



## Montfaucon Monument

GPS N49 16.335 E5 8.5



*The Montfaucon Monument is on the north side of Highway D15A, one-quarter mile east of the village of Montfaucon d'Argonne and seven miles south of the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery.*

## 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

### Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery and Memorial

55110 Romagne-sous-Montfaucon, France  
**tel** +33.(0).3.29.85.14.18 **email** meuse-argonne@abmc.gov  
**gps** N49 20.044 E5 05.376

# Montfaucon Monument

American Battle Monuments Commission



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

[www.abmc.gov](http://www.abmc.gov)

# Montfaucon Monument



The Montfaucon Monument commemorates the American victory during the Meuse-Argonne Offensive of September 26 through November 11, 1918 and the heroic service by the armies of France before.

The monument was dedicated in 1937. It is a massive granite Doric column, surmounted by a statue symbolic of Liberty. It towers more than 200 feet above the hill and the war ruins of the village around it.

Attractions include the monument itself, and also nearby artifacts of the war. Examples include the remains of the nearby church, as well as German bunkers near the monument.

After World War I, the village was rebuilt west of the monument.

## The Meuse-Argonne Offensive

The Butte de Montfaucon dominates the area between the Meuse River on the east and the Argonne Forest on the west. Many battles have occurred on and near it over more than twelve centuries.

Capture of the Butte de Montfaucon was essential to the Meuse Argonne Offensive. German forces had made it a formidable fortress and also a prime observation post.



Photo: ABMC

*Visitors can see these church ruins and many other vestiges of World War I combat at and near Montfaucon.*

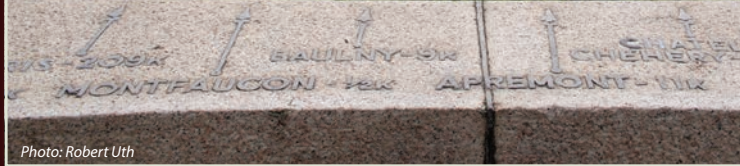


Photo: Robert Uth

*The observation platform on top of the Montfaucon Monument is reached by 234 steps. It affords magnificent views of this battlefield and the countryside.*

**SEPTEMBER 26, 1918:** U.S. First Army launched the offensive. Montfaucon was the immediate objective of V Corps. Advances were achieved on both flanks of Montfaucon, but the fortified hill remained in German hands.

**SEPTEMBER 27:** The 79th Division renewed the assault on Montfaucon, clearing it of enemy forces by about noon. From that day forward, Montfaucon served as an American observation post. German artillery shelled it as they fell back northward in succeeding weeks.

**OCTOBER 4:** The second phase of the Meuse-Argonne Offensive began. The heights of Romagne and Cunel were seized 10 days later.

**OCTOBER 31:** U.S. and French forces finished clearing the Argonne Forest.

**NOVEMBER 1:** The final phase of the offensive began.

**NOVEMBER 11:** The Armistice became effective at 11:00 a.m. local time.



Photo: The National Archives

*Officers of the 3rd Division survey the battlefield from the German Crown Prince's observatory, now captured, on top of the Montfaucon hill. German artillery was shelling Montfaucon at the time. October 17, 1918.*



Photo: The National Archives

*Soldiers of the U.S. 78th Division and the French Fourth Army cheering when they linked up at Boul't-aux-Bois on November 3, 1918 near the end of the Meuse-Argonne Offensive.*