

327

S. Panorazio,
Bucine.

26 January, 1945.

STATEMENT OF:-

ARRIGUCCI Rosa,
nee GAMBELLI,
31, VIA ZARA,
S. PANORAZIO. BUCINE
AREZZO.

Female
Aged 34.

Who states:-

I am the widow of ARRIGUCCI Emilio an education officer aged 35, and I am a native of ANCONA. I have lived at the above address for the past two years with my husband, father-in-law, ARRIGUCCI Giovanni a farmer aged 67, my two brothers-in-law ARRIGUCCI Giuseppe a farm worker aged 43 and ARRIGUCCI Silvio a farm worker aged 32.

On the 29 June 1944 about 0500 hours as I was lying in bed with my husband I heard someone shout "Silvio, Silvio.. wake up, the Germans are here"; followed by some shooting. My husband and I got up out of bed and dressed, preparing to escape but at that moment I heard a car pass and I realized it was too late. My husband went to a window and was joined by my brother-in-law Giuseppe. He turned away and said "The Germans have put a machine gun near the monument, we cannot go now". I said to my father-in-law, "You are an old man; they will not take you. Go out and get some wood". He left the room saying he would get the wood and I have not seen him since that time.

About a quarter of an hour later I was standing in the passage upstairs talking to my husband and Giuseppe. Silvio was still in bed. A Soldier came up the stairs and said in good Italian, "How many men have you?" and I replied "Four, but can you at least leave one here?" He said "I am only a soldier, my orders are to collect every man". My husband brother-in-law Giuseppe immediately left the house while the soldier entered the room occupied by Silvio. A few minutes later I saw Silvio, accompanied by the soldier go past my door. Silvio had no boots or jacket on. The soldier was dressed in a camouflaged jacket with a soft cap pulled down over his ears. I cannot describe him further.

About 0700 hours I went to the PIAZZA della CHIESA where I saw my husband and brother-in-law Giuseppe among some other men of the village. They were being guarded by a number of soldiers while nearby on the ground were two machine guns. One near the church and one near the cellar of the factory. Standing on the square were two or three covered trucks bearing a red cross on a white background on each side. I also saw what I thought to be an officer near the trucks but I am not sure and I cannot describe him. I spoke to my husband and then returned home. About four or five soldiers followed me home and one of them entered the house while the rest remained at the door. The one that came in asked me if I could prepare them a drink with some eggs. I asked him what they would do with the men and he told me that Partisans had killed two of his comrades near the village and that the civilians they had rounded up would be taken to their Headquarters. This soldier was tall, blonde, clear blue eyes a long oval face, good white teeth, regular nose, and he spoke very good Italian. He was dressed

in a camouflaged/....

328

-2-

He was dressed

in a camouflaged jacket and a soft cap. I could recognize him again if I saw him. Some of the soldiers were wearing grey-green trousers with black shirts but I did not see any badges or signs on them.

During the morning various groups of soldiers came and searched the house and went away again but I do not remember much about them. While I was in the garden hiding some things about 1000 hours I saw a motor cycle go past driven by a soldier. On the rear of the cycle I saw my brother-in-law Silvio. They were going in the direction of CIVITELLA.

About 1200 hours two soldiers came to the house and told me I must go to the PIAZZA del POZZACCIO with the other women. I packed a bag and got my baby dressed and then went with the soldiers. Just before we arrived at the square I remembered I had forgotten my bag. I told the soldiers and they accompanied me back to my house. When I arrived back I saw smoke and flames coming from the upstairs window. I picked up my bag and returned, still with the soldiers, to the square. I joined the other women who were already at the PIAZZA del POZZACCIO and after a short while we were forced by the soldiers who guarding us, to leave the village. The soldiers accompanied us part of the way and then left us. I went to the next village, MIGLIARE where I stayed overnight.

The next day about 0630 hours I came back to SAN PANORAZIO to get some clothes from my house if it was possible. As I reached the village I saw many of the house still burning and many more were destroyed. I gathered some clothes from my house which was still standing and then went back to MIGLIARE.

About the 18 July 1944, I eventually returned to SAN PANORAZIO and was able to live in my house. It had been burnt slightly upstairs. Five or six days later in consequence of what I was told I went to a cellar of a ruined building in the PIAZZA della CHIESA. The exterior of the cellar was badly burned but lying on one side was a quantity of clothing and effects. I looked through them in an effort to identify something belonging to my husband or brother-in-law but without success. A man, whom I knew as GINO and who was at the cellar told me that he had been in the cellar with my husband and brother-in-law on 29 June 1944 but had managed to escape. He said he was certain they were dead.

Neither my husband or my brother-in-law were Partisans nor had we ever helped them.

I have read over the above statement, it is correct and true.

(Sgd.) GAMBELLI ROSA.

Statement written down in Italian read over and signature witnessed by D. Cesaroni, Interpreter in the presence of Sgt. Hall .N. both of 78 Section S.I.B. G.M. Police at S. PANORAZIO on 26 January 1945.

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

DANILO CESARONI (Interpreter)