

Burroce,
Cornio,
Civiltella... Aresso.

19 December 44.

STATEMENT OF :-

ROSSI Dante,
Burroce,
Cornio,
Civiltella... Aresso.

Male
51 years.

Who saith,

I am a farmer and have lived here since 1925. My wife MARTINA Harbi owns the farm and has lived here all her life.

On Thursday 29 June 44, about 0600 hours, my wife went to Mass at SAINT MICHAEL Church, CORNIO.

About 0730 hours, whilst I was working on the farm I heard rifle fire. This firing appeared to be a kilometre away in the direction of MONTE SAN SAVINO.

As it was a misty morning I could not see very far and had no idea what was happening.

After a while I saw some soldiers who were dressed as though for battle coming up the hill towards my house. These soldiers were too far away for me to recognise or describe in any way; they all wore steel helmets and carried rifles.

When I saw them I decided to go along the road and meet my wife who I knew by this time would be on her way back home. I met her about two hundred metres from my house and told her what I had seen and heard. We decided to go into the wood for a while. As we were doing this someone fired at us with a machine gun but luckily we were not hit.

We remained in the wood until all was quiet and the firing stopped then returned to our home about 1400 hours. My home had been set on fire so we tried to put out the flames and save whatever we could.

About 1400 hours, ROSSI Caterina, came and told me that all her family had been killed and were lying in the road. I went to her home and lying in the road I saw eight bodies. I examined all the bodies and all appeared to be dead. They all had severe bullet wounds in the head and chest.

I recognised all the bodies. They were :- DEL CUCINA Ilva, a girl 11 years, DEL CUCINA Elsa, a girl 6 years, DEL CUCINA Gaetano, a boy 14 years, and their father DEL CUCINA Antonio 51 years. Also AMATEONI Dante, 48 years, MANTOVANI Maria, 36 years, FICAL Adelmo, a boy 14 years. There was also the body of a man whom I only knew as "ARSI" (DE ISMAIL HANBI). He had only lived here for a short while.

From here I went to a straw hut which had been burnt to the ground. Amongst the ashes I saw two bodies; one of a man and one a woman. Their clothes had been burnt off their bodies but I could recognise them easily.

The body of the man was PIERLUIGI Zanieri, 34 years, and his wife MASSINI Valentina 37 years.

I then helped AMATEONI Dino to carry all the bodies into the house./....

/all the bodies

into the house. When I had finished this I went back home to work.

About 1900 hours the same day LAZZERONI Settimia came to my home and said her house had been set fire to by the Germans. She asked me to help her. I went with her to her home which is about two hundred metres away in the direction of MONTE SAN SAVINO. There was a farmer there whom I do not know. As we were standing talking outside the house I heard someone shouting for help.

I went up to the room from where I had heard the shout and there saw six women lying on the floor. One CARATELLI Palmira, who was severely wounded in the stomach and chest was still alive. She asked to be carried out of the room as it was full of smoke. Between us we managed to get her out and dressed her wounds as best we could. By the time we finished this it was dark and there was no means of lighting so there was nothing more we could do that night.

The following morning, Friday 30 June 44, about 0700 hours I went back to the farm of CARATELLI. There were a few people there from round about and I helped to get the bodies out of the house. All the bodies had severe bullet wounds in the chest, stomach, and legs. There were five women's bodies and I recognised SESTINI Rosa, SESTINI ?, PICCHIONI Livia, BURALI Vanda, and VALERI Gina. There were four men: BURALI Sabatino, LAZZERONI Pietro, BURALI Tito and the other I do not know.

The rest of that day I assisted in the making of coffins for these bodies.

They were buried that day in a field outside the farmhouse as everyone was afraid to go to the cemetery in case the Germans were there.

On Sunday 2 July 44, we dug the bodies up and took them to the Municipal Cemetery at CERNIA where they were buried. The priest DON ROMANELLI Natale officiated at the ceremony.

I can say nothing of the Germans as I never saw them.

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

(Sgd.) PASQUINI Dante.

Statement written down in Italian and signature witnessed by MAGINI Livia, interpreter, in the presence of Sgt. OLENIOW, both of 78 Section SIB. on Tuesday 19th December, 1944 at BURRONE, CIVITELLA, ARETIO.

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

Magini Livia
MAGINI Livia