

ACC

10000/145/136

20181/2

TARANTO ZONE

(SOUTHERN REGION)

July 1944 - Dec 1945

TO ZONE

(SOUTHERN REGION)

44 - Dec 1945

MFHH %
Southern Region
20/81/2
TARRANTO ZONE

HQ. ALLIED COMMISSION
SUB-COM. for MONUMENTS,
FINE ARTS AND ARCHIVES
File # 20181/2
SOUTHERN Region :
TARRANTO ZONE

Date	No.
21 Mar	CA
2 Apr	MPH
3 May	CA
4 May	CA
5 May	CA
6 May	CA
7 May	CA
8 May	CA
9 May	CA
10 May	CA
11 May	CA
12 May	CA
13 May	CA
14 May	CA
15 May	CA
16 May	CA
17 May	CA
18 May	CA
19 May	CA
20 May	CA
21 May	CA
22 May	CA
23 May	CA
24 May	CA
25 May	CA
26 May	CA
27 May	CA
28 May	CA
29 May	CA
30 May	CA
31 May	CA
1 Jun	CA
2 Jun	CA
3 Jun	CA
4 Jun	CA
5 Jun	CA
6 Jun	CA
7 Jun	CA
8 Jun	CA
9 Jun	CA
10 Jun	CA
11 Jun	CA
12 Jun	CA
13 Jun	CA
14 Jun	CA
15 Jun	CA
16 Jun	CA
17 Jun	CA
18 Jun	CA
19 Jun	CA
20 Jun	CA
21 Jun	CA
22 Jun	CA
23 Jun	CA
24 Jun	CA
25 Jun	CA
26 Jun	CA
27 Jun	CA
28 Jun	CA
29 Jun	CA
30 Jun	CA
1 Jul	CA
2 Jul	CA
3 Jul	CA
4 Jul	CA
5 Jul	CA
6 Jul	CA
7 Jul	CA
8 Jul	CA
9 Jul	CA
10 Jul	CA
11 Jul	CA
12 Jul	CA
13 Jul	CA
14 Jul	CA
15 Jul	CA
16 Jul	CA
17 Jul	CA
18 Jul	CA
19 Jul	CA
20 Jul	CA
21 Jul	CA
22 Jul	CA
23 Jul	CA
24 Jul	CA
25 Jul	CA
26 Jul	CA
27 Jul	CA
28 Jul	CA
29 Jul	CA
30 Jul	CA
31 Jul	CA
1 Aug	CA
2 Aug	CA
3 Aug	CA
4 Aug	CA
5 Aug	CA
6 Aug	CA
7 Aug	CA
8 Aug	CA
9 Aug	CA
10 Aug	CA
11 Aug	CA
12 Aug	CA
13 Aug	CA
14 Aug	CA
15 Aug	CA
16 Aug	CA
17 Aug	CA
18 Aug	CA
19 Aug	CA
20 Aug	CA
21 Aug	CA
22 Aug	CA
23 Aug	CA
24 Aug	CA
25 Aug	CA
26 Aug	CA
27 Aug	CA
28 Aug	CA
29 Aug	CA
30 Aug	CA
31 Aug	CA
1 Sep	CA
2 Sep	CA
3 Sep	CA
4 Sep	CA
5 Sep	CA
6 Sep	CA
7 Sep	CA
8 Sep	CA
9 Sep	CA
10 Sep	CA
11 Sep	CA
12 Sep	CA
13 Sep	CA
14 Sep	CA
15 Sep	CA
16 Sep	CA
17 Sep	CA
18 Sep	CA
19 Sep	CA
20 Sep	CA
21 Sep	CA
22 Sep	CA
23 Sep	CA
24 Sep	CA
25 Sep	CA
26 Sep	CA
27 Sep	CA
28 Sep	CA
29 Sep	CA
30 Sep	CA
1 Oct	CA
2 Oct	CA
3 Oct	CA
4 Oct	CA
5 Oct	CA
6 Oct	CA
7 Oct	CA
8 Oct	CA
9 Oct	CA
10 Oct	CA
11 Oct	CA
12 Oct	CA
13 Oct	CA
14 Oct	CA
15 Oct	CA
16 Oct	CA
17 Oct	CA
18 Oct	CA
19 Oct	CA
20 Oct	CA
21 Oct	CA
22 Oct	CA
23 Oct	CA
24 Oct	CA
25 Oct	CA
26 Oct	CA
27 Oct	CA
28 Oct	CA
29 Oct	CA
30 Oct	CA
31 Oct	CA
1 Nov	CA
2 Nov	CA
3 Nov	CA
4 Nov	CA
5 Nov	CA
6 Nov	CA
7 Nov	CA
8 Nov	CA
9 Nov	CA
10 Nov	CA
11 Nov	CA
12 Nov	CA
13 Nov	CA
14 Nov	CA
15 Nov	CA
16 Nov	CA
17 Nov	CA
18 Nov	CA
19 Nov	CA
20 Nov	CA
21 Nov	CA
22 Nov	CA
23 Nov	CA
24 Nov	CA
25 Nov	CA
26 Nov	CA
27 Nov	CA
28 Nov	CA
29 Nov	CA
30 Nov	CA
1 Dec	CA
2 Dec	CA
3 Dec	CA
4 Dec	CA
5 Dec	CA
6 Dec	CA
7 Dec	CA
8 Dec	CA
9 Dec	CA
10 Dec	CA
11 Dec	CA
12 Dec	CA
13 Dec	CA
14 Dec	CA
15 Dec	CA
16 Dec	CA
17 Dec	CA
18 Dec	CA
19 Dec	CA
20 Dec	CA
21 Dec	CA
22 Dec	CA
23 Dec	CA
24 Dec	CA
25 Dec	CA
26 Dec	CA
27 Dec	CA
28 Dec	CA
29 Dec	CA
30 Dec	CA
31 Dec	CA

10000 / 145 / 136

THIS FOLDER
CONTAINS PAPERS

FROM JULY 44

TO DEC 45

CATALOGUE.

Date

To

21 Mar CA

26 Apr MFA

21 May CA

26 May MFA

27 June MFA

21 Jul MFA

14 Aug C.F. Ind

15 Aug MFA

21 Dec MFA

22 Dec MFA

12

BEST COPY POSSIBLE
FILMED AS FOUND
IN COLLECTION

ALLIED COMMISSION
LIAISON OFFICE
B A R I

-3 GEN 1945

31 December 1945

SUBJECT: Museo Nazionale, Taranto.

Ref : LB/115/5

TO : Civil Affairs Section,
HQ. ALLIED COMMISSION,
C.M.F.

1. Reference your letter 20181/2/MFAA dated 3 Dec 45.
2. Herewith attached please find copy of NAAFI/EFI, Bari, letter 3D/E/94/T dated (erroneously) 11/10/45, addressed to SDG. KFI. 52 Area.

GMR/fh



G.M. Reveley
G.M. REVELEY, Major
Liaison Office, A.C.
B A R I.

3970



4 GEN 2 GEN

20181/2

C O P Y

N.A.Y, ARMY AND AIR FORCE INSTITUTES
Expeditionary Force Institutes

Subject:- Museum Club, Taranto.

3D/E/94/T.
11/10/45.

SDO. EPI. 52 Area.

The attached copies of letters from Liaison Office, A.C.
Bari are forwarded for your attention and necessary action.

(sgd)

?????

Major.

AC., EPI., 3 District East.

cc. Sub. Whyte, ATS/EPI, R.W.S. 52 Area.
cc. Liaison Office, A.C., Bari (Your LB/115/2 dated 10th instant
refers.)

3969



26

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

NTN/to

20181/2/MFAA

Dec 45

SUBJECT: Museo Nazionale, TARANTO.

TO : AC Liaison Officer, BARI.

1. Ref letter No 20181/2/MFAA of 6 Dec 45
please inform this Section what action has been taken
and how the matter stands.

By command of the CHIEF COMMISSIONER:

HA

M. CARR,
Brigadier,
VP CA Sec.

3038

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

20184/2/MFAA

6 Dec 45

SUBJECT : Museo Nazionale, TARANTO.

TO : AO Liaison Officer - BARI.

- 1 For reasons of military necessity, the National Archeological Museum of TARANTO has long been occupied as a NAAFI Canteen.
- 2 The Italian Government have been informed by the Superintendent that misuse of the internal drainage system of the building, such as the introduction of rags and other foreign materials, has caused at least twice the flooding of storage rooms in which much of the museum material is temporarily placed.
- 3 Will you please obtain assurances from the responsible authorities that overloading and/or obstruction of the drainage system will be avoided, and that action will be taken as may be necessary to prevent a repetition of this flooding and consequential damage.

BY COMMAND OF THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER:

S.H. WHITE Lt Col,
A/VP OA Section

3967

Encl: Letter (2) of Min Public Instruction of 3 Dec 45

Mod. 1 (Belle Arti)



Ministero
della Pubblica Istruzione
DIREZIONE GENERALE
PER LE ANTICHITÀ E BELLE ARTI
FILE No. *2442*

Roma, 3 DIC. 1945

Alla Sottocommissione
Alleata per i Monumenti
le Belle Arti e gli Ar-
chivi R O M A

Prot. N° 1938 Div. III

Risposta al f. del
Dir. *Lx* N°

OGGETTO Taranto - Locali del Museo Nazionale-
Fognature. =

Il Soprintendente alle Antichità di Ta-
ranto ha informato questo Ministero di alcu-
ni inconvenienti che si verificano nei loca-
li del Museo Nazionale di quella città, al
presente occupati dalle truppe alleate per
l'ostruzione delle fognature interne a cau-
sa del sovraccarico di portata e all'immissio-
ne nei tubi - attraverso gli scarichi dei va-
ri servizi creati dalla N.A.A.F.I. - di strac-
ci e materiale di altra natura. **3966**

Tale ostruzione ha provocato l'allaga-
mento delle cantine, dove si trovano deposi-
tati pezzi architettonici, iscrizioni antiche,
materiale di legno e la caldaia del termosifo-
ne.

20/12/45

Il Soprintendente ha già una volta provveduto, di sua iniziativa, alla pulizia del sistema di fogna e al prosciugamento degli scantinati; continuandosi, però, a verificare gli inconvenienti lamentati, si chiede l'urgente interessamento di codesta Sottocommissione affinché, per evitare maggiori danni ai locali e al materiale artistico ivi depositato, siano disposte le indispensabili modifiche al sistema di fognatura interno.

IL MINISTRO

Assandiney

24

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

NTN/to

APC 394

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

20181/2/MFAA

5 Dec 45

Direction General for the
Antiquities and Fine Arts
Ministry of Public Instruction

R O M E

SUBJECT: Museo Nazionale, TARANTO.

The comments transmitted in your 1938 of 3 Dec 45
have been referred to the appropriate authorities. We hope
to be able to give you the needed action and assurances in
the shortest possible time.

Norm

NORMAN T. NEWTON
Major, Air Corps,
Director

3965

4 NOV 1945

33

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

785016

L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO — 4 Novembre 1945

LA BIBLIOTECA ERCOLANESE

Nella ripresa degli scavi di Ercolano del 1752 fu scoperta, non lontana dal mare, una sontuosa villa suburbana ricca di bronzi e di arredamenti di lusso. Da un viridario, attraverso un portico, si accedeva al tablino, luogo di convegno della casa, il quale comunicava dalla parte opposta, verso oriente, col peristilio, che circondava l'ampia corte solatia. La sala rimaneva tra la penombra dei due portici e offriva agli ospiti la riposante visione della verde vegetazione del giardino da una parte e della monumentale scenografia di colonne, di statue e di fontane dall'altra. Tutt'intorno altre sale minori servivano ancora le tracce della vita che vi si svolgeva quando la catastrofe vesuviana si abbatté su la pittoresca città, travolgendo e sequestrando ogni cosa in un massiccio conglomerato luttuoso. Al di là del peristilio, un ambulacro che proseguiva in direzione del suo braccio meridionale dava l'accesso a un piccolo cortile circondato da fabbriche di più modesta fattura che servivano le tracce di un recente restauro. Su quel piccolo recinto, all'ombra della copertura dell'ambulacro si apriva verso mezzogiorno la porta di una piccola sala quadrata di circa tre metri per ogni lato sul cui pavimento era un bel mosaico policromo oggi perduto, del quale però il Bavardi ci dà la descrizione. L'ingresso, ampio quasi quanto l'intera parete, dava luce ed aria all'ambiente che doveva essere sfornito di finestre. Su la parete occidentale di esso un piccolo vano comunicava con una salletta attigua di minori dimensioni.

Un rapporto del febbraio 1754 riferisce che in quella angusta camera fu rinvenuto « un monton de tabletas para escribir », ma in frantumi: cioè un mucchietto di tavolette cerate contenenti, secondo il Gallavotti, un catalogo di opere greche. Fra il maggio ed il luglio successivo, nello stesso locale, si rinvenne, frammentato ad avanzi dell'arredamento, un gran numero di papiri, alcuni dei quali ancora interi o frammentari ed altri tenuti insieme dagli stessi materiali vulcanici, a guisa di blocchi che il rapporto chiama *grupos, montones, terrones*. V'è chi suppone che quei massi dovevano essere « gli stampi dei singoli scaffali » dentro cui il fango aveva « amalgamato » i libri, così come erano collocati per gruppi su i palchetti. Essi in generale erano tenuti insieme da un involucri di papiro che il Ventriglia credette tela bruciata ed il Winkelmann qualifica « carta più grossolana, di quella qualità che gli antichi chiamavano *emporetica* ».

Nello stesso ambiente il Paderri rinvenne

un grosso pacco coperto da una « corteccia d'albero », che doveva invece essere anche papiro, e sorretto alle estremità da due pozzi di legno. Aveva tutto l'aspetto di un involto pronto per essere spedito. La lunghezza di quella degli altri, scavati precedentemente. Il Paderri riferisce che il pacco ne conteneva diciotto. Tentò di staccarli e di aprirne qualcuno, ma dovè rinunciare all'impresa perché, danneggiati, a suo dire, dall'umidità, andavano in frantumi. Constatò dai frammenti recuperati che erano tutti latini. Più tardi si procedette a prove di svolgimento che non dettero buoni risultati. Da uno solo si riuscì a salvare un passo di diciannove esametri appartenenti a un poema latino su la battaglia di Azio del 31 a. C. Alla piccola sala fu dato il nome di « Stanza dei Papiri ».

Il Paderri, che vi penetrò dal cunicolo di accesso insieme col Piaggio, dice che aveva l'aspetto di una « libreria, adorna di scansie intagliate con differenti specie di legno e disposte in fila, con in cima delle cornici come ai nostri giorni ». Oltre agli scaffali perimetrali addossati alle pareti, alti quanto un uomo, secondo l'attestazione del Winkelmann, nel mezzo della piccola sala si rinvenne un armadio a doppia faccia, basso a guisa di bancone, il cui piano superiore poteva anche servire da scrittoio.

Tra gli avanzi dell'arredamento si recuperarono guarnizioni, anelli, maniglie e perfino una serratura e una chiave, cioè rifiniture ornamentali e accessori indispensabili a tener chiusi gli sportelli di legno delle scaffali. Poco spazio rimaneva disponibile tra mobile e mobile. Bisogna quindi ritenere che la piccola sala fosse il magazzino della biblioteca, e forse non il solo nella sontuosa villa suburbana. Ben quattrocento papiri vennero fuori dalle sue rovine, quasi tutti greci, contenenti testi di filosofi epicurei (Epicuro, Demetrio, Polistrato, Colote, Crisippo, Camisco e Filodemo). Questa predilezione per gli epicurei indusse il Comptoni a ritenere che la biblioteca e la villa abbiano appartenuto a L. Calpurnio Pisone, suocero di Cesare, che seguì quella tendenza e fu protettore di filosofi, specialmente di Filodemo. E poiché nelle biblioteche romane i libri greci erano tenuti in ambiente diverso da quello destinato ai latini, qualcuno ha avanzato l'ipotesi che un'altra sala della casa potesse contenere testi latini.

Comunque, il tablino fu quasi sicuramente la sala destinata allo studio ed alla lettura. Negli scavi dell'ottobre 1752 verso il centro di esso si rinvennero, tra gli avanzi carbonizzati di una capsa a forma di armadietto, i primi cinque papiri interi ed altri che si frantumarono durante le grossolane

3364

3984

2012/1/2
4 NOV 1970

serbavano le tracce di un recente restauro. Su quel piccolo recinto, all'ombra della copertura dell'ambulacro si apriva verso mezzogiorno la porta di una piccola sala quadrata di circa tre metri per ogni lato sul cui pavimento era un bel mosaico policromo oggi perduto, del quale però il Bayard ci dà la descrizione. L'ingresso, ampio quasi quanto l'intera parete, dava luce ed aria all'ambiente che doveva essere sfornito di finestre. Su la parete occidentale di esso un piccolo vano comunicava con una salletta attigua di minori dimensioni.

Un rapporto del febbraio 1734 riferisce che in quella angusta camera fu rinvenuto « un *monon de tabletas para escribir* », ma in frantumi: cioè un mucchietto di tavolette cerate contenenti, secondo il Gallavotti, un catalogo di opere greche. Fra il maggio ed il luglio successivo, nello stesso locale, si rinvenne, frammito ad avanzi dell'arredamento, un gran numero di papiri, alcuni dei quali ancora interi o frammentari ed altri tenuti insieme dagli stessi materiali vulcanici, a guisa di blocchi che il rapporto chiama *grupos*, *montones*, *terrones*. V'è chi suppone che quei massi dovevano essere « gli stampi dei singoli scaffali » dentro cui il fango aveva « amalgamato » i libri, così come erano collocati per gruppi su i palchetti. Essi in generale erano tenuti insieme da un involucri di papiro che il Ventriglia credette tela bruciata ed il Winkelmann qualifica « carta più grossolana, di quella qualità che gli antichi chiamavano *emporetica* ».

Nello stesso ambiente il Paderni rinvenne

di legno e disposte in fila, con in cima delle cornici come ai nostri giorni». Oltre agli scaffali perimetrali addossati alle pareti, alti quanto un uomo, secondo l'attestazione del Winkelmann, nel mezzo della piccola sala si rinvenne un armadio a doppia faccia, basso a guisa di bancone, il cui piano superiore poteva anche servire da scrittoio.

Tra gli avanzi dell'arredamento si recuperarono guarnizioni, anelli, maniglie e perfino una serratura e una chiave, cioè rifiniture ornamentali e accessori indispensabili a tener chiusi gli sportelli di legno degli scaffali. Poco spazio rimaneva disponibile tra mobile e mobile. Bisogna quindi ritenere che la piccola sala fosse il magazzino della biblioteca, e forse non il solo nella sontuosa villa suburbana. Ben quattrocento papiri vennero fuori dalle sue rovine, quasi tutti greci, contenenti testi di filosofi epicurei (Epicuro, Demetrio, Polistrato, Colote, Crisippo, Camisco e Filodemo). Questa predilezione per gli epicurei indusse il Com-paretti a ritenere che la biblioteca e la villa abbiano appartenuto a L. Calpurnio Pisone, suocero di Cesare, che seguì quella tendenza e fu protettore di filosofi, specialmente di Filodemo. E poiché nelle biblioteche romane i libri greci erano tenuti in ambiente diverso da quello destinato ai latini, qualcuno ha avanzato l'ipotesi che un'altra sala della casa potesse contenere testi latini.

Comunque, il tablino fu quasi sicuramente la sala destinata allo studio ed alla lettura. Negli scavi dell'ottobre 1732 verso il centro di esso si rinvennero, tra gli avanzi carbonizzati di una *cupsa* a forma di armadietto, i primi cinque papiri interi ed altri che si frantumarono durante le grossolane operazioni di sterro. Furono ritenuti pezzi di legno bruciati, anzi veri e propri carboni, per cui alla sala fu dato addirittura il nome di « Bottega del Carbonaio ». Solo più tardi li riconobbe per libri un custode del Museo di Portici, Camillo Paderni, soprastante ai lavori, il quale « correndo imprudentemente a Palazzo e fattosi introdurre, benché in ora affatto intempestiva, alle loro Maestà ed apertone uno in loro presenza fece concepire il valore del tesoro nascosto da sé scoperto ». Pochi giorni più tardi, e precisamente ai primi di novembre, nello stesso tablino, in un angolo verso il viridario, vennero alla luce altri volumi. Accanto ad essi era una specie di tripode metallico terminante inferiormente con zampe di leone, che servì forse da sostegno al piccolo armadio o al tavolo per la lettura dei testi.

Undici altri rotoli furono trovati nell'aprile del 1733, in una piccola sala vicina. Essi erano forse rimasti in una *cupsa* o in altra custodia di cui non avanza ricordo. Dovevano trovarsi il provvisoriamente a disposizione di chi li aveva presi dalla biblioteca per leggerli o per asportarli. Qualche mese più tardi si recuperarono i frammenti di due *cupse* nelle adiacenze esterne del tablino, e precisamente una nel portico del viridario e una in quella del peristilio. Contenevano complessivamente 101 rotoli, alcuni dei quali saldati insieme in blocchi che servivano nella loro forma il calco dell'involucro in cui erano al tempo del seppellimento.

Non si può immaginare che la loro collocazione in due porticati, che indubbiamente erano esposti alle intemperie e appena coperti, fosse quella abituale, anche perché gli involucri che li contenevano avevano carattere di custodie facilmente trasportabili. Forse quei libri erano stati presi di recente dalla biblioteca durante la catastrofe, per essere trafugati da schiavi o da

20124/2

A NOV 1955

metallico terminante inferiormente con zampe di leone, che servi forse da sostegno al piccolo armadio o al tavolo per la lettura dei testi.

Undici altri rotoli furono trovati nell'aprile del 1753, in una piccola sala vicina. Essi erano forse rimasti in una capsula o in altra custodia di cui non avarza ricordo. Dovevano trovarsi il provvisoriamente a disposizione di chi li aveva presi dalla biblioteca per leggerli o per asportarli. Qualche mese più tardi si recuperarono i frammenti di due capsule nelle adiacenze esterne del tablinio, e precisamente una nel portico del viridario e una in quella del peristilio. Contenevano complessivamente 101 rotoli, alcuni dei quali saldati insieme in blocchi che servivano nella loro forma il calco dell'involucro in cui erano al tempo del seppellimento.

Non si può immaginare che la loro collocazione in due porticati, che indubbiamente erano esposti alle intemperie e appena coperti, fosse quella abituale, anche perché gli involucri che li contenevano avevano carattere di custodie facilmente trasportabili. Forse quei libri erano stati presi di recente dalla biblioteca durante la catastrofe, per essere trafugati da schiavi o da persone di famiglia, e abbandonati lì nel disordine e nello smarrimento determinatosi per l'aggravarsi del pericolo.

E' difficile determinare il numero complessivo dei papiri provenienti alla biblioteca ercolanese. Il Winkelmann ne dà 800, il Davy 1686, il de Jorio 1756, il Bassi 1810 o 14. Questo progressivo aumento di consistenza di un materiale che non ha avuto posteriormente accessioni è soltanto apparente. Per il continuo spontaneo sgretolarsi dei volumi e per il moltiplicarsi dei frammenti svolti, con l'andar del tempo il numero dei pezzi ha subito forti variazioni. Un rigoroso calcolo dei volumi segnalati nei rapporti degli scavi riduce la cifra iniziale a 600 rotoli, ai quali bisogna aggiungere quelli andati perduti tra le macerie, specialmente durante il primo periodo.

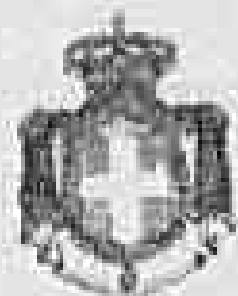
Per la datazione delle collezioni ercolanesi si hanno elementi abbastanza sicuri. I testi greci e i latini sono tutti di scrittori del I secolo a. C. Nessuno di essi è posteriore a Filodemo che morì nell'anno 20 a. C. La biblioteca dunque deve rimontare ai tempi dell'ultimo proprietario della villa o dei suoi immediati ascendenti. Lo schema costruttivo della « Stanza dei Papiri » si differenzia da quello vitruviano, che prevede l'orientamento verso levante e la inclusione dell'ambiente destinato a biblioteca nel peristilio principale della casa. Né la presenza del porticus basta a farci rintracciare influenze di costruzioni di tipo occidentale. Esso infatti riecheggia un elemento di sicuratura origine ellenistica, che risale, attraverso la tradizione alessandrina, al Peripato ateniese. Il ricco signore che si era circondato di tanto fasto aveva arricchita la villa non di libri diettevoli, ma di severe opere filosofiche nella lingua greca che gli doveva essere familiare. Tutto il lusso di marmi e di bronzi, il culto dei grandi di cui servava i busti, la monumentalità delle fabbriche e delle rifiniture danno un'idea della superiorità di spirito di colui che raccolse tanti tesori della sapienza antica. Molti di quei volumi furono svolti, grazie all'ingegnosa tecnica di un modesto ecclesiastico, Antonio Piaggio, calligrafo, miniatore, incisore e pittore, che al tempo del rinvenimento prestava la sua opera alla Biblioteca Vaticana. Ma altrettanti restano ancora inesplorati perché, per i danni sofferti, non consentono di tentarne l'apertura. Aggrinziti, schiacciati, frantumati serbano nella nera e tenace compagine tesori di pensiero, nascosti alla ansiosa curiosità del dotti come sotto un im-

Non si può immaginare che la loro collocazione in due porticati, che indubbiamente erano esposti alle intemperie e appena coperti, fosse quella abituale, anche perché gli involucri che li contenevano avevano carattere di custodie facilmente trasportabili. Forse quei libri erano stati presi di recente dalla biblioteca durante la catastrofe, per essere trafugati da schiavi o da persone di famiglia, e abbandonati lì nel disordine e nello smarrimento determinatosi per l'aggravarsi del pericolo.

E' difficile determinare il numero complessivo dei papiri provenienti alla biblioteca ercolanese. Il Winkelman ne dà 800, il Davy 1686, il de Jorio 1756, il Bassi 1810 o 14. Questo progressivo aumento di consistenza di un materiale che non ha avuto posteriormente accessioni è soltanto apparente. Per il continuo spontaneo sgretolarsi dei volumi e per il moltiplicarsi dei frammenti svolti, con l'andar del tempo il numero dei pezzi ha subito forti variazioni. Un rigoroso calcolo dei volumi segnalati nei rapporti degli scavi riduce la cifra iniziale a 600 rotoli, ai quali bisogna aggiungere quelli andati perduti tra le macerie, specialmente durante il primo periodo.

Per la datazione delle collezioni ercolanesi si hanno elementi abbastanza sicuri. I testi greci e i latini sono tutti di scrittori del I secolo a. C. Nessuno di essi è posteriore a Filodemo che morì nell'anno 20 a. C. La biblioteca dunque deve rimontare ai tempi dell'ultimo proprietario della villa o dei suoi immediati ascendenti. Lo schema costruttivo della « Stanza dei Papiri » si differenzia da quello vitruviano, che prevede l'orientamento verso levante e la inclusione dell'ambiente destinato a biblioteca nel peristilio principale della casa. Né la presenza del porticus basta a farci rintracciare influenze di costruzioni di tipo occidentale. Esso infatti riecheggia un elemento di sicura origine ellenistica, che risale, attraverso la tradizione alessandrina, al Peripato ateniese. Il ricco signore che si era circondato di tanto fasto aveva arricchita la villa non di libri dilettevoli, ma di severe opere filosofiche nella lingua greca che gli doveva essere familiare. Tutto il lusso di marmi e i busti, la monumentalità delle fabbriche e delle rifiniture danno un'idea della superiorità di spirito di colui che raccolse tanti tesori della sapienza antica. Molti di quei volumi furono svolti, grazie all'ingegnosa tecnica di un modesto ecclesiastico, Antonio Piaggio, calligrafo, miniatore, incisore e pittore, che al tempo del rinvenimento prestava la sua opera alla Biblioteca Vaticana. Ma altrettanti restano ancora inesplorati perché, per i danni sofferti, non consentono di tenerne l'apertura. Aggrinziti, schiacciati, frantumati serbano nella nera e tenace compagine tesori di pensiero, nascosti alla insospettabile curiosità dei dotti come sotto un impenetrabile velario. Io, per quanti mezzi tecnici possa disporre all'Istituto di patologia del libro, credo che siamo ancor oggi nella impossibilità di violarne il mistero, pur augurandomi che la scienza e la tecnica ne offrano nel futuro la via. Intanto la nostra generazione deve rassegnarsi a custodirli con geloso rispetto e deve impedire che mani inesperte distruggano irrimediabilmente l'insostituibile patrimonio racchiuso in essi.

ALFONSO GALLO



*Ministero
della Pubblica Istruzione*

DIREZIONE GENERALE
PER LE ANTICHITA E BELLE ARTI

Mod. 1 (Belle Arti)

121 SET. 1945

(23)

Don
Direttore della
S.C. Alleata per i Monu-
menti Belle Arti e gli
Archivi

R O M A

Sub. 1 1404 Div. III

Respostato del
Gen. Is. N°

OGGETTO Cassano Murge = Deposito opere d'arte

Il Ministero ringrazia codesto Ufficio
per il suo interessamento alla questione rela-
tiva al deposito delle opere d'arte del Museo
di Taranto nel Convento di S. Maria degli Ange-
li in Cassano Murge, ora felicemente risolta. =

MINISTERO DELLA PUBBLICA ISTRUZIONE
DIREZIONE GENERALE PER LE ANTICHITA E BELLE ARTI

29 SET. 1945

FILE No

20181/2/MPAA

IL MINISTRO

Curcio

The Ministry wishes to thank your office for
the interest taken in the matter concerning
the deposition of the works of art from Taranto
Museum in the Convent of S. Mary of the Angels
in Cassano Murge, which matter has now been
happily concluded.

3353

20181/2

ALLIED COMMISSION
LIAISON OFFICE
B A R I

MFA

(21)

September 4, 1945.

Adm

6 SET. 1945

SUBJECT: Cassano Murge.

REF : LB/1/24

TO : V.P., Civil Affairs Section,
HQ. Allied Commission,
C.M.F.

LB/1.22? 4/2

no

Further to this office letter LB/1/23 dated
23rd Aug. 45.

(20)

Following is a letter received from the
Prefect of Bari:

" Re: your LB/1/22 of 23 Aug. 45.

I have pleasure to confirm that the
Director of the Museo Archeologico Nazionale
di S. Maria degli Angeli di Cassano Mur-
ge has agreed to the request not to mo-
ve the Works of Art of the Sovrintendenza
alle Antichita di Taranto, as it has been
ascertained that the presence of the chil-
dren refugees is not at the present time
incompatible with the permanence of the
a.m. Works of Art.

With kind regards.

The Prefect
/sg/ (A. Antonucci)"

3962

A C C
RECEIVEDS FILE NO. 20181/2/MFAA
6 SET. 1945
FILE No. 20181/2/MFAA

Schier

S. M. MILLER, Colonel,
Liaison Officer,
AC., Bari.

Has DG been forwarded?

Yes

informed at 21.

This is not new.

Adm

(3328)

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394

NTN/rc

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

20181/2/MFAA

28 August 45

Direzione Generale Antichità
e Belle Arti - Ministero del-
la Pubblica Istruzione
R O M A

SUBJECT: Cassano Murge.

With further reference to our letter 20181/2/MFAA
of 8 August.

The AC Liaison Officer at Bari informs us that the Prefect of Bari has already written to the Minister of Public Instruction, explaining that the refugee children can be housed at the Educatorio Agostiniano of S. Maria degli Angeli without in any way interfering with the deposit of material from Taranto. He has also instructed the Prefect that the deposited material must not be disturbed in any way.

For the A/ Director:

3961

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

SUM/12
TM/10ALLIED COMMISSION
LIAISON OFFICE
BARI27 AUG 1945
MON FINE
Tel. 14152

Ref : LB/1.22.

SUBJECT : CASSANO MURGE.

TO : V.P., Civil Affairs Section,
HQ, ALLIED COMMISSION,
C.M.F.

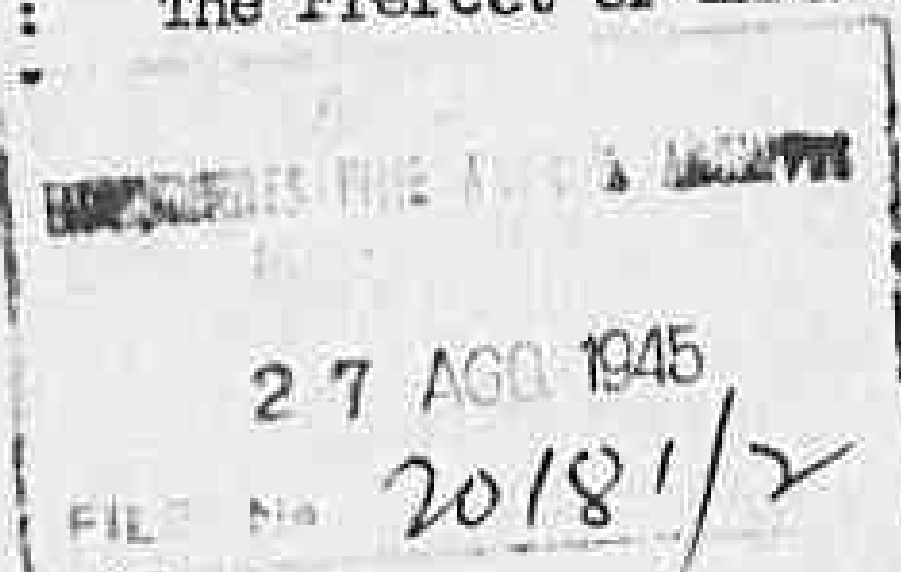
23rd August, 1945

Reference your letter 20181/2/MFAA dated 15th
August, 1945.

The Prefect of BARI has already written to the Italian Ministry of Public Instruction and explained that the children can be accommodated in the Educatorio Agostiniano of S. Maria degli Angeli without any question of interfering with the cases of works of art from TARANTO.


S. W. MILLER, Colonel,
Liaison Officer, A.C.,
BARI.

Copy to : The Prefect of BARI - who will kindly confirm instruction to ensure the works of art stored in the Convent of S. Maria degli Angeli at CASSANO MURGE are NOT interfered with.



3959

23 AUG 1945

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

20181/2/MPAA

17 AUG 45

Subject: CASSANO MURGE

To : Allied Commission LO BARI.

1. Reference is to your signal LB 30 of 10 Aug 45.

2. Further enquiry from the Ministry of Public Instruction reveals that the removal of Works of Art from CASSANO MURGE was not as at first believed specifically ordered by the Prefect, but did in fact result from orders allegedly issued by the Prefettura of BARI to the Director of the Educatorio Agostiniano of S. Maria degli Angeli, where the works of art in question are housed, to the effect that this Institution must take in and house a large number of refugee children. This, so the Director alleges, necessitates the removal of the deposit of works of art to make room for the refugees.

3. It may of course well be that the Director is using the presence of these works of art as a pretext to avoid a distasteful billeting. On the other hand any billeting-order should be studied from the angle of risk to the very valuable contents of this deposit. As stated in basic signal, the Allies are in occupation of the National Museum at TARANTO, to which in normal circumstances this deposit would have already been returned. Its safe custody is therefore a matter of some Allied responsibility, and any further action you can take to ensure that it is not subjected to risk of harm will be appreciated.

For the CHIEF COMMISSIONER:

3958

Signed by Brig Upy Am
G.R. UPJOHN, Brig.
VP CA Sec

1. Reference is to your signal LB 30 of 10 Aug 45.

2. Further enquiry from the Ministry of Public Instruction reveals that the removal of Works of Art from CASSANO MURGE was not as at first believed specifically ordered by the Prefect, but did in fact result from orders allegedly issued by the Prefettura of BARI to the Director of the Educatorio Agostiniano of S. Maria degli Angeli, where the works of art in question are housed, to the effect that this Institution must take in and house a large number of refugee children. This, so the Director alleges, necessitates the removal of the deposit of works of art to make room for the refugees.

3. It may of course well be that the Director is using the presence of these works of art as a pretext to avoid a distasteful billeting. On the other hand any billeting-order should be studied from the angle of risk to the very valuable contents of this deposit. As stated in basic signal, the Allies are in occupation of the National Museum at TARANTO, to which in normal circumstances this deposit would have already been returned. Its safe custody is therefore a matter of some Allied responsibility, and any further action you can take to ensure that it is not subjected to risk of harm will be appreciated.

3958

For the CHIEF COMMISSIONER:

Signed by Brig Upjohn
G.R. UPJOHN, Brig.
VP CA Sec

INCOMING MESSAGE

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

10 AGO 1945

Mon. 8-18

Originator's Reference: LB 30
Date/Time of Origin: AUGUST 10/1700B

Message Centre No: F/3412
Date Time Rec'd: AUGUST 10/2000B
Precedence: ROUTINE

FROM: ALCOM LO BARI
TO: HQ ALCOM FOR CAS

18

UNCLASSIFIED.

Neither Prefect of BARI nor this office have been approached regarding removal works of art from CASSANO MURGE. Rumour thus unfounded. Have instructed prefect to contact sindaco CASSANO to ensure nothing disturbed without your authority. Request full particulars of information possessed by Ministry of public instructions

DIST

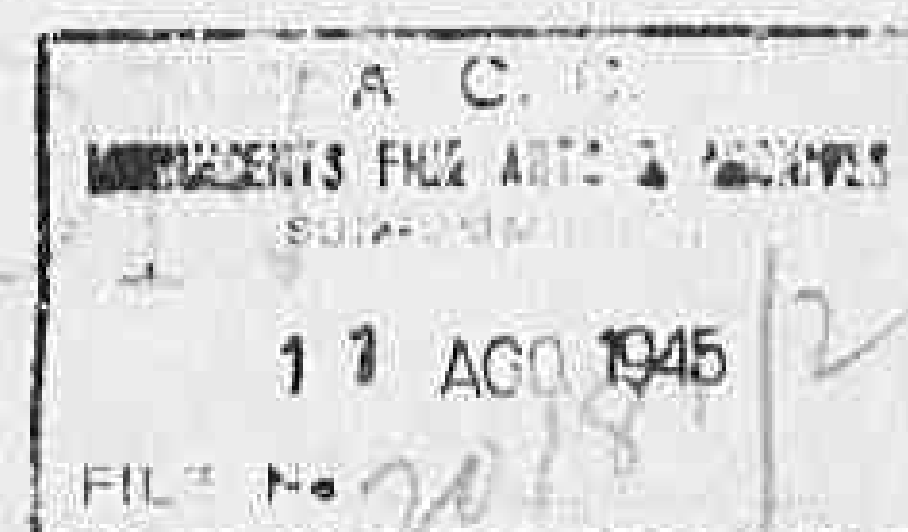
ACTION : MFA & A

INFO : CHIEF COMMISSIONER
CAS
FILE (2)
FLOAT



3057

ACTION



10 AGO 1945

8 AGO 1945

Wm

JEMP/ps

17715

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
Subcommission for Monuments Fine Arts & Archives
(Tel. 489031, ext. 442 & 254; 473480)

8 August 1945

20181/2/AFAA

Direction General for Antiquities and
Fine Arts - Ministry of Public
Instruction -

ROME

Subject: Cassaro Murgo.

Your letter on above subject of 7 Aug 45 (Div. III, Prot. No. 1040) received.

The following telegram has been sent to the AG Liaison Officer at BARI:

Ministry of Public Instruction states that Allied Military Authorities have given orders through the Prefecture of BARI to clear the deposit of works of art at present stored in part of the convent of Santa Maria degli Angeli at CASSARO MURGO.

This deposit is a three star listed monument. It comprises priceless antiquities and works of art from the museum of TARANTO which is already requisitioned by Allies. Request you prevent any action pending enquiry and report.

You will be informed when further information is to hand.

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

3956

8 AGO 1945

ALCOM LO BARI

3934

8 August 45

PRIORITY

RESTRICTED PD

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION STATES THAT ALLIED MILITARY
AUTHORITIES HAVE GIVEN ORDERS THROUGH THE PREFECTURE OF BARI
TO CLEAR THE DEPOSIT OF WORKS OF ART AT PRESENT STORED IN
PART OF THE CONVENT OF SANTA MARIA DELLA ANGELE AT CASARNO
MURCH PD

PAUSE TO ALCOM LO BARI FROM HQ ALCOM SIX ACCAS 2400

THIS DEPOSIT IS A THREE STAR LISTED MONUMENT PD IT CONTAINS
PRECIOUS ANTIQUITIES AND WORKS OF ART FROM THE MUSEUM OF TARANTO
WHICH IS ALREADY REPOSITED BY ALLIED PD REQUEST YOU PREVENT
ANY ACTION PERHAPS ENQUIRY AND REPORT

3955

Signed by
Lt Col Brownham Carter
CA 540 (over)
437



Ministero della Pubblica Istruzione

DIREZIONE GENERALE
DELLE ANTICHITÀ E BELLE ARTI

Div. III

Let. V. 1010

7 AGO 1945
Roma 7 AGO 1945
16
Direttore della Sot-
tocommissione Alleata per
i Monumenti, le Belle Arti
e gli Archivi
ROMA

Segretario del

Dir. Ia V

OGGETTO Cassano Marge- Deposito oggetti d'arte -
Rilascio locali-

Viene riferito al Ministero che il Diretto-
re dell'Educatario Agostiniano di S. Maria degli
Angeli di Cassano Marge, avendo ricevuto ordini
dalla Prefettura di Bari e dal Comando Alleato, di
accogliere numerosi ragazzi profughi, ha chiesto
lo sgombero immediato dei locali adibiti a rico-
vero di oggetti d'arte della Soprintendenza al-
le Antichità di Taranto.

Questo Ministero deve, però, al riguardo
osservare che mentre da una parte viene chiesto
lo sgombero immediato dell'Educatario: **3954** ~~3954~~ ~~3954~~
no dove attualmente sono depositate le opere
d'arte del Museo di Taranto, dall'altra i loca-
li di detto Museo sono tuttora occupati da un..

7 AGO 1945 /.

Club per soldati alleati. In tali condizioni il Soprintendente alle Antichità di Taranto non potrebbe, per mancanza di locali adatti nel Museo, dove depositare le numerose e grosse casse contenenti le opere d'arte che dovrebbero essere sgombrate dal ricovero dell'Educatario Agostiniano di Cassano Murge.

Questo Ministero, pertanto, si permette interessare nel modo più vivo cotesta Sottocommissione perchè voglia con cortese urgenza intervenire al fine di evitare che si insista sulla richiesta di sgombero dei locali di Cassano Murge, poichè ciò importerebbe rischi e inconvenienti molto gravi e pregiudicherebbe seriamente la sicurezza delle opere d'arte del Museo di Taranto che, una volta salvate dai pericoli della guerra, sarebbero ora nuovamente messe in pericolo dall'esecuzione del detto ordine di sgombero.

Con la fiducia che cotesta Sottocommissione si renderà pienamente conto delle esigenze prospettate questo Ministero ringrazia fin d'ora per l'interessamento che vorrà porre alla questione e rimane in attesa di un cortese cenno di assicurazione.

IL MINISTRO

francesco



*Ministero
della Pubblica Istruzione*

DIREZIONE GENERALE
DELLE ANTICHITA' E BELLE ARTI

Div. II^a

Prot. V. 1583

Mod. 1 (Arti)

Roma 6 AGO 1945

Il Sig. Col. J. B. Ward
Perkins - Sottocommissione
Alleata per i Monumenti
le Belle Arti ed Archivi

R O M A

21-7-1945

Rapporto del

Lu. Lu.

20181/2

Oggetto Museo Nazionale di Taranto.-

Il Ministero prende atto di quanto V.S.
ha comunicato con il foglio sopraindicato e
ringrazia vivamente per le provvidenze predi-
sposte per la tutela del Museo Nazionale di
Taranto.

IL MINISTRO

A. Sandrucci

3953

20181/2

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 594

Subcommission for Monuments Fine Arts & Archives
(Tel. 439081, ext. 42 & 254; 478480)

JWW/ps

20181/2/MTAA

21 July 1945

Director General for
Antiquities and Fine
Arts - Ministry of Public
Instruction -

RCE

Subject: Museo Nazionale, TARANTO.

14 (w/ 3 incl) and 13

I enclose copies of the correspondence received in reply to
our letter of 27th June requesting investigation into the incidents
reported at TARANTO Museum.

Lt.Col. Hughes is a personal friend and I am sure he will do
everything possible to avoid any further incidents. I have also
written to him unofficially. The responsibility for the occupation
of the museum buildings is one of which all concerned are aware
(and will be glad to be rid of at the first possible opportunity).
Meanwhile I would ask you to request the Director, Dr. Deap, to
contact the office of Lt.Col. Hughes if he has any difficulties and
I am sure he will get all possible help.

For the Director:

Signed by CLWP

J.D. WARD PERKINS
Lt.Col., R.A.
Deputy Director.

bwp dc

3952

SWM/lc

ALLIED COMMISSION
LIAISON OFFICE
BARI

16 JUL 1945
Tel. 14152

Ref : LB/20.4.

16th July, 1945

SUBJECT : Military Occupation of
National Museum, TARANTO.

TO : HQ, ALLIED COMMISSION, C.M.F. -
for Civil Affairs Section.

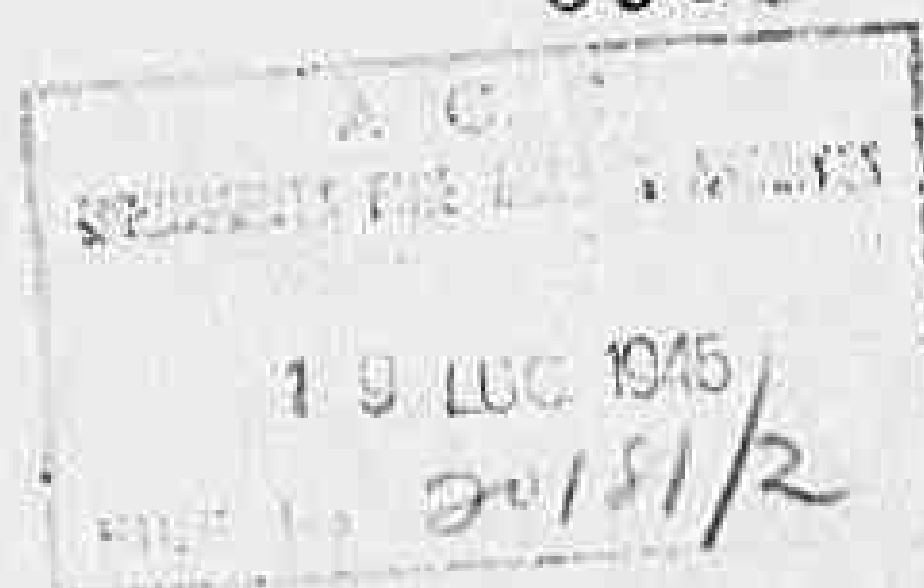
The attached two reports and ~~the~~ D.O. letter
are forwarded to you reference your letter No. 20181/2/MFAA
of 27th June, 1945.

#13

S. W. Miller

S. W. MILLER, Colonel,
Liaison Officer, A.C.,
BARI.

3951



16 JUL 1945

Headquarters,
52 Area, C.M.F.
12th July 1945

Dear Miller,

I have now gone into the alleged incidents in the National Museum Taranto which took place on the 10th May and I enclose a copy of a SIP report which requires no further comment except to confirm that the windows mentioned in para 6 have now been boarded up and that the doors have been strengthened. A guard has also been found.

With reference to paragraph 2 of the Superintendent of Antiquities' letter; the Museum Staff were, in fact, informed that work was to be undertaken on the 10th May, but no request for work to be delayed until the following day was received by anyone official at this Headquarters.

I think the fire hazards have now been reduced to a minimum and since the type of oil burning in the ERI apparently continue to burn for a short period after the air supply is turned off, I have given strict instructions that the ERI personnel will visit all kitchens when work is over, to ensure that fires are, in fact, completely extinguished.

It is regretted that it is not yet possible to derequisition this building nor will it be possible to do so while the present large number of troops remains in and about TARANTO. There is no other adequate accommodation available and this ERI is the main Welfare Centre of the Town.

I am arranging to see the Superintendent and will endeavour to allay any other worries he may have at our occupation.

Yours sincerely

3950

Sgt. W.H. Hughes.

copy of a SIP report which requires no further comment except to confirm that the windows mentioned in para 6 have now been boarded up and that the doors have been strengthened. A guard has also been found.

With reference to paragraph 2 of the Superintendent of Antiquities' letter; the Museum Staff were, in fact, informed that work was to be undertaken on the 10th May, but no request for work to be delayed until the following day was received by anyone official at this Headquarters.

I think the fire hazards have now been reduced to a minimum and since the type of oil burning in the EPI apparently continue to burn for a short period after the air supply is turned off, I have given strict instructions that the EPI personnel will visit all kitchens when work is over, to ensure that fires are, in fact, completely extinguished.

It is regretted that it is not yet possible to derequisition this building nor will it be possible to do so while the present large number of troops remains in and about TARANTO. There is no other adequate accommodation available and this EPI is the main Welfare Centre of the Town.

I am arranging to see the Superintendent and will endeavour to allay any other worries he may have at our occupation.

...

Yours sincerely

3950

Sgt. W.H. Hughes.

The Allied Commission Liaison Officer,
EARI.

COPY

File. Pro/277/1990.

CC 277 Pro Coy, CMP,
C.M. FORCE.

HQ 277 Provost Company,
Corps of Military Police
C.M. Force.

Sir,

I have to report that at TARANTO on 11 May 45, ref the att correspondence, I proceeded to the MUSEUM, Via Cavour, TARANTO, where I contacted MONGITILLO Giovanni fu Luigi, employed as Architect and Overseer at the above Museum:-

1. The a/m pointed out to me the three doors of the Museum which has been forced open. The first door is one which leads from a courtyard, (which is enclosed) into the Museum and can be opened easily, by putting ones weight against it, even when locked; this door and the lock are in no way damaged.
2. The second door which is on the landing of the stairs leading from the first door, has been forced but is not damaged and the lock is still workable on the door. This door leads into a room at present occupied as sleeping quarters of Capo R.T. II Class SPANU Giovanni fu Francesco, who is on Naval Reserve, pending discharge. Although entered, no articles were stolen, which include an All Mains Radio set and civilian clothing, although I was informed by the above named sailor that his property had been disturbed.
3. The third door to be forced and which was not locked on the night in question is in no way damaged. This door is on the top of the stairs leading from the first door. The door leads into a room containing antique pots of the Museum, which would appear to be of interest solely to an antique dealer.
3949
Nothing appeared to have been disturbed, as owing to the amount of dust in the room and on the table, on which were the pots and the removal of an article would show a white clean mark on the table, no such mark was observed by me. On questioning MONGITILLO, he stated that he would not say if any articles had been stolen or not, but he did state that nothing had been disturbed.
In view of the fact that this room is in a filthy condition and no attempt made to list the articles in this room, and the fact that MONGITILLO cannot say if any article has been stolen, it would appear improbable that any were, in fact, stolen, and larceny had only been assumed by the Italians, through the doors being forced.
4. A lavatory, for use of Allied personnel using the Museum NAAFI Canteen, CRG, is built into the courtyard referred to in para 1 and it has two windowframes in it both which look into the

from a courtyard, which is enclosed by a wall. The door was opened easily, by putting ones weight against it, even when locked; this door and the lock are in no way damaged.

2. The second door which is on the landing of the stairs leading from the first door, has been forced but is not damaged and the lock is still workable on the door. This door leads into a room at present occupied as sleeping quarters of Capo R.T. II Class SPANU Giovanni fu Francesco, who is on Naval Reserve, pending discharge. Although entered, no articles were stolen, which include an All Mains Radio set and civilian clothing, although I was informed by the above named sailor that his property had been disturbed.

3. The third door to be forced and which was not locked on the night in question is in no way damaged. This door is on the top of the stairs leading from the first door. The door leads into a room containing antique pots of the Museum, which would appear to be of interest solely to an antique dealer.

Nothing appeared to have been disturbed, as owing to the amount of dust in the room and on the table, on which were the pots and the removal of an article would show a white clean mark on the table, no such mark was observed by me. On questioning MONGIELLO, he stated that he would not say if any articles had been stolen or not, but he did state that nothing had been disturbed.

In view of the fact that this room is in a filthy condition and no attempt made to list the articles in this room, and the fact that MONGIELLO cannot say if any article has been stolen, it would appear improbable that any were, in fact, stolen, and larceny had only been assumed by the Italians, through the doors being forced.

4. A lavatory, for use of Allied personnel using the Museum NAAFI Canteen, ORS, is built into the courtyard referred to in para 1 and it has two window frames in it both of which look into the Courtyard, both of which are of big enough dimensions for a man to pass through. Neither of these frames are covered with glass or any other substitute material, and it would be quite easy for a soldier using the lavatory to get through the windows and so gain entry to the courtyard.

5. I respectfully suggest that the above was done and the soldier when in the courtyard seeing the first door, and after applying his weight to it found that it opened decided to "explore" and if larceny had been the object I feel sure that a Radio Set and civilian clothing would have more apparent value to a soldier than antique earthenware pots. Then after satisfying his curiosity he returned the NAAFI Canteen by the same method as he entered the courtyard.

./.

6. Two night watchmen employed by the Museum, not seen by me, informed MONGIELLO that on the night in question at 2030 hrs all was in order but at 2130 hrs the doors were seen to be open. Nothing was heard by them to suggest persons (or person) breaking and entering.

In view of para 4, I contacted the NCO IC Museum Club and requested that she take immediate steps to ensure that the windows in the lavatory were boarded up forthwith and this she promised to do.

I contacted the NCO IC Regt. Picquet and I was informed by him that no action had been taken by himself or any of his picquet as the incident was not reported to them.

MONGIELLO Giovanni declined to make a written statement.

TARANTO.
23 May 45.

Signed. 7687401 ?????Sgt.
CM POLICE.

C O P YSUBJECT :- Museum Club TARANTO.Q. 416.AC Liaison Office,
BARI.

With ref to your LB/20.1 of 3rd July, 1945, the letter from the Superintendent referred in HQ AC letter Ref 20181/2/MFAA of 27 June is not in the possession of this HQ. It is not therefore possible to answer the specific points raised but the general position on the points stated in para 3 of the a/m letter is as follows:-

1. The doors have been forced into the REI portion of the building despite very secure locks being provided. These have been cut away and broken in order to gain entry. A night watchman will be provided as soon as a suitable man can be found. It is anticipated that this should be within the next 48 hours. There are however night watchman in the portion of the building occupied as a Museum property.
2. As far as can be ascertained a Museum representative was present when the corridor was opened up but it is believed that the RE did start work on this particular job without notifying the Superintendent, despite the fact that this was agreed with all concerned.
3. A fire inspection was carried out during March 45 and all recommendations of the Fire Officer concerned have since been carried out. Both fires were caused by leaks from the oil feed-pipes which have since been overhauled and oil tanks placed outside outside the building.

/s / Lt. Col. HUGHES,
AA & QMG.
52 Area.

3948

CM
7 July 45
FHS / AMcF

0286

785016

Spec by Col New Period 2

13

20/2/20

REDACTED AREA

REDACTED AREA

2018/2/20

27 June 1985

Subject: Military Composition of National Assembly, Bangkok.

To : AO Liaison Officer, BANG.

134

1. The accompanying translation letter from the Department of Antiquities of Bangkok gives an account of alleged incidents in the National Assembly at Bangkok, a part of which is reproduced as a MAP/INT file (see 2018/2/20/MA of 2 April 85).

6hr

2. It is requested that you obtain from SP Area a statement as to the results of the enquiries referred to and to action since taken.

3. In comment on the specific incidents alleged, it is suggested that:

a. If there are being feared, it will be necessary to build secure facilities.

b. The incident of 19 May 85 presumably refers to the opening of a meeting agreed to in the presence of Mr. Pol. and the presence of the Assembly and the Arms Examination. In the interests of the present security, however, such work should not be undertaken without the presence of an official representative.

c. The situation is very serious.

d. If there are about 1000 constantly being in dealing with the problems raised by the composition of this building, and it would be appreciated if you could again request their cooperation. It should be added that the situation shows off any of the existing in a very serious condition.

By Command of the Chief Clerk:

3947

Handwritten signature and initials

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1975 O-215-150

6675

2. It is suggested that you obtain 22 more observations on the number of persons per household in the sample and to obtain 22 more observations on the number of persons per household in the population of 10,000.

5. In contrast to the opinion previously alleged, it is my constant belief

6. If room are being saved, it will be necessary to build more garages.

2. The incident of 10 May 45 presumably refers to the opening of a meeting agreed to in the presence of Lt. Col. and members of the Committee and Mrs. Aras in attendance. As the interests of the present occupants, however, such work should not be undertaken without the presence of responsible officials.

• The standard 40-hour work week.

4. The following information should be furnished to the Bureau of the Census:

REPRESENTED BY THE FOLLOWING:

3947

100

See Also: Translation of Letters
as Supplied copies of Lettering Tables,
TABLES, and Tables.

C O P Y

R. Superintendent for Antiquities

TORONTO

Toronto, 14 May 45

Subject: TORONTO - National Museum - Restaurant Canteen for
Allied Troops - Doors broken through.

To : The Ministry of Public Instruction
Direction General for Antiquities and Fine Arts
RUE

Ref. to two telegrams dated 10 May 45 and 11 May 45 we inform you of the following:

1. On the night of 8 May 45 the custodian on night duty while seeing the team at 22,30, were able to ascertain that four doors of the Museum - and among them one giving access to the collections - were open, showed that the locks had been forced and the handles broken.

It is not possible to decide whether any of the archaeological material has been stolen, as this direction had been compelled, owing to lack of space, to heap the items in the few rooms which were left at its disposal, and any check is therefore very difficult.

Enquiries are being carried on by the Allied Police who suspect that some soldiers let themselves be lowered down into the Museum courtyard from the windows of a lavatory expressly built for the troops.

2. In the afternoon of 10 May 45, which was a holiday, the laborers informed us that the Captain in charge had given orders that a door be immediately opened and a passage be made through the Museum corridor, where a large quantity of archaeological material is stored. It being a festival, there were no laborers and we begged to be permitted to delay the work until the following day. However the door was reopened without us knowing it and on the following day we were surprised to see that the laborers had entered the Museum without any verification on the part of our office personnel.

3946

Such inconveniences are happening every day: laborers are seen even on the balconies doing jobs which sometimes endanger the preservation of the material and of the building while our limited personnel has excessive to do and cannot effect a complete control.

Ref. to two teletypes dated 10 May 45 and 11 May 45 we inform you of the following:

1. On the night of 8 May 45 the custodians on night duty while making the tour at 22,30, were able to ascertain that four doors of the Museum - and among them one giving access to the collections - were open. It was shown that the locks had been forced and the handles broken.

It is not possible to decide whether any of the archaeological material has been stolen, as this direction had been compelled, owing to lack of space, to heap the items in the four rooms which were left at its disposal and any check is therefore very difficult.

Inquiries are being carried on by the Allied Police who suspect that some soldiers let themselves be lowered down into the Museum courtyard from the windows of a lavatory expressly built for the troops.

2. In the afternoon of 10 May 45, which was a holiday, the laborers informed us that the Captain in charge had given orders that a door be immediately opened and a passage be made through the Museum corridor, where a large quantity of archaeological material is stored. It being a festival, there were no laborers and we begged to be permitted to delay the work until the following day. However the door was reopened without us knowing it and on the following day we were surprised to see that the laborers had entered the Museum without any verification on the part of our office personnel.

3946

Such inconveniences are happening every day: laborers are seen even on the balconies doing jobs which sometimes endanger the preservation of the material and of the building while our limited personnel has excessive to do and cannot effect a complete control.

The day before yesterday at night, some hours after the entrance was closed, we noticed that the gasoline kitchen-stoves were still going and as only some months before the danger of a fire had been with much difficulty averted, we immediately informed the Allied Police, who hastened there in order that an accident might be avoided.

Under such circumstances we must frankly own that we can no longer guarantee the safe custody of the artistic and archaeological patrimony of this Museum.

02233

It is our duty to inform you that the Allies, while preparing to derequisition in this town other premises also adapted to house Restaurant - Canteens, do not apparently intend - against all international conventions - to evacuate this Museum, which is by now in a very wretched and by no means safe condition.

The Canteen that continues to be housed in the Museum could go on functioning in the large S.T.A.N.D.A. building (which in any case cannot be reopened for the public, owing to lack of goods); and our premises could at last be evacuated.

Only thus could this Institution resume its activities and, having brought back all the crates deposited at CASARHO MUSEUM, could this Direction, with a view to a possible reopening of the Museum, begin the difficult though necessary task of reordering the very important archaeological material.

The Superintendent

/s/ Dott. Ciro Drago)

3945

0 2 2 1
this direction, with a view to a possible reopening of the Museum,
begin the difficult though necessary task of reordering the very
important archaeological material.

The Superintendent

/s/ 'Dott. Ciro Drago)

3945

- 2 -

R. SOPRINTENDENZA ALLE ANTICHITA'

TARANTO

Oggetto: Taranto - Museo Nazionale - Cantina - ristorante per la truppa Alleata - Scasso di porte.

Taranto, 14 maggio 1945

AL MINISTERO DELLA PUBBLICA ISTRUZIONE

Direzione Generale delle Antichità e Belle Arti

R O M A

Con riferimento ai due telegrammi del 10.5 e 11.5.1945 si chiarisce quanto segue:

1) La sera del giorno 8 u.s. i custodi di guardia notturna nell'eseguire la puntata delle ore 22,30 constatarono che quattro porte del Museo fra cui quella d'ingresso alle collezioni, erano aperte e presentavano le serrature forzate e le maniglie spezzate.

Non si può precisare se è stato sottratto del materiale archeologico perchè questa Direzione per mancanza di spazio, ha dovuto ammassare gli oggetti nei pochi vani ancora disponibili, e il controllo è ben difficile ad eseguirsi.

Sono in corso delle indagini da parte della Polizia Alleata, la quale suppone che alcuni soldati si siano calati nel cortile del Museo dai finestrini di una latrina, costruita appositamente per la Truppa.

2) Nel pomeriggio del giorno 10 u.s., giorno festivo gli operai della Cantina ci facevano sapere che il capitano dirigente aveva dato disposizione per riaprire subito una porta e creare un passaggio di servizio attraverso il corridoio del Museo, ove è depositato una grande quantità di materiale Archeologico. Per la festività non avevano personale e pregammo di rimandare il lavoro al giorno dopo. Ma a nostra insaputa la porta fu riaperta e il giorno 11 con sorpresa constatammo che gli operai avevano messo piede nel Museo.

Taranto, 14 maggio 1945

AL MINISTERO DELLA PUBBLICA ISTRUZIONE

Direzione Generale delle Antichità e Belle Arti

R O M A

Con riferimento ai due telegrammi del 10.5 e 11.5.1945 si chiarisce quanto segue:

1) La sera del giorno 8 u.s. i custodi di guardia notturna nell'eseguire la puntata delle ore 22,30 constatarono che quattro porte del Museo fra cui quella d'ingresso alle collezioni, erano aperte e presentavano le serrature forzate e le maniglie spezzate.

Non si può precisare se è stato sottratto del materiale archeologico perchè questa Direzione per mancanza di spazio, ha dovuto ammassare gli oggetti nel pochi vani ancora disponibili, e il controllo è ben difficile ad eseguirsi.

Sono in corso delle indagini da parte della Polizia Alleata, la quale suppone che alcuni soldati si siano calati nel cortile del Museo dal finestrini di una latrina, costruita appositamente per la Truppa.

2) Nel pomeriggio del giorno 10 u.s., giorno festivo gli operai della Cantina ci facevano sapere che il capitano dirigente aveva dato disposizione per riaprire subito una porta e creare un passaggio di servizio attraverso il corridoio del Museo, ove è depositato una grande quantità di materiale Archeologico. Per la festività non avevano personale e pregammo di rimandare il lavoro al giorno dopo. Ma a nostra insaputa la porta fu riaperta e il giorno 11 con sorpresa constatammo che gli operai avevano messo piede nel Museo senza il controllo del nostro personale.

Simili inconvenienti avvengono tutti i giorni: si vedono operai finanche sulle terrazze che eseguono lavori anche dannosi per la con-

./.

servazione del materiale e dello stabile: mentre il nostro scarso personale è sovraccarico di lavori e non riesce a operare un completo controllo.

Proprio avanti ieri sera, alcune ore dopo la chiusura della Cantina ed siamo accorti che i fornelli, alimentati a petrolio, delle cucine erano ancora accesi; e poiché qualche mese prima a stento era stato scongiurato il pericolo di un grave incendio, avvisammo subito la Polizia Alleata, la quale, dovette accorrere in tutta fretta per evitare il sinistro.

Stando così le cose dobbiamo dichiarare con franchezza che non possiamo più garantire la salvaguardia del Patrimonio Artistico e Archeologico di questo Museo.

E' nostro dovere far presente che gli Alleati, mentre si accingono in questa città a lasciare liberi altri locali adatti pure a Cantine, ristoranti, non intendono-sembra-abbandonare, contrariamente a tutte le convenzioni internazionali, questo Museo, ridotto ormai a ben misera cosa, in condizioni deprecabili e niente affatto sicure;

La Cantina che oggi sta al Museo potrebbe continuare a funzionare nel grande palazzo della S.T.A.N.D.A. (che d'altronde non può essere aperta al pubblico per mancanza di merce da vendere); e questi locali potrebbero finalmente essere lasciati liberi.

Solo così questo Istituto potrebbe riprendere la sua attività, e, dopo il ritiro di tutte le casse depositate a Cassano Murga, questa Direzione potrebbe iniziare, in vista di una possibile apertura del Museo, il difficile ma necessario lavoro di riordinamento dell'importantissimo materiale Archeologico.

IL SOPRINTENDENTE
(Dott. **Ciro Drago**)

*Ministero della Pubblica Istruzione*IL DIRETTORE GENERALE
DELLE ANTICHITÀ E BELLE ARTI

29 MAG. 1945

Ill.mo Colonn. J.B. Ward Perkins
Sottocommissione per le Belle Arti
(Apo 394) R O M A

Illustre Colonnello,

dal Soprintendente alle Antichità
di Taranto ci pervengono ora più dettagliate
notizie circa gli incresciosi fatti verifica-
tesi in quel museo; ed io stimo opportuno por-
tarle a Sua conoscenza, con riferimento all'ac-
cenno che fu fatto dell'argomento nel nostro
recente colloquio, comunicandole, qui accluso,
in copia, il rapporto di quel nostro funziona-
rio.

Con la maggiore osservanza

Manfredo Sestini

3942

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

Ref. 20181/2/11111

25 May 1945

Your Excellency:

In your letter of 19 May 45 (Div. II, Sec. 2 Taranto, Prot. No. 900-906) you refer to an alleged attempted robbery in the Museo Nazionale at TARANTO, a part of which is occupied by a restaurant and club for Allied troops.

Before action can usefully be taken in the matter by the Allied Commission, it will be essential to know the particulars of the incident referred to, such as:

1. The date and circumstances of the incident
2. What if any objects were stolen
3. What means of entry were adopted
4. Has the matter been reported to the Local Allied Authorities and what if any action have they taken?

If you will kindly supply these and any other relevant particulars, and any practical proposals (such as the construction of barricades) for avoiding further such incidents, this Commission will be glad to forward these to the proper Military authorities.

It should be repeated that, as stated in our 20181/2/11111 of 11 April, there is little likelihood that these parts of the building at present occupied by troops can be released for some time to come.

Yours very truly,

G.R. URJOHN, Brig.
VP CA Sec

1466

In your letter of 19 May 45 (Div. II, Sec. 2 Enclosure, Item No. 900-906) you refer to an alleged attempted robbery in the Museo Nazionale at TARANTO, a part of which is occupied by a restaurant and club for Allied troops.

Before action can usefully be taken in the matter by the Allied Commission, it will be essential to know the particulars of the incident referred to, such as:

1. The date and circumstances of the incident
2. What if any objects were stolen
3. What means of entry were adopted
4. Has the matter been reported to the local Allied Authorities and what if any action have they taken?

If you will kindly supply these and any other relevant particulars, and any practical proposals (such as the construction of barricades) for avoiding further such incidents, this Commission will be glad to forward these to the proper Military authorities.

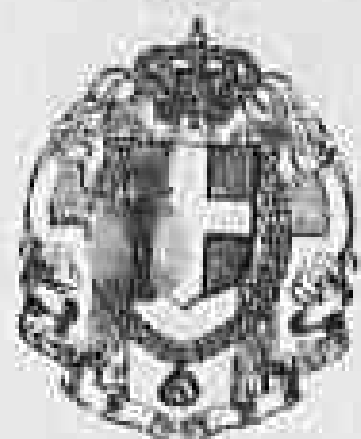
It should be repeated that, as stated in our 20184/2/AFMA of 11 April, there is little likelihood that those parts of the building at present occupied by troops can be released for some time to come.

Yours very truly,

RB
G.R. URBANI, Brig.
VP CA Sec

3941

His Excellency Arnaldo Ruiz
The Minister of Public Instruction
Italian Government
Rome



MINISTERO DELLA PUBBLICA ISTRUZIONE
MINISTERO DELL'EDUCAZIONE NAZIONALE
Direzione Generale dell'Ordine Superiore Tecnico
 Direzione Generale delle Antichità e Belle Arti

19 MAG. 1945

10

Divisione II *Sec 2 Caranti*
 Prot. N° 900-906 *Allegati*

Roma, 19 MAG. 1945

Risposta al f. del

Dir. *Sec N°*

A la Sottocommissione Alleata
 per i Monumenti, le Belle Arti ed

OGGETTO: Museo Nazionale Taranto. - Archivi

R O M A

Dal Direttore del Museo Nazionale di Taranto giunge allarmante notizia che ad opera di ignoti è stato forzato l'ingresso, a scopo di furto, a quell'Istituto, a traverso i locali occupati dall'Autorità Militare Alleata e adibiti a uso ristorante.

Il funzionario stesso rappresenta l'impossibilità di precisare l'entità del furto dato lo stato di disordine in cui è venuto a trovarsi il Museo in dipendenza della requisizione di quei locali.

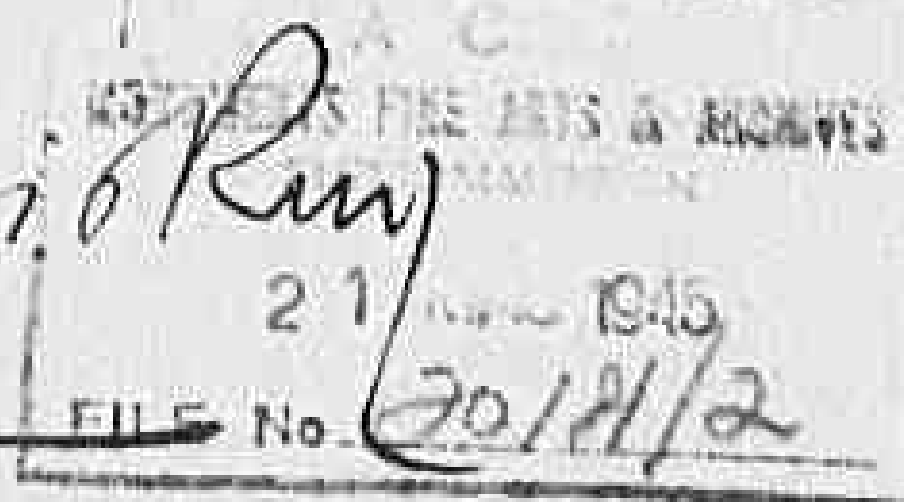
Questo Ministero si affretta a segnalare l'incresciosissimo evento a codesta On. Sottocommissione, facendo pieno assegnamento su l'azione che vorrà prontamente svolgere al fine di evitare maggiori danni a quell'Istituto che custodisce così prezioso materiale.

Sarà gradito un cortese cenno di assicurazione al riguardo.

3940

IL MINISTRO

Angelo Riva



19 MAG. 1945

16 APR. 1945

ALLIED COMMISSION
LIAISON OFFICE
BARI

April 16, 1945

Subject: National Museum Taranto.

Ref.: LB/20

To: Allied Commission H.Q.
for attention of M.F.A.A.

- 1) Your 20181/2/MFAA dated 11 April '45.
- 2) I attach hereto a copy of a letter dated 7 April '45 from the AA & QMG No. 52 Area.
- 3) This letter contains the undertaking you have asked for in para 4 of your letter No. 20181/2/MFAA dated 2 April '45.
- 4) I have sent to 52 Area copies of the correspondence transmitted to me under cover of your letter quoted in para 1 hereof.

L. F. Dawson
L. F. Dawson, Lt. Col.
Allied Commission
Liaison Officer

A. C. C.	
MONUMENTS FINE ARTS & ARCHIVES	
SUBCOMMISSION	
18 APR 1945	
FILE No.	20181/2

3939

16 APR. 1945

Copy

Subject: National Museum, Taranto

Q. 416

Liaison Officer, AC, BARI.

Ref HQ AC Civil Affairs Sec letter 20181/2/MFAA dated 2 Apr 45, it is confirmed that no further extension of accn beyond that presently occupied by the EFI Canteen, will be permitted in the building of the National Museum of Antiquities at Taranto.

T.G. Robinson, Lt. Col.
AA & QMG
52 Area

C.M.F.
7 Apr 45
TGR/EHC.

Copy to: DC-EFI, Taranto.

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

20181/2/MFAA

// April 1945

Subject: National Museum, TARANTO.

To : AC Liaison Officer, BARI.

1. Herewith, for information and forwarding to 52 Area, copies of recent correspondence with the Ministry of Public Instruction on the subject of the National Museum at TARANTO.

2. No action is required further to that requested in this HQ. letter 20181/2/MFAA of 2 April 1945.

By Command of the CHIEF COMMISSIONER:

W.C.S. Holland, Major
for G.R. UPJOHN, Brig.
VP CA Sec

2 Incls --

Incl 1 - Translation of ltr Min. Pub. Instr.
Prot. 104/3 Bis. 1, dated 30 Mar 45.

Incl 2 - Ltr HQ. ALCOM, 20181/2/MFAA, dated Apr 45.

3938

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
Direction General for Antiquities and Fine Arts

Division II - Prot. No. 104/3 Bis I

Subject: TARANTO - National Museum

To : Allied Subcommittee for Monuments and Fine Arts.
ROME

Further to our letter No. 249 of 7 November 44, with which we asked your Subcommittee to examine the possibility of clearing some of the rooms of the National Museum of TARANTO, particularly those located on the first floor of the building, now used as a canteen, and the one containing the kitchen which burns petrol (this being deposited in rooms next to those where precious material of the Institute is stored): we renew our request on the same lines as in the above mentioned note.

From information which reached the Superintendency of TARANTO it appears that in February 44 a Commission composed of Allied officers visited the Museum with a view to requisitioning other rooms to be used as a bar and other services connected with the restaurant-canteen; and after the 17th of February 45 a fire started in the kitchen of the restaurant-canteen, which, fortunately, through the favorable atmospheric conditions and the prompt intervention of the fire-men, did minor damage to electric material only.

We have therefore ground for requesting that in case it were not possible to remove elsewhere the above mentioned services, the rooms be used so as not to imperil the important artistic material stored in the same building, and to limit the occupation of rooms to the part already occupied in order not further to aggravate the already bad situation of the Museum.

With the hope that our request will be kindly examined, we await your decisions.

(signed) The Minister
Arangio Ruiz.

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

JBWP/mb

APC 394

CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

201811/2/MFAA

211 April 1945

Ministry of Public Instruction

- R O M E -

Subject: National Museum, TARANTO.

1. Referring to your letter prot. 104/3 Ris. I of 30 March 45 and to the earlier communication No. 249 of 7 Nov 1944, to which you refer therein, I wish to assure you that the occupation of the National Museum at TARANTO has been the subject of continuous attention by the Monuments and Fine Arts Subcommission, both by correspondence and recently through a personal visit of inspection by the Deputy Director.
2. I regret that it is not now, nor is it likely soon to be, practicable to release any of those portions of the building at present occupied by troops. Under existing conditions as regards accommodation the occupation must be regarded as a genuine military necessity. Nor has it been possible to locate suitable alternative accommodation for the Goldiere Club which is at present housed therein.
3. However it is appreciated by all concerned that the occupation of such a building imposes a responsibility to take all possible precautions to prevent unnecessary damage, and you may rest assured that these are in fact being taken. Immediately on receipt of your previous letter the petrol-stoves to which you referred were removed; and the later fire, which was of a very minor character, was immediately extinguished with the existing precautions. The military authorities have undertaken to see that these fire-precautions are strictly maintained.
4. The following additional precautions are in force:

3936

a. The military occupation is limited to those parts of the

1

1. Referring to your letter prot. 104/3 Bis. 1 of 30 March 45 and to the earlier communication No. 249 of 7 Nov 1944, to which you refer therein, I wish to assure you that the occupation of the National Museum at TARANTO has been the subject of continuous attention by the Monuments and Fine Arts Subcommission, both by correspondence and recently through a personal visit of inspection by the Deputy Director.

2. I regret that it is not now, nor is it likely soon to be, practicable to release any of those portions of the building at present occupied by troops. Under existing conditions as regards accommodation the occupation must be regarded as a genuine military necessity. Nor has it been possible to locate suitable alternative accommodation for the Soldiers' Club which is at present housed therein.

3. However it is appreciated by all concerned that the occupation of such a building imposes a responsibility to take all possible precautions to prevent unnecessary damage, and you may rest assured that these are in fact being taken. Immediately on receipt of your previous letter the petrol-stoves to which you referred were removed; and the later fire, which was of a very minor character, was immediately extinguished with the existing precautions. The military authorities have undertaken to see that these fire-precautions are strictly maintained.

4. The following additional precautions are in force **3936**

- a. The military occupation is limited to those parts of the building which were incomplete in 1943 and to the offices of the Superintendency.
- b. All access to galleries containing collections and to store-rooms is securely blocked.
- c. The Director, Dr. Ciro Drago, and the custodian have been allowed to remain in residence, and have access to all parts of the building for purposes of inspection. Further Dr. Drago has direct access to the military authorities, who have given him every possible assistance.

5. Under the terms of the current Administrative Instructions no extension of the area at present occupied can be made without reference to the Monuments and Pine Arts Subcommittee of the Allied Commission. You may rest assured that every reasonable precaution is being taken to prevent damage.

For the CHIEF COMMISSIONER:

W. G. S. Dillard, Mayor

for G.R. UPJOHN, Brig.
VP CA Sec

For the CHIEF COMMISSIONER:

W. G. S. Dillard, Mayor

*for G.R. UPJOHN, Brig.
VP CA Sec*

3935

APR. 1945

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

JWP/mb

20181/2/WFAA

Subject: National Museum, TARANTO
To : AC Liaison Officer, BARI

1. Some weeks ago Lt. Col. Ward Perkins of the Monuments and Fine Arts Subcommission visited TARANTO in connection with the partial occupation by troops of the National Museum of Antiquities. The building which with its collections constitutes a two-star Listed Monument, has never been formally requisitioned. Over a period of eighteen months troops have, however, taken over an ever-increasing portion of the building and the major part of the modern block is now occupied by a NAFL/EFI canteen.

2. Lt. Col. Ward Perkins reports that, under the special circumstances prevailing, the occupation appears to be a regrettable necessity, and that, provided the existing precautions are maintained, particularly in respect of fire, no serious harm is likely to come to the collections. Both 52 Area and the Town Major have throughout treated the problem most sympathetically, and the Director, Dr. Ciro Drago, who is also Mayor of TARANTO, has been most cooperative.

3. One important point is however outstanding. In conversation with the Town Major and with Staff Captain Q, 52 Area, it was agreed the process of gradual expansion on the part of the military occupants had now reached its limit, and that any further encroachment would result in serious and unjustifiable damage to the valuable collections. It would moreover, in the absence of formal requisition, place the Director, Dr. Drago, in a very difficult position in relation to the Italian Government.

4. Staff Captain Q, 52 Area, agreed therefore to confirm in writing, copy to WFAA Subcommission, that no further extension of occupation would be permitted. This confirmation has not yet been received, and I would be grateful therefore if you would

1. Some weeks ago Lt. Col. Ward Perkins of the Monuments and Fine Arts Subcommission visited TARANTO in connection with the partial occupation by troops of the National Museum of Antiquities. The building which with its collections constitutes a two-star Listed Monument, has never been formally requisitioned. Over a period of eighteen months troops have, however, taken over an ever-increasing portion of the building and the major part of the modern block is now occupied by a NAFL/EPF canteen.
2. Lt. Col. Ward Perkins reports that, under the special circumstances prevailing, the occupation appears to be a regrettable necessity, and that, provided the existing precautions are maintained, particularly in respect of fire, no serious harm is likely to come to the collections. Both 52 Area and the Town Mayor have throughout treated the problem most sympathetically, and the Director, Dr. Ciro Drago, who is also Mayor of TARANTO, has been most cooperative.
3. One important point is however outstanding. In conversation with the Town Mayor and with Staff Captain Q, 52 Area, it was agreed the process of gradual expansion on the part of the military occupants had now reached its limit, and that any further encroachment would result in serious and unjustifiable damage to the valuable collections. It would moreover, in the absence of formal requisition, place the Director, Dr. Drago, in a very difficult position in relation to the Italian Government.
4. Staff Captain Q, 52 Area, agreed therefore to confirm in writing, copy to WFAA Subcommission, that no further extension of occupation would be permitted. This confirmation has not yet been received, and I would be grateful therefore if you would please take the matter up with 52 Area and secure their agreement in these terms.
5. For your information the Museum is covered by the terms of AFHQ Administrative Memorandum No 54, which specifically reserves to AFHQ itself the right to authorize the requisition of Listed Monuments.

By command of the CHIEF COMMISSIONER:-

G.R. URJOHN, Brig.
VP CA Sec

Copy to:
HQ. 52 Area, attn. AAQMG

2 APR. 1948

20181



MINISTERO DELLA PUBBLICA ISTRUZIONE
~~MINISTERO DELL'EDUCAZIONE NAZIONALE~~

~~Direzione Generale dell'Università e della Ricerca Scientifica~~
 Direzione Generale Antichità e Belle Arti

Divisione *II^a Sez.*

Prot. N° *104/3687 Allegati*

Risposta al fido

Dir. *Sez. N°*

OGGETTO: Taranto-Museo Nazionale.

Roma. 30 MAR. 1945

Ala Sottocommissione Alleata
 per i Monumenti e le Belle Arti
 R O M A

Facendo seguito alla nota n.249 del 7 ⁽¹⁾ novembre 1944, con la quale si pregava codesta On.Sottocommissione di esaminare la possibilità di far liberare alcuni locali del Museo Nazionale di Taranto, e, precisamente quelli situati al primo piano dello stabile, adibiti a "cantina" e quello in cui è allogata la cucina, alimentata a petrolio (quest'ultimo ubicato nelle immediate vicinanze delle sale ove è custodito prezioso materiale dell'Istituto), non si può che rinnovare la preghiera nel senso già formulata con la nota suddetta.

Da informazioni pervenute dalla Soprintendenza di Taranto risulta che nel Febbraio u.s. una Commissione di Ufficiali Alleata ha visitato il Museo, allo scopo di requisire altri locali per adibirli a mensa di vino e servizi connessi alla "cantina-ristorante"; e che il 17-2-1945 si è sviluppato improvvisamente un incendio nella cucina della cantina-ristorante, che, fortunatamente, per le favorevoli condizioni atmosferiche e per il pronto intervento dei vigili del fuoco ha prodotto danni limitati al solo materiale elettrico.

Si ha dunque motivo di ritornare sull'argomento e

MONUMENTS FINE ARTS & ARCHIVES
 SUBCOMMISSION

6 APR 1945

FILE No

20181/2

di pregare, qualora non fosse possibile trasferire altrove detti servizi, di adibire i locali ad usi che offrano maggiore sicurezza per l'importante materiale artistico custodito nell'edificio, e di limitare l'occupazione dei locali a quelli già in atto, per non aggravare maggiormente le precarie condizioni in cui si trova il Museo.

Si confida in un benevolo esame della su esposta richiesta e si resta in attesa di conoscere le determinazioni adottate.

IL MINISTRO

W. J. Ruy

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION

JBWP/mo

APO 394

CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

201811/2/MFAA

2 April 45

Subject: National Museum, TARANTO

To : AO Liaison Officer, BARI

1. Some weeks ago Lt. Col. Ward Perkins of the Monuments and Fine Arts Subcommission visited TARANTO in connection with the partial occupation by troops of the National Museum of Antiquities. The building which with its collections constitutes a two-star Listed Monument, has never been formally requisitioned. Over a period of eighteen months troops have, however, taken over an ever-increasing portion of the building and the major part of the modern block is now occupied by a NAAFI/EPI canteen.

2. Lt. Col. Ward Perkins reports that, under the special circumstances prevailing, the occupation appears to be a regrettable necessity, and that, provided the existing precautions are maintained, particularly in respect of fire, no serious harm is likely to come to the collections. Both 52 Area and the Town Major have throughout treated the problem most sympathetically, and the Director, Dr. Ciro Drago, who is also Mayor of TARANTO, has been most cooperative. 3932

3. One important point is however outstanding. In conversation with the Town Major and with Staff Captain Q, 52 Area, it was agreed the process of gradual expansion on the part of the military occupants had now reached its limit, and that any further encroachment would result in serious and unjustifiable damage to the valuable collections. It would moreover, in the absence of formal requisition, place the Director, Dr. Drago, in a very difficult position in relation to the Italian Government.

4. Staff Captain Q, 52 Area, agreed therefore to confirm in writing, copy to MFAA Subcommission, that no further extension of occupation would be permitted. This confirmation has not yet been received, and I would be grateful therefore if you would

1. Some weeks ago Lt. Col. Ward Perkins of the Monuments and Fine Arts Subcommission visited TARANTO in connection with the partial occupation by troops of the National Museum of Antiquities. The building which with its collections constitutes a two-star Listed Monument, has never been formally requisitioned. Over a period of eighteen months troops have, however, taken over an ever-increasing portion of the building and the major part of the modern block is now occupied by a NAAFI/AFI canteen.
2. Lt. Col. Ward Perkins reports that, under the special circumstances prevailing, the occupation appears to be a regrettable necessity, and that, provided the existing precautions are maintained, particularly in respect of fire, no serious harm is likely to come to the collections. Both 52 Area and the Town Major have throughout treated the problem most sympathetically, and the Director, Dr. Carlo Drago, who is also Mayor of TARANTO, has been most cooperative.
3. One important point is however outstanding. In conversation with the Town Major and with Staff Captain Q, 52 Area, it was agreed the process of gradual expansion on the part of the military occupants had now reached its limit, and that any further encroachment would result in serious and unjustifiable damage to the valuable collections. It would moreover, in the absence of formal requisition, place the Director, Dr. Drago, in a very difficult position in relation to the Italian Government.
4. Staff Captain Q, 52 Area, agreed therefore to confirm in writing, copy to WFAA Subcommission, that no further extension of occupation would be permitted. This confirmation has not yet been received, and I would be grateful therefore if you would please take the matter up with 52 Area and secure their agreement in these terms.
5. For your information the Museum is covered by the terms of AFHQ Administrative Memorandum No 54, which specifically reserves to AFHQ itself the right to authorize the requisition of Listed Monuments.

By command of the CHIEF COMMISSIONER:

[Signature]
G.R. UPJOHN, Brig.
VP CA Sec

Copy to:

HQ. 52 Area, ettn. AAQMG



R. SOPRINTENDENZA ALLE ANTICHITÀ
DELLA PUGLIA E DEL MATERANO

(4)

N. prot. 232

Taranto, 21 MARZO 1945

Risposta al foglio N.

AL SIG. JOHN MAJOR

del

TARANTO

Allegati N. 5

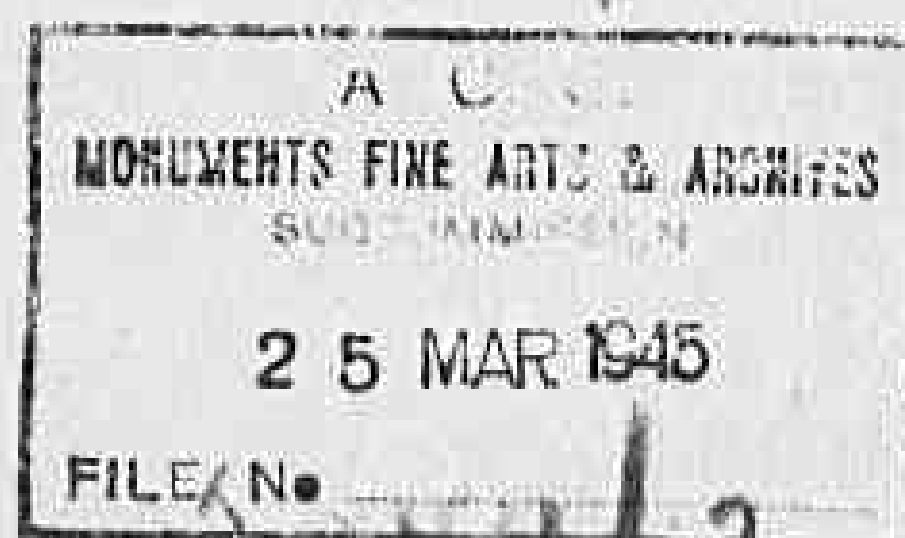
Oggetto: Spedizione di filici.

Per il recapito al Sig. Ten. Col. J. B. Ward
Perkins, Vi prego voler far inoltrare, possibil-
mente in franchigia postale, il presente accerta-
mento, non sapendo la destinazione.

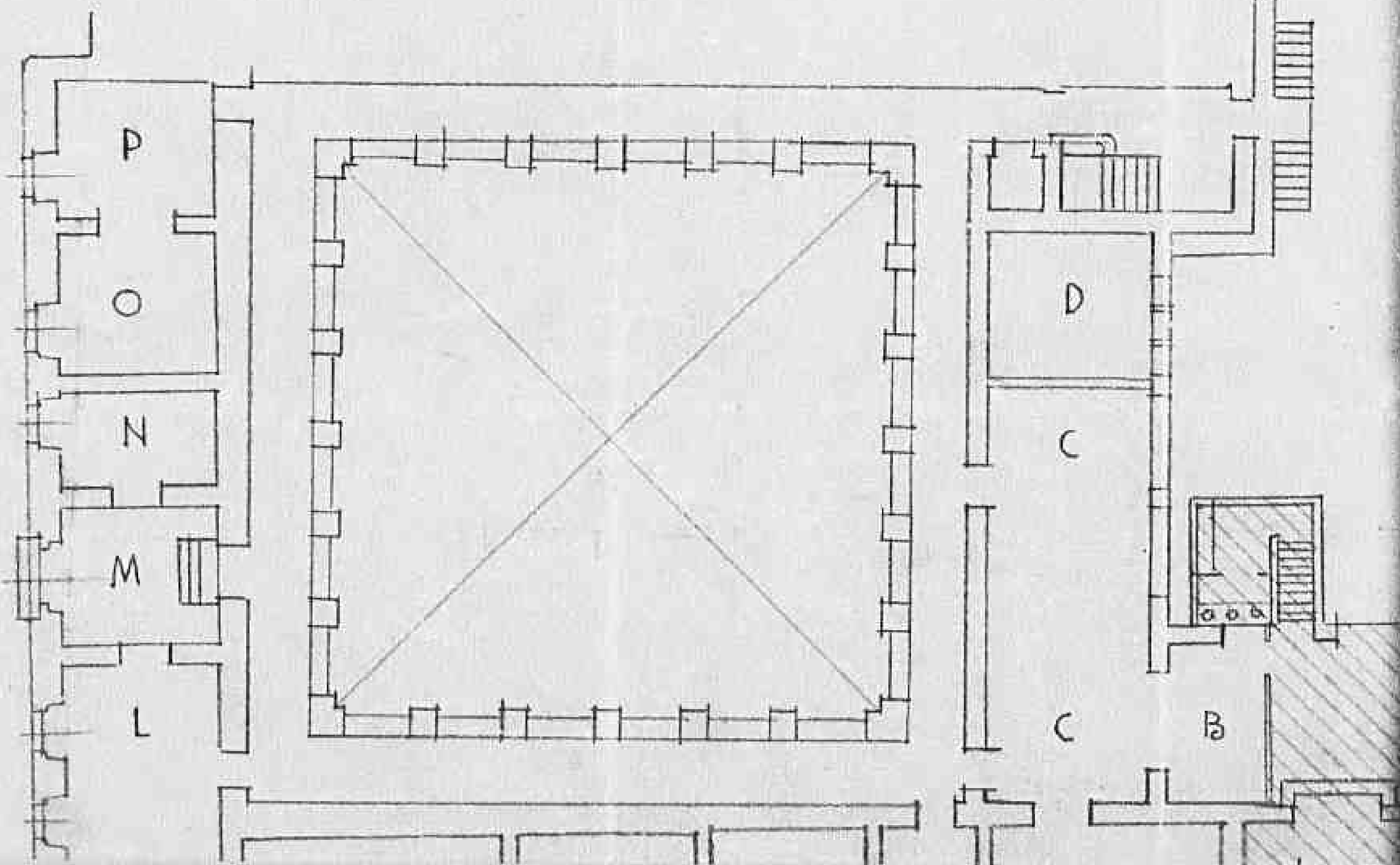
Ringraziando,

IL SOPRINTENDENTE
(Dott. Ciro Drago)

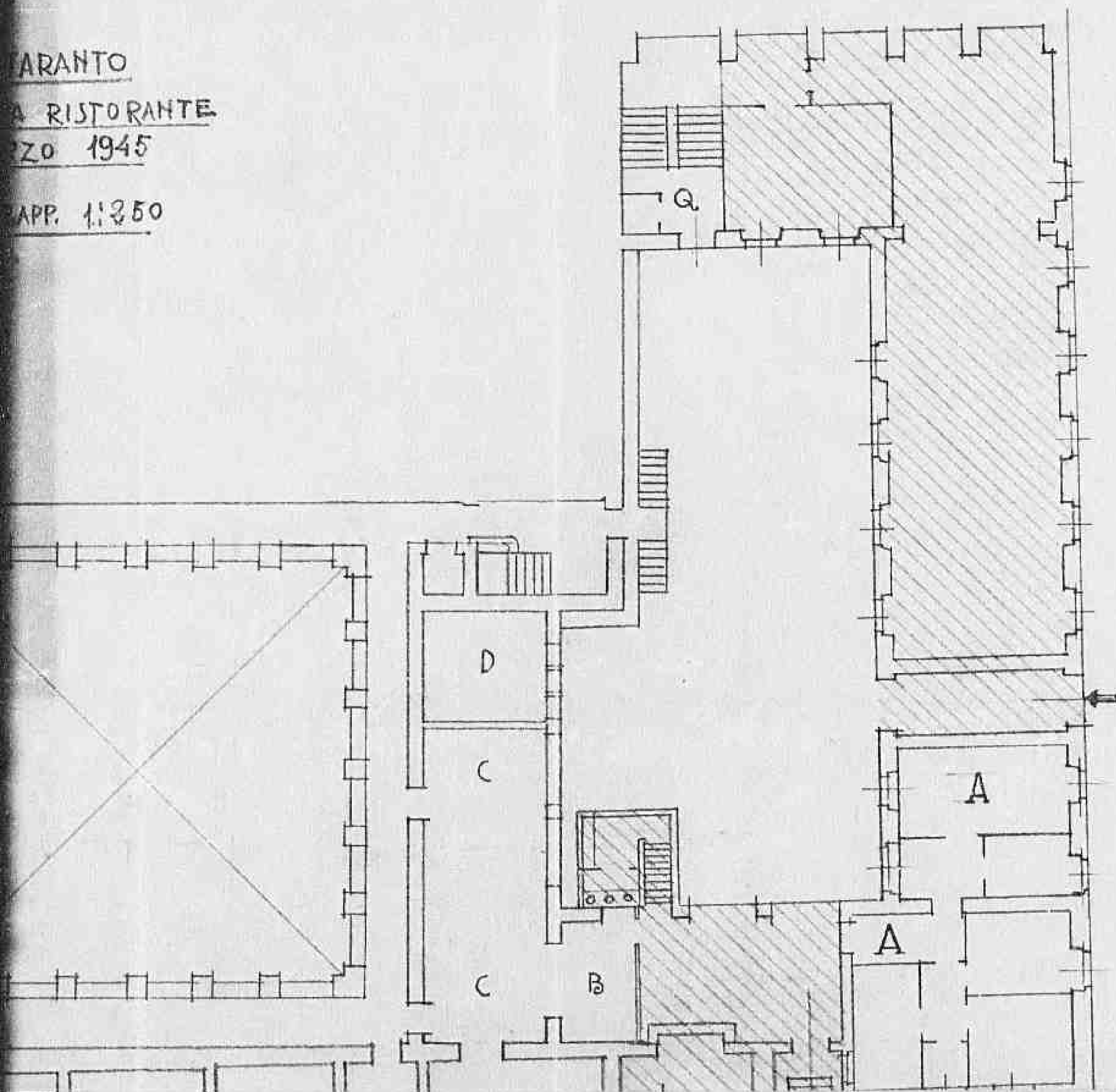
Ciro Drago
3931



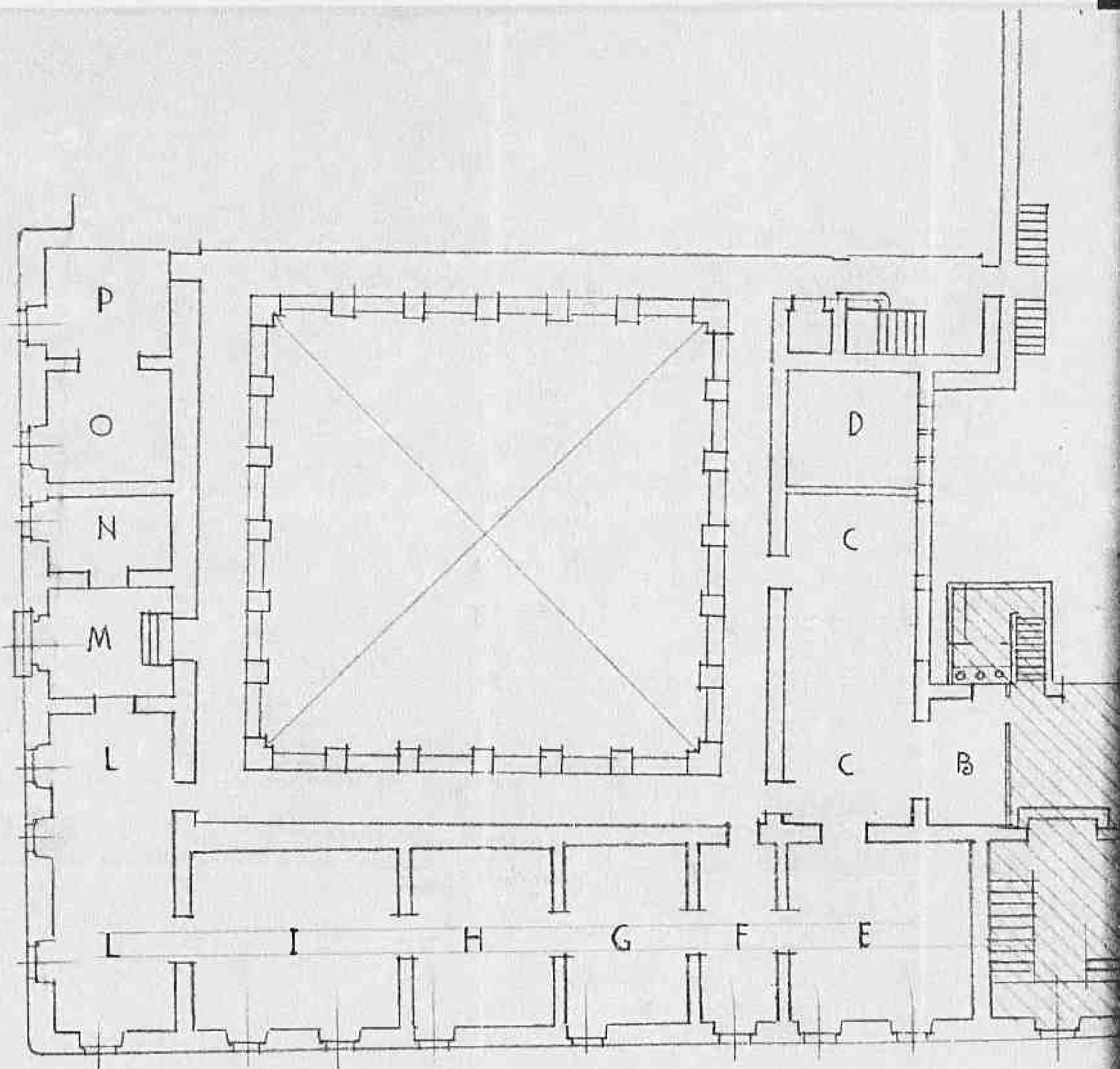
MUSEO NAZIONALE DI TARANTO
REQUISIZIONE CANTINA RISTORANTE
TRUPPE ALLEATE - MARZO 1945
PIANO TERRENO - RAPP. 1:250



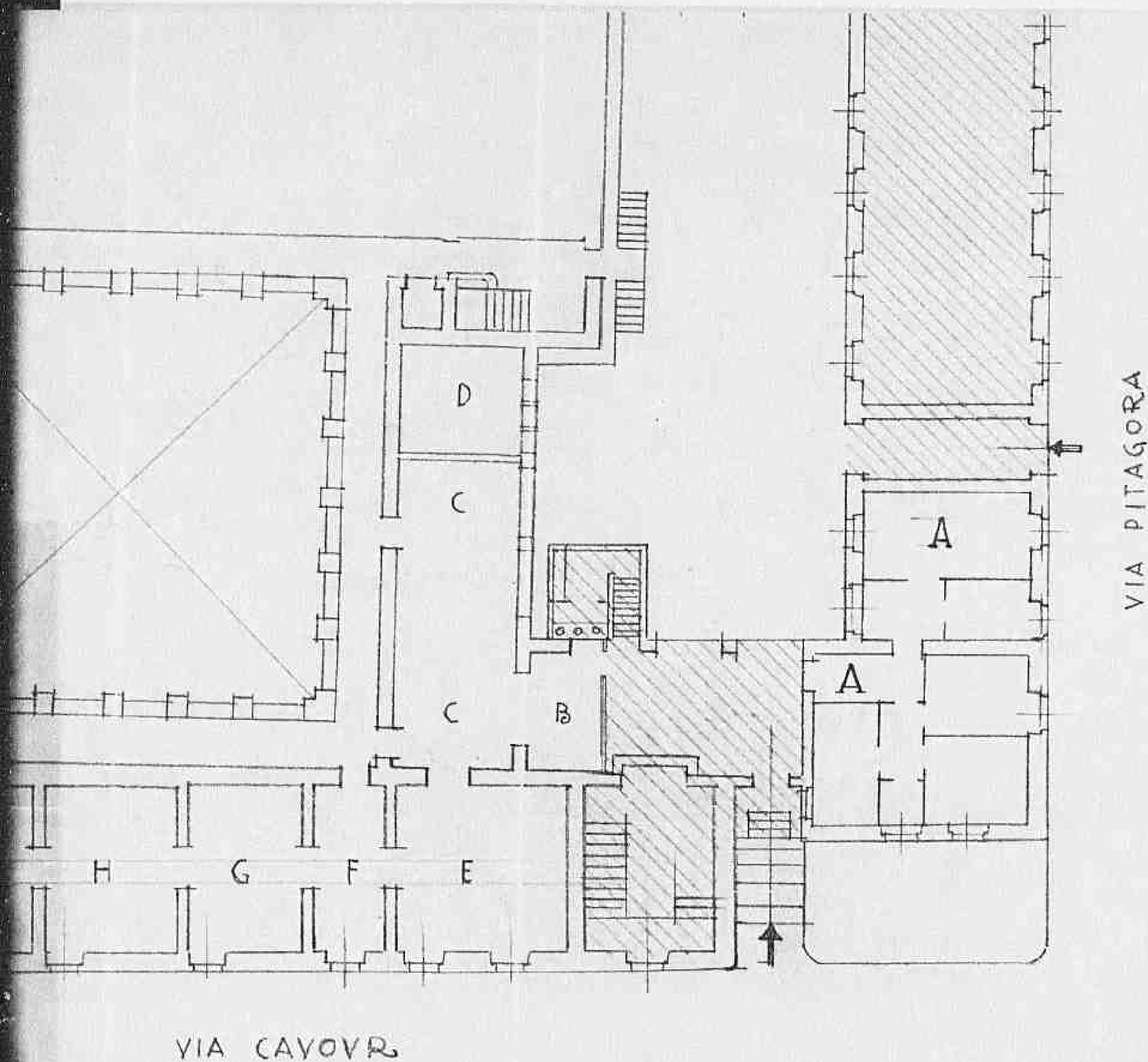
ARANTO
A RISTORANTE
20 1945
APP. 1:250



VIA PITAGORA

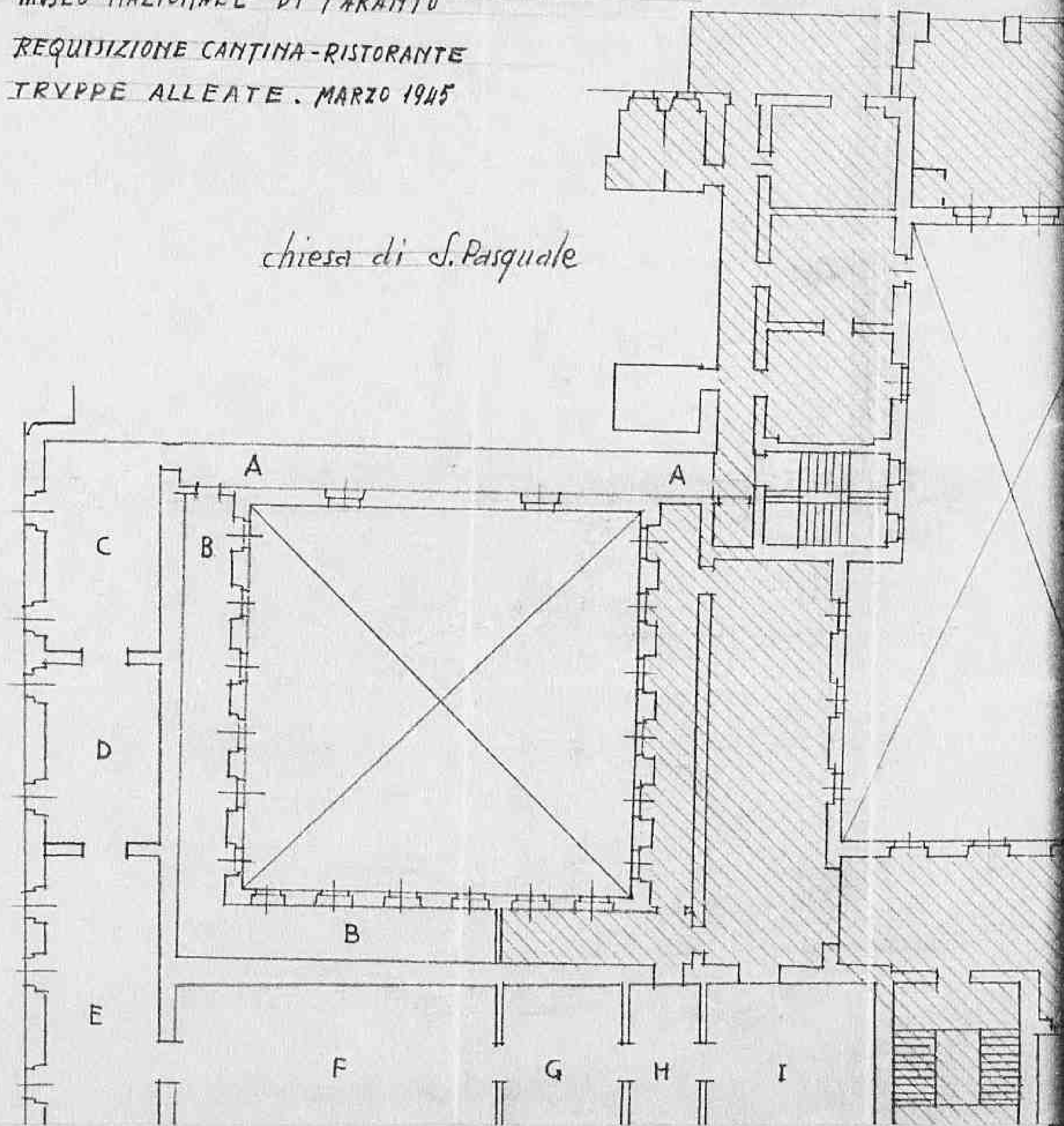


VIA CAYOVR



MUSEO NAZIONALE DI TARANTO
REQUISIZIONE CANTINA-RISTORANTE
TRUPPE ALLEATE. MARZO 1945

chiesa di S. Pasquale

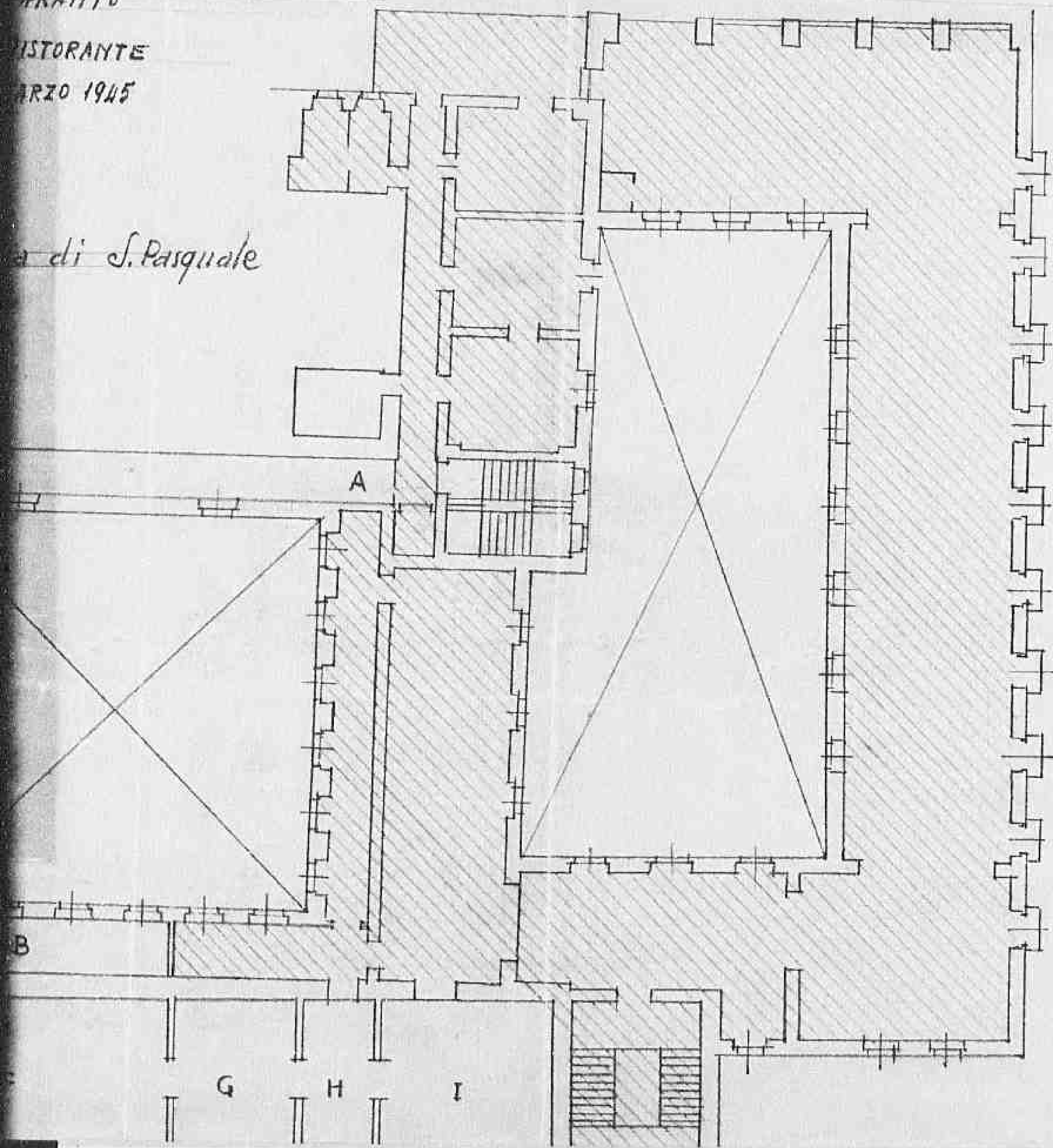


ARANTO

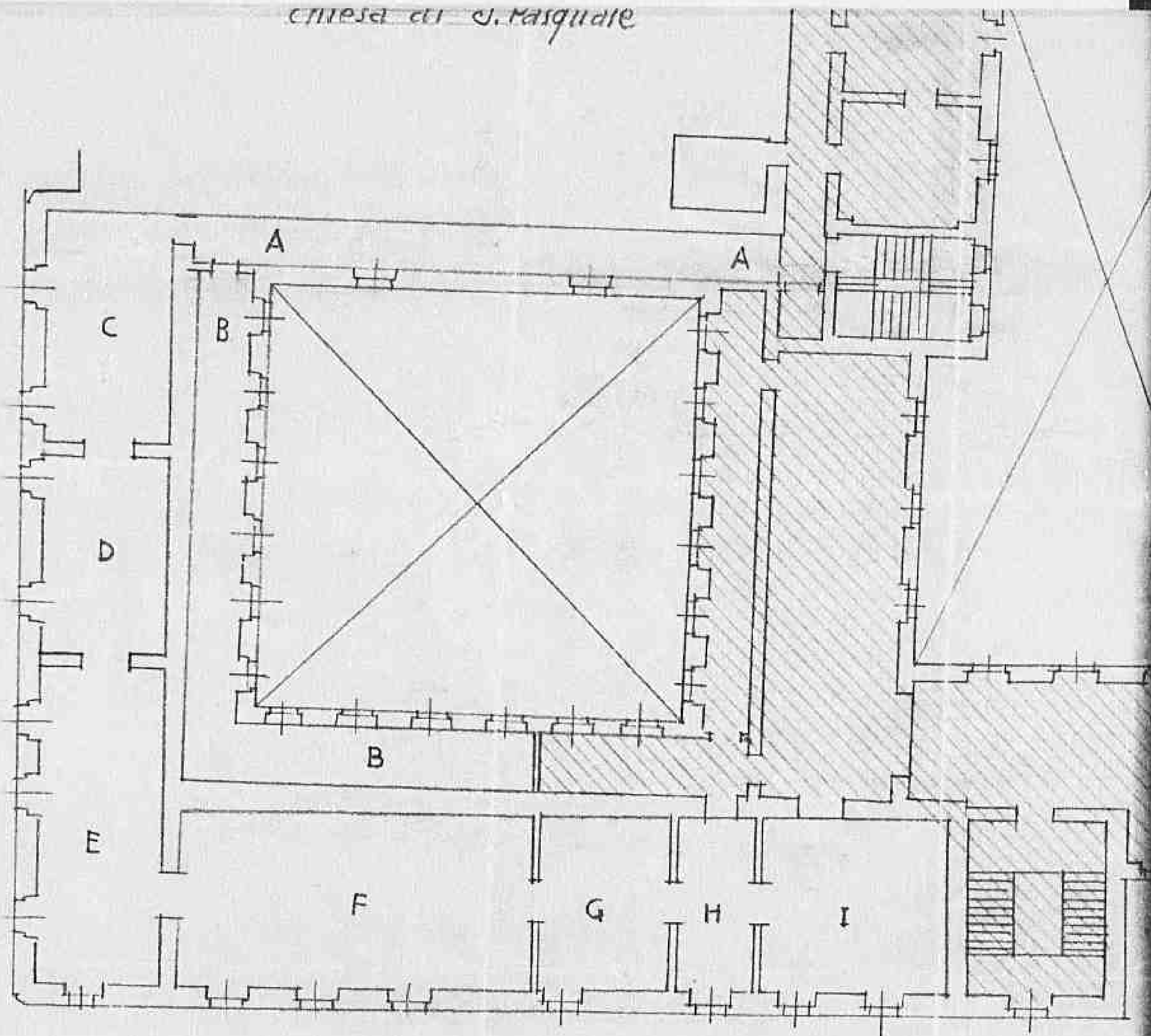
ISTORANTE

ARZO 1945

a di S. Pasquale



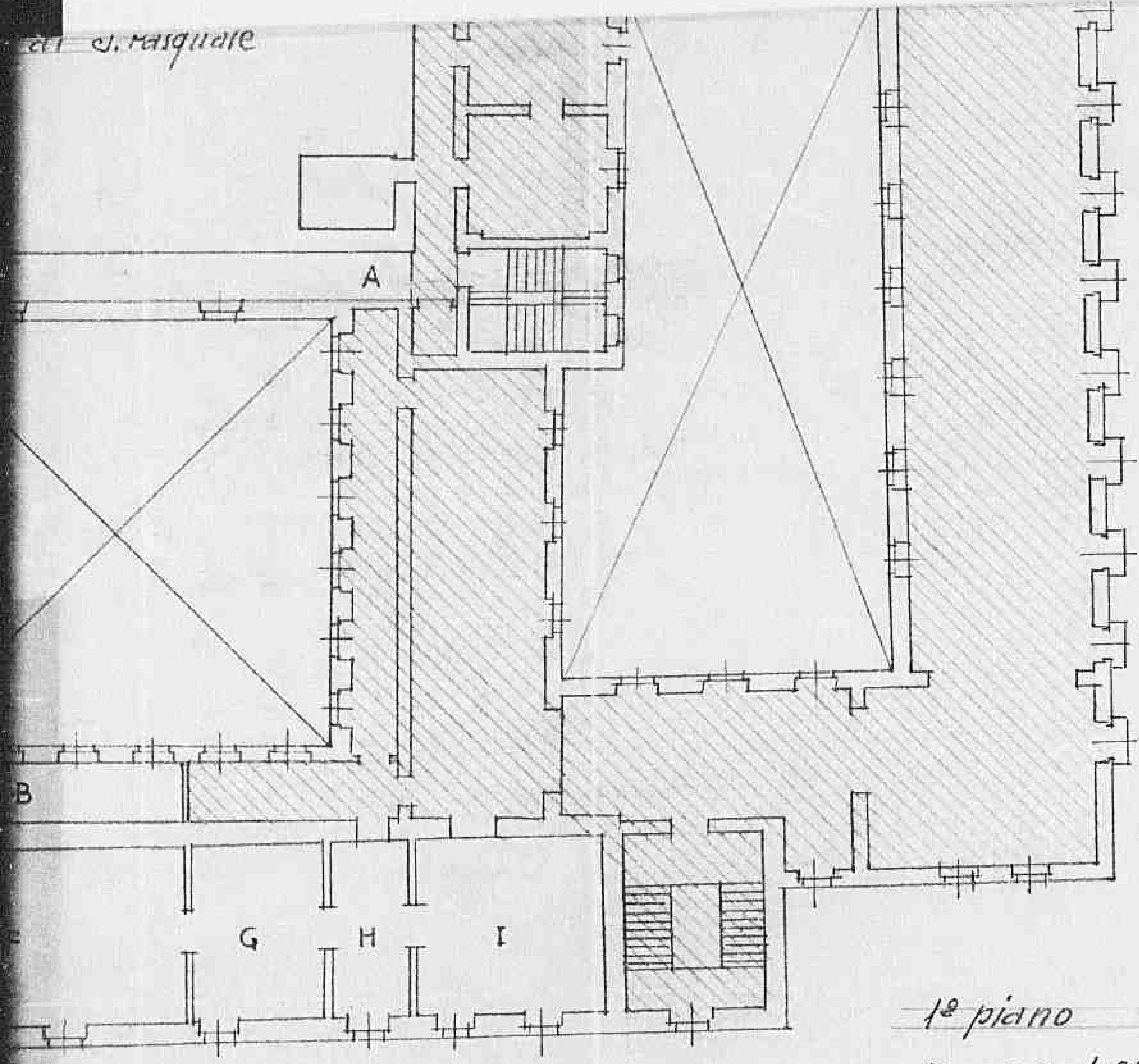
chiesa di S. Pasquale



0321

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

al. rasquale

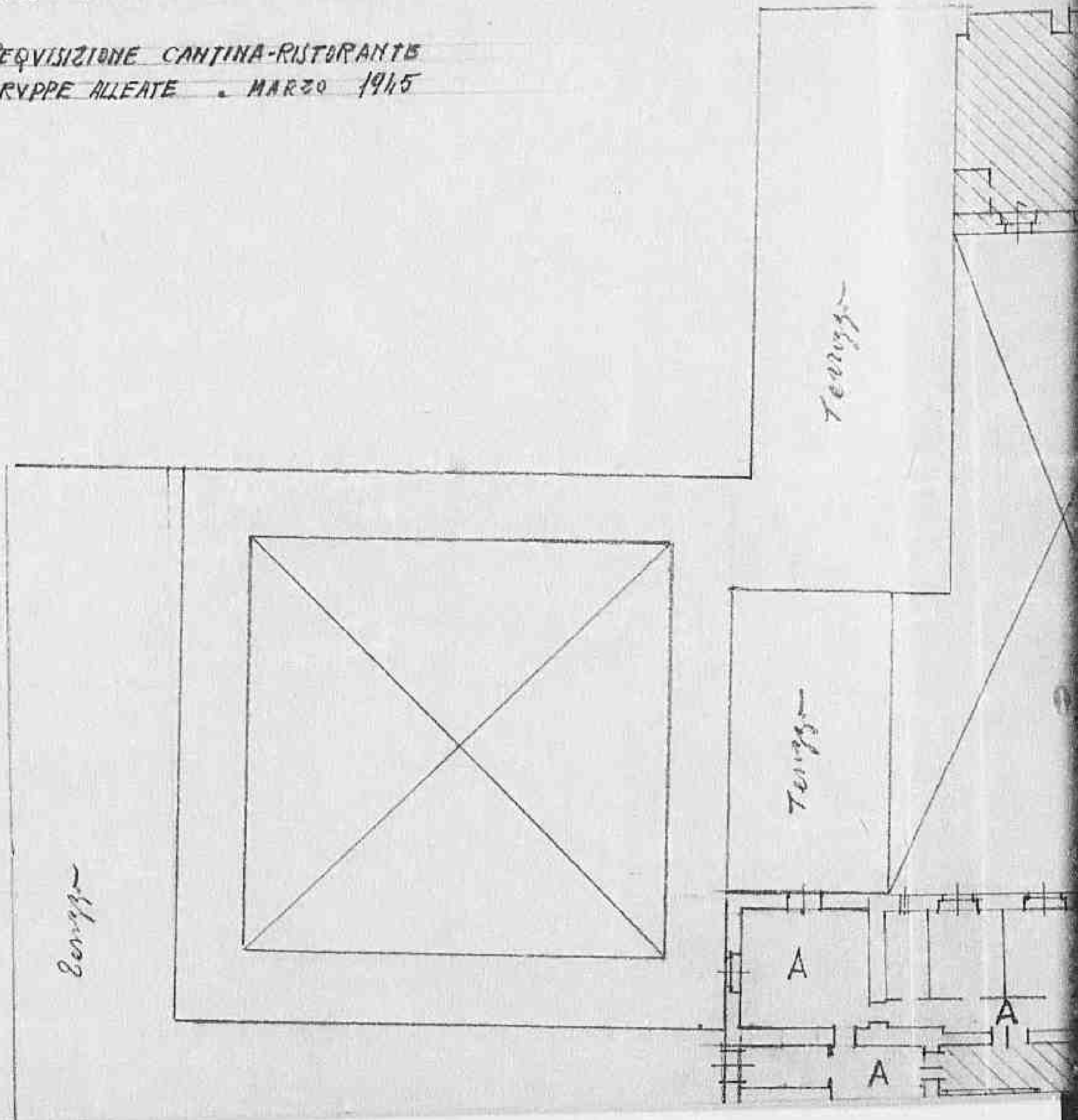


1° piano

RAPPORTO 1:250

MUSEO NAZIONALE DI TARANTO

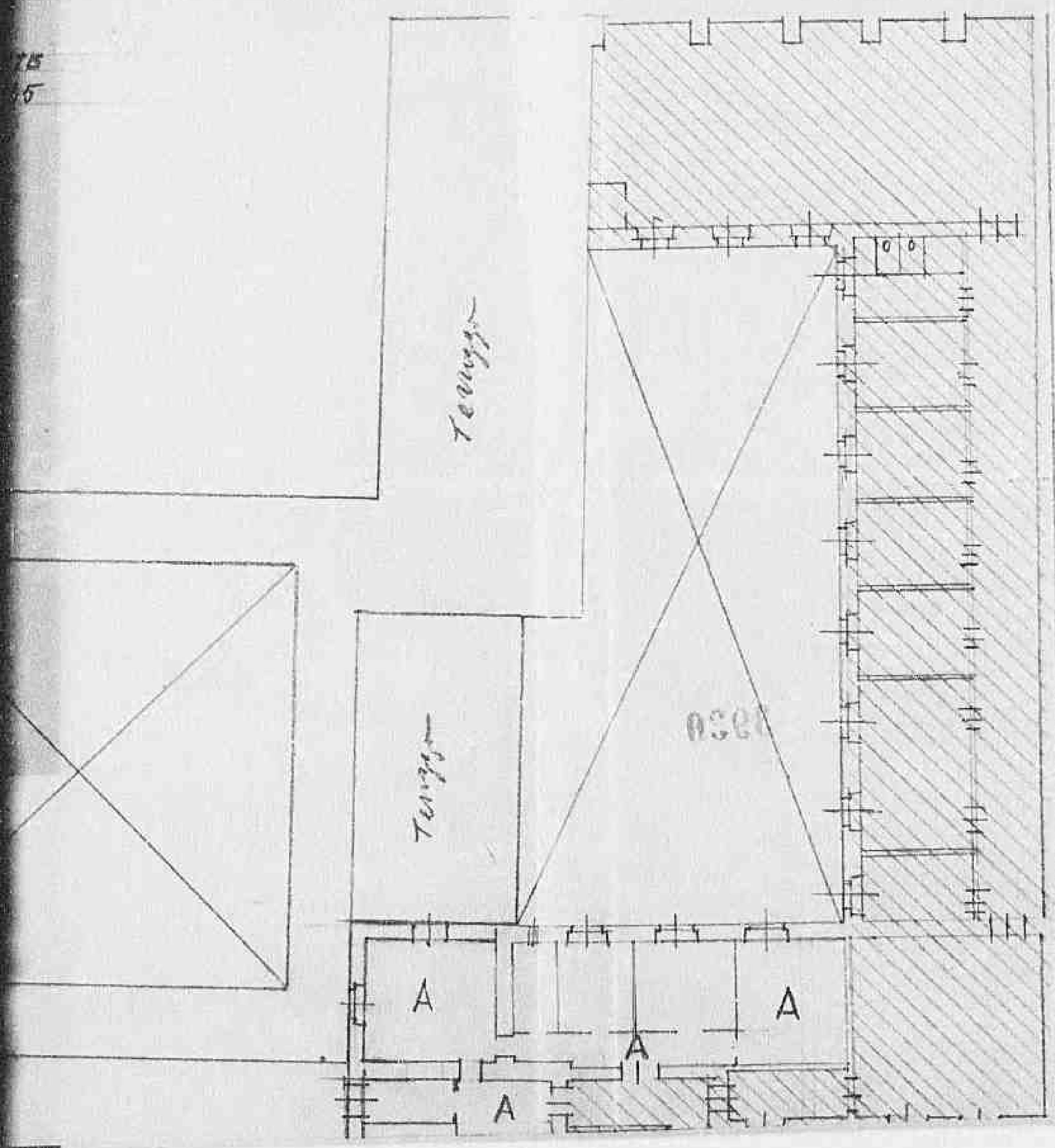
PERQUISIZIONE CANTINA-RISTORANTE
TRUPPE ALLEATE - MARZO 1945



Q-3-2-3

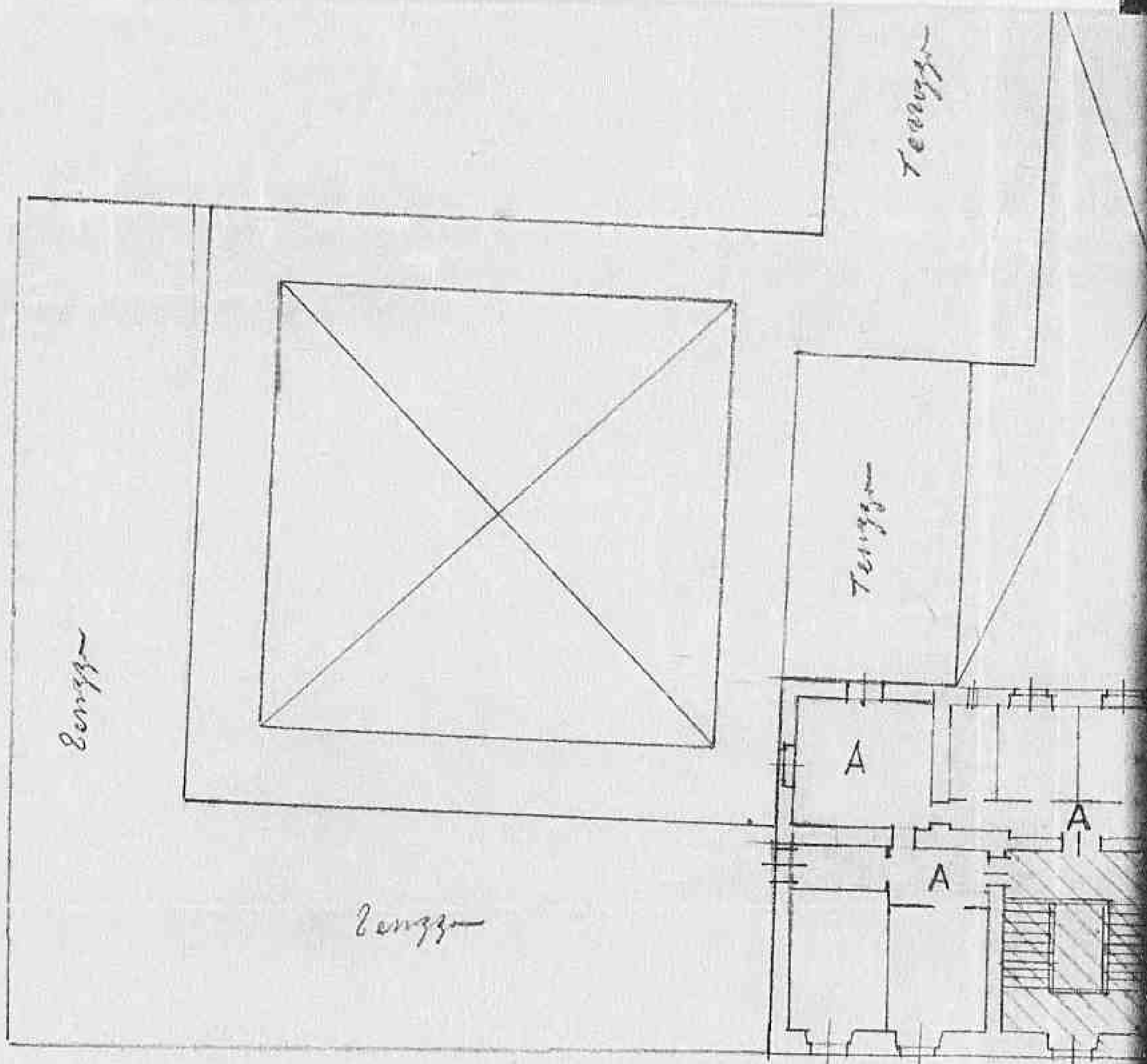
230
A

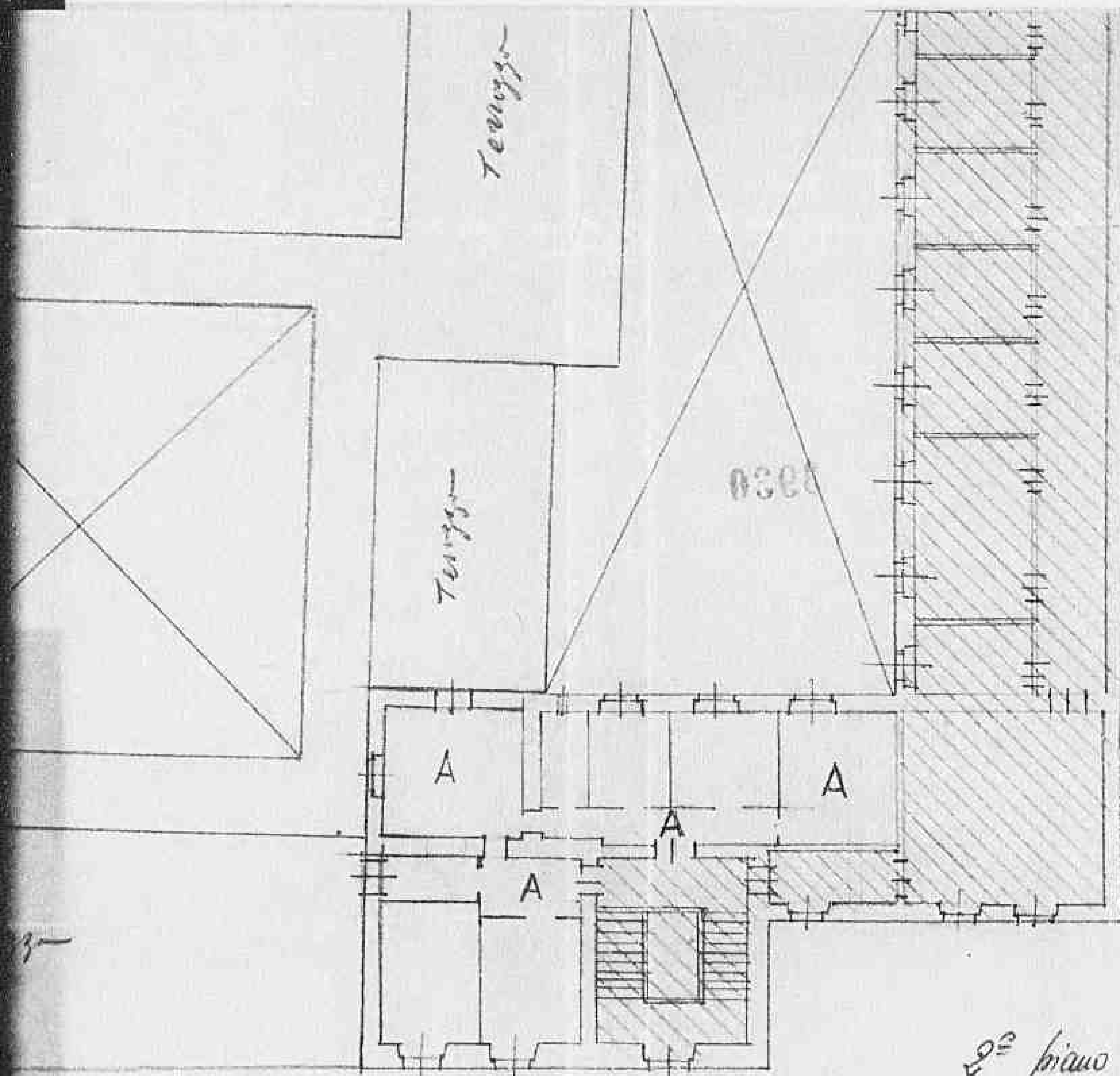
75
65



0322

785016





2^e piano
rapport 1:250



Allegit. 4

TARANTO 17 11-27-1943

Al Mr. T. Vol. 1, March 1954 15-16-17-18-19-20-21-22-23-24-25-26-27-28-29-30-31-32-33-34-35-36-37-38-39-40-41-42-43-44-45-46-47-48-49-50-51-52-53-54-55-56-57-58-59-60-61-62-63-64-65-66-67-68-69-70-71-72-73-74-75-76-77-78-79-80-81-82-83-84-85-86-87-88-89-90-91-92-93-94-95-96-97-98-99-100-101-102-103-104-105-106-107-108-109-110-111-112-113-114-115-116-117-118-119-120-121-122-123-124-125-126-127-128-129-130-131-132-133-134-135-136-137-138-139-140-141-142-143-144-145-146-147-148-149-150-151-152-153-154-155-156-157-158-159-160-161-162-163-164-165-166-167-168-169-170-171-172-173-174-175-176-177-178-179-180-181-182-183-184-185-186-187-188-189-190-191-192-193-194-195-196-197-198-199-200-201-202-203-204-205-206-207-208-209-210-211-212-213-214-215-216-217-218-219-220-221-222-223-224-225-226-227-228-229-230-231-232-233-234-235-236-237-238-239-240-241-242-243-244-245-246-247-248-249-250-251-252-253-254-255-256-257-258-259-260-261-262-263-264-265-266-267-268-269-270-271-272-273-274-275-276-277-278-279-280-281-282-283-284-285-286-287-288-289-290-291-292-293-294-295-296-297-298-299-300-301-302-303-304-305-306-307-308-309-310-311-312-313-314-315-316-317-318-319-320-321-322-323-324-325-326-327-328-329-330-331-332-333-334-335-336-337-338-339-340-341-342-343-344-345-346-347-348-349-350-351-352-353-354-355-356-357-358-359-360-361-362-363-364-365-366-367-368-369-370-371-372-373-374-375-376-377-378-379-380-381-382-383-384-385-386-387-388-389-390-391-392-393-394-395-396-397-398-399-400-401-402-403-404-405-406-407-408-409-410-411-412-413-414-415-416-417-418-419-420-421-422-423-424-425-426-427-428-429-430-431-432-433-434-435-436-437-438-439-440-441-442-443-444-445-446-447-448-449-450-451-452-453-454-455-456-457-458-459-460-461-462-463-464-465-466-467-468-469-470-471-472-473-474-475-476-477-478-479-480-481-482-483-484-485-486-487-488-489-490-491-492-493-494-495-496-497-498-499-500-501-502-503-504-505-506-507-508-509-510-511-512-513-514-515-516-517-518-519-520-521-522-523-524-525-526-527-528-529-530-531-532-533-534-535-536-537-538-539-540-541-542-543-544-545-546-547-548-549-550-551-552-553-554-555-556-557-558-559-560-561-562-563-564-565-566-567-568-569-570-571-572-573-574-575-576-577-578-579-580-581-582-583-584-585-586-587-588-589-590-591-592-593-594-595-596-597-598-599-600-601-602-603-604-605-606-607-608-609-610-611-612-613-614-615-616-617-618-619-620-621-622-623-624-625-626-627-628-629-630-631-632-633-634-635-636-637-638-639-640-641-642-643-644-645-646-647-648-649-650-651-652-653-654-655-656-657-658-659-660-661-662-663-664-665-666-667-668-669-670-671-672-673-674-675-676-677-678-679-680-681-682-683-684-685-686-687-688-689-690-691-692-693-694-695-696-697-698-699-700-701-702-703-704-705-706-707-708-709-710-711-712-713-714-715-716-717-718-719-720-721-722-723-724-725-726-727-728-729-730-731-732-733-734-735-736-737-738-739-740-741-742-743-744-745-746-747-748-749-750-751-752-753-754-755-756-757-758-759-760-761-762-763-764-765-766-767-768-769-770-771-772-773-774-775-776-777-778-779-780-781-782-783-784-785-786-787-788-789-790-791-792-793-794-795-796-797-798-799-800-801-802-803-804-805-806-807-808-809-810-811-812-813-814-815-816-817-818-819-820-821-822-823-824-825-826-827-828-829-830-831-832-833-834-835-836-837-838-839-840-841-842-843-844-845-846-847-848-849-850-851-852-853-854-855-856-857-858-859-860-861-862-863-864-865-866-867-868-869-870-871-872-873-874-875-876-877-878-879-880-881-882-883-884-885-886-887-888-889-890-891-892-893-894-895-896-897-898-899-900-901-902-903-904-905-906-907-908-909-910-911-912-913-914-915-916-917-918-919-920-921-922-923-924-925-926-927-928-929-930-931-932-933-934-935-936-937-938-939-940-941-942-943-944-945-946-947-948-949-950-951-952-953-954-955-956-957-958-959-960-961-962-963-964-965-966-967-968-969-970-971-972-973-974-975-976-977-978-979-980-981-982-983-984-985-986-987-988-989-990-991-992-993-994-995-996-997-998-999-1000-1001-1002-1003-1004-1005-1006-1007-1008-1009-1010-1011-1012-1013-1014-1015-1016-1017-1018-1019-1020-1021-1022-1023-1024-1025-1026-1027-1028-1029-1030-1031-1032-1033-1034-1035-1036-1037-1038-1039-1040-1041-1042-104

Monuments and Fine Arts

Subcommission- H.Q. Allied Commission-

46

4B

In rosso sono segnati i locali requisiti.

4929

IL SOPRINTENDENTE

(Dott. Ciro Drago)

—lino Snapp



R. SOPRINTENDENZA ALLE ANTICHITÀ TARANTO

48

N. del prot. 207

N. della nota.

Risposta alla lettera
del

N.

Allegati 3

OGGETTO: TARANTO. MUSEO NAZIONALE. LOCALI OCCUPATI DALLE
TRUPPE ALLEATE PER LA CANTINA RISTORANTE.

TARANTO 12 Marzo 1945

Al SIGNOR FOWN MAJORpresso il Palazzo del GovernoTARANTO

Come la richiesta avanzata dalla S.S. si trasmettono le minute
dei diversi piani di questo Museo.

In rosso sono segnati gli ambienti attualmente occupati al pri-
mo ed al secondo piano della cantina - ristorante e quelli a pianterreno
di occuparsi per il Bar - Vino.

3928

Mi permetto far presente che tutti i locali finora richiesti
sono stati usati a scopo del materiale archeologico, il quale è stato
trasferito da un ambiente all'altro e ammassato in ogni dove con grave
pregiudizio per la conservazione.

Se l'attuale situazione di equilibrio fra spazio e oggetti per-
mane invariata si potrebbe sperare ancora per la salvaguardia del mate-
riale; altrimenti, questo importantissimo centro di studi archeologici,
sarebbe destinato a cadere nella confusione e nell'annullamento.

IL SOPRINTENDENTE

firmata: Dott. Ugo Drago

PER COPIA COMPRESA ALL'ORIGINALE

A. DE LO ARCHIVISTA

Nicola Luppi



Inspection possible at forward zone

3

HEADQUARTERS
SOUTHERN REGION, ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394, U.S. ARMY

7 December 1944

R/2244

SUBJECT: Occupation of National Museum, Taranto

TO : HEADQUARTERS ALCOM

1. Reference your 20181/MFAA dated 17 November 1944.
2. We forward for your information a report from the Zone Commissioner, Taranto Zone, dated 1/12/1944.
3. Copies of correspondence forwarded to us are herewith returned.

3926

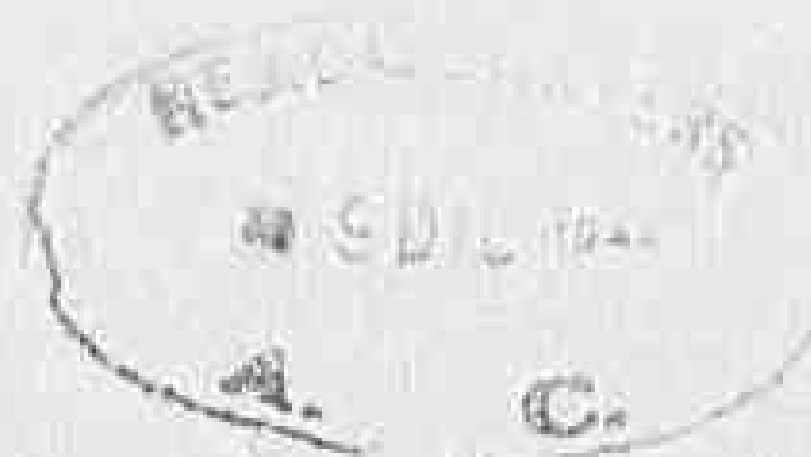
For the Regional Commissioner:

Guy I. Warren
GUY I. WARREN
Lt Col, Sp Res, AUS
Executive Officer

Incls.

- 1 letter from Zone Commissioner, Taranto Zone, dated 1/12/1944.
- 2 letters from Executive Commissioner, RC & MG Section, ACC, of unknown date.
- 2 letters from Regional Commissioner, Region 2, ACC of 29 July 1944.

GIW/jc



FILE No.	2/11/44
9 DEC 1944	
RECORDS FILE AREA & ARCHIVES	

ALLIED COMMISSION

PALAZZO DEL GOVERNO
TARANTO

Ex O

1/12/1944

4373

3A

4 DIC 1944

1150

SUBJECT: Occupation of National Museum, Taranto
 REF : T/AC/13 MF
 TO : HQ. Southern Region ALCOM
 (attention Executive Officer)

X 1. Ref. your R/2192 of 24 Nov. 44, ~~attached~~ *attached*
 2. I have to-day seen the Commander 52 Area, on
 this subject and he informs me:-

- a) That the part of the building now used by Allied Forces cannot be given up as no alternate accommodation is available in Taranto. The only part occupied is an annex which was never used as a museum, as it was uncompleted.
- b) The Army Authorities have completed the sanitation. The occupation is an operational necessity.
- c) No other portion of the building is occupied.
- d) All access to the museum is sealed off; and therefore there is no ~~risk~~ *risk* of damage to the art collection.
- e) The Curator is perfectly satisfied in regard to the safety of the building, and is on excellent terms with the Allied Authorities.

WTC/bb

H. J. Turner
 H. J. TURNER, Lt. Col.
 Zone Commissioner

20/12/44

HEADQUARTERS ALLIED COMMISSION
APO 394
CIVIL AFFAIRS SECTION

17 November 1944

20181/AFAA

Subject: Occupation of National Museum, TARANTO.
To : R.C. Southern Region.

1. Reference copies of previous correspondence attached, subject: "National Museum at TARANTO, Occupation by Allied Troops", the Monuments and Fine Arts Subcommission have now received a request from the Italian Ministry of Education that failing the evacuation of the Museum buildings, consideration be given to the replacement of the troop-canteen and kitchen, which is at present occupying the first floor, by some more suitable form of occupation.

2. The Museum still contains very valuable collections, and there is no doubt that the presence of such installation constitutes a serious risk, particularly from fire. It is understood that cooking is done within doors on petrol stoves in the immediate vicinity of the stored collections.

3. Could this proposal please be brought to the attention of No. 3 District?

3924

By Command of the CHIEF COMMISSIONER:

G.R. URJOHN, Brigadier.
VP CA Section
Dep. C. of S.

2 Incls (in duplicate) -

Incl 1 - Copy ltr, HQ.ACC (RMC Sec),
ref. 20021/AFAA, undated.

Incl 2 - Copy ltr, HQ.ACC, Reg. 2,
ref. HC/2/99, dated 29 July 44.

2B

2A

25A
11A

20181/2

002 V

2A

ADVANCE HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
APO 394

Regional Control and Military Government Section.

Ref : 20021/MPAA

Subject: National Museum, TARANTO.

To : Regional Commissioner, A.C.C., Region II.

1. On 9 Mar 44 the Monuments & Fine Arts Subcommittee wrote requesting your assistance in the matter of the proposed further requisition of the National Museum at Taranto (20021/MPAA of 9 Mar 44). Information has now been received through Italian Governmental channels that the threatened requisition was in fact put into effect previous to 4 April 1944. Complaint is made of a number of acts by occupying soldiers and in particular of assaults on Italian custodians and of the breaking open of doors leading to the stored collections. The building in April housed a canteen.

2. The museum in question is a two-starred protected monument and as such falls within the terms of AAI Admin. Instr. No. 10. A portion of the collection has, it is true, been removed but there remain items of the first importance, notably mosaic pavements and Greek architectural details, large quantities of Greek pottery, and central records for the whole of Apulia, the loss or damage of any of which would be very serious.

3. Will you please inquire whether there allegations are well founded, and in particular the following points:

- a. Who authorised the requisition?
- b. Is the officer in charge of the occupying troops aware of his responsibility and what steps has he taken to minimize the risk of damage?

/s/ M.E. Lusk
Brigadier,

Ref : 20021/MFAA

Subject: National Museum, TARANTO.

To : Regional Commissioner, A.C.C., Region II.

1. On 9 Mar 44 the Monuments & Fine Arts Subcommittee wrote requesting your assistance in the matter of the proposed further requisition of the National Museum at Taranto (20021/MFAA of 9 Mar 44). Information has now been received through Italian Governmental channels that the threatened requisition was in fact put into effect previous to 4 April 1944. Complaint is made of a number of acts by occupying soldiers and in particular of assaults on Italian custodians and of the breaking open of doors leading to the stored collections. The building in April housed a canteen.

3923

2. The museum in question is a two-starred protected monument and as such falls within the terms of AAI Admin. Instr. No. 10. A portion of the collection has, it is true, been removed but there remain items of the first importance, notably mosaic pavements and Greek architectural details, large quantities of Greek pottery, and central records for the whole of Apulia, the loss or damage of any of which would be very serious.

3. Will you please inquire whether there allegations are well founded, and in particular the following points:

- a. Who authorised the requisition?
- b. Is the officer in charge of the occupying troops aware of his responsibility and what steps has he taken to minimize the risk of damage?

/s/ M.E. Lush
Brigadier,
Executive Commissioner.

Ind 1

C O P Y

2B

HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED CONTROL COMMISSION
REGION 2

Ref: HC/2/99

29 July 1944

Subject: National Museum - TARANTO

To : R.C. & M.C. Section
HQ. A.C. APO 394

Reference 20021/MFAA the following extract from HQ 52 Area memo No. Q444/1 of 26 July 1944 is submitted. It will be seen that all reasonable precautions are being taken and that the Area Commander is aware of his responsibilities.

"2. The parts of the Museum building which are occupied are the first floor of the annexe, certain rooms on the second floor of the annexe and one room on the ground floor at the front of the building. None of this accommodation was part of the Museum proper or contained articles of archaeological interest and this accommodation is all shut off from the Museum proper.

3. The ground floor room in front of the building which is now used as an RAF store and the first floor of the annexe which was formerly used as a billet and is now used as the restaurant for the EPI canteen were occupied with the consent of the curator and were never formally requisitioned. They were both occupied before this HQ took over the Area. The annexe was unfinished when first occupied and a considerable amount of RE work has been done there.

4. The rooms on the second floor of the annexe which are now used as reading and writing rooms were formerly educational offices. This extra accommodation was requisitioned on 1 March on the authority of this HQ.

5. No reports of assaults on Italian custodians have been received. If assaults are reported they will be investigated by the CMP and the necessary action taken.

6. It will be appreciated that a large central canteen is essential in a place such as this and no other suitable building can be found for this purpose. All possible steps have and will be taken to avoid damage and when Capt. Hawkins AGC inspected the building

Reference 20021/MFAA the following extract from HQ 52 Area memo No. Q444/1 of 26 July 1944 is submitted. It will be seen that all reasonable precautions are being taken and that the Area Commander is aware of his responsibilities.

"2. The parts of the Museum building which are occupied are the first floor of the annexe, certain rooms on the second floor of the annexe and one room on the ground floor at the front of the building. None of this accommodation was part of the Museum proper or contained articles of archaeological interest and this accommodation is all shut off from the Museum proper.

362

3. The ground floor room in front of the building which is now used as an RAF store and the first floor of the annexe which was formerly used as a billet and is now used as the restaurant for the EPR canteen were occupied with the consent of the curator and were never formally requisitioned. They were both occupied before this HQ took over the Area. The annexe was unfinished when first occupied and a considerable amount of RE work has been done there.

4. The rooms on the second floor of the annexe which are now used as reading and writing rooms were formerly educational offices. This extra accommodation was requisitioned on 1 March on the authority of this HQ.

5. No reports of assaults on Italian custodians have been received. If assaults are reported they will be investigated by the CMP and the necessary action taken.

6. It will be appreciated that a large central canteen is essential in a place such as this and no other suitable building can be found for this purpose. All possible steps have and will be taken to avoid damage and when Capt. Hawkins ACC inspected the building with the Town Major he stated that he was satisfied with the situation."

/s/ John T. Zellars

/t/ JOHN T. ZELLARS
Col. Inf.
Regional Commissioner

Incl 21



MINISTERO DELLA PUBBLICA ISTRUZIONE
MINISTERO DELL'EDUCAZIONE NAZIONALE

Direzione Generale delle Antichità e Belle Arti

Divisione II Pos. 3 bis/1

Roma 27 NOV 1944

Prot. N° 249

Allegati

Alla Commissione Alleata

Risposta al fido

Dir. N°

ROMA

OGGETTO: Taranto - Museo Nazionale.-

8 - NOV 1944

Questo Ministero. or'è circa un mese. provvede a far presenti a codesta On. Commissione gli inconvenienti, derivanti dall'occupazione parziale del Museo Nazionale di Taranto da parte delle truppe alleate: e subito si ebbero assicurazioni che, per quanto possibile, gli inconvenienti stessi sarebbero stati eliminati.

In conseguenza di comunicazioni testè pervenute dalla competente Soprintendenza si rende però necessario tornare sull'argomento, nel senso di pregare che sia trovato modo, ove una completa liberazione non si renda possibile, di destinare altrimenti gli ambienti del primo piano, adibiti a "cantina", e quello in cui è stata allogata la cucina, alimentata a petrolio, posto nelle immediate vicinanze delle sale ove trovasi raccolto prezioso materiale dell'istituto.

Poichè è ovvio come tali installazioni costituiscano un pericolo imminente per la sicurezza del materiale stesso, non si dubita che la richiesta trovi benevolo accoglimento.

IL MINISTRO

