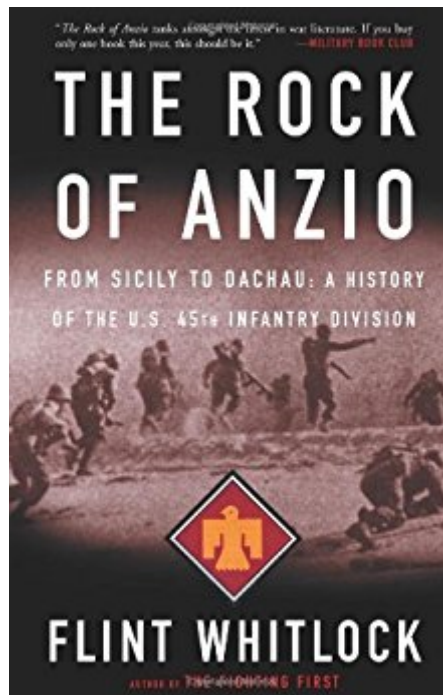


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# The Rock Of Anzio: From Sicily To Dachau, A History Of The U.S. 45th Infantry Division



## Synopsis

Anzio was one of the greatest battles of World War II—a desperate gamble to land a large amphibious force behind German lines in Italy in the hope that the war could be shortened by capturing Rome. It also turned out to be one of the bloodiest battles in U.S. military history. Based on extensive research into archives, photos, letters, diaries, previously classified official records, and scores of personal interviews with surviving veterans of the 45th, *The Rock of Anzio* is written with an immediacy that puts the reader right onto the battlefield and shows us war through the eyes of ordinary men called upon to perform extraordinary deeds.

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## Customer Reviews

The 45th Infantry Division was a US National Guard division drawn from northern Texas and Oklahoma, and during World War II, it saw some horrific action in Italy, Southern France, and the invasion of Germany. What made the division's background unique was that it was heavily drawn from American citizens who had suffered much at the hands of their government and fellow citizens: Native Americans, from many tribes across the two states. Called to the colors that had brought them suffering for decades, these Native Americans served those colors with unbelievable honor and courage, earning high decorations and sacrificing their lives to do so. Just as importantly, the

45th Infantry Division played a major role in the American war effort. The "Thunderbirds" made their combat debut in the invasion of Sicily, and suffered accordingly in that victorious drive. They invaded the Italian mainland at Salerno, which was, as the Duke of Wellington would have said, "a near-run thing," and as more recent historian Eric Morris said, "A Military Disaster." From there, the 45th fought its way up the Italian boot, until it was used in the end-run amphibious assault at Anzio. There the division gained its name and this book its title, as the 45th Infantry held off ferocious German counterattacks against the perimeter amid appalling conditions. The 45th went on to conquer Rome, and then was sequestered for its third amphibious assault of the war: the invasion of Southern France.

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