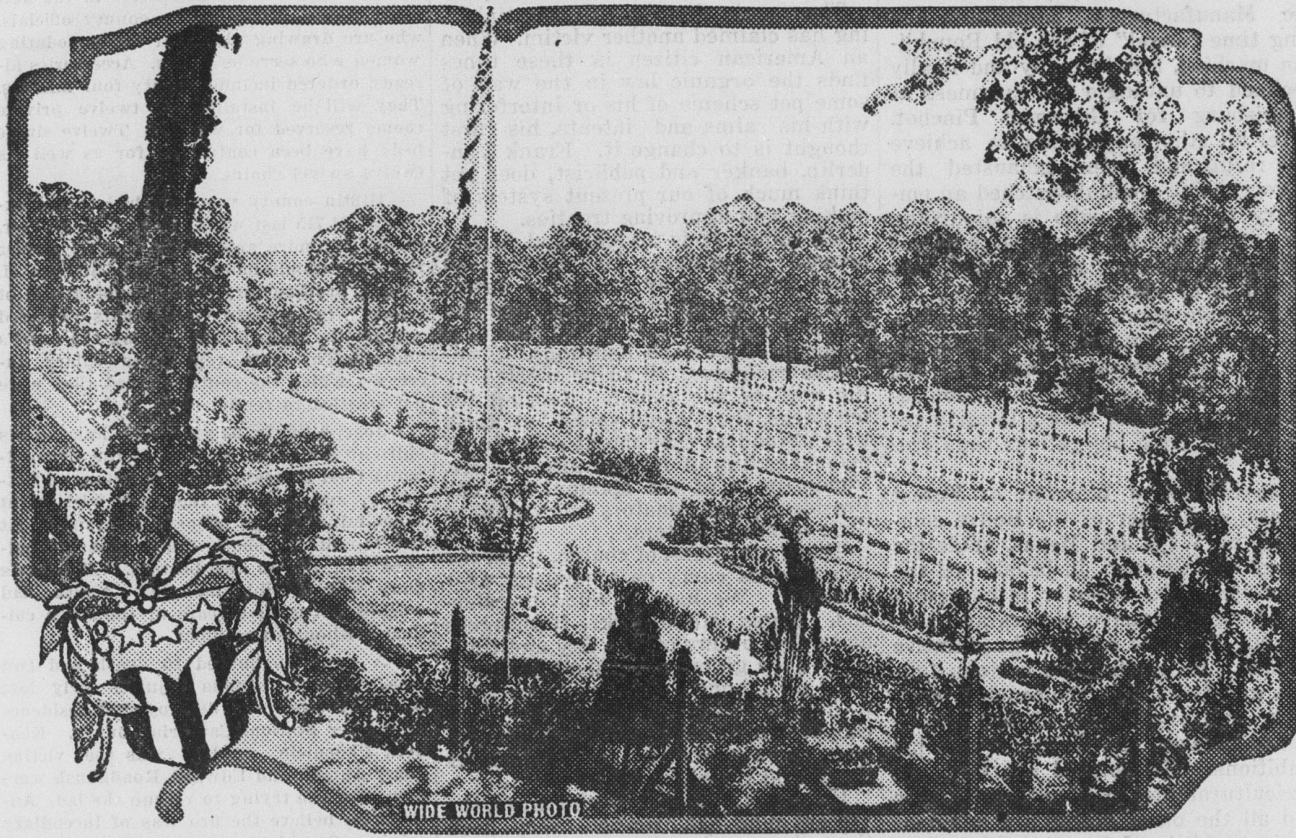




MEMORIAL 1923



AMERICAN DEAD AT REST IN FRANCE



A field of crosses marking the graves of American boys who fell while fighting in France. Memorial day will always be celebrated in the Belleau Wood cemetery—where the memory of the brave boys is kept green with flowers and flags.

Beautiful Spots in Which Repose American Soldiers

There is no fairer spot on all the hard-fought battle line in France than that northern slope of Belleau Wood where still rest the bodies of many brave Americans.

There are plenty of other spots in France that Americans will always visit and revisit. The great cemeteries of Romagne and Suresnes are poignant beyond words. The glory of Belleau Wood is that here, by the side of our hallowed dead, stands as a natural monument to American valor that jungle of stone, tree and brush through which our troops grimly fought their way in one of their first and most critical engagements of the great war.

Our men fought as brilliantly, as doggedly, in the Argonne and at a score of points. Here at Belleau Wood lies a spot that can stand for all, close by the highroad from Paris to Chateau-Thierry, not far from the Marne, and amid a scene of peace and beauty worthy of its precious and immortal burden.

Beautiful Burial Place.

The eight cemeteries in Europe, in which are 30,000 American soldier dead, are maintained so splendidly that they are models for the other nations that participated in the World War. The French secretary of war recently told Colonel Rethers, in charge of the graves registration service in Europe, that the American cemetery at Romagne was the most impressive one he had ever seen. The American government has done all in its power to make the burial places beautiful.

Six are in France, one is in Belgium and the other is in England. Most of the French plots were selected to commemorate the battles fought in the vicinities. The cemetery at Romagne represents the Argonne fighting, the one at Thiaucourt the battle of St. Mihiel. There is one at Belleau Wood, significant of the action there; one at Nesles, about 25 miles north of Chateau-Thierry; one at Suresnes, near Paris, in which are buried those who died in the hospitals around Paris, and one at Bony, in which are the dead of the Twenty-

seventh and Thirtieth divisions, which fought with the English.

The Flanders Field cemetery, in southern Belgium, contains the bodies of 865 Americans who fought with the English in Belgium. The eighth of the cemeteries is in Brookwood, England, containing the bodies of 435 Americans who died in the British Isles.

Cemetery at Romagne.

The cemetery at Romagne contains the largest number of bodies, 13,977. It covers 130 acres. The next largest is at Nesles, which covers 48 acres and contains the bodies of 6,033. In all there are 30,511 American soldiers, sailors and marines buried in Europe. Of this number only 1,600 or about 2 per cent, are unknown dead. The number of unknown dead was reduced by 200 during the year. It is possible others of the dead will be identified as investigations proceed. Every effort is being made to gain new identifications. Descriptions taken at the time of burial are being checked up with descriptions obtained from army papers and from relatives of those who fell. The work is slow and tedious, but is bringing some results.

Except where unknown dead are being identified no more bodies are being returned to the United States. The War department feels that if permission for the return of bodies were to continue the cemeteries would be in a constant upheaval and their beauty would be marred. But it is only fair to the relatives of soldiers newly identified that they be given the opportunity of having the bodies returned.

Few American Dead "Unknown."

In comparison with that of the other armies in the World War the number of American unknown dead is small. About 2 per cent of American dead are "unknowns." The French and British proportion is about 30 per cent.

In the American army the soldiers were required to wear two identification tags, one on a string around the neck and the other on the wrist. Most of the men wore the tags, but here and there were men who did not. The men in the British and French armies were much more lax in this regard than were the Americans.

The army bill carries an appropriation for the maintenance of the American cemeteries in Europe. Approximately 150 men are employed in the work. Nine are American army officers and the others, except for an army sergeant in charge of motor

To the Torchbearers

Once more we'll do them honor,
Again we'll sing their praise—
These brave who scorned life's pleasures
And lived laborious days.
At last they know the answer
Men find who die to save—
The soldier's path of glory
Doth not end at the gravel

The path continues onward

Beyond the gates of dawn;
The Great Adventure leads them
Into a newer morn.
They follow it with ardor
Beyond the Day Star's gleam,
And in the cosmic twilight
They find the Fields of Dream.

Weep not for these knights errant
Who bravely went to roam,
For they are all together
Safe in the Port of Home.
To us the loss is bitter,
But theirs is greater gain;
They have outsoared earth's shadows
Of envy, hate and pain.

We bare our heads in homage,
In reverence bend the knee,
For those who fought the fight
That all men might be free,
And while spring zephyrs murmur
Of sacrifice sublime,
We deck their mounds with laurels
Each year in Ilac time.
—John H. McGough, in the New York Times.




transportation, are civilians. A central office is maintained in Paris.

Difficulty has been experienced in getting grass to grow in some of the cemeteries. It is evident that sprinkling systems will have to be installed. At Romagne it was necessary to plant grass six times. To make the cemetery presentable for the large number of American visitors the expedient of planting rye was resorted to temporarily.

In the French cemeteries the bodies are buried in individual graves, with just mounds over them without grass. But the French intend to adopt the American idea of a beautiful lawn effect.

Blue Line is Thinning.

A pitifully small group of men, all weighed down with the burden of years, remains to bear visible testimony of the struggle between North and South. On Memorial day a few of them, devoted to the memory of their comrades, will enjoy places of honor in the thousands of parades which will mark the memorial observances throughout the nation. Next year they will be fewer. And in a few years there will be none.

Sleep Soldier Sleep

Sleep, soldier, sleep, beneath the flag
Your valor has maintained;
Yours is an honor little guessed
Upon that bygone day
When with a lightly beating heart
Allegiance you proclaimed
To every star and every bar,
And proudly marched away.

The thousands wait in foreign lands,
A white cross at each head,
And wild blooms are the only flowers
These fallen ones may know;
But destiny has brought you home
To represent each bed
Wherein a silent sleeper rests—
There where the poppies grow.

Man has but one sweet life to live,
But one brave death to die,
And millions pass the portals through
Whose lives have been no gain;
But you are like a privileged son,
Accorded honors high,
Your nation bows in homage true,
And chants your lordly fame.

Sleep, soldier, sleep! Your splendid death
Holds portent for the years,
And men meet men beside your bier
With visions in their eyes.
What value has life's fleeting breath,
Beside a nation's fears?
Yours is the victory of the great—
Inspiring sacrifice?

Sleep, soldier, in your narrow bed,
Your nation's flag unfurled above;
While praise of you is ever sped
The world around, in love.
—Portland Oregonian.

Day Recognized as Belonging to All Who Served Nation

Memorial day is generally observed throughout the world this year, due in large part to the efforts of the American Legion, according to the following announcement made at Legion headquarters at Indianapolis:

"Originally designated by the Union veterans of the Civil war as a particular decoration day for their fallen comrades, May 30 gradually has become a day set apart in memory of all Americans who died for their country. Although it has long been the custom of many southern states to observe a memorial holiday of their own on April 23, the tendency to a uniform observance has been apparent since the World War. The Legion, composed of both the North and the South, officially adopted May 30 as its Memorial day and posts of the World War men on both sides of the Mason-Dixon line have, for the last three years, simultaneously honored the dead of the Civil, Spanish-American and World wars.

May 30 International Holiday.
"When the Inter-Allied Veterans' federation, made up of World War veterans of France, England and Canada, Italy and the others of the allied nations and of which the Legion is a member, adopted the Legion's date for the observance of rites for the dead, May 30 became an international holiday, comparable only in universal observance to Christmas. In the years to come it will be observed by Legion posts and allied veterans' organizations in the following countries other than the United States: Canada, Belgium, France, Poland, Turkey, Mexico, Argentina, Brazil, British Isles, Chile, China, Cuba, Guatemala, Japan, Peru, Porto Rico, Portuguese West Africa, Santo Domingo, Spanish Honduras, India, Venezuela and the Canal Zone, Hawaii, Philippine islands and the territory of Alaska.

"As it did last year and the year before, the Legion will decorate and hold appropriate exercises over the grave of every American who sleeps on foreign soil, as well as thus honoring the graves of American and allied veterans who are buried in the

cemeteries of this country. Legion posts in France, Belgium, Poland and Turkey will visit old battlefields and adjacent cemeteries.

Huge Task Completed.

"The United States graves registration service has completed its huge task of returning to this country the bodies of 42,023 of the A. E. F. who died overseas, but 30,000 Americans still remain permanently buried in cemeteries of the allied nations.

"To finance the Memorial day decoration of graves overseas, each of the Legion's 11,000 posts was asked to subscribe an amount equal to five cents for each of its members. A central committee of the Legion in France will receive the funds from this country and have charge of decorating the individual graves.

"Several months before Memorial day Hanford MacNider, national commander of the Legion, sent each post a request that exercises this year be made as personal as possible. 'With this end in view,' Mr. MacNider wrote, 'the Legion is ready to make special efforts to aid relatives and friends who think on Memorial day not so much of the whole army of the dead as they will of some one youth who went forth to fight and did not come back.'

All Veterans to Be Honored.

"Gold star parents, desiring that especial attention be paid to the graves of their departed, requesting a certain type of floral decoration or religious ceremony, were asked to communicate their wishes to the organization's national headquarters,

MEMORIAL days will come and with the passing years history will narrate their observances. But far above and beyond the pageantry of these glorious days are the scrolls of eternal truth; the history which men's ideals write, the spiritual architecture which makes a nation great. Therein lies the deeper meaning of the day. And the fadeless beauty of Old Glory can only be surpassed by the response to the echoes of the far-sounding prophecies which it awakens.

from which they were relayed to the legion post nearest the place of burial.

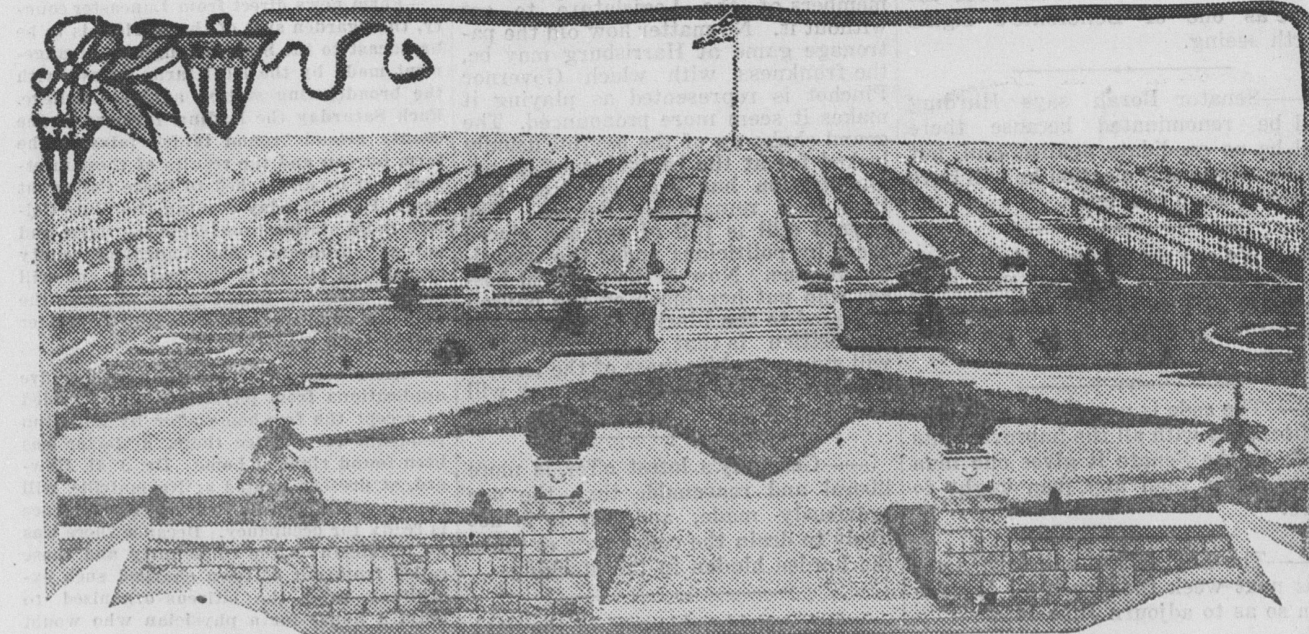
"The Legion will not confine its exercises and decorations to the memory of World War heroes alone. The graves of all veterans of all American wars will be visited and decorated and fittingly honored. Last year the organization requested its posts and units of the Legion auxiliary to seek out, in each community, graves of all American soldier and sailor dead and to prepare charts showing where such graves were located and how they could be reached. The efforts of the World War men have resulted in many graves of Civil War veterans being rescued from obscurity and the graves of several veterans of 1812, long since forgotten, have been found and restored.

Bodies Abroad Cared For.

"A similar plan of keeping a close and honored watch on graves of Americans buried overseas has been evolved. There will be in France four principal cemeteries wherein men of the A. E. F. will sleep forever. At present a special fine arts commission is working on the project which will entail, for the collection of bodies and the beautification of cemeteries, an expenditure of more than \$1,000,000. These fields of honor will be located at Belleau Wood, near Chateau-Thierry; Bony, near St. Quentin; Suresnes, near Paris, and Romagne, in the Argonne, near Montfaucon. More than 500 Americans will remain buried in England. A gift of land by the British government allows for the future decoration and care of these graves. Under plans already advanced a little cemetery for those Americans who died in England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales will be located at Brookwood, Surrey, England.

"This year still fewer of the proud, white-haired old heroes of '61-'65 will bear their colors and their flowers to the sacred ground where their comrades are in eternal bivouac. Last year the thinning ranks were filled with sturdy, tanned youngsters in their army drabs and navy blues who were honored to march at the side of the veteran patriachs on their holy mission. The present Memorial day finds the hosts of Grant and Lee all but dissipated and as the youths of the World War strive for the honored files of the vanished procession, the day takes on a new significance."

THE DOUGHBOYS WHO NEVER CAME BACK



American cemetery at Suresnes, outside Paris, where 1,497 soldiers of the A. E. F. lie buried on French soil, with the Stars and Stripes to keep guard above them.