



American Battle Monuments Commission – World War One Sites

Routes of Interest – The Kemmel American Monument, the 27th “New York” and 30th “Old Hickory” Divisions, Ypres, and the Menin Gate.

Historical note: The 27th “New York” and 30th “Old Hickory” Infantry Divisions attacked and seized German Army positions in this area between August 31st and September 2nd 1918, while under British command. This region had been fought over since the early days of the war with Ypres to the northeast being a center of British defense.

1. Start at the tourist office in the town of Kemmel, tourism Heuvelland, Sint-Laurentiusplein 1, 8950 Heuvelland, Belgium. Ask about the Bayernwald trenches and other local WW1 sites.
2. Go to the traffic circle of the N304 and N331 go north on N331 toward Ieper.
3. Park carefully at the Kemmel American Monument is on the Kemmelstraat (N331) between the town of Vierstraat and the area around the Kemmelburg Hill.
 - From the Kemmel American Monument look across the road. On August 30th The 27th Division advanced from the skyline a half mile to the northwest. Two infantry regiments, the 105th and 106th advanced on a two mile front.
 - They advanced against sparse resistance and stopped just beyond the American Monument. The Monument is in the middle of the line of advance of the 106th Regiment.
4. Drive toward Vierstraat on tN331.
5. At the four way intersection in Vierstraat turn right. There is a little space to stop on the right as you come to the field.
 - On the morning of September 1 the British bombarded across the front at 3:30 a.m. and the Division advanced more than half way across the field ahead by early afternoon, but German resistance stiffened and they counterattacked. The Division pulled back in the center 200 meters down this road with the flanks advanced.
6. Drive on southeast.
 - On the September 2 British Artillery harassed the German main position on the ridge ahead enabling the 27th Division to advance to the line of small tree as at the brook in the middle of the field. On the morning of the September 3rd, A British division rotated the 27th out of the line.
7. Continue southeast and take the second left on the Hollandseschuurstraat.
8. The road turns to the right.
9. Turn left at the intersection.
10. Park on the left at the blue parking sign.
 - From here you can see the lane of advance. It stretched for two-thirds of the way from the Kemmelburg to your left to behind the little forest to the northwest, and this was the view of entrenched German troops.
11. To visit the Bayernwald restored World War One German trenches turn right toward Bayernwald.
12. Return to the Voormezelestraat and turn right to head north.

13. Road becomes Wijtschaatsestraat toward Voormezele.
14. At the first intersection in town bear left.
15. Turn right at the traffic circle at the church toward Hollebeke on Sint-Elooisweg.
16. Just after leaving Voormezele (sign on right) turn left on Vaartstraat.
17. With Caution cross the highway ahead and to the right on Vaartstraat toward ASTROLAB.
 - The high ground ahead is Hill 60. The ridge overlooked the land south of Ypres, was the site of heavy fighting and notable for use of more than a ton of explosives exploded under enemy lines at the end of tunnels over 100 yards long.
18. Bear left at the fork. You will pass a British military cemetery on the left.
19. Go straight at the crossroad.
20. Turn left at the “T” intersection toward Zillebeke- Leper on Komensweg.
21. Turn right at the next intersection toward Zillebeke on Blauwepoortstraat.
22. At the intersection in town turn left toward Menen.
23. At the traffic Circle take the first right on N8 toward Geluveld.
24. Exit right on the Canadalaan toward Museum Hill 62.
25. You will pass a British military cemetery on the right.
26. Look for parking for the Sanctuary Wood/Hill 62 Museum/Hill 62 Canadian Memorial. Return to the N8 and turn right.
27. The Hooge Crater Museum and Hooge British Cemetery.
28. Return west on the N8 toward Iepres.
29. At the traffic circle take the 4th right on N-37.
30. At the traffic Circle take the second right toward Heuvelland/Centrum on N37.
31. At the traffic Circle take the first right toward Centrum on N336.
 - Ypres is a historically strategic location held by the British Army during the war. Besieged by the Spanish in the 1580s, by the French four times in the 1600s. You can walk the old fortifications for over a mile.
32. Go across the moat and through the Lille Gate.
33. Past the walls go straight, the street curves left past the yellow brick police station on the right.
34. You will pass a church on the right, and a clock tower and steeple will loom ahead.
35. Turn right, there is parking down the market square.
36. The In Flanders Field Museum is in the large hall with a clock tower.
 - The Museum has exhibitions and has information on other World War One sites in the area.
37. (On Foot) Go from the Market square to the southeast corner of the square.
38. Walk down the street toward the Menin Gate.
39. Carefully cross the street into the Menin Gate.

Note: The Menin Gate - The interior and exterior walls of the Menin gate is a memorial to British, and Commonwealth soldiers killed in the salient around Ypres and whose final resting place is unknown. There is a daily ceremony of commemoration each evening evenings when wreathes are often laid. The Ceremony has continued since July 1928. It was stopped under enemy occupation during World War Two, but resumed evening of the town’s liberation despite nearby fighting.