

2 Via del Borghetto,
S. Pancrazio.

30 January, 1945.

STATEMENT :-

PIETRELLI Isola,
Via del Castello,
S. Pancrazio,
Bucine, Arezzo. Female Aged 58 years.

WHO STAYS :-

I am a widow and the mother of PIETRELLI Orlando, a farm labourer aged 34 years, (now deceased). I am a native of S. PANCRAZIO and for the past eight years I have lived with my son and his wife at Via del Borgaccio, SAN PANCRAZIO.

About 0530 on 29 June 1944, as I was lying in bed I heard the sound of many motor vehicles in the village. As this was very unusual I got up and dressed and went to the front door. I saw a number of soldiers in the streets and at once returned indoors to warn my son. I cannot describe these soldiers as I was too afraid to notice anything.

My son immediately got up and dressed and went to the animal shed saying he would hide there. A little while later two soldiers came and searched the house, took some eggs from the kitchen and left without speaking. I went to the stable and told my son it was safe to come back to the house as the Germans had been and gone. He came back with me to the house and hid in the roof.

About 1200 hours a soldier came to the house and said " Go away, go away ". I left the house and the soldiers who were still in the street forced me to go to the PIAZZA del POZZACCIO where I joined the other women of the village who were already there guarded by some more Soldiers. After a short wait we were all told to leave and the soldiers accompanied us to the outskirts of the village, where they left us, warning us not to return.

I returned later in the evening and found most of the houses burning. My own house was alight and I did my best to put it out with water. I could not stay long as some soldiers were still about and I was afraid they might return, so I went back to the woods.

I have lived in the woods for about nineteen days and then returned to the village. My house was completely destroyed so I went to live at my present address.

I have not seen my son since I left him at the house on 29 June 1944. I went to the cellar of the Fattoria when the bodies were exhumed but could not recognise anything belonging to my son. My son was not a Partisan nor had he ever helped them.

I have had the above statement read over to me

and it is/....