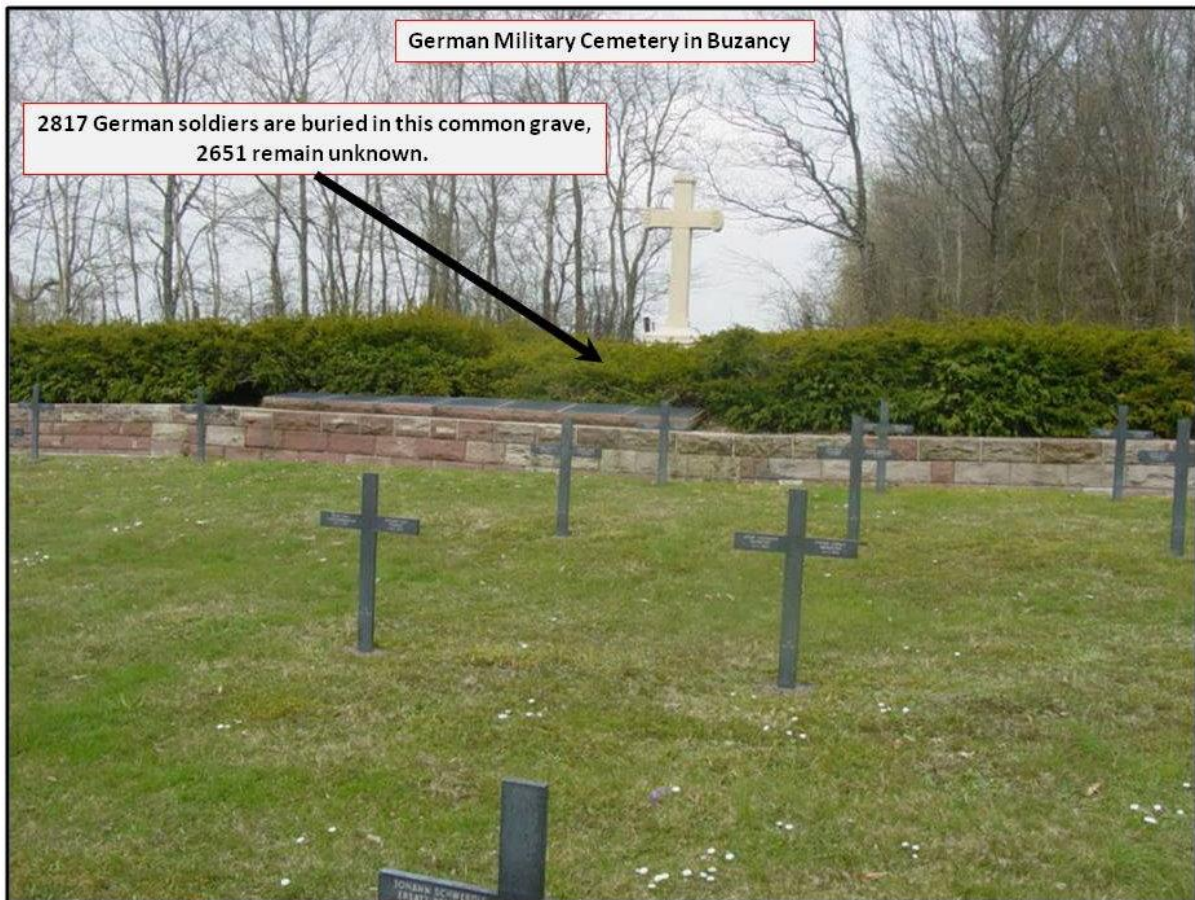


The German Dead

It is necessary before we talk of American casualties to write a little about the German dead.



Lt. Cox stated that shortly before noon on 8 October 1918, he and a platoon from F Company 328th Infantry, passed over the hill where the fight occurred and estimated that he saw about 20 dead German soldiers lying on the slope. What happened to the German casualties? York states in his diary, that when he returned to the ravine the following day, both the American and German dead had been buried. We know this not to be true, since it was not until late October before the 6 American casualties were buried by Chaplain O'Farrely. As mentioned earlier, York must be getting his 9 October return to the ravine confused with the February 1919 investigation.

From the Graves Registration Service (GRS) records, we know that all of the American casualties near Chatel Chéhéry were buried by other American soldiers. Some were buried on the day of the fighting, or in the next couple days afterwards. Most of those who fell near Chatel Chehery or on the slopes of Hill 223, were buried in the cemetery behind the church in Chatel (*See previous photos*). Those who fell in the valley between Hill 223 and Hill 167, as well as the members of the patrol in the ravine, were buried where they fell by Chaplain O'Farrely in late October.

The German dead more than likely remained unburied until the US Army GRS teams, assisted by local French help disinterred the American remains and moved them to concentration cemeteries and/or the American Meuse-Argonne Cemetery at Romagne. (Concentration cemeteries were where numerous isolated graves were temporarily concentrated before final burial in the cemetery at Romagne.)

During the disinterment operation, German war dead were, for the most part, removed by the French and buried in several German military cemeteries. There was not much care taken in identifying the German dead, and most of them ended up in common graves with thousands of other unknown soldiers. So far we have only been able to locate the grave of one of the Germans killed by York during the fight.

Lt. Endriss is credited by some as the leader of a failed bayonet charge against York, although this appears to be more of a reaction vs. a planned attack. Lt. Endriss, the commander of 4th Company, 120th LDW, was more than likely responding to the sound of the firing coming from behind the old dam, and he rushed in that direction with several soldiers who were all killed by York's .45 automatic; Endriss receiving a mortal wound in the stomach. From the historical accounts we know that Endriss was carried off the battlefield and later died of his wounds.

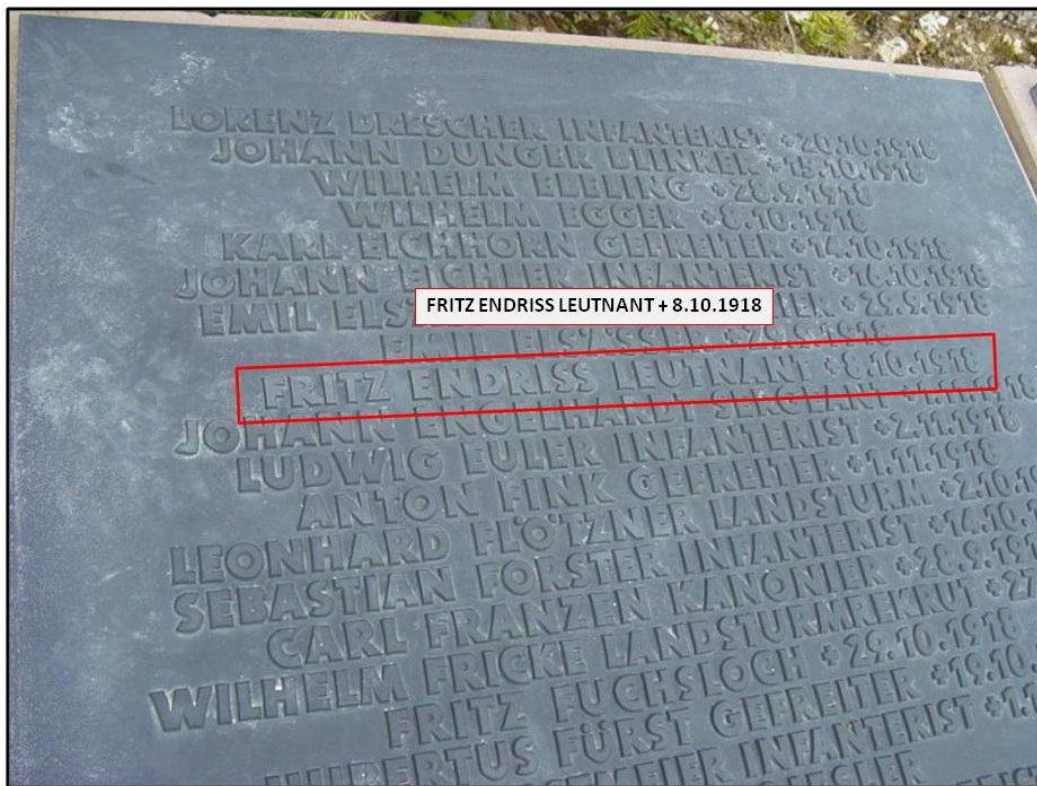
Brad Posey has researched Endriss through the German war graves commission website (Volksbund Deutsche Kriegsgräberfürsorge e.V.) and found that Lt. Fritz Endriss died on 8 October, 1918 at a field hospital in *Grandpre* and was buried in the German military cemetery in *Buzancy*. His death in *Grandpre* is not possible, since Endriss was obviously in the hands of the Americans when he died and *Grandpre* was still in German hands on 8 October 1918. There is no record of him or any other wounded German soldiers being transferred back to German custody during this battle, so the place of death must be considered an error by the German war graves commission.

The German web site says that the Buzancy cemetery¹ was established by the French authorities after the war and German war dead from 47 different communities and towns were brought here for final burial. Lt. Endriss is among those buried here and possibly the location of the 20 or so other Germans killed in the fight, but they – for now – remain unaccounted for or in an unknown status.

¹ Here is a link to the Buzancy cemetery on the German war graves commission web site:
<http://www.volksbund.de/kgs/stadt.asp?stadt=634>



The common grave where Lt. Endriss is buried.



Lt. Fritz Endriss - 8 October, 1918
 Commander, 4th Company, 120th Landwehr Infantry Regiment
 Killed by Alvin York