

40, Via Roma,
Monte San Savino,
Arezzo.

19 January, 45.

STATEMENT OF :-

SAVINI Arnaldo,
40, Via Roma,
Monte San Savino,
Arezzo.

Male
28 years.

Who saith,

I am a butcher and have lived here all my life. I am married and have two children.

I with my family was evacuated to SAN PANCRAZIO in consequence of Allied bombing in November 43.

About 0600 hours on Thursday 29 June 44, I was indoors when I was told that the Germans had entered the village. I went to a window and saw two Red Cross vans, one large lorry, some motor cycles and motor cars in the streets of the village. I could see no markings on the vehicles.

I also saw about three hundred German soldiers. They were dressed in steel helmets, camouflaged with twigs, camouflaged smocks and blue-grey trousers. They were all armed with rifles, machine gun rifles, and stick grenades.

Many of them wore the words " HERMAN GOERING" on their sleeves.

These German soldiers split up into groups and went from house to house and I saw that they were bringing men out of the houses and taking them to the PIAZZA. Almost immediately a German soldier entered my house and in bad Italian ordered me to go with him to the PIAZZA.

When we reached the PIAZZA I found about sixty five Italian civilians, all male, gathered there guarded by German soldiers armed with machine guns.

About 0730 hours an armoured car arrived in SAN PANCRAZIO. Inside it I saw four German soldiers and a German captain.

I describe him as being :- 30-35 years, 175 cms. in height, well built, of upright carriage, blonde straight hair, clean shaven, light blue eyes, full long face, fresh complexion. He was dressed in khaki coloured jacket and riding breeches, high boots, Sam Browne belt with a pistol, peaked khaki cap. On his epaulettes he wore two golden stars on a silver background.

The captain remained in SAN PANCRAZIO for about an hour and visited the house of the priest Don TORELLI Giuseppe and afterwards was driven away towards CORNIA.

We were kept in the PIAZZA all the morning

and at about/....

/all the morning

and at about 1400 hours more German soldiers entered SAN PANCRAZIO from the direction of CORNIA.

They at once went from house to house driving all the women and children out of the village and I saw the Germans throwing petrol inside the rooms of the houses afterwards throwing hand grenades in as well. In this way I saw every house in the village burst into flames.

As this was going on all the Italian men were being herded into the cellar of the Villa PIERANGELI. While we were in the cellar a German soldier came in with us and asked us if we knew anything about the Partisans. Nobody made any reply. He then left us. The priest attempted to plead with a sentry who had been placed at the door of the cellar for permission to speak to the Captain, but this sentry pushed him away saying "All Partisans".

The priest then returned to us, we prayed and he gave us the Benediction.

Then three or four Germans came along among us and took two of our number. One of these was made to go with them while the other was made to stand at the door. I then heard what I took to be a pistol shot and the man at the door put his hand to his face and shouted "Oh, they kill us".

The man at the door was taken away and another soldier pointed to the next man and ordered him to stand at the door. There was another pistol shot from outside.

After about fifty men had left the cellar and this process had been repeated each time, the soldier at the door shouted "If there is anyone here who does not want to die, he must tell us about the Partisans".

I replied that I would tell them what I knew and I was taken out of the cellar. On my way out I passed a pile of heaped bodies about three metres away from where we were confined.

Four men and myself were released from this cellar at about 1500 hours. At this time I saw the armoured car return to SAN PANCRAZIO. There were three women in the car, POLVERINI Gina, Signora CAU and a woman I know as Ada and the German captain. With others I was taken in a lorry to the Villa CARLETTI near MONTE SAN SAVINO where I was confined.

On Friday 30 June 44, I was interrogated by a German Maresciallo with the assistance of an interpreter.

I describe this Maresciallo as being about 30 years, 180 cms. in height, slim build, blonde straight hair, long thin face, fresh complexion, clean shaven of upright carriage. Dress:- khaki shirt and shorts, he had some silver stars on his shoulder. I do not know how many.

I describe the interpreter as being about 20 years. 165 cms. in height, medium build, blonde straight hair brushed

back, regular features, /....

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/straight hair brushed

back, regular features, dark eyes, clean shaven, fresh complexion. He was dressed in long khaki trousers and shirt with no badge of rank. He spoke Italian fluently.

I was questioned for about half an hour concerning the names of Partisans and their whereabouts.

After this interview I was taken back to the room which I occupied.

About 1100 hours on Sunday 2 July 44, accompanied by PULVERINI Gina, I left the Villa VARLETTI in a German military truck and was taken to FLORENCE where I was confined in the LEXPOUDINA School.

I remained there until Thursday 6 July 44, when with the assistance of my uncle and a captain of the Republican Army I managed to escape.

I rejoined my wife at MONTE SAN SAVINO after the liberation of FLORENCE by the British.

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

(Sgd.) SAVINI Arnaldo.

Statement written down in Italian and signature witnessed by FABBRONI Vasco, interpreter, in the presence of Sgt. CHARLES, both of 78 Section S.I.B. on Friday 19 th January 1945 at 40 VIA ROMA, MONTE SAN SAVINO, AREZZO.

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

Fabbro ni Vasco
FABBRONI Vasco.