

Civitella,
Arezzo.

9 November 44.

STATEMENT OF:-

MAGINI Gina,	Female.
Civitella,	Aged 45 years.
Arezzo.	

Who saith,

I have lived in CIVITELLA since I married MAGINI Rinaldo, aged 55 years. We were married eighteen years ago. I have two children, a girl Beatrice aged 16 years, and a boy Carlo aged 14 years. My husband was born in CIVITELLA and has lived here all his life. He was a butcher in the village.

On the night of Sunday, 18th. June 1944, there were seven people living at our house and we were preparing to go to bed. The people were my husband, I and our children, my two sisters-in-law MAGINI Modesta, 59 years and MAGINI Clelia, 56 years and my cousin MUCCIARINI Alfredo aged 67 years. We were preparing to go to bed about 2130 hours when we heard some people running outside. As this was unusual in the village at this time, we went and enquired as to what was happening. We were told that three German soldiers had been killed in the DOPO LAVORO Club, but no one knew who had done this. We waited awhile but as everything appeared quiet we went to bed about 2200 hours.

On Monday, 19th. June 1944, the German interpreter Signora CAU and her husband called at our cafe for a meal. CAU told us not to be afraid as nothing would happen. Signora CAU tried to get a lorry to take away the bodies that day but failed. That evening she stayed at my house. The next morning CAU left about 0730 hours.

About 1400 hours on Tuesday, 20th. June 1944, one German lorry with about fifteen German soldiers came to the village. They went to the club and collected the bodies which they took to the cemetery. I know very little about that as I stayed in my house. About 1700 hours the same day I heard a lot of firing in the village. I think it was about 2130 hours when some German soldiers came round and took us all to the village square. Here they checked our identity cards then allowed us to go home. Shortly after this all the family, apart from my two sisters-in-law went to the orphanage at POGGIALI. We remained here for three days then my husband, cousin and I returned to CIVITELLA on Friday, 23rd. June 1944, at 1000 hours. We left the children at the orphanage where they remained until the British occupied CIVITELLA.

Everything was quiet in the village until the Germans came round collecting radios. I knew nothing about this because I locked myself in the house when I knew they were in the village.

On the morning of Thursday, 29th. June 1944, at 0700 hours I was preparing breakfast. My husband and I were the only ones in the house, my sisters had gone to church and my cousin was out. Suddenly there was a lot of machine-gun fire. I shouted my husband and he came to where I was.

About this time/....

/where I was.

About this time three German soldiers walked into the house. One of these soldiers held a gun at my husband and marched him away. The other two soldiers told me to 'Via.' I tried to stay with my husband but the soldiers pushed me away, then my husband told me to go and try and save myself. At this time I did not think that my husband was going to be killed. I left the village at once and went in the direction of POGGIALI. On the road I saw three bodies. They were FALSETTI Giovanni, FALSETTI Luigi, CALDELLI Adolfo and one woman IRIS BOSCHI. It was about 1700 hours when I got to the orphanage at POGGIALI.

I remained at the orphanage until Saturday, 30th. June 1944, then I returned to CIVITELLA about 0930 hours. I went to my home where I had left my husband. Outside the front door I saw a pool of blood. I knew then that my husband had been killed. This blood led away from the door in the direction of an adjoining building, a stable. This stable like my house had been set on fire and was absolutely wrecked. I started to search amongst the debris and after a while I found the body of MARSILI Giustino. It was about 1000 hours before I found my husband. He had been very badly burnt and was a terrible sight. He had been laid upon a pile of straw then straw and wood piled on top of him, then the whole had been set on fire. I could recognise him by the clothes on his back which had not been burnt, also by the line of his features, although his face like the rest of his body was jet black. There was one bullet wound in his throat. I could not say if there were anymore because if I had taken his clothes off he would have fallen to pieces.

I got a coffin made from old pieces of wood and that evening about 2000 hours, with the help of some other women I took him to the cemetery on a headcart. There were no men or priest at the cemetery. We just dug a hole and put my husband's remains in it. Whilst we were doing this someone brought my cousin into the cemetery and I went and saw him. He had not been burnt and only had one bullet wound in the face. I could recognise him easily.

My husband and cousin had never been partisans and had never helped them. They were not interested in politics of any kind. Previously they had been Fascists as everyone had to be or starve but they never even took this seriously.

I cannot remember anything about the Germans. I was always too afraid of them to take any notice.

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

(Sgd) MAGINI Gina.

Statement written down in Italian and signature witnessed by MASSIMO MAYER, Interpreter, in the presence of Sgt Glewlow, both of 78 Section, SIB, on Thursday, 16th. November 1944, at CIVITELLA, AREZZO.

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

(Sgd) MASSIMO MAYER.