

#### THE AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION

Courthouse Plaza II, Suite 500 2300 Clarendon Boulevard Arlington, VA 22201

August 17, 1999

BG Alvin D. Ungerleider President, U.S. World War II Wall of Liberty Foundation

# Dear General Ungerleider:

Thank you for your August 17, 1999, presentation on behalf of the U.S. World War II Wall of Liberty Foundation's ("Foundation") application to the American Battle Monuments Commission ("ABMC") for approval of your planned memorial in France. I am pleased to inform you that the concept design is approved subject to the following conditions:

- Identification of the Memorial's Purpose
  - In some fashion, the Memorial should indicate exactly what it memorializes.
- Criteria for the Identification of Those Honored and Clarification of Scope

As a matter of public policy, ABMC has never approved any memorial in which the identification of those honored was determined by the contribution of funds, nor does it normally approve a memorial to named individuals. However, in light of the unique and complex circumstances that led to this proposal, the design concept is approved subject to the incorporation within Phase I of a clear and unequivocal expression of tribute to those whose names are not included.

### Funding

It is ABMC policy to require that funds are actually available to complete planned construction as well as to provide adequate permanent maintenance of a memorial prior to plan approval. Accordingly, prior to initiating construction, sufficient funds must be available to

cover the total estimated cost of construction of Phase I, plus an additional amount equal to at least ten percent of the total construction costs to be placed in an escrow account for perpetual maintenance. The same requirement would be applicable to subsequent phases of construction.

### Verification of Names

A reasonable effort must be made to screen the names of any veterans to be inscribed on the Wall of Liberty, in order to ensure that they actually served honorably in the ETO.

## Lobbying

The Foundation's presentation included reference to the intention to seek unidentified Congressional support for the proposal. This Commission's approval of the design concept does not constitute approval or support of any such action to seek public funds for this private memorial project.

As noted earlier, this letter informs you that the ABMC has conditionally approved the design concept. It does not constitute a final design approval and it is not an approval of any construction activity. Critical future steps for the Foundation will be raising the required funding for the memorial and obtaining ABMC approval of the memorial final design. We look forward to these developments. If you have any questions in regard to this matter, please contact Colonel Dale Means, ABMC's Director of Engineering and Maintenance.

Thank you again for your presentation to the Commission.

Sincerely,

John P. Herrling

Major General, US Army (Ret.)

Secretary

Enclosures

CF:

General Woerner

Mr. Pond

Mr. Aileo

Colonel Means

Colonel Corea

Mr. Conley

LTC Gloukhoff