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Civitella,
Arezzo.

Friday, 3 November, 1944.

STATEMENT OF:-

CALDELLI Uliana di Mario,
Civitella.

Female aged 37 years.

Who saith,

I am the widow of CALDELLI Ibo, he was 39 years of age, and we had lived in CIVITELLA all our lives.

On the evening of Sunday, 18 June, 1944, I was in the house attending to my husband who was sick. I heard some firing (I thought rifle fire) outside my house. I immediately went outside to call my son Franco who is eight years old. When I got outside I saw two German soldiers in the street and there were flares in the sky. I gathered that these were the shots that I had heard. My son Franco came to me and I took him into the house. I cannot describe the soldiers apart from saying that they were dressed the way that I had seen all Germans. That night I went to bed about 2045 hours and had not been there very long when I heard a lot of firing. This however did not last for long so we passed it off as a reoccurrence of the previous firing.

The morning of Monday, 19 June, 1944, at 0500 hours the village was alive ; everyone was talking of the incident that had taken place in the club the previous evening. My husband and I decided to leave at once so we hastily packed a few necessities and were out of the village by 0530 hours. We went to a farm called SAN PIERO about one and a half kilometres north of CIVITELLA. We remained at this farm until 0800 hours on Tuesday, 20 June, 1944, then we returned to CIVITELLA. We remained in the village until about 1400 hours on 20 June, 1944, that was about the time the Germans came with a lorry to collect the bodies. The bodies were those of two German soldiers who had been killed in the cafe on the evening of Sunday 18 June, 1944. This was done apparently by Partisans at 2045 hours, the time mentioned above when I refer to previous firing. My husband decided to make himself scarce and left for the farm CRISFINIO which is about two kilometres north of CIVITELLA. I remained in the village and saw two German army lorries come to the club. I do not know the make. They were a big Army type with a tarpaulin over the top and sides. There were about fifteen German soldiers with these lorries. They were dressed in the usual grey uniforms. All these soldiers were armed with weapons of some description.

One of these soldiers, who wore a long, white coat, we (the villagers) took to be an Officer but I do not know for certain. The soldiers carried the bodies out of the club, (they were already in a coffin), put them on the lorries, then went to the cemetery where they were buried. Several women of the village went down to the cemetery to pay their respects. The Germans were at the cemetery about thirty minutes then they returned to the village about 1530 hours, and they went to the square.

Here they created quite a commotion by shouting
and firing rifles in/...

/commotion by shouting and firing rifles in the air. This was apparently done to attract attention. Then this German in a white coat, apparently an Officer who could speak Italian, made a speech on the following lines:-

" We want to know the men who shot our comrades, and if we are not told by twelve tomorrow (Wednesday 21 June, 1944) we will take reprisals on the village". These Germans appeared very angry but left the village about 16-15 hours.

I left CIVITELLA with my son about 1630 hours the same afternoon and joined my husband at the farm CRISPINHO. I remained on the farm until 1600 hours on Thursday 22 June, 1944, when I returned to CIVITELLA. My husband and son joined me at 1900 hours the same day.

Everything was quiet until Tuesday, 27 June, 1944, when two German soldiers with a car went round the houses of the village collecting wireless sets.

On Thursday, 29 June, 1944, at about 0700 hours I was going to church, it being the day of St. Peter and Paul. Just as I got to the church I heard the sound of firing coming from further down the village. Everyone thought that the firing was due to the British fighting the Germans. I was afraid and decided to return to my husband who was ill in bed. I looked out of the window of my house and saw the Germans with machine guns outside the church. There was a lot of shooting going on outside all the time. About 0800 hours someone knocked at my door and I went and opened it. There was a German soldier and he strode into my house. He was shouting, " Raus", which I did not understand, but I did know that he wanted my husband. I tried to explain that he was ill in bed but that did not seem to matter; he eventually found him and made him go outside. My husband was so ill that I had to assist him dressing. I remained in the house about ten minutes after my husband had gone then two German soldiers came in and told me to get outside with my son. The bottom of my house was already ablaze when I left. My little boy wanted to go back for a coat that he had left but when he tried to do so, a German soldier hit him across the back with a rifle and brought him outside shouting " Via ".

All the women and children seemed to be leaving the village and going in the direction of FOGGIALI. We ran and as we came to the outskirts of the village I saw the bodies of two civilians. I did not know them, maybe because they were covered in blood. Two German soldiers were busy removing one of the bodies from the road and I saw them throw it into a house that was burning furiously. As I went down the road to FOGGIALI I noticed several pools of blood at different places but I saw no more bodies.

The method used by the Germans to set fire to the houses was to throw a small metal ball into a house. Immediately this ball hit anything it burst into flames.

I arrived at the Orphanage at FOGGIALI about 1100 hours that morning. All the women and children of CIVITELLA appeared to be here. Everyone was weeping and praying for their husbands or fathers. I left the Orphanage about

1500 hours the/....

/the Orphanage about

1500 hours the same day with MENCHETTI Alduina and MORI Rosina, but when we got back to the village Rosina and I got separated from MENCHETTI. Together with Rosina, I searched the entire village looking amongst the ruins. I saw lots of burnt bodies and others partially burnt. For an hour we searched but I was unable to find my husband. We returned to FOGGIALI about 1800 hours that evening and I still got no news of my husband.

It was about 1200 hours on Friday 30 June, 1944, when I was told that my husband had been found and where I could find his body. I left for CIVITELLA with BARTOLUCCI Rosa and we got here about 1300 hours.

The body of my husband had already been taken to the church so I went there to see him. He was in a terrible state, his right arm was burnt right off. Only a gruesome stump about nine centimetres remained and his face was jet black. He had two bullet holes in the region of his heart.

I was able to recognise him by the clothing I had given him that morning, some of which had not been burnt at all. I was not able to wash my husband owing to the horrible condition of his body. I went and saw a farmer who agreed to make a coffin for me. That evening I returned to the orphanage at FOGGIALI.

At 0800 hours on Saturday 1 July, 1944, I returned to CIVITELLA. My brother-in-law CALDELLI Amerigo who has since been killed assisted me to put my husband's body into the coffin which had been made. This was done by 1100 hours, then we put him on a handcart with two other bodies and Amerigo and I and other women pushed the cart to the cemetery. Here some men were employed solely digging graves. Our grave was allotted to us and we finally laid the remains of my husband at rest. No priest was present at the ceremony.

I know nothing about the Germans who committed this wholesale massacre. On the day it was done they all wore steel helmets and camouflage smocks over their uniforms.

My husband was not a Partisan nor had he ever helped them. He was not interested in politics. He had previously been a fascist but had never taken it very seriously.

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

(Sgd.) CALDELLI Uliana.

Statement written down in Italian and signature witnessed by DI DUCA Bragia, interpreter, in the presence of Sgt. CLEWLOW both of 78 Section S.I.B. on Friday, 3 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 DUCA Bragia.