

Italian Alpine Troops Corps Soldiers of North America



Translated into English by Fr. Mather Bagnarol, IMC

Edited by Marsha Chiarotto-Breault, B.A., O.C.T

Dedications

“To those who still have the Italian Alpine Corps Spirit”

Giancarlo Venturi

Italian Alpine Corps 1964/1965 -
11° Raggruppamento Alpini d'Arresto -
Battaglione "Val Tagliamento" 278° compagnia
Specialità Plotone Armi Accompagnamento.
Born in Pordenone July 10, 1943



Secondo Ognibene

Italian Alpine Corps 1956/1957 -
8° Reggimento Alpini Comando -
Btg. Add. Recl. "Julia"
Specialità Ossaltatore
Born in Altisole, Udine May 9, 1934



Antonino Tomassetti

Italian Alpine Corps 1963
8° Reggimento Alpini
Battaglione "L'Aquila" Divisione Julia
Specialità Radio Telegrafista
Born in Cerchio (AQ) April 15, 1941



Presentation



The history of our Association, which this year has reached its ninetieth anniversary of life, en-globes in itself a very precious jewel, a history of very hard toils, of sufferings, of detachment from the affections and from the native land, but a history which makes up a gigantic monument to hope.

I refer to the marvellous history of our Sections abroad, to the Italian alpine corps soldiers, whom we affectionately indicate as those "of the double military service", who after having served Italy, in arms with the Italian alpine corps hat on their heads, had to emigrate in order to find a job and find themselves a dignified future.

In their suitcase, they even felt the need to put the Italian alpine corps hat inside which represents, for the Alpini, a symbol of the Motherland and of all of the values that are dear to their Fathers. Having then arrived in the country which hosted them, they did not leave that hat inside the suitcase on top of a wardrobe. They hung it up at home, for all to see, as is done with sacred and precious things. They looked at it everyday, not only in order to remember Italy, which was far

away, but even in order to remember that hat, imposes upon every Italian alpine corps soldier "to be worthy of the glories" of his Fathers.

So, from the coalmines of Marcinelle in Belgium, in the factories of Canada, of Argentina, in South Africa, in the fields and on the farms of Australia, the Italian alpine corps soldiers did not limit themselves to simply taking manpower, but have placed the best of Italian values at the disposal of their communities.

They entered into those communities on tip-toes. They rigorously respected the laws and traditions of the countries that hosted them, aware that that was a precious duty of theirs. Also, the Italian alpine corps soldiers knew and know the lesson of the sense of duty very well.

On tip-toes, but with the typical tenacity of the best tradition of the black feathers, they defended Italianness and the best values of our Motherland; values which they knew how to maintain and even transmit, by becoming an integral and important part of their new communities. Today, our Sections abroad represent an important bulwark of Italianness in the world. They represent, even, an element of equilibrium within the respective Italian communities which recognize that the Italian alpine corps soldiers have a central role, by dint of their innate honesty and absence, of any kind, of political aim.

By virtue of my national offices, I had the privilege of practically visiting all of our Sections abroad and every time that I go back to visit them, the commotion that grips me is the same, if not even greater than the one felt for the first time.

Good Italian alpine corps soldiers of the double military service. We are really proud of you, of your work, of your seriousness and determination and of your history which, I repeat, is a very precious jewel in the coffer of the Italian National Alpine Corps Veterans' Association.

A history, more actual, than ever today, which many would have something to learn.

Corrado Perona



Introduction

By now, I am heading towards the conclusion for the fourth consecutive year, of the prestigious mandate, which President Perona and the National Directive Council wanted to confer upon me, on the occasion of my first appointment, as National Councillor, of "Person in charge of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association's Sections abroad", a task carried out, for the first time, by an Italian alpine corps member from the Abruzzo region.

In this capacity, I had an opportunity to visit the Italian alpine corps members and their families who live outside of Italy in the four continents, always with the President and the other councillors. I touched with my hand a reality that was unknown and unimaginable to me.

The Italian alpine corps members, emigrants of the first generation, who initially had greater difficulties of job insertion, unlike the emigrants of the other northern European countries, by working with alacrity they conquered a considerable social and economic position, which has seen them become the protagonists of the economy, by making a valid contribution towards socio-economic development, and for this reason loved, esteemed and appreciated by the inhabitants of the host countries.

Their children, the so-called "second generation", has reached an elevated social status: many have become prestigious professionals, employees, politicians of an elevated rank, who, in many cases, have an interest in Italian culture, the history and origins of their own parents.

These "ambassadors" of ours, have taken with them, besides Italianness, understood in the noble sense of the word, even alpineness, which distinguishes them from the others because they are capable of giving moments of great solidarity, of help, of surge towards their brethren wherever they may find themselves in case of difficulty.

It is shown by the enormous mobilization of Italian alpine corps members and Italians all residing outside of Italy, on the occasion of the terrible earthquake of the 6th April, last month, which struck my dear land, the Abruzzo region, and in particular, my city L'Aquila, completely devastated and with an enormous loss of human life.

A lot was the economic aide that arrived, every Italian alpine corps member, every Italian wanted to offer, according to his own possibilities, a monetary contribution.

The National Directive Council, with President Perona at its head, decided to intervene in aid of the populations of the Abruzzo region struck by the earthquake, by building, with the funds collected, between 24 to 32 houses, which the municipality of Fossa will hand over as soon as they are finished, to the families that lost their homes and all their belongings.

Their attachment, to their land of origin, is commendable, and even stronger is the one towards our association.

Every section, from the oldest to the newest, has a story to tell. It can be noticed immediately by looking at their head-quarters or places where they get together, some real and proper museums, the photo albums with the big political and State authorities which have wanted to express, in past and recent years, gratitude and appreciation for what they have done in the field of solidarity and volunteer service.

From here, comes the idea of not letting this history, these values are lost. President Perona, invested with the initiative, has wanted to support it unconditionally, by offering every kind of help so that it be carried out in the briefest time possible, keeping in mind the imminent commitments abroad.

This work, wants to pay homage, be a sign of gratitude to the Italian alpine corps members, for what they have done, are doing, and will do, in order to keep the Italian alpine corps tradition and its values alive, in order to strengthen the bond with beloved Italy, in short, it sets out to fulfill an ambitious aim: the one of leaving unto posterity "The history of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association's Sections abroad".

In carrying this initiative forward, I found a precious help in the councillor of the "Abruzzi" section, Maurilio Di Giangregorio, not new in these realizations, whom I vividly thank.

A dutiful thank you goes to all of the Italian alpine corps members, to the Presidents of the Sections, to the group leaders, for having cooperated by sending the history, documents, photographs, and all reported, in the text.



Finally, a word of thanks to President Corrado Perona, who encouraged the initiative, seeing to it that the work, could see the light of day.

L'Aquila 5th September, 2009

*The National Councillor
Ornello Capannolo*



Rome, Vatican City 22nd December, 1984, Ornello Capannolo, President of the Italian National Alpine Corps Veterans' Association's Abruzzi Section, greets Pope John Paul II.



Preface for the English Edition of this Alpini Book

Yes, in 1958 a membership card of the Toronto Group was already circulating around and in 1959 there was a sticker on the membership card which was probably obtained from the Montreal section which was then the only section in Canada and it is in 1960 that we find the first written documents.

In this book there is a lot on the section of Toronto because it was our idea to remember in 2009 the 50th anniversary of the first membership card with the sticker of 1959 on the occasion of the 15th International Congress of North America. In the greeting messages every group and section would have written a brief history about itself. With the help of Mariella Policheni and Tony Lomuto of the Italian Canadian Newspaper "Corriere Canadese," I put all of the collected material onto various diskettes which I personally handed over together with a draft copy to Ornello Capannolo, we were in the headquarters of the Italian Alpine Corps Veterans of Bagnarola of the section of Pordenone. The editor Brandolini did his best in order to edit it. For the English version and translation, done by the work of Fr. Marco Bagnarol some photographs have been put back into their right place and some photographs have been added for the Autonomous Group of Calgary and for the section of New York which had been completely missing.

The Windsor section re-wrote its history directly into English, the sections of Hamilton, Montreal and Edmonton added other material to what had already been written. For the material which was not ours and for the book in general, we have received the relative permission.

Tony Lomuto has put together the new front cover and had added the photographs for Calgary and New York, all of these beings photographs which came from my archive and from the archives of the intersectional commission. It is impossible to give due credit to all of the photographers some of whom have already passed away, we however, remember Tony Pavia who we thank here.

The publication of our newspaper "Alpini in Trasferita" and now of this book has required a great deal of coordination which I have willingly lent myself to but without the help of many other people the task would have been impossible. Ornello Capannolo and Maurilio DiGiangregorio looked after the printing of the Italian version. For the English version and its printing our sincere thanks goes to Father Marco Bagnarol and to Marsha Chiarotto for the proof reading of the draft copy together with all those who in some way have cooperated.



*Knight Gino Vatri
President of the Intersectional Commission of
North America*



1st PART

Italian Alpine Corps Soldiers

Chapter
- I -

1958 – 1970

THE ITALIAN NATIONAL ALPINE TROOPS CORPS VETERANS' ASSOCIATION

The Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association (INATCVA) is the biggest Army Association in the world. Counting amongst its ranks, those belonging to the Italian alpine corps are alpine soldiers, mountain artillerymen, alpine sappers, and transmitters, alpine parachutists, and those belonging to the services of alpine units. It was in the First World War (1915-1918) that the INATCVA, arose in Milan in 1919, by the work of a group of alpine corps veterans.

According to what is established in article 2 of the Statute, the INATCVA is an apolitical association which sets out to keep the traditions and characteristics of the Italian alpine corps alive, by fostering good relations of fellowship with the Italian army units. In addition, the INATCVA even has the task of collecting and illustrating the splendours and glories of the Italian alpine corps, of cementing the bonds of brotherhood amongst the Italian alpine corps of any rank and condition, of promoting and favouring the study of the problems of the mountains, maintaining the best relations with associations and institutions that have analogous aims, and cooperating with them for their solving. Furthermore, the symbol of the black feathers was created to represent the INATCVA.

THE PATRON SAINTS AND ITALIAN ALPINE TROOPS CORPS CHAPLAINS

The Black Feathers have, as a patron saint, a saint designated in relation to their special field and their tasks.

The patron saint of the Italian alpine corps is Saint Maurice the Martyr, who Pope Pius XII proclaimed as the "celestial patron saint to God of the Italian alpine corps" on the 2nd July, 1941.

Up until then, the devotion of the Italian alpine corps was addressed to Saint Martin, bishop of Tours, patron saint of the infantry and even to Saint Bernard of Mentone, protector of mountaineers and skiers and to the depictions of Our Lady existing in the valleys.

In 1936, the military chaplains were invited to propose a saint to be designated as the patron saint of the Italian alpine corps. Amongst the saints proposed, appeared Saint Francis, Saint Bernard of Mentone, and Saint Sebastian. Furthermore, some chaplains pointed out to the veneration of the Black Feathers, the patron saint of Our Lady of the Snows, Our Lady of Mount Grappa, and Our lady of Rocciamelone. (A group of chaplains even proposed the patron saint, Our Lady of the Alpine Corps, who is still unpublished).

Saint Maurice the Martyr lived in the middle of the 3rd century. He was born according to tradition in the Egyptian territory of Tebe. Having become the commander of the Tebea or the Tebana legion, he converted to Christianity during a period of service in Jerusalem, around the year 280 A.D. Having become an apostle amongst his soldiers, he managed to convert the entire legion which, it should not be forgotten, was of regional recruitment and famous for its operational capacity. Summoned to Italy in



The membership card (front) with the INATCVA sticker of 1962

The official INATCVA membership card (back) of Giuseppe Fabbruzzo bearing the stiker of 1962.

The membership card of Pietro Sfreddo of 1958 which gives witness to his belonging to the Toronto section of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association.



The mayor of Toronto Nathan Philips takes part in the commemoration ceremony of the 4th November of 1961.



The Italian Alpine corps is probably celebrating the occurrence of the 4th November in this photograph dating back to the early 1960's.



1963: in the photograph that was taken on the occasion of the blessing of the pennant of the Toronto section, Lanfranco Ceschia, Giacomo Zucchi, Lieutenant Colonel Oreste Chemello, and Attilio Paron can be recognized in it.



Toronto, 1967: the Italian alpine corps of Toronto together with the sailors of the San Giorgio ship.



order to reinforce the legions of Maximilian, who were engaged against the rebels in the county of Burgundy, nestled between the present day border of France and Switzerland, he reaches them by encamping in a rocky place called Agauno. Upon the refusal of taking part in pagan sacrifices and persecuting Christians, the entire legion, agreeing with its own commander, underwent martyrdom. A small church was subsequently erected on the spot with the relics of the martyrs, then a hamlet, which today is called Saint Maurice, situated in Vallese, Switzerland.

Artillerymen and sappers have Saint Barbara as their patron saint, who for centuries has been the protector of those handling explosives and fighting against fire: Saint Barbara is, in fact, even the patron saint of miners and of firemen.

The patron saint of the transmitters is Saint Gabriel the Archangel. Saint Michael the Archangel is the patron saint of the parachutists, while the patron saint of the driver's is Saint Christopher.

Saints Maurice, Barbara and Christopher, consciously and serenely facing martyrdom, gave witness to the depth and tenacity of their faith.

THE BIRTH OF THE TORONTO SECTION

In 1958, there was already a membership card that circulated around, there was a sticker on the membership card in 1959, but it is in 1960 that thanks to a group of eager Italian alpine corps headed by Lieutenant Colonel Oreste Chemello and by Attilio Paron that the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association is officially born in Toronto.

A birth, this one of the Toronto section, which had the aim of gathering together the Italians of all the regions, who had performed military service in the Italian alpine corps and mountain artillery corps and to continue making that "esprit de corps" live on, that, though so far away from the Italian mountains, always remains alive in the heart of the Black Feathers.

A letter dated the 3rd December, 1960, written by Alberto Muzzin, residing in Toronto and published in the Gazzettino newspaper in which the Italian alpine corps' desire appears to be clear and strong to meet together and to keeping alive, though so far away from their own homeland, their esprit de corps: "... Here in Canada, I met many fellow soldiers of mine and every now and then, we all get together in order to recall the times of the mess-tins and of the long marches. Everybody wants to tell of his adventures, and in telling the story, it can be seen in everybody's eyes, the pride of having been and of still now being in the Italian alpine troops corps, brothers in spirit and in sacrifice..."

The eager group of the 1960's soon swelled its own ranks and there was not a civilian or military manifestation in which the "Italian alpine corps hat" was not present: the presence of the Black Feathers was tangible proof that the Italian alpine corps family had affirmed itself thanks to its enthusiasm, esprit de corps and tenacity.

The documentation of the first years of life of the Toronto section is rather sketchy, but some news-





1968: Cesco Leon, Fiorentino Boer, Tomaso De Spirt and the group leader Attilio Paron can be recognized besides the founder Oreste Chemello

paper clippings, and the excellent memory of so many Italian alpine corps members, contribute towards the reconstruction of the events which characterize its birth and its first footsteps. “Our history, as it is known, begins in the 1960’s – Bruno Rosati said on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of its foundation – “the first registrations took place at the Italian Canadian Recreation Centre located on Brandon Avenue”. Moreover, Attilio Paron adds that “the first celebration of the 4th November always took place at the Italian Canadian Recreation Centre in cooperation with the San Quirino Club”.

The Toronto section of the Italian alpine corps was named after Sergeant Major Paolo Zucchi which was therefore called the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans’ Association – Toronto section Gold Medal Winner Paolo Zucchi.

PAOLO ZUCCHI

Sergeant Major of the Italian alpine corps

8th Regiment of the Italian alpine corps – “Civiale” Battalion

who died in combat at the Cividale height of Nowo Kalitwa on the 4th January, 1943.

Commander of the fusiliers squad and vice platoon commander, gifted with rare qualities of daring, a spellbinder par excellence, already distinguishing himself in the Albanian campaign, wounded and decorated for Military Valour, he offered himself, as a volunteer, on various occasions, for sudden attacks behind enemy lines. During the attack on a well-guarded position, a theatre of bloody combat for days on end, he claimed the honour of attacking the position dominating the height, a hinge of the enemy’s defences.

Inciting his Italian alpine corps with the battalion’s motto, he faced with overwhelming impetus, the strong defence and, finding in his will for victory hidden energies, he dashingly overcame the steep slope and the disputed edge. First, amongst the first, he threw his hand grenades against the defenders who, surprised, fled. Heedless of the risk he was facing, for the entire day, standing on the position, he gave orders to his squad, committed to driving back continuous enemy counterattacks, and he personally unloaded, with calm, his musket upon the attackers, determining with his example, the firmness of the dependents. Singled out and turned into a target by an antitank piece, he tried in turn, to single out the emplacement and he remained upright at his place until, struck in full, he gave up his youth, spending it entirely at the service of the Motherland in arms.

A magnificent figure of a combatant, who, found the real reason for living, in the ardour of fighting. The proof of a certain activity in 1961 exists, thanks to the expense booklet of Oreste Chemello, but the first membership card which bears the sticker on it goes back to 1962.

It is in 1963 that the Municipality of Maniago offers the pennant to the Toronto section of the Italian alpine corps upon the initiative of the accountant Oreste Chemello, head Secretary of Maniago for about 10 years, having moved to Toronto in 1956 in order to join his family.





1970: the Italian alpine corps at the York Centre Ballroom

The activities of the Black Feathers (i.e., ceremonies, social evenings, and picnics) continue at a sustained pace in the following years: In 1967, Oreste Chemello resigns due to health reasons from the leadership of the section: it will be Attilio Paron who will be elected the group leader during the elections of the new council held on the 8th January and to give life to the first statute of the section.

On the 4th March, 1967, an evening dance is organized in which there are about 700 people who attend between members and sympathizers.

A trip to the countryside in Georgetown is organized on the 2nd July during which a mess, based on pasta was served, a tug-of-war contest, lawn bowling tournament, and a finale of night time choirs around a big campfire were organized.

In August of the same year, on the 18th, 19th and 20th to be precise, the Italian alpine corps pay a visit to the San Giorgio ship which was the first Italian training warship to dock in Toronto: the enthusiasm with which the Black Feathers welcomed the crew, at the command of Ship Captain Bacci di Rapaci, was immense.

On the 15th September, 1967, the then President of the Italian Republic, Giuseppe Saragat, came to Canada on an official visit: the Italian President, together with the Premier of Ontario, John Robarts, and various Ministers, reviews a guard of honour made up of 110 Italian alpine troops corps soldiers of the Toronto section, all of them wearing the hat of the Italian alpine troops corps.

On the 4th November, under the leadership of the fellow member Gianni Grohovaz, the solemn commemoration was held of the victory of Vittorio Veneto and the awarding of the war crosses: the Italian Consul General, Mario Carosi, was even present. At the ceremony, during which a remembrance Mass was celebrated for the fallen, 35 Italian alpine corps soldiers participated in it dressed in uniform.

On the 18th November, the social dance was held in which the families of the Italian alpine corps soldiers and a huge number of sympathizers took part.

It is necessary to specify for the chronicles that, as of the 29th December, there were 132 registered members.

The first big dance of the year was held on the 13th January, 1968, at the York Centre Ballroom in Toronto. It was an evening dance in which even the honorary President of the Association, Lieutenant Colonel Oreste Chemello, took part.

The Italian alpine corps is decided on organizing itself much better and on overcoming the difficulties and the long waiting periods caused by bureaucracy. The problems which the Black Feathers face during those years emerge in a clear way from a long letter dated the 9th March, 1970, sent by the President of the Toronto section, Attilio Paron, to His Excellency General Rear Admiral Carlo Vittorio Musso: "... In these days we have received the December issue of the newspaper L'Alpino. We are sure that a lapse of three months can be avoided... Moreover, I asked the National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association in Milan for 50 membership cards and 50 badges way back in February, but up until today, I still have not received a thing just like I ordered the Italian alpine corps hats from Bergamo, but I still have not received any confirmation... can you use your influence in order to shorten these lengthy delays?"



The Black Feathers, who expose, to General Musso, the difficulties that they find themselves facing, in a country of vast proportions like Canada, are determined to organize themselves even better: "Toronto is a city of almost two million inhabitants, but the territory that it occupies is very vast: seventy kilometres of inhabited territory from East to West, 35 kilometres from north to south. Our Italian alpine corps soldiers live a bit everywhere and work in the most disparate jobs, with daytime and night time shifts; at times they are temporarily transferred to other places in Canada, at a distance of two or three thousand kilometres from here... Maintaining contacts is difficult even if the general meetings of the members are held on a monthly basis: out of 166 members, only about forty are always present".

The great Italian alpine corps people, according to President Paron, gathers together, however, en masse on two occasions: the summer picnic and the occurrence of the 4th November.

At the picnic, which is organized between July and August, about a thousand people participate in it, who spend the day in the outdoors amidst plates of pasta and rigorously homemade wine, Spilimbergo cheese, homemade cured ham and so much other goodness from God. Tug-of-war contests, children's races, the greasy pole, lawn bowling tournaments and so forth are not missing.

Of great attraction for the people of the Black Feathers is, according to Paron's letter, the celebration of the 4th November organized since 1960 together with the Saint Cecilia Choir (half of its members are a part of the Italian alpine corps Toronto section).

This is a celebration in which the majority of the population residing in Toronto does not want to miss: precisely in order to comply with the people, the celebration after having been hosted in 1960 by the parish of the Immaculate Conception (western area of Toronto) and in 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966 at the parish of Saint Mary of the Angels and the Italian Canadian Club of central Toronto, takes place, in 1967, in the parish of Saint Catherine of Siena (eastern area of Toronto) and, in 1969, in the parish of Saint Wilfred (north-eastern area of Toronto).

And Attilio Paron's letter ends on a sad note which does not hamper the reflection on the desire to continue to cultivate the bond with the Italian alpine corps in Italy and feeling close together, notwithstanding the distance and the economic difficulties, at home: "We would like to take part in the meeting in Brescia, but we are poor: who knows, perhaps next year..."



1st PART

Italian Alpine Corps Soldiers

Chapter
- II -

1970 – 1980

1970: the winners of the tug-of-war contest at the picnic. Mario Gentile, Italo Battiston, Attilio Paron, Eugenio Bernardi, Lorenzo D'Angelo and Bartolomeo Biaggi can be recognized in the photograph.



It is the death of Lieutenant Colonel Oreste Chemello which gathers together the Black Feathers, who, in great numbers, take part in the funeral which is celebrated, in the old little church of Saint Patrick, in Toronto, on April 7th, 1970. Various Italian and Canadian personalities participated in the funeral, besides the family members of the deceased. In addition, many Italian alpine corps soldiers pay homage to Chemello's body such as: Captain Cook, on behalf of the Canadian army, Honourable Carlo Caccia, a Member of the Federal Parliament, Pino Salvetti, on behalf of the Italia Navigation Company, and Luigi Mori, on behalf of Alitalia, together with numerous travel agents.

Oreste Chemello, who is snatched from life by a serious illness, is a beloved figure of the Italian alpine corps of Toronto, a commander and a friend, at the same time.

Born on the 29th August, 1896, at Marano Vicentino, the Lieutenant Colonel took part in the First World War and had his first command on the Ortigara. Wounded, he was admitted to hospital, from which he escaped, in order to reach his Italian alpine corps on the Piave River. He was promoted to captain for war merits and decorated with two silver medals and a bronze one for military valour.

In 1935, the commander of the Italian alpine corps was sent to Africa and on the Abyssinian front received a merit cross. In 1936, he was demobilized and remained in Asmara where he assumed the office of municipal secretary. As a volunteer, he participated in the Second World War, at the command of the 210th Italian alpine corps regiment of Africa, and was eventually taken as a prisoner in Eldoret. With the Duke of Aosta, he received the honour of arms. He was then interned in Nairobi, Kenya, from where he was liberated in 1947. He returned to Italy and settled in Maniago in the Province of Pordenone. He founded the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association section and the Italian alpine corps band. In 1956, he moved to Toronto where, in 1960, he founded the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association of which he was the effective President until 1967; the year in which he was appointed its honorary President for life. Lieutenant Colonel Chemello refused, both the arrears from the Italian government, for the years spent as a prisoner of war, and his pension: "I did not serve the Motherland for profit, but for the satisfaction of serving her", he said with a tone that did not allow a reply.

In the following days he would have had to receive the golden medal of the Order of Vittorio Veneto.

Chemello left behind his wife Salute, and his children Giuseppe, with his wife Ida, Gianfranco, with his wife Donelda, and Milena with her husband Ettore Romanin.

Besides the bad moments, like the death of Oreste Chemello, there are many beautiful evenings which characterize 1970. It is given witness to, by the articles and photographs published in *Il sole* which show the Black Feathers having a good time. "Songs, dances and a lot of wine at the feast of the Italian alpine corps" is, for example, the heading of an article published on the 26th April. This article discusses the successful evening that was organized amongst others by the President of the Association, Attilio Paron, and by Gianni Grohovaz, at the York Centre Ballroom.

"The feasts of the Italian alpine corps are feasts in which a person has fun in the real meaning of the word – it can be read in the article -. Thanks to their frank and lively temperament, the Italian alpine corps soldiers, who in Toronto, gather together into a numerous association, always giving life to very





1970: the Italian alpine corps members at the York Centre Ballroom



Some Italian alpine corps members in a photograph taken at the beginning of the 1970's



Barrie, 1972: the picnic with the Italian alpine corps members of Sudbury



The Italian alpine corps members of Canada march at the National Meeting of 1974



successful events, know how to revive that healthy and jovial spirit which has made them dear to all Italians. Thanks to them, we have listened once again to the magnificent mountain songs which are one of the most beautiful things of Italian folklore”.

The letter which General C.V. Musso sends to Danilo Petovello and Danilo Monticelli, in response to their request to set up the Sudbury section, is dated the 22nd September, 1971. “I renew my best wishes to Petovello, Monticelli and Toppazzini for the initial activity and future plans. I advise, as I have always done with the fellow members of Canada, to at least keep in contact with the members of Toronto who are the closest”.

On the 12th February, 1972, President Attilio Paron requests the Italian Embassy, in Canada, by means of Doctor Sergio Angeletti, the Italian Consul General in Toronto, that the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans’ Association – Gold Medal Winner Paolo Zucchi – Toronto section be registered in the registry of associations at the Embassy with the aim of being able to participate in the consultations for the designation of the representatives for Canada, in the Consultative Committee of Italians Abroad. President Paron, specifies amongst other things, that there are 151 registered members for the year 1971, all Italians or of Italian origin, that regular elections are held every four years.

The invitation addressed to the different existing sections on the date of the 23rd March, 1972, by General C.V. Musso is an explicit one to strengthen the bonds between the Black Feathers who emigrated in Canada: “I recommend that you keep yourselves united amongst yourselves, especially during this year, of the centenary of the constitution, of the Italian alpine corps, and to agree amongst yourselves, for your eventual participation, in the national meeting” it can be read in the letter. The active groups listed by General C.V. Musso are:

- * Montreal section: President Antonio Soldera
- * Vancouver section: group leader Silvano Motta
- * Toronto section: group leader Attilio Paron
- * Winnipeg section: group leader Cesidio Augellone
- * Sudbury section: group leader Danilo Petovello
- * Edmonton section: group leader Franco Coppola.

The response does not await from the Vancouver section which sends a letter dated the 6th April, 1972 to the Montreal section, Toronto section, Winnipeg section, Sudbury section, and Edmonton section in which it makes its own availability known to correspond with the section and with all of the sections with the aim of “strengthening the bonds which have always existed in the Italian alpine corps”.

The Vancouver section, it is read, is made up of 176 members: “We would like to know how many members amongst us would like to participate in the National Meeting of Milan for the Centenary of the Italian alpine corps in order to be able to organize ourselves and participate, if possible, all united as the Canada section”.





1974: the group leader of Sudbury, Danilo Petovello, and Antonio Soldera of Montreal, who carry the banner of the Canada section, can be recognized in the photograph. The first, to the left, is Giuseppe Buiatti who will then be the President of the Vancouver section.



About 1975: Domenico Parisse wins a plane ticket to Italy. Emireno Di Giannantonio, Attilio Paron, the then Italian Vice Consul, Miss Italian alpine corps and Arturo del Missier of Sudbury are moreover recognizable in the photograph.



Toronto convention, 1st June, 1975: at the York Centre Ballroom, the Italian alpine corps members pose for the souvenir photo together with Miss Italian alpine corps Loretta Valvassori.



Toronto, 1976: the Premier of Ontario, William Davis, returns from Friuli, smiling and with a beautiful Italian alpine corps hat in his hands.



Picnics organized, by the various sections, in order to celebrate the Centenary, like the one of the Montreal section, or of the Italian alpine corps of Sudbury are not even missing.

The Black Feathers of Toronto get together, together with the Black Feathers coming from other parts of the province, at the Waterfalls Park in Georgetown: there were 50 Italian alpine corps members who came by bus from Sudbury, numerous cars came from Hamilton and a few Black Feathers even from Windsor.

A day of celebration in every sense of the word: a mess based on pasta, altogether 300 pounds which were neither sufficient for all of those present, contests, songs, memories of the past and toasts to the glories of the Italian alpine corps in an atmosphere of great enthusiasm.

The guest of honour for the day is mountain artilleryman Domenico Molina of the Italian alpine corps group of Montevideo (Uruguay), who during a moving ceremony, hands over to the President of the Toronto section, Attilio Paron, a parchment with the signatures of all of the members of the Uruguayan section, a banner of the Montevideo section, and a photo album. During the happy afternoon, Danilo Petovello, on behalf of the Black Feathers of Sudbury, hands over to Paron a replica of the emblem of the Centenary of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association.

Great festivities in order to celebrate the Centenary are moreover organized by the Toronto section on the 30th September, 1972 at the York Centre Ballroom located at the intersection of Vaughan and Oakwood Road.

In 1972, the Province of Ontario proclaims Columbus Day in honour of the great Genoese navigator. On the 12th October, Nunzio Giambattista, President of the Immigrant Club, offers a reception and supper at the Riviera Hall in which amongst others the Italian Consul General, Sergio Angeletti, and the Vice Mayor of Genoa, Doctor Ivo Lapi, with his wife and various exponents of the Italian community take part in it. More than a thousand people participate in the annual parade on the 15th October staged by the Immigrant Club: the Italian alpine corps is even present in the march.

The desire to participate in the national meetings is always alive amongst the Italian alpine corps, but for many, it remains an unfulfilled dream. Others, instead, try to organize themselves, as can be read in a letter, sent on the 22nd November, 1973, by the secretary of the Winnipeg section, E. Di Biagio, to the Montreal section and to the Vancouver, Toronto, Sudbury, and Edmonton sections: in this one, Di Biagio invites the Black Feathers to inform themselves about the charter flights and to join the sections together with the aim of being able to participate in the 47th national meeting which was held in 1973.

The letter, sent by Vittorio Trentini to Attilio Paron, is dated the 20th November, 1974: in this one, Lawyer Trentini asks for news about the Toronto section, and even asks for the cooperation of the Black Feathers residing in the Canadian city in drafting a programme for a visit to be paid in June. In his letter of response, which bears the date of the 4th December, 1974, President Paron points out to Trentini of having already been informed by the Alitalia office in Milan that a group of about 50 people, with General Reisoli, were intent on paying a visit to the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association sections of Canada and that they therefore required organization and services. Paron affirms





Villa Colombo, 1976: Mrs. Eleonor McBride cuts the ribbon during the inauguration of the monument



Villa Colombo, 1976: Eleonor McBride places a bunch of flowers at the feet of the monument



Villa Colombo, 1976: the National President, Franco Bertagnolli, committed to giving his speech.



Villa Colombo, 1976: Franco Bertagnolli and Vittorio Trentini can be recognized in the centre, Alberto Gherzi is drying up a tear, Mrs. McBride is to the right, a young Roberto Buttazzoni can be seen behind Gherzi.



that “it is our immense pleasure and pride to have this group amongst us. We are willing to welcome it and to throw a welcoming reception, dedicating ourselves to them, during the time they will spend in Toronto and surroundings”. The only problem, writes Paron, is the impossibility of defraying the expenses of room and board for such a large group.

The desire was so great, for at least a representative of the Toronto section, to participate in the National Meeting of the Italian alpine corps, planned in Florence from the 15th to the 17th March, 1975, that President Attilio Paron asks the Italian Consul General, Sergio Angeletti, to intervene with Alitalia, whose district manager was Franco Colagrande, in order to have a free plane ticket.

The section President, Alfredo Lodi, writes a long letter in 1976 “to the friends in Canada, in particular to the dynamic Alberto Gherzi, group leader of Toronto and, Virginio Soldera, President of the Canada section” in order to thank them for the “warmth of the very vivid cordiality actually for the generous affection with which they welcomed and hosted us. The reference is to the trip in Canada organized by the Association with the help of Vittorio Trentini of Bologna. Besides the places visited (the cities of Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, and Quebec City, the natural beauties such as Niagara Falls, the cruise to the 30,000 islands on Lake Muskoka and the 1,000 islands on the Saint Lawrence River are mentioned) the letter highlights that the most beautiful memories are tied to the Italian alpine corps of Canada and to their families, to the time spent together with them.

Great was the emotion on the occasion of the inauguration of the Italian alpine corps monument at Villa Colombo in Toronto which took place in the presence of Canadian authorities, the national President Franco Bertagnolli, the widow of Captain McBride of the Canadian air force, who perished in Friuli, with his helicopter, in an accident while he was going to the aid of the earthquake victims.

Unforgettable feasts were not missing which were organized at the Famee Furlane of Toronto, at the University of Ottawa which even the Italian ambassador, Smoquina, participated in or was the one who organized feasts at the Buffet of the Red Roses in Montreal. More importantly, all of these feasts were cheered up by the songs sung by Italian choirs.

And still, it can be read in the letter, indicative of the Sunday Mass celebrated in Montreal, by the chaplain Father Rossini, in the beautiful church of Our Lady of Pompey: “unforgettable were even the days spent out in the open, both in the Georgetown park with the friends of Toronto, and in the Laurentian Mountains with the friends of Montreal”.

In conclusion, Lodi affirms that “they had been hours, those spent together with the Italian alpine corps members of Canada, and with their family members, intense with affectionate communicativeness, intertwined with always interesting heavy conversations which were of use to us in order to understand the new way of living of these fellow countrymen of ours, who, have so usefully inserted themselves into the social fibre of that immense country which has become their second homeland, and to them, in order to live out a bit of the life of the first homeland, for which they have a constant nostalgic thought and loyal bond”.

Even for the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans’ Association President, Franco Bertagnolli, the days spent in Canada had been “three magnificent unforgettable days”. It is what can be read in a letter dated the 29th July, 1976, and addressed to Alberto Gherzi: “The Italian National Alpine





Villa Colombo, 1976: Mario Del Col shakes the hand of the National President, Franco Bertagnolli; Attilio Paron can be recognized to his left



Turin, 1977: the autonomous section of Toronto marches at the National Meeting; Pietro Sfreddo, Rino Balbinot and Luigi Pasut can be recognized while in the second row, the group leader of Sudbury, Danilo Petovello, can be recognized with the pennant. This photograph made the front cover of the magazine L'Alpino.



1978: the Black Feathers Committee at the Riviera Hall.



1980: the monument dedicated to the Italian alpine corps in a photo by Enzo Lovello

Troops Corps Veterans' Association wants to keep alive the sentiments of the Italian alpine corps solidarity and the sentiments of attachment to the Motherland. Those days, spent together with you, have reached the aim thanks to your passionate activity”.

The heart of the Italian alpine corps members, it is known, is great and it is proved even by the donation of \$1,000.00 sent to the Association in Italy in support of the earthquake victims in Friuli.

Many evenings are organized by the Italian alpine corps members of the Toronto section: amongst these, it should be mentioned that December 12th, 1976 was an especially important evening, during which Cathy Cagnelli is elected as “Miss Italian alpine corps 1976”. This evening, four hundred people are present and the atmosphere, of the “Black Feathers Dance” which was held at the Luna Ballroom in Toronto and presented by Luigi Brusatin, is characterized as simple, friendly, and enjoyable.



THE MONUMENT OF THE ITALIAN ALPINE CORPS

A monument, dedicated to all of the Italian alpine corps, was inaugurated on the 26th June, 1976, in the Villa Colombo park which is situated at 40 Playfair Street in Toronto. Written on this monument is a plaque which reads: “To you, Italian alpine corps soldier, who in times of peace and war, never said no to the call of the Motherland”.

This dedication is an important, marvellous event for the Black Feathers who saw a dream caressed come for years, finally, true. Already early in the morning the Villa Colombo Park was crowded with Italian alpine corps members, members of the Combatants and Veterans Association, fellow countrymen, guests of honour. Amongst these, the National President of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association, Franco Bertagnolli, tired, but smiling. The loudspeakers spewed out military marches and patriotic music, the monument was covered up in the Italian flag and two Italian alpine corps soldiers stood on guard.

It is at 11:00 o'clock sharp that the trumpeter sounds the attention, the crowd gives way to the authorities: Honourable Maurice Dionne, Parliamentary Secretary of the Defence Minister, the Italian Consul General Doctor Guido Nicosia, Franco Bertagnolli, National President of the Italian National Alpine Corps Veterans' Association, Mrs. Eleonor McBride, widow of Captain Robert McBride of the Canadian Armed Forces NATO Forces in Europe who perished on the 16th May, 1976 in the skies of Friuli while he was getting ready to go to the aid of the earthquake victims, General St. Ouban, Commander of the Canadian Military College representing the Chief of Staff of the Canadian Armed Forces, Honourable Carletto Caccia, Federal Member of Parliament for the constituency of Davenport, Colonel V.V. Barber, Commander of the Downsview military base, lawyer Vittorio Trentini, Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association national councillor for the sections abroad, Mrs. Romana Zucchi, godmother and niece of the Gold Medal Winner Paolo Zucchi to whom the Toronto section is named after, Federal Citizenship Court judge Isa Scotti, the President of the FAMEE Furlane Eddie Del Medico, Doctor Laureano Leone, President of the Italian Canadian Congress, Bruno Suppa, President of the Federation of Italian Canadian Associations and Clubs, Renzo Petricone, President of



the CAIT and consultant for the Italians Abroad, a big group of officers from the Canadian Armed Forces and many others.

The Saint Cecilia Choir, directed by Bruno Deotto, sings the national anthems while the Canadian flag, the Italian flag and the pennant of the Italian alpine corps are slowly hoisted up the pole: Bertagnolli and the Canadian officers salute.

The godmother Romana Zucchi, assisted by the Honourable Dionne and by the Consul General Doctor Nicosia, gets ready to cut the ribbon, but she offers the scissors to Mrs. McBride amidst the general commotion.

All those present turn their eyes to the peak of the granite stone, they observe the polished iron eagle by the work of the Friulian sculptor Renato Piccilli of Udine, which points its beak towards the clear sky... Father Carlo Masini then blesses the monument and the crowd reads the prayer of the Italian alpine corps and the sequence of speeches opens up.

Two Italian alpine corps soldiers bring the laurel wreath of the Italian Embassy, another two, the one of the Italian Consul General, and others still, the one of the Black Feathers. A little girl dressed up in a Friulian traditional dress, helped by her father, places a bouquet of flowers, from the field, at the feet of the monument, and Italian alpine corps Campana gives a hat with a black feather, another one a bouquet of alpine stars to the widow of Captain McBride. Finally, President Ghersi hands over a golden medal to the widow on whom the words are engraved: "...a broken wing to save his fellow man...".

Georgetown, 1979: in the photograph taken by Frank Romano, the Italian alpine corps members pose for the souvenir photo during the picnic



Then, parchments, a little vase of soil from San Vito, the medals that some Italian alpine corps members take off of their hats are placed in the niche opened up on the block of the base of the monument.

The ceremony ends after an hour with the Choir that sings the Canzone del Grappa but the people seem to not want to go home.

With the words "Ai fradis alpini di Toronto" begins the letter of the national councillor Gianni Passalenti dated the 21st July, 1977: in this the Italian alpine corps member reflects upon what it means to be an Italian alpine corps member, on what are the ideals which gather together the people of the Black Feathers, on the great brotherhood which like an invisible thread ties together the Italian alpine corps members wherever they may be. 'You are far from the Motherland. And you suffer for it. And you try to remember and honour her with your commitment and with your work. And it is a continuous example that you offer all of us – it can be read at the end of the letter – We live in our Motherland. And we suffer equally. But because we see her at the mercy of a thousand winds which try to suffocate her, and we offer all of ourselves so that this may never happen. So that all of this violence and this indifference may dissolve into a bad memory. Let us always be close. Always so united and sure in our incorruptible ideals. And thank you for what you have done and what you will continue to do'.

In 1978, following the resignation of the President, Alberto Ghersi, on the 15th January, the Toronto section gathers together in order to elect the new committee. The new President is Valerio Longo, the



Vice President is Vito Bartolini, the secretary is Mario Del Col, the treasurer is Roberto Buttazzoni, and the auditor is Valentino Fellini while A. Cagnelli, A. Sguassero, D. Parisse, A. Cerato, B. Forno, U. Sangoi and I. Zamperin are elected as councillors.

On the 14th January, 1979, new elections are held: Valerio Longo is confirmed as the President in charge, Gino Facca is elected the Vice President, Gino Vatri is elected the secretary, Pasquale Di Renzo is elected the treasurer, Valentino Fellini is still the auditor, Luigi Brusatin is still in charge of public relations and Fiorentino Boer, Umberto Sangoi, Mario Del Col, Roberto Buttazzoni and Vito Bartolini are elected as councillors.

The new address of the headquarters is 1 Haverhill Circle in Toronto. Moreover, the Toronto section is evermore active: on the occasion of a visit by the Canadian Prime Minister, Pierre Elliott Trudeau, to the Italian community in Toronto, it is the Italian alpine corps members: Gino Vatri and Gino Facca, respectively the secretary and Vice President of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association section to escort the Prime Minister from the entrance to the stage. Even the "Chestnut feast and Saint Valentine's Dance", in which even the Mayor of the Municipality of York, Gayle Christie, takes part is an overwhelming success.

A general meeting of the Italian alpine troops corps members of Toronto who get together in order to discuss the past, present and future activities of the section is held on the 19th April, 1979 at the headquarters of the National Combatants and Veterans Association. The Mothers' Day feast with supper and dance to be held on the 19th May at Villa Colombo is confirmed with the entertainment entrusted to the Roma Orchestra. On the 1st July, Canada Day, a huge picnic is staged by the Black Feathers of Toronto at the Waterfalls Park in Georgetown: the Mass is celebrated by Father Benito Framarin, director of the newspaper *Il Corriere Canadese*, an Italian language daily newspaper in Toronto. Many sporting activities are organized after the military style mess; from sack races to soccer games to lawn bowling tournaments. Finally the raffle for many prizes takes place.

Amongst the various activities of 1979 to be remembered are the general assembly of the 21st October at the San Marco Veneto, the trip to Sudbury on the 27th October, the Black Feathers Dance with the election of Miss Italian alpine troops corps 1980 on the 3rd November held at Tony's Ballroom and the annual march of the 4th November which the various discharged Italian army units participated in which precedes a ceremony in front of the monument of the Italian alpine troops corps at Villa Colombo.

Georgetown, 19th August, 1979: Domenico Suprani, Pasquale Di Renzo, the secretary Gino Vatri and the group leader Valerio Longo can be recognized from the left at the second picnic



Gino Facca is elected the President in the elections for the renewal of the directive committee for the years of 1979 and 1980, the Vice President is Fiorentino Boer, Gino Vatri is confirmed as the secretary, the treasurer is Pasquale Di Renzo, Roberto Buttazzoni is the auditor, Luigi Brusatin is in charge of public relations and Umberto Sangoi, Vito Bartolini, Mario Del Col and Valerio Longo as councillors.

The traditional chestnut feast is held on the 19th January, 1980 at Villa Colombo which has a resounding success while on the 1st March the twentieth anniversary of the section's foundation is celebrated at the Famee Furlane. More than 600 people participate in the celebration, many come from every corner of Ontario and Canada; amongst these the Black Feathers of Montreal, Sudbury, Ottawa, Mississauga and Hamilton. Amongst the authorities present are mentioned the councillor Mario Gentile, Doctor Laureano Leone, Professor Angelo Delfino, the Italian Consul Alessio Gabotto, Senator Pietro Bosa, the director of the Corriere Canadese Benito Framarin and Nicolo Fortunato of the newspaper Il Settimanale. Luigi Brusatin coined a medal for the occasion and a booklet had been printed which recalls the twenty years of the Italian alpine troops corps: Gino Vatri was the one who gathered all of the information. On the 7th March, in conclusion of a rather eventful meeting, Gino Facca is elected the new President, on the 31st May a representation of the Black Feathers made up of Gino Vatri, Luigi Brusatin and Vito Bartolini participates with the banner at the inauguration of the Italian Sailors' Group, on the 1st June the Inter-arms group is born (Committee of Understanding between the Combatant Associations of the Italian Army and Corps operating in Toronto).

The picnic at the Waterfalls Park is held on the 3rd August, an event marked by the death of 21 year old Bruno Scodellaro, who dies drowning while he is swimming in the lake, together with some friends. Del Col, on the 6th September, represents the Toronto section in Windsor while on the 12th October, Doctor Bruno Roncarati, a former second lieutenant of the Italian alpine corps and President of the England section, pays a visit to the Black Feathers of Toronto. On the 8th November, Julie Nascimben is elected Miss Italian alpine corps 1981, on the 27th November, \$1,000.00 is given to the earthquake victims of Irpinia.



1st PART

Italian Alpine Corps Soldiers

Chapter
- III -

1980-1990

1981: the orchestra of
Professor Livio
Leonardelli performs at
the Mother's Day feast,
organized by the Italian
Alpine corps



"This year we have more wine and more chestnuts without counting the abundance of cordiality, friendship and esprit de corps". It is with these words that the Toronto section of the Italian alpine corps invites the members in 1981 to participate in the traditional "Chestnut feast" on the 21st February at Villa Colombo. The feast, during which Amedeo Cargnielli is given a prize for his dedication to the section, is a resounding success.

An extraordinary assembly takes place on the 6th March at the San Marco Veneto in order to deliberate about the participation of the Toronto section at the first Congress of the Italian corps of Canada, organized on the 26th and 27th of March in Vancouver. The President, Gino Facca, the secretary, Gino Vatri, and the members of the committee, Mario Spera, Anilo Dolce, Angelo Colautti, Luciano Clauser, and Salvatore Cadeddu, with his wife, will then climb aboard the CP Air flight that will take them to the city of Vancouver.

Always during the month of March, the Italian alpine corps of Toronto announces the institution of a scholarship fund, in favour of a student, enrolled in the Department of Italian studies in the University of Toronto. This fund is given to students who intend to take the summer courses of Italian language at the University of Siena: the first scholarship is assigned to Rita Morresi. The scholarship offered by the Italian alpine corps will become a beautiful tradition which will continue throughout the next twenty-five years.

The success obtained from the summer programme is confirmed by the dean of the Department of Italian studies at the University of Toronto, S.B. Chandler, in a letter dated the 2nd December, 1981, and addressed to secretary Vatri: "The programme will again take place in the summer of 1982 and some students have already consulted with me about the possibility of some financial assistance. I am sure that, with their usual generosity, the Italian alpine corps members will want to offer a scholarship to some deserving and needy student".

In Vancouver, the regulation is approved by the assembly of delegates of the Inter-sectional Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association Commission of Canada on the basis of which the duration in office, of two years, is established, and amongst the tasks, the one of "understanding, developing and solving the problems of the single sections, by presenting them to the constituted authorities, whenever necessary, and to organize, having listened to the Presidents of the sections, the biennial meeting of the delegates". The greater merit for the organization of the first Congress of the Italian alpine corps of Canada is up to Arrigo Della Tina.

"The first Congress of the Italian alpine corps in Canada was a great step forward for us – the secretary of the Toronto section, Gino Vatri, says with evident satisfaction – amongst those present there was the National President Franco Bertagnolli, the person in charge of the foreign sections, Vittorio Trentini, the director of the magazine *L'Alpino*, Vitaliano Peduzzi, and a numerous delegation". The delegates of the Toronto section are Gino Facca and Gino Vatri: even Mario Spera, Salvatore Cadeddu, Paolo Mio, Angelo Colautti, Anilo Dolce, and Luciano Clauser are present.

The member Dante Landi dies on the 8th March following a heart attack. Landi was born in 1917 at Bagni di Lucca (San Cassiano di Controni).



Arena of Verona, 1981:
Mariangela Avesani is the
godmother of the new banner
of the new Toronto section



The National Directive Council, in the session of the 12th April, 1981, accepts the proposal of the Commission for the Foreign Sections and deliberates the constitution into a section of the autonomous groups of Toronto, Edmonton, Ottawa, and Windsor.

The groups of Toronto centre, Thunder Bay, Sudbury, Scarborough, and North York are a part of the new section while Mississauga will join in the following year.

The national headquarters will even look after, having new sectional banners made. These are handed over to the people in charge of the newly constituted sections present in Verona on the 9th May.

The President of the Verona section, Doctor Pier Emilio Anti sends Vatri the photographs of the banner blessing ceremony which took place in the Arena.

On the 29th September, 1981, Gino Facca tenders his resignation as the President of the Toronto section.

The events of the Black Feathers follow one another in the months of October and November: the autumn dance feast of the Italian alpine corps section of Mississauga takes place on the 10th October, the North York section organizes an evening dance at the Trentino Hall on the 17th. The annual feast of the Sudbury section is held on the 31st October. It is the Scarborough section that gives life to the Feast of Saint Martin on the 14th November at the Gioconda Banquet Hall while on the 21st November the Black Feathers of Hamilton organize a huge dinner.

Moreover, the committee of the Toronto section elects Toni Castellarin as President and Mario Del Col as Vice President on the 28th October.

The Italian alpine corps members of the Toronto section organize the election of Miss Italian alpine corps at the Luna Ballroom on the 28th November. The contest celebrates the tenth anniversary. Serafino Rossi and Attilio Paron are honoured during this evening.

The members' assembly is held on the 17th January, 1982 at the headquarters of the Italian Army Combatants and Veterans located at 1355A St. Clair Avenue West. The registry situation is the following: Toronto has 173 members (plus three subscribers), Scarborough has 13, North York has 10, and Mississauga has 65 for a total of 261 members plus three subscribers. Antonio Castellarin, President, Mario Del Col, Vice President, Gino Vatri, secretary, Pasquale Di Renzo, treasurer, Domenico Parisse and Roberto Buttazzoni, auditors, Luigi Brusatin, public relations attache, Vito Bartolini and Luciano Turchetti, in charge of social activities, Mario Spera, Umberto Sangoi, Silvio Benvenuto and Dino Morson, councillors, are elected by popular acclaim. Always in the month of January, Fausto Chiocchio, of the Black Feathers of Hamilton, informs Gino Vatri, by means of letter, that the Italian alpine corps of Hamilton has made a request in order to be registered as a section with administrative tasks for the Italian alpine corps groups of St. Catherines, Welland, Niagara Falls, Fort Erie and Port Colborne.

During the month of March of 1982, thank you letters arrive at the Italian alpine corps Toronto section from the rector of the University of Toronto, Peter Silcox, and from the chairman, S.B. Chandler, for the donation of \$250.00, as a scholarship, for an Italian language student wanting to attend the summer courses at the University of Siena. The scholarship is assigned to Antonietta Sisera.

The Black Feathers' dance, during which the new national banner is presented, takes place on the 6th February at the Famee Furlane. Part of the proceeds from the evening will go towards a scholarship





Villa Colombo, June 1981: the Italian alpine corps members, together with Mrs. Salute Chemello, and the new sectional banner, on the occasion of the monument's anniversary

in favour of a student, of the Department of Italian studies, of the University of Toronto.

In the letter sent to the members, in order to invite them to participate in the Spring dance, which is held on the 7th May, 1982, at the Famee Furlane, Gino Vatri conducts a brief, but very significant analysis on what it means to be a part of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association: "The belonging has to be felt like an honour – Vatri writes – just recently Paolo Bianco of the Targeters told me about a certain combatant who, though 'only' having participated in the Croatian campaign, bragged about having participated in the Russian campaign. Personally, I can not even brag about Croatia, simply because I was born after the war. We remember the war, but let us talk about peace. Peace is a concept strictly tied to the one of freedom. A man is not free if he cannot live in peace, if he does not scrupulously follow the laws of the community, if he does not know that his own freedom has a limit in the freedom of others, if he does not understand that his own power of acting must not, in any way, disturb other people's peace".

The annual picnic organized by the Toronto section on the 4th July at the River Valley Park is very well attended. The choir of the S.A.T. performs on the 6th July at the Famee Furlane, on the 7th July at the Convocation Hall of the University of Toronto, and on the 9th in the Auditorium of the Central Technical School.

The member Dino Bertola dies on the 8th September due to an incurable illness.

The feast of the Mississauga group takes place on the 9th October at 815 Atwater Avenue in Mississauga while on the 23rd October it is the turn of the North York group which is held at the Italian Recreation Centre Hall in Woodbridge.

On the 28th October, Gino Vatri becomes the President of the Toronto section and Roberto Buttazzoni becomes the secretary.

The commemorative ceremony of the 4th November takes place on the 7th November. After the celebration of the Mass, in the church of Saint Charles Borromeo, a laurel wreath is laid at the feet of the monument of the Italian alpine corps located at Villa Colombo. The programme, organized by the Italian Army Combatants and Veterans Association, begins in the presence of an Italian delegation which is lead by Bertagnolli, Tardiani and Franza of the National Directive Council. On the following day, the 8th November, the official meeting with the Italian alpine corps of Italy takes place at Villa Colombo: refreshments are served at the end of the speeches.

Upon his return to Italy, Franco Bertagnolli writes a thank you letter to newly elected President Gino Vatri for the hospitality received in Canada: "We felt so much affection, so much enthusiasm, so much Italian alpine corps spirit around us: this is what struck us most. A hug to you, to your family members, and to your very beautiful council".

Anna Rossetti is elected Miss Italian alpine corps 1983 on the 27th November at the Black Feathers' dance at the Luna Ballroom: amongst those present was the Italian Consul General Doctor Pier Luigi



Conti who pinned the Civil Merit Medal to the banner.

Colonel Aldo Loi leaves his office as aeronautical, naval and military attaché at the Italian Embassy in Ottawa; he is succeeded by Colonel Pilot Vinicio Salvi.

On Saturday the 22nd January, 1983, the Italian alpine corps organizes, at Famee Furlane, an evening in honour of Gianni Grohovaz who presents his last book. The meeting of the Scarborough group is held on the 26th February at the Luna Ballroom, the one of the North York group is held on the 19th March in the San Rocco Hall.

In the sectional news, Gino Vatri invites the members to participate in the elections for the renewal of the directive council which is held on the 30th January: "We invite the members to choose well, to choose serious people who have passion, attachment to the Association and, above all, a will to work".



Toronto, 1981: Miss Italian alpine corps Nadia Nascimben with the council of the section



Toronto, 1981: From the left Eligio Paris, Valerio Longo, Danilo Petovello, Romano Battel, Gino Facca, Luigi Borz and Fausto Chiocchio can be recognized in the photograph.

In the moral report of the 30th January, President Vatri manifests his pleasure for the constant increase in the participation of the members (whose number has gone beyond the 400 mark) in the activities of the section: "The adhesion to the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association has always been, and has to continue to be motivated by a civil and ideal commitment – the President writes – our task as a foreign section is even to keep alive the memory of Italy which we had to leave and to make our far distant Motherland known better here". The President moreover invites everyone to welcome the groups of Hamilton and Welland with the Niagara Peninsula which have joined the Toronto section entering to become a part of the great Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association family. Thunder Bay and Sudbury continue to be autonomous.

At the end of the moral and financial report, approved by the assembly, the new sectional council is elected: Gino Vatri is reconfirmed as the President, Dino Morson, Vice President, Roberto Buttazzoni, secretary, Pasquale Di Renzo, treasurer, Domenico Parisse, Silvio Benvenuto and Attilio Paron, auditors, Vito Bartolini, Luciano Turchetti, Umberto Sangoi, Jerry D'Aquilante, Renato Rossetti and Fiorentino Boer, councillors. Gino Vatri, and Dino Morson are elected to the assembly of delegates. The group lead-



ers of Mississauga, North York and Scarborough, though appointed, renounce their candidacy.

The Black Feathers feast the “Italian alpine corps style Carnival” on the 12th February with a dinner dance at the Famee Furlane with proceeds going to a scholarship in favour of a student from the University of Toronto. The gratitude for the donation of \$300.00 is clearly expressed to the Italian alpine corps by the rector Peter Silcox and by the chairman of the University of Toronto, S.B. Chandler, by means of two letters sent to President Gino Vatri.

Gianni Grohovaz intervenes during the evening with a speech of his which captivates the attention of those present with words of his, both serious and humorous, on the creation of the world. A man of great culture and even greater sympathy and personality, Grohovaz ends his speech by saying that ‘the



Villa Colombo, 1981: the Mass at the monument is celebrated by the chaplain of the section Father Vitaliano Papais

Almighty Father sent down Perrucchetti who founded the real and proper Italian alpine corps, people who put everything in order... In my own personal case – Grohovaz says – the Lord God wanted to give me a double grace and gave me two feathers: one for my hat and one in order to write. I promise you that I will not go around writing on walls “Whoever reads this is an idiot...”. I used to write these things when I went to school, now I have become an almost well-to-do person... I now write... and always if you will excuse my saying so... but yes, in short: don’t bust my chops... and goodnight to the bucket...”.

During the Mass celebrated on the 26th June in front of the Italian alpine corps monument which is located at Villa Colombo by Father Vitaliano Papais, the Italian alpine corps members who have passed away are remembered and the anniversary of the monument’s inauguration on the 26th June, 1976, is celebrated.

Fausto Chiocchio is the new President of the Hamilton section.

President Vatri is favourably struck by the spirit of “Italianness” of the Italian alpine corps of Thunder Bay going to that city in order to participate in the 15th anniversary of the group’s foundation. The group lead by Mario Greguoldo, writes Gino Vatri in the newsletter of the 8th June, counts 120 members, and though being autonomous, considers itself to be in a certain sense a part of the Toronto section.

The 56th national meeting of the Italian alpine corps is held at Udine on the 8th May, 1983. Three hundred thousand Italian alpine corps members participate in the event in which the Defence Minister, Lelio Lagorio and other military and civilian personalities take part: amongst these even the Italian alpine corps members of Toronto. After the Italian alpine corps members of Zara and Fiume, the Italian alpine corps members having come from all over the world march as well: “Dino Morson carries the standard, Franco Ceschia and Giovanni Vettor the banner. Attilio Paron is not present due to a car accident, Serafino Rossi is not present as well, due to the death of his brother. Aldo Mian, our lieutenant, returned to Canada because his wife was not feeling well – Vatri writes in the newsletter – Aldo Sclosa, Mario Gentile and I march behind the standard. The meeting will continue for eight hours under the rain, which stops every now and then for a few minutes, drenching hats, infiltrating the improvised raincoats...”.



From the 3rd to the 10th July, the Chief of Defence Staff, General Vittorio Santini, visits Canada upon the invitation of the Canadian Armed Forces Chief of Defence Staff. Santini, who attended the military school of Kingston, back in 1954, says that on the occasion of the National Meeting of Trieste, he will march with the rank of lieutenant of the Italian alpine corps, given that with that rank he commanded a unit of the Black Feathers. In Toronto, General Santini meets President Vatri who gives him a souvenir medal.

The annual picnic of the Toronto section takes place on the 14th August at the River Valley Park while an extraordinary assembly is held on the 21st August at the headquarters of the Italian Army Combatants and Veterans: amongst the matters there is the arrival of the National President Vittorio Trentini and the Italian alpine corps Congress of Sudbury on the 8th, 9th, and 10th of October.

In Toronto, lawyer Vittorio Trentini and Doctor Gianni Franza arrive on the 6th October and after having been welcomed at the airport by a group of Italian alpine corps members wearing their hats, on the following day, they attend an official meeting with the section at the Northwood Community Centre.

The departure of the Italian alpine corps members of Toronto, towards Sudbury, where the second Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association Congress of Canada is held from the 8th, 9th, and 10th October, 1983, takes place on the morning of the 8th October. Faithful to the chronicles, it is to be said that the city actually celebrates its one hundred years of existence during that year.

During the three days of the Congress, there are even lawn bowling tournaments, the grape festival, a dinner dance, a concert, the inauguration of an exhibit and the farewell lunch.



Villa Colombo, 1982: from the left Valentino Fellini, group leader of Mississauga, Alberto Valente, group leader of North York, Valerio Longo, group leader of Scarborough, and Gino Vatri, group leader of Toronto and President of the Toronto section.



Consulate General of Italy, July 1983: the Italian alpine corps members of Toronto with the General army corps Chief of Staff and former officer of the Italian alpine corps who received the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association sticker from Gino Vatri



Senator Peter Bosa sends his best wishes for success and the book “From the Carnia to the Don” to the Congress. Bosa moreover congratulates himself with the new Inter-sectional Council which is made up of the President of Toronto, Gino Vatri, of the Vice President of Montreal, Virginio Soldera, of the Vice President of Winnipeg, Primo Augellone, of the secretary of Hamilton Fausto Chiocchio. Messages of greeting even arrive from the “old” Serafino Rossi and from Gianni Grohovaz, unable to participate, due to health reasons.

A Congress and a welcome, the one reserved for him, which remains in the heart of Trentini, who upon his re-entry to Italy, writes a letter to Vatri thanking him for the hospitality received: “I still want to tell you about my joy for having found myself with you, with your dear wife, with your Italian alpine corps members, for having felt your Italian alpine corps and Italian heart beat always with the same rhythm that distinguished you for your industriousness and seriousness in foreign lands. When one finds himself in the midst of you, who honour Italy and the Black Feather, deep and true sentiments are relived, which the indifference of the present world tries to suffocate in vain”. A thank you is not missing for Gino Vatri who has become the Inter-sectional President: “I thank you because you accepted – out of a spirit of service and faith – the task of Inter-sectional president, an important task in such a vast territory, with quite distant sections, but which want to remain united to the Inter-sectional Council”.

Vancouver, 1981: from the right, Gino Vatri and Gino Facca, with the National President, Franco Bertagnolli and the person in charge of the sections abroad, Vittorio Trentini



The Black Feathers’ dance is held on the 26th November at the Luna Ballroom with the election of Miss Italian alpine corps 1984.

It is with a letter dated January 1984 that Arrigo Dalla Tina of Burnaby, B.C. congratulates Gino Vatri for having reached the office of President of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans’ Association Inter-sectional Council in Canada and he assures him of his “personal moral support”. “I am sure that under your intelligent leadership and dedication the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans’ Association Inter-sectional Council will know how to make friendly relations evermore stronger amongst all of the Italian alpine corps members in Canada where we have reached a level of enviable recognition amongst the Canadian authorities and other institutions”.

The general assembly is held on the 22nd January at the headquarters of the Italian Army Combatants and Veterans located at 1355 St. Clair Avenue West. While the Italian alpine corps members feast Saint Valentine’s Day on the 11th February at the Famee Furlane: an excellent dinner and music with the La Plaza orchestra of Nick Trombetta.

Even this year, following the donation of \$350.00, for a scholarship in favour of a student who would like to attend Italian courses at the University of Siena, the rector of the University of Toronto, Peter Silcox, and the chairman, S.B. Chandler, send their thank you’s, by means of a letter to the Toronto section of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans’ Association.

The generosity and solidarity of the Italian alpine corps is well-known: \$200.00 is sent to the Abruzzo and Molise earthquake fund.

The dinner dance of the members of the Toronto section of the Black Feathers is held on the 27th April at Luisa’s Place.



It is a bitter Trentini, who on the 6th July writes to Vatri in order to inform him of his resignation as President of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association. "I have to lament that within the midst of our Association, a few miserable individuals have appeared who have used denigration, defamation and slander as a weapon against me, and that there are those who have taken advantage of it – it can be read in the letter – I now leave the presidency of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association after three years of intense and passionate activity. And, in handing over the office to Doctor Caprioli, my first thought goes to the Italian alpine corps members abroad, to you who gave me the greatest satisfactions".

Even the newly elected president, Leonardo Caprioli, former President of the Bergamo section, writes to Vatri, thanking him for the best wishes, sent to him, and hoping to be able to organize, as soon as possible, a trip to Canada. Caprioli, born in 1920, is a medical examiner. In 1941, he is in Russia, promoted to a second lieutenant in 1942, he is assigned to the Edolo and therefore again to Russia. Having entered to become a part of the Bergamo section as a councillor, he becomes its Vice President and successively its President for 15 years.

The annual picnic is held on the 29th July at the River Valley Park: as always, there is a huge crowd that participates.



Udine, 8th May, 1983: the sectional standard, the banner, and the Italian alpine corps members of Toronto march past at the National Gathering



October, 1983: from the left, Gianni Franza, Paolo Mio, the National President, Vittorio Trentini, Mario Gentile, Gino Vatri, and Luigi Brusatin can be recognized in the photograph.



Leonardo Caprioli visits the Canadian sections on the 30th and 31st October and on the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th November. Together, with the national president even the “Foreign Minister”, Giovanni Franza, arrives in Canada. The evening in their honour is held on the 2nd November at Luisa’s Place: the supper takes place at the end of the march of all the groups. The ceremony of the 4th November takes place in the church of Saint Clare, located at the intersection of St. Clair and Westmount: after the general gathering at the headquarters of the Italian Army Combatants and Veterans, the march begins with National President Caprioli, at the head of the Italian alpine corps Toronto section.

The general gathering in order to celebrate the 4th November takes place at the headquarters of the Italian Army Combatants and Veterans Association: the cortege with the flags and pennants of the associations therefore marches past along St. Clair Avenue right up until the church of Saint Clare where the religious rite is officiated. Amongst those present there are: the Honourable Carletto Caccia, Lieutenant R. Roberts representing Colonel Tork, Commander of the Canadian Armed Forces in Toronto, Leonardo Caprioli, and President of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans’ Association, Airforce Colonel Vinicio Salvi, and military attaché at the Italian Embassy in Ottawa. Hundreds of veterans and members of the army, Italian alpine corps, targeters, policemen, sailors, grenadiers, tank men, artillerymen associations, participate in the ceremony. “Right here in Canada, I sensed an esprit de corps, a sense of attachment to the most traditional and profound values of our culture, and our country, as is difficult to find today, even in Italy” Caprioli said.

Caprioli is moved by the welcome, extended to him that upon his re-entry to Italy, he writes to Vatri: “Saying thanks to you, for everything that you did for us, on the occasion of our visit to Canada is the least that can be done: the visit to you and your Italian alpine corps members filled us with enthusiasm and pride and has convinced us, yet again, that we are worthily represented in Canada”.

The dinner dance, during which Miss Italian alpine corps 1985 is elected, is held on the 24th November at Luisa’s Place.

Toronto, 9th July, 1983: at the centre of the photograph is the Defence Chief of Staff of the Italian army, General Army Corps Vittorio Santini with the Italian alpine corps members of the Toronto section; the first on the left is the military attaché at the Italian Embassy in Ottawa.



1985 begins with the general assembly that is held on the 20th January at the headquarters of the Italian Army Combatants and Veterans.

The twenty-fifth anniversary of the Toronto section is celebrated on the 9th February at the Famee Furlane in Toronto with a dinner dance. A happy evening, cheered up by the La Plaza orchestra of Nick Trombetta and by so much good company. A special commemorative medal is coined for the occasion upon the design of Roberto Buttazzoni.

A “special fund for the children of Italian alpine corps members abroad” is instituted in April dedicated to the memory of Franco Bertagnolli and administered by the National Headquarters. The aim of the fund is the realization of stays in Italy of the children, grandchildren and orphans of Italian alpine corps members, residing abroad, deserving, and in uneasy economic conditions, with the aim of allowing their attendance of a school year in public or private schools or institutes, pre or post-university.

Beneficiaries of each “scholarship” are the children, grandchildren and orphans of Italian alpine corps members, whose age ranges from between 15 to 23 years of age, preferably in possession of Italian citizenship, who find themselves abroad with their family for at least 5 years.



On the 8th March, the section organizes at Luisa's Place, a briscola tournament. The annual picnic takes place on the 7th July at the River Valley Park: even the sailors of the navy participate in the picnic. Already in August of 1967, the Italian alpine corps members of Toronto had a historic encounter with the sailors of the San Giorgio ship which was the first Italian war naval school to dock in Toronto.

The picnic is a resounding success: Rino Merlin and Onelio Zanin win the briscola tournament, second place goes to Galliano Della Mora and Giuliano Battiston, third place goes to Oreste Morettin and Mario Migotto, while fourth place goes to Agostino Campoli and Mino Zanini.

On Sunday the 30th June, 1985, Father Evasio Pollo celebrates, at the monument of Villa Colombo, a Mass in order to remember the death of Franco Bertagnolli, the foundation of the monument dedicated to the Italian alpine corps members, the deceased of all wars in the prison camps and in the concentration camps besides all of the dead Italian alpine corps members. The members Bruno Rosati, Mario Spera, Silvano Spera and Giulio Bottamedi participate in the National Gathering of La Spezia. The third Gathering of the Italian alpine corps members of Canada and the United States is instead held in Ottawa on the 21st and 22nd September. Even the Italian alpine corps members of the Toronto section organize themselves in order to participate numerous: "The Italian alpine corps members of Ottawa count upon the cooperation of everybody for the success of the Congress and they invite us to participate in great numbers – writes Gino Vatri to his Italian alpine corps members – they invite us, even to pay a visit to the capital city of our great Canada, the museums, the Parliament Buildings and the beauties of this enchanting city..."

The discharged Italian alpine corps members registered, with the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association, and residing in Canada are over two thousand in number, subdivided into the sections of Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Windsor, Hamilton, Edmonton, Vancouver and in the groups of Thunder Bay, Sudbury, Winnipeg, Mississauga, Calgary, while the only section in the United States is New York.

Four hundred and sixty-eight Black Feathers participate in the meeting of Ottawa, who accompanied by friends and wives, bring the number close to a thousand.

This is an important appointment, for the Black Feathers, in which there is the participation of a representation of the National Directive Council, arriving from Italy, of which the Italian National Alpine Corps Veterans' Association Vice President, Luigi Menegotto, and the person in charge of "Foreign Affairs" Giovanni Franza are a part. The military attaché of the Italian Embassy and Honourable Carletto Caccia are among the guests of honour that should be mentioned. The speeches are brief, the supper is excellent, and the music pleasant and the dance go on until the early hours of the night. On the morning of the 22nd September, the chaplain of the Italian alpine corps members of Montreal celebrates the Mass which is followed by a lot of speeches, exchanges of gifts, and an excellent mess. Then, the goodbyes are as always full of emotion.

Always in 1985, the member Mario Zoratto, born in 1917, a native of Codroipo (Udine), dies.

The first newspaper entitled *Alpini in trasferta* is a resounding success: sincere congratulations arrive from General Antonio Fossati, the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association delegate in Rome.

The year 1986 opens up with the annual Italian alpine corps feast which is held on the 1st February at Famee Furlane. The invitation to participate is particularly warm: "Do not miss it – writes Gino Vatri – before leaving the presidency, I would like to say goodbye to so many friends".

The general assembly takes place on the 9th February at the Italian army Combatants and Veterans headquarters, during which the membership drive takes place. This is the last meeting in which Gino Vatri is the President of the Toronto section: "I will not stand for the new elections – Vatri anticipates – I will continue in the 'federal' office of President of the Inter-sectional Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association of Canada. I wish the new President all the best".

Pasquale Di Renzo, a former sectional treasurer is the new President of the Italian alpine corps of Toronto, while Valentino Fellini is reconfirmed at the head of the Italian alpine corps of Mississauga, Alberto Valente of the ones of North York, Felice Vignale of Scarborough and Romeo Santi is reconfirmed in Sudbury.

In the third issue of the newspaper *Alpini in trasferta*, published in June of 1986, Gino Vatri, in his capacity as President of the Inter-sectional Italian alpine corps members, addresses the Italian alpine





Sudbury, 1983: the National President of the Italian alpine corps, Vittorio Trentini, together with the Italian alpine corps members of Toronto during the Second Inter-sectional Congress of the Italian alpine corps members in Sudbury.



Toronto, 9th June, 1984: the Italian alpine corps members in the sectional headquarters awaiting the Italian alpine corps members of the New York section.

Religious ceremony on the occasion of the 4th November, 1983. There are numerous Italian alpine corps members.



corps members of all of the sections and groups, by illustrating the past and future activities, and he invites them to send useful news, information, suggestions in order to strengthen the bonds between the Black Feathers, and at the same time, to make the newspaper evermore interesting.

In June 1986, the “Canadian” Italian alpine corps members meet the President of the Italian Republic, Francesco Cossiga, on an official visit to Canada. The Black Feathers met the Italian President in Toronto in front of the monument to the Italian alpine corps soldier, of which the tenth anniversary of its inauguration was celebrated in that year. Besides Gino Vatri, the President of the Toronto section, Pasquale Di Renzo, of Mississauga, Valentino Fellini, of North York, Alberto Valente, and of Welland – Hamilton section, Avellino Guglielmi, were present at the ceremony. President Cossiga inaugurates a monument to the fallen in Vancouver, which shows an Italian alpine corps soldier, donated by the Vancouver section to the Italian community. The monument is the work of the Italian Canadian sculptor, Severino Trinca, who after having studied at Brera with Messina and Marini, moved twenty years before to Vancouver.

“I am happy to hear that Cossiga, during his trip to Canada, had even been with the Italian alpine corps members – the National President, Nardo Caprioli, writes to Gino Vatri in a letter – he was the Interior Minister at the time of the earthquake in Friuli and, therefore, he had the opportunity, ever since then, to get to know us and, at least I hope, to appreciate us”.

Towards the end of June, the sectional President Knight Gasparet goes to Toronto in order to pay a visit to a sick sister of his, and during his ten day stay, in the city of Ontario, he meets the Italian alpine corps members who, having emigrated from various regions of Italy, live and work here and have, apart from everything else, formed a beautiful section.

Active Italian alpine corps members are always committed to organizing an event, a meeting, and a ceremony: they cooperated, in fact, in the organization of the anniversary feast of the constitution of Canada which is celebrated on the 1st July, they organize a picnic in which thousands of people participate in an atmosphere of festivity and unity.

Gasparet, together with Gino Vatri, an untiring leader and former President of the Toronto section, and now, President of the Inter-sectional Commission which gathers together all of the seven sections of Canada, meets the sectional President, Pasquale Di Renzo: a meeting during which the memories flow like an overflowing river... boot camp in Friuli... the Italian alpine corps soldiers of the Julia Division... An evening is not missing at the Famee Furlane in order to meet all of the members of the Sectional Council. A brief meeting but long enough in order to strengthen old friendships, in order to re-evolve the Italian alpine corps spirit, and remember the far distant Motherland.

The Italian Arrows perform in Canada at the end of July. A moment of festivity for all fellow countrymen and for the Friulians in the first place. The Black Feathers, under the leadership of the Inter-sectional President, Gino Vatri, a native of Gorgo di Latisana, do all they can in a commendable way so that the performance is at the height of the fame that accompanies the Italian Arrows, well-known throughout the world.

The North York group, founded by the group leader in office in 1986, Valente in 1976, has 45 members.

The year 1987 begins with the arrival on the 12th January in Toronto of Doctor Gianni Franza, with the aim of preparing the visit to Canada of the National President Doctor Leonardo Caprioli from the 30th August to the 12th September. The President, in fact, besides participating in the Italian corps Congress in Canada on the 4th, 5th and 6th September, intends to visit all of the sections and groups in Canada.

The interesting programme which is drawn up is communicated by President Caprioli who writes: “Dear friends, at the end of next August the traditional meeting will take place with the Italian alpine corps Overseas having reached its eleventh anniversary. This year, the destination will be Canada, which, in the Regions of the East, we did not visit since 1982, while in the Regions of the West, actually since 1980. The welcoming greeting will be given to us by the Italian alpine corps members of Montreal and the goodbye (or rather so long) will be given by the Italian alpine corps members of Vancouver. Along the road, from coast to coast, we will meet representatives of the Ottawa, Hamilton, Edmonton, and Calgary sections. Of course episodes of tourist interest will not be missing, not only in the big cities that we will visit, but above all, during the “scenic” stops and stays like the Great Lakes, the Niagara Falls,





March through the streets of Toronto of the Italian Army Associations on the occasion of the 4th November, 1983. Carlo Sonego, Knight of Vittorio Veneto, with the sectional standard, Valentino Fellini, Pasquale Taccone and Gino Vatri are recognizable in the photograph. The first from the right is Fortunato (Sandro) Zanella founder and first President of the Targeters Association of Toronto.



Toronto, 4th November, 1984, from the left the Italian Consul General, Massimo Macchia, Giuseppe Simonetta, Gino Vatri, the National President, Leonardo Caprioli, and the Federal Government Minister, Carletto Caccia.



River Valley Park, 1985: the Italian alpine corps members of the section with its four groups present together with the sailors of the Italian navy.



River Valley Park, 1985: the new pennant of Scarborough is blessed during the picnic; Felice Vignale is the group leader while Palmira Zoratto is the god-mother.



Toronto, 1985: Gino Vatri, President of the Toronto section and of the Inter-sectional and Valentino Fellini, group leader of Mississauga, can be recognized; at the centre is Luigi Menegotto, President of the Marostica section and National Voce President, having come to Canada in order to participate in the Third Inter-sectional Congress.



the Rocky Mountains, and Vancouver Island. I am sure that you will welcome this initiative with the usual enthusiasm”.

The Black Feathers arrive in Toronto on the 2nd September, coming from Ottawa and stay there until the 5th when they move to Calgary.

The meeting with the Black Feathers of Toronto takes place on the 4th September at Famee Furlane: besides the delegation, more than 200 Italian alpine corps members and sympathizers are present representing the Turin, Aosta, Milan, Como, Varese, Valecamonica, Bergamo, Cividale, Venice, Naples and Abruzzo sections.

The delegation, lead by President Caprioli is welcomed by the Inter-sectional President, Gino Vatri, by the President of the Toronto section, Pasquale di Renzo, and by the group leaders of Mississauga, Scarborough, and North York and by the North York City councillor, Mario Gentile.

The member's assembly of the Toronto section on the 25th January at the headquarters of the Italian army Combatants and Veterans; on the 7th February it is the turn of the Saint Valentine Feast which will be celebrated with a dinner dance at the Famee Furlane.

On the 16th and 17th May, Trent hosts the National Gathering in which many Italian alpine corps members from Toronto participate.

On the 5th July, always in the beautiful greenery of the River Valley Park, the Toronto section gives life to its big picnic.



Downsview Airforce Base, 1985: a moment of the inauguration of the monument to Captain McBride, who perished on the 16th May, 1976, in the skies of Friuli while he was about to go to the aid of the earthquake victims.



The fourth gathering of the Italian alpine corps members of Canada is held on the 5th and 6th September in Windsor. There are more than 1,400 discharged Italian alpine corps soldiers registered with the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association and residing in Canada, subdivided into the Montreal, Ottawa, Vancouver, Toronto, Edmonton, Hamilton sections, and the Sudbury, Thunder Bay, Winnipeg, Calgary, Welland, Scarborough, Mississauga, and North York groups. Even the New York section participates in the gathering.

Elections are held at the end of the delegates' assembly for the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association Inter-sectional Commission of Canada: the President is Gino Vatri of Toronto, Vice Presidents are Primo Augellone of Winnipeg and Virginio Soldera of Montreal, Amelio Pez of Windsor is elected the secretary.

The one in Windsor is a convention marked by friendship, fraternity, and happiness, in which 500 Black Feathers participate, who with their friends and sympathizers, reach the thousand mark. From Italy, besides the National President of the Italian alpine corps, Leonardo Caprioli, Army Corps General Benito Gavazza, the National Vice President Luciano Gandini, the director of the newspaper *L'Alpino*, Arturo Vita, the national councillor Angelo Todeschi, and Giovanni Franza are in charge of maintaining contacts with the foreign sections, take part in it. Moreover, General Vincenzo Basile, military attaché at the Italian Embassy in Ottawa, the Mayor of the city of Windsor and the Minister of Labour of the Government of Ontario are present.

The twentieth anniversary is even celebrated with various speeches. It is the moral report of Gino Vatri that makes the point of the situation, which gives a complete framework of the presence of the Black Feathers in Canada: "Ours is a family of wide proportions, it extends itself over a territory that is more than thirty times the size of Italy. The distances are enormous, all of us are bound together, however, by a common factor: our belonging to the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association. The presence of many Italian alpine corps members in Windsor, today, indicates the interest for associative life and the vitality of our Association – Vatri says – every two years we get together in a different city of Canada, in order to evaluate what has been done, in order to express our criticisms but even in order to suggest advice that is useful, being able to improve and provide new ideas for the future". The Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association Inter-sectional President of Canada, Gino Vatri, does not forget to mention the great work done by Fausto Chiocchio, in his capacity as the editor and director of the newspaper, *Alpini in trasferta*: "*Alpini in trasferta* came out twice after the Ottawa Congress, giving wide space to the inter-sectional events – Vatri adds – this year, the newspaper, *Alpini in trasferta*, was issued in a national edition. This special edition was looked after by the editorship of the magazine *L'Alpino*. A thank you, therefore, goes to the magazine *L'Alpino* but a bravo goes to Doctor Arturo Vita here present". Vatri highlights, finally, the importance of newspapers like the Toronto weekly, *il Corriere Canadese*, and *L'eco di Vancouver*, in order to make the work of the Black Feathers known.



Toronto, 9th February, 1985: the standard of the Montreal section on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Toronto section; Soldera, Schiocchet are recognizable amongst the Italian alpine corps of Montreal, to the far left are Luigi Borz and Fausto Chiocchio of Hamilton, and in the first row is Edy Da Re of the Toronto section.



Burlington, June 1986: Gino Vatri and Giovanni Gasparet, President of the Pordenone section are recognizable at the Oceanographic Studies Centre (the photo was taken by Fausto Chiocchio).



The parade takes place on Sunday morning in which everybody marches with pride and honour in an atmosphere of great commotion. While an open air picnic is organized in Windsor, with many sportive games, Gino Vatri accompanies the Italian delegation to Calgary where the meeting with the Italian alpine corps members of that group is planned.

The newspaper *Alpini in trasferta* receives ever greater consensus. After the publication of the sixth issue, Arturo Vita sends a letter dated the 7th January, 1988 to Gino Vatri, in which he congratulates him for the publication: "I received the newspaper *Alpini in trasferta* and I would really like to congratulate those who cooperated in its realization: it has turned out to be an excellent, complete, documented newspaper, and completed with numerous and interesting photographs. Very well done Vatri, magnificent Inter-sectional President of Canada: the newspaper will have great success and it will remind everybody of the moving meeting between the "Black Feathers" of Canada and the huge delegation that came from Italy".

The Italian Prime Minister, Ciriaco De Mita, arrives in Toronto on a visit: the welcoming ceremony is organized in the gardens of Villa Colombo. Here, in the presence of at least 5,000 people, various speeches are given: from the Premier of Ontario, David Peterson, from the Mayor of North York, Mel Lastman, from the Federal Minister, Michael Wilson, and from Consiglio Di Nino. De Mita, on his part, added: "A few weeks ago, the Canadian Prime Minister, Brian Mulroney, came to Italy telling me that when you look at the skyscrapers of Toronto, the Italians come to mind, because the ones of the first generation built them and the ones of the second generation are the owners". At the end of the meeting, the Italian Prime Minister laid a laurel wreath in front of the monument, to the Italian alpine corps soldier, where, awaiting him, was the Inter-sectional President of Canada, Gino Vatri, and numerous Italian alpine corps members of the Toronto and Hamilton sections and of the North York and Mississauga groups.

Gianni Grohovaz, dies at Wasaga Beach on the 14th May, having been the co-founder and first editor of the newspaper *Alpini in trasferta*. Grohovaz was born in Fiume in 1926. Amongst the many events of Festitalia 1988, the popular initiative in a position of gathering together all of our fellow countrymen residing in Canada, the Feast of Saint Maurice is held in Toronto. After the election of Pina D'Aquilante



Toronto, 1987: Besides Palmira Zoratto, Mel Lastman, the Mayor of North York and Mario Gentile can be recognized during the raising of the flag in North York.



as Miss Alpini 1988-1989, diplomas are given to the Black Feathers Anacleto Vedovat, Mario Del Col, Giuseppe Fabbruzzo, Alessandro Leszczynski (born in Warsaw), Attilio Paron, and Dino Morson.

In the meantime, Susie Masolin, thanks to a monthly scholarship given by the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association, through the Franco Bertagnolli fund, can attend the Faculty of Languages of Udine. "I was able to crown the dream of studying in Friuli", says the Canadian of Italian origin (her father is from Latisana, her mother from Fiume Veneto).

The second National Conference on Emigration takes place in Rome, from the 26th November to the 3rd December, 1988: "The Conference will be the ideal forum in order to make it known, not only to Italian politicians, but to those who work in the social and economic world, the realities, requests, and expectations of that world made up of Italians who live and work outside of Italy – writes Gino Vatri – the problems to be solved are easy to list and it should not be all that difficult to sort them out even because in many cases, it is a question of only having the law respected". Amongst the many subjects to be put on the table, Vatri lists social security and social assistance, civil status and military service, re-entry and reinsertion.

In the seventh issue of the newspaper Alpini in trasferta, the letter of Marc Vatri finds space which, between the serious and the witty, tells what it means in his family to have an Italian alpine corps father: the time taken away from the family, the trips, the gatherings, an ever greater number of friends in every corner of the world, an Italian alpine corps style life. "And it's all my mother's fault!" the young Vatri concludes his article, a courteous, sympathetic article which gives the idea of how much being an Italian alpine corps soldier means being it with the heart, how much importance friendship, respect, brotherhood have. "In 1976, my mother decided to make him a member of the Italian alpine corps of Toronto. Now, my mother says that it was the biggest mistake of her life. Why, you will say? My father, immediately after not having the courage to say no to the committee, became the secretary of the Italian alpine corps of Toronto. Bit by bit, our home became the centre of the Italian alpine corps. There is no more peace, only phone calls and visits – writes Marc -. After a few years, my father becomes the President of the Italian alpine corps group. My parents send me to my grandparents for the weekends because they have to go visit the Italian alpine corps members in Sudbury, in Welland, in Ottawa, in Montreal, in Hamilton, and in Thunder Bay which is 1,600 kilometres away from Toronto... In 1983, my father is not only the President of the Toronto section, oh no!, now he is the President of all of the sections and groups of Canada... the traffic at home is evermore intense..."

Marc Vatri's letter is a letter that is striking, which goes straight to the heart of the Black Feathers: "Dear Marc, I read with pleasure your letter which you wanted to write in the newspaper, Alpini in Trasferta, and I have to say that it moved me to tears – Primo Augellone writes in response to that young man – as an old Italian alpine corps member only I can understand... Consider yourself fortunate, just as my children are, you had a lot of people in your home, very often important people, and you always grew up in society. The Italian alpine corps members, Marc, are the most generous people, the healthiest race, and the most beautiful in the world".



Fiume Veneto, 1987:
exchange of gifts between
Giovanni Gasparet and Gino
Vatri while the group leader
Giovanni Campanerut (first
from the left) and the Mayor
clap hands



Toronto, 1988: the Italian
alpine corps members of
Toronto: the North York
councillor, Judy Sgro,
and Miss Italian alpine
corps, Pina D'Aquilante,
can be recognized at the
centre.



The occurrence of the 2nd June, feast of the Italian Republic, is celebrated in style in 1989. After the parade, from Landsdowne Avenue to Mackay Avenue, a commemorative ceremony with political personalities and speeches takes place: besides the Consul General of Italy, Doctor Gianni Bardini, representatives of the combatants' associations take part in it. The President Gino Vatri is present on behalf of the Italian alpine corps members.

In 1989, the Italian alpine corps scholarship goes to Lina Ottisano: The Italian alpine corps members thus organize every year at the Famee Furlane, a fundraising event in order to finance the scholarship in favour of a student of the University of Toronto.

Moreover, Franco Ceschia and his wife Giuliana, personally give a second scholarship to the University of Toronto on behalf of their son Dino who is seriously handicapped.

In honour of the chronicles, it should be mentioned that the sectional directive council is thus made up:

Gino Vatri, President
Egisto De Luca, Vice President
Roberto Buttazzoni, secretary-treasurer
Remigio Vatri, auditor
Renzo Saccon, auditor
Gerry D'Aquilante, councillor
Franco Ceschia, councillor.





1988: Ciriaco De Mita lays a laurel wreath at the feet of the Italian alpine corps monument at Villa Colombo.

The events organized in order to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association are numerous: on the 17th February, 1990, it will be the headquarters of the Famee Furlane that will host the celebration of the 30th anniversary of the foundation of the Italian alpine corps section of Toronto.

An article is significantly rich published in the 8th issue (June 1989) entitled "Thank you... Alpini in trasferta..." signed by Mario Rosset who seizes the occasion in order to illustrate the great presence of the Italian alpine corps members in Canada, their distribution into seven sections, four autonomous groups and four dependent groups, their numerous activities, the Congresses organized every two years in different cities.

Rosset even recalls the meeting, on the occasion of the Congress in Windsor, with the oldest registered Italian alpine corps member of the Toronto group, Antonio Gambin, a veteran of Yugoslavia, Greece, Albania and Russia. Words filled with affection towards the Black Feathers who have emigrated to North America are not missing at the end of the article: "I am left with nothing other than to ask, hoping that I have made other Italian alpine corps members of our share in making relive, imagine, the very many sufferings, privations, nostalgias that they carry in their hearts, spirits and minds, those "few" (but which everybody represents) Italian alpine corps soldiers who return from every continent in order to march in our national gatherings. Let us not forget to reserve for them esteem, friendship, and gratitude because they surely deserve them. Our Father Lozzer called them: "Flower of our people".

On the 2nd and 3rd September, 1989, the 5th Inter-sectional Congress of the Italian alpine corps of Canada is held and, at the same time, the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association of Montreal, the first which arose in Canada, celebrates its thirty-fifth anniversary. Hundreds of Black Feathers arrive in Montreal together with their family members from all over Canada, the United States, and Italy. Present amongst these are the National President Leonardo Caprioli, the director of the newspaper *L'Alpino*, Arturo Vita, the national councillor who looks after the foreign sections, Giovanni Franza, the national councillor, Angelo Tedeschi. In the sphere of the convention, the President, Gino Vatri, the Vice Presidents, Virginio Soldera, and Primo Augellone, the secretary, Amelio Pez, are re-elected in the midst of the Inter-sectional of Canada.

The Italian alpine corps members fix the next appointment for the first weekend of September, 1991, in Thunder Bay.

As always, in his moral report, Gino Vatri, summarizes the work carried out during the course of the Black Feathers year, their commitment to always do much more, and the reciprocal esteem which is at the basis of the relations between the people who are a part of it. At the end of his report, Vatri highlights the meaning which it has for many, non-Italian alpine corps members, to belong to the groups and sections of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association. "Some members of our groups and sections are not Italian alpine corps members. They come from other corps, sometimes they have not even performed military service because they left before or because they were born in Canada, more



often than not, they feel like Italian alpine corps members and have found amongst the Italian alpine corps members their natural atmosphere and they often actively participate in our activities. This, of the non-Italian alpine corps members, although as sympathizers, simply means finding an atmosphere with a family taste, people with which to be able to exchange some words, various occasions of meeting together. This may seem to be little, but if one thinks about the solitude in the big cities, especially abroad, where it is evermore difficult to forge new friendships, even this has its importance”.

Toronto, 1988: an exchange of gifts between the Italian alpine corps members of Toronto and the Polyphonic Choir of Salvarosa



Midland, 1989: in the native village, on the occasion, of the celebration, of the arrival, in Ontario, of the first Italian, the Jesuit missionary, Father Bressani, the Premier of the Province, David Peterson, wanted to invite amongst the many authorities even the Inter-sectional President, Gino Vatri, as the representative of the Italian alpine corps members. Vatri, in the photo with a squaw (woman),



seated on the same seat where Pope John Paul II rested on the occasion of his visit to Canada.

At the end of the convention, supper is served with many guests of honour. On the following day, a wreath of flowers is deposited at the feet of the monument to the fallen of all wars: the celebration of Holy Mass will follow in the Parc des Hirondelles, presided over by Monsignor Gaetano Bonicelli, Archbishop of the Italian Armed Forces, arriving from Rome for the occasion. Colonel Vittorio Zardo, military attaché at the Italian Embassy, the Consul General of Italy Massimo Bernardinelli, Senators Pietro Rizzuto of Canada and Gualtiero Nepi of Italy, the Honourables Carletto Caccia, Louise Robic, and Marcel Parent are present.

Performing the sacred songs is the Choir of Pompey assisted by the organist Margherita Stea, by the trumpeter Enrico Venafo, and by the clarinetist Gemillo Antoniazzi.

A moment was not missing of remembering the deceased and, in particular, in memory of Angelino Guglielmi, group leader of the Welland section, who died a few days before. After lunch, there were many Italian alpine corps songs and a lot of joy ended the two Italian alpine corps days.





In the photo, the Italian alpine corps of Toronto in a photo taken in 1988: The Consul General of Italy Lajolo and Mario Gentile can be recognized in the front row



Pescara, May 1989: From the left Giovanni Gasparet, President of the Pordenone section, Fausto Chiocchio, President of the Hamilton section, Vittorio Lamon, secretary of the Gorgo di Latisana group and delegate of the Udine section, Gino Vatri, Inter-sectional President of the North American sections and some Italian alpine corps members can be recognized at the National Gathering.

Issue number 10 of the newspaper *Alpini in trasferta* (February 1990) is entirely dedicated to the thirtieth anniversary of the Toronto section. The history of the section, year after year, is sealed by very many photographs of the outstanding moments of its life. A beautiful job which strikes Arturo Vita of the newspaper *L'Alpino*: "I received the newspaper *Alpini in trasferta* – he writes in a letter to Gino Vatri – allow me to express my widest and sincerest applause to you, for the newspaper which is entirely dedicated, this time, to the thirtieth anniversary of the foundation of the Toronto section. It is a question of an overall historical work, of a patient photographic and archival research. This work burst out into 12 pages and rightly remembers so many people, who with passion dedicated themselves, for years, to our Association".

On the 17th February, 1990, the thirtieth anniversary of the Toronto section of the Italian alpine corps is celebrated at the Famee Furlane Club in Toronto. The groups of Montreal of which Fernando Bisinella is the president, of Ottawa with the president Leo Brun del Re, of Sudbury, with the group leader Armando Rotondo, of Welland, with the secretary Guerino Marinucci, of Hamilton, with the president Fausto Chiocchio, of Mississauga, with the group leader Alberto Valente, the Italian Army Combatants, and veterans, with the president Nicola Masucci are present at the evening of feasting.



Even the military attaché at the Italian Embassy, Colonel Vittorio Zardo, Senator Peter Bosa, Members of Parliament Carlo Caccia and Laureano Leone, the Metro Toronto councillor Mario Gentile, the North York councillor Judy Sgro, York alderman Nicolo Fortunato, Father Vitaliano Papais, Mrs. Willia Scaini, the author of the Canadian book Kenneth Bagnell, and Professor Bernard Chandler of the University of Toronto intervene in the ceremony. A souvenir medal is coined for the occasion.

About 700 people participate in the evening. In his speech, Gino Vatri, President of the Toronto section and Inter-sectional President, as well, give a detailed account of the associative life recalling the tangible contribution given by his fellow countrymen during the sad days of May 1976, on the occasion of the earthquake in Friuli. After the speech of Vatri, a native of Gorgo di Latisana and who emigrated to Canada twenty years before, Colonel Vittorio Zardo, Senator Peter Bosa, Members of Parliament Carlo Caccia and Laureano Leone, councillor Mario Gentile, and Father Vitaliano Papais intervene. "On this thirtieth anniversary, our thought has to be devotedly turned to the founding members, who with will, decision, love, tradition, and attachment to the Corps of the Italian alpine corps wanted and founded the group, then Toronto section. My applause goes to these founding members, some of whom are here present: Attilio Paron, Vito Bartolini, Valentino Fellini and others. My moving and grateful thought goes to our dead and to our heroic fallen of all wars, because the pride that we feel in belonging to the glorious corps of the Italian alpine corps is owed to a greater extent to their supreme sacrifice. They are not dead, but have only gone forward!"

Various sections and groups of Canada participate, as always, in the 63rd National Gathering of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association that is held on the 12th and 13th May, 1990: yet again, the Black Feathers residing abroad, join the Italian alpine corps members in Italy in order to strengthen the bond that has never been weakened and the spirit of brotherhood.

Sixty-five cadets of the Italian Aeronautical Academy of Pozzuoli and fifty officers, amongst whom the Commander of the Academy, Division General Gianni Franco Scano, arrives in Toronto on a visit on the 20th June, 1990: the Canadian city is a stopover on their study-trip which besides Canada, takes them to the United States, Sweden, and Iceland. During the visit to Toronto of the glorious Italian Aeronautical Academy, founded way back in 1923, a Mass is celebrated on the 20th June, 1990, by the Military Chaplain Father Vitaliano Papais in the gardens of Villa Colombo.

At the end of the Mass, three laurel wreaths were deposited at the feet of the monument in the presence of the Consul General of Italy, Colonel Zardo, and the Presidents of all of the Italian army associations and of various Canadian authorities.

A thank you letter for the organization is sent to Vatri by the aeronautical, military, and naval attaché, Colonel Pilot Vittorio Zardo: "On behalf of the Commander of the Aeronautical Academy, Division General Gianni Scano, and on my own behalf, I would like to thank you and all of your magnificent Italian alpine corps members for the determining organizational contribution given, at the Columbus Centre, towards the meeting of the Italian Canadian community with the Aeronautical Academy on a visit to Toronto last 20th June... With your behaviour, you have certainly enriched everybody with love, pride, and the will to operate well for our Italy".

The annual picnic of the Toronto section is held on the 1st July, 1990, at the River Valley Park: there is an open air Mass presided over by Father Papais, sportive activities, a briscola tournament, a lawn bowling tournament, a raffle, and dance are held until sunset. As always, the picnic, gets a huge turn out.

On the 8th September, in front of the monument, of the Italian alpine corps at Villa Colombo there is a brief ceremony with the deposition of a wreath in the presence of sixty young members of the Italian Finance Guards' Academy accompanied by the Vice Commander, Colonel Giovanni Carta, the Italian Consul General Gianluigi Lajolo, Colonel Zardo, military attaché at the Italian Embassy, and by the Presidents of all of the Italian army associations and by various Canadian authorities. A supper is given at the end of the ceremony at Villa Colombo.

During a visit to Italy, Gino Vatri accompanies four performances, for the Youth in Concert Symphonic Band of Toronto, directed by the conductor Livio Leonardelli which is welcomed, amongst other by the Italian alpine corps members of Lignano, and by the ones of Pertegada. The main aim of the tour is that of contributing, even if in a small way, towards the cultural relations between Canada and Italy.



1st PART

Italian Alpine Corps Members

Chapter
- IV -

1990-2000

Fifty Finance Guard students and two from the Naval Academy arrived at Villa Colombo in academy uniform lead by three officers, Colonel Giovanni Carta, Major Gianluigi Miglioli, and Captain Paola Granata. They were welcomed here by the Italian Consul General in Toronto, Gianluigi Lajolo, Pal Di Iulio, the



administrator of Villa Colombo, and by the representatives of the various discharged Italian army units. The group went to the front of the monument to the Italian alpine corps soldiers where two students deposed a laurel wreath. Nicola Masucci, President of the Italian Army Combatants and Veterans Association of Toronto, Tonino Giallonardo, President of the Italian Policemen's Association of Toronto, Gino Vatri, President of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association of Toronto, Giovanni Riolo, President of the Italian Sailors Association of Toronto, Knight Luigi Brusatin, and numerous members of the associations were present at the evocative ceremony. The military attaché of the Italian Embassy in Ottawa, Colonel Vittorio Zardo and the Police Inspector of Toronto, Giuliano Fantino were present. The group coming from Milan visited New York, Washington, San Diego, and San Francisco before stopping over in Toronto, and continuing towards Kingston, Ottawa, and Montreal from where they returned to Milan.

The activities of the Italian alpine corps members of Toronto continue, even in 1991, with great zeal. In February, the Black Feathers and sympathizers find themselves at Famee Furlane, for the annual gathering: 600 people are present and the proceeds collected are donated, as in the past, to the University of Toronto, in order to be able to send a deserving student to attend Italian language courses at the University of Siena. Always in the month of February, Lanfranco Ceschia is elected the President of the Toronto section, succeeding Gino Vatri who continues to hold the office of Inter-sectional President. The National President Leonardo Caprioli sends a letter to Vatri in order to thank him for everything that he has done for the section: "In the moment in which you are leaving the presidency of your section to which you have dedicated, with a lot of enthusiasm, time, and availability besides the most heartfelt Italian alpine corps passion, I thank you on behalf of all of the Association and on my personal behalf for the contribution which you have given for the best success of our associative life, a contribution which you will surely continue to give in the office of coordinator of the Canadian sections".

The Italian alpine corps member Antonio Palma dies in 1991: his hat and war cross are placed on the coffin and the Italian alpine corps members of Toronto accompany him together with their trumpeter while a freezing wind seems to want to penetrate the bones. On the 16th June, Father Papais celebrates a Mass at Villa Colombo in order to mark the anniversary of the monument dedicated to the Italian alpine corps soldiers, and in order to remember the dead. At the end of the Mass, those present go to the church of Saint Fidelis where a small refreshment is served.

The annual picnic takes place on the 30th June in the beautiful greenery of the River Valley Park.

Even the San Vito al Tagliamento Club of Toronto, the Carnia group and the Cordovado Club of Toronto join the Italian alpine corps soldiers: the day, as always is characterized by the celebration on the part of Father Vitaliano Papais of the open air Mass, by innumerable sportive activities for the big and the small, by dancing and by a lot of happiness. A new Italian alpine corps group is born in Kitchener while the Hamilton section celebrates its twenty-fifth foundation anniversary.

A Mass is celebrated on the 3rd November in the church of Saint Francis of Assisi and one at the headquarters of the Italian Army Combatants and Veterans in order to remember all of the fallen. On the





1990, Famee Furlane of Toronto: the Councillor Mario Gentile, the President of the Toronto section, Lanfranco Ceschia, the Canadian government Minister, Carletto Caccia, Senator Peter Bosa, Councillor Judy Sgro, who will become a Canadian government Minister, in the future, can be recognized at the centre of the photograph at the feast for the 30th foundation anniversary.



Toronto, 1990's: the Presidents of the various associations at the headquarters of the Italian Army Combatants and Veterans with the military attaché General Basile



1990: a group of Italian alpine corps members of Toronto in Sudbury.





Toronto, Famee Furlane 1990. Even this photograph refers to the 30th foundation anniversary of the Toronto section.

17th November, a ceremony is organized at the Friuli Centre in order to remember all of the Italian alpine corps members of the section who died in Canada, in which

some of the widows of the deceased members, the Presidents of some of the other Italian army units associations and numerous Italian alpine corps members and family members participated. After a brief introductory speech by President Lanfranco Ceschia, Inter-sectional President Vatri speaks and recalls the Italian alpine corps members who have died during the course of the last years.

At the end of the speeches a medal is given to all of the widows present. In 1992, the 65th National Gathering of the Italian alpine corps soldiers is held: almost 400,000 Black Feathers march in cortege on the 17th May. The Canadian delegation is made up of the Inter-sectional President, Gino Vatri, the President of the Toronto section, Lanfranco Ceschia, Virginio Soldera of the Montreal section, together with numerous members of the CDS, of Walter Bertoncetto for the Winnipeg group, of Vice President Amelio Pez of the Windsor section, and of Roberto Penna of the Ottawa section.

The thirty-second foundation anniversary is celebrated in Toronto at the Friuli Centre in the presence of the Italian Consul General Aldo Valeo. There were 289 members of the Toronto section in 1992: 161 belonged to the Toronto group, 76 to the North York group, 41 to the Mississauga group and 11 to the Scarborough group.

The letter, sent by the Italian Prime Minister, Giulio Andreotti, to Gino Vatri who returned to Italy after a trip to Canada is dated the 18th March, 1992: "On the occasion of the meeting with the Italian community at the Columbus Centre in Toronto, I was not able to personally spend some time with the representatives of the Associations and Charitable institutions. Unfortunately, the time available was not sufficient even for these significant meetings – writes Andreotti -. I would like to send you my most affectionate and grateful greeting for the magnificent welcome that you reserved for me and for the manifestation of Italianness of which I conserve the best memory".

A Mass is celebrated on the 21st June at the monument of the Italian alpine corps soldier at Villa Colombo in memory of the fallen, in the wars of 1914-1918 and 1939-1945 which was followed by refreshments in the hall of the church of Saint Fidelis. In the presence of many veterans, the military chaplain Father Papais has profound words for those who lost their own lives on the battlefield.

The annual picnic registers a good success on the 5th July while on the 5th September the Windsor section celebrates its twenty-fifth foundation anniversary: about twenty Black Feathers participate from Toronto. The Italian alpine corps section of New York invites the Black Feathers of Canada to the festivities organized in order to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the discovery of America: about fifty Italian alpine corps members participate, from Toronto and Ottawa, and affirm "having spent some memorable days". The headquarters of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association of Hamilton is inaugurated on the 10th October.

The Italian alpine corps members Giuseppe Fabbuzzo, Oreste Borean, the father-in-law of Gino Vatri, and Italo Battiston, the father-in-law of Mario Gentile are missing from the affection of their loved ones during 1992.



A special annual meeting is held on the 22nd November at the Friuli Centre: during the meeting, besides the membership drive for 1993, there is discussion about the various matters which regard the section and its activities. There are two scholarships that are placed at the disposal of students: the one of the Toronto section is assigned to Renee Zanin while the one offered by President Lanfranco Ceschia goes to Graham Clark.

A marvellous feast is organized at the Famee Furlane in Toronto in honour of the Italian Arrows, during the course of which the indissoluble ties are reasserted with the Friulians throughout the world. General D.A. Riccardo Tonini, the President of the Italian alpine corps of Toronto, Lanfranco Ceschia, Primo Di Luca, Senator Peter Bosa, and the secretary of the Italian alpine corps, Roberto Buttazzoni, take part in the feast.

It is always at the Famee Furlane that on the 20th February, 1993, the annual feast is held of the Italian alpine corps of Toronto in an atmosphere dominated by joy and by the Italian alpine corps spirit which characterizes the manifestations of the Black Feathers. About 500 people participated in the event: after the traditional parade, the inter-sectional president of the Italian alpine corps in Canada, Gino Vatri, recalled the figure of the gold medal for military bravery, Paolino Zucchi, who died on the Russian front on the 4th January, 1943, and in whose memory the Toronto section is dedicated. Thirty Italian alpine corps members lead by the President, Alfredo Morando, and by the Vice President, Amelio Pez, arrive from Windsor in order to participate in the evening. Doro Di Donato, group leader of Welland, Pasquale Taccone, group leader of Mississauga, Alberto Valente, group leader of North York,



Toronto, 1993: celebration of the 4th November at Saint Clair with the Italian Army Combatants and Veterans Association and the other Italian Army Associations.



1993: the most important community event of the year is surely made up of the visit of the deputy prosecutor of Milan, Antonio Di Pietro. In the photo, in the presence between amongst others Frank Brunetta and Primo Di Luca, Di Pietro's meeting with the President of the Italian alpine corps of Toronto, Lanfranco Ceschia.





Friuli Centre in Woodbridge, January 1994: the Italian alpine corps, of the Toronto section, gathers around member Lorenzo D'Arcangelo who has just received the war cross for merit for having taken part in military operations during the Second World War.



Toronto, Famee Furlane 1990, a group of Italian alpine corps members of the Toronto section, with the Councillor Mario Gentile, recognizable to the left of the photo and Senator Peter Bosa at the centre.

Giuseppe Leon, councillor of the Sudbury group are moreover present. The evening's guest of honour is Professor Nereo Perini of the University of Udine, at the time, in Canada, in order to give some courses in Friulian language and literature at the Department of Italian Studies at the University of Toronto.

In his speech, Professor Perini, who was decorated with the Silver Medal for military valour (Russian front, Tridentine Italian alpine corps Division, 1943) spoke of the war in Russia and wished the entire Italian alpine corps members of Toronto and Canada many successes. The proceeds of the evening were given towards the annual scholarship in favour of a student of the University of Toronto. At the end of the beautiful evening, the President Lanfanco Ceschia, thanks all those present and hopes for an ever greater participation in the activities of the Italian alpine corps.

With a letter dated the 22nd March, 1993, the director general Accountant Luciano Gandini informs Gino Vatri that the National Directive Council, during the course of its meeting, on the 13th March approved the regulation, for the Canadian sections, with an equal text for each one.

The 66th National Gathering is held on the 15th and 16th May, 1993, in Bari. Almost three hundred thousand Italian alpine corps members and their family members invade a city that has little more than four hundred thousand inhabitants. The welcome of the city of the Puglie region is marvellous, sincere, open, just as the organization is perfect. The parade, uninterrupted for over seven hours, sees on the centre stage, next to the banner, and the National Directive, the President of the Italian Republic and numerous personalities while from the windows, balconies and from behind the barriers, there are tens of thousands of people who applaud at the passage of the Italian alpine corps soldiers. But why was Bari, a city of infantrymen and sailors, chosen? For the simple reason that from here, in 1940 and 1941, many Italian alpine corps soldiers embarked for Greece and Albania of whom many returned still here in 1943. This



history is impressed in an indelible way in the Shrine of the Fallen Overseas, honoured in this city: of the 75,000 fallen gathered here, 25,000 are Italian alpine corps soldiers. This time, the delegation from Canada is not all that numerous: representatives from Ottawa, Montreal, Toronto (Tony Pigat and Luciano Clauser), Edmonton, Winnipeg and Niagara were, however, not missing. "It was nice to have been here, a getting together, coming from a country of great distances and infinite spaces, from a land that we have even made our own, a bit thanks to the Italian alpine corps spirit made up of sacrifice, courage, solidarity – writes Roberto Penna of the Ottawa section in the newspaper *Alpini in trasferta* – say the veterans of the gatherings that this has been one of the most beautiful ones, in these last years, and it will remain in the minds of many. Thank you Bari and see you next year in Treviso!"

The 7th Congress of the Italian alpine corps of Canada takes place in Calgary and is an overall success. "We met at Moraine Lake of Banff National Park in Alberta. There were men everywhere with grey hair or even bald, but with the hat and the black feather on, and their wives, happy like children on a school trip, camera at hand – writes Bonifacio Penna, President of the Ottawa section of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association – after the trip to the Rocky Mountains, there was the visit to Edmonton and then the one to the Bad Lands in order to see the Valley of Dinosaurs. Very interesting was the visit to the Tyrell Museum which, surrounded by steep gullies of the most varied shaded colours from grey to blue, looks like a space station in a lunar scenery".

There are about a thousand Italian alpine corps members who participate in the Congress. Gino Vatri is reconfirmed the Inter-sectional President of the Italian alpine corps members of Canada and Toronto is chosen as the headquarters of the 8th Inter-sectional Congress planned for the 1st and 2nd September, 1995. Gala evenings, a lot of friendship, a lot of joy are the characteristics of this Congress: Doctor Franza reads the message of greeting from the National President Doctor Leonardo Caprioli who was not able to participate and handed over the Cross of War Merit, to a dean, of the Calgary group, the Italian alpine corps soldier, Alfonso Giancarlo, born in 1914. "So ends the Congress of the Italian alpine corps of Canada amidst the enthusiasm and satisfaction of all those present – adds Penna – a Congress that will not be easy to forget". At the 67th National Gathering of Treviso, which takes place on the 14th and 15th May, 1994, the Italian alpine corps members participate en masse. From Canada, Tony Pigat, Rino Balbinot, Lanfranco Ceschia, Bartolo Da Ros, and Lucian Bellus take part in it. "Never has a gathering been so impressive, as this one, and never has it been so passionately experienced by an enormous crowd. A river without end – it can be read in the 18th issue of the newspaper *Alpini in trasferta* (July-August 1994) – an uncontrollable river of Black Feathers which swelled up Treviso, along the streets of the immense cortege, for more than nine hours. So many Italian alpine corps soldiers had never been seen, in the memory of the history of the annual gatherings of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association. Never has this sea been seen since 1920". It was an uncontrollable sea of Black Feathers. "How many? One and a half times the number of those of Milan said Leonardo Caprioli, the President of the Italian boots – it can still be read in the article -. In Milan two years ago, 90 thousand had been counted who were marching. And it was a question of the record that Treviso was literally pulverized. Almost 150 thousand were marching, therefore: and more than just as many looking on. They

Toronto: Giuseppe Raimondo celebrates his hundredth birthday together with the Italian alpine corps soldiers of Toronto





1995 – The Presidents of the Italian army units of Toronto on the occasion of the celebration of the 4th November, organized by the Italian Army Combatants and Veterans Association at Saint Clair together, with some authorities and guests.



Treviso, May 1994: a group of Italian alpine corps members from Toronto, present at the National Gathering. Rino Balbot, to his right the sectional councillor Tony Pigat, the President Lanfranco Ceschia and the councillor Luciano Bellus can be recognized at the centre of the photo with the banner.



Toronto, 1995: huge Carnival dance of the Toronto section of the Italian National Alpine Corps Veterans' Association. The performance of "Nick and his trumpet" followed the dinner. A pleasant evening in which the Black Feathers participated en masse, confirming the great esprit de corps has always animated them.



were skinning their hands with sincere applause, right up until the end, notwithstanding the interminable time of the gigantic manifestation". On the stage there is the President of the Italian Republic, Oscar Luigi Scalfaro, and the Italian Defence Minister, Previti. This last one declared: "It seems to me that I saw the most beautiful part of Italy and of the Italians".

In Toronto, Giuseppe Raimondo, celebrates his hundredth birthday: in the presence of family members and friends, the military chaplain of the section, Father Vitaliano Papais, hands over to the celebrant gifts, memorial plaques, and diplomas offered by the Toronto section. With regards to the Franco Bertagnolli scholarships for the academic year 1994-1995, they are assigned to Cristina Pez, Gloria Bertagnolli, Sean Francesco Sodero, Maurizio Penna, Domenic Storti and Patricia Taccone. The National President, Leonardo Caprioli, has beautiful words loaded with affection in view of the 8th Congress in Toronto: "... I feel with pleasure that the things and organization for the 8th Congress in Toronto are proceeding well – he writes in a letter dated the 7th September, 1994, to Gino Vatri – I am very happy about what is taking place in Canada because it means that your work is producing the fruits desired by you and by all of us".

The Black Feathers of Toronto participate en masse at the annual meeting in the gardens of Villa Colombo: a refreshment follows the Mass celebrated by Father Vitaliano Papais.

It is during the course of the feast, of the Italian alpine corps, organized at the Famee Furlane, in Woodbridge, that Mario Spera, a hardcore Italian alpine corps member of 1910, is decorated with the War Cross. In reading the motivation, the President of the Italian alpine corps, Gino Vatri, recalls the long militancy of the combatant and veteran: a Tuscan from Massa Carrara, at a very young age he moved to La Spezia before taking part in the campaigns of Africa (1935-1936), of Spain (1936-1937), and of Greece (1940-1941). The 8th Congress of the Italian alpine corps, of Canada, constitutes a great occasion of festivity and the celebration of the 35th anniversary of the constitution of the Toronto section which takes place on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd September, 1995. There are over three hundred Black Feathers who have arrived with organized trips amongst whom the National President, Doctor Leonardo Caprioli, and the councillor, Lino Chies: there are even various hundreds of Italian alpine corps members who came on their own, together with family and friends, taking advantage of this occasion in order to pay a visit to far distant relatives. It is Gino Vatri, available and smiling, always available, who welcomes everybody. The three days in Toronto begin therefore at the Holiday Inn with a concert of choirs and music: the choir from Abruzzi, the San Marco Choir, the Santa Cecilia Choir perform and to end it all, the Chaminade College School Symphony Band directed by maestro Livio Leonardelli.

On the following day, the 2nd September, the biennial Congress takes place of the Canadian sections. Representatives from Montreal, Vancouver, Edmonton, Hamilton, Ottawa, Windsor, and Toronto sections, as well as, the autonomous groups of Sudbury, Thunder Bay, Calgary, and Winnipeg are present. The day ends with a gala evening located at the Da Vinci Banquet Hall in Woodbridge. About 1,200 people participate in the dinner with the guests of honour being Minister Al Palladini, the military attaché at the Italian Embassy in Ottawa, Colonel De Volanski, the Italian Consul General in Toronto, Scoccimarro, and the commander of the London Police Force, Julian Fantino. Nick Trombetta's orchestra performs during the evening. The event continues, on Sunday, the 3rd September, by which the appointment is at, Villa Colombo, at the Italian alpine corps monument which was inaugurated in 1976 in the presence of the then President, Franco Bertagnolli. The sections and groups present, preceded by the band, start off with a parade in the park of Villa Colombo rendering honour to the President, Doctor Leonardo Caprioli, and to the authorities present. A laurel wreath is deposited at the feet of the monument and a Mass is celebrated for the fallen, by the chaplain of the Toronto section, Father Vitaliano Papais. There are over 1,500 people who take part in the ceremony. A thousand Italian alpine corps members and their family members take part in the lunch which follows at Villa Colombo, at the end, of which there are various exchanges of gifts between the sections and groups which came from Italy and the President of the Toronto section, Lanfranco Ceschia, and the Inter-sectional President for Canada, Gino Vatri, besides the blessing of the new standard of the Toronto section and of a pennant. Before saying goodbye to each other, the Italian alpine corps members arrange to meet one another in Hamilton, in 1997, for their 9th Congress of the Canadian sections.

The year 1996 opens up, with a general assembly, which takes place on the 28th January at the Famee Furlane: the details are discussed of the social meeting of the 17th February, the purchase of the





Toronto, Villa Colombo 1995, Giovanni Gasparet, President of the Pordenone section with the sectional banner and the ten pennants present at the Inter-sectional Congress



Udine, December 1995, from the left: Gerometta Alessandro, Roberto Toffoletti, President of the Udine section, Gino Vatri, Inter-sectional President of Canada/United States, Vittorio Lamon, delegate of the Udine section and secretary of the Gorgo di Latisana group



Villa Colombo, 1995. In the photo, from the left Bruno Rauzi of the New York section council, Riccardo De Marco, President of the New York section, Gino Vatri, Inter-sectional President of North America, Lanfranco Ceschia, President of the Toronto section, Luigi Buttazzoni, group leader of the autonomous group of Sudbury; in the second row Bonifacio Penna, President of the Ottawa section and Ettore Morganti, President of the Montreal section, can be recognized.



Exchange of gifts between Gino Vatri and Giovanni Gasparet, President of the Pordenone section: Alvis Pegorer of the Aviano group can be recognized behind Gasparet.



jackets, and the membership drive. A refreshment is served at the end. On Sunday, the 11th February, Roberto Buttazzoni, Gino Vatri, and Gerry D'Aquilante take a cheque of the section to the Caritas telethon.

On the 17th February, 1996, the annual dinner dance takes place at the Famee Furlane in which even the Cordovado Club participates: the feast is a resounding success.

On the 14th April, always at the Famee Furlane, an assembly takes place for the distribution of the jackets which were made by the section and sold at a price of forty-five dollars each. During this assembly, after the report of the President, Lanfranco Ceschia, the one of treasurer, Roberto Buttazzoni, and of the Inter-sectional President, as well as, editor of the newspaper Alpini in trasferta, Gino Vatri, there is discussion about the 67th National Gathering in Udine on the 18th and 19th May, 1996, of the 9th Congress of the Italian alpine corps of Canada in Hamilton in 1997. The Black Feathers present even organize the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the monument of Villa Colombo on the 16th June, the picnic on the 7th July in Oakville, and the annual feast on the 22nd February, 1997, at the Famee Furlane.

The 69th National Gathering takes place on the 18th and 19th of May in Udine in which sixty-four Italian alpine corps members are present from Canada. The three members of the committee Buttazzoni, Ceschia, and Pigat, as well as, the untiring Inter-sectional President, Gino Vatri, participate in the gathering. Ceschia, with Gino and Santa Vatri, visit the Udine section where they meet President Toffoletti



1992: Mass at the monument. Giovanni Clauser, Lanfranco Ceschia, President, Umberto Sangoi, Angelo Bortolotto, Renato Rossetti, Gino Vatri, Inter-sectional President, Bartolo Da Ros, Serafino

Rossi, Angelo Colautti, Dante Antonioli, Vito Bartolini, Giovanni Bordignon, Remigio Vatri, Aldo Bartolini, Sisto Pizzin, and Nicola Curato can be recognized in the photo from the left. The four at the centre are the Sectional Vice President, Gerry D'Aquilante, Palmira Ottogalli-Zoratto, Father Vitaliano Papais, sectional chaplain, and Anacleto Vedovat, sectional councillor.





Toronto 1992, Federico Cialdo, Giorgio Zoratto, Silvano Venuto, Luciano Clauser, Attilio Paron, Gino De Zotti, and Renato Pighin can be recognized from the left.



1992 picnic: Domenico Parisse, Pasquale Taccone former group leader of Mississauga, Renato Pighin, Remigio Vatri, and Nevio Meo from the left.



Toronto, 1992: the Association of the Aeronautical Unit at the headquarters of the Italian Army Combatants and Veterans. The military attaché at the Italian Embassy in Ottawa, Vittorio Zardo, the Italian Consul General, Enric'Angelo Ferroni Carli, and the military attaché, Alfio Pagano can be recognized at the centre of the photo.



whom they congratulate for the superb success of the 69th Gathering. During this trip, President Lanfranco Ceschia and Gino Vatri give to the Poor Clare Sisters, the funds collected amongst the Italian alpine corps members of Canada on the occasion of the eighth Congress: the money is used in order to repair a wall of the convent damaged by thieves during a robbery attempt. The President, Lanfranco Ceschia, writes to the members that “the National Gathering of Udine was a success that will be repeated with difficulty both for of the participation of the Italian alpine corps members and for the commotion, of the people, in seeing so many faces which twenty years ago, did all they could, for the help that they gave, for the reconstruction of the earthquake that ravaged Friuli”.

On Sunday, 23rd June, 1996, a Mass is celebrated, by Father Vitaliano Papais, with which the fallen Italian alpine corps members and the 20th anniversary of the monument’s foundation are remembered. The Saint Cecilia Choir, directed by maestro Bruno Deotto, even performs. A lunch is served, in the end, at Villa Colombo. The great annual picnic of the Black Feathers of Toronto takes place on the 7th July at the Fogolar in Oakville: amongst those present are the people originally from the Carnia, Cordovado, and Belluno: Father Papais celebrates Mass, out in the open air. After the military mess, numerous games were organized for big and small alike, a lawn bowling tournament, a briscola tournament, and the extraction of lottery prizes. On the 13th October, 1996, Giuseppe Raimondo, the one hundred and two year old Italian alpine corps member born on the 3rd September, 1894, at Montorio nei Frantani, near Campobasso, dies due to pulmonary complications. Entering to become a part of the Italian alpine corps, he fought in the trenches close to the Piave and Tagliamento Rivers. The first member’s assembly of 1997 takes place on the 2nd February at the Famee Furlane Club in Woodbridge. At the end of the meeting, during which the membership drive, of the year, that has just begun is discussed, the moral and financial report, and the social activities are presented, followed by a refreshment that is served. The annual feast takes place, always at the Famee Furlane, on the 22nd February: the group of Cordovado, lead by the President, Esterina Toneguzzo, joins the Italian alpine corps members. The Nick Trombetta orchestra entertains during the evening.

It is on Sunday, 11th May, that the people of the Black Feathers arrange to meet one another in Reggio Emilia for the 70th Italian alpine corps National Gathering: after the tribute to the National Standard and to President Caprioli, the hundreds of thousands Italian alpine corps members march through the streets of the city. As always, the Italian alpine corps members of Canada were present and in the parade there were the standards of Ottawa, Montreal, Toronto, Windsor, and Calgary. It is with their usual pride that the Italian Canadians represented with pride the two worlds and the two realities, often in antithesis amongst themselves, but united by the same love. Reggio Emilia receives warmth and pays back the same feeling. It was, like all the others, a gathering which re-awoke memories, feelings, emotions, and a lot of fraternity. At a distance of twenty-one years from the earthquake that shook Friuli, on the 16th May, 1997, the Canadian pilot, Captain Donald George McBride, is commemorated by the inhabitants of Avasinis (Udine). The young Canadian aviator lost his life right on the 16th May, 1976, while he was committed in the work of rescuing the Friulian population that were struck by the tremor: his helicopter crashed to the ground in the Torrente locality, a place where the inhabitants of Arvasinis erected a commemorative stone in his honour and where a commemoration ceremony was carried out. Even the President of the Italian alpine corps section of Toronto, Lanfranco Ceschia, was present.

During his visit to Toronto, the President of the Italian Republic, Luigi Oscar Scalfaro, even deposed a wreath at the feet of the Italian alpine corps monument in Toronto at Villa Colombo. Welcoming him in the gardens of Villa Colombo, there were the President of the Toronto section, Lanfranco Ceschia, the group leader of North York, Adolfo D’Intino, the group leader of Welland, Doro Di Donato, numerous Italian alpine corps members and representatives of all of the associations of the Italian Army units. A Mass is celebrated in June at Villa Colombo. The annual picnic takes place on the 6th July at the Oakville park. The 9th Inter-sectional Congress is held in Hamilton from the 29th, 30th and 31st August. In order to be able to participate in the Congress, the Black Feathers of Toronto organize a bus which leaves from Famee Furlane on the 30th August and which brings the Italian alpine corps members back in the afternoon on the following day. There are more than 400 participants in the Congress and they arrive in the “steel city”, as Hamilton is called, from Montreal, Laval, Ottawa, Toronto, Mississauga, North York, Sudbury, Thunder Bay, Guelph, Kitchener-Waterloo, Welland, Windsor, Winnipeg, Edmonton, Calgary, Vancouver, Kelowna, and New York. It is Knight Vittorio Mucci who brings, to all of the Italian alpine



The logo for the eighth Inter-sectional Congress and for the 45th anniversary of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association in Toronto



corps members present, the greetings of President Caprioli and to declare the 9th Congress officially opens, together with Doctor Franza, Gino Vatri, and Fausto Chiocchio. In his report, Gino Vatri points out that at the end of 1996 there are about 1,700 Canadian members while there are 4,288 foreign members. With regards to the scholarships, Gino Vatri says: "In 1995, we received and

distributed three prizes for a total of \$2,439.84. In 1996, we received and distributed 5 prizes for a total of \$4,440.00, thanks to the National, the Italian National Alpine Corps Veterans' Association". The Inter-sectional President says that he is satisfied moreover with the publication of *Alpini in trasferta*: "In these two years, *Alpini in trasferta* has come out four times and I am particularly satisfied with the cooperation of many Italian alpine corps members and friends. Naturally, for the undersigned, *Alpini in trasferta* is a big commitment". After supper, the Italian alpine corps members take part in the performance of the choirs of the Abruzzi Federation and the Sons of Italy. But, it is the performance of the Bagnarola Band which literally enraptures everybody. Born as an Italian alpine corps band, the Bagnarola Band, presented a magnificent patriotic and Italian alpine corps repertoire. It was a performance that was more than pleasant and which even moved many of those present. The idea of the group's performance in Canada was agreed upon by Gino Vatri, in the summer of 1996, during a meeting which took place at Gorgo di Latisana in the province of Udine. The complete tour of the Bagnarola Band protracts itself for 13 days and counts important moments like the concerts held at the Famee Furlane in Toronto, Carmen's Banquet Centre in Hamilton, and the Fogolar Furlan in Windsor, with no less than five-hundred people in every performance.

Monsignor Giorgio Bortolussi, born in Zoppola on the 7th April, 1918, dies on the 3rd September, 1997, in Poffabro. A Mass is celebrated in Toronto in order to remember the figure of Monsignor Bortolussi in the church of Saint Fidelis of which Father Vitaliano Papais, a former student and friend of the deceased, is the pastor. Next to Monsignor Bortolussi's sister, there are: Mrs. Amabile with her daughter Santa and her son-in-law Gino Vatri, the daughter Anna and the son-in-law Vittorio Masolin, the son Battista and the wife Erica Borean, and many townspeople of Zoppola.

An ordinary assembly takes place on the 30th November at the Famee Furlane Club: the members are invited to show up with their hats and jackets in order to continue the tradition. Benvenuto Castellarin, co-secretary of de la bassa, the Association for the study of the Friulian culture in the



Latisana and Portogruaro area, with the aim of verifying the influence of the English language upon the Friulian language, arrives in Toronto. In his quick exploration in Toronto, Castellarin was sided by the Inter-sectional President of the Italian alpine corps members of Canada, Gino Vatri, who has a great passion for the names of places and who maintains relations with the entities of the lower areas of the Friuli region. Having committed himself ever since he was young, to the study and value of Friulian language, history and culture, Castellarin dedicated himself entirely, and in the difficult role of a self-taught person, to this activity and to the association, receiving in 1989 the decoration of Knight of the Republic.

During the extraordinary assembly of the 18th January at the Famme Furlane Club, the membership drive, the social activities are taken into consideration and the moral and financial report are presented. The annual banquet is held on the 31st January, always at the Famme Furlane Club: it is the Zodiac Band that entertains during the evening. A raffle is moreover organized whose proceeds are sent to the Caritas Project. From a letter of secretary Roberto Buttazzoni, it turns out that there are 203 members in the Toronto section: 130 in the Toronto area, 39 in North York, and 34 in Mississauga. On the 18th March, in a letter signed by both the President, Lanfranco Ceschia, and by the Inter-sectional President, Gino Vatri, it can be read: "In relation to the next upcoming Italian political elections, for the first time, with the direct participation and vote of Italians residing abroad, the Italian National Alpine Corps Veterans' Association, in agreement with the spirit of Italianness, which has always distinguished it, holds its own candidates for a seat in the House of Deputies, and a seat in the House of Senators, running as independents, in the lists of an Italian political grouping. Mr. Antonio Faraco (House of Deputies) and Tonino Giallonardo (House of Senators) is compatible with our principles. The Association, aware of its own representative ness, which involves a very high number of our fellow countrymen and families of demobilized Italian alpine corps members residing in Canada and, as former members of the Italian Armed Forces, makes it known that with this, it does not intend to get involved in the party-dominated or purely political decay of the Italian panorama, given that this is forbidden by our Associative Statute in force, but understood as a necessity of presence, of our "representative mouthpieces", in the midst of the two Italian Legislative Houses".

On the 9th March there is the important appointment of the 71st National Gathering in Padua in which there is the participation from Canada of the Inter-sectional President, Gino Vatri, and from the Committee of the Toronto section, Remigio Vatri, Antonio Pigat, and the members Bortolo Daros, Bortolotto Angelo besides the Vice Leader of the Mississauga group, Valentino Fellini. There are about fifty members with the banners of the sections of Montreal, Toronto, Ottawa, Hamilton, Windsor and the groups of Laval, Mississauga, Toronto, and Winnipeg: with Gino Vatri, with past and present Presidents of the sections and group leaders, proud even if tired of the "double boot camp". "The President of the Veneto Region, Giancarlo Galan, unusually timid and moved at the meeting with the foreign sections – it can be read in the 26th issue of *Alpini in trasferta* – will say: "Wherever you are, transmit the values of the lands that have welcomed you, and at the same time, transmit the values of the lands that saw you being born. I thank you for what you are and for what you do".

In 1998, great festivities are organized for the twenty-second anniversary of the Italian alpine troop's corps Association of North York. The Provincial Member of Parliament, Annamaria Castrilli, and the representatives of the different associations of the Italian army intervene in the celebration organized, at the Casablanca Banquet Hall, by the President of the committee, Adolfo D'Intino, the Vice President, Riccardo Fulgenzi, the treasurer, Nello D'Intino, the secretary, Riccardo Meta, and the councillors, Fabrizio Capovilla, Alpino Colangelo, Paolo Gismondi, Claudio Milani and Arnaldo Troiola. A thousand people take part in the traditional picnic of the Italian alpine corps characterized by the participation in the "military mess". During the long day, at the Fogolar Furlan, the participants were entertained with games, raffles and music. The fun lasted until sunset, making the picnic fun has a success that is repeated every year. "the greatest attraction was the preparation of the mess. A lot of curious people and even people who experienced that era or who perhaps heard of it were enthused by it", says Gino Vatri. A small article entitled "With the Italian alpine corps in order to celebrate the silver jubilee" is published in the newspaper *Il Corriere Canadese*. Arriving in Canada is the news of the delegation from San Vito al Tagliamento for the twenty-five years of the club. Heading the delegation of 43 people are the mator, Luciano Del Fre, and the Monsignor Archdeacon Nicola Biancat. The tour touched upon Toronto, Niagara Falls, Quebec City, Montreal, and Ottawa. Awaiting the delegation were 450 natives of San Vito



and over 50 Italian alpine corps members lead by Gino Vatri, Lanfranco Ceschia, President of the Toronto section, the entire sectional Council and the President of the Windsor section, Agostino Brun, who greeted the delegation, during the course of an evening, which took place at the Famee Furlane where the history of the club was discussed and the numerous activities were listed. Silvio Fava, the President of the San Vito al Tagliamento Club, played the host. Even the National Councillor of the Italian alpine corps, Knight Lucio Vadori, who is even the Vice President Vicar, of the Pordenone section, was a part of the delegation that arrived from Italy. Lucio brought to the Italian alpine corps members of Canada the greeting of the new national President, Giuseppe Parazzini, and of Giovanni Gasparet, President of the Pordenone section. Even the Major of the Canadian Armed Forces, Roberto Mazzolin, who worked beside the Italian alpine corps soldiers in Somalia, participates in the celebration of the 4th November.

In 1993, Major Mazzoli received a Solemn Commendation, on the part of the Chief of Staff, of the Italian army. Even Colonel Spagnoli, assistant military attaché at the Italian Embassy in Ottawa is present in the celebration. On the pages of the 27th issue of *Alpini in trasferta* a small article is dedicated to Tony Pigat. The title is explicative of the contents: "Tony Pigat, a like with the Italian alpine corps". Gino Vatri writes: "Antonio Pigat was born in Villotta, in the Province of Pordenone, 60 years ago. He worked in Switzerland from 1962 to 1966 and arrived in Canada on the 5th October of the same year. He is married to Marcella since 1963 and they have two daughters: Roberta and Angela. I met Tony twenty years ago on a job site in Pickering. I was always looking for members, for the Toronto section, of the Italian alpine corps. Tony only became a member in 1992 and immediately after he was elected a councillor of the section. Since 1992, he has been participating in all of the traditional gatherings in Italy and, during the parade, he has always been carrying the banner of the sections of Canada".

Another small article, accompanied by two beautiful photographs, is instead, dedicated to the passing away of the Canadian senator Peter Bosa, born on the 2nd May, 1927 at Bertiole in the province of Udine and who emigrated to Canada in 1948. Appointed as a senator, in 1977, by the then Prime Minister, Pierre Elliott Trudeau, he actively participated in the activities of the Italian alpine corps of North America.

In 1981, he took part in the 1st Congress of the Italian alpine corps in Vancouver and in 1983, he was present in Udine on the occasion of the National Gathering. Senator Bosa participated in numerous ceremonies organized, during the course of the years, by the Toronto section. In the article published on page 8 of the 28th issue of *Alpini in trasferta* (July 1999) entitled *La piu beja fameja*, the visit organized by the Municipality to Toronto in order to participate in the festivities organized by the San Vito al Tagliamento Club on the occasion of its 25th foundation anniversary, is almost compared to a humanitarian mission. A delegation, this one, lead by the mayor, Luciano Del Fre, of which was a part the national councillor, Lucio Vadori, who with the pleasure of seeing distant friends and relatives combined the one of meeting the Italian alpine corps members of the second boot camp of Ontario and Quebec, bringing as well the greetings of President Parazzini and of the section.

The Canadian stay of the delegation is rich in commitments and appointments: amongst these four meetings with the Italian alpine corps members. The first one, with the ones of Ontario, is held at the Famee Furlane: there are about 500 fellow countrymen who participate in the gala evening. The large presence of Italian alpine corps members of Ontario, gathering together with their respective wives in order to meet the guests who have come from Italy is headed by the Inter-sectional President of North America, Gino Vatri, by the President of the Toronto section, Lanfranco Ceschia, with the entire sectional council and by the President of the Windsor section, Agostino Brun. After a brief visit to Montreal and Ottawa, the delegation returns to Toronto in order to prepare itself to return to Italy. Accompanied by the dynamic Gino Vatri, Lucio Vadori and his wife reach Hamilton where they meet Engineer Fausto Chioocchio, the President of the Hamilton section from Abruzzo. A quick visit is not missing to Niagara on the Lake, a splendid tourist locality just a stone's throw away from Niagara Falls. "These old soldiers of ours (but not only them) having arrived on Canadian soil, a great and severe country which has always offered and still offers a lot of opportunities for whoever knows how to seize them, by struggling in a hard and tenacious way have created for themselves and for their families the conditions for a prosperous and solid future – writes Lucio Vadori, author of the article that appeared in *Alpini in trasferta* – almost all now have laid their "rucksack on the ground" and are now grandparents, they will no longer



return home because their roots are there by now and they know it. But, they do not give up, far from the corrupting air of our world they have remained faithful to themselves, proud of the Feather on behalf of which they vividly maintain in their heart, the love for that Motherland which once upon a time was their stepmother and which now, ungrateful, as well as forgetful, continues considering them as second class citizens. Reduced in numbers and without any possibility for support, they are perfectly aware of their associative future but, precisely because of this, just as determined to preserve, for future generations, the great inheritance of the Italian alpine corps which they knew how to accumulate, a reconstructed and appreciated brand of the Made in Italy. Of course, with their dignified firmness, they remain a stimulating example for our daily weaknesses”.

About 300 thousand Black Feathers take part in the 72nd National Gathering of the Italian alpine corps which is held in Cremona in the month of May. Behind the banner “The Italian alpine corps of Canada always presents” the Italian alpine corps members march with the standards of the sections of Hamilton, Toronto, and Montreal. The Black Feathers choose a theme for every Gathering: that year it is compulsory military service which sets off the debate. Two guests intervene on different positions: Gianni Rivera, Under-Secretary of Defence and Roberto Formigoni, President of the Lombardy region. Rivera sustains that “the spirit can be understood with which this continuity is being proposed”, but he affirms that “there are some requirements which regard the totality of the country”. For Formigoni, instead “conscription has to remain as an important gesture; there is a strong and clear call here, which seems to me to have to be accepted”. The Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans’ Association choir of the Milan section performs at the Famee Furlane on the 1st October. The choir, born in September of 1949 under the aegis of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans’ Association, is presented in Toronto by the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans’ Association and the Italian Institute of Culture. On page 12 of the 28th issue of *Alpini in trasferta* it can be read: “The choir, throughout almost fifty years of uninterrupted artistic activity has progressively renewed its own repertoire, made up of not only Italian alpine corps and military songs, but has dedicated itself to the recovery of regional popular songs of its own areas of enormous historical interest and almost unknown, having by now entered into the repertoire of the choir itself, contributing, in such a way, to keeping a musical and poetic document of enormous importance alive”.

On the 9th, 10th and 11th of October, the New York section (the President being Riccardo De Marco, the Vice President Attilio Cometto, 76 members for the year of 1997) hosts the 10th Inter-sectional Congress of the Italian alpine corps of Canada and the United States. It seems to have been founded in 1926 by Santi Brun Del Re, Luigi Mion, Alberto Candido, and Lawyer Caputo, but certain news in this regard are missing. The section was however forced to disband with the outbreak of World War II. It was in the autumn of 1981, during a meeting between the President of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans’ Association section of Pordenone, Candotti, and Riccardo De Marco, a resident of New York, that the idea is born of reconstituting the section which on the 16th January, 1982, is officially constituted. This section gathers together Italian alpine corps members from New York City, and the States of New Jersey, Connecticut, Florida, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Wisconsin, and West Virginia.

In the 1990’s, the New York section strengthens its bond with the Italian alpine corps of Canada so much so that, in 1997, it decides to join itself to their activities, by participating in the Congresses and in the initiatives of the Inter-sectional Commission. At the 10th Congress of the Italian alpine corps of Canada and the United States, the participation is massive: a lot of songs, a lot of joy, a lot of speeches like the one of the Inter-sectional President, Gino Vatri, of the National President, Doctor Giuseppe Parazzini, of the Italian Consul General in New York, and of the military attaché at the Italian Embassy in Washington. About 500 Black Feathers march along Fifth Street in New York: on the previous Sunday, they participate in the Columbus Day parade, lead by their National President Parazzini, and as a witness of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans’ Association’s constant presence, where a testimony of Italianness wants to be given, and the spirit of solidarity and fraternity which know no borders. In New York, Gino Vatri, already at the summit since 1983, is reconfirmed as President. The Vice Presidency is instead re-entrusted to Vittorio Marcon of Calgary and Virginio Soldara of Montreal while the secretary is Bonifacio Penna of Ottawa. In that year the Franco Bertagnolli scholarship, of the value of a million Italian liras each is assigned to the Camillo Panziani, the grandson of Giuseppe Di Cicco and to Luca Vatri, the son of Gino Vatri.





Alpini in Trasferta

NOTIZARIO DELLE SEZIONI DELL'ASSOCIAZIONE NAZIONALE ALPINI IN CANADA

VIII CONGRESSO

DEGLI ALPINI DEL CANADA

35° ANNIVERSARIO DI FONDAZIONE DELLA SEZIONE DI TORONTO

TORONTO, 1 - 2 - 3 SETTEMBRE, 1995



letter to National President Parazzini (even sent to Professor Mario Bari, delegate for contacts with the Foreign Sections and to Doctor Giovanni Franza, coordinator for contacts with the Foreign Sections) in which he manifests his thought: "In my report in New York I mentioned the right (which we now have) of being able to vote (on the spot), a right however to be perfected.

Considering the enormous majority of parliamentarians, almost a unanimity, which came down in favour of the law, it was a truly exceptional fact awaited by many Italians residing abroad, who, if they wanted, had to return to Italy. Italy, in fact, was one of the few countries that did not allow the exercising of the vote abroad... Voting is easy for whoever resides in Italy and perhaps in Europe: for the Americas and for Australia, where the communities are of big dimensions, it will be a real problem... When I became a Canadian citizen, Italy took my Italian citizenship away. Now it has given it back to me. With or without Italian citizenship I will always be Italian at heart, I taught my children to be proud to be Canadian, but even to be proud of their Italian roots. Loving Canada does not mean hating Italy!... In 1977 (the year, I believe, of the collection of signatures on the part of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association) the "great" majority of Italian emigrants had already acquired Canadian citizenship and automatically lost the Italian one; already back then with or without the law they would in any case have not been able to vote. In recent times only a small number of people reacquired Italian citizenship even because the wait at the Italian Consulates were very long. Equally, however, the law gave rise to a great interest, not only amongst the Italian parties, very well represented here, but even amongst the various Italian army associations which are very numerous here in Canada. There is much more naturally, I hope, however, of having managed to clarify at least in part our point of view".

The extraordinary assembly of the Toronto section is held on the 16th January, 2000, at the Friuli Centre in Woodbridge. The section celebrates, on the 29th January at the Famee Furlane, in Toronto, its fortieth foundation anniversary in joy: supper, music of the Zodiac Band, and the presence of the Cordovado Club group, lead by the President Esterina Toneguzzo, and the Pasiano Club group lead by

The letter sent by Giuseppe Parazzini to the Presidents of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association sections abroad about the vote to the Italian immigrants is dated the 27th October, 1999: "The constitutional reform has definitively been approved which allows Italians abroad access to the ballot boxes. In practice, the reform consists of a single article, a modification to article 48 of the Constitution, which recites: 'The law establishes requirements and modalities; for the exercising of the right to vote of citizens, residing abroad, and assures their effectiveness. With such an aim, a Foreign circumscription is instituted for the election of the Houses, to which seats are assigned in the number established constitutionally and according to criteria determined by the law' – writes Giuseppe Parazzini to Gino Vatri – in relation to what precedes, this Presidency would like to know, within the 31st January 2000, the thoughts of the associates abroad, on the newly approved law, which concludes a journey by the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association proposed already way back in 1977". On the 25th November, Vatri responds with a long



Egidio Martin. Gino Vatri, Inter-sectional President for Canada and the United States, welcomes those present: "For the Italian alpine corps members, there are no borders, the Italian alpine corps members are Italian alpine corps members and that's it", Vatri recalled. About 500 people participated in the evening amongst which numerous personalities like Judy Sgro, newly elected Member of Parliament, who, during the last twelve years has always participated in the section's initiatives, the Italian Vice Consul, Zanini, Dan Iannuzzi and Elena Caprile, respectively founder and director of the *Corriere Canadese*, and Olga Zorzi Pugliese, director of the Emilio Goggi teaching chair of the University of Toronto. Sgro gave to the Italian alpine corps, insofar as a representative of the Canadian government, a parchment.

This had been, amongst other things, the ideal occasion for the official handing over ceremony from the outgoing President of the Association, Lanfranco Ceschia, to the incoming President, Roberto Buttazzoni. Even Ersilio Polentarutti and Ciriaco Federico, more than eighty years old and veterans of the Russia, Greece and Albania campaigns, participate in the feast. Professor Olga Zorzi Pugliese even writes a letter to Gino Vatri in order to thank the Italian alpine corps for the beautiful evening spent together: "On behalf of all of the deans of the Italian Department of the University of Toronto, I want to above all thank you for the example of generosity and genuine patronage for the studies that you give with your donation, thus reviving an old tradition of yours which goes back to the times of Professor Chandler", writes Olga Zorzi Pugliese, while another letter addressed to Vatri belongs to Maria Antonietta Cina, winner of the scholarship given by the Italian alpine corps: "I would like to thank you and the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association for donating \$1,000.00. It's great to know that associations like the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association donate money to encourage students, like myself, to study the Italian culture, language and traditions abroad".

At the 73rd National Gathering of Brescia, on the 12th, 13th and 14th May, 2000, the Toronto section is represented by Lanfranco Ceschia, Antonio Pigat and Antonio Castellarin. Thousands of people take part in the parade: "Brescia will remember the Italian alpine corps for a long time, with their human charge, which for three days shook the historical centre – it can be read in issue 30 of *Alpini in trasferta* – the meeting with the representatives of the foreign sections, witnesses of an Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association without barriers, took place in the auditorium of Saint Barbara".

The President of the Italian Republic, sends for the occasion, a message to the President of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association, Giuseppe Parazzini: "I am particularly pleased to send an inaugural greeting to all of the Italian alpine corps members in the army or discharged, who celebrate in the city of Brescia their 73rd National Gathering. It is just as dear to me to renew the feelings of gratitude, affection and profound appreciation which the nation has always nurtured towards her Italian alpine corps. They are the custodians of an inestimable inheritance which descends from the pride of having served in the Italian alpine corps, from the ancient traditions of the Italian and mountain peoples and from many, glorious pages of history which hand down the value in war of the soldiers of yesterday and the commitment of those today in foreign peacekeeping missions".



INTER-SECTIONAL CONGRESSES OF CANADA



THUNDER BAY 1991



MONTREAL 1989



VANCOUVER 1981



WINDSOR 1987



OTTAWA 1985



ITALIAN NATIONAL ALPINE TROOPS CORPS VETERANS' ASSOCIATION – INTER-SECTIONAL COMMISSION – CANADA
1 HAVERHILL CIRCLE, TORONTO, ONTARIO M6L-2R7





MILANO 1992



VERONA 1990

VERONA ASSOCIAZIONE NAZIONALE ALPINI
12-13 MAGGIO 1990 63ª ADUNATA NAZIONALE



UDINE 1983

GLI ALPINI DEL CANADA ALLE ADUNATE NAZIONALI



TORINO 1988



ADUNATA DEL 1974



ADUNATA DEL 1974



MILANO 1992



**THE ITALIAN ALPINE CORPS OF CANADA
AT THE NATIONAL GATHERINGS**





BARI 1993

BARI 15-16 MAGGIO 66^a ADUNATA NAZIONALE



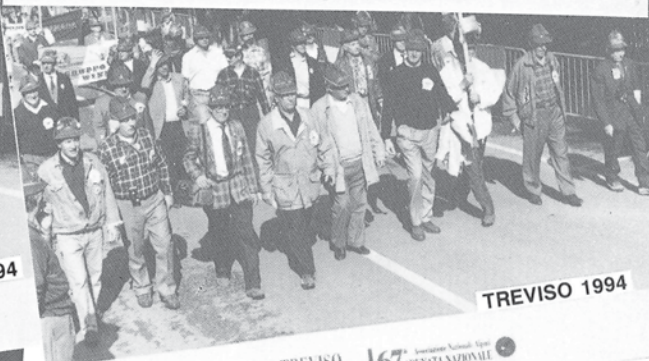
TREVISO 1994

TREVISO 11-15 MAGGIO 1994 167^a ADUNATA NAZIONALE



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TREVISO 1994

TREVISO 11-15 MAGGIO 1994 167^a ADUNATA NAZIONALE



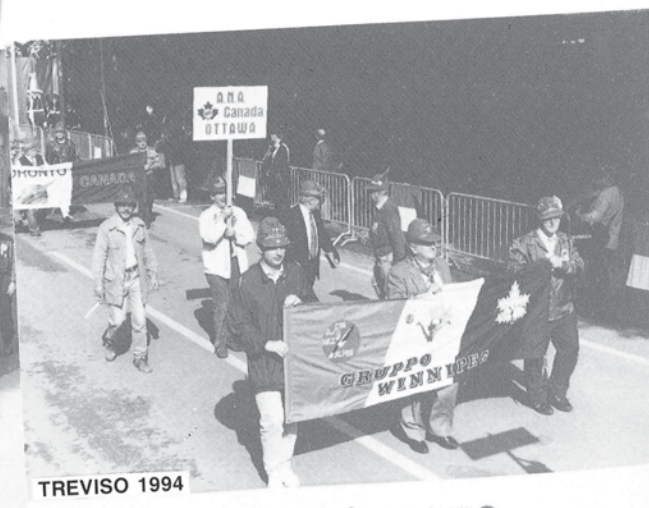
TREVISO 1994

TREVISO 11-15 MAGGIO 1994 167^a ADUNATA NAZIONALE

GLI ALPINI DEL CANADA ALLE ADUNATE NAZIONALI



TREVISO 1994



TREVISO 1994

THE ITALIAN ALPINE CORPS OF CANADA
AT THE NATIONAL GATHERINGS



In Canada la solidarietà è la promessa degli alpini

L'8° Congresso internazionale e il 35° anniversario della fondazione della sezione di Toronto

di Vitaliano Peduzzi

Nella storia della nostra Associazione, nel capitolo che tratta le sezioni all'estero, troviamo questo esordio: «Le nostre sezioni all'estero non costituiscono un elemento folcloristico per sfilate o adunate, né un pretesto patetico per frasi tornite. Sono la testimonianza concreta e vivente di un duro lavoro, di un distacco imposto dalla necessità di una madrepatria povera. Sono anche un motivo sacrosanto di orgoglio, orgoglio di italiani e di alpini, perché esse — costituite dagli alpini "della doppia naja" — hanno saputo creare attorno a sé, alle proprie capacità, alle proprie sobrie virtù, stima e rispetto in ambienti che, quanto meno all'inizio, erano generalmente in attesa spesso non benevola. Sono anche la nostalgia di casa, perché per l'emigrante il concetto solenne ma astratto di patria, si concreta nel concetto umile ma tangibile di casa. Le nostre sezioni all'estero sono un centro di italianità, poiché attorno ad esse frequentemente si riuniscono le varie istituzioni e società costituite fra i nostri emigranti».

Il viaggio in Canada di un cospicuo gruppo di alpini e famiglie — guidato dal presidente nazionale Caprioli — per partecipare all'8° Congresso intersezionale alpini del Canada e alle cerimonie celebrative del 35° anniversario della fondazione della sezione di Toronto, il contatto diretto con questi nostri amici e la partecipazione ai loro lavori, ci hanno confermato la validità delle affermazioni sopra riportate.

I giorni 1, 2, 3 settembre li abbiamo trascorsi a Toronto, proprio per prendere parte al Congresso e ai festeggiamenti. Il 1° settembre, nella sala dell'Holiday Inn, rassegna di cori alpini ed è giusto citarli qui: la Corale abruzzese, il coro S. Marco, il coro S. Cecilia (friulani) e un quartetto di ottoni diretto dal maestro Leonardelli. Affluenza di pubblico da sfidare la legge fisica della

impenetrabilità dei corpi, brillante regia del nostro presidente Caprioli e di Gino Vatri, presidente della Commissione Intersezionale ANA Canada, assistito dal presidente della sezione di casa Gianfranco Ceschia.

Sabato 2 settembre, lavori del Congresso presso il centro «da Vinci Banquet Hall» con la partecipazione di due delegati per ogni sezione e gruppo, oltre alla commissione intersezionale al completo. Per la sede nazionale, il presidente Caprioli, il vice presidente vicario Parazzini, il delegato ai contatti con le sezioni all'estero Franza. Dopo i saluti di rito, i congressisti hanno efficacemente sviluppato gli argomenti all'ordine del giorno.

Da rilevare sia l'ottima relazione morale di Gino Vatri, alpino d.o.c., caratterizzata da richiami allo spirito alpino e da notizie

organizzative, sia le relazioni che i delegati hanno svolto sulla attività delle rispettive sezioni o gruppi autonomi. Di particolare rilievo: i lamenti per i ritardi, nell'arrivo de «L'Alpino»; le iniziative per la raccolta di fondi; la esigenza di migliorare il contenuto di «Alpini in trasferta»; l'esigenza di dotare la commissione intersezionale di un fax (che poi è stato offerto dal presidente Caprioli); la scelta di Hamilton quale sede del congresso 1997. Tutti i dibattiti si sono svolti all'insegna della massima cordialità, del rispetto delle altrui opinioni, in modo franco e costruttivo.

C'è qualcosa che va riportato in questa cronaca in modo analitico, perché è la prova concreta di come il mondo alpino del Canada sia aperto alla solidarietà in ogni settore. Non è una elencazione burocrati-

IL QUOTIDIANO INDIPENDENTE - FONDATA NEL 1954

CORRIERE CANADESE

Fiercely
Canadian

The Italic Daily News

Proudly
Italian

Testata del quotidiano in lingua italiana pubblicato in Canada. Le due scritte dicono: «Fieramente canadesi» e «Orgogliosamente italiani»



Il Comitato del congresso. Secondo da sinistra, il cappellano militare don Papois



Il presidente nazionale Caprioli e il coordinatore delle sezioni canadesi Gino Vatri

ca: è la doverosa documentazione di un impegno costante. A tale proposito, capita inevitabilmente di riflettere che in Italia non pochi gruppi organizzano feste (magari troppo lunghe, magari troppo poco alpine) che hanno un successo economico; ma di questo successo non si hanno poi rendiconti. È certamente tutto regolare e a fin di bene, ma sarebbe anche giusto documentarlo, proprio come hanno fatto nel loro Congresso le sezioni e i gruppi del Canada. Eccovi il dettaglio:

Calgary - Contributo per l'Associazione di aiuto in montagna (Stars Foundation) 5.000 dollari; donazione Istituto cancro e handicappati; 500 dollari per Alessandria; **Vancouver** - Donazione di sangue; aiuto all'ospedale dei bambini malati; **Sudbury** - Operazione Sorriso; interventi presso l'Ospedale locale; **Winnipeg** - 500 dollari per gli alluvionati; contributo all'ospedale per bambini; **Ottawa** - 3000 dollari per la casa per anziani; donazione sangue; 500 dollari pro alluvionati, e offerta per una bimba di

Alessandria che dovrà andare a Philadelphia per il primo soggiorno; **Thunderbay** - 500 dollari per Operazione Sorriso; 2 borse di studio; Coro alpino; **Windsor** - 1000 dollari per 2 ragazzi bisognosi; **Hamilton e Calgary** - edizione di un proprio notiziario; **Mississauga** - donazioni ad alpini bisognosi; **Toronto** - donazione alla Sede nazionale di Milano di 500 dollari da parte di un alpino, per ricordare il figlio handicappato (autistico). Ogni anno, donazione all'ospedale dei bambini da parte di Gino Va-

Nonno Giuseppe oltre il secolo!

Questa foto è eccezionale: scattata a Villa Colombo, a Toronto, il 3 settembre, mostra il decano degli alpini canadesi, Giuseppe Raimondo, che proprio in quel giorno compiva i 101 anni.



Da sinistra: il capo della polizia di London Ontario, Fantino, Barella, Franza, Caprioli, l'addetto militare italiano, col. De Volansky, il console Scocclimarro



Alpini canadesi attorno a tre insegne. Da sinistra: il gagliardetto del gruppo di Mississauga (sez. Toronto) e i vessilli delle sezioni di New York e di Windsor



Da sinistra: Pigat, don Papais, Santa Vatri, Gino Vatri, Caprioli



Sfila la sezione di Windsor

tri, per ricordare il figlio che per 5 anni è stato ammalato di leucemia; **Montreal** - 1 biglietto a un alpino per l'Adunata nazionale, donazione di sangue; contributo di 800 dollari (2° contributo) per Rossosch; 1000 dollari per Alessandria; 200 dollari per maratona per poveri; pranzo per vecchi e famiglie bisognose; **Edmonton** - Operazione Sorriso; interventi per alluvionati; **Weland** - Contributi a un ospedale; **Hamilton** - Contributo alla lotta anticancro; costruzione di un pozzo d'acqua in Guatemala; Donazione sangue; nuova sede; **Laval** - Spettacoli teatrali (3) per bambini poveri; lavori per la Chiesa; offerte per i lebbrosi in Africa.

Un cenno anche alla sezione di New York, che ha partecipato ai lavori: una donazione annuale a due ospedali e l'offerta di una sedia a rotelle per handicappati. Se qualcuno troverà questo elenco un po' lungo (e quindi noioso) pensi che è il frutto dello spirito di solidarietà e di iniziativa, dell'impegno permanente e della buona volontà di un esiguo numero di nostri alpini all'estero. E si pente di averlo trovato noioso.

Sempre sabato 2 settembre, alla da Vinci Banquet Hall, serata di gala, presenti Caprioli, Parazzini, Franza, il direttore de «L'Alpino» Peduzzi, parecchi consiglieri nazionali, il nostro addetto militare presso l'Ambasciata di Ottawa col. De Volanski e, per il Canada, Al Palladini ministro dei trasporti della Provincia (che è l'equivalente di uno Stato Federato) dell'Ontario e il capo della polizia della stessa Provincia Julian Fantino, oriundi italiani. Una breve sfilata dei vessilli e dei gagliardetti delle sezioni e gruppi venuti dall'Italia, insieme con quelli canadesi, alla quale segue l'esecuzione degli inni nazionali canadese e italiano. Le sezioni italiane offrono alle consorelle canadesi guidoncini e ricordi. Quindi discorsi di saluto, cena e danze. Un dato che vale per tutti: alla serata erano presenti 1.200 persone.

Le giornate di Toronto si chiudono domenica 3 settembre, alla Villa Colombo, una bella sede con un vasto parco alla quale fanno capo molte associazioni italiane e italo-canadesi. Una giornata che bisognerebbe inventarla per ricreare una atmosfera così dolce e solenne: piacevolmente fresca, sole che filtra tra gli alberi dello splendido parco, decine e decine di vessilli e gagliardetti, l'ambiente meglio adatto per la messa all'aperto celebrata davanti al monumento all'Alpino, che reca una dedica nella quale è riassunta nel minimo di parole e nel massimo di verità la nostra storia: «A te, Alpino d'Italia, che in pace e in guerra non hai mai detto no al richiamo della Patria».

Benedizione del nuovo vessillo della sezione di Toronto e di un gagliardetto, brevi discorsi di saluto del nostro presidente, di Gino Vatri, del celebrante don Papais e del vice console d'Italia a Toronto Scoccimarro.

Il nostro viaggio, le cerimonie, il Congresso sono finiti. Grazie, alpini del Canada, amici lontani nello spazio e vicini al nostro cuore, di averci dato la commovente possibilità di viverli con voi. Di tutto cuore, un abbraccio. ■



1st PART

Italian Alpine Corps Soldiers

Chapter *- V -*

2001-2004



Genoa, the standards of the seven Canadian sections: the first to the left is the one of the Toronto section carried by Luigi Pigat, the brother of Tony Pigat.

It is during the course of the annual assembly of the Toronto section that the new directive council is appointed. The new President is Roberto Buttazoni who takes over from Lanfranco Ceschia while the other components of the sectional council are Gino Vatri, Giovanni Toneguzzo, Anacleto Vedovat, Gerry D'Aquilante, Lanfranco Ceschia, Remigio Vatri, Tony Pigat and Luciano Bellus.

The fifth itinerant congress of the Italian alpine corps press is held in Biella on the 31st March and 1st April, 2001. Even the Inter-sectional President, as well as, editor of *Alpini in trasferta*, Gino Vatri, participates in the congress. There are well over 47 contributions amongst which the one of the editor of *La piu beja fameja*, of the Pordenone section, Daniele Pellissetti. Excellent is the organization and warm is the welcome of the Italian alpine corps of Biella which organized the Congress.

On the 19th and 20th May, Genoa hosts the 74th National Gathering of the Italian alpine corps: it is the enthusiasm of all of the participants which acts as the lion's part in this appointment. Numerous Italian alpine corps members of Canada arrive in the Ligurian city: amongst them there is Melchior Vendramini, Sergio De Paoli, Virginio Soldera, Bruno Schiocchet and Ettore Morganti, Agostino Brun, Antonio Pigat and many others.

All of the foreign sections are welcomed with affection by the crowd crowded on the sides of the route: applause accompany the parade of the Black Feathers of Canada and of the ones of New York.

On the 1st and 2nd September, the 11th Congress is held in Windsor of the Italian alpine corps of North America: about 300 people come from Italy between Italian alpine corps members and friends lead by the National Vice President Vicar Corrado Perona, by the Vice President Carlo Balestra and by Lucio Vadori, in place of Mario Bau.

On the 23rd September, 2001, the monument is dedicated to the young police officer, Alberto La Rocca and is inaugurated in Vaughan: the Italian alpine corps members are present in great numbers.

Gino Vatri participates in the festivities, on the occasion of the 30th founding anniversary of the section of Vancouver, at the 25th founding anniversary of the North York section, at the feasts and ceremonies of the Italian alpine corps groups and sections and of other associations where the presence of the Black Feathers is requested.

On the 25th November, 2001, the general assembly is held in the hall beneath the Friuli Centre of the Toronto section during which there is talk about the 2002 membership drive, the social activities, the annual feast of the 26th January, 2002, and the moral and financial report is presented.

It is during a festive evening, at the Famee Furlane, that the Italian alpine corps appointed Julian Fantino an honorary Major. The same occasion is taken in order to hand over a scholarship to Olga Pugliese Zorzi, Dean of the Department of Italian Studies at the University of Toronto so that a student can





Toronto, Villa Colombo: the work of the monument's re-placing is at a good point. JoeDe Luca, Jerry D'Aquilante and Roberto Buttazzoni can be noticed in the photo. The Toronto section will begin a collection of funds at the picnic in favour of Villa Colombo.



Tony Pigat and Roberto Buttazzoni place the eagle on top of the monument



The work is almost finished: in the photo, from the left Gino Vatri, Lanfranco Ceschia, Roberto Buttazzoni, and Remigio Vatri and, seated, Jerry D'Aquilante.



The National President Giuseppe Parazzini, with Tony Pigat, while at the centre of the photo General Silverio Vecchio, the person in charge of the Italian National Alpine Corps Veterans' Association Studies Centre can be recognized.



go to school to perfect his/her Italian at the University of Siena. In the article published by the *Corriere Canadese* newspaper on the date of the 30th January, 2001, and entitled "Julian Fantino, a

"Major" of the Italian alpine corps", it can be read: "In the span of a few minutes, the "recruit" Julian Fantino entered into the Italian alpine corps and became one of its Majors. First he had to follow the initiation rite: he paid homage to the "grandfather", Lanfranco Ceschia, taking in his honour the traditional jump with which he hopped over a hat that was laid on the ground, then he was appointed a commander; at this point he was able to put his hat on with the white feather of the superior officers". Toronto Chief of Police Fantino thus affirmed: "This hat which you have given to me is important like the uniform that I wear: it represents the connection between the Motherland that I left when I was eleven years old, Italy and Friuli, and the one that I found here, Canada. Thank you, I am moved and honoured". At the end of the evening a lot of traditional and modern dance music rhythms were proposed: "The dancing was interrupted by a raffle, whose proceeds, Gino Vatri said, will be sent to the flood victims in the Piedmont region of Italy. Another sign of generosity that with the Italian alpine corps members becomes solidarity", concludes the *Corriere Canadese*.

In 1978, the Italian alpine corps members of Toronto "make" the front page of *L'Alpino*: after twenty-three years, thanks to Pietro Gavazza, an attentive Italian alpine corps member from Condove, this issue published in February 1978 enters into possession of the Black Feathers in Toronto: the title of the article written by Vitaliano Peduzzi is "Still The Red Passport".

The Italian alpine corps members of the Toronto section even wanted to be present at the inauguration of the new wing of Villa Colombo, an event of great festivity for the whole community. Roberto Buttazzoni, President of the Toronto section, handed over a \$5,000.00 cheque to Pal Di Iulio, executive director of the Columbus Centre.

Three hundred people participate in the festivities organized by the North York group of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association on the occasion of its twenty-fifth anniversary. Many are the associations present at the celebration amongst which the ones of the Combatants, the State Police, the Sailors, the supporters and friends of the State Police, the Targeters besides naturally Gino Vatri, Inter-sectional President of the Italian alpine corps of North America.

The 11th Inter-sectional Congress of the Italian alpine corps of North America is held from the 29th August to the 3rd September in Windsor. Six days full of commitments and enthusiasm, even of commotion. The official delegation of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association made up of the National Vice President Vicar Corrado Perona, of the National Vice President Carlo Balestra and of Lucio Vadori, national councillor and IFMS representative, arrived at the airport in Toronto on the 29th August, with the aim of meeting the Italian alpine corps members of Ontario and in order to participate in the work of the 11th Congress of the Italian alpine corps of North America organized in Windsor where the Windsor section itself even celebrated its 34th foundation anniversary. The anniversary is celebrated on the 2nd September in the big park of the Fogolar: Overall about 3 thousand people are pres-





An image of the parade of the Canadian sections in front of the stage of honour during the 75th National Gathering of the Italian alpine corps held on the 11th and 12th, May, 2002



Paolo Sacconi of the Parma group on a visit to Toronto, for business reasons, is welcomed by the coordinator, Gino Vatri, and by the Council of the Toronto section. The moment of the exchange of gifts in the photo



Villa Colombo: in the photo, Cristina Plancher, with the Italian alpine corps members of Toronto during the handing over of some gifts, to the lovely singer, who in Toronto, performed for Pope John Paul II.



Gino Vatri and Roberto Buttazzoni with the Italian Vice Consul Riccardo Zanini.



ent between Italian alpine corps members and their family members. The Mayor of Windsor, Michael D. Hurst, and the Italian

Vice Consul, Liliana Scotti Busi, are remembered amongst the authorities present. Presiding over the Mass is Father Giuseppe Bagatto, a devoted Friulian from San Daniele del Friuli, in Canada, for over 50 years. In the article published in the 33rd issue of *Alpini in trasferta* entitled "A bath of moving Italianness amongst the Black Feathers of the second boot camp at the 11th Inter-sectional Congress of the Italian alpine corps of North America", it can be read: "Meeting the Italian alpine corps members abroad, especially the ones of North America, is always emotional, because they are the image of an Italy which no longer exists and which we, in the depths of our hearts, miss... The meeting with the "Canadian" Italian alpine corps members has been a continuous injection of enthusiasm and determination, a testimony of social commitment and of attachment to the 'Italian alpine corps spirit', an example and silent rebuke for those who would like to but, do not have time... The delegates went home certainly richer than when they left their homes...". Montreal, in Quebec, is chosen as the headquarters of the Congress that will be held in two years time.

Dense with important communications is Gino Vatri's moral report which begins by making the point of the situation: the association is present in 22 countries of 4 continents for a total of 31 sections. The members at the end of the membership drive of 2000 turn out to be 3,561, well over 263 less with regards to 1999. "A natural decrease, if we consider the high average age of the members abroad, mainly emigrants of the 1950s, of the inversion of the migratory flows and of the return to Italy of some of the Italian alpine corps members – Vatri says – in the general numerical decrease of almost all of the sections, there is the inversion of tendency of the Chilean section, the youngest of our sections, and in some Canadian sections".

"The situation of the members is quite stable even if there are no more replacements coming from Italy, the young members are sixty-years old and the more 'mature' ones are seventy years old. The Toronto section this year welcomed two new Italian alpine corps members, one who is twenty-five years old and one who is thirty-three years old, another young man who is a former winner of the Franco Bertagnolli Scholarship Prize, grandson of Federico Cerialdo from Navelli (L'Aquila) joined the section. This young man, Mark Stabile, is only twenty-eight years old and he is already a dean at the University of Toronto. They are these isolated cases that however, make us hope well for the future... if we manage to register in our ranks our children and grandchildren, then our sections and groups will continue to live".

In 2002, the monument of the Italian alpine corps at Villa Colombo was re-placed in the presence of the President of the Friulian Entity for the Social and Cultural Assistance to Emigrants, Luigi Lucchini, Tommaso Boer, the collaborator Vera Turrin, the President of the Province of Pordenone, Elio De Anna, the municipal councillor of Fiume Veneto, Alfonso Degano, the Mayor of Cordovado, Augusto Bertocco, the Mayor of Morsano al Tagliamento, Roberta Zanet, the Mayor of Sesto al Reghena, Daniele Gerolin, the attaché for public relations, Luigi Grandi, and the Mayor of San Vito al Tagliamento, Gino Gregoris. The Italian alpine corps Choir of Cordovado followed the delegation to the various cities where it stopped over: Windsor, Detroit, Hamilton and Toronto.





Montreal: the National President hands over to Sergio De Paoli, President of the Montreal section, the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association "crest". Gino Vatri can be recognized at the centre.



San Vito al Tagliamento: guests of Lucio and Maria Vadori.



The Italian alpine corps of Toronto at the Inter-sectional Congress in Montreal



There were the Italian Vice Consul, Riccardo Zanini, and the Toronto city councillor, Maria Augimeri, on hand to welcome the Italian delegation at Villa Colombo. The Mass was celebrated by Father Vitaliano Papais in front of a thousand people. There are at least 500 at the lunch that follows.

It is Recoaro Terme that hosts on the 6th and 7th April the Sixth Itinerant Congress of the Italian alpine corps Press organized by the Valdarno section in the province of Vicenza under the direction of the National Councillor Di Danieli.

There are over 50 contributions which, embracing topics of an institutional and technical character, catalyze the attention of those present. Greeting the assembly was Brigadier General Vincenzo Cardo who said that he was “happy to be present at the Congress as a witness of an important aspect of our associative reality”. Then speaking was Doctor G. Basile, chief editor of *L’Alpino*, who recalled how “the national Italian alpine corps press is a mouthpiece of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans’ Association and of the C.D.N., or “be it” is the expression of the line of the National Presidency. Nevertheless, the Italian alpine corps press even has to produce news about the activities of the sections in order to create an image. With such an aim in mind, Doctor G. Basile asked that he receive photos about the operative activities and to receive, in advance, the programs on the contributions in order to allow him to visit on the site and to write articles for *L’Alpino*”. Sergio Bottinelli, instead, presented the proposal of instituting a prize reserved for the Italian alpine corps press with the aim of valuing the sectional press. This last one, in fact, according to Bottinelli arrives where *L’Alpino* does not arrive. Moreover, the institution of a prize could further stimulate the work of the sectional periodicals which enjoy an excellent reputation to the point that the Chief of Staff of the Army thinks of acquiring pages in it in order to promote Italian alpine corps values. At the end of a series of interesting contributions, an appointment was made for the seventh Italian alpine corps Press Congress in 2003 at Salò.

About 180 people participate in the picnic of the Italian alpine corps group of North York who eat, play cards, sing and enjoy a relaxing day, out in the open air, in the marvellous greenery of Boyd Park Conservation Area. “It was really a beautiful day – says the group leader Adolfo D’Intino – Mass was even celebrated in the park by Father Claudio Moser who even invited the families present to host the young people, who will be arriving in Toronto, from Italy in order to participate in World Youth Day”.

The annual appointment of the Black Feathers of Toronto at the Farnes Furlane of Woodbridge always turns out to be a resounding success. Amongst the many guests, even the Toronto Chief of Police Julian Fantino, together with his wife Liviana, Professor Olga Zorzi Pugliese together with her husband Guido Pugliese, and the RCMP Chief Ben Soave. During the festive evening, a scholarship is given to a student of the University of Toronto so that he can attend summer Italian courses in Siena.

In 2002, the Minister for Italians in the World, Mirko Tremaglia, arrives in Toronto. Giving the welcome to the Minister, to whom goes the merit of having passed the law giving the vote to Italians abroad, there are even the Italian alpine corps members of Toronto and the ones of North York. In honour of the chronicle, it is necessary to clarify that the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans’ Association has however, anticipated the times, by making itself the promoter, already way back in 1975, of a proposal of law, of popular initiative, by collecting well over 250,000 signatures.





Aosta: the Italian alpine corps members of Canada march at the National Gathering of 2003



Trieste, National Gathering of 2004: the mutilated and silver medal decorated Italian alpine corps member Ferdinando Giannini between Lieutenant General Bruno Job and Lieutenant General Giulio Fraticelli



The Italian alpine corps members of Canada march with their banner, their standards and pennants





Montreal, 2003:
Giovanni Toneguzzo,
Italo Spagnuolo,
Giuseppe Parazzini,
Gino Vatri, the Italian
Consul General, Father
Pierangelo Paternieri,
General Vittorio Zardo,
Luciano Bellus and the
delegation of the Como,
Verona and Vicenza
sections can be recog-
nized in the photo.

On the occasion of the 75th National Gathering of the Italian alpine corps which is held in Catania on the 11th and 12th May, even Sicily falls in love with the Black Feathers. “We would have never imagined this manifestation to be so impressive and numerous that it has honoured us and made us feel like real Italians. Thank you for having come amongst us! In fact, we feel a bit abandoned down here. But now, the Italian alpine corps, with its presence, its esprit de corps, its sincere joy, and its values has made us feel how good it is to be Italians”. These are words, said by residents of Sicily, in order to pay back all of the sacrifices to all of the Italian alpine corps members who faced a long trip in order to reach Catania.

In the article written by the Italian alpine corps member, Daniele Pellissetti, published in the *Alpini in trasferta* newspaper (August 2002 – 34th issue) it can be read: “The entire public joined the Italian alpine corps in song and at a certain moment, it seemed as if all of Catania was singing with us. This was one of the moments of greater beauty, even because a participation like that one had never been seen before. It is even true that this one had been the first gathering on Sicilian soil. But, the encounter with our brethren of this marvellous island, did not limit itself to the gathering, in fact, many took advantage in order to spend a few extra days, visiting the city of Catania, with its squares, its churches and its elegant streets, the University, the museums, the marvellous Maximum Theatre dedicated to Vincenzo Bellini, amongst the most refined and rich lyrical theatres in the world, the massive Ursino Castle, the port, the gardens with their luxuriant palm trees, the shops and the restaurants, in which the kindness of the personnel was equal to the politeness with regards to the Italian alpine corps members towards whom prices were charged exempt from any premeditated increase, actually, quite often we were the object of pleasant discounts even because we had been unexpected... The representation of the Canadian sections, having reached Catania early and in great numbers, affectionately greeted the National President Beppe Parazzini, the Defence Minister Honourable Antonio Martino, the Minister for Regional Affairs Enrico La Loggia, the Minister for Parliamentary Relations Carlo Giovanardi and the Defence Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Ottogalli”.

The Italian alpine corps members of Toronto decide to donate part of the proceeds from the feast that is held on the 25th January, 2003, to the Department of Italian Studies of the University of Toronto in order to send a student to study the Italian language in Siena and a part to the Famee Furlane for the construction of the building called the Friuli Long Term Care: \$1,000.00 are handed over to Professor Domenico Pietropaolo while \$5,000.00 are handed over to the President of Famee Furlane Luigi Gambin. The feast, actually hosted at the Famee Furlane, turns out to be a great success. A rich supper, music by the Zodiac Band and the presence of the natives of Cordovado lead by Esterina Toneguzzo, and of a group of natives of Pasiano coordinated by Egidio Martin. Many are the guests of honour: the Italian Vice Consul Doctor Riccardo Zanini, the Toronto Police Chief Julian Fantino, the RCMP Chief Superintendent Ben Soave and the presidents of the various Italian army units associations. More than 500 people participate in the feast.

In the meantime, the National Directive Council of the Italian alpine corps decides to assign 7 scholarships to just as many North American students: one of these, worth \$900.00, went to Francesco Caruso, the grandson of the Italian alpine corps member Ciriaco Federico.





Gino De Zotti, of the Toronto section, who, notwithstanding the help of a walking stick, keeps the pace very well, can be noted in the front row. Gino De Zotti returns to Trieste after fifty years since he performed his military service



Roberto Buttazzoni, Gino Vatri, Agostino Brun, Giorgio Bortot, and Vittorino Morasset follow the standards.



Exchange of pennants between Mayors Mauro Piani of Fogliano Redipuglia (Gorizia) and the President of the Toronto section of the Italian alpine corps, Roberto Buttazzoni



Always in January 2003, a twinning is sealed between the Parma group, coordinated by the group leader Enrico Ponzone, and the Toronto section. Paolo Sacconi, a Black Feather of the Parma group, in Canada on business, is the one who gives life to the beautiful initiative. "When there is talk about Italian alpine corps members the distances, the languages, the countries do not exist", Sacconi said. "Why not go to visit the Italian alpine corps members where I go on business – Sacconi remembers having thought to himself – thus before leaving I went onto the internet in order to find some reference points to hang onto upon arriving in Canada". In Toronto, Sacconi was hosted by Gino Vatri while even the President of the Toronto section, Roberto Buttazzoni, and numerous Italian-Canadian Italian alpine corps members were on hand for the "blessing" of the twinning. "We talked about the old and the young and about life in Canada and Italy – Sacconi concludes – we exchanged numerous gifts and we made an appointment to see each other at the National Gathering in Aosta".

The 7th Itinerant Convention of the Italian alpine corps press takes place on the 5th and 6th April at Gardone Riviera which is hosted by the Monte Suello section of Salò in the scenery of the "Victorial of the Italians", the monument-abode done by the artistic genius of Gabriele D'Annunzio is completed in order to celebrate nature and heroism as the propulsive elements of human existence.

Numerous are the contributions on the topics of the agenda in which the President of the Pordenone section, Giovanni Gasparet, and the editor of "La piu beja fameja" participate with significant contributions. It can be read, by President Gasparet, in the article signed by the Italian alpine corps member, Daniele Pellissetti, published in the 36th issue of *Alpini in trasferta* (July 2003), and who participated in the debate on the correct use of the Italian alpine corps hat, amongst other things during religious ceremonies.

The 10th and 11th of May are two important days for the Black Feathers who organize the 76th National Gathering of the Italian alpine corps in Aosta.

An event which makes between 300 and 350 thousand Black Feathers, gather together, in the beautiful city, making it possible for many participants to be moved. "It was a grandiose, very beautiful gathering – says the Inter-sectional President of the Italian alpine corps of North America Gino Vatri – the Italian alpine corps members came from all of the foreign sections and more than 80 thousand marched through the streets of Aosta".

This gathering becomes, as always happens, a moment in order to meet up with old friends, in order to spend a few days together in joy: "We met each other, we Presidents and delegations of the foreign sections, together with the leaders of the Italian National Troops Corps Veterans' Association in order to illustrate the reality of the associations present in Europe, North America, South America, and South Africa – Vatri adds – I made it known that in North America the number of Black Feathers remains constant and that actually, in some sections like the one in Windsor, the number of members has actually increased".

Gino Vatri even talks about the newspaper *Alpini in trasferta*, the apple of the eye of the Black Feathers: "It is a publication which is quite successful – adds Vatri – and which above all else, contributes



towards keeping all of the groups and sections united, notwithstanding the fact that they are spread over a very vast territory”.

At the Gathering in Aosta, amongst the Italian alpine corps members from Ontario, besides Gino Vatri, are the following who participate in the gathering: Silvano Mior, secretary of the Windsor section, Tony Pigat of the Toronto section, Ottaviano Pivoto from Hamilton, and Agostino Brun, former President of the Windsor section.

The Inter-sectional Congress of the Italian alpine corps of North America has a biennial cadence: the 12th Congress, which was held on the 30th and 31st August and which saw the participation of the Presidents of the seven sections and representatives of the autonomous groups, was hosted, as well as, marvellously organized by the Montreal section of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association. The meeting of the delegates with the national delegation of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association headed by the President Beppe Parazzini and by the person in charge of the foreign sections Giovanni Franza, took place at the Leonardo da Vinci Centre.

The order of the day, filled with matters, had its strong moments with the reports of the presidents and group leaders who illustrated the activities carried out during the course of the biennial and with the reply of the national president. After having conducted the honours of the house, the President of the Montreal section, Sergio De Paoli left the microphone to Gino Vatri, coordinator of the Inter-sectional Commission, clearly illustrating the framework of the situation in North America with regards to the world of the Black Feathers.



The Canadian delegation with the Mayor of Fogliano Redipuglia outside of the city's municipal building



Deposition of a wreath is placed at the Monument of the Italian alpine corps soldier. The Italian alpine corps member, Collavino, the group leader Gabriele "Uccio" Vittori, Roberto Buttazzoni, Aldo Lot, and Vittorino Morasset can be recognized in the photo



Successively, after the re-election of the commission by wide acclaim with the insertion of Bisinella as the Vice President, all of the delegates illustrated the activity carried out in the areas of their competence. A thousand people took part in the gala and it is a feast within a feast.

On Sunday morning, the Mass is presided over by two Scalabrinian priests: present, amongst others were President Parazzini, the delegate for contacts with the foreign sections, Vittorio Brunello, and the coordinator, Giovanni Franza, the Italian Consul General, Doctor Gianlorenzo Cornado, the Comites President, Rapana, the Quebec Minister of Culture and Communications, Beauchamp, a representative of the Ministry for Immigration, Barbieri, all of the standards and pennants of North America, representatives of the Italian police, the Air Force and an Italian delegation of the Como, Verona and Vicenza sections. Then, a brief parade commences in order to reach the monument where a wreath is deposited. With this gesture, the 12th Congress was concluded.

On the same day in which in Italy, the State funeral is being conducted for the Italian victims of the attack at Nassiriya, in southern Iraq, the Italian community of Toronto celebrates a Mass at St. Peter's Church in Woodbridge organized by the Italian General Consulate in Toronto.



Trieste, the meeting of the foreign sections. The National President, Giuseppe Parazzini, and our "Foreign Minister" Vittorio Brunello can be recognized in the front row during the honours to the flag.

The representatives of different associations of Italian army units like the one of the police, State Police, Finance Guard and Italian alpine corps participate besides the Italian Consul General, Luca Brofferio, the adjunct Consul, Marco Giomini, the Mayor of Vaughan, Michael Di Biase and the Vice Mayor, Mario Ferri.

Five hundred people, who crowd the hall at the Rizzo Banquet Centre, participate in the feast organized by the North York Italian alpine corps group. Amongst those present are the Vice Consul, Riccardo Zanini, the Liberal Member of Parliament, Judy Sgro, the Liberal Member of Provincial Parliament, Mario Sergio, and the Inter-sectional President of North America, Gino Vatri. During the feast, a war cross for merits, shown during the Second World War is handed over to 83 year old Umberto Cappella.

The feast organized by the Celano Canadian Club and the 52nd Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion goes on for two days. It is a festival in the light of good sentiments, cooperation, the will to knock down barriers, and to cooperate, notwithstanding the cultural differences; a Festival of Friendship, exactly. "the aim was actually the one of strengthening the already existing bonds, of strengthening esteem and reciprocal respect – highlights Eligio Paris, member of the committee of the Celano Club notwithstanding the rain, which came down intermittently during Saturday and Sunday, the manifestation was a success". Even the Mayor of Mississauga, Hazel McCallion, had beautiful words for the Italians where it can be read in the article published in the 37th issue of *Alpini in trasferta* (January 2004): "It was a marvellous beginning – Paris says with great satisfaction – the Mayor had words of praise for us Italians for the contribution given towards the development of the city of Mississauga and for the Celano Club, which having been founded in 1969, is one of the oldest... The mayor then lead the parade with the Italian army units and the Royal Canadian Legion: "Policemen, Italian alpine corps members, State Police and Targeters participated with their representatives – Paris adds – there were about a thousand people who observed the parade and took part in the different organized activities on Saturday and



between 1,500-2,000 people on Sunday. Very many Canadian veterans fought in the bloody battle of Ortona, not to far from Celano, during the Second World War – Eligio Paris explains – so much so that a Canadian military cemetery bears witness to this. Today, we want to make people reflect upon the importance of joining together peoples, of having a spirit of solidarity in this world which is becoming smaller”. On the 2nd and 3rd April, the eighth itinerant Convention of the Italian alpine corps press is held at L’Aquila: the proposed theme is “The future enrolment in the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans’ Association” which generates great interest. The “Carnia Alpina” heading is assigned the trophy for “best periodical of the Italian alpine corps press for 2003”.

Trieste is the city which hosts the 77th National Gathering on the 15th and 16th May, 2004. “The city welcomed the Italian alpine corps with its elegant hospitality, by offering its structures in an efficient way... Its impressive squares, its shores, its majestic avenues, immediately put thousands of Italian alpine corps members and their families, having come from all over Italy and the world, at ease – it can be read in the 38th issue of *Alpini in trasferta* (July 2004) -. But as always, the long awaited moment is the parade, in which the pride and sense of belonging to the glorious Italian alpine corps is concentrated but, even to the extraordinary associative reality of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans’ Association. The parade was, in fact, the occasion in order to transmit strong messages, but always signs of hope and of concrete trust towards the future, because the Italian alpine corps is always used to fighting...”.



Deposition of a wreath is placed at the sacrarium of Redipuglia. From the left there is Gino Vatri, Mauro Piani, Franco Braida and Gabriele “Uccio” Vittori. On the sides of the wreath there are Vittorino Morasset and Roberto Buttazzoni.



The group of Italian alpine corps members, after the deposition of the wreath is placed to the fallen, at the Military Sacrarium of Redipuglia. The standards of the Gorizia, Toronto, and Windsor sections, with their respective Presidents are quite visible. President Gino Vatri was present for the Inter-sectional Commission.



The banner of the Canadian and American sections paraded behind the banner with the writing "The Italian alpine corps from Overseas honours the Motherland" and they received many applauses. They are actually these Black Feathers who have worked hard in the country where they settled, but they even gave their own economic contribution and a very important image to the Motherland of origin to which the Italian alpine corps of Canada and the United States, with its presence, has bestowed a sign of great love and respect. The President of the Windsor section, Vittorino Morasset, the former President, Agostino Brun, the group leader of Winnipeg, Gildo Di Biaggio, the President of the New York section, Luigi Covatti, Ottavio Pivotto of Hamilton, and Bortolo Da Ros of Toronto are mentioned amongst those present. The Canadian Italian alpine corps members take advantage of the trip to Trieste in order to even visit Fogliano Redipuglia where they are welcomed by the municipal administration, by the local group of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association and by the visitors' office. At City Hall, it is the Mayor, Mauro Piani, who welcomes them: two laurel wreathes are even deposited at the monument of the fallen and at the sacrarium. The Canadian delegation, lead by Gino Vatri, by the President of the Toronto section, Roberto Buttazzoni, by Vittorino Morasset of the Windsor section, even meets the President of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association of Gorizia, Franco Braida, the group leader of Fogliano Redipuglia, Gabriele "Uccio" Vittori, the President of the Visitors' Office, Alessio Bellotto, and the municipal councillor, Claudio Tuniz. These meetings are full of great affection and emotion.

The 58th anniversary of the Italian Republic is celebrated on the 2nd June at the Italian General Consulate in Toronto. About six hundred and fifty guests participate in the ceremony with the highest representatives of the Italian State: the Italian Consul General, Luca Brofferio, and the adjunct Consul, Marco Giomini, the director of the Italian Cultural Institute, Carlo Coen, the scholastic manager of the Consulate, Carlo Davoli. The representatives of all of the Italian army units are present in uniform: the Police, the Army, the Air Force, the Navy, the State Police, the Finance Guards and the Targeters besides the representatives of the Comites, CGIE, of the various associations and benevolent societies, of the entrepreneurs and of Italian-Canadian culture, the Toronto Chief of Police, Julian Fantino, and the Provincial Immigration Minister, Marie Bountrogianni.

Various authorities and a huge crowd participate in the 26th Congress of the Friulian Entity for Social and Cultural Assistance to Emigrants (EFASCE) which is held at Sesto al Reghena on the 27th July, 2004. "The event is, above all, a meeting between young descendents of our emigrants during the past centuries willing to maintain strong ties with their own roots and land of origin – writes the Italian alpine corps member Daniele Pellissetti in *Alpini in trasferta* -. In such a sense, the Friulian Entity for Social and Cultural Assistance to Emigrants is certainly an entity which has offered a very important contribution. This congress was even the occasion of encounter between our sectional President, Giovanni Gasparet, and President Gino Vatri. Besides discussing the future of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association, a topic which mainly worries the foreign sections, President Vatri wanted to express, to our President Gasparet, the gratitude of the sections of Canada for the concrete and continuous cooperation offered by the Pordenone section. In particular, Gino Vatri gave our President Gasparet the volume "Alpini, fra miti, leggende e realta' 1940-41/2001 edited on the occasion of the 60th foundation anniversary of the Italian alpine corps group of Latisana. As it is known, Gino Vatri was actually born at Latisana and he personally had the volume handed over to our President by the author Enrico Fantin. President Gasparet assured that the Italian alpine corps members of Pordenone are at home in Canada and will continue to maintain strong bonds with the Italian alpine corps members overseas".

There are five hundred people who participate in the evening organized by the Italian alpine corps members of Toronto at the Famee Furlane: it is the Inter-sectional President Gino Vatri who welcomes all those present, on behalf of President Buttazzoni, the council of the Toronto section and of the two Clubs of Cordovado and Pasiano. The supper and dancing, until the wee hours of the morning, on the tables the work of an Italian alpine corps character done by the artist Anacleto Vedovat and still the prayer with the military chaplain, Father Vitaliano Papais, and the prayer of the Italian alpine corps with Gino Vatri, a few minutes of silence in order to remember all of the lost soldiers and in particular the ones who fell in the attack of Nassiriyah and the four Canadian soldiers who died from friendly fire. The money collected so that a deserving student can go to Siena in order to study the Italian language was handed over to Professor Francesco Guardiani of the University of Toronto during the festive evening.



Moreover, Vatri hands over to Buttazzoni a merit certificate for his thirty years in the midst of the council of the Toronto section of the Italian alpine corps.

In 2004, the North York group of the Italian alpine corps feasts, with success, its twenty-eighth foundation anniversary. There are forty people who spoke at the Rizzo Banquet Hall: amongst those present, at the dinner dance, besides the Italian army units there is even the head of the RCMP, Ben Soave. Satisfied, therefore, are the group leader, Adolfo D'Intino, the Vice President, Riccardo Fulgenzi, the treasurer, Nello D'Intino, the secretary, Fernando Battistelli, and the councillors Fabrizio Capovilla, Alpino Colangelo, Gino D'Antonio and Evangelista Cannavicci.

The recurrence of the 4th November is celebrated at the church of Saint Nicholas of Bari located on St. Clair Avenue in Toronto: after having deposed a wreath at the monument to the fallen which is found in front of the Piccinini Centre, the Italian army unit and Police Associations take part in the Mass.



1st PART

Italian Alpine Corps Soldiers

Chapter
- VI -

2005-2009



The Italian alpine corps members with the Italian Consul General in Toronto, Luca Brofferio, in the photograph.

Four hundred thousand Italian alpine corps members arrive at the 78th National Gathering which is held in Parma in 2005 and of these ninety thousand march uninterruptedly for ten hours along the streets of the beautiful city. This is the first National Gathering without compulsory military service anymore and for the occasion the Italian alpine corps members coin the slogan “There will always be an Italian alpine corps soldier”, a slogan shared even by the Defence Minister, Antonio Martino, who from the stage of honour watches the parade.

Even the Canadian Black Feathers march: the Italian alpine corps members of Toronto, Montreal, Windsor and Ottawa, the group leader of Kitchener-Waterloo, Tony Renon, the President of the Montreal section, Ferdinando Bisinella, the President of the Windsor section, Vittorino Morasset and Severino Buffone, President of the Ottawa section are present with their standards. Even Luigi Covatti, President of the New York section, marches behind the North American banner.

In 2005, the Toronto section celebrates its first forty-five years of existence: in order to celebrate the important anniversary, five hundred people gather together at the Famee Furlane. Amongst the guests we remember the Toronto Chief of Police, Julian Fantino, the RCMP Chief Superintendent Ben Soave, the Italian Consul General in Toronto Luca Brofferio, the President of the Famee Furlane Club Luigi Gambin, the dean of the University of Toronto Domenico Pietropaolo who picks up the scholarship in favour of a student who during the summer months will attend Italian language courses in Siena.

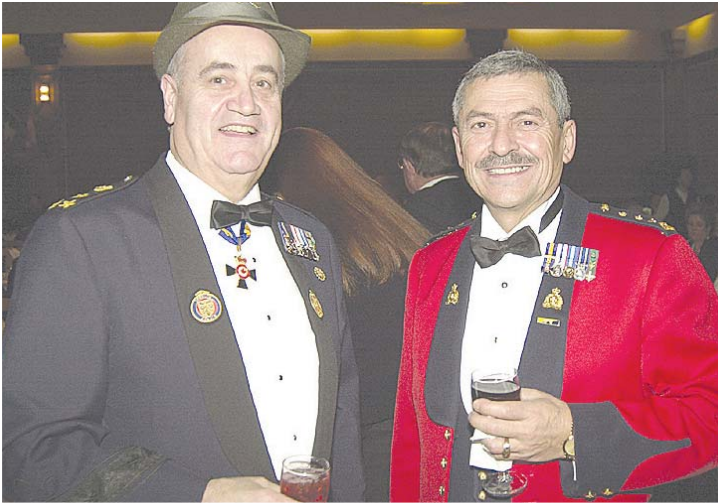
The evening, full of emotion, begins with the handing over of the Italian alpine corps hat to Ben Soave and Luigi Gambin, the blessing of the new standard by Father Vitaliano Papais. The birth of the section, the many activities, the meetings, the feasts, the life of this section are recalled: “Forty-five years of life, memories, satisfactions and why not, even of small contrasts that, if kept in their sphere, contribute towards the liveliness, enthusiasm and spirit of our association – Gino Vatri reasserts – it is actually the enthusiasm and the will to organize something for others which allows us to continue even because there are no financial contributions and the only income is represented by the annual social membership drive and by the proceeds, at times rather meagre, which can come from the various events”. (From Alpini in trasferta, issue 40, July 2005).

A thought is not missing for the founder and first group leader Lieutenant Colonel Oreste Chemello and for the two group leaders who followed him Attilio Paron and Alberto Gheresi, for the President Antonio Castellarin, Silvano Venuto, Nevio Meo (who have already moved on, as the Italian alpine corps members usually say).

The 13th Congress of the Italian alpine corps members, of North America, is held in Kitchener-Waterloo: three hundred people participate in it, on Saturday, and five hundred on Sunday, at the gala evening organized at the Bingemans Park in Kitchener.

Black Feathers from Canada, the United States and Italy participate in the congress. It is Tony Renon, leader of the Kitchener group of the Italian alpine corps who welcomes everybody.





Julian Fantino and Ben Soave



Some Italian alpine corps members hand over a \$1,000.00 scholarship to Professor Domenico Pietropaolo for a deserving student of the University of Toronto



The Italian Consul, General Luca Brofferio with Luigi Gambin and the respective wives.



The Italian Consul General, Luca Brofferio with Marcella Pigat, the god-mother of the new standard.

The Italian alpine corps which received a very warm welcome, was even able to admire small handcrafts made by Ilario Ruffini of Guelph and Tony Toscan, and they met the artist Umberto Fusari who devised and carried out, in morbid stone, the Monument of the Italian alpine corps soldiers entitled “L’abbeverata” (The Watering). It is a significant moment, this, which represents an Italian alpine corps soldier and a mule who quench their thirst, one close to the water source, the other in the valley, and which besides representing the tight bond between the animal and the Italian alpine corps soldier on the mountain has been dedicated to the memory of all of the Black Feathers who fell during the wars.

It is even decided during the delegates’ meeting that the next congress, during which the 40th foundation anniversary will be celebrated, will be held in Windsor.

Gino Vatri made the point of the situation, on the activities of the Italian alpine corps of North America and recalled, amongst the association’s jewels, are the Franco Bertagnolli scholarships and the publication of *Alpini in trasferta*, besides recalling the Italian alpine corps members who have passed away like Leo Brun del Re, former President of the Ottawa section and Riccardo De Marco, former President of the New York section besides the soldiers of every nationality who fight in order to defend peace and those who have fallen or have been injured in the carrying out of their duty.

Vittorio Brunello, National President Vicar and person in charge of contacts with the foreign sections, Ornello Capannolo, national councillor and, Anna Gaia, wife of the National President Corrado Perona, absent, due to important commitments, arrived from Italy in order to participate in the congress.

The laying of the wreath at the feet of the monument as always was accompanied by a lot of commotion: carrying the wreath were the two Italian alpine corps members of Kitchener-Waterloo, Giorgio Albano and Francesco Robles, followed by Vittorio Brunello, National Vice President of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans’ Association, Ornello Capannolo, Imelda Gazzola Porcellato, Italian Vice Consul in Guelph, together with her husband Francesco and Gino Vatri.

The dignitaries were followed by the Black Feathers groups of Montreal, Vancouver, Laval, New York, Ottawa, Windsor, Toronto, Mississauga, North York, Sudbury, Thunder Bay, Hamilton, Welland, Guelph and lastly the hosts, the Kitchener-Waterloo group, exactly.

The key moment of the two days was the official inauguration of the Italian alpine corps monument, while Maria Giavedoni sung a moving “*Stelutis Alpini*”. A gala evening, rich with choirs, a lot of joy, and the will to be together, concluded the two days of intense events.

The picnic organized by the Italian alpine corps members of Toronto at the Fogolar Country Club is characterized as always by friendship, games, food, and joyful choirs. This is an annual appointment which always makes a lot of members, families, and friends get together with the aim of spending a day





2005 Congress of Kitchener and Waterloo (Hamilton section): from the left Bruno Negrello with the standard of the Montreal section, Fausto Chiocchio, Vittorio Brunello, Ornello Capannolo, and Gino Vatri can be recognized.



Windsor, 10th September, 2005: ceremony at the Italian alpine corps monument with, from the left, Vittorino Morasset, Gino Vatri, Corrado Perona, Liliana Scotti Busi, the Mayor of Ragogna (Udine), Orazio De Minicis, Vittorio Brunello, and Ornello Capannolo.



Windsor, September 2005: in the residence of the Colavinos, from the left Ida Lot, Aldo Lot, Vittorino Morasset, Corrado Perona, Arrigo, and Anna Colavino.





Captain Domenico Faga, Frank Padula, Ben Soave, the Italian Consul General Emanuele Punzo, General Orazio De Minicis, Gianni Colacci, Knight Manfredo Antonucci, Knight Tonino Giallonardo, Ferdinando Bisinella, Luigi Gambin, Riccardo Del Cantero, Pietro Girardi, Carmen Stornella, Roberto Buttazoni, Giuseppe

De Stefano, Adolfo D'Intino, Gino Vatri, Silvano Pascolini, Fausto Chiocchio, Vittorino Morasset, and Professor Domenico Pietropaolo can be recognized in the photograph.

together in the open air in full relaxation. The members of the Belluno Club, the Cordovado Club, and the Pasiano Club, and the San Vito al Tagliamento Club, and the Valvasone Club, and Tony Renon, group leader of the Kitchener-Waterloo Italian alpine corps are to be remembered amongst the thousand people present. It is the chaplain of the Italian alpine corps, Father Vitaliano Papais, who celebrates the Mass: the military style mess then follows, and at the end of this, a lot of games for the big and small, and the extraction of prizes. Finally, a lot of food could not have been missing, prepared according to the homemade tradition, including grappa, before the Italian alpine corps choirs.

Even representatives of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association, from the sections of all of Southern Ontario and Montreal, participate, as well as, representations of all of the Italian army unit Associations of Toronto, in the traditional gala evening, organized by the Toronto section of the Italian alpine corps in February 2006, at the Famee Furlane: General De Minicis, military attaché at the Italian Embassy in Ottawa and General Ben Soave, former Vice Commander of the RCMP, participated in their capacity, as guests of honour.

A very important guest was the new Italian Consul General in Toronto, Doctor Emanuele Punzo, at his first public appearance, pleasingly surprised at having to speak in front of a vast audience. Doctor Punzo previously met the Presidents of all of the Italian army unit associations: "I am satisfied and at the same time surprised to note how certain values are still kept strong at a distance of thousands of kilometres from Italy".

There are more than five hundred people present who spend a wonderful night together, an evening that is made up of emotions, enjoyment, friendship and esteem. It is Professor Domenico Pietropaolo who receives the scholarship that the Italian alpine corps donates, every year to a student of the Department of Italian Studies of the University of Toronto and who goes to Siena in order to perfect the study of the Italian language.

The 79th National Gathering is held at Asiago on the 13th and 14th May. "It was a matter of the National Gathering that was closest to heaven not only due to the altitude but, above all from the moral point of view", it can be read in the 42nd issue of *Alpini in trasferta* (July 2006). Many Italian alpine corps members coming from Canada and from the North American sections are greeted with affection. "Even by their merit, Italy has an important role today in the world and for this reason the Italian alpine corps members of Canada and North America were applauded and feasted at their passage".

At Asiago, the Italian alpine corps section of Windsor, represented by President Morasset, by secretary Apolloni, and by some Italian alpine corps members were hosted in a hotel at the feet of the Ortigara. In the afternoon, President Morasset and secretary Apolloni participate in the meeting of the foreign sections, a meeting which as always is a getting together of old friends, a continuous shaking of hands... "The atmosphere was very beautiful", the secretary of the Windsor section, Gabriele Apolloni, highlights. Canada is present in great numbers with the sections and groups of Montreal, Vancouver, Sudbury, Toronto, Edmonton, and Windsor.





Fausto Chiocchio, President of the Hamilton section with Roberto Buttazzoni, President of the Toronto section



Santa and Gino Vatri, June and Vittorino Morasset, General Orazio De Minicis, Ferdinando Bisinella and Roberto Buttazzoni, Fausto Chiocchio, Irene Buttazzoni, Imelda Bisinella, and Silvano Pascolini in the photograph



In the photograph with the sectional council: Anacleto Vedovat, Tony Pigat, Remigio Vatri, Gino Vatri, Roberto Buttazzoni, Gerry D'Aquilante, Giovanni Toneguzzo, Giuseppe Menegon can be recognized.



Professor Domenico Pietropaolo together with Roberto Buttazzoni and Gino Vatri.



At Sunday's parade, beneath the pouring rain, there is an exultation of flags and pennants with bands that at the sound of the Italian alpine corps hymn begin to march. "The crowd huddled along the way, get excited and clap their hands shouting Long live the Italian Alpine corps and Long live Canada – recalls Apolloni – we were very moved in noticing so much affection, so much enthusiasm to the point that we still get goose bumps".

An experience, this one of Asiago, which will remain in the heart of those who participated in it, forever: "It was marvellous – affirms Gabriele Apolloni – we were only upset that the artilleryman Aldo Lot, a veteran of the section, was not able to participate. We, however, carried him in our hearts".

The "Spring dance" organized by the Black Feathers of Kitchener-Waterloo is greatly participated. Very many guests, amongst whom General Orazio De Minicis, Gino Vatri, the Italian Vice Consul Imelda Porcellato, participate in the event which is a moment in order to meet together and to strengthen the bonds that, throughout the world, tie together the great Italian alpine corps family. Amongst the aims that the Italian alpine corps members of Kitchener-Waterloo set out for themselves, there is the one of keeping the traditions and history of the Black Feathers alive. "We even like to remember our beautiful mountains, it is useless to deny it, but there is always a pinch of nostalgia", says the President of the Hamilton section, Fausto Chiocchio.

As always, the picnic of the Italian alpine corps enjoys great participation: more than a thousand people participate in the picnic held in Oakville. A warm day, the swimming pool overcrowded with young and old, lawn bowling tournaments, many games, Mass celebrated by Father Vitaliano Papais, who recalled the sacrifice of the Italian alpine corps soldiers in times of war and peace, the lavished commitment of helping earthquake victims or, in any case, in a state of need, to reconstruct, where after wars only destruction remains, characterized the day. But, even the long chats, the meeting with old friends, and the tonnes of food, the barbecues, and the nice Italian alpine corps choirs, joyfully concludes the picnic.

The survey which accompanies the meeting of the group leaders, with the committees of the Italian alpine corps sections, and groups of South-eastern Ontario, held in Hamilton is "Where do we go from here?" This is a meeting which sets out to make the point of the situation and to look to the future: a lot of recommendations are, in fact, expressed, proposals made, suggestions given in order to assure a future for the Black Feathers in North America. More than one hundred Black Feathers take part in the meeting, accompanied by their wives, who even take advantage of the opportunity, in order to spend a traditional "Italian alpine corps" evening together: a little supper that left everyone licking their fingers, the communion, the souvenir photo, and the songs of Maria Giavedoni make the event pleasing.

President Roberto Buttazzoni and Gino Vatri from Toronto, Doro Di Donato from Welland, Tony Renon from Kitchener-Waterloo, and some representatives of the Black Feathers of Hamilton, in the absence of the President Fausto Chiocchio, participated in the evening.

Two decorations, sent from Italy, by the Italian alpine corps President, Corrado Perona, to the eldest members of the group, are handed over during the evening with the aim of sealing the occurrence of the sixtieth anniversary of the end of the Second World War: the Italian alpine corps soldiers Bortolo Vettoretto and Guido Bertoli did not hide their emotion in receiving the decorations.

Gino Vatri did not miss giving a speech on the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans'





In the photo to the left, Targeters enter into the Famee Furlane Hall, lead by the President Pietro Girardi; to the right, the entry of the Toronto section with its President Roberto Buttazzoni



Gino Vatri with the military attaché at the Italian Embassy in Ottawa, General Orazio De Minicis



Ferdinando Bisinella, President of the Italian Alpine Corps of Montreal with Roberto Buttazzoni, President of the Toronto section.



Silvano Pascolini, councillor of the Hamilton section and Roberto Buttazzoni.





Paravan, President of the Udine section, Renzo Pradissitto, group leader of Gorgo and Danilo Perosa, councillor of the Udine section.



Daniele Pellissetti, Giovanni Gasparet, Vittorio Brunello, director of L'Alpino magazine and Gino Vatri

abroad... one is both born, but even becomes an Italian alpine corps soldier, but one, above all, remains one. The expression "former Italian alpine corps member" does not exist because we always remain Italian alpine corps members through our meetings, by being united, available, tied to the territory, the people, close to whoever suffers in order to give a hand to whoever is in need, possibly in an atmosphere of peace because the Italian alpine corps member, let it be clear, is against war".

In 2007, the National Gathering is once again hosted in Cuneo after thirty-six years. It is on the 12th and 13th May when the city is literally invaded by the Black Feathers, by Italian flags and by the applauses of the people, who welcome with affection, in particular the sections coming from abroad. Canada is present with the banner "The Italian alpine corps overseas honour the Motherland".

At the end of the parade, they greet each other with the wish of meeting up again in 2008 at Bassano del Grappa for another marvellous Gathering.

There are five hundred people who participate in the gala evening of the 27th January organized by the Toronto section at the Famee Furlane in Woodbridge. Presenting the evening, with his usual grace and innate sympathy is Gino Vatri. Many are the guests present, besides the representatives of all of the Italian army unit associations, to the Presidents of the EFASCE secretariats or their representatives. Father Vitaliano Papais, after having recited the "Italian alpine corps prayer", commented the phrase in which the Italian alpine corps soldiers ask the Lord to "make the weapons strong against anyone who threatens our Motherland, our flag, our millenary Christian civilization": "The weapons that the Italian alpine corps members intend to use in order to defend and safeguard a civilization which is undoubtedly Christian, and with which we identify ourselves – Father Papais said – "are the ones of attachment to one's own country, out of respect for one's own traditions, of availability towards those in need". Just like in the past years, the scholarship in favour of a deserving student of the Department of Italian Studies of the University of Toronto was handed over to Professor Domenico Pietropaolo.

Air Force Brigade General Orazio De Minicis, military attaché at the Italian Embassy in Ottawa and the Italian Consul, Veronica Ferrucci, even participated in the feast.

The evening was spent in an atmosphere of great serenity and joy, as usually happens during the evenings organized by the Black Feathers.

The annual convention of the editors of the Italian alpine corps Press takes place in Viareggio in 2007. It is in the Prince of Piedmont Congress Centre that the delegations which have arrived from the Italian sections and the foreign sections (from Canada, France, Germany, and Switzerland) are welcomed. Gino Vatri, representing Canada, is applauded with particular warmth.

At the end of the numerous contributions, the National President Corrado Perona summarized the contents and re-launched the guidelines for the year in progress: looking at the future with trust, opening up to the youth, and promoting the recovery of the Italian alpine corps members still not registered.



Alpini in Trasferta

NOTIZIARIO DELLE SEZIONI DELL'ASSOCIAZIONE NAZIONALE ALPINI IN CANADA E U.S.A.



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JUGLIO 2007 N° 44

80^a adunata nazionale – cuneo 12/13 maggio 2007

Un pellegrinaggio nella terra della Cuneense – La Divisione martire
Applausi e fiori per gli Alpini del Canada e del Nord America

Dopo 36 anni siamo ritornati a Cuneo per l'Adunata Nazionale. L'ultima volta era stata nel 1971. L'accoglienza della popolazione è stata dappertutto cordiale, fraterna o meglio... assolutamente alpina!

Nelle manifestazioni di simpatia, si percepiva in modo quasi tangibile l'orgoglio di aver le Penne Nere ospiti della loro città e dei loro paesi.

Queste dimostrazioni di affetto, rispetto e considerazione sono la prova concreta

che lo spirito alpino vive più forte e radicato che mai, tra questa popolazione che è l'erede della Divisione Cuneense che ha condiviso con la Italia la Campagna di Grecia ma, soprattutto quella di Russia.

A quest'ultima, la Cuneense partecipò con i suoi Btg. Pieve di Teco, Ceva e Mondovì, inquadrati nel 1° Rgt., i Btg. Borgo San Dalmazzo, Dropero e Saluzzo, inquadrati nel 2° Rgt. Completavano la divisione i Gruppi Pinerolo, Mondovì e Val Po del 4° Rgt. Art. Alpina

ed infine il IV Btg. Misto Genio. La forza della divisione alla partenza per il Fronte Russo comprendeva 16.500 unità.

Al rientro dalla Russia, si contarono 13.470 caduti e dispersi e 2.180 feriti e congelati. In tal modo la Cuneense stabiliva il triste primato del maggior numero di perdite in quella dolorosa campagna di guerra, narrata con grande unanimità dallo scrittore Alpino Mario Rigoni Stern, nel suo best seller "Il sergente nella neve" che racconta appunto le vicissitudini

della Cuneense in Russia. Sono trascorsi ormai 64 anni dalle vicende belliche sopra descritte ma è ancora vivo il ricordo di quei giovani che fedeli al senso del dovere, offrirono le loro giovani esistenze pagando il prezzo della storia anche per noi che, grazie al loro sacrificio, godiamo oggi del bene della libertà e della democrazia.

La città ha letteralmente sommerso noi Alpini di tricolori e di applausi, ringraziandoci per il passato ma anche per il presente ed il futuro. Espressioni di

stima ed affetto particolarmente calorose sono state tributate alle sezioni provenienti dall'estero, particolarmente a quelle del Canada che, numerose, riunivano nel loro striscione i loro sentimenti di radicata italianità: "Gli Alpini d'oltremare fanno onore alla Patria". Grazie agli spazi generosi della città di Cuneo, sfilando per 12 lungo Via Roma e Corso Nizza, sul medesimo percorso sul quale gli Alpini della Divisione Cuneense avevano fatto sentire il loro passo fiero nel luglio

del 1941 prima di partire per la Russia, gli Alpini del Canada e New York hanno potuto sfilare impeccabilmente, raccogliendo le meritate espressioni di affetto e di simpatia della numerosa folla assiepata ai lati del percorso.

Lasciamo Cuneo con viva riconoscenza e ci prepariamo a ritrovarci tutti insieme nel 2008 a Bassano del Grappa per un'altra straordinaria manifestazione.

Alpino Daniele Pellissetti



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Lasciamo Cuneo con viva riconoscenza e ci prepariamo a ritrovarci tutti insieme nel 2008 a Bassano del Grappa per un'altra straordinaria manifestazione.



Gli Alpini di ieri e di oggi hanno celebrato con profondo orgoglio, nella bella ed accogliente città di Cuneo, una storia ultracentenaria, di cui sono giustamente fieri, che è parte importante della memoria nazionale.

Per chi come me ha fatto la prima naia a Boves ed il giuramento a Cuneo, s'è sentito invadere da mille ricordi ed emozioni nel ritrovarsi in quei luoghi. Avrei voluto fare una puntata a Boves, ma sembra che l'anziana caserma sia chiusa ed abbandonata.

Non posso che felicitarmi con gli organizzatori di questa 80^a adunata, è stata curata in

Un' Adunata Memorabile

tutti i particolari, anche nei piccoli dettagli. Le Sezioni Estere sono state ricevute con molta attenzione sia dalla sede Nazionale, dalla Sezione di Cuneo, dalla Regione, dalla Provincia e dalla città stessa. Alloggiate in centro città, vicino a tutte le attività, camere gratuite ed accoglienti e ben sorvegliate insomma non mancava nulla. Nei quattro giorni passati a Cuneo ho potuto constatare quanto grande è stato il loro lavoro.

Noi, del Nord America eravamo meno numerosi che d'abitudine, ma sempre presenti. Con noi, come da due anni arriva ha sfilato la fanfara della Valtellina. Quando l'Internazionale Nord America, ormai la possiamo chiamare così, al passaggio, di fronte la tribuna d'onore, l'annunciatore dell'avvenimento ha sottolineato il fatto che, America e Canada sfilavano assieme, dicendo: "Molti si dividono e loro si uniscono".

sono scoppiati gli applausi dei presenti. La natura anche ci ha favorito quest'anno, con un tempo meraviglioso.

Sono fiero di appartenere a queste "Penne Nere", che animati dalla generosità e dallo slancio umanitario che li distinguono, sanno mantenere alti gli onori e l'amor di Patria, ovunque necessiti la loro presenza.

Auguriamoci di rivivere gli stessi momenti e le stesse emozioni, l'anno prossimo a Bassano del Grappa, sul Ponte degli Alpini.

Ferdinando Bisinella
Pres. Sezione di Montréal

The membership drive of the North York Italian alpine corps group is a good occasion to get together. The group leader, Adolfo D'Intino, recalls the activities carried out and the Italian alpine corps members "who have gone ahead" in 2006: Vincenzo Di Biase, Alfredo Pincente, Antonio Siracusa (died in Australia and then transferred to Toronto), Lelio Fulgenzi, and the vice group leader Riccardo Fulgenzi.

Notwithstanding the human losses, D'Intino however, points out that the Association has taken a leap forward: there are twelve new members, besides three very young 9, 12, and 13 year olds who are the mascots, and who will surely be the Italian alpine corps members of the future.

And, in 2007, Father Vitaliano Papais was decorated by the President of the Italian Republic, Giorgio Napolitano, with the "Knight of the Italian Solidarity Star Order" honour.

It is the Italian Consul General, Emanuele Punzo, who bestows the honour, at the church of Saint Paschal Baylon, in Thornhill. The motivation which accompanies the bestowing of the honour is "for your untiring and admirable activity in favour of the Italian community in Canada and for the merits, as a result, acquired with regards to the Italian State".

Father Papais, born at Ramuscello of Sesto al Reghena in the province of Pordenone on the 7th October, 1939, has been assisting and serving the Italian community of the Archdiocese of Toronto since the 13th December, 1979: amongst his many initiatives, we remember the MICA, the Federation of the Italian Canadian Seniors and Pensioners Circles of Toronto, the Christian Union of the Entities for the Emigrants of Toronto (UCEMI), and the one of chaplain of the Italian alpine corps. For ten years he had, moreover, been the President of the Italian Pastoral Commission of the Archdiocese of Toronto and is the founder and active leader of the EFASCE (Friulian Entity for the Social and Cultural Assistance to Emigrants).

Corrado Perona, Gino
and Santa Vatri.



The 14th Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association Inter-sectional Congress of North America is held in Windsor. The two days which many Italian alpine

corps members participated in are rich in events, suppers, songs, and toasts. The point of the situation is made about the members, the "Franco Bertagnolli" scholarship, the Alpini in trasferta newspaper, there was the financial report, the approval of the budget, and it was decided that the 2009 Congress would probably be held in Toronto on the 10th and 11th October: "We will take advantage of the occasion in order to even celebrate the fiftieth foundation anniversary of the Toronto Centre Group", said Gino Vatri.

Other moments of relaxation and enjoyment for the Italian alpine corps members are the picnics which they organize year after year with immutable enthusiasm. The Black Feathers of Toronto organize their day in the outdoors at the Fogolar Country Club in Oakville, on the same day in which those of North York get together for their picnic at Boyd Park. The Black Feathers of the Mississauga group meet instead, at the locality of the Celano Club: as always happens on these occasions, food and games besides a lawn bowling tournament are never missing.

The Italian alpine corps of North York organizes its annual feast on the 27th October at the Terrace Banquet Hall: five hundred and fifty people take part in the dinner dance: "We have been organizing this event for thirty-one years, the feast turns out to be a huge success every time", the group leader Adolfo D'Intino says with satisfaction.





Giangaspere Basile, editor-in-chief of L'Alpino, Gino Vatri and Corrado Perona, National President of the Italian alpine corps in the castle of Marostica during a meeting with the councillorships and the organized Italian alpine corps press



Photo above and below – the Council of the Inter-sectional Commission marches. At the centre, the President, Gino Vatri, flanked by the Vice Presidents Ferdinando Bisinella and Vittorino Dal Cengio, respectively the Presidents of the Montreal and Vancouver sections. The standards of Toronto, Montreal, and Windsor follow.



Tony Pigat councillor of the Toronto section opens up the parade for North America, for Tony it's a question of the 17th consecutive march.



In the photo, Vittorio Brunello, editor of L'Alpino magazine and Gino Vatri at the centre of the Italian alpine corps members of the Bagnarola group of the Pordenone section.



Even the Stella del Gran Sasso Italian alpine corps Choir garners great success which comes to Canada upon the invitation of the Hamilton section Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association, the Abruzzo Federation of Hamilton and district, and the Dante Alighieri Italian Language and Culture Centre of Hamilton. Every success garners very great consensus, endless applauses. After having performed in Hamilton and Toronto, the choir performs numerous times in Windsor on the occasion of the 14th inter-sectional gathering of the Italian alpine corps of North America. The public present, enjoys itself, and at the same time, feels a little bit closer to Italy, and to its splendid mountains, always carried in the heart.

As usual, the evening that the Black Feathers of Toronto organize at the Famee Furlane of Woodbridge in January 2008 has a magic atmosphere to it. This is an important appointment, a moment of aggregation for the great Italian alpine corps family: the evening's guests of honour were the Italian Consul General in Toronto, Emanuele Punzo, and the military attaché at the Italian Embassy in Ottawa, General Sanzio Bonotto. Even the Presidents of the Cordovado Club, Esterina Toneguzzo, of the Pasiano Club, Egidio Martin, and even Bruno Turrini, Mario Querin, Silvio Fava, Saverio Gardin, Otello Ongaro and Luigi Tedesco, Presidents of the various clubs connected to the EFASCE, participate in the feast. Catalyzing the attention of those present are the speeches of the Italian Consul General, Emanuele Punzo, and General Sanzio Bonotto. "After De Minicis, we have the fortune of having amongst us, another person of great value, from the professional and human point of view, a person who is already very present in our community", Gino Vatri finally said.

After a beautiful festive evening at Il Gabbiano restaurant in Windsor, Aldo Lot is decorated with "the diploma of merit with golden medal" as "a businessman residing abroad". The Italian alpine corps member besides being a successful businessman in Windsor, received the prestigious recognition from Gino Vatri, on behalf of the Udine Chamber of Commerce, upon the proposal of architect Luigi Luchini, President of the EFASCE.

There are many letters and e-mail messages sent by the National President, Corrado Perona, to Gino Vatri, they are filled with affection and sharing. In one of the letters, dated the 11/01/2008 and written by hand, it can be read: "Dear Gino, I received a copy of Alpini in trasferta, always rich with the activities of the Canada and USA sections and groups, coordinated in an excellent manner by you. Thank you not only for sending the newspaper, but even for the activity that you carry out in an exemplary and continuative way. You represent a magnificent reality! Thank you, as well, for the attachments in a reduced and all personalized format, which I read with incredible interest and commotion".

It is Bassano del Grappa which on the 9th, 10th and 11th May, 2008, hosts the 81st National Gathering of the Italian alpine corps, a gathering which sees an extraordinary participation, thanks to the excellent organization, but even for the city which in the memory of Italians, represents the "utmost moment of national cohesion which lead to the overcoming of the desperate situation following the rout of Caporetto. The Sacrament of Monte Grappa arises still today as the symbol of the sacrifice of many young men for the defence and salvation of the Motherland" (taken from the article of the Italian alpine corps soldier Daniele Pellissetti entitled L'abbraccio di Bassano del Grappa agli Alpini del Canada e



Nord America published in the Corriere Canadese newspaper on the date of the 9th June, 2008).

Eighty-thousand Italian alpine corps members march in the parade, many come from all over the world. Numerous Italian alpine corps members from North America participate in it and their participation is rewarded with great demonstrations of affection, above all, during the parade. At the end of this, the Black Feathers set the next appointment for Latina. The Canadian and Torontonionian delegation are headed by the President of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association Inter-sectional Commission of Canada and the United States of America, Gino Vatri. He states "I have already participated in a lot of parades" – Vatri likes to repeat – "every time; however, the emotion is so great that it is if it were like the first time".

The picnics which year after year are an already consolidated tradition are always pleasant, have moments of relaxation, and of long chats with those present. The special guest of the Toronto section – Centre Group – was eighty-eight year old George Chalmers, a Canadian veteran residing in Toronto who in 1940, during the Second World War, found himself in Naples. More than a thousand people get together at the Fogolar Country Club in Oakville: amongst these even two Italian alpine corps members, Anilo Dolce, who is almost eighty years old and eighty-seven year old Felice Vignali, who left Scarborough by subway and were later put into the car of another Italian alpine corps member, who gave them a ride all the way to Oakville. "It is incredible and moving to see what these elderly Italian alpine corps members will do in order to be together", comments Vatri.



Luciano Panfili, Gino Vatri, Eugenio Galante and Gianni Celotto met after 42 years since they had been discharged from the Italian army.



The standard of the Hamilton section, Fausto Chiocchio, Adolfo D'Intino, and to the right, the pennant of the Mississauga group.





The President of the Famee Furlane of Toronto, Luigi Gambin, the Italian Consul General Emanuele Punzo, and General Sanzio Bonotto, together with the President of the Italian alpine corps of Toronto, Roberto Buttazzoni.



Famee Furlane, Toronto, 28th February, 2009, an exchange of gifts between Luciano Onnis and Roberto Buttazzoni.



Anacleto Vedovat is about to put the eagle on top of "his" monument that will be placed at the Famee Furlane on the occasion of the Inter-secional Congress which will take place on the 10th and 11th October, 2009.

More than three people take part in the picnic of the North York Italian alpine corps section: After the Mass, celebrated by Father Mario Bellinaso, there is a large barbecue with ninety pounds of sausage and a thousand pieces of chicken, besides the spaghetti with tomato sauce, and the hot dogs for the kids present.

The commemoration of the fallen of all the wars is organized at St. Clair Avenue and College Street, two neighbourhoods of Toronto which through the years saw many people of Italian origin living there. It is the Federation of the Italian army units and Police Associations of Toronto that organizes the ceremony which took place in the church of Saint Nicholas of Bari on Italy Avenue. Even the Italian Consul General, Doctor Gianni Bardini, was present and thanked Knight Roberto Buttazzoni, President of the Italian army units Federations and of the Italian alpine corps members of the Toronto section, and all those who cooperated in the organization of the ceremony. On College Street, the FIDCA and BIA of Little Italy organized their celebration in the church of Saint Francis of Assisi in the presence of the representatives of the various Italian army unit associations.



The first important appointment of 2009 is the feast for the 50th founding anniversary of the Toronto section – Centre Group of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association. A special evening, this one held as usual at the Famee Furlane, in which the Italian army units associations, the Black Feathers in great numbers, the President of the Cordovado Club, Esterina Toneguzzo, the President of the Ramuscello Club, Silverio Gardin, the one of the Seniors' Club, Luigi Tedesco, Mario Querin of the Villotta Club, Angela Fatore and the committee of the Lanciano Recreational Club, participated. Absent instead, due to health reasons, was the President of the Pasiano Club, Egidio Martin, who was remembered for his great cooperation. Amongst the guests of honour were: General Sanzio Bonotto, military attaché at the Italian Embassy in Ottawa, the Italian Consul General, Gianni Bardini, and the President of the Famee Furlane, Luigi Gambin.

Gino Vatri presented Pietro Sfreddo, Luciano Clauser, and Lanfranco Ceschia, three of the founding members, and moreover illustrated the history of the section and recalled the group leaders and presidents who succeeded each other during this half century. It was to be remembered, as well, that, in 1985, even the newspaper of the section *Alpini in trasferta* was founded, having later on become the official mouthpiece of all of the sections and groups of North America. From its birth up until today, the section organized countless social and patriotic festivities, picnics, fundraisers for important events by even participating in the North American Congresses and the National Gatherings in Italy. Elections will be held next year for the group and sectional council: "Participating in these last ones is a right, but even a duty for all of the groups of the section", concluded Vatri.

Always being in the front row is a characteristic of the Italian alpine corps which as soon as it heard of the earthquake which struck the city of L'Aquila and the nearby towns last April, mobilized themselves in order to help the survivors of the quake. As they have always done with their heart.

It is what clearly emerges from an article published in "La piu beja fameja" of the Pordenone section entitled "We are all from Abruzzi – 6th April, 2009": "The earthquake that struck L'Aquila and its province with extreme violence has even struck the hearts of the Italian alpine corps members, who lived through the experience of 1976, in Friuli, as victims and rescue workers. The quake even damaged the Rossi Barracks, former headquarters of the Julia Recruits Training Battalion, in which thousands of Friulians, put on the military uniform, when military service was still in force. The Italian alpine corps



The Canadian delegation marches, lead by Ferdinando Bisinella; the standards of the Toronto, Montreal and Windsor sections are quite visible.





Our "Foreign Minister" Ornello Capannolo, the National President Corrado Perrona and the editor of L'Alpino, Vittorio Brunello, in the photo, with Giuseppe Della Nora, Gino Vatri, Tony Renon and Vittorino Morasset will be in Toronto on the 10th and 11th October for the Inter-sectional Congress.

members of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association immediately mobilized themselves and placed themselves at the disposal of the National Civil Protection by going with the dog units already on the following day in order to look for survivors and victims beneath the rubble. In the following days, other Italian alpine corps members within the sphere of the Regional Civil Protection reached the Abruzzo region with weekly shifts in order for logistical and nutritional tasks with the field kitchens. In June, the commitment will continue by substituting and integrating Italian alpine corps members of other regions in other earthquake stricken areas. Certainly the Abruzzo region will be in need of the solidarity and continuous help on the part of we Italian alpine corps members and for a long time. In particular, our section will have to guarantee a weekly shift of about ten volunteers, therefore an appeal is launched to all of the registered Italian alpine corps members so that they respond with generosity to this request, by making themselves available and giving their adhesion according to their availability, by even keeping in mind that this intervention represents the testing ground for our Sectional Civil Protection and the volunteers in general".

In the 2nd issue of "La piu beja fameja" of 2009, the article "Un saluto agli alpini di Toronto" is published. The idea of a trip to the land of the maple tree on the part of the aggregate member, Luciano Onnis, who takes advantage of the opportunity in order to meet the Italian alpine corps of the Toronto section and to hand over to them the new Crest of the Villotta-Basedo group, is told step by step. "Dear group leader of Toronto, I would like with these words to point out to you that for me and the whole group it will be an honour to know that this little pennant of ours can appear in an Italian alpine corps headquarters so far away. So far away, but for us, even so close in the sentiment of brotherhood which ties us to you Canadians and Italians of Toronto, because many, even from your towns are found there – writes the group leader of the Italian alpine corps of Villotta and Basedo Lieutenant Vittoriano Paolo Vincenzo Vezzato – with the present message, "I would like to moreover invite you and the members of your group, whenever you happen to come to Italy in the vicinities of Pordenone, to want to contact us in order to visit our beautiful headquarters and to taste the traditional food of our equipped kitchen".

It is on Saturday, the 28th February that the exchange of pennants takes place between the member Luciano Onnis, the President of the Toronto section, Roberto Buttazzoni, and the Inter-sectional President of Canada and the United States, Gino Vatri. The Sectional Council of Toronto presides over the meeting.

But this 2009 will still be long and rich with events, meetings, and celebrations: at the basis of any appointment with the Black Feathers, there is always, yesterday like today and surely like tomorrow, the desire of being together, of feeling like a big family, united by the most noble ideals, from love for one's own Motherland, to respect and loyalty, as well as, having a deep bond of friendship and brotherhood.





Above the “Italian alpine corps mobile” of Alpino Colangelo vice group leader of North York on the occasion of a visit to the inter-sectional coordinator, Gino Vatri. Alpino Colangelo (his name is actually Alpino which in Italian means Italian alpine corps member) did military service with the Italian alpine corps and they are all Italian alpine corps members in his family.



1st PART

Italian Alpine Troops Corps Soldiers

Chapter
- VII -

THUNDER BAY

Thunder Bay, 23rd January, 1994: in the photograph the Italian alpine corps members at the Da Vinci Centre



Thunder Bay, 1994: in the photograph, Gino Vatri, Inter-sectional President of the Italian alpine corps of North America, hands over a gift on behalf of the Italian alpine corps members of Thunder Bay to the former group leader Mario Greguoldo. In the photograph, Joe Sabotig, group leader of Thunder Bay, together with a group of Participants, who have arrived from Winnipeg and Manitouwadge, in order to celebrate the twenty-fifth foundation anniversary, can be recognized.



BRIEF HISTORY OF THE GROUP

The Italian alpine corps group of Thunder Bay was formed in April 1969, thanks to the interest of a small group of former Italian alpine corps soldiers lead by Dante Gasparotto.

Our group, dedicated to the memory of Olivo Maronese, including the friends of the Italian alpine corps had a hundred and thirty members. It presently has fifty-five members.

Sticking to the traditions of the Italian alpine corps, in 1976, the local group, with the help of Aldo Mascarin, formed the Italian alpine corps Choir which presently represents the Italian community at various social and religious events.

The highlights of our social activities are: Mass and breakfast, an annual banquet, and picnic.

The annual Mass, which takes place in January, is celebrated in remembrance of the dead and is followed by breakfast with the participation of family members and friends.

All of the members, friends, and family members participate in the annual banquet which is held in the Spring. During the evening, the Italian alpine corps Choir performs and on this occasion two scholarships are presented to the members' children. Moreover, our "mascots", the mule, makes its annual appearance.

Other activities of the group are the picnic in which the Italian alpine corps members and their families participate, and with the help of a small group of volunteers, lead by the untiring Ido Caratti, cook homemade sausages and spaghetti which are watered down by good wine and entertained by the accordion of Eligio Pauletig.

One of the noble aims of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association is to help the needy and our group, with pride, in the time of need during the natural calamities which struck Friuli and southern Italy, sent with readiness and without reserves, a considerable amount of financial assistance.



Medaglia d'Oro Olivo Maronese

Maronese Olivo caporal maggiore di artiglieria alpina.

Nato a Busiana, Udine, nel 1916.

3° reggimento artiglieria alpina << Julia >>, gruppo << Conegliano >>

Capo pezzo di artiglieria alpina di provato valore. Durante un forte attacco di sovrachianti forze di fanteria appoggiate da mezzi corazzati, malgrado la violenta reazione avversaria, in piedi dirigeva con sprezzo del pericolo il fuoco del suo pezzo sulle fanterie avanzandole e immobilizzandole un carro armato. Distrusse il suo pezzo da artiglieria benché ferito accorrendo di sua iniziativa ad altro pezzo rimasto privo di serventi e riprendeva il fuoco sull'avversario momentaneamente irrimediabile. Colpito mortalmente persisteva nell'impetuosa lotta finché, estenuato, si accasciava al posto di combattimento. Cosciente della prossima fine, rifiutava ogni soccorso ed invitava i compagni artiglieri a strenua resistenza Russia, 20 gennaio 1943



Benedizione Del Gagliardetto (1974) Chiesa di San Domenico East End



The committee of the Italian alpine corps of Thunder Bay: D. Gasparotto, G. Sabotig, F. Rassat, and M. Greguoldo can be recognized in the first row from the left; N. Pradissitto, M. Margarit, I. Caratti are standing.



2003: the Italian alpine corps Choir of Thunder Bay.



THE ITALIAN ALPINE CORPS GROUP OF THUNDER BAY

In 1990, the Italian alpine corps Choir of Thunder Bay, directed by Philip Cotton, performs at the inauguration ceremony of the “Italian Week”. The festivities have been organized at the Italian Centennial Hall where a dinner dance took place in which more than four hundred people participated, belonging to the Italian Society of Port Arthur and to the Prince of Piedmont Italian Society.

In 1994, five hundred people, between Italian alpine corps members and sympathizers, participate in the event organized by the Italian alpine corps members of Thunder Bay for the twenty-fifth foundation anniversary. This event is one which even the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans’ Association Inter-sectional President of North America, Gino Vatri, participated. There was a huge parade of the various representations amongst which, one from Winnipeg, lead by Serio Daniel and one from Manitowish, lead by Silvio Cortelazzis, were followed by songs from the Italian alpine corps Choir and the national anthems.

There were moments of general commotion during the speech of the group leader, Joe Sabotig, who recalled the most important steps of the history of the group, the founding members, the past Presidents, the 6th Congress of the Italian alpine corps of Canada (Thunder Bay, 1991, author’s note) and the great dream: the one of erecting a monument in honour of the fallen of the Motherland.

The honorary President, Dante Gasparotto, a founding member, remembered the first years of the group’s life while Gino Vatri brought the greetings of the National President, Doctor Leonardo Caprioli, and of Doctor Giovanni Franza, the person in charge of the foreign sections. Vatri, finally, set an appoint-







1977-1978: the Italian alpine corps members of Thunder Bay



Thunder Bay, 2008: a group of participants in the feast.

ment for all the Italian alpine corps members to meet at the 8th Congress of the Italian alpine corps of Canada, planned for the 2nd and 3rd September, 1995.

The feasts, organized by the Italian alpine corps are always cheerful and marked by a sane friendship. Getting together, for the Italian alpine corps, is always an occasion of festivity. The spirit that accompanies them, even when they are not wearing the hat with the famous black feather, is always the same. It has even been so for the Italian alpine corps of Thunder Bay which, in 2008, celebrated its 39th foundation anniversary.

An excellent supper, a lot of music and Italian alpine corps choirs, the extraction of lottery prizes and excellent company in order to exchange a few words made the Black Feathers have an unforgettable night.

During the evening, a thousand dollar donation was even made to the Italian alpine corps choir of Thunder Bay which is directed by maestro Ernie Slongo and of which Tony Buttazzoni is the President.







Thunder Bay, 2008: Ida Cavatti, Mario Margarit, Freddi Rassat, Luigi Sacco, Mattia Fragnoli, Bruno Battistella, Fedele Bertoni and Berto Chies can be recognized in the photo



1991: the Italian alpine corps of Thunder Bay

The Italian alpine troops members of the Thunder Bay group are dynamic, always on the move and calm, organizing last summer, a pleasant picnic with the Friulians, Trevisans, and the Slovenians of Friuli Venezia Giulia, obtaining an enormous success of presences.

The feast was even the occasion in order to remember the people who turned eighty years old: Rinaldo Belgrado, Antonio Buttazzoni, Beppina Rassat, and Alfredo Rassat were wished a very Happy Birthday by all those present.

The Italian alpine corps members even sent their best wishes for a speedy recovery to the vice group leader of the Black Feathers of Thunder Bay, Mario Greguoldo.

Satisfied with the outcome of the feast and with the entire group together with its group leader, Joe Sabotig, who, as always, thanked those present and all those who cooperated in the feast, the collective commitment had it that the event was organized to perfection.





Aldo Mascarin



Vittorio Gollino



Antonio Fiorido



Cecon Squadra

Antonio Fiorido



Squadra di Cividale



Ersilio Cont



Squadra di Iuvanchi













Serata di festa per celebrare l'anniversario: cena, ballo, discorsi, una mostra e un video per ricordare il cammino del gruppo dalla sua fondazione fino ad oggi

I primi 40 anni degli Alpini di Thunder Bay

MARIELLA POLICHEMI

TORONTO - Quando si tratta di organizzare una celebrazione gli Alpini ci mettono il cuore.

E così è stato anche in occasione del 40esimo anniversario dell'A.N.A. di Thunder Bay, Gruppo Modaglia d'Oro Olivo Maronese, costituito nel 1969 da Dante Gasparotto che ne fu il primo capogruppo.

E stata una festa pianificata con cura, questa del quarantesimo anniversario, i cui preparativi sono iniziati nel luglio del 2008: un comitato formato da Loredana Bene, Ido Caratti, Aldo Mascarin, Nello e Rita Pradisissito ha lavorato con impegno affinché tutto, anche i più piccoli dettagli, fossero curati.

Dopo un primo evento, "A night of remembrance", organizzato il 19 settembre dello scorso anno durante il quale solo gli alpini e le vedove degli alpini deceduti sono stati invitati ad una cena gratuita, è stata la volta della "grande serata".

Tra i primi a giungere il presidente della Commissione Intersezionale, Anso del Canada e degli Stati Uniti Gino Vatri assieme alla moglie Sandra. Agli eventi organizzati dalle Penne Nere della città, Vatri ha già partecipato varie volte: per l'occasione la coppia Vatri è stata ospite degli amici Rita e Nello Pradisissito (quest'ultimo, come Gino, originario di Gorgo di Latissana).

Chi dorme non piglia pecore, recita un vecchio detto, così gli Alpini si mettono al lavoro già di primo mattino per rendere la serata impeccabile: il comitato esecutivo si dà infatti appuntamento presso il salone Michelangelo del Da Vinci Centre per sistemare le decorazioni e preparare la serata. Non è mancata l'occasione per dare vita ad una piacevole tradizione, vale a dire un buon bicchiere di vino portato dall'abruzzese Bruno Di Gregorio accompagnato dal frico, il tradizionale formaggio friulano cotto preparato per l'occasione da Bèppina Rassat.

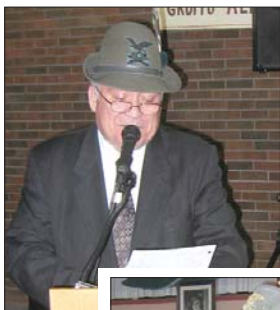
E' stata l'instancabile ed entusiasta Rita Pradisissito a pianificare e coordinare i festeggiamenti: da tanti anni la Pradisissito non risparmia le sue energie nell'aiutare il Gruppo di Thunder Bay. In queste due ultime serate di festa la Pradisissito ha svolto anche le funzioni di maestra di cerimonia.

Hanno partecipato in gran numero gli Alpini alla festa di anniversario così come la presenza di familiari ed amici ha superato anche le più rosee previsioni: cena superba, esibizione del Coro degli Alpini fondato da Aldo Mascarin nel 1976 ed il ballo fino all'una del mattino hanno reso la serata, nella sala Verdi del Da Vinci Centre, indimenticabile. Ad offrire una squisita porchetta è stato Bruno Di Gregorio, uomo d'affari e socio del Gruppo Alpini di Thunder Bay.

Tra i numerosi presenti vanno ricordati anche gli Alpini di Winnipeg Umberto Dei Conti, Eugenio Tomasi, Rino Canal e le rispettive signore Caroline e Karla.

Non è mancata neppure la partecipazione del "mulo", compagno inseparabile degli Alpini in montagna che ha rinnovato una tradizione cara alle Penne Nere.

Sono stati felici, anzi felicissime le Penne Nere di Thunder Bay del successo riscosso dalla loro festa, che segna un importante traguardo nella vita dell'associazione: sul viso di ogni membro del comitato, dal capogruppo in carica da 26 an-



Nelle foto sopra da sinistra Gino Vatri, Rita Pradisissito e un altro alpino con il "mulo"; nelle foto a destra Joe Sabottig e Freddy Rassat, degli Alpini di Thunder Bay



Nella foto sotto il consiglio del Gruppo Autonomo di Thunder Bay: sotto al centro si riconoscono Gino Vatri, Joe Sabottig, Sherry Sabottig e Nello Pradisissito; nella foto in fondo il Coro alpino di Thunder Bay



ni Giuseppe Sabottig, al vicecapogruppo Mario Greguoldo, a Ido Caratti, Mattia Fragnoli, Mario Mangariti, Aldo Mascarin, Livio Nadini, Nello Pradisissito, Alfredo Rassat, Alfredo Tomasini e Franco Topatigh, si poteva leggere la soddisfazione e l'orgoglio.

Un gruppo, questo della città dell'Ontario nordoccidentale, che è onorato di avere tra i propri Alpini tre veterani della Seconda Guerra Mondiale, tutti ultratrentenni: Bruno Bergamo, Domenico Romito e Armando Simoni.

È un rituale che si ripete ogni volta quello dell'ingresso in sala degli Alpini: si inizia con l'esecuzione degli inni nazionali e di alcuni brani alpini, entrano quindi gli ospiti che siedono al tavolo d'onore, i gagliardetti di Winnipeg e di Thunder Bay e gli Alpini.

E' stata poi la volta della preghiera dell'alpino recitata da Bruno Di Gregorio e dello scambio dei doni.

E' stato, quindi, il capogruppo Joe Sabottig, alla guida del Gruppo dal 1983, a fare gli onori di casa dando il benvenuto ai presenti e ricordando le persone che hanno contribuito con il loro lavoro all'organizzazione dell'evento.

Gino Vatri, nel suo intervento, ha tracciato per sommi capi la storia del gruppo, storia peraltro ben illustrata dal video di Loredana Bene ed Elaine Dudar. Vatri ha inoltre ricordato il fondatore e il primo capogruppo Dante Gasparotto e Ugo Frattolin, entrambi "andati avanti". «Ritornarsi tra Alpini significa rinnovare la propria fratellanza negli ideali comuni, ravvivare la fiamma dell'amicizia e dell'amore per l'Italia lontana, mantenere lo spirito di collaborazione e dell'altruismo», ha detto Gino Vatri - «devonoci ci sono gruppi e sezioni alpine si notano questi sentimenti».

Vatri ha concluso porgendo ai presenti il saluto di Ornello Capannolo, nostro ministro degli Esteri e del presidente nazionale Corrado Perona: «Spero che possano partecipare al Congresso Intersezionale che si terrà a Toronto» - ha concluso Vatri - «Mi auguro di rivedervi numerosi mentre in questo momento il mio



pensiero va ai fratelli abruzzesi duramente colpiti dal terremoto dello scorso aprile».

Sono stati poi consegnati dei certificati ai membri del consiglio degli Alpini di Thunder Bay.

Una serata, questa, fatta di voglia di celebrare, di amicizia, fratellanza e naturalmente di tanti ricordi: su uno schermo sistemato appositamente è stato proiettato per tutta la serata un dvd che ha illustrato per immagini i primi quaranta anni di vita del gruppo.

Il video, "40 anniversary celebration", è stato curato e prodotto in maniera superba da Loredana Bene ed Elaine Dudar, che si sono prodigate in un lungo lavoro di ricerca. Al termine della proiezione Loredana Bene, presente alla festa, è stata applaudita a lungo.

Una mostra, inoltre, ha proposto una retrospettiva vera e propria degli Alpini, dalla loro nascita nel lontano 1892 ad oggi e la presenza dell'Associazione Nazionale Alpini in Italia e in tutto il mondo. Sia la mostra che la proiezione della videocassetta sono state gradite dai presenti che hanno così ripagato il lungo lavoro di Loredana e Rita nel preparare la serata. È volata via la serata di festa tra cibo, canti, discorsi, ballo e tante chiacchiere tra veri amici. In fondo, ogni festa delle Penne Nere, è anche una festa dell'amicizia. Amicizie, queste degli Alpini, che una volta nate, possono solo diventare più forti.



1st PART

Italian Alpine Corps Soldiers

Chapter
- VIII -

NORTH YORK
MISSISSAUGA
SUDBURY
WINDSOR



9th January, 2000: membership drive of the Italian alpine corps of North York.

ITALIAN ALPINE CORPS GROUP OF NORTH YORK

It is in 1975 that a group of “independent” Italian alpine corps members get together, giving life to the first nucleus which will then call itself the North York group.

At the time, the committee was made up of Alberto Valente, President, Fabrizio Capovilla, Vice President, Adolfo D’Intino, treasurer, Enrico Gasbarro, secretary, and of the councillors Nello D’Intino, Carmine Viola, Santino Manari, Arnaldo Troiola, Fabbro Filieri, and Domenico Forgiantini.

The group was originally made up of twenty-six members. At the first feast, organized in 1976, about five-hundred people participated in it. The members increased year after year right up to the point of reaching sixty membership card holders.

A few years later, in 1982-1983, Toronto officially became a section and the Italian alpine corps of North York entered to become a part of the Toronto section.

Unfortunately, the President Alberto Valente died on the 13th June, 1996: it was Adolfo D’Intino who was therefore elected the group leader. Since 1996, the number of members has increased right to the point of reaching ninety-six membership card holders.

The Italian alpine corps members of North York organize three events during the course of the year: in January, the membership drive takes place with a lunch in which about one hundred and thirty people take part, in July; the committee instead organizes a picnic in which about two hundred and fifty people take part. It is the same Italian alpine corps members who cook the pasta with tomato sauce and barbecue meat for all of the participants. Moreover, the committee organizes a lot of games for the children and a lot of prizes to be raffled off. In the month of October, finally, the committee organizes a dinner dance evening during which a musical band performs.

Moreover, the Italian alpine corps group of North York contributes, with donations, to various organizations in order to support medical research.

The Black Feathers of North York even participate in the various feasts organized by the other Italian army units associations and in community events.

It is thanks to the constant commitment of the committee and to the participation of the members, of their families, and of the sympathizers, that the various events turn out to be a great success.

The present committee is made up of Adolfo D’Intino, group leader, Alpino Colangelo, vice group leader, Nello D’Intino, treasurer, Ferdinando Battistelli, secretary, and of the councillors Fabrizio Capovilla, Gino D’Antonio, Evangelista Cannavici, Domenico Guardiani, and Cesidio Di Giovanni.





North York, 2001: representatives of the Italian State Police and of the Italian alpine corps



2003 circa: the Italian alpine corps group of North York



29th June, 2003: the picnic of the Italian alpine corps of North York.





June 2005, Columbus Centre in Toronto: the Italian alpine corps of Toronto and North York



January 2006: the membership drive



2007: the Italian alpine corps of North York



1986: the committee of the Italian alpine corps of North York





1993: the Italian alpine corps group of North York



1989: the Italian alpine corps members of North York



27th October, 1990: Alberto Valente and the committee on the occasion of the anniversary feast of the North York group.





Mississauga, 1990's: sectional meeting

ITALIAN ALPINE CORPS GROUP OF MISSISSAUGA

The Mississauga group of the Toronto section was founded way back in 1978 by the initiative of the Italian alpine troops corps member Valentino Fellini assisted by Muzio Pasqualoni, Carmine Stornelli, Domenico Subrani, Pasquale Taccone and Filippo Venditti.

The group immediately had a big success: eighty were registered between the Italian alpine corps members and friends of the Italian alpine corps.

The gala evenings, the summer picnics, the charitable donations, the member's meetings on the premises of the Celano Canadian Club which courteously hosts the group are remembered amongst the numerous social activities.

The first group leader was Valentino Fellini who was followed many years later by Pasquale Taccone and successively by Muzio Pasqualoni. Presently, the group leader is Carmine Stornelli while the committee is made up of Renato Ciaccia, vice group leader, Muzio Pasqualoni, secretary, Renzo Leonardi, treasurer and Gino D'Ovidio, councillor.

In this moment there are thirty members: "Unfortunately, given that there no longer is emigration from Italy, the number of members continues to grow thin more and more – says the group leader Carmine Stornelli – however we keep on going ahead with the enthusiasm and courage that distinguishes us Italian alpine corps members".



1999, membership drive: the vice group leader, Valentino Fellini, and the eldest member and war veteran, Geremia Coletta, can be recognized amongst the members of the Mississauga group gathered together on the occasion of the membership drive



Mississauga 2007, headquarters of the Celano Club. The council of the Italian alpine corps of Mississauga with Roberto Buttazzoni, President of the Toronto section, some councillors and the President of the Celano Club



Mississauga 2006: a nice group of Italian alpine corps members of Mississauga. The group leader, Carmine Stornelli, the complete council, the group leader of North York, Adolfo D'Intino, and the Inter-sectional President, Gino Vatri, can be recognized. At the centre of the photo, with the pennant, is the founder of the group and first group leader, Valentino Fellini.



Mississauga, 1994: a moment of the annual feast



Mississauga, 2004: Angelo Bonaldo of the Mississauga group and some exotic and multi-ethnic dancers



Mississauga, 2004: the Italian alpine corps members of Mississauga and the ones of North York on the occasion of a civic feast.





Mississauga: some members of the group gathered together on the occasion of the annual picnic. The group leader, Carmine Stornelli, the vice group leader, Renato Ciaccia, and the secretary, Muzio Pasqualoni, and the guest for the day, the President of the Toronto section, Roberto Buttazzoni, can be recognized in the photo.



Mississauga, 2005



Mississauga, 2002



Mississauga, 2002:
members of the group
at the monument in
Toronto



2004: the
Mississauga group



1992: autumn din-
ner dance feast.





Toronto, some Italian alpine corps members of Mississauga on the occasion of the sectional meeting of Toronto



1990 circa: the committee of the Mississauga group



1993: the committee of the Mississauga group.



10th October, 1987:
the committee of the
Mississauga group
with the Inter-sec-
tional President,
Gino Vatri



February 1988:
some members of
the Mississauga
group of the Italian
National Alpine
Troops Corps
Veterans'
Association pose for
a souvenir photo on
the occasion of the
membership drive of
1988



Famee Furlane
2003, Muzio
Pasqualoni who car-
ries the pennant of
the Mississauga
group and Carmine
Stornelli make their
entry into the hall.
Moreover, Roberto
Buttazzoni and
Lanfranco Ceschia
are recognized.



Sudbury, 1993: Italian alpine corps members of Sudbury, on the stairs of the entrance, to the Caruso Club.



SUDBURY GROUP OF THE ITALIAN ALPINE CORPS

It was 1970 when the Autonomous Group of the Italian alpine corps of Sudbury was founded. A small group of intrepid Italian alpine corps members formed by Danilo Petovello, Arturo del Missier, Fiorino Michelutti, Vittorio Pagnucco, Luigi Candusso, and Giuseppe Leon got together: the number of adhesions was already high so that it was decided to give life to the first Gathering which took place in the rooms of the Caruso Club Society, graciously lent, in order to allow the meetings, of the present Autonomous Group of the Italian alpine corps, of Sudbury, of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association.

In the following three months, the group counts about fifty members, amongst whom are the Italian alpine corps soldiers and artillerymen. "It was therefore decided, under the leadership of the first elected group leader Adriano Toppazzini, to encourage all of the former Italian alpine corps members of the Sudbury District and surroundings, to register with the group – recalls the group leader Luigi Buttazzoni – the group thus begins its journey which in its 39 years of life, sees the alternating of the group leaders Danilo Petovello, Romeo Santi, Armando Rotondo, all the way up to my election which took place in 1992".

The first group leader, Adriano Toppazzini, remained in office for a year: Toppazzini gave all of himself so that the group could begin its existence on a solid foundation. It is in 1972 that Danilo Petovello is elected the group leader who, with a deep love, guides the journey of the group for eleven years, during which feasts, trips to wherever the other sections or groups would celebrate their anniversaries, were organized. "Danilo was present in every circumstance with his Italian alpine corps members until, when after ten years of intense work "he lays his rucksack on the ground". A big thank you goes to him", adds Buttazzoni.

In 1982, the Italian alpine corps member Romeo Santi is elected at the head of the group: in 1983, together with his directive committee, he organizes the second Inter-sectional Congress of the Italian alpine corps, in Canada, by preparing a well looked after programme. Rich in events, concerts, and competitions, this event turns out to be a big success and receives the praises of the local press. The National President, Vittorio Trentini, came from Italy, who joined the sections, groups, civil and religious dignitaries and the very many Italian alpine corps members present with their families. An "unforgettable Italian alpine corps" evening ends up concluding the event.

The committee thus goes to the home of the Italian alpine corps member Giulio Di Benedetto, who is sick, in order to give him a wheelchair: amidst the joy and wonder, the Italian alpine corps member, Giulio, thanks the Italian alpine corps members for the beautiful gesture with tears in his eyes.

It is 1998 when, due to health reasons, Romeo Santi resigns. Later on, the Italian alpine corps member Armando Rotondo is elected the group leader in the elections.

In 1990, the group celebrates its 20th anniversary: it is during this memorable event that the group decides to erect the Monument to the Italian alpine corps, with the support of all the members. The monument, on whose epigraph it is written: "To the civic and moral valour of the Italian alpine corps in Canada", was inaugurated on the 19th May, 1990. With the inauguration of the monument made by the





2005 – In the photo, part of the Sudbury group is present, for the raising of the flag at the municipal hall and regional offices of Sudbury: amongst the authorities present the Italian Vice Consul in Sudbury, Dr. Grosso and the Italian Consul General Dr. Ferroni Carli can be recognized.

Italian alpine corps member and sculptor Pietro Ellero and by his son Frediano Ellero, a great dream comes true for the Italian alpine corps members of Sudbury in the presence of civil and religious authorities, and of Colonel Paolo De Wolanski, military attaché at the Italian embassy in Ottawa, of the Inter-secutional President Gino Vatri with his wife, of the Bishop of Sudbury, His Excellency Jean Louis Plouffe, of the chaplain of the Sudbury group Father Noel Simard (now a bishop), of Doctor Roberto Grosso, the Italian Vice Consul and of many Italian alpine corps members from the various groups and sections in Canada.

In 1992, the new directive committee is elected: the task of group leader is assigned to Luigi Buttazzoni, still in charge now. During the period that will follow, the President and the committee will commit themselves to reinforcing the group with other Italian alpine corps members and friends, always present in the gatherings and congresses, with the aim of reinforcing old friendships and making new ones be born.

In 1999, the group hosts the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association Choir of Milan on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of this last one: more than about four hundred and fifty people take part in the great musical evening. Dinner, dance, of course a lot of Italian alpine corps songs, and a lot of healthy joy, until late in the evening, are the way in which the celebration will end.

The Italian alpine corps members of the Sudbury group will even participate in the Inter-secutional Congress and in the Columbus Day parade in New York City.

In the year 2000, the 30th foundation anniversary of the group is celebrated in style. Civil and religious authorities, the unfailing Inter-secutional President Gino Vatri with his wife Santa, many Italian alpine corps members with their families, take part in the festivities.

In 2005, the year in which the 35th foundation anniversary is celebrated, the general assembly is held and for the occasion, it is decided, by common accord, to make a souvenir book because the year 2005 marks another important Italian alpine corps stage reached, thanks to these men of a strong will. The book is born, thanks to the cooperation of the committee, of group leader Buttazzoni, and of the Italian alpine corps member Zanchetta, who working hard, manages to finish this work in no time.

On the 21st, 22nd and 23rd May, 2005, "entirely Italian alpine corps" days are held: the welcomed guests are General Orazio De Minicis, military attaché at the Italian embassy in Ottawa, Gino and Santa Vatri, the Italian Vice Consul Paolo Colilli, his wife Dr. Diana Colilli, Rick Bartolucci with his wife, the Mayor of Sudbury, Jim Gordon, with his wife, the bishop His Excellency Jean Louis Plouffe, the chaplain of the group Monsignor John Caswell, Sergeant Gildo Di Biaggio from Winnipeg, 50 Italian alpine corps members from Windsor, with their President Agostino Brun, President Roberto Buttazzoni from Toronto, with 45 Italian alpine corps members, the Italian alpine corps member Anacleto Vedovat (he gives a portrait engraved on wood to the group). After the amassing together, the parade begins to the Monument of the Italian alpine corps soldier, with at the head of the cortege, the group leader followed by three founders, with the pennant and the flags. Other Italian alpine corps members and dignitaries





Group leader, Luigi Buttazzoni, gives a souvenir plaque on the occasion of the thirtieth foundation anniversary to the Inter-sectional President Gino Vatri.



The monument of the autonomous group of Sudbury, inaugurated in 1990 on the occasion of the 20th foundation anniversary.



The group leader presents the directive committee of 2005-2006, on the occasion of the thirty-fifth anniversary: standing from the left is Giovanni Zanchetta, Giovanni Taglialegne, Giuseppe Piuze, Gianfranco Poletti, Mario Simonetti, and Bruno Martelli (RIP); seated from the left is Giorgio Menegon, Vice group leader, Luigi Buttazzoni, group leader, Giuseppe Zanini, secretary-treasurer



September 2004, general assembly: in the photo the ever-faithful of the Italian alpine corps group "who count on still moving ahead, always, because the rucksack still isn't heavy!"



2005: thirty-fifth anniversary of the group: souvenir photo with the welcomed visit of General Orazio De Minicis and many Italian alpine corps members with their families.



The feast of the Italian Republic, in Sudbury, organized in cooperation with other associations.



follow: the bishop then imparts the blessing, while the Italian alpine corps, Sergeant Giorgio Menegon, recites the prayer of the Italian alpine corps soldier. "It is a simple, but touching ceremony, right until the end, when the master of ceremonies, the Italian alpine corps member, Giovanni Zanchetta, with impeccable mastery, presents the Caruso Choir which opens with the singing of the Italian and Canadian national anthems, before giving room to the Italian alpine corps songs of our valleys – says Buttazzoni – the supper is exquisite, the ceremony speeches very beautiful, the dance makes everybody go wild". After the extraction of rich prizes the announcement is made that the proceeds will go towards cancer research.

The Mass is celebrated on the following Sunday, at the Caruso Club, after which the visit to the city follows, then to the Trevi restaurant where the Italian alpine corps member Italo Polano prepares an exquisite lunch. At the end of this, group leader Buttazzoni, hands over a souvenir plaque to Gino Vatri and Agostino Brun on the occasion of the 35th anniversary of the Sudbury Group. Vatri gives thanks with a lot of beautiful words and he reminisces, over the journey made by the group, by highlighting the innumerable successes.

It is then the turn of the group leader who thanks the committee for the efficient cooperation during the course of the 35 years together.

Many are the activities which the group, named after Major Coporal Gino Di Biaggio, who fell on the Russian front on the 20th January, 1943, organizes during the course of the year: the 2nd June, for example, celebrates the feast of the Italian Republic, it participates in the procession of Saint Anthony, it celebrates the 4th November anniversary, with a Mass, in memory of the deceased Italian alpine corps members and the soldiers fallen in the fulfilment of their own duty. Every two years, moreover, a delegation participates in the Inter-sectional Congresses. "A thirty-five year Italian alpine corps journey is a beautiful goal and now we are heading towards the 40th anniversary, with the hope that the good Lord will help us", concludes the group leader Luigi Buttazzoni.



ITALIAN ALPINE CORPS... THOUGHTS

“Yes it’s true! The circle is inexorably getting smaller. The years are weighing upon the shoulders, the hair is turning more and more grey, the backs are bending, the steps are getting slower (perhaps assisted by a cane), the vision is getting blurry... are laws that nobody can escape from, but in the hearts and eyes of the Italian alpine corps members, the same ideals of the younger years and of maturity, ideals of good, strong and simple men, always live and flicker.

They, however, are now in need of help and so, they have now turned to those who have always been close to them: to their women, to their wives, to their “alpine stars”. Their enthusiasm and their encouragement for the “old men” is to polish us Italian alpine corps members up so that we remain always faithful guardians and promoters of the purest sentiments which today, unfortunately, technology and well-being, with its materialism, tends to erase more and more. Now, with our reinforced ranks, our rejuvenated energies... why not even celebrate the 40th anniversary? Come, come all, the Italian alpine corps members are waiting for you...”.

Giovanni Zanchetta

“Italian alpine corps members and friends who read the newspaper “Alpini in trasferta” and who say “I, too, am an Italian alpine corps soldier”, if you were really an Italian alpine corps soldier, you will have learned that being an Italian alpine corps soldier is a school of life which forms the character, which matures the young man’s personality, making him become a man in the end. Being an Italian alpine corps member, means consolidating our values, fidelity, and love for the Motherland and her institutions, remembering our traditions, our land, the family, solidarity, sacrifice, and respect for those who have preceded us, even by paying the price with their blood, with their lives, with their own duty. If you say “I am an Italian alpine corps member” you have to cooperate and help your group or section, participate in the meetings, carry out important tasks which you are called to do, read our newspaper “L’Alpino” which is our guide. If you are an Italian alpine corps member this is what you have to do, otherwise you can say “I once was an Italian alpine corps member”.

Vice group leader secretary of the group Giorgio Menegon



Alpini Section of Windsor Ontario Canada

It is not unusual on any given evening to find several men sitting around a table at the Fogolar Furlan Club of Windsor playing cards and recounting the stories of their youth. These stories include their military service in Italy during and after World War II. Some of these gentlemen served in the Alpini division of the Italian Army. When they left their native homes to immigrate to Canada they brought with them their famous Hat with the Black Feather.

This was the scene in the winter of 1966 and a few of those who were present at the time were: Beniamino D'Angnolo, Aldo Lot, Antonio Meret, Elio Nadalin, and Silvano Scodeller. With them was also Renato Bassi, not an Alpino but an ex-officer of the Italian Air Force. Bassi was very enthusiastic about the Alpini and would always bring up the topic whenever these few met and recounted their stories of the past. He suggested that they should inquire within the broader Italian community to see if there were other ex-Alpini. In time and through inquiries among acquaintances their group grew.

In May of 1967, the Gruppo Alpini of Windsor, Ontario, Canada was created. It was made up of about one hundred men who were the survivors of long ago battles and a few young men recently immigrated to Windsor after serving in the Alpine Division of the Italian military. The "festa dell'Alpino" was inaugurated in July of the same year and has been celebrated every year since. The members gathering around the camp altar for a Mass in remembrance of all Alpini lost in war and for deceased members of the Group. This solemn ceremony is followed by a banquet at the Fogolar Furlan Club of Windsor in which many members of the local Italian community also participate.

The first two years of existence saw a sparse board of directors. Renato Bassi was elected Group Head (Capogruppo) and Alfredo Morando as Vice Group Head (Vice Capogruppo). The small Group started participating in different activities and events within the larger Italian community representing with pride the land of their origins. It followed through these events that the Group Alpini became known to the broader community of Windsor, Canada keeping alive the historic sentiment of the Mountain Corps.

In 1969, with the new elections, the board of directors was expanded to 10 members. The newly elected Capogruppo was Alfredo Morando, resident of Windsor since 1951 and a native of Genoa. In the Second World War Alfredo was a Sergeant in the Artillery (Sottufficiale di Artiglieria Sommeggiata 75/13) with 63 months of military service on three fronts including the Russian Campaign.

The life of the Alpini of Windsor continued in relative tranquility. They continued to be admired by the community and each year the Festa of the Alpini, which was and continues to be celebrated each September, continues to grow in number of participants from the larger Italian community.

1979, the year marking the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Associazione Nazionale Alpini (ANA), marked a turning point for the Alpini of Windsor. The Capogruppo Morando, thanks to meetings with members of the national board of directors and with a brief visit to the Alpini of Canada of the then national president Franco Bertagnolli, requested to have Windsor become a Section of the national association.

The spring of 1981 marked the first Congress of the Alpini in Canada in Vancouver, British Columbia. Attending this meeting and representing Windsor was Elio Nadalin, founder and member of the Alpini-Windsor board of directors. At this time, with Vittorio Trentini as national president, came the official letter of approval of the request to advance from Group to Section of the larger Associazione Nazionale Alpini headquartered in Milan, Italy. Capogruppo Morando became the Windsor Section's first President. With the successive advancement of also the Group Alpini of Hamilton to Section, the number of Sections ANA in Canada grew to 7 with Gino Vatri of Toronto named Coordinator Intersezionale of North America. In 1982 the official standard of the new Section arrived from Italy replacing the pennant of Group Alpini. It had been blessed at the Mass for the Alpini during their annual reunion held in



Verona, Italy the previous year. It was introduced to the Windsor Section and re-blessed in honour of all members, living and deceased, at the open air Mass held next to the Monument of the Alpine Soldier on the grounds of the Fogolar Furlan Club.

In the climate of cooperation and solidarity the Section grew adding members including many "friends of the Alpini" who felt a strong bond with the ex-soldiers even though they themselves never served with them. They were and continue to be active in all celebrations and endeavors. A good number of members participated in the biennial North American Congresses held in different cities, such as Sudbury in 1983 and Ottawa in 1985.

Windsor Section was chosen to host the IV North American Congress in 1987. In addition to the many Alpini from Canada and New York were also representatives of the National Association of Alpini from Italy including the National President A.N.A. Leonardo Caprioli, the delegate A.N.A. for the sections outside Italy Giovanni Franza and Commissioner of the Honourably Fallen General Benito Gavazza. As a gesture of solidarity a tree donated by the National Association was planted by A.N.A. President Caprioli in the woodlands adjacent to the Fogolar Club. The two successful days of this IV Congress added another page to the story of Windsor Section.

After 28 years at the helm of the Alpini of Windsor, serving first as group head and then as president of the section, Alfredo Morando retired. The elections held in May 1997 brought Alpino Agostino Brun, corporal in the Eighth Battalion Gemona 1964-65, to the position of President A.N.A. Section Windsor.

1999 marked the passing of Alpino of the Julia division Amelio Pez, vice president of the Section and secretary of A.N.A. Intersectional of North America. Alpino Pez was very active with the Alpini organization from its very beginnings. His hard work and spirit will always be remembered and admired. The XI North American Intersectional Congress was held in September 2001 with the Section of Windsor as hosts. As always, representatives of all the Groups and Sections from around Canada and New York participated. The Section was honoured also to have the presence of the then A.N.A. Vice President Corrado Perona, A.N.A. Vice President Carlo Balestra and the Representative of I.F.M.S. (International Federation of Mountain Soldiers) Lucio Vadori along with other Italian and Canadian authorities. The finishing touch to the festivities was the participation of the Valtellina Brass band from Italy with their youthful exuberance and wonderful marching music.

With the general elections in November 2002 came a change in the board of directors (Consiglio Direttivo), and Alpino Vittorino Morasset, of the 3rd 1965 11th Raggruppamento Alpini d'Arresto Tolmezzo, was elected as President.

A significant addition to the Section is the opportunity for the widows of former members to become limited members as "friend of the Alpini". This small group is active in its support and participation in various Alpini activities, such as celebrations and excursions. They also volunteer their service by tending the garden around the Alpini monument.

The Coro Alpino Sezione Windsor (Alpini Choir) was formed in 2005 with Roberto Corrado as director. Their first major performance was during the visit of A.N.A. President Corrado Perona along with his wife Anna, A.N.A. Vice president Vittorio Brunello and his wife Maria Lucia, and A.N.A. Councilor Ornello Capannolo. The delegation, accustomed to hearing many Alpini choirs throughout Italy, were visibly moved and impressed with the heartfelt performance of the Alpini Choir of Windsor. The choir has since had the honour of performing with several outstanding Alpini Choirs from Italy that the Section has hosted. One choir was Coro Alpino "Stella del Gran Sasso" Coro ANA della Sezione Abruzzi which participated in the 2007 North American Intersectional Congress held in Windsor. The other occasion was in October of 2009 when the Coro Brigata Alpina Julia Congedati visited as part of their Canadian tour.



As mentioned above, the Section of Windsor hosted the 14th A.N.A. North American Intersectional Congress in September of 2007 in conjunction with the 40th Anniversary of the founding of the Section. The attendance of representatives of each of the Groups and Sections of North America reinforce and celebrate our solidarity in an organization whose roots may be long ago and far away but whose values and strength are still prized.

Among the guests were representatives of local and provincial governments, the Italian Vice Consul Liliana Scotti Busi and the Italian Military Attaché to Canada Gen. Orazio De Minicis. Representatives of the Alpini National Association included Vice president Ivano Gentili, the councilor in charge of the sections outside Italy, Ornello Capannolo, and the editor in chief of L'Alpino Vittorio Brunello and his wife Maria Lucia. The presence of the Coro Alpino from Gran Sasso gave this assembly its unique flavor with their songs of Italy. As always the weekend of the Congress is filled with activities, receptions, dinners, meetings, tours of the city, etc. all of which add to the festivities as well as renewing friendships. In 2009 the biannual Congress was held in Toronto. Since many of the representatives of A.N.A. were in the neighbourhood, so to speak, Windsor was honoured to host them for several days. This visit coincided with the arrival of the Coro Congedati Brigata Julia who with their incredible voices gave an unforgettable performance.

The Section of Windsor faces many of the same problems as all of the Groups and Sections of North America, that is, the advancing age of its members as well as a drastic decline in the immigration of Italians, most especially former Alpini. Sons and grandsons of members are encouraged to join to keep the organization viable. In the meantime the present members whether former Alpini or friends of Alpini continue to carry on the traditions of the Alpini including volunteerism and involvement in good works for the community.

GROUP HEADS AND PRESIDENTS OF THE SECTION OF WINDSOR

Capogruppo: 1967-69 Renato Bassi
 1969-81 Alfredo Morando

Presidents:



Alfredo Morando
1981-1996



Agostino Bru
1997-2002



Vittorino Morasset
2002-present

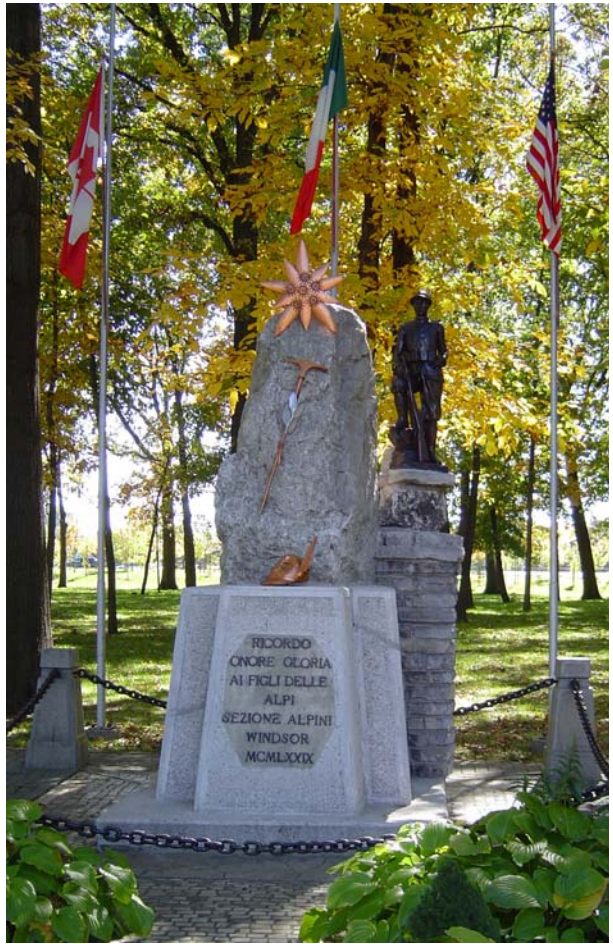


THE ALPINI MONUMENT

In 1969 was born the idea to erect a monument to the "sons of the Alps". The generosity and support of the Fogolar Furlan and its members made this possible. They offered the site on Club property on the wooded land adjacent to their building. A benefactor offered the massive stone. All the work was done a gratis by the Alpini members themselves and any expenses were covered by donations of money and materials from these same members. A local artist and fellow member Luigi De Zan created three of the bronze emblems that grace the monument: the Alpini hat, the pick-ax, and the Stella Alpina or Star of the Alps. At each celebration these symbols, along with the flags of the three countries of the Alpini of Windsor: Italian, Canadian and American, adorn the monument.

Today one sees the addition of a statue of a WWI vintage Alpine soldier. This was the work and donation of Livio Corrent in 2006. The stone pedestal and installation was done by the talented Alpino Renzo Nadalin with the help of Alpino Elio Nadalin, Alpino Gabriele Apolloni and Alpino Ennio Minato.

The area around the monument is maintained by a group of ladies, some of whom are widows of past members. They plant and care for a small garden in front of the monument. They also prepare the wreath used in Alpini ceremonies.



GOOD WORKS

Through the ensuing years, the Alpini of Windsor continued to participate in local events such as the annual summer festival of the Italian parish of St. Angela Merici Church.

One significant occasion, in 1993, was the presentation by the Alpini of the Italian flag to C. DeSantis elementary school, a school attended by many children of Italian immigrants. It was an impressive ceremony that included not only the students and teachers of DeSantis but also Ron Moro the then vice consul of Italy in Windsor, representatives of the local as well as provincial school boards, and the pastor of the Italian church.

Each November the Alpini of Windsor actively participates in ceremonies for Canada's Remembrance Day held at the G. Verdi Club in Amherstburg, Ontario.

Individual members offer their services as volunteers to various organizations bringing attention to the needs of others within the broader community. In 2008 the Alpini became more active as a group sponsoring social evenings for local groups such as the Italian Canadian Handicapable Association (ICHA) and the Caboto Specials, hosting pizza parties and dances. These have become annual events that are anticipated and enjoyed by the members of these two organizations.



The Section of Windsor had always made donations to local charities when it was able. In 2007, with the success of the 14th Congress held in Windsor, the Alpini were able to make a larger impact with the purchase of physiotherapy equipment for the Physical Rehabilitation Unit of Windsor Regional Hospital Western Campus.

After the disastrous earthquake in L'Aquila and surrounding Abruzzi in 2009, the Alpini of Windsor organized a dinner with an Abruzzese menu, dancing and raffle. With many volunteers and with generous donations from within the organization and the community, a wonderful evening produced impressive results. All the proceeds from the event along with a matching donation from the Alpini Section of Windsor went directly to the ANA earthquake rebuilding project that resulted in 33 houses built in the town of Fossa in Abruzzi.

The Windsor Section has always made it part of their mandate to care for each other as well as doing good works in the community. Visiting sick or aging members is an important part of the life of the Alpini. So it is giving honour to a member who dies with an official Alpini presence at their funeral service.

THE SECTION TODAY

The Section of Windsor consists of three groups: Windsor, Ontario, Detroit, Michigan and London, Ontario. The total number of members is 104 consisting of 51 Alpini and 53 friends of the Alpini.

The annual events continue to be celebrated much as they have been since early days. In March there is the Cottechino e Brovada dinner which was held on Saturday evening but has since moved to Sunday afternoon to accommodate older members. An annual picnic is held on the second Sunday in July. In September is the reunion of the Alpini of Windsor at which the members gather for a small parade around the grounds of the Fogolar Furlan Club followed by a mass celebrated outdoors next to the Alpini monument. Here the Alpini prayer is said and deceased members are remembered. This is followed by dinner and dancing in the hall with family and friends. These events serve to encourage participation, foster friendships and to raise funds to be used in community service activities. Each year the National Association of Alpini award a bursary to students who are the children or grandchildren of former Alpine soldiers and members of A.N.A. Windsor has been fortunate to have many recipients of this bursary known as the Borsa di Studio Franco Bertagnolli.

On a wider scale the Section of Windsor continues to be present and participate in the biannual North American Intersectional Congress held in various cities across Canada and New York City. Usually an excursion to the host city is organized by the section's administrative council. These trips are well attended and most enjoyable. Occasionally, an excursion is planned just for the sake of being together, be it to visit Alpini in other cities such as the trip to Sault Ste. Maria or just to visit other places as the trip to Washington, D.C. and New York.

Each year the Section continues to be represented at the National Reunion held each year in a different Italian city. This has not always been easy but always proves to be a memorable experience for any who do attend.

In the future the Alpini of Windsor wish to continue to be visible in the community, to continue to share the time and talents of its members to better the neighbourhood, city and world in which they live. In the words of President Morasset "...wearing the alpino hat does not make you an Alpino: you need love and respect for your neighbour, for your flag and to be ready always to help another, to give without expecting anything in return"

June Morasset





Three of the original founders of the Alpini Windsor Beniamino D'Agnolo,
Elio Nadalin and Aldo Lot



Organizing Committee of IV Intersectional Congress held in Windsor
September, 1987.

In the photo are: President Morando, Brun, Mion, Simone, Bortolin, Furlan,
Dezion, Rossi, E. Nadalin, Pez, Fregonese, Ghione, and Di Battista.





Outdoor Mass on the grounds of the Fogolar Furlan Club of Windsor



1993-Presentation of the Italian Flag by the Alpini of Windsor to
C. DeSantis Elementary School





A trip from earlier times



One of many excursions together





Alpini of Windsor visit Sudbury



In Thunder Bay for the Intersectional Congress in 1991





All gathered for annual picnic in July



Remembrance Day Ceremony



1st PART

Italian Alpine Troops Corps Soldiers

Chapter
- IX -

HAMILTON
KITCHENER-WATERLOO
WELLAND
GUELPH

Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association Hamilton section

642 Barton Street East, Hamilton, Ontario L8L-3A2 Tel: (905) 548-6166 e-mail: hamilton@ana.it

Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association Hamilton section
2009



Sectional Council

From the left to the right on the first row: Fausto Chiocchio (Sectional President), Pat Lostracco, Tony Renon (group leader of Kitchener-Waterloo), Carlo Clappa, Dino Berruti, Libby Sanelli, Silvano Pascolini (group leader Hamilton centre), Doro Di Donato (group leader of Welland), Angelo Cremasco (group leader of Guelph), Guido Di Stefano, Tristani Fernando.



Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association Hamilton section (931)

Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association Hamilton section

How the old men of Hamilton organized themselves



Sectional pennant

It was towards the end of October 1966. On a rainy and cold evening that the old man Gianni Peressuti showed up at the COSTI headquarters on King Street and informed the old man Enzo Scarponi

that he was very interested in setting up an Italian alpine corps group in the Hamilton area. He upon the indication of the Italian alpine corps member, Giuseppe Paron, the then President of the Venetian Club, who told him to go to the COSTI coordinator who wanted to get to know some old men with the aim of setting up a section.

After that meeting another one was organized at the headquarters of the Venetian Club. The old men Luigi Mauro, Ottaviano Pivotto, Adamo Pivotto, Celso Boccalon, and Romano Mauro attended it. It was decided that an Italian alpine corps evening would be organized and taking place on the 4th December at the Venetian Club. The day was chosen in honour of the feast of Saint Barbara (this saint in those days was still not cancelled from the calendar). The group subdivided the responsibilities. For the organization of the evening, Joe Paron gave the support of the club and... unlimited trust of repute. The then Italian Vice Consul in Hamilton, Raffaele Di Vincenzo, knew the Italian alpine corps well. He was in the Russian campaign as an officer of the Vicenza and he was captured during the retreat from the Don River in January 1943. He assured all of the Consulate's support and he committed himself to informing the Italian alpine corps members of Hamilton that he knew. On the 4th December, there were a lot of old men at the event and everybody had a great riotous time. At the end of the feast, the operative committee added other names, Pietro Bilanzola, Gabriele Reggimenti, Vittorio Albanelli, while the list of members reached forty-one in number. The old men of Hamilton had organized themselves.

After about ten years of existence, in 1978, new blood was infused into the ranks of the directive committee, amongst these Fausto Chiocchio, Mario Ventresca, and Luigi Borz and later on Gioacchino Nardi and others.

Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association of Toronto: Hamilton group, Welland group

In 1965, the Italian alpine corps members of Welland and the Niagara Peninsula organized themselves with the name of the "Alpine Club of Welland" while the Italian alpine corps of Hamilton organized themselves in 1966 with the name of the "Hamilton section of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association". Only on the 16th December, 1982, did they have their papers in order with the National Headquarters in Milan. In November 1982, the secretary of the National Headquarters, Colonel Renzo Tradiani, on a visit to Hamilton met with Fausto Chiocchio and Gino Vatri, the then President of the Toronto section, at the Venetian Club. One of the matters discussed was the necessary procedure that Hamilton would have had to follow in order to become a part of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association. On the 16th December, ninety-seven Italian alpine corps members of Hamilton and nineteen from Welland and the Niagara Peninsula registered with Milan through the Toronto section and they were registered as the "Hamilton group, Welland group of the Toronto section of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association".

On the 24th February, 1983, the National Headquarters confirmed that Hamilton was in order as an Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association group of the Toronto section. The code num-



ber assigned was no. 931 which was already the sectional number by the agreed, and successive, transformation into a section. The nineteen Italian alpine corps members of Welland were inserted as an Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association group of Welland with the code number 10.

Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association Hamilton section and Welland, Kitchener-Waterloo and Guelph group

17th February, 1983 – The request sent to Milan in order to become a section is approved.

21st March, 1983 – The National Directive Council approves that Hamilton constitute itself into a section with the Welland group.

20th May, 1983 – Blessing of the sectional standard at the National Gathering in Udine.

28th August, 1983 – A request is filed for Welland's pennant.

June 1991 – Birth of the Kitchener-Waterloo group.

1993 – Birth of the Guelph group.

17th January, 2008 – Birth of the Hamilton Centre group.

17th January, 2008 – First election of the section President by the delegates of the four groups.

Enzo Scarponi is the President from 1966 to 1979. The association rapidly grows and the Italian alpine corps members make themselves known for their activities, participation and contribution towards the social and cultural life of the Italian community.



March 1981. The dinner dance with the election of Miss Black Feather

Luigi Borz is the President from 1980-1982. New blood and ideas are infused into the ranks of the directive council which completely revitalizes the section. The number of members is tripled in a short time. The Italian alpine corps members participate evermore in the various communitarian activities.

Fausto Chiocchio is the President, from 1982 up until today. He untiringly promotes harmony and brotherhood both within the midst of the Italian alpine corps community and within the Italian one. He was one of the promoters of the union of the Italian alpine corps in Canada with the institution of the Inter-sectional Committee of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association of Canada and the USA of which he was the secretary for the first six years. He was the promoter with Mario Ventresca and Kino Nardi of the construction of the monument dedicated to the Fallen of all countries and for the purchase of the headquarters.

Committees and important events:

Just cannot be made in reporting on just a few pages everything that we have experienced and done during 43 years of associative life. What follows is a chronological account of the committees, of the activities and events (which were able to be traced!) held by us to be the most important during this period.



I – 1966-1978 Committee

President: Enzo Scarponi, Vice President: Luigi Mauro, Secretary/Treasurer: Gianni Peressutti, Councillors: Celso Boccalon, Ottavio Pivotto, Adamo Pivotto, Pietro Bilanzola, Vittorio Albanelli, Gabriele Reggimenti.

-The 10th November, 1966 was the first meeting and constitution of the Hamilton section.

The association grows rapidly and the Italian alpine corps members make themselves known for their activities, participation, and contribution to the social and cultural life of the Italian community.

ITALIAN NATIONAL ALPINE TROOPS CORPS VETERANS' ASSOCIATION HAMILTON SECTION

35 CATHERINE STREET SOUTH, HAMILTON, ONTARIO

This is the letterhead and the address used during the first 12-13 years since the origins of our association. As a logo, we chose the reddish-coloured Italian alpine corps hat which was placed at the centre-left of the letterhead. The address is the one of the Hamilton Multicultural Centre, on the third floor in room no. 60, where the President, Enzo Scarponi, used to work. This was the place that was used by us Italian alpine troop's corps members for our meetings. We called ourselves a section without having been registered with the Central Headquarters. The logo and the letterhead was not legal. The legal sections existing in Canada during this period were the Montreal section which was founded in 1954 and the Toronto group founded in 1962.

-The cost of the membership was \$5.00 and the number of members hovered around the 20-25 people.- During the summer of 1965-1966, the Italian alpine corps member Anellino Guglielmi, together with others, gathered together the Italian alpine corps members of Welland and the surrounding areas and formed the "Alpine Club of Welland".

-October 1978. Harvestrek 1978. Participation of the Italian alpine corps members with the "Dolomites" pavilion.



ASSOCIAZIONE
NAZIONALE
ALPINI



SEZIONE
DI
HAMILTON

STATION F P.O. BOX 6381, HAMILTON, ONTARIO, L9C 6L9

Changes of address from
1965 up until today



ANA - SEZIONE DI HAMILTON
P.O. Box 6381, Sin. "F"
Hamilton, Ontario
L9C 6L9



ASSOCIAZIONE NAZIONALE ALPINI - SEZIONE DI HAMILTON
P.O. Box 20307 Upper James Postal Outlet, Hamilton, On M9C 7m8



ASSOCIAZIONE NAZIONALE ALPINI - SEZIONE DI HAMILTON
442 Barton St. East, Hamilton, Ontario, CND, L8L 3A2
tel. (416) 548-6166



II – 1979-1980 Committee

President: Enzo Scarponi, Vice President: Ottavio Pivotto, Secretary/Treasurer: Fausto Chiocchio, Vice Secretary: Silvano Pascolini, Councillors: Pietro Bilanzola, Adamo Pivotto, Luigi Borz, Vittorio Albanelli, Gabriele Reggimenti, Antonio Di Nardo.

-Enzo Scarponi proposes the constitution of a Federation of the Italian alpine corps sections and groups of all of the Canadian provinces, with its central headquarters in Ottawa.

-In 1978, new blood is infused into the ranks of the directive committee; amongst these are Fausto Chiocchio, and later on, Mario Ventresca, Gioacchino Nardi and others. It is important to mention that during the same period in the Toronto section, Gino Vatri enters to become a part of the directive committee as secretary. Vatri was our constant contact in Toronto and he helped us later on to constitute ourselves into a group and then into a section.

-The letterhead is changed and the address is:

Station “F” P.O. Box 6381, Hamilton, Ontario L9C-6L9.
(this time the hat is green!).

-The secretary, with the directive committee, immediately got down to work with the first thing being completed was getting a post office box as an address for our section. Membership cards were then made for the members. One of the most important things to mention during this period was the compilation of the complete addresses of the Italian alpine corps members and sympathizers of Hamilton and surrounding areas, and of all of the other Italian alpine corps groups that exist in Canada. In fact, Fausto, after having updated all of the addresses with the help of Gino Vatri and others, sent them to all of the groups and sections in Canada.

-The major activities consist of the Spring Dance with the election of Miss Black Feather, the July picnic with open air Mass and the November dinner dance. There are around fifty members.

III – 1980-1981 Committee

President: Luigi Borz, Vice President: Ottavio Pivotto, Secretary: Fausto Chiocchio, Treasurer: Silvano Pascolini, Councillors: Pietro Bilanzola, Adamo Pivotto, Lorenzo Farronato and Honorary President: Enzo Scarponi.

-Part of the text of a first letter of the new committee is reported here:

“This is the second year that our section is in the process of expansion. Last year, the number of members doubled. It is our intention, to bring back into our ranks, all of those Italian alpine corps members who have lost contact with family. Speak to these Italian alpine corps members and tell them about our existence and activity. ... The membership card only costs \$5.00 a year...”

-The contacts with the Italian alpine corps groups in Ontario are complete. In fact, in the letter of the 28th June, 1980, the activities of the Italian alpine corps troops of Sudbury, Toronto, Scarborough, Mississauga, Montreal, Thunder Bay, and Welland is announced.

-Meeting with Arrigo Dalla Tina of Vancouver (March 1980) who talks to us about the idea of gathering together all of the Italian alpine corps members of Canada, a concept and structure like the one of the Italian Canadian Congress.

-Contribution to the fund of Sandra Petaccia, an Italian-Argentinean girl sick with leukemia.

IV – 1981-1982 Committee

President: Luigi Borz, Vice President: Gianni Peressuti, Vice President: Joe Paron, Secretary: Fausto Chiocchio, Honorary President: Enzo Scarponi, Treasurer: Silvano Pascolini, Councillors: Gabriele Reggimenti, Ottavio Pivotto, Adamo Pivotto, Mario Ventresca.



-Vancouver 26th, 27th April, 1981. First Congress of the Italian alpine corps in Canada organized by Arrigo Dalla Tina. An Inter-sectional Commission of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association in Canada is established with a regulation and inter-sectional committee of its own. The President Luigi Borz participates in it with Aldo Zuliani. Our National President, Franco Bertagnolli and Giovanni Franza are present as well.

-Article no. 4 of the agenda is discussed in the meeting of the assembly on the 18th October, 1981, at the Venetian Club: "decision to be made with regards to the future of our section whether: to associate ourselves as a group to the Toronto section, associate ourselves as the Hamilton and Niagara Peninsula section with the Italian alpine corps of St. Catherines, Niagara Falls, Welland, Fort Erie and Port Colborne".

-The 15th foundation anniversary is feasted at the St. Nicholas Hall on the 21st November. A souvenir book is compiled for the occasion and opaque coloured glass Italian alpine corps hats are made.



V – 1982-1983 Committee

President: Fausto Chiocchio, Vice President: Joe Paron, Secretary: Mario Ventresca, Treasurer: Silvano Pascolini, Councillors: Renzo Gris, Ottavio Pivotto, Gabriele Reggimenti, Adamo Pivotto, Joe Piccini, Tony Rizzato.

30/06/1985 – The Italian alpine corps member Luigi Borz with the standard.

The sectional standard is blessed on Sunday, 26th June, 1982, at 2:00 pm after the open air Mass. It has to be specified that what we call a standard is a pennant (regular, the eagle is American!) which was custom made in Mississauga thanks to the Italian alpine corps member Pasquale Taccone.

We are still not legally registered with the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association national headquarters.

-The legal and necessary procedure for an Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association formation in Hamilton and the Niagara Peninsula is discussed on the 8th November, 1982, at the



13/03/1982 – Spring feast at St. Nicholas Hall in Hamilton

Venetian Club during the 7th meeting of the Italian alpine corps members overseas in North America. The secretary of the National Headquarters, Colonel Renzo Tardiani, Fausto Chiocchio, Mario Ventresca and Gino Vatri are present. On the 9th November, Fausto meets the National President Franco Bertagnolli at Villa Colombo in Toronto; a brief discussion takes place in order to be able to regis-





Visit to the Italian alpine corps overseas. The National Secretary, Renzo Tardiani, with Luigi Borz.

ter ourselves and the legal modalities that are necessary to be followed.

-On the 16th December, 1982, the Italian alpine corps members of Hamilton (ninety-eight Italian alpine corps members) and of the Niagara Peninsula (nineteen members), get their papers in order through the Toronto section and enter into the big and beautiful family of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association as the Italian National Alpine Corps Veterans' Association, Toronto section, Hamilton group and Welland group.

VI – 1983-1984 Committee

President: Fausto Chiocchio, Vice President: Joe Paron, Second Vice President: Lionello Celotto, Secretary: Renzo Gris, Treasurer: Joe Piccini, Vice Treasurer: Silvano Pascolini, Councillors: Mario Ventresca, Ottavio Pivotto, Gabriele Reggimenti, Adamo Pivotto, Silvio Verticchio, Tony Rizzato.

- Membership drive: \$10.00 for Italian alpine corps soldiers, \$5.00 for retired Italian alpine corps soldiers, \$15.00 for Italian alpine corps friends. We finally have our papers in order! There are ninety-eight Italian alpine corps members and four sympathizers.

- 24th February, 1983 – request to the National Headquarters in order to become a section.

- The Hamilton group's request to become a section is approved by the National Headquarters on the 26th March, 1983. The Welland group becomes a part of our section.

- 7th March, 1983. The Welland group's first executive committee is elected. The first President is Antonio Silvestri. The Alpine Club of Welland remains as another entity.

- March-April 1983: the first Italian alpine corps newspaper "L'Alpino" arrives.

- 8th May – National Gathering in Udine. The National Headquarters officially hands over the sectional standard to Silvano Pascolini after having it had blessed

- 4th May, 1983. The sectional committee advises the members that it is investigating the modalities and locality for the construction of a monument dedicated to the fallen.

- Sectional standard blessing on the 26th June at the Famee Furlane after the open air Mass celebration.

- 8th, 9th, 10th October, 1983. Second Italian alpine corps Congress of Canada in Sudbury.



16/05/1983 – Ottaviano Pivotto with Luigi Menegotto with the new standard at Marostica.





26/06/1983 – Famee Furlane in Bimbrook Souvenir photo after having blessed the standard.

VII – 1984-1985 Committee

President: Fausto Chiocchio, Vice President: Joe Paron, Vice President: Renzo Gris, Secretary: Silvano Pascolini, Treasurer: Joe Piccini, Membership: Mario Ventresca, Councillors: Luigi Borz, Gabriele Reggimenti, Ottavio Pivotto, Adamo Pivotto, Tony Rizzato.

- 19th May, 1984. Inauguration of the monument dedicated to the “Fallen of all countries” (see the history of the monument).
- October/November 1984. The head of the monument is broken at the base and taken away. Fortunately, it is found later on.
- 20th-22nd September, 1985. III Italian alpine corps Congress in Ottawa.



06/10/1983 – Venetian Club. With the National President Vittorio Trentini.



Monument erected by the Hamilton section of Ontario

Ever since the beginning, the Italian alpine corps members of our section had expressed the desire to build a monument where not only the Italian alpine corps but the entire Italian community could gather together at least once a year in order to remember and bring a bouquet of edelweiss to all of the fallen of all countries.

In 1981-1982, this desire of ours was re-enlivened and thanks to the interest of the whole committee, in particular, of our member Joe Paron and Gino Fabello of the Italian alpine corps group of Codroipo. This dream of ours became reality in a short while. On the 14th October, 1983, the Italian alpine corps member Gino Fabello with Lauro Giavedoni (group leader of Codroipo) informed us that the Italian alpine corps members of Codroipo were honoured to help us out. The rest is history.



15/05/1984 – Blessing of the monument at the Famee Furlane in Bimbrook.

The monument, the work of

the Italian alpine corps sculptor Franco Fabiane of Belluno (for more news on the artist consult the newspaper “L’Alpino” of July 1987) was erected at the entrance to the park of the Famee Furlane Club of Bimbrook. It was designed and offered by the Italian alpine corps member Gino Fabello through the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans’ Association of Codroipo (Udine) and was inaugurated on the 19th May, 1984, on the occasion of the first anniversary of the constitution of the Italian alpine corps group as an Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans’ Association section.



The base of the monument is in cement covered in rough stone, unpolished, but put in its place only by saw cut. It is surmounted by a roughly 45 centimetre high bronze bust, representing an Italian alpine corps soldier, which symbolically wants to represent all of the dead, not only Italian alpine corps members, but of all armies and countries (hat with cut off feather). The expression of the Italian alpine corps soldier is strong and gentle, humble, but proud; a face that wants to remind us of the many sufferings and moral and physical destructions which every war causes everybody.

The monument is dedicated to the fallen; a bronze plaque bears the writing:

**“To the deceased of all countries”
Brotherhood, Peace, Liberty**

Monument: Bronze bust representing the Italian alpine corps soldier.

This monument has been the object of vandalism on many occasions. The first time, in the spring of 1985, the base slab was broken and the bust was uprooted from the base. The bust was found later on not far from the Friulian Club in a ditch on the side of the road.

The second time, in 1987, the base slab was broken and the bust taken away from the monument. Unfortunately, this time the bust was never ever found again. Once again, we turned to Gino Fabello, who without a lot of chatting, immediately sent us, another bronze bust similar to the first one through our member Joe Piccini (upon returning from Codroipo). The monument



was blessed again in November on the occasion of the celebration of the Holy Mass for the dead. The bust which is removable is kept at the Famee Furlane Club in order to be placed on the base only when there are religious, patriotic occurrences or when requested.

VIII – 1985-1986 Committee

President: Fausto Chiocchio, Vice President: Silvano Pascolini, Secretary: Renzo Gris, Treasurer: Joe Piccini, Membership: Mario Ventresca, Councillors: Tony Rizzato, Luigi Borz, Gabriele Reggimenti, Enzo Valeri, Kino Nardi.

- 30th March, 1985. The total number of members is 188, Hamilton (131 Italian alpine corps members, 30 friends), Welland (27).
- June 1985. Fausto Chiocchio with Osvaldo Fava and Luigi Borz meet at the home of Ottavio D'Intino (St. Catherines) in order to form the Hamilton group of Veterans and Combatants.
- 13th, 14th July, 1985. Camping (summer camp with the family) at Valens Park.
- Monument: the head was removed from the base for the second time and found not too far away from the monument. It was repaired and permanently fixed to the base again.
- September 1985. "The headquarters committee met together in order to study, the possibility, and to recommend the fact of having a sectional headquarters".
We have \$6,010.00 in the bank.
- \$550.00 of donations is made to charitable entities.
- Visit of the Vice National President Accountant Luigi Menegotto.
- October 1985. \$450.00 in donations are made to various charitable entities.
- The request for the pennant of the Welland group is made



05/11/1984 – Visit of the National President Dr. Leonardo Caprioli to the Italian alpine corps members of Hamilton.

- Death of President Franco Bertagnolli. Institution of a scholarship in his memory.
 - The sectional mail is evermore informative and begins to take the shape of a sectional newsletter.
- In the letter of the 21st April, 1986 the fact of having a headquarters which serves as a house and gathering place for us is reasserted once again.



IX – 1986-1987 Committee

President: Fausto Chiocchio, Vice President: Silvano Pascolini, Vice President: Enzo Valeri, Secretary: Renzo Gris, Treasurer: Joe Piccini, Membership: Mario Ventresca, Councillors: Tony Rizzato, Joe Paron, Kino Nardi, Terry Zambon, and Ottavio Pivotto.



17/11/1986 – Dinner dance at St. Nicholas' Hall.

- 30th March, 1986. We have a total of 218 members, 181 in Hamilton and 37 in Welland.
- 5th-7th September, 1987. 4th Congress of the Italian alpine corps in Windsor.
- There was \$400.00 of donations to charitable entities in 1986.

X – 1987-1988 Committee

President: Fausto Chiocchio, Vice President: Enzo Valeri, Secretary: Core Donato, Treasurer: Joe Piccini, Membership: Mario Ventresca, Councillors: Ottavio Pivotto, Joe Paron, Silvano Pascolini, Gabriele Reggimenti, Luigi Borz, Kino Nardi, Raf Faiella, Danny Albanelli.

- 27th May, 1987. The monument has been completed.
- 2nd-3rd September, 1987. Visit of the National President, Dr. Leonardo Caprioli, in Hamilton.
- There was \$740.00 in donations made in 1987.

XI – 1989-1990 Committee

President: Fausto Chiocchio, Vice President: Enzo Valeri, Secretary: Silvano Pascolini, Treasurer: Joe Piccini, Membership: Mario Ventresca, Councillors: Luigi Borz, Core Donato, Tony Rizzato, Livio Ventresca, Kino Nardi, Raf Faiella.



03/09/1987 – City Hall. The National President visits the overseas Italian alpine corps members.



- March 1988. We count 258 members of whom 205 in Hamilton and 53 in Welland.

- Donations of \$180.00 to Father Lorenzo Caselin, an Italian alpine corps missionary in Bukawi (Zaire) Africa. Other donations to the tune of \$150.00 made to the missionary Father Tiziano Sofia.

- 17th June, 1988. At 7:30 pm at the Famee Furlane Club, there is an assembly of the members with this agenda:

- 1) Headquarters, presentation and discussion.
- 2) Election of the three trustees and two alternates,
- 3) Opening up of a "Headquarters' Fund".



18/05/1987 – Deposition of wreath to the fallen.

- 31st August, 1988. Oxygen for the headquarters. We have \$13,570.00 in the bank. Whoever starts is halfway through the job.

- Blood bank.

- 26th November, 1988. The Italian alpine corps members of Welland inaugurate and bless the monument dedicated to the fallen of all countries at Casa Dante.

- 13th-14th May, 1989. National Gathering at Pescara in Abruzzo.

- January 1989. The headquarters' fund reaches a total of \$14,717.47.

- 2nd-3rd September, 1989. Meeting of the Italian alpine corps in Montreal.

- Death of the group leader of Welland, the Italian alpine corps member Anellino Guglielmi.

- 9th September, 1989 – First participation in Festitalia.

- On the 17th October, 1989, the headquarters' fund reaches \$23,349.46.



XII – 1990-1992 Committee

President: Fausto

Chiocchio, Vice President: Enzo

Valeri, Vice President: Joe Piccini,

Secretary: Silvano Pascolini,

Treasurer/Membership: Mario

Ventresca, Membership: Piero

Probo, Councillors: Kino Nardi,

Raf Faiella, Terry Zambon, Tony

Rizzato, Olimpio De Clara,

Gianni Trevisan, Donato Core,

Renzo Gris, Luigi Borz.

15/10/1987 – The Italian alpine corps member, Gino Fabello (Codroipo – UD) gives the bronze bust to the Italian alpine corps members of Welland.



- Formation of a women's committee with the majority of them being the wives of the directive council's members. The first coordinator is Elena Faiella.
- 2nd January, 1990. The headquarters' fund reaches the total of \$29,195.90.
- 30th March, 1990. We have a total of 266 members of whom 213 are from Hamilton and 53 from Welland.
- 5th April, 1990. Blood bank. Garage sale for the headquarters in June.
- 28th April, 1990. Fundraising dance (digging of a well in Guatemala). Done with Father Tiziano's friends. More than \$12,000.00 was raised.

Newsletter of May 1990

BLOOD BANK, FUNDRAISING FOR A WELL IN GUATEMALA AND PARTICIPATION IN THE DINNER DANCE IN WELLAND: Every activity was well organized and turned out to be a great success. Re: blood bank: although we were expecting between 75-100 people, only 40 people donated, of these donors, 30 donated for the first time. Thanks to the personnel of the Red Cross, to the donors, to the organizing committee. **IT IS BETTER TO GIVE THAN TO RECEIVE!** Please get your children involved in participating in this beautiful activity. We will hold it annually and I indistinctively want your full support and participation.

The fundraising for a well, done in cooperation with Father Tiziano's friends, was an overall success, thanks to Kino, to the participants, and to the organizing committee (Father Tiziano's friends).

More than 60 of us participated at the dinner dance in Welland. It was a very beautiful feast!

One of the first letters of the women's (our wives') committee:



16th October, 1990

Dear Ladies,

The majority of the wives of the committee of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association Hamilton section have directly, indirectly or in part participated and had a role in the matters regarding the sectional activities. Some time ago it was suggested to have even a women's group. The main objective of the group is that of organizing, within the sphere of the Hamilton section, activities for women. This group has been functioning for about four months. On behalf of the whole committee, I would like to express my gratitude to all those who have helped out and participated and have, therefore, turned our group into a success. Our trips to "Our Lady of Fatima" and to "Atlantic City" were a big success. I hope that you all had fun.

15/11/1988 – Parade.

CALENDAR (tentative) OF ACTIVITIES FOR 1991.

(The schedule is preliminary and has to be approved. A final schedule will be sent to you later on).

1 – First Thursday of April – "The annual blood bank". Volunteer women are necessary in order to give blood and in order to help us recruit new donors.



2 – Weekend in Las Vegas in May 1991. We are trying to include, with the price of the airfare, even room and board, and transport from the airport.

3 – Trip (visit to the Italian alpine corps members) in New York/Atlantic City during the Columbus Day weekend of October 1991.

4 – Green Ball at the end of 1991.

*** - Yes, the Italian alpine corps members are in the process of buying/building... a headquarters. Let us even give a hand as best we can. Some women have already donated.



26/06/1988 – Famee Furlane Park. Handing over of the Italian flag to the kids of the Dante Centre.

- 28th December, 1990 – Purchase of the headquarters for 138 thousand dollars.
- June 1991. Birth of the new Kitchener-Waterloo group.
- 7th January, 1991. Final offer for the purchase of the headquarters.
- 20th January, 1991. General assembly in order to discuss the purchase of the headquarters.
- 9th March, 1991. Celebration of the 25th anniversary.
- 4th April, 1991 – Blood bank.



05/04/1990. Blood bank.

- 30th March, 1991. Our strength is up to 280 members, 216 from Hamilton, 54 from Welland, and 10 from Kitchener-Waterloo.

- 2nd June, 1991. The first assembly of the members held at our headquarters.

- 1st-3rd September, 1991. Meeting of the Italian alpine corps of North America in Thunder Bay.

- May 1991. Special assembly: All of the members are strongly invited to participate in this sectional assembly. The aim of the meeting is to make you visit the headquarters and to make you aware of how the work has been going and what we are in need of. Certainly, a little more esprit (de corps) and interest on the part of

everybody could encourage those four Italian alpine corps members a bit who lead by Mario Ventresca are doing a marvellous job. We thank beforehand those who, up until now, are putting their “heart and soul” into fixing up the headquarters: Mario Ventresca, Tullio Clappa, Luigi Berdusco, Kino Nardi, Fausto Chiocchio, and others. Thank you. Berdusco is one of the oldest Italian alpine corps members that we have. He is eighty-one years old and he is always at the headquarters helping out. He really believes in the Italian alpine corps, in the headquarters, and in all of the beautiful activities that we carry out. Berdusco has to serve as an example for us. Dear old man, remember that the association and the headquarters are even your own!



OUR HEADQUARTERS: What things are like (6th October, 1991)

Bought on the 28th December, 1990. The cost was \$138,000.00; with a down payment of \$38,000.00. A \$100,000.00 mortgage at 14% a year is left to be paid. We are now in the process of trying to renegotiate it at a lower rate.

The trustees, those who put their signature and bought it on behalf of the association, are: Fausto Chiocchio, Enzo Valeri, Mario Ventresca, and Tony Di Franco.

It is registered with the government as a non-profit organization under the name of "Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association Hamilton section" which took place on the 20th June, 1991.

The trustees as mentioned above are removed. Thus we have our papers in order and we have to function according to the laws of the province of Ontario.

The request for the variation of the parking lot was made and approved. The architect and engineer

made the plans for the variations to be made. The permit for alterations was finally obtained at the end of August. If you have questions, please do not hesitate, phone us, we will do our best to explain to you how things are going. There really is not a lot to explain... we need MONEY

We are doing what donkeys do, we are climbing as best we can; it is true that we are moving slowly, BUT there is a need for fodder in order to walk a bit more quicker!

To all of the members who have donated and who, would still like to contribute to the headquarters fund, a "loan certificate" will be given to them which can be cashed after a period of time with interest.



2/09/1990. Festitalia – regional foods.



Famee Furlane Park. Ceremony at our monument.



15/12/1990 – Meeting of the committee and family.



XIII – 1992-1994 Committee

President: Fausto Chiocchio, Vice President: Enzo Valeri, Vice President: Olimpio De Clara, Treasurer/Membership: Mario Ventresca, Membership: Piero Probo, Councillors: Terry Zambon, Donato Core, Gianni Trevisan, Guido Di Stefano, Ornelio Perin, Tony Di Franco, Kino Nardi, Livio Ventresca.

- 12th January, 1992 at the members' assembly:

2) Elections, Sunday 12th January at our headquarters:

Note: Re: loan certificate, have it voted and discussed:

a) Interest begins from the 1st January, 1992 (fiscal year is from the 1st January to the 31st December);

b) Rate fixed at 5% calculated annually;

c) Interest simply calculated annually;

d) Interest to be paid annually;

e) Expiry complete after 5 years;

f) Transferable.



04/02/1991 – First meeting of the committee at the headquarters.

24th January, 1992. Loan certificate released to whoever contributes:

ITALIAN NATIONAL ALPINE TROOPS CORPS VETERANS'

ASSOCIATION HAMILTON SECTION

642 Barton Street East Hamilton, Ontario L8L-3A2

Tel: (905) 548-6166

Certificate no. _____

Loan Certificate

Either Mrs.

Or

Mr.

Or

Miss _____

surname/name

Lends to the "Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association – Hamilton section" the sum of: _____ \$ _____

With the simple interest (to be paid annually) of (five) 5% annually for a period of five (5) years.

Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association – Hamilton section

Treasurer

Creditor

Date _____

February 1992

The LOAN CERTIFICATE can be withdrawn at the headquarters at the end of the month. The assembly has deliberated to pay the simple interest of 5% a year, for a period of five (5) years, starting from the 1st January, 1992. The certificate is transferable.



02/06/1991 – First assembly at the headquarters.



01/09/1991 – Thunder Bay, 6th Congress of the Italian alpine corps of North America.



February 1992

FROM THE WOMEN'S GROUP:

Greetings from the Italian alpine corps ladies group of Hamilton. Our ladies group is now in its third year. We had our first meeting at the "Italian alpine corps' headquarters" and held our elections. The newly elected members for the ladies group are:

President: Rina Zambon, Josie Probo, Secretary: Maria Di Franco, Angela Pascolini, Luciana Ventresca, Directors: Velia Chiochio, Norina De Clara, Dina Borz, Maria Core, Lucia Di Stefano, Alda Nardi, Nancy Trevisan, Maria Valeri, Elda Ventresca.

- 11th February: a loan certificate is instituted for the members who have contributed towards the headquarters fund. "The assembly has deliberated to pay the simple interest of 5% a year for a period of (5) five years, starting from the 1st January, 1992. The certificate is transferable".

- 2nd April, 1992. Blood bank.

30th March, 1992. We are 279 members. Hamilton (217), Welland (47), Kitchener-Waterloo (15).

- 20th September, 1992. Concert of the Italian alpine corps choir from Cozie di Susa (TO) at the Mohawk College with more than 800 people present. More than 61 choir members were hosted in our homes.





The Italian alpine corps choir from Cozie di Susa (TO) – exchange of gifts between Walter Mori and Fausto Chiocchio

- 30th March, 1993. We have 290 members. Hamilton (205), Welland (48), Kitchener-Waterloo (18) and Guelph (19).
- 30th October, 1993. Blessing of the Guelph group's pennant in Hamilton and on the 7th November in Guelph.

- 10th October, 1992. Inauguration and blessing of our headquarters. Dr. Giovanni Franza and Gino Vatri were present. The women's committee bought 100 chairs (\$2,300.00) for the hall. Fundraising for the coffee machine.
- 1993. The new group of Guelph joins the Hamilton section.

XIV – 1994-1995 Committee

President: Fausto Chiocchio, Vice President: Enzo Valeri, Vice President: Olimpio De Clara, Secretary: Carlo Clappa, Treasurer/Membership: Mario Ventresca, Membership: Piero Probo, Councillors: Terry Zambon, Donato Core, Libby Sanelli, Guido Di Stefano, Kino Nardi, Livio Ventresca, Vincenzo Marchetti.

- 7th April, 1994. Blood bank.
- 19th March. Scholarship for Claudia Zambon, Ada Chiocchio and Norma Pivotto.
- 9th April. Guelph group holds its first dinner dance.
- 19th June. Sectional assembly.
- October. Letter sent for contributions/loans in order to finish paying off the headquarters.

XV – 1995-1996 Committee

President: Fausto Chiocchio, Vice President: Enzo Valeri, Vice President: Olimpio De Clara, Treasurer/Membership: Mario Ventresca, Membership: Piero Probo, Councillors: Terry Zambon, Donato Core, Kino Nardi, Guido Di Stefano, Libby Sanelli, Vincenzo Marchetti, Livio Ventresca.

- June 1995. Meetings of three special assemblies for fundraising.
- 1st, 2nd, 3rd September. 8th Congress of the Italian alpine corps in Toronto.
- 1st September. Visit of the



10/10/1992 – Inauguration of our headquarters. A greeting by Dr. Gianni Franza.





25/05/2002 – Our wives who help us

Caprioli to our headquarters. The Vice President vicar Dr. Giuseppe Parazzini, Dr. Giovanni Franza are present.

XVI – 1996-1997 Committee

President: Fausto Chiocchio,
Vice President: Enzo Valeri, Vice
President: Olimpio De clara,
Secretary: Bernardino De Carolis,
Trerasurer/Membership: Mario
Ventresca, Membership: Kino
Nardi, Councillors: Terry Zambon,
Donato Core, Guido Di Stefano,
Libby Sanelli, Vincenzo Marchetti,
Giovanni Di Vittorio.

- Headquarters: mortgage to Effort Trust of \$55,550.99 as per November 1996. About \$60,000.00 to be returned to the members.
- New women's group committee with the President being Maria Core.
- Preparations for the 9th Congress in Hamilton.
- 29th, 30th, 31st August. 9th Convention of the Italian alpine corps of Canada and the USA hosted in Hamilton. National councillors present: Vittorio Mucci, Luigi Fanetti, Pierluigi Bonamini, Dr. Gianni Franza.

(From the newsletter of October 1997) – OUR HEADQUARTERS – The way things are

Bought on the 28th December, 1990, the cost was \$138,000.00; with a deposit of \$38,000.00 being put down. The registration with the government as a non-profit organization with the name of "Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association – Hamilton section" took place on the 20th June, 1991. We have all our papers in order and we have to function according to the laws of the Province of Ontario and the Statute of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association.

The headquarters were financed by:

- 1) Initial fund of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association – Hamilton section;
- 2) Donations (mainly obtained from members);
- 3) Loans from private citizens (mainly obtained from members);
- 4) Loans from financial institutions.

About \$60,000.00 were spent in order to renovate the headquarters. What remains to be paid back, up until now, are about \$25,000.00 to the financial institution and about \$55,000.00 for the loans from private citizens.

The average annual costs in order to run and maintain the headquarters is around \$20,000.00-\$25,000.00 a year. For the private loans: the Corporation offers 5 per cent a year, at the end of the year. This rate is not cumulative (the cheque has to be cashed within a limited time).

Loans from financial institutions: the corporation pays the monthly mortgage to such an institution as annually agreed upon. The corporation is run by the Directive Council of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association – Hamilton section whose directive council is elected according to the Statute of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association. Anything that is done is done for: the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association of which the Hamilton section is a part.

I take this opportunity to thank all those who have placed their trust in this association and in the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association which we all try to represent with dignity and love.





01/09/1995 – Visit to the Italian alpine corps overseas. Dr. Leonardo Caprioli and Giuseppe Parazzini.

XVII – 1998-1999 Committee

President: Fausto Chiocchio, Vice President: Enzo Valeri, Secretary: Bernardo De Carolis, Treasurer: Mario Ventresca, Membership: Kino Nardi, Councillors: Guido Di Stefano, Libby Sanelli, John Di Vittorio.

In order to survive and to pay the mortgage, we throw so many of those small parties at the headquarters. Thank you ladies! But we have even given quite a bit too charitable entities. It is really true: “The Italian alpine corps member does not feel good if he doesn’t do some good!”.

- 1998 – Our members (169 Italian

alpine corps members + 104 friends = 273 in total).

- 29th August, 1999 – visit of our President Leonardo Caprioli with his family.

- 2nd October – the choir members (40-45 members) of the excellent Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans’ Association choir of Milan are hosted in our homes. An overall success.

- New York on the 9th, 10th, 11th October, 1999. Gathering of the Italian alpine corps of North America.

- The effort is made to try to start an Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans’ Association choir in Hamilton.

- 1999 – Our members (164 Italian alpine corps members + 105 friends = 269).

IX CONGRESSO Alpini in Canada

HAMILTON, ONTARIO
AGOSTO 29-30-31, 1997



XVIII – 2000-2001 Committee

President: Fausto Chiocchio, Vice President: Enzo Valeri, Membership: Kino Nardi, Treasurer/Secretary: Maria Di Vittorio, Councillors: Guido Di Stefano, Libby Sanelli, John Di Vittorio, Bernardo De Carolis, Fernando Tristani, Carlo Clappa, Orlando Santini.

- 35th anniversary (see sectional newsletter of October 2000). The message of the President:

Dear Italian alpine corps members and friends of the Italian alpine corps members:

Thirty-five years have gone by since the foundation of our section. I have been in the directive committee since 30/08/1997 – The cover of the book compiled for the Congress.



ASSOCIAZIONE NAZIONALE ALPINI SEZIONE DI HAMILTON
642 Barton Street East, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, L8L 3A2 tel. (905) 548-6166; fax: (905) 544-5221





15/08/1997 – at our headquarters: the committee members with their wives.

and the Italian community. We have since the beginning had quite an important role in both organizing our section and organizing the first contacts for the development of the Inter-sectional Commission of the Italian National Alpine Corps Veterans' Association in Canada. In fact, this section, in 1979, compiled and distributed the first addresses and telephone numbers for the groups and sections existing in Canada and the idea was discussed here in Hamilton of a meeting of the Italian alpine corps members in Canada which then became reality in 1981 with the name of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association Inter-sectional Commission of Canada and the USA.

We constituted ourselves into a section with the Welland group in 1983 in order to then join ourselves still with the groups of Kitchener-Waterloo in 1991 and Guelph in 1993. The construction of the monument took place in 1984 in Hamilton and in 1987 in Welland. Yes, we have done a bit of everything! Given blood, camping, garage sales, full participation in the community, assistance to the needy, visit to sick members, picket for the deceased, hosted the choir members in our homes, Festitalia, 9th Inter-sectional Gathering, etc, etc...

Charity: (We have honoured our dead by helping the living!). In the last ten to fifteen years, we have contributed over 25 thousand dollars to charitable entities (more than 13 thousand dollars to the well in



01/09/1997 – Souvenir photo after the Congress with Vittorio Mucci who represented the National President with Luigi Fanetti and Pierluigi Bonamini.

1979 as the secretary/treasurer and as President since 1982.

How much time has gone by and how much work has been done with disinterest, done only out of love for that HAT with the BLACK FEATHER, out of love for our mountains, for our valleys, for our towns, for our people and for our beautiful Italy! We have never forgotten who we are, where we come from and we have always been proud of our Italian and Italian alpine corps heritage! Many, many things have taken place during this period and we can modestly say that our group has always contributed well to the sphere of the Italian alpine corps

Guatemala, \$1,300.00 to the Consolata Missionaries, \$1,000.00 to the ice storm in Quebec and Ontario, \$4,500.00 to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, \$4,800.00 to the Hamilton Association for Community Living.

The headquarters of the Italian alpine corps – “My home: bread and onions!”

The headquarters of the Italian alpine corps of the Hamilton section is the only headquarters outside of Italy which belongs to the Italian alpine corps members! Bought and restored with the money and sacrifices of the poorest members and with the promises of the richer Italian alpine corps members!



Here, abroad, when you cry, you cry on your own and it's not like in Italy where the municipality and other entities help you out; nobody gave us anything, only the help of the directive committee and of those more willing members and friends who had the heart to love and give and arms in order to work! We re-paid the bank and we still have to give back about 45 thousand dollars to our members. One only has to think that between \$25,000.00-\$30,000.00 ,a year, are needed in order to maintain it, pay the mortgage and various expenses, it has been about 11 years that we have had it and it is easy to calculate the cost right up until now. How have we managed? Only God, our committee, and our ladies know!



29/08/1999 – Visit of the National President Dr. Leonardo Caprioli with his family.

- the three founding members who have faithfully been with us for the whole thirty-five years;
- all those who have helped out and contributed in any way towards every activity that we have carried out.
- the families that hosted the sixty-five choir members in 1992 (Alpi Cozie Choir) and the forty-five choir members of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association Choir of Milan in 1999, and all those who have helped us at the 9th Inter-sectional Gathering.
- all those who helped us erect the Monument to the Fallen. Thank you Gino Fabello!
- all of the donors, past and present workers who participated in the realization, maintenance, running, and repair of our headquarters.
- our three groups of Welland, Kitchener-Waterloo, and Guelph (Presidents and members) with whom we love each other, we get along and we always have to get along in the future.

I would finally like to thank the entire women's committee (Velia, Luciana, Mariuccia, Giovanna, Lucia, Angela, Bruna, Alda) and the entire directive committee (Enzo, Bernardino, Mario, Giovanni, Kino, Guido, Libby, Fernando, Carlo, Orlando). "The well done, congratulations, the smiles of approval,

the thanks, compliments and praises" which have been and are directed, at me, as the President, have to be extended and handed over to the above-mentioned committee and to all of the members given, that the merit is all theirs. A heartfelt thank you for your dedication and love that you have towards the Italian alpine corps. Congratulations for the 35th anniversary to everybody and... may God bless you and your families".



02/10/1999 – The Italian National Alpine Corps Veterans' Association Choir of Milan at Niagara Falls.

*A big hug to everybody,
Fausto Chiocchio*



- 17th June, 2000: barbecue, 18th June: Feast of Saint Anthony, 2nd July: Picnic (Famee Furlane), 9th July: Picnic of Kitchener-Waterloo group, December: Members' Christmas supper, JANUARY 2001: Assembly, 11th Inter-sectional Gathering in Canada on the 1st-2nd September, 2001, in Windsor, 22nd September: Festitalia (headquarters), October: Tripe (Stag for men), 5th November: Mass for the Deceased (10:30 am at Saint Anthony's Church).
- 3rd November, 2001, the Italian alpine corps member Mario Ventresca leaves us.
- November: dinner dance, visit of the Portella choir from Aquila.



01/09/1997 – In front of our headquarters after the meeting of the Presidents and delegates.

XIX – 2002-2003 Committee

- President: Fausto Chiocchio, Vice President: Enzo Valeri, Vice President: Guido Di Stefano, Membership: Kino Nardi, Treasurer/Secretary: Maria Di Vittorio, Councillors: Libby Sanelli, Fernando Tristani, John Di Vittorio, Carlo Clappa.
- 25th May, 2002: Cordovado Choir.
 - 24th April, 2003: Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association of Hamilton: Meeting of the group leaders with their respective sectional committees.
 - 29th-31st August: Inter-sectional Gathering in Montreal.

XX – 2004-2005 Committee

President: Fausto Chiocchio, 1st Vice President: Silvano Pascolini, 2nd Vice President: Guido Di Stefano, Treasurer/Secretary: Maria Di Vittorio, Councillors: Libby Sanelli, Fernando Tristani, Vincenzo Marchetti, John Di Vittorio, Carlo Clappa, Orlando Santini and Special Help: Luigi Pizzingrilli.

- 3rd January, 2004 – Final payment for our headquarters (brief summary):

Donation	Contributions
backTo be given back	G i v e n
TOTAL	\$126,534.02
\$72,614.02	\$53,920.00
\$0.00	

- 22nd April, 2004: Meeting with the group leaders and their respective committees.
- 3rd-4th September, 2005: 12th Congress of the Italian alpine corps in North America with our group of York.



11/10/1999 – 10th Italian alpine corps Congress in New York.

Kitchener-Waterloo in Waterloo.

- 3rd September, 2005: Visit of our National President Giuseppe Parazzini with Vittorio Brunello, Ornello Capannolo at our headquarters.
- 19th November, 2005: festivities of the 40th foundation anniversary.

XXI – 2006-2007 Committee

President: Fausto Chiocchio, 1st Vice President: Silvano Pascolini, 2nd Vice President: Guido Di Stefano, Treasurer/Secretary: Maria Di Vittorio, Councillors: Libby Sanelli, Fernando Tristani, Vincenzo Marchetti, Kino Nardi, Bernardo De Carolis, John Di Vittorio, Carlo Clappa, Orlando Santini, Luigi Pizzingrilli.

Registered members: our strength for 2007 counts on 246 members thus distributed:

Hamilton section	70 Italian alpine corps members
90 aggregates	Total of 160 members.
Welland group	16 Italian alpine corps members
18 aggregates	Total of 34 members.
Kitchener-Waterloo group	13 Italian alpine corps members'
12 aggregates	Total of 25 members.
Guelph group	26 Italian alpine corps members
2 aggregates	Total of 28 members.
Total:	125 Italian alpine corps Members' 122 aggregates
Overall total:	247 members.



07/11/1999 – Parade, Mario Ventresca with Fausto and Doro Di Donato.

We have begun many other activities, always aimed at gathering together the families of our members and making them stay together, in order to make the new generations learn of love for the family and the spirit of the Italian alpine corps and the “Italianness” that they represent and have in their heart. Some examples of these activities are:

- the scholarships that we give to the children and grandchildren of our members from grade 1 to grade 12;
- the free picnic for all of our members;
- the free Christmas evening for the children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren of our members.

An example of the annual activities which we have developed and conducted in the last ten to fifteen years are represented in a typical calendar of activities carried out in 2007 and reported here below:

Hamilton section – calendar of activities carried out in 2007

- 5th January, 2007: Sectional assembly.
- 13th January, 2007: Polenta and Birds.
- 21st January, 2007: Bowl-a-thon – Mahoney.
- 23rd February, 2007: Tripe.
- 25th February, 2007: Mass – Feathers – St. Gabriel.
- 3rd March, 2007: Kitchener-Waterloo dinner dance.



4th March, 2007: Blue Mass.
 10th March, 2007: Fundraiser for Ryan Stage.
 17th March, 2007: Dinner with members and children.
 24th March, 2007: dinner dance in Guelph (Guelph Place).
 19th April, 2007: Meeting with the Italian alpine corps member Fanara di Sulmona.

11th May, 2007: A greeting evening for General Orazio De Minicis (Italian army units Associations in southern Ontario).

18th May, 2007: 7:30 pm – Presentation of Sonia del Bel Belluz at the headquarters: Brief history

about the Italian alpine corps during WWII: Greco-Albanian campaign; sinking of the Galilea; Russian and Nikolajewska campaign; biography of various dispersed Italian alpine corps members.

20th May, 2007: Sonia del Bel Belluz presents at the Famee Furlane.

20th May, 2007: cleaning of the monument.

25th May, 2007: Fundraising event (Community Living Hamilton).

16th June, 2007: Barbecues.

17th June, 2007: Feast of St. Anthony.

24th June, 2007: Picnic at the Famee Furlane.

9th August, 2007: Primo Carnera at our headquarters.



15/08/2000 – Restoration of the second apartment of our headquarters.



Fig. 40 – Pleasant visit of our National President Corrado Perona.

21st September, 2007: Festitalia (headquarters).

12th October, 2007: Tripe.

27th October, 2007: dinner dance of the Welland group.

4th November, 2007: Mass for the dead (10:30 am at St. Anthony's Church).

17th November, 2007: Dinner dance (Chandelier).

8th December, 2007: Christmas party/renewal of membership.

18th August, 2007: Visit of the Italian alpine corps General Tancredo Gagliardi.

29th August, 2007: Italian alpine corps Choir Stella alpine from Isola del Gran Sasso.

1st-2nd September, 2007: 14th Congress of the Italian alpine corps in Windsor.

2008

Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association – Hamilton Centre group (931/001).

Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association Donations: \$4,060.00 to Community Living, \$300.00 for the Joe Bodreu fund, \$250.00 for the Good Shepherd. Total donations: \$4,610.00.

Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association members in 2008: 68 Italian alpine corps



members and 87 aggregates. Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association members in 2009: 67 Italian alpine corps members and 89 aggregates. Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association – Hamilton Centre group – Calendar of activities carried out in 2008:

4th January, 2008: Sectional assembly.
12th January, 2008: Polenta & Birds.
22nd February, 2008: Tripe.
24th February, 2007: Mass – Feathers – Saint Gabriel.
15th March, 2008: Dinner of members and their children.
5th April, 2008: Dinner dance in Guelph.
26th April, 2008: Dinner dance of Kitchener-Waterloo.
24th March, 2008: Dinner dance of Guelph (Guelph Place).
24th May, 2008: Fundraiser (Community Living Hamilton).
14th June, 2008: Barbecue.
15th June, 2008: Feast of St. Anthony.
29th June, 2008: Picnic at the Famee Furlane.
19th September, 2008: Festitalia (headquarters).
10th October, 2008: Tripe.
25th October, 2008: 25th anniversary dinner dance of the Welland group.
2nd November, 2008: Mass for the Dead (10:30 am at St. Anthony's Church).
15th November, 2008: Dinner dance (Chandelier).
6th December, 2008: Christmas party/membership renewal.

16/12/2001 – Exchange of gifts with the maestro of the Portella Choir from L'Aquila.



XXII – 2008-2009 Committee

* This is the first time that the President of the section is elected by the Committee of the delegates from the four groups.

* The “Hamilton Centre” group of the Hamilton section of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association is recognized.

Hamilton section of the Italian Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association – Elected Committee for 2008-2009:

President: Fausto Chiocchio, 1st Vice President: Silvano Pascolini, Treasurer/Secretary: Maria Di Vittorio (Cesare Tirabassi resigned), Membership: Carlo Clappa.

The group leaders of the section are:

- 1 – Hamilton Centre group: group leader: Silvano Pascolini.
- 2 – Welland group: group leader: Doro Di Donato.
- 3 – Kitchener-Waterloo group: group leader: Tony Renon.
- 4 – Guelph group: group leader: Angelo Cremasco.





27/05/2002 – Visit of the Cordovado Choir of the EFASCE.

Our headquarters

(Bought and restored with the money and sacrifices of the poorest members and with the promises of the richest members!)

“My house: bread and onions!”.

Right from the beginning, the Italian alpine corps members of Hamilton had expressed the desire to have a headquarters. It is the nature, not only of the mountaineer, but of everyone to have their home. The meetings were held in turns in the basements of the homes of the components of the directive committee. On various occasions, we had even explored the idea of joining with other clubs which already had a headquarters, but without success. Our simple dream was that of having a small room that was entirely ours which was to serve as a place of gathering together and meeting in order to discuss and plan the various sectional activities and where we could keep the standard, pennant, correspondence and other Italian alpine corps things.

In 1988, we sent a questionnaire to all the members where it was asked whether we wanted to join other clubs or to rent or buy an Italian alpine corps headquarters. The majority answered to rent/buy a headquarters. An “ad interim” headquarters committee was immediately set up this had the task of investigating the possibility of buying or renting and later on referring the findings to the members’ assembly. The first headquarters committee elected by the assembly was made up of Fausto Chiochio, Mario Ventresca, Tont Di Franco, Enzo Valeri and Terenzio Zambon

It is to be mentioned that during this period, 1987-1988, the Italian alpine corps member Tony Di Franco, with his wife Maria, offered us about 12 acres of land located 15-20 kilometres from the city centre. We remember well Tony’s words:

“I’m an Italian alpine corps member. I will do everything necessary for the Italian alpine corps! Take whatever piece of land you like. I have a hundred acres of land, ... and then I will not be taking this land along with me when I die! As long as they allow you to carve it up!”.



30/08/2003 – Gathering of the Italian alpine corps in Montreal. The Hamilton section with the groups.



After various meetings with our lawyer Ivan Marini (the son of an Italian alpine corps member), the news arrived that the land could not be carved up, given that the zone was designated as agricultural land and due to other technicalities and municipal laws of the area.

Another account was given to the assembly on the 27th June, 1988 at the Famee Furlane Club in Bimbrook. During this meeting the majority of those present voted in favour of buying a headquarters. Gioacchino Nardi joined the already existing headquarters committee. During this meeting, a "headquarters fund" was started to which about ten members present, donated \$100.00. We collected \$500.00 on that day. Our treasurer Mario Ventresca, completely satisfied and happy, said: "whoever starts is already halfway through the job!" Other collections were staged during the assembly of the 8th July, 1988 and during the dinner dance held in November.

At the end of 1988, the headquarters fund had increased to \$2,460.00.

A brief summary of the growth of the headquarters fund, in the years that followed, shows the following: at the end of 1988 there was \$2,480.00; in 1989 there was \$27,299.00; in 1990 there was \$29,356.00; in 1991 there was \$46,320.00. The total amount collected, for the headquarters fund, towards the end of December 1996 reached the amount of \$109,902.57.

We have so far paid back \$5,550.00 to the members who leant money. The contributions made can be divided like this: \$18,500.00 by the women's group; \$14,919.25 by the Hamilton section of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association; \$325.00 by the Welland group of the Italian National Alpine Corps Veterans' Association, and \$300.00 by the Guelph group of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association. We have to pay back the sum of about \$55,000.00 to the members. What remains has been leant or donated.

Some specifications for the headquarters were the ones of buying a building that would have 1-2 apartments on the second floor, in order to rent out, so as to pay off our monthly payments; to have quite a big room for 50-80 people for the members' assembly. The place had to be easily accessible by public means of transportation for our elderly members; the cost had to be around \$120,000.00 to \$140,000.00. During this period, the price of buildings was increasing by the week and this was the year in which the much hated GST tax was introduced. Had the market carried on like this, it was impossible to lose! Unfortunately, it was not so in the following years!

following years!

On the 27th December, 1990, only four of the members of the headquarters committee showed up to sign the act of purchase at the house of the member Enzo Valeri. They were: Fausto Chiocchio, Mario Ventresca, Enzo Valeri, and Tony Di Franco. The final act of purchase bears the date of the 7th January, 1991.

The headquarters is a bit old, it was built seventy years ago, it has two apartments on the second floor, which up until now, have always been rented out. The big room on the first floor was divided into little rooms given



19/09/2003 – Festitalia.
Silvano administers "Communion".



04/09/2003 – Visit of General Vittorio Zardo, former military attaché in Ottawa.





03/05/2005 – In Kitchener-Waterloo for the 12th Gathering of the Italian alpine corps in North America.

that it was occupied by a family doctor. The basement which is our office and library today was occupied by a physio-therapist. From the purchase of the headquarters up until now, the committee with some members has worked quite hard in order to keep the place running. It had been a quite stressful period for all of us! What we did with the headquarters from 1991 up until the present day cannot be told in two-three pages. We jokingly call it the “Factory of Saint Peter”, in fact, we never manage to stop fixing it. There is always something to do! We have all worked, some more and some less but we did it with our hearts, without any personal interests whatsoever, with an esprit de corps, and with a lot of love.

For the members of the directive council and other members who were fully involved in every phase of the restoration and maintenance of the headquarters, any object inside or outside of it is associated with a memory or an experience, at times even rather heated discussions. Here are some of them!:

“... the parking lot permission is necessary before starting the work... speak to Mario... speak to Kino... the emergency staircase... we still have the permit... the closure of the chimney... it's raining from the roof... there are mice in the apartment... let us ask the women for money... the guy in the apartment broke the door and he hasn't paid us... utterly crazy... they have broken the front door again... the stove isn't working well... it is raining cats and dogs from the roof... the air conditioning isn't working all that well... you paid him too much... there isn't enough money... we need tables... chairs have to be bought now... turn off the lights, too much electricity is being used... the stove doesn't turn on... the lid fell on the head!... no matter what it costs, we have to do it... we have to fix and clean up the front for the congress...”

Some of these exclamations and half-phrases, reported above, make us go back and relive, (with a smile of satisfaction) with a certain nostalgia and pride, the last 18-19 years. It is even true that in some of them, our haste, stress, worry and problems encountered during this period, can be felt, but when it is done with disinterest and love, all of the obstacles are overcome, the arguments forgotten and that agony becomes ecstasy.

We often asked ourselves why we were doing all of that! ... for whom? For how long still? In the various answers we always heard these words: ... for the name of the Italian alpine corps..., for our association..., we are Italians... Even for our children..., as long as God gives us health we will carry on!



03/05/2005 – In Kitchener-Waterloo for the 12th Gathering of the Italian alpine corps in North America.



ITALIAN NATIONAL ALPINE TROOPS CORPS VETERANS' ASSOCIATION – HAMILTON SECTION

642 Barton Street East, Hamilton, Ontario, L8L-3A2

Tel: (905) 548-6166

3rd January, 2004

Mr. Fausto Chiocchio
610 Brigadoon Drive
Hamilton, Ontario
L9C-6E7



03/01/2004 – The women party! We've finished.

Dear Fausto,

In the accounting books it turns out that you have contributed the amount of \$2,100.00, as a loan, to the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association Headquarters Fund.

Attached there is a cheque of \$2,100.00, plus another one of \$105.00 which is the interest payment for 2003. This cheque is a complete repayment for the loan contributed to the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association Headquarters Fund.

I would like to add, with a lot of joy, that this is the last cheque to be returned. With the help of God, the committee and all the members, this has been a dream come true.

Wishing you a Happy New Year,

Cordially,

Mariuccia Di Vittorio,
Treasurer



03/01/2004 – The men party! We have finished paying for the headquarters.





19/09/2003 – Our headquarters.

This is the wilfulness of the Italian alpine corps members! Perhaps we should not talk about what we have done, but about what we want and still have to do. We will surely finish off paying for the headquarters – it is above all sufficient to get along – and when the Italian alpine corps members will no longer be around, we hope to leave the proceeds of the sale to an “Italian alpine corps Assistance Fund” of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans’ Association, in such a way, that the Black Feathers, in this city and country, will be remembered for their works of good, by our children and by the children of our children... and even by the citizens of this marvellous adoptive second homeland of ours: Canada.

Summary of the charity work – Donations of the Hamilton group

ITALIAN NATIONAL ALPINE TROOPS CORPS VETERANS’ ASSOCIATION – HAMILTON GROUP: DONATIONS

Year:

1979	\$ 100.00	Handicapped children
	\$ 25.00	Salvation Army
	\$ 25.00	Mentally Retarded
	\$ 25.00	Ontario Heart Foundation
	\$ 15.00	Boy Scouts
	\$ 25.00	Canadian Red Cross
	\$ 25.00	Cancer Society



	\$ 25.00	United Way
	\$ 25.00	Ontario Society for Crippled Children
1980	\$ 100.00	Villa Colombo
	\$ 100.00	Sandra Petaccia
1982	\$ 125.00	United Way, Boy Scouts, St. Joseph Fund, Easter seals, Cancer Society
1983	\$ 50.00	Kidney Foundation, United Way
	\$ 30.00	St. Joseph Fund
1984	\$ 25.00	Hamilton Christmas Seals
	\$ 100.00	Abruzzo-Molise Earthquake Fund
1985	\$ 500.00	Charitable entities
1986	\$ 400.00	
1987	\$ 740.00	
1988	\$ 150.00	
1989	\$ 180.00	
1990	\$13,000.00	Well for Guatemala P.T.S.
	\$ 300.00	Church bell
1992	\$ 100.00	Operation smile
1998	\$1,325.00	Consolata Missionaries
	\$ 250.00	Ice storm in Ontario
	\$ 250.00	Ice storm in Quebec
	\$ 125.00	Heart Foundation
	\$ 125.00	Villa Italia
1999	\$2,480.00	Community Living Hamilton (Maria & John Di Vittorio)
	\$4,200.00	Cystic Fibrosis Foundation (Tont Renon)
2000	\$2,475.00	Community Living Hamilton
2001	\$2,622.37	Community Living Hamilton
	\$1,000.00	Pro Festitalia Lottery Reg Food Might
	\$12,000.00	Cancer Society (Gina & Vincenzo Marchetti)
2002	\$2,950.00	Community Living Hamilton
2003	\$2,600.00	Community Living Hamilton
	\$ 500.00	1E+1E pro Molise+Adamello
2004	\$4,030.00	Community Living Hamilton
	\$2,372.64	Villa Italia
	\$ 100.00	Central & South American Immigrants
	\$ 100.00	St. Anthony's Church
	\$ 50.00	Villa Italia
2005	\$4,000.00	Community Living Hamilton
	\$ 530.00	Tsunami Relief Fund
	\$ 200.00	Hall for Fundraising St. Anthony's Church
	\$ 150.00	Hall for St. Gabriel Statue



14/05/2006 – National Gathering in Asiago. On the Ortigara Mountain, Silvano Pascolini, with our President, Corrado Perona.



03/11/2001 – The Italian alpine corps member Mario Ventresca.



	\$ 100.00	Gift for Father Pietro
2006	\$4,045.00	Community Living Hamilton
	\$ 100.00	Villa Italia
2007	\$4,045.00	Community Living Hamilton
	\$2,500.00	Bryan Stage Benefit Dinner
	\$ 100.00	Villa Italia
2008	\$4,060.00	Community Living Hamilton
	\$ 300.00	Joe Boudreau
	\$ 100.00	Villa Italia
	\$ 250.00	Good Shepherd
2009	\$ 380.00	Padre Pio Battaglia Limnkee – USA
	\$ 300.00	St. Matthew House
	\$4,025.00	Community Living Hamilton
	\$6,000.00	Abruzzo Earthquake Fund
	\$4,000.00	Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans’ Association – Earthquake in Abruzzo
	\$ 200.00	Abruzzo Earthquake Fund
Total	\$91,130.01	

11/05/2007 –
Bassano del Grappa.
Ottavio Pivotto with
Fausto.



02/01/2008 – Assembly
of the Hamilton Centre
group.



**Hamilton section of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans'
Association
Hamilton Centre Group**

642 Barton Street East, Hamilton, Ontario, CANADA L8L-3A2 Tel: (905) 548-6166

2008-2009 Committee



From left to right. Seated: Guido Di Stefano, Luigi Pizzingrilli, Libby Sanelli, Fausto Chiochio, Fernando Tristani.
Second row. Standing: Silvano Pascolini (group leader), Luigi Ciralo, Carlo Clappa, Gioacchino Nardi, Giovanni Di Vittorio.

Women's Committee, insert, from left to right: Mariuccia Di Vittorio, Lucia Di Stefano, Angela Pascolini, Velia Chiochio, Clara Pizzingrilli, Bruna Clappa, Alda Nardi.

02/07/2009 – The committee of the Hamilton Centre group with their wives.



Hamilton section of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association – Kitchener-Waterloo group (931-015)



30/06/1991 – Blessing of the pennant of the Kitchener-Waterloo group at the Famee Furlane in Bimbrook.

1982-1991 – Italian alpine corps social group of Kitchener-Waterloo

The two very beautiful towns of Kitchener and Waterloo, even called the Twin Cities, due to their proximity, have mainly been populated by the Mennonites and by immigrants coming from Germany. The population of Italian origin in this City mainly arrived after the Second World War and numbers between four to six thousand people.

Just like elsewhere in Canada, even the Italians in these cities felt the desire of getting together and forming an Italian centre like the Cortina Club where they could meet together. Where there are Italians, there are the Italian alpine corps members or people like Umberto Fusari, who comes from a town in the Veneto region of Italy, where there are a lot of Italian alpine corps members. It is well known that in order to attract people, it is necessary to use an association that bears a serious name, a name which recalls the Motherland, the history of our mountains, our towns, our traditions, and at the same time, that even brings us a lot of nostalgia and joy. It was thus that,



28/06/1992 – The Italian alpine corps members of Kitchener-Waterloo.





27/06/1993 – The Italian alpine corps Kitchener-Waterloo at the monument.

the friend of the Italian alpine corps, Umberto Fusari, called this feast the “Feast of the Italian alpine corps” and founded the Italian alpine corps Social Group of Kitchener-Waterloo. This group had a lot of success and in 1991 was regularized and registered with the Hamilton section as a Group of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans’ Association.

An account of the first nine years – members of 1982-1991 – as written, by the friend of the Italian alpine corps Umberto Fusari, is textually reported here:

“Being a part of the directive of the Cortina Club of Kitchener-Waterloo, in 1982, it was decided to rent a place on 40 King Street North, in Waterloo, in order to carry out associative

activities.

Besides putting the hall in order, evenings had to be organized in which the Italians could identify themselves as such.

Amongst the other names, it was suggested (by Ennio Renon) to dedicate an evening to the mountains, to their cuisine and to their songs: there is nothing better than to call it... the Feast of the Italian alpine corps.

And so it was.

It was a choice that hit the bull’s eye.

The Italians participated evermore numerously and bigger halls had to be rented in order to host those present. On one of these evenings, Domenico Vidoni, who was on the committee, introduced me to Franco Ceschia and Gino Vatri, the Inter-sectional Coordinator, it was at the Polish Legion Hall on 601 Wellington Street North, in Kitchener, in 1990 (?). At the microphone, Gino Vatri encouraged us to form an Italian alpine corps group, he suggested that we get into contact with the Toronto section or the Hamilton section and therefore become a part of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans’ Association of Italy.

Due to its closeness, they decided on Hamilton.

After a few phone calls, Fausto Chiochio, the President, came with his Italian alpine corps members to the Ukrainian Hall on 15 Michael Street, in Kitchener, and gave us all the necessary information.

The first attempt to form a group was not all that successful. There were too few. But those few did not give up. They heard that there was Italian alpine corps members in Stratford, a nearby city, they got into contact with them, they accepted with enthusiasm and reached the legal number.

The group was officially founded on the 23rd February, 1990 (91) (Saturday).

The founding Italian alpine corps members were:

Giorgio Albano, Gianni Barel, Vittorio Bertagnolli, Duilio Bravin, Giacomo Brollo, Saverio Case,



08/08/1993 – Picnic of the Italian alpine corps of Kitchener-Waterloo.



Armando Dassie, Lindo Favrin, Antonio Renon, Michelangelo Vittoria.

The tasks were distributed as follows:

Group leader: Vittorio Bertagnolli,
Secretary: Saverio Case, Treasurer:
Gianni Barel.

The souvenir photo was taken in a huge pile of snow. That evening, supper was had with "polenta and birds".

From: Umberto Fusari

Italian National Alpine Troops Corps
Veterans' Association of Kitchener-
Waterloo

Chronology of events and a brief history of the group of Kitchener-Waterloo from the 23rd February, 1991 to the 30th August, 2002 under the presidency of Vittorio Bertagnolli.

- 23rd February, 1991 – The group is officially founded.
- 16th March, 1991 – a splendid dinner dance evening follows.
- 22nd March, 1991 – the section forwards the registration request to the Italian National Alpine Corps Veterans' Association National Headquarters which is reported here:

To: Accountant Luciano Gandini
Italian National Alpine Troops Corps
Veterans' Association
Central Headquarters Via Marsala, 9
20125 MILAN (MI) I T A L Y

22nd March, 1991

Dear Luciano,

I attach the registration forms of ten new Italian alpine corps members from Kitchener-Waterloo and surrounding areas. These new Italian alpine corps members would like to register with the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association and form a group, dependent upon the Hamilton section.

Group name: Hamilton section of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association – Kitchener-Waterloo group.

Directive:

President: Vittorio Bertagnolli 472 Bridge Street West Kitchener, Ontario N2K-1L4 CANADA

Secretary: Saverio Case 62 Second Avenue Kitchener, Ontario N2B-2L4 CANADA

Treasurer: Gianni Barel 607 Heritage Drive Kitchener, Ontario N2B-3J2 CANADA



04/09/2005 – Logo of the Italian alpine corps Gathering in Kitchener-Waterloo.



Logo of the mule drinking with the young Italian alpine soldier, done by Umberto Fusari, on the occasion of the Italian alpine corps gathering in Kitchener-Waterloo.

The Hamilton section strongly recommends and supports the birth of this new group. As soon as everything will be regularized, if it is possible, we would like to receive the pennant.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy Easter.

Sincerely yours, Fausto Chiocchio (President)

copy: Gino Vatri

Inter-sectional Committee of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association of Canada

1 Haverhill Circle Toronto, Ontario M6L-2R7 C A N A D A

Dr. Giovanni Franza

Via Buttiglieria Alta, 34/5

10090 Rosta (TO) I T A L Y

The sectional strength in 1991 was of 280 members and thus spread out:

Hamilton section	Italian alpine corps members: 141, friends: 75; total: 216.
Welland group	Italian alpine corps members: 35, friends: 19; total: 54.
Kitchener-Waterloo group	Italian alpine corps members: 10.

February 1992: the first anniversary was celebrated, with a marvellous dinner dance, with the participation of over 60 members, of the Hamilton section.

26th September, 1992: visit to the Mennonite market, by the Italian alpine corps, of the section.

28th June, 1992: arrival of the group pennant which was blessed, after the Holy Mass, and celebrated during the sectional picnic.

By now, things were going full throttle, the second anniversary was celebrated on the 1st February, on the 15th May, there was the dinner dance, and on the 8th August, 1993, there was the first picnic.

When things start to go well, always with the help of everybody, but in a special way thanks to the tenacity, stubbornness, and know how, in organizing of the President, Vittorio Bertagnolli, it was immediately thought to do something more that we Italian alpine corps members know how to do: help out one's own neighbour, the weakest and less fortunate, with the motto of "Honouring our dead by helping out the living" or "Helping means loving" with the following charitable activities and the help is listed here below: (the note reported here was sent by the past President Vittorio Bertagnolli).

During the last 10 years of existence, we have made donations and contributions to charitable entities which with a lot of pride we list below:

1993-1999 Annual Celebration	\$ 600.00
1994 Italian Cortina Club	\$ 948.69
1995 Kitchener-Waterloo Hospital	\$1,306.25
1996 St. Mary's Hospital	\$2,237.07
1996 Ride for Heart	\$1,115.00
1997 University of St. Jerome	\$ 575.00
1997 Ride for Heart	\$1,230.00
1997 Chernobyl's Children	\$1,514.00
1998 Allegria Choir	\$ 205.00
1998 Chernobyl's Children	\$2,277.97
1999 Chernobyl's Children	\$4,372.00
1999 CKWR Radio	\$ 100.00
2000 Allegria Choir	\$ 150.00
2000 CKWR Radio	\$ 100.00
2000 Chernobyl's Children	\$5,051.00
2001 Chernobyl's Children	\$4,215.00
2002 Chernobyl's Children	\$5,643.50

Total Contributions \$31,639.50



These donations and contributions have been made thanks to: volunteer work, donations, fundraisers with bike-a-thons, and our annual garage sale.

Vittorio Bertagnolli

Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association President of the Kitchener-Waterloo group, March 2005.

From the 30th August, 2002, up to the present, under the presidency of Antonio Renon

- On the 30th July, 2002, our group leader, Vittorio Bertagnolli, resigned. It was something unexpected for us, all after twelve years in office, and having been one of the founding members.

- On the 30th August, 2002, elections were held with the following results: Group leader: Antonio Renon, Vice President: Giuseppe Dalla Nora, Treasurer: Raffaele Piccinin, Secretary: Giorgio Albano, Councillors: Aldo Dassie and Umberto Fusari.

Antonio Renon, born in 1944, performed military service in the Italian alpine corps at Vipiteno, during the years 1965-1966, in the 5th Regiment of the Italian alpine corps, Morbegno Battalion.

- In 2003, we participated with pleasure, in the XII Congress in Montreal, where with honour, we were given the mandate to organize it even ourselves.

- 13th Congress in Kitchener-Waterloo. We immediately got down to work, by electing a special committee, for the coordination of this congress. It is made up of the following members: Antonio Renon, Giuseppe Dalla Nora, Raffaele Piccinin, Giorgio Albano, Rita Vittoria, Aldo Dassie, Francesco Robles, Fausto Chiocchio, Silvano Pascolini, Isabella D'Agostino, Tarcisio Brollo, Umberto Fusari, Vittorio Bertagnolli, and Dino Berruti.

In the future, we will continue with our activities, by carrying forward the name of our glorious Italian alpine corps, with the help, assistance, and respect for the weakest and for whoever is in need.

Group leader Antonio Renon

List of the Directive Committees

1991 Founding committee

The group was officially founded on the 23rd February, 1991 (Saturday).

The founding Italian alpine corps members were:
Italian alpine corps members: Giorgio Albano, Gianni Barel, Vittorio Bertagnolli, Duilio Bravin, Giacomo Brollo, Saverio Case, Armando Dassie, Lindo Favrin, Antonio Renon, Michelangelo Vittoria.

Aggregates: Umberto Fusari. Tasks:

Group leader: Vittorio Bertagnolli,

Secretary: Saverio Case,

Treasurer: Gianni Barel.

1991-1992 Directive Committee

Group leader: Vittorio Bertagnolli, Secretary: Saverio Case, Treasurer: Gianni Barel.

1992-1993 Directive Committee

Group leader: Vittorio Bertagnolli, Secretary: Saverio Case, Treasurer: Antonio Renon.

1993-1998 Directive Committee

Group leader: Vittorio Bertagnolli, Secretary: Umberto Fusari, Treasurer: Antonio Renon.



04/09/2005 – Umberto Fusari.

1998-2002 Directive Committee

Group leader: Vittorio Bertagnolli, Secretary: Giorgio Albano, Treasurer: Raffaele Piccinin.

2002-2005 Directive Committee

Group leader: Antonio Renon, Vice group leader: Giuseppe Della Nora, Secretary: Giorgio Albano, Treasurer: Raffaele Piccinin, Councillors: Aldo Dassie, and Umberto Fusari.

In 2009, the group's numbers are 17 members, of whom, 13 are Italian alpine corps members and 4 are aggregates.

Welland group of the Hamilton section of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association (931-010)



1970 – The Italian alpine corps members of Welland are ready to leave!





02/02/1982. Anellino Guglielmi with his Italian alpine corps members.

Group leaders:

1982-1983: The first President was Antonio Silvestri.

1984-1989: Anellino Guglielmi.

1990-2009: Doro Di Donato.

Monument of the Welland group

It arises at the Casa Dante, in the vicinities of the hall of the Sons of Italy. The author, of the work, was the Italian alpine corps member, Fabiane from Belluno. It was donated by the Italian alpine corps member Gino Fabello. It was blessed and inaugurated on the 26th November, 1988.

The monument is dedicated to: "The fallen of all countries"

In 1965, the Italian alpine corps members of Welland and the Niagara Peninsula, under the leadership of the Italian alpine corps member, Anellino Guglielmi, organized themselves under the name of the "Alpine Club of Welland".

19 Italian alpine corps members of Welland and the Niagara Peninsula got their papers in order with the National Headquarters in Milan on the 16th December, 1982. They registered themselves through the Toronto section as, the "Welland group of the Toronto section of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association". On the 26th March, 1983, the Welland group becomes a part of the Hamilton section of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association.



1986, Welland. The group leader Doro Di Donato.



30/08/2003. Those present at the gathering of the Italian alpine corps members in Montreal.

For the description, one can refer to the one of the Hamilton monument, insofar as the two monuments only differ in the design of the pedestal; while the bronze bust is the same.

The group has been very active since the beginning, and it has gathered together, the Italian alpine corps members of Welland and the Niagara Peninsula. It has given annually to charitable entities; the main events have been the picnic, a dinner dance at the end of the year, and the organization and participation in the Mass, celebrated for the "Fallen of all countries".



Guelph group of the Hamilton section of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association (931-020)



April 1996. The Italian alpine corps members of the Guelph group.

Guelph group: it's year of foundation was in 1993. The number of members is 27 (25 Italian alpine corps members and 2 aggregates):

Silvio Artuso, Alfredo Barbirolo, Tarcisio Barbirolo, Dino Berruti, Guido Bortoli, Germano Bortolon, Ernesto Bosa, Giacomo Brunello, Amilcare Canini, Domenico Ceccato, Giorgio Comini, Angelo Cremasco, Angelo Dal Bello, Angelo De Ros, Bruno Montini, Giuseppe Pascetta, Camillo Pavia, Narciso Pinzin, Vito Piovesan, Secondo Reginato, Egidio Romanello, Pietro Stradiotto, Antonio Toscan, Pietro Toscan, Marcello Vadori. Aggregates: Bortolo Vettoretto, Ido Zen.

Presidents:

1992-2007: Dino Berruti.

2008 - : Angelo Cremasco.

With due respect, we have to remember Mr. Ido Zen, President and founder of the Italian Veterans and Combatants Association of Guelph, who, after having gotten into contact with the sectional President, Fausto Chiochio, got all of the Italian alpine corps members in that area together. The elected group leader was Dino Berruti, who with the consensus of his directive committee, joined the Hamilton section.

The group has been very active ever since the beginning and it has gathered together the Italian alpine corps members of Guelph and vicinities. It has donated annually to charitable entities. The main events carried out annually are: the Spring dinner dance and participation in the Mass, celebrated for the "fallen" in November.





30/10/1993 – Blessing of the pennant of the Guelph group.



30/08/2003. Those present at the gathering of the Italian alpine corps members in Montreal.



Dedicated to all of those Italian alpine corps members of our section who have “moved on”.

MEMORY OF AN ITALIAN ALPINE CORPS MEMBER

There are thousands of Italian alpine corps members who live, work, die abroad, and are uprooted from the mountains because they have the sense of work, the sense of responsibility, and when they do not find work in their Motherland because of the consequences that derive from it, they go to look for it in countries that are often unknown, and at times, known because their forefathers had been there before them.

In Canada, there are many of them. They have come from the Friuli, Veneto, Abruzzo, Piedmont regions, and from many other parts of Italy. They have started a family, they have wives and children who love them and respect them, not only as husbands and fathers, but even as Italian alpine corps members, as guardians of a simple, clear, honest way of life, full of aims.

Some time ago, one of these Italian alpine corps members abroad, died and was buried in Hamilton, far from his mountains and from his country. He was accompanied by his wife, his children, his friends and the old men with whom he had worked for many years. On the coffin, there was his hat which he had always put on with pride, dignity and they said goodbye to him for the last time with the calm and profound notes of silence.

His name was Pietro Bilanzola, he was from Abruzzo, and he came from a town in the area of Teramo, nestled on the slopes of the Gran Sasso Mountain. He was a hard worker, calm, cheerful, full of energy. He had that sense of duty and responsibility which, if everybody were to have it nowadays, it could make society much different than what it is today. The commitments that he maintained, he would maintain them at all costs. He would invite the old men over to his house and he would be found working away in the garden, making vegetables and fruit grow. He would immediately stop, he would wipe away his sweat, he would take out some wine and he would offer it, with that sense of tradition and rite, of which, we have lost the memory. He would talk about his days at boot camp and the terrible toils in the fields, of his first difficulties in Canada, with a tender melancholy, as a person who knows how to suffer, knows how to forgive, and knows how to win, even when he is losing. He saw the activities of the old men, as an integral part of his family commitments. He would always say that his daughters and wife were a part together with him of the Italian alpine corps. Notwithstanding the sickness that was undermining him, right up until the end, he would participate in the activities of the old men. He went away silently, without complaining, without cursing destiny, surrounded by his loved ones whom he loved a lot. He has left us a memory that will be difficult to delete. He was an Italian alpine corps member abroad.

By: Enzo Scarponi

Even in hard times we have tried to do our best... we have tried to help out others (even when we ourselves were in need)... in the typical Italian alpine corps fashion we did the best we could and always tried to do our best.

... whoever joins the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association knows that perhaps he will be called “to give”, but he will never be able “to have” anything...

Fausto Chiocchio
Hamilton, 5th September, 2009



Profile of the President in office:

Fausto Chiocchio was born in 1942 at Cocullo (AQ) in Italy. He graduated, as an industrial-telecommunications expert, from the ITI Montani Industrial Institute, in Fermo (AP), in 1962. He was called up for military service, in July 1963, and served until September 1964 in the 8th Italian alpine corps Regiment l'Aquila Battalion. He became a Major Corporal. He attended the Recruit Training Centre in L'Aquila and was then sent to the transmissions course at San Giorgio a Cremano (NA) and then to Tarvisio (company command, radiotelegraph operator).

He settled in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada on the 24th December, 1964.

He attended the University of Waterloo, Ontario. He is registered, in the album of Engineers, of the Province of Ontario, in 1977. He worked for 36 years as a researcher (Physical Limnologist) at the National Water Research Institute, in Burlington, Ontario.

He has been a pensioner since December 2004. He has been a member of the directive committee (secretary) of the Inter-sectional Commission of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association, in North America, for the first eight years, and part of the Hamilton section of the Italian alpine corps in various capacities from 1976 up to the present.



Canada - Kitchener



1st PART

Italian Alpine Corps Soldiers

Chapter
- X -

MONTREAL
OTTAWA



Behind Gnutti's photo it can be read: "To the Italian alpine corps section of Montreal (Canada) with the pride of a father and of a grateful Italian alpine corps member, Serafino's father, wishing all the best, January 1998.

MONTREAL (CANADA): FIRST SECTION IN NORTH AMERICA (In memory of Serafino Gnutti)

The history of the Montreal section takes a long time to tell, but it is pleasant, and shows the tenacity and attachment of the Italian alpine corps members to their corps, to their Motherland.

Montreal is an entirely particular city to say the least. Situated in the eastern part of Canada, in the province of Quebec, where French is the official language, English is the second language and thanks to the competition between the two official languages, the Italians soon learned to struggle and defend their own language, so much so, that Italian is spoken a bit everywhere in Montreal; A multicultural city and of a European style, a conserver of the beauties of the past and turned to a modern and globalized future. Montreal has more than two million inhabitants and, amongst these, lives two hundred and fifty thousand people of Italian origin.

The first immigration began to arrive towards the end of the 1800's, but the great masses came after the two World Wars which left our beautiful Italy that had been destroyed: many fellow countrymen left, and amongst them, we even find our Italian alpine corps members, who will be defined as "those of the second boot camp". In the years 1935-1936, the "House of Italy" was built in Montreal and the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association, appears amongst the collaborators on the souvenir plaque: nevertheless, notwithstanding various researches, we have not managed to find the names of the Italian alpine corps members present during that period.

But, the majority of immigrants arrived here, between the years of 1950-1965, and amongst them, many Italian alpine corps member veterans, of the various campaigns during the war, who after a lot of sufferings, found themselves without work and without security for the future in their Motherland, chose the way of immigration.

Way back in 1954, we find the first attempts to give life to our Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association section. Apart from the first Approaches had, amongst the sympathizers of the Black Feathers, in order to study the way in which to get together and to constitute themselves already like the Italian alpine corps members of Lima (Peru), there were a few courageous men who picked up a pen and began putting ink onto paper.

The young Italian alpine corps member Rino Zanardelli, from Brescia, together with other Italian alpine corps members residing in Montreal, were the architects of this initiative sponsored by the Group of Collio and by the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association section of Brescia. The first contacts date back to the 27th February, 1954. Here are some testimonies:

"Having fought with Italian alpine corps units, even if discharged, here in Canada, I always feel the pride of having belonged to those glorious units. I have already started the formation of a group and I believe that I will be able to reach two hundred elements quite soon. We will then have a feast and I am sure that it will be the first time in Canada that a group of Italian Alpine corps members will get together by the work of a son, of the Brescia area, with his headquarters at Collio... I need you for many things and, above all, an Italian alpine corps hat in good condition in order to expose it in the hall where we will have the feast. I even need membership cards. I will pay for both".

Rino Zanardelli



The plaque exposed on the door of the laundryroom of the Marie Enfants Hospital, gift of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association of Montreal





The first President Zanardelli at the centre of the photograph

The letter is sent to the area of Brescia, to Accountant Belotti who, on the date of the 10th March of the same year, directly intervenes at the central headquarters in Milan with the following letter:

Dear Colonel,

A young Italian alpine corps member from Collio, who lives in Canada, has made himself the promoter of the constitution of an Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association group, in Montreal, where he has been residing and working for some years.

He believes that he can gather together a considerable group of Italian alpine corps members (he speaks of 200 elements).

The Collio group would ideally sponsor the group which is dislocated abroad, and it is preparing the pennant and the hats that have been requested.

We are pressed however, for the good success of the filiations, to have the efficacious cooperation of the Central Headquarters. I, therefore, ask:

- to inform, if possible, about the sending of some copies of L'Alpino newspaper to the address that will be communicated and the related cost (which will be paid by the Collio group);

- to provide, all of the information and advice, in order to facilitate the constitution of the new group (are there other groups abroad?) which I will hurry to transmit to the interested person, except to directly put this Headquarters into communication with the new group;

- to inform with regards to eventual bureaucratic practices to be carried out in the relationships with the consular authorities (in Montreal an Italian consulate existed before the war which I believe still exists).

Awaiting your news in regards to the abovementioned, I beg you to accept my devoted and cordial greetings,

Belotti G. Batt.





Feast of the 50th anniversary of the Montreal section

The response does not delay and on the 12th March, 1954 the requested clarifications are given in these terms:

I immediately respond to your kind letter of the 10th March, 1954.

The constitution of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association group abroad is not subjected, with regards to the consular authorities, to any previous bureaucratic practice.

At most, the directive committee of the group can, as soon as it is constituted, inform the Consul out of dutiful knowledge.

According to article no. 9 of the Statute, the authorization, for the constitution of a group, is the prerogative of the section. In your case, it could be the Brescia section. This does not naturally take away from the fact that the sponsorship, of the Montreal group, remains with the Collio group. For example, the Lima group is a part of the Rome section.

The act of the constitution, of the new Montreal group, will be represented by the minutes of the assembly, in which news is given of the event and of the appointment, of the directive committee, of the group. It will be good, for reasons of distance from the section, that the group even appoints the electoral group.

As soon as you send me the addresses, I will make sure that I send, to each member, the latest copies of L'Alpino newspaper.

The cost, for now, reduces itself, to the one of mailing, which is, ten Italian liras, per copy.

I think I have been precise, in answering your questions, if you are in need of something else, just write to me.

Cordially yours,

The National Directive Council

Illegible signature



The directive committee, of the Italian National Alpine Corps Veterans' Association, of Montreal, gives an ergonomic bicycle to the Dante Care Centre for the elderly of Italian origin



On the 29th March, the order is given by the group leader of Collio Val Trompia that the pennant is made by the Novali Company, at a cost of 10,000 Italian liras, "except for the balance upon delivery". The first practical instructions, summarized in a letter leave on the 5th April from Collio Val Trompia.

The Brescia section, on the 18th June, always in 1955, reassures Zanardelli of having obtained from Milan, official authorization for the constitution, of the Italian alpine corps of Montreal. Here is the text:

This presidency is greatly satisfied for the initiative undertaken by you, to constitute an Italian alpine corps group in Montreal. It is beautiful to note how, though so far away, the Italian alpine corps members feel the need to get together in order to participate in our big aspiration.

We send you a copy of the letter which arrived to us, just now from the central headquarters that officially authorizes the constitution of the Italian alpine corps group in Montreal. Under a separate cover, we even send about twenty registration forms which you will have every Italian alpine corps member residing there fill in, with all of the information requested in it. We even attach a copy of the Social Statute so that you can stick to the prescriptions established in it. The membership cost is 300 (three hundred) Italian liras for every member. We wish you all the best and wish the new Italian alpine corps of Montreal a florid and... lasting future.

Please accept our cordial fraternal greetings.

*Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association - Brescia section
The President*

The constitution of the groups is authorized by the sectional directive council of which the group intends to be a part of. This headquarters, therefore, sees with great pleasure that, on the part of this section, upon the initiative of the Collio group, the Montreal group in Canada constitutes itself for an even greater and ideal community of intents with the Italian alpine corps members far from the Motherland.

*Copies of the newspaper "L'Alpino" will be sent to the address, sent to us by Mr. Rino Zanardelli.
Cordial greetings.*

*The National Directive Council
A Vice President
Illegible signature*

cc. the quartermaster Lieutenant Colonel Luigi Valente





From the left Ferdinando Bisinella, Giorgio Bortot, Ornello Capannolo and the former Vice National Vicar President Ivano Gentili together with his wife

On the 15th June, a list is opened up for a collection, for the Montreal pennant, and the first donors are: Gio Battista Belotti, 500 Italian liras; Samuele Lazzari, 500 Italian liras; Giuseppe Tabacchini, 500 Italian liras; Franco Zanardelli, 500 Italian liras, for a total of 2,000 Italian liras. With an accelerated postal service which is the envy of our times, in a very few months a lot of work was done, authorizations were obtained, legal doubts clarified, at a distance of thousands of kilometres, when airplanes were not so common like today.

With the announcement that the Montreal group becomes the Canada section, the directive committee thought about dedicating it to the Lieutenant of the Italian alpine corps of the mortar platoon of the Val Chiese battalion SERAFINO GNUTTI, born at Lumezzane, in the province of Brescia, on the 16th July, 1916. He lost his life on the 21st January, 1941 on the Albanian front, at a height of 1,071 metres above sea level north of Chiaf el Sofuit. He was awarded the golden medal for military valour with the following motivation:

“Commander of one of the peak platoons in pre-ordered fighting in retreat, protecting the uncovered flank of the Army Corps formation, he bravely lead his own men on the counterattack against the overpowering and emboldened with success enemy forces, drawing them, first amongst them, against the violent adversary reaction. Surrounded by the enemy, although wounded a first time, he tenaciously resisted at the head of the brave survivors. Struck a second time, he still managed to make a supreme effort at casting himself headlong into the fray, crying out to his boys enflamed by his example “hold on”, persisting in the cruel fight until he fell struck to death”.

He was buried on Albania soil for fifty-four years, his corpse was repatriated in 1995 and he now rests in the family grave, in Gnutti’s village cemetery, next to his father Giacomo who was an Italian alpine corps Major.





2007 picnic with the Italian alpine corps members of Montreal and Ottawa

In 1958, the Canada group becomes the Canada section, Montreal with forty-six members, the declaration is made by the National Headquarters. A great responsibility fell upon the section, to maintain contacts with the groups that had been formed in the new country. Canada is immense, great are the distances from one city to another, and for the new section to look after the mailing of “L’Alpino”, communications, memberships and tags was not something easy. All of the mail passed through Montreal and for our Italian alpine corps members occupied with their jobs, families and new occupations, the studying of a new language even if there were a lot of good volunteers, with good intentions of carrying on well with the work, they could not make it, and so, the National Headquarters was contacted in order to set up new sections. In the meantime, groups had been set up in Toronto, Vancouver, Windsor, Ottawa, and Hamilton which, at the Gathering in Verona, in 1981, became sections and their pennants were blessed in the Verona Arena, during the Mass, celebrated for the veterans of the Russian campaign, and were handed over to the new sections, even Montreal becomes the Montreal section.

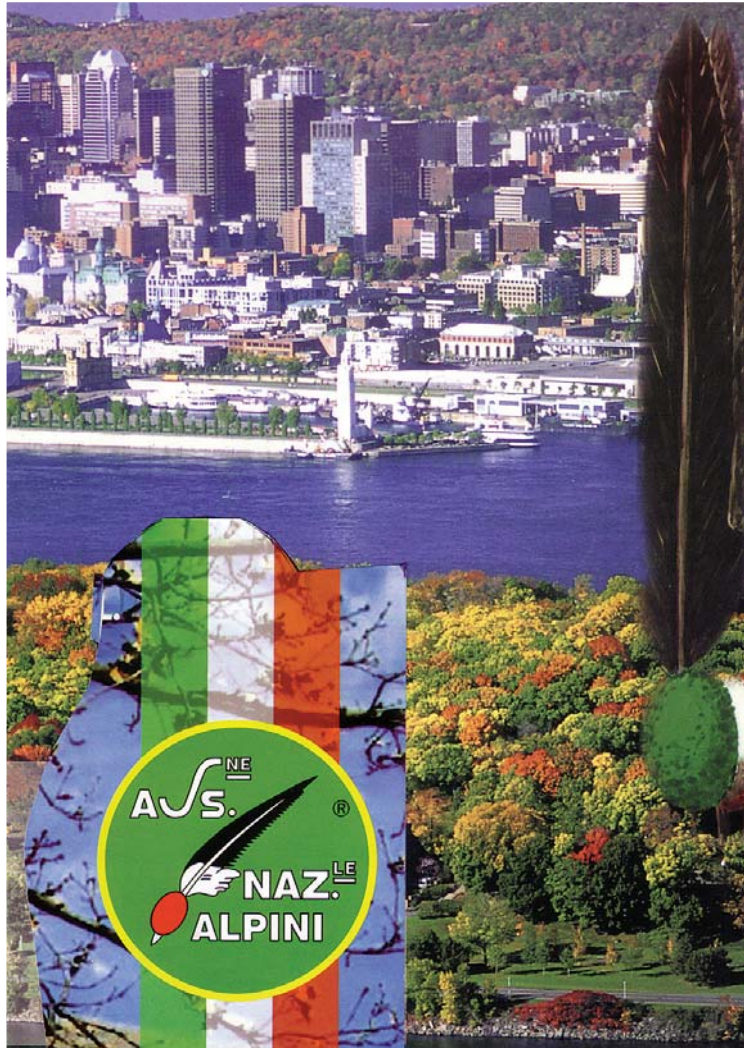
From the 1970’s onwards, the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans’ Association section of Montreal gained evermore strength and was making itself known through its activities. Every year there were new members, right up to reaching two hundred and fifty registered members. The Italian alpine corps members were proud of wearing their hat and carrying their pennant during all events.

In 1976, the directive committee of the section with the approval of its members, decided to erect a monument dedicated to the “fallen of all wars”. It was the first monument in Montreal, and it is found next to the church of Our Lady of Pompey, run by the Scalabrinian Fathers, who donated the land. It should even be remembered that our chaplains were the Scalabrinian Fathers: Father Giuseppe Castelli, who left us in order to go back to Italy. Father Enrico Morassut took his place with an Italian alpine corps style baptism. A lover of the mountains and of Italian alpine corps choirs, he accepted, with enthusiasm, for well over twenty-three years, the role of Italian alpine corps chaplain, by accompanying the members in their gatherings, meetings, and congresses. Unfortunately, he too “moved on” on the 18th March, 2004. Father Pierangelo Patternieri is the present chaplain.

During this period, the sectional directive, knowing of the desire of its Italian alpine corps members and the importance of being present at the National Gatherings in Italy, created a fund, for the members with their papers, in order so that they could participate in such events with the representation thus becoming more numerous. These events in their usual lively celebrative mould and together even typically moving of the Italian alpine corps Gatherings, is above all, a meeting of men, who share the memory of their brave fallen comrades on every front, whose deeds, admired by the adversaries themselves, have built that matchless heritage of sacrifice and heroism of which our Italian alpine corps, and with them, the entire Italian population, are rightly proud of.



The front cover of a book published by the Italian alpine corps section of Montreal



In 1981, the section actively cooperated in the constitution of the Inter-sectional of Canada which, gathers together all of the sections and groups of North America. Every two years, our Italian alpine corps members stage a congress in a different city of Canada.

The Montreal section hosted the 5th Inter-sectional Congress in 1989, on the occasion of the 35th foundation anniversary, with a great number of participants, Italian consular authorities and the military attaché at the Italian embassy in Ottawa. In 2003, it hosts the 12th Inter-sectional Congress, with the presence of the National President Giuseppe Parazzini, and the delegate, in charge of the sections abroad, Vittorio Brunello, now the director of the newspaper “L’Alpino”, the efforts made for the organization of this gathering will be rewarded by the presence of the Italian alpine corps members from New York City.

In 1990, a group of Italian alpine corps members, originally from the Abruzzo region of Italy, manifest the desire to set up their own group. The National Headquarters approve the formation of the new group, after having followed the procedures of the Statute. Presently, the Laval group has, as members, eighty former Italian alpine corps soldiers, with three aggregates. The group leader was from the beginning and still is the Italian alpine corps member Italo Spagnolo. The Laval group is a part of the Montreal section and cooperates with it.

The activities of the section are many, even in cooperation with the National Directive Committee. In 1992, it contributed \$3,000.00 towards “Operation Smile”, that is, towards the construction of a nursery school for Russian children at Rossosch. By coincidence, right in that activity, the mess tin was found of our Italian alpine corps member Eliseo Borsoi, who had participated in the Russian campaign. It was handed over to him with great emotion, at the National Gathering, at Treviso, in 1994. Our founding members, they have reached a venerable age by now, are honoured every year, towards the end of





The first standard of the section.

February. On the 14th February, Saint Valentine's Day, everyone participates, in the lunch organized by the Laval group. At the beginning of spring, we gather together at the "sugar cabin", for a typical Quebec style lunch, based on maple syrup and with our favourite drink, never missing. We, moreover, discovered that by adding a drop of grappa to the maple syrup everything is amalgamated better. On the first Sunday of May, the Extraordinary Members' Assembly is held with the revision of the regulations and new projects. It is always ended with a delicious lunch in which our wives participate. For some years now, we have been paying particular attention to the Dante Assistance Centre. Our elderly, all of Italian origin, with the Italian personnel that looks after them, reside here. They paved the way for our emigration and it was not easy initially. To them goes our gratitude. The section donated an ultrasound device for their therapy, and an ergonomic bicycle. On the 2nd June, Feast of the Italian Republic, an appointment is made, at the Centre, in order to celebrate together, with the distribution of Italian flags, the singing of popular songs, accompanied by the accordion and a lot of titbits in order to even please the palate. In the year 2008, the section gave a subsidy to a specialized school for autistic children, in order for them to fulfil their project of setting up a computer laboratory. During the summer, there are the open air picnics and we exchange a visit with the Ottawa section which is the closest city. In 2007, the Vicar Vice President, of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association, Ivano Gentili and his wife, and the Delegate in charge of the foreign sections, Ornello Capannolo, honoured us with their visits. The words of stimulus and encouragement which they gave us moved all those present who continue to keep the Italian alpine corps spirit alive and continue to have an incontestable love for Italy.

The 4th November was always celebrated with a commemorative Mass and the laying of a laurel wreath, at the monument, dedicated to the "fallen of all wars", with the participation of the Italian consular authorities, of the local authorities and all of the former soldiers who are now dismissed from service. This ceremony, since 2007, has been organized by the Federation of former soldiers with the local author-



ities, and the ones mentioned above. The section, after having consulted the former Italian alpine corps soldiers, who are members and the aggregated members, will celebrate the patron saint of the Italian alpine corps, Saint Maurice with an intimate and family spirited ceremony, in the month of September. The gala evening of the Italian alpine corps, with a dinner dance, has been held for many years in the month of November, with it being a special evening of joy and good company where everyone can have fun. The Members' General Assembly closes the year in December with a mess prepared by our cooks based on game meat such as deer, caribou and moose. The "Franco Bertagnolli" scholarships are handed out during this activity. This year, a scholarship has been handed out to the student Marco D'Arienzo, the grandson of a member of the Laval group. While from the Montreal section, the scholarships have been handed out to the students: Stefanie De Paoli, Amanda Di Pancrazio, and Sara Soldara.



In the photo: the treasurer, Bruno Negrello and the President, Ferdinando Bisinella, hand over the funds collected for the Abruzzo earthquake victims to the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association Directive Committee at Latina.

During this assembly, the directive committee with the members' approval presented an assistance project for the "Marie Enfant" rehabilitation centre, for children with physical, motor, and linguistic handicaps. The centre, moreover, supports research in order to improve paediatric rehabilitation throughout Quebec. Ten thousand dollars were given towards the renovation of the laundry room on the second floor, even put at the disposal of the parents, who remain in order to look after their children. On the 15th June, 2009, the laundry room is completed and President Bisinella, with the directive committee, was invited to the inauguration. The plaque was put at the entrance to the laundry room: "Donated by the Gold Medalist Serafino Gnutti, section of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association of Montreal". Thank-you's came pouring in from everywhere. Commendable is the presence of the Italian alpine corps members, even in the deeds that are done towards the weakest. The section contributed, with a considerable sum of money, even towards breast cancer research for two years in a row and in their participation, in the fundraising drive, for the earthquake victims, of Abruzzo. During the Extraordinary Assembly in May, upon receiving the sad news of the earthquake, the fundraising drive immediately took off with all of the members feeling involved in it and in just two days, with the help of the President of Casa Veneto and an anonymous person, \$7,800.00 was collected, which were handed over, at the Gathering in Latina, to the President, Corrado Perona. We have trust in our administration that we have in front of us and tangible proof, if we just look at their work in Friuli during the earthquake there.





2nd June – Feast of the Italian Republic: a group of Italian alpine corps members, of the Montreal section, are present at the festivities held at the Dante Care Centre for elderly people of Italian origin.

The directive committee of the Montreal section was involved in the production of the video “Stories of people from the Veneto region in the world”. A documentary completed, by the Veneto region, with the aim of showing, Veneto emigration in this case, to young people at school. It is now being shown in the schools of the Veneto region, but it has even been shown on the RAI 3 television channel in Italy. This documentary is a piece of important history for Italy, even because the Italian today has to get to know the past and know how to welcome the emigrant, who is now knocking at his door.

The 50th foundation anniversary has been highlighted in a particular way in 2004, with the presence of the wife and children of the founder Rino Zanardelli. It is a memorable occasion, full of significance and tenacity that only the Italian alpine corps members can explain.

Many of our members have “moved on”, others are advanced in age, but the section carries on unperturbed. During the meeting of the Presidents, of the foreign sections in Latina, President Perona, asks the Presidents of the sections and group leaders, to pay more attention to the quality of the members and not at the numbers, even if the numbers count, the quality counts, the ideals count and the duty always has to be present. The children of our members increase the numbers of the ranks, the widows still hang on to their registration. Following the death of the Italian alpine corps member Silvio Dal Molin, his children made a donation in his memory to the section. Thus the “Dal Molin Fund” was born destined to provide funds for institutes of medical research. The signs of esteem towards the section are noteworthy.

Honour and burdens, it is said, go hand in hand and we have to manage them both with a lot of awareness; taking the burden upon us of the commitments assumed, but, at the same time making the future of what we have done be respected with firmness and dignity as is in the Italian alpine corps spirit. Our book, therefore, has even the deep meaning of a testimony of how much some inalienable values, condition every human and social progress, which is genuine only if it is accompanied by a sense of liberty and availability and friendship towards others.





The Italian alpine corps members present at the inauguration: Antonio Stabile, Ferdinando Bisinella, Mauro Filiberti, Virginio Soldera, and Giuseppe Salvoni.

The present directive committee is made up of: the President, Ferdinando Bisinella; the Vice President: Giuseppe Salvoni; the secretary: Paolo Fassina; the treasurer: Bruno Negrello; Councillors: Virginio Soldera, Sergio De Paoli, Mauro Filiberti, Leonildo Carretta, Gianni Francescucci, Adelmo Bertelli, Davide Bertelli, Danny David, Antonio Stabile, and Luigi Olmi.

THE PRESIDENTS OF THE SECTION

1954 – 1964	Rino Zanardelli
1964 – 1966	Carlo Mio
1966 – 1967	Luigi Durante
1967 – 1969	Riccardo Osellame
1969 – 1985	Virginio Soldera
1985 – 1989	Dante Bonetti
1989 – 1993	Ferdinando Bisinella
1993 – 1998	Ettore Moranti
1999	Virginio Soldera
1999 – 2003	Sergio De Paoli
2003 – in office	Ferdinando Bisinella

(research done by the President Ferdinando Bisinella)





4th November, deposition of the laurel wreath at the monument dedicated to the Fallen of all wars.



ITALIAN NATIONAL ALPINE TROOPS CORPS VETERANS' ASSOCIATION

HISTORY OF THE OTTAWA SECTION

HISTORICAL CONSULTANCY – Albino Pescatore

COMPUTER TECHNICIAN – Michael Tardioli

(Eventual errors or omissions are merely casual)

In the spring of 1972, by coincidence, right during the year of the centenary of the Italian alpine corps, the Italian alpine corps Association of Ottawa and region is born.

Moreover, with almost all of the new immigrants of the 1950's, here in Ottawa, meetings would take place at the bar, and for the two new friends: Romano Battel and Albino Pescatore, it was therefore a daily custom to have an espresso coffee together.

One day, at around Christmas of 1971, the talk between the two friends fell upon the Italian alpine corps and from that day onwards, in the following meetings, Romano Battel constantly expressed the desire to set up an association and wondered if it was possible to trace other former Italian alpine corps soldiers. By following such an idea, he put an ad in the Italian language newspaper "L'ora di Ottawa" precisely inviting eventual Italian alpine corps members to step forward. There were nine answers to this first announcement. In the following month, there were eight to the second ad placed, giving a total of seventeen answers, plus two which made a total of nineteen responses. At this point, Romano Battel no longer had any doubts, conscious that his dream was coming true he said to Albino Pescatore: "let us hold a meeting and let us start the Italian alpine corps Association "and you"... almost as an order... "we'll write the minutes".

The meeting from which the birth of the "Italian alpine corps Association of Ottawa and region" gushed forth was held on the 3rd May, 1972, and Romano Battel became its first President and the founding Italian alpine corps members. In the following months, he found other Italian alpine corps members, so that, at the end of that year, the association already counted more than seventy members, many of whom were veterans of the Albania, Greek, Yugoslavian, and Russian campaigns.



The association is born...THE DREAM COMES TRUE!



The hug of joy between the two great friends, Albino Pescatore and Romano Battel, for the success of the birth of the association.

THE FOUNDING MEMBERS:

Romano BATTEL, Giuseppe BERTORELLI, Ermano BORTOLOTTI, Brubo BOSELLI, Riccardo BOSELLI, Ernesto CAPELLAZZI, Amerigo CARDARELLI, Isidoro CASAGRANDE, Adriano CHIAPPA, Alberto COPELLI, Eugenio DAL CIN, Umberto DE PRETTO, Fioravanti GRAPPOLINI, Donato MARIANI, Albino PESCATORE, Attilio RIZZI, Giuseppe SCAFFARDI, Rito VISENTIN, Erminio ZANETTE.

1st COUNCIL 1972-1974

President: Romano Battel

Vice President: Amerigo Cardarelli

Secretary: Alberto Copelli

Treasurer: Giuseppe Scaffardi

COUNCILLORS

Ernesto Capellazzi

Adriano Chiappa

Umberto De Pretto

AUDITORS

Giuseppe Bertorelli

Attilio Rizzi

GODMOTHER

Luisa Lunelli

CHOIR MASTER

Vittorino Mazzarolo

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Albino Pescatore



Romano Battel, artilleryman, Founder and first President from 1972 to 1986.

Born in 1922

Taurinense Division, 1st Italian alpine corps Artillery Regiment, Aosta group.

Balkans, Yugoslavia, and Montenegro campaigns.

SUCCESSION OF MEMBERS IN THE VARIOUS OFFICES OF THE COUNCIL- SOF THE SUCCESSIVE BATTEL PRESIDENCIES FROM 1974 TO 1986

Bortolotti, Ermano

De Nardis, Armando

Tozzi, Lino

Scaffardi, Giuseppe

Chiappa, Albino

Cibien, Valerio

Vial, Giuseppe

Boselli, Luciano

Boselli, Riccardo

Mariani, Donato

Righi, Mario

Speroni, Gino

Guerra, Angelo

Brun Del Re, Leo

Bianchini, Fausto

Zanette, Erminio

Zorzo, Corrado

Martignago, Vittorio

Storti, Livio

Jannucci, Antonio

Tolusso, Elio

Lagasi, Ennio



THE FIRST TWO INITIATIVES

(A) The birth of the ITALIAN ALPINE TROOPS CORPS CHOIR, with choirmaster, Vittorino Mazzarolo at its head.



Albino Pescatore presents the "Italian alpine troops corps Choir" at its first performance in September 1972 directed by choirmaster Vittorino Mazzarolo.

(B) The celebration of a Mass, in remembrance of all of the fallen, which in the following years was celebrated simultaneously, with the celebration of the 4th November, and has become a tradition of the Italian community in Ottawa, and sees the participation of a representation from our Embassy, and the one of other Italian army unit associations, which in the meantime, have formed themselves, following the example of the Italian alpine corps.



1973: 1st Mass in remembrance of the fallen Italian alpine corps members.





Mrs. Luisa Maccaferri-Lunelli , widow of the First World War golden medalist Italian alpine corps Lieutenant Colonel, Italo Lunelli, was present at the Mass, celebrated on the 4th November, 1973. On the steps of the Italian church of Saint Anthony, Mrs. Luisa Maccaferri-Lunelli was welcomed by a warm manifestation of joy, on the part of the Italian alpine corps members, who decided to dedicate the young Association to the memory of Italo Lunelli and Mrs. Luisa Maccaferri-Lunelli, who then, resided in Ottawa, was acclaimed as the Association's god-mother and as such, very active and very much loved by everybody, remained there until her return to Italy at the end of 1989.

Mrs. Luisa Maccaferri-Lunelli,
godmother from 1973 to 1989.





1973: 1st great feast of the 1st foundation anniversary of the Association with the participation of the Italian ambassador Maurizio De Strobel (third from the right) in full happy harmony with the "old Italian alpine corps members".



1975: on a painful note... the members (from the left) Erminio Zanette, Albino Chiappa, Giuseppe Scaffardi, Giuseppe Bertorelli, Franco Di Sipio, Ernesto Capellazzi, Aldo Signorini... lay a floral wreath for a friend who... has "moved on".



The President, Romano Battel, made the Italian alpine corps section very much known in Ottawa and especially within the Italian community, by helping and sponsoring certain activities like the representation of the comedy “Il Bugiardo” by Carlo Goldoni at the auditorium of the High School of Commerce, or recreational activities like trap shooting, picnics, etc.

In 1976, it receives the visit of Lawyer Vittorio Trentini, in 1977, the one of the then President of the Council, Giulio Andreotti, and with the Italian alpine corps members, forms a picket of honour when Andreotti goes to lay a wreath of flowers, at the Canadian War Memorial and, in 1981, meets with the President of the Senate Amintore Fanfani on an official visit to Ottawa.

The very active President, Romano Battel, participates in 1981 in Vancouver at the 1st Inter-sectional Congress of the Italian alpine corps of Canada held on the 27th, 28th and 29th March in which the National President Franco Bertagnolli was present with Vittorio Trentini the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans’ Association Foreign Minister and Giovanni Franza and during which Romano Battel is elected the President of the Inter-sectional Commission.

And the big day finally arrived: on the 12th April, 1982, the Italian alpine corps Association of Ottawa is turned into an Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans’ Association section and therefore from that moment on it is known as the “Ottawa section of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans’ Association – Gold medalist Italo Lunelli” and, at the same time, with the occurrence of the 10th foundation anniversary everything is therefore celebrated with a huge banquet which sees a huge participation of the Italian Canadian community and other Italian alpine corps sections of Canada..., really a great beautiful feast... a great unforgettable memory, and from that day, the number of participating members at the National Gathering in Italy has increased. And so, with so many beautiful moments, the section’s first decade of life ends.



1982: 10th anniversary



In the winter of 1982-1983, the 40th anniversary of the retreat from Russia, the person in charge of public relations, Albino Pescatore, interviews the veterans of all of the military corps residing in Ottawa: Italian alpine corps members, Targeters, Infantrymen, etc. He publishes, in the Italian newspaper, "L'Ora di Ottawa", a series made up of ten page, long articles, with one entitled "C'ero anch'io" (I too was there) which is the summary of the memories of those veterans, and which later on, the articles were gathered together into a small book entitled "La Grande Tragedia" (The Great Tragedy). This book was very much appreciated by the Italian embassy and by the Italian community. To top it all off, an unexpected gift reached Albino: a letter of congratulations for the "meritorious work" thus defined nothing more than on the part of the great writer RAS... alias Italian alpine corps General Aldo Rasero, and this, by merit of the godmother Luisa Lunelli, who during her stay in Italy, personally gave a copy of the book to the great general.

THE VETERANS OF THE RUSSIAN CAMPAIGN WHO WERE INTERVIEWED

- **VALLE** Osvaldo – 8th Julia Division of the Italian alpine corps.

- **CESARATTO** Luigi – 3rd Artillery Regiment of the Italian alpine corps, Julia Division.

- **BASSO** Gino – 51st District Unit of the Italian alpine corps, Stopover Service Command.

- **PISCOPO** Franco – Officer of the 3rd Artillery of the Italian alpine corps, Aosta Mountaineering School

- **MOLINARI** Giuseppe – 8th Italian alpine corps Regiment, Julia Division.

- **BRUN DEL RE** Leo – 8th Italian alpine corps Regiment, Julia Division.

- **MAZZARELLO** Luigi – 6th Targeters Regiment

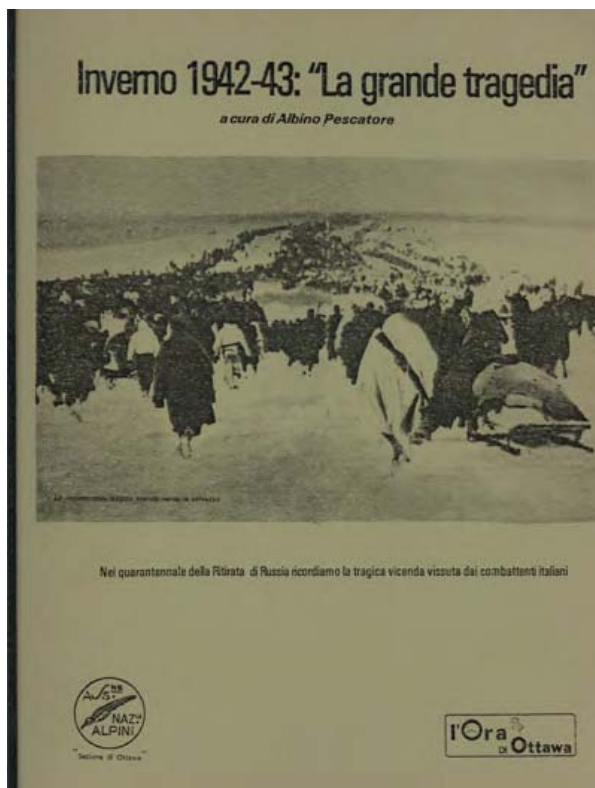
- **VALENTE** Antonio – 81st Infantry Regiment, Turin Division.

- **PAGANUZZI** Giovanni – 6th Field Artillery Regiment, Pasubio Division.

- **CARLUCCI** Giovanni – 82nd Infantry Regiment, Turin Division.

- **MANASSERI** Alfio – 278th Infantry Regiment, Vicenza Division.

- **BARNABO** Marco – 5th Artillery Army, Ravenna Division.



A special evening took place on the 15th April, 1983 in order to commemorate the dead of the Russian campaign and in particular, the ones of the retreat, as well as, to thank and celebrate the survivors of that inhuman suffering. The then journalist of the newspaper "L'Ora di Ottawa", Dolores Cavallero, present at the evening, defined it as: "one of the most beautiful and admirable manifestations of the Italian community" thanking Albino Pescatore for having brought back to our minds such a human memory, that "gave witness to the memory of a heroic and tragic episode of the history of Italy written by our people, as a result of the infamous fascist dictatorship". ("L'Ora di Ottawa" no.472 of the 25th April, 1983).





The section organizes the 3rd Congress of the Italian alpine corps of North America on the 21st-22nd September, 1985, in which National Vice President Menegotto is present, together with Dr. Giovanni Franza and many Italian alpine corps members, having come from Italy and about 750 Italian alpine corps members, having come from all of the provinces of Canada. (see the newspaper “L’Alpino” of December 1985).



1985 – Ottawa: National Vice President Menegotto (at the centre) with members Erminio Zanette and Luigi Dal Grande.



1985 – Handing over of the Merit Award on the part of President Romano Battel to the elderly Italian alpine corps member Lino Minoli born in 1915.

Thus, in this warm atmosphere of a will for doing things, the Battel era continued right up until the end of 1986 when Romano Battel retires and decides to go back to live in Friuli, Italy. From then on, he only returned once to Ottawa, in 1997, on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the founding of the section. On the 25th August, 2004, at Vedronzo (Lusevera), in the province of Udine, the Italian alpine corps artilleryman and great President Romano Battel “moved on”.



2nd PRESIDENCY

In January 1987, with a historical high in registrations, 159, the Members' General Assembly unanimously elects Leo Brun Del Re, a veteran of Russia, in order to continue Battel's work as the second President, who remains in office for five years until December 1991, without a doubt, continuing the work of Battel, one of which was helping the Italian Church of Saint Anthony, with a conspicuous sum of money, as a contribution, towards the repairing of the roof and the second one with the impeccable organization of the 15th anniversary of the section.

COUNCIL: 1987-1988

President: Leo Brun Del Re
 Vice President: Ben Battistella
 Secretary: Luciano Boselli
 Treasurer: Bonifacio Penna

MEMBERS WHO ALTERNATED THEMSELVES FROM 1989 to 1991

Secondo Barozzi
 Erminio Zanette
 Mariano Mattioli
 Fausto Bianchini
 Antonino Scaffidi



Leo Brun Del Re, Italian alpine corps member
 President from 1987 to 1991
 Born in 1922
 Julia Division, 8th Italian alpine corps regiment,
 Tolmezzo Battalion, 12th Company
 Veteran of the Russian campaign

COUNCILLORS:

Andriano Chiappa
 Alberto Copelli
 Vittorio Martignago
 Livio Storti
 Ennio De Francesco
 Giuseppe Vial
 Vigilio Righi



AUDITORS:

Albino Pescatore
 Giovanni Lappa

Godmother: Luisa Lunelli
 Chaplain: Father Andrea Carrier



The first chaplain
 Father Andrea Carrier



1987 – Directive Council



In 1989, the godmother Mrs. Luisa Lunelli returns to Italy and the Italian alpine corps members, in a meeting at the Fontana di Trevi restaurant, very movingly say goodbye to her. Our godmother, even from far away, has always remembered her Italian alpine corps members with whom she had always kept in contact until the 1st May, 1997 when, in Bologna, the dear godmother “moved on”. On the 6th June, 1997, during the Mass celebrated in her memory, with the sectional pennant which she had given with the affection of a mother, all of the Italian alpine corps members were evidently moved.



1989 – Goodbye evening to the godmother Luisa Lunelli



1991 – Visit to Ottawa of the National President Leonardo Caprioli with Dr. Giovanni Franza, Luciano Gandini Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association Director General, Angelo Todeschi, former Vice National President and Arturo Vita, director of the newspaper “L'Alpino” (Villa Roma restaurant)



3rd PRESIDENCY

COUNCIL: 1992-1993

President: Bonifacio Penna
Vice President: Luciano Boselli
Giuseppe Bertorelli
Secretary: Adriano Chiappa
Treasurer: Vigilio Righi

COUNCILLORS:

Secondo Barozzi
Livio Storti
Mariano Mattioli
Fausto Bianchini
Antonino Scaffidi
Severino Dal Cin

MEMBERS WHO SUCCEEDED THEMSELVES IN THE COUNCIL FROM 1994 TO 1997

Alberto Copelli
Giorgio Bortot
Luigi Dal Grande
Giancarlo Bertorelli
Toni Orlando



Bonifacio Penna
President from 1992 to 1997
Born in 1937, Italian alpine corps member
Taurinense Brigade, 4th Italian alpine
corps Regiment, Regimental Command
Company, Information Observations
Service

AUDITORS:

Albino Pescatore
Alberto Copelli
Godmother: Luisa Bertorelli
Chaplain: Father Domenico Fiore

The third President, Bonifacio Penna, in office from January 1992 to December 1997, not only continues the work of Battel and Brun Del Re, but widens it with:

A) The participation of the section in the Columbus Day festivities in New York City on the 500th anniversary of Christopher Columbus' voyage.



1992 – Columbus Day parade in New York City



1992 – New York City: Vice President Giuseppe Bertorelli (to the right) with Dr. Giovanni Franza of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association and the member Erminio Zanette.



B) By contributing to the initiative of the National Headquarters which is collecting funds for the construction of a daycare at Rossosch.

C) 1993: Commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the battle of Nikolajevka... and organization of a big banquet, on the occasion of the 4th November, for the first time, between the 4 Italian army units (Combatants, Targeters, Sailors and Italian alpine corps), and with the first issue of December 1993, gives life to the newsletter of the Ottawa section with the title: "L'Alpino".



1993 – Commemoration of the 50th anniversary of Nikolajevka, with the Italian military attaché, General Alfio Pagano, and the Russian military attaché, Colonel Eugenj Molokov.

D) Fundraising in 1994 in order to help the towns, struck by the flood, in the Piedmont, region of Italy.

E) Give life to the sectional library, with five books and videocassettes brought from Italy.

F) In 1995, the section actively participates in the collecting of funds, for the construction of the Italian retirement home "Guglielmo Marconi", at a cost of millions of dollars and which was inaugurated by Guglielmo Marconi's daughter, Princess Electra.





Guglielmo Marconi's daughter, Princess Electra, with the Italian alpine corps members.



Inauguration of Villa Marconi in 1995.

During the General Assembly of January 1996, the new godmother of the section, Mrs. Luisa Bertorelli, widow of the former Vice President Giuseppe Bertorelli, presently in office and very much loved by all of the members, is elected amidst the acclaims of all those present and, in the summer of 1996, the very sympathetic Father, Domenico Fiore is elected with the great joy, of all, as the section's new chaplain.





The new godmother: Luisa Bertorelli



The section's new chaplain Father Domenico Fiore.



1996 – Social dinner. Exhibit of wooden sculptures of statuettes for the nativity scene by the work of the members: Erminio Zanette, Luciano Boselli, Ennio De Francesco, Bonifacio Penna, Luigi Dal Grande, Giorgio Bortot, and Pasquale Della Valle, in the photograph, with the chaplain Father Domenico Fiore.



1997

After the participation in the 9th Inter-sectional Congress in Hamilton (30th-31st August), on the 1st September, the group of our section spent it in Toronto, attending the magnificent singing performance of the Italian alpine corps Choir from Bagnarola in Friuli and admiring, for a few hours, the work of the magnificent artistic group “Le Arti per Via” from Bassano del Grappa which recall how life was many years ago, the life of the first half of the twentieth century with the innumerable aspects of artisan life of that time and which are still clear in the minds of many of us... A marvellous day.



Toronto 1997: We, Italian alpine corps members, in the happy company of some of the marvellous persons of the artistic group “Le Arti per Via” from Bassano del Grappa.



These are the greatest works of the President, Bonifacio Penna, who finished his mandate in 1997, with the impeccable organization of the festivities, for the 25th founding anniversary, of the section, and organizing the Italian alpine corps Skiers Group, even comprising of the children of the Italian alpine corps members, participating in the “Keskinada Loppet” cross country skiing contest, by even meeting up with the members of the Italian team, taking part in the World Cup. (see L’Alpino of May 1997)



25th Anniversary



25th anniversary, with the friends of Montreal and the representations of many sections from across Canada.



An award of Merit was given to the first President and Founder, Romano Battel, from the 3rd President, Bonifacio Penna, and from the guests, Gino Vatri, President of the Inter-sectional Commission, and from Dr. Giovanni Franza, during the festivities of the section's 25th anniversary.



The “Old men and young kids” skiing group, participating in the “Keskinada Loppet”, cross country skiing contest, in Quebec, in 1997.

4th PRESIDENCY

In January 1998, the General Assembly elects Adriano Chiappa as the 4th President who takes up the idea that emerged during the years of the presidency of Romano Battel and, that is, of the building of an Italian alpine corps monument. It was a very beautiful idea that had been caressed for years by everybody, but unfortunately this idea turns out to be impossible to carry out, given that it is not approved by the municipality insofar as the “Italian alpine corps soldiers are not Canadian soldiers”. As a result, a long period opens up of bureaucratic meetings between the two sides (municipality and Italian alpine corps sectional council) in order to reach a compromise: the dedication will be “To the Fallen of All Wars for Freedom”. After the general approval, some years go by before the section arrives at the fulfilment of the dream; in fact, through the presidency of Leo Brun Del Re (2000-2001) and the one of Severino Buffone (2002-2005) the monument will only be built in 2006 and inaugurated on the 1st October of that year, during the presidency of Giorgio Bortot.

1998-1999 COUNCIL

President: Adriano Chiappa
Vice President: Luigi Dal Grande
Secretary: Giorgio Bortot
Treasurer: Vigilio Righi

COUNCILLORS:

Secondo Barozzi
Giuseppe Bertorelli
Severino Buffone
Toni Orlando
Bonifacio Penna

Godmother: Luisa Bertorelli
Chaplain: Father Domenico Fiore

AUDITORS:

Renato Bonello
Albino Pescatore



Adriano Chiappa, Italian alpine corps
Born in 1923
Julia Division, 8th Regiment
Tolmezzo Battalion



5th PRESIDENCY

In January 2000, the assembly elects the 5th President, in the person of the Vice President, Luigi Dal Grande, who only after two months is forced to resign due to health reasons. Unfortunately, the health reasons really turn out to be serious and Luigi Dal Grande after almost two years of suffering “moved on” on the 18th November, 2001, with great general mourning. Luigi Dal Grande is even remembered as a pleasant writer of Italian alpine corps memories, one of which “Memories of Boot camp” is a memory of one amongst the many pages of “his” boot camp. At the time of his resignation he was substituted by former President Brun Del Re who remained in office until December 2001.

2000-2001 COUNCIL

President: Luigi Dal Grande
(substituted by Leo Brun Del Re)
Vice President: Severino Buffone
Secretary: Giorgio Bortot
Treasurer: Vigilio Righi

COUNCILLORS:

Adriano Chiappa
Secondo Barozzi
Roberto Ferrante
Livio Storti

AUDITORS:

Renato Bonello
Albino Pescatore

Godmother: Luisa Bertorelli
Chaplain: Father Domenico Fiore
Public Relations: Albino Pescatore



Luigi Dal Grande, Italian alpine corps, President for two months
Born in 1936
7th Feltre Italian alpine corps Regiment



6th PRESIDENCY

2002-2005 COUNCIL

President: Severino Buffone
Vice President: Adriano Chiappa
Secretary: Giorgio Bortot
Treasurer: Vigilio Righi

COUNCILLORS:

Secondo Barozzi
Roberto Ferrante
Camillo Micucci
Tony Orlando
Tony Palladino
Ugo Panetta
Livio Storti

AUDITORS:

Renato Bonello
Albino Pescatore

Godmother: Luisa Bertorelli
Chaplain: Father Domenico Fiore
Public Relations: Albino Pescatore



Severino Buffone, Italian alpine corps,
President from 2002-2005
Born in 1942
Julia Division
Aquila Battalion of the 8th Regiment

In January 2002, the General Assembly elects the member Severino Buffone as the 6th President, who by continuing the excellent work of his predecessors, remains in office until December 2005. During the first year of his mandate, he organizes the celebrations for the 30th anniversary of the section (1972-2002) which impeccably take place on the 13th April, beginning with the celebration of a Mass, in memory of the deceased members, presided over by the section's chaplain, Father Domenico Fiore. Present at the Mass were: the military attaché at the Italian embassy, Colonel Roberto La Manna, the section's godmother Luisa Bertorelli, representations from the Italian Military and Regional Associations of Ottawa, as well as, very many Italian alpine corps members from the other sections of Canada: Montreal, Toronto, Hamilton and Kitchener-Waterloo. After the Mass, there was the transfer, in cortege, to the St. Anthony Soccer Club, for the various celebrations and where, in an adjacent hall, a photographic display was set up of memories from the World and History of the Italian alpine corps and the very beautiful reproduction of the Bridge of Bassano on a 1:37 reduced scale, by the work of Giorgio Bortot.



30th ANNIVERSARY



Some members of the section and the chaplain, Father Domenico Fiore, With, at his right hand side, the ninety-two year old Italian alpine corps member, Carmine Micucci.



30th anniversary with the friends from Montreal and Toronto and the military attaché at the Italian embassy, Colonel Roberto La Manna.



The evening began with the greetings and thanks, to the guests and to all those present, on the part of the person in charge of public relations, Albino Pescatore, on behalf of the section's directive committee, with the reading of the letter that came from Italy, sent by the first President, Romano Battel, with which he asserted that his heart was... "there" present together with everybody, and with the presentation of the new President Severino Buffone. Following these greetings and thanks, Gino Vatri, President of the Inter-sectional Commission of North America, makes a contribution expressing his warm wishes and congratulations to the section, for its 30th anniversary. After supper, there was the dance, and during the intervals, there was the distribution of souvenir plaques, to two members who were eighty years old and over: Leo Brun Del Re and Carmine Micucci and the awarding on the part of Gino Vatri of parchments from the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association to the components of the Executive. A very beautiful, unforgettable day indeed, with an evening full of songs and joy between... the old Italian alpine corps boys!



The contribution of the Inter-sectional President Gino Vatri.



2002: 30th anniversary of the Ottawa section.

Awarding of a souvenir plaque on the 92nd birthday of the Italian alpine corps member Carmine Micucci, born in 1910, belonging to the Julia Division, 9th Regiment, and 63rd Company of the Bassano Battalion.



7th PRESIDENCY

COUNCIL IN OFFICE

President: Giorgio Bortot
Vice President: Luciano Boselli
Secretary: Ben Battistella
Treasurer: Vigilio Righi

COUNCILLORS:

Secondo Barozzi
Severino Buffone
Dante Bonapace
Eugenio Dal Cin
Severino Dal Cin
Toni Orlando

AUDITORS:

Renato Bonello
Albino Pescatore

Public relations: Albino Pescatore
Godmother: Luisa Bertorelli
Chaplain: Father Domenico Fiore
Italian alpine corps Women's group leader: Delia Dal Grande



Giorgio Bortot, President in office
Born in 1932
Military service in 1954

At the General Assembly of January 2006, the secretary, Giorgio Bortot, is elected as the 7th President in order that he, too, continue the work of his predecessors, something that he does very well with:

A) The very costly work of the construction of the monument of the Italian alpine corps for which the section's coffers are emptied, but which was worth it, given that it is and will be forever a great pride, not only for the Italian alpine corps section, but for the whole Italian community and this thanks to all of the members of the Executive with Giorgio Bortot, at its head and all of the previous Executives.



The inauguration of the monument, erected in the small square in front of the Italian Church of Saint Anthony, takes place on the 1st October, 2006, with the participation of all of the Italian army units in Ottawa, the Inter-sectional President of the Italian alpine corps in North America, Gino Vatri, of representations from the Italian Associations and from the Italian embassy, in the person of the military attaché, General Orazio De Minicis, and of the Presidents: Roberto Buttazzoni of the Toronto section, Ferdinando Bisinella of the Montreal section, with 12 of his Italian alpine corps members, the representative of the Royal Canadian Legion, as well as, a huge participation of the Italian community.



The inauguration of the monument, with the participation of all of the Italian army unit associations (in the photo). The Inter-sectional President of North America, Gino Vatri, in his very beautiful, both congratulatory and moving speech, in his “typical Italian alpine corps spirit” (to his right). The President Giorgio Bortot, the chaplain Father Domenico Forte, the godmother Luisa Bertorelli, the military attaché of the Italian embassy, Colonel Orazio De Minicis, and the person in charge of public relations, Albino Pescatore.



The members with pride in front of the monument



Part of the architects of the realization of the monument, a “dream” born during the Battel presidency: (from the left) Roberto Ferrante, Giorgio Bortot, Dante Bonapace, Giuseppe Vial, Alvise Maso, Giuseppe Federico, Albino Pescatore, Severino Buffone, Eugenio Dal Cin, Ugo Panetta, Angelo Ceccato, Carmine Micucci, Toni Orlando, Severino Dal Cin, and Benito Battistella.



Members of the Council with some members around the monument dedicated to the Fallen of all Wars for Freedom. (standing from the left): Antonino Scaffidi, Carmine Micucci, Ugo Panetta, Toni Orlando, Father Domenico Fiore, Giorgio Bortot, Albino Pescatore, Renato Bonello. (in front from the left): Secondo Barozzi, Luciano Boselli, Vigilio Righi, Dante Bonapace, Severino Buffone, Severino Dal Cin.



B) The organization of the festivities for the 35th anniversary of the section.



C) With the participation at the Inter-sectional Congress in Windsor.



Members of the Council with some members in front of the Italian alpine corps monument in Windsor.



Moreover, it is dutiful to remember a work that Giorgio Bortot, then a councillor, did by dedicating more than two thousand truly Cathusian hours of work, given that it is actually the Bridge of Bassano in miniature on a 1:37 reduced scale from the original. This work was shown for the first time during the events of the 25th anniversary of the Ottawa section in 1997, in which the then Italian ambassador, Negrotto-Cambiaso, participated in, who was completely enthused by it. The work was later on exhibited in Hamilton and afterwards in various Italian cities like: Conegliano Veneto, Tarvisio, Pordenone, and Latina. The President, Giorgio Bortot, has the right to be proud of it and all of the members of the Ottawa section thank him.



1997 – Congratulations on the part of Ambassador Negrotto-Cambiaso to Giorgio Bortot for the very beautiful work.



Members of the Council: (from the left) Severino Buffone, Dante Bonapace, Secondo Barozzi, Luciano Boselli, Severino Dal Cin, Antonino Scaffidi, Giorgio Bortot, Vigilio Righi, Adriano Chiappa.



Commemoration of the 4th November in 2008



Commemoration of the 4th November, 2008.

After the Mass and in memory of the fallen, in the Church of Saint Anthony, the Italian alpine corps members, with the military attaché, from the Italian embassy, Brigadier General Sanzio Bonotto, and representatives from the Italian army units Associations of Ottawa: Targeters, Policemen and sailors.

Remembrance Day of November 2008

On the 11th November of every year, Victory Day is celebrated in Canada but in a special way. It is the remembrance of all of the fallen, in the two World Wars of 1914-1918 and 1939-1945, which in fact is called Remembrance Day. At such a celebration, which takes place in Ottawa, at the Air Force Museum, military representatives, of all of the embassies, and the ones of foreign military associations, are invited to take part in the ceremony service. In so doing, the representations of the various Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association sections in Canada are always present.



Representatives of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association sections of Canada.(standing from the left): Roberto Buttazzoni (President of the Toronto section), Gino Vatri (Inter-sectional President of North America), Carmine Stornelli (Mississauga group leader), Ferdinando Bisinella (President of the Montreal section), Albino Pescatore (in charge of public relations for the Ottawa section), Father Domenico Fiore (chaplain of the Ottawa section).(seated from the left): Alpino Collangelo (vice group leader of North York), Adolfo D'Intino (group leader of North York), Giorgio Bortot (President of the Ottawa section).



During the General Assembly of January 2008, a decision that was long overdue, for quite some time and which we think should be of interest to all the sections, was the recognition of the “Italian alpine corps Women’s Group” something that is very meritorious because they are always very active in the life of the section, and Delia Dal Grande, widow of the former President Luigi Dal Grande, is elected as its group leader.



The group leader Delia Dal Grande and the godmother Luisa Bertorelli with some components of the “Italian alpine corps Women’s Group”. (from the left): Lidia Righi, Mirella Bortot, Mina Bonello, Delia Dal Grande, Francine Barozzi, Luisa Bertorelli, Giuseppina Pagotto, Rosetta Battistella



2009 Directive Council

seated from the left: Treasurer, Vigilio Righi; Secretary, Ben Battistella; Chaplain, Father Domenico Fiore; President, Giorgio Bortot; Godmother, Luisa Bertorelli; Women’s group leader, Delia Dal Grande; Vice President, Luciano Boselli.

Councillors: (*standing from the left*): Secondo Barozzi, Severino Buffone, Eugenio Dal Cin, Severino Dal Cin, Toni Orlando, Dante Bonapace; Auditors: Renato Bonello; Public relations: Albino Pescatore.





Up until here, only what are believed to be the most important activities of the section have been listed, but there are many others that are worth mentioning, amongst which some perhaps, equally important, as the ones that have been mentioned, for example, certain participations in the life of the City of Ottawa like:

A) The snow sculptures, during the Winterlude great winter feast, of the City of Ottawa

THE WORK IN ICE WHICH REPRESENTS THE ITALIAN ALPINE CORPS SOLDIER WITH THE ITALIAN NATIONAL ALPINE TROOPS CORPS VETERANS' ASSOCIATION BADGE WHICH WON THE 3RD PRIZE AT THE WINTERLUDE FESTIVAL OF THE CITY OF OTTAWA



The sculptors: Renato Bonello, Vigilio Righi, Luigi Dal Grande, Toni Orlando, Giorgio Bortot, Adriano Chiappa. Absent in the photograph is the 7th protagonist, the then President of the section, Bonifacio Penna.

B) The planting of a tree at the city's arboretum.

C) The participation in the ecological revival of Clydevoods Park.

D) A lot of financial assistance towards the initiatives of associations, entities, humanitarian organizations, etc. Things that have made the Italian alpine corps of Ottawa known and appreciated by everybody. Therefore, it is logical to admit that the Ottawa section has had a positive activity in the sphere of not only Italian-Canadian life, but in the entire city. Here, the saying can be remembered of the great Italian alpine corps soldier Carlo Mauri:

"IF THE ITALIAN ALPINE CORPS DID NOT EXIST, IT WOULD HAVE TO BE INVENTED!"



MEMBERS WHO RECEIVED THE WAR MERIT CROSS

1997

Malandra Emilio alpine soldier 1920
Pari Cesare alpine soldier 1922

1992

Brun Del Re Leo alpine soldier 1922
Cesaratto Luigi artilleryman 1921
Lagasi Ennio alpine soldier 1919
Moglia Giuseppe artilleryman 1915
Molinari Giuseppe alpine soldier 1919
Cristina Giuseppe artilleryman 1921

1993

Bertorelli Giuseppe alpine soldier 1920
Cardarelli Amerigo alpine soldier 1920
Cordani Giuseppe alpine soldier 1912
Di Sipio Giuseppe alpine soldier 1921
Mariani Donato alpine soldier 1914
Valle Osvaldo alpine soldier 1919



1992 – Awarding of the War Crosses on the part of the Italian ambassador Dr. Ballanzino. Two of the award winners in the photograph: Artilleryman Luigi Cesaratto and Artilleryman Giuseppe Moglia.



RECURRENCES...

Two are the recurrences in which the section participates with a huge crowd: the Feast of the Italian Republic, on the 2nd June which takes place, for many years now, at the residence of the Italian ambassador, and the Mass for the fallen of the First World War, on the 4th November, at the Italian church, together with the Victory Feast.



4th November Mass in the church of Saint Anthony. At the head of the huge group of Italian alpine corps members from the right: Ottawa section President Giorgio Bertot, Inter-sectional President Gino Vatri, Mrs. De Minicis with her husband General Orazio De Minicis, military attaché at the Italian embassy, and Josephine Palumbo, President of the C.N.I.C., (Italian Canadian National Congress).



Feast of the Italian Republic on the 2nd June at the residence of the Italian ambassador.



FESTIVITIES...

Amongst the festivities, two annual ones, with dinner dance: one in the Spring and one in the Autumn. The third one, for an entire summer day, in a magnificent park of the city, with a picnic and lawn bowling and cards tournament, with the great participation of family members including a lot of young people, as well as, is now the custom to have the pleasant company of a group of member friends, from Montreal, with their very sympathetic President, Ferdinando Bisinella, at their head.



Singing that brings people together.



FESTIVITIES...



Everybody in line ready for the... mess!



Awards for the winners of the various competitions: lawn bowling, cards, etc...



MEETINGS...

What are meant by meetings are visits or the participation in festivities at other Canadian and American Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association sections. For us, the most well attended ones are the ones of the Montreal, Toronto, Hamilton, and Windsor sections due to their closeness, but it is right to remember that there is always a presence, even if small in number, of members of the Ottawa section, who participate in the various meetings, in North America, and in the annual National Gathering in Italy.



1987 – 4th Inter-sectional Congress in Windsor



MEETINGS...



1991 – 5th Inter-sectional Congress in Montreal.
The Italian alpine corps members of Ottawa march in the parade.



1997 – Inter-sectional meeting in Hamilton.



Toronto 1998



LAST NEWS ITEMS FROM 2009...

April

After the unexpected decision to resign on the part of the President, Giorgio Bortot, the reigns of power were temporarily handed over to the Vice President Luciano Boselli up until the following elections, for the new 2010-2011 committee which will be held next January 2010, during the General Assembly.



The Vice President Luciano Boselli

June



The Italian alpine corps huddled around their chaplain Father Domenico Fiore on the day of the 60th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood.



MEMBERS WHO FOLLOWED ONE ANOTHER IN THE VARIOUS OFFICES OF THE DIRECTIVE COMMITTEE FROM 1972 TO 2009

PRESIDENTS

Romano Battel	1972-1986
Leo Brun Del Re	1987-1991
Bonifacio Penna	1992-1997
Adriano Chiappa	1998-1999
Luigi Dal Grande	2000 substituted by
Leo Brun Del Re	until December 2001
Severino Buffone	2002-2005
Giorgio Bortot	2006 in office

SECRETARIES

Alberto Copelli	1972-1974
Adriano Chiappa	1975-1982
Luciano Boselli	1983-1990
Bonifacio Penna	1991
Adriano Chiappa	1992-1997
Giorgio Bortot	1998-2005
Ben Battistella	2006 in office

AUDITORS:

Giuseppe Bertorelli	1972-1974
Attilio Rizzi	1975-1986
Giovanni Lappa	1987-1991
Alberto Copelli	1992-1993
Albino Pescatore	1975 in office
Renato Bonello	1994 in office

PUBLIC RELATIONS: Albino Pescatore 1972 in office

VICE PRESIDENTS

Amerigo Cardarelli	1972-1976
Alberto Copelli	1977-1978
Giovanni Lappa	1979-1980
Lino Tozzi	1981-1982
Giuseppe Bertorelli	1983-1986
Ben Battistella	1987-1988
Adriano Chiappa	1989-1990
Luciano Boselli	1991-1997
Luigi Dal Grande	1998-1999
Severino Buffone	2000-2001
Adriano Chiappa	2002-2005
Luciano Boselli	2006 in office

TREASURERS

Giuseppe Scaffardi	1972-1978
Giuseppe Bertorelli	1979-1982
Leo Brun Del Re	1983-1986
Bonifacio Penna	1987-1990
Vigilio Righi	1991 in office

CHAPLAINS:

Father Andrea Carrier	1987-1990
Father Domenico Fiore	1996 in office

GODMOTHERS

Luisa Lunelli	1972-1989
Luisa Bertorelli	1996 in office



COUNCILLORS

HAVING SUCCEEDED ONE ANOTHER FOR ONE OR MORE MANDATES FROM 1972 TO DECEMBER 2008

Ernesto Cappellazzi
Adriano Chiappa
Umberto De Pretto
Giuseppe Bertorelli
Ermanno Bortolotti
Armando De Nardis
Lino Tozzi
Albino Chiappa
Valerio Cibien
Giuseppe Vial
Luciano Boselli
Riccardo Boselli
Donato Mariani
Mario Righi
Gino Speroni
Leo Brun Del Re
Fausto Bianchini
Erminio Zanette
Angelo Guerra
Corrado Zorzo
Vittorio Martignago
Livio Storti
Antonio Iannucci

Elio Tolusso
Alberto Copelli
Ennio Lagasi
Ennio De Francesco
Vigilio Righi (in office)
Secondo Barozzi (in office)
Mario Storti
Mariano Mattioli
Fausto Bianchini
Antonino Scaffidi
Severino Dal Cin (in office)
Giorgio Bortot
Luigi Dal Grande
Giancarlo Bertorelli
Toni Orlando (in office)
Bonifacio Penna
Roberto Ferrante
Ugo Panetta
Camillo Micucci
Toni Palladino
Eugenio Dal Cin (in office)
Severino Buffone (in office)
Dante Bonapace (in office)



**MEMBERS REGISTERED BETWEEN 1972 AND DECEMBER 2008
WITH THE VIVID MEMORY OF ALL THE FRIENDS WHO HAVE
“MOVED ON”...**

Antinocella, Vincenzo	Callegari, Domenico	De Falco, Costantino
Antoniazzi, Valerio	Cappellazzi, Ernesto	De Marinis, Jimmy
Arban, Giuseppe	Cardarelli, Americo	De Marinis, Pasquale
Baggio, Giorgio	Carlotti, Renato	De Nardis, Arnaldo
Balestrazzi, Defendo	Caron, Tarcisio	Defrancesco, Ennio
Baradel, Mario	Carter, Kevin	Del Cul, Renato
Barnabo, Bruno	Casagrande, Isidoro	Del Zotto, Bruno
Barozzi, Secondo	Catana, Giovanni	Della Valle, Rodolfo
Bartoli, Ugo	Catana, Ivo	Della Valle, Saverino
Bascelli, Rocco	Ceccato, Angelo	Della Valle, Pasquale
Bascelli, Vincenzo	Ceccon, Aldo	Della Valle, Pasquale A.
Bassi, Toni	Cellucci, Davide	Depretto, Umberto
Basso, Gino	Cesaratto, Luigi	Di Falco, Luigi
Battel, Romano	Ceschia, Giovanni	Di Muzio, Franco
Battistella, Benito	Chiabai, Aldo	Di Nardo, Ernesto
Battisti, Giulio	Chiappa, Adriano	Di Francescomarino, Camillo
Bellai, Rizzieri	Chiappa, Albino	Disipio, Franco
Bersani, Natale	Cibien, Valerio	Disipio, Giuseppe
Bertorelli, Giancarlo	Cibischino, Walter	D'Onofrio, Aurelio
Bertorelli, Giuseppe	Ciccone, Camillo	D'Orazio, Antonio
Betuzzi, Mario	Civetta, Vittorio	Draghi, Guglielmo
Bianchini, Fausto	Collini, Carlo	Favilla, Massimo
Bonapace, Dante	Colombi, Vittorio	Federico, Giuseppe
Bonello, Renato	Copelli, Alberto	Ferrante, Cristoforo
Bonici, Olimpio	Copelli, Giuseppe	Ferrante, Roberto
Bordi, Luigi	Cordani, Giuseppe	Filipponi, Giuseppe
Bortolotti, Ermanno	Cordani, Romeo	Filipponi, Riccardo
Bortot, Giorgio	Corzato, Ranieri	Franchi, Enzo
Boselli, Bruno	Corzato, Ranieri	Frazzoni, Gino
Boselli, Luciano	Covolani, Luigi	Fuocchi, Marcello
Boselli, Riccardo	Cristina, Giuseppe	Gasparini, Carlo
Botti, Severino	Dal Cin, Eugenio	Gava, Elio
Breda, Rocco	Dal Cin, Severino	Giri, Pietro
Brescancin, Mario	Dal Grande, Luigi	Grappolini, Fioravante
Brigati, Pietro	D'Angelo, Guido	Guerra, Angelo
Brun Del Re, eo	D'Angelo, Mario	Ianiro, Nino
Brun Del Re, Romano	Daros, Raffaele	Iannucci, Antonio
Buffone, Severino	De Angelis, Franco	Inglese, Italo
Calamini, Giovanni	De Bortoli, Ginio	Lagasi, Ennio
	De Cecco, Alberto	Lappa, Giovanni
Lombardi, Adelmo	Pari, Gildo	Solari, Primo
Longinotti, Gino	Pari, Giuseppe	Solda, Paolo
Lumadi, Bruno	Pari, Roberto	Spangaro, Aduilio
Madalena, Antonio	Peca, Antonio	Speconia, Romano
Maestri, Francesco	Peca, Pietro	Speroni, Gino
Malandra, Camillo	Pelizza, Vinicio	Sterlini, Benito
Malandra, Emilio	Pellegrinuzzi, Sergio	Sterlini, Lino
Manzocco, Sergio	Penna, Bonifacio	Storti, Livio



Marcantonio, Remo
Mariani, Carmine
Mariani, Donato
Maroncelli, Vincenzo
Martignano, Vittorio
Martincich, Libero
Martin, Gregorio
Mascioli, Salvatore
Maso, Alvise
Mattioli, Giovanni
Mattioli, Mariano
Mazzarolo, Vittorino
Mazzolin, Roberto
Micucci, Camillo
Micucci, Carmine
Minoli, Lino
Minoli, Luigi
Mion, Gustavo
Moglia, Giuseppe
Molinari, Giuseppe
Oppici, Giuseppe
Orlando, Toni
Padre, Fiore
Pagotto, Agostino
Pagotto, Elio
Palladino, Antonio
Panetta, Ugo
Pantrini, Alberto
Pari, Cesare
Pari, Fortunato

Perin, Giorgio
Perna, Michele
Pescatore, Albino
Pietrantonio, Antonio
Piscopo, Franco
Poggione, Domenico
Poli, Salvatore
Pontello, Romano
Ponza, Angelo
Renon, Antonio
Rico, Antonio
Righi, Mario
Righi, Remo
Righi, Vigilio
Rigutto, Adelchi
Rigutto, Franco
Rigutto, Renato
Riosa, Franco
Riosa, Giovanni
Rizzi, Attilio
Ronchi, Antonio
Rossi, Luigi
Santaromita Villa, Silvio
Scaffardi, Giuseppe
Scaffidi, Antonino
Scipioni, Nello
Sidoli, Adolfo
Sidoli, Celeste
Signorini, Arturo
Signorini, Primo

Storti, Mario
Strizzi, Pasqualino
Svettini, Mario
Taverna, Lorenzo
Toffolo, Bruno
Toffolo, Walter
Tolusso, Elio
Toneguzzi, Firmino
Toscano, Antonio
Tozzi, Lino
Valle, Osvaldo
Vettore, Mario
Vial, Giuseppe
Vidoni, Renzo
Villani, Domenico
Visentin, Rito
Vogric, Emidio
Zambonin, Angelo
Zambotti, Ivan
Zanchetta, Dino
Zanette, Daniele
Zanette, Erminio
Zanette, Francesco
Zanivan, Gino
Zeraschi, Giuseppe
Zorzo, Corrado
Zuccarini, Landino
Zucconi, Mario



1st PART

Italian Alpine Corps Soldiers

Chapter
- XI -

EDMONTON
VANCOUVER
CALGARY
WINNIPEG

History of the Italian alpine corps section of Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

The Italian community of Edmonton was taking its first steps in a hospitable land, but which still felt like frontier and pioneer country when the Italian alpine corps member, Francesco Coppola, founded the Italian alpine corps group of Edmonton, on the 15th March, 1960. Edmonton, the capital city of an area, that is one and a half times the size of Italy, had 270,000 inhabitants back then, and there were about 2,000 Italians. The new church of Saint Mary Goretti (1958) run by the Scalabrinian Missionaries became a reference point for the Italian immigrants, both in order to find work or housing and in order to meet fellow townsmen and fellow countrymen.



(Knight Francesco Coppola)

Coppola winded up meeting the Italian alpine corps member Mariano Covassi and together they collected the first names. The first meetings were held, at the home of Enrico Gambin, a Friulian Italian alpine corps member who emigrated to Edmonton in 1929. Coppola was elected the group leader and Covassi its Vice group leader.

One of the first acts was the commemoration of the 4th November, with the celebration of the Mass for the fallen, a tradition which has never been interrupted up until today. Sympathizers, then called the Friends of the Italian alpine corps joined the Italian alpine corps members, a few years later, and the Association became a pillar of the community by organizing the first dinner dances, picnics and an evening for the children.

In 1974, a multi-ethnic show took place in Edmonton, a precursor of the modern day Heritage Days Festival. The Italian alpine corps members represented Italy, and from there, came the idea to form an Italian alpine corps Choir. The Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association Choir (1975) first directed by the parish Priest, Raniero Alessandrini, then by Antonio Zenari, for many years, became a standard feature at community events and civic ceremonies. The Choir even produced a well acclaimed cassette of Italian songs. It disbanded in 1990.



(Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association Choir of Edmonton)

In 1976, the government of Alberta published a calendar in order to promote the ethno-cultural diversity of the province. The Italian alpine corps members of Edmonton were invited to represent Italy. The photograph, of an excursion of Italian alpine corps members, on the eternal glaciers of the Rocky Mountains adorned the official calendar of Alberta. Still in 1976, the Italian alpine corps group took the initiative in order to collect funds within the community of Edmonton for the earthquake victims of Friuli.



(1976 Alberta calendar)



In 1979, the Italian alpine corps group supported the group of fellow countrymen interested in the construction of an Italian cultural centre.

The contribution of the Italian alpine corps and of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association Choir, with donations in money, and hundreds of days of free work, for the construction of the building, is recognized on the bronze plaque at the entrance to the Centre where the names of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association and the Italian National Alpine



(Exchange of gifts between Coppola and Bertagnolli)

Troops Corps Veterans' Association Choir are, amongst the ones of the founding members.

In 1980, under the auspices of the Edmonton group and with the enthusiasm of the Italian alpine corps member Elia Martina, the Italian alpine corps group of Calgary was formed, becoming an autonomous group in 1987.

On the 12th April, 1981, the Italian alpine corps National Council raises Edmonton into a section. In the same year, an Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association delegation, with the President, Franco Bertagnolli, comes to Edmonton. It was an unforgettable event for the Italian alpine corps members of Edmonton. After the ritual laying of the wreath, at the city cenotaph, the delegation is invited to visit the Alberta parliament buildings. Under the

classical cupola of the parliament buildings, the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association Choir sang "Va pensiero" and "la Montanara" amidst the deafening applause of the ministers and employees who crowded the loggias.

One of the projects that the section had at heart was to erect a monument to the fallen in war. The Italian Cultural Centre offered a piece of land at the main entrance and the section raised the funds and provided the labour. The artistic monument, in granite, was inaugurated on the 28th May, 1983, by the Mayor of Edmonton and a crowd of fellow countrymen.

When the untiring President Coppola returned to Italy, Piero Casagrande took over the leadership of the section (1983-1988) followed by Lelio Alba (1988-1996). Antonio Zenari has been the President since 1996.



(Piero Casagrande +)

The inhabitants of Edmonton and surroundings are now about a million in number and there are about 20,000 Italians (2006 census). Italian emigration, in the province of Alberta, has ceased for years. Unfortunately, every year that goes by, sees the list of Italian alpine corps members grow thinner, but the enthusiasm of those who remain, does not vanish.



(Lelio Alba +)

The Italian alpine corps members of Edmonton still organize recreational and cultural activities in the Italian community. Every year, upon the invitation of the Canadian Legion, the section participates in the Remembrance Day parade on the 11th November, at the University Stadium, where the Italian alpine corps members march with the Canadian soldiers. The annual Holy Mass and ceremony, at the Cultural Centre, for the Commemoration of the Fallen has become an important community event in which about a hundred fellow countrymen are present every year.



(Antonio Zenari)

The section organizes summer trips to the Rocky Mountains. The Italian alpine corps picnic in July, in which the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association group of Calgary participates, is always followed with



interest. Funds are collected, at the “Alpine Evenings”, with dinner dance in order to help out local community entities, agencies that assist children and needy students and international aid agencies. Not by chance, the pennant of the section is decorated with three gold medals for civil merits, two from the President of the Italian Republic and one from the International Red Cross.

The Italian alpine corps section of Edmonton is a legally registered association, in the Province of Alberta, and is an apolitical and non-profit society. In 2008, there were eighty-five members between Italian alpine corps members and aggregates.

The address of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association section of Edmonton is at the Italian Cultural Centre, 14230-133 Avenue, Edmonton, AB T5L-4W4. The room, freely put at our disposal by the Italian Cultural Centre is the “house of the Italian alpine corps” of Edmonton, where the archives, standard, library, flags, pennants and souvenir medallions are kept from every part of the Italian alpine corps world and where the sectional Council meets for its monthly meetings.



The Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association Foreign Minister Giovanni Franza and President Caprioli in Edmonton



President Caprioli and vicar President Beppe Parazzini sing in good company (Edmonton).



1960 - 2010 The Italian alpine corps soldiers section of Edmonton celebrates 50 years

On the 20th March, 2010, the Italian alpine corps section of Edmonton celebrates the 50th anniversary of its foundation. It was a beautiful feast with the participation of numerous members of the Italian alpine corps section, fellow countrymen and important guests like Gino Vatri, President of the Italian alpine corps veterans of North America who came from Toronto with his dear wife Santa, the councillor of the City of Edmonton, Mr. Tony Caterina and his wife representing the mayor, Stephen Mendel, the President of the Cultural Centre, Mr. Michael Bruni-Bossio with the members of the Directive and representatives of the military and cultural associations of Edmonton.

Gino Vatri brought the congratulatory message of the National President of the Italian Alpine Corps Veterans, Corrado Perona, of the delegate for the foreign sections, Ornelio Capannolo and the congratulations of the Italian alpine corps veterans of Toronto.

Councillor Tony Caterina, with the congratulations of the Mayor and of the Municipality of Edmonton presented to the Italian alpine corps veterans of Edmonton a commemorative plaque. Very much appreciated were the commemorative plaques presented by the President of the Italian Cultural Centre and the one presented by Andrea Padovani, Vice President of the Italian Sailors Association. The President of the section, Zenari, in thanking the guests offered them the commemorative pennon of the 50th anniversary of the Italian alpine corps veterans of Edmonton.

Celebrating a 50th anniversary means remembering events and people of quite a long while back. In his initial message, Zenari gave a brief summary of the history of the section, beginning with the foundation of the Italian alpine corps veterans' group with Franco Coppola, the first President and a passionate animator.



1960 - First meeting. Coppola at the centre with Father Bonelli.

At the first meetings, Zenari recalled, everybody had a story to tell. The veterans of the recent and cruel war still had a vivid memory of the sufferings, destruction and the memory of their brothers in arms left on the battlefields or in prison. Others, younger, talked about their months of carefree youth spent under the rigid discipline of military service, sharing life in the barracks, hardships, marches and manoeuvres with young men coming from every region of Italy. They had one thing in common: the pride of having served in the Italian alpine corps and the love for their hat.

On the 15th March, 1960, the group was registered with the National Mountain Troops Corps Veterans' Association in Italy, committing itself to observing its statute and aims within the sphere of Canadian society and its laws.





First Commemoration of the Fallen.

The Italian alpine corps veterans immediately distinguished themselves with the celebration of the Holy Mass for the Commemoration of the Fallen, by organizing the first dinner dances in the community, picnics with songs and a lot of joy, the Epiphany for the youngest, making itself a promoter of fundraising for social assistance and aid entities for natural disasters. A few years later the Italian alpine corps veterans were joined by sympathizers, called Friends of the Italian alpine corps veterans, whose cooperation became, and still is, significant in order to carry out the objectives of the association.

Zenari remembered the Presidents who followed Coppola, who returned to Italy in 1984, Piero Casagrande and Lelio Alba, who died a few years ago. Both of them dedicated themselves with passion in keeping the Italian alpine corps spirit and traditions alive.

"After fifty years - Zenari said - looking back at the past, one cannot but be proud of the Italian alpine corps section of Edmonton for having put up unsullied with the wear and tear of the years and for having carried out the commitments of the association notwithstanding the lack of new recruitment forces".

Much appreciated at the feast were the big photographic panels which visually described the history of the section. More than 200 photographs from 1960 up until today were exposed on the 4 big panels. Much admired by the crowd was the exhibit of the uniforms and of the hat of the Italian alpine corps from its foundation up until today.



1963 - First Dance at the Polish Hall



From 1960 to 2010

In 1960, Edmonton was only 56 years old and had 270,000 inhabitants. A city on the plains of the immense Canadian northwest, 3,700 kilometres from Montreal and Toronto, major centres of emigration for those leaving Italy in search of work and fortune in Canada. It took 3 days by train in order to reach Edmonton after having landed at Pier 21 in Halifax, the entry point in Canada for all of the emigrants from Europe.

In 1960, Edmonton bordered onto the municipalities of Beverly to the east and Jasper Place to the west, while Sherwood Park, a small village in the county of Strathcona was only a new project of model homes on a farm east of Edmonton. In 1960, Mill Woods and Castle Downs existed only on paper on the entrepreneurs' table, while St. Albert was nothing but a small francophone town with a few houses, mainly known for its little historical church and Catholic mission amongst the Metis and the native tribes of the Cree and Blackfoot, built by the Oblate missionary Father Albert Lacombe in 1861.



2003. The welcome to the soldiers from Afghanistan.



1985 - 25th anniversary





1980 - Italian alpine corps veterans' picnic



1981 - Visit of National President Bertagnolli





1980 circa: the Italian alpine corps group and Choir

There were no government consultancy or assistance agencies for Italian immigrants in Edmonton. News from the motherland were scarce. The new Italian church of Saint Maria Goretti (1958) built at the expenses of Italian emigrants and run by the Scalabrinian Missionaries, was one of the reference points, while other gathering places were cafes, where many young Italians would have their meals or in private homes of fellow countrymen, where accommodations could be found.

Those were the years in which the Italian alpine corps of Edmonton was founded.

A lot has changed half a century later: the extraordinary economic and social development of the city of Edmonton, with over 800,000 inhabitants in 2009, of our Italian community, from 2-3,000 to over 25,000 residents, with two big cultural and recreational centres and a senior citizens' home. Beverly and Jasper Place are now suburbs of Edmonton. Sherwood Park, headquarters of the county of Strathcona, has 61,000 inhabitants, while Mill Woods and Castle Downs are two dynamic residential communities of more than 150,000 inhabitants. And St. Albert is now a picturesque and modern city of 60,000 souls.

Half a century of history lived out by the Italian alpine corps veterans of Edmonton.

2010 Directive Council of the Section

President: Antonio Zenari

Vice President: Agostino Valentini

Treasurer: Lietto Mattiussi

Councillors:
Giuseppe Benvenuto
Donato Calista
Lionello Gennaro
Sebastiano Dottor





40th Anniversary, March, 2000



50th Anniversary, 20th March, 2010
Vatri and Councillor Caterina with the sectional council





1983 - Inauguration of the Monument at the Italian Cultural Centre, Edmonton

They are no longer amongst us

*God of Heaven, Lord of the Heights,
two of our friends You asked of the mountain...*

Italian alpine corps soldier Gianni Guerra, born in 1933, at Camino (UD) died on the 29th April, 2010.
The most heartfelt condolences to the family.

Mario Marchioro born in 1931, an aggregated member, from Padua, died on the 1st May, 2010.
The most heartfelt condolences to the family.

But, let them go amongst Your mountains.



The Vancouver section*

The Italian alpine corps veterans' group

The first Italian alpine corps veterans got together in Vancouver on the evening of the 15th October, 1970: Luigi Vazzoler, Arrigo Dalla Toma, Eugenio Ramponi, Romano Zadra, Germano Pellizzari, Matteo Masaro and Valentino Bandeme, with the intention of forming an Italian National Mountain Troops Corps Veterans' Association group. At a second meeting, on the 25th October, the number of members rose to 18 and, for the constituent assembly, on the 13th December, there were 67 Italian alpine corps veterans. Antonio Nicolli was elected the group leader. At the first meeting of the directive, on the 20th December, Father Giuseppe Della Torre was chosen as the chaplain. There were 79 members upon the registration of the group in Milan.

After the first Italian alpine corps veterans' chestnut eating night held on the 9th January, 1971 in the Sacred Heart church hall, the open air Mass took place on the 20th March at Belcarra Park and the blessing of the pennon.

The godmother was Mrs. Sofia Dugaro, the wife and daughter of Italian alpine corps soldiers, both decorated.

The fanfare was formed in 1972 upon the initiative of the group leader Silvano Motta and of the Italian Consul General in Vancouver, Doctor Franco Tempesta. The success was immediate and the fanfare performed, other than in Canada, even in the United States. It left an indelible memory in Calgary, during an inter-sectional congress, when the almost thousand participants stood up waving tricolour napkins.

The tradition of the Italian alpine corps veterans' Epiphany celebration began in 1973 when, for the first time in the Italian community, the "streak" distributed presents to 158 children, the sons and daughters of Italian alpine corps veterans.

In the following year, another sympathizer of the Italian alpine corps veterans, the Consul General Doctor Giovanni Germano, an enthusiast for music, suggested the formation of a choir. Thanks to the diligence of the group leader Franco Domirti the choir became a reality.

In accord with the statute, the group distributed aid to the earthquake victims in Friuli, of southern Italy and of Guatemala and contributed towards the project for the construction of the nursery school at Rossoch, in Russia, as well as the construction of the Italian Cultural Centre in Vancouver, with labour, money and materials.

The section

In 1981, on the 28th March, the group became a section. The National President Franco Bertagnolli handed over the banner to the group leader Tarcisio Fogolin while Mrs. Edda Lunelli, the daughter of Italo, gold medal winner to whom the alpine refuge of Selva Piana is entitled, at the feet of Creston Popera, was the godmother for the ceremony.

On the 26th and 27th March, 1981, the section started the project for the constitution of the First Inter-sectional Congress which will be repeated later on, every two years, in different Canadian and American cities. Of particular significance was the presence of the honour guard of the Canadian army with the Seafort Guards. For the tenth anniversary of the foundation, during a memorable feat which took place on the 28th March, 1981, the section received letters and telegrams of congratulations from the Pope, from the Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Elliot Trudeau, from the Premier of British Columbia and from various other authorities. Arrigo Dalla Tina was the animator and organizer of the two events.

After the years of the beginning and the prestigious ones culminating with the celebrations of the tenth anniversary, the new President Giuseppe Buiatti, an Italian alpine corps veteran who placed the interest and success of the section above everything, as a practical economist, he methodically sorted out the accounts and instilled renewed enthusiasm. The activity of the section, besides the normal presence at patriotic feasts and ceremonies, was aimed, in cooperation with Doctor Umberto Callegarini, at col-

* Vittorino Dal Cengio is thanked for the news provided.



lecting blood and the usual charitable works but the placing of a monument attesting to the Italian alpine corps veterans' presence in Vancouver was a constant dream of Buiatti, to such a point that his telephone calls would often reach me at hours before dawn.

The Italian alpine corps monument

The technical and financial difficulties which such a similar project comprised were not unknown to me but the National President Doctor Leonardo Caprioli and the Consul General Doctor Giulio Terzi di Sant'Agata came to our aid. Strengthened by new funds and with a reassured spirit, the directive committee decided upon a bronze bust which would show an Italian alpine corps soldier with an expressive, serious, dignified, serene and proud face at the same time. The artist who knew how to give expression to these simple Italian alpine corps qualities was Severino Trinca, known in Canada, in Italy and in other countries where his works are exhibited. The expert marble worker Franco Domirti took care of the granite slabs for the pedestal supporting the bust which were donated by the Fratelli Guarda Company from Paitone (Brescia).

The ideal place in order to welcome the monument, after various meetings with the local and Italian authorities, turned out to be the little Giovanni Caboto Square, at the Italian Cultural Centre.

The Italian President Francesco Cossiga gave us the honour of his presence and, on the 15th June, 1986, inaugurated the monument accompanied by the Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti, by the Undersecretary Susanna Agnelli, by the Italian ambassador in Canada Valerio Brigante Colonna, by the Italian Consul Giulio Terzi di Sant'Agata and by the Canadian Provincial Minister for intergovernmental relations Garde B. Gardom, as well as various religious authorities.

The bronze alpine bust with a cut off feather, symbol of a dutiful homage to the fallen and an expression of the spirit of brotherhood which joins us together, has become a focal centre for all of the ceremonies of the section and of the Italian community in Vancouver.

The group of Kelowna

By the initiative of the Italian alpine corps veteran Renzo Ganzini and of sectional President Buiatti, the new Italian alpine corps veterans' group of Kelowna became a reality on the occasion of the Combatants' Feast on the 26th August, 1995, in Vancouver. The National President Leonardo Caprioli, accompanied by Doctor Giovanni Franza, councillor assigned to the foreign sections, by Vitaliano Peduzzi, director of "L'Alpino" magazine and by 65 guests who came from Italy, after the blessing of the pennon, handed over the emblem to the group leader Renzo Ganzini, flanked by his standard-bearer and secretary Arrigo Minisini and by Mrs. Lilia Ganzini, the sister of two Italian alpine corps soldiers missing in Russia, the godmother on the occasion of the ceremony.

Sectional activity

The Vancouver section is invited every year by the Royal Canadian Legion, Grandview Branch 179 (association of Canadian veterans), to participate in the Remembrance Day ceremonies at Commercial Drive and by the municipality of Vancouver at the monument in Victory Square in the centre of the city together with the armed forces association of many countries at 11 o'clock on the 11th November. The Royal Canadian Legion is present at the Victory Feast on the 4th November at the Italian Cultural Centre.

The section, accompanied by the fanfare, participates in the ceremony for the anniversary of the foundation of the Italian Republic on the 2nd June and at the Italian Week organized by the Italian Cultural Centre; organizes the annual Italian alpine corps picnic, the Monte Grappa and Combatants' Feast and the Feast of the Epiphany. It contributes annually to the Children's Hospital and to the Cancer Society of Vancouver and to other charitable organizations and gives 'Franco Bertagnolli' scholarships to deserving students.

The present situation

The Italian alpine corps presence is appreciated by the Italian community in Vancouver as has been noticed by the National President Corrado Perona, the former Vicar Vice President Vittorio Brunello and the councillor Ornello Capannolo during their very welcomed visit in September 2005. However, given that even the Italian alpine corps members are subjected to inevitable natural laws and given that Italian



emigration has stopped, even a note of sadness remains in Vancouver, common to all of the foreign sections. From over 250 members in the 1980s, today we have been reduced to little less than 130 (Giovanni Piva, another one of our combatants just died a week ago). The choir no longer exists and the Kelowna group detached itself from the Italian National Mountain Troops Corps Veterans' Association a few years and moves on with the few friends of the Italian alpine corps veterans and very few Italian alpine corps veterans. Our fanfare has been reduced to the indispensable minimum so much so that, if a musician is missing, the performance has to be cancelled. Notwithstanding everything, aware of being the last representatives of a phase in the history of Italian emigration, we move on unperturbed, proud, as we would do marching or climbing up the ropes, hoping not to be scratched by time, veiled by so much nostalgia but encouraged by our love for Italy.

The group leaders and presidents of the Vancouver section

Group leaders

1970-1971	Antonio Nicolli
1972-1973	Silvano Motta
1974	Franco Domirti
1975	Silvano Motta
1976	Antonio Nicolli (died in office due to a work related accident)
1977-1978	Pietro Berdusco
1979	Silvano Motta

Presidents

1980-1981	Tarcisio Fogolin
1982-1990	Giuseppe Buiatti
1991-1992	Piero Gemma
1993-1996	Giuseppe Buiatti
1997-	Vittorino Dal Cengio (in office)

(My personal data: Vittorino Dal Cengio, born in 1953 at Novoledo di Villaverla (VI). Stationed at Belluno in the Transmissions Company of the Carnia Cadore Brigade in 1974-1975, climber. Emigrated to Vancouver in October 1977. Married to Kim Bik Hung Wong, two daughters and two sons. Graduated at the Simon Fraser University in French, History and Political Sciences).





Vancouver, 15th June, 1986. Sectional fanfare in front of the Italian alpine corps soldier's monument.





The President of the Italian Republic Francesco Cossiga.



The Autonomous Group of Calgary*

In August of 1980, under the auspices of the Edmonton section, the Calgary group is born, which immediately gathers together about thirty Italian alpine corps veterans and friends of the Italian alpine corps veterans. The first group leader was Elia Martin and his direct collaborators Moro Springhetti, Severino Coppola, Achille De Capite, Virgilio Fabbro, Giancarlo Alfonso, Pietro Menotti.

In 1987, due to practical reasons (connections, meetings) the group officially became an autonomous group.

During the first decade of the group's life, three events periodically occur every year, events which want to be a meeting point for the Italian alpine corps veterans, the friends of the Italian alpine corps veterans, and those, inhabitants of Calgary, who sympathize with us:

1 - In January, a supper with Italian alpine corps characteristics (due to the typicality of the food, this clarification prevents eventual spite);

2 - A trip to the country in the summer months;

3 - A solemn ceremony on the 4th November, in remembrance of the Fallen.

Every event always gets a favourable response, and not only on the part of the Italian alpine corps veterans.

The group even dedicates itself to works of a charitable nature: contributions towards scientific research in the fight against cancer and to the Children's Hospital. In 1988, the group instituted two annual scholarships for the children and grandchildren of Italian alpine corps veterans, with the aim of favouring the continuation of studies at the University of Calgary. On the 11th November, 1990, the group inaugurated a monument in memory of the Italian alpine corps soldiers fallen in war and peace. For those who live in Italy, it can above all seem like a formal gesture. But for those who live abroad, it is gratitude, it is a will for peace.

The monument - made up of a monolith of quartzite from the Rocky Mountains, decorated with a feather and a bronze eagle - has found a dignified place in the courtyard of the Italian church in Calgary.

Still active, the group continues the activity which keeps alive the Italian alpine corps characteristic of "being a neighbour". Even if the numerical situation is satisfying - the group counts 27 members and 18 friends - it is to be considered in this case that the life of the Italian alpine corps nuclei abroad becomes evermore less easy due to the scarcity of new recruits, a scarcity arising from the almost end of emigration from Italy.

The President of the group as of the 31st December, 1992, is Dario Sodero, with Elio Martina - first group leader - as the honorary president.



* News taken from: STORIA DELLA ASSOCIAZIONE NAZIONALE ALPINI, 1919-1992, by Vitaliano Peduzzi, Nito Staich, Luciano Viazzi, Arturo Vita.





AUTONOMOUS ITALIAN ALPINE CORPS GROUP OF WINNIPEG (MB) – CANADA (GOLD MEDALIST GINO DI BIAGGIO)

It was the 6th November, 1969, when two “old men” in Winnipeg, Guerrino Macario (born in 1916) and Primo Augellone (born in 1920) together with a “young man”, Ermenegildo Di Biaggio (born in 1938) talking about the war and boot camp (“those were bad times but by now looking at them from a different perspective they become beautiful times because they were the “green years”) decided to contact many Italian alpine corps members, one by one, in order to start an Italian alpine corps group.

It was on the 7th December, 1969, they held a “pre-associative” meeting, in which eighteen Italian alpine corps members took part: it was decided to write to Milan and to begin registrations. “We, therefore, got into contact with General Vittorio Musso, who informed us that a section in Canada already existed and he invited us to contact it – recalls the group leader Ermenegildo Di Biaggio – we phoned and wrote to the section in Montreal, but without any results. Even the General tried, but without success, until when he said to us “send me the forms, you directly depend on me”.

Winnipeg, 1985: the inauguration of the monument. In the photo the Italian alpine corps members of Winnipeg, with Giovanni Franza and Luigi Menegoto, former President of the Marostica section and Vice National President



11th November: the deposition of the wreath at the monument





In the photo the representatives of the sections and of the groups of North America, together with the President Leonardo Caprioli, on a visit to the city of Montreal



The Italian alpine corps members of Winnipeg in Montreal: Franco Scaletta, Pasquale Grande, Guerrino Macario, Dante Silvestrin, Zino Scaletta, Giuseppe Magnifico, Gabriele Porco, Virginio Soldara, Primo Augellone, Domenico De Luca can be recognized (Walter Bertonecello is missing in the photo)



The Winnipeg group marches at the National Gathering of Trieste in 2004



In the photo, Domenico De Luca and Primo Augellone at the “Green Eve” of 1983



The Winnipeg group marches in Treviso, on the occasion of the 67th National Gathering, of the Italian alpine corps



The Winnipeg group marches in Verona, at the 63rd National Gathering, of the 12th and 13th May, 1990.



And so it was that on the 10th March, 1970, the Italian alpine corps members of Winnipeg became a part of the big “family” in Milan.

The first group leaders were Primo Augellone, in office from 1969 to 1978, Domenico De Luca, in office from 1978 to 1981, Primo Augellone from 1981 to 1985, Guerrino Macario from 1985 to 1987, Domenico De Luca from 1987 to 1993, Ermenegildo Di Biaggio from 1993 to 1999, Domenico De Luca from 1999 to 2002, and since 2002, it has been Ermenegildo Di Biaggio, who has been covering the task of group leader. “In 1981, we were in Vancouver in order to elect the Inter-sectional Commission of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans’ Association of Canada – continues Di Biaggio – in 1985 in the presence of the Vice President of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans’ Association Luigi Menegoto, of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans’ Association representative in Canada Gianni Franza, and of the Italian Vice Consul Domenico Povoledo, and of other local authorities, we participated in the inauguration of the monument at Villa Cabrini”.

The visit takes place on the 8th September, 1987, on the part of the National Headquarters, with President Leonardo Caprioli, General B. Cavazza, and the Vice President Luciano Gandini, the director of the newspaper *L’Alpino Arturo Vita*, the National councillor Angelo Todeschi, and Gianni Franza, in charge of contacts with the sections in Canada.

The activities organized by the group, since its inception, have been “The Green Eve” (“a feast in order to get together and to raise some money”, Di Biaggio specifies), the picnic on the second Sunday of July with an open air Mass, lunch with spaghetti, sausage, and polenta. “For a long time, we even made wine for the needs of the group”, adds Ermenegildo Di Biaggio. And still the “Prosciutto Feast” (organized for a few years), the function of the 4th November and the annual members’ dinner which takes place in November or December. “Besides these events, we work together with the community and for the community, so much so that in October of 2005, the Italian League of Manitoba bestowed on us the Excellence Award – concludes the group leader – unfortunately, in these last years, the age factor is harvesting a bit too many members of ours, to the point that there are only twenty-one members and seven aggregate members remaining”.



Twenty-fifth foundation anniversary of the Italian League: in the photo, the Italian alpine corps members of Winnipeg, with their godmother, Lidia Di Biaggio Toppazzini and a Royal Canadian Mounted Police officer of Italian origin.



1st PART

Italian Alpine Corps Soldiers

Chapter
- XII -

NORTH AMERICA
NEW YORK

The section of New York*

Brief history of the section

From vague pieces of information, the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association section in the United States of America was founded in 1926 by the Italian alpine corps veterans Santi Brun Del Re, Luigi Mion, Alberto Candido, and by lawyer Caputo. Documentation, testimonies, and data, in this regards, cannot be found and the affirmation remains vague. In 1933, a group of Italian alpine corps veterans of New York meets Italo Balbo (an Italian alpine corps veteran) together with his aviator colleagues, veterans of a spectacular transatlantic crossing. With the outbreak of the Second World War, the section was forced, for obvious reasons, to disband.

In the summer of 1981, Riccardo De Marco, a resident of New York City, spends his summer holidays with his family in his native town of Fanna (Province of Pordenone). He takes part, in an assembly of Italian alpine corps veterans, at the headquarters and it is there that he meets the former battery officer Mario Candotti (a veteran of the Greek and Russian campaign) originally from Ampezzo, and at the time, the President of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association section of Pordenone. From this meeting and from successive conversations, the idea is born of reconstituting the American section. Riccardo De Marco, Cesare De Regibus, and Silvio Bianoni, insert into the Italian language daily newspaper "Il Progresso" an appeal to all of the retired Italian alpine corps veterans, residing in the United States of America, with the aim of favouring a meeting, and laying the groundwork for the section. The proposal is welcomed with enthusiasm and many Italian alpine corps veterans respond to the call. On the 16th January, 1982, at the headquarters of the Famee Furlane in New York, the "Lieutenant Cesare De Regibus" Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association section of New York (still the only Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association section in the United States) is officially constituted and Riccardo De Marco assumes the presidency. Initially, the number of members hover at around the ninety mark, with about seventy aggregates, presently the number has decreased to fifty-three members and unvaried is the number of aggregates.

Unfailingly every year, on the 4th November at the Long Island National Cemetery, honour is paid to the Italian and foreign soldiers, who gave their lives for the Motherland (36 Italians who died during the Second World War are buried here). Besides the Italian army units (Italian alpine corps, airmen, police, navy men), the Consul General of Italy in New York, the Italian military representation in Washington, and the military councillor of the permanent representation of Italy, at the United Nations, are present.

On the occasion of the Inter-sectional gathering of North America, in October of 1999, the members show off their organizational capacities. They bring to conclusion, a task, which out of vastness of programmes and of coordination with the different Italian agencies, of the New York circumscription, has no equal and earns the admiration and compliments of the participants and in particular of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association national representation, then present. After the necessary meetings and dinners, the Italian alpine corps veterans, arriving from all parts of the world, march on that Sunday of October, together with the different groups in the parade dedicated to Christopher Columbus. The Italian alpine corps wave, headed by the then President, Giuseppe Parazzini, by the National Directive, and flanked by our untiring sectional President, Riccardo De Marco, marches down 5th Avenue of New York accompanied by the fanfare of Valtellina, amidst the enthusiasm of the immense crowd. This is the last time that the city of New York sees this sea of black feathers. With the years at the advanced age of the members and of the aggregates, the number of participants is so reduced as to abstain from the parade. In 2000, the directive of the section, due to age and personal reasons, abdicates in favour of the younger members. Luigi Covati, from Piacenza, is elected the president. With a lot of courage, will, and friendship, amongst the Italian alpine corps veterans, friends and Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association of Milan, he leads the section in the best way. With tenacity and persistence, projects never considered before are carried out. The new directive takes part in the 11th

* President Luigi Covati is thanked for the news.



Inter-sectional Congress, held in Windsor, from the 1st-2nd September, 2001. The warm welcome of the President of the Canadian section, Agostino Brun, just as the support of Gino Vatri, President of the Canada-USA Inter-sectional, National President, Corrado Perona, instil courage and with a strong injection of trust, induce the Italian alpine corps veterans, not to let go. It is a unique experience insofar as it has provided a way in order to evaluate the strengths and our weaknesses of the Italian alpine corps community. Every two years, the Italian alpine corps veterans participate, in great numbers, at the inter-sectional gatherings in different Canadian cities. In December 2002, after a long illness, Honorary President Riccardo De Marco moves on. From this sad circumstance is born the idea of a "Riccardo De Marco" scholarship which is assigned to the members, children, or grandchildren of the Italian alpine corps veterans. Every year they hand out funds to various research or charitable entities like the donation to the families of 9/11, to the flood victims of New Orleans, to Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Associations in Italy for different projects, and to the Mother Teresa assistance centre, hospitals, etc.

All of this is possible thanks to the enterprising will and tenacity of the members which between chestnut evenings and various feasts, collect the funds which allow the solidarity activities to be brought to conclusion.

To the right, the front cover of the booklet published on the 5th June, 1932, on the occasion of the Inaugural Ceremony of the New York section, thanking Mr. Michele Bernardon for having sent it to us.





1st PART



Alpini in Trasferta



NOTIZIARIO DELLE SEZIONI DELL'ASSOCIAZIONE NAZIONALE ALPINI IN CANADA E U.S.A

1 HAVERHILL CIRCLE, TORONTO ONT M6L 2 R 7

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DICEMBRE 2009 N° 48

XV Congresso delle Penne Nere

Mille persone all'evento ospitato da Toronto. Dall'Italia il presidente nazionale Perona

MARIELLA POLICHENI

TORONTO - La presenza del presidente nazionale degli Alpini Corrado Perona è stata la ciliegina sulla torta per il popolo delle Penne Nere del Nordamerica.

Tutti gli sguardi dei presenti erano fissi su quest'alpino carismatico che in occasione della cerimonia di apertura del XV Congresso degli Alpini del Nordamerica ha preso in mano il microfono ma non per fare un discorso di circostanza come accade di solito in queste occasioni. «Il passo tranquillo, lo sguardo gentile, nessun biglietto di appunti, il presidente nazionale degli alpini chiaramente non è persona da discorsi scontati», dice Ivan Blummo, giovane alpino della sezione di Toronto - salutava, ringraziava e fa complimenti ma poi va dritto al sodo.

Oltre a Perona, per partecipare all'incontro con le Penne Nere del Nordamerica, sono giunti dall'Italia anche il consigliere Ornello Capannolo, delegato ai contatti con le sezioni all'estero e il direttore de L'Alpino Vittorio Brunello e Ivano Gentili, ex consigliere nazionale e vicepresidente vicario. «Buona parte degli alpini partecipanti al Congresso era giunta a Toronto la sera prima ed il sabato mattina ha avuto occasione di incontrarsi durante un refettorio organizzato presso la Farnes Furlane», dice Gino Vatri, presidente della Commissione Intersezionale Ana del Canada e degli Stati Uniti.

«È stato però alla serata di gala che la comunità alpina nordamericana si è ritrovata al completo. Una serata davvero bella durante la quale oltre all'orchestra del maestro Silvani si è esibito il Coro Brigata Alpina Julia Congedati che ha accompagnato in maniera esemplare i due giorni di congresso.

Fantissime, naturalmente, sono state le sezioni e i gruppi di Penne Nere presenti all'importante evento: il presidente della sezione di New York Luigi Covati, il presidente della sezione di Vancouver Vittorio Dal Cengio, quello della sezione di Montreal Ferdinand Bissella, Luciano Roselli, presidente della sezione di Ottawa, Vittorio Morzese, presidente della sezione di Windsor, Fausto Chiochio, presidente della sezione di Hamilton, il capogruppo Silvano Pascolini del gruppo Hamilton Centro, Italo Spagnuolo, capogruppo del gruppo Laval, Joe Sabotig alla guida del Gruppo autonomo di Thunder Bay, Luigi Buttazzoni, del gruppo autonomo di Sudbury, il capogruppo di Kitchener Tony Renon, quello di Welland Doro Di Donato, Angelo Crema-

sco, capogruppo di Guelph, il capogruppo di Toronto Centro oltre che presidente della Commissione Intersezionale Ana del Canada e degli Stati Uniti Gino Vatri, quello di North York Adolfo D'Intino, il capogruppo di Mississauga Carmine Stornelli e il presidente della sezione di Toronto Roberto Buttazzoni.

È stato un Congresso, questo di Toronto, che ha emozionato tanti presenti: «L'incontro è di per sé sempre emozionante ma ho notato con piacere anche un sincero attaccamento all'associazione», dice il presidente nazionale Perona - le nostre sezioni stanno invecchiando e l'emigrazione si è fermata con la conseguenza che bisognerà valutare attentamente la situazione affinché questa bella realtà all'estero non venga a mancare. Lo spirito di sacrificio, la capacità di adeguarsi alle situazioni difficili, la disponibilità ad aiutare chi ha bisogno sono alcuni valori che costituiscono le fondamenta delle tradizioni alpine, valori che vanno tramandati».

È un discorso appassionato, quello di Corrado Perona, privo di retorica ma ricco di commovente, una commovente vera che a tratti gli strozza la voce. «Non si può rimanere indifferenti di fronte alle sue parole», nota Ivan Blummo - il presidente degli alpini ha fatto ben di più che interpretare il suo ruolo istituzionale. Ha



saputo comunicare in perfetto stile alpino vale a dire pratico, diretto e senza fronzoli, ed il popolo alpino lo ha ascoltato con ammirazione non perché è una autorità o perché è il presidente nazionale ma semplicemente perché è prima di tutto uno di loro: un alpino».

Ha avuto belle parole anche per le mogli, figure silenziose ma presenti, il presidente Perona: «Le famiglie e in particolare le mogli dei nostri alpini sono il collante che assembla la famiglia alpina», ha aggiunto il presidente - rientro in Italia convinto di dover lavorare e rimanere in contatto con queste sezioni. Abbiamo la fortuna di avere Vatri quale punto di riferimento per il Nordamerica per cui non vi è alcun

problema».

Ornello Capannolo, dal canto suo, ha notato che la solidarietà è una delle priorità delle Penne Nere: «Ho potuto constatare che gli Alpini all'estero sono compatti, che sono sempre solidali forse anche più di quelli in Italia, che hanno un grande spirito di corpo, cosa peraltro che caratterizza tutte le Penne Nere ovunque si trovino».

Impressioni positive sono state anche di Brunello che dirige L'Alpino, organo di stampa ufficiale dell'ANA che oltre a tirare 400mila copie al mese è diffuso oltre che in Italia in 32 Paesi nel mondo: «Il nostro non è solo un notiziario ma una riflessione sulla nostra storia, sulla memoria e sulla crescita

Nella foto a destra il presidente dell'ANA Corrado Perona; sotto i gagliardetti degli Alpini del Nordamerica.

(Foto Corriere-Gregory Varano)

del nostro Paese - dice Brunello - esprimiamo il nostro pensiero ma siamo apertici. Quel che mi fa maggiormente piacere è notare che quando ci si incontra spariscono i confini geografici e diventano un solo grande popolo». Carico di emozione è stato anche il discorso, breve e intenso, rivolto alle Penne Nere intervenute ai lavori da Gino Vatri che ha ricordato anche il 50° anniversario di fondazione della sezione di Toronto: «Abbiamo fatto contare una medaglia per ricordare questo importante anniversario di Toronto come gruppo, gruppo autonomo e sezione».

«Ho detto Vatri», di questa fanno parte anche i gruppi di Mississauga e North York. In occasione del Congresso abbiamo anche stampato un opuscolo che ricorda questi 50 anni di vita e tutti i presidenti che si sono succeduti e che hanno lavorato con entusiasmo e dedizione. Un plauso va anche al consiglio nazionale in carica formato, oltre che da Roberto Buttazzoni, Giuseppe Menegon, Remigio Vatri, Ivan Blummo, Gerry D'Aquilante, Tony Pigat, Giovanni Tognazzo, Anacleto Vedovat.

Gino Vatri ha anche speso qualche parola sul libro che ri-



percorre la storia delle sezioni all'estero: «Un bel volume davvero, presto faremo stampare la seconda edizione», ha detto con orgoglio. Vatri non ha mancato di illustrare anche la situazione finanziaria, la pubblicazione di Alpini in trasferta e le borse di studio Franco Bertagnoli.

È stata la giornata successiva che si sono svolti altri eventi importanti nell'ambito del XV Congresso Intersezionale del Nordamerica: dopo la messa celebrata nella chiesa di San Rocco dal cappellano militare padre Vitaliano Papais è accompagnata dal Coro dei Congedati della Julia, gli alpini assieme ai bersaglieri con il presidente Pietro Girardi, ai Marnini con il presidente Giuseppe De Stefano e alle Guardie d'onore alle reali tombe del Pantheon con il loro presidente Mario Gentile, hanno sfilato per circa un chilometro fino alla Farnes Furlane dove si è svolta una breve cerimonia in memoria dei

caduti alla quale hanno partecipato anche alcune autorità locali italiane e canadesi tra le quali il Console generale d'Italia a Toronto Gianni Bordini, l'addetto militare all'Ambasciata di Ottawa generale Sanzio Bonotto, l'on Jody Sgro, deputato del Parlamento Federale e il commissario della polizia provinciale dell'Ontario Julian Fantino: «Dopo un altro concerto dei coristi alpini ha avuto inizio il pranzo e i balli sulle musiche proposte da

Tony Silvani - continua Gino Vatri - tra saluti e abbracci è sceso il sipario sul nostro congresso ma l'appuntamento è stato già fissato per il 2011 a New York dove il Congresso si svolgerà in concomitanza con il Columbus Day, uno degli eventi più significativi per la comunità italiana degli Stati Uniti».



Nella foto alcuni alpini con gli ospiti e alle loro spalle il Coro della Brigata Alpina Julia



Gli organizzatori del XV Congresso del Nord America: l'Esecutivo Della Sezione di Toronto. Da sinistra Cav. Gino Vatri, Giuseppe Menegon, Remigio Vatri, Ivan Blummo, Cav. Roberto Buttazzoni, Gerry Daquilante, Antonio Pigat, Giovanni Tognazzo e Anacleto Vedovat



Nella foto in alto padre Vitaliano Papais benedice il monumento dell'alpino; sopra il deputato Jody Sgro porta i saluti del governo federale



Verbale dell'assemblea del 15° Congresso

Gino Vatri dà il benvenuto a tutti e dichiara aperta l'assemblea alle ore 14:18.

Sono presenti i delegati di:
- Sezione di Hamilton
- Sezione di Montreal
- Sezione di New York
- Sezione di Ottawa
- Sezione di Vancouver
- Sezione di Windsor
- Sezione di Toronto
- Gruppo Autonomo di Sudbury
- Gruppo Autonomo di Thunder Bay
- Gruppo di North York
- Gruppo di Mississauga
- Gruppo di Toronto Centro
- Gruppo di Hamilton Centro
- Gruppo di Kitchener Waterloo
- Gruppo di Welland
- Gruppo di Guelph
- Gruppo Laval
Gino Vatri legge l'ordine del giorno.

ASSOCIAZIONE NAZIONALE ALPINI
15mo CONGRESSO INTERSEZIONALE
CANADA-USA

SEZIONE DI TORONTO

10-11 OTTOBRE 2009

**RIUNIONE DEI PRESIDENTI E
CAPIGRUPPO**
ORE 14:00-16:00 (2 delegati per ogni Sezione o Gruppo) presso la Farnes Furlane
ORDINE DEL GIORNO

- 1) Approvazione dell'Ordine del Giorno
- 2) Saluti del Presidente Nazionale Corrado Perona, del Consigliere Ornello Capannolo e dei delegati con le sezioni all'estero, del Direttore de L'Alpino Vittorio Brunello.
- 3) Relazione morale del Presidente della Commissione Intersezionale
- 4) Relazione finanziaria, approvazione del bilancio e preventivo per il prossimo anno
- 5) Alpinisti in Trasferta e libro sulle sezioni all'estero
- 6) Borse di Studio "Franco Bertagnoli"
- 7) Relazioni dei presidenti sezioni Canada-USA e dei capigruppo autonomi e dipendenti
- 8) Elezioni del nuovo esecutivo della Commissione Intersezionale
- 9) Sede e data del 16mo Congresso
- 10) Statuto per le Sezioni Estere
- 11) Aggiornamento della riunione

Viene proposta la mozione della lettura del verbale dell'Assemblea dei Delegati del 1° settembre 2007 in occasione del XIV Congresso Intersezionale.

Prima di passare alla lettura del Verbale viene osservato in minuto di silenzio in memoria degli Alpini caduti.

La mozione viene approvata. Gino passa alla lettura. Il verbale viene approvato all'unanimità.

Prende la parola Vittorio Brunello direttore de L'Alpino. È un'opportunità importante riuscire a portare di persona un saluto da parte della redazione de L'Alpino e da parte propria. Tutti abbiamo delle responsabilità in quanto Alpini per trasmettere le nostre tradizioni come ci arrivano dai nostri vecchi.

Prende la parola Ornello Capannolo, Ringrazia Vatri e Buttazzoni per l'organizzazione ma ringrazia anche tutti gli altri per la collaborazione. Si sente più alpino da quando lavora con le sezioni estere.

Prende la parola Corrado Perona. Descrive brevemente il viaggio dei pochi giorni passati. Porta i saluti dell'intera ANA, di tutti i soci, capigruppo e presidenti, consiglio nazionale e suo. Per lui è un'emozione venire all'estero. È un'emozione che dura tutto l'anno. È commosso per la generosità in occasione del terremoto in Abruzzo e per la velocità nel portare aiuto. Aggiorna sul fatto che i lavori di ricostruzione stanno procedendo. Ricorda l'emozione che le sezioni estere suscitano al proprio passaggio durante le adunate. Si dichiara stupito di come le associazioni continuano a portare avanti il proprio lavoro pur senza aver ricambi. Difficoltà che propria anche delle sezioni in Italia da dopo l'annullamento della naja. Ma l'associazione con i suoi 380000 iscritti è ancora forte. Dobbiamo essere sicuri di passare i nostri valori e le nostre tradizioni a chi li condivide. Gli alpini all'estero hanno fatto tanto per tenere vivi questi valori e questo è riconosciuto anche dalle istituzioni. Rinnova il saluto dell'associazione e dà un abbraccio a tutti. Spera di non perdere le associazioni estere perché sono un valore inestimabile.

Prende la parola Ivano Gentili. Gli ha fatto piacere fare 7000 Km per tornare in Canada per il bel ricordo delle 2 visite passate. Ringrazia e abbraccia tutti.

Prende la parola Gino Vatri per la relazione morale che viene letta e approvata all'unanimità.

Gino Vatri dà il benvenuto al nuovo presidente di Ottawa Luciano Boselli.
Il Presidente di Ottawa prende la parola. Da un saluto a tutti e al presidente. Ha un ricordo commosso della sua visita a Ottawa. Nei due an-



I delegati dei gruppi e delle sezioni del Nordamerica posano per la foto ricordo dopo i lavori del Congresso: sono riconoscibili al centro Ornello Capannolo, Corrado Perona e Vittorio Brunello

ni passati sono andate avanti 6 persone ma la sezione fa del suo meglio. Un saluto a tutti.

Gino Vatri legge la relazione finanziaria. Ringrazia tutti per aver pagato la quota. Perona fa notare l'impegno delle sezioni canadesi per avere portato avanti l'iniziativa delle borse di studio a differenza di altre sezioni all'estero. Considera questi soldi ben spesi. La relazione finanziaria viene approvata all'unanimità.

Gino Vatri presenta la relazione su "Alpini in Trasferta". Ringrazia della collaborazione e chiede a tutti di continuare a collaborare. Nel futuro si darà spazio a questo congresso. Gino Vatri presenta la relazione sulle borse di studio. I numeri sono stati già presentati durante la relazione finanziaria. Gino procede a leggere i nomi degli studenti che hanno ricevuto le borse di studio. Ricorda a tutti di provvedere a mandare documenti con i voti dell'università e non del liceo per fare domanda della borsa di studio.

Ottawa chiede informazioni sulle modalità per inviare la rivista L'Alpino alle vedove. Brunello e Perona danno i dettagli. Non c'è possibilità di mandarli gratuiti.

Prende la parola Bisinella vicepresidente intersezionale est. Si scusa per il ritardo. Da benvenuto a tutti quanti.

Prende la parola Vittorio Dal Cengio, vicepresidente intersezionale dell'ovest e presidente di Vancouver. Porta il benvenuto anche di Edmonton, Calgary e Winnipeg che non sono qui. Si prende l'impegno di riportare notizie a loro. Spiegare tra di noi cosa facciamo ha un valore relativo (donazioni, fund raising, etc.). Perché non parliamo di problemi che ci assillano? Lui si trova d'accordo e lo fa subito. L'ex presidente della sezione di Vancouver è diventato cieco e chiede a Brunello se c'è qualche pubblicazione alpina in Breil. Ogni anno 4 o 5 vanno avanti. Per la prima volta la sezione è scesa sotto i 100. Si darà da fare per aumentare i simpatizzanti. La proposta è la seguente: i combattenti canadesi quando muoiono passano ai familiari diritti medaglie e distintivi. In Italia non esiste questa cultura. Se noi possiamo queste tradizioni ai nostri figli al prossimo congresso potremmo portarci i nostri figli così che loro potranno continuare questa tradizione. In Italia non è sistematico come in Canada. Perché non lo possiamo fare anche noi?

Perona risponde subito. Lo stesso problema c'è anche in Italia. Prendiamo i gruppi di montagna per esempio. In montagna c'è lo spopolamento, la gente scende a valle e i gruppi subiscono lo spopolamento. Certe zone si sono spopolate ed i gruppi si stanno riducendo. Il problema è che non si può dare il cappello del padre al figlio che non ha fatto il militare. Qualche altra associazione in Italia lo sta facendo ma i risultati sono solo nei numeri e non nella qualità. Per gli alpini l'adunata nazionale rimane un momento esaltante che deve avere decoro e rispetto. Il dilemma dei numeri però c'è. Prima si cerca di adoperare le risorse interne andando a prendere gli alpini non ancora iscritti col risultato di avere creato 100 gruppi nuovi. Chi altri può tramandare le nostre tradizioni? I giovani. Si è intensificata l'attività sui giovani con risultati positivi. Non solo nei numeri ma anche nella qualità. Poi si è passato a qualificare i soci aggregati. Lo statuto dice che possono portare il cappello alpino solo coloro i quali hanno prestato servizio militare per almeno 2 mesi nelle truppe alpine. Nel contratto sulla soppressione della leva gli alpini sono stati l'unica associazione d'arma che si è opposta. Anche i rapporti col comando truppe alpino non erano dei migliori. Poi al comando sono arrivati ottimi comandanti e c'è risultato un rapporto che si era affievolito un po'. Si è ricominciato a parlare ai giovani per convincerli ad iscriversi all'associazione facendo opera di proselitismo. Adesso l'ANSA sa con anticipo chi sono i ragazzi che fanno domanda per entrare negli alpini per "cattacchizzarli" prima ancora che vadano a fare i colloqui. È stata anche cambiata la regola dei soci aggregati. Coloro che danno garanzia di continuità vanno valorizzati così che se un domani si dovrà fare il passo di dare a loro

più valore gli uomini si sono già selezionati. In Italia c'è chi pensa che piuttosto che dare il cappello a chi non ha fatto l'alpino si deve chiudere. Lui non è d'accordo perché l'articolo 2 dice che bisogna tramandare i valori. Un giorno è andato a Montevideo in Uruguay a salutare la sezione ed ha visto ragazzi giovani che cantavano le canzoni alpine coi cappelli del padre. All'estero bisogna trovare una formula derivata dall'Italia. All'estero la componente nostalgica è più grande. Anche in Italia ci si è interessati subito a questo problema. La chiusura non è una soluzione. In Italia e all'estero tutte le sezioni collaborano con comuni, asili, protezione civile, etc... E allora bisogna fare cadere tutto? I nostri vecchi si rivolterebbero nella tomba. Le persone all'estero hanno fatto un grande sacrificio più di altri. Bisogna fare qualcosa di positivo. Qualcuno il cappello lo ha dato a qualcun altro e come presidente non se la sente di farcene una colpa. Ma il cappello non può essere dato a chiunque. Il presidente in cui bisogna prendere delle decisioni. Ma è più radiale in qualunque momento. Chi può sostenere che un giovane che porta il cappello del padre non lo usa come una bandiera. Questa è l'opinione del presidente che deve essere avallata dal Consiglio Nazionale. È convinto che molti altri la pensino come lui. Racconta ancora dell'esperienza in Uruguay e dei ragazzi che raccontavano di come i padri avessero tramandato loro le loro tradizioni. Anche le borse di studio vanno date spiegando il perché. Anche nelle scuole non si va per propaganda ma per insegnare i nostri valori. Si è chiesta bisogna cambiare l'articolo 2 dello statuto. È un periodo in cui bisogna prendere delle decisioni. Ma è importante prendere decisioni di qualità. Il nostro patrimonio va conservato se un giorno saremo dell'idea di passare il testimone anche ad altre persone. Ma è importante raccogliere le persone meritevoli e che condividono con noi i nostri valori. Noi abbiamo sezioni dappertutto e un giorno potremo spegnere la luce. È cose diremo di fronte a questo fatto? Il ministro della difesa ha organizzato una mini naja di un mese proposta dagli alpini. Ci sono state più domande che posti. Lui è stato a San Candide a vedere i ragazzi ed il generale della Truppe Alpine ha consegnato il cappello a chi ha partecipato. Qualcuno si è lamentato ma noi dobbiamo approfittare di tutto ciò che di positivo succede attorno a noi. L'ANA cerca di incoraggiare questa iniziativa perché è un'opportunità importante. I nostri soci aggregati sono più vicini alle associazioni di qui quanto non lo siano in Italia. Bisogna ragionare con calma perché il passo se lo fa bisogna farlo bene. Si scusa per essersi dilungato ma questo è un problema importante e sentito. Speriamo di risolverlo tutti insieme. Dal Cengio vuole anche enfatizzare che chi partecipa alle nostre attività lo fa per passione. Un esempio è che quando si fanno funzioni anche con altre realtà locali, si nota la dignità di tutti i partecipanti. Figli e nipoti di combattenti si comportano come se il loro padre o il loro nonno fosse lì altrimenti non parteciperebbero.

Interviene Guelph dicendo che c'è già un figlio che porta il cappello del padre. Perona dice che tutti gli anni ci si confronta in occasione dell'adunata nazionale quando ci saranno le sezioni di tutto il mondo e ci sarà l'opportunità di parlarne.

Gino interviene per chiedere brevità. Perona precisa che aveva bisogno di chiarire le sue idee altrimenti non avrebbe fatto il suo lavoro.

Fausto Chiochio presidente di Hamilton. Queste sono le 2 o 3 ore più importanti. La maggioranza della gente non è agricola. La sezione di Hamilton ha 4 gruppi. Fino a due anni fa esisteva la sezione con 3 gruppi. Il presidente veniva eletto dai consiglieri del direttivo di Hamilton senza i delegati. Nel gennaio 2008 è stato formato il gruppo di Hamilton Centro e il presidente nazionale è stato eletto dai delegati dei 4 gruppi. Riporta le forze e donazioni degli ultimi 2 anni. Hanno sempre dato il meglio ma si soffre dell'assottigliamento di alpini. Ci sono alcuni membri che non hanno fatto gli alpini. Perché

non dare facoltà ai figli di alpini di fare la tessera per un paio di anni e poi decidere se rinnovarla. Questo discorso vale solo per la gente seria ricercando qualità e non quantità.

Chiochio solleva il problema dell'elezione delle cariche all'interno della sezione dovute alle distanze. Risponde Brunello. È l'assemblea dei delegati che vota. Prende la parola Capannolo. Lo statuto prevede qual è l'assemblea dei soci e quella dei delegati. Nelle sezioni piccole come quelle all'estero tutti i soci devono partecipare alle assemblee. Chiochio dice che se tutti i soci devono partecipare allora Hamilton è avvantaggiato perché gioca in casa. Capannolo dice che se le distanze sono grandi si possono fare le elezioni tramite i delegati. Il presidente di Laval Spagnolo si lamenta che i gruppi non sono valorizzati dalla sezione e non partecipano all'assemblea. Perona dice che tutte le sezioni hanno il dovere di avvisare tutti i gruppi in occasioni delle assemblee. L'invito va mandato anche se i gruppi sono distanti. Il diritto al voto va solo ai delegati ma tutti i soci devono essere invitati. Capannolo legge l'articolo 5 dello statuto. Chiochio spiega ancora il metodo della propria sezione basato sui delegati. Bisinella dice che considera Laval un gruppo indipendente. Spagnolo chiede se il capogruppo ha diritto a fare il presidente e si lamenta che a lui è stato negato. Perona ripete che il presidente di sezione deve tenere la parola. Il presidente annuncia una volta all'anno e deve convocare tutti i gruppi alle sue dipendenze. Chiochio sostiene che se ci si chiarisce ci saranno meno problemi. Capannolo ribadisce che si deve seguire il regolamento di sezione. Il presidente annuncia a tutti i gruppi l'assemblea e richiede le candidature al gruppo nel caso di elezioni. Tutti però si possono candidare ad ogni carica.

Doro Di Donato prende la parola. Saluta tutti e il presidente italiano. È meritevole dall'Italia che ci porta un pezzo d'Italia. È 20 anni che fa il capogruppo perché nessuno si presenta. Il gruppo ha 16 alpini e 9 simpatizzanti. Si cerca di mantenere i valori. Il rapporto con la sezione e con gli altri gruppi è buono.

Prende la parola Adolfo D'Ignazio capogruppo di North York. Saluta tutti. Ci sono 3 eventi all'anno: la festa, il picnic ed il tesseramento. Durante il tesseramento offre la cena. Si fanno 6 offerte tutti gli anni. Sono stati raccolti 7000 dollari per i terremotati. Per chi muore si prepara la corona per chi si ammalia si dà la bottiglia.

Carmine Stornelli capogruppo di Mississauga prende la parola. Saluta tutti e dà il benvenuto a tutti. Presenta una storia del gruppo dal 1978. La forza del gruppo era inizialmente di 100. Le feste erano grandi e numerose. Oltre a mantenere il gruppo si facevano offerte. Il gruppo è sceso ad una trentina. Sono stati raccolti soldi per il terremoto.

Luigi Covati presidente di New York prende la parola. Saluta tutti. È un piacere rivedere tutti e la personalità italiana. È meritevole che loro vogliano partecipare a questa festa anche se è la più importante per gli alpini del nord America. Porta il saluto dei suoi. Hanno chiesto l'opportunità di organizzare il congresso del 2011 a New York. Presenta l'elenco in termini di donazioni e di borse di studio. Inoltre fa notare come l'associazione abbia cercato di aiutare i terremotati dell'Abruzzo.

Prende la parola il tesoriere di Montreal Bruno Negrello. Saluta tutti specialmente Ivano che è stato a Montreal. Fa notare a Spagnolo come la situazione di Montreal sia migliorata. Quello che fa Montreal è scritto sul giornale "Alpini in Trasferta".

Prende la parola Thunder Bay. Gino gli dice di tenere duro. Da lì buona sera e benvenuto agli amici dall'Italia. Ha fatto la festa per il 40esimo anniversario che si può vedere su "Alpini in Trasferta". Aiutato il core dance con una coreografia. Aiutato i terremotati. Il picnic è organizzato con altre associazioni italiane.

Parla Guelph con Angelo Cremasco. Il gruppo ha un po' di problemi perché non ha accettato aggregati. Ora la festa cade e ci sono solo 26 membri. Ma adesso c'è un simpatizzatore che porta il cappello del padre. Fa notare che anche con pochi soldi sono state fatte delle donazioni.

Tra le altre è stata fatta una donazione per i terremotati. Ogni volta che muore un alpino vengono mandati i fiori ma i soldi scarseggiano. Quando c'è il festival italiano di Guelph gli alpini partecipano e collaborano. Chiede se un figlio che porta il cappello del padre può fare il presidente. Perona e Capannolo rispondono di no. Perona ripete che il cappello alpino può essere portato da un aggregato all'estero ma non ricoprire cariche. È possibile che anche in Italia le regole non vengano rispettate ma non è possibile controllare tutti i gruppi.

Parla Tony Neron capogruppo di Kitchener Waterloo. Anche loro hanno lo stesso problema. La forza totale è di 23. È stata fatta una donazione di 1500 dollari per i terremotati dell'Abruzzo. Si cerca anche di fare qualche festa. Finanziano anche la stazione radio di Waterloo che fa un programma in italiano proponendo anche canzoni alpine.

Segue a pagina 4

ASSOCIAZIONE NAZIONALE ALPINI SEZIONE DI MONTRÉAL

La Sezione di Montréal ha vissuto sei mesi di lavoro intensi di visite, incontri ed ospiti, di attività di beneficenza che il Direttivo porta avanti con fierezza alpina.

Come ogni anno, ai primi di agosto, abbiamo partecipato al picnic della sezione di Ottawa. Siamo riusciti a riempire due pullman con la collaborazione del Gruppo Laval. Malgrado che la temperatura non prometteva nulla di buono, i nostri amici di Ottawa ci hanno accolto calorosamente. Il nuovo presidente di Ottawa, l'alpino Luciano Boselli con il suo Direttivo hanno tutto messo all'opera perché la giornata si svolgesse in buon umore ed allegria. Non mancava la Santa Messa, né l'appetitoso grigliata allestita da tutti di fronte al picnic della sezione di Ottawa. Il ritorno, la Sezione di Montréal ed il Gruppo Laval, hanno approfittato dell'occasione per godersi un giro turistico nella capitale Ottawa e farsi fotografare davanti al parlamento, sempre di corsa perché il temporale ci minacciava.

Fine agosto, arriva il cambio, la sezione di Ottawa arriva a Montréal per il picnic. Ben 350 persone partecipavano a questo incontro annuale. Inizio con la Messa al campo mentre i nostri bravi cuochi si affaccendavano alla griglia preparando braci, salsicce con vari contorni di stagione. Non mancava il famoso radicchio rosso di Chioggia, che tutti amano, un buon bicchiere di vino rosso e per digerire il tutto un buon caffè con il cacciatore. Nel pomeriggio giochi per bambini e adulti, si è poi servito il mais fumante con il burro, musica, canti ed allegria hanno riempito la giornata. La collaborazione del Gruppo Laval, fa sì che si mantengono i vincoli di amicizia e di solidarietà.

Il 20 settembre, nella chiesa Madonna di Pompei, sempre assieme Sezione di Montréal e Gruppo Laval e con la partecipazione di altre sezioni in Arma, abbiamo ricordato il nostro patrono San Maurizio, chiudendo la celebrazione con la deposizione di una corona d'alloro al monumento dedicato "Ai Caduti di Tutte le Guerre", coronava il tutto in amicizia un rinfresco nella sala della chiesa. Ora abbiamo con don Gnocchi un beato in più per le nostre forze alpine. Attraverso la RAI abbiamo potuto seguire la solenne cerimonia di Beatificazione di questo grande alpino, ricco di umanità e di amore fraterno. Andar pregare sulla tomba del loro cappellano diventerà una meta per i nostri alpini.

Finalmente il 7 ottobre, Ferdinando Bisinella e Bruno Negrello attendono con impazienza l'arrivo del loro Presidente Perona, di Ornello Capannolo, responsabile delle Sezioni Estere, di Vittorio Brunello, direttore del giornale l'Alpino e Signore, era la prima volta che Perona metteva piede nel Québec. Ma, se gli ultimi tre avevano passato senza intoppi la dogana, il Presidente s'era fatto prendere e, non avendo l'indirizzo di dove era diretto e chi doveva incontrare le posero molte domande, finalmente dopo quasi un'ora di discussioni ed avergli fatto aprire la valigia, vedendo il cappello d'alpino con una bella esclamazione: ah... ah!... lo lasciarono uscire ancora una volta il cappello alpino è fatto segno di ri-



Questa foto è stata fatta, il giorno del RICORDO, quest'anno la cerimonia s'è svolta a Ville La Salle, coordinata dalla Federazione Delle Associazioni Ex Militari Italiani, nella Chiesa Maria Madre dei Cristiani. Nella foto in prima fila, la presidente del COMITES, Giovanna Giordano, la Con-sorte del Console, il Console Generale d'Italia a Montréal, dr. Giulio Picchella, il presidente della Federazione Ferdinando Bisinella, il gen Brigata Aerea Sanzio Bonotto e gli alpini della Sezione di Montréal e del Gruppo Laval.



Sezione di Montréal con i delegati Nazionali



Gruppo Laval con Perona, Capannolo e Brunello, con il Capo Gruppo Italo Spagnuolo ed il Direttivo al completo. In data 22 novembre durante l'Assemblea Generale con elezioni, non c'è stato nessun cambiamento, il Direttivo è stato rieletto all'unanimità. Le attività del Gruppo si susseguono con fervore e sono sempre in collaborazione con la Sezione ANA di Montréal. Il Direttivo del Gruppo prende l'occasione per augurare a tutti gli Alpini del Canada BUON NATALE E FELICE ANNO NUOVO.



spetto. Per chi non lo sapesse la dogana canadese è la più grande arma di difesa, così l'ha definita il quotidiano canadese "La Presse". Furono questi giorni intensi, volemmo far conoscere il meglio della nostra città. La radio CFMB riserva alla delegazione mezz'ora d'intervista, in maniera di farsi conoscere e di salutare tutti gli alpini di Montréal. Non mancò l'incontro al Consolato italiano, con il console Massimiliano Gori, che fece loro una presentazione della comunità italiana in loco. Visita turistica della città, al bellissimo Centro Leonardo da Vinci, fierezza di tutta la comunità e dove si svolgono la maggioranza degli incontri sociali e spettacoli della comunità. Serata d'incontro poi al Buffet Le Rizz, con gli alpini della Sezione e del Gruppo Laval con il loro Presidente Italo Spagnuolo. La bella serata scorre all'insegna dei ricordi, di foto di canti e di abbracci. La delegazione s'è soffermata con l'alpino Olmi Bonfiglio il più anziano della Sezione ha 95 anni, la visita è scarsa ma è sempre presente accompagnato da moglie e figlio.

Glielo seguente, partenza per Ottawa, a bordo di due bianche limousine, non vi nascon-



Il Presidente Nazionale con Bonfiglio Olmi l'Alpino più anziano della Sezione e la moglie.



Bisinella, Capannolo e Spagnuolo.

Il Presidente Perona con le Signore degli Alpini di Montréal

do che destavamo la curiosità e qualche sfrecciata non mancava. Incontrammo ad Ottawa il neo presidente Luciano Boselli con un decina di alpini e rendemmo omaggio al monumento eretto al parco di fronte alla chiesa Sant'Antonio. Anche qui visita d'obbligo all'ambasciata italiana, incontro con il gen. brigata aerea Sanzio Bonotto e l'ambasciatore Gabriele Sardo di Trieste (che ora ci ha lasciato), al suo posto un giovane alle prime armi. In serata, cena in onore del presidente Perona, alla sala Sant'Antonio elegantemente preparata per l'occasione, con la partecipazione degli alpini di Ottawa e Signore, il gruppetto della Sezione di Montréal ed il Capo Gruppo di Laval, Italo Spagnuolo.

Sabato mattina alle cinque, partenza per Toronto, anche questa volta si è riusciti a riempire un pullman, con la collaborazione di tutti. Anche se le distanze sono enormi, il tempo è volato tra un canto ed una barzelletta, arrivo al Fogolar Furlan verso le 13,30. Dopo una svelta rifocillazione, i delegati della Sezione di Montréal e

del Gruppo Laval si sono recati al Congresso, mentre gli altri sono andati all'hotel a riposare. Al Congresso sono state rivedute le regole dell'Intersezione e delle Sezioni e dei Gruppi all'Estero. Gino Vatri, Presidente Perona ha elogiato Gli Alpini all'Estero per la loro prontezza ad inviare aiuti ai terremotati d'Abruzzo. I momenti d'incontro sono stati molti e piacevoli. L'incontro con il Coro Congedati della Julia è stato specialmente apprezzato. I loro canti hanno animato la Messa con tanto sentimento, mettevano poi tanta gioia ed allegria durante il Banchetto di Gala. La Sezione di Montréal ed il Gruppo Laval, ringraziano calorosamente Gino Vatri, Presidente dell'Intersezione e Roberto Buttazzoni, Presidente della Sezione di Toronto per la loro organizzazione e l'accoglienza, bravi tutti i collaboratori.

Venerdì 16 ottobre gli Alpini di Montréal accolgono il Coro Congedati della Julia che dopo aver visitato gli Alpini dell'Ontario, davano il loro concerto canoro nella Chiesa Madonna di Pompei. Fra i coristi vi sono i friulani, veneti, abruzzesi ed emiliani, la maggioranza sono giovani. Con fervore i nostri Alpini hanno mobilitato tutta la comunità, riuscendo a fare sala piena. Essi portano lo spirito del Coro degli Alpini in mezzo alla gente. Dal momento in cui si intona la prima nota, anche se di prove ne fanno poche o tante, tutti cantano con la stessa gran voce per trasmettere il medesimo sentimento. In chiusura un grande scroscio di applausi e numerosi baci furono scrosciosi. Dopo lo spettacolo, una deliziosa cena veniva offerta ai coristi per chiudere in bellezza questo incontro ricco di emozioni. Il sabato dopo il Coro ci lasciava dopo un giro turistico per la città di Montréal. La collaborazione della Sezione di Montréal ed il Gruppo Laval è una vera combinazione di riuscita.

Sabato 14 novembre, l'annuale Banchetto di Gala della Sezione si è svolto al Buffet Le Rizz, sempre con eleganza ed un menù perfetto. Da lodare il lavoro di tutti i collaboratori ed anche i presenti, perché tutti assieme ad una sala piena si riesce a creare l'atmosfera di festa ed allegria.

6 Dicembre, si è svolta l'Assemblea Generale con nuove elezioni del Direttivo. Dopo la lettura del Processo Verbale e l'Ordine del Giorno, la relazione del Presidente, del Segretario e del Tesoriere, si è terminata con le votazioni del nuovo direttivo. Rieletto il presidente, Ferdinando Bisinella, vice pres. Sergio De Paoli, segretario Paolo Fascina con l'assistenza della signora Alba Dal Molin, tesoriere Bruno Negrello, consigliere Virginio Soldera, Mauro Filiberti, Adelmo Bertelli, Luigi Olmi, Davide Bertelli, Danny David e Stabile Antonio.

Il Direttivo della Sezione di Montréal porge a tutti gli Alpini del Canada e Stati Uniti i più sentiti voti augurali in occasione delle Sante Feste Natalizie.

Ferdinando Bisinella
Presidente



Sezione di Montréal e Gruppo Laval, al Congresso a Toronto



Gita degli Alpini davanti al Parlamento a Ottawa.



Brunello, Salvoni, Capannolo, Perona, Bisinella e Spagnuolo per lo scambio dei guidiconi.

Le Penne Nere di North York in festa

Oltre 480 persone hanno partecipato al gala annuale. Tra gli ospiti il senatore Basilio Giordano e il deputato Mario Sergio

MARIELLA POLICHIENI

TORONTO - È un appuntamento importante per le Penne Nere di North York la serata di gala del mese di novembre.

Come ogni anno l'evento è stato un inno alla fratellanza, al piacere di stare assieme ed essere una "grande famiglia". «Alla festa nei locali della Terrace Banquet Hall eravamo oltre 480 persone - dice il capogruppo degli Alpini d'Intino - la cena è stata squisita, i brani eseguiti dall'orchestra di Tony Silvani hanno fatto ballare i presenti fino a mezzanotte, abbiamo anche sorteggiato tanti premi».

Tante le Penne Nere presenti così come in massa hanno partecipato le associazioni d'Arma e di Corpo: «E tanti sono stati anche gli ospiti che ci hanno onorati con la loro partecipazione - continua l'Intino da 33 anni in seno all'associazione e da 13 a capo del Gruppo di North York - tra questi l'on. Mario Sergio e il senatore Basilio Giordano».

Sono occasioni per incontrarsi e trascorrere ore allegre assieme, gli eventi organizzati dalle Penne Nere, a qualunque gruppo o sezione esse appartengano: «Ci siamo davvero divertiti - aggiunge D'Intino - chiacchiere e condividere il cibo è piacevole ed ogni occasione di incontro, anche la più semplice, si trasforma in una grande festa».



Nella foto a sinistra il direttivo delle Penne Nere di North York; sotto a sinistra si riconosce il capogruppo degli Alpini di Mississauga Carmine Stornelli; sotto il capogruppo di North York Adolfo D'Intino, il senatore Basilio Giordano e il deputato Mario Sergio; nella foto in basso a sinistra gli alpini ascoltano gli inni nazionali italiano e canadese; in basso al centro Gino Vatri, presidente della Commissione Intersezionale Ana del Nordamerica; in basso l'alpino Domenico Guardiani con la bandiera canadese (Foto Corriere-Gregory Varano)



Prossima occasione per stare assieme per le Penne Nere di North York sarà il tesseramento del 10 gennaio: «Ci incontreremo presso la Paradise Banquet Hall alle 2 pm - conclude Adolfo D'Intino - sarà

un altro pomeriggio di cibo, buona compagnia e naturalmente canti alpini».

Commemorati i caduti di tutte le guerre a Toronto e St. Catharines

TORONTO - L'Associazione Bersaglieri con il Labaro in testa portato dal Bersagliere Pietro Quadri ha partecipato quest'anno alla commemorazione dei caduti di tutte le guerre organizzata dalla Federazione d'Arma e di Corpo e dalla Polizia.

Ci siamo dati appuntamento tutti presso la chiesa di San Nicola di Bari che si trova su St. Clair. La chiesa era gremita di ex militari con tante bandiere, labari, vessilli ma anche di tante persone comuni desiderose di partecipare alla cerimonia religiosa. C'è stata anche tanta commozione e a farci onore come sempre c'è stato il Console generale d'Italia a Toronto dottor Gianni Bardini. La messa è stata celebrata da don Andrea Biagi che con la sua voce chiara e forte ha sottolineato l'importanza di questa commemorazione: le date del 4 dell'11 novembre ci debbono far ricordare tutti coloro che persero la vita per un solo scopo, la pace nel mondo. Dopo la conclusione della messa il corteo di ex militari ha raggiunto il Monumento dei Caduti sito su St. Clair dove ha deposto una corona di alloro sul cui nastro tricolore si poteva leggere «A tutti i caduti di tutte le guerre. Le Associazioni d'arma, di Corpo e Polizia». Ci siamo quindi ritrovati nel salone sottostante la chiesa dove è stato offerto un rinfresco; qui nel salone breve ma significativo discorso il Console Bardini ha ribadito l'importanza di questa commemorazione che rappresenta un prezioso insegnamento per tutti ma soprattutto per i più giovani.

A cerimonia conclusa un bel gruppo di Bersaglieri da me guidato, assieme a rappresentanti dei Carabinieri e della Polizia di Stato accettando l'invito del Vice Console della penisola del Niagara Dott. Lillo Puma hanno raggiunto il Club Roma di St. Catharines. Qui abbiamo ad alcuni Veterani locali abbiamo dato vita ad una speciale commemorazione ai loro Caduti: abbiamo quindi consumato una ottima cena in un clima di grande affetto e fratellanza. La domenica successiva, 13 novembre, su invito del Cav. Uff. Giuseppe Simo-



La consegna delle targhe ai due "ragazzi" della seconda guerra mondiale. Seduti da sinistra: Giovanni Donatelli e Giuseppe Perrone. In piedi da sinistra Rosario Milana e Lillo Puma



netta un folto gruppo di Bersaglieri ed alcuni rappresentanti della Polizia Italiana Stradale e dei Carabinieri si sono recati a College Street presso la chiesa di San Francesco d'Assisi per prendere parte alla cerimonia organizzata dalla FIDCA, Federazione Italiana dei Combattenti Alleati - Sezione di Toronto della quale è presidente il Cav. Uff. G. Simonetta assieme alla B.L.A. di College Street.



Nella foto alcuni momenti della commemorazione dei caduti in guerra a College Street

Durante la messa celebrata nella chiesa di San Francesco d'Assisi è stata anche consegnata all'ex combattente Domenico Furlano una medaglia con diploma per aver partecipato alle operazioni di guerra avvenute in Corsica nel 1943 e aver pre-

so parte, dopo l'armistizio, alla liberazione dell'Italia al fianco degli alleati nel 1954. Furlano, nato a San Nicola da Crissa il 5 gennaio 1922 è stato felicissimo di ricevere il riconoscimento.

Dopo la celebrazione della messa in suffragio dei caduti il corteo formato da ex combattenti e da anziani della comunità italo-canadese ha raggiunto all'esterno della chiesa l'altare della Madonna della Pace dove ha deposto una corona di alloro. Il Console generale d'Italia dottor Gianni Bardini, non potendo essere presente, ha inviato un messaggio ai presenti: «Sono fermamente convinto che anche oggi, a tanti anni di distanza, ricordare coloro che sono caduti in guerra e che hanno sacrificato il loro bene supremo, la vita, per il bene degli altri sia un dovere morale imprescindibile oltre che un'occasione di riflessione e ispirazione - ha scritto il console Bardini - nel nostro mondo di oggi, dove sembra predominare il materialismo e l'individualismo, l'esempio di coloro che hanno offerto se stessi per la comunità, per la libertà e la democrazia rappresenta un insegnamento prezioso soprattutto per i più giovani».

Cav. Pietro Girardi
Presidente Bersaglieri Toronto
Vicepresidente FIDCA Toronto



Verbale dell'assemblea del 15° Congresso

Segue da pagina 1

Italo Spagnuolo capogruppo di Laval prende la parola. Riprende il dialogo con Bisinella. È importante collaborare. Non crede di avere offeso nessuno. È difficile sul giornale L'Alpino dare spazio alle sezioni all'estero su una sola facciata. Ci vorrebbe almeno una pagina. Si associa al punto sollevato da Vittorio Dal Cengio. Ringrazia e chiede scusa se ha offeso qualcuno con i suoi commenti.

Prende la parola il Presidente di Windsor Windsor Morrisset. Saluta tutti. Ringrazia tutte le sezioni e i gruppi che hanno partecipato al congresso di 2 anni fa per la loro generosità. Elencò che è stato fatto. Comprata sedia per fare esercizi per ospedale. Pizza party per associazioni di handicappati. In questa occasione viene raccontato cosa sono gli alpini. Si comprano i fiori per ogni socio che muore. Sono stati raccolti 12000 dollari per i terremotati dell'Abruzzo. La sezione ha 135 soci. La sezione ha gli stessi problemi degli altri gruppi alpini che diminuiscono e gli aggregati che aumentano. Racconta di una persona che ha chiesto di diventare socio e di ricevere il cappello alpino. Ha risposto che prima deve partecipare perché vuole farlo e non solo per avere il cappello. Va bene fare solo con le feste ma bisogna provare a cambiare queste modalità in modo che si possa fare anche con meno persone. La sezione è contenta di ospitare le cariche a Windsor tra due giorni.

Gino Vatri fa notare che il capogruppo di Sudbury, Luigi Buttazzoni, è anche un reduce decorato. Prende la parola Luigi Buttazzoni capogruppo di Sudbury. Saluta tutti ma porta il saluto del gruppo. Hanno 28 soci alpini e 14 amici. Sono state fatte delle donazioni tra cui una per l'Abruzzo. Altre donazioni sono state fatte per la ricerca sul cancro.

Sono stati spesi soldi per la manutenzione del monumento. Sono stati fatti membri onorari per essere più vicini alla città. Viene elencata la lista dei membri onorari. Il prossimo anno si celebrerà il 40esimo anniversario. Quando mancano gli alpini invece di fare donazioni in fiori viene fatto nascere una messa ed una cartolina di condoglianze.

Gino consegna la medaglia europea dei combattenti alleati a Luigi Buttazzoni.

Prende la parola Roberto Buttazzoni. Ringrazia tutti. Ringrazia e dà il benvenuto a chi arriva da lontano, non solo dall'Italia ma anche dall'America e dal Canada. La sezione si prende cura di chi va avanti e partecipa a tutte le feste delle associazioni d'arma. Partecipa anche agli eventi istituzionali. Dopo il congresso verrà fatta la donazione per i terremotati. Augura un buon fine settimana qui a Toronto.

Prende la parola Morrisset. Chiede quando è che le associazioni potranno fare un'offerta a Toronto. Può essere fatta la sera stessa.

Prende la parola Bisinella. Fin dagli anni 80 Montreal era sezione Canada. Se l'errore è stato fatto è stato fatto allora quando i gruppi sono stati lasciati soli. La situazione numerica è difficile, lo statuto bisogna rispettarlo, ma dopo quasi 30 anni non ha senso battersi su battaglie quando si è quasi alla fine. Attualmente è meglio lasciare perdere questa confusione. Il gruppo di Laval è indipendente ma la collaborazione c'è senza grandi problemi.

Gino Vatri invita all'elezione del nuovo consiglio intersezionale. Morrisset fa la mozione di tenerlo com'è. Viene approvato all'unanimità. Prossimo congresso. Gino dice che l'unica candidatura è quella di Gino Vatri per il 9 e 10 ottobre 2011 (Columbus day). La candidatura viene approvata per applausi. Persona fa notare che per il Columbus day c'è un'alta partecipazione di italiani e quindi il congresso va organizzato particolarmente bene. Chiede di avere proposte. L'iniziativa va divulgata e quindi bisogna iniziare per tempo.

Prende la parola New York. Ringrazia il presidente ed assicura il massimo impegno. Ringrazia i presidenti canadesi per avere dato questa opportunità a New York. Faranno un bel lavoro come è stato fatto in Canada. La vicinanza con il Columbus day renderà tutto ancora più bello. Chiede aiuto. Loro lavoreranno ma vorranno la presenza numerosa canadese ed italiana. Ringrazia Buttazzoni per il buon lavoro e anche Gino Vatri. È molto felice e gli alpini della sezione saranno ancora più uniti.

Gino Vatri comunica che lo statuto per le sezioni estere è pronto e persona fa notare che è stato iniziato un nuovo discorso importante.

Gino Vatri consegna le borse di studio direttamente ai presidenti della sezione. Gino chiama i presidenti ed i capogruppo e persona consegna le borse di studio. Persona prende la parola. Un certo Capannolo ha detto a Persona che voleva fare il libro delle sezioni all'estero dell'ANA. Il libro ora c'è ed il merito è del lavoro di Capannolo che ha trovato anche lo sponsor per farlo stampare. Ce ne sono solo poche copie per questioni di trasporto. Si cercherà di farne arrivare altre copie. Invita a fare un applauso per il lavoro di Ornello. Gino Vatri chiama capogruppo e capi sezione per la consegna del libro. Prende la parola Capannolo. Ripete ai gruppi autonomi e alla sezione di Ottawa di fornire indirizzo email. È indispensabile per mantenere i contatti. Si sta organizzando l'adunata nazionale di Bergamo. Sarebbe importante se si potesse dare un'idea di quanta gente parteciperà. Si vorrebbe agevolare chi arriva da fuori. Avere i dati aiuta ad organizzarsi. Ci sarà la possibilità di scegliere tra alberghi e alloggi.

Gino Vatri dichiara chiusa l'assemblea alle ore 17:48.

Ivan Blunno Segretario

Il Gruppo Centro delle Penne Nere ha organizzato la serata durante la quale ha ricordato le attività che hanno caratterizzato l'anno che sta per finire

Gli Alpini di Hamilton in festa Cenone, ballo e borse di studio

MARIELLA POLICHIENI

TORONTO - «Lo scopo di questa serata è quello di ringraziare il Signore per averci dato durante l'anno lavoro, salute e pace in famiglia».

I valori e la gioia di riunirsi, sono per gli Alpini, la ragione di essere e il presidente dell'Associazione Nazionale Alpini della sezione di Hamilton Fausto Chiochio lo ribadisce ancora una volta durante il cenone con ballo organizzato presso la Renaissance Hall della "città del ferro".

Una serata, questa, che ha dato anche l'occasione per tirare le somme, per fare il punto sulle iniziative portate avanti dalle Penne nere. «L'alpino non sta bene se non fa del bene - ha affermato Chiochio - quest'anno abbiamo donato \$15.505 ad enti assistenziali dei quali 10.200 dollari sono andati per i terremotati in Abruzzo».

A presentare la festa è stato il capogruppo Silvano Pascolini mentre a dare il benvenuto ai partecipanti è stata la Mini Band d'Introducaqua che ha accolto i presenti con tante marce creando una atmosfera di amicizia, di allegria, di giovialità: «Un clima che caratterizza tutte le feste alpine - continua Chiochio - il cappello con la lunga penna nera, i sorrisi, la sincerità, il desiderio genuino di stare assieme riescono a riscaldare l'anima e il cuore e a ridarci ogni volta quel senso di appartenenza che è la nostra forza».

Il cenone con ballo è iniziato, come sempre, con l'esecuzione da parte della Mini Band d'Introducaqua degli inni canadesi e italiani, con la preghiera recitata dal cappellano delle Penne nere di Hamilton padre Janusz Roginski e con il saluto di benvenuto del capogruppo Silvano Pascolini ai pre-



sentì, al presidente della Commissione Intersezionale Ana del Canada e degli Stati Uniti Gino Vatri, al presidente della sezione di Toronto Roberto Buttazzoni,

al presidente della sezione di Hamilton Fausto Chiochio, ai presidenti di gruppo della sezione Doro Di Donato di Welland, Tony Renon di Kitch-

ner-Waterloo, Dino Bernatti di Guelph (in rappresentanza del presidente Angelo Cremasco) e al capellano Janusz Roginski. «Il mio primo pensiero va a tutti quei soci alpini che sono andati avanti, ai soldati canadesi e italiani che sono stanziati in vari posti del globo in missioni di pace», ha detto con voce forte Pascolini.

C'è stata quindi la sfilata con vessilli e pagliaretti per ricordare gli alpini che non ci sono più: Pascolini ha recitato la *Preghiera dell'alpino* mentre veniva suonato il silenzio seguito da *Silvius Alpini* cantata da Maria

Giayedoni.

È stato Fausto Chiochio, alpino di "poche chiacchiere ma fatti" a presentare Gino Vatri dopo aver dato il benvenuto ai presenti e ringraziato i gruppi della sezione di Hamilton per il contributo dato ai terremotati dell'Abruzzo. «Il 14 novembre, nel corso di una toccante cerimonia, gli alpini hanno consegnato a Fossa in provincia de L'Aquila il villaggio Ana che le Penne Nere hanno costruito in tempo record. Grazie al contributo delle sue sezioni e dei suoi gruppi e al sostegno di altre decine di enti, gli alpini hanno

raccolto 2.738.000 euro - ha detto Chiochio - sono state costruite 32 unità abitative e un'altra, la 33ª, un numero magico per gli alpini perché ricorda il nostro inno, è stata destinata ad essere sede sociale e del locale gruppo alpino».

Sono orgogliosi del "Villaggio ANA" le Penne Nere: «La superficie è di circa 10.000 metri quadri e ogni unità abitative, ecosostenibile che permetterà di ospitare tre o quattro persone, è di 54 metri quadri, soggiorno con cucina, due stanze da letto, un bagno e un piccolo giardino in comune con le altre abitazioni», spiega il presidente Chiochio.

La serata alpina ha rappresentato un momento importante per i giovani ai quali sono state assegnate trenta borse di studio del valore di oltre \$1.800 erogate dal Gruppo di Hamilton: a consegnarle è stata la segretaria Mariuccia Di Vittorio assieme al capogruppo Pascolini. «Siamo felici di premiare 30 studenti che hanno dimostrato eccezionali abilità scolastiche - ha detto la Di Vittorio - un saluto ai ragazzi qui presenti con i loro nonni, nonne e famiglie. Avete onorato i vostri genitori, i vostri nonni e noi tutti. Congratulazioni».

Altri due giovani hanno ricevuto i "premi di studio Franco Bertagnoli" del valore di \$1.050 ciascuna erogati dall'Associazione Nazionale Alpini - sede nazionale. «Questi premi sono stati consegnati dal presidente intersezionale del Nordamerica Gino Vatri agli studenti universitari Lianna Sanelli e Jeremy Santucci - conclude Fausto Chiochio - Gino, che ha portato il saluto del presidente nazionale Corrado Perona, ha incoraggiato i giovani a partecipare alle nostre associazioni che ha paragonato a tanti lumi accesi. Non lasciate che la loro fiamma si spenga, ha detto con grande emozione Vatri».

LA VISITA

Il Coro Brigata Alpina Julia fa tappa ad Hamilton



HAMILTON - Il Coro della Brigata Alpina Julia durante la sua tournée in Canada ha fatto tappa anche nella "città del ferro" dove ha incontrato gli alpini e la comunità italiana residente nella città.

Sono state felicissime le Penne Nere di Hamilton di ricevere la visita del presidente Perona, del consigliere nazionale Capannolo e del direttore de *L'Alpino* Brunello.

La serata di festa ha avuto inizio presso la chiesa di Sant'Antonio di Padova dove il coro, prima della messa, ha dato un saggio della sua bravura interpretando canzoni bellissime e commoventi tanto da meritarsi tanti applausi e *standing ovation*.

Durante la messa il coro ha cantato vari inni religiosi: al termine della funzione religiosa ha raggiunto la sede degli alpini di Hamilton dove è stata servita una cena squisita accompagnata da ottimo vino italiano.

Il presidente Perona ha messo in evidenza come proprio questi momenti di ritrovo un po' spartani e di carattere familiare costituiscano una componente importante della vita associativa dell'ANA mentre il presidente della Sezione di Hamilton Fausto Chiochio ha illustrato ai presenti i numerosi sacrifici fatti dalle Penne Nere di Hamilton per acquistare e gestire la propria sede.

La serata è stata inoltre allietata dalla bella voce della signora Maria.

Nella foto alcuni presenti alla cena nella sede delle Penne Nere sita su Barton St. (Foto Corriere-Joe Di Diodato)



Nella foto in alto gli alpini con i nonni, le nonne e i nipoti che sono stati premiati con le borse di studio; nella foto al centro a sinistra Mariuccia Di Vittorio e il capogruppo di Hamilton Centro Silvano Pascolini; a destra i nonni Lucia e l'alpino Guido Di Stefano con il figlio e i nipoti; sopra a sinistra la Mini Band d'Introducaqua;

nella foto sopra a destra la famiglia dell'alpino Mario Bottos: i due figli con le rispettive famiglie giunti da Windsor e da Guelph;

nella foto sotto gli onori alle bandiere italiana e canadese





Corrado Perona consegna un'onoreficenza a Luigi Buttazzoni al termine dei lavori del Congresso Intersezionale.



Da sinistra: Ferdinando Bisinella, Ornello Capannolo, Gianni Bordini, Vittorio Brunello, Corrado Perona, Gino Vatri, Giuliano Fantino e Judy Sgro



Alcuni dei gagliardetti presenti in chiesa



Durante L'Offertorio: Carlo Della Vecchia, Vitaliano Papais, Giovanni Togneguzzo, Esterina Togneguzzo, e Giuseppe Menegon



I vessilli durante la cerimonia al monumento



Un momento della sfilata per Islington Avenue



I vessilli prima dell'inizio della Messa



Un momento di pausa durante la sfilata Il Presidente Nazionale con Roberto Buttazzoni, alla destra Gino De Zotti con il gagliardetto del Gruppo di Toronto Centro



I Presidenti e i capigruppi del Nordamerica posano con il Presidente Nazionale Corrado Perona e con i Presidenti dei Bersaglieri, Marini e Guardia D'Onore presenti alla cerimonia



Gino Vatri, Roberto Buttazzoni, Corrado Perona, Sanzio Bonotto, Giuliano Fantino, Ornello Capannolo e Vittorio Brunello (foto al centro) Il Presidente Nazionale con alcuni alpini presenti in sala

L'alpinità oltre

NEW YORK

La lunga trasferta nel Nord America del presidente Corrado Perona e del consigliere nazionale delegato ai contatti con le sezioni all'estero Ornello Capannolo, comincia il 5 ottobre con la visita alla sezione di New York. Nella metropoli americana, simbolo di un paese che da quasi un secolo gioca un ruolo di primaria grandezza nei destini del mondo, c'è l'unica sezione ANA degli Stati Uniti, anche se gli alpini non mancano in ogni città dalla bandiera a stelle e strisce. Ad accogliere la delegazione all'aeroporto JFK c'era, con alcuni alpini, il presidente Luigi Covati, un giovane imprenditore che da qualche decennio lavora nel settore dell'edilizia.

Nella Grande Mela, centro propulsore dell'economia mondiale, gli alpini non sono proprio di casa, ma anche se sono l'alpinità oltre gli oceani pochi non rinunciano a portare con fierezza il loro cappello tra gratificati e maglie della vita moderna e si portano nel cuore, senza pudori, la nostalgia dei silenzi delle montagne e delle "creste vertiginose". Nell'incontro conviviale con il presidente nazionale si parla dei problemi della sezione, sparsa in un territorio molto esteso che non facilita i contatti, della necessità di mantenere stretti i rapporti con la sede nazionale e dell'intenzione di tenere a New York il congresso del 2011.

A tutti risponde Perona assicurando l'attenzione e l'affetto degli alpini nei confronti di chi vive all'estero e li incita a conservare l'attaccamento ai valori che fanno del cappello alpino un simbolo di serietà ovunque. Nata come New Amsterdam all'inizio del '600, New York s'incunea nel fiume Hudson con l'isola di Manhattan creando uno scenario di rara suggestione, in equilibrio tra la modernità degli edifici e la bellezza del golfo dominato dalla statua della Libertà. Ellis Island, Central Park, Brooklyn, Time Square riusciranno ad attirare tante penne nere dall'Italia per il Columbus Day del 2011, 11 ottobre, quando ci sarà, in coincidenza con il XVI Congresso delle sezioni del Nord America, la storica parata sulla Quinta Strada? C'è da giurarsi.

MONTREAL - OTTAWA

Ad attendere il presidente Perona all'aeroporto di Montréal ci sono il presidente della sezione Ferdinando Bisinella e Bruno Negrello. Il primo bassanese e il secondo di Valstagna, in Valsugana. Finalmente si parla veneto dopo una full immersion nei dialetti abruzzese e friulano. Mercoledì 7 l'emittente radio italiana in Canada riserva alla delegazione ANA mezz'ora di intervista, nel corso della quale il presidente nazionale parla delle iniziative in Abruzzo e delle finalità dell'Associazione.

Alle 10,30 puntuali all'incontro con il viceconsole Massimiliano Gori. La conversazione sulla situazione della comunità italiana nella regione francofona scorre piacevole, grazie alla simpatia che il giovane diplomatico dimostra nei confronti degli alpini. Si parla delle associazioni d'arma, della condizione dei nostri emigrati, del voto degli italiani all'estero. Su 200.000 residenti a Montréal solo 50.000 sono iscritti nelle liste del consolato, ma l'attività degli uffici non esclude nessuno. Infatti possiamo constatare un bel gruppo di persone in attesa per espletare le loro pratiche. Breve visita alla vecchia città capitale del Québec, a quella sotterranea, al Centro Leonardo da Vinci e infine incontro con gli alpini al Buffet le Ritz. Grande accoglienza al presidente nazionale, con foto ricordo e abbracci.

La famiglia alpina avverte la vicinanza della sede nazionale e la bella serata scorre all'insegna dei ricordi. Il giorno seguente, con due limousine bianche - lascio al lettore le



Corrado Perona tra gli Alpini a Toronto.

battute ironiche di circostanza che non hanno risparmiato nessuno - partenza per la capitale del Canada, Ottawa, dove stanno ad attendere il corteo presidenziale Luciano Boselli, neopresidente della sezione, e una decina di alpini. Reso l'omaggio al bel monumento eretto in un parco di fronte alla chiesa di Sant'Antonio si passa all'ambasciata d'Italia, per un saluto all'addetto militare gen. Brigata aerea Sanzio Bonotto e all'ambasciatore Gabriele Sardo di Trieste.

L'accoglienza nella sede diplomatica è calorosa e offre l'opportunità per uno scambio di considerazioni sulla presenza in Canada degli italiani e degli alpini. Nelle parole dell'ambasciatore si coglie una netta simpatia verso la nostra Associazione di cui si apprezza il lavoro compiuto in favore delle comunità, ovunque ci sia bisogno di aiuto. In serata la sezione offre una cena in onore del presidente Perona e accompagnatori in un elegante ristorante, presenti tutti gli alpini, le loro famiglie, gli amici e simpatizzanti.

TORONTO

Le sezioni e i gruppi autonomi del Nord America s'incontrano ogni due anni per fare il punto sulla loro presenza nell'area geografica più ricca del mondo. C'è l'aria euforica degli incontri alpini e i presidenti o capigruppo si salutano con commovente slancio. Vivono spesso lontani parecchie migliaia di chilometri e in contesti sociali molto diversi, ma conservano intatto lo spirito di quando indossavano la divisa. Al Fogolar Furlan veste i panni del gran cerimoniere Gino Vatri, coordinatore della presenza alpina negli Stati Uniti e nel Canada, coadiuvato da Ferdinando Bisinella, Montréal, per l'area orientale, e da Vittorio Dal Cengio, Vancouver, per quella occidentale. Tutti e tre saranno riconfermati, per acclamazione, nel mandato per il biennio 2009-2011.

Letto ed approvato il verbale della seduta precedente, prende la parola per un breve saluto il presidente nazionale Corrado Perona che, commosso, ringrazia tutti per la tempestività e la generosità degli aiuti in occasione del terremoto in Abruzzo. "Siete arrivati - dice - prima di tante sezioni in Italia e avete dimostrato di avere un grande cuore. Quando sfilate per le vie delle nostre città in occasione dell'Adunata nazionale suscitete ammirazione e stupore. Pochi immaginano quanti alpini siano sparsi nel mondo. Le attività che portate avanti sono tante e fanno onore al nostro cappello e al nostro paese. Avete dato molto e continuerete a farlo". Vatri legge la sua relazione morale e sottolinea con soddisfazione che nessun gruppo è stato perso e non è poco, che le borse di studio assegnate a familiari di soci sono sempre apprezzate e numerose. Il giornale Alpini in trasferta è uscito 4 volte e il Corriere Canadese pubblica spesso notizie sulle attività dell'associazione. Sezioni e Gruppi tengono

gli oceani



In vita i loro notiziari che riferiscono puntualmente sulla vita intensa dei soci e degli amici, valorizzando le iniziative di solidarietà, culturali e di intrattenimento. La relazione del coordinatore è volutamente scarsa per lasciare spazio al dibattito. Uno dei problemi sentiti e discussi è l'inevitabile calo degli iscritti e la pressante richiesta, da parte dei figli e dei nipoti di alpini andati avanti, di portare il cappello dei padri o dei nonni. In Canada questo avviene regolarmente da parte dei discendenti dei legionari. Perché non imitare l'esempio? Perora risponde che a norma di Statuto questo non è possibile e che dobbiamo puntare sulla qualità dei nostri soci più che sulla quantità. In Italia, abbiamo ancora tanti alpini non iscritti all'ANA. Ne è prova il gran numero di nuovi gruppi sorti in questi ultimi anni. La sospensione della leva ha sollevato sconcerto, malumori e ha messo in difficoltà i rapporti con le FF.AA.

Oggi fortunatamente siamo in sintonia con i nostri comandanti e la collaborazione con i militari si fa sempre più stretta e amichevole. "Le sezioni all'estero - riconosce - incontrano più difficoltà di quelle in patria e quindi bisognerà trovare una formula per metterle in condizione di poter operare". E conclude: "La chiusura non è una soluzione. Non risolve nulla". Segue la consegna del volume "Storia delle sezioni all'estero", a firma di Ornello Capannolo, che suscita subito un grande interesse e riceve i complimenti più vivi da parte del presidente nazionale. L'Alpino avrà modo di presentarlo in modo conveniente in uno dei prossimi numeri. Domenica 11 ottobre, Messa presso la parrocchia di San Rocco celebrata da frate Vitaliano Papais. Nella sua omelia il simpatico sacerdote sottolinea "l'attualità degli ideali dell'alpina, interessi di spirito religioso" e afferma: "La vita è troppo breve per essere sprecata".

Segue una sfilata di oltre un chilometro fino alla Famee Furlane per una breve cerimonia davanti al monumento degli Alpini e quindi pranzo cui hanno partecipato oltre 700 persone. Al tavolo delle autorità l'addetto militare ad Ottawa gen. Sanzio Bonotto, e il comandante della polizia di Toronto (9.000 poliziotti alle sue dipendenze?), Julian Fantino, che, oltre ad esprimersi in un italiano perfetto, non disdegna di dirigere il traffico nei punti cruciali della sfilata. A dare un tono alpino al convivio ci pensa il coro congregati della Julia con una esibizione applauditissima. Durante lo scambio di doni e guidoncini il presidente Perora rivolge ai presenti un saluto accalorato e toccante, concludendo: "Guai se si spegnessero le luci delle sezioni all'estero. Anche una fiammella è luce. Continuate a camminare sulla strada che avete intrapreso". Applausi e commozione.

HAMILTON
Il presidente nazionale non poteva negare a Fausto Chiochcio

una puntata rapida nella sede della sezione di Hamilton. Arrivata in serata giusto in tempo per partecipare al concerto del coro alpino Brigata Julia Congedati, seguito da una Messa, e ascolta con la calorosa simpatia tipica degli abruzzesi, ma non solo, la delegazione ANA ha trascorso una serata indimenticabile, animata dai giovani del coro che, smessi i panni delle esibizioni, hanno coinvolto gli alpini residenti in Canada nella voglia di scherzare che caratterizza gli anni verdi.

La cucina, a base di "arrosticini", ha avuto un meritato successo e alla fine ci si è sentiti tutti più alpini. Il presidente Perora ha rivolto un affettuoso saluto a tutti i presenti, sottolineando come la nostra famiglia, in ogni latitudine, si porta addosso il bisogno di stare assieme, di cantare le nostre canzoni e di tenere alto il nome dell'Italia. Per una volta, il nostro Corrado nazionale non è stato solo attento ascoltatore di cori, ma corista.

WINDSOR

L'ultima tappa del viaggio in terra canadese tocca la città di Windsor, sorta appena qualche secolo fa sulle rive del fiume Michigan, di fronte alla capitale delle auto, Detroit. Qui si parla, si pensa, si agisce soprattutto in fruttano. Il Popolo Furlan fa da centro catalizzatore e gli alpini ne sono l'anima. Morasset, presidente della sezione, col fair play del manager abituato a relazionarsi con la comunità americana, governa, affiancato da un impeccabile consiglio sezione, i suoi soci con taglio alpino e accento anglosassone.

Una forte componente della comunità italiana è presente alla serata organizzata presso la Famee Furlane in onore della delegazione ANA. C'è l'animazione dei grandi eventi e il calore dell'amicizia. A rendere particolarmente piacevole l'incontro ci pensano i giovani del Coro dei Congedati della Brigata Julia, che esibendosi con un eccellente repertorio di cante della montagna, prediligendo le composizioni del maestro Beppi De Marzi, scaldano i cuori degli alpini dell'Ontario. Nelle presentazioni dei brani non mancano scettiche piene di brio e di quell'aria un po' scanzonata delle penne nere. Non si poteva passare da quelle parti senza portare un saluto fraterno ad Aldo Lot, artigiere da montagna, imprenditore di grandi capacità manageriali, e ad Arrigo Collavino, costruttore affermato, con cantieri edili che vanno dal Polo Nord al Centro Africa, per non parlare degli Stati Uniti. Con loro si parla esclusivamente di cappello alpino, cui sono legati da un attaccamento pari solo a quello per la loro terra, il Friuli.

Si conclude così un viaggio lungo, a volte faticoso, che ha confermato l'ottimo stato di salute delle sezioni del Nord America. Viene da chiedersi se per respirare l'aria sana dell'italianità non bisogna attraversare gli oceani.

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Sfila il Gruppo di North York



Esecuzione degli Inni Nazionali da parte del Coro Congedati della Julia



Inizio della cerimonia al monumento



Benedizione da parte del capellano Vitaliano Papais



Il vessillo della Sezione di Udine con l'alfiere Ernesto Toniutti



L'intervento di Ornello Capannolo (a sinistra) Sopra, Scambio di doni tra Vittorio Brunello e Carmine Stornelli, capogruppo di Mississauga, a destra Roberto Buttazzoni



L'intervento del Presidente Nazionale, ai lati Gerry D'Aquilante, Anacleto Vedovat e il Coro



Consegna dei Premi di Studio Franco Bertagnoli a Alexander Da Ros e Angelica Da Ros nipoti di Bortolo Da Ros al centro nella foto



Roberto Minatel, nipote di Remigio Vatri ha appena ricevuto il Premio di Studio



Maria Giavedoni ha cantato per gli alpini. Tony Silvani l'impeccabile maestro ha rallegrato i presenti durante il Congresso e ricorda che sarà alla Riviera L'Ultimo dell'Anno e alla Famee Furlane il 30 gennaio con gli alpini del Gruppo di Toronto Centro



Ivan Biunno ed il figlioletto due speranze per il futuro

L'italocanadese di Latisana ha fiducia nel passaggio del testimone ai giovani: «Al momento giusto sono sicuro che prenderanno le redini delle nostre associazioni»

«Portiamo i nostri nipoti in vacanza in Italia»

Secondo Gino Vatri, presidente intersezionale degli Alpini del Nordamerica, è importante far scoprire ai ragazzi il Belpaese

TORONTO - È sempre di corsa Gino Vatri, ha sempre una festa alla quale partecipare, un incontro se non un congresso o un'adunata degli Alpini. Il suo coinvolgimento con le Penne Nere risale al 1976 e da allora si divide tra lavoro, famiglia e Alpini, naturalmente. «Sono felice di farlo anche se a volte è un po' faticoso», dice Vatri.

Secondo Vatri, giunto in Canada nel 1967, attualmente presidente della Commissione Intersezionale Ana del Nordamerica e coordinatore dei segretariati Elance del Nordamerica, «l'associazionismo è importante, ci aiuta a vivere le nostre tradizioni e la nostra cultura anche se siamo lontani dall'Italia. Di certo, dopo tanti anni, qualcosa sta cambiando e per continuare a far vivere club e associazioni bisogna in qualche modo attrezzarsi».

È positivo, secondo l'italocanadese originario di Latisana (Udine), il dibattito che si è scatenato sulle pagine del Corriere Canadese, in seguito alla lettera del Console d'Italia a Toronto Gianni Bardini. «Sono proposte, quelle del Console, che possono essere condivise oppure no ma che di certo fanno riflettere perché sul nostro futuro non possiamo fare a meno di interrogarci», aggiunge Vatri. «Dal canto mio sono fiducioso perché nonostante gli alpini non siano più giovani e ogni anno ne perdiamo qualcuno, le nostre associazioni sparse in tutto il Canada contano ancora 1.600 soci oltre ai 100 di New York».

Di certo, secondo Vatri, oltre alle persone che giungono in Canada con permessi di lavoro e che possono essere coinvolte nei sodalizi, il futuro può essere ancora roseo se il testimone viene passato ai figli e ai nipoti dei soci: «Adesso abbiamo, ad esempio, un giovane alpino che partecipa attivamente. È preparato ed entusiasta», continua Vatri - ma anche i miei figli, così come quelli di tanti altri soci, sono presenti a tanti nostri eventi, e anche se al momento lo fanno saltuarialmente, sono certo che una volta che noi della vecchia guardia non riusciremo più a guidare queste associazioni penderanno volentieri in mano le redini e assicureranno la continuità negli anni a venire. Secondo me, inoltre, i giovani possono essere le persone che hanno cinquant'anni e non necessariamente quelli di 20 o 30 anni, si può iniziare a far entrare loro nei direttivi investendoli delle responsabilità organizzative».

La scarsa familiarità con la lingua italiana a creare spesso una barriera con i giovani che crescono e vivono in una società dove l'inglese è la lingua usata per comunicare, per muoversi nella società, per studiare,

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La lettera di Bardini: «Un nuovo futuro per l'associazionismo»

TORONTO - Nuove prospettive per il futuro della comunità italiana in Canada. Il Console generale d'Italia Gianni Bardini rilancia il ruolo dell'associazionismo per aprire la porta ai giovani e per avvicinare sempre di più Italia e Canada. In una lettera pubblicata dal Corriere Canadese il 14 ottobre, il Console propone una serie di spunti per favorire il dialogo e la coesione tra italo-canadesi. Non si tratta del primo intervento di questo tipo. Sin dal suo ritorno a Toronto, con la carica di Console generale, Bardini ha proposto un maggior coordinamento del mondo comunitario, composto da club, associazioni, e federazioni regionali.

Ecco un elenco di proposte operative del Console: creazione di un albo pubblico e comune delle associazioni; un calendario annuale di eventi; un segretariato comune; la valorizzazione delle federazioni regionali; incontri a scadenza periodica tra presidenti e segretari delle associazioni; una «festa italiana» e una rievocazione all'anno di un grande personaggio italiano.

Tra i progetti comuni, questa la lista stilata da Gianni Bardini: mobilitazione per l'insegnamento della lingua italiana; una forte e prestigiosa scuola «italiana» bilingue; promozione della memoria comune, anche attraverso enti come Pier 21 e Museo Amici; aumentare le opportunità di viaggi ed esperienze di studio e formazione in Italia per i giovani; creazione di un «fondo giovani» per l'assegnazione di borse di studio e finanziarie manifestazioni; portare in Canada manifestazioni e mostre culturali italiane.

Il documento del Console può essere letto e scaricato anche dal sito www.corriere.com/italianita.

Il Consolato d'Italia a Toronto

per chiacchiere con gli amici. «Come genitori si può fare molto», dice Vatri - a mio figlio Marc, sia mia moglie che io, abbiamo parlato fin da piccolo in italiano ed ora si esprime in italiano e persino un po' in friulano mentre mio figlio Luca ha imparato l'italiano da adulto quando ha frequentato un master a Trieste. In casa mia si parla il friulano, veneto, italiano, inglese ed anche italese».

Sia l'Associazione Nazionale Alpini che l'Elance hanno cercato di avvicinare le nuove generazioni pubblicando in lingua inglese due libri scritti in italiano: «Abbiamo fatto tradurre in inglese sia Le sezioni all'estero dell'ANA, La storia che 100 anni con gli emigranti. 1907-2007», spiega Vatri - lo scopo è stato quello di far leg-



Nella foto Gino Vatri, presidente della Commissione Intersezionale Ana del Nordamerica e coordinatore dei segretariati Elance del Nordamerica, assieme ai nipotini Robert e Paul

gere la storia delle Penne Nere e dell'Elance ai giovani che hanno difficoltà con l'italiano. Naturalmente noi desideriamo che

la lingua di Dante venga parlata anche dai nostri figli ma se questo, per vari motivi, non accade dobbiamo veicolare la no-

stra cultura, le nostre tradizioni in inglese».

Più che i corsi di italiano, secondo Gino Vatri, sono molto

utili, le vacanze in Italia. «Ogni anno l'Ente Friulano Assistenza Sociale Culturale Emigranti Pordenonesi nel Mondo organizza vacanze sfoltite in Friuli e a Toronto», continua Vatri - un gruppo di ragazzi italiani viene a Toronto mentre i nipoti canadesi di origine friulana si recano in Friuli dove frequentano corsi di lingua italiana e geografia del territorio, visitano anche tante città e scoprono uno stile di vita a loro sconosciuto. Sono esperienze, queste, che li fanno innamorare dell'Italia, che li fanno sentire orgogliosi delle loro origini».

Anche i nonni, secondo Gino Vatri, hanno un ruolo importante nel trasmettere ai nipoti l'amore per l'Italia portandoli con loro in vacanza: «Ho portato il mio nipotino più grande Robert che ha 9 anni in vacanza in Italia e sono rimasto sorpreso quando dopo pochi giorni capiva la lingua, riusciva a comunicare con le persone e nel frattempo scopriva un mondo per molti versi a lui sconosciuto», aggiunge Vatri.

E l'amore per tutto ciò che è italiano, l'italianità appunto, secondo Vatri, la base sulla quale poggia il mantenimento della cultura del Belpaese: «Parlare la lingua, anche i dialetti, la cucina, il modo di vivere, leggere i libri, i giornali italiani, il Corriere Canadese in testa, è importante», conclude Gino Vatri - non bisogna però fossilizzarsi ma stare al passo con i tempi, accettare proposte nuove, avvicinarsi ai giovani. Se ad esempio un ragazzo ha difficoltà con la lingua, beh allora, facciamo gli scoprire la cultura italiana in inglese. Come dire... il fine giustifica i mezzi».

Mariella Policheni

L'Ambasciatore Sardo a fine mandato si rivolge alla comunità

«Mantenete sempre vivo il rapporto con l'Italia»

Cari Italiani e care Italiane, il termine delle mie funzioni in Canada si avvicina rapidamente alla fine. Non posso però, né voglio, lasciare voi tutti che appartenete ad ogni collettività di origine italiana che ho conosciuto e apprezzato in questo Paese senza rivolgervi un ultimo, affettuoso, messaggio di commiato.

La comunità di origine italiana in Canada è qualcosa di veramente grande e sorprendente, non solo per il ricordo così vivo che conserva della madre patria, ma anche per la sua umana vicinanza all'Italia di oggi.

Questa comunità è una realtà che in Italia va conosciuta meglio perché è un potenziale che può crescere con grandi benefici da entrambi i lati dell'Atlantico. So che a questo compito sono già impegnati i parlamentari (in maggioranza canadesi) che sono stati eletti nella Circonscrizione estero Nord America. Auguro

loro un successo sempre maggiore e formulo l'auspicio che la loro voce sia sempre più ascoltata.

Per parte mia ho cercato di farmi interprete dei sentimenti di tutti coloro che in questo Paese sono italiani di origine e di cuore - abbiano o meno la cittadinanza della Repubblica - sia presso il governo che presso la società civile italiana: entrambi sono i vostri interlocutori naturali, entrambi possono fare molto per mantenere vivo il vostro rapporto con l'Italia. Ma anche voi tutti potete, e oggi credo dovete, fare di più per consolidare questo dialogo, dandovi un'organizzazione più moderna e più dinamica, che sia il frutto della vostra scelta e delle vostre preferenze. Ricordate quante volte ho insistito sull'importanza di mantenere viva la nostra lingua: essa è la base di un'identità culturale che, se mantenuta vitale, farà di voi dei cittadini canadesi

più fieri e più consci della vostra identità nella sua completezza. Ma la ragione per cui vi esorto a darvi una organizzazione che esprima delle proprie "policy" è anche adeguatamente le finanze (come del resto gli italo-canadesi finanziano molte cause giuste in questa società), si riassuma in una parola: i vostri giovani. Anche se non sempre riescono ad esprimersi in italiano - e non è certamente colpa loro - i vostri figli e nipoti parlano italiano con gli occhi, con la passione con cui seguono lo sport italiano e con l'entusiasmo con cui visitano l'Italia. I vostri giovani, a modo loro, mostrano già di volersi avvicinare alle loro radici. Non è giusto che siano lasciati soli. Vanno aiutati come studenti, come giovani professionisti e anche come... turisti! L'Italia è naturalmente solo una delle finestre attraverso cui possono guardare ad un mondo sempre più globalizzato, ma non è l'ultima e

non è la meno importante.

In quattro anni di lavoro in Canada ho parlato a tutti voi, ma voglio pensare di avere parlato soprattutto pensando a questi giovani, perché sono loro il futuro della comunità. A volte ho avuto la sensazione di non essere capito abbastanza. Certi semi sardani a diventare germogli, ma spesso nel silenzio e nell'oscurità, vivono e crescono così nonostante. Spero che così sia anche in questo caso, e che, oltre al mio lavoro, anche quello di tutti i miei colleghi e collaboratori dell'Ambasciata e dei Consolati in terra canadese porti alla fine i frutti che abbiamo auspicato.

A voi tutti rivolgo un augurio sincero di sempre maggiore prosperità e un saluto affettuoso.

Viva il Canada! Viva l'Italia!
Gabriele Sardo, Ambasciatore d'Italia in Canada

L'Ambasciatore italiano Gabriele Sardo sta per terminare il proprio mandato in Canada

Serata a Gorgo di Latisana

Cara Gino,

Ti invio le foto della serata trascorsa insieme a Santa, tuo nipote Robert, tuo nipote Mario, figlio di tua sorella Nives, il Capogruppo di Gorgo Renzo Pradisotto ed infine Antonio Dalla Mora, l'ospite gestore del Ristorante "Alle Grigie". Senza dimenticare il Presidente della sezione di Pordenone, Giovanni Gasparet e la gentile consorte Giovanna. Una serata all'insegna dell'amicizia e dell'alpinismo, che si è conclusa felicemente con la consegna del recentissimo libro fotografico: "Julia - Storia dei suoi Alpini - 1949/2009" e di 35 riproduzioni della Preghiera dell'Alpino per le Sezioni ed i Gruppi del Canada. Tutti hanno notato la straordinaria somiglianza di Robert con suo nonno Gino, manifestando grande soddisfazione per questo segno della Provvidenza.

Concludo ringraziando per l'accoglienza anche la tua mamma e in attesa di rivedervi invio a te e tutta la famiglia i più sinceri saluti alpini

Maddalena
Daniele Pellissetti



Da sinistra Gino Vatri, Giovanni Gasparet, Renzo Pradisotto, Antonio Dalla Mora, Mario Paschetto e Robert Vatri.

Di tutto un po'

I coscritti della classe 1932 di Gorgo di Latisana, Udine



Il primo da sinistra è il gemello della casa del 5001 (altro è sopra la nave), Raffaele Anastasia, Rizzetto, Gino Valvason, Nello Pradisissito, il trombettiere di Latisanotta, Ernesto Vanzella, Vittorio Anastasia, il fisarmonicista di Pocenja, Armando Casasola, Remigio Vatri, Oreste Cassan, Ferdinando (Armando) Pradisissito, Severino Zamparo, Berto Bin, Ferdinando Bianchin, Giuseppe Versolato, il padrone dei cavalli Paron di Sabbionera, Sergio Pradisissito, Amerigo Moratto, Italo Zammarian, Ruggero Pizzolito. La foto ci è stata mandata da Rita e Nello Pradisissito di Thunder Bay. Nello è un membro del Consiglio di Thunder Bay, nella foto è riconoscibile anche Remigio Vatri del Consiglio della Sezione di Toronto.



Annette De Capite nipote di Achille De Capite del gruppo autonomo di Calgary ha vinto uno dei premi di studio Franco Bertagnoli per il 2009. Studia biologia a Maryland e ci ha mandato una simpatica nota di ringraziamento unitamente ad una sua foto e una foto di nonno Achille.

Ricerca di informazioni



La signora Restituta Evangelista residente al Friuli Centre di Toronto, Canada, vedova dell'Artigliere Alpino Serafino Catallo che partecipò alle operazioni di guerra sul fronte albanese, greco, jugoslavo nel 1940/41 cerca notizie di quel periodo. Il Caporale Serafino Catallo era nato a Sora, nel 1920. Il numero di telefono di Restituta Evangelista Catallo è il seguente: 905-850-6335

Questa bellissima foto è opera del padre di Andrea Maria Coda di San Grato e risale al 1934. Ci scusiamo con Andrea di non aver potuto pubblicare le altre foto a causa del poco spazio a nostra disposizione. Il cannone è 75/15 Skoda (1906) era smontabile per essere trasportato sul mulo.



Guelph, Deborah Cremasco con il papà Guerrino (Angelo) capogruppo di Guelph, Deborah classe 1985, ha vinto il premio di studio Franco Bertagnoli nel 2007. In occasione delle prossime festività gli Alpini di Guelph augurano un Buon Natale e Felice Anno Nuovo.

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Cara Cino,

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sono orgoglioso di voi e delle vostre famiglie, del vostro lavoro e della vostra storia che è una gemma preziosa nel forziere dell'Associazione Nazionale Alpini.

Buon Natale e Buon Anno!

Un particolare saluto
a Santa e Famiglia!

Corrado Perona

Tanti auguri di Buon Natale e felice 2010!

Caro Gino,

in prossimità delle festività natalizie sento il bisogno, anche a nome della redazione de L'Alpino, di ringraziarti per il lavoro svolto dalla tua sezione e per la testimonianza di vicinanza al nostro mensile.

A te, ai tuoi alpini, ai tuoi familiari l'augurio di trascorrere in serenità questo momento di riscoperta dei sentimenti più autentici e di cominciare nel modo migliore il 2010.

Vittorio Brunello Redazione L'Alpino Via Marsala, 9 20121 - Milano
Tel. 02 29013181 - Fax 02 29003611

Toronto ottobre 2009

Il nostro "Ministro degli Esteri" Ornello Capannolo in occasione del Congresso degli Alpini del Nordamerica ha presentato ufficialmente il libro Le sezioni all'estero dell'ANA, la Storia. La prima edizione è esaurita, la seconda giungerà in Nordamerica quanto prima e sarà presentata unitamente alle bozze in lingua inglese, possibilmente alla Famée Furlane di Toronto il 30 Gennaio in occasione della festa annuale del gruppo di Toronto Centro.



Questa casetta (in Canada) è di proprietà di Carmine Stornelli capogruppo di Mississauga che in occasione del Congresso Intersezionale ha ospitato il Presidente Nazionale e la delegazione durante un simpatico pome-piggio.



Dear Associazione Nazionale Alpini Members

Thank you so very much for selecting me as the recipient of the Premio di Studio Franco Bertagnoli Scholarship Award. This scholarship will help me in so many ways towards achieving my educational goal of becoming an elementary school teacher. I will resume my education this winter through the Continuing Education Department at Nipissing University, North Bay, Ontario.

Again, thank you for your support. It is greatly appreciated.

Thank you!

Jessica Silvani

Jessica Silvani

Nella foto da sinistra: il Nonno di Jessica Tony Silvani, Jessica che ha ricevuto la Borsa di Studio Franco Bertagnoli, Silvano Pascioli Vice Presidente Sezione di Hamilton, Doro Di Donato Capogruppo A.N.A. Welland e Pasquale Ramundo.

SEZIONE DI VANCOUVER

Festa Monte Grappa e Combattenti 2009

Sabato 17 ottobre si è svolta la cerimonia dei combattenti nella sala Sant'Elena con una piccola sfilata al suono del Trentatrè e degli inni nazionali. Il nuovo console generale Francesco de Conno ha poi consegnato a ogni combattente un garofano in segno

di riconoscenza, accompagnato dalle note della canzone del Piave. La cena per la festa Monte Grappa comprendeva l'esibizione del coro maschile della British Columbia, diretto dall'impareggiabile maestra Helga Belluz e le presentazioni del presidente della sezione ANA di

Vancouver Vittorino Dal Cengio. Gli ospiti presenti erano il console generale d'Italia Francesco de Conno e la moglie Yukiko, l'ex vice console di Seattle cavaliere Quinto de Vitis, il presidente del Centro Culturale Italiano cavaliere Joe Finamore e la moglie Carla, il presidente della sezione Ber-

saglieri di Vancouver Mario Gallovič e la moglie Jenny, presidente del gruppo Giuliano Dalmati. Vittorino Dal Cengio ha portato i saluti delle autorità presenti al XV Congresso Intersezionale ANA svoltosi a Toronto e ha quindi consegnato due borse di studio della fondazione

Bertagnoli del valore di \$1050 ciascuna a due studenti meritevoli nipoti di alpini: Jaron Raimond Burnett, nipote di Geremia De Santis e Kayla Marie Bordignon, nipote di Lorenzo Bordignon. La festa è proseguita quindi in perfetto orario e allegria, terminando con le consuete danze.



Coro maschile della BC.



Giuseppe Sebellin, Giovanni Serena, Bruno Faganello.



Burnett e nonni.



Bandiere durante la sfilata.



Luigi Volpe



Kayla Bordignon e famiglia.



Giovanni Serena.



Inni nazionali.



Sfilata in sala.



Alpini in Trasferta



GIUGNO 2010 N° 50

NOTIZIARIO DELLE SEZIONI DELL'ASSOCIAZIONE NAZIONALE ALPINI IN CANADA E U.S.A

1 HAVERHILL CIRCLE, TORONTO ONT M6L 2 R 7 E-Mail: gino.vatri@sympatico.ca

IL RADUNO

MARIELLA POLICENI

TORONTO - La grande adunata degli Alpini a Bergamo, la 83ª per la precisione, ha lasciato nel cuore e nella mente di chi vi ha partecipato tanti ricordi. Molte le Penne Nere che nella città lombarda sono giunte da tutto il mondo per questa rimpatriata con tanto di sfilata, di cori alpini, di incontri con i vecchi amici.

Dal Canada hanno partecipato le sezioni di Edmonton, Windsor, Hamilton, Toronto e Montreal. «All'ammassamento ho incontrato tutti gli altri Alpini giunti come me dal Canada e da New York», dice Gino Vatri, presidente della Commissione Interregionale Ana del Canada e degli Stati Uniti - Tony Pigat, alla sua 21ª sfilata consecutiva, ha portato con orgoglio il cartello con la scritta *Secondo settore Canada* seguito dallo striscione interregionale *Canada - Gli alpini della seconda naja mantengono sempre saldi i legami con la madre patria* dietro il quale c'eravamo il vicepresidente Ferdinando Bissinella, il fratello del consigliere della sezione di Edmonton Gennaro ed io».

A portare il vessillo di Edmonton è stato Lionello Gennaro scortato da Francesco Coppola, quello di Windsor invece è stato portato dal segretario Giuseppe Pracilio scortato dal presidente regionale Vittorio Morasset mentre quello di Montreal è stato affidato all'alfiere e tesoriere regionale Bruno Negrillo. «È stato Luigi Pigat a sfilare con il vessillo di Toronto, quello di Hamilton è stato portato da Ernesto Toninutti mentre il capogruppo di Hamilton Silvano Pascolini ha scortato il gagliardetto e il vessillo nazionale - continua Gino Vatri - il gagliardetto del gruppo di Toronto Centro è stato affidato all'alfiere Dorino Papis ed è stato scortato dal tenente Antonio Verdeli».

Era un fiume in marcia, il popolo delle Penne Nere, per le vie di Bergamo: dopo gli alpini del Canada hanno sfilato La Fanfaretta Valtellina e di seguito gli alpini della sezione di New York guidati dal presidente Luigi Covatti.

Ogni sfilata porta con sé emozioni sempre nuove. «L'enorme folla ai lati della strada che applaudiva al nostro passaggio, le tribune d'onore, il labaro nazionale e le autorità, i saluti di persone conosciute in passato e persino di un compagno di naja incontrato a Bergamo dopo 45 anni - ricorda con emozione Vatri - dopo essere tornati in tribuna d'onore assieme a Dorino Papis abbiamo deciso di unirci alle Penne Nere di Pordenone guidate dal presidente Giovan-



Nelle foto alcuni momenti della sfilata degli Alpini del Canada e degli Stati Uniti; in basso il Gruppo Alpini Bagnarola

L'affetto della città di Bergamo per gli Alpini del Nordamerica

Sono rientrate in Canada le Penne Nere che hanno partecipato alla 83ª adunata nella città lombarda

ni Gasparet che sfilavano come un battaglione in armi al punto che mantenere la cadenza non è stato facile ma ci abbiamo provato mentre la mente volava ai tempi del servizio militare... è stata davvero una grande emozione».

La sfilata è il momento clou dell'incontro di migliaia di per-

sone ma di momenti da ricordare, nei giorni trascorsi a Bergamo, gli alpini ne hanno tanti. «Nella sala del Consiglio del Comune di Bergamo, per esempio, c'è stata la cerimonia per la concessione della cittadinanza onoraria all'Associazione - ricorda Gino Vatri - al Consiglio regionale, assieme al

consigliere nazionale di riferimento Franco Munarini, abbiamo fatto il punto sull'adunata nazionale. È stata una occasione interessante per confrontare i temi in discussione a livello di sezione numerosa come quella di Pordenone e quella del Canada che è invece molto piccola come numeri ma immensa

come distanze».

L'applauso è stato scrosciente quando Gino Vatri ha affermato che al di là delle dimensioni, i problemi e lo spirito sono gli stessi perché «la Penna Nera non cambia secondo la latitudine».

Hanno colto l'occasione per fare il punto sulla situazione

il presidente nazionale, i consiglieri nazionali presenti e i presidenti delle sezioni Ana all'estero: «Questi nostri ambasciatori hanno portato con loro, oltre all'italianità, anche l'alpinità, che contraddistingue dagli altri perché capaci di offrire solidarietà, aiuto e slancio verso chiunque si trovi in difficoltà», ha sottolineato Ornello Capannolo, responsabile delle sezioni all'estero dell'Ana.

E di Capannolo si era già parlato in una riunione precedente: coordinatori, presidenti e capigruppo hanno manifestato l'intenzione di mantenere Capannolo quale delegato ai contatti con le sezioni all'estero oltre la scadenza del suo mandato.

Ancor prima del Consiglio gli Alpini della Sezione di Pordenone hanno assistito ad una messa in ricordo del presidente Mario Candotti. Accanto a Zora Candotti e al Consiglio direttivo regionale hanno partecipato il consigliere nazionale di riferimento Franco Munarini e Gino Vatri.

Non è mancato l'incontro di Vatri con le delegazioni Ana all'estero e le delegazioni I.F.M.S., e militari stranieri al quale ha fatto seguito una visita alla salma di don Gnocchi a Bergamo Alta assieme a Dorino Papis e al capogruppo di Bagnarola Paolo Belluzzo. «A Pedregno, in serata, ho parlato di alpini ad alcuni bambini delle scuole elementari - conclude Vatri - si è esibita poi la Banda di Bagnarola che anni fa è anche venuta in Canada. La musica delle fanfare ha scandito le nostre marce nella vita militare e ha scandito anche i nostri cortei nella vita civile a Pedregno dove al termine del concerto, che ha registrato il tutto esaurito, ho portato il saluto degli alpini del Nordamerica. Sia la banda degli alpini di Bagnarola che quella degli alpini di Pedregno hanno fatto rivivere alle Penne Nere tante emozioni, quelle della vita quotidiana degli affetti, dei commilitoni che non sono più tornati... un turbine di emozioni».



Grande festa del Gruppo Centro di Toronto: Rina Del Nin commuove con la sua poesia in friulano "Alpin jo mame"

Serata di gala delle Penne Nere Presentato il libro sulle sezioni estere

MARIELLA POLICHIENI

TORONTO - «Il tempo può essere bello o brutto ma le feste degli alpini sono sempre belle. Anzi bellissime. Non ha dubbi Fausto Chiochio quando parla degli eventi organizzati dalle Penne Nere a qualunque gruppo o sezione appartengano».

E così è stato anche in occasione della grande serata di gala degli alpini del gruppo Centro della sezione di Toronto, che ogni anno ha luogo alla fine di gennaio alla Famee Furlane di Woodbridge. A presentare la sfilata è stato il segretario tenente Ivan Blunno mentre il presidente della Commissione Intersezionale Ana del Canada e degli Stati Uniti Gino Vatri ha scortato il gagliardetto del gruppo di Toronto ed ha sfilato con tutti gli Alpini. Dopo l'attenti per gli inni nazionali e la lettura da parte di Vatri della "Preghiera dell'alpino" padre Vitaliano Papis ha ricordato le vittime del terremoto di Haiti.

Durante la serata il nuovo consigliere del gruppo Danilo Cal ha consegnato al presidente della sezione di Toronto Roberto Buttazzoni una opera in acciaio riprodotto un'aquila realizzata da Flavio Spadotto, socio alpino appartenente allo stesso gruppo di Mansù e una lettera degli Alpini di Mansù - sezione di Treviso firmata dal capogruppo Guglielmo De Luca.

«... Spero che nemmeno un oceano possa dividere i valori e gli ideali che noi abbiamo ereditato e in cui noi ci riconosciamo», sono le parole che concludono la lettera. «Renato Bredani ha invece consegnato agli Alpini di Toronto un manifesto e una targa raffiguranti la sede sociale di San Vito al Tagliamento - dice Gino Vatri - è stato quindi letto il messaggio inviato dal deputato Judy Sgro».

E' stata anche colta l'occasione per presentare il nuovo consiglio del Gruppo Centro di Toronto: il vicepresidente è Gerry Daquillante, capogruppo Gino Vatri, secondo vicepresidente Remigio Vatri, segretario Ivan Blunno, tesoriere Tony Pigat mentre consiglieri sono Giovanni Tognazzo, Vittorio De Buglio, Anacleto Vedovato, Giuseppe Menegon e Danilo Cal.

Non sono mancati, come sempre, rappresentanti delle tante associazioni: dal Cav. Pietro Girardi, presidente dei Bersaglieri alla Federazione Combattenti e Reduci con il presidente Paolo Daniele, dal vicepresidente dei Marinai Giovanni Britti ai Carabinieri con il segretario Cav. Santo Molinaro, dal vicepresidente dei Finanziari Vito Ancona al Cav. Manfredo Antonucci, vicepresidente della Polizia di Stato al delegato dell'Associazione Polizia Stradale Asaps Vittorio Campagna.

Le Penne Nere sono state naturalmente presenti in gran numero: la sezione di Hamilton dell'Associazione Alpini con il presidente Fausto Chiochio, il gruppo Centro di Hamilton con il capogruppo Silvano Pascolini; il vicepresidente della sezione di Toronto Gerry Daquillante, il vice capogruppo di North York Alpino Colangelo, il capogruppo di Mississauga Carmine Stornelli, il presidente della sezione di Toronto Cav. Roberto Buttazzoni ed ancora Gino Vatri quale capogruppo Centro Toronto.

Hanno voluto anche onorare le Penne Nere il generale Sanzio Bonotto, addetto mili-



Nella foto sopra a sinistra Loris Ognibene; a destra si riconoscono Gino Vatri, padre Marco Bagnarol, Marsha Chiarotto-Breault, Loris Ognibene



dove guidati dalla presidente Esterina Tognazzo e dalla vicepresidente Mariella Geremia, sono state consegnate le bozze del libro sulla storia degli Alpini dell'A.N.A.

Il libro è stato redatto da Gino Vatri e tradotto in lingua inglese da padre Marco Bagnarol mentre il compito di correttore di bozze è stato affidato a Marsha Chiarotto-Breault.

«Siamo al corrente tutti della crisi, se così la vogliamo chiamare, che le nostre associazioni stanno attraversando, i soci fondatori sono quasi tutti andati avanti e l'età media dei membri continua a salire - ha detto Vatri - questa serata però è storica per noi perché il libro "Le sezioni all'estero dell'Ana. La storia" tradotto in inglese viene ufficialmente consegnato alla Commissione Intersezionale per la stampa».

Ha segnato un momento importante, quindi, la serata che oltre alla festa ha offerto al popolo delle Penne nere spunti di riflessione: «La squadra di giovani che ha lavorato a questo progetto fa ben sperare per il futuro - ha sottolineato Vatri - padre Marco Bagnarol ha tradotto

il libro e reperito parte dei fondi necessari per la stampa, Marsha Chiarotto-Breault e suo marito Stéphane si sono offerti per le correzioni del testo inglese».

E non ha tralasciato di menzionare una felice coincidenza Gino Vatri: «Loris Ognibene, figlio di un alpino scomparso prematuramente, è un giovane che lavora nella tipografia dove il libro sarà stampato per cui il testo tradotto in inglese sarà dedicato alla memoria del padre - ha detto commosso Vatri - Loris conserva il cappello e le foto in divisa del padre e ama ricordare il passato del genitore con le Penne Nere... per indossare il cappello di alpino bisogna aver servito almeno due mesi nelle truppe alpine... ma come possiamo impedire a questo giovane di portare il cappello di suo padre? Sono le nuove generazioni a riempirci di gioia e ad essere la vera speranza di continuità per noi in Nordamerica. A loro va il nostro sincero grazie».

A chiudere la splendida serata sono state le note de *Il silenzio intonato* dall'orchestra di Tony Silvani.

Nella foto in alto lo scambio di doni tra Gino Vatri e Renato Bredani; al centro Julian Fantino, Luigi Gambin, Domenico Faga, il gen. Sanzio Bonotto, Mariella Geremia, Esterina Tognazzo, padre Vitaliano Papis e Roberto Buttazzoni; sopra Danilo Cal, Vittorio De Bullo e Gerry Daquillante



Nella foto in alto lo scambio di doni tra Gino Vatri e Renato Bredani; al centro Julian Fantino, Luigi Gambin, Domenico Faga, il gen. Sanzio Bonotto, Mariella Geremia, Esterina Tognazzo, padre Vitaliano Papis e Roberto Buttazzoni; sopra Danilo Cal, Vittorio De Bullo e Gerry Daquillante



Nella foto in alto Muzio Pasqualoni, Ciaccia e Carmine Stornelli; sopra Nello D'Intino e Alpino Colangelo; sotto scambio di doni tra Roberto Buttazzoni e Danilo Cal del gruppo di Mansù; nella foto sotto al centro Rina Del Nin Cralli; sopra a sinistra Gino Vatri, Menegon e Renato Pighini



Nella foto in alto il gruppo di Gordovado; sopra a sinistra Anacleto Vedovato e Gerry Daquillante; a destra Fausto Chiochio e Silvano Pascolini (Foto Corriere-Gregory Varano)



Un pomeriggio tra tesseramento e canti

Centotrenta persone presenti all'incontro del Gruppo di North York dell'Associazione Nazionale Alpini

TORONTO - È stata una occasione per rinnovare la propria iscrizione, ma anche per trascorrere un pomeriggio assieme ad amici in allegria.

Al tesseramento del Gruppo di North York dell'Associazione Nazionale Alpini i soci con le rispettive famiglie hanno partecipato numerosi.

Alla Paradise Banquet Hall, dove ci siamo dati appuntamento alle 2 del pomeriggio, eravamo 130 persone - dice soddisfatto il capogruppo Adolfo D'Intino, da 33 anni in seno all'associazione, e da 13 capogruppo - è stata una bella occasione per trascorrere qualche ora in compagnia.

Un pranzo squisito e la musica dell'orchestra di Tony Silvani per ballare un po', hanno reso il primo incontro di quest'anno molto piacevole per le Penne Nere: «Il tempo è volato via come sempre quando ci riuniamo».



Nella foto a sinistra gli alpini del gruppo di North York; sotto a sinistra il comitato: Ferdinando Battistelli, Evangelista Canavici, Fabrizio Capovilla, Alpino Colangelo, Gino D'Antonio, Cesidio Di Giovanni, Adolfo D'Intino, Nello D'Intino e Domenico Guardiani; sotto Nello e Adriana D'Intino, Donato Dascario, Pasquale Di Giovanni, Luigi e Emilia Di Pronio, Enrico e Anna Monaco e Tony e Lucy Tomasetti; nella foto in basso a sinistra Luigi e Maria Dechellis, Tony e Maria Dechellis e Tony ed Elena Di Nardo

(Foto Corriere-Gregory Varano)

mo - aggiunge D'Intino - tutti sono stati felici dell'incontro perché il nostro gruppo è come una grande famiglia, siamo bene assieme e facciamo del no-

stro meglio per organizzare feste, meeting, il picnic a luglio. Ogni occasione è buona per stare in buona compagnia. Divertirsi sì, ma sempre te-

nendo vivi i valori delle Penne Nere che scandiscono, e scandiranno sempre, la vita di chi è stato alpino. «La libertà e l'impegno sociale e civile che ca-

atterizzano gli Alpini in tempi di guerra e di pace sono sempre presenti - conclude Adolfo D'Intino - prima di concludere il nostro pomeriggio assieme

alle 7.30 abbiamo intonato tanti bei canti alpini, che ci hanno ricordato il passato. Questo ha rappresentato fonte di immensa gioia per tutti noi».



MARIELLA POLICHENI

TORONTO - Cibo squisito, ottimo vino, discorsi e naturalmente canti alpini a volontà. Non ha di certo deluso le aspettative la "Festa di primavera" del Gruppo Alpini di Mississauga dell'Associazione Nazionale Alpini.

Ad ospitare le Penne Nere è stata la nuova saletta della sede del Celano Canadian Club che si trova al 2548 Hershall Street di Mississauga dove i lavori sono terminati poco tempo fa. «Eravamo oltre cento persone, la serata è stata bellissima» dice il segretario del Gruppo di Mississauga Muzio Pasqualoni - abbiamo avuto anche l'onore della presenza del presidente della Commissione interregionale degli Alpini del Nordamerica Gino Vatri e del presidente del Celano Canadian Club Carlo D'Ovidio con le loro consorti».

Dopo aver ringraziato il capogruppo Carmine Stornelli per l'invito, Gino Vatri ha parlato ai presenti che lo hanno ascoltato con grande attenzione: «Sono stato ospite delle Penne Nere di Edmonton in occasione del loro 50° anniversario e di quelle di Gueph, parteciperò alla ottantesima adunata nazionale degli alpini che si terrà il prossimo 9 maggio a Bergamo - ha detto Vatri - per quel che concerne il libro sulla storia degli Alpini dell'Ana. «Le sezioni all'estero dell'Ana. La storia», sono felici di dirvi che la traduzione in inglese è finita e stiamo correggendo le bozze».

Il presidente della Commissione Interregionale Ana del Canada e degli Stati Uniti, che è anche uno dei consiglieri della sezione e capogruppo di Toronto, ha inoltre aggiunto che «dopo ventisette anni che è nata ufficialmente la sezione di Toronto abbiamo finalmente un consiglio regionale formato da quattro membri di Toronto, quattro di North York e due di Mississauga. Presidente è Roberto Buttazzoni, vicepresidente Adolfo D'Intino, segretario Ivan Blunio e tesoriere Carmine Stornelli».

“Festa di primavera” degli Alpini

Il Gruppo di Mississauga ha celebrato al Celano Canadian Club. Cibo squisito, ottima compagnia e allegri canti di montagna



La serata di festa è stata, come sempre accade in queste occasioni, un momento per rinsaldare il legame che unisce le Penne Nere di qualunque sezione: «Abbiamo anche assistito alla sfilata dei Bersaglieri, sempre di corsa naturalmente con il presidente Pietro Girardi - continua Pasqualoni - dopo i Bersaglieri hanno sfilato il Gruppo Alpini di North York con il capogruppo Adolfo D'Intino, il Gruppo di Toronto Centro con il presidente Roberto Buttazzoni e infine il gruppo di casa, quello di Mississauga con il capogruppo Carmine Stornelli».

È nato nel 1978 in seno al Celano Canadian Club, il Gruppo di Mississauga che in breve tempo superò gli ottanta iscritti tra alpini e amici degli alpini. «Purtroppo oggi, tra coloro che sono andati avanti e coloro che a causa dell'età avanzata non partecipano più, il numero dei soci è diminuito ma noi non disperiamo. Proprio quest'anno abbiamo avuto cinque nuovi iscritti», conclude Muzio Pasqualoni.

Nelle foto alcuni momenti della "Festa di primavera" degli Alpini di Mississauga: in alto il comitato; a sinistra il capogruppo Carmine Stornelli e a destra il presidente della Commissione Interregionale Ana del Nordamerica Gino Vatri





Associazione Nazionale Alpini - Sezione di Hamilton

Aiutano i Vivi (Gruppo Hamilton Centro) From 1/01/2010 to ...

Padre Pio Battaglia	\$300 us
Haiti-Toronto	\$300
St. Antonio (Ad)	\$175

Totale: \$775



Tony Maria Hamilton, Lindo Favero K.W.



Lindo Favero K.W.



Donna, likely a volunteer or member.

Alfido Sede:
Venerdì, Sabato:
\$175 sala + \$50 cucina
Domenica: \$125 sala + \$50
cucina
Altri giorni: \$100 sala + \$50
cucina.
Sconto di \$25 ai soci
tesserati.

Le nostre prossime attività, dai nostri gruppi ed altro

Cari Fratelli e Signore,

Eccoci arrivati alla fine di un'altro anno. È arrivato il momento di fare un "vessme di coscienza. In seno al nostro Gruppo pensiamo che sia tutto positivo, grazie alla dedizione del Comitato ed in modo speciale delle "signore" (nonne magi). L'unico evento che ha dovuto cancellare è stata la scampagnata, ma pioggia, fulmini e persone sono gli altri non è una buona combinazione. Scuse ancora a coloro che alla cena delle trippa a febbraio sono andati a casa a mani vuote; avevamo preparato solo 100 Kg di trippa. Alla cena di ottobre abbiamo preparato 120 Kg e tantissimi andati a casa contenti e c'era rimasto anche qualche cosa per il comitato per il giorno dopo. Tutti pensavamo che il meglio dell'anno siano stati i due giorni del Congresso Toronto, bello rievocare amici e frade delle Sezioni del Canada e USA, un bel Comitato di Toronto per aver saputo organizzare tutto bene l'evento. Però per il nostro Gruppo il giorno speciale è stato il lunedì (Giorno del ringraziamento). Dopo la visita alle cascate il comitato "Brigata Alpina Italia Confederata" si è esibito alla cena di St. Antonio ed ha cantato anche alla Messa di ringraziamento alle 7 pm. Dopo la Messa tutti alla nostra sede, assieme ai rappresentanti del Consiglio Direttivo Nazionale per la cena. A vedere la gioia di vivere di quei ragazzi riempiva il cuore ed il momento speciale della serata è stato quando sono arrivati i nostri donati e cotti da Core Donato e Chiosco Fusi. Qualcuno per ha detto bugie, ne aveva mangiato solo tre e che erano i vestiti di lavoro a buttare i stecchini nel suo piatto. Ma nel suo piatto c'era abbastanza legna da riscaldare la casa per una settimana. Durante la serata l'addetto alle Sezioni all'estero disse: "Tu Fusi detto ferire un po' il vostro entusiasmo, fare fare brutta figura non solo alle Sezioni all'estero, ma anche a tante italiane". Conoscendo Capomonte da anni questo è il più vicino ad un complimento che possa arrivare, questo non vale solo per me e Fusi, ma a tutto il Gruppo, cominciando dal Comitato alle Signore ed a tutti voi che partecipate sempre a tutti gli eventi che organizziamo. Durante i bratti momenti del terremoto in Abruzzi anche il nostro Gruppo si è dato da fare ed abbiamo donato all'Abruzzo Earthquake Relief Fund \$6000. Oltre a questo abbiamo mandato alla sottoscrizione della Sede Nazionale \$4000 e giorni fa il Consiglio Direttivo ha inaugurato a Fossa il nuovo villaggio e possiamo dire con orgoglio che un paio di milioni o qualche tegola l'abbiamo donata anche noi. Chiudo augurando a Voi tutti ed alle vostre famiglie un Buon Natale e Buon Anno in salute ed armonia. Anche quest'anno una quantità di persone erano a cena e passare le ultime ore del 2009 assieme ed augurarsi un buon 2010. A metà gennaio abbiamo fatto la "Polenta e Osei". Tutto buono e saporito e tutti a fare un mucchio di complimenti a Carlo per la buona polenta. A febbraio alla cena della Trippa, non solo era un pienone; ma tutti hanno telefonato o venuti a compiere per portare a casa. Pensavo che ne avremmo preparata trippa, ma 155 kg sono appena bastati ed anche questa volta c'è stato l' "intu esaurito". Siamo diventati famosi, ma le Signore si lamentano; hanno scoperto che gli anni aumentano e le forze diminuiscono. Ai primi di marzo abbiamo ospitato l'assemblea sezionale ed alla fine della riunione ai rappresentanti degli altri gruppi abbiamo offerto la cena. Polenta, polpettone e verdura. Avevo fatto la polenta in un'occasione ma che deve andare a scuola da Carlo che fa la polenta buona. Organizzato dal club culturale di Penne, circa due dozzine di Alpini erano presenti per la Messa in onore di S. Gabriele; la domenica dopo circa 15 Alpini erano presenti per la Blue Mass. Organizzata dai Cavalieri di Colombo della nostra parrocchia di S. Antonio c'era una Messa di ringraziamento per la Polizia-Pompieri e Ambulanza. Grazie a tanta presenza del nuovo capo della polizia e di Carlo che ha eseguito un po' di canti prima e dopo la Messa. Come parte delle celebrazioni per il centenario della chiesa di S. Antonio la Padra e sono venuti frati con una reliquia del Santo. Alla S. Messa erano presenti più di mille persone e per fortuna ci avevano riservato due banchi ed eravamo 25 Alpini a rappresentare il nostro gruppo e questo è anche grazie a Fernando che ha fatto da testimone. Buon Anno a tutti. Silvano Pascualini.

Picnic degli Alpini del gruppo di Kitchener-Waterloo



TORONTO - È stato un picnic all'insegna dell'allegria e della voglia di trascorrere una giornata senza stress di sorta, godendo di tanta buona compagnia quello organizzato dal gruppo Alpini di Kitchener-Waterloo nella grande proprietà di Raffaele Piccinini. A Piccinini va infatti un gran ringraziamento da parte del capogruppo Tony Renon per l'ospitalità data alle Pen-

ne Nere. Alla scampagnata, durante la quale c'è stato tanto cibo, grigliate, torce di boccie e tanti alpini, ha partecipato anche il capellano Peter MacKnackey. È stato ricordato inoltre lo scultore Umberto Fusari, amico degli Alpini ma deceduto, che ha realizzato il monumento degli Alpini che si trova presso la sede del Cor-

tina Club ma che presto verrà rilocato. Lo scorso anno la cittadina di Altavilla (Vicenza) ha onorato questo scultore italo-canadese con una mostra.

Nella foto, un momento, della scampagnata degli Alpini del gruppo di Kitchener-Waterloo



Abruzzo: al via il progetto per la chiesa a Fossa

Terremoto in Abruzzo

Il presidente nazionale Corrado Perona lo aveva annunciato a metà novembre, nel giorno della consegna del nuovo villaggio Ana a Fossa: oggi la costruzione della chiesa inizia ad essere realtà. ...

Il progetto architettonico e strutturale dell'ANA per la nuova chiesa è diretto dai consiglieri nazionali Renato Zorio e Sebastiano Favero e prevede la costruzione della chiesa nella piazza principale del nuovo villaggio, che sorgerà a monte delle case già edificate dall'ANA. Come per queste ultime, anche per la chiesa che occuperà una superficie di circa 200 metri quadrati, è stata scelta una struttura antisismica in legno lamellare, coibentato nel rispetto delle normative sul risparmio energetico. ...

Come ha annunciato il vice presidente vispo Marco Valditara, dalle Sezioni ANA stanno arrivando ancora le offerte che oggi superano i 3.100.000 euro, di cui due terzi raccolti dall'ANA e un terzo provenienti da sponsor esterni. Parte di queste donazioni sono già state impiegate per la costruzione del villaggio ANA, la restante parte sarà utilizzata per la chiesa ed eventualmente per un intervento a L'Aquila. ANA News



L'Alpino "Razzo" oro a Vancouver

C'è un ceto di alpino nell'ora per l'Italia alle Olimpiadi di Vancouver. L'azzurro Giuliano "Razzo" Razzoli, vincitore nella gara di slalom davanti al croato Kostelic e allo svedese Myhrer, è caporal maggiore alpino e fa parte dal 2003 della squadra del Centro Sportivo Esercito. Unica Medaglia d'Oro che l'Italia porta a casa, è adesso ad un Alpino!!



Alpino Silvio Pascualini

Alpino Silvio Pascualini Capogruppo ANA 642 Barton St. East HAMILTON, Ontario L8L 3A2 Canada 18 febbraio 2010

Signora Mariacrista Di Vittorio Carissimi Alpini,

mi ha commosso il vostro spirito di generosità e il pensiero che avete avuto per la mia missione, anche se sono stato poco tempo con voi. Personalmente non me lo merito, ma la mia gente si. Vero la metà di gennaio il freddo è stato intenso e prolungato, più degli anni precedenti e così i sono gelate estensioni immense di ortaggi e molta gente è rimasta senza lavoro. Tutte le mattine ci sono file molto lunghe di persone (300/400) che vengono per il pranzo, o per ricevere un pacco di alimenti per la settimana, o per fare la doccia, o perché non riescono a pagare la luce, ad acqua, o per pratiche di vario tipo... Aiutiamo più che possiamo. Siamo in tempo di emergenza.

Benvenuto quindi il vostro contributo di USD 300.00! Avete voluto ripetere il gesto di bontà dell'anno scorso. Vi ringrazio di cuore.

Mi piacerebbe farvi visita in occasione del centenario della Chiesa di Sant'Antonio. Con mia sorpresa sono stato invitato. Ma il viaggio non dipende soltanto da me e forse in quel periodo sarò con mio fratello P. Ignazio, che ancora mi riconosce.

Voi sapete che quando decido di venire in Florida, siete sempre benvenuti. Che il Signore vi ricompensi. Ricordandovi sempre, vi saluto sventolando il cappello alpino.

Padre Pio Battaglia

Our Lady of Guadalupe 207 5th St. Suite IMMOKALEE, FL 34142 - USA Tel (239) 657-2666

16/10/2009: L'alpino Zoran Lugi in visita da L'edre e stato ospite durante la cena presso la sede (trippa).

30/01/2010 - Toronto-Cenone e Ballo degli Alpini. Nella foto Carmine Stornelli C. Gr. Di Mississauga.

17 Settembre: Festività (sede)

15 Ottobre: Trippa

23a Ottobre: ANA Welland: Cena-Ballo

07d Nov: Messa ai Morti (10:30 S. Antonio)

13 Nov: Cenone e Ballo

04s Dic: Festa Natalizia/Rinnovo Tessera

07g Gennaio: 07:00pm Ass-lead del gruppo

15s Gennaio: Polenta & Osei

18s Febbraio: Trippa

27s Febbraio: S. Gabriele-Penne

03 marzo-Riunione: Ass-blea sezionale

Dal Presidente

Carissimi alpini e soci, sentiti auguri di Buon Anno a Voi tutti insieme alle vostre famiglie. Abbiamo avuto le elezioni dei quattro gruppi e quelle sezionali.

Sebbene tutto è rimasto come prima noi purtroppo dobbiamo essere ottimisti!

Colgo l'occasione per ringraziare vivamente tutti i capi gruppo o rispettivi comitati direttivi per aver accettato di servire la nostra associazione e sezione per altri due anni. Grazie per la vostra dedizione, amore e serietà dimostrata verso la nostra associazione.

Augurio buon lavoro per i prossimi due anni!

UNA GRAZIE ed un saluto particolare va alle "nostre DONNE".

Calendario Attività

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Un po' qua e un po' là

Sono andati avanti



Dora Bellus

Born August 30th, 1932
Died January 2nd, 2010

Funeral Mass
Thursday, January 7th, 2010 at 10 a.m.
St. Bernard de Clavans Church
1789 Lawrence Avenue West, Toronto

Entombment
Beechwood Cemetery



Egidio Martin

Nato 5 Febbraio 1937
Pavane, Pordenone, Italia
Deceduto 14 Maggio 2010
Brampton, Ontario, Canada

Massa Funebre
Lunedì 7 Maggio 2010 alle ore 11:35 a.m.
Chiesa di St. Andrew
2547 Kipling Avenue, Toronto

Sepelina
Cimitero Queen of Heaven

Con la presenza di Corrado Perona e Giovanni Gasparet grande dimostrazione di affetto a Gino Vatri alle esequie della madre

Lunedì 28 dicembre 2010, la chiesa parrocchiale di Gorgo di Latisana a stento ha accolto le numerosissime persone che hanno voluto esprimere la loro partecipazione a Gino Vatri, alla consorte Santa ed ai figli Robert e Luca, giunti dal Canada, nonché ai numerosi famigliari per l'improvvisa scomparsa della mamma, Sig.ra Adele Vit Ved. Vatri.

Gino, Presidente della Commissione Interregionale A.N.A. per il Nord America, ha ricevuto anche l'affettuoso abbraccio del Consiglio Direttivo Nazionale dell'A.N.A. rappresentato dal Presidente Corrado Perona e dal Direttore de "L'Alpino", Vittorio Brunello, mentre per la Sezione di Pordenone era presenti il Presidente Giovanni Gasparet, il Direttore de "La più bella famiglia", Daniele Pellissotti, il Consigliere Regionale Angelo Scianelli, il Capogruppo di Bagnaria, Paolo Belusso e l'ex Consigliere Naz. Lucio Vado-

ri. La nostra Sezione, legata da particolari vincoli di amicizia derivanti da molti anni di collaborazione con Gino Vatri, ha voluto rendere ancora più tangibile la propria vicinanza con un cesto di fiori.

Infine, il Capogruppo di Gorgo di Latisana, Renzo Pradisotto, con alcuni Alpini completavano la delegazione delle Penne Nere. Significativa anche la presenza dell'EFASCE con il Presidente Arch. Luigi Luchini il Segretario Tomaso Boer, la Prof. Laura Lavosi e il Direttore del Museo Provinciale del Lavoro ed Emigrazione, Michele Bernardon, i quali con la loro presenza hanno voluto esprimere la loro vicinanza a Gino, Coordinatore dei Segretari dell'EFASCE per il Nord America.

Confidiamo di aver contribuito con la nostra presenza a rendere più supportabile questo momento di così grande distacco.

A.D.P.

L'angolo degli auguri



Giuseppe Menegon ha compiuto 80 anni. Oliva sua moglie ne ha compiuti 70 e si sono sposati 51 anni fa. Ai coniugi Menegon gli Alpini di Toronto formulano tanti auguri per i rispettivi compleanni e per ancora tanti anni felici assieme.

Deceduto Mario Greguoldo



Mercoledì 14 aprile è deceduto a Thunder Bay, Ontario Canada Mario Greguoldo socio fondatore ed ex capogruppo. Il Martedì seguente ha avuto luogo un incontro di preghiera e una semplice cerimonia il giorno dopo. Mario era di Latisana ed era nato nel 1929. Nella foto del 1983, il secondo da sinistra lo vediamo assieme ai concittadini Nello Pradisotto e Gino Vatri. Mentre al centro notiamo l'ex Capogruppo Dante Gasparotto

A Ornello Capannolo il Premio Bontà



Ornello Capannolo con Alessandra Malinverni nipote del Caduto in Russia al quale è dedicato il Premio. Il prestigioso riconoscimento è stato promosso a Vercelli dal giornale "La Sesia" ed assegnato da una giuria di alto livello.

Domenica 4 Luglio il Gruppo Autonomo di Sudbury compie 40 anni, il programma prevede una Messa, deposizione di una Corona al Monumento dei Caduti, esibizione del Coro e pranzo. Auguri Alpini di Sudbury, ampio servizio sarà pubblicato sul prossimo numero di Alpini in Trasferta.

G.V.

Saluti dall'Australia



Questa foto del Consiglio della Sezione di Sydney ci è stata donata da Giuseppe Querin coordinatore delle Sezioni dell'Australia in occasione dell'Adunata Nazionale a Bergamo, al quale inviamo i più fervidi auguri di buon lavoro e i più cordiali saluti.



F.I.D.C.A.
Federazione Italiana dei Combattenti Alleati
SEZIONE DI TORONTO

Prot. N.00/002021: Toronto, 21/12/2009,

OGGETTO: Comunicazione della FIDCA, e collaborazione delle PENNE NERE in Canada,

Per il Presidente

Cav. Gino VATRI

Commissione Internazionale

A. N. A.

1 Haverhill Circle

TORONTO, ON., M6L 2R7,

Egr. Presidente Cav. Gino,

Ho gradito le due copie del Vostro giornale che ringrazio il Suo nobile pensiero, e complimenti alle Sezioni dell'Associazione Naz. degli Alpini Italiani del Canada, e degli Stati Uniti, da tempo che volevo onorarvi partecipare personalmente alle Vostre grandi manifestazioni ma per motivi di salute e di varie dispiaceri di famiglia non ho potuto, ma seguo con orgoglio le Vostre fasi, che onore alle Comunità Italiane del Canada, soprattutto quando Vi recati in Italia alla ricorrenza del Benemerito Vostro Corpo degli Alpini, - quanta ammirazione dagli spettatori che Vi seguono nelle Vostre sfilate, posso affermare che con noi Carabinieri c'è un legame sia con i cari Bersaglieri, ma direi anche aviazione, e Marinali, poche l'Arma Benemerita C.C., e in forza dell'Esercito Italiano.

Grazie a Dio ho raggiunto l'età di anziano, ringrazio la collaborazione del Console Generale, e della D.ssa Ferrucci Console d'Italia, non mi rassegnare di abbandonare di servire volontario alla Comunità soprattutto ai pensionati a conoscenza del loro fabbisogno, spesso mi reco negli Ospizi dei d'intorni della nostra Sede di servire a quelli che stanno di salute peggio di noi, da qualche anno ho avuto l'incarico della FIDCA, poiché sono Corrispondente del Consolato, e richiedo che ha il diritto, i Meriti di Guerra 1940-45, sia per gli Ex Combattenti dell'Ultimo Conflitto Mondiale o del 1943-45 siamo stati con le Forze Alleate alla liberazione d'Italia; approfittare augurare a Lei, e la Sua cara Famiglia, nonché a Tutti i Soci di Tutta l'America e dell'Italia, Buone Feste Natalizie, e un Buon Futuro Anno Nuovo, con i più cari saluti, e con stima,

Cav. Uff. Giuseppe Simonetta,

Pres. Della Sezione FIDCA di Toronto,

676 Ossington Ave. Toronto, ON. M6G 3T9 Canada Tel/Fax: 416.588.8042

GLI AIUTI



Il progetto canadese del centro polifunzionali per gli studenti universitari aquilani

Avviati i lavori del progetto canadese a L'Aquila: un centro polifunzionale per gli studenti universitari

TORONTO - Sono iniziati il 3 maggio scorso - sotto la supervisione del Dipartimento della Protezione civile in qualità di responsabili di procedimento e direzione lavori - i lavori per la costruzione di una struttura polifunzionale che sorgerà in località Lenze di Coppito nei pressi delle facoltà universitarie.

Il centro studentesco, che comprenderà anche una palestra multifunzionale, un ambiente per computer e Internet, una biblioteca, numerose aule, sale riunioni e uno spazio esterno per la ricreazione, sarà inaugurato prima dell'inizio dell'anno accademico del

2010-11.

Nell'ambito degli sforzi del governo del Canada per aiutare la ricostruzione nella zona devastata dal sisma del 6 aprile 2009, nel luglio scorso in occasione del G8 che si è tenuto nel capoluogo abruzzese, il primo ministro del Canada Stephen Harper annunciò che il suo governo avrebbe contribuito donando 5 milioni di dollari canadesi per realizzare un progetto concreto, fattibile e utile alla comunità aquilana devastata da una simile tragedia.

Il desiderio degli Aquilani era di venire incontro alle necessità dei giovani.

Il Presidente della Sezione di Toronto Roberto Buttazoni informa che è stato mandato alla Sede Nazionale di Milano un contributo per il terremoto dell'Abruzzo e ringrazia i soci del Gruppo di Toronto Centro, l'ex Presidente della Sezione Lanfranco Ceschia, a nome della defunta moglie Giuliana, il Segretario del Gruppo Centro Ivan Blum, il Tesoriere Tony Pigat, a nome della defunta moglie Marcella, il Club Cordovades e la sua Presidente Esterina Tomegazzo e tutti quanti hanno contribuito.

83^a Adunata Nazionale Alpini

BERGAMO RENDE ONORE ALLE SEZIONI DEL CANADA E NORD AMERICA



Apparentemente, le Adunate Nazionali possono sembrare tutte uguali, stessi striscioni, stesse procedure, programmi simili. In realtà, l'aspetto esteriore della sfilata riflette la fedeltà ai principi, alle regole, ai valori, al senso del dovere e dell'attaccamento al cappello con la penna nera con gli obblighi che esso comporta.

La sostanza dell'Adunata Nazionale è invece sempre diversa, perché evidenzia l'evoluzione ed il progresso della nostra associazione in linea con i tempi che cambiano. Per questo le Adunate Nazionali sono tutte diverse, diventando dei fenomeni irripetibili, come le attività e l'impegno che gli Alpini offrono alla nostra società ogni giorno nel corso dell'anno e che proprio questa occasione permette di riassumere come in un ideale bilancio morale di generosità e amore per la loro comunità.

Allora comprendiamo la partecipazione numerosa degli Alpini provenienti dal Canada e dal Nord America, accolti dagli applausi e dall'affetto di migliaia di spettatori assiepati dietro le transenne fino dalle prime ore del mattino. Gli Alpini della seconda naja accentuano l'emozione perché la loro presenza riporta alla ribalta le Penne Nere che nello zaino portano un fardello più pesante, fatto di sacrifici e responsabilità. Questi Alpini sono i migliori ambasciatori dell'Italia nel mondo perché col loro lavoro e la loro serietà portano il messaggio della nostra cultura, della nostra professionalità e delle nostre tradizioni.

A Bergamo c'erano migliaia di persone, la città imbandierata come non si era vista in molte adunate. Ad un tratto della sfilata, erano le 12.00, dalle nubi il sole è apparso nel cielo per salutare i suoi figli con la Penna Nera mentre un'immagine della Bergamo alta con le mura venete, le chiese, i campanili e i palazzi si stagliava all'orizzonte ed ecco 3 passaggi della pattuglia acrobatica delle Frece Tricolori venuta a rendere omaggio agli Alpini ed a Bergamo, chiamata "Città del mille". Questi applausi, questi colori, questa dimostrazione di affetto e di considerazione porteranno nel cuore gli Alpini venuti dal Canada e dal Nord America. **Daniele Pellissetti**



**Il Direttore de "La più bella Fameja"
e collaboratore di Alpini in Trasferta, Nuovo
Consolo Provinciale dei "Maestri del Lavoro"**



Con soddisfazione è stata accolta la notizia dell'avvenuta elezione a Consolo della Federazione Provinciale dei Maestri del Lavoro di Pordenone del Direttore de "La più bella Fameja", Daniele Pellissetti. Questo prestigioso riconoscimento costituisce motivo di orgoglio anche per le Penne Nere della nostra Sezione, che augurano al neo Consolo di portare con coraggio e determinazione alpina lo zaino appesantito dalle nuove responsabilità. **G. Gasparet**

Gino Vatri ospite del Consiglio della Sezione di Pordenone

11 MAGGIO 2010

Al Consiglio Sezionale dell'11 maggio hanno partecipato il Presidente della Commissione Intersezionale per il Nord

America, Gino Vatri, ed il Consigliere Nazionale di Riferimento Franco Munarini.

Si è fatto il punto sull'Adunata Nazionale a Bergamo che ha avuto una partecipazione straor-

dinaria che ha messo a durissima prova il Servizio d'Ordine durante la sfilata del 9 maggio che ha avuto il suo culmine di entusiasmo alle ore 12.00 con i tre passaggi delle "Frece Trico-

lori" nel cielo diventato azzurro, dopo giorni di pioggia.

E' stata una interessante occasione per confrontare i temi in discussione a livello di Sezione numerosa come quella di

Pordenone e quella del Canada che è invece molto piccola come numeri ma immensa come distanze.

Gino Vatri ha commentato che al di là delle dimensioni,

i problemi e lo spirito sono gli stessi, perché la Penna Nera non cambia secondo la latitudine, suscitando un applauso di simpatia tra i presenti.

Daniele Pellissetti



Nella foto a sinistra il vessillo sezionale di Pordenone e il gagliardetto di Toronto: si riconoscono Franco Moni Bidin, Gino Vatri, Alberto Ambrosio, il presidente Gasparet e il consigliere nazionale Franco Munarini; al centro Zora Candotti assieme a Gino Vatri, Munarini e Gasparet; sopra un momento della messa celebrata per ricordare Mario Candotti

Gli alpini del Canada e del Nord America salutano il 39° Comandante della "Julia" - Gen. B. Marcello Bellacicco

Il 16 aprile 2010, nel vasto piazzale della caserma Spaccamela a Udine, si è svolta la cerimonia del cambio del Cte della Brigata Alpina "Julia". Alla presenza del Comandante delle Truppe Alpine Gen. D. Alberto Primiceri, di fronte ai Reparti in armi schierati ed ai vessilli dell'A.N.A., accolti ai quali erano idealmente presenti anche quelli del Canada e del Nord America, il Gen. B. Marcello Bellacicco ha ricevuto la Bandiera di Guerra della Brigata "Julia", erede della gloriosa Divisione, dal Gen. B. Gianfranco Rossi. Con questo gesto, il Gen. B. Marcello Bellacicco ha assunto il Cdo ma, ha anche raccolto l'eredità morale e la responsabilità delle tradizioni di un reparto che in

tutta la sua storia ha assolto con valore e alto senso del dovere la propria missione. In questo delicato momento di impegno nelle missioni di pace, gli Alpini del Canada e del Nord America assicurano il loro appoggio morale e la loro vicinanza al nuovo comandante della Julia, Gen. B. Marcello Bellacicco. Nel contempo, pongono il cordiale saluto alpino di commiato al Gen. B. Gianfranco Rossi che ha assunto il prestigioso incarico di Vice-Comandante delle Truppe Alpine e Capo di Stato Maggiore del Comando Truppe Alpine, ringraziandolo per la disponibilità dimostrata verso l'Associazione Nazionale Alpini che lo ricorda con riconoscenza.

Daniele Pellissetti

Il Gen. B. Marcello Bellacicco, è nato a Savona il 19 giugno 1959. Ha frequentato il 160° Corso dell'Accademia Militare di Modena. Promosso Tenente degli Alpini nel 1983, ha svolto l'attività di comandante la Ufficiale subalterno e con il grado di Capitano nei reparti del 4° Corpo d'Armata Alpino. Ha comandato il Btg. Alpini Paracadutisti "Monte Cervino" di stanza a Bolzano nel 1997-1999. Quale Ufficiale di Stato Maggiore ha prestato servizio presso lo Stato Maggiore dell'Esercito nel 1999-2002 ove ha ricoperto l'incarico di Capo Ufficio Addestramento. Ha comandato il 2° Rgt. Alpini della Brigata Alpina Taurinense di stanza a Cuneo nel 2002-2003 ed il Rgt. Cadetti dell'Accademia Militare di Modena nel 2003-2005. Da febbraio 2006 a luglio 2009 ha ricoperto l'incarico di Addetto Militare presso l'Ambasciata italiana nella sede di Berlino con accreditamenti secondari per l'Olanda e la Danimarca. Dal 3 agosto 2009 all'11 aprile 2010 ha ricoperto l'incarico di Capo di Stato Maggiore delle Truppe Alpine, incarico che ha ceduto per ricoprire l'incarico di Comandante della Brigata Alpina "Julia". Onorificenze: Medaglia per Operazione Soccorso Disastri (Velle Stava - 1985); Medaglia ONU per Operazione ONUMOZ (Mozambico - 1993); Croce di Bronzo dell'Esercito Italiano per ONUMOZ (Mozambico - 1993); Medaglia NATO, Operazione IFOR (Bosnia - 1995); Croce di Bronzo della Bundeswehr tedesca (Bosnia 2002-2003); Ordine al Merito della Repubblica Italiana; Medaglia di Bronzo di lungo comando nell'Esercito.



L'ultimo saluto al Gen. C.A. Benito Gavazza TRA LE SUE GAVETTE DI GHIACCIO NEL TEMPIO DI CARGNACCO

Torino 26.01.1926 - Corsi 20.02.2010

Il Tempio di Cargnacco ha accolto il 22 febbraio il Gen. Benito Gavazza per la cerimonia di commiato che le autorità civili, militari e religiose hanno voluto tributare a colui che riuscì a ottenere il rientro in Patria di migliaia di salme di nostri Caduti sul Fronte Russo. Il Tempio di Cargnacco, definito anche la Redipuglia dell'AR-MIR, è apparso a tutti il luogo più appropriato nel quale il Gen. Benito Gavazza meritava di ricevere gli onori e il rispettosissimo saluto dei Comandi Militari, dei suoi commilitoni e dagli Alpini dell'A.N.A.

Alla presenza del Gen. C.A. Novelli, Cte le Forze Terrestri, del Gen. B. Gianfranco Rossi, Cte la Brigata Alpina "Julia", del Gen. C.A. Bruno Iob, ma anche del Vice-Presidente Nazionale dell'A.N.A. Marco Valditaro, dei Vessilli delle Sezioni del Friuli-Venezia Giulia con i rispettivi Presidenti ed anche del Triveneto. La commemorazione della nobile figura del Generale Gavazza ha avuto momenti di intensa partecipazione quando il Gen. Federici ha tenuto l'orazione funebre ricordando il soldato, l'uomo, il padre, e momenti di commovente partecipazione quando i nipoti lo hanno ricordato, leggendo anche il suo ultimo messaggio. Ma al di là delle dovute espressioni di stima ed affetto, resta l'esempio lasciato dal Gen. Gavazza attraverso il tenace impegno profuso per anni allo scopo di arrivare ad un accordo con il governo russo per riuscire a riportare in Patria la salma di un "Soldato Ignoto" e successivamente almeno le salme dei Caduti sepolti nei cimiteri militari prima dell'inizio della tragica ritirata. Nel 1989, il Gen. Gavazza, già comandante Cte della Brigata "Julia", successivamente del 4° Corpo d'Armata Alpino ed infine Comandante delle Forze Terrestri Alleate Sud-Europa, nel 1989 venne nominato Commissario Generale per le onoranze ai Caduti. Il Gen. Gavazza portò avanti questo incarico con grande determinazione, disponibilità ed efficienza, favorito anche dal personale interessamento del Presidente della Repubblica Francesco Cossiga, raggiungendo in breve concrete intese con

il comando militare sovietico che consentirono l'identificazione di diversi cimiteri italiani distrutti solo in superficie. Nel novembre 1990, veniva identificata la tomba di un soldato italiano "ignoto" a suo tempo tumulata nel cimitero di Jussow che venne riesumata con gli onori militari da parte dell'Esercito russo e trasportata in Italia da un aereo dell'Aeronautica Militare Italiana che il 25 novembre atterrò a Ronchi dei Legionari. Il 2 dicembre 1990 una delegazione dell'Esercito sovietico consegnava alle autorità militari italiane alla presenza del Presidente della Repubblica la piccola urna con le ossa del "Soldato Ignoto". Dopo la benedizione e gli onori militari con un elicottero la salma ve-



Il Gen. C.A. Benito Gavazza

mentale commemorativa, denominata "Memoriali Militari", firmata a Mosca il 23 novembre 1991 della qual vennero nominati Presidenti il Gen. Gavazza assieme al Maresciallo Klejminov. Con questo atto, iniziava il recupero ed il rientro di tutte le salme dai cimiteri e si aprivano le porte degli archivi sovietici dai quali uscirono i nomi di 64.000 prigionieri permettendo di conoscere finalmente la vera sorte di tanti giovani che l'anagrafe aveva fino a quel momento indicato come "dispersi".

Diveniva così possibile conoscere dove erano ubicate le "fosse comuni" nelle quali migliaia di giovani erano stati sepolti. Onorcaduti ha provveduto a collocare su ciascuna di esse un piccolo monumento con la scritta "Qui riposano soldati italiani", ove consentire ai familiari in pellegrinaggio di avere un luogo dove deporre un fiore e recitare una preghiera. Il 19 settembre 1993 veniva consegnato al comune di Rososch l'Asilo del sorriso e il 18 settembre 1994, a Cargnacco si incontravano i sindaci di Rososch, Ivanov e quello di Pozzuolo del Friuli, laica, per il gemellaggio delle due località in segno di pace ed amicizia. Si concludeva così l'opera condotta con amore, fede e dura volontà dal Gen. Gavazza e dai suoi collaboratori che, oltre a realizzare il sogno di Don Canova, hanno riconosciuto alla storia 100.000 Caduti nella sterna per obbedire alle leggi della Patria. Per questo contributo incancellabile di umanità e di giustizia storica il Gen. Gavazza rimarrà per sempre nella riconoscenza e nella storia degli Alpini.

Daniele Pellissetti



La bara portata a spalla dai suoi Alpini al termine della cerimonia.



A sinistra i famigliari del Gen. Gavazza e a destra le numerose autorità civili e militari.



Il Gen. C.A. Luigi Federici rivolge l'ultimo saluto alla salma del Gen. Benito Gavazza nel Tempio di Cargnacco (Udine) scortato dal Picchetto Alpino.

Le Penne Nere di Guelph in festa

Trecento persone hanno partecipato alla serata. Discorsi e ricordo degli alpini "andati avanti". Il capogruppo Cremasco: «Il loro sacrificio non deve essere dimenticato»

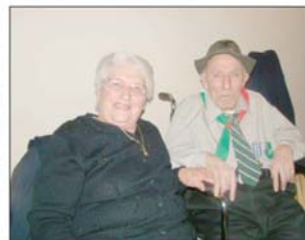
MARIELLA POLICHENI

TORONTO - Allegra, risate, voglia di stare assieme, tanta amicizia sincera hanno caratterizzato la serata di festa delle Penne Nere del Gruppo di Guelph della Sezione di Hamilton.

Alla festa hanno partecipato 300 persone tra le quali Monsignor Canuto Toso, originario di Treviso, il parroco Edward Henchoff della parrocchia di St. John's Catholic e la viceconsole Imelda Gazzola Porcellato, che accompagnata dal marito, ha parlato "con il cuore" agli alpini presenti. Non sono mancati, tra gli altri, i Combattenti e reduci e Gino Vatri, presidente della Commissione Intersezionale Ana del Canada e degli Stati Uniti.

La "preghiera dell'Alpino", il minuto di silenzio per i caduti, la consegna di certificati, medaglie e rose alle vedove: è iniziata così la serata che ha fatto riunire oltre alle Penne Nere di Guelph guidate dal capogruppo Angelo Guerrino Cremasco anche i rappresentanti di altri gruppi Alpini come Doro Di Donato, capogruppo di Welland, Silvano Pescolini, capogruppo di Hamilton Centro e vicepresidente della stessa sezione e Tony Renon, capogruppo di Kitchener-Waterloo. Un certificato è andato anche all'alpino Giovanni Armellini che ha presentato la serata.

Ha toccato il cuore delle Penne Nere presenti il discorso di Angelo Guerrino Cremasco che ha dato il benvenuto alla festa: «Questa sera ricordiamo i nostri cari alpini andati avanti affinché il loro ricordo e il loro sacrificio non sia mai dimenticato - ha detto Cremasco - agli alpini e ai combattenti che non



possono essere presenti auguriamo invece una pronta guarigione mentre un ringraziamento va alle mogli degli alpini che preparano sempre dolci squisiti e al comitato per la grande collaborazione».

Gino Vatri, nel suo conciso ma interessante discorso

ha ringraziato il capogruppo di Guelph: «Un grazie ad Angelo Guerrino Cremasco e a sua moglie Elena Tedesco per averci invitato anche a casa loro prima della festa, al consiglio del Gruppo e a Silvano Pascolini che questa sera è qui in rappresentanza del presiden-

te Fausto Chiochio - ha detto Vatri - il prossimo anno, il 12 ottobre Columbus Day per la precisione, la Commissione Intersezionale A.N.A. organizza il suo congresso al quale parteciperanno 500 alpini dall'Italia mentre altri 500 saranno noi del Nordamerica».

Ha quindi annunciato di essere in partenza per partecipare all'adunata nazionale di Bergamo Vatri: «Saranno un gruppo numeroso, ci saranno infatti tanti alpini da Windsor con Vittorio Morasset e da Montreal con Ferdinando Bisinella mentre con me da Toronto ci sarà

Nella foto a sinistra gli Alpini del Gruppo di Guelph con le vedove degli Alpini scomparsi; sotto a destra si riconoscono Gino Vatri e Silvano Pascolini e a destra i gagliardetti dei gruppi della sezione di Hamilton; sotto a destra Guido Bertoli e Cornelia Ricetto; in basso Gino Vatri con il capogruppo Angelo Guerrino Cremasco e la moglie Elena Tedesco Cremasco



Nella foto in basso un momento della sfilata; sopra Dino Berruti con il nipotino Ben; nella foto a sinistra Angelo Guerrino Cremasco, Giovanni Armellini, che è stato il maestro di cerimonia della serata, con il certificato e Gino Vatri

il sempre presente Tony Pigat - ha continuato Gino Vatri - il venerdì prima della sfilata ci riuniremo per discutere della proposta di mantenere Ornello Capannolo quale addetto alle sezioni estere. Da 28 anni sono il capogruppo di Toronto, due volte presidente della Sezione stessa e da sempre consigliere - ha concluso Vatri - sono orgoglioso di essere presidente intersezionale di tante sezioni, gruppi dipendenti e autonomi». Da parte sua il capogruppo Cremasco ha concluso ribadendo commosso uno slogan caro a chi è stato alpino e nel cuore continuerà ad esserlo per tutta la vita: «Alpini oggi, Alpini domani, Alpini sempre».



Sezione di New York

New York 30-1-2010
si riconoscono il
Generale Leonardo
Leso Consulente Militare
presso le Nazioni Unite
e signora.
Luigi Covati, Presidente
della Sezione di New York,
e Marcello Filippi Presidente
della Farnes Furlane
di New York.



Nella foto l'Onorevole
Gianfranco Fini in
occasione di una sua
visita a New York
con gli amici della
Sezione. Il pranzo ha
avuto luogo al Grand
Hyatt a New York City.

New York 30-1-2010
Ballo Invernale e
consegna delle
Borse di Studio
Franco Bertagnoli.
Si riconoscono
i premiati Lisa Rauzi,
Hillary Scaloni,
Michael Agazzi e
Marco Riccoboni.



Questa foto è stata
presa in occasione
della giornata dei
Combattenti il 7
novembre 2009
al cimitero di
Pineblawn a Farmingdale,
New York. Si riconoscono
alcuni Alpini della
Sezione e al centro
il Presidente Luigi
Covati.

Di tutto un po'

Lettera al Direttore dell' Eco di Bergamo

Toronto, 1° maggio 2010

Al Direttore de L'Eco di Bergamo

Egregio Direttore,

sono stato presente a Bergamo nei giorni 6, 7, 8 e 9 maggio scorso in occasione della 83ª Adunata Nazionale degli Alpini. L'abbraccio della città di Bergamo è stato grande e commovente. Ho letto con grande piacere gli articoli pubblicati da L'Eco di Bergamo ed il supplemento Colonne d'Italia.

Quale direttore di un piccolo giornale pubblicato all'estero, posso solo immaginare l'impegno profuso dal direttore di un giornale importante come il suo. Non le nascondo quindi quasi un certo dispiacere da parte mia nel farle notare che venerdì 7 maggio a pagina 3 nel suo articolo "Ecco il bon ton dell'alpino" Camilla Bianchi si è espressa con alcune frasi alquanto infelici nei confronti delle sezioni australiane e canadesi: «Le sezioni dell'Australia e del Canada (evidentemente le più indiscipline e fra quelle estere) sfilano raggruppate anziché individualmente, no ad accelerazioni o rallentamenti, seguire gli ordini del personale del servizio d'ordine senza indugi».

L'Australia e il Canada, che a causa della loro grande estensione hanno un numero maggiore di sezioni, alle Adunate Nazionali, ormai da parecchi anni, sfilano raggruppate e sempre con ordine e disciplina nonostante l'età dei partecipanti.

Le accolgo una foto dove potrà notare il nostro striscione, i vessilli di cinque sezioni canadesi e alcuni gagliardetti.

Le invio i più cordiali saluti.

Gino Vatri

Presidente della Commissione Intersezionale Ana del Canada e degli Stati Uniti

Un Alpino Presidente

Quando in occasione della cerimonia di apertura del XV Congresso degli Alpini del Nord America, Corrado Perona ha preso in mano il microfono, sarebbe stato facile aspettarsi il solito discorso di circostanza a cui troppo spesso le autorità ci hanno abituati. E invece non è stato così. Il passo tranquillo, lo sguardo gentile, nessun biglietto di appunti, il presidente Nazionale degli Alpini chiaramente non è persona da discorsi scontati. Saluta, ringrazia e fa complimenti, ma poi va dritto al sodo: la storia della Sezione Alpina è a un punto di svolta in Italia ed ancora di più all'estero. La fine del servizio di leva ob-

bligatorio e l'arresto del flusso migratorio hanno privato le Sezioni Alpine estere del ricambio generazionale che sta alla base di qualunque organizzazione associativa. Del resto basta guardarsi intorno. La sala dove si svolge il Congresso è gremita di quei stessi Alpini che con passione stanno insieme da ormai diversi decenni. Il destino sembra segnato. Ma il Presidente non ci sta. Non ci vuole stare. Nel suo discorso Corrado Perona paragona le Sezioni Alpine a delle luci e dice chiaramente che gli Alpini del Nord America hanno il dovere di fare di tutto per tenere quelle luci accese perché una volta che si saranno spente resterà solo il buio. Un buio in cui si sarà perso l'enorme patrimonio che la cultura alpina rappresenta da ormai più di novant'anni in Italia e nel mondo. Lo spirito di sacrificio, la capacità di adeguarsi alle situazioni difficili, la disponibilità ad aiutare chi ha bisogno sono alcuni dei valori che costituiscono le fondamenta delle tradizioni Alpine. Questi valori vanno tramandati perché non vengano dimenticati. Il discorso di Perona è appassionato, privo di ogni forma di retorica. La commovente che a tratti gli strotta la voce è cosa vera.

Non si può rimanere indifferenti di fronte alle sue parole. Il Presidente degli Alpini durante il XV Congresso degli Alpini del Nord America ha fatto ben di più che semplicemente interpretare il suo ruolo istituzionale. Ha saputo comunicare in perfetto stile alpino: pratico, diretto e senza fronzoli. E se il popolo Alpino lo ha ascoltato con attenzione, non è perché Perona è un'autorità, né perché è il Presidente Nazionale e ne perché è venuto in visita dal Nord America. Lo ha ascoltato perché Corrado Perona è prima di tutto uno di loro: un Alpino.

La sicurezza non è mai troppo. Un caso di esempio: spiega il capo della Turismona Federale. Di buona mattina il sindaco Domenico Ungaro, gli assessori e i volontari danno il via alle operazioni di evacuazione. 1650 abitanti sono lasciati il paese entro le 10. Ora in cui gli griffieri della Brigata Alpina Taurinense "indragano" la spietata all'ordigno della seconda guerra mondiale rinvenuta qualche giorno prima durante i lavori per la costruzione dei sottopassaggi ferroviari. Si forma un gruppetto di ventisei persone che va di casa in casa a suonare i campanelli, per allertare lo squadrone delle abitazioni.

L'amico Piero Gavazza di Condoe scrive di rado ma quando lo fa ci manda abbastanza materiale da riempire tutto il giornale. Pubblichiamo l'articolo più interessante perché parla del brillamento di una bomba canadese. A Piero che recentemente ha avuto problemi di salute auguriamo di star bene.

La domenica della bomba

BORSA CANADESE //

CHIESA S. MICHELE - 22 marzo, in valle di Soana, sorge il sole sulla "domenica della bomba". Di buona mattina il sindaco Domenico Ungaro, gli assessori e i volontari danno il via alle operazioni di evacuazione. 1650 abitanti sono lasciati il paese entro le 10. Ora in cui gli griffieri della Brigata Alpina Taurinense "indragano" la spietata all'ordigno della seconda guerra mondiale rinvenuta qualche giorno prima durante i lavori per la costruzione dei sottopassaggi ferroviari. Si forma un gruppetto di ventisei persone che va di casa in casa a suonare i campanelli, per allertare lo squadrone delle abitazioni.

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«Tristezza per i soldati caduti in Afghanistan»

TORONTO - Il bollettino di guerra in Afghanistan riporta 20 vittime in due giorni. Due alpini italiani morti, nell'attentato di lunedì, altri due gravemente feriti, e il violento attacco di ieri costato la vita a 18 persone, sei militari e dodici civili.

La comunità internazionale, all'indomani di questo funesto bilancio, si interroga sulla permanenza dei contingenti a Kabul, quali siano gli obiettivi politici per cui gli Stati Uniti e i suoi alleati stanno combattendo, e quale sia l'indirizzo politico voluto dal popolo afgano.

L'opinione pubblica si squarcia in due posizioni opposte. Una parte vede la permanenza dei contingenti occidentali in Afghanistan come un obiettivo politico irrinunciabile, in nome della libertà e della democrazia. Altri che gridano, più o meno forte, di fermare l'occupazione militare, in nome di processi di trattativa internazionale di pace, che coinvolgano anche i talebani.

Sulla vicenda Gino Vatri, presidente dell'ANA, l'Associazione Alpini Nord Americani, dice «spesso solidarietà e tristezza, anche a nome dell'Associazione che rappresento, per gli alpini caduti in Afghanistan. Ma anche per gli altri soldati e per i civili morti nell'attentato di ieri. Rattrista, sempre molto, quando muoiono dei soldati che combattono per portare la democrazia e la pace. Questi soldati sono mossi da sentimenti nobili. Gli alpini sono soldati di pace, molto rispettati nel mondo. Come del resto tutti i soldati italiani e canadesi, che sono un riferimento nella nostra società, perché parlano di valori nobili, come la libertà e la democrazia, in un Paese che ancora non sa quale direzione politica prendere. Condivido pienamente», afferma Vatri, «le dichiarazioni rilasciate dal ministro La Russa, e la posizione del Governo di mantenere l'impegno per la stabilizzazione dell'Afghanistan, sebbene questo significhi sacrificare delle vite umane, in nome della libertà di questo popolo. Tuttavia ritengo che debbano essere fatte delle valutazioni per decidere quale sia la strada migliore da seguire».

Non tutti però, anche all'interno dell'ANA, sono della stessa opinione. Fausto Chicchio, presidente A.N.A. sezione e gruppo di Hamilton, nell'esprimere un'opinione a titolo personale, e non a nome dell'associazione, afferma «mi chiedo quanti altri giovani dovranno ancora morire. Quando un alpino italiano rimane vittima di un attentato, è come se morisse un mio figlio, la tristezza è tale che chiedere una giornata di silenzio. Ma la stessa commovente la prova, quando a morire, è un soldato canadese. Mi chiedo che cosa stanno a fare ancora gli alpini italiani in Afghanistan, ma anche le truppe canadesi, e gli altri contingenti internazionali? La democrazia non è una questione esportabile, non la si può imporre agli altri Paesi, è una conquista che fa parte dell'identità di una nazione».

Ivan Bunnio

Padre Bagnarol concelebra la messa per gli Alpini di Pordenone-Centro

PORDENONE - La messa, celebrata in occasione del quarantesimo anniversario di costituzione del Gruppo Alpini Pordenone-Centro, è stata concelebrata da padre Marco Bagnarol.

Padre Bagnarol ha portato alle Penne Nere di Pordenone il saluto degli Alpini del Canada e del presidente intersezionale del Nordamerica Gino Vatri.

Il sacerdote di Toronto si è detto inoltre felice di poter assistere alla cerimonia e di poter conoscere gli Alpini in Italia ed ha parlato del libro sulla storia degli Alpini dell'ANA, intitolato "Le sezioni all'estero dell'Ana. La storia" che egli ha tradotto in lingua inglese.

Il parroco don Franco Zanussi ha elogiato gli Alpini per il loro grande impegno nella società tramite varie opere benefiche.



Nella foto un momento della messa celebrata in occasione del 40° anniversario di fondazione del Gruppo Alpini Pordenone-Centro: tra gli altri si riconosce padre Marco Bagnarol

GRUPPO AUTONOMO DI CALGARY

Un omaggio alla famiglia Moro – Comune di San Nazario (Vicenza)

Nella nostra bella Italia, molti Comuni possono vantarsi di essere il luogo di nascita di militari Alpini, e molte famiglie sono orgogliose di avere tra di loro padri, figli, fratelli e nipoti che hanno fatto il servizio militare negli Alpini, o come arruolati di leva, o come volontari, o come richiamati alle armi in tempo di guerra.

La grande foto in bianco e nero mostra gli Alpini di Rivalta che, all'epoca della foto, era una piccola frazione del Comune di San Nazario, nella Provincia di Vicenza. Purtroppo molti di questi alpini sono morti durante la seconda guerra mondiale facendo onore al Veneto, al Comune di San Nazario ed a tutti gli Alpini.

La foto fa anche molto onore alla famiglia Moro dato che ben cinque fratelli avevano fatto il servizio militare negli Alpini. Le prime cinque fotografie della riga in alto sono quelle dei figli di Margherita e Angelo Moro. Da sinistra a destra, essi sono:

Moro Tranquillo (Classe 1908): servizio di guerra in Francia, prigioniero in Germania
Moro Emilio (Classe 1914): servizio di guerra in Africa e in Russia, dove era stato ferito
Moro Silvio (Classe 1922): servizio di guerra in Francia, prigioniero in Germania
Moro Gervasio (Classe 1925): servizio di guerra in Italia
Moro Guido (Classe 1927): servizio militare di leva

Dei cinque fratelli solo il più giovane, Guido, è ancora in vita. Nel 1957, come parecchi altri Alpini, Guido emigrò in Canada insieme alla moglie Ida per cercare un lavoro sicuro e per cominciare una nuova vita. Guido e Ida sono riusciti nel loro intento, hanno due figli e vivono in Exshaw, un piccolo paesino all'imbocco delle Montagne Rocciose, in Alberta. Come Rivalta era una frazione di San Nazario, così Exshaw può essere considerata una frazione della cittadina di Camrose, a pochi chilometri dal Parco Nazionale di Banff.

Guido è adesso in pensio-



ne dopo aver lavorato per parecchi anni nel cementificio di Exshaw, ma si tiene sempre in forma lavorando nel suo orto, andando a pesca in laghi di montagna, aiutando sua moglie e facendo il nonno. Nella sua casa si parla ancora il dialetto veneto, con molto orgoglio.

Da molti anni Guido è uno dei membri attivi e sostenitori del Gruppo Autonómico di Calgary dell'Associazione Nazionale Alpini. Nella foto più piccola, si vedono Guido e la cara moglie Ida nel cortile della loro bella casetta di Exshaw.

La casa della famiglia Moro è sempre aperta per amici e conoscenti che vengono accolti con grande calore ed affetto, in estate si può essere sicuri che Guido farà assaggiare con orgoglio i suoi pomodori giganti; in inverno ci saranno lunghe storie di pesca sui laghi ghiacciati, accompagnate da un bicchiere di vino; e di sicuro ci sarà anche il risotto del porro che Guido aveva scavato da solo per poter trovare una falda di acqua montana, limpida e cristallina, e "molto più" buona dell'acqua della conduttura municipale che è stata portata a Exshaw alcuni anni fa.

La grande foto degli Alpini di Rivalta ha il posto d'onore nella sala della casa di Guido e Ida, insieme a molti altri cimeli raccolti durante gli anni e le vacanze passate insieme.

La bandiera Italiana e la bandiera Canadese sventolano da anni, fianco a fianco, nel cortile della loro casa e dimostrano l'amore per la vecchia e la nuova patria.

Le due bandiere sono una testimonianza di affetto e di orgoglio per la loro terra di origine e di ringraziamento per la nazione che li ha accolti ed ha offerto loro lavoro e dignità. Guido vorrebbe chiedere a chi si ricorda di lui, ai paesani, ai Veneti e agli amici Alpini di mandargli una cartolina di saluto. Così lui saprà che questo articolo è stato visto.

Similmente, Guido manda un cordiale saluto e un caloroso abbraccio a tutti gli Alpini sparsi per il mondo.

Il suo indirizzo è:

Guido Moro
P.O. Box 215
Exshaw, Alberta
Canada T0L 2C0
Tel. (403) 673-3659

GRUPPO DI LAVAL SEZIONE DI MONTREAL



Ottobre 2009. Il Consiglio del Gruppo di Laval con il Presidente Nazionale Corrado Perrona e Ornello Capannolo responsabile delle Sezioni all'Estero



Festa delle Penne Nere, il Gruppo di Laval con alcuni Alpini del Gruppo di Montreal. Entrambi i Gruppi fanno parte della Sezione di Montreal.



Il coro Alpino di Montreal in occasione di un concerto. Il coro è diretto dalla signora Giovanna Furci e collabora con il Gruppo Laval.

Associazione Nazionale Alpini Gruppo Laval, Sez. Montréal

MONTREAL - Il Direttivo amministrativo del "Gruppo Laval" ringrazia tutti coloro, gli ex Alpini, amici, collaboratori e sostenitori, che hanno partecipato alla Festa delle Penne Nere, "San Valentino con gli Alpini", il 14 febbraio 2010, sala Costa del Mare.

Tutti si sono divertiti, ballando come non mai, e gustando i sapori più succulenti della ti-

pica cucina italiana, accompagnandoli con i vini Doc abruzzesi, dolci delle migliori pasticcerie e, per digerire, un ottimo bicchiere di grappa. Non possiamo dimenticare tutte le donne presenti che hanno ricevuto una bella rosa rossa, simbolo dell'amore.

Arriverci all'anno prossimo per un'altra Festa delle Penne Nere.



Ecco il nuovo Direttivo amministrativo per il 2010-2012
Seduti, da destra: Palmerino Tulliano, Tullio Simonetti, T. Alfiero Di Battista, C.G. Italo Spagnuolo, V.C.G. Pasquale Pasquarelli, Lamberto Cacchione; in piedi da destra: Marco Di Pietro, Benito Ruscitti, Ettore Di Meo, Gino Gioiotti, Ludovico Fortini, Mimmo Bellino, Antonio Stabile - sez. Montréal. Assente nella foto Costantino D'Ovidio e Enrico Romano (tutto per la scomparsa della dolce metà condoglianza A.N.A. Gruppo Laval).



Foto storica da Thunder Bay

Il Capogruppo del Gruppo Autonómico di Thunder Bay, Joe Sabotini ci ha mandato questa foto del 1947 dove si può notare, primo da destra, in ginocchio, Antonio Florido. Antonio ha fatto parte della 22ª Batteria del Gruppo Belluno, 2° pezzo e ricorda con nostalgia le marce e il Colonnello Vizenin. Questa foto è stata pubblicata sul libro delle Sezioni Estere.



Calgary, 2004/2010

Caro Gino, Gruppo Alpini di Calgary.

Siamo ancora 22 soci così suddivisi: 8 membri del Comitato Direttivo, 7 membri Alpini e 7 membri simpatizzanti.

La riunione annuale è stata fatta il 17 gennaio scorso. Il preside rimane Dario Sodero. La riunione è andata bene, si è cercato di programmare qualche attività per il 2010. Purtroppo con pochi membri, un po' tutti invecchiati e con pochi soldi in banca, non è possibile pensare a cose vistose e/o troppo visibili per la comunità italiana della nostra città.

L'Associazione Friulana di Calgary è molto ben organizzata e numerosa, cercheremo di partecipare al loro picnic nel mese di luglio. Ad ottobre organizzeremo una cena per il nostro gruppo al Club italiano. Dario provvederà a fare

qualche foto di gruppo che ti manderà via internet per il tuo giornale. A novembre cercheremo di organizzare una messa in suffragio dei militari caduti in guerra, posa di una corona al monumento degli Alpini e socializzazione con gli intervenienti.

Approfittando di questa lettera per mandarti l'assegno dovuto all'ANA Intersezionale di Toronto di 150 dollari.

I tuoi giornali sono stati distribuiti. Grazie di tutto e buon lavoro. Un caro saluto a te e a tutti i membri ANA delle varie associazioni.

Ciao Romano

Ass. Naz. Alpini
Gruppo Autonómico di Calgary
908 Canaveral Cres. S.W.
Calgary, Alberta
T2W 1N5

l'alpino del west

Associazione Nazionale Alpini - Sezione di Edmonton, Canada

1960 - 2010

1960-2010 La sezione Alpini di Edmonton compie 50 anni

Il 20 marzo 2010 la Sezione Alpini di Edmonton ha celebrato il 50° di fondazione. È stata una bella festa con la partecipazione di numerosi membri della sezione Alpini, connazionali e ospiti di riguardo come Gino Vatri, presidente degli alpini del Nord America venuto da Toronto con la gentile consorte Santa, il consigliere della Città di Edmonton Mr. Tony Caterina e signora a rappresentare il sindaco Stephen Mandel, il presidente del Centro Culturale Mr. Michael Bruni-Bossio con i membri del Direttivo e rappresentanti di associazioni militari e culturali di Edmonton.



Gino Vatri ha portato il messaggio d'augurio del Presidente Nazionale degli Alpini Corrado Perona, del delegato per le sezioni estero Ornello Capannolo e l'augurio degli alpini di Toronto.



Molto apprezzate la placca ricordo presentata dal presidente del Centro Culturale Italiano e quella presentata da Andrea Padovani, vice presidente dell'Associazione Marinal. Il presidente della sezione Zenari, ringraziando gli ospiti ha offerto loro il gagliardetto ricordo del 50mo della Sezione Alpini di Edmonton.

Celebrare un cinquantesimo vuol dire ricordare eventi e persone di tanto tempo fa. Nel suo messaggio iniziale Zenari fece un breve riassunto della storia della sezione, cominciando dalla fondazione del Gruppo Alpini con Franco Coppola, primo presidente e appassionato animatore.



1960-Prima riunione. Coppola al centro con Padre Bonelli

Ai primi incontri, Zenari ricordava, ognuno aveva una sua storia da raccontare. I reduci della recente e cruenta guerra avevano ancora viva la memoria di sofferenze, distruzioni e il ricordo di fratelli d'armi lasciati sui campi di battaglia o di prigionia. Altri, più giovani, parlavano dei mesi di spensierata gioventù passati nella rigida disciplina del servizio militare, dividendo la vita di caserma, disagi, marce e manovre con giovani provenienti da ogni regione d'Italia. Una cosa avevano in comune: l'orgoglio di avere servito nel Corpo degli Alpini e l'amore per il loro Cappelletto.

Il 15 marzo 1960 il Gruppo venne iscritto all'Associazione Nazionale Alpini in Italia, impegnandosi ad osservare lo Statuto e scopi nell'ambito della società e leggi canadesi.



Commemorazione dei Caduti

Gli Alpini si distinsero subito con la s.messa di Commemorazione dei Caduti, organizzando le prime feste da ballo nella comunità, scampagnate con cani e tanta allegria, la befana per i più piccoli, facendosi promotore di raccolta fondi per enti di assistenza sociale e di soccorso per calamità naturali. Qualche anno dopo agli Alpini si unirono simpatizzanti, chiamati Amici degli Alpini. La cui collaborazione divenne, e lo è tuttora, significativa per realizzare gli obiettivi Associativi.

Zenari ha ricordato i presidenti successivi a Coppola, tornato in Italia nel 1984.



Piero Casagrande e Lello Alba, deceduti pochi anni fa. Entrambi si sono dedicati con passione a mantenere vivo lo spirito e le tradizioni alpine.

"Dopo cinquant'anni" disse Zenari - guardando al passato, non si può che essere orgogliosi della Sezione Alpini di Edmonton per aver sostenuto intatta il loggione degli anni e per aver risolto gli impegni associativi nonostante la mancanza di nuove forze di reclutamento."

Molto apprezzati alla festa i tabelloni fotografici che hanno descritto visivamente la storia della sezione. Nei 4 tabelloni sono state esposte più di 200 fotografie dal 1960 ad oggi. Molto seguiti dalla folla l'esposizione delle uniformi e del cappello del Corpo degli Alpini dalla fondazione ai tempi moderni.

Dal 1960 al 2010

Edmonton nel 1960 aveva solo 56 anni e 270.000 abitanti. Una città nelle praterie dell'immenso Nord-Ovest canadese, 3.700 km da Montreal e Toronto, maggiori centri di emigrazione per chi lasciava l'Italia in cerca di lavoro e di fortuna in Canada. Ci volevano 3 giorni e 3 notti di treno per raggiungere Edmonton dopo aver sbarcato al Pier 21 di Halifax, il punto d'entrata in Canada per tutti gli emigranti dall'Europa.

Nel 1960 Edmonton confinava con i comuni autostanti di Beverly ad est e Jasper Place ad ovest, mentre Sherwood Park, un piccolo villaggio nella Contea di Strathcona era soltanto un nuovo progetto di case modello in un podere ad Est di Edmonton. Nel 1960 Mill Woods e Castle Downs esistevano solo in carta sul tavolo di imprenditori, mentre St. Albert non era che un paesello francofono di poche case, noto principalmente per la storica Chiesetta e Missione cattolica tra i meticcii e le tribù indiane del Cree e Piedi Neri, costruita dal missionario abate Fr. Albert Lacombe nel 1861. Non c'erano ad Edmonton agenzie governative di consulenza o assistenza per gli emigrati italiani. Notizie dalla Madrepatria erano scarse. La nuova chiesa italiana di S. Maria Goretti (1958) costruita a spese degli emigrati italiani e gestita dai Missionari Scalabriniani, era uno dei punti di riferimento, mentre altri luoghi di ritrovo erano i caffè, dove tanti giovani italiani consumavano i pasti e in case private di connazionali, dove si poteva trovare alloggio. Quelli erano i tempi quando fu fondato il Gruppo Alpini di Edmonton.

Mezzo secolo dopo molto è cambiato: lo straordinario sviluppo economico e sociale della città di Edmonton, oltre 800.000 ab. nel 2009, della nostra Comunità italiana, da 2-3.000 ad oltre 25.000 residenti, con due grandi Centri culturali e ricreativi al Centro per gli anziani. Beverly e Jasper Place sono ora riioni di Edmonton. Sherwood Park, capoluogo della Contea di Strathcona, ha 61.000 abitanti, mentre Mill Woods e Castle Downs sono due dinamiche comunità residenziali di oltre 150.000 ab. E St. Albert è ora una pittoresca e moderna città di 60.000 anime.

Mezzo secolo di storia vissuto dagli Alpini di Edmonton.



2003. Il benvenuto ai soldati dall'Afghanistan

1985 - 25mo Anniversario



1980. Scampagnata alpina.



1981. Visita del Pres. Nazionale Bertagnoli.



1994 - Pres. Caprioli e Perazzini ad Edmonton.

2010 Consiglio direttivo della Sezione

Pres. Antonio Zenari
V.p. Agostino Valentini
Tes. Lietto Mattiussi
Cons. Giuseppe Benvenuto
Donato Calista
Lionello Gennaro
Sebastiano Dottor



50 Anniversario, 20 marzo 2010
Vatri e coun. Caterina con il consiglio sezionale

Non sono più tra noi

Dio del Cielo, Signore delle Cime,
due nostri amici hai chiesto alla montagna...



Alpino Gianni Guerra, classe 1933, da Camino (UD) deceduto il 29 Aprile 2010. Alla famiglia le più sentite Condolganze



Mario Marchionio, classe 1931, Socio aggregato, da Padova, deceduto il 1 Maggio 2010. Alla famiglia le più sentite Condolganze.

...ma, lasciali andare per le tue montagne.



Vivian Zenari figlia di Tony, premio Bertagnoli di qualche anno, ha ricevuto il Dottorato (PhD) in lingua inglese. Congratulazioni anche da Alpini in Trasferta.

Saluto alla sezione di Edmonton

Carissimi Alpini, amici degli Alpini e signori - presenti a questa importante e significativa cerimonia

Per impegni associativi, non posso fisicamente partecipare a questa indimenticabile giornata, sono però sicuramente presente con l'affetto e l'amicizia che ci lega. Gli Alpini della Sezione di Edmonton in questi 50 anni hanno dato molto, sia come attività interne di alto profilo morale che in lavori, ove necessario, alimentando e diffondendo nelle sedi del Canada, lo spirito di solidarietà e di amicizia degli Alpini italiani. Caro Presidente Antonio Zenari, a te ed ai tuoi Alpini va il mio e nostro ringraziamento per

come degnamente rappresentate l'Italia, in terra straniera. Grazie di cuore. Alle gentili Signore, un grazie particolare per la pazienza e l'attaccamento che avete per i nostri Alpini e per la nostra Patria. Alle Autorità presenti, il ringraziamento più sentito per la loro partecipazione e considerazione che hanno per il nostro sodalizio. Al Coordinatore del Nord America, Gino Vatri, quale nostro rappresentante, va il più sentito grazie per la sua partecipazione e per quanto fa per la nostra amata Associazione. VIVA LA SEZIONE DI EDMONTON, VIVA IL CANADA, VIVA L'ITALIA.

Il Delegato Alle Sezioni All'Estero
Ornello Capannolo

Cari Alpini e Amici della sezione di Edmonton, ho ricevuto l'invito a partecipare al vostro 50° di fondazione ma non mi è possibile.

Tuttavia desidero fare giungere al vostro Presidente Antonio Zenari, a voi tutti, ai vostri famigliari, il mio saluto più cordiale unitamente al grazie per il lavoro svolto e la dedizione rivolta alla Associazione Nazionale Alpini attraverso l'attaccamento alle sue tradizioni e all'amore per l'Italia.

Cinquanta anni di impegno costante in terra lontana, terra che avete onorato fin da subito e che avete contribuito a fare crescere soprattutto con il vostro lavoro e il rispetto delle leggi e delle istituzioni.

Grazie per quanto avete costruito e per quanto continuerete a promuovere in futuro.

Buon Compleanno Sezione di Edmonton!

Vi abbraccia, commosso, il vostro Presidente Nazionale.

Ornello Capannolo

Alpini in Trasferta



Sito internet: www.3.sympatico.ca/gino.vatri

NOTIZIARIO DELLE SEZIONI DELL'ASSOCIAZIONE NAZIONALE ALPINI IN CANADA E U.S.A

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DICEMBRE 2010 N° 51



Inaugurato il monumento degli alpini

Partecipazione alla cerimonia organizzata dalle Penne Nere del gruppo di Mississauga di fronte alla sede del Celano

Nella foto sopra a sinistra gli alpini di North York, Toronto e Mississauga che hanno partecipato all'inaugurazione del monumento. Fausto Chiochio, presidente della sezione di Hamilton e Roberto Buttazzoni, Presidente della sezione di Toronto. A destra il consiglio del gruppo di Mississauga.

MARIELLA POLICHENI

TORONTO - Erano fieri. Fieri come l'Aquila posta sul loro monumento. È stato un pomeriggio di gioia e di emozione quello degli alpini del Gruppo di Mississauga che hanno inaugurato, di fronte alla sede del Celano Canadian Club, un monumento dedicato "a tutti i caduti militari e civili". «È stata una giornata bellissima per tutti noi - dice con un sorriso il capogruppo Carmine Stornelli - la sede del Celano è come se fosse casa nostra cosicché questo è stato il posto più giusto per sistemare il monumento».

Circa 200 persone hanno partecipato alla cerimonia di inaugurazione: Gino Vatri, presidente della Commissione Intersezionale Ana del Canada e degli Stati Uniti, Carlo D'Ovidio, presidente del Celano Canadian Club, Ivana Fracasso, presidente della Federazione Abruzzese, Nando Iannica, rappresentante della città di Mississauga, Fausto Chiochio, presidente de-



gli Alpini di Hamilton, Adolfo D'Intino, capogruppo degli Alpini di North York, Roberto Buttazzoni, presidente della sezione di Toronto, Renato Ciaccia, vicecapogruppo degli Alpini di Mississauga. Ed ancora Giuseppe De Stefano, presidente dei Marinai d'Italia, Franco Padula, presidente dell'Asaps, Pietro Girardi, presidente dei Bersaglieri e una rappresentanza dei Carabinieri.

È stato padre Luigi Galanti

a celebrare la messa nella nuova sala del Celano Canadian Club mentre Gino Vatri ha letto la "Preghiera dell'alpino": in processione i presenti hanno raggiunto quindi il monumento che, dopo l'alzabandiera, è stato scoperto da Carmine Stornelli e Carlo D'Ovidio.

«Angelo Bonaldo e Muzio Pasqualoni hanno deposto la corona ai piedi del monumento che è stato benedetto prima di dare il via ai discorsi di lancia-



ca. Vatri, D'Ovidio - dice Stornelli - personalmente ho ricordato il motivo per cui questo monumento è stato eretto, il suo significato più profondo».

Gino Vatri, in qualità di presidente della Commissione Intersezionale Ana del Canada e degli Stati Uniti, ha portato il saluto e gli auguri del presidente nazionale Corrado Perona, del consigliere nazionale Ornello Capannolo delegato ai contatti con le sezioni all'estero, di Vittorio Brunello, direttore del giornale *L'alpino*, di Giovanni Gasparet, presidente della sezione di Pordenone, di Danilo Perosa, consigliere della sezione di Udine e di Daniele Pellissetti, direttore de *La più bella famiglia*.

«Questo monumento è dedicato alla memoria di tutti i caduti militari e civili, a tutti gli alpini e non, che sono sparsi in tutto il mondo per tante ragioni e che hanno portato un contributo di laboriosità, di tenacia e di impegno senza pari - ha detto Gino Vatri - e con animo commosso e con spirito di ringraziamento che dico grazie a tutti voi per essere qui a onorare i nostri caduti, grazie a Carmine Stornelli e agli alpini del gruppo di Mississauga, al Celano Club per aver concesso un pezzo di terra per erigere questo monumento».

Vatri, ha quindi donato a nome di Daniele Pellissetti, una copia della preghiera dell'alpino al gruppo di Mississauga, una preghiera che oggi come in passato tocca le corde più pro-

fonde del cuore di chi è alpino e di chi alpino lo è stato.

«È molto bella, sentita da tutti noi, è una invocazione a Dio affinché protegga gli alpini dal gelo, dalla tormenta, dalla valanga, dai crepacci insidiosi, affinché il piede posi sicuro "su le creste vertiginose, su le dritte pareti, oltre i crepacci insidiosi - continua Vatri - naturalmente l'alpino chiede di avere la forza di difendere la propria patria, la propria bandiera».

È stata una giornata che le

Penne Nere ricorderanno con piacere questa organizzata in collaborazione con il Celano Canadian Club.

«L'abbiamo conclusa con un rinfresco che in realtà è stato quasi una cena - dice Stornelli - pastasciutta, pollo, salsicce e dolci hanno completato nel modo l'inaugurazione del monumento. È stato bello vedere sul viso dei presenti il piacere di esserci, di aver partecipato a questo avvenimento che per noi ha un significato davvero grande».



Nelle foto a sopra, la deposizione della corona ai piedi del monumento da parte di Bonaldo e Pasqualoni; a sinistra il monumento appena inaugurato.

Il libro *Alpini in Transfer* tradotto in inglese da Padre Marco Bagnari sarà presentato alla Famae Furlane di Toronto sabato 29 gennaio 2011 in occasione dell'incontro annuale del Gruppo Centro della Sezione Alpini di Toronto.



Raduno annuale degli alpini di Hamilton

Durante la serata di festa sono state consegnate borse di studio a 6 giovani universitari e a 26 ragazzi che frequentano le classi dal grado 1 al 12

MARIELLA POLICHI

TORONTO - Per il 45° anno il gruppo Centro della sezione di Hamilton dell'Associazione Nazionale Alpini ha organizzato un cenone con ballo allo scopo di "ringraziare il buon Dio per il lavoro, la salute e la pace in famiglia" e per assegnare borse di studio ai nipoti delle Penne Nere meritevoli. Un'idea quindi a tutto quello che rende bella la vita di ciascuno di noi unito al desiderio che i giovani si impegnino nella scuola per poter avere un futuro brillante.

A dare il via alla serata di festa, che è stata presentata da Kino Nardi e dal capogruppo Silvano Pascolini, sono state le marce della mini banda di Intraducqua: tra musica, sorrisi e gioialità si è subito creata l'atmosfera che caratterizza le feste delle Penne Nere: «Ritrovare vecchi amici e conoscerne nuovi ci riscalda il cuore, ci ridà quel senso di appartenenza a noi tanto caro», dice il presidente della sezione di Hamilton Fausto Chiochio.

Dopo gli inni, canadese e italiano naturalmente, il capellano delle Penne Nere padre Janusz Roginski ha recitato la preghiera e il capogruppo del gruppo Centro della sezione di Hamilton, Silvano Pascolini, ha dato il benvenuto ai presenti: in particolare ha salutato il viceconsole onorario Bruno Crugnale, il presidente della Commissione Interregionale Ana del Nord America Gino Vatri, il presidente della sezione di Hamilton Fausto Chiochio e i presidenti di gruppo della sezione di Welland Doro Di Donato, di quella di Kitchener-Waterloo Tony Renon, della sezione di Guelph Angelo Cremasco ed il capellano padre Roginski. Un distintivo dell'Associazione Nazionale Alpini (ANA) è stato donato in segno di riconoscimento a Libby Sanelli di 83 anni, Fernando Tristani di 85 anni, Guido Di Stefano di 83 anni e alla segretaria Mariuccia Di Vittorio. «Abbiamo voluto premiare la loro dedizione e il lavoro ben fatto in seno alla nostra sezione».



ne e al nostro gruppo» dice con orgoglio il capogruppo Silvano Pascolini. La gioia per una serata iniziata bene e poi finita anche meglio, si poteva leggere tutta sui volti delle tante Penne Nere presenti e dei tanti amici degli Alpini che non mancano mai a queste occasioni di incontro: Gino Vatri e Fausto Chiochio hanno quindi fatto indossare il cappello al viceconsole Bruno Crugnale al quale Vatri ha donato anche il libro "Le sezioni all'estero dell'Ana. La storia". «Il viceconsole Crugnale ha ringraziato e ha messo in risalto l'impegno e la serietà delle Penne Nere in guerra e in pace - continua Chiochio - siamo stati onorati della sua presenza e della sua grande cortesia».

La parata, la "Preghiera dell'Alpino" recitata da Silvano Pascolini e la lotteria oltre ai tanti e significativi discorsi hanno caratterizzato la serata: «Vorrei premiare la presenza dei soci più anziani presenti questa sera che sono Pasquale Diamante, Maria Valeri e Maria Palombella - ha continuato il presidente di sezione Fausto Chiochio che ha anche sottolineato come quest'anno le Penne Nere abbiano donato \$4.500 a favore di enti assistenziali. Un benvenuto speciale va a tutti i ragazzi qui presenti assieme ai loro nonni che riceveranno una borsa di studio dalla nostra sezione».

È stata proprio la consegna delle borse di studio il momento clou dell'intera serata: sei giovani hanno ricevuto le borse di studio Franco Bertagnoli erogate dall'Associazione Nazionale Alpini ai figli e ai discendenti degli alpini che frequentano le scuole superiori in Canada e negli Stati Uniti mentre altri quattro premi di studio sono stati donati dal Gruppo Alpini di Hamilton centro a tutti i figli, nipoti o pronipoti dei soci del gruppo, dal grado 1 al grado 12. Infine 26 premi di studio sono stati erogati dal Gruppo di Welland, il cui capogruppo è Doro Di Donato, «I sei studenti universitari, nipoti di soci alpini che hanno ricevuto le borse di studio Franco Bertagnoli del valore di 960 dollari ciascuna, sono stati Alessia Bottos, Dawn Cannon-Palombella, Adriana Di Stefano, Matteo Farrar-Zambon, Davide Di Donato e Marco Silvestri - aggiunge Fausto Chiochio che le ha consegnate ai ragazzi assieme a Gino Vatri - siamo molto orgogliosi dell'impegno che mettete nel vostro studio, del loro desiderio di imparare e migliorarsi». I figli dei soci iscritti alla sezione Hamilton Centro che hanno ricevuto le borse di studio, iscritti alle classi dal grado 1 al grado 12, per un valore complessivo di \$1.650 sono stati 26. «Siamo felici di distribuire 26 borse

Nella foto a sinistra i nonni con i 32 nipoti che hanno ricevuto le borse di studio dall'ANA e dal gruppo di Hamilton Centro; nella foto a destra l'alpino più giovane e secondo vicepresidente della sezione Luigi Ciralo con il figlio; sotto i nonni con i sei studenti universitari che hanno ricevuto la borsa di studio Franco Bertagnoli; si riconoscono Marco Silvestri, Doro Di Donato, Davide Di Donato, Dawn Cannon-Palombella, Maria Palombella, Guido Di Stefano, Adriana Di Stefano, Alessia Bottos, Matteo Farrar-Zambon, Gino Vatri, Silvano Pascolini, Paul Cannon, Fausto Chiochio e Terenzio Zambon



di studio a studenti che hanno dimostrato eccezionali abilità scolastiche. Congratulazioni a voi tutti. Noi vi sproniamo a continuare a studiare e a fare il vostro meglio nel futuro - ha detto Mariuccia Di Vittorio, chairperson delle borse di studio - avete onorato i vostri genitori, i vostri nonni e noi tutti. Tanti auguri per i prossimi anni».

Non è mancato il discorso del presidente della Commissione Interregionale Ana del Nord America Gino Vatri che ha toccato vari argomenti, tutti molto cari alle Penne Nere: dagli statuti per le sezioni ANA all'estero ai premi di studio Franco

Bertagnoli, da Alpini in trasferta al congresso a New York in programma il prossimo anno e di "alcuni giovani alpini onesti e capaci che continueranno le nostre tradizioni". «Non dovrei parlare probabilmente di questi argomenti in questa sede ma sono sicuro che tra tanta gente potrebbero uscire qualche aspetto concreto, pratico, credibile con proposte attuabili per affrontare meglio la nostra situazione...», ha detto Vatri.

È toccato infine al padrone di casa, il capogruppo Silvano Pascolini, parlare brevemente ai presenti dopo aver presentato e ringraziato sia il Comitato donne

formato da Velia Chiochio, Angela Pascolini, Lucia Di Stefano, Clara Pizzigrilli, Maria Di Vittorio, Bruna Clappa e Alda Nardi che quello sezionale del quale è capogruppo composto da Fausto Chiochio, Luigi Ciralo, Guido Di Stefano, Liberatore Sanelli, Fernando Tristani, Kino Nardi, John Di Vittorio, Carlo Clappa, Olando Santini e Luigi Pizzigrilli. «Il mio pensiero va in particolare a tutti quei soci alpini che sono andati avanti, ai soldati canadesi e italiani che sono stanziati in vari posti nel mondo in missioni di pace - ha concluso Pascolini - noi siamo alpini per la pace».



Nella foto sopra si riconoscono Libby Sanelli, 83 anni, Fernando Tristani, 85 anni, Guido Di Stefano, 83 anni e la segretaria Mariuccia Di Vittorio; nella foto a destra Gino Vatri e Fausto Chiochio regalano il cappello alpino al viceconsole Bruno Crugnale; da sinistra Fausto Chiochio, Gino Vatri, Bruno Crugnale e Silvano Pascolini. A destra un momento della parata.



Di tutto un po'



In questa foto del 1994 si riconosce Sergio Daniel e un gruppo di Alpini e simpatizzanti da Winnipeg. La foto è stata fatta in occasione del raduno annuale degli Alpini di Thunder Bay.



In occasione della recente festa dei Bersaglieri, il Generale Mario Rezzogoli, secondo da sinistra, si è intrattenuto per alcuni minuti con il nostro Presidente Interregionale.



Guelph 1999 - Il Presidente Nazionale Leonardo Caprioli tra gli Alpini del Gruppo di Kitchener-Waterloo e Guelph con i loro gagliardetti.



Il cavalier Franco Coppola residente ora in Italia ha festeggiato con la moglie il 50esimo anniversario di matrimonio avvenuto il 26 maggio 1960 ad Edmonton, Alberta - Canada. Lo stesso anno trovammo Franco tra i fondatori del gruppo e poi sezione di Edmonton.

La foto è stata presa dal giornale "La Voce" del Gruppo Bergamaschi della Sezione di Torino che riceviamo regolarmente da tantissimi anni.



San Vito al Tagliamento luglio 2010. Il Direttore Daniele Pellissari presenta al Direttore di Alpini in Trasferta la nuova "La più bella fiamma". Daniele collabora con il nostro giornale da moltissimi anni. Congratulazioni per un lavoro veramente ben fatto, da parte di tutti gli Alpini del Nordamerica giungano gli auguri più sentiti di Buon Natale e Felice Anno Nuovo alla famiglia e a tutti gli Alpini della Sezione di Pordenone.

Picnic degli Alpini di North York

Trecento persone partecipano alla scampagnata al Boyd Park trascorrendo una giornata con giochi e buon cibo

MARIELLA POLICHENI

TORONTO - È stata una domenica allegra con canti, chiacchierate e cibo. Un picnic tradizionale trascorso in un bel parco assieme a tanti amici. «È stato così anche questa volta - dice con un sorriso Adolfo D'Intino, capogruppo del Gruppo Alpini di North York e vicepresidente della sezione di Toronto - al Boyd Park eravamo 300 persone e ci siamo divertiti assieme come accade sempre, sia che si tratti di una serata di gala o di una scampagnata».

Dopo la messa, celebrata da padre Luigi Colante, è iniziata la preparazione del pranzo. «Abbiamo preparato dell'ottima pastasciutta con il sugo di pomodoro e carne ma anche salisette e pollo alla griglia - continua D'Intino - ognuno ha avuto un compito, abbiamo collaborato ed il successo non è mancato».

Anche i bambini presenti hanno approfittato della bella giornata per giocare assieme: «C'era un bel gruppo di ragazzini che hanno organizzato tanti giochi - aggiunge Adolfo D'Intino - gli adulti invece, come sempre, hanno preferito giocare a bocce, a carte e così via. Il tempo è stato dalla nostra parte e solo in serata ha piovuto un po'».



Nella foto un bel gruppo di alpini al Boyd Park



Il comitato del Gruppo di North York: Adolfo D'Intino, presidente, Alpino Colangelo, vicepresidente, Nello D'Intino, tesoriere, Ferdinando Battistelli, segretario, Fabrizio Capovilla, Gino D'Antonio, Evangelista Cannavici, Domenico Guardiani e Cesidio Di Giovanni, consiglieri. A destra, un coro di alpini (Foto Corriere-Giordano Ciampini)



Un alpino impegnato ad affettare un prosciutto; sotto Eugenio Felletti, ex collaboratore del Corriere Canadese



Gli Alpini di North York in festa

Alla serata di gala annuale hanno partecipato quasi 450 persone. Domenica 9 gennaio si terrà il tesseramento

MARIELLA POLICHENI

TORONTO - Lo spirito di fratellanza e gli ideali comuni sono quel che unisce le associazioni degli alpini che in ogni parte del mondo si riuniscono come una grande famiglia. «La nostra festa annuale è un appuntamento importantissimo per tutti noi - dice Adolfo D'Intino, capogruppo del Gruppo di North York degli Alpini - al Paradise Banquet Hall di Vaughan eravamo quasi 450 persone e come al solito alla cena ha fatto seguito tanta buona musica con l'orchestra di Tony Silvani che ha spinto tante persone a ballare fino a tardi».

Tra i tanti discorsi della serata alla quale ha partecipato come ospite d'onore Mauro Di Giovanni dell' RCMP, quello del capogruppo D'Intino e del presidente della Commissione Intersezionale Ana del Canada e degli Stati Uniti Gino Vatri, che ha ribadito l'importanza dell'associazione: «Gli alpini sono un'associazione nazionale, abbiamo sezioni e gruppi a Montreal, Laval, Ottawa, Toronto, Mississauga, North York, Hamilton, Guelph, Kitchener-Waterloo, Welland, Windsor, Edmonton, Vancouver, Sudbury, Calgary, Thunder Bay, Winnipeg e New York - ha detto Vatri - l'associazionismo rimane come nel passato uno strumento efficace di difesa dei connazionali all'estero anche se è vero, purtroppo, che il cammino futuro diventa sempre più difficile, ma sono sicuro che saremo capaci di attirare l'attenzione dei giovani e se sarà il caso, modificheremo, nei limiti del possibile, anche lo statuto».

La giornata dedicata al tesseramento sarà quella del 9 gennaio, quando alle 2 del pomeriggio i soci con le loro mogli si incontreranno alla Rizzo Banquet Hall. Per ulteriori informazioni telefonare ad Adolfo D'Intino al 416-749-1585.



Nella foto a sinistra il comitato direttivo degli Alpini di North York: Adolfo D'Intino, presidente, Alpino Colangelo, vicepresidente, Nello D'Intino tesoriere, Ferdinando Battistelli, segretario, Fabrizio Capovilla, Gino D'Antonio, Evangelista Cannavici, Domenico Guardiani e Cesidio Di Giovanni, consiglieri; sotto a sinistra l'esecutivo sezione: Roberto Buttazzoni, presidente, Adolfo D'Intino, vicepresidente, Carmine Stornelli, tesoriere, Gino Vatri, Alpino Colangelo, Ferdinando Battistelli, Gerry Daquillante e Domenico Guardiani; sotto D'Intino con Tony Silvani; in basso a sinistra Gino Vatri; al centro e a destra due momenti dell'ingresso degli alpini nella sala (Foto Corriere-Gregory Varano)



TORONTO
Eletto il nuovo direttivo delle associazioni d'arma e polizia



Nella foto Mario Gentile

TORONTO - È stato nella sede dell'Associazione dei Carabinieri di Toronto che si è riunita la Federazione delle associazioni italiane d'Arma e Corpo di polizia - Toronto per eleggere il nuovo consiglio che rimarrà in carica i prossimi due anni.

Sono quindi stati nominati ed eletti i presidenti Cav. Mario Gentile, commissario Guardia d'onore dell'Ontario, Cav. Gino Vatri, presidente commissione intersezionale Ana Nord America, Cav. Roberto Buttazzoni, presidente Ana sezione di Toronto e capogruppo di Toronto Centro, Giuseppe De Stefano, presidente associazione nazionale Marinai e Carmine Stornelli, capogruppo Ana di Mississauga - sezione di Toronto.

Le cariche sono state così suddivise: Mario Gentile, presidente, Gino Vatri chairman, Giuseppe De Stefano vicepresidente, Roberto Buttazzoni segretario e Carmine Stornelli tesoriere.

Picnic degli Alpini del Gruppo Centro

Le Penne Nere della sezione di Toronto hanno organizzato una scampagnata al Fogolar Furlan di Oakville

MARIELLA POLICHEMI

TORONTO - Giornata all'aria aperta per le Penne Nere del Gruppo Centro della Sezione di Toronto. Al Fogolar Furlan di Oakville le Penne Nere con le loro famiglie e gli amici si sono diverte organizzando giochi, gustando ottimo cibo, chiacchiere. «Il parco è meraviglioso, il tempo è stato perfetto» dice con soddisfazione il presidente della sezione Roberto Buttazzoni - le piscine erano piene di bambini ed adulti che hanno approfittato della scampagnata per godere di una giornata di svago a 360 gradi».

I picnic sono sinonimo di giochi e anche di grigliate. Ma non solo. «Abbiamo preparato tanta carne al barbecue ma anche tanta pasticciata» continua Buttazzoni - La cucina è stata un successo grazie anche alla direzione di Tony Pigat».

Ad officiare la messa è stato padre Vitaliano Papais: «Come al solito i presenti hanno partecipato con grande attenzione» aggiunge il presidente del Gruppo



po Centro del quale Gino Vatri è capogruppo - infine abbiamo estratto i premi della lotteria tra i quali una bicicletta che è stata vinta da Lina Vatri, moglie di uno dei membri del comitato».

Un comitato che si è prodigato con grande energia ed en-



tusiasmo per l'organizzazione di questa scampagnata annuale e al quale vanno i ringraziamenti del presidente Buttazzoni: «Un grazie particolare al vicecapogruppo Gerry D'Aquilante, al secondo vicecapogruppo Remigio Vatri, al tesoriere Tony Pigat e ai consiglieri Giuseppe Menegon, Vittorio Debuglio e Cal Danilio» conclude il presidente - Il successo del picnic è merito anche di tutte le persone che hanno voluto trascorrere la giornata assieme a noi, a tutti i soci e agli amici delle Penne Nere».



Nelle foto, alcuni momenti della scampagnata delle Penne Nere del Gruppo Centro della Sezione di Toronto al Fogolar Furlan di Oakville



Celebrata una messa per i caduti

Il Gruppo Centro degli alpini di Toronto ha ricordato chi ha perso la vita in guerra e in missioni di pace



Nelle 2 foto a sinistra, il gruppo di partecipanti al pranzo e alla messa; sopra padre Michele Brizio durante la cerimonia religiosa; nella foto sotto all'estrema sinistra Vittorio Di Buglio con la moglie Sonia ed i loro due figli; nella foto sotto al centro il socio fondatore nonché primo tessarato Pietro Sifredo con la moglie assieme a Roberto e Irene Buttazzoni.

MARIELLA POLICHEMI

TORONTO - Gli alpini del gruppo Centro della sezione di Toronto hanno fatto celebrare una messa per ricordare tutti i caduti in guerra e nelle missioni di pace.

La messa è stata celebrata da padre Michele Brizio presso la chiesa dei Missionari della Consolata che si trova al 2671 Islington Avenue di Toronto:

«Durante la predica padre Brizio ha parlato di "cose alpine"» dice Gino Vatri, presidente della Commissione Intersezionale Ana del Canada e degli Stati Uniti - tutti i soci presenti e le loro mogli hanno ascoltato attentamente mostrando di condividere le parole del sacerdote».

Al termine della funzione religiosa è stato organizzato un incontro conviviale offerto dal Gruppo Centro nei

locali sottostanti la chiesa: «A preparare con grande maestria il pranzo è stato Vittorio De Buglio coadiuvato dalla moglie Sonia ai quali va naturalmente un grande ringraziamento da parte del consiglio del Gruppo» continua Vatri - un grazie va inoltre a tutti coloro che hanno collaborato per la riuscita dell'evento».



Durante il pranzo, al quale era anche presente il presidente dei Bersaglieri Pietro Girardi accompagnato dalla moglie Imelda, padre Marco Bagnari, appena rientrato in sede, ha consegnato a Roberto Buttazzoni e a Gino Vatri due copie del volume "40" di fondazione del Gruppo A.N.A. Pordenone

Centro": padre Marco ha celebrato la messa in occasione del quarantesimo anniversario di costituzione del Gruppo Alpini Pordenone-Centro ed ha portato alle Penne Nere di Pordenone il saluto degli Alpini del Canada e del presidente intersezionale del Nordamerica Gino Vatri.



50esimo ANNIVERSARIO
Irene e Roberto Buttazzoni, Lina e Remigio Vatri, Esterina e Giovanni Toneyuzzo sono tre coppie che quest'anno festeggiano le loro nozze d'oro. Roberto, Remigio e Giovanni sono membri della sezione di Toronto - Gruppo Centro dell'Associazione Nazionale Alpini.

Alle tre coppie vanno gli auguri più fervidi per i loro primi cinquant'anni di amore e per ancora tantissimi anni pieni di amore e felicità.

Nella foto da sinistra Irene e Roberto Buttazzoni, Lina e Remigio Vatri ed Esterina e Giovanni Toneyuzzo

Alpini di Windsor, assieme da 43 anni

Trecento persone hanno festeggiato l'anniversario della sezione al Fogolar Furlan. Messa, cena, ballo e tanti canti di montagna

MARIELLA POLICHENI

TORONTO - Il popolo delle Penne Nere non si è fatto attendere. Puntuale, come sempre del resto, ha raggiunto Windsor per partecipare ai festeggiamenti in onore del 43° anniversario della sezione.

È stata un'altra occasione per rinsaldare i vincoli di amicizia nati tanti anni fa, spesso in gioventù e per ritrovarsi davanti a un buon piatto di cibo e un bicchiere di vino. Così è stato anche questa volta al Fogolar Furlan della cittadina dell'Ontario dove si sono date appuntamento circa 300 persone: «Nonostante il tempo non proprio bello il programma è stato rispettato e dopo il tradizionale alzarbandiera e qualche minuto di raccoglimento è stata celebrata la messa durante la quale sono stati ricordati tutti gli alpini che, come noi Penne Nere amiamo dire, sono andati avanti», dice Gino Vatri, presidente della Commissione Intersezionale Ana del Canada e degli Stati Uniti che ha raggiunto Windsor assieme alla moglie Santa per unirsi agli altri Alpini - dopo la *Preghiera dell'alpino* abbiamo deposto una corona ai piedi del monumento».

Alla tradizionale cena alpina, oltre a Gino Vatri, erano presenti altri ospiti come il presidente del Fogolar Furlan di Windsor Cesare Pecile con la moglie, la vice console Cav. Liliana Scotti-Busi con il marito e i due ex presidenti della Sezione di Windsor Alfredo Morando e Agosti-

no Brun. Ida Lot moglie di Aldo Lot oltre, naturalmente, a tutti gli alpini del consiglio sezionale. «C'era anche il nostro Coro Alpino che ha cantato con il cuore e che quando interpreta i canti alpini mi ricorda i giorni in cui ero e puntualmente mi commuove - dice il presidente della Sezione di Windsor Vittorio Morasset - gli applausi per questo meraviglioso coro sono stati davvero tanti».

Ogni anno il presidente Morasset assieme al suo consiglio premia alpini che si sono distinti: quest'anno è stato riconosciuto l'impegno di Ivo Zucchet del Gruppo di Detroit, di Ciro Valentin, consigliere del Gruppo di London e di Donato Simone di Amherburg (che non era presente): il vice console Scotti-Busi assieme a Gino Vatri e a



Nella foto a sinistra la premiazione annuale di alpini della sezione: da sinistra Ciro Valentin del Gruppo di London, il presidente intersezionale Gino Vatri, Ivo Zucchet del Gruppo di Detroit, la viceconsole italiana Liliana Scotti Busi e il presidente sezionale Vittorio Morasset (assente alla premiazione l'alpino Donato Simone Gruppo Windsor); sotto a sinistra Vittorio Morasset e Gino Vatri consegnano un attestato alla signora Pizzolotto mamma di Sandra Pupaello; sotto a destra Gino Vatri, capogruppo da 30 anni della sezione di Toronto con il vessillo di Toronto e Vittorio Morasset, presidente della sezione di Windsor con il vessillo sezionale di Windsor; nella foto in basso a sinistra Gino Vatri, Ida Lot, Morasset, la signora Lira ed Emilio Salamone ideatore del tavolo con frutta e il capello Alpino completamente edibile; a destra i simboli alpini cappello e piccozza; in basso a sinistra il Coro Alpini Windsor con il maestro Roberto Corrado



Morasset ha inoltre donato una targa alla sezione per premiare l'impegno e la perseveranza profusi. «Oltre ad un bellissimo scenario alpino formato da cappello, piccozza e altri elementi realizzati con il cibo Vincenzo Peschiutta ha creato delle bandiere alpine che sono state poste a centinavola - conclude il presidente Morasset - abbiamo trascorso assieme una serata molto bella, sono davvero felice di toccare con mano l'affetto di tante Penne nere e di tanti amici verso la nostra sezione».



Remembrance Day con la Sezione di Windsor

TORONTO - Remembrance Day è la giornata durante la quale vengono ricordati i soldati che hanno dato la vita per la propria nazione.

Già da numerosi anni gli alpini della Sezione di Windsor hanno l'onore di partecipare a questa ricorrenza.

La cerimonia, che si svolge a Amherburg è molto commovente: circa 200 persone provenienti dalle county di Essex e Kent hanno partecipato all'evento che oltre agli alpini ha registrato la presenza di tutta la comunità italo-canadese, del sindaco di Amherburg Wayne Hurst, di vari membri del Parlamento della provincia dell'Ontario, di ufficiali della Polizia locale. «In qualità di presidente della sezione ho avuto il piacere di condividere questo avvenimento con altri membri delle forze Armate del Canada, membri dell'Essex-Kent Scottish Regiment che con le loro cornamuse ci hanno fatto provare una emozione ancor più grande», ha detto il presidente delle Penne Nere di Windsor Vittorio Morasset.

È stato il sindaco di Amherburg, assieme alle autorità presenti, a mettere in luce l'importanza di questo avvenimento multiculturale: la viceconsole italiana Liliana Scotti Busi ha espresso il suo pensiero con parole che sono arrivate al cuore dei presenti. «Il Canada ha dato a noi italiani emigrati la possibilità di avere un avvenire sicuro e di assicurare un avvenire di successo ai nostri figli - ha aggiunto Morasset - non dimenticheremo mai però le nostre origini. L'Italia sarà sempre nel nostro cuore come una madre».

Infine il presidente Morasset ha voluto ringraziare gli organizzatori dell'evento: «Un ringraziamento dal profondo del cuore a Eric e Maria Conte, Dan Simone e tutti gli Alpini, al Coro Alpino della Sezione di Windsor per aver cantato i due inni nazionali, italiano e canadese», ha concluso Morasset.



Associazione Nazionale Alpini

Sezione di Montréal Gruppo Ana Laval

Cari alpini è un piacere ritrovarvi su queste pagine ogni sei mesi e raccontare i propri avvenimenti e le proprie attività di Associazione.

Per chi ha vissuto la 83ª Aduana a Bergamo porta ancora il suo eco nel cuore. La nostra adunata non è un fatto nostalgico di folclore, ma un incontro vivo, anche se molti di noi sono anziani ci dà vitalità ed uno spirito da fare invidia a molti. Anche la nostra capacità di radunarci in centinaia di migliaia ogni anno, provenienti da tutte le parti del mondo, sentendoci parte di un unico corpo, è qualcosa di sorprendente. Uno spettacolo di unità da vedere e da imparare. Bergamo ci ha accolto a braccia aperte, ci ha fatti sentire in casa propria. Non eravamo in molti dal Canada ma il nostro striscione "CANADA - GLI ALPINI DELLA SECONDA NAJA MANTENGONO SEMPRE SALDI I LEGAMI CON LA MADRE PATRIA" ha attirato l'attenzione e gli applausi. La città di Bergamo con il suo ordine, le sue piazze imbandierate i suoi monumenti ci hanno lasciato un bellissimo ricordo. Un particolare grazie anche alla Sezione Nazionale che ha curato ogni particolarità. Il nostro Presidente Corrado Perona con il suo carisma ed i suoi discorsi fa riflettere molti e non solo i nostri Alpini, anche le autorità Municipali, Provinciali, Statali presenti, mettendo l'accento sul sacrificio, il dono disinteressato di sé, la disponibilità e la fraternità che distingue l'Alpino. Il nostro ministro degli esteri, Onorato Capannolo merita un sentito grazie, per l'accoglienza e la sistemazione riservatoci. L'incontro per la Sezione Estere con una elegante cena il venerdì sera, ben 250 Alpini fra amici e consorti si sono incontrati per festeggiare e scambiare i loro ricordi. Purtroppo, l'anno prossimo, nel 2011 il mandato di Capannolo verrà a termine, e quanti fra di noi hanno conosciuto ed apprezzato il suo ottimo lavoro non sono pronti a vederlo partire, perciò i Presidenti Sezionali presenti ed i Capit Gruppi, hanno indetto una riunione straordinaria, con raccolta firme domandando che il mandato di Capannolo sia prolungato almeno per un altro periodo. La petizione è



Al Centro Dante, fra gli alpini della Sezione di Montréal: A. Stabile, Vendramini M. Bisinella F., De Paoli S., e tanti anziani, felici di fotografarsi con gli alpini.

stata inviata in sede Nazionale all'attenzione del Presidente Perona e del Consiglio Nazionale.

All'Adunata non poteva mancare l'urna del Beato don Carlo Gnocchi esposta nella Cattedrale

di Bergamo Alta, molti dei nostri Alpini hanno potuto rendere omaggio alle spoglie, poi l'urna

Spora, nella Chiesa Maria Madre dei Cristiani, da s. Negrello B., P. Giuseppe Fugolo, Bisinella F. a maestro del Coro, Giovanna Fucci, Filiberti M., De Paoli S., estrema d. Spagnuolo Italo, nel dietro i componenti del Coro Alpino di Montréal ed alcuni soci del Gruppo Laval.

ritornerà nella sua sede attuale a Milano. Un altro evento memorabile, una stupenda sottolineatura del concetto di unità nazionale, di un valore da difendere, celebrare, preservare e trasmettere alle nuove generazioni: mi riferisco alla prossima 84ª Adunata degli Alpini che si terrà il 7-8 maggio 2011 a Torino, un appuntamento da non mancare.

Ritorno al punto dove ci eravamo lasciati nel 2009, all'Assemblea Generale della Sezione con Elezioni, gradita la pre-

senza anche del Capo Gruppo di Laval. Italo Spagnuolo, abbiamo discusso sulle nostre attività annuali, cercando di mantenerle e renderle più vive rafforzando lo Spirito Alpino. Nell'occasione è stato approvato un dono di \$ 1000 all'Istituto delle suore di Sant'Anna in Eritrea, ove hanno una loro Casa che dà aiuto ed assistenza ai più deboli e bisognosi. Siamo venuti a conoscenza del bisogno tramite il socio Castellani Ottavio, figlio del fu Ten. Bortolotto Castellani, Medaglia d'Oro, caduto in guerra nel 1945 e le sue spoglie riposano in Eritrea.

È stata consegnata una Borsa di Studio "Bertagnoli" a Melanie Olmi, nipote del fu Olmi Bonfiglio studente in cinematografia. Seguirono le Elezioni per il rinnovo del Direttivo, il quale è rimasto invariato, si è aggiunto una assistente segretaria, la signora Alba dal Molin, la prima donna nel nostro Consiglio Direttivo, è anche il nostro fotografo ufficiale.

Il 21 Febbraio si è svolta l'annuale festa in onore degli anziani, un incontro voluto ed apprezzato da tutti. Un momento intimo, dove ognuno può incontrare il proprio amico ed i ricordi ed i racconti del passato sono sempre vivi. In questa occasione il nostro socio Melchiorre Vendramini ci ha consegnato una magnifica AQUILA SIMBOLO DI GRANDE VALORE PER NOI Alpini, tutta in acciaio costruita dall'alpino Spadotto Flavio, socio del Gruppo Alpini di Mansueto.

Ci siamo dati appuntamento all'Adunata di Bergamo per poter ringraziare il Gruppo di Mansueto, la Sezione di Montréal ha consegnato loro, donando al Capo Gruppo De Luca Guglielmo, una medaglia ricordo del nostro 50° coniato appositamente per tale anniversario. A Bergamo c'era anche l'artista dell'Aquila, nella foto più sotto potete vederlo è quello con gli occhiali.

Chiedemmo la giornata con un delizioso rancio, ed in tale occasione abbiamo effettuato una raccolta fondi per il terremoto di Haiti. Abbiamo racimolato una discreta somma, la Sezione ha pensato bene di arrotondare per raggiungere i \$1000.



Il gruppo di Alpini Canadesi durante la sfilata a Bergamo.



Il socio don Gregorio Ciszek, ordinato sacerdote l'11 giugno 2010, nella chiesa Madonna di Pompei.

Nel gruppo da s.: Vendramini M., Pispini, Bisinella F., Negretto B., Spadotto F., De Luca G., tutti gli altri sono del Gruppo di Mansueto a Bergamo.



Bisinella F. pres. Sezione di Montréal, De Luca G. Capo Gruppo di Mansueto, consegna della Medaglia in ringraziamento per l'Aquila.

Per arricchire la raccolta fondi Haiti, il Gruppo Laval, con la collaborazione del Corpo Alpino di Montréal, diretto da Iulo Spagnuolo, e la nostra partecipazione ha organizzato un concerto a Ville La Salle, nella Chiesa Maria Madre dei Cristiani gestita da Padri Scalabriniani. La Chiesa era piena ed i doni raccolti sono stati consegnati al parroco P. Giuseppe Fugato ed inviati tramite lui stesso al Seminario Scalabriniano in Haiti che ha subito gravi perdite. Chiedevamo il pomeriggio con una spaghettata nella Sala della Chiesa.

La Cabana a Sucre si è tenuta il 28 marzo, sempre con

grande partecipazione ed allegria, come solo gli Alpini sanno fare.

Il 2 maggio Assemblea Straordinaria, per mettere in ordine le nostre attività. Varie discussioni sulla striscione che, si doveva portare a Bergamo. Qualcuno era già partito per l'Italia, e gli altri erano sulle spine. Presente il nostro so-

cio don Gregorio Ciszek, venuto ad invitarci alla sua ordinazione sacerdotale che avrebbe avuto luogo l'11 giugno 2010. Come il solito, per chiudere l'Assemblea un ottimo pranzo, sempre preparato dai nostri cuochi fu servito, tra la serenità ed il benessere di tutti.

Ci siamo stati all'ordinazione di don Gregorio, nella chiesa Nostra Signora di Pompei, presenti una cinquantina di Alpini della Sezione di Montréal e del Gruppo Laval, ad onorare il loro socio.

La chiesa era colma, molta gente in piedi, al giorno d'oggi se ne vedono poche di que-

ste celebrazioni. Da sottolineare che don Gregorio è capitano nell'arma Canadese, vi erano anche due ufficiali dell'esercito. Il Cardinale Turcotte, che officiava la cerimonia è rimasto impressionato della serietà e dell'impegno del nuovo sacerdote e le ha rivolto parole di elogio e di stima. Noi siamo fieri di averlo come socio.

Festa della Repubblica, 2 giugno, come gli anni addietro l'abbiamo celebrata assieme ai nostri anziani del Centro d'Accoglienza Dante. Abbiamo aperto l'incontro con gli inni nazionali, distribuito le bandiere italiane, che sono sta-

te molto gradite, e poi abbiamo cantato e ballato, un duetto animava la giornata. Non mancavano dolci, pizza, frutta, bibite, succhi di frutta e caffè. La giornata terminò con un breve discorso del Presidente Bisinella, del Direttore del Centro Famiglietti e della Direttrice del Centro di Giono Angela Novembre. Sinceri ringraziamenti furono fatti all'organizzatrice delle attività del Centro Maria Creca. Grandi elogi agli Alpini presenti, che si sono dati da fare, portando sì il necessario ma, hanno fatto anche il servizio ai tavoli con

soleria ed allegria. Un vivo

ringraziamento a tutti.

Purtroppo due cari soci sono andati avanti in questi sei mesi.

Il nostro amato e più anziano della Sezione, l'Alpino Olmi Bonfiglio, tra il dolore della famiglia e di noi tutti. Era ammalato, e se ne è andato senza troppe sofferenze.

Al contrario il socio Artigliere Alfonso Menon, ci ha lasciati improvvisamente, tra la sorpresa ed il dolore di tutti. Li ricorderemo nelle nostre preghiere.

Chiudo la mia lunga chiacchierata augurando buone vacanze a tutti, godetevi il sole e l'aria aperta e fatevi scorta per l'inverno. Arriverete alle prossime attività estive, non ci possiamo fermare completamente, gli Alpini devono rimanere sempre in cresta.

Ferdinando Bisinella
Presidente Sezione di Montréal



Ferdinando Bisinella pres. Sezione di Montréal, consegna la Borsa di Studio Franco Bertagnoni a Mélanie Olmi.



L' aquila in acciaio dell'artista Spadotto Flavio.



L' Artigliere Alfonso Menon



L' Alpino Olmi Bonfiglio

Sezione ANA di Montréal Gruppo ANA di Laval

Un bel gruppo di alpini di Ottawa, Sez. di Montréal e del Gruppo Laval, al picnic di fine agosto a Ste Esprit.

Cari alpini, è bello ritrovarvi nel nostro giornale ALPINI IN TRASFERITA, raccolte di ultime notizie, nuove e quelle ormai diventate consuete, perché care alle nostre Associazioni, ricche di valori e sentimenti che ci fanno sentire meno soli in questo grande Canada dalle distanze immense ma non incolmabili. Mi fa piacere raccontarvi le nostre attività semestrali sempre piacevoli e con grande partecipazione.

Nel campo del volontariato, abbiamo avuto la domanda da parte del nostro segretario, Paolo Fassina, con una lettera del genero, Roger Skira, che partecipava da una attività dell'istituto Des Cedres, "Tour de Danse" nell'ambito della raccolta fondi per la ricerca contro il cancro, la Sezione ben cosciente dell'interesse su questa malattia ha donato \$ 1000.

Durante l'estate, tempo di turismo e di viaggi, abbiamo avuto vari contatti con i nostri alpini dall'Italia che sembra stiano scoprendo il Canada come meta da visitare. Abbiamo ricevuto il figlio del Presidente della Sezione di Cuneo, Antonio Franza, e due soci della Sezione di Vicenza, i signori Zieglio e Ligallo trovano il nostro paese attraente, e ci portano sempre una buffata di vitalità e riviviamo in quei momenti le emozioni delle alpinate. Con grande sorpresa abbiamo ricevuto Bruno Nicoli del Gruppo di Breganze, perché aveva visto a Bassano il nostro tesoriere Bruno Negretto, che partecipò al raduno del Triveneto, essendo di passaggio a Montréal, volle incontrare il Direttore della Sezione, tanto era stato toccato dalla nostra presenza qui in Canada.

La seconda domenica di agosto, con due pullman, Sezione di Montréal e Gruppo Laval, ci siamo andati a Ottawa per il picnic di questa Sezione. Purtroppo il bel tempo non ci ha fatto compagnia, ci siamo ritrovati in sala, ma il fatto di ritrovarci, assieme al buon ranco, i bei canti intonati dai



Serata del Banchetto Sezione: il gruppo è formato dagli alpini della Sezione di Montréal e del Gruppo Laval, con rispettivi Presidenti e Direttivi, fra di loro la deputata Provinciale la signora Filomena Rottoli, il deputato Federale Massimo Pacetti, il Console Generale d'Italia a Montréal Giulio Picchica.

I nostri alpini hanno mantenuto allegro l'incontro. Fine agosto era la volta di Montréal e Laval, di ricevere la Sezione di Ottawa, un sole raggiante troneggiava in quella gremita giornata, ben 450 persone si presentarono all'incontro, dando un grande lavoro ai nostri collaboratori ed improvvisati cuochi, ma tutto filò per il meglio. Degustazione di vini casalinghi, grappe artigianali coi differenti sapori di erbe aggiunte, canti di montagna, ma anche ballabili, niente è stato trascurato per tenere allegria la compagnia. La Messa al campo è stata celebrata dal nostro amato Padre Scalabriniano Giuseppe Fugato. Alla chiusura è stato



Da sinistra il cons. M. Filiberti, i signori Zieglio e Ligallo della Sez. di Vicenza, il vicepres. S. De Paoli, alpino Franza, della Sez. di Cuneo, tes. B. Negretto, cons. V. Soldera, pres. F. Bisinella e il cons. A. Bertelli.

formulato da tutti il desiderio di mantenere questi bellissimi scambi. Anche quest'anno, come da diversi anni avviene, la Sezione di Montréal, con il Gruppo Laval, hanno commemorato il Santo Patrono San Maurizio, non dimenticando di aggiungere un pensiero anche per il Beato Don Gnocchi, bellissima figura di alpino in



Incontro alla Casa del Veneto, parte del Direttivo della Sezione con l'alpino Bruno Nicoli del Gruppo di Breganze

profumo di Santità. La Messa è stata celebrata nella Parrocchia Madonna di Pompei, al termine della quale è stata depositata una corona di alloro al monumento ai Caduti di Tutte le Guerre. Seguiva un rinfresco nella sala della chiesa, qualcosa di intimo e familiare ben preparato dai nostri alpini.

Cerimonia del 4 novembre, organizzata dalla Federazione degli Ex-Militari Italiani in Cuneo, alla quale partecipano tutte le armi presenti in Montréal e dintorni. Gli Alpini sono sempre i più numerosi, disciplinati e pronti a dare una mano. Erano presenti le autorità Consolari Italiane, Governative Federali e Provinciali, i Presidenti delle varie associazioni comunitarie. Questa cerimonia viene sottolineata ogni anno nelle differenti parrocchie, dove c'è un monumento

Giornata di San Maurizio, nella foto, V. Soldera, I. Spagnuolo, F. Bisinella, un Alpino del Gruppo Laval, P. Pasquarelli e il prof. Filippo Salvatore.

dedicato ai CADUTI DI TUTTE LE GUERRE. Saper dare sempre più visibilità a questa cerimonia, non solo per ricordare questi valorosi soldati caduti per la loro Patria, ma per ricordare anche questi giovani militari, che sono presenti nei vari Paesi, dove la pace e la libertà non sono rispettati, e che rischiano la loro vita per difendere dei valori cari ad ogni uomo.

Un sentito grazie al Gruppo di Sudbury per il loro 40°, abbiamo ricevuto con piacere la medaglia ed il libro è un gradito ricordo.

Sabato scorso ha avuto luogo il Banchetto Annuale della Sezione. Bellissima serata con più di 200 persone, anche il Gruppo Laval con il suo Presidente Italo Spagnuolo ha partecipato numeroso. Menù squisito come le Sale Le Rizz hanno presentato, bella musica e tante allegrie. Invitato d'onore il Console Generale d'Italia Giulio Picchica e consorte, il deputato Federale Massimo Pacetti, la deputata provinciale Filomena Rottoli, il sindaco de l'arrondissement Saint-Léonard Michel Bissonette, il Direttore della Sezione è fiero del risultato.

Ora stiamo preparando l'assemblea Generale per il cinque dicembre.

Il Gruppo ANA Laval, collabora a tutte le attività della Sezione, con armonia e voglia d'implicazione. Stanno preparando la loro festa annuale IL BALLO DI SAN VALENTINO, la festa degli innamorati. Regalano una bella rosa alle signore presenti. Essendo la loro attività una domenica e all'ora del pranzo, la sala è sempre gremita, e le presenze a numero chiuso. Come in tutti gli incontri alpini i canti della montagna non mancano.

Codolo l'occasione per porgere i migliori auguri per le Sante Feste Natalizie e di Capodanno, al Nostro presidente dell'Intersezione, a tutte le Sezioni e Gruppi del Canada, amore, gioia e salute, vi siano compagne per tutto il 2011.

Ferdinando Bisinella
Presidente Sezione ANA di Montréal

IL SALUTO

Il generale Sanzio Bonotto lascia Ottawa

TORONTO - È giunto al termine l'incarico di Addetto Militare per la Difesa in Canada del Generale di Brigata Aerea Sanzio Bonotto. Dopo tre anni il generale lascia Ottawa, dove l'Ufficio militare verrà chiuso, e rientra in Italia.

È soddisfatto del periodo trascorso nella terra dell'Ace: il generale Bonotto, che nato nel 1953 ha conseguito nel 1977 il brevetto di volo su velivolo G91T presso la scuola di volo di Amendola (Foggia) mentre nel 1984 ha conseguito l'abilitazione su velivolo Tornado presso la Scuola Triennale di Cottesmore in Inghilterra e il corso Normale e Superiore alla Scuola di Guerra Aerea ed il corso Alti Studi per la Difesa. Durante la guerra del Golfo ha assunto l'incarico di vice comandante fino alla fine del conflitto partecipando anche a varie missioni aeree.

Nel 2000 è stato assegnato all'Aeroporto di Pristina in Kosovo con l'incarico di Capo Ufficio Operazioni e di vice comandante del Distaccamento italiano, responsabile dell'organizzazione delle attività operative dell'Aeropor-

to. Generale di brigata Bonotto è stato promosso nel 2002. Dal 2007 Bonotto riveste l'incarico di addetto per la Difesa presso l'Ambasciata d'Italia ad Ottawa: «Tre anni sono passati veramente in fretta, mi sembra di essere arrivato ieri ed è già ora di prendere l'aereo per tornare in Italia - ha scritto nel suo messaggio alle associazioni della comunità italiana - sono stati tre anni densi di soddisfazioni, ho avuto modo di incontrare la comunità italiana e le varie associazioni d'Arma che mi sono state vicine e non mi hanno fatto sentire la nostalgia per mio Paese, ho visto una comunità viva che sente molto i valori che contraddistinguono noi italiani».

Il generale Bonotto ha concluso con un ringraziamento: «Ringrazio tutti voi che mi avete fatto partecipe di tante manifestazioni che testimoniano la vostra volontà di mantenere salde le tradizioni italiane anche lontani dalla Madrepatria - ha detto Bonotto - è stato un piacere conoscere e trascorrere dei bei momenti insieme. Penso che rimarrà sempre nel mio cuore».



Nella foto il Generale di Brigata aerea Sanzio Bonotto durante una festa degli Alpini di Toronto assieme a Roberto Buttazzoni, al Console Generale Gianni Bordini e al presidente della Famme Furlane Luigi Gambin

Una messa per ricordare i caduti in guerra

TORONTO - È stata celebrata alla presenza di tantissima gente la messa in memoria di tutti i caduti in guerra.

Ad organizzare l'evento è stata la Federazione italiana dei combattenti alleati (Fidca) assieme alla Bia (Little Italy Business Improvement Association) di College Street. «Durante la messa sono stati commemorati i caduti della Prima e della Seconda Guerra Mondiale, italiani ma anche polacchi, americani, inglesi e canadesi - dice il Cav. Uff. Giuseppe Simonetta, presidente della Federazione Italiana dei Combattenti Alleati - Sezione di Toronto - dopo gli anni italiano e canadese e l'esecuzione del «Silenzio» è stata celebrata la messa che è stata molto commovente».

È stato in una giornata un po' grigia che moltissime persone si sono riunite nella chiesa di San Francesco d'Assisi per onorare tutti coloro che in guerra hanno perso la vita: tra i presenti c'erano i deputati del governo provinciale Rosario Marchese e Laura Albanese, il vicepresidente del Congresso Domenico Barbieri, i coniugi Leone, Tony Porretta del patronato Epoca e il Comm. Silvio Amelio del Ministero per i beni e le attività culturali a Roma. Non sono mancate le associazioni di d'Arma: il presidente dei Carabinieri Tonino Giallombardo, Gino Vatri, presidente della Commissione Interregionale Ana del Canada e degli Stati Uniti, Pietro Girardi, presidente dei Bersaglieri, Giuseppe Di Stefano dei Marinai, Frank Padula della Asapa, Mario Gentile presidente delle Guardie d'onore alle reali tombe del Pantheon.

Durante la cerimonia sono state consegnate le medaglie concesse dalla Presidenza del Consiglio dei ministri della Repubblica Italiana ad alcuni ex combattenti deportati in Germania nel 1943-45: a riceverle

sono stati Ottorino Ceneda, Ida Antonazzi Collo del vedova di Luigi Collo del, per Luigi Durigon ha ritirato la medaglia la figlia. «Sono stati anche consegnati alcuni diplomi e medaglie ad alcuni familiari dei superstiti della seconda guerra mondiale», aggiunge il Cav. Uff. Simonetta.

Al termine della messa il corteo è andato a deporre la corona ai piedi della statua della Madonna della Pace prima di partecipare a un rinfresco che ha concluso la manifestazione che è stata molto sentita dai partecipanti.



Nella foto in alto il Cav. Uff. Giuseppe Simonetta, presidente della Fidca nella altre foto alcuni momenti della commemorazione dei caduti di tutte le guerre



C.I.F.A.A.
CANADIAN ITALIAN FAMILY ASSISTANCE ASSOCIATIONS
CENTRO DI ASSISTENZA FAMILIARE ITALIANE
1000 Yonge Street, Toronto, Ont. M4W 1Y1 Tel. 416-593-8866

Toronto, 22/11/2010.

Carissimo Presidente, C.I.A.A. e Nordamericana,
Gentile Cav. Gino Vatri,

Sono contento che assieme a Voi, che avete partecipato alla bella manifestazione di Onorare i Caduti di Tutte le Guerre il 14 a.s., presso la Chiesa di San Francesco d'Assisi Patrono d'Italia, è stata seguita con orgoglio non solo dalla rappresentanza Militare Marinai, Bersaglieri e di Lei, Presidente degli Alpini, Carabinieri, e delle forze di Polizia Stradale, e alla presenza del personaggio Opole, venuto da Roma, Comm. Silvio Amelio (Scalatore) del Ministero Per i Beni e le Attività Culturali, gli ha fatto piacere essere presente con noi, e ha preso accordi con il Comodo Generale d'Italia Don. Gianni Bordini, per i preparativi del 2011 per la ricorrenza anniversario dei 150 anni dell'Unità d'Italia, e 2011, Vi accolgo qualche foto in merito alla ricorrenza nel Remembrance Day. Graditi cordiali saluti, con stima Sua riverenziosa.

Direttore:
Cav. Uff. Giuseppe Simonetta
Corrispondente del Consolato Italiano,

Giuseppe Simonetta

WELLAND

L'alpino Cesidio Guglielmi festeggia 90 anni

TORONTO - Gli Alpini del gruppo di Welland hanno festeggiato il novantesimo compleanno di Cesidio Guglielmi. Guglielmi, reduce della Seconda guerra mondiale, fa parte delle Penne nere del gruppo di Welland: assieme gli alpini hanno bevuto un buon bicchiere di vino, prodotto dallo stesso Guglielmi, caffè, grappa e assaggiato ottimi dolci.



Nella foto si riconoscono Pasquale Lostracco, Dorio Di Donato, capogruppo, Cesidio Guglielmi con la moglie Teresa, Gabriele Labriciosa, Gino Ferrusi e Giovanni Di Marco

CADUTI SUL LAVORO

Cari Alpini vi siete mai chiesti quanti nostri connazionali immigrati in questo paese hanno perso la vita a causa di incidenti sul lavoro o malattie industriali negli ultimi sessanta anni?

Forse il numero preciso non lo sapremo mai però solo nell'Ontario si tratta di diverse centinaia.

Ma chi si ricorda di questi sfortunati, i quali anche se trovano il benessere agognato hanno trovato la morte nei cantieri, nelle ferrovie, nelle fabbriche e nelle miniere dell'Ontario?

Non è giusto che questi eroi del lavoro, che hanno dato la vita per dare alle loro famiglie un futuro migliore vengano dimenticati.

È sorto a Toronto un Comitato, il quale io ho l'onore di presiedere, con l'impegno di onorare degnamente questi nostri connazionali che con il loro supremo sacrificio hanno contribuito ad una maggiore sicurezza nei cantieri di lavoro dell'Ontario ed un'avvenire più sereno alle nuove generazioni.

Questo Comitato si propone di far erigere un monumento onde i nomi di queste vittime verranno scolpiti in modo che almeno una volta all'anno vengano degnamente ricordati.

Sfortunatamente il «Privacy Act» non permette al Ministero del Lavoro dell'Ontario né alla WSIB di fornirci i nomi di queste vittime e sembra che nessun altro si sia preso la briga di tenerne dei

records perciò ci rivolgiamo a tutti i nostri connazionali residenti nella provincia dell'Ontario. Se avete avuto un congiunto, un amico o un conoscente che abbia perso la vita per causa di un incidente sul lavoro o a causa di malattie industriali nella provincia dell'Ontario, vi preghiamo di darci i loro nominativi, incluso l'anno ed il luogo dove hanno perduto la vita.

Le sadette informazioni dovranno essere spedite al COMITES, Circoscrizione Consolare di Toronto.

C/O Casa del Zotto 3010 Dufferin St. Unit 2 Toronto Ont. M6B 4J5 Tel. 416 746 5674 Fax 416 746 8692 Email: comiestoronto@yahoo.ca

Oppure al Patronato Italiano più vicino. Sono certo che i nostri alpini, che si sono sempre prodigati in cause meritorie si sapranno distinguere anche in questa occasione aiutandoci a rintracciare i nomi dei nostri connazionali morti nei cantieri di lavoro dell'Ontario, come sono certo che quando faremo la cerimonia inaugurale di questo monumento, la cui data non è stata ancora determinata, ma con tutta probabilità sarà per il mese di Giugno del 2011, saranno presenti da ogni parte dell'Ontario per avere un agguato decoro e dignità alla cerimonia con la loro presenza.

Grazie per l'ospitalità

Marino Toppan

La Sezione Alpini di Ottawa sempre presente

Ottawa- Anche quest'anno la nostra Associazione ha fatto sentire la sua presenza in seno alla comunità italo-canadese di Ottawa implicando in numerose manifestazioni e rendendo visibile la presenza di questa sezione Alpini intitolata alla Medaglia D'Oro Ten. Col. Italo Lunelli.

Oltre alla normale attività della Sezione che riunisce pe-

riodicamente gli Alpini di Ottawa e nelle quali si discute delle problematiche e delle iniziative da prendere, vanno ricordate le seguenti manifestazioni svoltesi durante l'anno 2010, attività che hanno visto sempre una numerosa partecipazione di iscritti, dei loro familiari e di numerosi simpatizzanti ed amici.

Cominceremo con il tradizio-

nale Banchetto di Primavera, tenutosi nei saloni del St. Anthony S.C. al quale erano presenti più di 150 tra Alpini ed amici. Una bellissima serata svoltasi all'insegna di un incontro fraterno, con cena, ballo e soprattutto con una vera atmosfera alpina. La cena serve a far incontrare, dopo il periodo invernale, tutti i nostri soci e simpatizzanti onde trascorrere una bellissima serata in compagnia e che termina sempre molto tardi e che vede tutti impegnati nel cantare le più belle canzoni degli Alpini e delle nostre amate montagne.

La serata è stata tanto più importante poiché ad essa era presente, come ospite d'onore il Coordinatore delle Associazioni Alpine del Nord America, il Sig. Gino Vatri, appositamente giunto da Toronto.

Il 7 di Agosto ha avuto luogo il tradizionale picnic estivo che ha visto la partecipazione di più di trecento tra Alpini ed i loro parenti. Come ogni anno numerosa la presenza delle Ass. Alpini di Montreal e Laval che erano venuti con due autobus dal

Quebec. Purtroppo l'inclemenza del tempo ha fatto sì che la festa si svolgesse all'interno del complesso del St. Anthony S.C., dove tutti hanno assistito alla Messa al Campo, hanno gustato un'abbondante e gastronomico "Rancio", accompagnato da vino generoso. Tutta la giornata è trascorsa all'insegna dell'armonia, delle chiacchierate sui ricordi del tempo della "naia" e la giornata è terminata con le tradizionali canzoni.

Il 28 dello stesso mese, la nostra associazione ricambiava la visita recandosi al grande picnic degli Alpini di Montreal.

Festeggiato con una messa solenne in ricordo dei caduti, in occasione della ricorrenza del 4 Novembre, messa alla quale, oltre alle altre associazioni d'Arma, la Sezione Alpini di Ottawa era presente al completo. Il Giorno precedente il Presidente Luciano Boselli, aveva partecipato ad una celebrazione ufficiale alla residenza dell'Ambasciatore d'Italia, Meloni.

L'anno sociale si è quindi concluso con la Cena Sociale

tenutasi il 13 Novembre durante la quale il Presidente Boselli ha ringraziato tutti gli Alpini, i loro congiunti ed in particolare il suo Esecutivo per l'aiuto datogli durante tutto l'anno, Esecutivo composto dalle seguenti persone:

Luciano Boselli, Presidente-
Buffone Severino, Vice P. Ben
Battistella, Segretario- Righi Vi-

gilio Tesoriere- ed i Consiglieri:
Bonapace Dante, Dal Cin Seve-
rino, Dal Cin Eugenio, Bortot
Giorgio, Banozza Secondo, Or-
lando Toni.

Arrivederci all'anno prossimo e Buone Feste a tutti.

Luciano Boselli
Presidente Sezione
Alpini di Ottawa



Ramuscello

Sabato 17 luglio si è tenuto un incontro conviviale a Ramuscello in occasione della presenza dei nostri amici e connazionali Gino Vatri con la moglie Santa Borean e Don Vitaliano Papais (quest'ultimo anche nostro compaesano). Questi, emigrati in Canada, si trovano in Italia per l'annuale incontro delle Elfasce che si è svolto domenica 25 luglio a Maniago. Il rapporto di amicizia e consolidato da tanti anni e ci permette di mantenere quei vincoli di fratellanza comune, non per ultimo l'ospitalità che abbiamo avuto in occasione della festa dei ramuscellesi in Canada. Al suddetto pranzo che si è tenuto al ristorante "La Perla" di Ramuscello erano presenti il consigliere regionale Daniele Gerolin con Oriana, l'assessore comunale Alessandro D'Ambrosio, il consigliere comunale Andrea Nonis, i titolari dell'impresa edile che ha costruito il nostro campanile Massimo Sovran e Robertino Florido, Dorino Papais con Augusta, Giorgio Dal Mas con Uda, Mario Ellero con Ofelia, Aldo Odorico, Dino Odorico, Giovanni Papais.

Doppio lutto alla Famee Furlane



Nel giro di pochi giorni sono deceduti Luigi Gambin Presidente della Famee Furlane di Toronto e socio degli Alpini e la moglie Sergina che era membra del coro Le Voci del Friuli. Vogliamo ricordarli con questa foto presa in occasione dell'inaugurazione di Villa Leonardo Gambin. Ai familiari le più sentite condoglianze da parte degli Alpini.

Interforze Polizia Stradale, York Region



In occasione del 19esimo Anniversario della Fondazione ha avuto luogo presso la Cappella delle Suore Minime della Passione una toccante Cerimonia alla quale hanno preso parte i rappresentanti delle varie associazioni e il Comandante dell'OPP Chris Lewis. Nella foto il professor Alessio Lodes insegnante presso l'università di Guelph con Gino Vatri. Al termine della cerimonia religiosa tutti i convenuti si sono ritrovati alla Panemonte Banquet & Convention Centre.

Mario Greguoldo è andato avanti



1929-2010

Mario Greguoldo ci è mancato il 14 Aprile 2010. Mario è stato uno dei primi animatori e sostenitori del Gruppo Alpini di Thunder Bay, assieme a Dante Gasparetto ed altri Alpini.

Ha fatto parte dell'Esecutivo fin dall'inizio ricoprendo diverse cariche ed è stato eletto Capogruppo nel 1981. Mario era nato a San Michele al Tagliamento nel 1929 ed era cresciuto a Latisana. Ha prestato il servizio Alpino come Artigliere da montagna a Belluno e altre località, sempre orgoglioso di alzare e portare l'obice 316.

Dopo il servizio militare Mario inizia la vita civile, si diploma da auto meccanico e si sposa con Angela e vivono a Latisana.

Dopo alcuni anni Mario viene in Canada per provare e trovare nuove opportunità. Mario e famiglia si sistemano a Fort William e comincia la sua carriera lavorando come meccanico al Lakehead Motors per più di 40 anni.

A Mario la famiglia ed amici erano molto importanti, erano sempre pronti ad accogliere amici a braccia aperte.

Mario ha fatto parte del Coro Alpini per diversi anni, passione venuta dalla musica classica che Mario ascoltava giornalmente.

La scomparsa di Mario si farà sentire nel tempo.

Mandi Mario

Beppi Sabotig

Gruppo Autonomo di Calgary



Gli Alpini del Gruppo Autonomo di Calgary di fronte al Monumento con due rappresentanti del Marital. La redazione di Alpini in Trasferta augura agli Alpini di Calgary un Buon Natale e Felice Anno Nuovo.

Bellissimo concerto presentato dal coro degli alpini di Windsor



Nella foto ecco il tavolo degli Alpini alla Festa della Repubblica tenutasi il 6 Giugno all'Italian Cultural Center.

Da parte di Tina e dell'intera Cultural Commission del Venetian Club of Mutual Aid un sentito ringraziamento per il bellissimo concerto presentato dal coro degli alpini di Windsor il 13 giugno scorso al Venetian Club. Contiamo di aver iniziato una tradizione che possa continuare per tanti anni a venire.

Grazie ancora.

Michela Gelodi Forest

Il concerto offerto dagli Alpini per i soci ed amici del Venetian Club di Madison Heights, nello stato del Michigan il 13 Giugno 2010, ha toccato nel cuore molti partecipanti.

C'era chi ha servito nel corpo degli Alpini tanti e tanti anni fa e chi, come la sottoscritta, ha conosciuto alpini. Uno zio, che è mancato un'anno fa, è stato un alpino e non ha mancato nessun raduno nazionale.

Uno zio di mio marito è stato alpino ed anche lui ha sempre partecipato alle adunate nazionali, dove vecchie amicizie si

rinforzano. Amici che hanno fatto il servizio militare nel corpo degli Alpini, fra cui alcuni che hanno anche seguito corso alla scuola di Aosta, sono rimasti molto orgogliosi e fedeli al corpo.

Le canzoni degli alpini ci hanno riportato ai tempi in cui la musica veniva usata per trasmettere pensieri, sensazioni ed episodi di vita quotidiana. Il coro degli Alpini di Windsor è molto preparato e le voci dei suoi componenti sono veramente adatte alla musica presentata. Grazie per il bellissimo concerto.



Nella foto il coro degli Alpini con alcuni membri della Cultural Committee del Venetian Club ed il Vice Presidente del Venetian Club Dino D'Andrea (sulla destra).



I partecipanti all'escursione a Sudbury in occasione del 40esimo, luglio 2010



Gli Alpini della Sezione di Windsor si preparano per il corteo al monumento di Sudbury

Escursione a Sudbury

In occasione del 40esimo del Gruppo Autonomo di Sudbury la Sezione di Windsor ha organizzato un'escursione di 3 giorni. La comitiva, tra l'altro ha visitato la miniera del nichel guidata da Luigi Buttazzoni, dove hanno lavorato moltissimi italiani. La trasferta a Sudbury resterà a lungo nella memoria di tutti i partecipanti.

Un po' di storia

Da Meana, Mompantero e Gravera alle tannerie canadesi dell'Ontario

Nella foto: L'esodo dei giovani meanesi degli anni di leva compresi fra il 1895 e il 1900, verso le terre canadesi dell'Ontario, fu la conseguenza del reclutamento operato da un compaesano che era tornato da quelle regioni con la buona notizia di possibili impieghi nelle tannerie. Partirono negli anni immediatamente precedenti lo scoppio della prima guerra mondiale, a gruppi e lasciando la famiglia al paese.

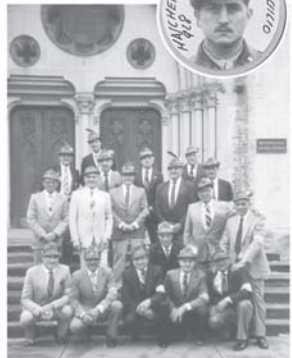
Bernard Severino, nato a Meana nel 1896 era uno di quei giovani non ancora ventenni, deciso a scrivere una pagina sul libro della sua esistenza. Trovò il lavoro, come gli era stato promesso, nella concia delle pelli e soltanto nel 1934 tornò al paese per sposarsi con una ragazza di Cantalupo, la sua stessa borgata.

Dal libro "Il sogno nella valigia". Il materiale ci è stato fornito dall'amico Piero Gavazza di Condove, Torino.

A destra un gruppo di piemontesi in occasione del Congresso Interregionale di Montreal assieme a Gianni Franza allora responsabile delle Sezioni Alpine all'Estero. Nella foto si riconoscono: Bianca e Dino Berruti, una coppia di Ottawa e Andrea Coda di San Grato di Montreal.



Bernard Severino, secondo da destra, insieme ad alcuni compaesani a Huntville, nell'Ontario, durante una pausa di lavoro.



Duilio Mascherin da Azzano X a Toronto

La foto a sinistra si riferisce al servizio d'ordine prestato dagli Alpini della Sezione di Toronto in occasione della visita del Papa Giovanni Paolo II a Toronto. La foto ha impiegato circa 25 anni per raggiungere la redazione di Alpini in Trasferta.

In alto Duilio Mascherin, al centro della foto, con i soci del Gruppo di Azzano X della Sezione di Pordenone. Le foto ci sono state consegnate dallo stesso Mascherin. Nella foto a sinistra Duilio è il secondo da destra in ginocchio.

Visita agli alpini della zona di Port Alberni



Domenica 26 settembre una delegazione della sezione di Vancouver si è recata in visita a Port Alberni, nell'Isola di Vancouver, per ritrovare amici vecchi e nuovi.

Col presidente Vittorio Dal Cengio c'erano il vice presidente Roberto Zanutto, Guido Cecchinell, e i decani Amedeo Zavarise e Luigi Dreszsch.

Dopo due ore di traghetto fino a Nanaimo hanno percorso l'autostrada nella foresta per ammirare i cedri millenari.

All'arrivo a Port Alberni sono stati accolti da Germano Sandri e moglie Elfi, gli organizzatori della bellissima festa che ha visto una cinquantina di ospiti avvicinarsi ai tavoli.

Dopo il pranzo, alle 2 pomeridiane si sono

iniziate le cerimonie con l'alza bandiera, inni italiani e canadesi cantati da tutti i presenti. Il presidente Dal Cengio, dopo il suo discorso e ringraziamenti, ha presentato alcuni doni, guidoncini e ha dato il benvenuto a due nuovi amici degli alpini.

Tra una cantata e l'altra, e tra una portata e l'altra, la cena si è protratta fino alle sei. Pietro

Zottich trasse dalla sua fisarmonica meravigliose e familiari melodie quasi ininterrottamente, facendo alla fine perdere quasi la voce a Luigi Dreszsch. Di nuovo il traghetto dopo un'ora di foresta e tutti a casa a notte inoltrata, stanchi ma estremamente commossi per l'accoglienza di Sandri e di tutti gli amici della zona alpina di Port Alberni.



Scambio dei guidoncini: Adolfo Dal Cin e Vittorio Dal Cengio.

Incontri estivi a Vancouver



Gruppo Occhieppo Inferiore (Biella). Simone Pavignano, moglie Lori e amici Grazia e Franco attorniti dai consiglieri.



Gruppo Sarmade-Rugolo (TV). Adolfo Dal Cin, Bertilla Gava dal Cin, Franco Dal Cin ed Ezio Dal Cin con alcuni consiglieri della sezione di Vancouver.



Simone Pavignano e Vittorio Dal Cengio.



Gruppo di Settecà, (VI). Tiziano Ziggliotto e Livio Galliolo e rispettive mogli con i consiglieri.



Con Maria Bisognin, presidente Vicentini a Stevenston.



Bisinella visita a Vancouver.

Guido Quer è andato avanti



Guido Quer nacque a Onigo di Piave, Treviso il 18 ottobre 1932. Morì a Vancouver il 3 febbraio 2010.

Fece il servizio militare al Comando di Brigata della Julia col Settimo Paracadutisti.

Guido è stato un validissimo membro della nostra sezione, accettando il compito di Presidente d'Assemblea ogniqualvolta c'era un'elezione da sbrigare. Era molto attivo durante le feste coi suoi quaranta e più amici e familiari. I suoi suggerimenti erano invariabilmente ricevuti con rispetto e apprezzamento da tutti i membri del consiglio direttivo. Il suo apporto mancherà molto alla nostra sezione.

Gli Alpini di Sudbury festeggiano 40 anni

Trecento persone hanno celebrato l'anniversario presso la Società Caruso Club assieme al Gruppo di Penne Nere della città dell'Ontario

MARIELLA POLICHIENI

TORONTO - Sono accorsi da vicino ma anche da lontano gli alpini che hanno voluto essere presenti alla celebrazione del 40° anniversario di fondazione del "Gruppo autonomo di Sudbury - Medaglia d'argento Gino Di Biaggio".

L'occasione era importante ed esserci significava testimoniare solidarietà, amicizia e fratellanza. «Trecento persone si sono riunite alla Società Caruso Club della città dell'Ontario dove alla cena hanno fatto seguito il ballo, i discorsi - dice Gino Vatri, presidente della Commissione Intersezionale Ana del Canada e degli Stati Uniti che ha partecipato alla festa - alle Penne nere di Sudbury ho portato il saluto del presidente dell'Ana Corrado Perona, del responsabile delle sezioni all'estero Ornello Capannolo, del generale Sanzio Bonetto, ex addetto militare presso l'Ambasciata di Ottawa».

Non si è certo fatto scorgere dagli 800 chilometri tra andata e ritorno che separano Toronto e Sudbury. Gino Vatri che ha aggiunto: «Ho avuto il piacere durante questi 40 anni di conoscere tutti i soci fondatori e i vostri capigruppo con i quali ho stretto rapporti di amicizia. Ricordo con grande piacere i miei viaggi a Sudbury fin dall'inizio degli anni Settanta, l'inaugurazione del monumento all'alpino nel 1990, l'elezione del nuovo consiglio nel 1992 con Luigi Buttazzoni capogruppo».

E proprio ai piedi del monumento dell'alpino è stata deposta una corona. «Un momento commovente che ha fatto seguito alla celebrazione della messa presso la chiesa Our Lady of Hope officiata dal vescovo



vo ed ex cappellano degli Alpini Noel Simard alla presenza di autorità civili e religiose - aggiunge il capogruppo delle Penne Nere di Sudbury Luigi

Buttazzoni - ci siamo quindi sistemati all'interno della Società Caruso Club dove il Coro Caruso diretto dal maestro Comisso si è esibito in tanti can-

ti alpini dopo l'esecuzione degli inni *O Canada* e *Fratelli d'Italia*. Felice ed emozionante al tempo stesso è stato il capo-

Nella foto a sinistra Vittorio Morasset, Gino Vatri, S.E. il vescovo Noel Simard, Luigi Buttazzoni, Gianfranco Poletti, Joe Cimino, Germano Bellot, Antonio Pasquale;

nella foto sotto a sinistra Mario Simonetti, Lodovico Manzoni, Giuseppe Piazzi, Giovanni Tagliacarne e Luigi Buttazzoni;

Sotto a destra Giovanni Zanchetta, Luigi Buttazzoni e Gino Vatri

to senso del dovere, di patriottismo ed un encomiabile spirito di sacrificio e di nobili sentimenti - ha detto - in questo 40° anniversario di fondazione vogliamo così onorare tutti gli alpini che hanno e che continuano a tramandare ad altre generazioni gli alti valori che fanno parte integrante della nostra eredità e cultura italiana».

È un gruppo unito, questo di Sudbury, che è stato fondato da Danilo Petovello, Giuseppe Leon, Vittorio Pagnucco, Luigi Candusso, Arturo del Missier e Florino Olivo Michelutti. «In questi quaranta anni vi sono stati cinque capigruppo - aggiunge Gino Vatri - Adriano Toppazzini, Danilo Petovello, Romeo Santi, Armando Roton-di e Luigi Buttazzoni, attualmente in carica».

La serata è stata caratterizzata da tanta amicizia: «I miei ringraziamenti vanno al presidente Gino Vatri, ai 43 alpini giunti da Windsor assieme al loro presidente Vittorio Morasset, alle stelle alpine, sempre pronte ad aiutare, a Giovanni Zanchetta, coordinatore ed animatore della festa e agli amici tutti - ha concluso Luigi Buttazzoni - sono convinto, come disse l'ex presidente della Repubblica Italiana Francesco Cossiga alla 64° adunata nazionale a Vicenza del 1991, che "dove vi sono Alpini, vi è l'Italia migliore"».



Nella foto in basso a sinistra Andrew Buttazzoni, Geoffrey Loughheed, Adriano Toppazzini, Luigi Buttazzoni e Giovanni Zanchetta; in basso al centro padre Larry Rimes, il vescovo Noel Simard, Luigi Buttazzoni e Gino Vatri; nella foto in fondo in basso a destra, Luigi Buttazzoni, Arrigo Molino e Minuti Albano



Sezione Alpini di New York



Nella foto in alto a sinistra, festa Autunnale alla Famee Furlane a College Point New York. Gli Alpini provano ad intonare un canto alpino.

A sinistra, un bel gruppo di Alpini ed amici si sono riuniti nel Ristorante Cantina Magnanini nei Monti Catskill.

Sopra, gli Alpini ed amici marciano sulla 5th Ave. a New York City in occasione della parata del Columbus Day

XVmo CONGRESSO INTERSEZIONALE
DEGLI ALPINI NEL NORD AMERICA
NEW YORK, NY
8-9-10 OTTOBRE 2011

19 novembre 2010

Carissimi Presidenti e Capigruppo,

Come già sapete, il XVmo Congresso Degli Alpini Nel Nord America avrà luogo l'8-9 ottobre 2011 a New York. Il 10 ottobre parteciperemo alla "Columbus Day Parade" sulla 5th Avenue.

Ringraziamo i Presidenti e delegati delle varie Sezioni del Nord America, di aver dato l'opportunità alla Sezione di New York di organizzare questo Congresso.

Altri dettagli del programma organizzativo verranno annunciati più avanti per e-mail posta e anche sul nostro Website.

Inoltre vorremmo ringraziare tutte le persone, Alpini ed organizzazioni che stanno dando o daranno la loro disponibilità per la buona riuscita di questo evento. A presto.

Distinti saluti,

Luigi Cavaletti
Presidente
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2nd PART

Italian Alpine Corps Soldiers

Chapter *- I -*

OCEANIA-AUSTRALIA

Sydney section

Sydney is one of the world's great metropolises, the capital city of the Australian state of New South Wales, which faces the Pacific Ocean. The population of Sydney is more than four million inhabitants and is made up of various immigrant communities, amongst which the Italian one distinguishes itself, having reached these shores, above all with the massive migratory waves of the second postwar period.

Many are the people who work in order to give continuity, even at the poles, to Italian traditions. Amongst these, stand out the Italian alpine corps members of the Sydney section of the Italian National Alpine Corps Veterans' Association, instituted thirty years ago and distinguishing itself, during the course of the years, thanks to an entire series of initiatives and concrete results.

Strengthened by commendable spirit of solidarity, friendship and entrepreneurship which has always characterized the "Italian alpine corps" spirit, the section of Sydney, boasts of a calendar filled with commitments and some deadlines that are kept year after year.

A few historical dates

The section of Sydney was born in 1976 in combination with the visit to Australia of the unforgettable Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association National President, Franco Bertagnolli. The Italian alpine corps members, who succeeded each other, in the office of the President, respond to the names of Angelo Moras, Carlo Del Gallo, and Luciano Scandellin, and Valentino Rigon, right up until the newly elected Alessandro Maremonti.

Various were the acts that contributed towards formalizing the status of the section of Sydney, in the context of the social life of the Australian metropolis.

Already in 1976, the standard of the section was awarded the Golden Merit Medal, for the generous contribution, offered to the population of the Friuli region, struck by the tragic earthquake of that year.

The year of 1982 saw the inauguration of the magnificent monument to the Italian alpine corps soldier dedicated to the fallen of all wars. The work was realized in the park of Scalabrini village of Australia, a delightful locality on the extreme western outskirts of Sydney, thanks to the initiative of the Sydney section and of the Italian alpine corps of Wollongong (a city about 100 km to the south of Sydney) and to the contribution of various sponsors and sympathizers. The inauguration of the monument took place in the presence of the Italian ambassador Angeletti, of the Premier of the State of New South Wales, Honourable Neville Wran, and of the chaplain of the Italian alpine corps, Father Atanasio Gonelli.

In 1983, in front of the same monument, the section of Sydney was entitled to the Gold Medal hero, Aldo Bortolussi.

Always in 1983, the first national gathering of the Italian alpine corps of Australia was held. On such an occasion, over one thousand Italian alpine corps members got together, coming from various Italian regions (headed by lawyer Trentini, the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association National President) and of various Australian States. Besides the Australian consular authorities and the Premier of the State of New South Wales, a fact full of meaning was the presence of Colonel Stewart, representing the Australian armed forces. The gathering, at the Italian alpine corps monument, was followed by the official parade in the Marconi Stadium, one of the outstanding structures of the Marconi Club held, not wrongly, to be one of the jewels in the panorama of the social circles of Italian background in the world.

In most recent times, precisely in 2007, on the occasion of a trip to Little Italy's museum at Lismore, a coastal city in the north of the State of New South Wales, in order to celebrate the 125th anniversary of Italian settlement in the area, the section of Sydney, in cooperation with the section of Brisbane (headquarters of the State of Queensland), formalized a memorandum of understanding, bent towards creating a twinning which would have allowed the museum to host the Italian alpine corps members' relics, making it in fact even the Italian alpine corps members of Australia's museum.

Periodic initiatives

The section of Sydney has always distinguished itself for a whole series of initiatives whose objective is creating moments of aggregation and in the meantime to visit various localities of this very vast continent. It can be said that some of these initiatives have a seasonal character to them. In fact, the sec-



tion organizes trips in order to pick cherries in the area of Orange, a rural town in the interior of New South Wales. There is then the traditional trip to the little church of the Italian alpine corps at Mount Bullen, a locality on the border between the States of New South Wales and Victoria, where abundant snowfalls are not rare in the austral winter.

In the citizenry sphere, the Christmas supper is by now a consolidated annual appointment. Moreover, as a sign of the fact that the Italian alpine corps members of Australia do not disdain adopting local customs, the section of Sydney organizes the so-called “July Christmas party” which originates from the fact that many of the European (above all British) immigrants were keen on celebrating a virtual Christmas in meteorological conditions more akin to the ones prevalent in their homeland. Nevertheless, the primary objective of such an appointment is of a purely beneficial nature, being an occasion in order to collect funds in favour of the ward for children who are sick with leukemia of the Westmead Paediatric Hospital, a vanguard hospital situated on the western outskirts of the city. Such a ward is presided over by Professor Luciano Dalla Pozza, the son of an Italian alpine corps member, who dedicates himself with great commitment to alleviating the suffering of the interned children.

Other trips organized by the section of Sydney, during the course of the years, have had, as a destination, various localities of Australia, such as Melbourne, Coffs Harbour, and Griffith, as well as, the Italian cities that have been the headquarters of the Italian alpine corps annual gatherings.



Sydney 2005, annual members' meeting

Some curiosities

The exponents of the section of Sydney are even keen in highlighting initiatives that are not a part of officialdom. An evident example is the by now, famous postcard of the “kangaroo on a bicycle wearing an Italian alpine corps hat”, reproduced in various publications at the world level.

Worthy to be pointed out is even the calendar published on Christmas Eve 2002, born of an idea of secretary Giuseppe Querin and richly illustrated with images and photographs of the time and more recent snapshots, personal biographies and memories, going back over, in twelve months, the history of thirteen Italian alpine corps veterans belonging to the section of Sydney.

To top it all, the section of Sydney realized the first stamp in legal circulation, representing the section of Sydney, by taking advantage of the Australian postal norms which discipline the emission of philatelic articles.



The future

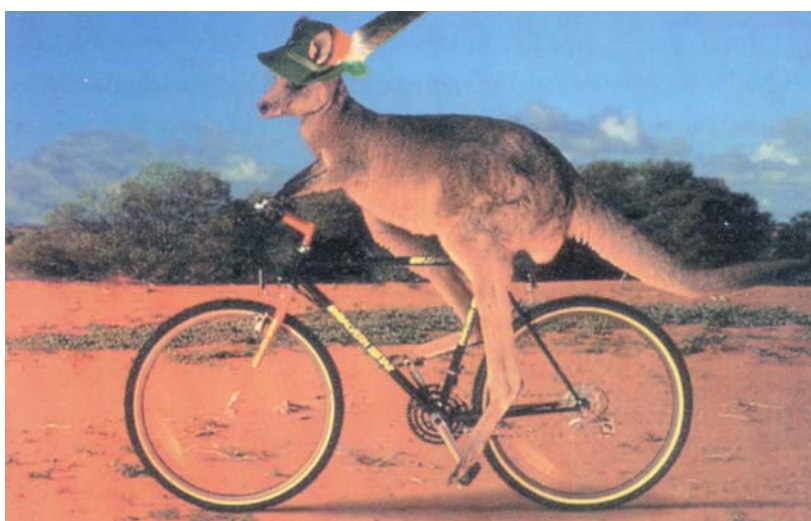
More than thirty years have now gone since the foundation of our section and analogously to the rest of the community, we too find ourselves in the grips with the problem of the generational replacement.

In order to give a sign of optimism, in a future prospective, and naturally in the light of the personal qualities of the direct concerned, in very recent times the section of Sydney has elected, as its own president, Alessandro Maremonti, a “real” Italian alpine corps member who, unless otherwise proved, is the youngest sectional president in the world. If a good day can be seen from the morning...



In front of the monument





Kangaroo on a bicycle wearing the Italian alpine corps hat



Sydney, November 2002. Italian alpine corps members, both from and not from the Abruzzo region of Italy





Adelaide section. 4th November, 1979. Fogolar Furlan Club

The section of Melbourne

The section of Melbourne was born in 1971, when Ubaldo Segafredo, our first President, after having gathered together a small group of Italian alpine corps veterans, originating from various parts of Italy, forms the first sectional committee of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association of Melbourne.

In a few years, with the hard work of these first Italian alpine corps pioneers, the section of Melbourne becomes the most numerous section of Australia, by still maintaining this primacy today, especially after the foundation of another six groups, that is, Dandenong in 1978, Epping in 1988, Mildura in 1988, Myrtleford in 1986, Springvale in 1986, (all in Victoria), and Hobart in 1986 (Tasmania). In those days, there were 555 Italian alpine corps members, besides 87 friends, for a total of 642 members. Unfortunately, now many of them "have gone forward" but, with the help of the Italian alpine corps friends, we continue to increase, notwithstanding the fact that advanced age creates many voids amongst the members' ranks. This, unfortunately, as Onello Capannolo had told us, is the plague of the sections abroad, the lack of new recruits. The section of Melbourne from 1971 to 2008 has had various Presidents, the first president was Ubaldo Segafredo with three years of service (he has gone forward), the second being Tiziano Lago with two years of service (he has gone forward), the third being Pietro Pasquini who, after two years of service, passes the torch over to Guido Galimberti (he has gone forward) who, after four years of service, due to health reasons resigns and leaves his place to Giuseppe Bonola. Bonola remains in office for five years, and hands the torch over to Gaetano Tomada, who holds the command of the section for well over twelve years, earning for himself, the primacy of the presidency, (he went forward three years ago). Aldo Zanatta is elected as his successor, who is presently at the presidency. During these years, the section of Melbourne has carried out various deeds for the Italian and Australian community such as: the "monument to the Italian alpine corps soldier" situated at the Fogolar Furlan Club of Melbourne, erected in 1985 under the presidency of Guido Galimberti, the "Italian alpine corps mountain chalet" built under the presidency of Giuseppe Bonola with the help of all of the groups, donated to the Municipality of Darebin on the occasion of the bicentennial of the nation (1788-1988) and destined for a social and public use on the 11th December, 1988.

In 1993, the "little church of the Italian alpine corps" was dedicated on Mount Buller, which is found at about 350 kilometres from Melbourne, this too donated to the State of Victoria. In 1995, a monument was erected in front of the little church, in honour of the fallen in war and in peace. In 2005, after two years of work, the "Italian alpine corps Museum" was inaugurated close to the La Trobe University of Melbourne, visited by hundreds of people every year. These last two works were carried out under the presidency of Gaetano Tomada. In 2007, during the presidency of Aldo Zanatta, a memorial stone was built and inaugurated in front of the "museum" in honour of the fallen in times of war and peace.



During all of these years, besides carrying out manual works with the help of all of our members, financial help has been donated to different charitable entities amongst which the “School for Handicapped Children”, funds for the earthquake in Newcastle, for the flood victims in Victoria, for the Cancer Research Foundation (annual event), and many others. Our only hope now is to have some young Italian alpine corps recruits coming from Italy, in order to keep high and lasting our Italian alpine corps spirit. Unfortunately, this hope is only in our hearts, because the young Italian alpine corps young men no longer move from Italy, as we did in the past, in order to look for a better future for us and our children.



Melbourne, 10th gathering of the Australian sections



The presidents of the Australian sections present at the historic meeting of Melbourne





The first committee (the founders) of the section of Melbourne. Standing from the left: G. Bonola, T. Lago, Argento (Italian Consul General), E. Della Bosca, U. Segafredo (President), G. Bertolin, A. De Riasi, P. Pasquini, G. De Zordi, N. Pozzo. From the left in front: L. Pinzana, L. Tomasino, L. Fedrizzi, and L. Fiorenza.



Monument to the Italian alpine corps soldier, with two of our veterans, of the Second World War. From the left: Giuseppe Pasto born in 1922, Bortolo Benzoni born in 1916 and the Italian alpine corps trumpeter who came from Italy for the 24th gathering of the Italian alpine corps veterans of Australia, held in Melbourne in 2006.





The Italian alpine corps mountain chalet



In front of the monument with the National President Corrado Perona, the Councillor in charge of the foreign sections, Ornello Capannolo, and all of the Presidents of the sections of Australia with their respective standards.



The little Italian alpine corps church.





A group of Italian alpine corps veterans, after the Holy Mass that is celebrated every year, on the anniversary of its construction.



The Italian alpine corps museum and, in front of the memorial stone is the honour of the fallen of all wars and in time of peace.



The blessing of the memorial stone, after Holy Mass, presided over by Father Caverzan.





Mass, in honour of the fallen, in Afghanistan (4 Italian policemen and 2 Italian alpine corps soldiers).

The present committee of the section of Melbourne. From the left: Riccardo Meneguzzi, Vice President and treasurer, Salvatore Lamagna, councillor, Nicola Benedetti, councillor, Aldo Zanatta, President, Carlo Buzzi, secretary, and Angelo Soligo, feast committee.



Wollongong, inauguration ceremony of the Italian alpine corps monument, December 2002.



October 2002, Wollongong, 20th gathering of the Presidents of the Australian sections.





The President of the Italian Republic, Eugenio Scalfaro, while he signs the registry of presences. Melbourne, May 1999.

Section of Griffith*

In 2005, the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association section of Griffith (Australia) celebrated its 30th foundation anniversary with a gala luncheon at the "Yoogali Catholic Club".

The President of the section, Mario Vardanega, showed the public the various activities of the section of Griffith during the 30 years that had gone by. The first President of the section was Pietro Berion (sergeant), followed by Tony Dal Bon and by the actual President Mario Vardanega who has kept the office for over 20 years. Everything began around Easter in 1975, when a busload of Italian alpine corps veterans arrived at Griffith from Adelaide, asking for an assembly with the Italian alpine corps veterans of Griffith.

This was the beginning: a feast was organized where many people showed themselves to be favourable towards the formation of an Italian alpine corps veterans group in Griffith. The Adelaide group committed itself towards sponsoring the initiative. The birth of the section of Griffith was then formalized and accepted by the offices in Milan.

The local activities began with a lot of enthusiasm, according to the precepts of the Statute, by maintaining the solidarity of military service, friendship, reciprocal support and dignified civil activities. Our section tries to maintain the spirit and values of the Italian alpine corps throughout the whole world.

The history of the Italian alpine corps veterans of Griffith demonstrates that they have maintained strong friendships in the community, with frequent gatherings and social activities to the benefit of the entire nation, by committing numerous hours of volunteer work or of financial assistance, according to the need. More than a hundred thousand Dollars have been donated thanks to the activities of the Italian alpine corps veterans of Griffith

The section of Griffith organizes almost every year the bus ride in order to participate in all the gatherings in all of the places of Australia – at times by plane for the most distant areas. In 1989, the gathering was in Griffith, with the participation of Italian and Australian military, diplomatic, religious and

* Thanks is given for the news provided: President Mario Vardanega and the coordinator of the Australian sections Giuseppe Querin.



local authorities. Many buses of Italian alpine corps veterans and friends arrived from all of Australia and the event was a great success. In 1986, the Italian alpine corps veterans of Griffith built an Italian alpine corps mountain chalet on the shores of Lake Wyangan, with a lot of love and a lot of volunteer work. Today, the Italian alpine corps veterans are committed to maintaining the mountain chalet which is at the free disposal of the entire community for the whole year.

Unfortunately, with the passing of the years, many of the Italian alpine corps founding members has passed away, and the advanced age of those remaining does not allow for the same things of the past to be done. Today, the Italian alpine corps veterans of Griffith limit themselves to staging a gala dinner once per year, and some messes at the mountain chalet during the year in order to raise money for community works.



Banner



Italian museum of Griffith. The President Mario Vardanega shown in front of the display case with the Italian alpine corps memorabilia.





Scalabrini Village of Griffith



The memorial stone of the Italian alpine corps mountain chalet of Griffith, with the date that remembers the inauguration in the presence of President Caprioli.



Plaque placed at the entrance to the village.





In 1986 the mountain chalet was built. It was inaugurated by the National President Leonardo Caprioli, General Benito Gavazza, Councillor Tedeschi and the Mayor of Griffith, John Dal Broi, together with Honourable Adrian Cruickshank.

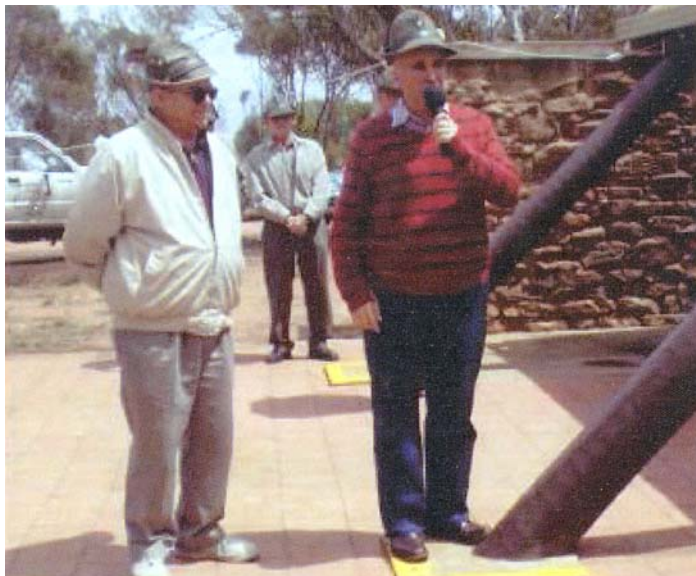


The Italian museum of Griffith



Senior citizens' home run by the Scalabrinian Missionary Fathers.





Honourable Piccoli at the microphone and President Vardanega



Honourable Adrian Piccoli of Italian origin with President Mario Vardanega at the inauguration of the Italian alpine corps mountain chalet.

North Queensland section

On the 24th May, 1975, 46 Italian alpine corps veterans registered with the section of Melbourne, but residing almost 3,000 km away from the sectional headquarters, constitute the first Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association of North Queensland, and they baptize it the "Tableland Black Feathers". Advocates of the initiative are the Italian alpine corps veterans Martino Moretto and Ermanno Nervo.

The constitution ceremony took place at the International Club of Mareeba, where the sectional headquarters is still located. Vittorio Pellizzer is elected as the group leader.

On the 6th June, 1976, the National Directive Council accords the qualification of "North Queensland autonomous group" to the group, and on the 20th April, 1981, the qualification of section arrives, Vittorio Pellizzer from the group leader goes on to become the sectional President.

To date, the group counts fifty-five members and eighteen friends of the Italian alpine corps veterans, scattered over a territory, with an area equal to the one of the Piedmont region in Italy. The founding members began to make proselytes and in a brief period of time the section reached the "quota" of eighty-nine members and thirty friends.



From the 9th to the 12th February, 1978, in Sydney and for the first time, the then President, Franco Bertagnolli arrived, on a visit from Italy, accompanied by some national councillors. It is a great event and a great feast.

On the 7th November, 1983, in the presence of the then National President Vittorio Trentini and of some national councillors having come from Italy, the first group is constituted, the group of Cairns, with twenty-four members and nine friends, with Luciano Annibale as the group leader.

On the 2nd February, 1985, the second group is born, 600 km away from the section, which takes on the name of the Burdekin group with twenty-five members and nine friends, with Roberto Piazzetta as the group leader, followed by Pietro Simeoni, Aldo Pugnale, Ido Chiarot, and Silvio Greselin.

In November 1986, there is the visit to Cairns of the then National President Leonardo Caprioli, General Benito Gavazza, some Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association councillors and about one hundred and forty companions and family members.

On the 24th January, 1987, the third group of the section sees the light, called Herbert River, which gathers together the Italian alpine corps veterans, residing in the localities along the Herbert River, twenty-three Italian alpine corps veterans and eight friends, with Pierino Ferrando as the group leader.

The "Australian" sections and groups have always been very active in the territory, with social and humanitarian initiatives and many hours of volunteer work, and very assiduous, in all of the both Italian and Australian civil and military ceremonies. Just as a sectional representation, even at the cost of great sacrifices, has always participated in the National Gatherings.

The Italian alpine corps veterans of North Queensland have not left leaving behind concrete signs of their presence and so, in 1989, the group of Herbert River erects, at Ingham, a monument dedicated to the pioneer Italian alpine corps veteran, followed, in 1990, by the group of Cairns which, in order to remember the 9th gathering of the Italian alpine corps veterans in Australia, dedicated a monument to the emigrant Italian alpine corps veteran.

In 1995, the section inaugurates, in the "Italian alpine corps veterans' park", at the International Club of Mareeba, a monument dedicated to the Fallen of all Wars.

These monuments will remain, for future generations, as a tangible sign in this land, so far from the Motherland, where Italian alpine corps veterans lived and worked.

On the 2nd October, 1996, there is a new visit to Cairns by President Leonardo Caprioli and on the 31st October, 2000, the Vice President Valerio Cieri, the secretary of the National Directive Council, Sergio Bottinelli, and the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association councillor, Fabio Pasini arrive.

In this moment our black feathers in Australia, just like all of "the Italian alpine corps veterans of the second military service" scattered throughout the world, are unfortunately experiencing the inexorable decrease in registered members, but they do not lose heart and continue to work, carrying in their heart, the far away Motherland and the values that our forefathers have handed on down to us.



A group of Italian alpine corps veterans of the section at a ceremony, march next to an Australian army unit.





In front of the monument, to the Fallen, on the occasion of the 4th November.



The entrance to the Italian alpine corps veterans' park where the monument arises.



The monument (erected by the Italian alpine corps veterans) which remembers the Fallen of all Wars.



The section of Brisbane

The section of Brisbane was founded in 1978 by a group of keen discharged Italian alpine corps soldiers, almost all of them originally from northern Italy and some from the Abruzzo region of Italy, assisted by the then councillor at the Italian consulate accountant Tullio Zuliani. Various Presidents have alternated in time, amongst whom we remember, in chronological order: Aurelio Olderico, Claudio Bidoli, Domenico Delf, Mario Andreuzzi, Alfeo Versolato, Domenico Santarossa, Claudio Bidoli, Alfredo Tognini, and Valentino Nadalin (presently outgoing). The present President avails himself of the cooperation of a restricted committee and is very cooperative. The problem of the generational renewal here is very much felt, even because emigration is closed, and there are less new recruits. The present enrolled are sixteen members and twenty aggregates, all of an advanced age.

In the following years the foundation of the section, the most intense activity, lead to the creation of the group of Stentorpe, 250 kilometres southwest of Brisbane, and of Gold Cost, 100 kilometres from Brisbane. Presently, the few Italian alpine corps veterans that have remained joined themselves to our section, with the above-mentioned groups having disappeared.

Notwithstanding everything they manage to organize beautiful and heartfelt manifestations, targeted towards the realization of humanitarian and charitable works. They are presently striving in order to offer their brethren from the Abruzzo region of Italy struck by the devastating earthquake of the 6th April, 2009, a concrete economic hand and of solidarity. In 2006, with a heartfelt patriotic manifestation, the 30th anniversary of the foundation of the section was celebrated, by offering the Italian alpine corps relics to the Museum of New Italy, situated in the city of Lismore, 250 kilometres from Brisbane. During the last years of Alfredo Tognini's presidential mandate, the Italian alpine corps monument was restored at an expense of a thousand dollars, and with a further expense of 10,000 dollars, spread over a span of three years, further embellishment work on the monument has been done, and today it is a very beautiful work, for posterity.



Photo taken during the visit of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association Vice President Valerio Cieri from Pescara, with the President of the section of Brisbane Alfredo Tognini.





The directive and President of the section of Brisbane.



At the gathering of Canberra



Brisbane 2000





Brisbane, 4th November, 2003



Melbourne, gathering of the Italian alpine corps sections of Australia.



Coff's Harbour, New South Wales, 17th October, 1999





Gathering at Udine, in the year of 1996



Brisbane 2004

The section of Adelaide – south Australia*

Australia is a very vast land, mainly arid, flat, and desolate. Although it is a land quite different from our beloved Italy, it has opened its arms up to many emigrants, amongst these to many Italians who, from the south and north of Italy, tempered people, by hard work, wanting to make a new future for themselves in this industrious land, full of opportunity.

The first Italian alpine corps section in Australia was formed many years ago, where a group of nostalgic Italian alpine corps veterans thought about founding an Italian alpine corps veterans section, here, in Adelaide, South Australia. It was in 1971 that these keen Italian alpine corps veterans got together at the Fogolar Furlan, laying the groundwork in order to form an Italian alpine corps veterans' group section in Adelaide. A few months later, at the first meeting, Mr. Daniele Panozzo asked the central headquarters in Milan for permission to form the section. In so doing, the doors were opened up to many Italian alpine corps veterans scattered throughout Australia was willing to get together and to re-evolve times past some of it with sad memories, and others, with happy memories, of their lives spent, as Italian alpine corps soldiers. Other sections and groups in all of Australia were born after our section.

* President Davide Innamorati is thanked for the news that has been provided.



The first President of our section was Mr. Daniele Panozzo, the second one was A. Rech, the third was G. Turale, the fourth was R. Rodeghiero, the fifth was W. Borghesan, the sixth was Davide Innamorati, originally from the Abruzzo region of Italy, who, from as far back as 1988, leads the section.

Nevertheless, under the leadership of all of the Presidents who alternated themselves, many initiatives have been carried out by the section, things that only the Italian alpine corps soldiers know how to do well, with an Italian alpine corps will and spirit that never abandons them, and so it was that way back in 1981, under the presidency of Mr. Rino Rodeghiero, a monument was erected to the memory of all of the soldiers of Italy who sacrificed themselves for the Motherland, in the two World Wars, up until today, and on the 4th November of every year, our fallen, together with the other Italian army unit associations are commemorated in front of the monument with the celebration of a Mass, and the deposition of a laurel wreath and speeches given by the consular and government authorities. All of the previous Presidents have always commendably committed themselves, by mainly raising funds which have been offered



Adelaide, 4th November, 1996



Adelaide, commemorative stone



Davide Innamorati

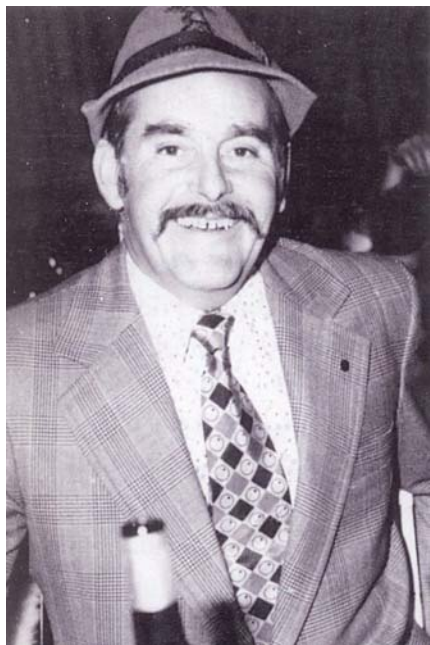




R. Rodeghiero



G. Turale



A. Rech



W. Borghesan

to the families, struck by calamities or by deaths. A concrete economic help was offered to the Friulian and Irpinian communities struck by the earthquake.

Amongst the last important initiatives, and brought forward by the present presidency, can be counted: the realization of a memorial stone in memory of all of the Italian alpine corps veterans who have gone forward, in times of war and of peace. The memorial stone was placed in the Fogolar Furlan Park. Many were the recognitions on the part of the authorities, amongst whom the Italian Consul Doctor Tommaso Coniglio, and some parliamentarians of the South Australia government.



More importantly, the second most recent initiative was to collect funds in order to support people who were struck by the disaster of the great fire that shook up the State of Victoria. This fire burned down entire forests and destroyed many houses and towns, causing numerous deaths.



D. Panozzo



Standing from the left: F. Rossi, E. Parolin, A. Bortolon.
Seated from the left: G. Faggionato, D. Innamorati, M. Bandiera.



The section of Perth (West Australia)*

“One is born an Italian alpine corps soldier – wrote President Artemio Valvassori – because one has to get to know the mountains starting from one’s own childhood. Writing, about Italian alpine corps soldiers is a monumental task. It is difficult to write about Italian alpine corps soldiers, when one has been an Italian alpine corps soldier. One is always an Italian alpine corps soldier.

But one can always write about history, talking about the Italian alpine corps soldiers, and so one ends up falling into rhetoric or into legend, because it is not possible to do otherwise, having seen everything that the Italian alpine corps soldiers have done since the day of their birth”.

Perth is a very beautiful city and is always in progress. It is the capital city of this enormous State which is Western Australia, with a population of more than one million inhabitants, a real multicultural society. The Italian community formed itself after the second emigration which took place after the Second World War. In 1950, it was made up of a great number of former combatants and veterans. Amongst these, are a good number of Italian alpine corps veterans who had gloriously fought in the tragic theatres of war: Albania, Greece, and Russia. Many are the survivors of the terrible tragedy suffered in Greece and in Russia. Having thus found themselves in Australia, with a strong spirit of solidarity, they set up the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans’ Association section of this State, and together with their families, they began a moving social activity, with meetings and evenings, dedicated to the black feather, denominated “The Ball of the Italian Alpine Troops Corps Veterans” of the local section, always registering a huge success, both due to the numerous turn out and for the atmosphere created in the Italian alpine corps spirit. Many hats with the black feather, old and young, with their characteristic accents are from the Veneto, Lombardy, Piedmontese, Tuscan, Abruzzo, Friulian regions of Italy, and even some Sicilians who fought in the ranks of the glorious black feathers.

Unfortunately, time passes inexorably and the ranks of the glorious combatants have thinned out, the Heroes of the steppe like Calcei, Mattia, Nicoli, have only remained but a memory, they, in Perth, gave witness to the Tridentine, and to the Julia.

Unforgettable was the blessing of the chaplain, Father Nanni, upon the standard of the Perth group, after having given a speech of his recalling the anecdotes of Italian alpine corps military life experienced during the last conflict. Father Nanni, during his blessing and speech states: “Honour to the Italian alpine corps soldiers of Italy, both during the moments of the War and in times of peace, when the work of the daring Italian alpine corps soldiers is required, above all, during calamities.” Even the Italian Consul illustrated the courageous contribution and the prestige of the former Italian alpine corps soldiers who have emigrated, here, to this land of Australia, the visits paid by delegations of the Italian Army Unit Association which testify to the gratitude of the Motherland towards her courageous sons. And the conclusion is drawn by speaking of sacrifice, honour, glory, duty, all words which today have a strange taste, but they are words which have a meaning, and it is precisely for this reason that they are repeated.

The following most remarkable activities carried out by the section are recalled:

- Constitution of the Italian Alpine Corps Veterans’ group of Perth in 1978;
- the sixth Italian alpine corps veterans’ Ball in September of 1984.

The Presidents that have alternated themselves since the foundation of the section up until today:

- Andrea Gianotti 1984-1993;
- Rino Cecconi 1994-2001;
- Andrea Calcei 2002-2003.

Artemio Valvassori has been the President since 2004.

In 1987, on the days of the 21st and 22nd November, at Villa Terenzio, in Perth, the meeting was held of the sections of Australia. The stalls and the speakers were allocated to the space right in front of the monument, to the Italian, fallen of all wars, thus giving a greater prominence to the event.

A collection of funds was recently started to be handed over to the benefit of the Children’s Hospital, Princess Margaret.

* President Artemio Valvassori is thanked for the news that has been provided.



The section of Wollongong Australia

Wollongong, in the aboriginal language, which means “noise of the sea” is situated along the eastern coast of Australia, about 80 km from Sydney, the biggest city in Australia. Wollongong boasts of a very vast ethnic baggage in the local community and is well represented at any social level and in which many Italian alpine corps veterans reside.

Everything began way back in 1976 at a feast in Sydney organized by the local Italian alpine corps veterans, and it is here that Knight Pietro Damin, with the moral push of the then President “Angelo Moras”, formed the group of Wollongong with a committee:

President: P. Damin; Vice President: G. Manera; Secretary: M. Dalla Pozza; Treasurer: S. Tonegato; Councillors: L. Pozzacchio, G. Cunial, G. Consolaro, G. Bresolin, P. Galanti, C. Cazzolli, M. Pojer.

Then, in 1991, the first National Gathering for Wollongong, with the directive, thus composed:

President: A. Panozzo; Vice President: P. Galanti; Secretary: M. Dalla Pozza; Treasurer: P. Damin; Councillors: G. Consolaro, C. Cazzoilli, M. Pojer; G. Rossi; G. Sartor; L. Sebben, T. Mogentale, and it was actually during this year that the group of Wollongong was raised to a section.

During all of these years, many have been the humanitarian activities that have been undertaken with the aim of collecting money, funds donated then towards various social aims.





D. Panozzo during a meeting of the Italian alpine corps veterans of Sydney – Wollongong, with the birth of the Wollongong group.



Archive photo of the first Wollongong committee.



"Penne nere", vino e canti al Picnic dell'A.N.A. di Wollongong



Picnic at Wollongong.



Padre Alfonso, cappellano degli Alpini, osserva compiaciuto Giancarlo "mascotte onoraria" dell'Associazione Nazionale Alpini di Sydney. (Foto Studio Maisano).

SYDNEY — Domenica scorsa, 24 febbraio, tre pullmans carichi di "penne nere" della locale Sezione dell'Associazione Nazionale Alpini sono partiti dal Marconi Club, dal Fogolar Furlan e dall'APIA Club alla volta della Cordaux Dam, dove si sono uniti ai commilitoni della Sezione di Wollongong da cui erano stati invitati.

L'invito era per un picnic con tanto di robusto barbecue (carne e salsicce a volontà, con contorno di insalata ed inaffiata da ettolitri di buon vino!) cucinato da bravissimi "cucinieri".

I prati ombrosi intorno alla Diga hanno offer-

to il loro riposante scenario ed una frescura che e' servita moltissimo ad attenuare gli effetti delle abbondanti libagioni a cui

molti dei 500 intervenuti hanno partecipato con altrettanta devota attenzione di quella prestata durante la celebrazione della messa al campo, officiata da Padre Alfonso. L'organizzazione curata dalla Sezione di Wollongong dell'Associazione Nazionale Alpini e' stata ottima, ed a Sydney le rientranti "penne nere" ci hanno raccontato di una festosa occasione da ripetersi spesso data la cameratesca allegria che ha accomunato tutti i partecipanti.





1986 – the then Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association National President, Mr. L. Caprioli, honoured us with a special visit accompanied by Mr. G. Franza, the delegate for the foreign sections.



General Gavazza exchanges gifts with President A. Panozzo of the then Wollongong group.



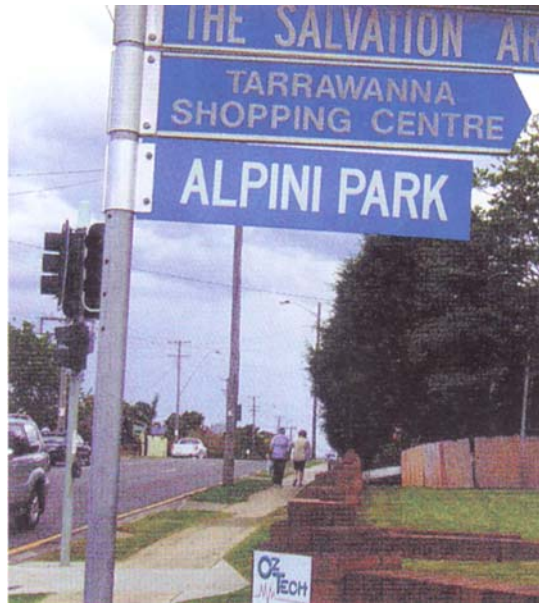


The feast of the “chestnuts” which the Italian alpine corps veterans hold every year, by roasting more than 1,500 kg of chestnuts, with many hours of volunteer work.



The committee responsible for the construction of the Italian alpine corps Park, donated to the City of Wollongong, with the relative street sign.





2002- A National Gathering at Wollongong. A magnificent day with the Representation of the National Headquarters, of the then Vice President, Mr. Corrado Perona and the delegate for the foreign sections, Mr. Vittorio Brunello. In the photograph, from right to left with the Vice of Wollongong, Primo Galanti, M.C. Mr. Colin Markham, Minister of the Australian Government, and close by, Mr. Antonio Panozzo, President of the Wollongong section.





The section of Wollongong has had Pietro Damin in office, as the President, from 1976-1982 and Antonio Panozzo, from 1982 up until today. 2009: A gathering in Melbourne.



National Gathering, Bassano del Grappa



The section of Canberra

The section of Canberra was constituted thanks to the work of keen and motivated Italian alpine corps veterans, with the help of Bertagnolli, of the section of Adelaide, way back in 1972. The initial group, made up of 103 members and sympathizers, in the successive two years became a section. This happened in 1974, thanks to the co-operation of the first President of the section, Angelo Lunazzi, who continued as the President right up until the 15th September, 1977. The Presidents of the section, which succeeded Lunazzi were Tullio Pizzatodal from the 15th September, 1977, to the 13th March, 1986, Gino Braido, from 1986 until 1994 and, finally, Fausto Parchi, from 1994 to 1997.

The fifth and present President, Vince Ciuffetelli, has been the President for 12 years from 1997 up until today.

Presently, the section counts twelve members and, that is, six Italian alpine corps veterans and six aggregates. As happens a bit everywhere, in Australia, the children of the emigrants have integrated themselves into the nation which hosts them and many “old” Italian alpine corps veterans have resigned due to age and health reasons, demoralizing the present sectional leaders.

On the 30th March, 2007, in a sectional council, the decision was made, with an overall majority because 50% of the councillors were present, to disband the section. Present, amongst others, in that council were: Lio Galafassi, Mario Fior, Franco Mondolo, Umberto Tuffoletti, Luigi Martignago, Angelo Lunazzi, Pasquale Ciuffetelli, Giuseppe Canova, and Rodolfo Basso. With a vote, the closure was decreed starting from 2009.

It is hoped that this moment of disheartenment passes, as soon as possible, and that the present resigning councillors return to their places, and that they mend their ways, even in order not to cancel a glorious section which very worthily represents the Italian alpine corps veterans.



2nd PART

Italian Alpine Corps Soldiers

Chapter *- II -*

SOUTH AMERICA

The section of Brazil

In Brazil, the first Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association section was founded in the city of Sao Paulo, after 1946 and gathered together more than 400 Italian alpine corps veteran members.

Presently, it counts about 50 members, all of an advanced age.

The sectional standard boasts of two medals: one for the help given on the occasion of the earthquake in Friuli and the other one for Longarone, when the Italian alpine corps veterans of Brazil went to the spot of the disasters in order to bring help.

A very well kept museum of the Combatants and Veterans, with relics, which even recall the Italian alpine corps veterans exists at the "Lega Italica" in Sao Paulo. A bronze sculpture of an Italian alpine corps soldier throwing a stone, referring to the First World War exists at the Italian Circle, in the tallest skyscraper of South America.

Two chapels in memory of those who fell in the First and Second World Wars with a list of the names amongst which the one of a captain of the 5th Italian alpine corps regiment exist at the monumental cemetery of Sao Paolo.

The section is born with the volunteer veterans of the First World War, who from Brazil went to fight in Italy and continued its own activity up until our days with ups and downs, but today, together with the sailors, it is the only Italian army association which functions in Sao Paolo. Its activity is concentrated on some institutional recurrences like the 2nd June, the 4th November, other religious ones, and of the Italian community. But very well-known and participated in is our "Green Eve" which every year manages to get a lot of people involved, as well as, the sponsorship of some Italian industrialists, a lot of regional associations, in particular the ones of the north.

The section of Uruguay*

The section was born in 1963 out of a natural detachment from the one in Argentina, of which it was a group since 1957.

The first Presidents were Ferrari and Sgaravatti, but the one who gave greater impulse and a most vivid expansion to the section was Rinaldo Testoni, from Como, who emigrated immediately after the last war and who died on the 17th February, 1989. Rinaldo Testoni was, for the Uruguay section, both the life and legend: untiring, present at every act and moment, he ran the section with a father's love and a leader's firm hand.

The greatest expansion was carried out in coincidence with the festivities of the 100th anniversary of the constitution of the section, in 1973: festivities in which the then National President Franco Bertagnolli participated in, accompanied by a good number of Italian alpine corps veterans and their family members, in what was the first organization of a charter flight in order to visit the sections overseas.

In 1973, the number of members throughout the entire territory (as big as a third of Italy, but with only two million nine hundred thousand inhabitants, of which a million three hundred thousand live in the capital city, Montevideo) amounted to 202, of whom well over 150 Knights of Vittorio Veneto, subdivided into 7 groups: Montevideo (group leader Testoni) – Las Piedras (Torchio) – Pando (Bacchetti) – San Jose (Segnana) – Colonia Vaidense (Zambelli) – Colonia del Sacramento (Bernardi) – Dolores (Favout). In September 1964, the bi-monthly "Tradotta Alpina" comes out which is a vivid sectional newspaper, whose editorial staff was made up of Testoni, Casati, Maggi, Bravin, and Pirovano. This last one, strengthened by his experience as a linotypist for a newspaper in Montevideo, with the help of his wife Esterina, looked after the composition, the printing, and the distribution. The newspaper reached its seventh year then folded, due to economic reasons, in December 1971.

* News taken from: Storia dell'Associazione Nazionale Alpini. ANA Milan 1993.



In 1972, even the section of Uruguay wanted to celebrate, with an indelible gesture, the first centenary of the foundation of the Italian alpine corps troops and it did so by placing on the highest peak (so to speak: a bit over 500 metres high but it is though always the highest point) of Uruguay, the Cerro San Antonio, an original wrought iron Madonna, the work of the Italian alpine corps veteran of Trentino origin Mirko Prati.

Peculiar characteristics of the work, two metres tall, are the big wings shaped in the form of an eagle's wings and the placing of the statue: its look is turned towards Italy. In a synthetic and exquisite form, it summarizes the passion, hope, faith of the Italian, of the emigrant Italian alpine corps veteran.

On the 8th December, 1991, the new "Blessed Virgin Mary of the Italian alpine corps veterans" was inaugurated, on the Cerro San Antonio. The original image, work of the Italian alpine corps veteran Mirko Prati, had not resisted the ravages of the climate and of the salt deposits; the new one was done with materials which will challenge time and the atmospheric inclemency, reminding posterity (it is the case to affirm it) of President Ugo Merlini – in whose memory it was erected – and the late President Rinaldo Testoni, who wanted the original work.

Numerous fellow countrymen, coming from Montevideo and from every corner of the republic, took part in the ceremony.

The work required an enormous effort, on the part of the few and elderly veterans of the section. It would not have been made possible, without the economic cooperation of the Italian alpine corps veterans of Italy, amongst whom it is pleasing and dutiful to signal Giovanni Buttiero and Pier Carlo Gabba of the Casale Monferrato section.

Presently, the section is run by Bruno Vignaga, from Belluno who succeeded Testoni and who unfortunately sees the progressive inexorable thinning out of the number of registered members, caused by a natural factor, death, not counterbalanced by further emigrations. The scantiness of the number of registered members who have remained has not dented the Italian alpine corps spirit. In this period, they are briskly working towards the structural and didactic improvement of an elementary school in Montevideo which is called "ITALIA" and is attended by the great grandchildren of Italian emigrants.

What is the "ITALIA" school? It is soon said. Uruguay thought about dedicating schools, as they slowly arose, to friendly countries.

Our Italian alpine corps veterans discovered by chance that a school called "Italia" even existed, probably born at the beginning of the century in what was a military garrison at the doors of Montevideo in progressive expansion. When it was discovered by our Italian alpine corps veterans, the structures were still exactly as they were then and the film director Comencini could have set there some episodes of the film taken from the book *Cuore* without spending a cent.

The first appeal launched by the then President Rinaldo Testoni was accepted by the section of Milan which sent a million Italian liras for a first urgent intervention. When our little Italian liras cross the Atlantic Ocean towards the south, they become heavy and with a million of them our Uruguayan Italian alpine corps veterans equipped all of the classrooms with modern fluorescent ceiling lights, indispensable during the cloudy days. But they did not limit themselves to this. Other building improvements were necessary, above all to the platform roofs which acted as a quadrilateral for the internal courtyard protecting, from the access to the classrooms from bad weather, which was not to say the least crumbling.

Vignaga, who succeeded the late Testoni, tried knocking at a door that had a lot of money and to the usual interlocutory talk "bring me an estimate" it was followed by the un hoped-for financing of the whole project.

With the over seven million Italian liras, provided by an Italian bank, the roofing work was done, with metal trusses and translucent plastic material, of half of the courtyard; a very useful solution in order to protect the children during recess and the movements from the classrooms to the toilets.

Let us dedicate a thought to these Italian alpine corps outposts: our superfluous can constitute, for them, survival.



The section of Argentina

The 14th April, 1956 is an important date for the Italian alpine corps veterans of Argentina. They still have not gathered together into an association and some black feathers sympathizers of the CAI attend the headquarters of the Triestine circle in Buenos Aires. They are veterans of the two World Wars amongst whom Brigade General Giovanni Corniani, a Piedmontese gentleman with an iron will, Chief of Staff of the Julia Division in the Greco-Albanian campaign, distinguishes himself. Colonel Luigi Incisa di Camerana, Captain Giuseppe Zumin, Captain Mario Didero and others, future leaders of the local section of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association, are next to him.

And it is actually at the Triestine circle that on that day the first War Flag is handed over on behalf of the CAI of Buenos Aires to a mountain unit of the Andean army. It is certainly an event of good omen because two months later, on the 26th June, 1956, in a public place in Buenos Aires, in the presence of General Corniani and Vittorio Pozzo, an Italian alpine corps Major and technical commissioner of the national soccer team, some members of the section of Turin will constitute the Argentinean group, and on the 3rd December, 1957, the same section pays homage to the standard of the recently constituted group which becomes, before the assembly, a section directly depending upon the central headquarters in Milan. General Giovanni Corniani is elected its President.

In 1957, the first Italian alpine corps veterans' gathering was organized at Mar del Plata, the only Argentinean city in which a monument to the Italian fallen exists.

In those years, the Italian alpine corps veterans become a relevant reality for Argentina, and a point of reference for the numerous Italian communities.

In 1958, the patronesses' and "Italian alpine corps friends'" groups are set up.

The presence of many emigrant Italian alpine corps veterans contributes towards the formation of 30 groups (there are now 26) in the whole country, from Jujuy to Esquel, with about 1,300 associates. Presently, the members are: 217 with 34 aggregates, but they are perseverant, faithful to the Italian alpine corps principles and committed to social issues. In 1961, the President of the Italian Republic, Giovanni Gronchi, and in 1965, Giuseppe Saragat, in Argentina, on a State visit, meeting the Italian alpine corps community, expressed sentiments of gratitude for their work, by renewing sentiments of gratitude.

A small boy, taking part in a section event in Buenos Aires, in order to express his admiration for the Italian alpine corps cried out that the Italian alpine corps veterans were the Italian "cowboys". In order to appreciate the witty remark, it is necessary to consider that for Argentineans the cowboy is a symbol of pride, generosity, and independence.

In March 1962, General Corniani leaves Argentina and Captain Giuseppe Zumin is elected as the new sectional President.

In 1963, the section proliferates. The Uruguay group (founded in 1957) having reached the 50 mark, in terms of registered members, assumes the rank of section with Rinaldo Testoni as its President.

In 1964, Luigi Fraccaroli constitutes the sectional choir, made up of about 30 voices and, in 1965, the one of the La Plata group is born under the leadership of Lorenzo Mozzone. The choirs participate in all of the events of a patriotic and national character and in the events held by the Italian embassy and consulate. Their presence gives lustre to the meetings throughout the whole country and in Italy, at least whenever it has been possible to participate, given the long distance. In 1968, the Monte Ortigara sectional refuge was inaugurated at Cordoba.

The last trip to Italy was made on the occasion of the Gathering in Brescia, with a tour that lasted a few days, visiting various cities with sectional headquarters.

In the meantime, young Argentinean officers, having trained at the Military School of Aosta, (this being a tradition that still continues up until today) contribute towards the perfecting of the training of the Argentinean mountain soldiers stationed at Bariloche. It is here, in 1965, that the "Destacamento de Instruction Andina" was created to which the Italian alpine corps veterans offered the Flag of War, blessed by Father Callisto Schincariol, chaplain both of the Italian alpine corps veterans and of the Andean soldiers. On the 20th October, 1973, the detachment will transform itself into the Escuela de Instruction Andina, and it is on this occasion that the then National President, Franco Bertagnolli, arrives from Italy decorated by the Command of the Argentinean Army with the "Condor Dorado" medal. And here is the handing over of the second flag of war to the tune of the Argentinean anthem and stelutis alpi-



nis. Another two newly formed companies will follow.

The Argentinean soldiers nurture a strong esteem, with regards to the Italian alpine corps soldiers.

“On the 30th October, 1974, at Jujuy, a gathering of the groups, of the north is summoned. In the square of arms, of the “Cazadores de los Andes” regiment, the commander of the unit asks that Captain Zumin, President of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans’ Association section raises the Argentinean flag and orders his soldiers to honour the Italian alpine corps soldiers”.

Founded in 1956, as a group of the section of Turin, it goes on to becoming a section, in the following year, with General Corniani as the President.

The Argentinean mountain troops have been given four flags of war (Argentinean), one to the mountain school of Bariloche and to three newly formed companies.

During the best period, the section counted thirty groups, scattered throughout the whole country from Trelev to Jujuy, two groups, which distance 4,000 km between them, Argentina has an area of 3,000,000 km², we reached a number of 1,500 members, unfortunately, presently without having any reinforcements, we are a tenth part evermore close to the paradise of Cantor.

We were committed to the service of public order during the visits of Presidents Saragat, Pertini, Scalfaro, Andreotti, and other Italian authorities, on visit to Argentina, as well as, to events of an Italian nature, especially in Buenos Aires.

At the National Gatherings, the presence of the section has gone from hundreds to tens, at the sectional gatherings, we still count like at the 50th anniversary of the foundation, on the participation of 500 people; a few years ago there were 2,000.

The National Headquarters is analyzing the tendency, by thinking about the aggregates who, will have to maintain the spirit of sacrifice and volunteer work of those who have already moved on, so that their example be a stimulus for our descendents.

All of the National Presidents have visited us in Argentina, the last pleasing presence was of President Perona accompanied by a large delegation, during the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the foundation of the section. The presence of three choirs, sectional, La Plata, and Rosario which cheer up the Italian alpine corps gatherings, keep our traditions alive.

Once a year, the shooting and rifle championship is held, even if we do not always hit the bull’s eye out of 150 possible points, some at least reach 140. Presidents Giovanni Corniani, Giuseppe Zumin, Remo Sabbadini, and presently Fernando Caretti have succeeded each other during the section’s fifty years of life.



National Gathering, Padua 21st March, 1976





Rosario, 6th Gathering of the Argentinean section



President Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, with the representation of the Italian alpine corps veterans of the Rosario section, and with the military attaché.





Rio de la Plata – Argentina, 2007. Capannolo, Perona, and other national councillors.



Argentina



The section of Venezuela

With the end of the last war, from the fourth year onwards, waves of Italian immigrants reach Venezuela. During the first years of their stay in this new land, the new arrivals dedicate their efforts to looking for work, consolidating it and raising a family. Then, memories began to bear pressure on the principle of solidarity. It was like this, that, towards the end of the 1950's, two Piedmontese Italian alpine corps guys, Rissone and Moglia, thought about organizing, for themselves and for some friends, a dinner like the regional Italian alpine corps ones which they had taken part in, in Italy. The Italian alpine corps Captain Guido Molinar, the voice of Pro Radio Italia in Caracas, sent out an invitation to the Italian alpine corps veterans. The dinner was a success due to the good number of Italian alpine corps veterans present. After the usual drinking and mountain songs, it was decided to found the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association of Venezuela, with the glorious name of Lieutenant doctor Giuseppe Mendoza, born in Caracas of Genoese origin, of the Pieve di Teco (Cuneo) Brigade, who fell in Russia, golden medal winner for military valour. Finally, on the 20th March, 1968, the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association of Venezuela is born. Within the span of a few years, the number of a few hundred registered Italian alpine corps veterans is reached.

From that moment on, the section's activity becomes frenetic. Counted amongst the most important initiatives are:

- 1) the inauguration of the monument to the fallen, in cooperation with the Scalabribian Fathers of the church of Our Lady of Pompey, in the gardens of the church itself, made up of a plaque with an Italian alpine corps hat with a cut off feather;

- 2) active participation, in the Mass of the 4th November which is celebrated annually, with the Italian alpine corps hat and the deposition of a wreath, together with the one of the Italian embassy, in honour of the fallen of all wars;

- 3) organization of social dinners, above all, on the occasion of the Christmas holidays, in which hundreds of Italian alpine corps veterans and friends of the Italian alpine corps veterans take part, with the aim of promoting solidarity. These dinners, very well-known by now, are prepared by the wives of the Italian alpine corps veterans who "always forget to present the bill" for the purchase of food, which are served by the students (volunteers) of the "Agustin Codazzi" Italian school, whose proceeds purged of expenses, is given to works of charity, scholarships for deserving students, in order to allow them to continue their studies in Italy, and above all for the running of the Italian retirement home;

- 4) with Father Ettore, pastor of the church of Our Lady of Pompey, the foundation of a retirement home for elderly and needy Italians, which has been given the name of "Christopher Columbus", is promoted together with the Italian regional associations. It will immediately start working in a small rented out villa, but very soon a new building will be built which, upon completion, will host up to 120 elderly and destitute people.

- 5) following the earthquakes in Friuli and Irpinia, all of the money collected by our association and by other Italian associations, in order to help the stricken areas, upon the advice of the Italian embassy, are handed over to the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association of Venezuela, considered to be the surest and most transparent entity. The total amount will be transferred to the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association in Milan.

The first President of the section of Venezuela, since the foundation, has been Captain Alessandro Cavazza of Milan, born in 1918, silver medal winner in the Russian campaign. When he moved on, he was succeeded by Lieutenant Ivo Crovesi of Genoa, of the 5th Italian alpine corps Morbegno battalion.

Presently, the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association of Venezuela is reduced to eight registered members, a small number, due to the fact that almost all of the elderly have moved on and the majority of the survivors have had to leave Venezuela, due to reasons of work and security reasons.

The section participated and participates in the national gatherings, with the presence of Italian alpine corps veterans, who return to Venezuela for different reasons.





Caracas 15th October, 1972, ceremony of the centenary of the Italian alpine corps troops.



Autonomous group of Colombia

A brief history is recognized, of the Italian alpine corps autonomous group “Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta” of Colombia. On the date of the 14th January, 2008, Ornello Capannolo, the person in charge of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans’ Association’s foreign sections, communicates the official recognition with these words to the founder and group leader of the autonomous group of Colombia: “Dear Gianfranco and Gastone, we have finally reached the conclusion; on Saturday, 12th January in Milan, the National Directive Council approved the constitution of the Italian alpine corps autonomous group of Colombia. The National President, Corrado Perona, and the National Council wish you all the best”.

The group, which officially constituted itself on the 2nd May, 2007, during the course of the first months, gathered together the first adhesions, thanks above all, to the appeal carried out through the AICO, the Italian Association in Colombia.



The Italian Consul and founder of the group, Gianfranco Chiappo, with the group leader, Gastone Vincenti, the Italian alpine corps veterans Francesco Borasio and Enzo Fenocchio, at the presentation of the Italian alpine corps group of Colombia, with the AICO (Italian Association in Colombia) flag.

A few months went by since the first official meeting, which took place on the 7th May, 2007, at Cartagena de Indias, the founder and coordinator, Professor Doctor Gianfranco Chiappo (Consul General of Italy in Cartagena de Indias), the group leader Doctor Gastone Vincenti (Lieutenant Colonel Doctor) and the vice group leader, Francesco Borasio, following a first meeting, gather together the first assembly and the internal organization of the group is defined with the first adherents: Gianfranco Chiappo, Gastone Vincenti, Francesco Borasio, Ezio Fenocchio, Fiorino Pasqualotto Baccarin, Guido Marzo, and Fabrizio Catei.

The official presentation of the group takes place on the occasion of a successive meeting, which took place in the midst of the AICO and IPIC (Italian Entrepreneurs and Professionals in Cartagena) on the 12th October, 2007, at Cartagena de Indias. On such an occasion, the official name of the group is chosen: “Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta”, or be it the highest mountain in the world close to the sea (which with its peaks Simon Bolivar and Cristobal Colon is even the highest mountain in Colombia and reaches a height of 5,775 metres above sea level).



During the course of the welcoming dinner in 2008, held in Cartagena on the 28th January, 2008, in which the group was made official, the logo of the “Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta” autonomous group in Colombia was even presented.

The Italian alpine corps veteran from Turin, Luigi Paccazocco, a member of the Alpette (Turin) group twinned with us, one of the promoters of the Colombia group who followed the entire genesis of the Columbia group, even participated in the meeting.



Guido Gozzi, Francesco Borasio, Gastone Vincenti, Riccardo Ferreri and Gianfranco Chiappo with Luigi Paccazocco, and the pennant of the Alpette (Turin) group.

The new adhesions begin, amongst which we recall the Italian alpine corps veteran Guido Gozzi, present at the gathering of Bassano, and the first presences at social acts. As always, in the Italian alpine corps spirit, participation is in favour of the neediest, in particular, children and the elderly. An association is immediately formed, destined to last in time with the Italian-Colombian foundation “Los Ninos de Colombia” and contemporarily AICO (Italian Association in Colombia), which gathers together the greatest number of fellow countrymen of ours and friends of Italy on Colombian soil) receives the Italian alpine corps group as one of its most significant constituents in a formal way.



The tricolour home dedicated to the Italian alpine corps group of Colombia. Some of the little children with the emblems of the Italian alpine corps group and of the Italian-Colombian foundation “Los Ninos de Colombia”.



The first official commitment concretizes itself in the presence of the group, at the national gathering at Bassano del Grappa, in May 2008. Here, in an unforgettable ceremony, the pennant is handed over to the founder of the group, Gianfranco Chiappo, by President Perona who even visibly formalizes the birth of the group which during the course of the parade, obtained an enthusiastic success of the crowd and gave rise to a great sympathy.

It is recalled, with particular pleasure, how on the occasion, significant twinnings were forged amongst which we signal in particular the groups: Alpette (Turin), Levanto (La Spezia), Masera' (Padua), Santo Stefano Mare (La Spezia) and Feltre. We cannot forget the Turin section, "La Veja", in particular the friend President Giorgio Chiosso and the friend Luigi Paccazocco of the Alpette group who were of great help, with their contribution and advice, in the constitution of our group, and to whom our most fraternal thanks goes even for the support and affection, with which they follow our initiatives.



The gathering of Bassano and the handing over of the pennant to the group's founder on the part of President Corrado Perona.



The group's pennant, which has just been handed over, with the Italian alpine corps veterans, Guido Gozzi and Guido Siboldi, Luigi Paccazocco, Gianfranco Chiappo, and the President of the Turin section, Giorgio Chiosso.



Having returned to the Colombian base with splendid Bassano in our eyes and the unforgettable warmth of its people, we set off once again in search of other Italian alpine corps veterans and friends, in particular through “Va pensiero” the AICO network of which our founder is even the director.

And the group slowly grows. 2009 is already knocking at the door and we find ourselves with the will to do well and the first commitment is directed at Latina. It has to be remembered that the participation, in the gathering for whoever comes from afar, even represents a quite significant economic commitment, given the constant increase in costs. However, enthusiasm triumphs and even at Latina, we show up and... more numerous.

Once again, we meet up with a lot of old and new friends and yet again the parade is rich in applauses and warmth and already marching and meeting the many friends from Bergamo, crowded behind the barriers with our hands, we arrange to meet one another in 2010.



The Colombia group marches at the gathering of Latina. Gianfranco Chiappa with Stefano Benazzo, group leader of the newborn Bulgaria group and Italian ambassador in Bulgaria.

In the meantime, even in Colombia, we did not stand around idly. In particular, the foundation of three little tricolour (in fact, both the Italian and Colombian flags are tricolour) houses is signalled, of which one specifically dedicated to our group, destined to welcome tens of children who are offered food, education and assistance and which have already been illustrated in many photographs sent to all of the Italian alpine corps friends, even in Italy. In this regards, the study will be sent of the Italia-tricolour model home being built which will include: a welcoming centre, outpatient clinics, community room, small library, and which will represent a reference point in one of the poorest barrios (neighbourhoods) of Cartagena. We would like, that a part of the structure can be donated to the Italian alpine corps veterans, with help, even from Italy, and for this reason, already from now on, we ask for the help of all friends who want to help us to make the Italian and Italian alpine corps flag flutter over this important realization which even the embassy has held to be of particular importance and meaning.





The ambassador of Italy, in Colombia, Gerolamo Schiavoni, on a visit to the Italian alpine corps house in the company of Gianfranco Chiappo. Amongst those present are Guido Gozzi, Gastone Vincenti, Edmondo Franchina, Francesco Borasio, and Gilberto Cisiano on a visit from Venezuela.



And now we come to the very latest events. During the course of the last assembly of the 16th June, after having with pleasure highlighted the arrival of important Italian alpine corps reinforcements and friends of the Italian alpine corps veterans to our group, the need is highlighted, even for logistical reasons, of creating two groups: the first one with the name of the Italian alpine corps veterans' group of Cartagena de Indias and the second one with the name of the Italian alpine corps veterans' of Medellin. This first proposal is welcomed with applause by everybody present. Following this decision, a formal request is made to the National Direction so that, as already promised, the Sierra Nevada de Santa Maria Colombia section is officially constituted.



We close with the ceremony of the recurrence, of the 90th anniversary of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association, bringing the greeting sent by us, to all of the Italian alpine corps veterans and friends of the Italian alpine corps veterans and some of the photographs of the meeting.



8th July, 2009 – 6:00 pm – Cartagena de Indias – Colombia
90th anniversary of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association,
from the Italian alpine corps veterans' autonomous group, of Colombia, to all of the Italian
alpine corps veterans and friends of the Italian alpine corps veterans

Dear brothers and friends of the Italian alpine corps veterans in Colombia, Italian alpine corps veterans and friends of the Italian alpine corps veterans of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Maria Italian alpine corps veterans' group of Colombia, we have saluted the 90th anniversary of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association with a sympathetic and moving meeting at the national headquarters of Cartagena de Indias. Contemporarily, the friends who found themselves in the other cities, in particular, in Medellin, the headquarters of the soon to be second Colombian group, connected themselves via e-mail and telephone in order to toast together. Everything took place, according to the rules, with the presentation of the flag and of the pennant, the Italian alpine corps prayer, and the reading of the greeting sent by President Perona which was distributed to everybody as a souvenir of the event. The glass of wine could not have been missing in order to seal the alliance between all of us and all of the friends gathered together in the different countries which do not know time or boundaries.

All of this, even lured by sympathetic and beautiful feminine presences which make us recall how this is one of the greatest gifts and that the Italian alpine corps has always remembered in many songs and in many moments, even the most tragic ones.

We join ourselves to all of you in whatever part of the world you may find yourselves, and even to the many who have seen us smiling from heaven, ready to celebrate, with the same spirit, the centenary of our splendid Association. A big hug to everybody and a see you soon until... Bergamo.



In these photographs, some members of the Colombia group gathered together, at the national headquarters of Cartagena de Indias, toasting the 90th anniversary of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association.



Up until here, our brief, but already very much lived out history which hopes to enrich itself with many new moments and, if our eyes are already turned to Bergamo and Turin, we hope that even before, as solemnly promised during the meetings of Latina, our dear President Corrado Perona and many friends come to visit us in Colombia, and if possible, celebrate a new section where the Italian alpine corps sentiment and heart always beat stronger.



Marching with the friends of Masera (PD) and with the twinned pennants:
the Colombia and Alpette (Turin) groups.

National Headquarters:

Colombia – Cartagena de Indias – Bocagrande – Av. San Martin 9#145 – Ed. Nautilus Of. 901

Tel: (57) 5-665.39.62-665.39.04. E-mail: alpinicolombia@yahoo.com

“Antonio Cicirello” section of Peru

The section was constituted in Lima in the year 1950 upon the initiative of Luigi Lanata Coudy, a son of Italians, Peruvian by birth, a combatant of the First World War in the brave units of the Italian alpine corps troops, silver medallist for military valour. Lanata had been the ambassador of the Peruvian government at the Holy See in Rome.

Not being able to dispose at that moment an adequate number of Italian alpine corps veterans in order to constitute a section, Luigi Lanata turned to a typical Italian alpine corps style arrangement, taking care of things as best he could. He, in fact, constituted the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association group of Peru connected to the section of Rome. The group's first pennant is kept at the headquarters in Lima. Successively, having reached the number of two hundred Italian alpine corps veterans residing in Peru, the section was constituted which was dedicated to the memory of Lieutenant Sergeant Antonio Cicirello of the 7th Italian alpine corps, Pusteria Division, gold medalist in remembrance, who fell in the conquest of Amba Uork in Eastern Africa, on the 27th February, 1936. Cicirello, the son of Italian emigrants, had voluntarily enlisted.

In 1966, the section finds its headquarters, at the Italian sportive circle in Lima, then a reference point for Italians in Peru. Precisely, in those rooms – in cooperation with the Peruvian mountain climbing association (the equivalent of the Italian CM) – many of the Italian alpine expeditions, engaged in the Peruvian Andes, were hosted: a way of being in solidarity with other Italians. With regards to such assistance, an affectionate detail is highlighted in the official report of the Peru section: it is said “the majority of them (the mountain climbers, author's note) were Italian alpine corps soldiers, thus a great reason to help them out”.

In 1970, Peru was devastated by a catastrophic earthquake which causes about 85,000 dead. The Italian alpine corps veterans of the section commit themselves to collecting funds, medicine, food, clothing, right up until reaching, in a brief period of time, 200 tonnes of material which, with their own means and out of their own pockets, they take to the areas of greater emergency. It is the same spirit that moved the Italian alpine corps soldiers in Friuli. A significant detail: the Italian alpine corps soldiers who trans-

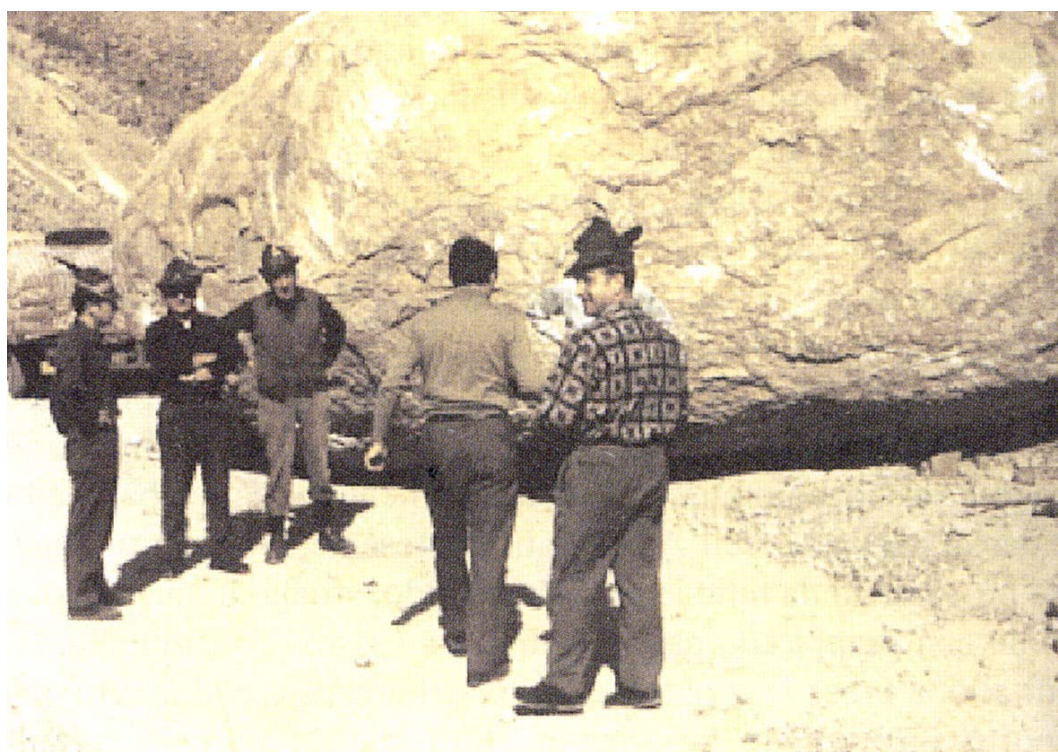


ported material to the earthquake victims were the only ones authorized by the Peruvian government – which had decreed the state of emergency in the areas that were struck – to be able to transit, without escorts or without checks, in the disaster areas and to hand over the aid directly. At the Peruvian military checkpoints, seeing the Italian alpine corps soldiers with their hats on their heads, the soldiers would salute them at attention. Certainly these things are not measured or weighed, but they have an exceptional measure and weight in the hierarchy of values.

On the road of solidarity, the Italian alpine corps veterans of Peru are fervid: in the Andes, at a height of 2,350 metres above sea level, a mission of nuns, of Italian nuns, dedicates itself to the welcoming in the complete sense of the word of orphaned children. For eighteen years, until when the mission was not self-sufficient, the Italian alpine corps veterans provided for its support, by soliciting – right up until the maximum limits of the licit! – all those who could give or do something.

The weekly meetings, the Italian alpine corps messes, the singsongs together, and even the participation in the national gatherings in Italy are traditional. In such regards, in the section's official report it is highlighted: "according to the availability". That goes to say: if there is money or not. This serves as a rebuke and shame to those parliamentarians who sustained that if they want to exercise the unquestionable right to vote, our emigrants have to go to Italy in order to exercise it, at their own expenses.

The present President of the section, the Italian alpine corps artilleryman, Celso Salvetti, communicates a data: that certainly is not a surprise, but which is though always melancholic: of the two hundred initial Italian alpine corps veterans, only forty have remained. With the stop to emigration, new recruits have obviously been lacking. Under certain aspects, anything but secondary, one has to rejoice that emigration has ceased. Under the affective aspect, we assist with respect and melancholy at the lowering of a flag.



Peru. During the earthquake of 1970, the Italian alpine corps veterans of the section handed over to the earthquake victims of the Andes area aid that was donated by the Italian community.



2nd PART

Italian Alpine Corps Soldiers

Chapter *- III -*

SOUTH AFRICA

The section of South Africa

Year of foundation: 1985

President: Tullio Ferro

Ordinary members: 65

Aggregate members: 19

It was a beautiful summer evening at Benoni, a satellite city of Johannesburg. It was a Saturday evening of January 1984. A party had just finished, at the local Italian social circle, but three Italian emigrants were running late, telling each other about their military past in the Italian alpine corps. They were the native of Bergamo, Tullio Ferro, the native of Friuli, Giuseppe Massolini, and the native of Veneto Ilario Rader. Between one word and another was born the idea of constituting an Italian National Alpine Corps Troops Veterans' Association section in South Africa.

The idea was immediately pleasing, but it was a cyclopean enterprise to trace all of the Italians who had served in the Italian alpine corps, scattered throughout the immense South African territory. But this did not discourage our three promoters, who immediately got down to work, so much so, that at the end of the year, they had already collected about thirty memberships.

Now, however, a just as difficult task awaited them for the official constitution of the section, the consent of the National Headquarters in Milan was needed. In charge of the relative bureaucracy was Duilio De Franceschi, who did the best he could with the papers. On the 12th April, 1984, he sent the request to Milan for the constitution of the section, with the attached list of the Italian alpine corps adherents to the association. Loredana Ferro of Cerete (BG), the sister of Tullio, and Italo Brasi of Songavazzo (BG), then an employee of "Il Corriere della Sera" newspaper acted as go-betweens.

The National Secretary, R. Tarchiani, did not allow for shortcuts, actually he asked for the integral application foreseen by article 20 of the Statute, but such an answer was lost, and a reminder, on the 2nd April, 1985, specified that the National Directive Council in order to be able to authorize the constitution, had to be in possession of the "name of the President, composition of the Directive Council, Council of scrutiny and Auditors". Moreover, some forms were to be filled with the aspiring members' names and relative personal, military, address data for their insertion into the members' archive.

All right, all in line with the Statute, but if in Milan they could have seen the distances between one city and another in South Africa, perhaps they would have been less punctilious, by immediately accepting the registration without reserve. However, amidst a thousand difficulties, the promoters, who were joined by other Black Feathers, did what was required, including the gathering of all discharge papers, and by the end of 1985, the section was regularly constituted with Duilio De Franceschi, as the president.

The official inauguration, at the Southfork Estates of Eikenhof, took place, however, almost two years later, on the 2nd May, 1987, in the presence of the National President, Leonardo Caprioli. Under the impeccable direction of Fiorindo Bauce, the ceremony began at attention – the Italian alpine corps veteran Filippi at the trumpet – the raising of the flag and the two national anthems, both in Italian, sung by the "Valli Alpine" choir. Sectional president De Franceschi, after having welcomed all of those present, and having externalized the sentiments of Italianness, which had lead the Italian alpine corps veterans, who emigrated to South Africa to constitute the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association section, handed over the microphone to National President Caprioli who, on his part, addressed words which moved all of the "double military service" Italian alpine corps veterans, their families, and friends present.

The Holy Mass followed, presided over by Father Urbano di Nigel and accompanied by the "Valli Alpine" choir, and the headquarters' and sectional banner's blessing. In the end, the programme specified "Italian alpine corps mess, with a special minestrone and appropriate menu" and it added "in the evening, for the nostalgics of the good times that have gone by, the possibility of listening to old songs and to have a few dances in sane happiness".

The section got evermore bigger, right to the point of exceeding a hundred members, in the meantime Duilio De Franceschi was succeeded by Giuseppe Nanna as the president. In the meantime, the work was finished on a "mountain chalet" of their own at the East Rand Italian Club of Benoni which was inaugurated on the 26th November, 1995, by the National President Leonardo Caprioli and the



national councillor Beppe Parazzini. Dedicated to Ilario Rader, one of the section founders, it had as its godmothers the ladies Lucia, widow Rader, and Betty Brasi Ferro.

In December 1995, Tullio Ferro, an Italian alpine corps artilleryman of the Bergamo group, who emigrated with his wife and eleven month old son to South Africa in 1964, was elected as the president during the annual assembly. His second son was born in this second homeland of his. He still holds this office up until today.

President Ferro then, had the honour of giving the welcome of the Italian alpine corps veterans of South Africa to the President of the Italian Republic, Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, on the 15th March, 2002, on a visit to the cemetery of the prison camp of Zonderwater, where two hundred and fifty-two Italian soldiers rest. Besides the Italian alpine corps section, Tullio Ferro looks after, as a member of the specific committee, the care of the cemetery and honouring the fallen buried there, helped by his Italian alpine corps veterans.

Zonderwater (Sonderwater in Afrikaans, which means “place where water is scarce”) became famous as the biggest Allied prison camp of the Second World War. The area chosen, on the Transvaal plains, barren and arid, served the aim well: served by roads and the railway, connected to the port of Durban, where the disembarkation of the prisoners took place, in an isolated and secure position, considered to be the ideal place in order to build a “prisoners’ city” there? The first Italian war prisoners began to pour into South Africa during the first half of 1941, after the first South African victories, in Italian East Africa, to whom a part of those, then captured in Greece and on other fronts, were added. In April of 1942, the number of prisoners, of various nationalities, had grown to 54,000, divided into 12 blocks; in 1943, there was a total of 78,000, in order to then arrive at a total of almost one hundred thousand men towards the end of the conflict.

Every year, on the first Sunday of November, the Italian alpine corps veterans of South Africa, participate in the official commemoration at the memorial chapel of Zonderwater. The impeccable grassy carpet, the long rows of white crosses, and the flag that flies on top of the flagstaff make of this place a strip of Italian land, which the Italian alpine corps veterans look after and caress, as if it were a garden. There is even a museum, in the memorial chapel where some works are exposed, made with poor materials, made by the Italian soldiers during their internment and which show their geniality, in a distinguished way.

The 20th anniversary of the section was celebrated, in a solemn way, with the inauguration of the monument, to the Italian alpine corps soldier, and to all of the fallen, placed in front of the “mountain chalet” and designed by the young man Sergio Chinelli, which represents a truncated pyramid, surmounted by an eagle, intent on flying off. The National President, Corrado Perona, the Vicar President, Vittorio Brunello, some delegations of Italian sections, Mrs. Giovanna Rigato of the General Consulate of Italy and the representation of the South African Armed Forces were present. The blessing was imparted by Father Giuseppe De Lama, who then, concelebrated Holy Mass with a military chaplain, who came from Italy together with the national president.

Another pleasant visit for President Ferro and his Italian alpine corps veterans of South Africa took place this year, precisely on the 26th April, 2009, on the occasion of the 24th anniversary of the section’s foundation. At the raising of the flag, on the lawn in front of the “mountain chalet”, as on the occasion of the foundation, it was again the “Valli Alpine” choir, on its 50th foundation anniversary, which sang the national anthems of the two countries. The laying of a laurel wreath, at the monument, to the Italian alpine corps soldier and the Holy Mass followed, concelebrated by Father Giuseppe De Lama, from the Trent region of Italy, in South Africa for over forty years, and Father Damiano Guzzetti from Turate (Como), a missionary in Uganda and Italian alpine corps veteran of the Transmissions Regiment at Merano from 1988-1989. Lined up around the altar were the National President, Corrado Perona, the director of “L’Alpino” newspaper, Vittorio Brunello, the President of the section, Tullio Ferro, the Consul General, Dr. Enrico De Agostini, Lieutenant General Carlo Gaggiano, of Italian origin, Chief of Staff of the South African Air Force. The pennants of Malatina (Modena), Borgosatollo (Brescia), Abbiategrasso (Milan) and Borgomanero (Omegna) acted as a frame for the national banner and the sectional pennons. Unfortunately, the national councillor, Ornello Capannolo, who really wanted to be present, was absent, but the sense of duty kept him back in Abruzzo, his land shaken by the earthquake. The ceremony was accompanied by the military band of the South African Armed Forces which, having had



on time, the musical scores from the national headquarters, had specifically rehearsed itself in order to play an impeccable “Thirty-three” for the occasion.

After the greeting of President Ferro – who recognized in his Italian alpine corps veterans and all Italians who chose South Africa as their second homeland the merit of having had “the wisdom and the will to respect the diversity of the world” – Emilio Coccia, the person in charge of the Zonderwater cemetery and Italian Consul De Agostini intervened. President Perona, in his contribution, highlighted the debt that all of Italy has towards her Italian alpine corps veterans who emigrated to all continents: “Nice people who work and always feel attached to the Italian alpine corps hat. We have nothing to teach them. They are richness because they carry authentic values. It is important to sow the Italian alpine corps creed throughout the world today”.

And the Italian alpine corps veterans of South Africa, with their sixty-five ordinary members, have moved on, scattered throughout an immense territory, continue to sow this creed and here, such a sowing, bear’s fruit which leave one dumbfounded, like the one of Paolo Emilio Como. A South African with dual citizenship, being of Italian origin, out of his will, he came to Italy to perform his compulsory military service, obviously in the Italian alpine corps troops. Today, a little more than thirty years old, he is the youngest Italian alpine corps veteran of South Africa and represents the future of the section.



2nd PART

Italian Alpine Corps Soldiers

Chapter *- IV -*

EUROPE

Nordic section (Sweden, Norway, Finland, Denmark)*

Ido Poloni, founder of the section, after thirty-five years laid his rucksack on the ground, the testimony was gathered by Valerio Re, in the wake of a long tradition.

by *Gaetano Sebellin*

The Nordic section finds its origins in 1971 on the occasion of the mythical Vasaloppet (90 kilometre international cross-country skiing competition), in which the then Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association National President Ugo Merlini participated following a group of participants coming from Italy. The occasion provided an opportunity for a fellow countryman residing in Sweden, Ido Poloni, to approach him and to manifest to him the desire of constituting an Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association section. Poloni recalls that he presented himself to President Merlini by beginning to say: "I am a former Italian alpine corps soldier and my deepest desire...". I did not have time to finish the sentence when the President addressed him saying: "There are no former Italian alpine corps soldiers: there are only Italian alpine corps soldiers and non-Italian alpine corps soldiers!"

Nevertheless, the National President was enthusiastic about the idea, to the point of establishing that the date of the Vasaloppet, of 1972, was the official date of the constitution of the Nordic section. Ido Poloni was put in charge of assuming the pro-tempore role of President, right up until the section was officialized. It was a demanding year, insofar as it was necessary to trace the Italian alpine corps veterans of the "double military service" scattered a bit everywhere throughout the country, in order to get them involved in the extraordinary project. The enthusiasm and the will to do something, typical of the Italian alpine corps veterans, helped them to overcome every obstacle: Poloni, with the help of Giorgio Cocco, carried out an extraordinary organizational work. The help of the National President, of the then director of "L'Alpino" newspaper, Aldo Rasero, and of the entire national headquarters was not missing during that phase.

Everything was ready for the appointment of March of 1972. Unfortunately, President Ugo Merlini was not able to be present at the birth of the section: the mountain that he loved so much had taken him prematurely. The new born section was named the "Ugo Merlini Swedish Section" in his honour.

The director of "L'Alpino" newspaper, Aldo Rasero, and the National President, Leonardo Caprioli, were present on that occasion. Moreover, the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association section of Marostica, with the then sectional President, Gigi Menegotto, which in its capacity, as the god-mother section gave the pennant as a gift to the newborn section, took part in it.

The sectional directive quite soon understood that other Italian alpine corps veterans residing in the nearby countries were not represented and therefore it worked assiduously in order to widen the family. And so it is that in March of 1982 the Italian alpine corps veterans joined residing in Norway, Finland, and Denmark. From then on, the section was called: the "Sweden, Norway, Finland, Denmark, Nordic Section". It, therefore, appears natural that a preferential relation has been created between the Nordic section and the Vasaloppet: a large group of Italian athletes participates in the mythical cross-country competition and it is the occasion in which many Italian alpine corps veterans, belonging to the various Autonomous Sectional Groups, can attend the annual gathering of the section and the parade through the streets of Mora.

Solid and lasting relations of friendship have been interwoven during the years between the Nordic Italian alpine corps veterans and the participants in the cross-country competition. In fact, since 1972, the section has been lending support to the Italian competitors for registration, accommodation, the setting up of restoration services along the route where an exposed Italian flag exists, a word of encouragement, and a nice hot coffee help to finish the 90 kilometres of toil.

* President Fiorenzo Morassi is thanked for the news that has been provided.



In 1975, the Italian alpine corps veterans of the Nordic section, with the precious help of Renato Ceppare, of the monthly sports magazine “Vai”, gave life to the first Norway-Sweden Raid, a 110 kilometre cross-country competition to be completed in two stages. About ninety competitors participated in its first competition: a number that grew throughout the year’s right to the point of reaching two thousand participants at its fifteenth year.

In 1997, the section celebrated its 25th birthday. Beppe Parazzini, accompanied by other exponents of the national directive, amongst whom Lino Chies, participated in the event. The joy expressed by the members of the section was great due to the important aim that was reached and due to the sympathy and solidarity expressed by all present.

Since its beginning up until today, the Nordic section has committed itself to:

- the maintenance of contacts with the Italian consular authorities and its presence at official meeting and ceremonies;
- the moral and material help to fellow countrymen who have emigrated there;
- the help of children with support through adoptions at a distance;
- the participation at various phases in the construction of the Rossoch nursery school and in the celebration on the occasion of the tenth anniversary festivities;
- the participation in the national gatherings and the appointments organized for the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans’ Association sections abroad;
- the organization of the annual assembly in an itinerant form, given that the members reside in different countries.

In 2007, Ido Poloni, after thirty-five years of an extraordinary and demanding presidency, lays his rucksack on the ground, and hands over the torch. In the elections held in the same year, Valerio Re, who is entrusted with the burden of steering the fate of the section in a phase of slow but inexorable reduction of members, takes over. It is the incurable illness of all of the sections and in a particular way of the ones abroad.

The strong desire nevertheless remains high in the renewed directive and in all of the members to continue in the Italian alpine corps spirit and tradition with the aim of keeping the section alive and working just as on the day it was founded.



The Italian alpine corps group of Canove Roana (VI), Monte Ortigara section, on a visit to the Nordic section.



The section of Switzerland

Major Oskar Gmur

A boy of '99, born on the 13th August, 1899, at Monte Magno di Brescia, the son of the Swiss engineer Josef Gmur and of Mrs. Lucia Bertuetti, with dual citizenship, but Italian in heart and in spirit, he voluntarily enlisted in order to serve his Motherland on the 13th June, 1917, and assigned to the 21st field artillery regiment. On the 17th March, 1918, he is an aspiring reserve second lieutenant and sent to the front with the 3rd mountain artillery Regiment. On the 20th October, 1918, he is appointed adjutant at the 43rd mountain artillery group in an armistice zone on the Italian front and on the 2nd August, 1920, he is discharged for a first time. He resumed civilian life and completed his studies in engineering in 1924 by graduating from the Polytechnic of Milan. Recalled for a first time to active service on the 1st September, 1935, with the rank of Major and assigned to the 114th C.C.N.N. legion with which he will participate in the African Campaign, distinguishing himself for valour in the defence of Uork Amba (Bronze Medal for Military Valour), is repatriated and discharged on the 21st August, 1936. The second recall on the 10th March, 1941 in the 2nd Italian alpine corps artillery regiment, captain at the command of the 39th Valcamonica battery group with which on the 3rd August, 1942, he arrives in an operative zone in the Russian Campaign. First admitted to hospital for frostbite on the 1st February, 1943, and repatriated then on the 14th February in the war veterans' centre in Milan, he is dismissed on the 5th June and successively discharged. Due to his merits, he was appointed a Knight of the Crown of Italy. By now forty years old, mature and tempered by the experiences he had, he now decides to dedicate himself definitively to bourgeois life. He "emigrates" to his second Motherland and settles in San Gallo. While he gradually inserts himself into his new reality, he realizes how many Italian alpine corps veterans there were (and even more of them were arriving there) in Swiss territory, he made the first contacts and probed all of the possibilities offered by the regulations in force, put his hat back on his head and with renewed enthusiasm founded the Swiss section. Working with tenacity and knowing how to instil upon his own collaborators, his own enthusiasm and the right motivation, in his section he personally inaugurated 15 groups, the last one was the group of Lausanne, and created the necessary conditions for the foundation of many others which successively saw the light.

Using his own words "General Cantore sent him the call-up notice card" and called it "Forward" on the 11th August, 1967. He wanted to die in Italy, in his native home, and the funeral was celebrated at Sopraponte, close to Gavardo di Brescia, on the 13th August. In front of his coffin, the Italian alpine corps veterans of the Swiss section pronounced the following oath: "... Major Gmur your section will not die, your work will continue in time as long as a single Italian alpine corps veteran exists in Switzerland. And as long as the Swiss section will live, you, Major Gmur, will continue to live in it!" A single prayer to God today like yesterday: give us the strength to keep faith to this oath because otherwise, we will no longer be worthy of the hat that we wear. He wanted to be buried at San Gallo in order to be close to his family and to the Italian alpine corps veterans of his section.

In order to worthily remember him, the Swiss section immediately instituted, in his honour the "Major Oskar Gmur Trophy". It is a question of a march of regularity that is held every year and is organized by right, by the group, which won it the year before. This year the 40th edition will be held, organized at Sissach by the Basel Campaign group.

* * *

The Swiss section of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association saw the light, at San Gallo, on the 27th November, 1960. By what can be deduced from a report verbalized for the event, the ceremony took place in the local consular headquarters and it was possible, thanks to the approval of then National President Erizzo. The blessing of the standard was done in the presence of the military attaché, Colonel Ninni, of the Italian Consul General of San Gallo, Piluso, of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association national councillor, Barelo, and of a big number of Italian alpine corps veterans resident there. The President of the Association of Military Chaplains of Italy, Father Giovanni Antonietti, a great friend of Major Oskar Gmur, who was the real founder of the section and successively even the first elected President, presided over the celebration. The godmother was Mrs.



Heidi Gmur who, still today, honours us with her presence at the most important events. This foundation ceremony took place without Valerio Merluzzi knowing anything about it and of those who, at Basel, equally got down to carrying out the same enterprise, supported by the suggestions, by the help and by the indications that came from the section of Udine. He had to arrive on the 21st April, 1961, so that, on the occasion of the inauguration of the Fogolar Furlan of Basel, Major Gmur be present in the hall, who stepped forward asking who it was that got down to work, gathering together the Italian alpine corps veterans in the vicinities. Naturally, it was a bolt of lightening and to the disbelieving, but satisfied Merluzzi, the indisputable act of the baptism of the section which took place as soon as it was constituted at San Gallo was exhibited. From that moment onwards, the activities were coordinated and, in brief, the creation of the first groups was reached. This was a really historical meeting from which the future Swiss section surged and developed a fighting spirit.

The first group that was inaugurated was Appenzello, followed by Basel and then, always in 1961, Soletta and in the following years, a time of great emigration from the alpine regions, there was really an exponential growth of new groups which were born and prospered in every Canton of the Confederation. After having constituted in 1962 a preview of the sectional directive, in the first issue of "La nostra Baita" it is learnt that on the 13th May, 1963, in Zurich, the first sectional directive council was elected which saw the following members elected: President: Major Oskar Gmur; Vice President: Valerio Merluzzi (Basel group) and Ferroni (Zurich group); Sectional Councillors: Agostino Novaglia (Soletta group), Romano Michielini (Appenzello group), Riccardo Lodolo (Neuchatel group), Duilio Pasi (Argovia group), Armando Zancanaro (San Gallo group), and Giacomo Candotti (San Gallo group).

Successive Presidents: from 1960 to 1967, Major Oskar Gmur; from 1967 to 1970, Filippo Moja; from 1973 to 2003, Valerio Merluzzi; from 2003 up until today, Giuseppe Massaro.

The unstoppable proliferation of the groups subjected the sectional directive to an incessant organizational activity, of whose results, we are still today particularly proud.

List of the groups and foundation date:

1. Appenzello	30th April, 1961
2. Basel	8th October, 1961
3. Soletta	5th November, 1961
4. San Gallo	17th May, 1962
5. Zurich	30th September, 1962
6. Berne	30th June, 1963
7. Lake Constance	22nd September, 1963
8. Olten	23rd June, 1964
9. Geneva	20th September, 1964
10. Turgovia	27th June, 1965
11. Baden	26th September, 1965
12. Pfaffikon	22nd May, 1966
13. Zugo	10th July, 1966
14. Winterthur	25th September, 1966
15. Lausanne	11th June, 1967
16. Nidwalden	1st October, 1967
17. Neuchatel City	23rd June, 1968
18. Toggenburg	6th October, 1968
19. Wil	6th October, 1968
20. Biel	1st June, 1969
21. Lucerne	28th September, 1969
22. Thun	14th June, 1970
23. Dietikon	11th October, 1970
24. Glarona	27th June, 1971
25. Argovia	2nd July, 1972
26. Porrentruy	16th June, 1974



27. Sciaffusa	17th October, 1976
28. Grigioni	25th September, 1977
29. Basel Field	24th September, 1978
30. Ticino	2nd October, 1980
31. Uster	11th September, 1983
32. Sion	3rd September, 1989

Observations: *The Neuchatel Canton group which had been inaugurated on the 8th September, 1963, folded its standard due to the return to Italy of its components – The Lausanne group was the last one to be inaugurated by Major Oskar Gmur – The Appenzello, Argovia, Thun groups are presently suspended due to a lack of personnel.*

At the delegates' assembly of the 2nd April, 1967, held at San Gallo, the section already counted 1,345 registered Italian alpine corps veterans in the 17 groups already officially founded and it was a constant crescendo even in the following 1970's. Then, with the improvement of the economic conditions at home, together with the blockage of work, permits which arrested emigration towards Switzerland and, secondly, the attaining of the objectives fixed by the majority, which favoured a constant flow of repatriations, even the personnel of the section was inevitably reduced. Starting from the 1980's, a rapid decrease was seen of the forces which decreased to below 1,000 members with the advent of the 1990's, then going to 883 in 1992 and to 511 in 2003.

Presently, the Swiss section (data as of 31/12/2007) counts 29 active groups, 430 Italian alpine corps members and 305 aggregate members and the sectional directive is made up as follows: President: Giuseppe Massaro; Honorary President: Valerio Merluzzi; Vice Presidents: Fiorenzo Morassi and Giancarlo Borsetto; Councillors: Luciano Poletti, Egidio Lot, Carlo Bosi, Fabio Brembilla, Dario Innocente, Carlo Piccoli, Guido Spagnoli, and Nicola Stellato.

Cultural and political impact

When in Italy they speak of Switzerland, a European country, proud and democratic by definition, even given the brief geographical distances, it almost seems exaggerated, to speak of "foreign", at most, it seems talking about the next valley. Nothing more wrong than that! It had not always been roses and flowers, even if today with the institution and widening of the European Union, the citizens of the same can enjoy a considerable space of movement and organization, another air blew in the immediate post-war period right up until the first real openings of the late 1990's.

In order to have an idea of the typical climate of those years, characterized by numerous xenophobic activities (to tell the truth all of them then punctually rejected in referendums), we recall that, on the eve of the inauguration of the group of Argovia, held at Menzinken on the 2nd July, 1972, the periodical "Volk Und Heimat" of August 1972 signed by W.M. wrote: "... As you can see from the photocopy here above, the Italian alpine corps veterans organized in Switzerland a big demonstration with a parade and exposition of flags in Menzinken (Aargau). This is a real and proper scandal!!!, and even greater, given that even Swiss politicians announced their participation in it. ...!" an enflamed article followed in which the author highlighted that it was a question of the heirs of the same Italian alpine corps veterans who had invaded Albania and Greece just 25 years ago... (!). All of the cold blood was needed of President Merluzzi and of the then sectional council, besides a considerable diplomacy, in order to respond to and calm down, as much as possible, Mr. W.M. and his editorship on the non-political nature of our organization and on the peaceful and solidarity aspects with which the new Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association section of Switzerland was intended to be developed and consolidated.

It was, nevertheless, necessary to highlight that the official relations, both past and present, with the Swiss civil and military authorities, have always been excellent. They are excellent in Geneva, where the local group is bound by a great friendship to the Swiss Non-Commissioned Officers Association which has placed their rooms at the disposal for the creation of their group headquarters, and in Ticino, where the closeness to the Motherland's border and the officially spoken Italian language, have always eased integration. On their part our Italian alpine corps veterans, having themselves recognized for their seri-



ousness, industriousness and generosity, so evident as to not be able to be ignored, managed, in time, to make that wall of mistrust crumble which, inevitably, is erected by the locals of every part of the world in order to isolate the “different” immigrants, (but don’t the same problems emerge today, or even worse, even in our valleys of origin?). The will to persevere, united in a riverbed of strong and shared values, motivated in seeking and finding together even the best solutions to problems placed by the common condition of migrants, promoted the successive activity of the Swiss section. An activity that developed itself and characterized itself in the respect for confederate and cantonal laws, maintaining a profile in consonance with the possibilities that every region, in a different measure, offers and avoiding to create misunderstandings or to hurt the feelings of the “hard and pure” locals.

Password: “solidarity”

With regards to the interventions of solidarity and charity, the Italian alpine corps veterans of Switzerland have always made it a point of pride. In the first balance sheet, drafted in December 2005, the monetary help, collected by the groups and sent to the national headquarters, on the occasion of the greatest calamities which took place since the tragedy of the Vajont, all the way to the Tsunami on the coasts and islands of the Pacific Ocean, amounted to 146,492 Swiss francs, even adding 185,000 Swiss francs, entrusted to us, by the municipality of Thun and 85,000 Swiss francs, from the Canton of Jura, which they held the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans’ Association Swiss section to be worthy of its utmost trust in order to make sure that its solidarity would be sent to its sure destination of the peoples of earthquake ravaged Irpinia, the beautiful sum of 416,492 Swiss francs is reached which the Swiss section, notwithstanding its decrease in personnel, has nevertheless known how to carry out in solidarity.

Naturally, the official figures on this matter do not minimally reflect the reality, insofar as all of the groups have, in their way, spontaneously striven in autonomous and meritorious initiatives. Some, even with interventions of a great width but then, in the Italian alpine corps style, they neither mention them at the sectional assemblies, almost as if they did not have modesty to make it known around...

The Ticino group deserves a mention apart which has distinguished itself for extraordinary initiatives and creativity. On the occasion of the operation “Smile” nursery school of Rossoch, having obtained the sectional council’s favour, it managed to provide: 286 fluorescent lamps with screen, the entire complete ventilation system, the heating central command, material for the entire air-conditioning system, the telephone system and the equipment, the voicing system, material for the care of the floors, planning for the ventilation system, execution of the wiring, installation of all of the electrical command panels, 8 volunteers on the spot, 231 working days.

On the 16th/17th September, 1995, at Bellinzona, the group organized the 1st general gathering of the Rossoch volunteers. In the same year, on the occasion of the flood in the Piedmont region of Italy, equipped with all kinds of specific material, provided by the Civil Protection authorities of the city of Bellinzona, about fifty volunteers intervened at Isola d’Asti where they contributed towards clearing basements and accesses filled with water, mud and garbage. They then gave, ready at hand, contributions of first aid to three particularly needy cases, for an overall value of five million old Italian liras.

Sectional activities and interventions

During the first years, the majority of energies were spent in organizing the directive structures and in the foundation of groups. In parallel, the important work began, coordinating the activities between the various groups in order to avoid superimpositions in the recurrences and to direct, according to the statute, the various initiatives, by organizing annually, in detail, the participation in the national gatherings in which the section has always participated in force right from its foundation. In 1964, with the growing need of having to speak with its own voice and in order to give a greater visibility to the section, life was given to the periodical “La nostra Baita” whose editorship was entrusted to Marco Pellettieri of the Geneva group and the first issue came out in July. Successively, Federico De Carli (Zurich), Giovanni Dal Zoppo (Biel), Fiorenzo Morassi (Basel Field) were put in charge of it and, the present editor in charge, Giancarlo Borsetto (Ticino), who still manages to print two coveted issues a year. Another appointment, vital by tradition, is the “Major Oskar Gmur Trophy” March contest which has already been organized for about forty years. The Swiss section, though not adhering to any group-



ing and being strongly determined to keep its own autonomy, participates in all of the assemblies and congresses promoted by the National Directive Council in Europe. At the level of groups, some endowed with their own headquarters, all of them distinguish themselves, according to their possibilities, by the attainment of the objectives fixed by the sectional directive council; presiding over all of the national gatherings, commemorating the fallen in war and on the emigration front and representing the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association at the national recurrences organized in the various diplomatic headquarters.

The future is to be looked at with a sane optimism if one considers that, everywhere in Europe and in the world, even in places which would not have been suggested years ago, seeds are sprouting which have lead to the creation of new groups. The free circulation of people could, in fact, in the long run, make new Italian alpine corps veterans reach Switzerland, those, that is, of the "electronic suitcase" who would find the sane and historically rooted structures of our beloved section available.

Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association official representation at the honouring of the patron saint, Saint Maurice.

At the beginning of the 1960's, Pope John XXIII entrusted the mountain corps troops to the protection, through the intercession to the merits, of the martyr Saint Maurice (former patron of the Holy Roman Empire). The saint was a Christian General in the Roman army, head of the Tebea legion, having particularly distinguished himself for his valour and to whom the defence of the north western alpine valleys had been entrusted. Everything went well until there was a change in emperor in Rome (!...?) and, with Diocletian, the persecution against Christians really began. General Maximilian purposely went to Vallese in order to command the Saint and his garrison to obey the orders and to exterminate the local populations already converted to the new faith. In order to convince them, he ordered two successive decimations of their ranks. To the reiterated refusal of Saint Maurice and of his legionnaires, who had all embraced the Christian faith, the entire legion (usually made up of 6,600 men) was put to death. Their blood was not spilt in vain and their faith profoundly marked these places throughout the centuries, where still today the drama and the holiness of the gesture can be breathed vividly. Every year, on the 22nd September, the town of Saint Maurice stops and, in a festive atmosphere, honours its saint and his companions with a touching and grandiose ceremony in the Abbey bearing the same name, which ends with a procession following the reliquary urns of the martyrs.

Since 1965, the Swiss section of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association, upon the orders of the then National Directive Council, officially represents the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association, by intervening with a delegation of its own at the celebrations of Saint Maurice.



The sectional council



The Italian alpine corps veterans' group of Neuchatel of the Swiss section

The Italian alpine corps veterans' group of Neuchatel, was officially born at the Casa d'Italia of Neuchatel on the 19th March, 1966, by the will of the Knight Officer and Knight of the Order of Vittorio Veneto, Giuseppe Scoccini, in the presence of Major Oskar Gmur and of nineteen Italian alpine corps veterans.

The first committee was thus made up:

Group leader: Giancarlo Coassin;

Vice group leader: Orlando Novello;

Secretary: Gino Brustolin.

Since 1967, the group leader was Knight Armando Piombi, with the official inauguration on the 23rd June, 1968 and Mrs. Gmur being the godmother.

Knight Piombi remained as group leader right up until 1977. From 1977 to 1994, the group leader was Gino Brustolin, then right up until 1998 the group leader was Angelo Brustolin. From 1999, the group leader was Elio Andreatta, right up until 2006. Then it was Gino Brustolin again from 2007.

Our main activities are:

- the picnic in June with the traditional barbecue, offered to all those present;
- the commemoration of all of the fallen of all wars, on the 4th November of every year, with the celebration of the Holy Mass and a floral deposition at the memorial stone of the Italians who fell in the First World War, at Maill de Neuchatel. There is a social lunch in November as well;

- the general assembly is held in December.

- the participation in the Gmur March, in the national gatherings in Italy, and other internal manifestations.

The members of the group have participated in many humanitarian initiatives, first and foremost the one of the fundraising in order to help the populations struck by the earthquake in Friuli, Irpinia, and some floods. Various contributions were made at the time, by using the resources of our "Solidarity Fund", collected years before, on the occasion of ceremonies and solidarity tournaments.

The Italian alpine corps veterans of Neuchatel are dedicated to the gold medal winner Olivo Maronese, born at Pasiano di Pordenone of the Motta di Livenza group in Treviso.

The group of Turgovia

Forty-five years ago, when the number of the second generation of emigrants was increasing in Switzerland, our group was founded. The aims were to offer everybody a place of encounter amongst ourselves. Being able to talk about past things, exchanging memories of our Motherland, telling of adventures experienced during "military service" which (having been relegated to the past) were more beautiful than bad. The elderly Italian alpine corps veterans unfortunately skimmed over their experiences, lived out during the war.

Our founder of the Swiss section, Major Oskar Gmur, had the first meetings at the Sasso restaurant in Frauenfeld, then attended by a lot of Italians in the years between 1963-1964 with Mr. Ferruccio De Martin and the other Italian alpine corps veterans.

On the 27th June, 1965, the following made the commitment of officially forming our group: Mr. Ferruccio De Martin (1st group leader), the godfather and god mother were Alpino Romanin, and Mrs. Valeria De Martin.

We cannot forget the first members: Aldo Cappello, Costantino Dall'Osta, Tullio Da Tos, Pio De Martin, Annunzio Martini, Antonio Martini, Francesco Ribul, Giuseppe Zambelli, Mario Zimbelli, Beltrame Venier, and many others, who joined to be a part of it throughout the years which followed. Our group was dedicated to Knight Beniamino Puppini*.

⁷ Beniamino Puppini was born on the 18th November, 1886, at Cavazzo Carnico. He was called to the military district of Udine on the 13th June, 1906. From there, began his army life in the 8th Italian alpine corps Regiment, Tolmezzo Battalion. On the 8th November, 1915, when Italy entered into the war, Beniamino Puppini was called back. During the years that followed, Beniamino Puppini was wounded several times. He showed his love towards the Motherland, his tenacious strength of survival in various situations. First as a corporal, then as a sergeant. On the 13th May, 1970, he was conferred with the title of Knight of the Order of Vittorio Veneto.



Our group, like all of the Italian alpine corps veterans, scattered throughout the world and throughout all of Italy, has even been a bearer of solidarity, in cases of natural calamities, like the catastrophe of the Vajont, the earthquake in Friuli. Thanks to our initiative and with the help of the Municipality of Frauenfeld, the nursery school of Cavazzo Carnico was rebuilt.

In memory of our fallen in war and in emigration, a memorial stone was laid in April of 1979, at the church of Klosterli Frauenfeld, upon which the feather of our beloved Italian alpine corps hat stands out and a marble plaque. There, every year, at the beginning of November, a commemorative function is celebrated. A particular thanks goes to our sympathizer Gilberto De Martin, who has always committed himself a lot to the Italian community of Frauenfeld and has even supported our Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association group.

Twinning with the Italian alpine corps veterans of Castelnuovo del Garda, on the occasion of the celebration, of the 50th anniversary of their group (1979).

In 1982, we had the honour of carrying the blessed Cross of the Italian Marian mission with a solemn procession, starting from the parish church of St. Nikolaus and crossing the city, the Cross was placed behind our memorial stone.

Up until 1995, our group did not have a headquarters of its own, we would gather together here and there in different places. In the same year, luckily, with the help of our member, and then group leader Annunzio Martini, we managed to rent a mountain chalet which was our headquarters for five years. With great displeasure, at the end of the year 2000, we had to abandon our headquarters. With the great effort, help and commitment of everybody, for over a year, we looked for a new abode. Thanks to the commitment of our members: Pio De Martin (group leader) and Annunzio Martini (Vice group leader) we ran into an already existing building. Its positioning turned out to be perfect, but the state of the building had to rightly be defined as "very pathetic" in order not to say indecent.

With a lot and assiduous work and a lot of commitment on the part of some of our Italian alpine corps veterans and sympathizers, we managed to renovate it and to make it worthy of being used as a place of encounter for our group. Today, the mountain chalet is our group's own property.

It is our meeting place on the weekend, where there are card playing, chatting, singing, even amateur musicians. This place is a point of reference and gathering together for the Italian alpine corps veterans and sympathizers, Italians coming from every region of our Motherland and what makes us happy – a lot of Swiss friends and of other nationalities.

Our mountain chalet is equipped with a beautiful and functional kitchen. With the help of the ladies, the directive commits itself every weekend to cooking Italian specialties. In the summer, we enjoy the shade and the freshness of the forest that surrounds us, the nature giving repose, peace and serenity. Thanks go to the Civil and Military Authorities of Frauenfeld who supported our initiative. We do not want to forget our dear missionary Father David Ciocca who for 40 years has always been very close to our group and to the whole community of Frauenfeld.

In the year 2005, our group decided to adopt a girl at a distance through the World Vision institution. She is a six year old Nigerian girl. With our contribution she is supported in order to study. Two years later, in 2007, we adopted another two. This commitment teaches us and leads us to hope that these three girls can manage to have a better life in their country.

In conclusion, I would only like to say: every group, whether it is small or big, has given a little or a lot of its commitment in favour of others, of its own country, and of society.

It is true that many groups, rightly so, are dedicated to Italian alpine corps veterans who have fallen in war: it is as well true that for more than half an uninterrupted century, it is the commitment towards peace and towards solidarity that has distinguished the Italian alpine corps, both in war and in peace. The Italian alpine corps spirit, alpineness, is stronger than any other manoeuvre that tends to reduce unity. By looking around us, we luckily still see some young faces. Young people, who believe in the values of the Motherland, who respect our flag, who turn to the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association, in order to confirm their will, to continue making themselves useful. There are always Italian alpine corps veterans, where there is a need for them. All of us had to address a grateful thought to those, in already distant times, who have felt the need and the duty to make our Italian alpine corps families big. And by following their example is it that we are proud today of remembering the 45 years of activity of our group, the one of Frauenfeld; a group that boasts of a history of all respect. A group



that has always been able to count on valid and capable leaders, and upon members convinced of belonging to an association which only asks one, indispensable requirement: pride and respect for the Italian alpine corps hat.

A heartfelt thanks to everybody, Italian alpine corps veterans and sympathizers who throughout our long journey have always cooperated.

For the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association group of Turgovia

The group leader,

Pio De Martin



Switzerland

The group of Basel Country

Foundation

The 1970's were a decade characterized by a vast flourishing of activities amongst the communities of Italian emigrants. All kinds of associations, from regional to sportive ones, from political to benevolent ones to the humanitarian ones like the Association of Voluntary Italian Blood-Donors and the Italian Organ Donors Association were born and prospered.

The Italian alpine corps veterans had already constituted the Swiss section of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association in 1960 and a numerous groups had already existed at Basel since 1961.

Pushed by Alfonso Martinelli, who by trade was continually going around all of the towns of the region and who was therefore getting to know evermore new potential members, the Italian alpine corps veterans of Sissach and surroundings felt motivated and determined to constitute their group.

It must be admitted that it was not easy to overcome the resistances in the section. The group of Basel, in fact, did not see eye to eye with the birth of a potential competitor at the doors of home. But our courageous founders moved a lot and did a lot that they managed to snatch the blessing of the then President Bertagnolli who personally advocated their cause and took a personal interest so that we could receive our pennant which was granted to the group with the condition that it comprise of all of the territory of the Canton of Basel Field without interfering with the city Canton of Basel.

In order to worthily organize themselves, they mobilized in all directions, finding particular support from the section of Trent and from the groups of Dorsino and from the adjacent valleys in the Dolomites



of Brenta. Naturally, in order to start at this level, it was necessary to give and have some guarantees, both from the local authorities and from the suppliers. We recall that in those days our founders each pulled out 1,000 Swiss francs from their personal savings as a guarantee for the manifestation. History teaches us that they were lavishly paid back by the success that they obtained but the gesture was appreciated all the same.

Inauguration

The inauguration was fixed for the day of the 24th September, 1978. In the intentions of the founders, it had to be a memorable day and it was. Together with the standard of the Swiss and Trent sections and all of the pennants of the Swiss section, tens of pennants of the Swiss section, all of the Italian associations of the area and a sea of happy fellow countrymen were present. There was an authorized march through the streets of Sissach, Holy Mass celebrated out in the open and the blessing of the pennant in the presence of the godmother, Ines Piazza, the widow of Sergeant Luciano Piazza, in whose memory the group is dedicated. A particular note is that perhaps our group is the only one that is not dedicated to a fallen soldier in war, but to one of us who has constantly distinguished himself for his work with human solidarity on the emigration front.

Founding members at the time:

Alfonso Martinelli	Benito Girardi	Tarcisio Cortiula
Antonio Crocetti	Clemens Bruzzi	Silvano Slongo
Enzo Tonelli	Gianmaria Fedriga	Dario Pegurri
Antonio Antonelli	Agostino Festini +	Paolo Ilario +
Costantino Rizzoli +	Gianni Ermes +	Giovanni Dionisio +
Egidio Zamuner	Franco Murer +	Sergio Murer +
Meni Serafini +	Liberio Apoloni +	Mario Rocca

Joined in the following years:

Quinto Campestrin +	Giulio Bergamini +	Angelo Gandossi +
Luigi Manzi	Luigi Galmarini	Bruno De Faveri
Fiorenzo Morassi	Eliseo Prodorutti +	Marino Zof
Egidio Furlan	Adriano Sanvido	Giorgio Piasente
Pietro Vallata +	Luciano Zancarli	Mario Cussig

Decennial

With just as much enthusiasm, even the decennial was celebrated in 1988 with a march accompanied by the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association band of Trent which staged a concert even at the nursing home. There was an open air Mass accompanied by the Enziana choir and by the band. Guests: our godmother Ines Piazza, the mayor of Sissach, Herr Kurt Blapp, the police commander Ulrich Nebiker, the Vice President of the Trieste section, Marco Zorzi. Together with the standards of the Swiss, Trent and Trieste sections, all of the pennants of Switzerland, some from the sections of Asti, Trent were present and the one of our twinned group of Ravascletto, Carnic section, which still today honours us with its presence, put on a good show of itself.

1st Group leaders:

- 1st – Liberio Apoloni +
- 2nd – Mario Rocca
- 3rd – Luigi Galmarini
- 4th – Fiorenzo Morassi

Present Italian alpine corps veteran's members:

Bruno De Faveri	Mario Cussig	Luigi Galmarini
Benito Girardi	Luigi Manzi	Fiorenzo Morassi
Giorgio Piasente	Adriano Sanvido	Marino Zof



Present Italian alpine corps veteran's members:

Maurizio Carpeno	Enrico Cavuoto	Norberto Chiandetti
Luigi Docci	Giovanni Maria Fedriga	Antonio Ferraro
Giorgio Giampaoli	Luigi Gugliotti	Werner Krattiger
Antonio Marchese	Giuliano Sgarban	

Aggregates:

Remo Bacchetta	Sebastiano Benenati	Angelo Califano
Gaetano Carluccio	Antonio Cruz	Soledad Cruz
Pio Di Felice	Marisa Fabris	Noemi Fedriga
Toni Fagnocchi	Manuel Fernandes	Manuel Goncalves
Beatus Haberli	Ugo Guiducci	Rosario La Rocca
Francesco Lamas	Maria Lamas	Marco Lepori
Giuseppina Manzi	Artur Oliveira	Manuel Oliveira
Dario Pegurri	Marlise Piasente	Doris Rieder
Adolf Rippestein	Ruht Weng	Horst Weng
Adolfo Zanolio		

Activities carried out:**National gatherings:**

In thirty years, we had been present at 31 national gatherings, starting from the national gathering of Modena in May 1978, with the group that was still in an embryonic state, but already in possession of the pennant, right up until the gathering of this year at Bassano del Grappa.

Gmur march:

In 1987, we participated in the first Gmur march at Engelberg; from then on we trekked well over 20 of which we won 3 of them (1998-2001-2007) and just as many organized (1999-2002-2008). At this point a loud and deserved applause goes to all those who, with their commitment and their work, made the realization of the 40th Gmur march possible on the 14th September, 2008.

The sectional feasts at the Kipp Waldheim:

The enthusiasm and the will to get together amongst Italian alpine corps veterans and sympathizers became a reality with the traditional feasts which we held in the Kipp Waldheim of Teknau in the spring-summer and in the autumn, when even the Mass is celebrated for our deceased and for the fallen of all wars. These meetings continued from 1983 to 1998 and are unforgettable memories of tastes and fun. We remember with pleasure all of the specialties of Clemens Buzzi from the stew to the minestrone cacciatore with muset, from the cornmeal porridge of Dionisio Giovanon and Bruno De Faveri, to the quails of Liberio Apoloni, not to mention the barbecue and the wild game. Secondly, but not too much, the feasts allowed the group to consolidate the savings fund and ended when, an accomplice was the repatriation of many Italian alpine corps veterans and sympathizers, thinned out the ranks of the customers, and when the group had by then purchased its own headquarters at Sissach.

Pilgrimage to the Contrin refuge:

Our group was present there twice: in 1986, when we were the guests of President Nando Caprioli and, for the occasion, we gave the refuge a wrought iron Italian alpine corps hat, the work of the Italian alpine corps veteran Bruno De Faveri and this year which saw the presence of the vice group leader Benito Girardi accompanied by Beatus Haberli.

Our headquarters or mountain chalets:

The first organizational meetings were held in the rooms provided by courteous restaurants. Right from the beginning, however, it became evident that it was necessary to have a headquarters of our own where we could even store the materials that were being accumulated. In fact, thanks to everybody's



commitment, we obtained the equipment for the cornmeal porridge and the Italian alpine corps veteran Bruno De Faveri got us the pots and pans necessary for the spaghetti and barbecues. The occasion to open up the first headquarters was offered to us by Mario Rocca, who had purchased an old house at Thurnen and our Italian alpine corps veterans, then numerous, transformed a room, on the ground floor, into a welcoming alpine mountain chalet which worked until when Mario repatriated and sold the house to the Post Office. The first headquarters at Thurnen worked from 1983 to 1987. The second mountain chalet was created thanks to Patti Haberli who provided us with an unused apartment in the centre of Sissach which, with the capable and passionate work of our tradesmen and of some of their wives, became an excellent meeting place. The centrality of the place, however, surrounded by many sleepy condominiums, was poorly reconciled with the hours of our weekends made up of card games, discussions, meetings, banquets even including some choirs out of hours. The moral of the story is that we were politely told to find ourselves another headquarters. The second headquarters at Sissach worked from 1987 to 1989. Having found out that the Schelker construction company had definitely closed its canteen and that the rooms were empty, we managed to rent it. The rent was a bit onerous and it was a bit out of hand, but in terms of parking and freedom, to make noise, it was a real blessing. We remained there until the Schelker company was not sold off. The third headquarters at Sissach worked from 1989 to 1993. The prospect of winding up in the middle of the road was not pleasing to us at all and when it seemed to be a hard reality, there was our friend Patti who offered himself to find us a solution. He acquired the old house at the corner of the Schulstrasse, including the necessary parking and made it available to us. Now, here there would be a need for a chapter on its own in order to describe the conditions in which the rooms were found and all of the work that was necessary in order to bring the new headquarters up to standards in order to pass the necessary inspections. But, our artists proved themselves once again and under the thrust of the Italian alpine corps veteran Luigi Manzi, all of the available members, Italian alpine corps veterans, and sympathizers, gave their valid contribution and our headquarters still became a functioning reality up until today. The 4th headquarters at Sissach works from 1993 up until today. A particular praise goes to all those who worked and in a particular way to those who, for years, work freely at the service of the headquarters and in the organization of all the feasts, above all, the vice group leader Benito Girardi, the late Dionisio Giovanon, Luigi Galmarini, Patti Haberli, Marino Zof, and Clemens Buzzi without forgetting Mario Rocca and Liberio Apoloni. We even sincerely thank all of the friends of the Italian alpine corps veterans who, in the last years, wanted to be at our side in serving and in accounting, without forgetting about the fidelity of all of the sympathizers who, with their assiduous visits, have made the running of the headquarters profitable.

Our trips

Given that our association is a non-profit organization, we have always taken care in using the group's savings fund, in the measure that the availability of it allowed, in order to cover the running expenses of the group itself, the ones for the gatherings and for the Gmur marches, for social dinners and, in alternative, for some nice trips.

10 trips were organized successfully in the last 16 years:

The first one to Ravascletto via Val di Fiemme Predazzo – Bellamonte – Santo Stefano di Cadore;

The second one to Elm;

The third one to Ravascletto via the Dolomites of the Brenta – Bassano – Montereale Valcamonica – Tolmezzo;

The fourth one to Lake Neuchatel – Gruyere – Yverdon – Alsatia;

The fifth one Ravascletto and Tolmezzo with a visit to the Karst Front and to the War Memorial Temple;

The sixth one to Adelboden – Lauterbrunnen – Drummelbach;

The seventh one to Schwegalp – Santis – Schaffhausen Falls of the Rhine;

The eighth one to San Salvatore – Locarno – Lago Maggiore – Pallanza – Bella Island – Interlaken;

The ninth one to Ravascletto – Redipuglia – Fucea;

The tenth one to Caldaro Strade and wine museum – Molina di Fiemme, Bolzano visit to Otzi



Charity

Going back to the point that we are not a profit making association, we could in no way balk, as Italian alpine corps veterans, our moral obligation to even think about those who are worse off than us, so much so, that as far as the savings fund has allowed us, we have been able to distribute the following amounts:

1988 – Valtellina flood	CHF 800.00
1989 – Earthquake in Armenia	CHF 500.00
1992 – Operation Rossosch Smile	CHF 1,400.00
1995 – Flood in the Piedmont region of Italy	CHF 800.00
1997 – Earthquake in the Marche and Umbria regions of Italy	CHF 500.00
2000 – Diversely able children of Seltisberg	CHF 1,000.00
2001 – Verein Sonimerau	CHF 1,000.00
2002 – Flood in the Val d’Aosta region of Italy	CHF 500.00
2003 – Solidarity fund	CHF 500.00
2003 – Verein Sonimerau	CHF 500.00
2005 – Collection for the Tsunami in Asia	CHF 500.00
2006 – Assistance in Senegal	CHF 500.00
2007 – IBY Behinderte Transportation Beider Basel	CHF 500.00
2008 – Diversely able children of Seltisberg	CHF 1,000.00
Total	CHF 10,000.90



40th Oskar Gmur Trophy organized by the Basel Field group in 2008



Member of the Basel Field group, Benito Girardi, who is always present



30th anniversary of the Basel Field group

Italian alpine corps veterans' group of Bienne

The first meeting of the group was held on the 17th March, 1967, in order to elect the council.

Group leader:	Riccardo Battiston
Vice group leader:	Eugenio Fenos
Secretary:	Yerse Insom
Treasurer:	Renato Colmano
Councillors:	Davide Roat, Eugenio Manica, Giovanni Slongo, Roberto De Marchi, Dino Semenzin, Mario Toboga, Elso Sicuro, Lino Zanetti (person in charge for Lyss).

The first provisional headquarters was at the Landte Aarbergstrasse 21 – Bienne. The official inauguration of the group took place on the 1st June, 1969.

The group leaders that followed each other:

Riccardo Battiston	from 1967 to 1975;
Pietro Morello	from 1975 to 1979;
Giuseppe Sacchet	from 1979 to 1991;
Luciano Turla	from 1991 to 1999;
Silvano Polesel	from 2000 up until now.

The group of Bienne organized and offered the first Oskar Gmus Cup on the 5th June, 1968. The secretary was V. Di Benedetto and the group leader was S. Polesel.



Photograph of the inauguration of the group of Bielle.



The section of France*

After what has been written in 1993, on the section of France and reported in the HISTORY OF THE ITALIAN NATIONAL ALPINE TROOPS CORPS VETERANS' ASSOCIATION**, the life of the section has continued along the same lines.

Always headed by President Renato Zuliani, it has seen its group's increases which are presently nine:

- Paris since 1993 (Group leader: Tarcisio Tonellato, Renato Zuliani, Amedeo Zampieri);
- Chambéry (Savoy) since 1992 (Group leader: Mario Petris);
- Annecy (Haute Savoy) since 1970 (Group leaders: Giovanni Bellodi, Antonio Marchesi, Angelo Rizzo);
- Grenoble since 1968 (Group leader: Mario Papagalli, Modesto Treppo, Ilario Rigodanzo);
- Mulhouse (Alsace) since 1986 (Group leader: Renzo Burelli);
- Florange (Lorraine) since 1982 (Group leader: Guido Tornicelli);
- Nilvange (Lorraine) since 1987 (Group leader: Antonio Durighello, Salvatore Spinello);
- Haute Vallée Roya since 1989 (Group leaders: Attilio Benedetto, Benito Marcozzi);
- Cote d'Azur since 2007 (Group leader: Valerio Baroncini).

* Carlo Tegami is thanked for the news provided.

** France – The section was born in Paris at the start of 1929, by the initiative of a group of Italian alpine corps veterans who were already members of the Combatants Association. In fact, given the brief period of time spent from the end of the First World War, all of the Italian alpine corps veterans were even combatants. The founders of the section wanted to highlight their Italian alpine corps spirit even in the big family of those who had taken part in the victorious war.

The newspaper "L'Alpino" of the 10th July, 1929, gives the composition of the first sectional council. It was this: President: Giovanni Poli; Councillors: Carlo Enrico Ribet, Giuseppe Dal Masso, Camillo Del Grosso – one of the founders of the Association, in 1919, Lorenzo Rosazza, Giovanni Perron, Roberto Delle Pezze.

Who were the founding members? The majority were Piedmontese, Ligurian and Emilian immigrants who had arrived in France before the war, who had returned to Italy in order to fulfil their duty and who had then returned to their adoptive land. An episode tells us of the such human dimension of these people: one of them, Biletta (more than ninety years old recently deceased) during the battle of the upland plains – it was the year 1916 – carried out an action which attracted the attention of his commander, who proposed him for an award of bravery.

Biletta asked in order to be able to exchange the decoration for a leave of 10 days plus 4, with destination to Paris (his home): something almost unthinkable in those days. He got it and Biletta came to Paris in an Italian alpine corps soldier's uniform, obviously showing up at the National Gendarmerie in order to show his document of leave!...

A few months after the foundation of the section, Captain Poli returned to Italy and Carlo Enrico Ribet, a legendary figure amongst the Italian alpine corps veterans of France, was elected the President, who held the office until 1977. A native of Val Pellice, he had been a combatant officer in the 1914-1918 war. A grand gentleman, very active and discreet, he was the great animator of the section, by cooperating in the foundation in 1929 and re-founding it after the bellicose events. He kept the office, by the will of the members, until his strengths allowed him to, loved by all of his Italian alpine corps veterans. He now rests in his native town, San Germano Chisone.

The times of the foundation were rich in fervour. France, which had fought on our side in the Great War, held our veterans and our Italian alpine corps veterans in high regards. The newspaper "L'Alpino" of the 15th December, 1929, reports the words of praise that the Military Governor of Paris, General Gouraud, had after having seen the manoeuvres of the Italian alpine corps soldiers at the Brenner Pass. At the funeral of Marshall Foch, Italy sent, as a representation, a company of the Pieve di Teco battalion. A thank you letter is kept at the section for the best wishes sent by the section on the occasion of the wedding of the Prince of Piedmont.

This atmosphere of comradeship and of enthusiasm made numerous members flock to the section. It should be kept in mind that it was a question of people who, precisely in the individual professional activities carried out in France, honourably distinguished themselves. As a matter of documentation, we transcribe the motivation for the star of merit of work awarded to the member Pietro Cleneo:

"Cleneo Pietro, was born at San Damiano d'Asti on the 3rd July, 1884. He fought in the war in the 3rd Italian alpine corps Regiment (1916-1917); in 1918 he fought in the Italian armed corps on the French front. He works for twelve years in the Giuseppe Gay company on Avenue Victor Emanuel. An untiring worker, an excellent Italian, this fellow countryman of ours is a faith and affectionate collaborator of the eldest Italian businessmen in foodstuffs in Paris". (Author's note: The shop still exists, it is now called Raggi; Avenue Victor Emanuel III has become, after the war, Avenue Franklin D. Roosevelt).

Our Italian alpine corps veterans belonged to a modest, simple "little Italy" changed by now by the unstoppable events. They were traders in typical Italian products, bricklayers, tile-setters, mattress makers.



A decrease in members, however, is taking place, due to the cessation of the migratory flow from Italy. Today, there are 136 members while the aggregates are 116 in number.

Even with this decrease in personnel, the life of the section continues with its usual surge. Considerable is the activity of the section in the moral and material assistance to the sick and to their families which come to France from Italy for medical treatment. Every year, the proceeds from the Italian alpine corps veterans' feasts are donated to charitable institutions; just recently a playroom was equipped for sick children at the Trousseau Hospital in Paris. Presently, a collection of funds is underway to be sent to the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association national headquarters in favour of the victims of the earthquake in Abruzzo....

With regards to the purely associative activity, ever since its possibility has been granted, the section has entered in to become a part of the 1st Group, together with the sections of Piedmont, Liguria and Val d'Aosta, by participating in all of the meetings and events. In this capacity, it organized in 2008, the 11th Gathering of the 1st Group at Briançon, the first gathering of Italian alpine corps veterans abroad, with the presence of the national banner, of President Corrado Perona and of all of the National Directive Council which had a wide resonance in and outside of the associative sphere.

Hard times came. Relations between Italy and France deteriorated, all the way to arriving at June 1940 when Italy attacked France already on her knees.

The association was disbanded by the French authorities and President Ribet was interned in a concentration camp in the Pyrenees. After the war, Ribet patiently dedicated himself to the reconstitution of the section. It was not something easy: the Italians, and therefore the Italian alpine corps veterans, in the eyes of the French, from allies had become enemies and occupants: showing up at the events with the Italian alpine corps hat on, for quite a long time was not an enterprise to face with a light heart. In the immediate postwar period, the origin of the Italian alpine corps veterans even changed: emigrants even arrived from the Veneto, Friuli, Abruzzo, and Garfagnana regions of Italy; they found work in the mines of the Lorraine region or in the factories of Alsace or on the outskirts of Paris.

As already mentioned, President Ribet in 1977, due to his advanced age, tendered his resignation and was acclaimed honorary President. Carlo Tegami became the effective President, who in 1987, was succeeded by Renato Zuliani who is still in office. Presently, the migratory flow from Italy is almost over and this – under the general aspect – is a positive factor. Whoever moves to France today, does so out of a free choice, not because forced by necessity; the move in general is limited to a few years, often following Italian entities, industries or companies. In a general context, the most difficult work of the section is the one of proselytism. In act, the section has 300 members, scattered throughout the region of Paris and the following groups in the departments: Grenoble, two Savoy (Annecy and Chambéry); Florance (Lorraine); Mulhouse (Alsace); Nilvange (Lorraine); Haute Roya (Briga and Tenda: they are the two municipalities, formerly Italian, handed over to France according to the peace treaty which ended the Second World War).

A particular mention is made for the Haute Roya group: it is made up of the only Italian alpine corps veterans in the world who, by dint of law, are all foreign citizens. To their honour, it is said that they have done a lot, and do a lot in order to pacify the souls in their countries, thus contributing towards strengthening the bonds of friendship between the Italian and French alpine corps veterans.

In an Italian alpine corps style, in France as elsewhere, all professions and military ranks are present in the sectional and group councils: from the work to the entrepreneur, from the representatives to the pensioners, from the simple Italian alpine corps soldier to the Colonel (there have even been some Generals).

What does the section do? As far as it is possible, it tries to observe the incitement of the National President: to honour the dead by helping those who are alive. Therefore, both at the section and group level, every occasion is good in order to help out whoever is in need.

A few years ago, the Ribet Fund was set up for needy Italian alpine corps veterans and their families. In 1990, a van was donated for the transportation of disabled people to a community of handicapped children. The Mulhouse group, a city in which a hospital exists, which frequently welcomes the sick from Italy, even gives it assistance to the family members of those who have been admitted, easing their stay on the occasion of visits. The opportunities for the Italian alpine corps soldiers to do well are never missing.

In act, the relations with the French are really becoming good: the wounds of the war have been healed. When President Caprioli and a big Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association delegation went to Paris in 1989 in order to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the section and lay a wreath on the grave of the French unknown soldier beneath the Arc de Triomphe, with official representatives of the French government present and with the playing of the Italian national anthem, at the moment of the raising of the flag, played by the Gendarmerie band and as our sailor friends say: "forward like this".



Even thanks to this gathering, the friendship and cooperation is consolidated with the French Chasseurs Alpins, who by now, are participating in even greater numbers in our National Parades and our gatherings and meetings.

Every year the section, on the occasion of the commemoration of the dead, goes on a pilgrimage to the Italian military cemeteries of Bliny and Soupir in order to pay homage to our fallen in the Great War, just as every year it participates in the 4th November at the cemetery of the Arc de Triomphe, together with Italian civil and military authorities, and the other combatant and army unit associations. In 2002, even the national banner was present at this important ceremony, escorted by President Parazzini. In 2004, the band of the Taurinense Italian alpine corps Brigade, already in Paris, marched along the Avenue des Champs Elysees at the head of the cortege.

In 1996, the section hosted for a week, two called-up Italian alpine corps soldiers for a prize trip to Paris, requested and provided to us by the Command of the 4th Armed Corps of Bolzano, insofar as deserving this, with the aim of consolidating the bonds between the Italian alpine corps soldiers presently serving and the veterans.

In 1998, the section, having found out that an Italian alpine corps veteran, who is a Knight of the Order of Vittorio Veneto, died without any means whatsoever risked being buried in a common grave, looked after the purchase of a grave and of the relative tombstone.

In 1999, through the initiative of the group leader of Haute Vallee Roya, Attilio Benedetto, who amongst other things had looked after restoring out of his own pocket the monument to the Fallen of Briga Marittima (a municipality handed over to France following the peace treaty of 1947), a monument to the Italian alpine corps soldier, the only one of its kind on French soil, was inaugurated always at Briga.

In 2007, the group of Mulhouse replaced next to the monument to the French fallen of Steinbrunn le Haut, the memorial stone in memory of the Italian soldiers, who were taken prisoners by the Germans, during the First World War and who died of exhaustion in that concentration camp. In 2008, the section after having been lovingly close to him in these last years, accompanied to his place of rest the French Legionnaire, first, and Italian alpine corps soldier of the 3rd Regiment, then, Lazzaro Ponticelli, the last survivor of the Great War. The President of the French Republic, Sarkozy, our Italian Defence Minister, Parisi, the Commander of the Italian alpine corps troops, General Petti and National President, Perona, were present at the ceremony at the Invalids. A unit of the Foreign Legion and an Italian alpine corps, one of the 3rd Regiment, rendered the honours.

The section recently placed a marble plaque on his grave.

The section of Belgium: 70 years of fidelity

Belgium is a country which in the 20th century has heavily suffered from the contrasts between France and Germany and was invaded twice by the German army, paying a high price for conflicts foreign to its interests. History and culture pass through a watershed between the Latin world and the Nordic one, thus it suffers from a situation of political instability which poorly reconciles itself with the presence in its capital city, Brussels, of the highest organisms for European Unity. Notwithstanding this, it remains one of the countries in which very high percentages of immigrants live together in an exemplary way, coming from over forty nationalities. Amongst these, there are obviously our fellow countrymen.

In the history of emigration, which has disseminated more than seventy million Italians and their descendants throughout the world, Belgium is synonymous with the mines and only those who have seen the mountains of coal residues, on those plains, immersed in the morning mist have realized how much humanity has spent its life in the entrails of the earth, even at a depth of a thousand metres, not seeing the sun for months, in order to earn their daily bread and in order to have 200 kilograms of coal sent to Italy for every working day, according to the scandalous bilateral accord, between Italy and Belgium, signed on the 23rd June, 1946. Then, on the morning of the 8th August, 1956, the siren sounds at Bois du Cazier, Marcinelle, and it is catastrophe. Few miners manage to get out alive from the gigantic pyre, 262 remain trapped and suffer an excruciating end. Amongst these, there are 136 Italians, of whom 60 from the Abruzzo region of Italy, almost all of them, from the town of Manoppello, 22 Sicilians, 12 from



the Puglia region of Italy, the remaining, comes from other regions. Fifty-three of them are Italian alpine corps veterans, veterans from all fronts, including Russia. The ages of the victims: from 14 to 59 years of age*.

Now, the “mines” are closed, the economy of the country has been transformed, turning the areas of wealth towards the north of the country, to Flanders, while in French speaking Walloon, a kind of Eldorado, once upon a time, an unemployment rate of about 22% hovers. Many elderly people survive with an oxygen tank and a lot of homesickness for their land of origin. Above all, if it is the one of “sunshine” because there, instead, the fog is often at home, actually every morning.

The history of the Belgian section of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association

The history of the Italian alpine corps veterans begins in 1937, when Lieutenant Ettore Grande, the then Italian Consul in Charleroi and successively group leader of Pescara, constituted the section with the black feather who worked in the mines of that region. In 1938, a big group of members is present at the gathering in Trent, then, with the advent of the war, the section disbands in order to reconstitute itself in 1959 by the work of Lieutenant Antonio Ferrante of Ruffano, Silve, and Bronze Medal winner for Military Valour, a survivor of the sinking of the Galilea. He remains in office until 1975 when he is substituted by Lieutenant Pier Luigi Morellini until 1985. He is succeeded by the Italian alpine corps veteran Eduardo Capuano, who remains at the head of the section for the biennial of 1986-1987 in order to hand over the baton to Lieutenant Antonio Mascarello until 1990, the year in which he returns home due to reasons of work. The presidency is then taken up by the Vice President Roberto Del Fiol, who leads it with a steady hand until 2006, when he has to leave due to health reasons. Mario Agnoli is presently in charge.

As always, the backbone of a section is made up of the groups. There were six in Belgium, but the one of Namur was disbanded, not too long ago, transferring its five members to Hainaut. Let us look at them in order of birth:

In 1961, the groups of Limburg, Liege, Hainaut, and Borinage, under the presidency of Ferrante of Ruffano. In the group of Limburg, Luigi Marchesini remained in office for 23 years. A real native of Verona, who was succeeded by Giacomo Olivieri, from the Abruzzo region of Italy, helped by Roman, Bufo, Schincariol, Romanelli. A nice group that always worked, according to the best Italian alpine corps traditions. At Hainaut, after Antonio Pittol lead the group with authoritativeness for a long period of time, there was a period of crisis overcome with the election of Roberto Del Fiol, who brought the number of members from 31 to 73, helped by Mario Agnoli, Meneghet, Sonna, Valle, Foglia, Bonato, Primis, Cassol, and Pittol himself.

In Liege, since 1962, Angelo Rosa, Egidio Chinch, Giovanni Dal Canton, Silvio Tiso, Mario Sonetti followed each other, helped out in a valid way and for many years by Specie, Fabbro, Piccoli, Raccaro, Dal Pont, and Romano Capissi. In 1964, the group of Borinage arose under the leadership of Angelo Lessi who was succeeded by Ettore Onagro with the excellent secretary Germano Da Ren, without forgetting Massera, Candeago, Martinbianco, and Marchetti.

Another two groups arose during the presidency of Morellini, in Brussels, in 1975, and in Namur in the following year. A charismatic figure of the first was Gigi Gori, manager of a restaurant in the capital city, where the Sectional Directional Council met for years and where some splendid Italian alpine corps veterans' evenings were organized. Eduardo Capuano followed for a biennial and then Giovanni Visentin for 10 years. There is Antonio Rinotto who is directing the fate of the group today, who as well holds the office of sectional treasurer. The group of Namur was born in 1976 by the initiative of Guido Ferrari, with the help of Miotto, Sitta, Marcuzzi and others, after 26 years of activity was absorbed by Hainaut due to a lack of members.

10 Maurilio Di Giangregorio, *La catastrophe di Marcinelle*, 8 agosto 1956. Italian alpine corps veterans' group of Ieri (AQ). 2005, page 350.



Unfortunately, time thins out the ranks and even the section which counted 350 members is now sensibly reduced in numbers because some have gone forward, others have gone back to Italy, others still are not in good health and they are in retirement homes on oxygen or receiving dialysis. Notwithstanding this, work continues with the same Italian alpine corps spirit of always.

The activity of the section is above all of a social character. Tight bonds are maintained with the Italian community by organizing feasts, by participating in all of the national recurrences, by offering gift packages to someone who is in economic difficulties, by preparing the feast of the Epiphany for the children and grandchildren of the Italian alpine corps veterans. The last, much felt initiative is the distribution of the Bertagnolli scholarships to deserving students. In the time of the Morellini presidency, summer stays were organized in Italy for members with health problems. The section, moreover, has never missed giving its contribution on the occasion of natural disasters like the earthquake in Friuli, the landslide in Valtellina, the earthquakes in Armenia and in Molise, the flood in Piedmont. Funds were collected in order to build the roof of the Catholic mission of Marchinneau-Pont and there was a significant presence of our Italian alpine corps veterans in the construction of the nursery school at Rossoch. Hot meals are served to the homeless on Christmas Eve with the active participation of many fellow countrymen and of Nello Celant, a member of the municipal administration and a faithful friend of the Italian alpine corps veterans.

Some groups have clinched twinnings in Italy: Hainaut with Aime (BG) and Lavagno (VR), Limburg with Pedrengo (BG), Brussels with Tisoi (BL) and the section has forged a bond of solidarity with Manoppello, Abruzzi. The activity is quite intense with feasts opened up to our fellow countrymen, a presence at the patriotic ceremonies and at the national gathering.

In Brussels, there is the Royal Army and Military History Museum of Belgium, located in the complex of the Parc de Triomphe and inaugurated on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of independence. Documents, symbols, and relics of the various wars fought by the Belgian people can be admired in the rooms. Since 1990, the first Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association sectional standard, which is exposed with other Italian testimonies, was entrusted to the conservator.

In conclusion, I would like to remember the catastrophe of Marcinelle, with its 53 Italian alpine corps veterans who were victims, to whom the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association dedicated a commemorative plaque, in a solemn form, on its 50th anniversary on the 9th October, 2005, in the presence of President Corrado Perona, the Standard, many black feathers coming from Italy and Europe, the municipality with the Mayor of Charleroi, Jacques Van Gompel, consular, military authorities, the municipal police band and the one of Borsoi D'Alpago (BL). A great manifestation of Italianness, in honour of our fellow countrymen who, in Belgium, found a welcome and work, but of which not a few had to face sacrifices and mourning of another war, the coal one.

Roberto Del Fiol

The section of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

The Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association section of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association was constituted on the 15th October, 1981 and registered, on the basis of article 21 of the Statute, as the Luxembourg section. The standard was handed over to it on that day.

The first President of the section is Pasqualino Plazzotta, a good and strong Italian alpine corps veteran from Treppo Carnico, loved and held in high regards by the Italian and Luxembourgian communities of the Grand Duchy for his seriousness at work, for his moral qualities and for his human trait in his relationship with his neighbour. Under his shrewd and passionate leadership the section, made up of more than a hundred members, between Italian alpine corps veterans and friends of the Italian alpine corps veterans, carries out an intense social activity, by providing help to needy members and by participating with a huge representation in all of the civil and military manifestations organized by the Embassy, Consulate and local authorities.

In November 1994, Pasqualino Plazzotta returns to Italy leaving the presidency of the section to the



Italian alpine corps veteran Eleuterio Turra, of Feltre, an immigrant in Luxembourg for many years and unanimously elected by the assembly of members.

The section, under the shrewd and passionate leadership of Turra, a dynamic connoisseur of the Italian and Luxembourgian communities, carries out a capillary and worthy work of spreading the Italian alpine corps tradition.

Particular attention is given to relations with the regional associations and with the neighbouring sections of Belgium, France, Germany, and Switzerland, even with frequent exchanges of representations, on the occasion of local and national celebrative manifestations.

In 1995, the assembly of members appoints General C.A. (r) Ludovico Lombardi, in service since 1986 at the NAMSA, a logistical agency of NATO, and councillor of the section since 1987, as Vice President.

General Lombardi (mountain artilleryman), a military instructor of skiing and mountain climbing, a parachutist, served in the Julia, in the Cadore, (battery commander), in the Orobica (commander of the Sondrio group), in the Tridentina (commander of the 2nd artillery regiment), in the Orobica (brigade commander), in the 4th C.A. Italian alpine corps Command (deputy chief of the General Staff), and in NATO (in Italy and abroad).

With the appointment of Turra, after a series of alternations of the treasurer and the secretary, Air Force Colonel (r) Nino Iaconelli, a faithful friend of the Italian alpine corps veterans and a high ranking functionary of the NAMSA Financial Direction, in Luxembourg, enters to become a member of the sectional directive council as treasurer, together with Mrs. Monica De Conti, a trusted and experienced Directional Assistant, belonging to a family of generous friends of the Italian alpine corps veterans, with the office of secretary.

Notwithstanding the sensible reduction in personnel and the financial limitations, the section helps out needy members and participates in many social activities; assuring in the meantime the presence of its Italian alpine corps veterans at the biggest civil and military manifestations, according to the desire expressed by the Italian diplomatic and consular authorities.

On the occasion of the annual assemblies and the anniversaries of its constitution, the section organizes ceremonies, with the celebration of the Holy Mass in the cathedral of the city of Luxembourg, and laying of flowers at the monument to the Luxembourgian fallen.

In such a celebrative framework, the "Tito Copetti" choir of Tolmezzo (1988); the "Alpi Cozie" choir of Susa (1989), the "Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association of Rome" choir (1990), the "Genzianella" choir of Biella (1994) and the "Campo dei fiori" choir of Varese (1997) perform in Luxembourg.

The Italian diplomatic and consular authorities are always present at the celebrative events and at the concerts.

A representation of Italian alpine corps veterans participates, with the Standard and the Italian and Luxembourgian flags, at all of the national gatherings, in which even many friends of the Italian alpine corps veterans and family members are present.

In 1997, the section organizes, in Luxembourg, the convention of the Presidents of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association sections of Europe.

The Italian diplomatic and consular authorities, the National President, Leonardo Caprioli, the Delegate for relations with the foreign sections, Giovanni Franza, the Director of "L'Alpino" newspaper, Cesare Di Dato and the Presidents and the representations of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association of Belgium, France, Germany, Great Britain, Scandinavia, and Switzerland are present.

The presidency of the section participates in all of the annual conventions of the Presidents of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association of Europe.

Right from the first years of its constitution, the section has been suffering from a slight haemorrhage of members due to the strong reduction of the migratory flows from Italy.

Age inexorably carries out its misdeeds, "by sending forward" many old Italian alpine corps veterans, while the rare young Italian alpine corps veterans, who expatriate stay in Luxembourg for brief periods of time, attending courses or working in part-time jobs in banks, commercial offices, international organizations.



In the span of twenty years, the number of Italian alpine corps members of the section reduces itself to half. The number of councillors goes from five, in 1981, to three, in 2009.

The two auditors are confirmed.

The social activity remains, however, one of the aspects upon which the section places the accent, by providing all kinds of help, according to its own strengths, to needy members and to the families of those who “have gone forward” and, in the framework of a felt solidarity, by participating in collections summoned by the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans’ Association (mill in Tanzania, nursery school in Rossosch, water pipeline in Peru, help to the populations struck by floods in Piedmont and Emilia Romagna).

The members’ assembly is held every year, in which, by tradition, even the friends and family members of the Italian alpine corps veterans participate with enthusiasm.

The assemblies are always followed by a social lunch, in which about three hundred people participate, amongst diplomatic, consular and military authorities, Italian alpine corps veterans, friends of the Italian alpine corps veterans, family members and acquaintances of the Italian and Luxembourgian communities.

During the course of 2002 and in the following years, the state of the friends of the Italian alpine corps veterans is attentively studied by the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans’ Association, aware of the problems deriving from the slow and constant reduction in the personnel of the sections abroad.

The National Directive Council, having heard the opinion of the working group, of which Vice President Ludovico Lombardi is a member, deliberates on the state of the friends of the Italian alpine corps veterans and makes some variant modifications to the Rule.

The section looks after the drafting of its own Rule, which is approved by the National Directive Council in September 2008.

In 2004, Vice President Ludovico Lombardi launches the idea of gathering together in a single booklet (“L’Alpino Europeo”) the headings and pages printed by the sections of Belgium, France, Germany, Great Britain, and Switzerland, by giving space to the sections of Luxembourg and Scandinavia which, for financial and personal reasons, cannot produce their own newspaper.

The proposal is the object of ample debates within the sphere of the sections of Europe, the National Headquarters and the Direction of “L’Alpino” newspaper.

Due to all kinds of reasons, the idea of the single periodical “L’Alpino Europeo” does not find unanimous agreement amongst the interested parties.

In 2007, the project is abandoned.

On the 1st January, 2009, the section of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg has 38 members, of whom 19 Italian alpine corps veterans and 19 friends of the Italian alpine corps veterans.

The Directive Council is made up of:

President: Eleuterio Turra;

Vice President: Ludovico Lombardi;

Councillors: Luciano Silverio, Bruno Venier, Roberto Zamboni;

Auditors: Amato Plozner, Pierino De Conti;

Treasurer: Nino Iaconelli;

Secretary: Monica De Conti.



The section of Germany – A section of... great solidarity

It is the characteristic of the Italian alpine corps veterans who work on German soil, respectful of the recurrences of the history of the Motherland, to have a strong cohesion between the groups and a tight collaboration with the Gebirgsjäger reservists.

by Giovanni Camesasca

At the beginning of the 1960s, our fellow countrymen emigrated to the Federal German Republic, a nation destined to the greatest development in Europe. Whoever moves to Germany finds a job immediately and whoever does still not have a trade, in a brief period of time, with the help of those already inserted, find employment.

It is the years in which the Venetians help the Lombards, the Friulians cooperate with the natives of Abruzzi, the natives of Campania get along with the Sicilians: on German soil they are Italians, in solidarity and aware and, with their own work, they contribute towards the rebirth of the country. At that moment they are fellow citizens far from the Motherland, joined together by sane principles, handed down from one generation to the next. In the circumstances dedicated to the memory, some tell of the moment of the recruitment, when they were born and relations of real friendship, brotherhood and solidarity were forged in the sharing of values known within domestic walls. The history of the section of Germany begins in this way, almost softly.

In Frankfurt, in the spring of 1971, on the 21st March, a good number of Italian alpine corps veterans, residing in the area with the intent of constituting a section of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association in the Federal German Republic, gets together at the headquarters of the "Corriere d'Italia".

Elected to the provisional council are: President: Alberto Sabatini; Vice President: Angelo Bellotti; Secretary: Alfio Fior and in the capacity of councillors: Renato Bellotti, Claudio Bellotti, Pietro Dotti, Guido Ballarin, Sante Carella and Armando Canini. Father Maurizio Pascolini is appointed the chaplain of the constituting Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association section.

The provisional council asks the National Directive Council and the then President, Ugo Merlini, for the newborn section to be recognized and, by means of newspaper and radio communiqués throughout the whole territory, invites the Italian alpine corps veteran's resident, in Germany, to gather together. Thus the loudspeaker is set in motion which will bring many members to the new section.

In Augsburg, during the same period, other Italian alpine corps veterans, lead by Antonio Dall'Osta, are getting down working in order to found a local group. The groups of Frankfurt and Augsburg, following a meeting which took place in Italy, soon work together in symbiosis.

The sectional assembly took place in Frankfurt in September of 1971: at the order of the day was the election of the sectional president and the sectional directive council. The assembly elects Antonio Dall'Osta, originally from Conco (Vicenza) as the first sectional president (Italian alpine corps soldier of the Uork Amba battle, Silver and Bronze medal winner for military valour). The first sectional directive council turns out to be made up of: Oreste Bertolini as the Vice President, Alfio Fior as the Secretary, Vittorio Bonapace as the Treasurer, Crispino Zanatta as Councillor and Father Maurizio Pascolini as the Chaplain.

On the 28th September of the same year, at the tribunal of Stuttgart, the newborn "Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association section of the Federal Republic of Germany" is registered.

In Frankfurt, on Saturday the 6th and Sunday the 7th November, the delegate for the foreign sections, Vittorio Musso, with the national councillor, Vittorio Trentini, eminent political and institutional personalities of the Italian and German States, the military attaché in Bonn, Italian alpine corps Colonel Primjceri, superior officers and the military representations of Gebirgstruppe are present at the inauguration.

Preparations are under way for the first presence in Italy of the Italian alpine corps veterans of the German section, planned in Milan on the occasion of the national gathering of the 14th May, 1972.

A cruel destiny will anticipate the first official trip: the new section makes its entry into the Association at the funeral ceremony of the late national president Ugo Merlini.



In February of 1972, at Augsburg, the inauguration of the first Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association group in Germany takes place, and on May 20, members participate in the National Gathering, by even going to Cassano D'Adda, for the festivities of the hundredth founding anniversary of the Italian alpine corps troops. In the same year, in May, the election takes place of the Consul in Stuttgart, Paolo Scarso, as the sectional President; the foundation is owed to him of the "Italian alpine corps Social Centre" and the institution of the "Emigrant's Goodness" Christmas award.

The new president manages to transmit to his Italian alpine corps veterans an enormous energy, the trust and sureness necessary in order to inaugurate the groups of Munich of Bavaria, Stuttgart, the Rhine, Schorndorf, Tübingen, Aalen, and Friedrichshafen.

With a registration open to all Italian trades-people, President Paolo Scarso moreover acquires a prestigious sectional headquarters on Kold strasse 6 in Stuttgart, then transferred to the Italian State with the aim of being able to open up in Baden-Württemberg an Institute of Culture in favour of the numerous Italian communities residing there.

After a year and a half of intense work, the sectional president has to leave the office given that he is transferred to the Italian embassy in Kabul: it will only be a physical distancing, because Ambassador Paolo Scarso works and will still cooperate in the continuity of the section.

The sectional assembly of the members elects in October of 1973 in Stuttgart, Oreste Bertolini, former Vice President, as President who will remain in office until 1979.

In 1976, the section activates all of the groups which cooperate by offering materials of first necessity and offerings in cash to Friuli, hit by the earthquake. The Italian alpine corps veterans of the section, with Oreste Bertolini (sectional president), Mario Armellini (group leader of Augsburg), Tarcisio Benigni, Alfonso Bottamedi, Gianfranco Massari, and Giuseppe Scuderi participate in the reconstruction work of the road dedicated to the Italian alpine corps veterans (Venzone, August 1977).

The section is in full expansion and it inaugurates: in 1977, the group of Cologne and the following year the group of Wolfsburg. At the members' sectional assembly in Stuttgart, in 1979, Claudio De Bernardo is elected the president remaining in office until 1983. With the De Bernardo presidency, the Italian alpine corps veterans of the German section inaugurate the monument in the heart of a united Europe in Theodor Heuss Platz, in Augsburg on the 2nd October, 1982, leaving an indelible mark in order to give witness that in this far distant land, the Italian alpine corps veterans, work and continue to work. Such a monument is an invitation to reflect upon the immense value of peace as a reminder of the great horrors of war.

The city of Augsburg was chosen as a witness of this painful past because it boasts of more than two thousand years of history: founded by Emperor Augustus, it was not only a commercial hub between Italy and Germany, but even a cultural exchange centre.

For centuries, Europe was a battlefield and the German section invites all of the Italian alpine corps veterans to visit the beauties of the thousands of years old city, and to lay a bunch of flowers at the Italian alpine corps monument placed in Theodor Heuss Platz.

In 1983, the section re-elects President Oreste Bertolini, who remains in office until 2004.

In the following year, on the 20th September, 1984, the inauguration of the group of Odenwald takes place, and in 1986, at Ludwigshafen, the section celebrates the 15th anniversary of its foundation.

With the presidency of Bertolini, the section intensifies the relations of the local Italian alpine corps veterans with the Gebirgsjäger. The group of Augsburg assumes the responsibility of intensifying the relations with the Italian alpine corps veterans of the sections in Italy and the first contact is made with the group of Azzano San Paolo (section of Bergamo), lead in that period by Riccardo Giudici.

The objective reached recalls a continuous presence of Italian sections in the events organized by the "Gebirgstruppe" at Mittenwald, at the Hohen Brendten on the Erenmal.

First lead by Sergio Bottinelli, and now by Alessio Granelli, even the standard of the I.F.M.S. flanks the German section at the important ceremony.



The groups which make up the German section, in the decade that follows, perfect the carrying out of the sportive, recreational, cultural, commemorative, and charitable events. With the local population, the Italian alpine corps veterans activate a fraternal relationship in the social field.

All of the groups cooperate with the Italian consular authorities in the ceremonies of honour of the fallen in the various Italian military cemeteries.

Two groups of diversely able adolescents of the Lindenhof Institute of Schwabisch-Gmund, were adopted by the Aalen group since 1982, by means of school supplies, climatic sojourns, and numerous recreational days spent together.

The Italian alpine corps veterans of Augsburg carry out with great success the traditional feast of the "Green Dance", by attracting every year from Italy numerous groups of Italian alpine corps veterans. The proceeds are given towards works of charity for the Third World (organized and run by the bishop of the city).

It is not possible to list the work of every group because the space for the article, would turn out to be insufficient, but I highlight the initiative of a member or of a group, extracted at random: the Italian alpine corps veteran Renzo Carotta and the Stuttgart group.

Renzo Carotta, in Frankfurt, for years has looked after the commemorative ceremony which remembers the daughter of King Victor Emmanuel III, Mafalda of Savoy. Married to Prince Filippo d'Assia, she was arrested by the Nazis during the events of the 8th September, 1943, was locked up in the concentration camp of Buchenwald, where she died on the 27th August, 1944. Her remains now rest at the Kronberg Castle.

Italian alpine corps veterans group of Stuttgart: in May of 1990, Father Ilarino Marichelli makes it known to member Mario Fadini about the need for a solar panel for a village in Eritrea. In the month of January of 1991, the Italian alpine corps veterans' group of Stuttgart, of which Mario is the vice group leader, sends to the village of Ebaro, through the Divine Will Sisters, a complete photovoltaic system (it is the first important work of solidarity carried out directly by our section in the developing countries).

With different events during the course of 1994, the Italian alpine corps veterans' group of Stuttgart, in cooperation with the local Italian Catholic mission, collects funds for the construction of an elementary school in Africa. On the 21st October, 1995, the elementary school is inaugurated in the village of Ebaro (in Eritrea), with even many children from the nearby villages making use of it. The Italian alpine corps veterans, after having looked after the purchase and sending of the necessary material, spent their holidays building the school. The whole cost of the work would have amounted to about 65,000 Euros.

After a brief period necessary for the economic reorganization, the Italian alpine corps veterans of Stuttgart, still involved by the Italian Catholic Mission, participate with enthusiasm in the construction of a nursery school on the outskirts of Guatemala City. On the 26th January, 1997, the inauguration of the work takes place which cost about 60,000 Euros.

At the beginning of 2004, Oreste Bertolini makes it known to the members that he will not be presenting his candidacy at the next elections, and in Stuttgart, in the month of March, the assembly elects Giovanni Sambucco as president.

Formerly a vice president, Sambucco, who is still in office, continues the initiatives of the Bertolini presidency, in terms of safeguarding the sections abroad, developing initiatives of participation in the events in Italy, both at the national and sectional level. He intervenes, at the national headquarters and the organizing sections of the National Gathering in order to assure central lodging for the foreign sections.

The section is supported right from its birth by a periodic bulletin initially entitled "L'Alpino in Germania", which later on (in the 1980s) changes its name to "Scarpone Errante". "Il Transalpino", the present news bulletin, sees the light in the 1990s.

The section owes praise to Giuseppe Buizza, a member of the Augsburg group, who looked after, at length, the composition and elaboration of the periodical. The director of the bulletin is now Johann



Singer (responsible for the Gebirgsjäger reservists of Sonthofen).

In order to celebrate, remember and not forget the values of the Italian alpine corps soldiers who fell in the First and Second World Wars, on the second Sunday of September, the second event in terms of importance (after Mittenwald), organized by the Gebirgstruppe, is celebrated within the natural suggestive framework of Mount Grunten, at Sonthofen.

We would like that the values of the Italian alpine corps veterans, the love for the environment and for the mountain out of respect for nature, become the ideals for the spiritual and intellectual formation of the new generations. It would be the best way to remember all those who died in order to defend their own country or the natural environment.

The German section invites those responsible for the youth of the four groupings to get into contact with the editorship of "Il Transalpino" (e-mail: iltransalpino.ana.de@alice.it) in order to meet on Mount Grunten in order to give witness to Italian alpine corps values.







The section of Great Britain... year 1928!

by Bruno Roncarati

One of the great migratory flows which saw hundreds of thousands of Italians leave their own country, took place immediately after, the First World War which had devastated the European continent, cost eight million lives and caused misery and tribulation everywhere.

Returning from the trenches and unemployed, many veterans decided to emigrate by heading towards other nearby and far away countries in search of a better future.

For those who already had relatives abroad, many of whom had emigrated towards the end of the 1800s, during the first great migratory flow, the decision to leave for other shores and to join up with them was less hard.

In the past, Great Britain had been a destination for many fellow countrymen of ours who had reached there, on foot, after months of wandering through the continent, staying from time to time, here and there during the walk in order to earn a piece of bread. It is told that there were knife sharpeners who from Pinzolo arrived in London, rolling the grindstone along the whole way and other Italians, enterprising, who, sharpening their ingenuity and with hard work, managed to escape the misery which gripped those who had remained in the Motherland and to make a fortune in a foreign land.

In the 1920s, many were those who left the mountains in search of that fortune; many of them were Italian alpine corps veterans originally from the Garfagnana region and from the Apennine Mountains above Parma and Piacenza in particular, from Friuli and from other parts of Italy. Having crossed the English Channel, they headed towards Scotland and Wales where many found work as miners, but the majority chose London, where a numerous community of fellow countrymen already existed, centred in the neighbourhood of Clerkenwell, where the church of Saint Peter is found, still considered to be the reference point of the Italians in the British capital city.

The section of Great Britain is born

After the initial settling down and with a few years that have gone by, various Italian alpine corps veterans feeling evermore nostalgia for their land of birth decided to found an Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association section. This took place on the 4th November, 1928. The few pieces of historical news which remain from that period were provided to us in the 1970s by Gino Galbiati, from the Brianza region, "a boy of 1897", a founding member of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association in 1919 and of the section of Great Britain nine years later.

On the back of a historical photograph which I still keep and referring to those who had been reproduced on it, he wrote "Captain Gennaro Sora returning from the North Pole was the spark which made the first Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association section abroad be born".

The esprit de corps was very strong in those days and, always thanks to Galbiati, we have in the archive photos which reproduce the Italian alpine corps veterans of the section of Great Britain with the sectional standard at the pilgrimage on the Ortigara in 1933 and at the National Gathering of Tripoli in 1936 and various picnics in the countryside of Surrey at the beginning of the 1930s.

The photograph, taken on one of such occasions, is particularly significant: it reproduces a group of Italian alpine corps veterans amongst whom Captain Cura, president of the section, Galbiati himself, His Excellency the Italian ambassador in London, Dino Grandi, Colonel of the 6th Italian alpine corps, as well as, Italian alpine corps veteran Borgo, who, together with many other Italian alpine corps soldiers died in the sinking of the *Arandora Star**, the ship which in 1940 was taking over a thousand Italian prisoners to Canada.

* A dark page of our emigration: *Arandora Star*

The history of our emigration is a sad and at times inhuman history, whose events have been for quite some time, purposely, forgotten if not actually unknown. The one of the *Arandora Star* is one of these. It is necessary to teach and tell of the migratory processes and transmit the memory of these sad and heroic pages. A Tuscan researcher, Maria Serena Balestracci, from Pontremoli, with the publication of the book "*Arandora Star*": una tragedia dimenticata, after 60 years brought it back to the memory and attention of public opinion.



Thanks then to Mr. John Zucconi, we are even in possession of photocopies of various menus from Green Evenings which were held in London at the prestigious Criterion in Piccadilly: the second one on the 24th February, 1930, the fourth on the 8th February, 1932, and the fifth on the 27th February, 1933. Particularly sympathetic is the menu of the second Green Evening of the 24th February, 1930: Draft – the consommé after a long march – the delicacy of Princess Maria Jose sole – chickens seized by the 10th Italian alpine corps with Prince Umberto peas and French fries with Green Flames – female sutler salad – the Dino Grandi (former Colonel of the 6th Italian alpine corps and Italian ambassador in London during that period) frozen biscuit with the sweet ideas of the Naval Conference – Captain's coffee.

The General Guide of the Italians in Great Britain in 1936, on page 57, under the title of Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association, recites amongst other things: "On the 4th November, 1928, was an unforgettable day in which all of the Italian alpine corps veterans of London, for long years dispersed amidst the fog of the metropolis, found themselves around their dearest symbols in order to create a family of theirs and to sing nostalgic mountain songs together. At only a few months from the foundation, the young section had the high honour of receiving, as a gift, from His Royal Highness the Prince of Piedmont a magnificent standard solemnly blessed in the church of Saint Peter in Clerkenwell".

In an insert, always on page 57, it can be read under the title "Monte Rosa Battalion": Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association has ceased to be a social entity; it has been militarily incorporated by being aggregated to the 10th Italian alpine corps regiment, whose sections are called Battalions.

Given that, by law, they have to only entitle themselves to names of glorious war localities, thus the London battalion, by order of the General Command of the 10th regiment in Rome, is entitled to the glorious name of "Monte Rosa". The president is called battalion commander. The "Monte Rosa" Italian alpine corps battalion continues with its usual activities as before and of which the life and soul is the diligent commander Luigi Cura. The proceeds from such activities are spread out in their majority in favour of the hospital (author's note: Italian) and the "Charitable Works of our Bundle".

Unfortunately, we do not have data which allows us to establish the strength of the section during the 1930s but it is clear that the section was very active during that period and the Italian alpine corps veterans gained for themselves the sympathy and respect not only of their fellow countrymen, but even of the British, with whom they were in contact.

Unfortunately, towards the end of the decade and with the beginning of the Second World War, many Italians of the male sex and of an age between 18 and 70 were interned in various camps, the most notorious of which was found on the Isle of Man, the island that was a few kilometres from the country's western coast.

With the passing of time, many were embarked and sent to Australia and Canada. In June of 1940, the Arandora Star left Liverpool with 1,500 Italian, German and Jewish prisoners aboard, heading to

The tragedy of Marcinelle in Belgium, where 262 Italians perished is considered the most tragic of Italian emigration; the one of the Arandora Star which counted 446 Italian dead amidst a thousand prisoners of all of Europe, present aboard the requisitioned ocean liner, has never found consideration up until today.

The British consul in Florence says: "this history has to be considered a war crime. A history with many faults, but the British authorities have great fault, many are the dark sides to it".

10th June, 1940

An hour after the beginning of the Duce's speech, uniformed and plainclothes policemen stormed the Italian Club at Charing Cross Road in London. Churchill peremptorily ordered "round them all up": intern all Italian males between the ages of 16 and 70 with less than twenty years of residency, and deport 1,500 "dangerous ones" and capable of everything. The aim was to avoid that the immigrant communities could become "fifth columns" of the enemy countries, and with regards to the Italians, of isolating those who, only though vaguely, had shown sympathy for fascism. It did not matter whether amongst the deported there were even Jews who had escaped from Italy in 1938, upon the promulgation of the racial laws. Outstanding figures like Umberto Limentani, a dean at Cambridge and collaborator with the BBC, or declaredly antifascists.

The Italians were arrested within two days. They were first interned in provisional detention camps like Camp Bury, in Lancashire, and then the trip towards Canada of the first 700 Italians was predisposed aboard the Arandora Star.



Canada. On the 2nd July, it was struck by a torpedo launched from a German U-boat: there were more than seven hundred victims of whom 446 Italians, many of whom were Italian alpine corps veterans like that Borgo who appears smiling, proudly wearing his hat with the feather, in Galbiati's photograph of which we wrote above.

The long parenthesis

With the end of the Second World War, the third emigration began and, as happened thirty years before, many were the Italian alpine corps veterans who, leaving Italy go overseas. Thus, as then, in London, in the middle of the 1960s there was talk of re-founding the section, something which finally took place in 1967.

It was a mixture of "1899 boys" – or even of previous years – and young punks, of Italian alpine corps veterans who had fought in the war – the first one, the one of Africa and in the second one – and "postwar boys", of bankers, restaurateurs, knife sharpeners, painters, but all of them proud for having worn the feather. Charismatic figures like Professor Silvio Bacchi Andreoli, born in 1911, a mountain artillery lieutenant, a veteran of East Africa or eccentric like the globetrotting sommelier Giovanni Mazzetto.

Romeo Rigolli was elected to the president's office and to the office of vice president Giovanni Inzani whose café, just a stone's throw away from the church of Saint Peter, was a bit the section's "unofficial" headquarters. It was February and from the national headquarters came General Musso to London in order to bring the sectional standard which was officially handed over with a brief ceremony which took place in a restaurant in the city, in the vicinities of St. Paul's cathedral.

Thus began, in secret, the activity of the section with a few picnics and the first "postwar" Green Eve, which took place in a narrow room filled to capacity. The success and the popularity of the Italian alpine corps veterans was such that in the successive years, the event took place in big halls like the one of the municipality of Saint Pancras or, at Queensway, the Porchester Hall, in order to be able to host up to seven hundred people.

Part of the proceeds were and still are donated to charitable entities and works (amongst which the Italian Hospital which unfortunately closed its doors for many years now).

Arandora Star

The Arandora Star was a 15,500 tonne transatlantic luxury cruise ship belonging to the British company Blue Star Line. It was transformed into a ship for the transfer of deportees towards Canada, when Italians, Germans, and Austrians were declared enemies of Great Britain by the British government, following the declaration of war by Mussolini. The Italians, on the basis of the lists compiled by the British secret services, were arrested within two days.

The objective of the British government was that of distancing the prisoners from the United Kingdom, in order to make them even more inoffensive. Initially, those arrested were interned; successively a trip was organized in order to take the first 700 to Canada. The British navy, after having confiscated the ship, painted it and equipped it for the transportation of prisoners, by delimiting the critical points with barbed wire and installing cannons and other armament on it.

The deportation

In Liverpool, on the night of the 30th June, 1940, 712 Italians, 478 Germans and Austrians were embarked, amongst whom some prisoners of war and 200 British soldiers on guard, besides the members of the crew. All crammed into the cabin that could contain less than half of them.

The ship set sail without an escort and without the marks of the Red Cross, indispensable in order to make it known that there were prisoners aboard.

The sinking

After a single day of navigation, on the morning of the 2nd July, 1940, in front of the Irish coast, a German submarine, U47 commanded by Gunther Prien intercepted the ship. It only had a single torpedo aboard and was returning after a bellicose operation. The ship immediately seemed to be an enemy one to him. He launched the torpedo at 6:58, when he found himself at a distance of 2,500 metres. At 7:40 it was completely sunk with its entire load of prisoners, who at the moment of the embarkation, had not been instructed on what to do in case of emergency, and abandoned unto panic and confusion.

The majority tried to find room in the few lifeboats, but the majority did not manage to climb back up the bridge from the lower levels from the ship, because it was dark. The generators were out of use. The corridors, with barbed wire which blocked the way, had become labyrinths. The many who did not manage to save themselves, dived into the sea from the bridge, and was like jumping into thin air from the 4th floor of a building. The tally is destined to remain provisional forever. The victims were actually 730. The lists are considerably faulty.



In 1974, Gianni Martelli, a Ligurian Italian alpine corps veteran and owner of a print shop in London launched the idea of publishing a sectional newspaper. With Bruno Roncarati, the director in charge, and Gianni Martelli, the editor, thus was born in an A5 format “Pino l’Alpino” which saw the light in November of that year coming out initially monthly, in order to then become a tri-monthly issue since 1976 – after Martelli’s return from Genoa – then six-monthly since 1982 and then annually since 1984 up until today.

On the 11th April, 1976 following the resignation of Romeo Rigolli, Bruno Roncarati, who already in 1972 had held the office of vice president, was elected president of the section, an office which on the same occasion was entrusted to Romano Conti.

A few weeks later, on the 6th May, 1976, Friuli was struck by a devastating earthquake and a collection of funds was immediately organized to send to the survivors of which the treasurer, Piero Bellini, made himself responsible and which raised over a million and a half British pounds. Contemporarily, the vice secretary of the section, Giovanni Mazzetto, with a thrust of altruism, left London in order to spend two weeks at Osoppo, at the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans’ Association’s no. 8 work-site. Upon his return, he wrote an emotional memoir that appeared in the September issue of “Pino l’Alpino”.

In 1977, with the resignation of Piero Bellini, thanks to whose initiatives thousands of British pounds had been collected and given to charity during the years, the office of treasurer was given to Marino Maccini, who still holds it. In November of that year, the 10th anniversary of the re-foundation of the section was celebrated at the London Press Centre, with the national President, Franco Bertagnolli, present.

The group of Wales is born

On the 15th and 16th November, 1980, at Port Talbot, the group of Wales was officially born with the handing over of the standard, brought from Italy to the group leader, Giuseppe Tambini, by the national vice president Periz and by Trentin, responsible for relations with the foreign sections. In that time, the group was made up of about fifteen Italian alpine corps veterans, almost all of them coming from the Apennine Mountains above Parma and Piacenza, the majority of who had reached Wales in the 1950’s.

On that occasion, under the patient direction of Father Gaetano Parolin, the sectional choir “Monte Rosa” performed thus called in homage to the first section of Great Britain. Four years later, in February 1984, the choir had the privilege of singing at the Wembley Conference Centre in the presence of the

The ascertained Italian victims were 446. Their bodies were never recovered and never given back to the families; abandoned at the bottom of the sea. There were about 200 survivors and about a few days later, embarked upon the “Drunera” and sent to Australia.

On the list of the victims, which the British Home Office never officialized, there were even 175 Germans and Austrians, 37 British soldiers and 42 members of the crew.

Italy paid a high price.

Amongst these, there were even two emigrants from the Abruzzo region of Italy:

Giuseppe Andreassi, born on the 19th March, 1880 at San Demetrio dei Vestini (AQ) and residing in London, Arnadeo Paulone, born at Scanno (AQ), on the 24th March, 1885, a resident at Southampton.

The majority of the victims were originally from the poorest areas of the Apennine Mountains, in particular from the area of Lucca, Parma, and Ciociaria. “Workers, honest, and respect citizens of the law, even of the non-written ones, the Italians who were in the United Kingdom.

“Meek men, who had left Italy looking for a better life and who, instead, had found death with the only guilt of being Italians”.

President Ciampi

In a message, sent to the Mayor of Lucca, the President writes:

“The sincere tribute to emigration and to the role which it had in the history and in Europe delineated by the war; those fellow countrymen of ours, in search of work and dignity, were embarked upon a trip in which they would have found death, contributes towards reinforcing a culture of respect, welcoming and integration”.

(AQ) 20th October, 2004

Taken from the book: “La tragedia di Marcinelle: per non dimenticare”

Maurillio Di Giangregorio



President of the Italian Republic, Sandro Pertini, in London on a private visit and in 1990, on the occasion of the State visit of President Cossiga in the presence of the same at Grosvenor House on the 26th October.

In 1992, then, the 25th anniversary of the re-foundation of the section wanted to be marked, with various events which culminated in November with a gala luncheon at the Café Royal, present then, was the national president Leonardo Caprioli.

On such an occasion, the Italian Military Cemetery of Brookwood was visited and even the annual meeting of the presidents of the European sections was held, always in London, at the Gloucester Hotel.

Always in 1992, in September, the councillor Eriano Quattromini represented the section at Rossosch in Russia, joining himself to the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association volunteers who were building a nursery school, and in July President Roncarati, with his son Marco, brought the sectional banner on top of Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest mountain in Africa.

A few years later, on the 4th September, 1994, a monument, to the Italian fallen was inaugurated at the Beachley Cemetery in Chepstow in Wales by the initiative of the Italian alpine corps veterans and the friends of the Italian alpine corps veterans of the Wales group. On such an occasion, the section was represented by the treasurer Marino Maccini and by some Italian alpine corps veterans coming from London with the sectional banner.

Year after year, some appointments remained and remain always fixed: the one of the celebration of the foundation of the Italian alpine corps, which usually takes place on the Sunday, closest to the 15th October and of the visit to the Italian Military Cemetery of Brookwood, at the beginning of November. In this last event, a platoon of Italian alpine corps soldiers of the Julia was often present, returning from the military patrol contest known as the Cambrian Patrol, which we unfailingly hosted to breakfast with great enthusiasm at the Mazzini-Garibaldi Club.

Unfortunately, for a few years now, Italy has no longer been participating in this contest and we are deprived of the pleasure of having the "boys" with us who bring us a bit of youthful enthusiasm of which... we are in need!

The 21st century begins

Another important event is the Green Eve which usually takes place at the end of January and which besides maintaining the relations with the Italian community is the only source of income for the section. A good part of the proceeds are regularly widened to charitable aims.

In 1998, the 70th anniversary of the foundation of the section was celebrated and on such an occasion, we were honoured yet again by the presence of the national president, in this case Beppe Parazzini and we even hosted the annual meeting of the presidents of the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association sections in Europe. Everything culminated with a lunch at the Café Royal, with the participation of the choir of the Julia which came to London by the initiative of General Alberto Ficuciello, in which intervened, the then Italian ambassador to the court of Saint James, His Excellency Galli.

Even if for some time, our periodical "Pino l'Alpino" came out as a single issue, it remained and still remains a valid vehicle which annually registers the life of the section, though often repetitive that it is. Thus, in order to celebrate the 30th birthday of the newspaper, in 2003, we published a special issue in colour in which amongst others, the national president Beppe Parazzini, the military attaché in London General Vito di Ventura, and the Army Chief of Staff, General Rolando Mosca Moschini, participated. The year after, the title of the periodical was widened to become "Pino l'Alpino d'Oltremania", in order to give it a more specific identity.

Fifty years after the end of the Second World War, in 2005, the Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association wanted to remember all of the Italian alpine corps veterans who participated in that conflict, by sending to them, an attestation in order to "remember with gratitude", the duty carried out by them. At the Italian church of Saint Peter and at the end of the Holy Mass, in order to celebrate the foundation of the Corps, in October of 2005, His Excellency, the Italian ambassador, and Giancarlo Aragona, handed over the attestations to Egidio Badini, Giuseppe Brugnoli, and Bruno Lusardi.

In March of 2006, at the end of the members annual assembly, held at the Mazzini-Garibaldi Club, even Adolfo Dellapina received his deserved attestation; during the course of the year, to our great sur-



prise and immense pleasure, some recently discharged young men joined us, bringing vital lymph to the section and making us hope to finally be able to hand over the wheel.

The Gathering in Cuneo last year was a great success, the sectional activities have been modest, as always, but we began the planning of the celebration of the 80th anniversary which includes the erection of a monument to the Italian alpine corps soldier and all of this is creating a certain enthusiasm.

And so we have reached 2008. On the 4th March, the member's annual assembly took place and the strength of the section turned out to be: 79 Italian alpine corps veterans and 41 friends of the Italian alpine corps veterans. The sectional directive council is thus composed:

President: Bruno Roncarati; Vice President: Paolo Detassis; Secretary: Sergio De Luca; Treasurer: Marino Maccini; Auditors: Mario Croci, Angelo Negri, Nicolo Povinelli; Councillors: Fabrizio Biscotti, Luca Dusi, Celeste Ghirardani, Francesco Maroso, Bruno Mortali, Filippo Negri, Antonio Paganuzzi, Giulio Pizzi, Giovanni Todesco.



Picnic outside of London with ambassador Grandi (seated) in 1932 at the Tripoli gathering.



Celebration of the 10th re-foundation anniversary with Bertagnolli





Handing over of the sectional standard to President Cossiga on the occasion of his visit to London and sectional choir which sings for the President.



Italian alpine corps veteran Quattromini (to the right) at the worksite of Rossosch



2008 Gathering



The autonomous group of Romania

There are historical testimonies that already, since 1940, and up until 1945, there was the presence of an Italian alpine corps group in Romania, founded by Captain Gerardo Emanuele Croce and affiliated to the section of Pordenone. The news, up until today, collected is scant. There is knowledge of group headquarters in Timisoara, Bucharest and of a group called Transylvania.

Historical research is underway, which it is hoped will give wide results.

Here, however, there is the need to mention the existence of Italian alpine corps members, born in Romania and, due to dual citizenship, having returned to fight for what they held to be their first Motherland: Italy.

For example, Luigi Olivotto is remembered, born in 1895 at Braila; or the Vittorio and Pietro Rausse brothers, natives of Greci-Tulcea; or still Fauro Rinaldo born in Greci-Tulcea in 1922 of Italian parents, Antonio and Ida Fauro.

In 1942, Rinaldo, twenty years old, was enlisted in the Italian alpine corps. Once having returned to Italy, after his training period, he was sent to Russia. On the 24th December, 1942, Rinaldo fell on the Russian front, leaving his family in pain, as it happens to many other Italians who have gone forward.

News and information is still being collected on other similar stories of Italian alpine corps members in Romania. Like the ones of the Fantini family, where we find memories of the 7th Feltre Regiment.

From 1945 onwards, the traces of the Italian alpine corps members in Romania are lost.

Coming to our days, in a meeting at the Italian embassy, some Italian alpine corps veterans began, in 2006, in a friendly and informal way, some meetings with the intent of re-founding a new Italian alpine corps group.

2007 was the year of laying the bases. It was a difficult year, in which no initiative was managed to be concretized for the foundation of the group. The chaplain, in that period, proposes to change the deputy person in charge of the group which has still not been constituted; he singles out, in the present group leader, Mr. Claudio Minuzzo, the right person in order to be able to open up the group itself. The first contacts, with the National Association, are held through some friends of Bassano who make themselves mouthpieces of the intentions that are had in Romania.

The group is born on the 30th March, 2008. A series of ceremonies opened up in a solemn way to the foundation. It was begun in the morning with a laying of a crown of flowers at the Italian Military Cemetery in Bucharest and with the military honours of the Cadets of the President of the Romanian Republic, in the presence of the Italian ambassador, Doctor Daniele Mancini, and of various other Romanian and Italian authorities. Even an Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association delegation was present, made up of the person in charge of the foreign sections, Ornello Capannolo, and by the director of "L'Alpino", Vittorio Brunello, besides a representation of Friulian and Venetian Italian alpine corps veterans, with their banners and standards. Later on, during the Holy Mass at the Italian Church in Bucharest, the Orionino Colombo Father Graziano, an Italian alpine corps veteran, chaplain and rector of the Italian church, blessed the standard of the Romanian Autonomous Group, dedicated to that formidable man, who was Captain Doctor Piero Redaelli, an officer of the Valchiese and veteran of the Russian campaign; an Italian alpine corps soldier worthy of such a name, always an Italian alpine corps soldier in all situations, open to the social, even after the war: he returned from a German concentration camp, only when the last Italian soldier left the prison camp.

In May 2008, at the National Gathering in Bassano, the Romanian Autonomous Group Piero Redaelli was present with the group leader Claudio Minuzzo, the chaplain Father Graziano Colombo, and some Italian alpine corps veterans.

Still in 2008, for the ninety years of the end of the First World War, the Romanian group organized a series of events. Some Italian sections and groups were present. The Mass, of the 1st November, at the Italian church, for all those who have gone forward, is to be mentioned. On the 2nd November, on top of the Carpathian Mountains, with the presence of the Romanian Italian alpine corps veterans in years, a bilingual Holy Mass is celebrated, for all of the civilian and military victims of the world war. On the day of the 3rd November, the Italian alpine corps veterans of the Valtellinese section held, at the Italian school in Bucharest, involving all of the teachers and students, and at the Italian Institute of Culture, a lesson on the Italian alpine corps. The following day becomes the occasion, for the first presence of the



Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association, at the Italian Military Cemetery, for the recurrence of the 4th November, followed by the ceremony at the Italian church, and finally, by the meeting at the embassy, with His Excellency, the Ambassador.

It is in March of the year 2009 that the headquarters of the Romania group is inaugurated, at the Don Orione Work in Bucharest, on number 98 of Teiul Doamnei Street, historical headquarters of the first meetings. The Italian National Alpine Troops Corps Veterans' Association President, Corrado Perona, and the person in charge of the foreign sections, Ornello Capannolo, were present for the inauguration. The President of the section of Palmanova, Luigi Ronutti, with the Ardito Desio sectional choir, the section of Pordenone with president Giovanni Gasparet, the section of Turin with president Giorgio Chiosso, the Italian alpine corps veterans of the section of Vicenza and the Valtellinese section were present for the inauguration. The presence of the godmothers, Mrs. Elisabetta and Mariolina Redaelli, respectively the daughter and wife of Captain Redaelli, as well as, the wife and the son, Umberto, of Captain Francesco Albarosa is remembered. The Romanian group, for the occasion, was lead by Vice President Alessandro Pietta, in charge of the good outcome of the event. The salient moments of the three days of the inauguration were, in brief: the visit and song at the salt works of Slanic Prahova, with a meeting with the local civil and military authorities; the concert of the Ardito Desio choir, at Ploiesti, with the presence of veterans, from the Romanian army and religious and civil authorities, representatives even of our Italian-Romanian citizens; the meeting at Greci-Tulcea, where the Friulians are moved in front of fourth generation people, who still speak Italian, and the Bellunese and Friulian dialects in their families, including their Romanian wives; the celebration for Fauro Rinaldo and the other Italian-Romanian natives of Greci, in the presence of the Italian ambassador, Doctor Mario Cospito and Mrs. Franca, of the Catholic and Orthodox religious authorities and of the representations of civil authorities; finally, the ceremony at the Italian Military Cemetery in Bucharest, and the visit to the embassy.

For the second year, the Italian alpine corps veterans' group is present at the National Gathering of Latina. The delegation is lead by the Vice President, Alessandro Pietta, and by the group's chaplain. The President of Palmanova, Luigi Ronutti, thanks to whose ties of volunteerism and friendship of the Friulian section, with Romania, marches with Romania next to the standard.

On the 2nd June, feast of the Italian Republic, the Italian alpine corps veterans of Romania, and some, from the Valtellinese section, and of the Malenchi group, animated with their singing, the evening at the residence of the Italian ambassador in Bucharest, reinforcing the C.A.I. Valmalenco choir, this too made up of various Italian alpine corps veterans.

The group, though young, is even committing itself to solidarity, with collections and initiatives in order to alleviate suffering. During the year, black feathers were seen in Bucharest and on Romanian soil, committed to collecting funds and foodstuffs, both for calamities in Romania and even in favour of our brethren of Abruzzo.

Insofar as a foreign group, it can count on about thirty supporting members, who have always distinguished themselves for their support and sympathy towards us Italian alpine corps veterans, committing themselves at the forefront, in a particular way in the collections, of funds and foodstuffs, and in manual work on the occasion of the events.

The Piero Redaelli Italian alpine corps veterans' group is young, even if for this, as has been said, there can be talk of re-foundation. Its commitment will be to rediscover its own old history, its own origins, in order to be more dynamic, today, and in the future.

The Autonomous Italian alpine corps veterans' Group of Bulgaria

After the request of the Italian ambassador in Bulgaria, Stefano Benazzo, made in the year 2008, for the constitution of the Italian alpine corps veterans' group, the National Council, having examined the case and the condition of the presence of the Italian alpine corps veterans' presence in Bulgaria, authorized its constitution. On the occasion of the National Gathering in Latina, which took place on the days of the 11th and 12th May, 2009, the official ceremony and constitution of the Italian alpine corps veterans' group of Bulgaria was held, appointing ambassador Stefano Benazzo himself as the group leader.



