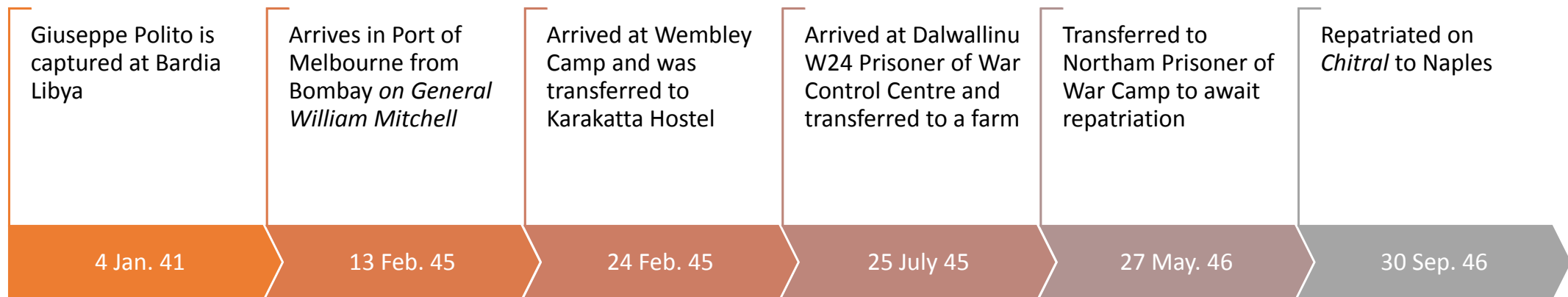




Giuseppe Polito
PWIX68172

ITALIAN PRISONERS
MARCHING ALONG
THE BARDIA ROAD.



Libya and Egypt



Battle of Bardia

Bardia is a small town on the Mediterranean coast of Libya, in the region of Cyrenaica, approximately 30 kilometres from the Egyptian border. During the early decades of the 20th century it was developed as a military outpost during Italy's colonisation of the region. Prior to the Second World War it was fortified by the construction of an arc of defensive posts, 29 kilometres long, around the town and its small harbour.

Bardia was the site of the first battle fought by Australian troops in the Second World War. On the morning of 3 January 1941, troops of the 16th Brigade of the 6th Australian Division attacked and broke through the western face of the defensive perimeter, while the 2/6th Battalion mounted a diversion in the south. Troops of the 17th Australian Brigade joined the fighting later in the morning to clear the southern portion of the Italian defences, while the 16th Brigade advanced toward Bardia itself.

Bardia was captured late in the afternoon of 4 January, but Italian resistance in the southern portion of the perimeter, which had been particularly determined, did not cease until the morning of 5 January; the diversionary force had encountered the toughest fighting of all. The attack had cost the 6th Division 130 men killed and 326 wounded but netted them approximately 40,000 Italian prisoners and large quantities of arms, rations, equipment, and alcohol. All of which was put to good use by the Australians. (AWM)

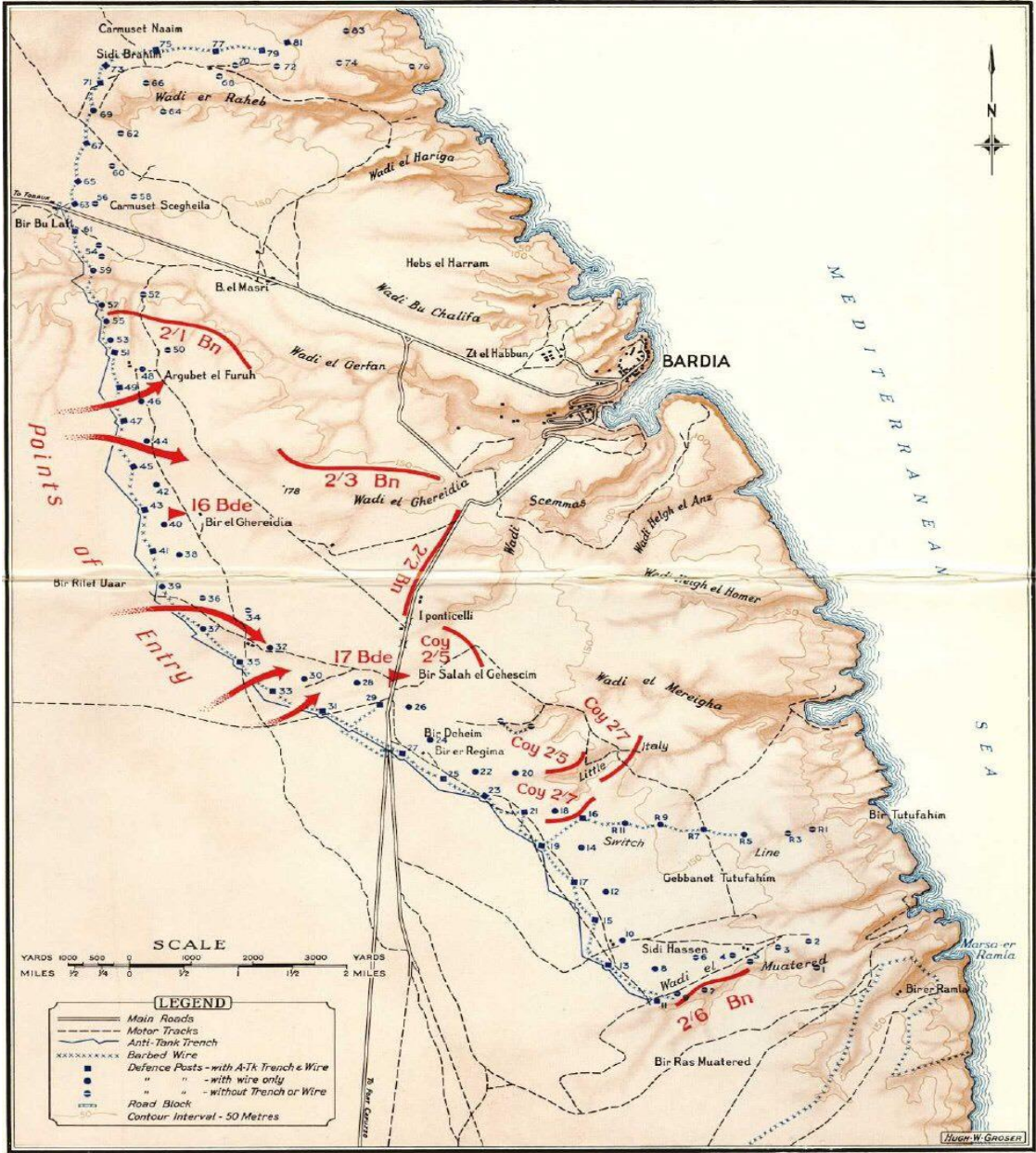


AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

004931

Australian War Memorial, Battle of Bardia,; Keating, Geoffrey (Major), The Western Desert Campaign Image E1579, Imperial War Museum; Hurley, Frank, Bardia 5th January 1941, Image 004931, Australian War Memorial

Bardia: arc of
defensive posts
29 km long



Map of Battle of Bardia, Position at Dusk on 3rd January 1941, from Battle of Bardia Wikipedia

Prisoner of War

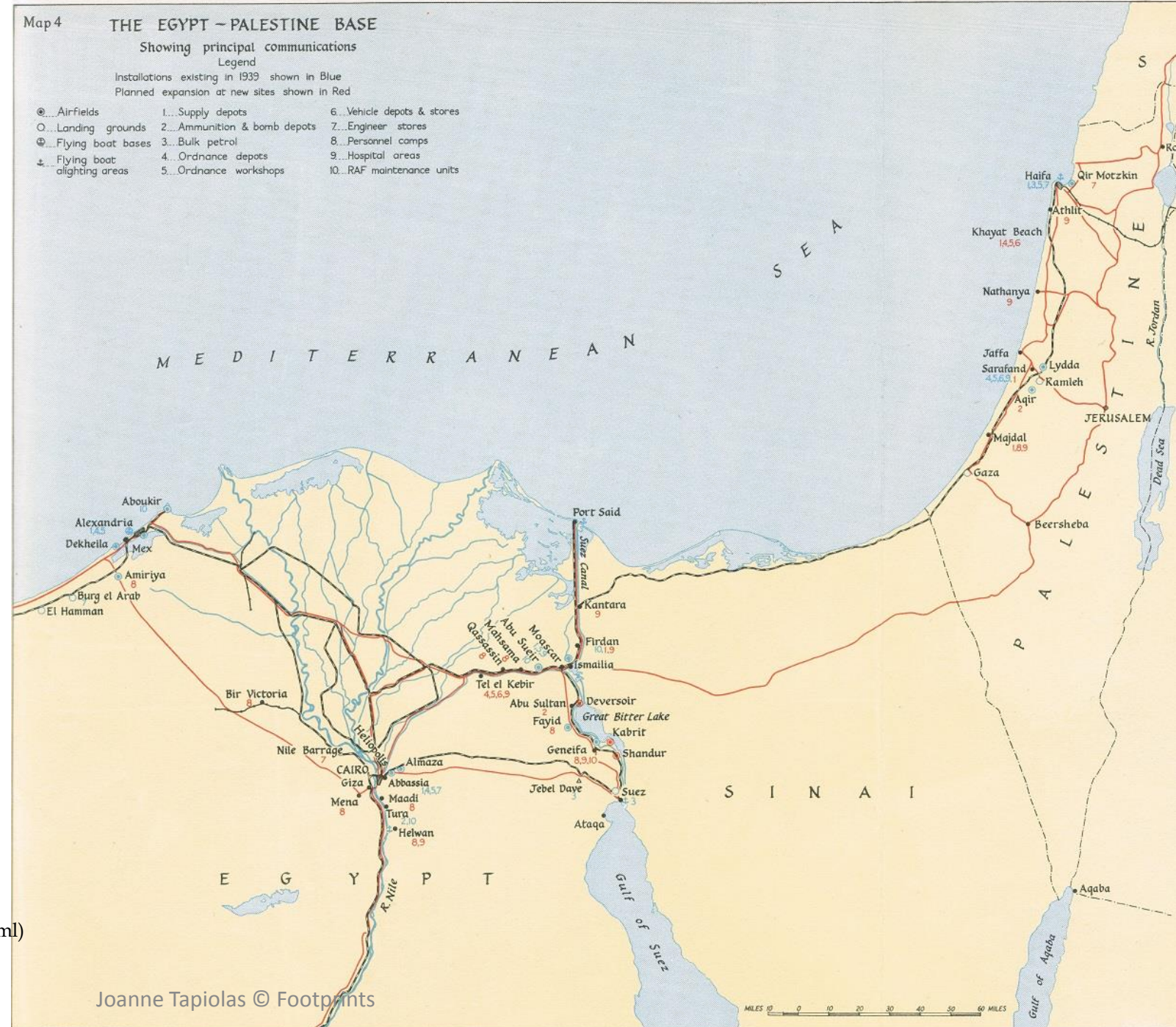
Initially the prisoners were held in temporary camps in North Africa before being processed and shipped to places around the world for detainment for the duration of the war. They were impounded in caged compounds near place of capture. They were then transported to temporary camps. Some of these first tented camps were in Alexandria, Ismailia, outside Cairo and along the Suez Canal: Bitter Lake, Fayed, Geneifa and Port Suez. The POWs were also camped near Wadi Sara Palestine (Yesodot Israel) and entrained from Haifa Israel.

They were places with limited water rations, very little food and too much sand and dust.

An Italian POW, Umberto Cofrancesco, reached Alexandria by ship and then was moved to Port Said by train.

Geneifa in the Sinai is mentioned as the place where the Italian prisoners of war were processed and M.E. Number assigned.

(Hyperwar, Map 4 The Egypt- Palestine Base, page 59,
<https://www.ibiblio.org/hyperwar/UN/UK/UK-Med-I/UK-Med-I-4.html>)



CARD TO BE USED FOR NOTIFICATION OF CAPTURE ONLY

AF. W. 3054 (Substitute)

1180

PRISONER OF WAR

Postage Free

Franco di Bollo

Nome Illuzzi

Cognome Lorenzo

No. Matr. 159950

Grado Artiglier

Unità 201. Substina

Data e luogo di nascita: 20. 4. 1900

Giovinazzo

Nome padre: Nicola

Nome madre: Leonestina

No. dell' Internato: 113680

Indirizzo: Illuzzi Lorenz.

Italian Prisoners of War Camp

113 - PNEO - 10,000 - 1141

Egypt

COMITE INTERNATIONAL
aux prisonniers de la CROIX-ROUGE
Agence Centrale
des Prisonniers de Guerre
GENEVE

137

1180

Stignar

Illuzzi Nicola

Via Celendano 135

Giovinazzo

Italia (Bari)

Notification to Family

These two cards are examples of the notification sent to families about the captured Italians.

The first card was used for *Notification of Capture Only*.

The second card was used to notify family that their loved one had been Transferred to Australia.

Once in Australia, there must have been a card used to notify family of their place of imprisonment and address details for correspondence.

Transf'd to Australia R-1 2/136/11/4.

PRISONERS OF WAR. N° 113680 M. E

Number 6.5.41

Surname ILLUZZI Names LORENZO

Rank Sold. Unit 23 Marzo Regt Art. L.

Date of Birth 20/4/30 Place of Birth G. G.

Surname & Name of Father Nicola

Name of Mother

Address & relationship of Person to be notified as to dates & place of Capture place of Internment, wounds, subsequent Casualties (Death, accidents, wounds etc.)

Casualties: See Reverse.

Father: Via Celendano 35

Giovinazzo - Bari

D.L. 586

Cards Courtesy of Pastore, Vitoronzo Giovinazzo (Bari) Illuzi Lorenzo Internato in Australia

India Prisoner of War Camps

Giuseppe was sent to India from a POW Camp in Egypt. Some of these camps were Ramgarh, Bangalore, Bairagarh, Ahmednagar, Yol and Ceylon. The Italians suffered disease in India eg malaria, typhoid, dysentery. The tropical conditions of humidity and torrential rain was unbearable.

... life was monotonous and over time many of the men felt they were forgotten and became more desperate. Health was the most serious worry. At the camp, at Ramgarh many succumbed to beriberi and typhoid fever, 'at an alarming rate'. The camp turned into a sea of mud and was filled with mosquitoes when the rains started. Several hundred Italians died while interned during the war in India, some from natural causes but the majority from illnesses caught while in confinement. For prisoners of war of all different nationalities, the war was characterised by a long, testing time of waiting in camps, longing for letters and hoping that their own news was getting through.

Khan, Yasmin, *The Rah at War: A People's History of India's Second World War*
ICRC Guerre 1939-1945, British India Group V Italian Prisoners of War VP HIST-03470-34



Being a POW in India

Umberto Cofrancesco:

Living conditions in the POW camp of Ramgarh were particularly harsh. Umberto tells about his suffering and diseases:

"From March 41, closed in barbed wires we had to suffer not only because we were imprisoned, but also because of the great heat of India, almost unbearable. And when later, in the month of June 41, the rains began, we, the prisoners, we had to drink dirty water, with the same color as the earth. And this was the cause of serious diseases which made several soldiers die in the RAMGARH camps."

Even Umberto got sick. Pleurisy!

"I began the day 28-6-41 to be sick with low fever, steady pain at my back (shoulder).

Medical diagnosis: Pleurisy."

And together with pleurisy, many other illnesses.

"Tonsillitis, headache, tiredness, rheumatism, bone pains. During the imprisonment I was tormented by diseases, which left serious injury for life."

The physical examinations occurred very often. Umberto notes carefully the dates and diagnoses.

"Physical examination

28-6-41

7-7-41 pleurisy

24-7-41

29-7-41 pleurisy

30-7-41 "

8-9-41 "

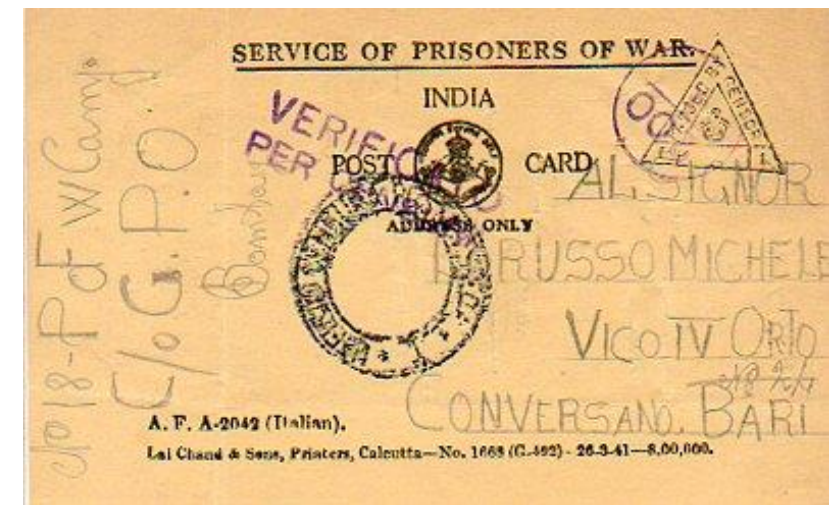
16-9-41 "

The year 1942 did not start any better than the previous one. Umberto's health condition had become worse and it was requested that he be given a "complete physical examination", in view of a possible repatriation.

"Day 7 February 1942. Passed a complete physical examination by the English at Ramgarh hospital S. P.te. Day towards the end of March 1942. Passed a complete physical examination by the International Commission at the Ramgarh hospital for Repatriation."

But obviously, it had nothing to do with the "Repatriation" (written with the first letter in capital, for its great importance. It was not just a word, but a dream, a mirage). The Commission must have decided that Umberto had not suffered enough and that his health allowed him to continue that very painful life of the POW camp.

(http://cofrancesco.net/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=64&Itemid=86&limit=1&limitstart=6)



(<http://www.pastorevito.it/conversano-bari-lorusso-donato/>)

Prisoner's of War History Sheet.		P.O.W. No.	
PART I.		141184	
SURNAME.	*Christian Names.	Nationality.	Rank, Regiment & Regimental No.
SOLIANI	Genesio	Italiana	Sold. 10 Regt. Bersaglieri
Date and Place of birth.	Civil Occupation.	Date and place of capture.	Relationship and address of next of kin.
21-10-1916 Sompiasacco Mantova	Farmer	5-2-41 Agrolabia	Father. Soliani Eliseo Via S. Zaccaria 26 Sompiasacco Mantova
PART II.			
Date.	Entry.	Date.	Entry.
1-5-41	Arrived in Ceylon		Imprisoned in M. A. Camp. Ceylon
23-1-42	Transferred from No. 4 camp. Ceylon		" " " 2/A Camp
15-5-42	" " " No. 2/A camp. 7 Bangalore		" " " 8 camp. 5 Wing.
1-5-42	" " " No. 5 Wing 8 camp		" " " 1 Wing. 3 camp.
4-2-44	Go to 5 camp from camp 4		



Italian Prisoners of War
Camp. Group 4. During
monsoons

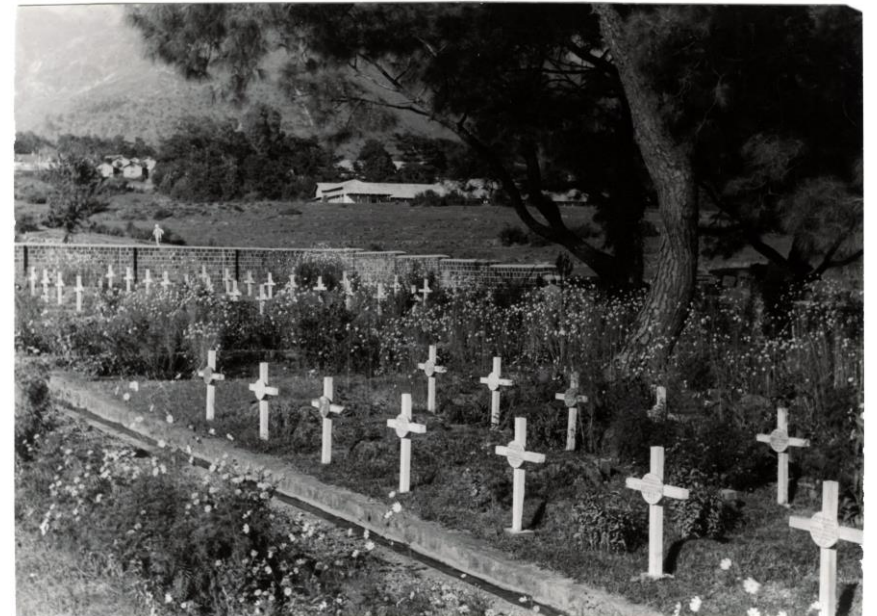


Bangalore Camp 7 Italian
Prisoners of War standing
in front of decorated
gardens

Photographs from the collection of the ICRC



Cooks at Camp 25 Wing 3



Graves of Italian Prisoners
of War Bangalore Group 5
10/1944



General William Mitchell

The *General William Mitchell* departed Bombay on 30th January 1945 with 2076 Italian Prisoners of War. The ship arrived in Port of Melbourne 13th February 1945.

*“During the autumn of 1944 and through the spring of 1945, General William Mitchell called twice at Bombay India, as she redeployed and rotated troops in the China-Burma-India theatre. On the first of these voyages she sailed from New York via Panama and Australia, putting in at Bombay 7 October and embarking veterans for passage to Australia and America, and finally mooring at San Diego California, 17 November 1944. **Her second passage to India took her from San Pedro via Tasmania to embark Allied troops and Italian prisoners of war at Bombay; she subsequently off-loaded the POW's at Melbourne; loaded dependent wives and children in New Zealand and returned to San Pedro 3 March 1945.**”*

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_General_William_Mitchell_\(AP-114\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_General_William_Mitchell_(AP-114))

Origin of PWIX

DPW(AG13)/NA

SECRET
SECRET

Army Form C.2118.
(Adap ed.)

WAR DIARY OF INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.
(Erase heading not required.)

Unit AG13 Date and Time. From 0900 hrs 16 Jan 45 To 1730 hrs 16 Jan 45 *Serials 1133*

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
LHQ MELBOURNE	16 Jan 45		(A) PRISONERS OF WAR.	
			1. Signal A1360 from Milbase Brisbane advising 96 Jap PW for Cowra entrained Sth Brisbane 15 Jan.	255/10/85
			2. Signal A1352 from Milbase Brisbane advising arrival 4 Jap Army O/R PW 2 Chinese ex NG 13 Jan.	255/10/85
			3. Signal A1419 from Milbase Brisbane advising arrival 3 Jap offrs 2 Jap navy O/R PW ex Philippines 15 Jan.	255/10/85
			4. Signal PW 1305 from Westcom advising recapture PWG 41705 REIMER Fritz L/Cpl 13 Jan 45.	
			5. Signal A 1352 from Milbase Brisbane advising arrival one Jap merchant seaman arrived Brisbane 13 Jan.	255/10/85
			6. Signal to Milbases Sydney and Melbourne approving transfer 1 Jap PW Class B and PWI 48049 FUDA Francesco to Murchison.	255/18/348
			7. Memo to W Comd and all areas directing that 3000 Italian PW from India with possible pro Fascist sympathies be designated by the prefix PWIX, and setting out manner and conditions in which such PWIX will be employed.	

PWIX
Pro Fascist

(AWM52 1/1/14 Headquarters Units January to April 1945)

Departure from Bombay India

SECRET 31/1

DPW (AG13) / CM **WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.** **SECRET** Army Form C. 218. (Adapted)

(Erase heading not required.)

Unit AG13 Date and Time.—From 0900 hrs 31 Jan 45 To 1730 hrs 31 Jan 45 Serial No. 1148

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
INQ MELBOURNE	31 Jan 45		A. PRISONERS OF WAR:	
			1. Signal A5018 from Milbase Brisbane advising arrival 5 Jap Army C/R PW ex NG 29 Jan.	255/10/25
			2. Cable 1005 from H/C London advising UK propose approach Germany re head for head exchange British Commonwealth PW against Germans from NW Africa and Middle East (incl merchant seamen) British PW to be selected from those captured before 1 Jul 1940, date line for Germans 1 Jul 1943. Views of Aust Govt sought on this proposal.	
			3. Signal Q3183 from Embn Bombay advising 2076 Italian PW transhipped General Mitchell for Australia 30 Jan 45.	
			4. Memo to HQ Vic L/C Area approving extension of boundaries of PWCC Corryong to cover existing applications from property owners in Tallangatta area for labour of not more than 25 Italian officer PW.	255/21/1

2076 Italian
PW depart
Bombay
30.1.45

(AWM52 1/1/14 Headquarters Units January to April 1945)

Arrival in Melbourne

DPW(AG13)/NA		WAR DIARY OR INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.		SECRET	SECRET	Army Form C.2118. (Adap ed.)
Unit <u>AG13</u>		Date and Time. From <u>0900 hrs 16 Feb 45</u> To <u>1730 hrs 16 Feb 45</u>		Signal No. <u>1164.</u>		
Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.		
LHQ MELBOURNE	16 Feb 45		(A) PRISONERS OF WAR.			
			1. Signal AG2504 from Milbase Melbourne advising 2076 PWI disembarked 13 Feb. Two casualties to 115 AGH, three troublemakers to Murchison all deducted from Sandy Creek quota.			
			2. Signal AQ 3591 from Milbase Adelaide advising 845 PWI arrived Sandy Creek 14 Feb in two trainloads 500 and 345.			
			3. Signal PWI 1667 from Milbase Sydney advising 409 and 466 PWI arrived Cowra 14 Feb totalling 875 not 876 as previously advised. Further check being made.			
			4. Memo to Attorney General's Dept requesting that instructions be issued for Deputy Commonwealth Crown Solicitors to prepare defence and assign counsel for PW who are to be tried by civil courts, the cost of legal expenses to be borne by Dept of Army.	255/2/628		
			(B) TANKS			

Arrival:
13.2.45

(AWM52 1/1/14 Headquarters Units January to April 1945)

Movement from Melbourne to South Australia

SECRET

DPW(AG13)/KC **WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.** **SECRET** Army Form C.2118.
(Erase heading not required.)

Unit AG 13 Date and Time.—From 0900 hrs 20 Feb 45 To 1730 hrs 20 Feb 45. *Same to 1168*

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
LHQ MELBOURNE	20 Feb 45		<p>A PRISONERS OF WAR.</p> <p>1. Signal A5015 from Milbase Brisbane advising PWI46547 PEDUTO A. entraining Brisbane 19 Feb for Hay to serve court martial sentence.</p> <p>2. Signal AG3060 from Milbase Melb advising PWIX ex India moved as follows 876 to NSW 845 to SA 350 to SA for on move to WA.</p> <p>3. Memo to HQ NSW L of C Area approving transfer of PWI 46636 RESTUCCIA Antonio from 113 (Concord) Mil Hosp to suitable accommodation in Vic 1 of C Area. PW has been added to roll of those recommended for repatriation.</p> <p>4. Memo to HQ Vic L of C Area, approving reduction of allocation of PWCC V4 Leongatha by 80; these 80 PW to be disposed of by increasing V11 Warragul by 30 and V7 Yarram by 50.</p>	<p>P/2/2446</p> <p>44/431/4</p> <p>215/18/266</p> <p>255/30/4.</p>

Allocation
to
Western
Australia

(AWM52 1/1/14 Headquarters Units January to April 1945)

Arrival in Western Australia

SECRET
SECRET

DPW(AG13)/KG **WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.** Army Form C.2113.
(Erase heading not required.)

Unit AG 13 Date and Time.—From 0900 hrs 26 Feb 45. To 1730 hrs 26 Feb 45. *Serial 101174*

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
LHQ MELBOURNE	26 Feb 45.		A <u>PRISONERS OF WAR.</u>	
			I. Signal PWI322 from Westcom advising 155 PWIX arrived 24 Feb 44/431/4. casualties nil.	

Giuseppe arrives in
Western Australia
24.2.45

(AWM52 1/1/14 Headquarters Units January to April 1945)

Marrinup and Wembley

Giuseppe arrived in Western Australia 24.2.45. His card records that this group of 155 Italian prisoners of war went to Wembley Camp WA on 24.2.45 and were then transferred to Karakatta Hostel which was a distance of 5 kilometres.

Marrinup was the parent camp for all Italian prisoners of war in Western Australia. Marrinup is in the state of Western Australia. Giuseppe's paperwork is assigned to Marrinup as the parent camp.

Giuseppe's Service and Casualty Form indicates that he did not spend time at Marrinup.

Marrinup Prisoner of War and Internment Camp No. 16 housed 1200 Italian and German prisoners of war. The Italians and Germans were in separate compounds.



Accommodation Hut at Marrinup
(<http://www.wanowandthen.com/Marrinup.html>)



Footprints of Marrinup Prisoner of War Camp
<http://www.wanowandthen.com/ghost-towns14.html>

LR AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES A.A.F. A. 112
Revised, May, 1941
Reprinted January, 1942

INTERNEE PRISONER OF WAR — SERVICE AND CASUALTY FORM Identification No. PWIX. 68172
M.E.125871

Rank _____ Pte _____ Other Names Giuseppe Surname POLITO
(BLOCK CAPITALS)

Date of Capture 4/1/1941 Nationality Italian
Place of Capture Bardia Marital Condition Married
Date of Birth 26/8/1914 Next of Kin POLITO Emilia
Place of Birth Sacco Address of Next of Kin Via Sopra Piazza 24
Trade or Occupation Farmer Sacco Prov Salerno
Religion RC. Relationship Wife.

REPORT SERVICE: Identification—Colour of Hair Black Eyes Hazel
18118WA Army. 15 Battery 65.17 (8 years) Distinctive Marks Vertical Scar on centre of forehead.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS SPACE

Date	From whom received	Record of all casualties regarding appointments, transfers, postings, attachments, &c., forfeiture of pay, wounds, accidents, admission to and discharge from Hospital, Casualty Clearing Stations, &c., date of disembarkation and embarkation from a theatre of war, and any matter affecting a prisoner of war.	Date of Casualty	Place of Casualty	Authority A.A.F.A.113, or other Document	Signature of Officer Certifying Correctness of Entries
	<u>Marine</u>	<u>Marche de pin ex India</u>	<u>24.3.45</u>	<u>Marine</u>	<u>NROLL</u>	<u>Shale</u>
<u>2.8.40</u>		<u>to Kassaratta</u>	<u>34.3.45</u>	<u>"</u>	<u>NROLL</u>	<u>Shildanball</u>
		<u>to W.24 Salvalim on Kassaratta</u>	<u>28-7-45</u>	<u>"</u>	<u>197/1/45</u>	<u>B Ken</u>
<u>28.5.46</u>	<u>Northam</u>	<u>Marched in to W22</u>	<u>27.5.46</u>	<u>Northam</u>	<u>40/6/46</u>	<u>G. Mildenhall</u>
<u>30.9.46</u>		<u>Repatented H.T. Central</u>	<u>30.9.46</u>	<u>"</u>	<u>26/6/46</u>	<u>Osya</u>

"Truth" & "Sportsman."

National Archives of Australia

NAA: MP1103/1, PWIX68172

MP103/1 and MP103/2 Polito, Giuseppe

Joanne Tapiolas © Footprints

A.A. Form A.111(b)
In pads of 50
(Revised Mar, 44)

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

REPORT ON PRISONERS OF WAR

1. P.O.W. No. PWIX 68172 Rank Pte Surname (in block) POLITO Other Names Giuseppe Nationality Italian

2. Date of Birth 26.8.1914 Private Address VIA SOPRA PIAZZA 24
Place of Birth SACCO SACCO PROV SALERNO
Occupation Farmer
Religion R.C. Unit Regimental No. M.E. 125871

3. Place of Capture BARDIA Port of Disembarkation MELBOURNE
Date of Capture 4.1.1941 Date of Disembarkation 13.2.45
Port of Embarkation BOMBAY Ship GENERAL MITCHELL

4. Camp Interned WEMBLEY Date of Internment 24.3.1945

Height	Weight	Complexion	Hair	Eyes	Marks, if any, including Scars, &c., of old wounds.
5.6.	154	Dark	Black	Hazel	Vertical Scar on centre of forehead

5. Medical Report No. _____ 6. Personal Effects:—NIL

7. Particulars of Recent Wounds or other injuries received in action:—NIL Character of Wounds or Injuries, e.g., slight, serious, &c.:—NIL

8. Special Observations (if any):—NIL

9. Statement of Service:—
(Reserve, Regular, Naval, Air, &c.) 15 Battery 65.17 (8 years)

10. Marital Condition:—
Married or Single Married Next of Kin Wife
Name of Wife EMILIA Address of Next of Kin _____
Children 1 Male - Female _____

11. Father's Name (in full) POLITO Carmine
Mother's Pre-marriage Name (in full) SALOMONE Rosa

(Sgd) POLITO Giuseppe (Sgd) L MARSHALL Capt
Signature of P.O.W. for Camp Commandant
Date 27 / 2 / 45 Date 1 / 4 / 45

National Archives of Australia

NAA: MP1103/2, PWIX68172

Karrakatta

A large pile of scrap tires, mostly from military vehicles, is shown in the background. The tires are stacked in a way that creates a textured, layered appearance. In the foreground, several individual tires are scattered on the ground, some lying flat and others slightly propped up. The scene is set outdoors, with some trees visible in the distance.

Karrakatta Hostel (Hostel 8 POW Labour Detachment).

At the end of the war, Australian Army facilities were closed down. At Karrakatta the Italians were involved in: restoration defence areas and army projects. Karrakatta was an army salvage unit: recycling tyres, cardboard and metal objects.

Giuseppe was at Karrakatta from 24.3.45 to 25.7.45.

KARRAKATTA, WA. 1943-08-28. PILE OF SCRAP TYRES AT HEADQUARTERS, 5TH AUSTRALIAN SALVAGE UNIT, WHICH WILL BE SENT TO NEW SOUTH WALES FOR PROCESSING. (AWM Photographer Arthur John Faithfull)



Giuseppe was sent to work on a farms in the Dalwallinu district. He arrived 25 July 1945 and departed 27 May 1946.

Prisoner of War Identity Card

Once in Western Australia, the Italian prisoners of war were issued with an Identity Card. It was a record of registered employer and place of employment.

(4)	(1)	(2)	(3)
<p>IMPORTANT Importante</p> <p>LOSS OF THIS CARD MUST BE REPORTED Perdita Di Questa Carta Bisogna Essere</p> <p>IMMEDIATELY Reportata Immediatamente</p> <p>ANY PERSON FINDING THIS CARD SHOULD TAKE IT AT ONCE TO THE NEAREST PRISONER OF WAR CONTROL CENTRE, POLICE STATION, or V.D.C. HEADQUARTERS.</p> <p>L.H.Q. Press—1096—3/44—10m.</p>	<p>AAF. A116 (Introduced May, 1943)</p> <p>32 PF No.....</p> <p>DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA</p> <p>IDENTITY CARD PRISONER OF WAR</p> <p>Number and Name of Holder.....61892 ARICI Antonio.....</p> <p>Nationality.....ITALIAN.....</p> <p>Date and Place of Birth.....3/10/15. FLORENCE (FIRENZA).....</p> <p>Next of Kin.....FATHER: - Luigi: - VIA CALVISANO GHEDI (FIRENZA).....</p> <p>Name of Parent P.W. Camp.....13 P.W. GROUP MURCHISON.....</p> <p>Date of Entry into Australia.....26/4/44..... SS MOUNT VERNON</p> <p>Date of Issue.....16 JUL 44.....</p> <p>Signature of Camp Comd.....<i>[Signature]</i>.....</p>	<p>PERSONAL DESCRIPTION</p> <p>Height.....5 ft. 8 ins.</p> <p>Build.....M. Slender</p> <p>Colour of eyes.....Blue</p> <p>Colour of hair.....Brown</p> <p>Notable marks.....Scar on R. side of back of head</p> <p>Remarks.....</p> <p>Signature of Holder:— Firma Del Titolare <i>Antonio Arici</i></p> <p>Finger prints taken from— Left Hand Right Hand</p> <p>Finger.....</p> <p>Finger.....</p> <p>PHOTOGRAPH Full Face and Profile</p> <p><i>[Two photographs of Antonio Arici, one full face and one profile, with labels "IT 61892 PW" and "IT 61892 PW"]</i></p>	<p>REGISTERED EMPLOYER</p> <p>Name.....S. GOODCHIEP</p> <p>Address.....MURKIN BUDIN</p> <p>Date: From.....16 JUL 1944..... To.....8 NOV 1944</p> <p>CONTROL OFFICER.....<i>[Signature]</i> PWCC: W19. Signature of Prisoners of War Control Officer</p> <p>REGISTERED CHANGES OF EMPLOYERS</p> <p>Name.....M.F. MARRDOCK</p> <p>Address.....MURKIN BUDIN</p> <p>Date: From.....8 NOV 1944..... To.....15/1/46</p> <p><i>[Signature]</i> PWCC: W19. Signature of Prisoners of War Control Officer</p> <p>Name.....</p> <p>Address.....</p> <p>Date: From..... To.....</p> <p>Signature of Prisoners of War Control Officer</p> <p>Name.....</p> <p>Address.....</p> <p>Date: From..... To.....</p> <p>Signature of Prisoners of War Control Officer</p>

NAA: K1174, Arici Antonio



Volunteering for Farm Work

The Prisoners of War received a set of written instructions and contractual agreement which they were required to sign. Clause 8. Form of Understanding was provided in Italian and English:

Io sottoscritto..... Prigioniero de Guerra No..... avendo fatto richiesta per un'occupazione remunerativa per un periodo di mesi sei a partire dalla data di questa mia richiesta, dichiaro che compiero qualsiasi lavoro che mi verra assegnato durante il suddetto periodo. Inoltre, mi sottopogno volontariamente alle regole di disciplina accettando le rate di paga stipulate per soldati semplici prigionieri di guerra per qualsiasi period di tempo durante il quale tale lavoro sara richiesto da me.

McInnes, Geoffrey, Yanco, NSW. 1944-02-01. Italian prisoners of war (POWs) from No. 15 POW Camp picking Tatura Dwarf Globe tomatoes which they have grown for seed on the unit's vegetable farm. C282252, Australian War Memorial;

NAA: A373, 6221, Employment of Italian Prisoners of War 1941-1946, National Archives of Australia

Main operational procedures and regulations for PWCC: Without Guards

- Prisoners were allowed to send two letters or two postcards or one letter and one postcard every week on approved Service of Prisoners of War Notelopes and postcards.
- Army to supply the prisoner with clothing (magenta dyed issues) underwear, footwear, blankets (4) and 1s/3d per day credit.
- Army to supply in accordance with Empire Policy from United Kingdom free issues of cigarettes: 35 cigarettes or 35 grams of tobacco per week.
- Prisoners allowed on a Sunday between 10 am and 4pm to go freely up to a mile from the property but to be wearing magenta dyed clothing.
- Army to issue free one razor blade per week subject to exchange of worn blade.
- Army to provide medical and other services and transport to and from medical facilities.
- Mobile canteen to visit farms on a regular basis to sell provisions: tobacco, matches, toothpaste, soaps.
- Prisoners attending Church services will not intermingle with Australian civilians at church or on the way to and from church.
- Prisoners to work a six day week.
- Farmer to pay to the PWCC £1 per week per prisoner of war.
- Prisoners were not to congregate with other prisoners.
- Prisoners were not to go to towns, shops or other houses.
- Prisoners were not allowed to leave the farm except to attend religious services.
- Farmer to supply the prisoner with food, accommodation and bedding.
- Army to supply farmer with ration cards for prisoners.
- Prisoners were not to receive money or gifts.
- Prisoners were not to send letters other than through official channels.
- Prisoners were not to fraternise with the public especially women.



MARIAMAR, Christmas Card 1941,
AICPM;

W24 Prisoner of War Control Centre Dalwallinu

1945 came along and we were still on the farm, as petrol was so short we could not go anywhere.

There were some Italian prisoners-of-war coming to Dalwallinu to help the farmers with the farm work, as it was impossible to get help. I went in to the Army Camp in Dalwallinu and got two Italians (they had been captured in North Africa and been in P.O.W. camps in India and Egypt for nearly 4 years). One was an older man, he was named "Joe" and had been a cook in Florence, and a younger one named "Aldo", who had been a mechanic in some motor works in Turin. They started work on the farm in March 1945. They were both very good workers and very happy to be in Australia and having plenty to eat. We had their coupons for butter, tea, meat and their clothing.

The Italian P.O.W.'s proved to be very good workers and the farm work went along smoothly.

Aldo and Joe helped put the crop in before they were to be repatriated home to Italy. Both men requested that I hide them back of the rabbit-proof fence when the Army officials came to pick them up to take them down to the Army camp in Northam 1946.

After the Army came and took the Italians down to Northam Camp prior to sending them back to Italy, we had to get someone to help with the work. We got two Italians from Perth, Frank – a young Italian, and Bongiovanni, a married man with children. They helped with the shearing jobs – not the actual shearing – but picking up the wool and helping to yard the sheep etc. Wool buyers worried me very day.

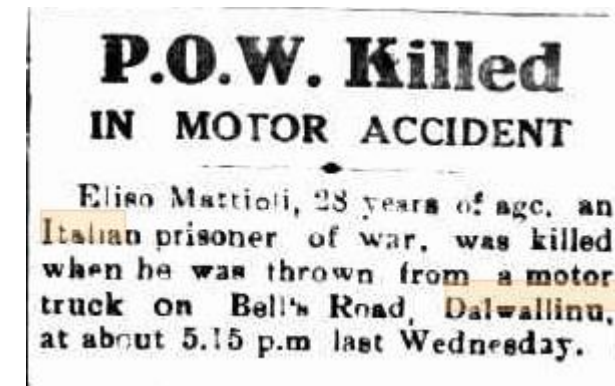
Max Davies

Lost Dalwallinu Facebook Group

During the years of the Second World War (1939 to 1945) the farm workforce was seriously depleted as their young men volunteered for military service. Doug remembers when prisoners of war were allotted to help on the land: "We had two Italians and they were certainly not farmers – one was a barber!"

George Douglas McNeill (Doug)

Lost Dalwallinu Facebook Group



1945 'Advertising', *North-Eastern Courier* (Perth, WA : 1923 - 1955), 6 April, p. 4. , viewed 07 Oct 2020, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article257566548>

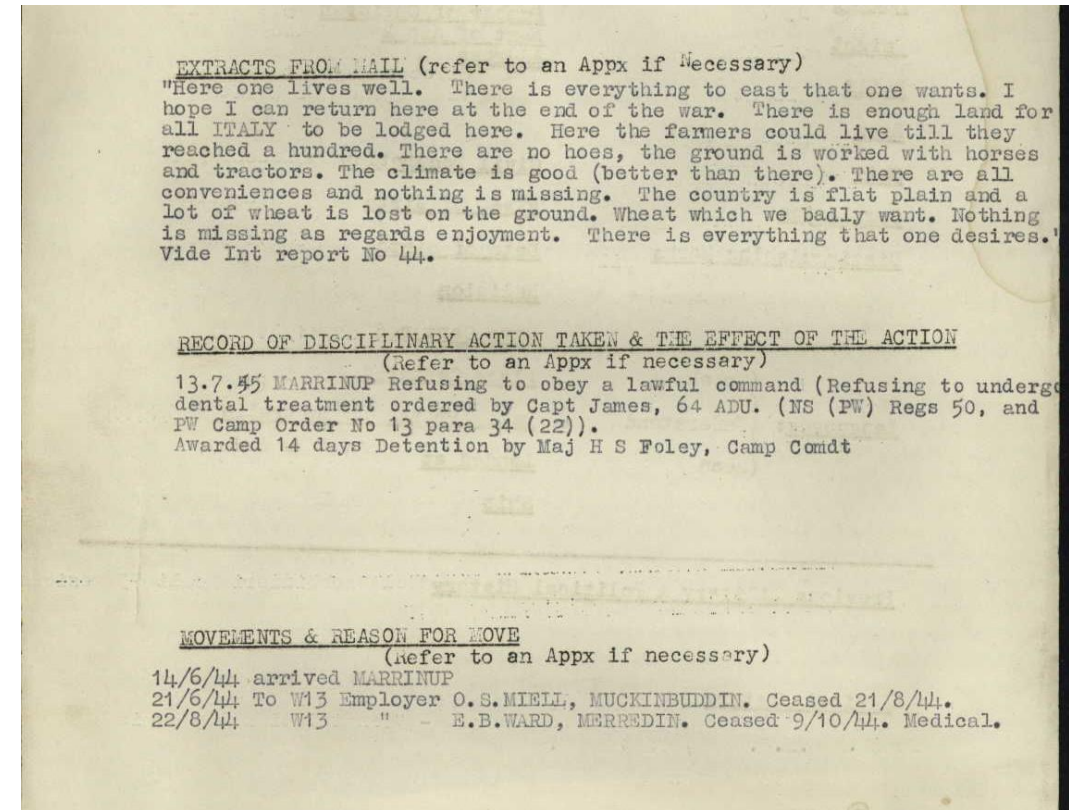
Through the Eyes of an Italian POW

Donato Caruso worked at the farm of Oscar Miell at Mukinbudin WA in 1944.

His words explain how Italian prisoners of war on wheat farms in Western Australia saw life in Australia.

In his file is a translated copy of a letter he wrote:

"Here one lives well. There is everything to eat that one wants. I hope I can return here at the end of the war. There is enough land for all ITALY to be lodged here. Here the farmers could live till they reached a hundred. There are no hoes, the ground is worked with horses and tractors. The climate is good (better than there). There are all conveniences and nothing is missing. The country is flat plain and a lot of wheat is lost on the ground. Wheat which we badly want. Nothing is missing as regards enjoyment. There is everything that one desires."



NAA: K 11174 Caruso Donato

Three POW Missing From Karrakatta

Three Italian prisoners of war escaped on Saturday night from their camp at Karrakatta.

Thirty-three Italian p.o.w. are now missing from camps in this State. Those who made a get-away on Saturday were.

G. Giugliarelli (35), 5ft. 8in., 10 st. 3lb., rosy complexion, brown hair, hazel eyes.

Adolfo Umili (34), 5ft. 5in., 9st., dark complexion, black hair, green eyes.

Angelo Sabbioni (28), 5ft. 9in., 12st. 3lb., dark complexion, light brown hair, hazel eyes.

Anyone with information likely to lead to their recapture is asked to get in touch with Provost headquarters (B 8875 or B 3143) or with the nearest police station.

1946 'Three POW Missing From Karrakatta', *The Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950)*, 22 July, p. 2. (HOME EDITION), viewed 28 Aug 2019, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article77820241>

Withdrawal of Italian prisoners of war from farms

Italian prisoners of war were withdrawn from farm work at the beginning of 1946. This move was in preparation for repatriation to Italy.

When the Italians were informed that they would be going home soon, some 40 Italian prisoners of war in Western Australia escaped from the camps. These Italians wanted to stay in Australia.

Italian Prisoners

THREE ESCAPEES SURRENDER

SEVENTEEN STILL MISSING

Perth, Jan. 22.—In the hope of early repatriation to their homeland, three Italian prisoners of war who have been missing for some months surrendered themselves to the military police at Karrakatta camp yesterday morning. Their return leaves only 17 men missing in this State.

The Italians were. Antonio de Matteis, who escaped on July 22, 1946; and Desiderio Greggio and Carmon Buonocunto, who have been missing since October 22 last year.

A Western Command spokesman again appealed yesterday to anyone knowing the whereabouts of any escapee to notify the nearest civilian police station or military police. Those escapees who did not return before the Orontes sailed next week would not receive the same benefits of immediate repatriation after they had been released from detention, but might be kept in custody here for an indefinite period.

1947 'Italian Prisoners', *Kalgoorlie Miner (WA : 1895 - 1950)*, 23 January, p. 2. , viewed 28 Aug 2019, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article95592611>

Northam POW Camp

Northam Camp was established as a transit camp for the Italians to wait for repatriation. It had been an Australian Army Camp.

Northam Prisoner of War Camp housed 3500 Italian POWs.

Giuseppe arrived in Northam Camp 27 May 1946. He departed Australia on 30 September 1946.



Masonry block with Italian POW inscription dated 24091946. Courtesy NACHA, 2010.
<http://northamarmycamp.org.au/storylines/pow/the-italian-pow-experience/>

ITALIAN P.O.W. (1946, May 16). *The West Australian* (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), p. 6. Retrieved December 10, 2017, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article50341410>

ITALIAN P.O.W. ASSEMBLING AT NORTHAM.

Many Wish to Stay Here.

NORTHAM, May 15.—The Northam military camp has once more become the scene of considerable activity—it is now the Italian prisoner-of-war camp for the State. Gradually P.O.W. are being brought in from all centres and at present, it is believed, there are upwards of 2,000 at the camp. When those at present on farms in the eastern districts are withdrawn, on or about May 27, the camp's complement of Italian prisoners will be about 4,000. It is understood that the P.O.W. may be at Northam for as long as three months.

Many farmers are regretting the loss of men whom they have trained for a year or more and who in many cases have proved excellent farmhands. Their loss at the seeding period will be felt considerably.

In many instances, it is believed, the Italians are not looking forward to returning to their own country. There are several reasons for this attitude. Some have become genuinely attached to the farming life in this State and, given the opportunity, might return to it. Some are concerned about the political and economic condition of Italy; while others have to contemplate returning to homes from which loved ones have been removed by war.

Taken on the whole the relationship between the P.O.W. and the farmers has been mutually satisfactory and, in many cases, there have sprung up between employer and employee mutual feelings of respect and regard.

Repatriation proposed on *Chitral*

WAR DIARY ~~or~~ INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C2118
(adapted.)

(Erase heading not required).

PAGE 65

Unit AG13

Date and Time.—From 1st Sep 46 To Sep 46

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices, Diaries, &c.
ARMY MELBOURNE	1 Sep 46		<u>ENEMY PW & I:</u> NIL	
			<u>AUST PW & ADM:</u> NIL	
	2 Sep 46		<u>ENEMY PW & I:</u>	
			1. Commands have been instructed to submit recommendations regarding the dental treatment of PW & I.	
			2. Commands have been informed that except in exceptional circumstances Italian PW will not be repatriated to former Italian colonies.	
			3. GHQ CMF have been advised of the proposed repatriation of 2800 Italian PW on the "Chitral".	
			<u>AUST PW & ADM:</u> NIL	

2.9.46
Arrangement for repatriation of 2800 Italian PW on *Chitral*

2500 ITALIAN P.O.W. LEAVE ON MONDAY

Repatriation of 2511 Italian prisoners of war from this State next week will leave only 424 Italian prisoners and 15 Germans in Western Australia.

A spokesman at Western Command Headquarters said today that one Italian medical officer and 2510 other ranks would embark in the *Chitral* on Monday for repatriation to Italy.

At present held at Northam camp, the prisoners would be taken by train direct from Northam to Fremantle wharf.

First train would leave Northam a minute after midnight. The draft would travel on four trains. It was hoped to have them all embarked by 3 p.m.

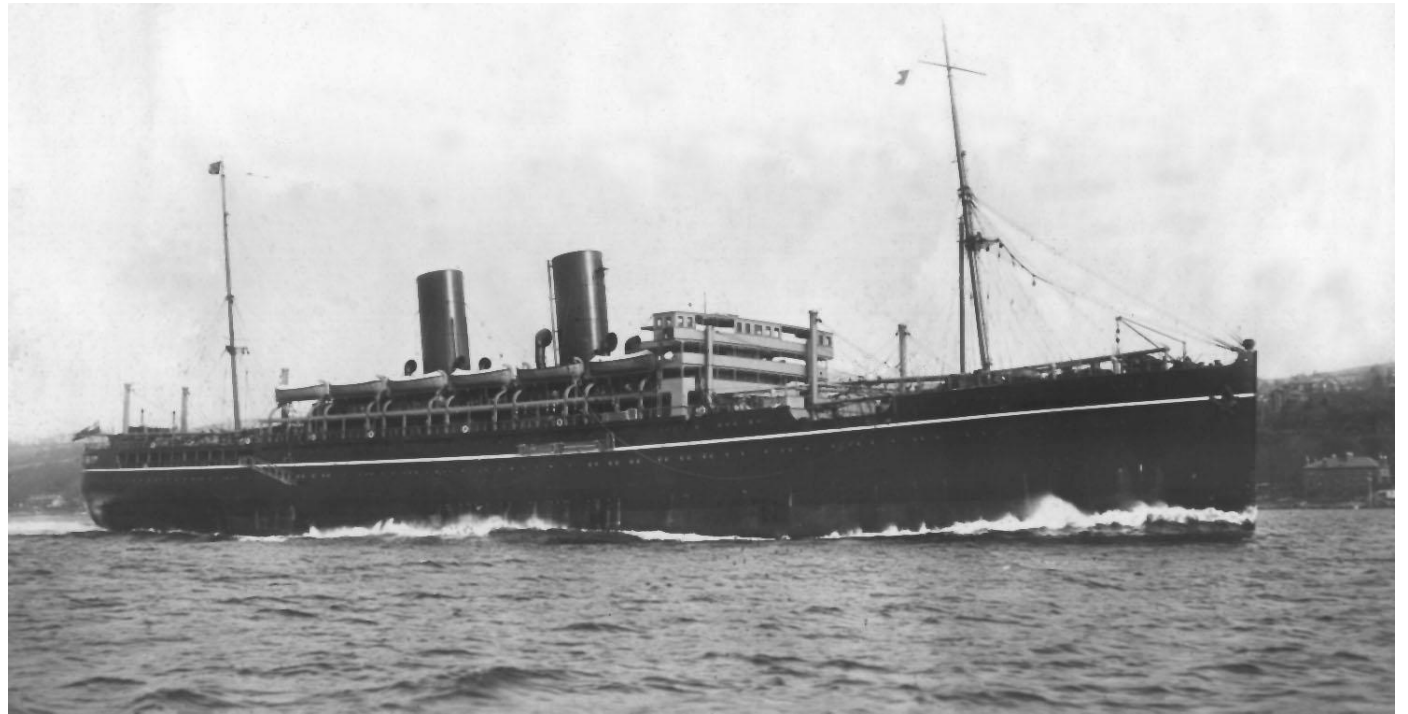
They would travel under a normal army escort.

The prisoners would receive a comforts issue, including cigarettes, on board the ship. They would take with them the army blankets issued to them at Northam, and these would be returned at the completion of their voyage.

Rations would conform to the normal troopship scale.

Before leaving Northam all prisoners would be searched for weapons or articles of civilian clothing. They were not permitted to take any rationed goods from Australia.

It is expected that the remaining Italians will leave Western Australia during the next two weeks, but nothing is known of the proposed disposal of the 15 Germans.



1946 '2500 ITALIAN
P.O.W. LEAVE ON
MONDAY', *The Daily
News (Perth, WA : 1882
- 1950)*, 27 September,
p. 10. (HOME
EDITION), viewed 28
Aug 2019,
[http://nla.gov.au/nla.n
ews-article78267376](http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article78267376)

Giuseppe was repatriated on *Chitral*. In total there were 2798 Italian prisoners of war onboard: 51 officers and 2747 ordinary ranks.

He left on the *Chitral* on 30th September 1946 and arrived in Naples Italy 30th October 1946.

Return to Italy

The murmur of the returning prisoners of war had grown to a loud babble as they saw the Italian warships huddles ingloriously against the naval mole and two large liners burned out and rusted lying on the bottom of the city Side. Another liner had capsized just beneath the eastern mole, and in the centre of the docks, an American troopship was discharging across the hull of another capsized and rusting casualty. This they observed in a second and then all eyes were turned to the nearest quay which was clearly made ready to receive us. Stevedores were busy trundling gangways, there were lines of trucks drawn up, lines of carabinieri and here and there the scarlet caps of British military policemen.

Then all at once the prisoners seemed to see in the shadow of the damaged gallery rows and rows of dark-clothed men and women, and a good many children too. These struggled and shouted and gesticulated from beyond the police cordon in the shadows striving to make themselves heard above the yelling of soldiers and stevedores and the raucous braying of a brass band which struggled on to the quay without a conductor and burst at once into a rendering more vigorous than accurate of "Funiculi, Funicula".

As we tied up alongside the braying of the unco-ordinated band and the shoutings of the soldiers increased women screamed in hysterics and yelled up the decks for Antonio, Giuseppe or Giovanni. Some of the more cautious had prepared placards with the names of their loved ones in bold lettering and they struggled on to empty oil drums and concrete posts, waving them above the heads of the jostling crowd. Not a moment was lost, and the plum-coloured uniforms became to stream down the two gangways clutching blankets and kitbags home made wooden suitcases and canvas rucksacks, walking in a quick orderly line towards the reception group and waiting trucks beyond the crowd.

1946 'Naples—When Italian Prisoners Return Home', *The Advertiser* (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954), 21 November, p. 6. , viewed 22 Apr 2018, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article35767842>



Italian prisoners of war return to Naples, Italy 1945
(Critical Past)

The extract describes the return of Italian POWs on the *Chitral* in 1946. The photo dates from 1945 and shows a group of Italians repatriated from USA and arriving in Naples.

Parcels to Italy

After the war, for Italians living in invaded and bombed areas of Italy, life was one of deprivation. Food shortages, roads and railways destroyed, rubble littered streets, disappearance of residential areas and displacement of people.

A Western Australian farmer who had employed Italian POWs wrote to the *Western Mail*, encouraging other Australians to send parcels to their Italian POW families and explaining their circumstances.

Helping former P.O.W. farm workers

... I have been sending frequent parcels to an Italian P.O.W. who worked for us... Many farmers in this State were appreciative of the help given by prisoners of war during a period when labour was scarce and I am sure that if they knew the tragedy of these men's lives on their return to Italy many farmers would gladly send assistance to them now.

Most of the parcels take as long as six months to reach Italy and the quickest delivery of all those that I have sent was just over three months. Two parcels I posted in April reached Naples at the end of October. Our G.P.O. informed me that there are three groups of parcels, namely food, toilet articles and clothing and these goods must not be mixed. Clothing must be secondhand or if new duty must be paid by the receiver in Italy. Toilet articles can include soap, shaving gear, toothbrushes etc and food which seems to be the most appreciated is spaghetti in tins, vermicelli, baked beans, milk and jam, dipping, dried fruits, tinned cheese and tinned meat. Clothing is very badly needed as the winter is commencing in Italy and clothing of all kinds is very scarce.

My P.O.W.s family had not seen toilet soap for five years until they received my parcel and they had not had an egg for three years. Incidentally they consider themselves among the more fortunate Italians despite the fact that they often receive only one meal a day.

The weights of parcels can be 3, 7 or 11 lb. each including the wrappings. I pack mine in light cartons and sew them up in unbleached calico and so far they have arrived in good condition. The 7lb. parcel seems to be the best size.

APPRECIATIVE.

(Western Mail (Perth, WA: 1885-1954), Thursday 27 November 1947, page 67)



A young boy, dressed in tattered clothes and bearing a poignant smile, in war-torn Naples Italy July 1944.

Photo by Lt Wayne Miller



Girl holding a toddler, Naples, Italy 1944. Photo by Lt Wayne Miller



In 1946, in Italy, children carry rocks from a war destroyed building to help rebuild their town.

UNICEF/Romagnoli