

# St. Mihiel American Cemetery and Memorial

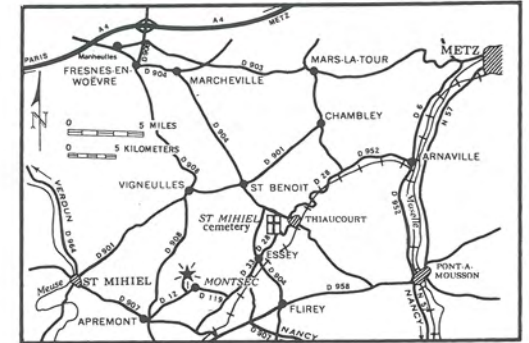


**The American Battle Monuments Commission**



Chapel Interior

## St. Mihiel American Cemetery and Memorial



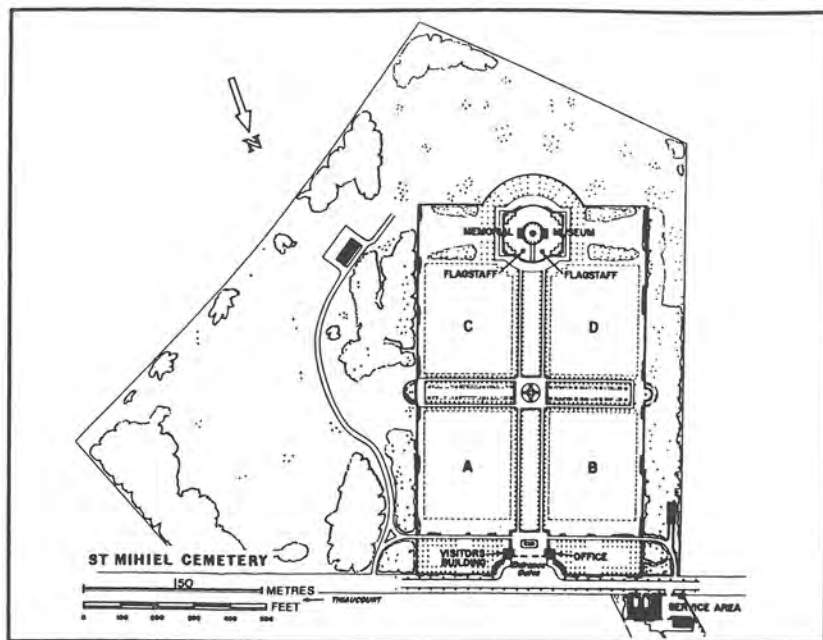
### LOCATION

The St. Mihiel American Cemetery and Memorial is located at the west edge of Thiaucourt, Meurthe-et-Moselle, France. The road from Verdun (29 miles/47 km), through Fresnes-en-Woevre, passes the entrance to the cemetery and continues on to Pont-a-Mousson to Nancy (29 miles/47 km). The cemetery may be reached from Paris by automobile via

toll Autoroute A-4 (190 miles/305 km), to Exit 32, Fresnes-en-Woevre. From the village of Fresnes-en-Woevre, follow directions to Pont-a-Mousson (14 miles/22 km) to the cemetery. The cemetery may also be reached by train (Gare de l'Est) to Toul where taxi services are available. Hotels are available at Pont-a-Mousson, Metz, Nancy and Verdun.



Entrance Gate



Location of Cemetery Features

## 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.)

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

## HISTORY

Toward the end of 1916, French and British commanders on the western front were optimistic concerning a successful conclusion of the war in 1917. Except for the loss of Rumania, events during 1916 had appeared to be working in favor of the Allies,

who had numerical superiority on all fronts.

As if to reinforce Allied optimism, the Germans on the western front began withdrawing some of their forces north of Paris to prepared positions approximately 20 miles to the rear that could be held by fewer divisions. These defensive positions were later to be known as the Hindenburg Line. The Russian Revolution broke out while the German withdrawal north of Paris was still in progress. The revolution delivered a serious blow to Allied plans, as the Russian Army had been counted upon heavily to keep German troops occupied on the eastern front. Although the Russian Army did not collapse immediately, it was apparent that it soon would do so.



Aerial View of Cemetery

On 6 April 1917, the United States entered World War I with no modern equipment and less than 200,000 men under arms scattered from the Mexican border to China and the Philippines. It would take longer for the United States to mobilize, train, ship troops to France and equip and prepare them for combat than for the Russian Army to disintegrate. Despite this realization, the French and British Armies began the offensives that had been planned on the western front prior to the Russian Revolution in March. The initial British assault began on 9 April. It was followed by a French offensive on 16 April. Quickly, the French offensive turned into a disaster leaving the British Army to shoulder the main burden of the war on the western front, until French forces could reorganize and recuperate. On the eastern front, the Russians started to attack but were promptly driven back. Shortly thereafter, an assault by the Germans in the north caused the Russians to seek an armistice.

Although the treaty between Germany and Russia was not signed until March 1918, the Germans began moving divisions from Russia to France as early as November 1917, in an attempt to end the war before sufficient American troops could be brought into action to affect the outcome of the war.

As a consequence, the beginning of 1918 looked far worse for the Allies than the beginning of 1917. To take advantage of the troops that had been moved to France from the eastern front, the Germans launched a series of five powerful offensives on 21 March 1918. The first two offensives caused considerable concern among the Allies who vehemently contended that if American soldiers were not sent immediately as replacements to fill the depleted ranks of their units, the war would be lost. General John J. Pershing, Commander-in-Chief of the American Expeditionary Forces, refused to allow his men to be used piecemeal and in a surprisingly short time or-

ganized, trained and equipped them into effective fighting units. When the French Army found itself in desperate need of assistance during the third and fifth German drives, General Pershing quickly offered American troop units to halt the advancing enemy.

The outstanding achievements of these U.S. troop units are recorded at the Aisne-Marne American Cemetery and Memorial and at the Chateau-Thierry Monument. When the last great German offensive commenced on 15 July east of Chateau-Thierry, it was promptly repulsed in a severe struggle in which American troop units played a leading part. Quickly, a U.S.-French counter-offensive was launched on 18 July at Soissons. The highly successful three-week battle that followed, known officially as the "Aisne-Marne Offensive" but called the "Second Battle of the Marne" by Marshal Ferdinand Foch, Allied Commander-in-Chief, marked the turning point of the war.

Determined to keep the enemy on the defensive, the Allied Commanders-in-Chief, at a conference on 24 July, planned a series of strong offensive operations to maintain the initiative and give the enemy no respite or opportunity to reorganize. Following completion of the Aisne-Marne Offensive, the British, assisted by the French, were given the mission of conducting an offensive in the Amiens sector where the enemy had made such great gains in March and April.

At this conference, General Pershing chose the St. Mihiel sector for an American offensive. The objective of the offensive was a salient projecting 16 miles into the Allied line. Roughly shaped like a triangle, the salient ran from Verdun on the north, south to St. Mihiel and then east to Pont-à-Mousson on the Moselle River. It was

bordered by a line of hills known as the Heights of the Meuse and a succession of marshes and lakes situated across deep ravines and dense forests. In addition to its natural defensive advantages, the salient protected the strategic rail center of Metz and the Briey iron basin so vital to the Germans as a source of raw material for munitions. Offensively, it interrupted French rail communications and constituted a constant threat against Verdun and Nancy. Reduction of the salient was imperative before any large Allied offensive could be launched against Briey and Metz or northward between the Meuse River and Argonne Forest. At the conference, General Pershing insisted that the attack be a United States Army operation with its own sector, under the separate and independent control of the American Commander-in-Chief. When the decision was made, there were over 1,200,000 American soldiers in U.S. troop units widely scattered throughout France, either serving with French or British Armies or training in rear areas. In view of the splendid record that so many of the U.S. units had already achieved in combat, the Allies were forced to agree that a separate U.S. Army should be formed, although they requested that U.S. divisions continue to be permitted to fight with their armies.

The order creating the United States First Army became effective on 10 August 1918; on 30 August, the U.S. First Army took over the St. Mihiel sector. After a series of conferences, the Allies agreed that the St. Mihiel attack should be limited to a reduction of the salient, following which the U.S. First Army would undertake a larger scale offensive on the front between the Meuse River and the Argonne Forest. With the attack at St. Mihiel scheduled for 12



*The Sundial and Surrounding Gardens at the Center of the Cemetery*

September, this would require winning an extraordinarily swift victory there, then concentrating an enormous force to launch a still greater operation 40 miles away, within just two weeks. Never before on the western front had a single army attempted such a colossal task.

At 0500 hours, 12 September 1918, following a four-hour bombardment by heavy artillery, the U.S. I and IV Corps composed of nine U.S. divisions, began the main assault against the southern face of the salient, while the French II Colonial Corps made a holding attack to the south and around the tip of the salient. A secondary assault by the U.S. V Corps was made three hours later against the western face of the salient. Reports were soon received that the enemy was retreating. That evening, the order was issued for U.S. troops to press forward with all possible speed. By the dawn of 13 September, units of the U.S. IV and V Corps met in the center of the salient, cutting off the retreating enemy. By 16 September, the entire salient had been

eliminated. Throughout these operations, the attacking forces were supported by the largest concentration of Allied aircraft ever assembled. The entire reduction of the salient was completed in just four days by which time some of the divisions involved had already been withdrawn to prepare for the Meuse-Argonne battle.

#### SITE

The cemetery, 40½ acres in extent, is located almost at the center of the salient where the majority of the 4,153 military Dead buried there gave their lives. The cemetery was first established as a temporary cemetery by the American Graves Registration Service following the offensive in 1918. After the war, the other temporary cemeteries in the area were discontinued and the military Dead of the region whose next-of-kin requested burial overseas were moved to the St. Mihiel cemetery for permanent interment. It is the third largest of the eight permanent World War I American military cemetery



*View of Graves Area*

memorials in Europe. Post-war administration of the cemetery passed to the American Battle Monuments Commission in 1934.

The Commission, whose functions are described in the latter pages of this booklet, landscaped the grounds and constructed the memorial chapel and other permanent buildings in the cemetery.

### ARCHITECT

Architect for the memorial chapel and other architectural features was Thomas Harlan Ellett of New York City, New York.

### GENERAL LAYOUT

The formal entrance, with its ornamental grill gates and fencing and its gem-like buildings, is of striking beauty and offers an excellent view of the cemetery. To the right of the entrance is the Superintendent's Office; to the left is the Visitors' Building. Both are constructed of Euville limestone. Directly behind these build-

ings is the cemetery proper. Here, in a beautifully landscaped setting, are the graves area and the memorial. The pristine whiteness of the headstones is in striking contrast to the immaculately maintained emerald green lawn.

At the intersection of the central mall and transverse axis in the center of the cemetery is a large sundial of attractive design consisting of a carved stone eagle gnomon on a round base. The shadow cast by the eagle gnomon in relation to the lead Roman numerals set in the flat surface of the base indicates the time of day. Around the circular base of the sundial is carved the inscription:

TIME WILL NOT DIM  
THE GLORY OF THEIR DEEDS

From this point one can view the beautiful perspectives along the two axes of the cemetery. At the west end of the transverse axis is a sculptured stone figure of a youthful American officer, executed by Paul Manship of

New York City, New York, standing in front of a stone cross in his field uniform, with trench helmet in hand and side arms and map case. Above his head is engraved:

IL DORT  
LOIN DES SIENS  
DANS LA DOUCE  
TERRE DE FRANCE

(Translation: He sleeps far from his family in the gentle land of France.)  
And on the pedestal below him:

BLESSED ARE THEY THAT  
HAVE THE HOME LONGING  
FOR THEY SHALL GO HOME

At the opposite end of the transverse axis is an ornamental urn on a semi-circular platform flanked by two beautiful yews. From this platform, facing the east, an excellent view of the surrounding rural countryside may be seen.

### THE MEMORIAL

At the north end of the cemetery stands the memorial, an open circu-



*Sculpture of a Young American Officer  
in Field Uniform*

lar colonnade or peristyle flanked by a chapel room on the left and a museum room on the right. On the left front facade of the memorial is engraved a lamp representing an eternal flame and under it the inscription:

1914  
1918  
TO THOSE  
WHO DIED  
FOR THEIR  
COUNTRY

On the opposite facade appears the same lamp symbol and the same inscription in French.

The memorial rests on a slightly raised circular terrace and is enclosed by a stone-faced wall. On the lawn in front of it are two large flagpoles with stone and bronze bases. Large chestnut trees frame it on the sides and rear and immediately behind the memorial are two large weeping willows.

The memorial is constructed of Rocheret limestone. On the inside surface of the lintel is carved in the stone:

THIS CHAPEL HAS BEEN  
ERECTED BY THE UNITED  
STATES OF AMERICA IN  
GRATEFUL REMEMBRANCE OF  
HER SONS WHO DIED IN  
THE WORLD WAR

These words emphasize that the memorial and, indeed, the entire cemetery were erected not to commemorate the glory of battle won or the triumph of victory achieved, but to pay homage to those American servicemen who made the supreme sacrifice for their country.

The large rose-granite urn with its carved drapery at the center of the peristyle resembles an ancient funeral vase. One of its decorative features is a winged horse, Pegasus, symbolizing the flight of the immor-



*Sculpture at the Center of the Peristyle Representing an Ancient Funereal Vase*

tal soul to its resting place in the life beyond.

To the left of the peristyle, bronze doors, decorated with stars and two miniature soldier heads, lead to the impressive interior of the chapel room. The carved white Italian marble altar holds a lighted bronze lamp symbolic of an eternal flame. Above the altar is a richly-colored mosaic depicting the "Angel of Victory" sheathing a sword and "Doves of Peace" bearing olive branches. At the top of the wall, carved in white marble with gold letters, is the inscription:

I GIVE UNTO THEM  
ETERNAL LIFE AND THEY  
SHALL NEVER PERISH

The mosaics on the end walls have as their main features large shields displaying the national colors of the United States and of France.

The coffered ceiling is decorated in gold and blue, while the floor and lower wall-paneling are of inlaid marble with light and dark green

markings. Dispersed about the chapel in appropriate places are graceful candelabra, cushioned seats and kneeling benches.

Crossing to the right side of the memorial one enters the museum through a similar set of bronze doors. On the wall directly opposite the doorway is a beautiful map of the St. Mihiel region inlaid with various colored marble. This map shows the boundaries of the salient, the German lines before the offensive, the Allied lines after the battle and the progress of the campaign.

On the side walls of the museum are black marble panels, at the tops of which are engraved:

IN MEMORY OF THOSE AMERICAN SOLDIERS WHO FOUGHT IN THIS REGION AND WHO SLEEP IN UNKNOWN GRAVES.

Listed below the inscription in gold letters are the names of the 284 American soldiers who gave their lives in this area, but whose remains were not recovered or identified.

A gold rosette marks the names of six soldiers whose remains have been recovered and identified.



*Tablets of the Missing*



*The Memorial Peristyle*

## THE GRAVES AREA

The graves area consists of four burial plots, lettered from A to D, separated by the central mall and the transverse axes. The 4,153 headstones are arranged in parallel rows across the green lawns which carpet the graves area. One hundred and seventeen of these headstones mark the graves of "Unknowns". The cemetery contains no multiple burials. Each of the Dead has his own headstone of white marble, a Star of David for those of the Jewish faith and a Latin Cross for all others. The precise alignment of clean, polished marble headstones on clipped green grass assures the visitor that no feature of the cemetery receives more respectful care than does the graves area.

## PLANTINGS

At the entrance gate to the cemetery is a large bed of flowering annuals. The main paths of the cemetery are

bordered by square-trimmed European linden trees, their low overhanging boughs furnishing a canopy. Flower beds of polyantha roses are planted along the transverse axes. The base of the decorative sundial at the intersection of the center mall and transverse axes in the center of the cemetery is surrounded by beds of flowering annuals and bordered with dwarf boxwood hedge.

## VISITORS' BUILDING

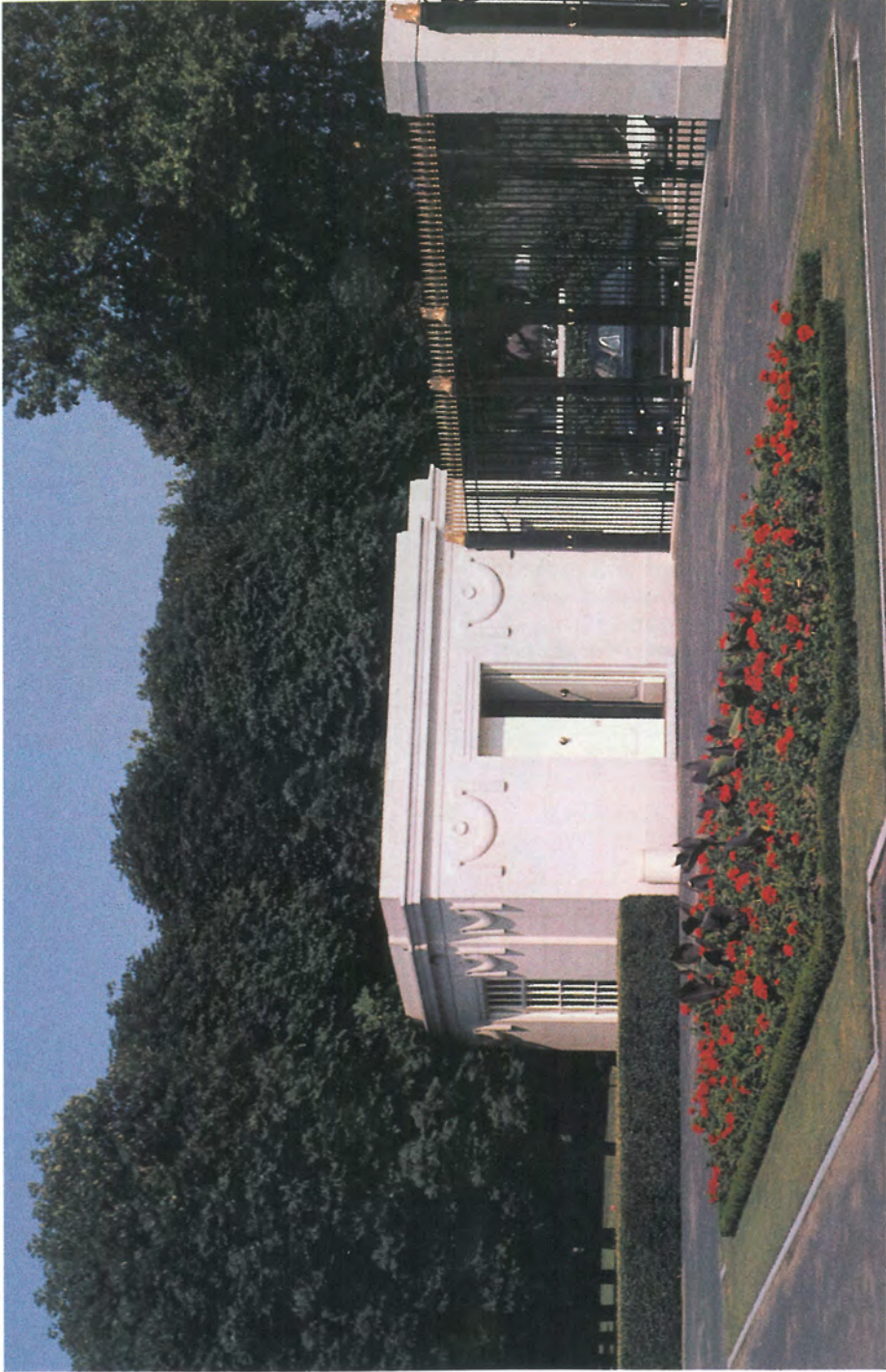
Located to the left of the entrance gate is the Visitors' Building. Here visitors may obtain information, sign the register and pause to refresh themselves. Directly across from the Visitors Building is the Administration Building where (except for the hours of 12:00 to 1:00pm) a member of the cemetery staff is available 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.



*View of the Sculptured Eagle and Graves Area*



*Ornamental Urn at Overlook*



Visitors' Building



Interior of Visitors' Building





## Montsec Monument

On a high isolated hill, 12 miles/19 km from the St. Mihiel American Cemetery, stands the Montsec Monument. It commemorates the capture of the St. Mihiel salient by the American First Army, the operations of the American Second Army on 9–16 November 1918, and other combat services of American divisions both in this region and in Alsace and Lorraine.

The monument consists of a large circular colonnade, at the center of which, on a raised platform, is a bronze relief map of the St. Mihiel salient. Its size, its commanding site, and the perfection of its proportions combine to make it one of the most impressive in Europe.

On the right side of a flight of steps leading to the monument is engraved:

THIS MONUMENT HAS BEEN  
ERECTED BY THE UNITED  
STATES OF AMERICA  
TO COMMEMORATE THE

CAPTURE OF THE ST. MIHIEL  
SALIENT BY THE TROOPS  
OF HER FIRST ARMY AND  
TO RECORD THE SERVICES  
OF THE AMERICAN  
EXPEDITIONARY FORCES ON  
THE BATTLEFRONT IN THIS  
REGION AND ELSEWHERE IN  
LORRAINE AND IN ALSACE.  
IT STANDS AS A LASTING  
SYMBOL OF THE FRIENDSHIP  
AND COOPERATION  
BETWEEN THE FRENCH AND  
AMERICAN ARMIES.

The same inscription is repeated in French on the left side of the flight of steps. Near the top of the monument on the outside lintel are engraved the names of villages and towns where battles were fought in this region:

THIAUCOURT — VIGNEULLES — FRESNES  
— VIEVILLE — ST. BENOIT — NORROY —  
BENEY — JAULNY — FRAPPELLE — HAU-  
MONT — ST. HILAIRE — XAMMES — NON-  
SARD — VILCEY — ST. BAUSSANT — VAN-  
DIERES.

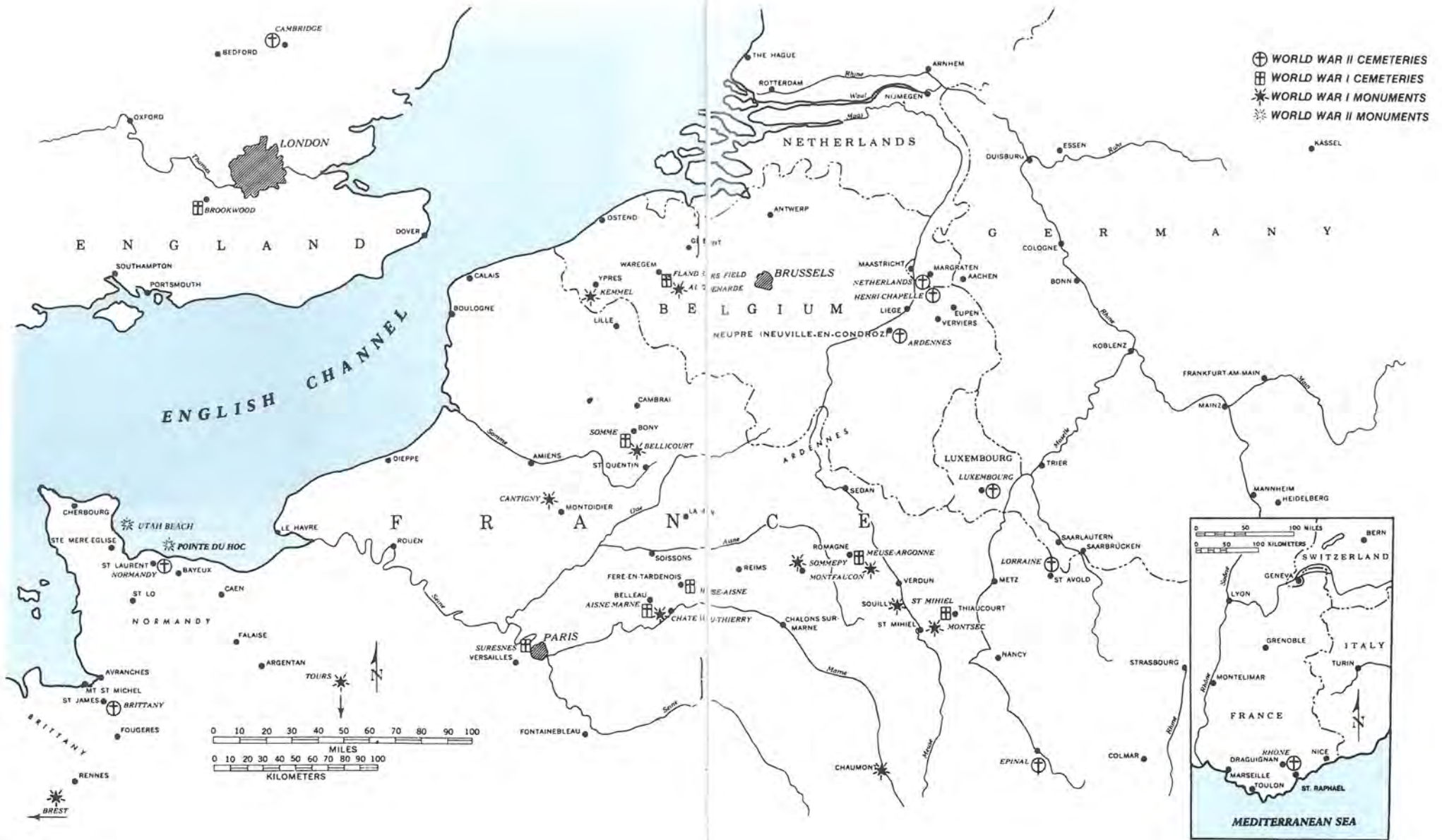


*Normandy American Cemetery, Colleville-sur-Mer, France*

## 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 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	251	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	1,657	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	
Ardenne, 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 .....			(See Honolulu Memorial)
Honolulu, Hawaii .....	11,597	2,079	
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, except January 1 and December 25. 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 and proceed about one-half mile to the cemetery. Taxi and bus service to the cemetery are available from Panama City. There are 5,319 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

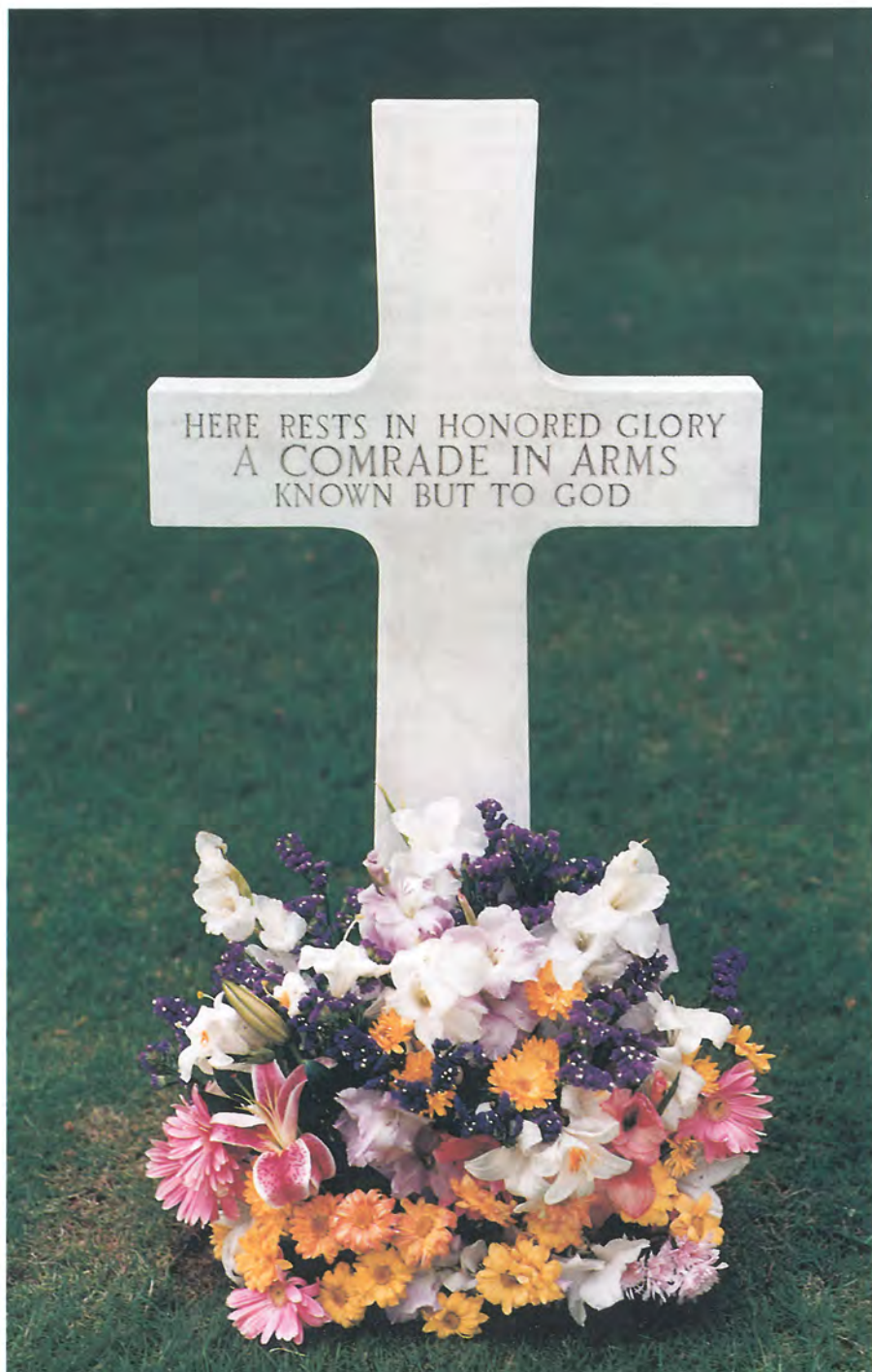
The Korean War Veterans Memorial,

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



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*Suresnes American Cemetery and Memorial, Seine, France*