

Autumn Campaigns, Battle of the Bulge, Across the Rhine

KEY: † Military Cemetery



1st Infantry Division Memorial

The obelisk at Butgenbach (Buldingen), Belgium, commemorates the 458 soldiers of the 1st Infantry Division ("The Big Red One") killed between December 16, 1944 and February 7, 1945.



American Battle Monuments Commission

This agency of the United States government operates and maintains 26 American cemeteries and 31 memorials, monuments and markers in 17 countries. The Commission works to fulfill the vision of its first chairman, General of the Armies John J. Pershing. Pershing, commander of the American Expeditionary Forces during World War I, promised that "time will not dim the glory of their deeds."

Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery and Memorial

The U.S. 1st Infantry Division liberated this site on September 11, 1944. A battlefield cemetery was established on September 28, 1944. The government of Belgium granted its free use as a permanent burial ground in perpetuity without charge or taxation.

The cemetery offers free guided tours on request pending staff availability.



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For more information on this site and other ABMC commemorative sites, please visit www.abmc.gov



ENGLISH

AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION

Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery and Memorial



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

- General of the Armies John J. Pershing



MAJOR CAMPAIGNS, SEPTEMBER 1944 – MARCH 1945

The Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery holds fallen Americans of two major efforts. One involved the First U.S. Army's drive from September through December 1944 through northern France, Belgium, Holland, and Luxembourg into Germany. The second included the Battle of the Bulge and its elimination, enabling allied forces to advance farther into Germany.

SEPTEMBER 8, 1944: First Army liberated Liège, Belgium.

MID SEPTEMBER TO OCTOBER 21: First Army besieged and captured Aachen, Germany.

MID SEPTEMBER THROUGH MARCH 1945: U.S. forces engaged in sustained fierce fighting in the Hürtgen Forest.

DECEMBER 16: German counteroffensive in the Ardennes (Battle of the Bulge) stopped the Allied advance for one month.

JANUARY 3, 1945: First Army, reinforced by British XXX Corps, counterattacked the northern flank of The Bulge.

JANUARY 13: First and Third Armies linked up at Houffalize.

FEBRUARY 23: With the Bulge erased, Ninth Army launched Operation GRENADE, crossed the Roer River, and advanced eastward toward Wesel.

MARCH 1: 12th Army Group, composed of First and Third Armies, began to execute Operation LUMBERJACK. First Army reached Cologne on March 5. Third Army advanced through the Eifel to the Rhine River.

By March 21, U.S., British, and Canadian forces reached the west bank of the Rhine River from the Netherlands south to Mannheim, and were poised for the major push across the Rhine and into the final offensive that led to victory in Europe on May 8.

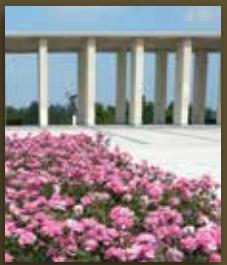
Visitor Room

Here you can meet our staff and get your questions answered, sign the guest register, and view the maps.



Roses

Along the paved approach to the memorial are large beds of pink Polyantha roses. Adjoining the colonnade are other masses of white roses.



Colonnade

The rectangular piers of the colonnade present the names of 450 missing. Rosettes mark those since recovered and identified. Seals of the states and territories are inscribed on the piers.



Chapel

Hung along the west wall of the austere chapel are flags of the Army Air Forces, Navy Infantry Battalion, Infantry, Field Artillery, Engineers, Armor, Jewish Chaplains and Christian Chaplains.



The Maps

Two maps of military operations, carved in black granite, appear in the visitor room. They display achievements of allied forces in critical campaigns.



Graves in Winter

The graves area comprises eight plots separated by the broad axial mall and longitudinal grass paths. The 7,987 headstones are arranged in broad sweeping curves upon the gently sloping lawn.

Layout

From the parking areas east of Highway N-608 a short walk leads to the memorial. The chapel is at its north end; the south end contains the visitor room. The graves area extends eastward from the colonnade.

Useful Information

DIMENSIONS: 57 acres
HEADSTONES: 7,987

LATIN CROSSES: 7,849
STARS OF DAVID: 138
TABLETS OF THE MISSING: 450

SETS OF BROTHERS: 37 sets of two brothers, plus one set of three brothers
DEDICATED: July 9, 1960

Headstone Location

PLOT: _____

ROW: _____

GRAVE: _____



Sculpture

The bronze statue of the Angel of Peace is bestowing the olive branch upon the heroic dead for whom he makes special commendation to the Almighty.



Photo: The National Archives

