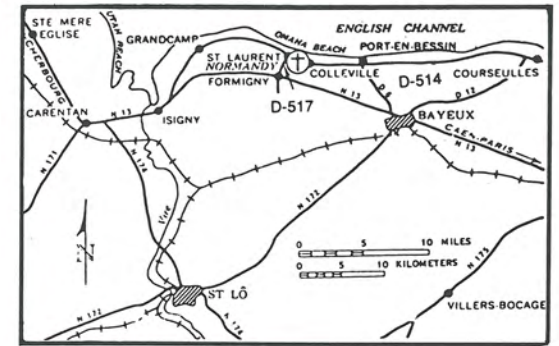


Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial



The American Battle Monuments Commission

Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial



LOCATION

The Normandy American Cemetery is situated on a cliff overlooking Omaha Beach and the English Channel just east of St.-Laurent-sur-Mer and northwest of Bayeux in Colleville-sur-Mer. Travel time by train from the Gare St.-Lazare (St. Lazare railway station) in Paris to Bayeux is approximately 2½ hours. The rail service between Paris and Bayeux is frequent, with at least four daily express trains each way. Taxi service is available from Bayeux Station to the cemetery. To travel to the cemetery from Paris by automobile, it is suggested that one take the Autoroute

de l'Quest (A-13, toll highway) from Paris to Caen, then highway N-13 to Bayeux and Formigny. At Formigny turn right onto D-517 towards St.-Laurent-sur-Mer; then right onto D-514 to Colleville-sur-Mer, where directional signs mark the access to the American Cemetery.

The road distances to the cemetery from some of the other cities in France are: Le Havre, 94 miles (152 kilometers); Caen, 29 miles (46 kilometers); Rouen, 110 miles (177 kilometers); and Cherbourg, 50 miles (81 kilometers). Adequate hotel accommodations are available in Caen and Bayeux as well as in surrounding villages.



Chapel Interior



Graves Area with English Channel in Background



Aerial View of the Cemetery and its Memorial

HOURS

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

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

HISTORY

Many months of planning and preparation preceded the 6 June 1944 D-Day landing in Normandy. Beginning in March 1944, Allied air forces disrupted transportation between the Seine and Loire Rivers and conducted strategic air bombardment deep into enemy territory in an attempt to keep the German air

force occupied and on the defensive and to isolate the landing areas.

On 6 June 1944, during the early morning hours of darkness, three airborne divisions (the British 6th and the U.S. 82nd and 101st) were dropped to the rear of the beach areas to cover deployment of the seaborne assault forces. Simultaneously, Allied naval forces, including the U.S. Coast Guard, swept the English Channel of mines and preceded the assault vessels to the landing areas. At 0630 hours, under cover of intense naval and air bombardment, six U.S., British and Canadian divisions began landing on Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno and Sword beaches in what was to be the greatest amphibious assault of recorded history.

The U.S. 4th Division landed at Utah Beach and pushed rapidly inland to join the airborne division. The early success and extraordinarily light casualties on Utah Beach contrasted sharply with the difficulties



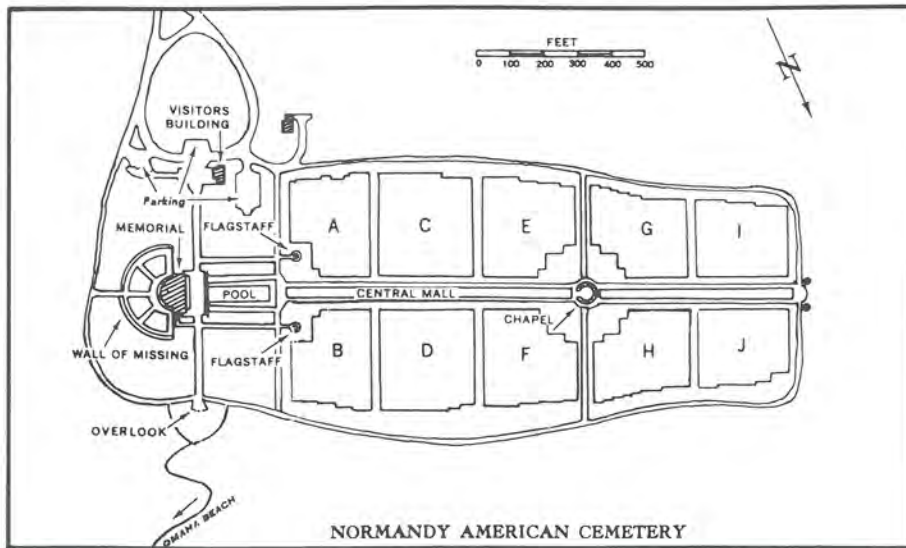
*Orientation Table at the Overlook
"The Landing Beaches 6-8 June 1944"*

of the U.S. 1st and 29th Divisions on Omaha Beach to the east, where the enemy was resisting with every device and weapon at his disposal. Its terrain alone was a major obstacle. Instead of sloping gently from the high ground to the rear, the beach area terminated in steep sandy bluffs. Troops had to cross an open area varying in width from a few yards at each end to about 200 yards in the center, and then attack up the steep bluffs to the plateau where the Normandy American Cemetery now stands. The only concealment available was patches of tall marsh grass. Fighting was bitter and casualties heavy. Nevertheless, before D-Day was over, the U.S. 1st Division took the high ground on which the cemetery stands.

Further to the east on Gold, Juno and Sword landing beaches, the British and Canadian divisions forged steadily ahead. Within a week,

under the cover of continuous naval gunfire and air support, the individual beachheads were linked together. Temporary anchorages and artificial harbors were constructed off the beachhead area during this period by sinking ships and anchoring prefabricated concrete caissons to the channel floor, facilitating the unloading of troops and supplies.

Rapidly, the Allied armies increased in size and strength. On 26 June, Americans freed Cherbourg; on 9 July, British and Canadians fought their way into Caen; and on 18 July Americans took St. Lo. Preceded by a paralyzing air bombardment on 25 July, the U.S. First Army stormed out of the beachhead area. Coutances was liberated three days later and, within a week, the recently activated U.S. Third Army cleared Avranches and was advancing toward Paris on a broad front.



NORMANDY AMERICAN CEMETERY

Location of Cemetery Features

THE SITE

The Normandy American Cemetery, 172.5 acres in extent, is one of fourteen permanent American World War II military cemeteries constructed on foreign soil by the American Battle Monuments Commission. Nearby, on D + 1 (7 June 1944), the first temporary American World War II cemetery in France was established by the American Graves Registration Service. After the war, when the temporary cemeteries were disestablished by the Army, the remains of American military Dead whose next-of-kin requested permanent interment overseas were moved to one of the fourteen permanent cemetery sites on foreign soil, usually the one which was closest to the temporary cemetery. There they were interred by the American Graves Registration Service in the distinctive grave patterns proposed by the cemetery's architect and approved by the Commission. The design and construction of all facilities at the permanent sites were the

responsibility of the Commission; i.e., the memorial, chapel, visitors' building, superintendent's quarters, service facilities and paths and roads. The Commission was also responsible for sculpture, landscaping and other improvements.

ARCHITECTS

Architects for the cemetery's memorial features were Harbeson, Hough, Livingston & Larson of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The landscape architect was Markley Stevenson, also of Philadelphia.

GENERAL LAYOUT

The Normandy American Cemetery is generally rectangular in shape. Its main paths are laid out in the form of a Latin cross.

An avenue bordered by hedges, about one-half mile in length, leads from highway D-514 to the main entrance at the southeast corner of the cemetery. Inside the main gate are the parking areas, the Visitors'



Graves Area with Chapel and Memorial in Background

Building, and the Superintendent's quarters. Beyond them, filling most of the eastern end of the cemetery is a beautiful, semi-circular memorial with a memorial garden and Tablets of the Missing to its rear. Facing west, the memorial overlooks a large reflecting pool, two flagpoles, from which the American flag flies daily, the graves area and the chapel.

A wide, grassy mall extends westward from the reflecting pool bisecting the graves area. The memorial chapel is located on the mall about one-third of the way from its western end. A narrower north-south mall intersects the central mall at the chapel. Two Italian granite (Baveno) figures representing the United States and France rise above the graves area at the western end of the central mall. Encircling the cemetery proper is a service road.

An overlook, on a small jut of land just north of the memorial affords an excellent view of Omaha Beach directly below and the English Channel. Located at the overlook is an orientation table showing the vari-

ous beaches and forces involved in the Normandy landings. A low railing forms a parapet to the front at the edge of the cliff. From here, the whole action of the landings and the scaling of the escarpment may be visualized. Steps and a path descend to the beach below from the overlook. Along the path is a second orientation table showing the artificial harbor or "Mulberry" in some detail. Prior to the 1944 landings, the enemy had installed artillery and machine-guns along the cliffs so that he could fire lengthwise along the beaches. The cemetery is surrounded on the east, south and west by heavy masses of plantings.

THE MEMORIAL

The memorial structure consists of a semicircular colonnade with a loggia housing battle maps at each end and a large bronze sculpture in the open area formed by its arc. The loggias and colonnade are of Vaurion, a French limestone from the Cote d'Or region; the plinths and steps are of



Memorial from the Reflecting Pool

Ploumanach granite from Brittany. The ceilings of the loggias are of blue ceramic tile by Gentil et Bourdet of Paris. The floor of the open area within the arc is surfaced with pebbles taken from the invasion beach below the cliff and imbedded in mortar.

Centered in the open arc of the memorial facing toward the graves area is a 22-foot bronze statue, "The Spirit of American Youth Rising from the Waves," on a rectangular pedestal of Ploumanach granite. The sculptor of this was Donald De Lue of Leonardo, New Jersey. It was cast in Milan, Italy by the Battaglia Foundry. Encircling the pedestal of the statue on the floor in bronze letters is the inscription: MINE EYES HAVE SEEN THE GLORY OF THE COMING OF THE LORD.

Inset in the floor directly behind the statue are two small curved garden plots. Additionally, four small rectangular plots edged with boxwood are inset in the floor, two on each side of the statue. Adjacent to each rectangular plot on the side closest to the statue is a stone bench.

Carved on the inner face of the colonnade's lintel is the inscription: THIS EMBATTLED SHORE, PORTAL OF FREEDOM, IS FOREVER HALLOWED BY THE IDEALS, THE VALOR AND THE SACRIFICES OF OUR FELLOW COUNTRYMEN.

On the interior walls of the south loggia are three maps engraved in the stone and embellished with colored enamels. The largest map is on the south wall and is oriented with south at the top. It is entitled "THE LANDINGS ON THE NORMANDY BEACHES AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE BEACHHEAD" and portrays the landings of 6 June 1944, the establishment of the firm beachhead, the liberation of Cherbourg and St. Lo, and the subsequent attack by which the allied forces broke out of the beachhead.

The map on the west wall of the south loggia is entitled "AIR OPERATIONS OVER NORMANDY MARCH-AUGUST 1944" and depicts air operations prior to the landings to include isolation of the



Operations Map in South Loggia



Operations Map in North Loggia



View of the Cemetery from the Memorial

beachhead area from the interior of France.

The following text is inscribed in English on the west wall above the map (a French version is inscribed on the east wall above the map):

THE ASSAULT AND THE BEACHHEAD

MANY MONTHS OF PLANNING AND DETAILED PREPARATION PRECEDED THE ALLIED LANDINGS IN NORMANDY. THE AIR BOMBARDMENT TO ISOLATE THE BATTLEFIELD BEGAN IN MARCH 1944. DURING THE NEXT THREE MONTHS THE ALLIED AIR FORCES, BY SYSTEMATICALLY BOMBING BRIDGES AND RAIL CENTERS, DISRUPTED ALL FORMS OF TRANSPORTATION BETWEEN THE SEINE AND THE LOIRE; MEANWHILE STRATEGIC AIR OPERATIONS WERE CONTINUED DEEP INTO ENEMY TERRITORY TO COMPEL THE GERMAN AIR FORCE TO REMAIN ON THE DEFENSIVE.

IN THE DARKNESS OF THE EARLY MORNING HOURS OF 6 JUNE THREE AIRBORNE DIVISIONS (THE BRITISH 6, THE U.S. 82D AND 101ST) DROPPED BEYOND THE BEACHES TO DESTROY ENEMY

FORCES AND TO COVER THE DEPLOYMENT OF THE SEABORNE ASSAULT TROOPS. SIMULTANEOUSLY THE ALLIED NAVAL FORCES SWEEPED THE ENGLISH CHANNEL OF MINES AND PRECEDED THE ASSAULT VESSELS TO THE LANDING AREAS. AT 0630 HOURS, UNDER COVER OF NAVAL GUNFIRE AND AIR BOMBARDMENT, SIX U.S., BRITISH AND CANADIAN DIVISIONS LANDED IN THE GREATEST AMPHIBIOUS ASSAULT RECORDED IN HISTORY.

AT UTAH BEACH, THE U.S. 4TH DIVISION PUSHED RAPIDLY INLAND TO JOIN THE U.S. AIRBORNE DIVISIONS. AT OMAHA BEACH, PROGRESS OF THE U.S. 1ST AND 29TH DIVISIONS WAS SLOWER, CASUALTIES WERE HEAVIER, THE FIGHTING BITTER. ON GOLD, JUNO AND SWORD BEACHES, THE BRITISH AND CANADIANS FORGED STEADILY AHEAD. WITHIN A WEEK, UNDER COVER OF CONTINUOUS NAVAL GUNFIRE AND AIR SUPPORT, THE INDIVIDUAL BEACHHEADS HAD BEEN LINKED TOGETHER.

MEANWHILE, NAVAL PERSONNEL WERE ESTABLISHING TEMPORARY ANCHORAGES AND ARTIFICIAL HARBORS BY SINKING SHIPS AND PREFABRICATED

CONCRETE CAISSONS. THESE EXPEDIENTS WERE OF PRICELESS AID IN THE UNLOADING OF TROOPS AND CARGO OVER THE UNSHELTERED BEACHES.

THE ALLIED ARMIES GREW RAPIDLY IN STRENGTH. DRIVING NORTHWARD, AMERICAN FORCES, AIDED BY STRONG NAVAL AND AIR BOMBARDMENT, FREED CHERBOURG ON 26 JUNE. ON 9 JULY, THE BRITISH AND CANADIANS FOUGHT THEIR WAY INTO CAEN: NINE DAYS LATER U.S. UNITS TOOK ST. LO. THE ALLIES COULD NOW UNLEASH THEIR PLANNED ATTACK TO BREAK OUT OF THE BEACHHEAD. WHILE BRITISH FORCES HEAVILY ENGAGED THE ENEMY ON THE ALLIED LEFT FLANK, AMERICAN TROOPS WEST OF ST. LO UNDERTOOK THE MAJOR EFFORT TO DRIVE THROUGH THE ENEMY DEFENSES. ON 25 JULY, FOLLOWING A PARALYZING BOMBARDMENT BY THE U.S. EIGHTH AND NINTH AIR FORCES AND THE ROYAL AIR FORCE, THE U.S. 4TH, 9TH AND 30TH DIVISIONS OPENED A GAP IN THE ENEMY LINE WHICH WAS PROMPTLY EXPLOITED BY THE 1ST INFANTRY AND 2D AND 3D ARMORED DIVISIONS. OTHER AMERICAN FORCES PROGRESSIVELY ADDED THEIR EFFORTS, LIBERATING COUTANCES ON 28 JULY. IN A WEEK THE DRIVE HAD CLEARED AVRANCHES.

AFTER NEARLY TWO MONTHS CONFINEMENT TO THE BEACHHEAD AREA, THE ALLIED ARMIES HAD FINALLY BROKEN INTO THE OPEN AND WERE MOVING FORWARD ON A BROAD FRONT.

The map on the east wall is entitled "6 JUNE 1944 THE AMPHIBIOUS ASSAULT LANDINGS" and shows the naval plan for the landings and the manner in which it was executed.

Carved in the north wall of the north loggia of the memorial is a large map executed in a technique similar to that of the south loggia maps, entitled "MILITARY OPERATIONS IN WESTERN EUROPE, 6 JUNE 1944-8 MAY 1945." It records the progress of the military operations in northwest Europe from the landings in Normandy to the end of the war. On the east and west walls are descriptive texts in English and French and six key maps. The English text is as follows:

FROM NORMANDY TO THE ELBE

REACTING TO THE BREAK-OUT BY THE ALLIED FORCES FROM THE NORMANDY BEACHHEAD, THE ENEMY LAUNCHED A COUNTERATTACK TOWARD AVRANCHES WITH THE DESPERATE HOPE OF CUTTING OFF OUR ADVANCING COLUMNS, BUT WAS REPULSED WITH HEAVY LOSSES. THEREUPON, AMERICAN FORCES SWUNG NORTHWARD TOWARD ARGENTAN WHILE AT THE SAME TIME THE BRITISH AND CANADIANS ADVANCED SOUTHWARD ON FALAISE. THREATENED WITH ENCIRCLEMENT, THE ENEMY TURNED BACK. HARASSED BY AIRCRAFT, HAMMERED INCESSANTLY BY ARTILLERY, HIS RETREAT BECAME A ROUT. BY 22 AUGUST, THE POCKET WAS ELIMINATED.

PRECEDED BY AIRCRAFT OF THE U.S. EIGHTH AND NINTH AIR FORCES AND THE BRITISH SECOND TACTICAL AIR FORCE, WHOSE CONSTANT ATTACKS HASTENED THE DISORGANIZATION OF THE RETREATING ENEMY, THE ALLIED ARMIES CROSSED THE SEINE, LIBERATED PARIS, AND SWEEP ONWARD. AS THE DISTANCE FROM NORMANDY INCREASED THE SUPPLY PROBLEM BECAME ACUTE. STRONG ENEMY GARRISONS STILL HELD MOST OF THE CHANNEL PORTS, THUS PLACING A TREMENDOUS BURDEN UPON OUR LIMITED HARBOR FACILITIES. THE ACHIEVEMENT OF ARMY AND NAVY SUPPLY SERVICES IN SUSTAINING THE ADVANCING ARMIES CONTRIBUTED VITALLY TO THE LIBERATION OF NORTHERN FRANCE.

BY MID-SEPTEMBER, BRITISH AND CANADIAN TROOPS HAD FREED BRUSSELS AND ANTWERP AND ENTERED THE NETHERLANDS. THE U.S. FIRST ARMY HAD SWEEP ACROSS BELGIUM AND LUXEMBOURG TO THE GERMAN BORDER, WHILE THE THIRD ARMY, AIDED BY AIRBORNE SUPPLY, REACHED THE MOSELLE IN A RAPID ADVANCE. IN BRITTANY THE GARRISON OF BREST SURRENDERED TO THE NEWLY ACTIVATED NINTH ARMY ON 18 SEPTEMBER. ON THE RIGHT FLANK THE U.S. SEVENTH AND FRENCH FIRST ARMIES, SUPPORTED BY THE U.S. FIRST TACTICAL AIR FORCE, ADVANCED FROM THE BEACHES OF SOUTHERN FRANCE TO EXTEND THE ALLIED FRONT SOLIDLY TO THE SWISS FRONTIER.

PROGRESS IN THE NEXT THREE MONTHS WAS SLOW, THE FIGHTING BITTER, AS OPPOSITION STIFFENED. A



MINOR ADVANCE WAS EFFECTED IN THE NETHERLANDS WHEN THE ALLIED FIRST AIRBORNE ARMY LANDED IN THE ARNHEM-EINDHOVEN AREA IN A VALIANT BUT UNSUCCESSFUL EFFORT TO SEIZE THE CROSSINGS OF THE LOWER RHINE; THERE FOLLOWED A SERIES OF GALLANT AMPHIBIOUS OPERATIONS TO CLEAR THE WATER APPROACHES TO THE PORT OF ANTWERP. IN THE CENTER, AMERICAN TROOPS BROKE THROUGH THE SIEGFRIED LINE, SEIZED AACHEN, AND FOUGHT THEIR WAY TO THE ROER RIVER. FARTHER SOUTH THE FORTRESS OF METZ CAPITULATED AFTER A BITTER STRUGGLE, WHILE ON THE RIGHT FLANK THE AMERICANS AND FRENCH REACHED THE RHINE AT STRASBOURG AND MULHOUSE.

IN THE ARDENNES ON 16 DECEMBER THE ENEMY LAUNCHED HIS FINAL MAJOR COUNTER-OFFENSIVE, UNLEASHING THREE ARMIES ON A NARROW FRONT. THE STALWART DEFENSE AND SUPERB FIGHTING SKILL OF THE AMERICAN SOLDIER FINALLY HALTED THIS DRIVE. PROMPT AND CONTINUOUS COUNTERMEASURES BY GROUND AND AIR FORCES SUCCEEDED IN ELIMINATING THE GERMAN SALIENT BY MIDDLE JANUARY. ON NEW YEAR'S EVE AN ENEMY ATTACK

NEAR COLMAR WAS ALSO REPULSED AFTER A FURIOUS STRUGGLE.

ALLIED OPERATIONS TO CLEAR THE WEST BANK OF THE RHINE IN FEBRUARY AND EARLY MARCH WERE BRILLIANTLY SUCCESSFUL; THE ARMIES INTENDED FOR THE DEFENSE OF GERMANY WERE SHATTERED BEYOND REPAIR. IN RAPID SUCCESSION, OUR FORCES THEN SEIZED A BRIDGE AT REMAGEN, FORCED A CROSSING AT OPPENHEIM, AND STAGED THEIR MAJOR AMPHIBIOUS AND AIRBORNE ASSAULT NORTH OF THE RUHR VALLEY. AS OUR GROUND FORCES RUSHED EASTWARD, PRECEDED BY AIRCRAFT WHICH HARASSED AND DEMORALIZED THE RETREATING ENEMY, THE RUHR WAS ENCIRCLED IN A GIGANTIC DOUBLE ENVELOPMENT. SWEEPING THROUGH GERMANY THE ALLIED ARMIES MET THE ADVANCING TROOPS OF THE U.S.S.R. AT THE ELBE. HIS FORCES HAVING COMPLETELY DISINTEGRATED, THE ENEMY CAPITULATED ON 8 MAY 1945, THUS BRINGING TO AN END THE CAMPAIGN BEGUN ELEVEN MONTHS BEFORE ON THE BEACHES OF NORMANDY.

Three engraved stars separate the narrative and this inscription:

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE GLOBAL WAR 1941-1945. THESE SMALLER MAPS PORTRAY THE VAST AND DECISIVE EFFORT EXERTED BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND HER ALLIES IN THE MANY INTERDEPENDENT THEATERS OF



GLOBAL WAR. THEY RELATE THE MAJOR EVENTS TO EACH OTHER IN TERMS OF TIME AND SPACE.

The maps in each loggia were designed by Robert Foster of New York City, New York from data furnished by the American Battle Monuments Commission and were executed by Maurice Schmit of Paris, France.

The following dedicatory inscription appears in French on the west face of the south loggia and in English on the west face of the north loggia: 1941-1945 IN PROUD REMEMBRANCE OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF HER SONS AND IN HUMBLE TRIBUTE TO THEIR SACRIFICES THIS MEMORIAL HAS BEEN ERECTED BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Inset in a tall rectangular aperture in the east and west walls of each loggia is a large bronze urn on which are sculptured two different scenes in high relief. The urns were designed by Donald De Lue and cast by the Marinelli Foundry of Florence, Italy. The scene on one urn in each loggia is that of a dying warrior astride a charging horse, symbolic of war, as an Angel of God supports him and receives his spirit. On the opposite side of the urn, a woman kneels hold-

ing her child beside the wreath-decorated grave of a soldier as the Star of Eternal Life shines above, symbolic of the immense sacrifice by women and children bereaved in war. The laurel leaf design around the top of the urn signifies victory and honor.

On the other urn in each loggia is a figure representative of God in Genesis, Chapter 1: "The spirit of the Lord moved on the face of the waters." On the water below the figure is a spray of laurel recalling to memory those who lost their lives at sea; a rainbow emanates from each hand of the figure symbolizing hope and peace. The opposite side of the urn shows an angel pushing away a stone, symbolic of the Resurrection and Eternal Life.

The four scenes on the urns in the north loggia are the same as the four scenes on the urns in the south loggia. The urns, however, have been emplaced on their pedestals so that the scenes facing into the loggias are different.

The Great Seal of the United States is inscribed on the south face of the





Memorial Chapel

south loggia. Beneath the seal is engraved: A.D. 1954, AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION HARBESON HOUGH LIVINGSTON AND LARSON ARCHITECTS PAUL BRANCHE ARCHITECTE REPRESENTANT LOCAL.

The reverse of the Great Seal is inscribed on the north face of the north loggia.

Located at the Memorial is a carillon which on June 6, 1996 was presented to the Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial by the American Veterans of World War II, Korea and Vietnam (AMVETS) in association with The Robert S. McCormick Tribune Foundation and dedicated as a living memorial

to those U.S. War Dead who made the supreme sacrifice in the cause of freedom.

THE CHAPEL

The circular chapel in the graves area is constructed of Vaurion limestone except for its steps which are of granite. Surmounting the chapel is a bronze finial with armillary sphere which serves as a lightning arrester.

On the outside wall of the chapel to the north of its entrance are the inscriptions:

THIS CHAPEL HAS BEEN ERECTED BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN GRATEFUL MEMORY OF HER SONS WHO



Inscription and Relief Carving on North Chapel Wall

GAVE THEIR LIVES IN THE LANDINGS ON THE NORMANDY BEACHES AND IN THE LIBERATION OF NORTHERN FRANCE.

THEIR GRAVES ARE THE PERMANENT AND VISIBLE SYMBOL OF THEIR HEROIC DEVOTION AND THEIR SACRIFICE IN THE COMMON CAUSE OF HUMANITY.

An engraved star separates the two inscriptions. A French translation of the texts is inscribed on the outside wall of the chapel to the south. On the exterior of the lintel of the chapel is inscribed:

THESE ENDURED ALL AND GAVE ALL THAT JUSTICE AMONG NATIONS MIGHT PREVAIL AND THAT MANKIND MIGHT ENJOY FREEDOM AND INHERIT PEACE.

Directly above the chapel's door is engraved a replica of the Congressional Medal of Honor, our country's highest award for valor.

CHAPEL INTERIOR

On entering the chapel, one's attention is drawn immediately to the

altar of black and gold Pyrenees Grand Antique marble with the inscription: I GIVE UNTO THEM ETERNAL LIFE AND THEY SHALL NEVER PERISH, engraved across its front. Directly behind the altar, a tall window with a translucent amber coating illuminates it with a soft yellow light. On the glass around the edges of the window are 48 stars representing the then 48 States. Immediately above the altar table is a Star of David with a dove in the center of the Star. Affixed to the lower-half of the window is a thin teakwood Latin cross, the sides of which are encased in gold-leafed copper. The altar sits on a two-tiered platform of travertine limestone quarried in France and is flanked on both sides by flags of the United States, France, Great Britain and Canada.

The interior walls of the chapel also are of travertine limestone quarried in France. Inscribed on the south interior wall is the inscription:



Mosaic Ceiling of Chapel



Dove and Star of David in Window behind Chapel Altar



Garden of the Missing

THROUGH THE GATE OF DEATH MAY THEY PASS TO THEIR JOYFUL RESURRECTION. Above the inscription is a Latin cross in relief carved on a circle. Separating the inscription and the cross are three small engraved stars. Directly opposite on the north interior wall of the chapel is the inscription: THINK NOT ONLY UPON THEIR PASSING REMEMBER THE GLORY OF THEIR SPIRIT. Over the inscription are the Tablets of Moses surmounted by a Star of David carved in relief on a circle. Separating the inscription and the tablets are three small engraved stars. The colorful mosaic ceiling was designed and executed by Leon Kroll of New York City. It symbolizes America blessing her sons as they depart by sea and air to fight for freedom, and a grateful France bestowing a laurel wreath upon American Dead who gave their lives to liberate Europe's oppressed peoples. The return of peace is recalled by the

angel, dove and the homeward-bound ship.

THE GARDEN OF THE MISSING

Behind the memorial structure is the Garden of the Missing. Its semi-circular wall, contains the names and particulars engraved on stone tablets of the 1,557 Missing in the region who gave their lives in the service of their country but whose remains have not been recovered or if recovered, have not been identified. Included among these are twin brothers. They came from 49 of the 50 States of the Union, the District of Columbia and Guam. The tablets are separated on the wall by large sculptured laurel leaves.

Without confirmed information to the contrary, a War Department Administrative Review Board established the official date of death of those commemorated on the Tablets



Graves Area

of the Missing as one year and a day from the date on which the individual was placed in Missing in Action status.

The following inscriptions in English and French appear on the wall above the names of the Missing: HERE ARE RECORDED THE NAMES OF AMERICANS WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN THE SERVICE OF THEIR COUNTRY AND WHO SLEEP IN UNKNOWN GRAVES. THIS IS THEIR MEMORIAL THE WHOLE EARTH THEIR SEPULCHRE. COMRADES IN ARMS WHOSE RESTING PLACE IS KNOWN ONLY TO GOD.

At the rear of the memorial colonnade on the western side of the garden is inscribed this extract from the dedication by General Dwight D. Eisenhower of the "Golden Book" now enshrined in St. Paul's Cathedral in London:

TO THESE WE OWN THE HIGH RESOLVE THAT THE CAUSE FOR WHICH THEY DIED SHALL LIVE.

Radiating from the memorial to the curved wall of the Missing are five

paths dividing the garden into four truncated fan-shaped lawn areas. Two paths paralleling the arc of the memorial and the garden wall connect the radiating paths.

GRAVES AREA

The graves area contains ten grave plots, five on each side of the main (east-west) mall. Facing the graves area from the memorial, plots A, C, E, G and I line the left (south) side of the main mall and plots B, D, F, H and J the right. Interred within them are the remains of 9,387 servicemen and women. Three hundred and seven of which are Unknowns (those which could not be identified), three Congressional Medal of Honor recipients, and four women. Also buried here, side by side, are father and son, and 38 pairs of brothers. Each grave is marked with a white marble headstone, a Star of David for those of the Jewish faith, a Latin cross for all others. The precisely aligned head-



Statue Representing the United States



Statue Representing France



One of Three Medal of Honor Recipients Buried in Cemetery



Interior of Visitors' Building



Exterior of Visitors' Building



Time Capsule

stones against the immaculately maintained emerald green lawn convey an unforgettable feeling of peace and serenity.



Spirit of American Youth Rising from the Waves

The servicemen and women interred in the cemetery came from all fifty States and the District of Columbia. A small number also came from England, Scotland, Canada and Mexico.

VISITORS' BUILDING

The Visitors' Building is located to the left of the parking area at the head of the path leading to the memorial. It contains the Superintendent's office and a comfortably furnished room where visitors may obtain information, sign the register and pause to refresh themselves. During visiting hours, a member of the cemetery staff is available in the building to answer questions and provide information on burials and memorializations in the Commission's cemeteries, accommodations in the vicinity, travel, local history and other items of interest.



Pointe Du Hoc Monument

TIME CAPSULE

Imbedded in the lawn directly opposite the entrance to the Visitors' Building is a time capsule in which have been sealed news reports of the 6 June 1944 Normandy landings. The capsule is covered by a Ploumanach rose granite slab upon which is engraved: TO BE OPENED JUNE 6, 2044. Affixed in the center of the slab is a bronze plaque adorned with the five stars of a General of the Army and engraved with the following inscription:

IN MEMORY OF GENERAL DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER AND THE FORCES UNDER HIS COMMAND THIS SEALED CAPSULE CONTAINING NEWS REPORTS OF THE JUNE 6, 1944 NORMANDY LANDINGS IS PLACED HERE BY THE NEWSMEN WHO WERE THERE.

JUNE 6, 1969

PLANTINGS

The cemetery is surrounded on the east, south and west by heavy masses of Austrian pine (*pinus nigra*), interplanted with Whitebeam (*sorbus aria*), Russian olive (*eleagnus augustifolia*), sea buckthorn (*hippophae rhamnoides*), Japanese rose (*rosa rugosa*), and French tamarisk (*tamarix galliea*). Interspersed among the plots in the graves area are informal massifs of deciduous and conifer trees, shrubs and Japanese roses.

The lawn areas of the Garden of the Missing are bordered with beds of polyantha roses, elm trees (*ulmus sapporo*) and golden cypress (*cupressocyparis leylandii*).

POINTE DU HOC MONUMENT

Located on a cliff 8 miles west of the Normandy American Cemetery overlooking Omaha Beach, the Pointe Du Hoc Monument was erected by the



Utah Beach Monument

French to honor elements of the 2d Ranger Battalion under the command of LTC James E. Rudder which scaled the 100-foot cliff, seized the objective, and, at high cost, defended it successfully against determined German counterattacks. The monument consists of a simple granite pylon atop a concrete bunker with inscriptions in French and English on tablets at its base. It was officially turned over to the American government on 11 January 1979 for care and maintenance in perpetuity. This 30-acre battle-scarred area on the right flank of Omaha Beach remains much as the Rangers left it on 8 June 1944.

UTAH BEACH MONUMENT

The Utah Beach Monument is located at the termination of Highway N-13D, approximately 3 kilometers northeast of Ste-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 June 1944.

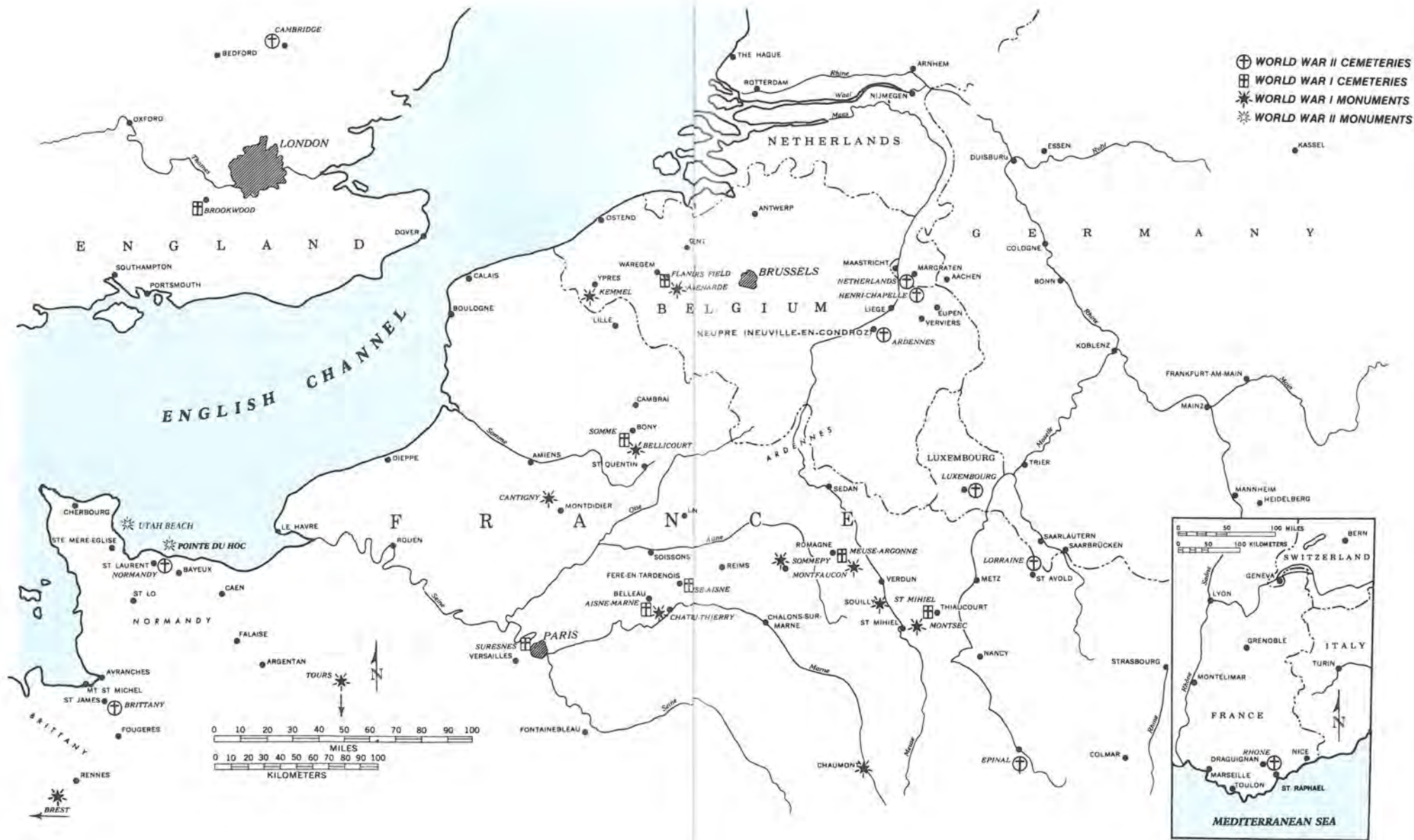


St. Mihiel American Cemetery, Thiaucourt, France

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 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	2,038	251	1,060
Brookwood, England	427	41	563
Flanders Field, Waregem, Belgium	347	21	43
Meuse-Argonne, Romagne, France	13,760	486	954
Oise-Aisne, Fere-en-Tardenois, France	5,415	597	241
St. Mihiel, Thiaucourt, France	4,036	117	284
Somme, Bony, France	1,706	138	333
Suresnes (See WW II also), France	1,535	6	974
Totals	29,264	1,657	4,452

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

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

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

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

World War II	Burials		Missing Commemorated
	Known	Unknown	
Ardennes, Neupre (Neuville-en-Condroz), Belgium ..	4,536	792	462
Brittany, St. James, France	4,313	97	498
Cambridge, England	3,788	24	5,126
Epinal, France	5,186	69	424
Florence, Italy	4,189	213	1,409
Henri-Chapelle, Belgium	7,898	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	3,744	36,282
Netherlands, Margraten, Holland	8,195	106	1,723
Normandy, St. Laurent-sur-Mer, France	9,080	307	1,557
North Africa, Carthage, Tunisia	2,601	240	3,724
Rhone, Draguignan, France	799	62	294
Sicily-Rome, Nettuno, Italy	7,371	490	3,095
Suresnes (See WW I also), France	—	24	—

East Coast Memorial, New York City, New York	—	—	4,609
Honolulu Memorial, Honolulu, Hawaii	—	—	18,096
West Coast Memorial, San Francisco, California	—	—	412
Totals	86,728	6,514	78,976
<i>World War II cemeteries maintained by the National Cemetery Administration, Department of Veterans' Affairs</i>			
National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific	—	—	(See Honolulu Memorial)
Honolulu, Hawaii	11,597	2,079	—
Puerto Rico	69	—	—
Sitka, Alaska	67	5	—
<i>Other Missing in Action Commemorated by ABMC</i>			
Korean War, Honolulu Memorial, Honolulu, Hawaii	—	—	8,200
Vietnam War, Honolulu Memorial, Honolulu, Hawaii	—	—	2,504

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

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

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

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

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

A small devotional chapel; inscription of the names and particulars of the Missing in the region;

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

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

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



Cambridge American Cemetery and Memorial, Cambridge, England

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

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

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

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

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



Brittany American Cemetery, St. James, Manche, France

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

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

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

In the World War II cemeteries, the inscription reads:

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

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

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

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

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

SURESNES

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

EAST COAST MEMORIAL

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

WEST COAST MEMORIAL

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

HONOLULU MEMORIAL

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

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

The AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES MEMORIAL, located on Penn. Ave. between 14th and 15th Streets, NW in Wash. DC, commemorates the two million American military personnel and their CinC, Gen. John J. Pershing, who made up the AEF of WWI.

It consists of a stone plaza 52 ft. by 75 ft., an 8 ft. statue of Gen. Pershing on a stone pedestal, a stone bench facing the statue and two 10 ft. high walls, one along the south side of the memorial area and one along the east. The south wall contains two battle maps with appropriate inscriptions. Inscribed upon the reverse face of the east wall is Gen. Pershing's tribute to the officers and men of the AEF: "IN THEIR DEVOTION, THEIR VALOR, AND IN THE LOYAL FULFILLMENT OF THEIR OBLIGATIONS, THE OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES HAVE LEFT A HERITAGE OF WHICH THOSE WHO FOLLOW MAY EVER BE PROUD."

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

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



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

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

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

CABANATUAN MEMORIAL is located 85 miles north of Manila, approximately 5 miles south of the city of Cabanatuan, Luzon, Republic of the Philippines. It marks the site of the Japanese Cabanatuan Prisoner of War Camp where approximately 20,000 American servicemen and civilians were held captive from 1942 to 1945, after the fall of the Philippine Islands

during World War II. The Memorial also honors the heroic sacrifices made by Filipino servicemen and civilians in a mutual quest for honor, freedom and peace.

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

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

POINTE DU HOC MONUMENT

Following World War II, the French erected a monument at Pointe du Hoc on the right flank of Omaha



Rhone American Cemetery and Memorial, Draguignan, Var, France



Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery, Romagne, Meuse, France



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

operation and maintenance in perpetuity on 11 January 1979.

UTAH BEACH MONUMENT

The Utah Beach Monument is located at the termination of Highway N-13D, approximately 3 kilometers northeast of Sainte-Marie-du-Mont (Manche), France. This monument commemorates the achievements of the American Forces of the VII Corps who fought in the liberation of the

Cotentin Peninsula from 6 June to 1 July 1944. It consists of a red granite obelisk surrounded by a small, developed park overlooking the historic sand dunes of Utah Beach, one of the two American landing beaches during the Normandy Invasion of 6 June 1944.

MEXICO CITY NATIONAL CEMETERY

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

COROZAL AMERICAN CEMETERY, COROZAL, REPUBLIC OF PANAMA

The Corozal American Cemetery is located approximately three miles north of Panama City, Republic of Panama, just off Avenue Omar Torrijos Herrera between the Panama Canal Railway Company Train Station and the Ciudad Del Saber (former Fort Clayton). To reach the cemetery, turn right on Calle Rufina Alfaro at the Crossroads Bible Church and proceed about one-half mile to the cemetery. Taxi and bus service to the cemetery are available from Panama City. There are 5,189 identified "Known" Dead interred here. In agreement with the Republic of Panama, care and maintenance of the cemetery in perpetuity was assumed by the Commission on 1 October 1979.

KOREAN WAR VETERANS MEMORIAL

The Korean War Veterans Memorial,

located on the National Mall in Washington, DC, was dedicated on 27 July 1995. The Memorial commemorates the sacrifices of the 5.8 million Americans who served during the three-year period of the Korean War. The war was one of the most hard fought in our history. During its relatively short duration, 25 June 1950–27 July 1953, 33,686 Americans were battle dead; 8,200 of those killed in action were classified as missing in action (and presumed dead), or lost or buried at sea. An additional 92,134 Americans were wounded during the conflict. An integral part of the Memorial is the Korean War Honor Roll, an interactive automated database, containing the names of those U.S. military personnel who died world-wide during the war.

SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC

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

- name, location and general information about the cemetery, monument or memorial;
- plot, row and grave number and, if applicable, memorialization site;
- authorization for issuance of fee-free passports for members of the immediate family traveling overseas specifically to visit an ABMC grave or memorialization site;
- best route and modes of travel in-country to cemetery or memorial site;
- general information about accommodations in the vicinity of the cemetery or memorial;
- arrangement for floral decoration of a grave or memorialization site. (Weather permitting, a color polaroid photograph of the floral decoration in place is provided to the donor).



Decorated Gravesite of a World War II "Unknown"

THE AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MARCH 1923



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Suresnes American Cemetery and Memorial, Seine, France