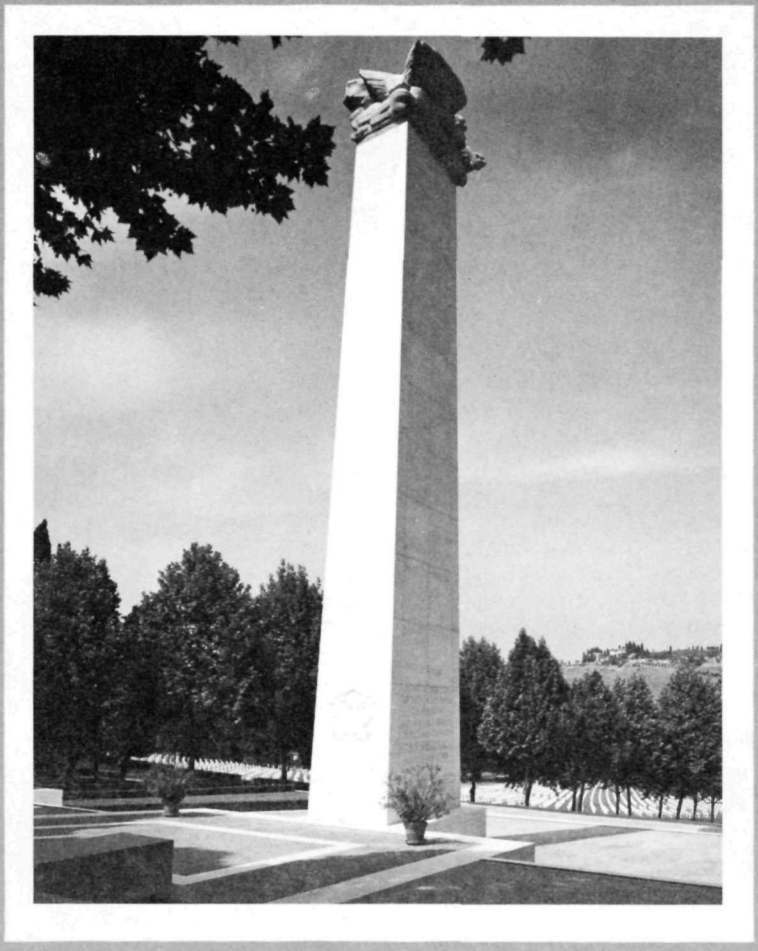
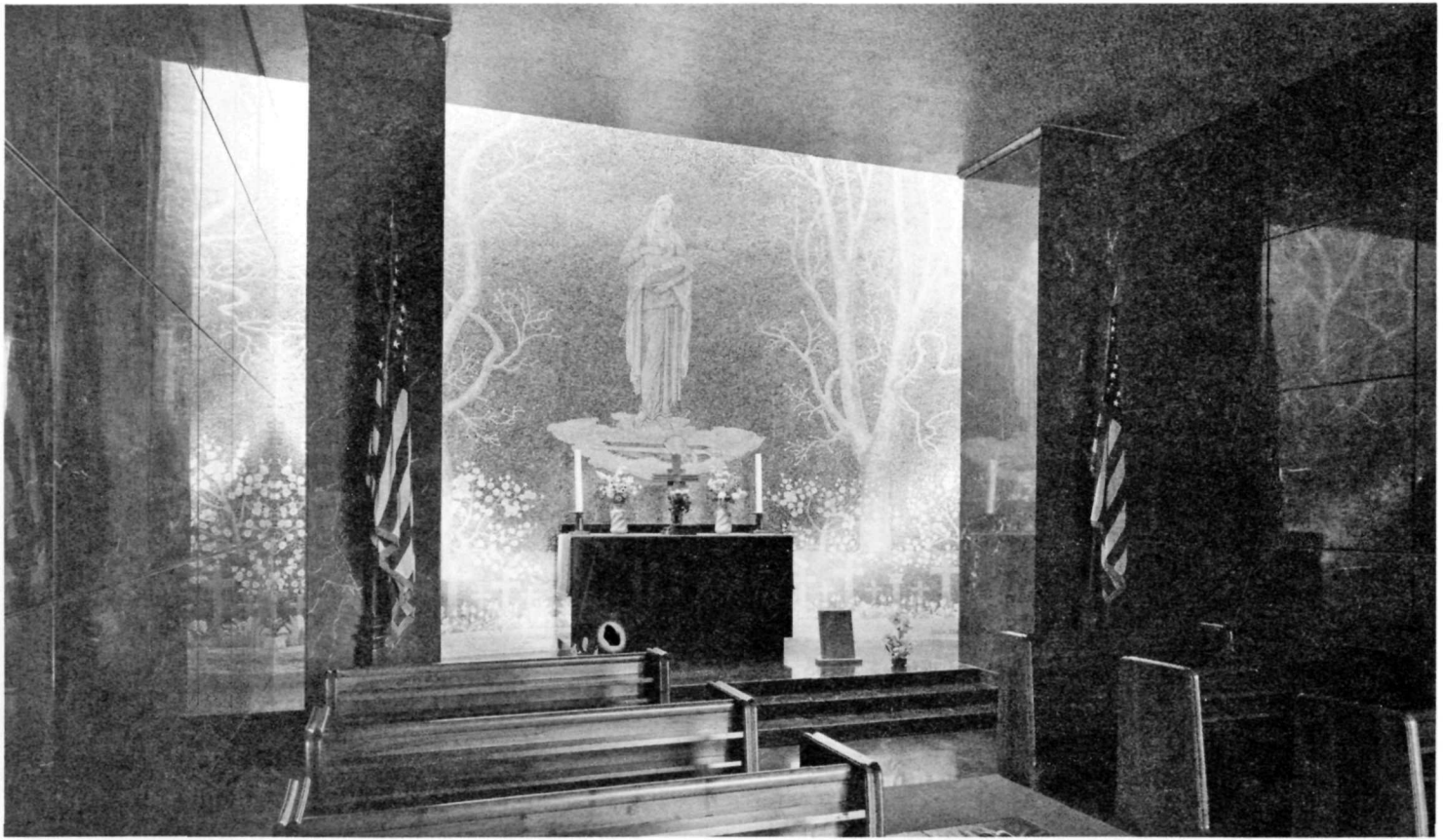
Florence American Cemetery and Memorial



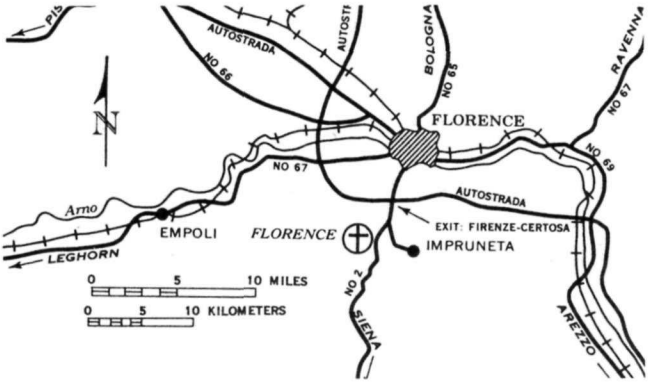
The American Battle Monuments Commission

1985



Chapel Interior

Florence American Cemetery and Memorial



LOCATION

The Florence American Cemetery is situated approximately 7.5 miles (12 kilometers) south of Florence, Italy, on the west side of the Via Cassia, a main highway connecting Florence with Siena and Rome. The Certosa-Florence exit of the Rome-Milan autoroute is two miles south of the cemetery.

Train service to Florence from the principal cities of Italy and Europe is excellent. Bus and taxi service is available from the railroad station to the cemetery. A "SITA" bus stop is conveniently located just outside the cemetery entrance.

Hotel accommodations in Florence are ample.

HOURS

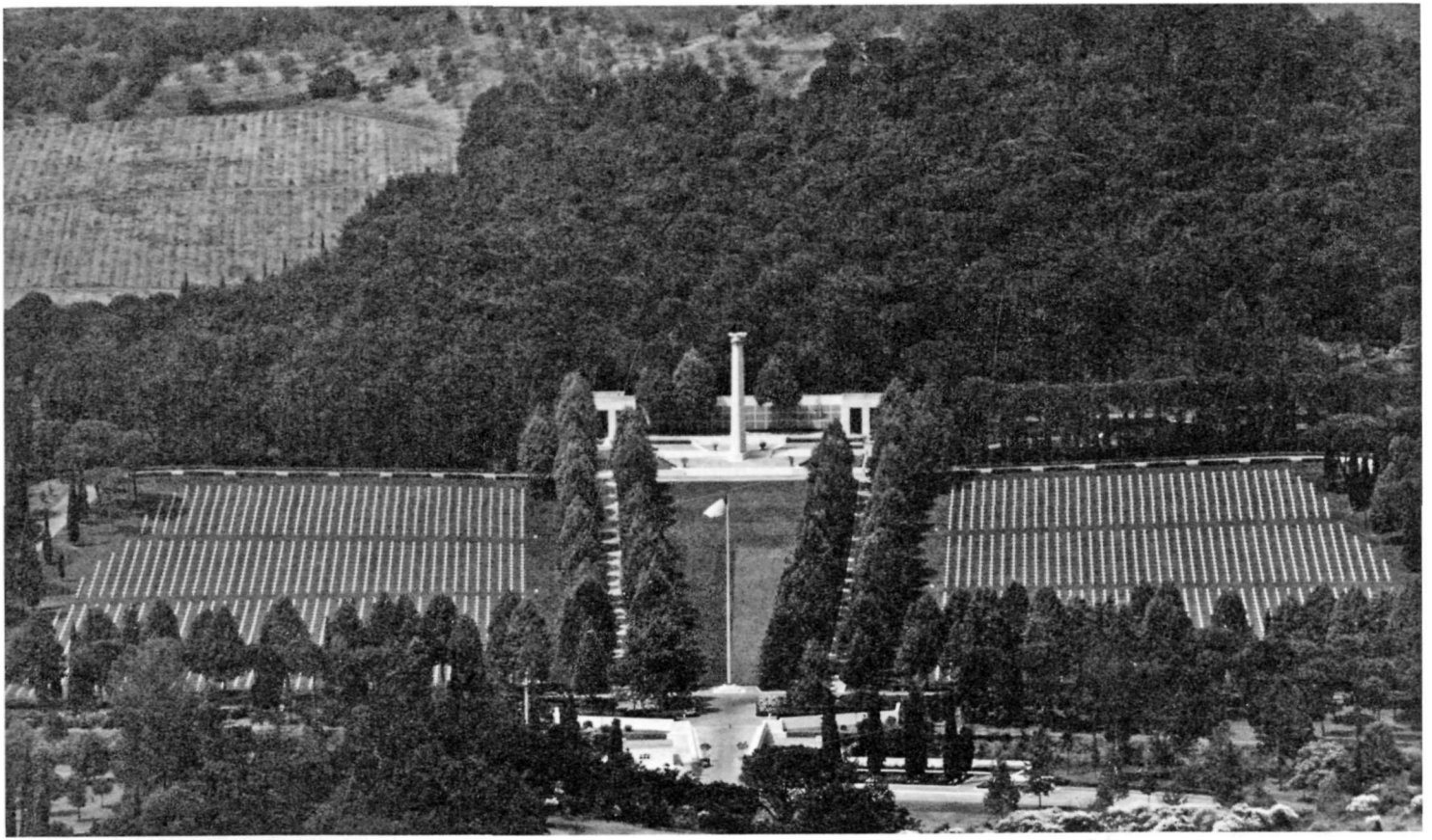
The cemetery is open daily to the public during the following hours:
SUMMER (15 May – 15 September)
8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
WINTER (16 September – 14 May)
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

HISTORY

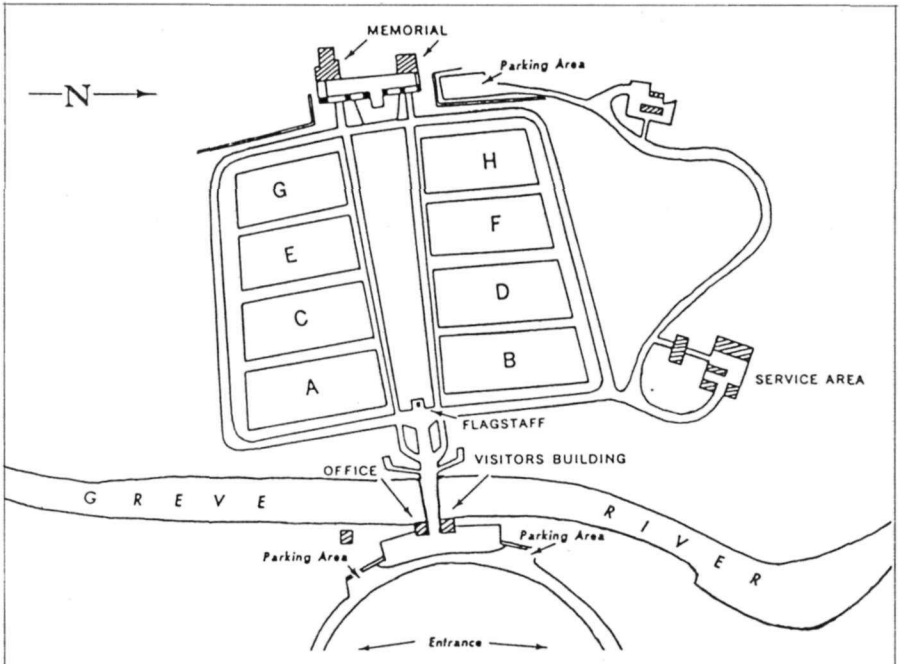
Following the capture of Rome on 4 June 1944, the Allies pursued the enemy northward toward the Po River and the Alps. For the first time since the Allies landed at Salerno in September 1943, the enemy was in full retreat.

Through June and the first half of July, Allied forces advanced rapidly

Cemetery Office and Visitors' Building



Overall View of the Cemetery



Location of Cemetery Features

northward from Rome. Pursuit was energetic even though many Allied troops were being withdrawn in preparation for the attack in southern France. Leghorn fell to U.S. troops of the Fifth Army on 18 July 1944; five days later they entered Pisa. Florence fell to British troops of the U.S. Fifth Army on 4 August 1944. By then, the Allies had crossed the Arno and reached the outposts of the Gothic Line, the last enemy defensive system in Italy. There they paused to reorganize and resupply before continuing their offensive.

On 25 August, the British Eighth Army attacked on the eastern half of the Gothic Line, driving into the mountains. Several days later, the U.S. Fifth Army penetrated the Gothic Line on the west as a prelude to outflanking and occupying the strong defenses of the Futa Pass. Continuing its advance, the Eighth Army crossed several strongly defended rivers and entered Rimini on 21 September 1944.

In October 1944, a final bid to capture Bologna brought the Fifth Army to within nine miles of that city. There with the Po Valley in sight, the Fifth Army and the Eighth Army were forced by harsh weather conditions and shortages of personnel and supplies to halt for the winter.

Preceded by massive air and artillery bombardment, the Eighth Army resumed the offensive northward on 9 April 1945. Five days later the Fifth Army joined the attack, supported by the heaviest air assault yet employed in Italy. Although the offensive met stiff opposition, within one week U.S. troops had driven into the Po Valley and were converging on Bologna from the south and west, while at the same time the Eighth Army was converging on it from the east. The city fell to the Fifth Army on 21 April 1945. With the establishment of a bridgehead across the Po River on 23 April 1945, the fleeing enemy forces were pursued rapidly northward.

The final week of the war saw wide advances throughout northern Italy. While infantry and mountain troops of the Fifth Army drove into the foothills of the Alps, its armored columns and motorized infantry raced up the Po Valley, reaching Milan on 29 April 1945. During this time, the Eighth Army swept northeast along the Adriatic coastal plain to liberate Padua and Venice.

After seizing Genoa, U.S. forces drove westward to make contact with the French as resistance began to collapse everywhere. On 2 May 1945, the enemy troops in northern Italy surrendered.

SITE

The Florence American Cemetery, 70 acres in extent, is one of fourteen permanent American World War II military cemetery memorials erected on foreign soil by the American Battle Monuments Commission.

The site was liberated on 3 August 1944 by the South African 6th Armoured Division, and later became part of the zone of the U.S. Fifth Army. It is located astride the Greve River, and is framed by wooded hills which rise several hundred feet to the west. The site was selected as a permanent cemetery after a survey of temporary cemeteries established in northern Italy during World War II revealed that there was at least one major objection in every instance to retention of any of the temporary sites as a permanent cemetery.

The 4,402 servicemen and women interred in the cemetery represent 39 percent of the temporary burials originally made between Rome and the Alps. Most died in the fighting which occurred after the capture of Rome in June 1944. Included among them are casualties of the heavy fighting in the Apennines shortly before the war's end.

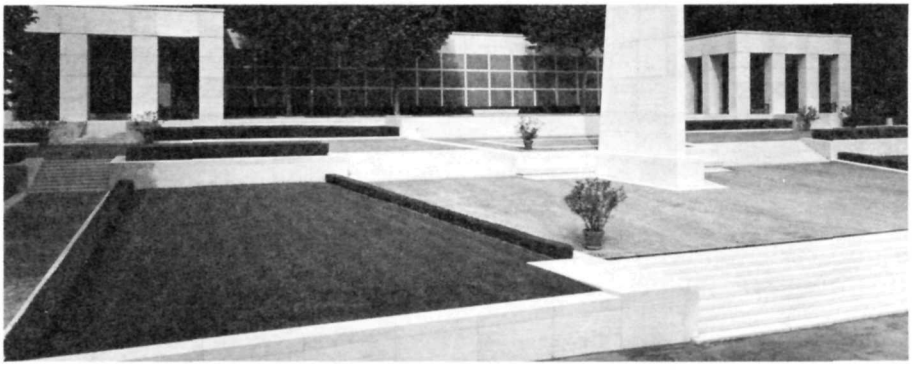
ARCHITECTS

Architects for the cemetery and its memorial were McKim, Mead and White of New York. The landscape architects were Clarke and Rapuano, also of New York.

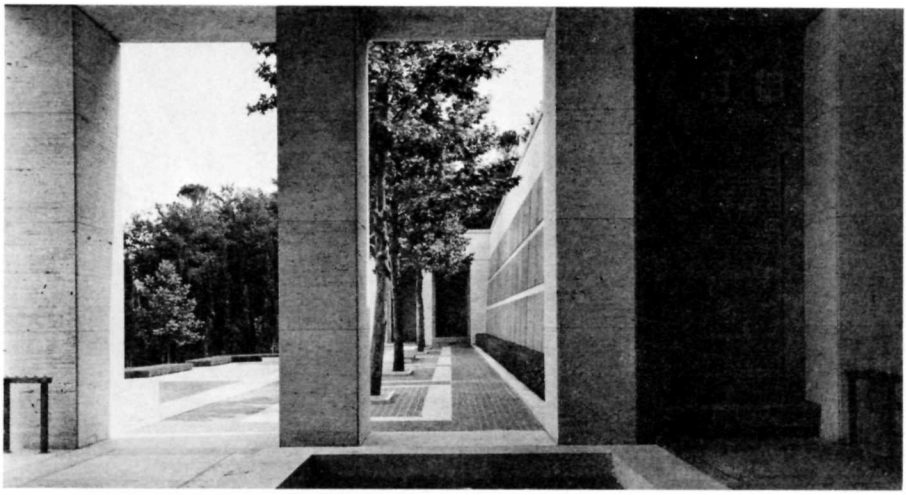
GENERAL LAYOUT

The two entrances to the cemetery are located about 250 meters apart on the Via Cassia. Connecting them is a crescent-shaped drive within the cemetery which leads to parking areas on the east or near bank of the Greve River, the cemetery office, the visitors' building and a small bridge. The office and visitors' building face each other at the near end of the bridge.

On the west bank of the Greve River are the graves area, the memorial, the service area and the superin-



The Memorial



North Atrium

tendent's quarters. A wide east-west mall of fine grass separates the graves area into two parts. Overlooking it from high ground at the west end of the mall is the memorial; a large flagpole overlooks it from the east end.

Construction of the cemetery and memorial was completed in 1959.

THE MEMORIAL

The memorial consists of two open atria or courts, a connecting wall on which are affixed tablets with the names of the Missing in the region, a chapel and a stele or pylon surmounted by a sculptured figure representing the spirit of peace. The wall and chapel are on the topmost of three broad terraces overlooking the cemetery. The base of the stele is on the lower terrace.

The south atrium serves as a forecourt to the chapel. Like its counterpart on the north, it has a rectangular pool and jet in its center and it is faced with Roman travertine. The inner recessed walls of the atria are panelled in Baveno granite from quarries at the north end of Lake Como.

Each recessed inner wall panel of the south atrium bears an inscription. Reading clockwise from its southeast corner, the inscriptions are as follows:

Panel No. 1

THEY FACED THE FOE AS THEY DREW NEAR HIM IN THE STRETCH OF THEIR OWN MANHOOD AND WHEN THE SHOCK OF BATTLE CAME THEY IN A MOMENT OF TIME AT THE CLIMAX OF THEIR LIVES WERE RAPT AWAY FROM A WORLD FILLED FOR THEIR DYING EYES NOT WITH TERROR BUT WITH GLORY

Panel No. 2

. . . SUCH WERE THE MEN WHO LIE HERE THEY RECEIVED EACH FOR HIS OWN MEMORY PRAISE THAT WILL NEVER DIE AND WITH IT THE GRANDEST OF ALL SEPULCHRES A HOME IN THE MINDS OF MEN

Panel No. 3

THEREFORE DO NOT MOURN WITH THE PARENTS OF THE DEAD WHO ARE HERE WITH US RATHER COMFORT THEM LET THEIR BURDEN BE LIGHTENED BY THE GLORY OF THE DEAD THE LOVE OF HONOR ALONE IS NOT STALED BY AGE

Military Operations Map

. . AND IT IS BY HONOR THAT THE END OF LIFE IS CHEERED

(These three texts are from A. E. Zimmern's translation of Pericles' Praise of the Dead as recorded by Thucydides.)

Panel No. 4 *(to the left of the Chapel door)*
O LORD SUPPORT US ALL THE DAY LONG UNTIL THE SHADOWS LENGTHEN AND THE EVENING COMES AND THE FEVER OF LIFE IS OVER AND OUR WORK IS DONE THEN IN THY MERCY GRANT US A SAFE LODGING AND A HOLY REST AND PEACE AT THE LAST

(This is taken from Cardinal Newman's Sermon XX and is included in the Episcopal Prayer book.)

Panel No. 5 *(to the right of the Chapel door)*
O GOD WHO ART THE AUTHOR OF PEACE AND LOVER OF CONCORD DEFEND US THY HUMBLE SERVANTS IN ALL ASSAULTS OF OUR ENEMIES THAT WE SURELY TRUSTING IN THY DEFENSE MAY NOT FEAR THE POWER OF ANY ADVERSARIES

(This also is from the Episcopal prayer book.)

Panel No. 6 *(on the north wall, nearest to the Wall of the Missing)*
THEIR BODIES ARE BURIED IN PEACE THEIR NAME LIVETH FOR EVERMORE

(From Ecclesiastes 44)

Surmounting each of panels 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6 are three granite roundels in which have been carved different military insignia. Appearing clockwise from the southeast corner of the atrium are: Armor, Gunner's Mate, Aerial Gunner; Coast Artillery Corps, Boatswain's Mate, Army Air Corps; Corps of Engineers, Infantry, Christian Chaplain; Jewish Chaplain, Field Artillery, Medical Corps; and Signal Corps, Machinist's Mate and Aerial Bombardier.

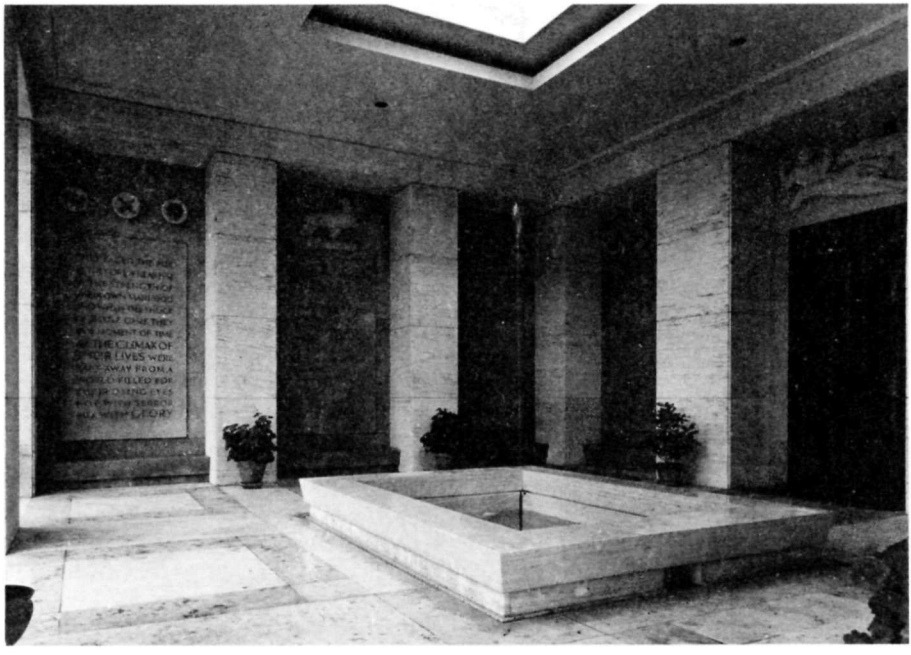
A carved figure representing "The Spirit of American Youth" appears above the chapel door, while one representing an American eagle appears above panel No. 2, the center south panel. Both figures were designed by Sidney Waugh.

The bronze doors to the chapel were fabricated by the Fonderia Marinelli of Florence. From the doorway, the altar of Belgian black marble, with its bronze accouterments, can be seen at the opposite end of the chapel. Behind the altar is a mosaic, 21 feet high and 24 feet wide, designed by Barry Faulkner of New York and executed by Fabrizio Cassio of Rome. The mosaic depicts Remembrance standing on a cloud, holding in her arms the lilies of Resurrection. The figure is contemplating a crocus-strewn field of marble headstones set among trees showing the first buds of spring—symbolizing new life. At the feet of Remembrance a helmet rests on a sword. The mosaic is illuminated by a skylight.

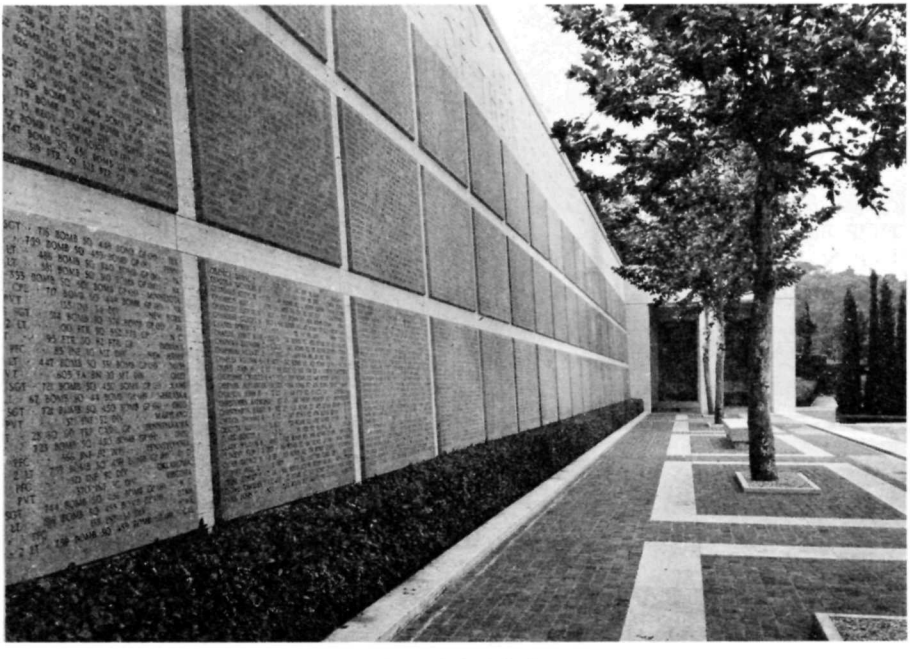
The chapel walls and the two columns flanking the altar are of polished Rosso Collemandino marble from Versiglia, Italy. The floor is paved with Verde Serpentino marble from Sondrio, Italy; the pews are of walnut.

The north atrium is similar in general design to the south atrium. Set into its west wall are two military operations maps recalling the achievements of the American forces in the region. They were designed by Bruno Bearzi of Florence, Italy from data furnished by the American Battle Monuments Commission.

The larger of the maps pictures Northern Italy and portrays military operations to the end of the war from the vicinity of the cemetery northward. The military operations as well as the general topography of the area are depicted in a mosaic of colored marbles known as intarsia, an art form for which the Florence region is famous. The map is embellished in its upper left hand corner



South Atrium



Tablets of the Missing

by twelve shields in four rows of three, each bearing the shoulder insignia of American ground and air units which participated in the fighting in Northern Italy. From left to right, these are: Fifth Army, Twelfth Air Force, Fifteenth Air Force; II Corps, IV Corps, 1st Armored Division; 10th Mountain Division, 34th Infantry Division, 85th Infantry Division; and 88th Infantry Division, 91st Infantry Division and 92d Infantry Division.

The smaller map is an insert into the larger map just below the shields. It illustrates the broad outline of military operations which took place in Sicily and Italy beginning in July 1943. The map was executed in scagliola by Emilio Martelli of Florence, Italy, a process consisting of drawings in colored artificial compositions which are inlaid in marble and glazed.

A stone planter runs the length of the wall at the foot of the maps. In front of the planter is a low bronze railing with regularly spaced bronze uprights.

The Baveno granite panels on the side walls of the atrium are inscribed with texts in English and Italian explaining the maps. The English and Italian inscriptions on the short side wall immediately to the left of the maps apply to the insert map and read in English as follows:

ON 10 JULY 1943, AMERICAN AND BRITISH FORCES, COVERED BY GUNFIRE OF THE WESTERN NAVAL TASK FORCE AND AIRCRAFT OF THE TWELFTH AIR FORCE, LANDED ON THE SHORES OF SICILY. THE U.S. SEVENTH ARMY ADVANCED RAPIDLY OVER THE WEST AND NORTH OF THE ISLAND, WITH THE BRITISH EIGHTH ARMY ON ITS RIGHT. THIS SWIFT CAMPAIGN LIBERATED THE ISLAND IN 39 DAYS.

ON 9 SEPTEMBER, UNDER COVER OF NAVAL AND AIR BOMBARDMENT, THE U.S. FIFTH ARMY LANDED NEAR SALERNO. FIGHTING ITS WAY INLAND IT JOINED THE EIGHTH ARMY WHICH HAD CROSSED THE STRAITS OF MESSINA. BY 1 OCTOBER, NAPLES AND THE AIRFIELDS NEAR FOGGIA HAD BEEN SEIZED; FROM THE LATTER THE U.S. FIFTEENTH AIR FORCE LAUNCHED ITS STRATEGIC ATTACKS ON AUSTRIA, THE BALKANS AND GERMANY.

AGAINST DETERMINED OPPOSITION, THE FIFTH AND EIGHTH ARMIES DROVE NORTHWARD. TO ASSIST THE ADVANCE, ALLIED TROOPS ON 22 JANUARY 1944 LANDED IN THE ANZIO REGION BUT THE ENEMY'S PROMPT REACTION PREVENTED EXPLOITATION OF THIS BEACHHEAD, ON 11 MAY THE TWO ARMIES LAUNCHED A GENERAL ATTACK; THE FIFTH ARMY AIDED BY THE TWELFTH AIR FORCE BREACHED THE ENEMY DEFENSES IN THE MOUNTAINS NORTH OF GAETA. THE TROOPS IN THE BEACHHEAD JOINED THE ATTACK AND ON 4 JUNE THE FIFTH ARMY ENTERED ROME.

The English and Italian inscriptions on the left and right panels of the north wall, respectively, apply to the large map of northern Italy and read in English as follows:

FOLLOWING THE LIBERATION OF ROME, THE ALLIES MAINTAINED THEIR PURSUIT OF THE ENEMY. BY 18 JULY 1944, THE U.S. FIFTH ARMY HAD ADVANCED 150 MILES UP THE WEST COAST AND HAD LIBERATED LEGHORN. IN CENTRAL ITALY AND ALONG THE ADRIATIC THE BRITISH EIGHTH ARMY HAD PARALLELED THIS ADVANCE. AFTER PAUSING TO REORGANIZE, THE FIFTH ARMY CROSSED THE ARNO AND PURSUED THE RETREATING ENEMY INTO THE MOUNTAINS TO THE OUTPOSTS OF THE GOTHIC LINE.

AFTER DIFFICULT FIGHTING THE FIFTH ARMY CUT THROUGH THIS STRONG DEFENSE SYSTEM TO REACH FIRENZUOLA AND THE SANTERNO VALLEY ON 21 SEPTEMBER. THE SAME DAY, BRITISH TROOPS, HAVING FORCED SUCCESSIVE DEFENDED RIVER LINES, ENTERED RIMINI. THE U.S. TWELFTH AIR FORCE AND THE DESERT AIR FORCE MATERIALLY CONTRIBUTED TO THESE ADVANCES BY THEIR CLOSE SUPPORT AND THEIR

East-West Mall

CONTINUOUS ATTACKS AGAINST REAR AREAS. THE ADVANCE TO THE SANTERNO VALLEY HAD OUTFLANKED THE STRONG DEFENSES OF FUTA PASS, WHICH WAS OCCUPIED ON 22 SEPTEMBER BY AMERICAN FORCES. DURING OCTOBER, THE ALLIED ADVANCES CONTINUED AT A SLOWER PACE AGAINST STIFFENED RESISTANCE. BY THE END OF THE MONTH, HAMPERED BY BAD WEATHER AND MUD, SHORTAGES OF PERSONNEL AND DIFFICULTIES OF SUPPLY, THE FIFTH ARMY, NOW ONLY NINE MILES SHORT OF BOLOGNA AND WITHIN SIGHT OF THE PO VALLEY, PREPARED FOR ITS SECOND WINTER IN ITALY.

EARLY IN APRIL 1945, GAINS ALONG BOTH COASTS MARKED THE END OF THE WINTER HALT. AFTER A WEEK OF HEAVY FIGHTING OUR TROOPS BROKE INTO THE PO VALLEY. PRECEDED BY BOMBER AND FIGHTER AIRCRAFT WHICH HARASSED THE FLEEING ENEMY, THE ALLIED ADVANCE CONTINUED UNCHECKED ACROSS THE PO, THEN SPREAD OUT TO THE NORTH, EAST AND WEST TO CLOSE THE FRONTIERS. ON 2 MAY 1945, THE ENEMY IN ITALY SURRENDERED UNCONDITIONALLY.

The central panel of the north wall is engraved with this extract from General Eisenhower's "Crusade in Europe": FREEDOM FROM FEAR AND INJUSTICE AND OPPRESSION IS OURS ONLY IN THE MEASURE THAT MEN WHO VALUE SUCH FREEDOM ARE READY TO SUSTAIN ITS POSSESSION, TO DEFEND IT AGAINST EVERY THRUST FROM WITHIN OR WITHOUT.

Below the inscriptions on the north wall are six key maps recording the development of the war against Germany and the war against Japan.

Along the frieze above the inscriptions are nine escutcheons of Baveno granite on which are embossed the names of these ground and air battles in which American forces participated: Gela-Palermo-Troina; Salerno-Altavilla-Volturno; Magnano-San Pietro-Rapido; Cas-

Statue of Soldier Overlooking Plot B from the East

sino-Anzio-Cisterna; Rome-Leghorn-Arno; Futa-Santerno-Radicosa; Serchio-Bologna-Po Valley; Ploesti-Vienna-Munich; Regensburg-Budapest-Brenner.

The Wall of the Missing, which connects the north and south atria, is constructed of travertine stone and measures 17'6'' in height and 138' in length. Shaded by plane trees, the Baveno granite panels on the wall are inscribed with the names and particulars of 1,409 Missing in Action in the region or lost or buried at sea. They came from Canada, the District of Columbia and from every state of the Union except Alaska and Hawaii.

United States Army and Army Air Forces	1,397[1]
United States Navy	12

[1] During World War II the Air Forces were part of the Army.

Running the full length of the wall above the names is the following inscription:

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

The pylon or stele in front of the Wall of the Missing is 69 feet high and triangular in plan. Faced in Roman travertine, it is surmounted by a sculptured figure in Baveno granite designed by Sidney Waugh of New York. The figure represents the spirit of peace hovering over the fallen, bearing olive branches. Flying beside her out of cloud-like forms is the American eagle, guardian of justice and honor. This sculpture as well as the reliefs in the two atria were executed by Polli & Cardini of Baveno, Italy. The following dedicatory inscription appears on the pylon in English and Italian:

Visitors' Room

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

Protection from possible landslide damage to the memorial is provided by massive reinforced concrete walls on its sides and rear.

THE GRAVES AREA

The 4,398 headstones are separated by paths of grass into eight plots designated A to H, four on each side of the central or east-west mall.

Within the graves area, the headstones seem to radiate in gentle arcs from the memorial pylon, curving inward slightly, contributing to the harmonious relationship between the graves area and the memorial.

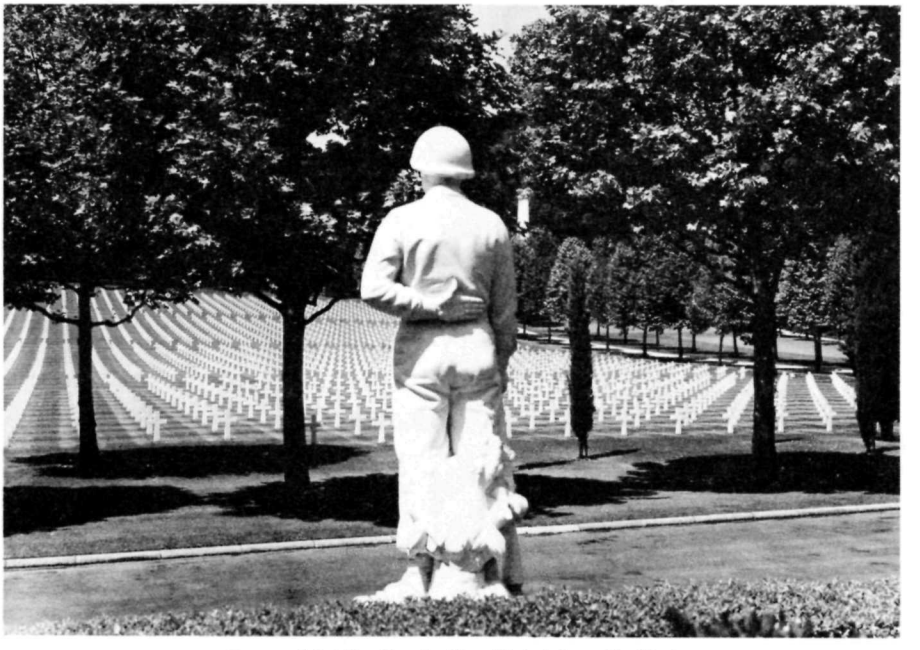
These honored Dead who gave their lives in our country's service came from the Philippine Islands, China, Turkey, Spain, the District of Columbia and from every state in the Union except Alaska.

Two headstones mark the multiple burials of two Unknowns whose remains could not be separated and one headstone marks the grave of three Unknowns. Five pairs of brothers are buried side-by-side within the cemetery.

PLANTINGS

The graves area is enclosed by tree and shrubbery masses in which Italian stone pines, Italian cypresses, oriental plane trees, willows, holly oaks and cedars of Lebanon predominate. There are also flowering shrubs of oleander, laurel-cherry, crepe myrtle and Chinese starjasmine. A double row of oriental plane trees flanks the mall.

On the north side of the cemetery is a road bordered with German iris which leads to the service area, the superintendent's quarters and the memorial and its parking area.



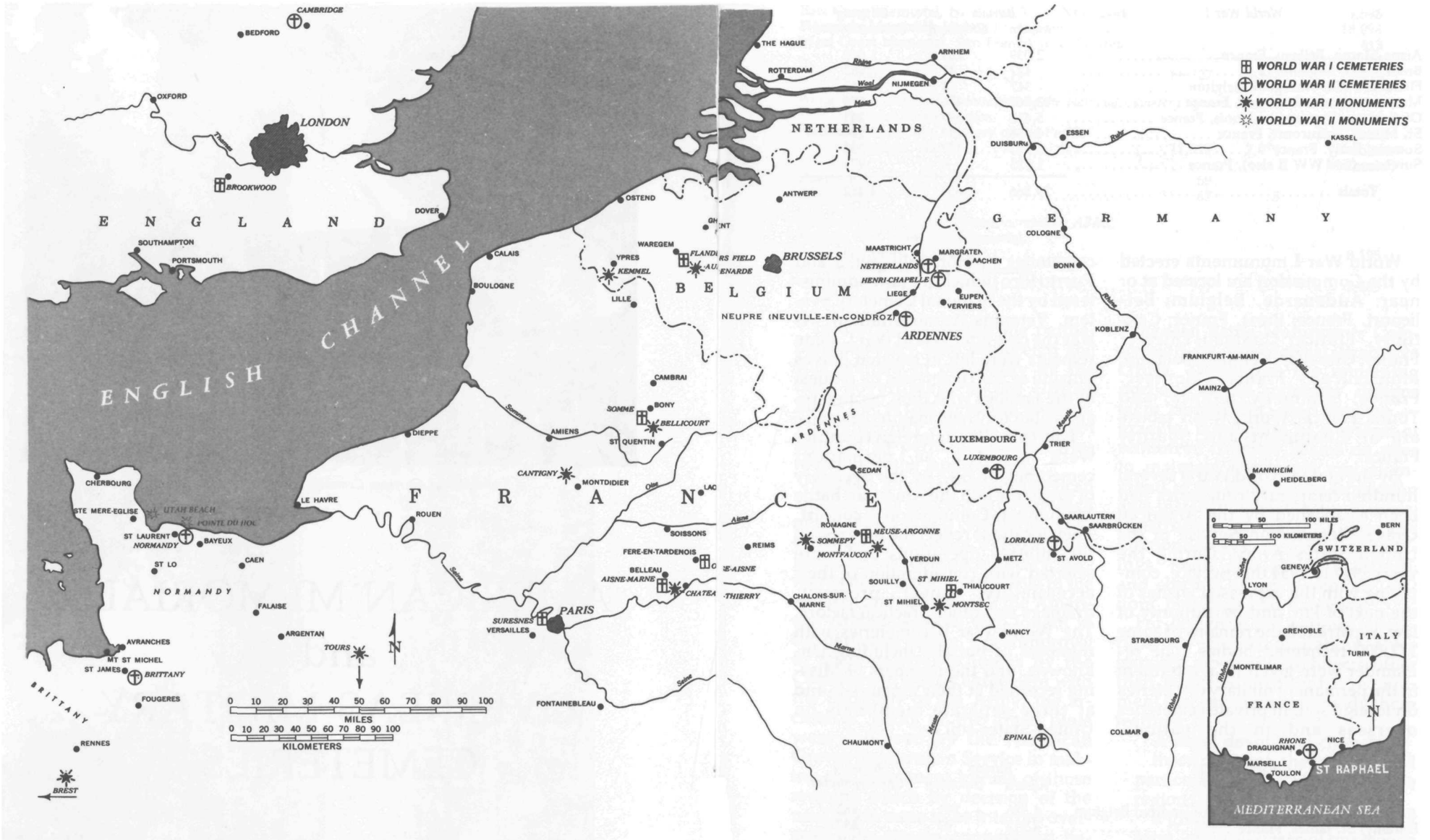
Statue of Soldier Overlooking Plot A from the East

A View of the Graves Area

Aisne-Marne American Cemetery, Belleau, Aisne, 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 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 number of burials and the number of Missing recorded at their memorials are:

World War I	Burials		Missing
	Known	Unknown	Commemorated
Aisne-Marne, Belleau, France	2,039	249	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	1,707	137	333
Suresnes (See WW II also), France	1,535	6	974
Totals	29,266	1,654	4,452

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 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 II	Burials		Missing
	Known	Unknown	Commemorated
Ardennes, Neupre (Neuville-en-Condroz) Belgium	4,536	791	462
Brittany, St. James, France	4,313	97	497
Cambridge, England	3,787	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	370
Manila, Republic of the Philippines	13,462	3,744	36,280
Netherlands, Margraten, Netherlands	8,195	106	1,722
Normandy, St. Laurent-sur-Mer, France	9,079	307	1,557
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), France	...	24	...

East Coast Memorial, New York City, New York	...	...	4,596
Honolulu Memorial, Honolulu, Hawaii	...	...	18,094
West Coast Memorial, San Francisco, California	...	...	413
Totals	86,727	6,513	78,955
World War II cemeteries maintained by the National Cemetery System, Veterans Administration			
National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific Honolulu, Hawaii	11,597	2,079	(See Honolulu Memorial)
Puerto Rico	69	...	...
Sitka, Alaska	67	5	...
Other Missing in Action Commemorated by ABMC			
Korean War, Honolulu Memorial, Honolulu, Hawaii	...	...	8,195
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:

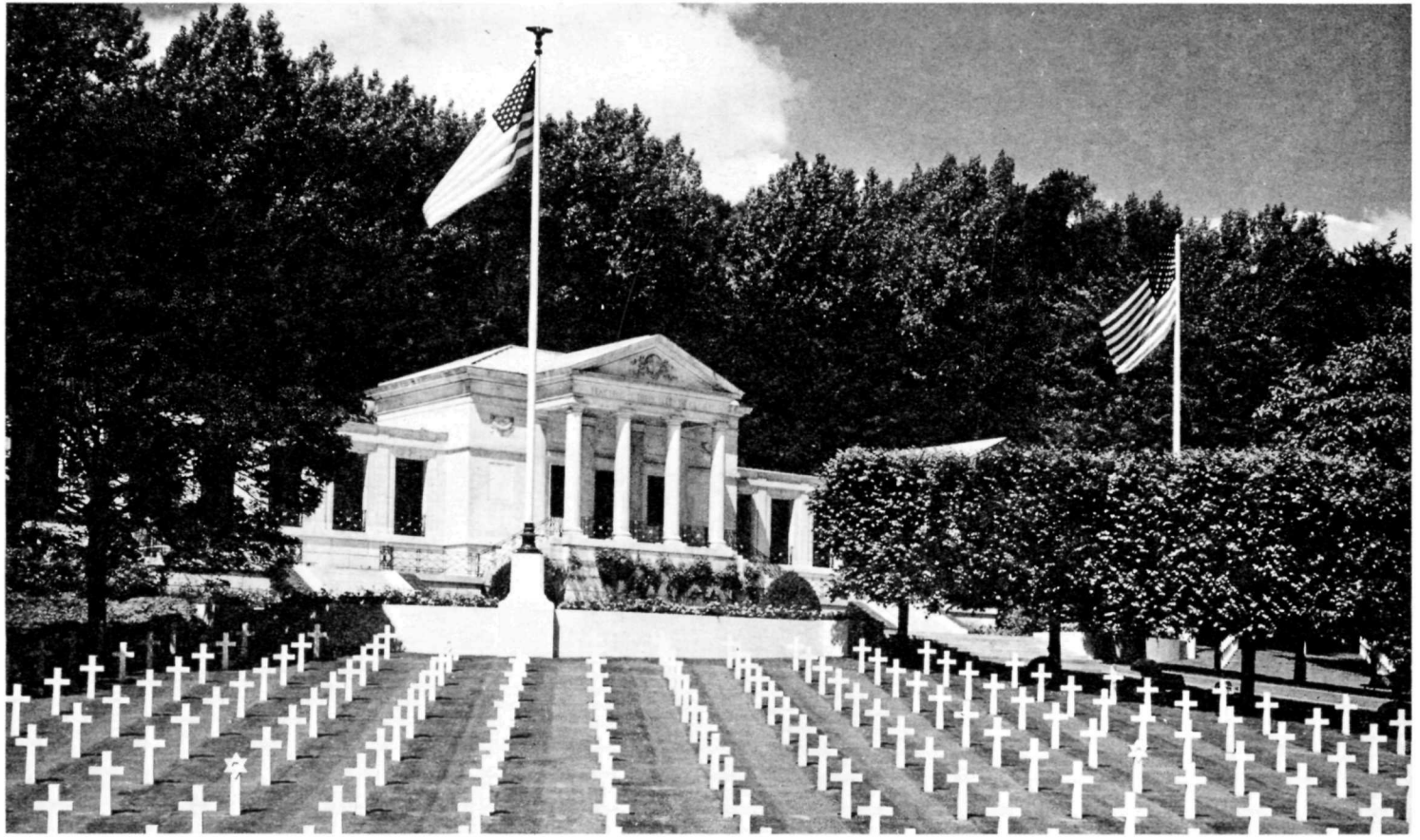
A small devotional chapel;

inscription of the names and particulars of the Missing in the region;

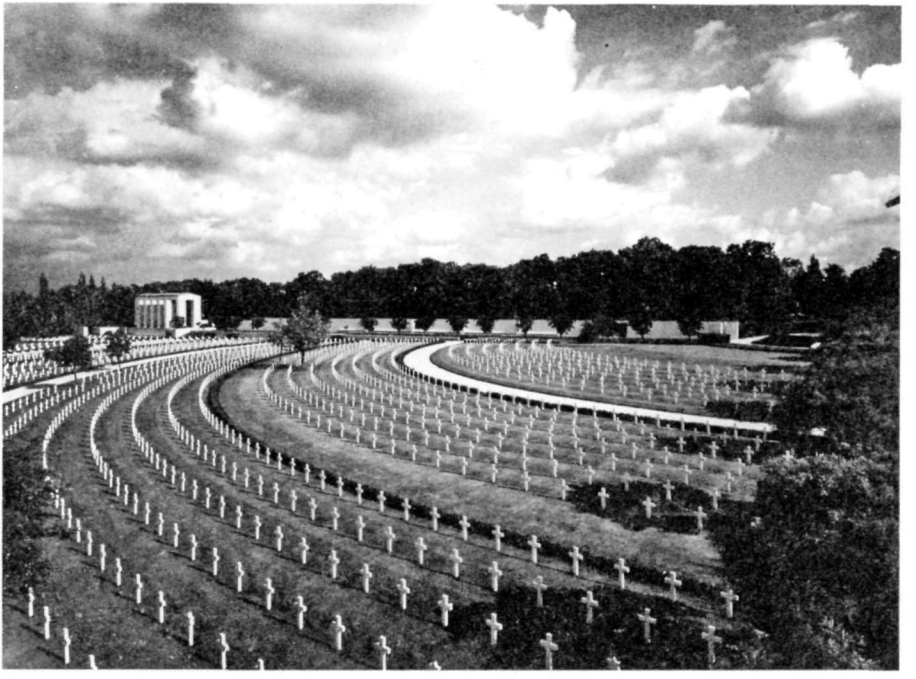
a graphic record, in permanent form, of the services of our troops (WW II only; however, Oise-Aisne, Meuse-Argonne and St. Mihiel WW I American Cemeteries also have battle maps).

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 Govern-



Suresnes American Cemetery, Suresnes, Seine, France

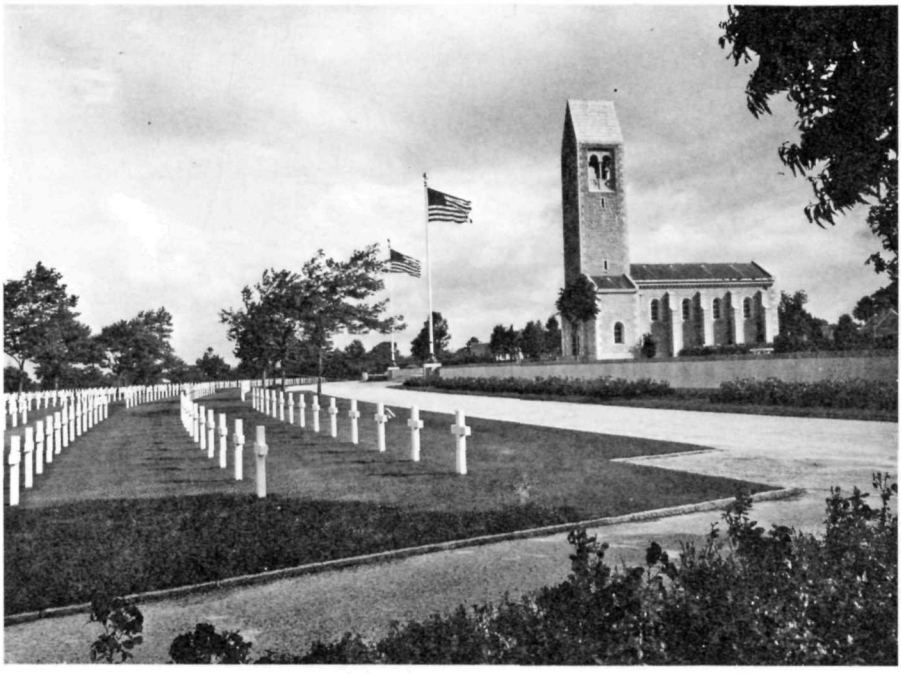


Cambridge American Cemetery and Memorial, Cambridge, England

ment 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



Brittany American Cemetery and Memorial, St. James, Manche, France

may learn the grave locations (or inscriptions of the Missing) at any of the oversea cemeteries.

Each grave in the oversea 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.

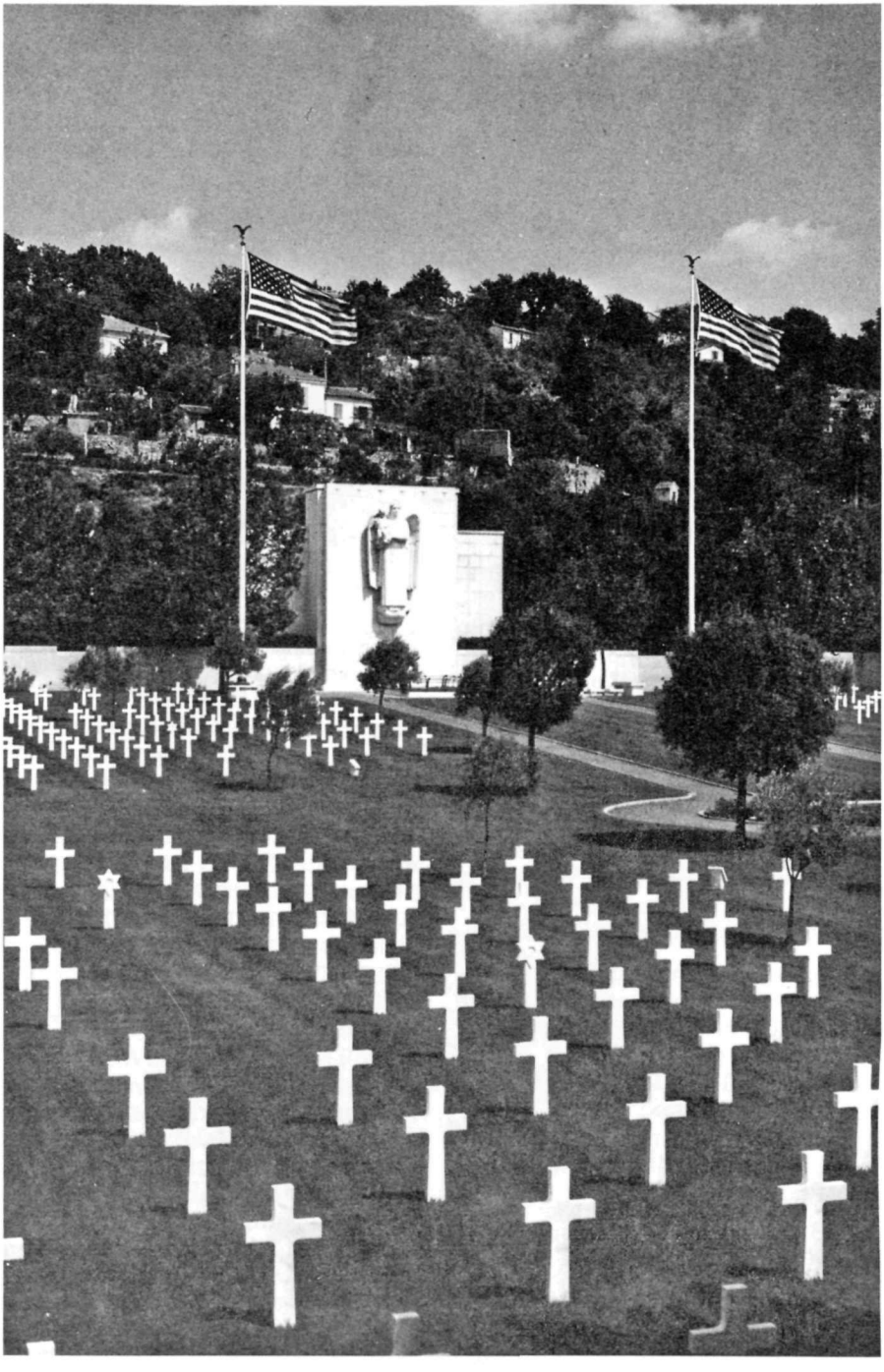
In the World War II cemeteries, the inscription reads:

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 or buried at sea) give name, rank, organization and state; the circumstances under which death occurred often precluded the possibility of determining the exact date.

These cemeteries are open every day of the year. Photography is permitted without special authorization, except when it is to be used for commercial purposes—in such cases, permission must be obtained from the Commission.

Unlike National cemeteries under jurisdiction of the 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.



Rhone American Cemetery and Memorial, Draguignan, Var, France

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.

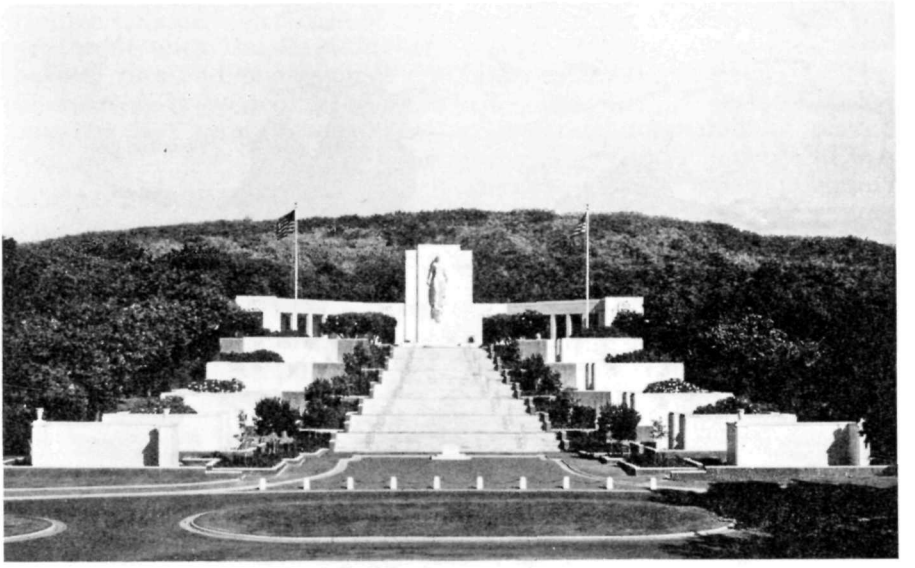
HONOLULU MEMORIAL

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 oversea 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 8,195 Missing of the Korean War and 2,489 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 vol-



Honolulu Memorial (WW II, Korea and Vietnam), National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, Honolulu, Hawaii

canic 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 ULTIMATE SACRIFICE FOR LIBERATION OF THE MARIANAS 1941–1945."

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 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 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 16 July 1947. This cemetery was closed to burials in 1923.

COROZAL AMERICAN CEMETERY, COROZAL, REPUBLIC OF PANAMA

The Corozal American Cemetery is located approximately three miles north of Panama City, just off Gaillard Highway between the Corozal Railroad Station and Fort Clayton. To reach the cemetery, follow Gaillard Highway north from Panama City, turn right on Rybicki Road, and proceed about one-half mile to the cemetery. Taxi and bus service to the

cemetery are available from Panama City. There are 4,795 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.

FLORAL DECORATIONS

In the oversea 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.

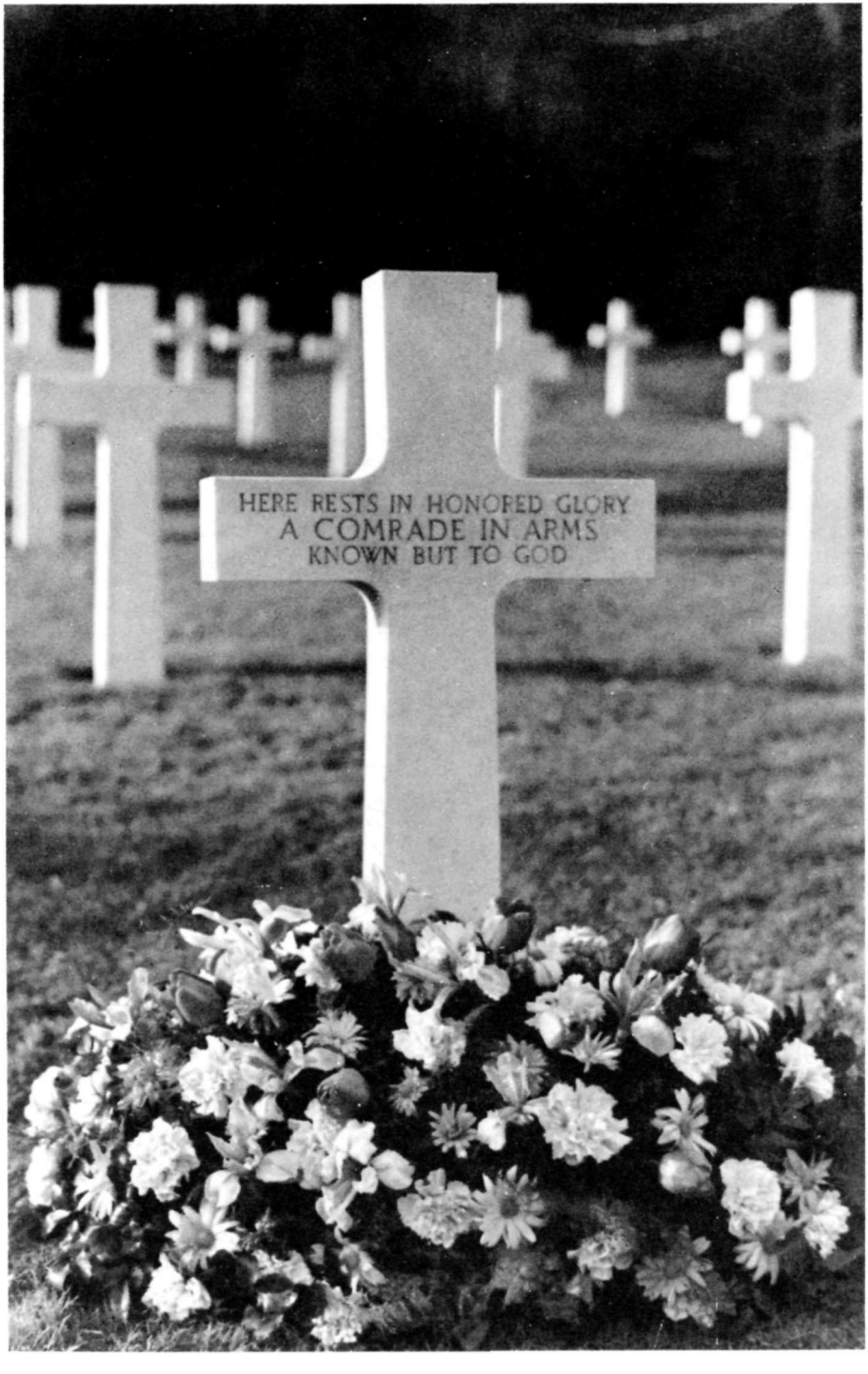
Orders for flowers for all cemeteries may also be placed through any local florist who is a member of the "Florists Telegraph Delivery Association." In such cases, the name of the deceased, his rank, service number, name of the cemetery, country in which located and the location by plot, row and grave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

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. Photographs of graves in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (in Honolulu) are not available through the Commission.



Decorated Gravesite of an "Unknown"

THE AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MARCH 1923

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