

290

Tegoleto.

30 March 45.

STATEMENT OF :-

MASSIMO Giovanni,
Tegoleto,
Badia al Pino,
Arezzo.

Male
23 years
single.

Who saith,

I am a farmer and have lived at the above address all my life.

About 15 June 44, in the late afternoon on returning from work in the fields, I found that a number of German soldiers had billeted themselves in the farm belonging to the villa, and noticed a number of vehicles in the woods nearby.

I am not sure of the exact number of soldiers that arrived on that day but as far as I can remember there were about thirty ordinary soldiers, four sergeant majors and one officer.

The German officer describe as :- age about 30 years, height 1 m. 75 cm., thin build, dark complexion, black hair, he was dressed in grey blue German officer's uniform, which had square epaulettes with silver borders and two white chevrons on each in the shape of an S. He also wore a German officer's cap with a blue peak.

Two of the sergeant majors were dressed similar to the officer and the other two were dressed in ordinary German grey blue uniform. The German soldiers were dressed in grey blue uniform and some had a band round their left arm with the words "HERMAN GOERING" inscribed thereon. In the woods nearby there were several vehicles belonging to these soldiers and consisted of four or five German military lorries, and Italian Fiat and a Lancia, both civilian cars. I cannot remember any specific markings on any of these vehicles.

On the morning of the 29 June 44, I did not see or hear any trucks leave here as I did not awaken until about 0830 hours.

I got up at 0900 hours and on looking out of the window of my bedroom saw clouds of smoke coming from the houses at CIVITELLA. At about 1100 hours I saw several German soldiers looking through binoculars in the direction of CIVITELLA and one of them turned to me and said, "Comrade, village is burning", in Italian, then continued looking through his binoculars and was laughing.

At 1500 hours the same day I saw one German truck drive into the courtyard of the villa and about ten German soldiers dressed in summer uniform got out of the truck. All were armed with machine guns and pistols.

They had brought back with them several geese,

chickens, ladies' handbags/....

394

/them several geese,

chickens, ladies' handbags, civilian clothing, shoes, boots, watches and bracelets.

At about 2000 that same day the whole of the Germans left the villa and that was the last time I saw them. I cannot remember any of their names or give any further information regarding these German troops as I was not allowed much freedom during their occupation of the villa.

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

(Sgd.) MASSINI Giovanni.

Statement written down in Italian and signature witnessed by DI DUCA Bragia, interpreter, in the presence of Sgt. OLSEWLOW and Opl. ROBERTS both of 78 Section S.I.B on 30 March 1945 at TEGOLETO.

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

DI DUCA Bragia.