MAJOR CAMPAIGNS, SEPTEMBER 1944 – MARCH 1945

The Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery holds fallen Americans of two major efforts. One involved the First U.S. Army’s drive from September through December 1944 through northern France, Belgium, Holland, and Luxembourg into Germany. The second included the Battle of the Bulge and its elimination, enabling allied forces to advance farther into Germany.

SEPTEMBER 8, 1944: First Army liberated Liège, Belgium.

MID SEPTEMBER TO OCTOBER 21: First Army besieged and captured Aachen, Germany.

MID SEPTEMBER THROUGH MARCH 1945: U.S. forces engaged in sustained fierce fighting in the Hürtgen Forest.

DECEMBER 16: German counteroffensive in the Ardennes (Battle of the Bulge) stopped the Allied advance for one month.

JANUARY 3, 1945: First Army, reinforced by British XXX Corps, counterattacked the northern flank of The Bulge.

JANUARY 13: First and Third Armies linked up at Houffalize.

FEBRUARY 23: With the Bulge erased, Ninth Army launched Operation GRENADE, crossed the Roer River, and advanced eastward toward Wesel.

MARCH 1: 12th Army Group, composed of First and Third Armies, began to execute Operation LUMBERJACK. First Army reached Cologne on March 5. Third Army advanced through the Eifel to the Rhine River.

By March 21, U.S., British, and Canadian forces reached the west bank of the Rhine River from the Netherlands south to Mannheim, and were poised for the major push across the Rhine and into the final offensive that led to victory in Europe on May 8.
Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery and Memorial
The U.S. 1st Infantry Division liberated this site on September 11, 1944. A battlefield cemetery was established on September 28, 1944. 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 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.”

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