

SECRET

SECRET

COUNTER INTELLIGENCE CORPS
ITALIAN FRONTIER CONTROL DETACHMENT
ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
APO 512 U.S. ARMY

15 MAY 1945
TURIN SECTION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE OFFICER IN CHARGE:

SUBJECT: Frontier incidents

RE: Violations of the American Flag

On two different occasions has been torn from its mast at American occupied buildings in the frontier region.

On 13 May 1945, the American flag over the newly occupied AMG building at the Cesana-Mt. Cenis area was torn from its mast during the night by an unidentified person and thrown into the nearby river. The flag was recovered the following morning.

On 13 May 1945, the American flag over an American occupied building at CHIOMONTE was torn down by a French soldier. The American officer in charge of the post, an unidentified lieutenant, forced a French officer to raise the flag again.

Consequently, Lt. Col. Bruss, C.6., 91st Cav. Ren. Sq., established machine gun posts overlooking the various flag locations in the frontier region and issued the order to "shoot and to kill" anyone attempting to violate the American flag.

AGENT'S NOTES:

1; The present situation is assuming serious proportions. American officers and men are losing patience with these French attempts to discredit American soldiers and equipment. Serious clashes between American and French troops are inevitable. American personnel are bitterly resentful of the French troops in the frontier region. Officers and men have expressed to this Agent that they are now ready to fight at the least provocation on the part of French soldiers.

NICHOLAS A. NATSIOS
SAIC, TURIN SECTION
CIC, IFCD

SECRET

SECRET

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTER INTELLIGENCE CORPS
ITALIAN FRONTIER CONTROL DETACHMENT
ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
APO 512 U.S. ARMY

SUBJECT: Developments in this area

TO: Commanding Officer, SAIC, IFCD

This Agent acknowledges receipt of radio code messages regarding instructions and the advisability of informing headquarters as to decisions which have to be made.

1. This Agent has made no independent decisions regarding frontier regulations.

2. Col. Bruss independently assumed responsibility for stopping all traffic at the frontier for inspection. This Agent warned Col. Bruss of the delicate situation involved, but Col. Bruss stated that he was following instructions that no civilians were to cross the frontier.

3. All exceptions to the AFHQ directive have been suggested to headquarters, and no changes made without approval.

4. The fact of the matter is that Special Agents Cron and Eliopoulos have handled a rather difficult situation in a very skillful and commendable fashion.

5. The CC.RR. and RGF are nowhere to be found. Have contacted the old RGF and AC and AMG are willing to employ them on the frontier. It would be advisable due to the existing circumstances to use these people and vet them later. Am awaiting clear signal for their use on the frontier.

6. Situation in Aosta is acute. Cron is without food and transport. I am leaving tomorrow to take food to him.

7. The 91st moved out yesterday. AMG has turned me down on transport. There is no other way of getting transport.

8. The need for another man here to handle courier and supply is very important. I am now running the office, handling a mess of people who want to cross, conferences with AMG and AC, RGF etc., trying at the same time to handle the supply problem and to get supplies to the various posts. If it were not for the help of the Sig. boys I couldnot accomplish these things. These boys are doing more than their share of work and I expect them to start complaining any time now.

9. Have you any suggestions to make? I haven't even had time to find myself a billet as yet.

Nicholas A. Natsios
SAIC, Turin Section
CIC, IFCD

CONFIDENTIAL