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Autore	Anon
Titolo	Anzio Beachhead (22 January-25 May 1944)
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ISBN	1-78289-462-4
Edizione	[Commemorative Edition.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (170 pages) : illustrations, maps
Collana	American forces in action series
Disciplina	940.5421
Soggetti	Anzio, Battle of, Anzio, Italy, 1944
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
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Note generali	"World War II, 50th anniversary, commemorative edition." G.P.O. sales statement incorrect in publication. Reprint. Originally published: Washington, D.C. : Historical Division, War Dept., 1948. (American forces in action series). "PIN: 039687-000."
Sommario/riassunto	Includes with 25 maps and 36 Illustrations.The story of Anzio must be read against the background of the preceding phase of the Italian campaign. The winter months of 1943-44 found the Allied forces in Italy slowly battering their way through the rugged mountain barriers blocking the roads to Rome. After the Allied landings in southern Italy, German forces had fought a delaying action while preparing defensive lines to their rear. The main defensive barrier guarding the approaches to Rome was the Gustav Line, extending across the Italian peninsula from Minturno to Ortona. Enemy engineers had reinforced the natural mountain defenses with an elaborate network of pillboxes, bunkers, and mine fields. The Germans had also reorganized their forces to resist the Allied advance. On 21 Nov. 1943, Field Marshal Albert Kesselring took over the command of the entire Italian theater; Army Group C, under his command, was divided into two armies, the Tenth facing the southern front and also holding the Rome area, and the Fourteenth guarding central and northern Italy. In a year otherwise filled with defeat, Hitler was determined to gain the prestige of holding

the Allies south of Rome. In the early morning hours of 22 Jan. 1944, VI Corps of Lt. Gen. Mark Clark's Fifth Army landed on the Italian coast below Rome and established a beachhead far behind the enemy lines. In the four months between this landing and Fifth Army's May offensive, the short stretch of coast known as the Anzio beachhead was the scene of one of the most courageous and bloody dramas of the war. The Germans threw attack after attack against the beachhead in an effort to drive the landing force into the sea. Fifth Army troops, put fully on the defensive for the first time, rose to the test. Hemmed in by numerically superior enemy forces, they held their beachhead, fought off every enemy attack, and then built up a powerful striking force which spearheaded Fifth Army's triumphant entry into Rome in June.
