

L'indagine storico-tecnica dell'accaduto si basa sull'analisi di testi giornalistici e scientifici, sugli articoli pubblicati dai quotidiani dell'epoca e sul materiale d'archivio. Va sottolineata l'importanza dei materiali archivistici custoditi presso il *National Archives Kew Gardens* di Londra che hanno contribuito in maniera determinante a far luce su fatti e processi finora sconosciuti e legati a questa tragedia.

Historical expertise of the tragedy on Pula's Vargarola (*Vargarolla*) on August 18th 1946

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Summary

Even after 64 years, the mystery of the Vargarola explosion on August 18th 1946, which left 63 dead and 30 people of Pula injured, most of them women, children and youth, has not been solved. Alongside the victims of the bombing of Pula on January 9th 1944, this is the gravest tragedy that had hit the city in the 20th century.

Much has been written about this event, especially in the past 15 years. Publicists, some eyewitnesses, often those who did not even know where Vargarola is, wrote about it, but not a single historian did. Historians mentioned the event only as a cause or the reason for the exodus of the Italian citizens of Pula and copied incorrect data from Italian publicists. Texts were, of course, emotional and overburdened with various political beliefs. Important facts were left out or inverted and distorted as one please). The uncritical attitude towards this event encourages and nourishes all sorts of conspiracy theories and nonsense stories so it may seem as if the real truth does not want to come out. The truth can be found (or we can at least come close to it) if the event at Vargarola is studied in a broader context of events within the period from May 1945 until January 1947. Every archived document connected to the event needs to be studied and all technical information about the explosion need to be critically processed.

Historically-professional expertise of the event is based on a critique of published publicist writings and scientific texts, newspapers of the time and archives. I would especially like to emphasize the value of the archives from The National Archives Kew Gardens fund which helped which helped our understanding of the unfamiliar events and processes connected to this tragedy.