

Keep up with the world
by Freling Foster



How America's Unknown Soldier was chosen in France in 1921: On October 22d, one unidentified body was exhumed from each of four American military cemeteries, put in a new plain casket and shipped to Châlons-sur-Marne, where all four arrived the next afternoon and were placed side by side in the city hall. That night, the caskets were rearranged in position and their transportation papers burned to destroy means of tracing cemetery of origin. On October 24th, made by Sergeant Edward F. Younger, who, after walking around the four biers several times, signified his historic choice by placing a spray of white roses on the second from the right. Following the ceremony, the Unknown Soldier was transferred secretly to a new casket, and the body of one of the other three soldiers was placed in his old one, so that its burial would obliterate the last possible clue to the identification of the soldier.