

Civitella,  
Arezzo.

8th. November, 1944.

STATEMENT OF:-

Doctor Luciano GAMBASSINI, Pieve Picciola, Commune of Pergine, Arezzo.	Male. Aged 35 years.
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Who saith,

I have been the medical conductor of CIVITELLA since 1938. Before the 18th. June, 1944, my house was in CIVITELLA but I have lived at my present address since that date.

After the Armistice between Italy and Britain I became the Medical Officer to the "RACCOMUNIMENTO" AMIATA Brigade of Partisans.

I knew that the partisans were operating in the vicinity of CIVITELLA and about 1700 hours on the 18th. June, 1944, I saw in CIVITELLA, the Lieutenant of Partisans, Lt. Edoardo SUXHILLI of my brigade.

He spoke to me and asked me if it was possible to obtain money for his men in the village and I told him the most likely people to see about it, when I saw him again later on, he told me that he had been successful.

He also informed me of his intention of attacking a group of seven German soldiers who were stationed at MADONNA, which is about two kilometres from CIVITELLA, with the intention of obtaining arms. I advised him against doing this because I knew the Germans were in an easily defended position and in my opinion the arms could not be obtained without bloodshed.

After a discussion the Lieutenant decided that he would attempt to take the arms of four German soldiers who were then in the DOPO LAVORO CLUB, CIVITELLA, drinking, because in this way it was practically certain that these Germans could be taken unawares and their arms seized without bloodshed.

By doing this, there would be no danger of reprisals against the civil population.

About 2000 hours the same evening I was in the street about 20 metres from the CLUB when the Lieutenant entered. There were two partisans with him, but they remained at the door, one of these was carrying a Berretta Automatic Rifle, the other was armed but I forgot what weapon he was carrying. After a few moments I heard four or five pistol shots and after a few seconds a burst of machine gun fire. As I had not anticipated this I immediately walked away to my home. Before I reached it the partisans passed me and I asked the Lieutenant what had happened. He replied "THE GERMAN HAD A HUNT AT US AND WE WERE OBLIGED TO KILL THEM". They then ran away.

I informed my neighbours of what had occurred and advised them to leave CIVITELLA because of the danger of reprisals. A short while afterwards I heard the mother of CIVITELLA Bruno (since killed by the Germans) in the street shouting. I went to the hospital and treated him for a scalp wound which was most probably caused by automatic rifle fire, he told me that he was in the DOPO LAVORO CLUB when the

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Partisans were there. After I had attended to him there being no other injured I left CIVITELLA with my wife and children. I took them into the country for safety.

I sent several messages to partisan bands operating in the vicinity acquainting them of what had occurred and suggesting that CIVITELLA should be occupied by partisans to prevent reprisals on the civil population; as far as I know nothing was done.

I returned to CIVITELLA on the evening of the 19th June, 1944, to attend to my patients, which included BUDINI Guido, who told me that he was also in the DOPO LAVORO CLUB when the shooting took place. He had received a bullet wound in his buttocks.

In view of all the circumstances I decided to leave CIVITELLA in view of the threat of reprisals against me and my family. I could not carry on my work. I applied for thirty days leave to my PODESTA, which was granted, and I joined the partisans.

I returned to CIVITELLA the day the town was liberated and have resumed my work here as a doctor. At no time were any German soldiers billeted in CIVITELLA.

On the evening of the 18th June, 1944, I saw two German soldiers in the town. They both wore the same dress; field service caps with an eagle in flight in the centre of the front of them, camouflaged greyish coloured overalls with belts, these jackets reached down to their knees, greyish trousers tucked into their boots. I saw no other German in the streets of CIVITELLA that evening.

About 3rd July, 1944, I saw members of the German Army at MIGLIARI which is about six kilometres from CIVITELLA, with BERGMANN GOERING written in red on a black background on their sleeves.

I can read and write English and fully understand what is written in this statement.

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

(Sgd.) GAMBASSINI Luciano.

Statement written down in English and signature witnessed by Sgt. CHARLES, in the presence of ROSSI Francesco, interpreter, both of 78 Section SIB. on Wednesday 8th November, 1944, at CIVITELLA.