

Oise-Aisne American Cemetery and Memorial

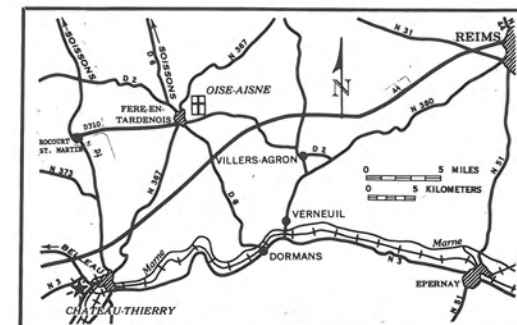


The American Battle Monuments Commission



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 the Metz/Nancy toll route A-4 and leave at the Chateau-Thierry exit (49.5 miles/80 kilometers), turn left onto Highway D-1, continue to Fere-en-Tardenois (12 miles/20

kilometers), and turn right onto Highway 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 good restaurants are available in Chateau-Thierry (7 hotels and 9 restaurants), Fere-en-Tardenois (2 hotels and 3 restaurants). Excellent hotels and fine restaurants are also available in Reims, Soissons and Epernay.



Cemetery Entrance

HOURS

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

SUMMER (16 April–30 September)

9:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.

WINTER (1 October–15 April)

9:00 a.m.–5:00 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 memorialization sites.

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 27 May 1918, the Germans attacked in strength between Berry-au-Bac and Anizy-le-Chateau, surprising the French completely. By noon, on captured bridges, German forces had crossed the Aisne River 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 from every quarter, Allied reserves were rushed to the Aisne-Marne front and the French government prepared to flee Paris for Bordeaux in the south. On 31 May, 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, northwest of Chateau-Thierry, deployed across the main route to Paris 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 9 June. 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,

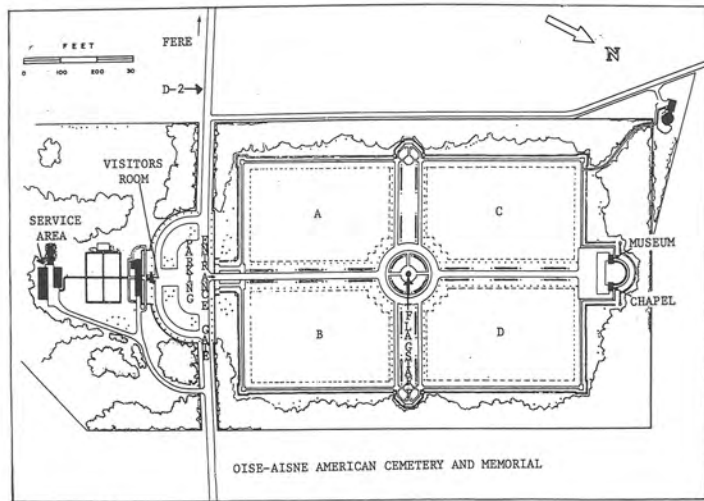
under the command of General John J. Pershing, were ready for combat. (These statistics did not reveal the strength of American forces completely as American divisions were larger and had twice the fire power of French, British and German divisions.) Capitalizing on availability of fresh American troops, Marshal Ferdinand Foch, the Allied Commander-in-Chief, included in his counterattack plans an assault against the western face of the Aisne-Marne salient by two American divisions.

On 15 July 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, on 17 July, to terminate their offensive without attaining any of their objectives.

The following day, on 18 July, 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 4 August, when Allied troops reached the south bank of the Vesle River. The counterattack was terminated officially on 6 August 1918. Not only had a serious threat to Paris been removed, but important railroads were freed once again for Allied

use. Marshal Henri Petain, Commander-in-Chief of the French Armies, 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 8 August, 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 28 August to 1 September, 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 8 September, 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 16 September 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



Location of Cemetery Features

middle of October when it was given a rest. It reentered battle on 5 November 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 George Gibbs, Jr. The consulting architect for the American Battle Monuments Commission was 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 on 2 August 1918 by the 42d Division as a temporary battlefield cemetery, 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 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



View down Mall to Memorial



Cul-de-Sac at End of Cross-Axis Mall



The Memorial



Altar on Terrace of Peristyle

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 Superintendent'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 flagstaff 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 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



Entrance to Chapel

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 ALL 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.

THE CHAPEL

The rectangular stone chapel on the 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



Interior of Museum

fascas, 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. At the altar base rests the Tablets of Moses.

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 con-

struction 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 displayed from bronze standards on the walls on both sides of the walnut bench.

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 divi-



Map of Aisne-Marne Region on Museum Wall

sions fought during the Oise-Aisne Offensive and the Second Battle of the Marne, which 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, 597 are Unknowns, i. e., those who 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.



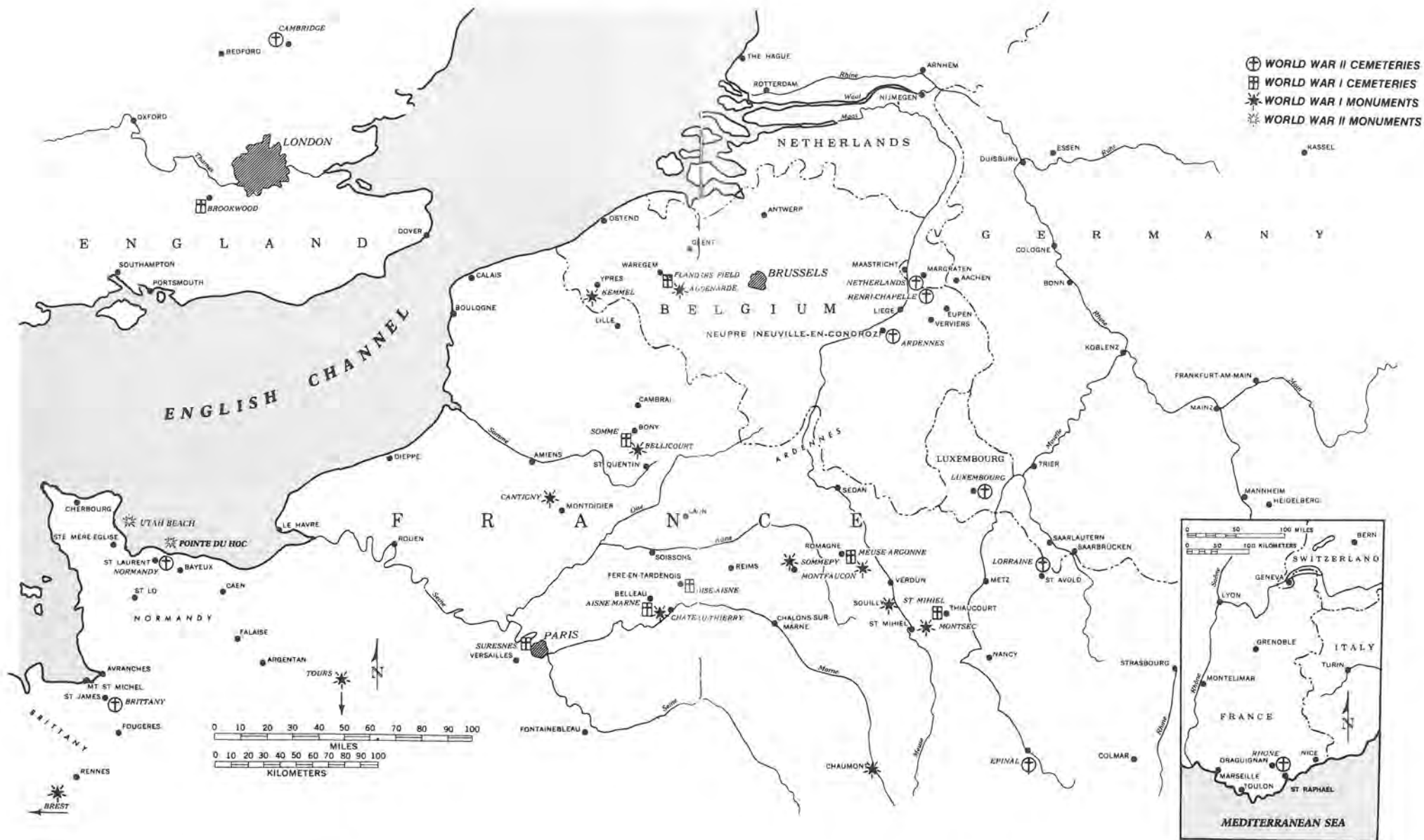
St. Mihiel American Cemetery, Thiaucourt, France

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





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 on the battlefields and elsewhere, to record the achievements of our

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

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

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 Kimmel, 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	8,196	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	86,729	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 land-owners.

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 WWI 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, just off Gaillard Highway between the Corozal Railroad Station and Fort Clayton. To reach the cemetery, follow Gaillard Highway north from Panama City, turn right on Rybicki Road, and proceed about one-half mile to the cemetery. Taxi and bus service to the cemetery are available from Panama City. There are 5,163 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, 33,700 Americans were killed in action; 8,200 of those killed in action were classified as missing in action (and presumed dead), or lost or buried at sea. An additional 103,000 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



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Suresnes American Cemetery and Memorial, Seine, France