

ITALY: 1944

FROM ANZIO TO THE GOTHIC LINE

ROME • ANZIO • LUCCA • BORGO A MOZZANO
PONZALLA • GIOGO PASS • FUTA PASS



THE NATIONAL
WWII MUSEUM
TRAVEL

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Dear Friend of the Museum,

The year 1944 was remarkable for the Allies. The Normandy landings had thrown the Germans into retreat and resulted in the liberation of most of France by year's end. In the Pacific, hard-fought campaigns in the Mariana Islands yielded airfields close enough to Japan to support continuous B-29 raids on the Japanese home islands.

Lost in the middle of these decisive events was the Italian campaign. The fighting in Italy after the liberation of Rome on June 4, 1944, has become a footnote in most histories of the war, which unfortunately does little to recognize the supreme effort it took to reach "The Eternal City." Still, to understand the progress made in France, one must understand Italy and the battle-scarred men who crossed this formidable terrain.

After more than a year of fierce battles in Italy and Sicily, Allied forces landed in Anzio on January 22, 1944. At first, the operation seemed to be a success. By the end of the first day, over 36,000 men were ashore with 3,200 vehicles and fewer than 150 casualties. The Allied commanders squandered their initial advantage, however, failing to advance inland. Within a week, tough German reinforcements had arrived in the sector and had gone on the offensive. Brutal fighting ensued, as the Allies tried to advance while the Germans repeatedly tried to shove them back into the sea. For months, Allied troops sat in a shallow beachhead, under constant German observation and artillery fire. This bloody stalemate lasted until May, when the men at Anzio finally linked up with those coming from the Gustav Line to the south.

Following the liberation of Rome, the focus of the war shifted to Normandy. The Italian campaign, however, continued. German Field Marshal Albert Kesselring deployed his forces in the mountains north of Florence in an attempt to delay the Allied advance. Italian laborers, working under German supervision, dug a dense network of fortifications known as the Gothic Line. With the defensive positions etched directly into the mountains, the Allies had no choice but to maneuver their way through a virtual labyrinth of German strongpoints. Florence was liberated on August 4, 1944. Bologna, less than 80 miles through the mountain passes, remained in German hands until April 21, 1945. The fighting was slow, grinding, and bloody throughout. Indeed, that was true of the Italian campaign as a whole.

Visitors who stand at the summit of some of these mountains will come away with a great respect for the men who fought to force their way through the "forgotten front" of Italy. A historian from the Jenny Craig Institute for the Study of War and Democracy will join this tour to bring in additional expertise. With exquisite hotels in Rome and Lucca and expert battlefield guides throughout, you will experience the best in educational content, local cuisine, and comfort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Steve Watson".

Stephen J. Watson
President & CEO, The National WWII Museum



A GI visits the Coliseum with local Italian guides. Courtesy of the US National Archive.

MUD, MOUNTAINS, AND MULES

The campaigns in Italy from the first landings in September 1943 through May 1945 tested Allied soldiers to the limit.

Following the initial landings in the south, the Allies found themselves bogged down facing the formidable Gustav Line, a network of German defenses in the mountains between Naples and Rome. Attempting to outflank this line, the 3rd achieved a successful amphibious landing in Anzio on January 25, 1944, and was later reinforced by 45th Infantry Division, but sluggish commanders failed to move rapidly enough, resulting in another stalemate. The spring thaw in the mountains found the Allies once more on the advance, liberating Rome on June 4, 1944, creating brief headlines around the world that would soon be outshined by the June 6 landings in Normandy. Meanwhile, German Field Marshal Albert Kesselring retreated to the northern Apennines to establish yet another defensive position known to the Allies as the Gothic Line. General Mark Clark's Fifth Army faced a desperate enemy and unforgiving terrain, and it was here he coined the phrase that defined the Italian campaign: "Mud, Mountains, and Mules."

African American soldiers lead mules to the front in Italy and pass a wrecked German tank lying by the roadside. A Signal Corps member films them with a camera in the lower right corner, May 21, 1944. Courtesy of The National WWII Museum collection.



Aerial view of Lucca, Italy.



STAND WHERE HISTORY WAS MADE

Lucca, Italy



**A 92nd
Infantry
Division
Patch**

Courtesy of
The National
WWII Museum
collection.

Battles along the Gothic Line featured a multinational force made up of several segregated units. The US 92nd Infantry Division "Buffalo Soldiers" consisted exclusively of African American soldiers. The 92nd Division entered combat in Naples, and continued through Rome and into the

North Apennines. On September 5, 1944, soldiers from the 92nd entered the city of Lucca, finding it intact. The local population heard that the Americans were approaching, and were initially surprised to see the black soldiers entering their city. The Italians celebrated, showering the soldiers with affection and gratitude. Soon after, troops from the Brazilian Expeditionary Force passed through the area, creating a multicultural atmosphere in the town. The 92nd Division soon moved out of Lucca to fight the Germans in the Serchio Valley. Today the local population of Lucca fondly remembers the arrival of the "Buffalo Soldiers" who liberated them from German occupation.

LEARN THEIR NAMES HEAR THEIR STORIES

86th Regiment, 10th Mountain Division, pause to put on their snowshoes. Courtesy of The National WWII Museum, McWhirter, January 10, 1945



10TH MOUNTAIN DIVISION

Before 1941, the US Army did not have specialized mountain troops. Charles Minot "Minnie" Dole, founder of the National Ski Patrol, lobbied Pentagon officials and President Franklin Delano Roosevelt to create specialized mountain units. Activated in 1943, the nucleus of the 10th Mountain Division trained under brutal conditions in the mountains of Colorado. Their training was put to use immediately when the division landed in Italy in January 1945. In the months that followed, the 10th Mountain Division fought its way through the northern Apennine Mountains, helping to break through the formidable Gothic Line. On April 23, 1945, after four months of fighting, the 10th Mountain Division became the first American unit to enter the Po River Valley. The division deactivated in 1945, but reactivated in the 1980s.

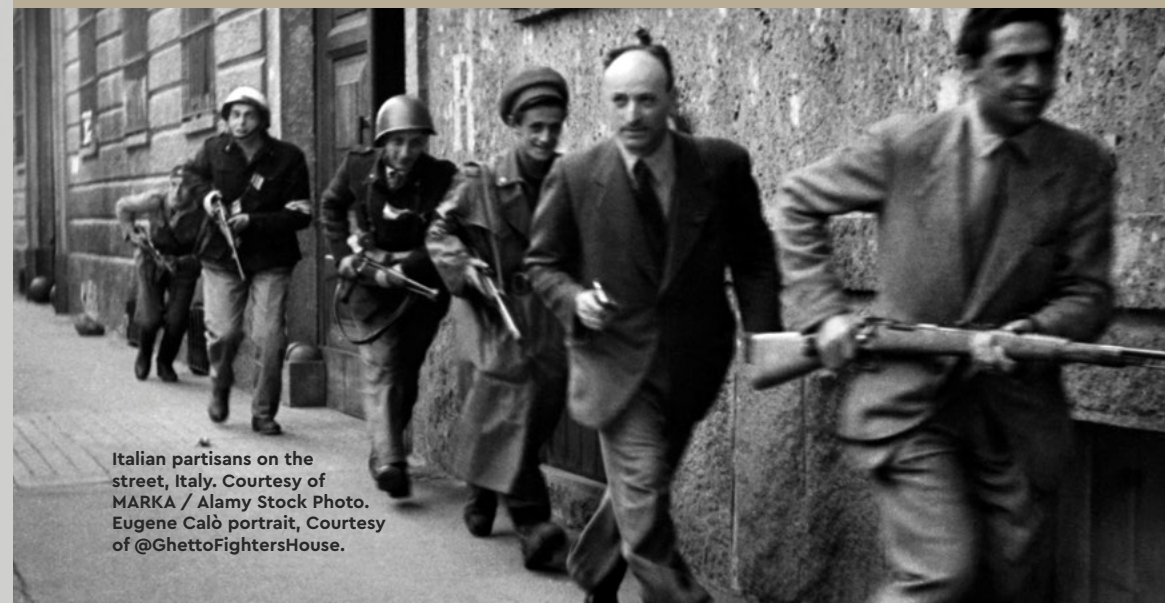
EUGENIO CALÒ



When the Germans occupied Italy in September 1943, many Italians became partisans, working with the Allies during their march north. One such fighter was Eugenio Calò, a Sephardi Jew, second in command of the Pio Borri Brigade, which operated in the mountains in Tuscany. Not only did the Fascists take away Calò's livelihood, but in May 1944, they rounded up his wife and three children and sent them to Auschwitz, where they were gassed on arrival (including a fourth son who was born en route to the camp).

In July 1944, Calò's men captured thirty German soldiers. Despite his devastating personal loss, he refused to execute them, instead taking them as prisoners of war and handing them over to the Allies.

When General Mark Clark asked for two of Calò's partisans to cross back into the German-held town of Arezzo to coordinate with the incoming Allies, Calò volunteered for the mission. He was captured along with a group of forty-eight civilians, partisans, and prisoners, who were tortured and made to dig a mass grave for themselves. When the group was in the hole, the Germans strapped explosives to the partisans, and set the bombs off. The following day, a British tank unit discovered the grisly scene, now known as the San Polo Massacre. In 1947, Eugenio Calò posthumously received Italy's highest military medal, the Gold Medal for Military Valor, for his actions against the German occupiers, and for his humanity towards captives. To this day, he is a hero in Italy, with numerous streets named after him around Arezzo and Florence.



Italian partisans on the street, Italy. Courtesy of MARKA / Alamy Stock Photo. Eugene Calò portrait, Courtesy of @GhettoFightersHouse.

*International flights to/
from the US are not
included.*



Jenny Craig Institute
for the Study of War and Democracy

OUR MISSION

The Jenny Craig Institute for the Study of War and Democracy is a community of scholars forming a national center for research, higher education, publications, and public programming, dedicated to promoting the history of World War II, the relationship between the war and America's democratic system, and the war's continued relevance for the world.

VISION

The National WWII Museum's Jenny Craig Institute for the Study of War and Democracy explores the war's history and enduring legacies, and seeks to inspire civic engagement by:

- Becoming the preferred resource for audiences seeking fresh scholarship, public history, public programming, and commentary on World War II.
- Extending the reach of the Museum's public programs and publications to larger national and international audiences.
- Sustaining a network of the world's preeminent scholars and cultural leaders to promote and broaden the history, memories, and legacies of the war.
- Attracting new generations of Americans to study, research, and write about the American experience in World War II through fellowships, collections, Museum tours, lifelong learning, and additional outreach efforts.

ITALY: 1944

FROM ANZIO TO THE GOTHIC LINE



**Visit the website for the most up to date
pricing, tour dates, special discounts and more!**

- Travel with a historian from the Jenny Craig Institute for the Study of War and Democracy
- Full-time logistical Tour Manager
- Expert local battlefield guides
- Roundtrip Airport Transfers (when arriving & departing on scheduled group tour dates)
- 3-nights in Rome at the Rose Garden Palace Hotel
- 4-nights in Lucca at Grand Universe Lucca, Autograph Collection
- Private, first-class, air-conditioned motor coach transportation
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- Video oral history presentations from the Museum's collection
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- Personal listening devices on all included touring
- 6 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 1 reception, and 3 dinners
- Beer, wine, and soft drinks with included lunches and dinner
- Informative map book including useful battlefield maps and archival images to be used throughout your journey
- Personalized luggage tags and customized name badge



American troops entering Rome- ITALY, CIRCA 1944. Courtesy of Carl Mydans/The LIFE Picture Collection/Getty Images.



Villa Torlonia, once residence of Mussolini, now a museum and public park, Nomentano, Rome, Lazio, Italy. Alamy stock photo.

DAY ONE

ARRIVAL IN ROME

Enjoy individual flights into Rome-Fiumicino Airport (FCO), and transfer to the Rose Garden Palace Hotel. This afternoon, take a driving tour around Rome, seeing sights relevant to World War II history in the area. This evening, the Museum Historian will provide a special presentation during a welcome reception, followed by dinner with the group.

Accommodations: Rose Garden Palace Hotel (R, D)



Brothers in Arms statue at the Sicily-Rome American Cemetery in Nettuno, Rome, Italy.



Upon arriving at an evacuation hospital in Anzio, two American nurses, 2nd Lt. Mary H. Fischer of Strassburg and 2nd Lt. Margaret L. Gallagher of Hibbing, Minnesota, take turns digging a foxhole on February 1, 1944. Courtesy of The National WWII Museum, Signal Corps Radio Photo.

DAY TWO

NETTUNO BEACH AND ANZIO LANDING BEACH MUSEUM *Hear the story of how an initially successful Allied landing turned into a brutal stalemate*

Today, visit the Anzio Beachhead, where an initially successful Allied landing turned into a brutal stalemate. On January 22, 1944, the Allies initiated a surprise landing behind the German defensive positions known as the Gustav Line. Once ashore, the Allies paused for several days to reorganize, allowing the Germans to move reinforcements to the beachhead. Throughout February, Allied attempts to break out of the beachhead were met by German counterattacks. The unforgiving terrain hindered movement, and the scene soon resembled the trench warfare of World War I. A month of German counterattacks failed to dislodge the Allies, but casualties mounted. By March, both sides had dug into defensive positions. Tour the Anzio Beachhead Museum, the Caves of Aprilia, and the Sicily-Rome American Cemetery to gain a more comprehensive appreciation of one of the most vicious campaigns of World War II.

Accommodations: *Rose Garden Palace Hotel (B, L)*

QUI FUMMO TRUCIDATI
VITTIME DI UN SACRIFICIO ORRENDO
DAL NOSTRO SACRIFICIO
SORGA UNA PATRIA MIGLIORE
E DURATURA PACE FRA I POPOLI

DE PROFUNDIS CLAMAVI
AD TE DOMINE.....



מסעמקיס קראתיד ה



An inscription inside the Ardeatine Cave reads:

Here we were murdered.

Victims of a horrendous sacrifice.

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and lasting peace among people

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QUI ABITAVA
MARCO SCIUNNACH
NATO 1898
ARRESTATO GENNAIO 1944
DEPORTATO
AUSCHWITZ
MORTO
IN LUOGO IGNOTO
IN DATA IGNOTA

QUI ABITAVA
SETTIMIO SCIUNNACH
NATO 1897
ARRESTATO 21.2.1944
DEPORTATO
AUSCHWITZ
MORTO 31.10.1944

QUI ABITAVA
ROSA SPAGNOLETTO
IN SCIUNNACH
NATA 1988
ARRESTATO 21.2.1944
DEPORTATA
AUSCHWITZ
ASSASSINATA 10.4.1944

Brass cobblestones throughout Rome mark the places where individual Holocaust victims were taken from their homes.

DAY THREE

ROME *Italian Resistance and the Roman-Jewish experience during World War II*

Start the day with a walking Tour of Via Rasella, hearing stories of the Italian resistance, a daring attack on German SS police, and the subsequent massacre in retaliation. Continue to the Ardeatine Caves to shed light on one of the largest single atrocities committed by the German forces in Italy during the war. The caves now stand as a memorial to the victims of this heinous crime, commemorating their lives and honoring their memory.

For lunch, take time to explore the Jewish Quarter independently and savor traditional Roman-Jewish dishes. Although the Nazi occupation of Rome lasted only nine-months, from September 1943 to June 1944, Jewish citizens began facing discrimination and hate in the late 1930's as Nazi influence grew in Italy. Today's tour is focused on the Italian civilian and Jewish experience. After lunch, join your guide on a walking tour of the area including a visit to the Jewish Museum and Great Synagogue. Along the journey, pause to reflect on the many stumbling stones placed throughout the ghetto as a reminder of the Roman Jewish victims of the Holocaust.

Accommodations: *Rose Garden Palace Hotel (B, D)*

DAY FOUR

FLORENCE AMERICAN CEMETERY

Following the liberation of Rome, the Allies continued north to push the Germans completely out of Italy. During the fighting in the next series of German positions, the Allies coined the term “Mud, Mountains, and Mules” to describe the conditions of battle. Well-hidden German positions in the mountains, and the difficulty of keeping the troops supplied, resulted in a months-long battle of attrition. As the tour moves to Tuscany, stop at the Florence American Cemetery where the remains of 4,393 Americans are interred along with an additional 1,409 names on the Tablets of the Missing. The cemetery serves as a permanent reminder that the war in Italy did not end with the liberation of Rome. The evening is free to explore Lucca on your own.

Accommodations: Grand Universe Lucca, Autograph Collection (B, L)





HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

THE GOTHIC LINE

After capturing Rome on June 4, 1944, the Allied armies in Italy rushed north to finish the campaign in Italy once and for all. The US Fifth Army, under General Mark Clark, moved up the Ligurian coast while the British Eighth Army continued up the Adriatic coast. Through June, July, and August, both armies were delayed by German actions during their relentless march north. The strategic focus of Allied command weighed to the invasion of southern France and Operation Dragoon, diverting Clark's available manpower from 250,000 men to roughly 150,000. General Clark could ill afford to lose these men, especially the specialized mountain troops of the French Expeditionary Corps.

The German Tenth and Fourteenth Armies had problems of their own. The defensive lines north of Rome were only partially constructed, two Allied armies were nipping at their rear, and Italian partisans were blowing bridges and disrupting troop convoys.

American General Mark Clark (1896 - 1984), Commander of the Allied Fifth Army in Italy, mulls over strategy on a mountaintop with General Geoffrey Keyes (1888 - 1967), who leads an American corps within the Fifth Army, November 10, 1944. Courtesy of Keystone/Getty Images.



Field Marshal Albert Kesselring, commander of Army Group C, planned to conduct a fighting retreat into the winter and spring of 1945. This plan included fighting at three defensive lines, the Trasimene Line, the Arno Line, and the Gothic Line (later renamed Green Line). The Gothic Line, at its zenith, reached from the Ligurian coast north of Florence, across the northern peaks of the Apennines, before settling on the Adriatic Coast south of Rimini. The Allies soon found themselves fighting against another Monte Cassino, only this time without the abbey.

Against Hitler's orders, Kesselring declared Florence an open city. Even so, he destroyed the medieval bridges around the city in an attempt to slow down the Allied advance. The US Fifth Army arrived in Florence on August 4, 1944, led by the "Monuments Men," who immediately went to work evaluating the damage to the Florentine artwork, bridges, and buildings around the city. Meanwhile, plans for an assault against the Gothic Line were in the works. Fifteenth Army Group Commander, General Harold Alexander, devised a plan (Operation Olive) to strike at the center of the Gothic Line in the Apennine Mountains. However, General Oliver Leese, commander of Eighth Army, convinced Alexander to shift the attack to the Adriatic Coast, where superior British artillery fire would have a better chance of breaking through. On September 12, after word came from ULTRA (British Intelligence) that German troops had moved from the center to the Adriatic, the Fifth Army struck in the Apennines. The goal was to break through and reach Bologna and the Po River Valley beyond. The assault saw initial success, with German troops being caught completely off guard. With help from Italian partisans, the Americans made their way forward, taking peak after peak, until the drive finally halted at the end of October, just two miles from the downward slope towards Bologna. Another Italian winter had come, with rain, mud, and swollen rivers making movement almost impossible until spring.

Throughout the winter of 1944/45, the Allies in Italy used their time to save up stores of artillery shells, add new troops to their ranks, and make small gains in land. During this time, the new 10th Mountain Division, specially trained mountain troops, joined the Fifth Army and immediately proved their mettle, assisting the Brazilian Expeditionary Force in a six-mile gain just prior to the spring offensive. On April 6, 1945, General Clark, now commanding 15th Army Group, commenced Operation Grapeshot with a diversionary attack in the Eighth Army sector. Following nine days of powerful bombardments, the US Fifth Army began its assault north towards the Po River Valley. By the start of Grapeshot, German manpower, already depleted from the constant demands of the Eastern and Western Fronts, reached its breaking point. With almost no reserves, under pressure from overwhelming Allied firepower, and renewed partisan attacks in their rear, German defenses began to crumble after six days. On April 20, the Americans reached the Po River. Two days later, they crossed it near San Benedetto. On April 27, the American 1st Armored Division entered Milan, liberated by Italian partisans two days earlier. Five days later, on May 2, 1945, all German troops in Italy surrendered to Allied forces, finally ending the 20-month war on the Italian peninsula. Prime Minister Winston Churchill's "soft underbelly of Europe" proved to be everything but, with the Gothic Line serving as one of the last great German defensive stands of the war.



First German prisoner taken by patrol of the 92nd Infantry Division after crossing the Arno River at the Gothic Line is shown being questioned by 1st Lt. Lawrence D. Spencer, of Elizabeth, New Jersey, September 2, 1944. Courtesy of the collection of The National WWII Museum, US Army Signal Corps photograph, Gift of Regan Forrester.

DAY FIVE

THE GOTHIC LINE

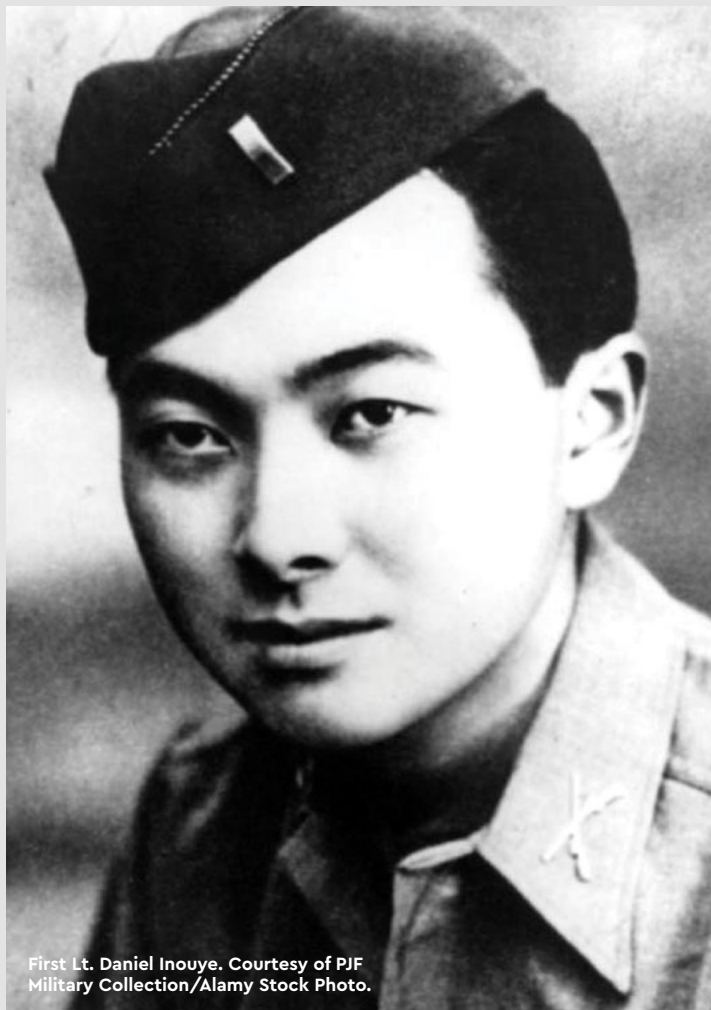
The morning starts in the picturesque walled city of Lucca. On a walk through this Tuscan city, the guide leads a discussion of life under fascism, the harshness of the German occupation, and the celebrations accompanying the liberation. Spared from destruction, Lucca retains its ancient charm. The walking tour of the city center includes stops at the fascist headquarters, buildings occupied by the German administration, and a balcony on which Mussolini delivered a speech to the local citizens. After lunch on your own, continue to the Gothic Line fortifications near the town of Borgo a Mozzano. Local associations dedicate time and funding to preserve the bunkers, antiaircraft emplacements, communication trenches, and antitank ditches that serve as ever-present reminders of the battles. During the visit, descend into the bunkers and tunnels constructed by Italian laborers under the orders of Organization Todt. Return to Lucca for dinner on own.

Accommodations: *Grand Universe Lucca, Autograph Collection (B)*

View of Borgo a Mozzano

HONORING *our* HEROES

Senator Daniel Inouye 1924 – 2012



First Lt. Daniel Inouye. Courtesy of PJF Military Collection/Alamy Stock Photo.

Purple Heart, Bronze Star, and
Medal of Honor Recipient



US President Bill Clinton congratulates US Senator Daniel Inouye of Hawaii, after awarding him the Congressional Medal of Honor on June 21, 2000, at the White House in Washington, DC, for his service in World War II. Courtesy of George Bridges/AFP/Getty Images.

Daniel Inouye was born on September 7, 1924, in Honolulu, Hawaii, the son of a Japanese immigrant father and Japanese American mother. On the morning of December 7, 1941, Inouye witnessed the attack on Pearl Harbor by Imperial Japanese forces. On February 19, 1942, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, which authorized the confinement of over 110,000 Japanese Americans living on the West Coast in internment camps. After petitioning the government to let them fight, Japanese Americans were given the opportunity to show their country that they too were loyal patriots, even while their families lived in internment camps around the country.

Inouye joined the all Japanese American 442nd Regimental Combat Team. In 1945, the 442nd found itself in northern Italy fighting to break the defensive position known as the Gothic Line. On April 21, 1945, Inouye led an assault against a German position called Colle Musatello. During the assault on three German machine gun nests, Inouye was pinned to the ground. When he stood up to lead an attack, Inouye was hit in the stomach. Despite the bullet passing through his abdomen, Inouye continued forward, destroying the first nest with grenades and his Tommy gun. He continued to fight, destroying the second machine gun nest. Under orders, his squad kept moving towards the third machine gun nest. Losing blood, Inouye slowly crawled to within 10 yards of the German position. As he lifted himself up to throw his last grenade into the bunker slit, one of the occupants spotted him and shot a rifle grenade, which hit Inouye in the arm holding the grenade, shattering his arm.

Inouye yelled to his men to stay away, fearing the mangled remains of his hand would release the live grenade at any moment. Taking the grenade with his left hand, Inouye threw it into the slit, destroying the last machine gun nest, and allowing his men to continue forward. He took one more bullet to the leg before passing out. Inouye lost his right arm, and his actions earned him the Purple Heart, Bronze Star, and Distinguished Service Cross—later upgraded to the Medal of Honor by President Bill Clinton in 2000. He spent 49 years as a public servant. When Hawaii became the 50th state, Inouye became one of its first representatives in the US Congress, then won election to the US Senate in 1962 where he served until his death in 2012.

DAY SIX

GIOGO PASS

As the Allies reached Florence, the options to move through the mountains were limited to two mountain passes: Futa and Giogo. The Futa Pass, along the main road from Florence to Bologna, was heavily fortified, but offered a quick route to Bologna. The defenses in the Giogo Pass were less formidable, but the terrain would be more difficult. Attacks on German positions on Monte Altuzzo and Monticelli, the mountains that dominate both sides of the Giogo Pass, led to a clearing of the pass. On tour, visit the Gotica Museum in Ponzalla, reconstructed German fortifications, monuments to the 91st Infantry Division, and the German Military Cemetery in Futa Pass. On the final evening of the tour, enjoy a farewell dinner with the group.

Accommodations: *Grand Universe Lucca, Autograph Collection (B, L, D)*



Passing soldiers made a target of a giant portrait of the ousted dictator Benito Mussolini taken out of the former fascist headquarters in Anzio, February 7, 1944. Courtesy of The National WWII Museum/Signal Corps Radio photo.



DAY SEVEN

RETURN TO US FROM FLORENCE OR PISA

After breakfast, transfer to Florence Peretola Airport (FLR) or the Pisa International Airport (PSA) for your independently scheduled flight home **(B)**



ROSE GARDEN PALACE *Rome, Italy*

The Rose Garden Palace is housed in a nineteenth-century building featuring a classic architectural design with a limestone exterior and an elegant glass awning. Ideally located just off Via Veneto, in the heart of one of Rome's most popular neighborhoods, the Rose Garden Palace Hotel is a short walk to historical sites like the Spanish Steps, Colosseum, and Borghese Gallery. In addition to a stunning setting rich with history, the Rose Garden Palace provides guest access to its spacious L'Oasi Fitness Center, complete with spa, sauna, and whirlpool, and Il Roseto Restaurant, a classic Italian dining experience on the hotel's indoor/outdoor garden patio. Room amenities include complimentary Wi-Fi, satellite flat-screen TV, bathrobe and slippers, soundproofed walls, and rainfall showerheads.

GRAND UNIVERSE LUCCA, AUTOGRAPH COLLECTION *Lucca, Italy*

Grand Universe Lucca hotel, stands gracefully overlooking Piazza del Giglio and Piazza Napoleone, revealing the history untold. It has evolved through the millennia, from a glassblower's atelier in Roman times, to a majestic palazzo of the Paoli family during the Renaissance, turning into a monumental hotel in the mid-18th century. Enjoy local Italian cuisine and fine wines at the Italian restaurant Legacy and spend a free evening at Sommità Rooftop Bar, which offers a unique place to admire the city's landmarks and monuments from above while enjoying cocktails and appetizers. Room amenities include room service, free Wi-Fi, cable/satellite TV, mini bar, safe, telephone, laundry service, fitness center, air-conditioning and onsite health and beauty services at Geko® Lucca estetica.

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