

INTRODUCTION

During the Battle of the Frontiers in August 1914, the German and French forces engaged in fierce fighting in the south of Belgium and Lorraine. Tens of thousands of soldiers from both sides were killed or no longer able to fight, while hundreds of innocent civilians were shot by the invading forces, which systematically destroyed many villages.

Belgian and French municipalities, as well as other organisations, have been inspired by a sense of duty to commemorate this centenary year. They have taken on the task of recounting these events, which are often neglected by books and frequently forgotten. The project is supported by the European FEDER programme, together with public and private co-funding from Wallonia and Lorraine (on the Belgian and French side of the border).

This major cross-border initiative has resulted in **10 CIRCUITS**, known as **CHEMINS DE MEMOIRE** (Paths of Remembrance), which will enable you to learn about the major locations of the Battle of the Frontiers.

Parallel to this remembrance tourism, the project also creates links between communities in the neighbouring villages, which are located in the two different countries. The aim is to build bridges between the two Belgian and French regions, where these terrible chapters in history left their mark in so many ways.

A multimedia network, websites and flash codes will enable this initiative to reach out to the entire Greater Region, as well as across Europe, where it will also highlight the outstanding cross-border dynamic, which forms the basis of the **CHEMINS DE MEMOIRE**.

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE BATTLE OF THE FRONTIERS, AUGUST 1914

"The war has begun! These words did not ring true. When families received orders for general mobilisation and marching orders, people began to realise that it was for real. [...] Above all, war meant people being separated. [...] Within one week, the village changed beyond all recognition. There were no longer any men aged between twenty and thirty. They had all gone away to fight."

Émilie CARLES, *Une soupe aux herbes sauvages*, Robert Laffont, Paris, 1977.

Background

On 28 June 1914, the Archduke Franz-Ferdinand, heir to the Austro-Hungarian Empire, was assassinated in Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia-Herzegovina, which had been annexed by the Austrians a few years before. The independent state of Serbia was believed to have hired the assassin.

On 28 July, Austro-Hungary declared war on Serbia. The terrible interlocking of alliances commenced. Serbia was supported by Russia, the traditional protector of the Slav nations, which had forged a military alliance with France. The German Empire had formed the Triple Alliance with Austro-Hungary and Italy. Great Britain and France had entered into an "Entente cordiale", while the British saw themselves as the guarantors of Belgian neutrality. One declaration of war followed another, despite desperate attempts by French pacifist socialist Jean Jaurès, who called for international solidarity between workers, before his assassination on 31 July. In France, as elsewhere, the "holy union" became the order of the day, as the people of every country believed that they were about to be attacked and therefore took up arms.

All of Europe braced itself for war and ten million men were ready to fight.



The objectives of the two armies

The German strategists planned a massive attack on France, which involved circumventing its fortifications in the north-east and an invasion of Belgium, by means of a pincer movement against the French army, which was massed on the borders of the empire of Kaiser Wilhelm II. The imperial forces advanced, before invading the Grand Duchy and Province of Luxembourg. Our villages suffered terribly, during the many different battles that were fought, over two days, on 22 and 23 August 1914. They will go down in history and are collectively known as the "Battle of the Frontiers".

The Battle of the Frontiers

The battle started in Alsace, before spreading to French Lorraine and Dinant, Namur, Tarnes and Charleroi, via the Gaume and Belgian Ardennes. On Saturday 22 August 1914, between Longwy, south of Arlon, and Maissin, in the Haute Lesse, 15 clashes took place between four French and German armies along a 100 km front. These were meeting engagements, according to the classification used at headquarters. In other words, the opposing sides approached one another, but were unaware of the exact situation of the enemy. The effects only became more violent. The history books say very little about the Battle of the Frontiers. This is due to many different reasons. In France, it is associated with the defeat of General Joffre. It is given little attention in Belgium, as few of the country's forces fought on this distant battlefield. The Germans saw it as a bloody encounter, which only delayed the advance of their forces. Above all, we will remember the silence that followed the persecution inflicted by the invading forces on the people in the villages and French soldiers who were taken prisoner and executed, with total disregard for international war conventions.



Traces of history

There are crosses everywhere. As you walk through the battlefields, ask yourself questions, open the military cemetery gates and lean over a soldier's grave. Or pause and look silently at a memorial to the civilian victims. Take a look at the first names, how old they were – you cannot fail to be moved.

Get to know these historic places as you follow the **CHEMINS DE MEMOIRE** – in search of the Battle of the Frontiers from August 1914



CHEMINS DE MEMOIRE

After the Great War that began 100 years ago, all that remained of this region were battlefields and destroyed villages. Here, you will now find idyllic landscapes and picturesque villages.

You can examine the traces left behind by the French and German forces, battles and everyday lives of civilians and soldiers. The circuits will give you an insight into the history of Rossignol and Tintigny in Belgium, to the French villages in the Dunois valley and Spincourt region, as well as the area surrounding Longuyon.

All along the circuits, information boards will encourage you to look further. This brochure and the website **WWW.CHEMINS-DEMEMOIRE.EU** will tell you more about the origins and consequences of this first global conflict, through the hardships suffered by our villages.

These new trails combine remembrance and conventional tourism. They encourage visitors and local people to step across the border, in order to discover new landscapes and cultural heritage sites that are little known, yet so close to where they live.

Don't forget to bring along your tablet or smartphone, in order to access information in real time. Armed with the detailed map, there will be nothing that you don't know about the scene of the Battle of the Frontiers, which took place in August 1914.

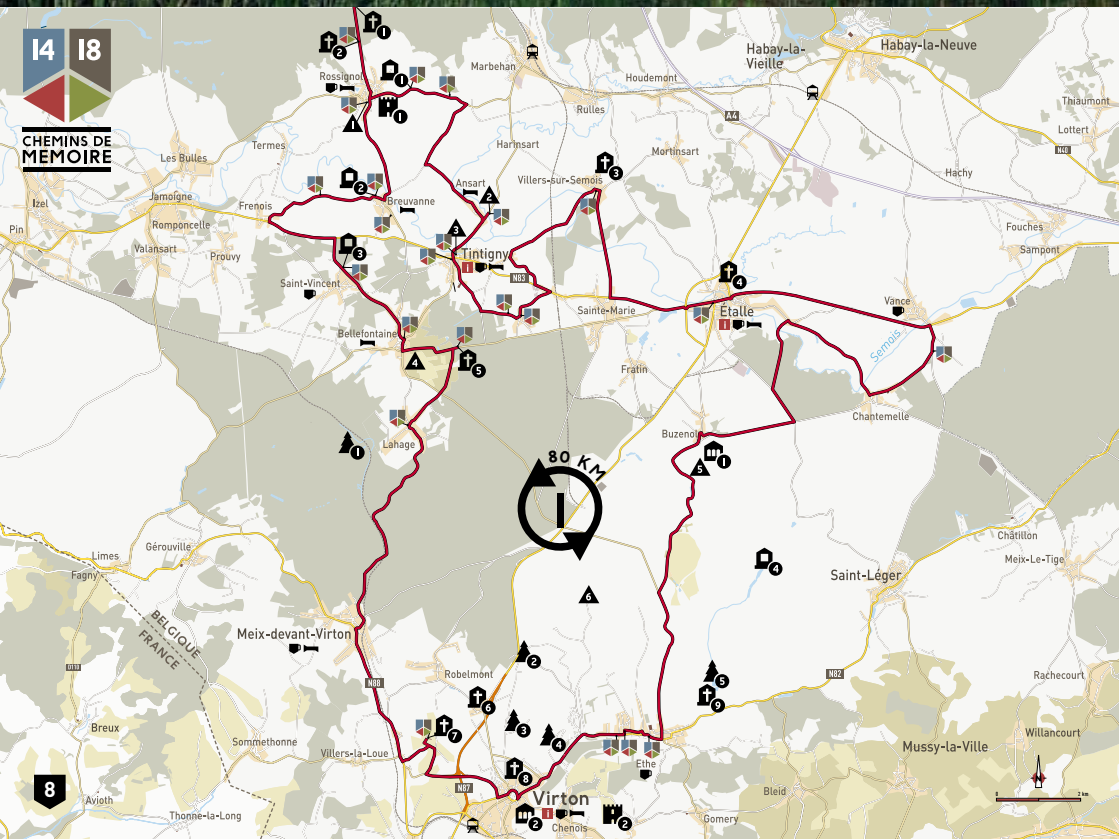




ALONG THE RIVERBANKS... FROM THE TON TO THE SEMOIS

Through the magnificent deciduous forests, the Ton and Semois have moulded the landscapes of the Gaume. They have created a succession of plateaux that dominate the valleys - the famous cuestas, where the springs sculpt limestone deposits to create striking shapes, known as the crons.

As you enjoy this pleasant tour (about 80 km), you can also visit the scene of the first clashes of the Battle of the Frontiers.



CEMETERIES OF BELLEVUE AND HOUDRIGNY

In August 1914, the Virton region witnessed violent clashes between the French and Germans. As early as in 1915, a cemetery was used as a burial site for thousands of men, who were temporarily buried in mass graves. The necropolis at the top of the Bellevue cemetery includes 300 individual French and 330 German graves. The French ossuary contains the bodies of 2139 unknown soldiers, while its German counterpart holds the remains of 306 soldiers. Look out for the grave of a female nurse who died during the same period.

Above the village, the cemetery in Houdrigny overlooks the battlefield, which extends from Virton to the farm at Bellevue. If you look at the map, you will soon notice that there would have been very few suitable places for camouflage, as the enemy rapidly advanced from the woods towards Bellevue. You may well be surprised at the number of graves that are marked "unknown", although a memorial lists the names of the soldiers who gave their lives.

Almost all these French soldiers belonged to the 117th and 87th Infantry Regiment

LEGEND



INFORMATION POINT CHEMINS DE MEMOIRE



TOURIST OFFICE



MILITARY CEMETERIES / NECROPOLISES

- 1 Cemetery of the Plateau
- 2 Cemetery of Orée de la Fôret
- 3 Cemetery of Villers
- 4 Cemetery of Etalle
- 5 Cemetery of Radan
- 6 Cemetery of Bellevue
- 7 Cemetery of Houdrigny
- 8 Cemetery of Virton
- 9 Cemetery of Vieux-Laclairau



HERITAGE SITES 14-18

- 1 Former East Cemetery
- 2 Former Cemetery of Breuvanne
- 3 Former Cemetery of Saint-Vincent
- 4 The "Hussar's Beech"



MUSEUMS

- 1 Lapidary Museum and Archeological Park
- 2 Gaumais Museum



FORTRESSES / CASTLES

- 1 Château de Rossignol
- 2 Château of Latour



OTHER HERITAGE

- 1 Public wash-house in Rossignol
- 2 Listed wash-house in Ansart
- 3 Listed church in Tintigny
- 4 Listed wash-house in Bellefontaine
- 5 Ruins of the smithy in Montauban
- 6 Chapel of Bonlieu



AREAS OF NATURAL BEAUTY

- 1 Listed natural site of Gros Cron de Lahage
- 2 Virton Arboretum
- 3 Vierge-Jacques site
- 4 Rabais valley
- 5 Laclairau valley



RESTAURANT



LODGING



RAILWAY STATION





BELLEFONTAINE – SAINT-VINCENT – ROSSIGNOL – TINTIGNY AT THE HEART OF THE TURMOIL



The Radan cemetery in BELLEFONTAINE

Let us leave Houdrigny and the Chevratte valley, in order to return to the Bellefontaine plateau. Situated on the edge of the forest, the Radan cemetery was created by the Germans in May 1917. It is the last resting place of 527 French and 298 Germans, who were victims of the fierce fighting, which took place in Bellefontaine on 22 August 1914. This victory for the French was in vain, in view of their tragic defeat at Rossignol.



The tomb of the civilians who were shot in ROSSIGNOL

Since 1920, the remains of the 122 people from Rossignol, Breuvanne, Saint-Vincent and Tellancourt have been buried in this tomb. These innocent civilians were taken by force to Arlon, where they were shot on 26 August 1914.



The Orée de la Forêt and Plateau cemeteries in ROSSIGNOL



Two cemeteries can be found on the edge of the Ardennes. They are the resting place of the French soldiers who were killed while fighting the invading forces on 22 August 1914. Originally designed as a kind of natural cathedral, in which the trees represent columns supporting a leafy canopy over a natural nave, **the Orée de la Forêt cemetery** includes the graves of 2,710 French Colonial Infantry soldiers. 2,379 of these soldiers are distributed between two ossuaries. The **Cimetière du Plateau** is hexagonal-shaped and formed from 681 graves, which are arranged in a circle around a rotunda that is dominated by a memorial.



Memorial to the civilians who were shot in ANSART

This white stone small mausoleum is situated on a meadow on the outskirts of the village, at a place called "Les Loynes", where 45 people from Tintigny were shot by the Germans on 22 August 1914. In the centre, two fluted columns support a cupola. Two side panels list the names of those who were shot.



Memorial to those who died in TINTIGNY

Set at the foot of the church, which is also a listed building, this memorial is dedicated to the people of Tintigny who died in the First World War. It lists the names of the 46 civilians who were shot by the Germans in August 1914, three soldiers who died for their country, four people who were deported and the brothers Louis and Anthony Collard. These two members of the resistance were part of the "La Dame Blanche" spy network, before being shot on 18 July 1918 at the Fort de la Chartreuse in Liège.



OTHER PLACES OF INTEREST



BUZENOL – Montauban

Montauban is listed as an "Exceptional Walloon Heritage" (Patrimoine exceptionnel de Wallonie) site. This place of refuge, which dates back many centuries, is surrounded by ramparts, which encircle the ruins of a medieval keep. According to local legend in the Ardennes, it was built by the Four Sons of Aymon, who rebelled against Charlemagne. In the lapidaire museum, you can admire Gallo-Roman bas-reliefs that were found on the site.



LAHAGE – The Gros Cron

The *Gros Cron* of Lahage, also known locally as "La Cranière", is one of the finest examples of calcareous tufa in Belgian Lorraine. Situated on the right bank of the river Chevratte and surrounded by forest, it consists mainly of bare rock, which is partly overgrown with blue moor grass (*Sesleria caerulea*).



ROSSIGNOL – "In search of 1914-18"

Starting at the interactive touchscreen next to the church, an educational trail, with 22 information boards, will take you to various remembrance sites within the village, all of which suffered especially due to the war. Two circuits are available (7 km and 9 km). www.surlestracesde14-18.eu



VIRTION – Gaumais Museum

Archaeology, industrial arts, ethnography, fine arts, costumes and beliefs come under the spotlight at the Convent of the Récollets. You will be charmed by the section on tales and legends. A whole section is dedicated to local doctor Albert Hustin, who was a pioneer in the field of blood transfusion and discovered an anti-coagulant.



VIRTION – Arboretum

Maple, ash tree, oak tree, bird cherry or even metasequoia and Siberian elms... Even their names sound like birdsongs. Can you identify these different species? No? Well, a visit to the arboretum in Virtion might be a good idea. It currently boasts about forty woody species, around thirty of which have been identified. Native species have become established alongside exotic trees.



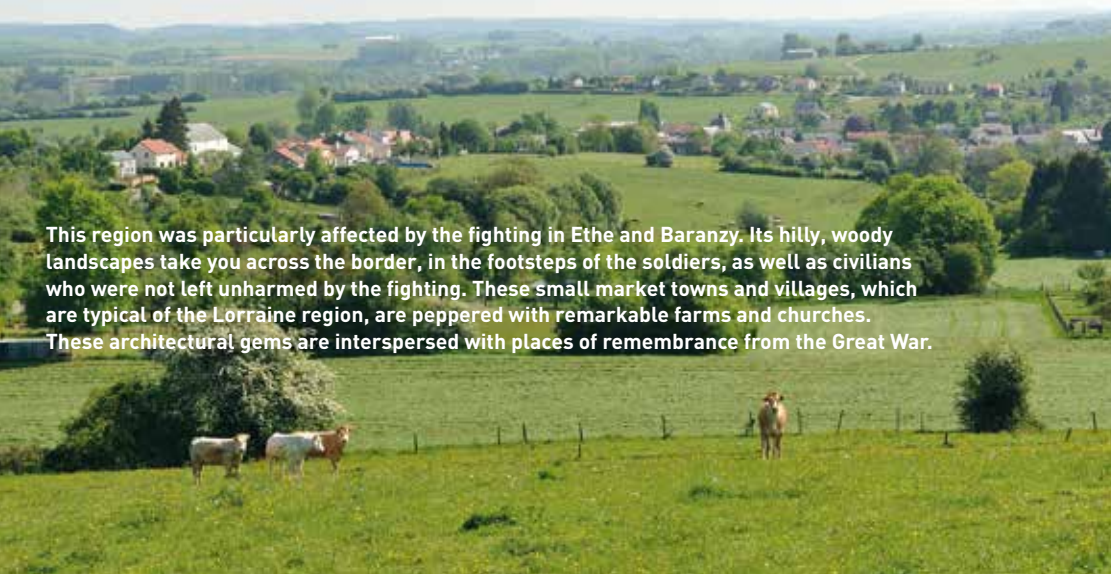
VIRTION – Remembrance trail

This circuit covers approx. 4 km and is suitable for all visitors. It takes you to historic sights, linked to the war, in the centre of Virtion. You can access a wide-range of information electronically, by using the multilingual "iBeaken" software. This means that you can receive a short audio recording or video on your smartphone, using QR codes.

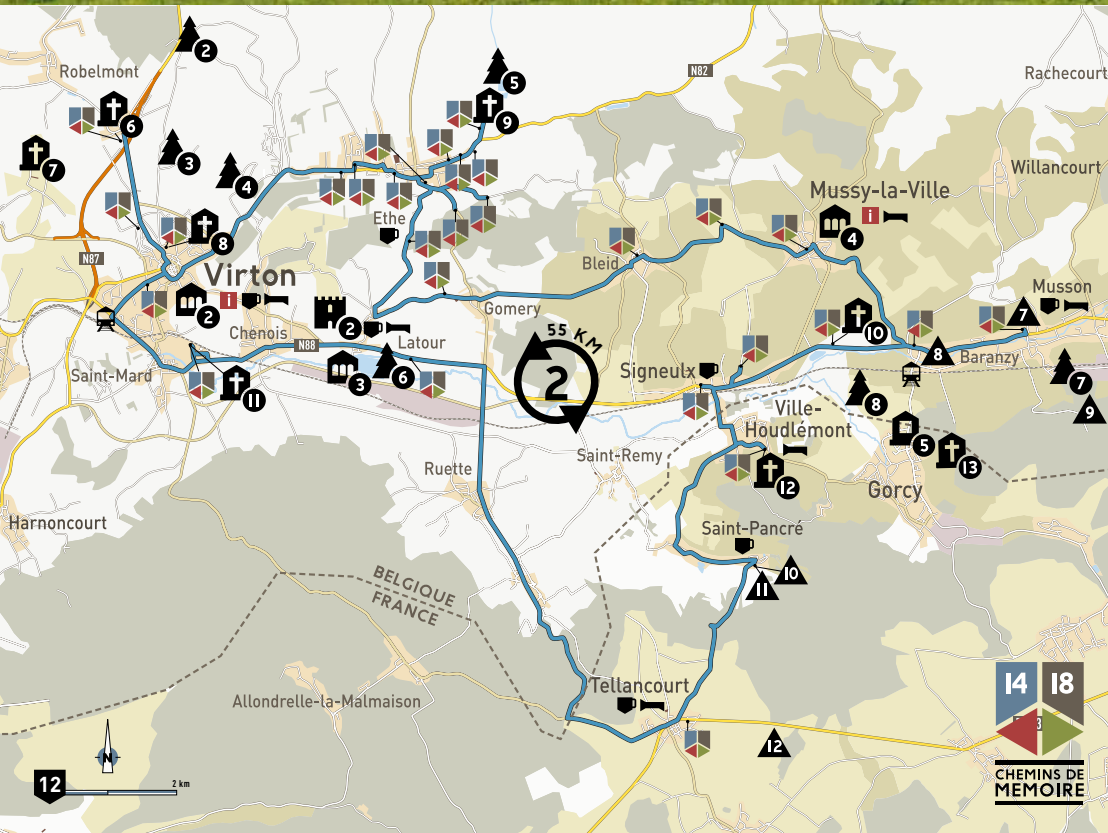




IN AND AROUND THE GAUME AND HAUT-LONGUYON



This region was particularly affected by the fighting in Etthe and Baranzly. Its hilly, woody landscapes take you across the border, in the footsteps of the soldiers, as well as civilians who were not left unharmed by the fighting. These small market towns and villages, which are typical of the Lorraine region, are peppered with remarkable farms and churches. These architectural gems are interspersed with places of remembrance from the Great War.



MILITARY CEMETERY OF LACLAIREAU



ETHE ET LATOUR



The village of Etthe was the tragic scene of one of the bloodiest battles of 22 August 1914. A French division found itself cornered by the enemy in the village, with one enemy division coming from the north, while a brigade advanced from the east. Before they were fully surrounded, the French managed to escape during the night. But 300 civilians and the same number of French prisoners were executed in Etthe, Gomery and Latour. Many different memorials still bear witness to this day.

The "Musée des Guerres en Gaume" (Museum of War in Gaume) in Latour keeps alive the memory of the soldiers who lost their lives, as well as the civilian victims that died in August 1914 and during the Second World War. Their memory is preserved by means of artefacts, uniforms and original documents from the period, which were collected from the region or donated to the museum by the victims' surviving families.

LEGEND

-  INFORMATION POINT CHEMINS DE MEMOIRE
-  TOURIST OFFICE
-  MILITARY CEMETERIES / NECROPOLISES
 - 6 Cemetery of Bellevue
 - 7 Cemetery of Houdrigny
 - 8 Cemetery of Virton
 - 9 Cemetery of Vieux-Laclaireau
 - 10 Franco-German Cemetery
 - 11 Cemetery of Saint-Mard
 - 12 National necropolis of Ville d'Houdlémont
 - 13 Cemetery of Gorcy
-  HERITAGE SITES I4-I8
 - 5 Grave of the son of Marshal Foch
-  MUSEUMS
 - 2 Gaumais Museum
 - 3 Latour Museum
 - 4 Museum of Mussy-la-Ville
-  FORTRESSES / CASTLES
 - 2 Château of Latour

-  OTHER HERITAGE
 - 7 Listed Cross of Justice
 - 8 Cross-Border Iron Mine Trail
 - 9 Memorial stone dedicated to Guy de Larigaudie
 - 10 Cross-Border Iron Mine Trail
 - 11 Maison Forte Tower
 - 12 Chapel in Tellancourt
-  AREAS OF NATURAL BEAUTY
 - 2 Virton Arboretum
 - 3 Vierge-Jacques site
 - 4 Rabais valley
 - 5 Laclaireau valley
 - 6 Latour tarns
 - 7 "Le Crassier" nature reserve
 - 8 Cussignière marsh
-  RESTAURANT
-  LODGING
-  RAILWAY STATION





FROM MUSSON TO TELLANCOURT....

Marcel Roche, an artist from Orléans, is famous for having fought in the Great War, with a pencil in his hand, as he captured everyday scenes as they unfolded. As the author of the text with gouache illustrations entitled "22 August 1914", he worked with American soldier Otis Olfield, who produced the calligraphy and bound the book.

Roche told the story of the advance of the 131st Infantry Regiment to the front at Baranzy, as it worked its way through enemy fire and crossed the border villages of Tellancourt, Saint-Pancré and Signeulx.

For soldiers from both sides, this battle was horrific, but these terrible days of summer 1914 dealt an equally heavy blow to the civilian populations.

Traces of this painful past continue to exist, especially in Tellancourt and the chapel of Notre-Dame de Walcourt (also known as



CHAPEL OF NOTRE-DAME DE WALCOURT

"Sainte-Fine"). The village priest of Mussy-la-Ville, Vital Alexandre, was shot after being physically assaulted by German soldiers for offering to give his life in exchange for those of his parishioners.

Other homeless families were provided with accommodation in neighbouring villages. Some inhabitants used the underground network of mines at Grand-Bois to secretly cross the border into France. Help was organised for the local population. For example, the villagers distributed "soupe de guerre" (war soup) to the children, at the initiative of factory manager Léon Thiry from Halanzy.

Survivors from the burnt-out villages went to live in makeshift two-room bungalows, known as "américaines", which were funded by benefactors from the USA and built with materials salvaged from the ruins.

In an effort to rebuild the villages, tracks were laid on the main roads. Small freight cars were used to transport stone and timber.

Stained glass windows in the church at Musson, which were paid for by the families of prisoners and people who were deported, tell the story of the days that followed the 22 August.



THE SOLDIER - MARCEL ROCHE

OTHER PLACES OF INTEREST



LATOUR – Baillet-Latour Museum

Latour boasts two museums – the "Musée des Guerres en Gaume" and the Musée Baillet Latour. The latter tells us about the life of Comte Henri de Baillet Latour, who was president of the International Olympic Committee in the 1920s. It also focuses on the Baillet-Latour Foundation, which was set up by his descendants and dedicated to scientific development. Four rooms have been fully redesigned and are now used to display previously unseen documents.



BAILLET-LATOURE MUSEUM

VIRTON – The Rabais valley

The valley lies 2 km from Virton. The large woods that surround it provide a magnificent setting for walks and mountain-biking. With its variety of accommodation, sports infrastructures and leisure facilities, the valley forms part of a green area where you can enjoy peace and calm.



THE RABAIS VALLEY

GOMERY – BLEID

Also marked by the events of August 1914, these two villages are known for their châteaux, which are privately owned. The château of Bleid was the home of author Adrien de Prémoré. Gaston de Gerlache de Gomery, son of Belgian Antarctic explorer Adrien de Gerlache, lived in the château at Gomery.



MAISON GAUMAISE - BLEID

MUSSON and MUSSY-LA-VILLE

We now leave the village of Mussy-la-Ville, where Etienne Lenoir was born. Lenoir invented the combustion engine, a model of which can still be seen in the local museum. We will now continue to Musson. In front of the old cemetery gates, which became a memorial to those who lost their lives, we will admire the Cross of Justice. This medieval monument dates back to when the village was granted freedoms by the Charter of Beaumont.



SAINT PANCRE

The Cross-Border Iron Mines Route

The Cuesta Bajocienne, which is rich in iron ore, contributed to the expansion of the iron industry in the region. As you travel along the Cross-Border Iron Mines Route, you will see the mine at Halanzy-Musson, the slag heap at Palgé, the marshland at Cussignière, the factory in Gorcy, the tunnel wash-house ('lavoire') at Ville-Houdlémont and the pretty village of Saint Pancré, with its restored buildings. (www.chemin-des-mines.eu)

Necropolises and historic buildings

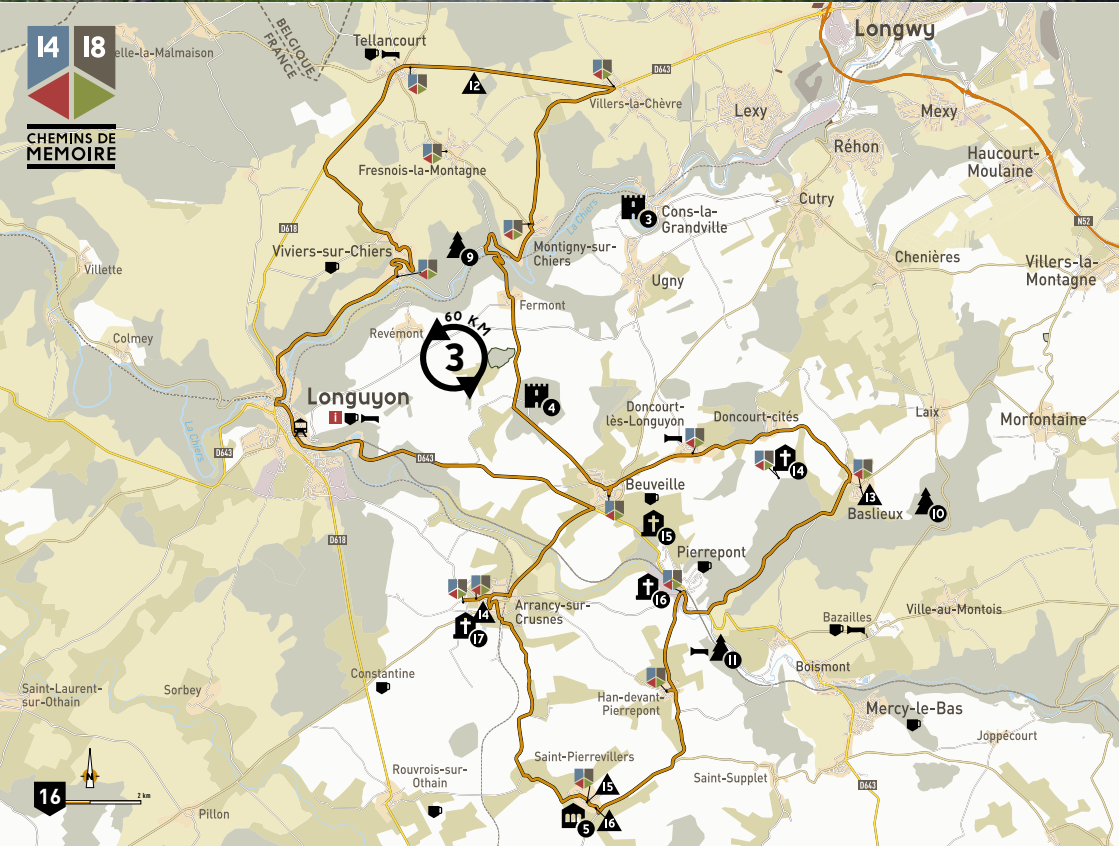
The French military cemeteries at Baranzy, Ville-Houdlémont and Gorcy take us back to the First World War. They invite you to reflect. There is a memorial stone dedicated to French Scout leader and writer Guy de Larigaudie, who fell at Musson with his companions on 11 May 1940, during the second German invasion. You will also get to know the remarkable historic buildings of Ville-Houdlémont, some of which are hidden in the woods, such as the Saint-Denis church.



NECROPOLIS

IN AND AROUND CHIERS, CRUSNES AND SPINCOURT

From Grand-Champ to the Meuse, the armies exchanged continuous fire. The rolling hills and nearby woods were used strategically to bring the enemy within closer reach. Few traces remain of these clashes. The villages have been rebuilt and nature has reclaimed its territory. The surprisingly beautiful countryside is defined by the two rivers, which are rich in fauna and flora. To this day, memories of summer 1914 live on in the charming villages of Lorraine.



MILITARY CEMETERY OF ARRANCY-SUR-CRUSNES

THE BATTLE OF ARRANCY-SUR-CRUSNES

On 23 August 1914, the village of Arrancy-sur-Crusnes, with its remarkable geographical location, was encircled by German forces, which forced the French regiments to retreat gradually towards Constantine. The 12th Reserve Division, under the orders of General Herr, took up a defensive position and attacked the village at dawn on 24 August, under heavy artillery fire.

"From dawn, we were showered with projectiles and suffered heavy losses," reported a French soldier.

After fierce hand-to-hand fighting, the German forces entered Arrancy-sur-Crusnes at around midday. This terrible day saw 700 soldiers from both sides lose their lives on the battlefield. At 1 pm, the order was given to retreat, as the fighting moved further south. This battle is commemorated by an isolated memorial in the fields. Over 250 French soldiers are buried in the military cemetery.

LEGEND

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- MILITARY CEMETERIES / NECROPOLISES
 - 14 National Necropolis of Grand Champ
 - 15 German Necropolis
 - 16 National necropolis of Pierrepont
 - 17 Cemetery of Arrancy-sur-Crusnes
- MUSEUMS
 - 5 Museum of the Fortified Churches of the Meuse
- FORTRESSES / CASTLES
 - 3 Château de Cons-la-Grandville
 - 4 Fortress of Fermont

- OTHER HERITAGE
 - 12 Chapel in Tellancourt
 - 13 16th century fortified church in Baslieux
 - 14 Public wash-house in Arrancy-sur-Crusnes
 - 15 12th century fortified church of Saint-Rémy
 - 16 Public wash-house in Saint-Pierrebilliers
- AREAS OF NATURAL BEAUTY
 - 9 Chiers valley
 - 10 Nanholt valley
 - 11 Valley of Crusnes – Domaine du Moulin Neuf
- RESTAURANT
- LODGING
- RAILWAY STATION



THE BATTLE OF BEUVEILLE-DONCOURT-BASLIEUX-PIERREPONT



NECROPOLIS OF GRANDCHAMP

On 22 August, the fighting raged on. The 151st Infantry Regiment sent the 1st Battalion into the woods of Doncourt and the 3rd battalion into the woods of Goémont and Grand-Champ. The 151st Regiment faced three German Infantry Regiments alone. The 162nd Infantry Regiment then advanced in support of the 151st Regiment and took up its position between Pierrepont and the woods of Grand-Champ. Artillery soldiers from both sides spent part of the morning firing at each other without achieving a great deal. However, a German column was halted in its attempt to leave the

woods of Doncourt from the south. Despite being supported by their artillery, the enemy forces ground to a halt: the infantrymen began to run out of ammunition and the mortars fired on their own lines, inflicting heavy losses. The Germans still managed to take the north fringe of the woods of Grand-Champ. The heavy artillery joined the battle late in the afternoon. The French gunners fired from Beuveille, while their German counterparts bombarded them from Jalaumont. The French soldiers held the woods of Goémont and the west part of the woods of Grand-Champ.

Late in the afternoon, the German forces retreated to the hills of Laix and Baslieux, while the French units withdraw towards the Meuse.

This battle was conclusive. 800 French soldiers died on the Grand-Champ plain alone. Over 200 of them were laid to rest at the necropolis, which still stands. In Pierrepont, two cemeteries, one French and one German, bear further witness to the murderous insanity of the First World War.



NATIONAL NECROPOLIS OF PIERREPONT

OTHER PLACES OF INTEREST



The Chiers valley



Between Cons-La-Grandville and Longuyon, you will be able to enjoy a walk by the water, as you continue through Montigny and Viviers-sur-Chiers. This rural setting is typical of the region and further enhanced by the local villages, which are full of character.

The Fort of FERMONT



After leaving Montigny-sur-Chiers, take a break at Fermont and discover the major artillery fortifications along the Maginot Line, which was constructed between 1928-1940. You can take a journey back in time, which takes two hours and begins in the heart of the preserved castle. Open weekends, public holidays and every day during July and August, from 2 pm – 4.30 pm. More information: +33 3 82 26 44 37

FRESNOIS-LA-MONTAGNE

The village of Fresnois-la-Montagne has a style of its own. The village centre is listed as a historic site, because of its magnificent 12th century church and adjacent ossuary, which you can admire from the Place d'Orval. At N°12 Rue de la Huilière, a commemorative plaque and information board invites you to reflect on the painful hours of the German invasion.

The Nanhoh valley



The river Nanhoh, which is a tributary of the Crusnes, cuts through the limestone plateau of Briey and crosses Baslieux, as well as other villages. Enjoy an idyllic stroll through the heart of the valley, which is now listed as a "Natural Zone of Interest for Ecology, Flora and Fauna", and look out for rare species (orchids, butterflies, amphibians, etc.).

More information: +33 3 82 89 80 32

The church in SAINT-PIERREVILLERS



The fortified church of Saint-Rémy (12th and 15th century) boasts remarkable defensive features, such as brattices. Listed as a historic building in 1912, it has a unique staircase, made up of removable wooden steps. This is the only way to access the hideaway. In the sanctuary, there is a small museum devoted to the fortified churches of the Meuse.

Fountain wash-house in ARRANCY-SUR-CRUSNES



The fountain wash-house is an early 20th century building, which has three openings and a trough where 200 cows could drink water. It was supplied with water from a spring in the presbytery. Any surplus water from the basins flowed into the trough and the *égayoir* on the other side of the street, which is the word used in Lorraine for the pond where horses were bathed.



CHIER VALLEY



FORT OF FERMONT



FRESNOIS-LA-MONTAGNE



NANHOL VALLEY



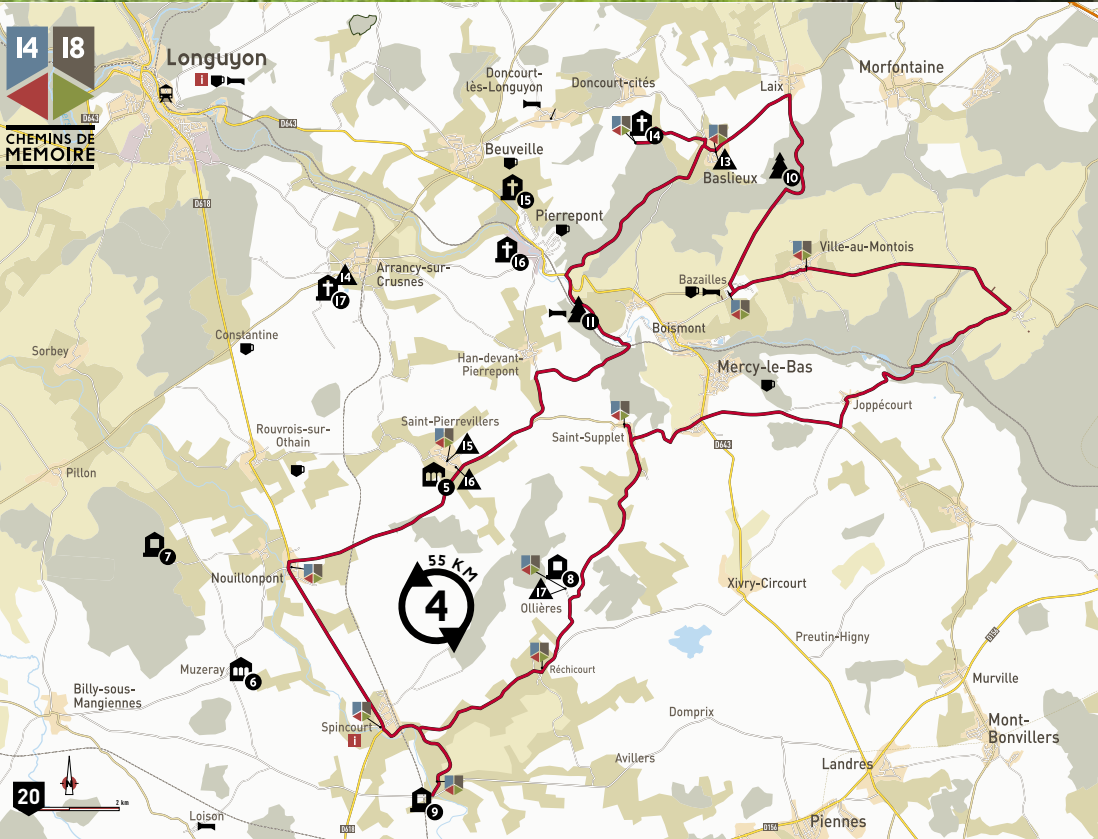
SAINT-PIERREVILLERS



FOUNTAIN WASH-HOUSE

IN BETWEEN LONGUYON AND SPINCOURT

The French and German necropolises distributed across our ruined villages bear permanent witness to the terrible human toll of the Great War. On 10 August 1914, Bazailles was burned to the ground. While the front tightened on the hills above Baslieux, the German artillery shelled Fillières and Ville-au-Montois. Despite the absence of visible scars from these dark days, the memories remain. Come and visit our rural and historic region, which is both picturesque and full of surprises.



THE BATTLE OF FILLIERES-JOPPECOURT- VILLE-AU-MONTOIS



Witness account of a soldier called Berty (*Bulletin de l'Amicale des Anciens combattants des 155e et 355e RI, n° 231*):

“Early in the morning on 22 August, [...] my company was positioned under artillery cover on the road between Joppécourt and Fillières, close to the hamlet of Ville-au-Montois. I am a liaison officer [...]. I could clearly make out the small groups of Germans in combat formation [...] Every time they made a move, they were greeted by our artillery soldiers, who did a marvellous job. The enemy artillery then took up its position to the right of Fillières. Our look-out [...] waited for their first salvo. [...] He ordered us to fire explosive shells 1700 metres. [...] In less than one minute, the German artillery was falling apart, [...] the cannons were silent. As we continued with our task, the tops were blown off the two bell towers opposite (Ville-au-Montois and Fillières), which the Germans had been using as a look-out post. They were then burned down. [...] Unfortunately, we were running out of shells and the German infantry was still advancing. [...] The Germans had arrived at the cemetery in Joppécourt and we had received the order to retreat. We did so with a heavy heart and dragged our feet, because we wanted to carry on fighting ...”.

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- RESTAURANT
- LODGING
- RAILWAY STATION



CIVILIAN LIFE IN AUGUST 1914

Georges Caquard from Haucourt-la-Rigole witnessed the first few hours of the Great War:

"I was 16 years old in 1914, when the Germans arrived in Haucourt on 10 August. This was after the Battle of Mangiennes. They had put horses in all the barns and stables, before leaving very quietly during the night of 11 – 12 August.

Until 22 August, there were only patrols, some of them French and some of them German. There was fighting between Haucourt and Avillers. A lieutenant had passed by with two or three men, but his horse came back on its own. The lieutenant had been killed and was buried in Domprix.

On 21 August, late in the afternoon, French soldiers from Joppécourt, where a battle had taken place, brought injured men to the church in Haucourt.



CHURCH OF HAUCOURT

Some of the foot chasseurs had died during the night and were buried close to the church until the end of the war.

The injured were taken to school classrooms where they waited to be evacuated. There were seven carts – two for Saint-Pierrewillers and five for Pierrepont. We loaded up the injured so they could be driven to Étain. This happened at about three o'clock in the morning on 23 August. [...]

On 24 August, we were going to eat when two Uhlans arrived, which prompted us to leave quickly for Réchicourt before continuing to Spincourt. We then set off on the road to Étain via Vaudoncourt. [...] At about 1 pm, German shells fell on the railway station in Étain. We immediately took the road to Verdun and headed towards Paris on 25 August.

[...] We continued on our way, going from farm to farm. [...] We received no news from our families."

OTHER PLACES OF INTEREST



SAINT-SUPPLET

The lavishly furnished church of Saint-Sulpice, which was built in the 15th century, stands above the village. It is still surrounded by its cemetery. You can learn about the history of this charming village, by following a circuit, which is signposted by information boards with photographs from the past and present. The house of General Guinot can also be found in Saint-Supplet, who planned the underground tunnel networks, which protected Verdun from German attacks in 1916.

Museum



A museum can be found in the hideaway above the nave of one of the most iconic fortified churches on the Meuse, on the north fringes of Woëvre. Here you can find out more about the many impressive fortified churches on the Meuse, by means of models, documents and medieval weapons.

The water tower in MUZERAY

Built by the Germans in 1915, the water tower in Muzeray supplied the occupying forces with water. It was not maintained by the population after the war, as the local people preferred to fetch water from the fountains. Running water only came to Muzeray in 1966.

The 'lavoir' or wash-house in OLLIERES



Like the church and village hall, this 19th century wash-house was used by everyone in this small village. It was served by the iron-rich source from the Meaupré spring. The wash-house was a focal point for village life, before the advent of running water, as well as a place where the women could meet and exchange news.

Domaine du Moulin Neuf



As you leave the south of the Longuyon area, you will return to Spincourt via the pretty village of Han-devant-Pierrepont. From here, you are advised to make a detour to the small lake known as Moulin Neuf at Boismont. In an idyllic setting and very much at one with nature, you will be able to fish, take a stroll and recharge your batteries. You might also like to enjoy the warm welcome provided by the owners and spend a comfortable overnight stay at the B & B (+33 3 82 89 71 59).



SAINT-SUPPLET



MUSEUM



WATER TOWER IN MUZERAY



WASH-HOUSE IN OLLIERES

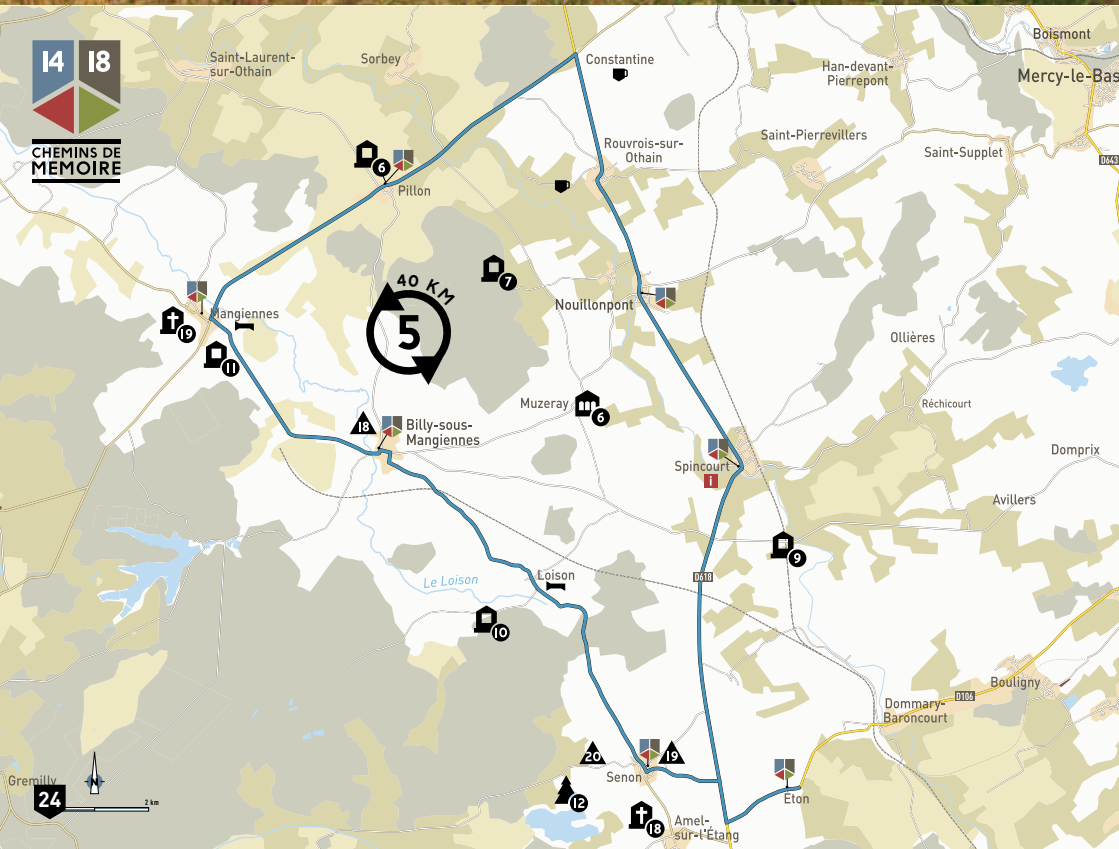


DOMAINE DU MOULIN NEUF



IN AND AROUND SPINCOURT

From 3 August 1914, when war was declared, the first few weeks of fighting unfolded in various stages in the Spincourt sector. After the German forces were defeated near Mangiennes and withdrew to the north, a frontal attack began on 20 August and ended on 25 August with the general retreat of the French towards Verdun.



THE BATTLE OF SPINCOURT

On 24 August, the area around Spincourt was in flames, following the attack on the village of Arrancy and its surrounding area, which were held by the 12th Infantry Division. At about 1 pm, the German forces overcame any French resistance and the 12th Infantry Division retreated to Pillon. On the Nouillonpont-Spincourt front, the 42nd Infantry Division was attacked around midday. It received the order to withdraw to Nouillonpont at about 4 pm. At the same time, the 54th Reserve Division held the Spincourt-Gouraincourt axis, while the 67th Reserve Division focused on the Éton-Rouvres front. Under pressure and heavy fire from the German artillery, the French divisions pulled back and the entire French 3rd Army had retreated to the other side of the river Loison by 25 August. On 26 August, following orders from headquarters, it withdrew to the hills above the Meuse, thus leaving the entire canton of Spincourt in German hands for over four years.

LEGEND



INFORMATION POINT CHEMINS DE MEMOIRE



TOURIST OFFICE



MILITARY CEMETERIES / NECROPOLISES

- 18 Franco-German Cemetery
- 19 Cemetery of Saint-Mard



HERITAGE SITES 14-18

- 6 Memorial stone dedicated to Abbé Baudouin
- 7 Site of the cannon
- 9 Memorial stone dedicated to Lieutenant Lévy Fleur
- 10 Marguerre Camp
- 11 Memorial stone dedicated to the 130th Infantry Regiment



MUSEUMS

- 6 CRECCHIO Museum Complex



OTHER HERITAGE

- 18 Public wash-house in Billy-sous-Mangiennes
- 19 Listed church of Saint-Leonard
- 20 Gallo-Roman site



AREAS OF NATURAL BEAUTY

- 12 Nature reserve of Amel-sur-l'Étang



RESTAURANT



LODGING



RAILWAY STATION

ON THE FRINGES OF THE BATTLE OF ETAIN - ETON IS BURNED DOWN AND REBUILT

Éton, which was on the front line from the beginning of the Great War, along with all this section of the Woëvre, was burned down by the Germans on 24 August 1914 and completely destroyed. Only one building was rebuilt at the end of the war, while the other 128 ruined buildings were demolished. The clearing of the ruins began in July 1919. The task of rebuilding the village was assigned to architect Paul Noulon-Lespès. He came to Éton in 1921. The village is indebted to him for its very special architecture, with its hipped roofs, bay windows, bell turrets and canopies. The architect managed to persuade the owners to make a clear distinction between farm buildings and houses, which were now less narrow and more airy. This new approach to village planning was certainly the most original of its time in this region.



ETON REBUILD

THE CEMETERY IN AMEL-SUR-L'ETANG



CEMETERY OF AMEL-SUR-L'ETANG

The cemetery in Amel-sur-l'Étang is the final resting place of 2,284 German soldiers, 1,033 of whom were buried in a shared grave. The necropolis was used for the bodies of soldiers who fell during the first few days of the war. It was later used for the bodies of injured men who died in the hospitals and first aid stations, which were set up around the village when the February 1916 offensive began. After the Armistice, the French military authorities also brought the bodies of German soldiers to this cemetery who had been buried in the eight neighbouring municipalities. All of these men came from Bavaria, Württemberg, Hesse and Saxony.

OTHER PLACES OF INTEREST

Chapel of Saint-Hubert in NOUILLONPONT

The chapel of Saint-Hubert was built in 1595 on the former cemetery behind the east end of the church. This single nave church is pierced with four semi-circular arched windows, which are supported by buttresses on all four corners and covered with traditional flat semi-circular tiles. The chapel was fully restored in 2011.



CHAPEL OF SAINT-HUBERT

The battery of DUZEY

The woods of Warphemont were one of the most secret and strategic locations behind the German front. They sheltered the battery of Duzey, a long-range cannon of the SKL-45 Max 380 type, which weighed 20 tonnes. From this hideout, it was used to bombard Verdun, despite the latter being over 20 km away.



BATTERY OF DUZEY

The «Crecchio» – Crib Museum

After a pleasant stroll in the kitchen garden with its medicinal plants, inside the museum you will see over 250 cribs from five continents, which are exhibited over an area of 200 m². As soon as you open the door, you will enter into a magical fairy-like world that is bursting with colour.



CRECCHIO

The Marguerre Camp

About fifteen kilometres from Verdun, the site of the Marguerre camp has a surprising story to tell. Hidden in the shadows of the forest, it has the appearance of a ghost village made up of wood cabins and cement bungalows. Built in 1915, this small military settlement bears witness to the intense activities behind the German lines.



MARGUERRE CAMP

The church of SENON

Constructed in 1536, this church was not left unharmed by the Great War, as shown by its contemporary windows designed by Jacques Grüber, as well as its remarkable reinforced concrete roof frame. The tall church of Senon stands out against the horizon with its mixture of styles from different centuries.



CHURCH OF SENON

The nature reserve at AMEL-SUR-L'ETANG

You will pass through wetlands with natural ponds, which are typical of the Lorraine region. This educational trail, which crosses the municipalities of Senon and Amel-sur-l'Étang, is lined with information boards. There are also two hides, from where you can spot birds without disturbing them.



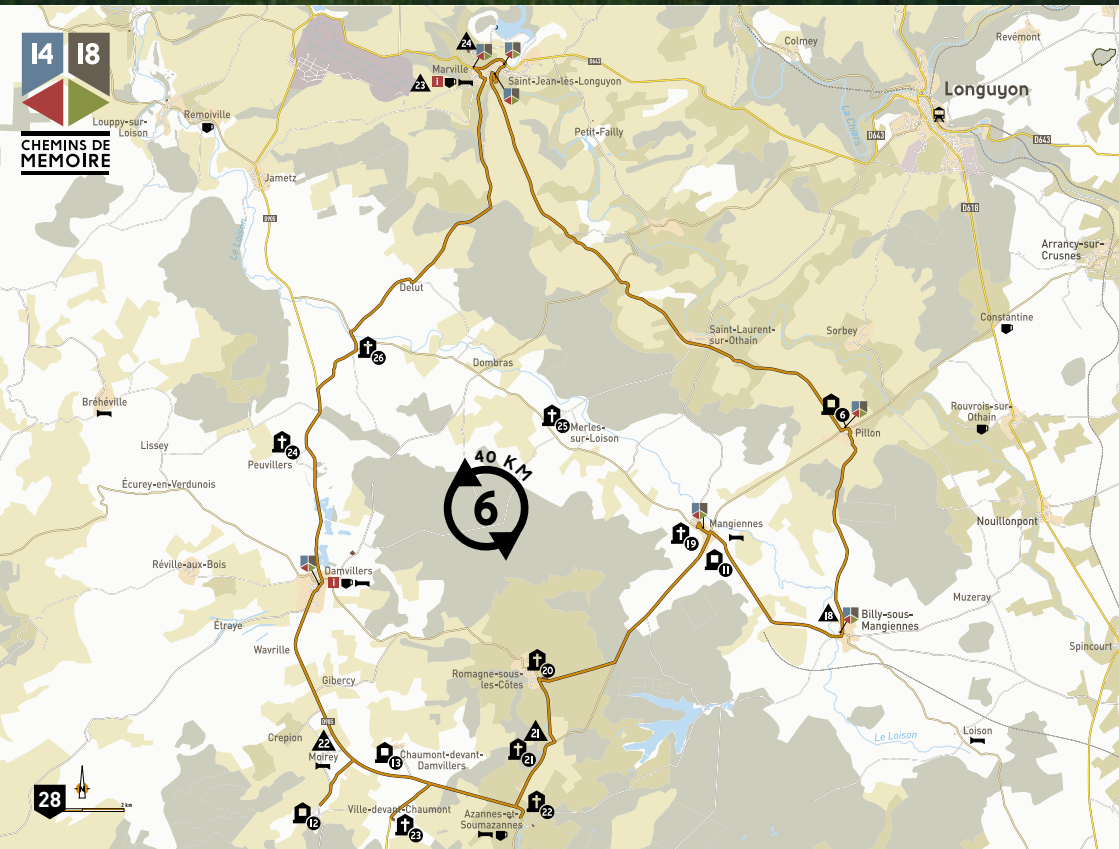
AMEL-SUR-L'ETANG



IN AND AROUND DAMVILLERS AND SPINCOURT



Remembrance sites relating to the battles of Mangiennes and Brandeville can be found in the Damvillers and Spincourt regions, which were close to the front. The municipalities bear traces of the war, due to being German lines.



DAMVILLERS

During the 1914-18 war, the temporary hospital in Damvillers was occupied by the Germans. These medical posts between the Meuse and Moselle were short-lived. In February 1916, in the middle of the Battle of Verdun, the Germans held approximately 500 French prisoners at the camp in Flabas, which was 4 km from the front, in violation of the conventions that already existed at the time. Living conditions were very hard at the camp and many prisoners died there. A monument bears witness to this tragedy.

LEGEND



INFORMATION POINT CHEMINS DE MEMOIRE



TOURIST OFFICE



MILITARY CEMETERIES / NECROPOLISES

- 19 German Cemetery of Mangiennes
- 20 German Cemetery Romagne-sous-les-Côtes
- 21 German Cemetery of Le Bouchet
- 22 German Cemetery of Azannes-et-Soumazannes
- 23 German Cemetery of Ville-devant-Chaumont
- 24 German Cemetery of Peuvillers
- 25 German Cemetery of Merles-sur-Loison
- 26 German Cemetery of Vitarville



HERITAGE SITES 14-18

- 6 Memorial stone dedicated to Abbé Baudouin
- 11 Memorial stone dedicated to the 130th Infantry Regiment

12 Reprisal Camp at Flabas

13 Memorial stone dedicated to Henry Gunther



OTHER HERITAGE

- 18 Public wash-house in Billy-sous-Mangiennes
- 21 Old crafts village
- 22 Farm of Vallon
- 23 Renaissance village of Marville
- 24 Cemetery of Saint-Hilaire



RESTAURANT



LODGING



RAILWAY STATION





THE BATTLE OF MANGIENNES



GERMAN MILITARY CEMETERY OF MANGIENNES

Shortly after war was declared, the fighting between France and Germany entered into its active phase at Mangiennes on 10 August 1914. The population was preparing for the harvest. It was in no doubt that the outskirts of the village were about to become the scene of the region's first significant military engagement.

Terrible clashes took place throughout the day, but proved inconclusive. At 6.45 pm, however, the German army stalled.

The German cemetery, which has 3,332 bodies in individual graves and 358 others in an ossuary, bears witness to this day, when the soldiers were first exposed to the horrors of the battlefield.

On the way out of the village, a memorial stone was erected in honour of the 130th Infantry Regiment and the courage of the men that fell in the first few days of fighting.

MARVILLE

During August 1914, Marville was the scene of two battles: the charge of the 9th Cavalry Division in the Flabeuville region, on 10 August, and the fight of the 7th Infantry Division to the cover the retreat of the 5th Corps, on 25 August.

Above all, Marville is a Renaissance town, which was renowned in the middle ages. Jointly owned by the Duchies of Bar and Luxembourg from 1270, princely alliances and successions brought the town neutrality and prosperity for several centuries.

You will certainly notice three Renaissance burgher's houses in the town: the drapers' house (1524), the house of Chevalier Michel with its two-storey loggia and the merchants' house.

Other signs of its rich past include its 8th century Romanesque church and the Saint-Hilaire cemetery, with its magnificent sculptures and spectacular memorial stones, both of which are only two kilometres away.



HOUSE OF CHEVALIER MICHEL

OTHER PLACES OF INTEREST



Wash-house in BILLY-SOUS-MANGIENNES

18



WASH-HOUSE

Built in 1857, the wash-house is known as the lavoir du Gué. It comprises four indoor basins and a roof opening, which was added a few years after it was constructed, in order to let in more light and provide better ventilation. Its dimensions and height give the whole building the appearance of a secular temple.

Chapel of Notre Dame-de-Bon-Secours in SAINT-LAURENT-SUR-OTHAIN



CHAPEL OF NOTRE DAME-DE-BON-SECOURS

Constructed in 1832 and sometimes known as the Chapel of Saint-Donat because it has a statue of this saint, the chapel was rebuilt on the site of a 12th century sanctuary that was destroyed during the French Revolution. For many years, it has been the scene of a major procession, which takes place on the second Sunday in July.

JAMETZ



SAINTE-ERNELLE

In Jametz, you will see some intriguing mounds, which are relics of an imposing fortress owned by the princes of Sedan. It was redesigned in 1588 by the engineer Jean Errard from Bar-le-Duc and destroyed in 1672 by order of Louis XIV. You will see the cemetery of the Chapel of Notre-Dame des Ponts, which dates back to 1560. At the foot of the mounds, you can admire a double wash-house with its restored impluvium.

VILLECLOYE

In Villecloye, there is a "green cathedral" dedicated to Sainte-Ernelle, which is formed from lines of trees around a fountain with miraculous healing properties. Enjoy the panoramic view over the Chiers valley. You will be able to observe the Mediterranean fauna and flora of its calcareous tufa, which is "Natura 2000" listed, and its conservatory orchard.

AZANNES and SOUMAZANNES: the old craft village



CAMP ELISABETH

The old craft village lies on the site of a former farm, at a spot called "Les Roises". On the top of a hill, the forest still bears a scar from the Great War – the "Camp Elisabeth" German rear base. The buildings in the old craft village preserve the architectural heritage of Lorraine.

CHAUMONT-DEVANT-DAMVILLERS Memorial stone to Henry Gunther



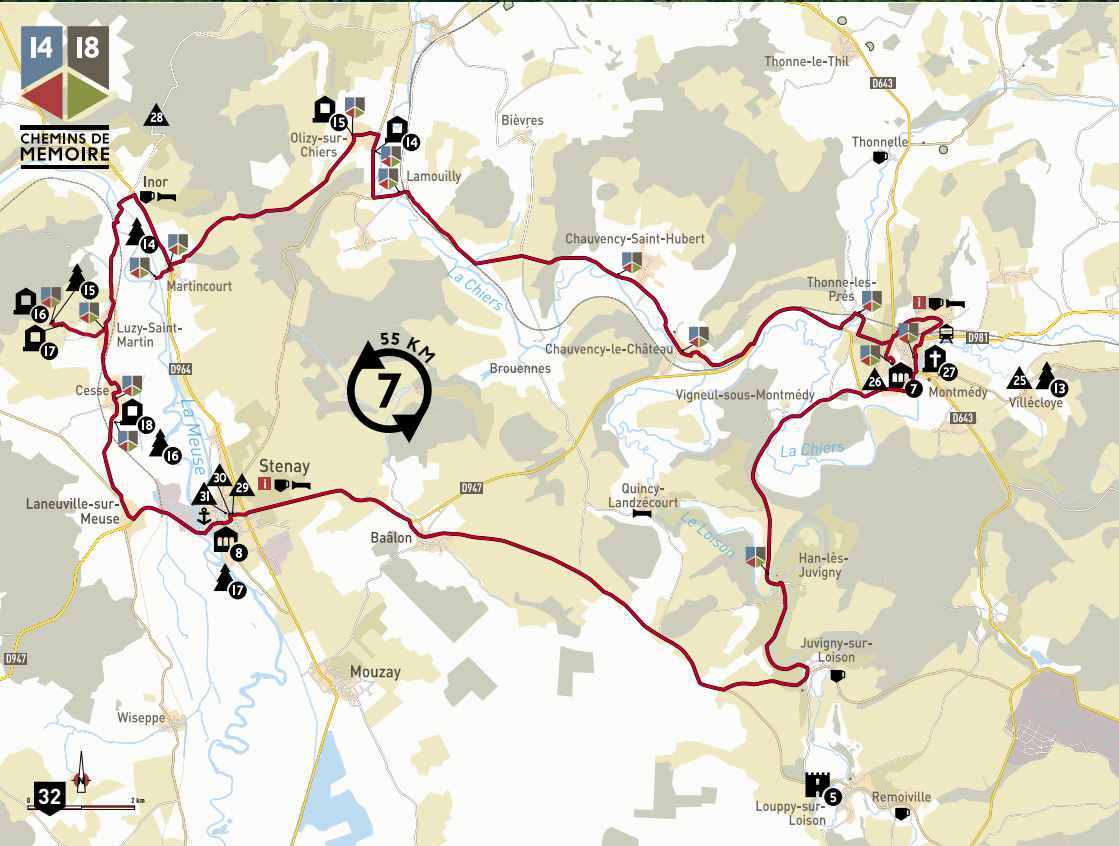
MEMORIAL STON HENRY GUNTHER

An American soldier called Henry Gunther became part of First World War history at 10.59 am precisely on 11 November 1918, when he was killed by the enemy one minute before the Armistice came into effect! He is considered one of the last victims of this terrible war, along with French soldier Augustin Trébuchon, who was killed at the same time on the same day in Vrigne-Meuse. The memorial stone dedicated to Gunther can be seen on the way to Gibercy.



FROM THE CITADEL TO THE ROTUNDA

The Battle of the Frontiers was fought very close to the scene of the Battle of the Meuse. This circuit will take you to both places. The first battle saw the French garrison retreat from the citadel to Verdun. The second battle was fought in order to cross the Meuse. Two "monuments" will help you discover the riches of the Montmédy and Stenay sectors, which are not only military, but also of historical, architectural and environment importance.



CITADEL OF MONTMEDY

26

THE CITADEL OF MONTMEDY

During the 1914-1918 war, the citadel of Montmédy served as a support point for the forces stationed in the region and was used to monitor railway and road infrastructures in the Chiers valley. In the event of surrender and if ordered by the commander in chief, it was instructed to destroy the works of art, in order to prevent the enemy from reaching the mouth of the river and using the railway. It was also instructed to destroy the cannons, ammunition and supplies. On 27 August 1914, the garrison received the order to join the French army at Verdun. It would be wiped out at Brandeville on 29 August 1914.

This citadel, which stands on the top of a rocky spur, was constructed by Charles V in the 16th century, before being redesigned by Vauban in the 17th century and finally remodelled by Seré de Rivières in the 19th century. It is one of the rare examples of a fortress that is still lived in, in this case by 80 inhabitants. While at the fortress, you should visit the church of Saint-Martin, as well as its other characteristic architectural gems and two museums. The first museum focuses on the fortifications, while the second is devoted to local artist Jules Bastien-Lepage. From the top of the stronghold, the panoramic view is indescribable.

LEGEND



INFORMATION POINT CHEMINS DE MEMOIRE



TOURIST OFFICE



MILITARY CEMETERIES / NECROPOLISES

27 Cemetery of Montmédy



HERITAGE SITES 14-18

- 14 Stone crucifix 26 August 1914
- 15 Memorial stones
- 16 Franco-German rotunda
- 17 Franco-German memorial in Luzy-Saint-Martin



MUSEUMS

- 7 Museum of Fortifications and Jules Bastien Lepage
- 8 European Museum of Beer



OTHER HERITAGE

- 25 Saint-Ernette chapel and spring
- 26 Citadel of Montmédy
- 27 Basilica of Notre-Dame d'Avioth
- 28 Memorial stone 1940



FORTRESSES / CASTLES

- 5 Château of Louppy-sur-Loison



AREAS OF NATURAL BEAUTY

- 13 Calcareous grasslands of Villécloye
- 14 Meuse valley, with views of Inor and Martincourt
- 15 Meuse valley, with views of Luzy-Saint-Martin
- 16 Meuse valley – wet grasslands north of Stenay
- 17 Meuse valley – wet grasslands south of Stenay



RESTAURANT



LODGING



RAILWAY STATION



MARINA





FRANCO-GERMAN MONUMENTS IN LUZY-SAINT-MARTIN

16



ROTUNDA LUZY-SAINT-MARTIN

After the fighting in Belgium, the German army continued to advance and set about crossing the Meuse, where it was intercepted by the French Colonial Corps. From 26 - 28 August 1914, the artillery fire "rained down" and violent fighting led to heavy losses. Over three days, approx. 2,000 French and German soldiers lost their lives. The victorious German army rapidly built seven monuments on these sites, where it collected and separated the bodies of soldiers from both sides, which were transferred to nearby French and German cemeteries after the war. In Luzy, the empty monuments were left abandoned. In 1980, two of them were restored. In the middle of an unusual structure, the rotunda, you will see an oak tree, which stands for immortality. An information board explains the strategic nature of the location. You will also find an excellent view over the Meuse valley.

STENAY - A MILITARY TOWN WITH A RENAISSANCE CENTRE

Stenay still has important historic buildings from the Renaissance. In the centre, close to a kiosk, it is pleasant to stroll past the shops in the Arcades, which date back to the 16th century and enjoy pride of place opposite the town hall. The former Minimes convent is also worth a visit. It was founded in 1617 and is now the Albert Toussaint primary school. The same can be said of the former citadel shop, which is now the European Museum of Beer. Proud of its history and past life as a fortress town, Stenay also played its part in the First World War. Following the Battle of the Frontiers and Battle of the Meuse, in September 1914, the Crown Prince, who was the eldest son of Kaiser Wilhelm II and next line to the throne, established his headquarters in the town. He resided in the Château des Tilleuls and stayed there until February 1918.



VIEW ON THE CITY AND CITADEL OF STENAY. ETCHING OF CLAUDE CHATILLON 1591 © ARCHIVES MUNICIPALES DE STENAY

7

34

OTHER PLACES OF INTEREST



AVIOTH

25



AVIOTH

You will also see an architectural masterpiece, known as "the basilica of the fields". It has survived for centuries, since it was built in around 1250, following the miraculous apparition of a statue of the Virgin and Child. Its "Recevesse" in flamboyant gothic style is the only one of its kind in the world. Situated in front of the church, this compact shrine was used to receive offerings from pilgrims.

The Renaissance château in LOUPPY-SUR-LOISON

5



CHATEAU OF LOUPPY-SUR-LOISON

The château of Louppy-sur-Loison, which dates back to 1620, is a remarkable building and a striking example of the Renaissance style. A tower and curtain wall rise from its base. These two structures are the remains of the 12th century fortress, which later became a stately home. The château also sheltered Louis XIV during the siege of Montmédy in 1657.

The Meuse valley

15



THE MEUSE VALLEY

With its forests, meadows, rivers and natural ponds, the Stenay area is a real haven for nature-lovers. The humid environments in the alluvial valleys are a remarkable natural heritage site, as recognised when they were listed as a "Natura 2000" zone. Here you can discover their fauna and flora.

The shopping arcade in STENAY

30



SHOPPING ARCADE IN STENAY

For the observant visitor, this unusual architectural ensemble alongside the central square boasts a variety of curiosities, which point to the rich history of Stenay. These features include a medieval door in the gothic style, the remains of a former coaching inn and sculptures showing the faces of a pair of proud citizens, who wished to create a permanent record of their success for posterity, as well as sundials and other stylised medallions.

The Governor's House and King's Lieutenant's House



GOVERNOR'S HOUSE

The local nobility had particularly ostentatious houses built, where they could complete their duties and fulfil their military responsibilities. The Governor's House is an excellent example, with its private chapel that dates back to 1580. Similarly, the King's Lieutenant's House has an elegant rear tower, which was constructed in around 1620. The Sun King, Louis XIV, stayed at one of these residences, while Cardinal Mazarin stayed at the other during the Siege of Montmédy in 1657.

7

35

As you travel through the villages of the Stenay area and Dunois valley, there are no signs that fighting took place in these havens of peace. The Meuse valley is packed with fauna, flora and exceptional heritage. However, appearances are deceptive, in this case, as the Montmédy garrison came to a tragic end in the forest at Brandeville on 29 August 1914.



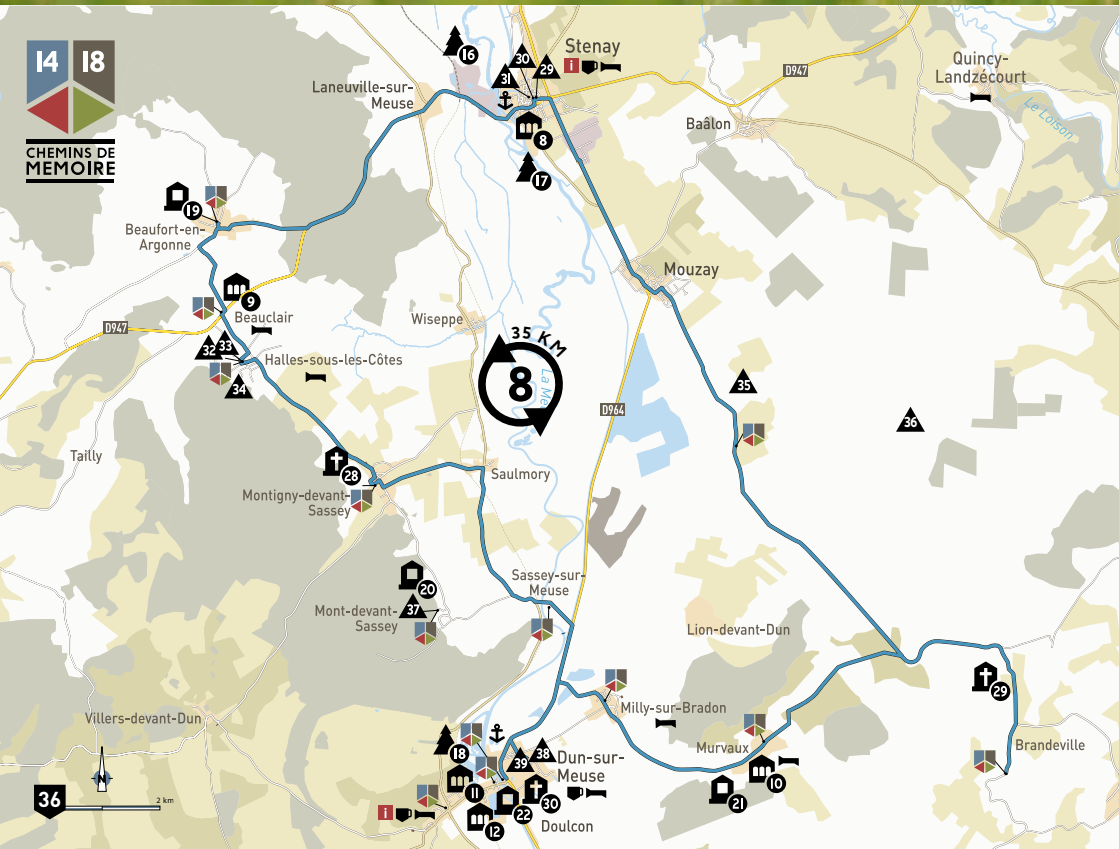
NATIONAL NECROPOLIS OF BRANDEVILLE



THE BATTLE OF BRANDEVILLE

On 27 August 1914, the Montmédy garrison, with its 2,300 men, was ordered by General Joffre to leave the citadel and return to Verdun. On the morning of 28 August, most of the men were in the forest of Woëvre, near Mouzay. Patrols sent towards the south then received word that the detachment was facing significant German forces. On the night of 28 - 29 August, the soldiers met a large German contingent in the woods of Brandeville. The decision was taken to attack on 29 August.

This marked the start of the battle. Initially, the surprise effect enabled the French to inflict heavy losses on the Germans, 600 of whom lost their lives. But the Germans very quickly recovered and the battle ended in tragedy for the French. About 600 "red trousers" died in action and approx. 900 more were taken prisoner, under harsh conditions at the castle of Ingolstadt in Bavaria.



LEGEND

INFORMATION POINT CHEMINS DE MEMOIRE

TOURIST OFFICE

MILITARY CEMETERIES / NECROPOLISES

- 29 National Necropolis of Brandeville
 - 30 German Cemetery of Dun-sur-Meuse
- HERITAGE SITES 14-18
- 19 Graves of officers from the 120th Infantry Regiment
 - 20 Memorial stone at the former Franco-German cemetery
 - 21 Frank Luke Memorial
 - 22 Pershing Bridge

MUSEUMS

- 8 European Museum of Beer
- 9 Beer Glass Museum
- 10 Museum of Winegrowers
- 11 History Museum
- 12 Ipoustéguy Cultural Centre

OTHER HERITAGE

- 29 Saint-Dagobert Crypt
- 30 Gallerie Les Arcades

31 Saint-Grégoire church in Stenay

32 Saint-Barthélemy church

33 Public wash-house in Halles-sous-les-Côtes

34 Notre-Dame de Montserrat site

35 Charmois micro-brewery

36 Saint-Dagobert fountain

37 Notre-Dame-de-l'Assomption church

38 Ogival church of Notre-Dame-de-Bonne-Garde

39 Citadel of Dun-sur-Meuse

AREAS OF NATURAL BEAUTY

16 Meuse valley - wet grasslands north of Stenay

17 Meuse valley - wet grasslands south of Stenay

18 Meuse valley, Dun-sur-Meuse

RESTAURANT

LODGING

RAILWAY STATION

MARINA



HALLES-SOUS-LES-COTES

32
33



CHURCH AND WASH-HOUSE OF HALLES

According to popular tradition, the protective hills of Halles-sous-les-Côtes were visited by the Spanish in the 16th century. It is indebted to these visitors for its street pattern and worship of the Black Virgin. The municipality of Halles-sous-les-Côtes is rich in remarkable heritage.

The church of Saint Barthélémy, which was rebuilt using local stone from Halles in 1788, is home to the Black Virgin of Montserrat. It has been visited by pilgrims since the late 19th century, at the beginning of each September. The grotto and miraculous source, which is dedicated to Our Lady of Montserrat, continue to attract crowds of believers. Other curiosities will attract the attention of passers-by. The wash-house with its columns is incredibly beautiful and still surprises visitors, along with its gayoir. This sloping barrier, built from brick, created a pool where livestock could enjoy a cool drink of water. Both of these structures are just next to the church and form a magnificent ensemble.

Once a fortified town, Stenay is now home to the European Museum of Beer, in the citadel's former grocer's shop, which was built between 1609-1615, but no longer exists. Restored in 2008, it houses a new museum with displays covering over 2,500 m² on all aspects of beer and its history, together with collections consisting of over 53,000 exhibits. You can visit the heart of the aromatic Beer Garden and learn about herbs and spices used to brew beer. It will stimulate your senses – of course, you will see the herbs, but you will also be able to touch them, before tasting a few samples at the bar, which boasts a selection of 50 craft and mass-produced beers.

All different types of visits can be arranged, whether your interests are technical, cultural, gastronomic or historical. All of this is made possible by a cultural programme that is continuously being updated. Come and visit us! Enjoy as many samples as you like!

THE EUROPEAN MUSEUM OF BEER



EUROPEAN MUSEUM OF BEER

8

8

38

OTHER PLACES OF INTEREST



Marina in STENAY

Located on a branch of the Meuse, the marina was once a commercial port, where small barges were loaded with forged products, hay, wood, etc. Other boats unloaded grain, coal or salt fish on the Île de la Sorerie, which is now a campsite and service facility for camping cars.



MARINA STENAY

Fortifications and the Forge park

The citadel of Stenay was demolished, but the town still has several sections of ramparts, which visitors can see as they walk around the circular path. From here, you will also be able to admire the fine 18th century houses, which were built when Stenay was the preserve of the Princes of Condé. Last but not least, the park owned by the former master blacksmith, whose work began in 1776 and continued until 2005, is rich in rare and remarkable trees.



FORGE PARK

Church of Saint-Martin

The choir, which is decorated with a painted vault, has a wooden second high altar. The nave is supported by columns and has stained glass windows, two of which commemorate the First World War, created by master glass artist Georges Janin from Nancy.



CHURCH OF SAINT-MARTIN

The Charmois château and brewery in MOUZAY

A remarkable Renaissance château, constructed in 1612 by Jean d'Herbemont, can be seen in the oldest part of the Charmois estate and lies at its heart. The Charmois beer was brewed here, based on a secret recipe. This top-fermented craft beer is unfiltered and unpasteurised. It is fermented slowly in the bottle, according to the strictest brewing traditions. Visits can be arranged by reservation (+33 6 09 90 05 00).



CHARMOIS CHATEAU

The Saint-Dagobert crypt in STENAY

In 1972, the Stenay archaeological society uncovered the chapel door from the Saint-Dagobert priory, which had been covered with soil, when the citadel was modernised in the 17th century. The priory was founded in 872, as a place to keep the relics of Saint Dagobert II, who had recently been canonised.

He was the last Merovingian king of Austrasia, before being assassinated in the forest of Woëvre, near Mouzay, in 679. The Saint-Dagobert fountain still marks the scene of the crime.

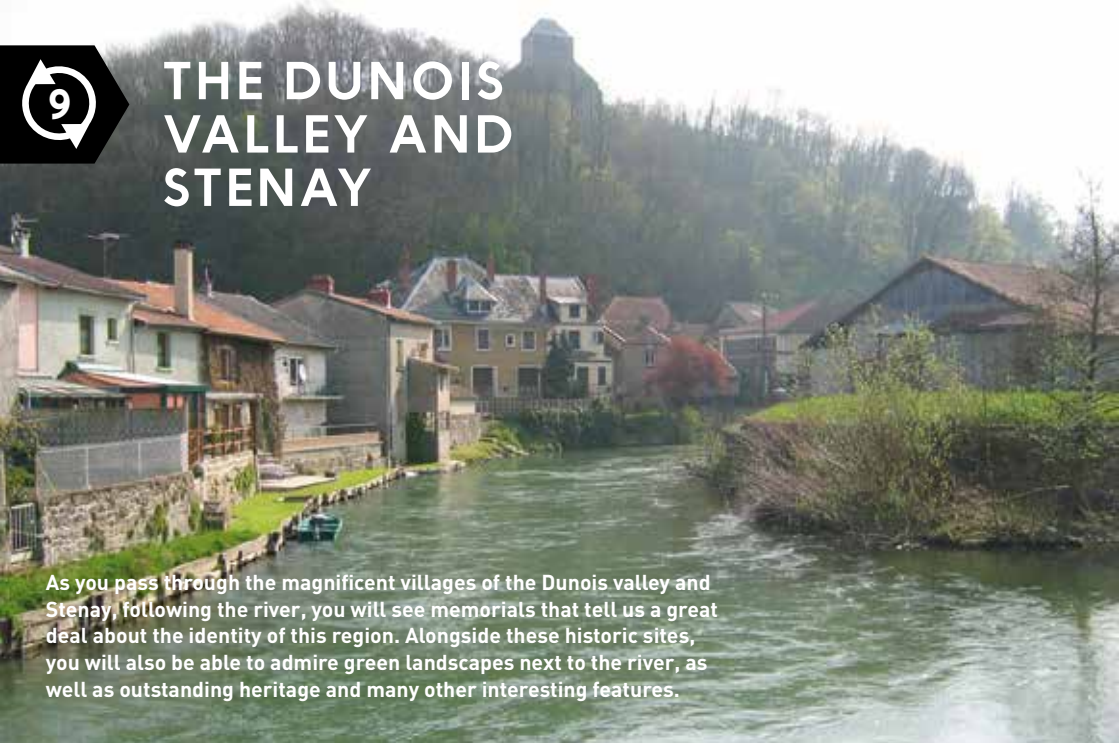
The door is now preserved in the room dedicated to the memory of Saint Dagobert.



SAINT-DAGOBERT CRYPT

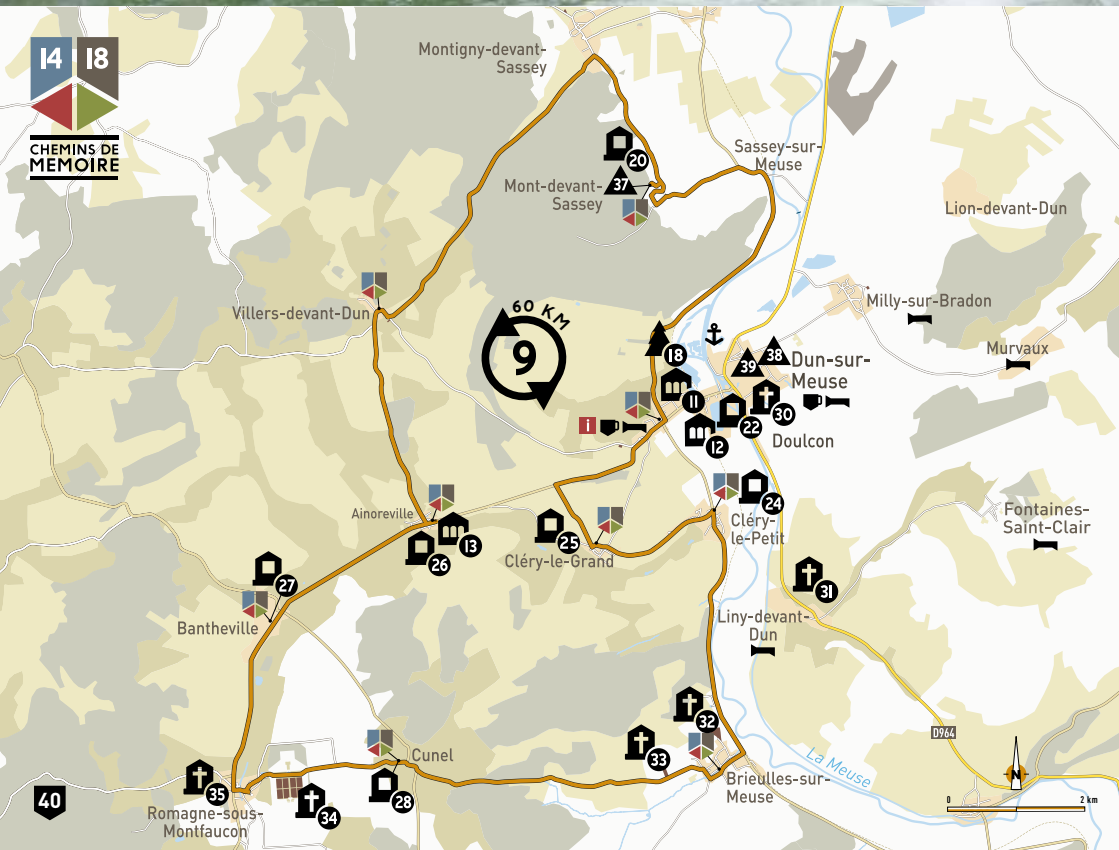
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THE DUNOIS VALLEY AND STENAY

As you pass through the magnificent villages of the Dunois valley and Stenay, following the river, you will see memorials that tell us a great deal about the identity of this region. Alongside these historic sites, you will also be able to admire green landscapes next to the river, as well as outstanding heritage and many other interesting features.



MILITARY CEMETERY

MILITARY CEMETERIES IN THE DUNOIS VALLEY

15,000 soldiers are buried in the Dunois valley. Five necropolises are situated in this region, the largest of which is the German cemetery at Brioules-sur-Meuse. The presence of all these military necropolises from the First World War is now a real symbol of brotherhood. American, British, French, German and Russian soldiers rest in peace in the same soil, as if to highlight the absurdity of war. In the Dunois valley, soldiers were buried in cemeteries close to the camps or field hospitals.

The following cemeteries are some of the most representative:

- The German cemetery at Brioules-sur-Meuse, which is the largest German necropolis on the Meuse
- The French cemetery at Brioules-sur-Meuse
- The American cemetery at Romagne-sous-Montfaucon, which is Europe's largest American First World War cemetery
- The German cemeteries at Liny-devant-Dun, Dun-sur-Meuse, Dannevoux and Nantillois

LEGEND

INFORMATION POINT CHEMINS DE MEMOIRE

TOURIST OFFICE

MILITARY CEMETERIES / NECROPOLISES

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- 31 German Cemetery of Liny-devant-Dun
- 32 French Cemetery of Brioules-sur-Meuse
- 33 German Cemetery of Brioules-sur-Meuse
- 34 American Cemetery of Meuse-Argonne
- 35 German Cemetery of Romagne-sous-Montfaucon

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- 21 Frank Luke Memorial
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- 23 Grave of Customs Official Carry
- 24 Memorial stone in Mortemart
- 25 Memorial stone dedicated to Captain Harris
- 26 Square named in honour of Captain Harris
- 27 Memorial to those who lost their lives in Bantheville
- 28 Fountains of the 3 Lieutenants

MUSEUMS

- 11 History Museum
- 12 Cultural Centre
- 13 Museum of Honey and Beekeeping

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- 38 Ogival church of Notre-Dame-de-Bonne-Garde
- 39 Citadel of Dun-sur-Meuse

AREAS OF NATURAL BEAUTY

- 18 Meuse valley, Dun-sur-Meuse

RESTAURANT

LODGING

RAILWAY STATION

MARINA



REARGUARD FIGHTING AT MONT-DEVANT-SASSEY AND MONTIGNY-DEVANT-SASSEY

The fighting at Montigny-devant-Sassey and Mont-devant-Sassey was among the most violent at the beginning of the 1914-1918 war on the Meuse.

Extract from the notebook of French Captain Hassler:

"After a great deal of fighting close to the Meuse, we pushed through the woods of Mont-devant-Sassey, where we experienced terrible enemy fire, with shells falling just about everywhere in the woods. After the attack commenced, I went down a small path into a ravine and arrived, with my platoon, in a huge clearing next to the road. In front of us and at the top of a ridge, we could see the Germans and I ordered salvos to be fired. The enemy cannons got to work and at first their fire flashed past us, before growing more intense. The shells finally fell on and all around us. Grenades or small bombs rolled at our feet and exploded... The Germans occupied the village and prevented anyone from entering it, by setting fire to the edges of the forest. My things smell of corpses. All of us smell like dead bodies. A hurricane of iron is falling on us. The Germans are pushing into the woods, with bugles and tambourines. When they play, you cannot hear a single bullet. Then comes a very impressive deathly silence, followed by deluge of iron and bullets. They are here. We cannot see anything. Men are falling on all sides. I have been ordered to gather my men together and leave in a four-man column, in order to charge with bayonets. Another order to charge and I charge three times, with men falling in their droves. We retreat – I will always remember this tragic retreat, through the torrid heat, along the road from woods of Mont to Villers-devant-Dun."



MONTIGNY-DEVANT-VERDUN

OTHER PLACES OF INTEREST



Church and citadel of DUN-HAUT

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The building rises from the fortifications, which were first built above the town in the 10th century. After centuries of fighting, it is now the only remaining building from the upper town. Listed as a historic monument, this architectural gem in the ogival style boasts an organ case and rich 19th century furniture, as well as two masterful sculptures by Ipoustéguy, who was born in Dun-sur-Meuse in 1920.



CHURCH OF DUN-HAUT

Meuse Nautic - Boat hire

Prepare to step on-board and discover the charms of the river Meuse... You don't need a licence to be a captain for a few days: after a brief induction, you will be ready to drive one of our «Souchets». These house-boats are extremely easy to handle. (+33 3 29 80 72 72)



MEUSE NAUTIC

Church of MONT-DEVANT-SASSEY

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Built on a wooded spur in the Meuse hills, this church is one of Lorraine's finest examples of Roman art. It was first built from dressed stone in the 11th century, by the Lady Canonesses of the Abbey of Andenne. It lies on the Meuse, near Namur, and includes gems of Romanesque and gothic architecture.



EGLISE DE MONT-DEVANT-SASSEY

Honey museum and beekeeping in AINCREVILLE



Discover the fascinating world of bees. As you complete the fun circuit through the museum, passionate beekeepers will share their knowledge with you. This modern and fully safe facility, which is the only one of its kind in Lorraine, takes you right to the heart of the beehive.



MAISON DU MIEL ET DES ABEILLES

Green lake beach in DOULCON

Enjoy outdoor activities, in a green and shaded setting. The Lac Vert Plage leisure facilities cover an area of 18 ha, 6 ha of which is water. Located on the site of a former ballast pit, it has a beach, campsite and all the facilities that you need.



LAC VERT PLAGE



IN THE DUNOIS VALLEY

From rivers to canals, lakes and natural ponds - water is everywhere to be seen. Divided by the river Meuse, the Dunois valley has a very rich history and exceptional heritage. Previously an important logistics centre, the Dunois valley now stands out for its sublime landscapes and war secrets, while offering a wide range of leisure activities.



STÈLE DE MORTEMART



MEMORIAL STONE IN MORTEMART BETWEEN DUN-SUR-MEUSE AND LINY-DEVANT-DUN

Along the D964 road lies a place now known as "Mortemart".

During the German occupation, allied airmen wanted to observe the enemy who occupied the valley. The French and Americans completed many different reconnaissance flights in 1918 and there were frequent air battles.

On 15 March 1918, a French plane was shot down, which was piloted by Sub-Lieutenant François de Rochechouart, Marquis of Mortemart. The injured airman was taken by the Germans to the field hospital

in Liny, where he died the next day, after expressing his desire to be buried in the place where he fell. Wishing to respect his last wishes, the Germans buried him close to the road, on the slopes on the opposite side of the Meuse valley.

Long after the war, an enormous oak cross and stone memorial were found, which bore the following inscription:

"Here lies a brave French airman, Flight Sub-Lieutenant François de Rochechouart, Prince of Tonnay-Charente"

LEGEND



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- 29 Grande Montagne Memorial



MUSEUMS

- 10 Museum of Winegrowers
- 11 History Museum
- 12 Ipoustéguy Cultural Centre



OTHER HERITAGE

- 38 Ogival church of Notre-Dame-de-Bonne-Garde
- 39 Citadel of Dun-sur-Meuse
- 40 Chapel of Saint-Panthaléon



AREAS OF NATURAL BEAUTY

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RESTAURANT



LODGING



RAILWAY STATION



MARINA





THE GERMAN AND FRENCH CEMETERIES IN BRIEULLES-SUR-MEUSE



The town hall, abbey and church were used as field hospitals, where first aid was administered to the injured before they were evacuated behind the lines.



The German cemetery was created at the very start of the war. At first, it was used for the bodies of soldiers from the 13th Infantry Regiment.

Following the carnage at the Battle of Verdun and clashes in Argonne, it was no longer used solely for this unit. Many bodies were transferred to this cemetery from temporary graves in the region. It is the largest German necropolis on the Meuse: 11,286 soldiers, 25 of whom are unknown, are buried in 5,956 graves. Three graves are shared by 5,325 soldiers, only 563 of whom have been identified. Among the many graves, you will notice those of Lieutenant Hermann von Brandis and General von Dorrer. A memorial stone also commemorates the fighting, which took place on 29 August 1914 in Brandeville against French soldiers from the Montmédy garrison.



GERMAN MILITARY CEMETERY OF BRIEULLES-SUR-MEUSE

The German cemetery was rearranged in 1972. The wooden crosses were replaced by metal crosses, which show the soldiers' names and the date when they died.

The French cemetery was created in 1920. After the Great War, many cemeteries were relocated to Briulles: Aincreville, Beauclair, Cesse, Cierges-sous-Montfaucon, Cléry-le-Grand, Consenvoye, Dun-sur-Meuse, Doulon, Épinonville, Gercourt and Drillancourt, Gesnes-en-Argonne, Inor, Liny-devant-Dun, Lisse, Luzy-Saint-Martin, Mont-devant-Sassey, Montfaucon, Montmédy, Peuvillers, Romagne-sous-Montfaucon, Stenay, Vilosnes-Hauraumont and Wavrille.

A total of 2572 bodies are buried at the cemetery in Briulles, including 123 Russians, 35 Belgians and one British soldier. You will also come across ossuaries, which hold the remains of almost 1520 French soldiers who fell during this fighting.

The necropolis was fully restored in 1976.

OTHER PLACES OF INTEREST



Tour-de-MONTFAUCON



The American Memorial was erected by the American War Memorial Commission in memory of the 28,000 young sammys that fought to recapture the Montfaucon Hill, on 26-27 September 1918. It stands almost 60m above the ruins of the former village.



TOUR-DE-MONTFAUCON

Fountains of NANTILLOIS

This fountain, which lies in a small park in the town centre, was built in memory of the forces from the 80th Division from Pennsylvania. It was funded by the American state of the same name.



FOUNTAINS OF NANTILLOIS

The Meuse valley



In the Dunois valley, two sites are now "Natura 2000" listed, due to their importance for the protection of birds at European level:

- "Meuse valley", a vast corridor that extends from Sivry to Dombas
- "Meuse valley – Stenay sector", including the wet grasslands between Dun and the Ardennes



THE MEUSE VALLEY

History Museum in DOULCON



Throughout the year, the Dunois valley history museum organises exhibitions, focusing on different periods in the canton's history and especially the Great War. It also stages lively and fun events, as well as conferences and debates. In addition, the museum is a research and documentation centre.



HISTOIRE MUSEUM

The ballast pits in DUN-SUR-MEUSE

The protected site, known as the "ballast pits", is made up of former stone quarries, which have been converted into fishing lakes. The site covers 7 ha, 4 ha of which are water. This angler's paradise is also an ideal place for a stroll, picnic and recharging your batteries.



BALLAST PITS IN DUN-SUR-MEUSE

Ipoustéguy Cultural Centre in DOULCON



The Ipoustéguy Cultural Centre provides a setting for cultural and artistic expression and encounters. Since 2001, it has been home to the world's biggest collection of works by Jean-Robert Ipoustéguy. This internationally renowned sculptor and painter was born in Dun-sur-Meuse in 1920.



CULTUREL CENTRE IPOUSTÉGUY



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