



## **American Battle Monuments Commission – World War One Sites**

### **Routes of Interest - Meuse Argonne American Cemetery to the Southwest - “Rainbow” Division, Sergeant York, Butte de Vauquois, Pennsylvania Monument.**

1. From the Meuse Argonne American Cemetery go west toward Romagne on D123
2. At the 4 way intersection in Romagne turn right on D123 toward Toutes Directions.
3. On the right just beyond the bridge is the Romagne '14-'18 private museum.
4. At the intersection by the church turn right and immediately left on D123.
  - Note: Leaving the town a German WW1 Cemetery for more than 1,400 is adjacent to the Romagne town cemetery.
5. Continuing West you cross into the Ardennes District and the road becomes the D54.
  - Note: On a rise under some powerlines look north. On October 14 1918 Lieutenant Colonel William J. “Wild Bill” Donovan led an assault of the 165<sup>th</sup> Regiment of the 42<sup>nd</sup> “Rainbow Division”, and was awarded the Medal of Honor for leading from the front despite wounds.
6. In Sommerance at the stop sign turn left toward Fleville on D4.
7. You will pass under an old rail line
8. Turn left toward Fleville/ Varennes on the D946.
9. In Fleville you will pass through an intersection, just south of it is a monument to the 16<sup>th</sup> United States Infantry who captured Fleville on October 4, 1918.
10. Southwest of Fleville, is the hill town or Chatel-Chéhéry where Sergeant Alvin York
11. Continue South on the D946 past turnoffs for Chatel-Chéhéry and then Exermont.
  - Note: Sergeant Michael B. Ellis of the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division’s 28<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his heroism in fighting around Exermont.
12. Continue south past Apremont.
  - Note: Apremont was the site of U.S. Army Medical Corps triage facilities four hospitals.
13. In Apremont turn right at the crossroad toward Chatel-Chéhéry on D42.
14. At the intersection in Chatel-Chéhéry turn right and go 150 yards.
15. On the left in front of the Mairie (Town Hall) is a monument to Sergeant Alvin York.
  - Note: Sergeant York was awarded the Medal of Honor for gallantry on October 8th, 1918 for actions here. It is possible to follow the general path of his historic patrol.
16. Return to Apremont on the D 42 and turn hard left at the crossroads on the D42.
17. At the “T” intersection in Apremont make a hard left toward Varennes on the D946
18. Descending into Varennes the road curves right.
  - Note: During the French Revolution King Louis the 16<sup>th</sup> tried to escape into exile. He was apprehended in Varennes by authorities of the French Republic.
19. Go straight into town past the church on the left and over the bridge.
20. Bear left uphill past the Mairie.
  - On the right is the Pennsylvania Monument erected to the memory of troops from that state in 1927. Adjacent is the Musée de l’Argonne, a regional museum with World War One exhibits. They have information on local sites.
21. Continue south on D946.

- Note- Forested heights to the west are the Champ Mahaut and Haute Chevauchée that contain WW1 German fortifications that blocked attacks on Varennes.
22. Bear left at the fork on D946 toward Boureuilles/Butte de Vauquois.
  23. In Boureuilles turn left just past the church toward Butte de Vauquois on D212.
    - Note. The D212 roughly follows the German front with a trench line facing south through belts of barbed wire to the French forward outpost trench 400 to 700 yards south, roughly at the woods beyond the fields, all observed from the heights ahead.
  24. At the intersection just short of the church turn left around the island and proceed up the road to Butte de Vauquois parking.
    - Note: These heights were heavily contested by the French and Germans, who tunneled there for shelter, and to place explosive mines under their enemies. The summit has mining craters, restored of trench lines and a memorial. On the opening of the Meuse Argonne Offensive Columns of the 35<sup>th</sup> Division assaulted posts on both sides of the Butte to bypass it and attack Cheppy and Varennes. Lt. Col. George S. Patton commanded tanks here and Captain Harry Truman Commanded an artillery battery.
  25. Return down the hill and go left at the intersection through Vauquois on the D212.
  26. At the fork in the road bare left on the Rue d'Orleans.
  27. At the intersection turn left toward Varennes on the D38.
  28. Turn sharp right at the intersection toward Cheppy.
  29. On the right you will find the Missouri Monument.
    - Note: Just past the stream on the rise there was a German trench line, "The Scorpion".
  30. At the next intersection turn left toward Very on D19c.
  31. At the "T" intersection turn left.
  32. Go west out of Cheppy uphill past the Iron cross on Rue de Varennes.
  33. At the stop sign, turn right, uphill, on D946.
    - Note: The straight D946 and D998 are old Roman roads.
  34. Turn right toward Charpentry/American Cemetery on D998.
  35. At the fork in Charpentry bear right toward Éclisfontaine on D998.
    - Note: Rising above town, Germans defended the line of this road from units of the 35<sup>th</sup> Division attacking from the South and southwest, holding them up for hours despite tank support.
  36. Continue toward Éclisfontaine on D998.
    - Note: Enemy trenches lay on the crest ahead and in the woods on the left here, covered by belts of barbed wire, with a second line even with the first building on the left.
  37. Continue on the D998 toward Romagne.
  38. In Romagne turn right at the Church toward Cunel.
  39. On the left just beyond the church is the Romagne '14-'18 private museum.
  40. Turn left at the next intersection toward Cunel/American Cemetery.
  41. The Entrance to the Meuse Argonne Cemetery will be on your right.