

## **152613 - Monument to Captain "Toni" and the fallen partisans - Porretta Terme**

Memorial stone to remember Captain Antonio Giuriolo, commander of the Matteotti Montagna partisan brigade that operated in the upper Reno Valley (Tuscan-Emilian Apennines), and the fallen Porretta partisans.

The memorial bears two dates: 19-7-1944, presumably traceable to the assumption of command of the Matteotti Montagna partisan brigade by Captain Antonio Giuriolo; 12-12-1944 date of death of Captain Antonio Giuriolo hit by a machine-gun burst during an action against the Germans near Monte Belvedere (Lizzano in Belvedere). The Matteotti Montagna brigade, official name of the 3rd Matteotti brigade, according to the internal numbering of the formations of the PSIUP (Italian Socialist Party of Proletarian Unity) in Bologna, was formed between winter and spring 1944 in the area of the upper Reno valley when a number of armed groups, which had emerged spontaneously since autumn 1943 in the towns of Porretta Terme and Lizzano in Belvedere, were reorganized. It was named Toni according to the battle name of Commander Antonio Giuriolo, who assumed command in July 1944.

The brigade took part in all the major fighting against the Germans and the fascists that occurred in the Apennines between Bologna, Pistoia and Modena, including the one for the "partisan republic's defence in Montefiorino (MO). The operation area was the Upper Reno Valley, which was freed in September-October 1944, before the American 5th Army arrival. Re-armed by the Allies, it remained on the front lines until April 1945 in the towns of Lizzano in Belvedere and Castiglione de' Pepoli. The brigade had 24 killed and 19 wounded. 181 partisans were recognized.

Captain Giuriolo was born on 12/2/1912 in Arzignano (VI). He had a degree in literature. In 1943 he was sent, with the 7th Alpine rgt, to Slovenia (Yugoslavia), with the rank of captain. At the time of the armistice he was in Vicenza and was one of the first organizers of the Resistance in Veneto. He admitted himself, under a false name, to the Putti Orthopaedic centre in Bologna, where a clandestine infirmary was set up to treat a serious wound to his hand. There were also other wounded partisans admitted under false names.

During this stay, he met Gianguido Borghese, the regional commander of the Matteotti formations in Emilia Romagna, who proposed that he take command of the Matteotti Montagna brigade. Giuriolo accepted and led his men in the main fighting in the Tuscan-Emilian Apennines, contributing to the liberation of Porretta Terme, on October 4 and 5, 1944, which he then handed over to American troops of the 5th Army.

The monument was unveiled on December 15, 1946, to commemorate Captain Antonio Giuriolo and the fallen Porretta partisans. The ceremony was attended by Giuriolo's family members, civil and military authorities, and representatives of the surrounding parties. It was erected at the behest of the local ANPI section and the Municipality of Porretta Terme.