

The Stars and Stripes

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IDENTIFY ALL BUT 4 PER CENT OF DEAD America's Heroes to Rest in Fields of Honor in France

When America pays tribute to the memory of its hero dead on Memorial Day a little flag will float beside a permanent memorial above the resting place of each of her sons who now sleep in France.

Quietly, reverently and with a personal touch that is often a stranger to the humdrum routine of army work, America's fallen soldiers are being laid away, each in a separate coffin to rest forever in the land for which they fought. If the nearest kin request it, the bodies are sent back, but already many who in their first grief asked that this be done have written to say that they prefer that their soldier be left among the comrades with whom he fell.

Under the care of the Q.M.C.'s Graves Registration Service the bodies are being gathered from their temporary resting places, where they were placed, perhaps under shell fire or in the rush of the battle. Those who lie in unmarked graves are identified, a letter, photograph or a hidden disc so often revealing the name that less than 4 per cent remain upon the roster of the unknown dead. Often a link in the evidence must be sought as far away as America.

Fields of Honor in France

France has given three fields of honor, at Romagne, at Thiacourt and at Beaumont.

Over each of the graves the permanent memorial will stand four feet high, replacing the humbler markers whose drab colors hid them from the eyes that might have directed enemy fire on living comrades.

These fields of honor, which the French have offered and which they have offered to care for, will be under the custodianship of America, for while the land was accepted gladly, America chose to tend the graves of her sons herself.

At Paris and at Tours, bureaus of the Graves Registration Service of the Quartermaster Corps are located, and here information is available for those seeking to locate graves.