

COUNTER INTELLIGENCE CORPS
MILAN DETACHMENT ZONE 3
APO 512 c/o GSI(b) 2 DISTRICT CMF

21 January 1946

SUBJECT : Arrest of Allied Personnel Involved in an Armed Robbery

TO : Provost Marshal, PBS, APO 782

1. Regarding your letter of 15 December 1945, above Subject, this officer is familiar with the incident. Since Special Agent Piccirillo, who participated in the arrest of the above persons has been re-deployed to the zone of the interior, this officer will endeavor to establish the circumstances surrounding the capture and arrest of the above personnel.
2. On 7 November 1945, Special Agent Piccirillo of this organization was on duty in Milan, Italy, and was proceeding along Via Foro Bonaparte in a ton WD "jeep".
3. About 1300 hours he was stopped by an Italian civilian, who excitedly told him that Allied soldiers had stopped him at gun-point on the Como-Milan autostrada, forced themselves into his vehicle and forced him to drive them to Milan. At Foro Bonaparte, where he stopped Special Agent Piccirillo, they had gotten out of the vehicle, threatening to shoot him if he gave any alarm, and proceeded on foot towards Via Barretta.
4. Special Agent Piccirillo, although unarmed, gave chase. Arriving at the corner of Via Foro Bonaparte and Via Barretta, he noticed three individuals who had spotted him and were at this time running down Via Barretta. Special Agent Piccirillo gave chase in his vehicle and forced these individuals to seek shelter in the courtyard of 6 Via Barretta, the Swiss Consulate building.
5. Piccirillo halted his vehicle and called for the individuals to come out with their hands in the air, being familiar with the Swiss Consulate building, knowing that there was no other exit from the place.
6. At about this time, a British soldier went by in a vehicle, and Piccirillo requested him to go for help at the U.S. MP headquarters at Foro Bonaparte. The British soldier left to seek the help of the MP's.
7. Not heeding his demand to give themselves up, the individuals hiding in the court-yard threatened to come out firing. With this Piccirillo used the old ruse that the building was at this time surrounded by the police and that they would enter firing if they did not heed his warning in two minutes time.
8. After waiting for a minute, Piccirillo saw one individual come out of the the court-yard with his hands in the air. Piccirillo, with one

hand in his pocket, feigning the possession of a gun, he forced this individual who was a British soldier, against the wall and searched him briefly, taking away personal documents. About this time an Italian civilian, later identified as a well known petty thief emerged from the buildg with his hands in the air and Piccirillo carried the same procedure and had him face the wall. The third individual after threatening to come out firing emerged with his hands in the air. At about this time the U.S. Military Police arrived and the prisoners were handed over to them by Piccirillo.

9. Piccirillo turned over the gun he took away from the last individual, who was identified as an American soldier, to the MP's and proceeded to this office.

10. Piccirillo offered to write a report of the incident to the MP headquarters, but was told that it was not necessary.

11. This officer is familiar with the above circumstances only, and can provide no other information on the case.

12. The case is considered as closed by this office, since the individuals were turned over to the MP's.

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