



WORLD WAR I – THE BATTLE OF CANTIGNY

The [Battle of Cantigny](#), fought May 28, 1918 was the first major American battle and offensive of World War I. The US Army 1st Division, the most experienced of the five American divisions then in France and in reserve for the French Army near the village of Cantigny, was selected for the attack. The objective of the attack was to reduce a small salient made by the German Army in the front lines and to instill confidence among the French and British allies in the ability of the inexperienced American Expeditionary Force (AEF). Major Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., eldest son President Theodore Roosevelt, commanded an infantry battalion during the battle. Roosevelt was awarded the [Medal of Honor](#) for his actions in the Normandy landings World War II.