Epinal American Cemetery
and Memorial

The American Battle Monuments Commission
1982
Interior of Chapel – East End of the Memorial
LOCATION

The Epinal American Cemetery and Memorial is situated 4 miles/6.5 kilometers south of Epinal, Vosges, France on Highway N-57, the main route between Nancy and Belfort. It can be reached by automobile from Paris (231 miles/372 kilometers) in about five hours via Porte Pantin to Autoroute A-4, eastward to the Nancy exit, then southward on N-57, to the entrance road leading to the cemetery.

Rail service to Epinal is available from the Gare de l'Est in Paris via Nancy, where it may be necessary to change trains. The journey by train also takes about 5 hours. Adequate hotel accommodations and taxi service to the cemetery may be found in Vittel (30 miles/48 kilometers), Plombieres (22 miles/35 kilometers) and Epinal (4 miles/6.5 kilometers).

HOURS

The cemetery is open daily to the public as follows:
SUMMER (16 March – 30 September)
9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. — weekdays
10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. — Saturdays, Sundays, and Holidays

WINTER (1 October – 15 March)
9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. — weekdays
10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. — Saturdays, Sundays, and Holidays

Entry Road to Cemetery
When the cemetery is open to the public, a staff member is on duty in the Visitors' Building to answer questions and to escort relatives to grave and memorial sites, except between noon and 3:00 p.m. on weekends and holidays.

HISTORY

On 15 August 1944, just a little over two months after the landings in Normandy, Allied Forces launched an amphibious assault to free southern France. Air bombardment in preparation for the landings began in July and grew steadily in intensity. Preceded by Allied assault groups and U. S. airborne and glider troops, under cover of heavy Naval and aerial bombardment, the 3d, 36th and 45th Divisions of the U.S. VI Corps landed on beaches in southern France from Cape Cavalaire to Agay and thrust rapidly inland. As advancing VI Corps troops of the U.S. Seventh Army pursued the enemy, French units landed and moved westward toward Toulon and Marseilles. Within two weeks both ports had been liberated and U.S. forces had advanced northward up the Rhone Valley to seize Montelimar, cutting off large numbers of the retreating enemy.

In less than one month, U.S. troops from southern France had advanced 400 miles and made contact with those from Normandy on 11 September 1944 at Sombernon, west of Dijon. Ten days later, when these forces had joined in strength near Epinal, a solid line was established extending to the Swiss frontier. Progress in the next three months was slow and fighting bitter, as opposition stiffened. Neverthe-
Location of Cemetery Features

less, Allied Forces continued their advance to the Siegfried Line and westward to the Rhine River where our troops held the west bank except for an area between Strasbourg and Mulhouse known as the "Colmar Pocket."

The enemy launched his final major counteroffensive of the war on 16 December 1944. Officially designated the Ardennes-Alsace Campaign, it was popularly known as the "Battle of the Bulge." The U.S. Third Army to the north moved quickly to counter the threat. This required the 6th Army group in the south, consisting of the U.S. Seventh and the French First Armies, to extend its lines northward to cover a much longer front. Against this line, the enemy launched the second half of his planned counteroffensive on New Year's eve by driving for the Saverne Gap in the Vosges Mountains and following with an attack across the Rhine and an offensive from the Colmar Pocket toward Strasbourg. After furious struggles in bitterly cold weather, all of these attacks were halted. Quickly, the American and French troops joined forces to eliminate the enemy army in the Colmar Pocket; their mission was successfully completed by 9 February 1945. The U.S. Seventh Army thereupon undertook a progressive assault against the Siegfried Line to the north, while the U.S. Third Army continued to assault the Line and the enemy's flanks and rear. Soon, the Siegfried Line was broken and the remaining enemy units cleared from the west bank of the Rhine.

The final offensive of the U.S. Seventh Army began in late March when it crossed the Rhine near Worms and seized Mannheim. Promptly, the French First Army crossed behind it and took
Karlsruhe. Preceded by aircraft that constantly harassed and demoralized the enemy, Allied Forces swept throughout Germany. As the French captured Stuttgart and cut off escape into Switzerland, the U.S. Seventh Army fought through Nurnberg, took Munich, then drove through the Brenner Pass for its historic meeting with the U.S. Fifth Army on 4 May 1945 at Vipiteno, Italy.

SITE
The Epinal American Cemetery and Memorial, 48 acres in extent, is situated on a plateau in the foothills of the Vosges Mountains, 100 feet above and overlooking the Moselle River. It is one of fourteen permanent World War II American military cemeteries erected on foreign soil by the American Battle Monuments Commission. The site was liberated on 21 September 1944 by the U.S. 45th Infantry Division and a temporary military burial ground was established there fifteen days later. Subsequently, the burial ground was selected to be a permanent cemetery site. After the war, when the temporary burial grounds were being disestablished by the American Graves Registration Service (AGRS), the remains of American military Dead whose next of kin directed permanent interment on foreign soil were moved by the AGRS to a permanent site, usually the one closest to the temporary burial location. They were then interred by the AGRS in the distinctive grave patterns proposed by the cemetery’s architect and approved by the Commission. Free use of the Epinal site as a permanent American military cemetery was granted by the French government in perpetuity without charge or taxation. Included in the site is a right of way approximately 500 meters in length leading from Highway N-57 to the main gate of the cemetery. The 5,255 American military Dead buried in the Epinal American Cemetery lost their lives in the fighting across central France, the Rhone Valley, the Vosges Mountains, the Rhine Valley and Germany; they represent 42% of the original burials in the region.
Design and construction of all facilities at the permanent American military cemeteries on foreign soil were the responsibility of the American Battle Monuments Commission, i.e., the memorial, the chapel, the visitors' building, superintendent's quarters, paths, roads, walls and service facilities. It was also responsible for the sculpture, landscaping and other improvements on the site. Construction of the permanent cemetery at Epinal was completed in the spring of 1956 and the cemetery and its memorial were dedicated on 23 July 1956.

On the morning of 12 May 1958, 13 caskets draped with American flags were placed side by side under a canopy at the north end of the memorial in the cemetery. Each casket contained one Unknown serviceman from each of the thirteen permanent American military cemeteries established in the Atlantic theaters of World War II. As soon as the caskets were in place, an honor guard took a position at attention about the canopy. When the invited dignitaries had arrived, General Edward J. O'Neill, Commanding General of the United States Army Communications Zone, Europe, walked slowly past the thirteen caskets, returned to the front of the canopy, picked up a wreath and proceeded to the fifth casket from the east and placed the wreath upon it. He then drew himself to attention and saluted as taps were played. The simple ceremony of selection terminated with the band playing "Miserere," as the pall bearers carried the Unknown selected by General O'Neill behind an honor guard to a waiting hearse. The hearse, under escort, proceeded to Toul-Rosiers Air Base in France where the Unknown was flown to Naples, Italy and loaded aboard the destroyer USS Blandy. As soon as loading was completed, the USS Blandy departed Naples to rendezvous in the Atlantic with a U.S. Naval Task Force carrying two other Unknowns, one from the Pacific Theater of World War II and one from the Korean War. A similar ceremony to the one held at the Epinal American Cemetery was conducted by the Commander of the Naval Task Force to determine which of the World War II Unknowns would represent both the Atlantic and Pacific theaters of that war. After the selection was made, the Task Force proceeded to Washington, D.C. where, on Memorial Day 1958, the World War II and the Korean War Unknowns joined the Unknown soldier of World War I in Arlington National Cemetery at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

ARCHITECTS

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

GENERAL LAYOUT

Six kilometers south of Epinal, a winding road 0.5 of a kilometer in length leads from the east side of Highway N-57 to the main gate of the cemetery. Marking entry to the road on the right is a rectangular stone on which is carved the U.S. Great Seal above the words "Epinal American Cemetery and Memorial." Marking entry to the road on the left is a low curved wall on which the name of the cemetery also is carved.

About 90 meters inside the main gate, a crossing road leads north (left) to the superintendent's quarters and south (right) to the assistant superintendent's quarters and the service area. The Visitors' Building is about 300 meters inside the main gate on the south (right) side of the entry road where the road forms an elliptical drive. Visitor parking is available just before and beyond the elliptical drive. A stone pathway leads northward from the Visitors' Building across the drive to the
Crusade in Europe – South Facade of Memorial

Court of Honor. In the center of the court under a single roof are the museum and chapel. Enclosing the court are low walls engraved with the names of the Missing in Action in the region. The Court of Honor sits at the south end of a wide grassy mall flanked by trees separating the graves area into two plots. A 75' flagpole stands at the opposite (north) end of the grassy mall. Located in the northeast and northwest portions of the graves area are small circular cul-de-sacs with benches and fountains. Like the Court of Honor, the graves area is enclosed by a stone wall.

COURT OF HONOR
The Court of Honor is rectangular in shape. It is enclosed by low walls of Rocheret, a hard limestone from the Jura Mountains of eastern France. Engraved on the walls enclosing the court are the names of 424 Missing in Action in the region:

- United States Army and Army Air Force ..............419
- United States Navy ......................... 5

These Missing lost their lives in the service of their country, but their remains were not recovered, or if recovered, not identified. They represent every State of the Union (and the District of Columbia) except Alaska, Delaware, Hawaii, Nevada, North Dakota, Rhode Island, Vermont and Wyoming. The following inscriptions appear in English and French on the walls above their names:

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

IN GRATEFUL REMEMBRANCE OF THOSE WHO DIED IN WORLD WAR II ** 1941 – 1945.

8
Resurrection – South Facade of Memorial

THIS IS THEIR MEMORIAL — THE WHOLE EARTH THEIR SEPULCHRE.

MEMORIAL STRUCTURE

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

EXTERIOR

The south face of the memorial contains two large bas-relief carvings designed and sculpted by Malvina Hoffman of New York. The carving on the western end of the south face depicts the Crusade in Europe. It is a composition of United States military forces advancing on the enemy and consists of infantry, tanks, artillery, anti-aircraft guns, paratroopers, grenade throwers, signalmen and search lights with a large eagle overhead to symbolize U.S. Army Air Forces. The carving on the eastern end of the south face depicts Survival of the Spirit. In it, a kneeling figure of a sorrowing woman — humanity — in the center of the carving comforts a dying soldier, while the souls of two brave young men who have preceded him in death are raised upward by an angel on rays of light, as their earthly bodies remain behind under a Latin Cross or Star of David headstone. In the upper left portion of the carving, an angel precedes them with a torch to light their way and two angels in the upper
right portion herald their approach with trumpets. Carved on the attic above the south face of the memorial are an eagle, also the work of Miss Hoffman, and the following inscription from Exodus XIX 4: *I BARE YOU ON EAGLE WINGS AND BROUGHT YOU UNTO MYSELF.*

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

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

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

The eagle by Miss Hoffman that appears on the exterior attic wall above the south face also appears on the exterior attic wall above the north face, but without the inscription from Exodus.

**INTERIOR**

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

**INTERIOR—CHAPEL**

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

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

INTERIOR—MUSEUM

The primary feature of the museum room in the western portion of the memorial is the large colored glass mosaic map depicting American and allied military operations from the landings in southern France on 15
August 1944 to the junction with Allied Forces advancing from Normandy on 11 September at Sombernon, near Dijon; and their subsequent advances after turning eastward, crossing the Rhine and sweeping across Germany to meet with the spearhead of the U.S. Fifth Army south of the Brenner Pass. The mosaic, 54 feet long and 14 feet high, was designed and fabricated by Eugene Savage of Branford, Connecticut, utilizing data provided by the American Battle Monuments Commission. The map is laid out in perspective as seen from the south; consequently, the lines of longitude and latitude are tilted to accommodate the map to the proportions of the room. Thus, north is toward the upper right instead of vertically upward. Symbolically, the figures on the semi-circular wall depict the Spirit of Columbia leading the Army, Navy, and Air Forces to the landings on the south coast of France. The final victory is symbolized by the Angel of Victory with laurel branch above the central altar group composed of trumpets, the American and French flags emerging from the clouds of war, and the outstretched hands of women who offer flowers as tribute to the victors.

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

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


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

U.S. NAVAL FORCES TOGETHER WITH THE
ALLIED NAVIES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN
PLAYED A VITAL ROLE BY SAFEGUARDING A
CONTINUOUS FLOW OF TROOPS AND
SUPPLIES AGAINST PERSISTENT SUBMARINE
AND AIR ATTACKS. ALLIED AIR FORCES GAVE
THE GROUND ARMIES INDISPENSABLE
ASSISTANCE PRIOR TO AND THROUGHOUT
THE OPERATIONS. THE U.S. FIRST TACTICAL
AIR FORCE PERFORMED MAGNIFICENTLY
DURING CONSISTENTLY BAD WINTER
WEATHER. WHEN THE ALLIED ARMIES
LAUNCHED THEIR FINAL ATTACK THE EFFECT
OF THE STRATEGIC AIR BOMBARDMENT OF
GERMANY WAS TO BE REFLECTED IN THE
RAPID DESTRUCTION OF HER FIGHTING
FORCES.

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

THE UNITY OF PURPOSE WHICH INSPIRED
ALL WHO SHARED IN THESE CAMPAIGNS
WAS A DECISIVE FACTOR IN THEIR SUCCESS.
THEIR COURAGE AND THEIR DEVOTION TO
DUTY WERE UNSURPASSABLE.

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

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

GRAVES AREA

Interred in the cemetery are 5,255
American military Dead of World
War II. Their 5,252 graves are set in
two fanshaped plots separated by a
wide north/south mall lined with
sycamore (Platenus orientalis) trees.
Plot A lies west of the mall, plot B to
the east. The servicemen and
women interred here died in the ser-
tice of their country. They came
from every state of the Union except
Alaska, Hawaii, and the District of
Columbia. Two graves hold the
commingled remains of two iden-
tified Dead that could not be sepa-
rately identified. In 14 instances, two
brothers lie side by side. Sixty-nine
graves hold the remains of American
Dead that could not be identified
(Unknowns). One of these graves
contains the remains of two com-
rades in arms.

Each grave is marked by a white
marble headstone, a Star of David
for those of the Jewish faith, a Latin
Cross for all others. The lines of
white headstones against the back-
ground of green grass harmonize
well with the memorial and the
Court of Honor at the south end of
the mall. A 75 foot flagpole over-
looks the graves area from the north
end of the mall. Its circular bronze
base sits on a pedestal of Rocheret
limestone which in turn rests on two
circular plinths of Ampilly limestone
from the Cote d'Or region. The base
plinth contains a thirteen-point star
of Noir d'Izeste from the Pyrenees.
Two small cul-de-sacs with foun-
tains are located in the graves area,
one in the northeast corner and one
in the northwest corner. The graves
area itself is enclosed by a wall of
granite from the local region with a
coping of Euville limestone from the
Verdun region.
PLANTINGS
The paths near the perimeter wall of the graves area afford magnificent views of the Moselle Valley and its wooded slopes. Immediately to the south of the cemetery is a beautiful natural woodland of oak, spruce and beech on the hillside. Within the cemetery itself are several groups of English beech (Fagus sylvatica); sycamores (planetrees — Platanus orientalis) line the paths of the cemetery. Oriental cherry (Cerasus serulata), red bud (Cercis canadensis) and English hawthorne (Crataegus oxycantha) were planted in the edges of the woods adjacent to the memorial to add color and density. Flanking the Memorial on the north side are two Cedars of Lebanon as well as a large massif of shrubbery. In the entrance court of the cemetery are holly hedges (Ilex aquifolium) and in the Court of Honor are box hedges (Buxus sempervirens) and Polyantha and Red Globe roses. Informal massifs of other plantings in the vicinity of the Court of Honor contain barberry (Berberis thunbergii), flowering quince (Cydonis japonica), rhododendrons, azaleas, forsythia, scotch broom (Cytisus scoparius), cotoneaster and dwarf yew.
Wall of Court of Honor with Tablets of the Missing

Memorial from Plot B
Visitors' Room

Office and Visitors' Building
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, constructing 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 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 eleven monuments and two bronze tablets on the battlefields and elsewhere, to record the achievements of our Armed Forces. In 1934 the World War I oversea 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; Somme, 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 are now administered by the National Cemetery System, Veterans Administration). 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:

### World War I

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site Description</th>
<th>Burials Known</th>
<th>Unknown</th>
<th>Commemorated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aisne-Marne, Belleau, France</td>
<td>2,039</td>
<td>249</td>
<td>1,060</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brookwood, England</td>
<td>427</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>563</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flanders Field, Waremme, Belgium</td>
<td>347</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meuse-Argonne, Romagne, France</td>
<td>13,760</td>
<td>486</td>
<td>954</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oise-Aisne, Fere-en-Tardenois, France</td>
<td>5,415</td>
<td>597</td>
<td>241</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Mihiel, Thiocourt, France</td>
<td>4,036</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>284</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somme, Bony, France</td>
<td>1,707</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suresnes (See WW II also), Suresnes, France</td>
<td>1,535</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>974</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
<td><strong>29,266</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,654</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,452</strong></td>
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### World War II

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<th>Site Description</th>
<th>Burials Known</th>
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<th>Commemorated</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Ardennes, Neupre (Neuville-en-Condroz) Belgium</td>
<td>4,536</td>
<td>789</td>
<td>462</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brittany, St. James, France</td>
<td>4,313</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>497</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cambridge, England</td>
<td>3,787</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>5,126</td>
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<tr>
<td>Epinal, France</td>
<td>5,186</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>424</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florence, Italy</td>
<td>4,189</td>
<td>213</td>
<td>1,409</td>
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<tr>
<td>Henri-Chapelle, Belgium</td>
<td>7,895</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lorraine, St. Avold, France</td>
<td>10,335</td>
<td>151</td>
<td>444</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luxembourg, Luxembourg City, Luxembourg</td>
<td>4,975</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>370</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manila, Republic of the Philippines</td>
<td>13,462</td>
<td>3,744</td>
<td>36,280</td>
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<tr>
<td>Netherlands, Margraten, Netherlands</td>
<td>8,195</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>1,722</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Normandy, St. Laurent-sur-Mer, France</td>
<td>9,079</td>
<td>307</td>
<td>1,557</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
North Africa, Carthage, Tunisia .............................. 2,601 240 3,724
Rhone, Draguignan, France ................................. 799 62 293
Sicily-Rome, Nettuno, Italy ............................... 7,372 490 3,094
Suresnes (See WW I also), Suresnes, France ........... 24 ...
East Coast Memorial, New York City, New York ........... 4,596
Honolulu Memorial, Honolulu, Hawaii ..................... 18,094
West Coast Memorial, San Francisco, California ........... 412

Totals ........................................ 86,727 6,511 78,954

World War II cemeteries maintained by the National Cemetery System, Veterans Administration

Honolulu, Hawaii ........................................ 11,505 2,028 (See Honolulu Memorial)

Puerto Rico ........................................ 69 ...
Sitka, Alaska ........................................ 67 5 ...

Other Missing in Action Commemorated by ABMC
Korean War, Honolulu Memorial, Honolulu, Hawaii .... 8,194
Vietnam War, Honolulu Memorial, Honolulu, Hawaii .. 2,489

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:
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 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 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 Veterans Administration, 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, 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 Veterans Administration, the American Battle Monuments Commission constructed a memorial therein, incorporating the features of the memorials in its overseas cemeteries. The names of 18,094 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 8,194 missing of the Korean War and 2,489 Missing of the Vietnam War.

POINTE DU HOC MONUMENT

Following World War II, the French erected a monument at Pointe du Hoc overlooking the right flank of
Omaha Beach, France 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 counter-attacks 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 January 11, 1979.

**MEXICO CITY NATIONAL CEMETERY**

The Mexico City National Cemetery is at 31 Calzada Melchor Ocampo, about 2 miles west of the 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 July 16, 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 4,848 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 October 1, 1979.
FLORAL DECORATIONS

In the overseas cemeteries, the decoration of graves and 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
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.

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 the section of the Tablets of the Missing where the 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.
Decorated Gravesite of an "Unknown"
THE AMERICAN
BATTLE MONUMENTS
COMMISSION

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MARCH 1923

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Armistead J. Maupin
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68, rue du 19 Janvier
92 - Garches, France

Mailing Address:
APO New York 09777
Telephone: 701-1976

Telegrams: ABMC AMEMBASSY
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PHILIPPINE OFFICE

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American Military Cemetery
Manila, R. P.

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Telephone: Manila 88-02-12
Telegrams: AMBAMCOM, Manila, R.P.
Meuse–Argonne American Cemetery, Romagne, France