

Civitella,
Arezzo,
10th November, 1944.

STATEMENT OF:-

CALDELLI Giuseppina Giorgina, Female.
Civ itella, 33 years.
Arezzo.

Who saith,

I have lived at CIVITELLA for the past eighteen
18) months. Previously I resided with my brother CALDELLI
Adolfo, 24 years, he was killed by the Germans on the 29th
June, 1944. My brother was employed as a farmer at CIVITELLA.

About 21.30 hours on Sunday, 18th June, 1944,
my cousin CALO LEO Amerigo, 45 years, called at our house
and asked for my brother. I explained that ADOLFO was at the
POPOLAVORO CLUB and went at once to bring him. As I was
leaving the club I saw two (2) men enter, what attracted my
attention was they were wearing large red neckerchiefs. Other
two (2) men were standing in the doorway. Just as I walked
past the first two (2) men there was a burst of machine gun
fire from one of them. (This man I afterwards knew as SUCCIELLI).
This frightened me and I immediately ran home, there I told my
people that I thought my brother had been shot. Shortly
afterwards my brother came home but he was unable to tell us
what had happened. Later that night we heard BENCHEFFI Alduina
crying outside and saying that someone had been killed. We
had locked the doors and windows by this time and were afraid
to open them to enquire what had happened. Everything quietened
down after a while and we went to bed that night about 24.00 hours.

The following morning Monday, 19th June, 1944,
when I came downstairs about 08.00 hours, I found that CALO LEO
his wife ADA, 39 years, MARCELLA a girl 17 years, UMBERTO a
boy 10 years and MARCELLA a girl 6 years, had left the village.
I was told that they were afraid of German reprisals. This
surprised me as it was the first time of the two (2) German
soldiers who had been killed in the club the previous evening.
My mother, CALDELLI Chinazzi Rosa, 70 years and I were the only
two left at home and we did not leave the village.

About 10.00 hours that morning I went to the
club to see the bodies and saw those of two (2) German soldiers
lying on the floor. I went there with the intention of
washing and preparing the bodies for burial but Signora CAO
and two nuns were already doing this. Signora CAO I know
well as she was interpreter to the Germans. I told her what I
had seen the previous evening and she said that everything would
be alright, the Germans would not take reprisals on the village.
I then returned to my home and told my mother what I had seen.

On Tuesday, 20th, June, 1944, about 14.00 hours
a large German Army lorry came into the village, there was about
twelve (12) German soldiers on this lorry. These soldiers were
all armed my mother and I were afraid then we saw this so when
it passed our house we left and hid in the fields outside the
village. An hour or so later the lorry came out of the village
and I saw a lot of women (about 20) walking in front of it
carrying flowers. The German soldiers were walking behind.

I realized at once/...

were walking behind.

I realized at once that it was the funeral of the soldiers who had been killed in the club so I came out of hiding and joined in the procession to pay my respects to the dead. I got some flowers from a cousin of mine CALDELLI Anna. The burial service went well, the village priest DON AGOSTINO LAZZARI officiated (he was murdered by the Germans on the 29th of June). When the soldiers were buried the Germans fired their rifles over the graves. A German officer stood next to me and he spoke fluent Italian. He was about one metre seventy-five centimetres tall and very stout. He was dressed in long khaki trousers and wore a small khaki sidecap similar to those worn by British soldiers. His jacket was of a light khaki colour, three quarters length, with stiff epaulettes, these epaulettes had three (3) small coloured stripes on them one red, one white, one red. On his right upper arm there was a brass laurel wreath in the centre of which there was a brass dagger pointing upwards. I have been shown an eagle and swastika by Sgt CLS LOT of 78 Section, S.I.B. on the 10th November, 1944, the officer mentioned above wore one on the breast of his tunic.

It was about 16.00 hours when the Germans came back to the village from the cemetery. Here they created quite a commotion by shouting and firing shots into the sky. They did not cause any trouble and I think they left about 18.00 hours. They returned again about 20.00 hours the same evening and the officer came to my home and told me to stay in the house as they were only checking identity cards. That night my mother and I went to bed as usual.

On Saturday, 24th June, 1944, my brother and his family returned to the village it was then that I learnt that they had been to CAPO CONFRIO, a farm about two (2) kilometres west of CIVITELLA.

The next time I saw the Germans was on Thursday the 29th June, 1944. My mother and niece MAFALDA went to the church of SANTA MARIA ASSUNTA and I intended following about 07.00 hours, as it was the day of St Peter and St Paul. It was about 07.00 hours when a man whom I knew as MARCONI called at my house and told me that German soldiers were coming towards the village. Ever since the day that the Germans had been killed I had been expecting reprisals of some sort and immediately feared the worse. I went straight to the church and told my mother she however refused to leave, whilst I was there several rifle shots could be heard which appeared to come from the bottom of the village. I left with MAFALDA and returned home where we looked all the doors and windows. There was nine (9) people in the house at the time, they were, CALSETTI Lucia, GIOVANETTI Raffaello, VERDELLI Felice, CALDELLI Ada, CALDELLI Maria Pia, CALDELLI Umberto and ORIOLONI Teresina. My brother ADOLFO had left early in the morning to gather mushrooms. I do not know where he went. After a while there was firing all over the village and a lot of loud bangs, my sister ADA looked out of the window and said that two men were lying in the road. I looked and recognised the village baker, I do not know his name, and MARSILLI Emilio, that is all I remember for a while as I fainted. When I came round there was a strong smell of burning in the house so I decided to leave and look for my mother.

As I got into the street the sight of death

and destruction that/....

/sight of death

and destruction that I saw was amazing. There were bodies of men lying all over the place and all were covered with blood, some were even burning as they lay. Piles of rubble which were houses a short while before were now lying in the street, from beneath these stones I could hear the moans of people not yet dead. Amongst the bodies that I saw I recognised, MARSILLI Emilio, TIEZZI Leonello, FRANCI Giuseppe CALDELLI Viriglio, all men and the last one my cousin. As I walked round the village it was like a place of the dead.

The Germans had left by this time as I must have been in the house about three (3) hours. The gutters in the street were streaming with blood and articles of clothing were lying all over the place. Every house appeared to be burning. After a while, I have no recognition of time, I started bringing bodies and putting them outside my house. I recognised the following:-

CACCIALUPI Fredrico,	CACCIALUPI Guiseppe,	LAMMIONI Dante
GUALDANI Cesare,	Dr LORENZO Giuliani,	SABATINI Paulo
FALSETTI Domenico,	ta MENCHETTI Luigi,	SOALETTI Dario
LAMMIONI Giovanni Battis,	MENCHETTI Torquato,	CALDELLI Ibo
DON LAZERI Alcide	PASQUINI Giuseppe	FALSETTI Luigi

and a man I know as 'MARCHETTI'. There were a lot more bodies but I cannot remember all of them. Whilst I was doing this a number of men and women came back to the village and helped me.

A man NICOLA Ernesto Della came and told me that the body of my brother was lying just outside the east entrance to the village. He also told me that my mother was at POGGIALI. I got some men who had returned to come with me to help carry my brothers body to the church. I recognised my brothers body, his left hand had been blown off and the lower part of his face was missing. The sight of my brother was too much for me, I could not take his body to the church that day but left him beside the others. When I got back to the house my mother had returned from POGGIALI. I told her of my brother and what I had seen then we both went to the hospital in CIVITELLA where we remained until the following morning.

On Friday, 30th June, 1944, I was up early and helped the people the majority of women had by this time returned we got all the bodies we could find and carried them into the church. My sister-in-law ADA made the coffin for my brother.

On Saturday, 1st July, 1944, we took the coffin to the church and put my brothers body into it. He was then taken to the cemetery on a handcart with other three (3) bodies, about 11.00 hours. When we got there I had to dig

my brothers grave/....

/I had to dig

my brothers grave then we laid his body at rest. There was no priest present at the cemetery.

My brother was not a Partisan but he had given them food on occasions. He was not interested in politics but had at one time been a Fascist.

I never saw any Germans on Thursday, 29th June, 1944, as I never left the house.

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

(Sgd) Giuseppina Giorgina CALDELLI.

Statement written down in Italian and signature witnessed by LUCICARO Alberto, Interpreter, in the presence of SGT CLEGGON both of 78 Section SIB on the 10th November, 1944, at CIVITELLA, AREZZO.

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

Lucicaro Alberto
LUCICARO ALBERTO.