



Livorno, the Folgore remembers the Fallen of Meloria

Published on 07/11/2025

On the **54th anniversary of the tragedy of Meloria**, the Paratroopers Brigade “Folgore” renewed in Livorno the memory of the soldiers who disappeared on **November 9, 1971: 46 paratroopers** of the **6th Company “Grifi” of the 187th Regiment** and **6 aviators of the Royal Air Force**. A wound never healed that continues to unite **Italy and the United Kingdom**.

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The rendering of honors at the Meloria shallows - Copyright Italian Army

A memory that unites generations

The day opened at the **Cimitero della Cigna** with the **laying of a laurel wreath** at the **War Memorial** and the rendering of military honors. The **Prefect of Livorno, Dr. Giancarlo Dionisi**, and the **Commander of the 187th Paratroopers Regiment “Folgore”, Col. Girolamo Bufi**, renewed the sentiment of gratitude towards the Fallen, their families, and those

who were involved in the complex search and recovery operations. Also present at the ceremony were the **Commander of the Paratroopers Brigade “Folgore”, Brigadier General Federico Bernacca**, and the **ANPd’I** with the **National President, Gen. C.A. (res.) Marco Bertolini**.

The **brotherhood in arms** and the relationship of **cooperation** with British colleagues were recalled as the moral legacy of that tragedy.

Inside the **“Vannucci” barracks**, headquarters of the 187th, a **Holy Mass** was celebrated in suffrage of the paratroopers and aviators who perished: a moment of reflection that reaffirmed the values of **courage, discipline, and esprit de corps** inherent to the **Folgore**.

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The civil and military authorities present at the ceremony - Copyright Italian Army

The Banditella monument in the name of example

At the **Banditella monument**, the solemn ceremony with **laying of a wreath** remembered, with deep emotion, the sacrifice of **Sgt. Maj. Giannino Caria**, a diver of the **9th Saboteur Battalion**, who fell while attempting to recover the bodies of the missing soldiers.

His act, performed in the **silence of duty**, has become a **symbol of selflessness and dedication**.

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The ceremony at the Banditella monument with historical uniforms - Copyright Italian Army

The sea as an altar of memory

The commemorations concluded with the **laying of a wreath at sea**, at the point of the tragic impact. A sober and powerful rite, as a testament to a **living memory** that binds **past and present** and entrusts the sea with the task of forever guarding the names and stories of those young men.

The **Meloria disaster** remains an indelible page in the history of the **Folgore**.

But it is also a **pact of responsibility**: to transform pain into **service**, absence into **commitment**, memory into **shared identity**. Over fifty years later, today's paratroopers continue to **honor those Fallen** with their daily example, upholding the values that make the

Folgore a **symbol of prestige and honor** for the **Italian Army**.