

they finally were able to get out and return to their unit, higher up in the woods.



Driving further around the road through the woods, we came to this, the entrance to the American Cemetery at Belleau Woods.

According to Dad's figures the Battle of Belleau Woods took place from the 5th of June to the 4th of July 1918. During that time, 1,260 men were killed, 1,500 severely wounded and 7,000 gassed or missing.



Dad shed some tears as he recalled the names of a number of his buddies in the 95th Company buried here.



This is a view from the cemetery back toward the entrance in the lower distance. The woods in the far background is where much of the fighting took place.

One cannot visit an American Military Cemetery without noticing the excellent care provided in recognition of the ultimate sacrifices made by those in these everlasting resting places.

At the end of the long driveway were two attractive stone houses. One for the American caretaker and the other a very comfortable visitor's center where we were invited to sign the guest register. I suggested Dad sign twice, under dates of 1918 and 1971.

It was about noon when we departed from Belleau on country road D91 in the direction of Villars Cotterets



Looking across a wheat field toward the hill of Belleau Woods as we were leaving.

Within half a mile we passed by a German Military Cemetery. Although we did not have any statistics, the row after row of dark crosses reminded us of the futility of war.



This a portion of the German Cemetery a short distance from Belleau Woods. The rows of some of the many crosses are just beyond the hedge in the foreground.

Our route took us along small back roads through such places as la Fert Milon and into the Foret de Retz. Our next destination was the village of Vierzy on the Soissons front. Instead of going through the town of Villars Cotterets. we found our way through a huge Beech forest along forest trails like the 6th Marine Regiment did in July of 1918 following their victory at Belleau Wood.