

Civitella,
Arezzo.

16 November 44.

STATEMENT OF:-

VERDELLI Felice, Female.
Civitella, Aged 62 years.
Arezzo.

Who saith,

I am the widow of VERDELLI Emilio, who was sixty-two years old and we have lived in CIVITELLA for the past thirty years. My husband was employed as a gardener.

During the month of May my husband and I lived at our vineyard which is about two kilometres west of CIVITELLA. We did not return to CIVITELLA until Wednesday, 28th. June 1944.

On Thursday, 29th. June 1944 Emilio left the house about 0630 hours, to do some job of work. Shortly after this I heard the sound of rifle fire in the village, so I went to find my husband. I found him up in the village square. By this time the sound of firing was very close and several houses in the south part of the village were on fire. My husband advised me to leave the village at once saying that he would be all right. I left him and joined some other women who were leaving the village. I could now see a lot of German soldiers running about in the square. As I was leaving the village I looked back at my husband. He was walking across the square when suddenly he fell flat on his face and lay still. I did not know whether he had been shot or if he had just fainted. The women refused to let me go back to him and dragged me out of the village. I remained in a field outside the village until about 1100 hours, then I returned to the village to try and find my husband.

I saw a lot of bodies and on turning them over to see if one of them was Emilio I recognised CALDELLI Adolfo, FALSETTI Luigi, LISI Gregorio, MUCCIARINI Alfredo, TIEZZI Angelo and ORTOLONI G. Battista. The sights that I saw were too much for me so I went to the vineyard where I remained until the following morning. I was unable to go home as my house had been completely destroyed by the Germans.

The next morning I returned to CIVITELLA (Friday, 30th June 1944) and after a while I found the body of my husband in a house. His clothes had been burnt but his body had not been touched by fire. There was a bullet hole in his left side.

I got some other women to help me and between us we managed to carry my husband's body to the church, Someone, I do not know who, made a coffin and on Saturday, 1st. July 1944, I took this to the church and saw my husband's body put into it. He was taken to the cemetery on a handcart but I was too ill to attend.

My husband was not a Partisan and he had never helped them. I do not know if he had ever been a fascist. I can remember nothing about the Germans.

This statement has/....