The Meuse-Argonne Campaign

**September 26:** After intense artillery barrages blasted German defenses, First Army units launched the assault at 5:30 a.m.

**September 27:** U.S. 79th Division captured Montfaucon, highest point in the region and a key German position. German reinforcements swarmed in along the front.

**October 3:** First Army consolidated positions gained since Sep. 26.

**October 14:** The offensive’s second phase began. Heights of Romagne and Cunel were seized.

**November 1:** The Armistice became effective at 11:00 a.m. local time.

More than 1.2 million U.S. troops fought during the 47 days of the Meuse-Argonne Offensive. About 117,000 were killed or wounded. General Pershing said, “The success stands out as one of the very great achievements in the history of American Arms.”

American Battle Monuments Commission

This agency of the United States government operates and maintains 26 American cemeteries and memorials in 16 countries. The Commission works to fulfill the vision of its first chairman, General of the Armies John J. Pershing, commander of the American Expeditionary Forces during World War I. Pershing’s vision is that “time will not dim the glory of their deeds.”

Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery and Memorial

This is the largest American cemetery in Europe. A temporary cemetery was established here October 14, 1918 on terrain captured by the 35th and 36th Divisions. The land on which it rests has been granted free use by the French government as a permanent burial ground in perpetuity without charge or taxation.

American Battle Monuments Commission

For more information on this site and other ABMC commemorative sites, please visit www.abmc.gov
Graves
The graves area on the southern slope of the valley is divided into eight rectangular plots lettered from A to H. Each plot is bounded by square trimmed linden trees.

Entrance
After passing through the entrance pylons, the broad east-west entrance mall with large pool appears. From here, the small valley across which the cemetery is located.

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

Large Pool
The circular pool midway along the east-west mall enhances the visitors’ experience with its fountain and flowering lilies.

Chapel
The chapel occupies the center of the memorial. The altar is backed by a semicircle of flags of the United States and the principal Allied nations in World War I.

Headstone
A Star of David marks headstones for those of the Jewish faith, and a Latin cross denotes all others. Headstones of Medal of Honor recipients are inscribed in gold.

Useful Information
From the entrance, visitors see the broad expanse of the site. The road to the left leads to parking and the visitor building, and the start of a memorable experience.

Points of Interest

Sommepy Monument
The Sommepy Monument atop Blanc Mont Ridge commemorates the achievements of the 77,000 Americans who served in the region during the summer and fall of 1918. GPS N49 17.05 E04 32.18

Montfaucon Monument
The Montfaucon Monument commemorates the 954 names engraved on panels in the two loggias flanking the memorial to east and west.

Gold Star Mother Pilgrimages
More than 6,600 mothers and widows visited the graves of their loved ones at AEF cemeteries in Europe during the Gold Star Mother Pilgrimages of 1931-1933, conducted by the Army Quartermaster Corps.

Memorial Loggia
The names of 954 missing are engraved on panels in the two loggias flanking the memorial to east and west.

Chapal
The chapel occupies the center of the memorial. The altar is backed by a semicircle of flags of the United States and the principal Allied nations in World War I.

Headstone Location

“Lost Battalion” Site
From October 2-7, Major C. W. Whittlesey of the 77th Division held his men together through German encirclement, and 50 percent killed and wounded. He received the Medal of Honor.

GPS N49 15.10 E04 54.90

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