

ACC

10000/145/113

20124/2/A

VERONA - GENERAL

Feb 1945 - MAR. 1946

VERONA - GENERAL

Feb 1945 - MAR 1946

MFAH %
20124/2/A

Region of Venezia

VERONA - General

HQ. ALLIED COMMISSION, APO 394

Sub-Comm. for MONUMENTS,
Fine Arts, and Archives.

File # 20124/2/A

Region of Venezia:

VERONA - GENERAL

Date	To
~~10 Sep~~	~~CHS~~
10 Sep	CHS
~~10 Sep~~	~~CHS~~
10 Sep	CHS
~~10 Sep~~	~~CHS~~
10 Sep	CHS
10 Oct	CHS
25 March	CHS

Date	To
~~10 Sep~~	~~CAS~~
10 Sep	CAS
~~11 Sep~~	~~CAS~~
12 Sep	CAS
~~14 Sep~~	~~CAS~~
14 Sep	CAS
10 Oct	CAS
25 Nov	CAS

10000 / 145 / 113

THIS FOLDER
CONTAINS PAPERS
FROM FEB - 45
TO MAR - 46
CATALOGUE.

MFAH 5/c

20124/2/A

Venezia:

VERONA - General

12 APR 1946

HQ. ALLIED COMMISSION

Sub-Com. for MONUMENTS,

Fine Arts, and Archives

File # 20124/2/A

Region of Venezia:

VERONA - GENERAL

Civil Affairs Section.

5

Letter for signature please. If you think the original
of the attachment is too tired to send, we'll make
a copy HEBell Major

MAAS/c

25 March 46

M. Y. A. S/c..

6.

Letter signed and filed.

W. H. A. Maj.
CA. Section.

26 March 46..

2872

20124/2/A1
MFAAMINUTES:

1. To CA Section

In approval & signature please

David Perkins Lt Col
Dir MFAA S/C

2. To CA Section (ref folio 23)

In approval and signature please

MFAA
18 Sept 45David Perkins Lt Col
Dir.

MFA

Requests for leave to interrogate prisoners must be
submitted to the PMG AFHQ. The latter has been
replied accordingly.CA.S
02/10/45

-3-

CA Sec: Ref your BF 9. I do not understand the
action taken in 2nd Ind. Was basic not
returned here for reimbursement to Germany?
What is meant by its (basic's) "return to
proper quarter"?

10 Oct 45
478480Newton Maj AC
DDir MFAA S/C

4

2571

MFA.

AFHQ should not have returned the papers as they are under
the first endorsement - it is their function to transmit a Germany not
one - the second endorsement returns the papers to them for the
proper return to be taken

CA.S
1100-1045Noted N.Su
-5-

H.W.H. Ltd.

HEADQUARTERS THIRD COMBINED
ARMY
CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

26 March 1946

20124/2/A

SUBJECT: Col. Moser - German POW

TO : P.A.G., A.P.H.4.

Reference this Headquarters letter 20124/2/10723 dated 15 Sept 45
(attached)

1. Colonel MOSER proved to have been transferred to Germany, and under reference 383.6 PMS-ALO, 21 Jan 46, Headquarters, U.S. Forces European Theatre have forwarded interrogation report on this German POW, made by Headquarters Third United States Army under reference A.O. 000.5, 4 Jan 46.

2. This report contains the information that MOSER is being detained at PW 29 pending a decision by Allied Commission. Since, however, MOSER's responsibility for the destruction of the bridges at Verona (referred to in the attached letter) cannot be regarded as established, and since further investigation is not regarded as practicable, it is the opinion of the Headquarters that MOSER need not be detained further in this connection.

3. May this decision please be forwarded through the appropriate channels to Headquarters Third United States Army.

4. Documents concerned are being retained by the Allied Commission Room.

For the Chief Commissioner

M. Carr
M. Carr, Brigadier
Vice President



*Ministero
della Pubblica Istruzione*
DIREZIONE GENERALE
DELLE ANTICHITA' E BELLE ARTI

RISERVATA

Mod. 1 (Belle Arti)
Roma 23 marzo 1945
Al Direttore della Sot-
tocommissione Alleata
per i Monumenti, le BB.
AA. e gli Archivi
Commissione Alleata
Napoli sul f. del R C M A
Dir. La A

Ref. 7-427-3 Bis II

OGGETTO Verona, Colonnello Moser.

Questo Ministero ha ricevuto il rap-
porto riservato relativo alla inchiesta con-
dotta dalle Autorità militari alleate in me-
rito alla distruzione dei ponti monumentali
della città di Verona ad opera delle truppe
tedesche in ritirata.

Per quanto la perdita dei ponti sia
dolorosa e per quanto appaia strategicamente
inutile e puramente vandalica la loro destru-
zione, questo Ministero si rende conto che,
in base alla inchiesta compiuta e agli inter-
rogatori resi, sia assai incerto e forse im-
possibile stabilire la precisa responsabi-
lità del Colonnello Georg Moser, comandante
tedesco della piazza di Verona il 25 aprile
1945. Deve altresì osservare che la lettera
del Maresciallo Kessebranz in data 11 Otto-
bre 1944, sulla quale si fondava la speranza
delle Autorità veronesi che i ponti venisse-
ro risparmiati, era tenuta nei termini ambi-

gui e non impegnativi consueti alle autorità tedesche in guerra, e conteneva anzi una implicita determinazione di distruggere i ponti addossandone la colpa agli avversari.

Così stando le cose sembra anche a questo Ministero che ogni ulteriore ricerca delle responsabilità non possa approdare a neseun risultato soddisfacente e concreto e possa essere abbandonata.

IL MINISTRO

A. A. A. A. A.

3329

CAS

(B/L Hqs Allied Commission, subject: Col. Moser - German POW, dated 18 Sep 45.

5 FEB 1946

AG 383.6 RLT-AGG 7th Ind.
Hqs, U.S. Forces, European Theater, APO 757, 21 January 1946

TO: Chief Commissioner, Allied Commission, APO 394

5 Incls: n/c

5 FEB 1946

E.S.
E.S.

~~Y.P.W. Div~~

in L.S. +

8 Ind.

The attached documents are forwarded
to you. Please check the info. & if it is what is required.
7 Feb.

Plutonium Reaktor. Key
Co. Section

FILE NO. 20124/1/A

ALLIED COMMISSION
HEADQUARTERS
586

2869

B/L Hqs Allied Commission, subject: Col. Moser - German POW, dated
18 Sep 45.

AG 383.6 PMC-AGO 7th Ind.
Hqs, U.S. Forces, European Theater, APO 757, 21 January 1946
TO: Chief Commissioner, Allied Commission, APO 394

5 Incls: n/c

E.S.

2868



785016

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 39A
CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

Ref : 20124/2/A/1294A

SUBJECT : COL. MOER - German POW

TO : EAC, AFHQ

18 Sep 45

- 1 It is understood that German PW Colonel MOER is located in US Camp PW 138 near Pisa, transferred on August 3 from the recalcitrant straggle at GREDI POW Camp. It would be appreciated if arrangements could be made to question MOER as to events in VERONA, of which he is believed to have been Platoon Commander on 25 April 45.
- 2 The intention of cross-examination is to establish who was responsible for blowing the two historic bridges of VERONA, the Ponte Scaligero and the Ponte della Vittoria, which had been subject of special provisions initiated by Field Marshal Kesselring to secure their protection. Both were narrow, elderly structures, the bottleneck approaches to which had been rendered absolutely impassable on an agreed plan, of which the German authorities were fully cognizant. Their destruction on the last day of organized fighting would appear to be a piece of deliberate vandalism and Colonel MOER appears either personally or through his office to have been responsible.
- 3 The accompanying questionnaire is suggested, but any additional detail arising would be welcome. A dossier covering the main facts is appended. Please return this and accompanying photographs.

FOR THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER:

M. GARR, Brig,
VP CA Sec.

17 2887

plan
photostat
12 gaud

13-4

23

922
1 It is understood that German PW Colonel MOSER is located in US Camp PW 338 near Pisa, transferred on August 3 from the re-education stockade at CREDI POW Camp. It would be appreciated if arrangements could be made to question MOSER as to events in VERONA, of which he is believed to have been Platoon Commander on 25 April 45.

2 The intention of cross-examination is to establish who was responsible for blowing the two historic bridges of VERONA, the Ponte Scaligero and the Ponte della Pietra, which had been subject of special provisions initiated by Field Marshal Kesselring to secure their protection. Both were narrow, elderly structures, the bottleneck approaches to which had been rendered absolutely impassable on an agreed plan, of which the German authorities were fully cognizant. Their destruction on the last day of organized fighting would appear to be a piece of deliberate vandalism and Colonel MOSER appears either personally or through his officers to have been responsible.

3 The accompanying questionnaire is suggested, but any additional detail arising would be welcome. A dossier covering the main facts is appended. Please return this and accompanying photographs.

FOR THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER:

M. CAIR, Brig,
VP CA Sec.

Copy to : Regional MEAA Officer, VENETIAN Region.

Returned

Questionnaire

1. Full names and title of MOSER
2. Was MOSER Platzkommandant of VERONA on 25 April 1957
3. Was he aware of any instructions from the German High Command South-West that the two ancient bridges, the Ponte Sordani and the Ponte della Pietra were not to be destroyed?
4. On 25 April he was interviewed by the Bishop of Verona and the Criminal Secretary, who severally received formal assurances that these two bridges would not be blown with the remainder of the bridges of Verona, as they had been made useless for traffic by the installation of heavy staggered reinforced concrete road-blocks. How does he account for their destruction that same evening?
5. If he was not responsible, who was? What formation prepared and executed the demolitions?
6. Had he ever seen the letter signed by Kesselring, of which photograph is attached?
7. Had he ever had conversation on the subject with Lt. Hagerman of the Supreme Command South-West?

2888

6419

C. A. L.

1st Ind.

HMB/NS/jmh

HEADQUARTERS MEDITERRANEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS, Office of the Provost
Marshal General, APO 512 U. S. Army, 1 October 1945.

TO: Chief Commissioner, Allied Commission, APO 394 U. S. Army.
(Civil Affairs Section)

1. Available information indicates that German PW Colonel Moser
was transferred to Bad Aibling, Germany on 11 September 1945 as a re-
calcitrant.

2. Suggest file be referred to Commanding General, United States
Forces, European Theater.

FOR THE PROVOST MARSHAL GENERAL:

H. M. Bowman
H. M. BOWMAN, JR.,
Lt. Col., C.M.P.,
Executive.

2nd Ind.

TO : G-5, AFHQ

This has gone somewhat off the rails by being returned to this HQ.
Your good offices are sought for its return to the proper quarter.

FOR THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER:

CA Section, HQ/AC
5 October 1945

M. Carey
M. CAREY
VP CA Section



3d Ind to Ltr., Hqs, AC, Civil Affairs Section, APO 394,
dtd 18 Sep 45, subj: Col. MOSER - German POW.

AG 619.3/970 E-0

3d Ind

HEADQUARTERS MTOUSA, APO 512, 9 October 1945

TO: Commanding General, United States Forces, European
Theater, APO 887

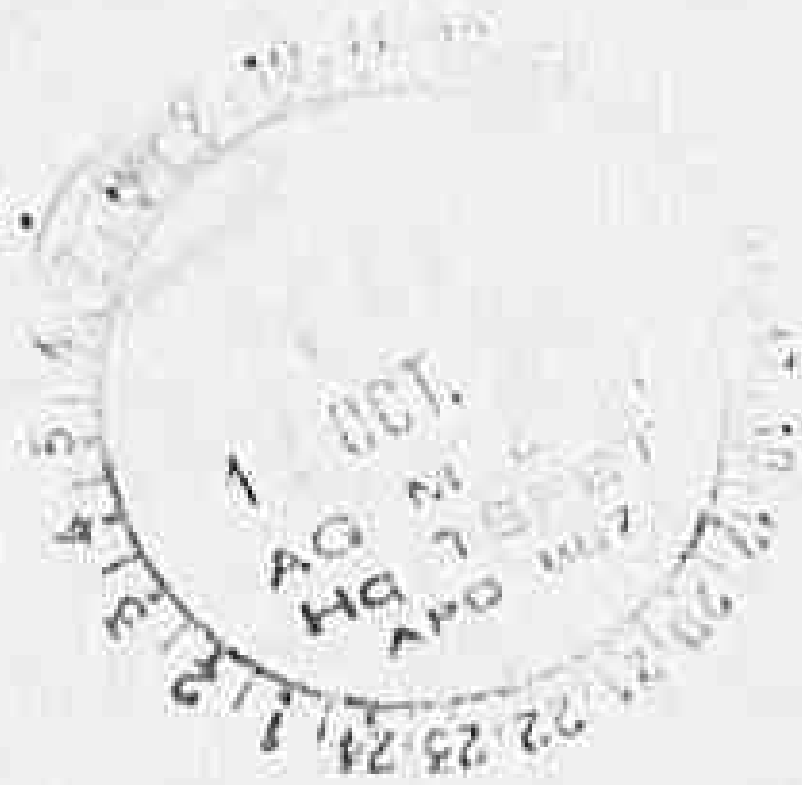
Request German PW Colonel MOSER, transferred to BAD
AIBLING on 11 September 1945, be cross-examined and the
results communicated to this headquarters.

FOR THE THEATER COMMANDER:

Edmund R. Shugart
EDMUND R. SHUGART
Colonel, AGD
Asst Adjutant General

2 Incls:

- 1 - Questionnaire
- 2 - Hq, AC, APO 394, Ltr,
file 20124/2/A/MFAA,
dtd 21 Sep 45, w/2 Incls.



2864

PM
(Basic ltr, Hq, Allied Commission, Civil Affairs Sec, file Ref:
20124/2/A/MFAA, subject: "Col. MOSER - German POW," dated
18 September 1945)

AG 383.6 PMG-AGO 4th Ind (S: 29 Nov 45)
Hq, U.S. Forces, European Theater (Main), APO 757, 31 October 1945

TO: Commanding General, Western Military District

For compliance with 3rd Indorsement and report through this
headquarters.

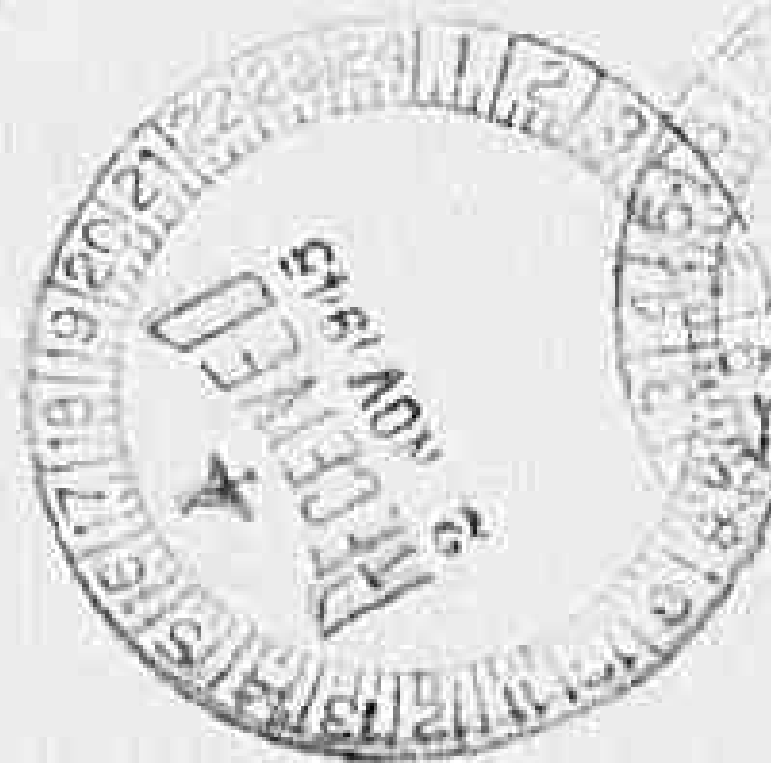
BY COMMAND OF GENERAL EISENHOWER:



2 Incls: n/c



L. Wurzel
L. WURZEL
Captain, AGD
Assistant Adjutant General
0-3505



2863

785016

1/1 Allied Commission, Civil Affairs Sec, APO 394 18 Sep 45
Col. Koser-German POW

JAA/aww

5th Ind.

AG250.11W

HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH ARMY/WESTERN MILITARY DISTRICT, APO 753,
US Army, 3 November 1945

TO: Commanding General, Third US Army/Eastern Military District,
APO 403, US Army

Attention is invited to 3rd and 4th Indorsements.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

2 Incls: n/c

7 NOV Recd

Dean G. Ostrum
DEAN G. OSTRUM
Captain AGD
Asst Adjutant General



2962



HEADQUARTERS THIRD ARMY
110 313-6

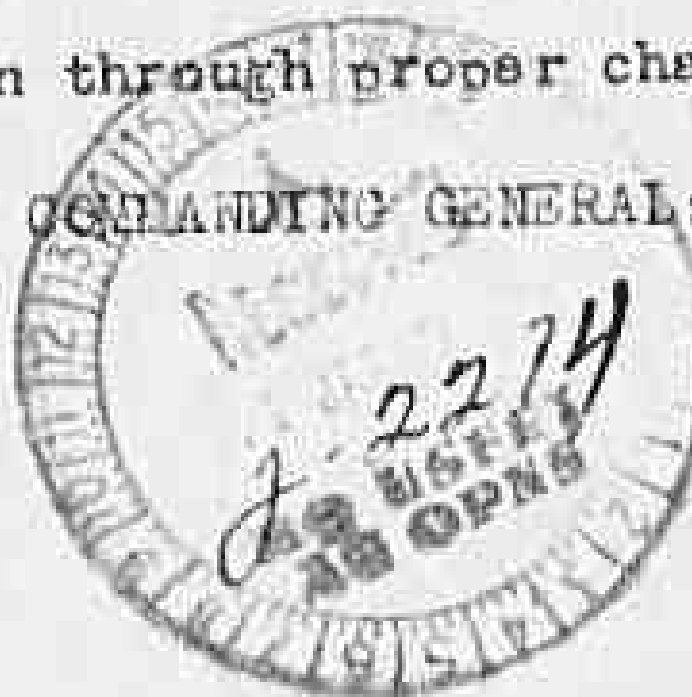
SIC: Letter, Hq Allied Commission, APO 394 (Civil Affairs Section),
subject: "Col. Moser - German POW", dated 18 September 1945.

AG 000.5 (20124/2/A/MFAA) 6th Ind.
(18 Sept 45) (3 JA-F362) GNMOCJ
HEADQUARTERS THIRD UNITED STATES ARMY, APO 403, United States Army,
4 January 1946.

TO: Commanding General, United States Forces, European Theater (Main)
APO 757, United States Army.

1. Request contained in basic communication complied with.
2. For return through proper channels.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:



21 JAN 1946
B.D. MADSEN
1st Lt
Actg Asst Adj Gen

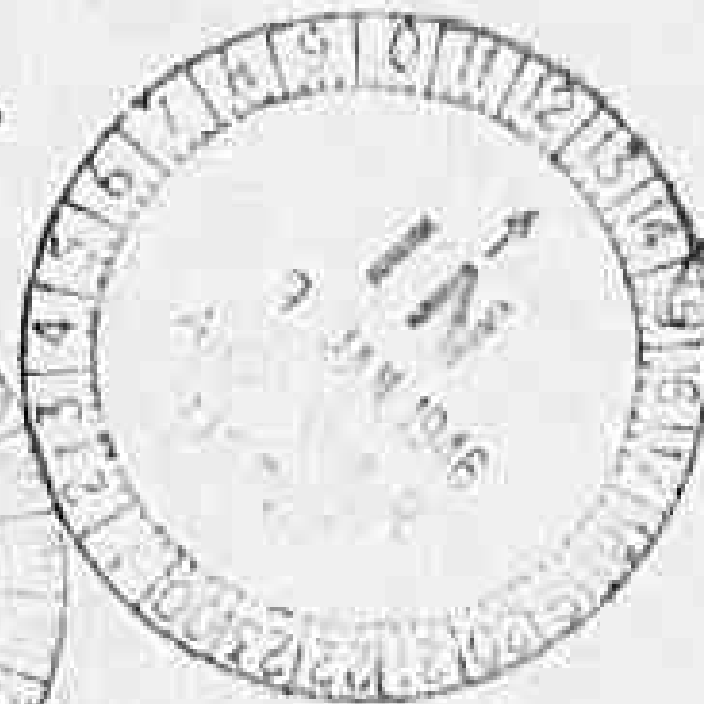
18 JAN 1946

5 Incls:

Incls 1-2 n/c.

- Incl 3 - Special Interrogation Report regarding Col. Moser. (trip.)
- Incl 4 - Special Interrogation Report regarding 1st Lt Reichert. (trip.)
- Incl 5 - Special Interrogation Report regarding 1st Lt Seipert. (trip.)

"Telephone Munich-Military 2018".



NO USE
AG 000.5
10 JAN 1946
OUT
10-13-18-19-20-21-22-23-24-25-26-27-28-29-30-31-32-33-34-35-36-37-38-39-40-41-42-43-44-45-46-47-48-49-50-51-52-53-54-55-56-57-58-59-60-61-62-63-64-65-66-67-68-69-70-71-72-73-74-75-76-77-78-79-80-81-82-83-84-85-86-87-88-89-90-91-92-93-94-95-96-97-98-99-100

2861

Questionnaire

1. Full names and title of MOSER
2. Was MOSER Platzkommandant of VERONA on 25 April 45?
3. Was he aware of any instructions from the German High Command South-West that the two ancient bridges, the Ponte Scaligero and the Ponte della Pietra were not to be destroyed?
4. On 25 April he was interviewed by the Bishop of Verona and the Communal Secretary, who severally received formal assurance that these two bridges would not be blown with the remainder of the bridges of Verona, as they had been made useless for traffic by the installation of heavy staggered reinforced concrete road-blocks. How does he account for their destruction that same evening?
5. If he was not responsible, who was? What formation prepared and executed the demolitions?
6. Had he ever seen the letter signed by Kesselring, of which photograph is attached?
7. Had he ever had conversation on the subject with Lt. Hagemann of the Supreme Command South-West?

2800

3. Was he aware of any instructions from the German High Command South-West that the two ancient bridges, the Ponte Scaligero and the Ponte della Pietra were not to be destroyed?

4. On 25 April he was interviewed by the Bishop of Verona and the Communal Secretary, who severally received formal assurance that these two bridges would not be blown with the remainder of the bridges of Verona, as they had been made useless for traffic by the installation of heavy staggered reinforced concrete road-blocks. How does he account for their destruction that same evening?

5. If he was not responsible, who was? What formation prepared and executed the demolitions?

6. Had he ever seen the letter signed by Kesselring, of which photograph is attached?

7. Had he ever had conversation on the subject with Lt. Hagemann of the Supreme Command South-West?

2880

SPECIAL INTERROGATION REPORT # 1

Reference: 20129 /2/A/ MFAA.

1. MOSER, Georg (NMI), Colonel in the German Army (Lut).

MOSER entered the German armed forces in 1913 and was discharged as a 1st Lieutenant. He was recalled in 1937 and commissioned "Captain (E)". MOSER is 52 years old and married. His official residence is OTTERFING near MUNICH. He is presently detained at Third United States Army War Crimes Detention Center at PWE #29 DACHAU, Germany.

2. MOSER was "Platzkommandant" of VERONA on 25 April 1945.

MOSER was appointed "Platzkommandant" of VERONA on 5 May 1944 and evacuated VERONA at 2100 hours, 25 April 1945 after the last bridge had been blown up. However, he denies any causal relation between the evacuation carried out by him and the demolition.

3. Yes.

MOSER has been shown the letter attached to the questionnaire by the bishop's secretary. MOSER claims that General HOGNER was the military commander (Militarkommandant) of VERONA and the administrative officer Dr. METZNER now being detained at GRAFENWOERH procured the letter and conducted all negotiations relative to the preservation of monuments and art treasures located in the province of VERONA. MOSER claims that he never received any official notification but was kept informed by the ITALIAN authorities.

4. Control of the VERONA bridges passed to the 17th German Army on or about 23 April 1945. The army sent a special engineer staff (Pionierstab) headed by a Colonel VON LEHRING who worked directly under the engineer officer (Pionierfuhrer) on the 17th Army Staff, Colonel ERMSHAUS. Army also sent an engineer company for the execution of the necessary demolitions.

MOSER was informed about the mining of the bridges by the ITALIAN officials and contacted VON LEHRING. Since he was unable to obtain satisfactory assurances he contacted the G-3 (Ia) of 14th Army by phone and the G-3 issued orders that the bridges were to be spared. MOSER communicated this to the bishop's secretary and another ITALIAN official (the prefect of the province). However, MOSER denies talking to the bishop at all.

(Note: Colonel SCHUSTER, the G-3, denies talking to MOSER about the bridges at all and claims that no phone connections existed between Headquarters 14th Army and VERONA on the 25th.)

At 1700 hours the approach of Allied tank points was reported and MOSER was ordered to evacuate his Headquarters. Sometime after 1800 hours LEHRING informed him that he and requested and received authority to blow up all VERONA bridges from 14th Army Headquarters. After that conversation MOSER did nothing to avert the impending destruction of the bridges and failed to inform the ITALIANS he had negotiated with of the change of places.

5. MOSER claims that responsibility should be assigned to Headquarters 14th Army, and the then engineer officer (Pionierfuhrer) ERMSHAUS as well as LEHRING. He denies knowing the unit designation of the engineer company that performed the demolition job.

6. Yes; See above.

7. No. MOSER denies knowing any such officer.

8. MOSER has furnished the name of ERMSHAUS' adjutant whose interrogation report is inclosed.

9. Conclusions:

MOSER is obviously not telling the whole truth though the general outlines of his story seem substantially correct and are supported by REICHERT.

Recommendations:

(1) That all the personnel enumerated by MOSER be interrogated and detailed interrogation reports be furnished to this headquarters in case of any discrepancies.

(2) If further interrogation of MOSER is desired, detailed statements by the ITALIAN witnesses should be obtained. The statements presently available are only helpful in briefing the interrogator. They cannot be used for interrogation purposes since they are too general.

(3) Unless more detailed data are obtained continued interrogation of MOSER will not serve any useful purpose.

10. Disposition:

MOSER is being detained at PWE #29 pending a decision by the Allied Commission.

2858

SPECIAL INTERROGATION REPORT # 3

Reference: 20129 /2/A/ MFAA.

SEIPERT, Franz, 1st Lieutenant.

1st Lieutenant Franz SEIPERT of the STAB I Eisenbahnpionier 3 states that a detail of men of his unit, STAB I /Eisenbahnpionier 3 was sent to VERONA in the morning of 25 April 1945 to help blow up the VERONA street bridges. He believes that the orders detailing these men came from Headquarters 14th Army; The detail was commanded by Lieutenant MAYER, the adjutant of the unit.

2857

SPECIAL INTERROGATION REPORT # 2

Reference: 20129 /2/A/ MFAA.

REICHERT, Rudolf, 1st Lieutenant.

REICHERT is a 36 year old SS man from KONIGSBERG. He is a hardened Nazi who was an engineer before entering the army in 1939. During April 1945 he was a member of the engineer section, 14th Army.

1. The VERONA area passed into 14th Army control sometime after 20 April 1945. At that time army headquarters were being moved from south of the PO into the area of the lago di Jajda.

2. Army headquarters did not receive any instructions about the preservation of the two bridges. Army headquarters only received few instructions about the new area. If Army headquarters had received any instructions, REICHERT would know about them.

3. Colonel LEHRING, Commanding Officer of the 604th Engineer Regimental Staff (Pionier RegtStab 604), was sent to VERONA with his staff with instructions to blow up all bridges. Later on it became known that he had performed his mission and had blown up all bridges. This did not evoke any adverse comment.

4. Colonel LEHRING was subordinate only to the engineer section of Army headquarters. He would not have received or carried out orders by any local commander.

5. REICHERT was absent from headquarters on 25 April 1945 but he feels sure that no phone connection between headquarters and any other unit existed that day.

6. REICHERT denies any knowledge of the letter written by Field Marshall KESSELRING. No similar orders were received by his headquarters since the defence of FLORENCE.

7. REICHERT claims never to have seen MOSER before and the ^{two} are living in different installations in camp. 2856

8. REICHERT does not know HAGEMANN.

9. A search for Colonel LEHRING and ERMSHAUS is being made in all Third Army cages. If found, they will be interrogated by the Judge Advocate Section, Headquarters Third U S Army.

Incl #4

REF

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

JBWP/fl

APO 394

CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

20124/2/A/MFAA

21 Aug 45

Subject: Destruction of Bridges at VERONA.

To : G-5 Section, AFHQ.

1. The accompanying photographs illustrate the Ponte della Pietra and the Ponte Scaligero at VERONA, destroyed on 25 April 45 by the retreating German Army. The circumstances of this destruction are set out in the accompanying letter 20124/2/A/MFAA of 6 June 45, from which it is clear that in view of the precautionary measures already taken to render the bridges impassible, their destruction was a senseless act of vandalism serving no military purpose.

2. The only fresh fact, which has emerged since the letter quoted was written, is that Lt Hagemann, Monuments Advisor on HQ Army Group South-West at BOLZANO, states that on the 25th April efforts were made to get into telephonic communication with VERONA to ensure the safety of the two bridges but that, in the confusion prevailing, this proved impossible.

3. It is requested that copies of this letter, with its enclosures, be sent to:

Civil Affairs Branch
War Office, LONDON
(attn. Advisor on Monuments & Fine Arts)

and to:

Civil Affairs Division
War Department, WASHINGTON
(for transmission to the American Commission
for the protection and Salvage of Artistic
and Historic Monuments in War Areas, attn.
Mr. Huntington Cairns, Secy.).

2855

For the CHIEF COMMISSIONER:

la Pietra and the Ponte Scaligero at VERONA, destroyed on 25 April 45 by the retreating German Army. The circumstances of this destruction are set out in the accompanying letter 20124/2/A/MFAA of 6 June 45, from which it is clear that in view of the precautionary measures already taken to render the bridges impassible, their destruction was a senseless act of vandalism serving no military purpose.

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(for transmission to the American Commission
for the protection and Salvage of Artistic
and Historic Monuments in War Areas, attn.
Mr. Huntington Cairns, Secy.).

For the CHIEF COMMISSIONER:

/s/ A. Carr Brigadier

/t/ A. CARR, Brig.
VP JA Sec

2 Incls --

Incl 1 - Set of 13 photographs in App. "A" hereto. *Not sent.*
Incl 2 - Copy-letter HQ ALCOM
20124/2/A/MFAA of 6 June 45.

John H. V.

COPY

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

JBWP/pa/1

APC 394

CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

20124/2/A/MPAA

5 June 45

Subject: Destruction of Bridges at VERONA.

TO : G-5 Section, AFHQ.

1. VERONA until recently possessed two of the finest historical bridges of Italy, the Ponte di Pietra, the earliest of all surviving Roman bridges, and the world-famous medieval Ponte Scalegno.

2. The preservation of these two bridges have been the preoccupation of both the Allied and the German Command. Not only were they Allied Listed Monuments and additionally subject to special Air-Force instructions in relation to bombing-targets in VERONA; but the German High Command also had undertaken to take all reasonable measures to preserve them from destruction.

3. On 11 Oct 44, in reply to official Italian requests, Field-Marshal Kesselring gave his personal assurance (transmission attached) that all reasonable steps would be taken to this end. In implementation of this assurance heavy concrete road-blocks were established by the Superintendent of Monuments in collaboration with the German Platzkommandant. Both bridges were impracticable for heavy traffic and the demolition of these road-blocks would have taken far longer than the construction of military bridges elsewhere.

4. On the morning of 25 April it was observed that minechambers were in preparation in all the bridges of VERONA. Numerous persons, including the Bishop of VERONA, the Communal Secretary Sig. CARONI, and the Superintendent of Monuments, brought this to the personal notice of the Platzkommandant, Col. MOSES, all of whom received formal assurance that the two bridges in question would not be blown. At 2030 hours however all the bridges of VERONA were without exception destroyed.

5. The representative for Fine Arts at the German High

1. Verona and its recently destroyed two or three oldest historical bridges of Italy, the Ponte di Pietra, the earliest of all surviving Roman bridges, and the world-famous medieval Ponte Scaligero.

2. The preservation of these two bridges have been the preoccupation of both the Allied and the German Command. Not only were they Allied Listed Monuments and additionally subject to special air-force instructions in relation to bombing-targets in VERONA; but the German High Command also had undertaken to take all reasonable measures to preserve them from destruction.

3. On 11 Oct 44, in reply to official Italian requests, Field-Marshal Kesselring gave his personal assurance (translation attached) that all reasonable steps would be taken to this end. In implementation of this assurance heavy concrete road-blocks were established by the Superintendent of Monuments in collaboration with the German Platzkommandant. Both bridges were impracticable for heavy traffic and the demolition of these road-blocks would have taken far longer than the construction of military bridges elsewhere.

4. On the morning of 25 April it was observed that minechambers were in preparation in all the bridges of VERONA. Numerous persons, including the Bishop of VERONA, the Comunal Secretary SIG. CAPONI, and the Superintendent of Monuments, brought this to the personal notice of the Platzkommandant, Col. MOSER, all of whom received formal assurance that the two bridges in question would not be blown. At 2030 hours however all the bridges of VERONA were without exception destroyed.

5. The representative for Fine Arts at the German High Command, South-west (Lt. Hagemann) confirms the instructions given by Field Marshal Kesselring, and the massive concrete road-blocks are still available for inspection. The ruining of these historic bridges is a senseless piece of destruction carried out in defiance of higher authority and, in view of the measures previously taken, having no military justification. It was moreover carried out in full knowledge of the circumstances. It is requested therefore that measures be taken to locate and interrogate Col. MOSER with a view to establishing responsibility.

6. Attached are:

- a. Translation of Field Marshal Kesserling's letter (photographic copy of the original is held by the Monuments and Fine Arts Subcommission of AG)
- b. Translation of Statement by Prof. Gazzola, Superintendent of Monuments at Verona.
- c. Statement by Capt. R.H. Boothroyd, Italian Increment to CSDIC, E.A.A.C.

For the CHIEF COMMISSIONER:

/s/ G.R. Upjohn

/t/ G.R. UPJOHN, Brig.
VP OA Sec

Copy to:

SCAO, AMG, 5 Army, attn. MPAA Officer.

2853

/s/ G.R. Upjohn

/t/ G.R. UPJOHN, Brig.
VP CA Sec

Copy to:
SCAO, AMJ, 5 AMRY, ettn. MFAA Officer.

2853

Translation of Field Marshall
Kesselring's Letter, dated

11 Oct 44

The Commander in Chief Southwest

and

Commander in Chief of the Army Group C

Headquarters 11th Oct 44

For the Superintendency for Monuments of the
Provinces-Verona, Cremona and Mantova,

VERONA

Ref. your letter Sep 30th I inform you that, in accordance
with the request of the Chief of Verona Province, dated 23 Sep
44 and addressed to the High Command of the German Wehrmacht,
I have already assured that the two bridges

Ponte Scaligero (near Castel Vecchio) and
Ponte della Pietra

are to be spared as far as possible.

The preserving of the two monumental bridges is for me a
natural duty, as far as I shall be able to justify it according
to the necessities of the war. I want however to point out
expressly, that the development of the fighting and the turn 2859
which the war may take does not depend only on me and that the
intentions of the enemy, who is not at all considerate in
such matters, may eventually require the ultimate measures.

/s/ Kesselring
General Fieldmarshal

Translation of Statement by
Prof. Gozzola, Supt. of
Monuments at VERONA

Subject: VERONA - Protection of Monuments - "Castelvecchio"
and "della Pietra" Bridges.

Given that the efforts locally made many months before with the German Military Authorities in order to protect the two above mentioned monumental bridges had had no success, I thought it best, on 30 Sep 44, to address myself directly to the Commander-in-Chief of German Armed Forces in Italy, Field Marshal Kesselring, and I requested that the "della Pietra" and "Castelvecchio" bridges be respected.

Field Marshal Kesselring personally answered 11 Oct 44 giving formal assurance that he accepted my request.

With the agreement of the German Military Platzkommandant the two bridges were barred with powerfully armed antitank concrete constructions.

We thus thought we could be sure about the fate of the two bridges.

On the morning of 25 Apr 45 we observed that the Germans were beginning to arrange the explosives for the demolition of all the bridges. From that moment began a painful wandering through all the Offices and Military Commands of the area; the assistance of the Archbishop and Italian Authorities was also solicited.

2851

It was at last possible for us to contact the High Command and be assured that the bridges would be protected.

However we observed that the preparations for the laying of mines were being continued. At 16.30 of the same day, in the Office of the Military Platzkommandant I obtained fresh formal assurance on the subject.

As I did not feel as yet fully at ease, I thought of going to the Plenipotentiary Minister of the German Military Forces in Italy, whom I knew to be located in Villa Fagioli at CASTEL-ROTTO. Unfortunately when I arrived there at about 17.00,

Fieldmarshal Kesselring, and I requested that the "della Pietra" and "Castelveccchio" bridges be respected.

Fieldmarshal Kesselring personally answered 11 Oct 44 giving formal assurance that he accepted my request.

With the agreement of the German Military Platzkommandant the two bridges were barred with powerfully armed antitank concrete constructions.

We thus thought we could be sure about the fate of the two bridges.

On the morning of 25 Apr 45 we observed that the Germans were beginning to arrange the explosives for the demolition of all the bridges. From that moment began a painful wandering through all the Offices and Military Commands of the area; the assistance of the Archbishop and Italian Authorities was also solicited.

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However we observed that the preparations for the laying of mines were being continued. At 16,30 of the same day, in the Office of the Military Platzkommandant I obtained fresh formal assurance on the subject.

As I did not feel as yet fully at ease, I thought of going to the Plenipotentiary Minister of the German Military Forces in Italy, whom I knew to be located in Villa Fagioli at CASTEL-ROTTO. Unfortunately when I arrived there at about 17,00, everybody had already left.

At 20,30 all the Veronese bridges were blown up.

Of the "Castelveccchio" bridge only the piers are left; of the "della Pietra" bridge only the medieval arcade remains.

Among this dreadful damage I am pleased to be able to state that this Office did not fail to do everything that was possible.

This Superintendency has precise architectural measured drawings and a good photographic documentation.

Sincerely

(Gazzola, Superintendente
for Monuments, Verona)

Statement of Capt. R.H.
Boothroyd, Italian Increment
to GSDIC, R.A.A.C., dated 9
May 45

The inhabitants of VERONA maintain that the man to blame for the destruction of the city's bridges is the Platzkommandant, Colonel MOSER. The Segretario Comunale, Sig. CAPONI, informed me that at 1130 hrs on the morning of Apr 25, on hearing that minechambers were being prepared on the Ponte SCALIGERO and the Ponte PIETRA, he telephoned to the German Platzkommandantur and was told that there was NO intention of destroying these two bridges. During the afternoon the Bishop of VERONA personally visited the Platzkommandant and was given a formal assurance that the bridges would NOT be destroyed. Despite this, they were blown the same evening.

0149

1785016

Der Obersteileiter des
Obersteileiter des Hauptquartiers C

11.10.1944

11.10.1944
11.10.1944
11.10.1944

An

H. Hauptquartier des Hauptquartiers
Galle Provinzen di Verona, Cremona e Mantova,

Verona.

Auf Ihr Schreiben vom 30.9. teile ich Ihnen mit, dass
ich bereits am 23.9.44 auf Wunsch des Oberkommandos der Provinz
Verona über den Ber. Gen. d. St. Verona, in Italien verbleibt habe,
die beiden Brücken.

Poste Joesighevo (am Canal Vecchio) und
Poste della Fiera

beide so schnell wie möglich zu besetzen.

Die Befestigung der beiden Kommandoposten ist mir ein
Selbstverständlichkeit, soweit ich es bei den Anforderungen
der Kampfsituation versichern kann. Ich möchte jedoch ausdrück-
lich darauf hinweisen, dass die Befestigung der Kampfe und der
Bef. der Befestigung nicht allein in unserer
Hand liegt und die Abreise des Gegners, der sonstige Rücksicht-
nahmen absetzt, die letzte Konsequenz verhängen kann.

Handwritten signature
Generalstabschef

0185

178

0150

785016

Der Obersteileiter der
Obersteileiter der Hauptgruppe C

am 11.10.1944

11.10.44
11.10.44
11.10.44

H. Hauptgruppe C
alle Provinzen in Verona, Brescia e Mantova,

Verona.

Auf der Schreibung von 10.9. teile ich Ihnen mit, dass
ich bereits am 23.9.44 auf Wunsch des Oberhauptes der Provinz
Verona über den Ber.Gen.d.M. Nahrung in Italien verzeichnet habe,
die beiden Brücken

Von der Seilbahn (am Canal Veduggio) und
Jette della Vittoria

somit es irgend möglich ist, zu sichern.

Die Arbeit der beiden Kommandanturen ist mir eine
selbstverständliche, so ist es bei den erforderlichen
der Befehlshaber veranlassen kann. Ich möchte jedoch ausdrück-
lich darauf hinweisen, dass die Entwicklung der Kampf- und der
För, der der Krieg nun einmal nicht, nicht allein in seiner
Hand liegt und die Absicht des Gegners, der demütigen Nachrichten
nähert nicht kennt, die letzte Konsequenz verfolgen kann.

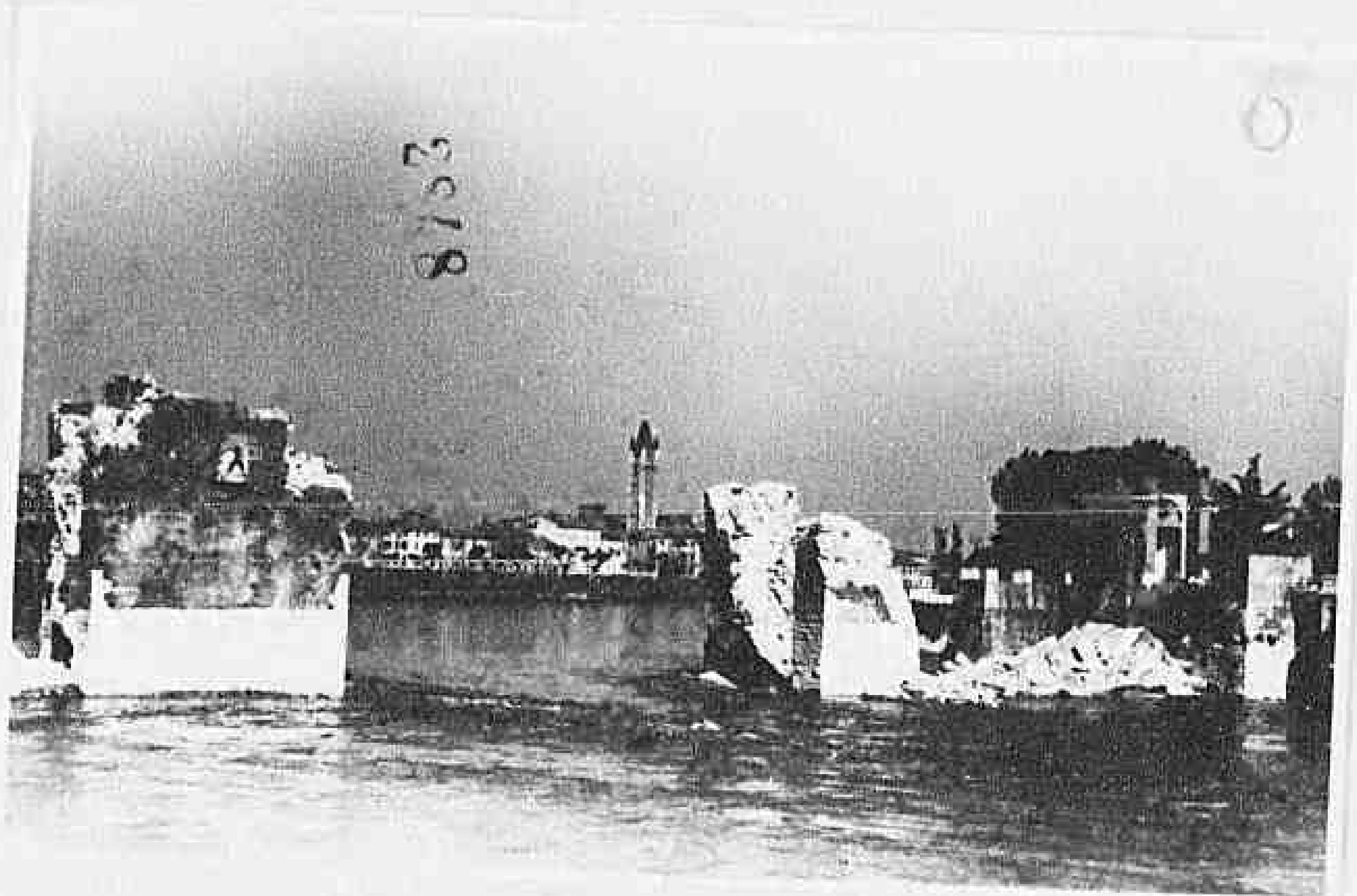
Wunderlich
Generaloberstleutnant

0150

6/4

0151

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

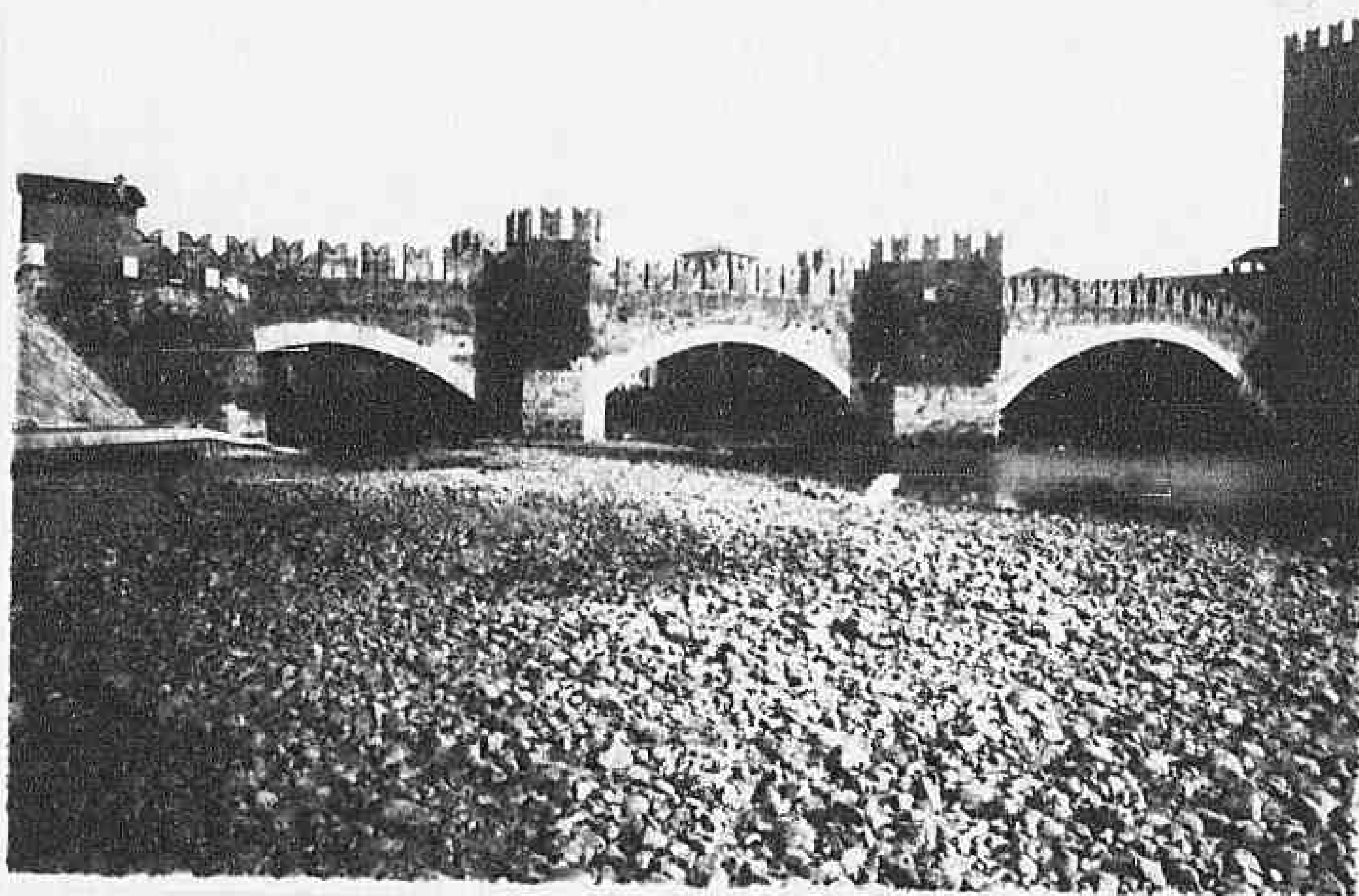


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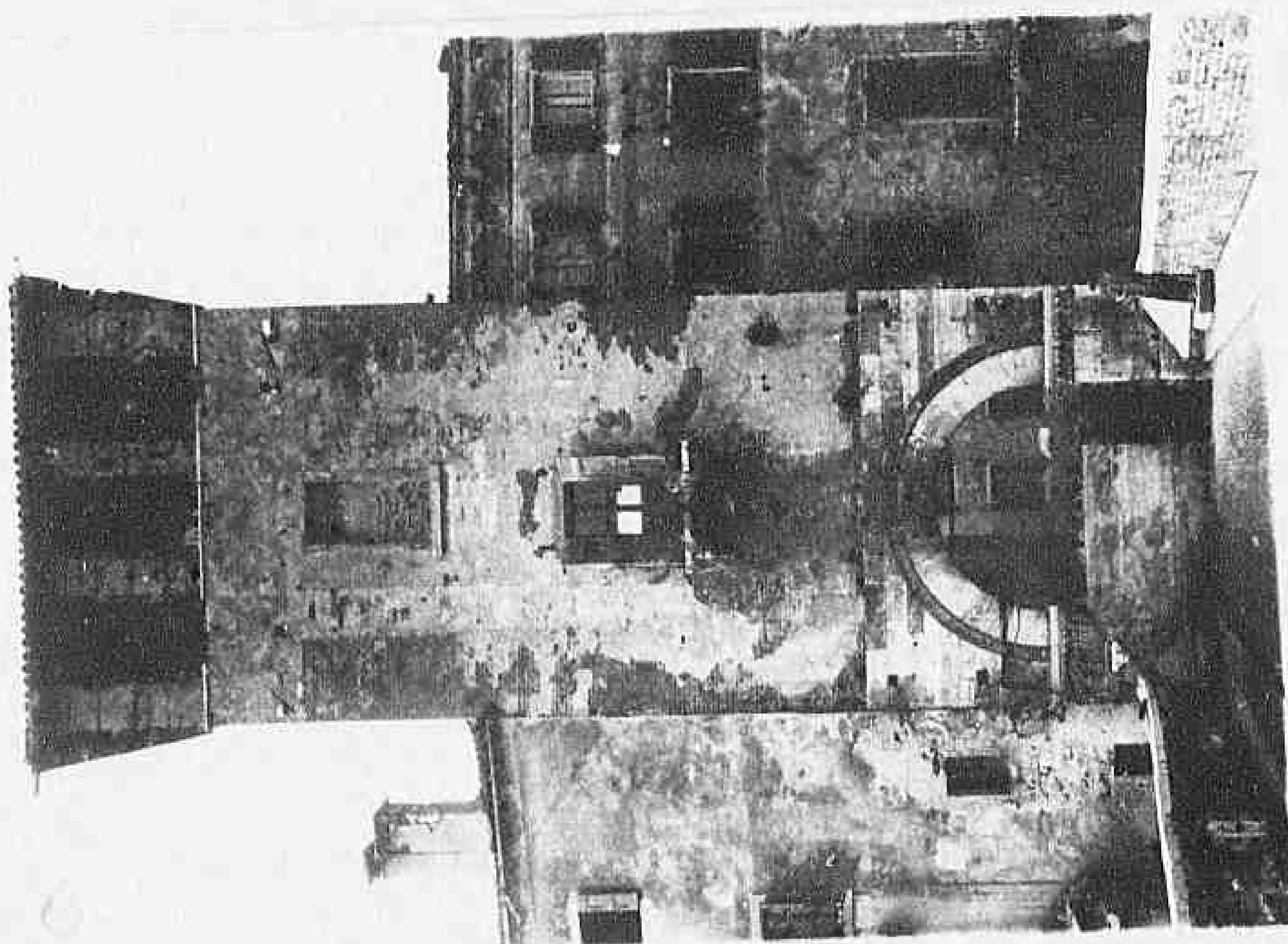
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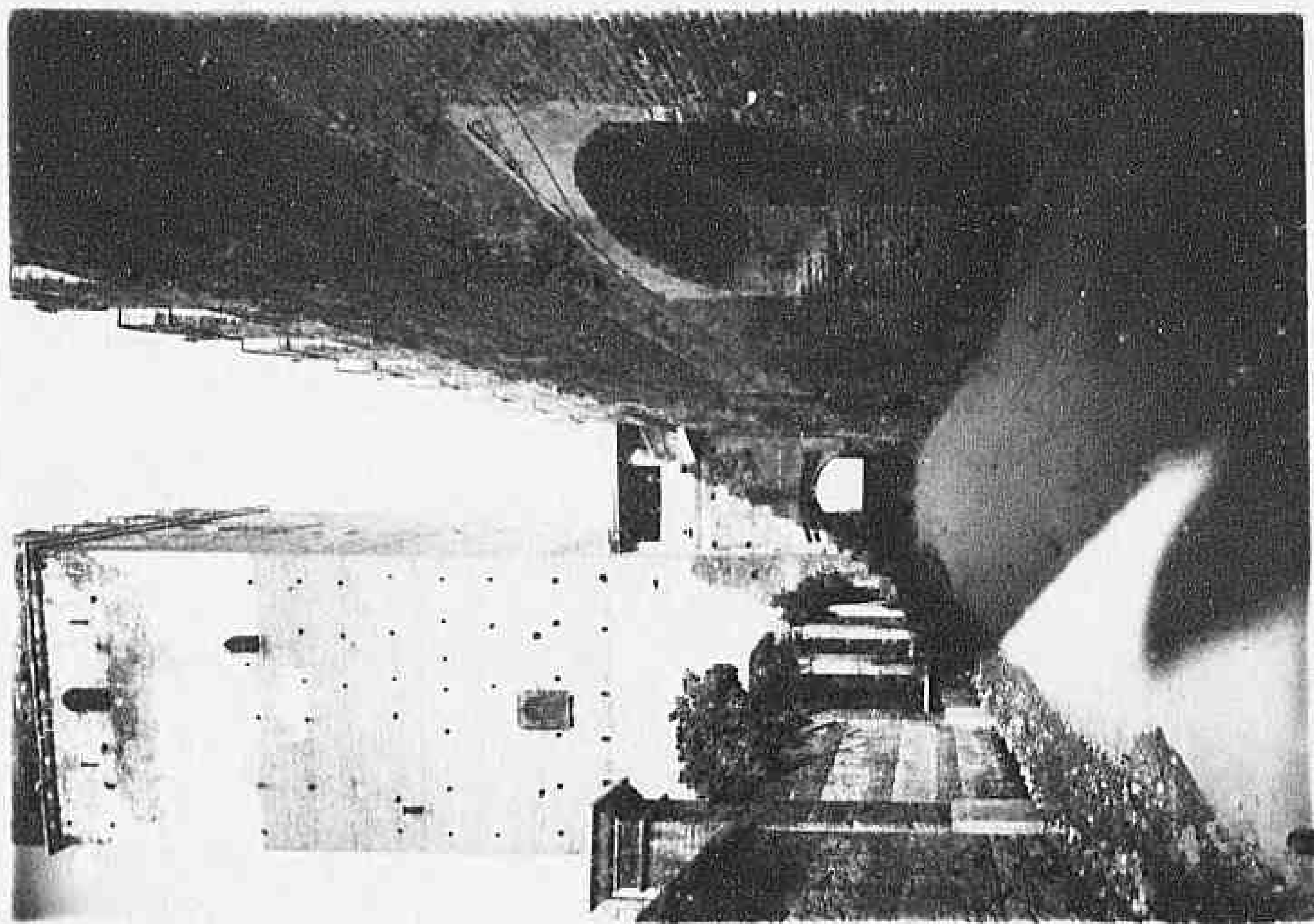
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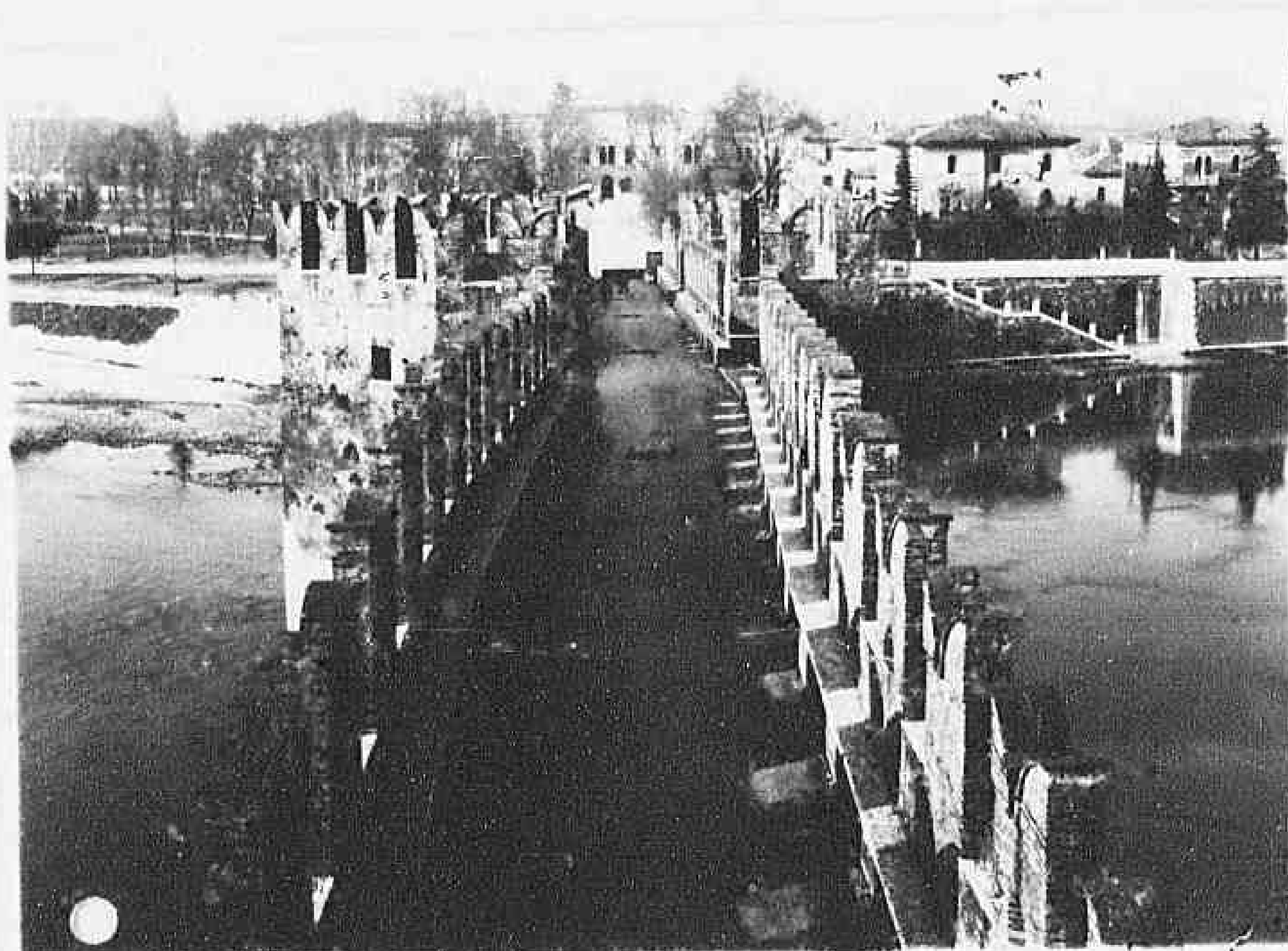
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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

NTN/rc

APC 394

Subcommission for Monuments Fine Arts & Archives
(Tel. 489081, ext. 442 & 254; 478480)

20124/2/A/MFAA

13 Nov 45

Director General for the Antiquities
and Fine Arts - Ministry of Public
Instruction
R O M E

SUBJECT: Photographs of damage,
VERONA

At the request of Regional MFAA Officer, Venezia
Region, we send you herewith Supt Gazzola's letter 400, 2
Nov 45, with nine photographs of war damage in Verona.

Inclosures: 10


NORMAN T. NEWTON
Major, Air Corps
Director

2840

Copy to
Regl MFAA Officer,
Venezia Region



SOPRINTENDENZA AI MONUMENTI
delle Province di Verona Cremona Mantova
VERONA

N. di Prot. 920

OGGETTO: Trasmissione fotografie
ai M.P.E. -

Allegate: numero nove fotografie
numero una lettera in triplice copia -

Con preghiera di trasmissione invio a codesto
onorevole Ufficio l'allegata lettera con fotografie richie-
sta dal Sottosegretariato alle Belle Arti del Ministero
della Pubblica Istruzione.
Ringraziando.

RECEIVED
VENETIAN REGION

K. G. P. d.

Dist. Rec. 87 NOV 1945

VERONA, 2/11/1945
Stradone S. Fermo, 21 - Tel. 19-13

HEADQUARTERS
Allied Military Government
Division M.P.A.A.

VENETIAN REGION

IL R^o SOPRINTENDENTE
(Pietro Gazzola) 2838

20124/2/A/10124

24A

1st Ind.

HMB/NS/jmh

HEADQUARTERS MEDITERRANEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS, Office of the Provost
Marshal General, APO 512 U. S. Army, 1 October 1945.

TO: Chief Commissioner, Allied Commission, APO 394 U. S. Army.
(Civil Affairs Section)

1. Available information indicates that German PW Colonel Moser
was transferred to Bad Aibling, Germany on 11 September 1945 as a re-
calcitrant.

2. Suggest file be referred to Commanding General, United States
Forces, European Theater.

FOR THE PROVOST MARSHAL GENERAL:

H. M. BOWMAN, JR.,
Lt. Col., C.M.P.,
Executive.

2nd Ind.

TO : G-3, AFHQ

This has gone somewhat off the rails by being returned to this HQ.
Your good Offices are sought for its return to the proper quarter.

FOR THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER:

CA Section, HQ/AC
5 October 1945

L. GARR, Bri,
VP CA Section

See MFAA ltr
20124/2/4/MFAA.
dated 18 Sept 45.

2827

4122.

Don Fine arts

(22)

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 Section
APO 512

LEW/as

mm

13 September 1945

G-5: 383.6-31

SUBJECT: Whereabouts - German PW - Col. MOSER.

TO : Headquarters, Allied Commission, APO 394.
(Attn: Civil Affairs Section).

(21)

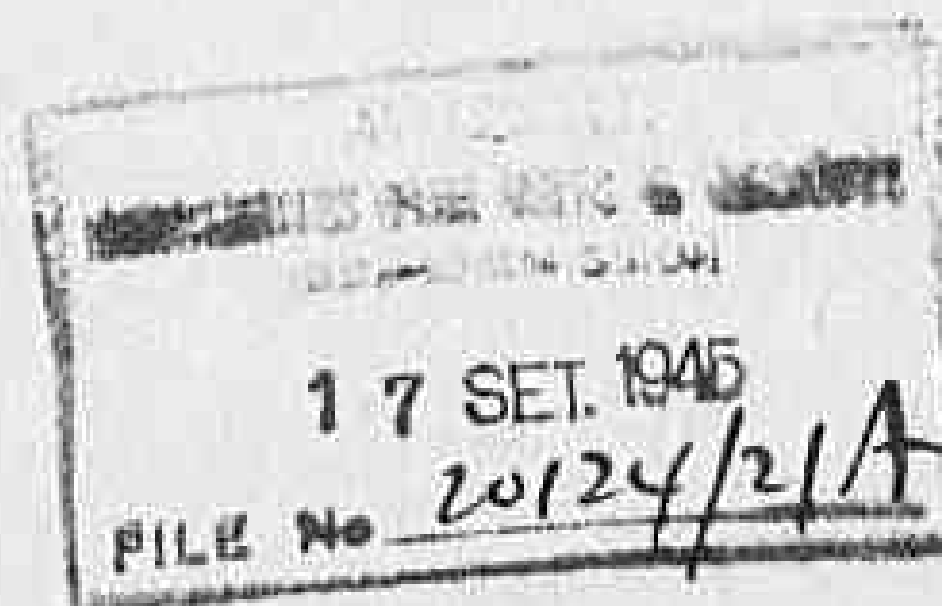
Ref is made to your memo 20124/2/A/LFAA dtd 11 Sep 45.

This HQ is informed that the location of subject PW is
now US Camp PWE 338 ^{near} in Pisa.

For the Asst. Chief of Staff, G-5:

L. E. Weston

L. E. WESTON
J/Comd



2836

21

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

JBNP/ps

20121/2/A/AMAA

11 September 1945

SUBJECT: Col. MOSER - German POW.

TO : G-5 Section, AFHQ.

Reference your G-5: 383.6 of 9 Aug 45, the subject, Col. MOSER, was at POW camp at GHEDI as stated, but on Aug 5 was transferred to a camp at or near PISA. Enquiry at GHEDI was unable to ascertain the precise designation or location of this camp, and this information would be appreciated.

16

4-20

For the CHIEF COMMISSIONER:

M. GARR,
Brigadier,
VP CA Sec.

107-2

2835

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
LOMBARDIA REGION

APO 394

Division of Monuments, Fine Arts & Archives

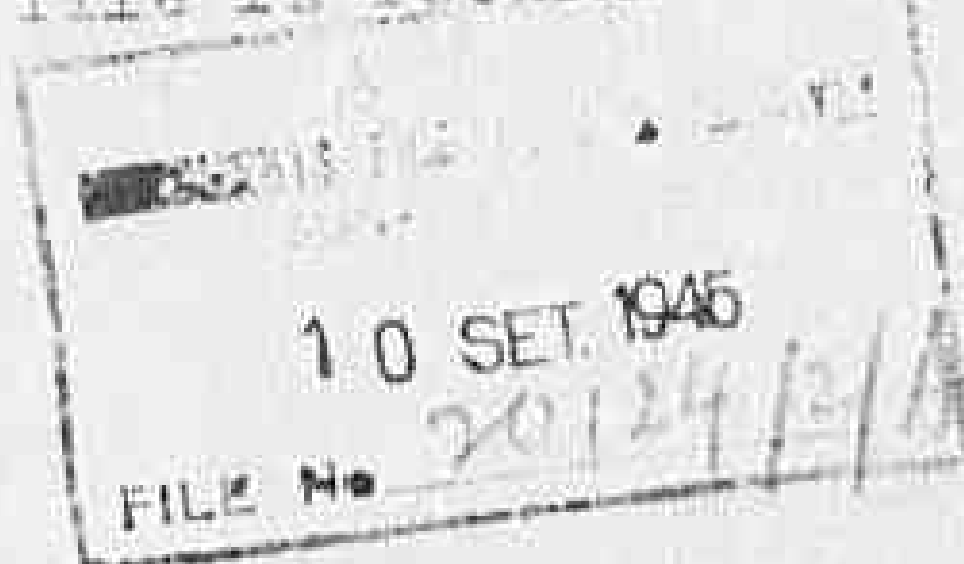
6 Sept 45

20124/MFAA

SUBJECT: Destruction of Bridges at Verona.

TO : Dir, MFAA S/C, Hq. AC.

1. On Sept. 6 the undersigned, accompanied by Capt. Pennoyer, went to the Prisoner of War camp at GHEDI, near Brescia.
2. We were informed at the Provost Marshal's office that Col. Moser ^{had been} at the POW camp at GHEDI; that on Jul 4 he was placed in the "Recalcitrant Stockade" in the same camp; and that on Aug 3 he was moved away to a camp at or near PISA.
3. I would suggest a questionnaire being sent to the Camp Commandant at POW Camp near PISA requesting answers from Col. Moser over his signature.
4. Your file is returned herewith.

*C. R. Pimsent*
C.R. PIMSENT,
Capt.,
MFAA, AMG, 2834
Lombardia Region.

Forwarded with later letter to US Camp PW 338.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

(19)

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394

NTN/fl

Subcommission for Monuments Fine Arts & Archives
(Tel. 489081, ext. 442 & 254; 478480)

20124/2/A/MFAA

25 Aug 45

SUBJECT: Destruction of Bridges at VERONA.

TO : MFAA Officer, HQ VENEZIE Reg AMG.

18

1. Ref copy-letter, same file and subject, dated 24 Aug 45, transmitted herewith for your information.

2. The request for the investigation of Col MOSER is addressed to MFAA Officer, LOMBARDIA Region, since, although a matter concerning your region is involved, the witness to be examined is actually present in the territory of LOMBARDIA Region.

12

3. This HQ letters of even reference dated 6 June and 21 Aug 45, which accompany the reference letter, are the only documents thus far issued by this HQ which deal with the matter in question.

For the A/Director:

(17)

Incl 2
Memo included,
but without
its attachment

NTN

NORMAN T. NEWTON
Major, Air Corps,
A/Deputy Director

2833

CONFIDENTIAL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CONFIDENTIAL

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

JWWE/rc

APC 394

Subcommission for Monuments Fine Arts & Archives

(Tel. 489081, ext. 442 x 254; 478460)

20124/2/A/WHAA

24 AUG 45

Subject: Destruction of Bridges at Verona.

To : WHAA Officer LOMBARDIA.

1. The accompanying dossier refers to the destruction by the Germans of the two famous bridges at VERONA.

2. The Subcommission has now been informed by AFHQ (copy attached) that Col. MOSER, Military Commander at VERONA is held in the GHELI (Prov. Brescia, PC953) POW. Enclosure between VERONA and MILAN, and can be interrogated by an officer showing proper credentials.

3. It is requested that you arrange for his interrogation with a view to establishing:

- a) Position of Moser in chain of command.
- b) Whose was the responsibility for blowing the bridges?
- c) Why were these two bridges blown?

4. You will note that, while the blowing of bridges is normally a recognized procedure of war, in fact in this case following correspondence with, and assurances from, Field Marshal Kesselring himself, the bridges had been effectively blocked with massive concrete road-blocks specifically to avoid this necessity.

2832

Subject: Destruction of Bridges at Verona.

To : MFAA Officer LOMBARDIA.

1. The accompanying dossier refers to the destruction by the Germans of the two famous bridges at VERONA.

2. The Subcommittee has now been informed by AFHQ (copy attached) that Col. MOSER, military Commander at VERONA is held in the GHETT (Prov. Brescia, 70953) POW. Enclosure between VERONA and MILAN, and can be interrogated by an officer showing proper credentials.

3. It is requested that you arrange for his interrogation with a view to establishing:

- a) Position of Moser in chain of command.
- b) Whose was the responsibility for blowing the bridges?
- c) Why were these two bridges blown?

4. You will note that, while the blowing of bridges is normally a recognized procedure of war, in fact in this case following correspondence with, and assurances from, Field Marshal Kesselring himself, the bridges had been effectively blocked with massive concrete road-blocks specifically to avoid this necessity. This was allegedly brought to the notice of MOSER on the day of the destruction (see attached documents).

5. If MOSER ducks responsibility you will of course make every attempt to pin him down to assigning the responsibility elsewhere.

1 Incl-- Copy--letter HQ ALCON,

20124/2/A/MFAA of

21 Aug.

Copy to:

MFAA Officer, VENEZIA Reg.

17 (incl 2 inserts included)

unclassified

12-attach

J.B. WARD PERKINS
Lt. Col., R.A.
A/Directory

23 AGO 1948

BM/GV

HEADQUARTERS
VENETIAN REGION

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

Division of Monuments Fine Arts and Archives

23 Aug 45

RXII/MFA/Ver

SUBJECT: Soldier Tombs, VERONA.

TO : Provincial Commissioner, AMG Verona Province.

1. The undersigned has discussed your letter of 16 Aug 45 (RXII/VER/) with the Regional Finance Officer.

2. This office is authorized by the RFO to say that from that Division's point of view the situation may be regarded as satisfactory assuming that

- a) the demolition of the PAD protection is completed.
- b) the work has been financed through the Prefects office and that NO AMG funds have been used for the purpose.
- c) the demolished materials are conserved in safety pending final settlement of terms with Ditta Innocenti, as referred to in para 3 of our letter of 13 Aug.

3. If the foregoing can be confirmed, the final outcome is of course acceptable from the point of view of this office, since it is cordially agreed that in this way the two objects have been served of removing a dangerous structure and disencumbering monuments of first class importance.

2831

Bill Marriott

B. MARRIOTT, Capt,
MFAA Officer.

1. The undersigned has discussed your letter of 16 Aug 45 (RAII/VER/) with the Regional Finance Officer.

2. This office is authorized by the RFO to say that from that Division's point of view the situation may be regarded as satisfactory assuming that

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- b) the work has been financed through the Prefects office and that NO ANG funds have been used for the purpose.
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3. If the foregoing can be confirmed, the final outcome is of course acceptable from the point of view of this office, since it is cordially agreed that in this way the two objects have been served of removing a dangerous structure and disencumbering monuments of first class importance.

2831

Bill Marriott

B. MARRIOTT, Capt,
MPAA Officer.

Copies to:

— MPAA Subcommission
RFO Venezia Region
Files (2)
Floet

RECEIVED
25 AUG 1945
FILE NO. 20124/2/A

22 AUG 1945

HEADQUARTERS ARMED COMMISSION

APC 194

CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

JBRP/TL

(17)

20124/2/A/AFSA

21 Aug 45

Subject: Destruction of Bridges at VERONA.

To : G-5 Section, AFHQ.

1. The accompanying photographs illustrate the Ponte della Pietra and the Ponte Scalinzero at VERONA, destroyed on 25 April 45 by the retreating German Army. The circumstances of this destruction are set out in the accompanying letter -- 17B 201 4/2/A/AFSA of 6 June 45, from which it is clear that in view of the precautionary measures already taken to render the bridges impassible, their destruction was a senseless act of vandalism serving no military purpose.

2. The only fresh fact, which has emerged since the letter quoted was written, is that Lt. Hagemann, Monuments Advisor on HQ Army Group South-West at BOLZANO, states that on the 25th April efforts were made to get into telephonic communication with VERONA to ensure the safety of the two bridges but that, in the confusion prevailing, this proved impossible.

3. It is requested that copies of this letter, with its enclosures, be sent to:

Civil Affairs Branch
War Office, LONDON
(attn. Advisor on Monuments & Fine Arts)

and to:

Civil Affairs Division
War Department, WASHINGTON
(for transmission to the American Commission
for the protection and Salvage of Artistic
and Historic Monuments in War Areas, attn.
Mr. Huntington Cairns, Secy.).

2830

25 April 45 by the retreating German Army. The circumstances of this destruction are set out in the accompanying letter -- 17B 201 4/2/A/MPAA of 6 June 45, from which it is clear that in view of the precautionary measures already taken to render the bridges impassible, their destruction was a senseless act of vandalism serving no military purpose.

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Civil Affairs Branch
War Office, LONDON
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and to:

Civil Affairs Division
War Department, WASHINGTON
(for transmission to the American Commission
for the protection and Salvage of Artistic
and Historic Monuments in War Areas, attn.
Mr. Huntington Cairns, Secy.).

2830

For the CHIEF COMMISSIONER:

McLan Brigadier

M. CARR, Brig.
VP CA Sec

2 Incls --

Incl 1 - Set of 13 photographs in App. "A" hereto.
Incl 2 - Copy-letter HQ. ALCON
20124/2/A/MPAA of 6 June 45.

17A

17B
(-17)

17A

Appendix "A" to letter HQ.
ALCOM 20124/2/A/MFAA
dated 2A Aug 45

BRIDGES AT VERONA

(13 illustrative photographs)

1. Ponte Scaligero, as it was
2. Ponte Scaligero, as it was: the carriage-way.
3. Ponte Scaligero; the entrance from Castel Vecchio, blocked by a double baffle of reinforced concrete.
4. Castel Vecchio, the approach to Ponte Scaligero, showing arch blocked by a double baffle of reinforced concrete.
5. Castel Vecchio and Ponte Scaligero, June 45. General view.
6. Ponte Scaligero, June '45.
7. Ponte Scaligero, June '45.
8. Ponte della Pietra, as it was.
9. Ponte della Pietra, showing tower with arch blocked by double baffle of reinforced concrete.
10. Ponte della Pietra, June '45. General view from Roman Theatre.
11. Ponte della Pietra, June '45. General view. Only one Roman pier remains.
12. Ponte della Pietra, June '45. The near arch is medieval.
13. Letter from Field Marshal Kesserling, dated 11 Oct 44 and addressed to the Superintendency of Monuments at Verona.

90PY

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

APO 194

CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

JBWP/ps/fl

20124/2/A/MFAA

5 June 45

Subject: Destruction of Bridges at VERONA.

TO : G-5 Section, AFHQ.

1. VERONA until recently possessed two of the finest historical bridges of Italy, the Ponte dell'apietra, the earliest of all surviving Roman bridges, and the world-famous medieval Ponte Scaligero.

2. The preservation of these two bridges have been the preoccupation of both the Allied and the German Command. Not only were they Allied listed monuments and additionally subject to special Air-Force instructions in relation to bombing-targets in VERONA; but the German High Command also had undertaken to take all reasonable measures to preserve them from destruction.

3. On 11 Oct 44, in reply to official Italian requests, Field-Marshal Kesselring gave his personal assurance (translation attached) that all reasonable steps would be taken to this end. In implementation of this assurance heavy concrete road-blocks were established by the Superintendent of Monuments in collaboration with the German Platzkommandent. Both bridges were impracticable for heavy traffic and the demolition of these road-blocks would have taken far longer than the construction of military bridges elsewhere.

4. On the morning of 25 April it was observed that minechambers were in preparation in all the bridges of VERONA. Numerous persons, including the Bishop of VERONA, the Communal Secretary Sig. CAPONI, and the Superintendent of Monuments, brought this to the personal notice of the Platzkommandent, Col. MOSE, all of whom received formal assurance that the two bridges in question would not be blown. At 2030 hours however all the bridges of VERONA were without exception destroyed.

2928

historical bridges of Italy, the Ponte dell'Arco, the earliest of all surviving Roman bridges, and the world-famous medieval Ponte Scaligero.

2. The preservation of these two bridges have been the preoccupation of both the Allied and the German Command. Not only were they Allied listed monuments and additionally subject to special Air-Force instructions in relation to bombing-targets in VERONA; but the German High Command also had undertaken to take all reasonable measures to preserve them from destruction.

3. On 11 Oct 44, in reply to official Italian requests, Field-Marshal Kesselring gave his personal assurance (transmission attached) that all reasonable steps would be taken to this end. In implementation of this assurance heavy concrete road-blocks were established by the Superintendent of Monuments in collaboration with the German Platzkommandant. Both bridges were impracticable for heavy traffic and the demolition of these road-blocks would have taken far longer than the construction of military bridges elsewhere.

4. On the morning of 25 April it was observed that minechambers were in preparation in all the bridges of VERONA. Numerous persons, including the Bishop of VERONA, the Communal Secretary Sig. CAPONI, and the Superintendent of Monuments, brought this to the personal notice of the Platzkommandant, Col. MOSER, all of whom received formal assurance that the two bridges in question would not be blown. At 2030 hours however all the bridges of VERONA were without exception destroyed.

2828

5. The representative for Fine Arts at the German High Command, South-west (Lt. Hagemann) confirms the instructions given by Field Marshal Kesselring, and the massive concrete roadblocks are still available for inspection. The razing of these historic bridges is a senseless piece of destruction carried out in defiance of higher authority and, in view of the measures previously taken, having no military justification. It was moreover carried out in full knowledge of the circumstances. It is requested therefore that measures be taken to locate and interrogate Col. MOSER with a view to establishing responsibility.

Inv 2

6. Attached are:

- a. Translation of Field Marshal Kesserling's letter (photographic copy of the original is held by the Monuments and Fine Arts Subcommittee of AG)
- b. Translation of Statement by Prof. Gazzola, Superintendent of Monuments at Verona.
- c. Statement by Capt. R.H. Boothroyd, Italian Increment to OSDIC, R.A.A.C.

for the CHIEF COMMISSIONER:

/s/ G.R. Upjohn

/t/ G.R. UPJOHN, Brig.
VF CA Sec

Copy to:

SCAO, AMG, 5 AMRY, attn. MFAA Officer.

2827

for the CHIEF COMMISSIONER:

/s/ G.R. Upjohn

/t/ G.R. UPJOHN, Brig.
VP CA Sec

Copy to:
SCAO, AMO, 5 AMRY, attn. MFAA Officer.

Translation of Field Marshall

Kesselring's Letter, dated

11 Oct 44

The Commander in Chief Southwest

and

Commander in Chief of the Army Group C

Headquarters 11th Oct 44

for the Superintendency for Monuments of the
provinces-Verona, Cremona and Mantova.

VERONA

Ref. your letter Sep 30th I inform you that, in accordance
with the request of the Chief of Verona Province, dated 23 Sep
44 and addressed to the High Command of the German Wehrmacht,
I have already assured that the two bridges

ponte Scaligero (near Castel Vecchio) and
ponte della Pietra

are to be spared as far as possible.

The preserving of the two monumental bridges is for me a
natural duty, as far as I shall be able to justify it according
to the necessities of the war. I want however to point out
expressly, that the development of the fighting and the turn
which the war may take does not depend only on me and that the
intentions of the enemy, who is not at all considerate in
such matters, may eventually require the ultimate measures.

/s/ Kesselring
General Fieldmarshall

2828

copy

Translation of Statement by
Prof. Gozzola, Supt. of
Monuments at VERONA

Subject: VERONA - Protection of Monuments - "Castelvecchio"
and "della Pietra" Bridges.

Given that the efforts locally made many months before with the German Military Authorities in order to protect the two above mentioned monumental bridges had had no success, I thought it best, on 30 Sep 44, to address myself directly to the Commander-in-Chief of German Armed Forces in Italy, Fieldmarshal Kesselring, and I requested that the "della Pietra" and "Castelvecchio" bridges be respected.

Fieldmarshal Kesselring personally answered 11 Oct 44 giving formal assurance that he accepted my request.

With the agreement of the German Military Platzkommandant the two bridges were barred with powerfully armed antitank concrete constructions.

We thus thought we could be sure about the fate of the two bridges.

On the morning of 25 Apr 45 we observed that the Germans were beginning to arrange the explosives for the demolition of all the bridges. From that moment began a painful wandering through all the Offices and Military Commands of the area; the assistance of the Archbishop and Italian Authorities was also solicited.

It was at last possible for us to contact the High Command and be assured that the bridges would be protected.

However we observed that the preparations for the laying of mines were being continued. At 16,30 of the same day, in the Office of the Military Platzkommandant I obtained fresh formal assurance on the subject.

2825

As I did not feel as yet fully at ease, I thought of going to the Plenipotentiary Minister of the German Military Forces in Italy, whom I knew to be located in Villa Regio at CASTEL-ROTTO. Unfortunately when I arrived there at about 17.00,

to the Commander-in-Chief of German Armed Forces in Italy, Fieldmarshal Kesselring, and I requested that the "della pietra" and "Castelveccchio" bridges be respected.

Fieldmarshal Kesselring personally answered 11 Oct 44 giving formal assurance that he accepted my request.

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At 20,30 all the Veronese bridges were blown up.

Of the "Castelveccchio" bridge only the piers are left: of the "della pietra" bridge only the medieval arcade remains.

Among this dreadful damage I am pleased to be able to state that this Office did not fail to do everything that was possible.

This Superintendency has precise architectural measured drawings and a good photographic documentation

Sincerely

(Grazia) Superintendent
for Monumental Heritage

Statement of Capt. R.H.
Boothroyd, Italian Increment
to CSBIC. R.A.A.C., dated 2
May 45

The inhabitants of VERONA maintain that the man to blame for the destruction of the city's bridges is the Platzkommandant, Colonel MOSER. The Segretario Comunale, Sig. CAPONI, informed me that at 1130 hrs on the morning of Apr 25, on hearing that minechambers were being prepared on the Ponte SCALIGERO and the Ponte PIETRA, he telephoned to the German Platzkommandantur and was told that there was NO intention of destroying these two bridges. During the afternoon the Bishop of VERONA personally visited the Platzkommandant and was given a formal assurance that the bridges would NOT be destroyed. Despite this, they were blown the same evening.

20 ~~SE~~ 1945

20 Aug

11905

R. SOPRINTENDENZA AI MONUMENTI
delle Province di Verona Cremona Mantova
VERONA

Verona, 20.8.1945

Prot. N.680

Alle Division M.F.A.A.
H.Q. - A.M.G.
VENEZIE REGION

OGGETTO:- Relazione mensile -

Come già stato comunicato a codesto Ufficio si sono iniziati i lavori di smontaggio delle protezioni antiaeree alle Arche Scaligere di questa Città di Verona.

I lavori, diretti da funzionari di questa Soprintendenza, sono stati ordinati e saranno pagati dall'A.M.G. di Verona.

Sono stati compilati gli S.F.5 necessari per la richiesta fondi per l'esecuzione del II° blocco di sei lavori di I° intervento a monumenti cittadini di questa Città e Provincia.

Sono state iniziate pratiche con le locali competenti Autorità per la salvaguardia delle zone arborate, (parchi, giardini), di importanza paesistica della Provincia di Verona.

E' stata inoltre svolta normale attività di Ufficio.

IL R° SOPRINTENDENTE
(P.to Pietro Gazzola)

2823

20124/2/A

20 ~~SE~~ 1945

13 AGO 1945

BM/gv

HEADQUARTERS

VENEZIE REGION

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

Division of Monuments Fine Arts and Archives

RXII/MFA/Svetz

13 agosto 45

OGGETTO: Sede della Soprintendenza ai Monumenti, VERONA-MANTOVA-CREMONA.

AL : Genio Civile, VERONA.

1. Abbiamo ricevuto la lettera qui acclusa in copia dal Soprintendente GAZZOLA, il quale espone le sue ragioni per il proposto trasferimento della sede della Soprintendenza in oggetto dal Teatro Romano al Palazzo Orti Manara, Verona.

2. In vista della sua idoneità a questo scopo piuttosto che a causa della sua importanza monumentale, quest'ufficio è pronto a raccomandare e a mandare alle autorità competenti un progetto di riparazione per quella parte del Palazzo Orti Manara che verrebbe occupata dalla Soprintendenza, per una somma di circa 750.000 lire.

3. Lei è pertanto pregato di preparare il preventivo e gli altri documenti necessari, in consultazione con il Soprintendente Gazzola, e mandarli a quest'ufficio, con le firme richieste, al più presto possibile.

Copie a:

MFAA Subcommission

Regional Commissioner - Lombardia Region (attn. MFAA Officer)

PO VERONA Province

File (2)

B. MARRIOTT, Capt.,
MFAA Officer.

2822

Regional Commissioner (attn. MFAA Officer)

1. Abbiamo ricevuto la lettera qui acclusa in copia dal Soprintendente GAZZOLA, il quale espone le sue ragioni per il proposto trasferimento della sede della Soprintendenza in oggetto dal Teatro Romano al Palazzo Orti Manara, Verona.

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B. MARRIOTT, Capt.
MPAA Officer.

Copie at

MPAA Subcommission
Regional Commissioner - Lombardia Region (attn. MPAA Officer)
PO VERONA Province
Files (2)
Post.

2822

*Good! Gazzola finally
proceeds as instructed.
But it is late. non*

RECEIVED THIS OFFICE 18 AUG 1946

18 AUG 1946

FILE NO. 20124/21A

18 AUG 1946

8/8/1945

IIa Division Monuments

Fine Arts and Archives - A.M.G. HQ.

VERONA REGION

654

Verona - Soprintendenza ai Monumenti - Sede dell'Ufficio -

La Soprintendenza ai Monumenti per la Provincia di Verona, Cremona e Mantova aveva sede in un appartamento affittato in Stradone S. Perno 21 di questa Città di Verona nella casa di proprietà Angehen.

Il palazzo è stato sinistrato totalmente al giorno 8.3.1945 e in seguito a ciò dopo faticosa ricerca questo Ufficio ha trovato sistemazione provvisoria nelle celle del convento di S. Girolamo al Testro Romano.

Dette celle che come tali offrono pochissimo spazio, prive di serramenti di porte e finestre, sono ben lungi dal poter servire come sede di un Ufficio Statale, i cui compiti, specie nelle attuali contingenze, sono enormemente aumentati e richiedono una particolare attrezzatura.

Particolarmente per quanto concerne l'Ufficio Tecnico è impossibile pensare ad una benché minima idoneità ai bisogni.

La favorevole stagione ha fino ad oggi reso possibile la vita ed il funzionamento nelle attuali condizioni: s'approssima ora la cattiva stagione e non è pensabile di poter trascorrere l'inverno nelle sue odierne.

La considerazione di ciò è stata preciosa cura di questo Ufficio coronata una soluzione definitiva del non facile problema.

E' così che dopo lunghe ricerche si sarebbe trovata idonea sistemazione nel monumentale palazzo Riti Menara sito nella piazzetta canonica in questa Città di Verona (Quartiere dell'Arena).

La posizione centrale e i locali offrono tutti i requisiti necessari al scopo.

Il palazzo è parzialmente danneggiato dalla guerra ma potrebbe essere riattato con relativa facilità.

In una visita a Verona, il Direttore Generale delle Antichità e Belle Arti Prof. Bianchi Bandinelli, ha dato la sua autorevole approvazione al progetto.

Verona - Soprintendenza ai Monumenti - Sede dell'Ufficio -

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In considerazione di ciò è stata presa cura di questo Ufficio cercare una soluzione definitiva del non facile problema.

E' così che dopo lunghe ricerche si sarebbe trovata idonea sistemazione nel monumentale palazzo Rti Manera sito nella piazzetta caonina in questa Città di Verona (quartiere dell'Arena).

In posizione centrale e i locali offrono tutti i requisiti necessari al

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Il palazzo è parzialmente danneggiato dalla guerra ma potrebbe essere riattato con relativa facilità.

In una visita a Verona, il Direttore Generale delle Antichità e Belle Arti Prof. Bianchi Bandinelli, ha dato la sua autorevole approvazione al progetto.

Da un preventivo di spesa redatto da questo Ufficio apparirebbe come una spesa di L. 750.000, (=settecentocinquanta mila) la parte del palazzo che verrebbe locata da questa Soprintendenza potrebbe esser messa in condizione di venire occupata.

Con il proprietario dello stabile, Conte Rti Manera, si sarebbe progettata la possibilità di stipulare la seguente convenzione: contratto di affitto della durata di 20 anni, di cui 15 a titolo gratuito, considerando un ammortamento annuo di circa L. 50.000, (=cinquantamila) (computato appunto nella

12 AGO 1945

HEADQUARTERS

VERONA REGION

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

Division of Monuments Fine Arts and Archives

RXII/MFA/Ver

SUBJECT: Scaliger Tombs, VERONA.

TO : Provincial Commissioner, AMG Verona Province.

13 Aug 45

1. The Superintendent of Monuments, Verona, Ing. Gazzola, writes to the effect that he was called into consultation on 9 Aug by the Provincial Engineer, Lieut. Lee, and told that the work of demolishing the PAD Protection to the s/m monument was to be put in hand forthwith at the expense and the responsibility of AMG (Province) under his (Gazzola's) technical supervision. Gazzola was also informed that this was in agreement with this office.

2. Since the main object is, of course the clearance of the tombs of their protective work, this solution would appear satisfactory provided that Gazzola's impressions are correct. May this please be confirmed to this office as a matter of urgency.

3. To put you fully in the picture, however, the following was the position with regard to this somewhat complicated matter. On taking over, Gazzola found that a high rental bill had been incurred for the materials involved with the lessors (Ditta Innocenti, Milan). Payment had been withheld pending negotiations as to an alternative settlement: meantime the materials are definitely the property of the firm in question. Gazzola had therefore been instructed at an interview on 7 Aug. a) to find out the Ufficio Trasporti's price for the return of the materials to Milan; b) to put forward a project for dismantling the protective work, to include the hire of the necessary technicians from Milan but not the back rental referred to in para 2 above; and c) to provide a full written explanation of the position for discussion with Regional Finance Division as regards payment of the back rental, probably after handing-over of the Region, by the Ministry in Rome.

0.134

1. The Superintendent of Monuments, Verona, Ing. Gazzola, writes to the effect that he was called into consultation on 9 Aug by the Provincial Engineer, Lieut. Lee, and told that the work of demolishing the PAD Protection to the s/m monument was to be put in hand forthwith at the expense and the responsibility of AMG (Province) under his (Gazzola's) technical supervision. Gazzola was also informed that this was in agreement with this office.

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4. It is desired to record that the whole matter could not hitherto be regarded as of prime urgency in view of the more pressing need for first-aid repair projects to prevent further deterioration of damaged monuments in Verona, which are in fact the first concern of this office under its terms of reference.

Copies to:

MPAA Subcommittee
R.F.O Venezia Region

B. MARRIOTT, Capt.
MPAA Officer.

18 AUG 1945

12 AGO 1945

9 AUG 1945

16

CET/mcc

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
G-5 SECTION
APO 512

G-5: 383.6

9 Aug 45.

SUBJECT: Col. MOSER - German POW.

TO : Headquarters, Allied Commission,
Civil Affairs Section,
APO 512

10 AUG 1945

With reference to your AC/20914/MFAA of 29 Jun 45,

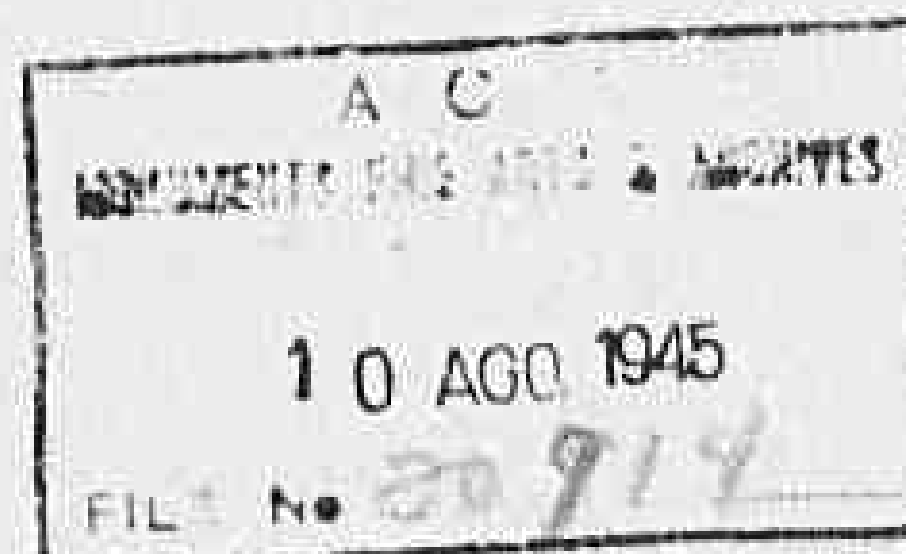
12

We are now informed that Col. MOSER is confined at
GHEDI POW Enclosure, between Verona and Milan.

He can be interrogated there by an officer from your
Headquarters showing proper credentials.

For the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-5:

C. E. Trigos,
Captain.



2819

9 AUG 1945

26 JUN 1945

BM/ev

HEADQUARTERS
VENEZIE REGION
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
Division of Monuments Fine Arts and Archives

RXII/MFA/Ver

26 June 45

SUBJECT: Bridges, Verona, -Photographs-

TO : Deputy Director, MFAA Subcommittee, HQ Allied Commission.

Reference your letter of 24 May 45 (20124/2/A/MFAA) on the above subject, enclosed are 6 each of 6 photographs supplied by the Superintendency VERONA which it is hoped fulfil the stipulations of your letter.

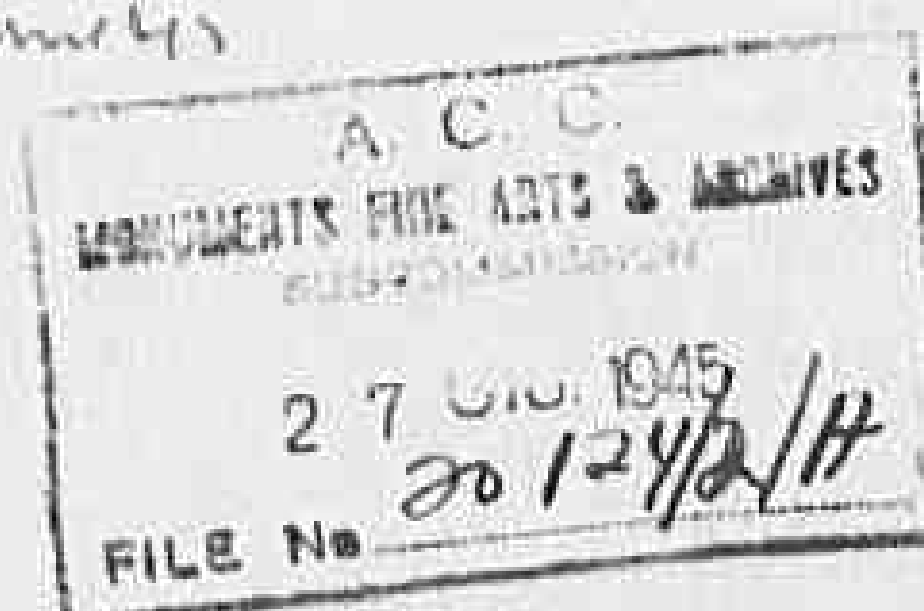
Baird Newton, Capt.

for NORMAN T. NEWTON,
Major, Air Corps,
Regional MFAA Officer.

Copies to:

Files (2)
Float

Photos
/ Being held (his desk) for
Col. WP's return BMD
25 June 45



2818

26 JUN 1945

MANUSCRIPTS ALLIED OVERSEAS

APO 39,

Subcommission for Manuscripts, Fine Arts and Archives

(Tel. 439081, ext. 442 & 254; 473480)

20905/5/14/76/133A

25 June 1945

Commissary for the Archives of the State
(Comm. Emilio Re) - Ministry of the Interior -

ROME

Subject: Forwarding of Medieval Manuscripts.

1. Forwarded herewith are the seventeen medieval manuscripts already promised in earlier conferences with this office. It is understood that you will study the problem of their likely provenance and see to their consignment either to their former depository or at least to one where they will be likely to be useful for historical research. In this connection the Venetian origin of all or nearly all of the documents may be noted.

2. The immediate source of the documents in the vicinity of PIAZZA, where, toward the end of July 1944, they were obtained under the following circumstances:

A large mansion, considerably damaged by artillery fire, to the right of Highway 2, between PAVANOLLA and SAN GABRIELE, was observed to be the object of considerable attention by local Italians, not unassisted by interested troops. The mansion in question was said to be the property of the Conte Placido del Bosco, who was not in the neighborhood at the time.

The manuscripts were offered to a soldier in exchange for some few cigarettes. The soldier in question recognizing their significance concluded the deal, and subsequently was encountered from the area. He cannot state what happened to numerous other manuscripts and books which were leaving the ruins about the same time.

E. R. See.
JOSEPH T. DE SAID
Lt. Col., Spec. Rec.
Director.

2817

Subject: Forwarding of Medialinal Manuscripts.

1. Forwarded herewith are the manuscripted parchment already promised in earlier conferences with this office. It is understood that you will study the problem of their likely provenance and see to their consignment either to their former repository or at least to one where they will be likely to be useful for historical research. In this connection the Venetian origin of all or nearly all of the documents may be noted.

2. The immediate source of the documents in the vicinity of Mantua, there, toward the end of July 1944, they were obtained under the following circumstances:

A large mansion, considerably damaged by artillery fire, to the right of Highway 2, between Mantua and San Geronimo, was observed to be the object of considerable attention by local Italians, not unaided by interested troops.

The mansion in question was said to be the property of the Conte Rinaldi dal Campo, who was not in the neighborhood at the time.

The manuscripts were offered to a soldier in exchange for some few cigarettes. The soldier in question recognizing their significance concluded the deal, and subsequently was evacuated from the area. He cannot state what happened to numerous other manuscripts and books which were leaving the ruins about the same time.

E. R. See
Lieut. T. H. S. S. S.
Lt. Col., Spec. Res.
Director.

2817

20124121A

24 JUN 1945

HEADQUARTERS
VENETIAN REGION
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

RXII/MTA/ARO

14th June 1945

SUBJECT: Archives of Italian Ministries
located in Venetian Region.

TO : Regional Commissioner, Venetian Region.

1. GENERAL

The present report contains additional information obtained since undersigned's report Archives/1 dated 14th May 1945. For convenience it is arranged under the same heads as that report.

2. PADOVA Province.

Rooms used to house the archives of the Ministry of Public Instruction are now urgently required for additional offices of Regional Hq. During his forthcoming visit to Rome undersigned will represent the need for giving the removal of these particular records a high priority. Meanwhile, it is to be regretted that representatives of the Ministry have been authorized to make small, piecemeal transfers.

3. TREVISO Province.

Further details have been obtained concerning the transfer of offices from locations in TREVISO Province to various places in LOMBARDIA Region as under.

Confederazione Naz. Lavoratori del Credito e Assicurazione, formerly at CONSEGLIANO, was moved autumn 1944 to MILAN.

Confederazione Naz. Lavoratori dell'Agricoltura, formerly at VALDOBBIANNE, moved in two sections to MILAN and BERGAMO.

Confederazione Naz. Lavoratori dell'Industria, formerly at LOTTA DI LIVIGNO, was moved summer 1944 to BERGAMO and thence to MILAN.

Confederazione Naz. Professionisti ed Artisti, formerly at LOTTA DI LIVIGNO, moved in September 1944 to a location near

since undersigned's report Archives/ dated 1/1/44. For convenience it is arranged under the same heads as that report.

2. PADOVA Province.

Rooms used to house the archives of the Ministry of Public Instruction are now urgently required for additional offices of Regional N.. During his forthcoming visit to Rome undersigned will represent the need for giving the removal of these particular records a high priority. Meanwhile, it is to be regretted that representatives of the Ministry have been authorized to make small, piecemeal transfers.

3. TREVISO Province.

Further details have been obtained concerning the transfer of offices from locations in Treviso Province to various places in LOMBARDIA Region as under.

Confederazione Naz. Lavoratori del Credito e Assicurazioni, formerly at CONSELIANO, was moved Autumn 1944 to MILAN.

Confederazione Naz. Lavoratori dell'Agricoltura, formerly at VALDOBBIANE, moved in two sections to MILAN and BERGAMO.

Confederazione Naz. Lavoratori dell'Industria, formerly at PORTA di LIVENZA, was moved summer 1944 to BERGAMO and thence to MILAN.

Confederazione Naz. Professionisti ed Artisti, formerly at Vittorio Veneto, moved in September 1944 to a location near MILAN. 2816

Istituto Nazionale Previdenza Sociale, formerly at Vittorio Veneto, moved in August 1944 to GIULIA MINORE.

None of these offices appear to have left archives behind, and at the present time there do not seem to be any material archived in this province.

4. VENEZIA Province.

The following archives are located in VENEZIA, either in

2012 4/2/A
2012 4/2/A

offices still functioning or in desecit:-

- + Camera dei Rasci e delle Corporazioni
+ E.N.I.C.
+ Ufficio distaccato del Ministero
Affari Esteri
+ Ministero Interno: Dir.Gen.Publ.
Sicurezza
+ Ente Stampa
+ Direzione Generale dei Monopoli
+ Istituto Nazionale Statistica
- + Ministero dei Lavori Pubblici
- + Ministero della Cultura Popolare
- + Agenzia Stefani-Servizi
amministrativi
- + Aviazione civile e del Traffico
Direzione Generale
- + Banca Nazionale del Lavoro
Comitato Olimpico Nazionale
(C.O.N.I.)
- + Consorzio Nazionale Tra Istituti
Autonomi Case Popolari
- + Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche
Cine Città-Casa Cinematografica
- + Compagnia Italiana Turismo-
Direzione Generale
- + Ente Nazionale Importazione ed
Esportazione Film (E.N.I.E.F.)
- + Ente Italiano Diritti di Autore
- + Istituto Nazionale LUCE
- + Presso "Ridotto"
Palazzo Camerlinghi
a Rialto, 1° piano
"Pilsen", 3° piano
Abbazia di S.Gregorio
San Vio 870
Manifattura Tabacchi
Palazzo Salviati
Corso d'oro
Palazzo A. Savi a
Rialto
Palazzo Volpi a
S. Benedetto
Via Mazzini n. 5110
S. Polo
Bacino Orsede
S. Marco 2004
Presso Ministero
Lavori Pubblici
Riva dell'Ispero
Presso Biennale
B. Elena
Piazza S. Marco
Calle Bebo
S. Marco 176
Calle Goldoni n.4488

In the marked items on this list underlined is in possession of detailed information, kindly supplied by the prefet. In the case of the first item, representative of the Senate have appeared in ~~VARICIA~~ with papers authorizing them to arrange transfer.

+ Ministero dei Lavori Pubblici

Palazzo X Savi a
Vialto

+ Ministero della Cultura Popolare

Palazzo Volpi a
S. Benedetto

Agenzia Stefani-Servizi
amministrativi

Via Mussini N. 5410

+ Aviazione civile e del Traffico
Direzione Generale

S. Polo

+ Banca Nazionale del Lavoro
Comitato Olimpico Nazionale
(C.O.N.I.)

Bucino Orsico

+ Consorzio Nazionale fra Istituti
Autonomi Case Popolari

S. Marco 2004

+ Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche
Cine Città-Casa Cinematografica

Presso Ministero
Lavori Pubblici
Riva dell'Impero
Presso Biennale
S. Elena

+ Compagnia Italiana Turismo-
Direzione Generale

Piazza S. Marco

+ Ente Nazionale Importazione ed
Esportazione Film (E.N.I.E.F.)

Calle Bembo

+ Ente Italiano Diritti di Autore

S. Marco 176

+ Istituto Nazionale LUCE

Calle Goldoni n. 4488

In the marked items on this list underlined is in
possession of detailed information, kindly supplied by the
prefect. In the case of the first item, representative of the
Senate have appeared in VANICA, with papers authorizing
them to arrange transfer.

5. VERONA Province.

2815

And lives of the Ministry of Communications are located
in the city of VERONA as under:-

+ Gabinetto del Ministro

Piazza S. Anastasia 2

Ufficio centrale Popolavoro

"

Associazione Ferroviari Stato

"

Ufficio Allonghi

"

+ Ex-Direzione Generale Ferrovie:

Servizio e Commerciale

Mansolongo (Liceo classi-
co)

Ex-Direzione Generale Ferrovie:

Servizio Lavori e Costruzioni

Corso Cavour 19,

Via Cavour 5

Ex-Direzione Generale Ferrovie:

Servizio Materiale e Trazione

+ Ex-Direzione Generale Ferrovie:

Servizio Personale ed Affari

Generali

++ Ex-Direzione Generale Ferrovie:

Servizio Ragoneria

Ex-Direzione Generale Ferrovie:

Servizio Approvvigionamenti

Direzione Generale Marine

Mercantile

Via Fratte 3, Via Cattedra-

neo 26, Via Leoncino

Piazza S. Anastasia 2

Mascolongo (Liceo Classi-
co), Via Amanti 12,

Vicolo Chioldo

Stradone S. Tommaso 3, 6.

Via Paolo Filzi 11.

The following points are to be noted about the archives of the Ministry of Communications:-

(a) Those marked were damaged in bombardment; those suffered some wilful destruction by Republicans.

(b) Offices of Direzione delle Poste were transferred from VERONA some months before the liberation.

(c) So were the archives of the Capitaneria di Porto- probably to BRESCIA.

(d) Archives of the Ex-Direzione Generale Ferrovie are particularly well looked after by the Liquidator, Ing. Simanetti. There are roughly 1,000 chests of them, all ready for transfer to ROMA. Meanwhile, Simanetti's powers end on 30th. June, and he says that at that time it will be urgent to send 50-100 cases of archives to ROMA- the old story of piecemeal transfer.

(e) Archives of Direzione Generale Marine Mercantile, inspected by undersigned, seem adequately cared; the custodian says a certain Colonel De Rossi is in charge of them.

6. VICENZA Province.

Nothing additional to report.

7. CONCLUSIONS.

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- (b) Offices of Direzione delle Poste were transferred from VERONA some months before the liberation.
- (c) So were the archives of the Capiteneria di Porto- probably to VERONA.
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- (e) Archives of Direzione Generale Marina Mercantile, inspected by undersigned, seem adequately crated; the custode says a certain Colonel De Rossi is in charge of them.

6. VIENNA Province.

Nothing additional to report.

7. CONCLUSIONS.

- (a) In the opinion of undersigned far too much piecemeal transfer is taking place, ministries (with the approval of Civil-Commissions concerned) sending representatives authorized to arrange the removal of archives.
- (b) In this Region eventual hand-over to ROMA can probably be best arranged through the Prefects of the provinces in which offices and archives are located.

Copies to:
Director, MFA, Subcommission, H.C.,
Allied Commission
S.O.A.C. 5 Army
Capt. William Noonan, Archives Officer, Lombardia Region, AMG.

/s/ H.H. Bell Major
/t/ E.E. Bell Major S.O.C.,
Archives Officer

For urgent transmission to Director, MPAA S/C. H.A. AC/ANG.
p.m. 18th June 45

HEADQUARTERS
VENETIAN REGION

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT

Division of Monuments Fine Arts and Archives

810. (645)

REF: EXII/MPAA/Ver

SUBJECT: First-aid repair to war-damaged monuments, VERONA.

TO : S.C.A.O., AMG, 5 Army (attn MPAA Officer).

8 June 45.

1. On June 4-6, 45, the undersigned visited VERONA and district under the general arrangements agreed with Capt. D. ZELLER, MPAA Officer, AMG 5 Army. An inspection was made of the damaged monuments proposed for immediate action in order of priority by the Superintendent, Arch. GAZZOLA, and his proposals were examined in detail.

2. Subject to certain modifications agreed on the sites, the Superintendent's proposals appear to the undersigned to be acceptable as a 'Phase I' programme of urgent work. Before preparing detailed estimates and applying for the necessary funds through channels, the Superintendent will therefore submit to this office a revised summary schedule of works with approximate estimates, for reference to HQ AC/ANG under the terms of Finance S/C Directive 13194/P of 21 May 45, for approval in principle, in respect of the following eleven monuments. These which have not already been reported on in Capt. Keller's report of 3 May 45 (207/9) are briefly described. All are in Verona city except item iv).

3. i) PAL. CAPOSSA. Estimate will include careful collection of tiepolo ceiling fragments, for eventual restoration.

ii) S. LORENZO. Although direct damage, as described by Capt. Zeller, is light, there is grave danger of further destruction from falls of roof-timber and masonry.

iii) BIBLIOTECA CIVICA. As well as the Sala Compostriani, where frescoes need protection, the Sala di Teologia needs attention on the recommendation of Maj. BELL, Archives Officer.

iv) VOLABRER. (Ver. P5267). The beautiful and important

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iii) BIBLIOTECA CIVICA. As well as the Sala Campestriani, where frescoes need protection, the Sala di Teologia needs attention on the recommendation of Maj. BELL, Archives Officer.

iv) VOLARONE. (Ver. P5267). The beautiful and important Villa del Bene, (1551) unaccountably not listed) with notable contemporary frescoes (G.B. Caroto etc) was semi-destroyed by the blowing-up of a wagon-load of HE on 21 Feb 45. The Germans and/or Italian civilians have seen off and removed roof scantlings and beams over the loggia etc. Clearance of rubble is proceeding, under local arrangement, for the collection of the architectonic fragments. Demolition and consolidation of dangerous masonry and provisional shoring and repair of the roof is urgently necessary to facilitate first-aid to frescoes, pending ultimate restoration. The villa, a National Monument, is privately owned by a poor family, who are occupying a few rooms.

v) PAL. DA LISCA.

vi) S. PERMO. In this case the roof (in urgent need of repairs) is an integral part of the magnificent wooden ceiling. Approval has therefore been given for the estimate to include repairs to the latter as part of the same project.

vii) S. GIOVANNI IN VALLE.viii) S. BERNARDINO.ix) CASTELLO SCALIGERO (Castelveccchio)x) BIBLIOTECA CAPITOLARE. (Adjoining Duomo)

xi) S. EUPHIMIA. Although damage, as described, is light, by Capt. Keller, the roof and ceiling are dangerous. Materials are available on site.

4. VILLA MONGA and VILLA GALTAROSSA. During the run to VOLARGHE, opportunity was taken to visit S. PIETRO IN GARIANO. There are two villas originally called Monga (as listed) of which one is now Galtarossa (much restored) occupied by a Czech labour unit. The Germans had left the collection of sculpture fragments in disorder, whitewashed external frescoes, and used statues in the park for small-arms practice. In both cases the present occupation appears to be doing no further damage. The villas are posted as Protected Monuments.

5. SUPERINTENDENCY ADMINISTRATION. The visit to VERONA also provided an opportunity for the Superintendent and the undersigned to discuss the Superintendency's budget (in course of preparation) with the P.F.O., and the drill for the first-aid projects here described. Arch. Gazzola was also put in touch with the P.P.S.O., about permits to circulate and to photograph, and will see the Supply Officer about bicycle tyres, petrol etc. Lt. LEE (Engineering) was contacted and the Superintendent in consultation with the Genio Civile will indicate zones in which there are architectonic fragments and materials from destroyed buildings which should be saved from dispersal.

vii) S. GIOVANNI IS LAME.

viii) S. BERNARDINO.

ix) CASTELLO SCALIGERO (Castelvecchio)

x) BIBLIOTHECA CAPITOLARE. (adjoining Duomo)

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Basil Hamilton

2812

S. MARRIOTT,
Capt, MPAA Officer.

Copies to:

Director, MPAA Subcommission, HQ AQ/AMC.
Regional Commissioner, VENETIA Region
Provincial Commissioner, VERONA Province
Files (3)
Float.

FBIHQ

FILE

JEMP/ps/

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

APO 394

CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

20124/2/A/MEAA

6 June 1945

Subject: Destruction of Bridges at VERONA.

TO : C-5 Section, AFHQ.

1. VERONA until recently possessed two of the finest historical bridges of Italy, the Ponte di Pietra, the earliest of all surviving Roman bridges, and the world-famous medieval Ponte Scaligero.

2. The preservation of these two bridges have been the preoccupation of both the Allied and the German Command. Not only were they Allied Listed Monuments and additionally subject to special Air-Force instructions in relation to bombing-targets in VERONA; but the German High Command also had undertaken to take all reasonable measures to preserve them from destruction.

Oct

3. On 11 Nov 44, in reply to official Italian requests, Field-Marshal Kesselring gave his personal assurance (translation attached) that all reasonable steps would be taken to this end. In implementation of this assurance heavy concrete road-blocks were established by the Superintendent of Monuments in collaboration with the German Platzkommandant. Both bridges were impracticable for heavy traffic and the demolition of these road-blocks would have taken far longer than the construction of military bridges elsewhere.

4. On the morning of 25 April it was observed that mine-chambers were in preparation in all the bridges of VERONA. Numerous persons, including the Bishop of VERONA, the Comunal Secretary Sig. CAVONI, and the Superintendent of Monuments, brought this to the personal notice of the Platzkommandant, Col. MOHRER, all of whom received formal assurance that the two bridges in question would not be blown. At 2030 hours however all the bridges of VERONA were without exception destroyed.

5. The representative for Fine Arts at the German High Command, South-west (Lt. Hagemann) confirms the instructions given by Field Marshal Kesselring, and the massive concrete roadblocks are still available for inspection. The ruining of these historic bridges is a senseless piece of destruction carried out in defiance of higher authority and, in view of

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4. On the morning of 25 April it was observed that nine-chambers were in preparation in all the bridges of VERONA. Numerous persons, including the Bishop of VERONA, the Communal Secretary Sig. CASONI, and the Superintendent of Monuments, brought this to the personal notice of the Platzkommandant, Col. MOHR, all of whom received formal assurance that the two bridges in question would not be blown. At 2030 hours however all the bridges of VERONA were without exception destroyed.

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MFA: A

While it is probably nothing but ignorance on my part, I cannot see the point of this letter. Is it intended to name this man as a war criminal? That would, surely, be too easy to defend.

20 May

H. D. Benham/Julia
CAS 6/6/61

To: CA. Section.

Revised draft discussed with Sigurdur Lofthelms

Jaxaureim 4. CA

MFA

OK. It shall
be sent to you
as soon as possible.

6. Attached are:

- a. Translation of Field Marshall Kesselring's letter (photographic copy of the original is held by the Monuments and Fine Arts Subcommission of AC)
- b. Translation of Statement by Prof. Ganzola, Superintendent of Monuments at Verona.
- c. Statement by Capt. R.H. Boothroyd, Italian Incumbent to CSIC, R.A.A.C.

For the CHIEF COMMISSIONER:

G.R. UPJOHN, Brig.
VP CA Sec

Copy to:
SCAO, AEG, 5 ARMY, attn. MCA Officer.

2. Translation of Statement by Prof. Garzola,
Superintendent of Monuments at Verona.

2. Statement by Capt. R.H. Boothroyd, Italian
Increment to CSBIC, R.A.A.C.

For the CHIEF COMMISSIONER:

Superseded by 11/19/74
G.R. UPCHURCH, Brig.
VP CA Sec

Copy to:
SCAO, AMC, 5 Army, attn. MFAA Officer.

2810

Translation of Field Marshall
Kesselring's letter, dated
11 Oct 44

The Commander in Chief Southwest

and

Commander in Chief of the Army Group C

Headquarters 11th Oct 1944

For the Superintendency for Monuments of the
Provinces Verona, Cremona and Mantova.

Verona

Ref. your letter Sep 30th I inform you that, in accordance with the request of the Chief of Verona Province, dated 23 Sep 44 and addressed to the High Command of the German Wehrmacht, I have already assured that the two bridges

Ponte Scaligero (near Castel Vecchio) and
Ponte della Pietra

are to be spared as far as possible.

The preserving of the two monumental bridges is for me a natural duty, as far as I shall be able to justify it according to the necessities of the war. I want however to point out expressly, that the development of the fighting and the turn which the war may take does not depend only on me and that the intentions of the enemy, who is not at all considerate in such matters, may eventually require the ultimate measures.

/s/ Kesselring
General Fieldmarshall

0209

Translation of Statement by
Prof. Gozzola, Supt. of
Monuments at Verona

Subject: VERONA - Protection of Monuments - "Castelvecchio" and
"della Pietra" Bridges.

Given that the efforts locally made many months before with the German Military Authorities in order to protect the two above mentioned monumental bridges had had no success, I thought it best, on 30 Sep 44, to address myself directly to the Commander-in-Chief of German Armed Forces in Italy, Fieldmarshal Kesselring, and I requested that the "della Pietra" and "Castelvecchio" bridges be respected.

Fieldmarshal Kesselring personally answered 11 Oct 44 giving formal assurance that he accepted my request.

With the agreement of the German Military Platzkommandant the two bridges were barred with powerfully armed antitank concrete constructions.

We thus thought we could be sure about the fate of the two bridges.

On the morning of 25 Apr 45 we observed that the Germans were beginning to arrange the explosives for the demolition of all the bridges. From that moment began a painful wandering through all the Offices and Military Commands of the area; the assistance of the Archbishop and Italian Authorities was also solicited.

It was at last possible for us to contact the High Command and be assured that the bridges would be protected.

However we observed that the preparations for the laying of mines were being continued. At 16,30 of the same day, in the Office of the Military Platzkommandant I obtained fresh formal assurance on the subject.

As I did not feel as yet fully at ease, I thought of going to the Plenipotentiary Minister of the German Military Forces in Italy, whom I knew to be located in Villa Fagioli at CASTELBELLINO. Unfortunately when I arrived there at about 17,00, everybody had already left.

At 20,00 all the Veronese bridges were blown up.

Of the "Castelvecchio" bridge only the piers are left; of the "della Pietra" bridge only the Medieval arcade remains.

Among this dreadful damage I am pleased to be able to state that this Office did not fail to do everything that was possible.

2808

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Among this dreadful damage I am pleased to be able to state that this Office did not fail to do everything that was possible.

This Superintendency has precise architectural measured drawings and a good photographic documentation.

Sincerely

(Gazzola, Superintendent
for Monuments, VERONA)

Statement of Capt. R.H.
Boothroyd, Italian Incarcerated
to CHSIC, R.A.C., dated 2
May 45

126

The inhabitants of VERONA maintain that the man to blame for the destruction of the city's bridges is the Platzkommandant, Colonel MOSER. The Segretario Comunale, Sig. CAPORI, informed me that at 1130 hrs on the morning of Apr 25, on hearing that mine-chambers were being prepared on the Ponte SCALIGERO and the Ponte PIETRA, he telephoned to the German Platzkommandantur and was told that there was NO intention of destroying these two bridges. During the afternoon the Bishop of VERONA personally visited the Platzkommandant and was given a formal assurance that the bridges would NOT be destroyed. Despite this, they were blown the same evening.

Obefehlshaber Elwest
und

Oberbefehlshaber der Heeresgruppe 3

To AC HG
MPAA

Hauptquartier, den 11/10/1944

Enclosure

An

R. Soprintendenza ai Monumenti
delle Province di Verona, Cremona e Mantova

Verona

Auf Ihr Schreiben vom 30/9. teile ich Ihnen mit, dass
ich bereits am 23.9.44 auf Wunsch des Oberhauptes der Provinz
Verona über den Bev. Gen. d. Dt. Wehrm. in Italien versichert habe,
die beiden Brücken.

Ponte Scaligero (am Castel Vecchio) und
Ponte della Pietra

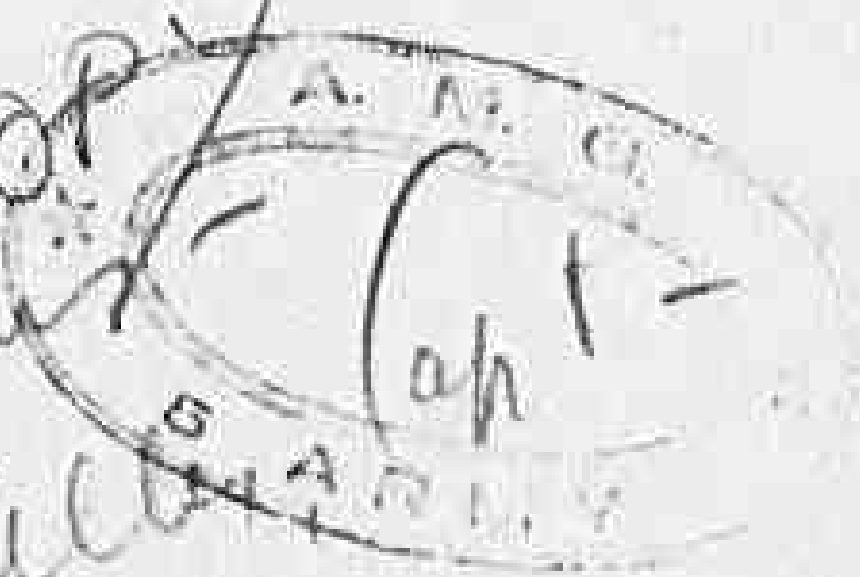
soweit es irgend möglich ist, zu schonen.

Die Erhaltung der beiden Monumentalbrücken ist mir eine
Selbstverständlichkeit, soweit ich es bei den Erfordernissen
der Kampfführung verantworten kann. Ich möchte jedoch ausdrück-
lich darauf hinweisen, dass die Entwicklung der Kämpfe und der
Weg, den der Krieg nun einmal nimmt, nicht allein in meiner
Hand liegt und die Absicht des Gegners, der derartige Rücksicht-
nahmen nicht kennt, die letzte Konsequenz verlangen kann.

F.to Kesselring

Generalfeldmarschall

Dear Col DeWard:
I saw the original
with personal sign of
Kesselring
This is a TRUE COPY
Truly yours
Jean Kell



Passed by Capt
Keller - M. H.
5 Army 207/7 at
22 Aug 45 -
file 20914

mit ① 20124/A/1

OGGETTO - Verona - Tutela monumentale -
Ponti di "Castelvecchio" e "della Pietra" -

In data 30 settembre 1944, visti pressoché vani i tentativi fatti localmente da molti mesi con le Autorità militari germaniche tendenti alla salvezza dei due Ponti monumentali in oggetto, pensai di rivolgermi direttamente al Comandante supremo delle forze armate germaniche in Italia Feldmaresciallo Kesselring, chiedendo che i Ponti della Pietra e Castelvecchio venissero rispettati.

In data 11 ottobre 1944, il Feldmaresciallo Kesselring rispose personalmente assicurando formalmente la sua accettazione della proposta.

D'accordo con il Comando militare germanico della piazza, si provvide alla chiusura dei due Ponti a mezzo di costruzioni cementizie anti-carro fortemente armate.

Si doveva così poter essere tranquilli sulla sorte dei due Ponti.

Il mattino del giorno 25 aprile u.s. si notò come si stesse procedendo al caricamento dell'esplosivo per la demolizione di tutti i Ponti. Ebbe subito inizio una penosa peregrinazione attraverso tutti gli Uffici e Comandi militari della zona; si anche sollecitato l'intervento del Vescovo e delle Autorità italiane.

È infine possibile ottenere comunicazione con il Comando Supremo ed avere assicurazione che i due Ponti sarebbero stati salvati.

Si notava peraltro che i preparativi per le mine venivano continuati. Alle 16,30 dello stesso giorno nell'Ufficio del Comandante militare della piazza ottenni nuova formale assicurazione in proposito.

Non ancora tranquillo pensai di recarmi dal Ministro Penitenziario delle forze armate germaniche in Italia che sapevo aver sede in Villa Fagioli a Castelrotto. Purtroppo, quando vi giunsi verso le 17, già tutti erano partiti.

Alle ore 20,30 tutti i ponti veronesi saltavano in aria.

Del Ponte di "Castelvecchio" non restano che le pile; del Ponte "della Pietra" resta soltanto l'arcata medioevale.

In tanto sfaccio ho la soddisfazione di poter affermare che da parte di questo Ufficio non si è mancato di fare quanto umanamente possibile.

Questa Soprintendenza possiede dei due Ponti i precisi rilievi vi architettonici e buona documentazione fotografica.

Con osservanza.

0214

785016

Italian Increment to CSNIG
R.A.A.C.

From Captain R.E. BOUTHOYD
To Documents, Fine Arts & Archives Sub-Commission A.D.

The following items of information obtained during a visit to VERONA may be of interest to your Department:

1. I was informed by a reliable source that Prof. UGO RIVINGTON, former director of the Venetian Institute in VICENZA, knows the location of many Italian works of art which have been hidden or removed by the Germans. Prof. RIVINGTON was in VERONA about two months ago and went from place to place. His efforts to avoid damage to buildings and works of art are spoken of with appreciation.
2. The inhabitants of VERONA maintain that the main blame for the destruction of the city's bridges is the Platzkommandant, Colonel ROSEN. The Segretario Comunale, Sig. CARONI, informed me that at 1130 hrs on the morning of Apr 25, on hearing that mine-chambers were being prepared on the Ponte SCALIGERO and the Ponte SILEA, he telephoned to the German Platzkommandantur and was told that there was NO intention of destroying these two bridges. During the afternoon the Bishop of VERONA personally visited the Platzkommandant and was given a formal assurance that the bridges would NOT be destroyed. Despite this, they were blown the same evening.

R.E. Bouthoyd Capt
(R.E. BOUTHOYD)

9 May 45

2814

W

DOCUMENTS FINE ARTS & ARCHIVES
11 MAY 1945
FILE No 20909/20

MINISTERO DELLE CORPORAZIONI

Ord. 529 - dell'8-6-939 - XVII - F. 10 21 x 30 (10.000)

IA - Roma

Der Oberbefehlshaber Südwest
Oberbefehlshaber der Heeresgruppe C

11.10.1944

AN

S. Segretario di Stato al Ministero
della Provincia di Verona, Cremona e Mantova,

Verona.

Auf Ihr Schreiben vom 30.9. sollte ich Ihnen mitteilen, dass
ich bereits am 23.9.44 auf Wunsch des Oberkommandos der Provinz
Verona über den Verbleib der in Italien verbliebenen
des letzten Regiments

Kontingente (des General Friedrich und
Kontingente) informiert.

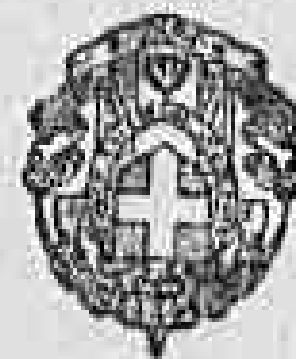
Es wird an dieser Stelle mitgeteilt, dass

das Verbleiben der letzten Kontingente (des General Friedrich und
Kontingente) nicht bekannt ist, da es bei den verschiedenen
Einheiten verstreut ist. Ich werde jedoch nach Möglich-
keit darauf hinwirken, dass die Entwicklung der Lage und der
Art, wie der Kampf mit einem Ende, nicht allein in meiner
Hand liegt und die Aktion des General, der darüber zu entschei-
den nicht kann, die letzten Kontingente veranlassen kann.

Wunderlich
Generalkommandant

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

MINISTERO DELLE CORPORAZ



S. A. EFFURIA - ROMA

Ord. 529 - dell'8.6.939 - XVII - F.10

Der Oberbefehlshaber Südwest
Oberbefehlshaber der Heeresgruppe C

11.10.1944

An

S. Segretario del Ministero
della Provincia di Verona, Strada 1, Verona.

Titolo: ...

Auf Ihr Schreiben vom 30.9. teilte ich Ihnen mit, dass ich bereits am 23.9.44 auf Wunsch der Oberhäupten der Provinz Verona über den Rev. Gen. G. B. ... in Italien vertrieben habe, die ...

... (für ...)

... zu ...

Die ... der ... ist eine ...

Werbung

Photograph of Kevallings letter.

Copies are in this envelope. - Negative 22-3
is filed with M&A 84c photo-
archive.

inside

Report of Commendatore Ronga, Superintendent
of Archives, Venezia.

Con riferimento al colloquio avuto con la S.V. il giorno 8 corr. e al desiderio da lei espresso di avere notizie circa le condizioni e le vicende occorse a questo Archivio di Stato e a quelli della giurisdizione archivistica veneta durante il periodo bellico, mi pregio significarle per sommi capi quanto segue:

Archivio di Venezia -

In seguito alla dichiarazione di guerra del giugno 1940 furono subito incassati, con i fondi forniti all'uso dal Ministero dell'Interno, i documenti più pregevoli allo scopo di cautelarli dalle minacce di offese aeree. Essi avrebbero dovuto essere ricoverati nel castello del Catajo nel comune di Battaglia Terme (provincia di Padova), luogo preventivamente preceettato per tale fine e pressoché lontanissimo da ogni pericolo. Furono acquistate e riempite n° 320 casse, che raccolsero il materiale più prezioso sia dal punto di vista politico che da quello diplomatico. Queste casse dovevano restare in Archivio fino al momento che sarebbe stato giudicato opportuno e sarebbe stato segnalato dall'Autorità superiore. Esse infatti furono trasportate nel luogo di ricovero (in seguito ad ordine ministeriale da me sollecitato a motivo del carattere di pericolosità della ulteriore permanenza in sede dei documenti preziosi) nel dicembre 1942 insieme ad altre che nel frattempo erano state approntate, per un complesso di n° 650 casse, comprendenti circa 20.000 pezzi archivistici. Parte di questo materiale ebbe ricovero, oltre che nel castello di Catajo, anche nel Monastero di Preglia, gentilmente messo a disposizione degli enti culturali da quel rev. Abate. In questi due rifugi i documenti restarono fino alla fine del 1943, quando per i noti nuovi eventi verificatisi (l'armistizio 8 settembre - invasione tedesca) le vicinie e i pericoli bellici assunsero nuova forma. Una commissione composta dai capi degli istituti culturali di cui feci parte, ritenne più opportuno e conveniente far rientrare in sede tutto il materiale affollato; in conseguenza di ciò e con l'approvazione ministeriale ebbero luogo le operazioni di rientro eseguite a varie riprese e con tutte le cautele e gli accorgimenti richiesti dal caso.

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Infatti stamai di non concentrare tutto il materiale prezioso nella sede dell'Archivio, ma di frazionarlo in più siti, e precisamente presso altri Enti, che per la ubicazione loro e la loro stessa natura, offrivano garanzia di buona custodia e soprattutto maggiori speranze di preservazione dal pericolo che potevano incomberne su questa città per effetto di vicende belliche. E così furono collocate:

n° 160 casse a CA' PEGARÒ, sede del Museo di Arte moderna,
n° 165 nel Palazzo Ducale;

n° 80 nella sala del Capitolo della chiesa dei Frari,

n° 100 nei locali dell'Archivio notarile;

le rimanenti in locali a pianterreno della nostra sede.

Non credo che le interessi l'enumerare: se a tutte le providenze che furono attuate per la protezione del nostro Grande Archivio; furono eseguiti lavori, sopravvenuti idranti, costruiti muri antifuoco ecc., tutto un complesso di opere che, nei limiti del possibile, tendevano ad evitare, o per lo meno a mitigare, danni eventuali prodotti da incursione aerea.

Ed effettivamente, ringraziando la illuminata comprensione del Comando Alleato che ha evitato incursioni sull'abitato di Venezia, si può con orgoglio affermare che dalla bufera della guerra è uscito intatto l'ineguagliabile patrimonio documentario di questa città la cui gloriose vicende storiche trovano in esso la nobile, luminosa, inesorabile testimonianza nei secoli.

Si ebbe solo alcuni danni all'edificio in occasione dello scoppio di una nave carica di esplosivo nel corso dell'offesa aerea del 21 Marzo U.S. per effetto dello spostamento d'aria. La natura dei guasti è quella ben nota in tali circostanze: scrostazione di intonaco nei soffitti e nelle pareti, scardina-mento di porte, contorcimento e rottura di serrature, rottura di numerosissimi vetri. Nessun danno, per fortuna, al materiale archivistico e alle scaffature.

In questa succinta esposizione è opportuno ricordare l'opposizione sostenuta per evitare il trasloco del materiale collocato nella Sezione annessa dell'isola della Giudecca, in seguito ad ordine di requisizione di quel locale da parte dell'autorità militare germanica per ragioni di necessità belliche. Tale ordine è in data del 20 dicembre 1944. Il materiale di archivio doveva essere trasferito nei locali di una ex caserma, locali appena accettabili per i molti inconvenienti che presentavano. Per di più questi locali, in un primo tempo sufficienti ad accogliere tutti i documenti della Giudecca, vennero ancora ristretti in modo da non offrire una decente e sicura collocazione sia pure provvisoria.

Fu sempre mio compito di tergiversare e guadagnare tempo, per quanto accusato di larvato ostruzionismo, in attesa del sospirato giorno della liberazione e dell'annullamento di tale ordine di requisizione.

Si potrà in seguito e con tutta comodità studiare le modalità del trasloco da quel sito non appropriato come sede di archivio cercando o fabbricando un edificio idoneo ad accogliere quelle carte che venti anni fa furono mal sistemate in un

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Notizie su altri Archivi della Giurisdizione:

VERONA

L'Archivio di Stato di questa città, molto noto per la importanza dei suoi documenti e per il grande numero di atti membranacei, trasportò la parte più pregevole nella villa Sagrada in Illasi, paese della stessa provincia. Il materiale ivi

depositato restò fino allo scorso anno, quando essendosi resa pericolosa la zona per la vicinanza di fortificazioni belliche, venne trasferito a VERONA e murato negli archivolte dell'Arena romana di quella città. Il materiale risulterebbe incolore.

VICENZA

Una prima spedizione di materiale prezioso di quell'archivio compreso in 42 casse, fu trasportato qui a Venezia e collocato parte nel palazzo Pisani di San Stefano, uno dei più solidi e monumentali edifici veneziani, e parte in un pianterreno di Palazzo Ducale.

Una seconda spedizione di materiale archivistico sciolto per un volume di 32 metri cubi fu ultimamente collocata, parte nella Sala sansepolcra della Biblioteca Marciana e parte nel Palazzo Ducale negli stessi locali ove trovavasi già sistemato l'accecato complesso documentario appartenente all'Archivio di VERONA.

UDINE

Non si ha alcuna notizia circa l'incolore o meno del materiale appartenente a quella Sezione di Archivio di Stato; il locale Direttore non ha inviato alcun rapporto in merito a questa Soprintendenza.

TRIVISO

In questa città era in corso di costruzione una Sezione di Archivio di Stato, che doveva comprendere particolarmente l'intero Archivio antico comunale, il fondo delle Corporazioni religiose, (di cui le sole pergamene erano più di 1.000); nonché il fondo antico dell'Archivio dell'Ospedale Civile, ricco fra l'altro di circa 20.000 pergamene del secolo XI in poi. Purtroppo tutto questo complesso archivistico, eccezione fatta per una parte degli atti delle Corporazioni religiose, è andato travolto e devastato in seguito al bombardamento del 7 Aprile 1944 in modo che pochissimi documenti hanno potuto essere recuperati.

TRIESTE E PIUM

Degli Archivi di Stato di TRIESTE e PIUM furono trasportati al Castello del Catajo e nel Monastero di Preglia 120 casse di documenti pregevoli, le quali seguirono la sorte di quelle dell'Archivio di VERONA, cioè vennero trasferite in questa città, ove trovansi tuttora nei piani terreni del palazzo dei Frari sede di questo Archivio. Risulta inoltre che altri

Una seconda spedizione di materiale archivistico sciolse per un volume di 32 metri cubi fu ultimamente collocata, parte nella Sala sannoviniana della Biblioteca Marciana e parte nel Palazzo Ducale negli stessi locali ove trovavasi già sistemato l'accennato complesso documentario appartenente all'Archivio di VENEZIA.

UDINE

Non si ha alcuna notizia circa l'incolumità o meno del materiale appartenente a quella Sezione di Archivio di Stato; il locale Direttore non ha inviato alcun rapporto in merito a questa Soprintendenza.

TREVISO

In questa città era in corso di contrazione una Sezione di Archivio di Stato, che doveva comprendere particolarmente l'intero Archivio antico comunale, il fondo delle Corporazioni religiose, (di cui le sole pergamene erano più di 3.000); nonché il fondo antico dell'Archivio dell'Ospedale Civile, ricco fra l'altro di circa 20.000 pergamene del secolo XI in poi. Purtroppo tutto questo complesso archivistico, eccezione fatta per una parte degli atti delle Corporazioni religiose, è andato travolto e devastato in seguito al bombardamento del 7 Aprile 1944 in modo che pochissimi documenti hanno potuto essere recuperati.

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ZARA

Nel Luglio 1944 in seguito ad ordine ministeriale furono depositate provvisoriamente nella sede dell'Archivio di VENEZIA, dopo un viaggio fortuoso e vicende di varie indole, n° 149 casse di documenti trasportati da ZARA.

BOLZANO

Il materiale archivistico di BOLZANO trovasi attualmente diviso parte nel Castello di Campo Tures e parte nel Castello di Werburg a Tesino.

TRENTO

I fondi della sede di TRENTO sono così distribuiti: la parte più preziosa, riguardante particolarmente l'Archivio principale vescovile, trovata a Campo Tures; altro materiale è conservato nelle vecchie parrocchie di Baselga di Piné e di Albiano in Val di Cembra; il rimanente con gli uffici a Gebbia è nelle vicinanze della città di TRENTO.

May 1945

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Declassified E.O. 12356 Section 3.3/HND No.

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May 1943

37 MAG. 1945

Jans

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HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
LOMBARDIA REGION
APO 394

Division of Monuments, Fine Arts & Archives

31 May 45

LR/20350

SUBJECT : Report on MFA at Verona

TO : Director
Subcommission Monuments & Fine Arts
Hq AC

1. Visited 8 May 45 by Lieut. Cott USNR
2. General. The city has suffered considerably from bombing and finally from concussion resulting from the blowing of all bridges by the Germans on the Eve of their departure. The latter occasioned loss of glass and tiles from churches near the river. Most of the fine palazzi in the city have been hit.

3. Monuments : Roman Amphitheatre. Received one hit at western end, near the top. No serious damage.

Roman theatre. Intact.

S. Bernardino. Apse almost entirely destroyed. Nave and side chapels are in good condition. Cappella Pellegrini intact. Chapel of monastery with frescoes by Morone, intact.

Cathedral. Intact, but one side of cloister demolished as well as Biblioteca Capitolare. Most valuable books stored in safety and others almost completely recovered from rubble. 2798

Castel Vecchio. One wing, containing concert hall and conference rooms almost completely destroyed. Rooms occupied by Museum in fair condition.

20124/21A
37 MAG. 1945

2.

S. Fermo Maggiore. Wooden ceiling has several large holes resulting from blowing of nearby bridge. Cloister (of no particular value) badly damaged.

S. Giovanni in Valle . Direct hit in nave which destroyed most of roof and several sectors of nave arcades.

Palazzo Canossa. Very badly damaged. Tiepolo ceiling of large hall almost entirely destroyed by concussion. Fragments are being carefully left in place on floor. Ceiling frescoes by Veronese in one of the rooms have been detached and stored away.

Teatro Filarmonico. Completely gutted. Only facade remains. Adjacent Museo Lapidario said to be O.K.

S. Zeno Maggiore. is intact.

Perry B. Cott
PERRY B. COTT, Lieut, USNR
Regional Monuments & Fine
Arts Officer

2797

24 MAG. 1945

HEAD QUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
Subcommission for Monumenta Fine Arts and Archives
(Tel. 439064, ext. 442 & 254; 473-80)

20121/AFAS

24 May 1945

Subject: Antiquities in the THE VENEZIA.

To : Director AFAS S/C.

1. Following brief report gives a summary of damage to antiquities in the THE VENEZIA. The information is derived from Prof. Brusin, Superintendent of Antiquities for the whole region.
2. BELA. Remains of the Temple of Augustus largely destroyed.
3. VENEZIA. Ponte di Pietra: only medieval arch and the piers remain. Slight damage to Amphitheatre.
4. TRIVIO. Some damage to Amphitheatre.
5. S. LORENZO DI MARIANO. Prov. Bologna. Minor damage to excavated area.
6. PADOVA. Slight damage to Amphitheatre.
7. No other significant damage is recorded. AQUILA is specifically reported to be completely intact.

J.B. WARD PERKINS
Lt. Col., R.A.
D/Director.

2796

20124/2/A

24 MAG. 1945

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24 MAG. 1945

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
Subcommission for Monuments Fine Arts and Archives
(Tel. 489081, ext. 12 & 254; 470400)

24 May 1945

20121/2/A/IFAA

Subject: Bridges, VIENNA - Photographs.

To : Regional Commissioner, VIENNA Region,
attn. IFAA Officer.

Requested that you obtain through the Superintendency of Monuments at VIENNA photographs (6 copies) of the concrete road-blocks as exhibited on the Ponte Scaligero and the Ponte di Pietra. Also photographs of the bridges before destruction (6 copies). One or other of these, should, if possible, demonstrate the unsuitability of the destroyed bridges for heavy traffic.

For the Director :

JWP
J.B. WARD PERKINS
Lt.Col., R.A.
D/Director.

2795

24 MAG. 1945

16 MAG. 1945

H. J. JARTERS

VENERIE REGION A.C.C.
ARCHIVIO DI STATO E BIBLIOTECA
16 MAG 1945
FILE No. 2024/2/A

Archives/1

16th May 1945

TO: Regional Commissioner, Venerie Region.

SUBJECT: Sezione of Archivio di Stato and Biblioteca
Comunale, Verona.

- (1) Undersigned visited the above-mentioned institutions, which are housed in the same Palazzo, on 14th May 1945. Premises of both were inspected and information received from Dr. Facioli of the Archivio and Dr. Carrara of the Biblioteca. The Direttore of the Archivio (Prof. Semir) is sick and was not available for interview; nor did undersigned see the Direttore of the Biblioteca (Prof. Manelli).
- (2) Premises of Archivio and Biblioteca. These were much damaged in an air-raid of 4th January 1945. Provisional repair, and eventual reconstruction, of Archivio and Library will, so far as locale is concerned have to be treated as a single problem, and will be the concern of ANNA Officer. The following points, therefore, are simply first impressions and suggestions as to the action most urgently necessary:-
- (a) The roof of the Archivio should be repaired in order to make possible the return of deposits (see para 3 below.)
- (b) The roof of the Sala di Teologia should be repaired. The intrinsic merit of the books kept in this room is not perhaps of the highest order, but it has a traditional value as the original room of the library, dating from its foundation in 1792.
- (c) The most heavily damaged part of the building should be evacuated without delay since, in Dr. Carrara's view, the rubble contains much bibliographical material that can only be regarded as the stock-in-trade of a first-class library (see para 4 below.) For this purpose the Library will need help in obtaining labour.
- (d) The Sanimati frescoes in the Sala Composita should be covered, though it was pointed out to undersigned that, being frescoes, they have suffered less from the elements than the 2314

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(1) Undersigned visited the above-mentioned institutions, which are housed in the same palazzo, on 14th May 1965. Fragments of both were inspected and information received from Dr. Facioli of the Archivio and Dr. Gennaro of the Biblioteca. The Direttore Nazionale of the Archivio (Prof. Sordani) is sick and was not available for interview; nor did undersigned see the Direttore of the Biblioteca (Prof. Ramelli).

(2) Premises of Archivio and Biblioteca. These were much damaged in an earthquake of 4th January 1965. Provisional repair, and eventual reconstruction, of Archive and Library will, so far as locale is concerned have to be treated as a single problem, and will be the concern of NEFA Officer. The following points, therefore, are simply first impressions and suggestions as to the action most urgently necessary:-

(a) The roof of the Archivio should be repaired in order to make possible the return of deposits (see para 3 below.)

(b) The roof of the Sala di Teologia should be repaired. The intrinsic merit of the books kept in this room is not perhaps of the highest order, but it has a traditional value as the original room of the library, dating from its foundation in 1792.

(c) The most heavily damaged part of the building should be excavated without delay since, in Dr. Carrara's view, the rubble contains much bibliographical material that can only be regarded as the stock-in-trade of a first-class library (see para 4 below.) For this purpose the Library will need help in obtaining labour.

(d) The Farinati frescoes in the Sala Campestre should be covered, though it was pointed out to undersigned that, being true frescoes, they have suffered less from the elements than the other frescoes have been the case.

(3) Content of Archivio.
in two deposits as under:-

Archives are safe, the best of them

(a) in a shelter in the Arena, Verona (parchment, and generally records of date prior to 1400.)

(b) in the Palazzo e Museo di Scienze Naturali (the ancient Archivio Notarile and also several private archives.)

Undersigned feels some anxiety about the first deposit: if roof repairs do not permit of its return to the Archivio within a month, it should be entered and tests made for damp. A former deposit at

3851

the Villa Pompei, ~~was~~ was abandoned when the villa was occupied by the Germans and the material all safely brought away.

(4) Content of Biblioteca. Losses cannot yet be computed, but are mainly amongst the less valuable books. The most serious single loss is that of the catalogue of the old part of the library; the second that of much bibliographical material, both printed and also the ms. work of the library staff; the third of the collection of engravings of the 17th. and 18th. centuries, a part only of which has been recovered.

The best things from the library (incunabula, mss. etc.) are in two deposits:-

- (a) In the shelter in the Arena, Verona.
- (b) a small part in the villa Rinaldi, Negus.

(5) Underlined apologies for going outside his own field in this report and also, perhaps, for including matters already dealt with in report of MAIA Officer 5th. Army; owing to the fluidity of the present situation, however, that report is not yet to hand.

H. E. Bell Major

Major H. E. Bell, A. S. C. Archives Officer.

Copies to:

S. C. A. C. 5th. Army (attention of Capt. Deane Keller, MAIA Officer)
Director, MAIA Sub-Commission, W. Allied Commission.
MAIA Officer Venice Region (for MAIA Archives/L.)

(b) a small part in the villa Mizaldi, Secret.

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Major H.E. Bell, A.I.C. Archives Officer.

Copies to:

8.3.43. 7th. Army (attention of Capt. Deane Keller, EIAA Officer)
Director, EIAA Sub-Commission, H. Allied Commission.
EIAA Officer Venerio Ragon (for EIAA Archives/L.)

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14 MAG. 1945

HEADQUARTERS VENEZIE REGION
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
ARO 394

CONFIDENTIAL

Reference: Archives/1

14 May 1945

To : Regional Commissioner, Venezia Region.

1. General

I have to-day completed a period of ten days temporary duty in Venezia Region.

Although I took this opportunity to inspect some of the more important historical collections of the region, and have already reported separately on these, the main purpose of my tour was to locate the archives of various Italian ministries and state organizations, evacuated from Rome in 1944, and so far as possible to organize measures for their protection.

In this connection I made the basis of my inquiries the list of deposits of ministerial archives compiled by the Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives Sub-Commission, reference 20905/B/3/MFA., dated 15 March 1945, supplemented by such further, and more up-to-date, information as was available on the spot.

2. Padova Province

For the archives of the Ministry of Public Instruction please see my report reference as above, dated 8 May 1945. I found no trace of the branch of the Ministry of Air, referred to in MFAA List.

3. Treviso Province

The Vice-Prefect (Avv. Fausto Cavalli) took a great deal of trouble to get me the latest information regarding ministerial offices in this Province.

a. Various branches of the Ministry of War, shown in MFAA list, were in fact transferred some months back from this Province to Monza, near Milan. The Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, formerly in Treviso itself, was moved to San Pellegrino, Bergamo Province.

b. The Vice-Prefect is obtaining information regarding the other state institutions listed, and will forward details of locations in due course. He fully understands the importance of securing the conservation of the archives of such bodies and has promised to stress to all concerned the necessity of full protection.

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The Vice-Prefect (Avv. Fausto Cavalli) took a great deal of trouble to get me the latest information regarding ministerial offices in this Province.

a. Various branches of the Ministry of War, shown in MEAA list, were in fact transferred some months back from this Province to Monza, near Milan. The Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, formerly in Treviso itself, was moved to San Pellegrino, Bergamo Province.

b. The Vice-Prefect is obtaining information regarding the other state institutions listed, and will forward details of locations in due course. He fully understands the importance of securing the conservation of the archives of such bodies and has promised to stress to all concerned the necessity of full protection.

4. Venezia Province

Please see my report reference as above, dated 10 May 1945. 2792

5. Verona Province

a. Discreet inquiries at the Prefettura failed to produce any information regarding the subject matter of ALCOM signal AGLGT no. 6127 dated 27 April 1945.

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b. The only ministerial archives known to exist in this Province are those of various branches of the Ministry of Communications, all located in the city of Verona itself. The Prefect was disappointingly vague about these. A my request he agreed to furnish information that would enable me to make inspections since his officials had not yet come so on their own account. I made a journey of seventy miles to pick this up and to visit the offices concerned to find that no information of the kind promised had in fact been prepared.

Kearney evidence of a rather secondhand character suggests that the majority of the offices are still in existence, and that their archives are in fact being exploited by various Allied organisations. Summing-up, however, I am less happy about the position here than elsewhere and will make further inquiries when I am free to return to Venezia Region.

c. Vicenza Province

a. The Air Ministry had offices at Bassano del Grappa the archives of which still exist in the following locations:-

COMANDO PRESIDIO	Villa Ionco
UFFICIO AMMINISTRATIVO PRESIDIO	Collegio Graziani
MAGAZZINO MATERIALI ORDINARIO	Piazza Duomo Vecchio
UFFICIO REQUISIZIONI ALLOGGI E LAVORI	Piazza Duomo Vecchio
UFFICIO STRALCIO COMMISSARIATO	Piazza Vittorio Emanuele
UFFICIO STRALCIO COSTRUZIONI	Via Barbieri 25
SERVIZI ARMI E MUNIZIONI	
UFFICIO STRALCIO TELECOMUNICAZIONI	Villa Ionco
UFFICIO STRALCIO DEMANIO	
CORTE DEI CONTI	Collegio Graziani
RAGIONERIA CENTRALE	Piazza Terraglio
INFERMERIA PRESIDARIA	Villa Ionco
AUTOREPARTO PRESIDARIO	Piazza Duomo Vecchio
MENSA PRESIDARIA	Villa Ionco
	Cinema Grotta Azzurra

I had a long conversation with Dr. Trinchieri, who was appointed by the C.I.N. to take charge of these records. He is doing a good job of conversation, and very rightly attempting to concentrate the archives into a smaller number of repositories. I left a note for C.A.O. Bassano, requesting that Dr. Trinchieri be given all assistance possible in this connection particularly to obtain packing-chests and transport. In particular evacuation from the Collegio Graziani must be regarded as urgent, since a part of this building is used to house P.O.s.

b. The office of the Ministry of War at Bassano was moved to Milan in October 1944.

c. As time did not permit a visit to Valdagno, I asked P.O. Vicenza to get the local C.A.O. to make inquiries, and arrange protection for the archives of the Direction of Public Safety of the

6. Vicenza Province

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UFFICIO AMMINISTRATIVO PRESIDIO	Collegio Graziani
MAGAZZINO MATERIE ORDINARIO	Piazza Duomo Vecchio
UFFICIO RIVENDIZIONI ALLOGGI E LAVORI	Piazza Duomo Vecchio
UFFICIO STRALCIO COMMISSARIO	Piazza Vittorio Emanuele
UFFICIO STRALCIO COSTRUZIONI	Via Barbieri 25
SERVIZIO ARMI E MUNIZIONI	
UFFICIO STRALCIO TELECOMUNICAZIONI	Villa Ionoc
UFFICIO STRALCIO DEMANIO	
CORTE DEI CONTI	Collegio Graziani
RAGIONERIA CENTRALE	Piazza Terreglio
INTELLERIA PRESIDARIA	Villa Ionoc
AUTOREPARTO PRESIDARIO	Piazza Duomo Vecchio
MENSA PRESIDARIA	Villa Ionoc
	Cinema Grotta Azzurra

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b. The office of the Ministry of War at Rosa was moved to Milan in October 1944.

c. As time did not permit a visit to Valdagno, I asked P.C. Vicenza to get the local C.A.O. to make inquiries, and arrange protection for the archives of the Direction of Public Safety of the Ministry of the Interior said to be located there. 2791

d. The archives of the Ministry of Marine at Vicenza and Montebelluna have experienced some vicissitudes, and their story is a complicated one. I took statements of upwards of a dozen officials concerned, on which the following account is based. A sort of central office, called Comunicazione, was located in the Piazza dei Signori, Vicenza, and its archives are said to be safe. The main offices, however, were situated in Montebelluna in two locali.

- (1) The Collegio Giuseppini housed Marina Personale, Affari Civili, Marina Commissariato Venezia, Marina Sezione Roma, Costruzione. Records of the first and second offices are partially missing, some through deliberate destruction by Fascist officials in the last days before the entry of the Allies, some by civilian burning on 26 and 27 April, one day before the Allied entry. Responsible and trusted officials now have charge of these archives, understand their responsibilities and are setting the archive in order. Much of it appeared to me to be in good condition.
- (11) A hutted camp housed the offices called Gabinetto, Distaccamento, Autoreparto, Marina Servizio Amministrativo and "Marigenimil". The archives of these were reported to be substantially intact, but I saw evidence of some dispersion and destruction.
- Italian Officers (Capt. Chiedo, Grandi and Col. Gallo) have apparently been looking into, and after, the protection of these archives. Though I did not have the opportunity of meeting these gentlemen, I am satisfied that the value of the archives concerned is fully realised, and that further damage is unlikely to occur.
7. Conclusions
- The following conclusions suggest themselves from this short tour of inspection.
- a. Thanks to Patriot action of one kind and another losses of archives have been much less considerable than at one time was feared likely.
- b. Owing to the very considerable number of offices, and section of offices involved, (except in the case of a centralised ministry like that of Public Instruction) direct protection by MFAA personnel is impossible.
- c. Having regard to the ^{two} previous conclusions, it would appear that protection can most effectively be arranged through Italian Officials. I hope that in attempting to work on these lines I am carrying out the spirit of Allied Commission letter reference 501/76/EC dated 1 May 1945.

/s/ H.B. Bell, Major

/t/ Major H.B. Bell, A.S.C.,
Archives Officer

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two

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/s/ H.E. Bell, Major

/t/ Major H.E. BELL, A.E.C.,
Archives Officer

2790

Copies to:

Director, MFAA Sub-Commission, H. ., Allied Commission.

S.C.A.A.O. 5 Army.

Regional Commissioner, Emilia Region.

Provincial Commissioner, Treviso Province (para 3)

Provincial Commissioner, Verona Province (para 5)

Provincial Commissioner, Vicenza Province (para 6)

Capt. William Mc Cain, Archives Officer, Lombardia Region, AMG.

C.A.O. Bassano del Grappa

C.A.O. Valdagno

(para 6 (a))
(para 6 (c))

12 MAY 1945

L O O Y

HEADQUARTERS

VENETIAN REGION

Allied Military Government

APO 394

Maj. Hall/AFM/ Spis

12 May 1945

Subject: Preliminary Inspection of Monuments in Provinces of
VENETIA, PADOVA, TREVISO, VICENZA and VERONA, May
7-12, 1945

To : Regional Commissioner, Venetian Region.

1. GENERAL. The undersigned AFM Officer reported to Regional HQ. on 7 May 45, and Maj. Bell, attached Archives Officer, on 5 May, 45. Brief contact was established with Maj. Newton, AFM Officer Eighth Army. Fortunately Maj. Bell, who returns to complete his work in Liaison Region on 14 May, had transport assigned by HQ, AG, and so in the absence of assigned transport it has been possible to comply with the HQ's instructions and make immediate rapid inspections in 3 of the 4 provinces handed over to the Region (ROVIGO, PADOVA, VERONA, TREVISO). Also, by permission of the H.Q., and after clearing the matter with AMG, Fifth Army, a quick visit was paid to VENEZIA and VERONA in the hope of contacting Capt. Deane Keller, AFM Officer, Fifth Army, who had sent messages expressing anxiety about these cities. In view of greater urgency of inspections and while shared transport was available, any attempt to set up more than the nucleus of an office organization was postponed for the first days. Journeys had perforce to be straight runs through to the Provincial Capitals in each case, with short digressions to listed monuments en route but it is thought that they furnish the "gross section" of probable conditions to be found on the closer and more detailed inspections which will be necessary. Major Newton reported to Regional HQ. from AMG Eighth Army on 11 May, with transport and driver, and as copies of his reports had not reached the undersigned before these preliminary inspections were completed, much of what follows may duplicate reports already submitted by him. This report may however in some case supplement information thus already on record from Maj. Newton.

2. PERSONNEL. Signorina VALENTI, Gracie, has provisionally been engaged as Secretary-Typist to the Division, through purchasing and Contracting Section.

3. SUPERINTENDENCIES. Contact was immediately made verbally with the Superintendent of Monuments (for Veneto, Friuli, and

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3. SUPERINTENDENCES. Contact was immediately made verbally with the Superintendency of Monuments (for Venezia, Belluno, PADOVA, ROVIGO, TREVISO, VICENZA). The documents Superintendent Ing. FORLATTI, Ferdinando, was unfortunately away inspecting a deposit of Florentine works of art, near BOLZANO, but is since understood to have returned to his post. The Superintendency of Antiquities (for BELLUNO, BOLZANO, FUME, CORNIA, PADOVA, POLA, ROVIGO, TRENTO, TREVISO, TRIESTE, UDINE, VERONA, VERONA and VICENZA) has also been contacted but the Superintendent, Dott. BRUSIN, is also grounded at AQUILEIA, where he went on 2 May 1945 in connection with the Roman excavations. It is most

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desirable that arrangements be made for his early return. Meantime, his assistant, Signora POGGIARI, 44114, is willingly affording all possible help and information and immediately put the undersigned in touch with an important collection of documents dealing with war damage throughout Italy, which have now been collected at Regional H., and will be the subject of a separate report. There seems good hope of early contact with other Italian Officials. Maj. Bell is reporting separately on archives.

4. IMMEDIATE. The following notes therefore constitute a preliminary situation appreciation to get the measure of the problems outstanding. They are confined only to comments scheduled in the AC/AG list, necessarily selective, and are in a few cases based on hearsay, though generally from responsible sources.

a. PADOVA. The most serious loss is the ruin through bombing on 11 March 44 of Eremitani Church with its Mantegna frescoes, as already reported to the S/C by various sources through the Vatican. The facade is half destroyed, the roof stripped, the ceiling fallen, the perimetral walls blasted and insecure (though already buttressed); the interior much ruined with damage to its chapels, altars and monuments, including the presbytery, the high altar and the apse. Of the Mantegna frescoes only two are saved, having been removed by the Carabinieri. Virtually only the sacristy (with frescoes) and chapelino remain, with the flanking walls in an insecure state. Of the other listed Paduan churches the situation is as follows: Cathedral. Facade damaged. External repairs already done. Treasury and Chapter Library undamaged. Baptistry also damaged, and slight damage to the frescoes, of which some had been removed. S. Antonio (11 ante), almost undamaged. S. Lucia, undamaged. S. Maria del Serrv, undamaged. S. Maria in Venzo, undamaged, glass missing. S. Nicolo, undamaged. S. Sofia, damaged by fire in roof. La Madonna dell'Arrens, undamaged, Giotto frescoes well protected. San being removed. I Gervini, church undamaged but scuole ruined and civilians had removed protective roofing over frescoes (now safely closed). Oratory of S. Giorgio, undamaged. Oratory of S. Michele, undamaged.

Other non-listed churches are damaged. San S/C is already in possession of details. Examination of the many listed palazzas has not yet been possible but it is understood that Palazzo della Regione (Il Salone), del Capitano and Vescovile are somewhat damaged. The Roman Arena sustained slight damage, already repaired. The Gattamelata statue and Tomb of Antenore are said to be undamaged, as is the Caffè Pedrocchi.

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3. PADOVA. The most serious loss is the ruin through bombing on 11 March 44 of Brexitani Church with its antenna frescoes, as already reported to the S/C by various sources through the Vatican. The facade is half destroyed, the roof stripped, the ceiling fallen, the perimetral walls tinted and insecure (though already buttressed); the interior much ruined with damage to its chapel, altar and monuments, including the presbytery, the high altar and the apse. Of the antenna frescoes only two are saved, having been removed by the superintendent. Virtually only the sanctuary (with frescoes) and chapelle remain, with the flanking walls in an insecure state. Of the other listed Paduan churches the situation is as follows: Cathedral. Facade damaged. External repairs already done. Treasury and Chapter library undamaged. Baptistry also damaged, and slight damage to the frescoes, of which some had been removed. Sanctuario (11 anto), almost undamaged. Sanctuario, undamaged. Sanctuario dei Servi, undamaged. Sanctuario in Vanzo, undamaged, glass missing. Sanctuario, undamaged. Sanctuario, damaged by fire in roof. La Madonna dell'Arca, undamaged. Sanctuario frescoes well protected. Sanctuario being removed. Sanctuario, Church undamaged but scuola ruined and civilians had removed protective roofing over frescoes (now safely closed). Oratory of S. Giorgio, undamaged. Oratory of S. Michele, undamaged.

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b. VENICE. is virtually untouched except for slight damage from broken glass, etc., though reports of possible damage in some of the islands have not yet been investigated. It is important that the speed limit for motorlaunches be enforced to prevent further damage to foundations alleged by the Germans to be shaken by blast. The P.A.D. protection includes San Marco and round masts etc, in the Plaza has been partially removed. On the Venice ran the following inspection were made:

DOLO S. Socco and Villa Mari Mocenigo undamaged. 2788
Shell-hole in facade of Palazzina Zanon-Ron. Villa Dianetta said to be damaged.

NESTRA, Provvederin undamaged. (occupied by No. 3 Town Major).
C. Loreneo (not listed, 17/18 Cent.) left aisle damaged, glass gone.
MALCONTENTA, Palazzo Foscari, (interesting Palladian Villa with frescoes attributed to Veronese) damaged by blast from near-misses. Glass gone, fallen plaster. One room and park occupied by 3400 unit, M.O. in occupation will safeguard undamaged frescoes, now faint in places.

O. Treviso. (considerable damage). Cathedral safe but right end left apses damaged. Roof and apse wall over Pordenone frescoes shattered but provisionally roofed. Chapter library destroyed and all books burned except a few more precious volumes (in deposit at POSSAGNO).
A. Agostino and S. Sebastiano. Slight damage. A. Maria Maggiore considerably ruined. S. Nicolò hole in roof over important frescoes by Tommaso da Modena. Urgent repair necessary. Ulpeters damaged but Stenas del Capitolo with important frescoes safe. S. Teonisto is roofless and ruined but facade remains up to cornice level. Of the Secular buildings, Palazzo del Presento is half ruined, but has been buttressed. The Porta Cavoni has shell damage to outer face. The Pinacoteca and Comunal Museum are much damaged. Some of the archives and pictures are said to be in deposit. On the Treviso run the following were inspected:

MOLINO VERETO. The Villa Trevisanato is undamaged, but the collections (listed) are elsewhere. The Villa was about to be occupied as the RHQ and Senior Officer's mess of a PAP unit. There appears no need to intervene. At PONTE DI S. MARTA (much damaged), Villa Giovanella Sanbonifacio is ruined. Palazzo Breda is slightly damaged; no evidence of the listed collections. Villa Muschini could not be identified (may be at Stras?). Of the Villas mentioned in the list presumably a high proportion are damaged in view of the general state of the town. MINA, Pal. dei Leoni (offices of a Soap-factory) has a small shell hole in the facade.
Villa Widman-Foscari is undamaged, as are said to be the villas Barozzi and Paolucci.

5. VERONA. During the visit to contact AFM Officer and Fifth Army, only a very brief stop in Verona was possible. S. Zeno Maggiore is unharmed, as are the Scaliger Tomba (PAP being removed) and Roman Amphitheatre. The Porta Balzo has superficial damage.

6. VICENZA a further inspection of Vicenza was made on 10 May. Here the damage is severe, being concentrated in the central

at POSSAGNO).
S. Agostino and S. Stefano, slight damage. S. Maria Maggiore considerably ruined. S. Nicolò hole in roof over important frescoes by Tommaso da Modena. Urgent repair necessary. Cloisters damaged but Stanza del Capitolo with important frescoes safe. S. Teonisto is roofless and ruined but facade remains up to cornice level. Of the secular buildings, Palazzo del Trecento is half ruined, but has been buttressed. The Porta Savoni has shell damage to outer face. The Pinscoteca and Comunal Museum are much damaged. Some of the archives and pictures are said to be in deposit. On the Treviso run the following were inspected:

MOGLIANO VENETO. The Villa Trevisanato is undamaged, but the collections (listed) are elsewhere. The Villa was about to be occupied as the RH, and Senior Officer's mess of a DAP unit. There appears no need to intervene. At PONTE DI BRENDA (much damaged), Villa Giovenelli Sanbonifacio is ruined. Palazzo Breda is slightly damaged; no evidence of the listed collections. Villa Uschini could not be identified (may be at Stra). Of the villas mentioned in the list presumably a high proportion are damaged in view of the general state of the town. Alba. Pal. del Leon (offices of a Soap-factory) has a small shell hole in the facade. Villa Widman-Foccheri is undamaged, as are said to be the villas Burozzi and Psolucchi.

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6. VICENZA a further inspection of Vicenza was made on 10 May. Here the damage is severe, being concentrated in the central area containing some of the more important monuments, and evenly distributed elsewhere. The Cathedral is roofless and ruined; virtually only the apse and cupola remains. At S. Corona glass is shattered. S. Filippo Neri, roof and ceiling fallen and oratorio damaged. S. Lorenzo, slight damage, tiles stripped. S. Rocco, no damage. S. Stefano, little damage. Of the palaces, the Vescovado is ruined and the Palazzo del Conte di Pieth roofless and the facade pitted and holed. Interior apparently much damaged. At the very important Basilica Palladiana the facade and arcades are somewhat damaged but restorable, the roof gone and some vaults holed. The adjoining tower lacks the topmost feature and small cupola. The "Lion of St. Mark" has lost his wings and the two

2787

columns in the Piazza are standing but blasted. Lodgia del Capitano is happily unharmed, as is the Tempio Olimpico, the stucco fixed scenes having been removed to STRA.

222. The Communal Library is unharmed. Palazzo Bonin is safe but for fallen ceiling. Palazzo Bruschi Bronello is much damaged but already outtressed, and Palazzo da Schio half ruined. At Palazzo Thiene the facade is comparatively unharmed but interior gutted. Palazzo Valmarana is damaged and roofless; La Rotonda appears to be unharmed (closed approach impossible on account of blown bridge). Basilica di Monte Berico said to be safe.

7. BASiglio. Old Cathedral and Palazzo Eszelini (with tower) undamaged except for glass and an external fresco. Generally the town has sustained light damage and it is unfortunate that virtually the only monumental damage has been to "starred" monuments, i.e. Civic Museum: roof gone, interior wrecked; most of the important objects said to be in deposit at Venice, but 3 canvases damaged. Ponte Vecchio (wooden bridge) half blown by Partisans and again damaged: 3 of 4 original piers remain and wooden balcony striding: entrance portals damaged: fireproof project in hand to supplement Bailey. Some damage to Civic Library. Of the remaining buildings listed, almost all are safe. The streets have been re-numbered and the portico fresco (Jacopo da Ponte) is now at No. 52 Via Umberto: house is undamaged. No. 30-34 of the same street is an important frescoed house, unharmed. Jacopo da Ponte frescoes in Piazza Monte Vecchio are safe but have been neglected by the owner. On the Basilica run, the city walls at Cittadella appeared to be unharmed by war.

8. In conclusion, it may be said that damage so far seen is patchy, ranging from heavy and concentrated to light and scattered, with considerable areas untouched; and that the Italian authorities seem to have been enterprising and active both in PAZ precautions and in initiating first-aid repairs.

Copies to:

Director AFSA Sub-Commission

HQ AC/AMC

SCAO 5 Army (attn. AFSA Officer)

/s/ H. Harriott

/t/ H. Harriott
AFSA Officer
Venetian Region

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Copies to:

Director AFSA Sub-Commission

HQ AG/AMG

HQAO 5 Army (attn. AFSA Officer)

Files (3)

/s/ B. Harriott

/t/ B. Harriott
AFSA Officer

Venezia Region

2786

9 MAG. 1945

Italian Increment to CSDIC
R.A.A.C.

From Captain R.H. BOOTHROYD

To Monuments, Fine Arts & Archives Sub-Commission A.C.

The following items of information obtained during a visit to VERONA may be of interest to your department:

1. I was informed by a reliable source that Prof. Ludwig HEYDENREICH, former director of the Deutsches Kunst-historisches Institut in FLORENCE, knows the location of many Italian works of art which have been hidden or removed by the Germans. Prof. HEYDENREICH was in VERONA about two months ago and went from there to MILAN. His efforts to avoid damage to buildings and works of art are spoken of with warm appreciation.
2. The inhabitants of VERONA maintain that the man to blame for the destruction of the city's bridges is the Platzkommandant, Colonel MOSER. The Segretario Comunale, Sig. CAPONI, informed me that at 1130 hrs on the morning of Apr 25, on hearing that mine-chambers were being prepared on the Ponte SCALIGERO and the Ponte PIETRA, he telephoned to the German Platzkommandantur and was told that there was NO intention of destroying these two bridges. During the afternoon the Bishop of VERONA personally visited the Platzkommandant and was given a formal assurance that the bridges would NOT be destroyed. Despite this, they were blown the same evening.

/s/ R.H. Boothroyd

/t/ R.H. BOOTHROYD, Capt.

9 May 1945

2785

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9 MAG. 1945

INCOMING MESSAGE

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

5 MAG. 1945

Originator's Reference

Date Time of Origin

MAY 051100Z

Message Centre No

Date Time Rec'd

Precedence

D/9785

MAY 060903Z

ROUTINE

FROM

AME EMILIA REGION

TO

HQ ALCON CITE ACMPA

CONFIDENTIAL

Capt PINSENT communicates Capt KELLERS summary report monuments as follows. VICENZA SAN GATANO church, Archbishops BRASCHI BRUNELLA and THIENE Palaces and Teatro ERETENIO destroyed. PAL TRISSINO mostly gone. PAL MONTE DI PIETA roof gone burned out. PAL CORDELLINA badly damaged. PAL DA SCHIO badly damaged most of Loggia destroyed. PAL VALMARANA half gone. Casa FURACE badly hit 1941 gone. Cathedral badly damaged but facade and APSE stand. Basilica PALLADINA roof gone columns south side damaged. Municipal Pal (ground floor of rest) badly burned roof gone frescoes hurt. Tribunale bad one end. PAL VALMARANA TIEPOLO frescoes gone only. Of 26 palaces 18 hit and a lot badly damaged. VERONA PONTE PIETRA and PONTE CASSELVECHIO blown against KESSELRINGS orders. SAN SEBASTIANO and Teatro Filarmonico destroyed. SANTI APOSTOLI SAN GIOVANNI in VALDE SAN PAOLO SANTISSIMA TRINITA Municipio PAL DA MISCA and PAL GIUSTI and park badly damaged. Accademia di Scienze Lettere bad but best stuff OK. PAL CANASSA bad TIEPOLOS gone. Civic Museum Comunale library badly damaged but collections saved. SANTA MARIA ANTICA and SAN PIETRO MARTIRE not damaged. All other listed churches damaged. SAN ZENO light damage glass etc. MANTUA SAN

- 1 -

CONFIDENTIAL

HEADQUARTERS

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- 2 -

FRANCESCO mostly down but facade and right hand chapel standing.
Otherwise city in good order. BRESCIA DAL SALVADego very badly
damaged. SANTA MARIA DEI MIRACOLI badly damaged but Renaissance
Portal saved. If not already there Fine Arts Officer badly needed
VICENZA and VERONA.

ACTION

Dist

Action - M&F.A. -
Info - A/President
Chief Commissioner
CA Sec
File 2
Float



2783

CONFIDENTIAL

5 MAG. 1945

(5)

LHM FOR GEORGE FIVE

7006

5 May 45

PRIORITY

RESTRICTED PD

SUBJECT IS CONVICTION DOCUMENTS IN VERMONT REGION PD

PARA ONE PD VERONA PD NO DAMAGE TO MANY CHURCHES CHA. DETAILS

NOT YET AVAILABLE PD. DAMAGED BRIGGS GALLA PICTURES AND ART COLLECTIONS-

CHURCH BURNED TWO FIVE APRIL BY GERMANES CONTRARY TO WRITTEN ORDER BY

RESEMBLING PD. TIFOLS PAINTING IN PALAZZO CANOZZA DESTROYED PD

MOVABLE ART OBJECTS SAFE BUT MANY BOOKS ETC LOST IN BOMBINGS

PARA TWO PD PAROVA PD NO DAMAGE EXCEPT FROM BOMBING PD. SERRITANI

CHURCH CHA. MASTRONA CHAPEL DESTROYED PD AT EAST END OF CHURCH

ONLY REMAINING AND LEFT WALL OF APSE REMAIN PD. ARONA CHAPEL

UNHARMED PD. SANTA SOFIA CHA. ROOF BURNED CHA. CEILING VAULTS

SOUND PD. WINDOWS BROKEN AT SANT ANTONIO PD. DAMAGE TO LUGNO

ALREADY REPAIRED PD

PARA THREE PD VERICE PD NO EVIDENCE OF DAMAGE

MOB & FA B/C

RXT 442

20124/2782

6 MAG. 1945

2 MAG. 1945

HEADQUARTERS
ARMY FIFTH ARMY
APO 664 US ARMY

AK/jm

207/9

SUBJECT: M.F.A.A. Report - Verona - Mantova.

TO : S.C.A.C., AMG 5th Army.

VERONA

1. a. On 28 April 1945 signs to post were given Supt. Gazzola. Due to urgent need of haste in visiting large cities MGAA Officer could not take time to post all of them. 1st May on second Verona inspection it was found that all had not been posted. Under signed explained very firmly and here it is a matter of record that AMG 5th Army took no responsibility for what harm may have occurred, if any, in this time. If the Supt. cared so little it was no fault of the Allies.

b. A letter signed personally by Kesselring ordered that the Ponte Pietra and the Ponte Castelvecchio (della Scalligari) would not be blown. Unsigned has a copy of this letter.

c. Unsigned has two of the German and Fascist Republican "Off Limits" signs; the former signed personally by Col. Langsdorf.

MANTOVA.

2. The damage in Mantova is slight with exception of the Church of San Francesco. This is Supt. Gazzola's territory along with Verona and Cremona.

3. San Francesco. The facade is about all right as is the Campanile. The Chapels on the right facing the church are standing. All the rest is a rubble heap with frescoes of ancient vintage crumbled and gone. 14th Century Church. There was a Fascist Republican arsenal right adjacent. Damage from bombs. This will be a tremendous undertaking in terms of repairs.

4. San Maurizio, a late church, is entirely gone.

5. San Leonardo is badly damaged.

6. S. Maria di Gradara, light damage.

2781

785016

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4. San Maurizio. a late church, is entirely gone.
5. San Leonardo is badly damaged.
6. S. Maria di Gradenigo, light damage.
7. Palazzo Cenossa, light damage.
8. S. Simeone, a late Church, is in bad shape, 3/4 destroyed.
9. Royal Virgilian society is slightly damaged.
10. "Off Limits" signs were placed on the following:
 - Palazzo Cordi
 - Palazzo Cavriani
 - Ducal Palace
 - Villa Brera a Montanara (deposit)
 - Palazzo del Te
 - State Archives Building.

2781

20124/21A
3 MAG 1948

11. Lucal Palace. Some glass shattering - a bomb fell 50 meters from the old Castle. The sandbag protection over the Mantegna frescoes in the Sala degli Spesi must come off immediately. Leandro Ozzola, whom underassigned saw, will do this immediately as the weight is too much for the structure of the ceiling. Germans parked vehicles in arcades here at the last.
12. Palazzo del Du. All in perfect shape. Put off limits. Giulio Romano frescoes as fresh as a daisy.
13. Leposity. Moveable objects, pictures, etc., of Mantova are safe. They are in part at Isola Borromeo; some stuff was sent at Antl's command to the Brera in Milan. Ozzola seems not to have known that Antl is avowed Fascist. Situation here a little obscure and will bear investigation. Heydenreich and Langsdorf never came to Mantova so far as Ozzola knows.

/s/ Deane Keller

/t/ DEANE KELLER,
Capt., AUS.,
M.F.A.A. Officer,
AMR 5th Army.

Copy to:

Executive Officer,

AMS Fifth Army.

JMAA Officer, Lombardia Region.

2780

13. Deposits. Movable objects, pictures, etc., of Mantova are safe. They are in part at Isola Borromea; some stuff was sent at Antil's command to the Brera in Milan. Ozzola seems not to have known that Antil is avowed Fascist. Situation here a little obscure and will bear investigation. Heydenreich and Langsdorf never came to Mantova so far as Ozzola knows.

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/t/ DEANE KELLER,
Capt., AUSA,
M.A.A.A. Officer,
AUSA 5th Army.

Copy to:

Executive Officer,
AUSA Fifth Army.
AUSA Officer, Lombardia Region.

2780

COPY

HEADQUARTERS
ARMY FIFTH ARMY
APO 454 US ARMY

3 MAG. 1945

207/9

DK/jm

3 May 1945

SUBJECT: M.F.A.A. Report - Verona.

TO: S.C.A.O., AM 5th Army.

General.

1. The situation in general is pretty bad. Sixteen of some twenty churches of artistic value have been hit. Undersigned will visit Verona again and see all the damage. Some was seen and the rest comes from Supt. Gazzola. He was at Villa Rizzardi, Negrar, 15 - 20 Kms. out of Verona, where his office had been transferred with the records for safety's sake. He was not in town when undersigned arrived 26th April 1945. Avenna is in the country too. Care of monuments in this City is not too good. Rubble piles, with valuable fragments, are still lying around. Undersigned's opinion of Gazzola is not too good. He has been told to get on the job in certain language.

2. a. The Ponte Pietra is practically a ruin. The Roman part is gone.

b. Ponte Castelvecchio is gone. Both were blown over protest of the Archbishop and Gazzola and other people. Kesselring had forbidden this over his own signature.

3. Cathedral. Cloister and Chapter Library, Mecca of scholars all over the world was hit and reduced to rubble. Mons. Turini has done a great job of recovering the books. This is a serious loss.

4. SS. Apostoli. In the demolition of the bridges the facade was injured beyond that caused by bombing.

5. S. Bernardino. In bad shape.

6. S. Eufemia. Light damage.

7. S. Ferme Maggiore. Cloister and sacristy are in bad condition.

8. S. Giorgio Maggiore. Light damage - repairable. Veronese picture of Martyrdom of St. George is away and safe.

9. S. Giovanni in Valle. Grave damage.

10. S. Maria in Orsano } light damage.
S. Lorenzo

2779

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9. S. Giovanni in Valle. Grave damage.

10. S. Maria in Organo } light damage.
S. Lorenzo }
SS. Nazaro e Celso }

11. S. Paolo. Severe damage.

12. S. Stefano } light damage.
S. Tommaso Cantuariense }

13. SS. Trinita'. Grave damage.

14. S. Zeno Maggiore. Windows out - rest is safe. Triptych of Mantegna is safe.

15. Palace of Archbishop. Slight damage.

2779

2012/11/2/A
 3 MAG 1948

16. Palazzo Canonici. Chapter library and Archives destroyed. Most valuable things were removed.
17. Palace of Prefettura. Glass damage, but the Academy of Science and Literature suffered severe damage.
18. Municipio of Barbieri. In bad shape.
19. Palazzo Bevilacqua)
Castaverza)
Orti) light damage.
Casa Mazzanti)
20. Palazzo Canossa. Very bad damage from bombing. The Tiepolo fresco suffered some from this and was out of existence in the demolition of the Ponte Castelvecchio.
21. Palazzo Lisa. Bad fire and bomb damage.
22. Palazzo Giusti and Park. Destroyed in large part.
23. Castelvecchio. Bombed in one corner - large rubble piles.
24. Palazzo Miniscalchi. Bad damage.
25. San Sebastiano. No longer exists.
26. Civic Museum. Bad damage to building. Things had been removed and are safe.
27. Communal Library, Archives, etc. - a lot of damage. Building safe.
28. Arena. Two hits, but not much damage.
29. Porta dei Leoni. Destroyed.
30. Arch of the Gavi. Destroyed.
31. Porta Palio. Severe damage.
32. Teatro Filarmonico. Destroyed; collection safe.
33. Walls of the Scaligeri. Damaged.
34. Church Filippini. Severe damage.

2778

35. General. Undersigned is much concerned over rubble piles and informed Lt. Col. Mickie, SOAO of City, and Major Blackwell, P.C. Verona, Major Stevenzon, CAG Verona, of their importance. The report on Verona was given at the morning meeting 30 April clearly and precisely emphasizing the need for vigilance on the part of all concerned, for It is hoped Forlatti and

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- 36. DEPOSITS.
 - 1) Pictures and statues from Verona Churches in Church S. Anastasia.
 - 2) Arena - Roman. Large part of pictures, books, archives, etc. The Germans did not know of this deposit. Apparently they were searching for valuables at the end.
 - 3) Castelvecchio. Pictures.
 - 4) Cloister of the Duomo. Chapter Library.

- 5) Palazzo Forti. Pictures from Churches of Verona.
6) Crypt of S. Zeno. Statues. Books and Pictures.
7) To VENICE - Ducal Palace. Pictures and Archives
8) Villa Rizzardi at MEGRA. Pictures and Archives
of the Superintendency.

/s/ Deane Keller

/t/ DEANE KELLER

Capt., AUS.,
M.F.A.A. Officer,
A.M.G. Fifth Army.

Copy to:

Executive Officer, AMG, 5th Army.
M.F.A.A. Officer, Veneto.

Copy to:
Executive Officer, AMG, 5th Army.
M.F.A.A. Officer, Veneto.

A.M.G. Fifth Army.

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

785016

2777

- 3 -

785016

HEADQUARTERS
A.M.G. FIFTH ARMY
APO 464 U.S. ARMY

29 APR. 1945

29 April 45.

SUBJECT : VERONA City.

TO : HQ. AMG 5th Army.

1. Bad damage to many churches.
2. Trepolio painting in Cenossa Palace destroyed.
3. Famous bridges "Ponte Pietra and Ponte del Castel-vecchio" both blown by Germans 25 Apr contrary to a written order by KESSELING.
4. All moveable objects of art are safe.
5. Many books, etc. lost in bombings.

Copy to:-
HQ. A.G. AFPA Section.

+ DEANE KESLER,
COMMONWEALTS FIRE ARTS & MEMORIALS
SUBCOMMISSION
2 MAY 1945
FILE NO. 20 124/2/R

29 APR. 1945

0262

20470/MFAA
17 Apr 48

Under TOBSCANA Reg. ltr RV111/31/MFAA/11.5 of 14
Apr 48 (ltr 20124/2/1/MFAA) were passed to this office
by Lt. Hartt the following 15 air-photos of VERONA

5 PRS 5-M632 1P 8 Apr 1248

2775

4009-4017
3009-3017

20124/2/A

CONFIDENTIAL
HEADQUARTERS
TOSCANA REGION
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
Monuments and Fine Arts Section

10 MAG. 1945

File Ref: RVIII/31/MFAA/11.5

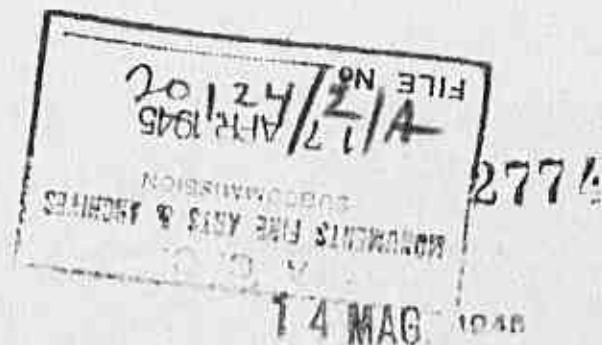
Date: 14 April 45

SUBJECT Transmittal of Photographs.

TO : Dir. M.F.A.A. S/C, Hq. AC, ROME.

1. Transmitted herewith 18 photographs of Verona.

Frederick Hartt
FREDERICK HARTT
1st Lt., AC,
MFAA Officer.



785016

FILE 22 Feb 45

Extract from Interrogation Report

~~SECRET~~

M 504/1 CL

INFORMATION ON VERONA

The following is an extract from Interrogation Report
RIP/SR/I(b)/53 dated 22 Feb 45.

" The following report on conditions in and around
VERONA is given by MATTIETTO Dario, a confessed Enemy
Agent who worked for some months at the "Direzione
Ferroviaria Tedesca" in VERONA.

In spite of the fact that he is an enemy agent it is
considered that his information may be taken to be at
least of reliability B.

1. Civilian Population

There is a bad feeling amongst the civilian population
caused by the Allied indiscriminate bombing of non-military
targets. One of the worst of these being on 4 Jan 45, which
was said that more than 400 planes took part in a 45 minute
raid, at the end of which no military target seemed to have
been their object. Casualties were estimated to be well
over a thousand.

For reasons which are not known the order cease fire
was given to A.A. Btys defending the city long before the
raid ended.

22 Feb 45.

(Sgd) R.N. Beckingham Capt.
O.C. Eighth Army R.I.P.

2773

20124/2/A



RISERVATA

*Ministero
della Pubblica Istruzione*
DIREZIONE GENERALE
DELLE ANTICHITA' E BELLE ARTI

Rel. N. 427-3812 II

Oggetto Verona, Colonnello Moser .

Mod. 1 (Belle Arti)

Roma

Il Direttore della Sot-
tocommissione Alleata
per i Monumenti, le BB.
AA. e gli Archivi
Commissione Alleata

Risposta al f. del

R O M A

Su

In

T

Questo Ministero ha ricevuto il rap-
porto riservato relativo alla inchiesta con-
dotta dalle Autorità militari alleate in me-
rito alla distruzione dei ponti monumentali
della città di Verona ad opera delle truppe
tedesche in ritirata.

Per quanto la perdita dei ponti sia
dolorosa e per quanto appaia strategicamente
inutile e puramente vandalica la loro destru-
zione, questo Ministero si rende conto che,
in base alla inchiesta compiuta e agli inter-
rogatori resi, sia assai incerto e forse im-
possibile stabilire la precisa responsabili-
tà del Colonnello Georg Moser, comandante
tedesco della piazza di Verona il 25 aprile
1945. Deve altresì osservare che la lettera
del Maresciallo Kesselring in data 11 Otto-
bre 1944, sulla quale si fondava la speranza
delle Autorità veronesi che i ponti venisse-
ro risparmiati, era tenuta nei termini ambi-

gui e non impegnativi consueti alle autorità tedesche in guerra, e conteneva anzi una implicita determinazione di distruggere i ponti addossandone la colpa agli avversari.

Così stando le cose sembra anche a questo Ministero che ogni ulteriore ricerca delle responsabilità non possa approdare a nessun risultato soddisfacente e concreto e possa essere abbandonata.

IL MINISTRO

p
Draculusaudnily

0 2 6 7