

Diary from Quarantine 37 – Celebrating Liberation Day in Quarantine

April 25

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On April 25, 1945, Italy celebrated the Liberation from the Nazi occupiers.

75 years ago, millions of people poured in the streets of Milan, Rome, Turin, and smaller cities singing *Bella Ciao*, the liberation song of the Partigiani, the freedom fighters who fought the invaders.

It has always been an important day in my family. Without particular celebrations, we used to remember it and worry because, every year, the people who can remember what happened grow older, every year they are less and less.

The virus took away many of them and, with them, it took away a big part of the collective memory they represented.

In this way, this virus puts on our shoulders a bigger duty to remember and tell the stories of those fighters and of those days.

This afternoon, Italians will sing *Bella Ciao* from their balconies, in the face of people who complain and claim that April 25 celebrations are “rhetorical”.

Memory is never rhetorical. It is a duty and a right.

This year there will be no parades and parties, but it is this year that those men and women in their nineties who were there in 1945 deserve the most special thought from all of us, because they gifted us with the freedom we have and now, once again, they are in danger or already left forever.

