

FRESIA	Attilio
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<i>Date of Birth</i>	5.3.1891	<i>Place of Birth</i>	Turin		
<i>Date of Death</i>	14.4.1923	<i>Place of Death</i>	Modena		
<i>Height</i>		<i>Weight</i>		<i>Position</i>	Half Back/Forward

<i>Club</i>	<i>From*</i>	<i>To*</i>
Torino	1907	1911
Andrea Doria**	1911	1913
Genoa	1913	1913
Reading	11.1913	1914
Croydon Common	9.1914	1915
Andrea Doria**	1915	1915
Livorno	1919	1920
Modena	1920	1920

<i>F.A. Cup Finals</i>	None	<i>Cigarette/Trade Cards</i>	None
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<i>Internationals</i>						
<i>For</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Season</i>	<i>Club</i>	<i>Against</i>	<i>Score</i>	<i>Venue</i>
Italy	1.5.1913	1912-13	Andrea Doria	Belgium	1-0	Turin

<i>Jottings</i>
His name is recorded in some places as Freesia
Was reputedly the first Italian to play in England and his failure to make an impression was blamed upon muddy pitches stifling his dribbling skills
Some sources suggest that Reading paid a fee of £17 for his services
Was described in the local Reading press as "almost useless"
Did not make a first team appearance for the Common, but worthy of inclusion given that he was an Italian international
Played at centre forward for his one Italian cap, but did not score
The transfer fee for his move to Genoa was 400 lire - the move was investigated by the Genoese Football Federation as, under amateurism, paid transfers were prohibited
Appeared twice in friendlies (for Genoa and Italy) against a touring Reading side in May 1913, scoring twice for Genoa, which encouraged the club to seek his transfer
Made no first team appearances for Reading, but appeared for the reserves against Croydon Common Reserves in the South Eastern League
Served with the Italian army in WW1 and was stationed in Parma and then Leghorn
In 1920 he went to Brazil to take up the role of coach at Palmerias - winning the Paulista regional championship - but soon returned home due to ill health
Was described by Vittorio Pozzo, manager of Italy's World Cup winning sides of 1934 and 1938, as "one of the most skilful players in Italian football"
He managed Modena from 1922 until his death and married Nerina Secchi, the sister of one of the founders of the club
Died young from tuberculosis or chronic bronchitis



* All dates are approximate ** The Andrea Doria club, after a number of amalgamations, evolved to become Sampdoria in 1946

There was another prominent player named Fresia (Vincenzo) who was also capped once for Italy in 1913 - he played for the leading club of the period, Pro Vercelli