

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

12 March 1945

PERSONNEL RECORD CARD OF JOHN CHARLES SPERMI, filed with PSYCHOLOGICAL
WARFARE BRANCH.

PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE BRANCH

AMHQ

FOR PERSONNEL RECORD CARD

NAME JOHN CHARLES ANTHONY SPERMI
ADDRESS E VIA BELLIAMO, ROMA.
FATHER'S NAME JOHN CHARLES GERALD SPERMI
MOTHER'S NAME ANNIE CHALLIS
IDENTITY CARD & NO Identity card issued at CANTIANO, Pesaro during internment
(no number)
SECURITY REQUESTED (DATE) APPROVED
MARITAL STATUS MARRIED NO. OF DEPENDENTS THREE
DATE OF BIRTH AUGUST 16, 1912.
SALARY 6000
ED June 5th
POSITION News Editor
DIVISION ASSIGNED
COB
REMARKS

(Use reverse side for record
of payment)

A true copy of original.

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

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

Request made by JOHN SPERNI to Servizio Informazioni Militari (SIM) for work in any capacity deemed best. Carbon copy of letter found among cablegrams in maid's room during search of apartment at Via Belluno 8, Flat 6, Rome, Italy, 5 February 1945.

On.le MINISTERO DELLA GUERRA
Servizio Informazioni Militari

R O M A

Il sottoscritto SPERNI GIOVANNI CARLO, figlio del Com. Giovanni e di Challis Annie (irlandese) rivolge rispettosa domanda a codesto On.le Ministero per essere assunto presso il Servizio Informazioni Militari con qualsiasi qualifica che meglio credessero ed attinenti al predetto servizio.

Lo scrivente si pregia specificare le sue qualifiche e le generalità :

Nato a Londra il 16 Agosto 1912, ha sempre conservato la cittadinanza italiana e si è iscritto nel Registro Nazionale in seguito all'atto di sottoscrizione fatta al Consolato Generale Italiano a Londra. E' laureato all'Università di Londra nel 1936 nella Facoltà Ingegneria.

Rimpatriato, in seguito al conflitto italo-inglese, di sua spontanea volontà insieme all'Ambasciatore Italiano a Londra, fu assunto dal Ministero della Cultura Popolare (servizio Radio) in qualità di Redattore- cecitore (Speaker) in lingua inglese, posto che ricoprì fino a pochi giorni fa.

Il padre dello scrivente occupò la carica di Sindaco del Municipio di S. Pancrazio a Londra (uno dei più importanti della Capitale) posto che fu ricomferato per due anni dal novembre 1937 al 1939 - Lo stesso occupò, tuttora la carica di Vice Presidente e Governatore dell'Ospedale Italiano a Londra - (Il padre dello scrivente ha potuto occupare la carica di Sindaco del Municipio di S. Pancrazio perché essendo nato in Inghilterra, aveva la doppia nazionalità. Si fa rilevare inoltre che il padre dello scrivente non ha mai rinunciato la cittadinanza italiana. Per l'opera assidue prestata poi per la Colonia italiana a Londra, ottenne l'onorificenza di Comendatore, come da comunicazione dell'8-6-1940- ricevuta dall'Ambasciata Italiana a Londra.)

00014

R O M A

Il sottoscritto SPERMI GIOVANNI CARLO, figlio del Comm. Giovanni e di Challis Annie (irlandese) rivolge rispettosa domanda a codesto On.le Ministero per essere assunto presso il Servizio Informazioni Militari con qualsiasi qualifica che meglio credessero ed attinenti al predetto servizio.

Lo scrivente si pregia specificare le sue qualifiche e le generalità :

Nato a Londra il 16 Agosto 1912, ha sempre conservato la cittadinanza italiana e si è iscritto nel Registro Nazionale in seguito all'atto di sottoscrizione fatta al Consolato Generale Italiano a Londra. E' laureato all'Università di Londra nel 1936 nella Facoltà Ingegneria.

Rimpatriato, in seguito al conflitto italo-inglese, di sua spontanea volontà insieme all'Ambasciatore Italiano a Londra, fu assunto dal Ministero della Cultura Popolare (servizio Radio) in qualità di Redattore- dicttore (Speaker) in lingua inglese, posto che ricoprì fino a pochi giorni fa.

Il padre dello scrivente occupò la carica di Sindaco del Municipio di S. Pancrazio a Londra (uno dei più importanti della Capitale) posto che fu conferato per due anni dal novembre 1937 al 1939 - Lo stesso occupò tuttora la carica di Vice Presidente e Governatore dell'Ospedale Italiano a Londra. (Il padre dello scrivente ha potuto occupare la carica di Sindaco del Municipio di S. Pancrazio perché essendo nato in Inghilterra, aveva la doppia nazionalità. Si fa rilevare inoltre che il padre dello scrivente non ha mai rinunciato la cittadinanza italiana. Per l'opera assidue prestata poi per la Colonia italiana a Londra, ottenne l'onorificenza di Commendatore, come da comunicazione dell'8-6-1940-XVIII- ricevuta dall'Ambasciata Italiana a Londra.)

L'esponente fa inoltre presente di conoscere a perfezione la lingua inglese ed il mondo anglosassone - Che è stato impiegato come Ingegnere collaudatore presso la più grande Compagnia di Costruzioni nel Regno Unito e che per gli ultimi due anni della sua residenza in Inghilterra lavorò esclusivamente per conto di questa Compagnia nella costruzione di aerodromi, campi militari ecc.

Il sottoscritto trovasi in Italia con la propria moglie e due bambine, nonché un proprio fratello al di lui carico anch'esso rimpatriato dall'Inghilterra.

00014

I componenti la famiglia dello scrivente, ossia i genitori ed un altro fratello, e due sorelle, sono rimasti a Londra, per la ristrettezza di tempo al rimpatrio, dovendo sistemare alcuni affari di indole economica.

Fiducioso che quanto esposto in forma analitica, sia sufficiente alla Vostra richiesta, e rimanendo a disposizione per qualsiasi altro chiarimento che credessero necessario, rimango nella fiduciosa attesa di un favorevole esito.

Ringraziando, fascistivamente ossequio.

dev.mo

Via Sforza 14, int. 16/A - Roma -
Roma, 23 Aprile 1941-XIX.

P.S. Si fa inoltre presente che lo scrivente a suo tempo fece domanda a Londra per l'iscrizione al Partito Nazionale Fascista, ma che era in attesa di risposta, quando dovette improvvisamente recarsi in Italia. Rinnovo tempo fa la stessa domanda in Italia, e gli fu promesso che fra giorni gli verrà accordata la tessera.

Translation of above document is as follows:

TO THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF WAR
SERVICE OF MILITARY INFORMATION

R O M E

The undersigned SPERNI GIOVANNI CARLO, son of Comm. Giovanni and Challis Annie (of Irish parentage), respectfully submits his request to the above Ministry in order to assume a position with the Service for Military Information in any capacity deemed best and contingent to the afore-mentioned service.

The writer begs to explain his qualifications and to give general information about himself:

0001 J

Born in London on 16 August 1912, he has always retained his Italian citizenship and is inscribed in the National Register following an act of submission made at the Italian General Consulate in London. He graduated from the University of London in 1936 in the faculty of Engineering.

Upon being repatriated following the outbreak of Italian-English hostilities, spontaneously and of his own will together with the Italian Ambassador in London, he was employed by the Ministry of Popular Culture (Radio section) in the capacity of editor-announcer (Speaker) in the English language, a position which he occupied

1 3 3 3

sia sufficiente alla vostra...
a disposizione per qualsiasi altro chiarimento che
credessero necessario, rimango nella fiduciosa at-
sa di un favorevole esito.

Ringraziando, fascistivamente ossequio.

dev.mo

Via Sforza 14 int. 16/A - Roma -
Roma, 23 Aprile 1941-XIX.

P.S. Si fa inoltre presente che lo scrivente a suo
tempo fece domanda a Londra per l'iscrizione al Par-
tito Nazionale Fascista, ma che era in attesa di
risposta, quando dovette improvvisamente recarsi in
Italia. Rinnovo tempo fa la stessa domanda in Italia,
e gli fu promesso che fra giorni gli verrà accordata
la tessera.

Translation of above document is as follows:

TO THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF WAR
SERVICE OF MILITARY INFORMATION

R O M E

The undersigned SPERNI GIOVANNI CARLO, son of Comm. Giovanni and Challis
Armie (of Irish parentage), respectfully submits his request to the above Ministry
in order to assume a position with the Service for Military Information in any
capacity deemed best and contingent to the afore-mentioned service.

The writer begs to explain his qualifications and to give general information
about himself :

00001 J
Born in London on 16 August 1912, he has always retained his Italian citizen-
ship and is inscribed in the National Register following an act of submission made
at the Italian General Consulate in London. He graduated from the University of
London in 1936 in the faculty of Engineering.

Upon being repatriated following the outbreak of Italian-English hostilities,
spontaneously and of his own will together with the Italian Ambassador in London,
he was employed by the Ministry of Popular Culture (Radio section) in the capacity
of editor-announcer (Speaker) in the English language, a position which he occupied
up to within a few days ago.

The father of the writer held the position of Mayor of the Municipality of
St. Pancras in London (one of the most important of the Capital), a position which
was re-conferred upon him for two years from November 1937 to 1939. The latter
at present holds the position of Vice-President and Governor of the Italian Hospital
in London. (The father of the writer was able to hold the position of Mayor of
the Municipality of St. Pancras because, having been born in England, he possessed
a dual nationality. Moreover it is to be noted that the father of the writer has
never renounced his Italian citizenship. For the excellence of his work performed
for the Italian colony in London, he obtained the honorary title of Commendatore,
according to communication dated 8-6-1940-XVIII, received from the Italian Ambass-
ador in London).

(51)

The writer also wishes to point out that he knows perfectly the English language as well as the Anglo-Saxon world; that he was employed as testing engineer with the largest Construction Company of the United Kingdom and that during the last two years of his residence in England, he worked exclusively for this Company in the construction of aerodromes, military areas, etc.

The undersigned finds himself in Italy with his wife and two children, as well as a brother whom he is supporting and who also was repatriated from England.

Members of the family of the writer, that is, a father, another brother and two sisters, were left behind in London, due to the short period of time for repatriation, since they had to arrange several matters of an economic nature.

Trusting that what has been explained in analytical form is sufficient for your request, and remaining at your disposition for any clarification that may be deemed necessary, I remain faithfully awaiting a favorable outcome.

Thanking you, with Fascist greetings, I remain,

Yours very devotedly

Via Sforza 14 Int. 16/A - Roma -
Roma, 23 April 1941-XIX.

P.S. It is also to be borne in mind that the writer previously made a request in London to be enrolled in the National Fascist Party but, while awaiting an answer, he was obliged to leave suddenly for Italy. A short time ago, he renewed his request in Italy and he was promised that within a few days he would be given his enrollment identification card.

Translated by:

Claude J. Rowe
Claude J. Rowe,
1st Lt. F.A.

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

Request made by JOHN SPERNI to Commissariato Speciale per le Migrazioni for aid for himself and his dependents. Communication indicates: type of work performed for Ministry of Popular Culture and hours; length of time in this work and probable reason for dismissal. The following communications were found among cablegrams in maid's room during search of apartment at Via Helluno 8, Flat 6, Rome, Italy, 5 February 1945.

(Communication A)

Commissariato Speciale per le migrazioni
C.O.R.I.

Il sottoscritto, Ing. GIOVANNI SPERNI, di Giovanni rimpatriato dall'Inghilterra il 2 luglio 1940-XVIII esporre quanto segue

- (1) Una settimana, circa, dopo il suo rimpatriato fu assunto dal Ministero della Cultura Popolare, Ispettorato per la Radio e la Televisione, quale Redattore Annunciatore in lingua inglese.
- (2) Il 15 Aprile ca. fu licenziato dall'ufficio inglese del Ispettorato. Peró fu riassunto il 1 maggio ca. quale collaboratore nel Ufficio Notizie del Ispettorato.
- (3) Dal 5 Agosto 1941 si trova senza lavoro in seguito alla comunicazione, di cui una copia qui accluso.

- (4) Il sottoscritto espone inoltre che dalla data del suo rimpatrio á percepito da Codesto Commissariato un mese solo di sussidio e qualche piccolo sussidio straordinario. Nelle circostanze fa rispetosa istanza onde ottenere sussidio per se ed i suoi dipendenti (moglie e due figlie).

Fa inoltre presente che dal 15 aprile ca. non á regolarmente percepito il stipendio dal Ministero della Cultura Popolare, essendogli stato pagato in anticipo di lire 1000 solamente.

/s/ GIOVANNI SPERNI

8 Agosto XIX
Via Sforza 14, int 16 bis Scale D
Roma.

(Communication A)

Commissariato Speciale per le migrazioni
C.O.R.I.

Il sottoscritto, Ing. GIOVANNI SPERNI, di Giovanni rimpatriato dall'Inghilterra il 2 luglio 1940.XVIII esporre quanto segue

- (1) Una settimana, circa, dopo il suo rimpatriato fu assunto dal Ministero della Cultura Popolare, Ispettorato per la Radio e la Televisione, quale Redattore Annunciatore in lingua inglese.
- (2) Il 15 Aprile ca. fu licenziato dall'ufficio inglese del Ispettorato. Perè fu riassunto il 1 maggio ca. quale collaboratore nel Ufficio Notizie del Ispettorato.

- (3) Dal 5 Agosto 1941 si trova senza lavoro in seguito alla comunicazione, di cui una copia qui accluso.

- (4) Il sottoscritto esporre inoltre che dalla data del suo rimpatrio a percepito da Codesto Commissariato un mese solo di sussidio e qualche piccolo sussidio straordinario. Nelle circostanze fa rispettosa istanza onde ottenere sussidio per se ed i suoi dipendenti (moglie e due figlie).

Fa inoltre presente che dal 15 aprile ca. non a regolarmente percepito il stipendio dal Ministero della Cultura Popolare, essendogli stato pagato in anticipo di lire 1000 solamente.

/s/ GIOVANNI SPERNI

8 Agosto XIX
Via Sforza 14, int 16 bis Scale D
Roma.

Translation of above document is as follows:

Special Commissariat for Immigration
C.O.R.I.

00011

The undersigned Ing. GIOVANNI SPERNI, di Giovanni, repatriated from England on 2 July 1940.XVIII, states the following:

- (1) About a week after his repatriation he was employed by the Ministry of Popular Culture, Inspectorate for Radio and Television, as editor-announcer in the English language.
- (2) On the 15th of April, current, he was discharged from the

English office of the Inspectorate. However, he was re-employed on the 1st May, current, as a collaborator in the News Office of the Inspectorate.

(3) Since 5 August 1941 he is without employment as a result of a communication a copy of which is attached.

(4) The undersigned also states that since the date of his repatriation he has received from the above-mentioned Commissariat one month's aid only and a small extraordinary aid. Under the circumstances, he makes a special point of this in order to obtain some aid for himself and his dependents (a wife and two children).

He also states that since the 15th of April, current, he has not received his regular salary from the Ministry of Popular Culture, since he was only paid a 1000 lire in advance.

/s/ JOHN SPERNI

2 August XIX
Via Sforza 14, Apartment 16 bis Scale D
Rome.

(Communication B)

MINISTERO DELLA CULTURA POPOLARE
Ispettorato per la Radiodiffusione e la Televisione
DIV. I

APPUNTO PER IL SIGNOR GIOVANNI SPERNI

S E D E

Vi informo che a partire dal giorno 6 agosto siete esonerato dalla collaborazione presso questo Ispettorato.

L'ISPETTORE
(G. Pession)

Roma, 5 Ago 1941 Anno XIX.

Translation of above document is as follows:

MINISTERY OF POPULAR CULTURE
INSPECTORATE FOR RADIO TRANSMISSION AND TELEVISION
DIV. I

MEMO FOR MR. JOHN SPERNI.

HEAD OFFICE

00010

aid. Under the circumstances, he makes a special point of this in order to obtain some aid for himself and his dependents (a wife and two children).

He also states that since the 15th of April, current, he has not received his regular salary from the Ministry of Popular Culture, since he was only paid a 1000 liras in advance.

8 August XIX
Via Sforza 14, Apartment 16 bis Scale D
Rome.

/s/ JOHN SPERNI

(Communication B)

MINISTERO DELLA CULTURA POPOLARE
Ispettorato per la Radiodiffusione e la Televisione
DIV. I

APPUNTO PER IL SIGNOR GIOVANNI SPERNI

S E D E

Vi informo che a partire dal giorno 6 agosto siete esonerato dalla collaborazione presso questo Ispettorato.

L'ISPETTORE
(G. Pessione)

Roma, 5 Ago 1941 Anno XIX.

Translation of above document is as follows:

MINISTRY OF POPULAR CULTURE
INSPECTORATE FOR RADIO TRANSMISSION AND TELEVISION
DIV. I

MEMO FOR MR. JOHN SPERNI.

HEAD OFFICE

You are informed that commencing with the 6th of August you are released from collaboration work with this Inspectorate.

Rome, 5th August 1941, XIX.

THE INSPECTOR
(G. Pessione)

00010

(Communication C)

Ispettorato per la Radiodiffusione e la Televisione

Div. I

APPUNTO PER IL COMM. PARESCE

=====

Con riferimento alla lettera n° 8890 del 26 luglio ho l'onore di esporre quanto segue.

- 1) - In un primo tempo il mio orario era dalle ore 8 alle ore 14.
- 2) - In seguito alle esigenze del servizio e la riduzione del personale dell'Ufficio Notizie, d'accordo col Capo Reparto ed in seguito a mio suggerimento, mi è stato assegnato il seguente orario: dalle ore 11 alle 14 e dalle 17 alle 20.
- 3) - Il mio nuovo orario ha avuto inizio il 24 luglio c.m.
- 4) - Il giorno 24 corrente era al mio posto alle ore 11.05; il giorno 25 alle ore 11.
- 5) - Oggi 26 mi trovavo in Ufficio alle ore 11.05 e non alle ore 12.30.

6) - La settimana scorsa nonostante che il mio orario di Ufficio fosse dalle ore 15 alle 21 venni in Ufficio per qualche giorno anche durante la mattina per esigenze di servizio dovute alla riduzione del personale addetto al Reparto Notizie dal quale dipendo.

Ciò può avere creato malinteso e fatto ritenere alla persona che controlla la presenza del personale negli Uffici, che non ho osservato il mio orario.

Mi tengo a Vostra disposizione per ogni altro chiarimento che possiate desiderare in merito e vogliate credermi

Vostro devotissimo

/s/ GIOVANNI SPERNI

Roma, 26 luglio 1941/XIX

Translation of above document is as follows:

INSPECTORATE FOR RADIO TRANSMISSION AND TELEVISION

Div. I

MEMO FOR COMM. PARESCE

00005

=====

With reference to your letter no. 8890 of 26 July, I wish to state the following.

- 1) - At first my hours were from 0800 to 1400.
- 2) - Due to exigencies of the service and the reduction in personnel of the News Office, in accordance with the Departmental Head and my suggestion, the following hours were assigned to me:

Con riferimento alla lettera n° 8890 del 26 luglio ho l'onore di esporre quanto segue.

- 1) - In un primo tempo il mio orario era dalle ore 8 alle ore 14.
 - 2) - In seguito alle esigenze del servizio e la riduzione del personale dell'Ufficio Notizie, d'accordo col Capo Reparto ed in seguito a mio suggerimento, mi è stato assegnato il seguente orario: dalle ore 11 alle 14 e dalle 17 alle 20.
 - 3) - Il mio nuovo orario ha avuto inizio il 24 luglio c.m.
 - 4) - Il giorno 24 corrente era al mio posto alle ore 11.05; il giorno 25 alle ore 11.
 - 5) - Oggi 26 mi trovavo in Ufficio alle ore 11.05 e non alle ore 12.30.
 - 6) - La settimana scorsa nonostante che il mio orario di Ufficio fosse dalle ore 15 alle Ore 21 venni in Ufficio per qualche giorno anche durante la mattina per esigenze di servizio dovute alla riduzione del personale adetto al Reparto Notizie dal quale dipendo. Ciò può avere creato malinteso e fatto ritenere alla persona che controlla la presenza del personale negli Uffici, che non ho osservato il mio orario.
- Mi tengo a Vostra disposizione per ogni altro chiarimento che possiate desiderare in merito e vogliate credermi

Vostro devotissimo

/s/ GIOVANNI SPERNI

Roma, 26 luglio 1941/XIX

Translation of above document is as follows:

INSPECTORATE FOR RADIO TRANSMISSION AND TELEVISION
Div. I

MEMO FOR COMM. PARESCE

=====

00009

With reference to your letter no. 8890 of 26 July, I wish to state the following.

- 1) - At first my hours were from 0800 to 1400.
- 2) - Due to exigencies of the service and the reduction in personnel of the News Office, in accordance with the Departmental Head and my suggestion, the following hours were assigned to me:
from 1100 H to 1400 H and from 1700 H to 2000 H.
- 3) - My new hours of work went into effect on 24 July current. 11.05 H.
- 4) - On the 24th current I came to work at 1105 H; on the 25th, at 1100 H.
- 5) - Today, the 26th, I was in my office at 1105 H and not at 1230 H.
- 6) - Last week, notwithstanding that my office hours were from 1500 H to 2100 H, I came to the office for a day or so even during the morning because of exigencies of the service due to reduction of personnel in the News Department to which I belong.

This may have created a misunderstanding and may have led to the belief on the part of the individual charged with the control of the presence of office personnel, that I did not adhere to my hours of work.

I hold myself at your disposition for any other clarification you may desire in the matter.

Rome, 26 July 1941/XIX
Yours very truly, /s/ JOHN SPERNI.

(Communication D).

RISERVATO

8890 MINISTERO DELLA CULTURA POPOLARE
Ispettorato per la radiodiffusione e la Televisione
 Div. I

APPUNTO PER IL SIG. GIOVANNI SPERNI

Da qualche giorno Vi presentate in Ufficio, anziché alle ore 11, con notevole ritardo, che, ad esempio, oggi ha superato un'ora e mezza.

Attendo spiegazioni scritte.

/s/ Paresce (?)

Roma, 26 lug 1941 Anno XIX

Translation of above document is as follows:

CONFIDENTIAL

MINISTRY OF POPULAR CULTURE
INSPECTORATE FOR RADIO TRANSMISSION AND TELEVISION
 Div. I

8890

MEMO FOR MR. JOHN SPERNI

For several days you have been coming to the office very late, even as late as 1100 H. For example, today you were late an hour and a half. A written explanation is requested.

/s/ Paresce (?)

Rome, 26 July 1941 - Anno XIX

(Communication E)

Ricevo dal Ministero della Cultura Popolare la somma di lire 1000 (mille) quale anticipo note compenso -

3/7/41

/s/ GIOVANNI SPERNI.

Received from the Ministry of Popular Culture the sum of 1000 liras as salary advance.

3/7/41

/s/ JOHN SPERNI.

11, con
e mezza.

Attendo spiegazioni scritte.

/f/ paresce (?)

Roma, 26 lug 1941 Anno XIX

Translation of above document is as follows:

CONFIDENTIAL

MINISTRY OF POPULAR CULTURE
INSPECTORATE FOR RADIO TRANSMISSION AND TELEVISION
Div. I

8390

MEMO FOR MR. JOHN SPERNI

For several days you have been coming to the office very late,
even as late as 1100 H. For example, today you were late an hour and a half.
A written explanation is requested.

/s/ paresce (?)

Rome, 26 July 1941 - Anno XIX

RECEIVED

(Communication E)

Ricevo dal Ministero della Cultura Popolare la somma di
lire 1000 (mille) quale anticipo note compenso -

/f/ GIOVANNI SPERNI.

3/7/41

Received from the Ministry of Popular Culture the sum of
1000 liras as salary advance.

/s/ JOHN SPERNI.

3/7/41

CJB

Translated by:

Claude J. Bore
Claude J. Bore,
1st Lt. P.A.

000008

* * * * *

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

Correspondence between JOHN SPERNI and The Swiss Legation, British Interests Department, Via Montebello, 121, Rome, Italy, relative request for aid for his wife and children and himself. Found among letters in deed box in drawing room during search of apartment at Via Belluno 8, Flat 6, Rome, Italy, 5 February 1945.

Sant'Angelo in Vado
Via Mancini 8
Pesaro.
25th May 1943.

The Swiss Legation
British Interests Dept.
Via Montebello 121
Rome.

Dear Sirs,

At the request of your Mr. STEFFAN, who visited this locality on the 22nd inst, together with a functionary of the Ministero degli Interni, I am sending you herewith particulars of myself so as to enable you to place my family and myself under your protection.

I am a British subject by birth, born in London the 16th August 1912. I am the natural son of John Charles Gerald SPERNI and Annie CHALLIS both British subjects by birth.

I am personally the holder of a British passport issued to me by the passport office in London approximately during 1929. Unfortunately this document together with many other personal documents, including a copy of my birth certificate was lost after my arrest by the Italian Police in February 1942 when my office in Rome was broken into and searched. These particulars were explained to your Mr. MAITCE by my wife when she made application to your office for assistance immediately after my arrest.

I wish also to explain here a fact which has been explained to your Mr. STEFFAN. 000002

Sometime during 1940 I was offered employment in Italy by the Associated Press and I subsequently applied for an Italian visa at the Italian Consulate in London.

I was informed that a visa could not be granted but that I could enter Italy on an Italian passport since I had an Italian Paternal grandfather. I was assured by the Consul that this would in no way infringe upon my British nationality since I had made no act of renunciation whatsoever and I would only be making use of a concession granted by the Italian authorities to people of Italian origin. My solicitor in London, who I consulted on the matter, assured me I would in no way infringe upon my rights of British citizenship since I was a British

1 3 4 4
Sant'Angelo in Vado
Via Mancini 8
Pesaro.
25th May 1943.

The Swiss Legation
British Interests Dept.
Via Montebello 121
Rome.

Dear Sirs,

At the request of your Mr. STEFFAN, who visited this locality on the 22nd inst, together with a functionary of the Ministero degli Interni, I am sending you herewith particulars of myself so as to enable you to place my family and myself under your protection.

I am a British subject by birth, born in London the 16th August 1912. I am the natural son of John Charles Gerald SPERNI and Annie CHALLIS both British subjects by birth.

I am personally the holder of a British passport issued to me by the passport office in London approximately during 1929. Unfortunately this document together with many other personal documents, including a copy of my birth certificate was lost after my arrest by the Italian Police in February 1942 when my office in Rome was broken into and searched. These particulars were explained to your Mr. MAITUCE by my wife when she made application to your office for assistance immediately after my arrest.

I wish also to explain here a fact which has been explained to your Mr. STEFFAN. 00007

Sometime during 1940 I was offered employment in Italy by the Associated Press and I subsequently applied for an Italian visa at the Italian Consulate in London.

I was informed that a visa could not be granted but that I could enter Italy on an Italian passport since I had an Italian paternal grandfather. I was assured by the Consul that this would in no way infringe upon my British nationality since I had made no act of renunciation whatsoever and I would only be making use of a concession granted by the Italian authorities to people of Italian origin. My solicitor in London, who I consulted on the matter, assured me I would in no way infringe upon my rights of British citizenship since I was a British subject by birth of British Parents.

The Consulate required no more of than production of the Italian birth certificate of my paternal grandfather.

I later entered Italy and carried on work for the Associated Press.

During December 1941 the Associated Press, together with the consent of the Direzione Generale della Stampa Estera, transferred their office and all their monies and goods to the Andi News Agency of Buenos Aires, who had in the meantime nominated me their correspondent in Rome. I may add that the transfer was carried out legally.

On the 27th February 1942 I was arrested by the Italian Police and transferred to the Regina Coeli Prison. From here I was sent to a concentration camp at Ariano

- 2 -

Irpino and from there to Sant'Angelo in Vado. I was given to understand that I was arrested because I was a British Subject.

I am accompanied in Italy by my wife and two daughters, Rhonagh Maureen Norcenagh ROBB and Greenagh Maria Anna and Angela Teresa Amanda SPERNI.

My wife is a British Subject by birth born in Brighton England on the 9th Oct. 1914; daughter of Andrew ROBB and Matilda ROBB both British Subjects. My daughters were born in London. Greenagh on the 23rd August 1938 and Angela 28th April 1940. (These birth certificates were presented to your office by my wife in March 1942).

I understand, now, from the Italian functionary who accompanied Mr. STEFFAN that I am considered an Italian subject.

I wish emphatically to protest against this through your office and to ask your good services to take up the matter with a view to clarifying same.

To this end I wish to adjoin the following information.

I am not the legitimate son of John Charles Gerald SPERNI. My father and mother have never been married in a church or otherwise. This can be verified by the British authorities or from a copy of my birth certificate.

Even if the Italian authorities recognise continuity of Italian nationality through the male parent, this cannot apply in my case, apart from the fact that I am not the legitimate son of John Charles Gerald SPERNI because my natural father is an absolute British subject born in England. He was Mayor of St. Pancras in London - 1937-8.

I had never been inside Italy or any Italian possession previous to 1940.

I have never made any act of renunciation, either in England or in Italy, of my British citizenship.

I wish to declare publically that I am a British citizen.

As you will see from your files, you granted me an allowance to our two daughters in May 1942 and this was stopped in January 1943 pending production on my part of proof of their British nationality. I am wondering whether this above information will enable you to recontinue the allowance? The children are both suffering from illness and need medical care.

I wish to add, on behalf of my wife, that she and the children are desirous of repatriating to the U.K. at the first opportunity. I understand that I could not in any case repatriate, being of military age.

If there is any further information you may require I am sure your Mr. STEFFAN will be able to furnish it since I explained everything to him in detail.

I am enclosing herewith some papers which will go to establish the identity of my father Councillor John Charles SPERNI, which I would request you to please return when convenient.

Thanking you for your kind attention in the past and any help you may extend,

Yours faithfully,

that I am generally
I wish emphatically to protest against this through your office and
your good services to take up the matter with a view to clarifying same.

To this end I wish to adjoin the following information.
I am not the legitimate son of John Charles Gerald SPERNI. My father and mother have never been married in a church or otherwise. This can be verified by the British authorities or from a copy of my birth certificate.

Even if the Italian authorities recognise continuity of Italian nationality through the male parent, this cannot apply in my case, apart from the fact that I am not the legitimate son of John Charles Gerald SPERNI because my natural father is an absolute British subject born in England. He was Mayor of St. Pancras in London - 1937-8.

I had never been inside Italy or any Italian possession previous to 1940.

I have never made any act of renunciation, either in England or in Italy, of my British citizenship.

I wish to declare publically that I am a British citizen.

As you will see from your files, you granted me an allowance to our two daughters in May 1942 and this was stopped in January 1943 pending production on my part of proof of their British nationality. I am wondering whether this above information will enable you to recommence the allowance? The children are both suffering from illness and need medical care.

I wish to add, on behalf of my wife, that she and the children are desirous of repatriating to the U.K. at the first opportunity. I understand that I could not in any case repatriate, being of military age.

If there is any further information you may require I am sure your Mr. STEFFAN will be able to furnish it since I explained everything to him in detail.

I am enclosing herewith some papers which will go to establish the identity of my father Councillor John Charles SPERNI, which I would request you to please return when convenient.

Thanking you for your kind attention in the past and any help you may extend,

Yours faithfully,

/s/ JOHN C. SPERNI.

- - - - -

000006

LEGAZIONE DI SVIZZERA IN ITALIA
INTERESSI STRANIERI (British)
Nella risposta citare: Rif.N.
599/1850 - det/rb

ROMA, June 12th, 1943.
Via Montebello, 121
Tel. 43.951 - 43.952

Mr. John C. Sporni
Via Mancini 8
SANT'ANGELO IN VADO
(Pesaro)

Sir,

We have received your letter of May 25th, the contents of which have been carefully noted.

The British authorities, as informed you on December 21st, 1942, instructed the Legation to stop relief payments to your daughters unless definite evidence could be produced that they are not recognised as Italian subjects, and unless this evidence is furnished nothing can be done for them.

We note from your letter under reply that the Italian authorities consider you Italian. Therefore, it is up to you to clear up the matter, and the Swiss Legation are unable to assist you in this regard.

Perhaps your case is one of dual nationality i.e. while you are in England you are considered British by the British authorities, and when you are in Italy you are considered Italian by the Italian authorities.

Yours very truly,

For
The Minister Plenipotentiary
In Charge of Foreign Interests.
/s/ G. Masfmann.

Dear Sirs,

I have your letter of the 12th June 1943 in answer to my letter of 25th May.

I regret to have to trouble you again, but there are several points in my letter which you have not replied.

Comm. ROSSATI who accompanied your inspections here expressed the opinion that the Italian authorities were in error in considering me Italian and he assumed me he would attend to the matter in order to clarify same. Would you let me know whether he has communicated with you in this regard?

As far as my daughters are concerned whilst I recognise them as my natural children, I am not legally married to their mother. There can therefore be no doubt as to their nationality and the Italian authorities can have no legitimate claim on them. I have made regular application for a certificate di "Cittadinanza" as requested in your letter of December 21, 1942 but so far I have not been able

Sir,

We have received your letter of May 25th, the contents of which have been carefully noted.

The British authorities, as informed you on December 21st, 1942, instructed the Legation to stop relief payments to your daughters unless definite evidence could be produced that they are not recognised as Italian subjects, and unless this evidence is furnished nothing can be done for them.

We note from your letter under reply that the Italian authorities consider you Italian. Therefore, it is up to you to clear up the matter, and the Swiss Legation are unable to assist you in this regard.

Perhaps your case is one of dual nationality i.e. while you are in England you are considered British by the British authorities, and when you are in Italy you are considered Italian by the Italian authorities.

Yours very truly,

For

The Minister Plenipotentiary
In Charge of Foreign Interests.
/s/ G. Masimann.

"U"

Dear Sirs,

I have your letter of the 12th June 1943 in answer to my letter of 25th May.

I regret to have to trouble you again, but there are several points in my letter which you have not replied.

Comm. ROSSATI who accompanied your inspections here expressed the opinion that the Italian authorities were in error in considering me Italian and he assured me he would attend to the matter in order to clarify same. Would you let me know whether he has communicated with you in this regard?

As far as my daughters are concerned whilst I recognise them as my natural children, I am not legally married to their mother. There can therefore be no doubt as to their nationality and the Italian authorities can have no legitimate claim on them. I have made regular application for a certificate di "Cittadinanza" as requested in your letter of December 21, 1942 but so far I have not been able to get permission to go to Rome to obtain them.

With reference the last paragraph in your letter, I am of the opinion that dual nationality cannot apply in my case, and I have been advised by an Italian solicitor that this is so. It could only apply to me if my father had applied for Italian citizenship. This has never been done and moreover I am not his legal son. In addition it cannot apply to the second generation.

I imagined your office would be able to take up this matter with the Italian authorities but since you inform me I must clear up the question personally I shall appreciate it if you would advise me as to the best course to take. To which authorities must I turn?

In the meantime, have the British authorities replied to the memorandum

00000

(59)
- 4 -

mentioned in your letter of Oct 28, 1942?

Perhaps if you inform the British authorities that the mother of my children Rhonagh M. ROEB has contracted marriage with me and is therefore a British citizen they will instruct you different.

I would appreciate it also if you will inform H. M. Legation in Berne that the mother of my two children Rhonagh M. ROEB has never contracted any form of marriage with me and is therefore without doubt a British citizen. Perhaps they will alter their instructions in regard to my two daughters when in possession of this information.

Miss ROEB is prepared to swear an affidavit to this effect and same would be sent on to H. M. Legation. I take it the Minister Plenipotentiary is invested with the powers of Commissioner for Oaths.

- - - - -

CJB

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED COMMISSION

C.M.P.

PUBLIC SAFETY SUB-COMMISSION
SECURITY DIVISION.

12 March 1945

COPY of letter written by JOHN SPERMI, and signed by him, on 8 May 1943, addressed to Dr. deSalis, Delegate in Italy of the International Red Cross, Rome, wherein he declares himself to be a British Subject and requests aid as such. Letter found among letters in deed box in drawing room during search of apartment at Via Belluno 8, Flat 6, Rome, Italy, 5 February 1945.

THIS DOCUMENT IS UNCLASSIFIED

Via Graziani 8
Sant'Angelo in Vado
Prov. Pesaro

8th May 1943

Dr. de Salis
Delegate in Italy of
the International Red X.
Rome.

COPY

Dear Sir:

I have been informed by the Swiss Legation in Rome that the International Red Cross in Geneva has placed at the disposal of your committee a number of parcels to be distributed among Internees who are in need of food on account of their health.

I am a British Subject interned together with my wife and two children at the above locality.

Both my children have been suffering from entero colitis for some months and are in need of extra food which I am not in a position to procure here. At present both of them are in a very poor state of health and suffering from whooping cough. They are $4\frac{1}{2}$ and 3 years of age.

My wife also is in great need of extra nutrition having suffered for the past year from nephritis. For your perusal I enclose herewith a medical certificate concerning the state of health of my wife and children.

I shall be very grateful if you could see your way clear to extending help to us in the present, very difficult moment.

I may add that I am in a very straitened financial condition.

addressed to Dr. de Salis, Delegate in Italy of the International Red Cross, where in he declares himself to be a British Subject and requests aid as such. Letter found among letters in deed box in drawing room during search of apartment at Via Belluno 8, Flat 6, Rome, Italy, 5 February 1945.

THIS ACCOMPANIES PLEASE

Via Graziani 8
Sant'Angelo in Vado
Prov. Pesaro

8th May 1943

Dr. de Salis
Delegate in Italy of
the International Red X.
Rome.

COPY

Dear Sir:

I have been informed by the Swiss Legation in Rome that the International Red Cross in Geneva has placed at the disposal of your committee a number of parcels to be distributed among Internees who are in need of food on account of their health.

I am a British Subject interned together with my wife and two children at the above locality.

Both my children have been suffering from entero colitis for some months and are in need of extra food which I am not in a position to procure here. At present both of them are in a very poor state of health and suffering from whooping cough. They are $4\frac{1}{2}$ and 3 years of age.

My wife also is in great need of extra nutrition having suffered for the past year from nephritis. For your perusal I enclose herewith a medical certificate concerning the state of health of my wife and children.

I shall be very grateful if you could see your way clear to extending help to us in the present very difficult moment.

I may add that I am in a very straightened financial condition.

(s) JOHN SPERNI.

A true copy of original.

Claudio J. Bove
Claude J. Bove,
1st Lt. F.A.

00000

CONFIDENTIAL

EXHIBIT "C"

Ministry of Popular Culture

Inspectorship for Radio Transmission and Television

Notes for the Chief of the Cabinet of H.E. the Minister.

Following the inquiry on the SPERNI case, I have called Captain FRANGI of the S.I.M. He has told me he knows SPERNI and has made use of him at the time when he returned from London having gathered information of technical character on the conditions of road communications in England, as SPERNI had been geometrical in charge of the work for the city of London.

After that period, he stated he only saw him occasionally, and never asked SPERNI to bring him intercepted information.

He told me he had seen SPERNI in a state of great agitation the same day they had found on him, a paper relating a transmission from London.

SPERNI had told Captain FRANGI he had copied said transmission to have him know how foreigners are treated in England and to draw a motive of depolarization that in Italy many English, and particularly Barnes are out free.

SPERNI handed FRANGI a relation against Barnes, of which Captain FRANGI said, Col. Amer did not want to keep any account of. Although Captain FRANGI expressed his sorrow for what had happened and deplored SPERNI's attitude, he begged us not to discharge SPERNI, but punish him with a fine or at the most, a suspension in order to avoid that he go around speaking of the S.I.M.

Rome July 31 - 1941 - XDX

I beg H.E. permission to make a proposal.

I would throw him out.

If he talks they will put him in prison.

(Signatures are not legible)

I hereby certify that the above is an accurate translation of a document found by me in the records of the Ministry of Popular Culture, Rome. Translation made at the time of finding.

HARRY J. MURPHY,

Special Agent

426th C.I.C. Detachment

00002

00002

him at the time when he received from London a letter of introduction of technical character on the conditions of road communications in England, as SPERNI had been geometer in charge of the work for the city of London.

After that period, he stated he only saw him occasionally, and never asked SPERNI to bring him intercepted information.

He told me he had seen SPERNI in a state of great agitation the same day they had found on him, a paper relating a transmission from London.

SPERNI had told Captain FRANGI he had copied said transmission to have him know how foreigners are treated in England and to draw a motive of depolarization that in Italy many English, and particularly Barnes are out free.

SPERNI handed FRANGI a relation against Barnes, of which Captain FRANGI said, Col. Ame' did not want to keep any account of. Although Captain FRANGI expressed his sorrow for what had happened and deplored SPERNI's attitude, he begged us not to discharge SPERNI, but punish him with a fine or at the most, a suspension in order to avoid that he go around speaking of the S.I.M.

Rome July 31 - 1941 - XIX

I beg H.E. Pession to make a proposal.

I would throw him out.

If he talks they will put him in prison.

(Signatures are not legible)

- - - - -

I hereby certify that the above is an accurate translation of a document found by me in the records of the Ministry of Popular Culture, Rome. Translation made at the time of finding.

HARRY J. MURPHY,
Special Agent
426th C.I.C. Detachment

00002

0000

CONFIDENTIAL

CJB

CONFIDENTIAL

EXHIBIT "D"

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

Corrado DE CRESCENZO, in the "Corriere Adriatico" makes some melancholic reflections on the Provincial press and not only on the provincial press.

Referring to the observations already made by Massimo FRANCIOSA in the "Roma Fascista", he complains of the uniformity and the lack of personality and accent of many, too many newspapers. He says:

"An avalanche of bulletins, news reports, extracts from other authors and similar trash in typewriting, print and mimeographing are continually tumbled into the editor's office. Aside from the distinguished news bulletin of the Press Office of the P.N.F., which should contain only rough subject matter to be elaborated" (but ends up being transcribed in the newspaper articles), how many journalistic, artistic, literary, cinematographic, tourist agencies, the more there are the better, don't exist today in Italy in order to dump all their mountains of printed paper, and badly printed on the reporter's desks, wearing out the already scarce space there is in the paper left for variety" which is the only factor which makes the newspaper differ from another?

If we consider these "inevitable" articles because this or that "big shot" of the journalistic or political world, who belonged to the "very recommended class" were printed -- we can well note that the newspaper -- all this material ready-made -- does not have to go further to select the straight-forward work and above all the "intelligent" one.

According to Franciosa, it's this throwing in all this ready-made stuff, and the habit of making use of it, which makes these papers similar to one another.

Francesca says, there are, it is true, some papers which save themselves from this nauseating similarity, and do all their best from accepting these "omnibus" articles. But how many are there? A small, meagre minority, in contrast with the great quantity spread all over the national territory, which are a uniform paste of a clashing of news where one cannot find one original idea.

The charges are severe. But one cannot deny that there is some truth in it. We only know it so well; we the unhappy performers of this tiny scrap column -- who every day give the daily Italian newspaper the "once-overs", with the hope of finding a key-note of some discussion, approved or disapproved; but only too often if we want to put something together for our small column we must put aside the mountains of newspapers and take up the magazines -----.

00001

reflections on the Provincial press and not only on the Provincial press but also on the Fascist press. Referring to the observations already made by Massimo Franciosa in the "Gazzetta del Mezzogiorno", he complains of the uniformity and the lack of personality and accent of many, too many newspapers. He says:

"An avalanche of bulletins, news reports, extracts from other authors and similar trash in typewriting, print and mimeographing are continually thrown into the editor's office. Aside from the distinguished news bulletin of the Press Office of the P.N.F., which should contain only "Rough subject matter to be elaborated" (but ends up being transcribed in the newspaper articles), how many journalistic, artistic, literary, cinematographic, tourist agencies, the more there are the better, don't exist today in Italy in order to dump all their mountains of printed paper, and badly printed on the reporter's desks, wearing out the already scarce space there is in the paper left for "variety" which is the only factor which makes the newspaper differ from another?

If we consider these "inevitable" articles because this or that "big shot" of the journalistic or political world, who belonged to the "very recommended class" were printed -- we can well note that the newspaper -- all this material ready-made -- does not have to go further to select the straight-forward work and above all the "intelligent" one.

According to Franciosa, it's this throwing in all this ready-made stuff, and the habit of making use of it, which makes these papers similar to one another.

Francesca says, there are, it is true, some papers which save themselves from this nauseating similarity, and do all their best from accepting these "various" articles. But how many are there? A small, meagre minority, in contrast with the great quantity spread all over the national territory, which are a uniform paste of a clashing of news where one cannot find one original idea.

The charges are severe. But one cannot deny that there is some truth in it. We only know it so well; we the unhappy performers of this tiny scrap column -- who every day give the daily Italian newspaper the "once-overs", with the hope of finding a key-note of some discussion, approved or disapproved: but only too often if we want to put something together for our small column we must put aside the mountains of newspapers and take up the magazines -----.

I hereby certify that the above is an accurate translation of a document found by me in the records of the Ministry of Popular Culture, Rome. Translation made at the time of finding.

HARRY J. MURPHY,
Special Agent,
426th C.I.C. Detachment.

CONFIDENTIAL

CJB

1356