

# Synopsis

My name is Angelo and I am 13 years old.

I am Italian and my mamma and 12 year old sister called Sophia are coming with me to start a new life in Australia. My papà and a few of my uncles and aunties, such as zia Graziella and zio Mimmo, from his side are already in Australia and have sent us money so we can afford to sail there.

I am leaving behind my friends Alessandro and Enzo. We always ran around in the local orchard and played hide and seek. Enzo always won because he knew the best places to hide. I will miss them a lot and I hope they will remember me if I ever come back. I also miss my mamma's family and my extended family because they have always been kind to me and sweet.

I am excited about leaving Italy because I will be able to see my papà more often. In Italy I didn't see him much because he's a formwork carpenter and moved around the world building houses and bridges. He's been to Milan, Germany and Rhodesia where he even helped build the Kariba Dam. He survived large floods which killed more than 80 people. He said this happened in 1957 and the camps he lived in there were hot, smelly, sweaty and they were always irritated by flies. He said that lots of workers got really sick from their drinking water so they had to start boiling it before drinking. I was very young when he went to work there so I don't remember much.

Mamma and papà said we can be a whole family if we move to Australia. When papà is away building something he can only come home for a week now and again because he works in very faraway places. In Australia he will be at home every night so I will see him all the time.

I will also be excited to come to Australia because I will be able to explore new things, such as parks, beaches and Sydney Harbour. I am sad as I will miss Delianuova, especially some of the summer festivals such as the feast

of the Madonna delle Grazie which is held on the 2nd of July. I loved the fireworks and the parades. I don't think they have those in Australia. Another reason why I'll miss Delianuova is because I have spent my entire life there and the neighbours are very friendly. I'll miss the sweet shop around the corner from my house and the local green grocer who mamma always sent me to get veggies from.

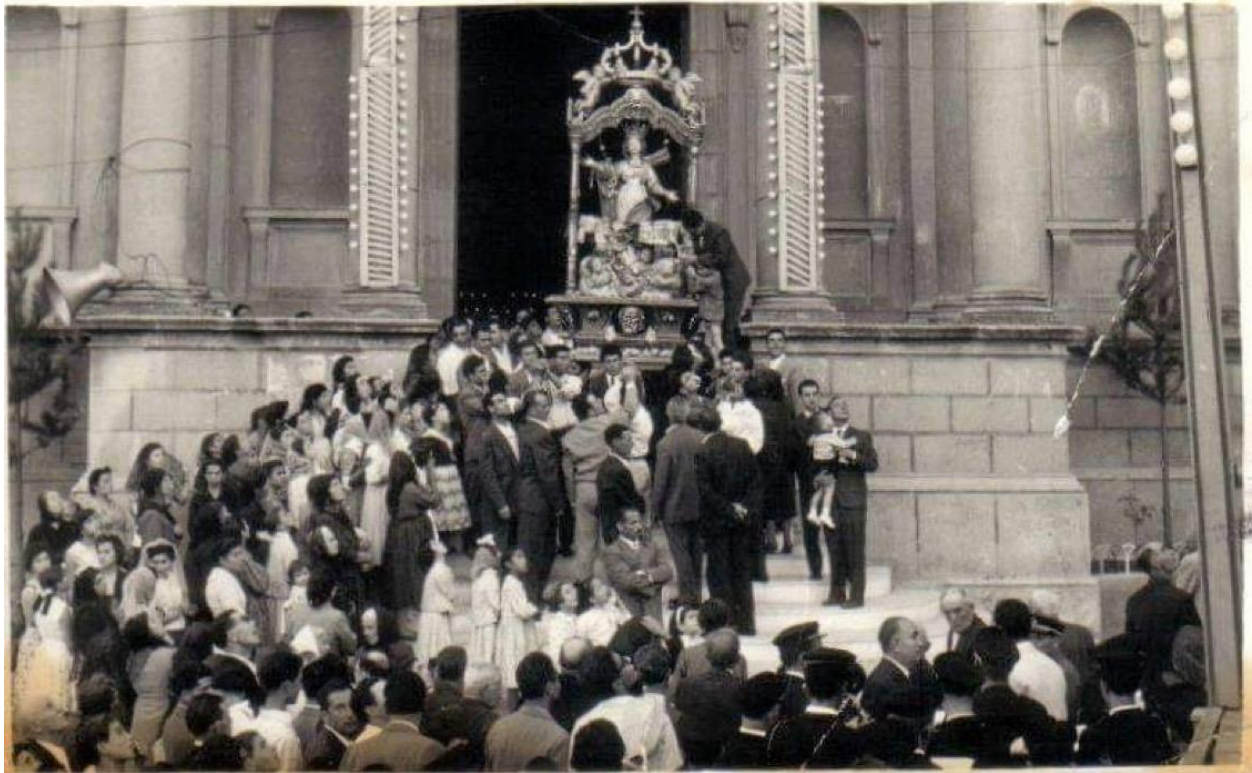
We are mainly coming to Australia to have more job opportunities because in Italy jobs are becoming scarce and there is lots of economic strain on the government because of World War Two. We are also coming to see many aunts and uncles who I haven't seen in years. They came out before us to send money so they can help us get used to Australian society and culture.

Mamma said we will get a better education if we move to Australia, which everyone fusses over. I will miss my classmates, as well as my teacher, signore Rechichi who taught all the subjects we learnt. I wonder what they are doing right now? Mamma said the schools in Australia are massive compared to mine, which will supposedly make my education better.

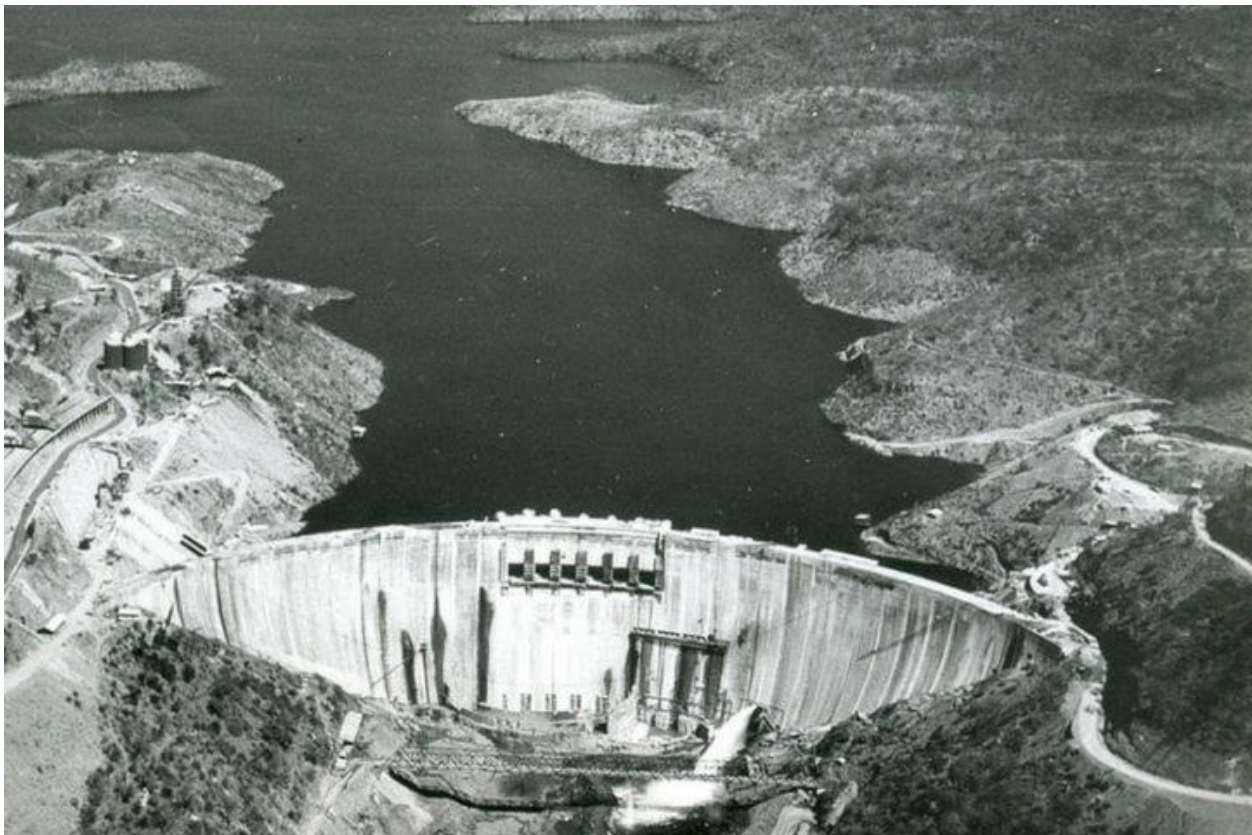


Delianuova

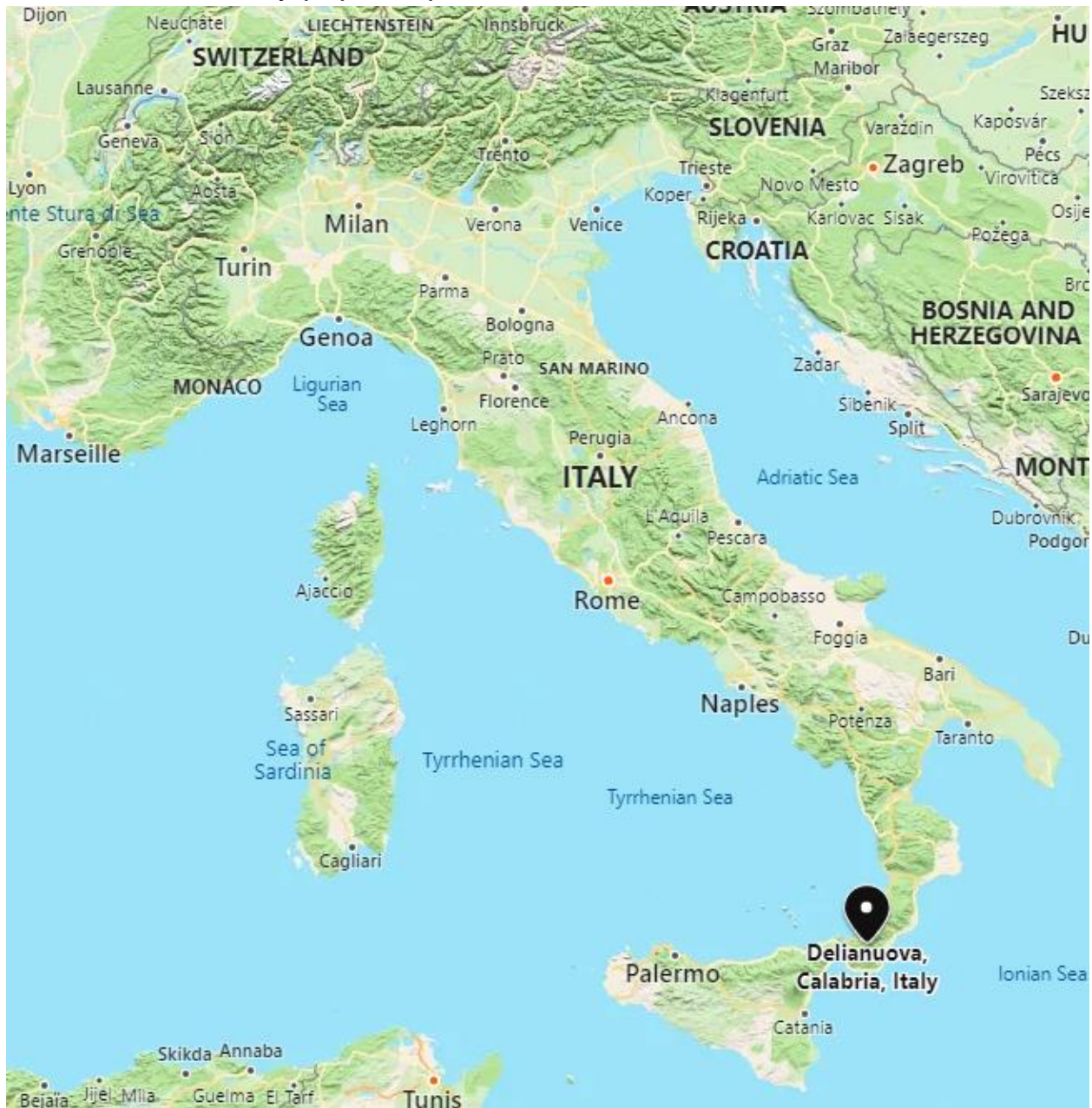




The procession at the feast of the Madonna delle Grazie.



The Kariba Dam my papà helped build



Italy showing Delianuova where we are coming from

# Diary entry Draft 3

7/1/1968

Indian Ocean-

Top deck of the 'Nave'

Hi it's Angelo,

We've been on the ship for 2 weeks now and I'm starting to recover from the seasickness I suffered around the Cape of Good Hope. I'll never forget the mountainous seas and the violent rocking of the 'Nave' as the whipping wind bit into my skin. It felt as if every wave threatened to topple us over.

I was happy to leave Durban in South Africa as it was unbearably hot and the way the white men treated the black people. They were being yelled at in some foreign language that I didn't understand but by the tone of their voice it was very rude. I hope I'm not treated like that in Australia.

I've gotten used to the continuous smell of diesel and salt. The diesel isn't quite so bad the further up on deck I go. One other thing I've gotten used to is the clanging of pots and pans when the chefs cook the meals, it smells amazing!

Speaking of food, we mostly served scallopini, beef and pasta with the occasional mela and banane. The pasta is quite delicious but it's not as good as the homemade pasta mamma!

When we crossed the equator we had a brilliant feast with lots of fruit and veggies, some Yugoslavian passengers got out a fiddle and played some music for us to dance to..

The scenery is mostly blue expanse but when we were leaving Messina I saw some fish with glittering scales and miniature wings that jumped out of the water! Mamma said they're called flying fish.



I quite miss Delianuova and my old house with its familiar smells. I'll also miss that old woman down the street who gave me free apples if I asked nicely. She must run an orchard! I will miss going for an evening passeggiata after dinner and meeting up with my best friends Alessandro and Enzo. I wonder what they are doing today? When we were packing to leave they came over to my house and gave me a new journal. I said when I get to Australia I'll stick a photo of us on the cover.

I sleep in a 4 person cabin, my mum and sister are in another cabin down the hallway. There are 3 men in my cabin, but they are all quiet and don't talk much. The bad thing is, one of them snores every night after midnight. I always get woken up by it, but the snoring stops after a while and then I can fall asleep. I'm constantly waking up to go to the lavatory because the rocking of the ship really makes me need to go. I once dreamed that the ship sank while I was asleep and I woke up sweating. But I don't usually have dreams on the 'Nave' except ones of Delianuova.

I'm very excited to come to Australia because I will see my papà more and I know I will recognise him because of that white hair of his. He works as a formwork carpenter and he travels all around the world building bridges, houses and things like that. So far he's been to Germany, Milan and Rhodesia. I can't remember what he built in Milan but in Rhodesia he helped build the Kariba dam!

I have made some new friends called Marco and Leonardo. They're taller than me but very nice. We mostly chat about what Australia is going to be like and we run around on deck. I won't see them again as Leonardo is getting off at Adelaide and Marco is getting off at another place called Melbourne. Hopefully we can write to each other when we get to Sydney. When Marco and Leonardo can't play with me, my 12 year old sister called Sophia keeps me company while grown-ups play billiards. My mamma got me to try it once but I don't really care for it. It's mainly an old people's game.

The ship's daily routine is like clockwork and is very organised.

### SS Guglielmo Marconi

<u>Breakfast</u> 8:00-8:30 Shift 2	<u>Lunch</u> 12:00-12:30 Shift 2	<u>English lessons</u> 15:00-16:00 (optional)	<u>Dinner</u> 19:00-19:30 Shift 2
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I've decided to put in all of the stops we have been to so far.

We can't go through the Suez canal in Egypt because Papà said there's a war going on between the Egyptians and Israelis. Apparently the trip would be faster if we had gone through it. I heard 15 whole ships got stuck in the canal when it was closed. Poor them!

We left Messina where I saw the flying fish and before we left port the ship was like a beehive of activity, all the crew were racing around and prepping the 'Nave' for sailing. The passengers were crowding the decks and waving to people on shore. I was quite smelly and sweaty because the sun beating down on me made it very humid and it didn't help that I was sweaty before I boarded the 'Nave'.

After leaving Messina we reached the Canary Islands late at night. I was woken up by the clanking of machinery and the strong smell of diesel. I woke mamma up and we went on a night time passeggiata like back at home. While we were walking the crew were busy refueling and loading the cargo for the next leg of the trip. After 2 hours or so we left the Canary Islands and mamma told me to go back to bed, No Fair!

After leaving the Canary Islands we sailed down the West coast of Africa to Durban. It was here that I noticed the horrible apartheid. The heat was unbearable as well, you couldn't go on deck without sweating and being



harassed by flies. I never went on deck though, I just listened to what mamma told me. Apparently sand got in a lot of people's clothes.

When we reach Australia we will stop at some ports called Fremantle, Adelaide, Melbourne and finally Sydney where we will get off.

The other people onboard are mainly in their late 60's and 50's from what I can tell. I've seen some women in their 20's and a few children who are mostly babies that were born at the beginning of the voyage squawking like seagulls and seasick before they could reach their cots. When the ship rocks in heavy waves you can hear them crying.

Most of the passengers are Italian except a couple of Greek families who eat together. There's also one or two Yugoslavian men but they're quiet and keep to themselves, I only see them at mealtimes. I'm guessing the 3 men in my cabin are Italian and a Greek. I'm not sure though because I have never heard them talk. There aren't many children my age on the ship, only 5 other boys and 4 girls who are all young and small.

Today the ocean is a bit rocky but the waves usually lap at the hull of the ship. We've had a few rainy days where the rain keeps these strange rhythmic beats on the protholes. The weather is mainly calm and a bit chilly most days and the captain says these are perfect sailing conditions.

Speaking of the crew, the first officer let Marco, Leonardo and I on the bridge! It was a great honour, mamma said, and we were all amazed by the machinery and it's weird hissing noises and vibrations. We even got to touch the steering wheel, not turn it of course, but the oak (or at least I think it was oak) was beautifully polished. Don't tell mamma I said that, she takes pride in polishing all of our wood furniture back home.

Seasickness is fairly common onboard the 'Nave' but only the older passengers seem to be affected by it. Mamma has had terrible seasickness all voyage and asks us to get bread and water for her at the mess hall

during mealtimes. I hope she will be better when we reach the place called Fremantle. She's been vomiting all trip.

Papà said we should come to Australia because there are many job opportunities for people like us and back in Italy there are no jobs for mamma, Sophia and I. I am going to work in a shop when I finish school. I'm excited because then I can earn some money to buy new marbles, but I don't think papà would approve.

Mamma said she wants to leave Italy because some of her uncles died in the war and she wants a fresh start. I heard in the paper that people like us are called economic migrants, "people who want a better life and more job opportunities". Before we left Delianuova I noticed that there weren't as many shopkeepers in the main road as there used to be. There were also more 'for sale' signs than usual.

I should start wrapping this up because my pencil is getting very short now but one last thing mamma said in her cabin there's a lone Slovenian woman. Fancy that! Mamma said she's very brave travelling on her own. I definitely wouldn't! My pencil is about to run out now, I can't wait to see my papà again.

Angelo,  
p.s Mamma is sick again  
p.p.s I've stuck in some photos at the bottom  
p.p.p.s my pencil is about to run ou-

**'Banane' means banana in Italian, 'Mela' means apple, 'Nave' means ship,  
'Passeggiata' means a walk or stroll**

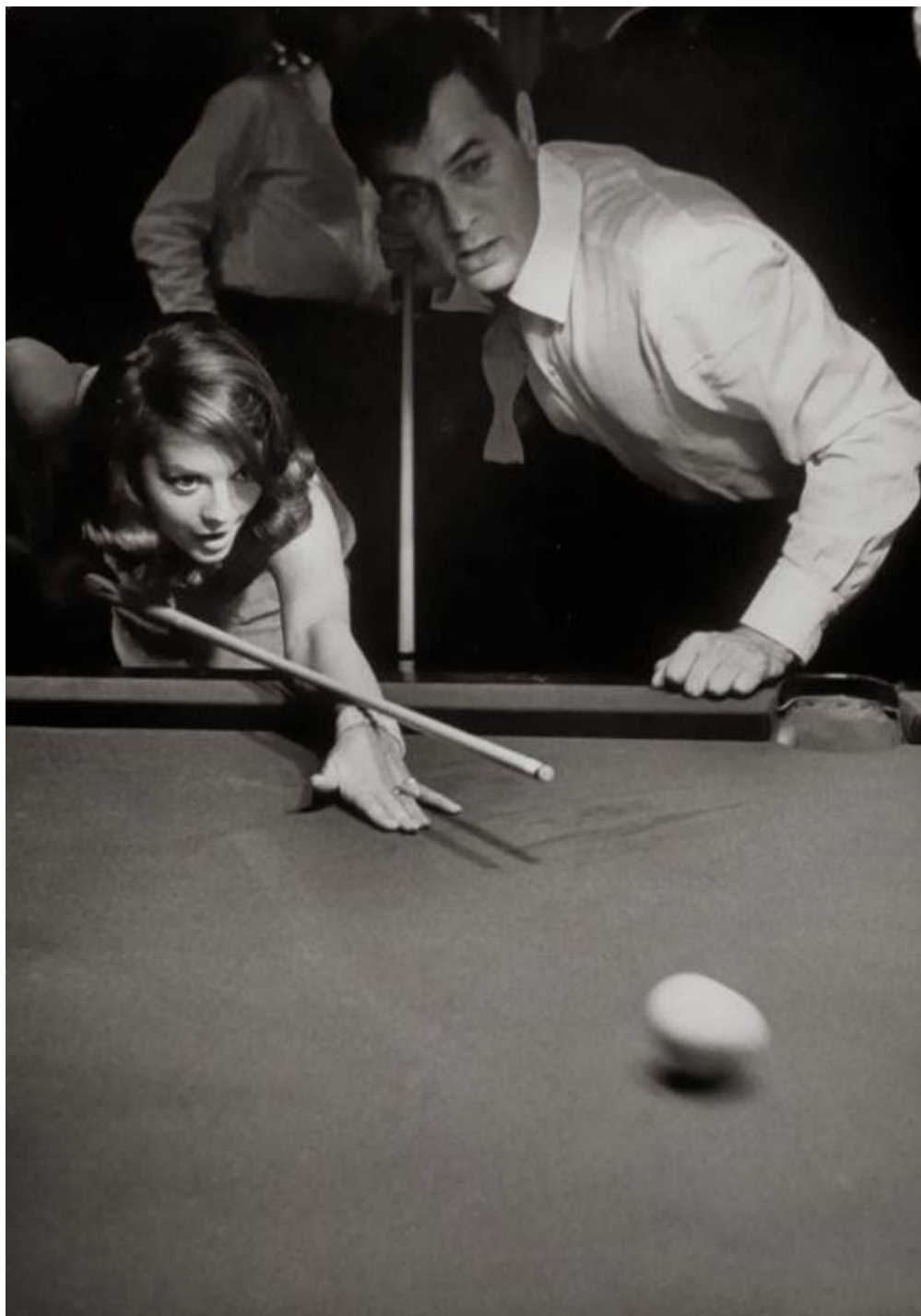


Flying fish I saw when leaving Messina!



The ship we're on is called the SS Guglielmo Marconi. The first officer gave it to me.

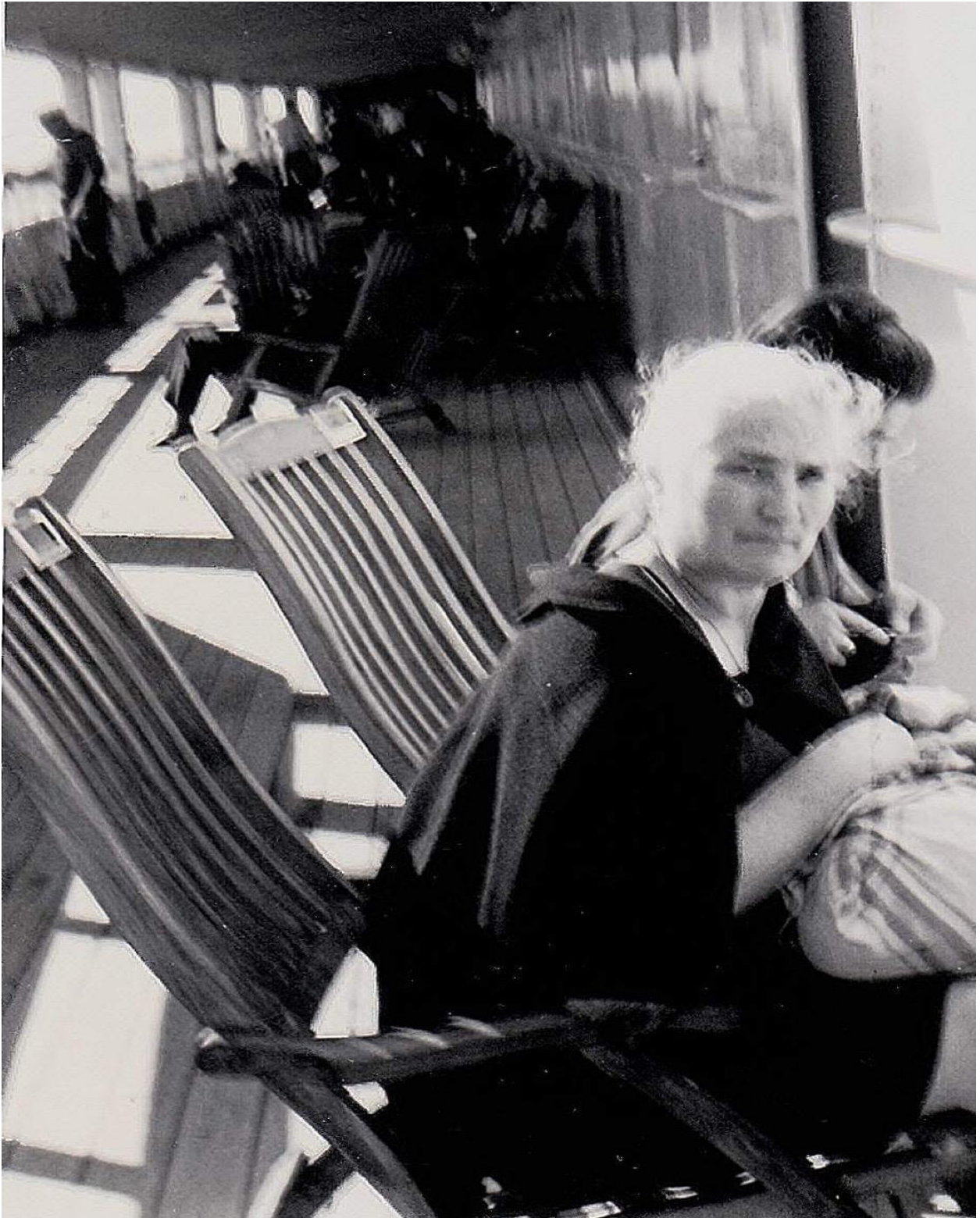




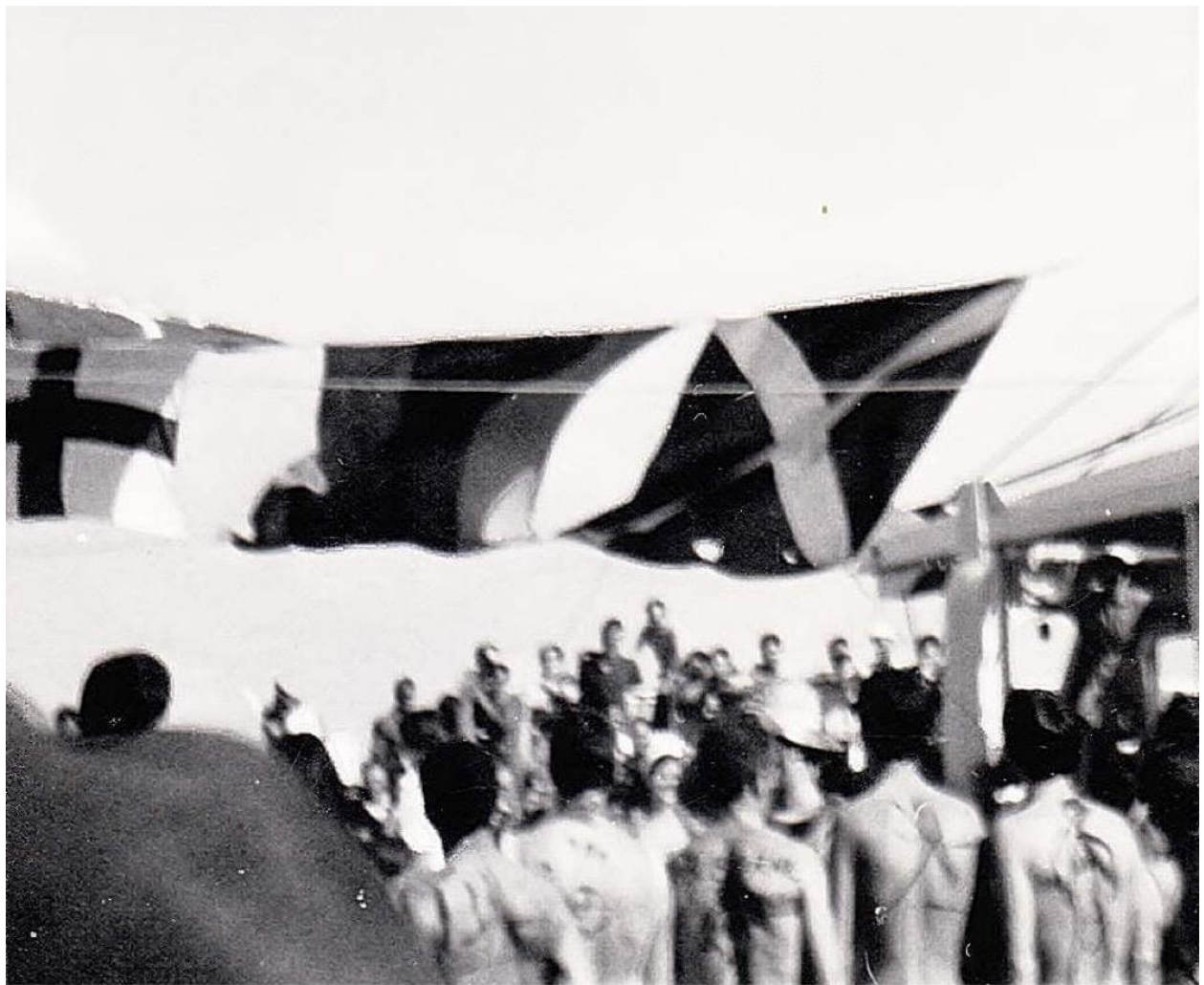
Grown-ups playing Billiards. So boring.



My cabin is a bit cramped, and bunk is on the top Right.



Mamma in a rocking Chair. (not seasick yet)



The equator festival we had with flags!



# **Bibliography**

[CO.AS.IT. \(coasit.com.au\)](http://coasit.com.au)

[people playing billiards on a ship - Bing images](#)

[Delianuova - Google Maps](#)

[flying fish - Bing images](#)

[kariba dam black and white - Bing images](#)

[My brain-myself.com :\)](http://My.brain-myself.com)

All other photos where provided by my nonna's cousin- Silvana

I interviewed my nonna's cousin called Silvana as well as my nonno and nonna.

Italian words were provided by my dad.

I named my character 'Angelo' after my cousin and nonno.