Autumn Campaigns, Battle of the Bulge, Across the Rhine

KEY: ♦ Military Cemetery

American Battle Monuments Commission
This agency of the United States government operates and maintains 26 American cemeteries and 30 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.

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

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

December 2018
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.

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**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.

**Roses**

Along the paved approach to the memorial are large beds of pink Polyantha roses. Adorning 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.

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**Useful Information**

- **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.**
- **The Maps**
  - Two maps of military operations are carved in black granite. They display achievements of allied forces in critical campaigns.
- **Roses**
  - Large beds of pink Polyantha roses adorn the memorial.
- **Colonnade**
  - The colonnade presents the names of 450 missing.
- **Chapel**
  - Flags of various military units are hung on the west wall.
- **The Bronze Statue of the Angel of Peace**
  - The bronze statue of the Angel of Peace bestows the olive branch upon the heroic dead for whom he makes special commendation to the Almighty.

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**Headstone Location**

**PLOT:**

**ROW:**

**GRAVE:**

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**Photo:** The National Archives

U.S. soldiers march to cut off the St. Vith-Houffalize road in Belgium.