

Angelo Valiante

Written and compiled by Joanne Tapiolas for Angelo Valiante

Battle of Bardia

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

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

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



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

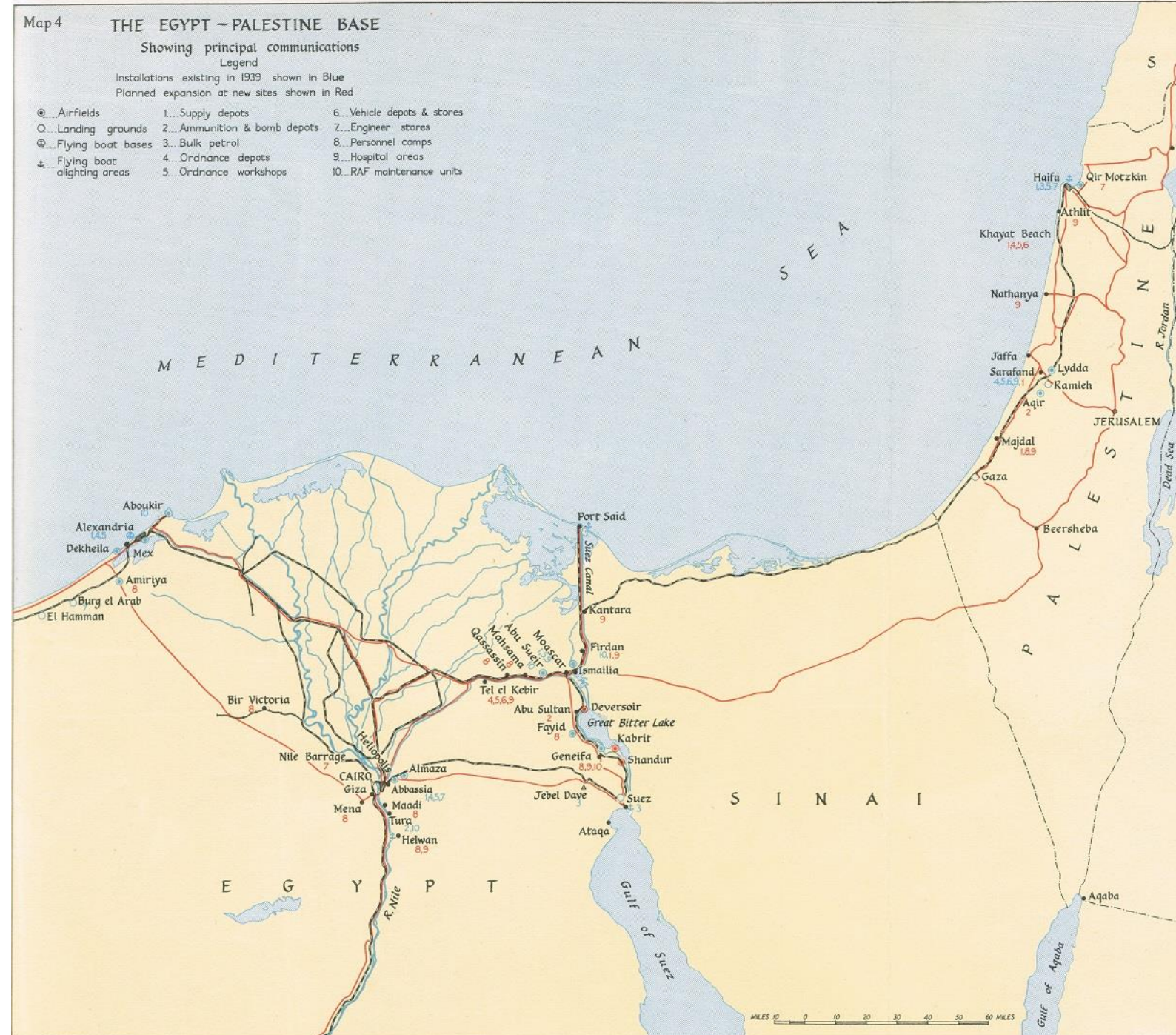
Temporary Camps

- Tobruk, Libya. 1941-03 to 1941-06. Originally an Italian ammunition storage area this section was converted into a prisoner of war cage after the first battle. It held as many as 15,000 prisoners at a time. Litter in the picture includes cast-off clothing and empty 'bully-beef' tins. Two members of the 'Olds and Bolds', 1st Australian Corps Guard Battalion, in their temporary camp in the area. (AWM)
- Tobruk, Libya 1941. Italian Prisoners, captured by the 9th Australian Division, in a temporary P.O.W. cage. (AWM)



Prisoner of War

- Initially the prisoners were held in temporary camps in North Africa before being processed and shipped to places around the world for detainment for the duration of the war. They were impounded in caged compounds near place of capture. They were then transported to temporary camps. Some of these first tented camps were in Alexandria, Ismailia, outside Cairo and along the Suez Canal: Bitter Lake, Fayed, Geneifa and Port Suez. The POWs were also camped near Wadi Sara Palestine (Yesodot Israel) and entrained from Haifa Israel.
- They were places with limited water rations, very little food and too much sand and dust.
- An Italian POW, Umberto Cofrancesco, reached Alexandria by ship and then was moved to Port Said by train.
- Geneifa in the Sinai is mentioned as the place where the Italian prisoners of war were processed and M.E. Number assigned.



AF. W. 3054 (Substitute)
 CARD TO BE USED FOR NOTIFICATION OF CAPTURE ONLY

PRISONER OF WAR Postage Free
Franco di Bollo

Nome Illuzzi
 Cognome Lorenzo
 No. Matr. 15997
 Grado Artiglier
 Unità 201. subalpina
 Data e luogo di nascita: 20. 4. 1900
Giovinazzo
 Nome padre: Nicola
 madre: Leonora
 No. dell' Internato: 11368
 Indirizzo: Illuzzi Lorenzo
 Italian Prisoners of War Camp
 15 - PINEO - 40,000 - 1141 Egypt

COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL
 aux soins du
 de la CROIX
 Rouge
 Centrale
 des Prisonniers de Guerre
 GENEVE

1150
 137
 135
 (Bari)

Notification to Family

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

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

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

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

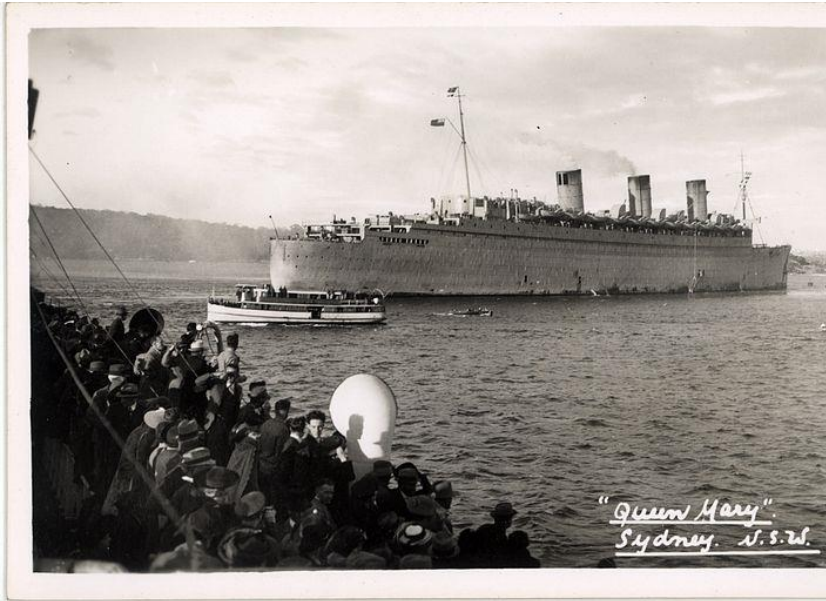
Transféré to Australia R. 2/136 IX/4.
 PRISONERS OF WAR. N° 113680 M. E

Number 6.541 ✓

Surname ILLUZZI Names LORENZO
 Rank Sold. Unità 23 Marzo Regt. Art. Alp.
 Date of Birth 20/4/00 Place of Birth Giovinazzo G. G.
 Surname & Name of Father Nicola
 Name of Mother _____

Address & relationship of Person to be notified as to dates & place of Capture place of Internment, wounds, subsequent Casualties (Death, accidents, wounds etc.)
 Padre: Via Celenzano 35
Giovinazzo - Bari
 D.L. 586

Casualties: See Reverse.



*"Queen Mary"
Sydney N.S.W.*

Queen Mary

The ship had been a luxury cruise liner before the war, but became a troop ship and was painted grey. She was given the name "Grey Ghost". The photo of the dining room gives an idea of the luxury of the ship.

Arrival in Australia

- The *Queen Mary* arrived in Sydney c 13th October 1941. It transported 989 Italian prisoners of war from the Middle East to Australia. The group consisted of 100 officers and 879 ordinary ranks.
- This was the third voyage to Australia from the Middle East. She then went to New York for refitting to transport USA troops to Asia
- Also on board were German prisoners of war

SYDNEY, Oct. 13.—Another party of prisoners of war, nearly all Italians, has arrived in Sydney from the Middle East and gone to a concentration camp in the country. They were mostly soldiers, but a few sailors and airmen were noticed as the men entered the trains which took them away.

Some of the sailors wore the uniform of the Italian submarine service. The small number of Germans among them were all officers. The Italians included two doctors.

An Australian officer who acted as interpreter for the Italian prisoners said that they seemed to be very quiet and obedient and glad to be in Australia. Their only concern seemed to be about their families in Italy. Most of them were of poor physique and some of them appeared to be mere boys.

ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR ARRIVE IN SYDNEY



Top: Italian prisoners leaving a ferry to board a train for an internment camp. Lower: The crew of a submarine wearing service caps and blue uniforms.

For Internment Camp



Italian prisoners leaving a ferry under A.I.F. guard to board a train for an internment camp. They are among the latest batch to arrive in Sydney.

ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR



Cards passed the time for these Italian prisoners of war as they travelled by train to a prison camp after arrival in Sydney last night.

Cowra Prisoner of War & Internment Camp

- Cowra, New South Wales (1941–47)
- The Cowra prisoner of war and internment camp was located several kilometres outside the town of Cowra in south-central New South Wales.
- It officially began operation in June 1941, but it was several months before the first prisoners arrived.
- Cowra was purpose-built to house prisoners of war, mostly Italians, brought to Australia from overseas and it operated primarily as a prisoner of war rather than an internment camp. Civilians interned at Cowra included local Italians and nearly 500 Javanese and Indonesians.
- Cowra Prisoner of War Camp (NSW) consisted of four compounds with Compounds A and C housing 1000 Italian Prisoners of War.



Prisoner of War Record

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

INTERNEE 3343 PRISONER OF WAR - SERVICE AND CASUALTY FORM Identification No. PWI. 48342.

District NEW SOUTH WALES

Rank Private 8 Other Names Angelo Surname VALLIANTE (BLOCK CAPITALS)

Date of Capture <u>5.1.1941</u> <u>1.41</u> Place of Capture <u>Libya</u> <u>12</u> Date of Birth <u>21.11.1916</u> <u>16</u> Place of Birth <u>Telsi (Campobasso)</u> <u>9</u> Trade or Occupation <u>Farmer</u> <u>104</u> Religion <u>Roman Catholic</u> <u>2</u>	NATIONALITY <u>Italian</u> <u>2</u> Marital Condition <u>Single</u> <u>2</u> Next of Kin <u>Michele VALLIANTE</u> Address of Next of Kin <u>Via 11 Al Corso Telsi</u> <u>(CAMPORASSO)</u> Relationship <u>Father.</u>
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REPORT ARMY 3 Unit Inf. 2 Regtl. No. 23103 M/E.P.O.W.No. 23103 Identification—Colour of Hair Brown Eyes Brown
 Distinctive Marks _____

Date	From whom received	Record of all casualties regarding appointments, transfers, postings, attachments, etc., forfeiture of pay, wounds, accidents, admissions to and discharge from Hospital, Casualty Clearing Stations, etc. 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	"G.M."	Transferred M/E to Sydney & disembarked	13.10.41	M/E	A111	
19-10-41	2.D.R.O	Marched in to Cowra	14.10.41	Cowra	A112	off Westbrooke
29-10-43	6.6. Cowra	transferred to Saythorne	30-10-43	1630		Wilson
3-11-43	6.6. Saythorne	Marched in ex Cowra	22-10-43	Saythorne		Thomas
3-11-43	"	To P1 6.6. Starthope	28-10-43	"	"	"
3-2-46	"	Marched in ex P1	1-2-46	"	208/2/46	G. Kildershall
30-3-46	"	Transferred to Hay	25-3-46	"	194/4/46	P. Elliott
3-8-46	Hay	Awarded 3 days latigues (neglected to do duty)	1-8-46	Hay	16/8/46	G. Stevenson
31-10-46	"	Trans to Cowra	28-10-46	"	207/1/46	"
29-10-46	Cowra	M/P in ex Hay	27-10-46	Cowra	208/1/46	Dr J
	"	REPTd. ALLANTARA				
		23 December 1946				

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS SPACE

- The Service and Casualty Form is an invaluable record of Italian prisoner of war movements.
- It records both the Middle East (M/E) number and the Australian (PWI) number for the POWs.
- It is important to read the 'Date of Casualty' rather than the report date.

Magenta dyed Army Issue

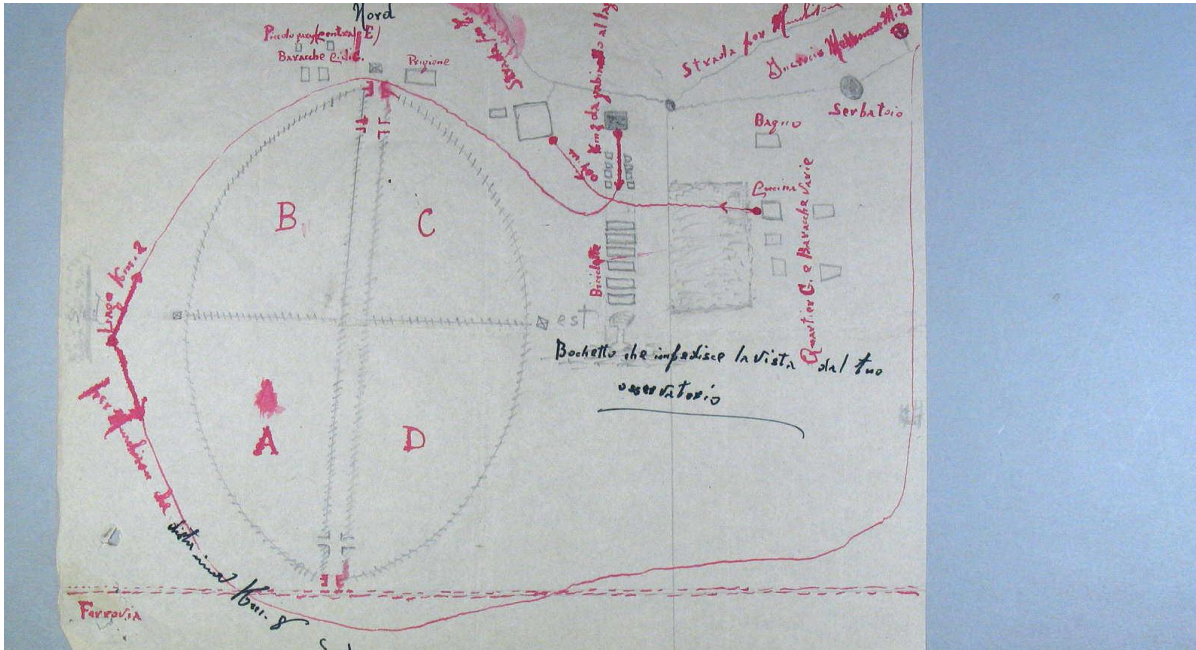
- There were many terms used for the colour of the POW uniforms: burgundy, orange, pink, claret and red; but magenta was the official term.
- In essence, disposal Australian army uniforms were dyed to make POWs stand out.
- The first group of Italian POWs who arrived in May 1941, were handed magenta dyed Great Coats, relics of the Great War.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

REL32594

Cowra



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P03160.002



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P02567.002

Gaythorne Prisoner of War & Internment Camp

- In Queensland, the Prisoner of War and Internment Camp at Gaythorne was the administrative authority for all Italian POWs in the state.
- Gaythorne PW & I Camp, located at Gaythorne, Brisbane had a capacity of 1,800. Nationalities held were: PW – Italian, Japanese, Korean, Formosan, sundry and Internees – Italian, sundry. It operated from 1940-1946.
- It had three compounds each of 300, one compound of 400 and one compound of 500. The Queensland Italian POWs were transferred from southern camps to Gaythorne.
- From Gaythorne, POWs were sent to a Prisoner of War Control Centre: Without Guard (PWCC) or Prisoner of War Control Hostel (PWC Hostel). Some POWs however remained at Gaythorne, deemed 'unfit' or 'unsuitable' for work.
- In a May 1944 inspection report it was reported that there was limited hutted accommodation at Gaythorne with the majority living under canvas. The site was 792' x 189' and consisted of six compounds. Residents included Japanese PWs, Javanese PWs, German Internees, an Italian Internee, and Italian PWs. There was no sports ground and the Italians exercised under guard on the rifle range adjacent to the camp.

26 OCT 1943

ITALIAN P W TRANSFERRED FROM

COWRA TO GAYTHORNE 22 Oct 43

PWI	Name	
45077	VUONO	Francesco
45145	GORGIOLU	Atilio
45260	CASERTA	Salvatore
45288	CAMPANELLA	Giuseppe
45421	DE FELICITIS	Amerigo
45940	LAUDANTE	Crescenzo
46194	MUTO	Alfredo
46248	MOSSUTO	Domenico
46411	PERSICHILLI	Michele
46450	PES	Salvatore
46566	ROSSI	Antonio
46842	TIROZZI	Raffaele
46938	VILLAR	Domenico
47779	VIRCILO	Domenico
47783	VENTRE	Cosimo
48179	MASSI	Giuseppe
48215	MASSANO	Giovanni
48342	VALIANTE	Angelo
48501	PANTINI	Otello
49295	NICASTRO	Esterino
49332	BARTOLOTTI	Enrico
49391	CHELICO	Salvatore
49394	CAMUSO	Pietro
49469	FRANCO	Salvatore
49493	GEREMIA	Angelico
49494	MAESTRI	Italo Redento
49544	MONTE	Vito
49554	MARTUCCI	Ciro
49597	PANTISANO	Cataldo
49606	POZZUOLI	Pasquale
49607	POZZUOLI	Benedetto
49612	FISACANE	Rinaldo
49614	PICONE	Antonio
49623	PETROCCHI	Claudio
49626	PETRUCCIOLI	Giuseppe
49632	MOCCHETTI	Delio
49635	LA TORRE	Francesco
49651	LENTO	Emilio
49652	LENTO	Eugenio
49655	LOMBARDI	Luigi
49663	LIBERTO	Umberto
49665	LUCREZIO	Vito
49703	SCARFATO	Antonio
49792	ALESSI	Angelo
49875	MINICILLI	Angelo
49888	PAOLETTA	Vincenzo
49916	SALVATORI	Elio
49923	SOMMA	Gennaro
49981	SALVATORE	Mario
49937	VILLANI	Raffaele

Cowra, NSW. 16 September 1943. Group of Italian prisoners of war (POW) interned at No. 12 POW Group.

- Back row, left to right: 49931 M. Salvatore; 48365 C. D'Alessandro; 49696 A. Masotto; 49922 C. Di Domenico; 49350 M. Cefaratti; 49493 A. Geremia.
- Front row: 49463 D. Filardi; 49617 D. Paventi; 48654 P? Schiavone; 45992 A. Lattanzio.
- Note: The number is an assigned POW number.

Angelo Valiante mentions his compatriot Angelico, who was with him at the Manning farm.
Angelico came from San Giovanni in Galdo in the province of Campobasso.
Most of the records has his name as ANGELO.

Angelico Geremia



Prisoner of War Identity Card

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

(4)

IMPORTANT
Importante

LOSS OF THIS CARD MUST BE REPORTED
Perdita Di Questa Carta Bisogna Essere
IMMEDIATELY.
Reportata Immediatamente.

ANY PERSON FINDING THIS CARD SHOULD
TAKE IT AT ONCE TO THE NEAREST
PRISONER OF WAR CONTROL CENTRE,
POLICE STATION, or
V.D.C. HEADQUARTERS.

1-44—Govt. Printer, Brisbane

(1) AAF. A116
(Introduced May, 1943)

No. 44

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

IDENTITY CARD
PRISONER OF WAR

Number and Name of Holder PWI 57043
ARBA Giuseppe

Nationality ITALIAN

Date and Place of Birth 17/8/14
URZULEI (Nuoro)

Next of Kin Sister - ARBA, Luigia.

Name of Parent P.W. Camp INTERNMENT CAMP
GAYTHORNE BRISBANE.

Date of Entry into Australia 29/12/43

Date of Issue 30/1/44

Signature of Camp Commandant
Group Headquarters
2 Aust. Pw. Gd. Coy.

(2)

PERSONAL DESCRIPTION

Height 5 ft 6 ins.
Build 140 lbs.
Colour of eyes Brown
Colour of hair Black
Notable marks Nil

Remarks

Signature of Holder:—
Firma Del Titolare
Arba Giuseppe

Finger prints taken from—
Left Hand Index
Right Hand Thumb

Finger Index Finger Thumb

(3) PHOTOGRAPH
Full Face and Profile

REGISTERED EMPLOYER

Name R Smith & Son
Address Ballandean
Date: From 24 March 44 To 26 March 44
P. G. Smith
Signature of Prisoners of War Control Officer

REGISTERED CHANGES OF EMPLOYERS

Name
Address
Date: From To
Signature of Prisoners of War Control Officer

Name
Address
Date: From To
Signature of Prisoners of War Control Officer

Q1 PWCC Stanthorpe

- **Q1 Stanthorpe** was approved by 13th September 1943 with an allocation of 150 workers and approved employers selected by October 1943. The first group of Italian prisoners of war were allocated to Stanthorpe employers from 16th-21st October 1943. By January 1944, approval had been given to increase Q1's allocation from 150 to 200 workers.
- Italian POWs were sent to many Stanthorpe districts eg Glen Alpin, Ballandean, Thorndale, The Summit, Amiens, Applethorpe, Bapaume, Eukey, Mt Tully, Lyra, Severnlea, Fletcher, Cottonvale, Broadwater, Rural Retreat, Poziers, Thulimbah, Marys Green, Wyberba, Messines.
- Some of the staff at the Q1 Centre were: Cpt JL Fletcher (James Lionel) (WW1 veteran), Cpt Christ, Cpt SRA Ogg (Selwyn Robert Alexander) (World War 1 veteran), WO II Bevan, Interpreter Sgt Falciola (Carlo John?), S/Sgt SG Hamilton, Interpreter Sgt Peter Kiel, Driver Roy Archibald Hinshelwood, WO II CP Cobb, Claude Colley (Interpreter)



Volunteering for Farm Work

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

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

Main operational procedures and regulations for PWCC: Without Guards

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

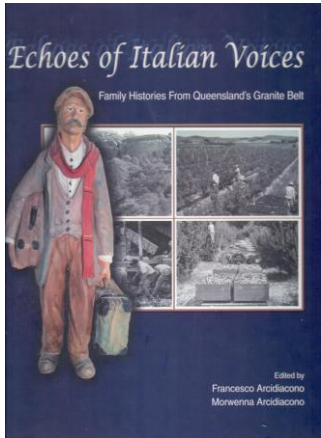


DO NOT WRITE BETWEEN THE LINES.
NICHT ZWISCHEN DIE ZEILEN SCHREIBEN!
NON SCRIVETE TRA LE RIGHE!

29. 10. 45

Cara Mamma

Due righe per non lasciarsi
senza le mie nuove, che grazie
a Dio sono buone, come spero
che sarà di voi tutti. La settimana
ma scorsa i miei principali di
lavoro si hanno spedito due pacchi:
sperò che vi arrivino, Io vi ho
anche spedito una mia foto ed otto
Lire sterline, ma non ho ancora
ricevuto risposta. Cara Mamma
ormai il fin è passato ancora
qualche mese e poi tutto sarà finito.
La vostra posta mette 5 ai 6 mesi
ad arrivare, e non con spero di tanto
in tanto qualche lettera, in ogni
modo ciò per adesso non ha molta
importanza perché siamo ai ultimi
ego celi; Non riconoscerete voi il figlio
5 anni sono tanti; però potera andare
peggio. Infine Baci ed Abbracci
Da separarsi vostro Berto



Stanthorpe

Angelo in Queensland

Angelo along with numerous other Italian POWs, was sent north to Queensland. Happy to have left the Cowra Camp, he soon found himself along with his compatriot, Angelico (whose surname he cannot recall), on Fred Manning's farm at Eukey.. Angelo was to work on Fred Manning's farm for 18 months. He recalls that they considered him a good worker and he was treated very well by the Manning family, who had to adhere to strict rules imposed by the military authorities on the treatment of POWs in their charge. A couple of weeks after their arrival, Angelo and Angelico embarked on a night-time escapade to make contact with fellow Italian POWs on nearby farms, but they were soon discovered: 'Angelo, where did you go last night?' 'We went to see the other prisoners.' 'Well next time you ask me, OK?' Otherwise, 'viene la... militare e mette me in prigione.'

Not surprisingly, Angelo considered Fred Manning to be 'un uomo molto ragionevole' (a most reasonable man). The military authorities, who were far more strict made regular visits to the farm. If the POW was not present when they arrived, he would be punished; their ration of cigarettes would be cut. On the whole, life on the farm, in spite of the hard work, proved to be very much to Angelo's liking...

In February 1946, Angelo said goodbye to the Manning family, and along with many other POWs working in the area, boarded a military bus for Gaythorne in Brisbane, on his way back to Cowra, where he stayed for another year. While en route to Brisbane, Angelo recalls that the POWs were ordered to surrender to the authorities the civilian clothes, towels, food packages and so on, that had been given to them by some of the Australian families that had hosted them on farms. The interpreter suggested that the best way of keeping these clothes and other items was to send them back to their Australian hosting families who in turn would send them onto Italy, in the form of a gift. When the military authorities got wind that this might happen, they confiscated everything and burnt them in front of the prisoners, as punishment for not obeying orders.

From *Echoes of the Granite Belt* by Franco and Morwenna Arcidiacono

Pay Sheet – Prisoners of War

- Prisoners of War were paid 1s/3d per day credit for working on farms.
- They could use their credit to purchase items from the Canteen Truck, build up a bank of credit and/or send money home.
- Whilst in Australia, cash accounts for prisoners of war were kept regarding money in their possession when they arrived in Australia, money received for working on farms, money sent to family in Italy and money expended at canteens.
- Prior to departure from Australia, balance of the POW cash accounts was presented to individuals.
- Money was paid out upon arrival in Italy.

Prisoners of War and Internees Form W.F. 122.
(Revised Jan., 1943.)

PAY SHEET

PAY UNDER PAY ARRANGEMENT ORDER FOR MONTH OF DECEMBER 1944.

Camp No.: 41. F.W.C.C. STANTHORPE. Project:..... Period Ending:.....

No.	Name	Total Number of Days	Rate	Amount	SIGNATURE OF PAYEE.
I the undersigned do hereby acknowledge that I have been advised that the amount opposite my name will be credited to my cash account.					
49934	TAVERNA E.			10 9	<i>[Signature]</i>
46842	TIROZZI R.			10 9	<i>[Signature]</i>
55891	TUMINIA F.			10 9	<i>[Signature]</i>
48342	VALIANTE A.			10 9	<i>[Signature]</i>
56455	VANDITTI D.			10 9	<i>[Signature]</i>
49937	VILLANI L.			10 9	<i>[Signature]</i>
47783	VENTRE C.			10 9	<i>[Signature]</i>
46938	VILLAR D.			10 9	<i>[Signature]</i>
47779	VIRGILLO D.			10 9	<i>[Signature]</i>
45077	VUONO F.			10 9	<i>[Signature]</i>
49951	ZERBIO R.			10 9	<i>[Signature]</i>
56464	ZINGARO B.			10 9	<i>[Signature]</i>
47808	ZUCCARO O.			10 9	<i>[Signature]</i>
				TOTAL. £	<i>[Total Amount]</i>

[Handwritten Signature]



Army Girls and the Italians

- A somewhat contentious issue was that of Australian Women's Land Army girls being 'forced' to work besides Italian prisoners of war. An incident at Ballandean promoted a strongly worded newspaper article titled "*Dagoes Pester Land Army Girls*" 14th April 1945. It was reported that an Italian POW invaded a Land Army camp and made his way into the Matron's tent.
- The question must be asked: who had the bigger shock, the Matron or the Italian Lothario?
- Furthermore, it was believed that "it is a disgraceful thing that Australian girls should be placed in a position where they are subjected to unwelcome attention from Wop prisoners."
- In many centres, Land Army girls and Italian POWs worked side by side during the harvest season. Mr Buchanan at Goomborian had Land Army girls and Italian POWs working on his property as did Mr Groundwater at Eel Creek, Bill Beattie at Calico Creek and Colvin family at Ballandean.
- A Land Army girl Cecily Brennan-Gourley remembers six to eight POWs working at the same Amamoor property where she was placed.
- Policies were however in place to limit opportunities for fraternisation. Social nuances and language barriers most likely contributed to a lot of miscommunication between the girls and Italian POWs.
- Angelo remembered that, "*The language barrier brought with it frustration and difficulties, especially with members of the Women's Land Army or 'army girls', as Angelo called them, who had also been allocated as farm help. After a few unsuccessful attempts at communication which lead to a misunderstanding, one of them informed Angelo: "I don't like you anymore!"*" (from *Echoes of the Granite Belt* by F & M Arcidiacono)

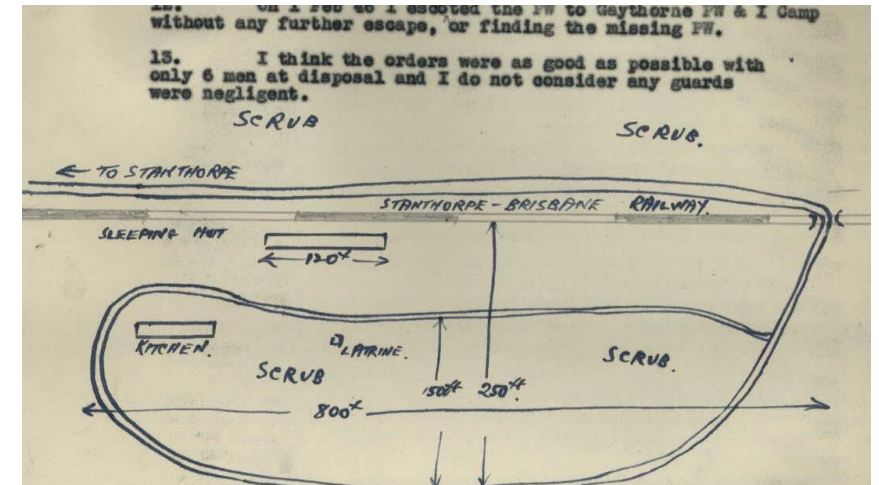
Never to Return Home

- Giovanni Ciccocioppo was a private in the 21 Reggimento Genio Unit when he was captured on 10th December 1940 in Buk Buk. Born 1st June 1918, he was a farmer at Via S Guisto 90 Lanciano, Chieti and when he went to war, he left behind his pregnant wife Serafina (nee Morena). Giovanni came to Australia ex India (Bombay) on the *Mooltan* and disembarked in Melbourne 29th December 1943 before being transferred to No. 12 (A) Camp Cowra 30th December 1943. He was transferred to Gaythorne Prisoner War and Internment Camp in Queensland in February 1944 and in less than a month, he was transferred to Q1 Stanthorpe before being sent to Mr Muller at Eukey on 4th March 1944. His next assignment was with Mr C Lynam Balladean and his last placement was with TA Hodgson Balladean 27th July 1944.
- Tragically, on 12th November 1944 during a Sunday morning swim in the Severn River, he drowned. He was 26 years old. His death was reported in the newspapers and his burial took place on 13th November 1944 at the Stanthorpe Cemetery.
- The poignancy of Giovanni's story does not stop with his burial. By chance, a distant relative in Albury had visited Murchison Cemetery where he found Giovanni's name. Ciccocioppo is not a common name and a little research lead to a phone call between Australia and Italy and distant cousins. In 2012, Giovanni's son Mario, who was born after his father went to war, made the journey from Italy to Stanthorpe and Murchison. Shannon Newley from Daily News Warwick wrote of Mario's visit to retrace his father's footprints which is poignantly titled: *Mario Finds Peace with Past*.

(2) PERSONAL DESCRIPTION		(2) PHOTOGRAPH Full Face and Profile	(3) REGISTERED EMPLOYER
Height	5 ft. 4 1/2 ins		Name <i>Mr Muller</i>
Weight	136 lbs		Address <i>Eukey Stanthorpe</i>
Build			Date: From <i>4 March 44</i> To
Colour of eyes	<i>BROWN</i>		<i>P. J. Lynam Capt</i> Signature of Prisoners of War Control Officer
Colour of hair	<i>BROWN</i>		
Notable marks			REGISTERED CHANGES OF EMPLOYERS
Remarks	<i>NIL</i>		Name <i>C. Lynam</i>
Signature of Holder:- Firma Del Titolare	<i>Ciccocioppo Giovanni</i>		Address <i>Balladean</i>
Finger prints taken from:-			Date: From <i>12 July 44</i> To <i>27-7-44</i>
Left Hand			<i>B. Hodgson Capt</i> Signature of Prisoners of War Control Officer
Finger <i>INDEX</i>			Name <i>T. A. Hodgson</i>
			Address <i>Balladean</i>
			Date: From <i>27-7-44</i> To
			<i>B. Hodgson Capt</i> Signature of Prisoners of War Control Officer
			Name
			Address
			Date: From To
			Signature of Prisoners of War Control Officer

Escape from Applethorpe

- The only escape of an Italian POW in Queensland occurred from Q1.
- The concentration point at date of the centre's disbandment was a grain shed at Applethorpe.
- Ottavio Brancatella slipped away into the dark of night.
- He remained at large for over six years. He was apprehended in Melbourne 21st March 1952.
- Brancatella was granted conditional release from his prisoner of war status in March 1953 and issued with an Alien Registration Certificate.



ITALIAN PRISONER OF WAR MISSING FROM QUEENSLAND.

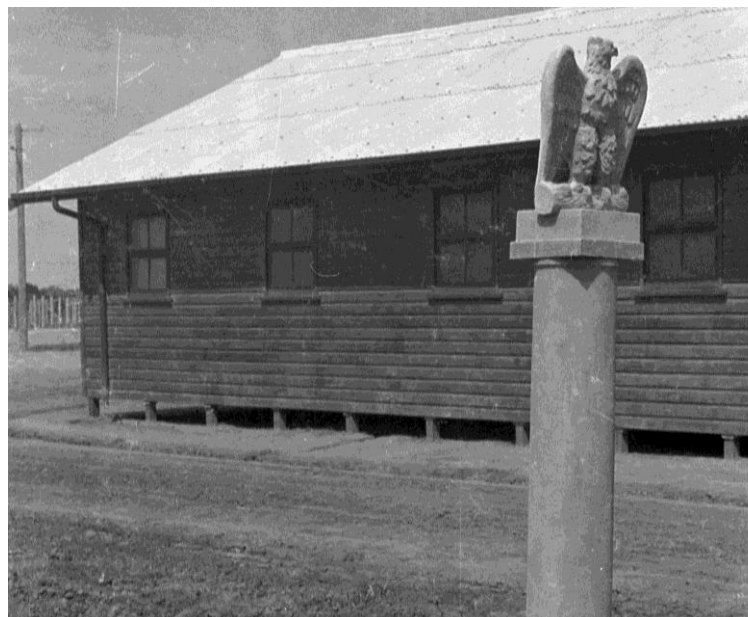


7. BRANCATELLA, OTTAVIO, escaped from Prisoner of War Camp at Applethorpe near Stanthorpe, Queensland, on 30th January, 1946. Italian Prisoner of War. P.W.I. 45088. Description:—Born San Vito, Italy, 8th December, 1902, 5 ft. 6 in., medium build, brown hair, brown eyes.

Hay Prisoner of War & Internment Camp

Hay, New South Wales (1940–46)

- *The Hay internment camp was located outside of the town of Hay.*
- *Hay is in the Riverina district of southern New South Wales. The camp was purpose-built at the Hay showground and racecourse, with huts, roads, water supply and electric lights. It was built to accommodate Italian prisoners of war, but German, Italian and Japanese internees were also held there.*
- *The camp consisted of three compounds, each holding 1000 people. The men lived in huts and living conditions were often difficult. Located on semi-arid grazing land, the camp was hit by dust storms caused by a drought during the war years. Clothing and personal items like toothbrushes were at times insufficient.*
- *The internees did, however, have a successful market garden and farm, which provided the camp with vegetables, eggs, poultry, milk and animal fodder.*
- *The German and Italian internees also established camp schools, handiwork classes and a newspaper; they played soccer and designed a type of money to be used in the camp.*
- *Hay camp closed in 1946.*



BACK TO ITALY



Italian prisoners of war in their burgundy colored uniforms about to embark on the Alcantara in Sydney. They are bound for Naples.



A MILITARY GUARD at Pymont helping an Italian POW with his baggage. The prisoners of war came from Cowra by train to Pymont, where they boarded the Alcantara, which will take them to Italy.

ITALIAN P's.O.W. RETURN HOME



MORE THAN 3000 Italian prisoners of war went home by the Alcantara, which left Sydney on December 31. This picture shows one of the repatriates, laden with luggage, about to board the ship.

Repatriation

Want To Stay

Big Proportion Of Italian P.O.W.

SYDNEY: After six years in Australia almost half of the Italian prisoners of war who boarded the Alcantara for home yesterday have decided that they want to stay here.

Escorting Australian officers estimated that about 40 per cent of more than 3000 Italians in their care were not keen to leave, although most smiled broadly as they went aboard.

The Army tried to limit baggage to 50 lbs., but most of the Italians exceeded the limit with bundles of gift clothing for their families.

They have been in Australia for six years, and served away from home for from three to five years before that. One had a photograph of an 11-year-old son he had never seen.

One of the prisoners, Nicole Aucello, did not want to leave because he had become engaged to a girl in Orange. Aucello was a gunner on the Bartolomeo Colleoni, sunk by the Sydney in July, 1940. He admitted that Australian gunners "hit them all the time everywhere."

An army spokesman said it was expected that all Italian prisoners would have left Australia by the end of January.

Prisoners Eat; Guards Starve

SYDNEY: Australian guards went without food on trains from Cowra camp, while Italian prisoners of war being repatriated today from Sydney by the liner Alcantara, munched hard-boiled eggs, tarts, and sandwiches.

More than 60 guards went without food. They said they were put aboard the trains to guard the prisoners and were given no food or any instructions as to where they could get a meal.

The Alcantara, which is taking 3,300 Italians, is expected to leave late this afternoon for Naples. The prisoners arrived in six trains from Cowra.

The Alcantara

**n Fear
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leave their homes at
no have not reported

**Italian POW's
Leave For Home**



**FATHER
NOT GI**
A father, six o
Children's Court
pleaded passionate
"Had I not been away, nothing like this would have happened," he said. "The only guarantee I can give that the children will be looked after is that I am their father."



MIXED EXPRESSIONS as Italian prisoners-of-war board the *Alcantara* today for home. The prisoner in the top picture kept his eyes suspiciously on the photographer as he drank his tea. The one (bottom left) had a look of sadness. The prisoner in the centre picture was more interested in his sandwich than anything else. At right is Nicola Aucello, who became a prisoner in the Mediterranean when the Sydney sank the cruiser the *Bartolomeo Colleoni*, said he was engaged to an Australian girl who lived at Orange and wanted to get back to Australia to marry her. (See story, Page 7.)



1311 C. R. Hoffmann Southampton R. M. L. ALCANTARA 22,608 Tons ROYAL MAIL LINES COPYRIGHT

The Alcantara repatriated 3321 Italian prisoner of war to Naples. On board were 77 officers and 3244 ordinary ranks.



Naples: First Sight of Home



Home - Jelsi

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