

17 Sept 45

SUBJECT: Larceny of 1/4 Ton Vehicle, WD No. 20656544

1. This officer having been nominated as investigating officer to ascertain the circumstances leading to the loss of the above vehicle reports that:

a. Vehicle was stolen at Ponte di Legno at 0400 hours, 30 August 1945, while parked in front of the Albergo Vittoria in the said town.

b. At the time of the loss, vehicle was in care of one George GUERRAZ, alias George GRAY, chauffeur and informant, an employee of this detachment.

c. The above named was dispatched by Special Agent George H. GENTITHES, in charge of the Brenner Section, on 22 August 1945 to proceed to Bolzano and pick up a tire, repair the vehicle, and draw gasoline. GUERRAZ, not being able to find the tire in Bolzano, took it upon himself to proceed to Milan. He reported to this headquarters and was instructed to place the vehicle in Ordnance and to return to the Brenner.

d. GUERRAZ disregarded instructions and drove a young lady, CHIO, Laura, to Domodossela.

e. On 24 Aug 1945, the vehicle was taken to 36th Ordnance in Milan and repaired and GUERRAZ left for the Brenner.

f. On 29 Aug 45, GUERRAZ arrived in Ponte di Legno at 2300 and after immobilizing the vehicle in front of the Hotel Vittoria, stayed overnight at the above named hotel.

Agents Comments:

1. GUERRAZ, or GRAY, is on the payroll of this office.
2. Due to the lack of CIC personnel it has become necessary to employ civilian drivers in several cases.
3. GUERRAZ has not been the cause of any trouble previous to the loss of the vehicle.

4. Special Agent GENTITHES is the only Agent in the Brenner Section and since presence is constantly required at his frontier post, he employed GUERRAZ for routine trips for rations, gas, repairs, etc.

5. The vehicle was immobilized by disconnecting the wires leading to the sparkplugs and placing it under lock and key.

6. GUERRAZ left the key in the glove compartment, but it is not known whether the thief or thieves found the keys and unlocked the vehicle.

7. This officer was at the scene of the loss and reports that garage facilities are not available at Ponte di Legno.

8. A unit of the Legnano group, Italian Army is stationed at the road blocks in the region and this officer upon interrogating the Italian military on duty, discovered that no jeep passed any of the road blocks on 30 Aug 1945.

9. Unless Italian military are responsible for the theft, which is highly probable, the said vehicle is still in the region.

10. The loss was reported immediately and a search was conducted by a platoon of Italian military. All road blocks were warned of the theft and all police agencies were alerted including the AMG public Safety Officer in the Sondrio Province.

11. The investigation is continuing, but it is improbable that the vehicle will be recovered. In view of the nature of the terrain in the region, a vehicle could be hidden very easily with little effort.

12. GUERRAZ, who is in reality a deserter from the Swiss Army, is now being held in jail in Como awaiting deportation to Switzerland.

Recommendation:

1. In view of the fact that Special Agent GENTITHES was alone and had to depend on a civilian driver who was on the payroll of this office, and in view of the fact that once GUERRAZ left the Brenner, he was no longer under the control of Special Agent GENTITHES, this officer recommends that GENTITHES cannot be held responsible for the loss of the vehicle.

GUERRAZ, who is actually responsible is not American military and this officer doubts that he can be made accountable for the vehicle.

NICHOLAS A. NATSIOS  
Special Agent, CIC

APPROVED:

MELIO A. TONINI  
Major, MI  
Supervising Agent, Zone 3

Inclosures:

1. Preliminary report of Special Agent VITIELLO
2. Report of Special Agent GENTILES
3. Interrogation of CHIO, Laura
4. Authorization of GUERRAZ, alias GRAY, to drive US vehicle
5. Request to hire GUERRAZ, alias GRAY, dated 2 July 1945.