

***SEMPRE ITALIA***  
***RETURN TO ITALY 2006***

**Tour Guide**

**Sponsored and organized by the**

**National Association  
of the  
10th Mountain Division**

**PO Box 750888  
Forest Hills, NY 11375-0888**

**May 2006**

**SEMPRE ITALIA RETURN TO ITALY 2006**



*SEMPRE ITALIA 2006*  
**RETURN TO ITALY TOUR ROUTE**

Pre-Tour:	Rome	5/24-5/28
Main Tour:	Montecatini, Hill Towns, Riva del Garda and Milan	5/27 - 6/8
Extension Tour:	Udine, Trieste, Tarvisio/Italy Piran/Slovenia, Grossglockner, Salzburg/Austria Garmisch, Munich/Germany	6/8 - 6/14

**SEMPRE ITALIA 2006**

**RETURN TO ITALY**

**CONTENTS**

Presidents Welcome	5
Itinerary	6
Travel Tips	8
Events	
Pre-Tour — Rome	13
Main Tour — Combat Route History	14
Extension Tour	24
List of Tour Maps and Battle Maps	28
Maps	29
Songs	41

## **DEDICATION**

*This Tour Guide is dedicated to  
10th Mountain Division troopers and wives  
who have died since VE Day (May 8 1945).  
May they rest in Peace.*

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

A note of thanks to the 10th Mountain Division veterans, their spouses and their descendants involved in planning and implementing the *2006 SEMPRE ITALIA* Return to Italy tour:

Jewel and Charlie Hunt (86-SVC) for the design of the beautiful cover and pins,  
Bruno Singer (85-H) for procurement assistance,  
Steve Coffey (Desc) for planning assistance,  
Thomas Brooks (85-G) and Barbara and John Imbrie (85-C) for providing maps and historical guidance in three informative books:

*10th Mountain Division Campaign in Italy 1945*  
*Mission Udine*  
*10th Mountain Division Battle Sites: Then and Now*

With a special note of thanks to:

Edward Nickerson (85-G) for permission to use his collection of Italian Alpini songs and translations.  
The InterTrav office of David House and Nancy McFarland in St. Charles, IL and InterTrav's Rome office staff and our tour escorts.  
The 10th Mountain Division Resource Center at the Denver Public Library, and the Colorado Historical Society in Denver, Colorado.

## PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

Welcome to *Sempre Italia 2006!* Our tour this year continues a tradition that began over 40 years ago, in 1963, when an eastern alumni group led by Brian Carter (86-E) and John Weaver (10-HQ-MED) pioneered in arranging the first reunion trip to Italy. Joining the veterans and their families on a Pan American jet from New York were Minnie Dole and General Hays.

This year, as in the past, one of our goals is to afford you the opportunity of visiting with the wonderful people of the Hill Towns and Lake Garda. At the same time, we will examine many of the significant 10th Mountain Division battle sites, and follow the course of a campaign that began in the Apennines, led across the Po Valley and into the Italian Alps, culminating in our celebration of the end of the war in Europe, on May 8, 1945. Our extension tour affords us the opportunity to visit the locales of the Division's post-war assignment in Northeast Italy to keep the peace between Italy and Yugoslavia. This two-month assignment was in advance of our return to the United States in July 1945 for re-training in preparation for the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division's role in the invasion of Japan.

This Tour Guide is designed to provide you with information that will make your trip enjoyable, not only during our reunion in Italy, but on our extended-tour visits to the Italian cities of Venice, Udine, Trieste, Cave del Predil, and Tarvisio, plus Slovenia, Austria and Germany

The Guide gives an outline of each day's activities and at the same time provides historical background for the battle sites and other places visited during the day. References are also given to maps, photos and other information to be found in the volumes entitled *10th Mountain Division Campaign in Italy*, *Mission Udine* and *10th Mountain Division Battle Sites: Then and Now*.

You will receive a warm welcome from our Italian friends. Their friendship remains strong and sincere. Many still remember with gratitude our first visit, over 60 years ago, as soldiers in uniform. These wonderful people have planned their town receptions with great care and pride. Be generous in your greetings, as only Americans can be. We promise you that it will be an unforgettable experience.

Sempre Avanti



John J. Duffy (86-HQ-2)

## ITINERARY

### Pre-Tour

May	24	Wed.	Leave the USA
	25	Thur.	Arrive in Rome
	26	Fri.	Rome Tour
	27	Sat.	Optional Rome Tours
	28	Sun.	Depart for Montecatini

### Main Tour

May	27	Sat.	Leave the USA
	28	Sun.	Arrive in Rome/Montecatini
	29	Mon.	Memorial Day ceremony at Florence Cemetery
	30	Tues.	Morning visits to either Florence or Montecatini Bus to the Hill Towns
	31	Wed.	Visit Gaggio Montano, Iola, Pietra Colora, other battle sites
June	1	Thur.	Visit Castel d'Aiano and other battle sites
	2	Fri.	Visit Mt Belvedere Visit Querciola Visit Vidiciatico
	3	Sat.	Free day in Hill Towns with optional tours of Florence, Cutigliano, or along Riva Ridge Lizzano-in-Belvedere farewell festival
	4	Sun.	Leave Hill Towns Visit San Benedetto Arrive at Riva del Garda
	5	Mon.	Free day in Riva del Garda Optional tours to Venice, Sirmione, or nearby battle sites
	6	Tues.	Torbole Memorial Service Optional tours of Gargnano, Nago or Spiazzi Farewell to Italy Banquet
	7	Wed.	Leave Riva del Garda Afternoon Tour Milan
	8	Thurs.	Depart for the USA

**Extension Tour**

June	7	Wed.	Leave Riva del Garda for Udine Lunch in Venice Arrive in Udine
	8	Thurs.	Visit Trieste Visit Piran, Slovenia Cruise the Adriatic coast Dinner and tour in Cividale
	9	Fri	Depart Udine Visit 10 <sup>th</sup> Mountain Division's locales Visit Tarvisio Italy Arrive at Villach Austria
	10	Sat.	Depart Villach Luncheon atop Grossglockner Glacier Arrive at Salzburg
	11	Sun	Tour Salzburg Tour <i>Sound of Music</i> film sites
	12	Mon.	Depart Salzburg Visit Kehlsteinhaus ("Eagle's Nest") Train ride across Bavarian Alps to Garmisch Germany
	13	Tues	Tour Garmisch-Partenkirchen Farewell to Europe dinner
	14	Tues.	Depart Garmisch for Munich Depart Munich for USA

## **TRAVEL TIPS**

The following helpful hints are offered to make first time traveler more comfortable and to jog the memories of the more experienced traveler.

### **SAFETY FIRST**

Always be alert to pickpockets and never leave your passport and purse out of your sight. It may disappear in a flash. This is especially true of big cities. Keep your wallets in a safe place. Especially be alert in dining rooms and the public toilets. The same can be said for jewelry. Losing either will be very disconcerting and mar your trip. Another concern is the traffic in Europe. Crossing streets and roads is sometimes very hazardous.

### **IN CASE OF EMERGENCY**

In case of an emergency contact your bus captain, tour escort, or the hotel desk clerk, one of whom will be able to help you promptly.

### **GUIDE BOOKS**

a) To increase your enjoyment of the trip by learning more about local history and points of interest, you may wish to purchase a Michelin or other guide-book for Italy, Slovenia, Austria or Germany.

b) If you are interested in the 10th's history, we strongly recommend you have copies of three new books: *10th Mountain Division Campaign in Italy 1945*, *Mission Udine*, and *Battle Sites Then and Now*. These provide colored photographs of key places and maps of the battle areas. Each book can be purchased for \$25 from the Association Quartermaster (Peter Austin, P0 Box 34, Brackney, PA 18812-0034).

### **MONEY**

It is recommended that before you leave the USA you change at least a \$100 into Euro-dollars. This can be done at your bank or airports. The value of a Euro varies to the dollar value currently the dollar is less than the Euro. However, the Euro is much easier now to understand and provide you with an appreciation of what you are paying for an item. Some locations in the Hill Towns take credit cards but having Euros is your best bet.

Note however, that Slovenia is the only country on our tour that is not yet on the Euro. Conversion of their currency is tricky and difficult. Nevertheless, there are many places in Slovenia that will take Euros. Your best bet is to use a credit card or travelers check while on the Extension Tour.

### **ARRIVALS AT EUROPEAN AIRPORTS**

Many international airports use English in addition to their native language. At the Rome airport, keep your eye out for the InterTrav guides. On your visit



to the rest rooms at the airport and on the Autostrada there may be a plate for tips. Be prepared to toss in a small Euro coin equivalent to our dime.

### **PACKING GUIDANCE**

- a) It is suggested that you bring only one large suitcase per person (maximum is three per couple). The airlines will charge for the extra weight.
- b) Leave some room in the suitcase for the trip home as you maybe loaded with purchases from Italy.
- c) Carry-on bags should be large enough to hold your purse, camera, film and other valuables. Also keep your medicine and shaving gear in the carry-on bag and an extra set of underwear in case your suitcase is late. Miscellaneous items you may want to consider are a small flashlight, extra batteries, sunglasses, and the second set of house keys.
- d) At the security check-in gate we recommend you empty all your pockets into your carry-on bag to avoid setting off alarms.
- e) If you must remove your shoes for examination, remember to keep your carry-on bag in sight lest you get distracted.
- f) Make Xerox copies of your passport, driver's license, credit cards and prescriptions.

### **LAUNDERING**

Try to do your own washing, otherwise it is expensive. Take along the essential soaps and a plastic clothesline.

### **WHAT TO WEAR**

Bring comfortable shoes only, including a pair suitable for rain and mud. Casual dress is the order of the day, with one dressier outfit for the banquet affairs. Avoid expensive jewelry.

It is highly recommended but not mandatory, for men to bring a "Class A Uniform," i.e., navy blazer (if you have one) with the 10th Mountain crest over the left pocket, gray slacks and white shirt. We will wear the jacket with shirt and 10 Mountain tie for the official functions such as memorial services, parades and the farewell banquets in the Hill Towns and Riva del Garda.

### **BE PREPARED**

Bring a sweater, raincoat or windbreaker-clothing that can be layered for all kinds of weather.

### **ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES**

If you are taking an electric shaver and/or hair dryer, you must have an adapter for your specific needs in Europe. Check with your local electrical shop.

### **GIFTS**

It is fun and rewarding to exchange some gifts — pins, ties, caps, etc. — with our local Italian friends. You may want to bring a pocket full of pins with you,

### **US CUSTOMS**

You will need your passport. Visas are not required.

Study the current customs requirements for the trip home.

### **TIPPING GUIDELINES**

Tipping should be considered in your trip budget. Tip in accordance with the service received, just as you do at home. Be alert that some restaurants add the tip to your bill. Then it is not necessary to leave a tip. However, it is customary to give a small coin as a tip. Some suggestions:

Chambermaid	\$1 per person per day.
Local tour guides	\$1 per person
Bus Tour Escort	\$4 per person per day
Bus Driver	\$2 per person per day

### **EUROPEAN HOTELS**

Our bus Tour Escort is required to collect all passports before getting off the bus to present to the hotel clerk. Our passports are returned awhile later or the next morning. The Tour Escort goes inside first and obtains the room assignments and room keys before you leave the bus. Your bags are unloaded and marked with your room number (in chalk) and taken to your room. After our stay, we place the bags outside our door and they are taken to the bus. It is wise to do a visual check at curbside to see that your bag is unloaded and loaded.

### **MEALS**

When eating on your own, the bill (*Contro*) will have the tip included. Meals in hotels tend to be more expensive than restaurants.

Continental Breakfast varies slightly from one hotel to another. It mainly consists of rolls and coffee. You may be charged extra if you order juice, eggs or cereals.

### **BEVERAGES**

Water is generally safe for drinking but if you have a sensitive stomach you may want to drink only bottled water. Decaffeinated coffee is also readily available.

### **VERY BASIC ITALIAN**

People all over the world are delighted when you can say something in their language. The following is for anyone who knows nothing in Italian. Try it out on your tour guide. You will probably want to carry a small language book such as Berlitz *Italian for Travelers*

BUON GIORNO SIGNORA .....	Good morning Madame
BUON GIORNO SIGNORINA .....	Good morning Miss
BUON GIORNO SIGNORE .....	Good morning Sir
COME STA? .....	How are you?
MOLTO BENE, GRAZIE, E LIE .....	Very well, thank you and you?
COSI, COSI .....	So, so
BUONA SERA .....	Good evening
BUONA NOTTE .....	Good night
ARRIVERDECI .....	See you again
CIAO .....	So long
PER PIACERE .....	Please
GRAZIE .....	Thank you
PREGO .....	You're welcome. OK, Go ahead.
PIACERE .....	It is a pleasure
CHE BELLA CASA .....	Beautiful home
E MERAVIGLIOSO .....	It's wonderful
CHE BELLA BAMBINA .....	Beautiful girl
CHE BEL BAMBINO .....	Beautiful boy
QUESTO E SQUISITO .....	It's delicious
MOLTO INTERESSANTE .....	Very interesting
QUESTO E FANTASTICO .....	It is great!
SCUSI, PER FAVORE .....	Excuse me please
SALUTE!.....	Cheers! (a toast)
BUON APPETITO .....	Have a good meal!
BUONA FORTUNA .....	Good luck!
BRAVO, BRAVISSIMA .....	Good performance!

## EVENTS

### PRE-TOUR TO ROME

#### WEDNESDAY MAY 24 USA / ROME

Depart our Gateway Cities in the USA for the Pre-Tour to Rome.

#### THURSDAY MAY 25 ARRIVE IN ROME

We arrive at Rome airport. Proceed to Immigration windows for passport check; **do not** enter the area marked EEC (European Economic Community) Passport Control. Collect your luggage and go through the exit marked: "Nothing to Declare". InterTrav representatives will greet and lead us to the tour buses for the drive to our Rome hotel. At the hotel relax or walk around Rome but return for a "Welcome to Rome" dinner.

#### FRIDAY MAY 26 ROME TOUR

Breakfast in the hotel, then optional tours arranged by InterTrav. Today's may be to the Vatican Museum. Lunch and dinner are on your own.

#### SATURDAY MAY 27 OPTIONAL ROME TOURS

Breakfast in the hotel, and then we have another optional tour arranged by InterTrav for the city of Rome. The afternoon is free for shopping. Dinner is optional; if there is enough interest, InterTrav will arrange for dinner combining the atmosphere of Italian food and entertainment.

#### SUNDAY MAY 28 ROME / MONTECATINI

*Arriverdeci Romal* We pack our bags and leave them outside the room before breakfast in the hotel. If time permits, we may be able to attend early morning church services. We board the busses for an afternoon drive to Montecatini and meet up with the Main Tour at our hotel for a Welcome to Italy dinner.

## REFERENCES TO MAPS AND PHOTOGRAPHS

The text of this Guide makes many references to maps and photographs. Some of the maps are presented in this Guide. Many of the maps, and all the photos, are available in other books published by the Association. The following examples show the abbreviations used:

References given in bold print refer to maps in this Tour Guide:

**TOUR MAP 1**, **TOUR MAP 2**, or **TOUR MAP 3** refers to the three Tour Maps in this Guide.

**BATTLE MAP 1** through **BATTLE MAP 9** refer to the nine battle maps in this Guide. On these diagrams, standard infantry unit symbols are used to identify units. A rectangle with three “ticks” on top refers to a regiment; the number of the regiment is given on the right hand side. A rectangle with two ticks refers to a battalion, with the battalion number on the left and the regiment number on the right. A rectangle with one tick is a company. For example, **BATTLE MAP 1** has symbols for the 85th and 87th Regiments; for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Battalions 86; and for F Company 86. BEF refers to the Brazilian Expeditionary Force.

References given in plain print refer to photographs and maps in other books:

CAMPAIGN BOOK p. 9 refers to a map on page 9 of *10th Mountain Division Campaign in Italy 1945*, by John Imbrie and Thomas Brooks, published by the Association in 2002.

UDINE BOOK p. 34 refers to a map on page 34 of *Mission Udine: The 10th Mountain Division at the Yugoslav Border*, by Thomas Brooks and John Imbrie, published by the Association in 2005. Sometimes the reference is to a photograph.

PHOTO BOOK p. 25 refers to a pair of photos on page 25 of *10th Mountain Division Battle Sites: Then and Now*, by John and Barbara Imbrie published by the Association in 2006.

## MAIN TOUR

### SATURDAY MAY 27 USA / ROME

The Main Tour departs from Gateway cities in the USA.

### SUNDAY MAY 28 ROME / MONTECATINI

After our in-flight breakfast we arrive at Rome airport. Proceed to Immigration windows for passport check, do not enter the area marked EEC (European Economic Community) Passport Control. Collect your luggage and go through the exit marked: "Nothing to Declare". InterTrav Tour Escorts will meet you and direct you to your waiting motor coach.

We will travel north from Rome on the Autostrada, a four-hour drive through the beautiful fields and rolling hills of Umbria and Tuscany on our way to the famous Tuscan spa town of Montecatini. On the left, about 10 miles north of Rome, you will catch fleeting glimpses of Orvieto. We will make rest stops and have lunch. Depending on our time of arrival at our hotel, we may be able to relax or walk around Montecatini. However, make sure you return for our "Welcome to Italy" dinner.

### MONDAY MAY 29 FLORENCE

On this Memorial Day we will board the busses in the morning for a group photograph at the Piazzale Michelangelo overlooking the city of Florence (**TOUR MAP 1**). In late morning we proceed to a ceremony at the American Cemetery and Memorial, located in Tavarnuzze, about 8 miles south of Florence in a beautiful Tuscan setting of rolling hills. Maintained by The American Battle Monuments Commission, the cemetery was established for the men in the Armed Forces killed in the northern Italian campaign. You will be impressed by the solemn atmosphere created by groomed lawns and orderly rows of grave markers.

Our dead were first interred at Castelfiorentino, about 25 miles southwest of Florence. Memorial services were held at the cemetery by individual units of the Division before we returned to the US in July 1945. Construction of this permanent cemetery was completed in 1959.

The present cemetery provides a final resting-place for 4,402 American soldiers who lost their lives in battles after the liberation of Rome and until the end of the war in May 1945. Among those buried here are 326 of our comrades in the 10th Mountain Division.

An especially solemn observance will be to stand before the Wall of the Missing, which honors those whose names are known but whose remains have never

been found. Among these are 30 comrades from our division, including 24 men from B and C Batteries of our 605th Field Artillery Battalion who—along with the driver from the Quartermaster Corps—were drowned when a DUKW sank in Lake Garda. On this tour we will also honor two soldiers, names unknown, who were killed shortly after they joined the 86th Regiment.

Before and after the ceremony we will have an opportunity to stroll around the graves of friends and relatives lost in the fighting. You will see a flower placed at the grave to identify each of the 10th Mountain men interred. As on every Memorial Day, the 10th Mountain Division Foundation provides floral arrangements, with the assistance of the American Battle Monuments Commission. A list of 10th soldiers buried in this cemetery, and the location of their graves, is included in your trip envelope.

After the service we will board our busses for a luncheon at Falcioni Ristorante, where Italian Alpini friends who attended the memorial service will join us.

After luncheon we will return to Montecatini for a late afternoon at leisure, perhaps to visit a spa or see the sights.

#### TUESDAY MAY 30 MONTECATINI / FLORENCE / HILL TOWNS

You may choose this morning between a leisurely tour of Florence or Montecatini, followed by lunch on your own.

At 2:00 PM our busses leave for the Hill Towns, departing either from Florence or from Montecatini. After leaving the Autostrada at Pistoia, a town where many of our wounded were hospitalized, we follow Highway 64 (**TOUR MAP 1; CAMPAIGN BOOK p. 2**). In 1945, this road was the main supply route for the 10th Mountain Division, from the attack on Mt. Belvedere to the breakout into the Po Valley. A narrow winding road with many bridges, steep hills, and sharp curves, this route was also crucial to the 1st Armored Division, the Brazilian Expeditionary Force, and the 85th Division—units that fought alongside the 10th from Mt. Belvedere all the way to the Po Valley. During an attack, the need to evacuate the wounded competed with the need to bring ammunition, supplies and reinforcements forward.

Many will recall the astonishing quantity of supplies and ammunition stacked along the highway. The narrow two-lane highway was lined with hundreds of communication wires hanging from every pole, tree and building. Handmade wooden signs pointed to encampments of support units: motor pools, medical stations, communication units, artillery, ordnance and quartermasters.

Three miles north of Pistoia we cross the Gothic Line, a series of German defenses that were attacked and broken by troops of the Fifth Army in the fall of 1944, two months before our Division left Camp Swift (10th CAMPAIGN p. 2).

Near Porretta Terme, the modern Route 64 does not follow its 1945 path. But, just as we did when heading for the front in 1945, we now turn west at Silla and follow the valley of the Silla River toward Gaggio Montano (10th CAMPAIGN p. 9).

Before reaching Gaggio Montano we turn left, toward Lizzano-in-Belvedere and Vidiciatico—the two Hill Towns where we will be billeted during our five-day visit. As we climb gradually out of the valley, the view on the right soon becomes filled with a distant forested ridge. From the left to right, you should identify Mt Belvedere, Mt Gorgolesco, Hill 1088 and Mt. della Torraccia—all German strong points in this sector of the Winter Line (**BATTLE MAP 2**; 10th CAMPAIGN, p. 11).

Quickly we arrive at Lizzano-in-Belvedere and Vidiciatico. The greeting from the townspeople will be warm—fueled by friendships reinforced by visits on earlier tours. Some of these friendships began in 1963 when the first Return to Italy Tour was organized by Brian Carter and John Weaver for the 10th Mountain Division Alumni Association.

Our days in the Hill Towns will be brightened by celebrations and meals planned for us by the people of Castel d'Aiano, Gaggio Montano, Vidiciatico, Lizzano-in-Belvedere, and Querciola. During our Tour we will be moved as we examine monuments to the 10th Mountain Division erected in Castel d'Aiano, Querciola, and Pietra Colora—and now on the summit of Mt. Belvedere.

At a 5:00 PM ceremony in his office, the Mayor of Lizzano will welcome the *Sempre Italia* Tour to the Hill Towns. This evening we will have welcoming dinners in our hotels.

#### *Battles fought in the Hill Town area*

As we travel around the Hill Towns we will have many opportunities to see and visit places where—over a period of two months starting on 18 February 1945—soldiers of the 10th fought their way north: from a point on Riva Ridge three miles west of Vidiciatico to the hills just north of Castel d'Aiano, only 15 miles away. Perhaps the ideal way to examine these sites would be to visit them in the same order in which the battles occurred. Since that is not practical for our Tour, we will provide a brief historical review:

*The opening phase of the 10th's campaign was the battle for Riva Ridge. Under cover of darkness on the evening of February 18, 1945 the 86<sup>th</sup> Regiment's 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, and Company F, slipped out of hiding places in small villages along the base to scale the ridge and attack German observation points that overlooked Mt. Belvedere. Surprise was complete, and by dawn the ridge was in our hands with only one casualty (**BATTLE MAP 1**). But fierce counterattacks put*



*the achievement in jeopardy, and it was not until the 25th that Riva Ridge was won—at a cost of 21 KIA, 52 WIA, and 3 POW.*

*The second phase was the assault on the Mt. Belvedere Ridge. On the night of February 19, while five companies of the 86th were still battling for Riva, the rest of the division mounted an attack on the Mt. Belvedere–Mt. Gorgolesco–Mt. della Torraccia ridge. On February 25, after a six-day battle, the entire ridge was in American hands (**BATTLE MAP 2**; 10th CAMPAIGN p. 11. This battle cost the division 923 casualties: 192 KIA, 730 WIA and 1 POW.*

*With Mt. della Torraccia secured, the division was ready to take the next step in its march to the Po Valley. This phase of the campaign is known as the March Offensive. After a preliminary (and costly) thrust to the northeast by 87-3-Bn on February 27, the main attack jumped off on March 3 at 7:00 AM from a line of departure on the flanks of Mt. della Torraccia—86-1-Bn and 86-2-Bn on the left, 87-3-Bn on the right. (**BATTLE MAP 3**; 10th CAMPAIGN p. 15.) The objective was a line of hills about five miles to the northeast, near the road-junction town of Castel d’Aiano. General Truscott, Fifth Army commander, believed that this line would serve as a jump-off for an offensive that would put our troops into a terrain leading downhill to the Po Valley. On March 5, the 87th Regiment captured Castel d’Aiano while troops of the 85th mounted a successful attack on Mt. della Spe, a ridge lying just east of the town.*

*With these positions taken, the 10th consolidated its gains and prepared for the next phase of the campaign: the Spring Offensive. On April 14th, five battalions of the 10th jumped off from positions on Mt. della Spe to attack enemy positions on steep hills and villages lying to the north and northeast—the 85th on the left, the 87th in the center, the 86th on the right. From left to right, the objectives of these attacks were Hill 883, Hill 913, Hill 909, Torre Iussi and Rocca di Roffeno—names that would echo down the years as troopers recalled these bloody battles (**BATTLE MAP 4**; 10th CAMPAIGN p. 19.)*

*The first three days of the Spring Offensive, April 14-16, were the costliest of the 10th’s war in Italy. The division suffered 1,336 casualties: 286 KIA, 1,047 WIA and 3 POW.*

WEDNESDAY MAY 31 HILL TOWNS (Gaggio Montano and vicinity)  
(Morning: Gaggio Montano; Afternoon: Iola, Pietra Colora, or free time).

After breakfast we depart for Gaggio Montano and arrive at the town square (**BATTLE MAP 2**, 10th CAMPAIGN pp. 9, 11). A distinctive feature of the town is an imposing pinnacle of rock—the neck of an ancient volcano. Veterans will recall that Gaggio was the busy supply and evacuation point during the days immediately following the capture of Mt. Belvedere.

In mid-morning there will be a ceremony at the town’s memorial to the fallen: a short greeting followed by the placing of a wreath at the memorial. At midday

we will gather to be served a luncheon hosted by the townspeople. After our meal the remainder of the afternoon will be free.

Busses will be available to return to our hotels, or to visit Iola and Pietra Colora, two villages near Gaggio Montano where fierce battles were fought on the first day of the March Offensive, March 3:

(1) Iola. A plaque on the outside of the church in this tiny village honors the memory of John Compton of 86-G who died in the fighting near here (at Casa Romito) on March 3, 1945. Extensively damaged during this battle, the church was restored by the Compton family. A thousand yards to the northwest, the great ski jumper Torger Tokle and his comrade Arthur Tokola, both of 86-A, were killed on March 3, 1945. We will visit a small museum in Iola.

(2) Pietra Colora. On March 3, 1945, I Company 87 attacked a German command post situated here on a high knob. The attack was successful, but it cost the lives of three men.

#### THURSDAY JUNE 1 HILL TOWNS (Castel d'Aiano and vicinity)

After breakfast we depart for Castel d'Aiano and arrive at the town's City Hall Square for a 10:00 AM parade ceremony at the Monument to the Fallen (**BATTLE MAP 3**; CAMPAIGN BOOK p. 15). After the ceremony we will have an opportunity to mingle with the townspeople, visit their shops—and be amazed at how completely the extensively war-damaged town has been restored (PHOTO BOOK p. 17). At mid-day we gather to have a luncheon hosted by the townspeople.

After lunch, the remainder of the afternoon will be free. Busses will be available to visit Torre Iussi, Rocca di Roffeno, and other battle sites near town (**BATTLE MAP 4**; CAMPAIGN BOOK p. 19).

A fleet of cars organized by the townspeople will take us to a viewpoint on Mt. della Spe (Casa Baccolini). From there we will have a panoramic view of Hills 883, 909 and 913, where so many men lost their lives during the first two days of the Spring Offensive, April 14 and 15 (**BATTLE MAP 4**). Former Senator Bob Dole was wounded in 85-I's attack on Hill 883. A plaque outside of town honors his service.

The busses will return us to our hotels late in the afternoon. The evening is free.

#### FRIDAY JUNE 2 HILL TOWNS (Mt. Belvedere, Querciola, Vidiciatico) (Morning: Mt. Belvedere; Noon: Querciola; Evening: Vidiciatico street party)

After breakfast we depart for Mt. Belvedere. At 9:00 AM we will meet near Calcinaria and move off for the summit. The young at heart will climb to the top; for others, our hosts have arranged transportation. The view is breathtaking and

you will be able to identify many features of the battlefield (**BATTLE MAP 2**; 10th CAMPAIGN p. 11, BATTLE PHOTOS pp. 7, 9). You may also gain an appreciation of the effort required to climb and attack this mountain at night. After a Mass at the summit there will be a ceremony dedicating a new Monument recently erected by the people of the Hill Towns to honor the 10th Mountain Division. Following the ceremony, WW II troopers will be asked to share their memories of the battle of Mt. Belvedere.

We then descend to board our busses and head for the town of Querciola—the village that served as a jump-off site for the February 19 attack on Mt. Belvedere (BATTLE PHOTOS p. 5). Here the people of the town will greet us. After a solemn memorial service at their Monument to the Fallen, there will be street stalls providing lunch. After lunch we return to our hotels for rest and relaxation.

In the evening we gather at Vidiciatico for an outdoor party hosted by the townsfolk. There will be wine, snacks, live music, dancing and song in the Town Square.

SATURDAY JUNE 3 HILL TOWNS (Free day; optional tours; final dinner);

The day will be free: for leisure, for sightseeing, or historical study of battles sites off the Main Tour route. Busses will be available for three optional day-tours:

A. Florence. One bus will be available for those wishing to visit Florence.

B. Cutigliano area. This tour will visit places where elements of the 10th were deployed before the February 18 assault on Riva Ridge (10th CAMPAIGN, p. 5). These include:

(1) Cutigliano and Pianosinatico, where 3rd Battalion 85th suffered casualties on early combat patrols. The tour will also visit San Marcello.

(2) Campo Tizzoro, which served as an early staging area for 10th HQ, 10th Antitank Battalion, and other units—and where many companies went for rest leave after the battle of Mt. Belvedere.

C. The base of Riva Ridge. This tour will visit or see five places that served as jump-off sites or as battalion HQ for the assault on Riva Ridge (**BATTLE MAP 1**; 10th CAMPAIGN p. 5, BATTLE PHOTOS pp. 1–3):

(1) Ca di Julio, from which 2nd Platoon of 86-A attacked Pizzo di Campiano. Here we will see the memorial recently dedicated to the 126th Mountain Engineer Battalion. Under combat conditions, 126-D built a tramway that ran from the village of Ca di Julio, at the foot of Cappel Buso, to a point near that summit

(10th CAMPAIGN p. 9). The memorial is placed on a huge stone that served as the lower anchor of the tramway.

- (2) Pianacci, from which 86-B attacked Mt. Cappel Buso.
- (3) Poggiol Forato, from which the rest of 86-A attacked Mt. Mancinello.
- (4) Madna dell'Acero, where the 86-F attacked Le Piagge.
- (5) Farne, which served as HQ for Col. Henry Hampton's 1st Battalion 86.

At 4:30 PM we are invited to attend a Mass in Lizzano. At 5:30 PM we will assemble in the main square for a parade. At 6:30 there will be a street party and buffet—a celebration that will help us remember our warm reception from the people of the Hill Towns.

#### SUNDAY JUNE 4 HILL TOWNS / PO RIVER / RIVA del GARDA

After boarding our busses in the morning, we will spend the day traveling out of the Apennines, crossing the Po Valley, and traveling to the final destination of the Main Tour: the town of Riva del Garda at the north end of Lake Garda (**TOUR MAP 1**). On the way, we will stop at San Benedetto Po, have lunch, and see where the 10th crossed the Po River.

Bidding farewell to Lizzano-in-Belvedere and Vidiciatico, we travel back to Castel d'Aiano for a brief rest stop, then follow a route that heads first south and then northeast through Vergato. We soon reach Highway 64 and head north, down the valley of the Reno River. Some 10 miles north of Vergato, we stop briefly at the town of Marzabotto where, from September 28 to 30, 1944 German soldiers perpetrated the worst massacre of civilians to be recorded in Northern Europe during WW II: the cold-blooded murder of more than 1800 men, women, and children.

At the southern edge of the Po Valley we connect with Autostrada A-1—near the place (two miles SE of Ponta Ronca) where, on April 20, troops of 85-A were the first soldiers of the Fifth Army to break out of the mountains (**BATTLE MAP 5**). Within hours, General Hays ordered his Assistant Division Commander, Brig. Gen. Robinson Duff, to form a Task Force—a tank company, a platoon of tank destroyers, a signal platoon, a company of engineers and an infantry battalion (86-2). Setting out at 6:30 AM on the 21st, Task Force Duff proceeded to spearhead a 25-mile drive to the Po River (**BATTLE MAP 6**).

Heading northwest on the A-1 past Modena, we then connect with Autostrada A-22 and head north. Immediately after crossing the Po River, we get off the Autostrada and head back to San Benedetto Po, on the south bank of the river. There we have lunch and inspect the site where, at noon on April 23, 1945, troops of the 1st Battalion 87th, under enemy fire, were the first Fifth Army sol-

diers to cross the mighty Po (**BATTLE MAP 7**; BATTLE PHOTOS p. 32-35). By the following morning, the entire division was across and preparing to continue its pursuit of the retreating German army.

Keep in mind that the Autostrada was not constructed until after the war. Therefore we will miss seeing places along Highway 9 where the Italians greeted us as conquering heroes, offering wine, bread, and cheese. However, the enemy would not let us forget there was a war still in process. The Po Valley campaign cost the division 506 casualties: 91 KIA, 414 WIA, and 1 POW.

After lunch we return to the Autostrada and head for Lake Garda, in the foothills of the Italian Alps. Following the A-22, our route will bypass Verona and Bus-solengo, then leave the Autostrada at the small town of Affi and head for the town of Garda, on the southeast shore of Italy's largest lake (**BATTLE MAP 8**). Our route up the east shore of Lake Garda is the same one we followed in 1945. A few miles north of Garda we pass near S. Zeno, where on April 30, an assault force from the 85th boarded DUKWs (amphibious trucks), crossed the lake, and occupied Mussolini's villa at Gargnano.

Continuing north we reach the town of Navene. From here to Torbole the road along the shore runs along the base of steep cliffs and passes through a series of six tunnels (**BATTLE MAP 9**). These tunnels, and Torbole, were the sites of furious battles as the enemy tried to stop the 10th's northward thrust. On Monday, and on Tuesday we will have opportunities to inspect the tunnels and see Torbole.

*On April 28, as troops of the 86th approached the first tunnel, the Germans exploded their demolitions and destroyed the tunnel (BATTLE PHOTOS pp. 36, 37). Meanwhile, enemy artillery on the opposite side of the lake fired on our troops. In response, the 86th launched its first amphibious operation, using DUKWs to outflank the position. By the following day, the 29th, all six tunnels were cleared or bypassed and our forces were attacking German positions in Torbole and Nago. On the same day, the 87th's 1st Battalion moved inland from Garda to attack a 200-man German garrison at Spiazzi (**BATTLE MAP 8**).*

*By early afternoon of the 30th, elements of the 86th had moved from Torbole across the northern end of the lake to occupy Riva del Garda. Later the same day, Assistant Division Commander Colonel William Darby had arrived in Torbole to confer with regimental staff about the next phase of the campaign, an attack north to Trento and Bolzano. After the meeting, he stepped outside the command post along the waterfront, pausing before climbing into his jeep. An 88 shell hit nearby, producing fragments that killed Colonel Darby and Sergeant Major John Evans of the 86th Regiment. Col. Darby was posthumously promoted to the rank of Brigadier General.*

*Early in the evening of the 30th, the 10th suffered its last battle deaths. A DUKW carrying a 75 mm howitzer headed across the lake toward Riva. On board were the driver from the 52nd Quartermaster Battalion, and 25 men from B and C Batteries of the 605th Field Artillery. Heavily loaded and with a storm brewing, the boat capsized and sank. Cpl. Thomas Hough was the only survivor.*

*On May 2, with the announcement that a cease-fire agreement had been reached, hostilities in Italy came to an end. On May 4, Gen. von Senger signed an agreement by which all German forces in Italy surrendered unconditionally. The war in Italy had cost the 10th Mountain Division 4866 casualties: 975 killed, 3871 wounded, and 20 prisoners of war.*

At the northeast corner of the lake we pass through the town of Torbole and head for our hotel in Riva del Garda. After unloading our bags we will assemble for a simple meal, after our large lunch in the Po Valley.

#### MONDAY JUNE 5 RIVA del GARDA

Today is free in Riva del Garda, where you may wish to relax in the beautiful lakeside grounds of Hotel du Lac et du Parc. An optional daylong trip to Venice will be offered. A second option will be to take a daylong trip by ferry to see the medieval town of Sirmione, at the south end of the lake. This trip departs at 9:45 AM and returns at 7:30 PM.

Alternatively, you may join a tour that leaves Riva at 11:00 AM by charter boat and heads for Malcésine: a village on the east shore of the lake, just south of the tunnels. On the way we will travel over the site where, on April 30, 1945, a DUKW sank with the loss of 25 lives—and view the places where the “battle of the tunnels” was fought (**BATTLE MAP 9**; BATTLE PHOTOS pp. 36, 37). After lunch in Malcésine we will return to our hotel by bus.

#### TUESDAY JUNE 6 RIVA del GARDA

This morning we'll head to nearby Torbole for a memorial ceremony at the site of one of the final battles in this region. Wreaths will be placed at General Darby's monument in memory of the 62 men who were killed in the battles around Lake Garda. We will also place a wreath in the lake, in memory of the 25 soldiers lost when a DUKW sank.

From Torbole we will head back to Riva del Garda where your afternoon is at leisure. Three optional tours will be offered:

(1) Gargnano. A trip by boat down the to the west shore to view Mussolini's villa at Gargnano—captured early on April 30, 1945 by K and M Companies 85 (**BATTLE MAP 8**; BATTLE PHOTOS p. 39). After lunch in town, busses will return us to our hotel.

(2) Nago and Arco. A bus tour will visit the nearby towns of Nago where 1st Battalion 86 suffered heavy casualties on April 29 (**BATTLE MAP 9**). The tour will also visit Arco where on May 2—the last day of the war in Italy—stand-offs occurred between small units of the 10th (including 86-F) and large forces of the surrendering German Army.

(3) Spiazzi. Another bus tour will visit Spiazzi where, early on April 29th, 1st Battalion 87 moved inland with the mission of opening a route north along the valley of the Adige River (**BATTLE MAP 8**). After a successful night attack on a 200-man garrison, the troops were withdrawn.

In the evening we will have our gala Farewell-to-Italy banquet.

WEDNESDAY June 7 LAKE GARDA / MILAN

Those returning home at the end of the Main Tour will depart Riva del Garda by bus and drive to Milan on the Autostrada. There we will take a sightseeing tour that includes the Cathedral, one of the finest examples of Gothic architecture in Italy, and the world-famous opera house, La Scala.

THURSDAY JUNE 8 MILAN / USA

This morning we drive to Milan Airport where our escort will assist us with baggage check-in as we start our return journey to your USA Gateway City.

**\* \* \* Welcome Home \* \* \***

**EXTENSION TOUR**  
**UDINE, TRIESTE, AUSTRIA AND GERMANY**

**WEDNESDAY JUNE 7 LAKE GARDA / VENICE / UDINE**

This morning we leave Lake Garda for the Extension Tour which features visits to Venice, Udine, Trieste, Slovenia, Austria and Southern Germany (**TOUR MAP 2**). For the next three days we will be visiting places in Northeast Italy and Slovenia where, during May, June and July 1945, the 10th was deployed as a Cold War peacekeeping force to restrain the territorial ambitions of the Yugoslav dictator Marshal Tito (**TOUR MAP 3**).

Tito aimed to seize Trieste, parts of Austria, and a strip of Italy leading north along the Isonzo River valley into the Julian Alps. But on April 30, 1945, while the 10th was engaged in its final battles around Lake Garda, Field Marshall Alexander ordered the 2nd New Zealand Infantry Division to preempt Tito's move by occupying Trieste. The New Zealanders entered Trieste on May 2—only hours after the arrival of Tito's forces. Col. William Gall (616-HQ), General Hays' liaison, entered Trieste with the lead platoon. He remembers that, "For the next two weeks, soldiers of the 2nd New Zealand Division faced off with Yugoslav forces in Trieste. The New Zealanders were often on one side of a town square, with tanks, pointing their guns across the square at Yugoslav forces, also with tanks, who had guns pointing back at them."

On our way to Udine—where the headquarters staff of the Division was billeted—we will stop off in Venice for a private motor launch cruise of the Grand Canal. Venice was a favorite destination for troopers on leave from their peacekeeping duties (UDINE BOOK p. 25). After a visit to St. Mark's Square, we will have lunch in the Lido and then set off for Udine, where we will spend the next two nights. After a welcoming dinner in our hotel, we will visit the building where the 10th Division's newspaper, the *Blizzard*, was published (UDINE BOOK, p. 10.)

**THURSDAY JUNE 8 UDINE / TRIESTE / CIVIDALE / UDINE**

After breakfast we drive into the nearby port of Trieste—a city that has been a focal point of political and military struggle since the mid 19th Century when it became the chief maritime outlet of the Austro-Hungarian Empire (**TOUR MAP 2**). It was in Trieste, during World War I, that Baron von Trapp served in the Austrian Navy. And it was through Trieste in 1938 that the von Trapp family escaped Nazi Austria.

As we drive into the city we will first visit beautiful Miramar Castle, built in 1856 by the Emperor Franz Joseph. During World War II, the Castle served as German headquarters while their Army occupied Yugoslavia—and while their North African forces were supplied through the port of Trieste. After the war,



from 1945 until 1954, the castle served as headquarters for Allied peacekeeping forces.

Next, we will have a short walking tour of the city to see places where the 10th's Antitank Battalion did MP duty (UDINE BOOK p. 16). We will also visit Piazza dell'Unita, the great public square where Allied forces with tanks confronted Yugoslav forces with tanks.

Afterward, we cross the border into Slovenia to the coastal town of Piran. There we will enjoy lunch followed by a cruise along the Adriatic Coast. On the way back to our hotel we will stop for dinner in Cividale where the 85th Regiment was stationed. If time permits, we will take the opportunity to visit the place in town along the Natisone River that served as the regimental "swimming hole" (UDINE BOOK p.10). And we will visit Sanguerzo, the field just outside of town where troopers were oriented on the coming invasion of Japan (UDINE BOOK, p.32).

#### FRIDAY JUNE 9 UDINE / BOVEC / VILLACH

Our objective today is to visit places in the Julian Alps where troopers of the 10th Mountain Division were stationed as peacekeepers during the early summer of 1945. A secret order dated 20 May 1945 clearly indicates where these places will be found: "The 10th Mtn Div will be located along Highway 54." Accordingly, after breakfast this morning, we will board our busses and head north along Highway 54 (**TOUR MAP 3**).

One of the challenges we will face is that the eastern boundary of Italy is now located west of its position in 1945. As a result, many of the villages that were in Italy in 1945—and thus have Italian names that are remembered by our veterans and recorded in historical documents—now have Slovenian names. Thus Caporetto is now Kobarid, Plezzo is now Bovec, and Bretto di Sotto is now Log Pod Mangartom.

After brief visits to Pulfero and Robic we will move on to Caporetto (now Kobarid). It was here, in the long green valley of the Isonzo River (now the Soca), that the 87th Regiment established its headquarters. And it was here, toward the end of World War I, that the Italian army was cut off by German and Austrian mountain troops and suffered huge casualties—an event commemorated in the local museum.

By noon we will have crossed the border into Slovenia and be in Plezzo (now Bovec). There we will be met by local friends, have lunch, and visit buildings that served as barracks and headquarters for 1st Battalion 87 (UDINE BOOK, pp.1, 11, 12).

In the afternoon we plan to visit Cave del Predil, Tarvisio, and beautiful Lake Fusine, where 3rd Battalion 87 had a rock-climbing and mountaineering school

(UDINE BOOK, pp. 16, 21). We then head north into Austria where we over-night in Villach.

#### SATURDAY JUNE 10 VILLACH / GROSSGLOCKNER / SALZBURG

Today we travel over the “Grossglockner High Alpine Road” that takes us through some of the world’s most spectacular scenery on our way to the Kaiser Franz Joseph Haus. There we will have lunch and view the Pasterze Glacier and Grossglockner, the highest peak in Austria.

Grossglockner and its glaciers have a special resonance for 10th veterans. On June 23 and 24, the 10th sponsored the first post-war international ski meet week when British, Jewish Brigade, and 10th Division skiers raced on the snow-fields adjoining the 12,461-foot Grossglockner. The next month, a front-page article in the *Stars and Stripes* headlined the results: “86th Shades 87th, Captures 10th’s International Ski Meet.” It was like a homecoming to Austrian-born PFC Herbert Schneider, son of world-famed Hannes Schneider who developed the first modern ski technique in these same Tyrolean Alps. Herbert was a member of the 86th’s team that placed first in the meet. (UDINE BOOK p.22).

Lieutenant John Montagne (85-HQ) was put in charge of the 85th Regiment’s Glacier Climbing School at the foot of Grossglockner. To start with, he had no equipment. But he got wind of warehouses near Klagenfurt and Villach that were full of German supplies. He drove a jeep north into an area that once housed some of the best German mountain troops, and before long the 85th’s school was well equipped.

Leaving the High Alps we will descend to the lovely resort of Zell am See, and then through the scenic Saalach Valley to Salzburg, the city made famous by the movie “The Sound of Music.”

#### SUNDAY JUNE 11 SALZBURG

After breakfast you can relax or attend services at nearby St. Peter’s Church before we take a pleasant stroll with our local guide through the city’s historic center. We’ll see the exquisite Mirabell Gardens, the great Festival Hall, St. Peter’s Churchyard, the monumental Domplatz, Mozart’s birthplace, and the charming Getreidegasse.

In the afternoon we’ll see all of the wonderful location sites of the movie “The Sound of Music,” including the church in Mondsee, St. Gilgen on the Wolfgangsee Lake, Anif Castle, and the little gazebo in Hellbrunn.

Many will remember that two von Trapps served in combat as troopers of the 10th: Rupert as a T/3 in 86-MED-3, Werner as a Sergeant in 85-B.

If you prefer to relax and enjoy Salzburg for the afternoon, you are free to do so.

MONDAY JUNE 12 SALZBURG / BERCHTESGADEN / GARMISCH-PARTENKIRCHEN

Today we depart Salzburg and travel to the towering Alpine foothills of picturesque Berchtesgaden where we'll see the historical town center that boasts decorated facades, churches, and a Royal Palace. Then we'll continue to nearby Obersalzburg to take a breathtaking bus journey up the Kehlstein road, followed by a luxurious brass elevator ride up through the rock into Kehlsteinhaus. Known later as "Hitler's Tea House" or the "Eagle's Nest," it was built as a 50th birthday present for Adolf Hitler from the Nazi party. The site combines a unique example of historic architecture and a magnificent view of the surrounding Alps. After our visit we'll travel through the Inn Valley to medieval Rattenberg on the banks of the Inn River. Today it is renowned for its crystal, glass and engravings. After time at leisure for shopping and to explore Rattenberg, we'll take a spectacular 90-minute train ride across the Austrian/German border into the Bavarian Alps to the twin villages of Garmisch-Partenkirchen.

TUESDAY JUNE 13 GARMISCH-PARTENKIRCHEN

Today we visit famous Neuschwanstein Castle built by King Ludwig II as his retreat. He was called "Mad" King Ludwig; today we would say he was eccentric. We will visit the castle where the splendor, sights and legends will be an unforgettable experience. After our visit we'll drive to Oberammergau where we have time to explore the famous wood-carving shops and to see the beautifully painted homes, many in fairytale design depicting scenes from Little Red Riding Hood and Hansel and Gretel. On the way back to Garmisch we'll stop at the Benedictine Monastery in Ettal that still produces some fine fruit liqueurs and flavored brandies.

On our last evening in Europe our Extension group will enjoy a "farewell" dinner party.

WEDNESDAY JUNE 14 GARMISCH-PARTENKIRCHEN / MUNICH / USA

We leave Garmisch early this morning on the drive to Munich Airport where your Escort will assist you with check-in formalities at the beginning of your return journey to your Gateway City.

**\* \* \* Welcome Home \* \* \***

## **LIST OF TOUR MAPS AND BATTLE MAPS**

TOUR MAP 1.	Main Tour	29
TOUR MAP 2	Extension Tour	30
TOUR MAP 3	1945 Deployments Highway 54	31
BATTLE MAP 1	Riva Ridge	32
BATTLE MAP 2	Mt. Belvedere Ridge	33
BATTLE MAP 3	March Offensive	34
BATTLE MAP 4	Spring Offensive	35
BATTLE MAP 5	Breakout	36
BATTLE MAP 6	Po Valley South	37
BATTLE MAP 7	Po River Crossing	38
BATTLE MAP 8	Lake Garda	39
BATTLE MAP 9	Lake Garda—The Final Battles	40