Beat: Arts

Trocadéro : Memories of the Great War

Place du Trocadéro et du 11 Novembre

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USPA NEWS - As France approaches the commemoration of Armistice Day on November 11 , a walk through Place du Trocadéro et du 11 Novembre offers a remarkable journey into the nation `s memory . Few visitors realize that the famous square over looking the Eiffel Tower officially bears the date of the Armistice in its name , a lasting reminder of one of the most significant moments in French and European history . More than a century after the end of the First World War , this prestigious Parisian landmark continues to honor those who fought , suffered and died during the conflict .At the center of the square stands the imposing equestrian statue of Marshal Ferdinand Foch , one of France `s most celebrated military leadears and a key architect of the Allied Victory .As supreme Allied Commander during the final phase of the war , Foch coordinated Allied operations that ultimately led to the Armistice . His leadership became a symbol of determination and national resilience . The monument inaugurated in 1951 , was created by sculptors Robert Wlérick and Raymond Martin .Depicted on horseback , Marshal Foch dominated the square with dignity and authority ,

A short distance away on the wall of the nearby Passy cemetery visitors discover another extraordinary monument dedicated to the memory of those who perished during the Great War . This monumental bas-relief portrays soldiers united in sacrifice and remembrance paying tribute to the thousands of French heroes whose lives were lost on the battlefields between 1914-1918 .The bas-relief is the work of famous French sculptor Paul Landowski , one of the greatest monumental artists of the twentieth century .Landowski `s name is known around the monumental Statue of Christ the Redeemer overlooking Rio de Janeiro , on Corcovado , inaugurated in 1931 . His connection to Marshal Ferdinand Foch was particularly meaningful in 1937 , Landowski created the magnificent bronze sarcophagus of the Marshal , now preserved beneath the Dome of Les Invalides in Paris .Today the square Trocadéro remains a place where history , remembrance and monumental art come together in a unique setting . Text and pictures taken by Cristian Amza in Paris .

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