

Badia al Pino,
Arezzo.

29 November 44.

STATEMENT OF :-

LAMMIONI Luigi,	Male
Badia al Pino,	44 years.
Arezzo.	

Who saith,

I was born in CIVITELLA and have lived there all my life. I am employed as a clerk at the MUNICIPAL offices in BADIA AL PINO. This is also the borough of CIVITELLA. I have been married eight years.

My wife, SANDRUCCI Maria, aged 34 years and children Giuliana, 5 years and Maria-Luisa, 2 years were murdered by the Germans on 29 June 44. One of my children Vittoria, a girl of 5 years is still alive.

On Sunday 18 June 44, about 1900 hours I was in the square at CIVITELLA when I saw three Germans go into the DOPO LAVORO CLUB.

I knew that Partisans were in the area and if the German soldiers met these there would be trouble, so I went home at once.

A little while later my wife came and said that she could hear rifle fire in the village. I went and enquired and was told that the German soldiers had been firing Verey Lights from the square.

About 2030 hours my wife again said that she had heard rifle fire so I looked out of the window and from there saw people running in the street. A boy, ROSSI Alberto, 12 years, came to my house and told me that some German soldiers had been killed in the DOPO LAVORO CLUB. He did not know who had killed the Germans or how many had been killed.

That night nothing more unusual occurred so we went to bed about 2400 hours.

The following day everyone appeared to be leaving CIVITELLA as they were afraid of the Germans taking reprisals on the village for the soldiers who had been killed in the CLUB.

About 1500 hours on Monday 19 June 44, I took my wife and family to the farm of CIARDI Fortunato. This farm is about two kilometres north of CIVITELLA.

On Tuesday 20 June 44, about 0700 hours I returned to CIVITELLA, being employed by the COMMUNE. I thought it was my duty to see what was happening. In the village I met Signora CAU. She was employed by the Germans in the area as interpreter. I spoke to CAU and she told me that she had just sent a letter by MAGINI Rinaldo (now dead) to a German Officer at the DERNA farm in BADIA AL PINO informing him of

the two dead/....

/Informing him of
the two dead soldiers in the DOPO LAVORO CLUB.

CAU was busy at the time, assisted by DOMICOLINI
Domenica, a nurse from the hospital, in preparing the bodies
for burial. I did not go into the DOPO LAVORO CLUB.

About 1000 hours a German came to CIVITELLA in
a car; he went into the DOPO LAVORO CLUB and I presume he
examined the bodies.

This soldier afterwards came to me accompanied
by Signora CAU, who explained that he was a German Medical
Officer. I cannot describe this officer but his car was a
BABILLA FIAT. The Officer ordered me to get two coffins
made that morning ready for the burial of the soldiers. He
then left the village.

I had the coffins made with wood provided by
Signore SARATINI (now dead).

About 1300 hours the same day a German army lorry
(large type tarpaulin cover) came to CIVITELLA with about
fifteen German soldiers. I went to see these soldiers and
they told me that they had come to bury their two comrades.
I explained to one soldier, who spoke good Italian, that if
these men were buried in the local cemetery I would require
their particulars to enter in the register. The soldiers
agreed to this and two of them accompanied me to my home
whilst the remainder put the bodies into the coffins.

These two soldiers gave me all the particulars
of the two dead Germans which I put down in writing on a piece
of paper. This paper was signed by the German who spoke
Italian; he signed as Sgt.-- I cannot remember his name. I
have not been able to find this paper since the Germans burnt
my home.

That afternoon I attended the funeral of the two
German soldiers at the MUNICIPAL CEMETERY, CIVITELLA. After
the burial the German soldiers returned to the village; it
was then about 1700 hours.

The sergeant came to me and said, " By twelve
o'clock tomorrow we want to know who the Partisans are, if not,
Rrprisals". I tried to reason with the sergeant and explain
that the villagers were innocent. He however refused to
listen and said that his word was final.

I was then allowed to go home and the soldiers
went round the village asking for wine which was given to them.
These soldiers were all dressed in grey-green uniforms and
wore steel helmets. They all carried automatic rifles and
had stick grenades in their belts.

About 1800 hours the same day I heard some rifle
fire and shortly after there was a loud knocking on the door
of my house. Then I opened the door, German soldiers were
standing outside with their rifles pointing at me.

They took me under guard to the old tower ruins,

where they explained/....

/old tower ruins, where they explained that they had seen a man with binoculars watching them from the top of the tower as they left the village. The Germans searched the ruins but did not find anyone. The soldiers then took me to the south-east gate of the village where they had three men (civilians) prisoners. I had to explain who these men were and if they belonged to the village. I told them who these men were and they then allowed them to go.

The Germans then left the village and I went back home.

That night I rejoined my wife and children at the farm at about 2000 hours.

With my family I returned to CIVITELLA at 1000 hours on Monday 26 June 44.

The next time I saw the German soldiers in CIVITELLA was on Thursday 29 June 44. It was the day of St. PETER and PAUL. My wife went to church about 0645 hours.

About 0700 hours I heard my brother LAMMIONI GIO. Battista, 47 years, calling me from the back of my house. He told me to come outside quickly as the Germans were coming. I immediately ran downstairs but as I was doing so I heard some rifle fire which appeared to be very near. The rifle fire frightened me so I opened the back door very cautiously and saw my brother Battista lying in a pool of blood in the street. I dared not go out to him in case the Germans were still there so I closed the door and went back into the house.

My wife in the meantime had returned from church and she suggested that we should go up into the loft. So I got our three children and we went right up into the loft. This loft was half filled with charcoal and it only had one small window in the roof.

By this time there was a lot of rifles firing in the village. No one however came near where we were.

After a while I felt a peculiar feeling come over me and I had to get up and go to the window for a breath of fresh air. I then looked at my wife; she was frothing at the mouth and the children were lying perfectly still. I picked my wife up but was unable to help her, she seemed to be dead then.

I picked up one child, Vittoria, 5 years and put her through the window on to the roof. By this time I knew that my house was on fire. I then got through the window and with the child went along the roof to the adjoining house.

The shooting was still going on in the village so I waited a while before I went outside. When I did go there were only two German soldiers standing in the square. I went up to these and asked them to have pity on my child. They just turned and walked away without speaking.

I then went and sat outside the school where I saw four bodies and recognised one as CALDELLI Virgilio. I stopped at the school for a while and then went with my daughter to the hospital where I remained for the rest of that day.

On Saturday 1 July/....

/of that day.

On Saturday 1 July 44 about 1600 hours I was able to recover my wife's body and one child Giuliana. The floor of the loft beside the charcoal, where Maria Luisa had been lying, was burnt right through. I have not been able to recover the body of Maria, so I presumed that she must have dropped through the floor into the fire and her body completely destroyed.

I had one coffin made for my wife and child, Giuliana. They were buried together about 1900 hours on Saturday 1 July 44, in the cemetery at CIVITELLA. There was no priest present at the cemetery.

All I can remember about the Germans is that they all wore steel helmets and camouflage jackets.

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

(Sgd.) LAMMIONI Luigi.

Statement written down in Italian and signed and witnessed by Pte. DI DUCA Bragia, interpreter, in the presence of Sgt. CLERLOW, both of 78 Section S.I.B. on Wednesday, 20th November, 1944 at BADIA al PINO, AREZZO.

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

DI DUCA Bragia.