

Molinello,  
Civitella,  
Arezzo.

2 January 45.

STATEMENT OF:-

FOLLETTI Dario, Male.  
Molinello, Aged 30 years.  
Cornia,  
Civitella,  
Arezzo.

Who saith,

I am a farmer and have lived on this farm since 1922.

I was married in 1935 to ROSSI Modesta. We had five children, Giovanni a boy nine years, Mario a boy seven years, Silvano a boy five years, Quartiero a boy four years, Gloriano a boy thirteen months old.

My wife Modesta thirty years and son Gloriano were murdered by the Germans on Thursday, 29th. June 1944.

About 0600 hours on 29th. June 1944, I was working on my farm. Some five hundred metres to the west of the farm there is the main road from MONTE SAN SAVINO to FLORENCE. About 0630 hours, I saw four large military type lorries stop on this road and a lot of soldiers get off each lorry. The lorries had come from the direction of MONTE SAN SAVINO.

When I saw this I thought that the Germans must be retreating, so I went and informed my wife. We got our children together and went to the farm SOLAIA to be further away from the main road.

Whilst we were going there I heard rifle fire and a woman screaming. This appeared to come from the direction where I had previously seen the soldiers.

When we had been at SOLAIA for a while the sound of rifle and machine gun fire increased and appeared to come from various directions. My wife and I then thought that the Germans must be looking for men to take them away as working parties.

I left my wife and children at SOLAIA about 0800 hours and went to a wood which is about eight hundred metres north. Whilst I was hiding in this wood the sound of the firing increased and although still coming from various directions it appeared to get nearer

About 1200 hours I went back to SOLAIA to see my wife and family and found that they were alright. Whilst I was there I could see the farm BURRONE, which is about a thousand metres away in a southerly direction, burning.

Seeing that my wife and family were alright I returned to the wood. I remained there until about 1630 hours,

when all appeared/....

/about 1630 hours,

when all appeared to be quiet. I then returned to SOLAIA to find my wife and family.

All the houses and farm buildings were on fire and several dead oxen were lying about.

I searched all over SOLAIA but could not find my wife or any of the children, so I decided to return to my own home in the hope that they may be there.

On the way I met my four sons and in consequence of what Giovanni told me I went back to SOLAIA. There I met FELICIONE Augusto and together we went to a barn that was burning furiously. We threw water on to the flames and after a while extinguished the fire sufficiently to permit us to enter.

After a while I found two bodies that were very badly burnt. I recognised one of these bodies as that of my wife through a wedding ring and a souvenir ring from the monastery at MONTE SAN SAVINO. I knew the other body was that of my son Gloriano as he was still in her arms.

That night I left their bodies outside the barn at SOLAIA.

The following morning I went to MONTE SAN SAVINO and ordered a coffin. About 1430 hours, an ambulance came to SOLAIA with two coffins. The bodies of my wife and son were put in one coffin and other four bodies that had been found, in the other. I went to MONTE SAN SAVINO with the ambulance and saw the bodies of my wife and son buried there. There was a priest there but I do not know his name.

I know nothing of the Germans who killed my wife and son.

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

(Sgd) POLLETTI DARIO.

Statement written down in Italian and signature witnessed by 1/Cpl B. DI DUCA, Interpreter, in the presence of Sgt Clewlow, both of 78 Section, SIB, on the 2nd. 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.