American Battle Monuments Commission
This agency of the United States government operates and maintains 26 American cemeteries and 30 memorials, monuments and markers in 17 countries. The Commission works to fulfill the vision of its first chairman, General of the Armies John J. Pershing. Pershing, commander of the American Expeditionary Forces during World War I, promised that "time will not dim the glory of their deeds."

Rhone American Cemetery and Memorial
The 551st Parachute Infantry Battalion entered Draguignan on August 16, 1944, joined next day by elements of the 36th Infantry Division. A temporary American cemetery was established here on August 17, 1944. The French government has granted free use of the land as a permanent burial ground without charge or taxation.

For more information on this site and other ABMC commemorative sites, please visit www.abmc.gov

May 2019

"Time will not dim the glory of their deeds."
- General of the Armies John J. Pershing
Operation DRAGOON’s objectives included capturing the ports of Toulon and Marseille; trapping the German Nineteenth Army; and linking up with allied armies in the north. U.S. Twelfth and Fifteenth Air Forces, plus British and French air units, provided vital airlift and tactical air support throughout these operations.

**August 15, 1944:** U.S. Seventh Army (the VI Corps comprising the 3rd, 36th, and 45th Infantry Divisions, plus French armor) landed on Riviera beaches, supported by more than 800 U.S., British, French, Greek, and Polish ships. The 1st Special Service Force and 1st Airborne Task Force made parachute and glider landings at Port Cros and Le Muy.

**August 16:** French Armée B landed on beaches secured by the Seventh Army.

**August 16:** 551st Parachute Infantry Battalion liberated Draguignan and captured the German general who was military governor of the Department of the Var.

**August 19-28:** Battle of Montelimar. Task Force Butler began blocking German withdrawals up the Rhone Valley north of Montelimar. The 36th Infantry Division joined in attacks and counterattacks in following days. Meanwhile, the 3rd Infantry Division pushed north from Avignon. The escaping German forces suffered severe losses.

**August 26:** French II Corps liberated Toulon.

**August 28:** French II Corps liberated Marseille.

**September 11:** Elements of French II Corps north of Dijon met a patrol from the Third Army advancing from Normandy, fulfilling the campaign objective.

In less than a month, Seventh Army had advanced 400 miles into France. It fought onward in multiple campaigns to victory in Germany, May 1945.