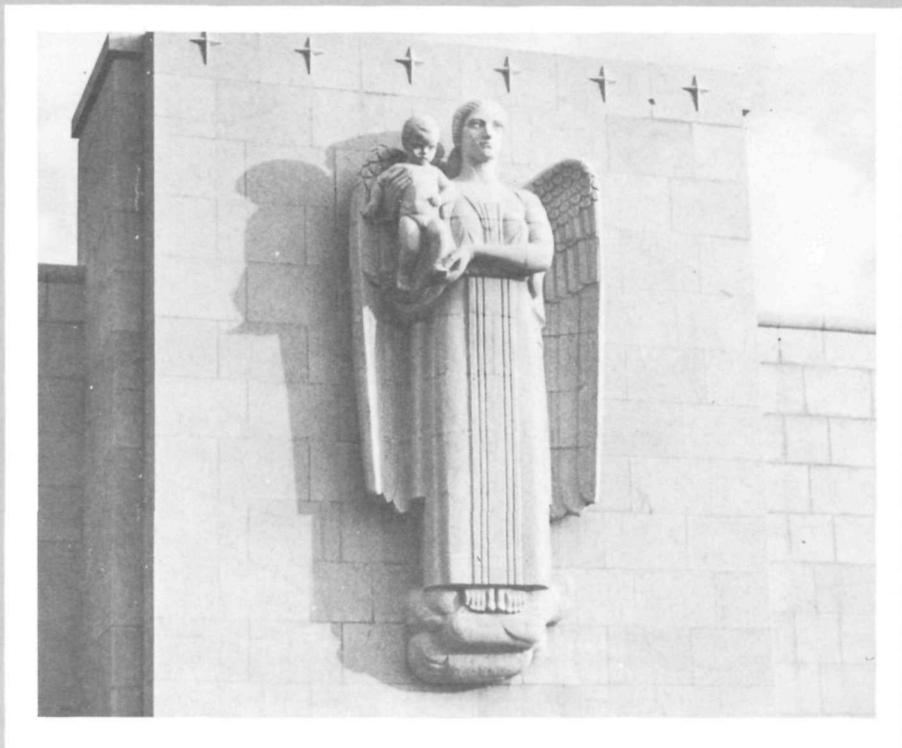
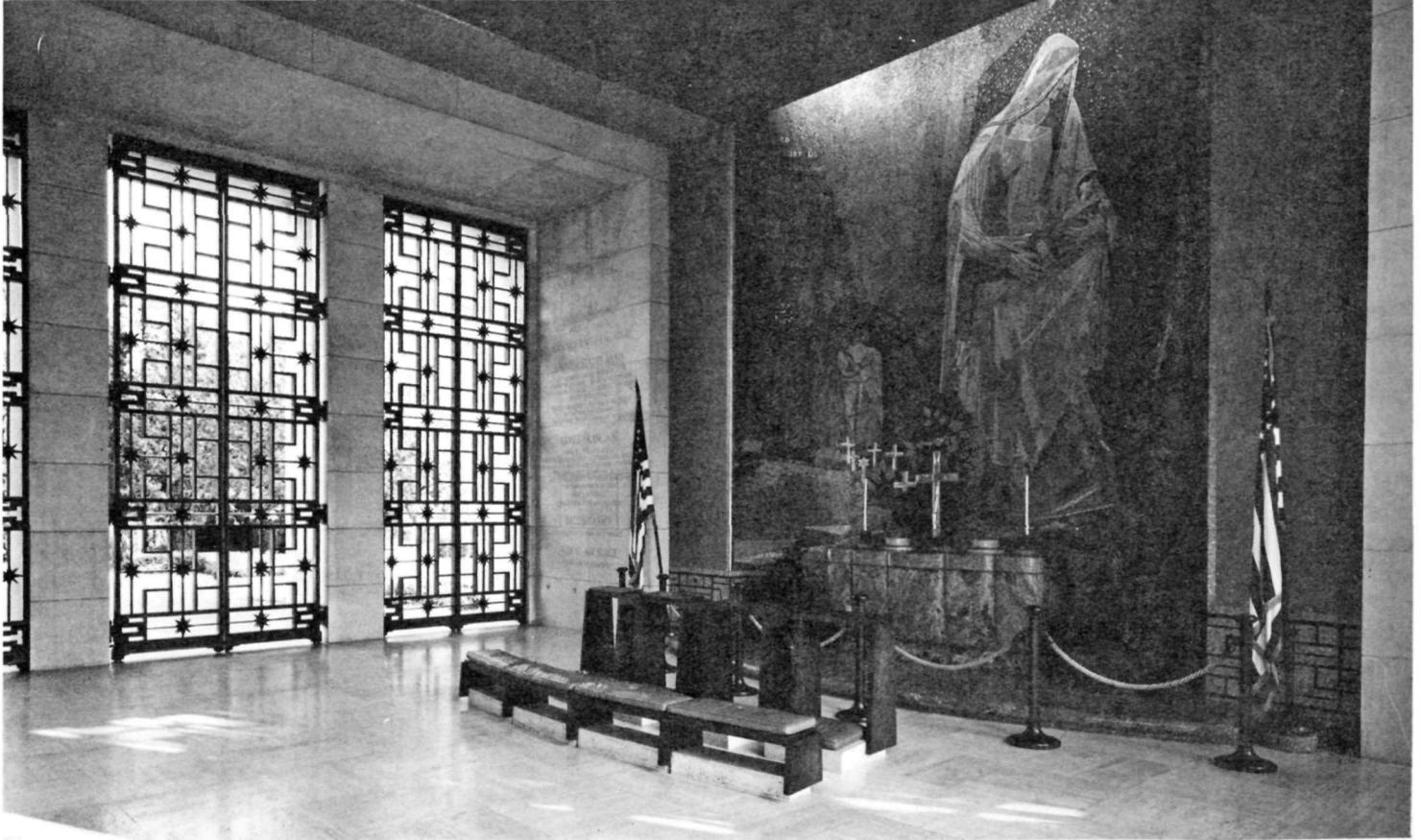


Rhône American Cemetery and Memorial



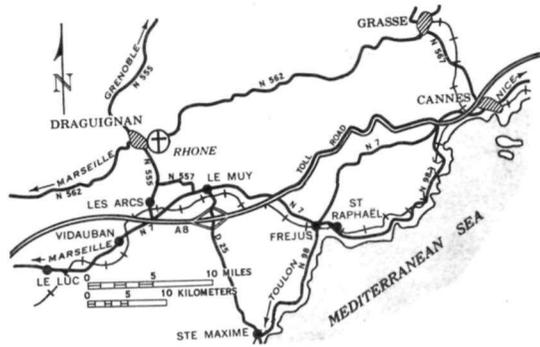
The American Battle Monuments Commission

1984



Chapel Interior

Rhône American Cemetery and Memorial

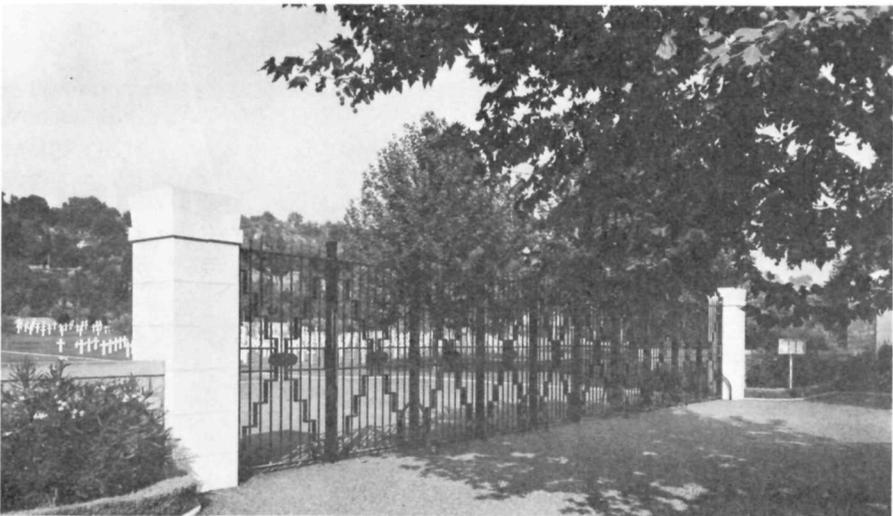


LOCATION

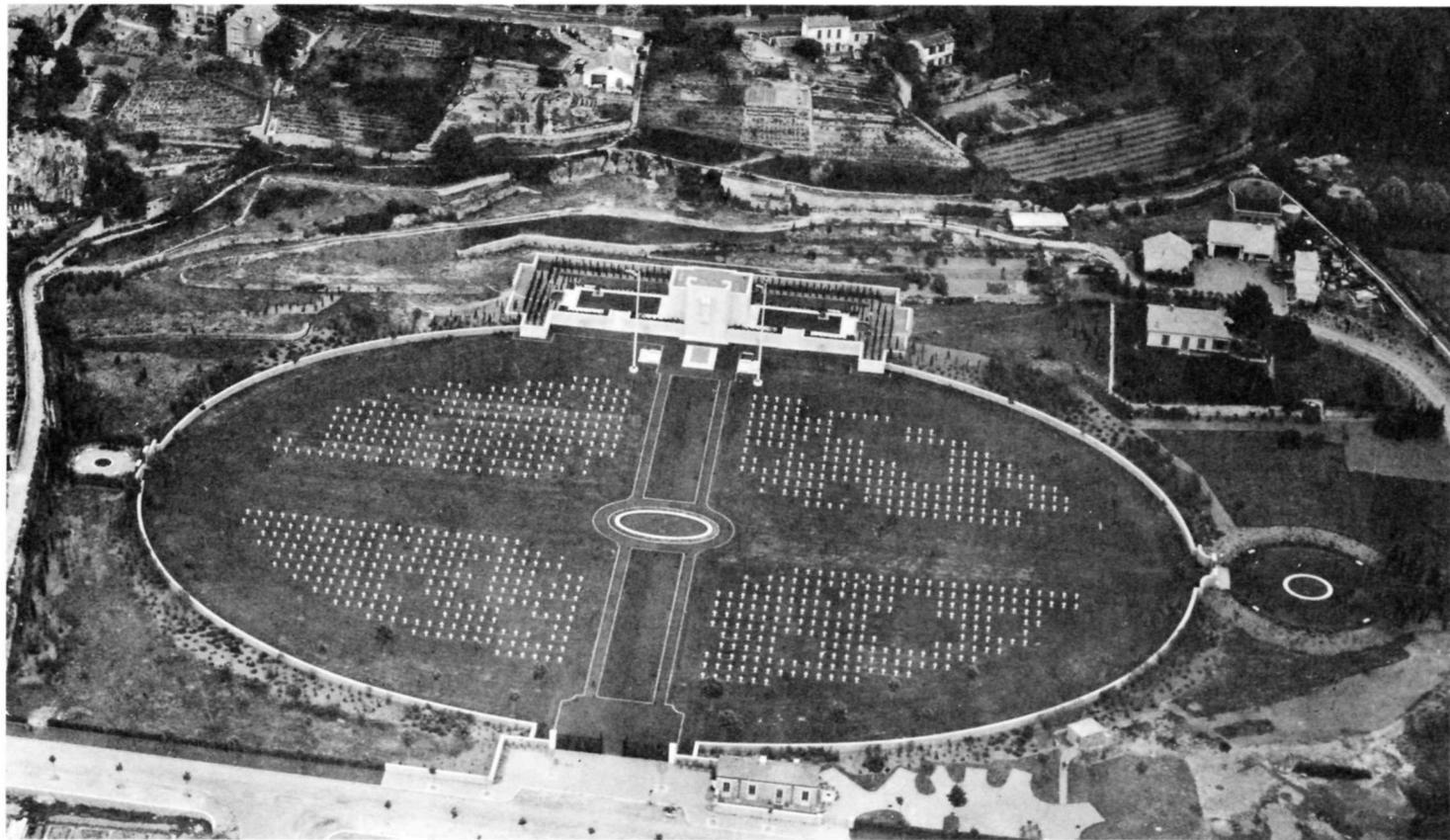
Rhône American Cemetery and Memorial are situated in the city of Draguignan (Var), France, 28 miles in an air line west of Cannes and 16 miles inland from the seacoast. Draguignan may be reached from Paris-Marseille-St. Raphaël-Nice by Autoroute A6/A7/A8 (toll highway) by taking the Le Muy exit onto highway N-555 to Draguignan. From Cannes the cemetery may be

reached via Grasse on highway N-85 (Cannes to Grasse) and then highway D-562 to the cemetery or highway N-7 via Frejus and Le Muy or Les Arcs to the city of Draguignan as shown on the map insert.

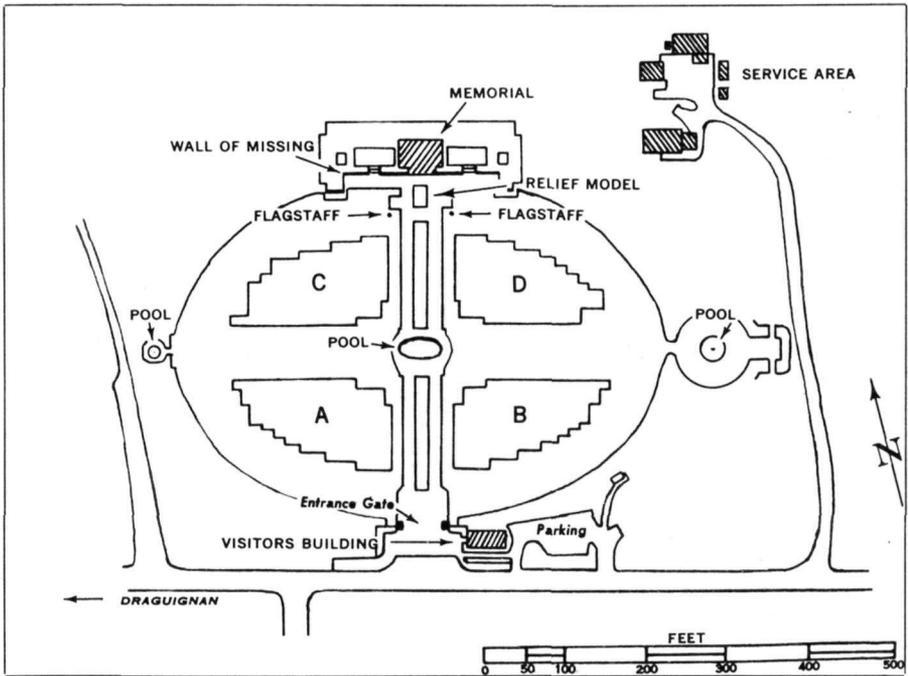
Draguignan may also be reached by the rail line from Cannes-Nice exiting the train at Les Arcs, a stop on the main rail line from Paris to Nice. There is bus service from Les Arcs to Draguignan or taxi cabs may be hired to reach the cemetery.



Entrance Gate



Aerial View of Cemetery



Location of Cemetery Features

Hotel accommodations are available in Draguignan and at St. Raphaël, Cannes and other towns along the Riviera.

HOURS

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

SUMMER (16 March – 30 September)

9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. — weekdays

10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. — Saturdays,
Sundays, and holidays

WINTER (1 October – 15 March)

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. — weekdays

10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. — Saturdays,
Sundays, and holidays

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

HISTORY

As early as August 1943, when the campaign to seize the island of Sicily was coming to a victorious close, a landing in southern France was under active consideration by Allied war planners. They believed an amphibious assault in southern France essential, not only to relieve some of the pressure on the troops making the principal amphibious assault at Normandy, but to seize the major port of Marseille.

As planning for Normandy progressed, the desirability of launching both attacks simultaneously became apparent. When it was determined that despite the best efforts of American industry enough landing craft could not be produced to make both amphibious landings at the same time, the decision was made to undertake the southern France landings as soon as possible after the



Graves Area with Memorial in Background



Bronze Relief Map — Operations in Southern France

Normandy landings, utilizing many of the same ships and craft. Meanwhile the threat of such landings immobilized substantial enemy forces in the south of France for over two months, preventing their deployment against Allied troops in Normandy.

Beginning in mid-June 1944, U.S. and French divisions were successively pulled from the lines in Italy, in preparation for the southern France landings. Air bombardment aimed at disrupting vital communications and installations in southern France commenced in July and increased in intensity. As the convoys assembled to bring the preponderance of the assault troops from Italy, and others from as far away as Algiers, the Twelfth and Fifteenth Air Forces struck at enemy beach defenses, and the bridges across the Rhône River in an effort to isolate the battle area.

During the night of 14 August, specially trained assault units landed to protect the flanks of the

invasion areas. Then, shortly before dawn, U.S. and British troops of the 1st Airborne Task Force dropped near Le Muy to seize vital highway junctions.

At 0800 hours on 15 August 1944, under the cover of heavy naval bombardment by the Western Naval Task Force, the 3d, 36th and 45th Divisions of the U.S. VI Corps stormed ashore from St. Tropaz to St. Raphaël. Breaking through the steel and concrete fortifications, they advanced inland so rapidly that they were able to establish contact with the airborne units by nightfall. On the following day, as the U.S. troops pursued the retreating enemy, French divisions landed and began moving westward toward the ports of Toulon and Marseille.

The 3d Division on the left flank drove directly up the Rhône Valley, as the other VI Corps units of the U.S. Seventh Army advanced northward. Within ten days, Grenoble was liberated and a U.S. task force was moving westward to meet

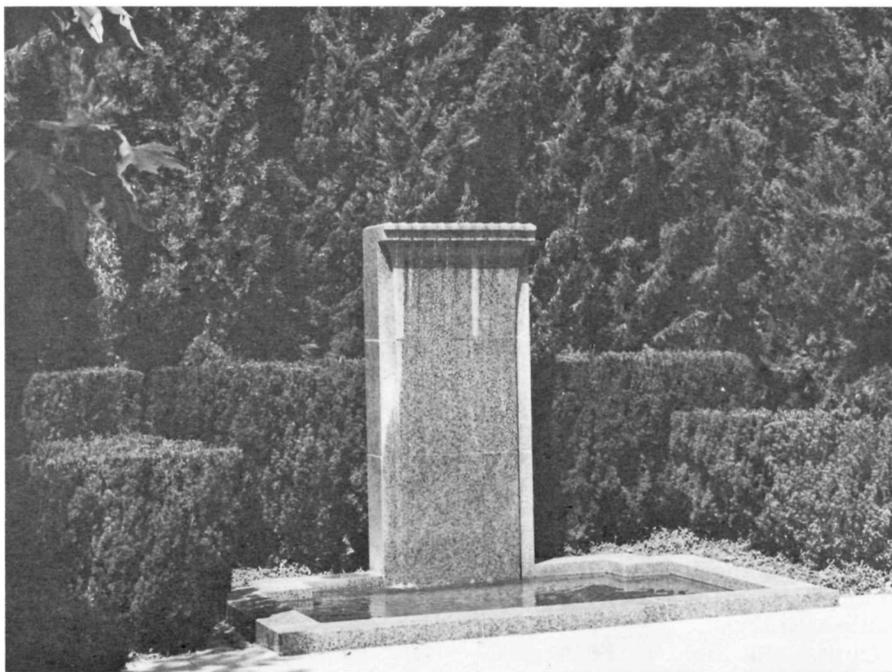
the 3d Division attacking up the valley. By 28 August, the defile at Montelimar had been seized, cutting off large numbers of the retreating enemy, and Toulon and Marseille had been liberated by French troops.

The advance of the U.S. VI Corps continued without pause, while the U.S. Twelfth Air Force harassed the retreating enemy from the air. Lyon was liberated on 3 September and by 7 September U.S. troops had reached Besançon. On 11 September at Sombernon west of Dijon, U.S. Seventh Army units met patrols from the U.S. Third Army advancing from Normandy. In less than one month U.S. forces had advanced 400 miles from the beaches of southern France, isolating all remaining units in southwestern France. Ten days later the U.S. Seventh and Third Armies joined in strength near Epinal and established a solid line extending to the Swiss frontier.

THE SITE

The site covers 12 acres near the eastern edge of the city of Draguignan, at the foot of a hill clad with the characteristic cypresses, olive trees and oleanders of southern France. Across the street opposite the cemetery are schools and playgrounds. Just west of the cemetery is the civilian cemetery of the city of Draguignan.

The first U.S. troops to enter Draguignan were elements of the 1st Airborne Task Force, on the night of 16 August 1944. They were joined by units of the U.S. 36th Division on the next day. Rhône American Cemetery was first established on 19 August 1944. Here are buried 861 of our military Dead representing 39 per cent of the burials which were originally made in this region; most of these men died during the operations incident to the landings



Fountain, Memorial Garden



Memorial Interior

on the southern coast on 15 August 1944 and the advance northward. The official name of the cemetery is derived from the Rhône river whose watershed was the scene of these operations. Construction of the cemetery and Memorial was completed in 1956.

ARCHITECTS

Architect for the cemetery and memorial was Henry J. Toombs of Atlanta, Georgia. The Landscape Architect was A. F. Brinckerhoff of New York.

GENERAL LAYOUT

The main entrance to the cemetery is on the north side of highway D59. Immediately to the right of the entrance gate is the Visitors' Building — to the east (right) of it is the parking area. Beyond the gate is the graves area within its oval wall, built of the local limestone with a coping of Ampilly limestone from central France. To the north, beyond the

graves area, is the memorial. In the northeast corner are the superintendent's quarters as well as the utilities area and the reservoirs and water purification system. In the southeast corner of the reservation is the deep well to an underground stream from which water is pumped to the reservoirs.

Outside the oval wall, masses of tall shrubs backed by olive and plane trees enclose the cemetery.

MEMORIAL

To the right and left of the memorial are the two flagstaves 66½ feet high. Between them is the bronze relief map on which are portrayed the military operations in the area beginning with the landings on the beaches south of Draguignan on 15 August 1944 followed by the advance up the valley of the Rhône.

The bronze relief map was fabricated by Bruno Bearzi of Florence, Italy, from data furnished by the American Battle Monuments Commission. At the near end of the map



Wall of the Missing

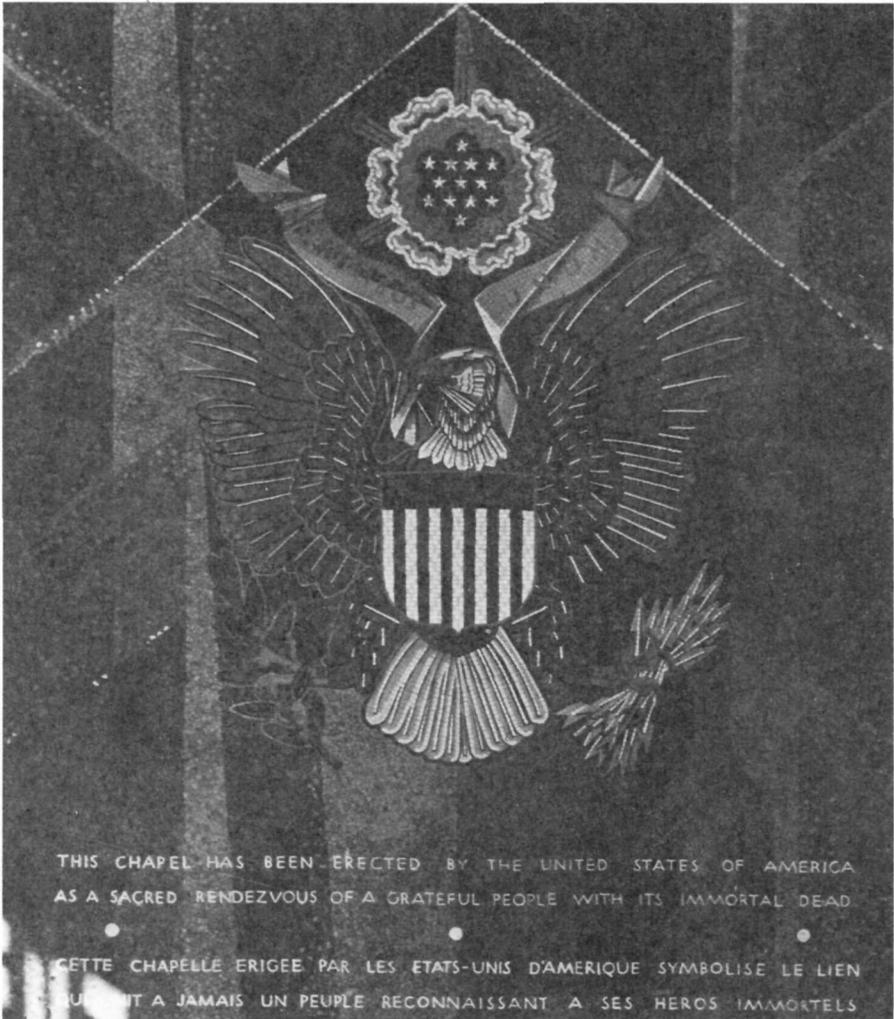
is a brief description in English and French of the military operations; the English version follows:

ON 15 AUGUST 1944 THE ALLIED FORCES LAUNCHED THEIR CAMPAIGN TO ASSIST THE NORMANDY OPERATION AND LIBERATE SOUTHERN FRANCE. THE PREPARATORY AIR BOMBARDMENT HAD BEGUN IN JULY AND HAD GROWN STEADILY IN INTENSITY. AS THE ASSAULT CONVOYS ASSEMBLED, THE U. S. TWELFTH AND FIFTEENTH AIR FORCES STRUCK AT THE BEACH DEFENSES, AS WELL AS AT THE BRIDGES ASTRIDE THE RHÔNE TO ISOLATE THE BATTLE AREA.

ON THE EVE OF THE ATTACK SPECIALLY TRAINED ASSAULT UNITS LANDED TO PROTECT THE FLANKS OF THE INVASION BEACHES. BEFORE DAWN AIRBORNE TROOPS DROPPED NEAR LE MUY TO SEIZE HIGHWAY JUNCTIONS NECESSARY TO ASSURE THE ALLIED ADVANCE. AT 0800 THE U. S. VI CORPS MOVED ASHORE UNDER COVER OF BOMBARDMENT BY THE WESTERN NAVAL TASK FORCE. BREAKING

THROUGH STEEL AND CONCRETE FORTIFICATIONS THE U. S. 3D, 36TH AND 45TH DIVISIONS PUSHED RAPIDLY INLAND.

IN A TWO-PRONGED ADVANCE THE U. S. SEVENTH ARMY LIBERATED GRENOBLE AND WITHIN TEN DAYS WAS ENVELOPING MONTELIMAR TO TRAP THE ENEMY. MEANWHILE FRENCH UNITS HAD LANDED AND THRUST WESTWARD TO TOULON AND MARSEILLE. BY THE END OF THE MONTH THE ALLIED GROUND TROOPS WERE APPROACHING LYON PRECEDED BY THE U. S. TWELFTH AIR FORCE WHOSE ATTACKS DISORGANIZED THE FLEEING ENEMY. BY 7 SEPTEMBER U. S. FORCES HAD REACHED BESANÇON AND WERE MOVING ON BELFORT AND EPINAL. FOUR DAYS LATER THE ALLIED FORCES FROM NORMANDY AND SOUTHERN FRANCE JOINED HANDS AT SOMBERNON, THUS ISOLATING ALL GERMAN UNITS REMAINING IN SOUTHWEST FRANCE. THE ALLIES COULD NOW DEVOTE THEIR EFFORTS TO THE DEFEAT OF THE NAZIS IN GERMANY ITSELF.



Mosaic, Great Seal of the United States

The model which is 20 feet long and 11 feet wide is at a horizontal scale of 1:100,000 (1.6 miles to the inch); the vertical scale has been exaggerated three times (2,750 feet to the inch). The model is set on a base of Rocheret Clair limestone from the Jura region of eastern France.

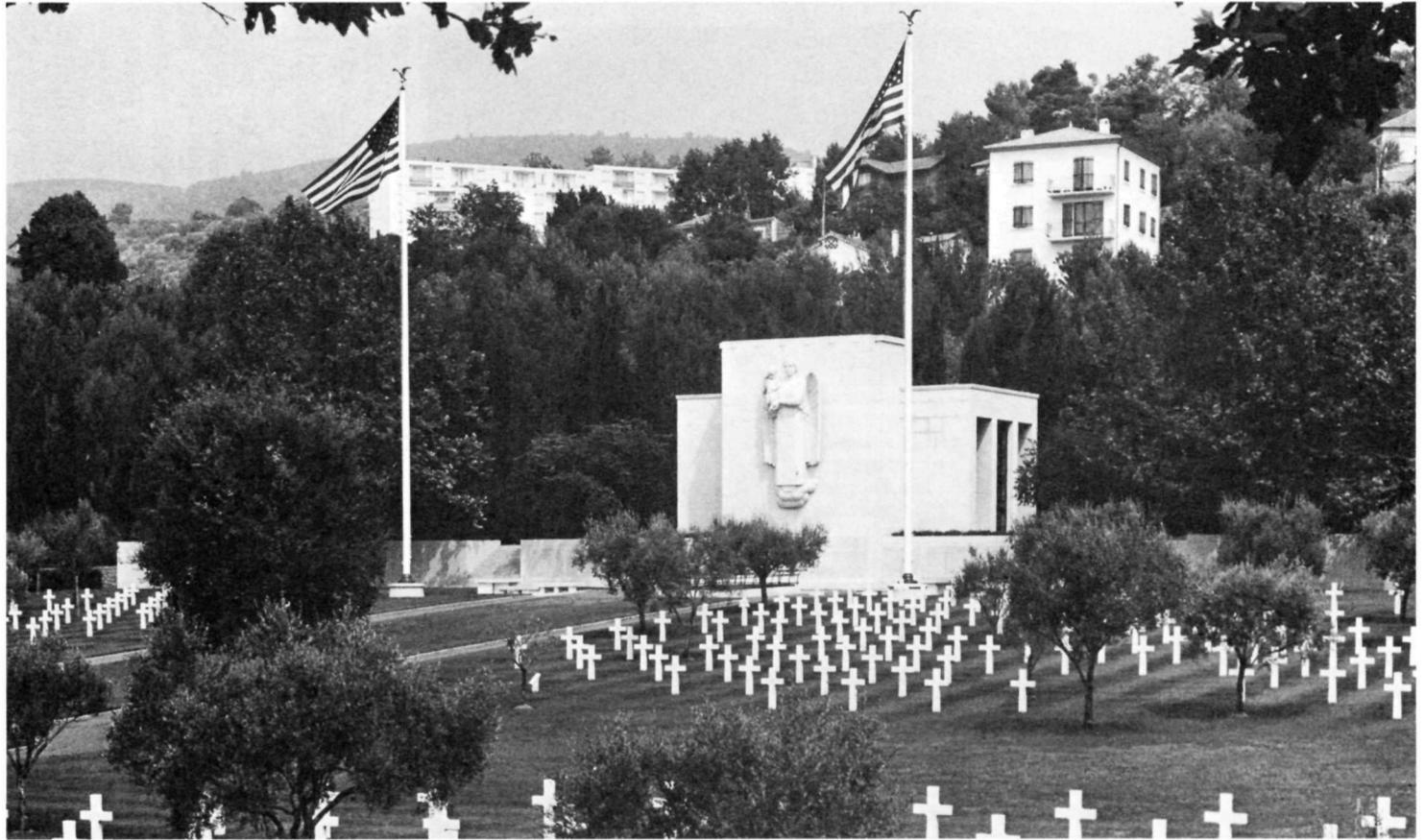
On each side of this model, on Rocheret stone table tops between the benches, are the two sets of key maps: The War Against Germany

and The War Against Japan.

On the façade of the Memorial is the heroic-size sculpture, designed by Edmund Amateis of Brewster, New York, of the Angel of Peace nurturing the new generation. Beneath is the inscription:

WE WHO LIE HERE DIED THAT FUTURE GENERATIONS MIGHT LIVE IN PEACE.

The actual carving of the sculpture was by Georges Granger of Chalon-sur-Saône.



Graves Area with Memorial in Background



West Garden Pool

THE CHAPEL

The chapel is entered from the terrace through handsome bronze grilles on the east or west sides. The memorial, like the wall of the Missing, is also built of Rocheret limestone from the Jura region.

Much of the interior of the chapel is decorated with mosaics designed by, and fabricated and installed under the supervision of, Austin Purves of Litchfield, Conn. The mosaic mural in the apse was conceived by the artist to recall the eternal care of the Almighty, understanding and transcending the personal grief of bereavement, and encouraging new hope for this and for future generations. The grief-stricken pair beneath the willow tree symbolize the mourning relatives of the dead, but apparently sleeping, youth held by the mystical figure of goodness and strength — the type of uniform, helmet and rifle characterize him as an American.

The figure of Saint Louis of France, on the right, standing on the walls of the city of Aigues-Mortes recalls an earlier crusader who set sail, as symbolized by the ship (now part of the arms of the City of Paris), from a port in this region. Behind him is the Sainte Chapelle built in Paris to enshrine the relics of his crusade. The French inscription beneath is ascribed to Saint Louis — “My faithful friends,” he said — “we shall be unconquerable if we remain united in charity.” (The French text was found in an ancient record.)

It will be recalled that the American crusade was symbolized by the crusader’s sword which appeared in the emblem of Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Force.

The bird in the shrub between the headstones and the central figure serves as a reminder that notwithstanding the tragic upheavals of war, nature continues its evolution unceasingly.

On the left of the apse is this extract from Cardinal Newman's prayer:

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

The ceiling is in blue mosaic with gold stars. The rear wall mosaic contains an adaptation of the Great Seal of the United States and this inscription (with French translation):

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

The altar is of Vert des Alpes marble from the valley of Aoste (Val d'Aoste) in the Italian Alps. At one end a Cross is engraved, at the other end the tablets of Moses. The altar cloth is of Florentine leather, the cross and candlesticks of polished brass. The prie-dieu and the pew are of teakwood. An American flag stands at each side of the altar.

Engraved in the walls flanking the apse is a list of the major units which participated in the military operations in this region:

On the left side (facing the altar):

SOUTHERN FRANCE

1944

MAJOR ARMY
AND

AIR FORCE UNITS ENGAGED

UNITED STATES ARMY

SEVENTH ARMY, VI CORPS
3D INFANTRY DIVISION, 36TH INFANTRY
DIVISION, 45TH INFANTRY DIVISION,
1ST AIRBORNE TASK FORCE, 1ST SPE-
CIAL SERVICE FORCE

TWELFTH AIR FORCE, FIFTEENTH AIR
FORCE, XII TACTICAL AIR COMMAND,
PROVISIONAL TROOP CARRIER AIR DI-
VISION

ARMEE FRANÇAISE

ARMEE B, 1^{er}, 2^e CORPS D'ARMEE
1^{re} DIVISION FRANÇAISE LIBRE, 2^e DIVI-
SION D'INF MAROCAINE, 3^e DIVISION
D'INF ALGERIENNE, 9^e DIVISION D'INF
COLONIALE, 1^{re} DIVISION BLINDEE, 1^{re}
BRIGADE DE SPAHIS, 1^{er}, 2^e, 3^e GROUPE-
MENTS DE TABORS MAROCAINS, 1^{er}, 2^e,
3^e GROUPEMENTS DE CHOC

UNITES AERIENNES

FORCES FRANÇAISES DE L'INTERIEUR

BRITISH ARMY

2 INDEPENDENT PARACHUTE BRIGADE

ROYAL AIR FORCE

202 GROUP (FIGHTER)

On the right side (facing the altar):

SOUTHERN FRANCE

1944

MAJOR NAVAL UNITS ENGAGED

WESTERN NAVAL TASK FORCE

UNITED STATES NAVY

515 SHIPS AND CRAFT
INCLUDING

BATTLESHIPS: ARKANSAS, NEVADA,
TEXAS. HEAVY CRUISERS: AUGUSTA,
QUINCY, TUSCALOOSA. LIGHT CRUI-
SERS: BROOKLYN, CINCINNATI, MAR-
BLEHEAD, OMAHA, PHILADELPHIA. ES-
CORT CARRIERS: KASAAN BAY, TULAGI

ROYAL NAVY

283 SHIPS AND CRAFT
INCLUDING

1 BATTLESHIP, 10 LIGHT CRUISERS
AND
7 ESCORT CARRIERS

MARINE DE GUERRE FRANÇAISE

12 SHIPS AND CRAFT
INCLUDING
1 BATTLESHIP AND 5 LIGHT CRUISERS

ROYAL HELLENIC NAVY

7 SHIPS AND CRAFT

ALLIED MERCHANT VESSELS

63 SHIPS AND CRAFT

At each end of the terrace outside the chapel is a fountain of red granite (Granit de la Clarté) from Brittany, and a pool. Behind the Memorial the hill rises steeply.

THE WALL OF THE MISSING

On the face of the retaining wall of the terrace of the Memorial are inscribed the names and particulars of 293 of our Missing:

United States Army and Army
Air Forces¹ 256
United States Navy 37

These men gave their lives in the service of their Country but their remains have not been identified. The lists include men from every State in the Union except Arizona, Delaware, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Rhode Island, and Wyoming. Heading these lists is the inscription:

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

GRAVES AREA

The graves area is divided into four plots about the oval pool which is set at the intersection of the axes of the cemetery. The 861 headstones are arranged in straight lines; planted among them are oleanders and ancient olive trees which lend an unforgettable peacefulness to the scene.

¹It will be recalled that during World War II the Air Forces still formed part of the United States Army.

The Dead who gave their lives in our Country's service came from every State in the Union except North Dakota; some came from the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Sixty-two of the headstones mark the graves of "Unknowns." Here, also, side by side in two instances, are the graves of two brothers.

THE GARDENS

Outside of the oval wall and on the transverse axis of the cemetery are the East and West Gardens. The East Garden is an intimate enclosure with a small circular pool which has a background of tall Italian cypress. It is surrounded with beds of broad-leaved evergreens, including oleander and crepe myrtle, as well as seasonal plants to provide color in the summer.

The West Garden is somewhat smaller; its pool is octagonal in form, and is set in a brick pavement in contrast to the green lawn of the East Garden. It is enclosed by a high sheared hedge of evergreen Japanese privet and planted with a few of the summer-flowering shrubs of the region.

PLANTINGS

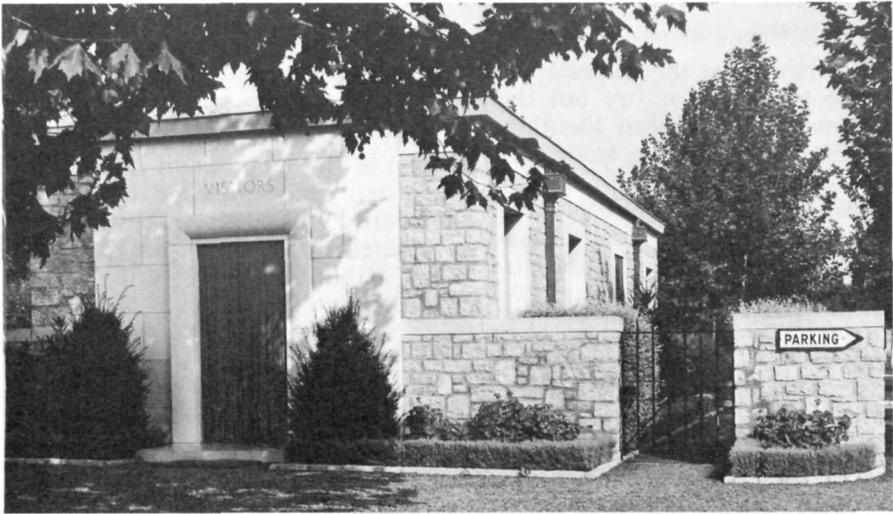
The long terrace outside the Chapel is lined with a double row of closely planted Italian cypress, trimmed to a uniform height of twenty feet, which forms a green curtain behind the Chapel and across the ends of the terrace. The areas at the two sides, enclosed with low formal hedges, are planted with redbud trees (*cercis canadensis*) and strawberry trees (*arbutus unedo*).

In the graves area oleander and ancient olive trees are scattered among the headstones.

Outside of the oval walls masses of tall shrubs, olive trees (*olea europaea sativa*) and plane trees (*platanus orientalis*) soften the outline of the wall from the outside.



Interior



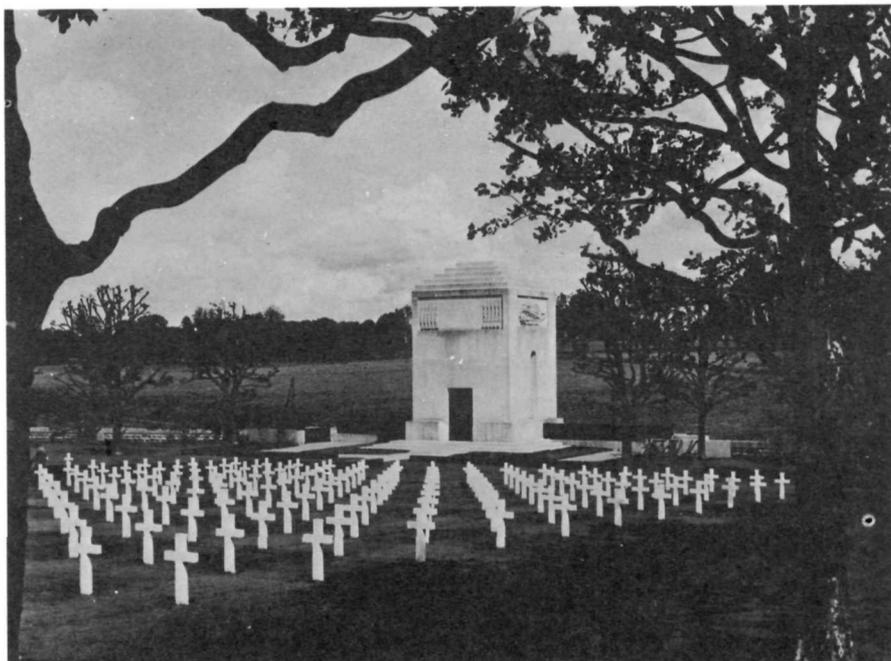
Exterior

VISITORS' BUILDING

Immediately to the right of the entrance gate is the Visitors' Building. The parking area is adjacent to the building on the east (right) side.

It contains the Superintendent's office, toilet facilities, and a comfortably furnished room where 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.

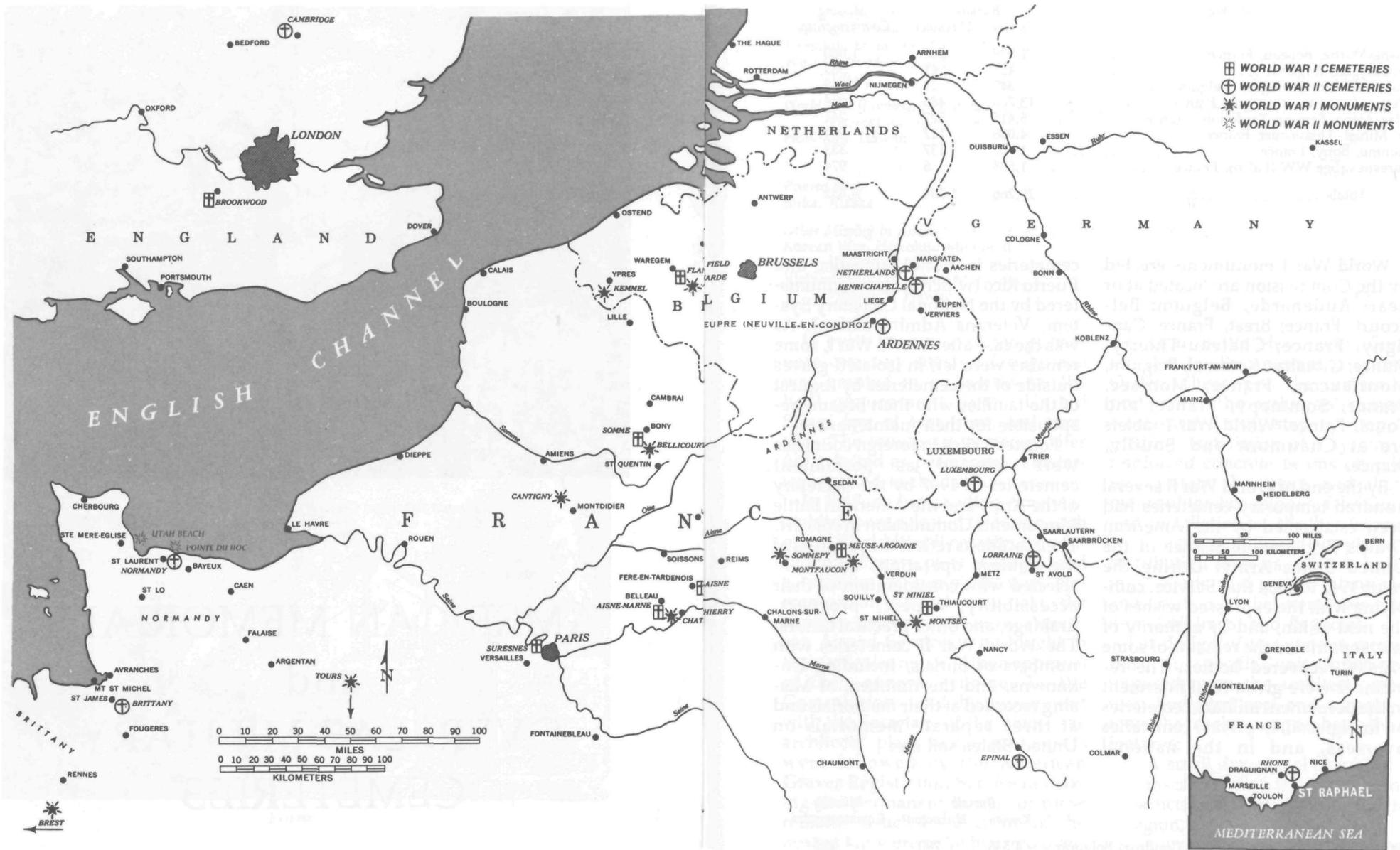


Somme American Cemetery, Bony, Aisne, France

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 April 6, 1917, and to control as to design and provide

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

<i>World War II</i>	<i>Burials</i>		<i>Missing Commemorated</i>
	<i>Known</i>	<i>Unknown</i>	
Ardennes, Neupre (Neuville-en-Condroz) Belgium ..	4,536	790	462
Brittany, St. James, France	4,313	97	497
Cambridge, England	3,787	24	5,126
Epinal, France	5,186	69	424
Florence, Italy	4,189	213	1,409
Henri-Chapelle, Belgium	7,895	94	450
Lorraine, St. Avoird, France	10,338	151	444
Luxembourg, Luxembourg City, Luxembourg	4,975	101	370
Manila, Republic of the Philippines	13,462	3,744	36,280
Netherlands, Margraten, Netherlands	8,195	106	1,722
Normandy, St. Laurent-sur-Mer, France	9,079	307	1,557
North Africa, Carthage, Tunisia	2,601	240	3,724
Rhone, Draguignan, France	799	62	293
Sicily-Rome, Nettuno, Italy	7,372	490	3,094

Suresnes (See WW I also), France	24	...	...
East Coast Memorial, New York City, New York . . . . .	...	...	4,596
Honolulu Memorial, Honolulu, Hawaii . . . . .	...	...	18,094
West Coast Memorial, San Francisco, California . . . . .	...	...	413
Totals	86,727	6,512	78,955
<i>World War II cemeteries maintained by the National Cemetery System, Veterans Administration</i>			
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

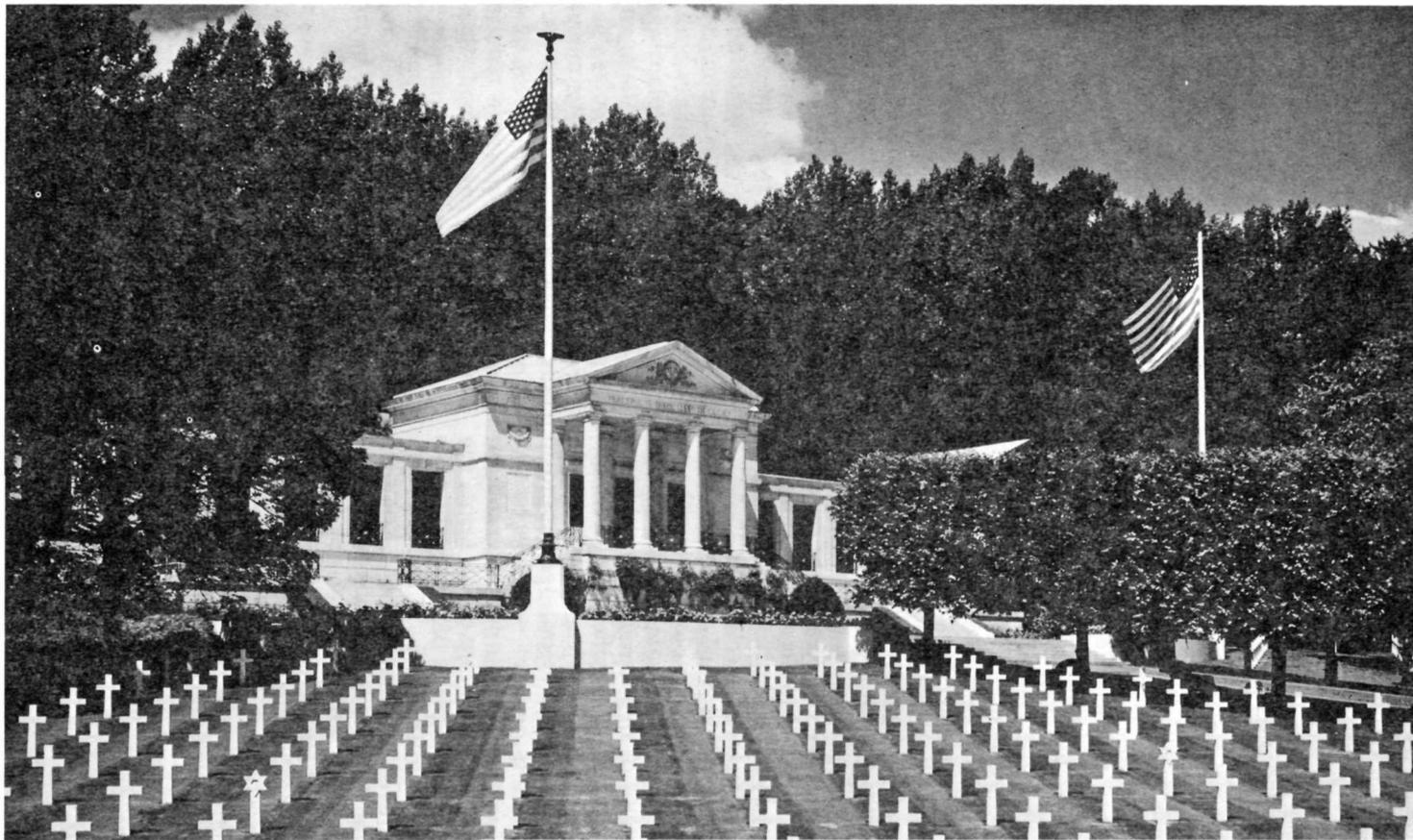
American Battle Monuments Commission by Presidential Executive Order. Thereupon the remaining portions of the architects' designs were carried out, step by step — grading; installation of a system of reinforced concrete beams on piles to maintain the levels and alignments of the headstones; fabrication 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:

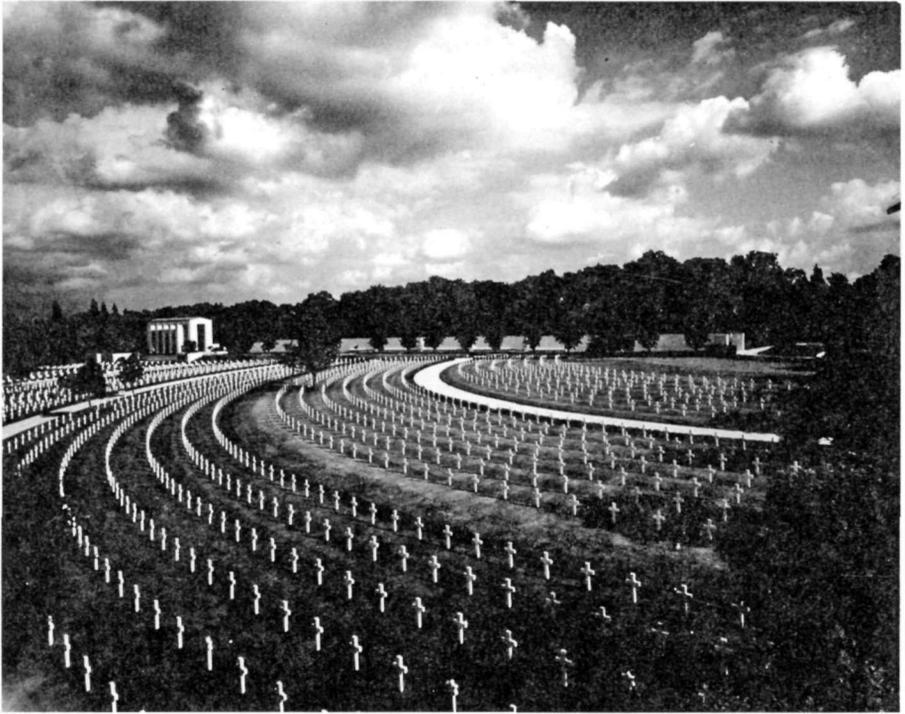
- A small devotional chapel;
- inscription of the names and particulars of the Missing in the region;
- a graphic record, in permanent form, of the services of our troops (WW II only; however, Oise-Aisne, Meuse-Argonne and St. Mihiel WW I American Cemeteries also have battle maps).

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 com-



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

portable 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.

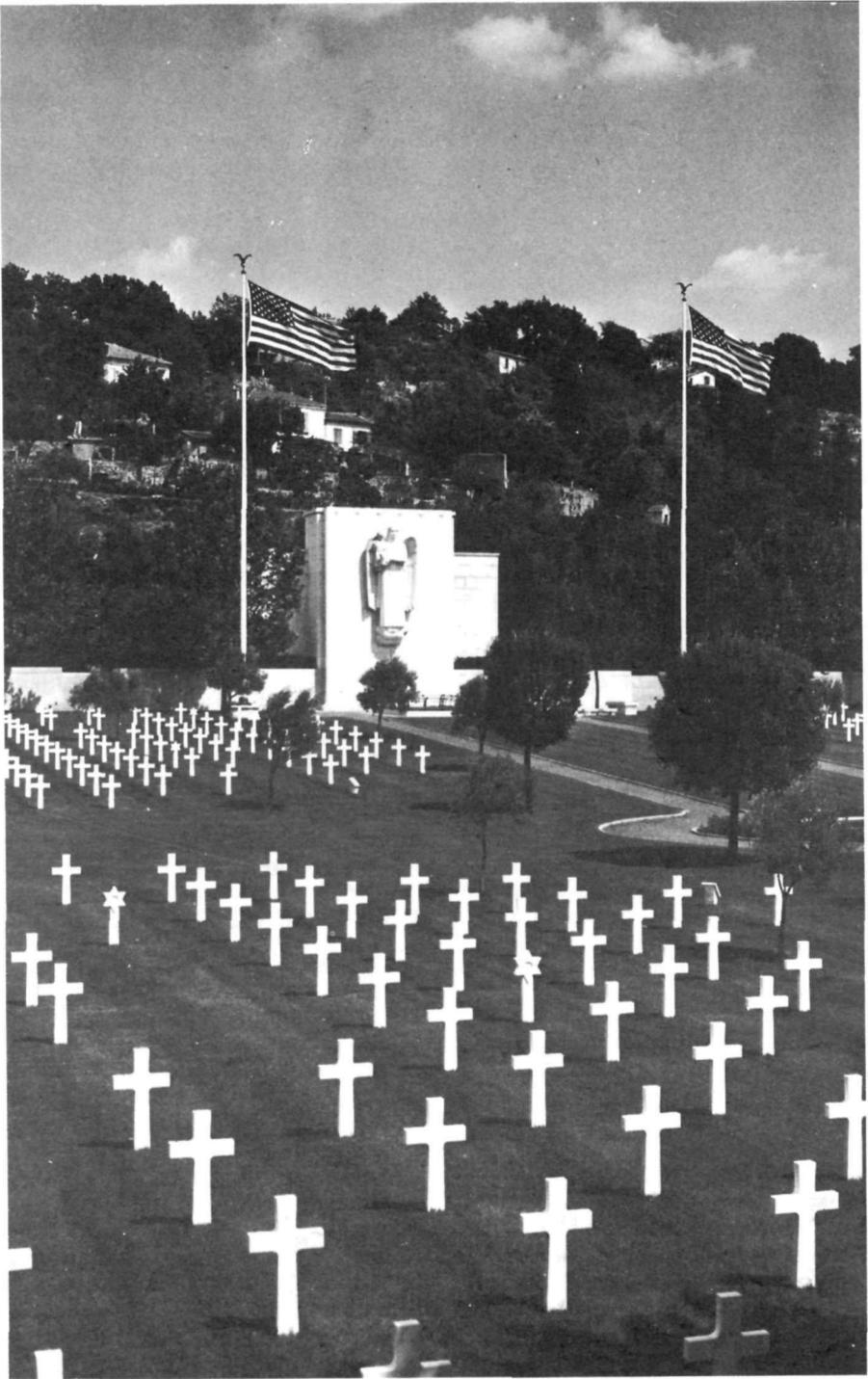
In the World War II cemeteries, the inscription reads:

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 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



*"Mourning Woman"
Netherlands American Cemetery*

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

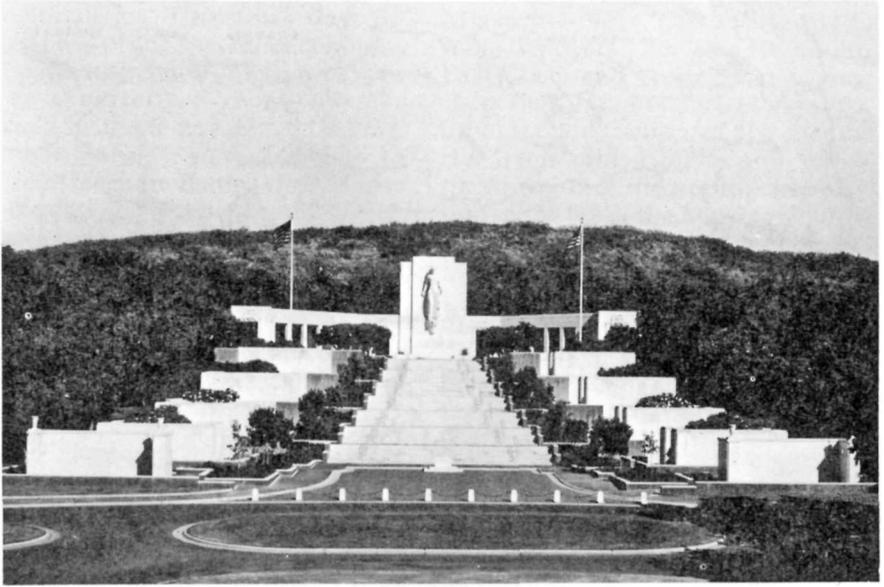
Similarly, the names and particulars of those 413 Americans who gave their lives in the service of their country off the west coast of the Americas but outside the territorial limits of the United States, are recorded at the memorial erected by the Commission at the Presidio of San Francisco.

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 of the Vietnam War.

POINTE DU HOC MONUMENT

Following World War II, the French erected a monument at Pointe du Hoc overlooking the right flank of 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 with appropriate inscriptions at its base in French and English. It was officially turned over to the American government for operation and maintenance in perpetuity on January 11, 1979.



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

UTAH BEACH MONUMENT

The site of the Utah Beach Monument is at the termination of Highway N-13D, approximately 3 kilometers northeast of Ste-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 June 1944. The site of the monument, which was under construction at the time of publication, is located in the open grassy area in the foreground of the photograph.

MEXICO CITY NATIONAL CEMETERY

The Mexico City National Cemetery is at 31 Calzada Melchor Ocampo,

about 2 miles west of the cathedral and about one mile north of the U.S. Embassy. This cemetery was established in 1851 and contains a small monument over the grave of 750 of our unidentified Dead of the War of 1847. In this one acre area there are 813 remains of Americans and others in wall crypts. Care of the cemetery was transferred from the Department of the Army to this Commission on July 16, 1947. This cemetery was closed to burials in 1923.

COROZAL AMERICAN CEMETERY, COROZAL, REPUBLIC OF PANAMA

The Corozal American Cemetery is located approximately three miles north of Panama City, just off 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 4,795 identified "Known" Dead interred here. In agreement with the Republic of Panama, care and maintenance of the cemetery in perpetuity was assumed by the Commission on October 1, 1979.

FLORAL DECORATIONS

In the overseas cemeteries, the decoration of graves 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.

PHOTOGRAPHS

The Commission will furnish close relatives of the Dead buried or commemorated in the World War I and II cemetery memorials overseas with a color lithograph of the cemetery together with a black and white photograph of the particular grave

or the section of the Tablets of the Missing where the individual’s name appears. For the Honolulu, East Coast and West Coast Memorials, the Commission will supply a lithographed picture of the memorial itself and a black and white photograph of the appropriate section of the list of the Missing. Photographs of graves in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (in Honolulu) are not available through the Commission.

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

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC AVAILABLE THROUGH THE AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION

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



Decorated Gravesite of an "Unknown"

THE AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MARCH 1923

Membership

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UNITED STATES OFFICE

Casimir Pulaski Building
20 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20314
Telephone: (202) 272-0533
272-0532

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