

The Freedom for Italy Network Bulletin

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The story of the US 1st Armoured Division told in new online talk



The story of the groundbreaking US 1st Armoured Division in Italy in the Second World War is told by Bradd Craver in a Freedom for Italy online talk. It can be seen here

https://youtu.be/5QbD_kFaqb4

Bradd describes the development of American armoured formations following the stunning success of the German army in Poland and Western Europe. The 1st Armoured was activated in July 1940 in Fort Knox and developed US armoured doctrine.

It was deployed in Operation Torch in French North Africa where key lessons were applied in US armoured operations in Italy. It landed at Salerno in September 1943. The full division was deployed from November in the Fifth Army advance from Naples to south of Cassino. Its Combat Command A (CCA) landed in the Anzio beachhead and played a key role in the defensive battle against the German Fischfang Operation in February 1944. It spearheaded the Allied breakout from the beachhead in May 1944 and was one of the first Allied formations in Rome which was liberated on 4 June. Further operations included the battles for the Po River valley and the final Allied assault in Northern Italy in April-May 1945. Bradd's father Joe was an Italian Campaign veteran who served with the 1st Armoured Division.

Italian campaign film to be screened in Monterenzio

A documentary about the fighting in the Idice River valley between October 1944 and April 1945 is to be screened in the Cinema Teatro Lazzari in Monterenzio at 845pm on Thursday 19 March.

The film includes never-before-seen original film footage and covers the failed offensive in October 1944 to the final Allied assault in April 1945 from the Passo della Raticosa to the last hills of Monterenzio. The fighting in the area involved America's II Corps, the Italian troops of the Legnano Combat Group and other formations. The film will be followed by a question-and-answer session with its producers and local people. The event is organised by Comune di Monterenzio in partnership with the Senio River 1944-45 association.



News in brief

- A 5-km guided tour that will celebrate the 10th Mountain Division's 37th and 38th War Dog Platoons in the Italian Campaign in 1945 begins at 930am on Sunday 12 April. It starts at Museo delle Storie dalla Linea Gotica. For information contact: 334 887 5228.
- Amazon savings are now on all Malcolm Tudor's paperbacks about the Italian Campaign: British Prisoners of War in Italy, Paths to Freedom: £8.99 (RRP £10.99); Escape from Italy 1943-45, Allied Escapers and Fascist Helpers: £6.99 (RRP 7.99); At War in Italy 1943-1945: £7.95 (RRP £11.95); and Mussolini, the Last 10 Days, a New Investigation: £10.95 (RRP £14.95). They are available from www.amazon.co.uk
- The story of 1st Lieutenant John Fox, a forward observer with the African-American 92nd Infantry Division (Buffalo Soldiers), is told in a new online documentary about the Battle of Sommocolonia. The documentary can be seen on History Explorer <https://youtu.be/1InnN7wrTdo>
- The Nei Loro Passi (In Their Steps) guided tour of the Senio River battlefields in northern Italy is being held on Sunday 22 March. The tour starts at the Chiesa di San Potito at 2pm. For more information, contact: 388 875 813.