

**RESPONSIBILITY:** Valor Tours, Ltd. acts only as an agent in providing all the services in connection with the tour described in this brochure, and cannot assume responsibility for injury, death, damage or loss due to delays, mechanical defects or failure of any nature aboard aircraft, buses, ships, ship's tenders or zodiacs, or any other means of conveyance, accommodation, or other services resulting directly or indirectly from any acts of God, dangers incident to the sea, fire, breakdown of machinery or equipment, acts of government, other authorities de jure or de facto, wars (whether declared or not), hostilities and civil disturbances, acts of terrorism, strikes, riots, thefts, pilferage, epidemics, quarantine, medical or customs regulations or procedures, defaults, delays or cancellations, or changes from any causes beyond our control, or any loss or damage resulting from improperly issued passports, visas, travel documents, and that neither we nor any of our affiliates shall become liable for any additional expenses of liability sustained or incurred by a tour member as a result of the foregoing causes. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act or omission or events during the time the passenger is not aboard the aircraft or conveyance. The passenger contract in use shall constitute the sole contract between the carrier and the purchaser of the tour and/or the passenger and the carrier. The right is reserved, should the circumstances warrant it, to alter the itinerary or the sequence of places visited. The right is reserved to substitute hotels for other hotels of a similar category. The operator reserves the right at their or their agents discretion, to decline to accept, retain or cancel any member of the tour, at any time or place, or cancel the trip if circumstances demand. If the tour operator for any reason whatsoever cancels the trip, all partial and/or full payments will be refunded in full without any further obligation on their part. The schedules used in the operation of this tour are subject to change, without notice. If any tour member does not utilize any portion of the transportation at any time or for any reason whatsoever, additional cost of substitute transportation will be borne by the passengers. Payment of the required deposit or any partial or full payment for reservations shall constitute consent to all the provisions listed in the brochure. Valor Tours Ltd. cannot guarantee or be held responsible for assigned seating aboard any aircraft used in this tour. All legal questions will be settled within the jurisdiction of the County of Marin, California.

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Member of ASTA and the S.F. Better Business Bureau

**PASSENGERS WITH DISABILITIES**

Due to the absence of handicap and disability laws in the countries we visit, and the expeditionary nature of our tours, we must require tour participants with disabilities be accompanied by a companion legally responsible for assisting throughout. There is absolutely no wheelchair access.



**Valor Tours, Ltd.**

10 Liberty Ship Way, Sausalito, CA 94965

Tele: 1-800-842-4504 or locally 415-332-7850 or fax 415-332-6971

Email: [valortours@yahoo.com](mailto:valortours@yahoo.com)

Website: [www.valortours.com](http://www.valortours.com)



PRESENTS...

**WWII CAMPAIGN in  
SICILY AND SOUTHERN ITALY**

May 2 to 15, 2012



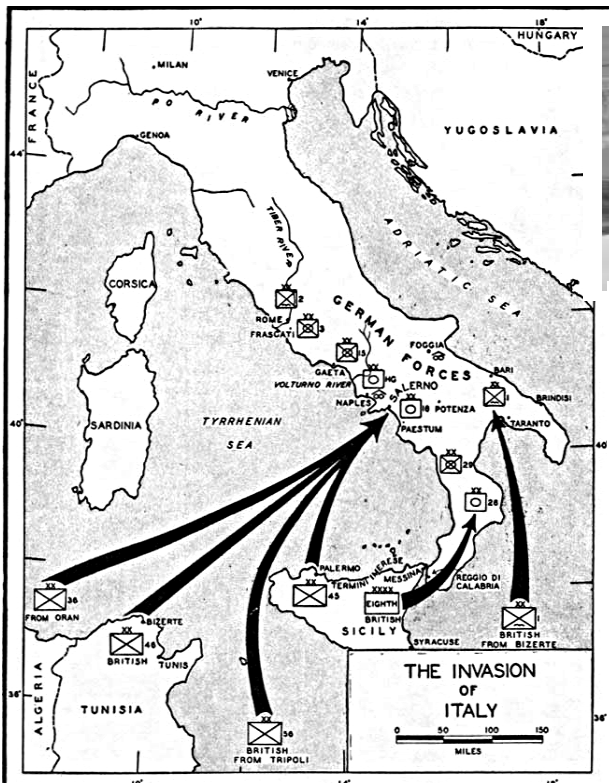
*Restored Abbey at Monte Cassino*



*Escorted by Steve Hamilton  
and Frank de Planta*

**America's Oldest and Most Experienced Military History Tour Operator**

The Sicilian campaign would only last one month, but the intensity of the fighting equalled anything yet seen in World War 2. The Axis powers realising they had been duped by the “man who never was” operation fought an incredible rearguard action, which in the end would allow thousands of their troops a “Dunkirk style” evacuation back to the Italian mainland. Landing in the south of Sicily, US, Canadian and British troops would fight their way north against bitter opposition. Most of the British and some of the Americans troops had seen action before in North Africa, but for the majority of the Americans and the entire Canadian contingent it was a new and harrowing experience. The U.S. would lose 2,572 killed, 5,946 wounded and 1,012 missing and captured. The British had suffering 2,721 dead, and 10,122 wounded and captured; while the Canadians suffered 2,410 casualties including 562 killed and 1,848 wounded and captured.



Early in September 1943, British and American armies invaded southern Italy, striking at the heart of a major Axis nation and breaching Hitler’s “Fortress Europe.” Behind the invasion lay long months of hard-won allied victories. The Axis was cleared out of Africa in May, when British and American armies annihilated the German and Italian forces cornered in Tunisia. Sicily, the stepping-stone from Africa to

Europe was next conquered in a 38-day battle, and on 17 August the last of its German garrison fled across the Strait of Messina to the Italian mainland. On 3 September, the British Eighth Army crossed the Strait in pursuit and drove up the Calabrian Peninsula. Coordinated with the Eight Army’s attack, allied landings at Salerno by the U.S. Fifth Army and at Taranto by the British 1 Airborne Division were made on 9 September. In the Salerno landings, strong American forces were fighting on the continent of Europe for the first time since 1918.

## Application form

### WWII Campaign in Sicily and Southern Italy

Mail to: Valor Tours, Ltd., 10 Liberty Ship Way, Sausalito, CA 94965  
Questions? Call 1-800-842-4504

Please reserve \_\_\_ spaces on this tour. Enclosed is my/our deposit in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_ (\$600 per person) in the form of a check\_\_\_\_, or American Express account \_\_\_\_\_

Exp \_\_\_\_\_  
for accommodations based on a \_\_\_ twin share basis or \_\_\_ single occupancy:

\_\_\_ I am traveling alone and wish to share with another tour member, or  
\_\_\_ I am traveling alone and do not wish to share and will pay the single supplement.

\_\_\_ Smoking \_\_\_ Non smoking

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(As it appears on your passport without middle name)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(As you would like it to appear on ID badge)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (days) \_\_\_\_\_

Veteran of WWII, family member, history buff: \_\_\_\_\_

Any places of special interest? \_\_\_\_\_

Dietary requirements? \_\_\_\_\_

Next of kin: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ I/we require assistance with air fare/arrangements from \_\_\_\_\_ to Rome to coincide with tour.

\_\_\_ I/we require \_\_\_ additional nights in Rome \_\_\_ pre-tour and/or \_\_\_ post-tour.

*Facilities for the disabled are non-existent. Please let us know if you have any disabilities that may prevent you from climbing on and off aircraft, buses or walking. I/we have read and understand the terms and conditions as set forth in this brochure.*

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Itinerary - subject to change - 14 days/13 nights

### May 2 Wednesday

Fly from Rome to Palermo: Alitalia #1799 departing Rome 3:25pm, arriving Palermo At 4:35pm. Transfer to our hotel. Rest of the day at leisure.

### May 3 Thursday

Drive to Agrigento to visit the Valley of the Temples. Then onto Canicatti and Licata to examine the landing beaches and bridgehead of the 1<sup>st</sup> US Infantry Division and the battle of the 505<sup>th</sup> Parachute Infantry Regiment of the 82nd Airborne Division, making their first combat drop. They were intended to drop east of Ponte Olivo (some 5 miles (8.0 km) inland from Gela) to block routes to U.S. 1st Infantry Division's bridgehead at Gela, but it ended in one of WW2 greatest tragedies. Overnight in Gela. (B L D)

### May 4 Friday

Landing beaches at Scoglitti: Today we follow the exploits of the U.S. 45<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division who were operating on the right of the 1<sup>st</sup> U.S. Division. The 45<sup>th</sup> would capture the airfield at Comiso and enter Ragusa to link with Canadian forces. Overnight in Syracuse. (B L D)

### May 5 Saturday

Visit the Archaeological Park in Syracuse. Visit to the Primosole Bridge, scene of that dramatic action involving British troops, and then a visit to the Museum in Catania dedicated to the Allied Landings in WWII. Overnight in Catania. (B L D)

### May 6 Sunday

Visit to Centuripe, Caltanissetta captured by U.S. 2<sup>nd</sup> Corps, and Troina, scene of severe fighting and the U.S. troops hardest day on Sicily. Overnight Termini, which had been captured by Patton on July 22<sup>nd</sup> 1943, twelve days after the initial landings. (B L D)

### May 7 Monday

Drive along the U.S. route to Messina, the target of both Patton and Montgomery, which was finally reached on the night of August 16<sup>th</sup>, 1943 when leading elements of the 3<sup>rd</sup> U.S. Division entered the city. Overnight at San Domenico Palace in Taormina, Kesselring's HQ during WWII. (B L D)

### May 8 Tuesday

Morning ferry from Messina to Villa San Giovanni. Meet coach and drive onto Paestum. Greek Temple Ruins. (B L)

### May 9 Wednesday

Continue to Cassino. Study progress of US Fifth Army from the landings at Salerno to their arrival at Cassino. Study the controversial crossing sites of 141<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regt, 36<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division on the River Rapido in the First Battle. Overnight Hotel Alba, Cassino. (B L)



*Left: Our last stop on Sicily is the San Domenico Palace Hotel in Taormina overlooking the Mediterranean, General Kesselring's HQ during the war.*



*Paestum, southern Italy*

### May 10 Thursday

Study the crossing sites of 143rd Infantry Regt, 36 Infantry Division at St. Angelo and 34th Infantry Division's attack to get into the hills behind the Monastery in the First Battle. View the German Cemetery in Caira. Study Monastery Hill and the decision to bomb the Benedictine Abbey and the attack on Cassino RR station in the Second Battle. Overnight Hotel Alba, Cassino. (B L)

### May 11 Friday

Study the titanic struggle for Snakehead Ridge and Point 593 behind the Abbey during the Second and Fourth Battles. Appreciate the role of the Poles whilst at the Polish Cemetery. Travel to Anzio. Overnight Hotel Neptunus, Nettuno. (B L)

### May 12 Saturday

Visit the U.S. Sicily – Rome Military Cemetery and Memorial site where headstones of 7,861 of American military war dead can be found. Also the Memorial to the Missing where a further 3,095 American casualties are commemorated. The majority of these men died in the liberation of Sicily (July 10 to August 17, 1943); in the landings in the Salerno Area (September 9, 1943) and the heavy fighting northward; in the landings at Anzio Beach and expansion of the beachhead (January 22, 1944 to May 1944); and in air and naval support in the regions. Study the landings on Peter Beach and in Anzio port, the struggle for Campoleone Station and the Rangers' assault towards Cisterna up the Pantano Ditch. Overnight Hotel Neptunus, Nettuno. (B L)

### May 13 Sunday

Study the role of 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion Grenadier Guards on Buonriposo Ridge and 45th Infantry Division at Campo di Carne. Study the First World War style defensive actions in the Lobster Claw and the Boot. Visit the Beach Head Military Cemetery. Overnight Hotel Neptunus, Nettuno. (B L)

### May 14 Monday

Study the VI (US) Corps breakout towards Cisterna and on into the Velletri Gap. Study 36<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division battle winning assault up Monte Artemisio – the single, breathtaking event that, more than any other, unlocked the Anzio beachhead. End at Rome airport hotel. (B L)

### May 15 Tuesday

Check out of hotel. Tour ends. (B)



*Anzio*

## TOUR COST

### May 2 to 15, 2012 – Sicily & Southern Italy

**\$3,790.00 per person, twin share. Single supplement \$600.00.**

Includes air fare from Rome to Palermo; private coach transport from Palermo to Messina and from Villa San Giovanni to Rome; Ferry from Messina to Villa San Giovanni; services of tour historian/guide Steve Hamilton on Sicily and Frank de Planta in Southern Italy; 13-nights hotel accommodations at 3 to 5 star hotels; Battlefield Booklet; all meals indicated by B-Breakfast, L-Lunch, D-Dinner; water daily on coach; emergency travel insurance coverage; entrance fees; local taxes.

## GENERAL INFORMATION, TERMS AND CONDITIONS

### RESERVATIONS AND PAYMENTS

Please complete the application form and return with a deposit of \$600 per person. Reservations cannot be held without a deposit. American Express or personal check only will be accepted for payment. Make checks payable to Valor Tours, Ltd. and mail to 10 Liberty Ship Way, Sausalito, and CA 94965. Passengers coming from countries outside of the U.S. can use Paypal. Final payment is due Feb 2, 2012. All passengers on deposit will receive written confirmation and information travel/cancellation insurance coverage. A reminder of final payment and newsletter with further details will be sent in January 2012. Final travel documents will be sent Priority Mail to fully paid participants about two weeks prior to departure. Unused components of the tour are non-refundable. Components of the tour cannot be purchased separately. Cost based upon a minimum of 15 participants travelling together and current airfares and rates. Space is limited. Early reservations are recommended. If tour operator cancels tour, a full refund will be made. Not recommended for children under the age of 12.

### CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS

All moneys are fully refundable for cancellations received up to Feb. 2, 2012. Cancellations received prior to Feb. 2, 2012 are fully refundable. Cancellations received between Feb. 2 and March 2, 2012 subject to a \$600 per person penalty. Cancellation received after March 2, 2012 or "no shows" are non-refundable. Travel cancellation insurance is available upon request. Payments made by American Express will be refunded back to AX and may take up to 60 days to process. Payments made by personal check will be refunded by check and may take up to 30 days to process.

### HEALTH & TRAVEL DOCUMENTATION

All passengers must be in possession of a passport valid at least six months beyond date of travel. No visas or inoculations are required for Sicily or Italy, however we recommend getting a tetanus booster. Also ask your physician about Hepatitis which is recommended to ALL travelers to any part of the world. Final travel documents including airline ticket from Rome to Palermo, ID badge, baggage tags, list of passengers and final instructions will be sent Priority Mail about two weeks prior to tour departure.

### DISABILITIES

Any personal disability requiring special attention should be reported to Valor Tours at the time of reservation. Valor Tours will make reasonable attempts to accommodate the special needs of disabled tour participants, but is not responsible for any denial of services by carriers, hotels, restaurants and other independent suppliers. Motor coach companies and other carrier employees may not physically lift participants or assist them on or off conveyances. A qualified companion must accompany persons requiring such assistance. Be advised that foreign countries do not have the disabled and handicapped laws that Americans enjoy here at home.

### SINGLE TRAVELERS

When a tour member asks Valor Tours to seek a suitable roommate, we will do the best we can to oblige and find a colleague with common interests and habits. Valor Tours cannot be held responsible for incompatibility or guarantee a roommate. If a roommate cannot be found, the single supplement would apply.

### NOT INCLUDED IN TOUR PACKAGE COST

Foreign airport departure taxes, meals not indicated in itineraries, passport fees, alcoholic beverages, phone calls, laundry, items of a personal nature, airfare from the U.S. to Rome, cancellation/trip interruption travel insurance coverage.

## Steve Hamilton, guide/historian for Sicily

Steve is far better known for his exploits in the deserts of North Africa, however he considers the Sicilian campaign To be an extension of that work. Consequently he has led Numerous groups of battlefield enthusiasts to Sicily. His Own personal interest lies in the fact that his grandfather's Regiment was the only armoured regiment to land wit the Highland Division and fight throughout the campaign. Steve comes from a real military family – his Great Grand-Father had been at the Relief of Mafeking during the Boer War and during WWI he was one of just seven men from His Battalion to come through the first day of the Battle of Somme. His Grandfather was KIA in Tunisia, while his uncle died as a POW in Changi Gaol. His father and uncles were to serve post war in armoured regiments. Not surprisingly Steve grew up with a military interest, which he passes onto his group.



## Frank de Planta, guide/historian for Central & Southern Italy

Frank de Planta has had an interest in military history since childhood and has run battlefield studies in Spain, France and Italy. He read Modern History at King's College, London and was commissioned into The Royal Anglian Regiment in 1984. He retired in 1991 and joined the Territorial Army during which time he commanded East Midlands Officers' Training Corps in Nottingham. Fred Majdalanay's personal account of Cassino sparked an intense interest and he now devotes much of his free time to this fascinating and highly controversial series of battles that, ultimately, led to a costly breakthrough in May/June 1944. His interest then shifted to include Anzio, a part of the Italian Campaign that is inextricably linked to Cassino. In 2010, his projects included working with Wall to Wall, the production company for the BBC 1 series 'Who Do You Think You Are?' His current project is researching the route of 1/6 Surreys from the fall of Rome in June 1944 to the capture of Forli, in northern Italy, in October 1944.



Salerno

Sicily-Rome American Cemetery and Memorial

