

# Somme American Cemetery and Memorial



**The American Battle Monuments Commission**



*Chapel Interior*

## Somme American Cemetery and Memorial



### LOCATION

The Somme American Cemetery and Memorial is situated  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile southwest of the village of Bony (Aisne), France, approximately 120 miles/193 kilometers northeast of Paris. Bony is  $\frac{1}{4}$  miles/2.4 kilometers west of highway N-44, 13 miles/21 kilometers north of St. Quentin and 14 miles/22.5 kilometers southwest of Cambrai. The road leading to Bony leaves highway N-44, 10 miles/16 kilometers north of St. Quentin, a short distance north of the American monument near Bellicourt. The cemetery can be reached by train from the Gare du Nord station in Paris via

Peronne or St. Quentin in about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hours. Taxi service to the cemetery is available from each of these stations.

The cemetery can also be reached by automobile via the Paris-Lille-Bruxelles toll autoroute (A-1) to exit 13 (Valles de la Somme) then via N-29 to Vermand and Bellenglise, on D-31 to highway N-44 or Brussels-Reims toll autoroute (A-26), exit 9 via highway N-44 south for  $7\frac{1}{2}$  miles/12 kilometers to Bony.

Hotel accommodations are available at Peronne, St. Quentin and Cambrai.



*Graves Area from Bronze Gate*

## HOURS

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

During these hours, a staff member is on duty at the Visitors' Building to escort relatives to grave or memorialization sites.

## HISTORY

Following the United States entry into World War I, the American government promised to raise and send a trained army numbering more than one million men to

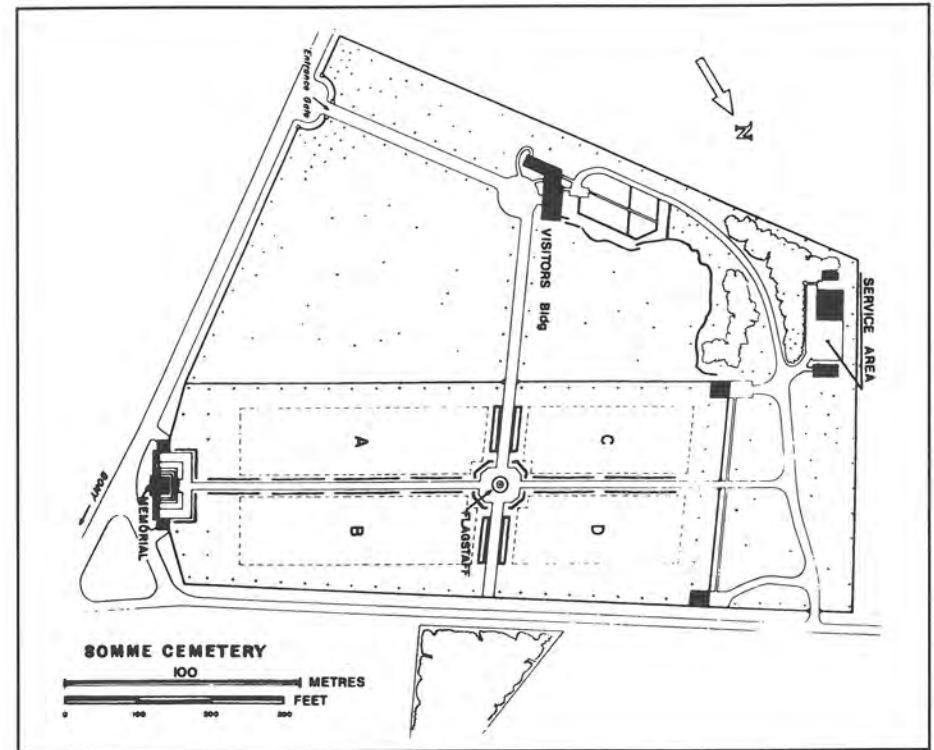
France to fight on the side of the Allies. America's army at the time numbered only 200,000 men and no formed divisions existed. Beginning in May 1917, American troops began arriving in France, initially to train, not to fight.

After three years of fighting, however, the Allies needed relief. In late summer 1917, small engineer contingents were released to assist Britain's army in its sector of the Western Front northeast of Paris. By war's end, five American divisions and many separate units would fight alongside their British allies, most in the department (region) of France named for the River Somme. For the Americans who would fight there, first combat came at Cambrai, approximately 130 miles/209 kilometers to the northeast of Paris.

The British attack at Cambrai, the first massed tank offensive in history, began on 20 November 1917



*Flag Pole Base with Trench Helmets*



*Location of Cemetery Features*

and made significant gains. By 30 November, the British attack had ground to a halt due to a lack of reserves, the mechanical unreliability of the primitive tanks, and a greatly reinforced German defense. About ten miles/16 kilometers to the southeast of the British salient's tip at Cambrai, lay the town of Gouzeaucourt. Here the American 11th Engineer Regiment was repairing rail lines and building a rail yard for the British.

On 30 November, the Germans mounted a major counterattack aimed at the salient's flanks and directly in front of the Americans. When the British line buckled, U.S. engineers armed themselves and

joined the British defense, some fighting as infantry while others joined the counterattack force that recaptured the town by the end of the day. The 11th Engineers suffered eighteen casualties. Earlier in September, the 11th had suffered the first U.S. battle casualties while serving in the same sector.

While American divisions were arriving in increasing numbers, the separate peace signed by Russia with Germany freed nearly 60 enemy divisions for use in the West. In March 1918, the Germans massed 50 divisions in the Somme Region of northern France, intending to split the British armies serving in the north from the main body

of the French armies serving in the center and southern sectors of the Western Front. Attacking on 21 March, the Germans made great initial gains and plunged the front into crisis. Again, U.S. engineers supporting the British became part of the defense. Two companies of the 6th Engineer Regiment serving in the vicinity of Peronne, approximately 20 miles/32 kilometers east of Amiens, joined a mixed American-British-Canadian defense force to block the road about ten miles/16 kilometers east of Amiens. Fighting in the village of Warfusee-Abancourt on the Peronne-Amiens road during the last days of March and into early April, the Americans helped repel three German attacks and fought as infantry for eight days.

The German March offensive changed the nature of the war. American Commander-in-Chief, General John J. Pershing placed the American Expeditionary Force at the call of the new Allied Supreme Commander Marshal Ferdinand Foch. Soon arriving American divisions both trained and fought alongside the Armies of Britain and France.

The U.S. 1st Division was attached to the French First Army in late April. In the early morning hours of 28 May, the 1st Division's 28th Infantry Regiment with two companies of her sister regiment, the 18th Infantry, attacked and seized the hill town of Cantigny which bulged into the Allied line. Withstanding furious counter-attacks and three full days of bombardment, the 1st Division held its gains. The attack at Cantigny

was America's first division-sized offensive in World War I.

By summer, the main weight of Pershing's forces shifted to the Champagne area and further west into Lorraine to help form the American First Army, but American divisions continued to arrive on the still active Somme front which would retain an American presence until the war's end.

On the 4th of July, four companies from the U.S. 33d Division, interspersed with units from the Australian Corps, helped to seize the village of Hamel, east of Amiens and near the 6th Engineers' battlefield. On 8 August 1918, the British began a series of major offensives that would continue until the Armistice. The U.S. 80th Division took part in these attacks from the 8th to the 18th of August near the village of Serre while farther south, the 131st Infantry drawn from the U.S. 33d Division cleared the heights and woods overlooking the Somme River from Chipilly to Bray-sur-Somme.

The U.S. II Corps with the 27th and 30th Divisions was attached to the British Fourth Army in September and alternately served as a complete corps under the tactical direction of Australian and British corps. Recently arrived from combat with the British in Flanders, the II Corps was assigned to seize one of the Western Front's strongest enemy objectives: the St. Quentin Tunnel complex of the Hindenburg Line.

The Corps' objective lay about 40 miles/64 kilometers east of Amiens. The Hindenburg Line consisted of multiple tiers of trenches, strongpoints, underground protective

bays, barbed wire, and machine gun nests sited on defensively superior ground.

The American sector was about 7,500 yards wide, sited south of the Escaut River at Vendhuile running through Bony and Bellicourt to Ville Noire. Enemy trenches were sited both on the forward and reverse slopes of a long ridge perpendicular to the American attack. Behind the ridge, the St. Quentin canal ran through a four mile underground tunnel used by the Germans to protect their troops from bombardment.

Moving into the front lines to replace British units in late September, both divisions began limited objective attacks to secure jump-off lines for the main offensive. While some success was achieved to the flanks by both divisions, the 27th Division's attempt to clear the strongpoints dominating its attack zone was repulsed with

heavy casualties in one of its regiments on 27 September. The offensive, nevertheless, proceeded two days later.

Attacking through furious fire on 29 September, the two American divisions fought side by side for two days to clear the ridge and tunnel. The 27th Division's sector which encompassed the northern half of the attack proved to be particularly vicious. In the area which includes the Somme American Cemetery and the hill to its north known as "the knoll," the 27th Division's 107th Infantry suffered 995 casualties during the first day's attack, the largest one-day American regimental loss for the entire war. The II Corps suffered over 7,500 casualties during their Hindenburg Line assault. There were nine Medal of Honor recipients.

On 6 October, after having been temporarily relieved from the front,



*View of Graves Area*

the II Corps' two divisions were recommitted four miles/6.4 kilometers to the east of their original sector. The fighting continued with the II Corp making a further nine-mile/14.6 kilometers advance. The II Corps was relieved from the line on 21 October, and with the armistice in November, the 27th and 30th Divisions never again saw battle on the Western Front. The II Corps' battles on the Somme cost over 13,500 American casualties. Its soldiers earned a total of nineteen Medals of Honor.

### THE SITE

The 14-acre Somme American Cemetery is situated on a gentle slope typical of the open, rolling Picardy countryside. The cemetery is named after the region in which the American 1st, 27th, 30th, 33d and 80th Divisions and the 6th and the 11th Engineers fought during the period between March 1917 and September 1918. It is the final resting place of many of the American War Dead who fought at Cambrai, Hamel, in front of Amiens, and during the Hindenburg Offensive.

The cemetery was first established as a temporary cemetery by the American Graves Registration Service following the offensive in 1918. It was known as the American Expeditionary Forces' Somme Cemetery No. 636. After the war, the other temporary cemeteries in the area were discontinued and the military Dead of the region whose next-of-kin requested burial overseas were moved to the Somme American Cemetery for permanent interment. Post-war administration of the cemetery passed to the American Battle Monuments

Commission in 1934. The Commission landscaped the grounds and constructed the memorial chapel and other permanent buildings. The cemetery was dedicated on 30 May 1937.

### ARCHITECT

Architect for the memorial chapel and other architectural features was George Howe of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

### GENERAL LAYOUT

The formal entrance, with its ornamental grill gates and fencing, is of striking beauty. The entrance road leads to the greystone Superintendent's Office and Visitors' Building. Directly in front of the building is the visitors' parking area. To the right of these, enclosed by a low stone wall, are the graves area and the memorial. A short bituminous roadway, bordered by linden trees on a carpet of grass, leads from the Visitors' Building to the ornate bronze gates through which the visitor enters the graves area. This area, which is divided into four plots, A through D, is generally rectangular in shape. The graveled paths intersect the graves area at the flagpole, which flies an American flag. Mounted on the base of the flagpole are four bronze World War I trench helmets capping bronze wreaths. The bronze ornamental items were executed by Marcel Loyau of Boulogne, France and were cast by the H. Rouard Foundries of Paris, France.

Located in the rear of the graves area in Plots C and D are two pillars containing a carillon presented and dedicated on 2 June 1996 by the



*View of Chapel through Entrance Door*

Robert R. McCormick Tribune Foundation. The carillon plays the national anthems of the United States and France, Taps, as well as other hymns.

## THE MEMORIAL CHAPEL

At the southeastern end of the cemetery stands a small memorial Chapel of white Vaurion stone.

The chapel rests on a slightly raised square podium and is enclosed by a stone-faced wall. Resting on the lintel of the entrance doors is a sculptured bronze eagle with wings spread. Above the doors is inscribed the following:

TO THOSE WHO DIED  
FOR THEIR COUNTRY

to remind the visitor that those buried there, died for their freedom. Flanking the inscription are sculptured bayoneted rifles. Sculpted on the exterior facade at one end of the Memorial Chapel is a World War I era tank and on the opposite facade is an artillery piece. Beneath these are arched windows providing light for the interior of the Chapel. The rear facade of the Chapel is embellished by a crystal window in the form of a cross. Above the window, flanked by sculpted artillery shells, is the inscription:

MORTS  
POUR LA  
PATRIE

(They Died for Their Country)

Two stylized sculptured eagles flank the name of the cemetery.

## CHAPEL INTERIOR

The Chapel is entered from the stepped terrace through bronze

double doors studded with forty-eight bronze stars representing the then forty-eight states. Inside the chapel, one's attention is drawn to the altar of Balacet marble. Across the face of the altar is inscribed:

THOU O LORD HAS GRANTED  
THEM ETERNAL REST

Immediately below the inscription are the letters: I H S. Four bronze candelabra sit on the altar. Behind the candles, inlaid in the Vaurion stone, is an hourglass motif embellished by a bronze screen pattern. In the center, embossed in bronze, is a grapevine wreath which encircles the ancient Greek religious symbol for the "anointed one." At the altar base rests the Tablet of Moses. Inset in the Haurteville marble floor, within a circular bronze plaque, is a large embossed star surrounded by forty-eight smaller stars.

The names of 333 American soldiers missing in the area whose remains were never recovered, or, if recovered were never identified, are inscribed upon the side walls. The following inscription precedes the names on the north wall:

THE NAMES RECORDED ON THESE  
WALLS ARE THOSE OF AMERICAN SOLDIERS WHO FOUGHT IN THIS REGION WHO SLEEP IN UNKNOWN GRAVES

On the opposite walls, below the flag staffs, additional names of those Missing in Action in the region are inscribed. Also inscribed is the following:

THIS CHAPEL WAS ERECTED BY THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN GRATEFUL  
REMEMBRANCE OF HER SONS WHO  
DIED DURING THE WORLD WAR.

Three windows illuminate the chapel's interior, one in the form of a cross high above the altar. To the

left and right of the altar are beautifully arched stained glass windows containing the insignia of the major units which participated in World War I.

## GRAVES AREA

The graves area consists of four rectangular plots. The grave sites are all marked with marble headstones set in stately rows on a carpet of grass. Stars of David mark the graves of those of the Jewish faith and Latin Crosses mark all others. Of the 1,844 burials in the cemetery, 138 are Unknown. The remains of three Medal of Honor recipients are among those resting at the cemetery. Each grave plot is bordered by trees and plants. Those interred in the cemetery came from all of the then forty-eight states (except Vermont and Wyoming) and the District of Columbia.

## VISITORS' BUILDING

At the upper end of the entrance avenue are the Visitors' Building

and parking area. Inside the building are the Superintendent's Office and a comfortably furnished room where visitors may rest and obtain information from the cemetery staff. The visitors' register is maintained there. Burial locations and sites of memorialization in all of the overseas American military cemeteries of both World War I and World War II, plus other information of interest concerning the American overseas cemeteries or local history, may be obtained from the Superintendent or the cemetery staff.

## PLANTINGS

The lane leading from the entrance gate to the Visitors' Building is shaded by Linden trees. Plantings of colorful polyantha roses border the grave plots in the area surrounding the flagpole. The meadow areas are landscaped with massifs of multicolored shrubs such as lilac, ash, beech, cedar, elm, holly, ewe, spruce, sycamore and pines.



Memorial Chapel and Graves Area from the Rear



*Visitors Building*



*Visitors Room*



*Gravesite of World War I Unknown Soldier*

## Bellicourt Monument

The Bellicourt Monument is located 118 miles/197 kilometers northeast of Paris; 9 miles/14.5 kilometers north of the town of St. Quentin (Aisne), France, on the highway to Cambrai and 1 mile/1.6 kilometers north of the village of Bellicourt and 3 miles/4.8 kilometers from the Somme American Cemetery. Erected above a canal tunnel built by Napoleon I, it commemorates the achievements and sacrifices of the 90,000 American troops who served in battle with the British Armies in France during 1917 and 1918.

The tunnel was one of the main defense features of the Hindenburg Line which was broken by American troops in a brilliant offensive in September 1918. A map illustrating the American operations is engraved on the west facade of the memorial. Next to the map is inscribed:

MAP SHOWING THE ATTACK OF THE 2ND AMERICAN CORPS, COMPOSED OF THE 27TH AND 30TH DIVISIONS, WHICH RESULTED IN BREAKING THE HINDENBURG LINE IN THIS VICINITY.

The inscription also appears in French. On the terrace, near the map, is an orientation table. The monument and maps were designed by Paul Cret of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The monument is a large and impressive rectangular stone block

set on a two-stepped terrace. It is ornamented on its east face by bas-relief figures, of heroic size, representing Valor and Remembrance. In the center is a symbolic American flag topped by an eagle. The figures were executed by L. Bottiau of Paris, France. Below the figures, on the base of the monument appears the inscription:

ERECTED BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN COMMEMORATION OF THE AMERICAN UNITS WHICH SERVED WITH THE BRITISH ARMIES IN FRANCE DURING THE WORLD WAR.

On the north side of the monument is inscribed: 27TH DIVISION 80TH DIVISION 11TH ENGINEERS (the insignia of the 27th and 80th Divisions also appear). On the south side of the Memorial is inscribed: 30TH DIVISION 33RD DIVISION 6TH ENGINEERS (the insignia of the 30th and 33rd Divisions also appear).

Inscribed on the base of the monument on all four sides are the names of places in the region where important battles were fought by American troops: CHIPILLY RIDGE GRESSAIRE WOOD WARFUSEE-ABANCOURT MONTBREHAIN GOUZEAU-COURT ST. SOUPLLET PUISSIEUX AU MONT QUENNEMONT FARM MAZINGHIEN BELLICOURT.

The monument was dedicated on 9 August 1937



Bellicourt Monument





## Cantigny Monument

The Cantigny Monument is located in the village of Cantigny (Somme), France, 4 miles/6.4 kilometers northwest of Montdidier on route D-26 from Montdidier to Ailly-sur-Noye. From Paris, it is 66 miles/101 kilometers north via Chantilly or Senlis.

This battlefield monument, commemorates the first offensive operation in May 1918 by a division size American unit in World War I.

The 28th Infantry of the American First Division, operating under the French X Corps, captured the town of Cantigny from German troops on 28 May 1918. In the subsequent two day counterattack, launched by the Germans, which included a 72-hour bombardment from artillery guns of every caliber, the village was completely destroyed. However, the First Division lost no ground and the Germans were compelled to accept defeat. This victory provided the Allies with a concrete example of the fighting ability of the American troops, which were then beginning to arrive in France in large numbers.

The monument consists of a white stone stele (column) on a

slightly raised platform. It is surrounded by an attractive park developed and maintained by the American Battle Monuments Commission. The quiet surroundings now give no hint of the bitter hand-to-hand fighting which took place near the site of the monument.

On the face of the monument appears the inscription:

ERECTED BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO COMMEMORATE THE FIRST ATTACK BY AN AMERICAN DIVISION IN THE WORLD WAR.

On the side of the memorial appears the inscription:

THE FIRST DIVISION UNITED STATES ARMY OPERATING UNDER THE X FRENCH CORPS CAPTURED THE TOWN OF CANTIGNY ON MAY 28 1918 AND HELD IT AGAINST NUMEROUS COUNTERATTACKS.

French translations of these inscriptions appear on opposite sides of the monument.

Architect for the monument was Arthur Loomis Harmon of New York, New York. It was dedicated on 9 August 1937.

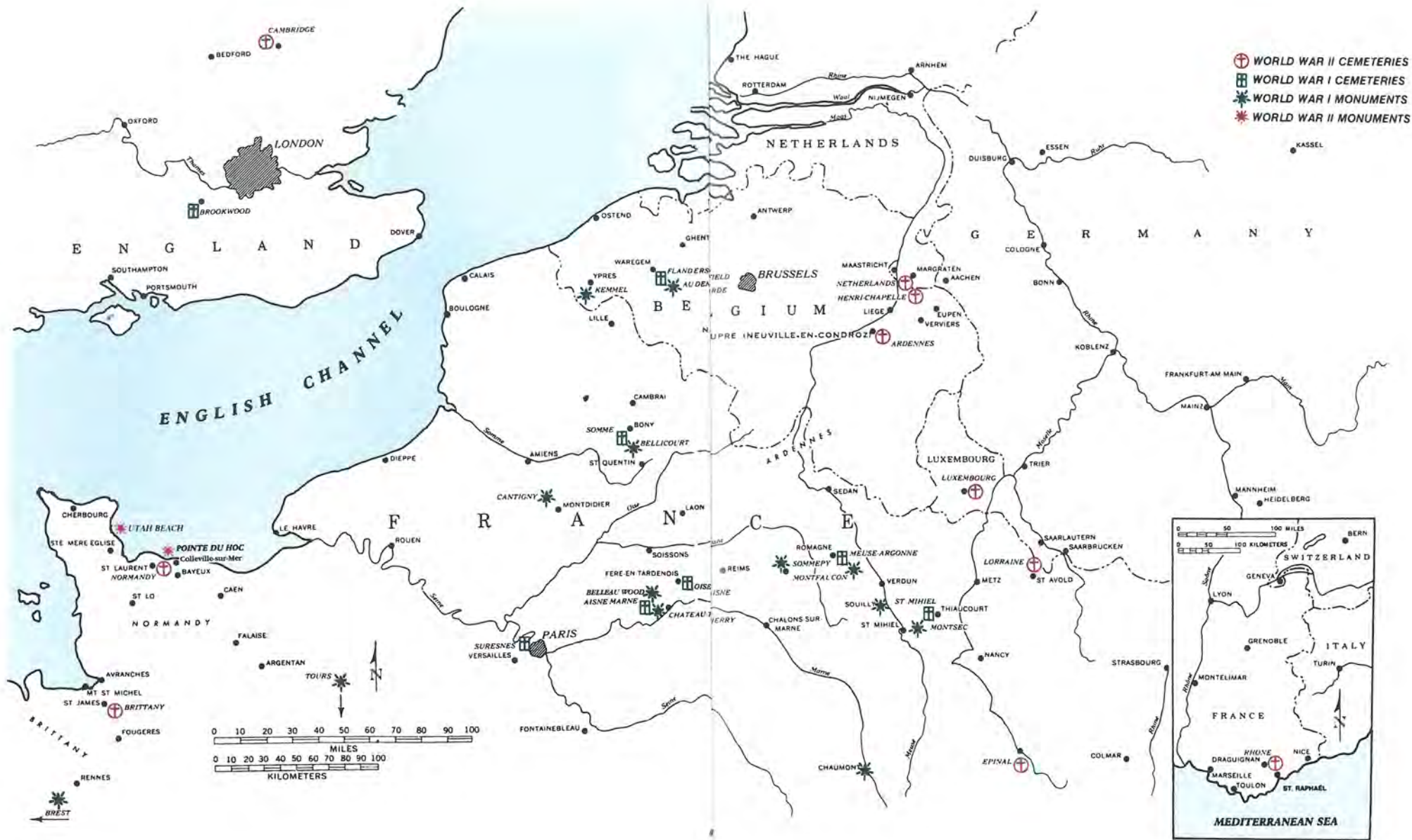


*St. Mihiel American Cemetery, Thiaucourt, France*

## AMERICAN MEMORIALS and OVERSEAS MILITARY CEMETERIES

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

World War I	Burials		Missing Commemorated
	Known	Unknown	
Aisne-Marne, Belleau, France	2,039	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, Sommepey, and Tours, France; Gibraltar and Washington, DC. World War I tablets are at Chaumont and Souilly, France.

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

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

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

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

East Coast Memorial, New York City, New York	—	—	4,609
Honolulu Memorial, Honolulu, Hawaii	—	—	18,096
West Coast Memorial, San Francisco, California	—	—	412
Totals	86,732	6,510	78,976
<i>World War II cemeteries maintained by the National Cemetery Administration, Department of Veterans' Affairs</i>			
National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific Honolulu, Hawaii	11,597	2,079	(See Honolulu Memorial)
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 WWI American Cemeteries also have battle maps).

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

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



*Cambridge American Cemetery and Memorial, Cambridge, England*

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

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

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

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

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



*Brittany American Cemetery, St. James, Manche, France*

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

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

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

In the World War II cemeteries, the inscription reads:

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

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

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

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

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

## SURESNES

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

## EAST COAST MEMORIAL

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

## WEST COAST MEMORIAL

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

## HONOLULU MEMORIAL

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

## POINTE DU HOC MONUMENT

Following World War II, the French erected a monument at Pointe du Hoc on the right flank of Omaha Beach, overlooking the English Channel honoring the elements of the 2nd Ranger Battalion under the command of LTC James Rudder who scaled the cliff, seized the position, and defended it against German counterattacks at a high cost of lives. The monument consists of a simple pylon on top of a concrete bunker at the edge of the cliff and appropriate inscriptions at its base in French and English. It was officially turned over to the American government for operation and maintenance in perpetuity on 11 January 1979.

## UTAH BEACH MONUMENT

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



Rhone American Cemetery and Memorial, Draguignan, Var, France



Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery, Romagne, Meuse, France

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

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

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

It consists of a stone plaza 52 ft. by 75 ft., an 8 ft. statue of Gen. Pershing on a stone pedestal, a stone bench facing the statue and two 10 ft. high walls, one along the south side of the

memorial area and one along the east. The south wall contains two battle maps with appropriate inscriptions. Inscribed upon the reverse face of the east wall is Gen. Pershing's tribute to the officers and men of the AEF: "IN THEIR DEVOTION, THEIR VALOR, AND IN THE LOYAL FULFILLMENT OF THEIR OBLIGATIONS, THE OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES HAVE LEFT A HERITAGE OF WHICH THOSE WHO FOLLOW MAY EVER BE PROUD."

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

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

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

To learn more, visit our website at [www.abmc.gov](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 Gaillard Highway between the Corozal Railroad Station and Fort Clayton. To reach the cemetery, follow Gaillard Highway north from Panama City, turn right on Rybicki Road, and proceed about one-half mile to the cemetery. Taxi and bus service to the cemetery are available from Panama City. There are 5,336 Dead interred here. In agreement with the Republic of Panama, care and maintenance of the cemetery in perpetuity was assumed by the Commission on 1 October 1979.

### **SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC**

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

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

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



*Corozal American Cemetery, Corozal, Republic of Panama*



*Decorated Gravesite of a World War II "Unknown"*

## THE AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MARCH 1923



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*Suresnes American Cemetery and Memorial, Seine, France*