

Burrone,
Cornia,
Civitella,
Arezzo.

18 December 44.

STATEMENT OF:-

AMAZZONI Dino, Male
Burrone, aged 20 years.
Cornia,
Civitella,
Arezzo.

Who saith,

I am a farmer and have lived at BURRONE for four years.

I lived with my father AMAZZONI Dante aged 48 years, he was killed by the Germans on the 29 June 44, he was a farmer too.

On Thursday 29 June 44, my father and I started work as usual about 0600 hours. We returned home for breakfast about 0900 hours. It was at this time I heard rifle and machine gun fire. It seemed to be about one kilometre away in the direction of MONTE S SAVINO.

My father and I thought the firing was due to the Germans retreating. As we had heard that the Germans took young men with them when they left an area, my father told me to go away and hide in the woods. I left at once and hid in a wood about five hundred metres away.

From this wood I could see the houses burning and I heard a lot of rifle fire. The firing lasted for about half an hour. I returned to my home about 1400 hours, the same day. Lying outside my house I saw eight bodies. I examined them but all were dead as far as I could tell. I recognised everyone of them.

There was my father AMAZZONI Dante, my grandmother MANTOVANI Maria, aged 85 years, DI ISMAIL Harbi, aged 28 years. DEL CUCINA Antonio, aged 51 years, DEL CUCINA Gaetano, aged 14 years, DEL CUCINA Ilva, a girl, aged 11 years, DEL CUCINA Elsa a girl, aged 5 years and FICAI Adelmo, aged 14 years. All these bodies had bullet wounds in the head face and chest.

About the bodies I found a number of bullets and bullet cases. These cartridges I recognised as Italian nine millimetre. Similar to those used in a Italian BERETTA automatic pistol. I have seen this type of pistol many times, before the war and since and consequently knew the types of bullets very well.

I lost the cartridges when the Germans were retreated from this area.

I put the eight bodies in my home.

Beside these bodies I saw a pool of blood and there was a trail leading from it as though someone had been dragged away.

I followed this

had been dragged

away. I followed this to a straw hut about fifty metres away. This hut had been burnt down and amongst the ruins I found two bodies. These bodies were badly burnt and at first I had difficulty in recognising them. On the floor at the side of one of the bodies, a man, I found a cigarette lighter and case. These articles I knew belonged to my employer, PETRELLI Ranieri, aged 34 years. It was then I recognised his wife Massini Valentina, aged 37 years. I carried these bodies to my home and put them beside the other eight.

After this I went back to the wood where I remained until the following morning. About 0700 hours, Friday 30 June 44, I went to CORNIA to get a Priest to attend to the burial of my father. The Germans however had also been to CORNIA the previous day and everyone there was in the same position as myself. I returned to my home and got two oxen and a cart. Then I took the bodies three at a time to the Municipal Cemetery at CORNIA. The Priest Don ROMANELLI Natale officiated at the burial of everyone.

As CORNIA is two kilometres north of BURRONE and I had to assist in digging the graves this work took me all day. My father was not a Partisan and he had never helped them.

I can say nothing of the Germans and cannot describe any of them.

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

(Signed) AMAZZONI Dino.

Statement written down in Italian and signature witnessed by Pte. DI DUCA Bragia, Interpreter, in the presence of Sgt. CLEWLOW both of 78 Section, SIB, on Monday 18 December 44, at BURRONE, CIVITELLA, AREZZO.

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

(Signed) DI DUCA Bragia.