



SALVATORE “TURI” GIULIANO

Salvatore “Turi” Giuliano was born in 1922 in the Sicilian mountain town of Montelepre. Although his family owned a small piece of farmland, and were better off than many who rented or worked as laborers on landowners property, there was little money. Food was becoming scarce, mostly because of the panes of World War II.

In 1942, with his family struggling partially because of the corrupt government in Palermo, Turi Giuliano established links within the Sicilian Black-market and began transporting prohibited goods across the mountain range. In September of 1943, Giuliano shot a member of the Carabinieri who was suspicious of Giuliano’s cargo. From this point on he became a fugitive, living out in the hills of Montelepre. He established his head quarters on Mount Sagana. As his fame or notoriety grew, his band of fugitives also grew. Some of the best-known bandits of this area became members of his group.

By this time he openly professed a belief that Sicily should secede from Italy and become an Independent nation. He also voiced a belief that Sicily should become a part of the United States as a sovereign state. Most Sicilians felt very close to America because of the large number of Sicilians who migrated to the United States and were in constant contact with their relations and friends.

By 1949, as Giuliano’s battles with the Carabinieri escalated, the Minister of the Interior declared a reward of 20 million Lira for his capture. Giuliano continued to state that his actions were of a revolutionary manner, however the Italian Government did not agree. The Government declared that he and his band were nothing more than common criminals. Giuliano attempted to negotiate a surrender. Legend has it that when the negotiations failed he was planning to go into exile in America, where he had many allies.

On July 5, 1950, his bullet-riddled body was found in a courtyard in Castelvetrano. He was assassinated by one of his own commanders, his cousin Gaspare Pisciotta, who was his second in Command.

Regardless of how he died, Salvatore Giuliano had achieved a celebrity status as the premier figure of Sicilian banditry. To some he is considered the Robin Hood of Sicily, a champion of the poor and a fighter for Sicilian independence from Italy. To others he was a criminal involved in robbery, abduction, extortion and murder. Make up your own mind!

Adapted from various Internet Sites, Researched and submitted by *Salvatore J. Mangano*, PNP

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