

/as RENZO and

in command was SUCCHIELLI Edoardo. A number of these escaped prisoners joined this band.

There is a second class road which runs from MONTE SAN SAVINO to BUCINE and North of this town joins Route 69 to FLORENCE. This road runs through the hills and passes both SAN PANCRAZIO and CORNIA and was used by the Germans. Here, the partisans attacked motor cyclists and lone German lorries thus attracting attention to both these localities.

About the middle of June 44, paratroopers of General HEINRICH's Division were moving through this area. They were making their way to FLORENCE for the purpose of reforming. They travelled by various means, some on foot as they were, at this time, completely disorganised.

On Sunday, 18 June 44, four German soldiers called at the farm of ROSSI Silvio. This farm is at the foot of CIVITELLA hill and about one mile from the village. These soldiers were later joined by a further five and it was apparent that they intended remaining for the day.

About 1800 hours, four of them left the farm and went to the village of CIVITELLA. Here, they went into the DOPO LAVORO Club where they purchased drink, played cards and were on friendly terms with everyone present.

About 1930 hours, three of them went into the village square, which is just outside the club. Here, they fired two or three flares into the sky from a Verrey pistol. It is assumed that this was done to attract the attention of their companions who were still at the farm of ROSSI.

At this time the partisans were staying in the hills just outside CORNIA. SUCCHIELLI states that he received complaints regarding the behaviour of these Germans. About 2000 hours, he went to CIVITELLA with some of his companions. Here he was informed that the Germans were in the DOPO LAVORO.

This building consisted of two rooms and early in the evening, the four soldiers had been together in the first of these rooms. Sometime later, however, one of them had gone into the second and was there when the partisans entered.

Exactly what happened is not very clear but from the statement of SUCCHIELLI, it would appear that he intended to disarm the Germans. However, for some reason or other, he and his companions opened fire, killing two of the Germans and seriously wounding a third. When this happened someone extinguished all the lights so the partisans collected what arms they could find and left the village.

The German who was in the second room waited until all was quiet then it is assumed went and examined his companions. The one he found alive he carried back to ROSSI's farm where his wounds were treated by the other soldiers.

Later in the evening, a motor vehicle called

at the farm/....