

Suresnes American Cemetery, located just outside of Paris, is one of nine World War I cemeteries managed by the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC).

May 16, In the rolling hills of eastern France lie the remains of 10, Americans who gave their lives for their country. Beneath a perfectly manicured lawn between twin waving American flags, they rest at the Lorraine American Cemetery and Memorial. The cemetery, on the outskirts of St. The ABMC cemeteries have much in common – the graves, a memorial, walls of the missing, a chapel and a visitors center. The Lorraine cemetery is no different. From here you have a stunning view of the cemetery, with its gleaming white crosses and Stars of David. The memorial is a foot-high limestone tower. It is adorned with the great seal of the United States on its western facade. On the other side a figure of St. Nabor, a Roman soldier martyred by execution in , looks down on the graves. The ensemble represents the eternal struggle for freedom. The opposite wall displays maps of operations around the globe during that conflict. Flanking the memorial are the walls of the missing. Inscribed here are names of servicemembers whose bodies were not found. If you see a rosette next to a name, it means the remains have been recovered. The graves area is divided into nine plots separated by walking paths. The Latin crosses and Stars of David are of white marble. Each gravestone is inscribed with the name, rank, unit, home state and date of death of the fallen. Among them are servicemembers from every U. All those buried here had their own stories, but one of the more interesting ones is that of Leonora Lindsley. She joined the Rochambelles, an international all-female ambulance unit formed by a wealthy American widow. When the women were barred by the State Department from going overseas, she joined the American Red Cross to serve in Europe. She later rejoined the Rochambelles and was killed in a freak road accident. At the far end of the cemetery is an overlook that offers a view of the memorial and the graves of the men and women who sacrificed their lives in war for the United States. Take autobahn A6 to the border where it becomes French autoroute A4. Stay on A4 to the second exit that says St. There are signs to the cemetery, which is on highway N Find information about American Battle Monuments Commission cemeteries and monuments at abmc. Entrance and parking are free. There is a 75 euro cent road toll in France. Daily from 9 a. There is no place to eat at the cemetery but there are restaurants in St. There are unknowns buried here.

Chapter 2 : Overseas US Military Cemeteries

ABMC administers, operates and maintains 26 permanent American military cemeteries and 29 federal memorial, monuments and markers, which are located in 16 foreign countries, the U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the British Dependency of Gibraltar; three of the memorials are located within the United States.

The Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial in Colleville-sur-Mer in France is with 9, graves the largest of the allied military cemeteries in Normandy. The memorial site overlooks Omaha landing beach where so many soldiers died on D-Day. Admission is free with the memorial open year round. The whole site is almost surreally peaceful and beautiful. The military cemetery has the remains of 9, US soldiers. The graves are marked by 9, white marble headstones: These are all perfectly aligned in 10 plots A-I with well-manicured lawns and paved paths. The US cemetery is the largest allied military cemetery in Normandy four German cemeteries have more graves and was the first Second World War American cemetery established on European soil. France granted the US free perpetual use of the terrain as a cemetery without charge or taxation. At the eastern end of the cemetery is a classical U-shaped memorial overlooking a reflecting pool and the rows of gravestones. Behind the memorial is the Garden of the Missing, where tablets bear the names of a further 1, soldiers missing in action. A bronze rosette next to a name indicates that the remains has subsequently been recovered, identified, and buried. Amongst the graves marked by white marble headstones are: Lieutenant General McNair died in friendly fire in but was promoted posthumously. It focuses strongly on soldiers as individual humans and not simply overall battlefields and armies. The main themes are competence, courage, and sacrifice. On display are not only battle plans but also many personal items belonging to various American soldiers and military support staff. A short movie currently tells the story of a few individuals who participated in D-Day and what happened to them, or their families, in later life. The whole site is in great taste and honor the memory of the soldiers who sacrificed themselves saving Europe from tyranny. Admission to the Visitor Center museum requires airport style security but much friendlier and water bottles pass through with ease. Visitors not entering the museum can proceed directly to the graves and memorial park without these checks. Visiting Omaha Beach It is possible to walk down to Omaha Beach from the cemetery on a paved path except for the final section. However, note that the entrance back to the path is not marked from the beach itself. This is also the only path back to the cemetery – it is possible to reenter the path a bit to the east if visiting the monuments to the east of the cemetery but it is not possible to directly go back to the cemetery. Surprisingly few visitors to the cemetery walk down to Omaha Beach, which is a pity, as from the beach it is much easier to appreciate the unsheltered terrain the US soldiers had to cross on D-Day. The ocean draws back far during low tide. However, drivers may find it easier to reach Omaha Beach from the beach access through towns on either end of the cemetery. Sandy Omaha beach, as the other D-Day landing beaches in Normandy, are hugely popular with locals and tourists alike. At first glance, it seems a bit odd to holiday on a former battlefield where so many died but then again, it is their sacrifice that restored liberty to Europe. The cemetery and memorial are open daily from 9 am to 5 pm closing at 6 pm from mid-April to mid-September. Staff members are available at the visitor center to answer enquiries and accompany relatives to graves if necessary. Toilet facilities and drinking fountains are available at the parking lot. Visitors to the museum may find the toilets in the basement less crowded on busy days. Public transportation is not available. Turn off at the new large Overlord Museum with tanks on display next to the main road – signposting is very clear. Ample free parking is available. Food and drink is not available in the immediate vicinity of the cemetery. Note that restaurants nearby advertising fast service generally work from a French, not American, lunchtime perspective.

Chapter 3 : Cemeteries & Memorials | American Battle Monuments Commission

The Aisne-Marne American Cemetery and Memorial is a acre (, m 2) cemetery in Belleau, Northern France which is home to the graves of members of the United States military who died in World War I.

Aug 6, The emotional experience defies any words I have at my disposal. I hope none of you will ever have memories that flood your mind and bring you to tears This cemetery is always a "must visit" when I go to England. It has an unknown magnetism for me as if I am compelled to go there. Here rest nearly four thousand heroes from WW2. Over five thousand names are recorded on the "Wall of the Missing". The beauty and serenity that encompasses this thirty acres is befitting of those who made the supreme sacrifice. The beautiful trees and slightly rolling landscape lend a silent salute to those you rest here. It was a clear day during my visit and off in the distance I could see the spire above the Cathedral at Ely. The spire appears to serve as a sentinel over this sacred place. When informed that no more than ten WW2 veterans visit the cemetery each year, I was once again reminded that our numbers are decreasing day by day. Among those of us who still survive, many suffer physical or mental ills, or both. After a tour of the visitor center and an interview by the staff, I informed the staff and my family members I wanted to be alone. Some of you can never understand the emotions that I experienced and neither can I. To the best of my knowledge, I know of no one who is buried there. Perhaps during my time in service one or more of us may have crossed paths. I rendered a salute and a prayer for each one. How can one stand there and not have their eyes filled with tears. I have talked with other veterans who told me they have had experienced similar emotions and memories. Walking down the rows of markers, I read the names and brief information on the marker. It seems to be an automatic response as I say "Thank You". On the marker is the name, rank, military unit, state where they enlisted and date of death. I had gone some distance down a row when I came to a marker for a young man from South Carolina. I thought I could walk on by but something compelled me to kneel at his grave and say a prayer. It was approaching time for us to leave so I walked back on another row, read the inscriptions as I walked along and said a "Thank You" to each one. And then the strangest thing happened as we began to leave.

Chapter 4 : American Cemetery - Musée Mémorial d'Omaha beach Musée Mémorial d'Omaha beach

The American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) is an independent agency of the United States government that administers, operates, and maintains permanent U.S. military cemeteries, memorials and monuments both inside and outside the United States.

It contains the graves of 5, of our military dead, most of whom lost their lives in the campaigns across northeastern France to the Rhine and beyond into Germany. The cemetery became the repository for the fatalities in the bitter fighting through the Heasbourg Gap during the winter of The memorial, a rectangular structure with two large bas-relief panels, consists of a chapel, portico, and map room with a mosaic operations map. On the walls of the Court of Honor, which surround the memorial, are inscribed the names of of the missing. Rosettes mark the names of those since recovered and identified. Stretching northward is a wide, tree-lined mall that separates the two large burial plots. At the northern end of the mall, the circular flagpole plaza forms an overlook affording a view of a wide sweep of the Moselle Valley. On May 12, , thirteen caskets draped with American flags were placed side by side at the memorial. In a solemn ceremony, General Edward J. Masses of graceful trees and shrubbery frame the burial area and screen it from passing traffic. At the ends of the paths leading to three of the corners of the cemetery are circular retreats, with benches and urns. At this peaceful site rest of our military dead, most of whom gave their lives in liberating the soil of Belgium in World War I. Their headstones are aligned in four symmetrical areas around the white stone chapel that stands in the center of the cemetery. The chapel furniture is of carved oak, stained black with white veining to harmonize with the altar; 43 names are inscribed on Walls of the Missing. Between the two entrance buildings, a bridge leads to the burial area where the headstones of 4, of our military dead are arrayed in symmetrical curved rows upon the hillside. They represent 39 percent of the U. Fifth Army burials originally made between Rome and the Alps. Most died in the fighting that occurred after the capture of Rome in June On May 2, , the enemy troops in northern Italy surrendered. Above the graves, on the topmost of three broad terraces, stands the memorial marked by a tall pylon surmounted by a large sculptured figure. The memorial has two open atria, or courts, joined by the Tablets of the Missing upon which are inscribed 1, names. The atrium at the south end of the Tablets of the Missing serves as a forecourt to the chapel, which is decorated with marble and mosaic. The north atrium contains the marble operations maps recording the achievements of the American armed forces in this region. Their headstones are arranged in gentle arcs sweeping across a broad green lawn that slopes gently downhill. A highway passes through the reservation. West of the highway an overlook affords an excellent view of the rolling Belgian countryside, once a battlefield. To the east is the long colonnade that, with the chapel and map room, forms the memorial overlooking the burial area. The chapel is simple but richly ornamented. In the map room are two maps of military operations, carved in black granite, with inscriptions recalling the achievements of our forces. On the rectangular piers of the colonnade are inscribed the names of missing. The seals of the states and territories are also carved on these piers. The cemetery possesses great military historic significance as it holds fallen Americans of two major efforts, one covering the U. It was from the temporary cemetery at Henri-Chapelle that the first shipments of remains of American war dead were returned to the U. The repatriation program began on July 27, at a special ceremony at the cemetery when the disinterment began. The first shipment of 5, American war dead from Henri-Chapelle left Antwerp, Belgium the first week of October An impressive ceremony was held, with over 30, Belgium citizens attending along with representatives of the Belgium government and senior Americans. Their headstones are arranged in nine plots in a generally elliptical design extending over the beautiful rolling terrain of eastern Lorraine and culminating in a prominent overlook feature. Most of the dead here were killed while driving the German forces from the fortress city of Metz toward the Siegfried Line and the Rhine River. Initially, there were over 16, Americans interred in the St. Avold region, mostly from the U. Avold served as a vital communications center for the vast network of enemy defenses guarding the western border of the Third Reich. The memorial, which stands on a plateau to the west of the burial area, contains ceramic operations maps with narratives and service flags. High on its

exterior front wall is the large figure of St. Nabor, the martyred Roman soldier overlooking the silent host. On each side of the memorial, and parallel to its front, stretch the Tablets of the Missing on which are inscribed names. The entire area is framed in woodland. The cemetery was established on December 29, by the th Quartermaster Company of the U. The city of Luxembourg served as headquarters for General George S. General Patton is buried here. Not far from the cemetery entrance stands the white stone chapel, set on a wide circular platform surrounded by woods. It is embellished with sculpture in bronze and stone, a stained-glass window with American unit insignia, and a mosaic ceiling. Flanking the chapel at a lower level are two large stone pylons upon which are maps made of various inlaid granites, with inscriptions recalling the achievements of the American armed forces in this region. On the same pylons are inscribed the names of of the missing. Sloping gently downhill from the memorial is the burial area containing 5, of our military dead, many of whom lost their lives in the "Battle of the Bulge" and in the advance to the Rhine. Their headstones follow graceful curves; trees, fountains and flower beds contribute to the dignity of the ensemble. It contains the largest number of graves of our military dead of World War II, a total of 17,, most of whom lost their lives in operations in New Guinea and the Philippines. The headstones are aligned in 11 plots forming a generally circular pattern, set among masses of a wide variety of tropical trees and shrubbery. The chapel, a white masonry building enriched with sculpture and mosaic, stands near the center of the cemetery. In front of it on a wide terrace are two large hemicycles. Twenty-five mosaic maps recall the achievements of the American armed forces in the Pacific, China, India and Burma. On rectangular Trani limestone piers within the hemicycles are inscribed the Tablets of the Missing containing 36, names. Carved in the floors are the seals of the American states and its territories. From the memorial and other points within the cemetery there are impressive views over the lowlands to Laguna de Bay and towards the distant mountains. The immense array of headstones rises in long regular rows upward beyond a wide central pool to the chapel that crowns the ridge. A beautiful bronze screen separates the chapel foyer from the interior, which is decorated with stained-glass windows portraying American unit insignia; behind the altar are flags of the principal Allied nations. On either side of the chapel are memorial loggias. One panel of the west loggia contains a map of the Meuse-Argonne Offensive. Inscribed on the remaining panels of both loggias are Tablets of the Missing with names, including those from the U. A small monument marks the common grave of unidentified American dead of the War of Inscribed on the monument are the words:

Chapter 5 : American Battle Monuments Commission

Brookwood American Cemetery and Memorial in England The acre Brookwood American Cemetery and Memorial in England lies to the west of the large civilian cemetery built by the London Necropolis Co. and contains the graves of of our military dead.

Chapter 6 : Hallowed Grounds | PBS Programs

The American cemetery is flanked by the much larger Brookwood Military Cemetery, maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, which contains more than 5, war dead from the two world wars. Brookwood American Cemetery and Memorial is the only American Military Cemetery of World War I in the British Isles.

Chapter 7 : Brookwood American Military Cemetery in Brookwood, Surrey - Find A Grave Cemetery

The largest American cemetery in Europe is in north-east France in Lorraine, at Romagne-sous-Montfaucon. It's a huge site, set in acres of gently sloping land. 14, soldiers who died in World War I are buried here in straight military lines. The graves are not set according to rank: you find.

Chapter 8 : The United States Army | ANMC

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The Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial (French: Cimetière amérícaín de Colleville-sur-Mer) is a World War II cemetery and memorial in Colleville-sur-Mer, Normandy, France, that honors American troops who died in Europe during World War II. More than 9, are buried there.

Chapter 9 : American Military Cemeteries, 2d ed. - Dean W. Holt - Google Books

The VA National Cemetery Administration honors the military service of our Nation's veterans. We provide a dignified burial and lasting memorial for veterans and their eligible family members and we maintain our veterans' cemeteries as national shrines.