

TIMELINE OF ALLIED CAMPAIGN IN SOUTHERN ITALY

Following the conquest of North Africa, the Allies decided to invade the “soft underbelly of Europe”, Italy. The plan was to “move up the boot” and approach Germany from the south.

1. OPERATION HUSKY:

Invasion of Sicily

July 10, 1943

BENITO MUSSOLINI REMOVED FROM POWER

July 25, 1943

(Later installed by Hitler as the head of the puppet “Italian Social Republic”)

ITALY SURRENDERS TO THE ALLIES:

September 8, 1943

2. OPERATION BAYTOWN:

British troops land at Reggio di Calabria

September 3, 1943

3. OPERATION AVALANCHE:

INVASION OF SALERNO:

September 9, 1943

4. LIBERATION OF NAPLES:

October 1, 1943

5. ALLIES STOPPED AT WINTER LINE:

November 19, 1943

The decision was made to circumvent enemy lines and land Allied troops at Anzio Beachhead which was behind the Winter Line. If the landing was successful, the Allied troops could outflank the German army, cut off its supply lines and liberate Rome.

6. OPERATION SHINGLE:

LANDING AT ANZIO BEACHHEAD:

January 22, 1944

Allies trapped at Anzio for four long months due to German counterattack.

7. FALL OF CASSINO AND GUSTAV LINE:

May 18, 1944

ANZIO BREAKOUT:

May 25, 1944

8. LIBERATION OF ROME:

June 5, 1944

The German forces continued to fight the Allies in northern Italy until the cessation of hostilities and the surrender of all German forces in Italy on **May 1, 1945**. Total Allied casualties were 320,000 and deaths numbered 60,000.