

TARANTO AND ITS HISTORY :THE TWO WORLD WARS

A century after its inception, World War I still occupies a very important space in the city of Taranto due to the high number of deaths

Our Stones of Memories

Monumento ai Caduti WORLD WAR 1 MEMORIAL

At the end of the war, the citizens and authorities of Taranto felt the need to honor the victims of the Great War by erecting a monument to be dedicated to the heroes of the city of Taranto

The monument was located in the main Square called Piazza della Vittoria (VICTORY SQUARE)

The monument was inaugurated on November 04, 1930 without the bronze statuary group called Aquilifero and in the presence of King Vittorio Emanuele III and local authorities.

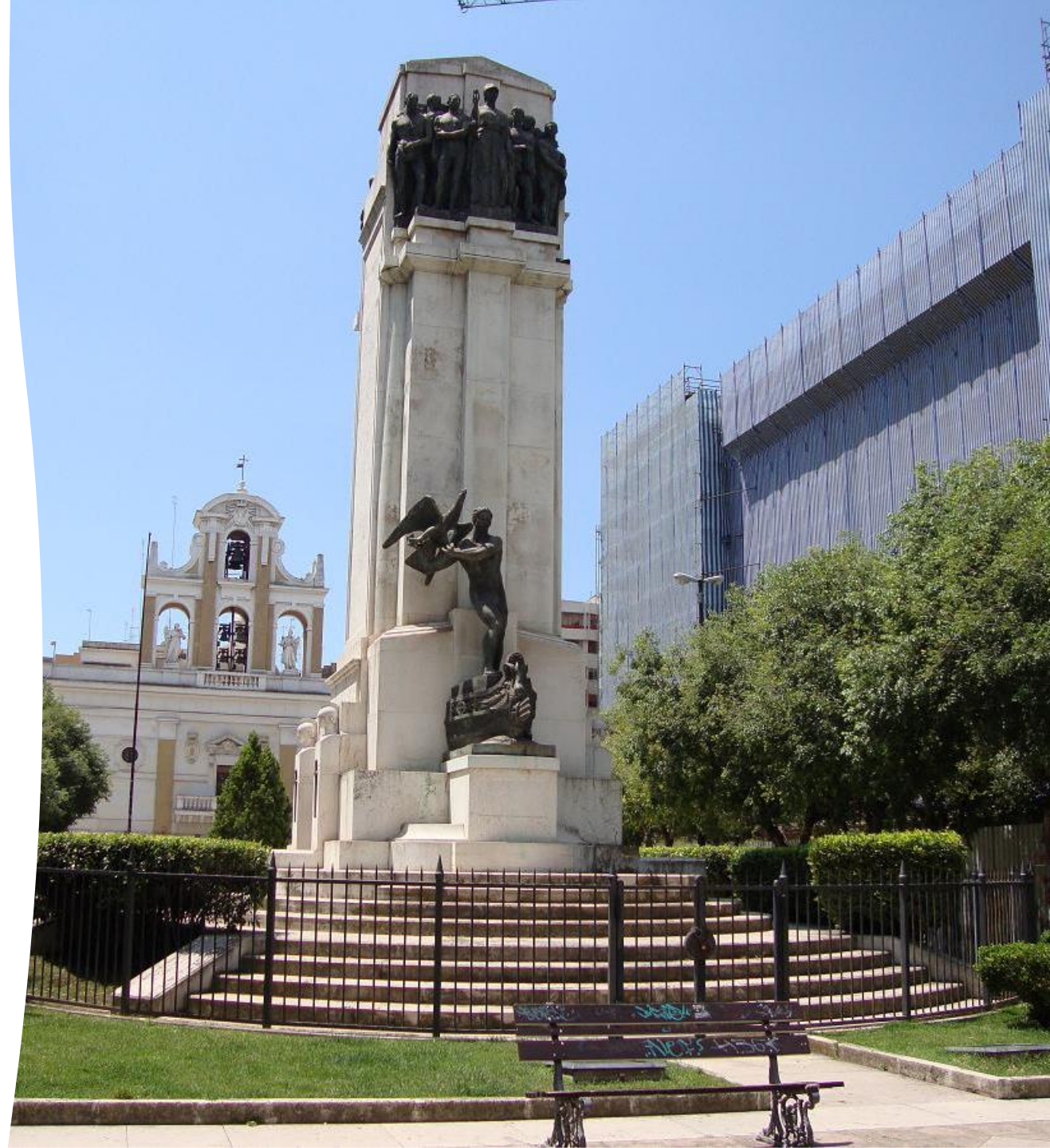


The World war 1 Memorial

The monument remained so for more than twenty years, only after the end of World War II it was completed and inaugurated on October 18, 1953, with a further inauguration ceremony

Every 25 April a military ceremony takes place in front of the monument with deposition of crown , military parade and official speeches.

In Taranto... we remember

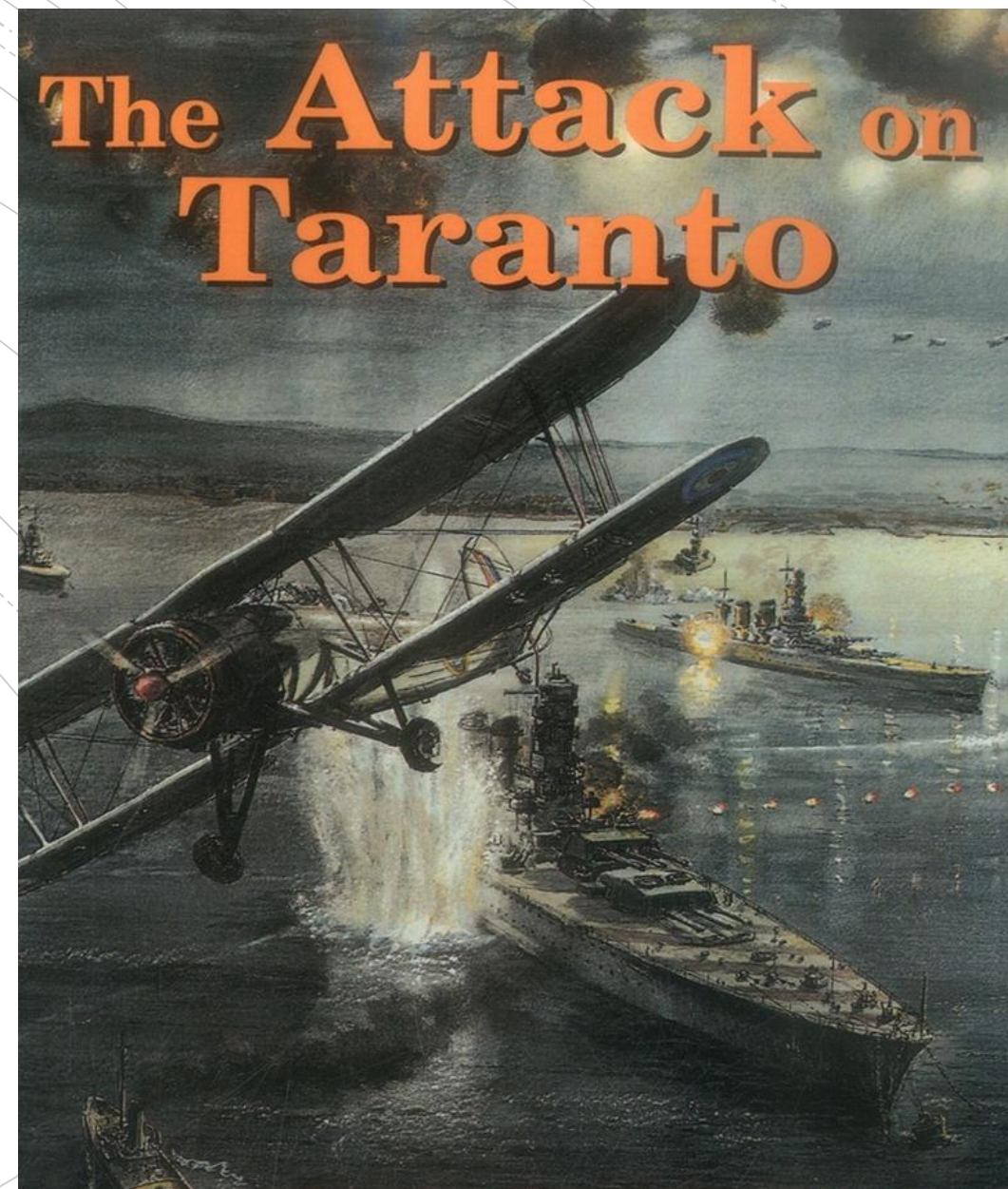


TARANTO AND ITS HISTORY

WORLD WAR TWO THE NIGHT OF TARANTO

NADIA PADOVAN

IISS AUGUSTO RIGHI TARANTO



TARANTO IN WORLD WAR II

The “Night of Taranto” refers to an airstrike that took place on the night of 11-12 November 1940 against the port of Taranto, during the Second World War. The Battle of Taranto took place between British Naval Forces, under Admiral Andrew Cunningham, and Italian Naval Forces, under Admiral Inigo Campioni.



The night of Taranto



In August 1940 two new important royal navy units entered service: the battleships Vittorio Veneto and Littorio. They were among the most powerful warships of the time with a main armament of nine cannons



The Royal Navy and Admiral Andrew Cunningham decided to set up an operation to attack the Italian naval units stationed at the Taranto base, perfecting a night-time attack plan with torpedo bombers





The afternoon of November 6th 1940 the operation began.

Only two days later, alarmed by these manoeuvres in the Mediterranean Sea, the Supreme Command of the Italian Navy sent destroyers, torpedo ships and patrol submarines into the channel of Sicily, while in the base of Taranto was concentrated the bulk of the Italian naval force

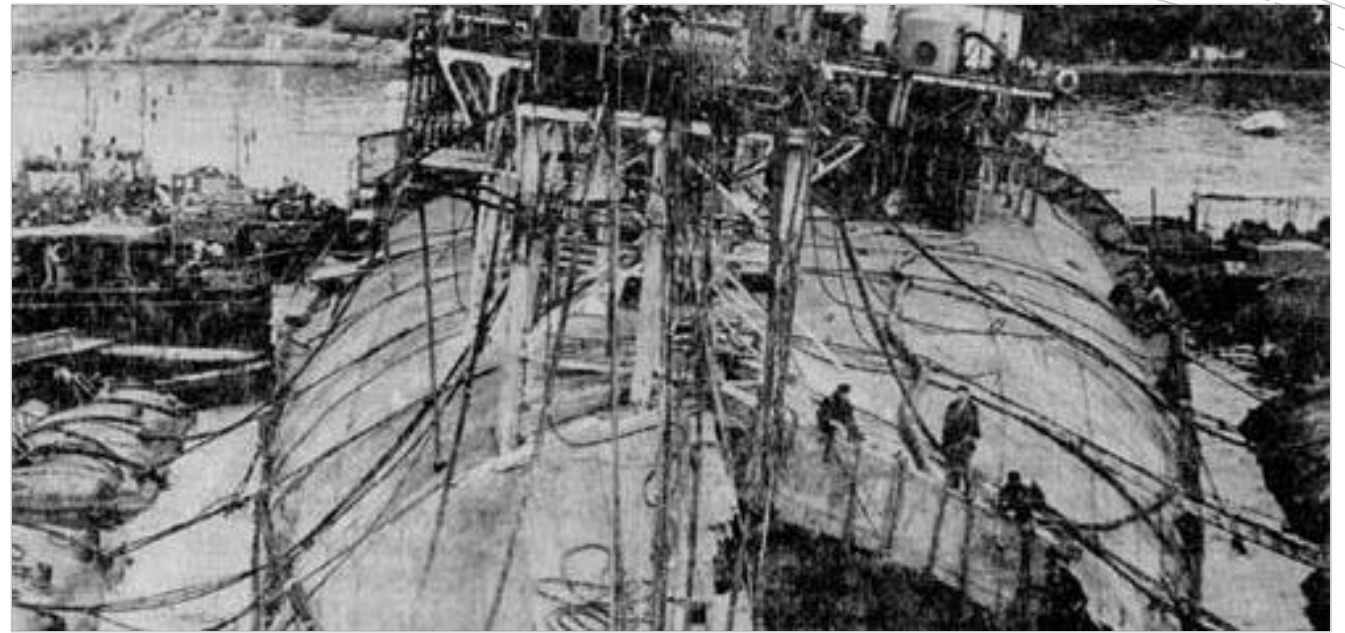
The attack began on November 11th at 11 p.m., when the first torpedoes were dropped and split into two waves.

The last planes withdrew at 00:30 on November 12th: the attack on Taranto was over. Within 90 minutes, the Royal Navy's torpedo bombers had caused extensive damage, as half of the Italian battleships had been put out of action.

There were 58 dead and 581 wounded, six warships damaged and several damage to land installations.



The end



After the attack, the fleet based at Taranto was moved to the port of Naples. The knocking out of three of the five battleships in service was a major blow to the Royal Navy and represented a decisive moment in the Mediterranean war.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=asLCsk0vdsY>

TARANTO «STONES OF MEMORIES»



THE SAILOR MONUMENT

Just in front of the Aragonese Castle the first monument that witnesses the strict link between Taranto and its modern history is the imposing “ Monumento al Marinaio” one of the symbols of the Port City, overlooking the Mar Grande .



Seven meters high and dedicated to the Italian Navy sailors, it was created in bronze by the sculptor Vittorio Di Cobertaldo in 1974, on the commission of Admiral Angelo Iachino who donated this sculpture to the city in memory of the sailors who died during the Two World Wars

The sculpture represents two seamen who are about to greet the vessels departing for the Great Sea with their cap, or even when they are returning to the port.

THE GOVERNMENT PALACE



- The Government Palace is an imposing fascist-era building overlooking the beautiful seafront of Taranto
- The building of was inaugurated by Benito Mussolini on September 7, 1934, in front of a crowd of citizens present in the adjacent square, the roundabout of the seafront.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mxSzUIX59eI>



- Made of Carparo, a local extremely resistant stone ,suitable for monumental construction, it is 52 meters high, overlooking the incredible spectacle of the seafront and the archipelago of the Cheradi islands of St. Peter and St. Paul.
- The main facade is powerful and austere to which are added the lateral fronts that are presented as large masses of brick walls, one exposed to the swing bridge and the other on the new side of the city, as if looking to the future . In addition its other peculiarity is its form of “M”, just in honor of Mussolini then Italian duce.
- Nowadays it is the site of Taranto “Prefettura”

History rules our every move, and that understanding it is our only hope.



Statues and monuments fill streets and museums all over the world. Every monument tells a tale, not only of its subject, but of the society that erects it.

WE HOPE YOU ENJOYED OUR TALE OF WHAT TARANTO'S "STONES" SAY



NADIA PADOVAN –GIANLUCA DI NOI – DOMENICO PERTOSILLO