



American Battle Monuments Commission – World War One Sites

Routes of Interest – The Chateau-Thierry American Monument, 3rd “Rock of the Marne” Infantry Division, and Hill 204.

Note: The memorial is on “Hill 204”. It was captured by the Germans on June 1, 1918 with the town of Vaux just northwest of the hill. Chateau-Thierry is the town on the Marne River east of Hill 204. The woods behind the Memorial are the Bois de la Cote. There is a nature trail in the woods and remains of trenches. The road north of the hill is the Paris Road whose capture complicated Allied supply.

1. Return down the Memorial’s access road to the northeast.
2. At the exit bear left toward Meaux on the D1003.
 - Note: Driving down the road you are on the old Route de Paris, the Germans held the heights to your left in the Bois de la Cote. Holding this road complicated Allied supply and communication efforts to the south and east.
 - Keep an eye out on the right for a boulder with a large Star. This marks the limit of advance of the 2nd Infantry Division that recaptured Vaux on July 1, 1918.
3. At the bottom of the hill turn left toward Monneaux on Route “C”, Route des Chamelins
4. Bear left at the fork, the street name changes to Rue Hector Papelard.
5. At the Crossroads in Monneaux stay straight on Rue Hector Papelard.
 - Hill 204’s slopes on your left are vineyards. There are wineries in Monneaux and Essômes-sur-Marne. The attacks on Hill 204 by American and French troops were made from the direction of Monneaux starting July 1, 1918.
6. Follow the road around Hill 204 into Essômes-sur-Marne.
7. At the traffic Circle take the second right toward Essômes on Rue Jacques Fourier.
8. At the next intersection go straight.
9. The immediate next intersection keep left on Rue Churchill. (Note the WW1 monument)
10. Continue straight past the church and on to the traffic Circle on D969.
11. At the traffic circle take the first right toward Epernay on D1003 over the Marne River.
12. At the traffic circle take the second right toward Epernay Troyes on D1003.
13. At the Traffic light turn left toward Chateau-Thierry Centre.
14. At the traffic Circle go straight, (take the second exit) toward Chateau-Thierry Centre.
15. Go across the first bridge, keep straight.
16. Turn left before the second bridge there is parking down a block on the left.
 - From the bridge hill 204 is to your left. Across the bridge is Chateau-Thierry with castle walls hidden on the wooded hill. Germans attacked on June 1 from across the Marne to your right, forcing French troops and Company “A” of 7th Machinegun Battalion back to the other end of this bridge. When the bridge was blown the rest of the 7th Machinegun Battalion was to your left and right in alleys and gardens facing the river.
17. Exit the parking lot on the east side and turn right (south).
18. Go across the square, turn left then, turn right heading south.

19. At the traffic Circle take the second right continuing south.
20. Turn left at the stoplight toward Epernay Reims.
21. At the Traffic Circle go straight (take the second exit) toward Epernay Reims.
22. Continue out of town on D1003. The road will curve right
23. Turn left toward Fossoy - Centre on D1410
24. Follow the D1410 through Fossoy.
25. Turn left at the intersection with a cross on the right.
 - On July 15 the Germans crossed the Marne River from here east to Mareuil-le-Port toward Epernay in an effort to encircle Reims. French intelligence uncovered the attack plan ahead of time. The bombarded German troops massed at night on the slopes across the valley.
 - The 3rd Infantry Division stood here during the attack on a line in front of Fossoy, Crezancy, and Moulins, with defended sentry post on the river. Their patrols probed across the Marne, and American Artillery Regiments were in support.
26. The road soon turns right.
27. Bear left on at the fork toward Mézy-Moulins.
28. At the stop sign intersection, go straight, over the rail line and into Moulins.
29. At the “T” intersections turn left on the D1003.
30. There is parking on both sides of the street just past the park on the left.
 - On July 15 Germans pushed through Moulins to the south. Four companies of the U.S. 28th Infantry Division’s 109th and 110th Infantry were in riverbank positions on the Marne River with French forces east of here.
 - There is a sidewalk monument in front of the Mairie, to the 38th U.S. Infantry of the 3rd Division fighting here in July 1918. Several companies of the Regiment held out on the ridge above the town withdrawing on the morning of the 16th. This is where the 3rd Division earned its moniker “Rock of the Marne.”
31. Return south to the “T” intersection and turn right toward Mézy-Moulins.
32. Bear left at the fork.
33. At the stop sign intersection turn right toward Mézy-Moulins on D4.
34. Stop at a pullout on the right.
 - The pocket position of the 38th infantry Regiment was in the wooded ravine above Moulins. The south end of that ridge was the 38th Infantry’s right flank on the 16th and 17th.
 - The 30th held the woods visible 500 Yards south of here, and the 3rd Divisions line extended west to the Marne in front of Fossoy.
 - The river outposts and predawn company sized counter attacks across these fields delayed the Germans here.
35. The Company “C” of the 30th in Mézy-Moulins made a slow fighting withdrawal, only leaving this site at 4:30 pm toward the woods to the south.
36. Withdrawing Americans took a number of Germans prisoners just south of Mézy-Moulins.
37. By July 17 the 3rd Division recaptured the ground between this road and the river to the west.
38. Go north on the D4 through over the railroad, through Mézy-Moulins and across the Marne.
 - There is a beautiful Gothic church in Mézy-Moulins.
39. Bear left at the fork after the bridge.
40. At the traffic Circle take the second right toward Gland/Chateau-Thierry on D3.
41. Bear left at the Fork toward Gland/Chateau-Thierry on D3.
42. Bear left at the Fork with a monument toward Gland/Chateau-Thierry on D3.
 - Leaving Mont-Saint-Pere there is a pull out with a view of the Marne River.
43. At the cross by the fork in Gland bear right on D3.

- Leaving Gland you can see the distant Chateau-Thierry Memorial on the Hill 204.
44. In Brasles go straight through the first intersection toward Chateau-Thierry.
 45. In Brasles go left at the second intersection toward Chateau-Thierry
 46. At the traffic Circle take the third right staying on the river front.
 47. At the second traffic circle take the first right on Rue du General de Gaulle.
 48. There is parking at the square in front of the Hotel de Ville (town hall).
 - At the Hotel de Ville there are plaques and installations commemorating The Great War, American and Allied Forces, and a memorial to Lieutenant Quentin Roosevelt.
 - On the west side of the square is the American Reformed Church erected in 1924 by American Methodist congregations with other features provided by American communities and families.
 - Behind the west of the Hotel de Ville are steps to the castle walls. Joan of Arc came here when an English garrison surrendered to French King Charles VII's army on July 27, 1429.
 - Other Museums in Chateau-Thierry: Both a short walk from the square.
- Hotel-Dieu de Chateau-Thierry** with a collection of Art, historic medical objects, and furnishing.
- Musée Jean de La Fontaine:** The birthplace of the poet and writer of fables has been carefully restored. It houses works of art and other materials related to his life and works.
49. At the southwest corner of the square go south on Rue Drugeon-Lecart to the left of CIC Bank.
 50. At the traffic circle take the first right along the river.
 51. At the second traffic circle continue along the river.
 52. Look to the right for a white stone monument, turn into the parking lot just beyond.
 - This is the monument to the 3rd "Rock of the Marne" Division and its members that fought in France in two World Wars. The WW1 monument was destroyed in WW2 at a location near the stone bridge over the Marne River. This one was dedicated at this place 1961.
 - In walking distance above the parking lot is the church of Saint-Crépin. A church has been on this site since the thirteen hundreds. Damaged in the Hundred Years War, it was reconstructed around 1500 in Gothic style.
 53. Leave the parking lot on the west side, and turn left toward the main road.
 54. At the main road turn right (Avenue de Jules Lefebvre/Avenue de Paris/D1003) towards Hill 204.
 55. At the Traffic Circle go straight (take the second exit) on the Avenue de Paris.
 56. At the intersection with a gate and lion go straight on the Avenue de Paris.
 57. At the traffic circle take the second exit toward "Monument Américain" on D1003
 58. Go up to the top of the hill to the Chateau-Thierry Monument, turning left onto the access road.
 59. The monument is 1 km up the access road. A splendid monument, fine view, and visitor center.