

Errata corrige to the book

Globocnik's men in Italy 1943-45
Abteilung R and the SS-Wachmannschaften of the Operationszone
Adriatisches Küstenland

Stefano Di Giusto – Tommaso Chiussi

- p. 7, first column, first line: read “by summer 1943”
- p. 23, first column, line 18: replace “Steubl,*” with “Steubl* (later seconded to the *SS-WMS-Btl.*),”
- p. 24, first column, line 15: replace Steubl, with Steubl,*
- p. 25, first column, line 6: delete Sporleder
- p. 25, second column, line 12: replace Eishold with Eisold
- p. 32, second column, line 19: read “repairs on other clothing items”
- p. 32, second column, last line: read “On what criteria”
- p. 35: delete Schneider from line 16 and add Bolender on line 15
- p. 37, first column, line 7-8:
replace “four NCOs (*SS-Uscha. Baer, Bolender, Girtzig, and Sporleder*)” with
“five NCOs (*SS-Uscha. Baer, Bolender, Girtzig, Sporleder and Hwm. Steubl*)”
- p. 58, first column, line 17:
replace “on May 3. *Kp./SS-Pol.Rgt. “Bozen”* had a firefight ...” with
“on May 3, 3. *Kp./SS-Pol.Rgt. “Bozen”* had a firefight ...”
- p. 80, second column, first bullet point:
replace “3. *Rgt. MDT di Fiume*” with “3. *Rgt. MDT* from Fiume”
- p. 82, first column, line 6:
at this stage commander of *14. Btg. Costiero da Fortezza* was still *Maggiore* (Major) Giuseppe Castelli (Soravito, already a unit member, took over in August 1944)
- p. 103, second column, line 14-15:
replace “in the night between 28 and 29 April, the HSSPF left the city” with
“in the night between 29 and 30 April, the HSSPF left the city”
- p. 103, second column, line 18-20:
replace “With Globocnik’s vehicle column abandoned the city, and also the remaining men of *Abteilung R*” with

“With Globocnik’s vehicle column, also the remaining men of *Abteilung R* abandoned the city”

- p. 119, second column, line 14 from bottom:
replace “The only known names” with “The only known officers’ names”
- p. 123, first column, first line:
replace “(SS-*Uscha*. Baer, Bolender, Girtzig, and Sporleder)” with
“(SS-*Uscha*. Baer, Bolender, Girtzig, Sporleder and *Hwm*. Steubl)”
- p. 123, second column, line 3-4 from bottom:
replace “As some of them (including Volksdeutsche) ...” with
“As already mentioned above some of them (including Volksdeutsche) ...”
- p. 132, first column, first bullet point:
replace “*Stabskompanie*: (...) at least three Trawniki” with
“*Stabskompanie*: (...) at least two Trawniki”
- p. 135, second column, line 5-6 from bottom:
replace “*Sottotenente* Mario Ferrero and Cerrato” with
“*Tenente* Mario Ferrero and Cerrato”
- p. 161: in the Richter photo caption, the correct date of death is August 13, 1944
- p. 202: for Sporleder and Steubl, add Trieste as place of service
- p. 213, note 52: read Kielminsky instead of Kilminsky
- p. 219, note 120, second line from the bottom: read Lehnick instead of Lehnik
- p. 228, note 58: read Taus instead of Taus
- p. 239, note 3: read Kielminsky instead of Kilminsky

Guardia di Finanza:

New information has led to the revision of the book parts related to the role of the *Guardia di Finanza* (Finance Guard) in the protection of the Karststrasse (Trieste – Fiume road):

page 46, first column: replace the last paragraph:

In addition to the *Abteilung R* detachments, the *Sicherungskommandant der Karststrasse* had at his disposal also a company of the *SS-Wachmannschafts-Btl.* (its 6. *Kompanie*) and two Italian units: a company of the *Guardia di Finanza* (Finance Guard) and 2. *Compagnia* of 3. *Rgt. MDT*.

with:

In addition to the *Abteilung R* detachments, the *Sicherungskommandant der Karststrasse* had at his disposal also a company of the *SS-Wachmannschafts-Btl.* (its 6. *Kompanie*) and some Italian units: two companies (later reduced to one) of the *Guardia di Finanza* (Finance Guard) and 2. *Compagnia* of 3. *Rgt. MDT*.

page 47-48: replace the following paragraph:

On the *Guardia di Finanza* company the available information is scarce and confused. According to one source, an independent company which was based in Trieste was sent on the Karststrasse in early June 1944, led by a *Tenente* (probably Francesco Rolleri); apparently only around 50 men reached Castelnuovo and were distributed also in the outposts of Matteredia, Gradischie and Obrovo, while 38 refused to move out and were therefore arrested and deported by the Germans.⁵⁶ From other information it seems however certain that a company of the *Guardia di Finanza*, indicated as *Compagnia Autonoma di Sicurezza* (independent security company), had manned some outposts on the Trieste – Fiume road (perhaps only on the stretch between Trieste and Sappiane; one outpost was surely in Matteredia) at least since December 1943; it had its headquarters in Castelnuovo and apparently it was initially led by *Capitano* Antonio Rosito, later by *Capitano* Carabelli (until late June 1944).⁵⁷ The men sent to the Karststrasse in early June were perhaps only reinforcements for the company already deployed along the road. The *Guardia di Finanza* company was later led by *Tenente* Rolleri and it also participated in sweep operations together with German units.⁵⁸

with:

On the *Guardia di Finanza*, at least initially it had two “autonomous police companies” or “security companies” on the Karststrasse; one was formed with elements from the Trieste district, the other one with elements from the Fiume district. On an unknown date the company from Fiume was disbanded; this happened perhaps before Allers took over (he stated in a deposition that as *Sicherungskommandant der Karststrasse* he had only one *Guardia di Finanza* company under his orders) or little after that. The company from Trieste, on the other hand, remained in service on the Karststrasse until late April 1945.^{55bis}

On the security company set up by the Trieste district the available information is scarce and confused. According to one source a security company was sent on the Karststrasse in early June 1944, led by a *Tenente* (probably Francesco Rolleri); apparently only around 50 men reached Castelnuovo and were also distributed in the outposts of Matteredia, Gradischie and Obrovo, while 38 refused to move out and on June 5 they were therefore arrested and deported by the Germans.⁵⁶ From other sources it is however certain that the “*Compagnia autonoma di Polizia della Guardia di Finanza*” (autonomous police company of the *Guardia di Finanza*) with headquarters in Castelnuovo had been on the Trieste – Fiume road at least since January 1944: one of its outposts was surely in Matteredia, where its men was disarmed by the partisans in the night of January 12-13 and some were killed.⁵⁷ The *Guardia di Finanza* men sent to the Karststrasse from Trieste in early June were hence perhaps only reinforcements for the company already deployed along the road. Commander of this company was – from an unknown date until end of June 1944 – *Capitano* Fernando Carabelli (previously company commander in Udine).^{57bis} Later the company was led by the mentioned *Tenente* Rolleri. It also participated in sweep and police operations together with German units.⁵⁸ Its outposts probably covered the stretch of the road from outside Trieste to the area of Sappiane / Rupa junction.

The following stretch towards Fiume was covered by the security company set up by the Fiume district. It was led by *Tenente* Giovanni Capozzi and had its headquarters in Mattuglie. As mentioned, this company was disbanded probably around mid-1944, when most *Guardia di Finanza* men from Fiume were transferred to other areas of the OZAK.^{58bis}

Endnotes:

^{55bis} Pierpaolo Meccariello, *La Guardia di Finanza sul confine orientale*, Museo Storico della Guardia di Finanza, Paravia, Torino, 1997, p. 242, where it is reported that the company based in Castelnuovo withdrew to Trieste in late April 1945, ignoring an order by Allers to set up a defensive position in Marcossina.

⁵⁶ Pierpaolo Meccariello, *La Guardia di Finanza sul confine orientale*, Museo Storico della Guardia di Finanza, Paravia, Torino, 1997, pp. 224-225.

⁵⁷ On the Mattered episode see the articles published in “La Voce di Romagna”, 1 and 8.2.2010 (see <http://www.mlhistria.altervista.org/storiaecultura/testiedocumenti/articoligiornali/mattered2.htm>) where a document is transcribed that reported the disappearance of a *Guardia di Finanza* man belonging to the Mattered outpost, written in April 1944 by the headquarters of 6. *Legione* (regiment) of the *Guardia di Finanza* from Trieste. The beginning of the document read: “On January 13, 1944 the headquarters of the “*Compagnia autonoma di Polizia*” of the *Guardia di Finanza* based in Castelnuovo d’Istria reported to this headquarters that ...”.

According to a document dated 9.12.1943, the security company from Trieste (referred to in the document as a “unit (...) tasked with watching upon the Trieste – Fiume road, protecting the safety of citizens and prevent sabotage acts by the rebels”) was to be led by *Capitano* Antonio Rosito, previously assigned to the infamous “Ispettorato Speciale di Pubblica Sicurezza per la Venezia Giulia”, a special investigative police unit active in the Venezia Giulia region against the resistance movement (the document is reproduced in Vincenzo Cerceo, *La Guardia di Finanza nel “Litorale Adriatico” 1943-1945*, Dossier nr. 14 of “La Nuova Alabarda”, 2014, p. 17; since summer 1942 elements of the *Guardia di Finanza* – together with policemen, Carabinieri and men from the Fascist Milizia – were assigned to the “Ispettorato speciale” to build mobile units to be employed in anti-partisan operations, see Pierpaolo Meccariello, *La Guardia di Finanza sul confine orientale*, Museo Storico della Guardia di Finanza, Paravia, Torino, 1997, p. 154). For unknown reasons however Rosito did not take up the command of the security company; instead, in mid-December he became commander of a *Guardia di Finanza* company tasked with economic police duties, based first in San Daniele del Friuli (north-west of Udine) and later moved to Pordenone.

^{57bis} Deposition by Allers of 16.5.1963 (BA Ludwigsburg, B162/18096), where a farewell letter written by Carabelli to Allers and dated 3.7.1944 is mentioned, which was confiscated by the investigators but could not be found in the file. Allers explained that Carabelli had been temporary commander of the *Guardia di Finanza* company under Allers’ orders, and wrote to him the letter in question to bid farewell after being transferred elsewhere.

⁵⁸ Rolleri received an official commendation from the General Headquarters of the *Guardia di Finanza* of the RSI (to be precise the name had actually been changed to *Guardia Repubblicana di Finanza*) with the following motivation: “As commander of a “*Compagnia autonoma di Polizia*” of the *Guardia di Finanza* based in Istria, in numerous and victorious actions against bands of armed partisans he has shown great qualities of leadership, disregard for danger and high sense of duty. Castelnuovo d’Istria - June-August 1944-XXII” (published in the official bulletin “Foglio d’Ordini” nr. 8 of 14.11.1944).

In Yugoslav documentation Rolleri is accused of taking part in the evacuation of the civilian population from the villages of Danne, Vodizze di Castelnuovo, Trestenico di Raspo, Raspo, Mune Grande, Mune Piccolo and Obrovo and their subsequent burning in August 1944 (together with Allers and Walther); he is also accused of having committed, together with his men, violence and abuses against the civilian population of the villages along and near the Trieste – Fiume road (Komisija za ugotavljanje zločinov okupatorjev in njihovih pomagačev za Slovenjo, Commission for the investigations on the crimes of the occupiers and their supporters in Slovenia, file Z-1000-P).

^{58bis} Some first-hand information on the “compagnia di sicurezza” set up in Fiume can be found in Giorgio Fossati, *Storie d’amore dentro la guerra 1941-1945*, Circolo culturale Menocchio, 2012, pp. 136-138. Many men belonging to the *Guardia di Finanza* of the Fiume district were moved to western Friuli and integrated in the *Wirtschaftspolizei* (economic police) set up by the Germans in the OZAK in order to control the movements of goods from and towards the RSI territory.

page 82, lines 7-11: replace

- a company of the *Guardia di Finanza* (Finance Guard), with outposts along the Trieste – Fiume road (perhaps only in the stretch between Trieste and Sappiane) and headquarters in Castelnuovo;

with:

- two security companies of the *Guardia di Finanza* (Finance Guard), manning a series of outposts along the Trieste – Fiume road (for more information see page 47-48 – revised paragraph – for more details);