

## Comune di Fivizzano(MS)

Location of the massacre [Valla e Bardine, San Terenzo Monti, Fivizzano, Massa](#)

Date **17-19 August 1944**

List of the victims

Number and classification of the victims:

**159 victims:** 70 women (15 children, 39 adults, 10 elderly, 6 age unknown), 89 men (11 children, 57 adults, 12 elderly, 5 age unknown, 4 unidentified bodies)

***San Terenzo Monti, 17 August* : 2 victims** (one adult woman, one elderly man):

Bonatti Stella, 52 years old

Vangeli Giuseppe, 57 years old

***San Terenzo Monti, 19 August* : 1 victim** (one elderly man):

Rabino Michele, 64 years old

***Bardine, 19 August*: 53 victims** (53 men: 47 adults, 2 elderly persons, 4 unidentified bodies)

Antonucci Vittorio, 40 years old

Bacilli Agostino, 26 years old

Bacilli Dante, 35 years old

Barberi Casimiro, 26 years old

Bartalini Francesco, 43 years old

Benassi Felice, 36 years old

Beretti Valerio, 30 years old

Bertelloni Sauro, 19 years old

Bertozzi Orfeo, 20 years old

Bigi Sirio, 52 years old

Bramanti Giuseppe, 44 years old

Bresciani Giovanni, 26 years old

Bresciani Giuseppe, 43 years old

Caprini Eraldo, 38 years old

Catelani Jago, 35 years old

Catelani Otello, 41 years old

Cella Euro, 36 years old

Cinquini Leone, 59 years old

Da Prato Adamo, 33 years old

De Salvia Alberto, 33 years old

Della Menna Enrico, 43 years old

Della Santa Alessandro, 37 years old

Esposito Vittorio, 35 years old

Federici Nello, 26 years old

Figlie' Primo, 37 years old

Galeotti Luigi, 32 years old

Gamba Ernani, 22 years old

Giovannini Giuseppe, 44 years old

Guidi Carlo, 39 years old

Imparato Venturino, 33 years old

Lamberti Ruggero, 49 years old

Lazzeri Giulio, 21 years old  
Leonardi Oscar Aldo, 43 years old  
Lucarini Guglielmo, 39 years old  
Macchiarini Giuseppe, 25 years old  
Malfatti Vincenzo, 49 years old  
Marchetti Alessandro, 40 years old  
Palmerini Athos, 43 years old  
Paolicchi Alfonso, 40 years old  
Pardini Bruno, 33 years old  
Parenti Alvaro, 21 years old  
Pellegrini Battista, 48 years old  
Pezzini Francesco, 63 years old  
Pezzini Luzio, 37 years old  
Sciaretta Gennaro, 51 years old  
Signori Trento, 28 years old  
Tartaglia Enrico, 36 years old  
Togni Domenico, 36 years old  
Vannucci Attilio, 40 years old  
Venezia Angelo, 24 years old  
Three unidentified bodies

**Valla, 19 August : 103 victims** (69 women [15 children, 38 adults, 10 elderly, 6 age unknown], 34 men [11 children, 10 adults, 8 elderly, 5 age unknown])

Albertini Armando, 25 years old  
Albertini Clelia, 11 years old  
Ambrosini Palmira, 58 years old  
Bambini Bernardina, 48 years old  
Barucci Elsa, 24 years old  
Barucci Giuseppe, 59 years old  
Battistini Francesco, 61 years old  
Battistini Maria, 58 years old  
Biancardi Giuseppe, 17 years old  
Bonatti Stuarda, 54 years old  
Carlini Erminia, 71 years old  
Carlini Genoveffa, 60 years old  
Cecchini Carlo, 70 years old  
Cecchini Dante, 67 years old  
Cecchini Eugenia, 52 years old  
Cecchini Eugenio, 43 years old  
Cecchini Gino, 34 years old  
Cecchini Giulia, 45 years old  
Cecchini Maria, 20 years old  
Cecchini Pietrino, 6 years old  
Cecchini Rita, 3 years old  
Cecchini Ultima, 25 years old  
Chinca Angiola, 33 years old  
Chinca Maria, 31 years old

Chinca Oliva, 26 years old  
Chinca Settimia, 22 years old  
Conti Policarpo, 54 years old  
Cresci Fedora, 25 years old  
Dolcini Maria, 5 years old  
Dolcini Mario, 3 years old  
Favalli Minerva, 59 years old  
Filippi Aristide, 14 years old  
Filippi Dina, 16 years old  
Filippi Eugenio, 74 years old  
Filippi Nikita Valmo, 44 years old  
Gabbrielli Francesca, 34 years old  
Gargano Maria, 64 years old  
Gerini Beppina, 17 years old  
Gerini Dina, 12 years old  
Giacomini Anna, 23 years old  
Gianoglio Anna, 23 years old  
Gianoglio Rina, 64 years old  
Giorgi Elsa, 13 years old  
Giorgi Giuseppina, 10 years old  
Giorgi Lina, 15 years old  
Guelfi Franco, 14 years old  
Guelfi Maria, 12 years old  
Guelfi Pietro, 65 years old  
Innocenti Cesare, 68 years old  
Lori Maria, age unknown  
Maracci Andreina, 6 years old  
Maracci Pier Luigi, 2 years old  
Morelli Fabio, age unknown  
Morelli Pier Giorgio, age unknown  
Musetti Maria, 48 years old  
Nardi Irene, 39 years old  
Nardi Maria Angelina, 31 years old  
Novelli Mafalda, 17 years old  
Oligeri Alfonsina, 19 years old  
Oligeri Luigi, 12 years old  
Oligeri Maria, 15 years old  
Oligeri Rita, 3 years old  
Oligeri Romano, 17 years old  
Orfanotti Dario, 47 years old  
Orfanotti Iride, 20 years old  
Orfanotti Pietro, 13 years old  
Orlandi Ida, 51 years old  
Orlandi Lino, 52 years old  
Orlandi Vienna, 25 years old  
Paradisi Mauro, 3 years old  
Pasquali Elena, 43 years old  
Pasquini Maria, 45 years old  
Pasquini Rosa, 47 years old

	<p>Piccioli Lea, 32 years old  Pigoni Emilia, 61 years old  Pigoni Maria, 24 years old  Precetti Carla, age unknown  Precetti Giuseppina, age unknown  Precetti Roberta, age unknown  Pucci Assunta, 34 years old  Ricci Anna, 46 years old  Rossini Emilia, 53 years old  Serralunga Giovanni, 56 years old Sf Carr  Simonelli Giovanna, 18 years old  Simonelli Maria, 21 years old  Tanca Alberto, age unknown  Tanca Dino, age unknown  Tanca Sergio, age unknown  Taricco Vittoria, age unknown  Terenzoni Bruna, 16 years old  Terenzoni Emma, 21 years old  Terenzoni Flavio, 2 years old  Terenzoni Giuseppa, 13 years old  Terenzoni Italo, 51 years old  Terenzoni Leandrino, 7 years old  Terenzoni Ultimìa, 3 years old  Tonelli Ersilia, 32 years old  Tonelli Luigi, 4 years old  Tulipani Lucia, 56 years old  Valtriani Enia, 19 years old  Vangeli Enrichetta, 68 years old  Vangeli Vittorina, age unknown  Venturini Elsa, 42 years old</p>
Description of events	<p>The massacres at Valla and Bardine San Terenzo Monti were carried out as a reprisal against civilians by detachments of the <i>16. SS-Panzer-Grenadier-Division "Reichsführer-SS"</i>. The 19 August killings arose directly from events in theatre two days before: a clash between formations of the Muccini Brigade &amp; elements of <i>16. "Reichsführer-SS"</i> stationed in Fosdinovo, about 5km from the town of San Terenzo.</p> <p>The number of victims selected seems to indicate that those in charge of the operation decided that for every German soldier killed on 17 August, ten civilians would be executed in retaliation.</p> <p>The episode - which signalled the beginning of a chain of massacres in the province of Apuania (known as Massa-Carrara from 1946 onwards) that dragged on until mid-September - formed part of a general train of events marked by an intensification of the Resistance in the area immediately to the rear of the Tyrrhenian sector of the Gothic Line, whose retention was considered to be imperative by the occupying powers. In</p>

this rearward area the fight against bands of partisans was entrusted to *16. SS-Panzer-Grenadier-Division "Reichsführer-SS"*, which became ever more ferocious in perpetrating brutal violence against the civilian populations of Tuscany & Emilia.

During the last ten days of July, the 16<sup>th</sup> Division (which was subordinate to the XIV Panzer Army Corps) was deployed in an area bounded by the northern banks of the Arno to the South, the western provinces of Lucca and Pisa to the East, the Tyrrhenian coast to the West, and the River Magra to the North.

Violence by the Division against the civilian population exploded during a temporary lull in fighting at the front. Between late July and early August, a company of about 100 men belonging to the Engineer Pioneers of the 16th Division, under the command of Lieutenant Albert Fischer, installed themselves at Fosdinovo.

In the Lower Lunigiana various partisan formations were active, and during that time they intensified their acts of sabotage and their clashes with German convoys. The first days of August were marked by an attempt to create a unified command structure for the formations, strongly backed by the Communist Party and the CLN of Apuania.

On August 7 at Tenerano (a village near Fivizzano), the Garibaldi Brigade "Muccini" was formed. This consisted of 10 formations, of which six were communist-orientated, operating between the Lower Lunigiana and the Carrara area. The commander was Major Alfredo Contri, a moderate, whose political commissar was Giuseppe "Andrea" Antonini, a communist.

On August 8 the "Muccini" joined the Lunense Division of Lieutenant Anthony John Oldham (a British officer having Roberto Battaglia "Barocci" as his political commissar). From the start the relationship between the two units was marked by serious internal political conflicts and lack of a genuine coordinated command. They broke up shortly afterwards, during the German search and destroy operation on Monte Sagro (24-26 August).

Once established at Fosdinovo, Albert Fischer's Company carried out a series of forays into neighbouring villages within their control and undertook a number of raids on the population. On 3 August, following a clash with a partisan formation, the troops blew Marciaso up and killed five unsuspecting elderly villagers in the borgo.

On the morning of August 17 a detachment consisting of about twenty men and a truck arrived at the village of Bardine, about two miles from San Terenzo Monti. Here the soldiers requisitioned several head of cattle. Loading complete, the soldiers turned back towards Fosdinovo, but a few tens of metres from the edge of Bardine, just as they forded the stream of the

same name, they were attacked by partisan formation "Ulivi" commanded by Alessandro "Memo" Brucellaria. Various testimonies stress that the intervention was requested by a few residents of Bardine who had managed to reach the Ulivi HQ located close to Viano early in the morning.

A section of the "Gerini" formation definitely took part in the fighting, which went on for about two hours, but the participation of other elements is subject to doubt because many distanced themselves from the action immediately after the massacre. The "Gerini" together with the "Ulivi" (a cell of Carraran commandos who had made their way into the mountains during July) had joined the newly formed "Muccini" Brigade by this time.

In the battle of August 17, sixteen Germans were killed (one officer, four NCOs and eleven soldiers) belonging to a platoon of tank drivers under the command of Fischer's company of Engineer Pioneers. Another soldier, badly wounded, died later after being transported to Fosdinovo by some residents of San Terenzo. A second, slightly wounded, soldier got back to the village of San Terenzo before returning to HQ.

The "Ulivi" sustained one loss (Renzo Venturini, 18 years old), one seriously injured person (Roberto Vatteroni) and one slightly wounded (Aurelio Cappelli). The day after returning to the camp at Viano, the formation broke off operations in the area and headed back to their home territory of Carrara. Biting criticism was forthcoming after the massacre regarding the "Muccini's" lack of coordination and its failure to plan a defence against any German retaliation.

On the afternoon of August 17 a large contingent of troops under Fischer's command went to Bardine. Here the soldiers recovered the bodies of their comrades and destroyed a good part of the village by setting fire to it and using explosives. Meanwhile, the population of the village had evacuated the borgo with the exception of one woman and two elderly people who were all killed. (It has not been possible to track down these individuals in the Comune of Fivizzano's register of deaths - the victims were probably accounted for on the list of those massacred in Valla).

On their way back to Fosdinovo, the soldiers of the Engineer Pioneers killed Mr & Mrs Vangeli who were surprised just outside their home, located near the cemetery of San Terenzo Monti. In response to these events, over the following two days most of the population of San Terenzo abandoned the village.

On the morning of August 19 a large convoy of *Reichsführer* came from the direction of Fosdinovo through the village without stopping along the "B" road that bisects the town. The units involved in the operation were those based in Fosdinovo, the divisional *Feldgendarmerie* commanded by Gerhard Walter, and

the 16th Armoured Scout Group (*SS-Panzer-Aufklärung-Abteilung 16*) commanded by Major Walter Reder. The latter detachment was stationed at Isola from mid-August onwards, between Carrara and Marina di Carrara. Among other things, Reder acted as security chief for the area north of Carrara.

The troops effected an encirclement of sorts, guarding an area between the hamlets of San Terenzo, Bardine, Colla and Ceserano. At Bardine, which the Germans found to be deserted, 53 hostages were brought down by lorry from the divisional command of Nozzano. They had been rounded up on 12 August in Valdicastello at the end of operations at Sant'Anna di Stazzema. Captured along with hundreds of other people, they had been assessed as unfit for work and kept at Nozzano Castle until 18 August.

On August 19, conveying the hostages to the site chosen for the reprisal was probably taken care of by the *Feldgendarmerie*. Near where two days before the clash with the partisans had taken place, the 53 men were tied to trees, hedges and vine support poles using barbed wire wrapped tightly around their necks. After suffering in agony, they were finished off with a shot to the nape of the neck.

At the same time some units reached the hamlet of Colla, located on the mountainside opposite Bardine, where they rounded up many people. Other groups of Germans moved along the valley towards the hamlet of Ceserano, from where they went back along the ridge to the farmstead at Valla. Here, about a mile from San Terenzo Monti, more than a hundred people had taken refuge; mostly women, children and old people of the village. The soldiers combed the area and forced their prisoners to march up and down a stretch of road that connects Valla to San Terenzo.

Meanwhile, other German units entered the village, where they killed the priest, Father Michele Rabino, and flushed out some people who had taken refuge within a building. By piecing together information gleaned after the massacre, it seems that the Germans regarded the priest as a collaborator with the partisans because he had conveyed the dead comrades-in-arms killed on 17 August to the hamlet of Bardine (the parish of San Terenzo also includes the village of Bardine).

In late morning a command post was installed in the village: a group of seven or eight officers occupied the only restaurant, run by Mario Oligeri. The testimony of the latter was crucial in the trial of Walter Reder, as it revealed how the SS Major had come to sign the order which determined the fate of those rounded up at Valla.

Indeed, at around 13.30hrs the soldiers stationed at that location got the go-ahead to carry out the massacre. The prisoners, after

the forced march imposed immediately after their arrest, were kept locked up in rooms within the two houses on the farmstead, where they were counted several times. They were made to go outside into the open where they were corralled under a pergola not far away from the dwellings. Here the soldiers, having gathered together all the hostages, fired at them from close range with heavy machine guns.

Of the 106 people collected together at Valla, two managed to escape shortly before the execution - Alba Terenzoni and her three year old daughter, Adelitta. They got out via a window in the house where they were confined whilst the other hostages were being led outside.

Clara Cecchini, a girl of seven, was machine-gunned with the others. Despite her serious injuries she managed to save herself - she pretended to be dead to avoid being finished off.

The Germans cleared off in the afternoon, freeing the hostages rounded up at Colla and in the village of San Terenzo.

#### **Those Responsible**

Participating in the operation were the following units of *16. SS-Panzer-Grenadier-Division "Reichsführer-SS"*:

16th Armoured Scout Group (*SS-Panzer-Aufklärung-Abteilung 16*) commanded by Major Walter Reder;

*Feldengendarmerie*, commanded by Lt. Gherard Walter; and the company of Engineer Pioneers, commanded by Lieutenant Albert Fischer.

Not to be ruled out from participation in the reprisal killings are units from the non-commissioned officers training school of the 16 Division stationed in the nearby hamlet of Canova. Commander of the group was Captain Max Paustian.

Walter Reder testified that command of the operations was the responsibility of the Head of the Information Division, Captain Helmut Looss, who was present during all operations.

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[Bibliografia Generale](#)

Location of the massacre	<a href="#">Mommio</a>
Date	<b>05 May 1944</b>
List of victims	<p>Number and classification of victims</p> <p><b>21 victims:</b> 21 men (20 adults &amp; one elderly person).</p> <p>Babbini Arturo, 22 years old  Babbini Erminio, 36 years old  Bianchi Domenico, 36 years old  Cappelli Ovidio, 31 years old  Conti Luigi, 26 years old  Fiori Carlo, 68 years old  Fiorini Annibale, 50 years old  Fiorini Gaetano Floris, 36 years old  Incerti Luigi, 39 years old  Lazzerini Baldino, 29 years old  Lazzerini Cesare, 32 years old  Lombardi Giuseppe, 44 years old  Menini Ivo, 20 years old  Nardini Bertoldo, 28 years old  Pietrelli Mario, 29 years old  Pinelli Guido, 48 years old  Rosselli Sirio, 40 years old  Rossi Lino, 24 years old  Savina Guido, 20 years old  Signani Angiolino, 35 years old  Traversi Nello, 29 years old</p>
Description of events	<p><b>Description</b></p> <p>This massive search and destroy operation reflected the desire (on the part of the occupying forces) to maintain an iron grip on the region - a communications link to Parma via the Cisa Pass road, and also via the Cerreto Pass located near the Gothic Line. This was the German commanders' principal motive for suppressing the evermore menacing resistance movement, supplied by air-drops over the Massicciana plain, bolstered - in arms and reputation - by major operations (the disarmament of the garrison at Cerreto and the frequent raids on the SS63 road just outside Fivizzano) in all probability amplified in the eyes of the Germans by local fascist informers.</p> <p>On the evening of May 4, about three columns totalling two thousand men - from Massa, La Spezia and Reggio Emilia - crossed the Passo del Cerreto, and surrounded the Valle del Rosaro. Those involved were 1<sup>st</sup> Company 905 Fortress Battalion, 1<sup>st</sup> Company 906 Fortress Battalion, the "Göring" Scout Unit and some Fascist Units all under the command of Colonel Almers, commander of the 135th Luftwaffe Fortress Brigade. The population centres of Mommio and Sassalbo were caught in the encirclement.</p>

The Sassalbo partisans, led by the Communist Almo Bertolini, "Oriol", managed to get away and withdraw towards Monte La Nuda, escaping the raid, and the inhabitants managed to flee too, some sheltering in the woods of Monte Casarola, others fleeing through the Taverone and Lucido valleys. On the face of it, then, the inhabited area managed to escape destruction because it was found to be free from any trace of guerrilla presence. At Mommio, however, the Marini formation was surprised by the Germans and moved out too late, leaving some of their men in the hands of the Germans.

Material discovered in the houses at Mommio following an exchange of fire the night before was regarded by the Germans as evidence of complicity between the village and the partisans and it was decreed that its inhabitants be condemned to death. The civilians were rounded up - some were deported to the camp at Marinella (a staging post on the way to Germany), some were shot in the village square together with the captured Partisans (three of whom were later strung up for a long time in the main square of Fivizzano as a warning to others) and others were burned alive in their homes by a huge blaze started by the troops (70 homes out of 72 were destroyed). The search and destroy operation continued for some days, claiming additional victims among innocent farmers.

### **Those Responsible**

#### *German*

The search and destroy operation involved about 2000 men belonging to the Scout Unit of the Hermann Göring Division, and to Battalions 905 and 906 of the 135th Luftwaffe Fortress Brigade led by Colonel Almers.

#### *Italian*

Broad support of some Italian fascist units: a company of riflemen, a company of engineers and a naval detachment were joined by about ten squads recruited from the Gnr, the Guardia di Finanza and the San Marco Regiment.

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[Bibliografia Generale](#)

Location of the massacre	<a href="#">Tenerano</a>
Date	<b>13 September 1944</b>
List of the victims	<p><b>Number &amp; classification of the victims</b>  <b>10 victims:</b> 5 women (2 children, 2 adults &amp; one elderly person), 5 men (3 children, one adult and one elderly person):</p> <p>Antioniotti Diamante, 30 years old  Antioniotti Mirella, 1 year old  Antioniotti Pietro, 59 years old  Forfori Amelio, 8 years old  Forfori Duilio, 5 years old  Forfori Orietta, 6 years old  Forfori Oscar, 13 years old  Morelli Santina, 38 years old  Sisti Isolina, 65 years old  Vincenti Laurina, 27 years old</p>
Description of events	<p><b>Description</b></p> <p>In early September the Dino formation decided to transfer its camp from Bolignano to the nearby hill of Vergarolo, both places being in the vicinity of Tenerano. The group concluded the operation on the night between 12 and 13 September, just in time to avoid a search and destroy operation.</p> <p>Indeed the German column engaged in the anti-partisan operation only reached Bolignano after they had gone. The column then went down to the cemetery Tenerano, veering towards the district of Fano before reaching the valley floor. Here the German search and destroy operation, which had failed miserably, led to the murder of two entire families and in the torching of their homes: the Antoniotti family (taken by surprise in their home) and the Forforis, temporarily hiding in a hut next to the cemetery. The executed families were in contact with local partisan formations.</p> <p>It is believed that some Italian sections took part in the raid.</p> <p><b>Those Responsible</b>  <i>German</i>  Locals recall that units of the 16 Division Reichfuhrer SS were responsible.</p>
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Location of the massacre	<a href="#">Vinca</a>
Date	<b>24-26 August 1944</b>
	<p><b><i>Number &amp; classification of the victims</i></b></p> <p><b>174 victims:</b> 90 women (15 children, 51 adults, 24 elderly) and 84 men (18 children, 38 adults, 28 elderly).</p> <p>Achilli Elda, 31 years old  Agostini Pietro, 42 years old  Baiochetti Orlando, 20 months old  Baroni Veraldo, 45 years old  Battaglia Aldo, 25 years old  Battaglia Alpina, 20 years old  Battaglia Ambrosino, 3 months old  Battaglia Anchise, 52 years old  Battaglia Annunziata, 2 months old  Battaglia Artemisio, 57 years old  Battaglia Domenico, 48 years old  Battaglia Elio, 30 years old  Battaglia Giovanna, 61 years old  Battaglia Giuseppe, 39 years old  Battaglia Ilvo, 16 years old  Battaglia Italo Bruno, 33 years old  Battaglia Leonilde, 55 years old  Battaglia Lorenzo, 61 years old  Battaglia Luciana, 2 years old  Battaglia Maria, 59 years old  Battaglia Torello, 52 years old  Battaglia Vincenza, 18 years old  Battaglia Vincenzo, 13 years old  Battaglia Virgilio, 61 years old  Beggia Isabella, 17 years old  Benelli Andreino, 6 years old  Benelli Maria, 10 years old  Benelli Sabatina, 33 years old  Biancardi Pompilio, 22 years old  Bonelli Andreina, 15 years old  Bonelli Giuseppe, 8 months old  Boni Lidia Livia, 45 years old  Boni Maria Alba, 40 years old  Boni Pietro, 76 years old  Boni Rinaldo, 65 years old  Boni Romano, 22 years old  Boni Silvio, 81 years old  Borgazzi Renato, 44 years old  Borghini Adelia, 21 years old  Borghini Giuseppina, 8 years old  Borzani Antide, 47 years old  Borzani Camillo, 65 years old</p>

Borzani Enea, 57 years old  
Borzani Pietro, 69 years old  
Bussa Alpinice, 41 years old  
Cagnoli Onelia, 45 years old  
Cannavale Domenico, 34 years old  
Cappe' Gino, 21 years old  
Colonna Alfonsina, 47 years old  
Colonna Giuseppina, 71 years old  
Colonna Romano, 66 years old  
Colonnata Benigno, 79 years old  
Colonnata Ettore, 60 years old  
Colonnata Francesco, 16 years old  
Colonnata Lidia, 46 years old  
Colonnata Nicolina, 70 years old  
Colonnata Ortensia, 52 years old  
Colonnata Rizieri, 53 years old  
Colonnata Sillo, 23 years old  
Corleo Gino, 48 years old  
Corleo Ignazio, 29 years old  
Della Tommasina Primo, 37 years old  
Duranti Lodovico, 23 months old  
Duranti Renato, 31 months old  
Federici Adamo, 71 years old  
Federici Domenica, 70 years old  
Federici Domenico, 84 years old  
Federici Fidalma, 72 years old  
Federici Giovanna, 60 years old  
Federici Maria, 46 years old  
Federici Martino, 63 years old  
Federici Narciso, 59 years old  
Federici Stuarda, 42 years old  
Federici Vilmo, 17 years old  
Federici Zelmira, 37 years old  
Ferlini Giuseppe, 75 years old  
Ferlini Maria, 48 years old  
Ferrari Ersilia, 33 years old  
Ferrari Maria, 55 years old  
Ferrari Pellegrino, 77 years old  
Ferri Anita, 66 years old  
Folegnani Ovidio, 38 years old  
Forfori Agostino, 85 years old  
Forfori Amelio, 8 years old  
Forfori Duilio, 4 months old  
Forfori Orienta, 6 months old  
Forfori Oscar, 13 months old  
Gerini Mariano, 43 months old  
Giannanti Palmira, 24 years old  
Giuntoni Anna Maria, 6 years old  
Giuntoni Iole, 33 years old

Giuntoni Irlanda, 31 years old  
Giuntoni Ismene, 16 years old  
Giuntoni Sestilia, 60 years old  
Giuntoni Sestilio, 56 years old  
Janni Gisberto, 46 years old  
Janni Norma, 17 years old  
Janni Don Luigi, *Parroco Di Vinca*, 27 years old  
Lazzoni Angelo, 76 years old  
Lucchicchia Ernesto, 2 days old  
Marchi Alfierina, 20 years old  
Marchi Domenica, 66 years old  
Marchi Leda, 17 years old  
Marchi Pietro, 5 years old  
Mariani Alfonsino, 37 years old  
Mariani Arietta, 33 years old  
Mariani Celestina, 20 years old  
Mariani Daria, 48 years old  
Mariani Maria, 66 years old  
Mariani Mario, 39 years old  
Mattei Alice, 22 years old  
Mattei Altea, 49 years old  
Mattei Edilia, 24 years old  
Mattei Girolamo, 76 years old  
Mattei Maria Rita, 7 months old  
Mattei Maria, 2 years old  
Mattei Mario, 6 years old  
Mattei Ovidio, 38 years old  
Mattei Paolina, 16 years old  
Montagnani Gigliana, 16 years old  
Montagnani Primetta, 7 years old  
Morani Adriana, 17 years old  
Morani Adriano, 44 years old  
Morani Amedeo, 74 years old  
Morani Annunziata, 16 years old  
Morani Lina, 27 years old  
Morelli Santina, 38 months old  
Moriani Annunziata, 77 years old  
Moriani Giuseppina, 75 years old  
Moriani Leombruna, 35 years old  
Moriani Veneranda, 70 years old  
Moruzzi Giuseppe, 41 years old  
Moscatelli Maria, 85 years old  
Musetti Argo, 30 years old  
Orlandini Anna, 41 years old  
Palagi Adriano, 28 years old  
Panelli Guido, 50 years old  
Papa Angiolina, 43 years old  
Papa Domenica, 81 years old  
Papa Ercolina, 54 years old

	<p>Papa Maria, 50 years old  Papa Nicola, 74 years old  Papa Santina, 72 years old  Patris Umberto, 52 years old  Pennucci Cleofe, 77 years old  Pinelli Giuditta, 76 years old  Poli Alfredo, 34 years old  Quartieri Adele, 67 years old  Quartieri Consiglia, 39 years old  Quartieri Ines Maria, 22 years old  Quartieri Maria Giovanna, 45 years old  Quartieri Maria, 42 years old  Quartieri Massimo, 71 years old  Rani Maria, 72 years old  Ratti Giuseppe, 36 years old  Sabatini Angiolina, 38 years old  Sabatini Giovanna, 21 years old  Serpioni Bice, 30 years old  Spagnoli Giuseppina, 36 years old  Spagnoli Paolo, 67 years old  Spinetti Alcide, 30 years old  Taliani Ida, 51 years old  Tonelli Giacomo, 45 months old  Tonetti Giovanni, 69 years old  Un Feto <i>Tolto Dal Grembo Di Marchi</i> Alfierina  Venturi Alfonsina, 37 years old  Venturi Angiolina, 63 years old  Venturi Caterina, 81 years old  Venturi Cleonte, 36 years old  Venturi Dante, 67 years old  Venturi Eglina, 49 years old  Venturi Giovannina, 20 years old  Venturi Linda, 18 years old  Venturi Minelba, 31 years old</p>
Description of events	<p><b>Description</b></p> <p>In August 1944 the German LXXV Armoured Corps, responsible for the protection of the Gothic Line West, were being hard pressed by the activities of the partisan movement that, dispersed on the Apuan heights, was sabotaging bridges, railways and roads, thus slowing down the fortification of the line of defence and exposing the occupying forces to regular ambush.</p> <p>On 18 August a German vehicle was attacked along the road between Monzone and Vinca: in the episode a Nazi officer lost his life. The General Staff of the 16a SS Panzer Grenadier Division RF SS, assembled at Massa, decided to react by planning a large search and destroy operation in the Apuan Alp massif. Under overall command was Major Walter Reder, commanding officer of the 16th Scout Battalion, they depended on various companies</p>

belonging to the SS Division and about a hundred Carraran Brigata Nera, made available by the zealous Colonel Giulio Lodovici.

The anti-partisan raid got going on the night of August 24 and continued for three days. Every village the Germans encountered along the way they destroyed - houses burned, churches demolished. Those who failed to flee in time to nearby woods - the elderly, the sick and infirm, men and women caught off guard by the raid - were shot without mercy.

The massacre reached its climax at Vinca to which most lines of attack converged. The village was first reached on the afternoon of August 24 by I Company 16 Scout Battalion, led by Lieutenant Segebrecht. The next day Reder in person took control of the centre; reinforced by II and III Company and a platoon of the Brigata Nera, he set about eliminating all forms of life in the valley. His detachment combed the valley of Vinca meticulously, smoking out residents hidden in caves and woods and eliminating dozens of people with flame throwers, machine guns and grenades.

In the "Battle of the Sagro" on the 26th, an exchange of fire between the Germans and some partisans belonging to the Muccini Brigade diverted most troops from occupation of the village. But the following day the Nazi-Fascist stormtroopers returned to Vinca, killing most of the survivors, meanwhile back in town, looting homes and burning everywhere down.

For four consecutive days the German forces continued their massacre - a length of time unique in all of occupied Tuscany. There were approximately 160 victims: women in the main, almost half of them children and the elderly, with a significant percentage (difficult to quantify but deduced from the numerous testimonies collected) sick and infirm. Only 27 Germans left the village to return home to their garrison at Carrara.

### **Those Responsible**

#### *German*

The massacre was directed and executed by Major Reder and his battalion. Indeed, responsibility for the slaughter was but one of a number of proven charges against him which resulted in a sentence of life imprisonment passed in 1951 at the Bologna Military Tribunal. He served his sentence at Gaeta fortress prison on the coast north of Naples, and was paroled in 1985 after which time he settled in Austria where he was welcomed as a war hero. He died in 1991, unrepentant, aged 75.

#### *Italian*

Sixty-four members of the Brigata Nera Apuana, led by General Biagioni, were tried by the Court in Perugia on charges of "persistent slaughter" (which included the crimes committed both at Vinca and at Bergiola Foscilina). The judgement, issued

on 21 March 1950, delivered severe sentences (no fewer than 11 were sentenced to life imprisonment). However, the intended penalties were never imposed because an amnesty was granted.

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