

Matressa,
Lucignano,
Arezzo.

4 April 45.

STATEMENT OF :-

MACCONI Agostino,	Male
Matressa,	54 years.
Lucignano,	
Arezzo.	

Who saith,

I am a farmer of Doctor MANCINI Paolo and have lived here for the last thirty six years.

About June 5 or 6, 44, the doctor and his wife and family left the villa and I remained as guardian.

The day after the doctor's departure some German soldiers arrived and occupied the villa. These soldiers arrived on seven or eight heavy trucks of German military type. In all there were ninety six soldiers. I know this because later they were rationed with milk from me.

All these soldiers except one, the Maresciallo, wore grey-green uniform. On their left cuffs they wore an armband on which was an inscription, which however I am not able to describe. They wore a metal skull on the front of their caps and a letter S on the collar of their tunics. Twentysix of them (again I know the number through the milk ration) wore the skull both on their caps and on the left coat collar. These twentysix also displayed a plaque which hung from a chain around the neck. There was an inscription on the plaque but I do not remember what it was.

Among these soldiers were six Maresciallos, one of whom I describe as follows :- about 34-35 years, about 1 metre 66 cm. tall, slim build, black hair, dark complexion, dark brown eyes, long thin nose, clean shaven. He always wore a black shirt, black trousers, black coat and black cap. The latter had a large peak and at the front was a silver badge in the shape of a skull on which were a crossed rifle and sword. I believe this Maresciallo was in charge of two light tanks which arrived a day or so after the troops.

On 16 June 44, there arrived at the Villa five Officers accompanied by an interpreter. The interpreter I came to know as Signor TRUSTICO. I describe him as follows :- About 24 years, height about 1 m. 70 cm., slim, fair hair, fresh complexion, clean shave. He wore the same type of uniform as the soldiers.

The interpreter told me the Officers comprised one General and four colonels. I describe the General as follows :- About 55 years, height about 1m. 70 cm., medium build, high forehead, hair turning grey and cut short, round face, pale complexion, clean shaven. He wore light khaki uniform, but I cannot remember his insignia.

Later on I learnt that these soldier's duties were to supply/....

/these soldier's duties

were to supply ammunition to the front line.

On the evening of 25 or 26 June 44, the Maresciallo came to me to order the milk for the following morning, when he would have returned with his men from SAN SEPOLCRO. The following morning however, he refused the milk, stating that his men had been attacked and the majority killed by rebels at SAN SEPOLCRO.

It was about 2300 hours on Friday 28 June, 44, when I was talking to the interpreter in the villa and he said to me "Tomorrow morning we are going to destroy the three localities of CIVIT LIA, SAN PABURAZIO, and CROWNIA as they are full of bandits.

The following morning at 0800 hours the Maresciallo whom I have described, called the men together. After having talked to them all the men ran into the villa and returned armed with rifles and hand grenades. They all wore steel helmets and camouflage socks. Towards 0830 hours the soldiers left on three trucks, the Maresciallo following with the two tanks.

It was about 1400 hours when the soldiers returned on the trucks. I noticed they did not have any hand grenades on returning. Later that day the interpreter told me that the localities mentioned the previous evening had been destroyed by the soldiers.

The same evening about 2000 hours, all the soldiers and one officer left the villa. The senior officers, however, did not leave then, but remained at the villa until the day preceeding the arrival of the Allied troops.

During the occupation of the villa by the German troops I saw the officers writing their names on the door of the rooms they occupied. The doors have since been cleaned, but the names can still be clearly seen. As no other officers resided in the villa these names must be those of the officers commanding the troops in occupation between about 7 June 44, and 29 June 44.

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

(Sgd.) RACCONI Agostino.

Statement written down in Italian and signature witnessed by C.A.GIULIANI, interpreter, in the presence of Sgt. CLEWICK, 78 Section S.I.B. at MATRESSA on Wednesday, 4th April, 1945.

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

C.A.GIULIANI.