

*Che strano ragazzo. Dalla sacca del Don
al carcere repubblicano per la nostra Italia*

First published by
Aviani & Aviani editori, Udine 2013

English translation

Simonetta Caporale, Chris Gilmour

Pascolo, Ferdinando

An unusual young man : the road to Italy. From the retreat from Russia to the rebirth
of democracy / Ferdinando Pascolo 'Silla'. – Udine : Forum, 2019.

(Tracce : itinerari di ricerca)

Traduzione di: Che strano ragazzo

Traduzione di Simonetta Caporale, Chris Gilmour

ISBN 978-88-3283-135-1

1. Guerra mondiale 1939-1945 - Memorie

940.53092 (WebDewey 2019) SECONDA GUERRA MONDIALE, 1939-1945. Persone

Scheda catalografica a cura del Sistema bibliotecario dell'Università degli studi di Udine

CONTENTS

Preface by <i>Toni Capuozzo</i>	p.	9
Greeting from the XXI Rettore of the Sacratio di Redipuglia by <i>Sigismondo Schiavone</i>	»	11
Regarding the Unification of Italy and the Constitution by <i>Paolo Pascolo</i>	»	13
Introduction	»	17
Childhood		
A family from Gemona del Friuli	»	21
From Strassoldo to the recruitment centre	»	24
The threat	»	26
Minestrone	»	28
Night in a hotel	»	30
From Trento to Gorizia, dodging Albania	»	34
Inspection	»	38
From the opening act to the Russian front	»	42
Russia		
Commander Polato	»	47
Baking bread	»	49
Lessons in survival	»	51
Russians and Italians	»	53

Traveling with a friend	»	55
Survival of the mind	»	59
Romanians and my duel with a plane	»	63
Night in the steppe	»	66
A running race	»	72
The retreat	»	74
Three gold coins	»	79
The commander's safe box	»	80
Dnepropetrovsk	»	84
Home	»	89

Still a soldier, but in Italy

In Bologna	»	95
8 September 1943	»	98

Silla

Partisan	»	103
A bet	»	106
In action	»	108
To Milan on business	»	111
Procurement	»	113
A wounded partisan	»	118
An unusual young man	»	119
At the fascist Federal Secretary's Office	»	125
My brothers Tite and Romano	»	128
Dancing, my true passion	»	131
The trial	»	134
Behind bars	»	139
Forced to escape	»	145
Nitro-glycerine	»	146
Three are not enough	»	148
The Yugoslav Partisans	»	150
Silla in Gemona del Friuli	»	153
Professor De Anna	»	154
The worst act	»	156
Giacomo Leopardi and the English	»	158

A change of life

Rehabilitated	»	163
The choice	»	164
Geno	»	166

Afterword

by <i>Alberto Felice De Toni</i>	»	170
----------------------------------	---	-----