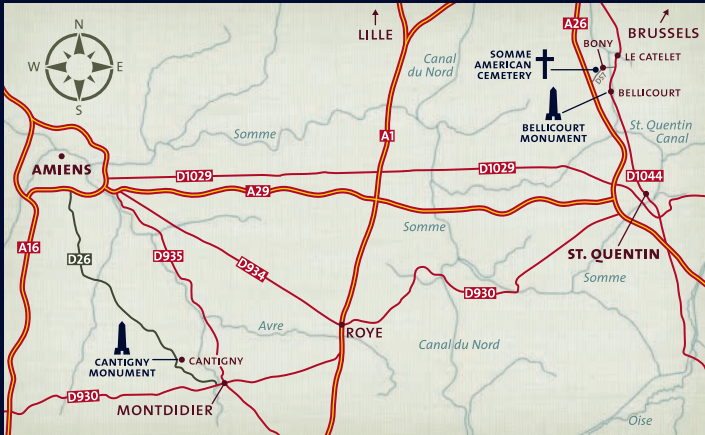


Cantigny Monument

gps N49 39.803 E2 29.472

Bellicourt Monument

gps N49 58.511 E3 13.919



The Cantigny Monument is on the west side of highway D26, 4 miles northwest of Montdidier.

The Bellicourt Monument is on the west side of highway D1044, just north of Bellcourt.

American Battle Monuments Commission

This agency of the United States government operates and maintains 26 American cemeteries and 29 memorials, monuments and markers in 16 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."

American Battle Monuments Commission

2300 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 500
Arlington, VA 22201 USA

Somme American Cemetery and Memorial

rue de Macquincourt, 02420 Bony, France
tel +33 (0)3 23 66 87 20 email somme@abmc.gov
gps N49 59.103 E3 12.798



For more information on this site and other ABMC commemorative sites, please visit:

www.abmc.gov



Bellicourt Monument & Cantigny Monument

American Battle Monuments Commission



BELLICOURT MONUMENT



CANTIGNY MONUMENT

Cantigny Monument

The Cantigny Monument commemorates the first large offensive operation by an American division during World War I.

The location of Cantigny on high ground was an essential location for German forces. Its seizure by the Americans would weaken the effects of the German offensives in that sector.

The 28th Infantry Regiment of the 1st Division, reinforced by companies of the 18th Infantry Regiment, led the attack. Its assault began at 6:45 a.m. on May 28, 1918. Support included American and French artillery, mortars, machine gun, flame throwers, and tanks.

Although they encountered heavy German resistance, the 1st Division units prevailed, seizing all objectives by 12:00 noon. German counterattacks and heavy artillery bombardments continued for three days. The 1st Division units held firm to the ground they had gained.

On June 2, the 1st Division assumed control of more of the sector, releasing French units to fight elsewhere.



Photo: ABMC

Stars encircle the monument's top. Four American eagles grace the corners of the shaft.

Bellicourt Monument

The Bellicourt Monument commemorates American units which fought with the British armies in France. The 27th and 30th Divisions came to this vicinity after fighting Belgium earlier in September 1918.

The St. Quentin Canal Tunnel passes beneath Bellicourt and Bony. It was part of the Germans' formidable Hindenburg Line.

The Bellicourt Monument lies above the tunnel.

The 30th and 27th Divisions went into the line in adjoining zones of action on September 24 and 25 respectively, under tactical control of the Australian Corps. After actions in succeeding days, they participated in the main Allied offensive beginning on September 29.

Both the 27th and 30th Division engaged in heavy fighting with many casualties. Australian troops passed through the American divisions and continued the offensive. The 27th and 30th Divisions were relieved on September 30.

American casualties from fighting in this region are interred at the Somme American Cemetery near Bony, a mile to the northwest.



Photo: ABMC

The orientation table on the terrace helps visitors connect nearby terrain with events of 1918.



Photo: The National Archives

A soldier of the 1st Division, wounded while attacking Cantigny, is evacuated for medical care.



Photo: The National Archives

An American soldier explores one of the entrances Germans dug into the St. Quentin Canal Tunnel.