

ACC 10000|143|2700

266.02/01

J.C.A. SPERNI

(2)

OCT. 1944 - Feb. 1945

SECRETCIVIL AFFAIRS
SECTION

00054

Circulation Slip: Date. _____

Displaced Pers. & Repat. S/C _____

Education S/C _____

Legal S/C _____

Local Government S/C _____

Monuments, & Fine Arts S/C _____

Patriots Branch _____

Public Health S/C _____

Public Safety S/C ☒ _____

Devastated Areas Branch _____

For : Signature _____

Recommendation _____Information _____Approval or Disapp. _____Appropriate Action _____Investig. & Report _____File _____Return to Cent. Files _____Transmission _____

Comments:

V.P. has seen & initiated.

Noted then to you

R.R. Cripps

SECRET

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

A.F.H.Q. Ref : B-389.450/a-25

8 February 1945

S.D. Ref : 266.02

Subject : British Renegades - 2nd Interim Report
SPENNI John Charles Anthony

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

1. With further reference to John Charles Anthony SPENNI, subject of the correspondence cited above :-

2. This man was arrested by me at 15.30 hours on 5 February, 1945, at his apartment - 8 Via Belluno, (Flat 6), Rome - on which occasion I was accompanied by Captain R.A. ARNER, D.A.P.M. 76 Section S.I.B., C.M.F., and Lieut. Claude J. ROY, U.S. Army, attached to G-2, Rome Allied Area Command.

3. I introduced myself and the officers accompanying me to SPENNI 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 Treason Acts and Regulation 2A, Defence (General) Regulations, 1939 respectively.

4. 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, "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".

5. He raised no objections to his flat being searched, and accordingly a thorough search was made and a quantity of correspondence and documents was seized as evidence.

6. At 1800 hours, 5 February 1945, he was lodged under Military Police Guard at Hotel Flora, Rome. At 0930 hours on 6 February 1945, in company with Captain R.A. ARNER, S.I.B., I saw the prisoner and again cautioned him that he was not obliged to say anything unless he wished to do so and that anything which he said would be committed to writing and might be given in evidence.

7. He expressed a wish to make a full statement, which was taken down in writing by me during interviews on 6th and 7th February 1945. On completion of the statement I read it over to him and he was permitted to make certain corrections which he signed the statement. All this took place in the

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

With further reference to John Charles Anthony SPENI, subject of the correspondence cited above :-

2. This man was arrested by me at 15.30 hours on 5 February 1945, at his apartment - 8 Via Belluno, (Flat 6), Rome - on which occasion I was accompanied by Captain R.A. ARCHER, D.A.F.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.

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7. He expressed a wish to make a full statement, which was taken down in writing by me during interviews on 6th and 7th February 1945. On completion of the statement I read it over to him and he was permitted to make certain alterations after which he signed the statement. All this took place in the presence and hearing of Captain R.A. ARCHER, who countersigned the statement. Lieutenant C.J. BOVE, U.S. Army was also present at the time when SPENI signed the statement, and during the reading of Pages 1-12 thereof and again during the reading of Pages 22-38 thereof. He also has countersigned the statement.

8. At 0745 hours on 8 February 1945, SPENI left Rome in the custody of Captain Arthur H. ELLIS, Security Division, R.A. Allied Commission, to be taken to "B" Internee Camp, Terni, where specially segregated quarters had previously been arranged by Major J. HARVEY, Security Division.

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- 2 -

9. It will be necessary to make a number of other enquiries, arising from SPENGLI's statement and the result of searching. A full report of evidences will then be submitted.

Louis V. Gale

Louis V. GALE, Captain

John W. Chapman

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

pa/bd

00072

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

Tel : 66367

7 Jan 46

G/PG70/BR

SUBJECT : SPERNI John
SPERNI Gerald
ROBB Rnough (ROBB Spem1)

TO : AC of S, G-2 AMB

1 Reference is made to your GEX.389.450/A-25
of 20 Dec 45.

2 Instructions as per para 5 of above-quoted
letter have been duly carried out, and copies of a
declaration signed by all three subjects are attached
hereto.

L.R. Davidson

(L.R. DAVIDSON) 00051
Captain
for Major
AC of S, G-2(OI)

LRD/jw

Copy to: Sec Div, Public Safety Sub Commission.
(without enclosures)
Reference telephone conversation
Maj HARVEY - Capt DAVIDSON 27 Dec 45.

Security
Davidson
9/1
Book No 2685
File No 266-02/01
Action

SECRET

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2

20 December 1945

file
266 02/01

GBI-389.450/A-25

SUBJECT: SPERNI, John
SPERNI, Gerald
ROSE, Rhonagh M. (Gerald SPERNI)

TO: AG OF S, G-2, RAAG.

1. Reference this Headquarters letter GBI-389.450/A-25 dated 27 January 45.
2. Herewith copy of War Office letter P.F. 221.589/D dated 7 December 45.
3. In this Headquarters GBI-389.450/A-25 dated 20 December 45, authority for the release of SPERNI, John was given, on the grounds of Para 2 of attached War Office letter. *(copy attached)*
4. It will be noted however that the provisions of para 3 in this letter required to be communicated to SPERNI, Gerald and ROSE, Rhonagh. The last known address of these two persons was:

Via Belluno, 8 (Flat 6)
ROME.

00070

5. My arrangements please be made in conjunction with Security Division, Public Safety Sub-Commission, HQ Allied Commission, to inform SPERNI, Gerald and ROSE, Rhonagh accordingly.

For the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2:

[Signature]
WILLIS B. NICHOLS
Colonel, G.S.C.,
Asst AG of S, G-2

Security
Division
27/12
Book No 2534
File No 266.01/02
Action

Copy to:
Security Division, Public Safety
Sub-Commission, HQ Allied Commission - Copy of War Office letter, reference P.F. 221.589/D, dated 7 Dec 45, is attached for reference.

SECRET

SECRET

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2

20 December 1945

GBI-389.450/A-25

SUBJECT: SPERNI, John.

TO: O. C. ~~Internee~~ Camp.

1. Reference this Headquarters GBI-389.450/A-25 dated 21 July 1945.
2. Herewith copy of War Office letter, reference P.P. 221. 589/D, dated 7 December 1945.
3. In view of paragraph 2, authority for the release of subject is given.
4. Please conform to the provisions of paragraph 3 of above stated letter. Steps have been taken to inform the other persons in the case, namely SPERNI, Gerald and ROBE, Rhonagh (alias ROBE-SPERNI).

For the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2

W. B. Nichols
W. B. NICHOLS,
Colonel, C.S.C.
Asst A.C. of S, G-2

Copy to: A. G. of S, G-2, RAAC - This HQB GBI 389.450/A-25 27 Jan 45 refers.
HQ, Allied Commission, Public Safety,
Sub-Commission Security Division - Your SD 266.02 of 29 May 45 refers.

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C O P Y

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WAR OFFICE

WHITEHALL

P.F. 221.589/D

S.W. 1.

SUBJECT: SPERNT, John
SPERNT, Gerald
ROSB, Rhonagh M. (Alias ROSB-SPERNT)

A. C. of S, G-2
Allied Force Headquarters

1. Reference is made to your GBI-389.601/18 dated 14th July 1945, and to your GBI.389.450/A-25 dated 6th October 1945.

2. The Director of Public Prosecutions has now decided not to have the above named persons compulsorily brought back to this country with a view of their being indicted and tried for assisting the enemy. In these circumstances, provided there are no longer any Military Security reasons requiring their continued detention, there is no objection to their release.

3. In each case, the individual should be told that he (or she) is not going to be compulsorily brought back to the United Kingdom for trial, and also at the same time clearly warned that, if he (or she) should return voluntarily, the Director of Public Prosecutions will again consider his (or her) case with a view of prosecution.

SIGNED:

????

Lieut. Colonel

M.I.5.
7 Dec 45

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SECRET

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

REF : SD/266.02/01

26 November 1945

SUBJECT : SPERMI John

TO : C-2 (CI) AFHQ

1. The attached letter address to Capt. GALE by Subject's father is forwarded for such action as considered desirable.


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

TFC/nb

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1352

BY AIR MAIL

483



To Capt Gale

~~Political Section~~

Via Veneto 23

ANG Region

Howe

~~Italy~~

R LONDON, W.C. 10
No 2611

00046

HEADQUARTERS
LIGURIA REGN. AM.G.

John SPERNI

36 Doughty Street

London

29/10/45

Dear Sir,

I understand you are the Officer in charge of the case of my son John Anthony Spérni whom you are now holding in detention in a concentration camp at Terni and who has now been so held for over, nine months. I write to ask if you would kindly inform me on what charge you are holding him and if you will inform me if he has a lawyer to represent him and also if you could inform me if he is going to be tried before a Court of Justice and if so when and where would you also let me know if I may send him money food and clothes. Any other information you can give me concerning my son will be most gratefully appreciated. As I intend to instruct my Solicitors in London to take up the case in England for him namely Messrs Wainwright & Co, Solicitors 9 Staple Inn, Holborn London I would be obliged if you would kindly reply at your earliest. I am asked to state to you that Lt. Col. E. PÉTER of your department in Rome who is now in London and who is a personal friend of mine would also be obliged if anything could be done to give my son any help or assistance under these unfortunate circumstances. And I personally would thank you in advance for anything you can do for my son compatible with your duty, in his hour of need as I am so far away from him and I shall pray to the "great Architect of the Universe" to bless you for so doing.

I am sir, your sincerely

S/ John SPERNI

Capt. GALE
Political Section Via Veneto Rome Italy.

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Captain L.H. Gale
 G. H.Q. Liguria Region.
 Allied Military Post.
 C.M.F. *(initials)*
 19th November 1945.

Subject: John (or Giovanni) SPERNI.

British Renegade - detained
 at Terni Detention Camp.

To: Director, Public Safety Division,
 (Allied Security Division)
 Allied Commission, C.M.F.

1. Forwarded herewith is a letter
 (and envelope) which reached me yesterday
 at the British C.S. Hospital, Geneva,
 from the father of the above - mentioned
 prisoner.

2. The letter, bearing the address
 36 Congely Street, N.C.I., asks for further
 information as to the reasons for his
 son's detention, with a view to the
 instruction of the SPERNI family's
 relations - Messrs Wainwright & Co.,
 9 Maple Inn, Holborn, London.

3. As the letter states, I was the
 officer in charge of the investigation
 and the case, clearly proven in my
 opinion, is on record in Security Div.
 Allied Commission and in G-2, A.F.H.Q.

British Renegade - detained
at Ferni Gallenac Camp.

To:- Director, Public Safety Commission,
(Att's Security Division)
Allied Commission, C.M.F.

1. Forwarded herewith is a letter
(in envelope) which reached me yesterday
at the British C.S. Hospital, Geneva,
from the father of the above-mentioned
prisoner.

2. The letter, bearing the address
36 Doughty Street, W.C.1., asks for further
information as to the reasons for his
son's detention, with a view to the
instruction of the SPERM Family's
solicitors - Messrs Warrington & Co.,
4 Abchurch Lane, Holborn, London.

3. As the letter states, I was the
officer in charge of the investigation
and the case, clearly proven in my
opinion, is on record in Security Div.
Allied Commission and in G-2. A.F.H.Q.

P.T.O.

2

In view of the conclusive nature of the evidence, as shown in my reports, against the prisoner - John A. SPEARN, his "wife" Blonagh Maureen ROBE alias SPEARN, and his brother, Garret SPEARN, I am unable to understand why they have not been brought to trial on charges of Treason and Doing acts with intent to assist the enemy.

It is apparent to me that my name, and the address which appear on the envelope, were given to SPEARN's father by a re-patriated member of the SPEARN family, probably by the prisoner's sister - Nancy SPEARN whom I had occasion to interview.

Needless to say, I have not replied to this communication and suggest that these papers be sent to G-2 AFHQ for such action as is deemed necessary.

Lewis. H. Gale, Capt.

Security Officer - P.P.S.O.
Highland Region

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

File

REF. : SD/266.02/01

19 November 1945

SUBJECT : Geraldo Filippo SPERDI

TO : Ministry of the Interior
Gen. Dir. of Public Safety.

1. The above named was placed in "R" Internee Camp, and subsequently released.
2. He has made application for the return of his passport, which is attached.
3. There appears to be some doubt as to his nationality, but as he is of no interest to the Allied Military Authorities, the matter is referred to you for your decision as to whether or not the passport should be retained to him.
4. His present address is Via Belluno 8 (Flat 6) Rome.

W 00013
JOHN W. CHAPMAN,
Colonel, J.A.G.D.
Director Public Safety,
Sub Commission.

CBH/ld.

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

REF. : SD/266.02/01

20 November 1945

TO : Mr. Gerald SPERNI, Via Belluno 8 (Flat 6), Roma.

1. This is to inform you that the question of your passport has now been referred to the Ministry of Interior, General Direction of Public Safety, to whom you should address future enquiries regarding same.

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

TFC/lm.

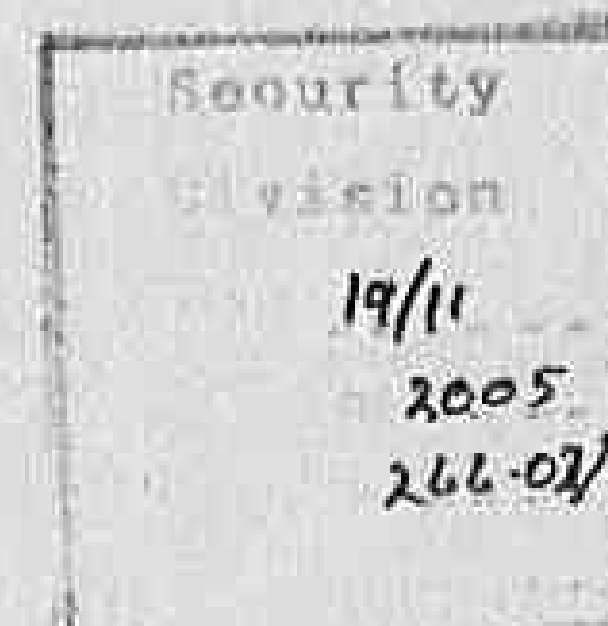
00012

No. 410.

British Embassy,

ROME.

16th November, 1945.



TO: Major Harvey,
Security Division,
H.Q., A.C.

FROM: Visa Department.

Gerald Phillip SPERNI.

Your letter No. SD/266.02/1 of 12.10.45.:-

1. We are returning herewith subject's passport, No. 898365, issued in London on 10.10.39. to subject, and valid until April 9th, 1940, which shows that he embarked at Glasgow on June 17th and arrived at Messina, Italy, on July 2nd, 1940 on board the "Conte Rosso".

2. We are of the opinion that in view of the doubt as to subject's rightful claim to Italian nationality, the passport should be handed to the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs for disposal. Subject would then have to establish to the Italian authorities his rightful claim to the passport.

00011

LCB

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

SD/266.02(JS)

2 August 1945

Mrs. SPERNI,
8 Via Belluno, (Flat 6)

There is no objection to your visiting
John SPERNI, in accordance with the usual conditions.
The next day you can visit is the 3rd
Tuesday in the month, between 9 and 12 and 2pm - 4pm.

[Signature]
S. J. HARVEY,
Major,
Security Division.

00070

CONFIDENTIAL

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

GBI.389.450/A-25.

30 July, 1945.

SUBJECT : John SPERNI.

TO : Security Division,
Public Safety Sub Commission,
H.Q. Allied Commission. ✓

Security Division
Rec'd. 28
Book No. 9256
File No. 266.02 (75)
Action.....

Reference your SD/266.02(JS) dated 26 July,
1945.

John SPERNI may now be allowed normal visiting
privileges, and his wife may visit him on the appropriate
days subject to the usual Camp regulations.

For the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2:

00039

E. Doh Lewis
legi

EARLE B. NICHOLS,
Colonel, G.S.C.,
Asst A.C. of S, G-2:

Copy to : Commandant,
"R" Civilian Internee Camp,
C.M.F.

CONFIDENTIAL

COPY OF MEMORANDUM EXTRACT FROM LETTER DATED MAY 5, 1945

There is one point that you must tell John and Jerry and this is (of utmost importance) for their case and defence, as it will establish beyond any doubt whatever, that they did not leave England illegally, that point is that Dad himself, many days before they left England, called in the Foreign Office, and informed them at an interview with the Foreign Secretary (at which the Brazilian Ambassador's Secretary was also present) that they, the boys were leaving for Italy with the other Italians, they already being Italians at that time, having under English law, the right to choose Italian nationality if they wished, after attaining the age of 21 years, which they did in conformity with this right and privilege, and Dad explained to the Foreign Secretary that he had informed him of this, so that the British Government could, if they so desired, and still considered them British subjects, prevent them from leaving England, and after considering the matter that they the Foreign Office telephoned the Brazilian Ambassador that they had given their permission for them to leave England for Italy with the other Italians, and accordingly approved of the list of Italians amongst which were John and Gerald's names.

It must be evident therefore, to anyone, on these facts, that they did not leave England illegally "during the war" - on the contrary it is clear on these facts, that they left England with the knowledge, consent, and approval of the British Government, and in a perfectly open and legal manner. These facts can be proved and substantiated by the Foreign Office of the British Government and the Brazilian Ambassador, and Dad's solicitor Mr. Morrier, has in his possession today, letters from the Foreign Office of the British Government admitting this. This evidence alone should be sufficient to clear them of the charge of illegally leaving the country. 00033

Then please make this clear to the boys, and send them a copy of this letter in some way or another, and send one to Rhona and also hand a copy to the lawyer who may be defending them, and let Col. Petter have one also.

This is so important Tina for their defence, please see to it. Now there is another legal point which must be brought to their notice that is:

(1) If it is accepted that they are Italian subjects now, then the Italian Government on the request by an Italian lawyer on their behalf, can demand their immediate release, as they are under Italian and not British jurisdiction.

(2) If it is held that they are British subjects, and were British at the time of leaving England, then they must be tried according to English law (Civil Law) in England where the alleged offence was committed, but since they left England with the knowledge and consent of the authorities here, the charge against them cannot stand and alternatively, if they were Italian subjects at the time of leaving England, they were only exercising their right and privileges, granted to them like all other Italians who left England at that time, and equally in this case the charge against them cannot stand as no offence was committed by them against the laws of England in these events.

Therefore Tina, please instruct an Italian lawyer to apply for their release through the Italian Government, on the grounds that they are Italian subjects and in the same time instruct an English lawyer to apply for their release on the grounds that they have not committed any

(2)

offence under English law, and that they left England in accordance with their rights and privileges legally and with the consent of the British Government; if you will show any lawyer this letter, it will be enough for him to prepare their defence, and an application for their release.

I think that the best thing to do right away, is for you to get lawyer to apply to the British authorities who have arrested John and Gerald, to suspend any further action, as evidence from London is on the way, which will establish their innocence, and that the boy's solicitors:-

Messrs Wainright & Co. of

9 Staple Inn, London W.C.I.-

have been instructed to defend them, and that they are now in communication with the Foreign Office for that purpose, and for being put in contact with John and Gerald through their lawyers Agents in Italy. I feel sure that the lawyer of the American Consulate in Genova, or the Swiss Legation in Rome, will help and advise you and make application for their release pending Mr. Morriers on the boys behalf, which he is pushing forward all he can, but please do tell me where I can write to the boys direct, and give me all information you can, and assure them that I shall do my utmost for them, and to cheer up as I feel confident I can prove their honesty of intention in the matter, and that they can rely on the fairness of British Justice and the high principles and impartiality of our British judiciary wherever it may be.

Again Tina, we say good night, cheer the boys all you can, tell them we are thinking of them night and day, tell Rhona that we shall stand by her and the children, and do all we can for her and tell John that I will see that Rhona and the children will not want for anything while he is away, and tell Gerald that I his Dad think a great deal of him, and to remember that he is a Sporni, never give in, and that I feel sure that in the end we shall all again be reunited and be happy again. I have every hope of coming to you now any moment.

Best wishes to you and Achille,
Mum and Dad.

Don't forget to wire me.

All my love to you all
Dad.

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

REF : SD/266.02(JS)

26 July 1945

SUBJECT : John SPERNI

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

1. Reference your GBI. 389.450/A-25.
2. Attached is a request from Mrs. Robb-Sperni to visit her husband John Sperni who is detained at "R" Internee Camp, pending a decision being reached concerning his trial for broadcasting for the enemy.
3. Have you any objection to Mrs. Sperni being allowed normal visiting conditions please?

SJH
S.J. HARVEY,
Major,
Security Division

00007

SJH/nb

Security Division File Copy

SECRET.

File

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED COMMISSION
C.M.F.

Public Safety Sub-Commission
Security Division

Reference : S.D. 266.02.

Subject : JOHN CHARLES SPERMI
British renegade (intercepted letter)

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

- *****
1. With reference to A.F.H.Q. GBI. 389.450/A-25 of 23 February, 1945, attaching a censorship report giving extract of letter from Esilia PIETRELLA, Via Giovanni Battista Martini 2, Rome, addressed to Capt. C.T. COBLESTON M.H.A., Plasnewydd, Denbigh, N. Wales, in which John SPERMI, Signora Fulvia FURLONI and a "Baroness" were mentioned.
 2. I questioned Esilia PIETRELLA on 19th May, 1945, at her address as above, but it was apparent that she was unable to supply any facts about John SPERMI other than those already known and mentioned in previous reports.
 3. It was at her house that SPERMI lodged a number of escaped Allied prisoners-of-war during the German occupation. Among the escapees was Capt. C.T. COBLESTON.
 4. I gained the impression that Signora PIETRELLA, was embittered against John SPERMI because he had ignored her after the Allied occupation and she had not been rewarded in any way for sheltering the escapees.
 5. The other persons mentioned in this woman's letter are Signora Fulvia FURLONI and Baroness Francesca MARTINEZ who were involved with SPERMI in aiding escaped prisoners. Signora PIETRELLA was entirely unable to substantiate in any

- 2 -

way her statement in her letter that these two women had "betrayed" them to the Germans. It seems obvious that she was motivated by jealousy of the two younger, more attractive women who were apparently extremely popular with the escapees in her house.

6. The object of her having written to Capt. C.T. OCKLESTON -- requesting a statement from him that she had aided him and other British escapees, seems to have been for personal recognition and advantage.

Louis V. Gale

LOUIS V. GALE,
Captain.

00000

SUBJECT: SPERNI John Charles

CONFIDENTIAL

Office of the AG of S G-2
ROME AREA ALLIED COMMAND
CMF

G/1670/BR

27 Feb 45

Security Division,
Allied Commission,
(Attention Capt GALE)

1. Attached is a copy of a letter received from AFHQ.
2. This letter encloses a censorship intercept which almost certainly refers to Subject, on whose case you are working.
3. You may care to investigate the attached intercept and it will be appreciated if you will forward to this Headquarters a report on the result of your investigations.

00034

PT

Security
Division
28/2
5406
Book No
File No
Action

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

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

GPI.389.450/A-25.

23 February, 1945.

SUBJECT: Activities of John SPANGL.

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

Further reference our GPI.389.450/A-25 of
27 January, 1945.

1. A copy of a censorship report received from the U.K. is forwarded for your information and any action considered necessary.
2. It is thought that "John SPANGL" is probably a mis-spelling of John SPANGL.
3. No other information as to the other personalities referred to in the intercept is held in this office.

For the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2:

E. Aubrey Lewis
Major

4 S.S. HILL-BILLON,
Colonel, G.S.,
G-2 (CI) Section.

Incls: as above.

Copies to: G-2 (I.W.).
I.S. 9. (Attention Lt. Colonel Berry).

00033

CONFIDENTIAL

COPYPOSTAL & TELEGRAPH CENSORSHIP
United Kingdom

Submission No.: TCE/32808/45.

FROM: ESILIA PIETRELLA,
VIA MARTINI No. 2
ROME,
ITALY.TO: CAPT. C.P. OCKENSTON, R.H.A.
PLASNEWYDD
DUMFRIES
N. WALES.SUBMITTED TO: Original to M.I. 12. P/W
Copy to M.I.5

SUBJECT:

Reference to Italian in ROME who collaborated with the Germans.

Writer requests a statement from British ex P.O.W. that she has helped him and his companions.

EXTRACT (Translation)

00002

P.3 & 4.

"I was hoping to receive a visit from JOHN SPERNE to thank me just a little for what I had done for his patriots, but even though I had invited him to come to see me, he did not turn up. I only searched for him at the house of Signora FULVIA FURLONI the woman who had betrayed us, it is a mystery! I am afraid that there was something stronger than mere friendship between them..... The famous Baroness, whom I feared so much because she collaborated with the Germans, is in hiding here in ROME but if the Allied Police do not get her, she will give me more trouble. Would you please write me a letter, declaring that I was near you, to save you all, I am sure it would prove useful.

CONFIDENTIAL

SECRET

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

Security
Division
Rec'd 1/14
Book No. 6461
File No. 266.02
Action

Cap Ellis' instructions
14 April, 1945.

GBI.389.450/A-25.

19/5/45

SUBJECT: Further Interrogation of John SPERNI.

TO : Security Division,
Public Safety Sub-Commission,
Allied Commission.

1. The Federal Bureau of Investigation are anxious to obtain information about the nationality and activities of a man named FOSTER.

2. It is believed that John SPERNI - at present in custody in "R" Internee Camp - may have some information on this subject.

3. In these circumstances, it is suggested that SPERNI should be interrogated on this subject by a representative of the F.B.I. in conjunction with one of your staff with a knowledge of the SPERNI case.

4. It is understood that Mr. Frank AMPRIM (whose address is given below) will nominate a representative, and it is requested that arrangements be made with him for a joint visit to be paid to "R" Internee Camp for this purpose on a date which is convenient to those concerned.

00001

For the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2:

G. Eyres Monsell

G. EYRES MONSELL,
Lt. Colonel, G.S.
G-2 (CI) Section.

Copies to:
Mr. Frank Amprim, G-2 (IOSS)
C/o R.A.A.C. #0794, U.S. Army.
Commandant, "R" Internee Camp, CMF.
G-2 (P.W) (Attention Lt.Col. Derry).

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

266.02

SD/266.02

23rd April, 1945

SUBJECT: Jettm Charles Anthony SPENNI - British renegade.

TO: G-5 Section, Allied Force Headquarters.

1. Three copies of the final report on J.C.A. SPENNI are attached hereto for the attention of G-2 Section, Allied Force Headquarters under their reference GBI 389.450/A-25.
2. SPENNI is at present detained in "R" Civilian Internment Camp.
3. The original documents are being held by Captain GALE of this Headquarters, and instructions are awaited as to the prisoner's disposal.

FOR THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER:

00000

AB

A.D. Bonham-Carter, Lt.Col.
CEO Civil Affairs Section.

Encl: 3

X for "File 1" - 266.02
for copy of final report

6947

SECRETHEADQUARTERS.
ALLIED COMMISSION.
SECURITY DIVISION.

8.2.45.

Re: JOHN SPENNI, British Subject.

To: O.C. No "R" Internee Camp.

1. By special arrangement with G2 (C1) AFHQ the arrest of the above named has been made for the purpose of trying him as a British renegade. As the result of conversations between Major Daly Lewis and Major Harvey of this Division, it was agreed that the most suitable place for detention was "R" Civilian Internee Camp.

2; Owing to the urgency of the matter the Arrest Report which is being prepared by G.2, R.A.A.C. is not yet completed. It will be forwarded at the earliest possible moment. Meanwhile will you please take this, carried by Captain Ellis who is known to you personally, as covering authority pending the receipt of the official arrest form.


JOHN W CHAPMANDirector,
Public Safety Sub-Commission.

SJH

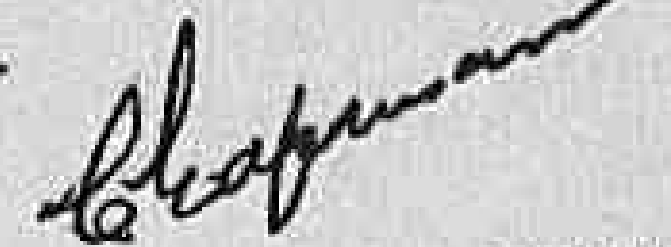
00029

SECRET

1.

V.P. C.A. Section.

1a is a comprehensive report on John Charles Anthony SPERNI who was arrested by Security Division for adhering to the Kings Enemies. There seems ample evidence to bring him before a Court in U.K. on charges under the Defence Regulations.
Draft letter to AFHQ attached.



JOHN W. CHAPMAN
Colonel, Director
Public Safety S.C.

16.4.45. *John**See File 1 466-02*

00028

VP. C.A.S.

1. It is impossible on the evidence available to say whether Spenn was an Italian citizen before May 1940.
2. If he was not he did not, in my opinion, lose his British nationality by fraudulently obtaining an Italian passport, or "repatriation" to Italy.
3. I think that it is reasonable to send the papers forward without comment.

20 Apr. '45

W. J. C.
W. J. C.
D. A.
00021

Report to which above number refers is attached in "File 1" - 246.02

8 February 1945

SPERNI

John

Giovanni Galesto Geraldino

Via Belluno 8, Rome, Italy.

SPERNI, a British Subject is accused of :

1. Adhering to the King's Enemies (Treasons acts).
2. Doing acts with intent to assist the enemy (Defence Regn. 2A).

Via Belluno 8, Rome, Italy-5 February 1945.

Capt. Louis V. Gale, Security Branch, Allied Commission.
 Capt. R. A. Archer, DAPH, 76 Section SIB OM Police.

32

16 August 1912

London, England

5'8 1/2"

150 lbs.

Dark Brown

Dark Brown

"R" INTERNEE CAMP, TERNI.

00J26

Capt. Louis V. Gale, Security Branch, Allied Commission.
 Capt. R. A. Archer, DAPH, 76 Section SIB, CMP.
 1st Lt. Claude J. Bove, AFHQ, G-2, (CI).

To be transferred to Internee Camp "R", TERNI by Capt. Ellis, AD Security.

4246 liras.

1 Valise of personal clothing.

1 razor.

OK
 General
 S/A CIL

Claude J Bove 1st Lt
 AFHQ G-2 (CI)

SECRET

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

8 February 1945

A.P.H.Q. Ref : B-383.450/a-25

S.D. Ref : 266.02 / 4776.

Subject : British Renegades - 2nd Interim Report
SPENZI John Charles Anthony

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

00020

1. With further reference to John Charles Anthony SPENZI, subject of the correspondences cited above :-

2. This man was arrested by me at 15.30 hours on 5 February, 1945, 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. BOVA, U.S. Army, attached to G-2, Rome Allied Area Command.

3. I introduced myself and the officers accompanying me to SPENZI 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.

4. 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, "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".

5. He raised no objections to his flat being searched, and accordingly a thorough search was made and a quantity of correspondence and documents was seized as evidence.

6. At 1800 hours, 5 February 1945, he was lodged under Military Police Guard at Hotel Flora, Rome. At 0930 hours on 6 February 1945, in company with Captain R.A. ARCHER, S.I.B., I saw the prisoner and again cautioned him that he was not obliged to say anything unless he wished to do so and that anything which he said would be committed to writing and might be given in evidence.

7. He expressed a wish to make a full statement, which was taken down in writing by me during interviews on 6th and 7th February 1945. On completion of the statement I read it over to him and he was permitted to make certain alterations after which he signed the statement. All this took place in the

Subject : British Renegades - 2nd Interim Report
SPENNI John Charles Anthony

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

00320

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7. He expressed a wish to make a full statement, which was taken down in writing by me during interviews on 6th and 7th February 1945. On completion of the statement I read it over to him and he was permitted to make certain alterations after which he signed the statement. All this took place in the presence and hearing of Captain R.A. ARCHER, who countersigned the statement. Lieutenant C.J. BOVE, U.S. Army was also present at the time when SPENNI signed the statement, and during the reading of Pages 1-12 thereof and again during the reading of Pages 22-38 thereof. He also has countersigned the statement.

8. At 0745 hours on 8 February 1945, SPENNI left Rome in the custody of Captain Arthur H. ELIAS, Security Division, H.Q. Allied Commission, to be taken to "R" Internes Camp, Terni, where specially segregated quarters had previously been arranged by Major J. HARVEY, Security Division.

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- 2 -

9. It will be necessary to make a number of other enquiries, arising from SPARKI's statement and the result of searching. A full report of evidence will then be submitted.

Louis V. Gale

Louis V. GALE, Captain

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

LWG/bd

00024

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

A.F.H.Q. Ref : B-389.450/A-25

4 January, 1945

S.D. Ref : 266.02 / 4776

SUBJECT : British Renegades - Interim report
SPETTI John Charles Anthony

1. With reference to communication B-389.450/A-25, dated 19 October, 1944 from A.F.H.Q., Office of Assistant Chief of Staff G-2, enclosing copy of letter from Room 055, War Office, Whitehall, relative to John Charles Anthony SPETTI :-
2. Enquiries and search of records have been made regarding SPETTI, covering the points (a) to (f) in War Office communication.
3. (a) The original exhibits referred to in C.I.O. report mentioned in above H.Q. communication will be made available for submission with final report of evidence. In addition to these exhibits a considerable amount of other documentary evidence against SPETTI has now been extracted from the broadcasting records of the Ministry of Popular Culture. This includes correspondence between Italian officials, relative to the appointment of Giovanni SPETTI for English broadcasts, and describes him as a "collaborator". Correspondence is available showing that his appointment as a broadcaster in England was made by letter dated 15th July 1944 and ceased on 1st August 1944.

00023

4. Most important is evidence against SPETTI are applications signed by him, for payment of fees for innumerable English broadcasts during the period 20 July 1940 to 2nd August 1941, the dates of the various broadcasts being clearly indicated. During that time he was suspended from 15 April 1941 to 1 May 1941 and made no broadcasts between those dates.
5. Another exhibit of value as evidence against SPETTI is a letter dated 17 November 1940 from the Inspector of Radio and Television reprimanding SPETTI for being (i) 4 minutes late on 10/11/40 for transmission of war commentary at 1300 hours, (ii) one minute late on the same date for news transmission at 15.35 hours.
6. (a) In view of the serious nature of charges likely to be preferred against SPETTI - "adhering to the King's enemies" (Treason acts) and "Doing acts with intent to assist the enemy" (Defence Regulation 24) - and in view of the weight of circumstantial evidence available as at paras 1 - 5, it is considered advisable that he be arrested before any statement is taken from him. There are more than sufficient grounds to justify his arrest, and authority is accordingly sought to that end, and thereafter a statement under caution

S.D. Ref

: 266.02 / 4776

SUBJECT : British Renegades - Interior report
SPERM John Charles Anthony

1. With reference to communication B-389-4594-25, dated 12 October, 1944 from A.F.H.Q., Office of Assistant Chief of Staff G-2, enclosing copy of letter from Room 055, War Office, Whitehall, relative to John Charles Anthony SPERM :-
2. Enquiries and search of records have been made regarding SPERM, covering the points (a) to (f) in War Office communication.
3. (a) The original exhibits referred to in G.I.O. report mentioned in above W.O. communication will be made available for submission with final report of evidence. In addition to these exhibits a considerable amount of other documentary evidence against SPERM has now been extracted from the broadcasting records of the Ministry of Popular Culture. This includes correspondence between Italian officials, relative to the appointment of Giovanni SPERM for English broadcasts, and describes him as a "collaborator". Correspondence is available showing that his appointment as a broadcaster in English was made by letter dated 1/27 July 1943 and ceased on 5th August 1944.
4. Most important as evidence against SPERM are applications signed by him, for payment of fees for immortals English broadcasts during the period 20 July 1940 to 5th August 1944, the dates of the various broadcasts being clearly indicated. During that time he was suspended from 15 April 1944 to 4 May 1944 and made no broadcasts between those dates.
5. Another exhibit of value as evidence against SPERM is a letter dated 17 November 1940 from the Inspector of Radio and Television recommending SPERM for being (i) 4 minutes late on 16/11/40 for transmission of war commentary at 1300 hours, (ii) one minute late on the same date for news transmission at 15.35 hours.
6. (a) In view of the serious nature of charges likely to be preferred against SPERM - "Adhering to the King's enemies" (Treason acts) and "Doing acts with intent to assist the enemy" (Defence Regulation 24) - and in view of the weight of circumstantial evidence available as at paras 1-5, it is considered advisable that he be arrested before any statement is taken from him. There are more than sufficient grounds to justify his arrest, and authority is accordingly sought to that end, and thereafter a statement under caution might properly be taken from him.
7. (c) The evidence of Mr. Dento GUDI (American - Psychological Warfare Branch) will be confined to that of finding the various exhibits in the archives of the Ministry of Popular Culture. That of Signor Franco MADALDO will in the main provide evidence of SPERM's regular presence at the broadcasting studio at the appropriate times when English broadcasts were given over a period of twelve months or more during 1940-1941. Statements of both witnesses will be submitted with final report after arrest of SPERM has been effected. The evidence of the confidential informant referred to in the aforementioned G.I.O. report is purely "hearsay". No precise source can be indicated by him and it is of no value as "evidence".
8. (c) Enquiries to - date have not revealed that John SPERM was announced on

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the Italian radio under a pseudonym.

9. (e) Up to the present time no scripts of any of SPENI's broadcasts has been found in Italian records in Rome. Records at the Ministry of Popular Culture in Rome were found to be in the greatest disorder after the Occupation and the various exhibits already found, were gradually located only after much time and effort. Since scripts of broadcasts by a certain "Rena SPENI" have been found (see later) it is still thought possible that scripts of the broadcasts of John SPENI may be found. Search is therefore continuing whilst the records of the Ministry of Popular Culture are being re-assembled. As yet nobody has been located who can say with certainty what SPENI said in any particular broadcast. With regard to the dates and times of his broadcasts there is the evidence of the exhibits mentioned in pages 4 - 5 of this report.

10. (f) When authority to arrest SPENI has been granted, he will be questioned regarding the whereabouts and activities of other members of the SPENI family. Among documents found at the Ministry of Popular Culture were a number of signed applications for payment of fees for broadcasts in English in a series entitled "From me to You" made by "Rina SPENI" who may be identical with the sister of John SPENI whose appointment on the Italian radio the latter was trying to secure. The precise dates of the broadcasts between 10/5/40 and 20/1/41 given by "Rina SPENI" are shown in the exhibits mentioned above, to which the scripts of most of her broadcasts are attached. Authority is also sought for the arrest of "Rina SPENI" when identified, as the evidence against her is specific.

11. It is emphasized that John SPENI's arrest should be effected before any direct enquiries are made and that he be kept in custody pending trial. He is likely to ascend if subsequently placed at liberty, and is a man of some resource as can be seen from the manner in which he secured, by false statements, his "re-patriation" to Italy from England, which should form the subject of a further charge against him under Defence Regulations - (illegally entering enemy territory). Detailed reports of all the evidence available, will be submitted together with all original exhibits, after arrest of John SPENI and "Rina SPENI".

00022

Louis V. Gale
Louis V. GALE, Captain

John A. Galt
JOHN A. GALT

Colonel J.A.G.D.
Director Public Safety
Sub-Commission

PERSONAL for Col. YOUNG

SUBJECT: SPERNI John Charles Anthony

CONFIDENTIAL

Office of the AG of S G-2
ROME AREA ALLIED COMMAND
CMF

Director,
Security Division,
Allied Commission.

G/P670/BR

29 Jan 45

1. Attached is a copy of a letter received from AFHQ in reply to this office letter G/P670/BR of 5 Jan, which forwarded to AFHQ a copy of Capt GALE's report 266.02 of 4 Jan, concerning Subject.

2. It is understood that Capt GALE is in possession of all the facts of this case and knows what is required by AFHQ. It has also been agreed that members of 276 FS Section shall assist Capt GALE, if required, in the arrest of Subject. It would be appreciated therefore if instructions could be given to Capt GALE to take action as indicated in attached letter.

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

PT

00021

CONFIDENTIAL

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

GBI.389.450/A-25.

27 January, 1945.

SUBJECT: SPIERMI, John Charles Anthony.

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

Reference your G/P670/BR of 5 January, 1945.

1. This case has been considered from the legal standpoint and you are authorized to arrest SPIERMI forth with and obtain a statement from him.
2. While in custody he should be kept in segregation, for which facilities exist at "R" Internes Camp, TERNI.
3. It is suggested that Captain Gale should get in touch with the Special Investigation Branch and that the statement obtained from SPIERMI should be taken in the presence of two officers.

For the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2:

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

00020

CONFIDENTIAL

SECRET

AFHQ Liaison Officer
I.A.I.= ROME
Tel. 478897

No.1237

17 March 1945.

SUBJECT : Passport n.939991/446

TO : Security Branch, A.C.
(Att.Capt.L.V.GALE).

Reference conversation Capt.GALE= Capt.STANHOPE-
WRIGHT of 16 Mar.45.

1. Herewith attached is C.S. promemoria regarding investigations concerning the authenticity of the a/m passport.

00019

Stanhope Wright

Capt.
I.A.I. LIAISON
(AFHQ).

SW/AS

MEMORIA-

Il passaporto n°939991/146 intestato a Giovanni Carlo SPERNI, venne effettivamente rilasciato dal nostro R.Consolato Generale a Londra l'11 maggio 940 e firmato per ordine del Console Generale, del Cancelliere PANIZZA Giovanni, attualmente a disposizione del Ministero degli Esteri.

L'aggiunta fatta in un secondo tempo, stando alla versione del PANIZZA, con il quale ho parlato questo pomeriggio, sarebbe regolare anche se non completata dalla fotografia dell'interessata e l'omissione della foto stessa si deve attribuire a mancanza di tempo in quanto che lo Sporni decise di abbandonare l'Inghilterra quando seppe che i funzionari italiani, dopo l'entrata in guerra dell'Italia, stavano per prendere imbarco, con i quali volle partire anche lui accompagnato dalla moglie e figli.

Il Cancelliere Panizza, mi ha assicurato che conosce lo Sporni da molto tempo e lo ritiene elemento serio e di buoni sentimenti.

P.A. 3800, li 16 marzo 945-

Prig Dr. ...

00315



OGGETTO: Esito accertamenti.

Generalità: SPERNI Giovanni Carlo di Giovanni e di Challis Annie, nato a
Torino il 16 agosto 1912, coniugato con prole.

Professione:

Professione. Ingegnere; laureato presso l'Università di Londra. Già collaboratore ed annunciatore in lingua inglese presso il Ministero della Cultura Popolare - Ispettorato Radio - Roma.

... Giunto a Roma, proveniente da Londra, nel dicembre del 1940.

Registrato presso l'ufficio anagrafe in uno a:
Stampa di Giovanni e di Robb Rhonagh, nata a Londra il

938. Paracalla: via Sforza N.14 interno I7 scala D.

Domicilio: Via Sforza N.14 interno 17 scala D.
E' questo l'unico recapito esistente agli atti dell'ufficio

Il soggetto ha però effettuato, omettendone la denuncia, i seguenti cambiamenti di domicilio desunti, per concatenazione, in sede di accertamenti:

[illegible]

17 sc. D.-
Via Sforza N. 14 int. 17 sc. D.-
17 sc. D.-

1942 - Albergo Primavera-Via Basilico N.53-
1942 gennaio

- febbraio 1942 - Internato, quale sospetto politico, a S. Angelo in Vado (Pesaro).

16 agosto 1943 - Liberato dall'internamento-

1943 - Via Due Macelli N. 31 -

22 settembre 1943 - Piazza Maresciallo Giardino N. I int. 29.-

5 " I943 - Parte per Chianciano, residenza della famiglia.
mipla.-

8 int. 6 ;

Generalita':

SPERNI Giovanni Carlo di Giovanni e di Challis Annie, nato a Londra il 16 agosto 1912, coniugato con prole.
English subject.

Professione:

Ingegnere; laureato presso l'Universita' di Londra.
Gia' collaboratore ed annunciatore in lingua inglese presso l'ex Ministero della Cultura Popolare - Ispettorato Radio - Roma.

Provenienza:

Giunto a Roma, proveniente da Londra, nel dicembre del 1940.

Accertamenti anagrafici:

Registrato presso l'ufficio anagrafe in uno a:
SPERNI Erina di Giovanni e di Robb Rhonagh, nata a Londra il 23 agosto 1938.

Domicilio: Via Sforza N.14 interno I7 scala D.
E' questo l'unico recapito esistente agli atti dell'ufficio

anagrafe.

Il soggetto ha pero' effettuato, omettendone la denuncia, i seguenti cambiamenti di domicilio desunti, per concatenazione, in sede di accertamenti:

00017

- 20 dicembre 1940 - Via Stazione S. Pietro N.16 int.15 -
- 26 " " 1940 - Albergo del Senato-Roma-
- 27 " " 1940 - Via Sforza N. 14 int. I7 Sc. D -
- 16 " " 1941 - Albergo del Senato - Roma - con recapito in via della Mercede N. 54.-
- 21 febbraio 1941 - Via Sforza N. 14 int. I7 sc. D.-
- 14 gennaio 1942 - Albergo Primavera-Via Basilico N.53.-
- febbraio 1942 - Internato, quale sospetto politico, a S. Angelo in Vardo (Pesaro).
- 16 agosto 1943 - Liberato dall'internamento-
- 22 agosto 1943 - Via Due Macelli N. 31 -
- 13 settembre 1943 - Piazza Maresciallo Giardino N. I int. 29.-
- 5 " " 1943 - Parte per Chienciano, residenza della famiglia.-

Domicilio attuale del soggetto:

Il soggetto domicilia, in atto, in via Belluno N. 8 int. 6 ;
appartamento gia' abitato dal Capitano di Fregata COSULICH Paolo di Aristide, gia' comandante dell'Ala Littoria, trasferitosi a Trieste, in uno ./.

alla famiglia, nel gennaio del 1943.-

Attività' esplicata dal soggetto durante la sua permanenza a Roma
(Elementi desunti attraverso gli atti della R. Questura)

Dicembre 1940:

Impiegato presso il Ministero della Cultura Popolare -
Ispettorato Radio - in qualità' di collaboratore ed annunciatore in lin-
gua inglese.

Anno 1941:

Licenziato dal predetto impiego per essere stato trovato in
possesto di un bollettino captato per radio dall'Agenzia Reuter.
Occupato presso l'Agenzia Giornalistica "AUDI", via della
Mercede N. 54 - Roma.

Febbraio 1942:

Internato a S. Angelo in Vado (Pesaro) per avere espresso,
in lettera diretta alla moglie, già' cittadina irlandese, aspri giudizi
nei confronti dei nazifascisti.

8 agosto 1943:

Liberato dall'internamento in seguito ad ordine telegrafico
del Ministero degli Interni.

Precedenti S.I.M.

Il soggetto potrebbe identificarsi con lo SPERNI (capitano,
capo dell'organizzazione dei prigionieri di guerra alleati) menzionato
nei paragrafi 24 e seguenti della relazione sull'interrogatorio di GUA-
DAGNO Pio (S.C.I. - Roma - 712/996A in data 8-9-1944).

L'ipotesi (vds. paragr. 25 della relazione) e' avvalorata
dalla presentazione avvenuta fra il GUADAGNO e lo SPERNI, tramite il
DOMENICHINI, nei locali del Ministero della Cultura Popolare, dicastero,
quest'ultimo, presso il quale il soggetto e' stato impiegato per oltre un
anno in qualità' di collaboratore ed annunciatore.

Varie:

- Con il soggetto alloggia, in via Belluno N. 8 int. 6, il di
lui fratello a nome Gerardo, non meglio identificato.

- Presso un ufficio militare alleato di Capua o Caserta presta
servizio, in atto, un fratellastro del soggetto rispondente alle seguenti
generalità':
SPERNI Hubert di John e di Anna Ball, nato a Londra il

22 agosto 1910, ingegnere.
British Subject; passaporto N. 455918 in data 15-8-1931.-

Dicembre 1940:

Impiegato presso il Ministero della Cultura Popolare - Ispettorato Radio - in qualita' di collaboratore ed annunciatore in lingua inglese.

Anno 1941:

Licenziato dal predetto impiego per essere stato trovato in possesso di un bollettino captato per radio dall'Agenzia Reuter.

Occupato presso l'Agenzia Giornalistica "AUDI", via della Mercede N. 54 - Roma.

Febbraio 1942:

Internato a S. Angelo in Vado (Pesaro) per avere espresso, in lettera diretta alla moglie, gia' cittadina irlandese, aspri giudizi nei confronti dei nazifascisti.

8 agosto 1943:

Liberato dall'internamento in seguito ad ordine telegrafico del Ministero degli Interni.

Precedenti S.I.M.

Il soggetto potrebbe identificarsi con lo SPERNI (capitano, capo dell'organizzazione dei prigionieri di guerra alleati) menzionato nei paragrafi 24 e seguenti della relazione sull'interrogatorio di GUADAGNO Pio (S.C.I. - Roma - 712/996A in data 8-9-1944).

L'ipotesi (vds. paragr. 25 della relazione) e' avvalorata dalla presentazione avvenuta fra il GUADAGNO e lo SPERNI, tramite il DOMENICHINI, nei locali del Ministero della Cultura Popolare, dicastero, quest'ultimo, presso il quale il soggetto e' stato impiegato per oltre un anno in qualita' di collaboratore ed annunciatore.

Varie:

- Con il soggetto alloggia, in via Belluno N. 8 int. 6, il di lui fratello a nome Gerardo, non meglio identificato.

- Presso un ufficio militare alleato di Capua o Caserta presta servizio, in atto, un fratellastro del soggetto rispondente alle seguenti generalita':

SPERNI Hubert di John e di Anna Ball, nato a Londra il 22 agosto 1910, ingegnere.

British Subject; passaporto N. 455918 in data 15-8-1931.-

Sup. Fin.

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*Exhibits
C and D
extracted
13. April 1945
L. J. Spill
Capt.*

HEADQUARTERS,
426th C.I.C. Detachment,
APO #794

HJM/SP

Case No. E-832

24 August 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR THE OFFICER IN CHARGE:

SUBJECT: John Charles Anthony SPIERI,
Via Belluno #8, Rome, Italy.

RE: Background Investigation.

1. This report is predicated on a request from the office of the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2, RAAC, asking that a complete background investigation of Subject be conducted by this office. The original information came from AFHQ Security Service, through AAI.

2. The following agencies were checked with negative results: OSS, JICA, SOI and FSS.

3. On 15 August 1944, this Agent interviewed Sig. Franco BADOLATO, former technician at Radio Rome and presently working for P.W.B. BADOLATO gave the following information concerning Subject. Subject came to Italy from England just after the declaration of war in 1940 and received a position with the Italian Ministry of Popular Culture. He was given the position of broadcasting the I.P.M. news bulletins to Great Britain and later on in the evening he would give a political talk. All of these broadcasts emanated from Radio Rome and all were in English. He was employed in this capacity for a period of one and one-half years. BADOLATO declared that he did not see Subject after that, until one month ago when he saw him working for P.W.B. 00010

4. As for the records of Subject's broadcasts, BADOLATO stated it was the policy of the station to keep the records for one year and then burn them.

5. BADOLATO declared that Subject was friendly with the following people: Ida ERCOLI, Via Quintino Sella #20, Int. #6, Scala B; Prince San Faustino (Interned); and Marchese Di Sorbello.

6. On 15 August 1944, this agent interviewed Mr. Luigi ZACCARDI, former United Press Staff correspondent and presently employed in this office. ZACCARDI'S statement of his knowledge of Subject's activities is incorporated in this report as Exhibit "A".

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7. On 16 August 1944, this agent interviewed Mr. D. GNUDI of FWS, and obtained the following information about Subject. Mr. GNUDI secured the records of the Ministry of Popular Culture and gave them to this agent. These records of SPERNI'S activities have been translated and a translated copy of each document is on file in this office. Of particular interest in the SPERNI file were two letters from the office of the SIM, which are incorporated in this report as Exhibits "B" and "C". Exhibit "B" is a letter from Colonel Amis, Chief of the SIM, to LUCIANO, office manager of the Ministry of Popular Culture, stating that SPERNI had been of help to the SIM because of his knowledge of England. The second SIM letter (Exhibit "C") is a letter to the office manager from the investigator (signature illegible) who had been assigned to investigate the circumstances involving an article written by SPERNI. In the letter, the writer narrates some information from SIM, which indicates that SPERNI worked for SIM.

An audit of the records of the Ministry of Popular Culture disclosed that SPERNI worked for the Ministry from June 1940 to July 31, 1941. During that period, he made 841 broadcasts for which he received the sum of 28,536 lire. SPERNI was dismissed from the Ministry of Popular Culture because of his intercepting a Reuters broadcast on Italian internees. After being dismissed from the Ministry of Popular Culture, he took a position with the ANDI News Agency (Brazilian controlled) and worked for this agency until February 1942. In February of 1942, he wrote an article criticizing the Italian press and the agency was closed. Shortly thereafter, he was arrested. A copy of the article appears as Exhibit "D" of this report.

On 16 August 1944, this Agent obtained the following background information about Subject from a confidential informant:

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SPERNI Giovanni Carlo di Giovanni and di CHENNELIS Anna, born in London the 16th August 1912, and dwelling in Via Belluno #5, Rome, was repatriated from England in 1940, together with the following members of his family:

- 1) RHONACC Robb di Andrea, born in Brighton the 10th Oct. 1914 (Wife);
- 2) SPERNI Grina or Nina, born in London 25 Aug. 1939 (Daughter);
- 3) SPERNI Angela, born in London 21 April 1940 (Daughter).

SPERNI, born and having always lived in England, as soon as he came to Italy was employed as English language speaker at the Ministero della Cultura Popolare (Broadcasting Section). He was then speaker of Radio Roma from July 1940 to April 1941. In this month, he was fired under the accusation of having been found in possession of a bulletin intercepted on the radio from Reuter's Agency, concerning the Italian internees in England.

He was then employed at the Associated Press as translator and, when war started against United States, he became correspondent of the ANDI Agency, seated in Buenos-Aires, united to the Associated Press for journalistic services destined to South America.

In the first days of February 1942, ANDI Agency was closed by order of the Ministero della Cultura Popolare, for an uncaredful article, which criti-

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red Italian Journalism, sent abroad by SPERNI.

After nearly a month, he was arrested by the Carabinieri and was relegated in an Internee Camp at Ariano Irpino.

From five months or so, Mr. SPERNI lives in Via Belluno #8. He is known as a newspaperman. He lives luxuriously and owns a brown car. He usually comes out from his house at ten o'clock up to 15 or 16 hours p.m. In the evening he comes back late, and often after the curfew.

His house is often visited by Allied military men, and also by members of the English Police. Actually he seems to be serving at the PWB. Somebody says he is an English citizen, but by the local authorities he is considered an Italian Subject.

On 16 August 1944, this Agent interviewed Miss Ida ERCOLI, Via Quintino Sella #20. The name of Miss ERCOLI had been given to this agent by Sig. Franco BADOLATO, as a person who knew Subject. Miss ERCOLI declared that she first met Subject in Rome in 1940, being introduced to him by Nancy SPERNI, sister of Subject. Miss ERCOLI said she knew Nancy SPERNI in London, where she had also met Nancy's father, but had never met Subject. She said she knew nothing about Subject's activities except that he had worked for the Ministry of Popular Culture, but she did not know in what capacity. She said that she only met Subject a few times and it was always at the house of Nancy SPERNI. The only friend of SPERNI's that she knows is a Mr. CICCHERO of the Swiss Legation.

Agent's Comments: Miss ERCOLI was very uncooperative in all of her statements. She had a very convenient memory and did not want to answer questions. She also worked for the Ministry of Popular Culture and was in Germany when war was declared. A separate Summary of Information will be written about Miss ERCOLI.

On 19 August 1944, this Agent interviewed Subject and obtained the following information. John Charles Anthony SPERNI, born 16 August 1912, in London, England. Married to Rhonagh Maureen Robb SPERNI, born in Brighton, England on 9 October 1914. They have two small children and are presently living at Via Belluno #8, Apt #6, Rome. SPERNI's father, John SPERNI, Sr., is a retired structural engineer and was last reported to be living at #36 Doughty St., London W.C. 1. Subject's mother Anne Challis, presently living in Stroud, Gloucestershire, England. Subject was employed at the following places during the stated years:

- 1930 - 1933: Worked for father in construction engineer work.
- 1933 - 1934: Worked for Miller Machinery Co., London. Was supposed to go to work for them in South Africa, but the contract never materialized.
- 6 mos of 1934: Worked as an automobile buyer for Fride and Clark Automobile Co., London.
- 1935 - 1936: Had own automobile business, buying and selling cars.

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1936 - 1938: Manager of Smith and Hunter Automobile Co. Firm went into bankruptcy in 1938.
 4 mos. of 1938: Worked as a buyer for Dodge Automobile Firm.
 1938 - June 1939: Had his own automobile agency under name of S & G Motors, Edmonton, London. Worked with man named Gabriel.
 June 1939 to May 1940: 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 first tried to get permission to leave from the English authorities, but this was denied. He then went to the Italian consulate, where he contacted a Mr. PAIZZA. PAIZZA told him that if he secured a copy of the birth-certificate of his paternal grandfather, that he could get an Italian passport for Subject. He procured the certificate from his father, paid a 50-pound bribe to PAIZZA and received the passport. (This passport was later confiscated by the Italian Police).

He left England in June 1940 (after the declaration of war) on the "Conte Rosso", a repatriate ship and when he arrived in Italy, he was immediately put under curfew restrictions.

June 1940 - Feb 1941: Stated that he was unemployed.
 Feb. 1941 - Dec 1941: Through a friend of his, the Marchese di Sorbello, he secured work with the Associated Press under Mr. Richard MASSOCK, chief of the Italian Bureau of the AP. MASSOCK suggested that SPERMI be appointed a correspondent for a subsidiary agency known as the "ANDI" Agency. This was accomplished by MASSOCK and the ANDI Agency through outwardly an Argentinian Agency, was actually a subsidiary agency for the Associated Press.

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In December 1941, Italy declared war on the United States, so all of the property of the AP was immediately switches over to the ANDI Agency.

SPERMI continued to work for the ANDI Agency until 27 Feb. 1942, when Italian police broke into his office and found a copy of his British Masonic certificate. He was brought to the Questura and held there for three days. Then he was sent to the Regina Coeli Prison and held in solitary confinement for 27 days. After that he was transferred to the Ariano Irpino Transit Camp in the province of Pesaro. Meanwhile, his wife had been transferred to the mountain village of Sant'Angelo in Vado also in the province of Pesaro. His wife succeeded in contacting the Marchese di Sorbello and SPERMI was transferred to Sant'Angelo in Vado. There he was restricted so that he could not leave the town and could not leave his house, after the tolling of the Angelus.

In June 1943, he had a fight with some of the town Fascists and through

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the intervention of Mr. STAFFAN of the Swiss Legation he and his wife were sent to Cantiano, also in Pescara Province. He remained there until 3 September 1943, the day of the Italian Armistice, when he walked out. He made his way back to Rome where he secured a car, went back to Cantiano and brought back his wife.

From 15 September 1943, until 19 April 1944, he busied himself with hiding escaped prisoners of war. Through his cooperation with Major Derry of "A" Force and the priests of St. Patrick's Church, Subject declared that a system was established for hiding and feeding Allied prisoners of war.

As to the veracity of this phase of Subject's declarations, arrangements will be made with the Allied Screening Board to interrogate Subject and submit their findings.

On 19 April 1944, Subject's house was raided by the German SS and an American private, Nicholas Hernandez, and a British Lance Bombardier Leslie Mandy, were found there. Subject was brought to the German prison on Via Tasso and kept there for 29 days. During the time he was there he was beaten with a bull-whip by a German non-commissioned officer named KRUPP. From Via Tasso, he was brought to the Regina Coeli Prison, brought to trial and sentenced to death. On the 4th of June at 7:00 a.m., he escaped from the prison and the Allies arrived that night.

On 6 June 1944, he secured a position with PWB and worked there until three weeks ago when he met Mr. KENNEDY of the Associated Press. KENNEDY said that when he returned to Rome from a trip to the North, he would be able to use SPERNI with AP.

Agent's Comments: During the course of the interview, SPERNI never mentioned the fact that he had been employed by the Ministry of Popular Culture. This Agent called his attention to that fact and he admitted that he had worked for the Ministry. He then declared that he had worded the transmissions so as to make Fascism look foolish. 00011

As for the two letters from SIM (Exhibits "B" and "C"), which indicate that Subject had been an informant for that organization, SPERNI declared that he knew nothing about them. He said he did not know Colonel Ame nor Captain FLAMMI and had never heard of them. He declared that the letters might have been written on his behalf at the request of one of his friends.

During the course of the interview SPERNI never mentioned the fact that his father had been interned under the British Defense Regulations.

Except for the above mentioned comments, SPERNI spoke very freely, was precise in the details of other experiences and impressed this Agent as being pro-British at the present time. What his sympathies were in the years 1940 and 1941, is hard to determine in view of the fact that one act of his seemed to contradict a previous act. In the opinion of this

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Agent, Subject was an early war fence sitter, who finally climbed down to the side of the Allies.

RECOMMENDATIONS: Subject has undoubtedly helped Allied prisoners of war, but the extent of his help can only be ascertained after interrogation by the Allied Screening Board. Therefore, this Agent recommends that this case be considered as pending, until the Allied Screening Board submits a report and a more definite judgement can be made. Any recommendation at this time would be premature as the evidence on both sides has not been weighed.

HARRY J. MURPHY,
Special Agent, C.I.C.

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HEADQUARTERS,
426th C.I.C. Detachment,
APO #794

HJM/jp

Case No. R-532

24 August 1944

LIST OF EXHIBITS

Exhibit "A" - Statement of Mr. Luigi ZACCARDI.

Exhibit "B" - Letter taken from file of Ministry of
Popular Culture. Letter written by
Col. Amé of S.I.M.

Exhibit "C" - Letter written from office of S.I.M.
to Ministry of Popular Culture asking
that Subject's punishment be light.

Exhibit "D" - Newspaper article written by Subject.

HARRY J. MURPHY,
Special Agent, CIC.

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EXHIBIT "A"

15 August 1944.

I, the undersigned, ZACCARDI, Luigi - born in New York on 6 June 1913, state the following information regarding SPERDI, John. The information is true to the best of my knowledge.

I met John SPERDI for the first time in 1941, several months before America's entry into the war, at a foreign press conference held at the Ministry of Popular Culture in Rome. I had gone to the said conference as a United Press staff correspondent to get an Italian war bulletin, and SPERDI introduced himself to me and said that he was there for the same reason. He told me that he was working for the Associated Press (Manager, MASSOCK) and that he had come to Italy with an Italian passport, sometime before, accompanied by his wife (a British Subject), his brother (aged, I think, about 16) and, I believe, two children (a boy and a girl). He appeared to be very pro-British and said that the Italian authorities had already treated him very badly. I didn't see SPERDI again until about the end of February 1942, when I happened to run into him on the Via Della ⁰⁰⁰⁰⁸ Mercede in Rome. I went with him to the Foreign Press Association, Via della Mercede 54, where we had a drink and he asked me what I was doing at the time. I told him I was looking around for English lessons and that I had no job. He said that he was correspondent for the "ANDI" new agency (Brazilian), had an office there at Via della Mercede 54, and that he might be able to do something for me. He told me to drop in and see him the following evening. I did so and he told me that shortly before America's entry into the war, it had been arranged that he, SPERDI, would become correspondent

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for the "ANDI" Agency in Rome, should America enter the war. SPERNI was to send press dispatches to the ANDI Agency, which, it appears, was to forward them to the Associated Press. The dispatches were to be sent either by cable directly to South America or indirectly by phone to the ANDI Office in Berne, Switzerland, which would then forward them to ANDI, Brazil. SPERNI added that when America entered the war, the Bureau Manager of the Associated Press in Rome, MAGSOCK, entrusted to him the files and furniture belonging to the Associated Press and that he had placed all this material in the ANDI Office on Via Della Mercede for safekeeping. SPERNI declared that everything had worked smoothly except that he had had great difficulty with the Italian press censorship office, which accused him of giving an anti-fascist slant to his stories. He said that he had been reprimanded several times for this and then told me that this was the reason why he had asked me to drop in and see him. He explained that about 4 days before, he had sent a dispatch quoting an article published by Ciano's Leghorn newspaper "Il Telegrafo" wherein the uniformity of the Fascist press was denounced. The censor had sent the dispatch back to him twice saying that the lead was misleading and malignant and asking him to change it. On the third try, it went through. Two days later, an order came from the Foreign Press Department of the Ministry of Popular Culture suspending SPERNI from all newspaper activity until further notice and blocking his phones. SPERNI assumed that the reason why they had taken these measures against him was that since he had numerous enemies at the Popular Culture Ministry and since the "Il Telegrafo" article mentioned above was, it seems, directed against the head of the Italian Press Dept., who had a particular hatred for him, and he, SPERNI, had been so rash as

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to quote the article in question in his dispatch, the Popular Culture authorities had decided to use him as a scapegoat. He suggested that I come and work for him so that I could sign the cables and help him to resume his work. He said that he would do his best to try and work this out. One morning about three days later, I went to SPERNI'S office and found his wife there with an Italian gentleman that I had never seen before. She told me that her husband had been arrested that morning at 6 o'clock by the Fascist Police.

I saw SPERNI'S wife again about two weeks later and she told me that her husband had been sentenced to confinement in a town in central Italy and that she was going to join him there shortly.

During the few days that I spent with SPERNI during this period, he told me that sometime after his arrival in Rome from England, he had gotten a job at the Popular Culture Ministry as copyreader, I think, but had made many enemies there, because of his pro-British attitude. He told me that one day he was arrested by the Fascist police on the charge of being a British agent. He was subsequently released, I think, because of lack of evidence.

After his arrest in February 1942, I did not see SPERNI again until after the arrival of the Allies in Rome. I met him, I think, about the end of June in PWB Building at Via Veneto and he told me, rather in a hurry, a long story of his adventures after his arrest in February 1942. It appears that after spending some time in confinement, in central Italy, he was transferred to a concentration camp in southern Italy. (This latter part of my statement may not be very precise because I did not pay a great deal of attention to SPERNI when he told me his story. From there, he was

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either released or managed to escape, I don't remember which, and came to Rome. Following the German occupation of Rome, he was again arrested, this time by the Nazi police, I don't know on what charge, and put in Regina Coeli jail. From there he managed to escape, together with some Allied soldiers who, it appears, had been put in the Regina Coeli jail, because captured while wearing civilian clothes. At the same time, SPERMI hinted that during all the time he had been in Italy, he had been useful to the Allies.

In all my dealings with SPERMI, he always impressed me as being definitely favorable to the Allied cause and in his conversation appeared to be very anti-Italian and very pro-British. He struck me as being quite impulsive and incapable of hiding his true feelings and he seems really to have had numerous enemies in Rome.

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EXHIBIT "B"

Supreme Command

The Chief of the SIM

To Excellency Celso Luciano
Ministry of Popular Culture
R O M E

November 28th 1941 - XX

Dear Excellency,

I know that Mr. Giovanni Sporni asked the competent Management of your Ministry - recommended by Excellency Grandi - the permit needed by him to act as a correspondent of the South-American agency "Andi".

Allow me to add to Grandi's authoritative recommendation my own recommendation, as my Department, which is in possession of good references about Sporni, has availed itself in the past of his profound knowledge of English territory, in order to obtain from him informations and particularly useful data, which were always furnished by him disinterestedly.

I understand that since he was severely punished by being fired from the General Management of the Radio on account of the well-known incident, Sporni and his family have had hard times.

If Sporni can be employed as a correspondent he would be able to live comfortably again. So, I hope you will allow him to have the permit he asked for, and I send you beforehand my own and the SIM's thanks.

I thank you in advance,

Sincerely,

COL. ANE'

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

19 October 1944

B-389. 450/A-25

Dear *Cole*.

With reference to my visit to you on Monday 16 October I enclose a copy of the letter from the Security Service giving details of what they want on SPERNI.

The original exhibits are held either by the C.I.C. or by Mr. GNUDI of P.W.B. The latter has quite a lot of material on SPERNI taken from the files of the Ministry of Popular Culture. So far there seems to be no actual scripts of his broadcasts though these may turn up. There are, however, scripts of broadcasts that appear to have been made by his wife. One document complaining of SPERNI's lateness at the studio seemed interesting as it fixed the time and date of a broadcast.

With regard to the matter of the transmission of funds from ITALY to the BRITISH Union of Fascists, again it is Mr. GNUDI who has the originals and who can best advise you. He is very helpful and seems extremely keen in his researches into the files of the Ministry of Popular Culture, so don't hesitate to make every use of him.

If we can be of any assistance let me know.

Yours sincerely,

R. Evers Russell

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Captain L.V. GALE,
Security Branch,
A.C.C.

CONFIDENTIAL

Security
Division
Rec'd 22/10
Book No 2518
File No 26602
Action <i>Capl Gale</i>

CONFIDENTIALROOM 055,
WAR OFFICE,
WHITEHALL,
S.W.1.

FRB/D.

4th October, 1944.

Dear HILL-DILLON

Please refer to our telegram reference DS/2576/44 dated 2nd August, 1944, regarding John Charles Anthony SPERNI, 8 Via Belluno, Rome, and your reply reference B-389.450/A-25 dated 6th September.

We are extremely grateful for the investigation report which was forwarded with your letter. This has been of great value to the Security Service.

There seems a reasonable chance that John SPERNI will be prosecuted and, if so, he will be the first renegade to appear before the British Courts in this war. If a prosecution is to take place I am afraid that it is necessary for us to ask for your assistance upon a number of further points, I realise that this is placing a serious burden upon your staff and if you feel that it cannot be undertaken no doubt you will let me know.

What we in fact require is:

- (a) the original exhibits referred to in the C.I.C. report forwarded with your letter of 6th September, or at least copies of these exhibits.
- (b) a signed statement, under caution, taken from SPERNI himself.
- (c) if possible similar statements from BADOLATO and GNUDI mentioned in the 3rd and 7th paragraphs of the C.I.C. report.

We do not know whether the confidential informant referred to in paragraph 7 of this report would be willing to come forward and make a statement; if so, it would be most useful if one could be obtained.

- (d) any available information as to whether SPERNI was announced on the Italian radio under a pseudonym and, if so, what this pseudonym was.
- (e) with regard to paragraph 4 of the report, we are anxious to know whether this means that there is no chance of finding in Rome the script of any of SPERNI's broadcasts. If no written record of these broadcasts still exists, is there anyone who can say from memory what SPERNI said on any one occasion? Also, is there any record of the exact dates and times of SPERNI's broadcasts?
- (f) we should also like to know - and see no reason why SPERNI should not be directly asked - what has happened to his brothers and sister

who went with him to Italy. We understood that his sister was working in the Foreign Interests Section of the Swiss Legation in Rome, but an intercepted letter shows that SPERNI at one time tried to get her to work for the Italian radio. We do not know whether or not he succeeded and perhaps the Italian radio records might provide some information on this point.

In view of the possibility of criminal proceedings, the statements referred to in (b) and (c) will have to be submitted to the Director of Public Prosecutions, and in these circumstances it would be helpful if they could be taken by an officer who has some knowledge of English legal and police procedure. It is possible that the officer who takes the statements might have to come to England to give evidence in any trial which may take place.

The enquiries already made in this case have no doubt raised SPERNI's suspicions and if a statement is taken from him under caution, he may become sufficiently alarmed to try to make his escape. We feel bound to leave to your decision the question of SPERNI's arrest after he has made his statement. You will know from the local conditions what chances he has of getting away if he is not arrested. There can, however, be no question of SPERNI being sent to this country until a decision has been arrived at as regards his prosecution.

Yours sincerely

PR BARRY.
Lieut. Colonel P.R. BARRY.

Colonel S.S. HILL-DILLON, OBE, DSO,
A.C. of E. G-2.
A.F.H.Q.

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