



The Italian Liberation Route

History & Military Vehicles Italia organizes a raid along the route of the American and British-British Commonwealth troops during the ww2's Italian campaign. Historical ww2 jeeps, are ready to roll between history and memory

DATES

The departure is scheduled from GELA (Sicily) on 10th of July 2023, the day of the allied landing in Sicily which kicked off the campaign for the liberation of Italy. The indicative arrival in MILAN (Lombardy) is expected after 15 days according to the needs of the road or vehicles

THE HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The Italian campaign of World War II, also called the Liberation of Italy following the German occupation in September 1943, consisted of Allied and Axis operations in and around Italy, from 1943 to 1945. The joint Allied Forces Headquarters (AFHQ) was operationally responsible for all Allied land forces in the Mediterranean theatre and it planned and led the invasion of Sicily in July 1943, followed in September by the invasion of the Italian mainland and the campaign in Italy until the surrender of the German Armed Forces in Italy in May 1945.

It is estimated that between September 1943 and April 1945, 60,000–70,000 Allied and 38,805–150,660 German soldiers died in Italy. Fascist Italy, prior to its collapse, suffered about 200,000 casualties, mostly POWs taken in the invasion of Sicily, including more than 40,000 killed or missing. Over 150,000 Italian civilians died, as did 35,828 anti-fascist partisans and some 35,000 troops of the Italian Social Republic. On the Western Front of World War II, Italy was the most costly campaign in terms of casualties suffered by infantry forces of both sides, during bitter small-scale fighting around strongpoints at the Winter Line, the Anzio beachhead and the Gothic Line.

CONCEPT

On the 80th anniversary of the Allied landing in Sicily which started the liberation of Italy from Nazi-Fascism, a raid with WW2 Willys jeeps led by a group of history buffs will retrace the most important stages of the passage of World War II in the country, from south to north of Italy. The task is to remember and to honor the sacrifice of the young American and British soldiers who fought in the country. Alongside historical dissemination, we are also thinking of a charitable mission to help the florentine children hospital, Meyer. Essential stops along the way will be the Italian war cemeteries and WW2 museums of the 'Italy War Route' cultural association

HMV Italy - THE TEAM

History & Military Vehicles Italia association, was founded in 2011 in order to promote the culture of historical military motoring in the context of World War II. Over the years it has organized important national and international events. HMV collaborates also with associations and administrations, both military and civilian; through the MUGOT (Gothic Museum of Scarperia -

Florence) it is included in the national museum system 'Italy War Route', grouping the main historical-popular museums of the Second World War in Italy.

HMV is also the Italian office of MVPA, the Military Vehicle, Preservation Association of Usa. The raid will be made at least 5 strictly original vehicles (Willis Overland jeeps and GPW Fords) used by the American allied forces in ww2.

In the crews, history experts and uniforms of the time, journalists, historical communicators.

THE FORMAT

We would like to transform the entire route, or raid, into a history/adventure-themed television format. All stages in videos, galleries and articles will still be published on the web magazine Armymag.it our media partner, both web and social. Press releases (including photos and videos) will be sent to all the local and national media for each step of the route.

PATH

7/10 Gela: landing celebrations

7/11 GELA - MESSINA . Soste: Ponte Primosole, Commonwealth War Cemetery Catania; Museo dello sbarco Catania – Taormina – Messina.

7/12: SALERNO - VENAFRO - CASSINO. Soste: Salerno war cemetery, Winterline Museum Venafro; Cassino abbazia, war cemeteries, cimiteri di guerra tedesco e polacco

7/13: CASSINO - ANZIO - ROMA. Soste: museo Castelforte (Lt), Anzio Beach Head War cemetery, Museo Sbarco di Anzio, Fosse Ardeatine, Altare della Patria

7/14: ROMA - SIENA: Orvieto War Cemetery; Montegabbione, Foiano della Chiana War Cemetery; Cortona, Siena, Targa de Monsabert.

7/15: Siena - FIRENZE. (King George VI and Winston Churchill inspecting the troops in Chianti, San Michele a Torri, the Kiwi's small Cassino; Monuments men, Lt Hartt History in San Miniato; il cimitero UK e BC del Girone, il Gothic Line Museum Ponzalla

7/16: FIRENZE - FELONICA. German cemetery Futa pass; Fossoli concentration camp, Museo della seconda guerra mondiale del fiume Po (Felonica)

7/17 FELONICA - SALÒ: Dictator's last days

18/7 SALÒ - MILANO: Military Cemetery of the Commonwealth, Binario 21. Homecoming

Nb: during the stages, stops are planned in the places of the battles, the museums that commemorate them, and in the main memorial stones and monuments dedicated to the Allied troops.

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