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.
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.
- **SEPTEMBER 16** to **OCTOBER 21**: U.S. First Army besieged and captured Aachen, Germany.
- **SEPTEMBER THROUGH MARCH**: 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.

**Useful Information**

**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 Rhine and advance to the Ruhr; (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 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.

**Headstone Location**

**The Mourning Woman**
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.

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

**Layout**
From the visitor building and museum room, the Court of Honor leads to the tower containing the chapel. Further 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.

**Useful Information**

- **DIMENSIONS**: 65.5 acres
- **BURIALS**: 8,301
- **LATIN CROSSES**: 8,122
- **STARS OF DAVID**: 179
- **SETS OF BROTHERS**: 40
- **MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS**: 6
- **DEDICATED**: July 7, 1960