

COLONEL JOHN G. SCHMITZ PRIVATE MEMORIAL



The shape of the Colonel John G. Schmitz Private Memorial is modeled after the "Marienkreuz . . . an der Straßenecke zu 'Schmitz Gäßchen'" in Rommersheim, Germany, with a truncated shaft to fit within the height restriction of Arlington National Cemetery. Colonel Schmitz' ancestors emigrated from Rommersheim in 1847. According to 1998 "Chronik der Pfarrei St. Maximin und der Gemeinden Rommersheim, Giesdorf und Ellwerath," the Marienkreuz was destroyed by a grenade during the Second World War.