The ITALIAN JOB 2
A COMMEMORATIVE BIKE RIDE
ROME TO BOLOGNA
29TH APRIL – 2ND MAY 2019
Remembering the
Italian Campaign of World War 2
**Day 0:** Wreath laying at Rome CWG and Altare dei Patrie (times to be confirmed)

**Day 1:** Rome – Bolsena – Orvieto; 93.04 miles

Rest stops:
1. Casa Per Ferie Santa Giovanna Antida; Circonvallazione Clodia 1/3, Vatican City – Prati, 00195 Rome
2. Husky Cafe, Via San Sebastiano 21, 00063 Campagnano di Roma, Italy; 24 miles
3. Sfizio Pizzeria, Via Cassia 83, 01019 Cura di Vetrella; 47 miles
4. Bolsena CWG; SS2 Cassia (Nord) K106 - 1027 Montefiascone (VT) Lazio; 73 miles
5. (Hotel) Agriturismo Pomonte; Località Canino 1, 05018 Orvieto

**Day 2:** Orvieto – Assisi – Perugia - Passignano sul Trasimeno; 77.7 miles

Rest stops:
EMI SUPERSTORE Todi, Località Ponte Rio, 06059 - Todi 14 miles.
Bar Dello Sport Bonciarelli Tabacchi Ricevitoria, 38.6 km (top of hill) 24.6 miles
Assisi CWG, Via Sacro Tugurio - 6080 Rivotorto di Assisi (PG) Umbria; 43.3 miles
Gatto Nero, Via della Pallotta, 18, 06126 Perugia; 57.6 miles
(Hotel) Parkhotel Montegeto; S.s. 75 Bis Del Trasimeno Km 39,010, 06065 Passignano sul Trasimeno
Day 3; Passignano sul Trasimeno – Foiano della Chaina - Arezzo – Florence; 87.40 miles

Rest stops;

Foiano della Chiana CWG; Via Porto - 52045 Foiano della Chiana (AR) Tuscany; 19.5 miles
Café Braceria Spizzachi e Bocconi;
2/a - Loc. Renzino, Via Luciano Lama, 52045 Foiano della Chiana; 22.1 miles
(Winery) Cantina dei Vini Tipici dell’Aretino s.c.a. Ponte a Chiani, 57/F – 52040; 34.7 miles
Arezzo CWG; SR 69 Località Indicatore Zona Prima - 52020 Pratantico (AR) Tuscany; 36.8 miles
Osteria de' Giusti; Piazza Giorgio Amendola, 2, 50066 Ciliegi FI; 65.4 miles
(Hotel) Lungarno Serristori 27, 50125 Florence

Day 4; Florence – sightseeing

Day 5; Florence – Castiglione dei Pepoli – Bologna; 75.02 miles

Rest stops;

Castello Café; Via del Pozzo, 13, 50031 Barberino di Mugello FI; 22.2 miles
Castiglione CWG; Via Bolognese, 51 40035 Castiglione dei Pepoli (BO) Emilia-Romagna; 36.8 miles
Restaurant Taverna Del Cacciatore; Via Cavaniccie, 6, 40035 Castiglione dei Pepoli BO; 37.4 miles, or
Albergo Ristorante Poli, Piazza Madonna Della Neve 5, 40048 Madonna dei Fornelli BO; 46.8 miles
Bologna CWG; Via Dozza Giuseppe 32 – 40139 Bologna (BO) Emilia Romagna; 72 miles
(Hotel) B&B Bentivogli, Via Giuseppe Massarenti 72 40138 Bologna
The Following Article Is From Wikipedea;

**Allied Advance into Northern Italy, 1944 - 1945**

After the capture of Rome, and the Allied invasion of Normandy in June, the U.S. VI Corps and the French Expeditionary Corps (CEF), which together amounted to seven divisions, were pulled out of Italy during the summer of 1944 to participate in Operation Dragoon, codename for the Allied invasion of Southern France. The sudden removal of these experienced units from the Italian front was only partially compensated for by the gradual arrival of three divisions, the Brazilian 1st Infantry Division, the U.S. 92nd Infantry Division, both in the second half of 1944, and the U.S. 10th Mountain Division in January 1945.

In the period from June to August 1944, the Allies advanced beyond Rome, taking Florence and closing up on the Gothic Line. This last major defensive line ran from the coast some 30 miles (48 km) north of Pisa, along the jagged Apennine Mountains chain between Florence and Bologna to the Adriatic coast, just south of Rimini. In order to shorten the Allied lines of communication for the advance into Northern Italy, the Polish II Corps advanced towards the port of Ancona and, after a month-long battle, succeeded in capturing it on 18 July.

During *Operation Olive*, which commenced on 25 August, the Gothic Line defences were penetrated on both the Fifth and Eighth Army fronts; but, there was no decisive breakthrough. Churchill, the British Prime Minister, had hoped that a major advance in late 1944 would open the way for the Allied armies to advance northeast through the "Ljubljana Gap" (the area between Venice and Vienna, which is today's Slovenia) to Vienna and Hungary to forestall the Red Army from advancing into Eastern Europe. Churchill's proposal had been strongly opposed by the U.S. Chiefs of Staff who, not fully understanding its importance to British postwar interests in the region, did not think that it aligned with the overall Allied war priorities.

In October, Lieutenant General Sir Richard McCreery succeeded Lieutenant General Sir Oliver Leese as the commander of the Eighth Army. In December, Lieutenant General Mark Clark, the Fifth Army commander, was appointed to command the 15th Army Group, thereby succeeding the British General Sir Harold Alexander as commander of all Allied ground troops in Italy, with Alexander succeeded Field Marshal Sir Henry Wilson as the Supreme Allied Commander in the Mediterranean Theatre. Clark was succeeded in command of the Fifth Army by Lieutenant General Lucian K. Truscott, Jr.. In the winter and spring of 1944–45, extensive partisan activity in Northern Italy took place. As there were two Italian governments during this period, (one on each side of the war), the struggle took on some characteristics of a civil war.
Brazilian troops arrive in the city of Massarosa, Italy, September 1944.

The poor winter weather, which made armoured manoeuvre and the exploitation of overwhelming air superiority impossible, coupled with the massive losses suffered to its ranks during the autumn fighting,[38][39] the need to transfer some British troops to Greece (as well as the need to withdraw the British 5th Infantry Division and I Canadian Corps to northwestern Europe) made it impractical for the Allies to continue their offensive in early 1945. Instead, the Allies adopted a strategy of "offensive defence" while preparing for a final attack when better weather and ground conditions arrived in the spring.

An Italian soldier on the Gothic Line, late 1944.

In late February-early March 1945, Operation Encore saw elements of the U.S. IV Corps (1st Brazilian Division and the newly arrived U.S. 10th Mountain Division) battling forward across minefields in the Apennines to align their front with that of the U.S. II Corps on their right.[40] They pushed the German defenders from the commanding high point of Monte Castello and the adjacent Monte Belvedere and Castelnuovo, depriving them of artillery positions that had been commanding the approaches to Bologna since the narrowly failed Allied attempt to take the city in the autumn.[41][42][43] Meanwhile, damage to other transport infrastructure forced Axis forces to use sea, canal and river routes for re-supply, leading to Operation Bowler against shipping in Venice harbour on 21 March 1945.

The Allies' final offensive commenced with massive aerial and artillery bombardments on 9 April 1945.[44] The Allies had 1,500,000 men and women deployed in Italy in April 1945.[2] The Axis on 7 April had 599,514 troops
of which 439,224 were Germans and 160,180 were Italians.[2] By 18 April, Eighth Army forces in the east had broken through the Argenta Gap and sent armour racing forward in an encircling move to meet the U.S. IV Corps advancing from the Apennines in Central Italy and to trap the remaining defenders of Bologna.[36] On 21 April, Bologna was entered by the 3rd Carpathian Division, the Italian Friuli Group (both from the Eighth Army) and the U.S. 34th Infantry Division (from the Fifth Army).[45] The U.S. 10th Mountain Division, which had bypassed Bologna, reached the River Po on 22 April; the 8th Indian Infantry Division, on the Eighth Army front, reached the river on 23 April.[46]

By 25 April, the Italian Partisans’ Committee of Liberation declared a general uprising,[47] and on the same day, having crossed the Po on the right flank, forces of Eighth Army advanced north-northeast towards Venice and Trieste. On the front of the U.S. Fifth Army, divisions drove north toward Austria and northwest to Milan. On the Fifth Army's left flank, the U.S. 92nd Infantry Division (the "Buffalo Soldiers Division") went along the coast to Genoa. A rapid advance towards Turin by the Brazilian division on their right took the German–Italian Army of Liguria by surprise, causing its collapse.[42]

Brazilian soldiers cross Sassomore towards Vornetti home to take to the observation point of the Coda, April 1945.

Stretcher bearers pass M4 Sherman tanks in Portomaggiore, 19 April 1945.

As April 1945 came to an end, the German Army Group C, retreating on all fronts and having lost most of its fighting strength, was left with little option but surrender.

[42] General Heinrich von Vietinghoff, who had taken command of Army Group C after Albert Kesselring had been transferred to become Commander-in-Chief of the Western Front (OB West) in March 1945, signed the instrument of surrender on behalf of the German armies in Italy on 29 April, formally bringing hostilities to an end on 2 May 1945.[48]

Which is why we end our ride in Bologna.

Logistics;

1. What is INCLUDED;

The cost per cyclist is £800 includes;
a. 8 nights accommodation, 26th April – 3rd May

b. logistics support (including getting your bikes to Rome, and back to UK by road). Cyclists must arrange to deliver their bikes to an address in Rickmansworth in advance of 26th April 2019, from where they will be carefully packed and driven to Rome by our logistics team (and myself) in a SWB panel van; subsequently returned to the same address the same way. The logistics vehicle will target our next rest stop each time, using vehicle mounted satnav, which means they will not be able to positively follow in active support.

2. What is NOT INCLUDED;

a. outbound flight to Rome, arriving on 26th April, returning from Bologna on 4th May.

b. delivery to, and collection of your bike from, Rickmansworth. Receipts will be provided.

c. transfer from Rome Airport to Hotel.

d. all refreshments, food and drink – apart from those hotels that offer breakfast (not all do). Restaurant and other bills will be divided equitably at the time of payment. I use the FairFX Euro Card for all EU transactions, but do please feel free to seek others. (and no, they are not sponsoring me!)

e. transfer between Rome Airport and Rome Hotel, and from Bologna Hotel to Bologna Airport (there is a train service, which is excellent. The distance from hotel to station is 1.4 miles, 2.3 km)

3. This is an escorted ride, so your luggage and personal effects will be taken from our hotels each day and we will meet up with our support crew at the rest stops listed.

4. We will be travelling under The Royal British Legion’s general insurance policy.

5. The route is available as .gps files, one for each day.


7. Transfer from airport to hotel in Rome, and from hotel to airport in Bologna by taxis [not included in costs]. 2 nights accommodation at Casa Per Ferie Santa Giovanna Antida.

8. 27th April 2019; first full day in Rome, attend a wreath-laying ceremony at the Rome CWG and The Altare della Patria. Remaining time in Rome is free.

9. 28th April 2019, set off for Orvieto.

10. 29th April 2019 – set off for Passignano sul Trasimeno.


12. 1st May 2019 – free day in Florence.

13. 2nd May 2019 – set off for Bologna.

14. 3rd May 2019 – free day in Bologna, after loading bikes and any unwanted luggage into logistics van – which will then set off for UK.

15. 4th May 2019 – return flight to UK from Bologna.

16. I have not estimated the arrival times at each destination – there are a few hills that would play havoc with those calculations. However, as the longest day is a little over 90 miles, there shouldn’t be too much of a problem being late.

17. The accommodation has twin or double-bedded rooms (all booked as twins). If anyone has a partner that wants to come along, whether cycling or not, please advise. They would still have to
pay the accommodation, food and drink costs, but will obviously forego the additional luggage costs, and have a lift with our support crew.

Please email paul-harding@hotmail.co.uk or text me on 07877 805111 to express your interest, with your;

Name, Email address, Passport number and its expiry date.