

An English Summary

This website contains the diary written day-by-day by G.B.Cerutti, a code officer (Lieutenant) of the Royal Italian Navy, in the five camps (Luckenwalde, Tarnopol, Siedlce, Sandbostel, Wietzendorf) where he was kept prisoner by the Nazi regime from September 1943 (he was captured in Greece after the armistice between Italy and the Allied) through April 1945, as he was liberated by the British Army in Northern Germany. He was able to come back to his hometown of Genoa and his workplace at the 'Italian Line Inc.' as late as in the August of the same year.

The title (all titles are by the editor) highlights despair and sense of dignity as the two poles of Cerutti's experience in the two years of 'military internment', as the Third Reich defined the lesser status of the 'treacherous' Italian servicemen. This interpretation of the diary is developed in the postface written by the author's son and editor Furio, a professor emeritus at the Università di Firenze.

The website also contains a testimony of the massacre of Italian Navy officers and seamen perpetrated by the Wehrmacht at Argostoli on the Greek isle of Cefalonia. This report, based on the description given by a fellow prisoner, was collected by Lt. Cerutti in the Siedlce Stalag. Both this document and the diary were neither modified after 1945 nor published until now.

Interested readers are free to download the two documents by G.B.Cerutti as well as the postface without any charge. In case they are quoted in publications or other media we only ask to cite this website as source. Photos can also be downloaded at the request of the user, provided this request is specifically motivated in writing (please send us a message using the appropriate device on this website).