

Cornia,
Civitella,
Arezzo.

5 January 45.

STATEMENT OF :-

CASINI Orazio, Male
Cornia, 43 years.
Civitella,
Arezzo.

Who saith,

I am a landowner and have lived here all my life. My wife Paolina, 35 years, and children Venicio, a boy 14 years, and Riccardo a boy 12 years live with me.

On Thursday 29 June 44, about 0500 hours when I was starting work on my farm I heard a lot of lorries and shouting on the MONTE SAN SAVINO-FLORENCE road. This road is only about five hundred metres from my home and can be seen quite easily.

Upon looking down onto the road I saw about four motor lorries, these lorries were stationary and German soldiers were getting out of them. I thought these lorries were Italian autobuses similar to those used for civilians before the war.

I was too far away to see these soldiers clearly but they were all dressed in German uniform, wore steel helmets and all carried automatic rifles.

When I first saw these soldiers I thought the Germans were retreating.

After a while when I heard the sound of machine gun fire I knew that something different was happening.

My wife and children were at SOLAIA, a farm about two kilometres north of my home. I went to this farm at once to tell my wife of what I had seen.

We remained at SOLAIA until about 0800 hours. At this time I heard the sound of machine gun fire and women screaming at the farm BURONE.

When this happened I decided to leave at once and with my wife and children went to a wood which is about a kilometre north-west of SOLAIA.

During the time I was in the wood the sound of machine gun fire came from various directions. The sound of firing in surrounding farms however ceased about 1430 hours.

About 1500 hours I returned to SOLAIA. On the way, I met ROSSI Duilio, another farmer and we came back together.

Upon entering SOLAIA I saw that all the houses and stables were on fire. We hunted all over but could find no civilians.

One of the barns attracted my attention as it was burning furiously. ROSSI and I started trying to put the fire

out by means/....

/put the fire
out by means of water.

After a while we quelled it sufficiently to permit us to enter. Then we removed part of the roof that had fallen and found the bodies of six people.

These bodies were very severely burnt and it was impossible to recognise them by their features. I recognised them simply through knowing them all my life. They were :- VALLI Benedetto, a man, VALLI Narcisa his wife, and their children Assunta a girl, and Giuseppe a boy. Also FOLETTI Modesta a woman and her child Gloriano, a boy.

After I had seen and recognised all these bodies we extinguished the fire in the barn.

That night I returned to the wood and came back to SOLAIA the following day. Arrangements were made by the relatives of these bodies for their removal.

I know nothing of the Germans who killed these people.

On Saturday 1 July 44, about 0800 hours, I went to the farm FATTORIA MONTE ALTUZZO. This farm is about five hundred metres north of my home.

Here I was shown a hayrick which had been burnt, beside which there was the body of a man.

This body had been very severely burnt, no clothing remained apart from a pair of boots and leggings. I examined the body but was unable to recognise it as anyone I know. This body was later buried in the Municipal Cemetery at CORNIA.

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

(Sgd.) CASINI Orazio.

Statement written down in Italian and signature witnessed by DI DUCA Bragia, interpreter, in the presence of Sgt. CLENLOW, both of 78 Section S.I.B. at CORNIA, CIVITELLA, AREZZO on Friday, 5th January, 1945.

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

DI DUCA Bragia.