

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

v.

Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti

AFFIDAVIT OF CANDIDO DI BONA

My name is Candido di Bona. I am twenty-five years old and now live at 9 Larry Street, West Quincy, Massachusetts and work as a draftsman for the Florence Granite Company. I formerly worked in the factory of Slater and Morrill and was working for them at the time of the murder for which Sacco and Vanzetti have since been convicted.

I was not called as a witness at the trial and have never made any affidavit about the case. I did tell what I had seen to the Chief of Police at Braintree about five minutes after the murder.

What happened was as follows:

This happened on pay day, Friday. As I was entering the shoe factory of Slater and Morrill I saw an automobile parked beside the factory. Then I entered and began to work. After two or three hours work or so I heard this man tinkering around this automobile, starting her up and stopping it, etc. and I asked him what the trouble was but he gave me nonsatisfactory answer. This man was practically thirty-five years of age or a little more. He had perfectly gray hair. That is what made me remember him because he had gray hair. He was a clean shaven man. He was dressed not too good and not too shabby, just ordinary clothes, sort of grayish black, on the gray more than anything. The car was an open car of some large type, not a Ford.



The day went by until approximately quarter of three when Mr. Dayet, our foreman, sent me for heel pods into the main office. I went there and got what I was supposed to get and stayed there ten minutes or so talking with the man who gave me the goods. After that I started back. As I came back I saw a soldier on the side of the railroad track, the side pertaining to the railroad on the left hand side coming down to the factory. He had a soldier's overcoat, a soldier hat, and soldier's rifle, shoes and spiral cloth leggings. His coat was open and I saw the jacket-his jacket was of soldier goods, khaki brown and he stood on guard, erect as if he was a soldier at attention more than anything. I thought it very funny at the time because when I went by I did not see this man here before. He was smooth shaven, rather thin man, probably 25 years of age at the time, about 5' 7". He was not six foot nor under 5' 7". At least that is the way my eye judged him.

Ten feet further to the right of the soldier there were two boys or young men on the fence about 18 years of age. They were probably five feet two or three inches and they looked like boys, dressed in blue serge suits and rather husky boys and as I came one jumped off the pipe fence, it is a fence made out of pipes, and asked me if I had a match. He came along with one hand in his back pocket and one out while the other boy sat on the fence with his two hands in his back pocket. This one who came toward me asked me if I had a match and I told him I would look and I started to fish my pockets to see if I had one. Finally I did find a match and gave it to him. Then he asked me what I had in the box and I told him they were only heel pads but he looked in just the same. Then he asked me what time the pay came and I asked him if he was going to get paid and



he says "No" and he sort of floundered, he didn't know just what to say. He seemed to get excited at that question. This struck me funny at the time because if he worked there I knew that he would know what time the pay came. Then I did tell him that the pay ought to be due in a short while. Then I continued on my way and went into the factory.

As I was about to start to work I heard a scream and naturally I was attracted toward the place where the scream came from and as I started to go toward the scream this automobile that was now at this time on the opposite side of the street began to move. The gray haired man I first saw was driving the machine. Then I reached the window where the girl who had screamed had fainted and as I looked out of the window the soldier was pointing his rifle way down toward the left where the automobile had once stood and one of the boys that was dressed in blue serge was coming back with an iron box. As the automobile came up to where Berardelli was lying, I saw one of the boys in blue coming back with a money box, the soldier had another money box and while this was taking place, the other boy in blue was getting on the automobile and this second boy in blue came on with the money box and was helped on to the car by the soldier and the other boy in blue, who was already in the car. They were all in a group near together while this happened. These four men; the two boys in blue, the gray haired man who drove the machine, and the soldier were the only men I saw there.

Then while all the excitement was going on I rushed out of the back door of the factory and as I rushed out these men began firing at me. I rushed up to where they had left Berardelli lying on the ground.

Before me there was another boy at the scene who had jumped out of the window of the Rice and Hutchins Shoe



Factory. There was only one other person on the scene at the time I reached there. This man I did not know so I was the third person present on the scene. All the people started to come around and there was a lot of excitement. I told the Chief of Police that I had seen these men but he only asked me if I knew who they were and I said, "No", and the thing ended there.

I have never been to the counsel for the defendants before or to anyone connected with Sacco and Vanzetti. I have never seen either of them though I have seen their pictures in the paper. The pictures in the paper were far from looking like any man who I saw at the time of the murder.

I had a friend Sally Sullivan (that is his nickname, I do not know what his real name is and I do not know where he lives now, though he used to live at Quincy Point). He was working with me in the factory at the time of the murder. Afterwards we talked about it and he said he did not think that Sacco and Vanzetti were the men and I said I did not think so either and we agreed we would go and testify if they were given a second trial. A few days ago I heard they were not to be given a second trial and I saw in the paper that Mr. Arthur D. Hill was their lawyer so I got my sister, Miss Lisena di Bona, to telephone Mr. Hill. She later told me that she had done this and that Mr. Hill had said to go to his office at 53 State Street on Sunday between 2 and 3 in the afternoon. This I did. The only reason I came to see Mr. Hill was because I want to do my duty. I had seen this thing and I think I should tell.

Candido Di Bona

*Norfolk*

ss.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

August 8, 1927.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 8<sup>th</sup> day of August, 1927.

*Thomas J. Abbatto*  
Justice of the Peace

NOTARY PUBLIC  
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April 6, 1928



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factory. There was a person on the scene at  
the time I reached and I did not know as I  
was the third person to see the scene. All the people  
started to come around and a lot of excitement.  
I told the Chief of Police that I had seen these men but  
the only thing I saw was a man and I said, "Who"  
and the thing ended there.

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that Mr. Arthur D. Hill was their lawyer so I got my sister  
Miss Lillian D. Bone, to telephone Mr. Hill. She later told  
me that she had done this and that Mr. Hill had said to go  
to his office at 53 State Street on Sunday between 8 and 3  
in the afternoon. This I did. The only reason I came to  
see Mr. Hill was because I went to do my duty. I had seen  
this thing and I think I should tell.

*Caroline D. Bone*

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

August 8, 1927.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 8th day of  
August, 1927.

Justice of the Peace