

Rabbi Hier
Simon Wiesenthal Holocaust Center
9760 W. Pico Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90035

1/28/87

Dear Rabbi Hier,

First as an enlisted man and then as a civilian I was in O.S.S. during World War II and when it was liquidated I was in Research and Analysis of the State Dept., I think in State intelligence. After a medical discharge I was rehired by the Latin American Division of OSS because of my investigative reporting, particularly of Nazi cartels. Several of those Nazi front corporations were vested after my exposes appeared. Of course, I cannot allege a cause-effect relationship, but it is this work that led to my reemployment by a different division as a civilian.

For a period of time I was in charge of the Washington end of what was called our "outpost" activities. This was after the collapse of the Nazi and Fascist armies. Captured Nazi and Fascist records passed through my hands. I wish I had a clearer recollection of some of them and their disposition.

I write in the belief that the Army has some undisclosed records that might be of value now and to report that it attempted then to keep some of these records secret. Also, I do recall that rather than let some of these records be acquired by the USSR when that territory was by agreement to be occupied by it the Army burned them. I am confident that it was records of one of the two but I cannot now be certain whether it was Nazi party, possibly membership records, or Gestapo records.

I do have a clear recollection of the Army's attempt to hide Nazi foreign office records because I was on leave and was called back from a visit to my mother to inform a man whose name I remember as Sam Clouse. I think he then headed State intelligence. His office was in what then was the main State building and now is the Executive Office Building. Those records were captured in a salt mine at or near Harburg. I do not know and never did know what if anything Clouse did with that information.

The Army also succeeded in hiding some Mussolini records, the reels of microfilm of the records he had with him when the partisans captured him. If my recollection is correct, he had about 25 suitcases some of which held records. I believe that I was able to trace those microfilms to the Pentagon and that a French economist in one of the economic warfare bureaus named Jean Pajus also did the same tracing and that we were in phone communication about this contemporaneously.

Perhaps the coincidence is only coincidence and not remarkable but almost immediately American corporations started moving in on Italian corporations. One I think I recall is Snia Viscosa and I'm pretty sure that the U.S. corporations included Kaiser who, aside from his steel and aluminum operations had been a high government official.

The Italian records I did see included some of the Nazi ambassador to the Vatican, father of the present Baron von Weisaecker. My present recollection is that he had a cozy relationship with Pope Pius and I've often wondered if those records were examined whether they might shed light on any Pius anti-Semitism. These records did reach the State Department and I believe that they should have been published by now but I have never heard of it happening.

All the microfilm I recall was 35 mm. We also had some prints. During the period I handled these outpost records my component was housed in space rented from Dorchester House apartments on NW 16th Street at about Euclid, opposite what then was known as Meridian Hill Park and since has been renamed for Malcolm X. I hope that this may provide you with some useful leads.

Best wishes for your continued success,

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