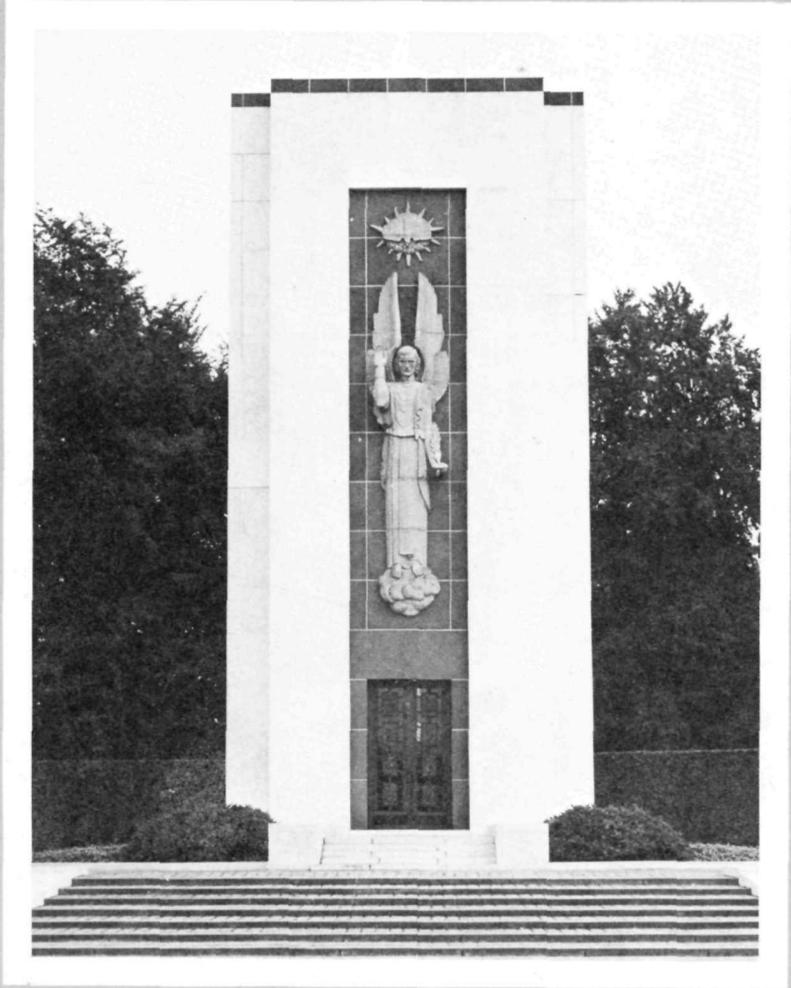
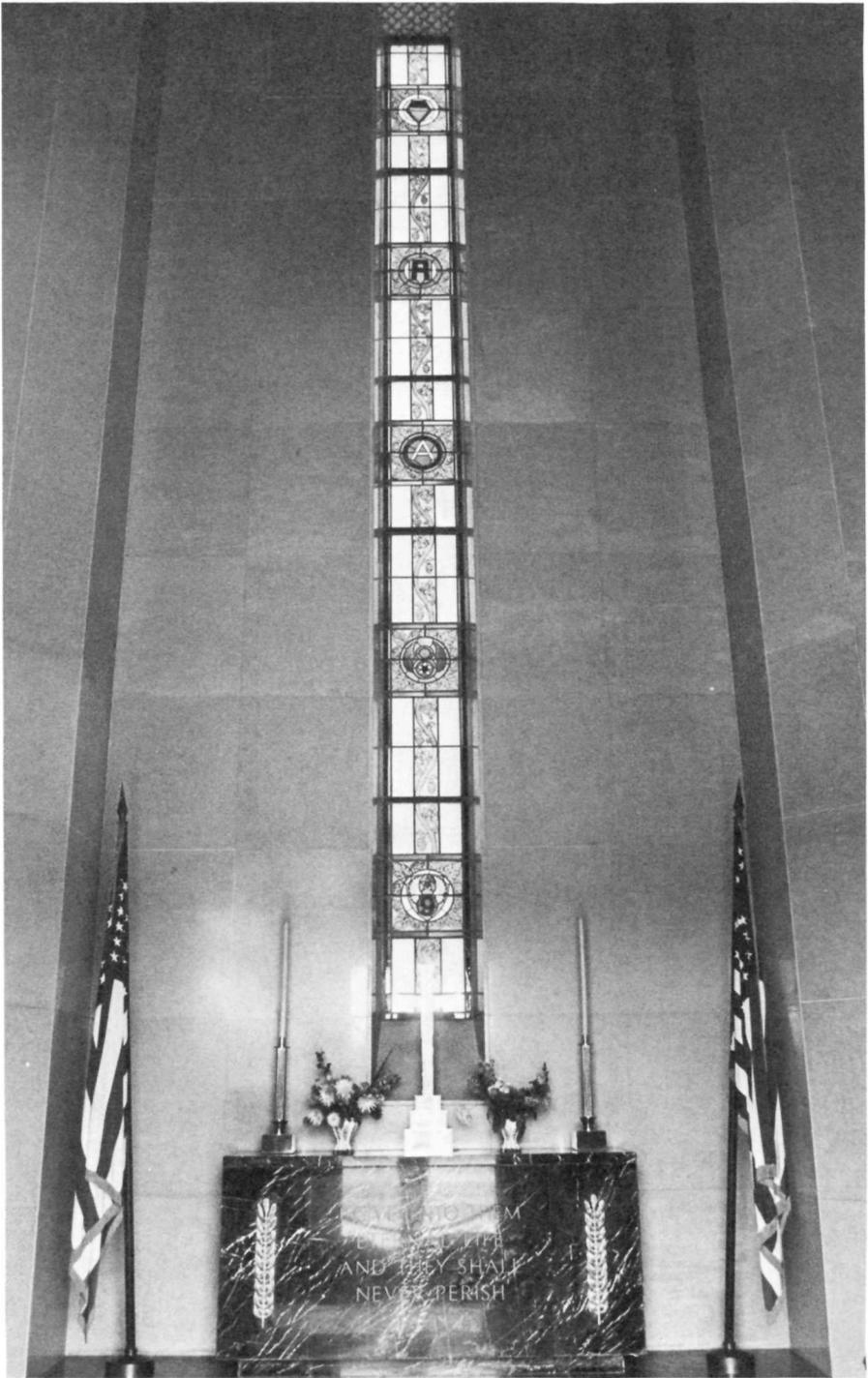


# Luxembourg American Cemetery and Memorial



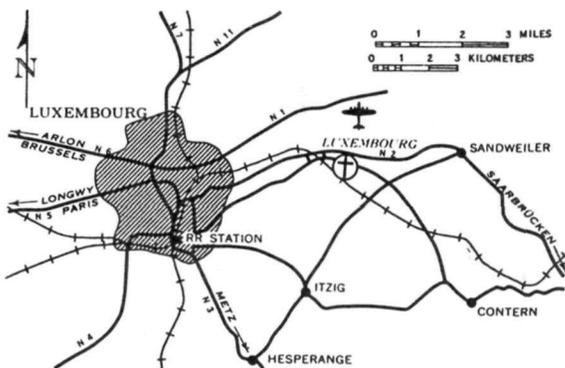
The American Battle Monuments Commission

1983



*Altar against Back Wall of Chapel*

# Luxembourg American Cemetery and Memorial



## LOCATION

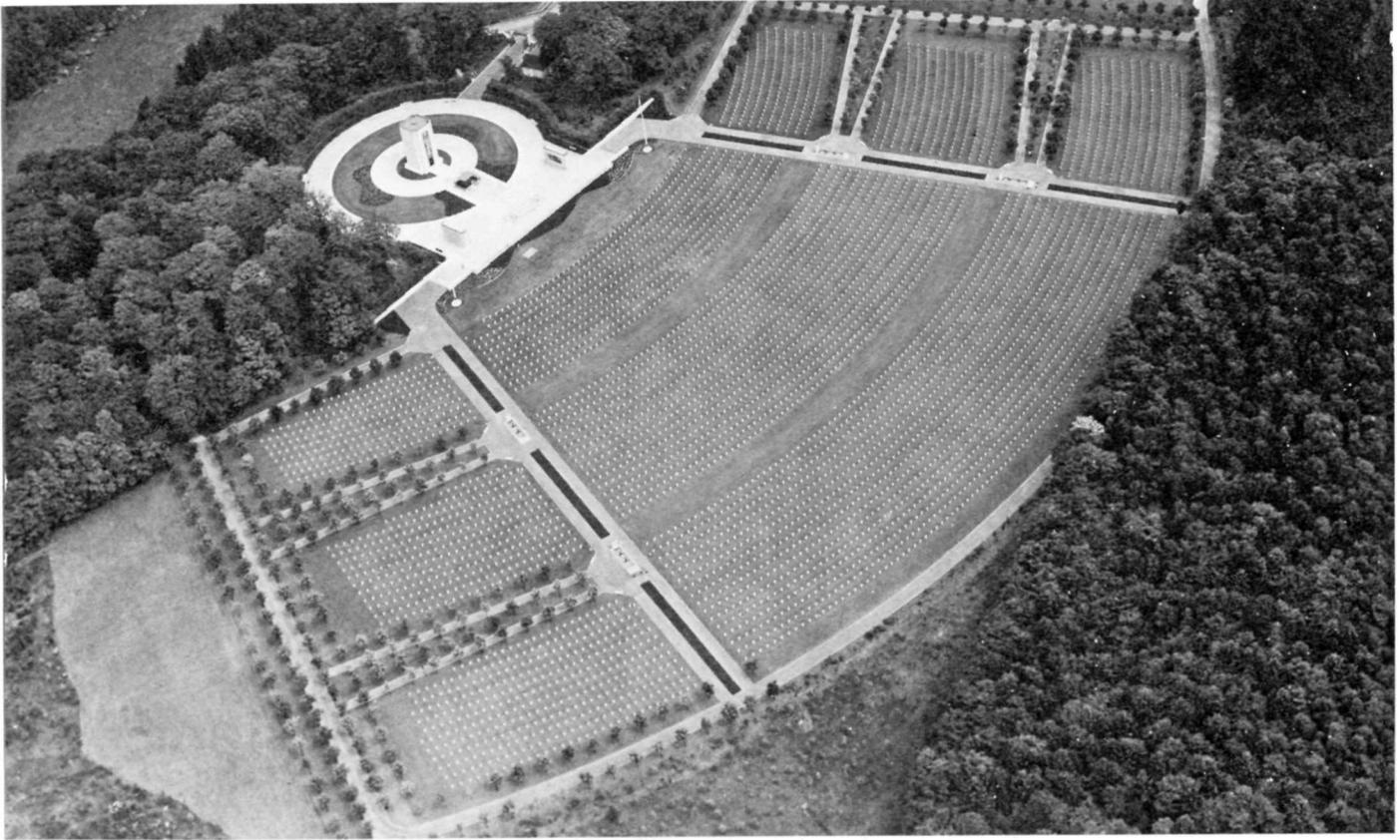
The Luxembourg American Cemetery and Memorial is situated within the capital city of Luxembourg, 3 miles east of its center in the section of the city called Hamm. It lies 2 miles/3 kilometers southwest of the airport. The cemetery can be reached by train from Paris (Gare de l'Est) in approximately 5 hours; from Liege, Belgium in about 3 hours and from

Germany. Taxicabs to the cemetery are available at the railroad station.

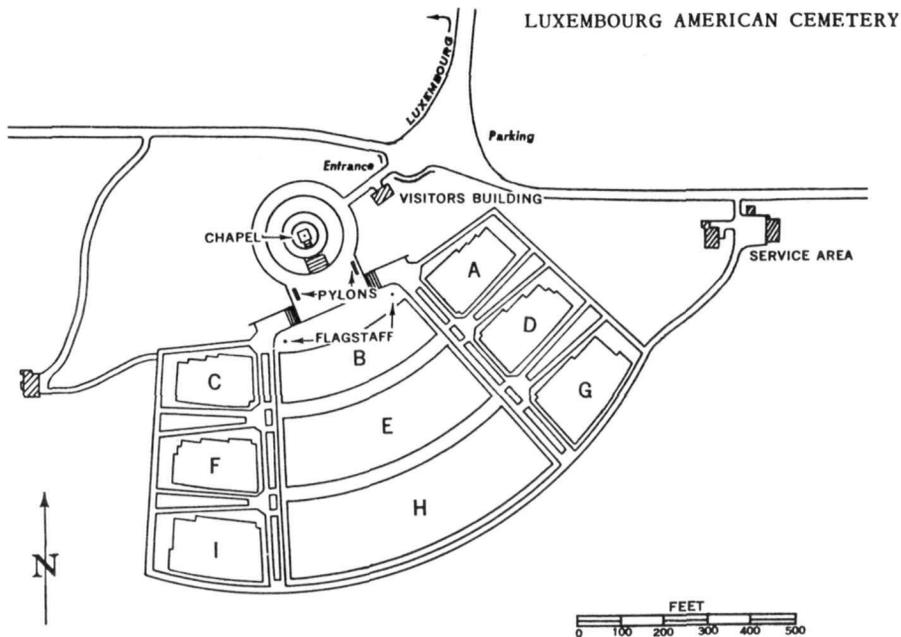
Luxembourg City can be reached by automobile from Paris (215 miles/346 kilometers) via N-3/N-33 to Verdun, then northeast on N-18 to Longwy, and finally N-5/N-52A to Luxembourg City. Once in the city, one should take E-42 southeast toward Saarbrücken. The road is well marked and passes within 300 yards of the cemetery. To reach Luxem-



*Entrance to the Cemetery*



*Aerial View of Cemetery*



Location of Cemetery Features

bourg City from Brussels (135 miles/ 218 kilometers), take N-4/E-40 southeast to Arlon, then N-4/E-9 east to the city. The airport in Luxembourg City is serviced by frequent international flights daily. Taxicabs and rental cars are available at the airport. Hotel accommodations in the city are adequate.

## 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 be-

tween noon and 3:00 p.m. on weekends and holidays).

## HISTORY

On 16 December 1944, the enemy in Europe launched his last major counteroffensive of the war. For the location of his attack, he chose the Ardennes Forest where his first breakthrough had achieved such tremendous success in 1940. Prepared in the greatest of secrecy, the plan called for three armies abreast to attack on a narrow front toward the west with Antwerp as its objective. The attack was timed to coincide with inclement weather in order to limit the use of Allied air power. The assault began at 5:30 a.m. under the cover of fog and rain and initially was quite successful as the enemy broke through on a 45 mile front. American soldiers resisted valiantly, however, and with heroic effort were able to hold the shoulders of the salient, blocking all attempts to

expand the width of the penetration.

Available U.S. reserves were rushed to the scene of battle. At St. Vith, a furious struggle prevented the enemy's use of its vital road junction for a crucial period. In Bastogne, at the other vital road junction, American defenders clung tenaciously to their positions even though they had been surrounded for five days. Despite a penetration by some units of over 60 miles, the enemy was unable to exploit the breakthrough.

On 22 September 1944, the U.S. Third Army launched a strong counterattack against the southern flank of the penetration. The next day the skies cleared sufficiently to permit the U.S. Eighth and Ninth Air Forces to join the battle and to drop supplies to the defenders at Bastogne. Driving relentlessly forward despite strong opposition and bitterly cold weather, the U.S. Third Army broke through the enemy cordon around Bastogne on 26 December. The U.S. First Army counterattacked from the north on 3 January 1945 and ten days later met with the U.S. Third Army at Houffalize. By 25 January, the enemy salient no longer existed.

In February, the U.S. Third Army drove the enemy from Luxembourg and breached the Siegfried Line. After capturing Trier, it continued its advance, seizing bridgeheads across the Kyll River and launching an attack to reach the Rhine. The Third Army units north of the Moselle River advanced first, covered by fighters and bombers of the U.S. Ninth Air Force. In just five days, they swept forward to join the First Army. By 10 March, all enemy units were cleared from the west bank of the Rhine north of its junction with the Moselle at Koblenz.

On 13 March, Third Army troops north of the Moselle River turned to the Southeast to attack in coordination with the Third Army troops ad-

vancing south of the river. By 21 March, the entire west bank of the Rhine had been cleared in the Third Army sector. The next night, in a surprise assault, the Third Army crossed the Rhine at Oppenheim, a prelude to the final offensive of the war.

#### SITE

The Luxembourg American Cemetery and Memorial, 50.5 acres in extent, is situated in a glade enframed by spruce, beech, oak and other trees. It is one of fourteen permanent World War II American military cemeteries erected on foreign soil by the American Battle Monuments Commission. The site was liberated by the U.S. 5th Armored Division on 10 September 1944 and a temporary military burial ground was established there nineteen days later. At the time, Allied forces were engaged in stemming the enemy's Ardennes offensive known as the "Battle of the Bulge." The site subsequently was selected to be the location of one of the permanent World War II American military cemeteries to be erected on foreign soil. Free use of the site as a permanent military burial ground for American World War II Dead was granted by the Grand Ducal government of Luxembourg in perpetuity without charge or taxation. Later, the Grand Ducal government developed a parking area for the cemetery and modified its agreement with the United States to include it.

After the war, when the temporary burial grounds were being disestablished by the American Graves Registration Service (AGRS), the remains of American military Dead, whose next of kin had directed permanent interment on foreign soil in a cemetery memorial designed especially to honor them, were moved by the AGRS to a permanent cemetery site, usually the one closest to the



*The Memorial with Graves Area in Foreground*

temporary burial location. They were interred by the AGRS in the distinctive grave patterns proposed by the cemetery's architect and approved by the Commission. Interment of the 5,076 permanent burials in the Luxembourg American Cemetery and Memorial was completed on 16 December 1949. They represented 39% of the original burials in the region. Most lost their lives in the enemy's Ardennes offensive, the "Battle of the Bulge;" in air operations over the general region; and in the fighting eastward to the Rhine and beyond during the winter of 1944 and the spring of 1945.

Design and construction of all facilities at permanent American military cemeteries on foreign soil were the responsibilities of the American Battle Monuments Commission, i.e., the memorial, the chapel, the visitors' building, superintendent's quarters, paths, roads, perimeter walls and service facilities. The Commission also was

responsible for the sculpture, landscaping and other improvements on the site. Construction of the permanent cemetery at Luxembourg was completed in the spring of 1960; it was dedicated on 4 July 1960.

#### ARCHITECTS

Architects for the cemetery and memorial were Keally and Patterson of New York City. The landscape architect was Alfred Geiffert, Jr., also of New York City.

#### GENERAL LAYOUT

The cemetery's parking area comes into one's view immediately after turning south from highway E-42. At the far side of the parking area is the tall wrought iron entrance gate at the northeastern edge of the cemetery. Its massive stone pillars, each weighing more than a ton, are surmounted by gilded bronze eagles



*East Facade of Chapel with Dedicatory Inscription*

bearing laurel wreaths, the ancient award for valor. Engraved in relief on each pillar is a cluster of 13 stars representing the original thirteen states. Climbing hydrangea adorn the walls adjacent to the entrance. Inside the gate immediately to the left is the Visitors' Building, laced with Virginia Creeper, resembling a small cottage.

A short wide path leads from the entrance gate past the Visitors' building to the memorial, where it intersects the circular path around the chapel. Facing southeast, the chapel, flanked by massifs of Japanese holly, overlooks a terrace paved with stone on which are two pylons containing operations maps and the names of the Missing in Action in the region and two bronze frames holding three key maps abreast, depicting the course of the war around the world. At the edge of the terrace adjacent to the graves area is a long bronze balustrade, constructed by the H. H. Martyn Company of Cheltenham, England. The terrace itself is encircled by a hedge and a broad border of

Cotoneaster horizontalis. A flight of steps paved in Vosges stone at each end of the terrace leads down to a flag pole and the fan shaped graves area beyond.

## THE MEMORIAL

The memorial consists of a tall, columnar, square chapel of stone set upon a podium, reached by two flights of steps, and a terrace overlooking the graves area with two pylons and two bronze stands holding key maps. The pylons are faced with operations maps on one side and stone tablets with the names of the Missing in the region on the other. The six key maps depict the course of the war throughout the world.

Set into the granite paving at the center of the memorial terrace in bronze letters is the following inscription from General Eisenhower's dedication of the Roll of Honor in St. Paul's Cathedral in London: ALL WHO SHALL HEREAFTER LIVE IN FREEDOM WILL BE HERE REMINDED THAT TO THESE MEN AND THEIR COMRADES WE OWE A DEBT TO BE PAID WITH GRATEFUL RE-

MEMBRANCE OF THEIR SACRIFICE AND WITH THE HIGH RESOLVE THAT THE CAUSE FOR WHICH THEY DIED SHALL LIVE ETERNALLY.

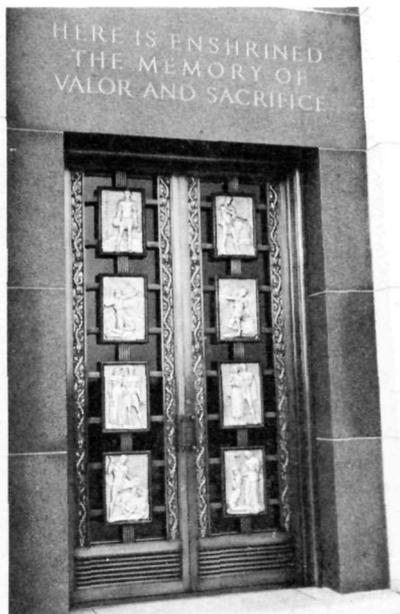
## THE CHAPEL

The chapel, of white Valore stone from the Jura Mountain region of central France, rises 50 feet above its podium. As one approaches it from the cemetery entrance, a carving in high relief of the obverse of the seal of the United States of America is clearly visible on the east facade of the chapel. Engraved below the seal is the dedicatory inscription: 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 or west facade of the chapel is a carving in high relief of the coat of arms of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. Engraved below it is a translation of the dedicatory inscription in French.

Above the entrance to the chapel on the south face, which is reached by a short flight of stairs, is a 23-foot sculpture of the Angel of Peace carved in Swedish Orchid Red granite. His right hand is raised in blessing and his left hand holds a laurel branch. Above the Angel of Peace is a dove against a cloud. The sculpture was designed by Leo Friedlander of White Plains, New York and executed by Cirila & Figlio of Babena, Italy. Beneath the sculpture on the lintel over the entrance door is carved: HERE IS ENSHRINED THE MEMORY OF VALOR AND SACRIFICE.

The bronze door of the chapel, also designed by Leo Friedlander, was cast by H. H. Martyn of Cheltenham, England. Each of its eight panels symbolizes a different military virtue or attribute of a good soldier. They are:

Physical Fitness	Fidelity
Proficiency	Sacrifice
Valor	Family Ties
Fortitude	Faith



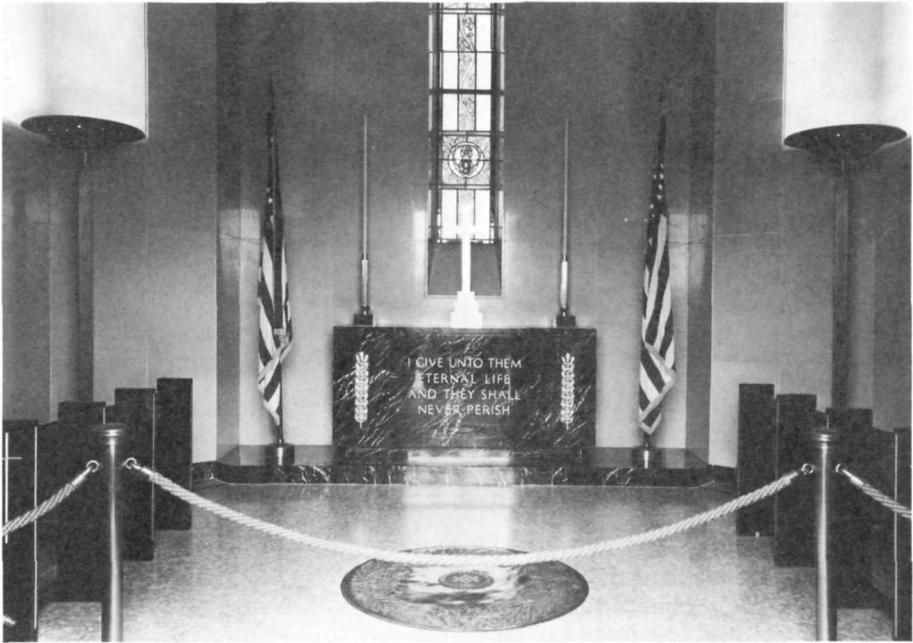
*Entrance Door to Chapel*

## CHAPEL INTERIOR

The interior walls of the chapel are of Hauteville Perle stone from the Jura Mountain region of France.

Above the door inside the chapel is the inscription: SOME THERE BE WHICH HAVE NO SEPULCHRE THEIR NAME LIVETH FOR EVERMORE. On the west wall left of the entrance is the inscription: GRANT US GRACE FEARLESSLY TO CONTEND AGAINST EVIL AND TO MAKE NO PEACE WITH OPPRESSION. Over the inscription is a roundel containing a latin cross. On the east wall to the right of the entrance is the inscription: TAKE UNTO THYSELF O LORD THE SOULS OF THE VALOROUS THAT THEY MAY DWELL IN THY GLORY. Over that inscription is a roundel featuring the Tablets of Moses surmounted by the Star of David.

Against the north wall opposite the entrance is the altar flanked by United States flags. It is of Bleu Belg marble from southern Belgium and bears this inscription from St. John X, 28: I GIVE UNTO THEM ETERNAL LIFE AND THEY SHALL NEVER PERISH. Above the



*Chapel Interior*

altar is a tall narrow window of stained glass portraying the insignia of the five major U.S. commands that operated in the region, the 12th Army Group, First Army, Third Army, Eighth Air Force and the Ninth Air Force. It was designed by Allyn Cox of New York City and fabricated by Morris Singer of London, who also made the massive bronze light fixtures. The pews and prie-dieu of ebony-stained birchwood were made by Patriarca of Rome, Italy. The floor is of four different marbles from Italy, Bianco Carrara Chiaro, Giallo di Sienna Scuro, Nero Assoluto Italiano and Bardiglio Capella. Inset in the floor is a bronze circular plaque containing the thirteen stars of the seal of the United States of America wreathed in oak, pine and laurel. In the center of the mosaic ceiling is a dove, representing the Holy Spirit, on a background of clouds within a nimbus, held by four angels, from which emanates the sun's rays. At the feet of the

angels is this running inscription encircling the ceiling: IN PROUD AND GRATEFUL MEMORY OF THOSE MEN OF THE ARMED SERVICES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA WHO IN THIS REGION AND IN THE SKIES ABOVE IT ENDURED ALL AND GAVE ALL THAT JUSTICE AMONG NATIONS MIGHT PREVAIL AND THAT MANKIND MIGHT ENJOY FREEDOM AND INHERIT PEACE. The mosaic was designed by Allyn Cox and fabricated by Fabrizio Cassio of Rome.

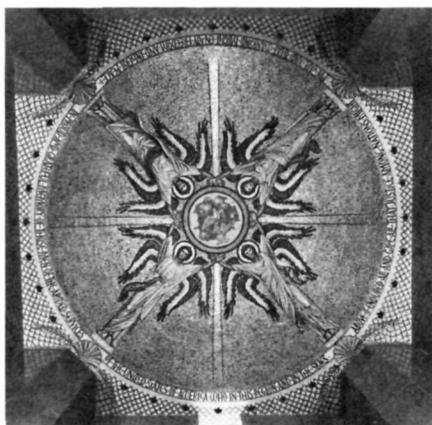
#### PYLONS

The two memorial pylons of Valore stone on the terrace are rectangular in shape. Inscribed on the outer faces of these pylons are the name, rank, organization and state of entry into the military service of 370 Missing in Action of the United States Army and the Army Air Forces\*, whose remains were never recovered, or if recovered, never identified. Above the names on each

\*During World War II, the Air Force was part of the United States Army

pylon is the inscription: HERE ARE RECORDED THE NAMES OF AMERICANS WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN THE SERVICE OF THEIR COUNTRY AND WHO SLEEP IN UNKNOWN GRAVES. These men came from 42 states and the District of Columbia.

A large operations map is set into the inner face of each pylon. The west pylon on the right side of the terrace contains a map of military operations in western Europe from the landings in Normandy to the end of the war. The east pylon on the left side of the terrace contains a map of the Ardennes and Rhineland campaigns to include the "Battle of the Bulge," subsequent fighting to clear the west bank of the Rhine, and the crossing of the Rhine River at Oppenheim. Flanking the map of operations in Western Europe are explanatory inscriptions in English and French of which the following is the English version: ON 6 JUNE 1944, PRECEDED BY AIRBORNE UNITS AND COVERED BY NAVAL AND AIR BOMBARDMENT, UNITED STATES AND BRITISH COMMONWEALTH FORCES LANDED ON THE COAST OF NORMANDY. PUSHING SOUTHWARD THEY ESTABLISHED A BEACHHEAD SOME 20 MILES IN DEPTH. ON 25 JULY, IN THE WAKE OF A PARALYZING AIR BOMBARDMENT, THE U.S. FIRST ARMY BROKE OUT OF THE BEACHHEAD AND WAS SOON JOINED BY THE U.S. THIRD ARMY. TOGETHER THEY REPULSED A POWERFUL COUNTERATTACK TOWARDS AV-



*Mosaic Ceiling of Chapel*



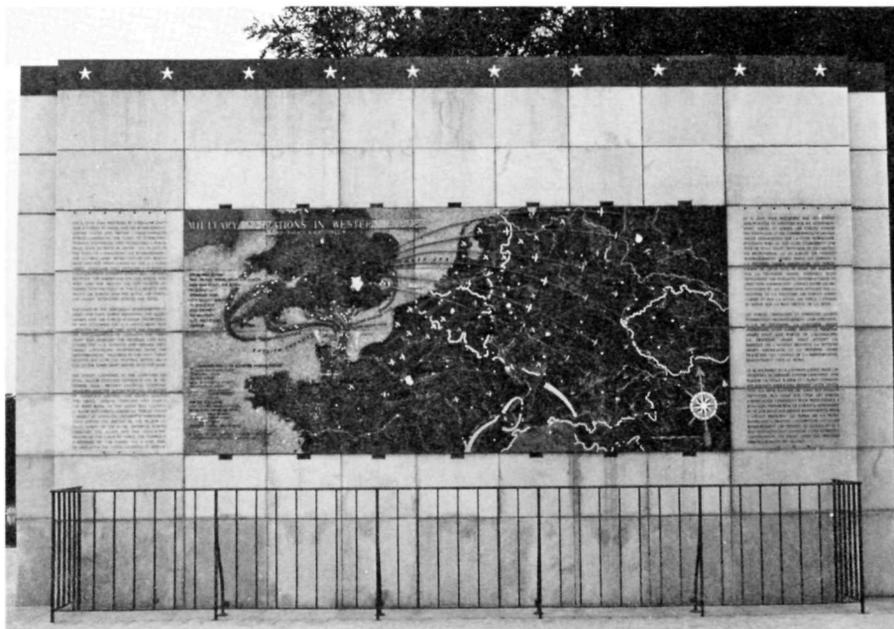
*Inscription and Roundel, East Wall of Chapel*

RANCHES. CRUSHED BETWEEN THE AMERICANS ON THE SOUTH AND WEST AND THE BRITISH ON THE NORTH, ATTACKED CONTINUOUSLY BY THE U.S. EIGHTH AND NINTH AIR FORCES AND THE ROYAL AIR FORCE, THE ENEMY RETREATED ACROSS THE SEINE.

SUSTAINED BY THE HERCULEAN ACHIEVEMENTS OF ARMY AND NAVY SUPPLY PERSONNEL, THE ALLIED ARMIES AND AIR FORCES PURSUED VIGOROUSLY. BY MID-SEPTEMBER THE U.S. NINTH ARMY HAD LIBERATED BREST; THE FIRST ARMY WAS STANDING ON THE THRESHOLD OF GERMANY; THE THIRD ARMY HAD REACHED THE MOSELLE AND HAD JOINED THE U.S. SEVENTH AND FRENCH FIRST ARMIES ADVANCING NORTHWARD FROM THE MEDITERRANEAN. PROGRESS IN THE NEXT THREE MONTHS WAS SLOW, THE FIGHTING BITTER. METZ FELL AS THE THIRD ARMY MOVED INTO THE SAAR.

THE ENEMY LAUNCHED, IN THE ARDENNES, HIS FINAL MAJOR COUNTEROFFENSIVE ON 16 DECEMBER 1944. PROMPT TACTICAL COUNTERMEASURES AND THE SUPERB FIGHTING QUALITIES OF AMERICAN SOLDIERS AND AIRMEN HALTED THIS DRIVE. DURING FEBRUARY AND MARCH THE WEST BANK OF THE RHINE WAS CLEARED. IN RAPID SUCCESSION AMERICAN FORCES SEIZED A BRIDGE AT REMAGEN, CROSSED AT OPPENHEIM, THEN JOINED THE BRITISH IN THE MAJOR ASSAULT NORTH OF THE RUHR. SWEEPING ACROSS GERMANY THE ALLIES MET THE ADVANCING TROOPS OF THE U.S.S.R. TO FORCE THE COMPLETE SURRENDER OF THE ENEMY ON 8 MAY 1945, 337 DAYS AFTER THE INITIAL LANDING IN FRANCE.

Similarly, flanking the map of the Ardennes and Rhineland campaigns



*Military Operations in Western Europe – West Pylon*

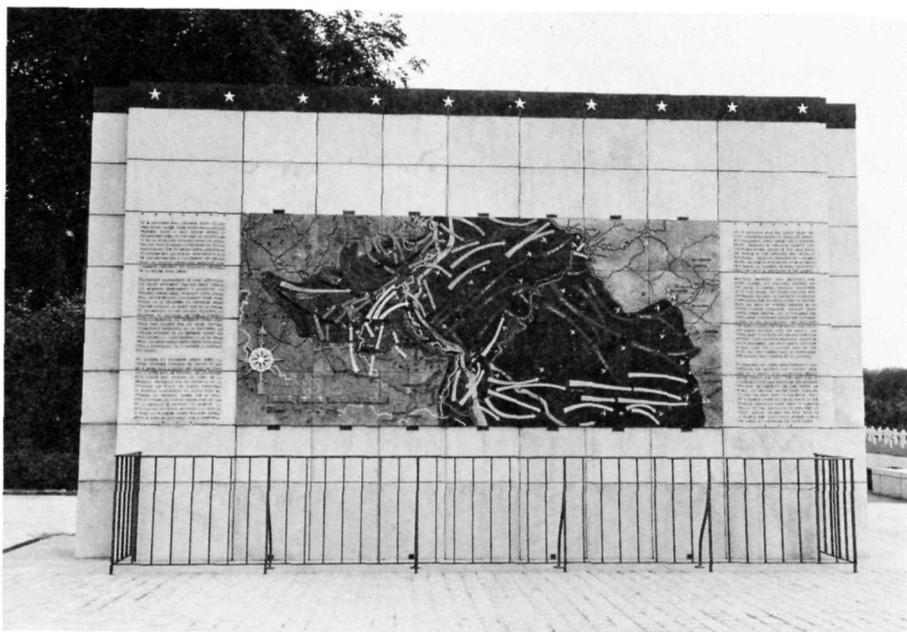
in both languages, is this explanatory inscription: ON 16 DECEMBER 1944 THE ENEMY MADE HIS LAST CONCERTED EFFORT TO STAVE OFF DEFEAT BY UNLEASHING THREE ARMIES ON A NARROW FRONT. PREPARED IN GREATEST SECRECY AND LAUNCHED UNDER COVER OF FOG AND RAIN, HIS ATTACK IN THE ARDENNES WAS INITIALLY SUCCESSFUL. BREAKING THROUGH ON A 45-MILE FRONT, HIS FORCES PENETRATED OVER 60 MILES, BUT AMERICAN SOLDIERS, FIGHTING VALIANTLY, HELD THE CRITICAL SHOULDERS OF THE SALIENT.

REACTING PROMPTLY AND DECISIVELY, THE ALLIES RUSHED ALL AVAILABLE RESERVES TO THE SCENE. A FURIOUS STRUGGLE DEVELOPED AT ST. VITH WHERE THE ENEMY ADVANCE WAS STUBBORNLY DELAYED. AT BASTOGNE, ALTHOUGH SURROUNDED FOR FIVE DAYS, AMERICAN TROOPS, WITH THE HELP OF SUPPLIES DROPPED BY IX TROOP CARRIER COMMAND AIRCRAFT, MAINTAINED THEIR DEFENSE. ON 22 DECEMBER THE THIRD ARMY COUNTERATTACKED THE SOUTHERN FLANK OF THE PENETRATION. THE NEXT DAY THE SKIES CLEARED AND THE EIGHTH AND NINTH AIR FORCES PLUNGED INTO THE BATTLE. THE THIRD ARMY CONTINUED ITS AD-

VANCE THROUGH BITTERLY COLD WEATHER, REACHING BASTOGNE ON 26 DECEMBER. THE FIRST ARMY'S COUNTERATTACK CAME ON 3 JANUARY 1945; ON THE 16TH THE TWO ARMIES MET AT HOUFFALIZE. THE SALIENT WAS REDUCED BY 25 JANUARY.

IN FEBRUARY THE THIRD ARMY FORCED ITS WAY THROUGH THE SIEGFRIED LINE, CAPTURED TRIER, AND BY 5 MARCH HAD ESTABLISHED BRIDGEHEADS ACROSS THE KYLL. THE NEXT DAY IT LAUNCHED ITS ATTACK NORTH OF THE MOSELLE. PRECEDED BY AIRCRAFT OF THE NINTH AIR FORCE, ITS GROUND TROOPS SWEEPED FORWARD TO JOIN THE FIRST ARMY ON THE RHINE. THEN, ON 13 MARCH, AMERICAN FORCES SOUTH OF THE MOSELLE ADVANCED; THOSE WEST OF KOBLENZ SWUNG TO THE SOUTHEAST TO JOIN THIS ASSAULT. HAVING CLEARED THE WEST BANK BY 21 MARCH, THE THIRD ARMY RUSHED ACROSS THE RHINE AT OPPENHEIM THE NEXT NIGHT.

The operations maps were carved and fitted together from slabs of several granites: Rosso Vanga and Verde Svezia from Sweden, and Verde Mergozzo Chiaro, Nero



*Ardennes and Rhineland Campaigns – East Pylon*

Biella, Rosa Baveno Chiaro, Bianco Montorfano and Verde Blauco from the Alpine regions of northwest Italy. Allyn Cox, an American artist, designed the maps utilizing information provided by the American Battle Monuments Commission. Military data are shown on the map by bronze letters, enamel-bronze arrows and other devices. All engraving was accomplished by sandblasting. M. C. Bargna of Milan, Italy performed the granite work. Stefano Johnson, also of Milan, performed the bronze work.

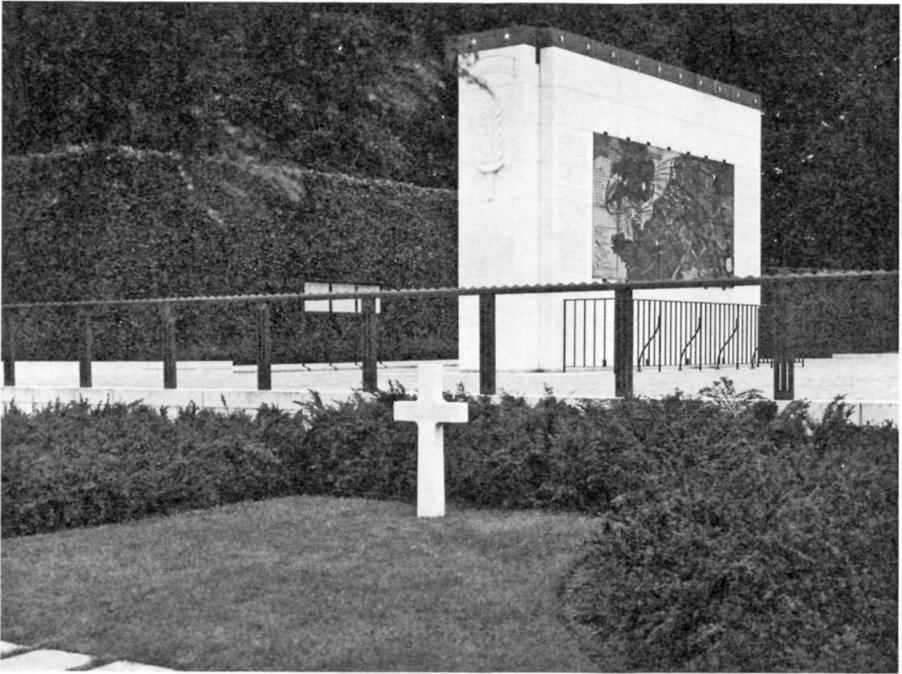
Carved on the ends of each pylon is a flaming sword under a rainbow, the insignia of Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Forces. The 48 stars around the capstones represent the then 48 states of the Union.

Behind each pylon is a bronze frame with three key maps, one set depicting "The War Against Germany," the other "The War Against Japan."

## GRAVES AREA

There are 5,076 American military Dead who lost their lives in the service of their country buried in the cemetery. These honored Dead came from the 50 states and the District of Columbia. In 22 instances, two brothers rest side-by-side in adjacent graves. Among those interred in the cemetery are 101 "Unknowns" whose remains could not be identified. Their headstones are inscribed: HERE RESTS IN HONORED GLORY A COMRADE IN ARMS KNOWN BUT TO GOD. White marble shafts surmounted by a Star of David mark the graves of 117 of the Jewish faith, white marble latin crosses mark the others.

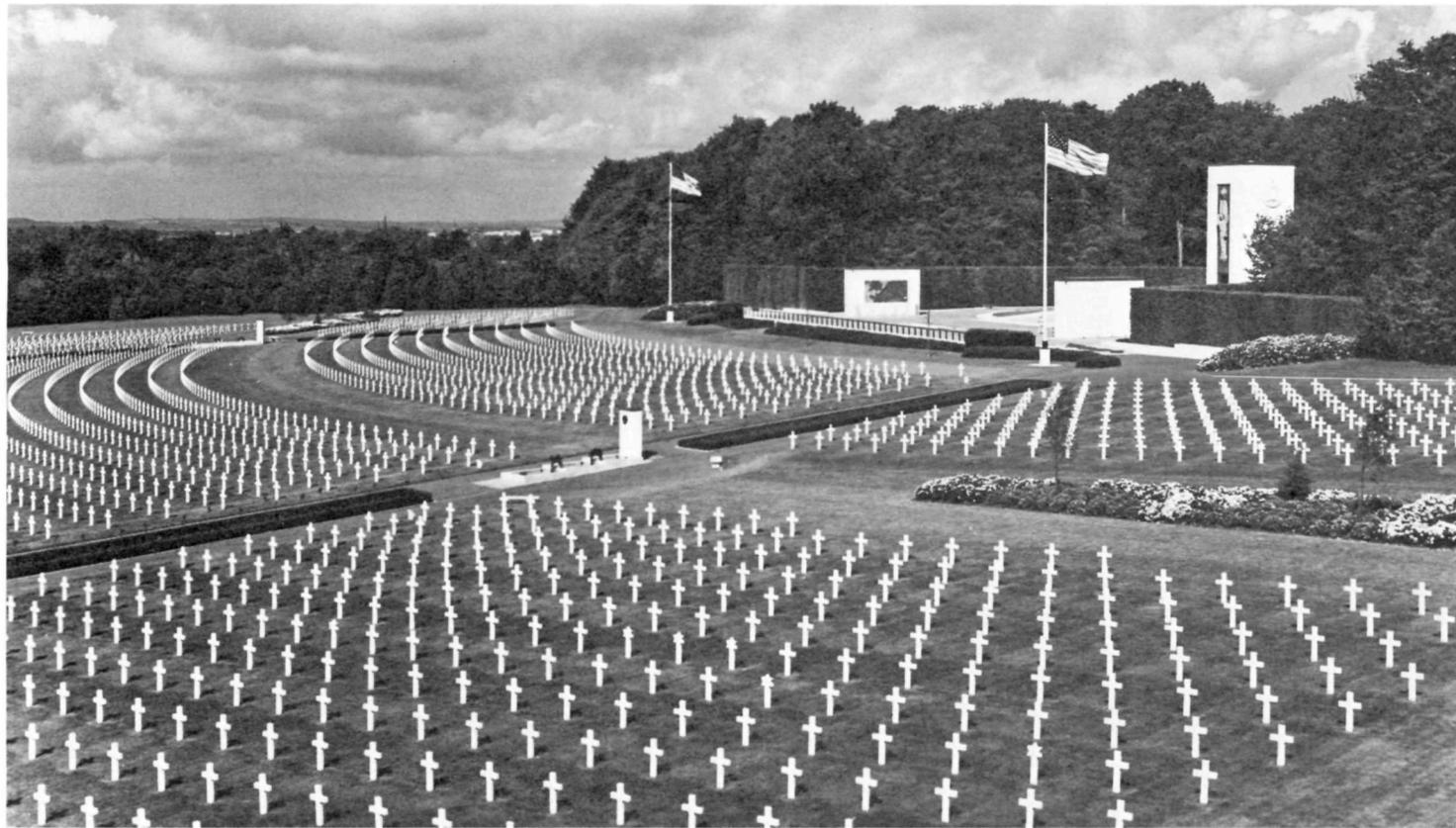
The 5,076 headstones are set in nine plots of fine grass lettered from A to I. Separating the plots are two malls radiating from the memorial and two transverse paths. Two flag poles overlook the graves area at its northern end in front of the memorial. Centered between the flag poles is the grave of General George S.



*Grave site of General George S. Patton, Jr.*



*Fountain in Radial Mall*



*Graves Area from the Rear facing Northwest*



*Emblem of Evangelist St. Luke –  
Reverse Side of Fountain Pylon*

Patton, Jr. Originally, General Patton was buried with the other men. However, so many people came to view his grave each year that all the fine grass on his and nearby graves was killed by the heavy foot traffic. The problem was solved by moving his grave to the area between the flag poles and paving in front of it with stone.

Each radial mall contains two fountains consisting of a pylon of Valore stone overlooking three jet pools on descending levels. High on the obverse side of the pylon is a bronze sea shell from which water flows into the pools. Carved on the reverse side of the pylons is a symbol of one of the four evangelists — an angel for St. Matthew, a lion for St. Mark, a bull for St. Luke and an eagle for St. John. The pools themselves are decorated with bronze dolphins symbolizing Resurrection and bronze turtles symbolizing Everlasting Life. Both the carved and the bronze symbols were designed by Nathaniel Choate of New York.

At the southern end of the graves area are three platforms that afford excellent positions to view the cemetery and take photographs.

## VISITORS' BUILDING

Just inside the entrance on the left is the Visitors' Building. It contains the superintendent's office, toilet facilities, and a comfortably furnished room with easy chairs where visitors may obtain information, sign the register and pause to refresh themselves. Whenever the cemetery is open to the public, a staff member is on duty in the building to answer questions and to escort relatives to grave and memorialization sites (except between the hours of noon and 3:00 p.m. on weekends and holidays). He is always happy to provide information on specific burial and memorialization locations in any of the Commission's cemeteries, accommodations in the vicinity, best means and routes of travel, local history and other items that may be of interest.

## PLANTINGS

The cemetery lies in a glade surrounded by woods of spruce, beech, oak and other trees of the forest. Climbing Hydrangea (*Hydrangea quercifolia*) adorns the walls near the entrance to the cemetery and Virginia Creeper covers the Visitors' Building just inside the entrance. Within the enframingent of the cemetery are large-scale plantings of Rhododendrons. A hedge of Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) and a broad band of Cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster horizontalis*) encircle the chapel which is flanked on either side by massifs of Japanese Holly (*Ilex crenata*). Below the terrace, a border of low growing Yew (*Taxus baccata repandens*) and Cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster horizontalis*) link the two flag poles.

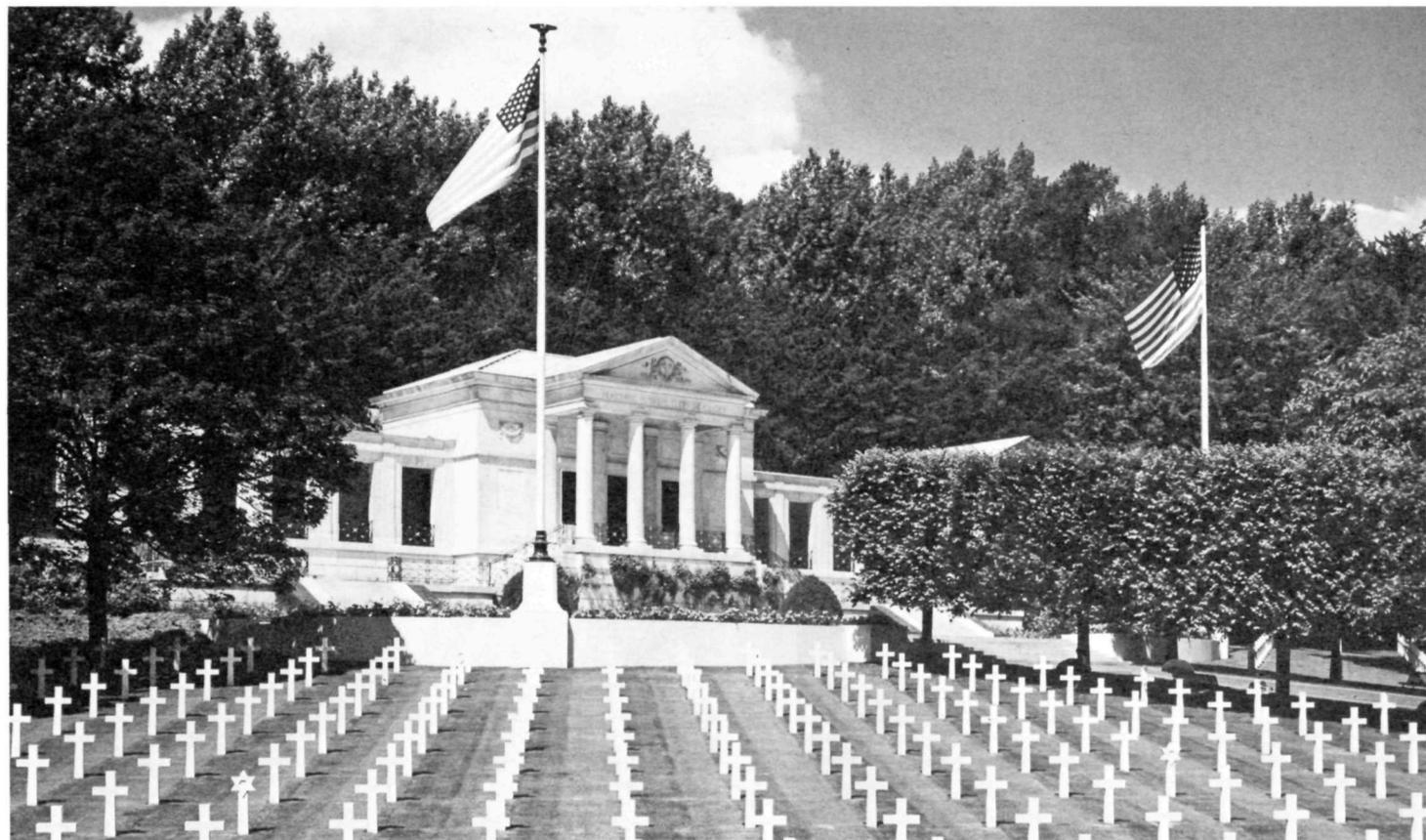
Color is provided in the spring by the Rhododendrons in the enframingent of the cemetery and in the summer by long planters of Polyantha and tree roses in the radial paths.



*Visitors' Room*



*Visitors' Building and Office*



*Suresnes American Cemetery, Suresnes, Seine, France*

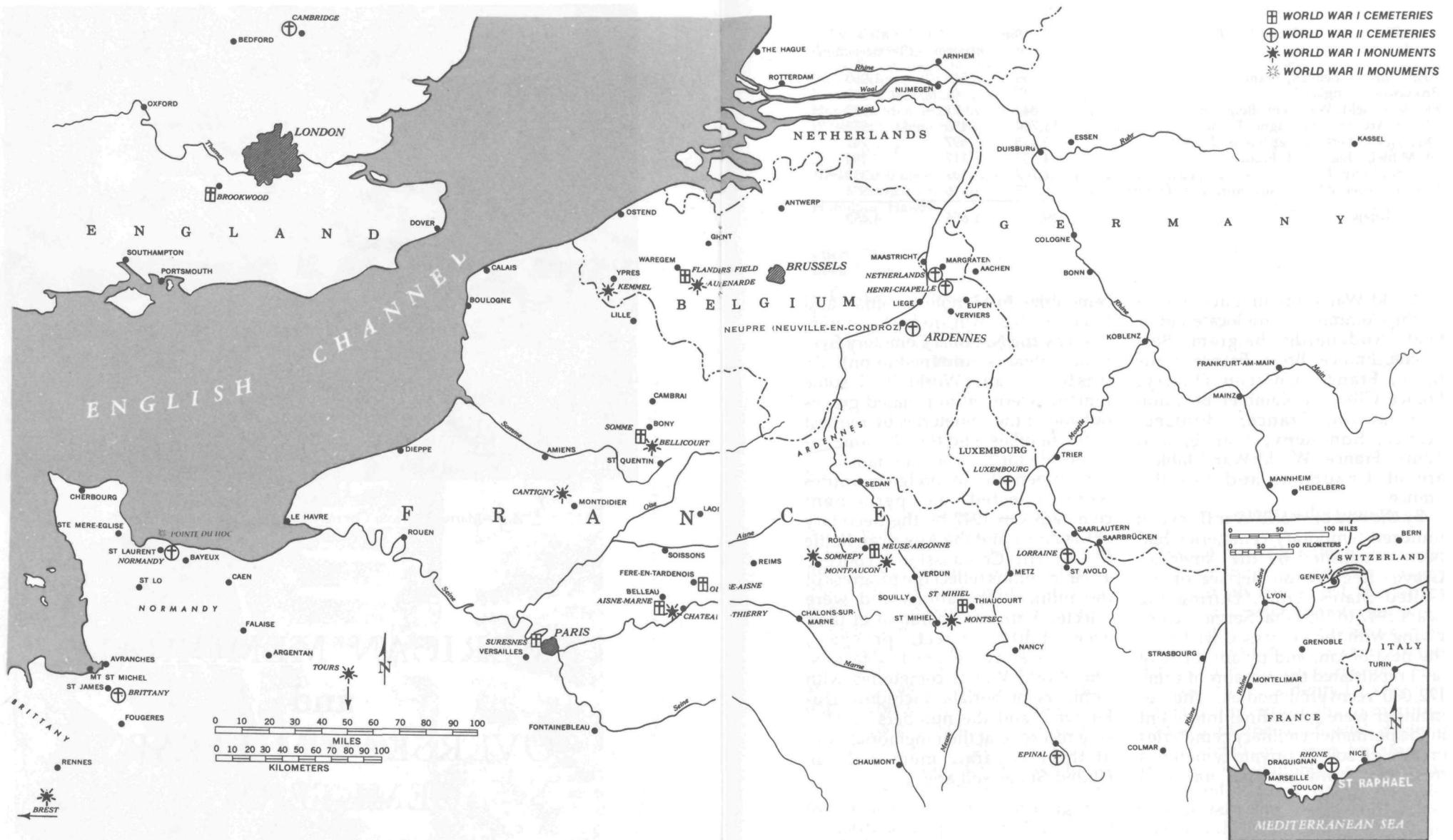


*Aisne-Marne American Cemetery and Memorial, Belleau, France*

# 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



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:

<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), Suresnes, France .....	1,535	6	974
<b>Totals .....</b>	<b>29,266</b>	<b>1,654</b>	<b>4,452</b>

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	789	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, 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), Suresnes, 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 .....	86,727	6,511	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

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 Cemet-  
eries 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  
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 ar-  
tists in tasteful presentation 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

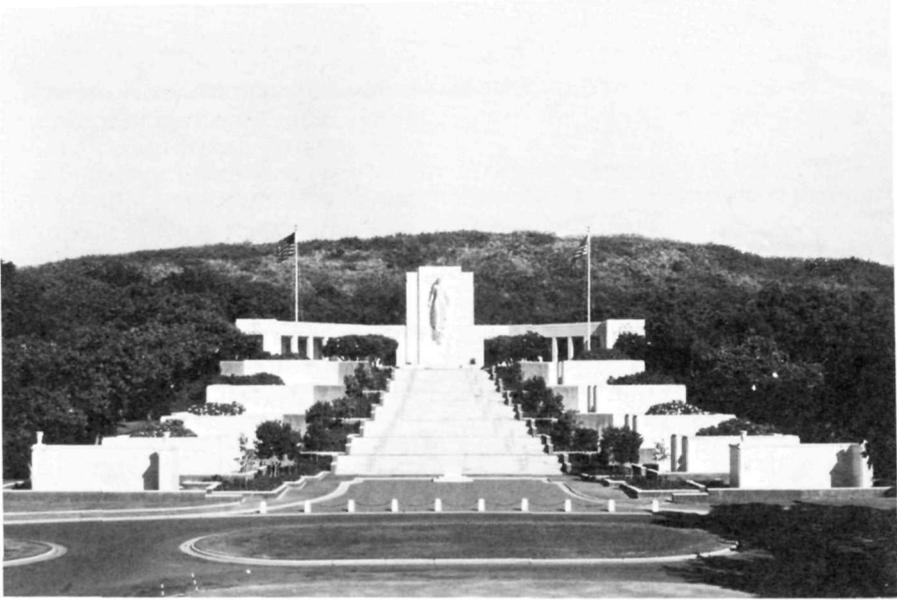
Similarly, the names and particulars of those 412 Americans who gave their lives in the service of their country off the west coast of the Americas but outside the territorial limits of the United States, are recorded at the memorial erected by the Commission at the Presidio of San Francisco.

#### 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 4,848 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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*Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery, Romagne, France*