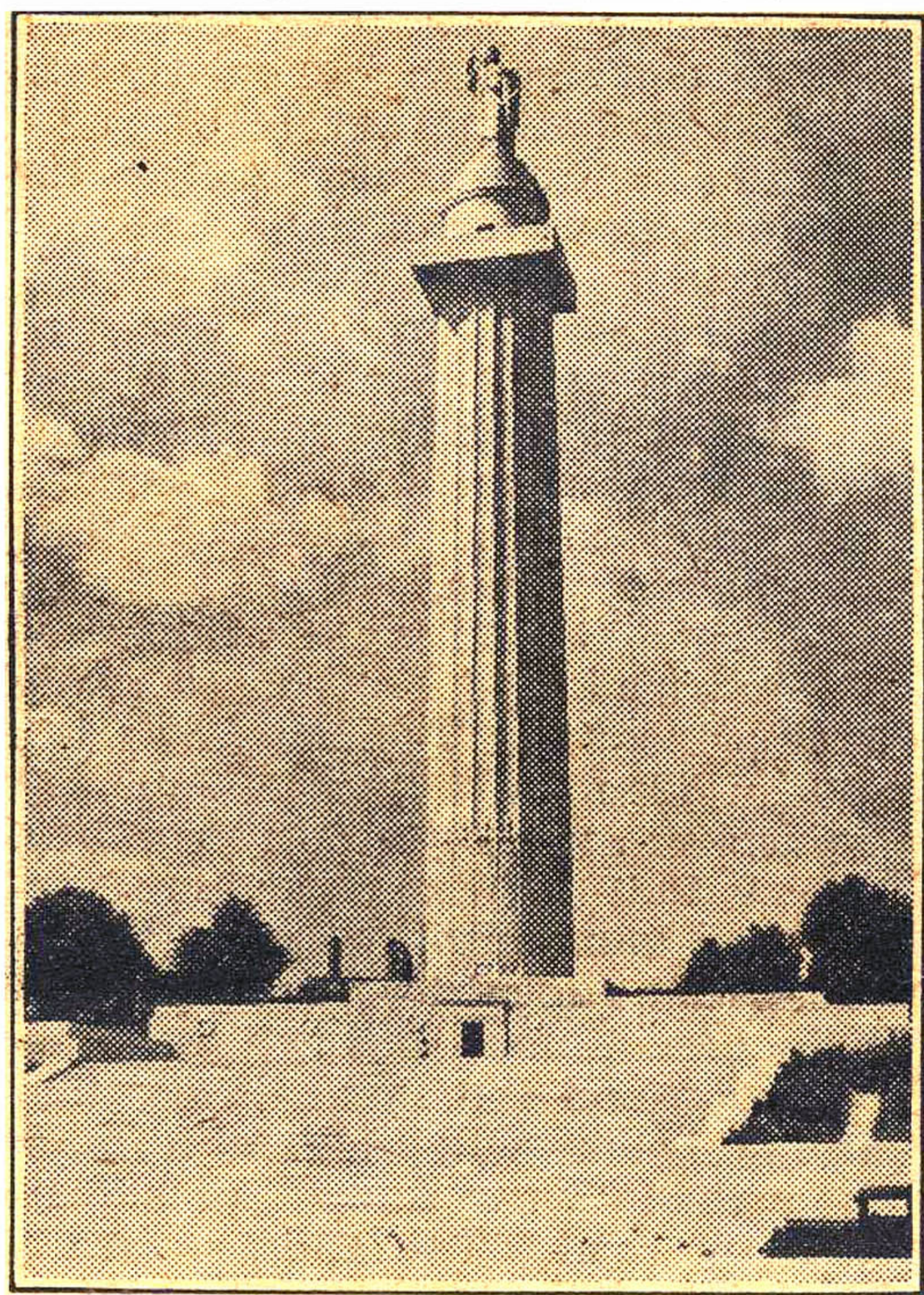


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Aug. 14, 1937

OTHER LANDS

War Memorials



The Montfaucon Memorial

Before dawn on September 26, 1918, 2,700 guns opened the "greatest battle in which Americans ever fought," the Meuse-Argonne offensive of the World war. More than a million soldiers, comprising the American First Army, went forward in a 47-day attack that broke the Hindenburg line and continued until the Armistice. Thousands of doughboys fell and more than 14,000 were buried in the Romagne-sous-Montfaucon Cemetery, largest of U. S. soldier cemeteries abroad.

For most of the nearly 20 years since the war, the American Battle Monuments Commission, headed by General John J. (Black Jack) Pershing, commander of the American Expeditionary Forces, has constantly planned and worked to erect fitting tributes "over there" to the World war services of 2,000,000 American soldiers, sailors and marines, 30,000 of whom lie in graves overseas. Completed nearly three years ago at a cost of about \$4,360,000, dedications of the memorials were delayed for a more propitious time.

Montfaucon

First of these ceremonies came last week when America's greatest war memorial in France, the Montfaucon battle monument, commemorating the Meuse-Argonne victory, was dedicated in the presence of American and French notables. President Roosevelt, his voice carried by radio from a yacht on the Potomac River to the Montfaucon battlefield, pledged the United States to continued faith in the ideal of democracy. At Montfaucon, President Albert Le Brun of France, General Pershing, and Marshal Henri Philippe Petain, France's war-time leader on the western front, dedicated their nations to continued friendship.

The monument, designed by John Russell Pope of New York and the third largest battle monument in France, is a doric pillar rising 175 feet from the ruins of the former village of Montfaucon, destroyed in the battle that the shaft commemorates. The column is surmounted by a majestic figure symbolic of liberty. From its summit, reached by an interior stair, there is a wide view, overlooking the battle front of September, 1918. On the wall around the main terrace are listed the divisions that formed the First Army.

The day after this was dedicated, representatives of France and the United States dedicated at Montsec a memorial to the American offensive, September 12, 1918, which broke the German salient at St. Mihiel, scene of the First Army's first offensive of importance. As a grim reminder of the battle, St. Mihiel Cemetery now holds the bodies of 4,152 Americans.

These were the first two in a series of eleven dedications of American World war monuments and cemetery chapels in France, Belgium and England, scheduled for the first half of August. The monument at Chateau Thierry will be dedicated early in October at the time of the American Legion pilgrimage to France.

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