

254

Monte San Savino.

30 November 44.

STATEMENT OF :-

CARLETTI Antonio,
Monte San Savino.

Male
59 years.

Who saith,

I am a landowner and have lived at the above address at intervals for the last sixteen years.

At the beginning of April 44, I was living with my family and friends at the Villa CARLETTI, MONTE SAN SAVINO. Living at the villa also, were two German Army Officers. The officers belonged to a German unit stationed in the immediate vicinity.

One of the officers I knew as Lieutenant PHILLIPS. I describe him as being about 22 years old, 195 cms., brown hair, blue eyes, protruding lip, very straight legs, long hands. He was big built and athletic looking. He had a scar on the side of his throat. I cannot say which side. He told me he was a native of KÖNIGSBERG.

The markings on the trucks of the German unit were a CHESSBOARD with a castle as used in the game of chess, thereon. The castle was not in proportion to the chessboard but was very large. The top of the castle was well above the edge of the board. The design was coloured in black and white.

Lt. PHILLIPS told me also that he was an anti-aircraft gunnery officer; his unit was a FLAK REGIMENT and they had been in action off the ANZI beachhead.

This unit left the vicinity on 1 May 44, after a stay of about three weeks.

About 1300 hours on Wednesday 28 June 44, I saw a party of German soldiers with cars and motor cycle combinations arrive at the Villa CARLETTI. There were about ten soldiers and two Marescialli. All were dressed in grey-blue uniforms, carried sub machine guns and had stick grenades tucked in their belts. Each had the name "HERMAN GOERING" on the bottom of their sleeves. On one of the trucks they carried an Italian male civilian. One of the Marescialli demanded that I provide a room wherein this Italian, whom I was told was a rebel, could be confined. This man was later locked in the garage of the villa; the Maresciallo retained the key.

Afterwards these soldiers and others who arrived later demanded a meal which was provided for them. They remained in the villa and about 2200 hours the Italian members of the household were told to go to bed and ordered not to attempt to leave the house. My wife and I accordingly went to bed. On our way upstairs one of the Germans told us that their captain had arrived in the villa and we were to be very respectful to him.

On the stairs I passed a German Captain whom I saw by the light of a torch. He was about 35 years of age, 175 cms. tall, light brown hair brushed well back, thin nose and features.

He was of/....

/nose and features .

He was of smart military appearance and wore a grey blue uniform with the words "HERMAN GOERING" at the bottom of his left sleeve.

I heard the sounds of motor cars approaching and leaving the villa all night.

About 0400 hours on Thursday 29 June 44, I heard the sound of bedroom doors being kicked and two German soldiers came to my bedroom and ordered my wife and I into a larger room, where we were eventually joined by my daughter Licia, my son Luigi, and all the Italian civilians in the villa. We were lined up with our backs to the windows and searched. No officers were present.

Afterwards we were taken to a larger room and guarded by German soldiers. In the villa at this time were seventy or eighty German soldiers. We were forbidden to talk and anybody who approached the villa during the day was arrested and made prisoner in this room, with us. In all, during the day, about twenty Italian civilians who had called at the villa were imprisoned.

About 2300 hours the same day, I was ordered to a downstairs room, where, to my surprise, I saw Lt. PHILLIPS. I walked over to him and spoke to him in Italian, a language he had studied. I asked him for the reason of my and my family's detention. Lt. PHILLIPS who appeared to be ill at ease, did not answer but an interpreter who was present, interfered and ordered me not to say anything but only to answer questions as they were put to me through him.

I was then questioned for about five minutes about a Signora CAU and afterwards taken back to the other room. The interpreter accompanied me and on our way I asked him for the reason of my detention. He told me that reports had been received concerning me, from MONTE SAN SAVINO, to the effect that my family and I had been indulging in Anti-Fascist activities.

We passed a room of which the door was open and inside I saw Signora CAU kneeling at prayer. I had previously known this woman who worked for the Germans as an interpreter at MONTE SAN SAVINO. I describe her as being about 40 years old, 180 cms. tall, blonde, long pointed nose, and ugly teeth.

I was kept, with all the other people in the room, until about 2100 hours on Friday 30 June 44, when I was again escorted downstairs by two German soldiers to the same room in which I had been previously questioned. Inside this room I was placed facing a table, behind which was seated a German Maresciallo, with a German soldier on each side of me and four German soldiers in a line behind me.

I was questioned about my assistance to Partisans and escaped British prisoners of war. Although both I and my family had many times assisted escaped prisoners of war I divulged nothing. I was violently assaulted by the six German soldiers, being kicked and punched till I was nearly senseless. I was then taken to another room and locked in by myself. Before I was locked in I was informed that if I did not divulge the names of the Partisans and the whereabouts of the escaped prisoners of war by

0200 hours on/....

/of war by

0200 hours on Saturday 4 July 44, I would be shot.

About ten minutes after I was locked up I looked out of the window and saw my son CARLETTI Luigi being escorted along the front of the villa by two German soldiers. I never saw my son again.

I made up my mind to escape from my place of confinement and succeeded in doing so by making a rope of some sheets which were in the room and sliding down them to the ground. I fell on to a chair as I was sliding down the rope and disturbed the guards who gave chase.

I succeeded in eluding them and made my way to SIENA where I have a house.

I eventually joined my wife and daughter at FIRENZE.

I have read over this statement. It is true and correct. I herewith append my signature.

(Sgd.) CARLETTI Antonio.

Statement written down in Italian and signature witnessed by MAGINI Livia, interpreter, in the presence of Sgt. CHARLES both of 78 Section S.I.D. at MONTE SAN SAVIRO on Thursday 30 November, 1944. ARREZZO.

I certify that the above translation from Italian is correct and true and to the best of my ability.

Magini Livia

MAGINI Livia.