The Meuse-Argonne Campaign

U.S. and Allied counteroffensives in the summer of 1918 stopped German advances. In September, plans were made to strike German forces along the entire Western Front. U.S. First Army, commanded by Gen. John J. Pershing, received the mission of defeating German forces in the region between the Meuse River and the Argonne Forest northward to Sedan. Formidable enemy defensive positions in depth extended miles north of the front lines.

September 26: After intense artillery barrages blasted German defenses, First Army units launched the assault at 5:30 a.m.

September 27: U.S. 79th Division captured Montfaucon, highest point in the region and a key German position. German reinforcements swarmed in along the front.

October 3: First Army consolidated positions gained since Sep. 26.

October 14: The offensive’s second phase began. Heights of Romagne and Cunel were seized.

October 31: U.S. and French forces finished clearing the Argonne Forest.

November 1: Final phase of the offensive began. Units of U.S. V Corps seized critical heights around Barriocour. Other units began crossing the Meuse River and advancing northwestward across the Woevre Plain.

November 7: U.S. I Corps units captured heights on south bank of the Meuse River overlooking Sedan.

November 11: The Armistice became effective at 11:00 a.m. local time.

More than 1.2 million U.S. troops fought during the 47 days of the Meuse-Argonne Offensive. About 117,000 were killed or wounded. General Pershing said, “The success stands out as one of the very great achievements in the history of American Arms.”

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

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, commander of the American Expeditionary Forces during World War I, that "time will not dim the glory of their deeds."
Points of Interest

**Graves**
The grounds are organized into eight rectangular plots lettered from A to H. Each plot is surrounded by trees and marked by headstones.

**Entrance**
After passing through the entrance pylons, the broad east-west entrance mall with large pool appears. It crosses the small valley across which the cemetery is located.

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

**Large Pool**
The circular pool midway along the east-west mall enhances the visitors’ experience with its fountain and flowering lilies.

**Remembering the Fallen**

*From October 2-7, Major C. W. Whittlesey of the 77th Division held his men together through German encirclement, and 50 percent killed and wounded. He received the Medal of Honor.*

**Lost Battalion** Site

**Sommepy Monument**

*The Sommepy Monument atop Blanc Mont Ridge commemorates the achievements of the 70,000 Americans who served in this region during the summer and fall of 1918.*

**Montfaucon Monument**

The Montfaucon Monument commemorates the victory of the U.S. First Army in the Meuse-Argonne Offensive and honors the earlier services of French forces on that battlefront.

**Chapel**
The chapel occupies the center of the memorial. The altar is backed by a semicircle of flags of the United States and the principal Allied nations in World War I.

**Layout**
From the entrance, visitors see the broad expanse of the site. The road to the left leads to parking and the visitor building, and the start of a memorable experience.

**Useful Information**

**Dimensions**
130.5 acres

**Headstones**
14,246

**Walls of the Missing**
954

**Sets of Brothers**
22

**Medal of Honor Recipients**
9

**Dedicated**
May 30, 1937

**Headstone Location**

**Plot:**

**Row:**

**Grave:**