

10, San Pancrazio,
Comune of Bucine,
Arezzo.

30 January, 1945.

STATE OF -

BALLOU, Lisa,
San Pancrazio,
Bucine.

Female
Age 55 years.

TESTIMONY:-

I am the widow of BALLOU Adolfo, aged 53 years who worked as a labourer, and I have lived in SAN PANCRAZIO all my life.

About 0600 hours on 29 June, 1944, I was lying in bed with my husband when my son came and awakened me saying that German soldiers had come to the village. Together with my husband I got up and dressed. My son then said he was going away from the village for he was afraid of the Germans. My husband however thought he had no reason to be afraid of the Germans because of his age. A short time later two Germans entered the house armed with rifles. One of them speaking in broken Italian ordered my husband to go at once to the PIAZZA. My husband obeyed and left the house with the soldiers. My husband came back to the house accompanied by SPINI Donato, about three hours later and asked for empty bottles so that they could fill them and went away towards the PIAZZA. That was the last time I saw my husband alive and I have not seen or heard from him since.

About 1300 hours a party of about twenty soldiers came and asked me for water. I had seen these soldiers along with several more coming up the road from the direction of CIVITELLA. Shortly afterwards I was ordered from my house by some of these soldiers at the point of their rifles. I was made to join other women and children in the PIAZZETTA PIZZACCIO, then we were all ordered away from the village, and took refuge in the woods.

I returned to the village again about 1900 hours the same day to find almost all the houses on fire. I tried to extinguish the flames of my house, but it was burning too fiercely. There were no Germans in the village at that time and I could not see anything of the men. As a result I returned to the woods where I stayed until the arrival of the Allied troops a few weeks later, then I returned to SAN PANCRAZIO.

During the middle of July, 1944, I learned of the discovery of the burned remains of the men of this village, in the cellar of PERRAGIOLI. The men carrying out this excavation found some parts of the clothing worn by my husband on 29 June 1944.

My husband was not a Partisan and I cannot understand why the Germans killed him. I was too afraid to pay

too much attention/....

/ afraid to pay
too much attention to the German soldiers on that day and
I cannot describe any of them.

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

(Sgd.) BRUCCI Elisa.

The above statement written down in Italian and
signature witnessed by Sgt. Salzmann, U. interpreter in the
presence of Sgt. Vickers both of 78 Section S.I.B. at SAN
PANCRAZIO on 30 January, 1945.

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

M. Salzmann.