

Civitella,  
Arezzo.

22 November 44.

STATEMENT OF :-

COCCHINI Bruno, Male  
Civitella, 36 years.  
Arezzo.

Who saith,

I have lived in CIVITELLA for the last two years with my wife COCCHINI Gina, 33 years and two children, Giancarlo, 5 years and Annamaria, one year old. I am employed by the Provincial Council and Office of Economy, AREZZO.

On Sunday 18 June 44, about 1600 hours I was in my house, which is next to the DOPOLAVORO CLUB, when I heard what I thought was rifle fire outside. I looked out of the window and saw two German soldiers standing in the square; there was a flare from a Vercy Pistol in the sky. On seeing this I thought it was the Germans signalling to some of their comrades, so I attached no importance to it.

About 2130 hours the same evening I was still in my home when I heard the sound of machine gun fire from nearby. I again looked out of the window and saw people running from the DOPOLAVORO CLUB. GIOVANETTI Oskare, whose house is right opposite, was banging on his door and shouting for someone to open it. I asked him what had happened and he said that some Germans had been killed in the DOPOLAVORO CLUB.

That evening I did not go to bed for fear of other Germans returning and starting some real shooting.

About 0400 hours on Monday 19 June 44, I heard people passing my house and when I enquired as to the reason I was told that everyone was afraid of German reprisals.

That morning about 0800 hours I met MENCHETTI Alduina, CORADESCHI Guglielmo, and CORADESCHI Aldo and between us we decided to go back to the DOPOLAVORO CLUB. As up to this no one knew definitely that any Germans had been killed there. When we went into the CLUB however and saw the bodies of two German soldiers lying on the floor, I decided to leave the village at once.

I returned home and with my wife and family left the village at once. We went to the farm CAPO CONTRO which is about three kilometres south of CIVITELLA.

My wife and family did not return to CIVITELLA until it was occupied by the British.

I only came back daily for necessities and consequently did not see the Germans until 29 June 44.

On this morning I was coming back to the village about 0700 hours. When I was about one and a half kilometres from CIVITELLA I could hear a lot of rifle fire. I looked

at the old/....

/fire. I looked at the old tower in the village and saw a German soldier with a machine gun. This soldier started firing in my direction, just bursts anywhere along the road; I took cover behind a tree and looked towards the village.

I waited a while and then saw women and children coming out of the village. These women were screaming about their husbands. So I assumed what was happening and quickly made my way back to CAPO CONTRO.

About 1600 hours on Saturday 1 July 44, I returned to CIVITELLA to help the women with the dead.

At first I assisted the women to put out the fires in their homes, and carried several bodies into the church. I knew a lot of people in CIVITELLA and recognised the following:-

PAGGI Gastone  
GIOVANETTI Egisto,  
CACCIALUPI Federico.  
GIULIANI Lorenzo.  
LAMBIONI Giuliana.  
DON LAZZERI Alcide.  
FALSETTI Luigi

BALUCANI Italo.  
LAMBIONI Dante.  
CACCIALUPI Giuseppe.  
SANDRELLI Marietta.  
LAMBIONI Gio. Battista.  
SCALETTI Dario.

These people had all died from bullet wounds and some were badly burnt. All those mentioned above I made coffins for and saw their bodies or remains put into them.

That night I went back to CAPOCONTRO about 1930 hours and the following morning, Sunday 2 July 44, I returned at 0400 hours with three farmers and we worked in the cemetery digging graves until 1030 hours. I spent the remainder of Sunday helping women with their homes which were still burning.

That evening I returned to CAPO CONTRO and did not come back to CIVITELLA until it was occupied by the British.

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

(Sgd.) COCCHINI Bruno.

Statement written down in Italian and signature witnessed by Pte. DI DUCA Bragia, interpreter, in the presence of Sgt. GLENLOW both of 78 Section S.I.B. on Wednesday 22 November 44. at CIVITELLA, AREZZO.

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

DI DUCA Bragia.