


# Allied Counterattacks, July 18–September 16, 1918

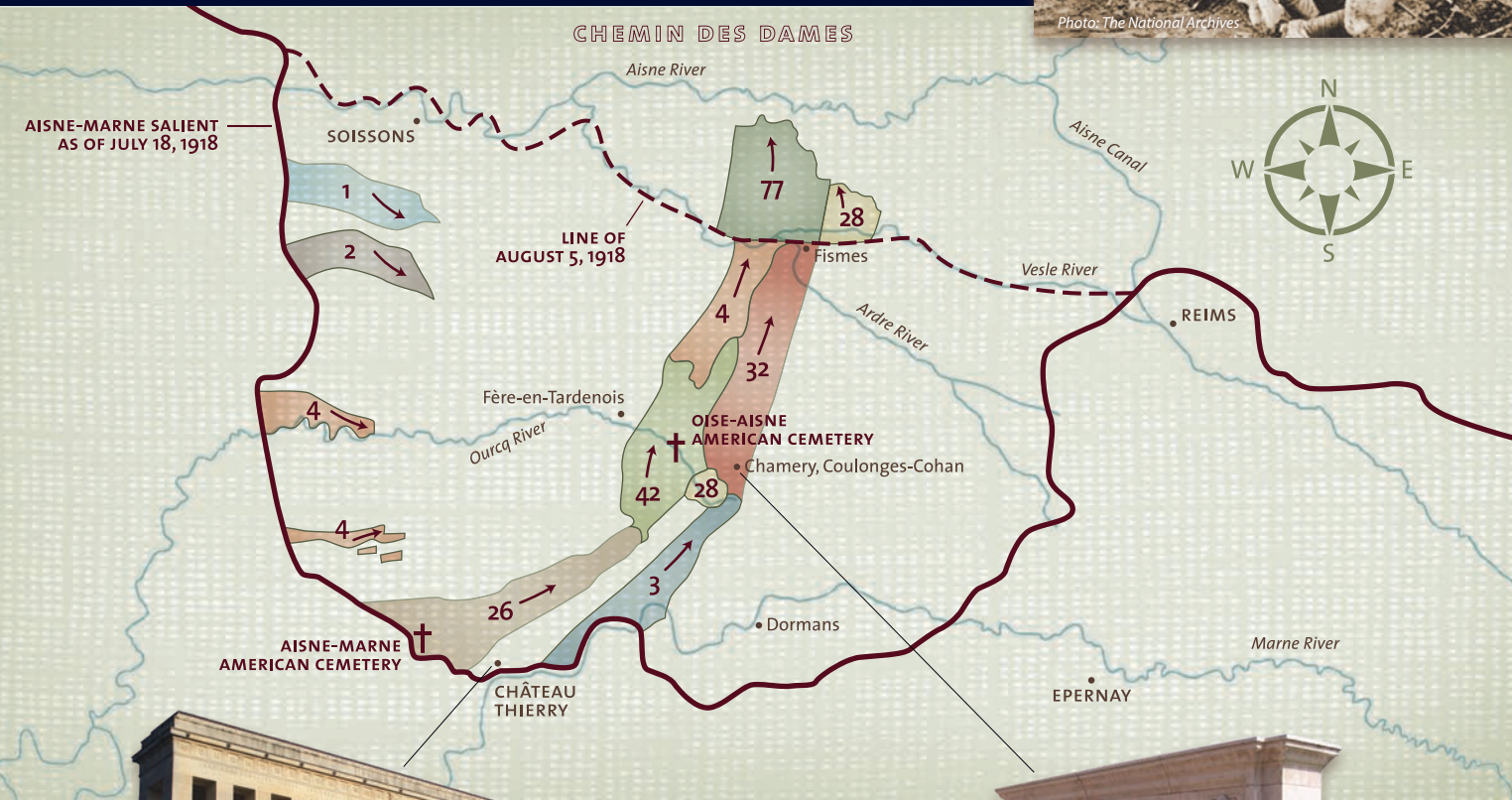
**KEY:** † Military Cemetery

 US Army Divisions



## Oise-Aisne American Cemetery and Memorial

American Battle Monuments Commission



### Château-Thierry Monument - Hill 204

Located on a hill above Château-Thierry, this monument with double colonnade has a large map of the American operations in this region.



### Lt. Quentin Roosevelt Fountain - Chamery

Shot down in aerial combat, the son of former U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt was originally buried just outside of this town near the cemetery.

### American Battle Monuments Commission

This agency of the United States government operates and maintains 26 American cemeteries and 29 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

#### Oise-Aisne American Cemetery

02130 Fère-en-Tardenois, France  
Tel +33.(0)3.23.82.21.81

For more information on this site and other  
ABMC commemorative sites, please visit  
[www.abmc.gov](http://www.abmc.gov)

# ★ ★ ★ AISNE-MARNE AND OISE-AISNE OFFENSIVES

Germany's strategy for 1918 envisioned destruction of the weakened British and French armies. Two offensives against the British from March 21 through April 30 failed to create the hoped-for collapse. On May 27, German forces broke through French positions along the Chemin des Dames ridge between Soissons and Reims. They reached the Marne River 35 miles to the south at Château-Thierry in three days, creating the Aisne-Marne Salient and threatening Paris.

The Allied situation was so dire at the end of May 1918 that the Allies pleaded for all available U.S. divisions to help the French eliminate the Aisne-Marne Salient. Newly-arrived American divisions shored up the Allies. Also, the 370th Infantry Regiment was detached to serve with French forces, campaigning with them into mid-October.

The Germans were unable to capitalize on their gains. Their final offensive failed on July 15. Allied and American forces countered with the Aisne-Marne Offensive, launched on July 18.

Ten U.S. divisions took part in that offensive, forcing the Germans north to the Vesle River by August 6. Then the Oise-Aisne Offensive continued the advance from August 18 until September 16, pushing the Germans even farther north.

Roughly 310,000 American soldiers and Marines fought in this first large-scale operation by the American Expeditionary Forces in WW I. Under command of Gen. John J. Pershing it achieved additional successes in the St. Mihiel and Meuse-Argonne campaigns, concluding with the Armistice on November 11, 1918.

## The Chapel

A beautiful altar of black variegated Italian porter marble is inset with two panels of Rocheret Jaune marble.



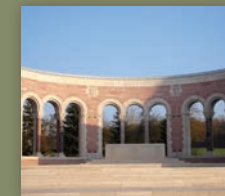
## Wall of Missing

The names of 241 American soldiers missing in the area are engraved on the walls of the chapel.



## The Memorial

This Romanesque style memorial with semicircular peristyle is flanked by a chapel and map room.



## Map Room

The map details the lines of advance where 10 American divisions fought during the Oise-Aisne Offensive.



## The Plantings

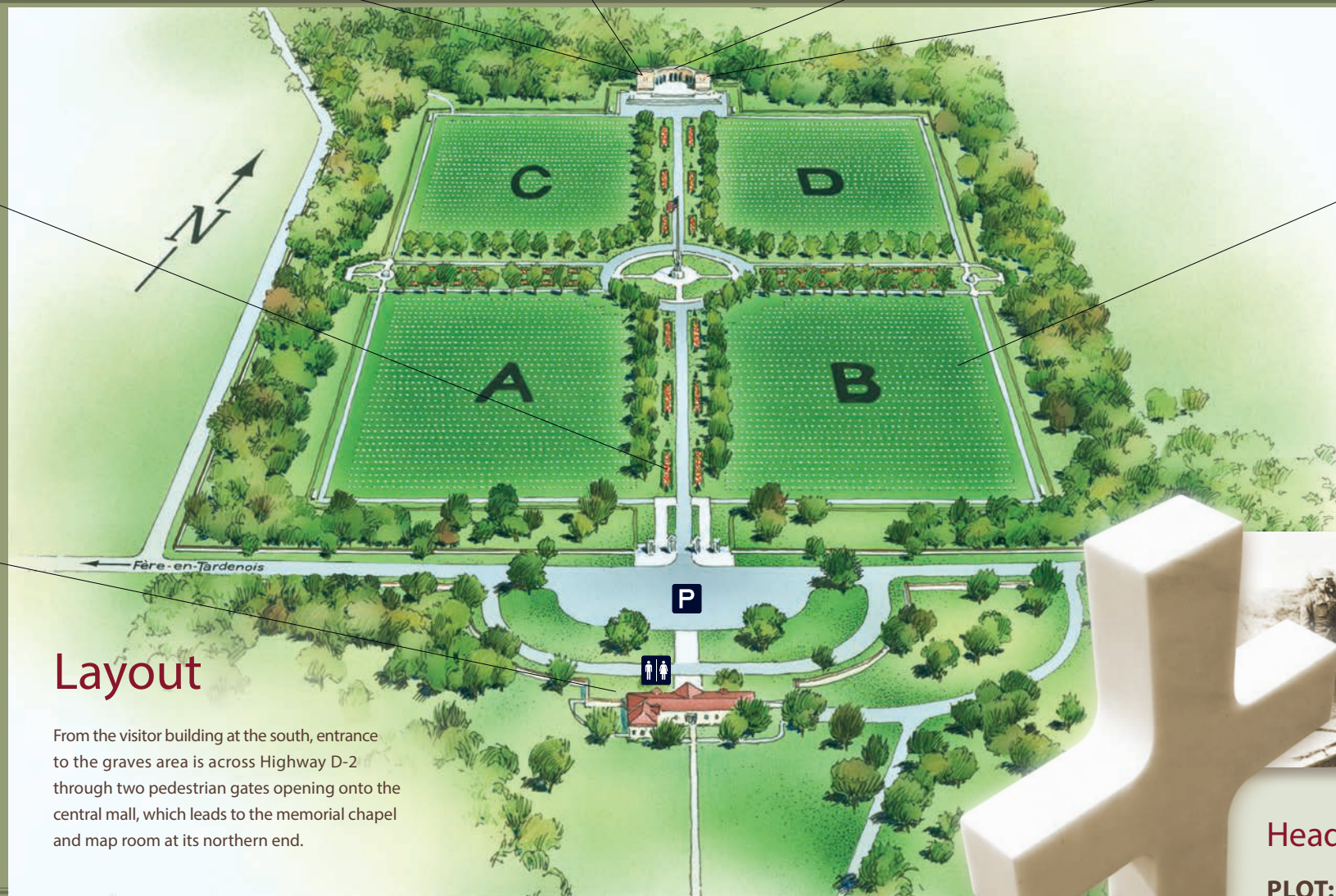
The plots are bordered by Oriental plane trees and polyantha rose beds with dwarf boxwood hedges.

*Photo: Robert Uth*



## Visitor Building

Contains information about the cemetery and related battles of World War I. Restrooms are also available.



## Layout

From the visitor building at the south, entrance to the graves area is across Highway D-2 through two pedestrian gates opening onto the central mall, which leads to the memorial chapel and map room at its northern end.



## The Graves

Four symmetrical plots hold the graves of the honored dead, including Sgt. Joyce Kilmer, the poet who wrote "Trees."



*Photo: The National Archives*

## Headstone Location

**PLOT:** .....

**ROW:** .....

**GRAVE:** .....

## Useful Information

**DIMENSIONS:** 36.5 acres  
**HEADSTONES:** 6,012  
**LATIN CROSSES:** 5,912

**STARS OF DAVID:** 100  
**MISSING IN ACTION:** 241

**SETS OF BROTHERS:** 9  
**DEDICATED:** MAY 30, 1937