

# Darby Digest

[www.usag.livorno.army.mil](http://www.usag.livorno.army.mil)

March 1, 2012

**Visiting battle sites  
on the Gothic Line**

**Page 3**

**USA beats Italy  
in friendly soccer match**

**Page 8**



**Community events**

**Page 4**

**Out & About**

**Page 6**

Camp  Darby's premier weekly newsletter

See new photos everyday on our web site or share yours with us on the Camp Darby facebook page



**Darby Bantam beats Aviano 17-13**  
Photo courtesy of Tom Hlavacek



**Club Beyond raises fund to support summer service trip to Romania**  
Photo by Elena Baladelli, photo lab



**Climbing 92nd Buffalo Soldier Road**  
Photo by Chiara Mattiolo, USAG Livorno Public Affairs

## Darby Digest: Your source for News, Information and Culture



Feb. 26-3 2012  
Vol. V, Issue 9

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U.S. Army Garrison Livorno  
Commander

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Command Sgt. Maj.

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**Front Cover Photo by  
Chiara Mattiolo**

Camp Darby community members visit site of historic World War II battle in Sommocolonia, Italy. Learn more on page 3

[www.usag.livorno.army.mil](http://www.usag.livorno.army.mil)

# In honor of those who fought

Camp Darby community members visit the village of Sommocolonia on the Gothic line where Buffalo Soldiers fought. See more photos on <http://www.flickr.com/photos/campdarby/sets/72157629077587452/>

Photos by Chiara Mattiolo



**By Chiara Mattiolo**  
*USAG Livorno Public Affairs*

"In honor of those who fought" reads the ribbon on the wreath that a delegation of service members from Camp Darby laid in Sommocolonia, Feb. 23.

Every year, in combination with the African American History Month, Soldiers, Airmen, and civilians from Camp Darby pay a visit to the near town of Sommocolonia where American Soldiers of the Buffalo division fought and many lost their lives.

In particular, Lt. John Fox, who at the age of 29, lost his life calling artillery fire on his own position the day after Christmas 1944. Fox received the Medal of Honor 50 years after his death for his heroic action.

At the time, discrimination and racism was very strong and as Lt. Col. Vittorio Biondi, Italian Army historian, explained many African-American soldiers were denied consideration for the Medal of Honor solely due to their race.

"This visit meant a lot to me," said Sharon Carter who was in the military and is now serving the U.S. Government as a civilian. "It helped understanding today the sacrifices of yesterday, not only for what concerns the war but also the racism."

Army Capt. Daniel Hill, USAG Livorno Staff Judge Advocate, said this visit was a moving experience for what the 92nd Mountain Division did.

"It is good to remember the sacrifices our predecessors made to lead us to a better world," said Hill. "The soldiers of the Buffalo Division were treated differently, and still they did what a soldier has to do; the U.S. Army is a very different army today thanks to their sacrifices."

Air Force Lt. Kai Reyes and his wife Megan are both historian, for them this visit to World War II battle lines and meeting some of the old villagers has been a unique experience.

"It is wonderful to understand history by learning what forces did on the ground, we need to learn from our own mistakes by not forgetting the past," said Kai Reyes.

The touching story about the long time forgotten Lt. Fox narrated by a local expert like Lt. Col. Biondi who promptly pointed out all the fields were the mines were and the exact spot where the hero died, added unforgettable details.

According to Roberto Guerrini, Italian veteran, remembering the fallen soldiers is a responsibility for everyone and it is important to recognize their sacrifices as much as it is to learn from their tragic

experiences and to enhance awareness in young people.

"Youngsters don't believe what we went through," said Guerrini. "I was a partisan first and then I fought for five months with the 5th Armed Division side by side with the American soldiers."

Guerrini remembers they reached Sommocolonia by donkeys because they were bringing food to the African-American soldier in the trenches.

"It is an honor to step into history and appreciate the sacrifices people made to make my world a better place," said Carter. "I want to thank Lt. Fox, even though it cost his life."

The Sommocolonia residents joined the Camp Darby delegation to the deposition of the wreath and put all their efforts to provide the warmest welcome to the American Community offering a homemade meal and a delicious coffee and pastries on the town's terrace.

"These meetings have a very important meaning," said Biondi. "All of the Western counties have a continuative link with the United States, they helped us fighting fascism and since then we made every possible effort to pass on the history of our Nation through our family traditions and narration of historical facts."

# Community events & happenings

Army Community Service

**Are you  
Camp Darby's  
BIGGEST  
Saver?**

**Feb. 21- March 22**

See who can save the most using manufacturer coupons at the Commissary



**Winner get  
\$ 75 cashier check  
courtesy of**



Call ACS for more information at 633-7084

## CYCLING TOUR OF TUSCANY JUNE 11 - 15

**Estimated Travel times**  
Departure: ODR 9 a.m. June 11  
Return to Post: 4 p.m. June 15

**Quick Facts**  
Total cost is \$750  
4 nights in 3-star hotel (double occupancy)  
4 full-course dinners including drinks  
4 breakfasts  
Support vehicle and escort  
\*Single room supplement is \$140

**What to Bring**  
Your bike, tools, inner tubes and spare parts for bicycle.



**Trip details**  
Ride through the heart of Tuscany on your bike and enjoy some breathtaking scenery. It is advised to be in good physical shape because you will average almost 100 kilometers per day with a lot of hill climbing. This trip is not for the Sunday cyclist.

Lunch is not included. Stops will be made at local grocery stores for lunch or a power bar about midway on the course. It is recommended to bring energy bars and snacks to keep you going if you get hungry.

Departure time from the hotel each morning is at 9 a.m. with the exception of day 4; which will be a long day. Arrival time to hotel will vary each day due to variable terrain and ability of riders.

A support vehicle will accompany the riders through the entire trip and will be used to transport luggage, equipment or a tired rider. Space is not a problem.

\$100 deposit is required NLT March 15. This trip is limited to a maximum of 10 riders and a minimum of 5.

Occasionally to make the most of your time, the trip itinerary may change due to weather, traffic or other external factors beyond our control. Prices may change due to fluctuations in the EUR/USD rate. Please see this information on a general public. Inclusion of any third-party website does not constitute DOD, Army or Federal Government endorsement.



BLDG. 678 | PHONE: 633-7589 | EMAIL: LIVORNO-ITR@EUR.ARMY.MIL

### National Children's Dental Health

633-7461

The Livorno Dental Clinic will be offering limited appointments for all middle school and elementary school age children Feb. 27- March 2. There will be dedicated appointment times for comprehensive exams and cleanings for the children after school hours. Space is limited so contact the dental clinic for an appointment.

### How to use usajobs.gov seminar

633-7000

March 5 at 5 p.m. learn how to navigate the new USAJOBS web site by Jane Spencer. Find answers to your questions and get hands on experience. This one hour session is limited to four participants. Sign up at the Library.

### Garrison Awards Ceremony

March 22 at 2 p.m. at the DCC, the Garrison Commander will host a Quarterly Award Ceremony recognizing those who have distinguished themselves through their accomplishments and service to the Army and the Camp Darby Military Community.

### Children's Playgroup

633-7084

Playgroup for children 0-3 years, meets every Wednesday of the month. Come join this highly interactive group that provides your child with opportunities to enhance their social, emotional, physical and intellectual development, as well as educating parents on children issues.

### Youth Sports and Fitness registration

633-7681

Registration runs through March 31 for youth baseball programs.

### Sports & Fitness

633-7438

Whether you want to coach or you're just playing for fun, register for this season's Recreation Volleyball League from March 5 thru April 5. Games begin on April 11.

ITR

633-7589

- Rome March 10
- Ducati & Lamborghini museum on March 17

For more information download in Fall/Winter Catalog available online at: [www.vicenzamwr.com](http://www.vicenzamwr.com)  
Call ITR at 633-7589 for information or register on WEB TRAC.

ODR

633-7775

See Tuscany on a bike this summer from June 11-15. The Tuscany Bicycle Tour is not for the Sunday cyclist; it will take you through the heart of Tuscany and averages approximately 100 kilometers per day. Register now before March 10.

### Darby Community Club

633-7855

- Celebrate St. Patty's Day March 17 with all things green.
- Seether live on March 25. Catch this post grunge rock band from Pretoria, South Africa as they tour in support of their 6th album called 'Holding Onto Strings Better Left to Fray'.

### Religious Activities

633-7267

- 9:40 a.m. Catholic reconciliation
- 10 a.m. Catholic Mass
- 11:15 a.m. Protestant worship
- 11:15 a.m. Catholic CCD

### New combined retail store hours

The Exchange and Shoppette are now open 7 Days a week and U.S. holidays. Mon-Fri 7 a.m.- 6 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.- 6 p.m., Sun./holidays 10 a.m.- 4 p.m.

### AAFES Movies

- March. 2- 6 p.m. We Bought a Zoo (PG)
- March. 3- 6 p.m. Alvin And The Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (G)
- March. 4- 1 p.m. Journey 2 : The Mysterious Island (PG) 1st Run
- March. 9- 6 p.m. Mission Impossible : Ghost Protocol (PG-13)
- March. 10- 6 p.m. This Means War (PG-13) 1st Run
- March. 11- 1 p.m. The Adventures Of TinTin : The Secret Of The Unicorn (PG)

# OUT & ABOUT- EXPLORE YOUR WORLD

Compiled by Barbara Ranieri  
USAG Livorno Community Affairs Advisor

## SAGRA & FESTIVALS

### Viareggio last parade for Carnevale

The parades filled with floats, marching bands, dancing and music take place in a ring-like circuit 2 km. long, on the seaside avenues of Viareggio. Enjoy fun for children and adults.

Parade Program - Masked Parade  
3th March the parade begins at 7 pm

#### Ticket prices

Daily ticket € 15,00

Military and Children age 11 – 13 -€ 10,00

Children till 10 years old – free entrance

[www.viareggio.ilcarnevale.com](http://www.viareggio.ilcarnevale.com)

### Fiera Antiquaria: antiques fair in Arezzo

This weekend in the wonderful scenery of Piazza Grande and in the small streets nearby takes place the Fiera Antiquaria, a very famous antiques fair in Arezzo.

About 500 exhibitors coming from all over Italy meet there every first Sunday of each month and the preceding Saturday. You can find furniture, ceramics, pieces of China, jewels, glassware, fabrics, watches, sculptures, paintings, iron and copper items, as well as trinkets of all sorts.

Openings: from 10 a.m. until 8 p.m.

Info: [www.arezzeriaantiquaria.com](http://www.arezzeriaantiquaria.com)

### Antiqua Market in San Giuliano Terme - Pisa

Starting from March 4, the Antiqua Market is coming back to San Giuliano Terme - Pisa every first Sunday of the month until November 2012.

About a hundred antiques dealers will be meeting in the historical town center to expose antiques, as furnishings, clothes, books, porcelains and other objects.

Also, San Giuliano Terme's local restaurants will be offering special dishes for each market day.

Info: [www.comune.sangiulianoterme.pisa.it/pro-loco](http://www.comune.sangiulianoterme.pisa.it/pro-loco)

### Fritters festival in Bagno a Ripoli - Firenze

#### Currently ongoing

The little town of San Donato in Collina, nearby Rignano sull'Arno - in the Florence province will be hosting the traditional Fritters festival (Sagra delle frittelle). The festival will continue on each following Saturday and Sunday, ending on April 8. The traditional meeting will come back every Saturday afternoon from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. and every Sunday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. in San Donato in Collina at the Circolo Sms.

The festival is known in the province for the big amount and the good quality of the traditional home-made Fritters (It. "frittelle"), made with pastry and rice and then deep fried in oil. The "frittelle" are traditionally served with local Vin-santo (sweet wine).

### Simone Martini's Polyptych in Pisa

Simone Martini's Polyptych, one of the principal works of art preserved in the Museum of San Matteo, is being restored 'live' before the visitors' eyes.

During the restoration work the painting will still be on show in a sort of 'glass workshop' set up at the end of the museum tour till 30 April 2012

All relevant information, along with the footage and scientific data obtained during the restoration, will be accessible through a high-resolution touch screen installation allowing the public to interactively explore the painting, revealing details not visible to the naked eye.

Info: 050 541865

### Myers - Schwabs Quartet in Firenze

On 1 March 2012 it will be possible to see the Schwabs quartet play. From New York, Nicholas Myers, compared described in magazines

to Wayne Shorter and Lester Young, is now a name of the first order in the last generation of American jazz musicians, since in 2009 he held a special concert at the Blue Note in New York with Jean-Michel Pilc, Billy Drummond and Mike Richmond. Do not miss!

Info: [www.jazzclubfirenze.com/en/index.php](http://www.jazzclubfirenze.com/en/index.php)

### Americans in Florence. Sargent and the American Impressionists in Florence

From March 2 March to July 15 the exhibition "Americans in Florence. Sargent and the American Impressionists" will be displayed at Palazzo Strozzi in Florence.

In 2012, exactly 500 years since the death of Amerigo Vespucci, Florence will be marking this event with an exhibition designed to celebrate the strong ties linking the Old World and the New, and the cosmopolitan ambiance that bound the city to the New World for ever, transmitting European culture and sophistication to America.

The exhibition explores the American impressionists' relationship with Italy, and with Florence in particular, in the decades spanning the close of the 19th and dawn of the 20th centuries. There was a marked upswing in the number of American artists travelling to Europe after the Civil War ended in 1865, and the trend continued on into the early 20th century.

Info: [www.palazzostrozzi.org](http://www.palazzostrozzi.org)

### Cin Ci la at the Theater Verdi in Pisa

At Teatro Verdi there will be the Cin Ci La piece on 13 March 2012.

Info: [www.teatrodipisa.pi.it](http://www.teatrodipisa.pi.it)

### Fucecchio Half Marathon

On March 4 the 7th Edition of the Fucecchio's Half Marathon will take place.

Info: [www.mezzamaratonafucecchio.it](http://www.mezzamaratonafucecchio.it)

### 6th Monte Serra Run

On 3 March 2012 it will be organized the 6th Monte Serra run. This run is organized to remember the 44 soldiers who died during a tragic airplane accident on 3 March 1977.

The event starting point will be at the Certosa di Calci - Pisa.

For further info: [www.pisamarathon.it](http://www.pisamarathon.it)

Dates and times could be changed at the last minute; it is advisable to double check the information.



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# Italy vs. USA Soccer match



**By Master Sgt. Michael Lindstrom**  
*731st Munitions Squadron*

Camp Darby community members join fellow American fans at the exhibition game between Italy and USA in Genoa, Feb. 29. We had fun chanting and singing during the game. We had fun and actually got along well with the rival Italian supporters. They wanted to take lots of pictures with us.

This was the first time in history that the USA has ever beaten Italy in soccer.

Photos by Luca Bruno

