



—|— Western Front

In response to the assassination of the heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne and his wife in Sarajevo, the Austro-Hungarian Empire declared war on Serbia on 28 July 1914. Serbia, however, was allied to Russia at the time; France agreed to support Russia. Germany, in turn, agreed to unreservedly support Austria. Great Britain became involved after the Germans invaded Belgium. A total of 40 countries took part in the First World War. The Western Front, which also included Romagne-sous-Montfaucon, soon became synonymous with trench warfare. Machine guns, artillery and poison gas killed millions.

Neither the German offensive near Verdun nor the French-British offensive on the Somme in 1916 put an end to the cruel war, despite the huge number of casualties in both. The tide did not turn until the USA entered the war on 6 April 1917. The collapse of the Russian empire in that same year came too late to impact on the war. The fighting on the Western Front ended on 11 November 1918 with the Armistice of Compiègne.

Visiting Hours War Cemetery / Exhibition
Permanently open to the public

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The Volksbund Deutsche Kriegsgräberfürsorge e.V. is a humanitarian organisation charged with caring for the graves of German war casualties abroad. It offers educational programmes and promotes an international culture of commemoration and peace.

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ROMAGNE-SOUS-MONTFAUCON

German War Cemetery



Gefördert durch:



—|— A total of 1415 First World War casualties are buried here

German troops established the cemetery at the beginning of the First World War. It was inaugurated on 5 September 1915 by the commanding general of VI Reserve Corps; a French clergyman was also involved in the consecration of the grounds. After a treaty was agreed with the respectively responsible French government agencies in 1926, the German War Graves Commission took up its work in France.

In separate and communal graves, 1407 German as well as eight French soldiers are buried here. The graves of the two Jewish soldiers who were of Jewish faith were marked with steles.

The identities of sixty-five of the soldiers who are buried here are still unknown. Most of the casualties who were laid to rest here fell in 1916 during the ten months of the Battle of Verdun, which may have claimed the lives of as many as 162,000 Frenchmen and 143,000 Germans, although the exact numbers will never be known. Due to the complete senselessness of the mass killing, which both countries later admitted to, Verdun has a high symbolic significance for the German-French reconciliation.

The dead of this cemetery admonish to peace.

Cemetery

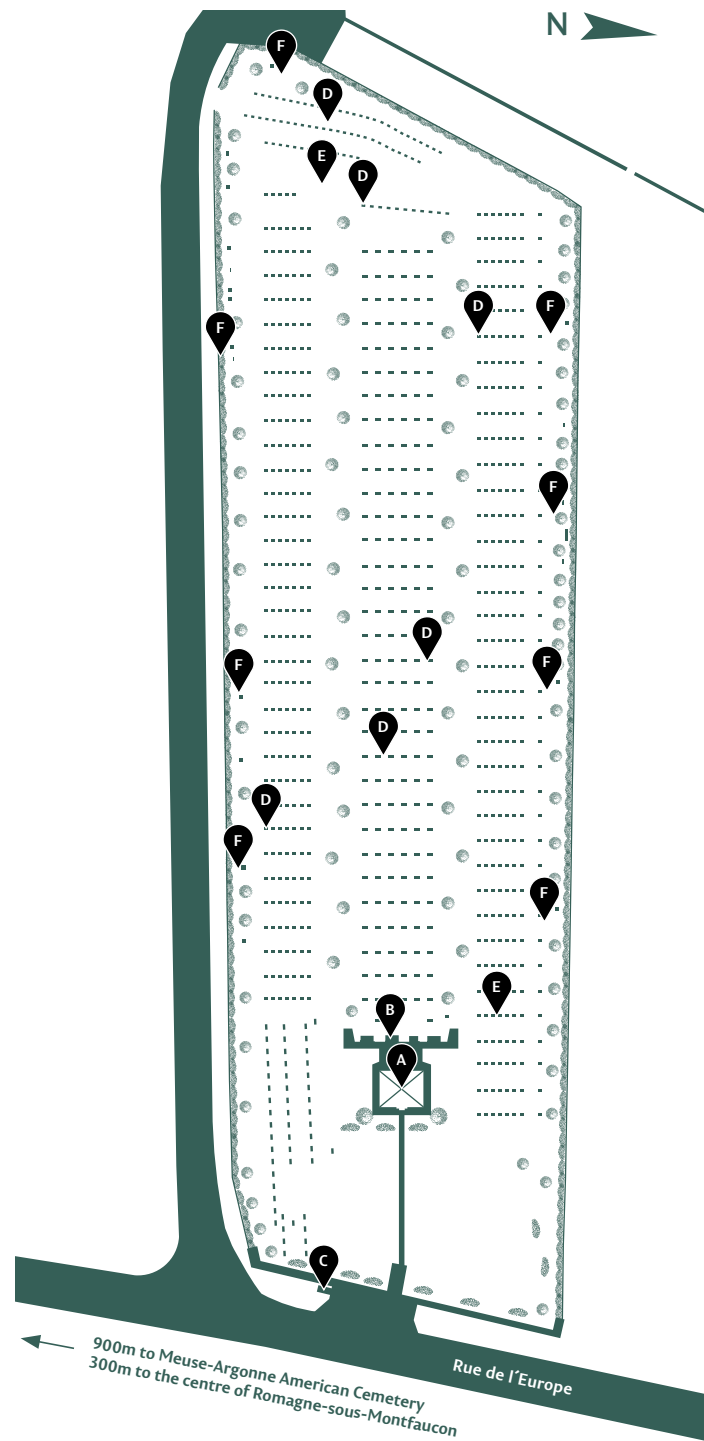
When the First World War (1914-1918) broke out, the German VI Reserve Corps based its headquarters in Romagne-sous-Montfaucon. German soldiers established the cemetery in 1914, shortly after the fighting began. It was officially inaugurated by the commanding general a year later. Two German clergymen and one French clergyman held the consecration sermons. This war cemetery was also redesigned when it was extended in 1932 and covered in trees. The aim was to make it look more unassuming, like “a piece of the Fatherland in foreign soil”.

Head architect Robert Tischler designed the plan for this war cemetery with a room of remembrance and trees planted in the shape of a church nave. The cemetery survived the Second World War undamaged. Shortly after the Turn of the Millennium, a storm wrought heavy damage and flattened trees. The German War Graves Commission restored and redesigned the cemetery in 2013 and 2014.



- A Memorial room with “Pietà”-Mosaic
- B Information point – Exhibition board Book of Names – names of all the war casualties interred in the cemetery
- C Reception board
- D Graves of French soldiers

- E Graves of German soldiers of the Jewish faith – The graves are marked by grave steles with Hebraic writing: (top) “Here lies buried”; (bottom) “May your soul be embedded in the circle of the living.”
- F Preserved gravestones from the First World War. The gravestones are placed at the initiative of the units or the relatives of the dead.



Romagne-sous-Montfaucon
German War Cemetery
Romagne-sous-Montfaucon

Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery established in 1918. With 14,246 war casualties, the cemetery accommodates the largest number of American soldiers in Europe.

Museum Romagne 14-18 presents numerous finds from the area around Romagne-sous-Montfaucon.

Vauquois
Vauquois Height The mountain range is traversed by tunnels that can be walked and in which the mine war of 1914-1918 was fought.

Verdun
Verdun Bevaux Necropole Nationale established in 1916.

Verdun Glorieux Necropole Nationale established in 1916.

Faubourg Pavé Necropole Nationale established in 1914. Here lie 5095 French, 14 Russian, one Romanian and one Belgian casualties of the First World War.

Citadelle souterrain During the First World War, the headquarter of the French troops and a military hospital were located here.

Douaumont
Ossuary of Douaumont opened in 1932. Here the bones of over 130,000 unidentified French and German soldiers are stored.

German Cemetery in Fort Douaumont came into existence in 1916.

Memorial de Verdun was reopened in 2016 after extensive renovation and extension work to the museum.

