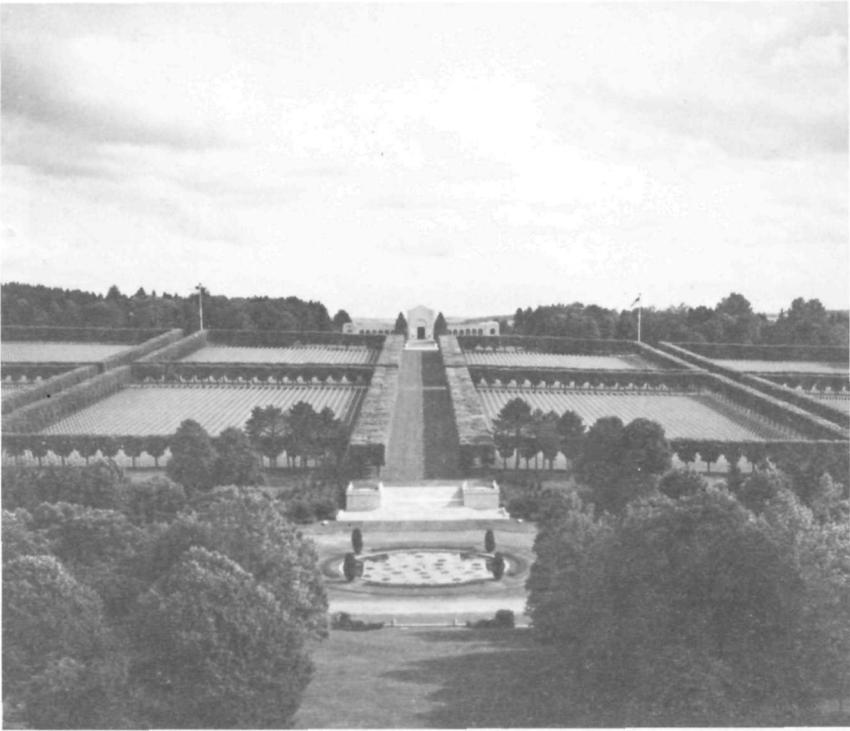


Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery and Memorial



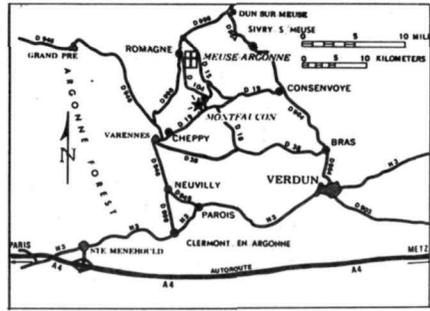
The American Battle Monuments Commission

1986



Chapel Interior

Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery and Memorial



LOCATION

The Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery is the largest American military cemetery in Europe. It is located just east of the village of Romagne-Gesnes, Meuse, France, approximately 26 miles (42 kilometers) northwest of Verdun.

Verdun can be reached by train from the Gare de l'Est in Paris in approximately 3½ hours. Taxicab service is available at the station to complete the trip to the cemetery.

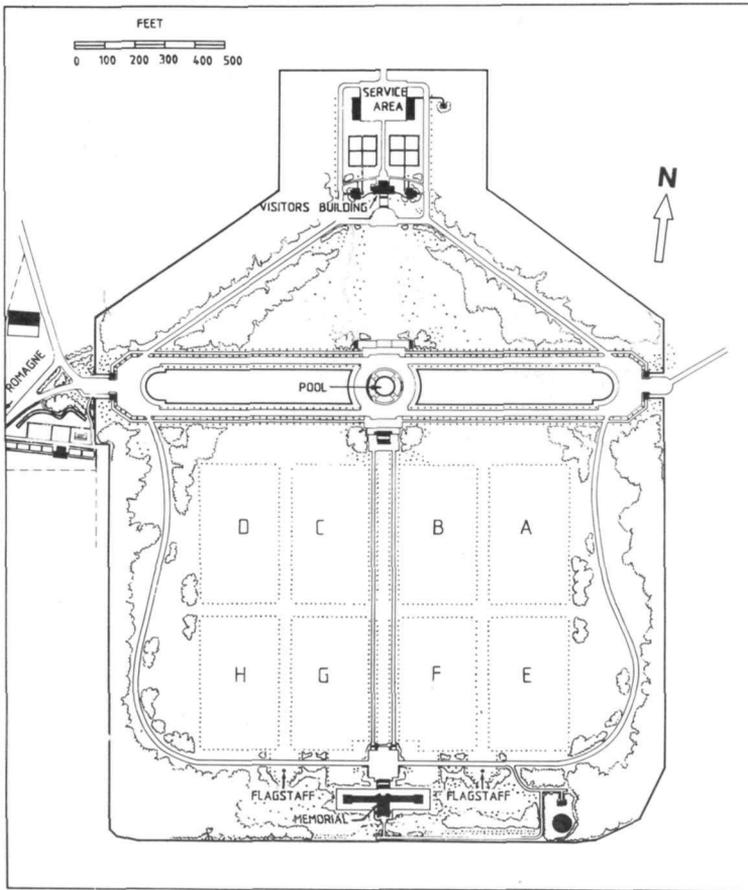
Romagne-Gesnes can be reached by automobile from Paris (152 miles/245 km) via Autoroute A-4 or highway N-3 to Ste-Menehould, continuing on N-3 to Clermont-en-Argonne which is 19 miles (31 km) south of the cemetery, and continuing via Varennes.

Hotel accommodations are available in Verdun and Dun-sur-Meuse.

The cemetery and the American monument at Montfaucon, Meuse, France, about seven miles (11 km) south of the cemetery, are included in most battlefield tours commencing in Verdun.



Cemetery Entrance



Location of Cemetery Features

Thirty-eight miles (61 km) to the west of the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery is the Sommepy Monument located on Blanc Mont; this monument commemorates the actions of American and French troops in the Champagne region preceding and during the period of the Meuse-Argonne offensive.

HOURS

The cemetery is open to the public daily 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 escort relatives to grave and memorial sites (except between noon and 3:00 p.m. on weekends and holidays).

HISTORY

The Meuse-Argonne Offensive was the climax toward which the efforts of American Expeditionary Forces were directed since arrival of



Aerial View of Cemetery

U.S. troops in France. It would be the largest battle ever fought by U.S. troops up to that time in U.S. history.

In 1918, the last year of the war, the armies of Germany launched a series of powerful attacks on the Western Front in an attempt to win a decisive victory before large numbers of American troops could be brought into action. The enemy assaults initially were highly successful and taxed Allied resources to the limit. Nevertheless, when the last great German offensive began on 15 July, Allied troops in heavy fighting quickly repulsed it. Three days later on 18 July, a U.S.–French counteroffensive was launched at Soissons. It was completely successful and marked the turning point of the war.

Determined to keep the Germans on the defensive and to maintain the initiative in battle, a series of strong offensive operations were planned by the Allies. The U.S. First Army was organized and given the mission of attacking in the St. Mihiel sector. The purpose of the St. Mihiel Offensive was to keep the enemy off balance, allowing him no opportunity to reorganize. Its plan required an assault on 12 September to reduce the German salient at St. Mihiel, followed two weeks later by a great offensive in a different area 40 miles away. Never before on the Western Front had a single army attempted such a colossal task. Four days after the St. Mihiel Offensive began, the German salient was eliminated.

The area between the Meuse River and the Argonne Forest was chosen for the U.S. First Army's greatest offensive of the war because it was the portion of the German front which the enemy could least afford to lose. The lateral communications between German forces east and west of the Meuse were in that area and they were heavily dependent upon two rail lines that converged in

the vicinity of Sedan and lay within 35 miles of the battle line.

The nature of the Meuse–Argonne terrain made it ideal for defense. On the left, the heavily wooded and tangled Argonne Forest and the Aire River presented natural obstacles. On the right, the Meuse River and the Heights of the Meuse to the east formed not only natural barriers but also gave the enemy commanding ground from which it could observe the battlefield and cover it with artillery fire.

In between the Aire and the Meuse Rivers were a series of broken, wooded ridges that provided excellent observation. The first was the dominating hill of Montfaucon. Behind it were the Heights of Romagne and Cunel; beyond them was Barricourt Heights. To protect this vitally important area, the enemy had established almost continuous defensive positions for a depth of 10 to 12 miles to the rear of the front lines.

The movement of American troops and materiel into position for the Meuse–Argonne attack was made entirely under the cover of darkness. On most of the front, French soldiers remained in the outpost positions until the very last moment in order to keep the enemy from learning of the large American concentration. Altogether, about 220,000 Allied soldiers were withdrawn from the area and 600,000 American soldiers brought into position without the knowledge of the enemy, a striking tribute to the skill and abilities of the U.S. First Army.

Following a three-hour bombardment with 2,700 field pieces, the U.S. First Army jumped off on 26 September at 5:30 a.m. On the left, I Corps penetrated the Argonne Forest and advanced along the valley of the Aire River. In the center, V Corps advanced to the west of Montfaucon but was held up temporarily in front of the hill. On the



Overall View of the Cemetery

right, III Corps drove forward to the east of Montfaucon and a mile beyond. About noon the following day, Montfaucon was captured as the advance continued. Although complete surprise had been achieved, the enemy soon was contesting every foot of terrain stubbornly. Profiting from the temporary holdup in front of Montfaucon, the Germans poured reinforcements into the area. Even so, by 30 September, the U.S. First Army had driven the enemy back as far as six miles in some places.

The assault of the U.S. First Army was renewed on 4 October. Enemy forces continued to resist stubbornly, as additional German divisions arrived from other battle fronts. Though the U.S. First Army was subjected to furious counterattacks, its advance proceeded relentlessly. On 7 October, a strong flanking attack by I Corps on the left in the Aire Valley made capture of the Argonne Forest possible. The next day on the right, U.S. troops crossed the Meuse River, where severe fighting was encountered for possession of the heights beyond. On 9 October, V Corps began an attack in the center aided by III Corps on its right; both Corps then penetrated the Hindenburg Line.

It seemed on 14 October that the Allied assault would develop into another prolonged struggle, as the enemy continued to resist stubbornly. The III and V Corps, however, provided relief when they broke through the German main line of defense and seized the Heights of Cunel and Romagne. On the left, I Corps captured St. Juvin and Grand-Pré, enabling the French Fourth Army, which was positioned to the left of the U.S. First Army, to advance its attack.

The final chapter of the great offensive by the U.S. First Army began at daybreak on 1 November after a two-hour concentrated artillery

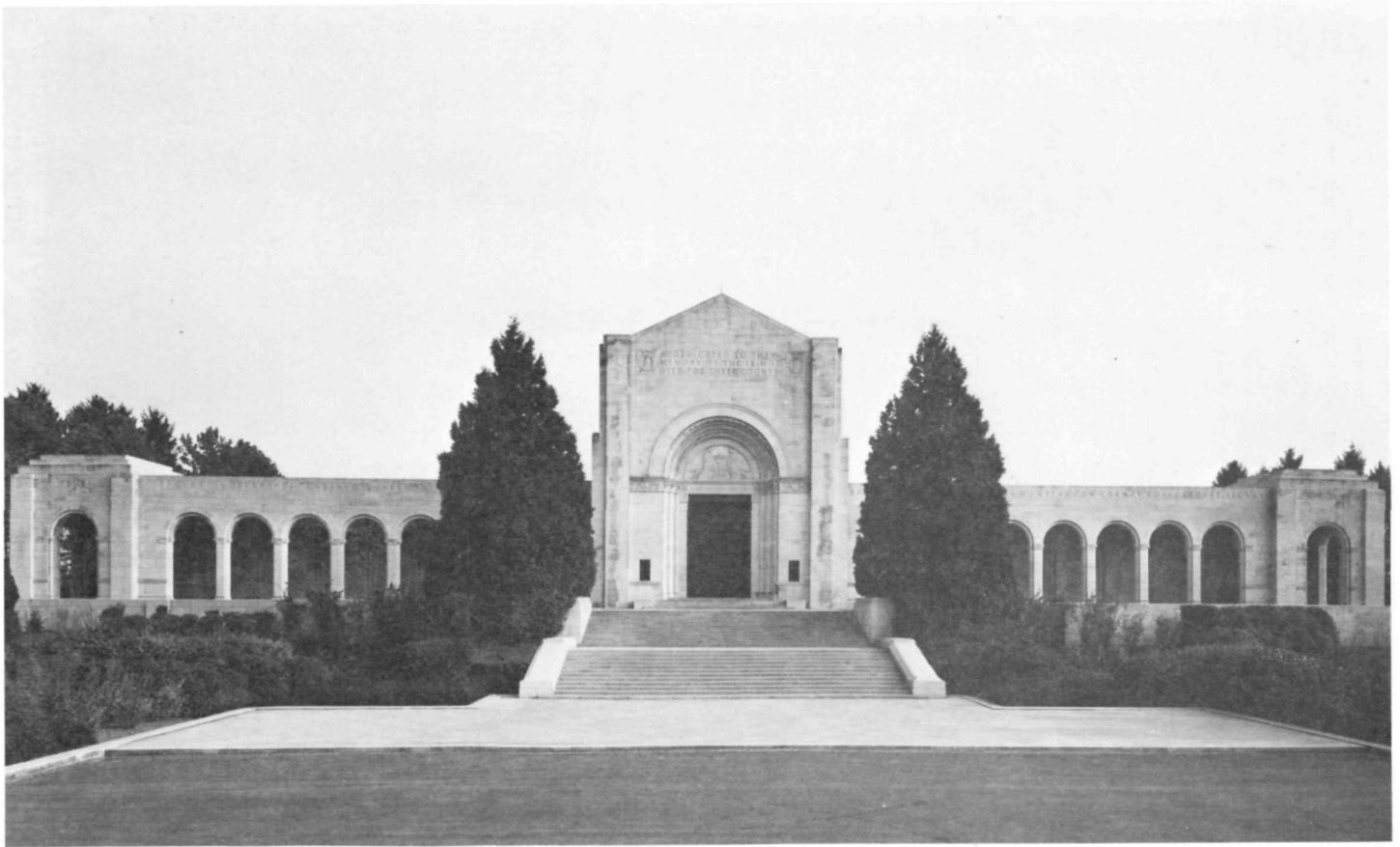
preparation. Its progress exceeded all expectations. By early afternoon, the formidable position on Barricourt Heights had been captured, ensuring success of the whole operation. That night the enemy issued orders to withdraw west of the Meuse. By 4 November, after an additional crossing of the Meuse by the U.S. First Army, the enemy was in full retreat on both sides of the river. Three days later, when the heights overlooking the city of Sedan were taken, the U.S. First Army gained domination over the German railroad communications there, ensuring early termination of the war.

Meanwhile in mid-October, the U.S. Second Army was formed to take command of the St. Mihiel sector on the right of the U.S. First Army. In response to a directive that offensives be initiated and sustained all along the entire Allied front, the U.S. First and Second Armies both launched attacks on 10 November and made substantial gains. So perilous was the enemy position that it was compelled to seek an immediate armistice, which became effective on 11 November 1918.

To echo some of the words of General Pershing inscribed on the Montfaucon Monument: The Meuse-Argonne offensive (in which over 1,000,000 American soldiers fought) was suddenly conceived, hurried in plan and preparation, complicated by close association with a preceding major operation yet brilliantly executed and prosecuted with an unselfish and heroic spirit of courage and fortitude that demanded eventual victory. It stands out as one of the very great achievements in the history of American arms.

THE SITE

The cemetery, 130½ acres in extent, was established 14 October 1918 by the American Graves Regis-



Memorial Chapel

tration Service on terrain captured by the 32d Infantry Division. The use of the land on which it rests has been granted by the French government free of charge or taxation in perpetuity, as an expression of its gratitude to the United States. In 1934, administration of the cemetery passed to the American Battle Monuments Commission. The Commission, whose functions are described in the latter pages of this booklet, landscaped the cemetery grounds and erected the memorial chapel and other structures.

ARCHITECTS

The architects for the cemetery and memorial were York and Sawyer of New York.

GENERAL LAYOUT

The cemetery is generally rectangular in shape with three-quarters of its area devoted to the grave plots and memorial chapel.

The memorial chapel is located on the high ground to the south. A grassy east-west entrance mall 600 yards long runs through the small valley across which the cemetery is located separating the graves and memorial area from the Visitors' Building and service area. There is an impressive entrance portal to the cemetery at each end of the east-west mall and a circular pool with a fountain at the center. This attractive pool with its goldfish and flowering lilies is a constant source of interest to visitors. A road bordered by a double avenue of beech trees runs from each portal and encircles the mall. A perimeter road encircles the graves area and the service area. Four rectangular grave plots are located on each side of the mall leading from the pool to the memorial chapel. The grave plots are framed by square-trimmed linden trees. These trees are especially beautiful

in the fall when their leaves are changing color. Over 65 varieties of evergreen shrubs and trees plus many varieties of flowers complete the tranquil beauty of this cemetery. A stone wall more than 1½ miles long encircles the cemetery in its entirety.

THE MEMORIAL

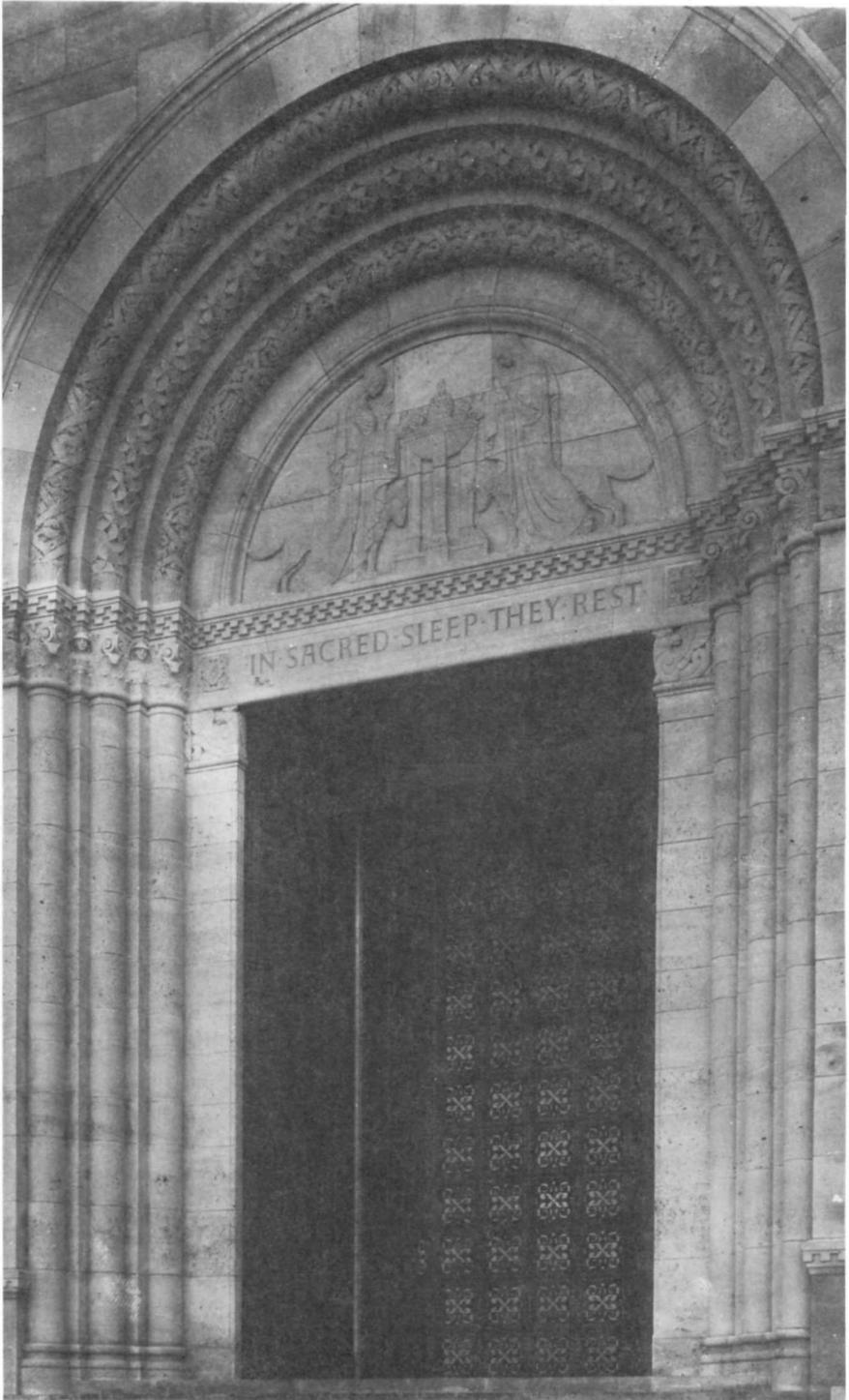
The memorial, a fine example of Romanesque architecture, faces north on the crest of a gently sloping hillside overlooking the graves area. It consists of a memorial chapel and two flanking loggias, on whose walls are engraved the names of those servicemen and women missing in the area and also those missing in northern Russia. The memorial's exterior walls and columns are of Euville Coquiller stone; its interior walls are of Salamandre travertine.

High above the main entrance to the chapel, on the exterior wall, is carved the following:

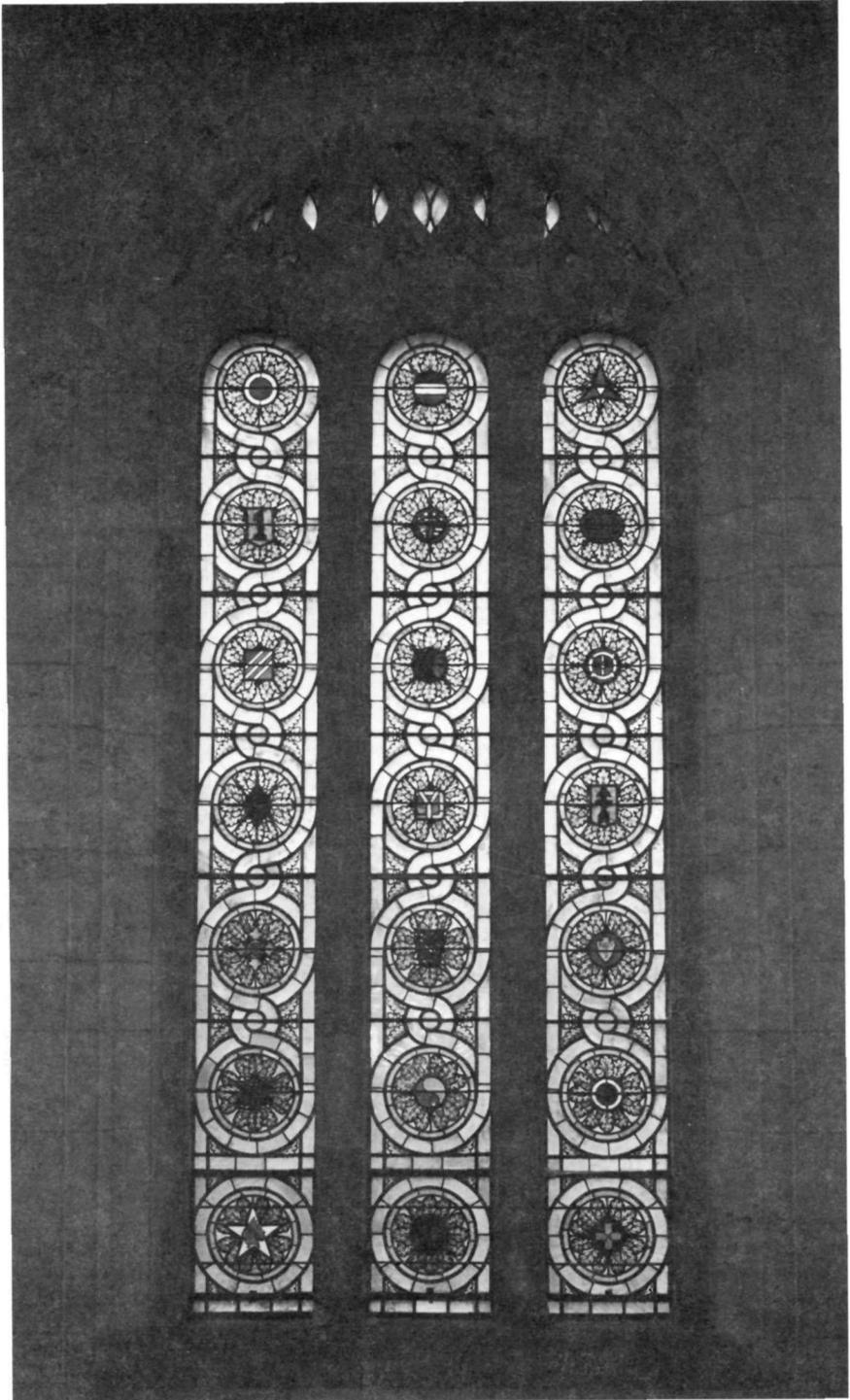
DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF THOSE
WHO DIED FOR THEIR COUNTRY.

On the lintel directly over the chapel entrance is inscribed: IN SACRED SLEEP THEY REST. A sculpture bas-relief by L. Bottiau, Paris, France, with figures representing Grief and Remembrance appears above it in the tympanum. The beautiful bronze filigreed screen of the imposing entrance doors was cast by Henry Hope and Sons, Birmingham, England. Alongside the door, carved heads of American soldiers are included in the design of the column capitals. Across the ends and front of the loggias above the arches are names of places famous in the history of the American fighting in the region:

PONT-MAUGIS — BOIS-DE-CUNEL —
MEUSE — CIERGES — BOIS-DES-RAPPES
— CONSENVOYE — EXERMONT —
GRAND-PRE — MEUSE HEIGHTS —



Chapel Doors



Stained Glass Window in Chapel

*BARRICOURT-HEIGHTS — GESNES — MONTFAUCON — CORNAY — BOIS-DE-FORET — STENAY — ARGONNE — CHEPPY — COTE-DE-CHATILLON.

Inside the chapel on the wall above the right entry-way is the inscription:

THIS CHAPEL IS ERECTED BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AS A SACRED RENDEZVOUS OF A GRATEFUL PEOPLE WITH ITS IMMORTAL DEAD.

The same text appears in French on the wall above the left entrance.

On entering the chapel, one's attention is immediately drawn to the apse, in the center of which is the altar backed by a semi-circle of flags of the United States and the principal Allied nations.

The insignia of many of the American divisions and larger units which served in the AEF are reproduced in its stained glass windows which were executed by Heinigke & Smith, New York, N.Y. Shown in the window of the west wall are:

I CORPS, GENERAL HEADQUARTERS, III CORPS, 1ST DIVISION, ADVANCE SECTION S.O.S., 30TH DIVISION, 3D DIVISION, 7TH DIVISION, 35TH DIVISION, 5TH DIVISION, 26TH DIVISION, 32D DIVISION, 4TH DIVISION, 28TH DIVISION, 36TH DIVISION, 6TH DIVISION, 29TH DIVISION, 37TH DIVISION, 2D DIVISION, 27TH DIVISION AND 33D DIVISION.

The window of the east wall includes:

IV CORPS, FIRST ARMY, V CORPS, 41ST DIVISION, 80TH DIVISION, 88TH DIVISION, 77TH DIVISION, 84TH DIVISION, 91ST DIVISION, 78TH DIVISION, 83D DIVISION, 90TH DIVISION, 89TH DIVISION, 85TH DIVISION, 92D DIVISION, 42D DIVISION, 81ST DIVISION, 76TH DIVISION, 79TH DIVISION, 82D DIVISION AND 93D DIVISION.

Through these windows a soft and subdued light is diffused throughout the chapel's interior and blends

with the deep colors of the marble floor.

On the arches over the door, apse and windows are the following inscriptions:

GOD HATH TAKEN THEM UNTO HIMSELF

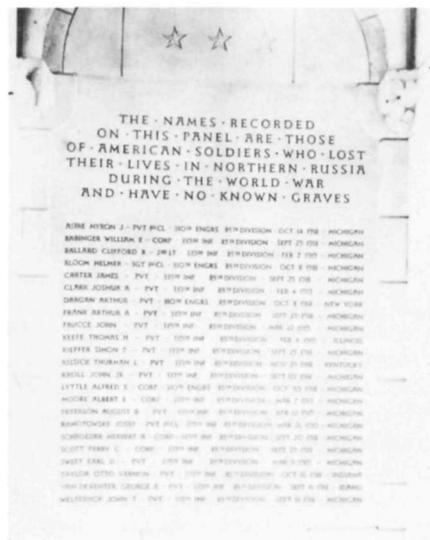
THEIR NAMES WILL LIVE FOR EVERMORE

PEACEFUL IS THEIR SLEEP IN GOD

PERPETUAL LIGHT UPON THEM SHINES.

The memorial loggias flank the chapel. Engraved on a panel of the west loggia is an ornamental map, showing in color the operations of American divisions during the Meuse-Argonne offensive. A similar map appears in the Montfaucon Monument; see page 19 of this booklet.

The names of 954 of the Missing who gave their lives in the service of their country, but whose remains were never recovered or identified are engraved on the remaining panels of the two loggias. Above the



Wall of the Missing

names high on the center panel of each loggia is inscribed:

THE NAMES HERE RECORDED ARE THOSE OF AMERICAN SOLDIERS WHO FOUGHT IN THIS REGION AND WHOSE EARTHLY RESTING PLACE IS KNOWN ONLY TO GOD.

Included among them, but inscribed on a separate panel in the east loggia are the names of the Missing of the Services of Supply. At the top of the panel is the inscription:

THE NAMES RECORDED ON THIS PANEL ARE THOSE OF AMERICAN SOLDIERS WHO DIED IN THE SERVICES OF SUPPLY DURING THE WORLD WAR AND HAVE NO KNOWN GRAVES.

Similarly, in the west loggia a sep-

arate panel carries the names of the Missing from the American expedition to Northern Russia under the inscription:

THE NAMES RECORDED ON THIS PANEL ARE THOSE OF AMERICAN SOLDIERS WHO LOST THEIR LIVES IN NORTHERN RUSSIA DURING THE WORLD WAR AND HAVE NO KNOWN GRAVES.

On the floors of the pavilions at the ends of the loggias are directional arrows pointing to prominent terrain features relating to the operations which took place in the area. Also, from the ends of the loggias one can see, in the distance to the southeast, the dominating hill of Montfaucon with its imposing monument.



Section of the Tablets of the Missing



Chapel Altar

GRAVES AREA

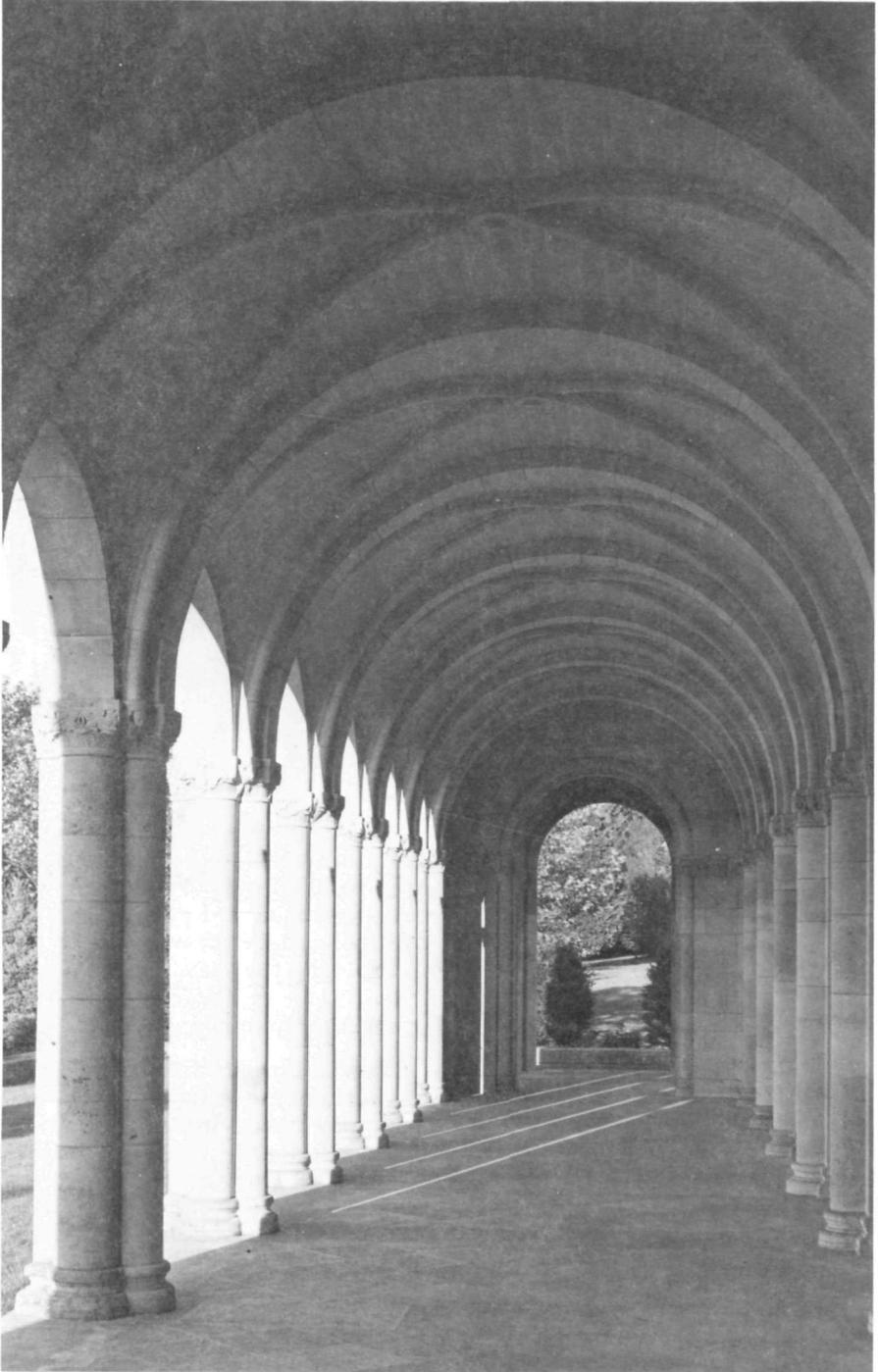
The graves area lies on the southern slope of the valley and is divided into eight rectangular plots lettered from A to H. Each plot is surrounded by square-trimmed linden trees. Plots A, B, E and F are located on the east side of the grassy mall extending from the chapel to the circular pool and fountain below and C, D, G and H are on the west. The carefully clipped grass of the mall and graves area gives the impression of a vast green velvet carpet.

14,246 War Dead are interred within the cemetery, 486 of whom are Unknowns. The cemetery contains no multiple burials. Each of the Dead has his own headstone of white marble, a Star of David for those of the Jewish faith and a Latin

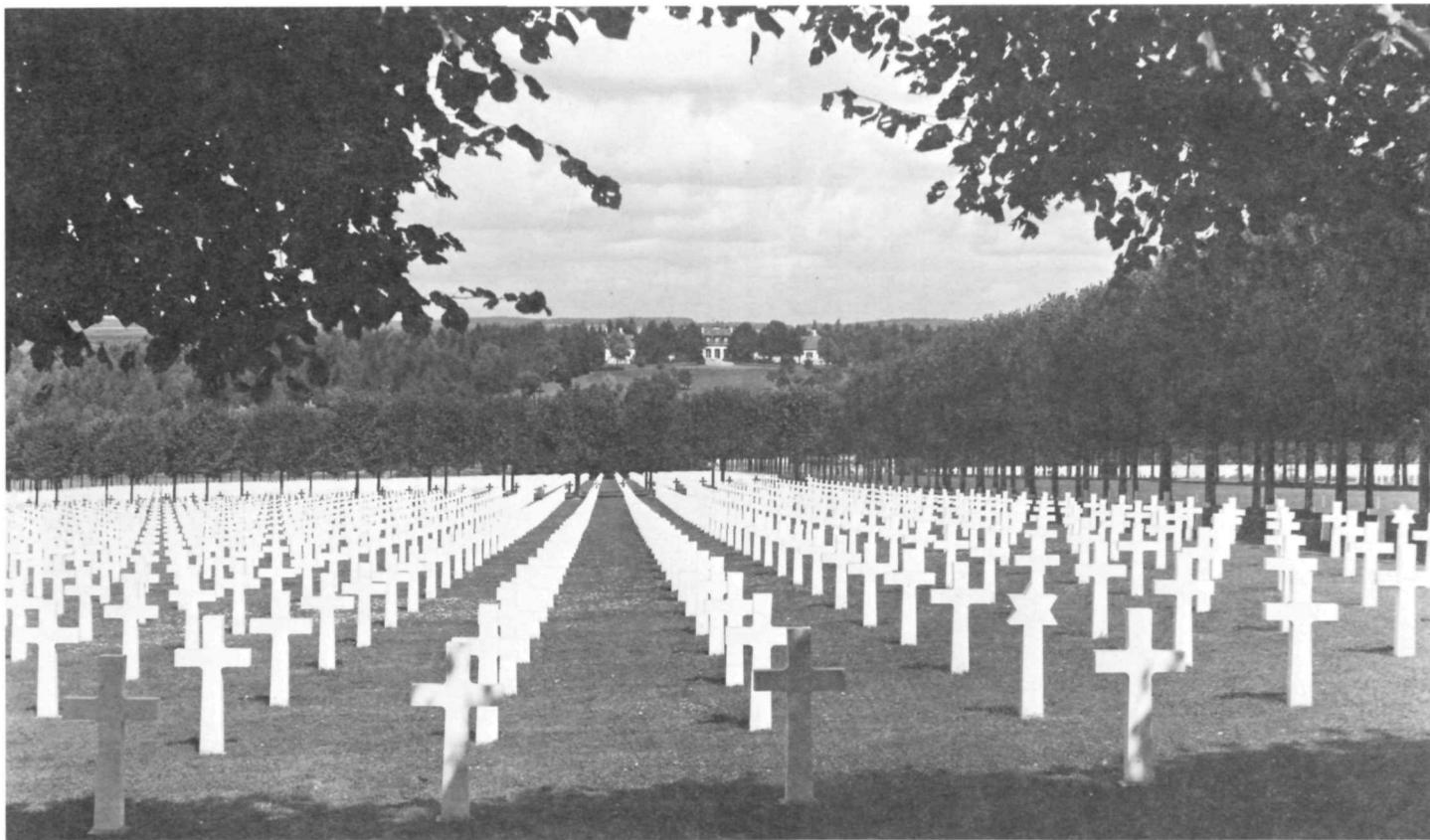
cross for all others. The immense array of headstones is arranged in long parallel rows beginning at the east-west mall and extends row on row to the chapel crowning the ridge overlooking the graves area.

VISITORS' BUILDING

The Visitors' Building is located to the north of the cemetery. Here visitors may obtain information, sign the register and pause to refresh themselves. During visiting hours a member of the cemetery staff is available in the building to answer questions and provide information on burials and memorializations in the Commission's cemeteries, accommodations in the vicinity, travel, local history and other items of interest.



View of Interior of East Loggia of Memorial Chapel



Graves Area



Exterior of Visitors' Building



Interior of Visitors' Building



The Montfaucon Monument

The imposing shaft of the Montfaucon Monument rises 200 feet above the ruins of the former hilltop village of Montfaucon and dominates the surrounding countryside. Before its capture by the American 37th and 79th Divisions on 27 September 1918, the site provided the German forces with excellent observation.

The monument commemorates the victory of the U.S. First Army in the Meuse-Argonne offensive, 26 September–11 November 1918, and pays tribute to the heroic services of the French Armies before that time on that battlefield.

Construction of the monument was completed in 1933; it was dedicated in 1937 by the President of the French Republic, Mr. Albert Lebrun.

Architect for the memorial was John Russell Pope of New York. The 180 foot massive shaft is of Baveno granite in the form of a Doric column and is surmounted by a figure symbolic of Liberty. It faces the First Army's line of departure of 26 September 1918. From the observation

platform at the top, one can see most of the Meuse-Argonne battlefield.

The names of the four most important areas captured by American troops, MEUSE HEIGHTS, BARRICOURT HEIGHTS, ROMAGNE HEIGHTS AND ARGONNE FOREST appear in large letters across the front of the monument.

On the wall surrounding the main terrace are listed the divisions which made up the U.S. First Army along with the names of three places now recorded in American military history, where each of the divisions encountered hard fighting:

1ST DIVISION, EXERMONT, COTE DE MALDAH, VILLEMONTREY; 2ND DIVISION, LANDRES-ST. GEORGES, BEAUMONT, BOIS DES FLAVIERS; 3RD DIVISION, BOIS DE CUNEL, CLAIRS CHENES, BOIS DE FORET; 4TH DIVISION, SEPT SARGES, BOIS DE FAYS, BOIS DE FORET; 5TH DIVISION, CUNEL, DUN-SUR-MEUSE, FORET DE WOEVRE; 26TH DIVISION, LE HOUPPY BOIS, LA WAVRILLE, BOIS DE VILLE; 28TH DIVISION, ARGONNE, VARENNES, APREMONT; 29TH

MEUSE-ARGONNE REGION



LARGE NUMERALS INDICATE DIVISIONS WHICH CAPTURED THE AREAS SHOWN. SMALL NUMERALS INDICATE PARTS OF DIVISIONS WHICH ASSISTED OTHER UNITS.
 DIVISION BOUNDARY ——— LINE OF RELIEF ——— AMERICAN MONUMENT ——— AMERICAN CEMETERY ——— FR - FRENCH DIVISION SERVING UNDER AMERICAN COMMAND.
 COL - COLONIAL. KILOMETERS ——— MILES

Map of the Meuse-Argonne Region on the Northeast Wall of the Vestibule

DIVISION, BOIS DE CONSENVOYE, MOLLEVILLE FARM, BOIS D'ETRAYE; 32ND DIVISION, COTE DAME MARIE, ROMAGNE, PEUVILLERS; 33RD DIVISION, BOIS DE FORGES, CONSENVOYE, BOIS PLAT-CHENE; 35TH DIVISION, VAUQUOIS, BAULNY, MONTREBEAU; 37TH DIVISION, BOIS DE MONTFAUCON, IVOIRY, BOIS BE BEUGE; 42ND DIVISION, COTE DE CHATILLON, BOIS DU MONT DIEU, SEDAN HEIGHTS; 77TH DIVISION, ARGONNE, ST. JUVIN, REMILLY-SUR-MEUSE; 78TH DIVISION, GRAND-PRE, BOIS DE LOGES, TANNAY; 79TH DIVISION, MONTFAUCON, NANTILLOIS, CHAUMONT; 80TH DIVISION, DANNEVOUX, BOIS DES OGONS, BUZ ANCY; 81ST DIVISION, MANHEULLES, ABAUCOURT, GRIMAUCCOURT; 82ND DIVISION, CORNAY, MARGO, ST. JUVIN; 89TH DIVISION, BOIS DE BARRICOURT, POUILLY, STENAY; 90TH DIVISION, BANTHEVILLE, HILL 343, STENAY; 91ST DIVISION, BOIS DE CHEPPY, EPINONVILLE, BOIS DE GESNES; AND THE 92ND DIVISION, BOIS DE LA GRURIE, VALLEE MOREAU, BINARVILLE. In addition, the five French units which fought with the First Army and the two American divisions which were in reserve are commemorated:

10E D.I.C. (FR) DAMLOUP, BOIS DE LA PLUME, NOBRAS; 15E D.I.C. (FR), SIVRY-SUR-MEUSE, HARAUMONT, DAMVILLERS; 18E D.I. (FR), HAUMONT, BOIS DES CHENES, BOIS D'ORMONT; 26E D.I. (FR), BOIS DE CAURES, ANGLEMONT FERME, BEAUMONT; IN RESERVE, 6TH DIVISION, 36TH DIVISION, 5E D.C. (FR).

On the paving of the main terrace in front of the entrance door, the following text is engraved in English and French:

ERECTED BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO COMMEMORATE THE BRILLIANT VICTORY OF HER FIRST ARMY IN THE MEUSE-ARGONNE OFFENSIVE SEPTEMBER 26–NOVEMBER 11, 1918, AND TO HONOR THE HEROIC SERVICES OF THE ARMIES OF FRANCE ON THIS IMPORTANT BATTLEFRONT DURING THE WORLD WAR.

Inside the entranceway is a small vestibule decorated with the flags of the United States and France. On the northwest wall of the vestibule is a map of the Meuse-Argonne offensive, carved in polished marble and indicating in color the operations of the various divisions in the area. Inscribed on the southwest wall is a brief description in French and English of the American operations:

DURING SEPTEMBER 1918 THE ALLIED FORCES LAUNCHED A GENERAL OFFENSIVE AGAINST THE GERMAN ARMIES ON THE WESTERN FRONT. IN THIS OPERATION THE AMERICAN FIRST ARMY WAS ASSIGNED THE TASK OF BREAKING THROUGH THE EXTREMELY STRONG AND VITAL PORTION OF THE ENEMY DEFENSIVE SYSTEM LYING BETWEEN THE MEUSE RIVER AND THE ARGONNE FOREST.

THE AMERICAN ATTACK STARTED ON SEPTEMBER 26 AND AFTER TWO DAYS INTENSE FIGHTING MONTFAUCON UPON WHICH THIS MONUMENT STANDS WAS CAPTURED. BY SEPTEMBER 30 THE ENEMY HAD BEEN DRIVEN BACK SIX MILES. THE GERMAN TROOPS DEFENDED EACH POSITION TO THE UTMOST AND MANY DIVISIONS WERE RUSHED TO THEIR SUPPORT FROM OTHER BATTLEFRONTS.

THE BATTLE CONTINUED THROUGHOUT OCTOBER AGAINST DESPERATE RESISTANCE. A BRILLIANT ADVANCE DOWN THE AIRE VALLEY MADE IT POSSIBLE TO OUTFLANK AND CAPTURE THE ARGONNE FOREST. THE ATTACK THEN SPREAD EAST OF THE MEUSE WHERE SEVERE FIGHTING OCCURRED. THE PROLONGED STRUGGLES FOR THE STRONGLY FORTIFIED GERMAN MAIN LINE OF DEFENSE ON THE HEIGHTS NEAR BRIEULLES CUNEL AND ROMAGNE WERE UNSURPASSED IN FURY BUT BY OCTOBER 14 THIS LINE HAD BEEN BROKEN AND THE END OF THE MONTH FOUND IT AND THE VILLAGES OF ST. JUVIN AND GRAND-PRE

SECURELY IN THE GRASP OF THE AMERICAN ARMY.

ON NOVEMBER 1 THE ARMY LAUNCHED ITS LAST GREAT ATTACK. THE DOMINATING HEIGHTS NEAR BARRICOURT WERE CAPTURED AND THE ENEMY WAS DRIVEN BEYOND THE MEUSE RIVER. THESE SUCCESSES AND THOSE OF THE ALLIES ON OTHER BATTLEFIELDS COMPELLED THE GERMANS TO ASK FOR AN IMMEDIATE ARMISTICE WHICH BECAME EFFECTIVE ON NOVEMBER 11 1918.

DURING FORTY-SEVEN DAYS OF CONTINUAL BATTLE ON THIS FRONT THE FIRST ARMY ADVANCED 35 MILES CAPTURED 26,000 MEN 874 CANNON AND 3,000 MACHINE GUNS. AT ITS MAXIMUM STRENGTH THE ARMY COMPRISED MORE THAN 1,000,000 SOLDIERS. THE AMERICAN BATTLE CASUALTIES WERE 122,000.

A tribute by General Pershing, Commander-in-Chief of the American Expeditionary Forces, to his officers and men who served here appears on the southeast wall. The text of General Pershing's tribute reads:

THE MEUSE-ARGONNE BATTLE PRESENTED NUMEROUS DIFFICULTIES SEEMINGLY INSURMOUNTABLE. THE SUCCESS STANDS OUT AS ONE OF THE GREAT ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE HISTORY OF AMERICAN ARMS. SUDDENLY CONCEIVED AND HURRIED IN PLAN AND PREPARATION; COMPLICATED BY CLOSE ASSOCIATION WITH A PRECEDING MAJOR OPERATION; DIRECTED AGAINST STUBBORN DEFENSE OF THE VITAL POINT OF THE WESTERN FRONT; AND ATTENDED BY COLD AND INCLEMMENT WEATHER; THIS BATTLE WAS PROSECUTED WITH AN UNSELFISH AND HEROIC SPIRIT OF COURAGE AND FORTITUDE WHICH DEMANDED EVENTUAL VICTORY. PHYSICALLY STRONG, VIRILE, AND AGGRESSIVE, THE MORALE OF THE AMERICAN SOLDIER DURING THIS MOST TRYING PERIOD WAS SUPERB. 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.

— *John J. Pershing, General, Commander-in-Chief, American Expeditionary Forces.*

A circular stairway of 234 steps leads from the base of the shaft to observation platforms from which large portions of the Meuse-Argonne battlefield may be seen. Eleven of the thirteen landings on the stairs are provided with benches where visitors may pause to rest.

Use of the monument site was given to the United States by the French Government in perpetuity, free of charge or taxation.

The area surrounding the monument is administered by the French Fine Arts Commission and is also of historical significance. The ruins upon which the monument is erected are believed to date back to the 6th century. Numerous battles have been fought in the vicinity. In one battle against the Normans about 888 A. D., 19,000 Dead are said to have been left on the battlefield. During the Hundred Years' War, the district was frequently ravaged by robbers; and during the 16th and 17th centuries, the town was twice destroyed. While making excavations for the foundations of the monument, an underground passage hollowed out of the soft rock was found running from the ruins behind the monument to the foot of the hill. To the left of the monument shaft, as seen from the parking plaza and about 12 feet underground, a cemetery was found which probably dates from the Middle Ages. Under the front of the wall on the right side of the terrace, three old cellars were found, one below the other, the lowest one showing evidence of having been used as a dungeon.



The Sommepy Monument

The Sommepy Monument stands on the crest of Blanc Mont ridge, three miles (5 km) north of Sommepy in the Department of Marne, 38 miles (61 km) from the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery. The site on which the monument stands was captured on 3 October 1918 after heavy fighting by the American 2d Division.

The nearest cities are Reims — 22 miles (35 km) to the west and Chalons-sur-Marne — 23 miles (37 km) to the south.

The monument commemorates the achievements of the 70,000 American soldiers who fought in the Champagne region of France during the summer and fall of 1918 and those of the French soldiers who fought with them.

The monument is in the form of a tower, its sturdy though graceful shape harmonizing with the surrounding landscape. The golden brown stones of different shades on its exterior give it a very attractive appearance.

Architect for the monument was Mr. Arthur Loomis Harmon of New York.

Carved on the exterior walls are the dedicatory inscription and the insignia and names of the American Divisions which the monument commemorates with the inclusive dates that they served in this region and the names of four locations where each of the divisions participated in difficult fighting:

93D DIVISION, SEPTEMBER 26–OCTOBER 6, 1918, RIPONT, SECHAULT, ARDEUIL, TRIERES FARM; 36TH DIVISION, OCTOBER 8–OCTOBER 27, 1918, MACHAULT, DRICOURT, ST. ETIENNE-A-ARNES, FOREST FARM; 2D DIVISION, OCTOBER 2–OCTOBER 9, 1918, BLANC MONT, MEDEAH FARM, ST. ETIENNE-A-ARNES, ESSEN TRENCH; 42D DIVISION, JULY 15–JULY 17, 1918, AUBERIVE-SUR-SUIPPES, ST. HILAIRE-LE-GRAND, SOUAIN, SPANDAU WOOD.

The dedicatory inscription is carved in both English and French below the eagle on the front face of the monument:

ERECTED BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO COMMEMORATE THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF HER SOLDIERS AND THOSE OF FRANCE WHO FOUGHT IN THIS REGION DURING THE WORLD WAR.

Inside the tower, on a stone panel visible through the bronze grille of the door, is a brief description of the American operations in this vicinity:

IN EARLY JULY 1918 THE 42D AMERICAN DIVISION ENTERED THE BATTLE LINES WITH THE 13TH AND 170TH FRENCH DIVISIONS NEAR SOUAIN. THERE IT GALLANTLY ASSISTED IN REPELLING THE LAST GERMAN MAJOR OFFENSIVE OF THE WAR.

WHEN THE ALLIES BEGAN THEIR GREAT CONVERGENT OFFENSIVE IN LATE SEPTEMBER, THE 2D AND 36TH AMERICAN DIVISIONS WERE ASSIGNED TO THE FRENCH FOURTH ARMY. ON OCTOBER 3 THE 2D DIVISION, SUPPORTED ON THE LEFT BY THE 21ST FRENCH DIVISION AND ON THE RIGHT BY THE 167TH, IN A BRILLIANT OPERATION CAPTURED BLANC MONT RIDGE ON WHICH THIS MONUMENT STANDS. THE 36TH DIVISION RELIEVED THE 2D ON OCTOBER 10 AND CONTINUED THE ADVANCE NORTHWARD AS FAR AS THE AISNE RIVER.

THREE INFANTRY REGIMENTS OF THE 93D AMERICAN DIVISION, SERVING WITH THE 157TH AND 161ST FRENCH DIVISIONS, ENGAGED IN INTERMITTENT FIGHTING DURING SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER TAKING PART IN THE CAPTURE OF RIPONT, SECHAULT AND TRIERES FARM.

A flight of steps leads to an observation platform at the top of the structure where a fine view of the surrounding countryside is available and where directional arrows point out prominent terrain features. The tower is open every Saturday, Sunday, Wednesday through Friday, it is closed on French holidays.

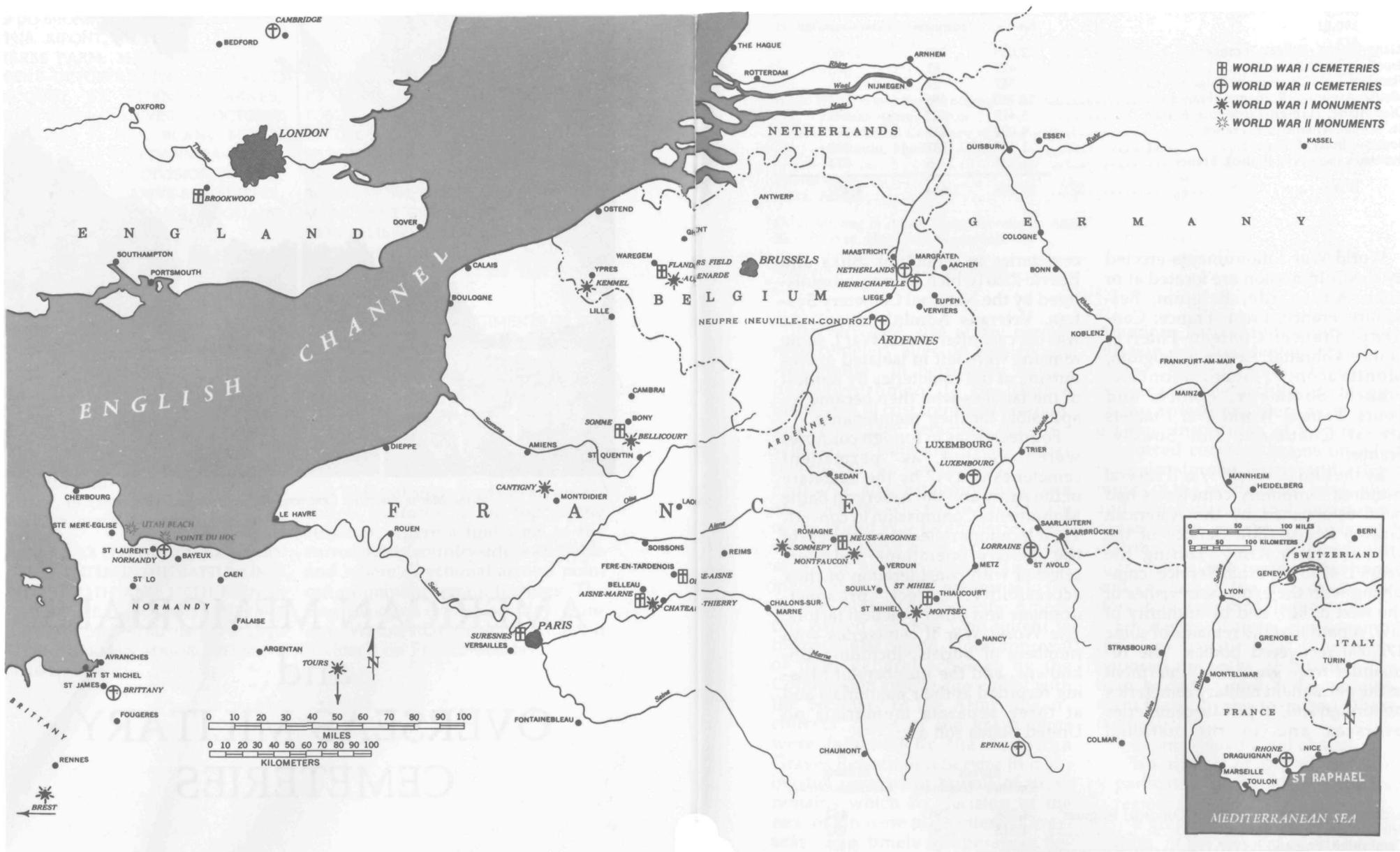


Aisne-Marne American Cemetery, Belleau, Aisne, France

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, 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	3,095
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 Honolulu, Hawaii	11,597	2,079	(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 . . . . .	...	...	8,195
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.

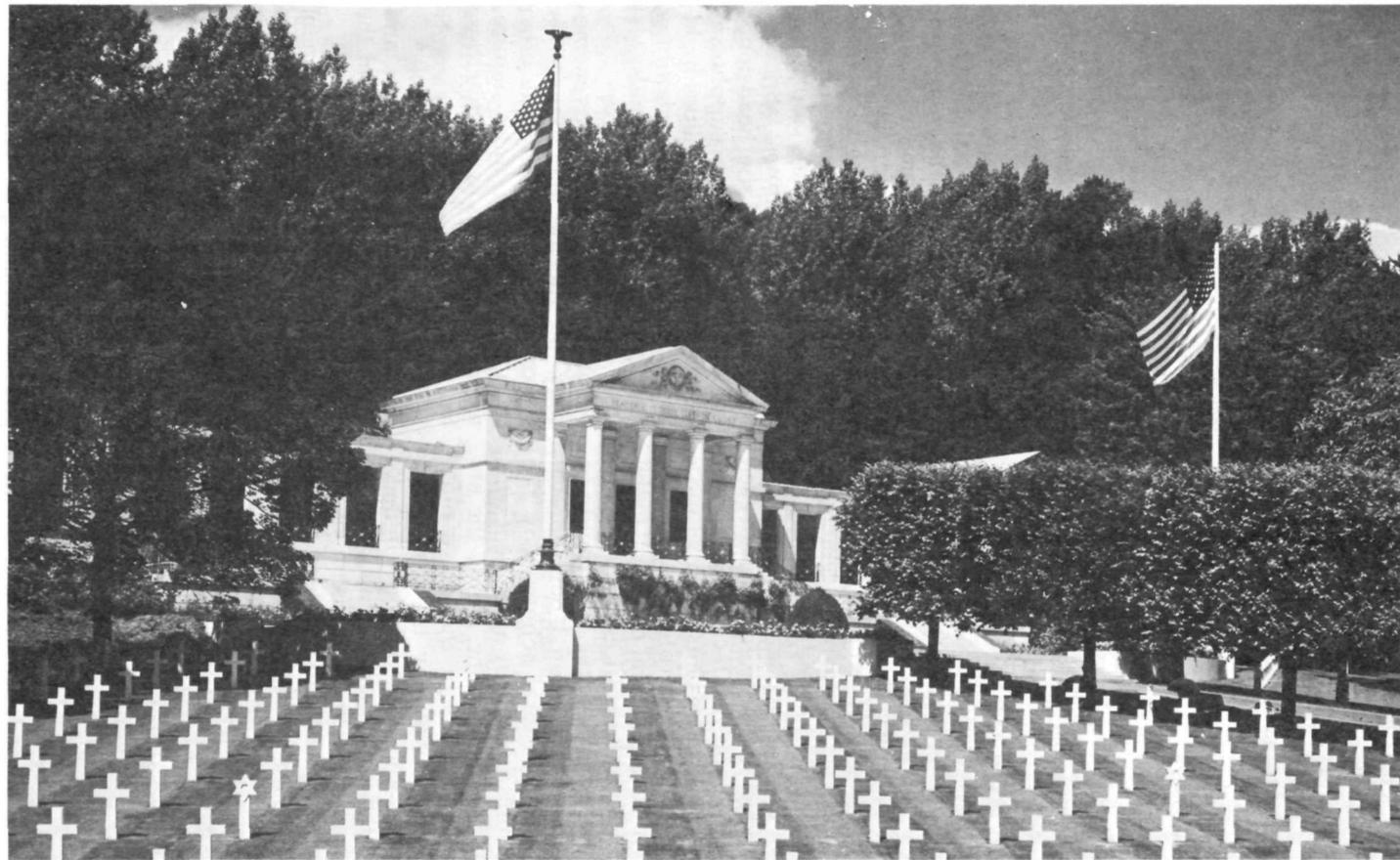
For design of the various memorials, no specific limitations were imposed upon the architects other than budgeted cost and a requirement that each was to embody these features:

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

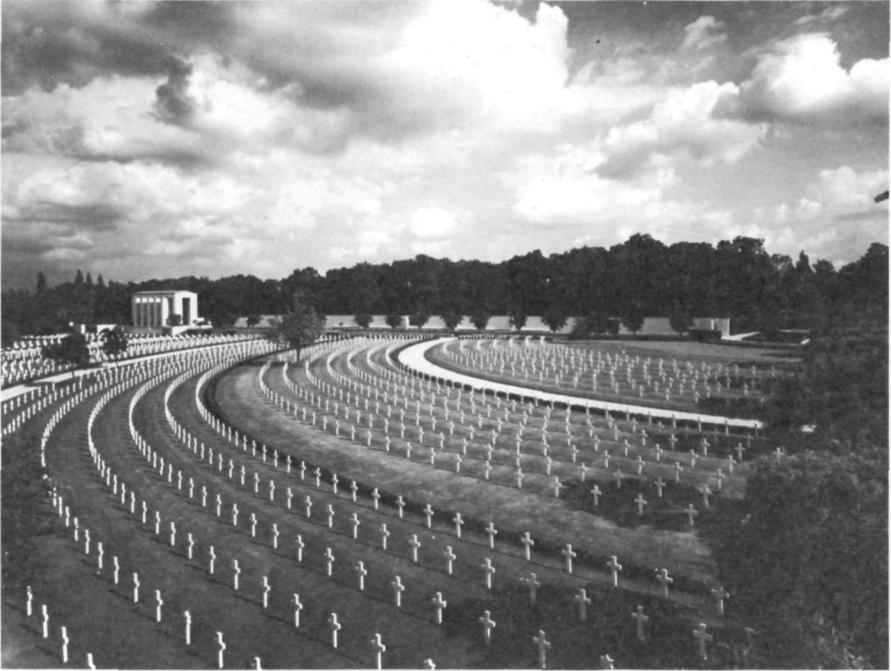
a graphic record, in permanent form, of the services of our troops (WW II only; however, Oise-Aisne, Meuse-Argonne and St. Mihiel WW I American Cemeteries also have battle maps).

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



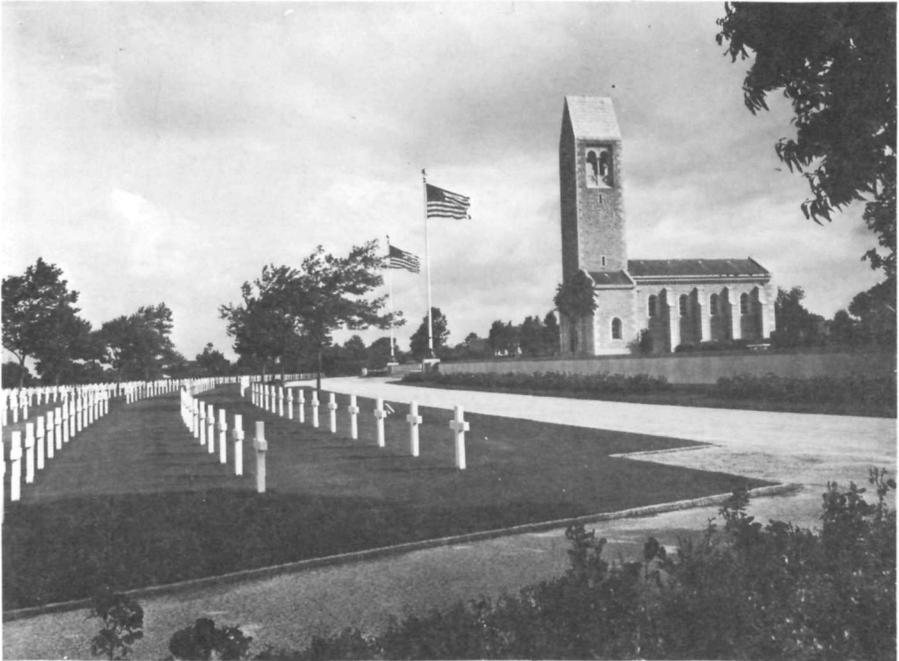
Cambridge American Cemetery and Memorial, Cambridge, England

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.

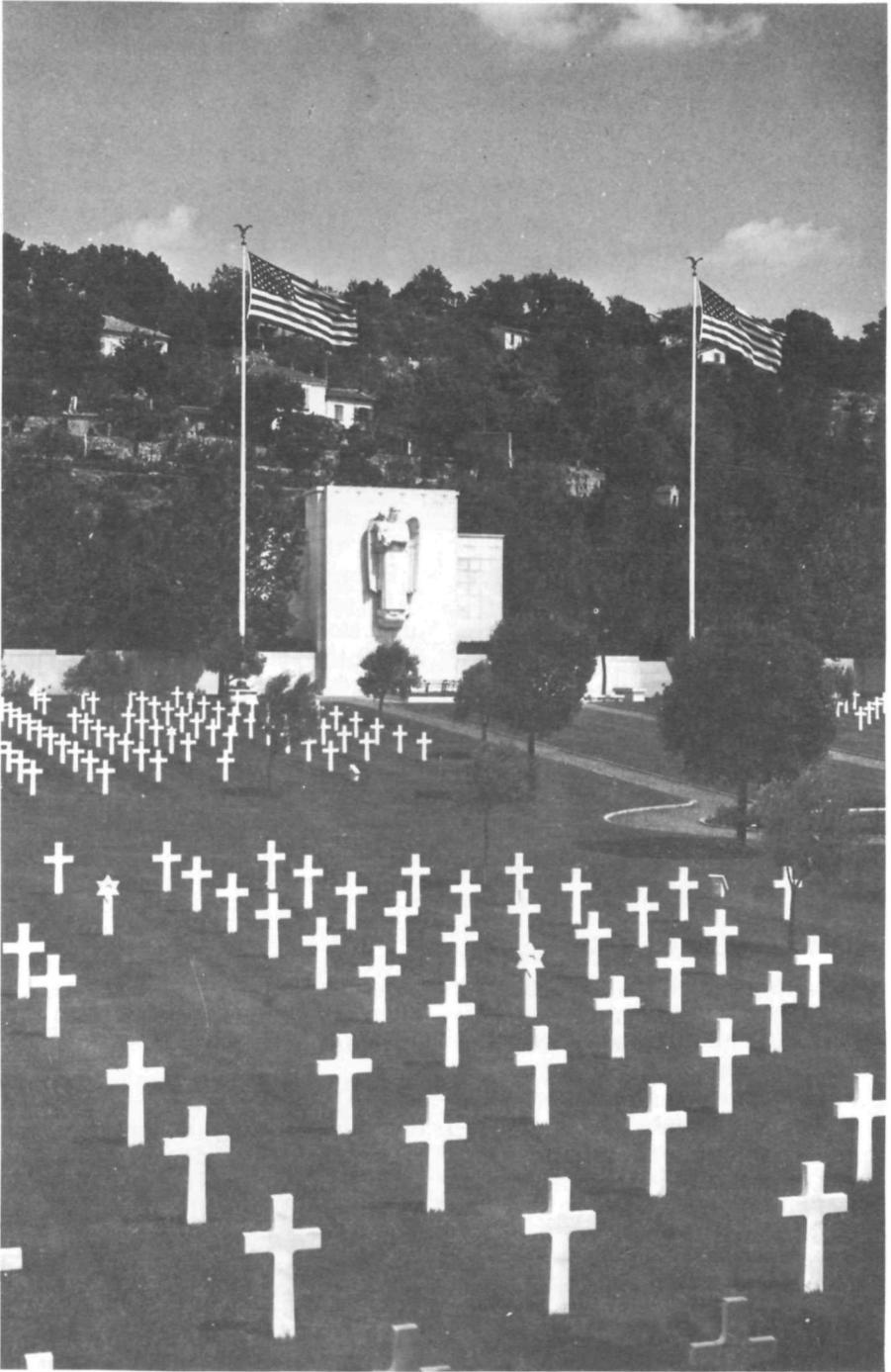
In the World War II cemeteries, the inscription reads:

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

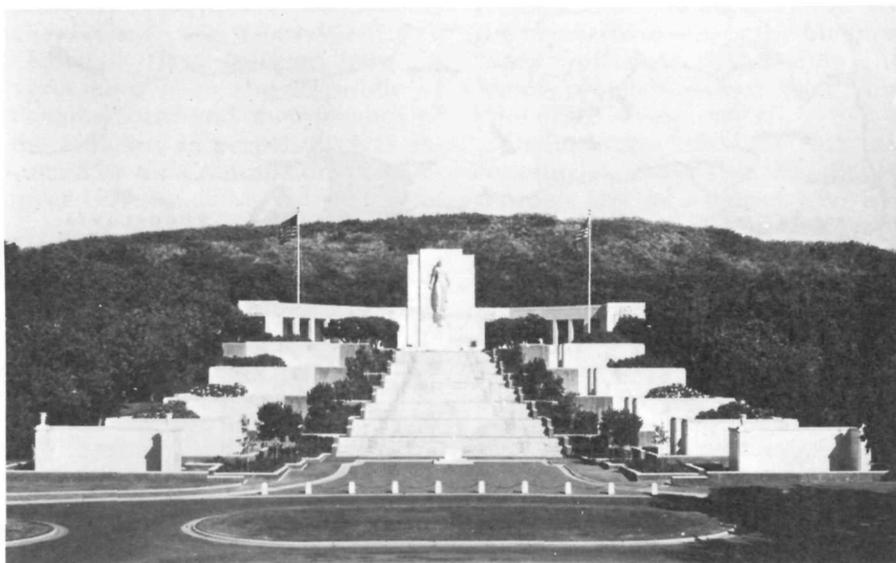
Although the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at Honolulu is administered by the Veterans Administration, the American Battle

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 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 Gailard Highway between the Corozal Railroad Station and Fort Clayton. To reach the cemetery, follow Gailard 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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Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery, Romagne, France