

# Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery and Memorial



**The American Battle Monuments Commission**



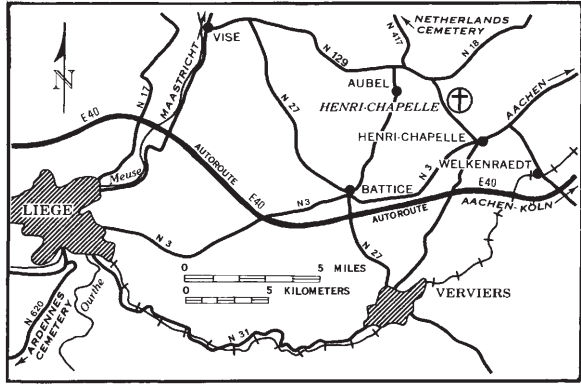
*Cemetery Entrance*



*The Guardian Angel*

# Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery and Memorial

## LOCATION

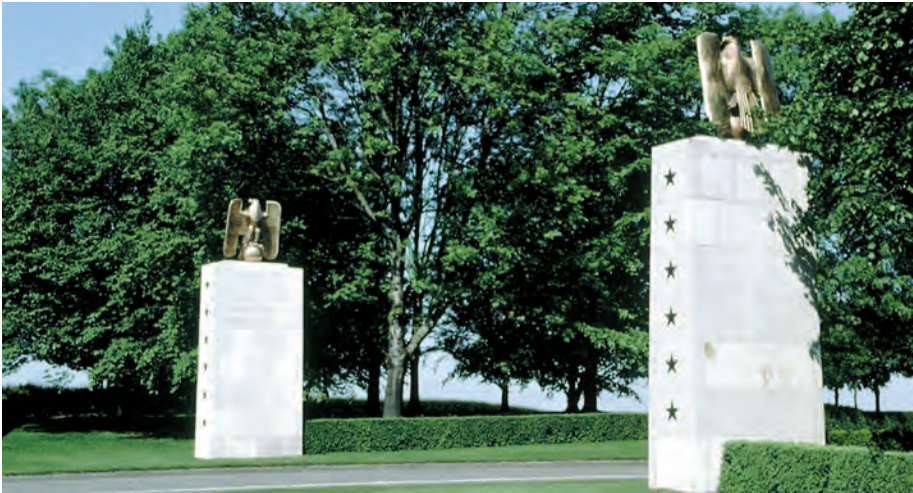


The Henri-Chapelle Cemetery and Memorial lies 2 miles northwest of the village of Henri-Chapelle which is on the main highway from Liege, Belgium to Aachen, Germany (18 miles/29 km from Liege or 10 miles/16 km from Aachen). It can be reached by train from Paris (Gare du Nord — 5½ hours), from Brussels (2 hours) and Liege, Belgium, or from Germany via Aachen, to Welkenraedt, Belgium, where taxicab service to the cemetery, 4½-mile distant, is available. To reach the cemetery by automobile, follow N-3 from Liege or Aachen to the road fork in Henri-Chapelle, thence northwest on N-18

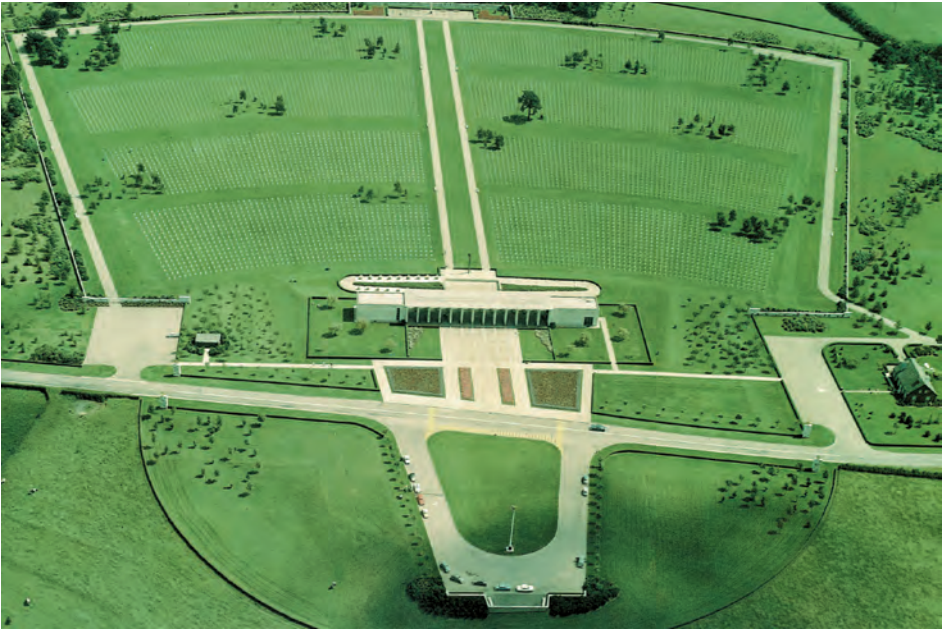
to the cemetery; or, from Margraten follow Aachen highway east approximately 1 mile/1.6 km, then turn right on Aubel Road 7.5 miles/12 km to Hagelstein, thence left on N-18 to the cemetery or by Autoroute E-5, Liege or Aachen to the Battice exit and then turn right onto N-3 to Henri-Chapelle.

## 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.)



*Entrance Pylons*



*Aerial View of Cemetery*

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

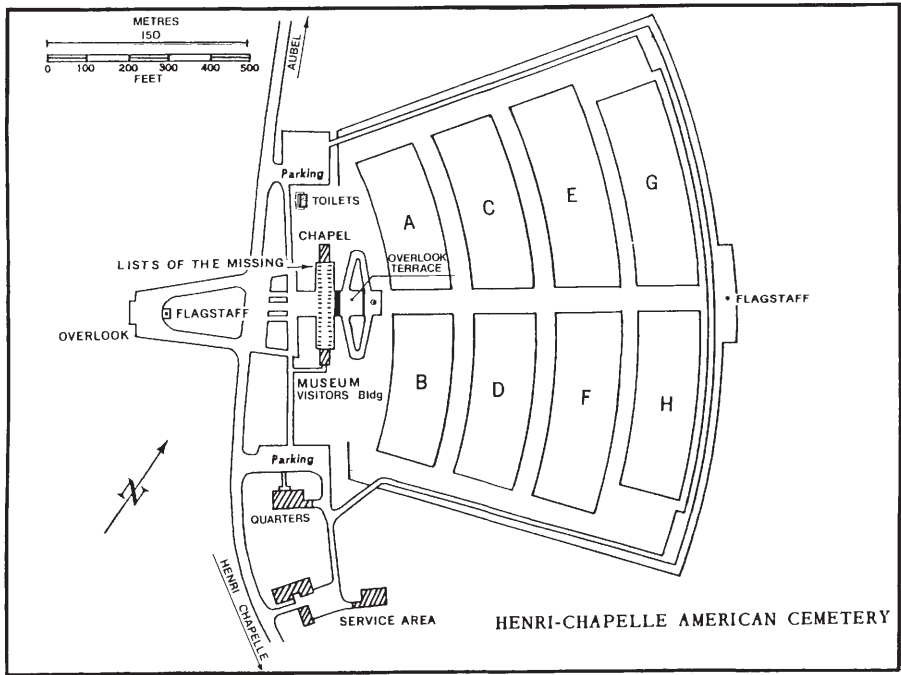
## HISTORY

Following the successful landings on the beaches of Normandy on 6 June 1944, the Allies slowly but relentlessly fought their way inland to expand the beachhead. Then on 25 July, after a paralyzing air bombardment, the U.S. First Army launched the attack southward to break out. Joining the assault a few days later, the U.S. Third Army on the right flank thrust southward along the coast while the British and Canadians advanced on the left flank.

When the breakout occurred, Allied planners had expected the enemy to withdraw and reestablish a defense at the line of the Seine River to the northeast. Instead, the

enemy launched a powerful counter-attack in an attempt to split the Allied forces and isolate the U.S. Third Army. Resisting vigorously, Allied ground and air forces not only stopped the attacking enemy but threatened him with complete encirclement. Thoroughly defeated after suffering great losses, the enemy beat a hasty retreat across the Seine River.

Rapid exploitation of this victory resulted in swift Allied advances far exceeding expectations. On the left flank, the Canadian First Army drove along the coast reaching the Netherlands frontier and liberating Ostend and Bruges early in September, while the British Second Army advanced rapidly through central Belgium liberating Brussels on 3 September and Antwerp the following day. The British Second Army then moved to join with the Canadian First Army astride the Netherlands frontier.



*Location of Cemetery Features*

In the center of the advance, the U.S. First Army freed Liege in eastern Belgium on 8 September and continued northeastward toward the German city of Aachen, while at the same time liberating Luxembourg. On the right, the U.S. Third Army swept across France to reach the Moselle River and make contact with the troops of the U.S. Seventh Army advancing from the beaches of southern France, where they had landed on 15 August.

Patrols of the U.S. First Army crossed the German frontier in the Ardennes area on 11 September. The next day, elements of the U.S. First Army crossed the frontier near Aachen and moved eastward toward the Siegfried Line, where strong resistance was encountered immediately. Almost simultaneously, progress slowed all along the advancing Allied line as opposition stiffened.

The retreating enemy had at last stabilized its line of defense.

The Siegfried Line formed the core of resistance at the center of the enemy defenses. To the south in front of the U.S. Third and Seventh Armies, and the French First Army which extended Allied lines to the Swiss border, resistance was organized around heavily fortified cities forming strongpoints in front of the Siegfried Line. In the north, the defenders utilized to advantage against the British and Canadians the barriers formed by the extensive canal and river systems. On 17 September, a valiant combined airborne-ground assault in the Netherlands intended to outflank the north end of the enemy line, achieved only partial success as it failed to seize crossings of the lower Rhine.

For the next three months, intensive fighting produced only limited

gains against fierce opposition. During this period, the principal Allied offensive effort was concentrated in the center of the enemy line where some of the most bitter fighting of the war occurred in the battle to capture the city of Aachen, the first large German city to be captured by the Allies, and penetrate the Siegfried Line. Finally, encircled in mid-October after savage house-to-house fighting, Aachen fell on 21 October. Meanwhile, the U.S. Ninth Army organized at Brest in Brittany, moved into the lines on the right flank of the U.S. First Army. To the south, the U.S. Third and Seventh Armies continued to advance slowly, as the U.S. Seventh Army forced the enemy back into the Vosges Mountains.

On 4 November, the U.S. First Army began the difficult struggle through the dense woods of the Hurtgen Forest. Shortly thereafter, the U.S. Ninth Army was shifted to the U.S. First Army's left flank. Then, on 16 November preceded by a massive air bombardment, the two armies attacked together opening a wide gap in the Siegfried Line. By 1 December, the Roer River line was reached. On the right, the city of Metz was captured by the U.S. Third Army on 22 November, although the last fort defending that city did not surrender until 13 December. The greatest territorial gains, however, came in the south where the U.S. Seventh Army penetrated the Vosges Mountains to liberate the city of Strasbourg on 23 November as French troops on the extreme right flank liberated Mulhouse.

The Schelde estuary was finally cleared of the enemy by the Canadian First Army and the great port city of Antwerp became available on 28 November to supply the Allied armies.

Suddenly on 16 December 1944, the Allied advance was interrupted

when the enemy launched in the Ardennes its final major counter-offensive of the war, with a second major assault on New Year's Eve in Alsace to the south. After furious fighting in bitterly cold weather these last enemy onslaughts were halted and the lost ground regained. The Allies then developed their plan for final victory.

The first step of the plan was to clear all enemy from west of the Rhine; the subsequent step was to invade Germany itself. During February and March, with the aid and assistance of fighters and medium bombers, the first step was successfully completed and heavy losses were inflicted on the enemy. Because of those losses, the subsequent crossing of the Rhine did not meet with the violent opposition that had been anticipated. Working together, Allied ground and air forces swept victoriously across Germany, bringing the war in Europe to a conclusion on 8 May 1945.

## SITE

The cemetery, 57 acres in area, lies on the crest of a ridge affording an excellent view to the east and west. The memorial is visible from Highway N-3 several miles away. Highway N-18 separates the overlook to the northwest from the rest of the cemetery.

The site was liberated on 12 September 1944 by troops of the U.S. 1st Infantry Division. A temporary cemetery was established on 28 September 1944 two or three hundred yards to the north of the present site which was selected because of its more attractive setting. Here rest 7,992 of our military Dead, most of whom gave their lives in the repulse of the German counteroffensive in the Ardennes or during the advance into, and across, Germany during

the fall and winter of 1944 and the spring of 1945. Others were lost in air operations over the region. The cemetery and memorial were completed in 1960.

## ARCHITECTS

Architects for the cemetery and memorial were Holabird, Root and Burgee of Chicago, Illinois. The landscape architect was Franz Lipp of Chicago.

## GENERAL LAYOUT

To the west of Highway N-18 where it crosses the reservation is the overlook area with its flagstaff. From the west end of this area a wide view is afforded over the broad valley of the Berwinne streamlet (which lies in the sector of advance of the U.S. 1st Infantry Division) and the ridges beyond. The roadway on the overlook is lined with linden trees.

East of the highway is the memorial; there are parking areas at both

the north and the south ends. Beyond the memorial is the graves area. Located in the south end of the memorial is the Visitors' Room and Museum.

## THE MEMORIAL

The memorial consists of the chapel (north end) and the combined Visitors' and Museum building (south end) connected by a colonnade of 12 pairs of rectangular pylons. East of the colonnade is a wide terrace with ramps leading down to the graves area. The exterior of the memorial is of Massangis limestone from the Cote d'Or region of France. The colonnade, chapel and museum room are paved with gray St. Gothard granite from Switzerland.

## THE COLONNADE

On the 48 faces of the 24 pylons and the 4 faces of the engaged pylons at the ends of the colonnade are en-



*Interior of Chapel*





*The Colonnade with Tablets of the Missing*

graved the seals of the wartime 48 States, 3 territories and the District of Columbia. The obverse of the Great Seal of the United States, in bronze, is set into the floor at the intersection of the axes. The names and particulars of 450 of the Missing of the United States Army and Army Air Forces\* are engraved on the 48 faces of the columns. The engaged end pions bear this inscription in English, French and Flemish:

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

These Dead, who gave their lives in our country's service, came from 42 States, the District of Columbia and England.

In the soffit of the colonnade are 13 stars of golden glass mosaic.

## THE CHAPEL

At the entrance to the chapel, on the east side, is the dedicatory inscription:

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

The doors of the chapel are bronze with polished panels.

The interior is rectangular in shape and of somewhat austere design. The altar of Belgian blue and French vert d'Issorie marble bears the inscription (from St. John X, 28):

I GIVE UNTO THEM ETERNAL LIFE AND THEY SHALL NEVER PERISH.

The wall behind the altar is of Belgian blue marble with white vein-

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

ings. The south wall is of French green d'Issorie marble. Hung along the west wall are flags of the Air Force, Armor, Christian Chapel, Jewish Chapel, Engineers, Field Artillery, Infantry and Navy Infantry Battalion. Engraved on the same wall beneath the flags is this inscription from Cardinal Newman's prayer:

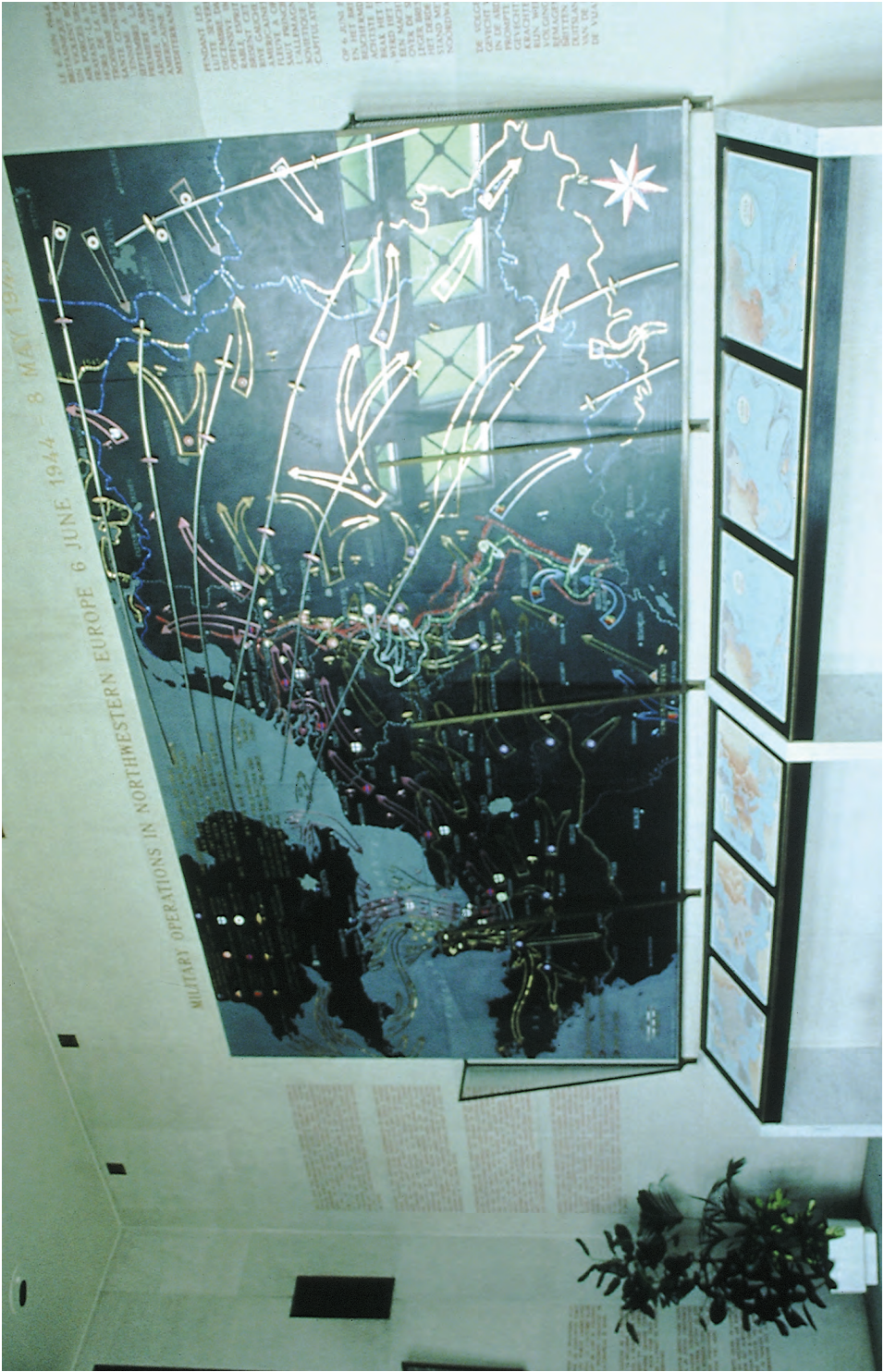
O LORD SUPPORT US ALL THE DAY LONG UNTIL THE SHADOWS LENGTHEN AND OUR WORK IS DONE. THEN IN THY MERCY GRANT US A SAFE LODGING AND A HOLY REST AND PEACE AT THE LAST.

The pews are of walnut and were fabricated in Holland. The cross and the pews were intentionally designed to be off-center (with off-center lighting) thus balancing each other.

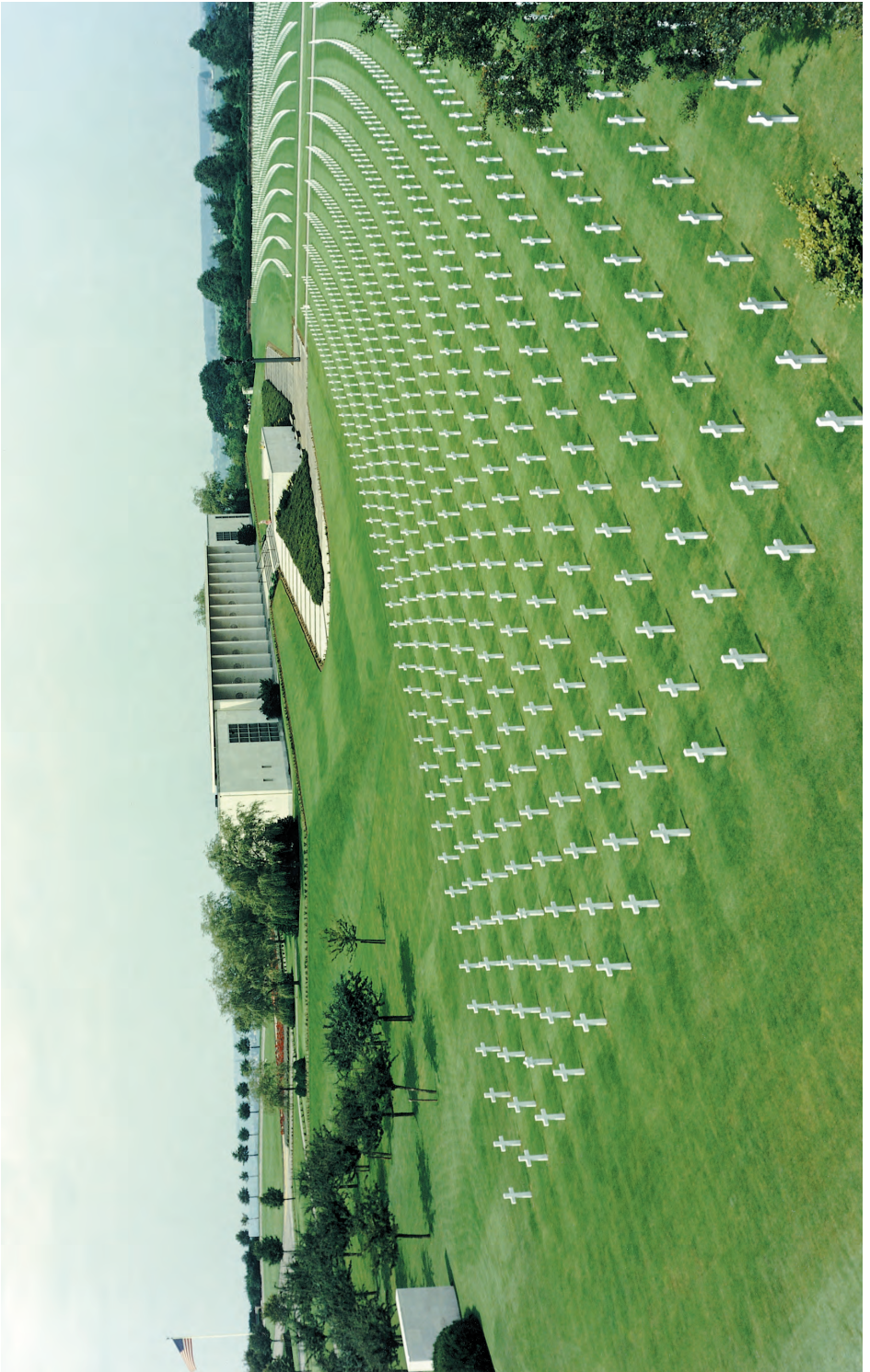
## THE MUSEUM ROOM

At the opposite (south) end of the colonnade is the combined Museum and Visitors' Room; the doors, similar to those of the chapel, are of dark bronze with polished panels inset. Built into the west interior wall, of English Portland Whitbed stone, is a map portraying the military operations in northwestern Europe from the landings in Normandy until the end of the war. This map is of Swedish black granite; the geographical and military data are indicated by means of inlaid mosaic, engraved and colored chases, anodized aluminum, bronze, etc. Amplifying the map are inscriptions in English, French and Flemish, of which this is the English version:

ON 6 JUNE 1944, PRECEDED BY AIRBORNE UNITS AND COVERED BY NAVAL AND AIR BOMBARDMENT, UNITED STATES AND BRITISH COMMONWEALTH FORCES LANDED ON THE COAST OF NORMANDY. PUSHING SOUTHWARD THEY ESTABLISHED A BEACHHEAD SOME 20 MILES IN



Map of Military Operations in Northwestern Europe



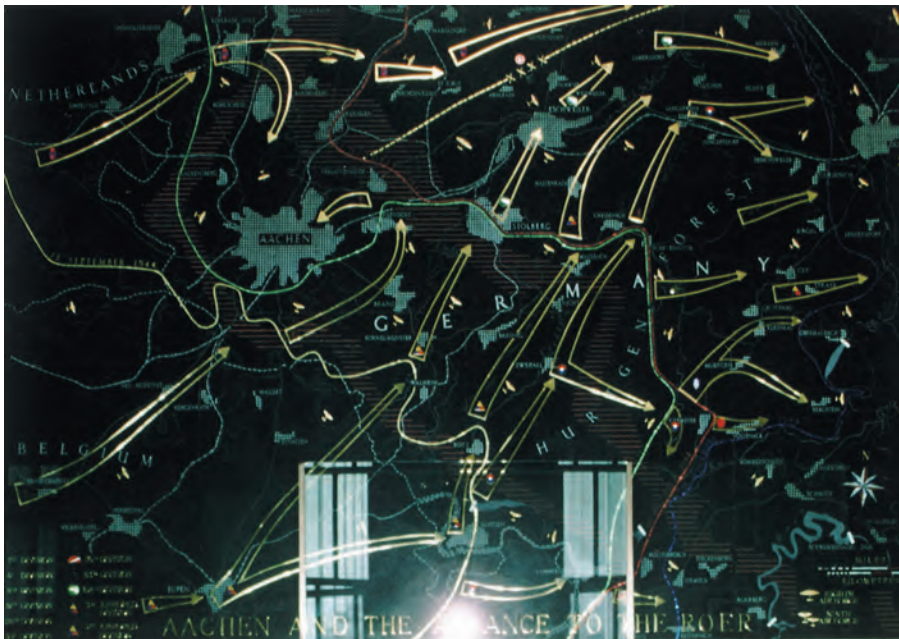
*Graves Area with Memorial in Background*

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 BEACH-HEAD WEST OF ST. LO. ON 1 AUGUST IT WAS JOINED BY THE U.S. THIRD ARMY. TOGETHER THEY REPULSED A POWERFUL COUNTERATTACK TOWARDS AV-RANCHES. CRUSHED BETWEEN THE AMERICANS ON THE SOUTH AND WEST AND THE BRITISH ON THE NORTH, AND ATTACKED CONTINUOUSLY BY THE U.S. AND BRITISH AIR FORCES THE ENEMY RETREATED ACROSS THE SEINE.

SUSTAINED BY THE HERCULEAN ACHIEVEMENTS OF ARMY AND NAVY SUPPLY PERSONNEL, THE ALLIED GROUND AND AIR FORCES PURSUED VIGOROUSLY. BY MID-SEPTEMBER THE U.S. NINTH ARMY HAD LIBERATED BREST. THE FIRST ARMY HAD SWEEPED 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 FRENCH FIRST ARMIES ADVANCING NORTHWARD FROM THE MEDITERRANEAN. ON THE LEFT FLANK, BRITISH AND CANADIAN TROOPS HAD ENTERED THE NETHERLANDS. ON 17 SEPTEMBER THE IX TROOP CARRIER COMMAND AND THE ROYAL AIR FORCE DROPPED THREE AIRBORNE DIVISIONS IN THE EINDHOVEN-ARNHEM AREA IN A BOLD BUT UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT TO SEIZE THE CROSSINGS OF THE LOWER RHINE.

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. THE FIRST AND NINTH ARMIES BROKE THROUGH THE SIEGFRIED LINE AND CAPTURED AACHEN. 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



*Operations Map "Aachen and the Advance to the Roer"*

FRENCH TROOPS FREED MULHOUSE. THEN, IN THE ARDENNES, ON 16 DECEMBER, THE ENEMY LAUNCHED HIS FINAL MAJOR COUNTEROFFENSIVE. PROMPT TACTICAL COUNTERMEASURES AND THE SUPERB FIGHTING QUALITIES OF AMERICAN SOLDIERS AND AIRMEN FINALLY HALTED THIS DRIVE. A CONCURRENT OFFENSIVE LAUNCHED BETWEEN SAARBRUCKEN AND COLMAR MET THE SAME FATE.

DURING FEBRUARY AND MARCH THE WEST BANK OF THE RHINE WAS CLEARED IN A SERIES OF HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL OPERATIONS. ON 7 MARCH AMERICAN FORCES SEIZED THE ONE REMAINING UNDEMOLISHED BRIDGE AT REMAGEN. A SURPRISE CROSSING WAS EFFECTED AT OPPENHEIM ON 22 MARCH. THEN, IN THE NEXT TWO DAYS ALLIED TROOPS SPEARHEADED BY A MASSIVE AIRBORNE ATTACK MADE THEIR MAJOR ASSAULT CROSSING NEAR WESEL. PUSHING RAPIDLY EASTWARD U.S. FORCES ENCIRCLED THE ENTIRE RUHR VALLEY IN A GIGANTIC DOUBLE ENVELOPMENT. WITH AIR AND GROUND FORCES OPERATING AS A TEAM, THE ALLIES SWEEPED ACROSS GERMANY TO MEET THE ADVANCING TROOPS OF THE U.S.S.R. AT THE ELBE AND FORCE THE COMPLETE SURRENDER OF THE ENEMY ON 8 MAY 1945, 337 DAYS AFTER THE INITIAL LANDINGS IN FRANCE.

On the south wall is a somewhat smaller map, of materials similar to the other, entitled "Aachen and the Advance to the Roer"; it illustrates the military operations in this region. Accompanying this map is an inscribed text, also in three languages, the English version reading as follows:

ON 12 SEPTEMBER 1944 THE U.S. FIRST ARMY CROSSED THE GERMAN FRONTIER NEAR AACHEN. HERE THE BROAD, SWEEPING ADVANCE ACROSS FRANCE AND BELGIUM WAS SLOWED BY THE STRONGLY FORTIFIED SIEGFRIED LINE. STRUGGLING FORWARD AGAINST INCREASING RESISTANCE, INFANTRY AND ARMORED FORCES BROKE THROUGH TO STOLBERG, EAST OF AACHEN. PROGRESS WAS SLOW, THE FIGHTING OBSTINATE,

AS OUR TROOPS FORCED THEIR WAY INTO HURTGEN FOREST TO SCHEVENHUTTE AND BEYOND LAMMERSDORF, THREATENING THE ROER RIVER DAMS.

ON 2 OCTOBER THE FIRST ARMY LAUNCHED AN ATTACK NORTH OF AACHEN. AFTER SIX DAYS OF HEAVY FIGHTING, AIDED BY FIGHTERS AND MEDIUM BOMBERS OF THE NINTH AIR FORCE, OUR GROUND FORCES HAD PUSHED THROUGH THE SIEGFRIED LINE AND TURNED SOUTHWARD TOWARDS WURSELEN. UNITS TO THE EAST THEN JOINED THE ASSAULT. WHEN THE GARRISON IN AACHEN REFUSED A SURRENDER ULTIMATUM, U.S. FORCES LAUNCHED A MASSIVE AIR AND ARTILLERY BOMBARDMENT AGAINST THEM; FURIOUS FIGHTING MARKED THE ENEMY'S DETERMINED EFFORT TO REINFORCE THE AREA. BY 16 OCTOBER THE CITY HAD BEEN ENCIRCLED; SUCCESSIVE ATTEMPTS TO RELIEVE THE GARRISON WERE FIRMLY REPULSED. ON 21 OCTOBER AACHEN SURRENDERED, THE FIRST LARGE GERMAN CITY TO FALL INTO ALLIED HANDS.

THE U.S. NINTH ARMY THEN MOVED INTO POSITION ON THE LEFT OF THE FIRST ARMY. ON 16 NOVEMBER, FOLLOWING A DEVASTATING BOMBING BY THE EIGHTH AND NINTH AIR FORCES, OUR ARMIES LAUNCHED AN OFFENSIVE TOWARDS THE ROER. THE ATTACK ADVANCED SLOWLY EASTWARD AGAINST DETERMINED RESISTANCE AND FURIOUS COUNTERATTACKS. THE NATURAL BARRIER OF THE HURTGEN FOREST, NOW GREATLY STRENGTHENED BY INGENIOUS FORTIFICATIONS, PRESENTED A SERIOUS DELAYING OBSTACLE.

NOT IN YEARS HAD EUROPEAN WEATHER BEEN SO UNFAVORABLE FOR MILITARY OPERATIONS BUT BY 15 DECEMBER FIRST ARMY UNITS HAD REACHED THE ROER FROM DUREN NORTHWARD. ATTACKS THROUGH THE HURTGEN FOREST WERE STILL IN PROGRESS WHEN, IN THE ARDENNES, ON 16 DECEMBER, THE ENEMY LOOSED HIS LAST GREAT COUNTEROFFENSIVE OF THE WAR. THE FIRST ARMY MOVED INSTANTLY TO MEET THE THREAT, SUSPENDING OFFENSIVE ACTION IN THE HURTGEN FOREST AREA UNTIL AFTER THE VICTORIOUS CONCLUSION OF THE

ARDENNES CAMPAIGN ON 25 JANUARY 1945.

The maps were designed by Sante Graziani of Worcester, Massachusetts, from information furnished by the American Battle Monuments Commission. They were fabricated by Enrico Pandolfini of Pietrasanta, Italy. Under the map of military operations in Northwestern Europe is a stand of white Carrara marble bearing the two sets of key maps, "The War Against Germany" and "The War Against Japan."

## THE GRAVES AREA

East of the colonnade a terrace affords a prospect over the burial area. Immediately in front is the bronze statue of the Archangel bestowing the laurel branch upon the heroic Dead for whom he makes special commendation to the Almighty. This was designed by Donal Hord of San Diego, California, and cast by Battaglia of Milan, Italy.

The graves area is divided into 8 plots, lettered "A" to "H"; these are separated by the broad axial mall and by longitudinal grass paths. The 7,992 headstones are arranged in broad sweeping curves upon the gently sloping lawn. These Dead came from 49 States, and from the District of Columbia, Panama and England. Among the graves are 33 instances in which 2 brothers rest side by side, and one instance of 3 brothers; also there are headstones marking the tombs of 94 Unknowns.

The central mall terminates in a wall-enclosed flag pole plaza, backed by a copse of oak and spruce trees. On the wall is the inscription: IN HONORED MEMORY OF THOSE WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES FOR THEIR COUNTRY.

## PLANTINGS

The memorial is set within a framework of Box hedges (*Buxus semp-*

*virens*), which has been extended to form a border to the paths which lead to the graves area.

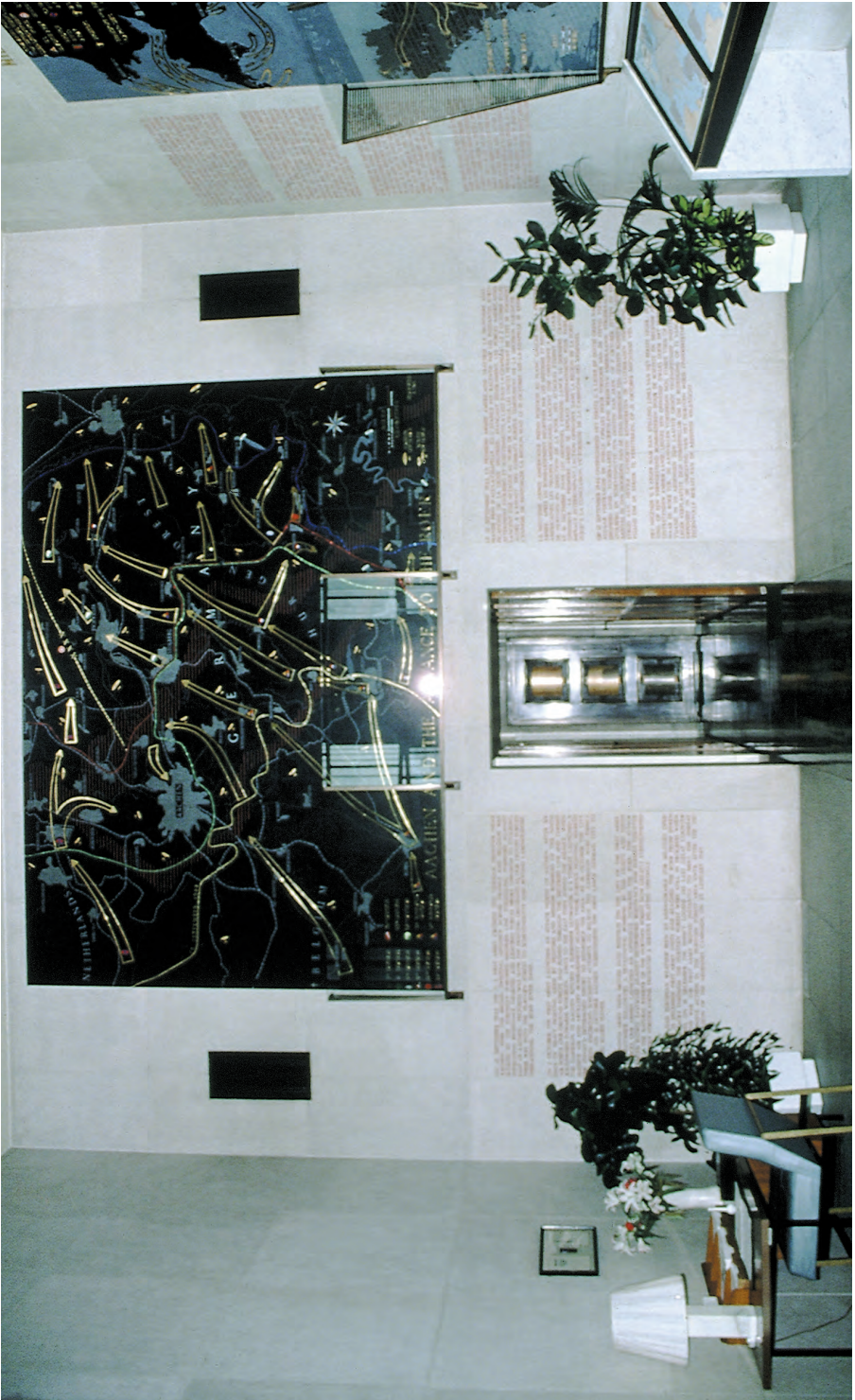
In the lawns at each end of the memorial are groups of weeping willows (*Salix babylonica*); flanking the memorial north and south of the grass terrace on which it stands, are groups of Serbian Spruce (*Picea omorika*) and Norway Spruce (*Picea excelsa*) mixed with Hawthorns (*Crataegus oxyacantha*).

Along the paved approach to the memorial are large beds of pink Polyantha roses and adjoining the colonnade itself are to be found other massifs of white roses.

Within the graves areas Birch (*Betula alba* and *B. nigra*), Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*), and Yew (*Taxus baccata*) have been planted and free growing Box has been massed in groups against the surrounding walls. Beyond the wall also are groups of Rhododendron ponticum and shrubby Chestnut (*Aesculus parviflora*) and a number of Norway Spruce.

## VISITORS' ROOM

The Visitors' Room is in the south end of the memorial and can be reached either from the colonnade or from the south parking area and a door at the south end of the memorial. It contains the superintendent's office, restroom facilities and a comfortably furnished area where visitors may rest, obtain information, sign the register and pause to refresh themselves. Whenever the cemetery is open to the public, a staff member is available to provide information on specific burial and memorialization locations in any of the Commission's cemeteries, accommodations in the vicinity, best means and routes of travel, local history and other items that may be of interest.



Combined Museum and Visitors' Area





*St. Mihiel American Cemetery, Thiaucourt, France*

# AMERICAN MEMORIALS and OVERSEAS MILITARY CEMETERIES

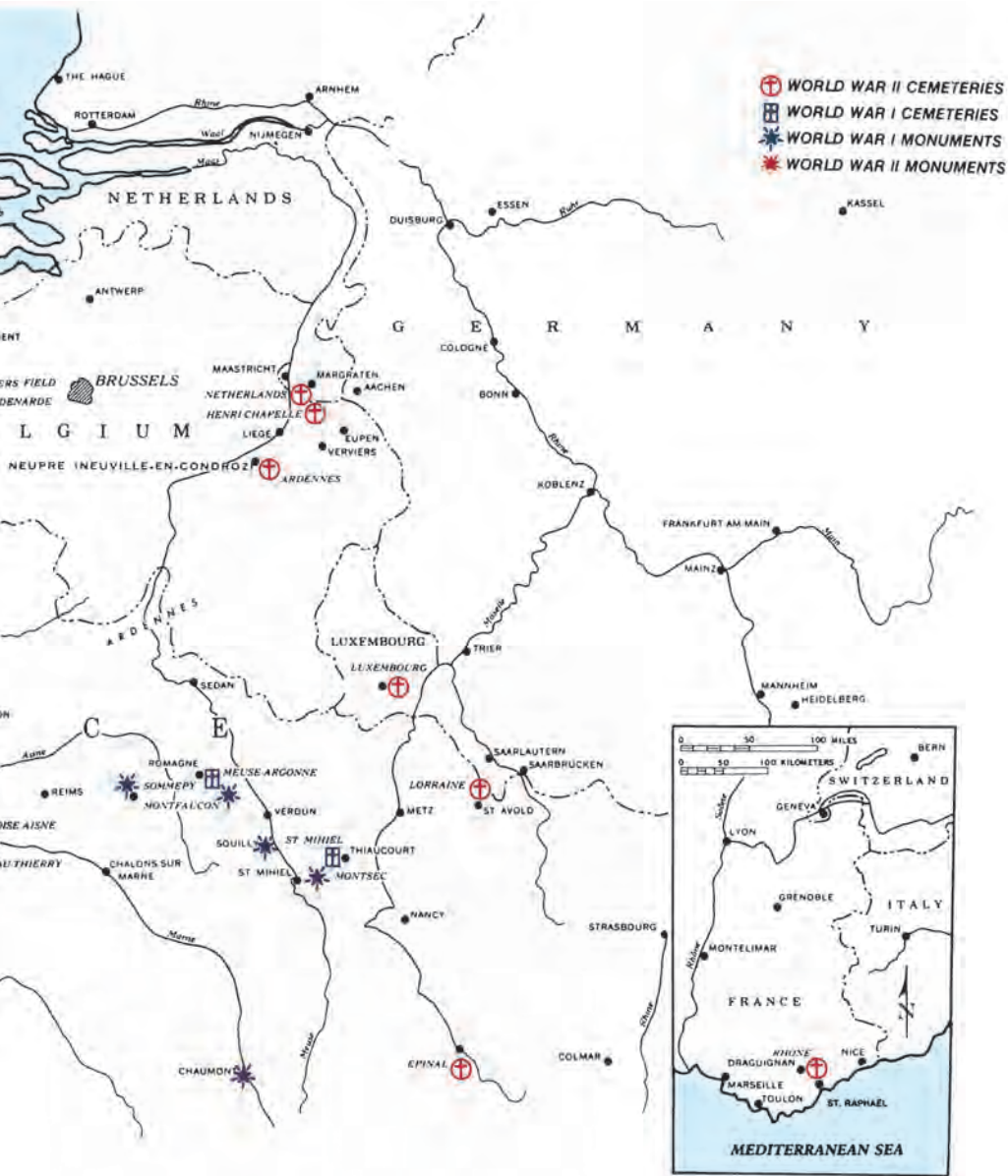
The AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION was created by act of Congress in March 1923 to erect and maintain memorials in the United States and foreign countries where the United States Armed Forces have served since 6 April 1917, and to control as to design and provide regulations for the erection of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

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



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

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



After World War I, the American Battle Monuments Commission erected a memorial chapel in each of the eight military cemeteries overseas already established by the War Department, as well as twelve monuments and two bronze tablets on the battlefields and elsewhere, to record the achievements of our

Armed Forces. In 1934, the World War I overseas cemeteries were transferred to the Commission by Executive Order.

The names and locations of these World War I cemetery memorials, the number of burials and the number of missing recorded at their memorials are:

<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](http://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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2008

*Suresnes American Cemetery and Memorial, Seine, France*