EDIZIONE STRAORDINARIA

IL TELEGRAFO

TERRIBILE SCIAGURA STAMANE ALL'ALBA

PRECIPITA

ALLA MELORIA AEREO

CON 46 PARACADUTISTI

DELLA BRIGATA DI LIVORNO

TUTTI MORTI - DECEDUTI ANCHE 7 INGLESI

Tomorrow Livorno Remembers the Victims of Meloria: the Program of the 54th Anniversary

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Thursday, November 6, 2025 Livorno gathers in remembrance of the **paratroopers of the Folgore** and the British crew who perished in the **Meloria air disaster**. The ceremonies, promoted by the **Command of the 187th Paratrooper Regiment "Folgore"**, will be open to the public and will see the participation of civil and military authorities along with the families of the Fallen.

The Historical Event

On **November 9, 1971**, within the framework of the large NATO exercise ***Cold Stream***, **396 paratroopers** of the **"Folgore" Brigade** were embarked on **10 aircraft** (9 **C-130** and one **HS Andover**) taking off from **Pisa-San Giusto** with takeoffs staggered every **15 seconds**, tactical low-altitude flight, and airdrop in **CARP** mode **(Calculated Air Release Point)** to reduce the

dispersion of Paratroopers on the ground and reorganization times.

On the night between **November 8 and 9, 1971**, while the formation was heading towards the drop zone of **Villacidro** (Sardinia), the aircraft identified as **“Gesso 4”** suddenly crashed into the waters of the **Secche della Meloria**: **46 Italian paratroopers** (6th company “Grifi” of the **2nd btg. “Tarquinia”**) and **6 British airmen** perished.

The searches, started immediately, recovered large sections of the wreckage, but **no mayday** was ever recorded; the inquiry commission, while hypothesizing a climb with tail impact on the water, **could not ascertain the cause with certainty**.

To that list of Fallen was added on November 18 also **Sergeant Major Giannino Caria, of the Paratrooper Saboteur Battalion,** who lost his life during attempts to recover the bodies.

In total, the victims were **53**. A tragedy that struck at the heart of the Folgore, engaged in a **massive and modern** training operation for tactics and procedures, conceived during the **Cold War** for the readiness of the Atlantic Alliance.

The Ceremony of November 6 (tomorrow)

- **8:30 AM – Gathering** at the **Municipal Cemetery La Cigna (Lupi)**, via don Aldo Mei 19.
- **9:00 AM – Ceremony at the Cemetery**: speeches by authorities, laying of a wreath, honors rendered, **Paratrooper's Prayer** and **reading of the names of the Fallen**. Among others, the **Prefect Giancarlo Dionisi**, the **Commander of the 187th Regiment, Col. Girolamo Bufi**, representatives of the **Naval Academy** and the **Military Garrison** will attend. For the Municipal Administration, **Councilor Rocco Garufo** will be present.
- **10:00 AM – Holy Mass** in the **Chapel of St. Michael the Archangel** at **Vannucci Barracks** (via dell’Ardenza).
- **11:30 AM – Commemoration at the Monument to the Fallen of Meloria**, via **Dino Provenzal** (Banditella area, at the end of **piazzale Borrani**), with the laying of a wreath.

Sea Airdrop and Moment at the Tragedy Site

- **12:00 PM – Sea Airdrop** of the paratroopers of the **187th “Folgore”** in the waters in front of the “**Gabbiano**” in **Tre Ponti** (viale di Antignano).

*In case of adverse weather, the airdrop will be replaced by an **aerial flyover**.*

- **Afternoon – Laying of a wreath at sea** at the **Secche della Meloria**. The boat, provided by the company **Neri Group**, will be reserved for a delegation of **relatives of the Victims**.

Traffic Modifications

To ensure the safe conduct of the ceremonies, **Thursday, November 6** in Livorno, the following measures are planned (municipal ordinance no. 8634/2025):

- **7:00–10:00 AM** – **No parking with removal** on the entire square of **via don Aldo Mei** in front of the entrance to the La Cigna Cemetery, with maintenance of spaces for motorcycles and vehicles serving people with disabilities.
- **7:00 AM–12:00 PM** – **No parking with removal** in **via Dino Provenzal** for **50 meters** before and after the Monument; **no parking** also on **piazzale Borrani** (south and north side roadway).
- **11:00 AM–12:00 PM** (for the strictly necessary time) – **No transit** in the section of **via Dino Provenzal** between **via Silvestro Lega** and **via Carlo Catanzaro**, and in **piazza Borrani**. Traffic will be managed by **Municipal Police**.
- **10:00 AM–2:00 PM** – **Military vehicles** engaged for the airdrop may **transit and park** on the **service road of viale Italia** in front of the **Rotonda di Ardenza**.

News link: https://www.comune.livorno.it/it/news/giovedi-6-novembre-le-cerimonie-per-il-54-anniversario-della-tragedia-della-meloria