

08d.

Civitella,  
Arezzo.

5 December 44.

STATEMENT OF:-

BONECHI Emilio Cesare,      Male.  
Sporiano di Sopra,      Aged 60 years.  
Civitella,  
Arezzo.

Who saith,

I am a farmer and have lived on this farm since 1903. German soldiers have lived on and around my farm for the past year.

On the evening of the 24th. June 1944, about fifty German soldiers of the HERMANN GOERING REGIMENT came. Seven of these lived in my house and occupied three rooms. The remainder lived in a wood about half a kilometre away.

Living in my house was one Captain, three Maresciallos and two soldiers. The Captain was thirty-five years of age, one metre, 70 centimetres tall, well built, dark hair, fresh complexion. He wore a grey-green uniform with white epaulettes. There were two gold stars on each epaulette. There were also some markings on his collar but I cannot remember what. He had the words 'HERMANN GOERING' inscribed in white on the lower part of one of his coat sleeves.

I saw several orders which were signed by this Officer and his name appeared to be MACOSKI or something similar.

Of the Maresciallos I can only describe one. I also saw several papers that were signed by him and his name appeared to be LIEBMAN, although I cannot say for certain. He was about thirty five years of age, one metre, eighty-four centimetres in height, well built, dark hair, fresh complexion. He wore a grey-green uniform with white epaulettes on which there were three silver stars. There were also some markings on his collar but I cannot remember what. He had the words 'HERMANN GOERING' inscribed in white on one of his coat sleeves. The other Maresciallos and soldiers, I cannot remember well enough to describe as it is a long time since they were here.

On the evening of Wednesday, 28th. June 1944, one of the Maresciallos came and told me to leave the door open all night. He said they expected some orders coming during the night.

About 0200 hours the following morning, there was a lot of activity outside the farm and in the rooms occupied by the soldiers. I heard vehicles moving outside and it was about 0400 hours before it was quiet again.

It was about 0500 hours when I got up on Thursday, 29th. June 1944 and I noticed that instead of the usual number of Germans there were only three to be seen.

About 0700 hours, I looked out of a rear bedroom window of my house. From this window CIVITELLA can be seen

easily. It is/....

/can be seen

easily. It is on a hill top about five kilometres away. The whole of CIVITELLA then appeared to be on fire. I could see flames quite clearly.

About 1030 hours two men civilians were brought to my house by German soldiers.

The soldiers did not speak to me but after a while the civilians managed to tell me that all CIVITELLA had been set on fire and all the men killed. They thought that they were the only men out of the village left alive.

The rest of that day was all confusion as British planes were very active in the area.

That night about 2000 hours, all these soldiers left my farm. Before they left they went right round my home burning all papers and things which belonged to them. I do not know where they went from here or which road they took.

I know some of these troops were 'HERMANN GOERING' as they wore a band on one of their coat sleeves with those words inscribed upon it. Some of these soldiers I did not know. They wore a black shirt with a scull and cross-bones badge on it.

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

(Sgt) BONECHI EMILIO ORSARE.

Statement written down in Italian and signature witnessed by Pte DI DUCA, B., Interpreter, in the presence of Sgt Clewlow, both of 78 Section, SIB, on Tuesday, 5th. December 1944, at SPOLANO DI SOPRA, CIVITELLA, AREZZO.

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

B. DI DUCA.