

DISTINGUISHED MEMBER OF THE CIVIL AFFAIRS REGIMENT



**COLONEL
FRANK E. TOSCANI**
U.S. Army, Posthumous

Inducted April 26, 2024



Born on May 20, 1911, Col. Frank E. Toscani joined the New York National Guard on Feb. 26, 1936. During World War II, Toscani, a fluent Italian speaker, conducted allied military government in Italy.

Assigned to the 3rd Infantry Division as a military government officer, he participated in the first amphibious landings on July 10, 1943 for Operation Husky, the invasion of Sicily. Once ashore, Toscani became the military governor of Licata.

During the invasion of Italy, Toscani landed at Paestum before his assignment to the U.S. Fifth Army, where he served as the chief of Section of Economics and Supply for the Allied Military Government. While there, Toscani ensured the local population had adequate food supplies. He and his team set local prices, distributed fuel, established a rationing system, and collaborated with food distribution agencies to arrange the importation of critical supplies.

His efforts contributed to supplying 22 million civilians with food in northern Italy and led to his promotion as chief of Economic and Supply on the Allied Control Commission for Italy. He also organized a system of mobile warehouses, which advanced the U.S. Fifth Army from Naples to move northward through Italy.

For his exemplification of honor and duty, Toscani earned awards including five campaign stars and the Legion of Merit. He also received the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire and, from Italy, the Commander of the Crown and the Voluntary Patriots of Liberty.

Author John Hersey captured Toscani's positive work in caring for the Italian population and in conducting military governance in his book, *A Bell for Adano*. It was eventually made into a play and movie, highlighting the impact U.S. Army Civil Affairs has in a wartime environment.

After World War II, Toscani served in several assignments in the 353rd Military Government Area Headquarters. He ended his military career after serving six years as the deputy commander and another six years as the commander of what is now known as the 353rd Civil Affairs Command.

Toscani also served in the roles of director and vice president of the Military Government Association. Toscani passed away on Jan. 24, 2001.