

# BOBA 80TH TOUR

## BATTLE OF THE BULGE TOUR



DECEMBER 10th -19th 2024



# Battle of the Bulge Association 80th Anniversary Tour 2024

December 10-19, 2024

Paris, Ardennes, Paris



Dear American's friends,

It is with great humility, honor, and excitement that we at D-Day Memory Tour (DDMT) offer our services for the 80th anniversary of the Battle to the Bulge Battle of the Bulge Association. To be in the company of heroes and the Allies on the soil of sacrifice is an experience that we at DDMT take very seriously. This is not just a trip, nor is it just a tour; it is an experience.

The German Army had been pushed back from Normandy since June and seemingly was on the verge of collapse and defeat. Allied success, especially that of the U.S. Army, was measured not in yards but in miles. It was at this time when a seemingly beaten enemy launched the largest counter-offensive in the west from the place where Hitler had launched his devastating and successful invasion of France in 1940—the Ardennes forest. With the aid of total radio silence, horrible weather, and Hitler's willingness to gamble everything to divide the English and American forces, combat actions began on December 16, 1944. German forces thrust into Belgium and Luxemburg to the shock of Allied leadership. You know this, of course, as many of you lived it or had loved ones who did.

As a child of American liberation, I want to share this uniquely American story of sacrifice and overwhelming victory with you. While I am aware that you know these places well, it will be an honor to work with you to bring our stories and experiences together for an emotional tour. It will be special to journey to where history was made and see it through the eyes of our WWII veterans who will accompany us.

Our tour begins in Paris, and we then begin tracing the route of American forces from S.H.A.E.F HQ. This route eventually leads us to Reims, which would later be the location of German surrender on May 7, 1945. It was at these locations where General Eisenhower and his staff learned of the German offensive and where the Germans eventually learned their fate!

We spend a restful night in Reims and head to Spa, Belgium in the morning. Spa is an excellent location because it is centrally located to the many battlefields. We will stay at **R HOTEL**, you know this hotel very well because you stayed there for the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary tour. They will be very happy to welcome us again. After visiting Luxembourg, we will end our trip in Paris.

We look forward to escorting you in comfort and handling all the logistics necessary to provide you with an experience you will never forget. Throughout the trip you will be accompanied by our French-American and Belgium team composed of a lead historian, a writer, a local Belgian guide, a nurse, a Media reporter, an assistant, a logistics assistant, and my presence 24/7.

We at DDMT know that we are not visiting just places on a map or in a book but memories—your memories. It was on this land where the U.S. Army achieved one of the greatest battlefield victories in its proud and storied history. It was here where the vaunted Wehrmacht was laid to waste by the American boys of Broadway and Main Street and liberation for generations was secured.

All the best...

**JP. PAVIOT** – Owner Founder DDMTUSA.

(Attached the day-by-day details of our program.)

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## HOTELS :

### REIMS Hôtel de la Paix



The Best Western Premier Hotel de la Paix 4-star is located in the heart of Reims, the Champagne capital, in an exceptional setting. Just a stone's throw away from the cathedral, this hotel with its resolutely contemporary style. The Best Western Premier Hôtel de la Paix offers guests a stylish, cosy bar, a brasserie restaurant, a terrace with deckchairs. Besides its up-to-date modern rooms, guests can enjoy the area dedicated to relaxation and the garden.

### R hotel experiences Hotel Belgium



Located in a green background, next to the famous hill of 'La Redoute' in Remouchamps, the R hotel experiences is a four-star hotel. All 53 rooms are designed with an exclusive style and offer a wonderful panoramic view on the Amblève valley. The hotel provides a full service. You would indulge in our innovative and pleasant cuisine in its Bar I Restaurant Umami, appreciate a revitalizing moment in its modern health center Performe and enjoy the best high-tech premises in its 285 m² meeting center which can welcome up to 500 people.

## LUXEMBOURG

### Parc Bellevue Hotel

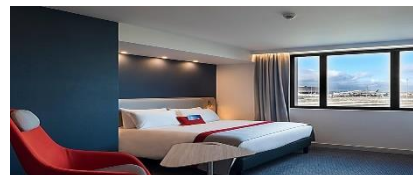


Parc Belle-Vue lies in the central district and features beautiful views of Pétrusse Valley. Residing in a 5-story building, the hotel was opened in 1979 and renovated in 2007.

It provides an excellent location within easy reach of Stade Josy Barthel, that is 1500 meters away. Parc Belle-Vue is within about 10 minutes' walk of the center of Luxembourg.

There are a shopping mall and a market located nearby.

### PARIS Holliday Inn Airport



A space to recharge before going back home.

Sleep deep on a king-sized bed in any of our guest rooms, which feature WiFi access, sound-proof windows and large desks for working. Consider a suite with stunning views and a separate living area. Upgrade to an executive room or suite and enjoy access to the Executive Lounge.

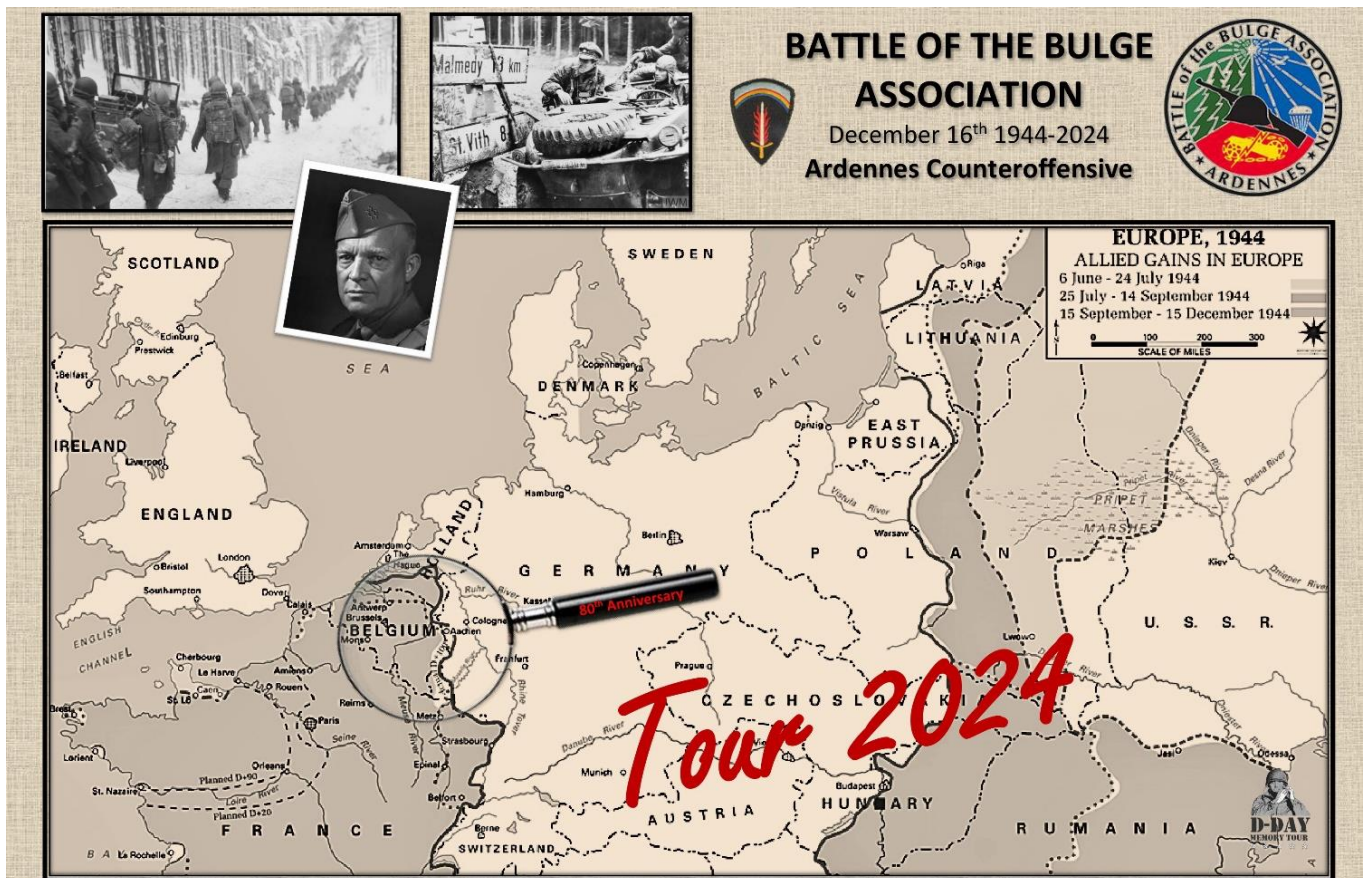
# DDMT Battle of the Bulge Association

## Tour 10 Days

10 -19 December 2024

## ITINERARY

Paris – Reims – Spa – Luxembourg – Paris



### TRANSPORTATION

Our touring coaches 4 \*\*\*\*. These vehicles feature the latest safety technology and an uncompromising requirement for comfort, equipment, design and customization, customer service and environmental protection. define our philosophy!





12/10/2024 Tuesday

## Day One - Arrive in Paris ride to Reims

Our VIP Luxury Coach will be waiting for us, then ride to Reims tour start at the Surrender location where General Jodl of the OKW surrendered the German Forces to SHAEF command. Then on to our hotel for a local dinner and introductions and lecture of the tactical situation in 1944 from both the American and German viewpoints. As many of you will be tired because of the long flight we will take the time to relax. Reims Hotel night #1 (D,B)

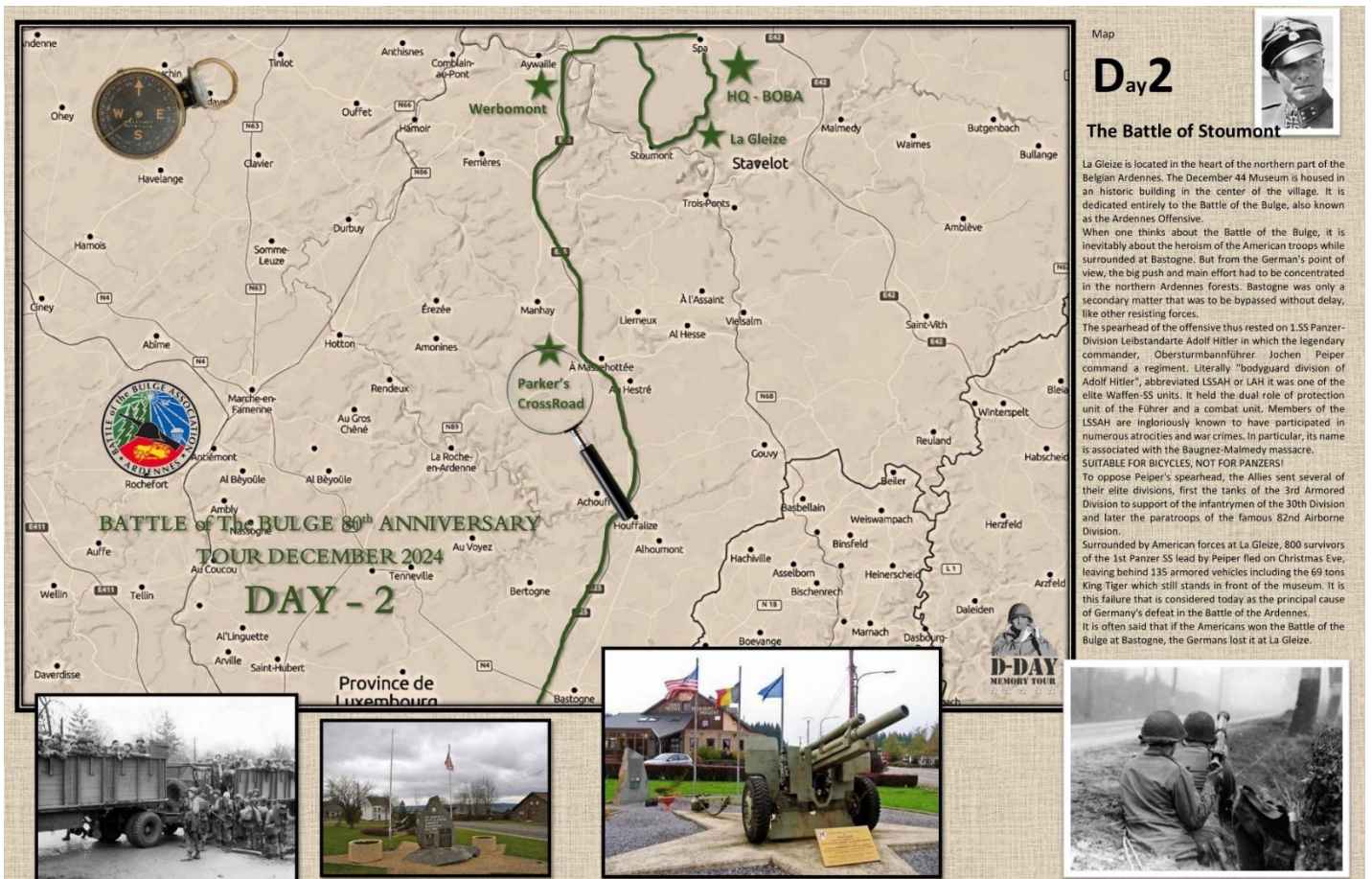




12/11/2024 Wednesday

## Day Two - ROAD TO THE FRONT - Parker's Crossroads /la Gleize/SPA

Ride to Spa using the same road as the 82nd Airborne in their deployment from Reims area (Sissone & Suippes). We will then tour Baraque de Fraiture 'Parker's Crossroads', (We will make a stop for a lunch in this area), La Gleize and the 44 Museum where we have good friends, which features an original King Tiger tank. Spa night #2 (,D)





12/12/2024 Thursday

## Day Three - St. Vith - Kampfgruppe Peiper Route

We start the day with a visit at Elsenborn Ridge which became the “Little Roundtop”, We will then ride to Lanzerath using the same approach as SS Obersturmbannführer Joachim Pieper we will ride to **St. Vith** and **Wallerode** that has its monument to a lone American officer of legend whom villagers say held off the Germans for weeks. Then on to **Bullingen, Baugnez** site of the famous **Malmedy** massacre, **on** our way back to Spa we will stop at **Stavelot** and **Les trois ponts**. Spa night #3 (B,D)



**Map**

**Day 3**

**Lanzerath Ridge**

The Battle of Lanzerath Ridge was fought on December 16, 1944, the first day of the Battle of the Bulge during World War II, near the village of Lanzerath, Belgium, along the key route for the German advance on the northern shoulder of the operation. It was fought between two squads totalling 18 men belonging to an American reconnaissance platoon, four U.S. Forward Artillery Observers, and a battalion of about 500 German paratroopers. During a day-long confrontation, the American reconnaissance troops inflicted dozens of casualties on the Germans and delayed by almost 20 hours the advance of the entire 1st SS Panzer Division, the spearhead of the German 6th Panzer Army.

The Germans finally flanked the American forces at dusk, capturing them. Only one American, a forward artillery observer, was killed, while 14 were wounded: German casualties totaled 92. The Germans paused, believing the woods were filled with more Americans and tanks. Only when SS-Standartenführer Joachim Peiper and his Panzer tanks arrived at midnight, twelve hours behind schedule, did the Germans learn the nearby woods were empty.

Due to lost communications with Battalion and then Regimental headquarters, and the unit's subsequent capture, its disposition and success at delaying the advance of the 6th Panzer Army that day was unknown to U.S. commanders. Lt. Lyle Bouck considered the wounding of most of his men and the capture of his entire unit a failure.

**BATTLE of The BULGE 80<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

**TOUR DECEMBER 2024**

**DAY - 3**

**D-DAY MEMORY TOUR**

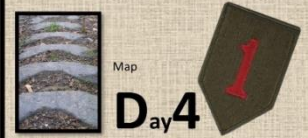
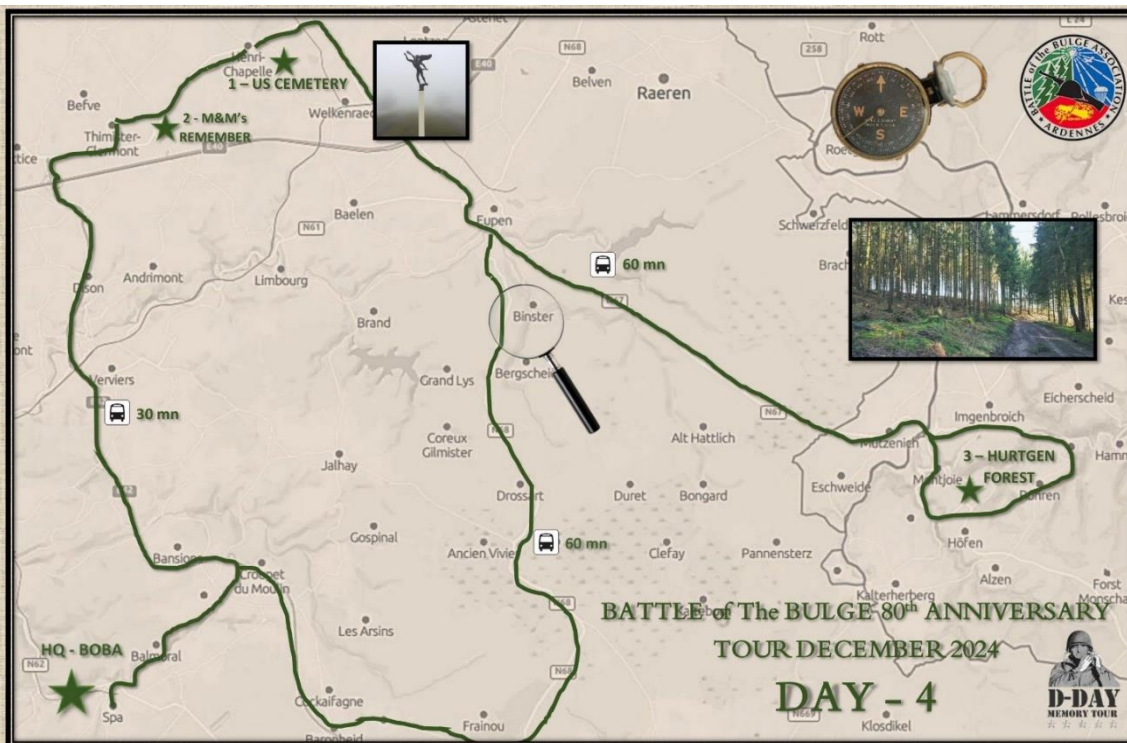
First Lt. Lyle Bouck Jr., at 20 years old.



12/13/2024 Friday

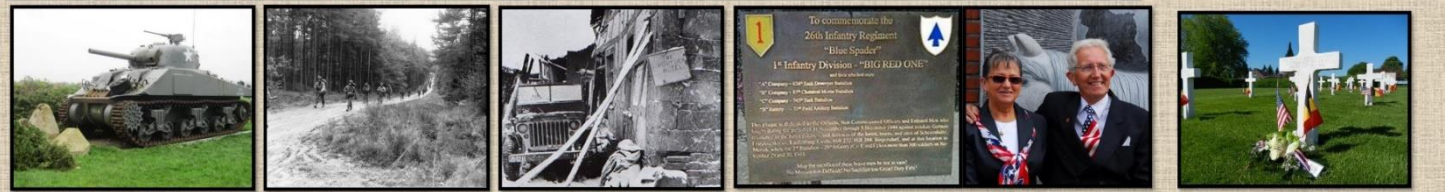
## Day Four - US CEMETERY Henri Chapelle

The objective of this Day is to attend the US Cemetery at Henri Chapelle, and on our way we will not avoid stopping at M&M's Museum owned by Marcel and Mathilde, (she can't wait to see you again and ready for the a good soup). As we will be in the North of the battlefields, we will ride to the Famous Hurtgen Forest where hard struggles took place there from September 1944 to February 1945. We pay tribute to the 30,000 US soldiers who died in this Forest. Hurtgen is the longest single battle the U.S. Army has ever fought Spa night #4 (B,D)



### Battle Hurtgen Forest

It was the longest battle on German ground during World War II and is the longest single battle the U.S. Army has ever fought. The U.S. commanders' initial goal was to pin down German forces in the area to keep them from reinforcing the front lines farther north in the Battle of Aachen, where the US forces were fighting against the Siegfried Line network of fortified industrial towns and villages speckled with pillboxes, tank traps and minefields. A secondary objective may have been to outflank the front line. The Americans' initial tactical objectives were to take Schmidt and clear Monschau. In a second phase the Allies wanted to advance to the Rur River as part of Operation Queen. Generalfeldmarschall Walter Model intended to bring the Allied thrust to a standstill. While he interfered less in the day-to-day movements of units than at the Battle of Arnhem, he still kept himself fully informed on the situation, slowing the Allies' progress, inflicting heavy casualties and taking full advantage of the fortifications the Germans called the Westwall, better known to the Allies as the Siegfried Line. The Hurtgen Forest cost the U.S. First Army at least 33,000 killed and wounded, including both combat and non-combat losses, with upper estimate at 55,000; German casualties were 28,000. The city of Aachen in the north eventually fell on 22 October at high cost to the U.S. Ninth Army, but they failed to cross the Rur or wrest control of its dams from the Germans. The battle was so costly that it has been described as an Allied "defeat of the first magnitude," with specific credit given to Model.





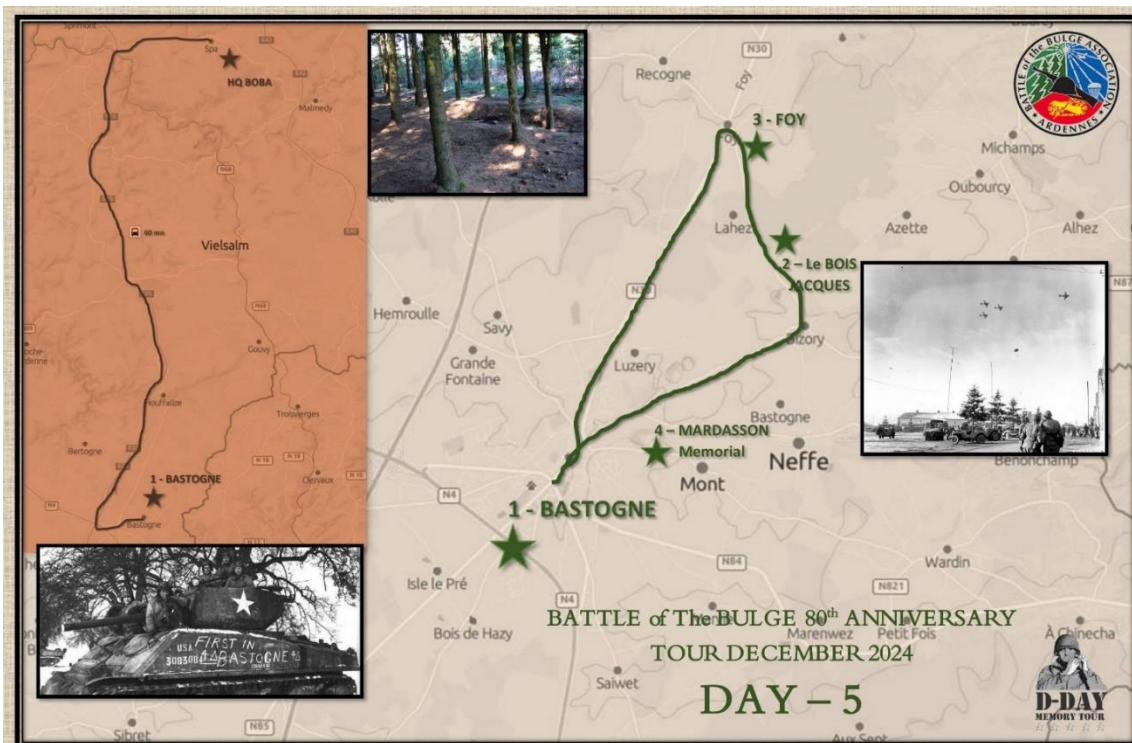
12/14/2024 Saturday

## Day Five - Bastogne

We will start our day visit to Bastogne by visiting the barracks that served as Troy Middleton's headquarters at the start of the battle. These barracks eventually became the HQ and home to Anthony McAuliffe of the 101st Airborne. We will then visit the cave where he gave his infamous "NUTS!" answer to the German offer of surrender. We then venture to the Mardasson Memorial. After this, on our way back to the hotel we will then travel the 16-mile defensive ring around Bastogne and possibly stopping at legendary places such as Noville, Bourcy, Bizory, Longvilly, and Marvie.

We tour the location of "Easy Company" of the 101st by visiting their foxhole at the Bois Jacques just outside of town. We then visit the town and the many memorials, and, on this night, we attend a special church choir service in honor of our veterans. Much in the similar location where "Easy" company veterans finally were able to sleep indoors for the first time in weeks.

A special welcome by authorities is planned that day. Spa night #4 (B,D)



Map

Day 5



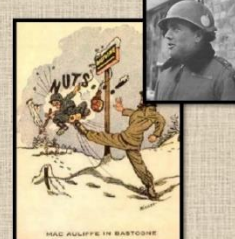
Battle of BASTOGNE

The Siege of Bastogne was an engagement in December 1944 between American and German forces at the Belgian town of Bastogne, as part of the larger Battle of the Bulge. The goal of the German offensive was the harbour at Antwerp. In order to reach it before the Allies could regroup and bring their superior air power to bear, German mechanized forces had to seize the roadways through eastern Belgium. Because all seven main roads in the densely wooded Ardennes highlands converged on Bastogne (Bastnach in German), just a few miles away from the border with neighbouring Luxembourg, control of its crossroads was vital to the German attack. The siege was from 20 to 27 December, until the besieged American forces were relieved by elements of General George Patton's Third Army.

The 101st Airborne Division's casualties from 19 December 1944 to 6 January 1945 were 341 killed, 1,691 wounded, and 516 missing. Several regiments within the 101st were nicknamed "The Battered Bastards of Bastogne", due to their part in holding the important crossroads town during the Battle of the Bulge.

The 10th Armored Division's CCB incurred approximately 500 casualties.

Augusta Chiwi, a nurse who administered aid to the wounded during the siege, was honoured with the Civilian Award for Humanitarian Service by the Ambassador to Belgium Howard Gutman in December 2011.





12/15/2024 Sunday

## Day Six - Houffalize / Clervaux / Diekirch / Luxembourg City

The German salient in the Ardennes was eliminated when two American armies reestablished contact near Houffalize during the Battle of the Bulge. After this stop we will head Clervaux and head Diekirch to visit the location of the 5th Infantry Division crossing of the Sauer River on January 18. The rest of the afternoon will be spent at the excellent National Military Museum. Hotel Luxembourg night #6 (B,D)



**BATTLE of The BULGE 80<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY TOUR DECEMBER 2024 DAY - 6**

60 mn

1

**BATTLE of The BULGE 80<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY TOUR DECEMBER 2024 DAY - 6**

90 mn

2

Map

**Day 6**

**The Battle of Clervaux**

The Battle of Clervaux or the Battle for Clervaux (in English sources, Clervaux is occasionally called by the German name Clerf) was part of the Battle of the Bulge and took place in the town of Clervaux in northern Luxembourg. It lasted from December 16 to 18, 1944. German forces encircled numerically inferior American forces, primarily from the 110th Regiment and the 109th Field Artillery Battalion, and quickly forced them to surrender. The battle has been referred to as the Luxembourg "Alamo".

Clervaux was the first tank battle of the Ardennes offensive and ended in total disaster for the Americans, who permanently lost nearly 60 tanks while the Germans lost only four. The U.S. 707th Tank Battalion was wiped out, losing 46 tanks destroyed and six damaged out of 34 M4 Sherman medium and 18 M3 Stuart light tanks. U.S. Infantrymen lacked morale and unit cohesion, with the force at Clervaux surrendering at the first sight of German tanks and only 100 troops out of an entire regiment offering serious resistance. U.S. Sherman tanks were powerless against German Panzer IVs, which enjoyed far superior armor protection and firepower. The ability of the Panzer IVs to withstand hits from the Shermans and destroy them with impunity from afar decided the battle in favor of the Germans.



12/16/2024 Monday

## Day Seven - Luxembourg City

We will spend the day visiting and participating in the many activities commemorating the 80th anniversary of the battle. Our day ends at the cemeteries of American and German forces. Hotel night #8 (B)



12/17/2024 Tuesday

## Day Eight - Luxembourg

We keep this day to relax, as free time to all participants, Luxembourg is also a nice place for shopping...Hotel night #8 (B,D)

12/18/2024 Wednesday

## Day Nine - Luxembourg - Verdun To Paris

Today we will ride back to France, on our way we will stop at Verdun, this place was cross by WWII Troups in Fall 1944, well know as the theatre off WWI fought, then at our destination will start discussion results of the Battle of the Bulge and the legacy of America's greatest battle/campaign. Thank yous, "Good-Byes" and your DDMT "Discharge" gift. Hotel night #9(B)



12/19/2024 Thursday

## Day Ten Depart PARIS Airport for home (B)







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