

**Chapter 1 : Earth Snapshot – Switzerland**

*The 85th Infantry Division In World War II The 85th Advances toward the Po Valley The Drive Toward Bologna Across the Po Valley and Into the Alps.*

Background[ edit ] After the final Carthaginian naval defeat at the Aegates Islands , [3] the Carthaginians surrendered and accepted defeat in the First Punic War. In addition, it was the ambition of the Barcas , one of the leading noble families of the patriotic party, to some day employ the Iberian peninsula as a base of operations for waging a war of revenge against the Roman military alliance. Marching west from Carthage [13] towards the Pillars of Hercules , [14] where his army crossed the strait and proceeded to subdue the peninsula, in the course of nine years [11] [12] [14] Hamilcar conquered the south-eastern portion of the peninsula. He attacked the tribe known as the Olcades and captured their chief town of Althaea. He had Gallic spies in every corner of the Roman Republic, even within the inner circles of the Senate itself. In addition to this, the Romans had been at war with the Padane Gauls off and on for more than a century. Seeing an opportunity for a triumph for themselves, the consuls Marcus Claudius and Gnaeus Cornelius vigorously rejected the embassy, and the Gauls prepared for war with the Romans. They hired 30, mercenaries from beyond the Alps and awaited the arrival of the Romans. A vigorous combat took place near Mediolanum , which resulted in the leaders of the Gallic revolt turning themselves over to the Romans. Preparations[ edit ] Hannibal, aware of the situation, sent a number of embassies to the Gallic tribes in the Po valley. Hannibal did not know a great deal about the Alps, but he knew enough to know that it was going to be a difficult march. He had had some scouts give him reports concerning this mountain chain, and he received reports of the difficulties to be encountered there from the Gauls themselves. Hannibal A marble bust, reputedly of Hannibal. Found in Capua Hannibal knew enough about the Alps to know in particular that the descent was steeper than the ascent into the Alps. This was one of the reasons he wanted to have allies into whose territory he could march. It would be easy indeed to establish intimate relations with these disaffected tribes, especially once he had debouched from the Alps and was amongst them and the Insubres and Boii and other tribes could see and speak with this army for themselves. Conducted his enterprise with consummate judgement; for he had accurately ascertained the excellent nature of the country in which he was to arrive, and the hostile disposition of its inhabitants towards the Romans; and he had for guides and conductors through the difficult passes which lay in the way of natives of the country, men who were to partake of the same hopes with himself [37] Siege of Saguntum[ edit ] Main article: Siege of Saguntum These preparations being completed, Hannibal sought to induce the Saguntines to come to arms with him and thereby declare war on Rome through her proxy. He did not desire to break the peace himself, [38] [39] and resorted to a variety of stratagems in order to induce the Saguntines to attack. However, the commission was not fooled and knew that war was in the air. An Illyrian revolt was put down with energy, and the Romans sped up the construction of a number of fortresses in Cisalpine Gaul. Words were exchanged in the Carthaginian Senate to the effect that Hannibal should be handed over to the Romans and his actions disavowed. However, the multitude in Carthage was too much in support of the conflict to order a stop to the war. The Romans allowed themselves to be tied up in a war against the Illyrians, [38] and did not treat the Carthaginian threat from Iberia with the attention that it deserved. After the siege, Hannibal sold all the inhabitants as slaves, and distributed the proceeds from those sales to his soldiers. In addition, all the booty from the sacking of the city was taken back to Carthage and distributed to the populace, in order to rally their support to his cause. The warrior is armed with a falcata and an oval shield. Iberian tribes fought for both sides in the Second Punic War , but in reality most wanted to be rid of all foreign domination. National Archaeological Museum of Spain , Madrid Hannibal had spent the winter after the siege of Saguntum in Cartagana, during which time he dismissed his troops to their own localities. He did this with the hope of cultivating the best possible morale in his army for the upcoming campaign, which he knew was going to be difficult. He left his brother, Hasdrubal in charge of the administration of Carthaginian Iberia, as well as its defence against the Romans. In addition to this, he swapped the native troops of Iberia to Africa, and the native troops of Africa to Iberia. He also left his brother

a number of ships. They had a number of allies in this country, and he could not allow the Romans a place to land in his base unopposed. As he was relying upon contingents of forces coming to him in Italy via the land route he was about to head out upon, he must take and conquer this country. He had no intention of leaving Iberia to its fate once he was in Italy. Hannibal opted to take the region in a swift campaign, and to that effect he divided his army into three columns, in order to subdue the entirety of the region at the same time. After receiving route information from his scouts and messages from the Celtic tribes that resided around the Alps, Hannibal set out with 90, heavy infantry from various African and Iberian nations, and 12, cavalry. From the Ebro to the Pyrenees, the Carthaginians confronted four tribes: There were a number of cities here that Hannibal took, which Polybius does not specify. This campaign was conducted with speed in order to take as little time as possible in the reduction of this region. Having reduced this area, he left his brother Hanno in command of this area, specifically over the Bargusii, whom he had reason to distrust due to their affiliation with the Romans. He left his brother in control of this country with 10, infantry and 1, cavalry. This was done to serve two purposes: As long as Hannibal had no ships to keep himself abreast of the exact movements of the Romans, he wanted to be present in person in case the Romans should make a landing in an attempt to attack his army on its ascent or descent through the Pyrenees. This column crossed the Ebro at the town of Edeba, [49] and proceeded directly along the coast through Tarraco, Barcino, Gerunda, Emporiae and Illiberis. The second, or central, column crossed the Ebro at the oppidum of Mora and from there information is fairly sparse. It eventually rejoined the principal column when it had completed its task. The third, or left, column crossed the Ebro where it touches with the Sicoris River and proceeded along the river valley and into the mountain countries. It performed the same task as the second and the first columns did. Over the course of the two-month campaign, Hannibal lost 13, men. This march must have been a pleasant change of pace for the Carthaginians, who had just spent the previous July and August subduing numerous fierce peoples living in the Pyrenees. The Peninsular War being just one example amongst many, the broken topography of this region affords resistance movements many advantages that they might not otherwise have in flatter, more even terrain. Some of these tribes were friendly to his cause, others were opposed to him. He dealt with each tribe as he marched through their territory. Massilia modern Marseille , a successful Greek trade emporium had for some time been under the influence of the Romans, and the Romans had even settled colonists there. When he arrived in the Po area, there was an uprising amongst the freshly conquered Gauls. There were so many citizens who were qualified for service in the army that all the government had to do was inform the citizenry that more soldiers were needed and they would be required to serve. Many Romans, being required to serve at some point, spent portions of their youth training to serve in the legions. Finally, having got these new legions together " in a much more leisurely fashion than the urgency of the situation demanded of him " he set sail from Ostia. In this day there were no compasses, and it was the habit of navigators to sail their ships along the coast and to stop at night for victuals. His preparations were designed to draw their attention away from their northern flank and focus their attention on his own preparations. The crossing itself was carefully designed to be as smooth as possible. Every detail was well thought out. The heavy horsemen were put across furthest upstream, and in the largest boats, so that the boats that Hannibal had less confidence in could be rowed to the left eastern bank in the lee of the larger and more sturdy craft. Often in antiquity, to intimidate their enemy, armies would be ordered to pound their shields with their weapons and raise loud cries at exactly the same moment to create the greatest amount of noise. Carthaginian Army and the corp which made the circuit. There was barely even a semblance of resistance; [66] surrounded as they were, pandemonium took control of their ranks, and each man looked to his own safety as they retreated pell-mell away from the carefully arrayed Carthaginian phalanx. While the actual conflict only took a matter of minutes, Hannibal had spent five days preparing this dangerous and risky operation from every angle, ensuring that it was ready at all points and as little as possible was left to chance. He knew that if he waited until springtime on the far side of the mountains, the Romans would have time to raise another army. He sent Numidian cavalry down the eastern bank of the river to acquire better information concerning the forces massed to oppose him. This force encountered mounted Romans who had been sent up the river for the same purpose. The Numidians were defeated with of their number killed in this exchange between scouting parties; in addition to Roman losses.

The Numidians were followed back to the Carthaginian camp, which was almost assembled excepting the elephants, which required more time getting across. Upon seeing Hannibal had not crossed with the whole of his force, the scouts raced back to the coast to alert the consul. Upon receiving this information, the consul dispatched his army up the river in boats, but arrived too late. Despite their established tactical system formations and troop evolutions, etc. They did not know how to force an enemy to battle by cutting off their communications, they were not aware of which flank was the strategic flank of an enemy in a battle. In addition, they were negligent about their order of march, [69] and early Roman history is littered with massacres of consular armies by other nations because of their lack of proper precaution against these evils. Speaking through an interpreter, [71] Magilus spoke of the support that the recently conquered Padane Gauls had for the Carthaginians and their mission of destroying Rome. Hannibal then addressed the officers himself. The cavalry would skirmish with the Roman scouts, while giving the rest of the army time to form up. This contingency did not occur. Hannibal was in the rearguard with the elephants. The rearguard was well manned to ensure that it could skirmish with the Roman army while the main body of his infantry and cavalry could form up for battle against the Romans if they should attack from that quarter. This contingency, however, also did not occur. While assuming this order of march, Hannibal marched towards the Insula. From this tribe he received supplies that were required for the expedition across the Alps. Up until the Alps proper, he did not have to fend off any tribes. Du Chat towards the village of Aquste [75] and from there to Chevelu, [76] to the pass by Mt. There he found that the passes were fortified by the Allobroges. He sent out spies to ascertain if there was any weakness in their disposition. These spies found that the barbarians only maintained their position at the camp during the day, and left their fortified position at night. In order to make the Allobroges believe that he did not deem a night assault prudent, he ordered that as many camp-fires be lit as possible, in order to induce them into believing that he was settling down before their encampment along the mountains. However, once they left their fortifications, he led his best troops up to their fortifications and seized control of the pass. This overhang was an excellent place from which to attack an enemy while it was marching in column through the pass. More baggage animals were lost in the confusion of the Barbarian attack, and they rolled off of the precipices to their deaths. However, Hannibal, at the head of the same elite corps that he led to take the overhang, led them against these determined barbarians. Virtually all of these barbarians died in the ensuing combat, as they were fighting with their backs to a steep precipice, trying to throw their arrows and darts uphill at the advancing Carthaginians.

## Chapter 2 : CHAPTER 13 SEC 2: EUROPE by Ohmrey Deascis on Prezi

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The Po along the city of Turin. Horse riding along the Po Delta. Map of the Po Delta. The Po Delta wetlands have been protected by the institution of two regional parks in the regions in which it is situated: The Po Delta Regional Park in Emilia-Romagna, the largest, consists of four parcels of land on the right bank of the Po and to the south. Created by law in , it is managed by a consortium, the Consorzio per la gestione de Parco, to which Ferrara and Ravenna provinces belong as well as nine comuni: Executive authority resides in an assembly of the presidents of the provinces, the mayors of the comuni and the board of directors. It has a high biodiversity , with " plant species and vertebrate species, of which are birds. The active delta was created in when the city of Venice diverted the main stream, the Po grande or Po di Venezia, from its channel north of Porto Viro to the south of Porto Viro in a channel then called the Taglio di Porto Viro, "Porto Viro cut-off". Their intent was to stop the gradual migration of the Po toward the lagoon of Venice, which would have filled up with sediment had contact been made. The subsequent town of Taglio di Po grew around the diversionary works. The former exits at Bonelli. The latter divides again at Pila into the Busa di Tramontana to the north and the Busa di Scirocco to the south, while the mainstream, the Busa Dritta, enters Punta Maistra and exits finally past Pila lighthouse. The fossil delta[ edit ] The fossil Po is the region of no longer active channels from the Po to the sea. It begins upstream from Ferrara. The Fiume Po currently flowing to the north of Ferrara is actually the result of a diversion at Ficarolo in made in the hope of relieving flooding in the vicinity of Ravenna. The diversion channel was at first called the Po di Ficarolo. The Fiume Po before then followed the Po di Volano, no longer connected to the Po, which ran to the south of Ferrara and exited near Volano. In Roman times it did not exit there but ran to the south as the Padus Vetus "old Po" exiting near Comacchio , from which split the Po di Primaro exiting close to Ravenna. The entire region from Ravenna to Chioggia was dense swamps, explaining why the Via Aemilia was constructed between Rimini and Piacenza and did not begin further north. Typically in geologic history the depression is filled with sea water under various geologic names such as Tethys Sea. In the last period of the Miocene Epoch, the Messinian 7"5 mya , the Messinian salinity crisis , a near drying of the Mediterranean, was caused by the sea level dropping below the sill at the Strait of Gibraltar and the equilibrium between evaporation and replenishment shifting in favor of evaporation. At that time the Po Valley and the Adriatic depression were a single canyon system thousands of feet deep. On the southwest the Apennine Mountains bordered a land mass termed Tyrrhenis geologically. Their orogeny was just being completed in the Miocene. On the north the Alpine Orogeny had already created the Alps. At the end of the Messinian the ocean broke through the sill and the Mediterranean refilled. The Adriatic transgressed into all of northern Italy. At the start of the Pleistocene the valley was full. Cycles of transgression and regression are detectable in the valley and the Adriatic as far as its centre and in the southern Adriatic. From the Pleistocene alternation of maritime and alluvial sediments occur as far west as Piacenza. The exact sequences at various locations have been studied extensively. An advance began after the Last Glacial Maximum around 20, years ago, which brought the Adriatic to a high point at about years ago. Venice , which was originally built on islands off the coast, is most at risk due to subsidence, but the effect is realized in the Po delta as well. The causes are first a decrease in the sedimentation rate due to the locking of sediment behind hydroelectric dams and the deliberate excavation of sand from rivers for industrial purposes. Second, agricultural use of the river is heavy; during peak consumption the flow in places nearly dries up, causing local contention. As a result of decreased flow salt water is intruding into the aquifers and coastal ground water. Eutrophication in standing waters and streams of low flow is on the increase. The sewage went through channels directly into the Po, for which the European Environment Agency cited the city. The three plants can collectively treat the sewage from over 2. Until water resources were administered regionally or locally. The major authority on the lower Po was the Magistrato alle Acque di Venezia, first formed in the 16th-century Republic of Venice. It made all the decisions concerning the diversion of the lower river. Most part of the delta is still in Veneto. In under the Kingdom of Italy the agency became the Magistrato alle Acque and took

responsibility for all the water resources in northeastern Italy. Currently it is a decentralized institution of the Ministry of Public Works, headed by a chairman appointed by the Head of State and the Council of Ministers. Its headquarters are in Venice. In response to the major geologic problems that were developing along the river Law no. Its headquarters have been in Parma since its inception in It considers itself a synergy among all the institutions concerned with the preservation and development of the Po basin. It is administered by officials chosen from the administrations of the constituent regions and provinces. Please update this article to reflect recent events or newly available information. Between and the Po Valley Project the implementation of the plan will carry out more than 60 measures to heighten and strengthen dikes, increase natural retention areas, recover sediment transport, recover hydromorphological characteristics, enlarge wetlands, afforest, renaturate, promote biodiversity and promote recreational use, among others. Nine gates are 6. A spillway to the right passes through a hydroelectric station of 4 generators of 76 MW each operated by a 3.

**Chapter 3 : The changing face of Cisalpine identity | Clifford Ando - calendrierdelascience.com**

*It excludes the Po Valley and the southern slopes of the Alps.[1][2] All of the peninsula lies within the territory of the Italian Republic except for the microstates of San Marino and Vatican City.*

Thus, "Cisalpine Gaul," meaning "Gaul on this side of the Alps," emerges as a term to describe the area north of the Apennines and south of the Alps in part in consequence of increased Roman involvement in "Gallia citerior," "the Gaul that is further away" see, e. That the meaning of these terms is relational in respect to Rome as metropole is likewise an important pointer to the nature of the episteme at work; the same point is made within a different interpretive framework by Polybius 2. The name "Gaul" of 2 course derives from the Roman name for the inhabitants of those regions, whom they sometimes understood to be types of a single ethnic group, the Gauls. But through complex processes related both to the classification of its residents and to political geography more abstractly, Cisalpine Gaul was ultimately designated part of Italy and its residents, remarkably, came to be considered Roman. Hence it was possible for Tacitus, writing of political machinations during the wars after the fall of Nero, to describe the regio Transpadana, "the Transpadane region" or "the region across the river Po" another relational term as "that broadest part of Italy" Hist. His vocabulary reflects the end of the story I shall here unfold, namely, the drawing of the final ancient boundary for Italy by Augustus, the division of Cisalpine Gaul into four regions, and their inclusion in Italy. That said, unusually, Augustus did not have the final word in this matter: Inquiry into the history of Cisalpine Gaul brings one face to face with numerous problems of evidence, familiar in broad strokes to all students of ancient history. The nodal points in any narrative history must be those events rehearsed in surviving literary texts or, more rarely, those commemorated in monumental texts concerned with statal action. This is obviously not true of all forms of historical inquiry as practiced on ancient evidence, nor even of all narrative history of the ancient world, but it is certainly true in respect to the west. But the kinds of information literary historians in antiquity 3 sought to record can only with difficulty be made to address the questions an historian of provincial contexts might wish to pose and scarcely all of those! That said, falsehoods, including errors and especially motivated distortions, are not simply an escapable part of the historical record; they often tell as much as any truth. The same might be said of the patterned expressions of belonging or factual asides in literary texts outside historiography--not least where Cisalpine Gaul is concerned, as the participation of Gallic Romans in late Republican literary culture must figure in telling of this tale. Enormous amounts of information can also be gleaned from the material and epigraphic records, including privately-generated documents. In a Republican Italian context, evidence of this kind is naturally limited in kind and occasionally in quantity: Such information is an essential ingredient to any modern social history. But it can only occasionally be correlated in a chronological or causal scheme with the information provided by literary texts. Their understanding of historical significance, like their notions of cultural or social history, were not ours. One significant consequence is that one must tell different kinds of stories at different moments across any large historical period, of nearly any ancient context. In what follows, I shall seek to describe those actions and practices by which Cisalpine Gaul became Italian, which is a story at once of changes in Gaul itself, taken both by Romans and natives, and also of perception and response at Rome. The disappearance from 4 historical memory--the elision from recorded modes of identity construction--of any sense that Cisalpine Gallic constituted an identity apart from, rather than constituent of, Roman Italian, is necessarily reflected in our inability on the basis of surviving evidence to tell some other story, perhaps of resistance, or to recuperate some local hidden transcript. But in some other perspective, that inability is very precisely a provocation to inquiry. Williams, *Beyond the Rubicon. Romans and Gauls in Republican Italy* [Oxford: Oxford University Press, ]. First, Greek and Roman authors describe the Gauls as having come from outside, which is to say, they depict the Gauls as migratory and as immigrants. Second, in their accounts, the Gauls encounter a landscape populated by communities organized along ethnic lines. The importance and effects of these historical claims need to be carefully unpacked. As regards the historical situation of the Po Valley before the arrival of Roman arms, it must be emphasized that mere diversity of style in the material record whether between sites--or, for

that matter, within a particular site--does not indicate, and cannot confirm, that the Iron Age population groups in the valley were articulated along ethnic lines, or even that they possessed self-understandings kindred to the framework visible in Greek ethnic thought and ethnographic literature, in which different peoples were understood as descending genealogically from common ancestors and patterns in cultural practice are overdetermined by those lines of descent. Nor can the very limited pre-Roman epigraphic record afford any certainty in this regard. The ethnic groups famous in the Roman historical tradition--the Boii, the Senones, what have you--may have some ontological integrity apart from that tradition, but their emergence and consolidation in history may well be due in part to their interpellation as ethnics under pressure from contact with imperial and colonizing powers that wanted to see them as such. There is of course every reason to believe that populations groups did descend over the Alps into the Po Valley, among which were no doubt some of those later described by Greek, Roman and apparently Etruscan sources as Gallic. Certainly two universal features of ancient historiography on Cisalpine Gaul are first, that the Gauls are described as having arrived en masse, sometimes in waves, and second, that those migrations rapidly came into conflict with pre-existing populations: What is more, the immigrating Gauls are of necessity seen as non-Roman or non-Greek or non-Etruscan in precisely their migratory lifestyle. Hence, in these accounts pre-existing models and polarities are adduced to explain the movements of populations, which are, for the sake of narrative and cognitive simplicity, reduced to a single migration event or at most a series of such. Those models often find their roots in Greek historiography of the age of Greek colonization, even as Greek ethnographic models served to classify the Gallic form of migration as essentially barbarous or, at the very least, non-poliadic. In the tradition, the migration is therefore described as a response to overpopulation; but in contrast to civilized peoples, the migrating Gauls neither settle down nor found cities, nor do they practice cereal agriculture. Rather, they wander overland until they come upon populations higher than they along some index of civilization, at which point the Gauls either pillage the cities or are themselves rebuffed. The Greek and Roman understanding of such cultures as fundamentally self-destructive finds articulation later in the standard historical accounts, too, when the Gauls allied with Hannibal inevitably die off in greater numbers than the Carthaginians, whether in battle or merely on the march. Please note, I do not claim that large-scale migrations did not occur into the Po Valley in the bronze and iron ages. Indeed, Roman sources describe population groups continuing to descend from the Alps into Cisalpine Gaul in the historical period, and there is every reason to believe in their veracity. Large-scale migration, and state-mandated resettlement, are a major theme in ancient history writ large and a very important component in the history of Cisalpine Gaul. But those sources sing a different tune when they recount the later migrations than they did rehearsing the earlier ones. As we shall see, Gallic immigrant groups of the early second century BCE are at least occasionally described as founding cities and as conducting themselves in other respects, too, as politically-articulated societies. Beyond the influence of Greek ethnography, extant accounts of the arrival of the Gauls display the influence of a second, enormous ideological pressure, namely, the construal of the Gauls as a truly existential threat to Rome. That is to say, the later construal of assorted Roman enemies in Cisalpine Gaul during the third and early second centuries BCE, in the Cimbric wars of the late second century, and so forth, as Gauls naturally played into this fear, and much political work could be done through such acts of construal. In short, generals could elevate the importance of their achievements by assimilating their opponents to the great menace of the earlier war, even as on-going claims that the Gauls were still a threat elevated the fourth-century sack to greater and greater cultural importance. Because of the strength and greatness of its peoples, never before have we engaged with them all at once. When attacked, we have resisted. But now at last it has come to this, that the limits of our empire and their lands are one and the same. Cicero *De provinciis consularibus* 33 Likewise, it remained a feature of Roman law on military service into the late Republic that a Gallic invasion, however improbable, would vacate the exemption from the draft otherwise granted to certain classes of colonists: Again, the shape and tenor of the historical and ethnographic tradition consolidated in the form in which we have received it very largely as a result of the sack of Rome by Gauls in the first decade of the fourth century. Even Hannibal had not wreaked such terrible and humiliating harm on the fabric of the city itself. As a result, despite variations within extant accounts of the early history of both Gaul and the Gauls on the question, for

example, whether the Gallic invasion that produced the sack of Rome was their first entry into Italy, or but the latest wave among many, Roman enmity required the Gauls to be understood as non-Roman in essential regards: The subsequent history of Roman Gaul must be understood against this two-fold historical background, of the reality and memory of warfare, and of the on-going power of those memories in late Republican political discourse. First Roman forays across the Appennines, - BCE The history of Roman action in respect to Cisalpine Gaul between the Gallic sack and the Hannibalic war cannot be rehearsed as a continuous narrative. The defective condition of the surviving evidence does not permit us to fix in time and often in space even large battles, even those named for the site where they occurred. Indeed, even the date of the sack of Rome was contested already in antiquity. The earliest Roman narrative of the 9 period, the history of Fabius Pictor, is lost. Pictor was himself involved in the Gallic wars of the mids Pictor fr. That said, his narrative influenced most if not all later accounts, including that of Polybius, and careful reading in the tradition reveals the systematic operation of prejudice and error that likely derive from Pictor. What is more, beyond the operation of prejudice lie still other factors. Roman politics in the early third century was dominated by a small number of families, scattering homonymous individuals throughout the record; and numerous individuals held high office more than once. The extent and depth of confusion among readers of Pictor over the attribution of agency to individuals, and among individuals to particular terms of office, is most easily explained by reference to the defective condition of the records on which Pictor drew and his own incapacity to resolve the cruces before him. Fortunately, the overall arc of this chapter does not require that we resolve any such problems. Our focus is rather on two themes. First, the information available to us suggests a pattern of interaction in Cisalpine Gaul itself or between Romans and residents of Gaul during military action below the Appennines in which the Romans devoted ever greater resources to ever more complex extensions of state infrastructural power into the Po Valley, while the Gauls for their part very gradually developed institutions and forms of social differentiation that echoed those of Rome. Such patterns of historical change in the shadows of empire or borderlands between discrepant cultural systems are by now well theorized--in an ancient context, they are visible in later periods across the Roman borders of the Rhine and Danube or again in the gradual articulation and self-awareness of the early Islamic umma as a territorial state and, indeed, an empire. After a long period characterized by intermittent hostilities involving Gallic raiding parties, Roman acts of revenge and deterrence, and shifting alliances on both sides with third parties, a crucial shift in the scale of their interaction took place in the second and third decades of the 3rd century BCE. Amidst a complex range of actions reaching across the Appennines at several points, the Romans established c. In the very same years they also established a further colony on the Adriatic coast at Hadria modern Atri, in the territory of the Praetuttii. The conditions under which the Senones ceded land for the colony are unclear. Whatever they were, hostilities rapidly erupted again. At the level of warfare and diplomacy, there then followed a remarkably long peace years, according to Polybius 2. In fact, it must have owed its existence in large measure to Roman distraction during the First Punic War. The apparent failure of the Carthaginians to exploit Gallic hostility to Rome during that war is a mistake Hannibal would not repeat. What is clear is that Rome returned its attention to the north almost immediately upon the end of hostilities with Carthage in When Polybius records a Gallic attack on Ariminum in as the first event in the new period of hostility, he would seem to betray a distinctly pro-Roman distortion of the historical record. The sequence of actions undertaken in this period of renewed Roman action in the north--between and represents a massive development upon earlier forms of Roman engagement in the area, which unusually betrays across some 12 years the continuous influence of a single guiding light, Gaius Flaminius. As tribune in, Flaminius carried a bill later notorious in Roman domestic politics for the distribution of individual plots in the ager Gallicus Cato Origines fr. Much is made by Roman sources of the novelty of viritim distribution, person by person, as opposed to the granting of a block of land to a colony. But colonial agricultural land was subsequently always shared out to individual 12 freeholders. The practical difference in provincial contexts between viritim and colonial distribution was probably relatively small--it was the public and private law consequences at Rome of this new system that cause our sources to focus on the issue. This action appears to have been received by the Senones and other peoples of the Po Valley as a sign for what, frankly, it was, the first stage in a systematic attempt to settle Roman populations

across the Valley, in order to exploit, control and dominate social conduct and economic output throughout the territory. The fact that the Senones are recorded by Polybius both as having been expelled in the early third century and angry at the viritane settlement of Romans in their territory by Flaminius in is a feature of Roman narrative to which we shall return. Indeed, we might say that the view attributed by Polybius to the Boii in the aftermath of Roman appropriation of the ager Gallicus half a century earlier--"seeing the Senones expelled and fearing for themselves and their land" 2. Paton LCL, lightly modified. The tensions aroused by the settlement of Romans in the ager Gallicus came to a head in in a massive military confrontation. According to Polybius, enormous forces were then arrayed on each side: The Romans even made a temporary peace with Carthage. The result in any event was a complex campaign involving several columns on each side, which culminated in a massive battle at Telamon modern Talamone, on the Etruscan coast north of Monte Argentario. The defeat of the Gauls in that battle was so overwhelming, we are told by Polybius, that "the Romans hoped that they be able to expel the Celts entirely from the areas around the Po" 2. In keeping with that view, the Romans followed up on that victory with campaigns north of the Appennines for another half decade, their concentration on the area being so overwhelming that they sent both consuls to the area for the next several years, with Gaius Flaminius himself as one of the consuls in During this period the Romans made their first extended campaigns across the Po against the Insubres and north and west along the coast against the Ligurians. This sequence of campaigns culminated in major victories at Clastidium and Mediolanum in modern Casteggio and Milan, respectively , which towns came to anchor the Roman road that ultimately stretched north-south across the western end of the valley and passed on to Comum in the north. In , Flaminius as censor seemingly put the seal on military action and opened a new phase in the transformation of Gaul when he let the contract for the construction of the via Flaminia Livy Per. These were established in , on the eve of the Hannibalic War, and though they suffered greatly in the disastrous first years of that war, when Hannibal allied with Gauls ranged at will in Italy, they stayed loyal to Rome and figure prominently in the history of Roman action in the first decades of the second century Livy The transformation of the landscape, - BCE The needs of Roman narrative and Roman politics drove the Romans to represent the Gauls as ferocious but strategically incompetent, and hence to describe the Roman victory at Telamon in as total. The seeming success of subsequent campaigns and Roman ability to commence the material transformation of the central valley support, at least, representations of that victory as significant.

**Chapter 4 : Vento: Italy By Bike Along The River Po – calendrierdelascience.com**

*The Po Valley, Po Plain, Plain of the Po, or Padan Plain (Italian: Pianura Padana, or Val Padana) is a major geographical feature of calendrierdelascience.com extends approximately km ( mi) in an east-west direction, with an area of 46, square kilometres (18, sq mi) including its Venetic extension not actually related to the Po river basin; it runs from the Western Alps to the Adriatic Sea.*

The Romans had been waiting for a chance to strike at Capua, the capital of Campania in southern Italy, after it revolted against them following their defeat by the Carthaginian Hannibal at Cannae in BC. Hannibal had made the city his winter headquarters, and his proximity deterred the Romans. Hannibal hoped for a success big enough to risk the loss of Capua. His eyes had long been set on the city of Tarentum, the richest in the whole of southern Italy. Hannibal had been in communication with a party of Tarentine citizens who were unhappy with Roman rule. A previous attempt had been made by the people of Tarentum to rid themselves of the Romans. However, it was thwarted by the precautions that the Roman commander Brundisium had taken. He took effectual means for the defence of the city and sent some of the possible malcontents to Rome to serve as hostages for the good behaviour of the rest of the population. These hostages were later caught trying to escape, several of whom were then convicted by the quaestores parricidii and sentenced to be flung from the Tarpeian Rock. This act infuriated the people of Tarentum, who renewed their communications with Hannibal. Battle Marcus Livius, the governor of the city, was a good soldier but is said to be a man of indolent and luxurious habits. On the night appointed by Hannibal for the attack he was feasting with friends and retired to rest, heavy with food and wine. In the middle of the night he was awakened when the conspirators blew the alarm on some Roman trumpets and found Hannibal and 10, of his soldiers already within the city. Many of the Roman soldiers were asleep or drunk and were cut down by the Carthaginians as they stumbled out into the streets. Hannibal kept control of his troops to the extent that there was no general looting. Committed to respecting Tarentine freedom, Hannibal asked the Tarentines to mark houses where Tarentines lived. Only those houses not so marked and thus belonging to Romans were looted. Marcus Livius managed to bring his surviving troops to the citadel where they held off the Carthaginians for the duration of the war. However, the city was lost. Aftermath Southern Italy provided Hannibal with a powerful foothold on the peninsula. However, when he heard news that the Romans were besieging Capua he turned his army around and only days after capturing Tarentum he was outside Capua. In the First Battle of Capua the besieging armies were temporarily driven off. At this point in history Hannibal looked invincible, having allies in southern Gaul, and owning Southern Italy and Iberia. Cities in Sicily such as Syracuse had revolted as well. Hannibal was also promised the support which never came of the powerful army of King Philip V of Macedon across the Adriatic. The Romans soon re-established their siege of Capua, and took the city following the Second Battle of Capua the next year.

**Chapter 5 : Italian Campaign: Po Valley:**

*Po Valley 5 April-8 May The Allies had begun their invasion of the Italian mainland in early September with the promise of a quick drive north, up the "soft underbelly" of Europe and into the German heartland.*

Po Valley The Allies invaded mainland Italy in early September, expecting a quick drive north through the Italian peninsula, into the "soft underbelly" of Europe and on to the German heartland. Nineteen months later, in March, after hard fighting against the Gustav Line in the rugged mountainous spine of Southern Italy, the landing at Anzio, their advance up the Liri valley to capture Rome, and more mountain fighting in the North Apennines, the Allies were still south of the Po Valley and the Alps. Medics of the 10th Mountain Division pulled sleds of medical supplies up an Apennine slope. Today in WW II: See also WW2 Books. Background to the Italian Campaign, Po Valley Rome had been liberated in early June and fascist Italy was virtually out of the war, but much more had been accomplished elsewhere with the liberation of France and the great westward drive of the Soviet Red Army which had already crossed into Germany and was close to the battle for Berlin itself. The fighting in the North Apennines had exhausted 15 Army Group which was starved for replacements and supplies due to the shift in Allied priorities to France and western Europe. But by the end of the winter of, the fully rested and resupplied 15 Army Group, under U. Fifth Army, commanded by Lt. In the Po Valley lay the Po River, meandering east from its source in northwestern Italy to the Adriatic Sea, forming a second line of defense. The river varied in width from to yards, bordered by levees which served as natural fortifications, augmented by field works constructed on both banks. The towns and villages along the river were fortified, and the east-west road system provided good logistical support for the defenders. North of the Po, in the Alpine foothills, extending east and west of Lake Garda, the Germans had built a third line of defense. Dubbed the Adige Line, after the Adige River, these defenses were designed to cover a last-ditch Axis withdrawal into northeast Italy and Austria. The Adige Line, with its intricate system of trenches, dugouts, and machine-gun emplacements, was reminiscent of World War I. If stoutly defended it could be the toughest line yet encountered in Italy. To reach the Po Valley, the Allies had to break out of the winter stalemate in the North Apennines, take the German positions of the Gothic Line, and descend into the Po Valley past Bologna and other fortified points. The Allied and Axis Forces By early the Fifth Army contained about, soldiers with over 30, more awaiting assignments in replacement depots, as compared to, 6 months earlier, over 2, artillery pieces and mortars, and thousands of vehicles, all positioned along a mile front extending east from the Ligurian coast, across the crest of the Apennines, to a point southeast of Bologna. By April their line extended from the Bologna area east to the Adriatic, ten miles north of Ravenna. Axis commanders in Italy preferred to withdraw from the Apennines to the Po River line before the expected Allied offensive but their requests were denied. They were commanded to hold fast, making it impossible to conduct organized withdrawals in the face of overwhelming Allied superiority in ground mobility and air power. Cracking the German Defensive Line The winter fighting in the Apennines had brought the Allies to good positions in the heights overlooking the Po Valley, even if they were unable to break through. The early months of were used well to rebuild and refresh the Allied forces, ready for the spring offensive. Operations began on 5 April with a diversionary attack on the Ligurian coast. To the east, on the Adriatic coast, Polish, Indian, New Zealander, and British soldiers of the Eighth Army surged forward on 9 April after a massive air and artillery barrage. For the next several days they gradually pushed the Axis forces north toward the vital Argenta gap, just west of the impassable Comacchio Lagoon. In spite of stubborn German resistance, the British seized the Argenta gap on 18 April, thereby threatening to turn the entire Axis flank. They seized the Pra del Bianco basin and Reno River valley after intense fighting, and during April pushed northward from ridgeline to ridgeline, and from valley town to valley town with steady progress at the cost of heavy casualties. American firepower superiority and aggressive infantry attacks slowly pushed back the Germans, who fought stubbornly but futilely. Although the IV Corps had advanced only six miles by 19 April, there were already signs that the Axis defensive line in the Apennines was vulnerable. By nightfall, only a rapidly disintegrating Axis force and about thirty miles of relatively flat terrain stood between the IV Corps and the Po River. In the

face of superior Allied air and ground forces, and with negligible reserves, the Germans had little chance of containing the emerging American breakthrough. By April the American advance accelerated, pursuing the rapidly withdrawing German forces. As Axis defenses cracked, the bulk of the Fifth Army passed west of Bologna and units were repositioned for the final push out of the Apennines. Out of the Apennines, Into the Po Valley The turning point in the spring offensive came on 20 April, with both the Fifth and Eighth Armies in position to launch high-speed armored advances from the Apennines toward the Po River crossings. Given the flat terrain and excellent road network in the Po Valley -- a first for the mountainous Italian campaign -- 15th Army Group orders now emphasized speed and mobility to destroy surviving enemy forces before they escaped to the Po River and the Alpine foothills beyond. Truscott ordered II Corps units to Bologna and to encircle Axis forces south of the river by linking with the Eighth Army at Bondeno, about twenty miles north of Bologna. To the west, along the coast, the 92d Infantry Division prepared to advance to Genoa. In between 1st Armored Division was to mop up the remaining Axis forces in the foothills southwest of Ponte Samoggia, capture Modena, and drive for the Po. Bologna fell to the U. On the right flank, Axis forces attempted in vain to prevent the juncture of the Fifth and Eighth Armies, desperately trying to buy time for small detachments of their comrades to escape. But the Allied onslaught, now moving at full speed, quickly swept aside the hasty defenses, overwhelming and annihilating numerous Axis rear-guard detachments in the process. Ultimately, over , Axis troops were forced to surrender in the areas south of the river. To take advantage of the deteriorating enemy situation and the feeble resistance along the Po River, Truscott discarded plans for a slow, deliberate river crossing, and instead issued instructions to jump the river as quickly as possible and press the attack northwest toward Verona, about sixty miles above Bologna in the Alpine foothills, to block escape routes to the Brenner Pass, and breach the Adige Line before it could be fully manned. Lack of bridging threatened to delay his plans. With no permanent spans surviving Allied air bombardments, a variety of amphibious craft, rubber rafts, wooden boats, and ferries were pressed into service to carry men and light equipment across the river. Through the efforts of Army engineers, pontoon and treadway bridges, capable of supporting armor, spanned the river within two days of the first crossings. Verona fell on 26 April as three American divisions converged on the city, after a vicious night battle. German units had disintegrated into small groups of harried soldiers retreating as best they could under intense Allied pressure, blocking their retreat south of the Alps. Darby of Ranger fame, left Verona on 26 April for nearby Lake Garda, where it soon worked its way up the eastern shore. As the lead elements of the division entered the city without opposition on the morning of 27 April, they discovered that the 4,man Axis garrison had already surrendered to Italian partisans the day before. The stream of prisoners taken since mid-April turned into a deluge during the last days of the campaign, and several combat units left the front lines to guard the tens of thousands of Axis soldiers swelling makeshift prisoner-of-war camps throughout northern Italy. The Axis Surrender in Italy With no hope left, German emissaries arrived at the 15th Army Group headquarters in Caserta, Italy, on 28 April to arrange a cease-fire and the unconditional surrender of the remaining Axis forces south of the Alps. They agreed to a cease-fire along the entire Italian front at hours on 2 May Fifth Army was in continuous combat in Italy for more than twenty months, the longest of any U. Of the total losses, 31, were killed, including 19, Americans, the remainder of the dead being British and Commonwealth troops, Brazilians, Poles, Frenchmen, free Italians, and members of the Jewish brigade from British Palestine. German dead in Italy were estimated at more than , The Battle For Italy - Find More Information on the Internet There are many fine websites that have additional information on this topic, too many to list here and too many to keep up with as they come and go. For good results, try entering this: Then click the Search button.

**Chapter 6 : Hannibal's crossing of the Alps - Wikipedia**

*sinuous chain of mountain ranges; scattered lowlands that lie between the mountains = Hungarina Basin and Po Valley  
The Alps Shaped like a giant apostrophe running from French Riviera to Vienna; in 4 countries: France, Italy, Switzerland, Austria.*

Background After the final Carthaginian naval defeat at the Aegates Islands ,[3] the Carthaginians surrendered and accepted defeat in the First Punic War. In addition, it was the ambition of the Barcas , one of the leading noble families of the patriotic party, to some day employ the Iberian peninsula as a base of operations for waging a war of revenge against the Roman military alliance. Marching west from Carthage[13] towards the Pillars of Hercules ,[14] where his army crossed the strait and proceeded to subdue the peninsula, in the course of nine years[11][12][14] Hamilcar conquered the south-eastern portion of the peninsula. He attacked the tribe known as the Olcades and captured their chief town of Althaea. He had Gallic spies in every corner of the Roman Republic, even within the inner circles of the Senate itself. In addition to this, the Romans had been at war with the Padane Gauls off and on for more than a century. Seeing an opportunity for a triumph for themselves, the consuls Marcus Claudius and Gnaeus Cornelius vigorously rejected the embassy, and the Gauls prepared for war with the Romans. They hired 30, mercenaries from beyond the Alps and awaited the arrival of the Romans. A vigorous combat took place near Mediolanum , which resulted in the leaders of the Gallic revolt turning themselves over to the Romans. Preparations Hannibal, aware of the situation, sent a number of embassies to the Gallic tribes in the Po valley. Hannibal did not know a great deal about the Alps, but he knew enough to know that it was going to be a difficult march. He had had some scouts give him reports concerning this mountain chain, and he received reports of the difficulties to be encountered there from the Gauls themselves. Hannibal knew enough about the Alps to know in particular that the descent was steeper than the ascent into the Alps. This was one of the reasons he wanted to have allies into whose territory he could march. It would be easy indeed to establish intimate relations with these disaffected tribes, especially once he had debouched from the Alps and was amongst them and the Insubres and Boii and other tribes could see and speak with this army for themselves. Conducted his enterprise with consummate judgement; for he had accurately ascertained the excellent nature of the country in which he was to arrive, and the hostile disposition of its inhabitants towards the Romans; and he had for guides and conductors through the difficult passes which lay in the way of natives of the country, men who were to partake of the same hopes with himself[37] Siege of Saguntum These preparations being completed, Hannibal sought to induce the Saguntines to come to arms with him and thereby declare war on Rome through her proxy. He did not desire to break the peace himself,[38][39] and resorted to a variety of stratagems in order to induce the Saguntines to attack. However, the commission was not fooled and knew that war was in the air. An Illyrian revolt was put down with energy, and the Romans sped up the construction of a number of fortresses in Cisalpine Gaul. Words were exchanged in the Carthaginian Senate to the effect that Hannibal should be handed over to the Romans and his actions disavowed. However, the multitude in Carthage was too much in support of the conflict to order a stop to the war. The Romans allowed themselves to be tied up in a war against the Illyrians,[38] and did not treat the Carthaginian threat from Iberia with the attention that it deserved. After the siege, Hannibal sold all the inhabitants as slaves, and distributed the proceeds from those sales to his soldiers. In addition, all the booty from the sacking of the city was taken back to Carthage and distributed to the populace, in order to rally their support to his cause. The warrior is armed with a falcata and an oval shield. Iberian tribes fought for both sides in the Second Punic War , but in reality most wanted to be rid of all foreign domination. National Archaeological Museum of Spain , Madrid Hannibal had spent the winter after the siege of Saguntum in Cartagana, during which time he dismissed his troops to their own localities. He did this with the hope of cultivating the best possible morale in his army for the upcoming campaign, which he knew was going to be difficult. He left his brother, Hasdrubal in charge of the administration of Carthaginian Iberia, as well as its defence against the Romans. In addition to this, he swapped the native troops of Iberia to Africa, and the native troops of Africa to Iberia. He also left his brother a number of ships. They had a number of allies in this

country, and he could not allow the Romans a place to land in his base unopposed. As he was relying upon contingents of forces coming to him in Italy via the land route he was about to head out upon, he must take and conquer this country. He had no intention of leaving Iberia to its fate once he was in Italy. Hannibal opted to take the region in a swift campaign, and to that effect he divided his army into three columns, in order to subdue the entirety of the region at the same time. After receiving route information from his scouts and messages from the Celtic tribes that resided around the Alps, Hannibal set out with 90, heavy infantry from various African and Iberian nations, and 12, cavalry. From the Ebro to the Pyrenees, the Carthaginians confronted four tribes: There were a number of cities here that Hannibal took, which Polybius does not specify. This campaign was conducted with speed in order to take as little time as possible in the reduction of this region. Having reduced this area, he left his brother Hanno in command of this area, specifically over the Bargusii, whom he had reason to distrust due to their affiliation with the Romans. He left his brother in control of this country with 10, infantry and 1, cavalry. This was done to serve two purposes: As long as Hannibal had no ships to keep himself abreast of the exact movements of the Romans, he wanted to be present in person in case the Romans should make a landing in an attempt to attack his army on its ascent or descent through the Pyrenees. This column crossed the Ebro at the town of Edeba,[49] and proceeded directly along the coast through Tarraco, Barcino, Gerunda, Emporiae and Illiberis. The second, or central, column crossed the Ebro at the oppidum of Mora and from there information is fairly sparse. It eventually rejoined the principal column when it had completed its task. The third, or left, column crossed the Ebro where it touches with the Sicoris River and proceeded along the river valley and into the mountain countries. It performed the same task as the second and the first columns did. Over the course of the two-month campaign, Hannibal lost 13, men. This march must have been a pleasant change of pace for the Carthaginians, who had just spent the previous July and August subduing numerous fierce peoples living in the Pyrenees. The Peninsular War being just one example amongst many, the broken topography of this region affords resistance movements many advantages that they might not otherwise have in flatter, more even terrain. Some of these tribes were friendly to his cause, others were opposed to him. He dealt with each tribe as he marched through their territory. Massilia modern Marseille , a successful Greek trade emporium had for some time been under the influence of the Romans, and the Romans had even settled colonists there. When he arrived in the Po area, there was an uprising amongst the freshly conquered Gauls. There were so many citizens who were qualified for service in the army that all the government had to do was inform the citizenry that more soldiers were needed and they would be required to serve. Many Romans, being required to serve at some point, spent portions of their youth training to serve in the legions. Finally, having got these new legions together " in a much more leisurely fashion than the urgency of the situation demanded of him " he set sail from Ostia. In this day there were no compasses, and it was the habit of navigators to sail their ships along the coast and to stop at night for victuals. His preparations were designed to draw their attention away from their northern flank and focus their attention on his own preparations. The crossing itself was carefully designed to be as smooth as possible. Every detail was well thought out. The heavy horsemen were put across furthest upstream, and in the largest boats, so that the boats that Hannibal had less confidence in could be rowed to the left eastern bank in the lee of the larger and more sturdy craft. Often in antiquity, to intimidate their enemy, armies would be ordered to pound their shields with their weapons and raise loud cries at exactly the same moment to create the greatest amount of noise. Carthaginian Army and the corp which made the circuit. There was barely even a semblance of resistance;[66] surrounded as they were, pandemonium took control of their ranks, and each man looked to his own safety as they retreated pell-mell away from the carefully arrayed Carthaginian phalanx. While the actual conflict only took a matter of minutes, Hannibal had spent five days preparing this dangerous and risky operation from every angle, ensuring that it was ready at all points and as little as possible was left to chance. He knew that if he waited until springtime on the far side of the mountains, the Romans would have time to raise another army. He sent Numidian cavalry down the eastern bank of the river to acquire better information concerning the forces massed to oppose him. This force encountered mounted Romans who had been sent up the river for the same purpose. The Numidians were defeated with of their number killed in this exchange between scouting parties; in addition to Roman losses. The Numidians were followed back to the Carthaginian

camp, which was almost assembled excepting the elephants, which required more time getting across. Upon seeing Hannibal had not crossed with the whole of his force, the scouts raced back to the coast to alert the consul. Upon receiving this information, the consul dispatched his army up the river in boats, but arrived too late. Despite their established tactical system formations and troop evolutions, etc. They did not know how to force an enemy to battle by cutting off their communications, they were not aware of which flank was the strategic flank of an enemy in a battle. In addition, they were negligent about their order of march,[69] and early Roman history is littered with massacres of consular armies by other nations because of their lack of proper precaution against these evils. Speaking through an interpreter,[71] Magilus spoke of the support that the recently conquered Padane Gauls had for the Carthaginians and their mission of destroying Rome. Hannibal then addressed the officers himself. The cavalry would skirmish with the Roman scouts, while giving the rest of the army time to form up. This contingency did not occur. Hannibal was in the rearguard with the elephants. The rearguard was well manned to ensure that it could skirmish with the Roman army while the main body of his infantry and cavalry could form up for battle against the Romans if they should attack from that quarter. This contingency, however, also did not occur. While assuming this order of march, Hannibal marched towards the Insula. From this tribe he received supplies that were required for the expedition across the Alps. Up until the Alps proper, he did not have to fend off any tribes. Du Chat towards the village of Aquste[75] and from there to Chevelu,[76] to the pass by Mt. There he found that the passes were fortified by the Allobroges. He sent out spies to ascertain if there was any weakness in their disposition. These spies found that the barbarians only maintained their position at the camp during the day, and left their fortified position at night. In order to make the Allobroges believe that he did not deem a night assault prudent, he ordered that as many camp-fires be lit as possible, in order to induce them into believing that he was settling down before their encampment along the mountains. However, once they left their fortifications, he led his best troops up to their fortifications and seized control of the pass. This overhang was an excellent place from which to attack an enemy while it was marching in column through the pass. More baggage animals were lost in the confusion of the Barbarian attack, and they rolled off of the precipices to their deaths. However, Hannibal, at the head of the same elite corps that he led to take the overhang, led them against these determined barbarians. Virtually all of these barbarians died in the ensuing combat, as they were fighting with their backs to a steep precipice, trying to throw their arrows and darts uphill at the advancing Carthaginians. Hannibal marched his army to modern Chambéry and took their city easily, stripping it of all its horses, captives, beasts of burden and corn. This must have been welcome considering that no small portion of their supplies had been lost when the pack animals had fallen over the precipice in the course of the previous action.

**Chapter 7 : Second Punic War | Battle of Tarentum ( BC)**

*The Po Valley (Northern Italy) is a composite foreland-foredeep basin caught in between the Southern Alps and Northern Apennine mountain belts.*

After retiring from the army, he devoted his life to writing about historical military commanders. He wrote books about Alexander the Great, Julius Cesaer, Napoleon and others but his book about Hannibal is arguably his finest work. What makes his book even more convincing is that Dodge personally visited many of the passes that Hannibal could have crossed over. Before going to the Alps, he had agreed with Napoleon that Hannibal had crossed the Alps via Mont Cenis and it was only after visiting the region that he fixated on Petit Saint Bernard as being the pass that Hannibal most probably crossed over. View of Bourg Saint Maurice and the Tarentaise valley. You can clearly see from the photo above that the Tarentaise valley is wide enough to support an army on the march. This was the main throughfare for Gallic tribes crossing through the Alps during Roman times and as Hannibal was being guided by the Gallic chieftain, Magilicus, he almost certainly came this way. Hannibal was ambushed near Seez by a local tribe known as the Ceutrones. You can clearly see it in the Google Street View photo above and it obviously would have been an excellent place to stage an ambush. Climb of the Petit Saint Bernard. Once clear of the Big White Rock, the climb to the summit is relatively easy. It is roughly 10 km from the White Rock to the summit of the Petit Saint Bernard and an army could easily climb this distance in a day as the gradient is relatively gentle. The photo above shows the last 5 km or so of the climb with the Hospice of Saint Bernard in the distance. You can also see from the photo above that there is lots of room on the climb for an army and lots of pasture for their animals. Both Polybius and Levy state that the descent into Italy was dangerous and steep which implies that the ascent was relatively easy. For the Clapier and Traversette passes, the ascent is just as difficult as the descent but this is not the case with the Petit Saint Bernard. Hannibal and his troops crossing the Alps. Hannibal most likely crossed the Alps during October so there almost certainly would have been more snow and ice than when I climbed the Petit Saint Bernard pass in June. Experts disagree as to whether the climate in the Alps was cooler or warmer than the present day but I think this painting accurately portrays the conditions Hannibal and his troops would have faced as they crossed the Alps. Lac du Verney at the summit of the Petit Saint Bernard. Livy says that Hannibal camped for 2 days at a lake just after crossing the summit. This lake is certainly big enough to water 5, horses and 37 elephants and there is plenty of space for a camp of 30, men. It also meets their fifth criteria in that this location is high enough to be covered with snow and ice all year round. Polybius and the Via Domitia between Spain and Italy. At this point, I think it is important to pause just as Hannibal did at the top of the pass and write a little about Polybius, who wrote the first account about Hannibal crossing the Alps. He traveled along Via Domitia which was being built at that time to connect Roman colonies in Spain to Italy. But it is more likely that Polybius interviewed locals who had been told stories by their parents and local elders about Hannibal and the route he had taken from Spain to Italy 70 years previously. This was probably because at that time, Rome only controlled the southern half of the Alps. It would be another years after the death of Polybius and years after Hannibal;s crossing before Rome conquered the Aosta valley and the northern part of the Alps. So while Polybius may have crossed the Alps on the Via Domitia, he almost certainly did not visit the Petit Saint Bernard and many of the other passes in the Alps that Hannibal may have used. Instead, he would have relied on stories he had heard from others to compile this section of his book. This is probably why his writing is so confusing and contains very few specific geographic references. But his account does contain many references to Gallic tribes, such as the Allobrogues and the Insubres and he occasionally mentions various landmarks and these clues can be used to piece together the likely route that Hannibal took. Showing them, therefore, the plain of the Po, and reminding them of the friendly feelings of the Gauls inhabiting it, while at the same time pointing out the situation of Rome itself, he to some extent restored their spirits. Next day he broke up his camp and began the descent. Remember Polybius probably never visited the Petit Saint Bernard and would have been unfamiliar with the rivers and terrain in the northern Alps. But by this time, it being nearly the period of the setting of the Pleiads, end of October the snow was

beginning to be thick on the heights; and seeing his men in low spirits, owing both to the fatigue they had gone through, and that which still lay before them, Hannibal called them together and tried to cheer them by dwelling on the one possible topic of consolation in his power, namely the view of Italy: By pointing therefore to the plains of the Padus Po , and reminding them of the friendly welcome which awaited them from the Gauls who lived there, and at the same time indicating the direction of Rome itself, he did somewhat to raise the drooping spirits of his men. This is the view of Italy that I believe Hannibal used to inspire his weary troops. There is lots of pasture to eat as well as trees which were important for fires and cooking. The present day Po flows through Turin before joining up with the Doria-Baltea river at Ivrea and then flowing into the Adriatic near to Venice. It is quite possible that ancient people referred to what is now called the Doria-Baltea river as the Po and the river that flows through Turin by some other name. Or perhaps they referred to both rivers as the Po in a similar way to the Nile river in Africa is known as the Blue Nile and the White Nile until both rivers join up near Khartoum. The view from above La Thuile is incredible and in my opinion, this was the view that Hannibal used to inspire his troops. View of the headland from where I believe Hannibal addressed his troops. This headland is located about 1 km from the Lac du Varney where I believe Hannibal set up his camp and about 3 km from the Petit Saint Bernard pass. Most of my photos only show the view to the left of La Thuile as you look down on it because they were taken from the road. But if the Petit Saint Bernard is the pass that best fits the description given by both Polybius and Livy, then why did the Woods brothers ignore it and John Hoyte only give it 20 points out of 45 in his analysis. But the view of the Daria-Baltea valley, which the ancient people may have referred to as the Po valley, shown above is worth 5 out of 5. Also he only gives the vicinity 2 out of 5 for foliage item e in the scorecard. But the La Thuile valley is often below the snowline in October and has considerable foliage and should also get 5 out of 5. But as we will see later, Polybius clearly states that Hannibal met with the Insubres, almost certainly in the Aosta valley before then attacking the Taurini. From La Thuile to Ivrea in the Po valley is roughly km which a fast moving army could easily march in 3 days. Awarding 5 points for both these criteria means the Petit Saint Bernard pass would have a total of 38 points and the Col du Clapier would be reduced to 35 points. You can see that below La Thuile the valley is incredibly narrow in places and could easily have been blocked by a landslide. Theodore Dodge also agreed that this was the location of the landslide that blocked Hannibals path for 3 days. But Hannibal soon realized that this route was too dangerous for his elephants so he instead got his men to start clearing rocks from the landslide. What is interesting about this episode is that the climb of the Colle San Carlo would have been similar to trying to cross the Alps at the Col de Clapier or the Col de la Traversette. It was here that his army is said to have lit fires under the biggest boulders and then split them by pouring wine over them. Polybius clearly states that Hannibal met up with his allies after crossing the Alps. Hannibal, therefore, made every provision for carefully attending to the men and the horses likewise until they were restored in body and spirit. After this, his forces having now picked up their strength, when the Taurini who live at the foot of the mountains quarreled with the Insubres and showed no confidence in the Carthaginians, he at first made overtures for their friendship and alliance, but on their rejecting these he encamped round their chief city and reduced it in three days. By massacring those who had been opposed to him he struck such terror into the neighbouring tribes of barbarians that they all came in at once and submitted to him. But Polybius clearly states that Hannibal made his way to Insubre territory, rested for a few days before attacking the Taurini. The Insubre were originally from the Milan area but had been defeated by the Romans and may have settled in the Aosta valley near Ivrea. This means that Hannibal first went to Ivrea before then attacking Turin. However to reach Ivrea from the Col du Clapier, Hannibal would have had to go around Turin and would have been unlikely to meet up with the Insubre in 3 days. Hannibal would go on to win numerous battles against the Romans. The following year he would defeat the Romans again at Lake Trasimene in Tuscany before inflicting probably the worst defeat any Roman army ever suffered in BC at Cannae in southern Italy. All historians are in agreement about the campaign of terror Hannibal waged throughout the length and breadth of Italy for 16 years between BC and BC but they still cannot agree to this day the route he took to reach Italy. But Theodore Dodge was in no doubt how Hannibal reached Italy and summarized the route he took to cross the Alps as follows. Theodore Dodge believed that the ascent started near to the Mont

du Chat whereas most modern historians believe that the ascent started near Voreppe about 60 km south of the Mont du Chat. I found the terrain around Mont du Chat very hilly and it would have been very difficult for an army to cross over so would be amazed if Hannibal took this route when there was a much easier route available just a few kms to the south. Instead, I have to agree with most modern historians in that Hannibal was ambushed by the Allobroges near Voreppe before making his way up the Tarentaise valley along the river Isere. From Montmeillan to Seez where Hannibal was ambushed for a second time at the White Rock La Roche Blanche is roughly 100 km and could easily be marched in 5 days. From Seez to La Thuile over the Petit Saint Bernard pass is only about 30 km and could be easily covered in 4 days even allowing for a rest-day. You know what they say how nature abhors a vacuum. In July , they unveiled this aluminium statue of an elephant behind a silhouette of Hannibal triumphantly making their way through the Alps. But, in my opinion, this statue should be located elsewhere, perhaps near Seez on the approach road to the Petit Saint Bernard. Michael Peyron, the French mountain guide, states that an elephant skeleton was found near the Petit Saint Bernard pass in the 18th Century. A 3 day march from la Thuile to the plains of the Po near Ivrea is a stretch but it is certainly possible for a motivated cavalry unit in friendly territory. But while I firmly believe that Hannibal used the Petit Saint Bernard pass, I also understand why some people have passionate views about other passes. This updated article is the culmination of a total of six articles I have wrote so far examining which pass Hannibal used to cross over the Alps. Part 1 published at Col de la Traversette Part 1.

**Chapter 8 : Cycling Route map and city list – Marino to Oslo – Over the Hill**

*The Po valley was the territory of the Roman Cisalpine Gaul, divided into Cispadane Gaul (South of the Po) and Transpadane Gaul (North of the Po). The Po begins in the Alps, and is in Italy, and.*

According to the Po Basin Water Board, the basin includes: The flatlands of Veneto and Friuli are often considered apart since they do not drain into the Po, but they effectively combine into an unbroken plain. The plain is the surface of an in-filled system of ancient canyons the "Apennine Foredeep" extending from the Apennines in the south to the Alps in the north, including the northern Adriatic. In addition to the Po and its affluents the contemporary surface may be considered to include the Savio, Lamone and Reno to the south, and the Adige, Brenta, Piave and Tagliamento of the Venetian Plain to the north, among the many streams that empty into the north Adriatic from the west and north. Geo-political definitions of the valley depend on the defining authority. The law defines the Po basin as "the territory from which rainwater or snow and glacier melt flows on the surface, gathers in streams of water either directly or via tributaries. The valley is crossed by a number of affluents running down from the Alps in the north and from the Apennines in the south. Geology Po near source in the western Alps. The Po Valley and the Adriatic overlay a foreland basin and a system of deeply buried ancient canyons surviving from the tectonic collision of an offshore land mass, Tyrrhenis, with the mainland, an incident within the collision of the African and Eurasian plates. Since the Messinian mya the system has been filling with sediment mainly from the older Apennines but also from the Alps. The shoreline of the Adriatic depends on a balance between the sedimentation rate and isostatic factors. Until about the Po delta was prograding into the Adriatic. After that time due to human alteration of geologic factors, such as the sedimentation rate, the delta has been degrading and the coastline subsiding, resulting in ongoing contemporaneous crises in the city of Venice, where much irreplaceable art and architecture is likely to be lost due to soaring sea level in the next centuries. Where the land surface now dips below sea level the river must run at a relative elevation between dikes. Landscape of the Bassa: The Po Valley is often regarded as a syncline, or dip in the crust due to compression at the edges. Regardless of whether this concept accurately describes its geology, the valley is manifestly a sediment-filled trough, or virtual syncline, continuous with the deeps of the Adriatic Sea. The surface terrain is therefore divided into two overall types of landform: The upper areas of the Po valley take local names which reflect in their meanings their being modestly suited for farming. So we have the Piedmontese *vaude* and *baragge*, the Lombard *brughiere* and *Groane*, or, exiting from the Po valley proper, the Friulian *magredi*, areas remote from easily reachable water tables and covered with dense woods or dry soils. This specific meaning for "lower plain" derive from a geologic feature called the *fontanili* "spring" line or zone, a band of springs around the Val Po, heaviest on the north, on the lowermost slopes of the anticline. The rock above the line is porous. Surface water in the intermittent streams of the mountains tends to disappear below ground only to spring out again in the spring zone. Its main anthropic value is for hydro-electric power, irrigation and industrial transport. The cost of purifying it for human consumption makes that process less feasible. The fresh drinking water comes from hundreds of thousands of wells concentrated especially in the *fontanili* zone. The major settlements therefore are also in that zone, which has become the centre of economic development and industry in Italy, and now is an almost continuous megalopolis stretching from Turin to Trieste. The waterlogging process of the area continued until the 10th century AD influencing the human sustenance and settling practices. According to historical-archaeological data, indeed, the wetlands were exploited for fishing as well as for transport by boat while the early medieval sites settled on the fluvial ridges, in topographically higher and strategic position[12] in the surrounding swampy meadows. The Po Valley has been completely turned to agriculture since the Middle Ages, when efforts from monastic orders, feudal lords and free communes converged. The older and smaller cities deriving from ancient times are still located there. According to historical maps and documents the land reclamation of the Po Valley reached its peak during the Renaissance 15th-16th centuries AD and continued in the Modern Age 17th-18th centuries AD, with the last marsh areas only being reclaimed in the 20th century AD: Cfa, or continental temperate cool-humid with fog in winter and warm-moist in summer climate in other

classification. The conformation of the plain, surrounded by the Alps and the Apennines, and the influence of the Adriatic Sea cause high levels of relative humidity throughout the year. The climate of the Po Valley becomes increasingly warmer and more humid farther south and east. Fog and mist are frequent, although the urban heat effect has made winters less foggy and cold than before. Snow can occasionally occur and prolonged winter droughts increasingly deny sufficient moisture to the soil. Frequent thunderstorms and sudden hailstorms have the potential to produce large hail, dump large quantities of rain, and be highly destructive to crops. Spring and autumn are well-marked and pleasant. Both winter and summer are less mild in the lower parts along the Po, while the Adriatic Sea and the great lakes moderate the local climate in their proximities. Winds are usually weak, although sudden bursts of foehn or thunderstorms can sweep the air clean. The almost enclosed nature of the Padan basin, indeed, added to the crushing weight of road traffic, makes it prone to a high level of pollution in winter, when cold air clings to the soil. The natural potential vegetation of the Po basin is a mixed broadleaved forest of *Quercus robur*, *Populus* ssp. History Prehistory and antiquity The Po Valley has had traces of inhabitation since at least 100,000 years ago, when the first big glaciation of pleistocene took place. Sites like Monte Poggiolo may have served as refuges of human populations fleeing the terribly cold conditions of northern Europe during the subsequent glaciations along pleistocene [13] The valley was covered by sea level in warm times, but glaciations could cause a lower sea level that allowed big mammals and humans to migrate from Africa and the Middle East to central and western Europe through an empty and open Po valley, avoiding the barrier of the Alps, reaching the Loire Valley, and Iberian Peninsula, and then, when glaciation retreated, the rest of continental Europe. Urban development began in the Po Valley much later than in southern Italy or Greece. The first known ancient inhabitants of the thick forests and swamps were the Ligurians, an Indo-European race of people. After the progressive immigration in the 7th century BC of Celtic peoples known as the Insubres hence the name of Insubria sometimes being given to northwestern Lombardy, the southern and central regions were conquered and colonised here and there by a pre-Indo-European people, the Etruscans, who left names such as Parma, Ravenna and Felsina, the ancient name of Bologna. The Etruscan domination left significant marks and introduced urban civilisation, but was short-lived. This invasion from the north did not reach Veneto, its inhabitants, the Venetics, likely being a distinct group who, being skillful merchants, were, in time, also culturally influenced by both Etruscans and Greeks. Diachronic distribution of Celtic peoples: A warlike people, they even raided and burnt Rome itself in BC under a leader named Brennus. Roman revenge took time, but was total and definitive: Celtic languages disappeared from northern Italy, replaced by Latin culture. By BC, Rome was master of the woody plains and soon displaced the Etruscans, dotting the region with bustling colonies, clearing the land, fighting the last rebel tribes and gradually imposing its own civilisation. The centuries of Roman domination decided forever the main aspect of the Po Valley. Cities dotted the areas at the foothills of the Alps and Apennines in two stretches: Julius Caesar granted Roman citizenship to the peoples of these lands, whence he recruited many of his bravest troops. The Po Valley for a time hosted the capital of the Western Roman Empire, in Mediolanum from 27 BC to 476 AD, and then in Ravenna until its political collapse. It was attacked in the 3rd century by Germanic tribes bursting through the Alps and sacked two centuries later by Attila the Hun. Led by their king Theoderic the Great, the Ostrogoths conquered the region from the north in the final years of the 5th century, deposing Odoacer, the barbarian ruler of Italy who had succeeded the last Western Roman emperor. In this scenario of desolation, from which many people had fled to the mountains for safety making them fairly populated till the 20th century came the Germanic Lombards, a warrior people who gave their name to almost the whole of the Po valley: In the Middle Ages the term was used to indicate all of northern Italy. The Lombards divided their domain in duchies, often contending for the throne; Turin and Friuli, in the extreme west and east end respectively, seem to have been the most powerful, whereas the capital soon shifted from Verona to Pavia. Monza also was an important town in that time, more so than ruined Milan. The Lombard kingdom was overthrown in by Charlemagne and his Frankish armies, becoming a prized part of the Carolingian Empire. In Veneto, the lagoon capital of Venice, emerged a great sea power in alliance with its old master, the Byzantine Empire. In time the Comuni emerged, as towns thrived in commerce. Soon Milan became the most powerful city of the central plain of Lombardy proper, and despite

being razed in , it was a Milan-driven Lombard League with Papal benediction that defeated emperor Frederick Barbarossa at the Battle of Legnano in Further civil wars escalated in the Guelph-Ghibelline reciprocal bloodbath of the 13th and 14th century. The Signorie came from spent out Communal institutions. Vast areas were irrigated and cultivated with the most modern techniques available. The population averaged some 50 people per square kilometer, a very high standard for those times. Early modern map depicting the eastern Po Valley and river delta , Vatican Museums. In , the ruinous Italian Wars began between France and Spain , which lasted for decades. Land changed hands frequently. Even Switzerland received some Italian-speaking lands in the north Canton Ticino , not technically a part of the Padan region , and the Venetian domain was invaded, forcing Venice into neutrality as an independent power. The Spanish domination was oppressive, adding its burden to the Counterreformation imposed by the archbishopric of Milan ; Protestantism was prevented from making inroads in the area. Burning at the stake became common practice during witchhunts , especially in the neighboring Alpine lands. During this bleak period, however, Lombard industry recovered, especially the textile branch, its pillar. When the War of Spanish Succession traded Milan to Austria , government and administration improved significantly. Though the peasantry began a century-long plunge into misery, cities prospered and grew. When Napoleon I entered the Po Valley during some of his brightest campaigns and , culminating in the historical Battle of Marengo , he found an advanced country and made it into his Kingdom of Italy. In the west, in Piedmont , the Savoy dynasty would emerge to serve as a springboard for Italian unification. Late modern and contemporary The Risorgimento , after an unsuccessful start in and , triumphed ten years later in Lombardy , which was conquered by a Franco-Piedmontese army. Poverty in the countryside increased emigration to the Americas , a phenomenon which subsided in the central region towards the end of the 19th century, but persisted in Veneto well into the 20th century. Industry grew rapidly, thanks to an abundance of water and literate manpower. The World Wars did not significantly damage the area, despite the destruction caused by Allied aerial bombing of many cities and heavy frontline fighting in Romagna. The Resistance protected the main industries, which the Third Reich was using for war production, preventing their destruction: Most cities and towns, notably Milan and Turin, were freed by the partisans days before the Allies arrived. After the war, the Padan area took the lead in the economic miracle of the s and 60s. Since , Lega Nord , a federation of Northern regionalist parties, has promoted either secession or larger autonomy for the Padan area which they call Padania. Economy The Po Valley is one of the most important industrial and agricultural areas in Europe. Hydroelectricity is produced by the flow of the Po. Retrieved 4 June Archived from the original on 1 August Retrieved 6 June Springs and spring watercourses: Springs in the Northern Italian plains pdf. The European culture area:

**Chapter 9 : Earth Snapshot – Turin**

*However, the Po Valley is not visible from Little St Bernard Pass and it is more likely that Hannibal pointed in the direction of the Po Valley but it was not in sight. After the two days of rest, Hannibal ordered the descent from the Alps to begin.*

Though most believed they would have a few days to get acclimated to a combat zone, the Polar Bears were suddenly marched north and placed in front line positions in the Minturno-Castelforte front overnight of March 17, replacing troops of the 88th Infantry Division. This was the "Gustav Line" front, which stretched across the breadth of Italy at the base of the Liri Valley. The remainder of the 85th Division arrived in Naples and concentrated in designated bivouacs until division headquarters arrived on March 27 and assignment of the division was formally made to Second Corps. The 85th Division was formally committed to action as a division in the Minturno-Castelforte area on 10 April, north of the Garigliano River and facing the Gustav Line. On 11 May, the division launched its attack in conjunction with the Fifth Army assault on the Gustav Line, taking Solacciano, Castellonorato, and finally Formia. Itri fell on 19 May, and the 85th continued to mop up the Gaeta Peninsula. Terracina was taken by the 1st Infantry and the road to the Anzio beachhead was opened. The Division pursued the enemy to the hills near Sezze until pinched out by friendly forces of IV Corps pushing inland from Anzio. The Gustav Line had been smashed and the 85th started for a rest area on 29 May, but was ordered to the Lariano sector which the Division cleared by the 31st. The Custermen advanced to Viterbo before being relieved on 10 June. After rehabilitation and training near Lido di Roma and two other training areas, the 85th Infantry Division took over a defensive sector of the Arno River line from 15 to 26 August. The division was aligned west of Florence and assigned a long stretch of the river for observation and containment of enemy forces. The division was relieved by the 6th South African Division on 29 August and bivouacked south of Florence for training and recuperation. German forces had used Italian laborers to construct fortified troop emplacements and gun positions, bordered with thousands of mines, wire and other obstacles. Intense contact began in the early morning hours with most of the 1st Infantry assault companies stalled by strong defenses and heavy enemy fire. The Custermen could not be denied and tenaciously held onto the ridge for the next four days. The 85th Division immediately pursued the retreating enemy northward, the 1st Infantry spearheading the crossing the Santerno River at San Pelligrino on 20 September and the city of Firenzuola fell to the 1st Infantry on 21 September. Dismal weather began to play a major role in slowing the advance as rain, fog, and mud hampered the allied drive. After a bitter and heavy fight, the 1st Infantry secured Mount Canda on 28 September. The 1st and 2nd Infantry combined assault on the enemy reinforced ridge called Torre Poggioli led to an intense battle for La Martina, a crossroads village of prime importance to enter the Idice River and Sillaro River valleys. Flanking the two regiments, the 2nd Infantry secured a series of hills west of La Martina and all three were subjected to heavy enemy counterattacks and artillery. La Martina was finally secured with the enemy withdrawal on 2 October, gaining the Idice River Valley Road that same day. Despite worsening weather conditions and stiffening enemy resistance, the division fought the battle for Mount Bibeles and Mount delle Formiche, when it reached Mount Mezzano on 24 October, overlooking the Po River Valley. From 27 October to 22 November, the division was placed in a defensive posture near Pizzano, a combination of weather, shortages, and exhaustion playing into the decision. On 22 November, after sixty straight days in combat, the 85th Infantry Division was relieved from the front line and ordered to a location near Gagliano and Montecatini Terme for a period of rest and rehabilitation. A brief period of rest and training followed for the Custer Division until mid-December, when an unexpected German attack in the Serchio River Valley against the 92nd Infantry Division caused a break in Fifth Army defenses. The 1st Infantry was immediately sent to the area to reinforce the 92nd Division, followed soon after by the 2nd Infantry. The Custermen reached the scene and recovered lost equipment and territory as the enemy forces retreated. The two regiments remained in this area after the new year when they were ordered to an area south of Bologna preparatory to manning portions of the Winter Line. The 85th Division relieved the 1st British Division on 6 January near Mount Grande and limited its activities to cautious

patrols and probes of enemy defenses until 13 March. Soon after, Fifth and Eighth Armies began their final drive into the Po Valley against a weakened and under strength enemy. Some units fought stubbornly while others gave way and retreated in the face of allied air power and armored ground forces, which could now maneuver on the level terrain of the valley. After a brief training period, the 85th thrust southwest of Bologna on 14 April, pushing through Lucca and Pistoia into the Po Valley as enemy resistance collapsed. The Panaro River was crossed on the 23rd and the Po River was reached the next day. On 25 April, the 85th Division crossed the Po River at several points by raft and pontoon bridges. After establishing a bridgehead, the infantry regiments were organized into mounted task forces that drove directly on to Verona and the city was taken on 26 April by a combined force from the 1st Battalion, th Infantry and elements of the 1st Armored Division. Troops from the 1st Battalion, th Infantry were the first to cross over the Adige River on a makeshift bridge where they captured a number of prisoners, stores of German equipment, and a large German hospital. After crossing the Adige River, the remaining combat arms of the division took up defensive positions north of Verona until 28 April when motorized task forces drove into the Italian Alps to close the Brenner Pass. The Division mopped up fleeing Germans until the mass surrender of German forces in Italy on 2 May , and halted in the Belluno-Agordo area. The Custer Division performed garrison and guard duty for the next two months in northern Italy until mid-July when orders were given for rotation of soldiers based on the points system, from the division into other units. The division was deactivated the following day at Camp Patrick Henry.

Division Time Line April 15, Division activated at Camp Shelby, Mississippi. The Division reaches its authorized strength. The Custer Division is transported to Louisiana to begin army-level maneuvers. First elements of 85th Division land in North Africa. Amphibious training on the North African coast. First elements of the 85th Infantry Division arrive in Naples, Italy. The Custer Division is committed to a combat area around Minturno as a complete division. Operation Diadem, assault on the Gustav Line. The 85th Infantry Division marches through Rome. Training in mountain and river crossing tactics. The Arno River September October Combat Team 9 is sent to the Serchio Valley to reinforce the 92nd Division. Hostilities cease in Italy. Returned to United States: Haislip May February , Maj. Coulter February to inactivation.