

28 June 1946

TO : JJZ
FROM : BFB ²⁸⁸
SUBJECT: The ZIMMER Note-books

1. Attached herewith translation of four shorthand notebooks containing the official correspondence from May 1944 to March 1945 of Lt. ZIMMER, Abt VI, representative Milan. The notebooks were seized by the SCI/Z Milan shortly after the fall of the city and in the opinion of this unit provide one of the richest single bodies of information on the activities of abt. VI Milan and on the background of the armistice negotiations. Grateful acknowledgement was conveyed in December 1945 to CSDIC Rome for their aid in transcribing the shorthand into German.

2. The attachment comprises 167 separate memos, each bearing a reference number, chronologically dispersed as follows:

Ref. No. 1 - 45:	Feb-March 1945
46 - 78:	Jan-Feb. 1945
79 -102:	Aug-Nov. 1944
103 -167:	May-Sept. 1944.

It is thus clear that at least one other notebook covering the period Nov-Dec 1944 was missing or not seized.

3. ZIMMER's memoranda provide an irrefutable corroboration for the statements now being made by or for some of the prominent abt. VI double agents in North Italy.

4. Chief among them is Baron Luigi PARRILLI who is for the first time herein seen in his proper perspective as a man bound hand and foot to abt VI and the plans which ZIMMER and his superiors dictated. It is apparent that the pre-armistice negotiations were as much the work of the intelligence (most particularly abt VI) system on the German side as it was from the side of the Allies.

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SECRET (CONTROL)

2-133

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S E C R E T
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68

REF. NO.: 71 (contd)

234. We are examining the charges on the concentration-camp, which is probably large.

To Giorgio WALLE (or W.L.D.)¹; H. St. Klemens.²

1: This may or may not be the WALLE of Ref. No. 1, note 1.

2: Hauptsturmführer Hans CLEMENS (sic) was the Abt VI representative at Grenzbeobachtungsstelle WEST, at CERREBBIO, near Como (see Ref. No. 103, notes 2 and 3). The IR on CLEMENS is CSDIC/CLF/SD 7 (23 May '45).

REF. NO.: 72

Subject: Col. MINELLI¹

235. Subject came to me on 25 January to tell me that he was concerned over his wife and sister. I made his note that there was an attempt made with PANE(?)² to effect an exchange and that the failure was the fault of the Partisans. MINELLI stated that he had already sent his(?), who had verified that as a result of the latest action by the German forces the Partisan bands had finally disappeared from this sector. Consequently, an exchange would be technically impossible within the next few weeks, or at least days. He had learned from(?) that the two women are in a pitiful condition. They get food only once a day and never anything hot to drink. It is supposed that any allowance to PANE(?) for food or drink, or hot meals in the SD jail is forbidden. For all these reasons, he feels under obligation to give himself up to PANE in exchange for the two women, who are absolutely innocent in this matter and in fact urged him not to participate in the cause of the rebels. He cannot bear the thought of what these two women have to bear because of him. He has asked me to point out a way of solving this problem. Above all, he does not want to have me involved in a trial through his fault. The whole thing would be easily solved by arresting MINELLI again and telling him that we have used him for other reasons. Then the plan for W.L.LER³ would no longer interest us. The other side of the story would be the liberation of the women by Hauptsturmführer BERTI⁴ after their five days of imprisonment. Personally I think that they could be freed because according to what Agent W.L.LER and MINELLI state, the women have nothing to do with this business.

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