

Oise-Aisne American Cemetery and Memorial

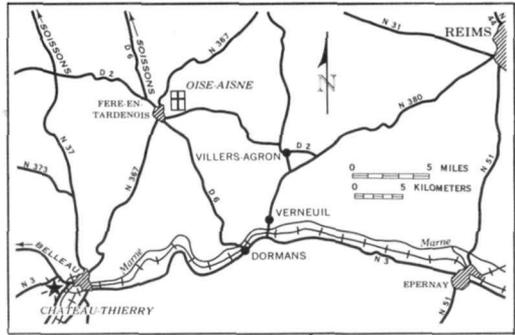


The American Battle Monuments Commission
1978



Chapel Interior

Oise-Aisne American Cemetery and Memorial



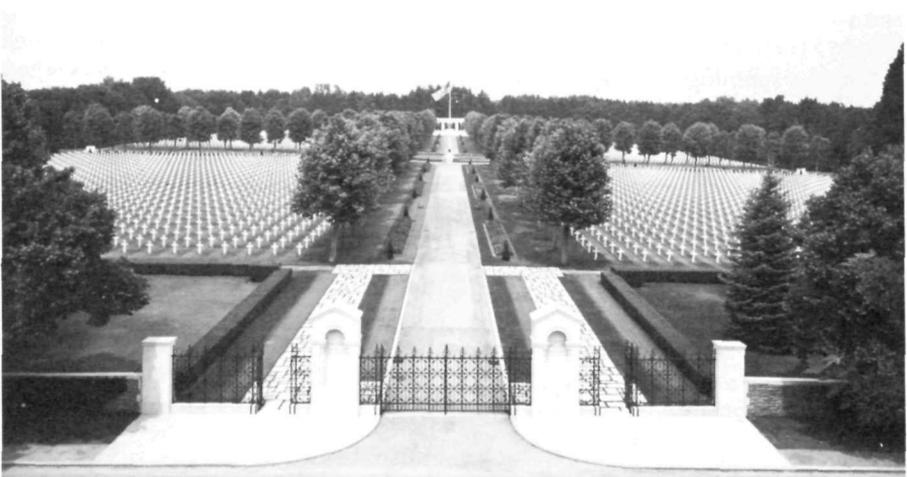
LOCATION

The Oise-Aisne American Cemetery and Memorial is located 1.5 miles (2.5 kilometers) east of Fere-en-Tardenois, along highway D-2, near the hamlet of Seringes-et-Nesles. It is approximately 70 miles (113 kilometers) northeast of Paris and can be reached by train from the Gare de l'Est in Paris via Chateau-Thierry and Fere-en-Tardenois in about two hours. Taxi service to the cemetery is available from each of these stations.

To travel by automobile to the Oise-Aisne American Cemetery from Paris, one should proceed east on Highway N-3 through Meaux and Forte-sous-Jouarre to Chateau-Thierry (54.5

miles/88 kilometers), turn left at Chateau-Thierry on Highway N-367, continue to Fere-en-Tardenois (14 miles/22.5 kilometers), and turn right on D-2 to the cemetery (1.5 miles/2.5 kilometers). Directional road signs to the cemetery may be found on the main highways in Chateau-Thierry, Soissons, Reims and Epernay. Road distances to Fere-en-Tardenois from nearby cities are: Soissons—16 miles/26 kilometers, Reims—28.5 miles/46 kilometers, Laon—33 miles/53 kilometers, and Senlis—44.5 miles/72 kilometers.

Adequate hotel accommodations and restaurant facilities are available in Chateau-Thierry, Epernay, Fere-en-Tardenois, Reims, Senlis and Soissons.



Entrance to Graves Area

HOURS

The cemetery is open daily to the public during the following hours:

SUMMER (16 March - 30 September)
8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

WINTER (1 October - 15 March)
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

During these hours, a staff member is on duty at the visitors' room to answer questions and to escort relatives to gravesites or the Tablets of the Missing.

HISTORY

Germany's strategic plan for 1918 entailed the destruction of the British Army in the spring followed by massive attacks against the French. During March and April, the Germans launched offensives against the British in Picardy and Flanders. The situation for the British was critical until several French divisions were dispatched to their aid. Although destruction of British forces was averted, heavy casualties were inflicted upon them and they lost considerable ground.

While these attacks were taking place, other German forces were preparing for a major offensive along the Aisne River. Unaware of this and anticipating that the assaults against the British Army in Picardy and Flanders would resume at any time, the French High Command shifted some of its forces from the Aisne River to reinforce the British sector.

On the morning of May 27, 1918, the Germans attacked in strength between Berry-au-Bac and Anizy-le-Chateau, surprising the French completely. By noon, German forces had crossed the Aisne River on captured bridges and by that evening were south of the Vesle River. Having met little resistance in their rapid advance toward the Marne River, the Germans decided to exploit their success by driving toward Paris.

Meanwhile, Allied reserves were rushed to the Aisne-Marne front from every quarter and the French government prepared to flee Paris for Bordeaux in the south. On May 31, four

days after the attack began, the U.S. 3d Division reached Chateau-Thierry where it fought stubbornly and successfully to prevent the Germans from crossing the Marne. The next day, the U.S. 2d Division arrived and deployed across the main route to Paris northwest of Chateau-Thierry, where it was able to halt the German offensive in that direction. With the aid of American divisions, the Allies were able to stop the Germans but not before a great salient had been driven into Allied lines roughly defined by the cities of Reims, Chateau-Thierry and Soissons. Despite the penetration of German forces west and southwest of Reims, the city itself and its vital rail facilities remained in Allied hands. This left the 40 German divisions in the salient dependent upon one railroad link through Soissons for resupply. To widen the salient and secure the railroad line between Compiègne and Soissons, two German armies attacked westward from the salient on June 9. They encountered such intense resistance, however, that their attack quickly ground to a halt.

Without delay, the Germans began preparing for a major offensive against Reims and the high ground to its south to provide them with the additional railroad link they so sorely needed for their forces in the salient. Luckily, Allied intelligence agents learned not only the line of the new German attack, but the exact day and hour it was scheduled to take place.

By mid-July, twelve of the twenty-six American divisions in France were ready for combat. (These statistics did not reveal the strength of American forces completely as American divisions were larger and had twice the fire power of French, British and German divisions). Capitalizing on availability of fresh American troops, Marshal Foch, the Allied commander, included in his counterattack plans an assault against the western face of the Aisne-Marne salient by two American divisions.

On July 15, 1918, the day of the German offensive, Allied forces reduced

the manning of their front line units to weak detachments and gave them orders to retire under heavy bombardment. This tactic proved quite successful as much of the German preparatory fire was wasted on newly abandoned positions. Capitalizing further on their knowledge of the exact hour of the German attack, the Allies began bombarding likely German assembly areas shortly before their preparatory fire was expected to commence. The German assault forces suffered heavy casualties and were thrown into a state of complete confusion, causing them to terminate their offensive without attaining any of their objectives.

The following day, on July 18, the Allies launched a counterattack against the western face of the Aisne-Marne salient. Although the Germans resisted stubbornly, they soon realized their position was untenable and began withdrawing. Reduction of the salient was complete on August 4, when Allied troops reached the south bank of the Vesle River. The counterattack was terminated officially on August 6, 1918. Not only had a serious threat to Paris been removed, but important railways were freed once again for Allied use. Marshal Petain, who drew up the plans for meeting the German offensive, said that the counterattack could not have succeeded without use of American troops.

Quickly, Allied offensive operations were initiated elsewhere to maintain pressure on the Germans, who were now on the defensive, to make it difficult for them to regroup and reorganize. On August 8, the British began their highly successful Somme offensive. Ten days later, French forces with the support of American troops, began the very successful Oise-Aisne campaign in the Aisne-Marne region near Noyon, during which the German forces on the Vesle and the Aisne Rivers were outflanked, forcing them to withdraw. Many U.S. servicemen whose remains are interred in the Oise-Aisne American Cemetery lost their lives in the

Oise-Aisne campaign. During the period August 28 to September 1, the U.S. 32d Division captured the town of Juvigny penetrating German positions to a depth of 2.5 miles (4 kilometers). The progress of the Allied offensive and the threat of being cut off caused the Germans to withdraw from the Vesle to the Aisne River during the night of September 3-4. The U.S. 28th and 77th Divisions pressed the Allied attack against the new German line. On September 8, the U.S. 28th Division was given a well-deserved rest. Following heavy fighting at the Ourcq and Vesle Rivers, the 77th Division was withdrawn from the lines on September 16 and also given a rest. During the latter part of September 1918, the 370th Infantry Regiment of the U.S. 93d Division and the French 59th Division advanced steadily north of the Vauxaillon. The 370th Infantry Regiment remained in the lines until the middle of October when it was given a rest. It reentered battle on November 5 and continued in the pursuit of the German Army until the signing of the Armistice six days later.

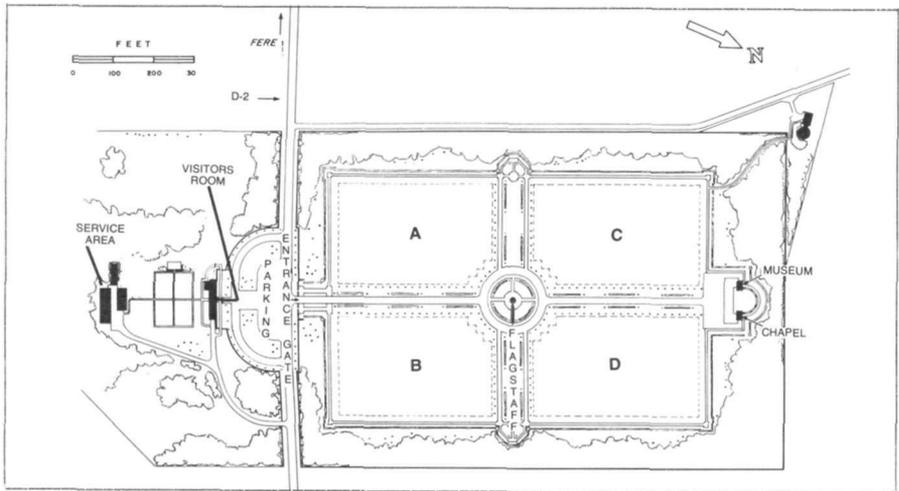
ARCHITECTS

Architects for the cemetery's memorial features were Cram and Ferguson of Boston, Massachusetts. The landscape architect was Mr. George Gibbs, Jr. The consulting architect for the American Battle Monuments Commission was Dr. Paul P. Cret of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

THE SITE

The Oise-Aisne American Cemetery, 36.5 acres in extent, is the second largest of eight permanent American World War I military cemeteries on foreign soil. Established initially as a temporary battlefield cemetery by the 42d Division on August 2, 1918, Congress authorized its retention as a permanent cemetery in 1921.

The majority of the 6,012 War Dead interred in the cemetery died fighting along the Ourcq River and in the area between the cemetery and the Oise



Location of Cemetery Features

River during the Aisne-Marne offensive and the Oise-Aisne offensive. An agreement with the French government grants use of the site as a military cemetery in perpetuity without charge or taxation.

In 1922, the remains of American servicemen buried in the general area west of Tours-Romorantin-Paris-Le-Harve, whose next of kin requested permanent interment overseas, were disinterred and permanently interred at the Oise-Aisne American Cemetery. All interments were made by the American Graves Registration Service. The memorial, the chapel, the visitors' room, the office, the Superintendent's quarters, and the service facilities were designed and constructed by the American Battle Monuments Commission as part of its program commemorating the achievements of the American Expeditionary Forces in the Great War.

GENERAL LAYOUT

The Oise-Aisne American Cemetery is generally rectangular in shape. Its memorial chapel, museum and grave plots, which encompass three-quarters of the cemetery, are located on the north side of highway D-2; and the parking area, service facilities and the superin-

endent's quarters with the visitors' room and office are located on the south side.

Entrance to the graves area is through two iron pedestrian gates on highway D-2 which open onto the central mall leading to the memorial chapel and the museum at its northern end. A cross-axis mall intersects the central mall near the center of the graves area dividing it into four rectangular plots. At the intersection of the two malls is a circular island of grass and a flag staff from which the American flag flies daily. A small cul-de-sac with a stone bench and a planter backed by evergreen shrubbery lies at each end of the cross-axis mall. Bordering the malls are Oriental plane trees and beds of polyantha roses surrounded by dwarf boxwood hedges.

A path edged by privet hedge lies just inside the perimeter fence which encloses the graves area.

THE MEMORIAL

The Romanesque memorial consists of a semi-circular peristyle with a chapel on the right (east) end and a one-room museum on the left. Its columns of granite and multi-hued French and Italian marble encircle a



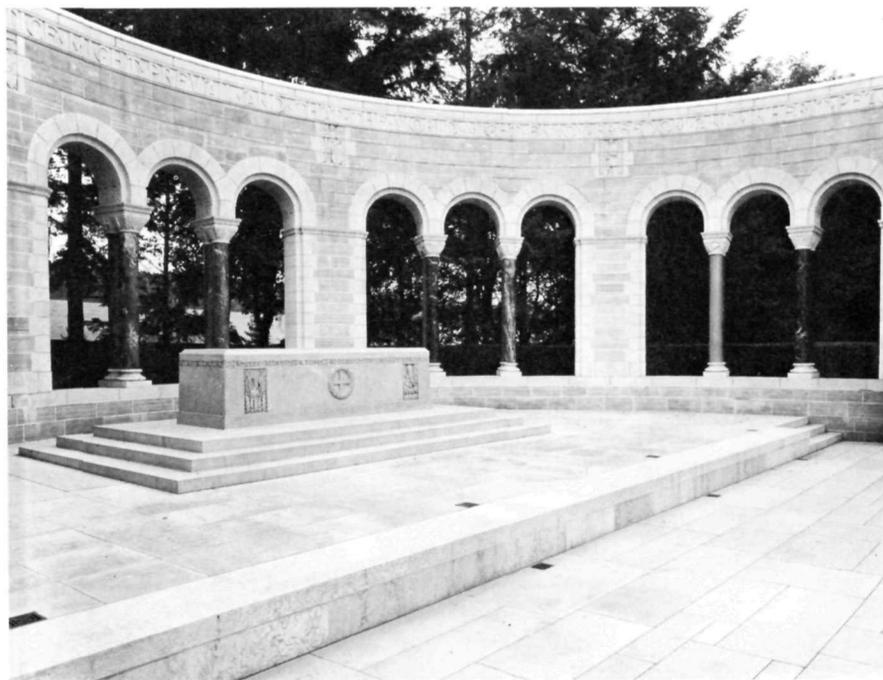
Cross-axis Mall



Cul-de-Sac at End of Cross Axis Mall



The Memorial



Altar on Terrace of Peristyle

raised stone terrace, in the center of which is a large rectangular altar of polished, golden, Rocheret Jaune marble. Entrance to the chapel and museum is from the terrace. The walls and piers of the peristyle are of pink Gres des Vosges sandstone with copings, bands, and openings of buff-grey Rippes Jaune sandstone.

An eagle rising, a palm wreath encircling a cross and a pelican feeding its young, early Christian symbols of redemption and resurrection, are carved on the front face of the outdoor stone altar in bas relief. Above the carving is inscribed in English and French: IN SACRED SLEEP THEY REST.

Engraved on the front and rear faces of the capitals of the ten double columns of the colonnade are the insignia of the 1st, 2d, 3d, 4th, 26th, 28th, 32d, 42d, 77th, and 93d Divisions which fought in this sector. Carved on the sides of the capitals are embellishments such as a rifle and bayonet, gas mask, one-pounder cannon, airplane propeller, field glasses, Stokes mortar, airplane bomb, entrenching tools, automatic pistol, field telephone set, hand grenade, mess kit, machine gun on a tripod,

cannon muzzle, mule's head, trench knife, canteen and cover, belt of machine gun ammunition, artillery shell and harness.

The columns of the peristyle are separated at regular intervals by one of four piers. Above each of the two outer piers is carved a soldier of World War I; above each of the two inner piers is carved St. George slaying the dragon on the left and St. Michael, the Archangel, on the right. Over them in the frieze of the peristyle in Rippes Jaune stone is the commemorative inscription: THESE ENDURED ALL AND GAVE THAT HONOR AND JUSTICE MIGHT PREVAIL AND THAT THE WORLD MIGHT ENJOY FREEDOM AND INHERIT PEACE. Engraved on the rear of the peristyle is the inscription: AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION, CRAM AND FERGUSON ARCHITECTS.

In the frieze of the exterior walls of the chapel and museum are carved twenty-three shields depicting the branch and service insignia of U.S. Forces which served in the Oise-Aisne region: Infantry, Field Artillery, Engineers, Signal Corps, Air Service, Coast Artillery Corps, Quartermaster Corps, Ordnance Department, Medical Department, Chemical Warfare Service, Marine Corps, Tank Corps, Motor Transport Corps, Transportation Corps, Cavalry, Military Police, General Staff Corps, Adjutant General's Department, Inspector General's Department, Judge Advocate General's Department, Christian Chaplains, Jewish Chaplains and the American Field Service. Below the frieze on the front wall of both the chapel and museum is a stylized version of the Great Seal of the United States.

Entrance to Chapel



THE CHAPEL

The rectangular, stone chapel on the right (west) end of the peristyle, is entered from the raised terrace through a massive brass-studded oak door of dark panels trimmed in lighter-colored wood. Three stars within circles separated by laurel leaves are carved in the lintel above the door. At each end of the

lintel is carved a fasces, symbol of authority of the magistrates of ancient Rome. Facing the entrance, inside the chapel, is a beautiful altar of black variegated Italian porter marble inset with two panels of Rocheret Jaune marble. A stylized oak tree, traditionally symbolizing strength, virtue and faith, is carved upon each of these panels. Between the two oak trees in a circle is the carved figure of a pelican feeding her young, symbolic of Christ feeding the masses.

The tall Rocheret Jaune marble back of the altar is embellished with decorative sculpture and panels, and carries the following inscription on a gilded background directly above the altar: WITH GOD IS THEIR REWARD. A gold cross between two candelabra sits upon the altar. Flanking the altar on each side is a large potted plant.

The names of 241 American soldiers missing in the area whose remains were never recovered or if recovered never identified, are inscribed upon the side walls. This inscription precedes the names on the south wall: THE NAMES RECORDED ON THESE WALLS ARE THOSE OF AMERICAN SOLDIERS WHO FOUGHT IN THIS REGION AND WHO SLEEP IN UNKNOWN GRAVES.

Two windows provide light for the chapel's interior, one high above the altar and one in the north wall. Each is made up of circles of thin, translucent Algerian onyx. A circular bronze filigreed chandelier suspended from the vaulted stone ceiling also provides light.

Completing the furnishings of this simple chapel are four hand-carved walnut prayer benches facing the altar.

MUSEUM

On the east end of the peristyle is the museum room. It is similar in construction and size to the chapel. Carved in the wall facing the entrance is a crusader's sword upon a gilded background flanked by vertical laurel leaves also upon a gilded background. The colors of the United States and France are dis-



Interior of Museum

played from bronze standards at the corners of this wall. A carved walnut bench stands between them.

On the left (north) wall, also engraved on a gilded background is the dedicatory relief inscription: IN GRATEFUL REMEMBRANCE OF HER SONS WHO DIED IN THE WORLD WAR THIS CHAPEL IS ERECTED BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. The inscription appears in both English and French.

Opposite the inscription on the south wall is a carved battle map of the Oise-Aisne region. The map details the lines of advance and the areas where various American divisions fought during the Oise-Aisne Offensive and the Second Battle of the Marne. They are described briefly in the history section of this booklet.

The chandelier, oak door, and onyx windows match those of the chapel.

GRAVES AREA

The graves area contains four rectangular plots bordered by wide tree-lined paths and beds of polyantha roses. Grave plots A and C lie to the left (west) of the central mall and plots B and D to the right. Interred within

them are the remains of 6,012 military and support personnel. They represent all of the then forty-eight States and the District of Columbia. Of these remains, 547 are Unknowns, i.e., those which could not be identified. Inscribed on the headstones of the Unknowns is: HERE RESTS IN HONORED GLORY AN AMERICAN SOLDIER KNOWN BUT TO GOD.

Stars of David mark the graves of those of the Jewish faith; Latin crosses mark the others. Each headstone was fabricated from white Carrara marble quarried in Italy. As one proceeds through the cemetery, their long rows rise gently from the main entrance of the graves area to the memorial on the north, presenting an ever changing array of geometric patterns.

Enclosing the graves area are a privet hedge, a low peripheral stone wall covered intermittently with ivy, and a screen of oak, birch, pine, fir, cedar,

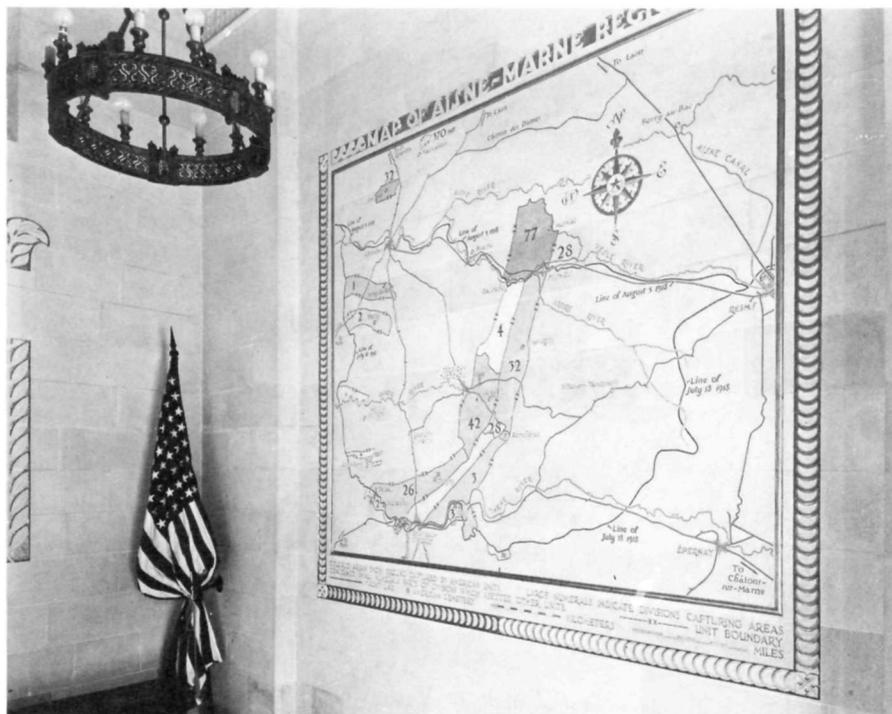
poplar, ash and maple. Between the stone wall and the privet hedge are groups of lilac, hibiscus and hydrangea.

VISITORS' ROOM

The visitors' room and the cemetery office are located in the superintendent's quarters, an ivy-covered building enframed by stately maple trees and flowering shrubs, on the south side of highway D-2 directly opposite the main entrance to the cemetery.

It is a comfortably furnished room, with toilet facilities, where visitors may obtain information, sign the register and pause to refresh themselves. During the day, a member of the cemetery staff is on duty 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 things of interest.

Map of Aisne-Marne Region on Museum Wall





Flag Staff at Intersection of Malls



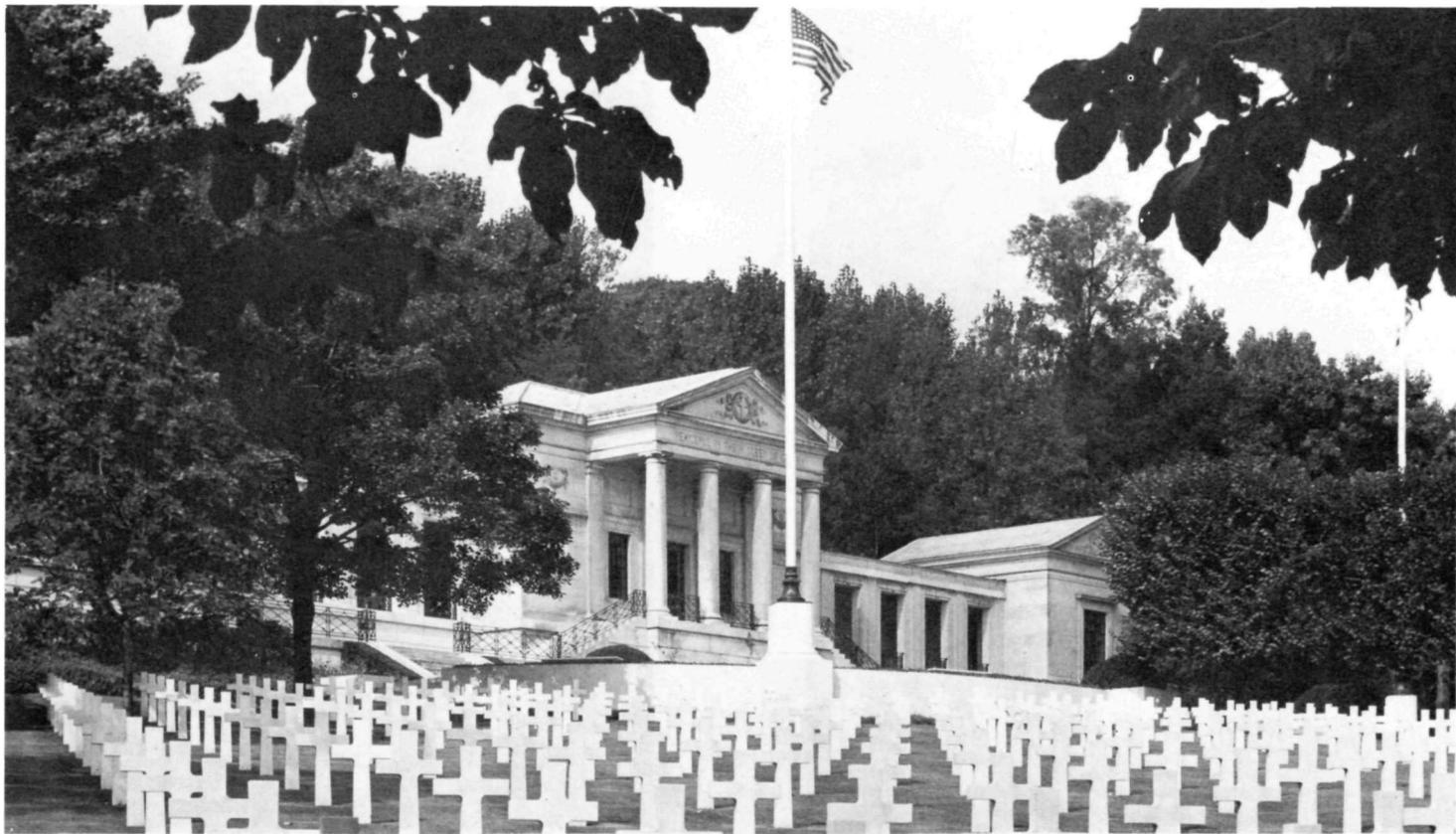
Central Mall of Graves Area



Visitors' Room



Office and Visitors' Reception Room, Superintendent's Quarters



Suresnes American Cemetery, Suresnes, Seine, France

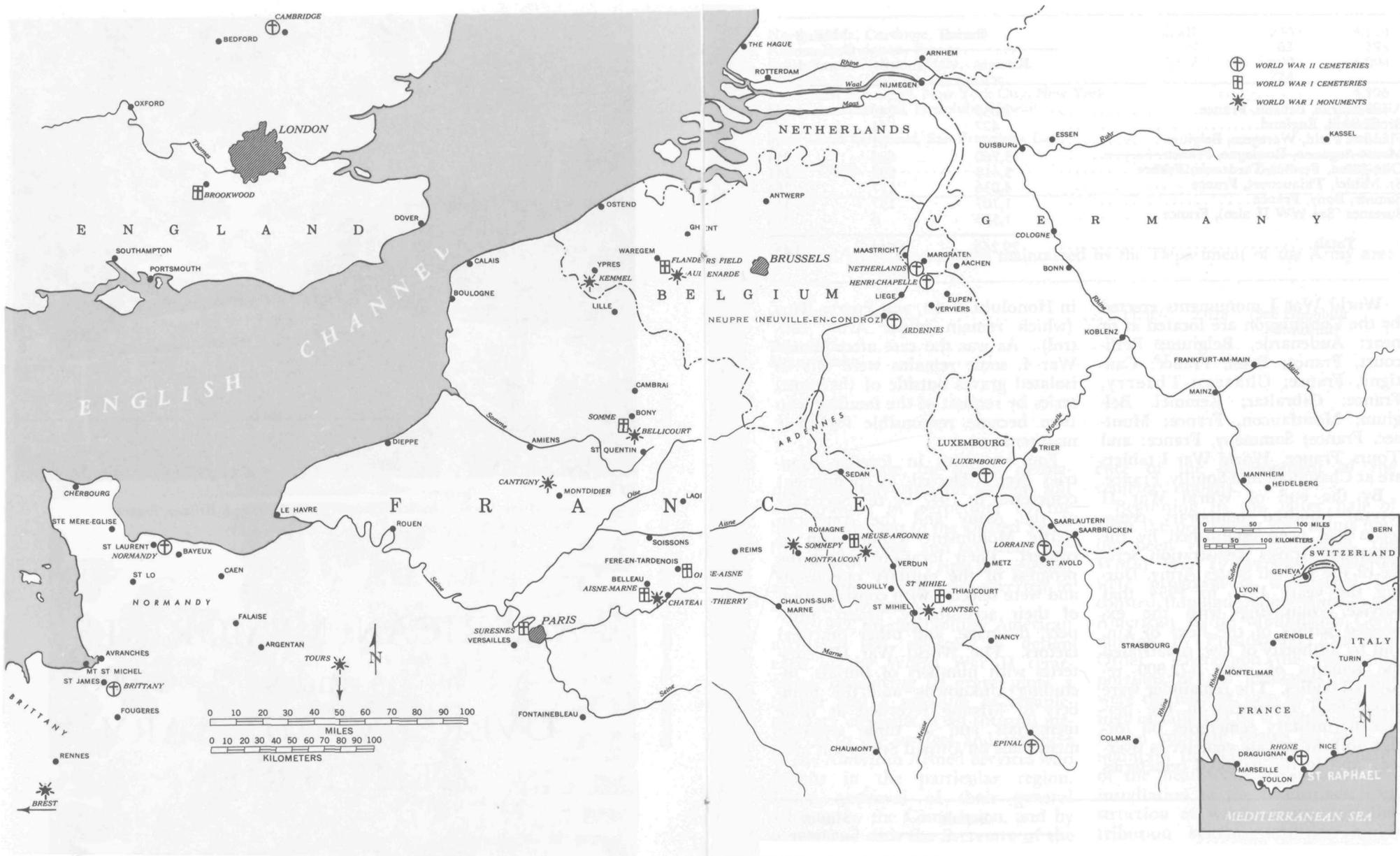


Aisne-Marne American Cemetery and Memorial, Belleau, France

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 11 monuments and two bronze tablets 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:

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

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

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

in Honolulu, Sitka, and Puerto Rico (which remain under Army control). 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:

	Burials		Missing Commem- orated
	Knowns	Unknowns	
Ardennes, Neupre (Neuville-en-Condroz) Belgium	4,535	786	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	36,279
Netherlands, Margraten, Netherlands.....	8,195	106	1,722
Normandy, St. Laurent-sur-Mer, France.....	9,079	307	1,557

North Africa, Carthage, Tunisia.....	2,601	240	3,724
Rhone, Draguignan, France.....	799	62	293
Sicily-Rome, Nettuno, Italy.....	7,372	490	3,094
Suresnes (See WW I also), France.....		24
East Coast Memorial, New York City, New York.....			4,596
Honolulu Memorial, Honolulu, Hawaii.....			18,093
			* (8,194)
West Coast Memorial, San Francisco, Calif.....			412
Totals.....	86,726	6,508	78,952

World War II cemeteries maintained by the Department of the Army are:

Honolulu, Hawaii.....	11,506	2,028	(See Honolulu Memorial)
Puerto Rico.....	69		
Sitka, Alaska.....	67	5	

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.

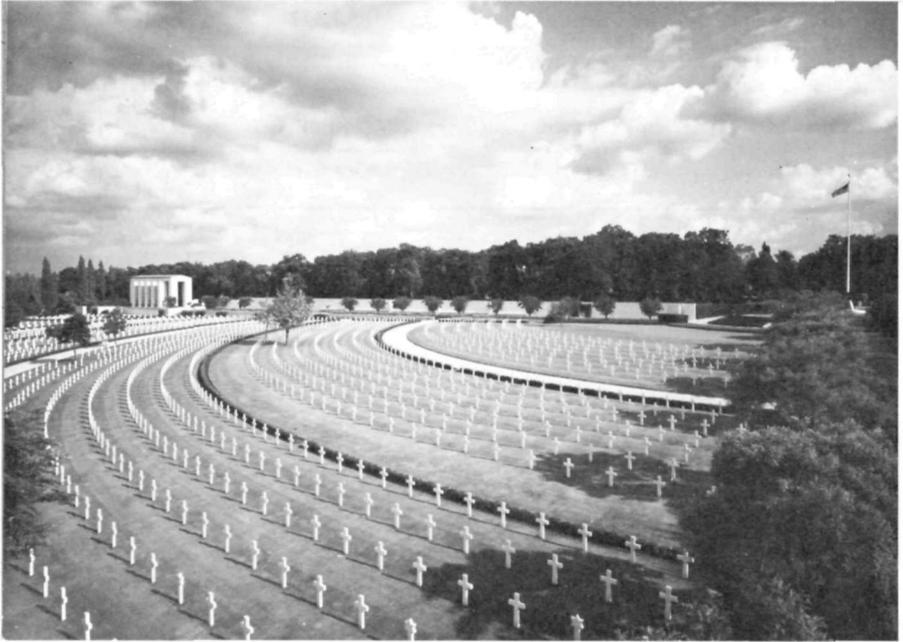
In 1947, an outstanding American architect was selected to design each of the World War II cemeteries, conceiving its grave plots, a chapel and a museum as complementary elements of an integral memorial to the services and sacrifices of the American Armed Services who fought in the particular region. 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 coher-

ence 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:

*8,194 Missing of the Korean conflict are commemorated at the Honolulu Memorial in addition to the 18,093 of World War II commemorated there.



Cambridge American Cemetery and Memorial, 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 Cemeteries also have 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 Government 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.



Maps on Chapel Walls, Ardennes American Cemetery, Neupre, Belgium

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 overseas cemeteries.

Each grave in the overseas 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.

These cemeteries are open every



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

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 Department of the Army, 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, 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 coasts of the Americas 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, by agreement with the Secretary of the Army, constructed a memorial therein, incorporating the features of the memorials in its overseas cemeteries. The names of 18,093 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 the 8,194 Missing of the Korean conflict. Two additional courts are currently being constructed to honor by name the 2,489 Missing from the Vietnam War. They should be completed in the fall of 1978.



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

DISTINGUISHED MILITARY ACTIONS COMMEMORATIVE PROGRAM

The Commission's memorialization program includes the erection of other monuments or commemorative tablets at places of outstanding military significance around the world during World War II and the Korean War. Among these, plans have been prepared for monuments on Guam, and at Utah Beach in France. The objective is to achieve balanced commemoration of all services in all theaters.

MEXICO CITY NATIONAL CEMETERY

The Mexico City National Cemetery, 31 Calzada Melchor Ocampo, Mexico City, Mexico, was transferred from administration by the Department of the Army to the Commission on July 16, 1947. In a

mass grave in this cemetery are interred the remains of 750 of our unidentified Dead of the War of 1847.

FLORAL DECORATIONS

In the overseas 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.



Decorated Gravesite of an "Unknown".

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 of the section of the Tablets of the Missing where the particular 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 lith-

ographs 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.

THE AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MARCH 1923

Membership

Mark W. Clark <i>Chairman</i>	Richard J. Vander Plaats
Charles E. Potter <i>Vice Chairman</i>	Leslie M. Fry
Gerhard D. Bleicken	Fred C. Bramlage
William C. Garrison	Alfred P. Chamie
Harold A. Horn	Harvey A. Roffman
	William G. Bray

A. J. Adams, *Secretary*

UNITED STATES OFFICE

Room 4C014, Forrestal Building
1000 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, D. C. 20314
Telephone: 693-6067
693-6089
Telegrams: Monuments
Washington

EUROPEAN OFFICE

Street Address:
68, rue du 19 Janvier
92 - Garches, France
Mailing Address:
APO New York 09777
Telephone: 701-1976
Telegrams: ABMC AMEMBASSY
Paris,
France

MEDITERRANEAN OFFICE

Street Address:
American Embassy,
Via Veneto 119a
Rome, Italy
Mailing Address:
APO New York 09794
Telephone: 4674, Ext. 156
475-0157
Telegrams: ABMC AMEMBASSY
Rome, Italy

PHILIPPINE OFFICE

Street Address:
American Military Cemetery
Manila, R. P.
Mailing Address:
APO San Francisco 96528
Telephone: Manila 88-02-12
Telegrams: AMBAMCOM,
Manila, R.P.



Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery, Romagne, France