

## 01-14-2003 Rome Italy-Simone Regnolio-FF PSD Drowned but Rescued Trapped Diver

### Simone Regnolio

*Fireman and Adriatica Subsea Services*

Italian, 33 years old. River Tiber near Rome, Castel Giubileo, power plant water intake partially blocked, S/S Air diver trapped by differential pressure, No appointed supervisor or stand-by, Fire brigade attended, rescue diver in SCUBA on lifeline, he drowned, trapped diver managed to free himself. Fire brigade supv on site, Fire brigade diving team leader (not on site) and director of diving contractor (not on site) prosecuted. La Repubblica.it



<http://www.thediversassociation.com/index.php/sheets>

### Panic on the banks of the Tiber "In an hour it came down all"

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**The opening of the locks of the dam to release the jammed sub caused landslides around Castel Giubileo. The alarm is indented but remains the state of attention**

*14 January 2003*

**ROME** - "In less than an hour it came down all over. The river level has dropped and both sides without water pressure that supported them, have collapsed, from Labaro until at least the Grillo" Bridge. So the inhabitants of the area upstream of the Castel Giubileo dam told the consequences of lowering waters of the Tiber, when to free the sub got stuck in the waters of the reservoir, the locks of the dam were opened. In the rescue operation he has killed a firefighter.



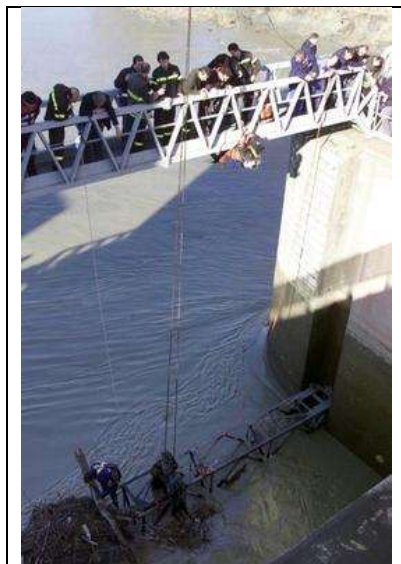
**La diga a Castel Giubileo**

The lowering of the water level of the reservoir of the dam has in fact caused the collapse and the soft ground slipping causing alarm and concern of the people who live in the area. Some houses near the dam have been invaded by water, some overwhelmed campgrounds. According to the Prefecture of Rome the alarm is then returned. One family, of a building in Via Salaria built just behind the bank of the Tiber, was made clear and found accommodation with relatives.

"The decision to lower the gates of the dam - said the deputy prefect Vicar Raffaele Bonanno - was taken by the Regional Agency responsible for Soil Protection (Ardis) in agreement with the Del Mese Prefect to save the life of the sub He stuck underwater. "

In the early evening is expected the wave of full in the Fiumicino area, at the mouth of the Tiber, but the prefecture has confirmed that should not pose problems too because the banks are high. however, they were alerted the City, the Civil Defence and the Harbour.

But today there was fear. Along the Via Tiberina all have reported many meters of the shore crumbled in a few minutes, upturned fishing boats and taken away by the current along with trees, debris and even some tenement. In some cases they have also been damaged tourist facilities and storage warehouses along the shore. Particularly affected were two camps, the "Tiber" and "Roman River" along the Tiber and the "River" garaging on the opposite shore.



**Renoglio begins the descent**

suddenly it collapsed around for many kilometers. There was a noise like an earthquake, with trees that crumbled into the water, boats washed away, but also barracks and other facilities. On the river we saw also pass a container".

Much more serious damage was suffered by the camp "Roman River", which overlooks the river two kilometers further upstream. The shore is caved in to a depth of about 20 meters in two different places, digging two deep semicircles, like bites



**Simone Renoglio is going to descend to the rescue of the trapped sub (photos Franceschi)**

"With us - said Andrea, director of the Tiber camp - has crumbled the bank for at least ten meters, dragging in the water the fences. We had no problems with the facilities, fortunately, and even the camper we hold in trust for winter were parked elsewhere. but within an hour the river level dropped so much and



**Renoglio with a colleague arrives in water**

along the shore, where once there was a lawn in front of the hotel restaurant. In water they are tumbled a shed in reinforced concrete which contained tools and material for the maintenance, several trees, a whole row of street lights and a part of the chute in reinforced concrete that is used to bring the boats in the water.

The Tiber, between uprooted trees and mud can still be seen of the jetty pylons and some overturned boats. "Other boats were away by water flow - reported the holder Carlo Coccia Colaiuta - and have been wiped out facilities for at least 150 million pounds of old. Much worse, however, went to the storage of boats" River "that is just in front of us, on the other side. they came away at least 20 meters of the shore and the water took away boats, caravans, tents and campers. it 'also disappeared along the jetty where they kept many boats. But throughout the area the damage was considerable. "



**Renoglio tries to bring the top of the sub in trouble**

## Sub stuck under water firefighter rescuer dies

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Rome, a firefighter of 35 years fire is killed to save a somozzatore stuck under a dam.

Maybe a blow or debris that they took the mask with oxygen the cause of the fatal  
14 January 2003



**The colleague has noticed that Renoglio no signs of life and pulls the top to find it (photo Franceschi)**

**ROME** - It is set to rescue a diver got stuck under water while working on the maintenance of a dam on the outskirts of the capital. But, maybe a shot, maybe a debris that tore the oxygen mask, killed Simone Renoglio, firefighter of 35 years diver. The technical sub, Paolo De lure, 32, rescued by other firefighters, was instead rescued. Hospitalized at the Gemelli hospital and underwent intensive therapy for freezing syndrome, his condition would be serious but not risk his life.

It 'happened this morning near Rome when De lure, dependent Sub Adriatic Ortona, near Chieti, a firm that performs contract work on behalf of Enel, is stuck with his legs to a suction tube to three meters sott' water at the dam of Castel Giubileo, in the north of the capital, where he was working to unlock one of the four partitions of the system that had been raised in recent days to drain the water rose to the heavy

rains and had not closed completely. A colleague with whom he was surrounded gave the alarm and immediately have started relief operations.

I to get rid of technical attempts have been made even more difficult by the water pressure, passing through the closed slit, pinned him against the wall. To unleash the leg were then raised the bulkheads of the dam and the diver, connected to the surface by a hose that pumped oxygen and in constant voice contact with



**Start the recovery of the body Renoglio**

classmates, then he tried to wear a harness dropped by his teammates to lift it and return it surface. Even this attempt, however, failed and required the intervention of the team of divers of the fire department. Among these Renoglio.

The firefighter, secured with a top surface, it is immersed to bring De lure a rope ending in a tie clasp the cylinder structure. The operation was successful and, while a colleague took care of De Jure, Renoglio disappeared from view. The water level of the dam in the meantime it had been lowered but the opening of the ports has caused the raising of more than a meter of the Tiber. The tidal wave created alarm in the area with some houses invaded by water and reports of landslides and soft subsidence.

Just then, while De Jure, reached and harnessed, it was brought to the surface and while the velocity increased trouncing some small artifacts etrasportando downstream debris and logs, on the bridge they found that Renoglio showed no signs of life. The water was murky and visibility almost nothing. Colleagues on the bridge they began to desperately pull the top of which was insured Renoglio and his body, gradually emerged and was taken on the road.

According to some theories the watchful diver was sucked right by a suction pump that had been put into operation to lower the water level. But according to the reconstruction made by colleagues and it always seems to be accredited more, Renoglio was bumped from the bulkhead or was struck by debris, perhaps a trunk, that has torn the mask from his face and mouthpiece which gave him oxygen .

Firefighters were able to pull it through the slings. Just on the surface, Renoglio was bleeding from the eyes and nose. "His condition - said a Marshal of divers nucleus of the police intervened too - there are now critical appeared. Something had ripped the oxygen mask and his face was cyanotic and blood running out of his nose." Firefighter to a cardiac massage has been practiced, but has not regained consciousness. Urgently transported to the hospital Villa San Pietro in Rome, he has

died. Roman, leaves his wife Rita, 38, and a three year old son, Gabriel. Tomorrow the autopsy, will be performed if there are no impediments, the funeral could take place Thursday.

"He loved his job," he says colleagues brigade of Genoa via the central fire. "For me, Simon was a brother, but all of us are divers a pack, come from common experiences and we also live together outside of work" adds Fabio De Nicolò, foreman of divers core. "It was an exquisite guy, helpful, always willing to smile," he continues, him remember his great affection for his wife and child. "

"It should be stressed - said the Director General of the Civil Protection Department, Mario Morcone - the divers of the firefighters are better prepared, being subjected to a very hard training and very selective. The policeman who died was so definitely a great professional in his job". According to the provincial commander Luigi Abate, "it certainly has an unexpected event, but to reconstruct the precise facts are waiting for the autopsy verdict".



**The Renoglio body collected from colleagues (photo Franceschi)**

The Rome prosecutors opened an investigation. The file shall be made out 'acts related to', then no, for the moment of offenses and suspects. Probably tomorrow will be arranged the first investigations of ritual.

## **The hero firefighter drowned - Investigation for manslaughter**

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Rome, the tragedy of the dam: on the equipment expertise of sub

They count the wave damage flood that devastated the Tiber.

The Prosecutor must consider whether it was appropriate to open the dam

*16 January 2003 MARINO BISSO and VALENTINA ERRANTE*

**ROME** - It was not hit by a log. Simone Renoglio, the hero firefighter, died by drowning, after losing the mask. The diver of the fire Tuesday morning, he was immersed at the base of the Castel Giubileo dam to save Paolo De lure, the stuck underwater technical diver as he was carrying out any maintenance work on behalf of Enel. The Catholic University performed an autopsy ruled "trauma" among the

possible causes of firefighter death. No debris, dragged by the flood of the Tiber, he would kill him. Antonio Oliva, the medical examiner appointed by the prosecution, found only a few scratches on the policeman's face but no bruise can make him lose consciousness. Examination was also attended Angelo Fiori, the expert appointed by Simone Renoglio family, who yesterday was also entrusted to a lawyer.

The investigation of the prosecutor Delia Cardia proceeds for manslaughter against unknown persons. Yesterday the magistrate has received the reports of the Roman Flaminio Montesacro and police and fire brigade: the accident and rescue, the testimonies of colleagues Renoglio. The prosecutor has also ordered the seizure of the equipment dead fireman. In the next few days could be an expert opinion to verify the adequacy, we must understand why, during the dive, Renoglio has lost the mask connected to the oxygen tank. Acquired by the attorney also videos shot during an emergency dam to Castel Giubileo. But the investigation of the Cardia deputy must first determine whether the intervention of the sub - which was working to close a bulkhead of the dam - has been performed in compliance with safety standards. "Our employee was operating with adequate equipment - ensure the Adriatic Sub responsible - and following the procedures prescribed by law". Another delicate point of the investigation is the rapid depletion of the dam, decided dall'Ardis - the Regional Agency for the protection of soil - on Enel stress when the sub was stuck underwater. The prosecutor wants to assess whether it is necessary and has not worsened terms of any assistance.

Meanwhile, on the Tiber they count the damage caused by the sudden emptying of the dam. Levees collapsed, overturned boats and rafts, houses and river plants declared uninhabitable. The most critical situation occurred upstream of the dam to the suction effect caused the sudden lowering of the level of the Tiber. The tidal wave has carried away the garden, where were shot some scenes of the film "The Ignorant Fairies."

Yesterday morning many residents on the Tiber, the most affected area north of Rome, gathered. "We were left alone and no one warned us of the danger," said Sandro Manca, owner of a two-storey villa which has lost more than ten meters of lawn. Angelo Bonelli, the regional leader of the Greens, has called for an investigation. The replica charges the general manager dell'Ardis, Nando Pierluisi: "It would have been rash to condemn a person to death. When Enel, which has a concession to the dam, he asked us to agree to the opening we did of the Prefecture "concert.Regarding the compensation, the Ardis is completing the inspection. "The property damage - noted Pierluisi - fall into place. In all probability it will be a matter to be headed to Enel. But it is still not taken any decision." A Renoglio - yesterday between the national fire department management and the Quirinale there were Contacts- will be a medal for civil valor. Memory.

## **"I Do not forget that hand who has saved my life "**

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The tragedy of Castel Giubileo, crying sub survived

"Among the mud I saw the policeman who was passing me a rope"

The wife of a firefighter, pregnant, faints in the funeral home  
16 January 2003 MASSIMO LUGLI

**ROME** - "I have not seen the diver approaching. The water was too murky. I was stuck in the closed, it had also fogged glass of the diving suit. Among the mud I saw an arm holding out a rope. I grabbed and me are hooked to the harness of the cylinders. Then they pulled me up, to safety. "

Talk and cry, cry and remember those terrible moments Paolo De lure, the sub saved thanks to the sacrifice of Simon Renoglio, the firefighter to be proposed for a medal for civil valor. From his hospital bed, the technician of the "Adriatic" finds the strength to rebuild her three hours of anguish, imprisoned between the water and the mud of Castel Giubileo, in front of doctors, relatives and agents of the police Montesacro who interrogated him in the evening. "A part of me died along with Simone - continues Paul will remain in observation for another two or three days - I can not express in words the pain I feel for what has happened." The news says the father, Franco, he was given by doctors and since then the boy did not have peace. It suffers from the after-effects of hypothermia and trauma to the leg, but it will heal quickly.

He would like to say something to the fireman relatives?

"The next I'll be forever, I would hug them and thank them for the sacrifice of that boy. I think of all those who have labored to save me, even my colleagues in the Adriatic sub who had the coolness and professionalism to intervene quickly." The young man can not hold another crisis of tears. It 'a fragmented narrative, interrupted by long, painful, silences.

What has caused the accident? Something wrong?

"Absolutely not. Only a series of unfortunate coincidences. The cause of what happened is just fate."

It was a dive risky?

"No, not for us. It was a chore. We are used to intervene in very difficult situations, we have the training and the technology needed to meet the danger." The diver thinks the opening of the dam, the water that overflows, unstoppable, over the levees, which overwhelms the boats and floods houses. He somehow feels responsible even though he does not say so openly. "I'm sorry, only for Simon and his family, who will always be in my heart, for all those who have suffered, who have been harmed as a result of what happened at the dam". Then doctors interrupt the interview.

"He 'a very sensitive guy - explains the father, Franco - we did not want to tell him of the death of the policeman, not yet. We expected that he recovered but when we got to the hospital, unfortunately, he already knew."

Franco De lure, yesterday afternoon, went with his daughter at the funeral of Simon Renoglio, held in the headquarters of the provincial command of firefighters, via Genoa. Green jackets, flame red overalls, a cordon of divers around the coffin, the body of the sub composed in an expression of peace, with the helmet and blue cap at the foot of the case. In tears, the boy's father rescued by Simone hugged Stephen, the brother of the victim, thanked the commander of the body, Luigi Abate, sobbing prayed before the coffin.

Terrible scenes when, at 20, the now half-empty room, came from Ostia his wife Rita, police officer waiting for the second child, with her mother Rosa and close relatives. A few steps toward the coffin of her husband and the woman collapsed with a crash, fainted. Screams, tears, the doctor who rushed while the chorus of laments covers the notes of the Requiem Mass by Mozart. Shortly before, a parade of authorities: Giuseppe Pisanu, Gianfranco Fini, Enzo Bianco, Pierluigi Castagnetti the police chief Gianni Di Gennaro, Mayor Walter Veltroni, the president of the province Silvano Moffa, the Prefect Emilio Del Mese. Paolo De Santis, who tried to save Simone with mouth-to-mouth, leans over the corpse of his friend and speaks at length, affectionately patting his hand. "No, we do not know whether to open the floodgates of the dam was a mistake, we only know that when a person risks his life we must do everything to save him." Carlo Rosa, head of the divers core, cut short with controversy, with increasingly insistent whispers. Now is the time to cry, the anger will come later.

## **In thousands at the funeral of Simon the firefighter who died at work**

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Celebrated the funeral in the Regina Pacis church in Ostia

The wife holds long tears, then collapses

The memory of the colleague who was with him at the dam:

"We thought we could harness the forces of nature"

*16 January 2003*

**ROME** - At 11 the coffin lying above the helmet of firemen and a white crown entered the front door of the Regina Pacis church of Ostia, the Cathedral, as they call the inhabitants of the neighborhood. And a long applause greeted the coffin of Simon Renoglio, the diver of the firemen who died to save a sub got stuck in the dam of Castel Giubileo, Rome. The church was already packed. There were relatives, friends, authorities, but above all colleagues in the B round and divers of the fire department, came from all over Italy to greet Simone. They did not know him, but know well that job done of courage and selflessness that cost him his life.



**I funerali di Simone Renoglio**

They sat in the seats of the choir, next to the parish priest Don Antonio. Further on there was his wife Rita and Franco De lure, the father of the sub survived, then the



authorities. More aloof, not to disturb the pain of the relatives, the Prefect of Rome Emilio Del Mese, the provincial commander of the Fire Department Luigi Abate and provincial commanders of the Carabinieri and the Guardia di Finanza. Family members have tried to hold back the pain, to "be brave like - has a friend explained - Simon would have wanted." But the pain has overwhelmed them. Rita, his wife, all the funeral has tried not to cry, to remain silent watching the coffin, but eventually collapsed. They took away supporting her, in the sacristy.

"Family members - said in the liturgy Don Antonio - ask me why Simon is gone. I can not answer, I just know that Simon was a righteous person and souls of the just are in God's hands. Simone has always been generous , helpful and attentive to others. "

But it was above all the words of team leader Paolo De Santis, who Tuesday was with Renoglio the dam, shaking the thousands of people thronged outside and inside the church. "If there was a heaven - said De Santis - for Simone would be made of sparkling sails in the wind and waves, because it was what he loved most in addition to the family." De Santis recalled that on Tuesday the divers of turn B had gone to the dam "as cheerful as ever, and we thought we could harness the forces of nature, but it was not so."

A big round of applause greeted the words of the foreman when next heroism of Renoglio recalled that it was first of all a man. "We found ourselves as soldiers in the trenches - he said - little tiny as ants and then we decided what to do, and Simone did it most of all."

E 'touched the head of the Nomentano district department, Franco Schinelli, reciting the prayer of the fireman, that last year he had cried the four firemen who died in the explosion of Via Ventotene. At the end of the ceremony a final applause has said farewell to Simon Renoglio, that at the behest of the family will be cremated in the cemetery of Prima Porta and then rest in that of Ostia Antica.