



On patrol – a view from the *Wintergarten* of the bridge of *U-375* while surfaced in the Mediterranean. (WH col.)



After we returned to La Spezia from our patrol, the most important task was catching up on our mail, read here by the I.WO and an NCO. (WH col.)



The I.WO (first watch officer) of *U-375*, *Oberleutnant z.S.* Heintze, in a picture taken from atop the periscope housing. (WH col.)

hospitality of an Italian business tycoon who invited me to spend a weekend with him and his family at his estate on beautiful Lake Como near Milan. During my time in Italy, it was noticeable to me and my comrades that there were almost no indications that this nation was at war. In the three months I was posted to La Spezia, I never saw an Italian warship enter or leave the base, while at

the ritual evening promenade in Viareggio young men of military age strolled up and down, a dozen abreast and arm in arm, seemingly without a care in the world.

After a few weeks at Viareggio, I returned to La Spezia, and the remainder of my time in Italy was spent in trying to assist in the repairs on *U-375*. A better knowledge of Italian would have been helpful but, by now, I

had become only too familiar with “*domani*” and “*dopodomani*” which, in most cases, were the stock replies to almost every question asked about progress.

I was not there when the boat was finally ready because, after a few more glorious weeks of sunshine, Chianti and ice cream on the shores of the Mediterranean, it was time to return to the *Marineschule* at Kiel for more specialized technical classes. The train trip north, which I made with a *Fähnrich z.S.*, was interrupted by a sightseeing visit to Parma. After we had recrossed the Alps, the soft pastel colours of the landscape and the overcast weather were almost a welcome relief from the eternally blue sky, the aquamarine Mediterranean and the strong reds and greens that dominate the scenery of Italy.

U-375 continued to serve in the Mediterranean until 30 July 1943 when, still under Könenkamp’s command, it was sunk with all hands near Pantellaria.*

* *U-375* was sunk by the American patrol craft *PC-624* on 30 July 1943, after it tried to attack Allied shipping supporting the invasion of Sicily.



In 1942, most Type VII U-boats still carried an 88 mm gun on the foredeck. These guns were later removed because constantly increasing Allied airpower forced German submarines to travel less and attack less on the surface and because, since diving time was crucial during an air attack, the boats could no longer afford to have crew on deck before an alarm dive. (WH col.)