Ardennes American Cemetery and Memorial

The American Battle Monuments Commission
1978
Memorial Chapel
LOCATION

Ardennes Cemetery is situated near the southeast edge of the village of Neupre (formerly Neuville-en-Condroz), 12 miles southwest of Liège, Belgium. Highway N-35 bis from Liège to Marche or Dinant and Paris passes the main entrance. Excellent autoroutes lead to Liège from major cities in Belgium, the Netherlands and West Germany. Liège can be reached by train from Paris (Gare du Nord) in about 5½ hours, from Brussels in a little more than 1 hour, and from Germany via Aachen.

Taxicabs are available from Liège station. Hotel accommodations are available in Liège.

HOURS

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

**SUMMER (16 March-30 September)**
- 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**WINTER (1 October-15 March)**
- 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
During these hours, a staff member is always on duty at the Visitors' Building to answer questions, and to escort relatives to the gravesites and to the Tablets of the Missing.

THE SITE

The Ardennes American Cemetery, 90½ acres in extent, is one of fourteen permanent American World War II military cemeteries constructed on foreign soil by the American Battle Monuments Commission. The site was liberated on 8 September 1944 by the 1st Infantry Division. A temporary cemetery was established on the site on 8 February 1945. After the war, when the temporary cemeteries were disestablished by the Army, the remains of American military Dead whose next of kin requested permanent interment overseas were moved to one of the fourteen permanent cemetery sites on foreign soil, usually the one which was closest to the temporary cemetery. There they were interred by the Graves Registration Service in the distinctive grave patterns proposed by the cemetery's architect and approved by the Commission. The design and construction of all facilities at the permanent sites were the responsibility of the Commission, i.e., the chapel, museum, visitors' building, superintendent's quarters, service facilities, utilities and paths, roads and walls. The Commission was also responsible for the sculpture, landscaping and other improvements. Many of those interred here died during the enemy's final major counteroffensive in the Ardennes in December 1944 and January 1945; they include some service troops who were fighting as infantry. Others gave their lives in the advance to the Rhine and across Germany, and in the strategic bombardment of Europe.

ARCHITECTS

Architects for the cemetery and memorial were Reinhard, Hofmeister & Wal-
ququist of New York City. The landscape architect was Richard K. Webel of Roslyn, Long Island.

GENERAL LAYOUT

The Ardennes American Cemetery is generally rectangular in shape. Its grave plots are arranged in the form of a Greek cross separated by two broad intersecting paths. The cemetery itself rests on a slope descending gently northward toward Neupre. To the south and east, it is enframed in woodland in which red and white oak, beech and ash predominate; its west side is lined by an avenue of stately lindens (Tilia platyphyllus) and its north boundary by informal tree groups. Entry is made into the cemetery through the main gate located on the north side of highway N-35 bis. It is set within plantings of black and white pine (Pinus Nigra Austriace and Pinus strobus); its wing walls are backed by an evergreen hedge.

Inside the main gate, a straight avenue bordered by horsechestnut (Aesculus hippocastanum) trees leads for 300 yards through woods to a broad green mall flanked on each side with parking spaces. At the far right (east) side is the Visitors' Building; on the left the Superintendent's house; the memorial is on the axis. From the parking area a flight of steps leads down to the memorial; this path divides to pass around the building and leads to the burial area beyond.

Beyond the woods to the west are the wells, reservoirs, and service building. Drinking water is treated in a purification system.

THE MEMORIAL

The memorial of English Portland Whitbed limestone is austerely rectangular in form. It projects on all sides beyond its base which, in turn, is set upon a Danube Gray granite
podium reached by seven steps; these extend entirely around the building except where they are interrupted at the south end to permit access to the main door. The podium at the north end affords an impressive view of the burial area and of the countryside beyond.

Carved in high relief on the south facade of the memorial is an American eagle 17 feet high. Beside it are three figures symbolizing Justice, Liberty, and Truth; the composition is balanced by 13 stars representing the United States. This sculpture is from the design of C. Paul Jennewein of New York City; the work was executed by Jean Juge of Paris. The main doors to the memorial are of stainless steel and bear in relief the dates: 1941-1945.

The south, east, and west interior walls of the memorial are decorated with large maps composed of inlaid marbles embracing a range of colors from white through cream and gray to black. Much of the lettering is of bronze; other topographical and military details are rendered in mosaic, or enameled or plated bronze. The map above the door records both the last great enemy offensive ARDENNES, popularly known as "The Battle of the Bulge," which took place during the winter of 1944-45, and also the subsequent advance of the Allied forces across the RHINELAND to the Rhine River; it measures 19½ feet high by 22½ feet long. Elaborating this map is an inscription in English, French, and Flemish, of which this is the English text:

ON 16 DECEMBER 1944 THE ENEMY MADE HIS LAST CONCERTED EFFORT TO STAVE OFF DEFEAT, UNLEASHING THREE ARMIES ON A NARROW FRONT. PREPARED IN GREATEST SECRECY AND LAUNCHED UNDER COVER OF FOG AND RAIN, HIS ATTACK IN THE ARDENNES WAS INITIALLY SUCCESSFUL. BREAKING THROUGH ON A 45-MILE FRONT, HIS FORCES PENETRATED OVER 60 MILES, BUT AMERICAN SOLDIERS, FIGHTING VALIANTLY, HELD THE CRITICAL SHOULDERS OF THE SALIENT.

REACTING PROMPTLY AND DECISIVELY, THE ALLIES RUSHED ALL AVAILABLE RESERVES TO THE SCENE. A FURIOUS STRUGGLE DEVELOPED AT THE ROAD CENTER OF ST. VITH WHERE THE ENEMY ADVANCE WAS STUBBORNLY DELAYED. AT BASTOGNE, ALTHOUGH

Graves Area and North Facade of Chapel

6
SURROUNDED FOR FIVE DAYS, AMERICAN TROOPS, WITH THE HELP OF SUPPLIES DROPPED BY IX TROOP CARRIER COMMAND AIRCRAFT, MAINTAINED THEIR DEFENSE. WHILE THE FIRST ARMY BLOCKED THE ENEMY'S EFFORTS TO BREAK THROUGH TOWARD LIEGE AND CROSS THE MEUSE, THE THIRD ARMY BY A MASTERFUL CHANGE OF FRONT TURNED NORTH AND ON 22 DECEMBER COUNTERATTACKED THE SOUTHERN FLANK OF THE PENETRATION. ON 23 DECEMBER THE SKIES CLEARED, ENABLING OUR EIGHTH AND NINTH AIR FORCES TO ENTER THE BATTLE AND STRIKE AT THE ENEMY ARMOR AND SUPPLY COLUMNS.

THE THIRD ARMY CONTINUED ITS ADVANCE, RELIEVING BASTOGNE ON 26 DECEMBER. THE FIRST ARMY'S COUNTER-ATTACK FROM THE NORTH CAME ON 3 JANUARY 1945. STRUGGLING FORWARD AGAINST DETERMINED OPPOSITION, ACROSS SNOW-COVERED MINEFIELDS IN BITTERLY COLD WEATHER, THE THIRD AND FIRST ARMIES MET AT HOUFFALIZE ON THE 16TH. THE SALIENT WAS COMPLETELY REDUCED BY 25 JANUARY.


The map, 19½ by 26⅓ feet, on the west wall records the military operations in western Europe from the landings in Normandy and the French Riviera up to the end of the war. On this map also is depicted the great air assault against the enemy’s military and industrial systems. Descriptive texts in the three languages accompany the map, this being the English version:


DURING FEBRUARY AND MARCH THE WEST BANK OF THE RHINE WAS CLEARED IN A SERIES OF HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL OPERATIONS. ON 7 MARCH AMERICAN FORCES SEIZED THE ONE REMAINING UNDEMOLISHED BRIDGE AT REMAGEN, A SURPRISE CROSSING WAS EFFECTED AT OPPENHAIN ON 22 MARCH, THEN, IN THE NEXT TWO DAYS ALLIED TROOPS SPEARHEADED BY
Side Panels to Wall Maps.


Ranged along each side of the map are six panels illustrating the combat arms; they are painted in black upon white Carrara marble, the background of each picture being cut back and gilded, recalling the golden finish of the ceiling. The subjects of these panels are (as one faces them) see page 9:

1. Heavy Bombers 1. Battlefield Communications
2. Naval Fire Support 2. Antiaircraft Artillery
3. Paratroopers 3. Medium Bombers
4. Battlefield First Aid 4. Field Artillery
5. Armor in Action 5. Infantry in Action

The map on the opposite (east) wall portrays the Services of Supply of the European Theater of Operations. The English version of its descriptive text reads:

THE FIRST CONTINGENT OF AMERICAN TROOPS REACHED THE BRITISH ISLES ON 26 JANUARY 1942. THE SERVICES OF SUPPLY WAS PROMPTLY ORGANIZED TO PROVIDE FOR THE TRANSPORTATION, SHELTER, SUPPLY AND HOSPITALIZATION OF THEIR CONSTANTLY INCREASING NUMBERS. BY JUNE 1942 IT WAS...
ACTIVELY FUNCTIONING — PREPARING AIRFIELDS, TRAINING CAMPS, PORTS AND DEPOTS, AS WELL AS RECEIVING, STORING AND DISTRIBUTING THE 16,000,000 TONS OF CARGO WHICH REACHED THE UNITED KINGDOM FROM THE UNITED STATES PRIOR TO THE CROSS-CHANNEL ATTACK. IN NOVEMBER 1942 THE INVASION OF NORTH AFRICA DEFERRED FOR MANY MONTHS THE BUILD-UP FOR THE EUROPEAN ASSAULT. NEVERTHELESS, ON 6 JUNE 1944 WHEN THE ALLIES LANDED IN NORMANDY, THE SERVICES WERE READY FOR THIS SUPREME TEST.

INITIALLY SUPPLIES WERE LANDED OVER THE OPEN BEACHES, BUT NAVAL PERSONNEL PROMPTLY ESTABLISHED TEMPORARY ANCHORAGES AND TWO ARTIFICIAL HARBORS (KNOWN AS "MULBERRIES") BY SINKING SHIPS AND PRE-FABRICATED CONCRETE CAISSONS. THESE WERE OF PRICELESS AID IN THE UNLOADING OF TROOPS AND CARGO. IN SPITE OF THE LACK OF A MAJOR PORT, WHEN THE ADVANCE WAS RESUMED IN JULY ADEQUATE SUPPLIES HAD BEEN ASSEMBLED IN THE BEACHHEAD.


THE ALLIED NAVIES PLAYED A VITAL ROLE BY SAFEGUARDING A CONTINUOUS FLOW OF TROOPS AND SUPPLIES ACROSS THE SEAS. THE LINE OF SUPPLY WAS DEVELOPED FIRST FROM THE ASSAULT BEACHES, THEN THROUGH CHERBOURG AND LE HAVRE. WHEN ANTWERP WAS OPENED IN LATE NOVEMBER THE MAIN LINES OF COMMUNICATION FOR THE 12TH AND 21ST ARMY GROUPS WERE SHIFTED TO THAT PORT. FROM THE SOUTH THE SUPPLY LINE FOR THE 6TH ARMY GROUP CAME UP THE RHONE VALLEY FROM MARSEILLE.


THE ADVANCE SECTIONS OPERATED IN DIRECT SUPPORT OF THE ARMIES, DRAWING SUPPLIES FROM THE BASE AND INTERMEDIATE SECTIONS. THESE SUPPLIES WERE FORWARDED TO THE COMBAT UNITS, AN EFFICIENT SYSTEM FOR THE HOSPITALIZATION AND EVACUATION OF THE SICK AND WOUNDED OPERATED CONTINUOUSLY. IN WORLD WAR II THE DECISIVE IMPORTANCE OF THE SUPPLY AND TECHNICAL SERVICES IN MODERN WARFARE WAS CLEARLY MANIFESTED.

This map also is embellished by 12 panels (see page 9) representing functions of the Services of Supply, viz:

1. Atlantic Supply Convoy
2. Military Railroad Operations
3. Rear Area Communications
4. Port Operation
5. Military Police-Traffic Control
6. Engineer Heavy Bridge

The maps were designed by Dean Cornwell of New York City from data
prepared by The American Battle Monuments Commission. They were fabricated by the Pandolfini Company of Pietrasanta, Italy. The panels were both designed and executed by Dean Cornwell.

At the far (north) end of the building is the chapel. The west wall bears the dedication:

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.

Engraved on the opposite wall is this prayer abridged from that ascribed to Cardinal Newman:


Outlined in gilt metal against the white Carrara marble wall above the altar, and illuminated through the oculus in the ceiling is an angel, designed by Dean Cornwell and executed by Kersten-Leroy of Maastricht.

The altar also is of Carrara marble. On each side of the chapel is a United States flag and a bronze screen into which have been cast the insignia of the principal major units which operated in Northwest Europe; viz, Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Force; U.S. Strategic Air Forces in Europe; European Theater of Operations; 12th Army Group; 6th Army Group; Eighth Air Force; First Army; Ninth Air Force; Third Army; Seventh Army; Ninth Army. The chapel chairs and prie-dieu are of ebonized birchwood, fabricated in Rome, Italy by A. Patriarca.

To the right and left of the chapel are stainless steel doors leading outside to the north end of the memorial podium.

On the north facade of the memorial the shoulder insignia of the major military units again appear; here they are of colored mosaic set in the Portland Whitbed stone and grouped around a classic helmet. Beneath them is the inscription:

TO THE SILENT HOST WHO ENDURED ALL AND GAVE ALL THAT MANKIND MIGHT LIVE IN FREEDOM AND IN PEACE.

THE NAMES OF THE MISSING

The names and particulars of 462 of our Missing are engraved in 12 large slabs of dark gray granite set slightly above the podium, 6 on each of the east and west sides of the memorial:

United States Army & Army Air Forces* .................. 447
United States Navy .......................... 15

These men gave their lives in the service of their country, but their remains have not been recovered and identified. Their names include men from 45 different States as well as the District of Columbia. Above these names this inscription is engraved upon the sides of the memorial:

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

On the east side, this is added:

IN PROUD REMEMBRANCE OF THEIR VALOR

On the west side, this is added:

IN HUMBLE TRIBUTE TO THEIR SACRIFICE

The memorial podium is flanked by masses of rhododendrons bordered by dwarf roses and boxwood edging, and backed by clipped purple beech (Fagus sylvatica purpurea) hedges.

THE GRAVES AREA

From the base of the memorial podium

*It will be recalled that during World War II the Air Forces still formed part of the United States Army.
a flight of broad steps leads down to the
graves area. Here are buried 5,319 of
our military Dead; three-fifths of whom
were airmen.

These Dead, who gave their lives in
our country's service, came from almost
every State in the Union as well as from
the District of Columbia, Canada, Den­
mark, England, France, Germany, Ire­
land, Philippine Islands, and the British
West Indies. Seven hundred seventy-one
of the headstones mark the graves of
786 "Unknowns." Among the head­
stones also are those of 11 instances in
which 2 brothers are buried side by
side. There are also three cases in which
two identified airmen are buried in
single graves; the headstones in these
cases are inscribed: HERE REST IN
HONORED GLORY TWO COMRADES IN
ARMS. Bronze plaques bearing their
names and particulars are set in the
ground before the headstones.

The reentrants of the huge cross
formed by the headstone pattern are
planted with groups of oak, beech,
hornbeam and tulip trees, intended to
extend the natural woodland enframe­
ment, and the entire burial area is sur­
rrounded on four sides by wide borders
of shrub roses (Rosa rugosa).

At the east end of the central trans­
verse path is a bronze figure symboliz­ing
American youth, designed by C.
Paul Jennewein and cast by Bruno
Bearzi of Florence, Italy.

The burial area and its axial path
gently slope down to the flagstaff and
its platform at the north end of the
cemetery. Groups of spruce (Ticea ex­
celia) and caucasian fir (Abies Nord­
manniana) form the background for
this feature. A transverse path leads
westward to the linden avenue which
intersects the path at the head of the
burial area.

Construction of the cemetery and
memorial was completed in 1962.
The American Battle Monuments Commission was created by act of Congress in March 1923 to erect and maintain memorials in the United States and foreign countries where the United States Armed Forces have served since April 6, 1917, and to control as to design and provide regulations for the erection of monuments, markers, and memorials in foreign countries by other United States citizens and organizations, public or private. It was later given responsibility for establishing or taking over from the Armed Forces permanent burial grounds in
foreign countries and designing, construct­
ing and maintaining perma­
nent cemetery memorials at these
burial sites; controlling as to design
and materials, providing regulations
for, and supervising erection of all
monuments, memorials, buildings,
and other structures in permanent
United States cemetery memorials

on foreign soil; and cooperating with
American citizens, States, municipali­
ties, or associations desiring to erect
war memorials outside the continen­
tal limits of the United States. It is not
responsible for construction, main­
tenance, or operation of cemeter­
ies 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 over­
seas already established by the War
Department, as well as 11 monu­
ments 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 numbers of burials, and the
numbers of Missing recorded at
their memorials are:
World War I monuments erected by the Commission are located at or near: Audenarde, Belgium; Bellicourt, France; Brest, France; Cantigny, France; Chateau-Thierry, France; Gibraltar; Kemmel, Belgium; Montfaucon, France; Montsec, France; Sommepy, France; and Tours, France. World War I tablets are at Chaumont and Souilly, France.

By the end of World War II several hundred temporary cemeteries had been established by the American Graves Registration Service of the United States Army. During the years 1947 to 1954 that Service, complying with the expressed wishes of the next of kin, and by authority of law, repatriated the remains of some 172,000 recovered bodies. The remainder were given final interment in the permanent military cemeteries on foreign soil, in private cemeteries overseas, and in the national cemeteries in Honolulu, Sitka, and Puerto Rico (which remain under Army control). As was the case after World War I, some remains were left in isolated graves outside of the cemeteries by request of the families who then became responsible for their maintenance.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Burials</th>
<th>Missing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aisne-Marne, Belleau, France</td>
<td>2,039 427 13,760 5,415 1,707 1,535</td>
<td>249 41 486 597 137 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brookwood, England</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flanders Field, Waregem, Belgium</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meuse-Argonne, Romagne, France</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oise-Aisne, Fere-en-Tardenois, France</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Mihiel, Thiaucourt, France</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somme, Bony, France</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suresnes (See WW II also), France</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
<td>29,266 1,654</td>
<td>4,452</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Burials</th>
<th>Missing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ardennes, Neupre (Neuville-en-Condroz) Belgium</td>
<td>4,535</td>
<td>786 462</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brittany, St. James, France</td>
<td>4,313</td>
<td>97 497</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambridge, England</td>
<td>3,787</td>
<td>24 5,126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Epinal, France</td>
<td>5,186</td>
<td>69 424</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florence, Italy</td>
<td>4,189</td>
<td>213 1,409</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henri-Chapelle, Belgium</td>
<td>7,895</td>
<td>94 450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lorraine, St. Avold, France</td>
<td>10,338</td>
<td>151 444</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luxembourg, Luxembourg City, Luxembourg</td>
<td>4,975</td>
<td>101 370</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manila, Republic of the Philippines</td>
<td>13,462</td>
<td>3,744 36,279</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands, Margraten, Netherlands</td>
<td>8,195</td>
<td>106 1,722</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Normandy, St. Laurent-sur-Mer, France</td>
<td>9,079</td>
<td>307 1,557</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Burials</th>
<th>Missing</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
<td>29,266 1,654</td>
<td>4,452</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
World War II cemeteries maintained by the Department of the Army are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Interred</th>
<th>Contributions</th>
<th>Buried</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Honolulu, Hawaii</td>
<td>11,506</td>
<td>2,028</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Puerto Rico</td>
<td>69</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sitka, Alaska</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In every case, use of the permanent cemetery sites on foreign soil was granted in perpetuity by the host government to the United States free of cost, rent, and taxation. The temporary cemetery sites not selected as permanent cemeteries reverted to the landowners.

In 1947, an outstanding American architect was selected to design each of the World War II cemeteries, conceiving its grave plots, a chapel and a museum as complementary elements of an integral memorial to the services and sacrifices of the American Armed Services who fought in the particular region. Upon approval of their general schemes by the Commission, and by agreement with the Secretary of the Army, the architects’ plans of the grave plots were followed by the American Graves Registration Service in making the permanent burials of those remains which by decision of the next of kin were to be interred overseas. The timely cooperation between these two agencies contributed appreciably to the coherence of the development of the cemetery designs.

Beginning in the latter half of 1949, the permanent interments having been virtually completed, the World War II overseas cemeteries were progressively transferred for construction and maintenance to the American Battle Monuments Commission by Presidential Executive Order. Thereupon the remaining portions of the architects’ designs were carried out, step by step—grading; installation of a system of reinforced concrete beams on piles to maintain the levels and alignments of the headstones; fabrication and installation of the headstones; construction of water supply and distribution systems, utilities buildings, roads and paths; plantings; and erection of the memorials, visitors buildings, and flagpoles.

For design of the various memorials, no specific limitations were imposed upon the architects other than budgeted cost and a requirement that each was to embody these features:

*8,194 Missing of the Korean conflict are commemorated at the Honolulu Memorial in addition to the 18,093 of World War II commemorated there.
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 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 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 those of Jewish faith, a Latin cross for all others. Each headstone bears the deceased's name, rank, service, organization, date of death, and State or Territory from which he entered the military service.

In the World War I cemeteries, headstones of the Unknowns, i.e., those remains which could not be identified, bear the inscription:

HERE RESTS IN HONORED GLORY AN AMERICAN SOLDIER KNOWN BUT TO GOD.

In the World War II cemeteries, the inscription reads:

HERE RESTS IN HONORED GLORY A COMRADE IN ARMS KNOWN BUT TO GOD.

Tablets of the Missing (which also include the names of those whose remains could not be identified, and those lost and buried at sea) give name, rank, organization, and State; the circumstances under which death occurred usually precluded the possibility of determining the exact date.

These cemeteries are open every
The Buddy Statue, Sicily-Rome
American Cemetery, Nettuno, Italy

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's local office.

Unlike National cemeteries under jurisdiction of the Department of the Army, 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 14 World War II cemeteries, 11 World War I monuments and two tablets, the American Battle Monuments Commission program of commemoration includes the following:

SURESNES

At the Suresnes Cemetery Memorial, senior representatives of the French and United States Governments pay homage to our military Dead on ceremonial occasions. Accordingly, 24 Unknown Dead of World War II were buried in this World War I cemetery, and two loggias were added to its chapel by the Commission, thereby converting it into a shrine commemorating our Dead of both wars.

EAST COAST MEMORIAL

To commemorate those 4,596 Americans who, in or above the waters off the east coast of North and South America, 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 coasts of the Americas are recorded at the memorial erected by the Commission at the Presidio of San Francisco.

HONOLULU MEMORIAL

Although the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at Honolulu is administered by the Veterans Administration, the American Battle Monuments Commission, by agreement with the Secretary of the Army, constructed a memorial therein, incorporating the features of the memorials in its overseas cemeteries. The names of 18,093 Missing of World War II who gave their lives in the Pacific areas, except the Southwest and the Palau Islands which are commemorated at the Manila Cemetery Memorial, are recorded here as well as the 8,194 Missing of the Korean conflict. Two additional courts are currently being constructed to honor by name the 2,489 Missing from the Vietnam War. They should be completed in the fall of 1978.
DISTINGUISHED MILITARY ACTIONS COMMEMORATIVE PROGRAM

The Commission's memorialization program includes the erection of other monuments or commemorative tablets at places of outstanding military significance around the world during World War II and the Korean War. Among these, plans have been prepared for monuments on Guam, and at Utah Beach in France. The objective is to achieve balanced commemoration of all services in all theaters.

MEXICO CITY NATIONAL CEMETERY

The Mexico City National Cemetery, 31 Calzada Melchor Ocampo, Mexico City, Mexico, was transferred from administration by the Department of the Army to the Commission on July 16, 1947. In a mass grave in this cemetery are interred the remains of 750 of our unidentified Dead of the War of 1847.

FLORAL DECORATIONS

In the overseas cemeteries, the decoration of graves or the Tablets of the Missing with natural cut flowers only is permitted. The Commission is always ready to help arrange with local florists in foreign countries for placement of such decorations. Requests should be mailed so as to arrive at the appropriate Commission office at least thirty days before the date of decoration and should be accompanied by check or U. S. Postal Money Order in dollars. Deposits may be made for a single decoration on a particular day—birthday, Memorial Day, Christmas Day, for example—or for several decorations on particular dates within a year or over a period of years. Checks should be made payable to "ABMC Flower Fund,"
money orders to "The American Battle Monuments Commission." Requests should be addressed to the Commission's European office, except in the case of Florence, Sicily-Rome, and North Africa cemeteries, where the Mediterranean office is responsible and Manila cemetery, where the Philippine office is responsible.

Orders for flowers for all cemeteries may also be placed through any local florist who is a member of the "Florists Telegraph Delivery Association." In such cases, the name of the deceased, his rank, service number, name of the cemetery, country in which located, and the location by plot, row, and grave should be provided, if known.
Decorated Gravesite of an "Unknown".
PHOTOGRAPHS

The Commission will furnish close relatives of the Dead buried or commemorated in the World War I and II cemetery memorials overseas with a color lithograph of the cemetery together with a black and white photograph of the particular grave or of the section of the Tablets of the Missing where the particular individual’s name appears. For the Honolulu, East Coast and West Coast Memorials, the Commission will supply a lithographed picture of the memorial itself and a black and white photograph of the appropriate section of the list of the Missing. Photographs of graves in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (in Honolulu) are not available through the Commission.

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

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC
AVAILABLE THROUGH
THE AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION

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

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MARCH 1923

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