Italian Republican Army.

Some weather info

NY-4
FIRST DETAILED INTERROGATION OF TWO
ITALIAN SIGS OPERATORS

Name: SAGLIATTI, Franco
Rank: Pte
Unit: 12 TP; 4 MANTOVA BN, 1 ARTY REGT, MONTE ROSA ALPINE DIV
PP No: 81687/D
Captured: 31 Dec 44, nr MOLAZZANA, Fifth Army Front
Secret No: M 45/22
Interrogated: CSDIC, CMF, 15 Jan 45


1. PREAMBLE
   (a) SAGLIATTI
      PW is a 19 yr old ry employee (telegraphist) from BOLOGNA. Conscripted into Republican Army. Of average intelligence and answered questions willingly.
      Function: ex-WT operator
      Interrogated: Fair
   
   (b) MERLO
      PW is a 19 yr old ry employee (telegraphist) from nr PAVIA.
      Conscripted into the Republican Army. Answered questions, but has little infm of value.
      Function: LT operator
      Reliability: Fair

2. HISTORY AND MOVEMENTS
   (a) SAGLIATTI
      1 Jun 44. Called up to BOLOGNA Area HQ and sent to GERMANY to a Camp at HEUBERG where 4 Bn, 1 Arty Regt, ITALIA Div was in trg.
      10 Jul 44. Transferred to 12 TP, 4 MANTOVA BN, 1 Arty Regt, M ROSA Alpine Div at MUNZINGEN (WURTTEMBERG).
      25 Jul 44. Arrived with unit at GENO. Unit then moved at short intervals to CHIARAVI, SAN COLOMBANO, and, on or about
      15 Aug 44. Arrived with unit at GRAVEGLIA, nr CHIARAVI, where unit remained for over two months (parts of it moved to GENOA-
      4 Nov 44. Arrived at the front in the region of CASTELNUOVO di
      31 Dec 44. Captured nr MOLAZZANA.
   
   (b) MERLO
      2 Jun 44. Called up to TORTONA Area HQ and sent from there to HEUBERG Camp.
      Subsequent movements as for SAGLIATTI.

3. TRAINING AND EQUIPMENT
   PW were not trained as wireless operators (in GERMANY). As 1 Arty Regt
   of M ROSA Div already had enough operators by the time they joined it (MERLO stated that this was because members of recruits came from-ry offices in N ITALY and were
   acquainted with telegraphy, therefore wanted little trg). They were trained as LT
   operators and maint men. After the Div arrived in ITALY, SAGLIATTI was given trg on
   "b" and "k" sets and taught to encipher and decipher messages (see para 5 below).
   Trg was usually carried out by Italian officers and NCOs.
   4 MANTOVA BN was equipped with "k" WT sets. East troop had two sets, one for the OP and one for the GEO's Comd Post. However, WT cmts were only used when LT did not work, Field telephones were of the PP 33 type.
4. CALLSIGNS, FREQUENCIES AND CODENAMES (SAGUATTI)

Callsigns were made up of three symbols and issued monthly to HQ Regt by the Div Sigs Offr. Regt sent them down to Bn HQ for the whole month and the NCOs/i/c stns were given callsigns for a period of ten days. Frequencies were allotted in the same way. Both callsigns and frequencies were supposed to change daily at midnight. Often frequencies were changed without requiring sanction from Div Sigs Offr, because of poor reception.

FW stated that as far as he knew callsigns and frequencies were allotted to units in the Div after computation by Italian personnel (of OSIDC(MAIN)/Y 19 App "A", para B.)

Teleph-ne codenames (according to both FW) were changed every twenty days. As an example FW quoted codenames which were used on 30 Dec 44 (sub-units having same callsign plus numbers).

HQ 4 MANTOVA Bn : FORTANL.
GP 12 Tp, 4 MANTOVA Bn : FORTANA 121
HQ 12 Tp, 4 MANTOVA Bn : FORTANA 122

FW told forward interrogators that WT (?) callsigns were usually made up of three letters, but now states that both figures and letters were used. It is believed that FW most probably referred to RT comms when quoting the following example, i.e., on 30 Dec 44 callsign of 12 Tp was TUR, letters being spelt with the aid of names of Italian cities, viz TORINO, UDINE, ROMA.

5. CIPHER (SAGUATTI)

Cipher used by 1 Arty Regt, down to troop level, was of the box-square type. FW was only slightly acquainted with it compared with Sources interrogated previously. All he knew was the general principle on which it was worked and that it was issued to units by the Germans, some of the docs received by his Tp being printed partly in the German language. Keys changed daily.

6. METEOR SIGNALS IN CODE (BARBARA.MELDUNGEN) (SAGUATTI)

FW stated that at 12 Tp HQ there was a receiving set (German made) used for listening in to Meteor Signals (BARBARA.MELDUNGEN). He could only speak of transmissions of such signals as at Sep 44 when he was doing WT work. At that time transmissions were supposed to be made from a place in the vicinity of MILAN and they took place daily at 1215, 1815 and 0315 hrs. When the unit moved into the line he heard that these transmissions (or orders for listening in) were at two-hourly intervals, but he could not say whether they took place on the hour, quarter past the hour, etc. For further details see App "A".

7. PERSONALITIES

(a) Italians in 1 Arty Regt M ROSA Div (end Dec 44)

Lt-Col GROSSI
Major PACE
Lieut LACOSTE
Lieut SAVINI
Capt SANZO
Capt SCARLATTI
Capt WILPIARI
Lieut MALVICINI
2/Lt SALCONE
Sjt BONONI
Cpl LORENZI
L/Cpl CANONIC
Pte CARLESCO

OC
OC 4 MANTOVA Bn
Ord Offr ("AIUTANTE MAGGIORE") in 4 Bn
At Bn HQ
OC 10 Tp
OC 11 Tp
OC 12 Tp
GPO 12 Tp
GPO Offr 12 Tp
WT operator at HQ 4 Bn
" " " "
" " " "
" " " "
Pte. PINATO

Cpl. PEA

Pte. LJFFI

Pte. TOMASI

Pte. TURRINI

Sjt. GIULI

Pte. DOMENICO

T Operator at HQ 4 Bn

T Operator in 12 Tp

I/o LT det in 12 Tp

In LT det in 12 Tp

(b)German

CSM. RUCK

Sjt. BUCHNER or

BUCHNER

2/Lt. WENTZEL

German instructor in LT (FF33) at

HEUSING Tag Camp (10 Jul 44)

Instructor in use of Cipher, with

Liaison Unit to M ROS. Div (Sep 44)

German LO to 12 Tp, 4 MANTOVA Bn (Dec 44)

(c) Additional Italian non-sigs personnel in M ROS. Div (Nov 44)

(Pw Sources in CSDIC(MAIN)/Y 19.)

Gen. CARLONI

Major MARCIRINO

Lieut. ROCCARINO

2/Lt. VALLARTA

Lieut. ZIRON

2/Lt. SARTORO

2/Lt. REITER

2/Lt. ROMAGNOLI

WO (Marescallo) GATTI

WO (Mar.Capo) PIBILINI

Lieut. LAVER

2/Lt. MASAI

WO (Mar.Maggiore) PROFILII

WO (Mar.Capo) RENZINI

Capt. GIGLIOTTI

Lieut. SARPI

Lieut. COLOMBO

2/Lt. GRASSO

2/Lt. SPOTTINI

2/Lt. NAPOLITANO

GOC

GSO 2 (Cps). at Div HQ

Adjt XXIII Reece Bn

On staff of Reece Bn. Comes from TUNIS

00 2 Sqn, Reece Bn

Admin Offr Reece Bn

00 1 Sqn

00 1 Tp

I/o Mule Tpt Column in 2 Sqn

In 2 Sqn

00 3 Sqn

00 Eng Pl, 3 Sqn

In " " "

In 1 Alpini Regt

00 1 Bn, 3 Regt

00 Bn Coy, 1 Bn, 3 Regt

CC 5 (Hy) Coy, 1 Bn, 3 Regt

In " " "

In " " "

In " " "

In " " "

C.S.D.I.C.
C.M.F.,
22 Jan 45.

AG.B.

\( \sqrt{c} (R.P.F. \text{EDWARDS}) \)

Lt-Col.

Comm CSDIC, CMF.
Signals of meteor data were sent in two-figure code. According to PW wind velocity (from 1 to 12), barometric pressure and direction of wind were given. Messages began with a number of two digits which gave the key to the code, followed by the date and the spotheght ("quota") of the place where the meteor observations had been made. After that followed figure-bigrams. These were taken down on a special form provided for the purpose and which was drawn up on the lines of sketch 1. The figures (bigrams) in column 1 of sketch were printed on the form in that order. Source did not know if they were meant to indicate time of flight, or height of apex of trajectory above line of sight. All he could say was that he was certain column 1 looked as illustrated, and that, of the three figure-bigrams following the group already printed on the form, the last one indicated the velocity of the wind (from 1 to 12). Barometric pressure was indicated by either the first or second figure-bigram (not counting that printed on the form), as was direction of wind. The direction of wind was indicated by means of German Field Compass (MARSCHKOMPASS-ZHILIN) bearings (double hundred miles).

(NEW: PW GENSE (or CSDIC(LIJN)/Y 25) when asked to supply the order in which meteor data was given in signals stated that it was given in the following order and contained these elements:
1) Velocity of wind (LUFTGESCHWINDIGKEIT)
2) Humidity of air (LUFTFEUCHTIGKEIT)
3) Decimal places of ballistic pressure (DEZIMALLEN DES BALLISTISCHEN (for calculating air density) LUPFGWICHTES).

It is thought that PW GENSE's infor is more reliable.)

Sketch 1

| 10 | 53 | 25 | 40 |
| 15 |    |    |    |
| 20 |    |    |    |
| 25 |    |    |    |
| 30 |    |    |    |
| 40 |    |    |    |
| 50 |    |    |    |
| 60 |    |    |    |
| 70 |    |    |    |
| 80 |    |    |    |
| 90 |    |    |    |

In this example 53, 25, 40 are meteor data in code.

In order to decode a message a monthly table was used which contained over 100 key numbers – see sketch 1. (PW stated he was sure key numbers went beyond the 100 mark, to about 150). The key number in messages gave the starting place in the table for decoding. Thus if the example above was signalled in key No 35, the encoded message was placed along the table from key numbers 35 – 45 incl and the decoding figure-bigrams were deduced from the figure-bigrams in the signal. Thus 53, 25, 40 (groups signalled) less 49, 20, 30 (figure-bigrams opposite key No 35) would give clear Ok, 05, 10.

Sketch 2 - Decoding Table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>Addition groups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(subtracted when decoding)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distribution</td>
<td>Copy No</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AC of S, G-2, AFHQ.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G-2 (Sigs &quot;I&quot;), AFHQ.</td>
<td>2-4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.I.S., AFHQ.</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G-2 (P/W), AFHQ.</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GSI(s), 15 Army Group</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MT 8, War Office</td>
<td>8-10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>File</td>
<td>11-13</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>