

## WAR MEMORIALS IN MILITARY CEMETERIES

*Exchange of notes at Paris May 24 and July 11 and 12, 1924*

*Entered into force July 12, 1924*

*Confirmed and continued in force by exchange of notes at Paris August 7 and October 19, 1946<sup>1</sup>*

Department of State files

*The American Ambassador to the Minister of Foreign Affairs*

No. 2768

PARIS, May 24, 1924

### EXCELLENCY:

By direction of my Government I have the honor to inform Your Excellency that by an Act of Congress approved March 4, 1923,<sup>2</sup> a copy of which is enclosed, a commission to be known as the American Battle Monuments Commission was created and established. Section 2 of the Act makes it the duty of the Commission to prepare plans and estimates for the erection of suitable memorials to mark and commemorate the services of the American forces in Europe, and to erect memorials at such places as the Commission shall determine, including works of architecture and art in the American cemeteries in Europe, as well as to secure such photographs of the terrain of the various battlefields of Europe upon which units of the armed forces of the United States were actively engaged with the enemy as will complete the historical photographic record of the operations of such units.

It is considered by the Commission, the Chairman of which is General Pershing, a matter of great importance that all war memorials erected by Americans in Europe be of such a nature as to fittingly represent the United States. In order to insure this, it will be necessary to have government supervision over the designs, materials and inscriptions of such memorials.

In the legislation creating the American Battle Monuments Commission, an attempt was made to obtain this supervision by the following section in the legislation:

"Sec. 8. That the commission is authorized and directed to cooperate with American citizens, States, municipalities, or associations desiring to

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<sup>1</sup> *Post*, p. 1191.

<sup>2</sup> 42 Stat. 1509.