

ACC 10000/143/2701

266.02/02

SECRET = GERALD SPERNI

Apr. - OCT. 1945

S.D. 266.02
 British Renegades.
 Gerald Philip SPERNI

Minute 1. To Director - Public Safety.

The evidence in this case seems to be conclusive, although a rather flimsy defence based on a claim to Italian nationality may be put forward.

Suggest forward to V.P. and C.A. with request to pass attached three copies to Office of A.C. of S. G-2. A.F.H.Q.

Lois J. Gale, Captain
 for S.G. Harver, Major.
 Security Division.

Minute 2.

Report noted with approval

1 May 1945

Chapman
 Col. D.H.

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

12 October 1945

REF: : ~~SD/206.02/2~~

SUBJECT : British Renegades John C... Spemi,
Gerald Spemi.

TO : K.C. Henton 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.
5. Gerald Spemi 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.

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

Copy to : ~~SD/206.02/2~~ ←
SD/206.02/2

SDH/lm.

S E C R E T

Secret

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
Public Safety Sub-Commission
APO 394

Tel : 489081-502

10 May, 1945

SUBJECT : Prosecution Report - Gerald Sporni
British Renegade

TO : Office of A.C. of S., G-2, AFHQ.

The enclosed are forwarded as a matter
pertaining to your command.

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

Encs: 3 folders

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LJP/wg.

S E C R E T

SECRETHEADQUARTERS
ALLIED COMMISSION

C.M.P.

PUBLIC SAFETY SUB-COMMISSION
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Statement of Miss Margaret P. KING. (marked "A")

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Statement made under caution by Gerald Philip
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Copy of document - application signed "Gerald
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Report by Captain L. V. GALE,
Security Division, H.Q., Allied Commission : -

pages 1 - 15. General history of case.

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Copy of document entitled "Profits Soar While Ships Sink" found at Ministry of Popular Culture, Rome. (marked "D")

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Copy of document - application signed "Gerald SPERMI" for payment of 111 lire for translation and preparation of radio broadcast - "Profits Mount While Ships Sink". Found at Ministry of Popular Culture, Rome. (marked "E")

Copy of document - application signed "Gerald SPERMI" for payment of 56 lire for broadcasting a prepared talk entitled "Gibraltar". Found at Ministry of Popular Culture, Rome. (marked "F")

Lewis V. Gale

LEWIS V. GALE, Captain,
Security Division,
H.Q., Allied Commission, C.M.F.

CJR

SECRET

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

SECRET

7 May 1945.

REF: SD/266.02/IVG.

SUBJECT: British Renegade - Prosecution Report.
- Gerald Philip SPERNI.

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 Gerald Philip SPERNI, subject of an interim report of this Division, dated 24 April, 1945, relating to his arrest and subsequent detention at "B" Internment Camp, Tervel: -

2. The necessary enquiries to establish a case against this individual, have now been completed and there appears to be sufficient evidence on which to base 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.

3. The evidence in this case shows that Gerald SPERNI, (like other members of his family), although born and bred in London, of parents who were also British born, applied for an Italian passport, basing his claim upon the birth of his paternal grandfather at Parma, R. Italy.

4. Accordingly, he obtained Italian passport No. 99365/5426 issued on 10 October, 1939, by the Italian Consulate, London. This passport, in itself, appears to be an authentic document, issued from the Italian Consulate, London, but the circumstances of its being issued are subject to considerable suspicion. Like that of his brother - John Charles Anthony SPERNI - it was signed by "PAMAZZA" an official at the Italian Consulate, London, who was apparently a friend of the SPERNI family, and to whom John SPERNI claimed to have paid a bribe of fifty pounds to obtain his passport. (See Security Division report of 14 April 1945 regarding prosecution of John SPERNI).

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5. Gerald SPERNI, in a statement made under caution (see later), said

7 May 1945.

REF: 35/266.02/111G.

SUBJECT: British Renegade - Prosecution Report.
- Gerald Philip SPERNI.

TO : A.C. Of S., G-2, A.P.A.1.
(Copy to A.C. of S., G-3, R.A.A.C.)

1. With further reference to Gerald Philip SPERNI, subject of an interview report of this Division, dated 24 April, 1945, relating to his arrest and subsequent detention at "W" Internment Camp, Terol: -

2. The necessary enquiries to establish a case against this individual, have now been completed and there appears to be sufficient evidence on which to base 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.

3. The evidence in this case shows that Gerald SPERNI, (like other members of his family), although born and bred in London, of parents who were also British born, applied for an Italian passport, basing his claim upon the birth of his paternal grandfather at Varese, N. Italy.

4. Accordingly, he obtained Italian passport No. 890365/5426 issued on 10 October, 1939, by the Italian Consulate, London. This passport, in itself, appears to be an authentic document, issued from the Italian Consulate, London, but the circumstances of its being issued are subject to considerable suspicion. Like that of his brother - John Charles Anthony SPERNI - it was signed by "PABLO" an official at the Italian Consulate, London, who was apparently a friend of the SPERNI family, and to whom John SPERNI claimed to have paid a bribe of fifty pounds to obtain his passport. (See Security Division report of 14 April 1945 regarding prosecution of John SPERNI).

5. Gerald SPERNI, in a statement made under caution (see later), said that after obtaining the passport he regarded himself as an Italian subject. He did not, however, renounce his British nationality, did not surrender his British passport and, although he remained for a further eight months in England, he did not register with police as an alien. The facts show, therefore, that at all times, although he had a rather flimsy claim to Italian nationality, he regarded his British nationality as operative even after he had obtained an Italian passport.

6. The Italian passport was issued at least eight months before Italy entered the war, and he, therefore, had ample opportunity of regularising his position (if he really wished to be considered as an Italian) by giving up his British passport, registering with police as an alien, thus being in a position to obtain an exit permit and to leave for Italy at any time during that period.

7. Instead, he clung to his British nationality and its privileges right up to June 1940, when British prospects in the war appeared at low ebb, and when Italy entered the war against England, the country of this man's birth. Then, in common with other members of his family, whose

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circumstances were similar to his own, he decided to leave the "apparently sinking ship" and throw in his lot with Italy, without, however, renouncing British nationality.

8. By some means or another (once again family influence with Italian Consular officials is suggested) he succeeded with others of the SPERONI family in getting his name included on a repatriation list prepared at the Italian Embassy, left London on 16th June, 1940, joined the repatriation ship S/S "March of Remembrance" shortly afterwards with other members of his family (John G.A. SPERONI, wife and two children - Nancy SPERONI, sister - Hubert SPERONI, wife and child) and after changing to the Italian ship - S/S "Woods House" at Lisbon, disembarked at Messina, Sicily and thence went to Rome.
9. On arrival in Rome Gerald SPERONI and the other members of the family stayed at the Albergo EMMAIO. Hubert, his wife and child went, however, after a few days to Parma, March Italy and on about 15 August, 1945. Gerald SPERONI followed them and lived on a small repatriate's allowance and by casual labour in the locality.
10. In December, 1940, however, he returned to Rome and by some means or other contacted the Ministry of Popular Culture. (According to his own story he was sent there by a Labour Office - now defunct - when he was seeking employment as a clerk.) There he carried out the translation into English of a propaganda broadcast entitled "Profits from the Shipyards Sink" (Copy of manuscript of his translation is attached marked "up"). This was apparently, subsequently, read over the Italian radio by a man named "GENTILE" on 28 December 1940. Gerald SPERONI, for this translation, was to be paid the sum of 111 lire. (Attached - marked "up" is a translation of an application signed by him for payment of the above-mentioned sum).
11. On 21 December, 1940, from evidence found at the Ministry of Popular Culture, Gerald SPERONI himself made a Fascist propaganda broadcast in English, entitled "Gentile" for which he was to be paid the sum of 56 lire. (A translation of an application signed by him for payment of this sum is attached marked "up"). No manuscript of the text of this broadcast has, however, been found.
12. Although he remained (according to his own statement) in Rome for a further three months, i.e. until sometime in March, 1941, there is no evidence that he maintained further contact with the Ministry of Popular Culture, or that he did any further broadcasting, translating or other work for the Fascist Government. He may either have regretted what he had done, or alternatively he may not have been considered a success as a broadcaster. There is no evidence either way to show what prevented him from continuing as a radio collaborator of the Fascist Ministry.

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8. By some means or another (once again family influence with Italian Consular officials is suggested) he succeeded with others of the SPERNI family in getting his name included on a repatriation list prepared at the Italian Embassy, left London on 16th June, 1940, joined the repatriation ship S/S "Marchion of Pescara" shortly afterwards with other members of his family (John C.A. SPERNI, wife and two children - Nancy SPERNI, sister - Robert SPERNI, wife and child) and after changing to the Italian ship - S/S "Santa Rosa" at Lisbon, disembarked at Genoa, Sicily and thence went to Rome.

9. On arrival in Rome Gerald SPERNI and the other members of the family stayed at the Albergo Sarnio. Robert, his wife and child went, however, after a few days to Parma, North Italy and on about 15 August, 1945, Gerald SPERNI followed them and lived on a small repatriate's allowance and by casual labour in the locality.

10. In December, 1940, however, he returned to Rome and by some means or other contacted the Ministry of Popular Culture. (According to his own story he was sent there by a Labour Office - now defunct - when he was seeking employment as a clerk.) There he carried out the translation into English of a propaganda broadcast entitled "Profits Mount While Ships Sink" (Copy of manuscript of his translation is attached marked "up"). This was apparently, read over the Italian radio by a man named "MARTINI" on 23 December 1940. Gerald SPERNI, for this translation was to be paid the sum of 111 lire. (Attached - marked "up" is a translation of an application signed by him for payment of the above-mentioned sum).

11. On 21 December, 1940, from evidence found at the Ministry of Popular Culture, Gerald SPERNI himself made a Fascist propaganda broadcast in English, entitled "Gibraltar" for which he was to be paid the sum of 56 lire. (A translation of an application signed by him for payment of this sum is attached marked "up"). No manuscript of the text of this broadcast has, however, been found.

12. Although he remained (according to his own statement) in Rome for a further three months, i.e. until sometime in March, 1941, there is no evidence that he maintained further contact with the Ministry of Popular Culture, or that he did any further broadcasting, translating or other work for the Fascist Government. He may either have regretted what he had done, or alternatively he may not have been considered a success as a broadcaster. There is no evidence either way to show what prevented him from continuing as a radio collaborator of the Fascist Ministry.

13. According to his own story he left in March, 1941 for Parma, North Italy, where he stayed with his brother Robert until April, 1943, where after a brief stay in PIACENZA, they were both arrested and interned in a succession of internment camps, being freed from the last camp - Ferramonti di Tarsia - on the arrival of Allied troops on 11 September, 1943.

14. Subsequently both found employment as interpreters with 5th Division C.R.B. and continued with some capacities with that unit and other successive units in Southern Italy - Robert until the present time, and Gerald SPERNI until 18 July, 1944 when he came to Rome, living at his brother's house, via Belluno 8 (Flat 6), until the time of his (Gerald's) arrest. During that time Gerald SPERNI lived mainly on a small income from work with an Italian news service in Rome.

15. There seems from enquiries no reason to doubt the story of his movements as given by Gerald SPERNI and he does not appear to have committed acts against the country of his birth further to those already mentioned, but undoubtedly there is clear evidence to justify his being charged as

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indicated in paragraph 2 of this report. The evidence of witnesses is as follows: -

16. Miss Margaret Primrose KING, British subject, personal secretary to Chief of Italian Documents, A.F.H.Q., P.M.B Unit No. 12, will say that on the morning of 18th April, 1945, as the result of a search through miscellaneous index cards, at the request of Captain J. V. GALE, she personally located two files in the records of the Ministry of Popular Culture - (1) a green file marked SC.OM - upu (2) a white file marked I - 30/23 - 521. She examined the contents in the company of Captain J. V. GALE and has agreed that they were as listed by Captain J. V. GALE. (Copies of documentary content of files are attached marked upu - upu and upu).
17. Captain Louis V. GALE, Investigating Officer, H.Q. Allied Commission, Security Division will say that he received the above-mentioned files from Miss K. F. KING on 18th April, 1945, examined their contents in her company, and found that they were as shown in attachments upu - upu and upu to this report.
18. Captain GALE will say that at 0900 hours on 20 April, 1945, at Plat 6, Via Belluno 8, Rome, he arrested Gerald Philip SPENZI, acquainted him with the precise nature of the charges and properly cautioned the prisoner that he was not obliged to say anything. SPENZI replied, "Later on I would like to give you a full explanation of what has happened to me since I have been in Italy."
19. On the same day, Captain GALE, with Lieutenant Claude J. BONE, American, G-2, P.A.A.G., conveyed SPENZI to upu Intense Camp, Terni, where he was lodged in specially segregated quarters.
20. On 21 April, 1945, in company with Lieutenant C. J. BONE, Captain GALE interviewed Gerald SPENZI at the Camp. The nature of the charges contemplated was again explained to him and he was further cautioned in accordance with the Judge's Rules and signed a certificate to the effect that he understood the caution. He then made a statement, which was committed to writing, read over to him and signed by him after he had been permitted to make alterations.
21. In his statement, Gerald SPENZI gave his general background and history up to date. He said that he was born on 14 March 1913 at Aberley, Gloucestershire, of a British born father (of Italian parentage) and a British born mother - John SPENZI and Annie SPENZI nee GALLIS, respectively.
22. He went on to give a general account of his education and his being subsequently articled to a firm of solicitors - Wainwright and Company, Staple Inn, Holborn - being engaged in studies for the law Society examination at the time when he left England - 16 June, 1940.

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17. Captain Louis V. GALE, Investigating Officer, H.Q. Allied Commission, Security Division will say that he received the above-mentioned files from Miss M. P. KING on 18th April, 1945, examined their contents in her company, and found that they were as shown in attachments "A" - "Z" and "A" to "Z" to this report.
18. Captain GALE will say that at 0900 hours on 20 April, 1945, at Plat 6, via Belluno 8, Zone, he arrested Gerald Philip SPERNI, acquainted him with the precise nature of the charges and properly cautioned the prisoner that he was not obliged to say anything. SPERNI replied, "After all I would like to give you a full explanation of what has happened to me since I have been in Italy."
19. On the same day, Captain GALE, with Lieutenant Claude J. BONE, American, G-2, H.A.A.C., conveyed SPERNI to "A" Internee Camp, Terni, where he was lodged in specially segregated quarters.
20. On 21 April, 1945, in company with Lieutenant C. J. BONE, Captain GALE interviewed Gerald SPERNI at the Camp. The nature of the charges contemplated was again explained to him and he was further cautioned in accordance with the Judge's Rules and signed a certificate to the effect that he understood the caution. He then made a statement, which was committed to writing, read over to him and signed by him after he had been permitted to make alterations.
21. In his statement, Gerald SPERNI gave his general background and history up to date. He said that he was born on 14 March 1918 at Amberley, Gloucestershire, of a British born father (of Italian parentage) and a British born mother - John SPERNI and Annie SPERNI nee CHALLIS, respectively.
22. He went on to give a general account of his education and his being subsequently articled to a firm of solicitors - Fairwright and Company, Staple Inn, Holborn - being engaged in studies for the Law Society examination at the time when he left England - 16 June, 1940.
23. He said that prior to leaving England as above he had only spent 2-3 days in Italy during his previous life; that was during a holiday in 1936 when he crossed from Switzerland for a few days. Apart from short holidays as a schoolboy he had never otherwise been out of England.
24. When war broke out with Germany in September 1939, he considered the idea of going to Italy to make a living, hoping that Italy would remain neutral. He therefore made personal application at the Italian Consulate in London for an Italian passport, basing his claim on the birth of his paternal grandfather at Parma, Northern Italy. Continuing his statement he seems so vague about the procedure through which he went to get the passport as to give rise to the suspicion that it must have been issued in an unorthodox manner. (See paragraph 4).
25. He admitted in his statement that, although with the issue of the

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declared war men, after family discussions in which fears of internment were mentioned, he went with his brother John to the Italian Embassy where their names were included in a repatriation list. (Again he is very vague as to the actual procedure - to the extent that it would seem that his name was included through some other influence and not by personal application).

27. Continuing his statement, he told a story of his subsequent repatriation to Italy with other members of the SPINNI family, their arrival in Rome, of his staying later in Parma with his brother Hubert and sister Mary, Gerald SPINNI returning to Rome in December, 1940 (as described in paragraphs 8-9 of this report).
28. He said that during his stay in Italy he had at no time given nor had he been asked for any kind of information, military or otherwise, outside personal information.
29. On his return to Rome in December, 1940, he said that he presented himself at a number of Labour offices with a view to obtaining work as a clerk. Officials at one of these offices - in Via Boncompagni (now closed) sent him to the Ministry of Popular Culture to apply for work, as he spoke English. At the Ministry he was interviewed by various officials including Marchese Scimellio (Head of the English Propaganda Section) to whom he thought he had been introduced previously by his brother John.
30. An official, whom he has said he could not identify by name, gave him a test of translation from Italian into English. SPINNI said, in his statement, that he could not remember the title but that it consisted of general comment on British and Italian shipping and was not specifically propaganda.
31. (Without doubt, the above, paragraph 31, refers to the broadcast "Profilo Mount Nile Ships Sink" - a copy of the manuscript of which is attached marked "D". An examination of that document reveals that to any person of average intelligence it is damaging propaganda from a British point of view. SPINNI apparently wished to convey the impression that he did not realize that this was intended for broadcasting, but the facts reveal otherwise).
32. Continuing his statement, SPINNI said that, at the request of officials, he attended the Ministry of Popular Culture again, a few days later when he was told that he would undergo a voice test. Then, he said, he realized that it was intended that he be used as a speaker on the radio. He made the "test", he said, out of fear of the consequences to himself and family, of a refusal, but he determined to have nothing more to do with that Ministry or any other Government Department.
33. He said that the "voice test" consisted of his reading about one foolscap sheet of English, which he vaguely remembered referred to versas sitting together in a terrace discussing the weather and the Mediterranean but which he was definite was not anti-British propaganda. After making the voice test, he said that he kept away from the Ministry of Popular Culture and all other Italian Government departments.
34. (Search of the records of the Ministry of Popular Culture has not brought to light the actual manuscript of the broadcast "Gibraltar", to which it seems, paragraph 34 refers, but another document - translation

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attached, marked "P" - shows that SPERNI was the reader thereof and that it was broadcasted on 21 December, 1940. Nonetheless, the records of the B.B.C. or other monitoring service will show that this broadcast was undoubtedly Fascist propaganda against Britain).

Gerald SPERNI, adding to his statement, said that he did not apply for, and was never paid any money for the translation and "voice test" which he made. (From documentary evidence which is available to the prosecution, this last statement by SPERNI is clearly not the truth. Attention is drawn to attachments "P" and "Q" of this report. These are translations of documents which were found among the records of the ex-Ministry of Popular Culture and consist of applications, signed by Gerald SPERNI, for payment of fees for translation of "Profits Mount While Ships Sink" and reading of "Gibraltar").

The remainder of SPERNI's statement deals with his leaving Rome for Paris in March 1941 and joining his brother Hubert, both being interned by the Fascists in April 1941, subsequently being transferred from one internment camp to another until 11 September, 1943 when on the arrival of Allied troops at Ferramonti di Tarsia, they were liberated from the internment camp there. Afterwards they worked as interpreters with various British units in Southern Italy, but mainly with 5 Division C.B.E. Gerald SPERNI came back to Rome in July, 1944, worked for an Italian news agency and lived at his brother John's house up to the time of arrest. There seems no reason, from enquiries, for the story of his movements, as summarised in this paragraph, to be doubted. Gerald SPERNI concluded his statement by giving an account of his refusal on several occasions to undertake Italian military service or to assist the Italians in other ways connected with war service.

It is submitted that there is ample evidence to secure a conviction against Gerald SPERNI on the charges indicated in paragraph 2 of this report. He is clearly a man who, at a time when the country of his birth - England - was in difficult straits, left that country and deliberately carried out at least two treacherable acts of disloyalty to aid the propaganda of the King's enemies. After committing these two acts, there is no evidence that he carried out others, but he did succeed in remaining at liberty in the enemy country for a further two years before being interned by the Fascists. Probably, the only thing which prevented him from carrying out further treacherable acts was that his nerve failed. Britain did not fall so quickly as he and his family had anticipated, and he feared the consequences of becoming further involved with the Fascists. There is the other alternative already mentioned in paragraph 12, that it may only have been that he was not a success as a radio speaker. His voice is weak, effeminate and uncultured and that may have been the reason for his not making further broadcasts.

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35. Gerald SPERNI, acting to his own profit, and was never paid any money for the translation and twice testifies which he made. (From documentary evidence which is available to the prosecution, this last statement by SPERNI is clearly not the truth. Attention is drawn to attachments "F" and "G" of this report. These are translations of documents which were found among the records of the ex-Ministry of Popular Culture and consist of applications, signed by Gerald SPERNI, for payment of fees for translation of "profits Mount While Ships Sink" and reading of "Gibraltar").

36. The remainder of SPERNI's statement deals with his leaving Rome for Parma in March 1941 and joining his brother Hubert, both being interned by the Fascists in April 1943, subsequently being transferred from one internment camp to another until 21 September, 1943 when on the arrival of Allied troops at Parma and at Fossoli, they were liberated from the internment camp there. Afterwards they worked as interpreters with various British units in Southern Italy, but mainly with 3 Division C.R.E. Gerald SPERNI came back to Rome in July, 1944, worked for an Italian news agency and lived at his brother John's house up to the time of arrest. There seems no reason, from enquiries, for the story of his movements, as summarised in this paragraph, to be doubted. Gerald SPERNI concluded his statement by giving an account of his refusal on several occasions to undertake Italian military service or to assist the Italians in other ways connected with war service.

37. It is submitted that there is ample evidence to secure a conviction against Gerald SPERNI on the charges indicated in paragraph 2 of this report. He is clearly a man who, at a time when the country of his birth - England - was in difficult straits, left that country and deliberately carried out at least two treasonable acts of disloyalty to aid the propaganda of the King's enemies. After committing these two acts, there is no evidence that he carried out others, but he did succeed in remaining at liberty in the enemy country for a further two years before being interned by the Fascists. Probably, the only thing which prevented him from carrying out further treasonable acts was that his nerve failed. Britain did not fall so quickly as he and his family had anticipated, and he feared the consequences of becoming further involved with the Fascists. There is the other alternative already mentioned in paragraph 12, that it may only have been that he was not a success as a radio speaker. His voice is weak, effeminate and uncultured and that may have been the reason for his not making further broadcasts.

38. Nevertheless, he did commit two treasonable acts and his prosecution seems more than justified, especially as, right up to the present time, he has regarded himself as still being of British nationality and in his own statement does not claim to have renounced that nationality or to have lost British nationality in any other way.

39. It is obvious that, like the other members of the SPERNI family about whom similar reports have been submitted, he is a despicable type with no loyalty to any country, who took refuge in a flimsy (and perhaps false) claim to Italian nationality when it seemed more expedient from a personal point of view to stress that nationality, although he had only previously spent three days in Italy during his lifetime and was born and bred in England of a father and mother of both of British birth.

40. This report should be read in conjunction with my previous reports under reference SD.266.C2, dated 14 April 1945 and 30 April, 1945, relating to evidence for the prosecution on similar charges of John Charles Anthony SPERNI (brother of subject of this report) and Rhonda Laureen ROBB alias

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Mr. Rame SPANGL, respectively. Consideration might reasonably be given to the possibility of the three persons being tried together on the charges indicated. They left England together and it seems from all the facts available, that John C. A. SPANGL was the real mover in their activities in Italian propaganda, the others being probably somewhat under his influence.

41. The original documentary exhibits relating to all three cases remain in the custody of Captain L. V. GALE, Security Division, Headquarters, Allied Commission, G.H.Q.

42. A supplementary report will be submitted dealing with the other members of the SPANGL family in Italy, but enquiries do not indicate that any charges may be contemplated against them, except the possible charge of enlisting enemy territory without proper authority, contrary to Defence (General) Regulations, 1939, a charge which may also seem applicable to the three aforementioned members of the SPANGL family, in addition to the serious charges already under consideration.

Louis V. Gale

LOUIS V. GALE, Captain,
Investigating Officer,
Security Division,
H.Q., Allied Commission, G.H.Q.

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HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED COMMISSION
PUBLIC SAFETY SUB-COMMISSION
SECURITY DIVISION.

18th April, 1945.

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

On the morning of 18th April, 1945 in the absence
of Mr. Dante GNUMI, Chief Italian Documents, I searched
through miscellaneous index cards at the request of
Capt. L.V. Gale, Allied Commission, in an endeavour to
trace papers relating to members of the SPERNI family,
and located two cards by means of which I located 2
files relating to Geraldo SPERNI. (1) file green
marked "C.O." "pn" (2) white file marked I - 38/93 - 591.
I extracted these files from a file room and examined
them in the company of Capt. L.V. Gale to whom I have
handed the files this date. The contents agree with
the list which Capt. Gale prepared and produced to me.

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.

L. V. Gale 00013

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

On the morning of 18th April, 1945 in the absence
of Mr. Dante GNUDI, Chief Italian Documents, I searched
through miscellaneous index cards at the request of
Capt. L.V. Gale, Allied Commission, in an endeavour to
trace papers relating to members of the SPERMI family,
and located two cards by means of which I located 2
files relating to Gerardo SPERMI. (1) file green
marked "C.O." "wp" (2) white file marked I - 38/93 - 591.
I extracted these files from a file room and examined
them in the company of Capt. L.V. Gale to whom I have
handed the files this date. The contents agree with
the list which Capt. Gale prepared and produced to me.

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

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

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

7 May, 1945.

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

On 18th April, 1945 at the offices of the ex-Ministry of Popular Culture, Rome I received from Miss Margaret Primrose KING, personal secretary to the Chief of Italian Documents, P.W.B. Unit No. 12, A.P.H.Q., (1) a green file marked "C.O" and "up", and (2) a white file marked I-38/93 - 591, which contained documents of which the attachments to this statement - ("up", "up" and "up") are true copies and translations.

At 0900 hours on 20 April 1945, at Flat 6, Via Belluno 8, Rome, I arrested Gerald Philip SPERRI, following the finding of documentary evidence among the records of the Ministry of Popular Culture, that he had collaborated with the former Fascist Government in radio propaganda in English. A search of SPERRI's effects revealed nothing of interest, but an Italian passport - No: 898265/5426 issued in the names Gerardo Filippo SPERRI, at the Italian Consulate, London, on 10 October 1939, was seized.

I 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 and (2) had done acts with intent to assist the enemy - in that he had collaborated in certain enemy radio broadcasts as a translator and announcer.

I cautioned him that he was not obliged to say anything unless he wished to do so and that anything he said might be given in evidence. He replied, "later on I would like to give you a full explanation of what has happened to me since I have been in Italy".

On the same day he was escorted by Lieutenant Claude J. Dove (C-2 RAAC) and myself to "up" Internment Camp, Terni, where he was lodged in specially segregated quarters.

On 21 April 1945, I interviewed Gerald SPERRI, in company with Lieutenant Claude J. Dove. SPERRI was again cautioned and signed a certificate to the effect that he understood the implication of the caution. He then made a statement which was committed to writing, and which he signed after it had been read over to him and he had been permitted to make alterations.

This statement, prepared by me, is true.

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

On 18th April, 1945 at the offices of the ex-Ministry of Popular Culture, Rome I received from Miss Margaret Primrose KING, personal secretary to the Chief of Italian Documents, P.N.B. Unit No. 12, A.F.H.Q., (1) a green file marked "C.O" and "P", and (2) a white file marked I-32/93 - 591, which contained documents of which the attachments to this statement - ("P", "R" and "M") are true copies and translations.

At 0900 hours on 20 April 1945, at Flat 6, Via Belluno 8, Rome, I arrested Gerald Philip SPERNI, following the finding of documentary evidence among the records of the Ministry of Popular Culture, that he had collaborated with the former Fascist Government in radio propaganda in English. A search of SPERNI's effects revealed nothing of interest, but an Italian passport - No: 898365/5426 issued in the names Gerardo Filippo SPERNI, at the Italian Consulate, London, on 10 October 1939, was seized.

I 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 and (2) had done acts with intent to assist the enemy - in that he had collaborated in certain enemy radio broadcasts as a translator and announcer.

I cautioned him that he was not obliged to say anything unless he wished to do so and that anything he said might be given in evidence. He replied, "later on I would like to give you a full explanation of what has happened to me since I have been in Italy".

On the same day he was escorted by Lieutenant Claude J. Bove (G-2 RAAC) and myself to "R" Internee Camp, Terni, where he was lodged in specially segregated quarters.

On 21 April 1945, I interviewed Gerald SPERNI, in company with Lieutenant Claude J. BOVE. SPERNI was again cautioned and signed a certificate to the effect that he understood the implication of the caution. He then made a statement which was committed to writing, and which he signed after it had been read over to him and he had been permitted to make alterations.

This statement, prepared by me, is true.

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Louis V. Gale

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

CJB

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

21 April 1945

STATEMENT of Gerald Philip SPINNI, law student, residing at Via Belluno 8
(Flat 6), Rome, who says: -

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

(s) G. SPINNI

My correct name is Gerald Philip SPINNI, but whilst in Italy I have been using the Italian version of my name - Gerardo Filippo SPINNI, and have an Italian passport in these names. I was born on 14th March, 1918 at Amberley, Gloucestershire. My father is Giovanni Celeste Gerardo SPINNI (generally known as John SPINNI) who was born in London in about 1887 of Italian parents. My mother is Annie SPINNI nee CHALLIS who was born in London of British parents.

I was first educated at St. Peter's School, Clerkenwell, London, then at Holborn Estate Grammar School, later at a convent at Bexhill-on-Sea, Sussex, from about 1927 until 1929 I attended Bexhill Grammar School, and afterwards was a pupil at Mercers School, London, until 1935. Then I was privately coached for and passed London University Matriculation in 1936.

After this I was articled to a firm of solicitors - Walnwright and Company, Staple Inn, Holborn - and commenced studies for the examination of the Law Society. I was thus engaged at the time when I left England in June 1940. Prior to that time, I had made only one visit to Italy, when I crossed the Swiss frontier and spent two or three days in Italy, visiting Piacenza and Milan. This was during a holiday in 1936. Apart from short holidays whilst at school I have not been out of England otherwise than I have already stated.

Shortly after the outbreak of war with Germany, and in view of the bad international situation, I considered the idea of going to Italy to complete my studies and make a living there. I cannot say that my motive in deciding to go there at that time was based upon a belief that Italy would remain neutral, but that was my hope at that time. Therefore, in about early October 1939, I made a personal application at the Italian Consulate for an Italian passport, and a personal application at the Italian Consulate for an Italian passport in

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STATEMENT of Gerald Philip SPINNI, law student, 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 say may still be admitted to writing and may be used in evidence. I hereby certify that I fully understand the implication of the caution."

(s) G. SPINNI

"My correct name is Gerald Philip SPINNI, but whilst in Italy I have been using the Italian version of my name - Gerardo Filippo SPINNI, and have an Italian passport in these names. I was born on 14th March, 1918 at Amberley, Gloucestershire. My father is Giovanni Celeste Gerolamo SPINNI (generally known as John SPINNI) who was born in London in about 1887 of Italian parents. My mother is Annie SPINNI nee CHALLIS who was born in London of British parents."

I was first educated at St. Peter's School, Clerkenwell, London, then at Holborn Estate Grammar School, later at a convent at Bexhill-on-Sea, Sussex, from about 1927 until 1929 I attended Bexhill Grammar School, and afterwards was a pupil at Mercers School, London, until 1935. Then I was privately coached for and passed London University Matriculation in 1936.

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Shortly after the outbreak of war with Germany, and in view of the bad international situation, I considered the idea of going to Italy to complete my studies and make a living there. I cannot say that my motive in deciding to go there at that time was based upon a belief that Italy would remain neutral, but that was my hope at that time. Therefore, in about early October 1939, I made a personal application at the Italian Consulate for an Italian passport, as I understood that by virtue of my paternal grandfather having been born in Italy I was entitled to recognition as an Italian subject.

In all I paid about three visits to the Italian Consulate in the space of a few days and I think I filled in a form of application but I cannot remember the full details of the procedure I went through and the dates when I went through the various formalities. I do not remember whether I filled in more than one form, but I know that now on one of my visits I handed in either two or three passport photographs of myself. I do remember that an official at the Italian Consulate made notes on a form, of my physical measurements.

I was not required personally to supply documentary proof of my Italian ancestry, but know that they had this information on record. Italian passport No. 898365/5426, issued on 10th October 1939 at the Italian Consulate, London,

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and non produced to me by Captain L. V. GALT, is the passport with which I was issued after the previously mentioned formalities.

Having been issued with the Italian passport, I regarded myself as an Italian citizen, although I had made no declaration of renunciation of my British nationality. I did, however, sign a form, "Atto di Sottoscrizione", at the time of the issue of the passport, which I understood regularized my position as an Italian citizen. I did not register with British police as an alien. The last I remember of my British passport issued in about 1934, it was at my father's house, 36 Doughty Street, London, W.C.1. This would be some time after my last long vacation abroad in late summer 1936. After receiving my Italian passport, I did not return the British passport to the British authorities and so far as I know it is probably still there.

After receiving the Italian passport I did nothing with regard to leaving England but just let the idea drift. Shortly before Italy's entry into the war, I discussed with each of the members of my family, but principally with my brother John, the possible consequences to us, notably internment, of Italy coming into the war. We came to a decision then, perhaps it would be better for us to go to Italy. My brother, I believe, obtained an Italian passport some time after I did mine. When Italy actually declared war, and I saw that people of Italian origin were being arrested, I had further discussions with my family and we decided to try to leave for Italy.

I went with my brother, John, on about 11th - 12th June 1940 to both the Italian Consulate and to the Italian Embassy in London. At the Embassy I had my name placed on a list for repatriation to Italy and my brother, I believe, did likewise, but I did not see or hear what transpired between him and the official who dealt with him. I do not remember actually producing my passport to the official who noted my name for repatriation, but I believe that I did do so.

My brother - John - his wife and two children, left with the first batch of repatriation from Baston Station on 16th June, 1940 and I saw them off from the station. On 16th June, 1940, in company with my sister Nancy SWAN, my brother Robert, his wife and child I left with another batch from Baston Station, and the next day, at Glasgow, boarded the S/S March of Bernina after passing through the various controls. On board, we joined my brother John, his wife and children. Later we sailed to Lisbon and were all transferred to the Italian ship "Conte Rosso" and were eventually disembarked at Messina, Sicily, afterwards being conveyed to Rome.

During the journey, I think on the "Conte Rosso", my brother John had the younger of his two children christened. I was not present at any marriage ceremony during the voyage on either boat, but I was told later, after arrival in Italy, that my brother John and his wife had been through such a ceremony. In Rome, we all stayed at the Albergo Senato but Robert and his wife left after a few days to go North.

At no time since my arrival in Italy have I been questioned by any officials having information of a military or any other kind of information.

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British nationality. I am, however, registered as an alien at the time of the issue of the passport, which I understood registered me as an Italian citizen. I did not register with British Police as an alien. The last I remember of my British passport issued is about 1934, it was at my father's house, 36 Doughty Street, London, W.C.1. This would be some time after my last long vacation abroad in late summer 1935. After receiving my Italian passport, I did not return the British passport to the British authorities and so far as I know it is probably still there.

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My brother - John - his wife and two children, left with the first batch of repatriation from Fuston Station on 13th June, 1940 and I saw them off from the station. On 16th June, 1940, in company with my sister Nancy SPURRI, my brother Hubert, his wife and child I left with another batch from Fuston Station, and the next day, at Glasgow, boarded the S/S Murch of Bermuda after passing through the various controls. On board, we joined my brother John, his wife and children. Later we sailed to Lisbon and were all transferred to the Italian ship "Conte Rosso" and were eventually disembarked at Messina, Sicily, afterwards being conveyed to Rome.

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During the journey, I think on the "Conte Rosso", my brother John had the younger of his two children christened. I was not present at any marriage ceremony during the voyage on either boat, but I was told later, after arrival in Italy, that my brother John and his wife had been through such a ceremony. In Rome, we all stayed at the Albergo Sabaudo but Hubert and his wife left after a few days to go North.

At no time since my arrival in Italy have I been questioned by any officials with a view to giving information of a military or any other kind of information outside personal information. My brother John told me that he had been in conversation with persons who had questioned him about English defences and that he had told them a "cock-and-bull" story. On about 15th August 1940, I left Rome with my sister Nancy and went to Parma, North Italy, where I did casual work on farms and in a sugar factory and lived on this work and a small repatriate's allowance from the local Comune.

In December 1940, I decided to come to Rome with the idea that I might be better off as a teacher of English, which my sister had already done previously with some success. Shortly after returning to Rome I presented myself at a Labour Office with a view to getting work as a clerk. Actually I went to several Labour Offices and eventually at one which was in Via Boncompagni, I was sent to the Ministry of Popular Culture as I spoke English.

There, at the Ministry I spoke to Martese SUGELLO and other persons whose names I do not remember. I think I had previously been introduced to SUGELLO by my brother John. An official, whom I cannot identify by name, gave me a sheet of paper in Italian, which I was told to translate into English, as a test of my linguistic capabilities. I do not remember what it was entitled, but the general subject was to do with shipping. It seemed to me to be just general comment on British and Italian shipping, without being specifically propaganda. On another day, shortly afterwards, at their request I attended the Ministry again, and although I did not previously know for what purpose I had to go there, on my arrival I was told that I would be given a voice test. This made me suspect at once that it was intended to use me as a broadcaster.

I thought that if I refused the voice test it might have ill effects on myself and my family, but at that time as always I was nevertheless determined that I would have nothing further to do with this work, whatever the consequences to myself, and in fact I did have nothing further to do with it, although I went through the voice test at the time, believing that there was no harm in this test in any case. The voice test consisted of my reading about one foolscap page of English which I vaguely remember dealt with persons sitting together in a terrace discussing the weather and the Mediterranean. I would definitely say that it was not anti-British propaganda, to the best of my memory. This was in December, 1940, and afterwards I kept entirely away from the Ministry of Popular Culture and had no connections whatsoever there or with any other Italian Government department, right up to the present time.

Until about the end of March 1941, I lived for part of the time at the Albergo SENEJO and the latter part of the time with my brother John, and managed to eke out an existence by giving a few English lessons to supplement my repatriate's allowance. Then I returned to Parma and did casual work as before. I received no payment whatsoever for the translation or voice test which I made and certainly I did not apply for any money for this.

On my second visit to Parma I stayed with my brother Hubert ZENNY, that would be from March 1941, until the beginning of April 1943, when, following my arrival in the mountains near Placenza, after about three weeks there, we were arrested by Italian Police and were interned together in various camps and prisons, in order - Parma, Bologna, Ancona, Lucera, Foggia, Manfredonia, Pertransil di Tarsia. We remained at the concentration camp at Ferramonti di Tarsia until the arrival of Allied troops on 11th September, 1943. We could, however, have left the camp at any time after the fall of the Fascist Government, but we had decided to remain there as we had no clothing and no means of support.

We made contact with forward elements of 5th Division C.R.E. who were on patrol. As a result we joined them in a two day reconnaissance and both became employed at their Divisional Headquarters as interpreters. We travelled with them through Scalera, Potenza, Foggia. Towards the end of October 1943, I went to help establish a Royal Engineers Rest Camp at Bari and acted as interpreter there until the camp was closed in December 1943. Then I re-joined 5th Division

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Until about the end of March 1941, I lived for part of the time at the Albergo SERRATO and the latter part of the time with my brother John, and managed to eke out an existence by giving a few English lessons to supplement my republican's allowance. Then I returned to Parma and did casual work as before. I received no payment whatsoever for the translation or voice test which I made and certainly I did not apply for any money for this.

On my second visit to Parma I stayed with my brother Robert SPANGLI, that would be from March 1941, until the beginning of April 1943, when, following marked unfriendliness demonstrated by local fascists in Parma, we went into the mountains near Piacenza. After about three weeks there, we were arrested by Italian Police and were interned together in various camps and prisons, in order - Parma, Bologna, Ancona, Lucera, Foglia, Manfredonia, Ferramonti di Stabia. We remained at the concentration camp at Ferramonti di Stabia until the arrival of Allied troops on 11th September, 1943. We could, however, have left the camp at any time after the fall of the Fascist Government, but we had decided to remain there as we had no clothing and no means of support. 00009

We made contact with forward elements of 5th Division C.R.E. who were on patrol. As a result we joined them in a two day reconnaissance and both became employed at their Divisional Headquarters as interpreters. We travelled with them through Seclara, Potenza, Foglia. Towards the end of October 1943, I went to help establish a Royal Engineers Rest Camp at Bari and acted as interpreter there until the camp was closed in December 1943. Then I re-joined 5th Division C.R.E. at LANCIANO, moving on to CAROLIANO district after about three weeks. Then I went to an R.A. Bridging Camp near CAPUA, as an interpreter, until about 3rd March, 1944.

Then I went with a C.R.E. Detachment to PIACENZA, where I worked for about a fortnight. From there I went with the Detachment to S. Antonio, near CASTEL- LAMARE. Whilst there I was on the sick list for about six weeks suffering from Malaria. There I stayed until about the end of May, 1944, and afterwards joined 64th Garrison H.Q. at CAPUA where I assisted a Military Police Section (501 Section C.M.P.) with my brother Robert whose movements were practically the same as mine.

On about 18th July 1944, I left Robert at CAPUA, and went to Rome to seek news of my brother John and my sister Nancy. There I found John at 8 Via Belluno and have lived at that address with him, his wife and children ever since. I managed to live by giving a few lessons in English and by doing odd translations

for Italians until December 1944, when I obtained a position as translator and editor of news bulletins from Italian into English, for an Italian news service known as "S.I." (Servizio Informazioni) which acted on behalf of foreign correspondents in Rome. I left that employment when my brother was arrested, in order to be able to look after and assist my brother's wife who was in an advanced stage of pregnancy and needed care and attention. There I have stayed right up to 23rd April 1945, the day upon which I was arrested.

This statement has been read to me and it is true. I should like to add that whilst in Italy I was called up on a number of occasions for service in the Italian Army and for civilian war work under the former Fascist Government. On some occasions I gave blunt refusals and on others I succeeded in evading the issue. In Parma, during 1941, I received an order from the local municipio (Town Hall) to report myself for service as an interpreter in prison camps. I evaded this by claiming that more important work was already in view for me. In 1942, I received a call-up for military service, but blankly refused to obey it on the moral ground of the fact of my birth in Britain and my having an English mother. In 1943 I received a further call-up for military service but succeeded in post-poneing a decision by claiming that I belonged to a category of Italians from abroad who were exempt under new legislation from military call-up. I left Parma whilst this matter was still pending.

I had opportunities of many jobs but refused them as they entailed becoming a member of the Fascist Party. Although in Italy I am recognized as an Italian, I have never belonged to the Fascist or any other political party, neither have I taken part in any form of political activity either in Italy or in England, except slight help given to my father in borough elections in St. Pancras, London. The addition to this statement, as above, has been read to me and it is true.

(S) GERALD SPERMI

Statement taken down, read over, and signatures witnessed by me in presence of Lieutenant Claude J. BWH, (American), G-2, R.A.A.C. at "B" Internee Camp, Terni.

(S) LOUIS V. GALT, Captain,
H.Q., Allied Commission,
C.M.F.
Security Division.

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was in an advanced stage of pregnancy and needed to have stayed right up to 20th April 1945, the day upon which I was arrested.

This statement has been read to me and it is true. I should like to add that whilst in Italy I was called up on a number of occasions for service in the Italian Army and for civilian war work under the former Fascist Government. On some occasions I gave blunt refusals and on others I succeeded in evading the issue. In Parma, during 1941, I received an order from the local municipal (Town Hall) to report myself for service as an interpreter in prison camps. I evaded this by claiming that more important work was already in view for me. In 1942, I received a call-up for military service, but blankly refused to obey it on the moral ground of the fact of my birth in Britain and my having an English mother. In 1943 I received a further call-up for military service but succeeded in postponing a decision by claiming that I belonged to a category of Italians from abroad who were exempt under new legislation from military call-up. I left Parma whilst this matter was still pending.

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(e) GERALD SPURRI

Statement taken down, read over, and signatures witnessed by me in presence of Lieutenant Claude J. B. G. (American), G-2, R.S.A.G. at 19th Internee Camp, Terni.

(s)

LOUIS V. GALE, Captain,
R.A., Allied Commission,
C.M.F.
Security Division.

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Countersigned by:

Lt. Claude J. B. G.,
G-2 Section, R.A.M.

ZML/CJB

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

1 May 1945

Copy of a translation and preparation of a radio talk entitled "Profits
Mount while Ships Sink" made by Gerald Santini for the Isottorabo per la
radio e la televisione and submitted to the Ministero della Cultura Popolare
for registration on 27 December 1940. Read by "SANTINI" on 28 December 1940.

PROFITS SOAR WHILE SHIPS SINK.

Missiroli Trad. Gerardo Sperdi
lettura Santini
Sab 28 Dic 1940
Ora 2315

Maj S

A problem infinitely graver for England than the raids by the German Air
Force on London and on the industrial centres is the progressive destruction
of the British Mercantile fleet. In this respect, without even referring to
the German War bulletins, which provide the exact figures, the declarations made
by Mr Cross, the British minister for Shipping, are quite sufficient.

To mitigate perhaps the absurd optimism of Mr. Dalton, the Minister for
Blockade, Mr Cross stated that if the sinking of ships continued at the present
rate, without the building of new ones being greatly increased, Britain will
soon be unable to carry on the war with the necessary vigour. The most critical
time for England, he said, will come in 1941.

Is there any remedy for this very grave situation? Mr Cross, who obviously
cannot allow himself to be too pessimistic, thinks that the way out of the
trouble is help from America. England is at present acquiring old American
ships, but this source of supply is also being exhausted. Mr Cross stated besides
that perhaps the United States would help Britain further by supplying her with
some of the ships now on normal American duty. He said that this was the
only measure he could see by which the problem of supplies of war might be solved.
In the coming year the war would be fought on the seas, during which it would
be hard to maintain Britain's maritime communications.

The truth is that by reason of the ever more rapid rhythm of submarine
warfare, the British loss of tonnage was now at least 3 times what it had been
last June. One remedy for this state of affairs would be a large number of
destroyers; but where is England going to find them, even on the assumption
that the necessary trained crews are at hand, to man them? Mr Cross' admissions
are underlined by the statements of Lord Templemore, who, a few days ago,
replying to Lord Strabolini in the House of Lords, did not hesitate to admit

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Copy of a translation and preparation of a radio talk entitled "Profilis Monto while ships sink" made by Gerald SORANI for the Ispettorato per la radio e la televisione and submitted to the Ministero della Cultura Popolare for registration on 27 December 1940. Read by "SANTINI" on 28 December 1940.

PROFILI SORANI WHILE SHIPS SINK.

Misiroli Trad. Gerardo Sorani

Lettera Santini

28 Dec 1940

Ore 2315

Ma 15

A problem infinitely graver for England than the raids by the German Air Force on London and on the industrial centres is the progressive destruction of the British mercantile fleet. In this respect, without even referring to the German War bulletins, which provide the exact figures, the declarations made by Mr Cross, the British minister for Shipping, are quite sufficient.

To mitigate perhaps the absurd optimism of Mr. Dalton, the Minister for Blockade, Mr Cross stated that if the sinking of ships continued at the present rate, without the building of new ones being greatly increased, Britain will soon be unable to carry on the war with the necessary vigour. The most critical time for England, he said, will come in 1941.

Is there any remedy for this very grave situation? Mr Cross, who obviously cannot allow himself to be too pessimistic, thinks that the way out of the trouble is help from America. England is at present acquiring old American ships, but this source of supply is also being exhausted. Mr Cross stated besides that perhaps the United States would help Britain further by supplying her with some of the ships now on normal American duty. He said that this was the only measure he could see by which the problem of supplies of war might be solved. In the coming year the war would be fought on the seas, during which it would be hard to maintain Britain's maritime communications.

The truth is that by reason of the ever more rapid rhythm of submarine warfare, the British loss of tonnage was now at least 3 times what it had been last June. The remedy for this state of affairs would be a large number of destroyers; but where is England going to find them, even on the assumption that the necessary trained crews are at hand, to man them? Mr Cross' admissions are underlined by the statements of Lord Forster, who, a few days ago, replying to Lord Strathclyde in the House of Lords, did not hesitate to admit that conditions might well grow worse. The losses in merchant ships, he said, were due to the fact, that Britain now had at her disposal fewer destroyers than in 1917. The "News Chronicle" besides stated very recently that the loss of tonnage suffered by Britain was so great as to create alarmingly difficult conditions.

Such is the direct result of the war in the Mediterranean which obliges Britain to reduce the strength of her convoy escort, thereby compromising her flow of supplies. Meanwhile, the aerial attacks against British ports are causing an inevitable slowing down of naval construction. The problem of raw supplies is a very serious one indeed. With regard to this question a speech made recently to the House of Lords by Lord Lloyd, Minister for Colonies, is very significant. He painted a dramatic picture of Britain's economic situation, pointing out the exceptional increase in price in England of all

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kinds of goods, and particularly of Colonial products.

Now, to consider the social aspect of the situation. Very recently, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, speaking in a somewhat moraling vein, but really on the subject of finance, urged the small investor to double his efforts to save. The "Daily Herald" at once replied observing that a government really mindful of the public welfare would do well to commence by not protecting profiteers. Are there really such people in England, one is tempted to ask oneself? That is, people who are enriching themselves while thousands of families have no work and no home? The answer is that there are, and in considerable numbers - no fewer, in fact, than in the last war, which increased the total of millionaires in Britain from 822 to 1425, proving that the misery and ruin of the masses coincides with the enrichment of the few.

Put the past facts into insignificance when one considers the present state of affairs. To take a few official figures, Thomas Richard & Co. the big steel manufacturers, realized during the year 1939-1940 a profit of 351 thousand pounds, as compared with 20 thousand pounds of the previous year. The firm of Armstrong Siddley who make airplane engines, have increased their dividend from 13 per cent in 1939, to 20 per cent in 1940. The Dunlop Combine, which also produces steel, has increased its net profit, from 1.5 million pounds in 1939, to 2.8 million pounds in 1940.

And these are just a few instances chosen at random. According to the "Economist", profits on the same scale are also made by the corporations which monopolize the import of raw material from the colonies, to the figure, for the present year, of 171 million pounds - results fully in keeping with the nature of a capitalist regime which in England holds sway more completely than anywhere else in the world.

War in general but the present war in particular - endangering as it does civilians as well as soldier armies - is still, in Britain, an affair of private interests, as far as its industries are concerned. Privately controlled industry seeks to carry on as in normal times. To the Puritan and individualistic mentality, it appears natural that those who profit from great industries should multiply their gains, while the poor man is robbed of peace and even of the bare necessities of life. This type of plutocrat we suppose also finds it quite logical and moral, that last April the British Parliament unceremoniously rejected a half-hearted law intending to limit industrial profits to pre-war levels.

The reaction of the industrial capitalistic element against this unexpected attempt to restrict the powers of private enterprise was extremely violent. The government, in spite of its so-called strong men, bent a hasty and almost apologetic retreat, as if it had made a regrettable slip. This is quite comprehensible for how could the British Government force the manufacturers of arms and munitions to work intensely and at reduced profits while standing in the same breach that it was fighting above all for so-called liberty and independence; for the type of anarchy really that places the individual before the state, private interest above collective interest, the wealth of small oligarchic classes.

gravelly that is, people who have no work and no money. The answer is that there are, and in families have no work and no money. In fact, then in the last war, which increased considerable numbers - no fewer, in fact, than in the last war, which increased the total of millionaires in Britain from 322 to 1425, proving that the misery and ruin of the masses coincides with the enrichment of the few.

But the past fades into insignificance when one considers the present state of affairs. To take a few official figures, Thomas Richard & Co. the big steel manufacturers, realized during the year 1939-1940 a profit of 351 thousand pounds, as compared with 20 thousand pounds of the previous year. The firm of Armstrong Siddeley who make airplane engines, have increased their dividend from 13 per cent in 1939, to 20 per cent in 1940. The Dunlop Combine, which also produces steel, has increased its net profit, from 1.5 million pounds in 1939, to 2.3 million pounds in 1940.

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Since this is the position, how can Britain pretend to be fighting for Christian ideals? Lord Halifax, in one of his recent speeches, pretended that such was the case, but did not succeed in deceiving anyone, in spite of his continued references to the Bible.

A humble Vicar, however, the Reverend Howland Jones, could not resist the temptation to address an open letter to Lord Halifax. If - he said - this was a war of Christianity against Nazism, he would like Lord Halifax to clarify what he meant by Christianity. Did he mean that England was the incarnation of all that Christian love stood for? He went on to state that in 1927, England had two million unemployed. "Was that Christianity?" Would the people of England

- 3 -

have to give their blood to perpetuate such a state of affairs? At Durham, the vicar had seen hundreds and hundreds of his parishioners, for the most part unemployed miners, who had only one miserable room for a house, from the windows of which they could admire at leisure the luxurious abodes of the rich dignitaries of the Cathedral. He said that the picture of a small child sleeping on the same bed where a dead body lay while in the same room a man and four children were sharing a meagre repast remained indelibly stamped in his memory. He asked his Lordship whether this was what he meant by Christianity.

It is on this count in the name of this type of Christianity that the profiteers of St. Britain pile up their wealth.

A true copy of original.

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

Thomas F. Paley Captain
H.Q. Allied Commission

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

2 MAY 1945

Translation of application for payment, signed by GERALDO SPERANI, relative to his translation and preparation of a radio broadcast entitled "Profits mount while ships sink". The broadcast was later made by a SP. "ANTENNA" on 28 December 1940 at 2315 H.

Mod. 2/4

TO THE MINISTRY OF POPULAR CULTURE, ROME.

The undersigned

Geraldo SPERANI

having duly performed the work of A translation and preparation of a

Radio broadcast entitled "Profits mount while ships sink"

assigned to him by this Ministry, Directorate General, Inspectorate
of Radio and Television.

is hereby authorized to request payment of the agreed sum of 111 lire, in compensation for the above.

Rome, 27 December 1940 AD.

(s) March Sorbello)
(s) March

REVIEWED, it is hereby declared that the work has been regularly performed and assigned, for the sum of lire

111

REGISTERED
2 GEN 1941
(signature illegible)

(s) GERALDO SPERANI
Albergo Senato,
Piazza Del Pantheon,
Roma.

00004

Translation of application for payment, signed by GERALD SPERMI, relative to his translation and preparation of a radio broadcast entitled "Profits mount while ships sink". The broadcast was later made by a Mr. "SANTINI" on 28 December 1940 at 2315 H.

Mod. 144

TO THE MINISTRY OF POPULAR CULTURE, ROME.

The undersigned Geraldo SPERMI

having duly performed the work of A translation and preparation of a

radio broadcast entitled "Profits mount while ships sink"

assigned to him by this Ministry, Directorate General, Inspectorate

of Radio and Television.

is hereby authorized to request payment of the agreed sum of 111 lire, in compensation for the above.

Rome, 27 December 1940 XIX

(s) March Sortello).

(s) March

REVISED, it is hereby declared that the work has been regularly performed and assigned, for the sum of Lire

111

Rome, 27 Dec 1940 XIX.

THE MINISTER GENERAL

The Inspector

net 138 591
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A true translation of original.

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

Louis. K. Gao, Captain
H.Q. Allied Commission

REGISTERED

2 GEN 1941

(Signature illegible)

(s) GERALDO SPERMI

Albergo Senato,

Piazza Del Pantheon,

Roma.

00004

Reviewed by: The Inspector
(Administrative Services)

HEADQUARTERS
ARMED COMMISSION
G.M.F.
PUBLIC SAFETY SUB-COMMISSION
SECURITY DIVISION

2 May 1945

translation of application for payment, signed by GERALDO SPINELLI, relative to his broadcast of a prepared talk entitled "Gibraltar over the Fascist Radio" on 21 December 1940, at 2315 H, for the "Ripettimento per la Radio e la Televisione", Ministero della Cultura Popolare, Rome.

Mod. 144

TO THE MINISTRY OF POPULAR CULTURE, ROME.

The undersigned GERALDO SPINELLI

having duly performed the work of broadcasting a prepared talk

entitled "Gibraltar" on 21 December 1940 XIX at 23.15.

assigned to him by this Ministry, Directorate General, DIREZIONE GENERALE

of Radio and Television.

is hereby authorized to request payment, of the agreed sum of 50 lire, in compensation for the above.

Rome, 23 December 1940. XIX.

March Sorbello (s)
(s) March

REMARKS: It is hereby declared that the work has been regularly performed and consigned, for the sum of Lire

50

Rome, 23-12. 1940 XIX

REVIEWED BY: Chief of Division III
(Administrative Services)

00003

Translation of application for payment, signed by GERALDO SPINNI, relative to his broadcast of a prepared talk entitled "Wibraltura" over the Fascist Radio on 21 December 1940, at 2315 H., for the "Espresso" per la Radio e la Televisione, Ministero della Cultura Popolare, Rome.

Mod. 144

TO THE MINISTRY OF POPULAR CULTURE, ROME.

The undersigned GERALDO SPINNI

having duly performed the work of broadcasting a prepared talk

entitled "Wibraltura" on 21 December 1940 XIX at 23.15.

assigned to him by this Ministry, Directorate General, Inspectorate
of Radio and Television.

is hereby authorized to request payment of the agreed sum of 56 lire, in compensation for the above.

Rome, 23 December 1940. XIX.

REGISTERED
115 8 28 Dec 1940 149 Sp
(Signature Illegible)

(s) GERALDO SPINNI
Albano Senio,
Piazza Pantheon
Rome.

March Sorbello (s)
(s) March

REVIEWED, it is hereby declared that
the work has been regularly performed and
consigned, for the sum of lire

56

Rome, 23-12. 1940 XIX

INSPECTOR GENERAL
The Inspector

REVIEWED BY: Chief of Division III
(Administrative Services)

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A true translation of original.

Clara J. Rose
Clara J. Rose,
1st Lt. R.A.

Louis J. Gale Captain
H.Q. Allied Commission

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

24 April 1945

Ref : SD/266.02/LVF

Subject : British Renegades - Interim Report
Gerald Philip SPENNI

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

1. At 0900 hours on 20 April 1945, at Flat 6, Via Belluno 8, Rome, I arrested Gerald Philip SPENNI, following the finding of documentary evidence among the records of the Ministry of Popular Culture, that he had collaborated with the former Fascist Government in radio propaganda in English. A search of SPENNI's effects revealed nothing of interest, but an Italian passport - No. 898365/5426 issued in the name of Gerardo Filippo SPENNI, at the Italian Consulate, London, on 10 October 1939, was seized.
2. I 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 and (2) had done acts with intent to assist the enemy - in that he had collaborated in certain enemy radio broadcasts as a translator and announcer.
3. I cautioned him that he was not obliged to say anything unless he wished to do so and that anything he said might be given in evidence. He replied, "Later on I would like to give you a full explanation of what has happened to me since I have been in Italy".
4. On the same day he was escorted by Lieut. Claude J. BOVE (G-2 RAAC) and myself to "R" Internee Camp, Terni, where he was lodged in specially segregated quarters.
5. On 24 April 1945, I interviewed Gerald SPENNI, in company with Lieut. Claude J. BOVE. SPENNI was again cautioned and signed a certificate to the effect that he understood the implication of the caution. He then made a statement which was committed to writing, and which he signed after it had been read over to him and he had been permitted to make alterations.

Louis V. Gale
Louis V. GALE, Captain

00002

Subject : British Renegades - Interim Report
Gerald Philip SPENNI

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(Copy to A.C. of S. G-2 R.A.A.C.)

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LVC/bd

Louis V. Gale
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Louis V. Gale, Captain,
Investigating Officer,
Security Division,
Headquarters Allied Commission

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

ARREST SLIP

20 April 1945

(Date of Arrest)

NAME: SPERMI Gerald John (Giovanni)
(Last) (First) (Patronymy)

ADDRESS: Via Belluno 8 (Flat 6) Rome.

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

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

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

AGE: 27 BIRTH DATE: 14 March 1918 BIRTH PLACE: Amberley, Gloucestershire.

HT: 5'5 1/2" WT: 64 kilos EYES: Grey-Blue HAIR: Brown

WHERE CONFINED: "E" Internec Camp

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

FINAL DISPOSITION: -----

PERSONAL PROPERTY OF ARRESTEE: 193 lire; 1 pair sunglasses; 1 cigarette lighter in red enamel case; 1 brown wallet containing photographs etc; 1 blue wallet containing miscellaneous papers; 1 grey fountain pen; 1 red automatic pencil; birth certificate; 1 white metal filigree ring.

Thomas R. Gale

NAME: _____ (Last) _____ (First) _____ (Paternity)

ADDRESS: Via Belluno 8 (Flat 6) Rome.

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

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

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

AGE: 27 BIRTH DATE: 14 March 1918 BIRTH PLACE: Amberley, Gloucestershire.

HT: 5'5 1/2" WT: 64 kilos EYES: Grey-Blue HAIR: Brown

WHERE CONFINED: HQ Internec Camp

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

FINAL DISPOSITION: -----

PERSONAL PROPERTY OF ARRESTEE: 193 lire; 1 pair sunglasses; 1 cigarette lighter in red

enamel case; 1 brown wallet containing photographs etc; 1 blue wallet containing miscellaneous papers; 1 grey fountain pen; 1 red automatic pencil; birth certificate; 1 white metal filigree ring.


 LOUIS V. GALE, Captain
 (Signature)
Security Division - HQ, Allied Commission
(TYPE)

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