

The History of NELLO SISTILLI, Montesilvano:

Sistilli Nello called to arms in 1940, was embarked on the destroyer "THUNDERBOLT" making numerous escort missions for the supply of troops and material to and from Libya.

The last convoy escort was fatal for our SISTILLI NELLO. In fact in early November 1941, the convoy called CONVEYORS BETA, formed by German and Italian ships: DUISBURG and SAN MARCO, the tank MINATLAN, the steamer SAGITTA, and the motorboat MARIA, left the port of Naples, loaded with supplies to be allocated in Libya. The direct stock was secured by C/T MAESTRALE, LIGHTNING, EURO, followed at a distance from C/T, of the 13th squadron, composed by GRANACHIERE, RIFLE, SHARPSHOOTERS and ALPINE.

That same night they went out, accompanied by C/T GRECALE, LIBECCIO, the Oriani ship steamers, RINA, CORRADO and the tank CONTE DI MISURATA, which, was joined by the convoy departed from Naples. Afterwards they reached the convoy, the cruisers TRENTO and TRIESTE.

The convoy was sighted at approximately 16:30 from one enemy hunt. At 00:59am, the British cruisers distance in MALTA, opened fire, directing the shot over the closest C/T, that is, LIGHTNING, and the GRECALE. The LIGHTNING was hit right in and quickly sank, taking with him half the crew.

The other half was fished out and saved from the C/T LIBECCIO, which was fired while was about to give to survivors.

SISTILLI NELLO, born in Montesilvano, on 05/06/1920, was declared by the Ministry of the Italian war, lost at sea on 11/09/1941.

MRS. SISTILLI ROSARIO, SISTER OF THE SAILOR NELLO KEEP STILL ALIVE THE MEMORY OF HER BROTHER

ITALY SAILORS ASSOCIATION OF MONTESILVANO, HAS HONORED MRS. ROSARIA WITH

A GOLD MEDAL IN MEMORY.

Maurizio D'Amato