

Florence.

23 April 45.

STATEMENT OF:-

POLVERINI Gina,	Female.
15 Via Degli Alfani,	Aged 27 years.
Florence.	

Who saith,

I am single and have lived at the above address since 1943 and am employed as a seamstress.

During March 44, I went to live with my parents, whose home is in GEBBIA.

About 1000 hours on 29 June 44, I was standing outside the house when I saw a party of about fifteen German soldiers drive into the village in an armoured car and stop outside the house of Signora CAU. The Germans dismounted and went into the garden of the house. Some of these soldiers wore khaki coloured uniforms and Field Service caps while others wore camouflaged smocks and steel helmets. They were all armed with rifles, automatic rifles and heavy machine guns.

After a while the Germans came out of the house of Signora CAU and dispersed through the village. Later, a soldier came to me and ordered me to accompany him. He took me to the garden of Signora CAU. In the garden I saw eight Italian civilians, all males. They were ARRIGUCCI Quintilio, ARRIGUCCI Orindo, PRATESI Silvestro, BLAGIOTTI Giulio and four others. The last four mentioned I knew by sight but I do not know their names. Shortly after I arrived two German soldiers escorted these eight men into the road outside the house. More civilians arrived, all residents of GEBBIA and ten German soldiers were posted as a guard over us.

I was ordered into the house and was escorted into a room by a German soldier. Inside the room I saw Signor and Signora CAU and other Germans. Signora CAU told me that one of the soldiers was a Captain. She then told this officer my name, occupation and that I was in business in FLORENCE. The Captain told me I was not to leave the vicinity of the house. I was then escorted back to the garden.

About an hour later I was taken to my parents' house by the Captain and two German soldiers. I was detained in my father's bedroom while the house was searched. After this had been done the Captain told me that I would have to go with him. I was then taken outside and ordered inside the armoured car. I protested against this but an interpreter told me that no harm would come to me and I allowed myself to be lifted into the vehicle. Inside were four German soldiers, Signor and Signora CAU, and another girl whom I only knew as ADA. The Captain also got into the armoured car.

We were then driven to SAN PANORAZIO and arrived about 1500 hours. When we got there I saw that all the houses in the village were on fire. We stopped on the road just outside the village and the Captain got down and walked over to

a large group/....

/walked over to

a large group of German soldiers who were standing there. He talked to them a few minutes then returned to the car and we carried on to MONTALTUZZO. Here we were transferred to a larger vehicle. Inside this vehicle I saw about thirty German soldiers and seven or eight Italian civilians. We were then driven to the Villa CARLETTI at MONTE SAN SAVINO.

On arrival we were taken to an upstairs room and a sentry was placed over us. Later I was taken to another room and confined alone.

I was later taken to a room downstairs and questioned regarding partisans by the Captain who had brought me from GIBBIA. During this interview, an Italian of the peasant class was brought in. He was very badly bruised about the face, his clothes were torn and he looked as though he had been very severely beaten. He was asked if he knew me and I was asked if I knew him. We both denied knowing each other. Actually, I had never seen him before. After this I was taken back to my room.

A Maresciallo whom I describe as being about 34 years, 172 centimetres tall (approx), brown hair parted on the side, brown eyes, fat face, reddish complexion, stout athletic build. He was dressed in a khaki shirt, grey-green trousers. He came to my room on several occasions and repeated the questioning.

On the evening of 30 Jun 44, about 2330 hours one of the German soldiers entered my room and jumped on to the bed on top of me. He put his hand over my mouth and prevented me from screaming. With his other hand he pulled up my frock and tore my knickers. His trousers were open and I could feel his penis against my legs, it was erect and hard. I struggled and tried to prevent him but he succeeded in having intercourse with me.

I was informed that I was to be conscripted for compulsory labour in Germany and on the morning of the 1 July 44, I was taken from the Villa CARLETTI with other people to FLORENCE.

I forgot to mention that on Saturday, 30th. June 1944, one of the soldiers came to me and said that he was going to take me to a doctor. He did not tell me why but made me go with him to a house at MONTE SAN SAVINO. At the entrance to the town I saw the body of a man hanging from a lampstandard. There was a rope fastened around his neck and passed over the lampstandard. I only glanced at the body once as the sight of the face was horrible but I recognised him at once as the man the Captain had asked me about in the Villa CARLETTI.

At FLORENCE I was confined in a building in Piazza SAN MARIA NOVELLA and given papers to proceed to INNSBRUCK on Wednesday, 4th. July 1944. I have since lost

these papers./....

/have since lost
these papers.

I managed, with the assistance of an Italian Army Chaplain to gain admission to the SAN GIOVANNI DI DIO Hospital on the Tuesday prior to that date. From the hospital, I effected my escape and went in to hiding in FLORENCE, where I remained until its liberation by the Allies.

The Captain, I describe as follows:- About 30 years, 1 metre 70 centimetres tall (approx), blond hair, blue eyes, thin nose and features, sun-tanned complexion, thin build. He was dressed in light khaki jacket and trousers and always wore a peaked cap.

I do not know who the Germans were who took me prisoner.

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

(Sgt) POLVERINI Gina.

Statement written down in Italian and signature witnessed by BALLERINI Renzo, Interpreter, in the presence of Sgt Clewlow, both of 78 Section, SIB, on 23rd. April, 1945, at FLORENCE.

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

Ballerini Renzo

BALLERINI Renzo.