

Montaltuzzo,
Bucine.

17 January 45.

STATEMENT OF:-

ROMANELLI Giovanna,	Female.
Montaltuzzo,	Aged 32 years.
Bucine,	
Arezzo.	

Who saith,

I am married, a schoolteacher and have lived here for the past two years.

On the 22 June 44, I went to stay at the Vicarage, CORNIA, with my two children.

Present in the house on the morning of the 29 June 44, was my mother-in-law TAVANTI Emilia, my brother-in-law ROMANELLI Giuseppe and his family, my sister-in-law ROMANELLI Emma who was paralyzed, DE LUCA Giovanna, a woman aged 55 years and her daughter MARINELLI Ada, the last two women being evacuees from AREZZO and the servant ORSOLINI Rina.

About 0830 hours on that date my husband ROMANELLI Amaddio and the Priest Don Natale ROMANELLI came to the house and told us that the Germans were burning houses and killing civilians in the neighbourhood. The men then left the house to hide in the woods leaving the women behind because they thought we would be safe. However, after a short while, in view of what we were told by our neighbours we decided to leave the house as well. Accordingly the majority of us left leaving behind TAVANTI Emilia, ORSOLINI Rina and the Priest's paralyzed sister, ROMANELLI Emma in the house. We hid in a vineyard about 300 metres from CORNIA. After about twenty minutes DE LUCA Giovanna decided to return to the Priest's house as she was not feeling well and left us, accompanied by MARINELLI Ada. I saw them both enter the house.

About 1030 hours from my place of concealment, I saw three separate parties of German soldiers converging on CORNIA from different directions. There were about 100 Germans in all. Just previous to them entering CORNIA I saw PONTENANI Rosa, whom I knew well, standing on her front doorstep with a scythe in her hands. She was shouting:- "If they come, I will cut their necks."

The Germans went from house to house and later I saw MARINELLI Ada and ORSOLINI Rina escorted by German soldiers being taken towards the house of MUGNAI. I heard DE LUCA Giovanna shouting loudly, "Scandal. Do not touch her." When they arrived outside the house of MUGNAI I heard both women screaming. This screaming went on for about an hour. Later, I saw some Germans throwing hand grenades near MUGNAI's house and saw dense clouds of smoke rising from CORNIA.

About 1300 hours I saw the Germans leaving CORNIA and proceeding in the direction of CIVITELLA.

About 1700 hours, with my children, I returned

to the Vicarage/....

- 2 -

/I returned

to the Vicarage, CORNIA. It was still on fire and only one room remained undamaged.

My husband later joined me and we lived in a hut in the valley of CORNIA until the arrival of the British.

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

(Sgl) ROMANELLI Giovanna.

Statement written down in Italian and signature witnessed by FABERONI Vasco, Interpreter, in the presence of Sgt Charles, both of 78 Section, SIB, on Wednesday, 17th. January 1945, at MONTALTUZZO, BUCINE, AREZZO.

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

Faberoni Vasco
FABERONI Vasco.