

# TUSCANIA

## Tuscania casualty

**Abboni, Anthony (Antonio) ("Tony")**

**1892 Italy – 1918 on Tuscania**

ABBONI ANTHONY		X C 7 010
Pvt Co B 107 Sup Tr		K
257 Blaine Ave Detroit Mich		A
Sn		T 453 191
Born 1/22/92	Died 2/6/18	R
Enl	Dis	I 7 710
		CT
U. S. Veterans Bureau Mail and Records Division Form 7202		INDEX CARD

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CS1M-W9LC-L?cc=2968245&personaUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AQP8C-68FT>

## Antonio Abboni

Vital • Italy, Genova, Civil Registration (State Archive), 1796-1812, 1838-1859, 1866-1899

Name **Antonio Abboni**  
 Sex **Male**  
 Event Type **Birth**  
 Event Date **23 Jan 1892**  
 Event Place **Genova, Genova, Italy**  
 Event Place (Original) **Genova, Genova, Italy**  
 Certificate Number **130**

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QVRD-BVK2>

## Anthony Abboni

Military • United States, World War I American Expeditionary Forces Deaths, 1917-1919

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WHITE: INDUCTED INTO NATIONAL ARMY OR ASSIGNED THERETO UPON ENLISTMENT.

Abboni, Anthony      --      Pvt      Co B 107 Sup Tn Trk Co      Feb 5/18

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-C3MW-K9N7-9?cc=2996059&personaUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AQPHW-5X9N>

## Antonio Abboni

in the New York, U.S., Arriving Passenger and Crew Lists (including Castle Garden and Ellis Island), 1820-1957

Name	Antonio Abboni
Gender	Male
Ethnicity/ Nationality	Italian (South) (Italian)
Marital Status	Single
Age	18
Birth Date	abt 1892
Birth Place	Italy
Other Birth Place	Genoa, Italy
Last Known Residence	Genoa, Italy
Departure Port	Genoa, Italy
Arrival Date	20 Apr 1910
Arrival Port	New York, New York, USA
Residence Place	Italy
Final Destination	Detroit, Michigan
Height	5 Feet, 3 Inches
Hair Color	Chestnut
Eye Color	Chestnut
Complexion	Natural
Money in Possession	24
Person in Old Country Residence	Rapallo (Genoa)
Person in US	T. Arvisto
Person in US Relationship	Friend
Ship Name	Cincinnati

1	Abboni	Antonio	v	18 ✓	m. s.	former laborer	yes	yes	Italian	South
	Italy	Genoa				none in father, Andrea Arata			Mich. Detroit	

<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/4006114659:7488?tid=&pid=&queryId=d1c50ec778c38c7e27598b1518208421&phsrc=cPx357&phstart=successSource>

WAR DEPARTMENT Q. M. C. Form No. 14 Revised Oct. 6, 1923										REPLACEMENT		
Interment in the <u>ARLINGTON FORT MYER VA</u> National Cemetery												
To—The Quartermaster General, Washington, D. C.												
NAME			RANK	COMPANY	REGIMENT OR VESSEL			DIVISION, IF WORLD WAR SOLDIER				
					Number	State	Arm					
Abboni, Anthony			Pvt	B	107th	Mich.	Supply Train	32d Div.			WW	
DATE OF DEATH			DATE OF INTERMENT			GRAVE MARK		REMARKS				
Month	Day	Year	Month	Day	Year	Section	Grave No.	Date of discharge and number of Pension Certificate, Disinterments, etc.				
Feb.	5	1918	Oct	22	1920		937	Ind. Nov. 13, 1917 White-European Grave #4, Row 1, #164 Killeyan, Mull of Oa Islay Argyll, Scotland. Ind. Nov. 13, 1917: State-Res. Mich, Born-Italy				
TATE, GEORGIA, May 29, 1934 815401												
Shipping point for headstones _____												
<div style="text-align: right;">Superintendent.</div> <div style="text-align: center;">(See Instructions on Reverse Side)</div> <div style="text-align: center;">2 6 1 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 9</div>												

[https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/2204602:2590?tid=&pid=&queryId=d1c50ec778c38c7e27598b1518208421&\\_phsrc=cPx358&\\_phstart=successSource](https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/2204602:2590?tid=&pid=&queryId=d1c50ec778c38c7e27598b1518208421&_phsrc=cPx358&_phstart=successSource)

Kenosha must add another gold star to its service flag as a result of the sinking of the transport "Tuscania." One boy who went away with the Kenosha company was overlooked by all of the men who had statistics of the disaster and today a letter from Lieut. Asbury H. Vale, now "Somewhere in France" tells of the heroic death of "Little Anthony Abboni," who was listed with the Kenosha command of Lieutenant Vale in the 107th Supply Train. He was a Detroit boy, who slipped into the company just before it went away to Camp Douglas and his name had not been included in any of the lists of the company left behind in Kenosha. In speaking of the death of this soldier who was enlisted from Kenosha, Lieutenant Vale says:

"Little Anthony Abboni was not very well known to Kenosha people, but on account of his good nature and his small stature he had become quite a favorite in the short time he was with us."

## ONE MORE STAR TURNED TO GOLD

Lieutenant Harry Vale Pays  
Tribute to Memory of One  
More Who Went Down  
With Tuscania.

## TONY ABBONI DIED A HERO

Lieut. Vale Says He May Have Been  
Unknown in Kenosha But He Was  
Loved by Company M—Tells Story  
of Art Junker's Sacrifice.

Commenting on the sinking of the *Tuscania*, Lieut. Vale says in his letter:

"You no doubt had complete accounts of the '*Tuscania*' but did you know that the wonderful discipline displayed by the men on board when the life-boats were smashed by the explosion, happened to be the Kenosha Co. B of the 107th Supply Train along with two other companies of the same organization.

All the reported singing of '*America*' and the '*Star Spangled Banner*' must have been on the other side of the ship but for real nerve and real discipline you will have to it to the Kenosha Company B.

The men of Company B who lost their lives were assigned to special work; Corporal Arthur Junker with his squad of seven men, having been selected to assist in lowering the life-boats from the top or hurricane deck. They left on other life-boats and he was never seen by any of my men after the boats were lowered.

He was one of the first men to join old '*Company M*' and his being a corporal in charge of a squad of men, at his age, shows what a real soldier he was, without my words.

I deeply regret the loss of these two men and hope that I may bring back the rest of Kenosha Company B as healthy and well as they are now."

The letter of Lieutenant Vale bears the date of April 1st. He speaks of the great joy of the men of Company B in getting their first mail from home on that date and this mail included the Kenosha paper up to February 4th, which had been piling up at the camp waiting for the men to be located.

"When I say that those papers are tonight being devoured," continues the lieutenant, "it is the tamest expression I can use. Can you imagine seventy after home news after so long a time of waiting. Every little item was a reminder to some one or of something and best of all it was all about 'Home Sweet Home.'"

"The pleasure of this patriotic service is greatly increased by the knowledge that the people back home have not turned our pictures to the wall. We are going to see it through to the last man and we know that the people back in Kenosha are going to see it with us to the last dollar. The Kenosha boys with me are well and happy. The morale of our company is splendid and we are just spoiling for a fight. I know that you can tell the people of Kenosha that it has every reason to be proud of Company M. I wish that through you we can send greetings to all the friends at home."

"Kenosha (WI) News" Friday 26 Apr 1918 p 1, letter of Lt. Asbury H. Vale, 1 Apr 1918, from France

The Detroit News  
Detroit, Michigan, Wednesday, 13 Feb 1918

Detroit's Tuscania  
Hero Leaves No One

"Good soldier," Prattles child where he lived.

Out of Detroit's million, one man went down with the Tuscania. Antonio Abboni, who was 26 years old, and who had no relatives in the entire world. If he is to be wept or mourned it must be by Detroit's million, by Detroit's Americans who count his loss a loss to them.



Word of Abboni death was sent to America by an associated press correspondent from a Scotch seaport.

Antonio Abboni lived at 257 Blaine Avenue. He was a roomer at the home of S.J. Arditto. This morning word was taken to the home that Abboni had paid the price for democracy. Mrs. Arditto, flanked by two tiny Ardittos, came to the door, wiping her hands on her apron.

### No Relatives

"Has Antonio Abboni any relatives here." She was asked. She shook her head and smiled cheerfully. "No father, no sisters, no mother, no brother, no one in this country no one in old country." "Did you know that he was dead, that he went down with the ship Tuscania, the only Detroit boy to give his life so?" "I did not know. So he die, eh? He was very nice young man. He live here and the war he come and Abboni say "I Mus go, I got no one in this world to say good-bye, no one to say "you work for me so I live" I alone. Dis a good country, I go."

The little Arditto children climbed up the steps behind their mother and stared at the visitor. Said one, a wee boy, to his still smaller sister "He's a solider. Bang. Like a gun." And the girl laughed aloud and rocked with glee.

### Flags Show Patriotism.

The upstairs window next door rattled as someone pulled it down and the visitor glanced up. In its center was a red cross and in the window of the Arditto home was a food conservation card and across the street a two-starred service flag.

"I dont speak ver good English, But it is too bad that Antonio go like that. He was wishing to fight the Germans. He look ver' nice in a solider suit. My husband tell you all about him. He ain't here now." "papa not here," said the little girl. "Antonio is a solider," repeated the little chap. The women pulled down her up rolled sleeves and smiled a rather sad little smile. :pretty cold on the ocean maybe. He is buried, eh? Over there."

The visitor nodded; yes he is buried "over there"

"Antoini is a solider,: shouted the boy and he rattled a broom to his side like a gun.

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#### Abbreviations:

b = born

d = died

F: = Find A Grave ([www.findagrave.org](http://www.findagrave.org))

NOK = next-of-kin

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Name: Anthony Abboni – Antonio Abboni

Name variations: Anthoni

Military:

On Tuscania: 107th Supply Co. B - private

Serial number: not assigned when died

Entered service from: Detroit, Wayne MI

Sailed on "Tuscania" as: Anthony Abboni

Next-of-kin on "Tuscania": friend Sam Arditto, 257 Blane Ave., Detroit MI

Body returned from war on: "Antigone" arriving Hoboken 29 Sep 1920 (pvt, Co. B, 107th Supply Train) – listed as Anthony Abboni

World War I draft registration (1917): as Anthoni Abboni b. 22 Jan 1892 Genoa, Italy, res: 257 Blaine, Detroit MI. Single. Merchant, Samuel (Amual? Anual?) Arditto, Detroit MI. Short & slender, gray eyes, brown hair. Alien.

Veterans Administration Military Index:

Enlisted: not provided [according to Samuel Arditto's federal court case: 18 Nov 1917]

Died: 6 Feb 1918

Address: 257 Blaine Ave., Detroit MI

Rank/unit: pvt, Co. B, 107<sup>th</sup> Supply Train

Birth & death:

Born: 22 Jan [23 Jan\ 1892 Genoa, Ligouria, Italy (Alternative: Rapallo, Italy) – in a home for abandoned children in 1892, illegitimate according to 1936 federal court case. Genoa birth certificate records that Sebastiano Ricci, an employee living in Genoa, reported on 26 Jan 1893 at 1:30 p.m. in the Municipal House of Genoa that a woman "who does not agree to be named" gave birth to a male child named Antonio Abboni on 23 Jan 1892 at 10:30 a.m. in a house on square Spedale #13.

Immigration: (court case:) brought to US in 1907, but NY Passenger Arrivals, Ellis Island, lists Antonio Abboni leaving Genoa, Italy, on 4 Apr 1910 aboard "Cincinnati" and arriving 20 Apr 1910 in NYW, single, friend S. Avitto, age 18, farm laborer, can read & write, from S. Italy (Genoa), says no relatives in Rapallo, Genoa but believe father's name is from man entered on line below

Died: 5 February 1918 in the sinking of the Tuscania (Find A Grave: 6 Feb 1918 at sea – Veterans Administration Military Index 6 Feb 1918)

First buried on Islay, Scotland: at Killeyan, Islay, Scotland - grave 4, as Anthony Abboni

Find A Grave record: 57190099, presence on Tuscania noted in flower

Burial location: Arlington, Arlington Co. VA

Cemetery: Arlington National Cemetery

Tombstone: veteran tombstone - Michigan, 107 Sup Tr, 32nd Div.

Father: according to Steven Schwartz, father was Audrea Araka.

Find A Grave:

Mother: according to Steven Schwartz, mother was Guisefafae Araka.

Find A Grave:

Spouse(s):

Spouse Find A Grave:

Children:

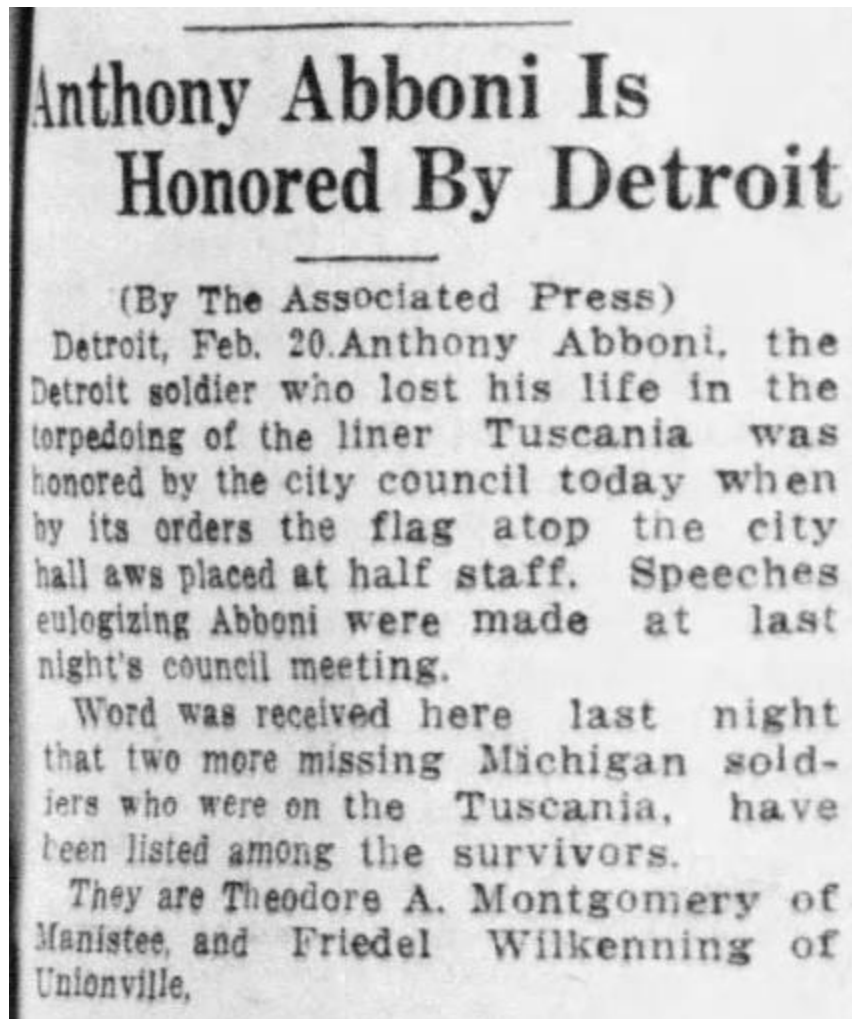
Siblings:

Notes:

Wartime:



"Detroit Free Press" Tuesday 19 Feb 1918 p6 - Major Potter, Co. A, 339th Regt., was ordered to send 8 men to Waco TX, but 1 was AWOL so Abboni volunteered. "He had been an excellent soldier from the start."



"Port Huron [MI] Times Herald" Wednesday 20 Feb 1918 p 7

"Kenosha (WI) News" 26 Apr 1918 p 1 – in letter dated 1 Apr 1918 from France by Lt. Asbury H. Vale. Subhead: "Tony Abboni Died a Hero" – subhead: "Lieut. Vale Says He May Have Been Unknown in Kenosha But He Was Loved by Company M" – heroic death of "Little Anthony Abboni" – listed in Kenosha command of Lt. Vale, 107<sup>th</sup> Supply Train, Detroit boy, slipped into company just before it left for Camp Douglas WI so name not on company lists, one boy who was overlooked by all doing statistics.

Post-war:

Below summary is from: <https://cite.case.law/f2d/86/787/>  
 Also see: <https://casetext.com/case/united-states-v-arditto>

## United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit

### UNITED STATES v. ARDITTO

86 F.2d 787

No. 7081

Dec. 15, 1936

A brief history is as follows: In 1892 Anthony Abboni was taken from a home for abandoned children in Italy. He was brought to America in 1907. On November 18, 1917, at the age of twenty-five years, he entered the military service of the United States. He had been a member of the claimant's household for a number of years, but without legal relationship or adoption. A war risk insurance policy in the sum of \$10,000 was issued to him, his estate being named as beneficiary. On February 5, 1918, while the policy was in force, he was drowned as the result of the sinking of the transport Tuscania. On February 26, 1919, the Wayne county probate court appointed Samuel Arditto (the claimant) administrator of the estate, and on June 5, 1919, through his attorney, he made claim, as administrator and "adopted father," for the proceeds of the policy. He had previously made claim as "adopted cousin." On January 2, 1920, the director of the Veterans' Bureau denied the claim, apparently for lack of proof of adoption or of dependency. Over twelve years later, on February 23, 1932, suit was commenced by claimant, individually and as administrator, the declaration alleging that he "stood in the position of loco parentis to the veteran" and praying for recovery in that capacity, and, in the alternative, for recovery as administrator of the estate. No proofs were presented to sustain recovery on the theory of the declaration, but on March 9, 1933, the probate court of Wayne county entered an order allowing an alleged nuncupative will of the deceased veteran by which his estate and insurance were left to claimant and the declaration was later amended to allege claimant's rights as beneficiary in the will.

The affidavit in support of motion for summary judgment set forth appellee's claim solely as beneficiary of the insurance policy by virtue of the provisions of the will. The affidavit further set forth: "That said Anthony Abboni was an illegitimate abandoned child abandoned in 1892, and that no known relatives are in existence." The judgment first entered decreed recovery to plaintiff individually. This was amended the following day to decree recovery as beneficiary under the will.

A stipulation entered into several weeks after the entry of judgment establishes facts which might warrant consideration of appellee's right of recovery upon other theories, but we are here concerned only with the judgment appealed from.

Whether a claimant under a war risk insurance policy may file a claim with the Veterans' Bureau as adopted father and as administrator of the soldier's estate, and then recover upon the theory of being the beneficiary of a nuncupative will allowed nearly fourteen years later, is at least doubtful. However, in view of the other controlling question involved, we need not determine this issue. Assuming disagreement on June 2, 1920, as to the claim asserted in the suit filed February 3, 1932, we are of the opinion that suit was barred under section 445 of title 38 U.S.C.A., which provides: "No suit on yearly renewable term insurance shall be allowed under this section unless the same shall have been brought within six years after the right accrued for which the claim is made or within one year after July 3, 1930, whichever is the later date: \* \* \* Provided, That for the purposes of this section it shall be deemed that the right accrued on the happening of the contingency on which the claim is founded: Provided further, That this limitation is suspended for the period elapsing between the filing in the Veterans' Administration of the claim sued upon and the denial of said claim by the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs."

Appellee claims that his failure to institute suit before July 3, 1931, is excused by the fact that the claim was pending with the Bureau subsequent to filing and before disallowance from June 5, 1919, to June 2, 1920, a period of eleven months and twenty-seven days; that the statute of limitations was suspended for this period; and that suit instituted February 23, 1932, was not within the bar of the statute. It is familiar law that statutes of limitation in favor of the sovereign must be strictly construed in its favor. See *United States v. Valndza*, 81 F.(2d) 615 (C.C.A.6); *Board v. Commissioner of Internal Revenue*, 51 F.(2d) 73 (C.C.A.6).

Nothing in the history of the legislation on behalf of veterans, in the act itself, or in its practical administration warrants the conclusion that the suspension of limitation was intended to operate as to claims filed and denied by the Veterans' Bureau prior to the enactment of July 3, 1930. \*789The purpose of the statute was to preserve the rights of veterans whose claims were then pending or which might thereafter be filed. Only one adjudicated case has been found in which the question under consideration was discussed. In *Miller v. United States* (D.C.) 57 F.(2d) 889, it was recognized in like circumstances that no portion of the one-year extension was consumed by delay in acting upon the claim. The general purpose of extending the period of limitations upon claims of this character has been to aid those unaware or uncertain of their rights because of confusion which arose concerning the definition of the words "total and permanent disability." In the present case, the right accrued, by death of the soldier in February, 1918.

In the case of *McLaughlin v. United States*, 74 F.(2d) 507 (C.C.A.10), relied on by appellee, the action was dismissed on other grounds. This question was not discussed. In the case of *Kemp v. United States*, 77 F.(2d) 213 (C.C.A.7), Judge Sparks held that the statute of limitations was not suspended by the Act of July 3, 1930 (38 U.S.C.A. § 445), as to a claim for insurance not then pending. Several cases have recognized that the general purposes of the act are prospective. See *United States v. Earwood*, 71 F.(2d) 507 (C.C.A. 5); *Westling v. United States*, 64 F.(2d) 464 (C.C.A.9).

We think the motion to dismiss should have been sustained. The judgment is reversed, and the case remanded for further proceedings in conformity with this opinion.

## *Submarine Attack Figures in Ruling*

### **Detroit Loses Decision on War Risk Insurance**

COVINGTON, Ky., Dec. 15—(A. P.)—The sinking by a German submarine in the World War of the transport ship *Tuscania* figured today in a decision of the Sixth District Court of Appeals here.

The court reversed the decision of United States District Judge E. A. O'Brien awarding to Samuel Arditto, of Detroit, administrator of the estate of Anthony Abboni, \$11,557 on Abboni's war risk insurance policy, and held that Judge O'Brien erred in not sustaining the Government's motion to dismiss the suit.

Abboni, drowned when the *Tuscania* sank off the coast of Scotland after being torpedoed Feb. 6, 1918, while loaded with United States infantrymen.

"Detroit Free Press" Wednesday 16 Dec 1936 p 12