

Civitella,
Arezzo.
15 November, 1944.
Female
18 years.

STATEMENT OF :-

BARTOLOMEO Tini,
Civitella,
Arezzo.

The oath,

I am a woolworker and have lived in CIVITELLA all my life.

At about 2100 hours on Sunday, 18 June, 1944, I was in the house of Dr. G. BASSINI at CIVITELLA when I heard the sound of shooting in the village. Shortly afterwards the doctor returned home and told me that some Germans had been shot in the BOLOGNINO SUB.

Shortly afterwards I went to my own home and on my way home saw TULLIO Bruno in the street. He was bleeding from the head.

On arrival at my home I went to bed and was awakened about 0400 hours the next morning by the sounds of the villagers leaving their homes.

My parents decided that we should go as well and accordingly we went to the house of friends about two kilometres from CIVITELLA.

As everything appeared to be quiet we returned to our home on 24 June, 1944. The town was nearly normal when we returned and I saw no Germans until 27 June, 1944.

On that day in the afternoon, two Germans with a small staff car called at my home and asked me for Dr. G. BASSINI'S wireless set. I told them that I did not have any wireless set and after some argument they went away.

They were both dressed in light coloured uniform, wore shorts and Field service caps. One was carrying a machine gun rifle.

About 0700 hours on Thursday 29 June, 1944. I was going to church when I was told that the Germans were coming. With the rest of my family, for safety, we all went home. As we were going indoors I heard the sounds of shots being fired lower down the village.

The noise came nearer and I looked through a window on to the Piazza and saw about twenty Germans in the Piazza shooting towards the church. The church was out of my vision. I saw one of the Germans throw what I took to be a hand grenade towards the church. I did not see it hit the ground but immediately after he had thrown it there was an explosion.

Lying on the ground near the Piazza I saw a German soldier who looked as though he was dead but I

could not be/....

dead but I could not be certain. About two metres away from him lay MARCELLO Amelio who also appeared to be dead. Again I could not be certain but they were laying on their backs with their eyes closed and arms outflung. I could not from where I was see any blood or wounds.

I heard a loud knocking on our front door and with the rest of the family near the door when it was opened in response to the knock by my mother.

I saw four Germans standing outside the house all dressed the same, in steel helmets, camouflaged smocks reaching the knees with a belt round the waist. Two had rifles with bayonets fixed and two were armed with machine gun rifles.

One of the Germans caught hold of my father by his coat and dragged him away to the square. I attempted to prevent this but was pushed aside by another of the Germans who told me to go away in perfect Italian. I believe he was an Italian.

My mother remained behind to find my grandmother and with my two sisters I walked away from my home towards the village entrance.

Outside the hospital I saw the bodies of PIERVANI Paolo, ELISABETH Crispignone and JESSI Andrea all laying face downwards in pools of blood. They were all wounded in the head. Many houses were on fire. At the east gate I saw about twenty Germans dressed the same as the others I had previously seen. Laying on the roadside near them, were the bodies of CADELLI Adolfo with a hole on the left of his head. Also, BRUNETTI Luigi whose head was crushed. There was also the body of another man whom I did not know. The wounds on these bodies were still bleeding and I was certain these men were dead.

We spent the night at BOGGIALI and about 0700 hours the next day I returned to CIVITELLA.

Some of houses were still burning and I saw many dead bodies laying on the streets and in doorways. Among these I recognised FERRARI Carlo, LISI Gregorio, TIRRELLI Angelo, VERBELLI Italo, ORSOLINI G. Battista, SCARLETTI Mario, GIULIANI Lorenzo, LANCIONE Dante and LANCIONE G. Battista. All had gun shot wounds but none of these bodies were burned.

I found my father in the municipal hospital and tried to get Dr. GATTASSINI to go to CIVITELLA to attend to him but he would not enter the village. I procured assistance and had my father carried into the woods where the doctor did as much as he could for him.

Ten days later my father, who was badly wounded in the face, throat and both hands was taken away by Germans. He returned after about 1600 hours and told

me that the/....

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/hours and told me that the Germans had put him to work carrying tree trunks. His bandages had been ripped off and he was in a very bad state.

We returned to CIVITELLA after the British had arrived. Our home was completely destroyed.

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

(Sgd.) BARTOLUCCI Irma.

Statement written down in Italian and signature witnessed by MAYER Massimo, interpreter, in the presence of Sgt. Charles both of 78 Section S.I.B. on Wednesday, 15 November, 1944. at CIVITELLA, AREZZO.

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

(Sgd.) MAYER Massimo.