

Caggiolo,
Civitella,
Arezzo.

8th December, 1944.

STATEMENT OF:-

MILANI Olinto,
Caggiolo,
Civitella,
Arezzo.

Male.
31 years.

Who saith,

I am a farmer and have been employed here since 1932.

On Thursday, 29th June, 1944, about 06.00 hours, whilst I was working, I saw German Army lorries and motor cycles parked beside a bridge about 150 metres away. German soldiers were also walking about in the area but as they had lived around here for the year previous I did not pay a great deal of attention to this extra activity. I thought it was due to the British attacking the Germans and the Germans retreating.

About 07.00 hours, four (4) German soldiers came to the farm and told the men they saw to go to the bridge. They did not say why and did not threaten us, we walked over on our own accord. There was GABRIELI Luigi, GABRIELI Gilo, BONICOLINI Giovanni and myself.

When we got to the bridge there was a number of civilians already there. First we were searched for arms, no valuables were taken from us, then we were told to sit beside the other civilians, who were sitting under the trees. German soldiers were walking around all the time, some wore summer uniform others a kind of camouflage jacket, all were armed. I cannot remember anything in particular.

After a while the women and children were sent away, I still did not know what was going to happen although I was very worried. Next we were all herded together like a bunch of cattle and with German soldiers walking behind we were forced to walk across the bridge. There was twenty-one (21) Italian men there altogether.

We had just passed the bridge when a machine gun which was on our left opened fire on us. I was fortunate by being at the front, one bullet only struck me and that went through my right ankle. I heard the men behind me screaming then fall into the road.

In front of where I had fallen and just off the road there was a large rock and some bushes. When the Germans stopped firing I crawled behind this rock and amongst the bushes. From where I was hiding I could see nothing but I could hear the men moaning who were lying on the road. After a while I heard the German soldiers moving about amongst these men and machine gunning again. Then I heard the bodies

/heard the bodies

being dragged along the road and thrown into the ditch

I was unable to walk for the pain in my ankle and remained beside the bridge until 22.00 hours the same day. At this time my wife MILANI Gina came to find me and with her assistance I managed to get home.

The following morning, Friday, 30th June, 1944 I was taken to the hospital at MONTE SAN SAVINO where I remained for treatment.

All I can remember about the Germans is that some wore camouflaged jackets and others summer uniform.

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

(Sgd) MILANI Olinto.

Statement taken down in Italian and signature witnessed by PTE BRAGIA DI DUCA, No 4466417, Interpreter, in the presence of SGT CLEWLOW both of 78 Section S.I.B on the 8th November, 1944, at CAGGIOLIO, ARETIO.

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

BRAGIA DI DUCA.