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## POLISH, FRENCH AND GERMAN WWI / WWII NATIONAL MILITARY CEMETERY AUBÉRIVE, FRANCE

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## POLISH, FRENCH AND GERMAN NATIONAL MILITARY CEMETERY, AUBÉRIVE, FRANCE

### INTRODUCTION

On Armistice Day (11NOV2003), I had the opportunity to visit the Polish, French and German World War's Necropolis ("The Wood of the Well,") which lies off the main road located on the left side of RD 931 towards the direction of Sainte-Hilaire-le-Grand, France. The cemetery is situated about thirty kilometers (19 miles) southeast from the city of Reims, France (Aubérive site location is shown by red circle in the map inset to the right) and a two-hour drive northwest from Paris, France.



### HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

The Necropolis off the main road of Aubérive, France (see inset right for road marker photograph) was created in 1920 to receive the bodies of the soldiers killed during Champagne Battles of 1914 to 1918.

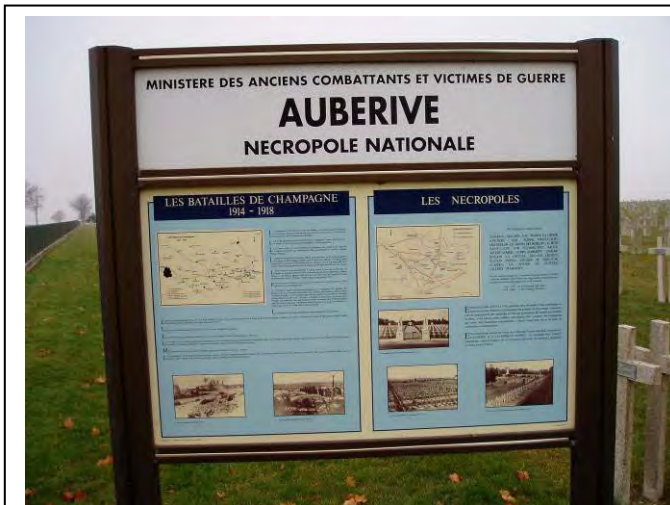
In 1922, the Polish War Minister expressed the wish that the French authorities exhume the bodies of the Polish soldiers' war dead who were killed in the Champagne area of France and gather them in a cemetery especially created for them on French soil.

In 1923, the first thought was to establish a Polish cemetery at Prosnès in the Marne. This site was finally abandoned, as the Aubérive site was already in place and established in the Marne. Thus, the Aubérive cemetery was chosen as the cemetery site for Polish Soldiers and work was started in 1923 to receive the exhumed bodies from various military cemeteries located east of Reims, in the sectors of the Mounts of Champagne and Aubérive. The areas Champagne and Aubérive include, The Roman Way, Closes of Moscow, Village Gascon, Estival, Mont without Name, Mont Fair, Mont High, Mont Cornillet, Mont of the Helmet, Mont Nipple, Bois Crowned, Bois Liévin, Bois of the Vault, Bois Well.

Exhumations and regroupings in Aubérive lasted until 1926. In the 1930's, the cemetery was further modified with the wooden individual grave markers being replaced by cement markers, and the installation of entrance gates. Additionally, the removal of the low walls surrounding the ossuaries was revised to their current state. In 1991, the Federation of the Polish ex-serviceman in France renovated the Polish Memorial of the two world wars.<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> <http://crdp.ac-reims.fr/memoire/lieux/1eregmCA/cimetieres/polonais/auberive.htm>



Photograph of the Aubérive National Cemetery sign erected by the Ministry of Ancient Combatants for Victims of World War One. It describes information about the Cemetery and the battles fought in the Champagne area of France during World War One.

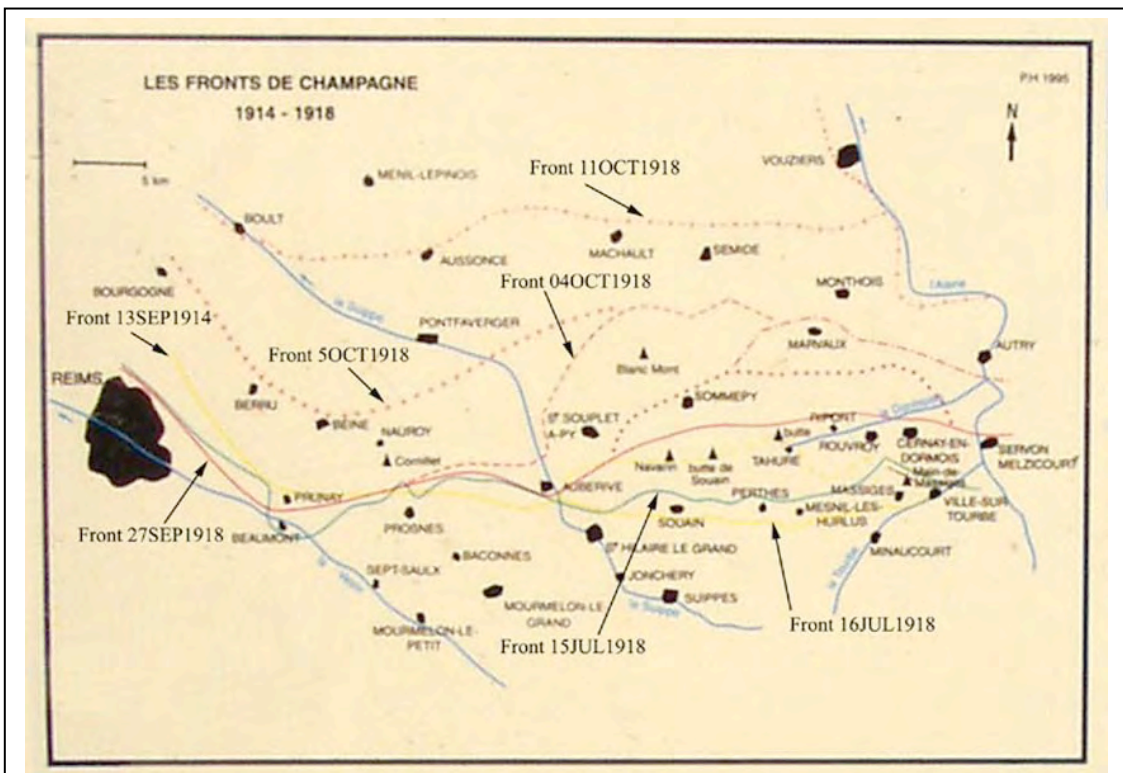
Photograph taken By K.R. Marshall 11NOV2003

Shown in the photograph left is a sign erected by the Ministry of Ancient Combatants for Victims of World War One. The two panels display information about the Cemetery and the battles fought in the Champagne area of France during World War One. This placard is located just inside the French burial entrance gate of the Aubérive cemetery.

The panel on the left side of the placard describes the shifting of the war front battle lines at various dates during World War One battles of Champagne.

The panel on the right side of the sign explains about the different National Cemeteries and their respective locations in the Champagne area.

Close-up photographs of the Battles of Champagne panel are shown below as well as English translation of the French text follows.



Close up photograph depicting the front battle lines location at various dates in the Champagne area of France during World War One. Photograph taken By K.R. Marshall 11NOV2003

## **BATTLES OF CHAMPAGNE [1914 – 1918]**

On September 1914, after the victory of La Marne, the Third Imperial German Army was retreating from the Eastern hills of Reims with the Fourth French Army in pursuit when the French Army recaptures the La Pompelle Fort close to Sillery. Each Army then entrenches and begins refortifications. The Champagne battlefield is thus created between Reims and the Argonne. The Fourth French Army had conducted multiple skirmishes on the front line that took place in Sillery, Marquises, Aubérive, Souain, and Perthes and Massiges. These attacks came at a high cost of life for both sides.

**FIRST BATTLE OF CHAMPAGNE:** The first battle of Champagne started on December twentieth 1914. By the beginning of January 1915, supported by 780 cannons, the Fourth French Army led by General de Langle de Cary attacks Perthes-les-Hurlus. The small fort Beauséjour is won and lost several times by the Arch Marines of the Colonial Army. The Army also gains ground at la Main-de-Massiges close to Ville-sur-Tourbe. The winter weather stops the hostilities.

With the spring thaw came mud making the roads impassable. The battle resumes on February sixteenth and comes to a head at Bois Sabot, Beauséjour, Souain and in Perthes. On March eighteenth, General Joffre brings the battle to an end. During those three months, to recover ten square kilometers (4 square miles,) France had lost 94,000 soldiers including 21,500 deaths with 17,000 missing.

In the ensuing months both sides continue to fight localized battles where neither side gains any noticeable ground.

**SECOND BATTLE OF CHAMPAGNE:** The second Champagne battle started on September twenty-fifth 1915 when, after three days of heavy bombing (1,100 different pieces of ordnance,) General Joffre launched the Second and the Fourth Armies (led by General Castelnau,) on a twenty-seven kilometer (17 miles) front in order to break the enemy lines between Aubérive and Massiges. On the evening of September twenty-seventh, without any victorious breakthrough, the French Army have only moved the troops four kilometres (2.5 miles) forward, taking 25,000 prisoners with 150 cannons but lost 138,000 people (deaths, injuries and missing in action) in the process. On October seventh, the French Army managed the conquest of the village and hill of Tahure. The German army continued to retaliate with strong counter-attacks. These counter-attacks all were thwarted.

**THIRD BATTLE OF CHAMPAGNE:** The front line had little movement in 1916. Hostilities restarted on April seventh 1917 when the third Champagne battle started with the attack of the Fourth Army under the leadership of General Anthoine. He successfully gained within one month the areas of Aubérive and the Massif of Moronvilliers (which includes Cornillet Mont, Blond Mont, le Casque, le Téton, Haut Mont and sans Nom Mont.) After the third Champagne battle, positions moved little during the whole winter.

**FOURTH BATTLE OF CHAMPAGNE:** In June 1918, Reims is in ruins and is in danger on its Eastern side where the enemy has attacked the la Pompelle Fort that was resisting. On July fifteenth, after a deluge of gaseous shells and helped by panzers and planes, the first and the third German Armies attacked the Fifth and the Fourth French Armies led by generals Berthelot and Gouraud. Wilhelm II, the German Emperor, attended the attack in order to enter Reims with its troops in anticipation of victory. The French broke any German attempts and won the decisive fourth battle of Champagne.

On September twenty-sixth, with the help of the First American Army (General Pershing), General Gouraud attacked and broke the enemy front, took the Navarin farm and Sommepey. The Armies crossed the Dormoise and went inside the Ardennes; Rethel was set free on October twelfth. The Armies went on to the Meuse in a victorious advance.

The two photographs below are close up of the pictures that were displayed on the “Battles of Champagne” panel.

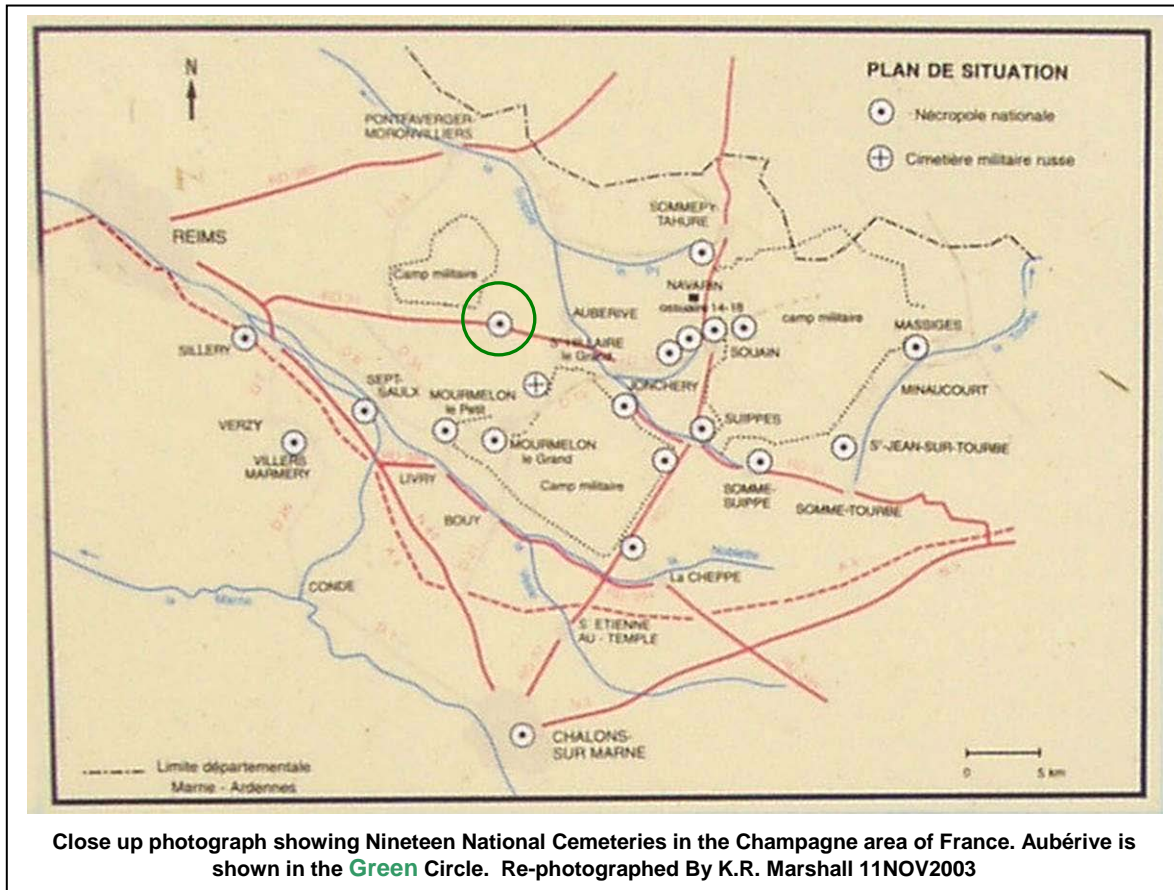


Close up of Photograph “Battles of Champagne Panel” Bottom Left on the sign, “1915 Ruins of Mesnil-les-Hurles Re-photographed 11NOV2003 by K.R. Marshall



Close up Photograph “Battles of Champagne Panel” Bottom Right on sign, “1915 Infantrymen in Bois-Sabot” (East of Souain) Re-photographed 11NOV2003 by K.R. Marshall

Close-up photographs of the right hand side of the panel are shown on the next page as well as English translation of the French text follows.



There are Nineteen National Necropolises shown on the map above. These are also listed below in the table:

1) Aubérive	6) Mourmelon-Le-Grand	11) Somme-Suippe	16) Souain 28 <sup>e</sup> Brigade
2) Chalons-Sur-Marne	7) Mourmelon-Le-Petit	12) Sommepey Tahure	17) Suippes
3) La Cheppe	8) Saint-Jean-Sur-Tourbe	13) Souain La Crouee	18) La Ferme De Suippes
4) Jonchery-Sur-Suippe	9) Sept-Saulx	14) Soain Legion	19) Viller-Marmery
5) Minaucourt	10) Sillery	15) Souain Opera	

The cemeteries encompass a total area of 35 hectares (86.4 acres,) with 116,628 soldiers gathered from the First and Second World Wars. The soldiers are buried in individual graves and 33 communal graves. For the First World War, 114,120 French soldiers, and 188 Allies and for the Second World War 2,028 French soldiers and 292 Allies are interned in these nineteen cemeteries.

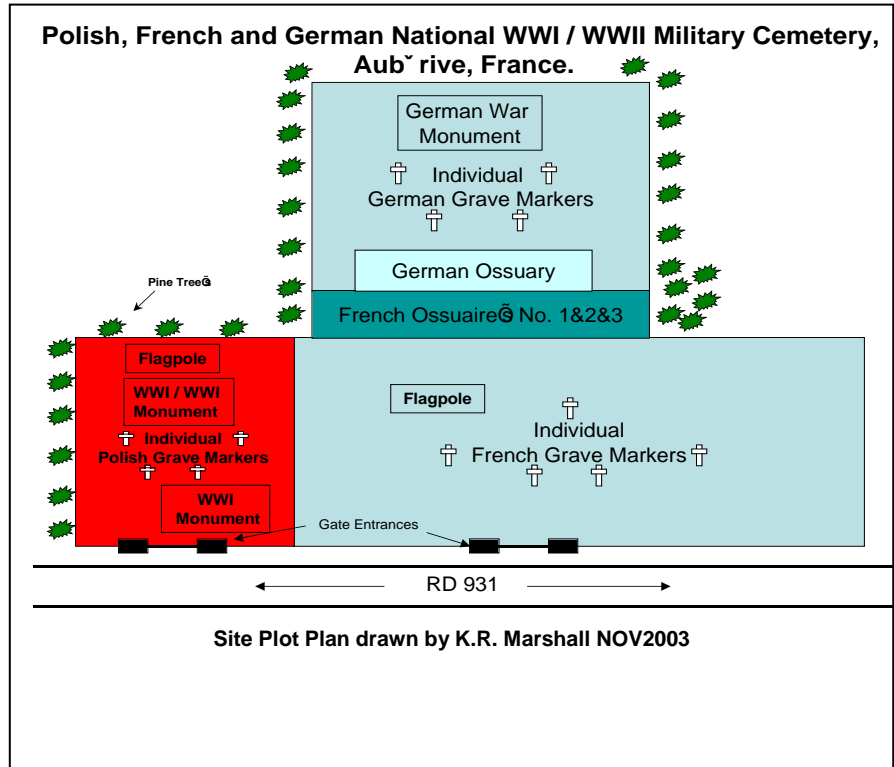
The Necropolis' have been created between 1914 and 1920, and subsequently enlarged in the latter part of the nineteen twenties. Revamping occurred in the nineteen thirties as well with the building of portals and ossuary-monuments along with the replacement of wooden markers on the graves by concrete ones for the various faiths of the soldiers. War Memorials and Regimental Memorials have also been erected for commemorative ceremonies.

The Necropolis have subsequently gathered victims from the Second World War which were re-buried in Aubérive, La Cheppe, La Ferme de Suippes. The Ministry of Veterans maintains those National Cemeteries where those people who died in France now rest.

## THE AUBÉRIVE SITE

The cemetery contains the graves of French, German and Polish soldiers who perished during both World Wars. There are two entry gates, which allow access into the Necropolis. One of the gates for the French section and the other gate leads into the Polish section of the cemetery. Both gates are located directly alongside the access road - RD 931.

There are no physical barriers separating the three burial areas. At the rear of the French section are three ossuaries and behind these are the German individual graves and ossuary. On the left side of the cemetery is the location of the Polish burial section (See Plot Plan in the inset right.)



Cemetery access gate leading into the French Section off RD931, Aubérive, France: Photograph taken by K.R. Marshall 11NOV2003

The photograph (above) shows the French section entrance gate as viewed from the access road. The photograph shown in the inset right is a close up view of the right hand gate support column. Note the sword and olive branch as well as the plaque which reads, "National Cemetery of Aubérive / Suippes."



Close up view of the right side gate column leading into the French Section off RD931, Aubérive, France: Photograph taken by K.R. Marshall 11NOV2003



Cemetery access gate leading into the Polish Section off RD931, Aubérive, France:  
 Photograph taken by K. R. Marshall 11NOV2003

The photo shown in the inset left is a view from across the access road looking towards the entrance gate of the Polish section of the Aubérive cemetery site.

In the background is the World War One and Two memorial. Also shown in this photograph are two (of four total) rectangular burial sections left and right of the center walkway leading to the memorial.

The two photographs shown below are close up pictures of the two entrance columns that support the Iron Gate leading into the Polish section of the Cemetery.

In the insets (below left and right) are close up photographs of the gate support columns. Translating both the Gold and Black lettering on the gate supports reads, "Polish Cemetery, The Wood of the Well, 1914-1918."



Left Gate Support leading into the Polish Section of the Aubérive, Cemetery. Photograph By K.R. Marshall 11NOV2003



Right Gate Support leading into the Polish Section of the Aubérive, Cemetery. Photograph By K.R. Marshall 11NOV2003



The two photographs below show a view of the cemetery from the vantage point of looking through the two entrance gates of the Necropolis at Aubérive.

The picture (inset right) is looking towards the center of the Polish section with the World War One and Two Memorial Monument in the background. This is also a good view of the right side rectangular section (four in total) that holds the individual burial markers of the Polish soldiers of both World Wars.



View through the entrance gate of the Polish section of Aubérive, Cemetery. Photograph taken by K. R. Marshall 11NOV2003

The photograph (below right) is looking down the center section of the French burial area. Individual interment markers are to the left and right for French soldiers of both World Wars. In the middle of the photograph are three ossuaries (communal burial vaults) that are outlined by red bushes that have turned color with fall. Memorial Ossuary number two is shown in the middle of the photograph, just in front of the red bush in the center of the photograph. To the left is ossuary number one and to the right is ossuary number three (also outlined by the red bushes.) In the far background you can see the location of the German section of the Aubérive, Cemetery.



View through the entrance gate of the French section of the Aubérive, Cemetery. Photograph taken by K. R. Marshall 11NOV2003

The end of the German soldier's individual burials is directly behind the three French ossuaries. Behind the French Ossuaries, in the center of the photograph, you can also make out in the German War Monument and ossuary (shown by a red arrow).

## THE FRENCH NECROPOLIS

The French burial area of the cemetery covers 23,461 square meters (5.8 Acres.) In the French section, there are gathered the bodies of 6,424 French soldiers that were killed during the First World War. This includes 2,908 war dead distributed in three ossuaries. Commemorative plaques for each communal gravesite are shown in the inset right. The marker for Ossuary number one reads, "Here Rest, 1420 Unknown French, who died for France, removed from Suippes, Chalons, and Beine, France.



Individual French Soldiers Grave Markers, Aubérive, Cemetery.  
Photograph By K.R. Marshall 11NOV2003

The photograph shown in the inset (above left,) shows the individual grave markers for French Soldiers looking left from the entrance gate of the French section. Notice the French Flag and in the distance you can see the pine trees that mark the border of the Polish section of the cemetery.

Shown in the photograph in the inset right is a view of the individual burial markers for the French soldiers from World War One as looking right from the French entrance gate.



Shown are the three commemorative plaques for the French Ossuaries, Aubérive Cemetery.  
Photo By K.R. Marshall 11NOV2003

The marker for Ossuary number two lists fifty-three individuals' names in Alphabetical order. There is no mention as to the significance of these men buried in this ossuary. Ossuary number three reads "Here Rest, 1432 Unknown French, who died for France, removed from Suippes, Chalons, and Beine, France."



Individual French Soldiers Grave Markers, Aubérive, Cemetery.  
Photograph By K.R. Marshall 11NOV2003

## POLISH NECROPOLIS

The Polish military cemetery of Aubérive is connected to the French Necropolis, yet there is no physical separation between these two cemeteries. As mentioned both the French and Polish sections of the cemetery have a distinct entry from the main roadway.

Buried in this Polish section of the Aubérive cemetery are 366 soldiers of which 129 were killed during the first world war and 237 soldiers that were killed during the second world. These soldiers were gathered from various sections of the Northeastern sector of France.

### WWI POLISH WAR MONUMENT

On right-hand side, just inside the entrance gate of the Polish cemetery from the main road is erected a small memorial for the First World War (see inset right.)



WWI Polish War Monument located just inside the entry gate on the right-hand side of the Polish cemetery section's Aubérive, Cemetery. Photo By K.R. Marshall 11NOV2003



Close-up view of the cast iron plate located on top of the WWI Polish War Monument, Aubérive, France Photo by K.R. Marshall 11NOV2003

The memorial stands approximately two meters (6 feet) high. On top and bottom of the memorial are three (3) plaques with inscriptions.

The first inscription on the very top of the memorial which is inscribed in Polish on a plate made of cast iron and reads, "To the Polish soldiers who died for the common cause in 1914-1918 on French soil, Polish Society of Care for the Graves of Heroes, Warsaw, 1928."

Below the Polish inscription is one in French, that translates, "To the Polish soldiers who died for the common cause in 1914-1918 on French soil, Polish Association for the Conservation of Tombs for the heroes, Warsaw in 1928," (shown in the inset to the left.)



Close-up of the marble inscription engraved and located on bottom of the WWI Polish War Monument, Aubérive, France. Photo by K.R. Marshall 11NOV2003

On the very bottom of the World War One monument (shown in the inset left) engraved on Marble and attached to the bottom of the monument are two (2) more plaques. The second (2<sup>nd</sup>) one is a picture of a carved eagle.

Just below the eagle is the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) commemorative plaque inscribed in Polish that reads, " Of the heroes and compatriots to those who died for freedom of nations. Hallerczyks, 8 July 1928."

### WWI / WWII WAR MEMORIAL

In the back center of the Polish section of the cemetery (see inset to the right,) stands a War Memorial for Polish soldiers who fought in the First and Second World Wars.

Barely visible in the background to the right of the monument (between the two pine trees shown by a red arrow) is a flagpole that sits upon a concrete pedicle approximately 1 meter (3 foot) in diameter.

Unfortunately on this Armistice Day no flag was flying!

A small pipe fence supported by 10 small pillars surrounds the monument. It sits upon crushed gravel stones with two steps at the base leading from the ground level to aid the reading of the inscriptions.



View of the WWI / WWII Polish War Monument located in the center of the Polish section of the cemetery, Aubérive, France. Photograph taken By K.R. Marshall 11NOV2003.

The monument stands approximately 4 meters (13 feet) high.

The monument is made of cement and crowned on its top is a one-meter (3 foot) cross. Below the cross, facing the entrance is a raised carving of an eagle. Below the eagle are commemorative plaques.



Close up view of the top section of WWI / WWII War Memorial in the Polish Sector of the Cemetery of Aubérive, France Photograph taken By K.R. Marshall 11NOV2003

The photograph shown in the inset (left) is a close-up view of the top section of the WWI / WWII Polish Memorial with its Cross and Eagle. Below the Eagle on the memorial, are two (2) commemorative plaques.

A close-up photograph of the first (1<sup>st</sup>) plaque is shown in the inset below. There are two inscriptions, the top section is written in Polish and below it, separated by a short line, an inscription written in French.



Close up view of first commemorative plaque on the WWI / WWII Polish War Memorial, Aubérive, France Photograph taken By K.R. Marshall 11NOV2003

The beginning portion of the Polish inscription reads; "Federacja Pol. O.O." This stands for the Federacja Polskich Obroncow Ojczyzny. Literally, "The Federation of Polish Defendants of Fatherland." This was a Polish pre-war umbrella combatant organization that included a number of other Polish veteran organizations. After the WW2 the name was used in exile only. F.P.O.O. was a member of an international federation IWS active on the international scene.<sup>2</sup>

Thus, the translations reads, "The Federation of Polish Defendants of Fatherland in France to the Heroes of General Haller's Army and the reborn Polish Army in France in 1939 who died for the freedom of Poland and France on the fields of Champagne in the years 1914-1918 and 1939-1945."

The French inscription reads, "To the heroes of the Polish Army formed in France who died on the battle field of Champagne for the freedom of France and Poland."

The second (2<sup>nd</sup>) plaque (shown in the inset right) written in French, translates as, "This monument was erected in 1991 by the Federation of Ancient Combatants of Poles in France. The monument's benediction took place on the 21st of July 1991."



Close up view of second commemorative plaque on the WWI / WWII Polish War Memorial, Aubérive, France Photograph taken By K.R. Marshall 11NOV2003

<sup>2</sup> Private e-mail communication with W. Hoffman, Peter Jassem and Dr. Paul Valasek < [Pavel56@aol.com](mailto:Pavel56@aol.com) >, 23FEB2004



View of the flagpole located in the rear of the Polish section of the cemetery of Aubérive, France Photograph taken By K.R. Marshall 11NOV2003

Located furthest from the entry gate and access road RD931, in the rear area of the Polish section is erected a flagpole. This is shown in the inset left.

Sadly, on my Armistice Day visit there was no Polish flag flying. Also shown in the photograph is a one-meter (3-foot) fence shown by the red arrow that surrounds the entire cemetery and several pine trees sporadically planted around the perimeter.

The photograph in the inset below left shows a view from the rear of the Polish section of the cemetery looking back towards the entry gate of the cemetery.

To the immediate right [just visible center right in the photograph] is the pipe fence and cement pillars that surrounds the WWI / WWII monument). You also can see the newly planted hardwood trees in late fall color and the pine trees that surround the perimeter fence.



View from the back of the Polish section of the Cemetery looking towards the entry gate, Aubérive, France. Photograph taken By K.R. Marshall 11NOV2003



**View looking left from the entrance gate of the Polish section of the Cemetery, Aubérive, France. Photograph taken By K.R. Marshall 11NOV2003**

**The two photographs (above and below) show the left and right side rectangular individual burial areas for the Polish Soldiers from the World Wars.**

**The pictures also show the pine trees surrounding the Polish section planted just inside the fence perimeter. The WWI / WWII monument in the center section of the Polish Cemetery is visible on the right side of the photograph above and on the left side of the photograph below.**



**View looking right from the entrance gate of the Polish section of the Cemetery, Aubérive, France. Photograph taken By K.R. Marshall 11NOV2003**

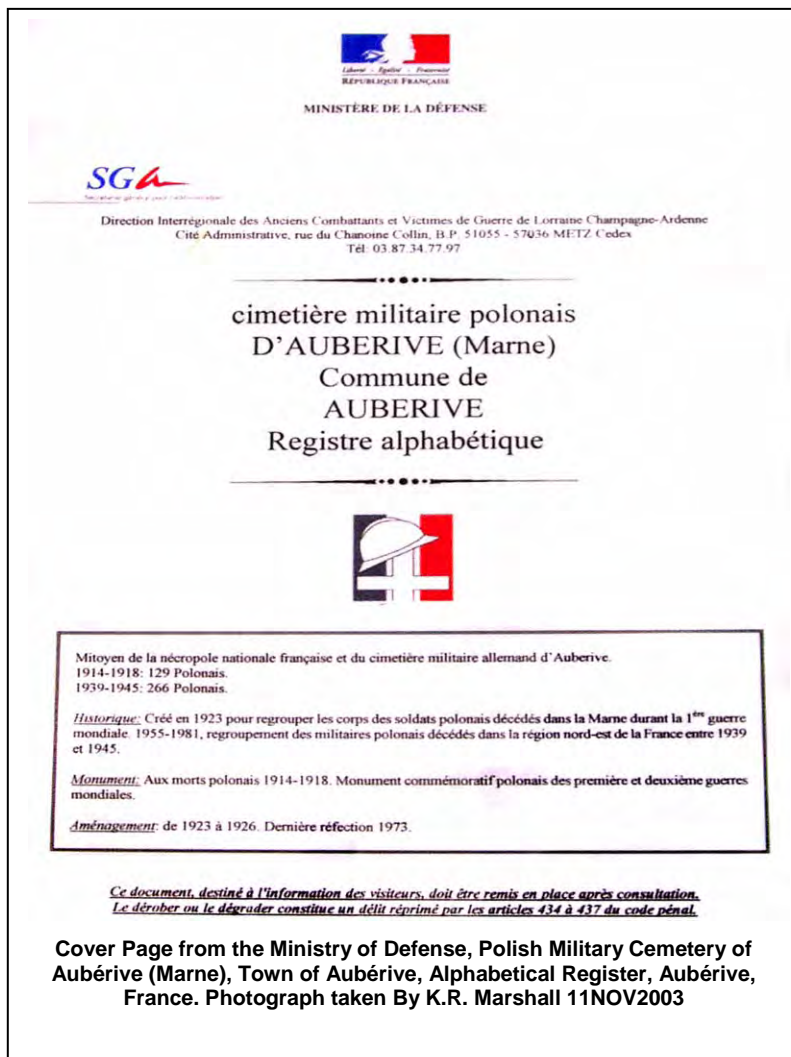
The photograph shown in the inset right is a cast iron receptacle and door, which holds the alphabetical register of those World War I and II soldiers whom, are buried in the Polish section of the Aubérive cemetery. The vault is in the concrete gate support as you enter the Polish section of the cemetery from the access road.

The burial registers contain the listing of soldiers who are buried in the Polish sector of Aubérive Cemetery. The vault is positioned on the backside of right-hand concrete pillar that supports the entry gate (inset right.)

The picture shown in the inset below is the cover page of the alphabetical listing of soldiers buried in Military Cemetery of Aubérive. The title is, "Polish Military Cemetery of Aubérive (Marne), Town of Aubérive, Alphabetical Register."



The cemetery side of the Polish entry gate, which holds the soldier's burial registers, Aubérive, France. Photograph taken By K.R. Marshall 11NOV2003

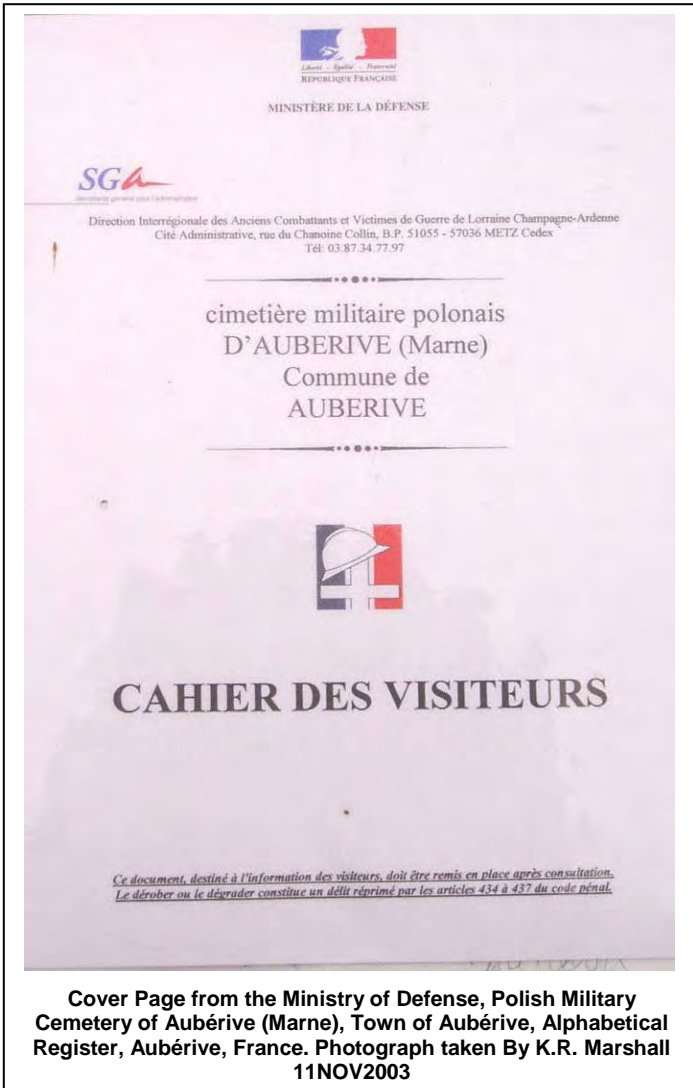


The Ministry of Defense, and the Interregional Management of Veterans and War Victims from Lorraine and Champagne Ardenne, France authored the register. The manuscript was published at Cité administrative, Rue du Chanoine Collin, BP 51055, 57036 Metz Cedex,

The translation of the cover pages states that "129 Polish soldiers were interned 1914-1918 [WWI], and 266 Polish soldiers were interned 1939-1945 [WWII] in the Aubérive National Cemetery.

The author has photographed the Polish Alphabetical register and subsequently transcribed the records. From these transcribed records, the number of World War One soldiers matches that which is listed on the cover page (129). The author's count for those soldiers interned in the cemetery for World War Two is 237. This is a discrepancy of 29 soldiers from that stated (266) on the cover page of the register.





Cover Page from the Ministry of Defense, Polish Military Cemetery of Aubérive (Marne), Town of Aubérive, Alphabetical Register, Aubérive, France. Photograph taken By K.R. Marshall 11NOV2003

On the bottom of this log book cover page is a statement that is a warning to anyone who would choose to remove the record book from its location. It states that if caught, they will be punished to the full extent of the law, specifically a monetary fine and prison time.

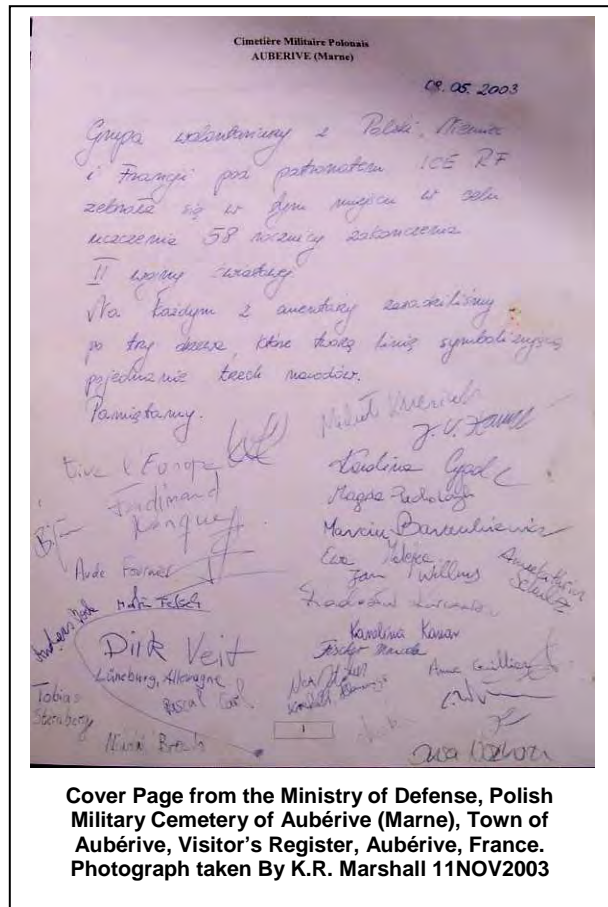
The inset right is one of the many pages that visitors have entered into the log book at the Military Cemetery of Aubérive, France. As you can see this page the entries are logged in from 08MAY2001 and have many signatures of various visitors who came during or after that date entry.

Next is shown the German section of the Military Cemetery of Aubérive, France.

The picture shown in the inset left is the cover page of the visitor log book for the Polish Military Cemetery of Aubérive. Inside this log book are those names and annotations of the various visitors that have signed the log book at Polish Cemetery. The location of the log book is also inside the cast iron receptacle that held the World War I and II alphabetical register of those soldiers whom are buried in the Polish section of the cemetery.

The title is, “Polish Military Cemetery of Aubérive (Marne), Town of Aubérive, Visitors Registration.”

The Ministry of Defense and the Interregional Management of Veterans and War Victims from Lorraine and Champagne Ardenne, France assembled the logbook and was published at Cité administrative, Rue du Chanoine Collin, BP 51055, 57036 Metz Cedex,



Cover Page from the Ministry of Defense, Polish Military Cemetery of Aubérive (Marne), Town of Aubérive, Visitor's Register, Aubérive, France. Photograph taken By K.R. Marshall 11NOV2003

## GERMAN NECROPOLIS

The German military cemetery of Aubérive is located behind the French necropolis off the main road RD931. Buried in this cemetery are 5,359 German soldiers who were killed during the First World War. There are 2,235 buried in individual tombs and 3,124 buried in an ossuary.

The marker at the end of the German Cemetery (nearest to rear of the French Section of the Cemetery) is shown in the inset right. The inscription reads, “In this square rests 5,359 German soldiers whom were the ruin of the 1914-1918 war. In the background you can see the German memorial and ossuary as well as individual grave markers of German soldiers.

In the front of the German Section stands a Memorial shown in the background of the inset right and a close-up photo shown below. The inscription reads, “Here rests German soldiers from the 1914-1918 War.”



Memorial at the beginning of the German Section of the Cemetery of Aubérive, France. Photograph taken By K.R. Marshall 11NOV2003

In the inset right is a close up view of the memorial plaque on the German soldier's ossuary. The inscription reads, “In a common tomb, here rests 3,124 German soldiers fallen during the course of 1914-1918 war. With 2,906 whom still remain unknown. In memory of our perished faithful brothers.”

The German military cemetery of Aubérive was started shortly after the First World War by the French authorities. Association for the maintenance of the German cemeteries refurbished the cemetery in 1972. The association also replaced the wooden crosses for stone crosses in 1972 on the individual graves of the interned German soldiers.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>3</sup> <http://crdp.ac-reims.fr/memoire/lieux/1eregmCA/cimetieres/german/auberive.htm>



Marker at the end of the German Section of the Cemetery of Aubérive, France. Photograph taken By K.R. Marshall 11NOV2003



Close up of the commemorative plaque on the German Ossuary, cemetery of Aubérive, France. Photograph taken By K.R. Marshall 11NOV2003

## MOVIE CLIPS OF THE AUBÉRIVE NECROPOLIS

The two insets below are short movie clips of the Aubérive National Cemetery filmed on Armistice Day 11NOV2003.

The first clip (inset right) is taken from just inside the French Gate. The clip starts by panning from the right (French section of the cemetery), past the individual French burials. Then shown are the French and German ossuaries (German individual burials in the background) and finally continues to pan towards the Polish section of the cemetery. [ Click on the film strip icon on the picture in the inset right to view the clip.]



The second clip (inset left) is also taken from just inside the French entrance gate. The clip starts by panning down the center section of the French cemetery showing the start of an Armistice Day Memorial Service held near the French ossuaries. A collection of Veterans as well a French Military Color Guard played the French National Anthem with a benediction by a local Clergyman. [ Click on the film strip icon on the picture in the inset left to view the clip. ]

## THE AUTHOR



The photograph shown in the inset left is the author standing next to the Aubérive National Necropolis sign located just inside the French section of the cemetery (inset left.)

This photograph was taken with the digital camera set on top of the vehicle using the timer and zoom functions of an Olympus 300.

The 11NOV2003 Armistice Day site visit was quite cool (25F°) and occasionally very strong north east wind gust. This made it feel even colder. It was also was a gray overcast day and upon my arrival foggy.