

North Africa American Cemetery and Memorial

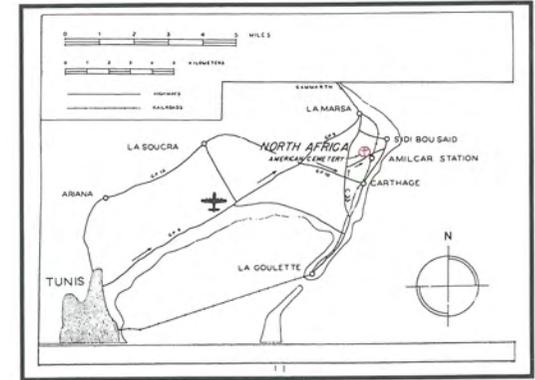


The American Battle Monuments Commission



Chapel Interior

North Africa American Cemetery and Memorial



LOCATION

North Africa American Cemetery and Memorial is situated 10 miles northeast of the city of Tunis, Tunisia, and 5 miles northeast of its airport (El Aouina). It may be reached by taxicab from the city or the airport. There is an electric commuter train from Tunis — the nearest stop is at Amilcar station, from which the cemetery is only two or three hundred yards distant. Hotels are available in Tunis, Carthage,

Amilcar and Gammarth. The weather is likely to be quite hot during the summer months and cold on occasion during the winter.

HOURS

The cemetery is open daily to the public between the hours of 9:00 am and 5:00 pm. (The cemetery is closed on January 1 and December 25. It is open on all other U.S. and host country holidays.)



Cemetery Entrance



Overall View of Graves Area

During these hours a staff member is on duty in the Visitors' Building to answer questions and to escort relatives to grave and memorial sites.

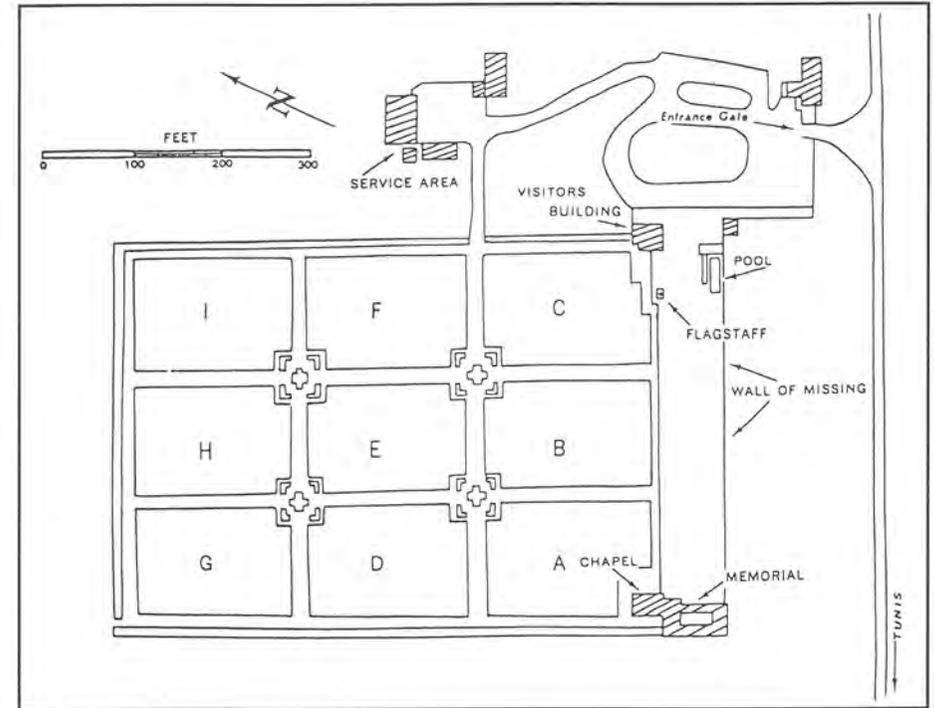
HISTORY

Prior to entry into World War II, the United States adopted a strategic policy regarding how it would conduct combat operations should it be forced into war against the Axis powers (Germany and Italy) and Japan at the same time. The policy was to defeat the stronger enemy in Europe first, while simultaneously maintaining a vigorous defensive posture against Japan. It was not altered by the Japanese surprise attack at Pearl Harbor on 7 December 1941.

The basic plan of action advocated by U.S. war planners was to concentrate forces, supplies and materiel in the British Isles, and after a period of

training, to launch a powerful amphibious assault across the English Channel in the summer of 1943. Although the German advance against Moscow had been stopped in December 1941 and the enemy had been forced backward by a strong Russian winter offensive, the Germans again began advancing rapidly in 1942. The Crimea was overrun, Sevastopol was captured and German forces were moving against Stalingrad on the Volga River. Even greater advances were being made in the Caucasus Mountains to the southeast.

Matters also were going badly for the British in the Mediterranean area along the coast of North Africa in Libya and Egypt, the area known as the Western Desert. There, where the fighting had been seesawing back and forth for nearly two years, the combined German-Italian force known as the Afrika Korps had forced the British Eighth Army back



Location of Cemetery Features

further into Egypt, and was closer to Alexandria than ever before. Additional Axis advances in Egypt and the Caucasus posed a threat to the entire Middle East.

The Allies sorely needed an offensive operation that would lessen the pressure on the British Eighth Army in Egypt. The only operation that could be undertaken with a reasonable chance of success was an assault in French Morocco and Algiers in northwest Africa. It had the advantage of getting American forces into action in 1942, although it would probably delay the cross-Channel assault planned for 1943.

The Allies hoped that French forces defending northwest Africa, which were operating under the control of the portion of France which had not been occupied by the Germans after the armistice of 1940,

might welcome them or offer only token resistance. Some of these forces were loyal to Vichy, France; others were sympathetic to the Allied cause.

The invasion plan of northwest Africa provided for three naval task forces to land before dawn on 8 November 1942 in three widely separated areas. The U.S. Western Naval Task Force, composed entirely of American ships sailing from the United States at the height of the Battle of the Atlantic against German submarines, arrived unsuspected and undetected. Its landings in French Morocco encountered the strongest resistance of any of the landing forces. In the center, the U.S. 3d Infantry Division landing at Fedala near Casablanca, found both army and naval forces opposing it. As it fought its way inland, fire from



"Memory" at the Tablets of the Missing

U.S. naval forces neutralized the shore batteries and sank several French warships. By 1500 hours, Fedala had fallen. The U.S. 3d Division then closed on Casablanca where it met strong resistance, until on 11 November upon orders from Algiers, the French surrendered.

Further to the south, the 47th Regimental Combat Team of the U.S. 9th Infantry Division and the Combat Command B of the U.S. 2d Armored Division established a bridgehead at Safi, against heavy ground and air resistance. When U.S. carrier planes joined the attack, Combat Command B drove northward toward Casablanca, halting only when it was informed that resistance had ceased. To the north, the 60th Regimental Combat Team of the U.S. 9th Infantry Division captured the Port Lyautey airfield late on 10 November, with the support of naval and armored units.

When the British Center and Eastern Naval Task Forces coming from

the United Kingdom passed through the Straits of Gibraltar, their presence was immediately reported to the enemy by spies. As the British Eighth Army had won a great victory at El Alamein just a few days before and now was pursuing the Afrika Korps westward toward Libya and Tunisia, the enemy assumed falsely that the task forces were en route to block the retreat of the Afrika Korps.

Although the war and troop ships of the British Center Naval Task Force were British, the assault troops at Oran, as in French Morocco, were entirely American. Landing on both sides of the city, the U.S. 1st Infantry Division, elements of the U.S. 1st Armored Division and a battalion of Rangers met only sporadic resistance as they came ashore. Quickly, the infantry advanced toward the city while the armored units seized the airfields, where a U.S. parachute battalion had previously been dropped nearby. The French capitulated at 1230 hours on 10 November.

The landing at Algiers from the ships of the British Eastern Naval Task Force encountered the least resistance. Debarking on both sides of the city, the force consisted of the U.S. 34th Infantry Division, the 39th Regimental Combat Team of the U.S. 9th Infantry Division, British Commandos and elements of the British 78 Infantry Division. Opposition ended that same day, as orders from Algiers were issued to cease all hostilities in North Africa.

Meanwhile, the race for Tunisia had begun. Anticipating that the Allies next would move into Tunisia to seize the Tunis-Bizerte area, the enemy began moving troops as rapidly as possible into northern Tunisia by sea and air, even though fighting was still in progress at Oran and in French Morocco. The following day, the floating reserve of the British Eastern Naval Task Force, a brigade group of the British 78 Division, was dispatched eastward to the port of Bougie, in the first step of the Allied advance toward Tunisia. That evening, German and Italian forces moved into southern France as Italy prepared to seize Corsica.

At this stage of the war, it was clear to almost all Frenchmen that the future of France depended upon whether or not it joined with the Allies. Among the first to take this action was the French army commander in Tunisia. Although his forces were greatly outnumbered by the enemy, he slowly withdrew them into the mountains to establish contact with Allied troops moving eastward. As the number of troops on each side gradually strengthened, both the Allies and the Axis launched a series of attacks on Tunisia with indifferent success. By advent of the winter rains, it was clear that the British First Army and its attached French and American units were unable to oust the stronger German Fifth Panzer Army from Tunisia. A major factor was the enemy's superiority of air power.

In January 1943, the U.S. II Corps began arriving in southern Tunisia with some additional troops. At that time, the British First Army was organized from north to south into three corps; the British 5 Corps in the north, the French XIX Corps in the center, the U.S. II Corps in the south.



Tablets of the Missing with Statue of "Honor" in foreground



Status of "Recollection" at the Tablets of the Missing

Throughout the next month and a half, the stronger enemy air and ground forces hammered away at the Allies in central and southern Tunisia. To reduce the effects of these attacks, U.S. units were dispersed throughout their area as were units of the French XIX Corps to the north.

Meanwhile, by early February the Afrika Korps had retreated across Libya and reached the Mareth Line, a series of old French fortifications in southern Tunisia. There it began to prepare a defense against the approaching British Eighth Army, whose pursuit had been slowed by major logistical problems.

Before the British Eighth Army arrived in strength, the German Fifth Panzer Army and the Afrika Korps launched a heavy armored assault against the widely-dispersed U.S. II Corps. In a series of sharp actions, the enemy forced a withdrawal, broke through the mountains near the Kasserine Pass into the valley beyond and achieved spectacular success. They were not halted until 22 February when combined American and British armored and infantry units and the U.S. 9th Division Artillery, which had been rushed to the

scene from as far away as Oran, arrived in the nick of time to stem the assault.

Two more enemy attacks were repulsed, one in the north, the other against the British Eighth Army, of which only a few of its units had arrived. From that point onward, the initiative passed to the Allies. As the reorganized U.S. II Corps threatened the Mareth Line from the flank and rear, the British Eighth Army attacked frontally. Success was achieved when New Zealand and British troops outflanked the Afrika Korps' position and drove northward. During the same March period, the Allies gained control of the air. By mid-April, the enemy had been driven northward and was confined to a small area in northeast Tunisia consisting of Bizerte, Tunis and the Cape Bon Peninsula.

In preparation for the final Allied attacks, the U.S. II Corps was moved north opposite Bizerte. The British First Army's main effort was to be made in the center by the British 5 and 9 Corps, the latter corps having been organized when reinforcements were transferred from the British Eighth Army. On 19 April, the



Entrance to the Memorial

British Eighth Army began to attack in the south, but made little gain at great cost. Three days later the British First Army's main attack was launched and was met by a vigorous defense. In the center, very little progress was being made. However, the U.S. II Corps in the north and the French XIX Corps further south were making substantial gains.

At this time two additional divisions were transferred from the British Eighth Army to strengthen the First Army's British 5 and 9 Corps. Utilizing the reinforcements, the attack resumed on 4 May, preceded by a devastating air bombardment. Little could be done to counter the bombardment as the enemy had withdrawn almost all its aircraft to Sicily. The U.S. II Corps captured Bizerte on 7 May and the British 5 and 9 Corps drove down to the Medjerda River to capture Tunis that same day. On 9 May, the enemy in the U.S. II Corps area capitulated. By

13 May 1943, over one quarter of a million Axis troops had been taken prisoner.

THE SITE

The cemetery site covers 27 acres of the plateau lying between the Mediterranean and the Bay of Tunis, both of which are a mile or so distant. It is located near the site of the ancient Carthaginian city destroyed by the Romans in 146 B.C. and lies over part of the site of Roman Carthage. Some 200 yards to the east are remnants of Roman houses and streets — the entire region thereabouts contains vestiges of the Roman city as well as some remains of the Carthaginian era.

After the end of World War II a survey made jointly by representatives of the Secretary of War and the American Battle Monuments Commission revealed that all of the sites of the temporary cemeteries estab-



Cloister with Stone of Remembrance



Fountain at Oasis in Graves Area

lished in North Africa during the war had major disadvantages. The present site was established in 1948. It lies in the sector of the British First Army which liberated the Tunis area in May 1943. Construction of the cemetery and memorial was completed in 1960.

Here rest 2,841 of our Military Dead, representing 39 percent of the burials which were originally made in North Africa and in Iran. A high proportion of these gave their lives in the landings in, and occupation of, Morocco and Algeria and in subsequent fighting which culminated in the liberation of Tunisia. Others died as a result of accident or sickness in these and other parts of North Africa, or while serving in the Persian Gulf Command in Iran.

ARCHITECTS

Architects for the cemetery and memorial were Moore and Hutchins of New York City, New York. The landscape architect was Bryan J. Lynch also of New York.

GENERAL LAYOUT

The main entrance from the eucalyptus-bordered highway is at the southeast corner of the cemetery. To the right of the entrance is one of the superintendents' houses; beyond is the oval forecourt. Beneath the green plot in the center of the forecourt is the reservoir which stores the water for the cemetery needs, as well as the pumps which operate the high pressure sprinkling system. All of the water comes from the municipal supply for which the storage area is located some miles to the south of the city of Tunis. Down the hill and beyond the forecourt is the utilities area.

In the forecourt are rows of eucalyptus and ornamental India laurel fig (*Ficus nitida*) trees; the beds include *Pittosporum tobira*, scarlet hibiscus, *Lantana camara*, English ivy, *Cassia floribunda*, orangeberry *pittosporum* and other shrubs and vines.

Extending to the left (west) of the forecourt and parking area is the



Map — American and Allied Forces in North Africa
1942–1943



Map — Military Operations in Southern Tunisia

mall. At the head of the steps leading to the mall, and at the right (north) is the Visitors' Building, built of Roman travertine marble imported from Italy; west of it is the flagpole.

On the south side of the mall are the Tablets of the Missing; at its far (west) end is the memorial chapel. North of the mall is the graves area which it overlooks. South of the highway is an additional area used for service purposes.

THE TABLETS OF THE MISSING

The Tablets of the Missing consist of a wall 364 feet long, of local Nahli limestone, with local Gathouna limestone copings. Built into it are panels of Trani limestone imported from Italy on which are inscribed the names and particulars of 3,724 of the Missing:

United States Army and
Army Air Forces¹ 3,095
United States Navy 615
United States Coast Guard . . . 14

These men gave their lives in the service of their Country; but their remains either were not identified or they were lost or buried at sea in the waters surrounding the African continent. They include men from all of the States except Hawaii and from the District of Columbia.

Without confirmed information to the contrary, a War Department Administrative Review Board established the official date of death of those commemorated on the Tablets of the Missing as one year and a day from the date on which the individ-

¹ It will be recalled that during World War II the Air Forces still formed part of the United States Army.



Map — Military Operations in Northern Tunisia

ual was placed in Missing in Action status.

At each end of the Tablets is this inscription:

HERE ARE RECORDED THE NAMES OF AMERICANS WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN THE SERVICE OF THEIR COUNTRY AND WHO SLEEP IN UNKNOWN GRAVES 1941-45 ☆ INTO THY HANDS O LORD.

Near the foot of the steps leading down from the forecourt is a pool and figure of HONOR about to bestow a laurel branch upon those who gave their lives. The figure's pedestal bears this inscription:

HONOR TO THEM THAT TROD THE PATH OF HONOR.

Along the wall are two other sculptured figures: MEMORY and RECOLLECTION, the latter holding a book with the inscription PRO PATRIA. Between these figures are oak leaf

wreaths within which are engraved the names of battles on land, sea and in the air, in which the American forces participated: ORAN, CASABLANCA, ALGIERS, KASSERINE, EL GUETTAR, SIDI NSIR, BIZERTE, SICILY, PLOESTI. All of this sculpture is of Bianco Caldo stone from near Foggia, Italy; it was designed by Henry Kreis of Essex, Connecticut, and executed by Pietro Bibolotti, Pietrasanta, Italy.

Planted in front of the Tablets of the Missing are rows of India laurel fig trees (*Ficus nitida*) in beds of English ivy. On the north side of the terrace are rows of holly oaks (*Quercus ilex*) and potted pink geraniums adjacent to beds of ivy.

THE MEMORIAL

The memorial consists of the Court of Honor and the chapel. The Court of



Map — Air Transport and Supplies to Russia

Honor is in the form of a cloister. Within it is a large rectangular stone of remembrance of black Diorite d'Anzola quarried in northwest Italy; this inscription, adapted from Ecclesiasticus XLIV, is worked into the design of the mosaic panel surrounding the base:

SOME THERE BE WHICH HAVE NO SEPULCHRE. THEIR NAME LIVETH FOR EVERMORE.

The rectangular pylons of the cloister are of San Gottardo limestone from the vicinity of Vicenza in Italy; the main part of the structure of the memorial is faced with Roman travertine. The pavement is of Sienite della Balma granite from northwest Italy. In the southwest corner is a Russian olive tree (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*). On the west wall of the cloister facing the mall is this inscription,

with translations in French and Arabic:

1941-1945

IN PROUD REMEMBRANCE OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF HER SONS AND IN HUMBLE TRIBUTE TO THEIR SACRIFICES THIS MEMORIAL HAS BEEN ERRECTED BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

At the south end of the cloister are the maps. These are of ceramic, designed and fabricated by Paul D. Holleman of Roxbury, Massachusetts, from information supplied by the American Battle Monuments Commission.

The large map on the end (south) wall records the military operations of the American forces and those of the Allies in Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia from the initial "Torch" landings on 8 November 1942 to the Axis surrender on 13 May 1943. The descriptive text is in English, Arabic

and French, of which this is the English version:

ON 8 NOVEMBER 1942, IN A MAJOR OPERATION COVERED BY NAVAL GUNFIRE AND AIRCRAFT, UNITED STATES AND BRITISH TROOPS WERE LANDED SIMULTANEOUSLY IN THREE WIDELY SEPARATED AREAS ON THE SHORES OF NORTH AFRICA. THE AMERICAN WESTERN NAVAL TASK FORCE, SAILING FROM THE UNITED STATES, LANDED AMERICAN TROOPS AT FEDALA, MEHDIA AND SAFI FOR THE ASSAULT ON CASABLANCA. OTHER AMERICAN UNITS ESCORTED FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM BY THE BRITISH CENTER NAVAL TASK FORCE WENT ASHORE NEAR ORAN AND IN TWO DAYS OCCUPIED THAT CITY. SHIPS OF THE BRITISH EASTERN NAVAL TASK FORCE, COMING ALSO FROM THE BRITISH ISLES, LANDED UNITED STATES AND BRITISH TROOPS NEAR ALGIERS WHICH WAS OCCUPIED THAT DAY. FOLLOWING THE LANDINGS, THE ALLIED NAVAL FORCES KEPT THE SEA LANES OPEN FOR AN UNINTERRUPTED FLOW OF SUPPLIES AND ALSO PROVIDED FIRE SUPPORT TO THE TROOPS ASHORE. ON 11 NOVEMBER AN ARMISTICE PROCLAMATION ENDED VICHY FRENCH RESISTANCE THROUGHOUT ALGERIA AND MOROCCO.

THE ALLIED FORCES THEN TURNED EASTWARD TOWARD TUNISIA INTO WHICH AXIS TROOPS WERE STEADILY STREAMING. MOVING RAPIDLY, AMERICAN AND BRITISH UNITS ADVANCED ACROSS THE FRONTIER TOWARD TUNIS. STRONG RESISTANCE, COUPLED WITH UNFAVORABLE WEATHER AND DIFFICULT SUPPLY CONDITIONS, CHECKED THIS ADVANCE JUST 16 MILES FROM ITS GOAL. DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF DECEMBER A COUNTEROFFENSIVE IN THE TEBOURBA-CHOUIGUI AREA PUSHED BACK THE ALLIED LINE BETWEEN JEFNA AND MEDJEZ EL BAB.

IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE LANDINGS, ALLIED AIR UNITS HAD OCCUPIED EXISTING NORTH AFRICA BASES AND HAD AIDED THE EASTWARD ADVANCE, BUT LACK OF SUITABLE FORWARD AIRFIELDS

AND SHORTAGES OF PERSONNEL AND AIRCRAFT HAMPERED THEIR OPERATIONS.

DURING DECEMBER AND JANUARY AXIS FORCES, WHICH HAD BEEN STRONGLY REINFORCED BY SEA AND AIR, WERE AGGRESSIVE IN CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN TUNISIA. IN MID-FEBRUARY THEY LAUNCHED A PINNACLES ATTACK AIMED AT EL KEF WHICH PENETRATED UNITED STATES II CORPS POSITION, PUSHED THROUGH A PASS NORTHWEST OF KASSERINE BUT WAS HALTED ON 22 FEBRUARY BEFORE THALA. ONE MONTH LATER THE BRITISH EIGHTH ARMY TURNED THE WESTERN FLANK OF THE MARETH LINE AND DROVE THE ENEMY NORTHWARD TO ENFIDAVILLE. THE FRENCH XIX CORPS HELD FAST IN ITS MOUNTAIN POSITIONS NEAR MAKTAR.

BY MARCH 1943 THE ALLIES HAD GAINED CONTROL OF THE SKIES OVER AFRICA. THE FINAL CAMPAIGN OPENED IN NORTHWEST TUNISIA ON 22 APRIL 1943. THE UNITED STATES II CORPS, NOW ON THE ALLIED LEFT FLANK, PUSHED EASTWARD, REDUCING SUCCESSIVE DEFENSIVE POSITIONS IN DIFFICULT HILLY TERRAIN, LIBERATING MATEUR, FERRYVILLE AND BIZERTE. MEANWHILE THE BRITISH 5 AND 9 CORPS WERE ENGAGED IN A DETERMINED ASSAULT DOWN THE MEDJERDA RIVER WHICH CULMINATED IN FREEING THE CITY OF TUNIS. IN THE II CORPS AREA THE ENEMY CAPITULATED ON 9 MAY. BY 13 MAY, DENIED ESCAPE BY ALLIED MASTERY OF THE SEA AND AIR, ONE QUARTER OF A MILLION AXIS TROOPS THEN REMAINING IN TUNISIA BECAME PRISONERS OF WAR.

On this wall also are the two series of key maps — "The War Against Germany" and "The War Against Japan."

As indicated by the texts, the map on the east wall records in greater detail the operations in central and southern Tunisia, while the one on the opposite (west) wall covers the final stages in northern Tunisia.

The map on the west pylon portrays most of Africa, the Mediterranean and the Middle East. It records the air ferry routes across Africa as well as the operations of the Persian Gulf Command.

The descriptive text for this map, also in English, French and Arabic, is on the face of the corresponding east pylon. The English text follows:

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, WHILE CONTRIBUTING ITS LAND, SEA, AND AIR FORCES TO THE PROSECUTION OF WORLD WAR II, ALSO AIDED ITS MANY ALLIES BY FURNISHING MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES. ITEMS OF ALL KINDS WERE CARRIED BY VAST FLEETS OF STEAMSHIPS TO EVERY AVAILABLE PORT. IN THIS EFFORT ALSO AIRCRAFT WERE FERRIED FROM THE UNITED STATES ACROSS THE ATLANTIC OCEAN AND CENTRAL AFRICA TO CAIRO, KARACHI AND BASRA.

THROUGH THE PERSIAN GULF COMMAND AREA, THE UNITED STATES DE-

LIVERED, FROM 1942 TO 1945, NEARLY 4½ MILLION TONS OF SUPPLIES TO THE U.S.S.R. THESE INCLUDED 4,874 AIRCRAFT OF WHICH 995 WERE FLOWN IN; OVER 160,000 TANKS, ARMORED CARS AND TRUCKS; 140,000 TONS OF GUNS, AMMUNITION AND EXPLOSIVES; 550,000 TONS OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS; 950,000 TONS OF FOOD; AND 1,000,000 TONS OF METAL AND METAL PRODUCTS. THE UNITED STATES ALSO FURNISHED TO THE U.S.S.R., THROUGH OTHER PORTS, MORE THAN 13 MILLION TONS OF ADDITIONAL SUPPLIES.

THE CHAPEL

The bronze doors and the windows of the chapel were fabricated by the Morris Singer Company of London, England. At the far end of the chapel, which is lighted by the tall window on the right and a row of lower windows on the left is the altar of white Carrara marble, with this inscription from St. John X:28: I GIVE UNTO THEM



Oasis with Cemetery and Memorial in Background



"Honor" at the Tablets of the Missing

ETERNAL LIFE AND THEY SHALL NEVER PERISH. ☆☆☆ The wall behind the altar is of polished Rosso Porfirico marble from near Udine in north-eastern Italy.

Facing the door, on the wing wall projecting from the right, is the sculpture SACRIFICE carved in Italian Bianco Caldo stone, designed by Henry Kreis and executed by Pietro Bibolotti. Below and to its left is this inscription from Shelley's ode "Adonais": "HE HAS OUTSOARED THE SHADOW OF OUR NIGHT."

To the left of the altar are the United States national flag and Christian and Jewish chapel flags. Projecting from the east wall above the pews are the flags of combat arms, viz.: Infantry, Field Artillery, Navy Infantry Battalion, Air Corps and Armor. Beneath the flags is this prayer: ALMIGHTY GOD, RECEIVE THESE THY HEROIC SERVANTS INTO THY KINGDOM.

The ceiling is of Moroccan cedar; the pews and prie-dieu are of walnut. Three flower boxes of teakwood,

with bronze appurtenances, are located under the west windows of the chapel.

North of the chapel, down a flight of steps from the cloister, is the memorial garden with its pool; the plants include latana, poinciana, pink geraniums and a Jerusalem thorn tree (*Parkinsonia aculeata*). Beyond is the graves area.

THE GRAVES AREA

The 2,833 headstones in the rectangular graves area are divided into nine plots designated A to I. They are arranged in rectangular lines harmonizing with the rectangular composition of the cemetery and memorial. The 2,841 burials in the cemetery include 240 Unknowns.

These Dead who gave their lives in their Country's service came from all of the States except Hawaii and from the District of Columbia; a few came from foreign countries. Among the headstones is one which marks the



Roman Mosaic donated by President Bourguiba



Interior of Visitors' Building

tomb of seven Americans whose identity is unknown; also two adjacent headstones mark the graves of four men whose names are known but whose remains could not be separately identified; a bronze tablet between these graves records their names. Also in this cemetery, in four instances, two brothers are buried side by side.

In the burial area are four fountains and pools of Roman travertine, which with their surrounding vegetation of rosemary, oleander, and pink geraniums form small and welcome oases in this frequently hot climate.

The paths are lined either by India laurel fig (*Ficus nitida*) or California pepper trees (*Schinus molle*). The border massifs contain a wide variety of trees and shrubs in which oleanders and hibiscus are predominant.

VISITORS' BUILDING

On the west facade of the Visitors' Building is this inscription taken from General Eisenhower's dedication of the Golden Book now enshrined in St. Paul's Cathedral in London:

HERE WE AND ALL WHO SHALL HERE-AFTER LIVE IN FREEDOM WILL BE REMINDED THAT TO THESE MEN AND THEIR COMRADES WE OWE A DEBT TO BE PAID WITH GRATEFUL REMEMBRANCE OF THEIR SACRIFICE AND WITH THE HIGH RESOLVE THAT THE CAUSE FOR WHICH THEY DIED SHALL LIVE.

Within the Visitors' Building is a Roman mosaic discovered in the region and donated in 1959 by President Bourguiba of Tunisia to Ambassador G. Lewis Jones, who in turn presented it to the cemetery.

PLANTINGS

The grass in the cemetery is kikuyu (*Pennisetum clandestinum*). It can sustain the heat of this region with minimum water.

The entire graves and memorial areas are surrounded beyond the inner walls by massifs of trees and shrubbery in which these predominate: pyramidal cypress (*C. pyramidalis*), aleppo pine (*P. halepensis*), eucalyptus (*E. gomocephala*), cassowary (*Casuarina tenuissima*), Moreton Bay fig (*Ficus macrophylla*), golden-wattle acacia (*Acacia pycnantha*), as well as weaver's broom (*Spartium junceum*) and some 3,000 oleanders.

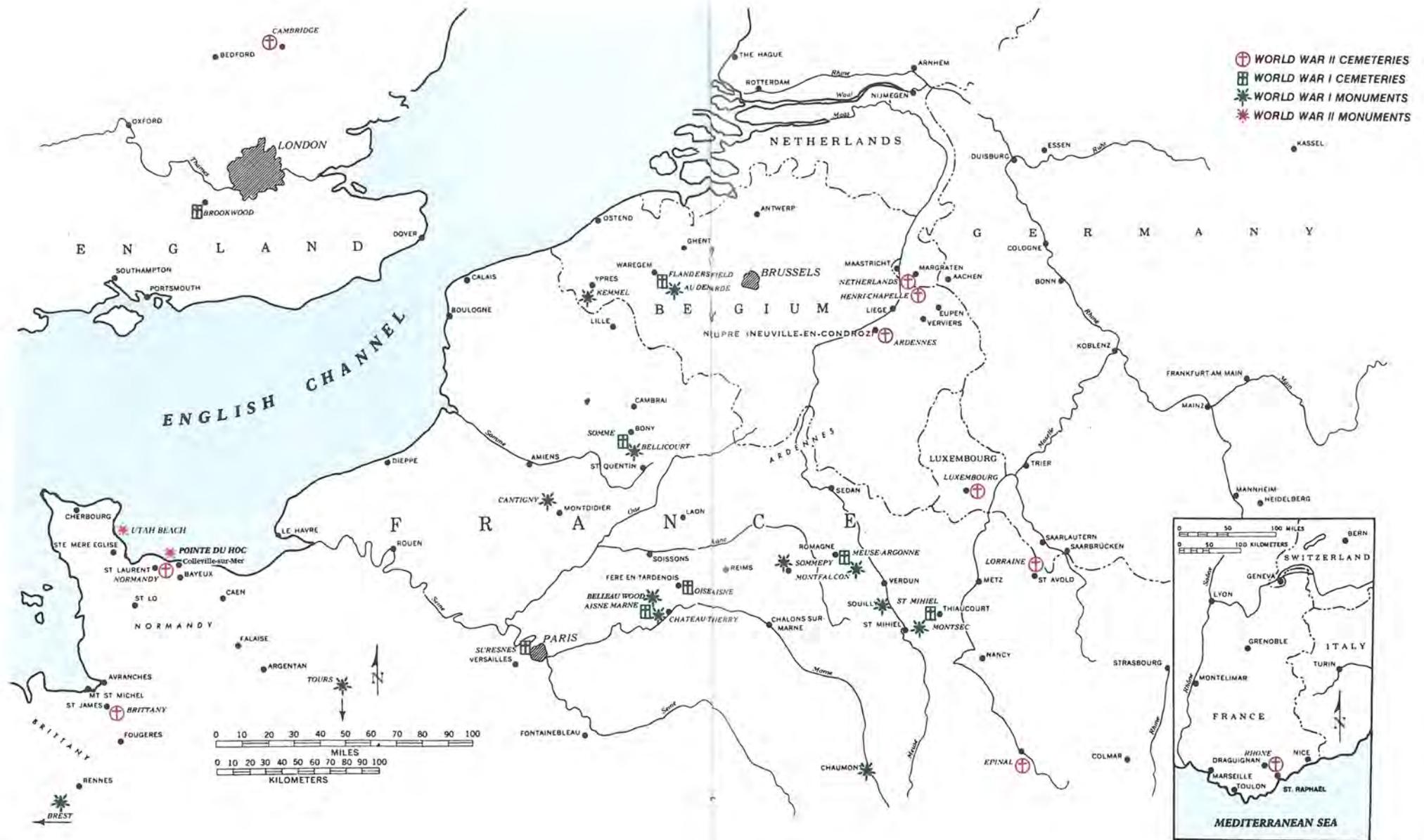


St. Mihiel American Cemetery, Thiaucourt, France

AMERICAN MEMORIALS and OVERSEAS MILITARY CEMETERIES

The AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION was created by act of Congress in March 1923 to erect and maintain memorials in the United States and foreign countries where the United States Armed Forces have served since 6 April 1917, and to control as to design and provide regulations for the erection of monuments,

markers and memorials in foreign countries by other United States citizens and organizations, public or private. It was later given responsibility for establishing or taking over from the Armed Forces permanent burial grounds in foreign countries and designing, constructing, operating and maintaining permanent



cemetery memorials at these burial sites; controlling as to design and materials, providing regulations for and supervising erection of all monuments, memorials, buildings and other structures in permanent United States cemetery memorials on foreign soil; and controlling the design of U.S. private monuments

and cooperating with American citizens, states, municipalities, or associations desiring to erect war memorials outside the continental limits of the United States. It is not responsible for construction, maintenance or operation of cemeteries in the continental United States or its territories and possessions.

After World War I, the American Battle Monuments Commission erected a memorial chapel in each of the eight military cemeteries overseas already established by the War Department, as well as twelve monuments and two bronze tablets 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 number of burials and the number of missing recorded at their memorials are:

World War I	Burials		Missing Commemorated
	Known	Unknown	
Aisne-Marne, Belleau, France	2,039	250	1,060
Brookwood, England	427	41	563
Flanders Field, Waregem, Belgium	347	21	43
Meuse-Argonne, Romagne, France	13,760	486	954
Oise-Aisne, Fere-en-Tardenois, France	5,415	597	241
St. Mihiel, Thiaucourt, France	4,036	117	284
Somme, Bony, France	1,706	138	333
Suresnes (See WW II also), France	1,535	6	974
Totals	29,265	1,656	4,452

World War I monuments erected by the Commission are located at or near: Audenarde and Kemmel, Belgium; Bellicourt, Brest, Cantigny, Chateau-Thierry, Montfaucon, Montsec, Sommepey, and Tours, France; Gibraltar and Washington, DC. World War I tablets are at Chaumont and Souilly, France.

By the end of World War II, several hundred temporary cemeteries had been established by the American Graves Registration Service of the United States Army. During the years 1947 to 1954 that Service, complying with the expressed wishes of the next of kin, and by authority of law, repatriated the remains of some 172,000 recovered bodies. The remainder were given final interment in the permanent military cemeteries on foreign soil, in private cemeteries overseas and in the national cemeteries in Honolulu, Sitka, Alaska and

Puerto Rico (which are now administered by the National Cemetery Administration, Department of Veterans' Affairs). As was the case after World War I, some remains were left in isolated graves outside of the cemeteries by request of the families who then became responsible for their maintenance.

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

World War II	Burials		Missing Commemorated
	Known	Unknown	
Ardennes, Neupre (Neuville-en-Condroz), Belgium ..	4,537	792	462
Brittany, St. James, France	4,313	97	498
Cambridge, England	3,788	24	5,127
Epinal, France	5,186	69	424
Florence, Italy	4,189	213	1,409
Henri-Chapelle, Belgium	7,898	94	450
Lorraine, St. Avold, France	10,338	151	444
Luxembourg, Luxembourg City, Luxembourg	4,975	101	371
Manila, Republic of the Philippines	13,462	3,740	36,282
Netherlands, Margraten, Holland	8,195	106	1,722
Normandy, St. Laurent-sur-Mer, France	9,080	307	1,557
North Africa, Carthage, Tunisia	2,601	240	3,724
Rhone, Draguignan, France	799	62	294
Sicily-Rome, Nettuno, Italy	7,371	490	3,095
Suresnes (See WW I also), France	—	24	—

East Coast Memorial, New York City, New York	—	—	4,609
Honolulu Memorial, Honolulu, Hawaii	—	—	18,096
West Coast Memorial, San Francisco, California	—	—	412
Totals	86,732	6,510	78,976
<i>World War II cemeteries maintained by the National Cemetery Administration, Department of Veterans' Affairs</i>			
National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific	—	—	(See Honolulu Memorial)
Honolulu, Hawaii	11,597	2,079	—
Puerto Rico	69	—	—
Sitka, Alaska	67	5	—
<i>Other Missing in Action Commemorated by ABMC</i>			
Korean War, Honolulu Memorial, Honolulu, Hawaii	—	—	8,200
Vietnam War, Honolulu Memorial, Honolulu, Hawaii	—	—	2,504

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

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

Beginning in the latter half of 1949, the permanent interments having been virtually completed, the World War II overseas cemeteries were progressively transferred for construction and maintenance to the American Battle Monuments Commission by Presidential Executive

Order. Thereupon, the remaining portions of the architects' designs were carried out, step by step — grading; installation of a system of reinforced concrete beams on piles to maintain the levels and alignments of the headstones; fabrication and installation of the headstones; construction of water supply and distribution systems, utilities buildings, roads and paths; plantings; and erection of the memorials, visitors' buildings and flagpoles.

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

- A small devotional chapel;
- inscription of the names and particulars of the Missing in the region;
- a graphic record, in permanent form, of the services of our troops (WW II only; however, Oise-Aisne, Meuse-Argonne and St. Mihiel WW I American Cemeteries also have battle maps).

These requirements have been interpreted in a wide and interesting variety of forms.

An important motive for the construction of the memorials is the implied undertaking by our Government to record by monuments the achievements of our Armed Services, since the erection of memorials by the troops (which in the past



Cambridge American Cemetery and Memorial, Cambridge, England

unfortunately had all too often been found to be poorly designed, poorly constructed and lacking provision for maintenance) was expressly forbidden by the military services. The permanent graphic record takes the form of military maps, usually large murals, amplified by descriptive texts in English as well as in the language of the country in which the cemetery is located. The historical data for these maps were prepared by the American Battle Monuments Commission. The maps themselves were rendered by experienced artists in tasteful presentation using various media: layered marbles, fresco, bronze relief, mosaic concrete or ceramics. Another feature of interest at each memorial is the two sets of "key-maps": "The War Against Germany" and "The War Against Japan." Each set consists of three maps, each covering about one-third of the period of our participation in the war. By these key-

maps any major battle may be related to the others in time and space.

With each architect, an American landscape architect, an American sculptor and an American muralist or painter usually collaborated. Their combined talents produced the beauty and dignity of the memorials, all of which are dedicated to the memory of the achievements of those who served and of the sacrifices of those who died. The construction of the cemeteries and memorials and the execution of most of the works of art, were performed by local contractors and artists under the supervision of the Commission.

At each cemetery there is a visitors' building or room, with comfortable furnishings. Here visitors may learn the grave locations (or inscriptions of the Missing) at any of the overseas cemeteries.

Each grave in the overseas cemeteries is marked by a headstone of white marble — a Star of David for



Brittany American Cemetery, St. James, Manche, France

those of Jewish faith, a Latin cross for others. Each headstone bears the deceased's name, rank, service, organization, date of death and state or territory from which he entered the military service.

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

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

In the World War II cemeteries, the inscription reads:

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

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

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

Unlike National cemeteries under jurisdiction of the Department of Veterans' Affairs, there can be no further burials in the American military cemeteries overseas except of those remains which may, in the future, be found on the battlefields. Essentially, these graves with their memorials constitute inviolable shrines.

In addition to the eight World War I cemeteries, the fourteen World War II cemeteries, eleven World War I monuments and two tablets, and the two World War II markers (Casablanca, Morocco and Papua, New Guinea), the American Battle Monuments Commission's program of commemoration includes the following:

SURESNES

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

EAST COAST MEMORIAL

To commemorate those 4,609 American servicemen, 6,185 seamen of the United States Merchant Marines and the 529 seamen of the U.S. Army Transport Service who, in or above the waters off the coast of North and South America, but outside the territorial limits of the United States, gave their lives in the service of their country, the Commission erected a memorial in Battery Park, New York City, upon which their names and particulars are inscribed.

WEST COAST MEMORIAL

Similarly, the names and particulars of those 412 Americans who gave their lives in the service of their country off the west coast of the Americas but outside the territorial limits of the United States, are recorded at the memorial erected by the Commission at the Presidio of San Francisco.

HONOLULU MEMORIAL

Although the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at Honolulu is administered by the Department of Veterans' Affairs, the American Battle Monuments Commission constructed a memorial therein, incorporating the features of the memorials in its overseas cemeteries. The names of 18,096 Missing of World War II who gave their lives in the Pacific areas (except the Southwest and the Palua Islands which are commemorated at the Manila Ceme-

tery Memorial) are recorded here as well as 8,200 Missing of the Korean War and 2,504 Missing from the Vietnam War.

SAIPAN MONUMENT is situated near the beach overlooking Tanapag Harbor on the Island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. It is part of an American memorial park commemorating the American and Marianas Dead in the Marianas Campaign of World War II. The monument honors specifically the 24,000 American marines and soldiers who died recapturing the volcanic islands of Saipan, Tinian and Guam during the period of 15 June 1944–11 August 1944.

It is a twelve-foot rectangular obelisk of rose granite in a landscaped area of local flora. Inscribed upon the monument are these words: "THIS MEMORIAL HAS BEEN ERECTED BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN HUMBLE TRIBUTE TO THE SONS WHO PAID THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE FOR LIBERATION OF THE MARIANAS 1941-1945."

The **GUADALCANAL AMERICAN MEMORIAL** is located on Skyline Drive overlooking the town of Honiara, Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands. It honors those American and Allied servicemen who lost their lives during the Guadalcanal Campaign of World War II (7 August 1942–9 February 1943). The Memorial consists of a suitably inscribed central pylon four feet square rising 24 feet above its base. Four radiating directional walls point toward major battle sites. Descriptions of the battles are inscribed on the walls. Both the walls and the pylon are constructed of Red Calca granite.

CABANATUAN MEMORIAL is located 85 miles north of Manila, approximately 5 miles south of the city of Cabanatuan, Luzon, Republic of the Philippines. It marks the site of the



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

Japanese Cabanatuan Prisoner of War Camp where approximately 20,000 American servicemen and civilians were held captive from 1942 to 1945, after the fall of the Philippine Islands during World War II. The memorial also honors the heroic sacrifices made by Filipino servicemen and civilians in a mutual quest for honor, freedom and peace.

The memorial consists of a 90-foot concrete base in the center of which rests a marble altar. It is surrounded on three sides by a fence of steel rods and on the fourth by a Wall of Honor upon which are inscribed the names of the approximately 3,000 Americans who lost their lives while being held captive.

Co-located on the site are the West Point Monument, which pays homage to the 170 American and 6 Filipino graduates of the U.S. Military Academy who lost their lives during the defense of the Philippines or while prisoner of war at Cabanatuan and the Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor (a Filipino veterans organization) memorial which salutes their American fallen comrades.

POINTE DU HOC MONUMENT

Following World War II, the French erected a monument at Pointe du Hoc on the right flank of Omaha Beach, overlooking the English Channel honoring the elements of the 2nd Ranger Battalion under the command of LTC James Rudder who scaled the cliff, seized the position, and defended it against German counterattacks at a high cost of lives. The monument consists of a simple pylon on top of a concrete bunker at the edge of the cliff and appropriate inscriptions at its base in French and English. It was officially turned over to the 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



Rhone American Cemetery and Memorial, Draguignan, Var, France



Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery, Romagne, Meuse, France

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.

Three memorials in Washington, DC were also established by the Commission, but are now administered by the National Park Service.

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."

The WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL, prominently located on the National Mall in Washington, DC between the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument, honors a nation united in a just and common cause.

It is the first memorial dedicated to the more than 400,000 Americans who gave their lives for freedom, the 16 million who served in uniform, and all who contributed to the war effort on the home front.

Symbolic of the defining event of the 20th century, the memorial is a testament to the spirit, sacrifice and commitment of the American people.

To learn more, visit our website at www.abmc.gov

KOREAN WAR VETERANS MEMORIAL

The Korean War Veterans Memorial, located on the National Mall in Washington, DC, was dedicated on 27 July 1995. The Memorial commemorates the sacrifices of the 5.8 million Americans who served during the three-year period of the Korean War. The war was one of the most hard fought in our history. During its relatively short duration, 25 June 1950–27 July 1953, 33,700

Americans were killed in action; 8,200 of those killed in action were classified as missing in action (and presumed dead), or lost or buried at sea. An additional 103,000 Americans were wounded during the conflict. An integral part of the Memorial is the Korean War Honor Roll, an interactive automated database, containing the names of those U.S. military personnel who died world-wide during the war.

MEXICO CITY NATIONAL CEMETERY

The Mexico City National Cemetery is at 31 Virginia Fabregas, Colonia San Rafael, about 2 miles west of the Metropolitan Cathedral and about one mile north of the U.S. Embassy. This cemetery was established in 1851 and contains a small monument over the grave of 750 of our unidentified Dead of the War of 1847. In this one acre area there are 813 remains of Americans and others in wall crypts. Care of the cemetery was transferred from the Department of the Army to this Commission on 16 July 1947. This cemetery was closed to burials in 1923.

COROZAL AMERICAN CEMETERY, COROZAL, REPUBLIC OF PANAMA

The Corozal American Cemetery is located approximately three miles north of Panama City, just off Gaillard Highway between the Corozal Railroad Station and Fort Clayton. To reach the cemetery, follow Gaillard Highway north from Panama City, turn right on Rybicki Road, and proceed about one-half mile to the cemetery. Taxi and bus service to the cemetery are available from Panama City. There are 5,336 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.

SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC

Upon request, and without cost, the following information and services are provided to family members and friends of those interred or commemorated at ABMC's cemeteries and memorials:

- name, location and general information about the cemetery, monument or memorial;
- plot, row and grave number and, if applicable, memorialization site;
- authorization for issuance of fee-free passports for members of the immediate family traveling overseas specifically to visit an ABMC grave or memorialization site;

- a photograph of grave and/or memorialization sites affixed to a large color lithograph of the appropriate cemetery and memorial;
- best route and modes of travel in-country to cemetery or memorial site;
- general information about accommodations in the vicinity of the cemetery or memorial;
- arrangement for floral decoration of a grave or memorialization site. (Weather permitting, a color photograph of the floral decoration in place is provided to the donor).



Corozal American Cemetery, Corozal, Republic of Panama



Decorated Gravesite of a World War II "Unknown"

THE AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MARCH 1923



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Suresnes American Cemetery and Memorial, Seine, France