

## **ABMC reports list - Florence American Cemetery**

Selection by Francesco Amicone

<b>Year</b>	<b>Source</b>
1975 (dal 1974)	HathiTrust, University of Michigan
1980	ABMC
1981	NARA
1982	ABMC
1983	NARA
1984	NARA
1985	Department of Libraries of Oklahoma
1986	University of California - San Diego

d. Standardization

This fiscal year also marked the completion of standardization of the principal lawn mower, as well as some other items used by this office. With the exception of the United Kingdom, where parts and service would present a serious problem, all cemeteries are now equipped with the same 30 inch production mower. All cemeteries are now also equipped with the same makes of many other items of equipment such as aerifiers, turf trucks, sod cutters, rotary mowers, sprayers and trimmers.

e. Energy

In accordance with the President's directive to reduce energy consumption for FY 1975 by 15%, the European Office instituted a vigorous conservation program and attained the following reductions:

Electricity	6%
Gasoline	16%
Fuel Oil	29%

Using BTU equivalents, a net energy saving of 23% was achieved. While the mild winter contributed largely to the reduction in fuel oil consumption, a considerable management effort and, in some cases, restrictions of necessary maintenance operations were required to attain these reductions.

9. Superintendents' Conference

On 24-25 October 1974, a Superintendents' Conference was held at Lorraine American Cemetery, St. Avoild, France. In attendance were Superintendents, Assistant Superintendents (and Trainees), and principal members of the European Office staff. Guest attendees were Colonel James Brown, Officer-in-Charge Mediterranean Office and Mr. Joseph Bevilacqua, Assistant Superintendent Trainee of Florence Cemetery. The two-day conference, superbly organized by Mr. DeGuisti, Superintendent of Lorraine Cemetery, ably assisted by Mr. Merlyn L. Grove and Mr. Norman B. Iorio, Superintendents of Netherlands and Oise-Aisne Cemeteries respectively, proved an exceptionally valuable and useful experience for all concerned. Committee discussions, led by designated Superintendents, covered every aspect of European Office operations and brought out many useful comments and recommendations concerning current problems. On the final day of the Conference, the attendees toured Lorraine Cemetery and observed demonstrations of new equipment and labor-saving devices developed by self-help within the cemetery-memorials. A detailed report of the conference was submitted under separate cover.

## ANNEX B

Florence Cemetery and MemorialItaly1. Personnel

a. At the end of the fiscal year, personnel consisted of two U.S. civilians and 15 local nationals. Mr. Dominic T. Valentine served as Superintendent from 1 July to 3 September 1974 at which time he was transferred to the Sicily-Rome Cemetery to assume Superintendent duties.

b. Mr. Morris V. Brewer, Assistant Superintendent, North Africa Cemetery was appointed Superintendent of the Florence American Cemetery on 29 September 1974 and served as Superintendent the remainder of the year.

c. Mr. Joseph Bevilacqua reported for duty as Superintendent-Trainee on 1 July 1974 and served as such until 31 May 1975. On 1 June 1975, Mr. Bevilacqua was promoted to Assistant Superintendent.

d. Messrs. Gino Bartolini, Maintenceman, and Gino Bernacchioni, Gardener/Foreman, retired on 23 November 1974 and 21 December 1974 respectively. A retirement ceremony in their honor was held at the Cemetery Service Area and each retiree was presented with an engraved wristwatch from the Cemetery staff and personnel.

e. Two new local nationals were hired to fill the vacancies created by the above requirements.

f. At a ceremony on 17 January 1975, the Officer-in-Charge presented service pins and certificates to five persons. At another ceremony on 13 February 1975, the Officer-in-Charge presented a cash incentive award to one Cemetery employee.

2. Maintenance and Repaira. Contracts

(1) Installed two electric recirculation pumps to improve the heating system forced air furnaces in both residences.

(2) Installed five new telephones as replacements for the old telephones, and increased communications capability throughout.

(3) A local Italian expert repaired the transparent surface sealer of the Seagliola map in the Memorial.

(4) Local electric company replaced the industrial current electric meter (reactive current) at the transformer station and calibrated all the other electric meters in service group and residences.

(5) Installed new stainless steel kitchen sink and drain board with base cabinet in Assistant Superintendent's quarters to replace a worn-out sink.

b. Cemetery Labor Projects

(1) Repacked Worthington pumps, overhauled air compressor, and repainted entire interior pump installation in pump room.

(2) Replaced defective flushing mechanisms in six of the cemetery toilets.

(3) Cleaned, washed and siliconated all marble headstones.

(4) Cleaned and washed all Travertine stone structures throughout. Applied "THALTOX Q" algicide to surfaces.

(5) Cleaned, washed and whitewashed retaining wall behind memorial area complex.

(6) Washed and cleaned granite slabs of Walls of the Missing.

(7) Painted all fire points, manhole covers, storm drains, sluice gate, and fire hydrants throughout.

(8) Painted both entrance gates including decorative wreaths and polished rondelles.

(9) Painted all teakwood benches in burial area.

(10) Painted all boundary and directional signs. Installed six new boundary signs, and three "No Entry" signs.

(11) Painted interior walls of water reservoir and water plant. Painted exterior doors and entry of both buildings.

(12) Repaired eight breaks in boundary fence. Painted south fence.

(13) Painted all door and window shutters of residences. Painted window shutters and doors and service group buildings.

- (14) Recemented Porphyry and Selci stone settings at memorial area, and stone settings at bridge and office complex.
- (15) Repaired broken water service pipe-line (pump house to reservoir) at south side of Plot C.
- (16) Repaired six defective sprinkler valve service pipes.
- (17) Repaired two defective fire hydrants, and replaced defective cesspool pipe in service area.
- (18) Installed new resistor/electrodes complete assembly in the ozone station.
- (19) Constructed additional wooden storage bins in storage building to house ASL parts and supplies. Relocated all janitorial and office supplies to office building cellar.
- (20) Cleaned gold eagle atop flagpole and painted flagpole.
- (21) Pruned 102 FNG specimen plane trees. Planted 235 replacement rose plantings at flagpole and office area.
- (22) Applied the highest standards of maintenance and repair.

### 3. Services to and Relations with the Public

- a. Relationships with all local authorities and U.S. Government agencies as well as attitude of host country nationals, are excellent.
- b. The Florence Cemetery maintains a close liaison with the U.S. Consul General, Florence.
- c. High standards of services to NOK and the public continued and all requests for assistance were met. On numerous occasions, U.S. civilian staff members provided transportation to stranded NOK visitors--to and from the cemetery.

### 4. Conservation of Government Funds

#### a. Savings in Electrical Energy

- (1) Replaced all light bulbs throughout cemetery with lower wattage bulbs. Checked and repaired as necessary any defective electric wiring.
- (2) Lowered thermostat settings to lowest acceptable settings in work areas and residences.



(3) Use of light fixtures during daylight hours eliminated except when necessary for work.

(4) Use of industrial current to operate deep well pump minimized.

**b. Savings in Gasoline and Fuel Oil**

(1) Number of weekly trips with official sedan reduced by 40%. Trips to U.S. Consulate, mail pick-up, etc., combined with trips to make local purchases and dealing with merchants.

(2) All vehicles and motor powered equipment tuned up. Overhauled as necessary.

(3) Smaller vehicles used in place of larger gasoline consuming vehicles, when applicable.

(4) Fuel heating systems turned off at night and during prolonged absences of quarters' occupants.

(5) New recirculation pumps installation in residences provides better heating and more economical fuel oil consumption.

**c. Savings in Utilities**

Long distance calls reduced by 45%. More use of written communications media to transmit cemetery business to Rome Office, except where urgent business requires immediate transmission.

ANNEX B

Florence Cemetery and Memorial

1. Personnel

At the end of the fiscal year, personnel consisted of one U.S. civilian and fifteen local nationals. Mr. Joseph Bevilacqua served as Superintendent throughout the year. Mr. Stoke R. Kempton, Assistant Superintendent terminated his duty with ABMC effective 29 December 1979. He was not replaced due to a cut of this authorization.

2. Maintenance and Repair

a. Contracts

(1) Ditta Chiti of Pistoia (local Italian contractor) furnished manure, screened topsoil, plants, shrubs, seed and roses.

(2) Chemical fertilizers, insecticides and weed-killers were furnished by the local "Consorzio Agrario Provinciale".

(3) The telephone company "SIP" repaired the cemetery switchboard apparatus.

(4) The Resident Engineer of "Associazione Nazionale per il Controllo della Combustione" inspected the pump house compression tank.

b. Principal Cemetery Labor Projects

(1) Built concrete passover in the front meadow.

(2) Built a compost area drainage system.

(3) Built a compost curing slab at the compost pit.

(4) Cleaned, washed and applied "Thaltox Q" to the high pylon and granite sculptured figure.

(5) Repaired rain-gutters in the service group area and the Superintendent's residence.

(6) Painted gates and gilded roundelles and wreaths on entrance gates.

(7) Completely repainted the exterior of all service group buildings, the two residences, and the garage.

(8) Repaired leaking irrigation pipes in Plots "G" and "H" in center mall and underneath the water fountain at the memorial.

(9) Cleaned, washed and applied "Nubex" siliconate to all marble crosses, plot and row markers (annual "Nubex" project).

(10) Resealed joints and touched up roof of toilet building at memorial area.

(11) Minor repairs on boundary fence, (replaced wire in the area behind the ozone station).

(12) Repaired joints of river dykes and surface of the overflow river dam.

(13) Repaired culvert along the main highway (Via Cassia), and rebuilt stone wall that was damaged due to heavy rains.

(14) Replaced boxwood around rose beds in front of office and foreground area.

(15) Transplanted plants from nursery area to planting pockets, where needed.

(16) Planted four rows of pyracantha and boxwood cuttings to root new plants in the nursery area.

(17) Cemeted wooden parquet floor in the Superintendent's residence.

### 3. Services To and Relations With the Public

a. Relationship with the local authorities and U.S. Government agencies as well as attitude of host country nationals is excellent.

b. The Florence Cemetery maintains a close liaison with the U.S. Consul General and staff in Florence.

c. Next of kin and the general public are received at all times with the highest ABMC standards of service. Cemetery staff members provided on many occasions transportation to and from town for next of kin visiting this cemetery.

d. Principal visits and ceremonies:

11 October 1979 - Mr. Frank Meyer, retired Under-Secretary of State and Mr. Robert Prosser, Chief of European Foreign Buildings Office, U.S. State Department.

# Fiscal Year 1981

## ANNEX B

### Florence Cemetery and Memorial

#### Italy

#### 1. Personnel

a. At the end of the fiscal year, personnel consisted of one U.S. civilian and fifteen local nationals. Mr. Joseph Bevilacqua served as Superintendent throughout the year. Four local national employees retired and four (mechanic, two maintenancemen, and memorial guide) were hired.

b. Mr. Bevilacqua served as Acting Superintendent at the Manila American Cemetery, 21 July 1981 through 26 August 1981, during absence of the Superintendent.

#### 2. Significant Maintenance and Repair Projects

##### a. Contracts

(1) Screened topsoil, manure, plants, shrubs, seed and rose bushes delivered by Ditta Chiti of Pistoia, and chemical fertilizers, insecticides and weed killers furnished by the local "Consorzio Agrario Provinciale".

(2) Reupholstered all furniture in the visitors building.

(3) Scagliola map in the museum renovated.

##### b. Cemetery Labor

(1) Repaired concrete pillars, masonry wall and boundary fence.

(2) Repainted all cemetery signs and rain gutters.

(3) Replaced tiles on service building roofs.

(4) Installed additional boundary fence in northeast area of the cemetery.

(5) Cleaned both reservoir water cells and waterproofed walls.

(6) Pointed joints of foreground bridge area of the cemetery.

(7) Gilded gold wreaths and rondelles on both entrance gates.

(8) Pointed all stone surfaces of memorial area.

### 3. Services to and Relations with the Public

a. The revision and extension of the boundary fence was made after the formal transfer of custody to the American Battle Monuments Commission of the land where the cemetery was built, to include a small part of terrain which had been left outside of the original borderline.

b. On 18 October 1980, 18 members of the 361st Infantry Association placed a wreath at the 361st Infantry Monument.

c. All Saints Day Ceremony held on 2 November 1980. Wreaths were placed by the Vice CG, Military Region of Tuscany and Emilia on behalf of the Italian Armed Forces and the Counsellor of Florence City on behalf of the Commune of Florence. Approximately 350 people attended.

d. On 11 November 1980, Veterans Day Ceremony was held at the cemetery. Wreaths were placed at the Wall of the Missing by Mr. Donald A. Johnston, Consul General of Florence; Mr. F. Franceschi, Acting Commander of the American Legion; and Mr. Thomas H. Garth, U.S. Consul, on behalf of the 34th Division.

e. Italian Liberation Day Ceremony was held on 25 April 1981. Before approximately 100 attendees, a laurel wreath was placed at the Wall of the Missing.

f. On 25 May 1981, Memorial Day Ceremony at the cemetery. Participants included Mr. Donald A. Johnston, U.S. Consul General of Florence; LTG Franco Barbolini, CG, Military Region of Tuscany and Emilia; MG George L. McFadden, CG, SETAF; Mayors of Florence, San Casciano, and Impruneta; U.S. Honor Guard and Color Guard from Camp Darby; Italian Honor Guard from the Florence Carabinieri; and various U.S. and Italian dignitaries and officials. Consuls of Great Britain, France, West Germany, Belgium, Holland, San Marino, Sweden, Switzerland, Spain, Panama, Austria and Hungary were present. Approximately 1200 persons attended the ceremony.

g. On 27 May 1981, the cemetery was visited by members of the U.S. House Armed Services Committee. Chairman of the Committee, the Honorable Melvin Price and 15 other officials were present. The Honorable Samuel S. Stratton presented a flower bouquet at the gravesite of a former member of his congressional district.

h. The Norwegian Ambassador to Italy visited the cemetery on 12 July 1981.

i. On 11 August 1981, the Commune of Florence presented a wreath at the Wall of the Missing on the anniversary of the liberation of Florence by the Allies in World War II.

## Fiscal Year 1982

### ANNEX B

#### Florence Cemetery and Memorial

##### France

1. On 30 September 1982, personnel consisted of two U.S. civilians and 14 local nationals. Mr. Joseph Bevilacqua served as Superintendent throughout the year and Mr. Billy F. Vinson reported for duty as Assistant Superintendent on 5 September 1982.

2. Major projects completed included the installation of a new water purification system and an alarm system in the office and visitors building, renovation/installation of doors throughout, complete renovation of the electrical system in the memorial area, and the installation of security grills on windows and some doors.

3. On 1 November 1981, an All Saints Day Ceremony was held at the cemetery. Three wreaths were placed by Italian officials on behalf of the Italian Armed Forces, the Commune of Florence, and the Italian people. Approximately 275 persons participated in the ceremony. On this occasion a group of Brazilian citizens visited to pay their respects to those members of the Brazilian Expeditionary Force of WW II buried here.

4. On 11 November a Veterans Day Ceremony was held in the presence of some 60 people. Two wreaths were placed at the Wall of the Missing.

5. A ceremony attended by about 200 people was conducted in honor of Italian Liberation Day.

6. On 31 May 1982, the Memorial Day Ceremony was held in the presence of 1,460 guests. Numerous civilian and military dignitaries from the U.S., Italy, Austria, Belgium, Great Britain, Germany, France, Sweden, Switzerland, San Marino, Spain, Panama, Norway and Denmark participated.

7. The 10th Mountain Division held a reunion ceremony at the cemetery on 8 June 1982. Approximately 750 persons participated in or attended the ceremony.

## Fiscal Year 1983

### ANNEX B

#### Florence Cemetery and Memorial

##### Italy

1. At the end of the fiscal year, personnel consisted of 2 U.S. civilians and 14 local nationals. Mr. Joseph Bevilacqua served as Superintendent throughout the year. Mr. Billy F. Vinson, Assistant Superintendent, resigned on 22 April 1983 and Mr. Piero Pletchan became Assistant Superintendent on 10 July 1983.
2. Major projects completed included the installation of a new telephone system and a water tank, refurbishing of the overpass and retaining walls, replacement of the heating system in the service buildings, and raising and releveing the terrace stones and travertine slabs at the Memorial area.
3. On 2 November 1982, All Souls Day, local officials, both military and civilian, paid their respects to the American War Dead at the cemetery. During the day numerous bouquets of flowers were placed on the graves. Over 500 persons attended and participated in the ceremony.
4. On Veterans Day, 11 November 1982, local officials from the nearby communes presented two wreaths and the Presidential Proclamation was read during the ceremony by the superintendent.
5. On 15 January 1983, U.S. Congressman Peter W. Rodino and party visited the cemetery.
6. An Italian Liberation Day Ceremony was held at the cemetery on 25 April 1983. Numerous local military and civilian dignitaries participated in the placing of a wreath of laurel at the Wall of the Missing.
7. On 30 May 1983 the annual Memorial Day Ceremony was conducted. The Deputy Chief of the U.S. Mission in Rome was the speaker and the attendance of over 1200 persons included many military and civilian dignitaries from 14 countries. The Italian Carabinieri provided the band and buglers and the Honor Guard was from the 509th U.S. Airborne Unit in Vicenza.
8. On 22 August 1983 the Commune of Florence presented a wreath at the Wall of the Missing on the anniversary of the Liberation of Florence during WW II.

## Fiscal Year 1984

### ANNEX B

#### Florence Cemetery and Memorial

##### Italy

1. At the end of the fiscal year, personnel assigned consisted of 2 U.S. civilians and 14 local national employees. Mr. Joseph Bevilacqua served as Superintendent and Mr. Piero Pletchan as Assistant Superintendent throughout the year.

2. Major projects completed included rebuilding the memorial fountain pumps and electrical system, cleaning the river beds dividing the cemetery, the installation of an automatic irrigation system at both entrances, the construction of a new storage building, the replacement of numerous water and sewer lines and the construction of a portable air compressor.

3. On 2 November 1983, All Souls Day, numerous military and civilian dignitaries honored the War Dead at the cemetery. An Honor Guard was provided by the Italian Military Regional Headquarters of Florence. About 150 people participated in the ceremony.

4. A Veterans Day Ceremony was held on 11 November 1983. A combined U.S.-Italian Honor Guard participated in placing wreaths in memory of the Fallen and the Presidential Proclamation was read.

5. On 25 April 1984, an Italian Liberation Day Ceremony was held. Numerous Italian civilian and military dignitaries participated in the placing of a large wreath at the Wall of the Missing.

6. On 22 May 1984 over 100 members of the 95th Infantry Division Association presented a wreath.

7. The annual Memorial Day Ceremony was held on 28 May 1984. MG Roderick D. Renick, Jr., CG, SETAF was the speaker for the ceremony attended by 1230 persons which included numerous civilian and military dignitaries. The Italian Carabinieri provided the band and buglers and the Honor Guard was from the U.S. Airborne Unit at Vicenza. Nine foreign consuls were represented.

8. Senator Robert J. Dole visited the cemetery on 1 June 1984.

ANNEX B

Florence Cemetery and Memorial

Italy

1. At the end of FY 1985, personnel assigned included 2 U.S. civilians and 14 local national employees. Mr. Joseph Bevilacqua served as Superintendent and Mr. Piero Pletchan as Assistant Superintendent throughout the year.
2. An automatic irrigation system and program panel for the memorial area and a completely revised electrical system in the deep well chamber were installed under contract.
3. A contract was let to replace the Scagliola map which had deteriorated.
4. On 26 October 1984, a ceremony to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Liberation of Florence was held. The U.S. Consul General and the American Consul, Florence participated along with numerous American and Italian civil and military dignitaries. Honor guards and color guards were provided by U.S. and Italian troops. About 250 persons attended.
5. On 2 November 1984, All Souls Day, numerous military and civilian dignitaries honored the War Dead at the cemetery. An Italian Army honor platoon, color guard, and flag formations were provided. The ceremony was taped by a CBS TV crew. About 550 people participated.
6. On 11 November 1984, the Veterans Day Ceremony was held at the cemetery.
7. On 25 April 1985, an Italian Liberation Day Ceremony was held attended by numerous Italian dignitaries. A large wreath was presented at the Wall of the Missing.
8. The annual Memorial Day was celebrated at the Florence American Cemetery on 27 May 1985. Participants included the Minister Counsel, U.S. Embassy, Rome; U.S. Consul General, Florence; Italian Undersecretary of Defense; and numerous U.S. and Italian dignitaries. American and Italian Army honor platoons and color guards were provided. Over 1000 persons were in attendance.
9. On 14 June 1985, veterans of the 10th Mountain Division held a ceremony at the cemetery. The 10th Mountain Division Association was represented by 382 veterans and their wives. Civilian and military dignitaries from every area of Northern Italy were present to pay their respects to the former members of the Division. At the close of the ceremony, veterans were escorted to the gravesites of their unit comrades.

## Fiscal Year 1986

### ANNEX B

#### Florence Cemetery and Memorial

##### Italy

1. At the end of the fiscal year, personnel assigned included 2 U.S. civilians and 14 local national employees. Mr. Joseph Bevilacqua served as Superintendent and Mr. Piero Pletchan as Assistant Superintendent throughout the year.

2. The Scagliola operational map was replaced by one of inlaid marble.

3. Almost 200 overgrown cypress trees were removed and replaced.

4. Mrs. Mary Clark, widow of General Mark W. Clark, former Chairman of ABMC, visited the cemetery on 19 October 1985.

5. On 2 November 1985 an All Souls Day Ceremony was held. Numerous U.S. and Italian civil and military dignitaries participated. Italian troops provided honor units and color guards. Over 900 people were in attendance.

6. The Presidential Proclamation was read on 11 November 1985 at the Wall of the Missing before numerous visitors to honor Veterans' Day.

7. On 2 February 1986 the Consul General, U.S. Consulate in Florence, Mrs. Diane Dillard, visited the cemetery.

8. On 25 April 1986 an Italian Liberation Day Ceremony was held to honor those who gave their lives for the liberation of Italy.

9. The annual Memorial Day Ceremony was held on 26 May 1986. Participants included the CG, USA SETAF: Minister Counselor, American Embassy Rome; Consul General, U.S. Consulate, Florence; and numerous other U.S. and Italian military and civil dignitaries. U.S. and Italian military units supported the ceremony. Approximately 1,150 persons were in attendance.

10. The Anniversary of the Liberation of Florence in WW II was commemorated by the Commune of Florence on 11 August 1986.