



American Battle Monuments Commission – World War One Sites

Routes of Interest - Oise Aisne American Cemetery to the north, Quentin Roosevelt, and the 4th “Ivy” Division advance to the Vesel River at Fismes.

1. From the Oise Aisne American Cemetery go east on the D2.
 - Less than a mile east on the left of D2 is the Chateau de Nesles, a private home now, built in the 1200s. It was occupied by the Germans until July 31. 1918.
2. At the crossroad in Nesles continue east toward Coulogne on D2.
3. After the second block of woods take the next right toward Chamery/”Souvenir Roosevelt.”
4. In the middle of town at the “T” intersection turn right toward “Souvenir Roosevelt.”
5. Look on the left for a fountain memorial to Lt. Quentin Roosevelt.
 - When indoor water taps were uncommon here most of the village came here for their drinking water. Quentin Roosevelt was shot down, died and was buried just east of Chamery on July 14, 1918. His remains were later moved to the Normandy American Cemetery where his brother is also buried.
6. Return the way you came to the crossroads and go straight toward Coulogne on D14.
7. The road twists right, then left.
 - The forest to the east is the Bois de Rogac. It concealed the headquarters of the III Corps 8/8-19/18, and later the 28th Division 8/20 – 9/5/18.
8. At the fountain intersection continue north and follow to the right over the bridge.
9. Bear left at the next intersection.
10. At the end of town go north on the D14.
11. In the next town, Cohan, bear left toward Dravegny on d14.
 - Some beautiful rustic buildings here.
12. In Dravegny at the intersection go straight toward Fismes on the D142.
 - Dravegny was captured by the 32nd Division on August 2, and became Headquarters for the 28th Division from the 4th to the 14th. On the heights north of town camouflage screens were set up on both sides of the road to hide troops and supplies moving forward.
13. At the next intersection go straight in the D142.
14. Passing into Marne the D142 becomes the D29.
15. At the stop sign in St. Gilles go straight.
16. At the next intersection bear left on the D29
17. At the next intersection go straight on the D29
18. The D29 merges into the D386.

19. Enter Fismes.
20. Go straight at the stop sign toward Centre Ville on D386.
21. In the town square go straight toward Laon on D386.
 - There is a Plaque commemorating B Company 112 Infantry Regiment, 28th “Keystone” Division.
22. Go straight out the other side of the traffic circle.
23. Go straight out the other side of the traffic circle and into Fismette.
24. Just past the river bridge pull off into parking at the park on the right.
 - You can take a look at the crossing site from the park, or the road by the river on the downstream side of the bridge. The bridge was erected by the State of Pennsylvania.
 - Troops of the 28th “Keystone” Division replaced the 32nd Division on the south bank of the Vesle River on August 7. The Germans in Fismette, determined to prevent the Americans establishing a bridgehead, demolished the bridge and filled the river with entanglements.
 - At night on August 8th Americans put rubble in the stream creating a narrow walkway. More than a company of the 111th Infantry crossed before morning. Both armies fought hard for the bridgehead over two weeks.
25. Go around the traffic and return across the bridge on the D967.
26. At the fountain traffic circle take the first right.
27. Go one block and turn right.
28. Go to the “T” intersection and turn left on N31.
29. At the traffic Circle head northwest toward Soissons on N31.
30. At the next traffic circle go west toward Soissons on N31.
31. When fields open on both sides of the road you will see a monument on the right.
32. The monument marks the limit of advance of the 4th Division August 7th.
33. Turn left off the N32 toward Bazoches/Vesle on D83.
 - The 4th Division took St. Thibaut and reached the Vesle August 4th. On the 5th patrols forded the river. Troops crossed the bridge at Bazoches and stopped at the rail line. A major attack across the Vesle occurred on the 6th. Despite a four hour bombardment the Germans counter attacked with artillery support.
 - The 4th Division lost around 3,500 casualties in the Vesle River Valley.
34. Descend into Bazoches on D83, Rue Pasteur.
35. The road curves right in front of the town hall becoming Rue Marie Curie.
36. At the intersection go around the monument and toward Mont-N-Dame on D83.
37. Cross over the Vesle River & left at the fork toward St. Thibaut on D484.
38. At the fork with tower St. Thibaut bear right toward Chéry-Chartreuve on C3.
39. Bear left at the next fork.
40. At the intersection in the fields turn right toward Chéry-Chartreuve on D967.
41. The road curves left and then right in Chéry-Chartreuve.
42. At the 4 way intersection in Mareuil-en-Dôle go toward Saponay/Cramaille on D967.
43. At the intersection with woods on the left go toward Fère-en-Tardenois on D967.

- Detour: On the left you will see signs for Ruins of Chateau de Fère-en-Tardenois, a classic medieval- renaissance castle. The ruin is very dramatic and there is WW1 American graffiti.
44. At the next intersection go toward Chateau Thierry/Centre Ville on D967.
 45. Continue by the park on your right and old market on left, Bear left on the D2.
 46. At the fork bear left toward American Cemetery/ Seringes-et-Nesles on D2.
 47. At the next intersection go straight.
 48. At the next intersection bear left toward American Cemetery on D2.
 49. At the next intersection bear right toward American Cemetery on D2.
 50. The American Cemetery is just down the road.