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netherlands-american-cemetery-margraten

Cruising Review

Netherlands American Cemetery | Margraten
| Never Forget | WWII



This webpage QR code

Structured Data

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The Netherlands American Cemetery and Memorial stands as the sole American military burial ground in the Netherlands. This site is steeped in history, situated close to the renowned Cologne-Boulogne road, originally constructed by Roman engineers. This road was historically significant, having been traversed by Julius Caesar during his military campaigns in the region. It also served as a route for notable historical figures such as Charlemagne, Charles V, Napoleon, and Kaiser Wilhelm II. In May 1940, this ancient route was overtaken by the forces of World War II, marking a significant advance into the Low Countries. By September 1944, the same road witnessed the retreat of German troops who had occupied these nations for four years.

PDF Version of the webpage (first pages)

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Honoring History is not to Repeat it

This was one of the most moving experiences of my travel ventures.

I was in the US Air Force for six years. This experience really brought home the concepts of sacrifice, freedom, and trying to make the world a better place.

Now when I'm traveling, I will make it a priority to visit these war cemeteries to honor those who have fallen, to make life better for those who follow.

The view of thousands of grave markers brought tears to my eyes. It's so moving. Most of these heroes were only 19 or 20 years old. Just starting life.

While I honor those Americans, I also recognize the sacrifice of most soldiers on both sides, who are only following leaders whom history has led the wrong path of humans and destiny.

Please visit these memorials. Their souls cry out and will touch your heart.

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The Netherlands American Cemetery

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The Netherlands American Cemetery 1946

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Operation Market Garden

Operation Varsity

The Battle of Aachen was a major battle of Second World War. It was fought by American and German forces in and around Aachen, Germany, between 2–21 October 1944. The city was part of the Siegfried Line, the main defence line on Germany's western border.

The Battle of the Huertgen Forest began in September 1944 and culminated in mid-February 1945. It lasted nearly five months and it cost the U.S. Army more than 34,000 casualties. It has largely been forgotten for the past sixty years for several reasons.

The Battle of the Bulge

The Netherlands American Cemetery

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Battles

Margraten, the Netherlands American Cemetery and Memorial, is the only American military cemetery in the Netherlands. The U.S. 30th Infantry Division liberated this site on 13 September 1944 and 8301 American military rest here.

Hours

Visiting Hours

The cemetery is open daily to the public from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., except December 25 and January 1. It is open on host country holidays. When the cemetery is open to the public, a staff member is on duty in the visitor building to answer questions and escort relatives to grave and memorial sites.

Netherlands American Cemetery
AM Begraafplaats 1
6269 NA
Margraten
Netherlands TEL: +31 43 45 81 208

The Netherlands American Cemetery and Memorial is the only American military cemetery in the Netherlands

The memorial site, spanning 65.5 acres, features a prominent tower visible from afar. As visitors enter, they are guided towards the Court of Honor, where a reflecting pool mirrors the tower. In front of the pool, a statue symbolizes the grief of women who have lost loved ones. Flanking this area are the visitor center and a map room, the latter housing three extensive maps detailing the operations of American forces. The Court is bordered by the Tablets of the Missing, inscribed with 1,722 names, some marked with rosettes to indicate those since identified.

The tower houses a chapel, adorned with a light fixture, altar candelabra, and a flower bowl, gifts from the Dutch government and regional authorities. Beyond lies a burial area with 16 sections, the final resting place for 8,288 American soldiers, marked by curved rows of headstones. A broad, tree-lined path leads to a flagstaff at the site's highest point.

A distinctive aspect of the cemetery is its bond with the Dutch community. Since 1945, local residents have adopted individual graves, regularly bringing flowers and researching the soldiers' lives as a tribute. The Foundation for Adopting Graves at the American Cemetery Margraten oversees this tradition. Similarly, the Foundation United Adopters American War Graves runs "The Faces of Margraten" project, gathering photos of the fallen for display during a bi-annual event coinciding with Dutch Memorial Day. This exhibit, featuring over 3,000 photographs next to headstones and the Walls of the Missing, offers a poignant connection for visitors to those who liberated them.

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