

16 Via del Pozzaccio,
San Pancrazio.

2 February 45.

STATEMENT OF:-

PERUZZI Gemma, Female.
'Valle,' Aged 28 years.
San Pancrazio, Bucine,
Arezzo.

Who saith,

I am a married woman living at the above address. I am a native of BADIA ALPINO but for the past four years, I have lived at SAN PANCRAZIO with my husband and father-in-law PERUZZI Giovanni aged 57 years, a farm worker (now deceased).

On the 29th. June, 1944 about 0700 hours I heard the sound of artillery fire and as it seemed to come from close by we decided to leave the house. I packed a few things and with my father-in-law went to the woods nearby. We lived in the woods during the following days, returning to the house occasionally for food and clothing and to feed the animals.

About the 1st July 1944, I went back to the house and noticed a body lying outside the door of the barn. I did not examine it closely but looked in the door. Lying on the floor were seven other bodies. I was too afraid to examine any of them but left at once. I did not stop to see if I could recognise any of them. When I returned to the house a few days later I had another look in the barn and saw that three of the bodies had gone. The body was still lying outside the door.

About the 6th. July 1944 about 1600 hours my father-in-law left me saying he was going back to the house to feed the animals. He left me and I did not see him alive again. About 1700 hours I heard two shots come from the direction of the house and then silence.

On the 16th. July 1944, when the English troops occupied the area, I returned to the house. I found that it had been damaged and partly burnt. I entered the door and saw the body of my father-in-law lying at the bottom of the stairs, face upwards. I saw he had two holes on the left-hand side of his neck just behind the ear. They looked to me like bullet holes. I did not stop to examine him further as I was too afraid. I returned to the village of SAN PANCRAZIO where I arranged for his burial.

Two days later my husband and I returned to the house, recovered my father-in-law's body and brought it back to the cemetery at SAN PANCRAZIO where it was buried. On the same day the other five bodies were removed from the barn but I did not see or recognise any of them.

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

(Sgd) PERUZZI GEMMA.

Statement written down/....