



3RD INFANTRY DIVISION

ROCK OF THE MARNE

AT THE GOING DOWN OF THE SUN AND IN THE MORNING ...WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.



Memorial project on the "Mignano Gap"



Society of Third Infantry Division US Army op.16 Italy



The idea



The idea of a memorial to the U.S. Army Third Infantry Division arose at the end of historical research done in the area defined in 1943 as "Mignano Gap" and from the knowledge of the sacrifice of so many "Dogface Soldiers" who sacrificed themselves in November 1943 to open the gap to Cassino. One of the most important battles in Italy for the Third Division had no place for commemoration and remembrance. Hence the request to the Office for the Protection of the Culture of Memory and Defense, to be able to place a small memorial within the grounds of the Montelungo Memorial Museum, because it marks the highest point of advance of the Third Infantry Division US Army, in the Italian Campaign after the Battipaglia landing. The subsequent landing at Neptune will lead, with very heavy sacrifices of men and means to the liberation of Rome. On the occasion of the 80th anniversary of the battles on the Mignano Pass, we felt a duty to the fallen soldiers and veterans of those battles to ask the Italian military authorities for a memorial to remember them.





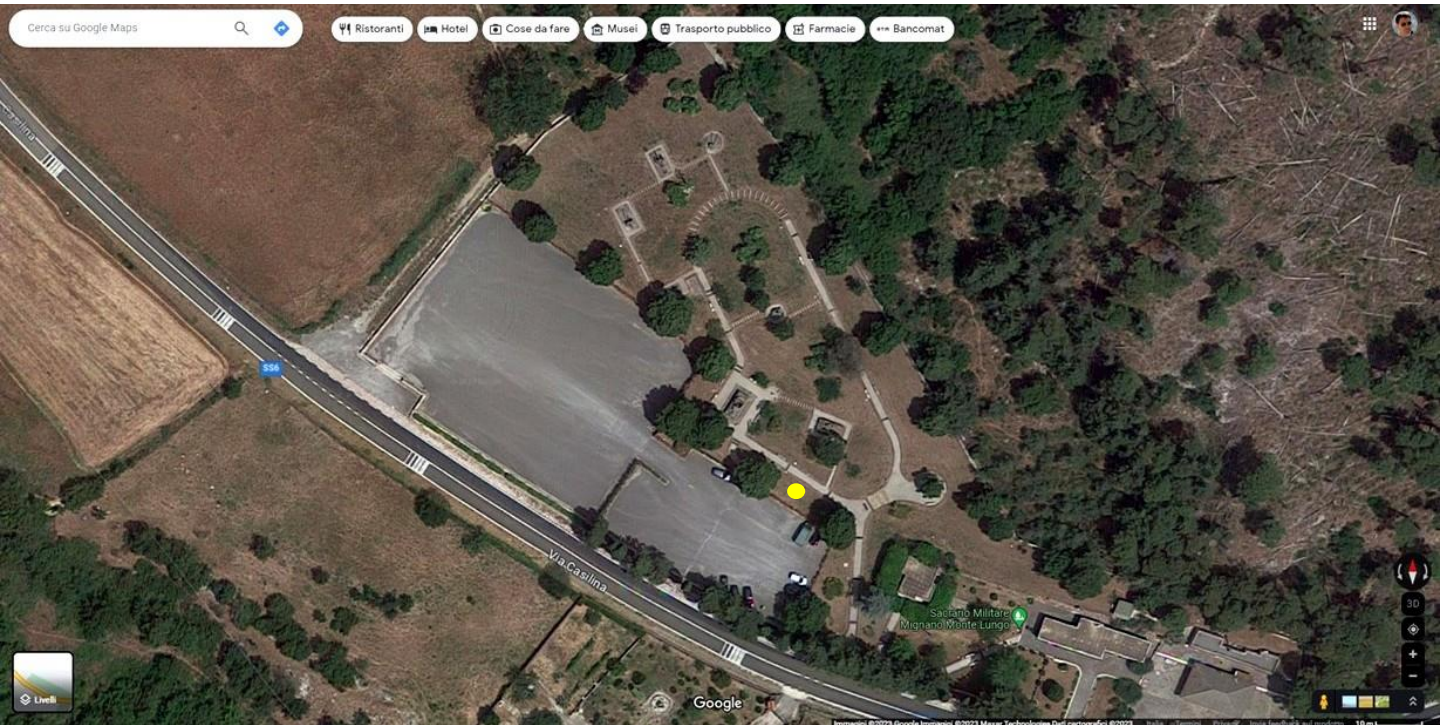
A central place of great significance



The chosen spot is in the center of the combat area and within a museum park attached to the Montelungo Military Memorial, protected and guarded from acts of vandalism and looting that find no explanation, when there was one, for objects and artifacts of little value in euros but great moral value.



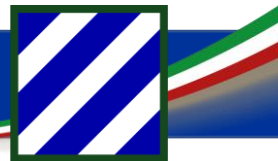
Montelungo Military Memorial Museum Park



The proposed spot is located in the ground facing the second parking lot; next to, in perspective, the Sherman tank. The location also, slightly elevated above the parking lot, allows ceremonies with the presence of pickets to render honors, without inconveniencing the road system and leaving the large parking lot below free.

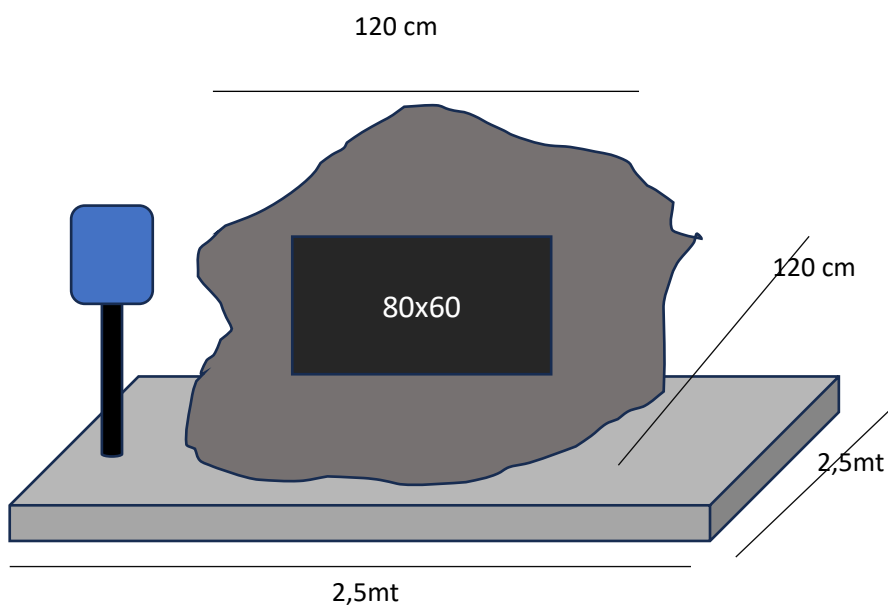
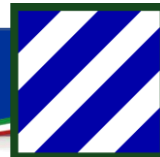


Memorial area and placement

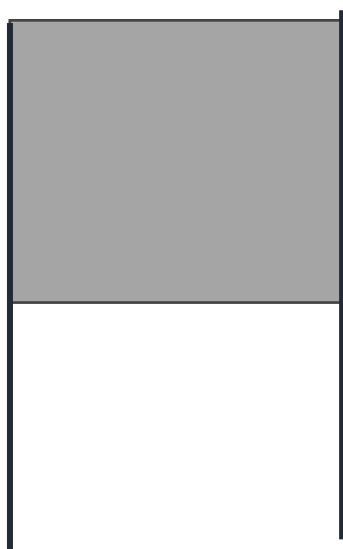




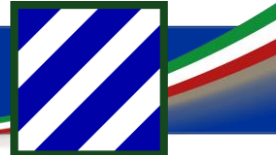
For the memorial, we planned to place in the above area a boulder made of white travertine, a marble from the historic quarries in Tivoli from which Ancient Roman marbles were extracted. A brass plaque with the inscription in English will be placed on the boulder. To the side of the boulder on a small sign will be placed a plaque with the translation in Italian. A few meters from the boulder, if the idea is liked, we would like to place a panel explaining the boulder, the history of the Third Infantry Division and the November fighting in Italian and English.



Information panel
With translation into Italian
Of the plaque and motivations



Information panel on the Third InfantryUS Army and the battles of November 1943 in Italian and English, placed under the tree on the right side of the memorial.



SACRARIO MILITARE DI MIGNANO MONTELUONGO

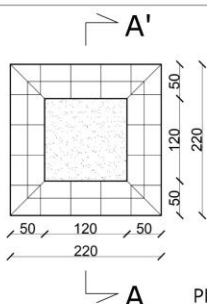
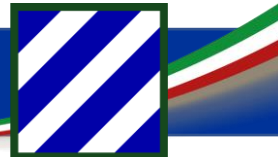
Richiesta di realizzazione di un monumento commemorativo ai Caduti della Terza Divisione di Fanteria U.S. ARMY all'interno dell'area museale del Sacrario Militare di Mignano Monte Lungo. Proposta.



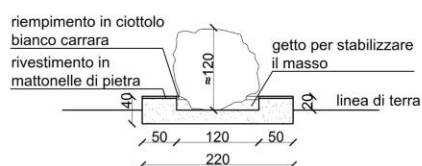
Area individuata ove collocare la nuova targa



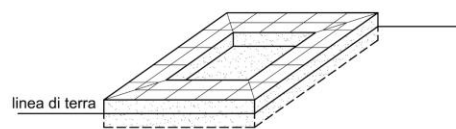
Ipotesi di progetto definitivo



PIANTA



SEZIONE AA'



ASSONOMETRIA

TAV. UNICA

COMUNE DI MIGNANO MONTE LUNGO

OGGETTO: PROPOSTA PROGETTUALE PRELIMINARE PER LA REALIZZAZIONE DI UN MEMORIALE DEDICATO AI COMBATTENTI DI MONTE LUNGO, MONTE ROTONDO, MONTE CAMINO DELLA TERZA DIVISIONE DI FANTERIA US ARMY NELL'OTTANTESIMO ANNIVERSARIO, PRESSO IL MUSEO DEL SACRARIO MILITARE DI MONTELUONGO

COMMITTENTE: ASSOCIAZIONE TERZA DIVISIONE DI FANTERIA US ARMY OP16 ITALY

STUDIO TECNICO

ARCH. FILIPPO FRANCESCHI-ARCH. DIEGO BETTI-
GEOM. PAOLO FRANCESCHI
VIALE ADUA 138 - PISTOIA
0573450621 - franceschi55@gmail.com



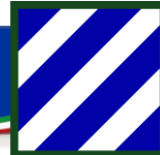
VISTA DI MASSIMA SUL SITO

Pistoia, Settembre 2023

Scala 1:50



The request



Letter sent to the Ministry of Defense for permission

M_D A45E15A REG2023 0011143 04-10-2023



MINISTERO DELLA DIFESA

UFFICIO PER LA TUTELA DELLA CULTURA E DELLA MEMORIA DELLA DIFESA

Indirizzo postale: Piazza della Marina, 4 – 00196 ROMA
Posta elettronica: onorcaduti@onorcaduti.difesa.it
Posta elettronica certificata: onorcaduti@postacert.difesa.it

All. 1

OGGETTO: Richiesta di realizzazione di un monumento commemorativo ai Caduti della Terza Divisione di Fanteria U.S. ARMY all'interno dell'area museale del Sacario Militare di Mignano Monte Lungo. Acquisizione informazioni e parere.

A **SOPRINTENDENZA ARCHEOLOGICA, BELLE ARTI E PAESAGGIO PER LE PROVINCE DI CASERTA E BENEVENTO**
(PEC: sabap-ce@pec.cultura.gov.it)

e, per conoscenza:

DIREZIONE SACRARIO MILITARE MIGNANO M.L.
(E-mail: mignanomontelungo@onorcaduti.difesa.it)

ASSOCIAZIONE TERZA DIVISIONE DI FANTERIA US ARMY -ITALY
(Email: terzadivisionedifanteria@gmail.com)

^^^ ^^

1. Questo Ufficio ha recentemente ricevuto da parte dell'Associazione della Terza Divisione di Fanteria *US Army* una proposta intesa a posizionare un piccolo cippo commemorativo dedicato ai combattenti di Monte Lungo della Terza Divisione di Fanteria *US Army* presso l'area Sacario Militare di Mignano Montelungo (scheda progetto allegata in copia).
2. Tale realizzazione dovrebbe essere attuata in concomitanza dell'imminente ricorrenza dell'ottantesimo anniversario in programma per il prossimo novembre 2023.
3. Il predetto manufatto, di modesta entità, contribuirebbe a valorizzare ulteriormente l'area monumentale del sito con un ulteriore tangibile testimonianza del sacrificio dei soldati americani nel corso dei noti eventi connessi alla seconda guerra mondiale.
4. Per quanto precede, tenuto conto degli eventuali vincoli imposti sull'area di sedime e della lodevole e sensibile iniziativa proposta dalla predetta Associazione americana, si sarà grati a codesta Soprintendenza voler favorevolmente valutare l'intervento fornendo a questo stesso Ufficio il relativo parere di specifica competenza.
5. A disposizione per eventuali ulteriori informazioni ritenute utili al riguardo.

IL CAPO DELL'UFFICIO
(Gen. D. CC. Diego PAULETY) / *DP*
IL VICE CAPO DELL'UFFICIO
Gen. D. Marco CIAMPINI
Marco Ciampini



We have accepted the reasons given in reference to the license plate. However, we feel we should bring to your attention a few points to explain our previous position:

There is not a single Third Infantry Division plaque in the world that bears a remembrance for soldiers of other nations or of the same to which the Third Division belongs.

The Third Infantry Division Association is asked to replace with the epigraph what armies usually do representing their nation or the governments of nations themselves in remembrance of both factions that were fighting, when peace finally comes.

That every year relatives, researchers, scholars and history buffs come to visit the memorial and for that reason strict respect should be maintained for the course of events that occurred in the winter of 1943 and that saw the Third Division together with the British engaged in November and the 36th Texas Division engaged in December together with the Italians and British.

Without prejudice to these observations; out of respect for the Mignano Montelungo Shrine that hosts us and thanking the Ministry of Defense, the Office for the Protection of Defense Culture and Memory, which granted our request, we are sending two new proposals.

We care that anyone who reaches the shrine appreciates the concession made by the Defense General Staff and appreciates the exact chronology of events recorded in the honors that are transcribed on a plaque.

Below is the revised text for the plaque in two versions.



Two plaque proposals



The Third US Army Infantry Division honors and remembers the soldiers of its three regiments, 7th, 15th, 30th that in November 1943 attacked, among these mountains, the pass of Mignano to try to open the way to Rome and liberate it from Nazi-Fascism.

This stone commemorates the division's highest point of advance during the fighting and testifies to the sacrifice that went into crushing tyranny. In memory of the Dogface Soldiers who fell in that battle. And in memory of all soldiers, Italian, American and British, heroes of Montelungo, Monte Rotondo, Monte Camino, in the Italian War of Liberation.

Association of the Third Infantry Division US Army Italy

80th anniversary

Rock of the Marne!



To the Italian, American, British soldiers,

heroes of Montelungo, Monte Rotondo, Monte Camino, in the Italian War of Liberation.

The Third US Army Infantry Division honors and remembers the soldiers of its three regiments, 7th, 15th, 30th that in November 1943 attacked, among these mountains, the Mignano Pass, in an attempt to open the way to Rome and liberate it from Nazi-Fascism. This stone commemorates the division's highest point of advance during the fighting and testifies to the sacrifice that went into crushing tyranny.

In memory of the Dogface Soldiers who fell in that battle.

Association of the Third Infantry Division US Army Italy

80th anniversary

Rock of the Marne!





Should the project be authorized, we would like to try to complete and inaugurate it by February 2024, as requested by the U.S. Navy command, which intends to participate with Admiral Brad Collins.

Other guests we would like to invite who are following our project include:

- **AFSouth Battalion US Army and US Army Nato command at Lago Patria**
- **Italian Nato command at Lago Patria**
- **US Navy Command Naples**
- **American Cemetery at Nettuno**
- **A.N.C.F.A.R.G.L Rome**
- **Defense General Staff**
- **The current commander of the Third Infantry Division US Army will also be briefed.**





A thank you to them



List of officers with emails that have been activated for this project.

Carabinieri Division **General Diego PAULET**

Head of the Office for the Protection of the Culture of Defense Memory.

General **D. Marco Ciampini**

Deputy commissioner general

onorcaduti@onorcaduti.difesa.it

Captain of the Navy **Antonio Conio**

dld.direttore@utcmd.difesa.it

Captain **Riccardo Galante**

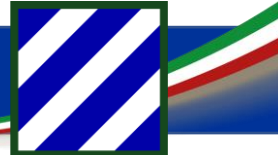
dld.canureco@utcmd.difesa.it

Lieutenant **Daniele Galardo**

Director of the Montelungo Military Memorial

direttore.mignanomontelungo@utcmd.difesa.it





Honoring and Remembering their sacrifice to future generations

