

## **English translation of the most significant passages of the written documents**

### **File “01 Carabinieri Vilminore.pdf”**

#### **Report of Vilminore police**

(...)

We undersigned Mocellini Virgilio, marshal of the Vilminore Carabinieri post, and De Luca Antonio, lance-corporal of the same station, declare to the competent authority that on December, the 1<sup>st</sup> at ? a.m., while we were at the post, we heard a dreadful noise. In uniform we went immediately out of the post and we saw a huge mass of water passing through the Povo valley with an incredible velocity. Therefore, at 7.15 we went along the Povo Valley and we noticed that the Bueggio hydroelectric power plant, as well as the church, the cemetery and some houses, were destroyed by the passage of the huge mass of water suddenly flowed out of the Gleno hydroelectric reservoir due to the dam collapse. Moreover, we noticed that also the hydroelectric generating stations of the Bona and Dezzo Valleys were destroyed, as well as the station of Dezzo of Colere and a portion of the village of Dezzo of Azzone.

In this disaster 195 people of the municipalities of Vilminore, Oltrepovo, Azzone, and Colere died.

(...)

### **File “04 Tagliaferri Giuseppe.pdf”**

#### **Testimony of Mr Giuseppe Tagliaferri**

(...)

On the morning of December, the 1<sup>st</sup> at around 7.30, I went along the Mala Road with my barrow to come back to Vilminore.

Suddenly I saw a real mountain of water coming towards me.

I only just had the time to leave my barrow and climb up the near cliff.

The destructive fury of the water took away my barrow, my horse, and all my goods; (...)

**File “07 Rota don Pietro (Bueggio).pdf”**  
**Testimony of Mr don Pietro Rota**

(...)

Yesterday morning, December, the 1<sup>st</sup> at 7.30, I was in the parish church and I had just finished praying after the Mass, as usual, when I felt that a strong wind was blowing outside. I ran towards the front door to shut the leafs. In the meantime I had a quick look outside and looking at the upstream reach of the valley, I noticed a sort of mountain of water which rumbling travelled downstream.

(...)

**File “15 Morzenti Francesco 17-02-24.pdf”**  
**Testimony of the dam guard Mr Francesco Morzenti of February 17<sup>th</sup>, 1924**

(...)

On the morning of December the 1<sup>st</sup>, 1923 at around 7 o'clock, I went back after the opening of the valves, as requested by phone. (...)

I suddenly felt like a deaf shake on the footbridge and in the meantime a stone fell down from the top into the stagnant water between two dam spurs. I thought that this was due to the workers passing on the crest of the dam to go work in the tunnel, but immediately after that a bigger stone fell down. I could not see very well since it was still dark; I raised my head and I saw a tortuous black strip rising from the basement on the downstream side of the spur (one of higher spurs). I jumped on the basement and I struck a match, and I noticed a crack three fingers large in the bottom which widened itself ascending. I felt that it slowly became wide. In order to alarm the station by phone, I went away towards my hut following the dam basis, and then I ran up the staircase leading towards the hut, but once I went beyond two spurs, some blocks fell down from the top in front of me. Therefore, I had to come back, go down along the right side of the valley and then go under a rocky spur in order to come back to the hut. As soon as I reached the rocky spur, I felt like a push behind me. I turned back and I saw that the dam spur where I noticed the crack was splitting into two parts along the crack, half on right and half on left, and that the arches resting on this spur were collapsing with them.

At the same time the water flooded with violence to the point that it did not touch the rocky bottom for a long stretch darkening below. The water wave skimmed me. I ran away as far as the hut; from up there, once I turned back, I saw that, after the first one, three or four other spurs were suddenly swept away. The reservoir emptied in about 12-15 minutes.

(...)