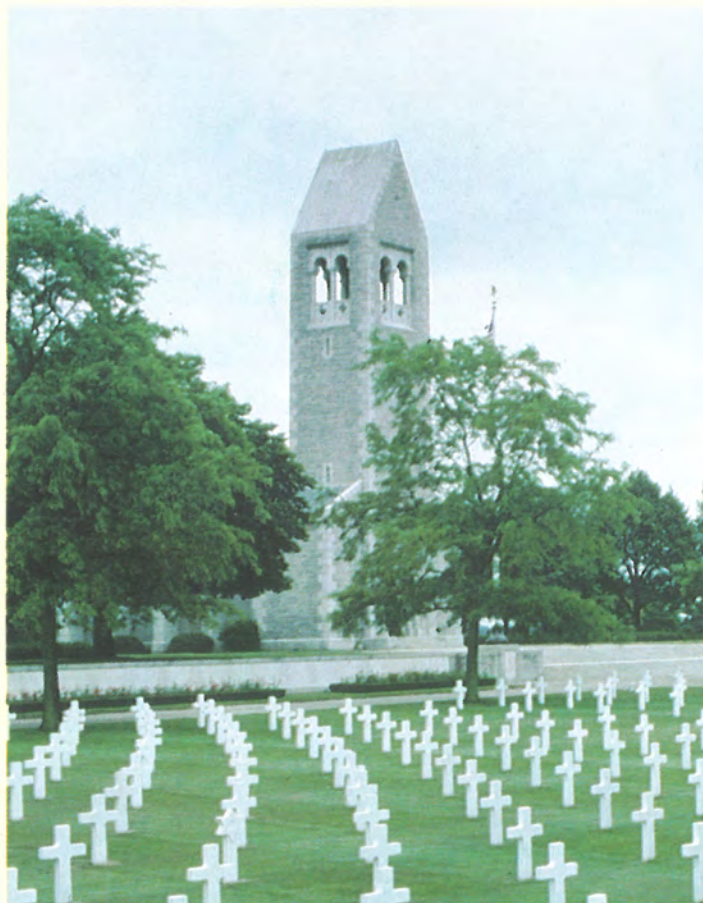


# Brittany American Cemetery and Memorial

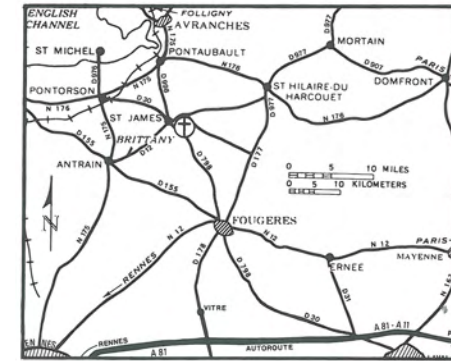


**The American Battle Monuments Commission**



View of Altar in Chapel

## Brittany American Cemetery and Memorial



### LOCATION

The Brittany American Cemetery and Memorial is situated about one mile southeast of the town of St. James, Manche, France on highway D-250. St. James lies 12 miles/19 kilometers south of Avranches, 9 miles/15 kilometers southeast of Pontorson, 15 miles/25 kilometers southeast of Mont St. Michel and 14 miles/22 kilometers north of Fougères. It may be reached by automobile from Paris via toll highway

A-11 to Laval, then D-31 to Ernée, N-12 to Fougères, and finally D-798 to St. James, a total distance of 220 miles/354 kilometers from Paris.

The cemetery is reached by rail, bus and taxi. From Paris, Montparnasse station, via the high speed train (TGV) to Laval, where travelers change to SNCF bus to Fougères and finally from there to St. James by taxi.

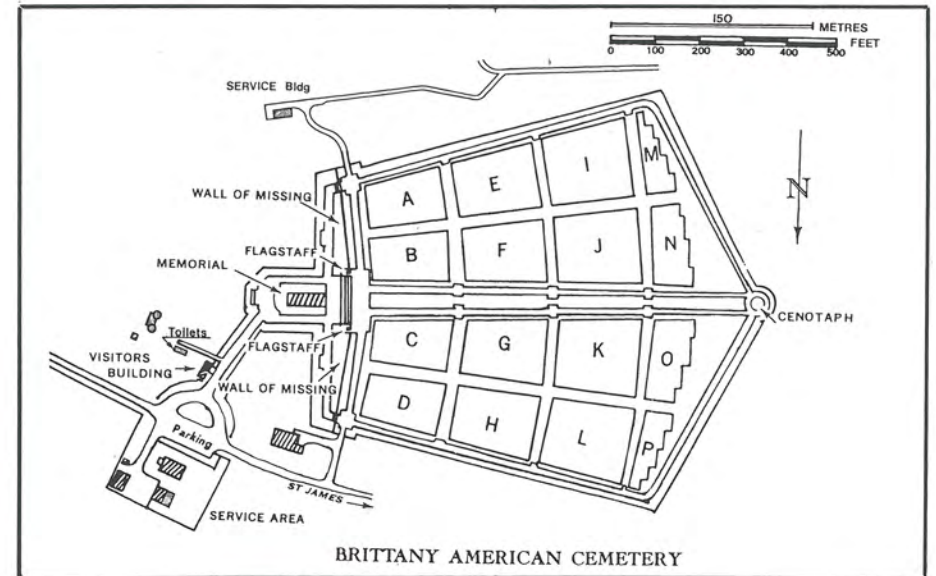
St. James, Avranches, Pontorson, Mont St. Michel and Fougères have adequate hotel accommodations.



Entrance to Cemetery



Aerial View of Cemetery



BRITTANY AMERICAN CEMETERY

Location of Cemetery Features

## HOURS

The cemetery is open daily to the public as follows:

SUMMER (16 April–30 September)

8:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m. — daily

WINTER (1 October–15 April)

8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. — daily

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

## HISTORY

Ground combat in northwestern France commenced with the Allied landings on the beaches of Normandy, 6 June 1944. During the early morning hours of darkness, three airborne divisions (the British 6th and the U.S. 82d and 101st) were dropped in the rear of the beach areas to cover deployment of the seaborne assault forces. Simultaneously,

Allied naval forces swept the English Channel of mines and preceded the assault vessels to the landing areas. At 0630 hours, under the cover of intense naval and air bombardment, six U.S., British and Canadian divisions began landing on Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno and Sword beaches in the greatest amphibious assault of recorded history.

The U.S. 4th Division pushed rapidly inland from Utah Beach to join the previously dropped airborne divisions. Its early success and light casualties contrasted sharply with those of the U.S. 1st and 29th Divisions on Omaha Beach to the east, where the enemy resisted with every device and weapon at his disposal. The configuration of Omaha Beach alone presented a major obstacle. Instead of sloping gently from the high ground to its rear, the beach area terminated in precipitous sandy bluffs. U.S. troops had to cross an open area varying in width from a few yards at each end to about 200

yards in the center, and then attack up the steep bluffs to the plateau on which the Normandy American Cemetery now stands. The only concealment available was patches of tall marsh grass. Fighting was bitter and casualties heavy. Nevertheless, before D-Day was over, the U.S. 1st Division had taken the high ground to its front. To the east on Gold, Juno and Sword landing beaches, the British and Canadian divisions forged steadily ahead. Under the cover of continuous naval gunfire and air support, the landings' first objective, to link together the individual beachheads, was accomplished within a week. During the same period, temporary anchorages and artificial harbors were created off the beachhead area by sinking ships and anchoring prefabricated concrete caissons to the channel floor, to facilitate the unloading of troops and supplies. As a result, the Allies were able to reinforce and increase the size and strength of their Armies rapidly. The second objective of the landings was to clear the Cotentin Peninsula with its port of Cherbourg and capture Caen and St. Lô. On 26 June, American troops freed Cherbourg; 13 days later on 9 July, British and Canadian troops fought their way into Caen; and on 18 July 1944, American troops took St. Lô, accomplishing the second objective. The final objective was to break through the ring of defenses that the enemy had established around the beaches. The stage was set for the breakout with a paralyzing air bombardment on 25 July by the U.S. Eighth and Ninth Air Forces and the Royal Air Force along a five-mile front west of St. Lô. Aided by British forces pinning down the enemy in the eastern portion of the beach area toward Caen, the U.S. First Army stormed out of the beachhead liberating Coutances three days

later. Within a week, the newly-activated U.S. Third Army had cleared Avranches and was advancing toward Paris on a broad front with the U.S. First Army. The two armies fanned out westward toward Brest, southward toward the Loire and eastward toward the Seine. On 7 August 1944, one week after the opening of the Avranches gap, a powerful counterattack was launched by the enemy, in an attempt to cut the columns of the advancing U.S. First and Third Armies. After the enemy's initial success in the region of Mortain, the U.S. First Army was able to stem the counterattack and push back enemy forces.

In mid-August, enemy forces were threatened with encirclement by the U.S. Third Army which had turned northward from Le Mans, to meet the Canadian Army advancing southward from its beachhead. Despite desperate resistance by the enemy to prevent encirclement, the two Allied armies met at Chambois on 21 August. Enemy forces had the choice of remaining in the Falaise pocket or fleeing toward the Seine River in disorder. In a matter of days, U.S. Third Army troops were in the outskirts of Paris, liberating the city on 25 August 1944.

While these actions were taking place, the newly-formed U.S. Ninth Army relieved the U.S. Third Army units that had remained in Brittany and took over their mission of containing the strong enemy garrisons which still held out there. Although stubbornly contested, St. Malo fell to U.S. forces on 1 September and Brest on 18 September 1944. At this time, most of the U.S. Ninth Army was ordered to the German border where enemy resistance was stiffening. Some U.S. Ninth Army units remained to contain the enemy garrisons



*Memorial Chapel — Rear View*

sons at Lorient and St. Nazaire which did not surrender until 10 and 11 May 1945, respectively.

#### **SITE**

The Brittany American Cemetery, 28 acres in extent, lies among the hedgerows in rolling farm country near the border between the Brittany and Normandy regions of France. It is one of fourteen permanent American World War II military cemetery memorials erected by the American Battle Monuments Commission on foreign soil. The site was liberated on 2 August 1944 by the U.S. 8th Infantry Division; a temporary military cemetery was established on it three days later. Subsequently, the site was selected to be one of fourteen permanent American World War II military cemeteries on foreign soil. After the war, when the temporary cemeteries were being disestablished by the

American Graves Registration Service, the remains of American military Dead whose next of kin had requested interment on foreign soil were moved from the temporary cemeteries to one of the permanent cemetery sites, usually the one closest to the temporary location. The 4,410 American military Dead buried in the Brittany American Cemetery lost their lives in the area of northwestern France extending from the beachhead westward to Brest and eastward to the Seine and represent 43 percent of the burials originally made in the region. They were interred there by the American Graves Registration Service in the distinctive grave patterns proposed by the cemetery's architect and approved by this Commission. Most of them died in the fighting in and around St. Lô.

The design and construction of all cemetery facilities in the permanent



*View of Mall with Memorial Chapel in Background*



*Cenotaph at West End of Mall*

World War I and II cemeteries were the responsibility of the American Battle Monuments Commission, i.e., the memorial, chapel, visitors' building, Superintendent's quarters, service facilities, paths, roads and walls. The Commission was also responsible for the sculptures, landscaping and other improvements. Construction of the permanent cemetery and memorial at Brittany was completed in 1956.

## ARCHITECTS

Architect for the cemetery and its memorial was William T. Aldrich of Boston, Massachusetts. The landscape architects were Shurcliff and Shurcliff, also of Boston.

## GENERAL LAYOUT

The main entrance of the cemetery is located on the south side of Departmental Road D-14 across from the service area and the Superintendent's quarters. A short semi-circular driveway flanked by a low granite wall leads from the highway to the wrought iron main entrance gate with its piers of gray granite. The driveway contains space for limited visitor parking and there is a small parking area across the highway.

Immediately inside the entrance gate, on the left, is the Visitors' Building. A surfaced path, gently curving to the right, leads past the Visitors' Building to the rear of the Memorial Chapel. In front of it is a terrace flanked by two flagpoles. Emanating from each side of the terrace, inset from the base of the flagpole and facing the graves area, is a low stone wall with tablets on which are engraved the names of the servicemen Missing in Action in the region.

Steps lead down from the terrace in front of the chapel to the central mall lined with button boxwoods and

European chestnut trees, which bisects the graves area into two groups of eight plots. At the far (west) end of the mall is a rectangular stone cenotaph.

Inside the main entrance along the perimeter wall to the right is the Assistant Superintendent's quarters.

## THE MEMORIAL

The Memorial Chapel consists of an antechamber and tower, museum room and chancel. Typical of the ecclesiastical architecture of the region, it is Romanesque in design.

## THE EXTERIOR

The exterior of the memorial is constructed of local La Pyrie granite. At its east end is a sculpture group, "Youth Triumphant Over Evil," designed by Lee Lawrie of Easton, Maryland and executed in Chauvigny limestone from the Poitiers region by Jean Juge of Paris. Carved in its granite base is the inscription: I HAVE FOUGHT A GOOD FIGHT ☆ I HAVE FINISHED MY COURSE ☆ I HAVE KEPT THE FAITH (2 Timothy IV:7).

Over the entrance door is a sculpture group, also designed by Lee Lawrie and executed by Jean Juge, consisting of an eagle, shield, stars, laurel and arrows representing the Great Seal of the United States; the shield is flanked by two floating angels representing victory. The one to the left of the observer, wearing the Columbian cap, is in mourning. She holds in her right hand the laurel of the brave, and in her left hand the palm of sacrifice. The figure to the right is a triumphant Victory, clothed in mail and wearing a helmet. Her right hand holds a sword, her left hand a trumpet. Below the sculpture over the tympanum is the inscription: IN MEMORY OF THE VALOR AND THE SACRIFICES WHICH CONSECRATE THIS SOIL.

## ANTECHAMBER

Inside the main entrance door to the right of the antechamber is a small room with a stained-glass window in the north wall containing the figure of St. James of Compostello. On the east wall is engraved the dedicatory inscription in French and English, of which this is the English version:

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.

On the opposite wall is this prayer:

O GOD WHO ART THE AUTHOR OF PEACE AND LOVER OF CONCORD, DEFEND US THY HUMBLE SERVANTS IN ALL ASSAULTS OF OUR ENEMIES, THAT WE SURELY TRUSTING IN THY DEFENSE MAY NOT FEAR THE POWER OF ANY ADVERSARIES.

In the tympanum above the main entrance door is a stained-glass window containing the emblem of SHAEF — the Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force.

To the left of the antechamber is the stairway leading to the tower. The tower has an overall height of 99 feet/30.2 meters. The lookout platform, 63 feet/19.2 meters above the ground, is reached from the antechamber by a stairway of 98 steps and landings. From the platform Mont St. Michel, 15 miles/24 kilometers to the northwest, is visible on clear days. The tower also affords an impressive view of the fanshaped pattern of the headstones extending before the memorial, as well as of the peaceful surrounding countryside.

## MUSEUM ROOM

Beyond the antechamber is the museum room. Projecting from high

on its north and south walls are the flags of the following components of our military services during World War II: Air Corps; Armor; Cavalry; Chemical Warfare Service; Coast Artillery Corps; Corps of Engineers; Field Artillery; Chaplains, Christian; Chaplains, Jewish; Infantry; Medical Department; Navy Artillery Battalion; Navy Infantry Battalion; Ordnance Department; Quartermaster Corps and Signal Corps.

Immediately above the entrance door in the museum room are the American, British and French national flags, and the engraved inscription: DUTY ☆ HONOR ☆ COUNTRY.

Within the museum room, on the interior wall flanking the doorway to the south, is engraved this extract from President Franklin D. Roosevelt's D-Day prayer on the occasion of the invasion of Normandy:

ALMIGHTY GOD: OUR SONS, PRIDE OF OUR NATION, THIS DAY HAVE SET UPON A MIGHTY ENDEAVOR, A STRUGGLE TO PRESERVE OUR REPUBLIC, OUR RELIGION, AND OUR CIVILIZATION.

THEY WILL BE SORE TRIED, BY NIGHT AND BY DAY, WITHOUT REST — UNTIL THE VICTORY IS WON. SOME WILL NEVER RETURN. EMBRACE THESE, FATHER, AND RECEIVE THEM, THY HEROIC SERVANTS, INTO THY KINGDOM.

On the interior wall north of the doorway is engraved this extract from General Eisenhower's final report to the Combined Chiefs of Staff:

MORE IMPORTANT THAN WEAPONS WAS THE INDOMITABLE FIGHTING SPIRIT OF THE MEN WHO WIELDED THEM. THE COURAGE AND DEVOTION TO DUTY WHICH THEY EXHIBITED THROUGHOUT THE CAMPAIGN WERE UNSURPASSABLE.

TO THOSE WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES, AND TO THOSE WHO BEAR THE WOUNDS OF BATTLE WE, THEIR COMRADES IN ARMS, RENDER MOST GRATEFUL AND HUMBLE TRIBUTE.



*Youth Triumphing over Evil*





*Breakout from the Beachhead and Advance to the Seine*

Windows of stained-glass, four on each side, portray the coats of arms of eight towns or cities liberated during these operations; viz, Carentan, Cherbourg, St. Lô, Mont St. Michel, Mortain, Paris, Chartres and Brest. Each window also illustrates a characteristic feature of the respective towns. The stained-glass windows throughout the memorial were designed and fabricated by Francois Lorin of Chartres, France.

On the north wall of the museum is the map, "The Breakout from the Beachhead and Advance to the Seine." Both this map and the operations map on the south wall were designed by Edward Shenton of West Chester, Pennsylvania, and fabricated by the Earley Studios of Roslyn, Virginia. The backgrounds are colored concretes with various brilliantly-colored glass aggregates into which have been set bronze lettering, other metal features, enameled panels, etc. The map, "The Breakout from the Beachhead and Advance to the Seine," is designed in perspective as seen from the

south. It is flanked on its west end by the following explanatory inscription in English, on its east end by a similar explanatory inscription in French:

ON 6 JUNE 1944, UNITED STATES AND BRITISH COMMONWEALTH FORCES CROSSED THE ENGLISH CHANNEL TO ENTER OCCUPIED FRANCE. THIS WAS THE CULMINATION OF MONTHS OF PREPARATION AND NATIONWIDE EFFORT. AS THE VAST ARMADA MOVED TOWARD THE NORMANDY BEACHES, ONE BRITISH AND TWO AMERICAN AIRBORNE DIVISIONS DROPPED IN THE DARKNESS TO COVER THE DEPLOYMENT FROM THE BEACHES. AT 0630 HOURS, UNDER COVER OF CONCENTRATED AERIAL AND NAVAL BOMBARDMENT, THREE AMERICAN, ONE CANADIAN, AND TWO BRITISH DIVISIONS STORMED ASHORE.

THE ASSAULTING FORCES, DESPITE DESPERATE RESISTANCE, DROVE VALIANTLY INLAND AND WITHIN A WEEK LINKED UP THE INDIVIDUAL BEACHES. TURNING NORTH, AMERICAN UNITS, AIDED BY NAVAL AND AIR BOMBARDMENT, CAPTURED CHERBOURG WHILE OTHER ALLIED FORCES HACKED OUT THE BEACHHEAD TO A DEPTH OF 20



*Military Operation in Western Europe*

MILES AGAINST TENACIOUS OPPOSITION IN THE AGGRESSIVELY DEFENDED HEDGEROWS. THE ENEMY'S EFFORTS TO RUSH REINFORCEMENTS TO HIS MENACED ARMIES WERE PERSISTENTLY DISRUPTED BY ATTACKS BY THE U.S. EIGHTH AND NINTH AIR FORCES AND THE ROYAL AIR FORCE, EXTENDING FAR TO HIS REAR, ON BRIDGES, HIGHWAYS, AND RAILROADS.

ON 25 JULY THE U.S. FIRST ARMY LAUNCHED THE ATTACK TO BREAK OUT OF THE BEACHHEAD. BLASTED ALONG A FIVE-MILE FRONT WEST OF ST. LÔ BY A PARALYZING AIR BOMBARDMENT, THE ENEMY GAVE WAY BEFORE THE FURIOUS GROUND ASSAULT WHICH FOLLOWED. JOINING IN THE ATTACK, THE U.S. THIRD ARMY THRUST RAPIDLY SOUTHWARD TOWARD THE LOIRE. NEAR MORTAIN A POWERFUL COUNTERATTACK, INTENDED BY THE GERMANS TO CUT OFF OUR ADVANCING COLUMNS, WAS REPULSED WITH HEAVY LOSSES. THEN, WHILE THE ARMIES IN THE BEACHHEAD CONTINUED TO PRESS FORWARD, AMERICAN FORCES SWUNG UP FROM THE SOUTH TOWARD ARGENTAN. THREATENED WITH ENCIRCLEMENT, POUNDED INCESSANTLY BY WAVES OF AIRCRAFT, THE ENEMY STROVE DESPER-

ATELY TO ESCAPE TO THE EAST BUT BY 21 AUGUST HIS TROOPS IN THE FALAISE POCKET HAD BEEN ANNIHILATED AS A FIGHTING FORCE.

AS THE ALLIED FORCES STEADILY GREW IN STRENGTH THEIR SWEEP ACROSS FRANCE GAINED MOMENTUM. BY 25 AUGUST THEY HAD CROSSED THE SEINE, HAD LIBERATED PARIS, AND WERE IN FULL PURSUIT TOWARD THE GERMAN BORDER.

ALREADY THE UNITED STATES AND ALLIED NAVIES HAD TRANSPORTED OR ESCORTED TO NORMANDY MORE THAN 3,000,000 TONS OF SUPPLIES AND 2,000,000 TROOPS TOGETHER WITH THEIR ARTILLERY, TANKS, AND VEHICLES.

Beneath each of these inscriptions is a set of three key maps, "The War Against Germany" on the west and "The War Against Japan" on the east.

On the south wall is the map, "Military Operations in Western Europe" showing the progress of the military operations in northern France and northwest Europe from the landings in Normandy to the end of the war, together with a flanking descriptive text in English and



French, of which the following is the English version at the east end:

IN THE WAKE OF THE SWIFT ALLIED ADVANCE ACROSS NORTHERN FRANCE STRONG ENEMY GARRISONS STUBBORNLY CLUNG TO MANY LARGE SEAPORTS. THUS DENIED ADEQUATE HARBORS THE ALLIES HAD NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO UNLOAD THEIR SUPPLIES AND REINFORCEMENTS OVER THE NORMANDY BEACHES OR THROUGH THE SINGLE CRIPPLED PORT OF CHERBOURG. THE EFFICIENT PERFORMANCE OF THE TREMENDOUS TASKS PLACED UPON SUPPLY PERSONNEL OF THE ARMY AND NAVY WAS A VITAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE SWEEPING VICTORY WHICH LIBERATED FRANCE.

ALTHOUGH HANDICAPPED BY RAPIDLY LENGTHENING SUPPLY LINES, THE ALLIED FORCES, AIDED BY AIR LIFT, MAINTAINED THEIR VIGOROUS PURSUIT OF THE FLEEING ENEMY. BY MID-SEPTEMBER 1944 THE BRITISH AND CANADIANS HAD CLEARED THE CHANNEL COAST, EXCEPT FOR A FEW ISOLATED PORTS, HAD CAPTURED THE CITY OF ANTWERP, AND HAD ENTERED HOLLAND. THE U.S. FIRST ARMY OF THE 12TH ARMY GROUP HAD SWEEPED THROUGH FRANCE, BELGIUM AND LUXEMBOURG, AND WAS STANDING ON THE THRESHOLD OF GERMANY, WHILE THE U.S. THIRD ARMY IN A SWIFT ADVANCE HAD REACHED THE MOSELLE. ON THE RIGHT FLANK, THE 6TH ARMY GROUP (U.S. SEVENTH AND FRENCH FIRST ARMIES), ROLLING NORTHWARD FROM THE BEACHES OF SOUTHERN FRANCE, HAD JOINED FORCES WITH THE U.S. THIRD ARMY AT SOMBERNON. IN BRITANNY THE RECENTLY ACTIVATED U.S. NINTH ARMY, ASSISTED BY AIR AND NAVAL BOMBARDMENT, WAS BESIEGING BREST WHOSE GARRISON SURRENDERED ON 18 SEPTEMBER.

THE NEXT THREE MONTHS SAW BITTER FIGHTING IN THE EFFORT TO BREAK THROUGH THE GERMAN FRONTIER DEFENSES. ON 11 SEPTEMBER THE ALLIED ARMIES SET FOOT ON GERMAN SOIL. ON 17 SEPTEMBER THE ALLIED FIRST AIRBORNE ARMY DROPPED IN THE EINDHOVEN-ARNHEM AREA IN A GALLANT BUT UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT TO OUT-

FLANK THE FORTIFIED SIEGFRIED LINE. BY DOGGED EFFORT THE BRITISH SECOND ARMY, THE CANADIAN FIRST ARMY, AND THE NEWLY ARRIVED U.S. NINTH ARMY REACHED THE MEUSE AND ROER RIVERS. THE U.S. FIRST ARMY FOUGHT ITS WAY THROUGH THE SIEGFRIED LINE TO REACH AACHEN AND THE HURTGEN FOREST. THE FORTRESS OF METZ FELL AS THE U.S. THIRD ARMY PUSHED TO THE SAAR. FARTHER SOUTH THE 6TH ARMY GROUP CAPTURED STRASBOURG AND MULHOUSE.

ON 16 DECEMBER THE ENEMY MADE HIS LAST DESPERATE EFFORT TO STAVE OFF DISASTER. PREPARED IN GREATEST SECRECY AND LAUNCHED UNDER COVER OF FOG AND RAIN, HIS ATTACK IN THE ARDENNES WAS INITIALLY SUCCESSFUL. PROMPT DECISIVE MEASURES AND THE SUPERB FIGHTING QUALITIES OF AMERICAN SOLDIERS AND AIRMEN TURNED THE GERMAN ADVANCE INTO RETREAT. THE CONCURRENT GERMAN OFFENSIVE BETWEEN SAARBRUCKEN AND COLMAR MET THE SAME FATE.

DURING FEBRUARY AND EARLY MARCH THE WEST BANK OF THE RHINE WAS CLEARED IN A SERIES OF BRILLIANTLY SUCCESSFUL TACTICAL OPERATIONS. ON 7 MARCH AMERICAN FORCES SEIZED A BRIDGE AT REMAGEN. A SURPRISE CROSSING WAS EFFECTED AT OPPENHEIM ON 22 MARCH. IN THE NEXT TWO DAYS ALLIED TROOPS ASSISTED BY NAVAL LANDING CRAFT STAGED ASSAULT CROSSINGS FARTHER DOWNSTREAM AND THEN SURGED FORWARD TO ISOLATE THE ENTIRE RUHR VALLEY REGION AND ITS DEFENDING FORCES BY A DOUBLE ENVELOPMENT. WITH AIR AND GROUND FORCES OPERATING AS A TEAM THE ALLIED FORCES SWEEP ACROSS GERMANY TO MEET THE ADVANCING TROOPS OF THE U.S.S.R. AT THE ELBE, ENTER CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND AUSTRIA, AND FORCE THE COMPLETE SURRENDER OF ALL GERMAN FORCES CONFRONTING THEM ON 8 MAY, 337 DAYS AFTER THE INITIAL LANDINGS IN NORMANDY.

The map also bears this significant reminder of the part played by the Strategic Air Forces:



*Sculpture over Chapel Door*

FROM 1942 TO 1945 THE UNITED STATES ARMY AIR FORCES AND THE ROYAL AIR FORCE INCESSANTLY ATTACKED DEEP INTO ENEMY TERRITORY TO DISLOCATE AND DESTROY HIS MILITARY AND INDUSTRIAL SYSTEMS.

### CHAPEL

At the east end of the museum, separated from it by a low granite divider and wrought iron gates, is the chancel. The face of the granite divider bears this inscription:

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

The altar in the chancel is of French Harteville Perle limestone from the Juras. High above it is a large stained-glass window in the shape of a sexfoil. Centered in the window is the seal of the United States. Each of the six circular stained-glass areas on the perimeter of the sexfoil contain three stars. Above the window is engraved the inscription from Exodus XVI:7: IN THE MORNING YE SHALL SEE THE GLORY OF THE LORD.

On the wall below the window and above the altar is a blue and gold damask hanging. Centered on the altar is a Latin cross flanked by two candlesticks. At the altar base rests the Tablets of Moses.

### TABLETS OF THE MISSING

Along the gently curving walls emanating from the memorial terrace are inscribed the name, rank, organization, and State of 498 of our Missing:

United States Army and Army	
Air Forces <sup>1</sup> . . . . .	449
United States Navy . . . . .	48
United States Coast Guard . .	1

These men have given their lives in the service of their Country but their remains have not been recovered or if recovered not identified. They came from the District of Columbia, Canada and every State of the Union except Alaska, Hawaii, Nevada and New Hampshire.

On the walls below the flagstaffs is this inscription together with the French translation:

<sup>1</sup> During World War II the Air Forces were part of the Army.

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

These inscription panels are of Beaumont stone from southwestern France.

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.

### GRAVES AREA

There are 4,410 American military personnel buried in the cemetery. Their 4,408 headstones are set in 16 fan-shaped plots, curving from the central mall. These Dead, who gave their lives in our country's service, came from every State in the Union, the District of Columbia, Hawaii, Alaska as well as Canada.

Ninety-five of the headstones mark graves of "Unknowns;" two of these graves contain the remains of two Unknowns that could not be separated.

Here also, in twenty instances, two brothers rest side by side.

At the far (west) end of the mall is a rectangular stone cenotaph of La Pyrie granite designed by Lee Lawrie and executed by the French sculptor, Augustine Beggi. Carved upon it are a torch and laurel wreath in bas relief and the words PRO PATRIA 1941-1945.

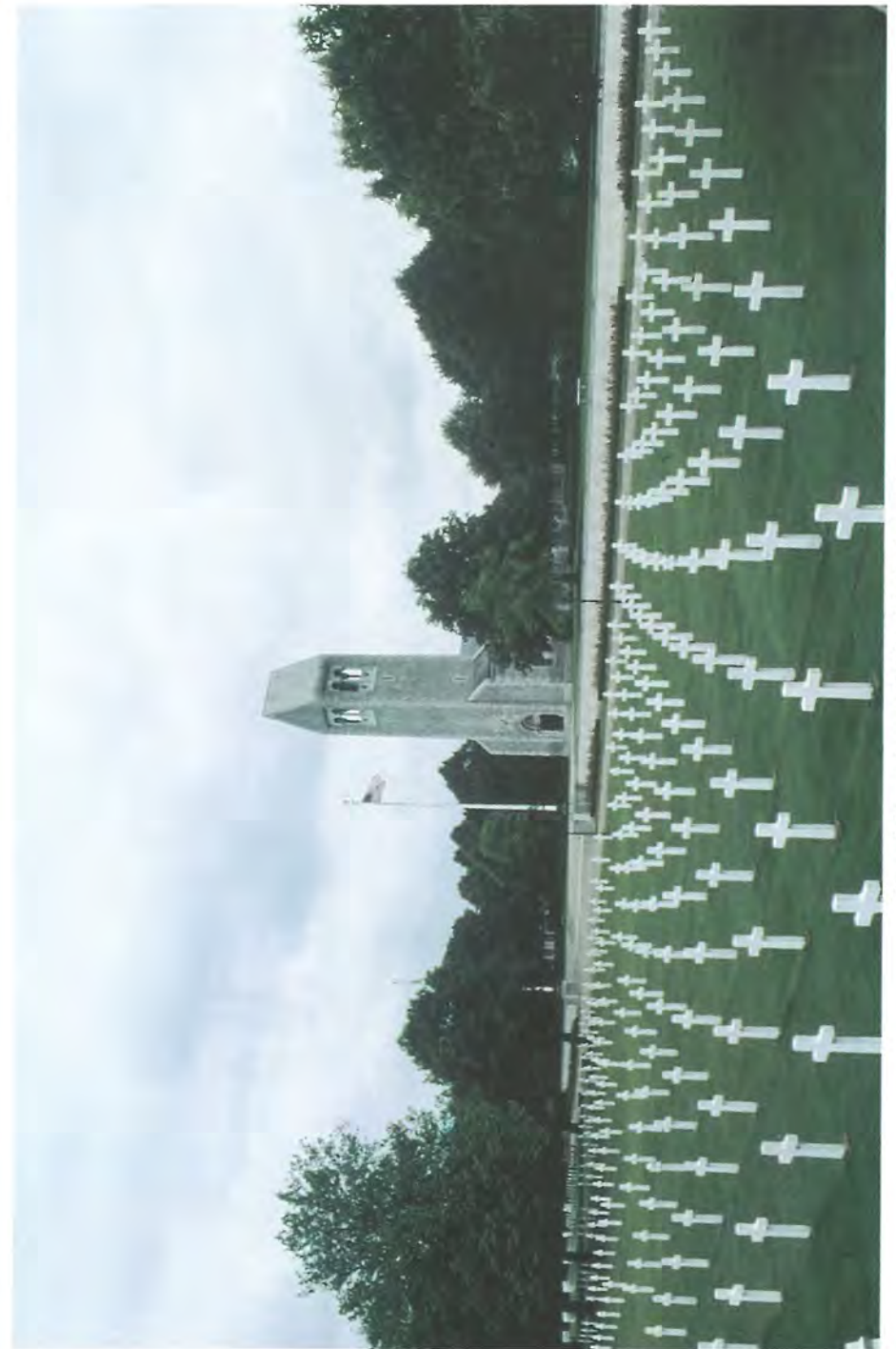
### VISITORS' BUILDING

Immediately inside the main entrance to the cemetery is the Visitors' Building. 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.

### PLANTINGS

The cemetery is surrounded by a Hawthorn (*Crataegus oxyacantha*) hedge with an interior hedge of Boxwood (*Buxus sempervirens*) enclosing the grave plots. The space of varying width between the two hedges is planted with shade trees, both evergreen and deciduous, including Giant Sequoia (*Sequoia gigantea*), White Fir (*Abies concolor*), Norway Spruce (*Picea abies*), Scotch Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*), Holly Oak (*Quercus ilex*), Tulip Tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), Purple Beech (*Fagus sylvatica purpurea*), European Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*), European Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), European Oak (*Quercus robur*), and European Elm (*Ulmus procera*). In the broad grass walks dividing the grave plots are flowering trees which bloom from late spring far into the summer. These include Crabapple (*Malus floribunda*), Double Hawthorn (*Crataegus oxyacantha flora plena*), Pagoda Tree (*Sophora japonica*), Golden Rain Tree (*Koelreuteria paniculata*), and Yellow Wood Tree (*Cladrastis lutea*). The central mall of the cemetery and the perimeter of the grave plots are lined with rows of European Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*). A number of rose beds and blooming shrubs such as rhododendron are grown in various locations and provide a colorful aspect.



View of Graves Area with Chapel in Background



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



<i>World War I</i>	<i>Burials</i>		<i>Missing Commemorated</i>
	<i>Known</i>	<i>Unknown</i>	
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
<b>Totals .....</b>	<b>29,265</b>	<b>1,656</b>	<b>4,452</b>

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, D.C. 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 System, 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:

<i>World War II</i>	<i>Burials</i>		<i>Missing Commemorate</i>
	<i>Known</i>	<i>Unknown</i>	
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	—



Rhone American Cemetery and Memorial, Draguignan, Var, France



Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery, Romagne, Meuse, France

East Coast Memorial, New York City, New York . . .	—	—	4,609
Honolulu Memorial, Honolulu, Hawaii . . . . .	—	—	18,096
West Coast Memorial, San Francisco, California . . . .	—	—	412
Total . . . . .	86,729	6,514	78,976
<i>World War II cemeteries maintained by the National Cemetery System, 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 4,601 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 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 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





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 Italian 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 5,044 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

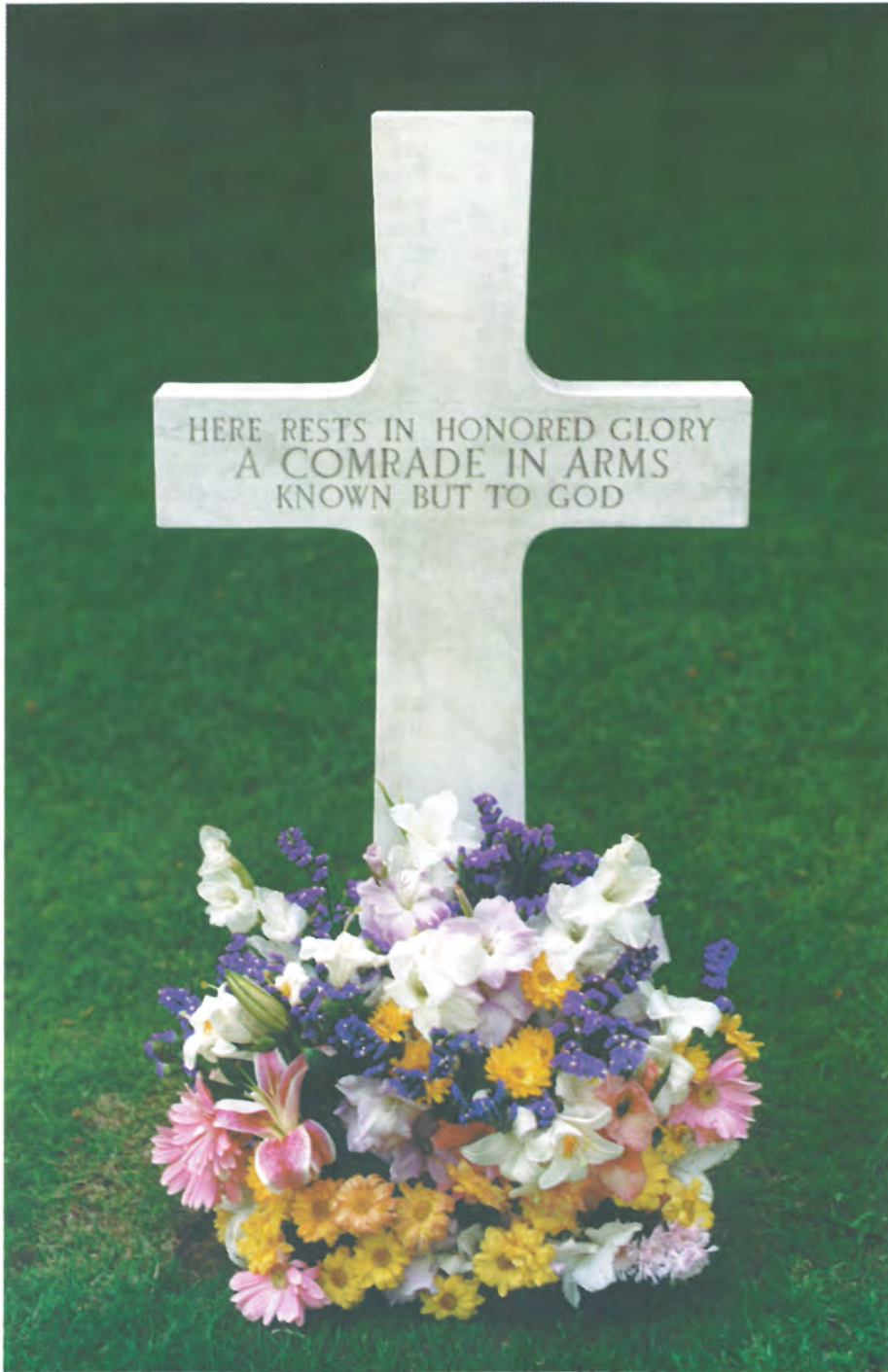
The Korean War Veterans Memorial,

located on the National Mall in Washington, DC, was dedicated on 27 July 1996. 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 sites;
- 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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