

Settimo Sorci

July 4, 1893 – April 28, 1989

World War I

**VA**



**U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs**

National Cemetery  
Administration



**Department  
of History**

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

Settimo Sorci (July 4, 1893–April 28, 1989)

By Daniel J Lauretta

## **Early Life**

Settimo Sorci was born on January 4, 1893 in Italy.<sup>1</sup> He immigrated to the US in 1913, a year in which over 265,542 Italians, mostly from southern Italy, immigrated to the US. He likely left his homeland for reasons shared by many other Italians: for economic opportunities and personal freedom.<sup>2</sup> Not all Italians intended to settle in the US, returning to Italy once they became more prosperous. While some thirty to fifty percent of Italian migrants who arrived around 1913 eventually returned home permanently, Sorci did not.<sup>3</sup>

## **Military Service**

In 1918, the United States Army drafted Sorci. His military service card can be seen [here](#). Settimo's first assignment, beginning June 27, was in company B of the 53rd Pioneer Infantry.<sup>4</sup> The 53rd Pioneer Infantry was created from the 12th New York Infantry of the New York National Guard and filled with draftees to a strength of 3,548 men. Settimo transferred to Camp Wadsworth in South Carolina for training with the 53rd.<sup>5</sup> World War I US Army Major Chester W. Davis defined The American Pioneer units as "regiments trained and equipped as infantry to be used as troops of emergency, either for combat or simple engineering construction."<sup>6</sup> Settimo's experience with the 53rd Pioneer Infantry was short lived. Having arrived in Europe on September 15, he spent only two more weeks with the 53rd Pioneer before being transferred.

On October 1, 1918, Sorci joined Company E of the 329th Infantry, 83rd Division. The Army repurposed the 83rd Infantry Division as a depot division with all non-infantry units such as artillery and the signal corps, shifted out. Stationed at ports, depot divisions trained and sorted new troops arriving from America and sent trained troops to replace casualties in frontline units. Depot division troops could also be assigned to combat positions if its infantry division suffered substantial losses.<sup>7</sup> That being said, Private Sorci likely did not take part in any major engagements directly, while still being a key part of the war effort. Settimo's immigration to the US may have saved his life, as Italy suffered around 680,000 casualties during the war,

compared to the 116,516 American casualties.<sup>8</sup> Sorci returned to the United States on February 16, 1919 and received his honorable discharge on February 25 after completing his service.<sup>9</sup>

## **Post Service Life**

After the end of the war, Settimo returned to New York where, on November 25, 1924, he married Anna Giangrasso.<sup>10</sup> Anna, an Italian-born immigrant, came to the United States in 1911. The 1930 US Census, seen here, indicates that Settimo worked as a baker and lived in Queens, New York with Anna and two children, Frances (1926) and Anthony (1927).<sup>11</sup>

Anthony Sorci, following in his father's footsteps, later served in the Second World War. He enlisted in the US Army on April 20, 1945, a little over two months after his eighteenth birthday. He served until November 10, 1946,<sup>12</sup> obtaining the rank of corporal.<sup>13</sup> While the specifics of Anthony's service are not publically available, it is apparent that they shared a family commitment to serving in the US armed forces.

On February 21, 1964, Anna Sorci died at the age of seventy in New York. Both Settimo's and Anthony's military service made Anna eligible for burial in a National Cemetery. She is interred at Long Island National Cemetery.<sup>14</sup> Following the death of his spouse, Settimo moved to Port Richey, Florida, where he lived the remainder of his life.<sup>15</sup> Anthony moved to Port Richey in 1988 to be with his father.<sup>16</sup> Settimo Sorci passed away on April 28, 1989 at the age of ninety-six and was laid to rest in the Florida National Cemetery.<sup>17</sup> Anthony Sorci continued to live in Port Richey until his death on June 7, 1998, and is buried at Florida National Cemetery near his father.<sup>18</sup>

## Endnotes

- 1 “1930 United States Federal Census” database, *Ancestry.com* (<https://ancestry.com> : accessed March 11, 2017), entry for Settimo Sorci, house number 33/2, family number 196.
- 2 Frank J. Cavaoli, “Patterns of Italian Immigration in the United States,” *The Catholic Social Science Review*, 13 (2008): 213.
- 3 Ibid., 220-1.
- 4 “New York, Abstracts of World War I Military Service, 1917-1919” database, *Ancestry.com*, (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed March 1, 2017), entry for Settimo Sorci, Army Serial Number 3345663.
- 5 Jonathan Brooke and the Spartanburg County Historical Association “Non-Divisional Troops Chart,” *Tent and Trench: Appendix B*, <http://www.schistory.net/campwadsworth/unitsnon.html>.
- 6 Chester W. Davis, *The Story of the First Pioneer Infantry* (Utica, NY: Kirkland Press, 1919), 7.
- 7 John Pershing, *General Pershing’s Official Story of the American Expeditionary Forces in France in WWI* (Big Byte Books, 2016), 4.
- 8 Harry Rusche Lost Poets of the Great War “The Human Cost”, Emory University.
- 9 “New York, Abstracts of World War I Military Service, 1917-1919”
- 10 New York, New York, Marriage Index 1866-1937” database, *Ancestry.com* (<http://ancestry.com> : accessed March 1, 2017), entry Anna Giangrasso and Settimo Sorci, Certificate number 1127.
- 11 “1930 United States Federal Census.”
- 12 “Fold3.com” database, *Fold3.com* (<https://fold3.com> : accessed June 16, 2017) entry for Anthony Sorci.
- 13 “US Find A Grave Index, 1600s-Current,” database, *Ancestry.com* (<https://ancestry.com> : accessed June 16, 2017) entry for Anthony Martin Sorci.
- 14 “Anna Sorci,” *FindAGrave.com*, accessed June 15, 2017, <https://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSln=sorci&GSfn=anna&GSiman=1&GScid=65121&GRid=2824557&>.
- 15 “US Social Security Death Index, 1935-2014,” database, *Ancestry.com* (<https://ancestry.com> : accessed June 16, 2017) entry for Settimo Sorci.
- 16 “U.S. Public Records Index, 1950-1993, Volume I,” database, *Ancestry.com* (<https://ancestry.com> : accessed June 16, 2017) entry for Anthony Sorci.
- 17 “U.S., Department of Veterans Affairs BIRLS Death File, 1850-2010”, database, *Ancestry.com* (<http://ancestry.com> : accessed March 15, 2017) Entry for Settimo Sorci.
- 18 “National Cemetery Administration. U.S. Veterans Gravesites, ca.1775-2006” database, *Ancestry.com* (<http://ancestry.com> : accessed March 17, 2017) entry for Anthony Sorci.

State North Carolina Incorporated date June 1, 1906 Ward or city Ward 1 Unincorporated place None  
County Mecklenburg Division of county Charlotte Block No. 10 Institution None  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE - BUREAU OF THE CENSUS  
SIXTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES 1906  
POPULATION SCHEDULE  
Form No. 1  
Enumerated by me or Special Agent 1906  
Sheet No. 9 A

PERSONS 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER - SELECTED STATES		PERSONS 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER - SELECTED STATES	
NAME	RELATION	NAME	RELATION
1. <u>John W. Smith</u>	<u>Head</u>	2. <u>John W. Smith</u>	<u>Wife</u>
3. <u>John W. Smith</u>	<u>Child</u>	4. <u>John W. Smith</u>	<u>Child</u>
5. <u>John W. Smith</u>	<u>Child</u>	6. <u>John W. Smith</u>	<u>Child</u>
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99. <u>John W. Smith</u>	<u>Child</u>	100. <u>John W. Smith</u>	<u>Child</u>



County San Diego Election District No. 12 Ward No. 1 City or Village San Diego State of New York June 1, 1922.  
 Enumeration of the San Dieguito Assembly District No. 367 Emigrants San Diego

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NAME	RELATIVE	DATE OF BIRTH	CITIZENSHIP	EDUCATION	OCCUPATION	PROPERTY	REMARKS
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Sheet No. 4  
3RD Class

# HEADQUARTERS PORT OF EMBARKATION, HOBOKEN, NEW JERSEY

## PASSENGER LIST OF ORGANIZATIONS AND CASUALS

### INSTRUCTIONS FOR FILLING OUT THIS FORM

Separate lists of FIVE COPIES EACH, will be filled out by each company or detachment commander as follows:  
1st List: Officers arranged according to rank, Army Field Clerks, Field Clerks Q. M. C., Nurses and Civilian Employees. Names should be numbered consecutively beginning with No. 1.  
2d List: Non-commissioned Officers above Grade 17, (Par. 9, A. R.), arranged according to grade.  
3d List: Enlisted men below Grade 16, (Par. 9, A. R.), arranged according to the usual formation of the Company, that is, by squads. These names should be numbered consecutively beginning with No. 1.

To be filled in by Organization		Give full name of organization including company and regimental designation.		I-499 (WHITE)		
To be filled in by (Embarkation Personnel) Adjutant		Name of Transport or Commercial Steamship		Date of Sailing		
No.	NAME (Family name followed by Christian name and middle initial, same as on service record. Army Serial Number immediately under each name.)	Rank & Corps, Ex'ple: Capt. QMRC	Organization	NOTIFY IN CASE OF EMERGENCY (Give name in full, for example: Mrs. Mary A. Smith)	Relationship	ADDRESS (Number, Street, City and State) Do not abbreviate.
Leave double space between entries. All typewriting must be in CAPITAL LETTERS						
52	ROSSI, JIM 1698528	PVT	INF	MRS MARIE TIMBASTU	SIS	305-W 69TH ST. NEW YORK CITY, N.Y.//
53	<del>ROSSI, DONATO</del> ENL. JULY 27, 1917.	"	"	ANTONIO ROSSO	FATH	ROME, ITALY
54	RULE, WILLIAM J 1277239	"	"	MRS ETHEL R JORDAN	SIS	99 OLD BERGEN ROAD, JERSEY CITY, N.J.
55	SCHENPULO, JOHN 1159913	"	"	JOE SCHEPULO	BRO	1160 VINN AVE. BROOKLYN, N.Y.
56	SMITH, JAMES C 1909988	"	"	MRS MARY SMITH	MOTH	BLAIR ST., BRONXVILLE, N.Y.
57	SORCI, SETTIMO 3345663	"	"	SAVARIO D'STAFONO	FRND	26 SPRING ST. NEW YORK, N Y
58	SCOTT, CYRUS ENL. JULY 22, 1917.	"	"	WILLIAM SCOTT	FATH	221 HAMILTON ST. JOHNSTON CITY, TENN.
59	SCHMIDT, HERMAN 3348060	"	"	MRS LIZZIE <sup>BLOOM</sup> ELSON	MOTH	413 E 169TH ST. NEW YORK, N.Y.
60	STEFFANELLI, JOSEPH 386739	"	"	MRS MARY STEFFANELLI	WIFE	37 CRANE ST. NEWARK, N.J.
61	STINGLEY, ORRIN ENL. JULY 30, 1917.	"	"	MRS LOUIE STINGLEY	MOTH	RFD #2 TRYON, OKLA.
62	VAUGHAN, CHARLES K ENL. MAR 30, 1917.	"	"	MRS LEONIS MORRISSETTE	MOTH	216 CLAY AVE. DORFOLK, VA.
63	WHITE, JOHN A ENL. SEPT. 17, 1917	"	"	MRS SARAH WHITE	WIFE	1980 W 75TH ST. CL. VELAND OHIO
64	<del>YANDOLINO, FRANK</del> 1708742	"	"	TONY, YANDOLINO	FATH	420 EAST 11TH ST. NEW YORK, N. Y.
65	NYHOLM, ALGOT G ENL. MAY 1, 1918	"	"	MRS HANNAH NYHOLM	MOTH	9 BANTA ST. C ADORNA, LONG ISLAND N.Y.

### DISPOSITION:

Five copies of this list to be handed to the representative of embarkation personnel adjutant's office at gang-plank by which company embarks.

(Signature of Company Commander.)

(Rank)

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority NND 785096



