

Cornia,  
Civitella,  
Arezzo.

21 December 44.

STATEMENT OF:-

CHIATTI Maria, Female.  
Cornia, Aged 34 years.  
Civitella,  
Arezzo.

Who saith,

I was born in CORNIA and have lived here all my life. I live with my husband CHIATTI Attilio, thirty-three years and child Lucia, a girl four years of age.

On Thursday, 29th. June 1944, I went to the church of Sain Micheal in CORNIA, about 0700 hours. It was the day of St. Peter and St. Paul.

When the service finished and I was coming home about 0800 hours, I could hear rifle fire and see something burning in the direction of BURRONE, which is about two kilometres south of CORNIA.

I went and told my husband of this and with our child we went immediately into the wood. The wood is about one kilometre east of CORNIA. We could not see CORNIA from this wood. I could hear rifle and machine gun fire which appeared to come from CORNIA until about 0900 hours. After that time all was quiet.

I returned to the village about 1600 hours and saw that all the houses were on fire.

As I was going to my home I saw a pair of legs sticking out of the stable door at the house of NASI. The stable is built into the ground floor of the house. I went to the barn and there saw the body of PONTENANI Rosa, a woman of fifty-one years. Her body was naked and lying on top of her was a boar pig which was also dead. Her body was burnt from the chest up and there were several bullet wounds in her head. Her stomach was out and her intestines lying on the floor.

From there I went to the house of my sisters which was also burning. On the floor in one of the rooms I found my sister. She had also been killed. Her name was MUGHAI Olga. She was forty-three years of age. Her body was also naked and she was very severely burnt, but I did not see any bullet wounds. I recognised her by part of her woollen pullover which was lying underneath her body and had not been burnt. I wrapped the body of my sister in a sheet and took it into a room that had not been caught by the fire. Then I went back to the wood with my husband and child.

I returned to the village the following day (Friday, 30th. June 1944) to attend to my house and make a coffin for my sister.

On Saturday, 1st. July 1944, about 1000 hours,

the body of/....

/about 1000 hours,

the body of my sister was buried in the Municipal Cemetery at CORNIA. The priest Don ROMANELLI Natale was present.

At 1100 hours the same day I found the bodies of other two women in the ruins of my sister's house. They were TAVANTI Emilia, sixty-three years and ORSOLINI Erina, eighteen years. These bodies were not very badly burnt and I could recognise them easily. The smell was too much for me and I could not look for bullet wounds. They were buried almost immediately in the cemetery at CORNIA by the priest, Don ROMANELLI Natale.

I can say nothing of the soldiers who killed these people.

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

(Sgd) CHIATTI MARIA.

Statement written down in Italian and signature witnessed by Pte. DI DUCA, B, Interpreter, in the presence of Sgt Clewlow both of 78 Section, SIB, on Thursday, 21st. December, 1944, at CORNIA, CIVITELLA, AREZZO.

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

B. DI DUCA.