

No. 31 Via Zara,
San Pancrazio,
Bucine.

9 April 45.

STATEMENT OF:-

NANNINI Gelsa,	Female.
No. 31 Via Zara,	Aged 38 years.
San Pancrazio,	
Province of Arezzo.	

Who saith,

I am the widow of NANNINI Adolmo, aged 45 years with whom I have lived for the last 15 years at SAN PANCRAZIO. My husband had his own business as a butcher in the village.

On 29 June 44, about 0500 hours, my husband awoke me and told me there were people about in the village. He did not say anything else, but left the house by the back door and I saw him running across the fields. He had gone a distance of about forty metres when he was stopped by a soldier who pointed his gun at him. This soldier compelled my husband to walk in front of him towards the Piazza della Chiesa and I followed them.

On arriving at the piazza, I saw many men of the village being guarded by soldiers armed with rifles, pistols, and hand grenades. Two machine-guns were emplaced on the ground, one at the church door, the other at the door of the cellar of the FATTORIA PIERANGELI. I also saw another machine-gun emplaced on the roof of the Fattoria. Each machine-gun was manned by two soldiers. Near the Fattoria were three vehicles marked with the sign of the Red Cross, which I established to be German military ambulances.

About 1030 hours one of the German soldiers asked for one of the men to show him the roads of the district. Nobody answered and the soldier therefore chose ARRIGUCCI Silvio, made him sit on the pillion of a motor-cycle, and then rode away in the direction of CIVITELLA.

I stayed in the piazza nearly all the morning talking to my husband. During this time I saw many more men of the village being led to the square by German soldiers. These soldiers were dressed some in khaki shirt and trousers, while others wore camouflaged smocks. Some wore steel helmets, some side caps, while others wore no head-dress at all. In the square that morning I also saw two tanks passing, driven by soldiers in black uniform.

About 1200 hours a motor-cycle arrived from the direction of CIVITELLA. I noticed that the rider was the same soldier I saw leave earlier that morning with ARRIGUCCI Silvio. He was carrying a sheet of paper in his mouth which he handed to another soldier. The latter read the paper and almost at once all the women were ordered away from the square. I returned home, but some soldiers came and ordered me to go to the top side of the village. I left the house but later I returned to fetch some necessities. In the house I found two soldiers who were emptying the contents of two cans and

and setting fire/....

/two cans and.

and setting fire to the house with it. The soldiers, on seeing me, ordered me to leave at once, and I went. In the street I was ordered by German soldiers to go to the Piazza del Pozzaccio at the top of the village, where all the women and children of the village were. From here we were later ordered to go to the woods. On leaving the village I noticed smoke and flames coming from many of the houses.

I went to a wood about two or three kilometres south of SAN PANCRAZIO, where I stayed until late evening when I returned home to fetch some personal articles. I found my house completely destroyed and I could not recover anything. All the houses in the village were burning. As I could not do anything I returned to the wood. I stayed there until this area was occupied by the Allies on 16 July 44.

I have not seen my husband since I left him in the square (Piazza della Chiesa) about 1230 hours on 29 July 44, and I did not go to the cellar of the FATTORIA PIERANGHELLI when the bodies were exhumed.

My husband was not a Partisan, nor had he collaborated with them or helped them in any way.

I later learned that the body of ARRIGUCCI Silvio was recovered at CIVITELLA.

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

(Sgd) NANNINI Gelsa.

Statement written down in Italian and signature witnessed by Bdr. GIULLIANI, C.A., Interpreter, in the presence of Sgts CLEWLOW and ROBERTS, all of 78 Section, SIB, on 9 April 45, at SAN PANCRAZIO.

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

C.A. GIULLIANI.