Finding Nonno

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL 030231/04

Murchison, Australia. 2 March 1945. Group of Italian prisoners of war (POWs) interned in C Compound, No. 13 POW Group. Photo by Ronald Leslie Stewart. AWM 030231/04

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The Search

- Italians looking for their fathers and grandfathers firstly have to overcome the obstacle of language in their search.
- The National Archives of Australia records for prisoners of war, provides valuable information, but the next obstacle is to decipher this information.
- This document 'Finding Nonno' provides information to assist researchers to make sense of this information as well as providing links and clues to discover further details.
- A National Archives of Australia document 'History of Directorate of Prisoners of War and Internees' is invaluable but it is difficult to read in places (NAA: A7711) Reproduced lists from this document for Prisoner of War & Internment Camps, Prisoner of War Control Hostels and Prisoner of War Control Centres in each state are available for viewing at: italianprisonersofwar.com/2017/08/30/pow-camps-in-australia/
- Additionally, should your Nonno or Papa have been sent to ***Queensland*** (Gaythorne) and to one of the 10 PWC Centres or Hostel then I might be able to assist you further. The word Gaythorne or a Q1, Q2, Q6 etc on the card represents an allocation to Queensland.
- I manage a data base for 1521 Italian Prisoners of War who spent time in ***Queensland*** and I can help you. Contact me at joannetappy@gmail.com

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National Archives of Australia

- www.naa.gov.au The official National Archives of Australia contains all records relating to Italian Prisoners of War.
- There are two main files available on-line for each Italian POW
- ***MP1103/1*** contains the Service and Casualty Form – this form details all movements in Australia
- ***MP1103/2*** contains three forms – Report on Prisoner of War (including family details and signature, Property Statement (money on hand and signature) and Report for International Bureaux of Relief and Information

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If you can’t find your relative with a name search

Some of the Problems

- Army clerks sometimes spelt names incorrectly on the forms eg Samuele, Samuelo; Santa, Sante; Di Micco, De Micco;
- Transcribers for National Archives and Australian War Memorial sometimes made mistakes eg Savato instead of Sabato;
- Some Italian prisoners of war were illiterate and so army clerks wrote down names ‘as best’ they could
- Some Italians have had their names spelt differently on different records eg Daidone, Diadone; Amuri, Amore, Amure;
- Some POWs gave a short name eg Franco instead of Francesco

Some of the Solutions

- Enter surname only – sometimes first names are typed incorrectly eg Guiseppe instead of Giuseppe, Liugi instead of Luigi
- If there are too many results – enter name then the words … Italian prisoner
- Search by date of birth eg 28 August 1914 Italian prisoner, this will only give you one document: MP1103/1, but it will give you the prisoner of war number and assist you to find the second document: MP1103/2
- Enter first name only if it is an unusual first name eg Egidio, Ugo, Liborio, Umberto. Firmino, Gesuino

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National Archives of Australia

Additionally, for some Italian POWs, they have other files.

Copies of these records can be ***purchased*** from the NAA.

- A7919 – disciplinary issues eg escape, censorship issues, political views and Australians corresponding with, refusal to sign work agreement for farm work; medical issues eg application for early repatriation based on medical grounds; requests eg to marry an Australian woman.
- A11626 – Military Court proceedings –major discipline issues
- K1174 – for POWs in Western Australia, complete copy of record including Identity Card which details farmers they were placed with
- J3118 – Identity Cards for 200 Queensland Italian POWs
- C131 – Records for Italians repatriated onboard *Chitral* and SS *Katoomba* – medical ships

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How to Order Additional Files from NAA

- Click on File eg A367 C 3774
- Go to right hand corner, request a copy.
- Click continue
- Proceed to checkout
- Click No, continue to checkout as a guest
- Follow process and fill in the forms: contact details and make payment
- Wait 30 days… an email will be sent to you with a link to access the documents
- Some files indicate: ***Not Yet Examined***…click on file, request a copy. This file needs to be 'looked' at. Once it has been examined, you will be sent an email with details about how to order this file.

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Other Helpful Sites

- www.awm.gov.au The Australian War Memorial holds a comprehensive catalogue of photographs taken of Italian POWs and the POW camps.
- http://www.ozatwar.com/ozatwar/abbreviations.htm Peter Dunn has listed a number of military abbreviations which might be useful in reading the Service Card
- trove.nla.gov.au/newspapers/ Australia's on-line archived newspapers contain many articles on the Italian POWS in Australia. Some articles are generic but escapes by POWs were sometimes reported.

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Museums, Sites and Interpretive Displays

- Marrinup http://www.wanowandthen.com/ghost-towns14.html

http://www.australiaforeveryone.com.au/wa/dwellingup.htm

- Northam http://northamarmycamp.org.au/storylines/pow/pows-in-wa/
- Hay http://www.hay.nsw.gov.au/Business-Community-Directory/Tourism/Museums-Galleries/dunera-museum
- Cowra https://www.visitnsw.com/destinations/country-nsw/cowra-area/cowra/attractions/prisoner-of-war-camp-site
- Tatura http://www.taturamuseum.org.au/prisoner_of_war__internment_camps.html
- Loveday http://www.barmeratourism.com.au/images/LovedayInternmentCamp.pdf
- Myrtleford http://www.alpinehistory.com.au/highlights---pow-camp.html
- Sandy Creek http://www.barossa.com/jack-bobridge-track-sign-5-sandy-creek/jack-bobridge-track-sign-5-sandy-creek
- Yanco http://www.diggerhistory.info/pages-discipline/pow-aust.htm
- Brighton http://www.regwatson.com/wp-content/uploads/Brighton_Army_Camp_history.pdf
- NAA List http://www.naa.gov.au/collection/snapshots/internment-camps/WWII/index.aspx
- Peter Dunn Oz At War http://www.ozatwar.com/pow/pow.htm

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A Guide to Reading the *Service and Casualty Form*

The following pages give examples of ***Service and Casualty Forms***. I have identified key features together with explanations.

Some Australian states kept more comprehensive records than other states including notations about reasons for hospitalisation.

PWCC = Prisoner of War Control Centre and represents the area where the Italians were sent to work on farms eg V12 or Q8

PWC Hostel = Prisoner of War Control Hostel was a barracks compound of several hundred POWs working on a specific project

Q10 Boonah = PWCC in the Boonah district in Queensland

Q6 Hostel = PWC Hostel at Home Hill

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The Clues

Look out for the clues on your Nonno’s Prisoner of War forms.

These forms are full of vital information.

This following information will lead you to other ‘finds’.

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SEIZED SHIP REMO

Is the title of a newspaper article from Townsville Bulletin accessed from trove.nla.gov.au

Remo – Italian Ship in Fremantle Habour at time of declaration of war

District = Australian State where first processed

PWIM = Prisoner of War Italian Merchant Seaman

Gio Batta was processed as an internee – P.W.W. 12048 but was reclassified as a prisoner of war to P.W.I.M. 12048

5 MD = 5th Military District

Rottnest was initially used for Internees. Italian POWs from the Remo and Romolo were categorised as Internees and then had their status changed to prisoner of war. His first identification number was PWW – Prisoner of War Western Australia (Internee). Internees in Queensland were given the preface PWQ.

V4 Leongatha was a Prisoner of War Control Centre: Without Guard (PWCC) V=Victoria, 4= 4th centre established in Victoria. From the V4 Centre/Office, Gio Batta was sent to work on a farm.

A.A. Form A. 112
(Introduced August, 1939)
(Reprinted June, 1940)

AUSTRALIAN ITALIAN MILITARY FORCES

~~INTERNEE~~

PRISONER OF WAR — SERVICE AND CASUALTY FORM

Identification No. ~~P.W.W.~~ PWIM 12048

District Western Australia

Rank Sailor. 8 Other Names Gio Batta "Remo" Surname LA VECCHIA (Block Capitals)

Date of Capture 11. 6. 40
Place of Capture Fremantle 1
Date of Birth 1. 8. 98 98
Place of Birth Palermo 9
Trade or Occupation Sailor 213 "Remo"
Religion

Nationality Italian 2
Marital Condition Married 1
Next of Kin LA VECCHIA Gilda
Address of Next of Kin Via Frederico Alizieri 6/6/12 Genoa
Relationship Wife

Medical—
For report:— YES. 3

Identification—Colour of Hair Black Eyes Brown
Distinctive Marks Scar upper lip, tattoo both forearms

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS SPACE

REPORT Date	REPORT 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
27-7-40	C.C. Rottnest	Marched in		11-6-40	Rottnest	A113	W Burrows
5-10-40	C.C. Harvey	do do ex Rottnest	5	24-9-40	Harvey	do	do
10-4-42	do	Trans. Porkerton.		2-4-42	do	do	Ryan
do	C.C. Porkerton	Marched in ex Harvey		3-4-42	Porkerton	do	do
17-4-42	do	Transferred to Murchison		15-4-42	do	do	do.
27-4-42	5 M.D	Marched in from 5 M D	550/42	18-4-42	Murchison	do	H Williams
22-10-43	C.C. Murchison	Detached to PWCC V.4 Leongatha	1000-43	18-10-43	"	"	Orr
22-11-43	"	Marched in ex Leongatha		12-11-43	"	"	Beird
"	"	Awarded 28 days Detention (Refused to work)		"	"	"	"
11-12-43	"	Remission of 4 days of sentence 28 days detention	1270-43	6-12-43	"	"	M. Gleeson
7-2-44	"	Transferred to Hay		1-2-44	"	"	"

"Truth" & "Sportsman."

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- Murchison, Australia. 4 March 1945. Group of Italian prisoners of war (POWs) interned in D1 Compound, No. 13 POW Group. Back row, left to right: Unidentified; 55958 S. Chiaramonte; Unidentified; 47961 G. Scolaro; 57555 S. Amato; 59876 F. Maggiore. Front row: 45750 G. Giarratano; **12048 G. B. La Vecchia**; 12084 G. Asciutto; 46180 V. Mele; 48680 G. Taormina. Note: The number is an assigned POW number.
- Photo by Stewart Ronald LESLIE AWM 030238/04

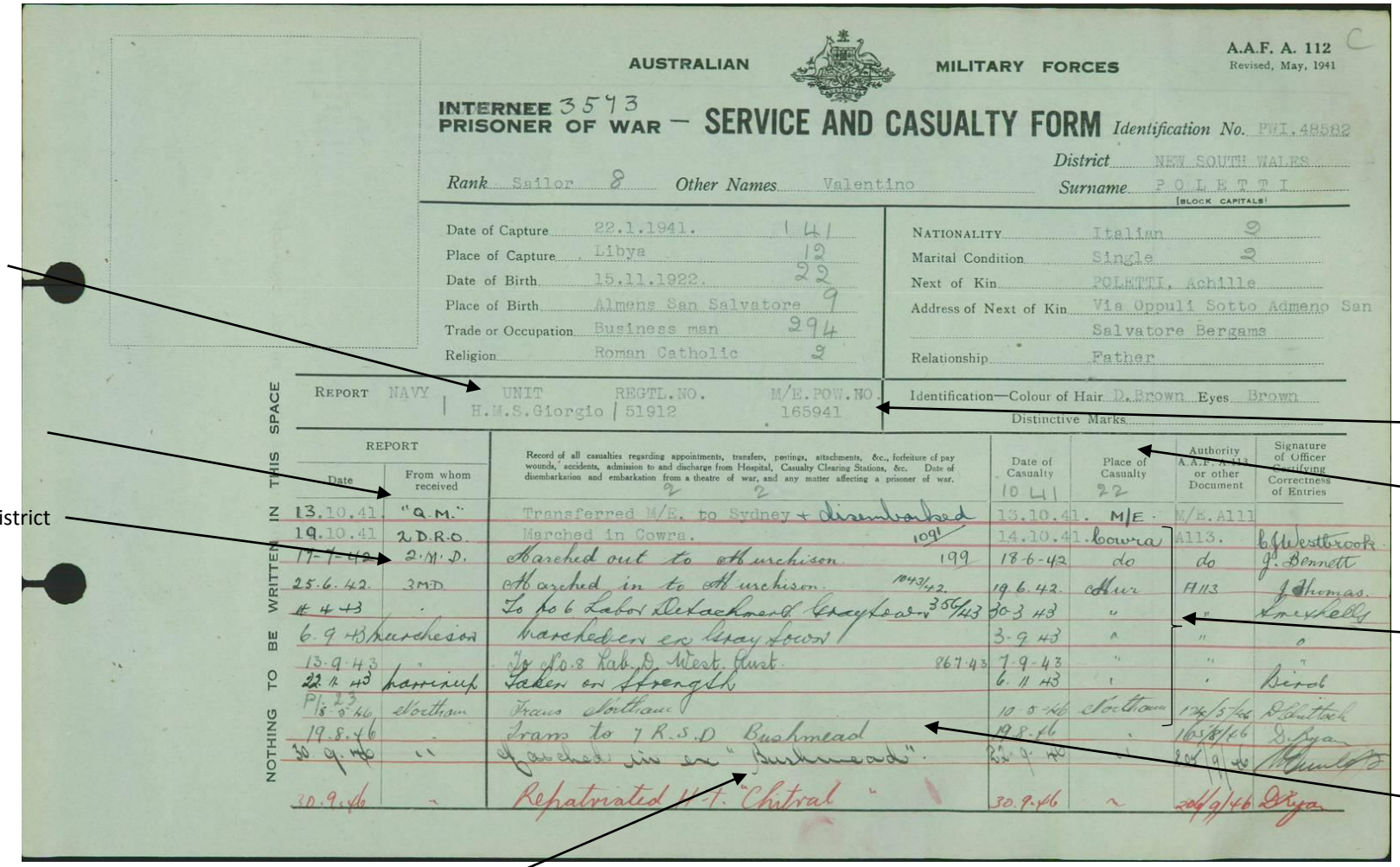
We can find a photo of Gio Batta La Vecchia in the Australian War Memorial's collection.

Group Photos of Italian Prisoners of War were taken in many of the parent camps eg Murchison Vic, Marrinup WA, Cowra NSW and Hay NSW.

Go to www.awm.gov.au to search for your relative. Not all Italian POWs can be found in this photographic collection. Sometimes you need to search by surname or by PW number.

Gio Batta La Vechhia is dressed in his sailor's uniform. The POWs were able to purchase copies of the photos to send home.

Joanne Tapiolas © Footprints



AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

A.A.F. A. 112
Revised, May, 1941

INTERNEE 3543
PRISONER OF WAR — SERVICE AND CASUALTY FORM Identification No. PWI.48582

District NEW SOUTH WALES

Rank Sailor 8 Other Names Valentino Surname P O L E T T I (BLOCK CAPITALS)

Date of Capture 22.1.1941. 141
Place of Capture Libya 12
Date of Birth 15.11.1922. 22
Place of Birth Almens San Salvatore 9
Trade or Occupation Business man 294
Religion Roman Catholic 2

NATIONALITY Italian 9
Marital Condition Single 2
Next of Kin POLETTI, Achille
Address of Next of Kin Via Oppuli Sotto Admeno San Salvatore Bergams
Relationship Father

REPORT NAVY | UNIT H.M.S.Giorgio | REGTL.NO. 51912 | M/E.POW.NO. 165941

Identification—Colour of Hair D.Brown Eyes Brown
Distinctive Marks

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS SPACE

REPORT 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
		2 2	10 41	22		
13.10.41	"Q.M."	Transferred M/E. to Sydney + disembarked	13.10.41.	M/E	M/E.A111	
19.10.41	2.D.R.O.	Marched in Cowra. 1091	14.10.41.	Cowra	A113.	G.H.Westbrook
17-7-42	2.M.D.	Marched out to Murchison. 199	18-6-42	do	do	J. Bennett
25.6.42.	3MD	Marched in to Murchison. 1043/42.	19.6.42.	Mur	A113	J. Thomas.
4.4.43	.	To No 6 Labor Detachment Graytown 356/43	30-3-43	"	"	Kneebly
6.9.43	Murchison	Marched on ex Graytown	3-9-43	"	"	"
13.9.43	"	To No.8 Lab.D. West. Aust. 867.43	7-9-43	"	"	"
22.11.43	Narrogin	Taken on Strength	6.11.43	"	"	Birch
P/18 23 5.46	Northam	Trans Northam	10-5-46	Northam	14/5/46	D.Lautak
19.8.46	.	Trans to 7 R.S.D Bushmead	19.8.46	.	16/8/46	D. Ryan
30.9.46	"	Posted sick ex "Bushmead".	30.9.46	.	30/9/46	[illegible]
30.9.46	~	Repatriated H.T. "Chitral"	30.9.46	~	30/9/46	D.Ryan

Valentino Poletti was in the Navy onboard the H.M.S. Giorgio.

Q.M. = Queen Mary

2 M.D. = 2nd Military District

M/E = Middle East

Read the dates from this column

Cowra, Murchison and Northam were parent camps. While Valentino was sent to Graytown, he remained attached to Murchison (his parent camp).

7RSD Bushmead is a bit of a puzzle. There are references to Military installations - Rifle Range, Training Depot and Transport Depot at Bushmead

Another great reference is trove.nla.gov.au/newspapers/ A search for Bushmead Italian prisoners of war resulted in an article on Bonifacio Barbarossa who escaped from Bushmead Camp

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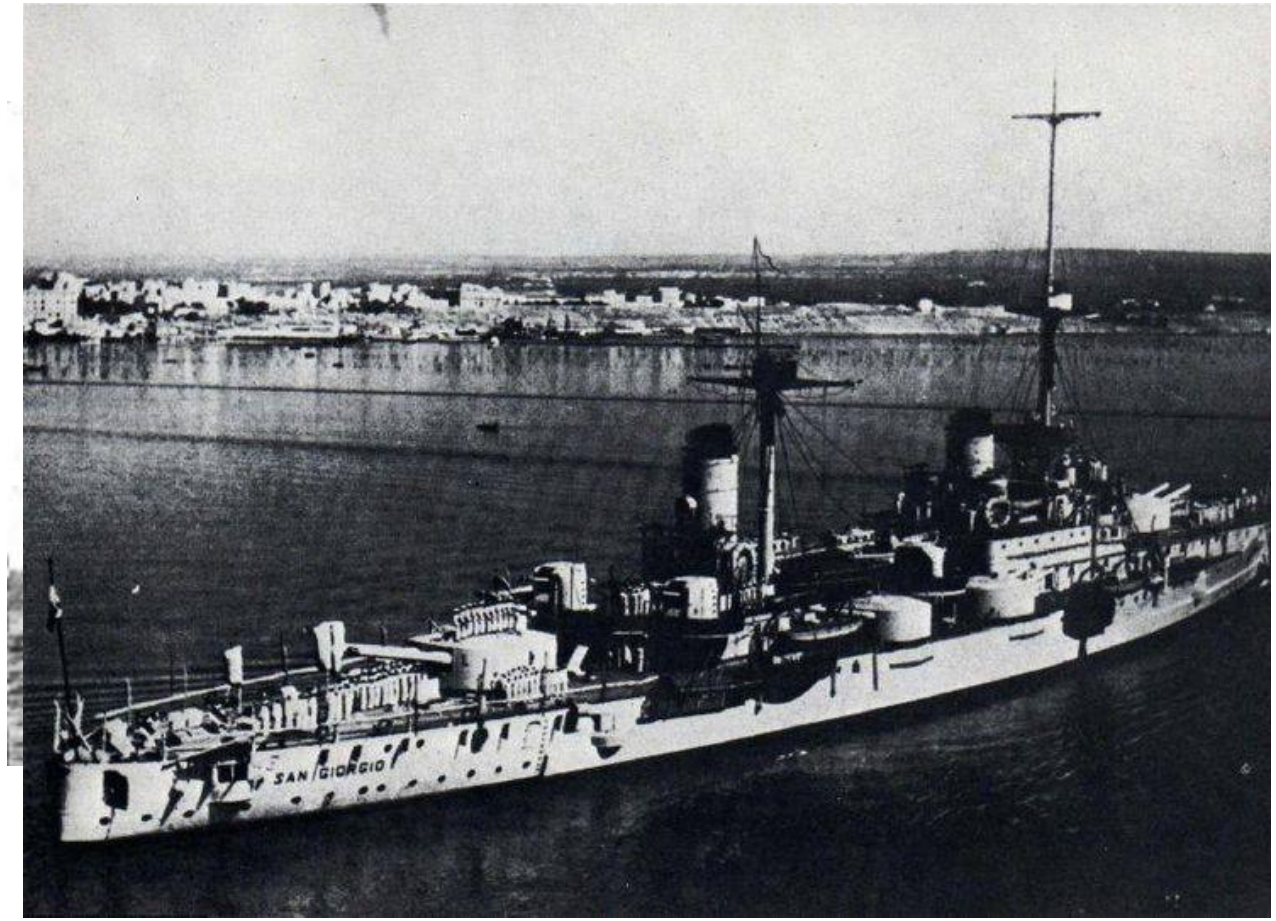
H.M.S. Giorgio (San Giorgio)

You can read more about San Giorgio on Wikipedia and in the newspapers of January 1941

From '20,000 Italians Captured at Tobruk' Daily Advertiser (Wagga Wagga N.S. 1911 – 1954) Saturday 25 January 1941, p. 6 accessible via trove.nla.gov.au

- 700 members of the crew of the crippled cruiser San Giorgio
- The R.A.F., in 10 days of intensive operations, comprising 87 sorties, preceding the fall of Tobruk, lost only three planes. The sorties over Tobruk lasted from dawn to dusk and the condition of the defences, the port, and the cruiser San Giorgio testified to the effectiveness of the raid. Guns from the San Giorgio and other points were silenced before the final attack.



https://www.pinterest.com.au/pin/560838959828075668/

Joanne Tapiolas © Footprints

Q.M. = Queen Mary

M.E. POW No. = Middle East POW Number processed in Egypt

Victoria –State of Processing in Australia

PWI =Prisoner of War Italian

Date of Casualty = Date of Movement

106 A.G.H = 106 Australian General Hospital Bonegilla

'Andes' was the only repatriation ship in 1945. Special circumstance cases returned to Italy earlier than the other Italian POWs.

A.A.F. A. 112
Revised, May, 1941

AUSTRALIAN ITALIAN MILITARY FORCES

INTERNEE PRISONER OF WAR — SERVICE AND CASUALTY FORM

Identification No. PWI.47410

District VICTORIA

Rank Lieutenant Other Names Santo Surname B A L D I (BLOCK CAPITALS)

Date of Capture	10 December. 1940	Nationality	Italian
Place of Capture	Sidi de Berrani	Marital Condition	Single
Date of Birth	28 March. 1888	Next of Kin	BALDI Angelo,
Place of Birth	Montevettolini Pistoia	Address of Next of Kin	Collecchio
Trade or Occupation	Chaplain		Pescia
Religion	Catholic	Relationship	

Report ARMY (CHAPLAIN) Unit Red Cross Reg. No. M/E.POW.No. 17101

Identification—Colour of Hair Dark Eyes Dark
Distinctive Marks

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS SPACE

Report Date	Report 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
16. 8. 41	QM	Transferred from M/E to Sydney & disembarked	16 8 41	M/E	A111	
9. 2. 42	3 M.D.	Marched into Murchison	17. 8. 41	MuR	A113	H Williams.
14. 12. 42	Pte L of C.	Transferred to Myrtleford. 1615/42.	10. 12. 42	Mur	A113	L C Luie
14. 12. 42	do	Marched in to Myrtleford 1618/42.	10. 12. 42	Myrt	do	D. R. O.
5. 2. 44	"	To 106 A. G. H	3. 2. 44	"	"	N. Gleeson
4. 3. 44	3 MD	Marched in ex 106 A.G.H.	2. 3. 44	"	"	P. Brennan
28. 7. 45		To 106 AGH	21. 7. 45	"	595/7/45	G. Muldenhalk
4. 8. 45	"	Marched in ex 106 AGH	30. 7. 45	"	216/8/45	"
4. 8. 45	Myrtleford	Trans to NSW (repat)	2. 8. 45	"	564/8/45	Pearle
29. 8. 45	NSW Pt Kee	Repatriated - embarked Sydney "Andes"	27. 8. 45	NSW	506/4/1116	Boden

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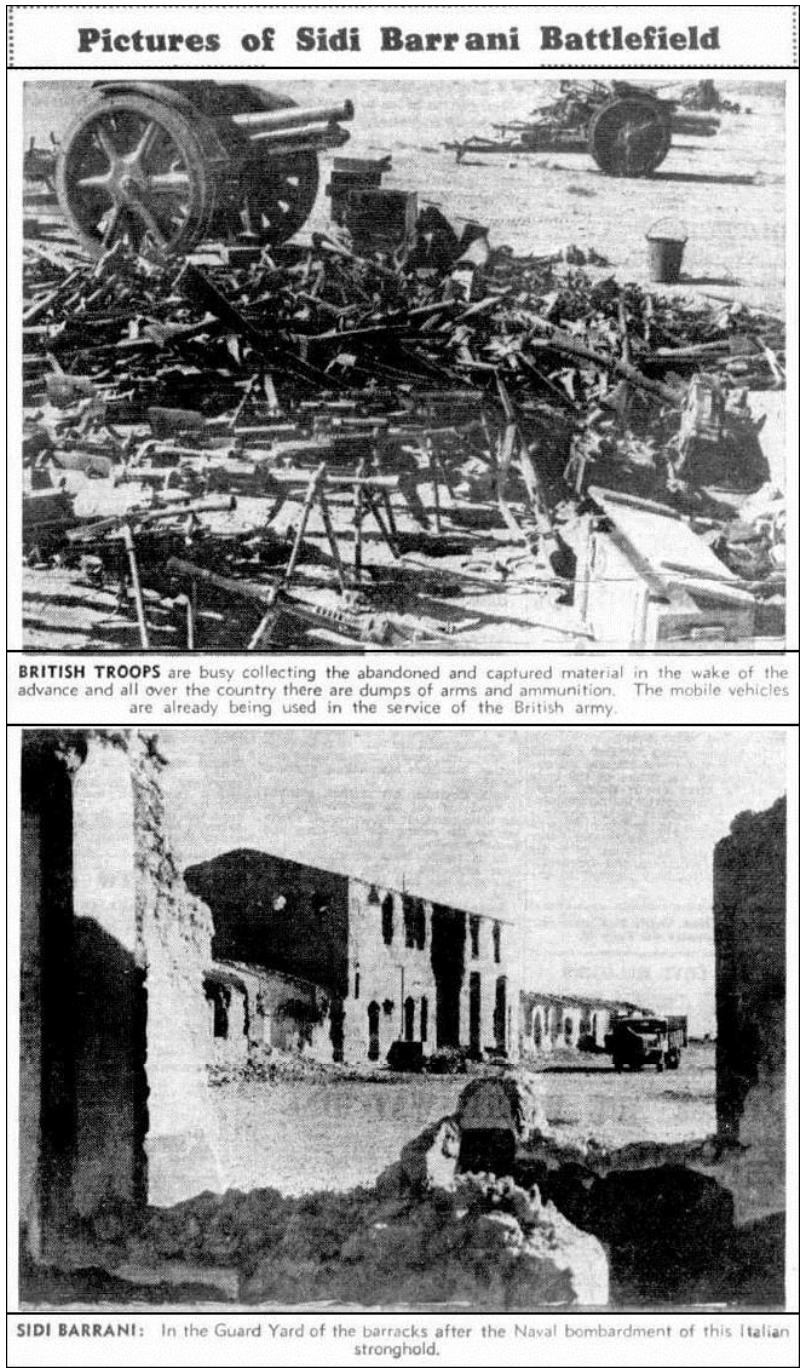
Sidi Barrani

Once you know the place of capture and date, you can read the newspapers articles of the battle and/or read Wikipedia and historical articles for background information.

From Weekly Times (Melbourne, Vic.: 1869-1954) Saturday 4 January 1941 page 35 accessed from trove.nla.gov.au



Joanne Tapiolas © Footprints

There are three POWs with the name Giuseppe Roberto. Date of birth and PWI number are important identifiers.

Prisoners of War often were sent to local hospitals for treatment rather than military hospitals

N4 Armidale – Giuseppe was allocated to a Prisoner of War Control Centre at Armidale and then sent to work at a farm in the district. He was then transferred to another farming district and PWCC N14 Young.

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

A.A.F. A. 112 C
Revised, May, 1941

INTERNEE 3631
PRISONER OF WAR — SERVICE AND CASUALTY FORM

Identification No. PWI.48630

District NEW SOUTH WALES

Rank Gunner 8 Other Names Giuseppe Surname ROBERTO (BLOCK CAPITALS)

Date of Capture 22.1.1941 1 4 1
Place of Capture Libya (Tobruk) 12
Date of Birth 18.11.1918 18
Place of Birth Montesarno (Lecce) 9
Trade or Occupation Farmer 104
Religion Roman Catholic 2

NATIONALITY Italian 2
Marital Condition Single 2
Next of Kin Pietro ROBERTO,
Address of Next of Kin Via Castiglione 130 (Montesarno) Lecce
Relationship Father

REPORT NAVY. 1 Unit MARINE. 2 Regtl. No. 98247 M.E. P.O.W. No. 164827.

Identification—Colour of Hair Brown Eyes Brown
Distinctive Marks

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS SPACE

REPORT 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
13.10.41	"Q.M."	Transferred M/E. to Sydney & disembarked	13.10.41	M/E	M/E.A.111	
14.10.41	2 D.R.O.	Marched in Cowra 1091	14.10.41	Cowra	A.113	C.G. Southcott
25-9-43	Liverpool	Adm in ex Cowra & off sick to Armidale 1533	21-9-43	Liverpool	"	Hay
6-4-44	"	To Armidale Hospital "Gastritis"	14-3-44	"	"	P.B. Kennan
19-4-44	"	Marched in ex Armidale Hospital to N4	31-3-44	"	"	"
6-5-44	Cowra	Marched in ex N4 Armidale	14-4-44	Cowra	"	R.G.
11-5-44	"	To N14 Young	28-4-44	"	"	"
18-5-44	"	Marched in ex N14 Young	6-5-44	"	"	
	"	Trans. to Gaythorne	11-9-44	"	"	
19-9-44	Gaythorne	Marched in ex Cowra	13-9-44	Gaythorne	"	
"	"	To Q6 "Hostel" Home Hill	15-9-44	"	"	
28-12-44	"	Marched in ex Q6 Home Hill	17-12-44	"	"	
3-1-45	"	Trans. to Hay for sentence of 12 mths. hard labour	23-12-44	"	"	

Sentenced to 12 months hard labour and sent to Hay

There is an additional file for Giuseppe that can be purchased from NAA: SP196/2
For such a severe sentence, additional files should be on record.

Repatriation Ship and Date of Repatriation
You might find newspaper articles on their arrival in Italy or departure from Australia eg Incident on Otranto Fraternisation Causes Trouble from Kalgoorlie Miner 13 January 1947 eg disembarkation at Naples

PWI 48630 Giuseppe ROBERTO

REPORT 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
11.1.45	Hay	Marched in ex Gaythorne	25.12.44	Hay	A113	P.B. Kennan
18-1-45	"	Trans to Cowra	7-12-45	"	28/1/46	[illegible]
	Cowra	Marched in ex Hay		Cowra	25/1/47	[illegible]
	"	REPtd. OTRANTO 10 January 1947		"		

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS SPACE

S.B.&CO.—23047

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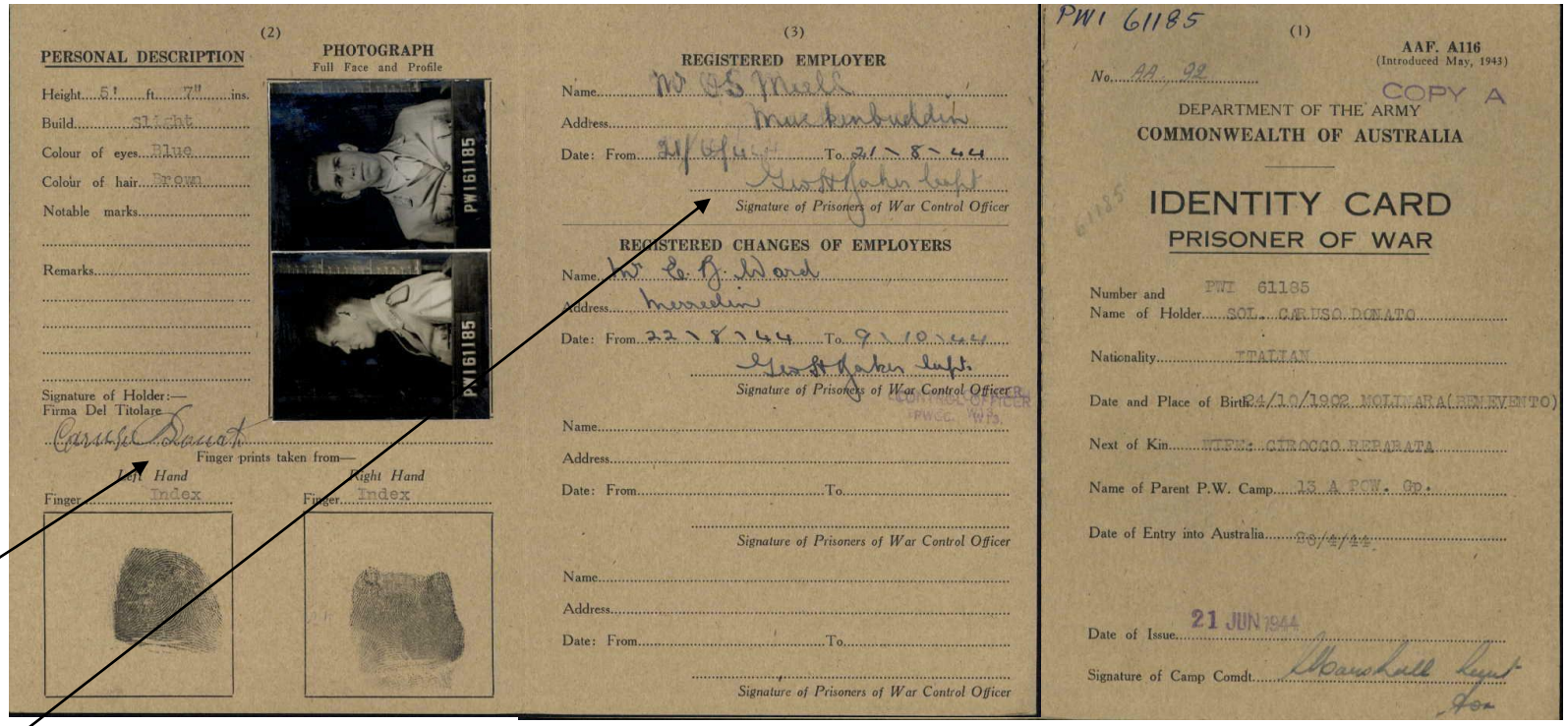
K1174 Files – WA Italian POWs

These files exist for Italian Prisoners of War who were in Western Australia.

They provide valuable documents and details.

You have to apply to purchase a copy and a pdf file will be emailed to you. The price is c. A$30.00.



(2)

PERSONAL DESCRIPTION

Height 5' ft 7" ins.

Build Slight

Colour of eyes Blue

Colour of hair Brown

Notable marks

Remarks

Signature of Holder:—
Firma Del Titolare

Finger prints taken from—

Left Hand — Finger Index

Right Hand — Finger Index

PHOTOGRAPH
Full Face and Profile

PW161185

PW161185

(3)

REGISTERED EMPLOYER

Name Mr O. S. Miell

Address Mukinbudin

Date: From 21/8/44 To 21/8/44

Signature of Prisoners of War Control Officer

REGISTERED CHANGES OF EMPLOYERS

Name Mr E. J. Ward

Address Merredin

Date: From 22/8/44 To 9/10/44

Signature of Prisoners of War Control Officer

Name

Address

Date: From To

Signature of Prisoners of War Control Officer

Name

Address

Date: From To

Signature of Prisoners of War Control Officer

PW1 61185

(1)

AAF. A116
(Introduced May, 1943)

No. AA 98

COPY A

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

IDENTITY CARD
PRISONER OF WAR

Number and Name of Holder PW1 61185 SOL. CARUSO DONATO

Nationality ITALIAN

Date and Place of Birth 24/10/1902 MOLINARA (BENEVENTO)

Next of Kin WIFE: CIROCCO REPARATA

Name of Parent P.W. Camp 13 A POW. Gp.

Date of Entry into Australia 30/4/44

Date of Issue 21 JUN 1944

Signature of Camp Comdt

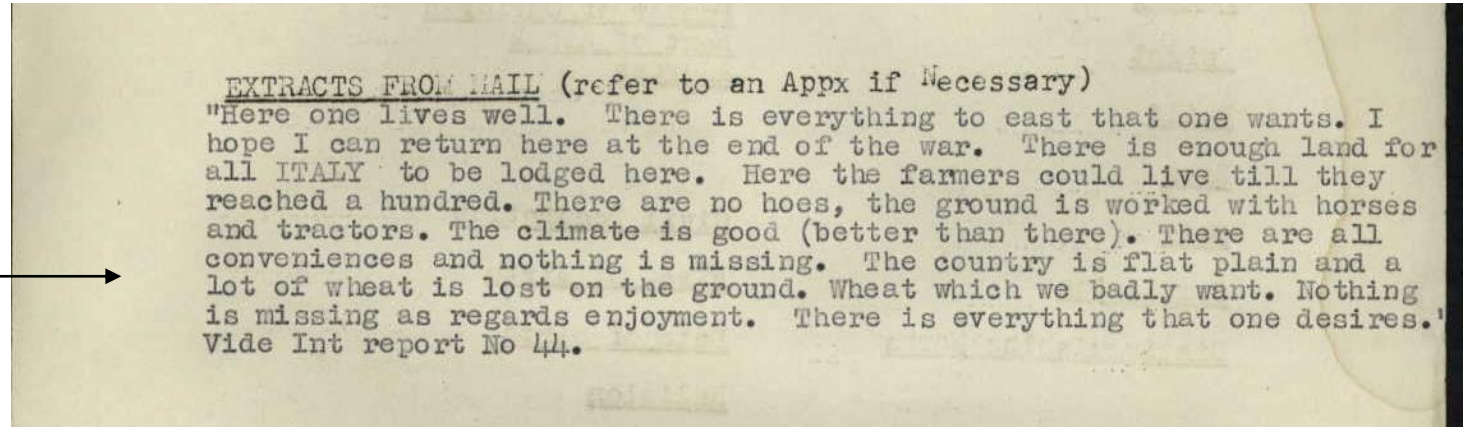
The Identity Card is an invaluable insight into an Italian POWs life and his time in Western Australia.

The details such as height, weight, eye colour, photographs, fingerprints and signature are very personal reminders of your father or grandfather.

Additionally, the name of the registered employer is listed together with the dates of placement. This gives you the farming district where your relative worked and lived. With a google search, you will find out that Mukinbudin is a wheat farming district 300 km NE of Perth.

Another google search and we find an article on Oscar Miell and the concrete flower pots that his POW made. Donato was a bricklayer, so possibly he was the flower pot maker.

An additional document gives an extract from a letter he wrote home about life in Australia: its climate, farming life and quality of life. A very personal document.



EXTRACTS FROM MAIL (refer to an Appx if Necessary)
"Here one lives well. There is everything to east 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.'
Vide Int report No 44.

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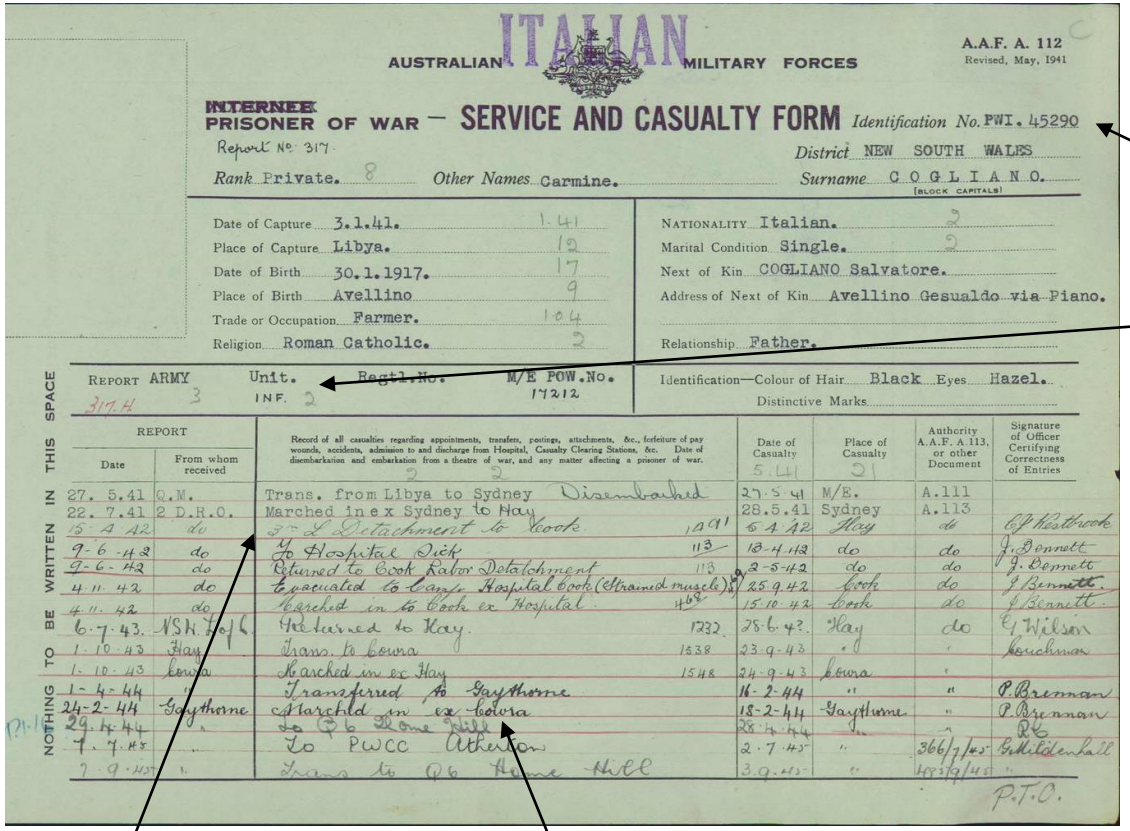
Prisoner of War Brothers

Captured on different days, brothers Carmine and Rocco found each other and came to Australia on *Queen Mary* and their PWI numbers indicate they were processed together. Separated for a time, they made their way to Queensland and to Q6 Hostel Home Hill.

Both were in the army, Infantry and A.S.C. (if you can find what the abbreviation means, then you might find more information)
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_units_of_the_Italian_Army



AUSTRALIAN ITALIAN MILITARY FORCES — A.A.F. A. 112, Revised, May, 1941

INTERNEE PRISONER OF WAR — SERVICE AND CASUALTY FORM — Identification No. PWI. 45290

Report No. 317 — District NEW SOUTH WALES

Rank Private. 8 — Other Names Carmine. — Surname COGLIANO. (BLOCK CAPITALS)

Date of Capture 3.1.41. 1.41
Place of Capture Libya. 12
Date of Birth 30.1.1917. 17
Place of Birth Avellino 9
Trade or Occupation Farmer. 104
Religion Roman Catholic. 2

Nationality Italian. 2
Marital Condition Single. 2
Next of Kin COGLIANO Salvatore.
Address of Next of Kin Avellino Gesualdo via Piano.
Relationship Father.

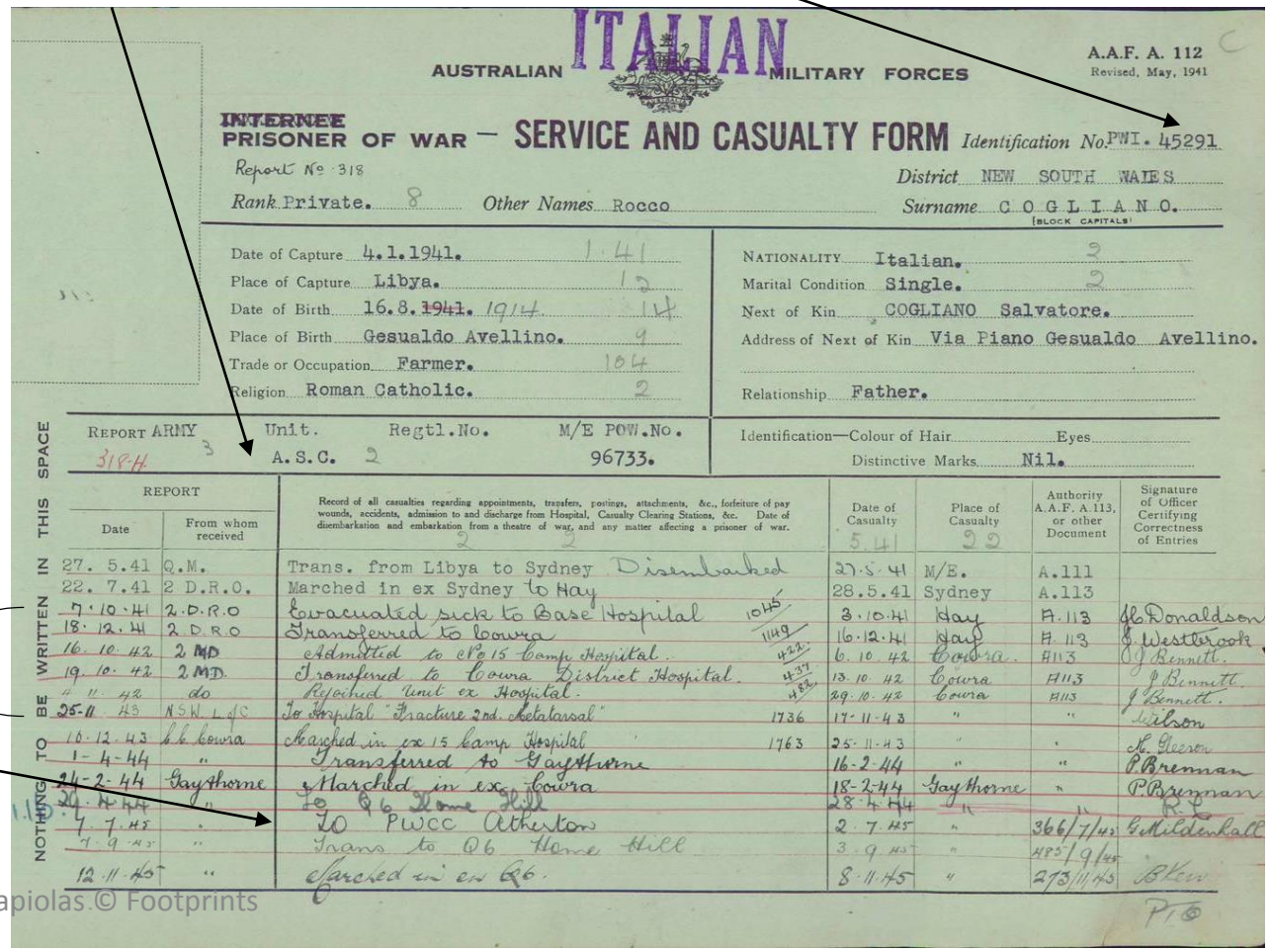
Report ARMY 3 — Unit. INF. 2 — Regtl.No. — M/E POW.No. 17212

Identification—Colour of Hair Black Eyes Hazel.
Distinctive Marks

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS SPACE

Report Date	From whom received	Record of 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
27. 5.41	Q.M.	Trans. from Libya to Sydney Disembarked	27.5.41	M/E.	A.111	
22. 7.41	2 D.R.O.	Marched in ex Sydney to Hay	28.5.41	Sydney	A.113	
15 4 42	do	To I Detachment to Cook 1091	5 4 42	Hay	do	C.P. Westbrook
9-6-42	do	To Hospital Sick 113	13-4-42	do	do	J. Bennett
9-6-42	do	Returned to Cook Labor Detachment 113	2-5-42	do	do	J. Bennett
4 11 42	do	Evacuated to Camp Hospital Cook (Strained muscle)	25 9 42	Cook	do	J. Bennett
4 11 42	do	Marched in to Cook ex Hospital 463	15 10 42	Cook	do	J. Bennett
6-7-43	N.S.W. Lab	Returned to Hay. 1232	28-6-43	Hay	do	G. Wilson
1-10-43	Hay	Trans. to Cowra 1538	23-9-43	"		Couchman
1-10-43	Cowra	Marched in ex Hay 1548	24-9-43	Cowra	"	
1-4-44		Transferred to Gaythorne	16-2-44	"	"	P. Brennan
24-2-44	Gaythorne	Marched in ex Cowra	18-2-44	Gaythorne	"	P. Brennan
29.4.44		To Q6 Home Hill	28.4.44		Q6	
7.7.45	"	To PWCC Atherton	2.7.45	"	366/7/45	G. Mildenhall
7.9.45	"	Trans to Q6 Home Hill	3.9.45	"	485/9/45	"

P.T.O.



AUSTRALIAN ITALIAN MILITARY FORCES — A.A.F. A. 112, Revised, May, 1941

INTERNEE PRISONER OF WAR — SERVICE AND CASUALTY FORM — Identification No. PWI. 45291

Report No. 318 — District NEW SOUTH WALES

Rank Private. 8 — Other Names Rocco — Surname COGLIANO. (BLOCK CAPITALS)

Date of Capture 4.1.1941. 1.41
Place of Capture Libya. 12
Date of Birth 16.8.~~1941~~. 1914. 14
Place of Birth Gesualdo Avellino. 9
Trade or Occupation Farmer. 104
Religion Roman Catholic. 2

Nationality Italian. 2
Marital Condition Single. 2
Next of Kin COGLIANO Salvatore.
Address of Next of Kin Via Piano Gesualdo Avellino.
Relationship Father.

Report ARMY 3 — Unit. A.S.C. 2 — Regtl.No. — M/E POW.No. 96733.

Identification—Colour of Hair Eyes
Distinctive Marks Nil.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS SPACE

Report Date	From whom received	Record of 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
27. 5.41	Q.M.	Trans. from Libya to Sydney Disembarked	27.5.41	M/E.	A.111	
22. 7.41	2 D.R.O.	Marched in ex Sydney to Hay	28.5.41	Sydney	A.113	
7.10.41	2.D.R.O	Evacuated sick to Base Hospital 1045	3.10.41	Hay	A.113	G. McDonaldson
18.12.41	2 D.R.O	Transferred to Cowra 1149	16.12.41	Hay	A.113	C.P. Westbrook
16.10.42	2 MD	Admitted to No 15 Camp Hospital. 424	6.10.42	Cowra	A113	J. Bennett
19.10.42	2 MD	Transferred to Cowra District Hospital. 437	13.10.42	Cowra	A113	J. Bennett
" 11.42	do	Rejoined Unit ex Hospital. 484	29.10.42	Cowra	A113	J. Bennett
25-11 43	N.S.W. L/S	To Hospital "Fracture 2nd. Metatarsal" 1736	17-11-43	"	"	Wilson
10-12-43	b.b. Cowra	Marched in ex 15 Camp Hospital 1763	25-11-43	"	"	N. Gleeson
1-4-44	"	Transferred to Gaythorne	16-2-44	"	"	P. Brennan
24-2-44	Gaythorne	Marched in ex Cowra	18-2-44	Gaythorne	"	P. Brennan
29.4.44	"	To Q6 Home Hill	28.4.44	"		Q6
7.7.45	"	To PWCC Atherton	2.7.45	"	366/7/45	G. Mildenhall
7.9.45	"	Trans to Q6 Home Hill	3.9.45	"	485/9/45	
12.11.45	"	Marched in ex Q6.	8.11.45	"	273/11/45	

P.T.O.

Cook Labour Detachment No. 3 was a group of POW who worked at Cook South Australia. They worked on firewood production and maintenance on East West Railway line.

Q6 Home Hill was a Prisoner of War Control Hostel: Q6 PWCH It was a purpose built barracks complex built to house 255 Italian POWs who worked on Department of Commerce and Agriculture farms.

Hospital Visits indicate ongoing medical issues

PWCC Atherton was a temporary centre set up for a maize harvest. POWs were on loan from Q6 PWCH Home Hill

Joanne Tapiolas © Footprints

Carmine and Rocco Cogliano

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL 030174/18

Cowra, NSW. 6 February 1944. Group of Italian prisoners of war (POWs) interned at No. 12 POW Group. Back row, left to right: 57474 V. Rosato; 57157 M. D'Avino; 57264 P. Giusto; 57194 E. Di Pietro; 57148 P. D'Adamo; 57406 R. Nuzzo. Front row: 57271 E. Graziosi; 57173 P. De Martino; ***45290 C. Cogliano; 45291 R. Cogliano;*** 57242 C. Galluccio. Note: The number is an assigned POW number.
Photograph by Geoffrey McInnes. AWM 030174/18

Joanne Tapiolas © Footprints

Visit *italianprisonersofwar.com*

- This website has general information about Italian prisoners of war in Australia and specific information about the men who went to ***Queensland***.

- The article ***Further Reading*** contains information and links for additional information and stories. https://italianprisonersofwar.com/2017/02/21/further-reading/

- The stories are from different perspectives: the Italian prisoners of war, the farmer, the farmer's wife, the neighbourhood children, the farmer's children, the Army interpreters, the family of Italian prisoners of war.

- If you would like to share your story about your papa or nonno, I can be contacted at joannetappy@gmail.com

Enjoy your journey

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