

Battle of Anzio Timeline

- 18 Dec 1943 The plan to land several divisions at Anzio, Italy was briefly canceled.
- 22 Jan 1944 36,000 Allied troops landed at Anzio, Italy, facing little opposition.
- 23 Jan 1944 The destroyer HMS Janus was lost off Anzio, Italy.
- 24 Jan 1944 German forces in the Anzio, Italy region increased to over 40,000 men.
- 25 Jan 1944 General Eberhard von Mackensen assumed overall control of forces in the Anzio, Italy area.
- 27 Jan 1944 To the west, Allied Major General John Lucas by now commanded 70,000 men, 237 tanks, 508 heavy guns, and 27,000 tons of supplies at Anzio, Italy, but he decided to still maintain a defensive posture.
- 28 Jan 1944 German Field Marshal Albert Kesselring ordered a counterattack against the Allied beachhead at Anzio, Italy.
- 29 Jan 1944 Total Allied strength at the Anzio, Italy beachhead totaled 69,000 men, 508 guns, and 208 tanks by the end of this day. On the other side of the lines, German strength rose to 71,500 men.
- 30 Jan 1944 Allied forces attacked out of the Anzio, Italy beachhead, advancing toward Cisterna and Campoleone, but none of the two forces would be able to capture the objectives; during the process, an entire US Army Ranger battalion was destroyed.
- 2 Feb 1944 Germans defeated American troops in the Battle of Cisterna near Anzio, Italy.
- 3 Feb 1944 The American attempt to break out of the Anzio beachhead in Italy, was halted, followed by the first German counterattack against the beachhead.
- 4 Feb 1944 German troops penetrated Allied lines at the Anzio beachhead in Italy.
- 5 Feb 1944 German and Allied artillery pieces bombarded each other at Anzio, Italy.
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- 7 Feb 1944 German and Allied artillery pieces bombarded each other at Anzio, Italy; at 2100 hours, Germans launched a full attack on the beachhead.
- 9 Feb 1944 German troops captured Aprilia, Italy.
- 10 Feb 1944 Winston Churchill wrote to Harold Alexander, urging him to order the field generals at Anzio, Italy to be more aggressive.
- 11 Feb 1944 Major General John Lucas ordered a counterattack from the Anzio beachhead in Italy, which was repulsed by the Germans which had intercepted Allied radio communications and had prepared for this attack.
- 13 Feb 1944 Americans stopped a German counter attack at Anzio, Italy.
- 14 Feb 1944 Harold Alexander visited the Allied beachhead at Anzio, Italy and was dissatisfied with the commanding officer Major General John Lucas.
- 16 Feb 1944 The Germans launched Operation Fischfang, throwing 7 divisions against the Allied beachhead at Anzio, Italy. On the same day, Harold Alexander inserted Lucian Truscott and Vyvyan Eveleigh under Major General John Lucas in an attempt to alleviate Lucas' poor performance at Anzio.
- 18 Feb 1944 The Germans made progress at Anzio, Italy, but were finally beaten back by artillery and naval gunfire.
- 20 Feb 1944 The Germans called off Operation Fischfang aimed at the Allied beachhead at Anzio, Italy.
- 21 Feb 1944 Three Italian motor torpedo boats attacked the Allied beachhead at Anzio, Italy, damaging USS PC-545 and USS Pioneer before dawn.
- 22 Feb 1944 Mark Clark replaced John Lucas with Lucian Truscott at Anzio, Italy.
- 23 Feb 1944 Three Italian motor torpedo boats attacked the Allied beachhead at Anzio, Italy before dawn, causing no damage and losing two boats.
- 24 Feb 1944 Two Italian motor torpedo boats attacked the Allied beachhead at Anzio, Italy before dawn, causing no damage and losing one boat.
- 25 Feb 1944 Five Italian motor torpedo boats attacked the Allied beachhead at Anzio, Italy before dawn, causing no damage and suffering no losses.
- 29 Feb 1944 The third major German offensive was launched at Anzio, Italy, which would again fail to dislodge the Allies.
- 1 Mar 1944 Three Italian motor torpedo boats attacked the Allied beachhead at Anzio, Italy before dawn, causing no damage and suffering no losses.
- 3 Mar 1944 Three Italian motor torpedo boats attacked the Allied beachhead at Anzio, Italy before dawn, causing no damage and suffering no losses. During the day, the Germans called off the

- attacks on the beachhead.
- 9 Mar 1944 One Italian motor torpedo boat attacked the Allied beachhead at Anzio, Italy before dawn, causing no damage.
- 14 Mar 1944 One Italian motor torpedo boat attacked the Allied beachhead at Anzio, Italy before dawn, causing no damage and suffering no losses.
- 19 Mar 1944 Italian motor torpedo boats attacked the Allied beachhead at Anzio, Italy before dawn, engaging in brief combat.
- 22 Mar 1944 Four Italian motor torpedo boats attacked the Allied beachhead at Anzio, Italy before dawn, causing no damage and losing two boats.
- 24 Mar 1944 The Anzio beachhead in Italy was subjected to heavy German artillery and guided bomb attacks. Out at sea, an Italian motor torpedo boat attack sank one cargo ship; one Italian boat was sunk in the attack.
- 29 Mar 1944 Two Italian motor torpedo boats attacked the Allied beachhead at Anzio, Italy before dawn, causing no damage and losing one boat.
- 13 Apr 1944 Italian motor torpedo boats claimed the sinking of an Allied corvette off Anzio, Italy; this sinking was not confirmed.
- 20 Apr 1944 Italian motor torpedo boats sank British landing ship LST-305 off Anzio, Italy.
- 27 Apr 1944 Italian motor torpedo boats attacked the Allied beachhead at Anzio, Italy before dawn, causing no damage.
- 5 May 1944 Harold Alexander ordered the preparation of Operation Buffalo, which called for an assault on Cisterna, Italy; Mark Clark, however, would modify this plan so that he could strike at Rome, Italy.
- 13 May 1944 Allied troops captured Ponte Sant'Angelo and Castelforte, Italy.
- 16 May 1944 British fusilier Frank Jefferson used a PIAT anti-tank launcher to destroy a German Panzer IV tank along the Gustav Line in Italy, which led to his unit repulsing a German counterattack which was spearheaded by the tank. He would later be awarded the Victoria Cross for this action.
- 19 May 1944 British troops captured the airfield at Aquino outside of Rome, Italy.
- 20 May 1944 US Fifth Army captured Gaeta, Italy.
- 23 May 1944 Three US and two British divisions launched a new assault out of the Anzio, Italy beachhead at dawn, inflicting heavy casualties on German formations but also suffering similarly.
- 24 May 1944 US forces captured Terracina, Italy.
- 25 May 1944 US 3rd Division captured Cisterna, Italy after house-to-house fighting, nearly wiping out 362nd Infantry Division in the process; nearby, US 1st Armored Division engaged German Herman Göring Division at Valmontone while US Fifth Army troops linked up with the Anzio contingent. At the end of the day, Mark Clark ordered Lucian Truscott to turn north toward Rome without informing Harold Alexander.
- 26 May 1944 After US 1st Armored Division had already been ordered north toward Rome, Italy, Mark Clark belatedly reported to Harold Alexander such a change in orders; he left only 1 division to attack the remaining German forces at Valmontone. In the area, US troops captured Cori.
- 29 May 1944 US 1st Armored Division engaged German defensive positions of the Caesar C Line south of Rome, Italy.
- 30 May 1944 British troops captured Arce, Italy; US 36th Infantry Division penetrated between German 1st Parachute Corps and LXXVI Panzer Corps on the Caesar C Line. Also on this day, after seven German divisions successfully withdraw along Route 6 in Italy, Albert Kesselring allowed his troops in the Velletri gap to slowly fall back.
- 1 Jun 1944 British troops captured Frosinone, Italy.
- 2 Jun 1944 Allied forces overran the German Caesar C Line south of Rome, Italy; Adolf Hitler ordered Albert Kesselring that the Italian capital would be abandoned.
- 3 Jun 1944 Albert Kesselring declared Rome, Italy an open city.
- 4 Jun 1944 Mark Clark and the US 5th Army entered Rome, Italy unopposed; Clark immediately held a press conference on the steps of the Town Hall on the Capitoline Hill. Some fellow Allied generals thought Clark had failed to trap the German 10th Army. Nearby, the Italian motor torpedo boat base at Terracina was evacuated.