

No.10 San Pancrazio,  
Comune of Bucine,  
Arezzo.

25 January 45.

STATEMENT OF:-

CASCIOTTI Ugo,  
Farm of Pierangeli,  
San Pancrazio,  
Bucine.

Male.  
Aged 40 years.

Who saith,

I am a married man employed as a guardian on the farm of Signor PIERANGELI in SAN PANCRAZIO. I have worked in this capacity for the past four years.

About 0500 hours on the 29 June 44, I was looking from the window when I saw two trucks with the sign of the red cross on them coming towards the village of SAN PANCRAZIO. A short time later I saw the men of the village being assembled in the piazza by some German soldiers. As a precaution I went and hid myself in the attic. Whilst I was hiding I heard some soldiers enter the house and order my wife and children to go away.

I remained hidden until about 1400 hours when one of my children came to me followed by two armed German soldiers. These soldiers struck me and escorted me to the piazza where I joined about fifty other men who had been rounded up. These included about six evacuees who were living in the village at that time. From all these men I recognised the following:- Don TORRELLI Giuseppe, SPINI Donato, PARIGI Gino, NANNINI Adelmo, FABBRI Emilio, VALENTI Gino, GORELLI Alfonso, BROCCI Egidio, PANZIERI Davide, PANZIERE Pietro, PANZIERE Donato, GIOFFI Alfredo, GIOFFI Artemo, DELDEBOLE Corrado, DELDEBOLE Nando, NANNINI Aurelio, NANNINI Narciso, NANNINI Faliere, VANNURI Carlo, PANZIERI Iacopo, PANZIERI Nello, PANZIERI Francesco, ARRIGUCCI G. Battista, ARRIGUCCI Giuseppe, ARRIGUCCI Emilio, SALVI Francesco, RUSTICI Tommaso, RUSTICI Orlando, SERBOLI Alfredo, CARROTINI Alfonso, PARIGI Mario, VANURI Armando, CINELLI Ulderico, CASTAGNI Cesare, BUZZINI Ottavio, BERNARDI Adolfo, TIEZZI Angelo, PARIGI Pietro, PANZIERI Enrico, PANZIERI Ernesto, MORI Sestilio, GAVILLI Siro, TANFONI Felice, TANFONI Giuseppe, MORETTI Renato, BECHI Silvano, CENCINI Fulgero, CENCINI Danilo, SEBASTIANI Aldo, VIGNACCI Bartolomeo.

Whilst in the piazza we were guarded by about thirty German soldiers armed with rifles and hand grenades which they carried in their belts. I noticed some some of these soldiers were wearing black shirts and camouflaged tunics. On the collars of their shirt was a badge of a skull and cross-bones.

When I had been in the piazza about twenty minutes the soldiers marched us all to the farmhouse of Signor PIERANGELI and locked us up in the cellar. On our way there I saw a man who looked to me to be a German officer in charge of the soldiers. When we arrived at the farm we were all searched and any money or valuables we had were taken away from us.

After being in this cellar about ten minutes we were joined by NANNINI Elia, NANNINI Brunetto, PIETRELLI Orlando,

/PIETRELLI Orlando,

SAVINI Arnaldo and CORSI Alberto. A German soldier then came in and said:- "Here they are, all partisans." Several men replied that they were not partisans and had done nothing wrong. The soldier then asked where all the young men of the village were, to which we replied:- "Hiding in the woods to avoid being called into the Army." This soldier only spoke fair Italian. The priest then approached the German officer who was standing near the doorway and pleaded with him, but he only sneered and walked away. After a short time the priest returned weeping, saying:- "They are going to shoot us all. At his request we all knelt in prayer and when we had finished the door opened and we were ordered out in single file. VALENTI Gino was the first one to go, followed closely by four or five other men. A few seconds later, I heard what seemed like revolver shots coming from the next room of the cellar. Again some more men went out and after their departure I heard some more shots fired. The German soldier who had previously asked us about partisans then came into the room and said:- "If you know where the partisans are, speak now and save your life." Some more men were ordered from the room and the firing in the next room continued. After about forty men had been taken, I had agreed with a party of the men, to tell the Germans that we knew where the partisans were. This we thought, might give us an opportunity to escape. By this time it was my turn to go from the room and I followed closely behind SAVINI Arnaldo, FABBRI Emilio, NANNINI Elia and BECHI Silvano. When we were near the doorway leading to the street we told the soldier that we knew where the partisans were. Upon hearing this he pushed the five of us to one side. By now we were standing at the cellar entrance and although I could not see what was happening, in the other room of the cellar, I could still hear the sound of revolver shots inside. I awaited my opportunity and after about five minutes struck the German soldier who was guarding us and made a dash for freedom. Shots were fired at me, one of which wounded me in the left arm. As I jumped over a wall, a hand grenade exploded near me so I fell to the ground feigning to be dead. I lay there for several minutes then I crawled to some bushes and remained hidden until about 1700 hours. After this I called at a farmhouse and then made my way into the woods where I remained until the arrival of the Allied troops about the 16 Jul 44. Upon my return to SAN PANCRAZIO, I found the majority of the houses had been destroyed, including the farm of Signor PIETRANGELI.

On the 25 Jul 44, along with other men, I started to clear away the debris from the farm-house of PIETRANGELI. The building was an empty shell and all the debris had fallen through into the cellar. As we cleared the cellar we discovered the badly burnt remains of a number of human bodies. They were in such an advanced state of decomposition that I cannot give an approximate number found. From these remains I was able to identify the corpse of VIGNACCI Bartolomeo, who worked for me as a labourer on the farm. I was also able to recognise parts of the priest's robes amongst the ruins. This excavation took about twelve days to complete and a communal grave was prepared in the village cemetery of SAN PANCRAZIO, where the remains of the victims were buried.

I can say very little about the Germans

responsible for this/....

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/about the Germans

responsible for this crime, but I describe the man tho I thought was a German officer as follows:- About 35 years, 5ft 11ins in height, medium build, brown hair, fresh complexion, wearing an officer's uniform and peaked cap.

I would be able to recognise him if I saw him again.

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

(Sgt) CASCIOTTI Ugo.

Statement written down in Italian and signature witnessed by Sgt SALZMANN, M, Interpreter, in the presence of Sgt Vickers, both of 78 Section, SIB, on 25 January 45, at SAN PANCRAZIO.

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

N. SALZMANN.