



American Battle Monuments Commission – World War One Sites

Routes of Interest – Flanders Field American Cemetery and Audenarde Monument.

Note: The American Cemetery is in the path of advance of two American infantry formations, the 91st “Far West”, and the 37th “Buckeye Infantry Divisions. They were, respectively, serving with the French VII Corps and XXX Corps, in the Army Group Flanders under His Majesty Albert I the King of the Belgians. This rout covers the path of the 1918 Ypres – Lys Offensive, the “Ohio Bridge”.

1. From the crossroad in front of the Flanders Field American Cemetery drive southeast on E17.
 - Note the forested landscape; there were fewer houses in 1918. This road was the axis of advance of the 91st Division on October 31 through the mile wide Spitaals Bosschen (literally the hospital’s forest).
2. You will pass a crossroad with a small enclosure on the right.
 - This was the end of the 1st day’s objective. It was a complex attack plan. Artillery bombarded and barraged lanes on both sides of the forest, then laid smoke. Infantry advanced around the flanks of the forest. Lastly the reinforced 1st and 2nd Battalions of the 364th Infantry Regiment cleared the dense woods of many machinegun nests by late afternoon
3. Continue Southeast on the Waregemseweg into Wortegem.
 - This area was open fields with scattered farms. In November 1st
4. In Wortegem head straight toward the church spire, there is some parking at the church.
 - The 91st Division advanced quickly on November 1 through Wortegem and it became apparent that the Germans were retiring behind the Escaut (Scheldt) River at Audenarde.
 - The church is Onze-Lieve-Vrouw Geboortekerk. There has been a church here since the 12th Century.
5. Leaving the parking turn left.
6. Bear left at the intersection on N494, the Oudenaardsweg.
7. Go straight at the traffic light.
8. At the fork in Wortegem-Petegem bear right on Oudenaardsweg.
 - This is the middle of the line of advance with the lead battalions stretching a mile to left and right going forward at a quick walk with only occasional harassing fire from a farmstead or distant battery. The advance on the right stopped at Bevere at 3:30p.m. . The Battalion left of the road advanced another half mile.
 - At night Patrols entered Audenarde suburbs seeking bridging materials and crossing points over the river whose bridges were destroyed.
9. Drive under the highway.
10. Turn right at the intersection with the church monument and town hall.
11. Go under the rail overpass.
12. You will come to a parking lot/ Farmer’s market on the left.
13. Turn right into parking or find other parking in this square.
14. Cross through the market/Paring to park on the north side of the square.

15. At the west end of the park on a raised stepped platform is the Audenarde Monument.
 - The monument is dedicated to some 40,000 Americans who fought here.
 - On the November 2 and 3 the Division occupied this area and moved to the Escaut River.
16. Go to the Southwest corner of the square and go south on N453.
17. Bear right at the next intersection on Hoogstraat to the town square.
 - The gothic styled hall is the Museum of Oudenaarde.
18. At the southeast corner of the square turn left on the Broodstraat.
19. The Broodstraat curves around to the right.
20. Turn left before the bridge onto the Marlboroughlaan.
 - The area with parks and fields to left is where the Duke of Marlborough crossed the river on pontoon bridges in 1708 during the Battle of Oudenaarde.
21. Pass under the rail bridge.
22. Pass under the road bridge.
23. Bear left after the Bridge.
24. Park in the parking lot and take a look at the decorations on the bridge.
 - This road bridge is the “Ohio Bridge”. Germans destroyed the bridge here when they retreated, and troops from Ohio in the 37th Division built foot bridges here to cross. After the war the State of Ohio rebuilt the old bridge, and repeated the gift in 1952 replacing the bridge destroyed in WW2.
25. Return toward the river and take the first left on the north side of the parking lot.
26. Go left at the intersection.
27. Go right at the intersection away from the bridge on N441, appropriately named Ohiostraat.
28. Bear right at the intersection with the traffic light and to right of the monument.
29. Bear Right at the next intersection.
30. At the traffic circle with the “white sculpture” take the second right toward Bruwaan on N90.
31. Turn right toward De Bruwaan (Blue sign on right marks the exit)
32. Go straight at the first intersection toward Doorn.
33. At the fork bear left up the brick road.
34. Go straight at the next two crossroads. Bear left at the fork into Lededorp.
 - Records for the town of Lededorp date to 1038. The church is the Sint-Denijskerk.
35. The street curves left and right by the church.
36. Turn left on the edge of town toward Wannegem.
 - You’ll pass a historic windmill on the right. And the 18th Century Sint-Machutuskerk.
37. At the intersection with the main road turn right toward Deinze on N459.
38. At the intersection go straight on N494.
39. At the traffic circle take the second right toward Deinze on N459.
40. Stay straight at the next intersection.
41. At the traffic circle take the second right and go up over the highway.
42. Bear right after going over the highway to enter the highway headed south.
43. Take the exit for Anzegem/Waregem/5.
44. Bear left on the ramp and turn left at the traffic light onto the Expressweg.
45. Turn left at the traffic light toward American Cemetery onto Flanders Fieldweg.
46. At the third intersection the American Cemetery will be ahead on your right.

Note: Nearby Historic sites include the Kortrijk 1302 Museum in Kortrijk, and the classic Gravensteen castle in the city of Ghent.