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Departure from Lake GARDA and Meeting with RAUFF

65. Subject agreed to go with ALWENS on 31 May and they duly set out on that day. When they arrived in MILAN, ALWENS took Subject to the Albergo REGINA, which had been requisitioned by the Germans. (Subject saw only S.S. personnel there, and the hotel appears to have been an S.S. H.Q.) They went up to the first floor and turned right, entering a door on the left. Subject found himself in a small room where an S.S. Licut with a bandaged hand and the Afrika Korps sleeveband was sitting at a table. ALWENS told him that he wished to see RAUFF, and the Licut went to a door in the far left-hand corner of the room and entered RAUFF's office. RAUFF came out and invited Subject and ALWENS to enter. RAUFF was also wearing S.S. uniform and the Afrika Korps sleeveband. (Subject did not notice any safes or cupboards in these offices.)

66. ALWENS and RAUFF spoke together in German for a time, but Subject, who does not speak German, did not understand what was said. RAUFF, who spoke no Italian, then talked to Subject, using ALWENS as interpreter. RAUFF asked Subject where he was going and Subject, seeing his opportunity, answered that he was going to ROME, although he says that he had not gone to MILAN with that idea immediately in mind. RAUFF, who had evidently heard from ALWENS that Subject had acquaintances in the VATICAN, said that it would be very interesting to know what the VATICAN attitude would be towards the Germans when the Allies had occupied ROME. Subject said that that was his precise aim in going to ROME. Subject added that he would try and obtain the information, keeping the mission secret, but that, if necessary, he would openly say that he had come on behalf of the Germans. RAUFF agreed to this. Subject had the impression that RAUFF wanted to know the VATICAN attitude in the eventuality of GERMANY asking for peace terms. RAUFF then told Subject that if he called on a Capt ALBERTI of 67 Via BOLOGNESE in FLORENCE, ALBERTI would facilitate his journey to ROME and that if in ROME he applied to Col. KAPPLER at 155 Via TASSO, KAPPLER would give him help. He said that he would send a telegram to KAPPLER warning him of Subject's impending arrival. Subject states he had not heard the names of ALBERTI or KAPPLER before. RAUFF intimated that Subject would have to hurry if he were to arrive in ROME before the Allies occupied it.

ALWENS then telephoned to the Albergo PRINCIPE BAVOLA in German, and when he had rung off told Subject that if he went to this hotel and asked for a man called HEYMAN he would be given a room for the night. Subject duly went to HEYMAN and was given a room. HEYMAN, Subject discovered, was a Colonel for to the German Embassy in Rome, and Subject told him that he was going to the VATICAN on a mission. HEYMAN then gave Subject a letter of introduction to a man called Von BRAUN, attached to the German Embassy to the Holy See, in case Subject needed help. (Subject states that he subsequently destroyed the letter when he learned from Dr. MAERZ that Von BRAUN was no longer in Rome.)

Journey to FLORENCE

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