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Capannole,  
Montaltuzzo,  
Bucine,  
Arezzo.

17 January 45.

STATEMENT OF :-

DELLA BELLINO Argentina, Capannole, Montaltuzzo, Bucine.. Arezzo.	Female 34 years.
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Who with,

I am the widow of DELL BELLINO Lorenzo. He was 34 years old and employed as a farmer.

My husband and I had lived here nearly all our lives and I have three children, Loredana, a girl 13 years, Aldo, a boy, 8 years, and Riccardo, a boy of five years.

On 23 June 44, about 0600 hours my husband left the house to work in the fields. That was the last time I saw him alive.

About 0800 hours the same day I heard the sound of machine gun fire outside my house. I attempted to leave but was unable to do so owing to bullets striking the walls outside.

It was 1400 hours before I left the house with my children and when I did I saw German soldiers had surrounded the place.

They had killed all the cattle and my little girl asked one man, who was armed with a shot gun, why they had done this. The man replied in perfect Italian, "Because your employer has caused the death of one of our comrades".

I then looked at the man and recognised him as FRANCESI Celso, a Fascist from CIGLIANO. I describe him as follows. About 45 years, thin build, 1 m. 80 cms. tall, dark complexion, greyish hair. All I can remember of his dress is that he wore a black shirt. There were several other men amongst the German soldiers who spoke perfect Italian.

The soldiers kept us prisoner for a while and then told us to leave our homes and go into the woods.

As my husband had not returned I spent the remainder of that day looking for him but was unable to find him. The following days I spent the same way but with the same result.

On 28 June 44, about midday BERNINI Giuseppe brought word to me from Signora CAU, that my husband was a prisoner in the Villa CARLETTI at MONTE SAN BAVINO.

On Thursday 29 June 44, about 0800 hours I went to GEBBIA and saw Signora CAU. CAU told me that my husband was being held prisoner by the Germans.

Whilst I was talking to her we heard the sound of machine gun fire which did not seem to be very far away. CAU

left at once/....

/far away. Cau

left at once and went to hide in the woods. That was the last time I saw her.

When the German soldiers came into GEBLIA I was kept a prisoner a while then allowed to go, so I returned to my home.

From then on there was nothing I could do as the Germans were retreating and British troops occupying the area.

Later, about 15 August 44, I showed a photograph of my husband to SALVADORI Ferdinando of MONTE SAN SAVINO. SALVADORI told me that it was the photograph of a man that he had seen hung by the Germans at MONTE SAN SAVINO on 30 June 44.

About 30 August 44, I went to the Municipal Cemetery at MONTE SAN SAVINO and had the body of the man who had been hung exhumed.

I recognised the body as that of my husband by his hair and clothing. There was a woolen vest which I had knitted myself.

The body was later buried in the same cemetery.

My husband was never a Partisan and never took any part in their activities.

I know nothing of the Germans who killed him.

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

(Sgd.) DNL BELLINO Argentina.

Statement written down in Italian and signature witnessed by DI DUCA Bragia, interpreter, in the presence of Sgt. GLENLOW both of 78 SECTION S.I.B on Wednesday, 17 January, 1945 at BUCINE, AREZZO.

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

DI DUCA Bragia.