

From Ardennes-Alsace to the Rhine and Beyond

KEY: † Military Cemetery



Photo: The National Archives
A B-17G aircrew of the 379th Bombardment Group (H), Eighth Air Force

Ardennes American Cemetery and Memorial

Forces of the 3rd Armored Division liberated the Neuville-en-Condroz area on September 7, 1944. From its beginning as a temporary cemetery in February 1945, the location became unique, with burials from every major battle in World War II, including the Pacific. The government of Belgium granted its free use as a permanent burial ground in perpetuity without charge or taxation.

American Battle Monuments Commission

This agency of the United States government operates and maintains 25 American cemeteries and 26 memorials, monuments and markers in 16 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."



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



Ardennes American Cemetery and Memorial

American Battle Monuments Commission



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FROM ARDENNES-ALSACE TO THE RHINE AND BEYOND

The Allied main effort in autumn 1944 advanced through Belgium and pushed toward Germany. After sustained winter combat during the Battle of the Bulge, the Allies pursued three major successive objectives: destruction of enemy forces west of the Rhine, seizure of bridgeheads across the river, and then coordinated drives into the heart of Germany.

SEPTEMBER 7, 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 prolonged 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 8: Temporary Ardennes cemetery opened at Neuville-en-Condroz.

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 Operation LUMBERJACK. First Army reached Cologne on March 5.

By March 21, U.S., British, and Canadian forces reached the west bank of the Rhine from the Netherlands south to Mannheim. Third Army crossed the Rhine at Oppenheim on March 22. The Allies were poised for the major push across the Rhine and into the final offensive that led to victory in Europe on May 8.

Chapel

The chapel is a place to pause and reflect. Light from a round window illuminates the angel outlined above the altar.



The Memorial

The American eagle carved in high relief on the memorial's south facade hovers above three figures symbolizing Justice, Liberty, and Truth. Below it, thirteen stars represent the original United States.



Tablets of the Missing

Names and particulars of 462 of our missing are engraved in 12 large slabs of dark gray granite, six each on the east and west sides of the memorial.



Graves Area

Grave plots arranged in the form of a Greek cross separated by two broad intersecting paths hold the remains of 5,323 war dead.



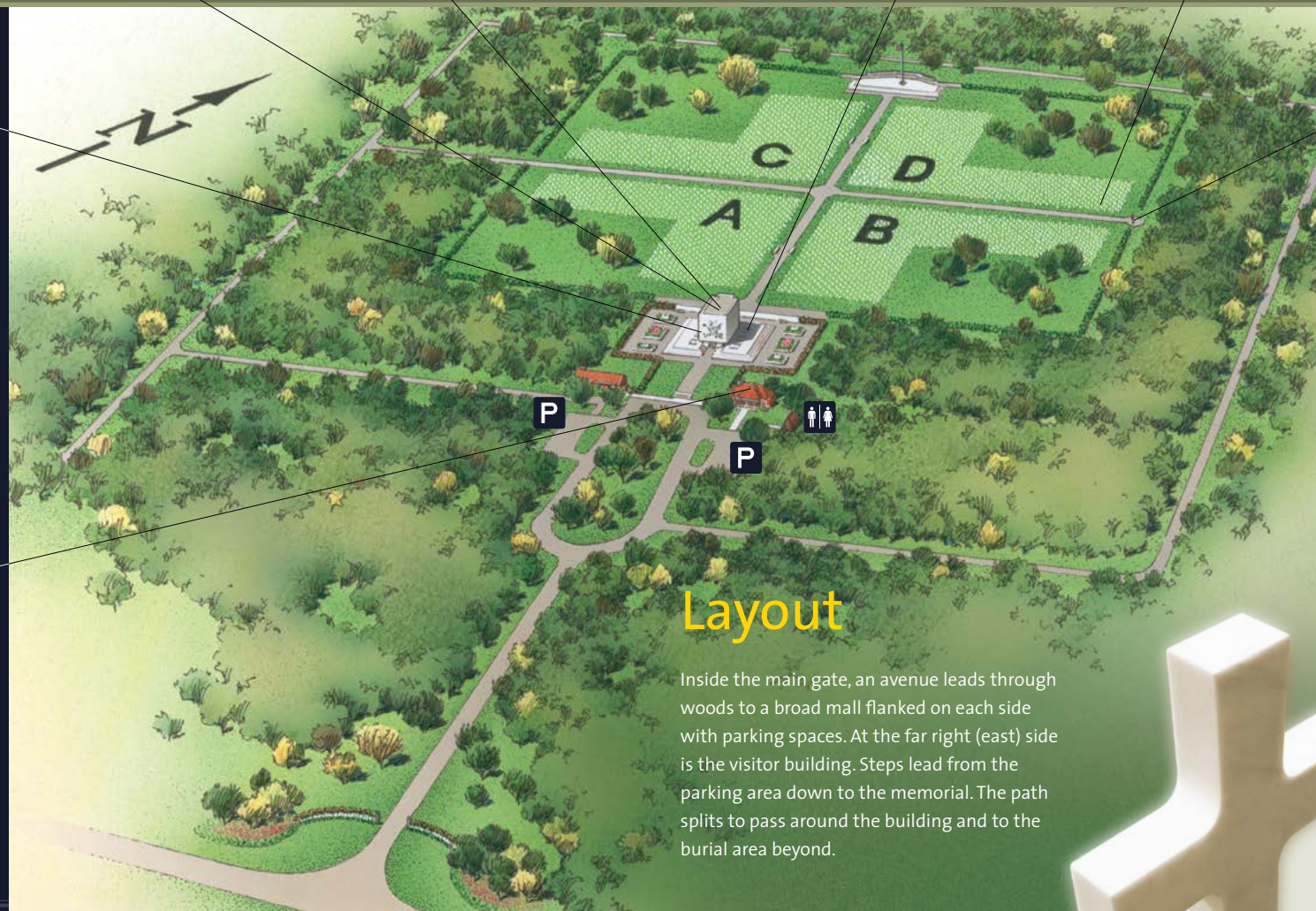
Maps

Large battle maps on three walls of the chapel explain major campaigns from the Normandy invasion through the "Battle of the Bulge" to victory in May 1945.



Visitor Building

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



Layout

Inside the main gate, an avenue leads through woods to a broad mall flanked on each side with parking spaces. At the far right (east) side is the visitor building. Steps lead from the parking area down to the memorial. The path splits to pass around the building and to the burial area beyond.



Statue of "Youth"

A boy or young man holding a sword and laurel wreath reminds us that those buried here died in the prime of their lives. They embody the meaning of sacrifice.



Photo: The National Archives
The first Army nurses to cross the Rhine with the 51st Field Hospital.

Headstone Location

PLOT:

ROW:

GRAVE:

Useful Information

DIMENSIONS: 90.5 acres
HEADSTONES: 5,311
LATIN CROSSES: 5,183

STARS OF DAVID: 128
MISSING IN ACTION: 462
UNKNOWN: 792

SETS OF BROTHERS: 11
DEDICATED: July 11, 1960