



# MEUSE-ARGONNE, FRANCE HISTORIC TRAIL



## FIELD GUIDE



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®  
TRANSATLANTIC COUNCIL



# HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

This Field Guide contains information on the Meuse-Argonne Historical Trail designed by Lieutenant-Colonel Douglas V. Mastriano, US Army. The guide is intended to be a starting point in your endeavor to learn about the history of the sites on the trail. Remember, this may be the only time your Scouts visit the Meuse-Argonne area in their life so make it a great time!

While TAC tries to update these Field Guides when possible, it may be several years before the next revision. If you have comments or suggestions, please send them to [Admin@tac-bsa.org](mailto:Admin@tac-bsa.org) or post them on the TAC Nation Facebook Group Page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/27951084309/>.

This guide can be printed as a 5½ x 4¼ inch pamphlet or read on a tablet or smart phone.



Front Cover: Montfaucon American Monument

Front Cover Inset: Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery and Memorial



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# GETTING PREPARED

Just like with any hike (or any activity in Scouting), the Historic Trail program starts with **Being Prepared**.

1. Review this Field Guide in detail.
2. Check local conditions and weather.
3. Study and Practice with the map and compass.
4. Pack rain gear and other weather-appropriate gear.
5. Take plenty of water.
6. Make sure socks and hiking shoes or boots fit correctly and are broken in.
7. Pack a first aid kit, "just in case."
8. Discuss the day's activities, so there are no surprises; discuss safe hiking.
9. Ensure Two-Deep Leadership at all times.
10. Check the Quick Quiz and keep it with you on the trail.



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# WHAT IS THE HISTORIC TRAIL?

So –you are thinking about doing the Meuse-Argonne Historic Trail. Why should you do it? There are numerous reasons one can think of in justifying doing this historic trail. Although, the most important is to honor the memory of so many great Americans who sacrificed everything to safeguard our freedom. It is because of the sacrifices that our forefathers made on these battlefields that we are a great nation today.

The Meuse-Argonne Offensive was led and planned by the US Army Expeditionary Force (AEF) from 26 September 1918 to 11 November 1918 under the command of General John J. Pershing.

It was here for four years that French and German troops fought terrible battles against each other, costing thousands of lives. Also, here in 1918, the United States launched its important attack deep into German territory, called the Meuse-Argonne Offensive. The American attack was very successful, and broke the German defensive lines in the area. However, this success came at a high cost in American lives. You will see this first hand at the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery and Memorial, where over 14,000 Americans are buried.

The Meuse Argonne Historic Trail includes four required stops, one required reading and four recommended stops. The trail is located west of the French town of Verdun, and just north of Autobahn A-4. It includes several locations of particular importance to the United States and France.

Along the required stops, you will walk the ground where SGT Alvin C. York captured 132 German soldiers, walk around the actual headquarters of the German Command deep in the Argonne Forest, see one of the best preserved World War One battlefields around Hill 285 and walk with reverence around the holy ground where so many of our fellow-countrymen are buried, having died near this historic trail.

A horizontal banner with a rainbow gradient, featuring the text "MEUSE - ARGONNE 1918" in white capital letters.

MEUSE - ARGONNE 1918



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# HISTORIC TRAIL ROUTE

## Hike

### Where and How to Start

There are four locations to visit and two hikes to complete the Historic Trail. You can visit them in any order but we recommend you start the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery in the town of Romagne-sous-Montfaucon. Also, please note the following:

**Unexploded Ordnance:** There is a lot of artillery, hand grenades, etc. that can be found. IF you come across any – avoid them. They can still explode.

**Rough Terrain:** The Argonne Forest consists of some of the most rugged terrain in Eastern France. This includes step hills, gullies, etc. Be sure to bring the proper hiking gear.

**Bad Weather:** This region is known for bad weather, so be prepared for rain.

**Dangerous Roads:** The roads are narrow, windy and particularly dangerous since the locals drive quite fast on them. Stay off of the roads as much as possible when hiking.

### Distance and Time

The first hike, the “Circuit du Sergeant York,” in Châtel-Chéhéry covers the ground where SGT Alvin York earned his Medal of Honor during the Meuse-Argonne Offensive. The hike is a little over 3km and should take about an hour with stops along the way to read about his actions. The second hike in Varennes-en-Argonne is a little over a 1km. With stops at each site including the museum, expect to take about an hour to complete the hike. The other two stops are the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery and the preserved battlefield at Vauquois. Expect the entire trail to take most of a day including the hikes and driving between sights.

There are also five other recommended stops in the area if you have time. They include the Montfaucon American Monument, the US Lost Battalion Monument, Hill 285, the Crown Prince Bunker Complex and the Voie Sacrée between Verdun and Bar-le-Duc. You may be able to fit one or two of these into the same day as the rest of the trail or add a second day to be able to visit them all.



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# ROMAGNE-SOUS-MONTFAUCON

## Checkpoint #1 – Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery

Within the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery and Memorial in France, which covers 130.5 acres, rest the largest number of our military dead in Europe, a total of 14,246. Most of those buried here lost their lives during the Meuse-Argonne Offensive of World War I. The immense array of headstones rises in long regular rows upward beyond a wide central pool to the chapel that crowns the ridge. A beautiful bronze screen separates the chapel foyer from the interior, which is decorated with stained-glass windows portraying American unit insignia; behind the altar are flags of the principal Allied nations.

On either side of the chapel are memorial loggias. One panel of the west loggia contains a map of the Meuse-Argonne Offensive. Inscribed on the remaining panels of both loggias are Tablets of the Missing with 954 names, including those from the U.S. expedition to northern Russia in 1918-1919. Rosettes mark the names of those since recovered and identified.

A renovated, 1,600-square-foot center visitor center reopened in November 2016. Through interpretive exhibits that incorporate personal stories, photographs, films, and interactive displays, visitors will gain a better understanding of the critical importance of the Meuse-Argonne Offensive as it fits into the Great War. See a picture on the front cover of the cemetery.

Dedicated: May 30, 1937

Burials: 14,246

Missing in Action: 954

Acres: 130.50

Latin Crosses: 13,978

Stars of David: 268

Sets of Brothers: 21

Medal of Honor Recipients: 9

### 49°20'02.8"N 5°05'22.2"E – 55110 Romagne-Sous-Montfaucon

*After visiting the cemetery, your next stop is the town of Châtel-Chéhéry, where you will retrace the steps of Sergeant Alvin York as he earned his Medal of Honor. It is about a 20- minute drive. If you have time, you can also take a short detour to the Montfaucon American Monument about 10 minutes to the south of the cemetery.*



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# CHÂTEL-CHÉHÉRY

## Checkpoint #2 - Châtel-Chéhéry

On October 8, 1918, Corporal Alvin C. York of the 328th Infantry, 82d Infantry Division fought a desperate battle with a German machine gun detachment and brought into camp 132 prisoners. Over the next few pages, you will read excerpts from his diary as he recounts the events that day and you walk the "Circuit du Sergeant York."

The idea for the Sergeant York Historic Trail came from a desire to allow visitors to the area a chance to "follow the footsteps" of the brave men who fought for freedom. The actual location where York earned the Medal of Honor had never been accurately documented and, with the passage of time, had been lost. With years of research in the American and German archives complete, The Sergeant York Discovery Expedition was formed to locate and mark the "York Spot" so that it would never again be lost in time. The trail and monument are designed to preserve the York legacy in the Argonne and honor all those who sacrificed for the cause of freedom in the "Great War"

After the discovery of the "York Spot" as it has been nicknamed, SYDE turned their efforts toward the creation of the York Trail. This was no easy task because, in France, nothing of this nature happens quickly. Even with SYDE's discovery of the .45 caliber ACP (Automatic Colt Pistol) shells marking the spot where York fought off the bayonet attack, it took nearly two years of planning and preparation before visitors would take their first steps into history on the Sgt York Historic Trail in 2008. It would take the help and coordination of the Boy Scouts, Volunteers, Military Liaisons, Political Leaders, Government Officials, and people willing to donate funds and time to make this dream a reality. Over the last ten years several Eagle Scout projects have helped to improve the route. You can read more about the trail and work involved at <http://www.sgtorkdiscovery.com>.

You can start your hike at the City Hall in Châtel-Chéhéry and follow the signs on the trail. York passed this point around 0530 on 08 October 1918. Read the following from York's diary: (continued on next page)



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# CHÂTEL-CHÉHÉRY

## Checkpoint #2 - Châtel-Chéhéry (cont.)

OCTOBER 7th 1918

Argonne Forest, France--We lay in some little holes by the roadside all day. That night we went and stayed a little while and come back to our little holes and the shells busting all around us. I saw men just blown up by the big German shells. So the order came for us to take hills 223 and 240 the 8th.

It was raining a little bit all day, drizzly and very damp. Lots of big shells bursting all around us. We were not up close enough for the machine guns to reach us, but airplanes were buzzing overhead most all the time, just like a lot of hornets. Lots of men were killed by the artillery fire. And lots more wounded. We saw quite a lot of our machine gun battalion across the road from us blown up by the big shells. The woods were all mussed up and looked as if a terrible cyclone had swept through them.

But God would never be cruel enough to create a cyclone as terrible as that Argonne battle. Only man would ever think of doing an awful thing like that. It looked like "the abomination of desolation" must look like. And all through the long night those big guns flashed and growled just like the lightning and the thunder when it storms in the mountains at home.

That night the orders came for us to take Hill 223. The zero hour was set for 6 o'clock, which was just before daylight. We were to go over the top, take the hill, and advance across the valley to the ridges on the other side, and take them and press on to the Decauville Railroad, which was our objective. It was a very important railroad for the Germans. And the Lost Battalion was in there somewhere, needing help most awful bad!

**49°16'55.2"N 4°57'14.0"E - 20 Rue Laloy Chenet, 08250 Châtel-Chéhéry**

*Walk north and take the first left. You should see a Sergeant York Historic Trail information board here. This will take you to a dirt road, which at first looks like a cut. The hill to your immediate right (as you walk) is Hill 223.*



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# CHÂTEL-CHÉHÉRY

## Stop #1 – 1. Circuit du Sergeant York

At 0610 on 8 October 1918, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 328<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, attacked into this valley. Knowing that the attack would come, the Germans had two regiments here. Alvin York It was from here that York's unit launched its attack at 0610 on 08 October 1918. Read the following:

### OCTOBER 8th 1918

Argonne Forest, France--So on the morning of the 8th, just before daylight, we started for the hill of Châtel-Chéhéry. So before we got there it got light, and the Germans sent over a heavy barrage and also gas, and we put on our gas masks and just pressed right on thought those shells and got to the top of Hill 223 to where we was to start over the top at 6:10 AM. And they was to give us a barrage. So the time came, and no barrage, and we had to start without one. So as we started over the top at 6:10 A.M., and the Germans was putting their machines guns to work all over the hill in front of us and on our left and right. So I was in support and I could see my pals getting picked off until it almost looked like there was none left.

### 49°17'02.8"N 4°57'06.2"E - Chemin du Moulin Briguette, 08250 Châtel-Chéhéry

*Continue down the dirt road and take the left fork, towards a new manmade lake (it was not here in 1918). Stop at sign #2.*

## Stop #2 – 2. Circuit du Sergeant York

Look south, there in front of you is the notch that York's men worked their way behind the Germans. There is now a barb-wire fence for cows, so we don't recommend that you actually retrace York's steps, but stick to the valley. Read the following:

So there was 17 of us boys went around on the left flank to see if we couldn't put those guns out of action. So when we went around and fell in behind those guns, we first saw two Germans with Red Cross bands on their arms. So we asked them to stop, and they did not. (continued on next page)



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# CHÂTEL-CHÉHÉRY

## Stop #2 – 2. Circuit du Sergeant York (cont.)

So one of the boys shot at them and they run back to our right. So we all run after them--Sergeant Harry Parsons gave the command to what was left of our squads--my squad, Corporal Savage's squad, Corporal Early's, and Corporal Cutting's--to go around through the brush and try and make the surprise attack. Without any loss and in right smart time, we were across the valley and on the hill where the machine guns were emplaced. The brush and the hilly nature of the country hid us from the Germans.

**49°17'03.6"N 4°56'54.9"E - Les-Croix, 08250 Châtel-Chéhéry, France**

*Follow the dirt road past the lake (on your right). Stop at sign #3.*

## Stop #3 – 3. Circuit du Sergeant York

As you look around, you can see the remains of a German Machine gun position and a trench line. Here York captured the men of the 7th Bavarian Sapper Company. Read the following:

The major suggested we go down a gully, but I knew that was the wrong way. And I told him we were not going down any gully. We were going straight through the German front line trenches back to the American lines. It was their second line that I had captured. We sure did get a long way behind the German trenches! And so I marched them straight at that old German front line trench. And some more machine guns swung around and began to spit at us. I told the major to blow his whistle or I would take off his head and theirs too. So he blew his whistle and they all surrendered--all except one. I made the major order him to surrender twice. But he wouldn't. And I had to touch him off. I hated to do it. But I couldn't afford to take any chances and so I had to let him have it.

There were considerably over 100 prisoners now. It was a problem to get them back safely to our own lines. There were so many of them, there was danger of our own artillery mistaking us for a German counterattack and opening upon us.

(continued on next page)





# CHÂTEL-CHÉHÉRY

## Stop #3 – 3. Circuit du Sergeant York (cont.)

I sure was relieved when we ran into the relief squads that had been sent forward through the brush to help us.

So when I got back I had 132 prisoners. So you can see here in this case of mine where God helped me out. I had been living for God and working in the church some time before I come to the army. So I am a witness to the fact that God did help me out of that hard battle; for the bushes were shot up all around me and I never got a scratch.

So you can see that God will be with you if you will only trust Him; and I say that He did save me. Now, He will save you if you will only trust Him.

**49°17'05.8"N 4°56'34.8"E - Les-Croix, 08250 Châtel-Chéhéry, France**

*Continue down the dirt road. After you cross a small stream, stop at sign #4.*

## Stop #4 – 4. Circuit du Sergeant York

Read the following. Note –the German troops that York initially captured were here – with the machine guns on the hills on both sides of the valley.

We opened up in skirmishing order and flitting from brush to brush, quickly crossed over the hill and down into the gully behind. Then we suddenly swung around behind them. first Germans we saw were two men with Red Cross bands on their arms. They jumped out of the brush in front of us and bolted like two scared rabbits.

We called to them to surrender, and...they kept on going. We wanted to capture them before they gave the alarm. We were now well behind the German trench and in the rear of the machine guns that were holding up our big advance. We were deep in the brush and we couldn't see the Germans and they couldn't see us. But we could hear their machine guns shooting something awful. Savage's squad was leading, and mine, Early's and Cutting's followed. (continued on next page)





# CHÂTEL-CHÉHÉRY

## Stop #4 – 4. Circuit du Sergeant York

And when we jumped across a little stream of water that was there, they was about 15 or 20 Germans jumped up and threw up their hands and said, "Kamerad!" So the one in charge of us boys told us not to shoot: they was going to give up anyway. It was headquarters. There were orderlies, stretcher bearers and runners, and a major and two other officers. They were just having breakfast and there was a mess of beef-steaks, jellies, jams, and loaf bread around. They were unarmed, all except the major.

We jumped them right smart and covered them, and told them to throw up their hands and to keep them up. And they did. I guess they thought the whole American army was in their rear. And we didn't stop to tell them anything different. No shots were fired, and there was no talking between us except when we told them to "put them up."

### 49°17'05.6"N 4°56'21.6"E - Les-Croix, 08250 Châtel-Chéhéry, France

*Continue down the road and look for the trail heading north off the road. Continue on the trail until you reach stop #5. After reading the sign, continue to stop #6. Stick to the trail as there is a very dense thicket of trees growing here – it is VERY hard to navigate through.*

## Stop #5 – 5-8. Circuit du Sergeant York

At the time of the battle in 1918 –there was no thicket. York was on the far side of the valley and the lower part of the hill. He was in a gun battle with the German machine gunners, it was there too that he was charged by Lieutenant Endriss. You should be in the Monument Park where you can read the two markers. Read the following:

So by this time some of the Germans from on the hill was shooting at us. Well I was giving them the best I had, and by this time the Germans had got their machine guns turned around and fired on us. So they killed 6 and wounded 3 of us. So that just left 8, and then we got into it right by this time. So we had a hard battle for a little while.

(continued on next page)





# CHÂTEL-CHÉHÉRY

## Stop #5 – 5-8. Circuit du Sergeant York (cont.)

I don't know whether it was the German major, but one yelled something out in German that we couldn't understand. And then the machine guns on top swung around and opened fire on us. There were about thirty of them. They were commanding us from a hillside less than thirty yards away. They couldn't miss. And they didn't!

They killed all of Savage's squad; they got all of mine but two; they wounded Cutting and killed two of his squad; and Early's squad was well back in the brush on the extreme right and not yet under the direct fire of the machine guns, and so they escaped. All except Early. He went down with three bullets in his body. That left me in command. I was right out there in the open.

And those machine guns were spitting fire and cutting down the undergrowth all around me something awful. And the Germans were yelling orders. You never heard such a racket in all of your life. I didn't have time to dodge behind a tree or dive into the brush, I didn't even have time to kneel or lie down. I don't know what the other boys were doing. They claim they didn't fire a shot. They said afterwards they were on the right, guarding the prisoners. And the prisoners were lying down and the machine guns had to shoot over them to get me. As soon as the machine guns opened fire on me, I began to exchange shots with them.

There were over thirty of them in continuous action, and all I could do was touch the Germans off just as fast as I could. I was sharpshooting. I don't think I missed a shot. It was no time to miss.

In order to sight me or to swing their machine guns on me, the Germans had to show their heads above the trench, and every time I saw a head I just touched it off. All the time I kept yelling at them to come down. I didn't want to kill any more than I had to. But it was they or I. And I was giving them the best I had.

Suddenly a German officer and five men jumped out of the trench and charged me with fixed bayonets. (continued on next page)





# CHÂTEL-CHÉHÉRY

## Stop #5 – 5-8. Circuit du Sergeant York (cont.)

I changed to the old automatic and just touched them off too. I touched off the sixth man first, then the fifth, then the fourth, then the third and so on. I wanted them to keep coming. I didn't want the rear ones to see me touching off the front ones. I was afraid they would drop down and pump a volley into me. --and I got hold of the German major (actually it was a Lieutenant Vollmer), and he told me if I wouldn't kill any more of them he would make them quit firing. So I told him all right, if he would do it now. So he blew a little whistle, and they quit shooting and come down and gave up.

I had killed over twenty before the German major said he would make them give up. I covered him with my automatic and told him if he didn't make them stop firing I would take off his head next. And he knew I meant it. He told me if I didn't kill him, and if I stopped shooting the others in the trench, he would make them surrender.

He blew a little whistle and they came down and began to gather around and throw down their guns and belts. All but one of them came off the hill with their hands up, and just before that one got to me he threw a little hand grenade which burst in the air in front of me. I had to touch him off. The rest surrendered without any more trouble. There were nearly 100 of them. So we had about 80 or 90 Germans there disarmed, and had another line of Germans to go through to get out. So I called for my men, and one of them answered from behind a big oak tree, and the others were on my right in the brush.

The German major could speak English as well as I could. Before the war he used to work in Chicago. And I told him to keep his hands up and to line up his men in column of twos, and to do it in double time. And he did it. And I lined up my men that were left on either side of the column, and I told one to guard the rear. I ordered the prisoners to pick up and carry our wounded. I took the major and placed him at the head of the column, and I got behind him and used him as a screen. I poked the automatic in his back and told him to hike. And he hiked.

(continued on next page)





# CHÂTEL-CHÉHÉRY

## Stop #5 – 5-8. Circuit du Sergeant York (cont.)

**49°17'10.2"N 4°56'04.1"E – approximate Lat/Long as there is no road address**

*Continue on the marked trail and stop to read signs #7 and #8. Continue until the trail merges back into a road and make a right. Follow the road until you come to stop #9.*

## Stop #6 – 9. Circuit du Sergeant York

We had to charge across a valley several hundred yards wide and rush the machine gun emplacements on the ridge on the far side. And there were machine guns on the ridges on our flanks too. It was kind of triangular shaped valley. So you see we were getting it from the front and both flanks. Well, the first and second waves got about halfway across the valley and then were held up by machine gun fire from the three sides. It was awful. Our losses were very heavy.

So our attack just faded out. And there we were, lying down, about halfway across, and no barrage, and those German machine guns and big shells getting us hard. I just knew that we couldn't go on again until those machine guns were mopped up. So we decided to try and get them by a surprise attack in the rear. We figured there must have been over thirty of them, and they were hidden on the ridges about 300 yards in front and on the left of us.

**49°17'08.5"N 4°56'53.3"E - Unnamed Road, 08250 Châtel-Chéhéry, France**

*You have now completed the "Circuit du Sergeant York" and can follow the road back to the City Hall in Châtel-Chéhéry. The next destination is the town of Varennes-en-Argonne which is about a 15 minute drive away. If you have time, you can also take a detour here and visit the Lost Battalion Monument and Marker about 10 minutes to the southwest.*



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# VARENNES-EN-ARGONNE

## Checkpoint #3 – Varennes-en-Argonne Town Church

The historic trail begins at the town church. It is about a three kilometer round trip.

OK – it is not a very big town – but the biggest one in the immediate area. There is one bakery and one restaurant (in the hotel). What it lacks in size, it makes up for in history. The town was liberated by American troops in September 1918, after four years of German occupation.

King Louie XVI and the French Revolution of 1791 Varennes is where King Louie XVI's arrest, and his Austrian wife, Marie Antoinette. The king was fleeing from Paris to Montmedy to join Loyalist forces and relative safety. What he did not count on was being recognized –and subsequently captured in Varennes. The king and queen were brought back to Paris and put on trial by the rebels and executed by the guillotine. The town has markers describing the events in both French and English along the hiking route.

### **49°13'39.9"N 5°02'07.6"E - Place de l'Église, 55270 Varennes-en-Argonne**

*Start at the town church (east of the Aire River) and follow signs back across the bridge to the clock tower. After reading the signs about the capture of the French king, continue following the main road southwest to the Pennsylvania State Monument.*

## Stop #1 – Pennsylvania State Monument

The remarkable and impressive Pennsylvania State Monument was dedicated to Pennsylvania soldiers who fought in WW I. The state improved a local park in 1927 and almost 100 years later, it is still very impressive.

During the fighting here in Varennes, on 26 September 1918, Corporal Donald M. Call, US Tank Corps, earned the Medal of Honor for rescuing his officer after their tank was his by artillery. This area was captured by the 28<sup>th</sup> Division about noon that day while the part of town on the other side of the river was captured by the 35<sup>th</sup> Division later that afternoon. (continued on next page)





# VARENNES-EN-ARGONNE

## Stop #1 – Pennsylvania State Monument (cont.)

The 28<sup>th</sup> Division headquarters was located here, September 27-30 and the 82d Division headquarters from October 4 to 9. See picture below.

**49°13'34.3"N 5°01'52.8"E - 1 Rue du Gén Pershing, 55270 Varennes-en-Argonne**

*Continue on the main road southwest to the Argonne Museum.*

## Stop #2 – Musée d 'Argonne (Argonne Museum)

A small, but interesting museum, which has an excellent WW I exhibit along with an exhibit on Louis XIV. The hard part is getting there when it is open. It is normally open 12-6pm on Thursday thru Sunday and closed on Tuesday and Wednesday. But the hours do vary with it open often in the summer, and only on select weekends in the winter.

**49°13'30.8"N 5°01'53.8"E - 2 Rue Louis XVI, 55270 Varennes-en-Argonne**

*Now retrace your steps back to the town church to complete the first hike. Your next stop is the Butte de Vauquois, about a 10 minute drive away, where you will see the remains of a World War I battlefield. If you have time, you can also take a detour to Hill 285 (6km away) and the Crown Prince Bunker Complex (3km away) before heading to Vauquois. Additionally, by the church is the Grand Monarque Hotel, if you need a place to stay. This is one of the few hotels available in the area. It is rather inexpensive and has good food. Bring along a French-English dictionary though!*



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## Checkpoint #4 – Butte de Vauquois

The lost village of Vauquois in the Argonne is a testament to the enormity and ferocity of a unique underground struggle of the 1914-1918 war. There are other lost villages in France: Hurlus, Ripont and Tahure on the Champagne battlefields, and the villages of Verdun that were destroyed and left little evidence of where they once stood. Other areas were mined - the Somme, Vimy and the Argonne Forest - but it is only at Vauquois that you find surviving evidence of extreme mine warfare that continued below ground well after the village was obliterated when there was little hope of a breakthrough on the surface from the infantry of either side.

The Butte de Vauquois, where this tiny village once stood, is now just a mass of craters and tunnel entrances. But in 1914 this small hill 290 meters above sea level, with the Argonne massif to the west and Mort Homme to the east, was hotly contested by the Germans and French. It provided a superb observation point for road and rail traffic from the Islettes pass, and therefore, eventually, all movement to and from Verdun. The Germans took the hill on 24 September 1914 and heavily fortified it. Between October of the same year and March 1915, the French 10th Division, under General Vaidant, mounted several counter-attacks. At first they were unsupported by artillery, using only bayonets in heroic charges. They also used, for the first and last time at Vauquois, a flame-thrower but a north wind blew it back upon their own infantry. Eventually they overcame German resistance and established themselves on the south side of the hill, with the Germans occupying the north side supported by artillery in the woods of Cheppy and Montfaucon on a 6 km front. This is where both sides stayed for the next three years, mining towards each other with increasing ferocity.

The first German miners, 30th Pioneer Battalion, arrived on 7 January 1915 and the French, who were also beginning to mine, blew their first charge on 3 February. Initially the French had to dig vertically as their position was on a gentler slope than the Germans. (continued on next page)





# VAUQUOIS

## Checkpoint #4 – Butte de Vauquois (cont.)

They climbed up and down these first tunnels by rope and with some humor, akin to their Tommy allies, named their tunnels after stations on the Paris Metro. During this early stage small mines were used as an adjunct to infantry attacks but by March 1915 the mines increased in size to 50-1,500 kg of explosive, in tunnels at a depth of 5-15 meters.

Neither side was to be outdone or moved from this vantage point. They tenaciously dug deeper and increased the size of the mines. March 1916 heralded the advent of mines 1,500-15,000 kg in size at a depth of 25-40 meters. The Germans exploded the biggest of all at Vauquois, 60,000 kg, on 14 May of that year. It blew apart the west portion of the hill taking 108 French lives. The crater of 80 meters width would hold within the diameter of its upper margin the length and wingspan of a Jumbo Jet. The depth of 20 meters would comfortably accommodate the height from the wheels to the top of the tail.

The sappers of both sides shifted tons of Argonne rock, a loamy sandstone the French called 'gaize', to create an underground system of tunnels, on three levels, that eventually totaled 17 km (12 km German/5 km French), and between them exploded 519 mines (199 German/320 French). The explosive used by the Germans for both mines and camouflets was Westfalit. The French used a mixture of Ammonium Nitrate and TNT.

From April 1917 to the beginning of 1918 the French dropped the use of mines and changed to large camouflets (smaller explosive devices to destroy tunnels and not large enough to create craters) of 2,000-8,000 kg at a depth of 35-50 meters. Mid December 1917 saw a lull in hostilities as both sides fraternized underground. They agreed to detonate only between the hours of 4pm and 7pm. This amicable agreement came to an end when the Germans exploded 7 camouflets in February 1918.  
(continued on next page)





# VAUQUOIS

## Checkpoint #4 – Butte de Vauquois (cont.)

The Germans had also undertaken the Herculean task of digging 3 deep shafts Mittel, Rader and Treppen Stollen intended to blow up the entire hill so that it would be of no use to anyone. Only Mittel and Rader were completed to a depth of 94 meters and 95 meters respectively, but were never used. The last French explosion was in March 1918 and the Germans exploded their final camouflet on the 9th of April. From 14 to 19 April the German Pioneers withdrew from Vauquois to the Pioneer camp at Varennes. No advantage had been won for either side and when the US 35th Division arrived on 26 September, the first day of the Meuse-Argonne Offensive, they found nothing but a devastated landscape as evidence of the fighting that had occurred there.

What had been a small hill-top village with a population of 168 was a series of mine craters 10-20 meters deep separating the French and German front lines. The ground had become the grave to 8,000 missing French and German dead. There was no sign of the church or school that had crowned the crest of the hill: all had been swallowed up by the ground beneath. What remains is an underground labyrinth of tunnels containing barracks, storage depots, command posts and everything needed to support the men (up to 1,200 Germans and 800 French) and the operations of that troglodyte world.

**49°12'19.6"N 5°04'09.8"E – 1 Rue d'Orléans, 55270 Vauquois, France**

*This completes the four required stops on the Meuse-Argonne Historical Trail. The next few pages will briefly talk about several other recommended stops in the area for those with more time to explore.*





# THE US LOST BATTALION

## Optional Checkpoints #5-6 – The US Lost Battalion

The Lost Battalion is the name given to the nine companies of the United States 77th Division, roughly 554 men, isolated by German forces during World War I after an American attack in the Argonne Forest in October 1918. Roughly 197 were killed in action and approximately 150 missing or taken prisoner before the 194 remaining men were rescued. They were led by Major Charles White Whittlesey. On 2 October, the division quickly advanced into the Argonne, under the belief that French forces were supporting the left flank and two American units including the 92nd Division were supporting the right flank. Unknown to Whittlesey's unit, the French advance had been stalled. Without this knowledge, the Americans had moved beyond the rest of the Allied line and found themselves completely cut off and surrounded by German forces. For the next six days, suffering heavy losses, the men of the division were forced to fight off several attacks by the Germans.

The battalion suffered many hardships. Food was scarce and water was available only by crawling, under fire, to a nearby stream. Ammunition ran low. Communications were also a problem, and at times they would be bombarded by shells from their own artillery. As every runner dispatched by Whittlesey either became lost or ran into German patrols, carrier pigeons became the only method of communicating with headquarters. In an infamous incident on 4 October, inaccurate coordinates were delivered by one of the pigeons and the unit was subjected to "friendly fire". The unit was saved by another pigeon, Cher Ami, delivering the following message:

"WE ARE ALONG THE ROAD PARALELL [sic] 276.4. OUR ARTILLERY IS DROPPING A BARRAGE DIRECTLY ON US. FOR HEAVENS SAKE STOP IT."

Despite this, they held their ground and caused enough of a distraction for other Allied units to break through the German lines, which forced the Germans to retreat. Of the over 500 soldiers who entered the Argonne Forest, only 194 walked out unscathed. The rest were killed, missing, captured, or wounded. Major Charles White Whittlesey, Captain George G. McMurtry, and Captain Nelson M. Holderman received the Medal of Honor for their valiant actions. (continued on next page)





# THE US LOST BATTALION

## Optional Checkpoints #5-6 – The US Lost Battalion (cont.)

There is a monument to the battalion and a marker where the battalion was stranded, both on route D66. If you head north from the town of Binarville and bear right at the fork on road D66 heading east, you will come to the monument after about 1km just before a large pond on the right side of the road. If you continue past the pond about 650m, there is a small marker on the right side with arrows pointing down the hill to where the Lost Battalion was isolated. The actions of the battalion were also made into a movie called "The Lost Battalion" in 2001 starring Ricky Schroeder.

**Monument - 49°15'03.2"N 4°54'24.6"E - D66, Charleveaux, 51800 Binarville**

**Marker - 49°15'05.2"N 4°54'53.8"E - D66, Charleveaux, 51800 Binarville**





# MONTFAUCON

## Optional Checkpoint #7 – Montfaucon American Monument

The World War I Montfaucon American Monument is located seven miles south of the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery and Memorial and 20 miles northwest of Verdun, France.

The monument was dedicated in 1937. It consists of a massive granite Doric column, surmounted by a statue symbolic of liberty, which towers more than 200-feet above the war ruins of the former village. See the picture on the front cover. It commemorates the American victory during the Meuse-Argonne Offensive during the period September 26, 1918 to November 11, 1918, when the American First Army forced the enemy to conduct a general retreat on this front.

On the walls of the foyer are an engraved map of the operations with a narrative and a special tribute to the American troops who served here. The observation platform on top of the memorial is reached by 234 steps and affords magnificent views of this battlefield.

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.

More information can be found at [www.abmc.gov](http://www.abmc.gov).

### **49°16'19.3"N 5°08'30.6"E – Rue d'Amérique, 55270 Montfaucon-d'Argonne**

*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.*





# HISTORIC TRAIL ROUTE

## Optional Checkpoint #8 – Hill 285

Hill 285 was the scene of terrible fighting between the Germans and French in 1914-1917 and was liberated by the Americans in 1918. The Ossuaire de la Haute Chevauchée is located on the hill now and contains the remains of approx. 10,000 unknown French soldiers who fell in the Argonne during the First World War. There are numerous battle related sites in the area including the Kaiser Tunnel and other remnants of war such as shell holes and dugouts.

49°11'20.6"N 4°59'38.0"E – D38C, 55120 Lachalade, France

## Optional Checkpoint #9 – Crown Prince Bunker Complex

This bunker complex near Varennes-en-Argonne, was the headquarters for Crown Prince Wilhelm, son of Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany, while he commanded the 5<sup>th</sup> German Army and later the Army Group German Crown Prince. While the shells of the bunkers remain, after 100 years, they are very dilapidated so be careful if you decide to go inside any of them.

49°12'51.5"N 4°59'29.6"E – 51800, 55270 Varennes-en-Argonne, France





# VOIE SACRÉE

## Optional Checkpoints #10-12 – Voie Sacrée

The Voie Sacrée ("Sacred Way") is a road that connects Bar-le-Duc to Verdun (Meuse), France. It was given its name after the end of World War I because of the vital role it played during the Battle of Verdun.

After March 1916, along the 72 km (45 mi) of the "Voie Sacrée", transport vehicles were on the move day and night ferrying troops, armaments, and supplies to the Verdun battlefield. During the initial crisis of 21 February to 22 March, 600 trucks per day had already delivered 48,000 tons of ammunition, 6,400 tons of other material and 263,000 men to the battlefield. Beginning on February 21, all horse drawn traffic and troop movements on foot had been ordered off the road leaving it open for truck and motor car traffic only. After March 1916, one truck passed every 14 seconds, submitting the road to considerable wear and tear. Quarries had to be opened nearby to supply the road with crushed stone. Over the course of ten months, 16 labor battalions worked to keep the road in good shape and order. The road had been recognized since 1915 as the only reliable vehicular road that remained in existence to supply Verdun safely. All the standard gauge railway lines that could reach Verdun had already been interrupted by German forces in late 1914. To compensate for this precarious situation the road had been widened to 23 feet during 1915, so it could accommodate the continuous up and down flow of two lines of truck traffic. This preemptive roadway improvement in 1915, plus success in organizing the transport system on the road (a mission supervised by Colonel Maurice de Barescut, the Chief of Staff of the French Second Army), is what saved Verdun in 1916.

(continued on next page)



7



MEUSE-ARGONNE, FRANCE  
HISTORIC TRAIL



# VOIE SACRÉE

## Optional Checkpoints #10-12 – Voie Sacrée (cont.)

A special unit responsible for controlling traffic and servicing the vehicles numbered 300 officers and 8,500 men. The rolling stock was made up of 3500 Berliet and Renault trucks plus 800 ambulances, the latter often being Ford Model T's. Thirty breakdown trucks remained on the road at all times with repair crews stationed besides them. Any disabled vehicle was immediately moved to the roadside so as not to interrupt the flow of traffic. Automobile repair shops in Bar-le-Duc and Troyes worked ceaselessly as did hydraulic presses that renewed the truck's solid rubber tires.

Le Chemin de Fer Meusien, a narrow-gauge single track railway, ran parallel to the roadside and was able to move 1,800 tons of supplies per day. This included the bulk of the food for the army at Verdun - some 16,600 officers, 420,000 men, and 136,000 horses - and brought back many wounded from the front. Beginning in March 1916, a standard gauge railway bypass was placed under accelerated construction: the Sommeilles-Nettancourt to Dugny line. During the summer of 1916 it would reconnect Verdun to the regional standard gauge network.

The Voie Sacrée still exists but it has been paved-over and is now an active secondary road. In 2006, the route was renumbered RD1916, a reference to the road's most critical year. The city hall in the village of Souilly, on the Voie Sacrée, served as headquarters to Generals Philippe Pétain and Robert Nivelle during the Battle of Verdun. A large, well-preserved, two-story stone building fronting on the "Voie Sacrée", the Souilly city hall is still in official use today. Several plaques on its facade remind the visitor of the historic role it played in 1916 during the Battle of Verdun and, later in 1918, during the Meuse-Argonne Offensive. Look for red-capped markers along the route as well.

**10 - Start Point - 49°09'42.1"N 5°22'05.9"E – Voie Sacrée, 55100 Verdun**

**11 - Memorial - 49°07'25.0"N 5°17'47.8"E - Chemin du Moulin Brûle, 55120 Verdun**

**12 - End Point - 48°46'14.3"N 5°10'05.4"E - 1-3 D1916, 55000 Bar-le-Duc**





# MEUSE-ARGONNE HISTORIC TRAIL SITES

## Locations

- 1 – Meuse-Argonne Cemetery
- 2 – Châtel-Chéhéry
- 3 – Varennes-en-Argonne
- 4 – Vauquois
- 5-6 – Lost Battalion
- 7 – Montfaucon
- 8 – Hill 285
- 9 – Crown Prince Bunker



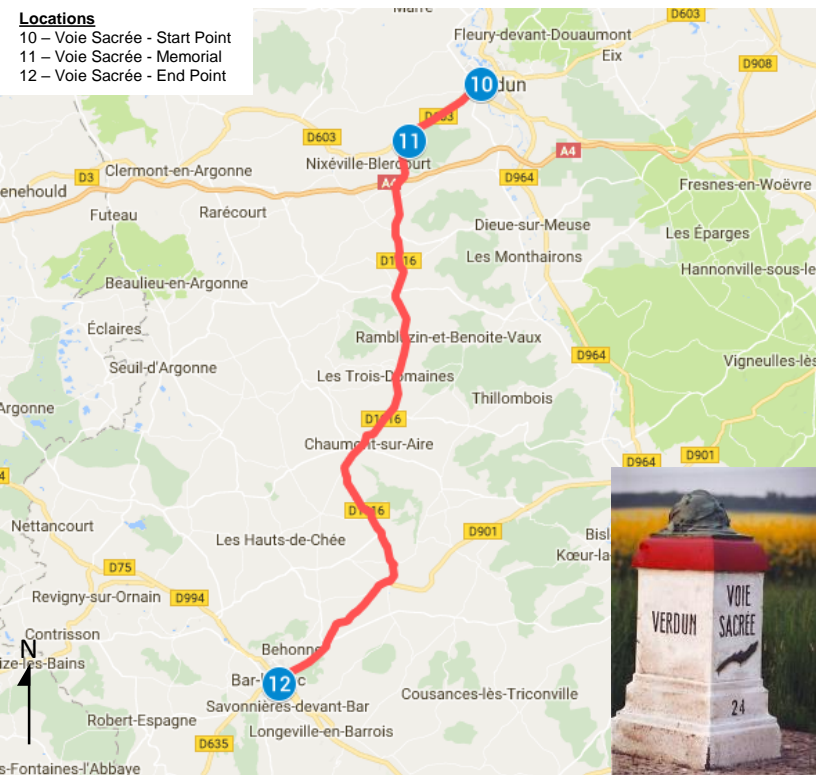
MEUSE-ARGONNE, FRANCE  
HISTORIC TRAIL



# VOIE SACRÉE ROUTE

## Locations

- 10 – Voie Sacrée - Start Point
- 11 – Voie Sacrée - Memorial
- 12 – Voie Sacrée - End Point



MEUSE-ARGONNE, FRANCE  
HISTORIC TRAIL





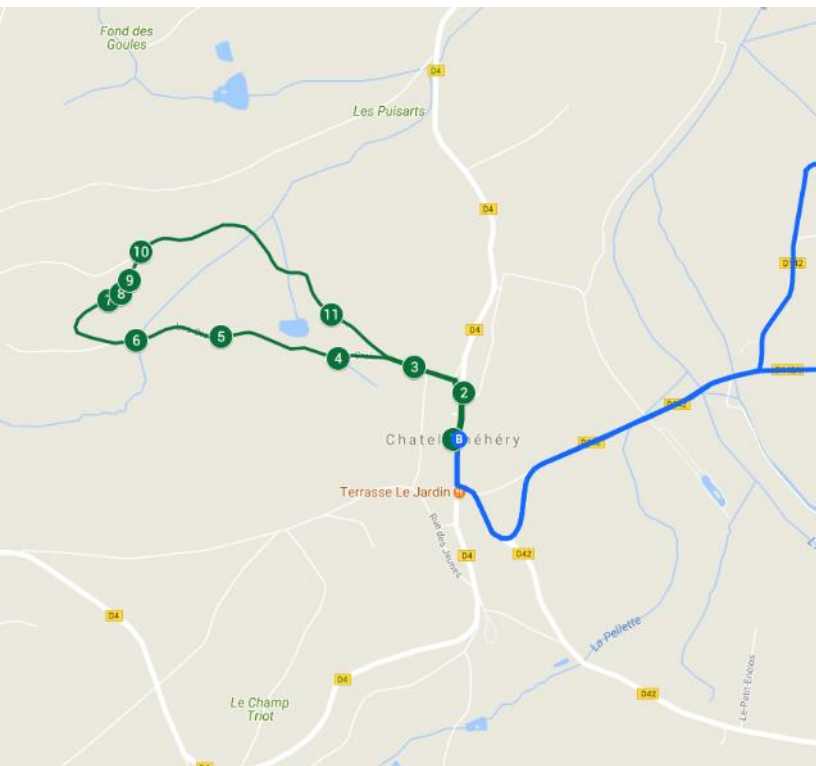
## SIGNS ON THE CIRCUIT DU SERGEANT YORK



MEUSE-ARGONNE, FRANCE  
HISTORIC TRAIL



# CIRCUIT DU SERGEANT YORK



MEUSE-ARGONNE, FRANCE  
HISTORIC TRAIL



# VARENNES-EN-ARGONNE HIKE



MEUSE-ARGONNE, FRANCE  
HISTORIC TRAIL



# MEUSE-ARGONNE OFFENSIVE

## World War One Background

World War One began in 1914. The United States joined the Allied side in 1917, but did not have sufficient forces in France to make an impact until 1918. By the time the USA entered the war, both the Central Powers (Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria and the Ottoman Empire (Turkey) and the Allies (France, Russia, United Kingdom, Romania, Japan, Belgium and Italy) had lost literally millions of men through terrible fighting. The fighting in Western Europe largely turned into trench warfare.

## Russia sues for Peace

In 1917, the Russian Czar Alexander lost power to the Bolsheviks (Communists) –who made peace with Germany. The German Kaiser Wilhelm saw this as a great opportunity to win the war. The bulk of the German and Austrian troops in Russia were sent to France to deal a hoped for final fatal blow to the Allies –before enough American troops arrived to make the difference.

## The last German attacks in 1918

With the additional troops freed up from the Russian Front, the German General Staff launched a series of four major attacks against the Western Front in 1918 to knock the French and British out of the war. The last of these attacks occurred in July –and nearly succeeded in capturing Paris –however –several fresh US divisions were thrown into the breach and turned the tide against Germany.

American Army and Marine units turn the tide against Germany

After the defeat of the last German attack in July 1918 –the American Expeditionary Force (AEF) was ready for serious action. Unlike the Europeans, the American troops were fresh and willing to aggressively take the fight out of the trenches and to the enemy.

## The American Meuse-Argonne Offensive

The Meuse-Argonne Offensive was the design of the US Military Commander, General Pershing, to punch a hole in the German positions, and to ultimately cut-off the Germans main supply artery (a rail and road network near Sedan). Why is it called Meuse-Argonne? (continued on next page)





# MEUSE-ARGONNE OFFENSIVE

It is named after the two dominant terrain features in the area, the Argonne forest and the Meuse River from which the American troops had to advance.

The US Meuse-Argonne Offensive began on 26 September 1918 and lasted until the end of the war (Armistice) on 1100, 11 November, 1918. The attack included 22 American and 4 French divisions (about one million men), on the front extending from southeast of Verdun (Meuse River) to the Argonne Forest.

The American attack was so successful that the German Commander (Field Marshall Ludendorf) transferred many divisions to stem the success of the American attack. By the end of the war, the American offensive fought and defeated 47 German and Austrian divisions. This was 1/4 of all of Germany's forces in the West, which meant that the French and British had a lot less Germans to fight with (20 less facing the French and one less facing the British).

The bottom line – the Meuse Argonne Offensive broke the German defenses, and drew all of their reserve forces, which allowed the French and British to enjoy success in their subsequent attacks. It directly led to ending the war much earlier than expected. It came at a high price to America and cost the following losses:

## American Casualties

Killed	116,708
Gas Deaths	1,462
Battle Deaths	53,513
Other Causes*	63,195
Wounded	204,002
Total Killed & Wounded	320,710

\*Includes deaths due to Spanish Influenza, Pneumonia, Tuberculosis.

The US First Army captured 26,000 prisoners, 847 cannon, 3,000 machine guns, and large quantities of enemy material.



MEUSE-ARGONNE, FRANCE  
HISTORIC TRAIL



## THE SCOUT LAW IN BATTLE

### BY DOUGLAS V. MASTRIANO

After his platoon had suffered heavy casualties, Corporal York assumed command. Fearlessly leading 7 men, he charged with great daring a machinegun nest which was pouring deadly and incessant fire upon his platoon. In this heroic feat the machinegun nest was taken, together with 4 officers and 128 men and several guns. (York's Medal of Honor Citation)

#### **A Scout is... Brave**

8 October 1918 - Argonne Forest, France. Alvin York's unit began an attack to force the Germans out of the Argonne Forest. The Argonne Forest is a heavily wooded and very hilly region, which the German Army held since 1914. The Americans, Great Britain, and other Allied Countries were fighting to free France from the German Army. When York's unit attacked – they were stopped dead in a shallow valley. To the left, right and front were over fifty German machine guns and hundreds of German soldiers shooting at them, bringing to an end the American attack. As York wrote:

*"The Germans got us, and they got us right smart. They just stopped us dead in our tracks. Their machine guns were up there on the heights overlooking us and well hidden, and we couldn't tell for certain where the terrible heavy fire was coming from... And I'm telling you they were shooting straight. Our boys just went down like the long grass before the mowing machine at home. Our attack just faded out... And there we were, lying down... and those German machine guns and big shells getting us hard."*

Something had to be done to silence the German machine guns. Sergeant Bernard Early was ordered to take sixteen men behind the German lines to take out those guns. The group, which included York, worked their way behind the Germans, surprising and capturing a large group of German soldiers. While the Americans were contending with the prisoners, German machine guns on the hills above suddenly opened fire, killing six Americans and wounding three others. Corporal York was now in charge of the seven remaining Americans and 80 German prisoners. York worked his way into a position to silence the machine guns.

*"And those machine guns were spitting fire and cutting down the undergrowth all around me something awful. And the Germans were yelling orders. You never heard such a 'racket in all of your life. I didn't have time to dodge behind a tree or dive into the brush... As soon as the machine guns opened fire on me, I began to exchange shots with them. There were over thirty of them in continuous action, and all I could do was touch the Germans off just as fast as I could. I was sharp shooting. I don't think I missed a shot. It was no time to miss... All the time I kept yelling at them to come down. I didn't want to kill any more than I had to. But it was they or I. And I was giving them the best I had."* Sergeant Alvin York  
(continued on next page)





# THE SCOUT LAW IN BATTLE (CONT.)

One of York's prisoners, German Lieutenant Vollmer emptied his pistol trying to kill York from behind. Meanwhile, as York picked off the German machine-gunners, German Lieutenant Endriss and six soldiers from the 120th Wurttemberg Regiment charged York. York stood his ground and picked off all seven of the attackers. The last to fall was Lieutenant Endriss, a friend of Vollmer's. Failing to injure York with his pistol, seeing his friend fall and the battalion melt away with every one of York's shots; Vollmer surrendered the entire unit to York. In the end, York and his seven men marched 132 German prisoners back to the American lines. His actions silenced thirty German machine guns and enabled the Americans to force the Germans out of the Argonne. York was promoted to Sergeant and awarded the Medal of Honor - America's highest award.

## **The Scout Law is Important**

York is important for Scouts BSA, since it shows how living up to the Scout Law can make the difference. This is why we have the Scout Law – to lay a foundation upon which for each Scout to build good character (character is who you are). Alvin York is an example of what one can do when we live up to the Scout Law in our lives.

## **A Scout is... Reverent and Obedient**

Alvin York was born in the backwoods of Tennessee on 13 December 1887 and was the third of eleven children born into a poor farming family. When Alvin's father died, his life took a bad turn. As he said, "I got in bad company and broke off from my mother's and father's advice and got to drinking and gambling... I used to stay out late at nights. I had a powerful lot of fistfights."<sup>3</sup> But, things soon took a good turn. On New Year's Day, 1915, Alvin attended church. During the sermon, York felt as if lightning hit his soul and accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.<sup>4</sup> His life changed and he stopped smoking, drinking, gambling, cussing and brawling. York took this commitment serious, grew in his faith, taught Sunday School, led the choir and became a church leader. His old friends tried to persuade him to be bad again, but he continually refused. It took a lot of courage for York to remain firmly committed to his beliefs. This sharpened York's character and prepared him for the Argonne.

## **A Scout is... Loyal, Courteous, Trustworthy**

As Alvin grew in his faith, war raged across Europe with the US entering in 1917. Alvin's world turned upside down when he received a notice to join the Army. When he read, "thou shall not kill" in the Bible, he believed he could not be a soldier, but he should also obey his government. He did not know what to do; *"I wanted to follow both [the Bible and the US]. But I couldn't. I wanted to do what was right...If I went away to war and fought and killed, according to the reading of my Bible, I weren't a good Christian."* (continued on next page)



MEUSE-ARGONNE, FRANCE  
HISTORIC TRAIL



# THE SCOUT LAW IN BATTLE (CONT.)

York did not know what was ahead, but trusted God and reported for duty and joined the Army. Thankfully, York's Commanders, Captain Danforth and Major Buxton, were both committed Christians. Alvin shared his concerns with them. Buxton and Danforth knew their Bible very well, and dedicated many hours of their time to contend with York's doubts. Finally, one night, Captain Danforth read Ezekiel 33.

*But if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet, and the people are not warned, and the sword comes and takes any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at the watchman's hand. Ezekiel 33:6*

With this, York stood up and said, "All right, I'm satisfied." Alvin resolved to serve his country and his God as a soldier.

## **The Scout Law = Be Prepared**

As a result of Alvin York's heroism, hundreds of German and American soldier's lives were spared on that fateful day of 8 October 1918. As Alvin York, we must endeavor to live up to the Scout Law. The Scout Law is important because it makes us strong by building up our character "muscles" by helping us to choose to do the right thing every day. Certainly, York was physically courageous on the battlefield, because he was morally courageous in his spiritual life.

Character is like a muscle; the more it is used, the stronger it becomes. Every time we choose to do what is right, we build character and moral courage. That is what the Scout Law is all about. Because of York's decision to do the right thing, he was able to accomplish unimaginable feats later in the heat of battle. Our challenge is to exercise the Scout Law in all of our decisions to develop character in every decision we make. This can't be done by our own will power, but by relying upon God for that extra strength. As the famous Civil War General, Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain, said;

*"We know not of the future, and cannot plan for it much. But we can hold our spirits and our bodies so pure and high, we may cherish such thoughts and such ideals, and dream such dreams of lofty purpose, that we can determine and know what manner of men we will be whenever and wherever the hour strikes, that calls to noble action. This predestination God has given us in charge. No man becomes suddenly different from his habit and cherished thought."*





# HISTORIC TRAIL QUIZ

Read the "Scout Law in Battle" and answer the following questions.

1. How did Alvin York build his "character" muscle? How can you build yours?

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2. What was the turning point in Alvin's life? Why?

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3. How significant was the influence of Major Buxton and Captain Danforth in convincing Alvin to stay in the Army?

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4. Being reverent is important to Scouting. What would have happened if Buxton and Danforth thought that it would not be appropriate to share their faith "on the job?" How do you face political correctness at school?

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5. How was Alvin able to trust God through the ordeal of having his conscience objector status rejected when it went against his beliefs?

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6. What talents did Alvin have? What are some of your talents?

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# BSA REQUIREMENTS

Completion of the Meuse-Argonne Historic Trail may complete the following Requirements:

## Cub Scouts:

### Tiger:

My Tiger Jungle  
Tigers in the Wild  
Tiger Tales

Req 1  
Req 1, 2, 4  
Req 7

### Wolf:

Paws on the Path  
Finding Your Way

Req 1-5  
Req 4

### Bear:

Fur, Feathers, and Ferns  
Paws for Action

Req 1  
Req 2B

### Webelos:

Webelos Walkabout

Req 1-6



## Scouts BSA:

### Tenderfoot:

Req 4d, 5a, 5b, 5c

### Second Class:

Req 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d, 6c

### First Class:

Req 4a, 4b



\*Note: Requirements for the Citizenship in the Community, Citizenship in the Nation, Hiking, Orienteering, and American Heritage Merit Badges and the Cub Scout Outdoor Activity Award can be earned by completing this hike and learning about sites found on this hike.



MEUSE-ARGONNE, FRANCE  
HISTORIC TRAIL



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# NOTES

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## This image shows a single page from a notebook or ledger. It features a series of evenly spaced horizontal lines across its entire width, providing a template for writing. The top edge of the page has a dark binding strip visible. There are no markings, text, or illustrations on the page itself.



This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



This Historic Trail was designed by Colonel (Retired) Douglas V. Mastriano, US Army in 2007 as part of his interest in the story of Alvin York. Since the original trail guide, there have been significant changes to the hiking trail in Châtel-Chéhéry. As parts of several Eagle Projects, the “Circuit de Sergeant York” was created in 2008 and several additional work projects have improved the trail over the last 10 years. For more information go to <http://www.satyorkdiscovery.com>. The remaining stops on the Meuse-Argonne Historic Trail are still relatively the same as when the trail was created.

*Additional Historic Trails in the Transatlantic Council area can be found at <http://tac-bsa.org> or by scanning the QR Code below.*



UPDATED 29 OCTOBER 2019