WW2 – Africa and Italy (1942-45)

The Japanese surprise attack December 7th, 1941 on Pearl Harbor brought the United States into World War 2. Roosevelt asked for a declaration of war against Japan the following day, December 8th. Hitler, in his haste, declared war on the U.S. as a sign of solidarity with Japan at the same time. While the United Kingdom and the Soviet Union had been carrying the bulk of the fighting, it wasn’t until November 1942 the U.S. engage in military activity. Stalin had requested a second front to help relieve pressure on Soviet armed forces. By eliminating the Axis presence in Africa, it would set the stage for invading southern Europe. The U.S. assistance in North Africa would give the U.S. Army much-needed experience against Germany and Italian forces.

Operation Torch
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_African_Campaign

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation_Torch#Western_Task_Force_%E2%80%93_Morocco

Both links above describe the U.S. participation in North Africa. The second link provides the order of battles and the units that participated.

![Map of North Africa showing the Allied invasion routes.](https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=187802)

Figure 1 Public Domain, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=187802

Prisoner of War Records

Fold3 – Updated POW records: https://blog.fold3.com/new-allied-pow-records-on-fold3/
National Archives, POW records: https://aad.archives.gov/aad/series-list.jsp?cat=GP24
Family Search – WW2 POW:

Allied North African Cemeteries:
- Great Britain: https://www.abmc.gov/cemeteries-memorials/europe/great-britain-ww2
- French: https://www.globalgayz.com/tunisia-tunis-world-war-ii-cemeteries/

Axis North African Cemeteries
- German: Egypt – World War II El Alamein German war cemetery in El Alamein die: Deutsche Kriegsgräberstätte El Alamein
- Italian: http://www.travelguidepress.com/italianmemorialatbari.html

Tunisia: Traces of War website compendium of Northern African War Cemeteries:
https://www.tracesofwar.com/sights/country.asp?type=255&rank=7&show=list&countryid=46

The following link is the main website for “Traces of War”. They post: **What kind of website is this?** TracesOfWar is a STIWOT project. The subject is the history of global warfare, told from military, political and social viewpoints. This website is the compilation of the previous websites Go2War2.nl, Oorlogsmusea.nl, WW2Awards.com, and WO2Actueel.nl. The website is divided into five domains: Articles, Points of Interest, Current Events, Persons and Awards. In the part Themes, parts of these domains are compiled thematically. We are striving to present the contents of the website in two languages, Dutch and English. (NOTE: look under the tab “Sights” for a list of countries.)
https://www.tracesofwar.com/default.asp

Italian Campaign (1943-1945)
Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Italian_Campaign_(World_War_II)

After North Africa was secured by the Allies, their attention turned, after much debate and squabbling, to Italy. The U.S. and Great Britain had different ideas about their next move in the Mediterranean theatre. A compromise was reached to take Italy out of the war and hopefully tie up German resources providing the Soviet Union additional relief.

**Allied invasion of Italy order of battle:**
https://ww2db.com/country/italy

These two links above will provide the military units and where they served during the Italian Campaign. If you know your ancestor’s military unit, it might help provide context to where they served in Italy.
Figure 2 https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Invasionofitaly1943.jpg

American Battle Monuments Commission: https://www.abmc.gov/cemeteries-memorials

British Common War Graves Commission: https://www.cwgc.org/
Google Search -  Gurkha military records ww2:  
https://www.google.com/search?q=Gurkha+military+records+ww2&spell=1&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwiYoJSSkufgAhWTxIMKHWy1APMQBQgrKAA&biw=1258&bih=809

Google Search – Australian military records ww2:  
https://www.google.com/search?biw=1258&bih=809&ei=amV8XMvMFavEjwSpwbaYAYQ&q=australian+military+records+ww2&oq=Australian+military+records+ww2&gs_l=psy-ab.1.0.0.106295.115563..117794...4.0..0.200.3962.9j25j1......0....1..gws-wiz.......0i71j35i39j0i131j0i67j0i131i67j0i20i263j0i10j0i22i30.XA6D713oF0Y

War Cemeteries in Italy by Region:  
https://www.gentracer.org/cemeteriesregions.html

Italian Genealogy Website:  
https://www.italiangenealogy.com/forum/italian-genealogy/36763

German War Graves Commission:  
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German_War_Graves_Commission

Italian Military Records:  
https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Italy_Military_Records


Paper: The Italian Military Records of the Second World War  
https://www.google.com/search?q=The+Italian+Military+Records+of+the+Second+World+War&oq=The+Italian+Military+Records+of+the+Second+World+War&aqs=chrome..69i57j69i61l3.2139j0i7&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8 (Note: I was having trouble getting a specific link to work, so I just included the Google search. Any of the following websites will work. Journals.sagepub.com, jstor.org, or researchgate.net. They may require signing up for an account.)

($$)  
https://www.italiamerica.org/id132.htm

Map Archive (Russia):  
http://www.maparchive.ru/index.php/italian-military-records-1935-43.html (This site gives a very good description of the Italian Armed Services organization. It includes local militias.)

Trivia:  