

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” instead of “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. 25, second column, line 28-29:
replace “on the same day, probably on the same occasion, also Mentz was wounded” with “still in December 1944, possibly on the same occasion, also Mentz was wounded by a strafing airplane”
- p. 32, second column, line 19: read “repairs on other clothing items” instead of “repairs of on other clothing items”
- p. 32, second column, last line: read “On what criteria” instead of “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:
replace “its commander was *Maggiore* Oscar Soravito” with “its commander was *Maggiore* Giuseppe Castelli” (Soravito, already a unit member, took over in August 1944)
- p. 101, second column, line 13 from the bottom: read “Ponte di Brenta” instead of “Ponte di Piave” **NEW**

- 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 the 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 the bottom:
replace “As some of them (including Volksdeutsche) ...” with
“As already mentioned above some of them (including Volksdeutsche) ...”
- p. 131, photo caption: read “trainers” instead of “trainees” **NEW**
- 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 the bottom: replace “*Sottotenente* Mario
Ferrero and Cerrato” with “*Tenente* Mario Ferrero and Cerrato”
- p. 142, photo caption above: read “trainer” instead of “trainee” **NEW**
- 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 116: read “box 756” instead of “box 765”
- p. 219, note 120, second line from the bottom: read “Lehnick” instead of “Lehnik”
- p. 225, note 35: replace “the Sawka mentioned in the previous endnotes” with “the
Sawka mentioned above and in the previous endnote”
- p. 227, note 47, p. 232, note 112, and p. 235, note 29: the article by Mario
Bonifacio, *La leva del marzo 1944 a Pirano*, was published in *Tempi e Cultura*,
number 5, year III, winter 1998 – spring 1999 (the issue number was missing)
- p. 228, note 58: read “Tauss” 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 Italian *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: UPDATE!

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:

Regarding the *Guardia di Finanza*, at least initially it had two companies on the *Karststrasse*; they were indicated as “*Compagnia autonoma di Polizia*” (independent police company) or also as “*Compagnia di sicurezza*” (security company). One company was formed by the Trieste *Guardia di Finanza* district (also with elements coming from Udine district), the other one by the Fiume district. On an unknown date the company from Fiume was disbanded; this happened perhaps before Allers took over as *Sicherungskommandant der Karststrasse* (he stated in a deposition that in this role 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} The security company set up by the Trieste district was probably created already in December 1943.⁵⁶ In any case it is certain that in January 1944 it was already on

the Trieste – Fiume road, with headquarters in Castelnuovo: in the night of January 12-13 its outpost in Matteredia was disarmed by the partisans and some of its men were killed.⁵⁷ Its four platoons were based in Erpelle, Matteredia, Gradischie and Obrovo. In addition to protecting the *Karststrasse*, the company also participated in sweep and anti-Partisan operations under German orders, mostly together with German and other Italian (often MDT) units. Its commander was – from an unknown date until early July 1944 – *Capitano* Fernando Carabelli (previously company commander in Udine).^{57bis} He was replaced as company commander by *Tenente* Francesco Rolleri, who came from Udine in mid-June and briefly led the Gradischie platoon before taking over the entire company.⁵⁸

The *Guardia di Finanza* security company set up by the Fiume district probably covered the stretch from Sappiane / Rupa junction to Fiume, or part of it. It was led by *Tenente* Giovanni Capozzi and had its headquarters in Mattuglie. It is not known when it was created, possibly also in December 1943. As mentioned above, it was disbanded probably around mid-1944, when most *Guardia di Finanza* men from Fiume were transferred to other areas of the OZAK.^{58bis}

Revised 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 According to one source (Pierpaolo Meccariello, *La Guardia di Finanza sul confine orientale*, Museo Storico della Guardia di Finanza, Paravia, Torino, 1997, pp. 224-225) an “already existing independent company”, was sent from Trieste to the *Karststrasse* in early June 1944; 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.

However, a document dated 9.12.1943 (reproduced in Vincenzo Cerceo, *La Guardia di Finanza nel “Litorale Adriatico” 1943-1945*, Dossier nr. 14 of “La Nuova Alabarda”, 2014, p. 17) shows that the security company from Trieste already existed or was being set up at that time. According to this document, the unit (referred to as “a *Guardia di Finanza* unit (...) tasked with the surveillance of the Trieste – Fiume road, for the protection of the safety of citizens and the prevention of sabotage acts by the rebels”) was to be led by *Capitano* Antonio Rosito, who at that time was 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 (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 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.

The *Guardia di Finanza* men sent to the *Karststrasse* from Trieste in early June 1944 were hence probably only reinforcements or replacements (a system of rotation was planned, but hardly applied due to personnel shortages) for the company already deployed along the road.

⁵⁷ On the Matteredia episode see the articles published in “La Voce di Romagna”, 1 and 8.2.2010 (see <http://www.mlhistria.altervista.org/storiaecultura/testiedocumenti/articoligiornali/matteredia2.htm>) where a document – written in April 1944 by the headquarters of 6. *Legione* (regiment) of the *Guardia di Finanza* from Trieste – is transcribed that reported the disappearance of a *Guardia di Finanza* man belonging to the Matteredia outpost. 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 ...”.

^{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).

After the war Rolleri was charged with collaborating with the Germans but an amnesty was issued before a trial could take place. A separate procedure initially led to his dismissal from the *Guardia di Finanza* for having collaborated with the Germans and participated to sweep operations, but this was later reversed by the Consiglio di Stato high court, and he was reinstated (Consiglio di Stato – Sezione speciale epurazione – file n. 14293, decision n. 16333 of 9.7.1949).

In Yugoslav documentation Rolleri was 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 was 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). For these accusations however he was never put to trial.

^{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 (see page 47-48 – revised paragraph from this file – for more details);