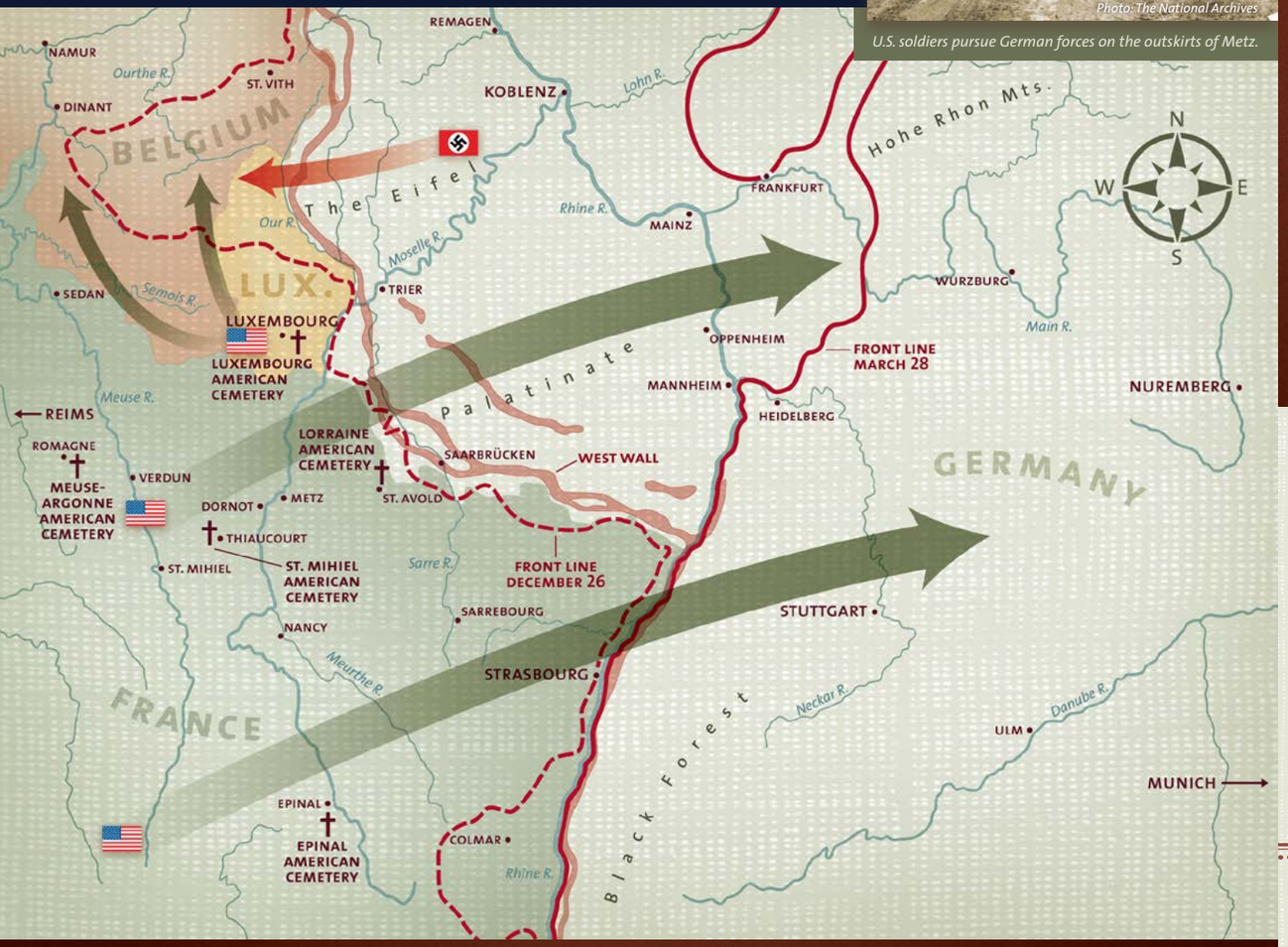
From the Moselle to the Rhine and Onward

KEY: † Military Cemetery

U.S. soldiers pursue German forces on the outskirts of Metz.



Lorraine American Cemetery and Memorial

This is the largest American World War II cemetery in Europe. The U.S. 80th Infantry Division liberated the surrounding area on November 27, 1944. A temporary military cemetery was established nearby on March 16, 1945. Free use as a permanent burial ground was granted by the French government 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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Lorraine American Cemetery
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For more information on this site and other ABMC commemorative sites, please visit
www.abmc.gov

Lorraine American Cemetery and Memorial

American Battle Monuments Commission

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MOSELLE RIVER TO V-E DAY, 1944 – 1945

Third U.S. Army resumed its pursuit of German forces across eastern France in early September 1944. Seventh U.S. Army, reinforced by the French First Army, advanced northward after landings in southern France. The Ninth Air Force and First Tactical Air Force rendered vital air support throughout the operations.

September 8, 1944: Third Army's 5th Infantry Division crossed the Moselle River near Dornot.

September 21: Third and Seventh Armies linked up near Epinal, extending the Allied front line from the North Sea to the Swiss border.

November 8: Third Army began its offensive toward the Saar region.

November 20: Seventh Army liberated Sarrebourg.

November 22: Third Army liberated Metz, bypassing German units in outer forts.

November 27: Third Army liberated St. Avold.

December 13: Last of the forts surrounding Metz surrendered.

December 19: Third Army maneuvered northward to counterattack during the "Battle of the Bulge."

January 1, 1945: Germany launched Operation NORDWIND, attacking U.S. and French forces along the Saar River. The allies held firm.

March 9: Third Army crossed the Rhine at Oppenheim. Its units pressed onward, reaching Frankfurt on March 26.

Allied forces made multiple crossings of the Rhine from north to south throughout March, then pushed eastward against diminishing German opposition and liberating concentration and POW camps en route. By April 18, elements of Third Army pressed through Germany and crossed into Czechoslovakia. Seventh Army captured Munich on April 30. Germany surrendered unconditionally on May 7 at Reims. V-E Day, May 8, ended the war in Europe.

The Memorial

Above the memorial entrance, a tall figure of St. Nabor extends his blessing upon those resting here and commemorated on the Walls of the Missing that flank the tower.

Chapel

Five sculptured figures on the west wall personify the eternal struggle for freedom. King David, Emperor Constantine, King Arthur, and George Washington reinforce the youthful figure in the center.

Visitor Building

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

Graves Area

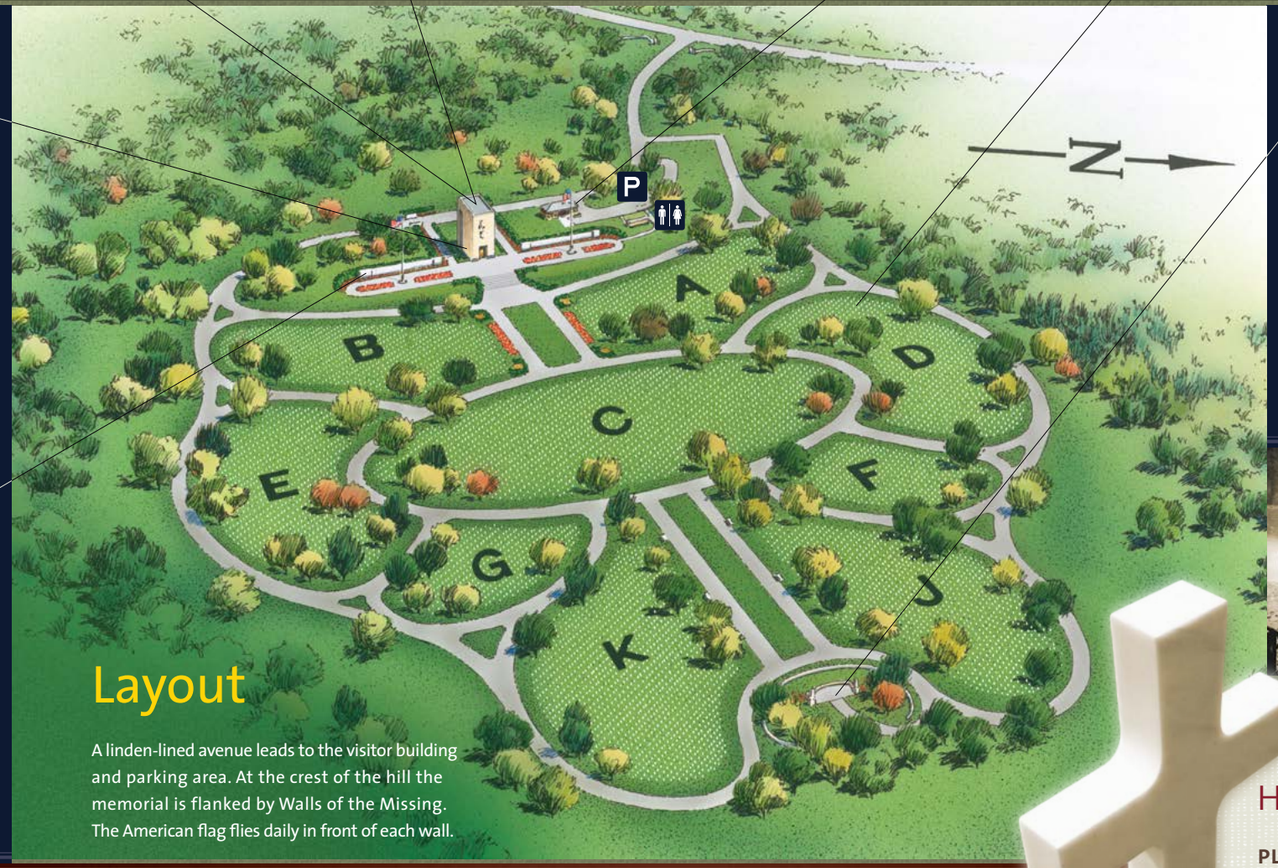
The area consists of nine plots laid out about the axis in a symmetrical pattern, divided by gracefully curved paths. These 10,489 dead gave their lives in our country's service.

Maps

On the chapel's south wall two maps of glazed ceramic portray military operations in Western Europe and also the fighting in the region of St. Avold.

Walls of the Missing

Walls of the Missing extend north and south of the memorial. They display the name, rank, organization, and state of 444 men of the U.S. Army and Army Air Forces.



Layout

A linden-lined avenue leads to the visitor building and parking area. At the crest of the hill the memorial is flanked by Walls of the Missing. The American flag flies daily in front of each wall.

Overlook

At the cemetery's east end the ground rises to a knoll with the overlook. From it, one views the entire cemetery and the countryside for miles to the west.

Photo: The National Archives

African-American soldiers lay a smoke screen to cover action over the Saar River.

Useful Information

DIMENSIONS: 113.5 acres
HEADSTONES: 10,487
LATIN CROSSES: 10,285

STARS OF DAVID: 202
MISSING IN ACTION: 444
UNKNOWNS: 151

SETS OF BROTHERS: 30
DEDICATED: July 19, 1960

Headstone Location

PLOT: .....

ROW: .....

GRAVE: .....