

San Pancrazio,
Buioine.

25 January 45.

STATEMENT OF:-

PANZIERI Bianca,	Female.
No.86 Via Zara,	Aged 38 years.
San Pancrazio,	
Buioine,	
Arezzo.	

Who saith,

I am the widow of PANZIERI Francesco, a farm worker aged 46 years and I have lived at SAN PANCRAZIO all my life.

About 0530 hours on the 29 June 44, my husband left the house, saying he was going to feed the animals, leaving me in bed. Half-an-hour later, I heard the sound of a motor-cycle and some shooting. I got up out of bed and crossed to the window. I saw a motor cycle go past at high speed, ridden by a German soldier, coming from the direction of MONTE SAN SAVINO. I dressed myself and went into the lavatory. Looking out of the window I saw my husband walking away from the animal shed, in the centre of two soldiers. These two soldiers were dressed in German steel helmets and camouflaged jackets. Both carried rifles and had hand grenades hanging from their belts. I saw them walk to the main square of the village, Piazza della Chiesa, where my husband was joined by two or three other men of the village and guarded by a number of soldiers. I came downstairs and met two German soldiers just about to enter the house. They searched the house taking boots and eggs and then left.

I went to the main square where I saw about six or seven men, amongst whom was my husband, and about six German soldiers. On the ground pointing at the men, was a machine gun. I spoke to my husband and he told me not to be afraid but to return home to the children.

I returned to the house again and about 0800 hours, two more German soldiers arrived and searched the house. This happened about six or seven times during the morning.

I returned to the square four times that morning and each time I was allowed to speak to my husband. I noticed that each time I went, the number of civilians had increased and that even while I was there soldiers were bringing further men and leaving them under guard.

About 1200 hours, two soldiers entered the house and one said:- "Go to the square." I went out into the roadway where another soldier came up to me and said, in good Italian, "Get some clothes for the baby and go to the main square of the village." I went to the square Piazza Del Pozzaccio, where there were already a number of women and children. We were all forced to remain there, when about twenty minutes later, one of the soldiers who was guarding us said:- "Go away from here, we are going to burn it." The soldiers accompanied us for about a kilometre away from the village and then let us go.

All the soldiers I saw that morning were

dressed in camouflaged/....

266

- 2 -

/that morning were

dressed in camouflaged jackets, but I cannot describe any of them further. A number of them had black masks covering their faces.

I remained in the woods overnight and the next morning about 0900 hours, I returned to my house to collect some clothes and other things. I noticed that a number of buildings in the village were burning and a number were badly damaged but I did not see any soldiers and the village was deserted.

I went back to the woods but returned again to the village in the evening, about 1600 hours. I obtained some clothing from my house and as I was leaving the village, I heard the sound of a motor cycle. I hid in a field at the side of the road and saw a motor cycle pass, ridden by a soldier dressed in khaki. I remained living in the woods until about the 18 July 44, when I returned to my home.

About five or six days later, in consequence of what I was told, I went to the cellar of a burnt, ruined building in the square Piazza Della Chiesa where I saw what appeared to be the remains of several bodies.

Among some clothing and effects nearby, I saw the cap my husband had been wearing when I had last seen him on the 29 June 44. I also saw his cigarette case.

It looked as though the bodies had been in the building when it was burnt, as there was very little of them left. I came to the conclusion that my husband was dead and that his body was amongst those burnt.

My husband was not a partisan, nor had he ever helped them. I have described all of the soldiers as German, but I am not sure that all of them were.

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

(Sgd) PANZIERI Bianca.

Statement written down in Italian and signature witnessed by CESARONI Danilo, Interpreter, in the presence of Sgt Hall, N., both of 78 Section, SIB, at SAN PANORAZIO on 25 January 45.

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

CESARONI Danilo.