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.”

Flanders Field American Cemetery and Memorial
The Flanders Field American Cemetery is the only World War I American cemetery in Belgium. It lies on a battlefield where the 91st Division fought during the Ypres-Lys offensive, from October 30 to November 11, 1918. The government of Belgium granted its free use as a permanent burial ground in perpetuity without charge or taxation.

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

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“Time will not dim the glory of their deeds.”
- General of the Armies John J. Pershing

Kemmel American Monument
Honors service of the 27th and 30th Divisions, August 18 to September 4, 1918.

Audenarde American Monument
Honors service of the 37th and 91st Divisions and 53rd Artillery Brigade, October 30 to November 11, 1918.
World War I began in August 1914. While the United States remained neutral, the Allies fought the Central Powers across Europe, most intensely along the Western Front. Increasing German hostile actions provoked the United States into the conflict in 1917.

April 6, 1917: The United States declared war on Germany.


June 26: U.S. Forces began landing in France to begin training and buildup before combat.

March 21, 1918: Germany began a series of major offensives along the Western Front.

May 1918: The U.S. 27th and 30th Divisions arrived in France. They became major fighting units of the U.S. II Corps operating under British command in Belgium.

May 28: The U.S. 1st Division captured Cantigny, France, the first offensive combat action by a U.S. division-sized force.


October 17: The U.S. 37th and 91st Divisions moved up from the Meuse-Argonne Offensive to join the French Army in Belgium, part of the Group of Armies in Flanders commanded by King Albert I of Belgium.

October 31, 1918: Allied forces launched the second Ypres-Lys Offensive toward the Escaut (Scheldt) River.

November 11, 1918: The Armistice became effective, ending hostilities.

More than 81,000 American service members died in Europe and European waters, including 1,043 on Belgian soil.