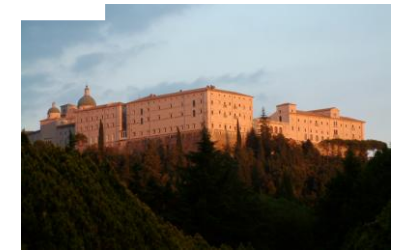




PRESENTS...

WWII CAMPAIGN in NORTH AFRICA, SICILY AND ITALY 2018



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Revised/printed August 10, 2017

Valor Tours, Ltd. CST #2075156-50

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Valor Tours, Ltd.

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Email: valortours@yahoo.com

Website: www.valortours.com

Cover from top left clockwise: Memorial on Sicily; Agira Canadian war cemetery, Sicily; Port of Messina, Sicily; Monte Cassino now and then; General Patton.

July 1 to 8 Kasserine

July 8 to 14 Sicily 75th Anniversary

July 14 to 22 Italy

Escorted by Steve Hamilton and Frank de Planta

America's Oldest and Most Experienced Military History Tour Operator

Tunisia “On this famous battleground of the ancient world two armies converged from the west and from the east in the year 1943, to set free North Africa and make open the way for the assault on southern Europe” (Medjez el Bab Memorial). Home of the legendary Hannibal, yet 2,000 years later other great generals would arrive in Tunisia - Patton, Montgomery and Rommel. This small country played host to the largest number of battles fought in the North African campaign. This picturesque tour shows us the contrast between the desert wastes of the south and the green hills of the north. Tunisia is a fertile country which was once the “Granary of Rome”. We shall be visiting such battlefields as Kasserine where US troops met Rommel for the first time and learnt a painful lesson. Longstop Hill fought over so many times by British and US troops and the long Madjerda valley. Sidi Nsir and Hill 609 where British troops fought a “Rorkes Drift” style defence and where US troops would capture Hill 609 in dramatic style. Fondouk Gap where British cavalry regiments fighting alongside US troops would add yet another battle honour their already long list. Chouigi Pass where US tanks would take on the German panzers in the very first US/German tank battle. We will also visit the Plain of Zama where Hannibal unleashed his elephants for the last time against the Roman Empire, in one of the most famous battles of the ancient world.

Sicily 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.

Italy 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 Eighth Army’s attack, the U.S. Fifth Army landed at Salerno on 9 September accompanied by 1 British Airborne Division at Taranto. 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 Tunisia, Sicily and Central Italy 2018

Mail to: Valor Tours, Ltd., 10 Liberty Ship Way, Sausalito, CA 94965

Questions? Call 1-800-842-4504

Please reserve ____ spaces on the following tour(s):

 Tunisia/Kasserine – July 1 to 8, 2018

 Sicily Campaign – July 8 to 14, 2018

 Italy Campaign – July 14 to 22, 2018

Enclosed is my/our deposit in the amount of _____ (\$600 per person, per tour) in the form of a check____, or credit card 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)

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 coincide with 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

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. We accept all creditcards or personal checks. Make checks payable to Valor Tours, Ltd. and mail to 10 Liberty Ship Way, Sausalito, and CA 94965. Payment can also be made through our website on Paypal at www.valortours.com. Final payment is due April 1, 2018. 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 2016. 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 10 fully paid participants travelling together and current airfares and rates. Changes to itinerary may be necessary if group falls below 10 participants. 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 April 1, 2018. Cancellations received between April 2 and May 1, 2018 subject to a \$600 per person penalty. Cancellation received after May 1, 2018 or "no shows" are non-refundable. Travel cancellation insurance is available upon request. Payments made by credit card will be refunded back to credit card 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. Visa for Tunisia is issued upon arrival at Tunis. Ask your physician about Hepatitis which is recommended to ALL travelers to any part of the world. Final travel documents including any requested airline tickets, 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 and our coaches do not have lifts. Passengers should be somewhat mobile.

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.

Itineraries and hotels listed subject to change.

Steve Hamilton, guide/historian for North Africa & 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 with 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 Italy

Frank de Planta has had an interest in military history since childhood and has been running battlefield tours to Spain, France and Italy for years. 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



2014 group at the Kasserine Memorial, Tunis

Tour #1: Kasserine Pass, Tunis – July 1 to 8, 2018

Sunday July 1 (B, L, D)

Independent arrivals into Tunis. Meet and transfer to hotel in Sfax.

Monday July 2 (B, L, D)

After a visit to the Commonwealth War Cemetery in Sfax, where 4 Victoria Cross winners are buried, we head west to Kasserine via the battlefields of Faid Pass where the initial American advance was halted; Rommel then counter-attacked pushing the American forces back through Sidi Bou Zid and Sbleitla before making a stand at the entrance to the Kasserine Pass. Overnight in Kasserine. (4 VC's in one cemetery, a record only equalled at El Alamein)

Tuesday July 3 (B, L, D)

Today we visit the Kasserine Pass battlefield, where in February 1943 Rommel personally led the Afrika Korps into action for the last time, while pushing the American defenders back the 48Km to Thala, before he was halted by a British counter-attack. We shall also visit the Kasserine Pass Memorial, before making our way to our hotel in Gafsa. En-route visit Thepelete airfield where Foy Draper, 1936 Olympic Gold Medallist, took off for his last flight.

Wednesday July 4 (B, L, D)

Today visit the battlefield of El Guettar where the Americans tried to link up with the British along the Gabes Road. Drive down "gum tree road" - a supply route along the base of the mountains to the coast in the east, and drive over the mountains to the battlefields of Djebel Sened, and Maknassey before making our way to our hotel in Kairouan which in earlier times was a Foreign Legion fort.

Thursday July 5 (B, L, D)

Today head north to our hotel in Tunis centre. Day includes visit to the US War Cemetery at Carthage where 2,841 American servicemen and women are buried, including Medal of Honor recipient Nicholas Minue, four seats of brothers and Troy Draper. Also the American Memorial to the Missing, which commemorates a further 3,724 servicemen who have no known grave.

2018

Tour #1: Kasserine Pass, Tunisia – July 1 to 8

\$2,950 per person, twin share

\$300 single supplement

Tour #2: WWII Sicily – July 8 to 14

\$2,950 per person, twin share

\$300 single supplement

Tour #3: WWII Italy – July 14 to 22

\$3,250 per person, twin share

\$350 single supplement

Arrival and departure airport/hotel transfers; private coach transport throughout tours; services of tour historian/guide Steve Hamilton in Tunisia and Sicily, and Frank de Planta in Italy; all hotel accommodations at 3 or 4 star hotels; meals as indicated in itinerary by B-Breakfast, L-Lunch & D-Dinner; water daily on coach; emergency travel insurance coverage; entrance fees; local taxes; battle history Tour book.

Sample air fares in Economy class:

New York to Rome round trip approx. \$1195 per person incl taxes

New York to Tunis round trip approx. \$1000 per person incl. taxes

Catania (Messina) to Rome on Alitalia \$53.00 per person

Air fare from Rome to Palermo included in Sicily tour cost.

Air fares subject to change.

Cancellation insurance available for \$187 per person up to \$3000 of coverage; \$248 for \$4000 of coverage; \$313 for \$5000 of coverage; \$373 for \$6000; \$435 for \$7000 of coverage. Description of coverage pamphlet available upon request.

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 to city where tour commences, cancellation/trip interruption travel insurance coverage, tips to guides and drivers, air fare and ferry.

Free air and/or ferry between tours if taken back to back, i.e. free air from Tunis to Palermo if linking Tour #1 and #2; free ferry Sicily to Italy (Messina to Villa San Giovanni) if linking Tours #2 and #3.

Additional nights at hotels at the end of each tour are possible for additional cost (to be advised). We are happy to make these arrangements as well as assist with air fare from the U.S. to Tunis or Rome.

Wednesday July 18 (B, D)

After breakfast at hotel, check out. Appreciate the enormous contribution of the Poles whilst at the Polish Cemetery. Travel to Anzio/Nettuno and visit the US Sicily-Rome Military Cemetery and memorial site where headstones of 7,861 of American military war dead can be found, and memorial to the Missing where a further 3,095 American casualties are commemorated. The majority of these men died in the liberation of Sicily, the landings at Salerno and the heavy fighting northwards, at Cassino, in the landings, stalemate and breakout of Anzio and in air and naval support in the region. Study the Fifth Army decision to land at Anzio on 22 Jan 44. Overnight Hotel dei Cesari, Anzio.

Thursday July 19 (B, D)

After breakfast at hotel, study the landings at Anzio port, the struggle for Campoleone RR Station, the disastrous Rangers' assault towards Cisterna up the Pantano Ditch and the battle for the survival of the 1 British Infantry Division. Overnight Hotel dei Cesari, Anzio.

Friday July 20 (B, D)

After breakfast at hotel, study the role of 5th Battalion Grenadier Guards on Buonriposo Ridge and 45 US Infantry Division at Campo di Carne when the collapse of the beachhead looked likely. Study the First World War style defensive actions in the Lobster Claw and the Boot during the Stalemate Phase of the battle. Visit the Beach Head Military Cemetery and study the decision to adopt Op BUFFALO for the breakout on 23 May 44. Overnight Hotel dei Cesari, Anzio.

Saturday July 21 (B, D)

After breakfast at hotel, check out. Study the early results of Op BUFFALO and the initial success of the US breakout towards Valmontone on 23-25 May 44. Study the Fifth Army decision to switch to Op TURTLE on 25 May 44. In the Velletri Gap, study the brilliant 36 US Infantry Division plan to slip between the inter-Corps boundary for LXXVI Pz Corps and I Para Corps and finally break the German Fourteenth Army's defense on 29-30 May 44. Lunch break at Velletri. Overnight Golden Tulip Rome Fiumicino Airport.

Sunday July 22 (B)

Hotel shuttle to airport for flights onward or home. Tour ends.

"I found the entire trip (with Steve Hamilton) exciting, challenging, and adventurous, eye opening and educational..."

Don Waterbury May 2011

"We will relive our tour of Salerno, Cassino and Anzio for a long time. Frank created an excitement and energy from start to finish..."

Eva and Ab Wolf, 2012

"We enjoyed our trip to Tunisia. Everything went like clockwork and the content of the trip was fascinating. Steve Hamilton was an excellent guide...very knowledgeable, personable and accommodating. We couldn't have asked for more."

Bob and Nan Rudd, 2014



Friday July 6 (B, L, D)

Today we visit the lofty heights of Hill 609 at Sidi Nsir, captured in dramatic style by the US 1st and 9th Divisions, the "Mousetrap" and Djebel Lanserine where Nicholas Minue of the 26th Armoured Infantry won his Medal of Honor, and Chouigi Pass/Coxens Farm where in late 1942 American tanks met German panzers for the first time, before returning to our hotel in Tunis.

Saturday July 7 (B, L, D)

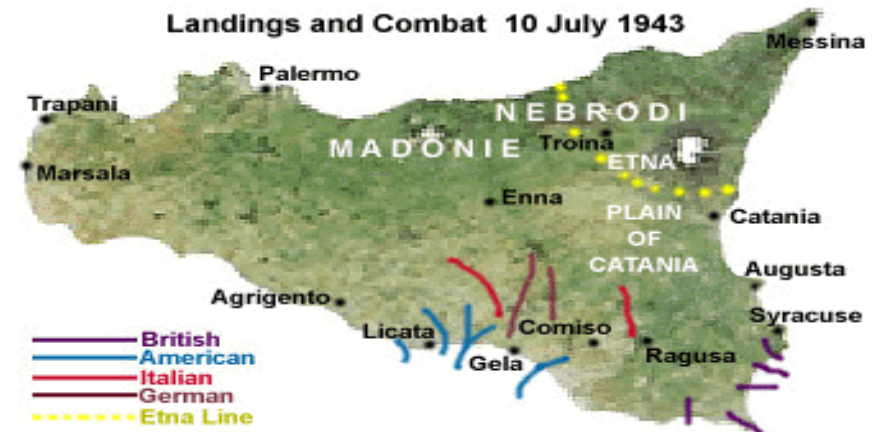
Today visit the battlefields of Medjez el Bab and the Madjerda Valley, Bord Toun Bridge, Longstop Hill and Djebel Bou Akaz. Scenes of the December 1942 and April 1943 battles. Overnight Tunis.

Sunday July 8 (B)

Tour ends with transport to airport for flight home, or Tunis Air to Palermo for those continuing onto Sicily with Steve Hamilton.

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. Disabled participant must be somewhat mobile. There is absolutely no wheelchair access.



Tour #2: WWII Sicily – July 8 to 14, 2018

Sunday July 8 (D)

2:55pm Depart Rome via Alitalia #1799

4:10pm Arrive Palermo

Transfer to Hotel Ambasciatori Palermo. Group dinner tonight.

Monday July 9 (B, D)

After breakfast check out and drive to Agrigento to visit the Valley of the Temples. Onto Licata to examine the landing beaches where Audie Murphy landed and bridgehead of the 3rd US Infantry Division and the battle of the 505th Parachute

Infantry Regiment of the 82nd Airborne Division, making their first combat drop. En-route to Gela we shall stop at the 3rd Division Memorial and the site where Lt David Waybur won the Medal of Honor. Overnight Villa Peretti in Gela, situated on the site of the German counter attack of July 11, 1943 and just a short distance from where Luz Long a 1936 German Olympian and friend of Jesse Owens was killed. Dinner at local restaurant. Overnight Hotel Villa Peretti.

Tuesday July 10 (B, D)

75th Anniversary: After breakfast at hotel, check out and head for the U.S. landing beaches at Gela where Darby's Rangers stormed ashore to capture the Gela Mound and fight off the German counter-attack which was delivered on 11th July 1943. Onto Scoglitti landing beaches of the 45th US Division, via Ponte Drillo, the scene of the dramatic and costly action by US paratroopers. Follow the exploits of the U.S. 45th Infantry Division who were operating on the right of the 1st US Division. The 45th would capture the airfield at Comiso and enter Ragusa to link with Canadian forces. Overnight Hotel Mercure Siracusa.

Wednesday July 11 (B, D)

After breakfast at hotel, check out and drive to Catania via No3 Commando Bridge and Primosole Bridge, scene of the action involving British Commando and Paratroopers and the Durham Light Infantry. Free afternoon in the centre of Catania or visit to the excellent Catania war museum. Overnight Hotel Royal Catania. Dinner at local restaurant.

Thursday July 12 (B, D)

After breakfast at hotel, check out for our day in the mountains with the drive to lofty town of Centuripe captured by the 38th Irish Brigade, Gagliano where Sgt Gerry Kisters won the Medal of Honor, Nicosia, the site of Patton's first slapping incident, Mount Basillio where Pte James Reese was awarded a Posthumous Medal of Honor, and Troina, scene of severe fighting and the US "Big Red One" hardest day on Sicily. Enroute we visit the Agira Canadian War Cemetery. Return and overnight Hotel Kento, Centuripe.

Friday July 13 (B, D)

After breakfast at the hotel, check out and drive to the north coast and along the U.S. route to Messina, the target of both Patton and Montgomery, which was finally reach on the night of August 16, 1943 when leading elements of the 3rd U.S. Division entered the city. Visit the San Fratello Ridge and Brolo, and the Naso Ridge the scene of two amphibious landings. Before reaching Messina we shall cross the "bridge in the sky". Overnight Hotel Royal Catania.

Saturday July 14 (B)

Check out of hotel and transfer to airport with Steve for those ending their tour today, or.....

Italy bound passengers' drive to and board ferry at Messina with local guide to Villa San Giovana – the southern tip of the Italian boat. Then drive by coach to Salerno with a stop along the way for lunch (on their own account), meeting up with Frank at Salerno. Overnight Hotel al Rufugio, Salerno.

Tour #3: WWII Italy – July 14 to 22, 2018

Saturday July 14 (D)

For those taking this tour only, Frank departs Golden Tulip Hotel at Rome Fiumicino Airport via car/minibus and can take anyone who needs a ride to Salerno with him. About 2 ½ hour drive. If time allows, stop at Caserta Palace which was the HQ of 15th Army Group during the war. Group dinner with introductions and briefing. Overnight at Villa Rifugio.

Sunday July 15 (B, D)

After breakfast ay hotel with Frank, visit Castello dei Arechi and explore the decision to commit US Fifth Army at Salerno in Sep 43. Visit the VI (US) landing beach and the 36 US Infantry Division Monument at Paestum. After lunch at Paestum, study the VI (US) Corps advance into the hills above the Sele Plain towards Eboli and Serre from La Cattedrale del Granato & Point 386. Study the German counter attack and the breath taking VI (US) Corps response. Then drive to Cassino and, along the route, study the progress of US Fifth Army from the landings at Salerno on 9 Sep 44 to their arrival at Cassino on 15 Jan 44. Overnight Best Western Hotel Rocca, Cassino.

Monday July 16 (B, D)

After breakfast at hotel, study the crossing sites of 141 Infantry Regiment in the First Battle as part of 36 US Infantry Division on 20 and 21 Jan 44. Visit the 36 US Infantry Division Monument at Sant Angelo and then move on to Portella to study 34 US Infantry Division's attack to get into the hills behind the Monastery in the First Battle. Visit the British and German cemeteries. After lunch, study the Second Battle which includes the bombing of the Monastery, the 2 New Zealand Division attack up the railroad and the 4 Indian Division attack along Snakeshead Ridge. Overnight Best Western Hotel Rocca, Cassino.

Tuesday July 17 (B, D)

After breakfast at hotel, Frank will explain the challenging logistical problems of re-supplying troops on the ridges from Portella, San Michele and Caira and the decision by II (NZ) Corps to build the Cavendish Road. Study the terrain over which 2 New Zealand Division fought for Cassino town and 4 Indian Division fought for the eastern face of Monastery Hill during the Third Battle. Study the route of the Cavendish Road diversionary tank attack of 19 Mar 44 and view the memorial made from one of the tanks. After lunch in Cassino, study the titanic struggle for Snakehead Ridge and Point 593 behind the Abbey during the Fourth Battle. Overnight Best Western Hotel Rocca, Cassino.



Cemetery with Mt. Etna erupting in the back ground. Frank pointing out route of the Cavendish Road at Cassino