

Civitella,  
Arezzo.

17 November 44.

STATEMENT OF:-

TIEZZI Giuseppa, Female.  
Civitella, Aged 46 years.  
Arezzo.

Who saith,

I am the widow of TIEZZI Filade, aged 50 years, labourer, and the mother of TIEZZI Bruno, aged 21 years. My son suffered from paralysis and did not work. We had lived in CIVITELLA all our lives. My husband and son were killed on the 29 June 44.

About 2000 hours on Sunday, 18th. June 1944, my son Bruno stated his intention of going to the DOPO LAVORO Club. I had been told that there were Germans in the club and advised him not to go there. He ignored me and left the house.

He had only been gone a few minutes when I heard the sound of shooting from the direction of the club. I went to a front window and looking out saw four men running out of the club. It was dark and I could not recognise them.

I then saw my son Bruno in the street. He was crying out, "Mother, I am wounded." He was bleeding from the front of his head. I took him to Dr. GAMBASSINI who treated his wounds. After this I took my son home and we all went to bed. The next morning many people left CIVITELLA but I and my family remained.

About 1400 hours on Tuesday, 20th. June 1944, I saw about thirty German soldiers outside the DOPO LAVORO Club with a large covered in truck.

These soldiers were dressed in steel helmets, light coloured jackets and trousers and all carried automatic rifles.

I made my way to the cemetery to watch the funeral in company of about twenty men, but I did not stay to watch because I became afraid when I knew there was going to be firing and went to my home.

The same evening I heard a loud banging on my front door. I opened it and saw outside three German soldiers. They were all dressed in steel helmets, camouflaged smocks and carried automatic rifles. Also with them was a man dressed something like an Italian Air Force officer, in a grey-green peaked cap, an overcoat, and trousers of the same colour. He was wearing a belt outside his overcoat and on the bottom of his sleeves were three or four white stripes. On each side of the front of the collar of his overcoat was a star, light coloured.

The Germans took hold of my son TIEZZI Danieli by the shoulders and took him away. The man dressed as an

Italian Air Force/....

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/dressed as an

Italian Air Force officer spoke to me in fluent Italian with a Tuscan dialect and told me not to worry. My son would not be harmed and would not be away for very long. I am certain that this man was an Italian. My son came home after being away for a short while.

About 0700 hours on Thursday, 29th. June 1944, I was on my way to church when I was told that the Germans were coming so I returned to my home.

When I arrived there my husband was getting ready for church and my son Bruno was still in bed. I told them to get out of CIVITELLA but they decided to remain.

My husband hid himself between the bed Bruno was occupying and another one which was alongside it. My son TIEZZI Dino aged ten years was also in the room.

After seeing them safe, I went downstairs. I heard shooting in the distance until it came nearer. I went to the window and saw a German soldier standing at the end of the street holding a machine-gun rifle. I also saw many women and children running out of the Piazza.

I heard the front door of my house being noisily forced and two German soldiers forced their way in.

They were dressed the same as the other soldiers I had seen, in steel helmets, camouflaged smocks and trousers, but were carrying revolvers in their hands. They searched all the bottom rooms and then went upstairs. I heard Dino crying and then the sound of two single shots. The Germans came downstairs and catching hold of me tried to force me out of the house but I broke free and ran up into the bedroom. There I saw my husband and son lying dead. My husband had been shot in the mouth making a terrible wound. My son Bruno had received a bullet wound in the right temple.

I went to the window and called for help and my sister-in-law came and took Dino away. I then became conscious that the shop underneath the house was on fire. I tried to get my husband's and my son's bodies out of the house but could not do so. Two neighbours of mine then came and made me go away with them into the country.

At 1400 hours the same day I returned with other women to CIVITELLA. I saw that practically all the houses were destroyed, many were still burning. I found my son's and husband's bodies in the ruins of my home. Both bodies had been badly burned but I could recognise them by their features.

Later two men whom I do not know, made coffins for both bodies and they were buried in the local cemetery.

On the way to my home, I saw the bodies of FALSETTI Luigi, GUALDANI Cesare, FRANCI Giuseppe, males and BOSCHI Ines a female.

I was informed that my other son TIEZZI Daniela

was lying out/....



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/son TIEZZI Danielli

was lying out in the woods wounded and I went to him. I found him, treated his wounds and stayed with him. He was wounded in his chest and back. I took him to BULGANO where we stayed for two days and afterwards to CASA AL PAZZO where we remained until after the liberation of CIVITELLA by the British.

On my return to the town I found my house gutted and all my belongings destroyed with it.

Neither my sons nor my husband were partisans or had given assistance to the partisans. They took no part in politics.

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

(Sgd) TIEZZI Giuseppa.

Statement written down in Italian and signature witnessed by MASSIMO MAYER, Interpreter, in the presence of Sgt Charles, both of 78 Section, SIB, on Friday, 17th. November, 1944, at CIVITELLA.

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

MASSIMO MAYER.