

Flanders Field American Cemetery and Memorial



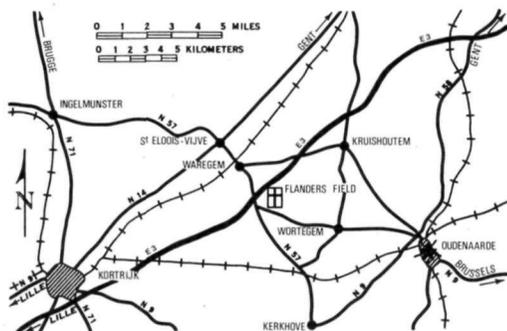
The American Battle Monuments Commission

1986



Chapel Interior

Flanders Field American Cemetery and Memorial



LOCATION

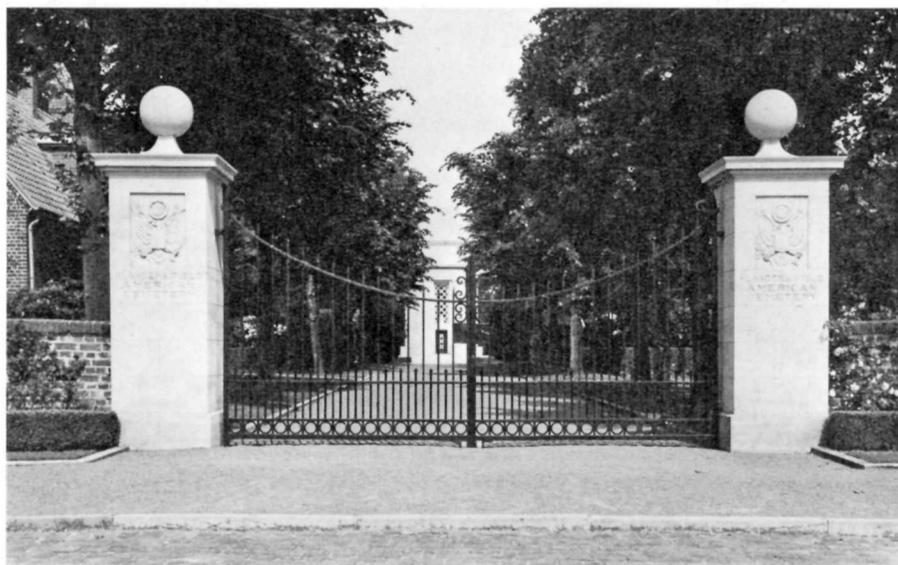
Flanders Field American Cemetery and Memorial is located on the southeastern edge of the industrial commune of Waregem, Belgium, about 1.5 miles/2.5 km. from the center of town, on the road to Audenaarde (Oudenaarde).¹

Waregem may be reached by train from Brussels via Ghent (Gent) in approximately one hour; from the Gare du Nord in Paris in about 5

hours via Lille (Rysel) and Courtrai (Kortrijk) and 5¹/₂ hours via Brussels and Ghent. Taxi service to the cemetery is available at the railroad station in Waregem. Road distances to Waregem from various cities are: Brussels — 46 miles/74 km., Mons — 50 miles/80 km., Ghent — 21 miles/34 km., Bruges (Brugge) — 29 miles/47 km., Courtrai — 10 miles/16 km., Audenaarde — 8 miles/13 km., Ypres (Ieper) — 28 miles/45 km., Lille — 29 miles/47 km., and Paris — 175 miles/280 km.

Adequate hotel accommodations may be found in Waregem and in

¹ Parenthetical references show Flemish spelling.



Entrance Gates

most of the surrounding cities and towns.

HOURS

The cemetery is open daily to the public as shown below:

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

When the cemetery is open to the public, a staff member is on duty in the Visitors' Building to answer questions and to escort relatives to grave and memorial sites (except between the hours of noon and 3:00 p.m. on weekends and holidays).

HISTORY

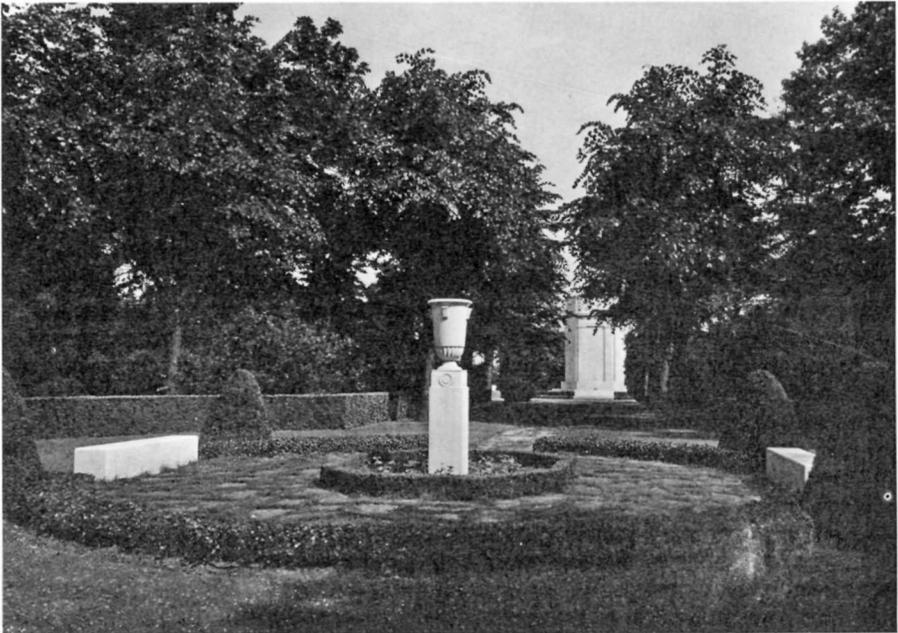
The Flanders Field American Cemetery is situated on a battlefield where

the U.S. 91st Division suffered many casualties in securing the wooded area called "Spitaals Bosschen," a few hundred yards to its east.

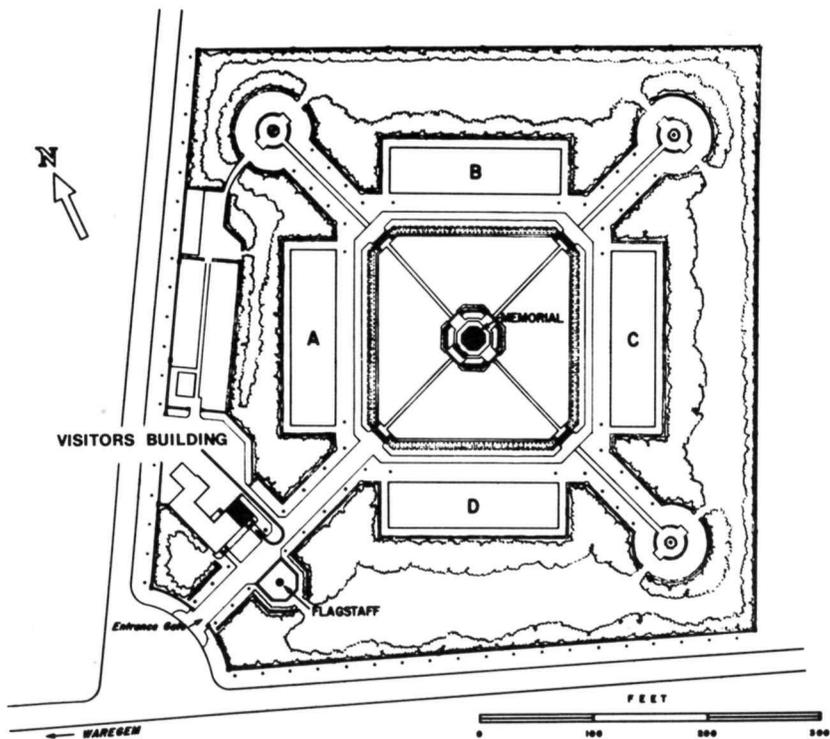
Before advancing into Belgium, the U.S. 91st and U.S. 37th Divisions had been engaged in heavy fighting in the Meuse-Argonne region. Both divisions received orders in October 1918 to join the French Army in Belgium and assist in the operations launched there on 28 September 1918 by the Group of Armies of Flanders under the command of Albert I, King of Belgium.

The two divisions joined the Ypres-Lys offensive on 30 October; the U.S. 37th, along the railroad at Olsene, and the U.S. 91st just south of Waregem. A French division separated them in the lines when the general attack eastward toward the Escaut River (also known as the Schelde River) began at 5:30 a.m. on 31 October 1918.

The U.S. 91st Division quickly drove forward despite intense artil-



Garden with Chapel in Background



Location of Cemetery Features

lery and machine gun fire and captured the "Spitaals Bosschen" a short distance in front of its line of departure. The division was then delayed by severe enfilade fire from its right, as the French Division on that flank had been unable to make a corresponding advance. Meanwhile, the U.S. 37th Division advanced under heavy enemy fire about 2½ miles to the western outskirts of Cruyshautem (Kruishoutem) where it dug in for the night. The following day, it being evident that the Germans were retreating, both divisions advanced rapidly to the Escaut River. The U.S. 91st occupied part of Audenarde on 2 November and the remainder of it the next day. Early on 2 November under heavy fire the U.S. 37th Division forced a crossing of the Escaut south-

east of Heurne. A German counterattack against the bridgehead on 4 November was repulsed. Both divisions were relieved during the night of 4 November to prepare for another general offensive and returned to the front lines on 10 November. The following day, both divisions were able to advance with little opposition. The Armistice became effective at 11:00 a.m. on that date (11 November 1918).

SITE

Smallest of the permanent American military cemeteries on the European continent, the Flanders Field American Cemetery occupies 6 acres. It was dedicated on 8 August 1937, and is the only American World War I cemetery



Memorial Chapel

in Belgium. The use of the land on which it rests has been granted by the Belgian Government free of charge or taxation in perpetuity, as an expression of its gratitude to the United States.

Charles A. Lindbergh flew over the cemetery in the *Spirit of St. Louis* on 30 May 1927 to salute his fallen countrymen and drop poppies on the Memorial Day ceremonies being held below. He did this just 9 days after he completed his historic solo trans-Atlantic flight.

For many Americans, the cemetery has special significance because of John McCrae's poem, "In Flanders Field." The poem, however, was not written about the fighting which occurred there. Lt. Col. John McCrae, M.D., a Canadian physician, wrote it while serving at a medical station in Ypres. On 8 December 1915, the poem was published anonymously in *Punch* magazine. Colonel McCrae died of pneumonia on 28 January 1918, 9 months prior to large-scale fighting in the Flanders area. In 1919, his verses were collected and published under the title *In Flanders Field and Other Poems*.

IN FLANDERS FIELD

In Flanders fields, the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly.
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; Be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

It was due to the poem "In Flanders Field" that Miss Moina Michael originated the Flanders Field Memorial Poppy which has raised millions of dollars for veterans and their families.

Miss Michael is known to millions of World War I veterans as the "Poppy Lady" and on 9 November 1918 she wrote the poem "We Shall Keep the Faith" in answer to the "In Flanders Field" poem.

WE SHALL KEEP THE FAITH

Oh! You who sleep in "Flanders Fields,"
Sleep sweet — to rise anew!
We caught the Torch you threw
And, holding high we keep the Faith
With all who died.

We cherish, too, the poppy red
That grows on fields where valor led:
It seems to signal to the skies
That blood of heroes never dies.
But lends a lustre to the red
Of the flower that blooms above the dead
In Flanders Fields.

And now the Torch and Poppy red
We wear in honor of our dead.
Fear not that ye have died for naught;
We've learned the lesson that ye taught
In Flanders Fields.
Moina Michael

ARCHITECT

Dr. Paul P. Cret of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania was the architect of the cemetery and the memorial. The landscape architect was J. Greber of Paris, France.

GENERAL LAYOUT

From the wrought-iron entrance gates on the Waregem/Audenarde road, a short gravelled lane bordered by linden trees on a carpet of grass leads past the Visitors' Building on the left and the flagpole terrace on the right to the memorial chapel and graves area beyond. The American flag flies daily from the 50-foot flagpole on the terrace near the entrance gate. The pole's cast bronze base is ornamented with Acanthus leaves, butterflies, sea-shells, oak leaves and acorns with a circle of poppies at the point where the staff is inserted in the base. The flagpole was designed by Egerton Swartwout, New York City, N.Y.



Mosaic Ceiling in Chapel

and cast by Susse Freres, Paris, France. Other architectural ornaments in the cemetery were created by L. Bottiau of Paris, France.

Steps lead down from the end of the gravelled lane directly to the corner of a square-shaped sunken garden in the center of which is an interdenominational chapel where visitors may pause for meditation and prayer. Paralleling each side of the sunken garden is one of the cemetery's four rectangular grave plots. Flagstone paths lead from the chapel to steps at the three other corners of the sunken garden beyond which small secluded recesses enclosed with trees are located, each containing a decorative urn on a pedestal and stone benches on which to rest. The insignia of the four American divisions which fought in Belgium (27th, 30th, 37th and 91st) are shown on the urns in sculptured form.

MEMORIAL CHAPEL

At the center of the cemetery is the small memorial chapel of white Pouilly-enay stone. Above its bronze entrance door is engraved:

GREET THEM EVER WITH
GRATEFUL HEARTS

to remind the visitor that those buried there died for their freedom.

On three of the outer walls, the dedicatory inscription appears in French, Flemish and English:

THIS CHAPEL HAS BEEN ERECTED BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN MEMORY OF HER SOLDIERS WHO FOUGHT AND DIED IN BELGIUM DURING THE WORLD WAR. THESE GRAVES ARE THE PERMANENT AND VISIBLE SYMBOL OF THE HEROIC DEVOTION WITH WHICH THEY GAVE THEIR LIVES TO THE COMMON CAUSE OF HUMANITY.



Wall of the Missing in Chapel



View of Graves Area

Beneath the three versions of the inscription, sculptured bas-relief figures symbolizing Grief, Remembrance and History respectively appear.

CHAPEL INTERIOR

Inside the chapel, one's attention is drawn to the altar of Grand Antique (black and white) marble. On the front of the altar is inscribed:

I WILL RANSOM THEM FROM THE POWER OF THE GRAVE, I WILL REDEEM THEM FROM DEATH (Hosea, XIII, 14).

Above it carved on a rose-tinted marble panel is a Crusader's sword outlined in gold. On either side of the altar stands a bronze candelabrum and flagstaffs supporting flags of the United States, Belgium, France, Great Britain and Italy. On the side walls of the chapel, panels of rose St. George marble enframed in bronze molding carry the names of 43 American soldiers who lost their lives in Belgium and sleep in unknown graves. Above the names is the Great Seal of the United States and the inscription:

IN MEMORY OF THOSE AMERICAN SOLDIERS WHO FOUGHT IN THIS REGION AND WHO SLEEP IN UNKNOWN GRAVES.

The beauty of the interior is enhanced by the mosaic ceiling, which depicts a lighted oil lamp under the stars of Heaven with doves of peace flying toward the light, and a large ornamental window over the door through which comes a subdued golden light.

The furniture of the chapel is of carved oak, stained black with veining in white to harmonize with the black and white marble altar.

GRAVES AREA

The graves area consists of four rectangular plots. Each plot contains 92 graves marked with white marble headstones set in stately rows on a carpet of green grass. Stars of David mark the graves of those of Jewish faith and Latin Crosses mark all others. Each grave plot is enframed by an English yew hedge and dense massifs of colorful trees and shrubs. Twenty-one of the 368 graves in the cemetery are of Unknowns.

VISITORS' ROOM

Near the cemetery entrance a comfortably furnished room is provided where visitors may pause to refresh themselves or obtain information from the cemetery staff. A register is maintained there, and all visitors are encouraged to sign it before leaving the cemetery. Burial locations and sites of memorialization in all of the overseas American military cemeteries of both World War I and World War II, plus other information of interest concerning the overseas cemeteries or local history, may be obtained from the Superintendent or the cemetery staff.

PLANTINGS

Behind the linden trees bordering the lane, a currant hedge sets off dense massifs of trees and colorful shrubs of rhododendron, lilac, azalea, birch, ash, oak, elm, holly, maple, osmanthus, hydrangea, magnolia, spirea and Japanese prune.



Visitors' Building



Visitors' Room



Unknown Soldier of World War I



Audenarde Monument

In 1936, the American Battle Monuments Commission erected a small monument in Audenarde (Oudenaarde), Belgium to the 40,000 American troops who participated in operations in that area during World War I. The monument of yellow Crucchard stone is located in a small park at Tacambaro Place in the center of the city. It was designed by Mr. Harry Sternfeld of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

On the front of the monument above a sculptured shield of the United States is engraved the inscription:

37TH DIVISION — 91ST DIVISION — 53RD
FIELD ARTILLERY BRIGADE.

Below the shield and flanked by two sculptured American eagles is the inscription:

ERECTED BY THE UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA TO COMMEMORATE THE SER-
VICES OF AMERICAN TROOPS WHO
FOUGHT IN THIS VICINITY, OCT 30 —
NOV 11, 1918.

A French version of the inscription is repeated on the right side of the monument and a Flemish version on the left.



Kemmel Monument

In 1929, the American Battle Monuments Commission erected a small monument commemorating the achievements of the 27th and 30th Divisions which fought in the Ypres-Lys offensive with the British Army from 18 August to 4 September 1918. The monument of clear Rocheret stone is located near the hamlet of Vierstraat on the road to Mont Kemmel (Kemmelberg) about 4 miles/6.5 km. south of Ypres. It was designed by Mr. George Howe of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Engraved on the front of the monument is the inscription:

27TH DIVISION — 30TH DIVISION.

ERECTED BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO COMMEMORATE THE SERVICES OF AMERICAN TROOPS WHO FOUGHT IN THIS VICINITY AUGUST 18-SEPTEMBER 4, 1918.

The inscription is flanked on either side by a sculptured American bayonet. Below the inscription is a sculptured American helmet resting upon a wreath. A French version of the inscription is engraved on the left side of the monument and a Flemish version on the right. The insignia of the 27th and 30th Divisions are engraved on the back side of the monument with their respective numerical designations beneath them.

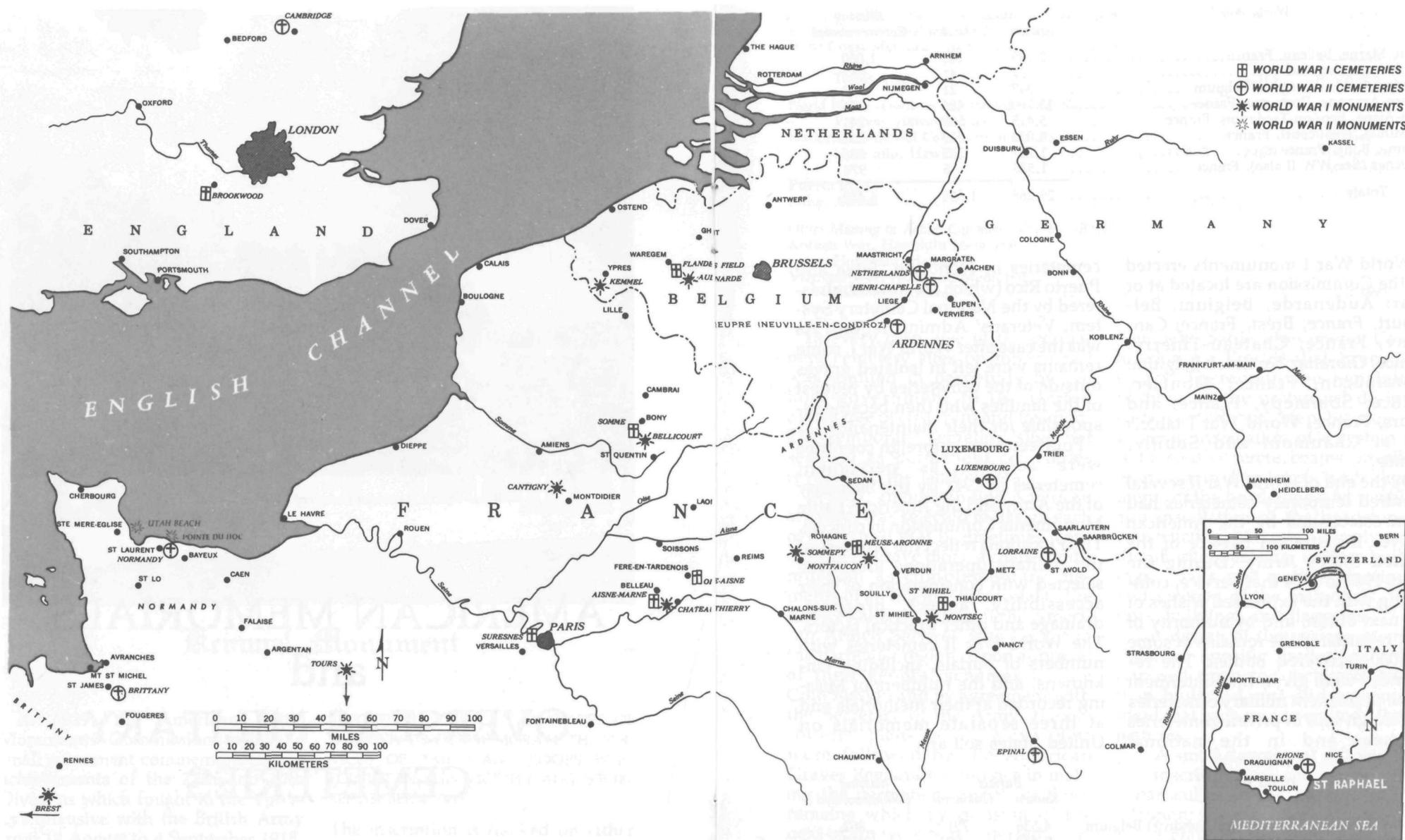


Aisne-Marne American Cemetery, Belleau, Aisne, France

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 6 April 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



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 number of burials and the number of Missing recorded at their memorials are:

<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; Sommepy, 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 .	4,536	791	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. Avold, 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, Holland	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	3,095
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 .....	...	...	413
<hr/>			
Totals	86,727	6,513	78,956
<i>World War II cemeteries maintained by the National Cemetery System, Veterans' Administration</i>			
National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific			(See
Honolulu, Hawaii	11,597	2,079	Honolulu Memorial)
Puerto Rico	69	...	...
Sitka, Alaska	67	5	...
<i>Other Missing in Action Commemorated by ABMC</i>			
Korean War, Honolulu Memorial, Honolulu, Hawaii .....	...	...	8,195
Vietnam War, Honolulu Memorial, Honolulu, Hawaii .....	...	...	2,489

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.

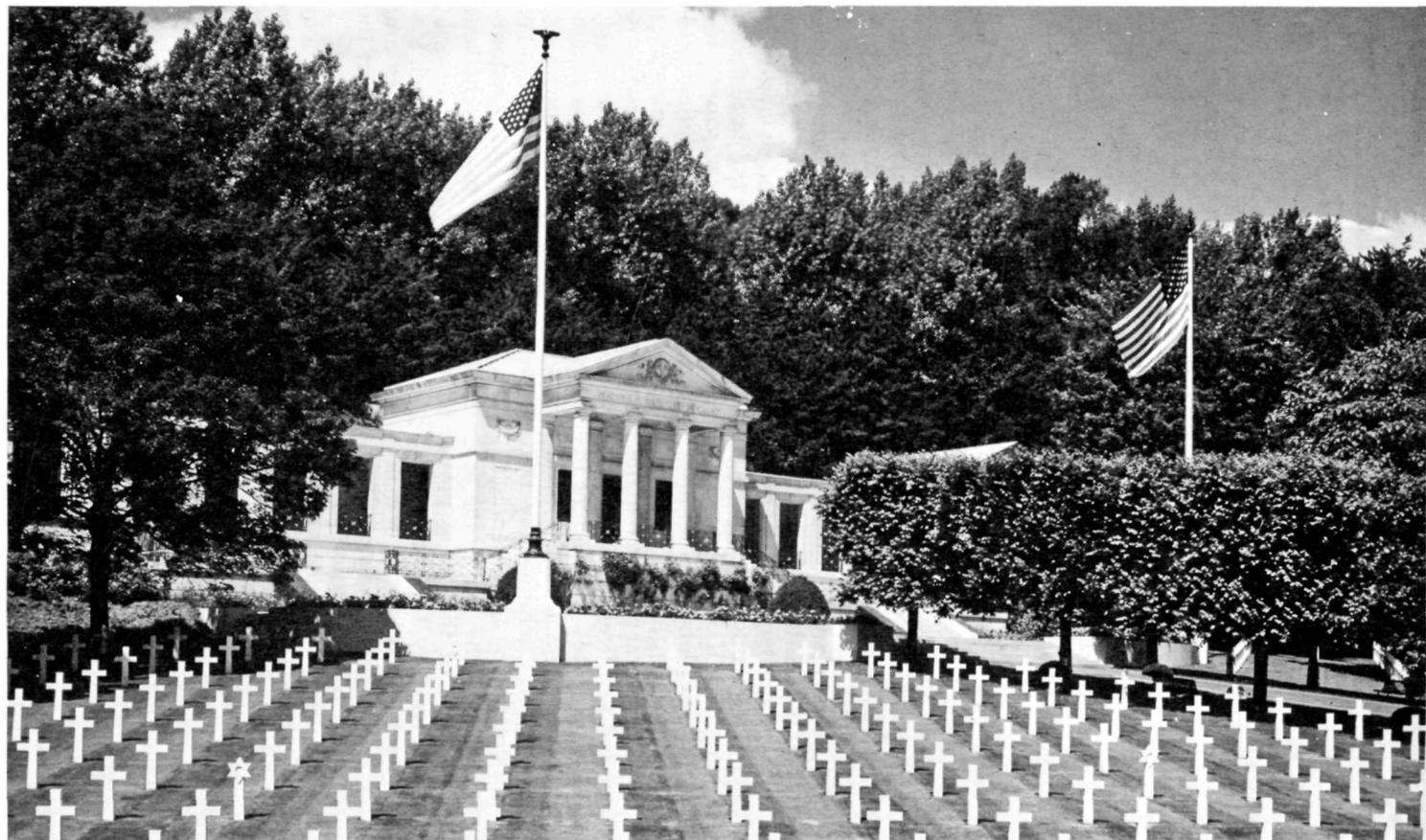
For design of the various memorials, no specific limitations were imposed upon the architects other than budgeted cost and a requirement that each was to embody these features:

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

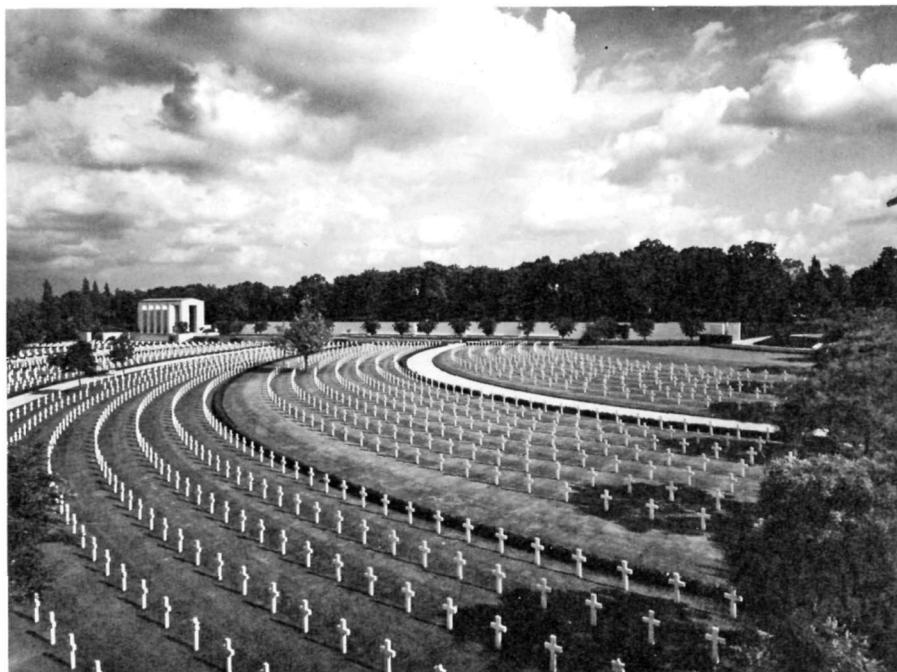
a graphic record, in permanent form, of the services of our troops (WW II only; however, Oise-Aisne, Meuse-Argonne and St. Mihiel WW I American Cemeteries also have battle maps).

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

An important motive for the construction of the memorials is the implied undertaking by our Govern-



Suresnes American Cemetery, Suresnes, Seine, France



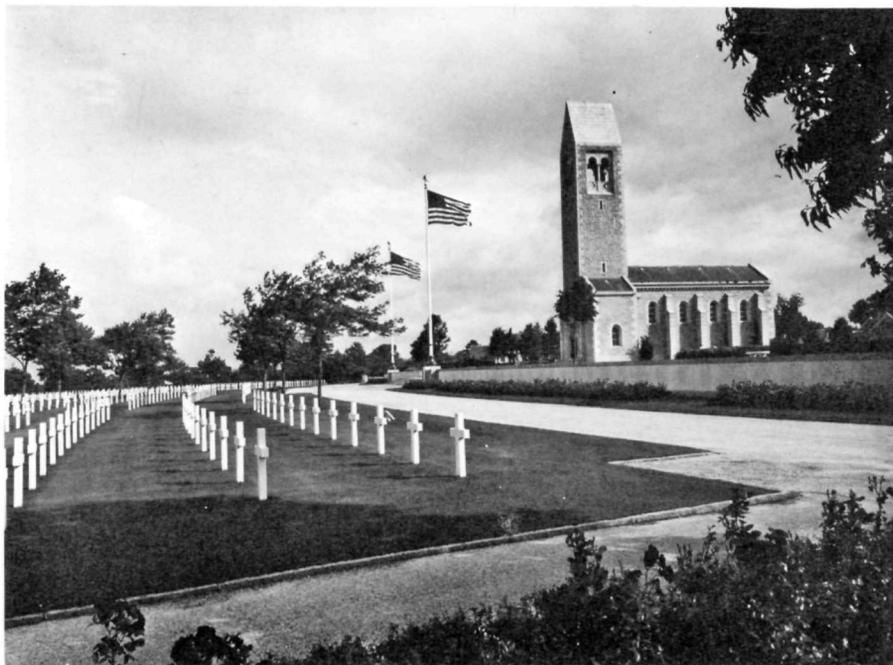
Cambridge American Cemetery and Memorial, Cambridge, England

ment to record by monuments the achievements of our Armed Services, since the erection of memorials 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 forbidden 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 language 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 artists in tasteful presentation using various media: layered marbles, fresco, bronze relief, mosaic concrete 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 participation in the war. By these key-maps any major battle may be related to the others in time and space.

With each architect, an American landscape architect, an American 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



Brittany American Cemetery and Memorial, St. James, Manche, France

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.

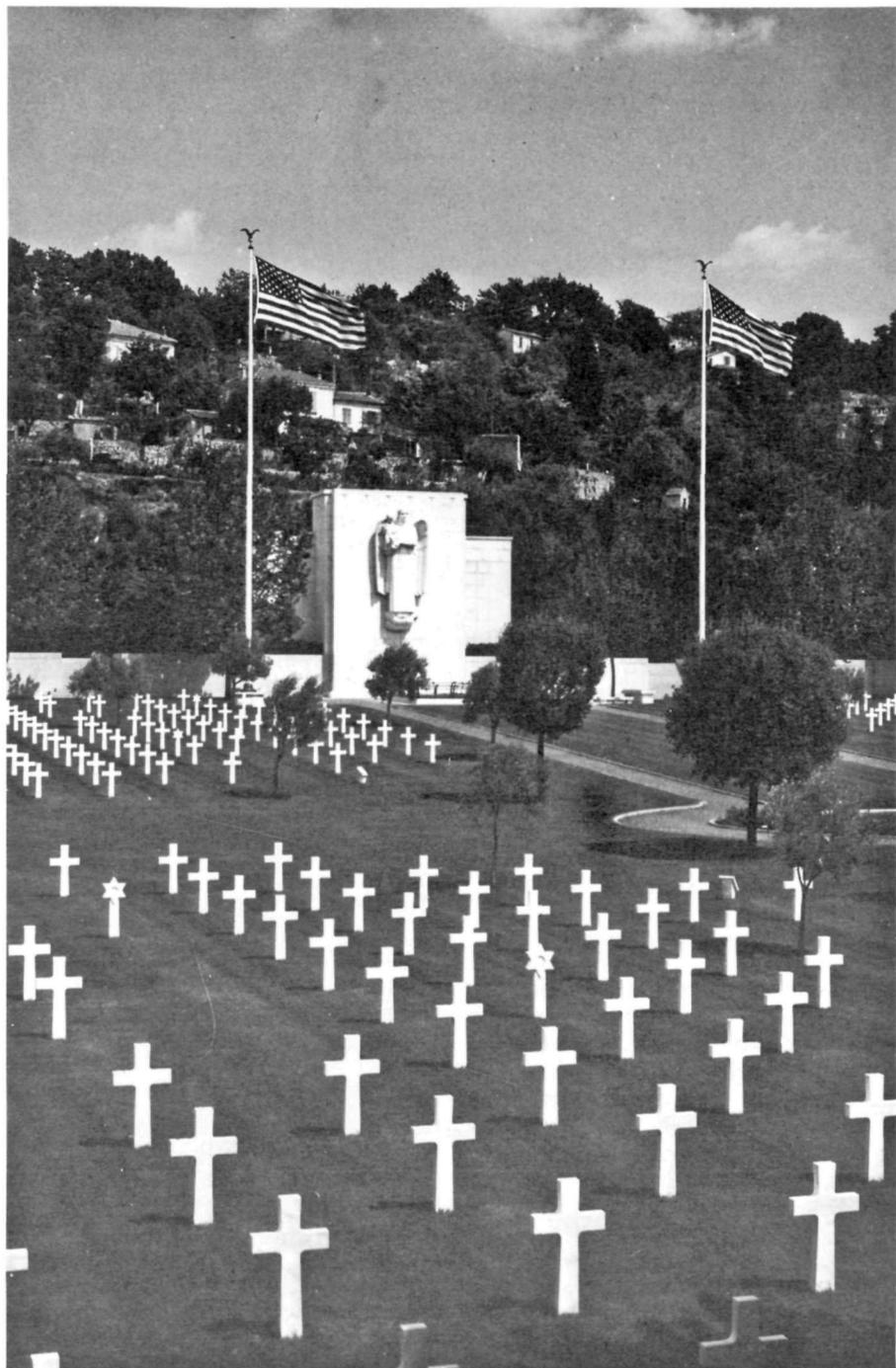
In the World War II cemeteries, the inscription reads:

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 or buried at sea) give name, rank, organization and state; the circumstances under which death occurred often precluded the possibility of determining the exact date.

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.

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.



Rhone American Cemetery and Memorial, Draguignan, Var, France

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 413 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 8,195 Missing of the Korean War and 2,489 Missing from the Vietnam War.

AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES MEMORIAL, located on Penn. Ave. between 14th and 15th Streets, NW in Wash. DC, commemorates the two million American military personnel and their CinC, Gen. John J. Pershing, who made up the AEF of WWI.

It consists of a stone plaza 52 ft. by 75 ft., an 8 ft. statue of Gen. Pershing on a stone pedestal, a stone bench facing the statue and two 10 ft. high walls, one along the south side of the memorial area and one along the east. The south wall contains two battle maps with appropriate inscriptions. Inscribed upon the reverse face of the east wall is Gen. Pershing's tribute to the officers and men of the AEF: "IN THEIR DEVOTION, THEIR VALOR, AND IN THE LOYAL FULFILLMENT OF THEIR OBLIGATIONS, THE OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES HAVE LEFT A HERITAGE OF WHICH THOSE WHO FOLLOW MAY EVER BE PROUD."

SAIPAN MONUMENT is situated near the beach overlooking Tanapag Harbor on the Island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. It is part of an American memorial park commemorating the American and Marianas Dead in the Marianas Campaign of World War II. The monument honors specifically the 24,000 American marines and soldiers who died recapturing the vol-



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

canic islands of Saipan, Tinian and Guam during the period of 15 June 1944–11 August 1944.

It is a twelve-foot rectangular obelisk of rose granite in a landscaped area of local flora. Inscribed upon the monument are these words: "THIS MEMORIAL HAS BEEN ERECTED BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN HUMBLE TRIBUTE TO THE SONS WHO PAID THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE FOR LIBERATION OF THE MARIANAS 1941–1945."

POINTE DU HOC MONUMENT

Following World War II, the French erected a monument at Pointe du Hoc overlooking the right flank of 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 11 January 1979.

UTAH BEACH MONUMENT

The Utah Beach Monument is located at the termination of Highway N-13D, approximately 3 kilometers northeast of Sainte-Marie-du-Mont (Manche), France. This monument commemorates the achievements of the American Forces of the VII Corps who fought in the liberation of the Cotentin Peninsula from 6 June to 1 July 1944. It consists of a red granite obelisk surrounded by a small, developed park overlooking the historic sand dunes of Utah Beach, one of the two American landing beaches during the Normandy Invasion of 6 June 1944.

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 16 July 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 4,844 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 1 October 1979.

FLORAL DECORATIONS

In the oversea cemeteries, the decoration of graves or 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.

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. Photographs of graves in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (in Honolulu) are not available through the Commission.



Decorated Gravesite of an "Unknown"

THE AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MARCH 1923

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Telephone: Manila 88-02-12
Telegrams: AMBAMCOM,
Manila, R.P.



Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery, Romagne, France