



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

### **Routes of Interest - Sommepey American Monument, 93rd Division Monuments, the Lost Battalion, Sgt. York, Pennsylvania Monument.**

**Note: Sommepey American Monument - The French refer to this as the “Monument Americain du Blanc Mont”. This site commemorates the attack made by the U.S. Army’s 2<sup>nd</sup> Division in the Champagne region. They fought as part of the French Second Army under General Gouraud, and their ranks included the U.S. Marine Brigade, and elements of the 36<sup>th</sup> Division. Fighting occurred here in October 1918. The Second Division took the ground swiftly on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of .and a dressing station was established at Sommepey by Ambulance Co. No. 1. Later Field Hospital No. 1 and Surgical Field Hospitals 15 and 23 reinforced medical services there.**

**During summer the Sommepey American Monument is open weekdays from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and on weekends from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.. The monument is open on French and American holidays, and closed on 25 December and 1 January.**

1. Return south to the Sommepey –Tahure traffic Circle.
2. Take the 3<sup>rd</sup> exit onto D20 toward Aure/Monthois.
3. Turn right at the crossroad at the white house in Aure onto the D6 toward Manre/Grandpre.
4. Caution: The road turns hard left in Manre and hard right after the church toward Ardeuil.
5. In Ardeuil-et-Montfauxelles bear right at the fork intersection toward Sechault/Grandpre.
6. Keep right toward Sechault.
7. Detour off Route that involves some walking: About 1/3 of a mile on your Right there is a small paved road that leads to a gate.
  - Note: Uphill from the gate is the monument to the 371<sup>st</sup> “Red Hand” Regiment a segregated African American regiment fighting in the French 4<sup>th</sup> Army. Corporal Freddie Stowers was awarded the Medal of Honor for his courage and leadership near this site. The monument was damaged by shellfire in WW2.
8. As you approach a 4-way stop at Sechault turn into the small parking on the left.
  - Note: This is the monument of the famous 369<sup>th</sup> U.S. Infantry, the “Harlem Hellfighters”, who fought here in 1918 with the French 161<sup>st</sup> Division. On the September 29<sup>th</sup> they attacked Sechault from the heights, stopping just beyond the village, and rescuing some men of the 372<sup>nd</sup> Regiment who had been pinned down south of the village.
9. Turn left at the four way stop intersection toward Monthois on D982
10. On your right 2.5 miles north is the Memorial Obelisk for the 372<sup>nd</sup> U.S. Infantry.
  - Note the 372<sup>nd</sup> also called “The Red Hand” was another Regiment of the 93<sup>rd</sup> Division that seized this point, advancing over two miles in two days from south of Ardeuil.
11. Return to Sechault on the D982
12. At Sechault turn left into Sechault on D6.
13. Drive several miles until you come to a crossroads in the fields.
14. Turn right toward Autry on the D21.
15. Bear left at the fork on the D21

16. Bear left at the fork toward Binarville on the D21.
17. Curve around to the right on D21.
18. Bear right south of town toward Binarville on D21.
19. A Memorial obelisk to the 9eme Cuirassiers will appear on the left.
20. Turn left at the Monument onto the D66.
21. Follow this road through fields into the forest around several bends.
  - Note: Here you are entering the Argonne Forrest.
22. You will see a small monument ahead on the right with a space to park.
  - Note: This is a monument to the “Lost Battalion” Around 550 men of the 77<sup>th</sup> “Liberty” Division’s 307<sup>th</sup> Regiment and 306<sup>th</sup> Machine gun Battalion.
23. Continue around the past the pond.
  - The actual position of the “Lost Battalion” was on the slope below the road on your right, running for about 400 yards beyond the pond.
  - Note: Their attack penetrated deep into German positions where they dug in and became isolated ¾ of a mile from their lines on this densely wooded slope. They held off enemy attacks until the 8<sup>th</sup> when around 200 remaining men were relieved by advancing American troops.
24. Continue on D66, you will cross into the Ardennes district and the road becomes D442.
25. In Apremont turn left at the crossroad toward Chatel-Chéhéry on D42.
26. At the intersection in Chatel-Chéhéry turn right and go 150 yards.
27. On the left in front of the town hall (Mairie) is a monument to Sergeant Alvin York.
  - Note: Sergeant York was awarded the Medal of Honor for gallantry on October 8<sup>th</sup>, 1918. It is possible to follow the general path of his historic patrol using published material.
28. Return to Apremont on the D 42.
29. At the intersection in Apremont make a hard left toward Varennes on the D42
30. At the next intersection continue straight toward Varennes on D42.
31. At the next intersection turn right toward Varennes on D946.
32. Descending into Varennes the road turns to the right.
33. Go straight into town past the church on the left and over the bridge.
34. After the bridge bear left uphill toward the Mairie.
35. Past the town hall on the right is the Pennsylvania Monument erected to the memory of troops from that state in 1927.
36. Continue up the block and take the next right and park at the Musée de l'Argonne, a regional museum with World War One exhibits.