

ACC

10000/145/465

UNIVERSITY OF NAPLES. REPORTS TO AMG

NOV. 1943 - MAR. 1944

CONFIDENTIAL

HQ ACIF (Adm. Echelon)
APO 400

AG 33b BPTOH (26 Feb 44)

ALH/rjs
11 March 1944

SUBJECT: Court of Enquiry.

TO : Commanding General, Peninsular Base Section, APO 782,
U. S. Army.

1. Reference is made to your letter above subject and file number dated 26 February 1944.

2. The recommendations contained in paragraphs 2d and 4d are concurred in. A copy of your letter is being forwarded to AGO for its information and guidance.

3. Your attention is invited to the last sentence in paragraph 2 of our letter 108/Q2, 20 February, and to paragraph 4 of our letter 108/Q2, 19 February, to AFHQ (copy to CG PDS). No reference is made in your reply to the University of Naples. May this matter have your early consideration?

Major General,
Chief Administrative Officer.Copy to: AGO Hq.
Region III AGO.
Q.
A.

2447

13 MAR 1944

1430

CONFIDENTIAL

4458

AG 245.1 BPPCG (30 November 1943) 1st Ind. AMP/JS 12/19/43
HEADQUARTERS PENINSULAR BASE SECTION, APO 782, U. S. ARMY

TO: CO, Region III A. M. G.

1. Thorough investigation shows that the major damage to the University was done by Germans and Fascists and civilians who had free access to the premises destroyed by bombs and by German action prior to Allied occupation of the city.

2. The Rector of the University has stated informally that any damage done by Allied troops, who moved in while the whole place was in disorder, was not extensive. The situation as described in Major Gardner's report has been greatly improved.

3. Due to the damage to living quarters in Naples, the large number of military headquarters which have been located there and the large number of troops whose work requires them to be in that area, billeting of troops in parts of the University is a military necessity. However, it is my desire to disrupt to a minimum degree any legitimate activity of the University possible under present conditions--particularly that part which is an aid to the war effort. In no event will I permit wanton damage or pilfering by Allied personnel. It is also my desire to insure that any objects therein likely to be damaged are removed by the University officials.

4. I have directed the CO Metropolitan area--

a. To rearrange the location of all Allied troops in the University so as to interfere as little as possible with its legitimate activities.

b. To have the Italian university authorities remove all university property of educational, scientific or cultural value likely to be damaged from the part selected to be occupied by Allied troops.

c. To deny access by allied troops to any portion of the University not selected for occupancy. Prominent signs in my name and guards will be used for this purpose.

d. To make frequent personal inspections to insure that these orders are carried out and to take immediate action to apprehend offenders and insure disciplinary action.

5. I would appreciate your designation of Major Gardner or any other officer you select to assist Colonel Adams in the working out of the above instructions.

a. I would also appreciate a survey report and recommendation for action covering the preservation of any other national monuments in the PBS area likely to be damaged by Allied troops.

A. W. Pence
A. W. PENCE
Brigadier General, AUS
Commanding

HEADQUARTERS
REGION 3, ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
A.P.O. 464, U.S. ARMY

19 November 1943

SUBJECT: Condition of University of Naples.

TO : Colonel Edgar Erskine Hume.

1. At the request of the Director of the University, Doctor Omodeo, I spent two hours in the building with him and several of the members of his faculty this morning. The University has been occupied by troops since October 8, 1943 and the Director has asked several times that certain offices, libraries and laboratories be relinquished for the needs of the institution. *Col Hume*

2. The conditions that I found at the University seem to me to be a disgrace to the Army. Transient troops are quartered in the entrance hall, there is no attempt at policing, some soldiers are asleep and further on in the hall a kitchen is set up around statuary busts, blackening the walls and spilling grease on the floors. Hundreds of Italian civilians literally walk through these conditions to get to the few offices now functioning or to come to take examinations. The left wing of this main section of the University is occupied by troops and the offices of the Director and examination rooms are in the right wing.

3. Many parts of the University have been partly destroyed by bombs but the Polytechnical building is fairly intact and at present it is occupied by the 803rd M.P.s and a transient Tank outfit. Here the same lack of policing prevails. A tour of the building disclosed the following: 2445

a. Offices and libraries with invaluable material are used as quarters for officers and troops.

b. The Zoological laboratories and offices are used as quarters for troops. All of the specimens and equipment were literally thrown out into the hall by the troops and much of this irreplaceable material had been broken and destroyed. ?

c. Some museums of specimens are not occupied by troops. Doors leading into them are locked and are broken open by the troops daily. Countless glass cases have been broken open, the specimens destroyed or carried away as souvenirs. Valuable shells have been used as candle holders. N

d. Practically all of the cases of bird specimens have been broken open and over one hundred birds have been removed.

e. The important mineral collection is practically non-existent, all cases have been broken open, wooden drawers have evidently been used as firewood and the minerals have been stolen.

f. The Chemical Laboratory broken into and completely wrecked.

g. Thousands of dollars worth of microscopes and optical instruments of all sorts have been completely smashed and all lenses regardless of size

stolen. The University officials claim that when the building was requisitioned, they were given no time to remove such material. They did gather together some fifty instruments and locked them in one room. The door of this room has been shattered from its hinges and the room with the instruments is completely wrecked.

h. There seems to be no supervision over where the troops sleep, they set up their beds in ones and twos all over the building, in private offices, libraries, laboratories or museums. *803rd m.p.*

i. The University officials feel that, because of the type of objects being stolen, that some of the troops must be working with the black market or civilians because the objects could not be disposed of by the average soldier. *Johnson*

j. I talked with some of the officers in charge of units in the building and they claimed they had been there only a short time and that all the damage was done before they came. On the other hand, the University officials claim that the damage has been progressive, from day to day.

4. In view of the above, it seems to me that there can be but one recommendation, that the University be evacuated of all troops before it is rendered absolutely useless, through wanton destruction, to fulfill its purpose, that of one of the largest and most important Universities of Italy. I recommend also most urgently that the Colonel visit some of the sections of the University at once and that a representative from the Inspector General Department be requested to inspect the above conditions.

Paul Gardner

PAUL GARDNER,
Major, A. U. S.

Division of Education and Fine Arts.

2444

FIFTH ARMY HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
Region 3, APO 464 U. S. A.

30 November 1943

SUBJECT: Damage to the University of Naples

TO : The Commanding General, P.B.S.

1. Herewith is a report on the present condition of the University of Naples, prepared by Major PAUL GARDNER, Director of Fine Arts and Education for Allied Military Government. Major GARDNER is Director of the Nelson Gallery of Art, Kansas City, and a member of the Museum Directors Association of America in civilian life. He is well qualified by his background for the position he now holds.

2. We are constantly trying to follow our directives as to adequate protection of educational institutions, and particularly the expressed desires of President Roosevelt. This is the largest and most important university in Italy, one that has experienced greatest damage at German hands. The conduct of our men is being, and will continue to be, judged in the same light. Soldiers being what they are, there is always the youthful tendency to open locked doors, force locked cabinets and otherwise acquire what appear to be souvenirs, but what in reality are often valuable precision instruments and other university equipment. Here this sort of thing has unquestionably gone on, and continues.

2443

3. The President of the University and many members of the faculty have besought us to leave free to them what remains of their institution. Particularly is this request now put forward as they are informed that practically all remaining spaces is to be requisitioned. Our troops are quartered in the University buildings and cooking goes on in the rooms. They ask that the whole matter be investigated with a view to using their buildings, if such be unavoidable, for offices only and not as quarters.

4. I recommend that this be done and will be glad to have

2451 (30 Nov 43)

one or more of my officers cooperate with anybody you wish in making a study of all this. I believe that in such way we may avoid trouble for the present, and even more in the future for the enemy knows how to make propaganda use of such incidents.



EDGAR ERSKINE HUME
Colonel, G. S. C.
Regional Civil Affairs Officer.

2443

HEADQUARTERS
REGION III ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
APO 394, U.S. Army

11 February 1944

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MAJOR GARDNER

Col. GAYRE is considering taking up the question of the requisitioning of the University of Naples with the highest Headquarters.

Would you be willing to write a brief history of the affair, particularly noting your contacts with the IGD and the conference? Col. GAYRE would appreciate it greatly if you could find time to do this today.

George H. Geyer
GEORGE H. GEYER
Capt/Spec/Res/
Div. of Education

2441

HEADQUARTERS
REGION 3, ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
P.O. 394, U. S. ARMY

PA-16

12 February 1944

MEMORANDUM:

1. On 13 November 1943, the Rector of the University, Dr. A. Gmodeo, called at this office and reported damage to libraries, laboratories, collections and instruments by the occupying Allied forces.
2. The next morning I visited the University with the Rector and several members of his faculty. I found offices, libraries and laboratories occupied as billets by officers and by troops. Museums and collections of specimens showed evidences of destruction and looting. Thousands of dollars worth of instruments and optical microscopes were lying in heaps on the floor, smashed and all lenses removed. The unit then occupying these sections, the 33rd M.F.'s, stated they had been there only a short time and the damage was all done before their arrival. The previous unit had been the 82nd Airborne Division.
3. A complete report on conditions observed was made to the R.C.A.C., HQ Region 3 AMG on 19 November 1943. This report was forwarded on 30 November to the Commanding General, PBS, by the R.C.A.C. suggesting an investigation. It is not known what steps were taken.
4. After 19 November, permits were obtained for various professors to enter their laboratories and libraries to salvage material. Subsequent visits to the University on my part proved that much of the general disorder was being corrected and some of the doors leading to these sections had been nailed up and placed out of bounds.
5. On 19 December 1943 I was called before a Committee composed of General Clarkson, I.C. Department and General Dillon, M.P., from A.F.H.Q. who were investigating alleged vandalism by Allied troops billeted in historical monuments. I was asked to make a signed statement of my report on the University of 19 November 1943. This Committee visited the University and we found

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conditions much improved and all library and laboratory sections nailed up. At this time, the Rector made a sworn statement to the effect that he had personally inspected the entire University after the departure of the Germans and all parts, save those that had been burned, were in good condition; the buildings were occupied by Allied forces on the 8th or 9th of October and after that time he and his faculty were denied admission; finally in November so many rumors came to him of the destruction in certain sections that he obtained a special permission to visit them and the results that he found prompted his visit to this office.

6. It was understood that this Committee recommended that the Rector and the CG of the Metropolitan Area work out some arrangement whereby as much as possible of the University would be released so that some faculties could function. It was felt that due to the scarcity of billeting space in Naples and the central location of the University, it could not be completely released.

7. At this time the Division of Education and Fine Arts was separated and Captain G.H. Geyer placed at the head of the Division of Education. It is not known if the above mentioned arrangement concerning the University was ever made.

2439

Paul Gardner
Major, AUS.
Division of Fine Arts.

HEADQUARTERS
REGION 3, ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
P.O. 394, U. S. ARMY

12 February 1944

PA-16

MEMORANDUM:

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2. The next morning I visited the University with the Rector and several members of his faculty. I found offices, libraries and laboratories occupied as billets by officers and by troops. Museums and collections of specimens showed evidences of destruction and looting. Thousands of dollars worth of instruments and optical microscopes were lying in heaps on the floor, smashed and all lenses removed. The unit then occupying these sections, the 883rd M.P.'s, stated they had been there only a short time and the damage was all done before their arrival. The previous unit had been the 82nd Airborne Division.

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2438

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1295

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2437

Paul Gardner
Major, AUS.
Division of Fine Arts.

Major Gardner:

I am forwarding these communications to you
for filing. Would you please accumulate a ~~new~~ file
on the University of Naples? *Similar cases*

RBM
RIDGWAY B. KNIGHT
Major, A. U. S.
Adm. Officer

2436



Mod. 25

Napoli 26 NOV. 1943 194 A.

R. Università di Napoli

Al COMANDO MILITARE ALLEATO

N. di prot. **0800** Alleg. uno

Posiz.

Risposta a fl. del N.

N A P O L I

OGGETTO **Materiale requisito.**

Si trasmette copia della nota 24 corr. mese del
Direttore dell'Istituto di Microbiologia Agraria e
Tecnica con viva preghiera di volere, se possibile,
restituire il materiale requisito, essendo indispen
sabile al funzionamento dell'Istituto stesso.

IL RETTORE

Quasidoglio

2435

R. UNIVERSITA' DI NAPOLI

Portici, 24/11/1943

Al Rettore Magnifico della R. Università di

N A P O L I

Mi pregio informare la M.V. che il 17 c.m. un Capitano Medico della Armata Inglese ha requisito presso questo Istituto i seguenti microscopi: n.2 microscopi Koristka, di cui uno da viaggio, ultimo modello. I due microscopi, custoditi uno in armadietto di legno e l'altro in scatola di cuoio, erano forniti delle seguenti combinazioni oculo-obiettivali: un oculare del n.2; due oculari del n.3; due oculari del n.4; un oculare del n.5; due obbiettivi del n.3; due obbiettivi del n.7 e due obbiettivi 1/12 immersione cm. Anche un terzo microscopio, fornito di obbiettivi ed oculari, appartenente all'Istituto di Zootechnia, è stato ritirato dallo stesso Capitano Medico presso il mio Istituto.

Il Capitano ha apposto sulle ricevute la seguente firma:

Abjaques Capt Saoco
po Loco N.2 P.W. Transit Camp/

2434

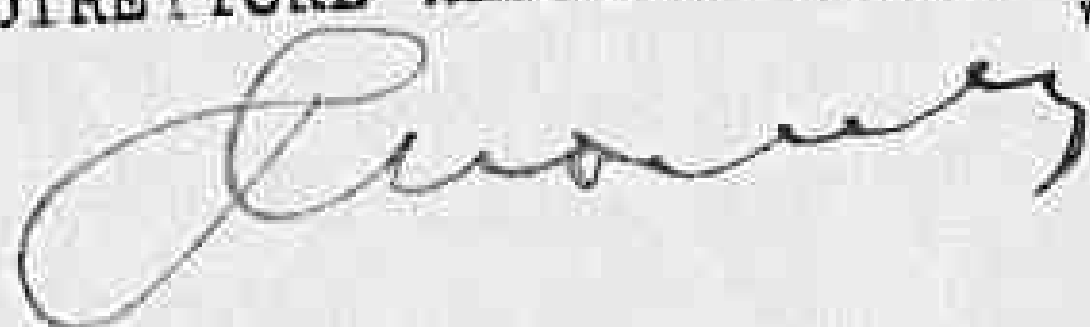
Con osservanza

F.to Prof. Salvatore Riccardo

Direttore dell'Istituto di Microbiologia
Agraria e Tecnica

p.c.c.

IL DIRETTORE AMMINISTRATIVO





IL RETTORE

R. UNIVERSITA
DI NAPOLI

30 novembre 1943

Al Comando Militare Alleato
(File No. AMG 8680 Ed) A.P.O. 512

In seguito all'interessamento dimostrato da Cote-
sto Comando circa la conservazione della cattedra di
Diritto ecclesiastico dell' Università di Napoli per
il Prof. Mario Petroncelli , designato per quest'anno
 Rettore dell' Università di Catania , faccio noto quanto
segue .

2433

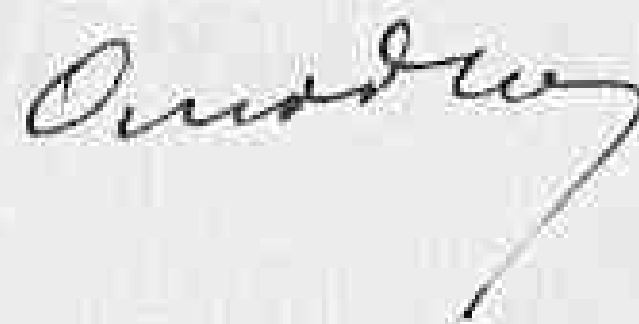
La Facoltà di Giurisprudenza di Napoli non ha assun-
to impegno alcuno con detto professore . Come norma gene-
rale ho fatto presente alle Facoltà che, finchè l'unità
della Penisola è spezzata , non conviene provvedere de-
finitivamente ad alcuna cattedra perchè ciò sarebbe le-
sivo degli interessi di quanti potendovi aspirare si

trovano ora in territorio occupato dai tedeschi, e che solo consentirò ai provvedimenti di riparazione alle vittime di soprusi fascistici.

Stando così le cose la cattedra di Diritto Ecclesiastico di questa Università rimarrà scoperta. Rimarrà però sempre alla Facoltà il diritto di proporre la persona che riterrà meglio adatta.

Con osservanza ,

IL RETTORE





R. UNIVERSITA
DI NAPOLI

30 novembre 1943

IL RETTORE

Al Comando Militare Alleato
(Education Division)

In risposta alla lettera dell' 8 novembre 1943
(File No AMGOT 8876/A/ED) significo a Cotesto Comando
che i provvedimenti per la soppressione degli insegnamen-
ti fascistici nell' Università sono già stati da me presi
fin dall' assunzione al Rettorato , e hanno perciò assun-
to l'aspetto di una rivendicazione dell' autonomia univer-
sitaria, troppo a lungo conculcata da atti di imperio
estranei agli studi.

2433

Circa la trasformazione dei titoli degli insegnamenti
che possono prestarsi ad equivoco , trasmetto la pratica
alle competenti Facoltà, le quali ritengo non avranno
motivo per non accogliere i suggerimenti proposti.

Con osservanza,

IL RETTORE

PRO MEMORIA

Il prof. arch. MARCELLO CANINO, Preside della Facoltà di Architettura della R. Università di Napoli, deve condurre gruppi di studenti a fare esercitazioni di rilievi architettonici su chiese e monumenti di Napoli.

Per evitare impedimenti da parte della Military Police, gradirebbe avere una lettera di autorizzazione.

2431

HEADQUARTERS
REGION 3, ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
A.P.O. 394, U. S. ARMY

30 January, 1944

MEMORANDUM:

1. The Bearer, Professor MARCELLO CANINO and his assistant are recognized members of the faculty of the University of Naples. From time to time, they will conduct their architectural classes, with the students, in various churches and historical monuments in Naples.

2. Access to such monuments should be granted them when ever possible.

Paul Gardner
Major, AUS
Division of Fine Arts.

2439

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT
HEADQUARTERS-REGION III
DIVISION OF EDUCATION

6 January 1944

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Rector of the University of Naples
Dr. Adolfo Giodato

1. This morning Mrs. Polignac and Professor Polignac on behalf of the Faculty of Letters came to my office with a proposal to occupy some space they had found outside of the campus of the University of Naples.

2. In order to consider the requests of the various departments (Faculties) of the University of Naples, it will first be necessary to submit a plan representing the University as a whole. This plan should state specifically what space, within or without the University, each department would require, and should indicate the desired date of opening of each department.

3. I appreciate the initiative of the Faculty of Letters in coming to me with a plan involving the use of facilities which they have found. However, I know that Colonel Adams will not consider this matter apart from the total University program.

4. Therefore, I urge that your committee on arrangements include in its proposal to Colonel Adams all of the arrangements proposed by the several Faculties of the University.

2423
GEORGE H. GRYER
Capt. Spec. Res.
Division of Education

i 305