



Granata Legends

Bruno Neri

Advanced Listening

English Training

by

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YouTube - California Granata

Bruno Neri Video

Review these before you watch the video:

Vocabulary

legendary team = *una squadra leggendaria*

meanwhile... = *nel frattempo, intanto*

memorial plaque = *targa commemorativa*

partisan = *partigiano*

resistance movement = *il movimento della Resistenza / Resistenza*

witness = *testimone*

Verbs and Expressions

to come across something = *imbattersi in qualcosa*

to draw a gun = *estrarre un'arma*

to hike = *fare un'escursione / camminata (natura)*

to inaugurate something = *inaugurare qualcosa*

to meet your date with destiny = *(modo di dire) incontrare il tuo destino*

to occupy a country = *occupare un paese*

to perish = *perire/morire*

to prove = *dimostrare/verificare*

to rage on = *continuare violentemente / accanirsi*

to scout an area = *andare in perlustrazione*

Check this out! = *Dateci un'occhiata (Look at this)*

Transcript:

(0:09) INTRODUCTION

Bruno Neri... both soccer player and World War Two partisan.

Have you ever heard of Bruno Neri?

I had never heard of him before. His name was totally new to me.

But while reading about Torino players late one evening last year, I came across a small note about a man named Bruno Neri.

He was an ex-Fiorentina and Torino player, who later became an Italian “partigiano”... or in English... a partisan... and who died while fighting the occupying Germans in 1944.

Here is a little bit more about him (very fast!)

(0:43) SLIDES

Bruno Neri was born on October 12th, 1910. He was born in a city named Faenza, which is in the region of Emilia-Romagna. If you are driving on the highway between Bologna and Rimini, take a look out your window... you'll pass by Faenza.

(1:00)

Along with his older brother Gaetano, Bruno spent hours and hours playing the game that was growing in popularity throughout Italy. By the age of 16, Bruno was already playing for the local team of Faenza. He played as a defensive midfielder.

(1:18)

In 1929, a team from Florence, which had only been officially created a few years earlier, the Fiorentina, bought Bruno Neri for 10,000 lire. People say that Bruno was somebody who loved art and literature. So I can only imagine that he must have really enjoyed exploring his new home of Florence while he was off the field.

He would have plenty of time to get to know his new city, as he played for Fiorentina from 1929 to 1936. He started a total of 189 games for the team, becoming one of the most important players of Fiorentina in that time period.

(1:56)

Check this picture out! It's a photo from 1931... from the day that Fiorentina was inaugurating their new stadium. All of the players are lined up in the middle of the field giving the Fascist salute. The one player who isn't giving the salute?

That's Bruno Neri... at 21 years old.

(2:15)

In 1936 he left Fiorentina to play for one year for Lucchese. Why is that important? Because this team from Lucca was being trained at that time by the Hungarian Ernest Erbstein, who would later perish with the Grande Torino on the 4th of May, 1949 at Superga.

1936 was also the first year that Neri was asked to play for the Italian national team.

(2:41)

Ferruccio Novo, the president of Torino, brought both coach Erbstein and his player Bruno Neri to Torino the next year. President Novo was in the early stages of creating what would become a legendary team.

(2:56)

Neri played for Torino from 1937 to March of 1940, playing a total of 66 games.

Meanwhile, Europe and the world were on fire as World War Two raged on. Though there are no documents to prove the timing of such things, the story goes that Bruno Neri began to be active in partisan circles around 1942. He became part of the resistance movement.

(3:28)

Bruno Neri eventually met his date with destiny on July 10th, 1944 near to the village of Gamogna.

While out scouting with another partisan named Vittorio Bellenghi, the partisans ran into a group of German soldiers by chance. Both groups were surprised to see each other.

Guns were quickly drawn. Bruno and Bellenghi were caught in a position that provided little to no cover.

(3:58)

A witness stated that Bellenghi was most likely the first killed. Bruno continued firing until he was also shot by the larger group of Germans.

(4:08)

In the hills near to Gamogna, a plaque can be found on a stone near the spot where Bruno Neri died. It's a small reminder to anyone hiking by the area of this relatively unknown story of an ex-Toro player.

For more about Bruno Neri, you might find this book (in Italian) very interesting:

BRUNO NERI
"Il Calciatore Partigiano"
by
Massimo Novelli

