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The Battle of the Bulge

1944 - 1945





Summary





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in Wallonia's cities and towns?

VISITWallonia.be/destinations



Caption

	Museums
	Memorials
	Cemeteries
	Tank



To find out more,
get hold of the IGN map from GEIE Destination Ardenne.
www.visitardenne.com/en/practical-information/brochures

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Back in winter 1944



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From the beaches of Normandy to the forests of the Ardennes

On the 6th June 1944, the Allies land in Normandy and begin their breakthrough into France. In September, they liberate towns and villages in Belgium and Luxembourg.

From the 16th December 1944 to the end of January 1945, under a new barrage of fire and fierce battles, soldiers and the civilian population go through hell again on the Ardennes Front.

Hitler's plan The Last Stand

Hitler prepares his last stand in the Ardennes. The objective is to retake Antwerp, the main port where the Allies' essential supplies and reinforcements are sent. The capture of the town and the River Scheldt defended by the British and the Canadians would lead to their isolation and would force the Allies to sign a separate peace treaty.

The main effort of the offensive rests on the 6th SS Panzer Army of Dietrich, who, advancing by the Gap of Manderfeld (Losheim) and the Elsenborn Ridge have to cross the River Meuse between Liège and Huy, and then seize Antwerp. In the centre of the Front, the 5th Panzer Army of Von Manteuffel has to break through the Schnee Eifel, seize St Vith, Bastogne, cross the River Meuse between Huy and Givet and rush to Brussels. The 7th Army of Brandenberger's mission is to cover the southern flank, to retake the Grand Duchy and reach Givet.

Abbreviations

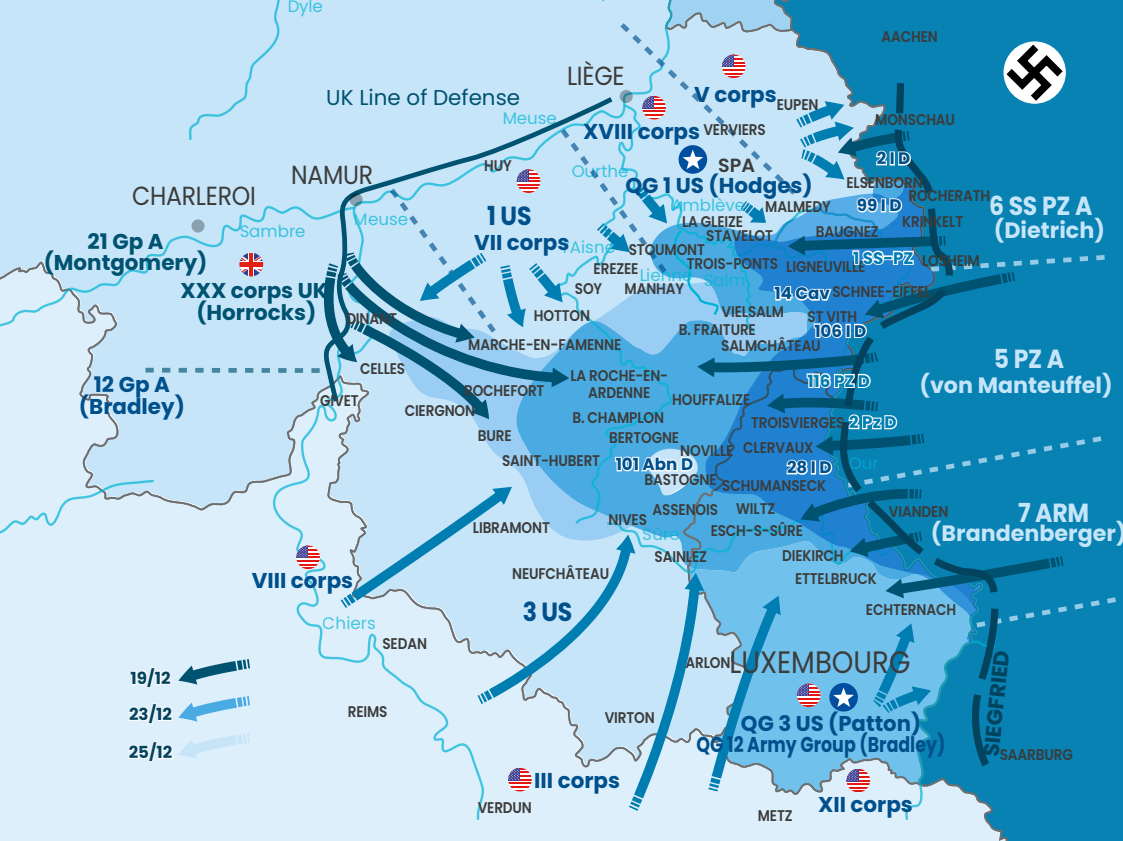
Abn D	Airborne Division
Arm D	Armoured Division
ID	Infantry Division
1 US	1 st American Army
3 US	3 rd American Army
Pz D (Deutsche Panzerdivision)	Armoured German Division
Pz A (Deutsche Panzerarmee)	Armoured German Army

The offensive Autumn Mist

On the 16th December 1944 at 5.30 a.m. the Battle of the Bulge commences. The offensive is called "Wacht am Rhein" then "Herbsnebel" (Autumn Mist). It totally surprises the Allies. In this place, the American forces are dispersed. The crucial sector of the German manoeuvre, to the North, is held by young American recruits (the 99th and 106th Infantry Division or the 14th Cavalry Group) without experience, but also by experienced veterans (like the 2nd Infantry Division – the Indianhead). On the 17th December, an armoured column of the 1st Pz D, under the command of Peiper surges forward. Their progression is punctuated with massacres (Baugnez, Ligneuville, Stavelot, etc.). Trapped by the bridges that have been blown up over the River Lienne then the River Amblève, the SS colonel heads towards La Gleize and Stoumont. Isolated and without supplies, Peiper decides to destroy all his heavy equipment to join the 116th Pz D on foot. At the same time, British

units (XXX Corps) take up position on the Meuse while the 116th Pz D advances via Houffalize and heads towards Hotton. At Bastogne, on the 21st December, the 47th Corps (5th Pz D) succeed in encircling the town where the Americans of the 101st Abn D do not surrender, defiantly replying "Nuts!". In the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, the resistance of the 28th ID delays the enemy's advance from the German border as far as Bastogne. On the 23rd, the weather clears up, and the Allied Air Forces, up until then grounded, take to the skies. In the North, from the 24th to the 26th, the town of St-Vith is bombarded by the Allies. On the 26th, at Assenois, the 4th Arm D (3 US) succeed in breaking the encirclement of Bastogne. The Germans try in vain to cut off the passage. On the 30th, the 5th Pz D fails. In the North, on the 31st, the "Indianhead" reconquer Krinkelt and Rocherath. The furthest point of the advance is at Celles, near Dinant. The Meuse is never crossed.





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The counter-offensive The Second Liberation of the Ardennes

The counter offensive commences on the 3rd January. The 1 US, start in the North, have to join the 3 US at Houffalize who leave from the South. In the West, the 6th Abn D of the British XXX Corps intervenes between Dinant and Hotton then head towards La Roche. On the 11th January, the British and American units join up at La Roche, then on the 14th at La Barrière de Champlon. Finally, on the 16th, the divisions of Hodges (1 US) and Patton (3 US) break through the German salient and meet up in Houffalize (Rensiwiez). This is the end of the Battle of the Bulge. The last German soldiers retreat definitively, driven back over the Siegfried Line, at the end of the month of January.

Key Dates from June 1944 to May 1945

6/06/1944

Operation Overlord:
landings of the Allied
forces in Normandy.

From 2 to 16/09/1944

Liberation of towns in Belgium and
the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.

From 17 to 25/09/1944

Operation Market Garden
for the control of bridges in
the Netherlands.

20/11/1944

V1 and V2
flying bombs on Liège
and Antwerp.

**June
1944**

**July
1944**

**August
1944**

**September
1944**

**October
1944**

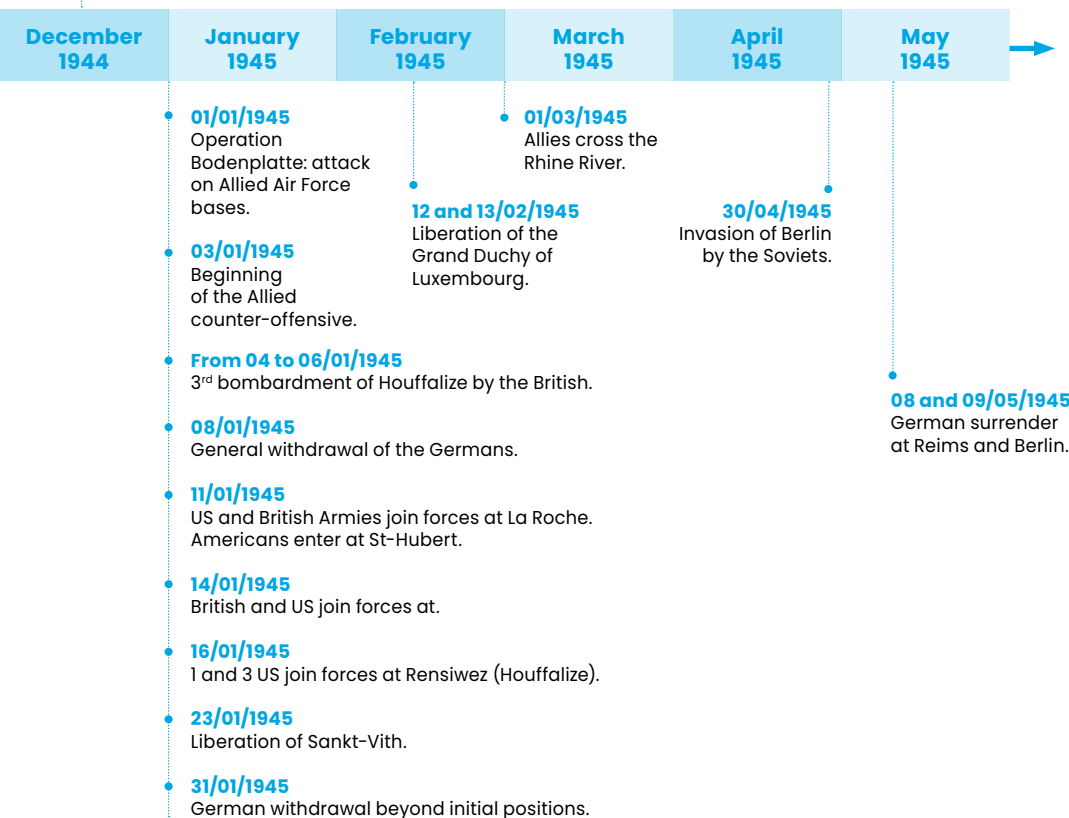
**November
1944**



Come and commemorate
these key moments

**VISITWallonia.be/
battleofthebulge**

- **16/12/1944**
"Wacht am Rhein" offensive.
Operation Stösser: a German unit parachute drop into the American rear in the High Fens area.
Operation Greif: German infiltration of the Allied units.
- **17 and 18/12/1944**
War crimes in Baugnez, Wereth, Ligneuville, Stavelot by Peiper's SS Unit.
- **18/12/1944**
American reinforcements (8^{2nd} and 101th Abn D) coming from Rheims.
- **19/12/1944**
Patton provides backup south of the Salient.
- **20 and 21/12/1944**
Encirclement of Bastogne and attack on Sankt-Vith.
- **22/12/1944**
"Nuts !" response from McAuliffe when asked to surrender.
- **From 23 to 26/12/1944**
Allied bombardments on Sankt-Vith and Malmedy. Supplies given to Americans under siege in Bastogne.
- **24/12/1944**
Furthest German advance at Celles-Dinant. Bande massacre.
- **26/12/1944**
Rupture of the encirclement of Bastogne by the 4th Arm D at Assenois. 1st Allied bombardment of Houffalize and La Roche.
- **30/12/1944**
German bombardments of Luxembourg. 2nd Allied bombardment of Houffalize and La Roche.





A better understanding of the WWII

Bastogne War Museum

© Tempora

Museums

Belgium

Bastogne Barracks

C4

Former military barracks housing a Military Vehicle Restoration Centre. An exceptional collection of tanks and vehicles from the Second World War are on display.

Route de La Roche 40 – 6600 Bastogne
www.bastognebarracks.be

Bastogne War Museum

C4

Interactive museum which immerses the visitor in the history of WW2 thanks to an educational trail and multisensory scenography.

Colline du Mardasson 5 – 6600 Bastogne
www.bastognewarmuseum.be

Bastogne War Rooms

C4

Former McAuliffe HQ, from which the famous “Nuts” was replicated at the German surrender request in December 1944. Thanks to immersive scenographic processes, visitors are immersed in a didactic journey and a historical re-enactment.

Route de La Roche 40 – 6600 Bastogne
www.bastognewarmuseum.be

101st Airborne Museum

C4

Vast collection of artefacts and immersive scenography, with the 101st Abn D as the central theme. The building was in turn the Chasseurs Ardennais’ officers’ mess, a club for German non-commissioned officers and a branch of the Red Cross.

Avenue de la Gare 11 – 6600 Bastogne
www.101airbornemuseumbastogne.com

Musée de la Bataille des Ardennes

C3

Part of the collection is dedicated to the British who liberated the town during the Battle of the Bulge. Weapons, uniforms, vehicles, artefacts, etc., are all on display.

Rue Châmont 5 – 6980 La Roche-en-Ardenne
www.batarden.be

Manhay History 44 Museum

C3

Thanks to the full-scale dioramas, the museum presents the Battle at the Crossroads in which the American Divisions were confronted with the 2nd SS Pz D, from the 20th December 1944 to the 7th January 1945.

Voie Habotte 2 – 6960 Grandmenil (Manhay)
www.mhm44.be

Historical Museum December 44

C2

Focus on the events which occurred in the region of La Gleize and on the history of the 82nd US Abn D during the Battle of the Bulge through many displayed objects.

Rue de l'Eglise 7b – 4987 La Gleize (Stoumont)
www.december44.com



More museums about WWII
VISITWallonia.be/ww2

Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

Musée de la Bataille des Ardennes

D4

General history of the Battle of the Bulge during which this castle was demolished and then rebuilt.

Château de Clervaux – 9701 Clervaux
www.clervaux.lu

Musée National d'Histoire Militaire

D5

A considerable collection of military equipment, vehicles, documents which bear witness to the history of the Grand Duchy in the Battle of the Bulge.

Rue Bamertal 10 – 9209 Diekirch
www.mnhm.lu

General Patton Memorial Museum

D4

Dedicated to the commanding officer of the 33rd US Army.

Rue Dr. Klein 5 – 9054 Ettelbruck
www.patton.lu

Musée de la Bataille des Ardennes

C4

Retraces the history of civilians and the 28th US ID during the winter of 1944-1945 and tells the story of the Battle of "Schumannseck".

Rue du Château 35 – 9516 Wiltz
www.wiltz.lu

A moment of remembrance



Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery

© FTPL - P. Fagnout

Cemeteries

Belgium

Henri-Chapelle



C1

7,992 fallen soldiers during the army's advance towards Germany from the north of France.

Rue du Mémorial Américain 159
4852 Henri-Chapelle (Hombourg)

www.abmc.gov

Hotton



B3

666 fallen Commonwealth soldiers during the Battle of the Bulge for the most part.

Rue de la Libération 8
6990 Hotton

www.cwgc.org

Lommel



Off the map

38,560 fallen soldiers during WW2 and 542 during WW1, largest German cemetery in Europe outside Germany.

Dodenveldstraat 30
3920 Lommel

www.overgrenzen.be

Neuville-en-Condroz



B2

5,329 fallen soldiers during WW2. Set out in the form of a Greek cross.

Route du Condroz 164
4121 Neuville-en-Condroz (Neupré)

www.abmc.gov

Recogne



6,807 fallen soldiers during WW2.

Recogne 27
6600 Recogne (Bastogne)
www.bastogne-tourisme.be

Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

Hamm



5,075 soldiers including General Patton.

Val du Scheid 50
2517 Luxembourg
www.abmc.gov

Sandweiler



10,914 fallen soldiers during the battles of the winter of 1944-1945.

Rue du Cimetière
5214 Sandweiler
www.volksbund.de

Netherlands

Margraten



8,301 fallen soldiers during the liberation of the Netherlands.

Amerikaanse Begraafplaats 1
6269 NA Margraten
www.abmc.gov

Germany

Hürtgen



3,001 fallen soldiers in the Battle of Hürtgen Forest from September 1944 to February 1945.

Höhenstraße 114
52393 Hürtgenwald
www.volksbund.de

Vossenack



2,347 soldiers, 35 of whom were killed during ammunition search operations after the war.

Simonskaller Str. 1
52393 Hürtgenwald
www.museum-huertgenwald.de

Duty to remember



Mardasson

© Will Lang

Memorials

Belgium

Bois Jacques

C4

Fox holes – holes dug by soldiers to protect themselves against their enemies, who themselves were entrenched in similar conditions. A site made famous by the “Band of Brothers” TV series.

Route de Foy
6600 Foy (Bastogne)

Bois de la Paix

C4

Trees sponsored by veterans whose names are inscribed at each base. Seen from the sky, which forms the UNICEF logo.

6600 Bizory (Bastogne)

Fortin Devèze/Bogges

C4

A small fort or bunker marking the place where US tanks under Lt. Charles P. Bogges’ command succeeded in breaking the encirclement of Bastogne.

Zoning 1 – Route d’Assenois
6640 Assenois (Vaux-sur-Sûre)

Mémorial du Mardasson C4

A star-shaped memorial honouring the American soldiers who died in combat. A terrace at the top offers a panoramic view of the battlefields. Crypt decorated by the Cubist artist Fernand Léger.

Colline du Mardasson
6600 Bastogne

Monument aux Indiens C4

Memorial stone dedicated to the American Indians in the US Army who specialised in the transmission of coded messages.

Recogne 81
6600 Recogne (Bastogne)

Mémorial de Baugnez D3

Scene of a war crime committed on 84 American prisoners on the 17th December 1944 by Peiper's SS Unit.

Route de Luxembourg 1
4060 Baugnez (Malmedy)

Mémoriaux de Bure B4

A memorial dedicated to the British soldiers of the 13th (Lancashire) Parachute Bn, 6th Abn, Belgian SAS and civilians who were killed at the end of December 1944 and the beginning of January 1945.

Place Major Jack Watson MC / croix Renkin from rue des Roches – 6927 Bure (Tellin)

Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

GI Mémorial D4

Dedicated to the 6th American Arm D who liberated Clervaux.

Grand-Rue
9631 Clervaux

Mémorial de Wereth D3

Dedicated to the Afro-American soldiers of the 333rd Artillery Battalion massacred by the 1 Pz SS. Seven of them are buried in the Henri-Chapelle Cemetery.

Hauptstraße 4
4771 Wereth (Amei)

Mémorial de Bande B4

Dedicated to the 34 young civilian casualties of the Gestapo, on Christmas Eve 1944.

Route Nationale 4
6951 Bande (Nassogne)

Mémoriaux de Stavelot C3

Dedicated to the 132 civilians killed by Peiper's men in December 1944, to the American units and to the 5th Belgian Fusilier Battalion who set fire to fuel reserves which were essential to the Germans. National monument dedicated to the Belgian bomb-disposal experts.

Rue du Châtelet / Avenue des
Démineurs / Place du 18 décembre
1944 – 4970 Stavelot

Mémorial US « PARKER'S CROSSROADS » C3

Memorial stone and cannon in remembrance of the American defenders of Parker's Crossroads (106th ID, 7th Arm D and 82th Abn D) against the 560^e Volksgrenadier division and the 2 Panzer SS Unit.

6690 Vielsalm

Mémorial Général Patton D5

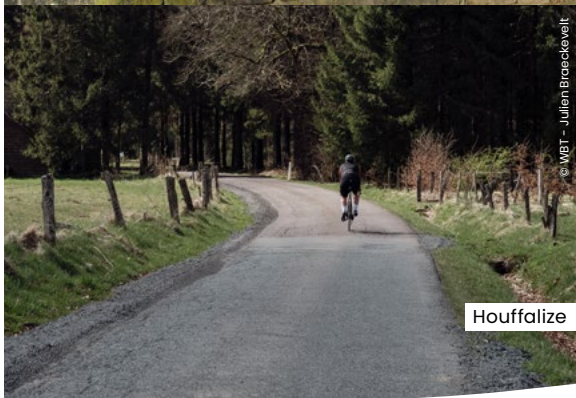
In tribute to the famous General who led the counteroffensive of the Battle of the Bulge from the South.

Avenue J.-F. Kennedy
9053 Ettelbruck

Unmissable routes



Rendeux



Houffalize



Bastogne

In the footsteps of the Battle of the Bulge

On foot or by bike, follow a series of itineraries on the theme of the Battle of the Bulge and the Second World War. Explore landscapes that bear witness to history.

VISITWallonia.be/battleofthebulge



VISITWallonia.be
The Ultimate Belgian Getaway