American Battle Monuments Commission

This agency of the United States government operates and maintains 26 American cemeteries and 30 memorials, monuments and markers in 17 countries. The Commission works to fulfill the vision of its first chairman, General of the Armies John J. Pershing. Pershing, commander of the American Expeditionary Forces during World War I, promised that “time will not dim the glory of their deeds.”

Belleau Wood Marine Monument

gps N49 4.407 E3 17.451

The Belleau Wood Marine Monument is reached via a road southward off highway D 9 into Belleau Wood.

Chateau-Thierry Monument

gps N49 2.528 E3 22.250

The Chateau-Thierry Monument is reached from the intersection of highways D 9 and D 1003, then 0.8 mile up the Route du Monument to Hill 204.

ABMC commemorative sites, please visit

www.abmc.gov
Belleau Wood is maintained by the American Battle Monuments Commission as a memorial to the World War I American fighting men.

The U.S. Marine Corps erected the Marine Monument. It commemorates the actions of the 4th Marine Brigade of the U.S. Army’s 2d Division. The 2d Division attacked German positions beginning on June 6, 1918.


On June 30, 1918, the Commanding General, French 6th Army, officially renamed Belleau Wood as “Wood of the Marine Brigade.”

The 2d Division sustained casualties of 8,100 officers and men during the intense fighting in this vicinity during June 1918.

Vestiges of trenches, shell holes, and relics of the war to include weapons found in the vicinity, may be seen near the Marine Monument.

The Chateau-Thierry Monument commemorates the sacrifices and achievements of American and French fighting men before and during the Aisne-Marne and Oise-Aisne offensives.

The monument, designed by Paul Cret, stands on Hill 204. It provides an overview of Chateau Thierry and the Marne River Valley.

The sculpture of eagle and shield on the east face of the monument represents the United States. Beneath it, a map shows the ground gained by U.S. Forces in the region in the summer of 1918.

German advances in late May led to the 3d Division joining the fight. Its units assisted French troops in preventing the Germans from crossing the Marne River.

The 3d Division held the south bank of the Marne until the French-American counteroffensive forced German withdrawal. It earned the nickname “Rock of the Marne.”