

# Margraten

## NETHERLANDS AMERICAN CEMETERY



Graves and Memorial

This World War II American Battle Monuments Cemetery and Memorial is the only cemetery in the Netherlands. It lies in the village of Margraten six miles east of Maastricht. Maastricht can be reached by train from Paris (Gare du Nord) via Liege, any city in Holland, or from Germany via Aachen. Bus service to the cemetery runs from the Maastricht Railroad Station. The Maastricht Airport is five miles to the north. Taxicabs are available. The cemetery's site has a rich historical background, lying near the famous Cologne-Boulogne highway, originally built by the Romans and used by Caesar during his campaign in that area. The highway was also used by Charlemagne, Charles V, Napoleon and Kaiser Wilhelm II. In May 1946, Hitler's legions advanced over the route of the old Roman highway, overwhelming the Low Countries. In September 1944, German troops once more used the highway for the withdrawal from the countries occupied for four years.



Reflecting Pool

The tall memorial tower can be seen before reaching the cemetery. It covers sixty five acres. From the cemetery entrance the visitor approaches through the Court of Honor with its pool reflecting the chapel tower. The visitors' building is on the right and the museum with its three engraved operations maps describing the achievements of the American Armed Forces in the area during World War II is on the left. At the base of the tower facing the reflecting pool is a statue representing the grieving mother of her lost son.

The walls on either side of the Court of Honor contain the Tablets of the Missing on which are recorded the names of 1,723 (MIA) American Missing who gave their lives in the service of their country and who rest in unknown graves.

Beyond the chapel and tower is the burial area that is divided into sixteen plots. Here rest 8,301 American Dead



### 103<sup>d</sup> Division Graves at Margraten

<u>409<sup>th</sup></u>	<u>410<sup>th</sup></u>	<u>411<sup>th</sup></u>	<u>Total</u>
0	0	2	2

Summer: Open hours are from 9:00am to 6:00pm

Winter: Open hours are from 9:00am to 5:00pm