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426th C.I.C. Detachment,  
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DATE: 26 April 1945

SUBJECT: KUEPPERS, Wilhelm  
TO : C.O., SCI Unit Z, AAI.  
O.C., SCI Unit No. 1, CMF.

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FLOYD C. SNOWDEN,  
Lt. Col., M.I.,  
Chief, CIC, Rome Area MTOUSA.

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HEADQUARTERS  
486 GIG DETACHMENT  
APO 512, U S ARMY

70R3-22256

DAL/jm  
Case No. 1770  
16 April 1945

*Bimbi, Mirtala*

*cc Secretary*

MEMORANDUM FOR THE OFFICER IN CHARGE:

SUBJECT: KURPPERS, Wilhelm.

*cit Italy date 10 Apr 1920 Sub Italy 5-41*

RE: CLERIGI, Mirtala Renata.

*aka (Mrs) Pierluigi Bimbi Interrogation re Association with Kurppers 201-192335*

1. This investigation was requested by Lt. Col. Floyd C. Snowden, Chief, GIG, Hq Rome Area, MPOUSA, and was based upon a letter from the Office of the A G of S, G-2, Hq Rome Area, dated 27 January 1945, file G/P 1854/RR, requesting a trace on CLERIGI, who was reported to be a friend of Subject, and to determine the motives of Subject's stay in Rome.

2. CLERIGI has been identified as Mirtala Renata CLERIGI, di Giannetto and di Emilia MOLIN, ~~born at Varese Venesiano, 1 April 1920~~ and at present residing at Via Mario di Fiore #6, *Rome Italy*, apartment 6, Rome, telephone #682066. CLERIGI is described as being 5' 9", weighing 185 lbs, and having blue eyes, dark complexion, and black hair.

3. On 17 March 1945 CLERIGI, Mirtala Renata was interrogated by this Agent and gave the following information. Since September 1942 she has resided apart from her husband Dr. Pierluigi BIMBI, a resident of Vicarello (Livorno) on the QUINGERI farm. There is one child to the marriage, a son, Franco BIMBI, who at present is in the custody of the husband, awaiting a decision by tribunal at Livorno as to final custody. CLERIGI met KURPPERS on 10 September 1943 at Desenzano, where CLERIGI's father has a farm. CLERIGI at the time was studying at the University of Venice and KURPPERS, who at the time was the chief interpreter of the K.V.B.C. at Desenzano, arranged for CLERIGI to obtain a travel permit from the German command to travel to Venice. Later CLERIGI wanted to obtain possession of her son who was at Vicarello and invited to her home at Desenzano the German General BIRNINGER and KUEPPERS. The dinner took place on 25 September 1943 and at this time General BIRNINGER arranged for a German officer to accompany CLERIGI to Vicarello so she could gain possession of her son. The chosen officer was KUEPPERS and on 26 September 1943 KUEPPERS and CLERIGI obtained her child and returned to Desenzano. CLERIGI states that she was very thankful to the German command and since the German command needed interpreters, and since CLERIGI spoke German, she offered her services to them.

70R3-22256

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CLERIGI accepted employment on 2 December 1943. About 15 December 1943 CLERIGI's husband HINZI, together with a German major presented themselves to the German command and accused both CLERIGI and KUEFFERS of abduction. General BIERHINZEN was transferred to France in the meantime and Col. ZIMMERMANN VON SINGHART took over command. KUEFFERS was brought before a German Military Court for a court-martial but, before trial, was transferred to Arezzo. On 24 December 43 CLERIGI left the employ of the K.V.B.O. at Desenzano and became liaison secretary between the German Embassy and the Secretaryship of the Fascist Republican Party. On 15 January 1944 CLERIGI asked for a fifteen-day leave and proceeded to Marciano, Province of Arezzo, where she stayed in the home of Count MANUINI, where she awaited news of KUEFFERS. On 6 February 1944 CLERIGI was granted a one-month leave. She returned to Marciano where she saw KUEFFERS every day. KUEFFERS at the time was interpreter to the VERSORGUNGSSTUENZPUNKT at Arezzo. On 21 February 1944 KUEFFERS was sentenced to 15 days imprisonment on the abduction charge. CLERIGI took over KUEFFERS' place at the command and carried on his work during his confinement. On 8 April 1944 KUEFFERS was transferred to the front at Ortona but before leaving went to see CLERIGI at the villa of her parents at Desenzano where they both decided to desert the Wehrmacht. KUEFFERS and CLERIGI left Fasano del Garda and, they claim, never returned. CLERIGI changed her name to Anna PIRELLA and KUEFFERS took the name Vasco HISI. On 12 April 1944 they arrived at Poggio San Paolo where they stayed in the home of a bricklayer, ALFIANI Ottavio. On 18 April 1944 the Fascist Militia took KUEFFERS and CLERIGI to Siena where, she states, they were both accused of espionage in favor of the English. They were interrogated by Prefetto CHIURGO. CLERIGI states they convinced Prefetto CHIURGO that they were refugees from Ortona. CLERIGI states that she said "Ortona" because she knew there was fighting going on at Ortona and that there would be no way to check her story. CLERIGI and KUEFFERS were brought to Poggio San Paolo by the Prefetto and, while at Poggio San Paolo, CLERIGI and KUEFFERS ~~met~~ in touch with South African prisoners-of-war who had escaped from the Brolio Camp. CLERIGI states that here she met Captain HOOD and his Polish and Italian Partisans with whom she remained as a nurse. On 1 July 1944 the Germans arrived at San Paolo. CLERIGI <sup>and</sup> that from July 1 to July 10 she and KUEFFERS remained hidden in the woods with the Partisans. On 16 July 1944 the First South African Armored Division cars came up and both CLERIGI and KUEFFERS wanted to present themselves to the Combat Command, but Captain HOOD advised them not to do so, but to wait till they could reach some city, if possible. On 18 August 1944 CLERIGI and KUEFFERS left for Perugia where they resided at Via Annibale Veschi No. 29. While in Perugia KUEFFERS presented himself to the P33 on 12 October 1944. On 14 October 1944 KUEFFERS left Perugia for a concentration camp and CLERIGI states she did not see him again until 21 December

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1944 when she received news that he was residing at the German Academy in the Vatican. From 14 October to 15 November, 1944, OLERIGI worked in the office of Major Battersby, ANG, Perugia. OLERIGI came to Rome in January 1945 under a travel permit signed by Major Battersby. OLERIGI stated that she sees KUEPPERS in the Vatican whenever she goes out there. At present OLERIGI resides with friends at Via Marie dei Fiori #16, Rome, apartment 9. OLERIGI states she is without money and has to rely on the charity of her friends.

4. OLERIGI voluntarily presented herself to GIO, Rome, and has openly given her whole story. She has been interrogated by SOI Unit 2 as to German and Italian personalities at Fasano, and appears to honestly contribute whatever information she can.

5. According to OLERIGI, KUEPPERS has many friends in Vatican City and, as OLERIGI states, KUEPPERS told her he escaped from the POW camp because he found he was regarded as a German soldier and was to be treated as a POW and shipped to America. OLERIGI further states that KUEPPERS claims he remained at the camp outside of Rome for several months but was never interrogated or asked anything about his position although he requested an interview many times. OLERIGI stated that KUEPPERS would welcome any interrogation and an appointment could be made to see him any time at the Vatican. KUEPPERS at present is residing in Campo Teutonico.

6. AGENT'S COMMENT: OLERIGI appears open and honest in her story and has not tried to cover up any details. Her story seems an odd one but it may be as she states it. Yet, because she worked for the German Embassy and Republican Fascists at Fasano she will be kept under surveillance by this office to see if any mistakes in her story later appear.

OLERIGI has requested this Agent to interview KUEPPERS either in Vatican City or GIO office so that his position may be cleared. It is the opinion of this Agent that, since KUEPPERS did in fact escape from an Allied POW camp, no consideration should be shown him and accordingly this Agent refused to interview KUEPPERS. OLERIGI was instructed that if KUEPPERS wishes to clear himself there is only one way and that is for KUEPPERS to present himself voluntarily to the Allied Unit from which he escaped and to accept whatever decision is made on his case.

There is no evidence yet to indicate that OLERIGI aided in KUEPPERS' escape from the Allied POW camp.

7. RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that this case be closed.

Val 322256  
DANIEL A. LEAHY  
Special Agent, GIO