

ACC 10000/143/2720

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REPORTS FROM SWITZERLAND

Ap. - May 1945

0508

SECURITY DIVISION
FILE
MINUTE SHEET

No. of sheet	Date	File No. of ans'd ltr	From whom	Subject
1.	25 Apr. 1951	-	-	Information obtained on mission to Switzerland -
2.	31 May 1951	-	-	Police agents interned in Switzerland -

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

REF : SD/615

31 May 1945

SUBJECT : Police agents interned in Switzerland

TO : Director, Public Safety Sub Commission

1. As directed by instructions from this Headquarters and from AFHQ, on 7 May 1945 I proceeded with Major HANSEN, G-2, AFHQ to the Swiss Border, in order to implement the provisional arrangements set out in my previous report. Major HANSEN is the responsible officer for border control at AFHQ, and will submit a report direct to his superiors on the matter.
2. In addition to assisting Major HANSEN in his discussions with the Swiss Authorities, I was also briefed by this Headquarters to make arrangements for the screening of CCARs, who were interned in Switzerland with a view to their early repatriation, and to ascertain for Displaced Persons S.C. the extent of their problem as regards the Italian repatriates from Switzerland.
3. After contacting the CIC border control unit in Como we called on the United States and British Legations in Bern, and discussed the AFHQ policy on border control. Arrangements had previously been made by AFHQ with the State Department and Foreign Office that the latter should nominate suitable persons to act as Permit Officers responsible for issuing AFHQ Permits for persons wishing to enter Italy. It was decided to appoint Capt. MTSIMOS, Assistant Military Attache, U.S. and Mr. FARLEY, British Vice Consul in Geneva.
4. The procedure to be adopted before any person can enter Italy is to make an application to one of the gentlemen mentioned in the previous paragraph, according to their proximity to Bern or Geneva, as in the manner for Military Travel Authorizations. The applications are considered, and those deemed suitable are referred to AFHQ, who reply their assent or dissent by cable. If it is approved, the Permit Officer issues an AFHQ Permit, which entitles the person to cross the border into Italy.
5. A meeting was held at the Federal Palace, Bern, with the Swiss authorities, and the matter was fully discussed. They were informed of the intended procedure, and as a result of the conference a memorandum was drawn up on the regulation of FRONTALIER traffic (see Annex "A"). A copy of General Order No. 39 has been left with

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

1. As directed by instructions from this Headquarters and from AFHQ, on 7 May 1945 I proceeded with Major HAMBLIN, G-2, AFHQ to the Swiss border, in order to implement the provisional arrangements set out in my previous report. Major HAMBLIN is the responsible officer for border control at AFHQ, and will submit a report direct to his superiors on the matter.

2. In addition to assisting Major HAMBLIN in his discussions with the Swiss Authorities, I was also briefed by this Headquarters to make arrangements for the screening of CC.RR. who were interned in Switzerland with a view to their early repatriation, and to ascertain for Displaced Persons S.C. the extent of their problem as regards the Italian repatriates from Switzerland.

3. After contacting the CIC border control unit in Camp we called on the United States and British Legations in Bern, and discussed the AFHQ policy on border control. Arrangements had previously been made by AFHQ with the State Department and Foreign Office that the latter should nominate suitable persons to act as Permit Officers responsible for issuing AFHQ Permits for persons wishing to enter Italy. It was decided to appoint Capt. HUTCHINGS, Assistant Military Attache, U.S. and Mr. F. KRELL, British Vice Consul in Geneva.

4. The procedure to be adopted before any person can enter Italy is to make an application to one of the Gentlemen mentioned in the previous paragraph, according to their proximity to Bern or Geneva, as in the manner for Military Travel Authorizations. The applications are considered, and those deemed suitable are referred to AFHQ, who reply their assent or dissent by cable. If it is approved, the Permit Officer issues an AFHQ Permit, which entitles the person to cross the border into Italy.

5. A meeting was held at the Federal Palace, Bern, with the Swiss authorities, and the matter was fully discussed. They were informed of the intended procedure, and as a result of the conference a memorandum was drawn up on the regulation of PROUSTALIN traffic (Appendix "A"). A supply of General Order No. 39 has been left with the Swiss Authorities for posting at all Internee Camps, Consulates and Border Crossing Points.

6. In connection with the repatriation of CC.RR. and GG.FF, a meeting was arranged with the responsible Swiss Military Authorities in charge of Internees. It was decided that all CC.RR. and GG.FF.

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In Swiss Internment Camps be concentrated in special camps to facilitate screening. After consultation with Swiss Military authorities, five CC.RR. Officers were selected, after very careful enquiries, to screen CC.RR. personnel in the camps.

7. Swiss authorities will issue each interned CC.RR. and CC.FF. with a Identity card, complete with photograph - sample attached (Appendix "B"). A portion of the card bearing duplicate particulars will be signed as a receipt by the receiving authority, on the Italian side of the border, and be detached for retention by the Swiss authorities.

8. It was appreciated that if the persons were handed over into Italy without prior notification, it would not be possible for AFHQ or Allied Commission to express their views as to the desirability or otherwise of the persons concerned, and would complicate their ultimate disposition. It was therefore decided that the Swiss authorities would prepare nominal lists, as per specimen attached (Appendix "C"). The column "reason for entrance" would show, "pursued by the enemy", "Resettlement", "political reasons" etc. The "Swiss remarks" column will contain confidential information of a security nature. The "Remarks of A.G." and "Remarks of AFHQ" will be left blank for the use of those Headquarters.

9. The list will be made out with two copies. On the suggestion of the U.S. Military attache, it was deemed expedient to use the courier service of U.S.S. for transmitting these copies to this Headquarters. Two copies of the lists will be sent to G-2, AFHQ, one to be returned to this Hq. with their remarks. Two copies of the lists will be sent to the appropriate Sub-Commission in this Hq., (e.g. Public Safety for CC.RR. personnel) and the remainder retained by Displaced Persons S.C. with any S.C. One copy will be returned to Displaced Persons S.C. with any remarks the specialists Sub-Commissions may make against the names thereon.

10. G-2, AFHQ has agreed to this scheme, and has given assurance that they will handle their screening with the utmost expediency, and the same is requested by the Sub Commissions concerned in this Headquarters.

11. It is anticipated that one thousand CC.RR. and CC.FF. will be repatriated and upon discussion with the authorities concerned, it was agreed that the best practical way of handling all Italian Military Personnel interned in Switzerland (approx. 23,000) would be to follow this principle, except no screening would take place in the Swiss Internment Camps.

12. Upon the request of the American and British Legations, when this scheme had been explained to them, the subject of civilian internee repatriation was discussed with the Swiss Federal Police authorities. They were informed of the scheme already outlined with regard to the Military, and it was agreed that the same system could be applied equally successfully as regards civilian internees.

13. Instead of the Identity Cards to be completed for Military Personnel, a different "Identity Booklet" would be prepared (Appendix "D").

9. It was appreciated that if the persons were handed over into Italy without prior notification, it would not be possible for AFHQ or Allied Commission to express their views as to the desirability or otherwise of the persons concerned, and could complicate their ultimate disposition. It was therefore decided that the Swiss authorities would prepare nominal lists, as per specimen attached (Appendix "G"). The column "reason for entrance" could show, "pursued by the enemy", "desertion", "political reasons" etc. The "Swiss remarks" column will contain confidential information of a security nature. The "Remarks of A.C." and "Remarks of AFHQ" will be left blank for the use of those Headquarters.

9. The list will be made out with ten copies. On the suggestion of the U.S. Military attache, it was deemed expedient to use the courier service of U.S.S. for transmitting these copies to this Headquarters. Two copies of the lists will be sent to G-2, AFHQ, one to be returned to this Hq. with their remarks. Two copies of the lists will be sent to the appropriate Sub-Commission in this Hq., (e.g. Public Safety for G-2, AA, personnel) and the remainder retained by Displaced Persons S.C. One copy will be returned to Displaced Persons S.C. with any remarks the specialists Sub-Commissions may make against the names thereon.

10. G-2, AFHQ has agreed to this scheme, and has given assurance that they will handle their screening with the utmost expediency, and the same is requested by the Sub Commissions concerned in this Headquarters.

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12. Upon the request of the American and British Legations, when this scheme had been explained to them, the subject of civilian internees repatriates was discussed with the Swiss Federal Police Authorities. They were informed of the scheme already outlined with regard to the Military, and it was agreed that the same system could be applied equally successfully as regards civilian internees.

13. Instead of the Identity Cards to be completed for Military Personnel, a different "Identity Booklet" would be prepared (Appendix "H").

14. When Displaced Persons S.C. is in a position to deal with the reception of the repatriates, they will cable the numbers of the lists to the American Military attache, Bern, together with time and place where they can be accommodated. (Camps are already established at

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Como and Domodossola, both situated on the main railway line to Switzerland).

15. The Military attache will forward the numbers of the lists to the proper Swiss Authorities, who will act accordingly. They have agreed to bring the internees on guarded trains to the point closest to the Camps. Border Control and AFHQ have agreed to this procedure.

16. I have contacted Major HIRTZEL, Displaced Persons S.C., Lombardia Region, and understand that he is now in a position to accept up to 1,000 repatriates per camp, per day.

17. The Italian Legation in Berne had been kept informed of the arrangements made.

18. Both the American and the British Legations stressed the urgency of this problem, and expressed the desire that steps should be taken to repatriate these persons at the earliest possible moment. The Swiss Government, too, is very anxious for a speedy solution, especially as they have been asked by the Allies to accommodate in convalescent camps 120,000 Allied troops.

19. I have verbally explained this thoroughly to Lt. Col. FOMMERCILL of Displaced Persons S.C. and ask that a copy of this report be forwarded to him for information.

CARL E. FENR,
Lieutenant,
Security Division.

CEP/nb

Dist:

Col. Chapman Public Safety S.C.
Displaced Persons & Repatriation S.C.

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CARL E. FEHR,
Lieutenant,
Security Division.

CEP/nb

Dist:

*Cot Chapman Public Safety S.C.
Displaced Persons & Repatriation S.C.*

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Translation.MEMORANDUM

of the meeting held on the 16th May 1945 in Berna concerning the temporary regulations for the movement at the Southern and South-Eastern frontier.

Members present: Major Hamblen (England)
Lt. Carlo Fehr (U.S.A.)
Ernst Widmer, General Inspector of the Swiss Customs.

In view of the actual conditions the following temporary and mutual measures have been adopted for the movement at the Southern and South-Eastern frontier.

1. Frontier Movement.1. Generality.

As frontier traffic, the traffic is intended between the inhabitants of the economical zones in the vicinity of the frontier. As frontier zones are considered, under the reservation of the exceptions prescribed by the local necessities, the territories on both sides of the mutual customs line, for a limit of 10 km each way. The Swiss customs legislation grants to the inhabitants of the frontier zone customs facilities for certain merchandises necessary for their domestic economy or for the cultivation of farms. These mainly consist in the importation or re-importation, free of duty, of animals and tools as well as of certain foodstuff and products.

Lists of the localities for which the regulations of this memorandum are in force will be drawn up and exchanged by the customs administrations of the confining countries.

The regulations valid for the frontier zones are the same applied to the custom-free areas of the two parties (Swiss valleys of Samnaun and Sempuoir, as well as Italian custom-free area of Campione).

As a rule the passage of the frontier must be effected on the custom roads. The facilities concerning the obligation of using the custom roads and of observing the service hours in order to cross the frontier, are fixed by the custom directorates of Coira, Lugano and Lausanne, in agreement with the local foreign civil or military authorities.

2. Rural frontier traffic.

It includes the importation and re-export or the export and re-importation, free of duty, of animals, agricultural machines, implements and other items used for the cultivation

of the farms situated within the economical zone, as well as the custom-free importation of the products of their farms.

The importation of raw products is free of duty, exception made of those of the vineyards, coming from farms situated in the foreign economical zone. The farms must be cultivated by the owners, tenants or lessees, provided that the latter have their residence in the Swiss economical zone and import these products personally or by proper dependants. Exemption from custom duty or reduction is granted for a certain quantity of fresh or pressed grapes as well as of the wine, which has been pressed out, coming from the farms, belonging to proprietors or tenants resident in the Swiss frontier zone.

3. Market and pedlars' traffic.

As such is meant the importation free of duty of foodstuff and produces coming from the foreign economical zone and sold to the Swiss economical zone.

No duty has to be paid for fish, crabs, frogs, snails, vegetables and potatoes, when fresh, cut flowers, if imported on the road-traffic. Such goods must be sold on the market or by pedlars, within the Swiss economical zone, to the inhabitants of the frontier zone for their own use; trade is excluded. The person carrying the goods must live in the foreign economical zone or the goods must come from the foreign economical zone (be of own production or harvest).

4. Traffic for improvements and repairs.

Under discussion are works carried out by artisans of the neighbouring economical zone for the familiar necessities of the inhabitant of the frontier zone.

There are included: clothes and boots to be repaired, bleaching of threads, wood to be sawn; corn to be ground, etc. In this regard the economical and local conditions are to be considered. These custom facilities are granted within the limits of the mutuality allowed by the neighbouring State.

The workmen, artisans, manufacturers, doctors, veterinaries and mid-wives resident in one of the frontier zones are allowed to import into the other economical zone the implements, machines and instruments, which they temporarily need for the exercise of their profession, free of entrance and exit duties, but under the condition of re-exporting such articles.

5. Small frontier traffic.

Under discussion are small quantities of goods which can be imported or exported without special permit, ~~inasmuch as~~ if these operations have not the character of commercial import and export (according to the regulations of the single countries). The small frontier traffic is governed by the regulations of the treaties of commerce in force.

6. Identity documents.

Only persons in possession of a special permit are ~~allowed~~ to cross the frontier. These permits will be issued by the

competent authorities of the neighbouring countries, on founded request and under the following conditions:

- a. The permit must be only issued to those persons, whose return into the country of residence is assured.
- b. The permit must indicate the post on the line through which the holder of the permit must go when passing through.
- c. The inhabitant of the frontier zone must always use the same passage. The exit must be controlled.
- d. The permit is always only valid for one zone, the extension of which is ten km on the other side of the frontier.
- e. Sometimes, the permit can be limited, i.e. to fixed days (visitors of markets) to fixed hours or issued only for certain works or employments.
- f. All permits can be withdrawn at any time, even though this has not been specially contemplated.

The frontier permits are issued only to those persons, who have permanent residence in the frontier zone and exactly:
in Italy: by the competent Allied Military Commands;
(Aosta, Domodossola, Ponte Chiasso, Como and Sondrio)
in Switzerland: by the competent Cantonal Police Authorities.

The frontier permits issued by the authorities of one State will be visa free of charge by the competent authorities of the other State at the moment of their issue (or renewal).
Competent authorities to visa the frontier permits are:
for Italy: the competent Allied Military Commands;
for Switzerland: the competent Cantonal Police Authorities.

Besides which, for the rural frontier traffic, the Swiss Authorities will draw up a list of the inhabitants of the frontier zone, who will participate in such traffic; a copy of this list will be sent to the interested foreign authorities.

II. Railway Traffic.

In force remain all clauses of the conventions with Italy, concerning the custom service in the international stations of Chiasso, Luino and on the Sempione line, laid down on the 15 December 1882 and 24 March 1906.

III. Traffic on Lakes.

Remain in force all dispositions of the convention and of the international regulation for the navigation on the Maggiore and Lugano lakes, laid down on the 22nd October 1925.

IV. Air Traffic.

The regulations concerning the air traffic will be laid down in a special ordinance.

V. Traspasing facilities.

The adoption of clauses in order to facilitate the mutual circulation of the customs' agents within the restricted zones of the frontier region, inasmuch as these clauses are not based on international treaties (agreements concerning the frontier crossing of customs' railway and police agents in uniform), is within the competence of the district customs' directorate or of that of the local civil or military authorities of the confining countries.

VI. Currency.

The following regulations are in force for the travellers' and frontier traffic:

Until further orders, the custom offices are authorised to allow, at the moment of entrance and exit, the unrestricted passage of the following maximum amounts in foreign banknotes:

French Francs	5,500
Italian Lire	12,500
German Marks	770
Florins	360
Belgian Francs (old type)	5,000
" " (new type)	
issued in October 1944)	2,000
Swedish Corone	50
Pounds	10
Dollars	25
Hungarian Pengos	1,250
Escudos	360
Lewas (Bulgaria)	25,000
Lei (Rumania)	72,000
Turkish Lire	50
Pesetas	30
Argentinian Pesos	55
Brasillian Cruzeiros	500
Egyptian Lire	3

It is absolutely prohibited to import or export larger sums. If the travellers carry with them larger sums, these must be deposited at bank institutions, friends, etc., or must be sent back to the place from where the travel has been started. If such procedure cannot be put into effect due to local or traffic conditions, the banknotes will be handed over to the customs' office against issuance of receipt to the owners. The banknotes can be claimed from the same Office by the travellers, at the moment of their return, in full of all demands.

VIII. Miscellaneous

The possibility of granting further facilities will be

taken into consideration on both sides, as soon as the special circumstances will allow it.

Inasmuch as the American-English occupation zone extends itself also over the Lake of Costanza - Vorarlberg, the dispositions of this memo will be applied to it. Particularly remain in force all dispositions of the following conventional agreements:

- a) The treaty of Customs' Union concluded between Switzerland and Liechtenstein on the 29th March, 1923;
- b) the treaty between Switzerland, Austria-Hungaria, also for Liechtenstein, and Baviera for the construction of a railway from Lindau passing through Bregenz to St. Margrethen, as also from Feldkirch to Buchs, dated 27th August 1870;
- c) Convention between Switzerland and Austria-Hungaria concerning Customs' service at the railway stations of Buchs and St. Margrethen, laid down on the 2nd August 1872;
- d) Memorandum concerning the demarcation of the frontier line between Switzerland and Austria-Hungaria in the old bed of the Rhine, from Brugg to the Lake of Costanza, dated 19th May, 1903.

VIII. Remarks.

The dispositions of this memorandum enter into force with their signature

Laid down in Bern, in double expedition, on the 18th May 1945.

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

Tessera No. **010105**
Grado _____
Arma _____
Cognome _____
Nome _____
Paternità _____
Maternità _____
Data di nascita _____
Luogo di nascita _____
Ha soggiornato in Svizzera
quale ^{(1) rifugiato} militare
^{(1) internato}
dal _____ al _____
Firma e timbro del Cdt. del Campo o Settore

1) cancellare la voce che non interessa
Data _____


Commissariato
Federale per l'Internamento
e l'Ospitalità

Fotografia dell'internato,
da annullarsi con timbro del Cdt. del
Settore o Campo, all'angolo
della stessa

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Firma del titolare:

Tessera No. **010105**
Grado _____
Arma _____
Cognome _____
Nome _____
Paternità _____
Maternità _____
Data di nascita _____
Luogo di nascita _____
Ha soggiornato in Svizzera
quale ^{(1) rifugiato} militare
^{(1) internato}
dal _____ al _____
Firma e timbro del Cdt. del Campo o Settore

1) cancellare la voce che non interessa
Data _____

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Tessera No. **010105**

Grado _____

Arma _____

Cognome _____

Nome _____

Paternità _____

Maternità _____

Data di nascita _____

Luogo di nascita _____

Ha soggiornato in Svizzera
 quale ^{(1) rifugiato} ^{(1) internato} militare
 dal _____ al _____

Firma e timbro del Cdt. del Campo o Settore

¹⁾ cancellare la voce che non interessa

Data _____



**Commissariato
 Federale per l'Internamento
 e l'Ospitalità**

Fotografia dell'internato,
 da annullarsi con timbro del Cdt. del
 Settore o Campo, all'angolo
 della stessa

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Firma del titolare:

Tessera No. **010105**

Grado _____

Arma _____

Cognome _____

Nome _____

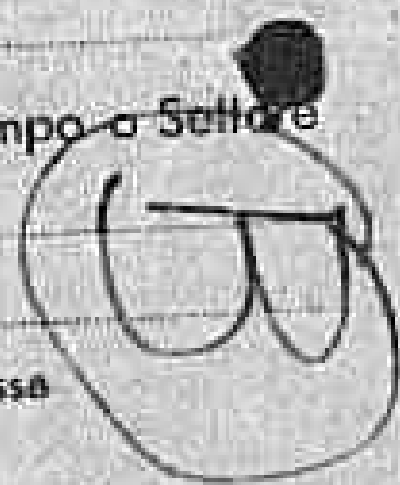
Paternità _____

Maternità _____

Data di nascita _____

Luogo di nascita _____

Ha soggiornato in Svizzera
 quale ^{(1) rifugiato} ^{(1) internato} militare
 dal _____ al _____

Firma e timbro del Cdt. del Campo o Settore


¹⁾ cancellare la voce che non interessa

Data _____

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/NND No. 785016

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UNADMITTED AMEMB COMMISSION
Public Safety Sub-Commission
Security Division.

52/6152

844 April, 1945.
SUBJECT: Information obtained on ~~subject~~ to Switzerland.

TO : V.P., G.A. Section.

1. In accordance with your instructions I proceeded to Switzerland on the 31st March, 1945, to obtain the information required by various interested Sub-Commissions of A.G.
2. Attached are separate reports to the Sub-Commissions concerned, based on their questionnaires. However, as regards the information requested by the Local Government Sub-Commission, the short time at my disposal did not allow me to complete the report. I have as far contacted the Head of the Swiss Military Police, the Head of the Swiss Officials for Internment and the Head of the Border Control. They are together compiling a list of all Italian Officials interned, or living, in Switzerland. This list will contain name, dates, former position held, political history and sympathies, the reason given for leaving Italy and the reason for which the Swiss Authorities believe that refuge was sought in Switzerland. It will also contain a report of conduct while in Switzerland. I have also been provided a list of all Public Safety Officials, i.e., Carabinieri, Finance Guards and other State employees interned in Switzerland. This list also will contain name, dates, former position held and in what locality, reason given for flight to Switzerland, and a report of behaviour while in Switzerland. This latter list will be circulated through the Swiss Border Control points, where each name will be checked by Swiss Officials who will add notes from their own personal knowledge of the subject's political views and technical ability. I am expecting these documents to reach me from Switzerland through the Swiss courier who is due in Rome at the end of this week. These reports will also answer some of the questions of the Public Safety Sub-Commission.
3. I am happy to report that I was treated with the utmost courtesy in all my dealings with the Swiss Officials concerned. They were without exception most helpful in every way, and the Heads of the different Government Departments especially interested themselves in obtaining for me

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3. I am happy to report that I was treated with the utmost courtesy in all my dealings with the Swiss Officials concerned. They were without exception most helpful in every way, and the Heads of the different Government Departments personally interested themselves in obtaining for me the information and cooperation necessary for the purpose of my mission. The Head of the Frontier and Customs Control for the whole of Switzerland, Dr. Widmer, personally accompanied me to several points on the Swiss-Italian

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frontier where he introduced me as a Swiss Security Official in order to give me the opportunity of questioning freely anybody, anywhere, about anything I pleased.

4. I spent three days in Chiasso, the main Swiss-Italian frontier station. I was hoping to be able to see personally the handling and treatment accorded to severely wounded German soldiers in train transit through Switzerland. A train of such was expected to arrive during the first two days of my stay and it was agreed that I was to board the train with the inspection party in order to make personal observations. The Swiss officials gave me to understand that while they could not actually allow me to question the wounded Germans, nonetheless they would be prepared to turn a deaf ear and a blind eye to any questioning I might tactfully undertake. However, the train of severely wounded German soldiers did not arrive.

5. A train of sick French civilians, mostly women and children, pulled in on the third day of my visit. They came from Turin and were to cross Switzerland to Geneva for repatriation to France. They had been interned in Turin and stated that the treatment they had received was not too bad. They had seen that there were still many Germans in Turin through the limited view from their place in internment. This was the only train which came into Chiasso during my three days there.

6. I was given a report to read which had been drawn up by the Customs Border Control Chief of Chiasso on the last transit train of severely wounded Germans. I noted that eight medical attendants had been refused transit because their presence did not appear to be necessary and they gave rise to the suspicion that they might be Nazi Officials. Several of the wounded themselves who were obviously attempting to cross Switzerland with wounds not sufficiently severe to warrant transit through neutral territory were turned back. I asked how the Swiss Authorities verified the severity of wounds and the bona fides of attendants. I was told that the procedure of checking these trains was the following:-

When a train pulls into the station all the attendants are lined up on the platform while the Swiss Medical Mission boards the train to check the state of each of the wounded men. All arms are taken from the Germans, put into a box which is sealed and placed in a special car at the rear of the train. Then all the attendants are interrogated for the names of the wounded.

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When a train pulls into the station all the attendants are lined up on the platform while the Swiss Medical Mission boards the train to check the state of each of the wounded men. All arms are taken from the Germans, put into a box which is sealed and placed in a special car at the rear of the train. Then all the attendants are interrogated for the purpose of verifying their nursing status in order to preclude any misuse of this special humanitarian arrangement. The train is then boarded by Swiss Military Police who seal all the doors and guard the train until it leaves Swiss territory on the German side.

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7. Upon my several trips to and along the Swiss-Italian frontier I noticed a wire fence about 12 ft. high which follows the frontier line, over mountains, across streams and winding paths; warning bells are attached at intervals and the few openings where vital roads cross the frontier are very heavily guarded. I was given a general explanation of the Swiss Frontier Control system and I was permitted, at my own discretion, to check its efficiency.

8. Swiss Frontier Control is a fluid system. At advantageous points in the terrain there are look-out posts, preferably hidden from view, but themselves commanding a wide stretch of the frontier and the wire fence. They are placed in such a manner that they control between them the entire border line during the day time. In addition patrols are continually circulating both ways along the fence to check the sounding of the bells and any damage to the wiring. At night there are additional listening posts and additional guards are posted at likely crossing points. The method of posting the men struck me as a most efficient one - a system which in itself precludes any possible corruption. No frontier guard knows until he presents himself for his daily duty what post he is to take that day or what patrol he will be on. All posts and patrols are numbered and when a man presents himself for duty he is given a number which indicates his beat or locality for his immediate hours of duty. This naturally prevents any pre-arrangement for unauthorized crossing of the frontier. Very frequent checks and double checks are being made, as I could observe from some of the daily reports from the different posts. These reports contain every minute detail of the happenings both sides of the frontier - voices heard at such a time in such a direction - shots heard at such an hour from such and such direction, etc. The different officers of the various sections study these daily reports each day and immediately send a summary to their own higher authority so that the man in charge of the frontier district knows exactly what is going on at every hour of the day.

9. As regards my personal checks on the efficiency of the frontier control, I was picked up at the point of the gun every time and no amount of talking or pleading prevented me from being escorted to the post on each occasion. I asked one of the Post Commanders exactly what he would do if I were a German soldier trying to cross the frontier. I was told that any soldier is interrogated thoroughly and his papers minutely checked before he is accepted for internment. I asked what was the procedure

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SECRET.

military identification, is unsatisfactory, a thorough check is made through internees from the unit to which the doubtful soldier apparently belongs and through Swiss Military Intelligence. They have turned back quite a number of pseudo soldiers.

10. I asked what happens to civilians if they enter Switzerland, having in mind Italian or German officials trying to take art treasures and other valuables into Switzerland, getting themselves interned, and thus saving their ill-gotten booty for after the war. I was told that only such people who can prove a case of dire necessity to escape unjust persecution are allowed to enter Switzerland; all others are refused. All belongings are taken from those who do enter, i.e., money, jewellery, art treasures etc., which are listed and deposited. Only for such articles as substantial proof of legal ownership can be produced may claim be made on release from internment. I heard of several strong protests made by the German Legation to the Swiss Government regarding property which had been taken at earlier dates from Germans travelling through Switzerland and not returned to them on leaving Swiss territory. The laconic reply of the Swiss Government in each case has been that if the German subject in question could prove legal ownership, i.e., legal purchase, etc., they would be only too glad to return the articles. However, such proofs were not forthcoming as a rule. I was told that all these treasures and other booty are being listed and stored in the hope of some day finding the rightful owners. The same thing applies to all foreign currency that is imported into Switzerland by internees. It is all taken from them and a certain sum paid to them monthly in Swiss currency for their expenses so as to prevent them trading it. Again here, only such amounts as can be proved legally their own may be taken with them on their release from internment.

11. The plan of the Swiss Frontier Control Authority is to close the frontier completely with troops as soon as the Allied offensive in Italy develops on a large scale, in order to prevent any mass influx of German or Fascist troops or officials. This measure has already been taken on the Northeast frontier between Italy and Switzerland. I was present when the order was given for an additional 50,000 Swiss troops to reinforce the Northeast frontier.

12. In connection with this frontier control

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12. In connection with this frontier control, I was given an explanation of the predicament of many farmers in the valleys crossed by the frontier line, who have their farm on the Swiss side and whose land stretches across the frontier into Italy. Their livelihood depends on their being able to work these lands. I was also given an

SECRET.

explanation of this problem of an international character, especially at Chinese and Russo, which is regulated by Italo-Swiss treaties, copies of which are attached to this report.

13. I suggested to the Swiss Authorities that since security would be of such vital importance when the Allied troops reached the Swiss frontier on the South, it would only be possible to permit these Swiss farmers to enter Italian territory at that time, for purposes of work on their lands, if we were absolutely sure of them from a security point of view. Therefore, it might be helpful if even now they were to prepare identification cards, with photographs, finger-prints and seals, for all these farmers and also a short history of themselves, their Italian land-holdings and problems, so that, as soon as security would permit we might be able to screen them ourselves and issue permits to them.

14. As regards frontier control across the lakes, several frontier control boats went into Swiss territory after the 8th September, 1943, and have been interned or requisitioned by the Swiss. On my enquiring as to the availability of these boats for work on the lake frontier control system, I was told that while the Swiss were not obliged to hand them over until the end of the war, they would nevertheless be prepared to cooperate and that doubtless some arrangements could be reached when the time came.

15. When I saw the Italian guards the other side of the frontier, performing their duties in a most slovenly manner, sitting down or lying around, and heard the comments of the Swiss frontier control guards on the inefficiency and unreliability of their Italian colleagues, I realised that efficient frontier control on the Italian side is going to present a particularly knotty problem when the time does come. Actually the Italian frontier guards outnumber their Swiss opposites by about 10 to 1 and yet on the Italian side of the frontier, control efficiency is at a very low level. One of the reasons given me for this state of affairs was that most of the guards were changed after the 8th September, 1943, and that in any case their economic conditions practically obliged them to live on corruption. In contrast, on the Swiss side, the post of frontier guard is much sought after and highly prized because of the good pay and respect attached to the position. It appears that Italian frontier guards suffer in

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16. In talking over this problem with the district officers and the Federal Chiefs of Frontier Control in Switzerland, I was given to understand that they thought

SECRET.

it would be of the utmost importance to place Italian guards on a solid economic basis so that they should be free from temptations of corruption. I believe that this could best be effected by the supply of good rations and by reducing the excessive numbers to a more reasonable ratio than 10 to 1. The saving thus effected might be applied to the betterment of pay of the reduced number. There are many Italian frontier guards interned in Switzerland who it is thought would be worth checking and screening as men of possible efficiency if properly trained. The Swiss are of opinion that many of these men might well be started under Allied military supervision. The Swiss Authorities themselves would be willing, should it be desired, to lend Swiss instructors for a time, since it is very much in the interests of Switzerland that the frontier control system should be placed on a solid and efficient footing on the Italian side of the frontier as soon as possible, not only because then they could release the extra troops they have had to call up but for the resumption of trade and commerce, so vital to Switzerland.

17. I therefore asked that I might be supplied with a list of all Italian frontier officials interned in Switzerland, i.e., Frontier Guards, Finance Guards, Carabinieri and Agents of Public Security, containing, if possible, all available information as to their political sympathies, the reason for their flight into Switzerland and their efficiency. It was also agreed that this list should be checked at all the different Swiss Frontier Controls by people who had known these Italian Officials when they were still functioning at their posts.

18. Swiss officials feel that the problem confronting whoever is to take over Italian frontier control is a very large one and they assured me of their most sympathetic cooperation to the fullest possible extent.

19. Attached are self-explanatory reports to the Public Health, Displaced Persons and Monuments and Fine Arts Sub-Commissions.

20. I have gathered much material and information for the Finance Sub-Commission. For example, a large number of recent newspapers from Northern Italy; a report drawn up by a highly placed neutral official in Northern Italy on the financial and economic conditions; a thorough study, by a Swiss newspaper correspondent in Northern Italy, of

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SECRET.

formation as to the strength of frontier and customs control on both sides of the frontier - customs control points marked in columns according to importance - together with copies of the International (Italy-Switzerland) Convention on Frontier Customs Control - "Customs Convention between Italy and Switzerland concerning the Customs Services at the International Stations of Chiasso and Luino"; copies of the Italy-Switzerland Treaty for the Simplon Line and the Treaty on the Campo-Tenno Ribellaso.

21. Since the compilation of this report will necessarily take time on account of the translation and summarizing work involved, I have verbally reported to Finance Sub-Commission the gist of the information I have gathered, and the detailed report with enclosures will be sent in as soon as possible. I have also already had a conversation with the Customs Officer, Finance Division, and will draw up a separate report in due course on the problems affecting customs.

22. Should any other questions or problems arise on which the Swiss Authorities can give information, the initial contact has been made with officials dealing with similar problems on the other side and they have expressed themselves as only too willing to cooperate by any means in their power. It is essential, however, that their cooperation remain unofficial, and it cannot be too strongly emphasized that the classification of this report - SECRET - be absolutely respected by everyone.

Carl E. Fehr Lt.

C. Fehr, Lieut.
Security Division.

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for the Simpson Line and the treaty on the Caradoc-Ronco
Ribellazo.

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C. FEHR, Lieut.
Security Division.

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

REF : SD/615

24 April 1945

SUBJECT : Information obtained in Switzerland for
Public Health Sub-Commission

TO : Brig. UPJOHN, VP., Civil Affairs Section

1. Following the request of Public Health Sub-Commission, I contacted the Headquarters of the International Red Cross at Geneva and obtained the following information.

a) The exact location of the Italian Red Cross Headquarters in Milan is Corso Magenta n. 82, and all records are to be found there. A list of the location of all the Italian Red Cross Units and the Provincial Committees and Sub Commission is attached.

b) I also obtained the names and addresses of the delegates of the international Red Cross in Northern Italy who would cooperate with the Allied Authorities.

c) In reference to the Military Hospitals occupied by the Germans in Northern Italy, I was able to obtain the following information. According to the International Red Cross delegate in Milan, as far as he knew there were 10 Hospitals at Merano, 1 in Mantua, 1 in Fasano and 1 in Gardona (Garda Lake).

d) In Mantua and Merano there are reported to be Allied wounded together with Germans.

Carl E. Fehr Lt.

CARL E. FEHR,
Lieutenant,
Security Division.

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20 April 1945
RLP

PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE OF THE ITALIAN RED CROSS
Northern Italy.

<u>TOWNS</u>	<u>ADDRESSES</u>	
Alessandria		
Aosta	via Amedeo VI di Savoia	
Apuania		
Asti		
Belluno	via XX settembre, 6	
Bergamo	Piazza del grano 7/1	
Bolzano	via Saragozza. 232	
Bologna	palazzo Broletto	
Brescia		
Como		
Cremona		
Cuneo	via Pompa di S. Martino 1	(sub-commission) prov. Imperia)
Diano Marina		
Domodossola		
Feltre		
Fiume		
Forlì	via Lomellini 19	
Genova		
Gorizia		
Imperia		
La Spezia	via Cadorna 6	(sub-commission prov. Como)
Lecco	via A. Ghislanzoni 15 a)	(sub-commission for La Spezia)
Mantova	via Doria 29	(sub-commission for prov. Cuneo)
Modena		
Mondovì		
Novara		
Padova	via A. Riva 2	
Parma	palazzo municipio	
Pavia		
Pola		
Ravenna	via Emaldi 7	(sub-commission prov. Ravenna)
Lugo		
Rovigo		
Saluzzo		
San Remo		
Sassuolo	piazza del Popolo 10	
Savona		
Sondrio		
Torino	via del Carmine 12	
Trento	via Calapina 35	
Treviso	via Ospedale 2	
Trieste	via Milano 10	
Udine	via Manzoni 7	

Apuania
 Asti
 Belluno
 Bergamo
 Bolzano
 Bologna
 Brescia
 Como
 Cremona
 Cuneo
 Diano Marina
 Domodossola
 Feltre
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 Forlì
 Genova
 Gorizia
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 Mantova
 Modena
 Mondovì
 Novara
 Padova
 Parma
 Pavia
 Pola
 Ravenna
 Lugo
 Rovigo
 Saluzzo
 San Remo
 Sassuolo
 Savona
 Sondrio
 Torino
 Trento
 Treviso
 Trieste
 Udine
 Varese
 Venezia
 Vercelli
 Verona
 Vicenza

via XX settembre, 6
 Piazza del grano 7/1
 via Saragozza. 232
 palazzo Broletto

via Poma di S. Martino 1

(sub-commission) prov. Imperia)

via Lomellini 19

via Cadorna 6
 via A. Chislanzoni 15 a)

(sub-commission prov. Como)

(sub-commission for La Spezia)

via Doria 29

(sub-commission for prov. Cuneo)

via A. Riva 2
 palazzo municipio

via Eraldi 7

(sub-commission prov. Ravenna)

piazza del Popolo 10

via del Carmine 12
 via Calepinà 35
 via Ospedale 2
 via Milano 10
 via Manzoni 7
 via Staurenghi 17

via S. Egidio 10

STAMP
 International
 International Red Cross
 Committee

Service Civilian Messages

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LIST OF DELEGATES, ASSISTANT DELEGATES
AND CORRESPONDANTS OF THE C.I.C.R. IN ITALY IN
NORTHERN ITALY

MILAN.

Colonel Hans Bon, delegate
M. Tschudi, assistant delegate
M. Samuel Girod, assistant delegate

address:

Piazza San Brasmo 6

GENOVA

Dr. Biaggi de Blasys, delegate

address:

via Capolungo, 13
Genova-Nervi.

VERONA

M. Frederico Zweifel
San Giovanni
Lapatoto, near Verona

TRIESTE.

Dr. Giorgio Berta
Secretary of the Swiss Club
Trieste

TURIN.

M. Gustavo Boringhieri
Swiss Consulate
Turin

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

REF : SD/615

24 April 1945

SUBJECT : Information obtained in Switzerland for
Displaced Persons & Repatriation Sub-Commission.

TO : Brig. UPJOHN, VP, Civil Affairs Section.

1. From the official Swiss Authorities I was able to obtain the following figures on the interned nationals in which the Displaced Persons Sub-Commission is interested.

a) Italians	32,200
b) Yugo Slavs	2,250
c) Greeks	1,100
d) Jews	19,716

of which a breakdown to nationality is attached.

2. Under the care of the Swiss Red Cross (Childrens Aid).

a) 700 interned children without parents.
b) 450 Children who entered Switzerland on relief transports.

3. Under the care of the Swiss Aid for Emigrant Children there are:

a) 350 Children without parents.
b) 500 " whose parents live abroad.

4. Out of this total of 2,000 children a great number of them have relatives abroad who will, as soon as conditions will permit take care of them. 150 children can go to Palestine with the Youth Alijah. There are only 70 children who have neither parents nor relatives.

5. The amount of currency allowed to be taken out of Switzerland is now 12,500 lire in addition to any amount of Swiss money they have available. The Swiss Authority however assured me that other arrangements could be made.

6. Any additional information required by your Sub-Commission could be easily obtained from the competent Swiss Authority, who are glad to cooperate.

0603

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Carl E. Fehr Lt.

CARL E. FEHR
Lieutenant
Security Division.

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Number of Jewish refugees according to Nationalities on 14.4.45

<u>Nationality</u>	<u>Number</u>
German ⁸	3982
French	1181
Italians	3774
Albanians	2
Belgian	244
Greeks	158
English	33
Yugo Slavs	1075
Latvians	45
Lithuanians	39
Norwegians	1289 1
Polish	4875
Portuguese	9
Rumanians	645
Russians	244
Spanish	6
Luxemburg	66
Dutch	1289 ?
Czechoslovakia	895
Hungarians	1128
Argent ⁿ ians	5
San Salvador	4
Americans	3
Palestinians	<u>13</u>
Total	19716

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

REF : SD/615

25 April 1945

SUBJECT : Information obtained in Switzerland for
Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives Sub-Commission.

TO : Brig. UPJOHN, VP, Civil Affairs Section.

1. Following the request of the above Sub-Commission, I have questioned, and checked with, the proper Swiss Customs & Frontier Control Authorities and am now able to give the following answers to their questions.

- a) No works of Italian Art in possession of Nazis or any other persons can enter Switzerland or be disposed of in Switzerland if proper legal purchase and ownership cannot be established by the individuals concerned behind any doubt whatsoever.
- b) There is a very efficient Swiss Border Custom Control that intercepts all articles and merchandise including, naturally, objects of Art. Since 12.3.45, no article or merchandise ranging from a sack of rice or piece of bread to an automobile or famous painting can be imported into Switzerland without the proper import licence. The only authority to issue such licences in Northern Italy is the Swiss Consul in Milan and the principal condition for obtaining such a licence is again the proof behind any doubt of legal purchase or ownership. I questioned the Swiss Consul of Milan, personally as to whether he had so far issued any such licence, to which he replied so far none. I re-checked this with several Border Control points, asking them if any such import licence had been seen or handled by them to which again they confirmed that none had been seen or handled so far.
- c) Referring to this question, I checked with the authorities and again personally questioned the several Frontier Control Officials as to their orders and line of action, if Fascist or German refugees had tried to enter Switzerland with Art objects and other property. I was able to convince myself through several reports written by officials on such occasions and by the answers given to me from the different people

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The same procedure did apply to transit travellers. That is German civilians especially crossing Switzerland from Northern Italy, when such transit was still permitted. This automatically stops all transit booty through Switzerland or the taking of such booty into Switzerland for internment and consequent release on termination of the internment. Furthermore all internees have to establish legal purchase or ownership of any property they carry with them on entering Switzerland, before such property is returned to them on release.

2. The withheld booty and illegal property will be held by the Swiss Government with the intention that ways and means will be found to restore these objects to the rightful owners after the war. I was told of several occasions where the German Legation in Switzerland protested to the Swiss Authorities with regard to properties taken from German transit civilians which however resulted in the laconic reply of the Swiss that the person concerned has only to prove legal purchase or ownership and his property will be returned without delay.

3. I was given a highly confidential report from the Chief for Custom and Border Control in Switzerland to the Federal Consul on Transit Traffic through Switzerland during the years 1939-1945. I will be glad to show the Director of the Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives Sub-Commission the paragraphs of this report which might be of interest to him.

Carl E. Fehr

CARL E. FEHR
Lieutenant
Security Division

CEF/af

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Furthermore all internment of any property they carry purchase or ownership of any property they carry with them on entering Switzerland, before such property is returned to them on release.

2. The withheld booty and illegal property will be held by the Swiss Government with the intention that ways and means will be found to restore these objects to the rightful owners after the war. I was told of several occasions where the German Legation in Switzerland protested to the Swiss Authorities with regard to properties taken from German transit civilians which however resulted in the laconic reply of the Swiss that the person concerned has only to prove legal purchase or ownership and his property will be returned without delay.

3. I was given a highly confidential report from the Chief for Customs and Border Control in Switzerland to the Federal Consul on Transit Traffic through Switzerland during the years 1939-1945. I will be glad to show the Director of the Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives Sub-Commission the paragraphs of this report which might be of interest to him.

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