

THE ITALIAN RED CROSS IN 'REDEEMED' ADRIATIC LANDS (1919-1939)

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ABSTRACT

The article aims to reconstruct the essential history related to health, medical and humanitarian action of the Italian Red Cross in the 'redeemed' adriatic lands, between 1919 and 1939. Particularly, this study has focused on the contributions of the "National Assistance Initiative for Redeemed Italy" (ONAIR) for Julian March populations and on new red cross italian committees born in Trieste and Pola.

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The birth of "National Assistance Initiative for Redeemed Italy"

Following the end of World War I, the particular attention paid by the Italian Red Cross (IRC) to the "redeemed" lands (also called the "Liberated Territories") is made evident in a short but important monograph⁽¹⁾ published in 1920 by the Central Committee. This document outlines the main points of the "Peace Program" that the IRC had already advocated prior to the official end of hostilities and that it wished to continue pursuing within Italian territories, whether already in existence or acquired. At the behest of the *Alto Patronato di S.A.R. la Duchessa d'Aosta Ispettrice Generale delle Infermiere Volontarie* ("High Patronage of HRH the Duchess of Aosta Inspector General of the Association of Nurse Volunteers"), the IRC established the *Opera Nazion-*

ale di Assistenza all'Italia Redenta (ONAIR: "National Assistance Initiative for Redeemed Italy") to provide material and moral support for populations in need in Venezia Tridentina (Trentino and South Tyrol), the Julian March ("Venezia Giulia" - eastern Friuli and Istria), Zara (Zadar), and Fiume (Rijeka), with particular attention to infants. From the start, ONAIR took advantage of the "indefatigable" collaboration⁽²⁾ of the Nurse Volunteers; it is worth noting that subsequently this institution was recognized as a moral entity⁽³⁾ by Royal Decree no. 1803 of 23 October 1924.

Trieste was chosen as ONAIR's first organizational headquarters⁽⁴⁾, which was presided in person by the Duchess of Aosta. Another office was opened in Trent, as early as 1919. Concrete support from ONAIR, then, almost exclusively took the form of aid to infants and mothers in conditions of illness or

poverty. Thanks to its steadfast ability to collect and streamline financing from the State, banks and private contributions, ONAIR rapidly established nursery schools for orphans and poor children, together with women's associations, including the important "Women's Center and Nursery School of Gorizia" to help mothers and suckling infants, as well as the "Maternity Ward" at the Hospital of Borgo⁽⁵⁾.

ONAIR's primary assistance initiatives therefore took concrete form through the establishment of clinic-dispensaries for suckling infants, of seaside and mountain camps, and of restorative treatment programs with cod liver oil during the winter months. The first of these were operative between 1920 and 1924 in Trent, Rovereto, Riva, Ala, Arco, Borgo, Cles, Matarello and Monfalcone⁽⁶⁾. These centers offered specialist medical exams free of charge for children, while mothers were given all necessary hygienic information for the normal development of their sons and daughters⁽⁷⁾. Thanks to the presence of kitchens at the centers, mothers who used artificial feeding were able to take advantage of the milk sterilization service; poor mothers who suckled their infants were also provided with flour, medicine and vitamins for their children, when a particular center had the means to supply these. In Trent alone⁽⁸⁾, between 1920 and 1924 the number of children enrolling for the first time at the local dispensary increased from 281 to 443, while in the same period the number of medical exams effected rose from 1,140 to 3,602 annually.

The center in Monfalcone, which began operations six months after the others, had the lowest number of enrolled children, with 51⁽⁹⁾. In any case, among children who went to the clinic-dispensaries we find an unmistakable decrease in both general mortality and in intestinal pathologies such as rickets. The result was that even less educated mothers and families demonstrated permanent feelings of confidence and gratitude⁽¹⁰⁾ toward these centers and their personnel. Sometime after the establishment of the dispensaries, ONAIR also began "Hygiene and Child Welfare" courses⁽¹¹⁾ in Trent, Riva, Rovereto and Trieste. These were directed at unmarried women, nurses and midwives, and from 1925 to primary school teachers as well, both male and female. These courses aimed at a broadly promoting awareness of the aims and organizational strategies behind the new hygienic and sanitary institutions as well as a wider reception of their messages. With regard to the camps, the *Relation* mentions those of Salsomaggiore Terme and Duttogliano⁽¹²⁾. From 1924, the

former - on behalf of ONAIR - hosted several dozen children suffering from different types of scrofula and bone tuberculosis, significantly improving their conditions. The latter, meanwhile, located at 350 m of elevation and operating in the months of July and August 1925, succeeded in increasing the weights of 24 guest children by an average of 1.0-1.8 kg⁽¹³⁾.

As will be discussed below, children in need were sent to and treated at seaside camps in Italy; in the Julian March, the main facility was the *Ospizio marino permanente* ("Permanent Seaside Sanatorium") in Valdoltra. Once again upon the initiative of the Duchess of Aosta, beginning in January 1925 ONAIR invited all school authorities in the province of Trentino and in the Julian March to subject all their students under 10 years of age to medical examinations; they were further urged to transmit to the organization's regional offices lists of all those who had the right to receive restorative treatments with cod liver oil. The range of pathologies included in this initiative was broad and varied: "anemia, emaciation, insufficient growth, lymphadenitis, rickets, malaria, scrofula and predisposition to tuberculosis"⁽¹⁴⁾. In the Julian March, the high number of referred children - 11,032 - was interpreted as an indication of the pitiful sanitary conditions resulting from the war in that region; indeed, it was not possible to provide sufficient distribution and adequate quantities of oil to all those children in need. This was the reason given for the fact that in Rovigno (Istria), for example, treatment failed for 27 of 164 children; Venezia Tridentina (Trentino and South Tyrol), meanwhile, recorded a 5% rate of ineffectual results out of a total of 1,726 referred subjects in that region⁽¹⁵⁾.

Nonetheless, at the end of the period of oil distribution by "health assistants" (which spanned 30-75 days), results in both regions almost everywhere showed weight gain in these patients (from a minimum of 1 kg up to 5 kg), often accompanied by the cure of cases of polyadenopathy, remission of skin diseases, and reactivation of neuropsychic functions. Indeed, families and teachers also reported that the treated children not only had generally improved appetites but also increased attention capacity in their studies and a brighter disposition⁽¹⁶⁾ on an emotional level. The *Relation* judged these overall improvements as very satisfactory; in confirmation of this assessment, its conclusion cited numerous letters⁽¹⁷⁾ expressing gratitude and optimism, which ONAIR had received from many schoolmasters, teachers, nuns, priests, mothers and even children themselves.

The Trieste Committee and the Ospizio marino permanente in Valdoltra (1909-1928)

A resolution of the Central Committee (CC) in Rome of 11 January 1919 officially established the first Italian committee of the Red Cross in Trieste, together with that of Trent. From the start, the IRC Military Corps was active here; in the interwar period, the Corps had numerous officers, non-commissioned officers and soldiers serving state institutions and carrying out training activities⁽¹⁸⁾. Following the general reorganization of 1920, which involved all the liberated territories, the Trieste Committee officially inaugurated its own school for Nurse Volunteers in 1921, graduating seven Sisters on 28 June 1922. During the interwar period, the Trieste Committee built its membership. By 1938 it boasted 214 permanent and 1,721 temporary members, who promoted a variety of initiatives: service in emergency rooms, schools for Nurse Volunteers and healthcare auxiliaries, remedial gymnastics, collection of paper pulp, and, finally, management - at first provisionally and later officially - of the hospital complex of Oltra or Valdoltra, which represented the crowning achievement of the Trieste IRC until the end of World War II⁽¹⁹⁾.

The project for and establishment of this extremely important care facility for children of both sexes were the accomplishments of the *Società degli Amici dell'Infanzia* ("Association for the Friends of Infants")⁽²⁰⁾, which in 1906 replaced a previous organization in Habsburg-controlled Trieste whose location in the old city prevented it from becoming a permanently functioning, year-round structure. The village of Valdoltra on the Gulf of Capodistria (Koper)⁽²¹⁾ was chosen because it was protected from bora winds by a line of hills in its hinterland and because of its mild climate and exposure to healthy sea breezes. The institute became operational in December 1909; its premises included farmland extending over 200,000 square meters, with a beach approximately 150 meters long and its own landing with a small port for steamboats and motorboats⁽²²⁾. The facility offered a variety of complementary treatments, including units for heliotherapy and thalassotherapy: it was, in effect, a complete hospital for surgery and orthopedics⁽²³⁾.

In July 1915, the *Ospizio* was closed by the Habsburg authorities, who justified their action by claiming that its seaside position rendered it vulnerable to the dangers of war; in reality, they were alarmed by the fact that the facility's management

(who had always harbored irredentist sentiments) had admitted young Italian patients from the Kingdom of Italy together with children from the Habsburg Empire. From this date until the end of the war, the Austro-Hungarian army positioned several anti-aircraft cannon in the park of the institute, which provoked the launch of bombs on the part of the Italian air force, with the result that several pavilions were damaged and all windows on the complex shattered.

In the wake of the Battle of Vittorio Veneto, restoration work was begun with the support of the Italian military authorities, which led to the re-opening of the *Ospizio* in July 1919⁽²⁴⁾. Because of serious problems of indebtedness that were immediately apparent, the facility was soon ceded to the Italian Red Cross, thanks to the work of mediation of Senator Lustig, who also managed to balance the budget. On 1 September 1920, Colonel Prof. Cesare Baduel⁽²⁵⁾ inaugurated this new phase of the *Ospizio*, now managed by the IRC, naming it after Duchess Hélène of Aosta and entrusting its supervision to Dr. Emilio Comisso.

The most common pathologies treated at Valdoltra were all forms of tuberculosis (TB) with the exception of pulmonary TB; in addition, as a preventive measure, children were treated who had not contracted the disease but who were prone to contagion because of a weak constitution⁽²⁶⁾. Another numerous group of patients consisted of those afflicted with rickets, whether in its developed stages or in the case of deformities that had already resulted and been treated surgically. Other treated conditions included all further congenital and acquired deformities which were not linked to dyscrasia⁽²⁷⁾, in addition to each instance of less severe scrofula and lymphatic disease; these patients stayed at the *Ospizio* above all during school vacations⁽²⁸⁾. Furthermore, the Trieste Committee of the Red Cross organized a primary school service within the institute for long-stay patients, which also conducted educational activities within the facility's six infirmaries for bedridden children; the report cards issued by the Valdoltra school were then recognized by the external state schools⁽²⁹⁾.

In the same 1923 publication cited above, Comisso reported the figures regarding annual presences (hospitalization days) of young patients from 1913 to 1922: the greatest number during this period was recorded in 1920, with nearly⁽³⁰⁾ 72,500 hospitalization days. Indeed, in addition to children from the Julian March and other regions of the Kingdom, a special resolution of the Board of Directors of the

Central Committee⁽³¹⁾ in Rome called for the reception of youngsters from Vienna⁽³²⁾ who were sent to the facility in collaboration with the “American Mission”⁽³³⁾. Concerning the details of the various treatment methods used at Valdoltra, surgical procedures mostly involved targeted osteotomies - which regarded deformities caused both by tuberculosis and rickets⁽³⁴⁾ - several extractions of sequestra or incisions in open tubercular forms (while in closed ones radical operations such as amputations were rare), and treatment of cold abscesses, but only those that involved the aspiration of superficial ones⁽³⁵⁾.

In the case of osteo-articular tuberculosis, doctors and nurses always resorted to closing with bandages or plaster and discharging through bedrest - with or without traction therapy - or by means of devices (especially crutches) that allowed patients to walk without exerting pressure⁽³⁶⁾. The most employed medical therapy, meanwhile, involved administering calcium salts, which were also quite useful for surgical tuberculosis. For cutaneous, superficial and fungal forms, heliotherapy⁽³⁷⁾ produced the best results. An even wider use was made of thalassotherapy, which in winter months was effected in special covered places with warm water⁽³⁸⁾ to which were sometimes associated warm air baths and in some cases steam baths and hydrotherapy. Comisso once again emphasized the effectiveness of gymnastics and massage⁽³⁹⁾, carried out by trained nurses, and the importance of combining utility with pleasure at Valdoltra: this meant increasing the quality of patient stays by making available a full theater and showing weekly films.

The author's conclusions about the results of the treatments given at the Ospizio between 1913 and 1922 reported an average mortality rate of 1.6% among hospitalized patients and 5.4% experiencing no amelioration, while 37.6% showed improvement and 55.4% were healed of their conditions⁽⁴⁰⁾. Because the overall positive results reached 93% and increased during the last three years of the period under consideration, Valdoltra's reputation for effective treatment was confirmed and strengthened, so much so that the fight against tuberculosis⁽⁴¹⁾ was intensified and a project conceived to further expand the facility by constructing a new pavilion for “well-off patients,” i.e., those who could pay.

During the following period, leading up to the official “fascistification” of the IRC, several updates concerning Valdoltra by General Prof. Cesare Baduel are indicated in the periodic publications of the Central Committee⁽⁴²⁾ in Rome.

In the broad context of the fight against tuberculosis, the data given here confirm the therapeutic effectiveness of the Istrian facility (which at this time contained 240 beds)⁽⁴³⁾, with a still greater success rate than that reported by Comisso - 68% in serious cases. The attached photographic documentation⁽⁴⁴⁾ further shows that the Ospizio now accepted adult patients (mostly war invalids), who at the very least made use of the possibilities for heliotherapy on the facility's beach.

The years immediately following saw the “fascistification” of the IRC. Yet Valdoltra's budget deficit increased significantly, with expenditures outrunning revenues by about a million lire. The commissioner overseeing the Ospizio attributed the shortfall mainly to the reception and treatment of adult patients⁽⁴⁵⁾. For this reason, a formal funding request was made to the *Opera nazionale per la protezione della maternità e dell'infanzia* (“National Association for the Protection of Maternity and Infancy”); at the same time, the facility promised to reorganize itself by focusing on treating infants, to increase its charges for admittance and hospitalization, and also to seek the involvement of other state agencies. A propagandistic brochure issued by the Trieste Committee in 1928 in effect shows that the *Opera* quickly allocated 700,000 lire to support Valdoltra, which was now able to guarantee protected educational activities⁽⁴⁶⁾ for its young patients over the mid- and long-term, in addition to its well-known sanitary and/or rehabilitative services. It was presumably in this same period of innovation that a lengthy and detailed regulation⁽⁴⁷⁾ was drafted for the recruitment and management of nurses and service personnel at the institute: here the type of total - or near total - commitment required of these staff members was clearly stated. In particular, the normal work schedule⁽⁴⁸⁾ was stipulated at 60 hours per week for nurses (who were required⁽⁴⁰⁾ to be unmarried or “widowed without children”), 54 hours for service personnel (caretakers, kitchen staff, laundry workers, etc.) and 48 hours for manual workers (drivers, mechanics, bricklayers, gardeners, etc.).

As we have already seen, the hospital facility of Valdoltra continued operating at full speed until the end of World War II, reaching a capacity of 600 beds, when it was requisitioned by the Yugoslav troops of Marshall Tito. Following the signing of the Paris Peace Treaty on 10 February 1947, Tito's supporters completely ransacked it, taking even the glass of the window panes⁽⁴⁹⁾. Together with the rest of the seaboard of Capodistria and of northern Istria as far as

the River Quieto, the village of Valdoltra was then subject to the harsh administration of the Yugoslav military from 1945 to 1954, when it was replaced by civilian oversight in the wake of the London Memorandum of 5 October⁽⁵⁰⁾; Italian sovereignty over these territories officially ended with the Treaty of Osimo, signed on 10 November 1975.

History of the Provincial Committee of Pola (Pula) through the minutes of its Board of Directors (1921-1939)

Beginning on 27 January 1921, just over two months after the signing of the Treaty of Rapallo between Italy and Yugoslavia⁽⁵¹⁾ a preparatory commission was nominated to create a Red Cross committee in Pola⁽⁵²⁾, upon the initiative of the royal commissioner for this municipality, Cav. Luigi Amelotti. This commission met at the town hall of Pola⁽⁵³⁾. After several months of intensive work, which managed to collect 750 sponsors and to clear the necessary bureaucratic hurdles in Rome, the Central Committee announced that the new committee had been officially established "by document no. 31481 of 2 June 1921." The first Board of Directors, headed by Amelotti, was nominated on 19 July 1921 and remained in office until 21 December 1922.

On that date, new elections were held to replace several members, including Amelotti, who had moved to another city. The results favored "Commander Dr. Domenico Stanich, royal notary⁽⁵⁴⁾". During this period and until June 1924, the Pola Committee was exclusively concerned with raising funds, which upon approval of the Central Committee were in part spent on works of public charity and in part deposited at the local "Civic Savings Bank." One thousand lire were allocated to the vacation colony in Stoia. Subsequently, a subscription in favor of earthquake victims in Japan raised L. 2,232.35, which was sent to the Central Committee. The balance sheet for 1923 closed with net assets of L. 32,917.84, deposited at the above-mentioned bank. By 18 June 1924, the Pola Committee could count 13 permanent and 500 temporary members; within its administrative district, the Pisino Subcommittee and 54 other delegations were subordinate to it. Elections for the renewal of the Board of Directors and the presidency, which took place every three years, were regularly held on 13 July 1924 and confirmed notary Stanich as president⁽⁵⁵⁾. Further efforts made over the next few months focused on publicity to increase the number of members; these initiatives

included organizing a New Year's Eve party as well as dances. In the new year, the district administered by the Pola Committee was expanded: in February 1925, it came to include the Capodistria Subcommittee (in addition to that of Pisino) and the 11 delegations subordinate to these two subcommittees, in addition to the 35 delegations directly dependent on it. In addition, thanks above all to the general funds of the former Austrian Red Cross (ARC) and money collected through its own fundraising activities, the overall resources that the Pola Committee theoretically controlled were noteworthy. These were itemized as follows:

Funds of the Pola IRC Committee: L. 40,990.42; Dues of permanent members: L. 2,844.61; Funds of the former Austrian Red Cross: L. 379,458.18; Vacation colony branch: L. 19,997.24. Total L.443,290.45⁽⁵⁶⁾.

On the basis of this sound financial standing, in the ensuing months the Pola Committee finished work on the establishment of a branch of the Red Cross Youth - which would boast a total of 1,662 members - decided on the distribution of restorative medicines to poor persons afflicted with malaria from the Canfanaro Delegation, and managed to keep the vacation colony of Stoia open during the summer months as well, which was used by 466 children⁽⁵⁷⁾.

In addition to confirming the utility of operations already in existence at this colony, the years 1926 and 1927 saw significant contributions by the Pola Committee to the anti-tuberculosis consortium of Istria and its central organization in Rome, for a total of L. 20,000. At the same time, though, its access to the funds of the former ARC was substantially reduced: in order to maintain an adequate level of funding for the *Ospizio Marino di Valdoltra*, the Central Committee in Rome was in fact forced to redirect a large part of the Habsburg "bequest" to the Trieste Committee, leaving Pola an annual income of L. 11,000⁽⁵⁸⁾, rather than the more than L. 15,000 that it claimed.

In addition, the "poor functioning" of the Pisino Subcommittee was noted, such that from 1 January 1927 all its delegations came under the direction of Pola. Partial compensation for the notable reduction of ARC funds was made through the involvement of the Committee in collecting paper pulp, which would remain a source of income in the following years, together with the sale of IRC calendars. At the same time, with a unanimously approved nominal subscription of L. 30,000 to the bond known as the

prestito del Littorio, the Pola Committee's dependence on the fascist regime was in effect sealed⁽⁵⁹⁾.

No minutes have come down to us for the year 1928. For the following year, by contrast, we have evidence of three meetings: the two most significant developments from these sessions concern the unanimous decision to establish a girls' preparatory section for the foundation of a school for Nurse Volunteers, and the resignation of President Stanich for health reasons and his replacement by Dr. Umberto Sbisà, who was nominated in Rome⁽⁶⁰⁾. The school for Nurse Volunteers became active in 1930; in that same year, an emergency room service was instituted in the city with IRC ambulances. In addition, a project for a "sanatorium for frail children" on the slopes of Monte Maggiore was begun. Finally, new provincial delegates were nominated, including one at Lussinpiccolo, the major town on the island of Lussino⁽⁶¹⁾.

During the period of Sbisà's presidency (which lasted until February 1934), we have minutes for eight other meetings of the Board of Directors, which report the growth of the girls' preparatory section and of the school for Nurse Volunteers; the latter was also authorized to hold specialization courses⁽⁶²⁾ for two-year graduates. The provincial anti-tubercular and anti-malarial units were strengthened, with new ones also opened in the areas surrounding the reclaimed lands of the River Quieto⁽⁶³⁾. With various contributions, including one from the Central Committee, the budget of the Pola Committee was balanced; finally, at the beginning of 1934, a supervisor for the organization of anti-gas defense was appointed⁽⁶⁴⁾. In the final meeting⁽⁶⁵⁾ of 1934, lawyer Iginio Vernier (formerly vice president) became the new president of the Pola Committee; he served in this position until at least 27 November 1939, the date of the last meeting for which minutes are available.

Between 1935 and 1939, minutes from ten meetings of the Board of Directors were drafted. The new initiative that emerged from those of 1935 was the participation of the Pola IRC in anti-aircraft defense exercises⁽⁶⁶⁾. In 1936, a Board member left to volunteer for the war in East Africa. Beyond the satisfactory performance of the school for Nurse Volunteers (16 students in that year), the capillary "fascistification" of the Association continued with the official institution of courses for *Infermiere Familiari Fasciste* ("fascist family nurses"), which counted more than 30 enrolled students. In that period, Nurse Volunteers undertook a collection of woolen clothing to aid Italian soldiers in East Africa⁽⁶⁷⁾.

In both meetings of 1937, the Board of Directors mentioned two Nurse Volunteers, Maria Kraizar and Eleonora Oberdorfer, praising them for their work of assistance aboard hospital ships to the "valorous wounded" of Italian forces in East Africa and Spain⁽⁶⁸⁾. In the same year, a service automobile of the municipality of Pola (a FIAT 524) was transformed into an ambulance to transport infectious patients, at the expense of the city's IRC Committee.

Upon authorization of the Central Committee in Rome, the jurisdictions of the Capodistria and Pisino subcommittees were reduced and their delegates replaced, in light of their long history of poor performance: that of Capodistria was confined to the borders of its township, while Pisino, though similarly reduced, was still responsible for the municipality of Bogliuno. By contrast, the Provincial Committee of Pola awarded the bronze medal to the representative of the Visinada Delegation, "*camerata Fragi-aco*," who during the year managed to enroll 58 new members for the IRC⁽⁶⁹⁾ Meetings in 1938 on the whole confirmed the initiatives of the previous year⁽⁷⁰⁾. Activity regarding assistance to infants at the sanitorium in Enego was intensified, as the project to build a permanent one below Monte Maggiore had been abandoned. In addition, with a subscription of 20 lire⁽⁷¹⁾, Dr. Geppino Micheletti was nominated⁽⁷²⁾ as one of the members to contribute to honoring the memory of Ortensio Depi, the noted lead surgeon of the "Santorio Santorio" hospital who had recently died; Micheletti would become the hero of care operations for the wounded of the Vergarolla massacre, in 1946. The "fascistification" of the Pola Provincial Committee proceeded: upon the initiative of the provincial presidency of the *Gioventù Italiana del Littorio* (GIL), a school for "assistant sports nurses" was opened, with 12 Committee nurses enrolling; in addition, the fascist confederations of industrialists and farmers became permanent members of the same Committee⁽⁷³⁾. The salient facts of the last two meetings⁽⁷⁴⁾ for which minutes were published in 1939 regard the suppression of the still inoperative Pisino Subcommittee and its relegation to the status of delegation, subordinate to the Pola Provincial Committee, which therefore also took control of municipality of Bogliuno. Work on anti-aircraft medical defense intensified, while the overall number⁽⁷⁵⁾ of members on 31 December 1938 was 573 (including 31 permanent and 44 collective memberships). Much of the Committee's revenues continued to come from the sale of paper pulp and IRC calendars. The last minutes unfortunately reveal that

the “fascistification” of the Committee had by then been complete: “With regard to the racial provisions adopted by the regime, Mrs. Greta Tripodi had to be relieved of her duties as Nurse Volunteer”⁽⁷⁶⁾. The manic, destructive involvement of Italy in the Second World War was about to begin. As is known, the war would turn out to be fatal for Pola and Istria, Fiume and Zara, etc., in other words, for most of the Italian lands of the eastern Adriatic.

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- 4) ONAIR, Op. cit., p. 4.
- 5) Central Committee, Op. cit., p. 14.
- 6) ONAIR, Op. cit., p. 4.
- 7) ONAIR, Op. cit., p.5
- 8) Ibidem.
- 9) ONAIR, Op. cit., p. 6.
- 10) ONAIR, Op. cit., p. 7.
- 11) Ibidem.
- 12) This small town, just over a dozen kilometers from Trieste, currently forms part of the Slovenian Karst.
- 13) ONAIR, Op. cit., p. 8.
- 14) Ibidem.
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- 28) Comisso E., Op. cit., Rome 1923, p. 8.
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- 47) FSCCRIT, Regolamento per il personale d'infermeria e di servizio Valdoltra. Binder 84. These are 15 typewritten pages contained in a heavy cardboard file, which in fact lacks a precise date. The chronological order of the consulted documents in the file, both before and after the Regolamento, leads us to assume dates between 1927 and 1928.
- 48) FSCCRIT, Op. cit., pp. 4-14.
- 49) Archivio Storico Diplomatico (ASD: “Diplomatic Historical Archive”), Fonogramma del Comitato Centrale della Croce Rossa Italiana all'Ufficio del Ministero degli Esteri, Roma 19/02/1947. Political Affairs Collection 1947, envelope 17, file 4.
- 50) This agreement was made between Italy, the United Kingdom, the United States and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia on 5 October 1954 in the British capital. It sanctioned the end of the “Free Territory of Trieste,” which had been established by the Paris Peace Treaty of 1947. In particular, zone A, with the city of Trieste, was transferred from the Anglo-American military administration to the Italian civilian authorities, while zone B (northern Istria) was transferred from the military administration to the Yugoslav civilian authorities.
- 51) The treaty was signed on 12 November 1920 by the governments of the Kingdom of Italy and the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes. By this treaty, Italian sovereignty and administration were officially recognized over the Julian territories of Gorizia, Trieste, Pola (with the entire Istrian peninsula) as well as over the Dalmatian city of Zara. After World War II, Pola and Zara (to-

- gether with Fiume and the Carnaro islands) were ceded by Italy to the new Yugoslav state of Tito by the Treaty of Paris of 10 February 1947.
- 52) FSCCRIT, 1921-1939 Verbali del Consiglio Direttivo CRI Comitato Provinciale di Pola dall'atto costitutivo in poi, "Relazione sull'attività svolta dal Comitato di Pola della C.R.I. dal giorno di costituzione ad oggi", in the minutes of the meeting of 18 June 1924, binder 83, attached page.
 - 53) FSCCRIT, Op. cit., minutes of the meeting of 27 January 1921, binder 83, page 1.
 - 54) FSCCRIT, Op. cit., "Relazione sull'attività svolta dal Comitato di Pola della C.R.I. dal giorno di costituzione ad oggi", in the minutes of the meeting of 18 June 1924, binder 83, attached page.
 - 55) FSCCRIT, Op. cit., minutes of the meeting of 18 August 1924, binder 83, pages 1-3.
 - 56) FSCCRIT, Op. cit., minutes of the meeting of 6 February 1925, binder 83, pages 1-5.
 - 57) FSCCRIT, Op. cit., minutes of the meeting of 16 October 1925, binder 83, pages 1-5.
 - 58) FSCCRIT, Op. cit., minutes of the meeting of 23 October 1926, binder 83, pages 1,2.
 - 59) FSCCRIT, Op. cit., minutes of the meeting of 14 January 1927, binder 83, pages 1-5.
 - 60) FSCCRIT, Op. cit., minutes of the meetings of 10 February and 16 August 1929; minutes of the meeting of 4 December 1929, binder 83, page 1.
 - 61) FSCCRIT, Op. cit., minutes of the meeting of 25 September 1930, binder 83, pages 1,2.
 - 62) FSCCRIT, Op. cit., minutes of the meeting of 11 March 1933, binder 83, page 1.
 - 63) FSCCRIT, Op. cit., minutes of the meeting of 24 October 1932, binder 83, page 2.
 - 64) FSCCRIT, Op. cit., minutes of the meeting of 27 February 1934, binder 83, page 1.
 - 65) FSCCRIT, Op. cit., minutes of the meeting of 22 December 1934, binder 83, pages 1-5.
 - 66) FSCCRIT, Op. cit., minutes of the meetings of 22 February and 22 October 1935, binder 83.
 - 67) FSCCRIT, Op. cit., minutes of the meeting of 20 October 1936, binder 83, pages 1-4.
 - 68) FSCCRIT, Op. cit., minutes of the meetings of 25 February and 25 November 1937, binder 83.
 - 69) FSCCRIT, Op. cit., minutes of the meeting of 25 November 1937, binder 83, pages 1-7.
 - 70) FSCCRIT, Op. cit., minutes of the meetings of 3 June and 24 October 1938, binder 83.
 - 71) FSCCRIT, Op. cit., minutes of the meeting of 3 June 1938, binder 83, pages 1-8.
 - 72) Vanni D., Geppino Micheletti (1905-1961): una biografia in itinere." *Biografie Mediche*", 2014, no. 3, pp. 28-36.
 - 73) FSCCRIT, Op. cit., minutes of the meeting of 24 October 1938, binder 83, pages 1-5.
 - 74) FSCCRIT, Op. cit., minutes of the meetings of 15 May and 27 November, binder 83.
 - 75) FSCCRIT, Op. cit., minutes of the meeting of 15 May 1939, binder 83, pages 1-4.
 - 76) FSCCRIT, Op. cit., minutes of the meeting of 27 November 1939, binder 83, pages 1-2.

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