

NAZZARENO VASAPOLLO

MY FATHER WAS CALLED IGNAZIO

A story of a man, a story of a soldier



Private edition

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WAS CALLED IGNAZIO**

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PREFACE

How and why. Rather: Why and How.

Don't expect a big *why*.

I wasn't born, nor do I intend to die, a writer. I simply like to reconstruct events of the past with data and information that I seek and/or that I find in my hands. This pleasure was born in my previous professional life. Until about 1993, in fact, I was a seismologist and my job was to collect data and information about the earthquakes of past centuries to, then, reconstruct the effects and arrive at special formulas of physical parameters such as intensity, magnitude, depth etcetera.

I have also engaged in additional professional skills on these event reconstruction skills, for example for judicial investigations as a technical advisor to the judiciary, and private ones, such as genealogical and onomastic research.

I was in the process of elaboration of *my omnia work* by which I intended, and intend, to return in a private publication all my discoveries about my ascendants as well as the origin and diffusion of my parents' surnames, when I realized that with some documents that my sister Rosalba and I had in possession I could conceive a *spin-off* in which to report a piece of my father's story: man and soldier.

I could invent who knows what great because, but the truth is that, very banally, I do it to please me: *sic et simpliciter!*

Yes, maybe I will leave a useful memory to those of my descendants who were curious to know something more about their ancestor, or a small tribute to a person dear to me, a simple man whose drop of history has found itself to be part of the sea of history, but nothing more ...

Quality (the *how*) also has no pretension.

The basic materials I used consist of three documentary types (see annexes):

- Military Registration Sheet, an official document containing information about military service,
- some annotations of my father in two handwritten pages on a notepad,
- some photos sent to my mother from the Libyan front that, on the back, reported dates and news.

So, I put this documentation in chronological order and tried to understand why, following the course of history, my father was in a certain place, at a certain time. Where and why the tumultuous flow of that powerful river had dragged that twig represented by a young Calabrian mason.

To do this I used abundant documentation found on the web: files of books printed, Wikipedia, private blogs, specialized institutional and non-institutional sites... Often and willingly I copied and pasted (wrong: I know...!) whole parts of such sites without quotation marks and without mentioning the sources.

The mix made does not shine for inventiveness and, apart from a few curiosities, it can also be boring. Out of laziness, distrust in my means or who knows what else, I persistently confined one to what we can define as a simple chronicle poor in conjecture. I therefore did not intend to accept the suggestions of a dear writer friend of mine who invited me to colour the events imagining the sensations and emotions that my father may have felt at various junctures.¹

In short, if you really want to know, a narratively mediocre product. But so, it is!

Please note

In the text of the following chapters I considered it useful to use the color blue to [indicate how much related to the story of my father](#) and in black the facts of History.

¹ Wikipedia: «*The Chronicle (from Latin Chronica and from Greek χρόνοςChrónos Municipality) is a simple form of historical narration that follows the chronological criterion, reporting events year by year without giving a critical analysis and vafacts or take into account the causes, interferences or repercussions of the reported events.*»

MY FATHER WAS CALLED IGNAZIO

A story of a man, a story of a soldier

I could talk about my father for a long time, but this is not a memoir. I shall therefore confine myself to reporting minimal information on the period prior to the right lever to draw up its profile and briefly reconstruct its history.

1913 - 1937

Although the date of birth is declared in the registry on January 2, 1914, it seems that my father was born in the last days of 1913, in Via Sant'Andrea in Vibo Valentia.

Apart from being orphaned at the age of 12, most of the news about his youth is between the age of 22 and 31 from his Military Registration Sheet (see Annexes).

Bricklayer, in possession of the 4th grade, at the first two calls to arms (1936 and 1937) is placed on temporary unlimited leave due to a stature less than just one centimetre than the minimum of 1.54 m required for enlistment (chest of 80 cm).

21/07/1936

Reviewable, left on unlimited leave.

He has to answer the 1916 class call to arms.

17/05/1937

Called to arms.

Issued on temporary unlimited leave for a stature not exceeding 1.54 m.

1938

After the two postponements of previous years, on March 5, 1938 my father was called to arms to fulfill the obligation of conscription and disused to the X Genie Regiment stationed in Santa Maria Capua Vetere.

The photo below on the left, taken in the following week, portrays him in front of the Campano Amphitheater of the municipality of Salerno. The one on the right is most likely from the same period.



On the 13th² he embarked in Naples to arrive in Tripoli two days later at the XX Genio Regiment³ which is his actual destination. Ignazio is placed in the 1st Artieri Company⁴ part of that Zappatori-Artieri Battalion sent to Libya from Italy during the Ethiopian campaign (October 1935 - May 1936).

His enlistment is probably an indication that we were no longer going so far because of the subtle in the centimetres of the recruits given the political and military escalation of those years, particularly with regard to the North African front. Here, in 1938 the activism of Italo Balbo, governor of Libya for four years, intensified making him the architect:

- of the increase in military troops,
- of the great maneuvers,
- of the arrival of 20,000 settlers from Italy.

Libya's military organization between 1937 and 1938 underwent a major upgrade to make it capable of dealing with the danger of an invasion by foreign troops, British troops stationed in Egypt and Sudan, and French troops to the west and south to Tunisia, Algeria and Chad.

² In his notes, my father reports on April 8th.

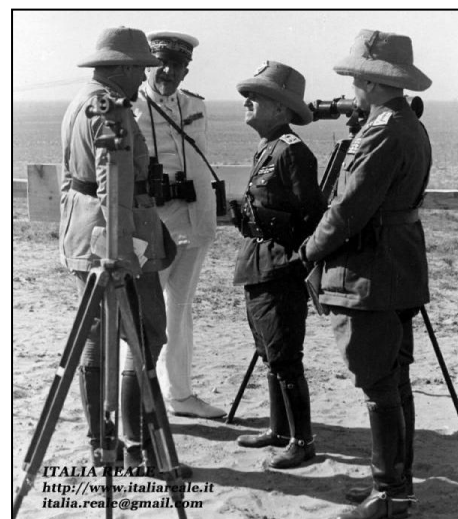
³ It was the only Regiment of Genio, framed by the reorganization of 1935 eight the Regio Libyan Colonial Troop Corps.

⁴ The Gunners was no soldiers of the weapon of the Genio employees roads, carpentry, construction and fortification works. It is not just a in grato perform stone work or masonry, levelling, fortifications, etc. (at(e.g. bridges, road embankments, buildings, etc.). Their characterization did not make necessary training and activities for combat. My father was probably framed in the Company as a civilian he was a brick-layer.

“In the context of the arms race that now prevailed in Europe and the ever closer alliance between Italy and Germany, in January 1938 the Supreme Defence Commission decided to prepare the development of colonial troops and the sending of four divisions” (Cappellano 2011).

With a decree that came into force in March 1938 (the month of my father's arrival in Tripoli) the organization of the armed forces of Libya was carried out to consolidate the degree of military preparation. In this contingency the Libyan military genius, with two battalions and a depot, was framed in the Royal Libyan Corps of Troops (Linkography⁵ 1).

In May-June, with the use of large metropolitan units and Libyan troops, the great maneuvers were organized, attended by King Victor Emmanuel III (see photo on the side). They had as their theme the maneuvered defence of the Western Libyan chessboard from an offensive from Tunisia aimed at Tripoli. On this occasion considerable logistical work was done to move a corps through Sirtica, devoid of any resources. Since only the XX and XXI Corps were involved, my father (XXIII Corps assigned to the Libyan-Tunisian exchequer, in the Tagiura-Garian area.) should not have been interested.



“In the autumn, thus, a first upgrading of the Italian device in Libya was achieved,... Balbo intended to maintain the defensive on the border with Tunisia, leaning with four divisions to the fortified border positions and the square of Tripoli, and launch with the remaining seven an offensive deep east along the coastal strip in order to reach Alexandria of Egypt” (Cappellano 2011).

In October, on the anniversary of the March in Rome, the first 20,000 settlers who landed on the coast of Libya a few days later left Italy. The operation concerning the settlement of the colonists was an extraordinary success in Italy and abroad and Italian Libya came to be considered the new America. 26 new villages were founded for the colonists, mainly in Cyrenaica.

This is how the historian Alessandro Rosselli (2017) describes the event: *“Their arrival at their destination was organized by Italo Balbo in such a way as to amaze the rest of the world since their departure from Italy, and therefore the landing of the settlers is also followed by many foreign journalists, some of which will be amazed by the grandeur of the operation, which involves a convoy of 15 ships departing from Genoa on October 29, 1938 to arrive on November 2 in view of Tripoli, where the colonists will then be demistated: those destined for Tripolitania will leave for their farms in the following days, while those assigned to Cyrenaica will embark on ships bound for Benghazi.”*

⁵ From now on L = Linkography.

THE JOURNEY OF THE 20,000 SETTLERS TO LIBYA (L2)

October 28th, 1938

In the afternoon (between 2 pm and 4 pm) Sardinia sails from the Eritrea Pier in Genoa together with seven other steamers (including Tembien, Semien, Sannio, Liguria and Piedmont and the Vulcan motorship), loaded with 14,000 (rural) Italian settlers heading to Libya, for a total of 1290 families. They're escorted by two destroyers.

After departure, the ships proceeded south until joining, on October 30, seven other merchant ships from Naples (for another source they would reach Naples on October 30 and from there they would continue together with the other ships waiting in that port), forming a single convoy of fourteen vessels (including, in addition to Sardinia, the steamers Tembien, Semien, Piedmont, Liguria, Samnium and Calabria and the motorboats Olbia, Vulcania, Città di Napoli, Città di Savona and Città di Bastia).



Off Syracuse, the following day, the fifteenth and last steamer, Umbria, will also join the convoy, with 129 families of settlers from Sicily. The fifteen merchant ships carry a whole 20,000 Italian settlers (1290 peasant families from northern Italy and 520 from the South) sent to colonize Libya. This trans emigration was organized by the governor of Libya, Italo Balbo (who attends the embarkation of the settlers in Genoa); the settlers, made up of large families of farmers, will have to cultivate the less arid regions of northern Tripolitania and Cyrenaic Gebel, where 27 new agricultural villages have been specially founded (12 in Cyrenaica and 15 in Tripolitania, with 2035 and 1664 farms respectively).

The Twenty Thousand are expected to be the first of the 100,000 Italian settlers who, according to Balbo's plans, are expected to move from Italy to Libya within five years; Balbo intends to bring the Italian population of Libya to 500,000 (population colonization) and achieve food self-sufficiency by 1950, through the practice of intensive agriculture. The outbreak of World War II will leave these plans in smoke (in addition to the 20,000 in 1938, only another 11,000 settlers will arrive in Libya in 1939, before the war stops).

October 31st, 1938

The ships proceed in line, with intervals of a thousand meters between them; in the morning, off Ponza and Ventotene, the convoy is reviewed by Benito Mussolini, embarked on the heavy cruiser Trieste, coming from Gaeta and escorted by four destroyers; warship cannons fire blanks to celebrate the event. The ships with the colonists then continue to Tripoli with the escort of eight destroyers.

During the crossing, several births occur on board the convoy's ships.

November 2 or 4, 1938

At dawn the convoy's ships arrive in Tripoli, where 12,000 settlers disembark; some will then continue to Benghazi, where the remaining 8000 will land. In Tripoli the settlers, after a solemn mass and ceremony in the presence of Balbo and other hierarchies and the bishop of Tripoli, who gives them the blessing, are loaded onto the trucks that take them to the villages assigned to them.

In the following *links* of the Istituto Luce you can view the videos that document the event:

- Giornale Luce 3.11.1938: <https://youtu.be/dha1nZ-69jE>
- Giornale Luce 9.11.1938: <https://youtu.be/b05WPvdJFuI>
- Giornale Luce 9.11.1938: <https://youtu.be/ALPnph9JHRA>
- *The twenty thousand settlers in the new Libyan provinces*, Istituto Luce, 1938: <https://bit.ly/2xTaegp>.

The Christmas of '38 my father probably spends it in the area of Tripoli and a photo sent to my mother testifies to some small incident that occurred to him, given a bandage in his right hand that does not prevent him from smoking.



25.12.1938, Tripoli? *I did this on Christmas Day.*

1939

For my father, the year begins with the promotion to corporal on January 20th.

In the first quarter he would probably leave because on the back of a postcard dated 22 April he writes to my mother: *"Greetings from the Port of Tripoli. Right after disembarking from the ship I found my village and took this photograph. I'm going to leave it in memory of my license. Greetings. Ignazio"*.

A Google Map search allowed me to find the exact area where it was taken: Al-Shat Road, formerly Lungomare Conte Volpi.



22.04.1939, Port of Tripoli



Tripoli, Al-Shat Road, formerly Lungomare Conte Volpi (from Google Map)

On 20 July he was transferred to guard the ammunition depot located at the Rumia junction, about 200 km from the border with Tunisia. Rumia was and is a village with a spring whose water is carried through an aqueduct of about 6 km, inaugurated by our colonial regime on July 5, 1914, in Iefren, a Berber city perched on a cliff at about 700 meters above sea level on the northern edge of the Gebel Nefusa plateau.



5.07.1914, Inauguration of the aqueduct Rumia-Iefren

On September 4, Ignazio was officially restrained in his regiment as part of the XXIII Corps under Gen. Annibale Bergonzoli, who frames the two divisions of the Militia:

- 1st Blackshirt Division *March 23*, commanded by Ten. Maj. Gen. Francesco Antonelli - Wikipedia
- 2nd Blackshirt Division *October 28*, commanded by Gen. Francesco Argentino.

Three days later, the 5th it was formed in Tripolitania, under the command of General Italo Gariboldi, the 5th Army which, in addition to that of my father, frames the X and XX Corps (I.3).

My father took note in his notes that he had been in Rumia until March 4, 1940, but various photos testify that in the last quarter of '39 he is in Tripoli.



'39 is also the year of a second wave of arrivals of Italian settlers.

Climbed on the 28th of the previous month, in November Sardinia and two other steamers of the “Regions” class, *Piedmont* and *Liguria*, land in Libya 860 families who will populate the villages *Crispi*, *Marconà*, *Pietro Micca*, *Jordan Garibaldi*, *Tazzoli*, *Corradini* and *Garabulli*.



According to the 30 June census carried out by ISTAT, in 1939 Libya had 108,419 Italians (i.e. 12.37% of the 876,563 inhabitants of the colony). The approximately 11,000 new settlers thus increase by about 10% the compatriots already present, concentrated on the coast around Tripoli and Benghazi (estimated at 37% and 31% of the population respectively).



In the following links of the Istituto Luce you can view the videos of the *Giornale Luce* that document the event:

- 3.11.1939: <https://youtu.be/dha1nZ-69jE>
- 8.11.1939: https://youtu.be/FjK_49dPFR0
- 15.11.1939: <https://youtu.be/yFzJN2RABUs>.

1940

From his notes we know that Ignazio remained in Rumia until March 4, 1940 and that on April 2 he was sent to Cyrenaica.

On June 10, 1940 Mussolini announced with his famous speech from the balcony of Palazzo Venezia the participation of Italy in World War II.

The next day my father finds himself officially mobilized with his XX Genie Regiment in the war campaign in North Africa. The XXIII Corps, of which the regiment was a member, is first deployed to Tripolitania along with the X and XX, also integrated into the 5th Army,⁶ “*in defence of the Libyan-Tunisian border and the north-western coastal strip of Libya. In particular, the deployment ensured the interdiction of the gebel and the zuara-sabratha coast, up to the tripoli stronghold*” (L3).

⁶ Upon entry into the war, the 5th Army, commanded between September 7, 1939 and September 5, 1941 by General Italo Gariboldi, operated with reconnaissance support of the 122nd Squadron and the 136th Auxiliary Aviation Squadron for the Army of the Royal Air Force.

Shortly thereafter (the last decade of June/early July), the XXIII was ceded to Gen. John Paul's 10th Army. Mario Berti, who places its headquarters in Bardia, Cyrenaica: "*it is initially stationed in the Gebelic south, to protect the southern slopes of Cyrenaica, and later (probably in anticipation of the invasion of Egypt, N.d.A.), towards the Egyptian border, in the Bardia area*" (L4).

In particular, Ignazio is part of the Genie Mixed Battalion (101st or 201st depending on the sources) which is part of the First Blackshirts Division *March 23* and whose engineering units are provided by the Royal Army.⁷

This is the scenario in which my father was located shortly before the invasion of Egypt and which he himself confirms in the handwritten notes in which he reports his location on the fronts of Bardia (Libya) and Sollum (Egypt) between 24 July 1940 and 14 February of the following year.

It is plausible that he is induced by the winds of imminent use in war operations at increasing risk to marry by proxy on 17 August, three months after the outbreak of war. The intention is probably to guarantee my mother, Anna Tambuscio, a war pension in the event of death in battle.

The events of the following six months would have largely supported this decision. The desert war began well summed up in the documentary French of the 1960s *La bataille du désert*: <https://bit.ly/3ct13SR>.

In September the attack on Sidi el Barrani, Egypt, for which you can view a video of the Istituto Luce at the following link: <https://bit.ly/3ev3O7K>.

The plan of the offensive provided for the Libyan divisions to open the pace while, at first, the Blackshirt Division *March 23* under Antonelli was placed in reserve. Its use, for which it was specially armoured vehicle⁸, developed as follows.



- September 7: around Bardia.
- September 13: Advanced from Gabr el Ahmar to Gabr Asceran or Nezuat Ghirba, reached at 20.00. Reconquest of Fort Capuzzo.
- September 14, h.20.00: past the border and reached the Mussad area, between fort Capuzzo and Sollum. The British retreated, offering sporadic resistance from armoured forces.
- September 15, evening: The Division reached 25 km west of Sidi el Barrani.
- September 16: In the midst of sand clouds raised by the infocato Ghibli of the Sahara, at 2.15 pm (or 3.30 pm) the commander of the Division entered Sidi el Barrani at the head of

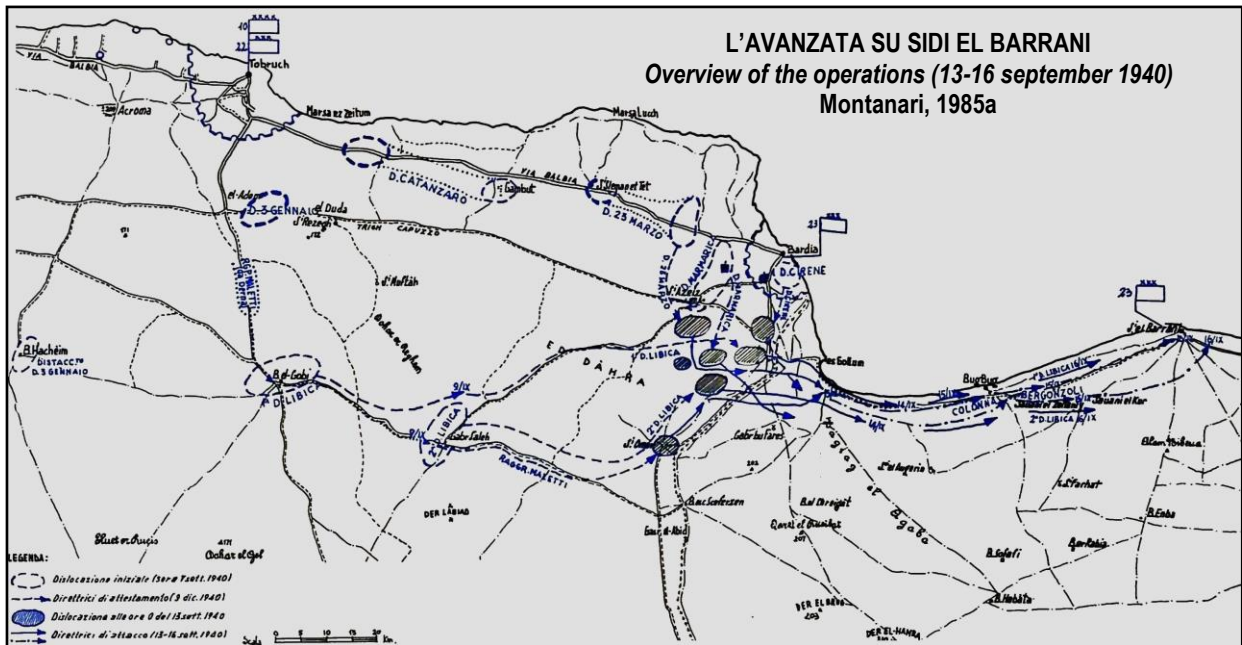
⁷ Ignazio could not be framed in October 28, only in October 1940 passed to XXIII Cda, while the *March 23* had been for a long time in the order of battle of 1940.

⁸ According to some sources, the hasty motorization of the *Division March 23* he disorganized the relationship between drivers and infantry men, as the unit had never been trained as a motorized division. *March 23* proceeded temptedly, devoid of motorized mentality and specific preparation (Montanari, 1985a).

the 219^a. Evening: Division attested 10 km east/southeast of Sidi el Barrani from the sea at Samet-Omm / Himeisa.

- September 17: Gen. Rodolfo Graziani (Superior Command FF.AA. Italian North Africa) reported that the problems of the Genius had become imposing and it was essential to send a general of the Weapon, signaling a name.

Between 13 and 18 September, *March 23* would have lost 187 units.



Soon after the capture of Sidi el Barrani, General Mario Berti employed military genius to extend the Via Balbia with the Victory Road to obtain more supplies and continue the advance eastwards. Because of being a *geniere*, it's quite likely that my father was employed in that work.

The Istituto Luce on its website shows various photos dated September 1940 of works in a deserted street by the 21st Battalion Artieri: <https://bit.ly/2zT2ls5>. It is likely that my father's Company was part of this Battalion and that the photos represent precisely the construction of the Victory Road even if the captions indicate accommodation works.



As we will see, the last quarter of 1940 and the first months of the following year were characterized by the Italian attempt to stabilize their positions, followed by the English counter-offensive that would end with the defeat of our troops and it is possible to assume that my father's company was sent to western Libya.

This hypothesis is not certain and obliges me to describe the vicissitudes of *March 23*, in which the company of my father's Genius is supposedly integrated, and of the XXIII Corps to which this Division of Black Shirts belongs.

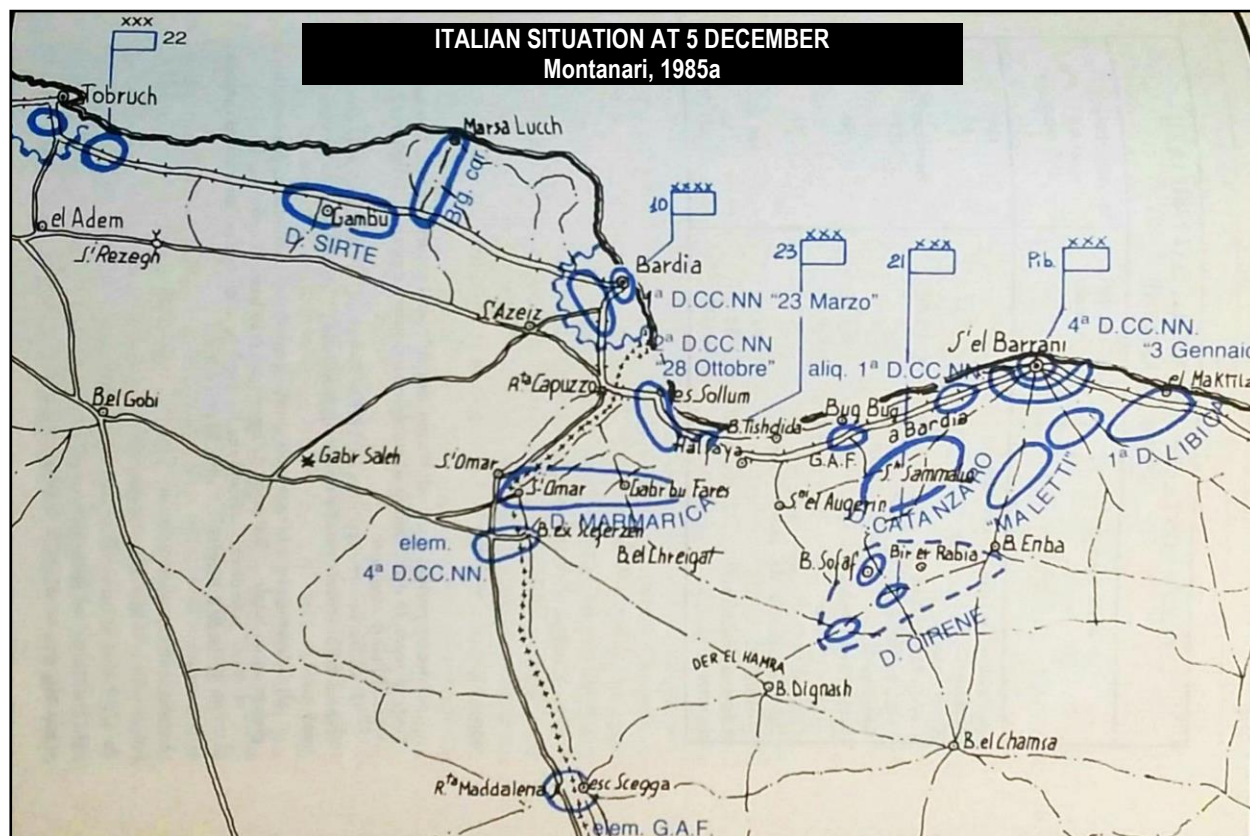
My father, therefore, either leaves with his Company to the west or participates with the *March 23* in the war operations on the Libyan-Egyptian border that I describe below.

On October 7, the XXIII Corps carried out an attack in the Bir el Mella area and dispersed some enemy armoured formations that were concentrating in the area. In the middle of the month it was brought back west to organize the defence of Sollum's ciglione, from Halfaya to Sidi Omar (L4).

On November 2, Graziani invited to replace Sidi el Barrani on *March 23*, given the low morale and tiredness that this showed, with another division, while Berti replied not to recognize this need. However, on 2-4 December the Army Command decided to transfer the division to Bardia to put it back on track in view of the tired conditions in which it was in.

At the beginning of December we know (Montanari, 1985a) that the battalion of genius framed on *March 23* was in Bardia, which, in the division of the territory, was part of the Third Sol-lum sector.

The Italian occupation of Egypt lasted less than three months. On 7 December, the British switched to the counteroffensive with Operation Compass (<https://bit.ly/2W74ppa>).



On December 9, the board of directors, heavily invested by the enemy at Ridotta Capuzzo, was subject to numerous penetrations that led to the withdrawal of the device in defence of the Via Litoranea and the Bardia base.

On the same day, *March 23* and two other divisions were ordered to organize on the line to defend the Halfaya's *rib*.

On March 10, *March 23* sent Sidi Omar a battalion of black shirts for a small garrison that turned out to have the days numbered and be of no use.

In the afternoon of the 11th, The Superior Command A.S. commanded the division to be at the disposal of to the XXIII Corps under the leadership of General Bergonzoli and the day after the Command of genius prepared various interruptions on Balbia Road, from Tobruk to Benghazi.

On March 12, *March 23*, already at Uadi el-Mrega south of Bardia, had taken a position northwest of Sollum, from the Ridotta Capuzzo to the sea, maintaining the detachment to Sidi Omar, also touching Musaid and other small border garrisons (Montanari, 1985a).

On the 14, the Division was deployed in the Bir Tafaui area, west of the road to Bardia. Soon after, Bergonzoli attested it in defence of the forecourt in which great renovation work began and where, a week later, the entire XXIII CdA would be folded.

As an artilleryman, Ignazio may have been employed in the interruptions on the Via Balbia or inside Bardia itself to create a protective system of mines and to clear the modest anti-tank ditch completely filled with sand.

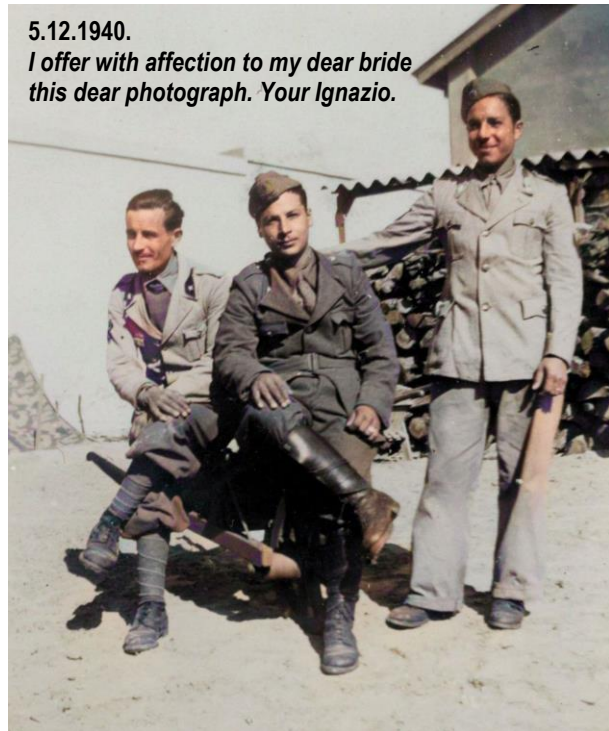
On 15 December, the British launched violent armoured vehicle attacks on *March 23* at Bir ci Tafua, near Bardia.

On the 16th the units of the XXIII CdA completed the retreat to Bardia without being excessively hindered by the enemy.

However, the actual British siege would begin on the 20th. Two days later, Graziani sent a report to Mussolini indicating *March 23* was reduced by about 1/4. The stronghold, attacked by overwhelming forces and bombarded by sea and air, offered strenuous resistance.

1941

The battle on the Bardia front turn on again with increasing violence in early January. It was at this time that an officer of XXIII painted this bleak picture: "*In the square we find great disorder: vehicles of*



allkinds abandoned everywhere; theories of stragglers, mostly belonging to the overwhelmed Libyan divisions ... Everyone wanders around without reference points, with the signs of suffering, long days of hardship, labor and fasting in their faces, still stunned and shaken by the devastating fury of the battle, which devoured their departments”.

On January 3, *March 23* lost the strongholds of Bu Rim and Shegheila.

On 5 Bardia capitulated and was occupied by the British (https://youtu.be/VsMq_-86-wc). *March 23* was destroyed; the XXIII Corps ceased all activity and was considered disbanded in the area of operations.

The Italians paid tribute to 25-45,000 victims dead, wounded and prisoners.

The fighting then moved westwards and the garrison of Tobruk, after a bloody resistance lasting over twenty days, was overwhelmed on January 24. The army units, recovered after rapid re-organization, were then attested at the Derna-Berta-Mechili line on which enemy pressure was not long in showing up.

On the 26th some opposing penetrations led to the retreat of the right wing of the line to the positions of Bir Semander and Got el Gil as well as the evacuation of Derna on the 29th.

From 1 to 6 February, the British offensive insisted on the Benghazi defensive line, promptly activated by troops of the 10th Army. The hard and violent battle that ensued ended on February 6 with the encirclement of most of the surviving units of the Army X in the Agedabia area, including command. In the bloody struggle fell the commander of the Army, General Giuseppe Telera, who boarded an M13/40 of the 6th Tank Battalion personally led the attack in an attempt to open a passage. As a result, the 10th Army ceased to exist and was considered disbanded in the area of operations on February 6, 1941.

As far as my father is concerned, his previous notes on his participation in the Sollum (Egypt)/Bardia (Libya) front in the period 24/07/1940 – 14/02/1941 seem inaccurate given the fall of Bardia in January 1941 and his photos of 5 December and 11 January following (without any indication of where they were taken) that do not look like a soldier in the middle of operations.

I am not an expert in military matters, but I think that in a critical and extreme defence scenario such as that of Bardia, a company like that of my father (Artieri), able to build and maintain



structures more than to fight head-on, had to be preserved. It is entirely plausible, therefore, that the Units of the Genio were moved westward in relatively quieter territory in good time.

Also, the declared location in Tobruk from February 14, 1941 onwards reported by Ignazio in his annotations seems unlikely as two photos of 9 April and 22 June 1941, indicate it, respectively; to Iefren and Tarhuna, much further west than Cyrenaica and the war events with the British: Operation Compass (December 1940 – February 1941) first and battleaxe (15-17 June 1941) then. In addition, it should be considered that Tobruk by 24 January was already lost.

On April 20, my father was transferred with his 1st Compagnia Artieri to the 10th Battalion Genio special mobilized, framed in the Corps Troops of the X CdA commanded by General Alberto Barbieri.



His Board of Directors is stationed in Buerat el Hsun, Cyrenaica, but, as already mentioned, at least until 22 June, Ignazio is much further west, in Tarhuna. The two towns have concentration camps in common. It cannot therefore be ruled out that my father's unit is used for the logistical and maintenance needs of these facilities.

Two photos from the period portray him with a puppy that he probably cares for and that makes him company. In one of them, he veiledly complains about the absence of a letter from my mother.

Contrary to what is reported in his notes, my father would therefore be involved in the Cyrenaica campaign only after June 1941.

This may have been determined either by the construction of important works or, more generally, by the general military reorganisation brought about by the new events in that region.

I do not know if my father, as an *artiere*, participated in the months of June-July in the palification of a double telephone and teletype line with terminus stations in Tripoli and Tobruk made by the Genio Military, under the command of General Luigi Grosso. The work, for which the Germans provided technology, technicians and equipment, and the Italians, materials and manpower, included intermediate posts in Misurata, Sirte, el-Aghelia, Agedabia, Benghazi, Cyrene, Derna.

22.06.1941, Tarhuna.

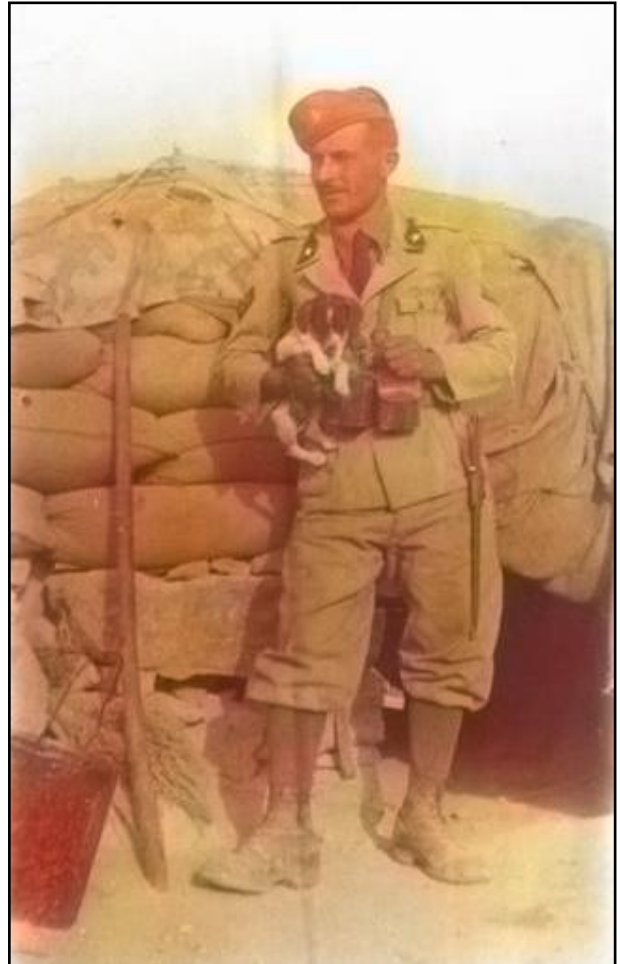
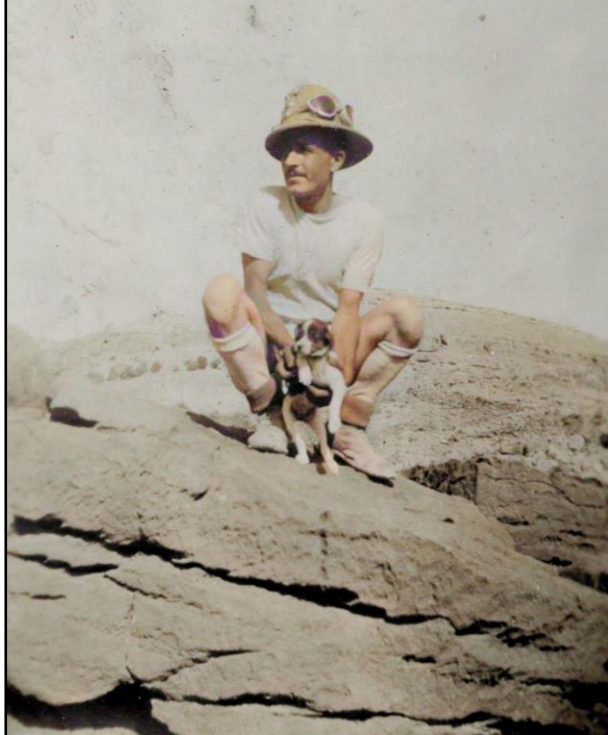
I send this mine to the dear wife offering her the most beloved hugs and kisses.

From your loving Ignazio.

I look forward to yours as I have long been promised.

Ciao ciao.

Dear kisses.



From Montanari (1985) we know that the Army Corps in which my father's company was framed was involved in the reorganization of Italian forces. It was given the jurisdiction of Western Cyrenaica, first (July 7, 1941), and the Cyrenaica Command with Benghazi square and the Derna, Barce and Agedabia sectors, then (August 15, 1941).

As we can see from two videos of the Istituto Luce in August and September 1941, meanwhile the siege of Tobruk⁹ by Italian-German forces was becoming increasingly harsh:

- <https://bit.ly/2zwWh8M>
- <https://bit.ly/3bpnLKs>

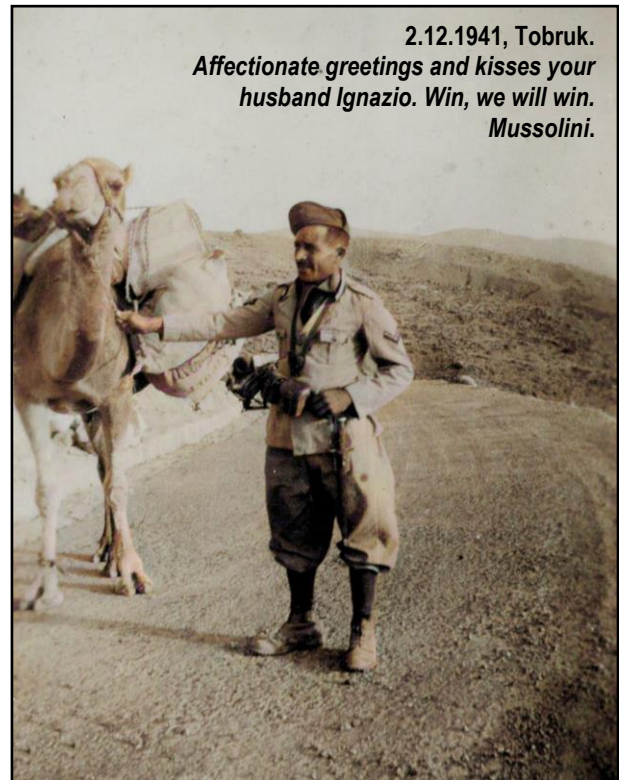
A series of fighting and alternating operations between Italian-German troops on the one hand and allied troops led by Great Britain on the other characterized the subsequent period until mid-November.

On 18 November the British unleashed Operation Crusader for the reconquest of Cyrenaica which would last until the 30th of the following month.¹⁰

⁹ Between the end of March and 12 April, the 5th German Light Division and Italian units under the command of the German general Erwin Rommel, the famous Desert Fox had recaptured the north-east of Libya with the exception of the fortress of Tobruk, which from that moment on would have been bordered by an exhausting siege.

¹⁰ https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operazione_Crusader.

In two photos of December 2, Ignazio goes back to Tobruk, the location where they were taken, and this represents the only news that is available of him in the second half of 1941. However, it is likely that the indication refers to the area around the town of Cyrenaica since the fortress itself (which had an extension of at least 10 km in all directions of its perimeter) was not conquered until June 1942, when my father had already returned to Italy. My father's expression in the photos seems less relaxed than what can be read in the images of the previous period and the propaganda jokes in them sound like resources to equip themselves with courage in a critical context of involvement in quite significant warfare operations. Just think that only five days later, on December 7, Rommel began a strategic retreat on the Gazala line, just southwest of Tobruk and the day after the X CdA, in which my father's company was framed, by order of General Ettore Bastico, governor of Libya, passed under the direct orders of the German Marshal.



2.12.1941, Tobruk.
Affectionate greetings and kisses your husband Ignazio. Win, we will win. Mussolini.

On December 12, in the retreat phase following the fighting of Ain El-Gazala, the command of the X Board of Directors was assumed by General Benvenuto Gioda.

They were dramatic days in which it is likely that my father risked much. Two of his fellow gunners (it is not certain, though, that they were from his company) are injured on the 14th in an



2.12.1941, Tobruk.

I didn't want to send you these photos because I'm not Come well. Kisses, your dear. Win, we will win. Mussolini. Ignazio.

aerial machine gun to their trucks on the way Balbia River at the agricultural village Luigi Razza (actual Massa).

On the 17th the Army Corps was assigned the task of preserving Derna's positions and then folding, between 18 and 20, towards Benghazi using the Northern Gebelica Route (Via Balbia) on the route Derna-Berta-Beda Littoria-Castellebia-Barce.

After evacuating Benghazi, on December 25 the X CdA was arranged in front to the east with Bologna blocking the origins from Saunnu and Giof el-Matar and Brescia against infiltration to the southeast.

Two days later the Afrikakorps lashed out at an effective east of Agedabia; the British flag-ship armoured brigade was repulsed with heavy casualties and between 28 and 30 December General Rommel reached Agheila to safety.

In his notes my father writes down that he was in Alamein (Egypt¹¹) from November 10, 1941 to April 16, 1942. This is completely incongruous as the Egyptian border was crossed by axis troops in June 1942 and the battle operations took place the following month; my father has already left for Italy in March.

In a note he claims to have been authorized to boast the ribbon with two stars, an honour that was used to be placed on the left pocket but that does not appear in any of his photos, nor was it found among his memories.

1942

Italian-German infantry garrisons isolated in the Libyan-Egyptian border were forced to surrender at Bardia on January 2 and at Halfaya Pass on 17 January, when the British captured 32,000 prisoners, including 9,000 German soldiers. However, the mechanized units of the Panzergruppe Afrika managed to escape the slow pursuit of the mobile units of the 8th Army.

What we know about the X Board for this period is that on January 4, his Command moved west of MaatenGiofer.

General Rommel went on the attack on 21 January and February and managed to capture Benghazi and later reach Derna by mechanized vehicles and then stop in the Gulf of Bomba west of Tobruk. The British, who had retreated to the Ain el-Gazala line, lost 377 armoured vehicles and 3,300 prisoners in a matter of days.

Following the Cyrenaic front it went quiet and in the first quarter of 1942, during the actions in Cyrenaica, the X Board, in which my father's Company and Battalion were framed, is strategically arranged mostly to defend the border with Tripolitania in the towns of Maaten Giofer in Sidi Tober, Agedabia, el-Algeila. As you can guess, this was considered the heart region of all Libyan colonization and its defence, whatever happened in Cyrenaica, was of paramount importance!

I have not found any timely information about my father's movements during this period, nor am I sure that he is at the heart of operations in Cyrenaica. I think that the Artieri Company of

¹¹*How does it appear on the patent (booklet?!)authorization to boast the ribbon with two stars.*

which it is part has characteristics not very compatible with a use in areas of full conflict, so much so that in the book of Montanari (1989), both in the text and in the maps, the Genio is never indicated in the most critical areas.

To this, it must be added that on March 23rd my father is certainly in Tripoli, transferred to the 10th special Battalion Genio, Mobilized Genio, 1st Compagnia Artieri.

And from the Libyan capital on that date he flies to Italy. Arriving in Castelvetro, he benefits from a rotation license with checks¹² and immediately returns home.

On April 24, Ignazio returned to service in Capua and a month later (25 May), was transferred to Civitavecchia, destined for about a year at the 29th to Compagnia Artieri Lavoratori based in the Central School and Artieri del Genio School¹³. I have no news of this period.

In November 1942, events took place that would have caused my father to be employed in Corsica the following year. In fact, in response to the Anglo-American landing in Africa on November 8, a few days later the Attila Plan was carried out by axis forces that provided for the occupation of the free zone French, until then under the jurisdiction of the collaborationist government of Vichy.

On November 10, 1942 Mussolini ordered the occupation of Corsica (codename: Operation C2) until that date practically demilitarized according to the conditions of the armistice of 1940. Together with the more general strengthening of the defence mechanism in both the Tyrrhenian islands (Sardinia and Corsica), this act was to be considered a precaution against possible further allied landings in the Mediterranean.

The Royal Army, which landed on 11 Bastia, was well received by its counterpart French arguing that the Italians should guard the island to prevent the Allies from reserving the fate of Algeria and Morocco. The whole population was in the streets of the city; wherever French flags were displayed. Italian aircraft launched leaflets informing the population that troops had landed in Corsica to defend the inhabitants from Anglo-American enemies. The sharing of languages of equal strain and easily understandable between the parties was, as all the testimonies show, of great help in fostering relations between the occupied and the occupiers.



In the following links of the Istituto Luce you can watch the videos that document the event:

¹² In his notes my father indicates the month of license between 18 April and 18 May 1942, but I believe that the military booklet is more reliable in the dating of events.

¹³ School suspended lessons in September 1943 due to war events.

- <https://bit.ly/2ZrRHDJ>
- <https://youtu.be/c4oFwkjet3g>
- <https://youtu.be/pMJ-hBIWjvo>

1943

The only official information offered by the military booklet for the period March '43 - May '44 are those, gaunt, of Ignazio's participation in the War Campaign in Corsica with the 29th *Compagnia Genio Artieri* mobilized.

On March 29, Ignazio embarked with his company from the port of Livorno for Corsica, where he landed, in the port of Ajaccio, the next day¹⁴. We can imagine the landscape around the capital of Corso thanks to a video of the Light Institute the following week (April 6): <https://bit.ly/2LK1tce>.

LIBERATA
BY PHILIPPE CARRÈRE
2005 FILM

<https://bit.ly/3e25qou>

It was in Corsica in March 1943 that the film *Liberata* (2005) by Philippe Carrère was set. In the midst of the Italian occupation, two brothers, engaged in communist resistance, in order to obtain information necessary for the organization, are strategically related to two soldiers of the Italian infantry with whom a true friendship is established before the overthrow of the military alliance that will follow the landing in Ajaccio.

According to his notes, Ignazio remains in Ajaccio for just over two months. We then know this in Bastia on 7 June and bonifacio on 14 July.

There is no word on the tasks and activities of my father and his company in the three locations and, more generally, there is no news of his movements until 13 September. Similarly, the exact classification of my father is not known, although it is likely that his company is part of one of the following contingents of the Genio which at the time of the armistice (8 September 1943) are under the command of Gen. Giovanni Magli and the Army Intendency:

- CXX Joint Genio Battalion
- CXLIV Mixed Genio Battalion
- 7th Army Corps Genio Group

Below, I give a brief description of the Italian occupation in Corsica in 1943 to frame the historical context in which my father found himself involved.

¹⁴ In his notes my father indicates the departure from Livorno on March 28 and the arrival in Ajaccio on 2 April.

ITALIAN OCCUPATION OF CORSICA

The Italian occupation of Corsica had been strongly promoted by pro-Italian Corsican irredentism during the Fascist period. The occupying force initially comprised 30,000 Italian troops and gradually reached the size of nearly 85,000 soldiers. This was a huge occupation force compared to the size of the local population of 220,000.

The VII Corps of the Royal Army was able to occupy Corsica, which was still under the formal sovereignty of Vichy France, without a fight. In the initial absence of partisan resistance, the cowed population initially showed some support for the Italians, in part because of irredentist propaganda.

The Italian troops, commanded by General Mondino until the end of December 1942, then by General Carboni until March 1943 and then by General Magli until September 1943, grew to include two divisions of the army (Friuli and Cremona), two coastal divisions (225 and 226), eight battalions of the Fascist militia and some military police units and carabinieri.

In Corsica, native collaborators linked to irredentism supported the Italian occupation, stressing that it was a precautionary measure against a possible Anglo-American attack. In addition, some Corsi military officers collaborated with Italy, including retired Major Pantalacci (and his son Antonio), Colonel Mondielli, and Colonel Simon Petru Cristofini (and his wife, the first female running journalist Marta Renucci). Cristofini, who even knew Benito Mussolini in Rome, was a strong supporter of the union of Corsica with Italy and defended irredentist ideals. In fact, Cristofini actively collaborated with Italian forces in Corsica during the early months of 1943 and (as head of Ajaccio's troops) helped the Italian army suppress the Resistance before the armistice in September 1943. He worked closely with the famous Corsican writer Petru Giovacchini, who was appointed potential Governor of Corsica.

In early 1943 these irredentists, under the leadership of Petru Giovacchini and Bertino Poli, conducted large-scale propaganda among the Corsican population to promote the unification of Corsica in Italy with a Governorate of Corsica, as had been done in 1941 with Dalmatia. As a result, there was a slight support for Italian employment from a large part of the population running until the summer of 1943.

The Italian occupation was linked to the domination of Europe by Nazi Germany and Benito Mussolini postponed the unification of Corsica to Italy until a peace treaty could be made after the hypothetical victory of the Axis in World War II, mainly due to German opposition to irredentist claims.

The resistance French was initially limited, but began to take shape immediately in the aftermath of the Italian invasion. At the beginning of 1943 it was organized enough to require arms deliveries. The leadership and morale of the movement was reinforced by the acquisition of personnel and weapons that allowed to increase activities and establish greater territorial control, particularly in the countryside, in the summer of 1943.

In June and July 1943 the OVRA (Italian fascist police) and fascist paramilitary groups of black shirts began a large-scale repression that led to the imprisonment and deportation to Italy of 860 courses and the shooting in Bastia on August 30 of three partisans on the orders of a Fascist War Tribunal.

At the time of Mussolini's fall on July 25, 1943, the island's garrison had reactions more or less similar to those of all the other occupied territories. In Corsica the discrimination, which had no frequent feedback on the other theaters, was that Magli managed to curb the enthusiasm of his subordinates and make him maintain a disciplined behaviour. On August 14, Magli was informed that convoys were being formed in Algeria for landing in Corsica, then on August 20 he met the commander of German forces in Italy, Albert Kesselring, and on August 27 the Italian general learned from contacts with the leaders of the Corsican Resistance that a hypothetical Allied landing was imminent.

On 7 September 1943, the German general Fridolin von Senger und Etterlin reached Ajaccio. The high Germanic officer belonged to an ancient Baden family of long tradition of arms, Catholic, polyglot and lay member of the Benedictine family. Already commander on the Russian front, Kesselring had entrusted him with the management of Corsica and Sardinia. The German general realized that the sum of the Italian forces and the Corsi partisans (overrated by force), with the Allies ready to land, made the task very difficult. On 8 September, with the proclamation of the Armistice of Badoglio issued by the EIAR, the situation precipitated. The small Kriegsmarine garrison at Bastia attacked the Italian ships docked at the port. At the same time, Magli told von Senger that with the armistice, his corps would cease any hostile action against the Allies. The Italian general completed the order for the French prefects' authorities with which, recognizing Corsica not a land of conquest but of occupation aimed at the defence of Italian interests in the Mediterranean, entrusted them with the administration of public order.

On September 9, 1943, the day after the armistice between Italy and the Allies, 12,000 German troops arrived in Corsica formally assuming the occupation. While their leaders were ambivalent, most Italian troops remained loyal to the Italian king Victor Emmanuel III and some fought (mainly in Teghime, Bastia and Casamozza) together with the French Resistance against German troops until the liberation of Corsica on October 4, 1943. Meanwhile, the Resistance aimed to establish control of the mountains in the center of the island to prevent occupying forces from moving from coast to coast, thus facilitating the Allied

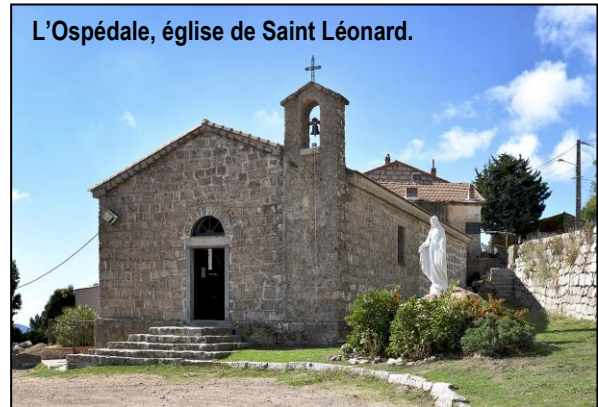
invasion.

The liberation of Corsica began with a revolt ordered by the local Resistance on September 9, 1943. The Allies initially did not want such a movement, preferring to concentrate their forces on the invasion of Italy. However, in light of the insurrection, the Allies agreed to free French troops to land at Arone near the village of Piana in northwestern Corsica. This prompted German troops to attack Italian troops and the Resistance. Resistance, 44th Infantry Division Cremona and 20th Friuli Infantry Division were engaged in heavy fighting with the German Sturmbrigade Reichsführer SS. The Sturmbrigade was joined by the 90th Panzergrenadier Division, the 12th Parachute Battalion and the 184th Parachute Regiment of the Italian FF.AA. who were withdrawing from Sardinia via Corsica, from Bonifacio to the northern port of Bastia. There were now 30,000 German troops in Corsica retreating via Bastia. On September 13, elements of the 4th Moroccan Mountain Division landed in Ajaccio to try to stop the Germans.

From my father's notes it appears that on September 13, 1943 the 29th Compagnia Genio Artieri mobilized, of which he was a part, leads from Bonifacio to L'Ospédale.

It was probably the hint of the imminent transfer of a German contingent from Sardinia to Corsica that advised the movement of the Company to a mountainous area 20 km from the eastern coast line of the island and from Porto Vecchio.

In the following, days for the Italian departments the military situation, in particular on the eastern coast of the island, became increasingly difficult.



L'Ospédale, église de Saint Léonard.

On September 18, in fact, through the Straits of Bonifacio, the 90th Panzergrenadier Division, composed of over twenty-five thousand men, under the command of Gen. Carl-Hans Lungerhausen, completed the landing and began the ascent to Bastia to meet the departments of the Motorized Brigade SS already operating in Corsica. In those days the whole area of Bastia, Capo Corso and the Gulf of St-Florent was already firmly in German hands.

The next two weeks were marked by fighting between Germans on the one hand and Italians and French on the other, until overnight from 3 to 4 October, the last German units evacuated Bastia, leaving behind 700 dead and 350 prisoners of war.

My father's company was one of those Italian army units, called 'Auxiliary Units', which during the Liberation War collaborated with the allies in various activities aimed at facilitating war operations. The most important activities carried out by the Auxiliary Units were:

- the work carried out to restore or facilitate road and railroads,
- the removal of minefields, interruptions and obstacles,
- the recommial of ports and airports,
- the organization of itineraries, the installation and management of rest camps for self-columns,
- the work of generic labor, which, with the progressive increase of the units and materials landed,

became increasingly onerous, in order to favor the first accommodation of Anglo-American units, their advance, the organization of new air, naval and logistic bases,

- the installation and restoration of telegraph and telephone lines,
- protection and on-call services provided for the security of depots, logistics training, bridges and infrastructure in general.

To all these activities must be added the competition that, directly or indirectly, our Auxiliary Units gave to the safety of the rear and allied lines of operations.

From 13 September 1943 until 26 April of the following year Ignazio declared his company engaged in the restoration of roads and bridges interrupted by the Germans between Boniface and L'Ospédale (more likely between Bonifacio and Porto Vecchio). The special Monograph of the Historical Office of the Army Staff (Lollo 1997) provides us with a fairly detailed picture for this period of auxiliary activities in Corsica that supports my father's indications.

“Until the day of the landing of French troops in Corsica (September 14, 1943) all Italian logistics equipment was made available to those units. This competition was provided throughout the operating cycle against the Germans, which ended on October 4 with the liberation of Bastia. In particular, as many as 140 vehicles and 120 quadrupeds were supplied to French units and at least 600 French and American soldiers and civilians were treated in Italian health service formations injured or ill. In October began the transfer of our Great Units to Sardinia, which was completed on December 12, 1943. During this period the collaboration offered by our troops to the Allied authorities continued intensely, both in the operational sector (defence against aircraft and coast of Ajaccio, Calvi, Corte, Bastia, Bonifacio), and in the field of work activities. The latter, in particular, concerned the removal of all road breaks and minefields prepared by the Germans, the rehabilitation of destroyed bridges, the restoration of telephone and telegraph communications lines, and the restoration of efficiency of the airfields. For the above works, mainly engineering departments were used, whose work proved invaluable thanks to their high specialization and the technical equipment they were equipped with. Finally - since the Allied authorities ordered that a high rate of the armament and artillery of our departments be ceded to the French ones (and this despite the representations of the Italian Supreme Command) - it was necessary to provide for the training of French personnel in the use of those materials. After 12 December 1943, a large contingent of Italian departments remained in Corsica, employed by Gen. Lazzarini, who established his Italian Troop Command in Corsica in Ajaccio. This contingent was divided into three infantry battalions and twelve engineering companies; it also included 570 aid workers and mechanics and 800 mule drivers. The above contingent was joined by:

- *in February 1944, an Alpine battalion and two worker companies;*
- *at the end of March and at the beginning of April, 7 special workers' departments;*
- *in April, six other workers' companies.*

All the worker units were made up of alloglotti elements (mainly Slavic-speaking) that were transferred to the island French from Sardinia, in order to replace, in succession of time, our departments held there since December 1943. Our units remaining in Corsica after 12 December 1943 continued to perform, as before, both operational

tasks (especially the defence of the east coast) and work activities. In particular, the troops of genius continued their work of rebuilding the bridges and reactivating the rolling stock, while the three infantry battalions provided for the restoration and construction of new airfields and flight paths. The Anglo-American Command - who had intended to make Corsica, immediately after its complete liberation, a large base of operations against the Germanic forces located in France, Italy and Austria - greatly appreciated the contribution of our troops and facilitated as much as possible their tasks.

A statement by the mayor of Vibo Valentia of 1972 states that my father “took advantage of military assistance during the following periods (1.11.1943 – 1.3.1944) with an amount of 204 fortnightly lire” and that “to collect this rescue was delegated his wife. Anne's drum.”

1944

Apart from the previous news, I did not find any more information about the first quarter of 1944. Since in April-May 1944 the Anglo-American Commands authorized most Italian units to return home, on May 2, Ignazio embarked in Porto Vecchio, as reported by foglio Matricolare, returning to Nisida from where he was then transferred to Pozzuoli¹⁵ to participate in the War of Liberation.

It is the period of the last Battle of Cassino and the grand final offensive that saw on May 18 the break-in of the Gustav Line and the end of the war operations in Cassino area. According to the Matricular Sheet, 19 Ignazio is sent with his Company to Cassino, where he is most likely framed in the auxiliary activities of the 228th Division necessary for post-war work in the area.

“Throughout the year auxiliary departments of the 228th Division essentially performed the following tasks:

- loading and unloading of various materials;*
- road maintenance work;*
- clearing rubble;*
- antimalarial remediation.*

The work was carried out most often immediately close to the forehead and sometimes even on the front line.

In April and May many soldiers of the group were employed near Cassino as porters, replacing the charcuters, which, due to the particular difficult conformation of the terrain, could not get to supply the most advanced posts. Those soldiers of ours worked at night, in adverse weather conditions, under the violent fire of the enemy. The losses they suffered were considerable” (Lollo, 1977).

In June, in the 228th Division, the CMXX mixed engineering battalion was established and framed, following the influx – in succession of times – of smaller departments of various specializations of the Weapon (artieri, telegraphists, cable laying...). It's very likely that my father's company joined that battalion.

¹⁵ My father in his notes states that the repatriation took place on May 4 from Ajaccio with arrival the following 6 in Pozzuoli.

The history of events reported by my father in his notes is very confusing with errors even of the order of one year. What is probably correct are the locations he touched in the 40 days from 19 May to 28 June 1944: Cassino, Capracotta, in the province of Isernia (Molise), and Perugia.

On June 29, my father is sent an extraordinary license of 15+4 days, a license that on July 17th is extended by 10 days by the Command of the Military Garrison of Vibo Valentia for unspecified reasons. In this period it is likely that Francis was conceived born the following January.

On July 30, Ignazio returns to the Naples Stage Command and we have no news until November 21, when, according to the Matricular Sheet, he is sent to Ancona to reach the 29th Compagnia Artieri. During the transfer he arrives two days later at Transit Camp P.M. 185 and on the 26th at Tappa 254 Command. I found no news of where these principals were, one of them probably in Jesi.

At C.T. 254 Ignazio remains until December 13 when he leaves for Ancona arriving there, it is not known by what means, three days later.

In the Marche capital, not finding the 29th Company returns to its domicile, thus being declared an arbitrary absentee in the Military Registration Sheet.

Moreover, at that very time disorientation and disbandment in the troops were the order of the day.

The obligation to re-arm the class soldiers from 1914 (which was that of my father, N.d.A.) to 1924 ordered by the Bonomi government with the circular of September 23, 1944, gave disastrous results: a refusal of mass obedience spread with riots in Sicily and violent demonstrations against enlistments also in Puglia, Sardinia, Calabria, Lazio, Campania and Umbria. Absentees and stragglers ranged from 80,000 men in November 1944 to 200,000 in January 1945.

1945

On January 26, my father, absent arbitrary, is certainly in Vibo Valentia because, together with his sister Carmela and Alfredo Federici, father-in-law of his other sister Francesca, he goes to the municipal registry office to declare the birth of a son. Three days before, in fact, my mother gave birth to a stillborn child who is given the name of my maternal grandfather: Francis. Considering that my father was licensed the previous year in the period 29 June – 27 July it is plausible that my mother is between the 6th and 7th months of pregnancy and not at the end of it.

Some clues lead me to think that Francis' pregnancy is not the first pregnancy.

1. The first child was used to give the name of his paternal grandfather, who in our case should have been Antonino.
2. In my old notes I had noted that the first two children were called Antonino and Antoinetta (name of my paternal grandmother).
3. When they were both alive, my mother told my brother-in-law Umberto that if he lived, he

would have a son of the same age. Born in 1942.

4. My father was licensed from March 23 to April 23, 1942.

It is therefore possible that the first son is Antonino, born in 1942, and not Francis born in 1945.

On June 27, Ignazio obtained the certificate of completion of elementary higher education pursuant to art. 192 of the Consolidated Text on Elementary Education at the Don Bosco Elementary School in Rome.

In Vibo Valentia my father remains for most of the year, until on August 27th he shows up at the Carabinieri Station Command of Vibo Valentia from which he is started at depot XX Infantry Regiment stationed in the same location.

The next day in the Military District of Catanzaro takes place his placement on unlimited leave from April 17, 1945.

On November 7, 1945, Ignazio declared the birth of a child to the local registry office. The day before, at 8 pm, my mother gave birth to another stillborn daughter who is given the name of my paternal grandmother: Maria.¹⁶

1946 - 1959

I am aware of few things from this period when surely my father Ignazio lives joys and sorrows.

The first thing that emerges from his documents is that he has developed an interest in associationism. This is witnessed by various tiles:

- 1946, National Committee of Prisoners – Vibonese Setional Committee
- since 1947, National Association of Fighters and Veterans
- since 1954, CGIL – Italian General Confederation of Labour
- since 1956, Italian Communist Party.

After being hired as a worker at the Italcementi of Vibo Valentia Marina (it seems that the veterans of war had priority in the assaults), on January 14, **1948** my parents finally have their first daughter, Maria Alba (Rosalba). In truth, my mother agreed with my father that my sister should carry the name of the two sisters: Marie Antoinette. It is not known, however, why my father records her as Maria Alba. As a spite, my mother, a type to take with pliers, then decides that Rosalba's name is used as the current name!

Still 3 years old and on November 7, **1949** the second daughter was born, Graziella Brunina

¹⁶ Both on the act of birth of Mary and on that, previous, of Francis is declared as my father's profession that of mason and residence to Vibo Valentia in Via Raffaele Buccarelli - Wikipedia 5, in the descent of the Carmine.

who died of typhus on September 12, **1953**, at the tender age of four.

My mother's story at this event is particularly painful.

While my father works in Vibo Valentia, my mother, together with her two daughters, goes to visit one of her relatives in Sicily, in Ganzirri. The infection is subsequently charged by mine to the use of well water, although, for what is my knowledge, it is transmitted by interhuman contagion.

My sister is hospitalized in Messina and it is said that the night my sister dies, my mother, back at her dresser's house, suddenly wakes up screaming that her daughter died and then rushes to the hospital and finds that the presentiment has come true.

A nun pitifully delivers her, even if illegally, the body and my mother takes a bus home holding Graziella wrapped in a blanket. She later told us that other passengers were asking her to see the baby, when she replied that she was asleep and did not want to wake her up.

To the point of bad luck, while my mother is travelling north, my father, at the end of his shift, goes in the reverse direction to visit his wife and daughters in Messina and thus leaving the family out of the house, meanwhile arrived in Vibo Valentia, who was without keys.

A couple of years after moving to no.11 via Santa Maria Maggiore, on November 28, **1956** I and one of my first activities, following a welcome bath in wine, is to pee in my father's face while he lifts me in mid-air for happiness!

Later my mother used to tell how I was born 9 kilos, *after a night at the bread table*. Women once lay on the table and were not hospitalized, which meant that she had had a very long labour which, as far as I know, left her very marked in the following years.

The weight was probably over-reported, but it still looks like I was so big that even people not known to mine came to visit me. This, together with the fact that I had been called Nazzareno, meant that I was always asked if there was also any comet star on my house...

And the name Nazzareno would really be of divine origin! ...

I should have called myself Antonio my grandfather. One night my mother, clearly in a state of apprehension after so many dead children, dreams of Our Lady and immediately asks her if she will be able to complete the pregnancy. Our Lady replies: *Rest assured, Anna, your son will be born! But don't call him Antonio, on behalf of my son, call him Nazzareno!*

And here I am!...

Returning to my father's military vicissitudes, on December 31, 1959, his Military Registration Sheet recorded absolute leave for discharge from service.

From the 1960s to the 1990s

My family serenely goes through the years of the economic boom allowing themselves to rent in houses that are becoming better and better, even if they are still modest: Via Luigi Razza 15, Vicolo Saverio Mergolo 6 and Via Guglielmo Marconi 36.

On March 6, **1966** my mother organized my sister's wedding and my first communion at the same time in Paola. All measures to save money, also because this invites fewer people. Stories of households where my mother could have held masterclasses...

In **1972** the bureaucratic-military dullness manifested itself in all its splendour.

On February 28, my father was denounced for desertion by the Command of the Military District of Catanzaro at the Territorial Military Court of Naples. Without taking into account the period of general heeling, this is probably due to the events of December 1944 in which he arrived in Ancona and not finding his company had decided to return home.

It is likely that his notes to which I drew for this work were drawn up precisely on the basis of his probable defensive memories.

Fortunately, almost 30 years after the event!, with judgment n.216 of April 3, **1973**, the Investigating Judge of the Territorial Court of Naples declares that it should not proceed by statute of limitations.

After his retirement, in **1974** my mother decided to move the family to Marotta di Mondolfo (PU), where my sister then lived, *“to give a future to her son”*.

Difficult years followed, as at that time the first monthly pension came several years after the final leave from work. Luckily, my mother's savings skills make us survive.

The second half of the 70s saw for my part the achievement in Fano of the Scientific Maturity, 10 months of Marina Militare (Taranto and La Spezia) and the marriage in Urbino on September 10, **1978** with Consolata Bova, a love born among the benches of the Scientific High School when we were both sixteen years old in Vibo Valentia.

In the 1970s my father had a couple of heart attacks and after a stroke he died, without being able to meet his nieces Martina Annastella Fidelita (n.1984) and Giulia Adriana (1990), on October 18, **1981** in that Ancona that had seen one of the last acts of his active military life.

My mother survived him for 12 years, dying in Bari on November 3, **1993**.

Both my parents are buried in Vibo Valentia.

AFTERWORD

Being mostly declared a chronicle, I did not add many personal comments and memories.

However, I would like to stress the mild nature of my father. He was a simple person and left family management and related decisions especially in the hands of my mother.

In addition to the work of mason first and cement man then, he was very talented in repairing things and for this reason not only my mother but also relatives, friends and neighbours resorted to Mastru 'Gnaziu.

The memories of living with him I have them especially from when I was little and from my 18 years old and up.

I remember the sunrises at 4 am (there was no daylight-saving time) when he got up to pick up the first coach that took him to the Cement Factory in Vibo Marina and the bird traps that he put out the window and that I, regularly, animal activist ante litteram, had him shoot.

I remember me in front of the cellar door parrying his penalty kicks in the entrance landing and the games in Tris that we rode on a stone bench on the Corso di Vibo, facing each other, using a play box that he drew with the chlorophyll of the rubbed leaves.

He made a pasta with unrivalled potatoes!

It was the transfer to the Marche that tied us a little more since we both had problems with integration, to make new friends. This was especially hard for him who did not speak Italian well. So we spent the nights playing cards and sometimes I took him to the movies. I once scandalized him by taking him to see “Pigs with wings” ...

Then came the time I moved to Urbino to do university, work, get married... and it was a pleasure for me to take mine under my arm and let them visit that beautiful place.

One of the most beautiful memories is that of an evening when I took him to the theatre to see Eduardo De Filippo. The curtain opened, and my father was amazed: *“but I thought we were coming to see a movie of his!”*.

The day my sister phoned me to tell me he had suffered a stroke, I cried. And as I cried I kept repeating that my greatest regret was that I could not take him to San Siro to see Inter-

Catanzaro; our team of the heart the first and that of bell tower the second.

He died some time later and because we were both communists I put in his pocket his old cards of the Italian Communist Party and its union, the CGIL. On the case a carnation: beautiful, red and as simple as his life.

Nazzareno, his son.

GALLERY

In the gallery I tried, where the date was known, a chronological tidying up conjugated to one, as far as possible, logical. In the absence of space-time references, that is, I tried to deduce the period and the location from elements such as: the landscape, the environment, the presence of the same characters. In captions, red text indicates uncertainty and/or assume ability and/or assumptions.

Photo 1 and 2 – Between March 5 and March 12, 1938. S. Maria Capua Vetere

It was my father's first destination just enlisted. Since prior to the promotion to corporal on 20 January 1939 and having a card format, it is possible that Photo 2 (which has no date and place) was taken as part of the official registration procedures.



Photo 1 - (5-12).03.1938
Santa Maria Capua Vetere



Photo 2 - (5-12).03.1938?
Santa Maria Capua Vetere

Photo 3 and 4 – 1938, Tripoli?

My father's uniform doesn't show corporal badge. Since:

- my father landed in Tripoli on 13.03.1938,
- the landscape would not present a barracks environment,
- the photos of April 1939 are set in Tripoli,

it is very likely that these are images regarding operations/exercises carried out not far from the Libyan capital.



Photo 3 - 1938 (>15 march)?, Tripoli?



Photo 4 - 25.12.1938, Tripoli?

Photo 5, 6 and 7 – 22 April 1939, Tripoli and its Port

Are these three photos with Lello (Raffaele?) La Gamba, my father's good friend, and brother of my sister Rosalba's godmother. Two of them were taken at Tripoli on 22 April 1939. The third has no date and place but the appearance of the two looks the same as the first two, although the environment would seem to be that of a military structure.



Photo 5 - 22.04.1939
Port of Tripoli

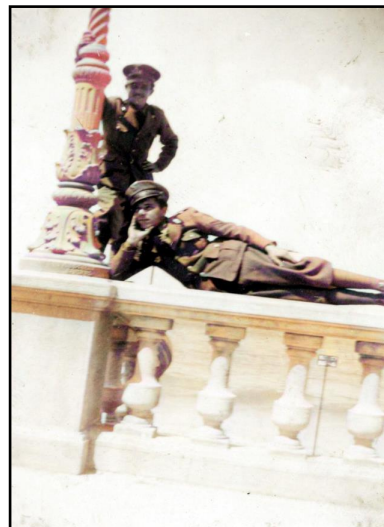


Photo 6 - 22.04.1939
Port of Tripoli



Photo 7 - 1939, Tripoli

Photo 8 – Without date and place.

The corporal insignia, the barracks environment and the light uniform make me assume that it can be placed in the spring-summer of the same year.



Photo 8 – Spring-summer 1939?, Tripoli?

Photo 9, 10, 11 and 12 – July-August 1939, Rumia?

While acknowledging that the following may not be solid arguments, I decided to group these four photos together as the vegetation in the background would look the same and evokes the idea of an oasis. So I thought of Rumia which was, in fact, an oasis.

Photo 9 and photo 10 are also united by a dressing of my father in local clothes, while appearance is what unites photos 11 and 12.

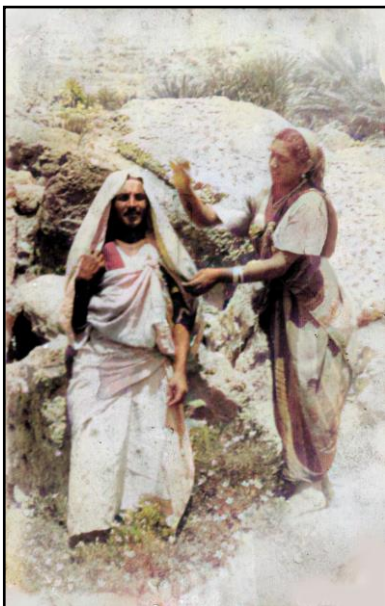


Photo 9 - 1939? (july-august?),
Rumia?

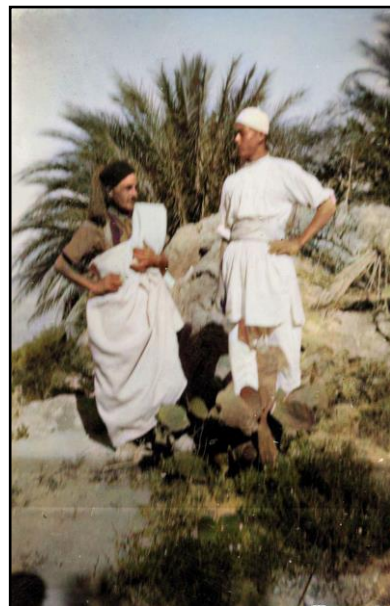


Photo 10 - 1939? (july-august?),
Rumia?

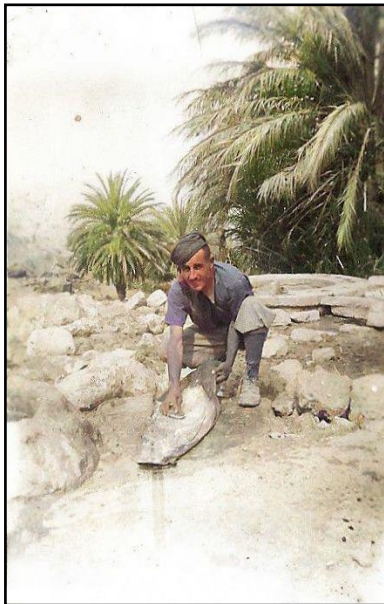


Photo 11 - 1939? (july-august?),
Rumia?



Photo 12 - 1939? (july-august?),
Rumia?

Photo 13, 14, 15 and 16 – September-November 1939, Tripoli.

The photos all have certain date and location.



Photo 13 - 4.09.1939, Tripoli



Photo 14 - 21.09.1939, Tripoli



Photo 15 - 25.10.1939, Tripoli.



Photo 16 - 27.11.1939, Tripoli

Photo 17, 18 and 19 – December 1940 - April 1941.

The photos all have a certain date. Only for the third location is available: Iefren about 130 km south of Tripoli.

In the first two photos my father has the same clothing and the presence of a pullover indicates a not warm climate, probably due to the winter period (December and January).



Photo 17 - 5.12.1940



Photo 18 - 11.01.1941

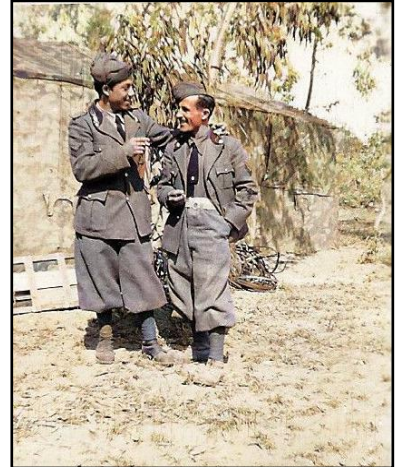


Photo 19 - 9.04.1941, Iefren

Photo 20, 21, 22 and 23 – 1941?, Tarhuna?

Only the first photo has certain date and location. However, some elements sequentially share the photos and leave me to speculate that the last three are from the same period and the same area. In fact:

- in pictures 20 and 21 my father has the same clothing;
- in the photos, respectively, 19 and 21 my father and a fellow gun man present protective glasses;
- in photos 20 and 23 there is the presence of the same puppy.



Photo 20 - 22.06.1941, Tarhuna

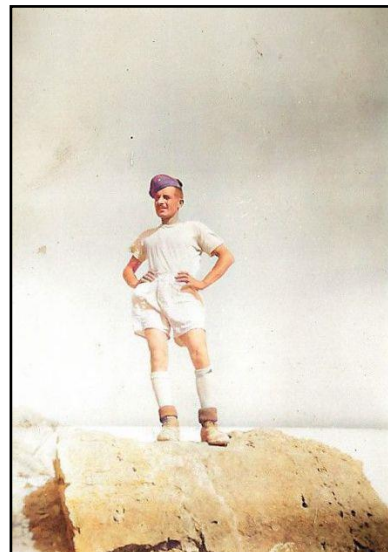


Photo 21 - 1941?, Tarhuna?



Photo 22 - 1941?, Tarhuna?

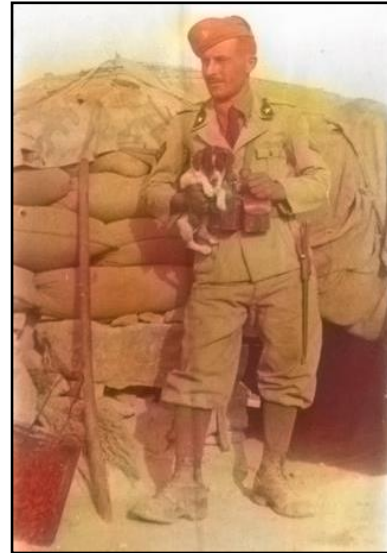


Photo 23 - 1941?, Tarhuna?

- Photo 24 and 25 – 2.12.1941, Tobruk.

It is likely that the indication referred to the area around the town of Cyrenaica as the fortress itself was only conquered in June 1942, when my father had already returned to Italy.

In both photos my father presents a look that could be read as of concern.

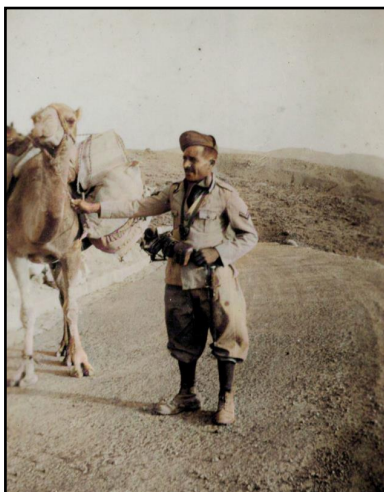


Photo 24 - 2.12.1941, Tobruk



Photo 25 - 2.12.1941, Tobruk

Photo 26, 27 and 28 – No place, no date.

The three photos appear to have been taken in a camp and offer similarities that are compatible with the assumption that they are united by place and period. In particular:

- in the first two photos there is the same subject standing: the second from the left;
- in photos 26 and 28 there is the same subject: respectively, the second seated and the sixth standing;
- in the last two you can see in the lower right a soldier (the same?) reading inside a tent.

In the first, my father's presence is uncertain. It could be the fourth standing from the left.



Photo 26 - Encampment.
Without place and date



Photo 27 - Encampment.
Without place and date



Photo 28 - Encampment.
Without place and date

Photo 29, 30, 31, 32, 33 and 34 – No place, no date.

The photos do not seem very associated except for the first two that would seem in a context of barracks.

The third and fourth, which have the same group as the fifth in which the words “*this first is me*”, seem to be taken at the sea or at a stream.

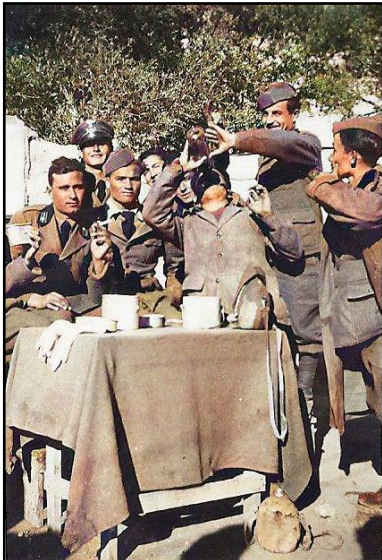


Photo 29 - Without place and date

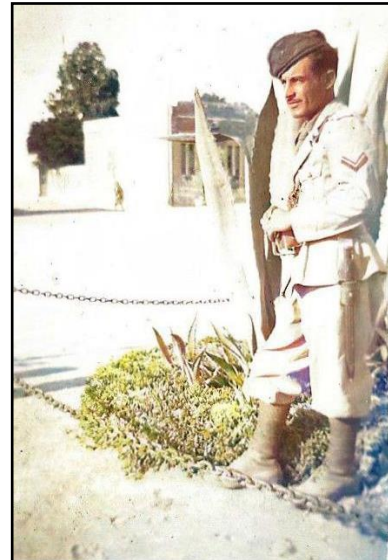


Photo 30 - Without place and date



Photo 31 - Without place and date



Photo 32 - Without place and date



Photo 33 - Without place and date



Photo 34 - Without place and date

Photo 35 and 36 – 2.06.2020, Bocche di Bonifacio and Porto di Civitavecchia.

In early June 2020 I (in the first photo on the right and the second on the left) and my nephew Eugenio Criscuolo, son of my sister Rosalba and then nephew by descent of Ignazio, went to Italy from Spain on board the Barcelona-Civitavecchia ferry of Grimaldi Lines.

On the 2nd we passed off Bonifacio and then landed at the Port of Civitavecchia, both places visited by Ignazio.



Foto 35 - 2.06.2020
"Strait of Bonifacio".



Foto 36 - 2.06.2020
Port of Civitavecchia

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Linkography

- 1 - <https://bit.ly/2QqCgpA>
- 2 - <https://bit.ly/3e5CtJt>
- 3 - <https://bit.ly/3hzBm68>
- 4 - <https://bit.ly/32rRiAH>
- 5 - <https://bit.ly/3ct13SR>
- 6 - <https://bit.ly/3ev3O7K>

- 7 - HISTORICAL DIARY OF THE SUPREME COMMAND. Copy of official reports from 1940 to 1943: <https://bit.ly/3igA5Ay>
- 8 - <https://bit.ly/2Qq7r44>
- 9 - <https://bit.ly/2EtaSoe>
- 10 - <https://bit.ly/3jgNc5c>
- 11 - <https://bit.ly/3hzBm68>
- 12 - <https://bit.ly/3gB77dL>
- 13 - <https://bit.ly/3hvv3jq>
- 14 - <https://bit.ly/34z0Xse>
- 15 - <https://bit.ly/31s5PgD>
- 16 - <https://bit.ly/3ht4bRx>
- 17 - <https://bit.ly/2W74ppa>
- 18 - <https://bit.ly/3hsYi71>
- 19 - <https://bit.ly/3aUcUts>

ANNEXES

N. 106 (50) del Cata
(R. 1939) 832

ESERCITO ITALIANO

(a) **Comando Distretto Militare - Catanzaro**
UFF. RECL. SEZ. MATR. SOTT. E TRUPPA

Arma (n) _____ Grado (n) _____

(b) **Foglio matricolare e caratteristico**

di (c) **Vasapollo Ignazio Antonino**
nato il **2 Gennaio** 1914 a **Niko Valutia** provincia di **CATANZARO**
di religione **cat.** N. di matricola **43140** del Distretto di **CATANZARO** (19)

(D) **CAMPAGNE**
Azioni di merito, decorazioni, encomi, ferite, lesioni, fratture, mutilazioni in guerra od in servizio

Ha partecipato dal **11-5-1940** al **12-4-1941** alle operazioni di guerra svoltesi in **Libia settentrionale** col **XX° Reggimento Genio Mobilitato** e dal **20-4-1941** al **23-3-1942** col **10° Battaglione Genio Speciale** **Genio Mobilitato**
Ha partecipato dal **29-3-1943** al **18-9-43** alle operazioni di guerra svoltesi in **Corcia** con la **29° Compagnia Genio Artieri Mobilitato**
Ha partecipato dal **9-9-43** al **11-10-1943** alle operazioni di guerra svoltesi in **Corcia** all'atto e subito dopo l'armistizio con la **29° Compagnia Genio Artieri Mobilitato**

Ha partecipato dal **12-5-1944** al **28-5-1944** alle operazioni di guerra svoltesi durante la **Guerra di Liberazione** con la **29° Compagnia Genio Artieri Mobilitato**.

Non ammesco a frutto dei benefici di combattente in quanto **declassato per dispersione**

Mobilato in zona di operazioni dal **5-10-1943** al **18-5-1944** trovasi nelle condizioni previste nell'ultimo comma dell'art. 1 del D. L. 4 marzo 1943, n. 137 - circ. 169 G. M. 1943 - come ratificato con la legge 23 febbraio 1952, n. 93.

Campagne di guerra anno **1940**
Campagne di guerra anno **1941**
Campagne di guerra anno **1942**
Campagne di guerra anno **1943**

MATRICOLA
N. 43170

del Distretto di CATANZARO

Indirizzo *Quarzo Autunno*
(Cognome e nome)
Residenza all'atto dell'arruolamento *Via Valeria*

DATI E CONTRASSEGNI PERSONALI CORRISPONDENTI SPECIALI, MATRIMONI E VEDOVANZE		(A) ARRUOLAMENTO, SERVIZI, PROMOZIONI ED ALTRE VARIAZIONI MATRICOLARI	DATA
Religione: (1)	Catt.	Capato 26.10.1914 Distretto	
Nato il	29.10.1914	Catanzaro quale individuo e coniato	
e	Vito Valeria	in famiglia all'arruolamento	21.10.1916
Provincia di	CATANZARO	Dele risponder alla chiamata alle	
Statura m.	1,53	armi belle e buone 1916	
Capelli: colore	cast.	Chiamato alla armi e partito	
Viso	Toroso	Ritornato in servizio individuale	
Nome	Vito	no per motivi personali e altri	
Matr.	neg.	a tutti 1.5.14 Dire. 208 G.H. 1.3.1914	
Occhi	cast.	esonerato ob. Chiamato	17.10.1917
Sopraciglia	cast.	Chiamato alla armi e partito	
Fronte	bruno	Chiamato alla armi e partito	
Colorito	bruno	Chiamato alla armi e partito	
Bocca	bruno	Chiamato alla armi e partito	
Dentatura	bruno	Chiamato alla armi e partito	
Segni particolari		Chiamato alla armi e partito	
Arte o professione	officiale	Chiamato alla armi e partito	
Se sa leggere	si	Chiamato alla armi e partito	
Titoli di studio (2)	Scuola	Chiamato alla armi e partito	
Capitoli extra professionali (3)		Chiamato alla armi e partito	



Spazio per la fotografia

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22

47

Foglio aggiunto al modello 106 del militare

MATRICOLA

N. 43140

Adolfo Denario (figliu)

del Distretto di Catanzaro (19)

(A)	ARRUOLAMENTO, SERVIZI, PROMOZIONI ED ALTRE VARIAZIONI MATRICOLARI	DATA	
	La 29 ^a Compagnia Artieri è rientrata al proprio domicilio	2-10 Dic. 1916	53
	La 30 ^a Compagnia Artieri è rientrata al proprio domicilio	2-10 Dic. 1916	54
	Presentato al Comandante Maggiore Carabiniere di Vico Valente	2-10 Dic. 1916	55
	adottato al deposito 20 ^o Reggimento Artieri	2-10 Dic. 1916	56
	Rilasciato in congedo illimitato ai sensi della circ. 15000 Mob.	2-10 Dic. 1916	57
	in data 17-4-1915 delle S.M.E. a dissenso del 17-4-1915	2-10 Dic. 1916	58
	La 30 ^a Compagnia Artieri è rientrata al proprio domicilio	2-10 Dic. 1916	59
	Mandato la congedo assoluto per proscioglimento del servizio	2-10 Dic. 1916	60
	Denunciato al Tribunale Militare di Catanzaro	2-10 Dic. 1916	61
	per il reato di cui all'articolo 116 C.S.M. 9. del Comandante	2-10 Dic. 1916	62
	Distretto Militare di Catanzaro con foglio d'ordine cui	2-10 Dic. 1916	63
	data 20/2/17	2-10 Dic. 1916	64
		2-10 Dic. 1916	65
		2-10 Dic. 1916	66
		2-10 Dic. 1916	67
		2-10 Dic. 1916	68
		2-10 Dic. 1916	69
		2-10 Dic. 1916	70
		2-10 Dic. 1916	71
		2-10 Dic. 1916	72
		2-10 Dic. 1916	73
		2-10 Dic. 1916	74

PARTICATO A CATANZARO.



UFFICIO DI CATANZARO

laereo

Campagne di guerra anno 1916

*Indicando con data prendere per il resto di stagione per
 coltivate per intersemita per stagione (Suntura v: 216 in data
 3-4-1973 del Quindici Settembre del Tribunale di Catanzaro
 di Napoli)*

PARIFICATO A CATANZARO. - 9 MAG 1973

Segretario P. e S. Sezione

Giuseppe



75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100 101 102 103 104

5-3 June 1973

PER USO PENSIONE

COMANDO DISTRETTO MILITARE DI CATANZARO
CENTRO DOCUMENTALE

• Del presente documento — dopo l'ultimo collocamento in congedo illimitato o assoluto — non vengono rilasciati ulteriori duplicati.

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E' copia fotografica dell'originale.

Catanzaro, li 31 GEN. 1978

Il presente documento consta di n. cinque
pagine legate a mezzo spillatrice, ciascuna delle
quali è autenticata dal sottoscritto con firma a
tergo e sigillo d'ufficio.

Vasapollo Ignazio Antonio 1914



IL CAPO CENTRO DOCUMENTALE

(Segr. Princ. Gagliano Lo Presti)

0749120 - di Matrice lo

Vasapollo Ignazio Antonio
nato 2/1/1944 V. Valente

Partito alle armi il 6/3-1938
inviato al 10° Genio S. M. Capo Tetue

Trasferito in Africa Settentrionale 8/4-1938
incorporato al 20° Reggimento Genio 1° Compagnia
esterna per compiere lo sbigo di Leta - Tripoli

Trattenuto alle armi 4/9/1939 con il grado di
Caporale in data 20/1-1939 -

Trasferito alla Volteriana Deposito munizioni
Distretto di Ruma Compini della Tunisia
20/7-1939 per fare le guardie fisse come risulta
nei documenti fino al 20/7-39 - al 4/3-1940 -

Dal 2/4-1940 Partito per la Cirenaica partecipando
al fronte di Dohun e Barotia dal 24/7-40 al 14/2/41 -

Dal 14/2-41 a Tobruk. 10/11-1941

Dal 10/11/41 ad En Alameina al 16/4-1942

Com. ~~risultato~~ risultato sul brevetto
rientrato in Italia del'istituzione del castro
con autorizzazione dei due decreti di premiare

Rientrato in Italia con un mese di Licenza
di avvicinamento il 18/4-42 - al 18/5-42 -

rientrato nella licenza al deposito 10° Genio Capua
trasferito 2/8-42 al 10° Genio Livorno
affidato alla 29ª Compagnia Artieri Lavoratori
di Livorno vecchia partita per la Corsica e imbarcato
a Livorno il 28/3/42 - e sbarcato ad Olbia

il 2/4-43 -

De Airoccio Partiti 7/6-43 - Per Bastia e Bastia e Bonifacio
De Airoccio Partiti Per il paese Ospedale 13/9-43
ultimamente illustratori di interruzione stradale e ponti
interrotti dai tedeschi tra Bonifacio e Ospedale
fino 26/4-44

Ripatriati in Italia imbarcati da Airoccio 24/5-44
Imbarcati a Rizzuolo il 6/5-44

~~Trasferiti~~ Trasferiti al fronte di Carrino 12/6-44 - al 28/8-44
Partecipando alla guerra di liberazione
Partiti di Carrino 28/8-44 - a Capracotta 14/12-44

Da Capracotta a Veruggio da permessa in tutto
in licenza da 15 giorni il 12 Luglio 1945

Presentamenti al Comando Tappa di Napoli

il 29/7/45 - il Comando Tappa di Napoli
mi ha riferito il foglio di viaggio per partire
comune di fortuna per raggiungere la mia
compagnia come risulta dal mio diario

foglio raggiungendo il comando ~~del~~ Tappa di
Desi ancora e diversi altri
~~di Desi~~ ma è anche impossibile intracciare
la mia compagnia, così ritornai indietro
mi presentai al Carabinieri di Desi Salento
mi intraddisero al 20° Reggimento fanteria Desi Salento
congedandomi con il decreto annesso

del ~~decreto~~ decreto articolo 1500 del
17 aprile 1945 da G.M. R.E.

Nell'atto Salento Congedo presentai tutti
i documenti in mio possesso

Cise foglio Matricolare ritirato dal 20° Genio
foglio matricole e ultima licenza come
supra.

Various documents: cards and certificates



PARTITO COMUNISTA ITALIANO
TESSERA N° 1862789

Rilasciata al compagno Vasafullo Ignazio
nat. d. il 2.1.1914 a Vieste
Prov. di BN
abitante a Vito Via S. U. S. S. S. S. S.
di professione Commerciante
nel Partito dal 1956
iscritt. alla Cellula
della Sezione Gravina
Fed. di BN Prov. di BN

IL SEGRETARIO GENERALE
DEL P. C. I.
G. Ingrao

IL SEGRETARIO DELLA SEZIONE
Vasafullo Ignazio

La tessera non serve come documento di identità

QUOTE MENSILI

GENNAIO	FEBBRAIO	MARZO
GIUGNO	AGOSTO	SETTEMBRE
OTTOBRE	NOVEMBRE	DICEMBRE

Il compagno che non paga le quote non adempie ai suoi obblighi verso il partito e dopo tre mesi di morosità può essere colpito da sanzioni disciplinari.



FEDERAZIONE PROVINCIALE
Di Catanzaro
SEZIONE DI VIBO VALENTIA

GRADO COGNOME E NOME Caporale Vasafullo Ignazio d. Andrea
PROFESSIONE mulatore
DECORAZIONI E CAMPAGNE DI GUERRA 1940-1945
QUALIFICA DEL SOCIO combattente

DATA D'ISCRIZIONE 11.5.1947

FIRMA DEL SOCIO
Il Presidente della Sezione
Vasafullo Ignazio

ASSOCIAZIONE NAZ. COMBATTENTI E REDUCI
SEZIONE DI VIBO VALENTIA

Il Partito Comunista Italiano è l'organizzazione politica dei lavoratori italiani, i quali lottano in modo conseguente per la distruzione di ogni residuo del fascismo, per l'indipendenza e la libertà del Paese, per la edificazione di un regime democratico e progressivo, per la pace fra i popoli, per il rinnovamento socialista della società.

Possano iscriversi al Partito Comunista Italiano tutti i lavoratori onesti di ambo i sessi che abbiano raggiunto il 18° anno di età, indipendentemente dalla razza, dalla fede religiosa e dalle convinzioni filosofiche. Ogni membro del Partito è tenuto ad accettare il programma politico e lo Statuto del Partito, a lavorare in una delle sue organizzazioni e a pagare regolarmente la tessera e le quote.

Ogni iscritto al Partito Comunista è tenuto:

- a partecipare regolarmente alle riunioni e a svolgere attività di Partito secondo le direttive della organizzazione cui è iscritto; a realizzare nel suo campo di attività la linea politica del Partito;
- a migliorare di continuo la propria conoscenza della linea politica del Partito e la propria capacità di lavorare per la sua applicazione; approfondire la conoscenza del marxismo-leninismo;
- ad osservare scrupolosamente la disciplina del Partito;
- ad avere rapporti di lealtà e fraternità con gli altri membri del Partito;
- ad avere una vita privata onesta, esemplare;
- ad esercitare la critica e l'autocritica per il miglioramento della sua attività e di quella del Partito;
- a vigilare e difendere il Partito contro ogni attacco;
- a fare con la parola e con l'esempio opera continua di proselitismo.

(dallo Statuto del Partito Comunista Italiano)

1956

COSTITUZIONE
DIRITTI DEL LAVORO
P A C E

PARTITO COMUNISTA ITALIANO

L. 100

CAMER

SINDA

Rilasciata o **PROSP. 114**

Roma, 29. 1. 1945.

Algo. Vassallo

BOLLINO

Febbraio 1954	Marzo 1954	Aprile 1955	Maggio 1955	Giugno 1955
Maggio 1954	Giugno 1954	Luglio 1955	Agosto 1955	Settembre 1955
Luglio 1954	Agosto 1954	Ottobre 1955	Novembre 1955	Dicembre 1955
Ottobre 1954	Novembre 1954	Dicembre 1954		

PAGARE OGNI MESE IL BOLLINO
SIGNIFICA CONTRIBUIRE AL SUCCESSO
DELLE NOSTRE LOTTE.

FER LA C.G.I.L.

Segr. Gen.

COMITATO NAZIONALE
REDUCI DALLA PRIGIONIA
COMITATO SEZIONALE VIBONESE

Tessera di riconoscimento N. 212

Il commilitone Vassallo

di Ignazio

nato a Antonio

provincia di Vibo Valentia

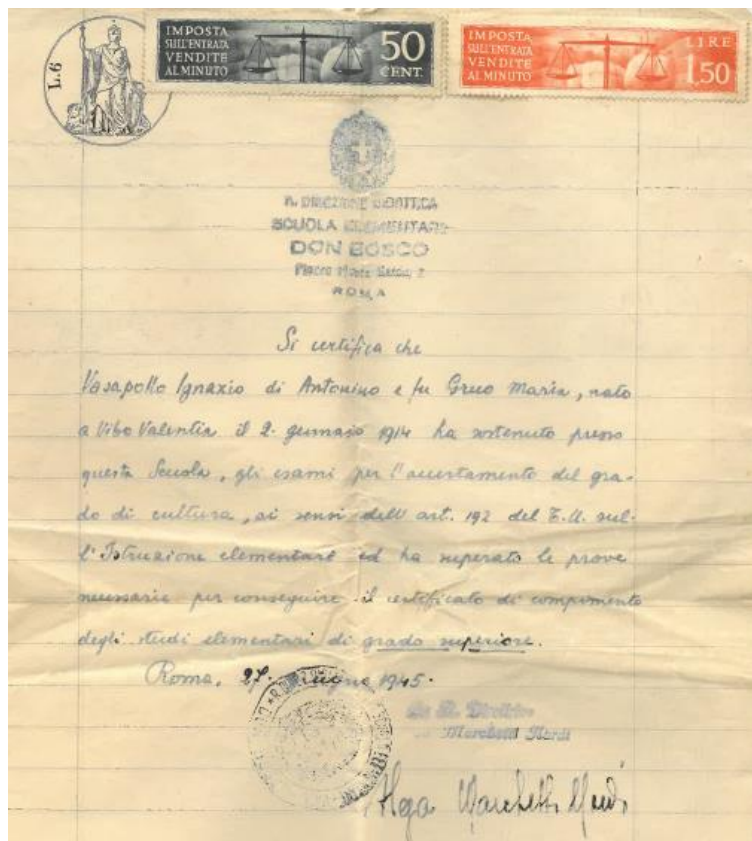
il 3 Gennaio 1914

è iscritto al Comitato Nazionale Reduci

Vibo Valentia, 13.1.46

IL PRESIDENTE

1. di 1946



 **CITTÀ DI VIBO VALENTIA**
(PROVINCIA DI CATANZARO)

STAZIONE DI SOGGIORNO E TURISMO - D. M. 21-7-1938

N. di prot. Uff. Vibo Valentia, li 14.1.1972

Risposta a nota n. Sig. Vasapollo Ignazio

del Div.

Alligati n. Vibo Città

OGGETTO: Attestazione

IL SINDACO

sulla scorta dei ruoli matricolari esistenti in archivio e sui registri dei soccorsi militari

A T T E S T A

Che Vasapollo Ignazio cl.914 ha usufruito dei soccorsi militari durante i seguenti periodi (1.11 1943 - 1.3.1944) con un importo di lire 204 quindi, cinale.

Che a riscuotere detto soccorso era delegata la di Lui moglie, Tambuscio Anna.

A richiesta dell'interessato per uso aggiornamento foglio matricolare.

 IL SINDACO

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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