

DECLASSIFIED
 Authority NN10867125
 By VR NARA Date 817

Sept. 2, 1943.

ITALY

Last night the man from the mountains asked me to come out and see him.

He has had news that the fifth Alpini Regiment, an elite group that did service in Russia - he believes, and which was stationed at Lecco near the eastern shore of Lake Maggiore, has taken up strong defensive positions in a narrow mountain canyon at Introbio. The commander intends to fight if attacked by the Germans, however he has no communication with Badoglio. Our friend thinks we should ask Badoglio to send liaison officers with radio. The men are more aggressively minded than the commander and have formed a committee to take over if he gets cold feet.

Our friend wants them to unite with numerous armed bands that have taken refuge in this region north of Bergamo, and launch an offensive against Como. Through small regional commands of this kind ^(another one for the Varese area) he thinks quite an army could be built up -- one strong enough to dominate the Po and prevent Rommel from making a stand there.

Our friend wants to make a trip ~~in~~ or two to the Tessin (illegally -- because his permit to travel expressly excludes the Tessin) and organize two separate regional commands for this purpose. These commands would at first be independent and in ignorance of each other. He wants to go to Lugano and Locarno. He has "bases of operation" at Como and Tirano. Wants to know if we can provide false papers for the train control in the Gothard ~~XX~~ and a car that could meet him at Airolo and take him through Bellinzona where he is too well known.

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