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# WW2 Escape Lines Memorial Society

Registered Charity No: 1148116

## PATRONS

HE Maria Rosa Picart de Francis DMCO - Sir Nicholas Young  
Captain F Dell JP - Mrs P Pearce - Mr D Hodges

Founder/Director - Mr R Stanton MBE Chairman Maj B Spence

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10 December 2017

## The Italian Freedom Trail 2018 – Tenna Valley (16 – 21 May 2018)

### Annual Retrace of Allied Escapers and Evaders routes in Italy during WW2.

Ref:

- a. Carta Topografica d'Italia 1:50.000. Foglio 314 Montegiorgio
- b. Carta Topografica d'Italia 1:50.000. Foglio 315 Fermo
- c. Carta Topografica d'Italia 1: 25.000. Foglio 314 1 Montegiorgio
- d. Carta Topografica d'Italia 1: 25.000. Foglio 314 111 Servigliano
- e. Euro Cart Abruzzo Molise 1:300.000
- f. ELMS [www.ww2escapelines.co.uk](http://www.ww2escapelines.co.uk)
- g. ELMS Newsletter 45 March 2017
- h. MSMT [www.msmtrust.org.uk](http://www.msmtrust.org.uk)
- i. Museum Casa Della Memoria - Servigliano - Italy

### INTRODUCTION

1. The Italian Freedom Trail - Tenna Valley. This Annual WW2 Walking Memorial is organised as a commemorative International event dedicated to the people of the Italian countryside, the 'contadini', who gave shelter, food, clothing and medical aid to escapers and evaders heading south to the allied lines, or north to Switzerland during WW2. There were no organised escape lines (as there were in other areas of Europe), and each escaper organised his own route as best he could. Under a German proclamation, the same rule applied to Italians as applied to the rest of occupied Europe. If anyone was caught helping escapers or evaders, the men would be shot and the women sent to concentration camps. They forgot to add that they would also be harshly interrogated first; their homes would be burned down, and their livestock killed. An escaper or evader would be returned to his PoW camp. Despite the threats, the contadini of the Italian countryside assisted allied escapers and evaders. Many died carrying out this work. **It is hoped that the trail will live on as an annual 'Walking Memorial' event to educate and inspire future generations throughout Europe.**

Please note, that on this year's event, the routes to the villages may differ slightly from the arranged trail routes due to earthquake damage in the areas that we normally visit. Contact has been made with the villages; as their friends, they want us to visit and will make us welcome.

It is also our intention to again take English food hampers to former 'helpers' who assisted escapers in WW2. Our final day will be at the Villa Salvadori, Fermo, with our indomitable host Clara Muzarelli-Formentini, whose home was a safe-house for many British and Allied escapers in WW2. If you cannot make the walk try and make the final RV at the Villa.

The Team objectives are:

To raise much needed funds for the WW2 Escape Lines Memorial Society and the Monte San Martino Trust to enable them to carry out their charitable work in Italy, by sponsorship of walkers and by commercial sponsorship in the UK. To encourage military teams to participate as a 'tutorial arduous

walk' through the higher mountain villages which hid many of the former evaders serving in their Regiments.

The route of the trail is over a minimum of three days for the British teams and any of our Italian friends and students who wish to walk with us. The 'going' is rough mountain/hill terrain, track, road and forest areas. Maximum height climbed, is up to 800m (2624ft). In most cases it is lower. The temperature could be hot. The route will start daily at Servigliano, pass through safe-house village areas and return to Servigliano each night. Three different daily routes will be used. The fourth day is for visits to former POW Camp locations, Safe-Houses, Memorials and to meet families and helpers who assisted British escapers and evaders in WW2. As usual we will meet up at the Villa Salvadori at Fermo which hid many escapers in WW2 Italy. Each year different villages will be used. Additional daily routes are available for teams wishing to walk more than three days. Rescue/Medical and backup vehicles will be available to walkers. A vehicle will be available to assist walkers who may find difficulty on some sections of the route, or who may only wish to walk parts of the route. The vehicles will 'shadow' the walkers along the route. Members wishing to attend are requested to complete Annex A and return it to the Director of ELMS as soon as possible. Local school students will also be walking with the team.

### **THE ITALIAN FREEDOM TRAIL – Tenna Valley**

**2.** The route has been broken down into three manageable daily phases. Each daily phase will start at Servigliano, pass through mountain villages, and return to Servigliano at night. You will require a day sack each day, with the bulk of your kit and equipment left at your accommodation. Haversack rations will be supplied for the lunch time meal and carried by walkers. For military teams and high mountain walkers additions to the basic route are available. A large quantity of water must be carried, and this must be constantly replenished at each stop. There will be safety vehicles along the route which will replenish the water bottles of walkers.

### **THE ITALIAN FREEDOM TRAIL – Tenna Valley**

#### **PHASE ONE**

**Wednesday 16<sup>h</sup> May 2018 - Day One.** A bus will meet members at Ancona airport. There will be a set pick-up time after the last flight from the UK has arrived on the 16 May 2018. Members will be collected and taken to Servigliano where they will be dropped off at their booked accommodation. Arrangements are made to meet up with local people at the Casa Della Memoria WW2 Museum at 1800hrs. The museum is situated next to PG59, the old POW camp approx 400m from the main town square. Those attending will be shown around the old camp with briefings and visit the museum. Evening meal is arranged for all team members at the San Marco Hotel, Servigliano.

#### **PHASE TWO**

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2018 - Day Two.** Walkers will start from PG59, the former POW camp at Servigliano at 0830hrs and walk to the main square at Servigliano for 0845. Wreath laying at main square Servigliano. The official start time will be 0900hrs. Midday lunch will be at the village of Monte San Martino. Wreaths will be laid. Going is good, easy country, River Tenna to cross. Morning is steep climb to village, open ground and wooded country. Afternoon is downhill. Distance 24km. (15m). Mountain walkers and military teams will continue on to San Ruffino. Accommodation for higher level walkers will be at San Ruffino.

#### **PHASE THREE**

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2018 - Day Three.** Walkers will start from PG59 at 0830hrs. From Servigliano, the route will head to Penna San Giovanni. Midday lunch time stop. Going is good, easy country, morning is steep climb, open ground and wooded country. The afternoon will be a steep descent and low undulating ground passing through small villages on route. Distance 24km. (15m). Mountain walkers will leave San Ruffino and climb to Amandola, before the night stop at Garulla.

#### **PHASE FOUR**

**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2018 - Day Four.** Walkers will start from PG59 at 0830hrs. From Servigliano, the route will head to Montelparo and then to Contrada Santa Maria for a wreath laying on the memorial to Sig Sydney Smith (R Signals). Midday lunch time stop. We walk back to Servigliano via Monteleone.

Going is good easy country, morning is steep climb, open ground and wooded country. Tracks could be slippery if wet. Distance 24km. (15m). Mountain walkers and military teams will leave Garulla and head for Rubbiano for lunch. On this occasion the main walkers will also visit the town of Comunanza which suffered quite badly from the recent earthquake. Transport is available to return walkers to Servigliano.

### **PHASE FIVE**

**Sunday 20th May 2018 – Day Five.** The Sunday of the event is dedicated to memorial services and dedications to the people of the countryside who assisted Allied escapers and evaders. Visits will take place to a number of memorials in the region dedicated to the Partisans and the helpers of escapers. Later we visit the Villa Salvadori (safe-house) which hid many escapers and evaders and meet the families involved. On the way back to Servigliano we visit PG70 at Monte Urano, Fermo. In the evening there will be a dinner for all walkers, guests and local people at the San Marco Hotel.

### **PHASE SIX**

**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2018 – Day Five.** Transport to Ancona airport 0700hrs. Return to home locations. For walkers wishing to stay longer, there are routes on a separate instruction.

**Note;** All members must understand that timings and locations may change to suit memorial services, impromptu meetings, and to ensure that as many ‘helpers’ as possible, and their families can be met and thanked. This may require a detour to isolated farms and villages. Many of the farms and villages along the route have, on previous occasions, placed food and drink along the routes for walkers. I have suggested that this should not happen and that we should remain independent and not be a nuisance. Programme timings are a guide and are at Annex D to this instruction.

### **ADMINISTRATION**

**3.a. Flights.** Flights to Ancona and Pescara from UK Airports are on a regular basis. Transport will be available to meet the main incoming flight from Stanstead. There will only be one pick up to meet the 0630 flight from Stanstead. Main carrier is Ryan Air 0871 246 0000, alternatively see [www.RYAN AIR.com](http://www.RYAN AIR.com)

**b. Road Vehicle.** Early indications are that a number of people will travel by road. The admin party will drive out which will enable additional stores and baggage to be taken for walkers. Please contact Steve Sims should you require assistance with baggage. If you are a ‘free runner’ please inform me of your route and estimated time of arrival at Servigliano. If you are travelling by road please contact Steve or myself.

### **c. Accommodation**

ELMS Members, walkers, service walkers, non walkers and veterans will be based in Servigliano and surrounding areas. Accommodation has been arranged as follows;

Accommodation availability:-

- a. Walkers accommodation/organising committee – San Marco Hotel Servigliano.
- b. Other accommodation is available locally

**Members are requested to complete their attendance form and return to the Director of ELMS as soon as possible.**

### **INSURANCE**

**5.** A number of Insurance companies will insure people for walking holidays. All walkers must ensure that they have adequate insurance cover for the journey and the event. Please make sure your passport is up to date and also your **EHIC (European Health Insurance Card). The WW2 Escape Lines Memorial Society, The Monte San Martino Trust, and local organisers of the event, British and Italian, do not cover insurance for walkers.** You are strongly advised to take out insurance cover for the event. All ELMS/MSMT members please enter your insurance details on the joining proforma. **All persons attending the event do so at their own risk, and under their own insurance arrangements.**

## **THE ROUTE**

6. The Trails retraces the routes and villages used by escapers and evaders in Italy in WW2. All of the villages along this route assisted men who had escaped from the POW camps at Amandola, Sernano, Servigliano, Fermo, Una, Macerata, Monte Urano and many others. The route follows mountainous undulating ground, through forest, and open country. Nearly all the villages are at the top of hills. The 'going' could be tough in hostile weather, steep and wooded. It may be possible, time permitting, to visit the sites of the PoW camps.

## **BRIEFINGS**

7. A nightly briefing is planned for all walkers at the end of each day.

## **SPONSORSHIP**

8. It is requested that all walkers attending gain sponsorship on an individual basis. Please note that all cheques for the event are to be made out to the **WW2 Escapes Lines Memorial Society**, or the **Monte San Martino Trust**. All sponsor forms must be returned and are serial numbered. Please try and ensure that money raised is handed into **ELMS/MSMT** one month after the event. A sponsorship form is at Annex H. The form can be used on both sides. Further forms will be forwarded to you on request or the original may be copied. Money raised will be used to enable ELMS and the MSMT to continue with their charitable and educational work in Italy.

## **KIT & EQUIPMENT**

9. A full list of suggested personal kit and equipment to be carried is at **Annex B**. Consideration must also be given to memorial events where casual wear, rather than walking kit, may be more appropriate before and after the walk. (This will be confirmed later).

## **CEREMONIES**

10. Ceremonies will take place in villages along the intended routes. Intermediate/impromptu ceremonies may also take place. All team members and veterans must be adaptable, and expect ceremonies at unexpected locations. A close liaison with local people will take place, ensuring that all arrangements made for the event are in agreement with the people of the villages. ELMS and MSMT wreaths will be laid on memorials to helpers of escapers and evaders along the route. Individual wreaths and flowers from Service Teams can also be laid. It may be difficult to keep within programme timings.

## **VISITORS BOOK**

11. All walkers/non walkers attending are to ensure that they sign the ELMS Visitors book, which was presented to the Casa della Memoria in September 2013. The Visitors Book will be available for signing on Wednesday and Sunday nights. Please sign the book at each annual trail event. The leather visitors books is a record of all walkers who have walked these routes

## **WREATHS & FLOWERS**

12. Wreaths, named crosses and flowers are to be laid at villages and safe-house along the routes.

## **THE COST**

13. The Walking team must be independent both financially and administratively, and not be a burden on the people of the villages visited, or the town based. It is hoped to co-ordinate travel and hotel arrangements where possible to keep costs down. The walking team will be independent, and all funds raised must go to the ELMS/MSMT. An early indication of walkers' admin costs will include airport buses, midday haversack rations, two official dinners, daily bus charges, mineral water, miscellaneous items. This will be kept as low as possible. All members, both walking and non-walking, are to settle their own flights and hotel main costs. All attending will be requested to pay a trail admin charge on arrival. Cost to be confirmed when numbers attending are known.

## **COMMUNICATION & CONTROL**

15. All administration and control of the walk will be by ELMS in association with the local authorities and local people. The following are key positions and telephone numbers should you require them;

ELMS Coordinator	Mr R Stanton (Rog)	Tel 01423 508667
ELMS Admin backup road party	Mr S Sims (Steve)	Tel 0208 884 6036
ELMS Trail Leader	Mr J White (Jon)	Tel 07565 529746
ELMS Local Representative	Mr I McCarthy (Ian) Servigliano	Tel 00390734 711856
MSMT Representative	Mr J Slimkins (John) MSMT coordinator	Tel 01372 815724

## **SUMMARY**

**16.** In summary, the event is organised as a **Walking Memorial** to the people of the Italian countryside who assisted Allied Escapers and Evaders in WW2. It is not meant to be a mountain marathon or a competition. Members wanting an arduous route the higher route is available. All are welcome. It is the taking part that counts (for the right reasons). The event is a three day walk. It can be extended should you have more time. Mountain paths, tracks, and roads will be used along the route. It is important that young people from all nations are involved. For that reason we have invited students from local schools to take part, together with children and grandchildren of escapers, evaders and helpers from England and Italy. Other villages and schools in the Tenna Valley will also be invited to attend. The event is not meant to be easy, but it is not that difficult that a person of average fitness cannot complete the route. Finally, do not underestimate the route or the temperature in the area. **You must train for the event if you are unsure of your ability.** You cannot train on flat ground to walk mountains. You must use hill or mountain country to train. Also train with weight on you back. Search and rescue vehicles will follow walkers. Non walkers are welcome and transport could be available to move you between villages.

A trail committee briefing will take place at the WW2 Escape Lines Memorial Society Reunion at the DoubleTree Hotel in York in April 2018. All MSMT members may attend the reunion event. We will be available during the reunion weekend to answer questions on the Tenna Trail. Information will also be placed on our website [www.ww2escapelines.co.uk](http://www.ww2escapelines.co.uk) and also in the ELMS newsletters leading to the event. Information will also be placed in the MSMT newsletter and on their website.

Your support for the walk is requested, either walking or non walking, members, students, veterans or family members of veterans or helpers.

Thank you for your support

Rog Stanton  
Director ELMS

## **ANNEXURES;**

Annex A	Attendance Proforma
Annex B	Kit List
Annex C	Nominal Role
Annex D	Programme Timings
Annex E	Route Map
Annex F	Costs
Annex G	Sponsor Sheet
Annex H	Risk Assessment

## **Distribution;**

### **Internal UK;**

### **Action;**

Walkers
Veterans
Members
ELMS
MSMT

**ANNEX B to  
The Italian Freedom Trail 2018 Instruction  
Dated 10 December 2017**

**KIT LIST - UK WALKING TEAMS (as needed)**

Suitable Walking clothing – which should include the following:

Walking Boots  
Walking Socks  
Walking Gaiters  
Breeches/Shorts/Trousers  
Sun Hat  
Rucsac/Day sack  
KFS  
Mug  
Small First Aid Kit (Blister Compede plasters)  
Two Water Bottles  
Waterproof Anorak/Cagoule  
Whistle  
Sweater  
Spare Clothing  
Sun Tan Cream  
Foot and Body Powder  
Washing/Shaving hit  
Towels  
Passport/Camera/Film  
Walking Stick/Leki Pole  
Insect repellent  
Tissues/Toilet Paper  
Local Currency  
Driving Licence  
EHIC – European Health Insurance Card  
Insurance Docs  
Bin Liner for inside Rucsac  
A Sense of Humour

Day Sack Food

Billtong  
Chocolate  
Sardines  
Fruit  
Bread  
Nuts  
Cheese

Memorial services

Jacket/Tie/ Medals - veterans  
ELMS Wreaths  
ELMS Crosses  
ELMS Plaques

Note: Please use the kit list as a guide only. It is possible that much of the kit may not be required. If you are camping and travelling by air, contact the road party to carry any large rucsacs, burners and walking poles. **Do not carry knives, burners or Leki poles on aircraft.**

**ITALIAN FREEDOM TRAIL – TENNA VALLEY**  
**16 – 21 MAY 2018**

Wed	16 <sup>th</sup> May 2018	Members arrive at Ancona/Transport to Servigliano
Wed	16 <sup>th</sup> May 1800hrs	Members meet up at the Casa Del Memoria.
Wed	16 <sup>th</sup> May 2000hrs	Trail dinner San Marco Hotel.
Thurs	17 <sup>th</sup> May 0830hrs	Walk starts at PG59 Servigliano.
Thurs	17 <sup>th</sup> May 0845hrs	Lay wreath at Servigliano War Memorial
Thurs	17 <sup>th</sup> May 1300hrs	Midday stop for lunch at Monte San Martino.
Thurs	17 <sup>th</sup> May 1800hrs	Walkers return to Sevigliano.
Fri	18 <sup>th</sup> May 0830hrs	Walk starts at 0900 at PG59 Servigliano
Fri	18 <sup>th</sup> May 1300hrs	Teams arrive at via Madonna de Gagliano – Massa Fermana Lunch.
Fri	18 <sup>th</sup> May 1800hrs	Members return to Servigliano
Sat	19 <sup>th</sup> May 0900hrs	Walk starts at 0900 at PG59 Servigliano.
Sat	19 <sup>th</sup> May 1230hrs	Route - Montelparo – Contrada Santa Maria – memorial to Sig Smith Royal Signals - lunch - Monteleone – return to Servigliano.
Sun	20 <sup>th</sup> May 0900hrs	Ceremonies – Offida, Villa Stipa – Villa Boccabianca – lunch – Villa Salvadori - PG70 Monte Urano, Fermo – Evening dinner at San Marco, Servigliano, for all walkers, guests/local people.
Mon	21 <sup>st</sup> May 0700hrs	Airport bus departs Servigliano - members return to home locations.

Note: ELMS/MSMT/Family wreaths/crosses to be laid along routes at relevant locations

Annex A to  
The Italian Freedom Trail Instruction  
Dated 10 December 2017

<b>Application to Join</b> <b>THE WW2 ESCAPE LINES MEMORIAL SOCIETY</b> <b>ITALIAN FREEDOM TRAIL – TENNA VALLEY 2018</b> <b>16 – 21 MAY 2018</b>					
<b>Name:</b> [Print]				<b>ELMS no:</b>	
<b>Address:</b> [Print]					<b>Age:</b>
<b>Home Telephone:</b>	<b>Mobile:</b>		<b>E-mail:</b>		
<b>I am a:</b> [please tick]	Walker	Non-walker	Veteran	I have family connections with an escaper/evader in Italy	
<b>I would like to be accommodated at an hotel in Servigliano:</b>				<b>Yes:</b>	
				<b>No:</b>	
<b>I will be travelling by:</b> [Please tick]	Road	Rail	Air	<b>Expected Date/ Time of Arrival</b>	
				At Ancona Airport:	
				At Servigliano:	
<b>Insurance Details</b>	<b>Company</b>				
	<b>Policy No.</b>				
	<b>Emergency Contact No.</b>				
	<i>Please forward relevant details of the insurance document – eg. details of repatriation, casevac etc. – <b>not the whole document.</b></i>				
<b>My Emergency Contact at home is:</b>	<b>Name</b>				
	<b>Address</b>				
	<b>Phone &amp; Mobile</b>				
<b>If you are attending as a family group, please give appropriate details below:</b> [All participants will be required to be fully insured]					
Name			Age	Walker	Non-walker
The information above is required to organise accommodation and plan for numbers attending. All information will be treated in strict confidence and not disclosed to anyone not entitled to receive it.					
I agree to pay an Administration Charge [see Annex F] on arrival, to cover administration, transport and some food charges during the event. A breakdown of Admin Charges will be forwarded to you when numbers are known.					
<b>Name [Print]:</b> .....					
<b>Signature:</b> ..... <b>Date:</b> .....					
<b>Please return this completed application to:</b> <b>Rog Stanton, Director ELMS, 5 Tansy Road, Harrogate, N Yorks, HG3 2UJ</b> <b>Tel: 01423 508667 / Email: <a href="mailto:rogerstanton.elms@tpiz.co.uk">rogerstanton.elms@tpiz.co.uk</a></b>					