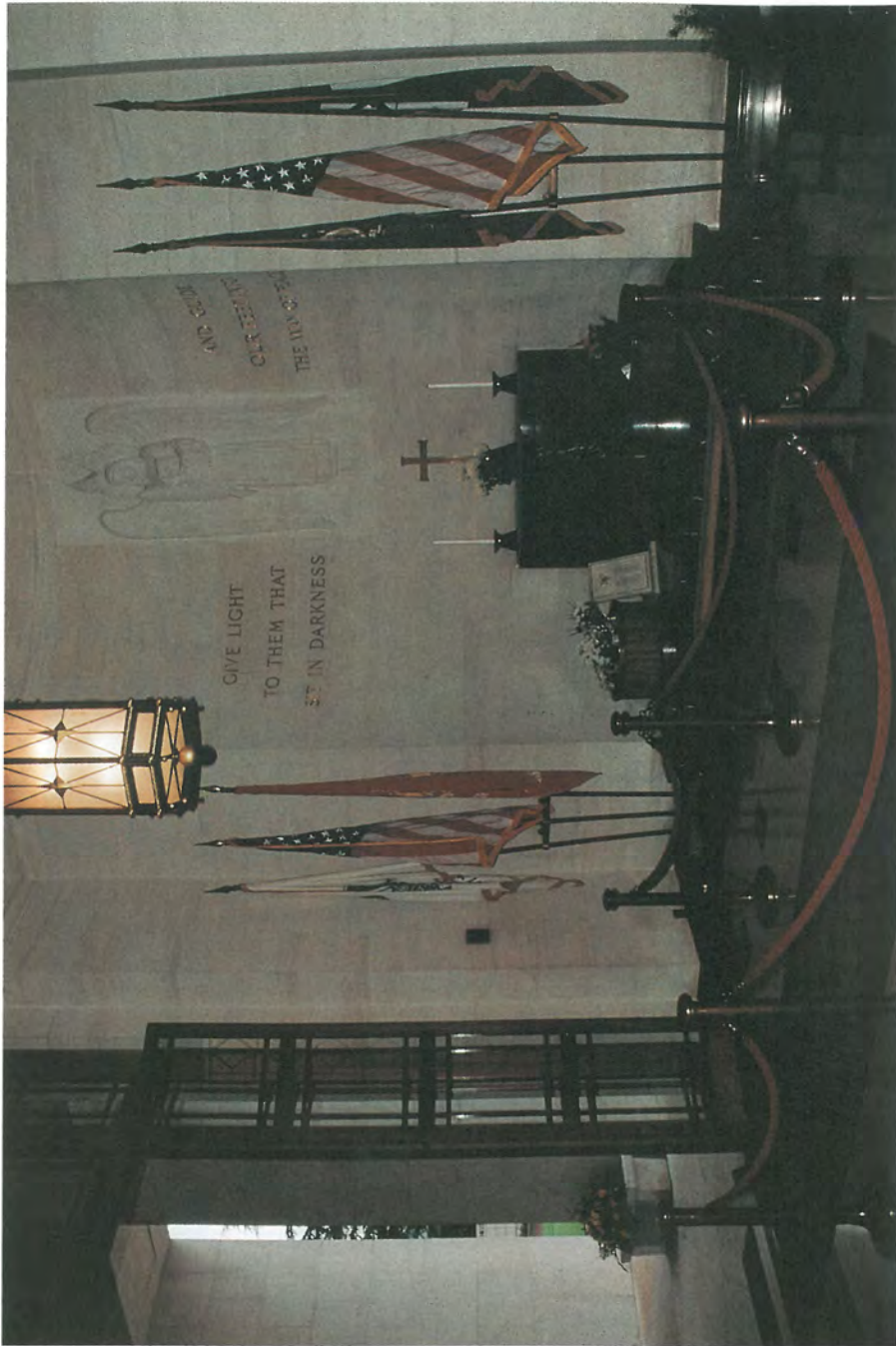


# Epinal American Cemetery and Memorial

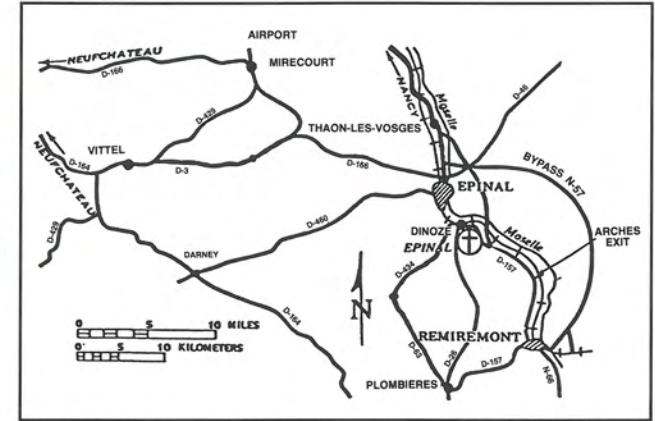


The American Battle Monuments Commission



*Interior of Chapel — East End of the Memorial*

## Epinal American Cemetery and Memorial



### LOCATION

The Epinal American Cemetery and Memorial is situated 4 miles/6.5 kilometers southeast of Epinal, Vosges, France, on Road D-157, in the village of Dinoze-Quequement. It can be reached by automobile from Paris (231 miles/372 kms.) in about five hours via toll autoroute A-4, eastward to the Nancy exit, then onto Highway N-57. Approaching Epinal, from Nancy, avoid the city of Epinal by staying on N-57 toward Remiremont-Mulhouse, exiting at Arches-Dinoze.

Rail service is available from Gare de l'Est station in Paris via Nancy, where it may be necessary to change trains. The journey by train also requires about 5 hours.

Air travel service is available from Paris to the Epinal-Mirecourt Airport. The journey takes about 45 minutes. Adequate hotel accommodations and taxi service can be found in Epinal and vicinity.

### HOURS

The cemetery is open daily to the public between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. (The cemetery is closed on January 1 and December 25. It is open on all other U.S. and host country holidays.)



*Entry Road to Cemetery*



*Aerial View of Cemetery*

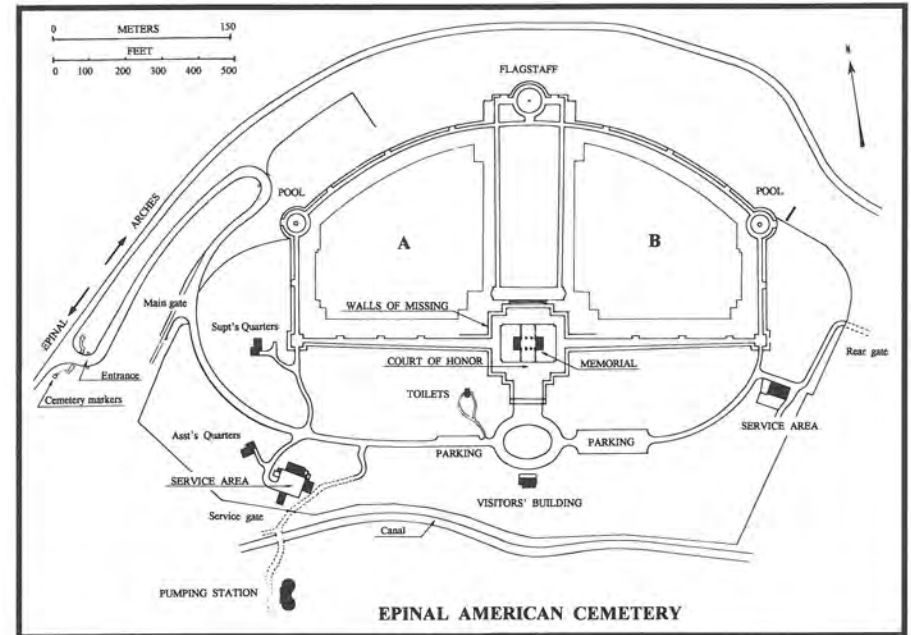
When the cemetery is open to the public, a staff member is on duty in the Visitors' Building to answer questions and to escort relatives to grave and memorialization sites.

## HISTORY

On 15 August 1944, just a little over two months after the landings in Normandy, Allied Forces launched an amphibious assault to free southern France. Air bombardment in preparation for the landings began in July and grew steadily in intensity. Preceded by Allied assault groups and U.S. airborne and glider troops, under cover of heavy naval and aerial bombardment, the 3d, 36th and 45th Divisions of the U.S. VI Corps landed on the beaches in southern France from Cape Cavalaire to Agay and thrust rapidly inland. As advancing VI Corps troops of the U.S. Seventh Army pursued the

enemy, French units landed and moved westward toward Toulon and Marseilles. Within two weeks both ports had been liberated and U.S. forces had advanced northward up the Rhone Valley to seize Montelimar, cutting off large numbers of the retreating enemy.

In less than one month, U.S. troops from southern France had advanced 400 miles and made contact with those from Normandy on 11 September 1944 at Sombernon, west of Dijon. Ten days later, when these forces had joined in strength near Epinal, a solid line was established extending to the Swiss frontier. Progress in the next three months was slow and fighting bitter, as opposition stiffened. Nevertheless, Allied Forces continued their advance to the Siegfried Line and westward to the Rhine River where our troops held the west bank except for an area between



*Location of Cemetery Features*

Strasbourg and Mulhouse known as the "Colmar Pocket."

The enemy launched his final major counteroffensive of the war on 16 December 1944. Officially designated the Ardennes-Alsace Campaign, it was popularly known as the "Battle of the Bulge." The U.S. Third Army to the north moved quickly to counter the threat. This required the 6th Army group in the south, consisting of the U.S. Seventh and the French First Armies, to extend its lines northward to cover a much longer front. Against this line, the enemy launched the second half of his planned counteroffensive on New Year's eve by driving for the Saverne Gap in the Vosges Mountains and following with an attack across the Rhine and an offensive from the Colmar Pocket toward Strasbourg. After furious struggles in bitterly cold weather, all of these

attacks were halted. Quickly, the American and French troops joined forces to eliminate the enemy army in the Colmar Pocket; their mission was successfully completed by 9 February 1945. The U.S. Seventh Army thereupon undertook a progressive assault against the Siegfried Line to the north, while the U.S. Third Army continued to assault the Line and the enemy's flanks and rear. Soon, the Siegfried Line was broken and the remaining enemy units cleared from the west bank of the Rhine.

The final offensive of the U.S. Seventh Army began in late March when it crossed the Rhine near Worms and seized Mannheim. Promptly, the French First Army crossed behind it and took Karlsruhe. Preceded by aircraft that constantly harassed and demoralized the enemy, Allied Forces swept throughout Germany. As the French



*South Facade of Memorial*

captured Stuttgart and cut off escape into Switzerland, the U.S. Seventh Army fought through Nurnberg, took Munich, then drove through the Brenner Pass for its historic meeting with U.S. Fifth Army on 4 May 1945 at Vipiteno, Italy.

#### SITE

The Epinal American Cemetery and Memorial, 48 acres in extent, is situated on a plateau in the foothills of the Vosges Mountains, 100 feet above and overlooking the Moselle River. It is one of fourteen permanent World War II American military cemeteries erected on foreign soil by the American Battle Monuments Commission. The site was liberated on 21 September 1944 by the U.S. 45th Infantry Division and a temporary military burial ground was established there fifteen days later. Subsequently, the burial ground was selected to be a permanent cemetery site. After the war, when the temporary burial grounds were being disestablished by the American Graves Registration Service

(AGRS), the remains of American military Dead whose next of kin directed permanent interment on foreign soil were moved by the AGRS to a permanent site, usually the one closest to the temporary burial location. They were then interred by the AGRS in the distinctive grave patterns proposed by the cemetery's architect and approved by the Commission. Free use of the Epinal site as a permanent American military cemetery was granted by the French government in perpetuity without charge or taxation. Included in the site is a right of way approximately 500 meters in length leading from Highway D-157 to the main gate of the cemetery. The 5,255 American military Dead buried in the Epinal American Cemetery lost their lives in the fighting across central France, the Rhone Valley, the Vosges Mountains, the Rhine Valley and Germany; they represent 42% of the original burials in the region.

Design and construction of all facilities at the permanent American military cemeteries on foreign soil were the responsibility of the

American Battle Monuments Commission, i.e., the memorial, the chapel, the visitors' building, superintendent's quarters, paths, roads, walls and service facilities. It was also responsible for the sculpture, landscaping and other improvements on the site. Construction of the permanent cemetery at Epinal was completed in the spring of 1956 and the cemetery and its memorial were dedicated on 23 July 1956.

On the morning of 12 May 1958, 13 caskets draped with American flags were placed side by side under a canopy at the north end of the memorial in the cemetery. Each casket contained the remains of one Unknown serviceman from each of the thirteen permanent American military cemeteries established in the Atlantic Theatres of World War II. As soon as the caskets were in place, an honor guard took a position at attention about the canopy. When the invited dignitaries had arrived, General Edward J. O'Neill, Commanding General of the United States Army Communications Zone, Europe, walked slowly past the thirteen caskets, returned to the front of the canopy, picked up a wreath and proceeded to the fifth casket from the east and placed the wreath upon it. He then drew himself to attention and saluted as taps were played. The simple ceremony of selection terminated with the band playing "Miserere", as the pall bearers carried the Unknown selected by General O'Neill behind an honor guard to a waiting hearse. The hearse, under escort, proceeded to Toul-Rosières Air Base in France where the Unknown was flown to Naples, Italy and loaded aboard the destroyer *USS Blandy*. As soon as loading was completed, the *USS Blandy* departed Naples to rendezvous in the Atlantic with a U.S. Naval Task Force carrying two

other Unknowns, one from the Pacific Theatre of World War II and one from the Korean War. A similar ceremony to the one held at the Epinal American Cemetery was conducted by the Commander of the Naval Task Force to determine which of World War II Unknowns would represent both the Atlantic and Pacific Theatres of that war. After the selection was made, the Task Force proceeded to Washington, D.C. where, on Memorial Day 1958, the World War II and the Korean War Unknowns joined the Unknown soldier of World War I at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery.

#### ARCHITECTS

Architects for the cemetery memorial were Delano and Aldrich of New York City, New York. The landscape architect was Homer L. Fry of Austin, Texas.

#### GENERAL LAYOUT

Six kilometers southeast of Epinal, a winding road, 0.5 kilometers in length, leads from the south side of Highway D-157 to the main gate of the cemetery. Marking entry to the road on the right is a rectangular stone on which is carved the U.S. Great Seal above the words "Epinal American Cemetery and Memorial." Marking entry to the road on the left is a low curved wall on which the name of the cemetery also is carved.

About 90 meters inside the main gate, a crossing road leads north (left) to the superintendent's quarters and south (right) to the assistant superintendent's quarters and the service area. The Visitors' Building is about 300 meters inside the main gate on the south (right) side of the entry road where the road forms an elliptical drive.



*Crusade in Europe — South Facade of Memorial*

Visitor parking is available just before and beyond the elliptical drive. A stone pathway leads northward from the Visitors' Building across the drive to the Court of Honor. In the center of the court under a single roof are the museum and chapel. Enclosing the court are low walls engraved with the names of the Missing in Action in the region. The Court of Honor sits at the south end of a wide grassy mall which is flanked by trees and separates the graves area into two plots. A 75-foot flagpole stands at the opposite (north) end of the grassy mall. Located in the northeast and northwest portions of the graves area are small circular cul-de-sacs with benches and fountains. Like the Court of Honor, the graves area is enclosed by a stone wall.

### COURT OF HONOR

The Court of Honor is rectangular in shape. It is enclosed by low walls of Rocheret, a hard limestone from the Jura Mountains of eastern France. On these walls are engraved the names of 424 service members who are Missing in Action in the region:

United States Army and  
Army Air Forces<sup>1</sup> . . . . . 419  
United States Navy . . . . . 5

These Missing lost their lives in the service of their country, but their remains were not recovered, or if recovered, not identified. They represent every State of the Union (and the District of Columbia) except Alaska,

<sup>1</sup>It will be recalled that during World War II the Air Force still formed part of the United States Army.



*Resurrection — South Facade of Memorial*

Delaware, Hawaii, Nevada, North Dakota, Rhode Island, Vermont and Wyoming. The following inscriptions appear in English and French on the walls above their names:

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

IN GRATEFUL REMEMBRANCE OF THOSE WHO DIED IN WORLD WAR II ☆☆ 1941-1945.

THIS IS THEIR MEMORIAL — THE WHOLE EARTH THEIR SEPULCHRE.

Without confirmed information to the contrary, a War Department Administrative Review Board established the official date of death of those commemorated on the Tablets of the Missing as one year and a day from the date on which the individual was placed in Missing in Action status.

### MEMORIAL STRUCTURE

A rectangular memorial, consisting of a chapel on the east end and a museum room on the west end separated by an open but covered portico, stands in the center of the court. The overall structure is 81 feet long, 35 feet wide and 36 feet high. The walls of the structure like those enclosing the court are of Rocheret limestone. The floor of the portico is patterned with Rocheret and Roc Argenté another French limestone from the Jura region.

### EXTERIOR

The south face of the memorial contains two large bas-relief carvings designed and sculpted by Malvina Hoffman of New York. The carving on the western end of the south face depicts the Crusade in Europe. It is



Teakwood Pew — South End of Chapel

a composition of United States military forces advancing on the enemy and consists of infantry, tanks, artillery, anti-aircraft guns, paratroopers, grenade throwers, signalmen and search lights with a large eagle overhead to symbolize U.S. Army Air Forces. The carving on the eastern end of the south face depicts Survival of the Spirit. In the center of the carving, a kneeling figure of a sorrowing woman — humanity — comforts a dying soldier, while the souls of two brave young men who have preceded him in death are raised upward on rays of light by an angel, as their earthly bodies remain behind under a Latin Cross or Star of David headstone. In the upper left portion of the carving, an angel precedes them with a torch to light their way and in the upper right portion, two angels with trumpets herald their approach. Carved on the attic above the south face of the memorial are an eagle, also the work of Miss Hoffman, and the following inscription

from Exodus XIX:4: I BARE YOU ON EAGLE WINGS AND BROUGHT YOU UNTO MYSELF.

The frieze of the memorial bears the following inscriptions: (south face) CITIZENS OF EVERY CALLING BRED IN THE PRINCIPLES OF THE AMERICAN DEMOCRACY ☆ ☆ (east face) DEFENDERS OF THE CHALLENGED FREEDOMS ☆ ☆ (north face) FROM NORMANDY AND PROVENCE — TO ARDENNES LORRAINE AND ALSACE — BEYOND THE RHINE ☆ ☆ and (west face) CHAMPIONS OF THE RIGHTS OF MAN.

On the north face of the memorial appears the following dedicatory inscription in English and French:

1941-1945 ☆ ☆ IN PROUD REMEMBRANCE OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF HER SONS AND IN HUMBLE TRIBUTE TO THEIR SACRIFICES THIS MEMORIAL HAS BEEN ERECTED BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

The eagle by Miss Hoffman that appears on the exterior attic wall



Museum Wall Map (left section)

above the south face also appears on the exterior attic wall above the north face, but without the inscription from Exodus.

### INTERIOR

Within the portico and over the entrance to the chapel in the eastern portion of the memorial is a roundel in the center of which is the Lamb of God encircled by a Latin Cross, Tablets of Moses and a Star of David. Opposite it over the entrance to the museum to the west is a roundel on which appears the Great Seal of the United States. Both roundels were designed by Miss Hoffman. All carvings on the exterior and interior of the memorial were executed by Jean Juge of Paris.

### INTERIOR — CHAPEL

The chapel at the east end of the memorial is entered from the portico

through oakwood doors inset with rectangular panes of glass. Directly in front of the entrance doors against the east wall of the chapel is a long teakwood planter. Above the planter are three tall narrow windows. The altar, flanked by circular teakwood planters, is an apse in the north wall of the chapel to the left of the entrance door. The altar and the two plinths on which it rests are Rouge Antique marble from southern France. On the wall above the altar is a large sculpture of the Angel of Peace designed by Miss Hoffman. Inscribed on the wall to the left of the Angel of Peace is: GIVE LIGHT TO THEM THAT SIT IN DARKNESS; inscribed on the wall to the right of the Angel of Peace is: AND GUIDE OUR FEET INTO THE WAY OF PEACE. These inscriptions are from St. Luke I:79.

Flanking the apse are two groups of flags. The group on the left consists



*Museum Wall Map (center section)*

of the U.S. Army flag of 1775, the U.S. flag and the U.S. Marine Corps flag. The group on the right consists of the U.S. Navy flag, the U.S. flag and the U.S. Air Force flag. A teak-wood pew rests against the south wall of the chapel to the right of the entrance door. Carved in the front of the pew, from St. John X:28, is: I GIVE THEM ETERNAL LIFE AND THEY SHALL NEVER PERISH. Inscribed in the wall above the pew is: TAKE UNTO THYSELF O LORD THE SOULS OF THE VALOROUS THAT THEY MAY DWELL IN GLORY. Two roundels flank this inscription. The one on the left or to the east is of a Latin Cross; the one on the right is of the Tablets of Moses surmounted by a Star of David. The walls of the chapel are of Savonniere French limestone and the floor of Comblanchien, another durable French limestone from the Jura region. The ceiling is of teak-wood. Suspended from the ceiling is a large hexagonal lamp of antique design with frosted glass panels.

#### INTERIOR — MUSEUM

The primary feature of the museum room in the western portion of the

memorial is the large colored glass mosaic map depicting American and Allied military operations from the landings in southern France on 15 August 1944 to the junction with Allied Forces advancing from Normandy on 11 September at Sombernon, near Dijon; and their subsequent advances after turning eastward, crossing the Rhine and sweeping across Germany to meet with the spearhead of the U.S. Fifth Army south of the Brenner Pass. The mosaic, 54 feet long and 14 feet high, was designed and fabricated by Eugene Savage of Branford, Connecticut, utilizing data provided by the American Battle Monuments Commission. The map is laid out in perspective as seen from the south; consequently, the lines of the longitude and latitude are tilted to accommodate the map to the proportions of the room. Thus, north is toward the upper right instead of vertically upward. Symbolically, the figures on the semi-circular wall depict the Spirit of Columbia leading the Army, Navy, and Air Forces to the landings on the south coast of France. The final victory is symbol-

ized by the Angel of Victory with laurel branch above the central altar; a group composed of trumpets; the American and French flags emerging from the clouds of war and the outstretched hands of women who offer flowers as tribute to the victors.

In the border of the map are the insignia of the following military units of division size or larger that participated in ground operations in the region: 6th Army Group and 12th Army Group; Third Army and Seventh Army; VI Corps, XV Corps, and XXI Corps; 3d, 4th, 28th, 35th, 36th, 42d, 44th, 45th, 63d, 65th, 70th, 71st, 75th, 79th, 80th, 86th, 87th, 90th, 94th, 99th, 100th and 103d Infantry Divisions; 6th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th and 20th Armored Divisions; and the 101st Airborne Division.

The principal Allied ground, naval and air forces that were engaged in these operations are listed in panels at the ends of the mosaic. On the straight wall adjacent to the south end of the map is a description in English, beneath the torch of Liberty, of these operations:

ON 15 AUGUST 1944 THE ALLIED FORCES LAUNCHED THEIR CAMPAIGN TO ASSIST THE NORMANDY OPERATION AND TO LIBERATE SOUTHERN FRANCE. AN OVERWHELMING AIR EFFORT FORMED THE PRELUDE. PRECEDED BY ALLIED ASSAULT GROUPS AND AIRBORNE TROOPS, THE VI CORPS OF THE U.S. SEVENTH ARMY STORMED ASHORE UNDER COVER OF INTENSE BOMBARDMENT BY THE WESTERN NAVAL TASK FORCE. THE U.S. 3D, 36TH, AND 45TH INFANTRY DIVISIONS PROMPTLY BROKE THROUGH THE STEEL AND CONCRETE BEACH FORTIFICATIONS, SUBDUED THE DEFENDERS, AND SURGED INLAND.

SWIFTLY PURSUING THE DISINTEGRATING ENEMY UNITS UP THE RHONE VALLEY THE U.S. SEVENTH ARMY FREED LYON WHILE THE FRENCH FIRST ARMY REOCCUPIED MARSEILLE AND

TOULON. IN LESS THAN ONE MONTH THE ALLIES PUSHED 400 MILES TO JOIN HANDS AT SOMBERNON WITH THE FORCES ADVANCING FROM NORMANDY. BY 21 SEPTEMBER, NEAR EPINAL, THE TROOPS FROM THE MEDITERRANEAN, NOW ORGANIZED AS THE 6TH ARMY GROUP, HAD FORGED WITH THE U.S. THIRD ARMY OF THE 12TH ARMY GROUP A SOLID FRONT WHICH ISOLATED ALL GERMAN UNITS REMAINING IN THE SOUTH OF FRANCE.

DURING OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER THE ADVANCE CONTINUED AGAINST PERSISTENT AND DESPERATE OPPOSITION REACHING THE RHINE AT STRASBOURG AND MULHOUSE; BETWEEN THESE CITIES THE ENEMY CLUNG TO AN AREA ABOUT COLMAR. ON 16 DECEMBER, IN THE ARDENNES, FARTHER TO THE NORTH, THE ENEMY LOOSED HIS LAST GREAT COUNTEROFFENSIVE OF THE WAR. THE U.S. THIRD ARMY MOVED INSTANTLY TO MEET THE THREAT, LEAVING THE 6TH ARMY GROUP TO DEFEND THE ENTIRE FRONT FROM SAARBRUCKEN SOUTHWARD. ON NEW YEAR'S EVE THE GERMANS ATTACKED FROM BITCHE TOWARD SAVERNE, THEN FOLLOWED WITH ONE THRUST ACROSS THE RHINE NORTH OF STRASBOURG AND ANOTHER FROM THE COLMAR POCKET. AFTER A FURIOUS STRUGGLE IN BITTERLY COLD WEATHER THE ATTACKERS WERE REPULSED. RESUMING ITS INITIATIVE THE 6TH ARMY GROUP OVERRAN THE COLMAR POCKET EARLY IN FEBRUARY AFTER THREE WEEKS OF SUSTAINED COMBAT IN WHICH THE GERMAN NINETEENTH ARMY WAS ANNIHILATED AS A FIGHTING FORCE.

U.S. NAVAL FORCES TOGETHER WITH THE ALLIED NAVIES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN PLAYED A VITAL ROLE BY SAFEGUARDING A CONTINUOUS FLOW OF TROOPS AND SUPPLIES AGAINST PERSISTENT SUBMARINE AND AIR ATTACKS. ALLIED AIR FORCES GAVE THE GROUND ARMIES INDISPENSABLE ASSISTANCE PRIOR TO AND THROUGHOUT THE OPERATIONS. THE U.S. FIRST TACTICAL AIR FORCE PERFORMED MAGNIFICENTLY DURING CONSISTENTLY BAD WINTER WEATHER. WHEN



Plot A of Graves Area

THE ALLIED ARMIES LAUNCHED THEIR FINAL ATTACK THE EFFECT OF THE STRATEGIC AIR BOMBARDMENT OF GERMANY WAS TO BE REFLECTED IN THE RAPID DESTRUCTION OF HER FIGHTING FORCES.

THE FINAL OFFENSIVE BEGAN IN MARCH. PACED BY THE U.S. NINTH AIR FORCE AND THE FIRST TACTICAL AIR FORCE, WHOSE ATTACKS DISRUPTED COMMUNICATIONS AND DESTROYED GERMAN TROOPS AND SUPPLIES, THE U.S. THIRD AND SEVENTH ARMIES CROSSED THE RHINE AND SWEEPED ACROSS GERMANY. WHILE THE FRENCH FIRST ARMY CUT OFF THE ENEMY'S AVENUES OF ESCAPE INTO SWITZERLAND, THE U.S. SEVENTH ARMY CAPTURED NURNBERG, SWUNG SOUTHWARD TO MUNICH AND SEIZED THE BRENNER PASS. ITS JUNCTION ON 4 MAY WITH THE U.S. FIFTH ARMY AT VIPITENO IN ITALY MARKED THE COMPLETE DEFEAT OF THE NAZI FORCES IN THIS MOUNTAIN REGION.

THE UNITY OF PURPOSE WHICH INSPIRED ALL WHO SHARED IN THESE CAMPAIGNS WAS A DECISIVE FACTOR IN THEIR SUCCESS. THEIR COURAGE

AND THEIR DEVOTION TO DUTY WERE UNSURPASSABLE.

At the opposite end of the room is the French version of this inscription. Beneath these inscriptions are two sets of key maps: "The War Against Germany" and "The War Against Japan."

The plinth below the map is of Verte des Alpes and Italian green veined marble. The floor is paved with Comblanchien limestone.

#### GRAVES AREA

Interred in the cemetery are 5,255 American military Dead of World War II. Their 5,252 graves are set in two fanshaped plots separated by a wide north/south mall lined with sycamore (*Platanus orientalis*) trees. Plot A lies west of the mall, plot B to the east. The War Dead interred here died in the service of their Country. They came from every State of the Union, the District of Columbia and the then U.S. territories of Alaska and Hawaii. One Dead buried here came from Canada and another from the British West Indies. One grave holds the remains of three



North Side Section of Court of Honor and Tablets of the Missing

identified Dead that could not be separately identified. In 14 instances, two brothers lie side by side. Sixty-nine graves hold the remains of American Dead that could not be identified (Unknowns). One of these graves contains the remains of two comrades in arms.

Each grave is marked by a white marble headstone, a Star of David for those of the Jewish faith, a Latin Cross for all others. The lines of white headstones against the background of green grass harmonize well with the memorial and the Court of Honor at the south end of the mall. A 75-foot flagpole overlooks the graves area from the north end of the mall. Its circular bronze base sits on a pedestal of Rocheret limestone which in turn rests on two circular plinths of Ampilly limestone from the Cote d'Or region. The base plinth contains a thirteen-point star of Noir d'Izeste from the Pyrenees. Two small cul-de-sacs with fountains are located in the graves area, one in the northeast corner and one in the northwest corner. The graves area itself is enclosed by a wall of granite from the local region with a coping of Euville limestone from the Verdun region.

#### PLANTINGS

The paths near the perimeter wall of the graves area afford magnificent view of the Moselle Valley and its wooded slopes. Immediately to the south of the cemetery, on the hillside, is a beautiful natural woodland of oak, spruce and beech. Within the cemetery itself are several groups of English beech (*Fagus sylvatica*); sycamores (planetrees — *Platanus orientalis*) line the paths of the cemetery. Oriental cherry (*Cerasus serulata*), red bud (*Cercis canadensis*) and English hawthorne (*Crataegus oxyacantha*) were planted in the edges of the woods adjacent to the flagpole to add color and density. Flanking the Memorial on the north side are two Cedars of Lebanon as well as a large massif of shrubbery. In the entrance court of the cemetery are holly hedges (*Ilex aquifolium*) and in the Court of Honor are box hedges (*Buxus sempervirens*) and Polyantha and Red Glove roses. Informal massifs of other plantings in the vicinity of the Court of Honor contain barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*), flowering quince (*Cydonia japonica*), rhododendrons, azaleas, forsythias, scotch broom (*Cytisus scoparius*), cotoneaster and dwarf yew.





*Visitors' Room*



*St. Mihiel American Cemetery, Thiaucourt, France*

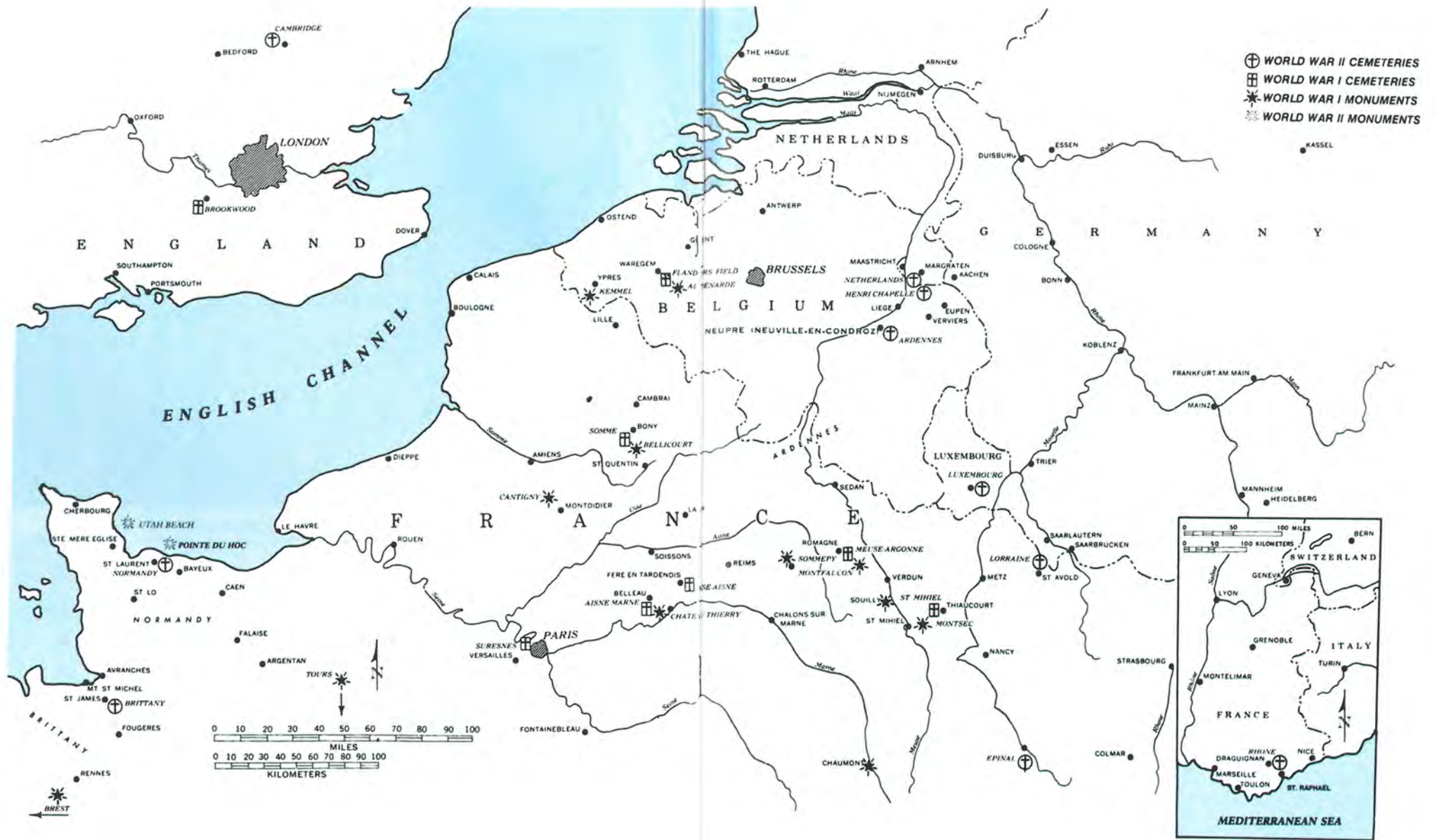
## AMERICAN MEMORIALS and OVERSEAS MILITARY CEMETERIES

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, operating and maintaining permanent



*Visitors' Building*



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 controlling the design of U.S. private monuments

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 twelve 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 number of burials and the number of missing recorded at their memorials are:

World War I	Burials		Missing Commemorated
	Known	Unknown	
Aisne-Marne, Belleau, France	2,039	250	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	1,706	138	333
Suresnes (See WW II also), France	1,535	6	974
Totals	29,265	1,656	4,452

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

Puerto Rico (which are now administered by the National Cemetery Administration, Department of Veterans' Affairs). 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 number of burials, including Unknowns, and the numbers of Missing recorded at their memorials and at three separate memorials on United States soil are:

World War II	Burials		Missing Commemorated
	Known	Unknown	
Ardennes, Neupre (Neuville-en-Condroz), Belgium	4,536	792	462
Brittany, St. James, France	4,313	97	498
Cambridge, England	3,788	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	371
Manila, Republic of the Philippines	13,462	3,744	36,282
Netherlands, Margraten, Holland	8,195	106	1,723
Normandy, St. Laurent-sur-Mer, France	9,080	307	1,557
North Africa, Carthage, Tunisia	2,601	240	3,724
Rhone, Draguignan, France	799	62	294
Sicily-Rome, Nettuno, Italy	7,371	490	3,095
Suresnes (See WW I also), France	—	24	—

East Coast Memorial, New York City, New York	—	—	4,609
Honolulu Memorial, Honolulu, Hawaii	—	—	18,096
West Coast Memorial, San Francisco, California	—	—	412
Totals	86,728	6,514	78,976
<i>World War II cemeteries maintained by the National Cemetery Administration, Department of Veterans' Affairs</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	—	—	8,200
Vietnam War, Honolulu Memorial, Honolulu, Hawaii	—	—	2,504

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 Government to record by monuments the achievements of our Armed Services, since the erection of memorials by the troops (which in the past



*Cambridge American Cemetery and Memorial, Cambridge, England*

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 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



*Brittany American Cemetery, St. James, Manche, France*

those of Jewish faith, a Latin cross for 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 Department of Veterans' Affairs, 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 fourteen World War II cemeteries, eleven World War I monuments and two tablets, and the two World War II markers (Casablanca, Morocco and Papua, New Guinea), the American Battle Monuments Commission's 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 4,609 American servicemen, 6,185 seamen of the United States Merchant Marines and the 529 seamen of the U.S. Army Transport Service who, in or above the waters off the coast of North and South America, but outside the territorial limits of the United States, gave their lives in the service of their country, the Commission erected a memorial in Battery Park, New York City, upon which their names and particulars are inscribed.

## WEST COAST MEMORIAL

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

## HONOLULU MEMORIAL

Although the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at Honolulu is administered by the Department of Veterans' Affairs, the American Battle Monuments Commission constructed a memorial therein, incorporating the features of the memorials in its overseas cemeteries. The names of 18,096 Missing of World War II who gave their lives in the Pacific areas (except the Southwest and the Palua Islands which are commemorated at the Manila Ceme-

tery Memorial) are recorded here as well as 8,200 Missing of the Korean War and 2,504 Missing from the Vietnam War.

The 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 volcanic 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



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

ULTIMATE SACRIFICE FOR LIBERATION OF THE MARIANAS 1941–1945."

The GUADALCANAL AMERICAN MEMORIAL is located on Skyline Drive overlooking the town of Honiara, Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands. It honors those American and Allied servicemen who lost their lives during the Guadalcanal Campaign of World War II (7 August 1942–9 February 1943). The Memorial consists of a suitably inscribed central pylon four feet square rising 24 feet above its base. Four radiating directional walls point toward major battle sites. Descriptions of the battles are inscribed on the walls. Both the walls and the pylon are constructed of Red Calca granite.

CABANATUAN MEMORIAL is located 85 miles north of Manila, approximately 5 miles south of the city of Cabanatuan, Luzon, Republic of the Philippines. It marks the site of the Japanese Cabanatuan Prisoner of War Camp where approximately 20,000 American servicemen and civilians were held captive from 1942 to 1945, after the fall of the Philippine Islands

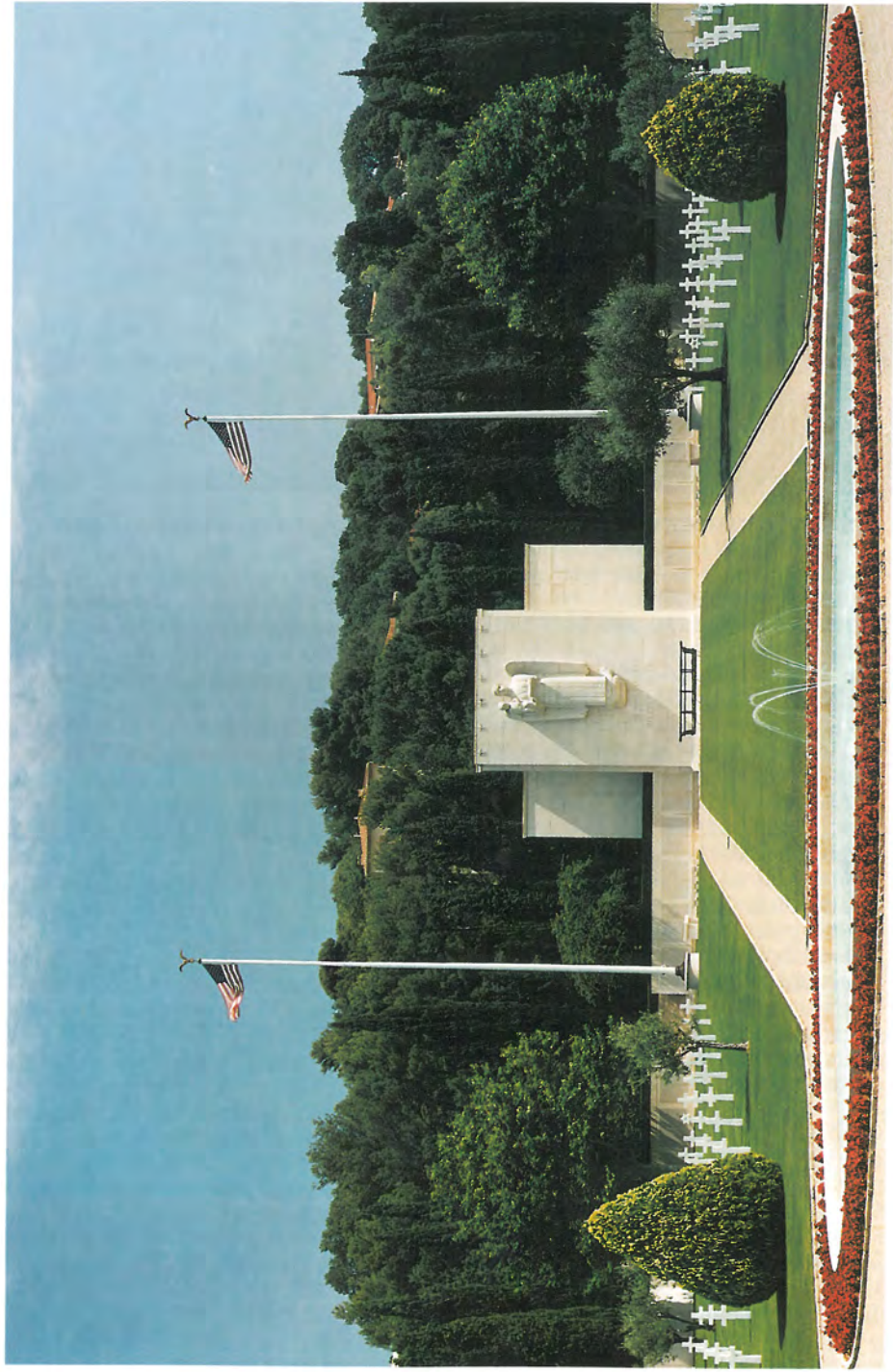
during World War II. The Memorial also honors the heroic sacrifices made by Filipino servicemen and civilians in a mutual quest for honor, freedom and peace.

The memorial consists of a 90-foot concrete base in the center of which rests a marble altar. It is surrounded on three sides by a fence of steel rods and on the fourth by a Wall of Honor upon which are inscribed the names of the approximately 3,000 Americans who lost their lives while being held captive.

Co-located on the site are the West Point Monument, which pays homage to the 170 American and 6 Filipino graduates of the U.S. Military Academy who lost their lives during the defense of the Philippines or while prisoner of war at Cabanatuan and the Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor (a Filipino veterans organization) memorial which salutes their American fallen comrades.

## POINTE DU HOC MONUMENT

Following World War II, the French erected a monument at Pointe du Hoc on the right flank of Omaha



*Rhone American Cemetery and Memorial, Draguignan, Var, France*



*Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery, Romagne, Meuse, France*



Beach, overlooking the English Channel 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 counterattacks 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 Virginia Fabregas, Colonia San Rafael, about 2 miles west of the Metropolitan 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, Republic of Panama, just off Avenue Omar Torrijos Herrera between the Panama Canal Railway Company Train Station and the Ciudad Del Saber (former Fort Clayton). To reach the cemetery, turn right on Calle Rufina Alfaro at the Crossroads Bible Church and proceed about one-half mile to the cemetery. Taxi and bus service to the cemetery are available from Panama City. There are 5,189 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.

### KOREAN WAR VETERANS MEMORIAL

The Korean War Veterans Memorial,

located on the National Mall in Washington, DC, was dedicated on 27 July 1995. The Memorial commemorates the sacrifices of the 5.8 million Americans who served during the three-year period of the Korean War. The war was one of the most hard fought in our history. During its relatively short duration, 25 June 1950–27 July 1953, 33,686 Americans were battle dead; 8,200 of those killed in action were classified as missing in action (and presumed dead), or lost or buried at sea. An additional 92,134 Americans were wounded during the conflict. An integral part of the Memorial is the Korean War Honor Roll, an interactive automated database, containing the names of those U.S. military personnel who died world-wide during the war.

### SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC

Upon request, and without cost, the following information and services are provided to family members and friends of those interred or commemorated at ABMC's cemeteries and memorials:

- name, location and general information about the cemetery, monument or memorial;
- plot, row and grave number and, if applicable, memorialization site;
- authorization for issuance of fee-free passports for members of the immediate family traveling overseas specifically to visit an ABMC grave or memorialization site;
- best route and modes of travel in-country to cemetery or memorial site;
- general information about accommodations in the vicinity of the cemetery or memorial;
- arrangement for floral decoration of a grave or memorialization site. (Weather permitting, a color polaroid photograph of the floral decoration in place is provided to the donor).



*Decorated Gravesite of a World War II "Unknown"*

## THE AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MARCH 1923



### UNITED STATES OFFICE

American Battle Monuments Commission  
Court House Plaza II  
Suite 500  
2300 Clarendon Boulevard  
Arlington, VA 22201  
Telephone: (703) 696-6897  
(703) 696-6896  
FAX: (703) 696-6666

### MEDITERRANEAN OFFICE

Street Address:  
Via Cavour, 275  
00184 Rome, Italy  
Mailing Address:  
American Battle Monuments Commission  
American Embassy  
PSC 59, Box 11  
APO AE 09624  
Telephone: (011-39) 06-4824-157  
06-4890-3685 (from U.S.)  
06-4824-157 (within Italy)  
FAX: (011-39) 6-487-1624

### EUROPEAN OFFICE

Street Address:  
68, rue du 19 Janvier  
92380 - Garches, France  
Mailing Address:  
American Battle Monuments Commission  
American Embassy - Paris  
PSC 116  
APO AE 09777  
Telephone: (011-33) 1-4701-1976 (from U.S.)  
33-0-1-4701-1976 (within France)  
(00-33) 1-4701-1976 (from other  
European Countries)

### PHILIPPINE OFFICE

Street Address:  
Manila American Cemetery  
and Memorial  
Fort Bonifacio, McKinley Road  
Makati City, The Philippines  
Mailing Address:  
Manila American Cemetery  
PSC 513, Box 5  
FPO AP 96515-1800  
Telephone: (011-632) 844-0212 (from U.S.)  
844-0212 (from Metro-Manila)  
FAX: (011-632) 812-4717





*Suresnes American Cemetery and Memorial, Seine, France*