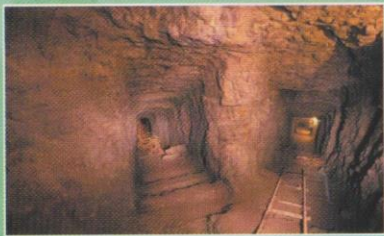


Traces of war remembrance of conflict 14-18



The conflicts of the 20th century reshaped the face of the world, but at the cost of how many tears shed...land devastated... populations deprived of everything, plunged into grief, distraught, sacrificed, significantly wounded...

The Meuse region suffered from the battles of the 1914 – 1918 Great War.

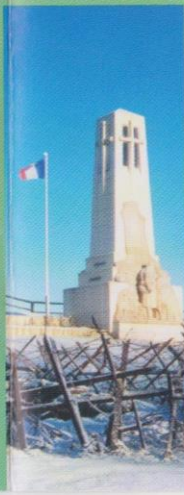
Here, our "battered and bruised" were Verdun, the Argonne, Les Eparges, the St Mihiel Salient...discover and understand these places which allow us to pass on the Recollection of all those men who fought here.

The years having passed, this duty of Remembrance has today become a Historic duty.

The Argonne was at the centre of the battles of the Great War. At the crossroads of the Meuse, Marne and Ardennes regions, this hilly range suffered from the echoes of the battles of the Marne and of Verdun. It experienced extremely harsh battles itself and served as a secondary base for numerous soldiers.

In Argonne, certain places are now tragically famous: la Vaux-Marie, Vauquois hill, la Haute-Chevauchée...

Step into history with us



Dominating the entire Argonne eastern region, Vauquois was considered by the Staff Headquarters on both sides as an exceptional observation point and a strategic barrier.

On 24th September 1914, the Germans occupied this hill and made it into a genuine fortress.

On 4th March 1915, after several offensives, the French took hold of the hill. The war of position was about to start.

The soldiers went underground and dug out miles of galleries and ramifications in order to infiltrate the enemy's network and to cause a maximum amount of loss using tons of explosives.

Vauquois hill thus became a real anthill composed of several underground installations spread over several levels (more than 17kms of shafts, galleries and ramifications).

One of the most significant places of mine warfare (an inventory was made indicating 519 explosives: 199 German and 320 French), Vauquois was freed on 26th September 1918 by the Americans.

Still intact from the Great War, Vauquois hill has been listed as a Historic Monument.