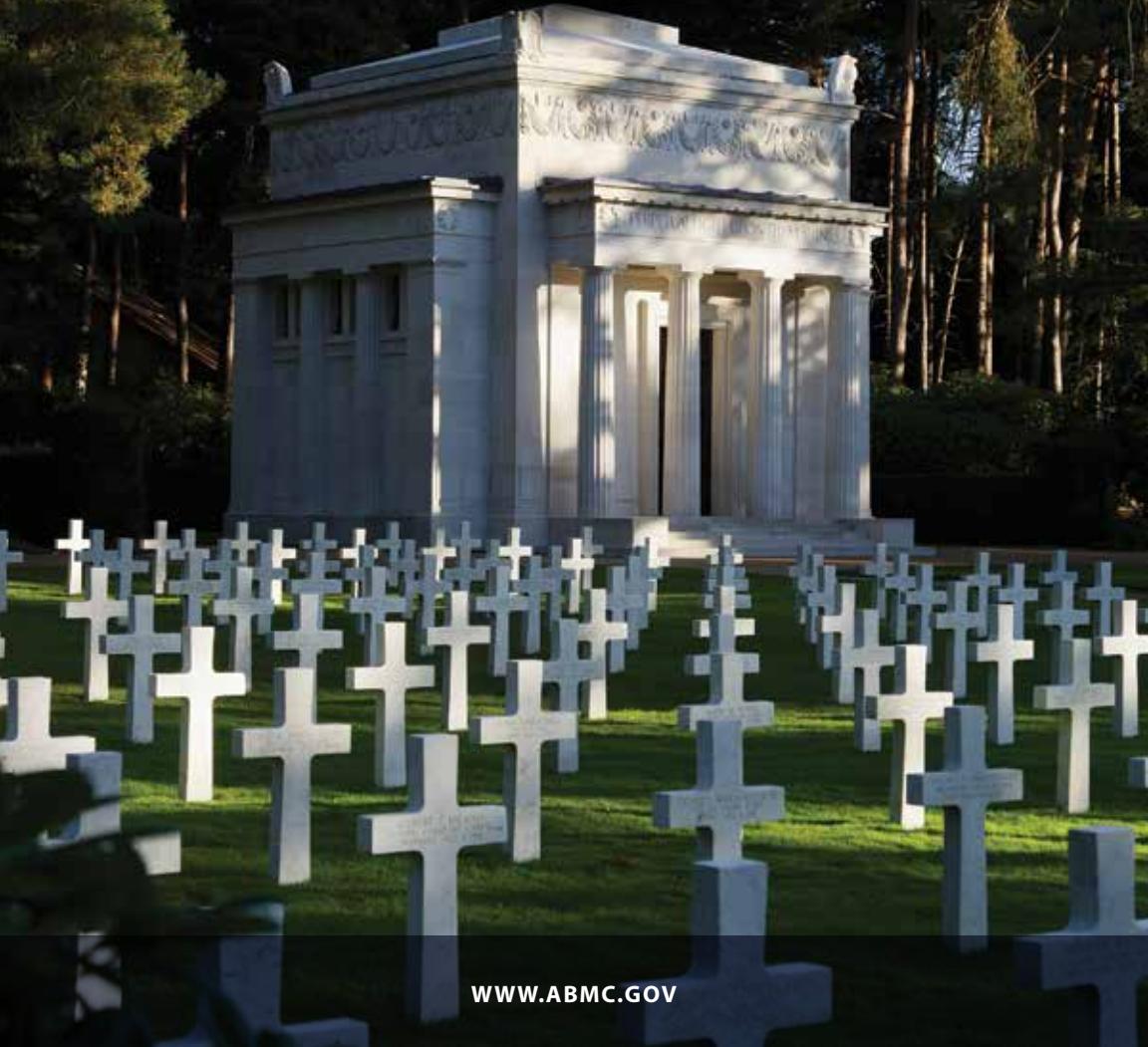




ENGLISH

AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION

# Brookwood American Cemetery and Memorial



## PLANNING A VISIT

### HOURS

The cemetery is open daily to the public from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., except December 25 and January 1. It is open on British holidays. There is no charge for admission.

### LOCATION

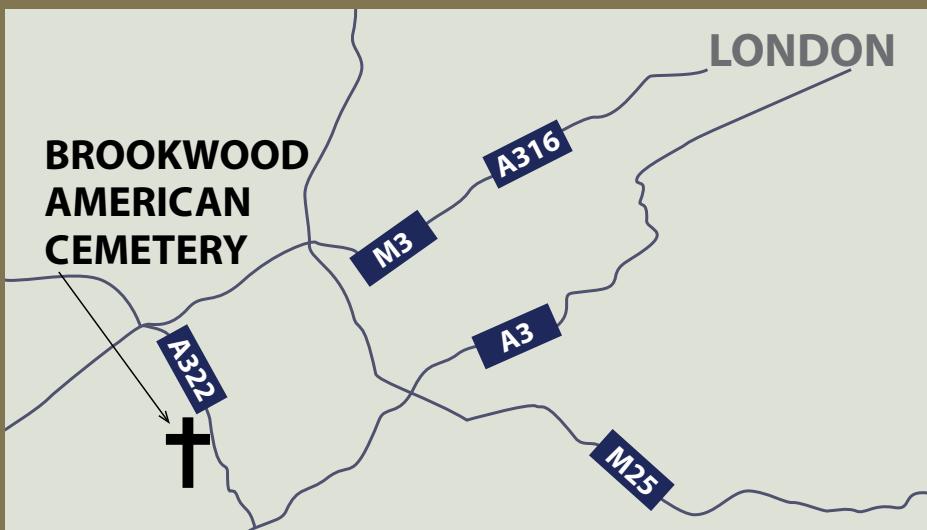
GPS coordinates: N51 18.072 W0 38.430

### TRAVEL VIA CAR:

Brookwood American Cemetery and Memorial is located directly south of the town of Brookwood, Surrey, England, six miles west of Woking.

### PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION/PARKING

There is rail service between London (Waterloo Station) and Brookwood railroad station. Travel by rail takes less than 45 minutes. The cemetery is about 300 yards west of the Brookwood railroad station.



AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION

# Brookwood American Cemetery and Memorial



Burial sections, with the American flag in the background. (ABMC photo/Warrick Page)

THE WORLD MUST BE MADE SAFE FOR DEMOCRACY. ITS PEACE MUST BE PLANTED UPON THE TESTED FOUNDATIONS OF POLITICAL LIBERTY. WE HAVE NO SELFISH ENDS TO SERVE. WE DESIRE NO CONQUEST, NO DOMINION. WE SEEK NO INDEMNITIES FOR OURSELVES, NO MATERIAL COMPENSATION FOR THE SACRIFICES WE SHALL FREELY MAKE. WE ARE BUT ONE OF THE CHAMPIONS OF THE RIGHTS OF MANKIND. WE SHALL BE SATISFIED WHEN THOSE RIGHTS HAVE BEEN MADE AS SECURE AS THE FAITH AND THE FREEDOM OF NATIONS CAN MAKE THEM.

—PRESIDENT WOODROW WILSON, 1917

## THE U.S. ENTRY INTO WORLD WAR I

When Europe erupted in war over the summer of 1914, Americans reacted with caution. The conflict had broken out in another hemisphere, and initially it appeared that the United States need not become directly involved. Americans generally sympathized with England and France, members of the Triple Entente with Russia, and saw Germany and its ally Austria-Hungary as the aggressors, particularly after the German invasion of Belgium. However, most Americans considered the war to be Europe's problem – not theirs. Indeed, substantial minorities of Americans were anti-British, anti-Russian or pro-German.

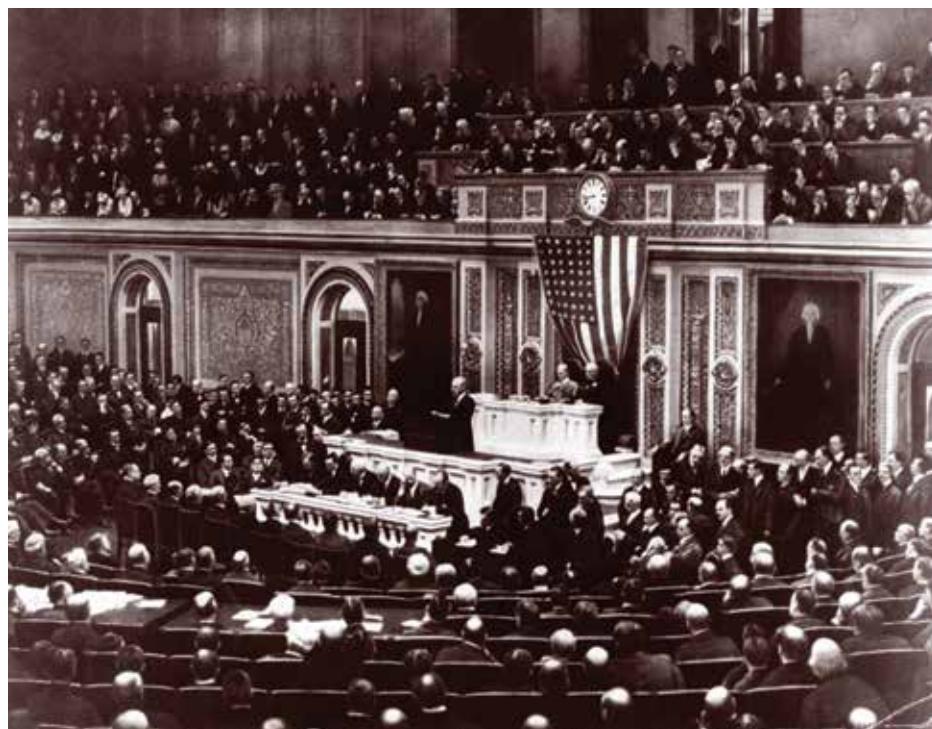
As the war progressed, American popular opinion increasingly favored the Allies. By fall of 1914, the prospect of a long, drawn-out conflict led the British Navy to blockade the North Sea and deny trade from entering German ports. Unable to secure the use of the sea for themselves, Germany responded by using submarines to attack Allied and neutral merchant ships, in an attempt to cut off the United Kingdom from supplies and military aid. On May 7, 1915 a German U-boat torpedo sank the RMS Lusitania, which was carrying both civilian passengers and munitions, off the coast of Ireland. The Lusitania disaster took the lives of 1,198 of her passengers and crew, including 128 Americans, provoking outrage in the United States. Submarine sinkings were particularly disturbing, as they came without notice and submarines had neither means nor incentive to rescue passengers or crew. A week after the Lusitania sinking, President Woodrow Wilson declared that the United States was "too proud to fight" and would not enter the war. Germany dramatically restricted submarine operations to avoid further provoking the Americans.



A drawing made for the *New York Herald* depicts *Lusitania* as it is hit by a torpedo.  
(Library of Congress)

By January 1917, the Western Front had been a stalemate for over two years. Attrition, through the English naval blockade of the North Sea and the prolonged bloodshed of trench warfare, was gradually wearing down Germany's military strength. German military leaders believed that the best way to break the impasse was to resume unrestricted submarine warfare on merchant shipping to the United Kingdom. This could devastate the British, who were dependent on imported food- much of it from the United States. Germany recognized that unrestricted submarine warfare would probably draw the United States into the conflict, but believed that enough ships could be sunk to force the United Kingdom to sue for peace before the Americans could effectively intervene. Germany formally resumed unrestricted submarine warfare on February 1.

This change in German military policy coincided with a significant diplomatic misstep. In January, British Intelligence intercepted and decoded a telegram dispatched by German Foreign Secretary Arthur Zimmermann to the German Ambassador in Mexico City. In the message, Zimmermann instructed the ambassador that if the United States entered the war, he was to approach the Mexican Government with a proposal for a military alliance. If the Mexicans accepted, the Germans proposed to help them regain territory lost to the United States in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, lands which became the states of Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona.



President Wilson's address to Congress, requesting a declaration of war on Germany.  
(Library of Congress)

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The British passed the contents of the Zimmermann Telegram to the United States Government. In late February, President Wilson released the message to the public, which again inflamed American popular opinion. This, coupled with the sinking of three American merchant ships by German submarines on March 15, led President Wilson to act. On April 2, 1917, he came to Congress with a request to declare war on Germany. This had the support of a majority of the country. Four days later the United States entered World War I on the side of the Allies.

The United States was unprepared for war. At the time, the major combatants were fielding armies comprised of millions of soldiers; the U.S. Army numbered less than 130,000. While the U.S. Navy could deploy a modern fleet relatively quickly, it was ill-equipped for anti-submarine warfare. To raise a national army Congress passed the Selective Service Act in May 1917, which instituted a system for conscripting men into military service.



**Soldiers scaling a wall during training at Camp Wadsworth, SC, in 1918. (National Archives)**

During the summer of 1917 a small force of soldiers was sent to Europe. Training camps throughout the United States were rapidly filling out with volunteers and draftees. By the fall, divisions of newly trained soldiers began leaving the camps, headed for ships to transport them across the Atlantic. As winter turned into spring, ever increasing numbers of newly trained soldiers were heading “Over There.” By July 1918, more than 10,000 troops were arriving in Europe every day.

### U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

The German resumption of unrestricted submarine warfare in early 1917 led to a sharp rise in merchant shipping losses. The Americans and British responded to these attacks by adopting the convoy system—grouping merchant ships together with naval escorts. Convoy tactics greatly reduced the number of vessels sunk by U-Boats, and defeated the German strategy of depriving the British Isles of imported food and supplies.

The U.S. particularly enforced the convoy system for troopships bringing soldiers across the Atlantic. In Europe, the U.S. Coast Guard played a large escort role, protecting vessels going between Britain and the continent. The waters around the British Isles nevertheless remained dangerous for ships carrying American servicemen.

- ★ On February 5, 1918, the troopship SS *Tuscania* was close to the end of her two-week voyage from Hoboken, NJ, when disaster struck off the coast of Scotland. Near the island of Islay, the ship – with more than 2,000 onboard – was torpedoed by a U-boat, and sank in less than four hours. While most of the passengers were saved, over 200 American soldiers lost their lives.



Temporary cemetery in Islay, Scotland, with the interments of those who died in the sinking of the SS *Tuscania*. (National Archives)

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- ★ On May 29, 1918, the USS *President Lincoln* left Brest, France, bound for the United States along with three other troopships. Two days later, she was torpedoed by the German submarine U-90. The *President Lincoln* sank soon afterwards. Most of the passengers and crew were saved, but 26 went down with the ship.
- ★ On September 26, 1918, the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter *Tampa* was part of a convoy from Gibraltar to the United Kingdom. Under orders to break off from the convoy, the *Tampa* proceeded independently towards Milford Haven, Wales, when it encountered a German submarine in the Bristol Channel. The U-boat fired a torpedo, sinking the *Tampa* off the Welsh Coast. The vessel sank with all hands, including 115 officers and men, and 16 passengers.

Troopships also faced dangers from accidents. On October 6, 1918, while leading a convoy, the HMS *Otranto*—a Royal Navy vessel serving as a troopship for American soldiers—was accidentally rammed by another vessel in rough seas near Islay. Severely damaged, the *Otranto* drifted for a short time before it smashed into the rocky coastline and sank. Many of those on board were saved, but over 460 perished in the disaster, including more than 350 Americans.



Survivors of the USS *President Lincoln* in lifeboats off the coast of Brest, France, 1918.  
(National Archives)

## AMERICANS IN THE BRITISH ISLES

Over the course of World War I, more than two million Americans were sent to Europe; of this number, approximately half initially landed in the British Isles. In most cases, American troops only stayed for a few days on their way to the battlefields in France and Belgium. Troops often arrived in Liverpool, and then headed south via train to Winchester or Southampton. Here they again embarked to cross the English Channel.

A small number of Americans were located in the British Isles for extended periods during the war. Some Americans were trained in military aviation or armored warfare at British bases. American logistical personnel stationed in Britain helped support troops on the Western Front. American doctors and nurses were located at both AEF and Red Cross hospitals in Great Britain. They cared for American soldiers, sailors, and civilians who were wounded in combat, or suffered from disease.

In early 1918, an influenza outbreak swept through military bases in the United States. The virus was an exceptionally deadly strain that struck young, previously healthy adults particularly hard. Once their bodies were weakened, many were vulnerable to secondary infections such as pneumonia, often leading to death. By the late spring, there were influenza outbreaks in 14 of the largest Army training camps in the United States.



American Red Cross hospital in Liverpool, England, 1918. (National Archives)

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After temporarily subsiding, a second more deadly wave of influenza appeared in late summer. By mid-September, it had developed into a pandemic. Many servicemen caught the influenza virus in the United States and boarded troopships bound for Europe, unaware of their infected condition. Crowded quarters on the ships provided an environment that readily enabled the flu to spread. Some soldiers did not survive the two-week voyage. Others fell sick during the crossing, and were taken directly to hospitals in Britain when their vessels entered port.

Hospitals in England also treated American soldiers that were wounded while fighting in Belgium or under British operational command. Most U.S. troops served under American command, but American soldiers and divisions also reinforced Allied corps and divisions. The U.S. 27th and 30th Divisions, for example, fought with distinction under British operational command throughout their time in combat. Many of those wounded in combat were evacuated across the English Channel to hospitals in southern England, which served as the logistical rear area for the British Army.

## **HISTORY OF BROOKWOOD AMERICAN CEMETERY**

During World War I, more than 2,000 Americans died in the British Isles. The predominant cause of death was pneumonia, a secondary infection from influenza. Others lost their lives at sea, through enemy action or maritime disasters. Some were killed in training accidents on British military posts, or were wounded in Belgium and evacuated to England before succumbing to their injuries.

These men and women were initially interred in temporary cemeteries throughout Britain and Ireland. The largest burial grounds were associated with hospitals at the points of entry and exit – in Liverpool and Winchester. Smaller cemeteries were established on Islay for those killed in the sinkings of the *Tuscania* and *Otranto* whose remains were recovered. Near London, a temporary plot in Brookwood Cemetery was allocated for Americans who died in and around the English capital. At the time of the Armistice, Americans were buried in 99 separate burial grounds throughout the United Kingdom.

After the war, it was the policy of the War Department to send remains from the British Isles back to the United States unless family members requested otherwise. Next of kin could elect to have their loved ones remain in Britain for burial in an American military cemetery that would be maintained in perpetuity, or to leave the deceased in their original interment location.

By 1921, the War Department determined that a plot in Brookwood would be a suitable location for an permanent American cemetery. In early 1922, more than 400 burials—most of America's World War I dead remaining in the British Isles—were moved there. Later that year, the War Department finalized an agreement to use space in Brookwood, in perpetuity, as an American military cemetery.

Congress created the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) in 1923. Over the next several years, while the War Department continued to administer the cemetery, ABMC installed permanent headstones and constructed the chapel, along with other site improvements. In 1934, ABMC assumed responsibility for operating all permanent military cemeteries in Europe, including Brookwood American Cemetery.

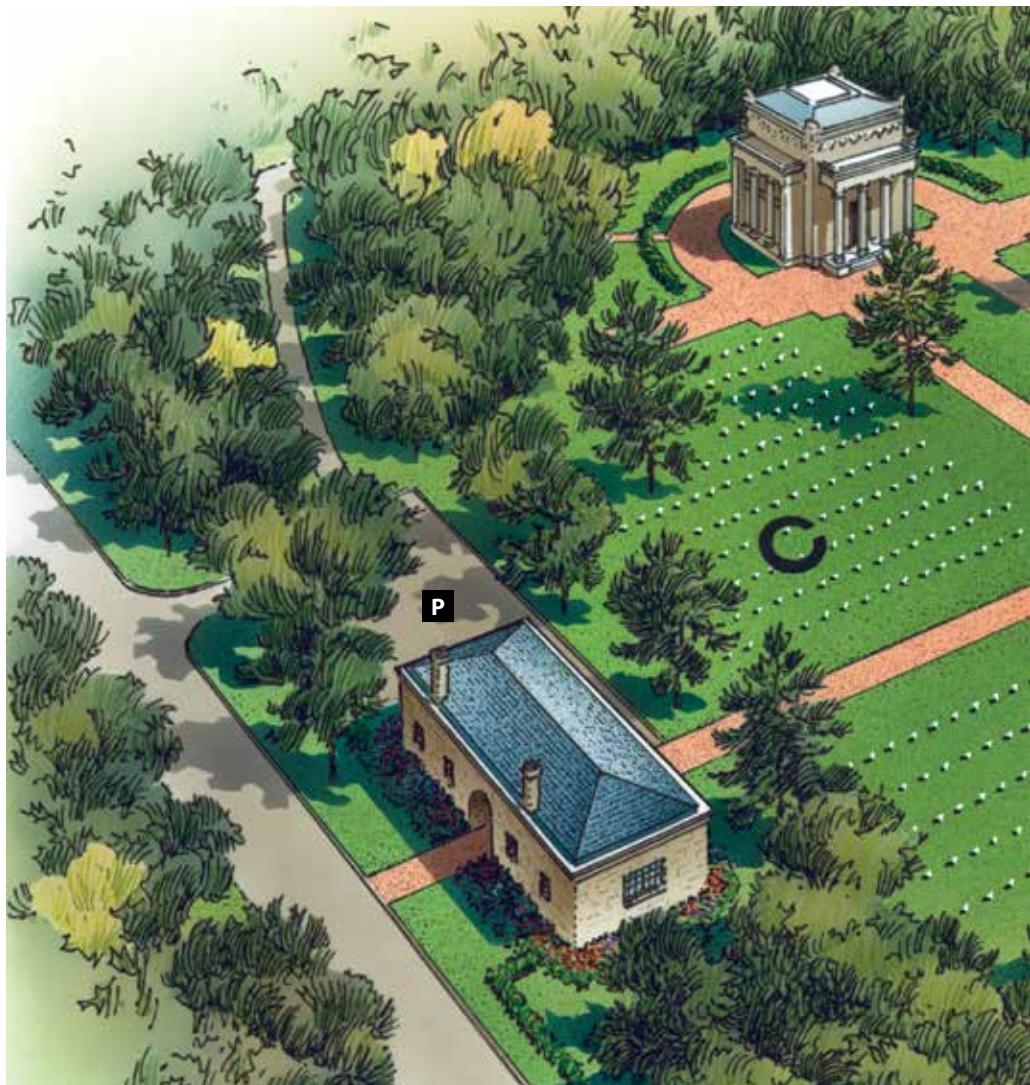


American burial at Brookwood Cemetery, 1919. (National Archives)

During World War II, Brookwood American Cemetery was the only permanent American cemetery in Europe that was continuously operated with institutional oversight. The remaining cemeteries, located in France and Belgium, were evacuated by American ABMC personnel in 1940, prior to the German invasion and subsequent occupation of Western Europe.

After the United States entered World War II, Brookwood American Cemetery was used for the burial of members of the American armed forces who died in England. Between April 1942 and August 1944, over 3,600 remains were laid to rest in plots surrounding the original World War I burial sections. In September 1944, burials of American servicemen began at a temporary cemetery outside Cambridge, and continued there for the remainder of the war. From January through May 1948, the World War II remains at Brookwood American Cemetery were exhumed and transported to Cambridge for re-interment or sent home to the United States at the request of the next-of-kin.

Brookwood American Cemetery is located within the larger Brookwood Military Cemetery, which is maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC). It includes World War I and II military burials from the United Kingdom and its former colonies and territories, and from nations that fought alongside the British, including Belgium, Poland, Czechoslovakia, and France. Eighteen Americans who died while in British service in World War II are buried in plots 20-25 of the CWGC cemetery. These young men joined the British military prior to the United States' entry into the war. They were members of the Eagle Squadrons, units of the Royal Air Force comprised of American volunteers, and were killed in the Battle of Britain (1939-1940).



Illustrated map of the cemetery with burial sections labeled.

### CEMETERY LANDSCAPE

The 4.5-acre Brookwood American Cemetery and Memorial, and the CWGC cemetery, lie within the civilian Brookwood Cemetery. Built by the London Necropolis Company, the civilian cemetery was the largest in the world when it opened in 1854.

Brookwood American Cemetery contains the graves of 468 American military dead, including 41 unknown burials. Another 563 names are inscribed upon the walls of the missing, located inside the chapel.

The entrance to the American cemetery is flanked with two large stone urns, decorated with bald eagles with their wings outstretched. The eagles are resting on a shield, clutching



arrows and olive branches in their talons, evocative of the Great Seal of the United States. In the cemetery, white marble headstones are arranged in four plots (A-D), grouped around the flagpole. The cast bronze flagpole base is characterized by a natural motif, including butterflies, oak leaves, and foliage. It is identical to the flagpole base at Flanders Field American Cemetery, in Belgium. The perfectly straight rows of headstones on the green lawn are framed by masses of shrubs and evergreen trees. As in all ABMC cemeteries, the burials are arranged without regard to rank, race, or creed.

The cemetery grounds are reminiscent of an English garden. Plantings in the cemetery include rhododendrons, oak and scots pine, and azaleas.



Headstones at Brookwood American Cemetery. (ABMC photo/Warrick Page)



The chapel. (ABMC photo/Warrick Page)

### CHAPEL/WALLS OF THE MISSING

The chapel is located at the north end of the cemetery. It was dedicated by ABMC on August 15, 1937. The architect, Egerton Swartwout, was considered a master in the Beaux-Arts architectural style. Swartwout also designed the Montsec American Monument, which is maintained by ABMC and located near the St. Mihiel American Cemetery in France.

The small Beaux-Arts chapel is constructed of Portland Stone – a type of limestone. At the center of the façade, heavy, double bronze doors are set underneath an eagle, with a shield at its feet. The four Doric columns on the façade portico support a frieze with the inscription *PERPETUAL LIGHT UPON THEM SHINES*. Above the portico, a row of carved garlands is located directly below a row of Greek keys. A carved stone eagle rests on each corner of the roof.

The interior walls are inscribed with the names of 563 American soldiers, sailors, and coastguardsmen who died at sea during World War I, and whose remains were not recovered. The inscriptions are listed according to branch of service. The Walls of the Missing include many of those who lost their lives in the waters around the British Isles and France in World War I, including those on board the *President Lincoln*, *Tampa*, *Tuscania*, and *Otranto*.

The interior of the chapel is illuminated by small stained glass windows. Across from the entryway, the chapel altar is framed by two columns. A cross is located above the altar, along with a Star of David and two tablets symbolizing the Ten Commandments. The altar is flanked by flags of the United States, Belgium, Italy, France, and the United Kingdom. On either side of the flags are two brown marble columns. The Great Seal of the United States is set in wall above the chapel, and in the center of the floor.



Chapel interior and the Walls of the Missing. (ABMC photo/Warrick Page)

## NOTABLE MEMORIALS

- ★ Gunner's Mate First Class Osmond Ingram, Walls of the Missing. Medal of Honor recipient. While off the coast of Ireland on October 15, 1917, Ingram saw a German submarine fire a torpedo at his ship, the USS Cassin. In an attempt to contain the potential explosion, Ingram tried to jettison the ship's depth charges before it was hit by a torpedo. He was too late, and when the torpedo struck Ingram was blown overboard and lost. Ingram was the only casualty of the attack; his actions saved the ship and the lives of many onboard. On February 23, 1919, the Navy launched the USS Osmond Ingram (DD 225), the first Naval vessel named for an enlisted man.
- ★ Chief Special Mechanic Gustaf Sundquist, Walls of the Missing. Medal of Honor recipient for his actions during the Spanish-American War. On May 11, 1898, off the coast of Cuba, Sundquist displayed extraordinary bravery and coolness under fire while onboard the USS Nashville. During World War I, Sundquist was stationed in France when he drowned while swimming in the Bay of Biscay.



Visitor building. (ABMC photo/Warrick Page)

## VISITOR BUILDING

The single-story visitor building is located on the western edge of the cemetery, next to a small parking lot. It is open to the public. The cemetery superintendent's office and a guest register are located inside.

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## THE AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION

The American Battle Monuments Commission—guardian of America's overseas commemorative cemeteries and memorials—honors the service, achievements and sacrifice of the United States armed forces. Since 1923, ABMC has executed this mission by (1) the erection and maintenance of suitable memorial shrines, in the U.S. when authorized by Congress and where U.S. forces have served overseas since April 6, 1917; (2) designing, constructing, operating, and maintaining permanent American military burial grounds in foreign countries; and (3) supervising the design and construction on foreign soil of U.S. military memorials, monuments, and markers by other U.S. citizens and organizations, both public and private, and encouraging their maintenance.

In performance of its mission, ABMC administers, operates, and maintains 26 permanent American military cemeteries; 31 federal memorials, monuments, and markers, and eight nonfederal memorials. Three memorials are located in the U.S.; the remaining memorials and all of ABMC's cemeteries are located in 17 foreign countries, the U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the British dependency of Gibraltar.

In addition to grave sites, the World War I and II cemeteries and three memorials on U.S. soil commemorate, on Walls of the Missing, U.S. service members who went missing in action or were lost or buried at sea during World War I and II, and the Korean and Vietnam Wars.

# AMERICAN MILITARY CEMETERIES AROUND THE WORLD

## BELGIUM

**Ardenne American Cemetery**  
164, Route du Condroz  
B-1421, Neupré

**Flanders Field American Cemetery**  
Wortegemseweg 117  
8790, Waregem

**Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery**  
159, rue du Mémorial Américain  
4852, Hombourg

## NETHERLANDS

**Netherlands American Cemetery**  
AM Begraafplaats, 1  
6269 NA Margraten

## LUXEMBOURG

**Luxembourg American Cemetery**  
50, Val du Scheid  
L-2517, Luxembourg

## ITALY

**Florence American Cemetery**  
Via Cassia, S.N.  
50023 Tavarnuzze (Firenze)

**Sicily-Rome American Cemetery**  
Piazzale Kennedy, 1  
00048, Nettuno

## TUNISIA

**North Africa American Cemetery**  
BP 346, Sidi Bou Said  
2026 Tunis

## PANAMA

**Corozal American Cemetery**  
Calle Rufina Alfaro, Edif. #6566  
Panama City

## PHILIPPINES

**Manila American Cemetery**  
McKinley Road  
Global City, Taguig

**Clark Veterans Cemetery**  
Manuel A. Roxas Highway  
Pampanga

## MEXICO

**Mexico City National Cemetery**  
Virginia Fabregas No. 31, Col. San Rafeal  
C.P. 06470, Mexico, D.F.  
Mexico City, Mexico

## FRANCE

**Aisne-Marne American Cemetery**  
Cimetière Américain  
02400, Belleau

**Brittany American Cemetery**  
Cimetière Américain  
50240, Saint James

**Epinal American Cemetery**  
385, Rue de la Rondenolle  
88000, Dinozé

**Lafayette Escadrille Memorial Cemetery**  
Floral arrangements and correspondence should be  
sent to Suresnes American Cemetery (below).

**Lorraine American Cemetery**  
Avenue de Fayetteville  
57500, St. Avold

**Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery**  
Rue du Général Pershing  
55110, Romagne-sous-Montfaucon

**Normandy American Cemetery**  
Omaha Beach  
14710, Colleville-sur-Mer

**Oise-Aisne American Cemetery**  
Cimetière Américain, CD 2  
02130, Seringes-et-Nesles

**Rhône American Cemetery**  
553, Blvd John F. Kennedy  
83300 Draguignan

**Somme American Cemetery**  
Rue de Macquincourt  
02420, Bony

**St. Mihiel American Cemetery**  
Route du Verdun  
54470, Thiaucourt

**Suresnes American Cemetery**  
123 Boulevard Washington  
92150, Suresnes

## ENGLAND

**Brookwood American Cemetery**  
Dawney Hill-Brookwood  
Woking, Surrey, GU24 0JB

**Cambridge American Cemetery**  
Coton, Cambridge, CB 23 7PH



## AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION

**"Time will not dim the glory of their deeds."**

GENERAL OF THE ARMIES JOHN J. PERSHING

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**[WWW.ABMC.GOV](http://WWW.ABMC.GOV)**