U.S. Forces Bolster the Allies to Victory

KEY: † Military Cemetery ♟ Monument

Soldiers of the 119th Infantry, 30th Division, entering trenches at Watou, Belgium. July 9, 1918.

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.

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.

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."

American Battle Monuments Commission
2300 Clarendon Boulevard
Suite 500
Arlington, VA 22201
USA

Flanders Field American Cemetery
Wortegemseweg 117,
B-8790 Waregem, Belgium
TEL 0032 56 60.11.22
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ABMC Overseas Operations Office
68, rue du 19 Janvier
92380 Garches, France
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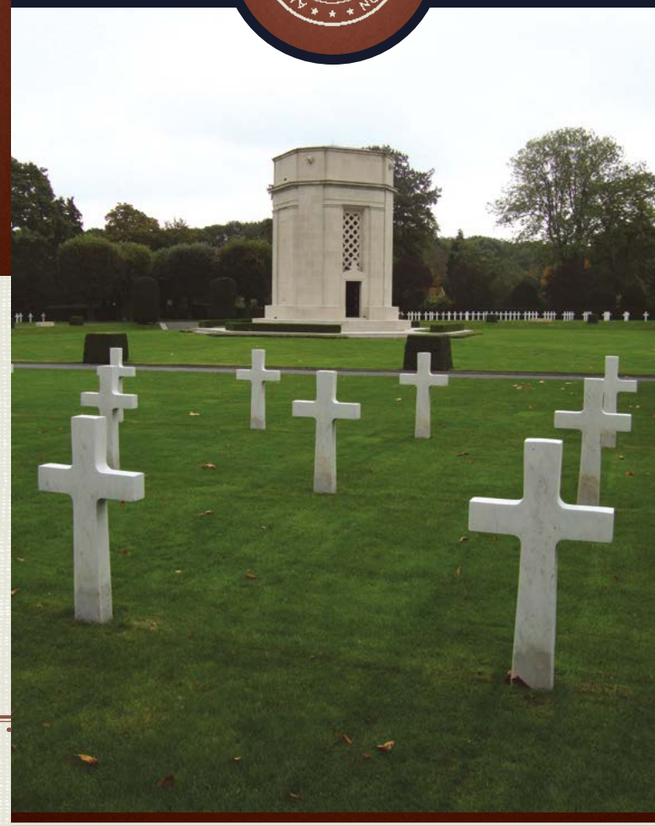
For more information on this site and other ABMC commemorative sites, please visit
www.abmc.gov

Flanders Field American Cemetery and Memorial

American Battle Monuments Commission



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U.S. FORCES BOLSTER THE ALLIES TO VICTORY

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 13: General John J. Pershing arrived in Boulogne-sur-Mer with a small staff contingent.

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.

August 19: The Ypres-Lys Offensive began. U.S. 27th and 30th Divisions assumed complete charge of adjoining divisional sectors along the Lys River salient south of Ypres, Belgium.

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.

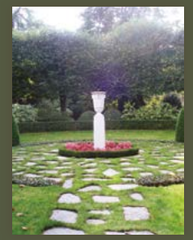
October 31, 1918: Allied forces launched the second Ypres-Lys Offensive toward the Escaut (Scheldt) River.

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.

Secluded Recesses

One of the three secluded recesses enclosed by trees is shown here. Sculptured insignia of the four American divisions that fought in Belgium are displayed on the urns.



Chapel

The altar, of Grand Antique marble, is flanked by candelabra with flagstaffs supporting flags of the United States, Great Britain, France, Italy, and Belgium.

Chapel Mosaic Ceiling

The mosaic depicts a lighted oil lamp under stars of Heaven with doves of peace flying toward the light.

Tablets of the Missing

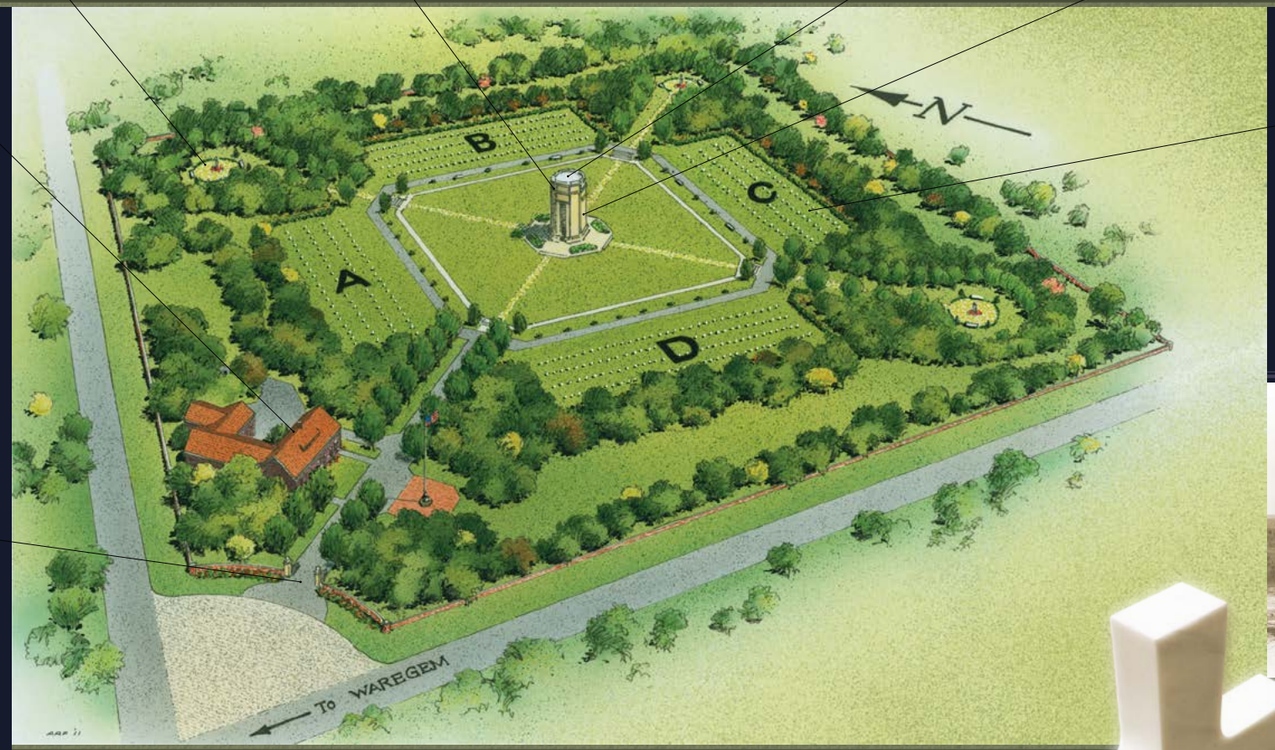
Panels on the chapel's side walls carry the names of 43 American soldiers who lost their lives in Belgium and lay in unknown graves.

Visitor Building

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

Main Entrance Gate

From the main entrance gate, the memorial chapel is immediately visible ahead. The visitor building is on the left.



Graves Area

The deceased are buried in four identical rectangular plots, each containing 92 graves.

Photo: The National Archives

Soldiers of the 146th Infantry, 37th Division, crossing the Scheldt River at Nederzwalm under fire.

Layout

After passing through the wrought-iron entrance gate, visitors follow a tree-lined graveled lane to the visitor building on the left. To the right is the flagpole terrace. The chapel and graves areas lie ahead.

Useful Information

DIMENSIONS: 6 acres
HEADSTONES: 368
LATIN CROSSES: 360

STARS OF DAVID: 8
MISSING IN ACTION: 43
UNKNOWNS: 21

DEDICATED: August 8, 1937

Headstone Location

PLOT: .....

ROW: .....

GRAVE: .....