

# The life of the miners



The history of the Resartico mine is written by the work of the miners, which was **hard, heavy, often risky work** that profoundly marked a life of sacrifice.

A story of **minimal equipment, extreme conditions**, and almost no assistance emerge from the accounts of the last surviving miners.

There are not many written testimonies regarding the working conditions of the people employed, especially during the early periods of the mine's activity, but in an inspection report from 1943, however, we learn that "in the whole mine, on average, 13 or 14 pneumatic drillers are active per shift, of which 4 are at the working face and the rest in the production yards. On all the working faces, mining is done in two shifts per day. At each working face, a pickaxe operator works with two labourers and a sorter:

*The workers' village is arranged and includes **two brick dormitory huts**, in one there are **108 places on the ground floor and 72 in the attic**, with **two three-tier iron bunk beds**...*

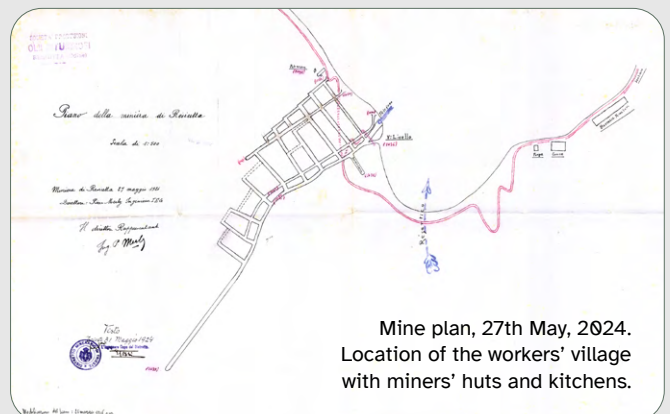
*The cableway operators sleep separately in a small hut near the corner station. Two cooks and the guard of the powder magazine sleep in small, separate rooms. A hut for the toilets contains the sinks and latrines.*

**A room with showers is absent. Nor is there a wash-room** for linen and clothes. It is essential to install them...

**Gastrointestinal disorders are frequent** among the workers. I believe that the **irrational meal times** are not unrelated to this. In fact, they are too close together. The workers on the morning shift (6 a.m – 2 p.m) take a coffee substitute with bread before entering the mine, a main meal when leaving, around 2:15 p.m, the final meal in the evening around 6:30 p.m. The workers on the evening shift (18-2) take a coffee substitute with bread when leaving the mine, a main meal around 12:00, and the final meal around 5:00 p.m".



Miners at the entrance to the office in the mining village, 1943.



Mine plan, 27th May, 1943.  
Location of the workers' village with miners' huts and kitchens.



Miners in the tunnel during a religious service for the patron saint of miners (St. Barbara)

Group photo of miners, mining village, summer 1943.