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Abstracts

MARCO CLEMENTI, *La questione degli Archivi di Rodi alla fine della presenza italiana in Dodecaneso*

After the end of WWII, Dodecanese was set by the British Army. The Italian administration, that collaborated with the Wehrmacht after September 1943, was arrested and deported. Only very few people were allowed to stay and work for the British Military Administration. Among them, the former Podestà of Rhodes, Antonio Macchi, and the sergeant of the Carabinieri Francesco Corletti, who tried to destroy – in collaboration with the Italian government – the most compromising Italian documents, hiding the misdeeds of the past regime. Although they stated, that they had burned the most relevant documents, recent archival discoveries lead us to doubt their words.

In 2013 a small group of scholars from Greece and Italy brought to light the important archive of the Royal Carabinieri Group – Special Central Office, hosted for all these years within the Rhodes police station. Founded in 1932, the archive preserves bureaucratic certificates, such as permits and authorizations, as well as confidential reports, records of personal habits and their political views. The new archive contains about 90,000 personal files that include information of a private nature on Italians, Greeks, Turks, Jews and foreigners who lived in Rhodes and on the other islands. Since some of the documents have, in part to do with Jewish citizens, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum of Washington D.C. has expressed a large amount of interest in this archive, offering a grant in order to digitize part of it.

As is shown in the paper, Corletti and Macchi over-exaggerated the level of their authorisation to access files kept within archives to Rome. For these reasons, it is difficult to state exactly, what had been destroyed by Macchi and Corletti in 1945-1947. Actually, the fact that they weren't able to touch any important paper from the former Italian administration is more than a suspicion. At the same time, one can underline the attitude of the new democratic Italy, that appears complicit in trying to cover events and misdeeds of the Fascist Regime in Dodecanese.

Keywords:

End of Italian domination in the Dodecanese

Italian administration

Archives, Jewish Community