

The Gothic Line

Last summer an interesting project took place in Borgo a Mozzano, involving a group of students, including myself. We came from three different schools in the province of Lucca. The aim of this project was to create a new website about the Gothic Line, in particular in the Borgo a Mozzano area, and to reconstruct the lighting system in one of the original tunnels from the Second World War, between Diecimo and Borgo a Mozzano. The main purpose for this project was to enhance the value of this cultural heritage, making it better known to tourists but also to the inhabitants of our territory.

The Gothic Line was designed by the German Field Marshal Albert Kesselring to slow down the Allied advances towards northern Italy after the Allies landed in Sicily. With the work of thousands of men, the complex system of fortifications and trenches was built in only a year. It was 320 km long and extended from the province of Massa Carrara to the province of Pesaro Urbino. In the Serchio valley there are many well-preserved tunnels and bunkers that can be visited.

Our group met up from April to June 2017, with the help of some tutors who work in the Borgo a Mozzano library. It is not so common to find people coming from different schools working on the same project, but we made it! This project also helped us to

*How a group of students
came together
to document
this historical site*



discover the historical background of our territory, while working together. We were divided into three projects. The students from ITIS Fermi in Lucca and the Istituto Professionale Giovanni Giorgi built the new lighting system in one of the tunnels. They designed the whole thing on the computer and estimated the costs, then they presented the project to the Mayor. Another group, called *the informatici* (I. T. workers) worked on the technical aspects to create the website. They designed the structure and colors, selected the most important photos, and so on. The third group, in which I had the pleasure to take part, sought out information regarding the history of the Gothic Line. At the beginning we visited the museum in Borgo a Mozzano, where many old items are on display. We took photos for the website, and in the Borgo a Mozzano library we started cataloguing the information. We read many old books, which meant that we could study directly from the sources. Finally, we put together the work of all the groups, although we are still working on adding more content. We made an official presentation in Borgo a Mozzano in the presence of the Mayor and all the participants.

Do not miss the opportunity to come to Borgo a Mozzano and learn more about our heritage!

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*See the website, www.lineagoticaborgoamozzano.it
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