

American Expeditionary Forces in World War I

KEY: † World War I Military Cemetery † World War II Military Cemetery



Paris is visible to the east of the Suresnes American Cemetery.



Photo: The National Archives

3rd Division surgeon examines casualty during the Aisne-Marne operation, July 22, 1918.



Photo: The National Archives

Gen. John J. Pershing, commander of the American Expeditionary Forces, at Chaumont, October 19, 1918.

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.”

Suresnes American Cemetery and Memorial

The cemetery and its memorial honor American dead from both World Wars. Most of the World War I dead died of wounds or sickness in hospitals of the Services of Supply. Many were victims of the influenza epidemic of 1918-1919, also known as the spanish flu. France granted perpetual use of this land free of charge or taxation.

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



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Suresnes American Cemetery
123 Boulevard Washington
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GPS N48 52.314 E2 13.126

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

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ENGLISH

AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION

Suresnes American Cemetery and Memorial



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- General of the Armies John J. Pershing

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THE AMERICAN EXPEDITION-ARY FORCES IN WORLD WAR I

World War I began in August 1914. While the United States remained neutral, the Allies fought the Central Powers across Europe, most intensely along the Western Front. Increasing German hostile actions provoked the United States into the conflict in 1917.

- APRIL 6, 1917:** United States declared war on Germany.
- JUNE 14, 1917:** Gen. John J. Pershing arrived in Paris to command the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF).
- JUNE 26, 1917:** U.S. forces began landing in France to begin the buildup before combat.
- SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER 1917:** Development of major AEF hospital centers began.
- MARCH 21, 1918:** Germany launched a series of major offensives on the Western Front.
- MAY 28, 1918:** The U.S. 1st Division captured Cantigny, the first offensive combat action by a U.S. division-sized force.
- JULY 1918:** 313,410 American service members arrived in Europe, the maximum for any month.
- SEPTEMBER 1918:** The influenza pandemic accelerated worldwide, affecting units in the U.S. and abroad.
- NOVEMBER 7, 1918:** The number of American soldiers in AEF hospitals crested at 190,564.
- NOVEMBER 11:** The war ended with signing of the Armistice. Strength of the AEF on that date was 1,981,701. On November 11, 1918, AEF hospitals provided 192,844 beds.

During the war, 81,067 American soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines gave their lives in Europe and European waters. At war's end American dead were buried in approximately 2,400 places in Europe. Provisions were made for permanent burials according to wishes of the next of kin. Eight permanent American cemeteries, including Suresnes, were established in Europe.

World War I Loggia

On the right, a bas-relief portrays a group of soldiers carrying an empty bier. A list of other World War I cemeteries in Europe completes the text.



Chapel

The Angel of Victory bears a palm branch to graves of the fallen. Four plaques bear the names of 974 men buried or lost at sea during World War I.



World War II Loggia


A bas-relief on the interior wall portrays soldiers bearing shrouded remains of an unknown comrade. An inscription and a list of other World War II cemeteries also appear.



World War II Memorial Room


The white marble statue here is named "Memory." An inscription on the wall reads: let us here highly resolve that these honored dead shall not have died in vain.





World War I Memorial Room

Entering the World War I memorial room, the visitor faces a pure white statue named "Remembrance." The marble walls and floors of subdued shades highlight the statue.



Visitor Building

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





Graves Area

The deceased are buried in four plots. All repose equally in everlasting dignity. Twenty-four World War II unknowns are buried together in Plot D.



Photo: The National Archives

Americans pay their respects to the honored dead at Suresnes, 1919.

Useful Information

- DIMENSIONS:** 7.5 acres
- HEADSTONES:** 1,565
- LATIN CROSSES:** 1,543
- STARS OF DAVID:** 22
- TABLETS OF THE MISSING:** 974
- SIBLINGS:** One pair of brothers, one pair of sisters
- DEDICATED:** May 30, 1919



Headstone Location

PLOT:.....

ROW:.....

GRAVE:.....