

Cignano,  
Civitella,  
Arezzo.

14 December 44.

STATEMENT OF:-

FRANCI Maria,  
Cignano,  
Civitella,  
Arezzo.

Who saith,

I have lived here since I was married in 1927.

My brother-in-law FRANCI Giuseppe, aged 47 years who also lived here was killed by the Germans on 29th June 44. He was employed as a farmer.

On Thursday, 29th. June 1944, about 0630 hours, all the family including Giuseppe, went to the church of Santa Maria Assunta at CIVITELLA.

About 0730 hours, when the Mass was nearly finished, a German soldier came into the church. He was followed shortly after by another soldier. I cannot remember how they were dressed. Both soldiers had arms which they pointed at people and they shouted, 'Rouse.'

Everyone gathered that these soldiers wanted us to go outside. I went out with all the other people but do not know about my brother-in-law. Outside on the square facing the church there was a number of German soldiers lying behind machine-guns. These Germans told the women to be quick and get out of the village. Several houses in CIVITELLA were then burning furiously.

As I was leaving the village I saw three bodies lying in the street but I did not recognise anyone. I went into the woods west of CIVITELLA and remained there until about 2000 hours when I returned to the farm. My brother in law had not returned.

On Friday, 30th. June 1944, about 1700 hours I went to CIVITELLA. In the church I saw my brother-in-law's body where it had been carried by someone. He had not been burnt and I recognised him easily. He had bullet wounds in the head, but I do not know how many.

My husband FRANCI Alfredo, aged 45 years, made a coffin and my brother-in-law was buried on either Saturday, 1st. or Sunday, 2nd. July 1944, in the cemetery at CIVITELLA.

My brother-in-law was not a partisan and had never helped them.

I remember nothing of the German soldiers.

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

(Sgd) FRANCI Maria.

Statement written down/....