

Civitella,  
Arezzo

22 November 44.

STATEMENT OF :-

NOBENTINI Dina,	Female
Civitella,	28 years
Arezzo.	

Who saith,

I am the widow of NOBENTINI Arturo. He was 30 years of age. We had been married six years and in that time had lived in several places. We came to live in CIVITELLA about one year ago where my husband was employed as a painter. I have two children, Gilberto, 5 years and Mauro, two years.

On Sunday 18 June 44, about 2030 hours I was in the house with my husband when I saw four civilians who were carrying rifles walk up the street. I thought that those civilians must be Partisans and I knew that German soldiers were in the DOPO LAVORO CLUB. So my husband and I decided to go to my mother's ( CORADESCHI Olga) home in case of trouble.

We had only been at my mothers' when my uncle, BONICHI Eliseo, came in from the DOPO LAVORO CLUB. He said that Partisans had walked into the club and started firing rifles. He did not know if anyone had been shot as he had run out immediately.

That evening we went to bed as usual.

On the morning of Tuesday 20 June 44, I saw German Army lorries and soldiers in the village. My husband and I hastily packed a few things and with the children left CIVITELLA.

We spent the remainder of that day in the woods and returned to CIVITELLA late in the evening when we thought the Germans had left. The Germans however returned later in the evening so we again left the village and went to the farm of " GIORGIO" which is about three kilometres west of CIVITELLA.

We Remained here until about 1500 hours on Friday 23 June 44, when we returned to CIVITELLA.

The next time I saw the Germans in the village was Tuesday 27 June 44, when I saw two soldiers drive past my home in a car.

On Thursday 29 June 44, I was going to church about 0700 hours when I met a lot of women in the village square. These women were very excited and some of them told me that German soldiers were coming towards the village. I went back home at once to warn my husband and children who were still in bed.

I had only been at home a few minutes when I heard someone knocking very loudly on the front door. I went and opened the door and three German soldiers walked into the house. When these soldiers saw my husband they ordered him

to go outside./....

they ordered him to go outside. He walked out of the house and that was the last time I saw him alive.

These three German soldiers then made me stand in one corner of a room while they plundered my home and took whatever they pleased. I think I must have been standing there about thirty minutes with the children before they told me to get outside.

As I walked into the street I saw my husband lying just opposite my home. He was lying flat on his face and I could not see any wounds on his back. When I tried to go to him the German prevented me and told me to leave the village. I knew that my husband was dead.

When I walked out of the village I saw more German soldiers at the gateway and a number of bodies. I could not recognise all of them owing to the bloody condition they were in but I did recognise the body of VERDELLI Emilio.

From the village I went to the Orphanage at POGGIALLI, and from there to MONTE SAN SAVINO. I was in no hurry to return to the village as I knew my husband was dead.

It was sometime in August when I returned to CIVITELLA and my husband's body had still not been found. I started digging in the ruins of a burnt house next to my own and eventually came across a lot of bones. Amongst these bones I found the buckle of my husband's belt and a part of one of his boots which I recognised.

I put these remains of my husband into a box and buried them in the cemetery at CIVITELLA.

I know nothing about the Germans who were in CIVITELLA on 29 June 44; they were all dressed in camouflage jackets and steel helmets.

My husband was not a Partisan and he had never helped them.

This statement has been read over to me. It is correct and true. I herewith append my signature.

(Sgd.) NOBERTINI Dina.

Statement written down in Italian, read over and signature witnessed by Pte. DI DUCA Bragia, interpreter, in the presence of Sgt. CLEWLOW, both of 78 Section S.I.B. on Wednesday 22 November, 1944 at CIVITELLA, AREZZO.

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

DI DUCA Bragia.