

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

31 January 45.

STATEMENT OF:-

PANZIERI Genni,	Female.
San Pancrazio,	Aged 24 years.
Bucine.	

Who saith,

I am a single woman living with my aged mother in SAN PANCRAZIO where I have lived all my life. My father PANZIERI Edoardo, aged 68 years, an agricultural labourer and my brother Pietro, aged 33 years, together with my uncle PANZIERI Davide, aged 83 years and my aunt PANZIERI Annunziata aged 64 years, had all lived in the same house up to the 29th. June 1944.

About 0500 hours on the 29th. June 1944, I was working in the fields with my father and younger sister just outside the village of SAN PANCRAZIO, when suddenly our attention was drawn to the sound of some shots coming from the village. We ceased working and returned to the village to see what was the matter. As we entered the village we met two German soldiers one of whom ordered my father in poor Italian to go at once to the Piazza.

My sister and I continued on our way home. On arrival we found two soldiers in the house having a meal. One of these soldiers was dressed in German uniform, while the other wore the Italian Air Force uniform. I spoke to these soldiers and found they spoke perfect Italian. During the conversation they told me that they came from BOLZANO and showed me some photographs that had been taken there. When they had finished eating they left the house and guarded the road leading from the village. To the best of my ability I describe these soldiers as follows:-

1. About 35 years, 5ft 10ins, medium build, fresh complexion, long face, brown eyes, large nose, wearing uniform of the Italian Air Force, steel helmet.
2. About 35 years, 5ft 5ins, slim build, dark complexion, black eyes, black hair, brushed back, long thin nose, sunken cheeks, growth of a few days beard, wearing black shirt with KD tunic and long trousers, black military boots, steel helmet. I could recognise both of these soldiers if I saw them again.

I remained in the house with my mother and sister, when about 1100 hours, I saw a motor truck arrive with about ten German soldiers aboard. These soldiers dismounted and erected a machine-gun near to where these other two soldiers were guarding the road. At the request of some of these soldiers, I gave them food and whilst they were in the house my uncle asked them if he could go to see my father and brother who were in the Piazza.

My sister and I then went to Mass at the village church and as we returned home about 1130 hours, I saw my father and brother standing with other men in the Piazza.

About 1300 hours I saw about 100 soldiers walking from the direction of CIVITELLA and when they entered the

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village some of them ordered us all from the house.

As we went through the Piazza Popolo my uncle was ordered away from us by one of the soldiers and forced to join the other men assembled there. That was the last time I saw him and my father and brother alive. We all took refuge in the woods and during the afternoon my aunt left us.

About 0900 hours the following morning I returned to the village where I found several of the houses destroyed by fire. As I entered our home, which was also burnt I discovered the charred remains of my aunt amongst the debris. I did not notice any other wounds on the body for it was so badly burnt. I went back to the woods and told my mother what I had seen. We stayed there with other women until the Allied troops arrived.

Sometime in July I learned that parts of my father's clothing had been found amongst the debris of the burnt-out cellar at the farm of PIERANGELI, but I did not go there.

I have not seen or heard from my brother or uncle since I saw them in the hands of the Germans on the 29th. June 1944.

None of the members of my family were Partisans and I cannot understand why the Germans did this crime.

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

(Sgd) PANZIERI GENNI.

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 the 31st. January 1945, at SAN PANORAZIO.

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

M. SALZMANN.