

Civitella,
Arezzo.

8 November 44.

STATEMENT OF:-

MAGINI Modesta, Female
Via Romana, 59 years.
Civitella,
Arezzo.

Who saith,

I am single and have lived in CIVITELLA all my life. I lived with my brother MAGINI Rinaldo aged 55 years. He was murdered by the Germans on 29 June 44.

On the evening of Sunday 18 June 44, we were retiring about 2130 hours, when we heard a lot of people running outside. As this was an unusual occurrence in the village we decided to find out what was happening. We were informed that three German soldiers had been killed in the DOPOLAVORO CLUB. As everything appeared to be quiet again we went to bed.

The following day Monday 19 June 44, the woman who was acting as interpreter for the Germans called at my cafe with her husband for a meal. This woman I know as Signor CAO or CAU; she had a farm at GENBIA which is about four kilometres west of CIVITELLA.

Nothing else happened until Tuesday 20 June 44 until about 1730 hours when some Germans came round telling everyone to go to the village square. In consequence of what I was told I knew that they had already buried the soldiers who had been killed in the Club. We all went to the square where we were asked for our identity papers, then allowed to return home. My brother Rinaldo, his wife Gina, 42 years, then left the village immediately for FUGGIALI. My cousin MUCCIARINI Alfredo, aged 67 years also left. I remained in the village. My brother, his wife and my cousin returned to CIVITELLA on Friday 23 June 44, leaving the children at FUGGIALI where they remained until the British had liberated the village.

The next time I saw Germans in the village was Thursday, 29 June 44. My sister MAGINI Olimpia, aged 56 yrs. and I went to the Assumption Church about 0700 hours; it was the day of St. Peter and Paul. About 0715 hours we heard an explosion and a lot of shooting. The priest stopped the service for a few minutes and told us not to worry as it was most probably the British attacking the Germans. He also told us not to interfere with the Germans and gave us permission to remain in the church until the fighting finished. However shortly after he had finished Mass a German soldier came into the church followed by three of his companions. These soldiers threatened everyone with revolvers and ordered us all outside. As we came out of the church I saw a lot of German soldiers who were all armed, and pushing civilians about the square. They had machine guns facing the church and soldiers were lying behind them.

A number of/...

/lying behind them.

A number of men of CIVITELLA were standing in a group and the Germans were guarding them with machine guns.

The whole of the village by this time seemed to be on fire. My sister and I immediately went to our home. When we got there it was already blazing furiously. We attempted to save a few things but before we had time, a German soldier came up and shouted at us "Via".

My sister and I decided to go to POGGIALI. On the way we passed two bodies, the body of a man and a girl. The girl, I do not know but the man I recognized as PASQUI, Guglielmo. We got to the Orphanage at POGGIALI about 1200 hours the same morning. The place seemed to be full of women and children from CIVITELLA, all of whom were praying for someone.

My sister and I remained at Foggiali until two days after the British liberated CIVITELLA, then we returned.

My brother Rinaldo and cousin Alfredo were not Partisans or in any way associated with them. Neither were they interested in politics. They were both butchers in CIVITELLA and had lived here all their lives.

I can remember nothing about the Germans as I was too frightened to take any notice.

This statement has been read over to me. It is correct and true. I herewith append my signature.

(Sgd.) MAGINI Modesta.

Statement written down in Italian and signature witnessed by DI BUCA Bragia, interpreter, in the presence of Sgt. OLENIKOW both of 78 Section S.I.B. on Wednesday, 8th November, 1944 at CIVITELLA, AREZZO.

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

DI BUCA Bragia.