

283

Villa Maggi,
San Pancrazio,
Comune of Buioine,
Arezzo.

30 January 45.

STATEMENT F :-

SERBOLI Alfredo,
San Pancrazio,
Buioine.

Male
52 years.

Who saith,

I am a married man employed as a line keeper with the electricity company VALDARNO. I have lived in SAN PANORA IO with my family for the past seven years.

About 0600 hours on 29 June 44, I was in the house when my attention was drawn to an unusually loud noise outside. I looked out of the window and saw two trucks containing about ten soldiers each. The trucks had large red cross signs on them and the soldiers whom I thought were German, were all heavily armed. They all then dismounted and went off in different directions of the village. My daughter went outside, returning a short time later saying that the Germans were rounding up all the men of the village. I intended to hide but before I could do so, a German soldier entered the house. In broken Italian he ordered me to go to the PIAZZA and as I left he went into other houses. On my way I met a German N.C.O. who had two stripes on his arm. I approached him and showed him my identity documents. This N.C.O. took me to a man, who looked to me like an officer, standing in the PIAZZA. After perusing my papers this officer ordered me to join a number of other men of the village assembled there.

I describe this officer as follows :- About 35-40 years, 5'8-9", slim build, fresh complexion, blonde hair, grey eyes, normal nose, sunken cheeks, wearing long trousers and jack boots, blue peaked officer's cap, with two pieces of silver braid around, silver braid around epaulettes of tunic, and two flashes of silver on lapels of tunic.

The N.C.O. I describe as follows :- About 26-27 years, 5'6", broad build, round face, dark complexion, dark curly hair, parted on left side, dark eyes, normal nose. Wearing forage cap, blue short trousers, black military boots with stockings, no tunic, two stripes on left arm.

I can recognise both of these men if I saw them again.

Whilst I was stood there, I saw an armoured car. The officer who had examined my documents got into this car and was driven away to the far end of the village, where they fired a large gun at a farm about two kilometres away, damaging it.

I remained in the PIAZZA until about 1300 hours being continually joined by more men. At this time about one hundred soldiers arrived in the village coming from the direction of CIVITELLA, and later all the women and children were rounded up and escorted from the village. When they had left, I and all

the other men/....

/I and all

the other men, who totalled about sixty, were taken to the farm of PIERANGELI. There our documents were examined as we entered and all money and valuables thrown into a heap in a corner. When my papers were examined the soldier saw the certificate stating my important work for the electricity company and in turn showed it to another soldier who appeared of higher rank. As a result of this I was ordered to stand at one side while all the other men continued to pass on. I was later joined by SEBASTIANI Aldo, who at that time was an evacuee from SIENA. A short time later I heard shots coming from the cellar, and some soldiers pushed me away from the doorway and into the roadway.

About 1500 hours I was escorted with SEBASTIANI to the PIAZZA and put on a truck containing FABBRI Emilio, BERNI Silvano, NANNINI Elia, and SAVINI Arnaldo. After a short delay we were taken to MONTE SAN SAVINO and kept there for three days, afterwards being taken to a labour camp in FLORENCE. When I had been in this camp about five days, I managed to effect my escape and hid in FLORENCE. I did not manage to reach SAN PANORAZIO until about 15 August 44, when I learned of the fate of the men on 29 June 44.

I was not a partisan and to the best of my knowledge I do not know of the deaths of any German soldiers at the hands of Partisans in this area. There was no trial or court held by the Germans on that day.

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

(Sgd.) SERBOLI Alfredo.

Statement written down in Italian and signature witnessed by Sgt. SALZMANN, I., interpreter, in the presence of Sgt. VICKERS, both of 78 Section S.I.B. at SAN PANORAZIO on 30 January, 1945.

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

M. SALZMANN.