

TIMELINE

1899 FORT LAWTON CONSTRUCTED
named after General Henry Ware Lawton

1900 BUFFALO SOLDIERS AT FORT LAWTON
9th Cavalry transiting to China during Boxer Revolution

1910 TWENTY-FIFTH INFANTRY BASED AT FORT LAWTON
Presence of all-black unit stirs racial tension in Seattle neighborhood

1943 MASS SURRENDER IN NORTH AFRICA
240,000 Axis soldiers, including more than 100,000 Italians, taken prisoner in Tunisia

1943 FIRST ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR ARRIVE IN ARIZONA
Seven-thousand assigned to newly-constructed camp in Florence, AZ

1944 FEBRUARY 21: BASIC TRAINING BEGINS FOR 650th & 651st PORT COMPANIES
Two all-black units stationed in segregated barracks at Fort Lawton

1944 MAY 18: 28th ISU LEAVES CAMP FLORENCE
Newly-formed Italian Service Unit arrives at Seattle's Fort Lawton two days later

1944 JUNE 6: D-DAY
Allies storm Normandy, France

1944 JULY 10: INSURRECTION AT FORT LAWTON BY FASCIST POWs
One thousand Italian prisoners from Arkansas forcibly removed to Hawaii-bound transport ships

1944 JULY 18: GULIELMO OLIVOTTO EVALUATED
Italian POW visits Fort Lawton psychiatrist

1944 JULY 18: EXPLOSION AT PORT CHICAGO, CALIFORNIA
Hundreds of sailors killed; event led to largest Navy court-martial of WWII

1944 AUGUST 12: PRESIDENT FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT VISITS SEATTLE
Concludes top-secret journey to Hawaii and Alaska; train departs adjacent to Fort Lawton

1944 AUGUST 14: RIOT AT FORT LAWTON
31 injured, including 25 Italians and 6 Americans

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1944 AUGUST 15: BODY OF GUGLIELMO OLIVOTTO DISCOVERED
Lynched from obstacle course at base of Magnolia bluffs

1944 AUGUST 21: LINEUP AT CAMP GEORGE JORDAN
Italian prisoners identify fifty black American soldiers as possible riot suspects

1944 AUGUST 23: 650th & 651st PORT COMPANIES DEPART SEATTLE
All members of units, except riot suspects, leave for New Guinea, via San Francisco

1944 SEPTEMBER 15: LUTHER LARKIN ORDERED BACK FROM NEW GUINEA
Leaves assignment unloading LSTs

1944 SEPTEMBER 16: GENERAL ELLIOT COOKE BEGINS INVESTIGATION
Arrives at Fort Lawton to interrogate dozens of witnesses and officers

1944 OCTOBER 13: COLONEL HARRY BRANSON RELIEVED OF COMMAND
Fort Lawton Commander removed from post

1944 OCTOBER 27: LEON JAWORSKI FILES CRIMINAL CHARGES
43 soldiers charged with rioting; 3 also charged with first-degree murder

1944 NOVEMBER 7: ELECTION DAY
President Franklin Roosevelt elected to fourth term

1944 NOVEMBER 16: TRIAL BEGINS
Court meets in newly-constructed spacious medical processing facility

1944 NOVEMBER 23: THANKSGIVING DAY
Trial conducted six days a week, including Thanksgiving

1944 NOVEMBER 25: TRIAL SITE TOUR
Court visits barracks

1944 DECEMBER 4: PROSECUTION RESTS
Defense granted three-day recess

1944 DECEMBER 13: DEFENSE RESTS
Twenty-five defendants waive right to testify on own behalf

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1944 DECEMBER 16: CLOSING ARGUMENTS

Prosecution, then defense, then rebuttal

1944 DECEMBER 17: VERDICTS

Twenty-eight convicted, thirteen acquitted, two nolle prosequi (charges dropped)

1944 DECEMBER 18: SENTENCING

Combined sentences equaled more than two hundred years

1945 JANUARY 4: CLYDE LOMAX COURT-MARTIALED

Guilty on two counts; discharged from Army

1945 APRIL 12: FDR DIES

Buried in Hyde Park, NY April 15

1945 APRIL 19: FORT LAWTON SENTENCES UPHOLD

By Board of Review; without comment

1945 AUGUST 14: V-J DAY

World War II ends