American Expeditionary Forces in World War I

Suresnes American Cemetery and Memorial
The cemetery and its memorial honor American dead from both World Wars. Most of the World War I dead died of wounds or sickness in hospitals of the Services of Supply. Many were victims of the influenza epidemic of 1918-1919. France granted perpetual use of this land free of charge or taxation.

American Battle Monuments Commission
This agency of the United States government operates and maintains 24 American cemeteries and 25 memorials, monuments and markers in 15 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.”

Suresnes American Cemetery
323, Boulevard Washington
92150 Suresnes, France
Tel. +33.1.46.25.01.70
GPS N48 52.314 E2 13.126
ABMC Overseas Operations Office
68, rue du 19 Janvier
92380 Garches, France
Tel. +33.1.47.01.19.76

For more information on this site and other ABMC commemorative sites, please visit www.abmc.gov
The American Expeditionary Forces in World War I

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: United States declared war on Germany.
June 26, 1917: U.S. forces began landing in France to begin the buildup before combat.
September-December 1917: Development of major AEF hospital centers began.
March 21, 1918: Germany launched a series of major offensives on the Western Front.
May 28, 1918: The U.S. 1st Division captured Cantigny, the first offensive combat action by a U.S. division-sized force.
July 1918: 313,410 American service members arrived in Europe, the maximum for any month.
September 1918: The influenza pandemic accelerated worldwide, affecting units in the U.S. and abroad.
November 7, 1918: The number of American soldiers in AEF hospitals crested at 190,564.
November 11: The war ended with signing of the Armistice. Strength of the AEF on that date was 1,981,701. On November 11, 1918, AEF hospitals provided 192,844 beds.

During the war, 81,067 American soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines gave their lives in Europe and European waters. In the 2,400 places in Europe, provisions were made for permanent burials according to wishes of the next of kin. Eight permanent American cemeteries, including Suresnes, were established in Europe.

Headstone Location

Graves Area

The deceased are buried in four plots. All repose equally in everlasting dignity. Twenty-four World War II unknowns are buried together in Plot D.

Useful Information

DIMENSIONS: 7.5 acres
HEADSTONES: 1,565
LATIN CROSSES: 1,543
STARS OF DAVID: 22
MISSING IN ACTION: 974
UNKNOWNs: 6 (World War I), 24 (World War II)
siblings: One pair of brothers, one pair of sisters
Dedicated: May 30, 1919