

Thanks to McCormick foundation

Remerciements à la fondation McCormick

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The orientation table is sponsored by the Robert R. McCormick Foundation, Chicago, Illinois, USA, and its First Division Museum, Cantigny Park, Wheaton, Illinois. The late Colonel Robert R. McCormick was a First Division veteran of World War I.

THE ORIENTATION TABLE OF THE BAYLE CROSS

The aire valley, an american battlefield

The Bayle Cross (which stands at an altitude of 231 metres) offers a wide panoramic view from the battlefield to a landscape that has remained almost unchanged since the war. The narrow and steep spur on which it stands adorns the mighty embankment that marks the end of the Forest of Argonne towards the east. Nestled at the foot of it, Cornay overlooks the Aire valley, which is shaped like an asymmetric corridor. On the right-hand bank, waves of mounds and hills which are isolated by narrow little valleys correspond to the dissected and wooded front. Only the tops of them are forested – Montrebeau (220 metres), Montrefagne (225 metres), Ariétal (280 metres) and then Châtillon Hill (256 metres). A hundred metres below, the Aire meanders along the flat bottom, which is prone to flooding. To the north, the fortified church of St. Juvin emphasises a bend in the river, which enters the Forest of Argonne at the Grandpré gap. To the south, the view leads back up this corridor, which is punctuated by the Châtel-Chéhéry and Apremont meanders.

After the Second Battle of the Marne (June-July 2018) and the shrinking of the Saint-Mihiel salient (beginning of September), the Meuse-Argonne sector was liberated by American troops during the final offensive of the war, from September 26 to November 11-1918.



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**Village of Cornay from the
Bayle Cross**



The Bayle Cross

