

C O N F I D E N T I A L

COUNTER INTELLIGENCE CORPS
MILAN DETACHMENT, ZONE 3
APO 512, U.S. ARMY

Ref.No. 464-1.

17 December 1946.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE OFFICER IN CHARGE.-

SUBJECT: Attempt to Provoke Incident.
(Anti-Allied Provocation).

RE : Investigation.

1. Pursuant to instructions from the Supervising Agent, CIC, Milan Detachment, Zone 3, to investigate Subject, this Agent consulted with Agent Fredrich GARDELLA, CID, Milan, and was able to establish the following:
2. Approximately 3 persons reported at the Gallia on 10 December. The first said he had been stopped on the street and told to report at the Military Police, and, if not a jeep would come and he would be taken there. The second has been told that his brother had been killed by an Allied vehicle in Rappallo, that the MPs would convey him to that place.
3. On the 11 December 46, there were approximately six people who reported that they have been phoned by persons unknown and told to report at the Gallia, that some member of their family had been hit by an Allied vehicle or that they were to report because of black market activities.
4. About 9 individuals reported on 12 December 46, five of them stating that they had been stopped in the street by unknown persons and told to contact the MPs regarding black-marketing. The others had received calls to the effect that a member of their family had been hit by an Allied vehicle.
5. December 14th, 46, there were about 15 or 20 persons reporting to the Gallia, most of them having received calls directing them there with reference to some family member having been hit by an Allied conveyance. Others were ordered there regarding black-marketing.
6. Both civilian employees and the MPs of the Hotel Gallia were interviewed, re: persons requesting information on injured relatives. Those interviewed were Branko HERSLER, Vittorio MOKOSIC, Renzo DELOGO, Giorgio QUIA, Sig. CASTILLI, and Sig. ZAKOO. It was established that the callers could not identify the party or parties who had advised them that their relatives had been injured. It was established that the unidentified person or persons would first attempt to speak English and then change to Italian.
7. The MPs took down the names of the callers. In one instance, four callers recorded had names which began with the letter "L"; Lombardi accounting for three and Longo for one, indicating that a telephone directory had been used.

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8. All people calling will be recorded in full.

9. On 14 Dec. 46, Lieut. Col. WARNER, C.O. of the 7100 Special Service Company, officially denied that any individuals had been struck down by Allied vehicles.

10. On the same date, all the Milan papers carried an article warning the people to beware of false telephone calls suggesting that relatives had been injured by Allied vehicles and condemning the unknown provocateurs.

Agent's Notes.

Obviously the persons responsible for these false alarms were bent on provoking an anti-Allied incident between Italian civilians and the American military personnel occupying the Hotel Gallia, as an anti-climax to the Padova incident during the same week. Their plan has failed completely to materialize. The Italian Questura and all Milan newspapers have aided in condemning this ruse by giving it wide publicity. At present it is not known whether any political significance can be attached to the above incident. Both the right and the left are very capable of having incited the above, but there is no concrete indication pointing in their direction. With the same token it can be said that the few Allied troops in the area (predominantly American personnel on leave) are well-liked by the Italian civil population and there has never been cause of ill-feelings since they are well behaved.

The investigation is continuing.

Nicholas A. NATSIOS,
Special Agent, CIC.

APPROVED:

M. A. TONINI,
Major, MI,
Supervising Agent

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