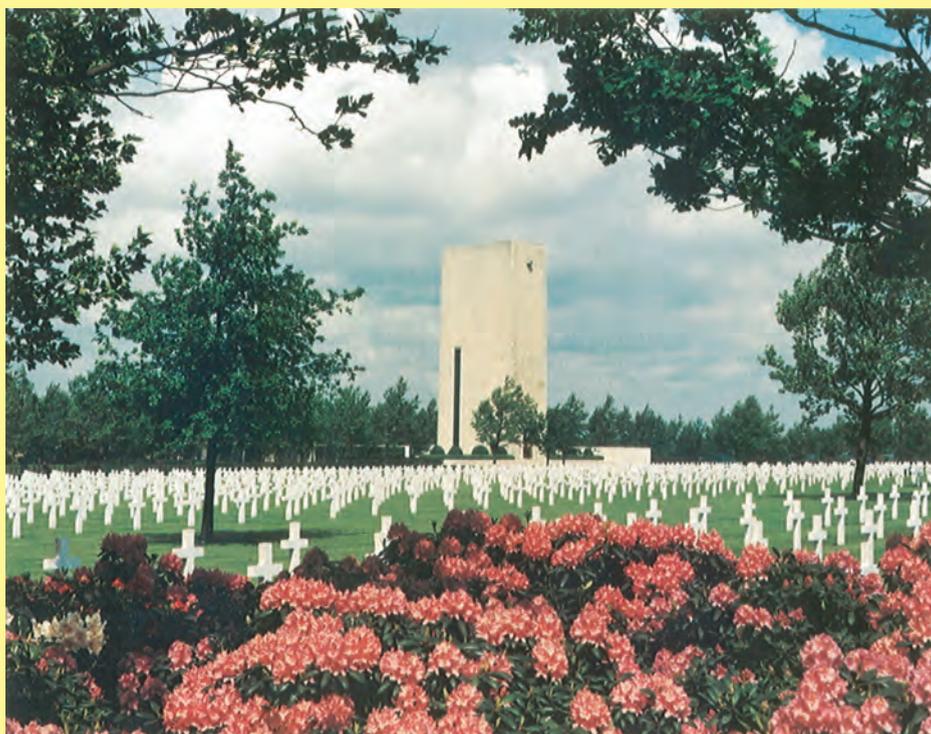


Netherlands American Cemetery and Memorial

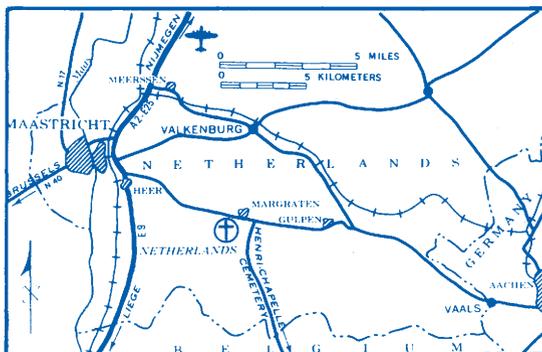


The American Battle Monuments Commission



Chapel Interior

Netherlands American Cemetery and Memorial



LOCATION

Netherlands Cemetery, the only American military cemetery in the Netherlands, is situated near the southeast limit of the country in the village of Margraten, 6 miles (10 km) east of Maastricht, on the main highway to Aachen, Germany, which is 14 miles (22 km) farther east. Margraten is 70 miles (112 km) east of Brussels and 252 miles (405 km) northeast of Paris.

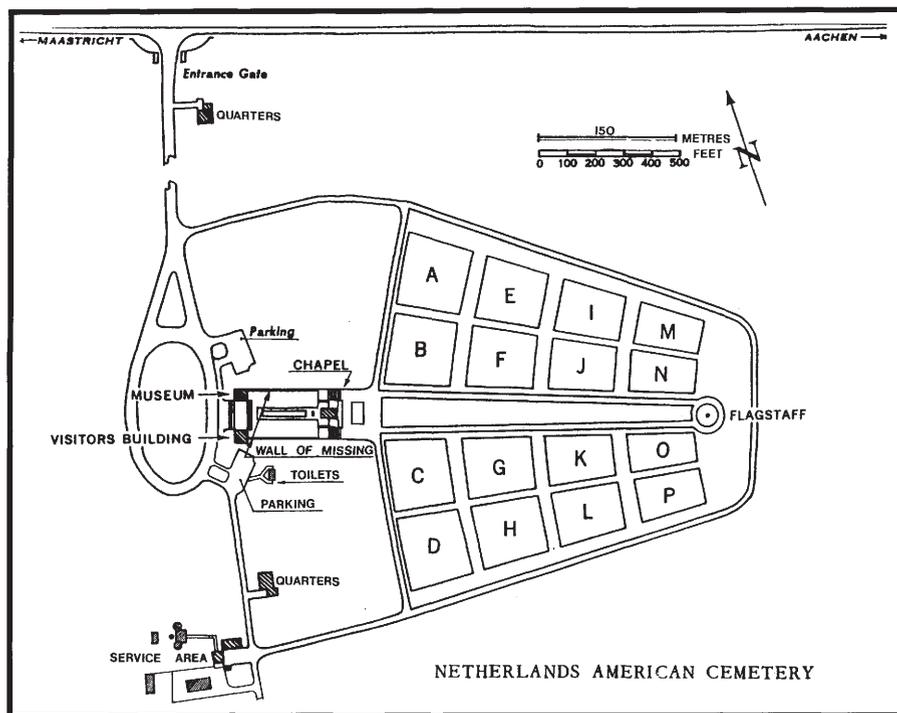
Maastricht may be reached by train from Brussels, from Paris (Gare

du Nord — in approximately 7 hours), any city in Holland, or from Germany via Aachen. A bus service from Maastricht railroad station passes the cemetery entrance.

To reach Margraten by automobile from the north, west or south, follow the appropriate highway to Maastricht, thence east along the Cadieren Keer/Vaals highway (N278); if driving from Aachen, follow the Maastricht highway (N278) west for 11 miles (18 km) after passing the Netherlands border.



Memorial and Court of Honor



Location of Cemetery Features

There are good hotels at Maastricht, Valkenburg, 4.5 miles (7 km), Aachen and at other towns in the vicinity.

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

Three months after successfully landing on the beaches of Normandy, Allied forces had advanced farther than they had thought possible. By mid-September 1944, the U.S. First Army had crossed Luxembourg; captured Liege, Belgium; reached the German frontier near Aachen; and entered the Netherlands near Maastricht. The U.S. Third Army sweeping across France on the right had reached the Moselle River and made contact with the U.S. Seventh Army driving northward from southern France. The British Second Army on the left had liberated Brussels and Antwerp, as the Canadian First Army kept pace with it along the coast liberating Ostend and Bruges; both Armies then found themselves astride the Netherlands border.

At this point, enemy defenses began to stabilize around the Siegfried Line, the heavily fortified cities in front of that line to the west, and the more easily defensible natural barriers provided by the numerous rivers and canals in the Netherlands to the east.

In an attempt to outflank the north end of the Siegfried Line, the Allies launched a combined airborne-ground assault along a narrow corridor across three major rivers (the Meuse, the Rhine and the Neder Rijn) and several canals, the success of which among other things depended heavily upon surprise. At 1400 hours on 17 September 1944, elements of three divisions of the Allied First Airborne Army were landed by parachute and glider in column along the main road from Eindhoven to Nijmegen to Arnhem, a distance of 64 miles from the starting point of the supporting British 30 Corps. Almost immediately, 30 Corps, consisting of one Armored and two Infantry Divisions, encountered stronger resistance than was anticipated. Therefore, its progress was much slower than planned.

Aided by air cover from the U.S. Eighth and Ninth Air Forces and the Royal Air Force, the landings on the drop zones were extraordinarily successful. In the Eindhoven area, the U.S. 101st Airborne Division captured all bridges except one that was destroyed by the enemy. Contrary to plans, the supporting ground column, did not reach Eindhoven until the second day and it was early on the third day before the destroyed bridge was replaced.

South of Nijmegen, the U.S. 82d Airborne Division quickly seized the bridge over the Maas (Meuse) River. It was not until the 4th day (20 September), however, that the bridge over the Waal (Rhine) River was captured and not until the 5th day that all defenders were cleared from the area and ground troops were able to

cross. The most important bridge of all over the Neder Rijn (lower Rhine) was still ten miles away.

Enemy reaction at Arnhem was swift and telling, as it quickly separated the battalion of the British 1st Airborne Division that had seized the north end of the Arnhem bridge from the remainder of the division and encircled the drop zones west of the city. Harsh weather further complicated the problem by preventing the cutoff battalion from being supported from the air. On the 5th day, a Polish Parachute Brigade made a valiant but unsuccessful attempt to reinforce it. Even when ground troops arrived on 23 September (the 7th day), all attempts to send reinforcements north of the river failed. After dark on 25 September, the battalion's remnants, less than one-quarter of those who had landed, were evacuated to the south bank.

Allied progress during the next three months was slow as opposition stiffened in all areas. The British Second Army concentrated on widening the sides of the Nijmegen corridor, while the Canadian First Army performed the difficult task of opening the Schelde estuary, so that the port of Antwerp could begin to operate on 28 November and ease the logistical burden. The main Allied offensive effort during this period was shifted to the center of the enemy defenses. There, the U.S. First Army with strong air support from the U.S. Ninth Air Force, broke through the Siegfried Line and encircled Aachen which surrendered on 21 October. The U.S. Ninth Army, which had been organized at Brest in Brittany, was shifted from the U.S. First Army's right flank to its left. Together, the two Armies continued the assault to the Roer River. On their right, the U.S. Third Army and the U.S. Seventh Army, with the French First Army on the extreme right, made substantial gains toward the German frontier.



"The Mourning Woman"

Suddenly on 16 December 1944, the Allied advance was interrupted as the enemy launched its final major counteroffensive of the war in the Ardennes, followed by a second assault in Alsace to the south. By the end of January 1945, these offensives were halted and all ground retaken. The Allies then resumed their advance, which was planned in two stages. The first stage was to clear all enemy units west of the Rhine; the second was to invade Germany itself.

The advance to the Rhine in the north was scheduled to begin on 8 February 1945, with the Canadian First Army attacking to the southeast, followed in two days by a converging attack to the northeast by the U.S. Ninth and First Armies. When the V Corps of the First Army seized control of the upstream dams of the Roer on 10 February, it discovered that the enemy had wrecked the discharge valves the evening before. The resultant heavy flow of water halted the attack there for two weeks.

At 0245 hours on 23 February, following a short but intensive air and artillery bombardment, the U.S. Ninth Army lowered its assault boats into the swirling waters and began to cross the Roer River before the flood waters had completely subsided. Despite heavy enemy artillery fire, Jülich was captured on the first day, with the support of fighters and medium bombers of the U.S. Ninth Air Force.

By 25 February, all four corps of the U.S. Ninth Army had crossed the Roer and were advancing. As the advance turned northward, the armored units were committed. By 1 March 1945, the industrial city of Monchen-Gladbach had been captured. It was the largest German city taken to date. Now the advance became a race to destroy as many units as possible before they could retreat across the Rhine. Despite constant harassment by our aircraft, the enemy was able to demolish all

bridges across the Rhine. On 10 March, the entire west bank of the Rhine from Dusseldorf northward was in Allied hands.

The major assault crossing of the Rhine occurred on 23–24 March, when the U.S. Ninth Army crossed at Rheinberg, a city it had captured on 6 March. Advancing Allied armies by-passed the northern Netherlands, encircled the Ruhr, then pursued the retreating enemy throughout Germany and Austria. All enemy forces in Europe surrendered on 8 May 1945.

SITE

The cemetery occupies 65½ acres of gently rolling farmland just south of the highway. The site was liberated on 13 September 1944 by troops of the U.S. 30th Infantry Division which were advancing northeastward toward the Roer River in Germany, as part of the U.S. First Army. A battlefield cemetery, one of the first to be used for the interment of American soldiers who fell on German soil, was established here on 10 November 1944 by the U.S. Ninth Army.

Here rest 8,301 of our military Dead, representing 43 percent of those who were originally buried in this and in other temporary cemeteries in this region. Most of them gave their lives in the airborne and ground operations to liberate eastern Holland, during the advances into Germany over the Roer and across the Rhine and in air operations over these regions.

ARCHITECTS

Architects for the cemetery and memorial were Shepley, Bulfinch, Richardson and Abbott, of Boston, Massachusetts; the landscape architects were Clarke, Rapuano and Halleran of New York City.

GENERAL LAYOUT

From the entrance gate on the south side of the Maastricht–Aachen highway the approach drive leads to the right, around a grassed oval, to the steps leading to the Court of Honor. Immediately north and south of these steps are the parking areas; farther to the south is the service area.

The Court of Honor of the memorial leads to the tower containing the chapel. Beyond the chapel is the burial area. The cemetery and memorial were completed in 1960.

THE MEMORIAL

Flanking the entrance to the Court of Honor on the south side is the Visitors' Building. On the north side is the museum room.

On the exterior wall of the museum is this inscription taken from General Dwight D. Eisenhower's dedication of the Golden Book 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.

Engraved on the Roman Travertine walls within the museum are three maps embellished with mosaic and bronze and enamel appliques. The large map on the north wall records the progress of the military operations from the landings in Normandy until the end of the war. Mention is also made of the strategic air attacks which started in 1942. Accompanying the map is a descriptive text in English and Dutch of which this is the English version:

ON 6 JUNE 1944, PRECEDED BY AIRBORNE UNITS AND COVERED BY NAVAL AND AIR BOMBARDMENT, UNITED STATES



Aerial View of Cemetery

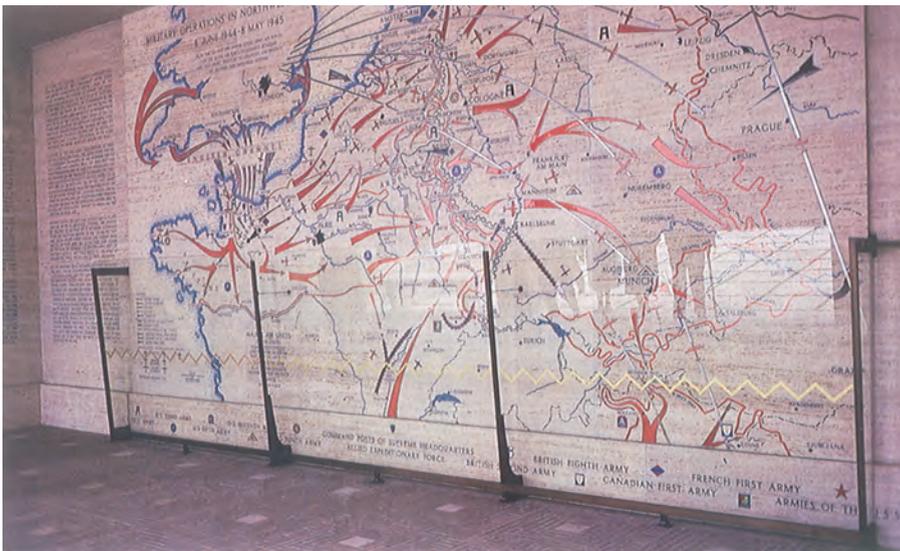
AND BRITISH COMMONWEALTH FORCES LANDED ON THE COAST OF NORMANDY. PUSHING SOUTHWARD THEY ESTABLISHED A BEACHHEAD SOME 20 MILES IN DEPTH. ON 25 JULY, IN THE WAKE OF A PARALYZING AIR BOMBARDMENT BY THE U.S. EIGHTH AND NINTH AIR FORCES AND THE ROYAL AIR FORCE, THE U.S. FIRST ARMY BROKE OUT OF THE BEACHHEAD WEST OF ST. LO. ON 1 AUGUST IT WAS JOINED BY THE U.S. THIRD ARMY. TOGETHER THEY REPULSED A POWERFUL COUNTERATTACK TOWARD AVRANCHES. CRUSHED BETWEEN THE AMERICANS ON THE SOUTH AND WEST AND THE BRITISH ON THE NORTH, AND ATTACKED CONTINUOUSLY BY THE ALLIED AIR FORCES, THE ENEMY RETREATED ACROSS THE SEINE.

SUSTAINED BY THE HERCULEAN ACHIEVEMENTS OF ARMY AND NAVY SUPPLY PERSONNEL, THE ALLIED ARMIES AND AIR FORCES PURSUED VIGOROUSLY. BY MID-SEPTEMBER THE U.S. NINTH ARMY HAD LIBERATED BREST; THE FIRST ARMY HAD SWEEP THROUGH FRANCE, BELGIUM AND LUXEMBOURG AND WAS STANDING ON THE THRESHOLD OF GERMANY; THE

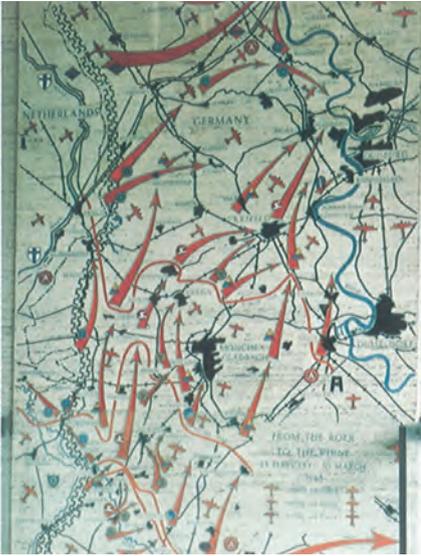
THIRD ARMY HAD REACHED THE MOSELLE AND HAD JOINED FORCES WITH THE U.S. SEVENTH AND THE FRENCH FIRST ARMIES ADVANCING NORTHWARD FROM THE MEDITERRANEAN. ON THE LEFT FLANK, BRITISH AND CANADIAN TROOPS HAD ENTERED THE NETHERLANDS. ON 17 SEPTEMBER THREE AIRBORNE DIVISIONS DROPPED IN THE EINDHOVEN-ARNHEM AREA IN A BOLD BUT UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT TO OUTFLANK THE FORTIFIED SIEGFRIED LINE.

PROGRESS DURING THE NEXT THREE MONTHS WAS SLOW, THE FIGHTING BITTER AS OPPOSITION STIFFENED. THE OPENING OF THE PORT OF ANTWERP ON 28 NOVEMBER MATERIALLY EASED THE LOGISTICAL BURDEN. IN THE CENTER THE FIRST AND NINTH ARMIES SEIZED AACHEN AND FOUGHT THEIR WAY TO THE ROER. METZ FELL AS THE THIRD ARMY PUSHED TO THE SAAR. ON ITS RIGHT, THE SEVENTH ARMY AIDED BY THE FIRST TACTICAL AIR FORCE DROVE TO THE RHINE AT STRASBOURG, WHILE FRENCH TROOPS FREED MULHOUSE.

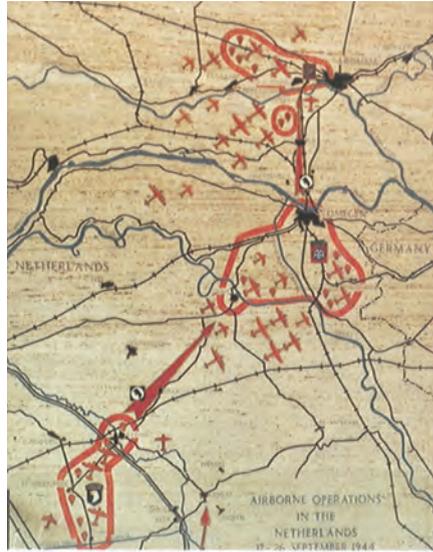
IN THE ARDENNES, ON 16 DECEMBER, THE ENEMY LAUNCHED HIS FINAL



The Large Map



Military Operations in the Region of Margraten



Airborne Operations Map

MAJOR COUNTEROFFENSIVE. PROMPT TACTICAL COUNTERMEASURES AND THE SUPERB FIGHTING QUALITIES OF AMERICAN SOLDIERS AND AIRMEN FINALLY HALTED THIS DRIVE. DURING FEBRUARY AND MARCH THE WEST BANK OF THE RHINE WAS CLEARED IN A SERIES OF HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL OPERATIONS. IN RAPID SUCCESSION, AMERICAN FORCES SEIZED A BRIDGE AT REMAGEN, CROSSED THE RHINE AT OPPENHEIM, THEN ON 23-24 MARCH STAGED WITH THE BRITISH THEIR MAJOR ASSAULT CROSSING NEAR WESEL. PUSHING RAPIDLY EASTWARD OUR ARMIES ENCIRCLED THE ENTIRE RUHR VALLEY IN A GIGANTIC DOUBLE ENVELOPMENT. WITH THE AIR AND GROUND FORCES OPERATING AS A TEAM, THE ALLIES SWEEP ACROSS GERMANY TO MEET THE ADVANCING TROOPS OF THE U.S.S.R. AND FORCE THE COMPLETE SURRENDER OF THE ENEMY ON 8 MAY 1945, 337 DAYS AFTER THEIR INITIAL LANDINGS IN FRANCE.

On the west wall the map portrays the daring large-scale airborne operation which was intended to outflank the fortified Siegfried Line and seize the crossings of the Lower

Rhine. It, too, is accompanied by an inscription in both languages of which this is the English version:

IN EARLY SEPTEMBER 1944, THE ALLIED FORCES WERE MOVING NORTHEASTWARD IN A SWEEPING ADVANCE. PROGRESS THROUGH FRANCE AND BELGIUM WAS RAPID, BUT AS OUR TROOPS APPROACHED THE GERMAN FRONTIER THE OPPOSITION STIFFENED. TO OUTFLANK THE SIEGFRIED LINE AND THUS TO OBTAIN IMMEDIATELY A BRIDGEHEAD OVER THE RHINE, THE ALLIES LAUNCHED A STRONG AIRBORNE AND GROUND ASSAULT IN THE EASTERN NETHERLANDS.

ON 17 SEPTEMBER 1944 ELEMENTS OF THE U.S. 101ST AND 82D AIRBORNE DIVISIONS AND THE BRITISH 1 AIRBORNE DIVISION DROPPED IN COLUMN ALONG THE MAIN ROAD FROM EINDHOVEN TO ARNHEM. THEIR MISSION WAS TO CAPTURE THE BRIDGES OVER THE MAJOR CANALS AND OVER THE MAAS, THE WAAL AND THE NEDER RIJN, THUS ESTABLISHING A CORRIDOR THROUGH WHICH THE BRITISH 30 CORPS WOULD ADVANCE RAPIDLY AND ESTABLISH ITSELF NORTH OF THE NEDER RIJN. ON THAT DAY MORE THAN 1,500 TROOP-

CARRYING AIRCRAFT AND 478 GLIDERS OF THE U.S. IX TROOP CARRIER COMMAND AND THE ROYAL AIR FORCE, PROTECTED BY 2,200 COMBAT AIRPLANES OF THE U.S. EIGHTH AND NINTH AIR FORCES AND THE ROYAL AIR FORCE, CARRIED APPROXIMATELY 50% OF THE STRENGTH OF THE THREE AIRBORNE DIVISIONS. INTENSIVE AIR BOMBARDMENT OF ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUN POSITIONS AND AIRFIELDS, AND THE ACHIEVEMENT OF SURPRISE CONTRIBUTED TO THE SUCCESS OF THE INITIAL OPERATIONS.

IMMEDIATELY AFTER LANDING, THE 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION SECURED THE BRIDGES IN ITS AREA EXCEPT THAT AT SON WHICH THE ENEMY DESTROYED. THE 82D AIRBORNE DIVISION CAPTURED INTACT THE BRIDGE ACROSS THE MAAS AT GRAVE BUT FOUND NIJMEGEN TOO STRONGLY HELD. A BATTALION OF THE BRITISH 1 AIRBORNE DIVISION REACHED ARNHEM AND SEIZED THE NORTHERN EDGE OF THE HIGHWAY BRIDGE ACROSS THE NEDER RIJN, BUT OVERPOWERING ENEMY FORCES HELD THE REMAINDER OF THE DIVISION WITHIN A SMALL PERIMETER WEST OF THE CITY. ON SUCCEEDING DAYS, BAD WEATHER DELAYED AIRBORNE REINFORCEMENTS AND SUPPLIES AND THUS PREVENTED EFFECTIVE AIR ASSISTANCE TO THE FORCES FIGHTING TO ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN THE CORRIDOR.

MEANWHILE THE ADVANCING 30 CORPS PASSED THROUGH THE 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION WHICH HAD CAPTURED EINDHOVEN. IT THEN JOINED THE 82D AIRBORNE DIVISION IN ITS ATTACK ON THE NIJMEGEN BRIDGES, BOTH OF WHICH WERE FINALLY SEIZED INTACT ON THE EVENING OF 20 SEPTEMBER BY THE 82D AIRBORNE DIVISION IN COOPERATION WITH BRITISH ARMORED UNITS; BUT BRITISH INFANTRY COULD NOT REACH THE SOUTH BANK OF THE NEDER RIJN IN FORCE UNTIL 24 SEPTEMBER. THE ENEMY PREVENTED ALL ATTEMPTS TO REINFORCE THE TROOPS BEYOND THE RIVER, AND AFTER DARK ON 25 SEPTEMBER THE REMNANTS OF THE DECIMATED 1 AIRBORNE DIVISION WERE EVACUATED.

On the east wall the map records the operations in the crossing of the Roer and the advance to the Rhine; this is the English version of its inscription:

UPON THE VICTORIOUS CONCLUSION OF THE ARDENNES CAMPAIGN ON 25 JANUARY 1945 THE ALLIES UNDERTOOK THE TASK OF DESTROYING THE ENEMY ARMIES WEST OF THE RHINE. THE FIRST ATTACK WAS TO BE MADE ON THE NORTHERN FLANK BY THE CANADIAN FIRST ARMY AND THE U.S. NINTH ARMY; THE U.S. FIRST ARMY WAS TO ADVANCE ON THEIR RIGHT. THE CANADIANS OPENED THE OFFENSIVE ON 8 FEBRUARY BUT ON THE NEXT DAY THE ENEMY FLOODED THE ROER VALLEY BY RELEASING THE WATER FROM AN UPSTREAM DAM. THIS CREATED AN IMPASSABLE OBSTACLE BEFORE THE NINTH ARMY, WHICH THEN POSTPONED ITS ASSAULT FOR NEARLY TWO WEEKS. DURING THE RESULTING DELAY THE U.S. EIGHTH AND NINTH AIR FORCES CONTINUOUSLY ATTACKED BRIDGES, RAILROAD TRACKS AND MARSHALLING YARDS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE RHINE TO ISOLATE THE BATTLEFIELD. REACHING A CLIMAX ON 22 FEBRUARY, THE BOMBARDMENT SYSTEMATICALLY DISRUPTED THE ENEMY COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS THROUGHOUT GERMANY.

IN THE EARLY MORNING HOURS OF 23 FEBRUARY, FOLLOWING AN INTENSIVE ARTILLERY PREPARATION, THE LEADING UNITS OF THE NINTH ARMY LOWERED THEIR ASSAULT BOATS INTO THE SWIRLING WATERS OF THE STILL FLOODED ROER. THE SWIFT CURRENT AND ENEMY ARTILLERY FIRE ON THE CROSSING SITES MADE PASSAGE OF THE RIVER MOST HAZARDOUS, BUT THE XIX CORPS ADVANCED AND CAPTURED JULICH ON THE FIRST DAY WHILE THE XIII CORPS MADE SUBSTANTIAL GAINS IN THE LINNICH AREA. FIGHTERS AND MEDIUM BOMBERS OF THE NINTH AIR FORCE CLOSELY SUPPORTED THE FORWARD UNITS, DESTROYING ENEMY TANKS AND EQUIPMENT; THE BRIDGEHEADS ON THE EAST BANK

WERE MADE SECURE BY THE END OF THE SECOND DAY.

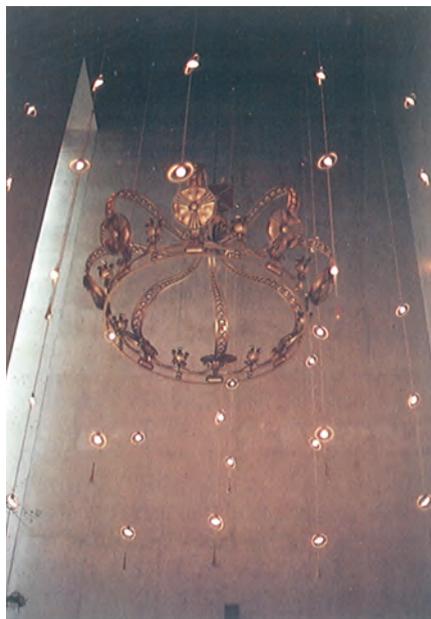
ONCE ACROSS THE RIVER, THE U.S. NINTH ARMY OFFENSIVE RAPIDLY GATHERED MOMENTUM. ON 25 FEBRUARY THE XVI CORPS CROSSED ON THE LEFT FLANK. ARMORED UNITS WERE COMMITTED AS THE DIRECTION OF ADVANCE TURNED NORTHWARD AND BROKE THROUGH THE ENEMY LINES. BY 1 MARCH THE INDUSTRIAL CENTER OF MONCHEN-GLADBACH HAD BEEN CLEARED, THE LARGEST GERMANY CITY YET CAPTURED BY ALLIED FORCES.

THE BATTLE BECAME A PURSUIT; THE OBJECTIVE NOW WAS TO PREVENT AS MANY ENEMY AS POSSIBLE FROM ESCAPING. THE XIX CORPS REACHED THE RHINE NEAR NEUSS ON 2 MARCH WHILE THE XIII CORPS ENTERED KREFELD; EARLY THE NEXT DAY THE XVI CORPS MADE CONTACT WITH THE CANADIAN FIRST ARMY AT GELDERN. CONSTANTLY HARASSED BY THE FIGHTER-BOMBERS OF THE NINTH AIR FORCE, THE ENEMY WITHDREW, DEMOLISHING THE BRIDGES AS HE RETREATED ACROSS THE RIVER. BY 6 MARCH RHEINBERG, THE FUTURE CROSSING SITE FOR THE NINTH ARMY, HAD BEEN TAKEN. FOUR DAYS LATER THE WEST BANK OF THE RHINE FROM DUSSELDORF NORTHWARD WAS IN ALLIED HANDS.

Below the maps are insignia of the principal major units which participated in these operations.

These maps were designed by Lewis York of New Haven, Conn., from data prepared by the American Battle Monuments Commission, and were executed by the Dura Company of Heerlen, Holland. The enamel-bronze appliques were fabricated by the Morris Singer Company of London.

On the exterior east wall of the museum are mounted the two series of key maps "The War Against Germany" and "The War Against Japan."



Chapel Lights

COURT OF HONOR

Extending from the steps to the tower is the Court of Honor with its reflecting pool. Engraved on the north and south walls of the Court are the names, rank, organization and the State of 1,722 of our Missing of the Army and Army Air Forces.* These men gave their lives in the service of their Country in this region, but their remains have not been recovered or identified. Their names include men from every State of the Union (except Alaska) and the District of Columbia.

Over these names in the north wall, with a Dutch translation in the south wall, is carved:

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

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

Toward the east ends of the walls are these inscriptions also:

NORTH WALL:

TO YOU FROM FAILING HANDS WE
THROW THE TORCH — BE YOURS TO
HOLD IT HIGH (from John McCrae's
"In Flanders Fields").

SOUTH WALL:

HONOR IS THEIRS WHO KNEW THE PATH
OF HONOR.

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 individual was placed in Missing in action status.

The trees planted in lawns before the Walls of the Missing are Japanese Cherries (*Prunus serrulata Sekiyama*).

THE TOWER AND CHAPEL

The bronze group standing before the tower at the east end of the Court

of Honor was designed by Joseph Kiselewski, of New York City and cast in Milan by the Battaglia foundries. The mourning figure, the doves, the new shoot from the war-destroyed tree are appositely described by the inscription on the stone base:

NEW LIFE FROM WAR'S DESTRUCTION
PROCLAIMS MAN'S IMMORTALITY AND
HOPE FOR PEACE.

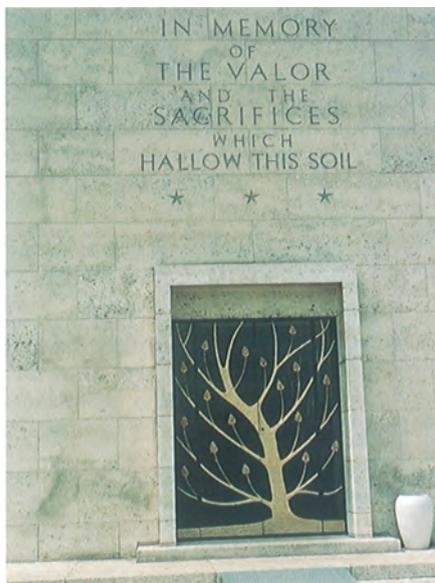
The west face of the tower bears this inscription from a free translation of Pericles' oration as recorded by Thucydides:

EACH FOR HIS OWN MEMORIAL EARNED
PRAISE THAT WILL NEVER DIE AND WITH
IT THE GRANDEST OF ALL SEPULCHRES
NOT THAT IN WHICH HIS MORTAL BONES
ARE LAID BUT A HOME IN THE MINDS OF
MEN.

The tower rises 101 ft. above the Court of Honor. Its exterior walls, like those of the Court of Honor and the entrance pavilions, are built of English Portland stone. On the walls flanking it to the left and right are the



View of Wall of the Missing



Chapel Entrance

names of significant battles fought by the soldiers and airmen commemorated:

MAASTRICHT ☆ EINDHOVEN ☆ GRAVE ☆ NIJMEGEN ☆ ARNHEM ☆ JULICH ☆ LINNICH ☆ GEILENKIRCHEN ☆ KREFELD ☆ VENLO ☆ RHEINBERG ☆ COLOGNE ☆ WESEL ☆ RUHR

On the north side of the tower is the observation platform which affords a wide panorama view of the graves area and surrounding countryside.

The entrance to the chapel, reached after mounting a few steps, is on the east, the burial area side, of the tower. The doors are of bronze fabricated by H. H. Martyn of Cheltenham, England, and bear in outline a Tree of Life. Above them is engraved:

IN MEMORY OF THE VALOR AND THE SACRIFICES WHICH HALLOW THIS SOIL

The interior of the chapel is 52 feet high. Suspended from the ceiling is the handsome lighting fixture presented by the Dutch people and consisting of a royal crown surrounded by tiny lights recalling the firmament above.

A silver altar vase and wrought iron candelabrum were also gifts of the Dutch people. The vase bears the inscription:

PRO MUNDI LIBERTATE MORTUIS
(To those who died for a free world)

The altar, itself of oak, bears the inscription:

HONOR ☆ FAITH ☆ VALOR

Mounted on the south wall of the chapel are three U.S. National flags, a Christian Chapel flag and a Jewish Chapel flag.

Following are the inscriptions in the interior of the memorial:

EAST WALL:

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

NORTH WALL:

O GOD WHO ART THE AUTHOR OF PEACE AND LOVER OF CONCORD DEFEND US THY HUMBLE SERVANTS IN ALL ASSAULTS OF OUR ENEMIES THAT WE SURELY TRUSTING IN THY DEFENSE MAY NOT FEAR THE POWER OF ANY ADVERSARIES

(Peace Prayer from the Episcopal Book of Common Prayer.)

SOUTH WALL:

O LORD SUPPORT US ALL THE DAY LONG UNTIL THE SHADOWS LENGTHEN AND THE EVENING COMES AND THE FEVER OF LIFE IS OVER AND OUR WORK IS DONE THEN IN THY MERCY GRANT US A SAFE LODGING AND A HOLY REST AND PEACE AT THE LAST

(From the "Works of Cardinal Newman.")

Atop the Tower is a carillon which was presented to the Netherlands American Cemetery and Memorial by the American Veterans of World War II, Korea and Vietnam

(AMVETS) in conjunction with the Robert R. McCormick Tribune Foundation and dedicated as a memorial to those U.S. War Dead who made the supreme sacrifice in the cause of freedom.

GRAVES AREA

The burial area is divided into 16 plots, lettered from A to P, separated by the broad central mall and by grass paths. The 8,300 headstones are arranged in parallel arcs sweeping across the broad green lawn.

Of the 8,301 Dead who gave their lives in their Country's service, from every State in the Union, The District of Columbia, England, Canada and Mexico, 106 are Unknowns. In no less than 40 instances two brothers lie buried side by side, while one headstone marks the common grave of two Unknowns.

At the top of the hill, on the axis of the mall, is the flagstaff.

VISITORS' BUILDING

The Visitors' Building is located on the south side of the Court of Honor. Within it is a comfortably furnished lounge where visitors may obtain burial locations or other information from the cemetery staff or simply pause to relax and refresh themselves.

PLANTINGS

Characteristically American tulip poplars (*Liriodendron Tulipifera*) line the central mall. Prominent are beds of rhododendron which produce their wealth of blossom just before Memorial Day each year. Among the other plants at the cemetery are the hawthorn hedges (*crataegus oxy-cantha*), as well as the forested areas of various species of oak, maple and hawthorn.

The curved beds north and south of the memorial are filled with Poly-antha Roses framed within a coping of dwarf box and backed with a holly hedge.



View of Graves Area and Tower



Visitors' Building



Interior of Visitors' Building



St. Mihiel American Cemetery, Thiaucourt, France

AMERICAN MEMORIALS and OVERSEAS MILITARY CEMETERIES

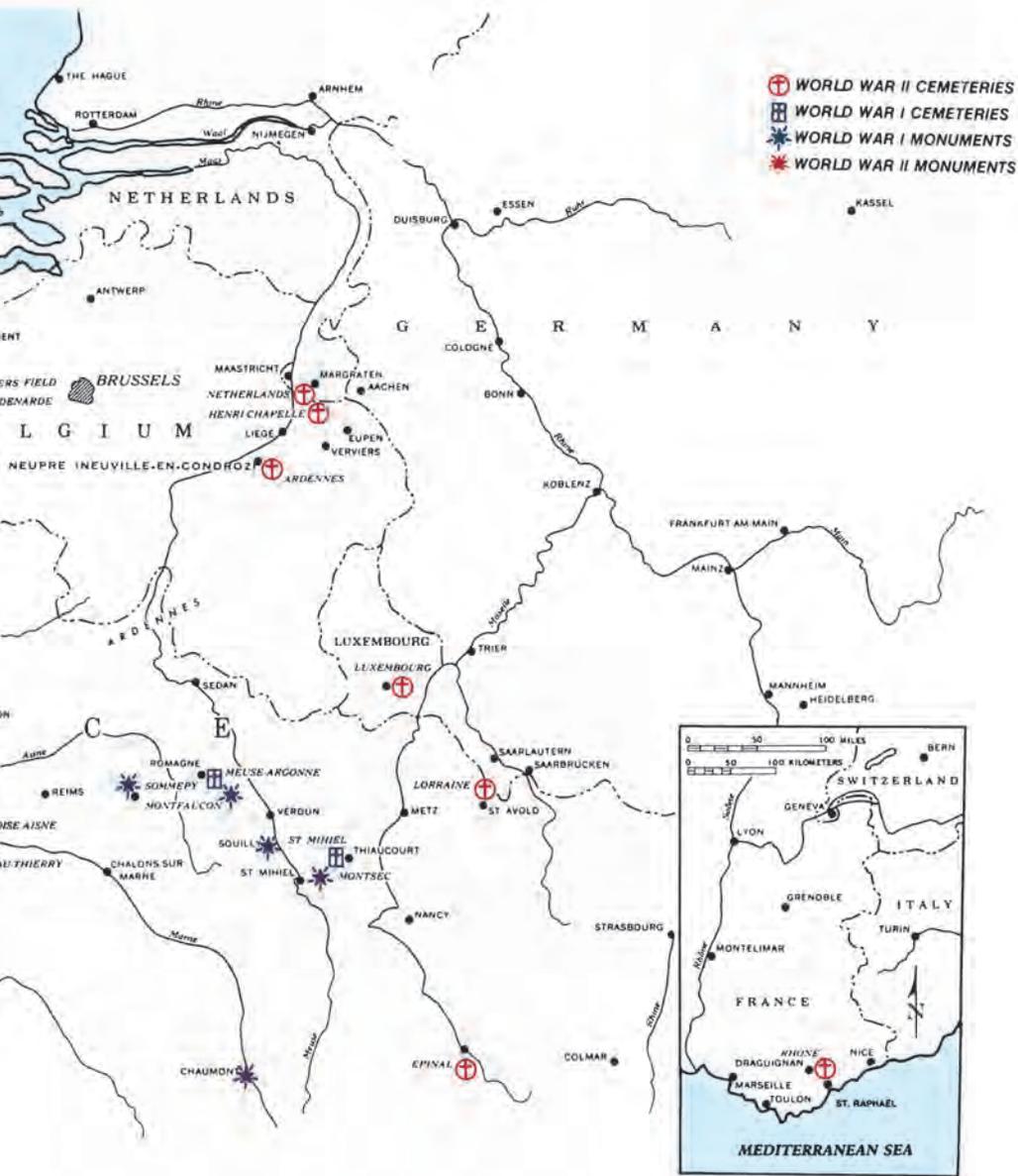
The AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION was created by act of Congress in March 1923 to erect and maintain memorials in the United States and foreign countries where the United States Armed Forces have served since 6 April 1917, and to control as to design and provide regulations for the erection of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

<i>World War I</i>	<i>Burials</i>		<i>Missing</i>
	<i>Known</i>	<i>Unknown</i>	<i>Commemorated</i>
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 Kimmel, Belgium; Bellicourt, Brest, Cantigny, Chateau-Thierry, Montfaucon, Montsec, Sommepy, 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:

<i>World War II</i>	<i>Burials</i>		<i>Missing</i>
	<i>Known</i>	<i>Unknown</i>	<i>Commemorated</i>
Ardennes, Neupre (Neuville-en-Condroz), Belgium ..	4,537	788	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, Dranguignan, 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	6,506	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 COM-
RADE 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.

With the exception of January 1 and December 25, 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 Cemetery 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, approxi-



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

mately 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 Cor-

regidor (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



Rhone American Cemetery and Memorial, Draguignan, Var, France



(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.

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 Avenue Omar Torrijos Herrera between the Panama Canal Railway Company Train Station and Ciudad Del Saber (formerly Fort Clayton). To reach the cemetery, turn right on Calle Rufina Alfaro at the Crossroad 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 5,336 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