

Villa Mancini,
Monte S. Savino,
16 January 45.

STATEMENT OF :-

PALEZZA Mario,
Villa Mancini,
Monte S. Savino,
Arezzo.

Male
20 years.

Who saith,

I am an agricultural under-agent and have lived here for the past two years.

On or about 20 June 44, a party of about sixty German soldiers arrived at this villa and were billeted here.

They all wore khaki clothing with the words " HERMAN GOERIN " on their sleeves.

Among them were a Major, a Captain, four Lieutenants, and several Maresciallos.

I describe the Major as being about 55 years old, 190 centimetres tall, blonde hair brushed straight back and parted in the middle, blue eyes, small well trimmed moustache. He had a very upright carriage.

I describe the Captain as being about 45 years old, 180 centimetres tall, light brown hair brushed straight back with no parting, round face and fresh complexion.

One of the Lieutenants I describe as being about 33 years old, 170 centimetres tall, black curly hair, hair parted on the left, fresh complexion, clean shaven, long face.

I would recognise these officers again if I saw them.

I slept in the Villa on the night of the 28 June 44, and woke up about 0530 hours on 29 June 44. On arriving downstairs I saw that there were only a few soldiers left in the villa and I enquired the reason for this from the Major's batman with whom I had become on friendly terms.

He told me that they had gone to fight the Partisans and that it was not good because many civilians would be killed.

I describe this soldier as being about 28-30 years old, 165 centimetres tall, black hair, straight and brushed back, thick black eyebrows, blue eyes, thin and long face, clean shaven. He spoke very good Italian and told me that his mother was an Italian and his father was a German. He said that his home was in Germany near the French border. I could recognise this soldier again if I saw him.

About 0900 hours the same day I left the villa to go to one of our farms which is on the MONTE S. SAVINO--ALBERERO Road.

At the cross roads of the SIENA-AREZZO road

and MONTE S. SAVINO /....

/SIENA - AREZZO road.

and MONTE S. AVINO -- SAN PAURAZIO Roads, I saw a soldier on duty. He was dressed in grey green uniform, steel helmet, and high boots. On his left sleeve were the words "HERMAN GOERING". Around his neck he wore a chain and on his chest attached to the chain was a metal plate with "FELIXEIDARMERIE" embossed thereon.

He questioned me as to my destination and afterwards searched me. He then took me to a nearby house adjacent to the crossroads and looked me in with about twentyfive other Italian civilians, guarded by four other German soldiers dressed similarly to the soldier who arrested me.

I was kept in this room for about an hour and from the window I could see soldiers stationed along the SAN PAURAZIO road at intervals at about one hundred metres

About 1000 hours I saw three or four military lorries filled with German soldiers proceeding towards CORNIA from the direction of LUCIGNALO. These troops were dressed as if for battle and all carried rifles and machine guns. They all wore the words "HERMAN GOERING" on their sleeves.

I returned to the VILLA MANDINI at about 2230 hours the same day and found that all the German soldiers with their officers had returned.

This party of soldiers left the Villa on Friday, 30 June 44.

The Major's batman told me before they left that they were going towards FLORENCE.

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

(Sgd.) PACINZA Mario.

Statement written down in Italian and signature witnessed by FABBRONI Vasco, interpreter, in the presence of Sgt. CHARLES, both of 78 Section S.I.B. on Tuesday 16th January, 1945, at VILLA MANDINI, MONTE S. AVINO, AREZZO.

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

Fabbroni Vasco
FABBRONI Vasco.