



PIRATE ECONOMY

The government of Fiume did not get its revenues from taxes and duties, but from the loot of the *Uscocchi* and donations from generous supporters, both anonymous and illustrious. Commemorating the feats of the *Uscocchi*, 16th century pirates of the Balkans, D'Annunzio used the same name for his legionnaires, who were ready for anything and specialized in **surprise attacks by sea and land**.¹

THE PERSIA AFFAIR

On October 10, 1919 the Italian cargo ship *Persia* was commandeered and sailed to Fiume. The *Persia* was a unique prize, for it had been heavily laden with arms and munitions for the **White Army** in Russia and was to have sailed to Vladivostok for use in the war **against the Bolsheviks**. The maritime worker's union, the *Federazione della gente di mare*, after vainly attempting to convince the government not to supply the **reactionary Russian forces** with Italian arms, had its men take command of the ship in the straits of Messina and set a course for **D'Annunzio's Holocaust City**. No less than thirteen tons of military supplies thus found their way into the warehouses of the Command, and the city welcomed Captain Giuseppe Giulietti and the crew of the *Persia* with a celebration on the evening of the fourteenth.

Giulietti was the leader of the *gente di mare*, and he had given the order to the **hijacking** of the ship to Fiume. For him, the manoeuvre served not only to demonstrate his organization's opposition to the supplying of the White Army but also to pressure the government into making various concessions to the maritime workers.²

At the time the press reported the dynamics of the action with many **inaccuracies**, so to shed light on events Captain Giulietti had fliers printed with the following statement:

[...]The means that were to be used to strive for the **freedom and redemption of the Russian people** will be used to fight for the **freedom and redemption of the people of Fiume**. [...] We are not working for any particular man in government, but for an idea of **human justice** that makes us love our neighbours as we love ourselves, without distinctions of nationality and class. To the revolutionaries in name only, to sectarians on all sides, and to those sad individuals who have been stupidly attacking our action in newspapers of a different bias, we show the steamship *Persia* moored in the port of Fiume, flying the maritime federal flag. In time, when the **ensorship** ceases, we will provide a full account of events, indicating for the **admiration of the proletariat** the names of the brave companions who wrote a triumphant page of maritime history on board the *Persia*.³

Giuseppe Giulietti

MUTINEERS BRING ARMS TO AID FIUME

Sailors Force Italian Ship Captain to Divert Supplies Intended for Kolchak.

30,000 RIFLES IN THE CARGO

FIUME, Oct. 11. (Associated Press.)—The steamer *Persia*, bound from Genoa for the Far East with a cargo of 30,000 rifles, 10,000,000 cartridges, twenty batteries of mountain guns, and two heavy guns for the troops operating against the Bolsheviks, has arrived at Fiume. The crew mutinied in the Mediterranean and forced the Captain to take the steamer into Fiume.

This is the second "pirate" ship to reach Fiume within a week, the first being the steamer *Frederick Beck*, of 1,500 tons, with a cargo of general merchandise.

The New York Times
New York, 12 October 1919

1. Lorenza Gasparoli, "Alla festa della rivoluzione", critical review of the book by Claudia Salaris, *Alla festa della rivoluzione. Artisti e libertari con D'Annunzio a Fiume*, Bologna, Il Mulino, 2002. Source: http://www.questotrentino.it/2002/22/festa_rivoluzione.htm

2. Michael Arthur Ledeen, *D'Annunzio: The First Duce*, Piscataway, NJ, Transaction Publishers, 2002, p. 116.

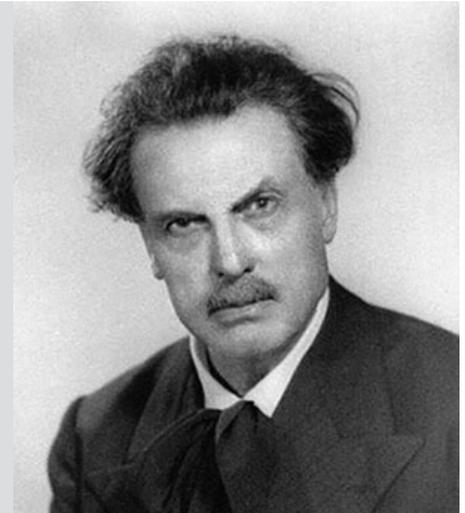
3. Ferdinando Gerra, *L'impresa di Fiume*, Milano, Longanesi, 1974, pp. 151-153.

Giuseppe Giulietti (1879 – 1953)

Giuseppe Giulietti, born into the trade, devoted his life to seafaring. He joined the socialist party and wrote for the publication *Lavoratore del mare* and for the weekly anti-military publication *La Pace*.

Captain and president of the *Associazione Lavoratori del Mare* (Association of Sea Workers), he was in contact with D'Annunzio during the Fiume episode. He was famous for having boarded the merchant ship *Persia* as it was taking arms to the White Army of counter-revolutionaries in Russia. During the Fiume episode he sought contacts for the march on Rome, to take power with opposite aims to those of Mussolini.⁴

Giuseppe Giulietti.



TARANTO

D'ANNUNZIO SEIZES SHIP AND MONEY

Vessel with Supplies and Pay
for Troops in Albania Goes
to Fiume Instead.

2,000,000 LIRE ON BOARD

Poet-Dictator Was in Desperate
Straits for Lack of Funds
for His Army.

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Special Cable to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

MILAN, Jan. 28.—A further surprising development is reported in the Fiume affair.

The Rome Government had dispatched the steamship *Taranto* to San Giovanni di Medua, laden with stores for the Italian army of occupation in Albania. Instead of putting into that port the vessel headed straight for Fiume, where d'Annunzio proceeded to seize not only the cargo but also 2,000,000 lire, which the Italian War Office had consigned to the Captain for payment of the Albanian troops.

D'Annunzio justified his act of sequestration on the ground of extreme necessity, as his satellites were clamoring for their hire.

ARRESTED FOR SEIZING GOLD TO AID D'ANNUNZIO

Two Italian Officers Charged
with Capturing Ship with
\$400,000 in Cash.

BARI, Italy, Feb. 4.—Naval Lieutenant Augusto Tesi and Giovanni Trenten, a naval engineer, have been arrested at Brindisi for having tried to induce the commander of an Italian submarine to take his craft to Fiume. They are also accused of having captured and taken to Fiume the steamer *Taranto*, which was carrying about 2,000,000 lire in gold destined for Italian troops in Albania. A beautiful woman, aged 20 years, was also arrested, and is believed to have been their accomplice.

Documents were found on the two men seeming to indicate their responsibility for the alleged crimes.

The New York Times
New York, 29 January 1920.

The New York Times
New York, 7 February 1920.

4. Sources: <http://digilander.libero.it/monari/spec/giulietti.714.html>
<http://www.webalice.it/antoniomontanari1/arch.2004/arch2/ilrimino/ilrimino84.706.html#giulietti>
http://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Impresa_di_Fiume#cite_note-17

ORSINI**D'ANNUNZIO SEIZES
TWO MORE VESSELS**

TRIESTE, Feb. 3.—Gabriele d'Annunzio, Italian insurgent leader at Fiume, has seized the torpedo boat Orsini and the auxiliary ship Citta di Roma, bound from Ancona to Pola with munitions and foodstuffs for the Italian naval forces. The vessels were brought into Fiume yesterday.

The New York Times
New York, 4 February 1920

RACCHIA**D'ANNUNZIO'S FORCES
SEIZE ITALIAN WARSHIP**

*Insurgents, Masquerading as
Trainmen, Also Take Train
Laden with Foodstuffs*

TRIESTE, Feb. 7.—The forces of Gabriele d'Annunzio, the Italian insurgent leader at Fiume, have seized the destroyer Carlo Alberto Racchia. The destroyer was on the way from Brindisi to Pola when taken.

A train of foodstuffs has been seized at St. Pietro del Carso by d'Annunzio volunteers, masquerading as railroad engineers.

The New York Times
New York, 8 February 1920

BARO FEJERVARY

TRIESTE, May 8.—Captain Gabriele d'Annunzio today captured the Italian steamship Baro Fejervary, bound from Trieste to Catania with a cargo of grain. The poet dispatched two anti-submarine craft to make the capture, which occurred in Quarnero Bay. The captain of the ship was ordered to proceed to Fiume.

The New York Times
New York, 9 May 1920.

COGNE**D'Annunzio Will Release Ship
for Loan of 200,000,000 Lire**

LONDON, Sept. 12.—A Fiume dispatch received in Rome says Gabriele d'Annunzio has informed the Italian Government that he will release the American steamer Cogne on condition that a loan of 200,000,000 lire is granted to Fiume, says a dispatch to the Central News from Rome.

The New York Times
New York, 13 September 1920.

THREATENS D'ANNUNZIO.

**Giolitti Demands Immediate Release
of Seized Ship.**

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Special Cable to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

MILAN, Sept. 23.—The Government has notified d'Annunzio that the transatlantic liner Cogne, whose seizure with a cargo valued at over £1,500,000 took place at the beginning of September, must be immediately and unconditionally surrendered, because the bulk of its merchandise is the property of foreign firms.

Failing compliance, Premier Giolitti threatens a blockade of Fiume and other reprisals.

The New York Times
New York, 24 September 1920.

APPEAL TO D'ANNUNZIO.

**Italians in Argentina Ask Him to
Free Seized Ship.**

BUENOS AIRES, Oct. 9.—The Italian Chamber of Commerce here has cabled direct to Gabriele d'Annunzio asking the liberation of the steamer Cogne, which, with a valuable cargo destined for Buenos Aires, was recently seized by adherents of d'Annunzio and taken to Fiume. The Chamber asks the poet to release the ship "in consideration of the sympathy the Italian colony in Argentina always has shown his cause."

Notwithstanding reports that d'Annunzio did not approve the vessel's seizure, the Chamber says, no action has been taken, nor has the Italian Government responded to a request for action which the Chamber sent on Sept. 18.

The New York Times
New York, 10 October 1920.

FINANCIAL AID**SEND MONEY TO D'ANNUNZIO.**

**Italians in South America Clamor
for Annexation of Fiume.**

ROME, Oct. 2.—A dispatch to the *Giornale d'Italia* from Fiume states that d'Annunzio has received a contribution of 500,000 lire from Italians at Sao Paulo, Brazil. A son of former Premier Orlando, a cavalry lieutenant, has arrived at Fiume, bringing to d'Annunzio an offer of 100,000 lire.

The New York Times
New York, 4 October 1919.

D'ANNUNZIO'S GOODS TAKEN

**Giolitti Will Prosecute Buyers of
Cargo, He Warns.**

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Special Cable to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

MILAN, Oct. 26.—Premier Giolitti issued a warning that in view of d'Annunzio's agreement to sell the cargo of the transatlantic liner Cogne which he lately captured in a piratic adventure, the Italian Government has resolved to prosecute all buyers whether in Italy or abroad as receivers of stolen goods.

The ship's cargo was largely Swiss property and valued at about £1,500,000.

The New York Times
New York, 29 October 1920.

BRAZILIAN FIRMS PROTEST.

**Seek Indemnity for d'Annunzio's
Seizure of Cogne's Cargo.**

RIO DE JANEIRO, Nov. 7.—Eight important firms of this city have protested to the Foreign Minister against the recent seizure at Fiume by Captain Gabriele d'Annunzio of the steamer Cogne, which carried a cargo consigned to Brazil. The Government is asked to make representations at Rome and to obtain indemnity for the goods seized when the ship was taken over by the d'Annunzian forces.

The New York Times
New York, 9 November 1920.

**D'ANNUNZIO CAST
AS ANGEL OF REVOLT****ALLEGED APPEAL TO LENIN**

**Socialist Paper Charges That the
Poet Sought Financial Aid from
Russian Communists.**

The New York Times
New York, 25 October 1920.

Fiume lived entirely thanks to its port. The **blockade** paralyzed the city, and death by anaemia is a slow one. Warehouses without goods in transit, dealers without work, sailors without ships, ship-owners bankrupted: everywhere work ground to a halt, and there were shortages. **Hunger and ill health** visited the poor, and the rich represented a temptation. The situation opened the way to shady dealings and inadmissible markets: **speculation**, deception, barter and swindling were rife. People had to try and make a living some way, by trading, or rather **profiteering**.⁵

ITALY TO STARVE OUT D'ANNUNZIO

Blockade of Fiume to Bring Insurgents to Terms—Slavs Cut Off Supplies.

The New York Times
New York, 18 September 1919.

BLOCKADE

FIUME PROTESTS AGAINST BLOCKADE

City Pinched for Food, National Council Says in Message to Foreign Minister Tittoni.

ROME, Oct. 3.—The National Council of Fiume has sent a message to Foreign Minister Tittoni protesting against the blockade of Fiume, declaring it is bringing about starvation in the city.

The New York Times
New York, 4 October 1919.

FIUME NOW GETS FOOD

Commercial Relations With the Outside World Has Begun.

FIUME, Nov. 12 (Associated Press).—Food is now passing to Fiume regularly over the railway from Trieste. Commercial relations with the outside world have begun. The opening of sea traffic, which is expected, has caused resumption of work in the harbor, as well as in some Fiume industries which have been tied up during the occupation by the forces of Gabriele d'Annunzio.

Efforts are being made by the d'Annunzio command to stabilize the currency. All old Hungarian money has been called in and money which does not bear the Fiume mark will be invalidated. Money has been pouring in from all parts of Italy. It has been used to pay the soldiers and to keep up the d'Annunzio organization. It also has been distributed to the unemployed to allay unrest.

Relaxation of the blockade by land and sea is expected to relieve the situation.

The New York Times
New York, 14 November 1919.

FIUME BLOCKADE ORDERED BY ITALY; FOOD IS SHUT OFF

STARVING CITY IN DESPAIR

The New York Times
New York, 1 March 1920.

THE OFFICE OF SURPRISE ATTACKS AND THE OFFICE OF FAKES

The situation of the soldiers in Fiume was by no means ideal. They were still wearing their summer uniforms, and the summary provisions that the army of legionnaires received came from the **raids** adroitly performed in the surrounding areas, by land and sea. [...]

There was an atmosphere of such **recklessness**, and such a love for anything adventurous, that a playful proposal from the Commander led to the creation of a particular Office, immediately dubbed the *UCM – Ufficio Colpi di Mano* (**Office of Surprise Attacks**). Alongside this another office was rapidly established. This was the *UF*, standing for *Ufficio Falsi* – **Office of Forgeries** – which, with the help of associated typesetters and consenting stamp manufacturers, managed to produce all kinds of forged papers, even passports, which were such **perfect copies** that they convinced even the shrewdest of inspectors. In charge of the *UCM* was the aviator Guido Keller, the Commander's histrionic, brilliant and loyal collaborator.⁶

5. Léon Kochnitzky, *La Quinta Stagione o I Centauri di Fiume*, Bologna, Zanichelli, 1922, p. 35.

6. Excerpted from *Mussolini e D'Annunzio. Il fotomontaggio sulla lettera di insulti del poeta*

Source: <http://www.ilpalo.com/storia/inviata-a-mailing-list-nuova-storia/mussolini-d-annunzio-fotomontaggio-lettera-insulti-poeta.htm>



Luigi Rizzo.

Luigi Rizzo (1887 – 1951)

Luigi Rizzo was an Italian admiral. In February 1918, together with Gabriele D'Annunzio and Costanzo Ciano, he took part in the "Beffa di Buccari", obtaining the fourth Silver Medal of Military Valour. On 10 June 1918, off the coast of Premuda, he attacked and sank the battleship Szent Istvan. For this mission he was decorated with the Cross of Knight of the Military Order. In 1919 he voluntarily joined the "Fiume cause". His personal prestige enabled him to do a great deal of propaganda within the navy and merchant navy, gave him insight into the moves of the Italian navy and enabled him to guarantee that supplies reached Fiume even when the city was entirely blockaded by land and sea.⁷

D'Annunzio's Men Kidnap a General

MILAN, Jan. 30.—General Nigra, commanding the Italian 49th Division, stationed in Istria, was kidnapped on Wednesday night by a party of Gabriele d'Annunzio's troops while motoring along the Austrian armistice line, according to the Secolo. The newspaper says he was taken to Fiume.

It was reported some time ago that General Nigra had aroused the wrath of d'Annunzio's bodyguard by criticising d'Annunzio as a pirate because of his seizing Fiume.

The New York Times
New York, 31 January 1920.

SETS GEN. NIGRA FREE IN DRAMATIC SCENE

D'Annunzio at Fiume Pays Elaborate Honors to Officer Kidnapped from Rome.

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Special Cable to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

MILAN, Feb. 12.—General Nigra has been released from captivity in Fiume under circumstances every whit as melodramatic as his kidnapping some time ago by d'Annunzian desperadoes.

At 9 o'clock last Monday morning superior officers, under instructions from d'Annunzio, presented themselves at the door of the palatial apartment wherein General Nigra was confined and politely bade him to step out. When the General appeared on the threshold a fanfare of trumpets resounded through the palace and he was conducted along a line of infantry standing at salute to the generalissimo's hall of state.

After some grandiloquent speechmaking and cordial handshaking d'Annunzio accompanied his hostage to a motor car which General Caviglia, Commander in Chief of the Venetian Army, had at the request of the Fiume command dispatched for the purpose.

All the troops belonging to the Arditti company which had carried out the capture lined up en route in full dress uniform to render the military salute to the departing general, who having been formally extradited and released was driven to Trieste.

The New York Times
New York, 13 February 1920.

GIRLS LURE SOLDIERS OVER TO D'ANNUNZIO

Elude Carabineers and Induce Whole Battalions to Join Fiume Army.

FIUME, Oct. 3, (Associated Press.)—Legions of Fiuman girls are enticing soldiers to desert from the ranks of the Italian Army forces stationed at Abbazia and other points on the armistice line in order to increase Gabriele d'Annunzio's army of occupation.

The girls leave Fiume hidden in motor trucks and are driven over a circuitous route in order to evade the watchfulness of the Carabineers who are stationed between the regular Italian Army and d'Annunzio's forces. When they leave the motor trucks at various posts the girls begin work quietly by talking to soldiers on the street, and the soldiers in turn convey their word to their comrades.

Sometimes through this method entire battalions have gone over to the Fiume army, among them one battalion of bersaglieri and another of machine gunners.

How long the girls will be able to continue this work is problematical for the Carabineer Guard is constantly being increased while the traffic regulations are becoming more and more strict.

In Fiume there is much gaiety and fraternizing between the soldiers and the townspeople. In the evening the streets are crowded with soldiers and girls walking arm in arm.

The New York Times
New York, 6 October 1919.

7. Sources: <http://www.marina.difesa.it/storia/movm/parte04/movm+18.asp>
http://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Luigi_Rizzo
http://www.giuseppemarchese.it/articoli/art_144/art144.html