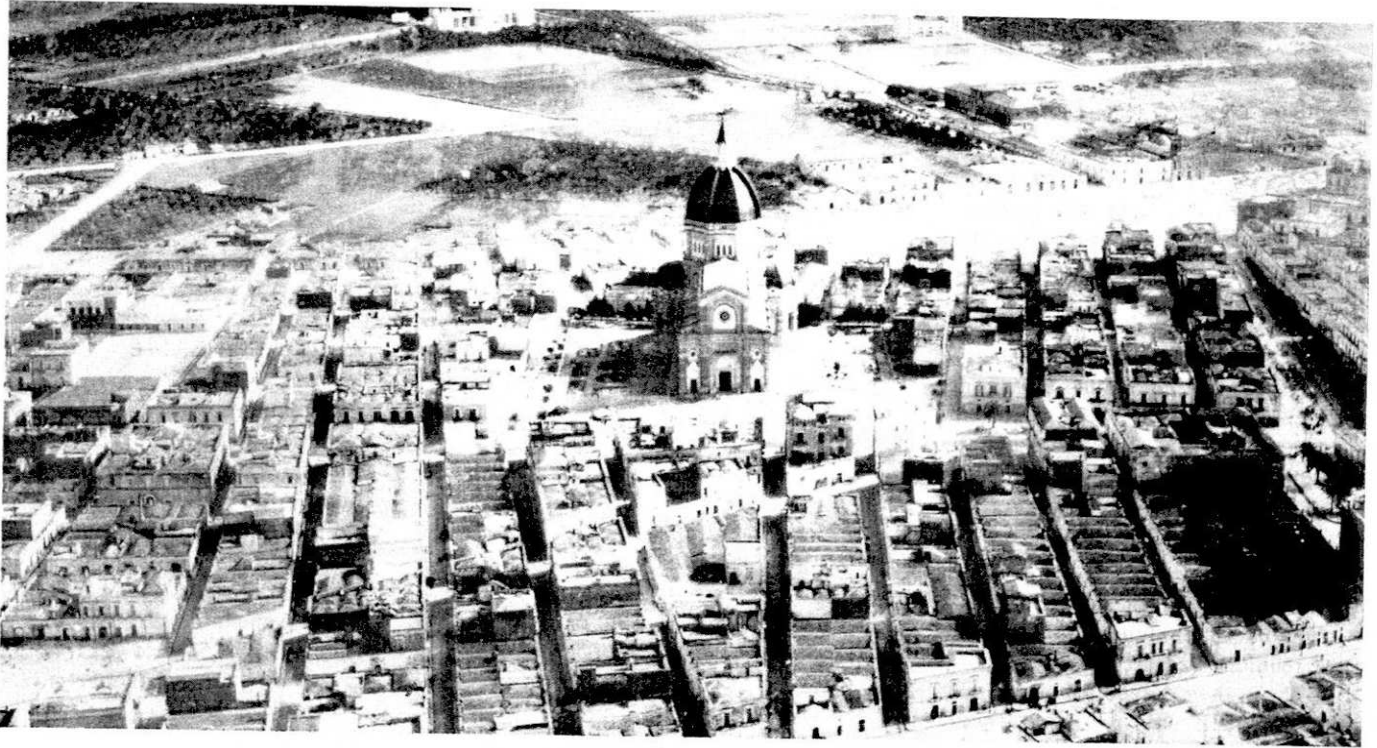


# FIRST SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS TO BE AWARDED



VIEW OF THE PIAZZA DUOMO, THE CENTER OF CERIGNOLA  
(The square in front of the church)

## HOW THE CANDIDATES WERE SELECTED

PROFESSORE UMBERTO ALBANESE, A RESIDENT OF CERIGNOLA, ITALY  
GRACIOUSLY OFFERED HIS SERVICES TO THE ASSOCIATION

Chris Donaldson 765 Squadron and Ed Goree 764 Squadron the Memorial Scholarship Committee Co- Chairmen announce the selection of the first recipients for scholarship grants.

The Association has been collecting donations since 1982 that now total \$4500, including accrued interest. Contributions have been received from a wide cross section of our membership indicating a high degree of participation in the plan. From the very beginning the membership has approved the idea of helping to further the education of needy Italian students, who are descendants of families from the Torretta/Cerignola Area, 1944-45. Many have shown their approval of this Living Memorial Scholarship Fund, honoring our fallen comrades, and all personnel assigned to the 461st and 484th Bomb Groups, by continuing to contribute on a yearly basis.

It has been a long wait since 1982, but now the first awards are about to be given. The committee set up standards and scholastic criteria for eligibility, developed with the assistance of Umberto Albanese, a professor of economics, now teaching law at the college in Cerignola. To attract qualified students, the professor distributed publicity to the press media and received wide coverage in the greater Cerignola/ Torretta area. An example of the story in the Italian press is shown in conjunction with this article.

The original plan was to make an initial grant of \$1,000.00 to two students, one boy and one girl. Instead three young ladies age 16 to 18 years old with their outstanding scholastic records have met the set criteria with ease. As they were equally qualified it was decided to grant a \$500.00 stipend to each one of them, for a total grant of \$1,500.00.

Professore Umberto Albanese has graciously suggested that members of the 461st & 484th Bomb Groups Association participate in the presentation of the awards at a ceremony in Cerignola, involving affixing a memorial plaque in the vicinity of the Piazza Duomo (the large square in the main street), followed by a presentation of the awards. There would be an exhibit of photographs of wartime Cerignola and of the Torretta airfield, at the cinema; a reception by the civil authorities and a memorial speech, followed by a ceremony to remember the war fallen.

Members who wish to take part in the awards ceremony should contact the Association office, 1122 Ysabel St., Redondo Beach, CA 90277.

In the meantime, preparations are underway for the actual distribution of the funds to the three scholarship recipients.