

# Allied Operations, September 1944 – Spring 1945

**KEY:** † Military Cemetery    🪂 Parachute Drop    🏰 West Wall – German Defensive Line



Photo: The National Archives



## Netherlands American Cemetery and Memorial

The U.S. 30th Infantry Division liberated this site on September 13, 1944. A battlefield cemetery was established here on November 10, 1944. The government of the Netherlands 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 24 American cemeteries and 25 memorials, monuments and markers in 15 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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The broad Allied advance across Belgium and the Netherlands included the U.S. 12th and U.K. 21st Army Groups as well as the First Canadian and Second British Armies. This advance ultimately resulted in the penetration into Germany and hastened the end of the war.

For more information on this site and other  
ABMC commemorative sites, please visit  
[www.abmc.gov](http://www.abmc.gov)



## ALLIED OPERATIONS, SEPT. 1944 – SPRING 1945

Successful Allied operations followed landings in Normandy and Southern France. However, logistical shortages slowed momentum. Autumn priority in Northern France, Belgium, and the Netherlands was given to capture of Channel ports and to advance through or around German frontier fortifications (West Wall) into Northern Germany.

Key actions in the ensuing campaign included:

**SEPTEMBER 14:** Maastricht was the first Dutch city to be liberated.

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

**MID SEPTEMBER THROUGH MARCH** saw sustained fierce fighting in the Huertgen Forest.

**SEPTEMBER 17:** Operation MARKET GARDEN began in the Netherlands. Airborne and armored forces seized key bridges, but not the northernmost bridge at Arnhem.

**NOVEMBER 16 – DECEMBER 15:** U.S. forces advanced slowly toward the Roer River.

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

**FEBRUARY 23:** U.S. Ninth Army began crossing the Roer River in Operation GRENADE.

**MARCH 23-24:** U.S., British, and Canadian forces launched Operation PLUNDER, crossing the Rhine River around Wesel. Its airborne component, Operation VARSITY, put U.S. and British airborne divisions north of Wesel. This cleared the way for Allied forces to encircle the vital Ruhr region and advance to the North German Plain.

Throughout the period, Allied aircrews flew hazardous strategic missions against German industrial targets and tactical missions in support of the ground forces.

### Visitor Building

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



### Court of Honor with Reflecting Pool

The names and information of the 1,722 Missing of the Army and Army Air Force are engraved on the walls flanking the reflecting pool of the Court of Honor.



### The Maps

Three maps engraved on walls within the museum present: (a) the airborne Operation MARKET GARDEN; (b) crossing of the Roer and advance to the Rhine; (c) military operations from Normandy landings to war's end.



### The Chapel

The chapel is on the east, or burial, side of the tower. Its bronze doors depict a Tree of Life in outline.



### "The Mourning Woman" Statue

Bronze sculptures at the east end of the Court of honor include the "Mourning Woman," three doves, and the new shoot rising from a war-destroyed tree.



### Memorial Tower

The tower rises 101 feet above the east end of the Court of Honor. Its exterior walls are built of English Portland stone.



## Layout

From the Visitor Building and museum room, the Court of Honor leads to the tower containing the chapel. Farther east, the 16 plots of the burial area are defined by the broad central mall and grass paths. The 8,301 headstones sweep in parallel arcs across the green lawn.



### The Crown in the Chapel

Suspended from the chapel ceiling, the lighting fixture presented by the Dutch people displays a royal crown surrounded by tiny lights recalling the skies above.



Photo: The National Archives

## Headstone Location

PLOT: .....

ROW: .....

GRAVE: .....

## Useful Information

DIMENSIONS: 65.5 acres  
HEADSTONES: 8,301  
LATIN CROSSES: 8,122

STARS OF DAVID: 179  
MISSING IN ACTION: 1,722  
SETS OF BROTHERS: 40

MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS: 6  
DEDICATED: July 7, 1960

