

# From Rome to the Alps and Victory

key: † Military Cemetery    🪂 Parachute Drop



Officers of the 92nd Infantry Division plan crossing of the Arno River, Sep. 1, 1944.

## Florence American Cemetery and Memorial

The cemetery site was liberated by the 6th South African Armored Division of the U.S. Fifth Army, on August 3, 1944. It lies astride the Greve River and is framed by wooded hills. The government of Italy granted its free use as a permanent burial ground in perpetuity without charge or taxation.

## American Battle Monuments Commission

This agency of the United States government operates and maintains 25 American cemeteries and 27 memorials, monuments and markers in 16 countries. The Commission works to fulfill the vision of its first chairman, General of the Armies John J. Pershing. Pershing, commander of the American Expeditionary Forces during World War I, promised that "time will not dim the glory of their deeds."



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For more information on this site and other ABMC commemorative sites, please visit [www.abmc.gov](http://www.abmc.gov)



# Florence American Cemetery and Memorial

American Battle Monuments Commission



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After the liberation of Rome on June 5, 1944, the U.S. Fifth Army and British Eighth Army, supported by the Mediterranean Allied Air Forces (MAAF), pushed northward toward the Gothic Line. That was a major German defense taking advantage of the Apennines that separate central Italy from the Po Valley.

**JULY 18, 1944:** The 361st Infantry Regiment of the 91st Infantry Division was the first unit to reach the Arno River.

**JULY 19:** U.S. forces, including the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, seized the port of Leghorn.

**AUGUST 4:** Florence fell to the Allies.

**AUGUST 25:** Eighth Army attacked the eastern half of the Gothic Line. Fifth Army attacked the western half soon after.

**MID-OCTOBER:** The northward drive halted south of Bologna. Shortages of personnel and supplies, and the onset of severe weather contributed.

**APRIL 9, 1945:** Heavy and medium bombers of the MAAF pounded German positions defending Bologna as Eighth Army resumed the offensive. Fifth Army joined the effort on April 14.

**APRIL 17:** 10th Mountain Division pierced German defenses south of Bologna, opening the way forward.

**APRIL 21:** Bologna fell to the Fifth Army.

**APRIL 25:** 10th Mountain Division approached Verona.

**APRIL 27:** The 92nd Infantry Division entered Genoa. From there, U.S. units struck northwestward to link up with French Resistance forces.

**MAY 2:** All German forces in Italy surrendered.

The long and bloody Allied campaign liberated Italy and contributed to the success of campaigns elsewhere in Europe.

**Medal of Honor Recipient**

Headstones of recipients of the Medal of Honor are inscribed in gold lettering, as this one marking the grave of Sgt. Roy W. Harmon.



**Tablets of the Missing**

Names and particulars of 1,409 persons missing in action appear on tablets connecting the memorial's north and south atria. A Medal of Honor recipient's name is inscribed in gold.



**Spirit of Peace**

The sculpture representing the spirit of peace surmounts the pylon in front of the memorial. The figure hovers over the fallen, bearing olive branches.



**Graves Area**

The 4,398 headstones in eight plots radiate in gentle arcs from the memorial pylon. Their array enhances the harmonious relationship between the graves area and the memorial.



**Standing Watch**

The sculpture of a soldier of the 363rd Regiment, 91st Infantry Division, stands watch over the graves of the fallen.



**Entrance Gate**

Entrance gates of the Florence American Cemetery welcome visitors arriving off the Via Cassia from north or south. Tuscan cypress trees flank the gates.



**Layout**

From the Via Cassia entrances, the crescent drive leads to parking near the visitor building. The graves area and memorial are reached via a small bridge over the Greve River.



**Visitor Building**

Here you can meet our staff, get your questions answered, and sign the guest register.



*Photo: The National Archives*  
 Guides of the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, July 27, 1944.

**Headstone Location**

**PLOT:** .....

**ROW:** .....

**GRAVE:** .....

**Useful Information**

**DIMENSIONS:** 70 acres  
**HEADSTONES:** 4,398  
**LATIN CROSSES:** 4,322  
**STARS OF DAVID:** 76

**MISSING IN ACTION:** 1,409  
**UNKNOWN:** 213  
**MULTIPLE BURIALS:** 2 headstones with 2 remains, and 1 with 3

**SETS OF BROTHERS:** 6  
**MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT:** 2 interred, and 1 memorialized  
**DEDICATED:** July 25, 1960