**AMERICAN UNKNOWN SOLDIER**

On March 4, 1921, the Congress approved a Resolution providing for the burial in Arlington National Cemetery on Armistice Day 1921 of an unknown and unidentified American soldier of World War 1. The bodies of four who fell in combat area were selected among the burials of America’s Unknown Dead, each one from the cemeteries Aime-Marne, Meuse-Argonne, Somme and St.Mihiel. Big attention was given in seeing that there was no evidence of identification on the four bodies and no indication that their identity could ever be established, The bodies were then taken to the Hotel de Ville. The choice of selecting the body that became the American Unknown Soldier was given to the Sergeant Edward Younger, on duty with the American Forces in Germany. The ceremony of selection was very impressive. On the morning of October 24, 1921, the choice was made in the presence of the Quartermaster General, the Mayor of Chalons-sur-Marne, high officers of the French Army, distinguished French citizens and eminent American and French civilians. Following the body’s choice, after a ceremony, it’s casket was placed on a special train to Le Harve. Here, with a solemn procession through the city, the casket was taken to the pier, where the American Cruiser “Olympia” awaited to bring the Soldier back to the United States. On 9 November, 1921, the “Olympia” arrived at Washington D.C., where the casket was escorted to the rotunda of the Capital. Here the casket was placed upon a catafalque, which had previously held the remains of Presidents like Lincoln, Garfield and McKinley. During the next day, thousands of people passed before the casket to pay homage to the Unknown Soldier. On the morning of November 11, 1921, Armistice Day, the casket was removed from the Capitol rotunda and escorted to the Memorial Amphitheater in Arlington National Cemetery by a military escort. Many important people followed the ceremony, like the President of the United States, the Vice-President and the Chief Justice. At its arrival at the Amphitheater the casket was borne through the south entrance to the apse, where it was placed upon the catafalque. During the simple but impressive funeral ceremony the President of the United States conferred to the Unknown Soldier the Congressional Medal of Honor and the Distinguished Service Cross. After the ceremony, special representatives of foreign governments, associated with the Unites States during the World War I, each in turn conferred to the Unknown Soldier the highest military decoration of their country. At the end of these ceremonies, the casket was borne to the sarcophagus, where a brief committed service was held. Then three salvos of artillery, the sounding of taps and the National Salute concluded the ceremony. After the ceremony on November 11, 1921, was considered the question of selecting a suitable monument to complete the Tomb. A commission composed by the Arlington Cemetery Commission, the American Battle Monuments Commission and the Fine Arts Commission, invited architects of standing reputation, who were Americans citizens, to submit designs. At the end, the winning design was the work of Thomas Hudson Jones, sculptor, and Lorimer Rich, architect, of New York. The selected design was in the form of a sarcophagus, simple but impressive. The severity of the design is relieved by the Doric Pilasters in low relief ate the corner along the sides. The front panel has carved upon the marble a composition of three figures, commemorative of the spirit of the allies during the War. In the center of the panel stands “Victory”, with her palm branch to reward devotion and sacrifice that went with courage to make the cause of righteousness triumphant. On one side a male figure symbolize “Valor” and on the other stands “Peace”. Each side is divided into three panels by Doric Pilasters, in each panel of which is carved an inverted wreath. On the back there’s the inscription “Here Rests In Honored Glory AN American Soldier Known But To God”, which is the only inscription on the Tomb.