

AMERICAN BATTLEFIELDS OF WORLD WAR I CHÂTEAU-THIERRY—THEN AND NOW

VOLUME ONE: ENTER THE YANKS
AS TOLD IN THE ACTUAL WORDS OF THE SOLDIERS



DAVID C. HOMSHER

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BOOK DESCRIPTION In *American Battlefields of World War I: Chateau-Thierry--Then and Now*, David Homsher provides the traveler with a comprehensive guidebook to the early-on American Expeditionary Forces (AEF) battlefields of 1918 in France. This guidebook is intended for the few living veterans of World War I, the student of military history, and the traveler to Europe and to France, in fact or imagination, who has an interest in the Allied and American effort to defeat the German Army in Western Europe. The first of a projected series of AEF battlefield guidebooks, this initial volume, *Chateau-Thierry*, describes, by text, maps and 'then-and-now- photographs, the AEF battlefields and sites ranging from the Charles de Gaulle International Airport to the City of Chateau-Thierry. It was at Chateau-Thierry in late May, 1918, that the 7th Motorized Machine Gun Battalion, U.S. 3rd Division, having raced to the city in their Ford motor-trucks, turned their machine-guns on the advancing German Army and decisively stopped the German march towards Paris. Chateau-Thierry is the one city in all of France that was best known and loved by the Doughboys of the AEF. About 200,000 American soldiers passed through this city on their way to the battles in the Marne Salient of 1918, that large salient formed by Rheims, Soissons and Chateau-Thierry. It was just outside of Chateau-Thierry that the Battle of Belleau Wood was fought. Thus, Chateau-Thierry became a post-war Mecca for veterans and civilians who wanted to visit the AEF battlefields of the 2nd battle of the Marne in the southern part of the Marne Salient of 1918. Specifically written about is the initial effort northwest of Chateau-Thierry by the U.S. 2nd, 3rd, and 26th Divisions to stem and finally stop the final German drives for Paris between 27 May and 16 July 1918 during the Chateau-Thierry Operation and the Aisne-Marne Defensive Campaign. Hundreds of photographs and drawings show the battlefields as they look today and as they were in 1918. The battlefield maps enable the readers to orient themselves easily and to visualize the battlefields as they unfolded. This book combines eye-witness accounts of the battles, directions to key points on the battlefield as well as maps depicting the action and details of troop positions as they were eighty six years ago. In this easy-to-follow guide, David Homsher explains how travelers can relive history by visiting the Western Front. The battlefields, cemeteries, towns, villages and memorials all have their tales to tell of the passage of American soldiers in 1918, and this excellent guide will help visitors to interpret their findings. Belleau Wood, Chateau-Thierry, Torcy, Vaux, Belleau, Bouresches, and many other such places still bear witness to the bloody battles of the AEF in this area of France. The editor, David Homsher has traveled extensively over the battlefields where the American Expeditionary Forces fought. The result of his many visits to the AEF battlefields and of ten years of research is this guidebook, made up of 'then-and-now' photographs and vignettes of stories, all told in the words of the soldiers themselves. In this book you will walk the fields, see the sights, visit the many places where American soldiers fought, and in a then-and-now context where past and present intersect. The historical significance of each site is described in detail with the aid of maps and photographs. This combination guidebook, anthology and photographic essay is the most thorough, detailed and accurate book of its kind. Indeed, it is unique in that it is the first such AEF battlefield guidebook ever published. The tours describe the battlefields and the exploits of particular individuals and units, identifies relics in the field and locates monuments. Each tour is preceded by an overview of the battle, which establishes a context for, and allows a better understanding of what you will see. The book contains suggested itineraries, historical backgrounds, detailed routes for the motorist and an outline of the events that occurred in each place. The book takes a close and detailed look at individuals and events in a magnificent collection of colorful pen-pictures each supported by maps and photographs. The reader is transported to the battlefield by the photographs. The book brings to life the characters and types of men who were involved in combat with the AEF in 1918. It also covers subjects and specific areas frequently neglected by writers and historians of the American involvement in World War I. The guide can be enjoyed without ever leaving the easy chair, or it can become an indispensable companion on tramps over the scene of some of the greatest engagements of the AEF in World War I. Invaluable for planning a day's outing from Paris or an entire vacation, Homsher's superbly organized guide provides, in rich detail, a wealth of both practical and descriptive information about each battle site, town, village and memorial including: detailed descriptions, history of the site, town or village, and driving directions. There is also extensive guidance on how to make the most of your battlefield visit, both before you go and while you are there. The book contains an unparalleled blend of hundreds of wartime photographs and right-on-target accounts from the soldiers who fought the battles of 1918. Many of the photos in this volume have not been published before and were acquired from government and private collections, for exclusive use in this book, by the editor. The then-and-now photos are amazing and the text is nothing short of compelling.

Ideal for use as a guidebook; fascinating as an illustrated history. In short, this is a 'crossover' book in that it serves dual purposes, as a guidebook and as an informal battle history of the AEF. This book will be a perennial best-seller in both the American and European book markets. The history of the American Expeditionary Forces and the hallowed grounds on which they fought must be preserved and shared with future generations so they better understand how and why the war was fought and the sacrifices they made. 8-1/2 x 11 inches, 336 pages, profusely illustrated with photographs and many maps. Available from Battleground Productions, 85 Tilton Avenue, # 4, San Mateo, California 94401 or P.O. Box 624, San Mateo, California 94401. \$39.95 plus \$2.99 shipping per single book. \$1.99 for each additional book. California residents add 8-1/4 % tax (\$3.30). Dealers inquiries invited.

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