

## American Battle Monuments Commission - World War One Sites

## Routes of Interest - Meuse Argonne American Cemetery to the South, Montfaucon Monument, Hindenburg Line.

- 1. Ask the Meuse Argonne American Cemetery staff about the Montfaucon Monument hours.
- 2. From the Meuse Argonne American Cemetery go East on the D123 toward Cunel.
  - On the East side of the Church is a memorial to "Three American Citizens who died for Liberty".
- 3. Bear right after the church in Cunel toward Nantillois/Montfaucon on D15.
- 4. Bear right at the next fork toward Montfaucon on the D15.
- 5. At the top of the rise there is small road on the right to pull out for a moment.
  - On October 12, 1918 this was the right end of the line of the American 5<sup>th</sup> Division. That day they advanced from this ridge through Cunel to the forest and ridgeline beyond. For his gallantry in this action Lt. Samuel Woodfill was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.
- 6. Continue south on the D15. You will drive through a small wood.
- 7. Emerging from the wood you will see Madeleine Farm on your left.
- 8. The gravel road on the left, after the farm, is for the WW1 German Cemetery at Nantillois.
  - The fields and forests here witnessed very heavy fighting. Americans attacked from the South toward the farm From September 28<sup>th</sup> to October 9<sup>th</sup>. Hindenburg line ran through the forest north of the farm on either side of the road. The 4<sup>th</sup>, 79<sup>th</sup>, and 80<sup>th</sup> Divisions made attacks here with tank and Artillery support. The Farm was taken on the October 9 by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division. 918 German soldiers are interred in the cemetery.
- 9. Continue south on D15 to the Center of Nantillois.
- 10. On the left is the State of Pennsylvania Fountain dedicated to the U.S. 80<sup>th</sup> "Blue Ridge" Division and opposite is the town's monument to those lost in World War One.
- 11. Continue on the D15 toward Montfaucon/Memorial Américain. Look for a tower sticking up from the forested hill ahead.
- 12. At the fork bear right toward Montfaucon/Memorial Américain on D15, and continue around the hill.
- 13. Bear left at the fork toward Butte de Montfaucon. (Yellow sign in middle of fork.)
- 14. Turn left at the next intersection.
- 15. Turn right at the next corner onto D15c.
- 16. Follow the road up hill. You will see the monument ahead on the left.
- 17. Bear left at the fork toward Butte de Montfaucon.
- 18. There will be parking at the monument.
  - The monument faces the American lines at the beginning of the Meuse Argonne Offensive. From the top of the monument one can see much of the Meuse Argonne battlefield to the north. Behind the monument are the ruins the ancient town of Montfaucon, the German Army camouflaged fortifications to look like ruins here.
- 19. Montfaucon Pershing Square- In the Middle of Montfaucon, next to the church is a square named for General Pershing.

- On the west side of the square is the "Sammies Monument" Dedicated to American Soldiers.
- On the East side of the square is an Alms house built by the State of Ohio to commemorate the 37<sup>th</sup> Division. There is plaque on the wall and a clock facing the square.
- 20. Retrace your route out of Montfaucon on the D15 going clockwise around the hill.
- 21. Turn north on the D104 toward Cierges/Romagne.
- 22. Pass directly through Cierges-sous-Montfaucon.
  - Cierges was the scene of heavy fighting and the village changed hands. The 37<sup>th</sup> "Buckeye" Division took this town from the south on September 28<sup>th</sup> but thrown back by a counter attack. On the 29<sup>th</sup> they made more attacks on the town with tank support. The 32<sup>nd</sup> "Arrow" Division took the town on October 1<sup>st</sup>.
- 23. Bear left at the fork in the road at the small Park, and over the little bridge.
- 24. Turn right at the next intersection toward Romagne/ American Cemetery.
- 25. Turn right at the Church toward Cunel.
- 26. On the left just beyond the church is the Romagne '14-'18 private museum of Mr. de Vries.
- 27. Turn left at the next intersection toward Cunel/American Cemetery.
- 28. The Entrance to the Meuse Argonne Cemetery will be on your right.