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Civitella,
Arezzo.

9 January 45.

STATEMENT OF:-

FIORANI Francesco, Male.
Civitella, Aged 32 years.
Arezzo.

Who saith,

I am single and reside with my father and mother. My work at present is the supervision of farms owned in this area by my father.

About 2100 hours on Sunday, 18th. June 1944, I left my home and went to the DOPO LAVORO Club, CIVITELLA. This club is part of a building situated in Piazza Vittorio Emanuele and consists of two rooms. The first of these rooms was used for the playing of cards, the second for the sale of vino and other commodities.

As I entered the first of these rooms (the card room) I saw three German soldiers sitting listening to the radio. In the same room were a number of Italian civilians and everyone appeared to be on friendly terms.

Passing into the second room (the vino bar) I saw another German soldier who I thought was a Lieutenant. This soldier also appeared to be on friendly terms with everyone. He was dressed in grey-khaki jacket and trousers. The trousers had a large pocket on the left knee. He did not wear a cap. In the same room I saw MINICHETTI Torquato, the manager of the club and his wife MINICHETTI Aldvina. There were also a number of Italian civilians. This soldier was talking but as he spoke German I could not understand him. I sat down by a table and had only been sitting a few minutes when suddenly I heard a burst of machine-gun fire. This appeared to be in the adjoining room (the card room). At the same time as I heard this firing all the lights in the club were extinguished. When this happened I immediately dropped to the ground behind a small table. Owing to the darkness I do not know what happened to the other civilians or the German soldier whom I last saw standing beside the bar counter.

A few minutes after the firing ceased, I got up and made my way out of the club. To do this I had to pass through the card room. The electric light was on in this room and as I passed through I saw three German soldiers lying on the floor. I presumed that they were dead but I did not stop to investigate.

As I approached the doorway I saw a man (civilian) standing there, holding a rifle. I recognised this man as a partisan as he wore a red star on the front of his cap. I informed this man that I was an Italian civilian and he allowed me to proceed.

The following morning, Monday, 19th. June 1944, together with my father and mother I left CIVITELLA. We went to a farm CASA AL PIZZO which is about five kilometres north.

I did not return to CIVITELLA until 17 July 44.

In consequence of/....

/until 17 July 44.

In consequence of what I was told I went to the church of Santa Maria Assunta. Here I saw the bodies of three Italian civilians whom I was told had been killed by the Germans on Thursday, 29th. June 1944. One of the bodies I recognised as that of CRISPIGNANI Crespino, the other two I did not know.

I was ordered by an English Army Captain to burn these bodies with petrol and bury the remains. I did this and the remains were later buried in the Municipal Cemetery at CIVITELLA.

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

(Sgd) FIORANI Francesco.

Statement written down in Italian and signature witnessed by Fte. DI DUCA, B., Interpreter, in the presence of Sgt Clewlow, both of 78 Section, SIB, on 9th. January, 1945, at CIVITELLA, AREZZO.

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

B. DI DUCA.