

Corniola,  
Cornia.

2 January 45.

STATEMENT OF:-

SADOCCHI Gemma,	Female.
Corniola,	Aged 50 years.
Cornia,	
Arezzo.	

Who saith,

I am the widow of BERNINI Emilio, 54 years, who was killed on the 29th. June 1944. We had been married 23 years and had lived here for one year. Previous to this we had lived in SAN PANCRAZIO for 22 years.

About 0500 hours, on Thursday, 29th. June 1944, I left my house with my husband to attend to the oxen. We had walked about 100 metres along the road when we saw in front of us about 200 German soldiers with five or six Army lorries. I was too far away to describe these soldiers. We returned to our house and sent our son BERNINI Giovanni, aged 12 years to attend to the animals. The direction he would have to take would have led him past the Germans and after he had been gone for a few minutes, we heard the sound of about ten shots. Thinking that my son had been shot, my husband left the house to go to his assistance.

I later saw small parties of German soldiers crossing the fields towards CORNIA and heard a lot of shooting. I became afraid and walked up to SOLAIA, where I remained until about mid-day, when we heard loud explosions and saw clouds of smoke coming from the direction of CORNIA. I returned to my house and on arrival, found all the furniture disarranged so I thought the house had been searched. Later, seeing SOLAIA also burning, I went into hiding in the woods nearby.

Later that day, in a field near the main road I saw the bodies of four dead women, whom I knew as being natives of CIGGIANO. Not far away I saw the body of my husband. He was too badly burnt for me to say whether there were any bullet wounds in his body. I recognised him by what clothing remained unburnt on his body and by his spectacles which were intact.

My husband was buried in the cemetery at CORNIA on the 2nd July 1944.

My husband was not a Partisan and had committed no hostile act towards the Germans.

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

(Sgd) X Mark of SADOCCHI Gemma.

Statement written down/.....