



**ARANDORA STAR
MEMORIAL FUND
IN WALES
1940 - 2010**

**Celebration Mass & Unveiling Ceremony For The
Welsh National Memorial
Commemorating the 70th anniversary
Of the sinking of the SS Arandora Star
Metropolitan Cathedral of St David,
Cardiff, 2nd July, 2010**

**Cronfa Goffa Yr 'Arandora Star' Yng Nghymru
Offeren Ddathlu A Seremoni Ddadorchuddio
Y Gofeb Genedlaethol Gymreig
I gofio 70fed pen-blwydd
suddo'r SS Arandora Star
Eglwys Fetropolitan Dewi Sant,
Caerdydd, Gorffennaf 2, 2010**

**Fondo Gallese Per Un Monumento Dell'arandora Star
Messa Celebrativa E Cerimonia D'inaugurazione Per La
Lapide Commemorativa Nazionale Nel Galles
Al 70mo anniversario dell'affondamento
della nave Arandora Star
Cattedrale Metropolitana di San David
Cardiff, 2 luglio 2010**



www.arandorastarwales.us



**SINKING OF THE ⚓ AFFONDAMENTO DELLA ⚓ SUDDIADYR
ARANDORA STAR - 2.7.1940
Wales and the Italian Community remember all those who perished, their families and the survivors - Cardiff 2 July 2010**

ABBE RITELLI CARLO (Napoli)
ANTONIAZZI BARTOLOMEO (Napoli)
BASSINI BARTOLOMEO (Napoli)
BELLU' ANTONIO (Napoli)
BIOMIETTI MAURO (Napoli)
CAJANI FRANCESCO (Napoli)
CABINI GIUSEPPE (Napoli)
CAPANINI GIOVANNI (Napoli)
CAPANINI GIUSEPPE (Napoli)
CASTELLI ANTONIO (Napoli)
CAVALI GIOVANNI (Napoli)
CHIAVITA EMILIO (Napoli)
CONTE GUIDO (Napoli)
COSTI GIUSEPPE (Napoli)
DAMBRISIO FRANCESCO (Napoli)
DI MARCO MICHELE (Napoli)
EGIDIO FERRICCI (Napoli)
FERRARI LUCIA (Napoli)

FRANCINI GIACOMO (Napoli)
FULCONI GIACOMO (Napoli)
FULCONI GIOVANNI (Napoli)
GAZZI ANDREA (Napoli)
GAZZI LINO (Napoli)
GAZZI FRANCESCO (Napoli)
GILBERTI LINO (Napoli)
LUSARDI TOMMASO (Napoli)
LUSARDI VITTORIO (Napoli)
MARI NGHI GIOVANNI (Napoli)
MERLO GIUSEPPE (Napoli)
MINETTI GIACOMO (Napoli)
MORUZZI ENESTO (Napoli)
MORUZZI PETER (Napoli)
PINCHIAZZI LUCIA (Napoli)
POMPA FERDINANDO (Napoli)
RAIACOTTI ANTONIO (Napoli)
RAIACOTTI BARTOLOMEO (Napoli)

RAIACOTTI DOMENICO (Napoli)
RAIACOTTI FRANCESCO (Napoli)
RAIACOTTI LUCIA (Napoli)
RICCI LUZZARO (Napoli)
ROSSI EUGENIO (Napoli)
ROSSI GIOVANNI (Napoli)
ROSSI LUCIA (Napoli)
SIDOLI GIOVANNI (Napoli)
SOLARI LUCIA (Napoli)
SIVIGNA ANTONIO (Napoli)
STILLON GIOVANNI (Napoli)
STERLINI MAURO (Napoli)
STRINATI GIOVANNI (Napoli)
TAPARELLI GIUSEPPE (Napoli)
TAMARINI GIOVANNI (Napoli)
ZANETTI ETORE (Napoli)
ZANETTI ANTONIO (Napoli)



**Il Galles e la Comunità Italiana ricordano tutti coloro che perirono, i loro familiari e i superstiti - Cardiff 2 Luglio 2010
Cofia Gymra'r Gymuned Eiddaidd y Rhai a golodd eu bywydau, a'u teuluoedd a'r goreswyr - Caerdydd 2 Gorffennaf 2010**

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DEDICATION



Aldo Leonardo Bruno Bacchetta
24-04-1937- 29-04-2009

This commemorative booklet is dedicated to our late dear friend, committee member, Aldo Leonardo Bruno Bacchetta.

As a founder member of our small but dedicated 'Arandora Star Memorial Fund in Wales', Aldo shone with a fervent intention that Wales would, one day, have a national memorial commemorating the tragedy of the sinking of the Arandora Star.

Sadly, Aldo died in 2009 before seeing his personal wish fulfilled. In our

committee meetings, he has been the absent member we often felt still sat alongside us. We hold him in our hearts and continue to remember his smiling face...

Today, we see his dream of a Welsh-Italian memorial realised. We are proud to witness, on his behalf, the result of our heartfelt goal and tireless efforts.

Paulette L. Pelosi on behalf of the Arandora Star Memorial Fund in Wales Committee

WHY A WELSH NATIONAL MEMORIAL?

(adapted from our press release which was published throughout Wales in 2009)

The National Memorial commemorates the men who perished when the former luxury liner SS Arandora Star was sunk by a U-boat on July 2nd, 1940.

805 men were drowned including crew and army guards.

The majority who died were Italian – 470.

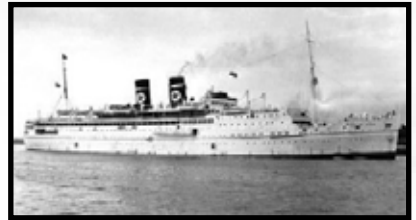
At the beginning of the war, thousands of men were arrested in Britain. Young and old men alike became ‘interned’.

The internees came originally from Italy, Germany and Austria (including German and Austrian Jewish refugees). A number had become British citizens. However, the Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, declared there was a ‘Fifth Column’ of spies - enemy nationals - and ordered the police to “collar the lot”.

Not only were the males affected: wives and mothers of most Italian families living in the UK had to fend for themselves and their movements were severely restricted.

On the 2nd July, 1940, 1,300 of the internees were put on board the SS Arandora Star. They were being taken to prison camps in Canada.

Less than 24 hours into their journey, off the north coast of Ireland, a U-boat fired a torpedo at the battleship-grey Arandora Star and sunk it. There was no red cross or other markings on the ship (in its previous life as a luxury liner it had been painted



bright white, with blue stars on its two funnels).

The internees who survived were brought back to the UK and immediately shipped to a prison camp in the Australian outback.

Following the general disquiet in the UK Parliament about interning men who posed no threat to the war effort, the policy was repealed within months of its introduction. However, this was too late for the internees, crew and guards on the Arandora Star.

Some of the guards came from the Welch Regiment.

Whilst there are Arandora Star memorials in Scotland and England, we did not have one in Wales. Therefore, we formed the Arandora Star Memorial Fund in Wales (2008).

At an early stage, the committee was backed by a number of prominent patrons, including the Italian Ambassador to the UK, the actor and writer, Victor Spinetti, the broadcaster, Roy Noble OBE, Catrin Collier and the journalist Mario Basini. However, since then, many other people have contributed to our work by making generous financial contributions.

The committee's main aim was to create a permanent memorial in time for the 70th anniversary in 2010, and to continue raising public awareness in Wales about the tragedy by....

Publishing personal stories and articles on our Website and in newspapers

Taking part in broadcast media interviews

Educating and informing children, young people and adults about the tragedy, and celebrating the people of Italian descent who made Wales their home.

The committee is mainly made up of Welsh-Italians because the majority of the internees who died were Italians. 53 of these had settled in Wales - from Bardi in the north of Italy to Picinisco in central Italy. They had emigrated to Wales many years before World War 2, built businesses, raised families and had sons in the British army.

Our memorial, in Welsh slate and Italian terracotta, will recognise the contribution made by these men and their families to the communities of Wales. We will also remember the Italian survivors, who despite further hardships as internees following the Arandora Star tragedy, were eventually welcomed back home to Wales.

All this is done in furtherance of the spirit of reconciliation and of peace among nations.

**Arandora Star Memorial Fund in Wales
www.arandorastarwales.uk**



PAM COFEB GENEDLAETHOL GYMREIG?

(wedi'i addasu o'n datganiad i'r wasg a gyhoeddwyd ar draws Cymru yn 2009)

Mae'r Gofeb Genedlaethol yn coffáu y dynion fu farw pan suddwyd y gyn-long deithio foethus yr SS Arandora Star gan long danfor Almaenig ar Orffennaf 2il, 1940.

Boddwyd 805 o ddynion gan gynnwys y criw a gardiau'r fyddin.

Eidalwyr oedd y mwyafrif a fu farw – 470 ohonynt.

Ar ddechrau'r rhyfel, arestiwyd miloedd o ddynion ym Mhrydain. Caethiwyd yr hen a'r ifanc.

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Deuai'r carcharorion yn wreiddiol o'r Eidal, yr Almaen ac Awstria (gan gynnwys ffoaduriaid Iddewig o'r Almaen ac Awstria). Roedd nifer ohonynt wedi dod yn ddinesyddion Prydeinig. Fodd bynnag, datganodd y Prif Weinidog, Winston Churchill, fod 'Pumed Colofn' o ysbwyrr – dinasyddion gelyniaethus – a gorchmynnodd yr heddlu i ddal pob un ohonynt.

Nid y dynion yn unig a effeithiwyd: bu'n rhaid i wragedd a mamau'r rhan fwyaf o'r teuluoedd Eidalaidd a oedd yn byw yn y DU ymdopi ar eu pennau eu hunain a chyfyngwyd yn ddifrifol ar eu symudiadau.

Ar Orffennaf 2il, 1940, rhoddwyd 1,300 o'r carcharorion ar fwrdd yr SS Arandora Star. Roeddent i'w cludo i wersylloedd carcharorion yng Nghanada.

Lai na 24 awr wedi cychwyn y siwrnai, oddi ar arfordir gogleddol Iwerddon, taniodd llong danfor Almaenig dorpido at y llong ryfel lwyd, yr Arandora Star, a'i suddo. Doedd dim croes



goch nac arwyddion eraill ar y llong (pan oedd yn llong deithio foethus cyn hynny roedd wedi'i phaentio yn wyn llachar, gyda sêr glas ar ei dwy gorn).

Yr SS Arandora Star yn llong deithio foethus wedi'i phaentio'n llachar cyn yr Ail Ryfel Byd a'r llong garchar lwyd yn 1940.

Daethpwyd â'r carcharorion a oroesodd yn ôl i'r DU a'u hanfon mewn llong ar unwaith i wersyll carcharorion ym mherfeddion Awstralia.

Yn dilyn yr anesmwythyd cyffredinol yn Senedd y DU ynglŷn â charcharu dynion nad oedd yn unrhyw fygythiad i'r ymdrech ryfel, diddymwyd y polisi o fewn misoedd i'w gyflwyno. Fodd bynnag, roedd hynny'n rhy hwyr i'r carcharorion, y criw a'r gardiau ar yr Arandora Star.

Roedd rhai o'r gardiau yn aelodau o'r Gatrawd Gymreig.

Tra bod cofebau i'r Arandora Star yn yr Alban a Lloegr, nid oes un gennym yng Nghymru. Felly, ffurfion ni Gronfa Goffa'r Arandora Star (2008).

O'r cychwyn, cafodd y pwyllgor gefnogaeth nifer o noddwyr adnabyddus, gan gynnwys y Llysgennad yr Eidal i'r DU, yr actor a'r awdur, Victor Spinetti, y darlledwr, Roy Noble OBE, Catrin Collier a'r gohebydd Mario Basini. Fodd bynnag, ers hynny, mae llawer o bobl eraill wedi cyfrannu at ein gwaith trwy gyfraniadau ariannol hael.

Prif nod y pwyllgor oedd creu cofeb barhaol ar gyfer y 70fed pen-blwydd yn 2010, a pharhau i godi ymwybyddiaeth y cyhoedd yng Nghymru am y drasiedi trwy

Gyhoeddi straeon personol ac erthyglau ar ein Gwefan ac mewn papurau newydd

Cymryd rhan mewn cyfweiliadau ar y cyfryngau ...

Addysgu a rhoi gwybodaeth i blant, pobl ifanc ac oedolion am y drasiedi, a dathlu'r bobl o dras Eidalaid a ymgartrefodd yng Nghymru.

Cymry-Eidalaid yw mwyafrif y pwyllgor oherwydd Eidalwyr oedd mwyafrif y rhai a fu farw. Roedd 53 ohonynt wedi ymsefydlu yng Nghymru – o Bardi yng ngogledd yr Eidal i Picinisco yn y canolbarth. Roedden nhw wedi ymfudo i Gymru sawl blwyddyn cyn yr Ail Ryfel Byd, wedi adeiladu busnesau ac roedd ganddynt feibion ym myddin Prydain.

Bydd ein cofeb, o lechi Cymreig a terra cotta Eidalaid, yn cydnabod y cyfraniad a wnaeth y dynion hyn a'u teuluoedd i gymunedau de Cymru. Byddwn yn cofio hefyd am yr Eidalwyr a oroesodd, ac a groesawyd yn ôl i Gymru yn y pen draw, er gwaethaf caledi pellach fel carcharorion yn dilyn trasiedi yr Arandora Star.

Gwneir y cyfan hyn er hyrwyddo ysbryd cymod a heddwch rhwng y cenhedloedd.

**Cronfa Goffa yr Arandora Star yng Nghymru
www.arandorastarwales.uk**



PERCHE' UN MONUMENTO NAZIONALE NEL GALLES?

La lapide nazionale ricorda gli uomini che perirono quando la ex nave transatlantica di lusso Arandora Star fu affondata da un sottomarino "U-boat" tedesco il 2 luglio 1940.

805 uomini affogarono inclusi l'equipaggio e le guardie.

La maggioranza di coloro che morirono erano Italiani – 470.

All'inizio della guerra, migliaia di uomini furono arrestati in Gran Bretagna. Giovani e Vecchi vennero "internati".

Gli internati provenirono originalmente dall'Italia, Germania ed Austria (fra cui dei rifugiati ebrei tedeschi ed austriaci). Alcuni avevano acquisito la cittadinanza britannica. Comunque il Primo Ministro, Winston Churchill, dichiarò che c'era una "Quinta colonna" di spie – i cittadini dei paesi nemici – e diede l'ordine alla polizia di "Beccate tutti".

Non solo gli uomini furono colpiti; ma anche le mogli e le madri della più parte delle famiglie residenti nel Regno Unito dovettero arrangiarsi da sole ed i loro movimenti furono severamente ristretti.

Il 2 luglio 1940, 1300 internati furono imbarcati sulla nave Arandora Star. Venivano trasportati ai campi di prigionieri di guerra in Canada.

A meno di 24 ore del loro viaggio, al largo della costa settentrionale dell'Irlanda, un sottomarino tedesco lanciò un siluro all'Arandora Star, ora dipinta in grigio militare, e l'affondò. Non c'erano segni, sia della Croce Rossa od altri, dipinti sulla nave (nella sua vita antecedente in qualità di transatlantico essa era dipinta



in bianco brillante con stelle blu sui suoi fumaioli).

Gli internati che sopravvissero furono riportati nel Regno Unito ed immediatamente imbarcati verso un campo per prigionieri nell'entroterra dell'Australia.

In seguito all'inquietudine generale del Parlamento Britannico circa l'internamento di uomini che non creavano alcuna minaccia verso lo sforzo della guerra, la prassi venne abrogata entro mesi della sua introduzione. Comunque questo avvenne troppo tardi per gli internati, l'equipaggio e le guardie dell'Arandora Star.

Alcune delle guardie facevano parte del Regimento Gallese.

Mentre ci sono delle lapidi o dei monumenti dell'Arandora Star in Scozia ed in Inghilterra, qui nel Galles non ce n'è uno. Quindi abbiamo costituito il " Fondo Gallese per un monumento dell'Arandora Star" (2008).

All'inizio il Comitato ottenne il patrocinio di un numero di personalità prominenti fra cui S. E. l'Ambasciatore d'Italia, l'attore e scrittore Victor Spinetti, il presentatore radiofonico Roy Noble OBE, Catrin Collier ed il giornalista Mario Basini. Comunque da allora molte altre persone hanno contribuito col nostro lavoro, dandoci generosi contributi finanziari.

Lo scopo principale del Comitato fu di creare un monumento permanente in tempo per il 70mo anniversario nell'anno 2010 e continuare a sollecitare la coscienza pubblica sulla tragedia con;

La pubblicazione di storie personali ed articoli sul nostro Sito web e sui giornali

La partecipazione in interviste radio-televisive

L'istruzione e l'informazione dei bambini, dei giovani e degli adulti sulla tragedia e la celebrazione della gente d'origine italiana che fecero del Galles la loro Casa.

Il Comitato è principalmente composto di Italo-Gallese perché la maggioranza degli internati che persero la vita erano italiani. 53 di loro si erano sistemati nel Galles provenienti da Bardi nel centro-nord d'Italia e da Piccinisco nell'Italia centrale. Essi emigrarono nel Galles molto prima della Seconda Guerra Mondiale, dove costruirono le loro imprese, allevarono le loro famiglie ed ebbero figli prestando il servizio militare nell'esercito britannico.

Il nostro monumento, consiste di una lapide in ardesia Gallese e terracotta italiana, riconoscerà il contributo dato da questi uomini e dalle loro famiglie alle comunità del Galles. Ricorderemo anche i italiani sopravvissuti che, malgrado le loro ulteriori sofferenze subite quali internati dopo la tragedia dell'Arandora Star vennero eventualmente ben accolti a casa loro nel Galles.

Tutto questo viene fatto per promuovere lo spirito di riconciliazione e pace fra le nazioni.



THE UNSUNG HEROES OF HIS MAJESTY'S CANADIAN SHIP SAN LAURENT

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Captain De Wolf

The torpedo impacted with the Arandora Star, making a deafening explosion.

At first the liner seemed unaffected but soon it began to list badly. Captain Wallace Moulton gave the order to abandon ship. Everyone on board attempted to scramble to safety, a number of the life boats were inoperable. Some of the life boats could not be lowered and one of them smashed up on hitting the sea. Many hundreds just jumped into the sea. The life boats that were successfully lowered were soon crammed with survivors. Many just grabbed any object to stay afloat.

Fortunately the radio station on Malin Point, Ireland, had received an SOS from the

Arandora Star before it had sunk. A RAF Sunderland Flying Boat was dispatched to the scene. The plane sighted the survivors and dropped some supplies (cigarettes and food). They signalled the exact position of the survivors to nearby ships.

Even though His Majesty's Canadian Ship, San Laurent, rushed to the scene at 33 knots, the Arandora Star survivors had to endure many hours in the freezing sea before their arrival.

HMCS San Laurent was commanded by Captain Harry De Wolf. He later rose to the rank of Vice Admiral. Captain De Wolf was greatly respected and one of the most highly decorated Canadian Naval Officers of the Second World War,

Captain De Wolf slowed his ship down well before it arrived at the scene, as he did not wish to cause any further casualties: the sea in the immediate area of the sinking was covered in oil, as were the survivors.

The Arandora Star's life boats were packed with survivors, and the rest clung onto wreckage of various kinds such as chairs and wooden planks.

The St Laurent crew quickly set about rescuing the survivors who were in a terrible state after prolonged immersion in the cold water. They had to be lifted bodily out the water with a rope tied around their waists and hoisted aboard.

The St Laurent crew took possession of the life boats and brought the survivors to the safety of the ship. Captain De Wolf ordered his crew to rescue the survivors floating in the water. The sailors on the rescue parties had the dreadful task of checking the survivors to determine if they were dead or alive.

Captain De Wolf and his crew took many risks in their attempt to rescue the survivors. There was not much time, since an extended stop would have exposed his ship to being sunk by German U-boats.

At 16:00 hours that same day the rescue was completed.

The San Laurent took on 856 survivors. The ship had a crew of 150. Conditions on board were extremely overcrowded. The deck was slippery because of the oil that dripped off the survivors and there was no space to lie down.

The Canadian sailors distributed blankets, hot food, rum and tobacco. They also did much to raise the morale of the survivors.

Unfortunately during the voyage four of the rescued men died. Luckily for others, amongst the survivors were three medical doctors: two Italian, one Austrian and one German. They were able to save a number of survivors and treat the injured – including, of course, crew and guards from the Arandora Star.

Robert Welland, a member of the crew of the San Laurent, was recently interviewed for a documentary about the sinking of the Arandora Star and said:

To my way of thinking - I was twenty-two at the time – they [internees] were old people.

We were used to rescuing young people from the beginning of the war. Many of them were instead old. They were at least 50 or 60 years of age, some of them had grey hair. I mean, you hardly ever see people like these, obviously less agile than the young ones, on the Atlantic Ocean in the middle of the war.

The San Laurent arrived at Greenock in Scotland at 06:30 hours on 3rd of July 1940. Robert Welland recalls that the ship was met by a swarm of soldiers, with rifles trained on them.

Here was the army trying to line them up and count them, when they should have all been taken to a hospital.

In total, HMCS St Laurent rescued 109 guards, 118 crew and 586 Austrian, German and Italian internees.

Captain De Wolf and his crew demonstrated a true sense of heroism and humane treatment towards the survivors of this terrible tragedy. They treated everyone with compassion because they fully understood that sea does not recognise who is friend or foe.

It has taken a very long time to arrive at this point where we can finally express our immense gratitude to the Canadian officers and men of the San Laurent. Without their heroism and great humanity there would not have been any survivors that day.

Even in times of war, the most gallant and noblest of deeds are carried out, regardless of race or nationality.

To Canada and the unsung heroes of HMCS San Laurent!

Raimondo Zavaglia MBE BA AIL (2010)

FROM MEMORIES TO MEMORIAL

The Italian communities of Britain have always had a great reputation for both interaction and integration in lands outside of their native Italy. I know many share my personal belief that the 'Welsh-Italian' community is a shining example of how two nations can forge a link so strong that it is revered, respected and celebrated on every level of everyday life. However, after the events of 1940, with the internment of Italian men who had made Wales their home, rounded up and despatched to a tragic death by a government order, many Italian families in Wales suffered silently.

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Bereaved families put on a public 'brave face' as is often the nature of bereavement. Within the Italian families themselves, the beautiful yet ominously tainted words 'Arandora Star' were spoken in lowered tones.

Some family members, as a coping mechanism, forbid any mention of the pre-war beauty of a liner which became a grey, broken, aquatic war grave. The unjust consequences of an act of war could, bit by bit, tear by tear, year by year have been totally forgotten if, on occasions, memorial plaques had not been set 'in stone'.

On November 4th, 1960, a striking bronze memorial plaque created by a sculptor with the surname 'Mancini' was put in place at the top of the entrance steps of St Peter's Italian Church in Clerkenwell Road, London.

This graphic cast group sculpture, to this day, has the power to stop visitors 'in their tracks' with its raw poignancy, depicting the artist's representation of a moment in the day of the sinking of the Arandora Star. The viewer sees a lifeboat from which three male figures throw up their hands to a cross above their heads.

The sculpture is painfully beautiful to observe, with its Italian inscription remembering those lost on the Arandora Star. Translation from the Italian reminds us that 'The memory lives on in the hearts of the relatives, the survivors and the Italian community' - indeed, that day in 1960, there was present a small gathering of around 70 people of the Italian community, including 8 living survivors who were able to attend.

Writer, Terri Colpi's sumptuous 'Visual History of the Italian community in Great Britain', 'Italians Forward' book, published 1991 shows us a photograph of 'The 50th Anniversary of the Arandora Star, London 1 July 1990' again at St Peter's, in Clerkenwell. Ms Colpi tells us "Of the original 266 survivors of the Arandora Star, only 21 are still alive at the time of writing." We see 7 Italian survivors in the photo but the writer informs us that "Several from Scotland and Wales were unable to travel to attend the ceremony."

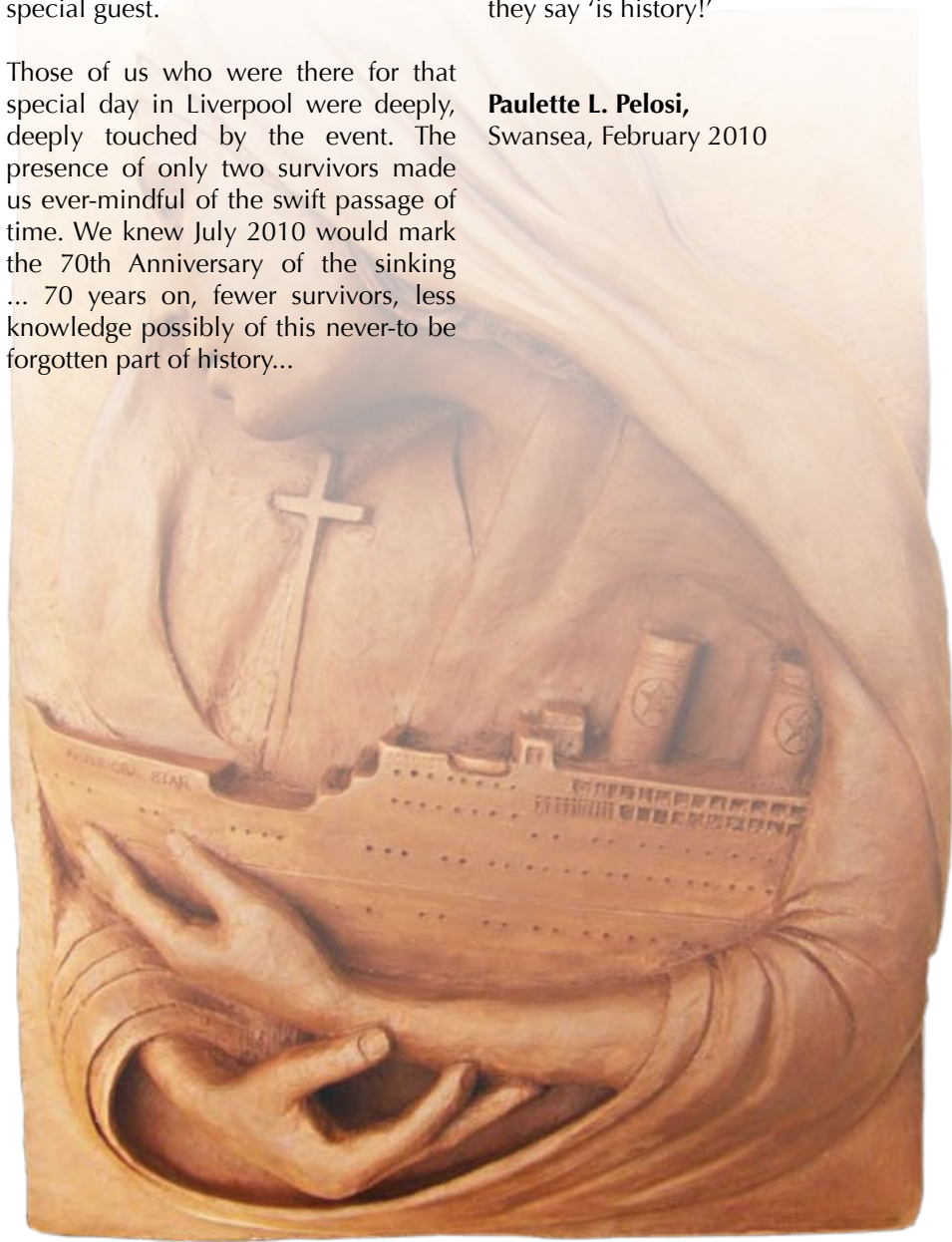
Fast-forward to Liverpool, July 2nd 2008, at a special Service of Remembrance, a plaque commemorating the Arandora

Star was unveiled. Only one Italian survivor who had been at the similar event in London in 1990 was still alive and able to attend as 'Guest of Honour', Scots-Italian, Rando Bertoia. Another survivor, once guard, Welshman, Evan Morgan ('leuan') Jones was also a special guest.

Those of us who were there for that special day in Liverpool were deeply, deeply touched by the event. The presence of only two survivors made us ever-mindful of the swift passage of time. We knew July 2010 would mark the 70th Anniversary of the sinking ... 70 years on, fewer survivors, less knowledge possibly of this never-to be forgotten part of history...

On our return to Wales, we were determined to create Wales' first national memorial to commemorate the sinking of the Arandora Star. We got together with other like-minded individuals - and the 'Arandora Star Memorial Fund in Wales' was born - and the rest, as they say 'is history!'

Paulette L. Pelosi,
Swansea, February 2010





THE COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN

Comm. Domenico Casetta

Domenico is a former Italian Vice Consul in Cardiff, and is President of the Cardiff Branch of the Italian Catholic Workers' Association. Domenico came to Wales in the 1950's, married and has lived and worked in Wales ever since. Domenico has extensive Consular experience and has been honoured twice by the President of Italy for his work with the Italian community in Wales.



SECRETARY

Bruna Chezzi

Bruna is from Guastalla (Reggio Emilia), northern Italy, but has lived in Cardiff for several years. She has a degree in English and French from Parma University presenting a thesis on the history of the coalfield societies in South Wales and working class literature. She then took an MA in Literature in European Cultures from Cardiff University (focusing on the questions of genre, identity, memory and sense of place). Bruna is undertaking a PhD, researching Italian immigration to Wales, and has given a number of talks on the subject as well as being a guest to several radio programmes and collaborating extensively with the media. She teaches Italian at Cardiff University, as well as GCSE and A Level French. She also lectures for the Classical Education Forum and writes for an Italian migrants Web site.





TREASURER

Raimondo Zavaglia MBE BA AIL

Before joining the South Wales Police in 1985 Raimondo served in the Coldstream Guards and 144 Parachute Field Ambulance. He served in Northern Ireland and Germany. His greatest passion of all is his love for the Italian language and culture, he has been closely involved with the Italian Community in the UK on a number of very important projects, promoting sporting events, such as football and rugby tournaments in Italy and Wales (he has acted as Liaison Officer for the Welsh Rugby Union for visiting Italian Rugby Teams for over 21 years and his role during the Six Nations has helped to foster excellent relations between the Welsh Rugby Union and the Italian Rugby Federation). He has been honoured by the President of Italy with the title of Knight of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Italy, and appointed an MBE by the Queen in 2000.



DEPUTY SECRETARY

Maria Moruzzi

Maria lives in Swansea with her mother, Caterina (see below), and works in Swansea University as an academic secretary. She is third generation Italian. Both Maria's parents were from Bardi and came to Wales at a young age. Maria's family did not lose any family members on the Arandora Star, but have friends who did. Maria feels the memorial is a wonderful way to remember those who died.



Romeo Basini

Romeo, a former businessman in Rhondda, is a much respected member of the Italian community in south Wales. He is President of the Italian Association, Amici Val Ceno Galles (a well-established association of Welsh Italians). Romeo has delivered numerous talks about the Italians in Wales (pre and post WW2) to schools, community and historical societies. Romeo lost his father's brother on the Arandora Star.



David Evans

David grew up in the Cynon Valley, south Wales, where he later became involved in politics and trades union activity. He has an MA from Swansea University, and lives and works in the city. He is married to Paulette Pelosi (please see below). David has over 30 years of experience working with statutory and voluntary social care organisations. He co-edited this booklet with Paulette, as well as being the committee's graphic designer and Web Editor. He is a proud Italophile!



Margo Giovannone

Margo lives in Miskin is a retired English teacher, including teaching English as a second language (in a Cardiff school). She is a fundraiser and active campaigner. Margo's grandfather was interned in 1940 and returned home to Wales in 1944, 'a broken man'.



George Hill

George lives with his family in Swansea and is a retired businessman. He was born in Birmingham, England, but always wanted to return to Swansea where his grandfather, Michele Di Marco, had set up his successful ice cream-making business ... George and his family now live in the very same house once occupied by his grandfather and family including George's mother! George is the committee's official researcher. His grandfather, Michele, died on the Arandora Star (see also Paulette Pelosi below).



Caterina Moruzzi

Caterina is a retired businesswoman, and lives with her daughter, Maria (see above), in Swansea. Caterina is the Secretary of the Associazione Nazionale Alpini Sezione Gran Bretagna, Gruppo Galles. Caterina is an active fundraiser for the committee.



Paulette Pelosi

Paulette is a retired nurse. She is a local historian and has led many campaigns in Swansea to save local heritage. Paulette co-edited this booklet with her husband, David (see above). Paulette has extensive experience with the media and is a published writer. She is a member of the Women's Archive of Wales and a founder-member of the charity, Lupus UK. Paulette's grandfather, Giuseppe Pelosi, survived the Arandora Star - only to be interned in the Australian outback. Paulette's great-uncle (grandmother's brother), Michele Di Marco, died on the ship (see also George Hill, Paulette's cousin, above).



Mary Strinati

Mary is a retired businesswoman and lives in the Rhondda. She is Treasurer of the Amici Val Ceno Galles. She is an active fundraiser for the committee. Mary's grandfather, Giovanni Strinati, died on the Arandora Star.

THE ADVENTURERS

Italians in South Wales, by Bruna Chezzi

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This is the story of the **Avventurieri... the Adventurers**¹: the Italian emigrants who settled in South Wales at the end of the 19th Century. They were mainly responsible for starting the cafés, without which no village and town in Wales was complete!

The Italians who arrived in South Wales escaped the extremely poor conditions of their farming lands in the mountains back in Italy. They came to earn a better living attracted by the opportunities provided by the Industrial Revolution and the coalfield societies. They were recruited under a *padrone*, usually a 'respectable Italian' who needed apprentices and who tended to employ young workers from the same village. Many of these young men came by foot all the way from their village in Italy, and often with no documents, as Victor Spinetti says:

[Italian] Villagers ... had gone to Wales because they had heard there was work there... The work they got was coal mining... The Welsh themselves had been far too busy farming at the time, hence the need for foreign labour. So off went Giorgio – no passport, no permit – he didn't need those, just a sturdy pair of legs to carry him from his home town, Ronchi, across northern Italy and up through France.

(Victor Spinetti FRCWMD

(Victor Spinetti Up Front, 2006)

The majority of the Adventurers (e.g. Bracchi, Berni and Rabaiotti families) came from Bardi, a village on the mountain hill near Parma.



Bardi (Emilia Romagna), Italia

However, in 1871 there were also an estimated 240 Italians from other parts of Italy living in Wales. One family with the name Pelosi, came from the Picinisco area in central Italy.



Picinisco (Prov. Frosinone), Italia

¹*The term was used by Jack Parker in a series of articles on the Italians in south Wales, published in the South Wales Echo, April 1959.*



Carmela and Giuseppe Pelosi's Cafe, Mumbles, Swansea

The regular flow of Italian families to Wales continued into the 20th Century. Many of the 'first Italians' worked in the mines of mid and south Wales. Giuseppe Pelosi (see family photo above), started as a miner when he first came to Wales in 1907. Also, it is believed that Giacomo Bracchi himself worked in a coal mine in Aberdare before opening his catering business. In 1900, a mine near Pontrhydygroes, mid Wales, employed 80 Italian miners.

In most cases, however, mining was only temporary employment. Italians in South Wales are remembered for their cosy, clean and colourful cafes, which were open all-hours and became the 'debating clubs' of the industrial valleys. Their ice-cream carts in the summer

and serving hot chips in the winter are among the memories for a whole generation of Welsh people - who had no cinemas or television for their leisure time, only the Italian Café.

Wherever they originally came from in Italy, the Adventurers had a hugely positive impact on the Welsh economy and way of life. Their descendants have become today's Welsh-Italians, sharing a common industrial and cultural heritage:

I see the world through two windows: I see the sunshine of Italy and the storms of this country. But you can learn from storms and you can learn from sunshine and you put the two together and make an effort to make a better world.

**(Pietro Sidoli, Porthcawl, south Wales
'Heart in two places', BBC Wales, 2006)**

THE MEMORIAL ARTISTS

"Where the spirit does not work with the hand there is no art."

Leonardo da Vinci

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When the Arandora Star Memorial Fund in Wales committee was formed in late 2008, we decided that we wanted the design of our memorial to be 'original', and at the same time, 'traditional'.

Whilst recognising the victims' families and survivors, as well as all those who perished that terrible day in July, 1940, this was to be the first national memorial dedicated to the 53 Welsh-Italian victims.

The men were being publicly honoured and, of course, the committee wanted to emphasise the men's strong Welsh connection - by listing where they lived in Wales at the time of their internment. It was not easy finding this information after 68 years, but our archivist, George Hill, managed to do it after months of intensive research!

We decided the national memorial for Wales should be in the form of a large wall-mounted plaque and that it should feature the two official languages of Wales and, of course, Italian. Also, that the memorial's material should symbolise the close association and traditions of the two countries – slate for Wales and terracotta for Italy.

The memorial should be shaped into a permanent historical record and, at the same time, a beautiful and contemplative piece of art.

We had less than two years to agree the final design and to create the memorial.

Firstly, we found a national home for it, appropriately in the Welsh capital: the Metropolitan Cathedral of St David, central Cardiff. ...and this is where our wonderful artists now enter the scene!

Throughout our 'project', I've been personally amazed at the number of fortuitous 'coincidences' that seem to have occurred during our endeavours. My cousin (pursuing her own artistic skills) suggested I contact a talented fellow artist from Swansea, Susanna Ciccotti. Susanna, a very talented sculptor, just happened to be a Welsh-Italian! (one of those coincidences!) She participated in lots of meetings with the committee, talking through our ideas, and began to form ideas for the terracotta centre-piece of the memorial. We all benefitted from her good nature and enthusiasm, and soon recognised her unique and obvious artistic skills when we saw the first drawings of Madonna, cradling the Arandora Star.

Susanna then introduced us to a world-renown craftsman and letter-carver, Ieuan Rees, from Ammanford in Carmarthenshire. Ieuan has left his mark on many memorials and works of art throughout the world.

Together, Susanna and Ieuan produced our national memorial. We were blessed to find these great artists...a talented and perfect 'Welsh-Italian' fusion!

Susanna Ciccotti

(terracotta sculpture of 'Madonna cradling the Arandora Star')



Susanna working on the sculpture in her studio at home in Swansea (the Madonna is laid flat, with her head near Susanna's right hand)

Since completing her Higher Education studies in General Illustration (1984), Susanna has worked mainly in archaeological illustration. She returned to university as a mature



student in 2005 to study Fine Art at Swansea Metropolitan University, where she discovered a talent for clay portrait and figurative sculpture.

While still a student, Susanna was commissioned by Swansea Metropolitan University to produce a portrait bust of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Rowan Williams. Her other works have included private commissions for portrait busts and sculptures.

Susanna is from an Italian-Welsh family, her father having emigrated from Italy to Wales in 1953 to work in the tinsplate industry. Although Susanna has no direct family involvement in the Arandora Star tragedy, she grew up knowing the Italian community in Swansea and was aware of the terrible events of July 2nd 1940.

With this memorial Susanna hopes that the image and materials used, slate for the Welsh and terracotta for the Italian, will represent the shared regard and history between the two nations, forged in the cafes and ice-cream parlours across Wales all those years ago.

Artist Susanna always wears her late mother's charm bracelet. A coincidence

... one charm happens to be a liner with two funnels...like the Arandora Star!



Ieuan Rees (lettering artist)

www.ieuanreeslettering.co.uk



Ieuan Rees has a deserved world-wide reputation. He graduated from the Royal College of Art with a Master of Design Degree in 1967 and has worked as a freelance artist/craftsman for over 40 years.

Ieuan has appeared on many TV programmes, and his work has been reproduced in many books. He is regarded as one of Britain's most

versatile artist/craftsmen in the fields of lettering, letter carving, calligraphy, architectural lettering and graphic communication. He has lectured and held workshops all over Britain, the USA, and in Sydney, Australia.

Ieuan is a Fellow and past chairman of the Society of Scribes & Illuminators, and an Honorary Member of both the Washington Calligraphers Guild and The Colleagues of Calligraphy, Minneapolis. He is also a Full Member of The Royal Cambrian Academy of Art.



Susanna with Ieuan in his Ammanford Workshops

He has worked in Westminster Abbey and numerous other cathedrals and churches as well as at the Wales Millennium Centre, Cardiff and other secular buildings throughout the country and in private collections.

Article and Photos by: Paulette L. Pelosi
Arandora Star Memorial Fund in Wales





PERSONAL STORIES FROM TWO OF OUR PATRONS



Roy Noble OBE DL. O.St.J

Writer and broadcaster (BBC Radio Wales)

www.roynoble.co.uk

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I have the great honour and privilege of being one of the patrons for the Arandora Star Memorial Fund in Wales.

When first asked to be a patron I was reticent, merely because I initially thought the patrons with most credibility would be those from Italian-Welsh background and pedigree. On reflection, however, the Arandora Star story is as much a poignant, anguished Welsh tale as it is an Italian tragedy. The two are inexorably linked.

I also freely declare and confess an affinity with the Italian community because my mother's sister married a Sicilian in the late 1940's. He had been a prisoner of war in Wales from 1942. I still remember Uncle Isidoro Viola very fondly indeed.

The Italian community in Wales is a strong, colourful, inter-woven patch on the quilt that is our country. They are natural and important units of an integrated society and

were part and parcel of the Klondike and melting pot that was Wales.

All over the country, but in the industrial valleys in particular, the Italian people were vital cogs in providing havens of convivial welcome and support within communities set in the hard, raw heavy industry regions of the country. Their story is well documented and of huge historical significance. As the years progressed they were of us, part of the scene, accepted as friends, neighbours, compatriots and, as in the First World War, comrades.

Political events leading to the Second World War left the Italians out on a peninsula of uncertainty and threat. Suddenly the friends were seen as enemies, long held relationships were strained and government decree led to internment. There was still immense local support for the Italian families after their men folk were imprisoned but war creates definite lines of division and decision. Sadly, the men who sailed on the Arandora Star to Canada were never to return.

This sad prolonged interlude of their history in Wales needs re-telling and the story of the Arandora Star needs re-affirming with a sharply raised profile. New generations need to know and reflect. Older generations need a reminder, for even in their minds, the story, if known at all, may only be a vague memory, hidden in mist and questionable detail.

The Arandora story is a tragedy that affected not only the Italian community in Wales, but also the Welsh who had welcomed the

Italian immigrants. This is definitely the year of recall and reflection, commemoration and consideration. 2010 marks the 70th Anniversary of the tragedy. In addition to the commemorative booklet and exhibition, there are plans to share this emotive story with schools and other organisations throughout Wales.

Cwmbach Male Choir, of which I am a Vice-President, will also continue their stirring support of the anniversary. They have already performed in Bardi, the spiritual home of many of the Italians in Wales and in a wreath laying ceremony on a ship off Liverpool, from where the Arandora Star sailed.

The aim is to re-instate and preserve an important part of the Welsh/Italian cultural heritage. This historical project is part of our story.

This tale of war, of social upheaval, of community split, of enforced cultural division and of extreme sadness has to be told again. Now is its time.

Victor Spinetti FRCWMD

Actor and writer

www.victorspinetti.co.uk

Following extract from Victor's book: Victor Spinetti up front... (2008; Portico). (permission granted by author).

Now the Second World War: I was at Dyffryn when it started, not aware of being Italian, just part of the community. That is until the middle of one night, when I was woken by the sound of scuffling and whispering outside my room. I got up and opened the door in time to see my father's head going down the



Photo by Terry Campbell (taken in one of the Swansea Fund Raising events 2009)

stairs. With him were two policemen. At the top of the stairs stood Mam.

'What are you doing?' she shouted.

'He's an alien.' Answered one of the policemen.

'He's not an alien,' cried Mam, 'He's my husband!' Dad wasn't allowed to take an overcoat or a toothbrush or anything. And to think, a few days before, he'd been out shooting rabbits with one of those policemen. They'd been great friends...

...And where was my father? What happened to him after he was bundled out of the house? He was interned on the Isle of Man. Together with Scots Italians and other Welsh Italians, all with Scots and Welsh accents... These men were aliens and Churchill had made his feelings about those pretty clear. 'Collar the lot,' he ordered and collared they were, under Ruling 18b.



THE 53 WELSH-ITALIANS WHO DROWNED, JULY 2ND, 1940

SURNAME	FIRST NAME	FROM	BORN
Albertelli	Carlo	Pontypridd	Morfasso
Antoniazzi	Bartolomeo	Newtown	Bardi
Basini	Bartolomeo	Treherbert	Bardi
Belli	Antonio	Maesteg	Bardi
Bombelli	Mario	Cardiff	Roma
Carini	Francesco	Pontypridd	Bardi
Carini	Giuseppe	Ebbw Vale	Bardi
Carpanini	Giovanni	Briton Ferry	Bardi
Carpanini	Giuseppe	Cwmcarn	Bardi
Castelli	Antonio	Aberdare	Bettola
Cavalli	Giovanni	Neath	Bardi
Chiappa	Emilio	Bridgend	Bedonia
Conti	Guido	Newport	Bardi
Conti	Giuseppe	Treharris	Bardi
D'Ambrosio	Francesco	Swansea	Picinisco
Di Marco	Michele	Swansea	Picinisco
Egidio	Friggi	Llandudno	-
Ferrari	Luigi	Aberdare	Bettola
Franchi	Giacomo	New Tredegar	Bardi
Fulgoni	Giacomo	Hirwaun	Bardi
Fulgoni	Giovanni	Pontygwaith	Bardi
Gazzi	Andrea	Gorseinon	Bardi
Gazzi	Lino	Ferndale	Bardi
Gazzi	Francesco	Pontnewydd	Bardi
Guerri	Lino	Barry	-

SURNAME	FIRST NAME	FROM	BORN
Lusardi	Vittorio	Llanharan	Bedonia
Lusardi	Tommaso	Blaengarw	Bedonia
Marenghi	Giovanni	Pontypridd	Bardi
Merlo	Giuseppe	Trealaw	Sangallo
Minetti	Giacomo	Neath	Bardi
Moruzzi	Ernesto	Neath	Bardi
Moruzzi	Peter	Neath	Bardi
Pinchiaroli	Luigi	Pontypridd	Albareto
Pompa	Ferdinando	Swansea	Picinisco
Rabaiotti	Antonio	Newport	Bardi
Rabaiotti	Bartolomeo	Pontypridd	Bardi
Rabaiotti	Domenico	Ogmore Vale	Bardi
Rabaiotti	Francesco	Swansea	Bardi
Rabaiotti	Luigi	Swansea	Bardi
Ricci	Lazzaro	Treharris	Bardi
Rossi	Eugenio	Mountain Ash	Paris
Rossi	Giovanni	Cardiff	Bardi
Rossi	Luigi	Swansea	Bardi
Sidoli	Giovanni	Glyncorrgw	Bardi
Solari	Luigi	Neath	Bardi
Spagna	Antonio	Maesteg	Bardi
Stellon	Giovanni	Newport	Fanna
Sterlini	Marco	Tenby	Bardi
Strinati	Giovanni	Cwmaman	Bardi
Taffurelli	Giuseppe	Dowlais	Bettola
Tambini	Giovanni	Newport	Bardi
Zanelli	Ettore	Tonypandy	-
Zanetti	Antonio	Swansea	Varsi

OUR STORIES

FIGHTING FOR FREEDOM?

I was born at No. 9 Carmarthen Rd., Swansea. In 1939 I was called up for the army... I had been in the army about 8 months when they interned my father, Michele Di Marco, in June 1940.

I never learned about my father until the August of that year - that he had been drowned on the Arandora Star. I had the impression I was fighting for freedom. My mother was restricted to a 5 mile radius, and if she went over that limit she had to report to the police station.

I finished up in the army in North Africa and then Italy... So much for fighting for freedom.

Gerald Dimarco, (2009)



GERALD DIMARCO

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FABIO AND CAROLINA'S ONLY SON DROWNED

My father was Ettore Zanelli. Ettore was born in Bardi on 31st of October 1893. He was the youngest of six children, born to Fabio Zanelli and Carolina Marchand.

In Bardi they lived at 4 Via Predella. His five sisters were Elena, Esther, Pina, Irma and Amelia. He emigrated to south Wales on 21st of April 1931 with sister Esther. He kept the Central Restaurant at 109 Dunraven St., Tonypanddy.

I was 3 years of age when my father, Ettore Zanelli, drowned when the Arandora Star was sunk.

Caroline Knight (2010)



ETTORE ZANELLI

ONE OF THE BEST CAFES IN TONYPANDY'...

My Italian Godfather was Ettore Zanelli. I can remember him well even though I was only 6 when he was taken away in 1940. He asked my mother to take on the shop for him, but she was afraid at the time due to the presence of many policeman. One of them was a sergeant; he was at Tonypandy for many years after WW2. I think he probably put my mother off taking the shop on (I never did like him) .

The shop and cafe was one of the best in Tonypandy and quite big as I remember it. A long mahogany counter and mahogany panelling about 4ft high around the walls. My Godfather always seemed to have plenty of customers in the cafe.

Unfortunately Tonypandy has deteriorated beyond recognition in the past few years. We had nine Italian cafes and restaurants in the main street. I went to Tonypandy to take the photograph [March, 2010] and was aghast when I saw the current state of the property and the surrounding area.

Ettore was always very good to me and as far as I can remember I spent quite a bit of time in the shop. He taught me a string of Italian names... Yes, he was on the Arandora star and was one of the many unlucky ones. I looked at the list of the dead and found his name.

Dennis Williams (2010)

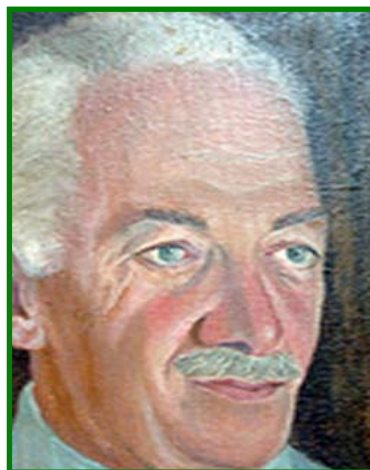
ENEMY ALIENS

They came to Wales in the early 1900's from another land of mountains, Italy. They made their journey from the hilltop villages around Picinisco, 'South of Rome, North of Naples'.... and their names were Giuseppe Pelosi and Michele Di Marco.

Giuseppe was my grandfather. He had heard of a way to escape the poverty of his beautiful



**ONCE
ETTORE ZANELLI'S CAFÉ**



GIUSEPPE PELOSI
'portrait owned by Mrs. Eileen Pelosi'

homeland – travel to Wales, where, in 1907, ‘Coal was King’ and there’s a living to be earned.

25-year old Giuseppe and his 20-year old wife, Maria Carmela, gathered up natural youthful optimism, and made the journey that would change their lives in so many unimaginable ways.

By 1908, after living in Ystrad, Rhondda and becoming proud parents to firstborn, Maria Angelina, they moved to Swansea...where they opened their café businesses and raised a family.

My grandmother, Maria Carmela asked younger brother, Michele to come and join them in Swansea. Soon Michele was a busy café-owner, husband and father.

Swansea wasn’t central Italy but the family worked hard and made a good life. They would continue to be known as ‘Italians’ and their children born here, as ‘Welsh-Italians’. In 1940 wartime Britain, they had sons in the British Army....and suddenly another ugly description, ‘Enemy Aliens’...

58-year old, Giuseppe and 50-year old Michele were rounded up and taken to the infamous Wharf Mills Internment camp in Lancashire.

Grandmother and Michele’s wife suffered indignities they could never have imagined, their radios confiscated, ordered to leave their homes and hometown. Their shop windows were smashed, stock stolen and Michele’s wife, Maria fled from physical attack.

What happened to Giuseppe and Michele? Both were part of the 1,300 internees put on the former luxury liner, Arandora Star, destined for Canada. 24 hours into the journey, this grey ship was torpedoed. Giuseppe hung onto a piece of wood for hours in the cold water. He would survive to endure another transportation, this time to Australia where he was interned.

Michele? Michele was one of 805 men of different nationalities who drowned in waters of black oil, in a sea of voices, all calling out a name with one meaning.... ‘Mother.’

Paulette L. Pelosi (2009)



PELOSI FAMILY SWANSEA 1915



**GIUSEPPE PELOSI IN TATURA
INTERNMENT CAMP AUSTRALIA (sitting right)
‘Australian War Memorial’ (www.awm.gov.au)**

GIOVANNI KNEW SOMETHING WAS GOING TO HAPPEN

My maternal grandfather, Giovanni Cavalli, and grandmother, Maria, came to live in Clydach near Neath, South Wales, during the 1920s.

They left their native home of Bardi, a mountain village in northern Italy, with the great hopes of a new life in Wales.

They ran a cafe for a while, and it was here that my mother, Lina, and her brother, Giuseppe, were born. They moved from Clydach to Neath in 1923 where they opened their own cafe in Bridge Street, where they lived happily for many years.

Then, when Italy entered the war, it all went wrong. On the morning of June 10th, 1940, my grandfather told my grandmother to go and visit Mrs Moruzzi, a family friend at the M.C. Cafe in Neath. He had a feeling something was going to happen.

That day two policemen came to the cafe, and arrested my grandfather in front of his 16 year old daughter Lina. This is as my mother told me. She says it is something she'll never forgive or forget.

They not only took her father away, but searched the house and cafe, looking for anything they thought could be used against the country (such as maps, radios and binoculars or anything else).

Sometime after he was arrested, my mother went to the police station to see her father, but was not allowed to see him. My grandmother took food to the police station, but they also refused to

let her see Giovanni... They never saw him again...

My mother believes that her father was taken, along with all the other arrested men, to Maindy Barracks in Cardiff and from there on to Bury - to an old woollen mill that was being used as an internment camp.

Life was hard for them, sleeping on the floor and just a bucket for a toilet. The Red Cross visited the camp and condemned the conditions.

From there they transferred to Liverpool and were put on the Arandora Star...

My grandfather was one of those that was lost to the sea. We will never know what happened to him. He was just 53 years old at the time

Andrew Rossi (2009)



GIOVANNI CAVALLI

GIUSEPPE HELD HIS BROTHER LUIGI, BUT TOLD TO LET HIM GO

My paternal grandfather, Raffaele Rossi, and grandmother, Fortunata, came to Swansea, South Wales, from Bardi, Italy, with their children Luigi, Giovanna and Giuseppe after the First World War.

They opened a cafe in Alexandra Road, and later moved to Union Street, Swansea, where they opened another cafe. This was where my father Mario was born, above the shop in 1922. They also had a cafe in Oxford Street, Swansea.

On the 10th June 1940 the police came to the shop and arrested my uncles Luigi and Giuseppe. The house and cafe were searched and items were removed. Both my uncles were taken to Swansea Central Police Station.

The day after the arrest in Swansea, cafe windows were smashed and shops were looted by rioters. People that had been friends turned against the Italians and treated them as enemies. My grandmother and aunty, Giovanna, were told they had to move away from the coast. As my father Mario was born in Swansea, he was allowed to stay in Swansea and run the shop.

The shop name had to be changed from Rossi Brothers to the Union Cafe.

My uncles after imprisonment in Swansea police station, were moved to Maindy Barracks, Cardiff, then to Bury, Lancashire, England, and from there eventually to Liverpool - and onto the Arandora Star on the 1st July, 1940. This was a converted cruise liner which had been painted battleship grey. There



LUIGI ROSSI & GIOVANNI CAVALLI

were guns mounted on the decks and also barbed wire around the ship. It should have been painted white with a red cross on both sides to show it was carrying prisoners and internees. It was of no threat to anybody.

The Arandora Star sailed out of Albert Dock, Liverpool, on the 1st July, 1940, with over 1,300 internees, plus the crew and guards. At about 7 A.M. the next morning, 125 miles north west of Ireland, the ship was hit by a torpedo from a German U47 submarine. The Arandora Star sunk within 20 minutes, with the loss of 800 lives - 53 of these were Welsh-Italians.

Both my uncles ended up in the sea. Giuseppe held Luigi above the water for about 8 hours.

The Canadian Destroyer St. Laurent picked up survivors from the water. It was only when Giuseppe was about to be rescued that he was told to leave Luigi go as he was already dead. Luigi was just 32 years old.

Giuseppe was then transferred to Greenock in Scotland, and then on the

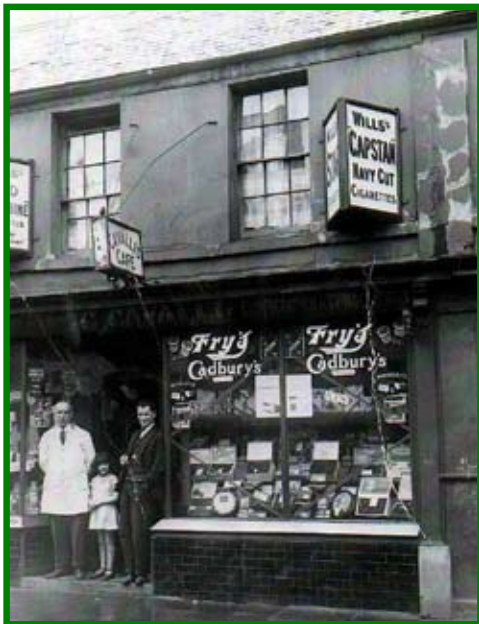
10th July, 1940, he boarded the SS Dunera to Australia. On this journey they were torpedoed once again just 2 days into the voyage, but luckily this time it missed due to the captain's quick actions.

While they were on this two month journey they were very harshly treated. It was a nightmare for them.

On the 3rd September, 1940, they arrived in Melbourne starving and unshaven. It wasn't until the 6th November that Giuseppe and other internees were 'marched in' to an internment camp in Tatura, where he stayed until his release on 22nd May, 1944.

Giuseppe remained in Victoria Australia. He was married and had two sons. Apart from returning to Swansea for a short visit in 1947 to see his family, he went back to Victoria and stayed there until he died, well into his 70s.

Andrew Rossi (2009)



GIUSEPPE ROSSI CAFE

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THE STRONG WOMEN AND THE CHILDREN LEFT BEHIND...THEY TOO WERE VICTIMS

My grandfather was Michele Di Marco who drowned on the Arandora Star in 1940. He left behind a wife and 5 children: one was away fighting in the British Army and one in the RAF. An already orphaned grandchild also lived with my grandparents in Swansea.

I am telling this story for the women and children that were left to fend for

themselves; they too were victims in this atrocity.

Can you imagine... being woken up in the middle of the night by banging on the door - children sound asleep, woken by the noise of banging and raised hostile voices. Still sleepy, my grandmother opening the door to aggressive policemen who force their way in to your home, telling you they were here to arrest your husband: purely for being Italian....?

The screams and cries from my grandparents' terrified children... my frightened grandmother not fully understanding what was happening, why or where they were taking her husband.

Whilst they were taking Michele away, other officers were inside riffling through personal possessions removing items and any money they could find.

Imagine the humiliation of having your neighbours gathering outside, all watching and shouting obscenities at your family like you are petty criminals... yet no crime had been committed?

Can you imagine the chaos, trying to console hysterical children, yet yourself feeling vulnerable, scared, confused and distressed.

People who once ate and drank in your cafe now turning on you for no apparent reason, smashing windows and looting your home?

My grandmother was not told where they were taking my grandfather. The next thing she heard of her husband, after that fateful night, was that he had been drowned on the Arandora Star.

After all this happening - losing her husband, home, business and a daughter just a few years before - my grandmother still looked after her family.

What strong women those left behind became... having to be mother and father to their children. They had no choice of course. God bless.

George Hill (January 2010)



MICHELE DI MARCO



**MICHELE DI MARCO, WIFE MARIA
& BABY GERALDO**

GIOVANNI TOLD HIS TWO SONS TO STAY TOGETHER, AND KEEP AWAY FROM HIM

My father came from a village called Costatta, a few miles from Bardi in the Province of Parma in northern Italy. His name was Camillo Strinati and he was one of nine children.

My father travelled from Italy to south Wales at the age of seven, with his mother and four brothers and sisters. The youngest child was only thirty days old. They were to settle in Cwm Ebbw Vale to join my grandfather, Giovanni, and his brothers. My father attended school and soon spoke fluent English. His writing and reading was perfect too – he was highly intelligent.

My father worked in Ebbw Vale, Tredegar and Newport, and then came to Treherbert, Rhondda, in 1925. He rented a small shop that had previously been known locally as a ‘refreshment house’, but under his management this was turned into an Italian café!

When WW2 broke out Camillo, his brother, Francesco, and my grandfather were arrested because they were Italian

“aliens”. They were taken to a building like a huge warehouse.

My grandfather told his two sons to stay together, and keep away from him: he thought they might be lucky enough not to be sent away to another country. As it happens, fate did intervene and my father and uncle were sent to the Isle-of-Man.

Unfortunately, my grandfather was put on board the *Arandora Star*, heading for Canada. As we all know, the ship was torpedoed by a German submarine in the Irish Sea. Giovanni was one of over 400 Italian internees that lost their lives (one of 53 from Wales). My grandfather’s body was never found.

My father returned to Wales and his café in Treherbert. His sister, Gina, had been looking after it whilst he was interned. His friends and customers had missed him and could not believe how he had been treated. After all, he was only a hard working café owner.

In August, 1946, my father married a Welsh-speaking girl from Treherbert, Gwyneth May, (whose family were

continued



**CAMILLO STRINATI-left-
GIOVANNI STRINATI-& BETSY**

originally from Scotland). They had two children - my brother, Mario Dino, and myself, Maria Linda.

Both my parents have now passed away. In October, 2007, I sold my dad's café. It had been in our family for over eighty years – the last Italian café in the Rhondda Valley.

I kept a few old things we had in our café, including the old 'Craven A' clock, the 'Senior Service' head, 'Craven A' cigarette advert and the old Rowntree's glass sweet jars. I also have some letters that my dad wrote to his mother in Italy when he was interned. He never told her the truth about the conditions and hardships he must have lived in.

When my dad was interned he took with him his own fork, knife and spoon. He returned with them and used them daily until he passed away.

Mary Strinati, (2010)

THE PHOTOGRAPHS ARE A POOR SUBSTITUTE...

The 2nd July 1940 was an ominous date, particularly in the South Wales Valleys. My brother, John, and I would have been blissfully unaware of this as we were only eight old month twins.

Now as I write these words I feel a sense of great bitterness when I think of all the lives lost, including 712 italians, my father among them.

My father emigrated to this country from Bardi in Northern Italy, and was a loyal British citizen. He and my mother were running a fish shop in Treherbert, working hard. Suddenly he was taken



BARTOLOMEO BASINI

and had to leave my mother and his two new babies to join the other hundreds of Italians to be transported to Canada, aboard the Arandora Star.

Among my thoughts when I think of 2nd July are the hard life endured by my grief stricken mother – she had to contend with the shop and support her two children.

How we missed the father we knew. I have his photographs, but they are a poor substitute for not having had him with us.

It is good to think of this anniversary and the men who went down on the Arandora Star, that they may not be forgotten.

Mary Basini (2010)

Though born in Treherbert, Rhondda, I spent the war years in Italy, with my father's brother. I was therefore

unaware of the tragedy until after my return to Wales – and then only through conversations between Bartolomeo's ('Uncle Bert') three surviving brothers.

As children, my sisters and I spent many happy days with John and Mary Basini. The family always admired Auntie Anna's great efforts for her children, both in Treherbert and later in Llanharan, south Wales.

My involvement with the Arandora Star project stems from this background .

Romeo Basini, founder-member of the Arandora Star Memorial Fund in Wales (2010)

..CLUNG ON TO A PIECE OF WRECKAGE FOR EIGHT HOURS...

Antonio, better known as 'Tom' Dallanegra was born on 24th September 1902, in Pione, a hamlet outside Bardi in the province of Parma. He was the fourth of seven children.

In 1909 tragedy struck the family, his father Paolo suffered a horrific accident whilst ploughing the fields. One year later he died of his injuries and the children became orphans. The youngest two children were taken in by their grandmother and the other five were dispersed to work and earn their keep at various farms in the area.

They endured harsh conditions. It is not surprising that eventually they left to seek a better life abroad. The elder of the girls left for Paris, where they had an aunt. In time she sent for her sisters and the baby of the family to join her. However the children also had an uncle living in Wales, and so it was that Tom aged 14 came to live and work

in Wales. His younger brother, Albino followed him in 1920.

At first Tom settled in Abertillery, working in the Express Café. He pushed a cart around the hilly streets selling ice-cream. The local lads often gave him a hard time by overturning the ice cream cart.

Albino meanwhile was in Cwmaman. Some time later they went to work for their uncle Con in his Roma Café, Rhymney. They worked long hours and made their own ice-cream by hand at the end of a shift. In time they bought the shop from their uncle. Some years later they each had their own café.



ANTONIO DALLANEGRA

In 1925 Tom married a local girl, Gwyneth Morgan, and the marriage was to produce three sons - Luigi, Tony and Paul.

Meanwhile Ebbw Vale was booming with the construction of the steelworks

and so it was that Tom bought the Ida Café in 1933 from the Berni brothers.

The family moved to Ebbw Vale in 1934 where they had also acquired a Fish and Chip shop in James Street. Business was good and everything was fine until Italy declared war on Britain. Overnight Tom became an enemy alien and his good friend from the police had to come to arrest him.

Albino was sent to the Isle of Man and Tom was put on a ship bound for Canada. That ship was the Arandora Star. After the ship was torpedoed Tom clung on to a piece of wreckage for eight hours until he was rescued. Luckily he was tall and physically very strong. Tom was put on the SS Dunera and endured terrible conditions for a journey lasting 55 days to Australia. On 3rd September, 1940, Tom arrived in Melbourne, to "a good welcome". The next 12 months were spent in internment camps in Tatura.

On obtaining his release papers in 1941, Tom made the decision to return home to his family and not to wait until the war was over.

Tom ran the Ida Café for 35 years. He was a keen sportsman and a prominent local bowls player. On August 29th 1968 he died suddenly whilst on holiday in Italy. He had just started his retirement.

Dallanegra Family (2010) (522)

SEVERAL OF OUR FATHER'S CLOSE FRIENDS WERE NOT SO LUCKY...

Our father Giuseppe Minoli was arrested in the middle of the night by those he counted as friends.

He was taken from his home in Pontlottyn in the Rhymney Valley where he had a cafe which he ran with his Welsh wife.

Police arrived in the middle of the night, the house was searched and our father taken away to be interned - he could not even pack a bag - and like so many others found himself on the Isle of Man being housed at Palace Camp.

Our mother also suffered - she had a young child to care for alone, but anti-Italian prejudice also extended to her and she was not allowed to travel beyond a five mile radius. On one occasion, an appeal for a permit to allow my mother to travel further to acquire stock to keep the business going was met with refusal and her being told by an unsympathetic police sergeant that she was lucky that her husband hadn't been shot. These were tense and uncertain times, but the comment was none-the-less unnecessarily savage.



GIUSEPPE MINOLI

Our father was listed to be interned, and put on the Arandora Star, but at the last moment he and a number of others were not taken. No explanation was given.

Several of our father's close friends were not so lucky and perished in the disaster - others ended up in Australia.

One of our father's brothers served in the British Army at this time and another became a Bevin Boy - like so many other Italian families whose sons and fathers were treated as either friend or foe, depending on circumstance. Our father was released early due to his ill health and because of our mother's relentless petitions on his behalf.

It is fitting that Wales will soon have a memorial to those Italians who chose to make their homes here and who lost their lives in the terrible disaster that was the Arandora Star. We will be at the Memorial Service on the 2nd of July to pay tribute to those who died.

**Angela Minoli, Pauline Minoli Williams
Giustina Minoli Rantanen
Mary Minoli Sawdon (2010)**

IN LOVING MEMORY OF A GOOD MAN...

I would like to tell the story of my father-in-law Giuseppe Salmi who was one of the few survivors of the Arandora Star.

He told me his story many times...it appears that it happened on the ship early in the morning: whilst shaving, he heard a big bang and all the lights went out - darkness everywhere - everyone fleeing - everyone trying to go above [on deck] it felt like the ship was quickly sinking, only the stern was above water



GIUSEPPE SALMI
Italian Army, First World War

- and everyone was trying to climb hoping that that part would stay above water.

However the last life raft was thrown into the water and he was one of the last ones to throw himself into the



GIUSEPPE SALMI



GIUSEPPE SALMI

Aged 80

water. The water was covered in oil – debris everywhere – pieces of wood in which he was trying to hold on to stay afloat – thank the Lord he knew how to swim and that was his salvation.

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I cannot remember if he told me how long he was in the water. In the end a lifeboat arrived and he managed to hold on to the side. At the same time that he was holding on to the side, someone climbed over him to get into the lifeboat. When this person was safe, he helped my father-in-law and pulled him out of the water, and so he was saved too.

I would like to say Giuseppe Salmi was a wonderful man – for me he was like my second father. He was a good man in the true sense of the word. In fact, when he died my husband had engraved on his tombstone, “in loving memory of a good man Giuseppe Salmi”. He died on the 13th of September, 1992 aged 95 years old.

Luisa Salmi (Segadelli) (2010)

Note: Translated from the original Italian by Domenico Casetta

CALLING THE NAMES OF HIS WIFE AND THREE CHILDREN...

Maria Rabaïotti's father, Giuseppe Rabaïotti, was one of the lucky ones who survived the Arandora Star, but unfortunately her uncle Francesco Rabaïotti was not so lucky.

Maria remembers her father telling her how Francesco, who was married to Gina Bassi with whom he had three children Antonio, Luigia and Rosa, could not swim. After the torpedo hit the ship, Francesco was seen in the water with his hands outstretched above him calling the names of his wife and his three children before drowning.



FRANCESCO RABAÏOTTI

His body was found on the shore of Ireland and he was buried there.

In 1960 or thereabouts, Maria's father, Giuseppe, and one of Francesco's children, Antonio, had gone to Ireland to find the grave of Francesco. Whilst they were there, they were told that the only way to identify Francesco was from his watch (a wedding gift from his wife Gina) which was engraved with the words “al mio grande amore la tua

Gina" – "to my great love from your Gina".

Antonio took his father's body to Bardi where he is now laid to rest. Maria also said that Gina died of a broken heart one year later after the death of Francesco.

Written by Maria Moruzzi from an interview with Maria Rabiotti (2010)

WE DID NOT GET TO KNOW OUR FATHER...

Our father, Antonio Spagna, was one of the unfortunate ones who drowned on the Arandora Star.

He was born on the 10th October, 1894, in Borgo Val di Toro, near Parma in Italy. He then moved with his family to Gravago near Bardi.



ANTONIO SPAGNA

As a young man in his early twenties, our father came to Wales where he worked a while for Mr. Franchi in Maesteg. He then rented the café from Mr. Franchi and set up his own business called the Royal Café, 16 Talbot Street, Maesteg. In 1933, Antonio returned to Italy to



**ANTONIO SPAGNA
OUTSIDE MAESTEG CAFÉ**

marry Serafina, our mother. They came back to Maesteg. This is where we were born.

Unfortunately, we did not get to know our father, because we were sent to stay with our grandparents in Italy for the early years of our lives. World War 2 had started and we were stranded in Italy until our mother was able to bring us back to Wales after the war.

Maria Teresa Fielder nee Spagna and Pierluigi Spagna (2010)

EVERYONE CAME TO CHAT WITH 'JOE'

My grandfather, Giuseppe Carini, was born in Chiesa Bianca, Bardi, Italy on 21st May 1898. He married Rosa Tambini, also from Bardi. As times



GIUSEPPE CARINI

were very tough, they left Italy to come to South Wales to find a living in the industrial valleys, near Cardiff.

They settled in Church Street, Ebbw Vale and opened a café. It was a place where everyone from nearby could come and have a chat with 'Joe', his wife Rosa, their 3 daughters and 1 son: Maria, Angela ("Lina"), Emilia (my mother) and Tony.

As the children grew so did their little



GIUSEPPE CARINI & BROTHERS

Photo courtesy of Phil Carradice from his book
'Wales at War', Gomer Press (2005)

business. Giuseppe also began going around the streets of Ebbw Vale selling ice-cream from his own horse and cart (see photo).

Eventually, though, World War 2 came and Italy, under Mussolini, declared war on Britain. This event allowed the British Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, to declare about the Italians - "Collar the lot!". In other words they should be rounded up and sent away to various places till the end of the war as they may have fascist ideologies!

In June, 1940, the local police arrested adult Italians. Many of these, including my grandfather and his brothers, were taken to Liverpool - to board the Arandora Star. They were being taken to Canada with the other "threats" to Great Britain.

On 2nd July, 1940, as they rounded 'Bloody Foreland' off the Galway coast, a German U-Boat torpedoed the ship at 7 o'clock in the morning - and sent it to the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean. 53 Welsh-Italians lost their lives that morning, including my grandfather - and his brother, Francesco.

Giuseppe's family of 4 (Maria sadly died young from TB) from Ebbw Vale was now deprived of its father. They never got over the loss of a young man in his early 40's.

Rosa, as the mother of the family had the help of her three children to run the shop for many years. In the end, they changed the business to a "Fish n'Chip Shop". People still used to enjoy their chats with the family, as well as eating delicious chips of course!

Father Mark Rowles, (2010)

‘..WE HAD A CWTCH...AND THEN HE WAS TAKEN OUT THROUGH THE DOOR...’

“They came and fetched him [his father, brother to Giuseppe Carini] at gunpoint in the night. The policeman hammered on the door as if they were criminals. My father... hadn’t a clue that he was going to be arrested. We all got out of bed, wondering what was happening. I was a little boy of six and that was the last time I saw my father for eleven months.

The local sergeant, Sergeant Morgan, he was nice... He told my mother and father, ‘Sorry I got to do it Jake.’ He called him Jake – it was really Giacomo [sic], Jake for short. ‘I’ve got to do it. It’s my duty.’

We came down the stairs to see what was happening. Mam said, ‘Get back up the stairs.’ Dad said, ‘No, no, leave them here. It’s the last time I’ll see them until we don’t know when.’ So we had a cwtch and a cuddle and then he was taken out through the door...’

Marco Carini (Phil Carradice, ‘Wales at War’; Gomer Press (2005); page 124) (186)

HE MUST HAVE BEEN HANDCUFFED ...AND THEN HE WAS GONE

What happened at 95-96 Commercial Street (The Milk Bar), Newport, south Wales, June 1940...

At home were Giovanni, my father, Luisa, my mother, Maria (7), Angelo (6), Luigi (4) and Dorina (4 months).

It must have been early evening as it was still light, but the curtains were drawn. The windows of the cafe had all been smashed; the noise now was from hundreds of people outside shouting.



GIOVANNI TAMBINI

Inside, the policemen were searching everywhere, all the papers, receipts and bills were on the table by my father. A policeman was on his knees by the fire looking at the ashes in the fireplace. There was a bed in the corner as my sister Dorina was ill. My mother was sleeping here with her as it was warmer.

The shouting was getting louder. Angelo and I hid in the curtains and looked out, the cafe was on a junction of four roads so it was a big area. Hundreds were shouting “Bring them out, we will kill them.” The police made us come in and we all sat on the bed. My father was being questioned about the papers, so we were sent to bed.

I was woken up later by my father who had come to say goodbye. He must have been handcuffed as he could not touch us. He said, “Maria be a good girl, look after your mother, brothers and sister.” And then he was gone.

The next day we were allowed to go and see him in the cells. There were so



GIOVANNI TAMBINI...SENT BY WIFE

Envelope with letter delivered to Wharf Mill Internment Camp, Lincs., for Giovanni Tambini, but never received by him – letter returned to his wife with the words, 'Missing Arandora Star'

many families that there was not enough room in the cells so everyone was in the corridor. Everyone was crying, no one knew what to do or what was going to happen.

We went home. The police were guarding the café. Inside everywhere was a mess, glass all over everything.

We went upstairs. Someone was shouting outside. It was Mr. and Mrs. Parsons who lived a few doors away. They wanted to know if we needed any help - the only people who cared enough to ask.

Then the police came to tell us we had to leave in three days, we were too near the sea. We could not have a radio or leave the country.

Uncle Arthur [Attilio] Conti from Builth Wells came in the middle of the night to take us with him. We arrived in the early hours. Auntie Winnie was waiting for us. They already had four children so there was not much room. We will always be grateful to all the family for the welcome we had.

Maria Jones (nee Tambini) (2010)

Note: Giovanni Tambini was drowned on the Arandora Star

South Wales Argus Telegrams: "Argus," Newport. Telephones: Editor 2245 Reporters 4001 Commercial and Advertisement 2244 London Office: 150, Fleet-street. 'Phone 3336 Central. TUESDAY, JUNE 11, 1940	KICKED WINDOW OF ITALIAN SHOP —:~:— Court Stories of Night Scenes at Newport
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Acknowledgement

The Arandora Star Memorial Fund in Wales committee have spent the past two years researching the facts surrounding the tragedy of the sinking of the Arandora Star, in our goal to create Wales' first national memorial to its memory.

We have interviewed those with personal or 'handed-down' memories of the tragedy.

We have carried out intensive research involving collecting factual accounts in all shapes and forms including photographic contributions. We have constantly encouraged regular 'conversation' with writers and those with connections, 'family' or otherwise with the tragedy.

We have met many people and nurtured friendships with those who have supported us in our cause. It is specifically because of the great numbers involved that we have decided not to name and applaud each of our supporters separately – for fear of inflicting great distress should we happen to omit even one name!

We take this opportunity to acknowledge our Patrons for encouragement and support from 'day one' of our project.

We collectively thank all those individuals and groups who have assisted us so capably by sharing elements of their professional research already collated on the subject of the sinking of the Arandora Star.

We thank those who have donated time by attending our fundraising events – and we thank those who have organised fund-raising activity on our behalf.

We show deep and genuine gratitude to all our financial donors – without you, we could never have raised the funds desperately needed to create Wales' national memorial to the Arandora Star!

We thank the media for great assistance in our goal to impart regular information to the public.

We thank both the Welsh and Italian communities of Wales for your selfless urge to impart your knowledge of this tragic event, so fundamentally part of Welsh 'social history'. You have constantly reminded us of the treasured and enduring relationship between the Welsh and the Italians that exists to this day.

We thank the Cardiff Metropolitan Cathedral of St David, Canon Peter Collins, and ALL those involved with granting permission to give us a permanent home for our beautiful memorial....

And we thank our two wonderful artists who perfected this beautiful memorial.

Finally, we thank each and every one of you who has talked with us.....ensuring, in your speaking, that the tragedy of the Arandora Star ceases to be a 'silent' tragedy.

***Thank you very much / Diolch yn fawr iawn / Mille Grazie
Arandora Memorial Fund in Wales
Committee (2010)***

VEN by mailing Label material in tearing Envelope.

The
G. Gambini



58690 Warth Mills
Internement Camp
6/0 Chief Postal

NO TRACE
H.Q., I.O.M.

Great B

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PRAYER FOR PEACE

What better prayer for peace than the prayer uttered by every priest every day at Mass throughout the whole world?

***Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles:
I leave you peace, my peace I give you.
Look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church,
And grant us the peace and unity of your kingdom
Where you live for ever and ever***

AMEN

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The Rev. Canon Laurence Pelosi, Swansea.
Canon Pelosi is Spiritual Advisor to the Arandora Star Memorial
Fund in Wales Committee, grandson of one of the
Welsh-Italian survivors, Giuseppe Pelosi, and great-nephew
of Michele Di Marco who drowned on the Arandora Star

WITH VERY GRATEFUL AND SINCERE THANKS TO OUR MAJOR DONORS...



Cefnogwyd gan
Y Lloeri Genedlaethol
trwy Gronfa Dreftadaeth y Lloeri



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MAZZINI-GARIBALDI

DO NOT GO GENTLE INTO THAT GOOD NIGHT

Do not go gentle into that good night,
Old age should burn and rage at close of day;
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.
Though wise men at their end know dark is right,
Because their words had forked no lightning they
Do not go gentle into that good night.
Good men, the last wave by, crying how bright
Their frail deeds might have danced in a green bay,
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.
Wild men who caught and sang the sun in flight,
And learn, too late, they grieved it on its way,
Do not go gentle into that good night.
Grave men, near death, who see with blinding sight
Blind eyes could blaze like meteors and be gay,
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.
And you, my father, there on the sad height,
Curse, bless me now with your fierce tears, I pray.
Do not go gentle into that good night.
Rage, rage against the dying of the light

Dylan Thomas