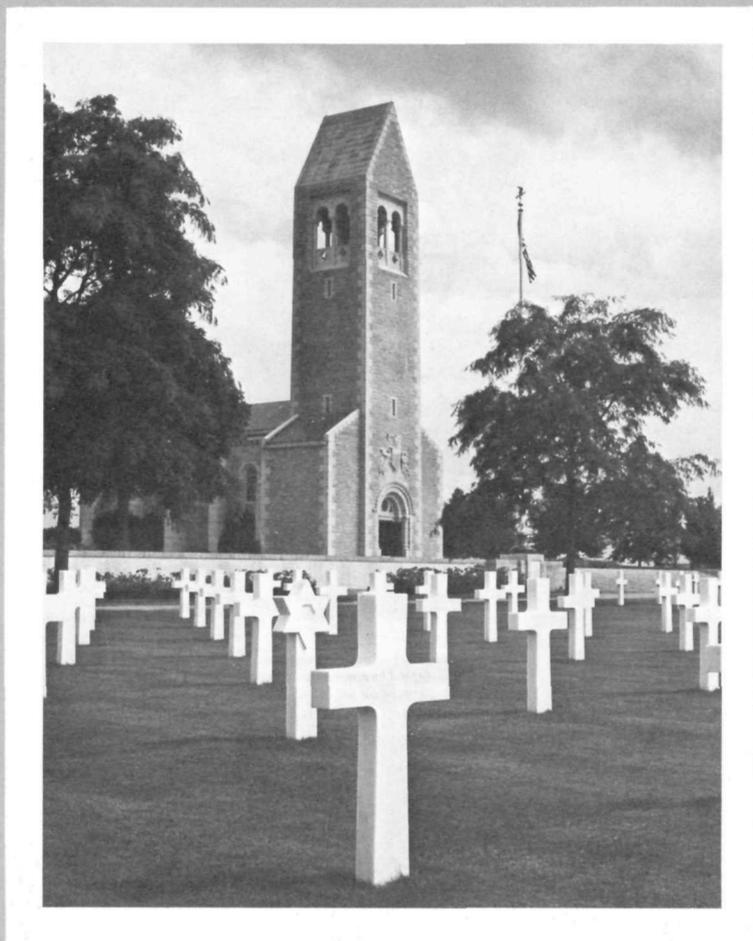


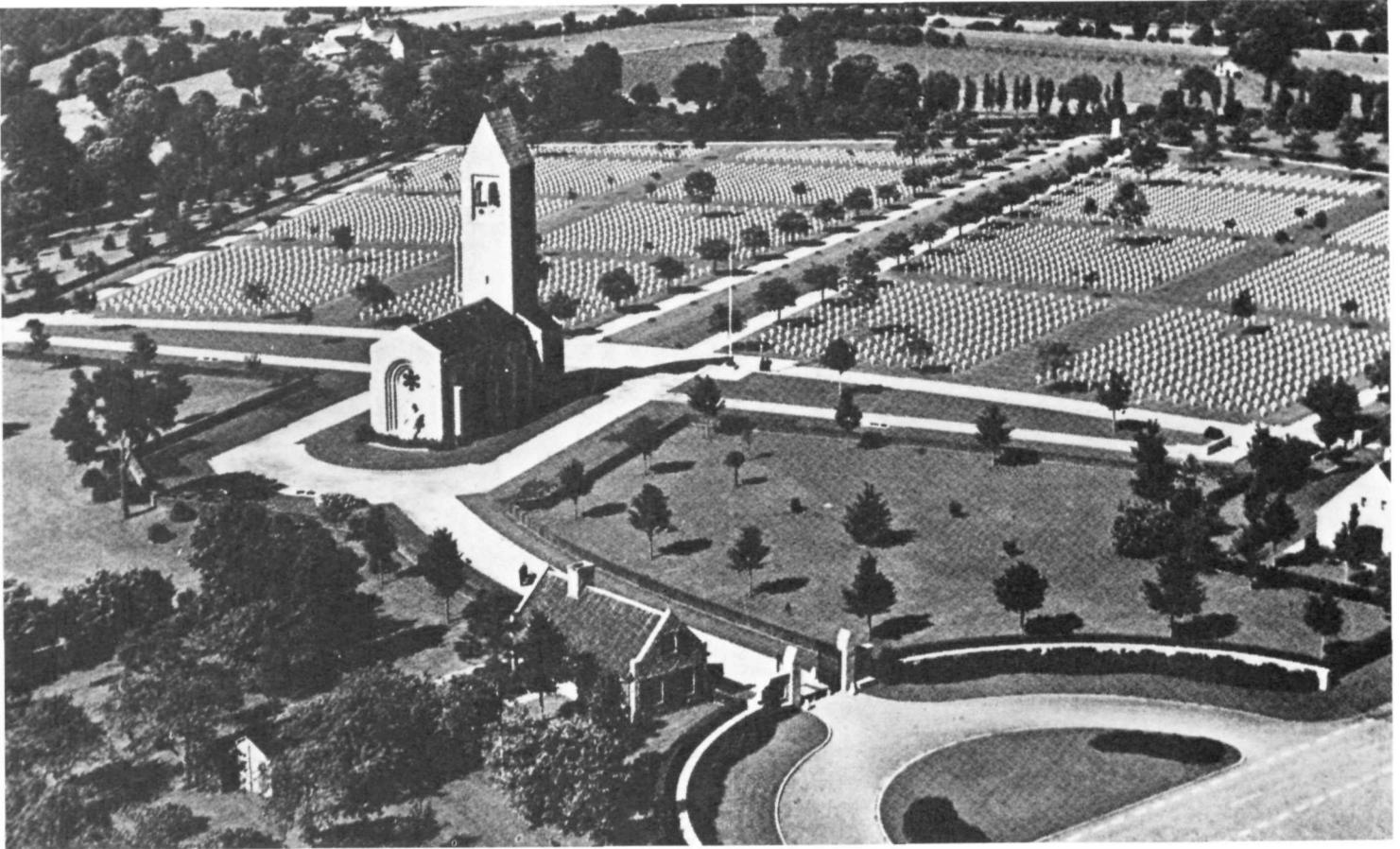
Brittany American Cemetery and Memorial



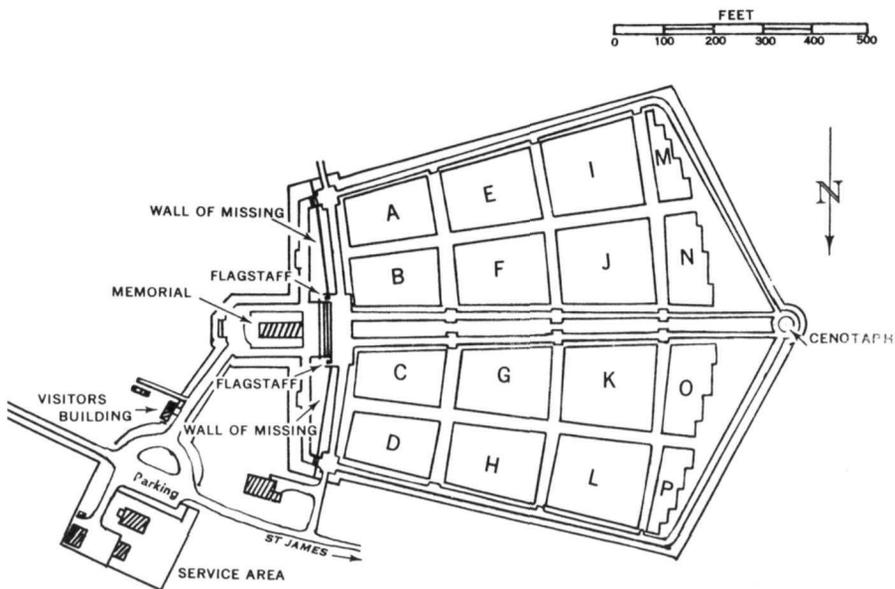
The American Battle Monuments Commission
1980



Chancel in West End of Chapel



Aerial View of Cemetery



Location of Cemetery Features

vice is available from Pontorson to St. James.

Avranches, Pontorson, Mont St. Michel, and Fourgeres have adequate hotel accommodations; those in the village of St. James are somewhat austere.

HOURS

The cemetery is open daily to the public as follows:

SUMMER (16 March -30 September)

9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. — weekdays

10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. — Saturdays,
Sundays, and Holidays

WINTER (1 October -15 March)

9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. — weekdays

10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. — Saturdays,
Sundays, and Holidays

During weekdays, a staff member is on duty in the Visitors' Building to answer questions, and to escort relatives to grave or memorial sites. On weekends and holidays, the Visitors' Building is open and staffed except from noon to 3:00 p.m.

HISTORY

Ground combat in northwestern France commenced with the Allied landings on the beaches of Normandy, 6 June 1944. During the early morning hours of darkness, three airborne divisions (the British 6th and the U.S. 82nd and 101st) were dropped in the rear of the beach areas to cover deployment of the seaborne assault forces. Simultaneously, Allied naval forces swept the English Channel of mines and preceded the assault vessels to the landing areas. At 6:30 a.m., under the cover of intense naval and air bombardment, six U.S., British and Canadian divisions began landing on Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno and Sword beaches in the greatest amphibious assault of recorded history.

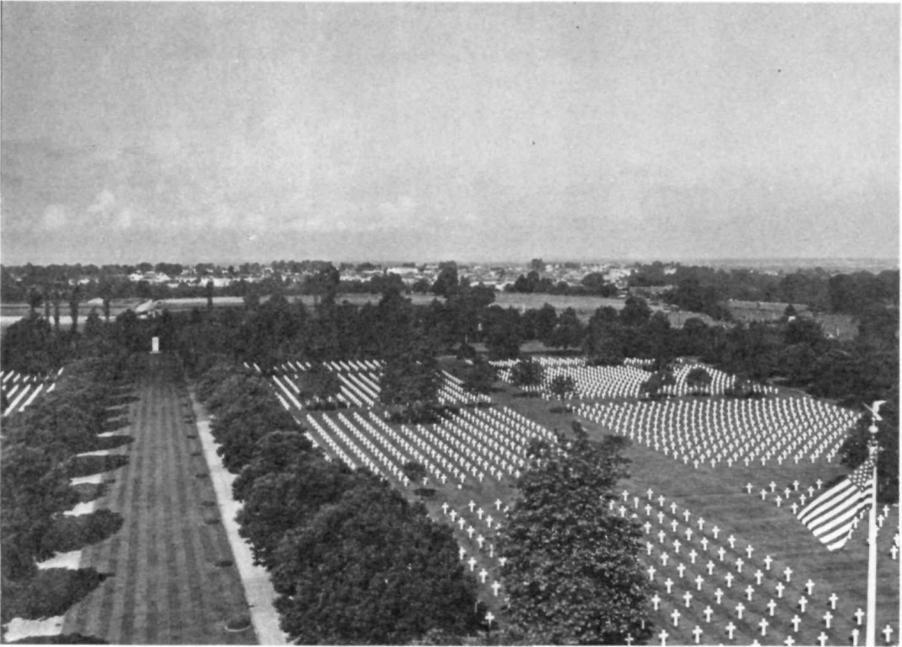
The U.S. 4th Division pushed rapidly inland from Utah Beach to join the previously dropped airborne divisions. Its early success and light casualties contrasted sharply with those of the U.S. 1st and 29th

Divisions on Omaha Beach to the east, where the enemy resisted with every device and weapon at his disposal. The configuration of Omaha Beach alone presented a major obstacle. Instead of sloping gently from the high ground to its rear, the beach area terminated in precipitous steep sandy bluffs. U.S. Troops had to cross an open area varying in width from a few yards at each end to about 200 yards in the center, and then attack up the steep bluffs to the plateau on which the Normandy American Cemetery now stands. The only concealment available was patches of tall marsh grass. Fighting was bitter and casualties heavy. Nevertheless, before D-Day was over, the U.S. 1st Division had taken the high ground to its front. To the east on Gold, Juno and Sword landing beaches, the British and Canadian divisions forged steadily ahead. Under the cover of continuous naval gunfire and air support, the landings' first objective, to link together the individual beachheads, was accomplished within a week. During the same period, temporary anchorages and artificial harbors were created off the beachhead area by sinking ships and prefabricated concrete caissons to the channel floor, to facilitate the unloading of troops and supplies. As a result, the Allies were able to reinforce and increase the size and strength of their Armies rapidly. The second objective of the landings was to clear the Cotentin Peninsula with its port of Cherbourg and capture Caen and St. Lô. On 26 June, American troops freed Cherbourg; 13 days later on 9 July British and Canadian troops fought their way into Caen; and on 18 July 1944 Americans took St. Lô, accomplishing the second objective. The final objective was to break through the ring of defenses that the enemy had established around the beaches. The stage was set for the breakout with a paralyzing air bombardment on 25

July by the U.S. Eighth and Ninth Air Forces and the Royal Air Force along a five mile front west of St. Lô. Aided by British forces pinning down the enemy in the eastern portion of the beach area toward Caen, the U.S. First Army stormed out of the beachhead liberating Coutances three days later. Within a week, the newly activated U.S. Third Army had cleared Avranches and was advancing toward Paris on a broad front with the First Army. The two armies fanned out westward toward Brest, southward toward the Loire, and eastward toward the Seine. On 7 August 1944, one week after the opening of the Avranches gap, a powerful counterattack was launched by the enemy, in an attempt to cut the columns of the advancing U.S. First and Third Armies. After initial success in the region of Mortain, the U.S. First Army was able to stem the counterattack and push back enemy forces.

In mid-August, enemy forces were threatened with encirclement by the U.S. Third Army which had turned northward from Le Mans, to meet the Canadian Army advancing southward from its beachhead. Despite desperate resistance by the enemy to prevent encirclement, the two Allied armies met at Chambois on 21 August. Enemy forces had the choice of remaining in the Falaise pocket or fleeing toward the Seine River in disorder. In a matter of days, U.S. Third Army troops were in the outskirts of Paris and it was liberated on 25 August 1944.

While these actions were taking place, the newly-formed Ninth U.S. Army relieved the Third Army units that had remained in Brittany and took over their mission of containing the strong enemy garrisons which still held out there. Although stubbornly contested, St. Malo fell to U.S. forces on 1 September and Brest on 18 September 1944. At this



Central Mall and Graves Area

time, most of the U.S. Ninth Army was ordered to the German border where enemy resistance was stiffening. Some Ninth Army units remained to contain the enemy garrisons at Lorient and St. Nazaire which did not surrender until 10 and 11 May 1945, respectively.

SITE

The Brittany American Cemetery, 28 acres in extent, lies among the hedgerows in rolling farm country near the border between the Brittany and Normandy regions of France. It is one of fourteen permanent American World War II military cemetery memorials erected by the American Battle Monuments Commission on foreign soil. The site was liberated on 2 August 1944 by the 8th Infantry Division; a temporary military cemetery was established on it three days later. Subsequently, the site

was selected to be one of fourteen permanent American World War II military cemeteries on foreign soil. After the war, when the temporary cemeteries were being disestablished by the American Graves Registration Service, the remains of American military Dead whose next of kin had requested interment on foreign soil were moved from the temporary cemeteries to one of the permanent cemetery sites, usually the one closest to the temporary location. The 4,410 American military Dead buried in the Brittany American Cemetery lost their lives in the area of northwestern France extending from the beachhead westward to Brest and eastward to the Seine and represent 43 percent of the burials originally made in the region. They were interred there by the American Graves Registration Service in the distinctive grave patterns proposed by the cemetery's architect and ap-



Cenotaph at East End of Mall

proved by this Commission. Most of them died in the fighting in and around St. Lô.

The design and construction of all cemetery facilities in the permanent World War I and II cemeteries, were the responsibility of the American Battle Monuments Commission, i.e., the memorial, chapel, visitors' building, superintendent's quarters, service facilities and paths, roads and walls. The Commission was also responsible for the sculpture, landscaping and other improvements. Construction of the permanent cemetery memorial at Brittany was completed in 1956.

ARCHITECTS

Architect for the cemetery and its memorial was William T. Aldrich of Boston, Massachusetts. The landscape architects were Shurcliff and Shurcliff, also of Boston.

GENERAL LAYOUT

The main entrance of the cemetery is located on the south side of Highway N-798 across from the service

area and the superintendent's quarters. A short semi-circular driveway flanked by a low granite wall leads from the highway to the wrought iron main entrance gate with its piers of gray granite. The driveway contains space for limited visitor parking and there is a small parking area across the highway.

Immediately inside the entrance gate, on the left, is the Visitors' Building. A surfaced path, gently curving to the right, leads past the Visitors' Building to the rear of the memorial chapel. In front of it is a terrace flanked by two flag poles. Emanating from each side of the terrace, inset from the base of the flag poles and facing the graves area, is a low stone wall with tablets in which are engraved the names of the servicemen Missing in Action in the region.

Steps lead down from the terrace in front of the chapel to the central mall lined with bottom boxwoods and European chestnut trees, which bisects the graves area into two groups of eight fanshaped plots. At the far (east) end of the mall is a rectangular stone cenotaph.

Inside the main entrance along the perimeter wall to the right is the assistant superintendent's quarters.

THE MEMORIAL

The Memorial Chapel consists of an antechamber and tower, museum room and chancel. Typical of the ecclesiastical architecture of the region, it is Romanesque in design.

THE EXTERIOR

The exterior of the memorial is constructed of local La Pyrie granite. At its east end is a sculpture group, "Youth Triumphant Over Evil," designed by Lee Lawrie of Easton, MD and executed in Chauvigny limestone from the Poitiers region by Jean Juge of Paris. Carved in its granite base is the inscription: I HAVE FOUGHT A GOOD FIGHT ☆ I HAVE FINISHED MY COURSE ☆ I HAVE KEPT THE FAITH (2 Timothy IV, 7).

Over the entrance door is a sculpture group, also designed by Lee Lawrie and executed by Jean Juge, consisting of an eagle, shield, stars, laurel and arrows representing the Great Seal of the United States; the shield is flanked by two floating angels representing victory. The one to the left of the observer, wearing the Columbian cap, is in mourning. She holds in her right hand the laurel of the brave, and in her left hand the palm of sacrifice. The figure to the right is a triumphant Victory, clothed in mail and wearing a helmet. Her right hand holds a sword, her left hand a trumpet. Below the sculpture over the tympanum is the inscription: IN MEMORY OF THE VALOR AND THE SACRIFICES WHICH CONSECRATE THIS SOIL.

ANTECHAMBER

Inside the main entrance door to the right of the antechamber is a small room with a stained-glass window in the north wall containing the fig-

ure of St. James of Compostello. On the east wall is engraved the dedicatory inscription in French and English, of which this is the English version:

1941—1945 ☆ IN PROUD REMEMBRANCE OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF HER SONS AND IN HUMBLE TRIBUTE TO THEIR SACRIFICES THIS MEMORIAL HAS BEEN ERECTED BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

On the opposite wall is this prayer:

O GOD WHO ART THE AUTHOR OF PEACE AND LOVER OF CONCORD, DEFEND US THY HUMBLE SERVANTS IN ALL ASSAULTS OF OUR ENEMIES, THAT WE SURELY TRUSTING IN THY DEFENSE MAY NOT FEAR THE POWER OF ANY ADVERSARIES.

In the tympanum above the main entrance door is a stained-glass window containing the emblem of SHAEF — the Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force.

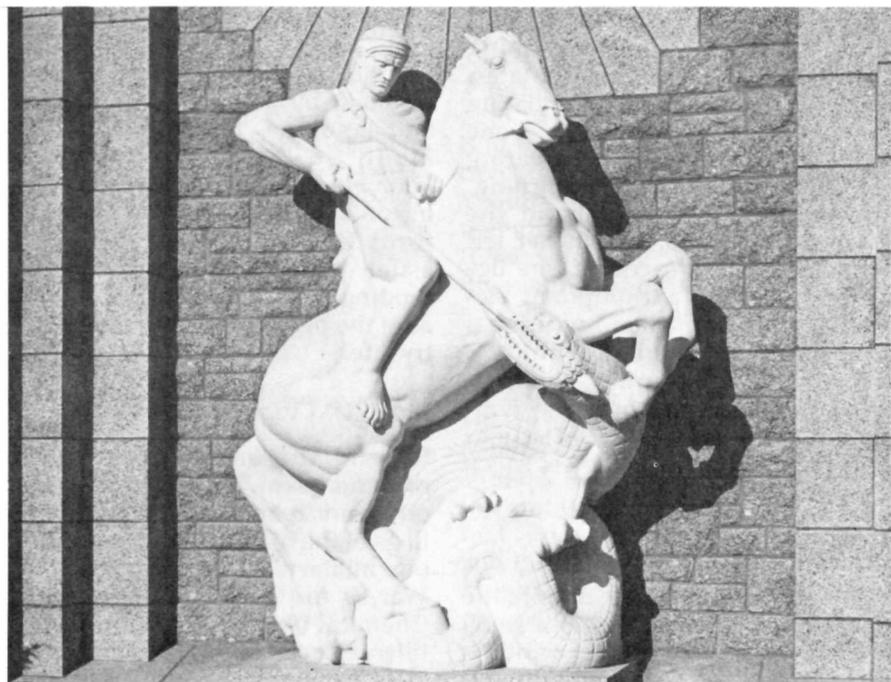
To the left of the antechamber is the stairway leading to the tower. The tower has an overall height of 99 feet/30.2 meters. The lookout platform, 63 feet/19.2 meters above the ground, is reached from the antechamber by a stairway of 98 steps and landings. From the platform Mont St. Michel, 15 miles/24 kilometers to the northwest, is visible on clear days. The tower also affords an impressive view of the stately pattern of the headstones extending before the memorial, as well as of the peaceful surrounding countryside.

MUSEUM ROOM

Beyond the antechamber is the museum room. Projecting from high on its north and south walls are the flags of the following components of our military services during World War II: Air Corps; Armor; Cavalry; Chemical Warfare Service; Coast Artillery Corps; Corps of Engineers; Field Artillery; Chaplains, Christian;



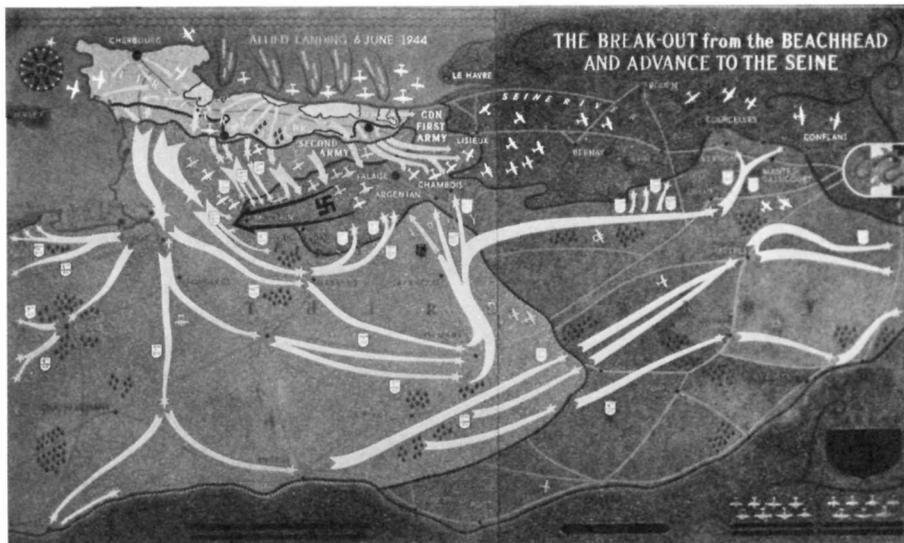
Memorial Chapel – Rear View



Youth Triumphant over Evil



Museum Room



Breakout from the Beachhead and Advance to the Seine

Chaplains, Jewish; Infantry; Medical Department; Navy Artillery Battalion; Navy Infantry Battalion; Ordnance Department; Quartermaster Corps; Signal Corps.

Immediately above the entrance door in the museum room are the American, British, and French national flags, and the engraved inscription: DUTY ☆ HONOR ☆ COUNTRY.

Within the museum room, on the interior wall flanking the doorway to the south, is engraved this extract from President Franklin D. Roosevelt's D-Day prayer on the occasion of the invasion of Normandy:

ALMIGHTY GOD: OUR SONS, PRIDE OF OUR NATION, THIS DAY HAVE SET UPON A MIGHTY ENDEAVOR, A STRUGGLE TO PRESERVE OUR REPUBLIC, OUR RELIGION, AND OUR CIVILIZATION.

THEY WILL BE SORE TRIED, BY NIGHT AND BY DAY, WITHOUT REST — UNTIL THE VICTORY IS WON. SOME WILL NEVER RETURN. EMBRACE THESE, FATHER, AND RECEIVE THEM, THY HEROIC SERVANTS, INTO THY KINGDOM.

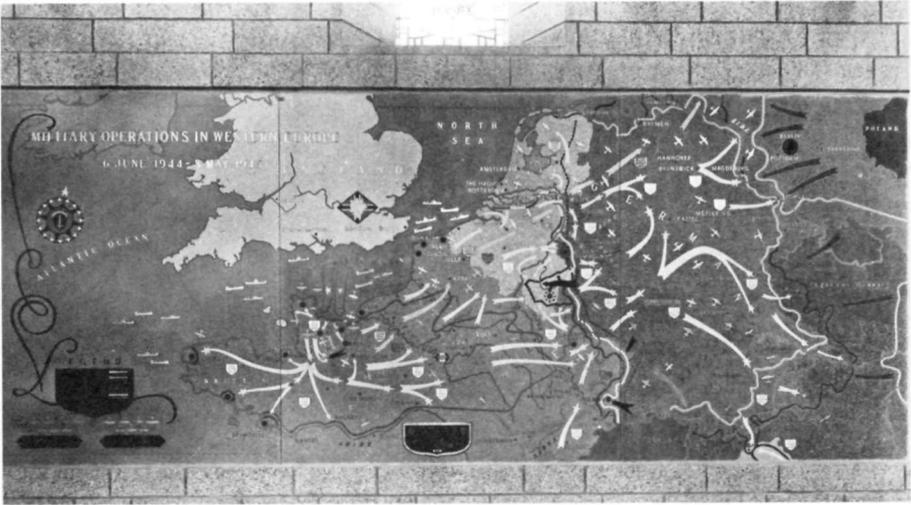
On the interior wall north of the doorway is engraved this extract from General Eisenhower's final report to the Combined Chiefs of Staff:

MORE IMPORTANT THAN WEAPONS WAS THE INDOMITABLE FIGHTING SPIRIT OF THE MEN WHO WIELDED THEM. THE COURAGE AND DEVOTION TO DUTY WHICH THEY EXHIBITED THROUGHOUT THE CAMPAIGN WERE UNSURPASSABLE.

TO THOSE WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES, AND TO THOSE WHO BEAR THE WOUNDS OF BATTLE, WE, THEIR COMRADES IN ARMS, RENDER MOST GRATEFUL AND HUMBLE TRIBUTE.

Windows of stained glass, four on each side, portray the coats of arms of eight towns or cities liberated during these operations; viz, Carentan, Cherbourg, St. Lô, Mont St. Michel, Mortain, Paris, Chartres, and Brest. Each window also illustrates a characteristic feature of the respective towns. The stained glass windows throughout the memorial were designed and fabricated by Francois Lorin of Chartres, France.

On the north wall of the museum is the map, "The Breakout from the



Military Operation in Western Europe

Beachhead and Advance to the Seine." Both this map and the operations map on the south wall were designed by Edward Shenton of West Chester, PA, and fabricated by the Earley Studios of Rosslyn, VA. The backgrounds are colored concretes with various brilliantly colored glass aggregates into which have been set bronze lettering, other metal features, enameled panels, etc. The map, "The Breakout from the Beachhead and Advance to the Seine," is designed in perspective as seen from the south. It is flanked on its west end by the following explanatory inscription in English, on its east end by a similar explanatory inscription in French:

ON 6 JUNE 1944, UNITED STATES AND BRITISH COMMONWEALTH FORCES CROSSED THE ENGLISH CHANNEL TO ENTER OCCUPIED FRANCE. THIS WAS THE CULMINATION OF MONTHS OF PREPARATION AND NATION-WIDE EFFORT. AS THE VAST ARMADA MOVED TOWARD THE NORMANDY BEACHES, ONE BRITISH AND TWO AMERICAN AIRBORNE DIVISIONS DROPPED IN THE DARKNESS TO COVER THE DEPLOYMENT FROM THE

BEACHES. AT 0630 HOURS, UNDER COVER OF CONCENTRATED AERIAL AND NAVAL BOMBARDMENT, THREE AMERICAN, ONE CANADIAN, AND TWO BRITISH DIVISIONS STORMED ASHORE.

THE ASSAULTING FORCES, DESPITE DESPERATE RESISTANCE, DROVE VALIANTLY INLAND AND WITHIN A WEEK LINKED UP THE INDIVIDUAL BEACHES. TURNING NORTH, AMERICAN UNITS, AIDED BY NAVAL AND AIR BOMBARDMENT, CAPTURED CHERBOURG WHILE OTHER ALLIED FORCES HACKED OUT THE BEACHHEAD TO A DEPTH OF 20 MILES AGAINST TENACIOUS OPPOSITION IN THE AGGRESSIVELY DEFENDED HEDGEROWS. THE ENEMY'S EFFORTS TO RUSH REINFORCEMENTS TO HIS MENACED ARMIES WERE PERSISTENTLY DISRUPTED BY ATTACKS BY THE U.S. EIGHTH AND NINTH AIR FORCES AND THE ROYAL AIR FORCE, EXTENDING FAR TO HIS REAR, ON BRIDGES, HIGHWAYS, AND RAILROADS.

ON 25 JULY THE U.S. FIRST ARMY LAUNCHED THE ATTACK TO BREAK OUT OF THE BEACHHEAD. BLASTED ALONG A FIVE-MILE FRONT WEST OF ST. LO BY A PARALYZING AIR BOMBARDMENT, THE ENEMY GAVE WAY BEFORE THE FURIOUS GROUND ASSAULT WHICH FOLLOWED. JOINING IN THE ATTACK, THE U.S. THIRD ARMY THRUST RAPIDLY

SOUTHWARD TOWARD THE LOIRE. NEAR MORTAIN A POWERFUL COUNTERATTACK, INTENDED BY THE GERMANS TO CUT OFF OUR ADVANCING COLUMNS, WAS REPULSED WITH HEAVY LOSSES. THEN, WHILE THE ARMIES IN THE BEACHHEAD CONTINUED TO PRESS FORWARD, AMERICAN FORCES SWUNG UP FROM THE SOUTH TOWARD ARGENTAN. THREATENED WITH ENCIRCLEMENT, POUNDED INCESSANTLY BY WAVES OF AIRCRAFT, THE ENEMY STROVE DESPERATELY TO ESCAPE TO THE EAST BUT BY 21 AUGUST HIS TROOPS IN THE FALAISE POCKET HAD BEEN ANNIHILATED AS A FIGHTING FORCE.

AS THE ALLIED FORCES STEADILY GREW IN STRENGTH THEIR SWEEP ACROSS FRANCE GAINED MOMENTUM. BY 25 AUGUST THEY HAD CROSSED THE SEINE, HAD LIBERATED PARIS, AND WERE IN FULL PURSUIT TOWARD THE GERMAN BORDER.

ALREADY THE UNITED STATES AND ALLIED NAVIES HAD TRANSPORTED OR ESCORTED TO NORMANDY MORE THAN 3,000,000 TONS OF SUPPLIES AND 2,000,000 TROOPS TOGETHER WITH THEIR ARTILLERY, TANKS, AND VEHICLES.

Beneath each of these inscriptions is a set of three key maps, "The War Against Germany" on the west and "The War Against Japan" on the east.

On the south wall is the map, "Military Operations in Western Europe" showing the progress of the military operations in northern France and northwest Europe from the landings in Normandy to the end of the war, together with a flanking descriptive text in English and French, of which the following is the English version at the east end:

IN THE WAKE OF THE SWIFT ALLIED ADVANCE ACROSS NORTHERN FRANCE STRONG ENEMY GARRISONS STUBBORNLY CLUNG TO MANY LARGE SEAPORTS. THUS DENIED ADEQUATE HARBORS THE ALLIES HAD NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO UNLOAD THEIR SUPPLIES AND REINFORCEMENTS OVER THE NORMANDY BEACHES OR THROUGH THE SINGLE CRIPPLED PORT OF CHERBOURG. THE

EFFICIENT PERFORMANCE OF THE TREMENDOUS TASKS PLACED UPON SUPPLY PERSONNEL OF THE ARMY AND NAVY WAS A VITAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE SWEEPING VICTORY WHICH LIBERATED FRANCE.

ALTHOUGH HANDICAPPED BY RAPIDLY LENGTHENING SUPPLY LINES, THE ALLIED FORCES, AIDED BY AIR LIFT, MAINTAINED THEIR VIGOROUS PURSUIT OF THE FLEEING ENEMY. BY MID-SEPTEMBER 1944 THE BRITISH AND CANADIANS HAD CLEARED THE CHANNEL COAST, EXCEPT FOR A FEW ISOLATED PORTS, HAD CAPTURED THE CITY OF ANTWERP, AND HAD ENTERED HOLLAND. THE U.S. FIRST ARMY OF THE 12TH ARMY GROUP HAD SWEEPED THROUGH FRANCE, BELGIUM, AND LUXEMBOURG, AND WAS STANDING ON THE THRESHOLD OF GERMANY, WHILE THE U.S. THIRD ARMY IN A SWIFT ADVANCE HAD REACHED THE MOSELLE. ON THE RIGHT FLANK, THE 6TH ARMY GROUP (U.S. SEVENTH AND FRENCH FIRST ARMIES), ROLLING NORTHWARD FROM THE BEACHES OF SOUTHERN FRANCE, HAD JOINED FORCES WITH THE U.S. THIRD ARMY AT SOMBERNON. IN BRITANNY THE RECENTLY ACTIVATED U.S. NINTH ARMY, ASSISTED BY AIR AND NAVAL BOMBARDMENT, WAS BESIEGING BREST WHOSE GARRISON SURRENDERED ON 18 SEPTEMBER.

THE NEXT THREE MONTHS SAW BITTER FIGHTING IN THE EFFORT TO BREAK THROUGH THE GERMAN FRONTIER DEFENSES. ON 11 SEPTEMBER THE ALLIED ARMIES SET FOOT ON GERMAN SOIL. ON 17 SEPTEMBER THE ALLIED FIRST AIRBORNE ARMY DROPPED IN THE EINDHOVEN-ARNHEM AREA IN A GALLANT BUT UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT TO OUTFLANK THE FORTIFIED SIEGFRIED LINE. BY DOGGED EFFORT THE BRITISH SECOND ARMY, THE CANADIAN FIRST ARMY, AND THE NEWLY ARRIVED U.S. NINTH ARMY REACHED THE MEUSE AND ROER RIVERS. THE U.S. FIRST ARMY FOUGHT ITS WAY THROUGH THE SIEGFRIED LINE TO REACH AACHEN AND THE HURTGEN FOREST. THE FORTRESS OF METZ FELL AS THE U.S. THIRD ARMY PUSHED TO THE SAAR. FARTHER SOUTH THE 6TH ARMY GROUP CAPTURED STRASBOURG AND MULHOUSE.



Tablets of the Missing on Wall in front of Chapel

ON 16 DECEMBER THE ENEMY MADE HIS LAST DESPERATE EFFORT TO STAVE OFF DISASTER. PREPARED IN GREATEST SECRECY AND LAUNCHED UNDER COVER OF FOG AND RAIN, HIS ATTACK IN THE ARDENNES WAS INITIALLY SUCCESSFUL. PROMPT DECISIVE MEASURES AND THE SUPERB FIGHTING QUALITIES OF AMERICAN SOLDIERS AND AIRMEN TURNED THE GERMAN ADVANCE INTO RETREAT. THE CONCURRENT GERMAN OFFENSIVE BETWEEN SAARBRUCKEN AND COLMAR MET THE SAME FATE.

DURING FEBRUARY AND EARLY MARCH THE WEST BANK OF THE RHINE WAS CLEARED IN A SERIES OF BRILLIANTLY SUCCESSFUL TACTICAL OPERATIONS. ON 7 MARCH AMERICAN FORCES SEIZED A BRIDGE AT REMAGEN. A SURPRISE CROSSING WAS EFFECTED AT OPENHEIM ON 22 MARCH. IN THE NEXT TWO DAYS ALLIED TROOPS ASSISTED BY NAVAL LANDING CRAFT STAGED ASSAULT CROSSINGS FARTHER DOWNSTREAM AND THEN SURGED FORWARD TO ISOLATE THE ENTIRE RUHR VALLEY REGION AND ITS DEFENDING FORCES BY A DOUBLE ENVELOPMENT. WITH AIR AND GROUND FORCES OPERATING AS A TEAM THE ALLIED FORCES SWEEP ACROSS GERMANY TO MEET THE ADVANCING TROOPS OF THE U.S.S.R. AT THE ELBE, ENTER CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND AUSTRIA, AND FORCE THE COMPLETE SURRENDER OF ALL GERMAN FORCES CONFRONTING THEM ON 8 MAY, 337 DAYS AFTER THE INITIAL LANDINGS IN NORMANDY.

The map also bears this significant reminder of the part played by the Strategic Air Forces:

FROM 1942 TO 1945 THE UNITED STATES ARMY AIR FORCES AND THE ROYAL AIR FORCE INCESSANTLY ATTACKED DEEP INTO ENEMY TERRITORY TO DISLOCATE AND DESTROY HIS MILITARY AND INDUSTRIAL SYSTEMS.

CHAPEL

At the east end of the museum, separated from it by a low granite divider and wrought iron gates, is the chancel. The face of the granite divider bears this inscription:

O LORD SUPPORT US ALL THE DAY LONG
UNTIL THE SHADOWS LENGTHEN AND OUR
WORK IS DONE ☆ THEN IN THY MERCY GRANT
US A SAFE LODGING AND PEACE AT THE
LAST.

The altar in the chancel is of French Harteville Perle limestone from the Juras. High above it is a large stained glass window in the shape of a sexfoil. Centered in the window is the seal of the United States. Each of the six circular stained glass areas on the perimeter of the sexfoil contain three stars. Above the window is engraved the inscription from Exodus XVI, 7: IN THE

MORNING YE SHALL SEE THE GLORY OF THE LORD.

On the wall below the window and above the altar is a blue and gold damask hanging. Centered on the altar is a latin cross flanked by two candlesticks.

TABLETS OF THE MISSING

Along the gently curving walls emanating from the memorial terrace are inscribed the name, rank, organization, and State of 498 of our Missing:

United States Army and Army Air Forces, 449
United States Navy, 48
United States Coast Guard, 1

These men have given their lives in the service of their Country but their remains have not been recovered or if recovered not identified. They came from the District of Columbia, Canada, and every State of the Union except Alaska, Hawaii, Nevada, and New Hampshire.

On the walls below the flagstaffs is this inscription together with the French translation:

HERE ARE RECORDED THE NAMES OF AMERICANS WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN THE SERVICE OF THEIR COUNTRY AND WHO SLEEP IN UNKNOWN GRAVES 1941—1945.

These inscription panels are of Beaumont stone from southwestern France.

GRAVES AREA

There are 4,410 American military personnel buried in the cemetery. Their 4,408 headstones are set in 16 fan shaped plots, curving from the central mall. These Dead, who gave their lives in our Country's service, came from every State in the Union and the District of Columbia.

Ninety-five of the headstones mark graves of "unknowns;" two of

these graves contain the remains of two Unknowns that could not be separated.

Here also, in twenty instances, two brothers rest side by side.

At the far (east) end of the mall is a rectangular stone cenotaph of La Pyrie granite designed by Lee Lawrie and executed by the French sculptor, Augustine Beggi. Carved upon it are a torch and laurel wreath in bas relief and the words PRO PATRIA 1941—1945.

PLANTINGS

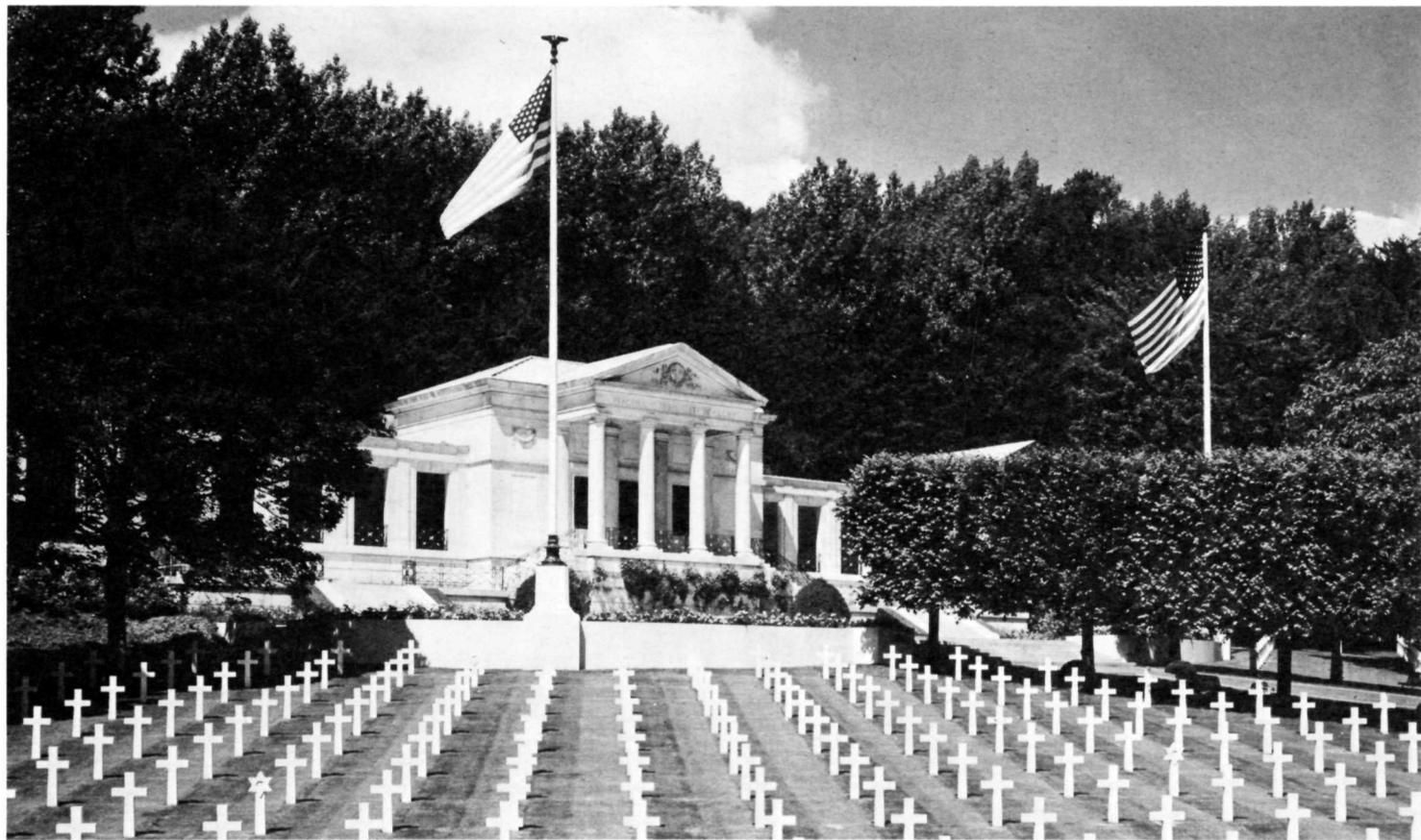
The cemetery is surrounded by a Hawthorn (*Crataegus oxyacantha*) hedge with an interior hedge of Boxwood (*Buxus sempervirens*) enclosing the grave plots. The space of varying width between the two hedges is planted with shade trees, both evergreen and deciduous, including Giant Sequoia (*Sequoia gigantea*), White Fir (*Abies concolor*), Norway Spruce (*Picea abies*), Scotch Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*), Holly Oak (*Quercus ilex*), Tulip Tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), Purple Beech (*Fagus sylvatica purpurea*), European Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*), European Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), European Oak (*Quercus robur*) and European Elm (*Ulmus procera*). In the broad grass walks dividing the grave plots are flowering trees which bloom from late spring far into the summer. These include Crabapple (*Malus floribunda*), Double Hawthorn (*Crataegus oxyacantha flora plena*), Pagoda Tree (*Sophora japonica*), Golden Rain Tree (*Koelreuteria paniculata*), and Yellow Wood Tree (*Cladrastis lutea*). The central mall of the cemetery and the perimeter of the grave plots are lined with rows of European Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*). A number of rose beds and blooming shrubs such as rhododendron are grown in various locations and provide a colorful aspect.



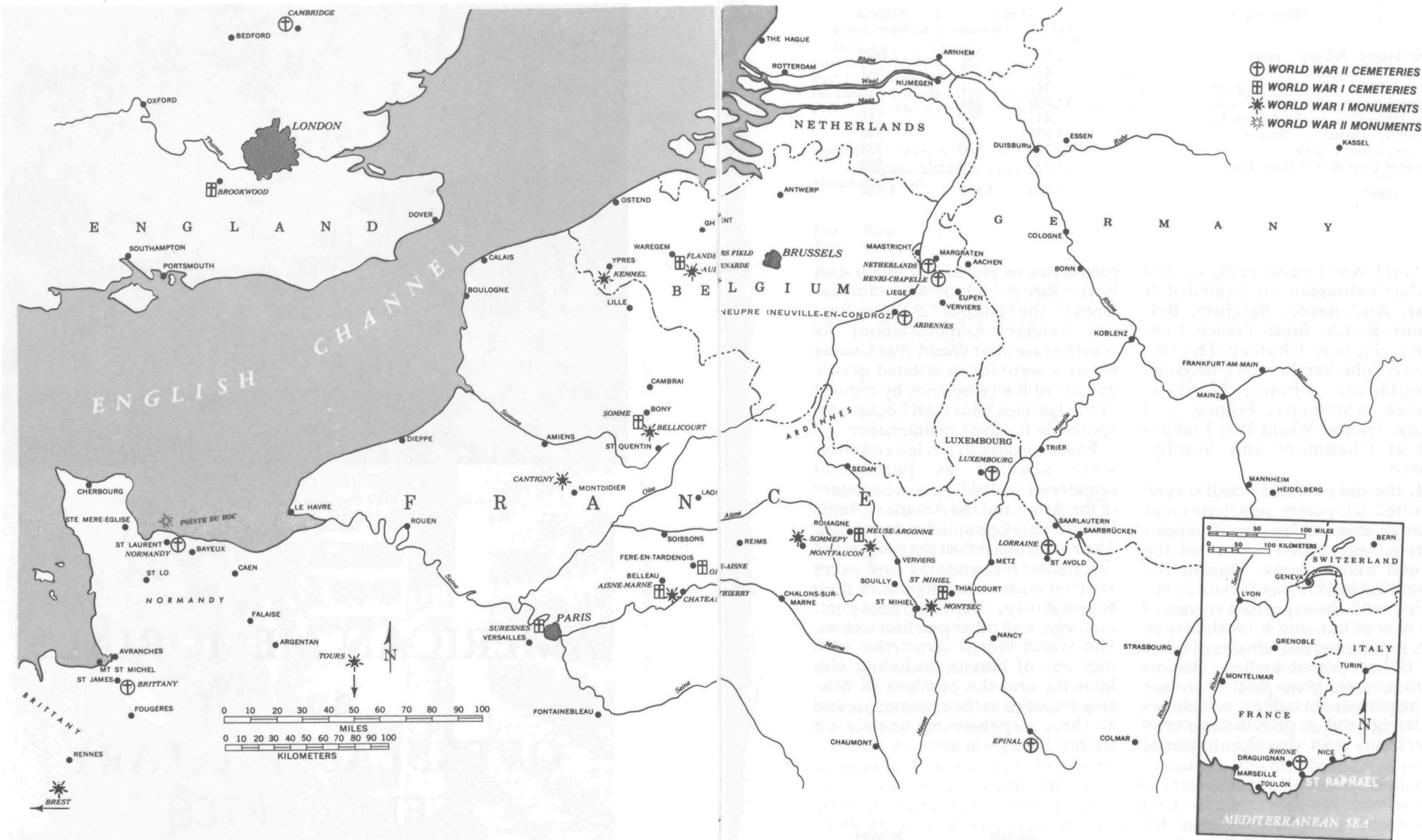
Office and Visitors' Building



Visitors' Room



Suresnes American Cemetery, Suresnes, Seine, France



foreign countries and designing, constructing and maintaining permanent cemetery memorials at these burial sites; controlling as to design and materials, providing regulations for, and supervising erection of all monuments, memorials, buildings, and other structures in permanent United States cemetery memorials

on foreign soil; and cooperating with American citizens, states, municipalities, or associations desiring to erect war memorials outside the continental limits of the United States. It is not responsible for construction, maintenance, or operation of cemeteries in the continental United States or its territories and possessions.

After World War I the American Battle Monuments Commission erected a memorial chapel in each of the eight military cemeteries overseas already established by the War Department, as well as eleven monuments and two bronze tablets on the battlefields and elsewhere, to record the achievements of our

Armed Forces. In 1934 the World War I overseas cemeteries were transferred to the Commission by Executive Order.

The names and locations of these World War I cemetery memorials, the numbers of burials, and the numbers of Missing recorded at their memorials are:



Aisne-Marne American Cemetery and Memorial, Belleau, France

AMERICAN MEMORIALS and OVERSEAS MILITARY CEMETERIES

The AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION was created by act of Congress in March 1923 to erect and maintain memorials in the United States and foreign countries where the United States Armed Forces have served since April 6, 1917, and to control as to design and provide

regulations for the erection of monuments, markers, and memorials in foreign countries by other United States citizens and organizations, public or private. It was later given responsibility for establishing or taking over from the Armed Forces permanent burial grounds in

<i>World War I</i>	<i>Burials</i>		<i>Missing Commemorated</i>
	<i>Known</i>	<i>Unknown</i>	
Aisne-Marne, Belleau, France	2,039	249	1,060
Brookwood, England	427	41	563
Flanders Field, Waregem, Belgium	347	21	43
Meuse-Argonne, Romagne, France	13,760	486	954
Oise-Aisne, Fere-en-Tardenois, France	5,415	597	241
St. Mihiel, Thiaucourt, France	4,036	117	284
Somme, Bony, France	1,707	137	333
Suresnes (See WW II also), France	1,535	6	974
Totals	29,266	1,654	4,452

World War I monuments erected by the Commission are located at or near: Audenarde, Belgium; Bellicourt, France; Brest, France; Cantigny, France; Chateau-Thierry, France; Gibraltar; Kemmel, Belgium; Montfaucon, France; Montsec, France; Sommepey, France; and Tours, France. World War I tablets are at Chaumont and Souilly, France.

By the end of World War II several hundred temporary cemeteries had been established by the American Graves Registration Service of the United States Army. During the years 1947 to 1954 that Service, complying with the expressed wishes of the next of kin, and by authority of law, repatriated the remains of some 172,000 recovered bodies. The remainder were given final interment in the permanent military cemeteries on foreign soil, in private cemeteries overseas, and in the national

cemeteries in Honolulu, Sitka, and Puerto Rico (which are now administered by the National Cemetery System, Veterans Administration). As was the case after World War I, some remains were left in isolated graves outside of the cemeteries by request of the families who then became responsible for their maintenance.

Fourteen sites in foreign countries were selected as permanent cemeteries in 1947 by the Secretary of the Army and the American Battle Monuments Commission in concert. Their locations reflect the progress of the military operations and were selected with consideration of their accessibility, aspect, prospect, drainage, and other practical factors. The World War II cemeteries with numbers of burials, including Unknowns, and the numbers of Missing recorded at their memorials and at three separate memorials on United States soil are:

<i>World War II</i>	<i>Burials</i>		<i>Missing Commemorated</i>
	<i>Known</i>	<i>Unknown</i>	
Ardennes, Neupre (Neuville-en-Condroz) Belgium	4,535	790	462
Brittany, St. James, France	4,313	97	497
Cambridge, England	3,787	24	5,126
Epinal, France	5,186	69	424
Florence, Italy	4,189	213	1,409
Henri-Chapelle, Belgium	7,895	94	450
Lorraine, St. Avoird, France	10,338	151	444
Luxembourg, Luxembourg City, Luxembourg	4,975	101	370
Manila, Republic of the Philippines	13,462	3,744	36,280
Netherlands, Margraten, Netherlands	8,195	106	1,722
Normandy, St. Laurent-sur-Mer, France	9,079	307	1,557

North Africa, Carthage, Tunisia	2,601	240	3,724
Rhone, Draguignan, France	799	62	293
Sicily-Rome, Nettuno, Italy	7,372	490	3,094
Suresnes (See WW I also), France .....	...	24	...
East Coast Memorial, New York City, New York ...	...	...	4,596
Honolulu Memorial, Honolulu, Hawaii .....	...	...	18,094
West Coast Memorial, San Francisco, California ...	...	...	412
Totals	86,726	6,512	78,954
<i>World War II cemeteries maintained by the National Cemetery System, Veterans Administration</i>			
Honolulu, Hawaii	11,505	2,028	(See Honolulu Memorial)
Puerto Rico	69	...	...
Sitka, Alaska	67	5	...
<i>Other Missing in Action Commemorated by ABMC</i>			
Korean War, Honolulu Memorial, Honolulu, Hawaii .....	...	...	8,194
Vietnam War, Honolulu Memorial, Honolulu, Hawaii .....	...	...	2,489
<i>Other ABMC Cemeteries</i>			
Mexico City National Cemetery Mexico City, Mexico	813	750	...
Corozal American Cemetery Panama City, Republic of Panama	4,218	...	...

In every case, use of the permanent cemetery sites on foreign soil was granted in perpetuity by the host government to the United States free of cost, rent, and taxation. The temporary cemetery sites not selected as permanent cemeteries reverted to the landowners.

In 1947, an outstanding American architect was selected to design each of the World War II cemeteries, conceiving its grave plots, a chapel, and a museum as complementary elements of an integral memorial to the services and sacrifices of the American Armed Services who fought in the particular region. Upon approval of their general schemes by the Commission, and by agreement with the Secretary of the Army, the architects' plans of the grave plots were followed by the American Graves Registration Service in making the permanent burials of those remains which by decision of the next of kin were to be interred overseas. The timely cooperation between these two agencies contributed appreciably to the coherence of

the development of the cemetery designs.

Beginning in the latter half of 1949, the permanent interments having been virtually completed, the World War II overseas cemeteries were progressively transferred for construction and maintenance to the American Battle Monuments Commission by Presidential Executive Order. Thereupon the remaining portions of the architects' designs were carried out, step by step — grading; installation of a system of reinforced concrete beams on piles to maintain the levels and alignments of the headstones; fabrication and installation of the headstones; construction of water supply and distribution systems, utilities buildings, roads and paths; plantings; and erection of the memorials, visitors' buildings, and flagpoles.

For design of the various memorials, no specific limitations were imposed upon the architects other than budgeted cost and a requirement that each was to embody these features:



Memorial and Wall of the Missing, Cambridge American Cemetery, Cambridge, England

A small devotional chapel;
inscription of the names and
particulars of the Missing in the
region;

a graphic record, in permanent
form, of the services of our troops
(WW II only; however, Oise-
Aisne, Meuse-Argonne and St.
Mihiel WW I American Cemeter-
ies also have battle maps).

These requirements have been in-
terpreted in a wide and interesting
variety of forms.

An important motive for the con-
struction of the memorials is the im-
plied undertaking by our Govern-
ment to record by monuments the
achievements of our Armed Ser-
vices, since the erection of memo-
rials by the troops (which in the past
unfortunately had all too often been
found to be poorly designed, poorly
constructed, and lacking provision
for maintenance) was expressly for-
bidden by the military services. The

permanent graphic record takes the
form of military maps, usually large
murals, amplified by descriptive
texts in English as well as in the lan-
guage of the country in which the
cemetery is located. The historical
data for these maps were prepared
by the American Battle Monuments
Commission. The maps themselves
were rendered by experienced ar-
tists in tasteful presentations using
various media: layered marbles,
fresco, bronze relief, mosaic con-
crete or ceramics. Another feature of
interest at each memorial is the two
sets of "key-maps": "The War
Against Germany" and "The War
Against Japan." Each set consists of
three maps, each covering about
one-third of the period of our par-
ticipation in the war. By these key-
maps any major battle may be re-
lated to the others in time and space.

With each architect, an American
landscape architect, an American



Maps on Chapel Walls, Ardennes American Cemetery, Neuville-en-Condroz, Belgium

sculptor, and an American muralist or painter usually collaborated. Their combined talents produced the beauty and dignity of the memorials, all of which are dedicated to the memory of the achievements of those who served and of the sacrifices of those who died. The construction of the cemeteries and memorials, and the execution of most of the works of art, were performed by local contractors and artists under the supervision of the Commission.

At each cemetery there is a visitors' building or room, with comfortable furnishings. Here visitors may learn the grave locations (or inscriptions of the Missing) at any of the oversea cemeteries.

Each grave in the oversea cemeteries is marked by a headstone of white marble—a Star of David for those of Jewish faith, a Latin cross for all others. Each headstone bears

the deceased's name, rank, service, organization, date of death, and state or territory from which he entered the military service.

In the World War I cemeteries, headstones of the Unknowns, i.e., those remains which could not be identified, bear the inscription:

HERE RESTS IN HONORED GLORY AN AMERICAN SOLDIER KNOWN BUT TO GOD.

In the World War II cemeteries, the inscription reads:

HERE RESTS IN HONORED GLORY A COMRADE IN ARMS KNOWN BUT TO GOD.

Tablets of the Missing (which also include the names of those whose remains could not be identified, and those lost and buried at sea) give name, rank, organization, and state; the circumstances under which death occurred usually precluded the possibility of determining the exact date.



*The Buddy Statue, Sicily-Rome
American Cemetery, Nettuno, Italy*

These cemeteries are open every day of the year. Photography is permitted without special authorization, except when it is to be used for commercial purposes—in such cases, permission must be obtained from the Commission's local office.

Unlike National cemeteries under jurisdiction of the Veterans Administration, there can be no further burials in the American military cemeteries overseas except of those remains which may, in the future, be found on the battlefields. Essentially, these graves with their memorials constitute inviolable shrines.

In addition to the eight World War I cemeteries, the 14 World War II cemeteries, 11 World War I monuments and two tablets, the American Battle Monuments Commission program of commemoration includes the following:

SURESNES

At the Suresnes Cemetery Memorial, senior representatives of the French and United States Governments pay homage to our military Dead on ceremonial occasions. Accordingly, 24 Unknown Dead of World War II were buried in this

World War I cemetery, and two loggias were added to its chapel by the Commission, thereby converting it into a shrine commemorating our Dead of both wars.

EAST COAST MEMORIAL

To commemorate those 4,596 Americans who, in or above the waters off the east coast of North and South America, but outside the territorial limits of the United States, gave their lives in the service of their country, the Commission erected a memorial in Battery Park, New York City, upon which their names and particulars are inscribed.

WEST COAST MEMORIAL

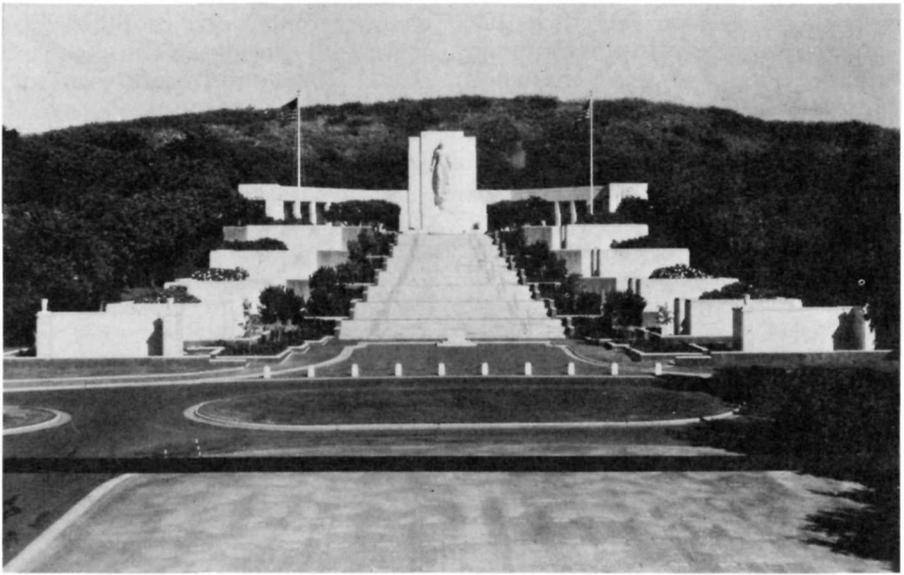
Similarly, the names and particulars of those 412 Americans who gave their lives in the service of their country off the west coast of the Americas but outside the territorial limits of the United States, are recorded at the memorial erected by the Commission at the Presidio of San Francisco.

HONOLULU MEMORIAL

Although the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at Honolulu is administered by the Veterans Administration, the American Battle Monuments Commission constructed a memorial therein, incorporating the features of the memorials in its oversea cemeteries. The names of 18,094 Missing of World War II who gave their lives in the Pacific areas (except the Southwest and the Palau Islands which are commemorated at the Manila Cemetery Memorial) are recorded here as well as 8,194 missing of the Korean War and 2,489 Missing of the Vietnam War.

POINTE DU HOC MONUMENT

Following World War II, the French erected a monument at Pointe du Hoc overlooking the right flank of



Honolulu Memorial (WW II, Korea & Vietnam) National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, Honolulu, Hawaii

Omaha Beach, France honoring the elements of the 2nd Ranger Battalion under the command of LTC James Rudder who scaled the cliff, seized the position, and defended it against German counter-attacks at a high cost of lives. The monument consists of a simple pylon on top of a concrete bunker at the edge of the cliff and appropriate inscriptions at its base in French and English. It was officially turned over to the American government for operation and maintenance in perpetuity on January 11, 1979.

MEXICO CITY NATIONAL CEMETERY

The Mexico City National Cemetery is at 31 Calzada Melchor Ocampo, about 2 miles west of the cathedral and about one mile north of the U.S. Embassy. This cemetery was established in 1851 and contains a small monument over the grave of 750 of our unidentified Dead of the War of 1847. In this one acre area there are 813 remains of Americans and others

in wall crypts. Care of the cemetery was transferred from the Department of the Army to this Commission on July 16, 1947. This cemetery was closed to burials in 1923.

COROZAL AMERICAN CEMETERY, COROZAL, REPUBLIC OF PANAMA

The Corozal American Cemetery is located approximately three miles north of Panama City, just off Gaillard Highway between the Corozal Railroad Station and Fort Clayton. To reach the cemetery, follow Gaillard Highway north from Panama City, turn right on Rybicki Road, and proceed about one-half mile to the cemetery. Taxi and bus service to the cemetery are available from Panama City. There are 4,218 identified "Known" Dead interred here. In agreement with the Republic of Panama, care and maintenance of the cemetery in perpetuity was assumed by the Commission on October 1, 1979.



FLORAL DECORATIONS

In the overseas cemeteries, the decoration of graves and the Tablets of the Missing with natural cut flowers only is permitted. The Commission is always ready to help arrange with local florists in foreign countries for placement of such decorations. Requests should be mailed so as to arrive at the appropriate Commission office at least thirty days before the

date of decoration and should be accompanied by check or U. S. Postal Money Order in dollars. Deposits may be made for a single decoration on a particular day—birthday, Memorial Day, Christmas Day, for example—or for several decorations on particular dates within a year or over a period of years. Checks should be made payable to "ABMC Flower Fund," money orders to "The American Battle Monuments

Commission." Requests should be addressed to the Commission's European office, except in the case of Florence, Sicily-Rome, and North Africa cemeteries, where the Mediterranean office is responsible and Manila cemetery, where the Philippine office is responsible.

Orders for flowers for all cemeteries may also be placed through any local florist who is a member of the "Florists Telegraph Delivery Association." In such cases, the name of the deceased, his rank, service number, name of the cemetery, country in which located, and the location by plot, row, and grave should be provided, if known.

PHOTOGRAPHS

The Commission will furnish close relatives of the Dead buried or commemorated in the World War I and II cemetery memorials overseas with a color lithograph of the cemetery together with a black and white photograph of the particular grave or the section of the Tablets of the Missing where the individual's name appears. For the Honolulu, East Coast and West Coast Memorials, the Commission will supply a

lithographed picture of the memorial itself and a black and white photograph of the appropriate section of the list of the Missing. Photographs of graves in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (in Honolulu) are not available through the Commission.

Requests for photographs and lithographs should be addressed to the Commission's Washington Office.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Further information regarding cemeteries and memorials may be obtained at the Commission's offices in Washington, Garches (near Paris), Rome, or Manila. Visitors passing through these cities are invited to call. The Commission's representatives there may be of assistance in verifying travel routes and schedules and also in furnishing information concerning overnight accommodations. These offices are not open on Saturdays, Sundays, or holidays, but essential information may be obtained overseas through our Embassy telephone operators.

SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC AVAILABLE THROUGH THE AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION

Name, location, and general information concerning the cemetery or memorial; plot, row, and grave number if appropriate; best routes and modes of travel in-country to the cemetery or memorial; general information about the accommodations that may be available in the vicinity; escort service within the cemetery memorial for relatives; letters authorizing fee-free passports for members of the immediate family traveling overseas to visit a grave or memorial site; black and white photographs of headstones and sections of the Tablets of the Missing on which the servicemen's names are engraved; large color lithographs of World War I and II cemeteries and memorials to which the appropriate headstone or section of the Tablets of the Missing photographs are affixed; and arrangements for floral decoration of grave and memorial sites.



Decorated Gravesite of an "Unknown".

THE AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MARCH 1923

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