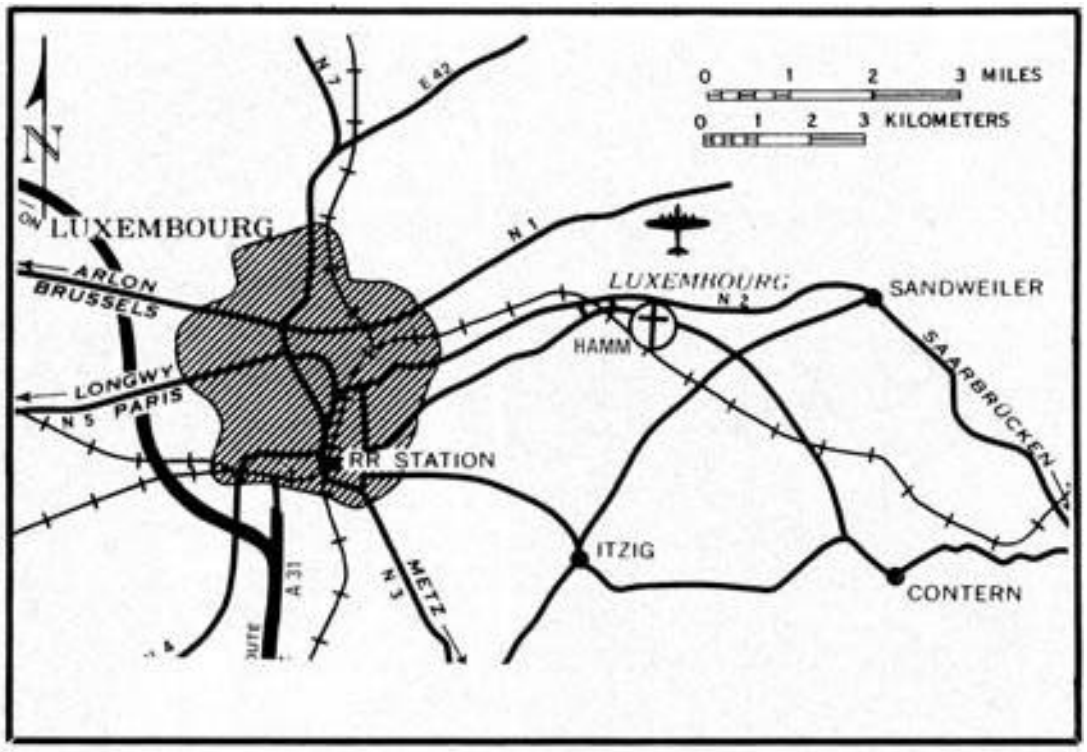
Luxembourg American Cemetery and Memorial

American Battle Monuments Commission

Altar and Stained Glass Window in Chapel



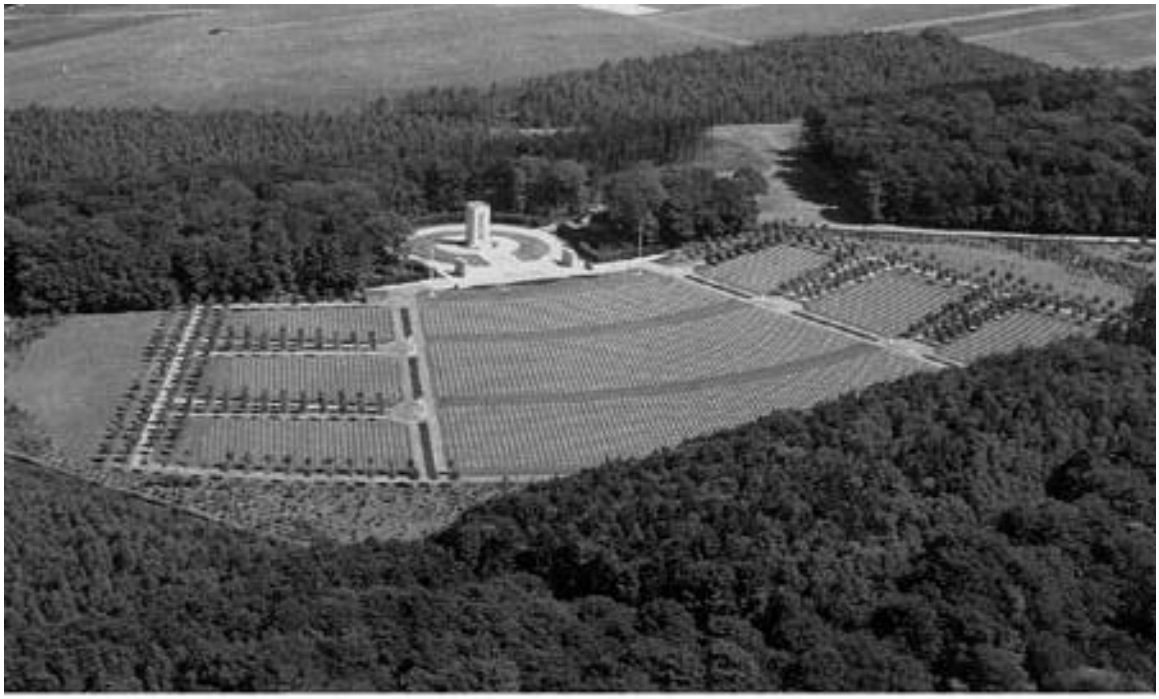
LOCATION

The Luxembourg American Cemetery and Memorial is situated within the capital city of Luxembourg, 3 miles due east of its center in an area called Hamm. It lies 3 miles (5 kilometers) southwest of the airport. The cemetery can be reached by train from Paris (Gare de I'Est) in approximately 4 hours; from Liege, Belgium in about 3 hours. Taxicabs to the cemetery are available at the railroad station. Luxembourg City can be reached by automobile from Paris (206 miles/332 kilometers) via A4/E50 toll road to Metz, then north to Luxembourg City via A31/E25. To reach Luxembourg City from Brussels (135 miles/218 kilometers), take A4/E411 southeast through Neufchateau where it merges with the E25. Once in Luxembourg City, follow signs to the airport, then N2/E27 toward Remich/Saarbrucken. The road is well marked and passes within 300 yards of the cemetery. The airport is serviced by frequent international flights daily. Taxicabs and rental cars are available at the airport. Hotel accommodations in the city are excellent.

HOURS

The cemetery is open daily to the public from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm except December 25 and January 1. It is open on 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 memorial sites.

Entrance to the Cemetery



Aerial View of Cemetery

HISTORY

On 16 December 1944, the enemy in Europe launched its last major counteroffensive of the war. For the location of his attack, he chose the Ardennes Forest where its first breakthrough had achieved such tremendous success in 1940. Prepared in the greatest of secrecy, the plan called for three armies abreast to attack on a narrow front toward the west with Antwerp as its objective. The attack was timed to coincide with inclement weather in order to limit the use of Allied air power. The assault began 0530 hours under the cover of fog and rain and initially was quite successful as the enemy broke through on a 45-mile front. American soldiers resisted valiantly, however, and with heroic effort were able to hold the shoulders of the salient, blocking all attempts to expand the width of the penetration.

Available U.S. reserves were rushed to the scene of battle. At St. Vith, a furious struggle prevented the enemy's use of its vital road junction for a crucial period. In Bastogne, at the other vital road junction, American defenders clung tenaciously to their positions even though they had been surrounded for five days. Despite a penetration by some units of over 60 miles, the enemy was unable to exploit the breakthrough.

On 22 December 1944, the U.S. Third Army launched a strong counterattack against the southern flank of the penetration. The next day the skies cleared sufficiently to permit the U.S. Eight and Ninth Air Forces to joint the battle and to drop supplies to

the defenders at Bastogne. Driving relentlessly forward despite strong opposition and bitterly cold weather, the U.S. Third Army broke through the enemy cordon around Bastogne on 26 December. The U.S. First Army counterattacked from the north on 3 January 1945 and ten days later met with the U.S. Third Army at Houffalize. By 25 January, the enemy salient no longer existed.

In February, the U.S. Third Army drove the enemy from Luxembourg and breached the Siegfried Line. After capturing Trier, it continued its advance, seizing bridgeheads across the Kyll River and launching an attack to reach the Rhine. The U.S. Third Army units north of the Moselle River advanced first, covered by fighters and bombers of the U.S. Ninth Air Force. In just five days, they swept forward to join the First Army. By 10 March, all enemy units were cleared from the west bank of the Rhine north its junction with the Moselle at Koblenz.

On 13 March, Third Army troops north of the Moselle River turned to the southeast to attack in coordination with the U.S. Third Army troops advancing south of the river. By 21 March, the entire west bank of the Rhine had been cleared in the U.S. Third Army sector. The next night, in a surprise assault, the U.S Third Army crossed the Rhine at Oppenhein, a prelude to the final offensive of the war.

SITE

The Luxembourg American Cemetery and Memorial, 50.5 acres in extent, is situated in a glade enframed by spruce, beech, oak and other trees. It is one of the fourteen permanent Word War II American military cemeteries erected on foreign soil by the American Battle Monuments Commission. The site was liberated by the U.S. 5th Armored Division on 10 September 1944 and a temporary military burial ground was established there on 29 December 1944. At the time, Allied forces were engaged in stemming the enemy's Ardennes offensive known as the "Battle of the Bulge." The site subsequently was selected to be the location of one of the permanent World War II American military cemeteries to be erected on foreign soil. Free use of the site as a permanent military burial ground for American World War II Dead was granted by the Grand Ducal government of Luxembourg in perpetuity without charge or taxation. Later, the Grand Ducal government developed a parking area for the cemetery.

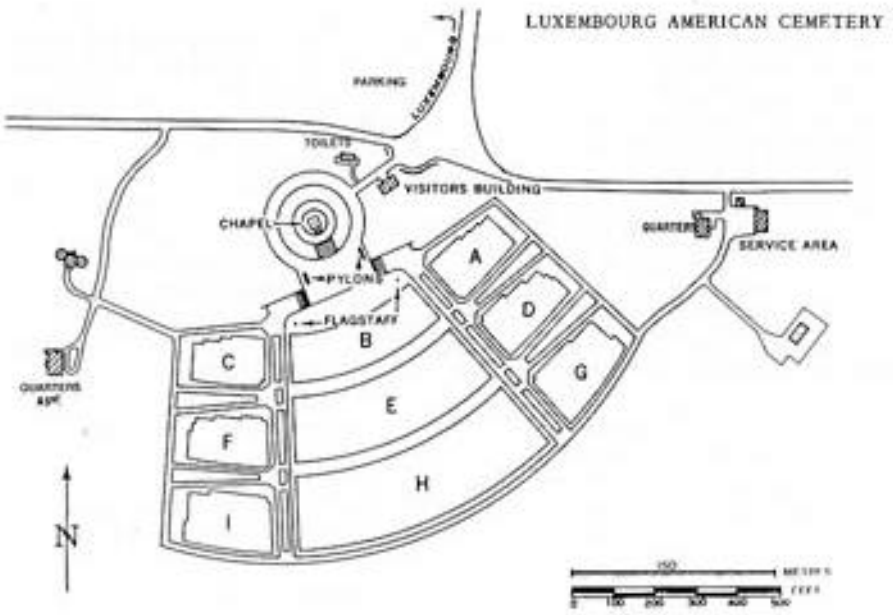
After the war, when the temporary burial grounds were being dis-established by the Army, the remains of American military Dead, whose next of kin had directed permanent interment on foreign soil in a cemetery overseas, were moved by the Army Graves Registration Service (AGRS) to a permanent cemetery site. Usually it was the one closest to the temporary burial location. They were interred by the AGRS in the distinctive grave patterns proposed by the cemetery's architect and approved by the Commission. Interment of the 5,076 permanent burials in the Luxembourg American Cemetery and Memorial was completed on 16 December 1949. They represented 39% of the original burials in the region. Most lost their lives in the enemy's Ardennes offensive ("The Battle of the Bulge"); in air operations over the general region; and in the

fighting eastward to the Rhine and beyond during the winter of 1944 and the spring of 1945.

Design and construction of all facilities at permanent American military cemeteries on foreign soil were the responsibilities of the American Battle Monuments Commission, i.e., the memorial, the chapel, the visitors' building, superintendent's quarters, paths, roads, perimeter walls and service facilities. The Commission also was responsible for the sculpture, landscaping and other improvements on the site. Construction of the permanent cemetery at Luxembourg was completed in the spring of 1960. It was dedicated on 4 July 1960.

ARCHITECTS

Architects for the cemetery and memorial were Keally and Patterson of New York City. The landscape architect was Alfred Geiffert, Jr., also of New York City.



Layout of Cemetery

GENERAL LAYOUT

The cemetery's parking area comes into one's view immediately after turning south from highway N2/E27. At the far side of the parking area, on the northeast edge of the cemetery, the tall wrought iron entrance gate, each section weighing more than one ton, bears gilded laurel wreaths, the ancient award for valor. The massive stone pillars are surmounted by gilded, bronze eagles. Engraved in relief on each pillar is a cluster of 13

stars representing the original thirteen states. Climbing hydrangea adorn the walls adjacent to entrance. Inside the gate immediately to the left is the Visitors' Building, laced with Virginia Creeper, resembling a small cottage.

A short wide path leads from the entrance gate past the Visitors' Building to the memorial, where it intersects the circular path around the chapel. Facing southeast, the chapel, flanked by massifs of Japanese holly, overlooks a terrace paved with stone on which are two pylons containing operations maps and the names of the Missing in Action in the region and two bronze frames holding three key maps abreast, depicting the course of the war around the world. At the edge of the terrace adjacent to the graves area is a long bronze balustrade, constructed by the H. H. Martyn Company of Cheltenham, England. The terrace itself is encircled by a hedge and a broad border of *Cotoneaster horizontalis*. A flight of steps paved in Vosges stone at each end of the terrace leads down to a flagpole and the fan-shaped graves area beyond.

The Memorial with Graves Area in Foreground

THE MEMORIAL

The memorial consists of a tall, columnar, square chapel of stone set upon a podium, reached by two flights of steps, and a terrace overlooking the graves area with two pylons and two bronze stands holding key maps. The pylons are faced with operations maps on

one side and stone tablets with the names of the Missing in the region on the other. The six key maps depict the course of the war throughout the world.

Set into the granite paving at the center of the memorial terrace in bronze letters is the following inscription from General Eisenhower's dedication of the Roll of Honor in St. Paul's Cathedral in London:

ALL WHO SHALL HEREAFTER LIVE IN FREEDOM
WILL BE HERE 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 ETERNALLY.

West Facade of Chapel with Inscription

Entrance Door to Chapel

THE CHAPEL

The chapel, of white Valore stone from the Jura Mountain region of central France, rises 50 feet above its podium. As one approaches its from the cemetery entrance, a carving in high relief of the obverse of the seal of the United States of America is clearly visible on the east facade of the chapel. Engraved below the seal 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.

On the opposite or west facade of the chapel is a carving in high relief of the coat of arms of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. Engraved below it is a translation of the dedicatory inscription in French.

Above the entrance to the chapel on the south face, which is reached by a short flight of stairs, is a 23-foot sculpture of the Angel of Peace carved in Swedish Orchid Red granite. His right hand is raised in blessing and his left hand holds a laurel branch. Above the Angel of Peace is a dove against a cloud. The sculpture was designed by Leo

Friedlander of White Plains, New York and executed by Cirla & Figlio of Babena, Italy. Beneath the sculpture on the lintel over the entrance door is carved:

HERE IS ENSHRINED THE MEMORY OF VALOR AND SACRIFICE

The bronze door of the chapel, also designed by Leo Friedlander, was cast by H. H. Martyn of Cheltenham, England. Each of its eight panels symbolizes a different military virtue or attribute of a good soldier. They are:

Physical Fitness	Fidelity
Proficiency	Sacrifice
Valor	Family Ties
Fortitude	Faith

Chapel Altar

CHAPEL INTERIOR

The interior walls of the chapel are of Hauteville Perle stone from the Jura Mountain region of France.

Above the door inside the chapel is the inscription:

SOME THERE BE WHICH HAVE NO SEPULCHRE
THEIR NAME LIVETH FOR EVERMORE

On the west wall left of the entrance is the inscription:

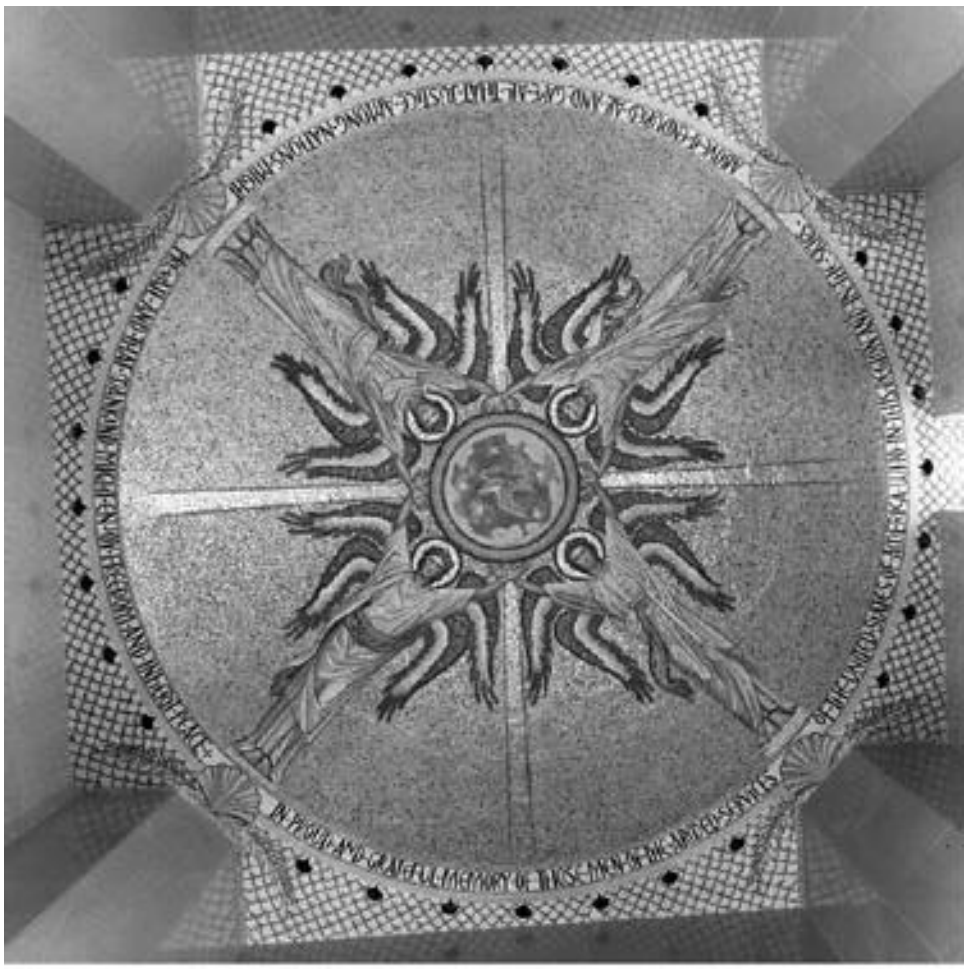
GRANT US GRACE FEARLESSLY
TO CONTEND AGAINST EVIL AND
TO MAKE NO PEACE WITH OPPRESSION

East Wall of Chapel

Over the inscription is a roundel containing a Latin cross. On the east wall to the right of the entrance is the inscription:

TAKE UNTO THYSELF O LORD
THE SOULS OF THE VALOROUS
THAT THEY MAY DWELL IN THY GLORY

Over that inscription is a roundel featuring the Tablets of Moses surmounted by the Star of David.



Mosaic Ceiling of Chapel

Against the north wall opposite the entrance is the altar flanked by United States flags. It is of Bleu Belg marble from southern Belgium and bear this inscription from St. John X, 28:

I GIVE UNTO THEM ETERNAL LIFE AND
THEY SHALL NEVER PERISH

Above the altar is a tall narrow window of stained glass portraying the insignia of the five major U.S. commands that operated in the region, the 12th Army Group, First Army, Third Army, Eight Air Force and the Ninth Air Force. It was designed by Allyn Cox of New York City and fabricated by Morris Singer of London, who also made the massive bronze light fixtures. Patriarca of Rome, Italy, made the pews and priedieu of ebony-stained birchwood. The floor is of four different marbles from Italy, Bianco Carrara Chiaro, Giallo di Sienna Scuro, Nero Assoluto Italiano and Bardiglio Capella. Inset in the floor is a bronze circular plaque containing the thirteen stars of the seal of the United States of America wreathed in oak, pine and laurel. In the center of the mosaic ceiling is a dove, representing the Holy Spirit, on a background of clouds within a nimbus, held by

four angels, from which emanates the sun's rays. At the feet of the angels is this running inscription encircling the ceiling:

IN PROUD AND GRATEFUL MEMORY OF
THOSE MEN OF THE ARMED SERVICES OF
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
WHO IN THIS REGION AND IN THE SKIES ABOVE IT
ENDURED ALL AND GAVE ALL
THAT JUSTICE AMONG NATIONS MIGHT PREVAIL AND
THAT MANKIND MIGHT ENJOY
FREEDOM AND INHERIT PEACE

The mosaic was designed by Allyn Cox and fabricated by Fabrizio Cassio of Rome.

Tablets of the Missing

PYLONS

The two memorial pylons of Valore stone on the terrace are rectangular in shape. Inscribed on the outer faces of these pylons are the name, rank, organization and state of entry into the military service of 371 Missing in Action of the United States Army and the Army Air Forces, whose remains were never recovered, or if recovered, never identified. (During World War II, the Air Force was part of the United States Army.) Above the names on each pylon is the inscription:

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

These men came from 42 states and the District of Columbia.

Military Opreations in Western Europe - West Pylon

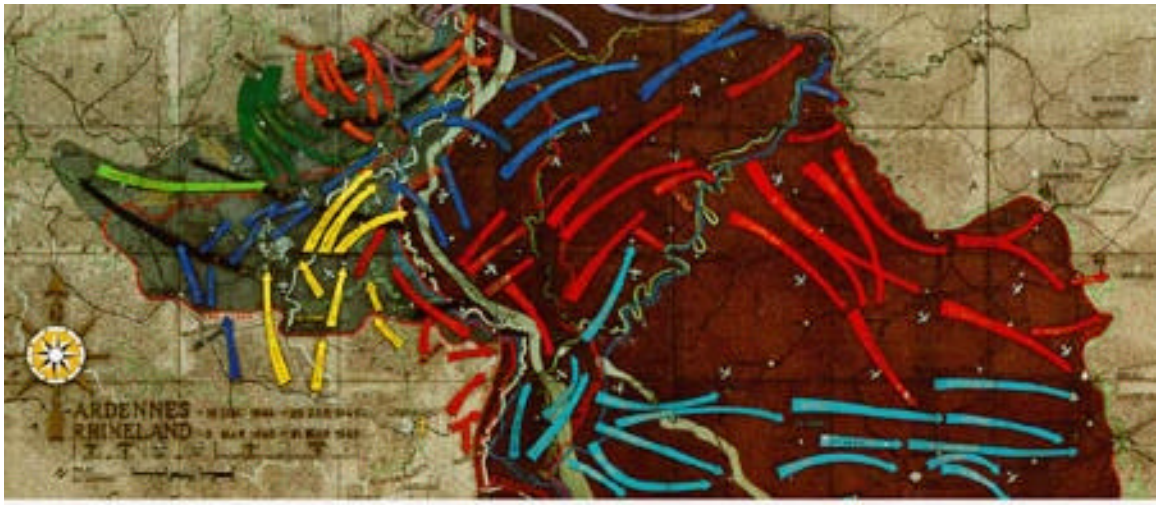
A large operations map is set into the inner face of each pylon. The west pylon on the right side of the terrace contains a map of military operations in Western Europe from the landings in Normandy to the end of the war. The east pylon on the left side of the terrace contains a map of the Ardennes and Rhineland campaigns to include the "Battle of the Bulge," subsequent fighting to clear the west bank of the Rhine, and the crossing of the Rhine River at Oppenheim. Flanking the map of operations in Western Europe are explanatory inscriptions in English and French of which the following 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 DEPTH. ON 25 JULY, IN THE WAKE OF A PARALYZING AIR BOMBARDMENT, THE U.S. FIRST ARMY BROKE OUT OF THE BEACHHEAD AND WAS SOON JOINED BY THE U.S. THIRD ARMY. TOGETHER THEY REPULSED A POWERFUL COUNTERATTACK TOWARDS AVRANCHES. CRUSHED BETWEEN THE AMERICANS ON THE SOUTH AND WEST AND THE BRITISH ON THE NORTH, ATTACKED CONTINUOUSLY BY THE U.S. EIGHTH AND NINTH AIR FORCES AND THE ROYAL AIR FORCE, THE ENEMY RETREATED ACROSS THE SEINE.

SUSTAINED BY THE HERCULEAN ACHIEVEMENT 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 WAS STANDING ON THE THRESHOLD OF GERMANY; THE THIRD ARMY HAD REACHED THE MOSELLE AND HAD JOINED THE U.S. SEVENTH AND FRENCH FIRST ARMIES ADVANCING NORTHWARD FROM THE MEDITERRANEAN. PROGRESS IN THE NEXT THREE MONTHS WAS SLOW AND THE FIGHTING BITTER. METZ FELL AS THE THIRD ARMY MOVED INTO THE SAAR.

IN THE ARDENNES, THE ENEMY LAUCHED HIS FINAL MAJOR COUNTEROFFENSIVE ON 16 DECEMBER 1944. PROMPT TACTICAL COUNTERMEASURES AND THE SUPERB FIGHTING QUALITIES OF AMERICAN SOLDIERS AND AIRMEN HALTED THIS DRIVE. DURING FEBRUARY AND MARCH THE WEST BANK OF THE RHINE WAS CLEARED. IN RAPID SUCCESSION AMERICAN FORCES SEIZED A BRIDGE AT REMAGEN, CROSSED AT OPPENHEIM, THEN JOINED THE BRITISH IN THE MAJOR ASSAULT NORTH OF THE RUHR. SWEEPING ACROSS GERMANY, THE ALLIES MET THE ADVANCING TROOPS OF THE U.S.S.R. TO FORCE THE COMPLETE SURRENDER OF THE ENEMY ON 8 MAY 1945, 337 DAYS AFTER THE INITIAL LANDING IN FRANCE.



Ardennes and Rhineland Campaigns - East Pylon

Similarly, flanking the map of the Ardennes and Rhineland campaigns in both languages, is this explanatory inscription:

ON 16 DECEMBER 1944 THE ENEMY MADE ITS LAST CONCERTED EFFORT TO STAVE OFF DEFEAT BY UNLEASHING THREE ARMIES ON A NARROW FRONT. PREPARED IN GREATEST SECRECY AND LAUNCHED UNDER COVER OF FOG AND RAIN, ITS ATTACK IN THE ARDENNES WAS INITIALLY SUCCESSFUL. BREAKING THROUGH ON A 45-MILE FRONT, ITS FORCES PENETRATED OVER 60 MILES, BUT AMERICAN SOLDIERS, FIGHTING VALIANTLY, HELD THE CRITICAL SHOULDERS OF THE SALIENT.

REACTING PROMPTLY AND DECISIVELY, THE ALLIES RUSHED ALL AVAILABLE RESERVES TO THE SCENE. A FURIOUS STRUGGLE DEVELOPED AT ST. VITH WHERE THE ENEMY ADVANCE WAS STUBBORNLY DELAYED. AT BASTOGNE, ALTHOUGH SURROUNDED FOR FIVE DAYS, AMERICAN TROOPS, WITH THE HELP OF SUPPLIES DROPPED BY IX TROOP CARRIER COMMAND AIRCRAFT, MAINTAINED THEIR DEFENSE. ON 22 DECEMBER THE THIRD ARMY COUNTERATTACKED THE SOUTHERN FLANK OF THE PENETRATION. THE NEXT DAY THE SKIES CLEARED AND THE EIGHTH AND NINTH FORCES PLUNGED INTO THE BATTLE. THE THIRD ARMY CONTINUED ITS ADVANCE THROUGH BITTERLY COLD WEATHER, REACHING BASTOGNE ON 26 DECEMBER. THE FIRST ARMY'S COUNTERATTACK CAME ON 3 JANUARY 1945; ON THE 16TH THE TWO ARMIES MET AT HOUFFALIZE. THE SALIENT WAS REDUCED BY 25 JANUARY.

IN FEBRUARY THE THIRD ARMY FORCED ITS WAY THROUGH THE SIEGFRIED LINE, CAPTURED TRIER, AND BY 5 MARCH HAD ESTABLISHED BRIDGEHEADS ACROSS THE KYLL. THE NEXT DAY IT LAUNCHED ITS ATTACK NORTH OF THE MOSELLE. PRECEDED BY AIRCRAFT OF THE NINTH AIR FORCE, ITS GROUND TROOPS SWEPT FORWARD TO JOIN THE FIRST ARMY ON THE RHINE. THEM, ON 13 MARCH, AMERICAN FORCES SOUTH OF THE MOSELLE ADVANCED; THOSE WEST OF KOBLENZ SWUNG TO THE SOUTHEAST TO JOIN THIS ASSAULT. HAVING CLEARED THE WEST BANK BY 21 MARCH, THE THIRD ARMY RUSHED ACROSS THE RHINE AT OPPENHEIM THE NEXT NIGHT.

The operations maps were carved and fitted together from slabs of several granites: Rosso Vanga and Verde Svezia from Sweden, and Verde Mergozzo Chiaro, Nero Biella, Rosa Baveno Chiaro, Bianco Montorfano and Verde Blauco from the Alpine regions of northwest Italy. Allyn Cox, an American artist, designed the maps utilizing information provided by the American Battle Monuments Commission. Military data are shown on the map by bronze letters, enamel-bronze arrows and other devices. All engraving was accomplished by sandblasting. M. C. Bargna of Milan, Italy performed the granite work. Stefano Johnson, also of Milan, performed the bronze work.

Carved on the ends of each pylon is a flaming sword under a rainbow, the insignia of Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Forces. The 48 stars around the capstones represent the then 48 states of the Union.

Behind each pylon is a bronze frame with three key maps, one set depicting "The War Against Germany," the other "The War Against Japan."

GRAVES AREA

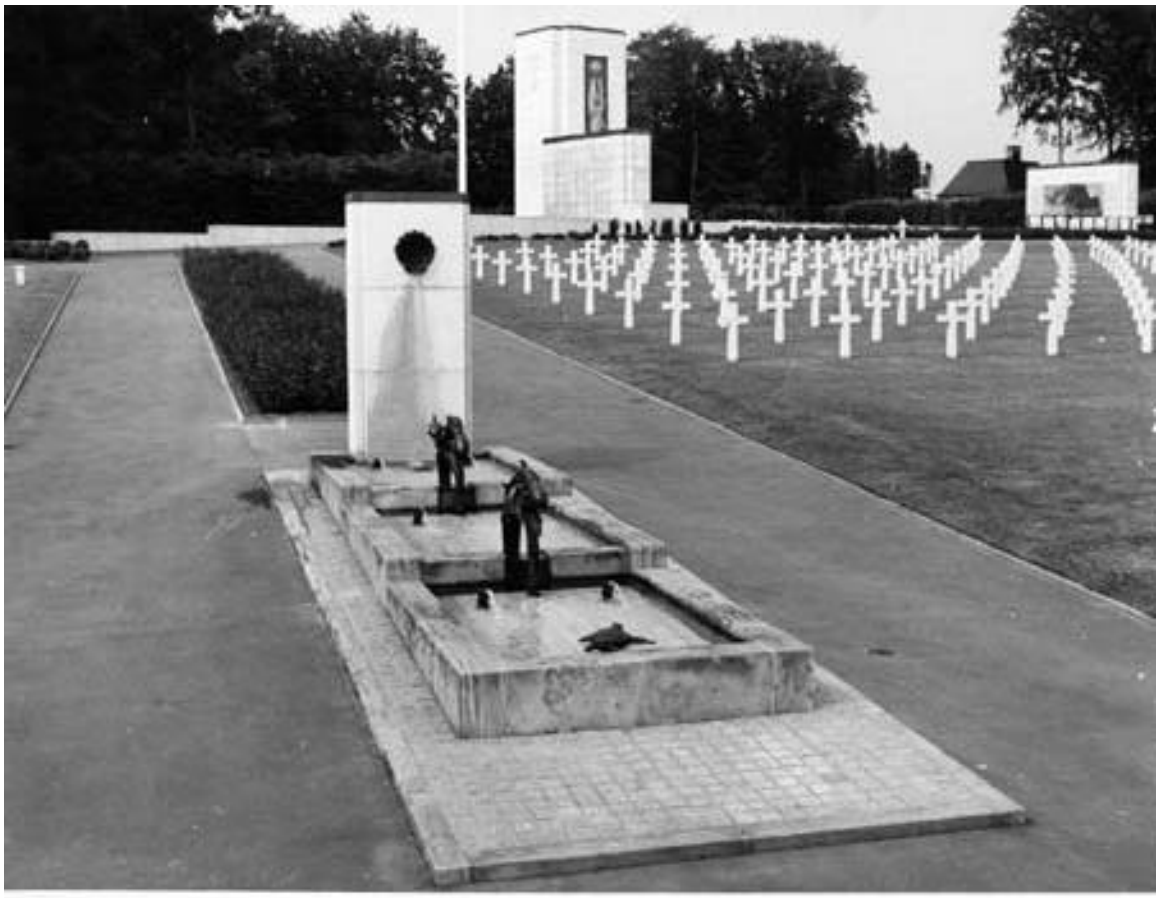
There are 5,076 American military Dead who lost their lives in the service of their country buried in the cemetery. These honored Dead came from the 50 states and the District of Columbia. In 22 instances, two brothers rest side-by-side in adjacent graves.

Among those interred in the cemetery are 101 “Unknowns” whose remains could not be identified. Their headstones are inscribed:

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

White marble shafts surmounted by a Star of David mark the graves of 118 of the Jewish faith, white marble Latin crosses mark the others.

The 5,076 headstones are set in nine plots of fine grass, lettered from A to I. Separating the plots are two malls radiating from the memorial and two transverse paths. Two flagpoles overlook the graves area at its northern end in front of the memorial. Between the flagpoles is the grave of General George S. Patton, Jr. Originally, General Patton was buried with the other men. However, so many people came to view his grave each year that all the fine grass on his and nearby graves was killed by the heavy foot traffic. The problem was solved by moving his grave to the area between the flagpoles and paving in front of it with stone.



Fountain in Radial Mall

Each radial mall contains two fountains consisting of a pylon of Valore stone overlooking three jet pools on descending levels. High on the obverse side of the pylon

is a bronze seashell from which water flows into the pools. Carved on the reverse side of the pylons is a symbol of one of the four evangelists – an angel for St. Mathew, a lion for St. Mark, a horse for St. Luke and an eagle for St. John. The pools themselves are decorated with bronze dolphins symbolizing Resurrection and bronze turtles symbolizing Everlasting Life. Nathaniel Choate of New York designed both the carved and the bronze symbols.

At the southern end of the graves area are three platforms that afford excellent positions to view the cemetery and take photographs.

Graves Area from the Rear Facing Northeast

VISITORS' BUILDING

Just inside the entrance on the left is the Visitor's Building. It contains the superintendent's office, toilet facilities, and a comfortably furnished room with easy chairs where visitors may obtain information, sign the register and pause to refresh themselves. Whenever the cemetery is open to the public, a staff member is on duty in the building to answer questions and to escort relatives to grave and memorialization sites. He is always happy to provide information on specific burial memorialization location in any of the Commission's cemeteries, accommodations in the vicinity, best means and routes of travel, local history and other items than may be of interest.

Visitors' Building and Office

PLANTINGS

The cemetery lies in a glade surrounded by woods of spruce, beech, oak and other trees of the forest. Climbing Hydrangea (*Hydrangea quercifolia*) adorns the walls near the entrance to the cemetery and Virginia Creeper covers the Visitors' Building just inside the entrance. Within the enframement of the cemetery are large-scale plantings of Rhododendrons. A hedge of Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) and a broad band of Cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster horizontalis*) encircle the chapel which is flanked on either side by massifs of Japanese Holly (*Ilex crenata*). Below the terrace, a border of low-growing Yew (*Taxus baccata repandens*) and Cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster horizontalis*) link the two flagpoles.

Color is provided in the spring by the Rhododendrons in the enframement of the cemetery, and, in the summer, by long planters of Polyantha and tree roses in the radial paths.

Graves Area