

The final act of *The Wandering Cemetery* (2007-2013)

THE BURNING CEMETERY

Extrema ratio – conveying a collective memory of place through thoughts and symbols
A public and artistic action piece

Narrative Summary

A land's moral decline can be seen in the spiritual drought of its people.

They thirst for peace in a territory ravaged by war.

MEMORY BURNS ON THE VICENZA PLAIN.

Italy, once more, forgets herself.

This forgetfulness is rooted in the past.

A nation that cannot recall its past follies gambles away its rights
betraying the destiny of its very best people.

And of nameless youth.

Who are you Pietro Badoglio? Who are you Rodolfo Graziani? Who are you Pietro Maletti? Who are
you Vincenzo Biani? Who are you Giacinto *Cadorna* Ferrero? Who are these men that for decades
lived un-judged on the streets of Italy? Even today they are celebrated and monumentalised,
never fully condemned!

Ask among the youth.

None will recognise these men for what they were: war criminals, killers
of countless men, women, children, all innocent.

Tens and tens of thousands.

In Europe and in Africa.

MEMORY BURNS ON THE VICENZA PLAIN.

I look up.

Who did these Americans we see coming over free us from?

An older man will say: from those same criminals erased from memory
by our politicians and intellectuals; criminals who have come to be forgiven as freedom-fighters
without much idea of what's for the greater good.

BOMB-BOMB. CRIMINAL BOMB!

War generates a blind economy.

A blind economy burns memories and binds straw into a deadly rope.

A fascist economy parches the once-fertile soil,
which nurtured the city's civilised way of life.

MEMORY BURNS ON THE VICENZA PLAIN.

What clever hands build, fire destroys.

Palladio, my friend, do not mourn *if I forsake UNESCO*. Still on a hot summer's day
we look down from this mountain plateau onto a military abomination, a lawless monster
fanned by the wind of Japanese history...I, we, burn the symbol of the unheard dead.

A fatherless cross.

A thousand fatherless crosses.

"Father, why have you forsaken me?"

MEMORY BURNS ON THE VICENZA PLAIN.

Between Vicenza and Asiago plateau, 6-9 August 2013.

By Alberto Peruffo and the Pax Christi Collective.

During the International Summer Camp commemorating the anniversary of Hiroshima-Nagasaki and
the inauguration of the American AFRICOM Military Base Del Din/fu Dal Molin
in Vicenza, former UNESCO city, 2 July 2013.