

- Dante Spallanzani – matriculation number 59152 – Born in Sampierdarena



(Genoa) on Aug. 9, 1907, lived in Milan, Viale Lombardia, 11 – Arrested on March 11, 1944 – Deported to Mauthausen, then transferred to Gusen and finally to Melk-Quarz – Deceased at Melk (subcamp to Mauthausen) on Jan. 31, 1945. He lived an experience similar to Panizza's, to Carlo Annovazzi's, who was head department of Panizza's mother (previous experience) and both were arrested on the evening of Saturday, March 11. Spallanzani lived at 11, Viale Lombardia in Milan where he lived with his wife Bianca, her niece Liliana and since September 1943 his brother Gino (who he had adventurously settled at Caproni rescuing him from the nefarious consequences of September 8, 1943.

Gino (my father) was a conscript -class of 1920- of the Military Engineering Corp, he had been on the French front for a truly brief time, then Albania/Yugoslavia/Greece from 1940 until 1943. In the Summer of 1943, he came down with jaundice and he was therefore repatriated and sent to Trieste (after a brief stop in Gioia del Colle in the South of Italy) at the hospital> and there he was stationed in those crucial first ten days of September. Most of the



the hospitalized military personnel “escaped” trying to return to their homes disguised as civilians facing the relative dangers. My father remained at the hospital preferring to write to his brother Dante asking for advice. Dante, already a member of the underground struggle in the ranks of the PCI, was aware of the

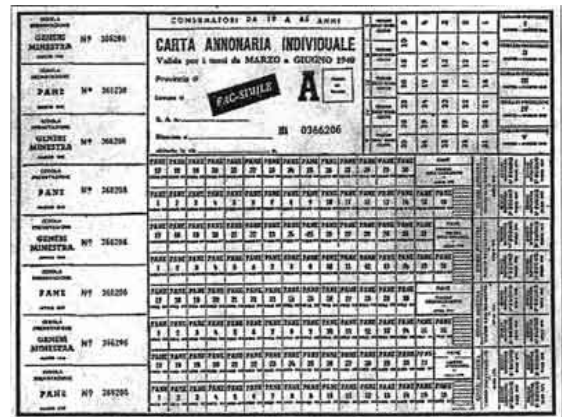


danger and immediately took action and with forged papers picked him up from the hospital, hence rescuing him from deportation and forced labour under the Nazis. He prepared a documentation stating that his brother, already a skilled turner, was an employee of Caproni, a company engaged in the war effort (they manufactured airplanes). He presented himself at the hospital to the picket officer with a comely blonde woman whom he passed off as his wife; once he got to his brother he was longed told him in Genoese dialect: “kiss her, pretend she is your sister in law”, my incredulous father acted accordingly. He had managed to get my father hired at the

Caproni plant to exempt him from his military obligations, and thus settled him with his family in Milan at 11, Viale Lombardia where he stayed until the end of the war. The house is still there (foto 2009).



In these two years (from September 1943 until the summer of 1945) my father was not officially a resident in Milan although he lived with his brother in the apartment on the 5th floor (with a view from the inner courtyard onto Viale Gran Sasso). Not being an official resident, he had no right to a ration card and therefore the whole salary he received from Caproni was entirely spent on the black market. Dante, as mentioned above, was now a militant PCI activist, and as was in his character he had thrown himself into it body and soul. The clandestine partisan activity had become his reason of living. One morning, probably in February 1944, just before the big March strike, Dante and



Gino, as every morning, were on their way to Caproni when suddenly all the streetcars were stopped by the fascist militia for a check. The streetcars that queued up were several and the wait was long. Gino was not a partisan, but however he was antifascist and was aware of his brother's clandestine activity. In Genoese he asked him "te ghe ninte, vero? (You don't have anything, do you?) Dante replied without leaking any emotion "no, no ninte" (No, no nothing). Then two men of the militia, a graduate and simple militiaman, boarded the streetcar, which was particularly crowded as it was the rush hour, and the search was relatively hasty. My father was searched, then the militiaman passed to Dante but he, taking

advantage of the proximity of the graduate said: "again? Your mate already checked me". My father whitened and once they got off the streetcar Dante showed the inside pocket of his coat full of clandestine leaflets.....Gino called him irresponsible but years later reporting the episode my father simply said to me: "Dante was like that".

After his arrest on Saturday evening, March 11, the path will be similar in the first part to almost of the more than 500 fellow travellers in convoy 34: first the local commissariat in Piazza San Fedele, where his wife Bianca and her niece Liliana were to see him for the last time, then the San Vittore prison, the Umberto I barracks in Bergamo, the Bergamo train station and then Mauthausen, Gusen, Mauthausen again and finally Melk his last tragic destination. His sister Bruna



(1909-1992) preserved various newspaper articles pertaining the search of her brother i.e., the Caproni CLN statement in FEDE NUOVA – Mazzinian independent newspaper

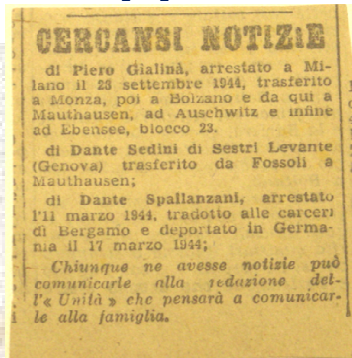
of Genoa – on November 5th, 1945, page 4 titled "Our martyrs": Dante Spallanzani, our companion, first at games then at school and at work and always of faith.



Modest of physique and of meek character with a most generous heart, a maximalist socialist, member of the Matteotti socialist youth club in 1925, he always knew how to hold his point even in the tough times. He was a born and instinctive socialist. Always glad to give to everybody. He was a tenacious and strong-willed worker, he moved with his family to Milan and after July 25 he gave vent to his bursting faith and, because of his precarious health conditions, he devoted himself to the SAP of the factory. When discovered he was

sent to Germany to swell up the already too immense ranks of our martyrs. He never returned....but we are waiting for him (quote from PASINI).

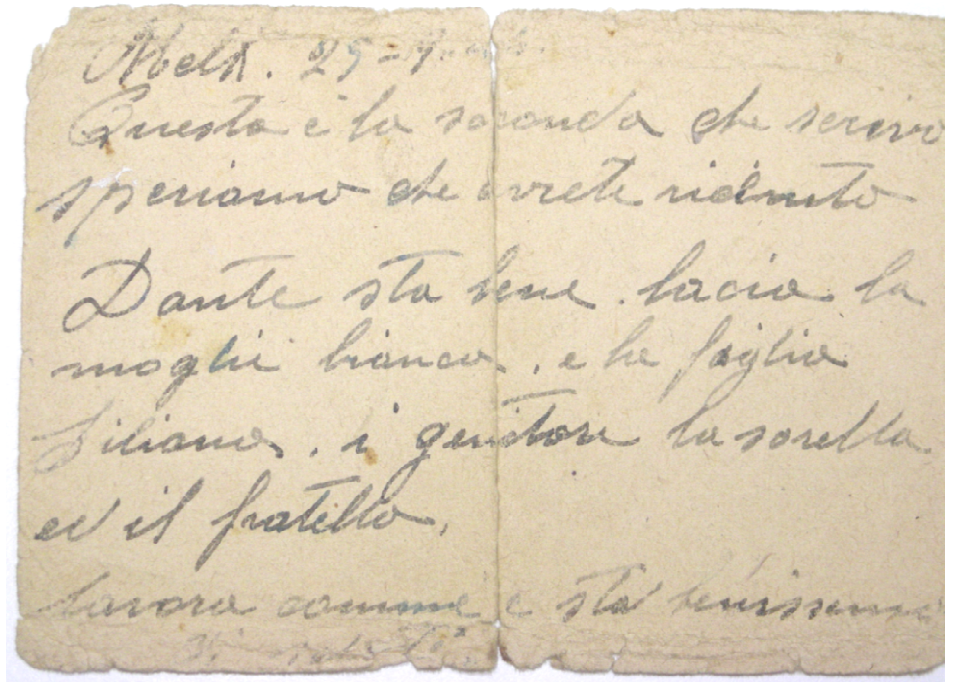
Quote from another newspaper: IL TRIBUNO DEL POPOLO of Sunday, June 24 at page 2 column "Search of internees": Spallanzani Dante, taken on March 11, 1944 from his home in Milan by the S.S." Unique news given by Mr. Ferro Giacomo dated 29-9-44, from Waiss Freitag Melk 12 N. Danco postal Fachi 1. Those who can please contact the family Spallanzani, Via A.Pacinotti 30-9 Sampierdarena. Again from the newspaper l'Unità 1945: LOOKING FOR



NEWS about Piero Galinà, Dante Sedini, Dante Spallanzani arrested on March 11, 1944, transferred to Bergamo prison, and deported to Germany on March 17, 1944: Whoever has

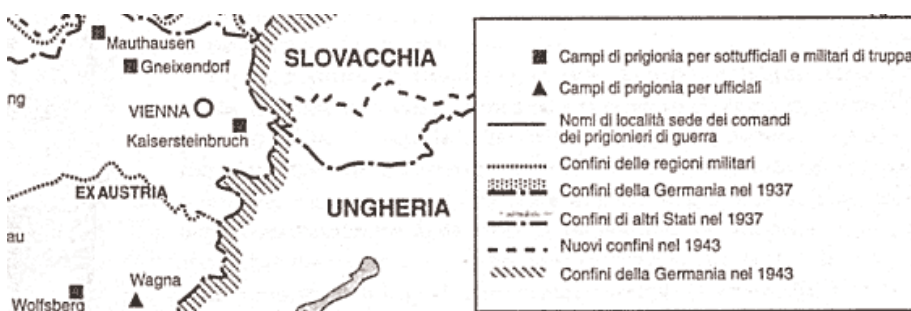
any news can communicate them to the editorial staff of the "Unità" who will report them to the family. At their residence in Genoa-Sampierdarena, Via Pacinotti 30-9, in October 1944, the Spallanzani family received a postcard from Melk, how is this possible? Melk was an extermination camp, one of the worst. In his book "You will pass through the chimney" the author Vincenzo Pappalettera defines it as....."tomb of the Italians who perished there in thousands" How come that Dante managed to send home an, albeit minimal, missive? I asked this question in a letter of mine to Eno Mucchiutti (deportee and survivor of Melk and author of the book "The Singer of the Lager") who kindly replied: "As for the postcard received by your uncle's family it is possible, I know of other cases, usually they were sent by some civilians or former Italian soldiers who worked in the tunnels together with civilians, they were not with us in the camp. It was a notable risk, but they took it, I don't know how they managed to pass the strict censorship." The writer Lazzerio Ricciotti brought to light this forgotten piece of History in his book "Hitler's slaves" recounting the inhumane exploitation of Italian deportees in German labor camps, where the most died of hunger, toil and hardship or from the blind violence of their tormentors. IMI -Italienische Militär-

Internierten- was the official name given by the German authorities to captured, rounded up and deported Italian soldiers together with civilians. Indeed at that time of extreme difficulty for the German to get labour forces, tens of thousands of our compatriots (some CSR volunteers) but the majority were victims of round-ups, strayed soldiers after September 8th, draft dodgers, political and common prisoners who were forced to work in atrocious conditions to replace the Germans called to arms in a desperate attempt to lift the doomed fortunes of the conflict. The postcard received by the Spallanzani family is here below reproduced both in original and in a scanned version in order of making more legible (Postkarte with Postmark of MELK 27.IX.44 11 sent by Ferro G.Waiss Freitag Melk 12 to no.Vonao Postal fachi 1 Germany – To the Spallanzani family Via Pacinotti 30/9 Genoa Sampierdarena Italy Text: Melk 25-9 This is the second I write which we hope you have received. Dante is well. He kisses wife Bianca and daughter Liliana, his parents, his sister and brother, he works with me and he is

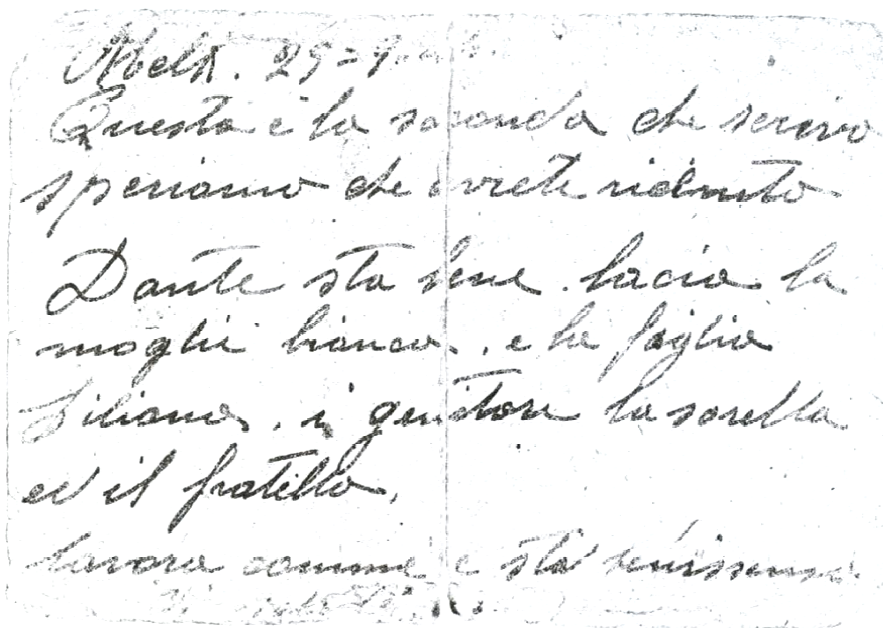
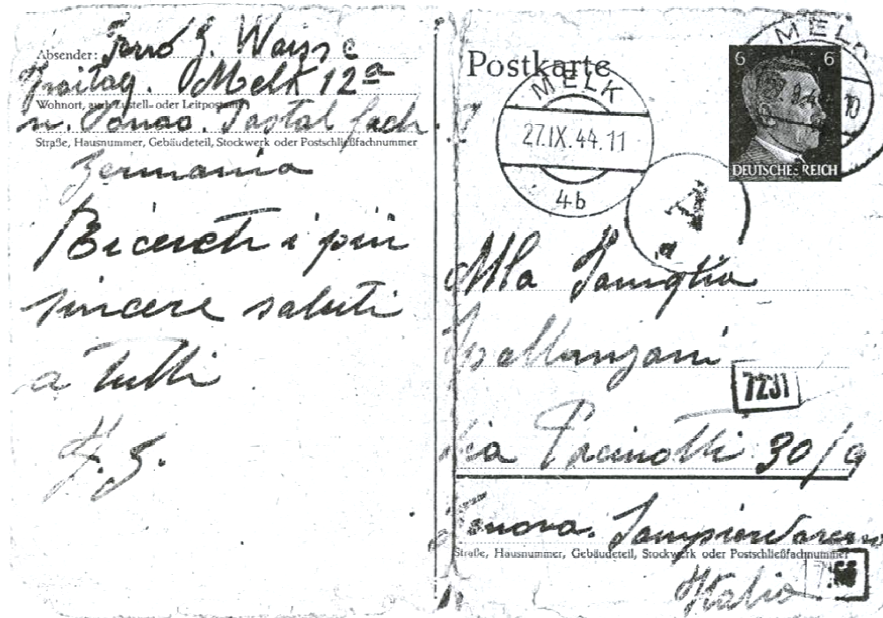


To the Spallanzani family Via Pacinotti 30/9 Genoa Sampierdarena Italy Text: Melk 25-9 This is the second I write which we hope you have received. Dante is well. He kisses wife Bianca and daughter Liliana, his parents, his sister and brother, he works with me and he is

fine.....(two words no longer readable) and again on the front-space: Sincere greetings to all – signed F.G. This map, relating to the camps where the IMIs were interned,



indicates as a camp of imprisonment for petty officers and troop soldiers also the camp of Mauthausen and the various satellites, including Melk. Considering this, the assertion of former deportee Eno Mucchiutti that probably it was a military man, or maybe a civilian who favored Uncle Dante in sending the postcard is certainly true and absolutely probable.



Photocopy in order to improve readability (attempt).

After the war, both his wife Bianca and Dante's parents received from Caproni's CLN the document shown on the next page attesting the participation of Dante in partisan activity. On the pages immediately following the certificates received from the BMI (Mauthausen Memorial Archives) at my specific request with an accompanying English-Italian translation.



From the NATIONAL LIBERATION COMMITTEE – Caproni Company – Milan,
November 19, 1945 - DECLARATION (document provided by Bruna Spallanzani)
The presumed date of death -Sept 1944 – will turn out to be inaccurate, the real
date is January 31, 1945.

COMITATO DI LIBERAZIONE NAZIONALE
Aziendale Caproni

Milano, 19 novembre 1945

DICHIARAZIONE

Si dichiara che SPALLANZANI Dante dipendente dallo Stabi-
limento Caproni di Taliedo durante il periodo di occupazione na-
zifascista collaborava col movimento clandestino per la Liberazio-
ne.

Per questa sua attività fu arrestato l'11 marzo 1944 e de-
portato in Germania nei campi di Mauthausen dove decedeva nel me-
se di settembre 1944.

Si rilascia la presente per gli usi consentiti dalla legge.

IL C.L.N.AZIENDALE

f.to Tavea

COPIA



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SEKTION IV-SERVICE UND KONTROLLE

mauthausen memorial
KZ-Gedenkstätte Mauthausen

Mauthausen Memorial Archives

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phone: +43-1-53126-3856 or -3374 resp.
fax: +43-1-53126-3386
email: mauthausen-memorial@mail.bmi.gv.at
internet: <http://www.mauthausen-memorial.at>
official in charge: **Lechner**

DVR: 0000051

E-Mail-Adresse: enrico.spallanzani@tiscali.it

file number: **3.501/8413-IV/7/06** (please refer to this file number when answering)

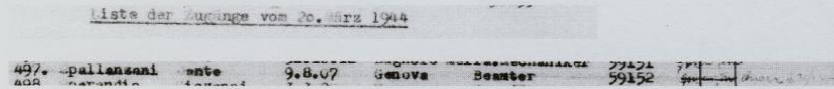
subject: information on the deportation of *Dante SPALLANZANI* to the Concentration Camp Mauthausen

Dear Mr. Spallanzani,

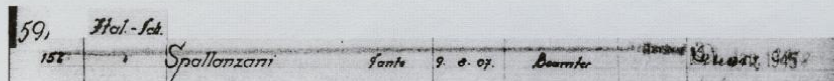
in response to your inquiry from November 5th 2005 the Mauthausen Memorial Archives can provide you with the following information concerning Dante Spallanzani:



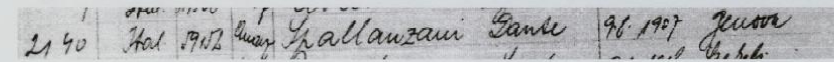
source: Entry registers of the political department (Y/36)



source: Registers of the postroom (Y/43)



source: Entry registers of the protective custody camp commando (Y/44)





source: Death registers Mauthausen (Y/46)

name:	Spallanzani
first name:	Dante
date of birth:	9.8.[19]07
place of birth:	Genova
profession:	Beamter [civil servant]
prisoner number:	59152
category or reason given for deportation:	Ital.[ien]-Sch.[utzhaft] [Italian political prisoner]
date of committal to the C.C. Mauthausen:	20. März 1944
1 st transferred:	Gusen [sub camp Gusen]
2 nd transferred:	M[authausen]
3 rd transferred:	M[elk] or Quarz [cover name for the sub camp Melk]
date and place of death:	31.1.1945 in Quarz [cover name for the sub camp Melk]
given cause of death:	Phlegmone r. Bein, Allg. Sepsis [Phlegmon on the right leg, general sepsis]

comment: quotations from the original sources are indicated in bold letters.

sources: entry registers (Y/36, Y/43, Y/44), death registers Mauthausen (Y/46)

Please note that the given cause of death does not necessarily correlate with the actual reasons for the prisoner's demise.

„Schutz“ / „Schutzhaft“ (Prisoner in Protective Custody), „Politisch“ (Political Prisoner)

The Protective Custody“ (or „Schutzhaft“) was based on a decree for the protection of people and state from February 28th, 1933. As from January 25th 1938, the “Schutzhaft” was defined as a forced measure against persons who were supposed to pose a “threat to the security of the people and the state”. The “Schutzhaft” did not have any temporary limits and was removed from any legal control and possible legal objections.

The Mauthausen Memorial Archives hope that this information is of any help for you.

February 15th 2006

Für die Bundesministerin (Federal Ministry of the Interior):

DDr. Barbara Fischer

F. d. R. d. A.

BM.I BUNDESMINISTERIUM FÜR INNERES

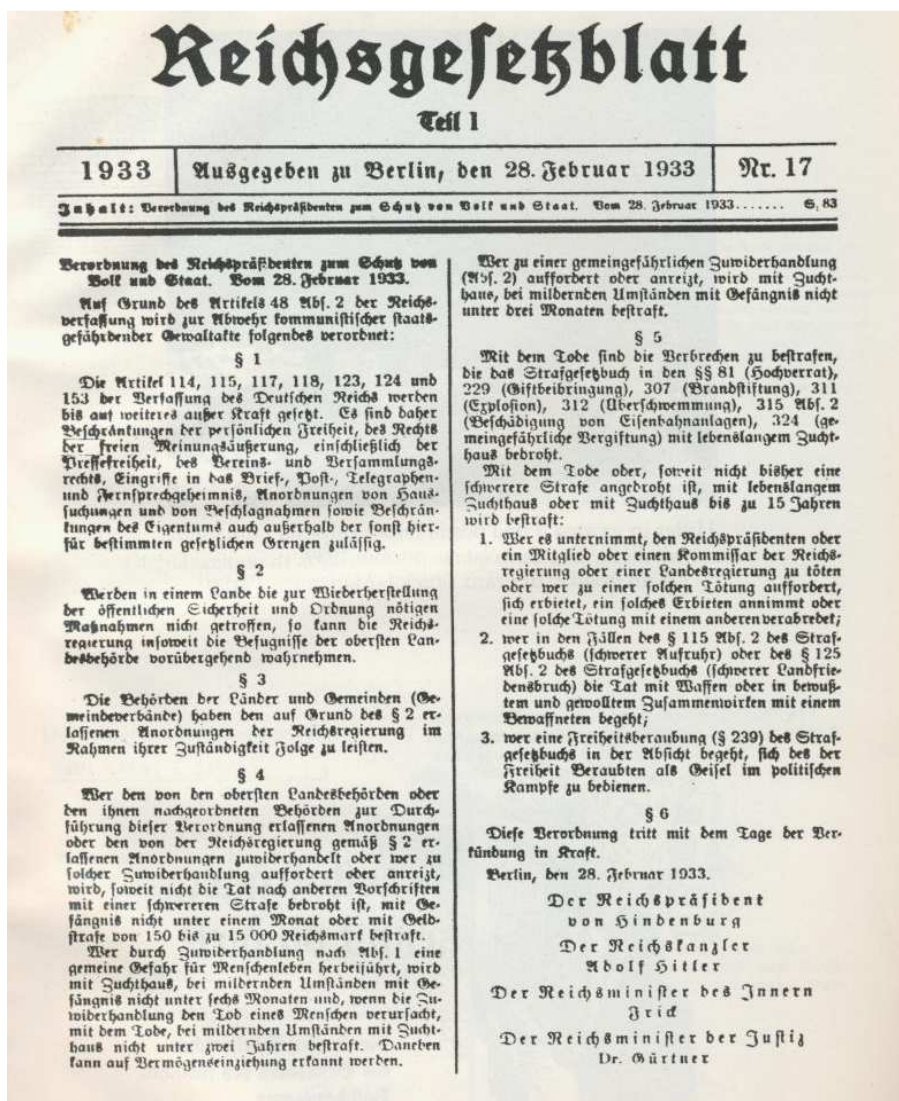
On the first page there are the abstracts of the various records. On the second page is shown the extract of the death register (the original records are indicated in bold letters and in Italics the English translation:

-Civil servant – clerk

-cover name – code name

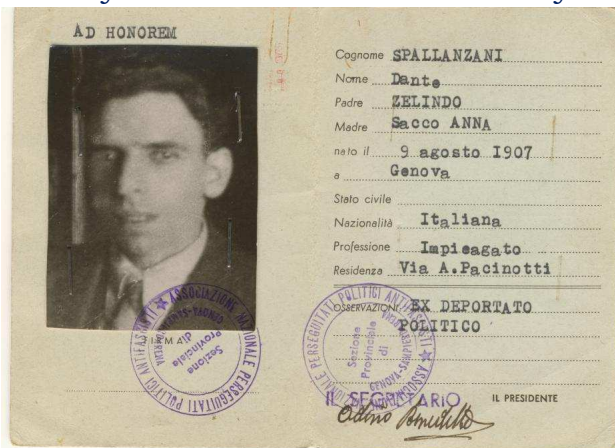
-phlegmon – phlegmon on the right leg (practically a boil) general sepsis (infection)

It should be kept in mind that the cause of death given is not necessarily correlated with the actual cause of death of the prisoner. Prisoner in protective custody and political prisoner – Protective custody (or Schutzhaft) was based on a decree for the protection of the people dated February 28, 1933 (see reproduction below). From January 25, 1938, Schutzhaft was applied as a restrictive measure against those persons who were supposed to be a threat to the security of the state and the people. Schutzhaft had no time limits and was not subject to any legal scrutiny or possible legal objections – signed DDr. Barbara Fischer (BMI – Mauthausen Memorial Archives).



Decree of February 28, 1933 published in the Reich Law Bulletin (source: The Bibelforscher and Nazism (1933 – 1945) The forgotten by history by Silvie Graffare and Leo Tristan).

This honorary card, was given to the relatives in the immediate post war period when former deportees tried to organize themselves into various Association, mainly related to their territoriality. In later years the various association would



almost all merge into the nationwide structure named ANED. But who was Dante Spallanzani? From the small archive of various documents, jealously guarded by his sister Bruna, emerges an active, friendly young man, dedicated to volunteer work and physical activity (gym society “Escursionisti Liguri – Genoa”) first clerk and then employee at Ansaldo (plant of Genoa Sampierdarena).



His world before Mauthausen, Gusen, Melk.

He was volunteer for the Golden Cross, gymnast in the FGNI (Italian National Gymnastics Federation) in the years 1923, 1924 and after.

My father Gino told me about the jovial character of his brother Dante and how during Summer when they went to sea between Cornigliano and Sampierdarena at the mouth of the Polcevera stream near to the Villa Durazzo Bombrini (my father called it the Villa Reale) he kept the whole company cheerful by involving everyone in multiple recreational activities. (The Villa Durazzo Bombrini before the gas meter disposal in 2007/8).

On the contrary at home, he was somewhat taciturn, always immersed in reading. A special encounter that gave me the opportunity to learn more detailed information regarding Uncle Dante occurred on Sunday, August 29, 2010, when I had the very pleasant opportunity to spend a day in company of Liliana Zocchi. Liliana was the niece of Bianca Casini, Dante's wife, daughter of the latter's sister and consequently an acquired niece of Uncle Dante whom she affectionately



called uncle. She is the "daughter Liliana" mentioned in the postcard sent from Melk (see page 198-9). We arrive, I and my wife Anna, (in the picture she is next to Liliana in year 2004) in the morning in Monterosi, a charming agricultural little town in the province of



Viterbo. Liliana greets us smiling as she always did complaining about her age: "eh, I've aged, I'm not the Liliana I used to be...." I reply that it is not true, but I know I am lying, unfortunately the years pass and weigh inexorably on everyone. Liliana had written to me: "Unfortunately, I cannot say more about Uncle Dante than you already know" but I knew it was not completely true and I am really very pleased with the many new things I heard in this first meeting especially aimed at reconstructing episodes from Dante's life. We take a seat in the small living room and Liliana introduces us to her dear neighbour that is a significant help to her. This woman has recently been widowed, but she is an energetic woman and has not lost her heart, working hard in several places, including as a caregiver to Liliana. That gives the woman a steady income without tying her to specific working times and specific tasks. Liliana says the woman is the only Calabrese she likes, clearly referring to Aunt Bianca's partner (whom I by the way met on one occasion in 1974) who was also a Calabrese.....the reference is obviously not purely coincidental.

I begin my barrage of questions: "How come that Uncle Dante married Bianca?" "In 1936 they met in a hotel and, as you know, things were different then from today. Your grandmother Delina, Dante's mother, didn't like the "affair", people were talking and so they eventually got married and got a furnished room to live in. Afterwards they decided to pick me up from the orphanage where I was living and, you know, I was a somehow shy child of only 9 and so when we set out for the exit gate and I saw him for the first time I burst into tears, I ran back and I didn't want to follow them, referring to Dante I said "He is ugly!" Then Aunt Bianca persuaded me "He is my husband" she said "he is a good man" I was convinced and followed them. Uncle Dante did everything he could to win me over, on the train to Genoa when we passed through Tortona (literally big cake) he told me it was not the city of big cakes; in short, he was trying to downplay the



situation. Once in Sanpieroarena I used to stay many times with your grandfather Zelindo who took me on long walks.

“Did Uncle Dante take you sometimes to the stadium?”

“I remember that some of Dante’s cousins (called the ugly ones) lived in a building near the Littorio Stadium in Cornigliano from which you could watch the game for free and sometimes they took me there. Your Uncle, on the other

hand, had a membership card, he was a season ticket holder, he loved soccer and went regularly to the stadium. He worked at Ansaldo as a brazer. He had an accident and lost an eye and was granted a disability. He could either opt for a monthly annuity or for an immediate insurance premium and of course he and Bianca chose the latter. So, they moved and furnished an apartment. They both smoked and they used to send me to buy cigarettes, “Three Stars” they were named.



“How come you all moved to Milan?”

“After the accident Uncle Dante became a “time marker”, those

who check and verify the working times of the various phases of work processes. In 1941 he left Ansaldo and went to Caproni in Milan: the pay was twice as much as in Genoa and that was why we moved. Then July 25, 1943 came with the fall of Mussolini and then September 8, with the armistice. Your father wrote a letter saying he was in Trieste at the military hospital. Dante pawned his wedding ring and set out for Trieste to with false papers to pick him up. Again with “doctored” documents he had Gino hired at Caproni as a turner. Gino, however,



did not have a ration card and therefore they had to buy many things at the black market.”

“Tell me about the arrest?”

“Four of them showed up, southern cops, aged 50/55, and they said: “We are looking for Dante Spallanzani”. We were all in the apartment me, Aunt Bianca and your father Gino. Dante whitened and answered, “That’s me”. They took him away. It was March 11 around 8.30 p.m. it was a Thursday (*1). Later there was an air raid alert.

At the local police station Aunt Bianca and I only had a brief glimpse of him, that was the last time we saw him (Liliana in 1944).



We then went to the San Vittore Prison in Milan and there we were told to bring him some linen and that if it would withhold that meant he was there. It was only later that we learned that he had been transferred to Bergamo. Yes, we received two or three notes thrown from the barracks in

A Zioi e Bruna
con affetto eterno
750 Chi li
Liliana Brecchi
~~Viale Lombardia 11~~
Milano

Bergamo or from the train. (Back of photo of Liliana 1944 with dedication and with the address of Viale Lombardia 11 Milan (later deleted).

“Which political current did uncle belong to?”

“He was a communist. A member of the famous Moscatelli brigade (*2). After his detention we regularly received money, until April 1945. It was a small financial aid certainly coordinated by the communist party.

Dad told me about an incident that occurred one morning on the streetcar taking them to Caproni. Uncle Dante had subversive leaflets hidden in his lapels and when they tried to search him, he said in a peremptory tone that they had already searched him. Do you remember anything about it?”



“No, I am not aware of this episode....I know that several times Aunt Bianca admonished him by reminding him of the risks he was taking; he replied “If I should die....it will mean that I will make you rich”. He thought he was dealing with the fascists he had not reckoned with the Nazis who were entirely something else. All through the Summer 1945 we hoped he would come back, we deluded ourselves. Then one day, as I

was at the movies with a friend of mine, I heard and saw on the newsreel about Buchenwald, those terrible images made me lose all hope. Hope was exploited by unscrupulous swindlers. At your grandmother’s one day a man showed up saying that uncle was not only alive, but that he would soon be back. He had come to announce that return, the home address had been given him by Dante, he said his name was Spallanzani. Your grandmother hosted him, he stayed for a night, in the morning he asked for money and yes, the poor woman gave some to him.”

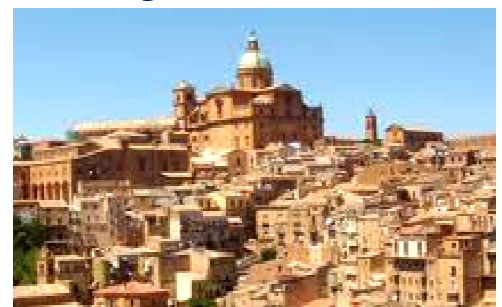


“Did you meet any of uncle’s companions in misfortune?”

“Yes, a certain Benedetti....he was born in 1912. Eugenio? -I say, after consulting my precious list. Yes, yes Eugenio, it seems to me he was from Milan. I met him in the country by a friend of Aunt Bianca.”

The very pleasant day in the company of Liliana continues, we go for something to eat. Her stories continue to fascinate us, she tells us about

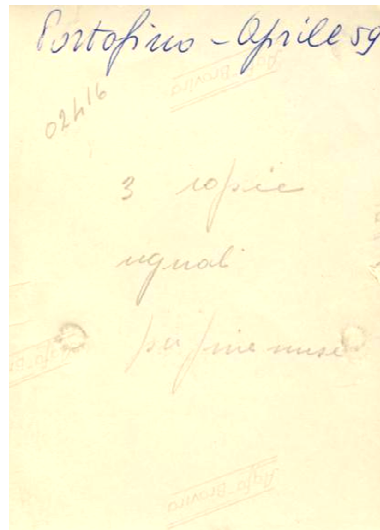
her father, son of a wealthy Sicilian family originally from Piazza Armerina in the province of Enna. They owned a factory producing liquor and her uncle, the father’s brother, who, albeit with some detachment helped her. This uncle was the podesta of Monghidoro (BO) (during the Fascism



the Mayor was named Podestà). And then he told us about the sacrifices of the postwar period, of the totocalcio (betting on footballs games) winning in the late 1950s that allowed her to buy her own apartment (totocalcio ad poster mid 50s).



It's getting late, time flies. We drive Liliana home happy to have made her spend a pleasant and different day.



Still from the archive of Bruna Spallanzani: Liliana with her husband in Portofino in April 1959.

NOTES:

*1) Actually, March 11, 1944 was a Saturday: Giandomenico Panizza narrates: "The week was over, that Saturday, March 11, I

spent the evening as usual at my home in Ponte Vetero Street. In the night, the silence was broken by the pattering of footsteps on the stairs and soon after someone knocked loudly at the door yelling: "Police, open up!" There were four of them, rather elderly plainclothesmen, with badges in their buttonholes and they spoke with a southern accent: "Does Giandomenico Panizza live hear? We have to take him with us". Just at that instant the air raid alarm resounded and the tenants of the block of flats poured out on the stairs to reach the bomb shelter. After a moment's hesitation the one policeman, who had qualified himself as a former brigadier, said to my mother: "We are leaving, we will report that the alarm had happened earlier (and he emphasized the word "earlier") and we didn't find him, but tomorrow you ma'am, must come to the police station". My mother went: "Your son is on the list, if something happens, we will come again and get him" she learned from the Commissary (see page 186 – Source TR April 1984).

Are these the same team of police officers that took Dante away? Maybe. Or perhaps it is unlikely since the Ponte Vetero Street, where Giandomenico lived, is in the Brera area quite far from Viale Lombardia. Either way Liliana confirms that there was a bomb alarm that night. Another interesting aspect is that Giandomnico Panizza will be arrested on Monday, March 13, and on the official list of the German Police he appears as No. 1 while the more than 30 people arrested on Saturday, March 11 are listed only on that "famous" checked piece of paper (see pages 56, 57 and 221).

*2) Vincenzo Moscatelli> (born 3.2.1908 in Novara) is a primary figure and protagonist of the Resistance. About him we read:



“Among the leaders of the partisan movement, a character who admirably perform the function of a legendary commander in the Alpine valleys of Northeastern Piedmont. He was of proletarian origin (a turner) in Novara and Milan. “Cino” (his nickname in the family) joined the young Communists...’because of Beltrami’s political-military role’ who was at the head of a single autonomous formation decidedly inferior to the role of Moscatelli who will command over entire partisan divisions” . (Quote from “Mount Rosa has descended to Milan” written by Cino with Secchia ten years earlier, a text that neither denies nor neglects the epic aspect of the war of liberation...(>Quote from President Sandro Pertini’s speech at his funeral on October 31, 1981).



Family of Dante:

Dante (1907 – 1945) his brother Gino (1920 – 2006)
 his sister Bruna (1909 – 1992) his mother Anna (Delina) Sacco (1880 – 1973)
 and his father Zelindo (1876 – 1953). They have all passed away.

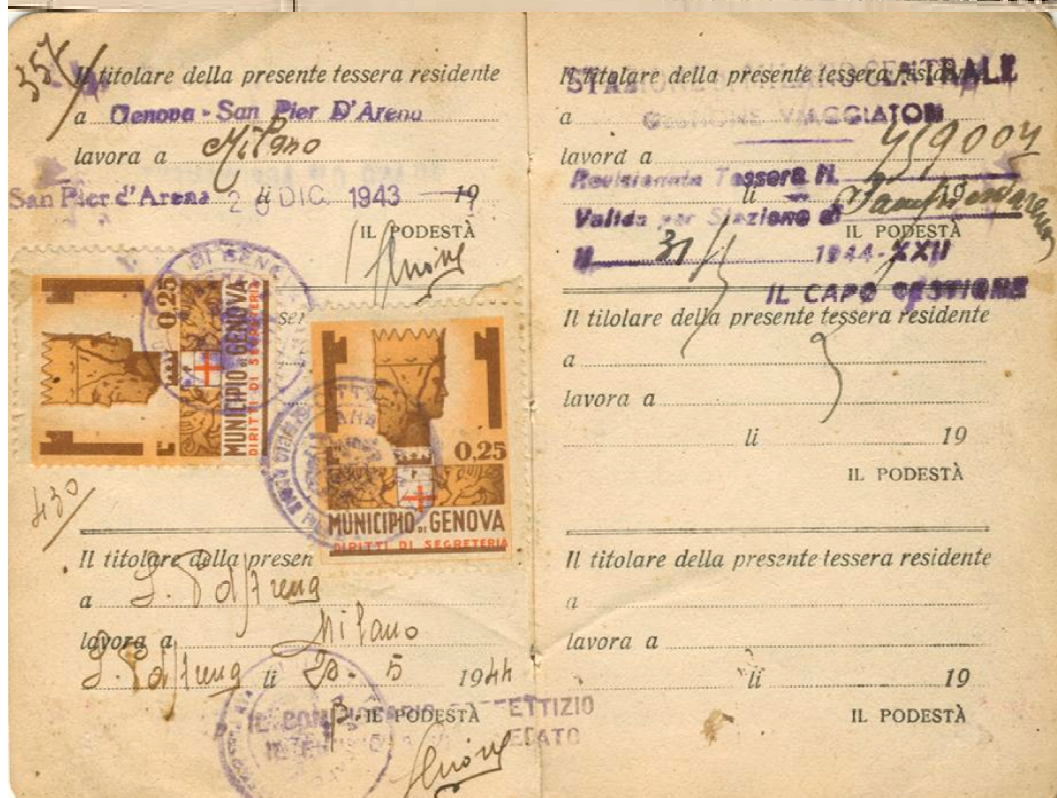
The Zelindo (Dante's father) Spallanzani family lived in Genoa-Sampierdarena in Via Pacinotti , which later became, in part, Via Spataro. Always however at house number 30 interior 9. Following are some pictures taken in the year 2004, of Via G.Spataro (formerly Via Pacinotti) with a view of the entire building with the detail of the windows of interior 9 (clothes hanging out), the front door number 30 that never changed.



After the war, part of Via Antonio Pacinotti became Via Giuseppe Spataro, so today they are both present in the toponymy of Genoa.



This is where Dante ad Bruna grew up, and it is here that my father Gino was born on February 3, 1920 and resided until 1948, when he emigrated to Sweden. During the years 1943-45, when he was domiciled in Milan, he often came to Genoa to visit his folks (picture follows of his railroad card issued precisely in December 1943 and it was here that, until the 1970s Bruna (my aunt) and my grandmother Delina have been living.



Tessera ferroviaria di Spallanzani Gino tragitto: Milano Centrale - Genova Sampierdarena Emessa il 16.12.43





Here is where Dante's postcards came from the places he travelled to, such as the one from Pola written in 1928 (when Pola was an Italian province), an interesting detail: in 1928 the Pacinotti Street was named Garibaldi Street but the house number 30, interior 9 were just the same, and here came also Gino's

Postcards written during his military life from 1940 to 1943 and again it was here that the postcard from Melk arrived around October/November 1944. Quote from Aldo Marostica who was later deported to Mauthausen: "They also gave us a plate with a serial number -my number was 61685- they attached it fastening it with a piece of wire. The one who put it on said "From now on you are no longer to call yourself with your name anymore, but you are this number, when they call you remember this number....But to know German!" (Source: www.Testimonianze.dailager.rai.it). Recounts Bruno Zerbinati (mat. 59214) one of Dante's travelling companions: "You had to learn the number in German, Polish and Spanish". The number assigned to Uncle Dante 59152, in German it is spelled like this: *NEUNUNDFUNZIGTHAUSEND EINHUNDERT ZWEIUNDFUNFZIG* and pronounced



like this: **NOINUN DFUNFZIK TAUSEND AINHUNDERT ZW AIUNFUNFZIG** in Polish it is spelled like this: **PIEDISEZIAT DZIEWIECTYSIECI STO PIEDZIESIAT DWA** and pronounced **PIE'GE'SCIOT GIE'VECH TISCENZI STO PIE'GE'SCIOT DVA'**. Uncle Dante was forced, like everyone else, to memorize these numbers when his life changed tragically and he was forced to be just a number for

a good 10 long months until his death on January 31, 1945, a few months before liberation by the Allies. His life, his world, his work at Ansaldo and Caproni, sport activities, the stadium on Sundays, outings, the learning of Esperanto and whatever else composed his world was destroyed with only one mortal possible horizon for the future.....

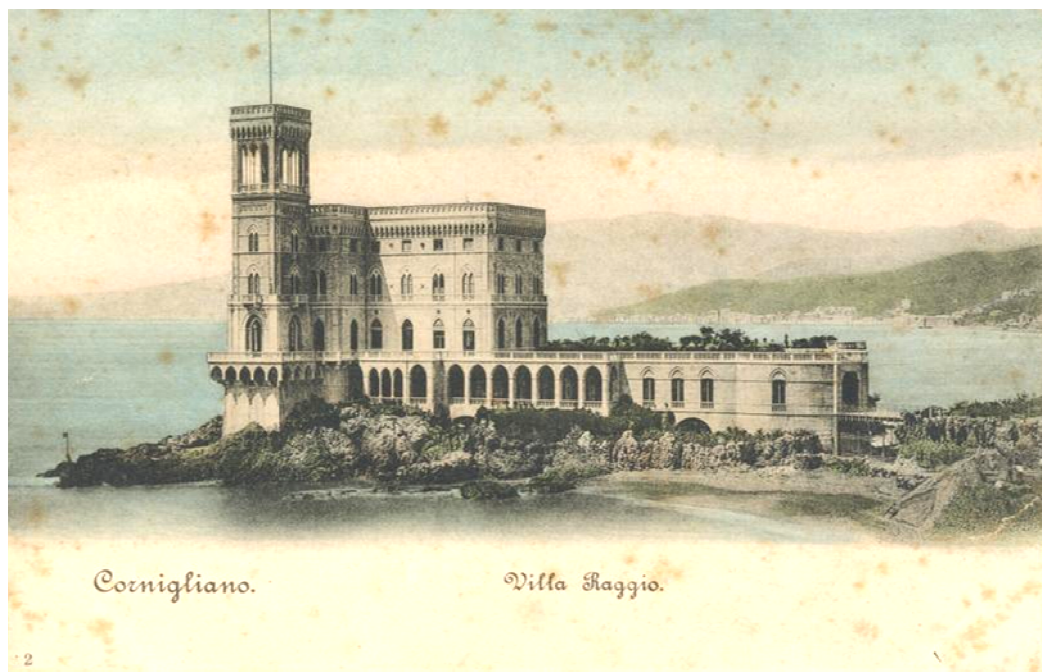
I have never seen the Castello Raggio, except for the postcards, but I have heard a lot about it from my Genoese relatives. I wish to make it a symbol of my Uncle Dante's tragedy:

Dante's world erased like the Castello Raggio.



Historical background

Cornigliano is a neighborhood in Genoa, in the western part, between Sestri Ponente and Sampierdarena. An independent municipality until 1926, it was one of the most beautiful and luxurious area of Liguria. But the annexion to the Municipality of Genoa first, industrialization and the very serious damage caused by the bombing of World War II transformed it during the postwar period into an ugly industrial suburb, site to a large public steel mill. To make room for it, the Raggio Castle was also, unfortunately, demolished.....



See old postcard of the Castello Raggio (or villa) found in Rome at the Porta Portese market in 2010.

