

## THE MILL AND PASTA FACTORING “ALFREDO PAGANO”

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by Carlotta Ruggi & Matteo Vito Giorgio

### *historical information and testimonies*

The mill and pasta factoring “Alfredo Pagano” was built in 1903, beyond the railway line, which represented a real border line between the traditional city and the “new industrial city” .Its construction, together with that of the “Excelsior” mill, located in via Lagomagno, was financed for the purpose advertising, from the Biihler company of Zurich, manufacturer of machinery for mills and pasta factories. The two factories were data under management, in exchange for an annual fee, to Mr. Enrico Pagano, entrepreneur of Turesi origins, who has moved in Gioia in 1894: the Molino Excelsior to Enrico and his son Luigi, the Pastificio to the other son Alfredo. In June 1909, having become owners of the Molino, Enrico and Luigi, formed a partnership, took over the Pastificio “for the agreed annual rent of Lire one thousand” . In 1926, the Pagan declared bankruptcy to the Cassa di Taranto and the building thus became the property of a private individual trader from Taranto, who would have bought it to obtain the cast iron of the machinery. He remembered Vito Nettis , industrialist and owner of Molino Vito Nettis, which developed in the same area around the years '30, that in 1926, when he finished his service as a carabinieri on horseback, the Pastificio Alfredo Pagano was already closed. The factory then passed to the cav. Angelo Lattarulo, former owner of a gray-green cloth factory in Gioia for account of the State (Lanificio Lattarulo), who probably wanted to adapt it to his business or transform it into family mansion. From August 1940 to January 1941, Lattarulo himself placed the building at the disposal of the **fascist authorities**, who they made it an internment camp for Italian Jews.



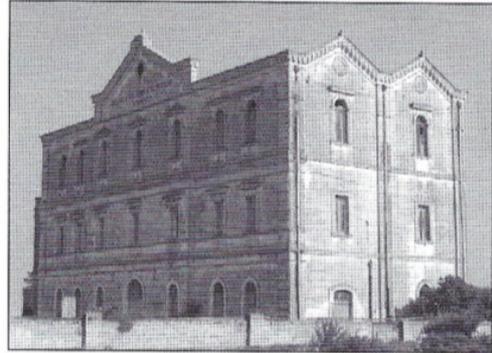
Lanificio Lattarulo, attuale ITIS “G. Galilei”  
sito in via Mazzini  
(foto dall’archivio privato di G. Ciaccia)

## the alfredo pagano pasta factory as an internment camp

With the art. 1 of the Duce's Decree of 4 September 1940 it was established that "the enemy subjects who are interned can be grouped in special concentration camps, or be obliged to stay in a place determined by the internment measure". On 15 August 1940 the first thirty-five inmates arrived in Gioia, all Italian Jews, transferred from the Campaign concentration camp in the

province of Salerno; in the following months others arrived, but they did not exceed the number of fifty-nine in total. The internees of Gioia, were all Italians, the average age was forty-five years ; by profession they were traders, clerks, lawyers, workers, engineers, peasants, pensioners, one was a doctor, a university student; all accused of being anti-fascist Jews, republican Jews, communists or socialists, however

individuals to be interned. The "Pagano" Mill, despite not having rooms, nor sufficient latrines, nor catering services, was considered by the police to be suitable for internment. Each inmate had the right to a bed consisting of a wooden table, resting on two trestles, with a horsehair mattress, two canvas sheets, a blanket, two towels, a stool as a bedside table; twice a month, sheets, pillowcases and towels were changed. However, the supply of blankets was scarce, in a cold winter like that of 1940-41 and in a building completely devoid of electricity and heating. The toilets were located outside the building, two latrines on the first floor and two to the second, never used at night, because the doors of the dormitories were locked. The function of the "Pagano" Mill as an internment camp was short-lived: already on 14 December 1940 the Prefect of Bari, Viola, asked the Chief of Police to transfer the camp elsewhere, possibly to Alberobello di Gioia for military reasons. In fact, in those years, works were completed in the field of aviation, whose presence on the territory was irreconcilable with that of the internment camp: from this, due to its predominant position, the airport with all the movement related to it was clearly visible. The field in Gioia, therefore, was suppressed on December 31, 1940, but the inmates were transferred only in mid-January in 1941 towards municipalities in the provinces of Teramo, Pesaro, Potenza, Ascoli and Macerata; twelve of them died at Auschwitz in 1944



Molino e Pastificio "Alfredo Pagano"