

HEADQUARTERS 774TH TANK BATTALION
A.P.O. 230, c/o Postmaster
New York, New York

23 April 1945

Mrs. Vivian M. Ellis
111 N. Leslie Street,
Goldsboro, North Carolina

Dear Mrs. Ellis,

Your letter of March twenty-first requesting further information about your husband has been received. The following information is available and is being forwarded with the hope it will be of some comfort to you.

William was on a mission to assist Infantry in capturing the town of Bihain, Belgium, on the evening of 9 January 1945. He was dismounted from his tank, directing its movement, when he was hit by enemy small arms fire. He died instantly. This action took place during the counter-attack launched to drive the enemy from the "bulge"; now known as the Battle of the Ardennes. In giving their lives, William and his comrades made victory possible in this decisive operation and paved the way for the march to final victory.

William was buried with a Protestant Chaplain officiating and with full military honors at the Henri Chapelle Cemetery in eastern Belgium.

I feel certain that a young man as fine as William Ellis must have married a wonderful girl and I know it would be his desire that you continue to live a full and useful life for him as well as for yourself.

Most sincerely,



N. K. MARKLE, JR.
Lt Col, Cav (and) 774th Tank Bn
Commanding

2nd Lt. William H. Ellis, Jr, 01014568
Company "C", 774th Tank Battalion



WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

1 October 1945

Mrs. Vivian M. Ellis
111 North Leslie Street
Goldsboro, North Carolina

Dear Mrs. Ellis:

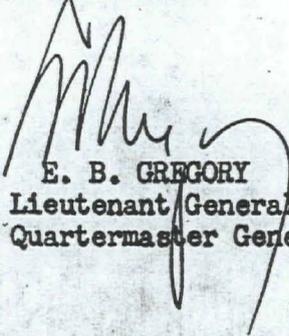
The War Department is most desirous that you be furnished the burial location of your husband, the late Second Lieutenant William H. Ellis, Jr.

The records of this office disclose that he is interred in the U. S. Military Cemetery, Henri Chapelle, Belgium, plot FFF, row 10, grave 193.

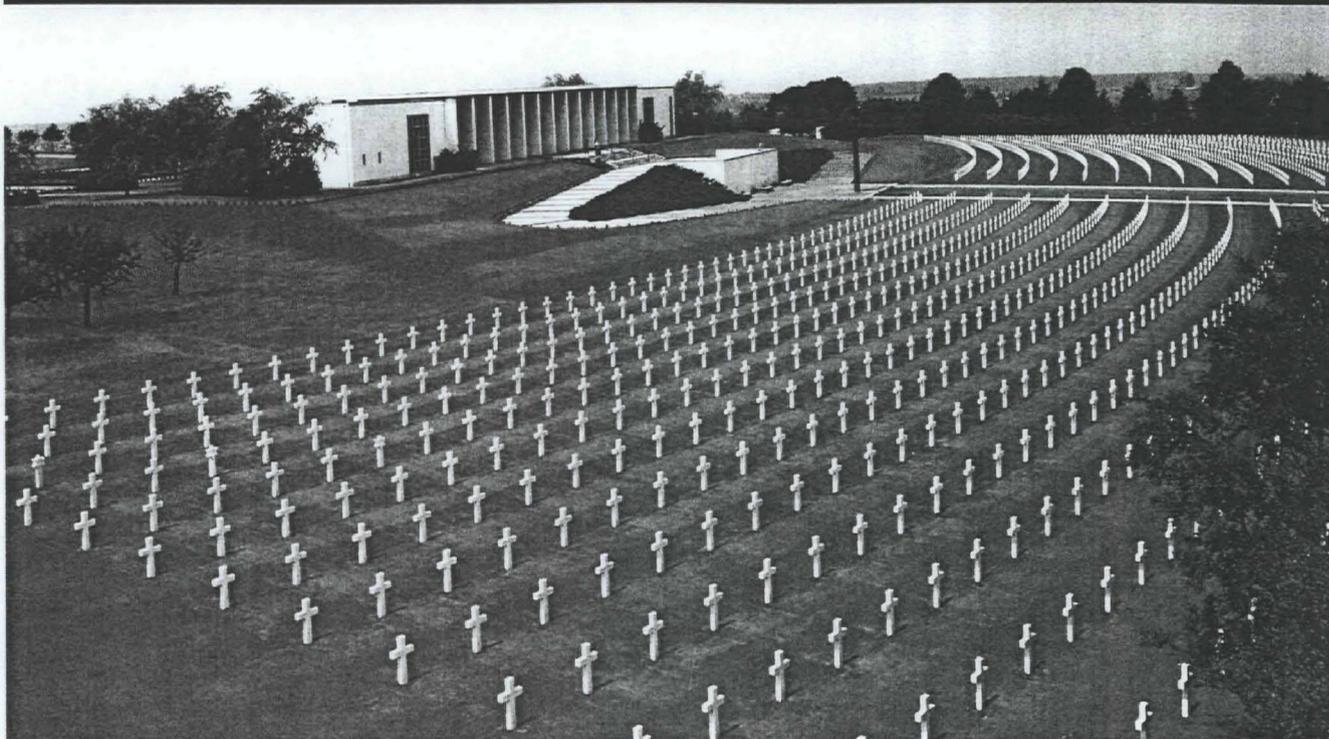
This cemetery is located approximately 7 miles southwest of Aachen, Germany, and is under the constant care and supervision of United States military personnel.

Please accept my sincere sympathy in the loss of your husband.

Sincerely yours,


E. B. GREGORY
Lieutenant General
The Quartermaster General

DUTY CALLED



More than 260,000 American servicemen and servicewomen died in Europe during the two World Wars. More than 14,000 remain here in Belgium. By doing their duty, they helped to ensure our freedom. Please spare an hour of your time to honor them. Memorial Day services will be held on Saturday, May 28. 10:00 hrs. at Ardennes Cemetery in Neuville-en-Condroz and 16:00 hrs. at Henri-Chapelle Cemetery in Aubel/Hombourg. Sunday, May 29. 15:00 hrs. Flanders Field, Waregem, West Flanders.

AOMDA is funded only by public donations. To help ensure the continuation of this annual event, please make your donation to ING 310-1202144-12.



AMERICAN OVERSEAS MEMORIAL DAY ASSOCIATION

The American Battle Monuments Commission Henri Chapelle American Cemetery

The American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC), established by law in 1923, is an independent agency of the Executive Branch of the US Government. The Commission is responsible for commemorating the services and achievements of United States Armed Forces where they have served since April 6, 1917 (the date of US entry into World War I) through the erection of suitable memorial shrines; for designing, constructing, operating and maintaining permanent US military cemeteries and memorials in foreign countries; for controlling the design and construction of US military monuments and markers in foreign countries by other US citizens and organizations, both public and private; and encouraging the maintenance of such monuments and markers by their sponsors.

This cemetery, 57 acres in area, lies on the crest of a ridge affording an excellent view. The site was liberated on 12 September 1944 by troops of the U.S. 1st Infantry Division. A temporary cemetery was established on 28 September 1944 two or three hundred yards to the north of the present site, considered more attractive. Here rest 7,989 of our military Dead, most of whom gave their lives in the repulse of the German counter-offensive in the Ardennes popularly known as the "Battle of the Bulge," or during the advance into, and across Germany during the fall and winter of 1944 and the spring of 1945. Others were lost in air operations over the region

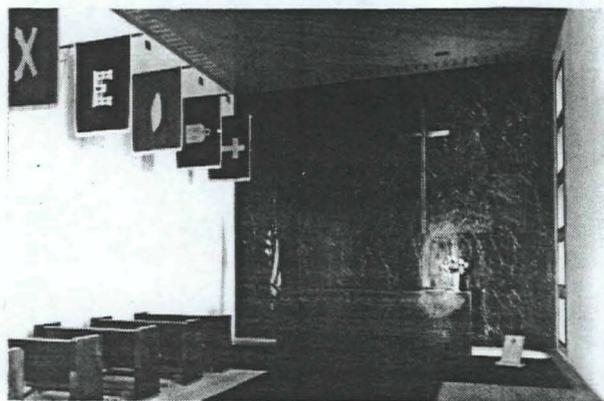
General Layout. To the west of highway N-18 where it crosses the reservation is the overlook area with its flagstaff. The west end of this area provides a wide view of the broad valley of the Berwinne streamlet and the ridges beyond.



The memorial of Massangis limestone from the Cote d'Or region of France consists of the chapel and the combined Visitors' and Museum building connected by a colonnade of 12 pairs of rectangular pylons. The colonnade, chapel and museum room are paved with gray St.

Gothard granite from Switzerland. East of the colonnade is a wide terrace.

The colonnade. On the 48 faces of the 24 pylons and the 4 faces of the engaged pylons at the ends of the colonnade are engraved the seals of the wartime 48 States, 3 territories and the District of Columbia. The obverse of the Great Seal of the United States, in bronze, is set in the floor. The names and particulars of 450 of the Missing, those whose remains were never found or positively identified, are engraved on the 48 faces of the columns. The end pylons bear this inscription in English, French, and Flemish: HERE ARE RECORDED THE NAMES OF AMERICANS WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN THE SERVICE OF THEIR COUNTRY AND WHO SLEEP IN UNKNOWN GRAVES. An asterisk shows those subsequently identified. These Dead came from 42 States, the District of Columbia and England.



The chapel is accessed through bronze doors with polished panels. At the entrance, on the east side, is the dedicatory inscription:

1941-1945 ☆☆ IN PROUD REMEMBRANCE OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF HER SONS AND IN HUMBLE TRIBUTE TO THEIR SACRIFICES THIS MEMORIAL HAS BEEN ERECTED BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

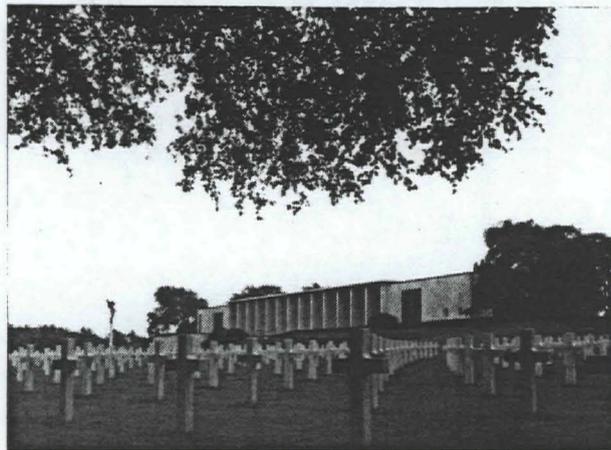
The interior is rectangular in shape and of somewhat austere design. The altar is of Belgian blue and French vert d'Issorie marble. The wall behind the altar is of Belgian blue marble with white veining. The south wall is of French vert d'Issoire marble. Hung along the west wall are flags of the Air Force, Armor, Christian and Jewish Chaplain, Engineers, Field Artillery, Infantry, and Navy Battalion.

The pews are of walnut and were fabricated in Holland. The cross and the pews were intentionally designed to be off-center (with off-center lighting) thus balancing each other.

The Museum Room is combined with the Visitors' Room at the south end of the colonnade. The doors, similar to those of the chapel, are of dark bronze with polished panels inset. Built into the west interior wall, of English Portland Whitbed stone, is a map portraying the military operations in north-western Europe from the landings in Normandy until the end of the war. This map

is of Swedish black granite; the geographical and military data are indicated by means of inlaid mosaic, engraved and colored chases, anodized aluminum, bronze, etc. Inscribed text in English, French, and Flemish amplifies the details of the map. Underneath the map on a stand of white Carrara marble are two sets of key maps, "The War Against Germany" and "The War Against Japan."

On the south wall is a somewhat similar though smaller map. Entitled "Aachen and the Advance to the Roer"; it illustrates the military operations in this region. Again an inscribed text accompanies the map.



The graves area is divided into eight plots, lettered "A" to "H"; these are separated by the broad axial mall and by longitudinal grass paths.

Stars of David mark the graves of those who professed the Jewish faith while Latin crosses mark all others.

The 7,989 headstones are arranged in broad sweeping curves upon the gently sloping lawn. These Dead came from 49 States, and from the District of Columbia, Panama and England. Among the graves are 33 instances in which 2 brothers rest side by side, and one instance of 3 brothers; also there are headstones marking the tombs of 94 Unknowns whose identity is known but to God.

Immediately in front is the bronze statue of the Archangel bestowing the laurel branch upon the heroic Dead for whom he makes special commendation to the Almighty.

The plantings. The memorial is set within a framework of Box hedges (*Buxus sempervirens*), which has been extended to form a border to the paths which lead to the graves area.

In the lawns at each end of the memorial are groups of weeping willows; flanking the memorial north and south of the grass terrace on which it stands, are groups of Serbian Spruce and Norway Spruce mixed with Hawthorns. Along the paved approach to the memorial are large beds of pink Polyantha roses and adjoining the colonnade itself are massifs of white roses.

Within the graves areas Birch, Hornbeam, and Yew have been planted and free growing Box has been massed in groups against the surrounding walls. Beyond the wall also are groups of Rhododendron, Ponticum and shrubby Chestnut and a number of Norway Spruce.

The architects for the cemetery and memorial were Holabird, Root and Burge of Chicago, Illinois. The landscaping architect was Franz Lipp of Chicago. The statue of the Archangel was designed by Donald Hord of San Diego, California. The maps were designed by Sante Graziani of Worcester, Massachusetts.

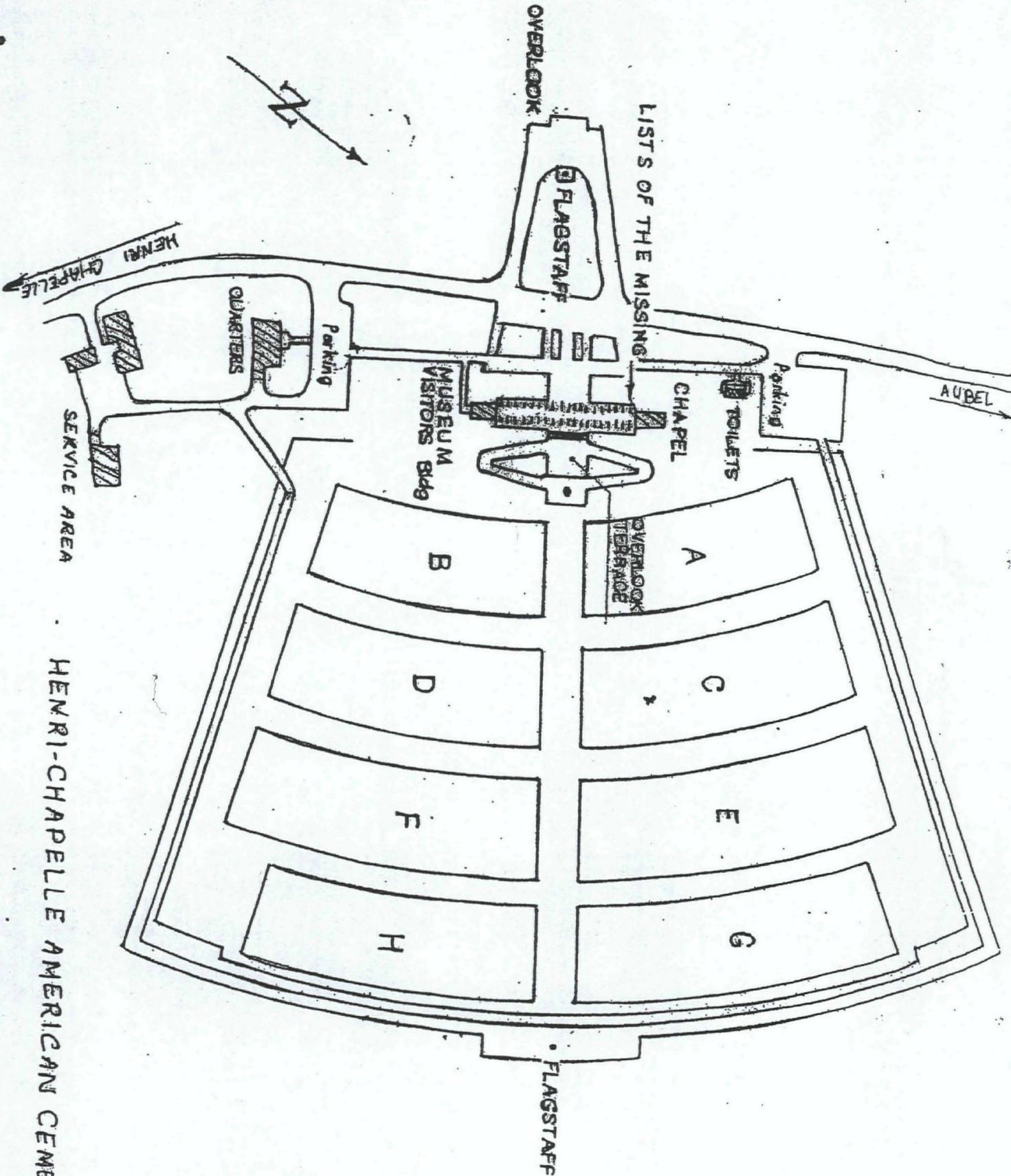
Construction of the cemetery and memorial was completed in 1960. The dedication ceremony was held on 9 July 1960.

Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery
rue du Mémorial Américain
B - 4852 Hombourg, Belgium
TEL: (32) 87.68.71.73
FAX: (32) 87.68.67.17

e-mail: ~~Henri-Chapelle.Cemetery@abmc-er.org~~
website: <http://www.abmc.gov>

e-mail: Henri-Chapelle.Cemetery@abmc-er.org





HENRI-CHAPELLE AMERICAN CEMETE.

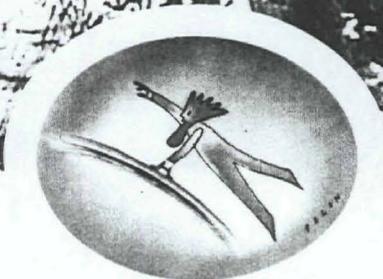
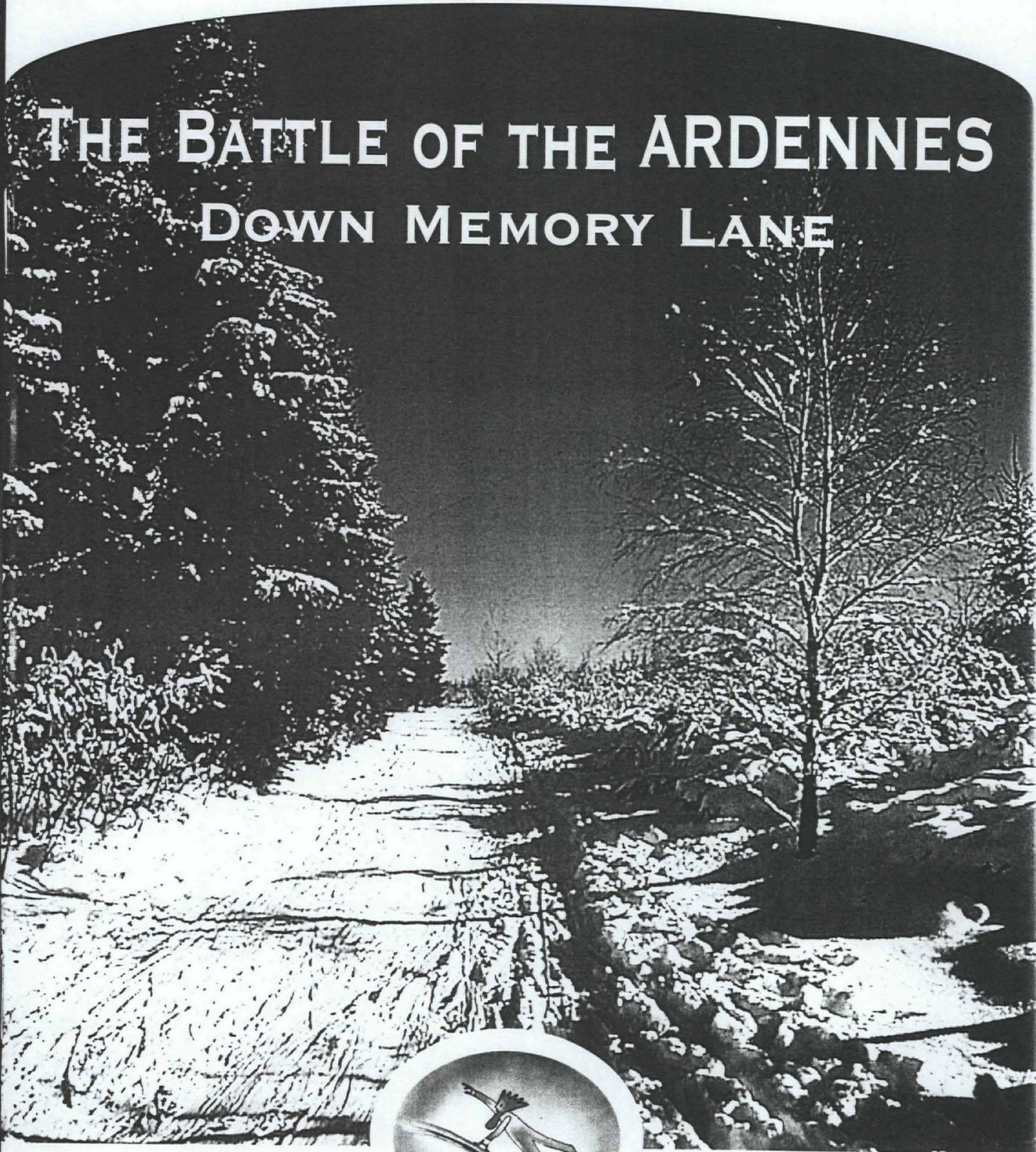
William Herbert Ellis, Jr

(Brother of Archie K. Ellis)

- KIA in Belgium in the Battle of Ardennes (Known as the Battle of "The Bulge".)
- Following is the Army's ~~tract~~ report of the battle up to the point Herbert was killed. This battle marked the turning point of the defeat of the German Army on the Western Front.

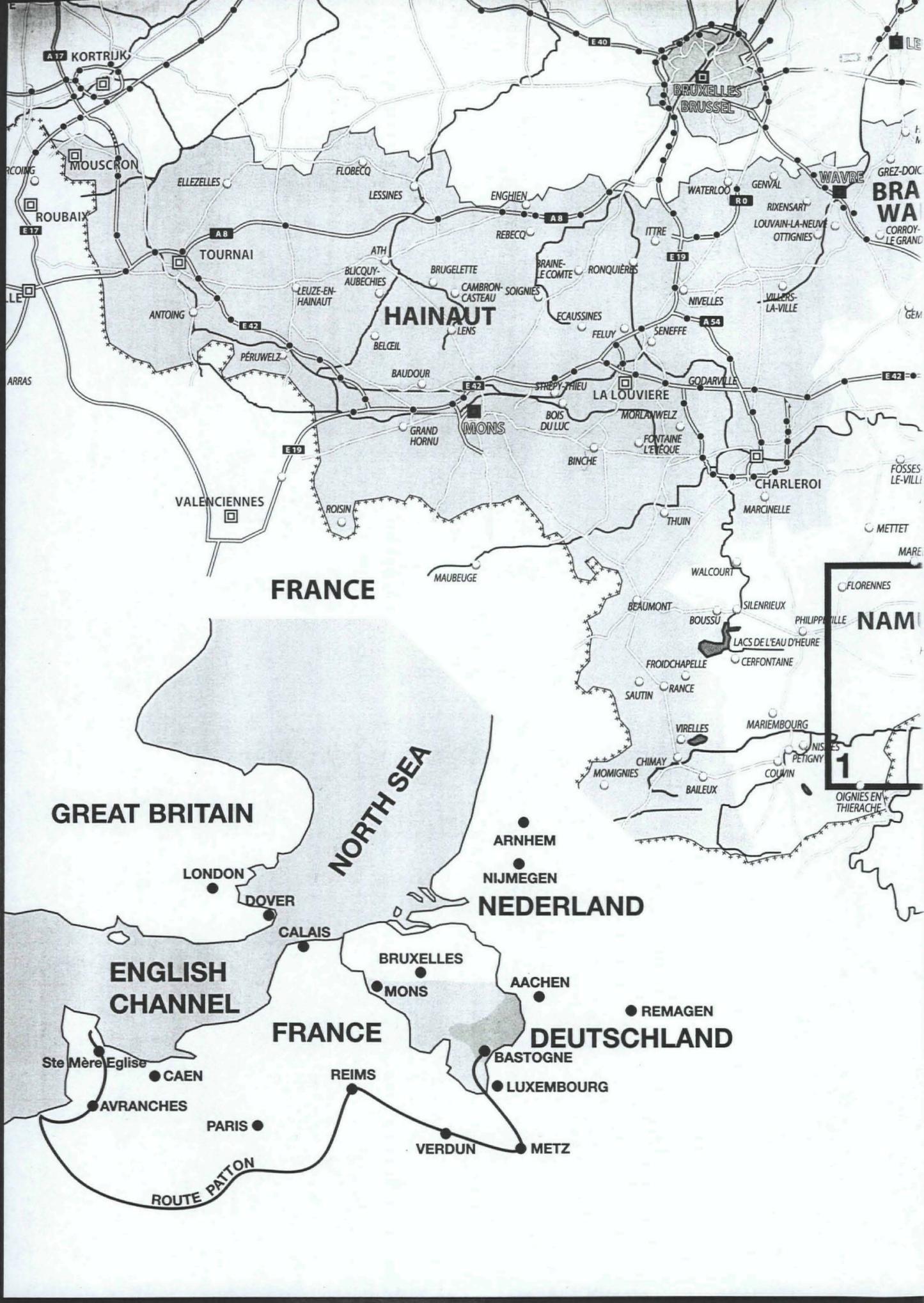
BELGIUM
WALLONIA

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MOUSCRON
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FLOBECQ

LESSINES

ENGHEN

BRUXELLES
BRUSSEL

WAVRE

GREZ-DOIC
BRA
WA
CORROY
LE GRAN

A8

TOURNAI

ATH

BRUGELETTE

BRAIN-LE-COMTE

RONQUIERES

WATERLOO

GENVAL

RIXENSART

LOUVAIN-LA-NEUVE

OTTIGNIES

VILLERS-LA-VILLE

ANTOING

LEUZE-EN-HAINAUT

BLICQUY-AUBECHIES

CAMBRON-CASTEAU

SOIGNIES

ECAUSSINES

FELUY

SENEFFE

NIVELLES

E42

PERUWELZ

BELCEIL

BAUDOUR

SHREPY-THIEU

GODARVILLE

A54

ARRAS

E19

VALENCIENNES

ROISIN

E42

GRAND HORNU

BOIS DU LUC

MORLANWELZ

FONTAINE L'EVÊQUE

CHARLEROI

MARCINELLE

FOSSES-LE-VILLI

METTET

MARE

FRANCE

MAUBEUGE

WALCOURT

BEAUMONT

BOUSSU

SILENRIEUX

PHILIPPAILLE

FLORENNES

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OIGNIES EN THIERACHE

GREAT BRITAIN

NORTH SEA

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ARNHEM

NIJMEGEN

NEDERLAND

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AACHEN

REMAGEN

FRANCE

DEUTSCHLAND

Ste Mère Eglise

CAEN

REIMS

BASTOGNE

LUXEMBOURG

AVRANCHES

PARIS

VERDUN

METZ

ROUTE PATTON

“Without the willpower and determination of these men to stop a numerically superior invader, a different chapter would have been written in history.”

Major-General Troy H. MIDDLETON
Commander, US VIII Corp

“The ‘Battle of the Ardennes’ was certainly one of the most difficult in which we were ordered to participate and where the stakes were significant.”

Field-Marshal Bernard MONTGOMERY
Commander 21st Army Group

EDITORIAL

The ‘Battle of the Ardennes’ was the final confrontation of the Second World War that took place on Belgian soil between 16 December ’44 and 28 January ’45. Many lived through it, others have heard about it, but nobody today can remain indifferent about this decisive episode.

Every year, not only in Bastogne but also in La Roche-en-Ardenne, Hotton, Houffalize, Malmedy, Sankt Vith, Marche-en-Famenne, Vielsalm, or in Neuville-en-Condroz or Henri-Chapelle as well as in other places, villages and towns in Wallonia, we remember !

We remember with emotion, reverence and respect these soldiers who came from overseas to bring peace into our towns, villages and homes, and paid a very heavy price.

It is our wish to express our “duty of remembrance” through this brochure that will guide you from towns to villages, from memorial stones to monuments, from museums to sites or military cemeteries.

Also, it’s an opportunity to discover “down memory lane” the “present day” aspects of these regions of Wallonia, which, while not forgetting the “historical past”, offer you the most beautiful aspects of convivial tourism, in which the proximity and “the glow of living” punctuate our suggestions for relaxing or unusual discoveries.

Enjoy your visit !

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HISTORICAL INTRODUCTION

The Allied landing in Normandy on 06 June 1944 was a psychological defeat for the German Army.

With a minimum loss of human life, within a few days the Allies had successfully achieved a massive landing of about 150,000 men.

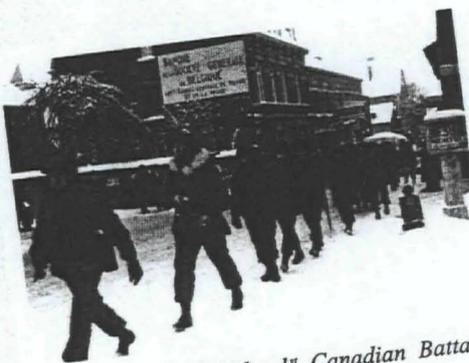
Within a month after the landing almost a million Allied soldiers were fighting in Normandy. Then began the lightning breakthrough, first across France and then across Belgium.



Marche – British 'Universal Carriers' rush to the combat zone. (US Army photo)

In the centre was the 1st US Army of General HODGES, on his right the 3rd US Army commanded by General PATTON, and on his left the 2nd British Army headed by General DEMPSEY.

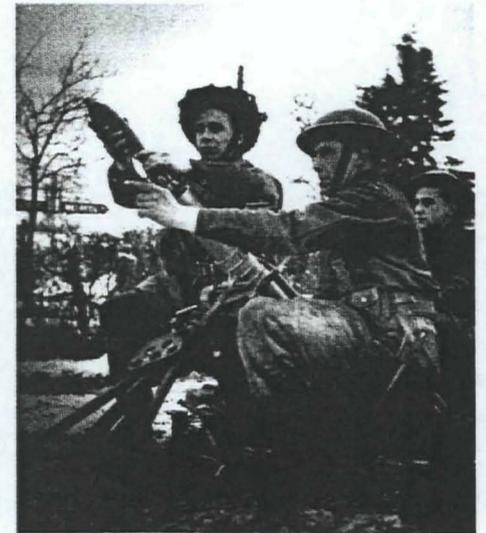
Paris was liberated at the end of August; Tournai, Brussels and Antwerp were liberated by British troops in early September; Mons, Namur, Liège and the Ardennes by American divisions during the month of September.



Marche – Paras of the 1st Canadian Battalion crossing the town. (US Army photo)

After a hasty retreat, the German units established their defences behind the Siegfried Line. The 1st Army of HODGES succeeded in capturing Aachen, while the 3rd Army of PATTON prepared to invade the Saarland.

Between the two fronts, considering that the difficult terrain and the wintry conditions would dissuade the German Army from launching an attack in the Ardennes, General EISENHOWER, Supreme Commander of the Allied Expeditionary Force (SHAEF), decided to "play for time" and to take the calculated risk of weakening the sector. Consequently, the Ardennes was considered as a sector to which the American divisions would go to re-form.

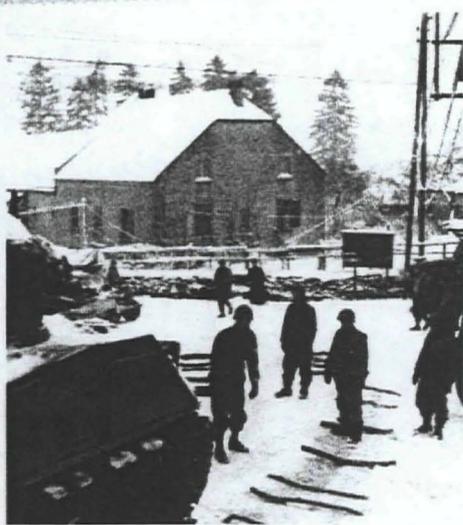


Hamptean – 'Tommies' of the 1st Manchester Regiment. (Imperial War Museum photo)

Meanwhile, the American President ROOSEVELT was thinking about the Yalta Conference with Stalin that, in February '45, would split Europe into two zones of influence. Moreover, differences of strategy existed between the American and British High Commands, EISENHOWER wishing to invade Germany from the whole length of the front line, and MONTGOMERY demanding a lightning breakthrough to Berlin from the Netherlands.



Samrée – Sherman tank of the 2nd US Armored Division. (CEGES photo)



Dochamps – Slippery ground for the Sherman tanks of the 2nd US Armored Division. (US Army photo)

The German High Command took advantage of this respite to draw up plans for a large-scale offensive.

These were to strike through the Ardennes, cross the River Meuse, re-take the city of Antwerp and its port infrastructure in order to prevent the transport of troop reinforcements and fresh supplies of fuel, munitions and food for the Allied armies, to isolate the British Army from the American Army, to force one or both to capitulate and thus obtain the signature of a separate peace on the western front. The German Army could then be transferred to the eastern front to halt the progression of the Russian Army.

However, the success of the offensive would depend on several factors : low and long-lasting cloud cover to prevent the intervention of Allied aircraft, a rapid initial

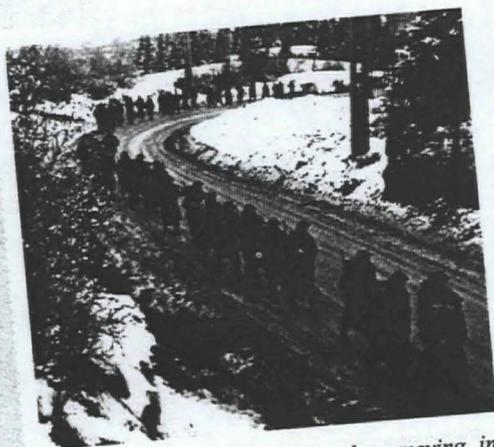
breakthrough with the capture of Allied fuel dumps, the control of important crossroads, and subsequently the widening of the breach.

According to the plans determined by the German High Command, the “main effort” of the offensive was to be ensured by the 6th Panzer Army of Sepp DIETRICH that would have to cross the Elsenborn ridges and cross the River Meuse between Huy and Liège. The 5th Panzer Army commanded by General Baron Hasso von MANTEUFFEL was given the tasks of capturing important crossroads at Sankt Vith and Bastogne, crossing the River Meuse between Dinant and Andenne, and advancing towards Antwerp via Brussels.



Baronville – Sherman 'Firefly' tank of the British 29th Armoured Brigade. (Imperial War Museum photo)

The northern flank of the offensive would be covered by the 15th Army of VON ZANGEN. On the southern flank the 7th Army of General BRANDENBERGER would have to face any possible counter-attack by General PATTON and his 3rd US Army.



Hotton – The Gordon Highlanders moving into combat near La Roche. (New York Times photo)

In order to create confusion, specially-trained groups were to create mistrust and suspicion among the American troops. These groups were the commandos of Colonel Otto SKORZENY, dressed in American uniforms and using captured GI equipment, who were to seize the bridges of Huy and Amay in order to ensure the crossing of the German armoured columns.

To oppose any American reinforcements coming from the north and moving towards the combat zone, it was foreseen that Colonel von DER HEYDTE and his 800 parachutists would drop onto the Hautes Fagnes (peat bogs in the Ardennes hills) and control the crossroads at Baraque Michel.

By night, observing radio silence, by road and rail, over days and even weeks, the German High Command brought in and deployed from Monschau to Echternach around 250,000 men and 600 tanks and assault guns, as well as 1,900 guns and howitzers.

After several successive postponements, it was finally on 16 December '44, at 05:30 in the morning, in the cold and fog, over a front of 125 km (78 miles), that the German offensive began, code-named 'Wacht am Rhein' (Rhine Guard) and which was later called the 'Battle of the Ardennes' or the 'Battle of the Ardennes'.



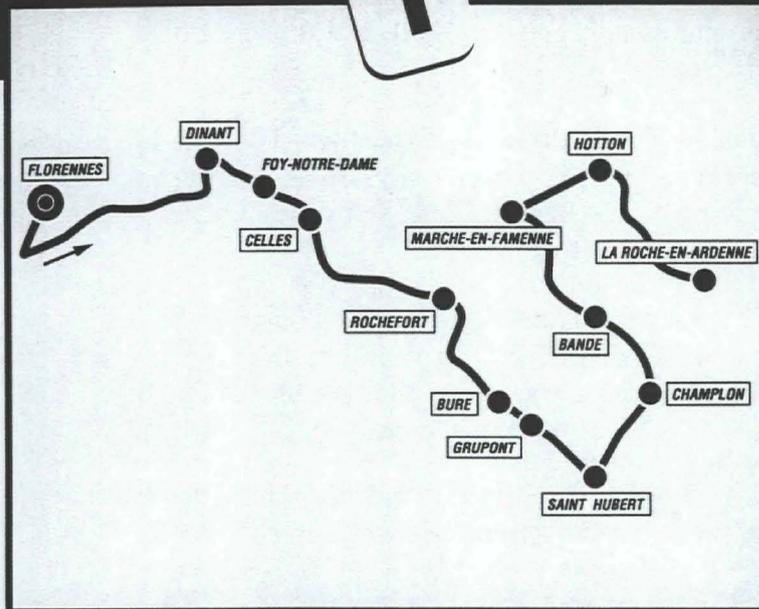
Marche - Welsh column of the 160th Brigade moving into combat.
(New York Times photo)

A heavy artillery barrage pounded the American forward positions, followed by the infantry onslaught and the breakthrough by the armoured columns.

So began the rush towards the River Meuse by the 6th Armoured Army of DIETRICH formed in particular by the 1st Panzer SS 'Leibstandarte Adolph Hitler', the 12th Panzer SS 'Hitler Jugend', the 2nd Panzer SS 'Das Reich', and the 9th Panzer SS 'Hohenstaufen', as well as the Volksgrenadier Division.

It was a total surprise for the Americans of the 2nd and 99th Infantry of General GEROW's V Corps and the 106th, 28th and 4th Infantry as well as units of the 9th Armoured of General MIDDLETON's VIII Corps, around 80,000 men. The units were shattered and defences penetrated at several points, but resistance was organized.

As regards the British troops based in the Netherlands, they were in training for their forthcoming campaigns on German soil, while already thinking about the approaching Christmas.



As admitted by the British Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, the participation of British troops in the 'Battle of the Ardennes' never reached the magnitude of that of the US Army. The British contribution, limited in numbers of men and time but stamped with the authority of its Commander-in-Chief, Field-Marshal Montgomery, was to prove efficient and cannot be underestimated.

On 20 December 1944, Montgomery ordered the British 30^e Corps, under the command of General Horrocks, to leave the Netherlands and move towards the combat zone of the Ardennes. By 22 December, the 51st Highland Division and the 53rd Welsh Division, as well as the Guards' Armoured Brigade, successively occupied defensive positions between Maastricht and Givet in order to oppose any attempt by German troops to cross the River Meuse. The British 6th Airborne Division, resting in Great Britain, was put on alert and received the order to move to the Ardennes.

On 3 January '45, in the cold and snow, in the Tellin-Rochefort-Hotton triangle, the British 30^e Corps launched its first attacks in the counter-offensive operation decided by the Allies. Successively, the 6th Airborne Division, the 53rd Welsh Division and the 51st Highland Division, with their supporting armoured units, moved towards the front. The 43rd Wessex Division was held in reserve.

On 16 January, having achieved all his objectives, Field-Marshal Montgomery then decided to withdraw the British 30^e Corps units from the Battle of the Ardennes, and to send them to the Netherlands in order to prepare for the long-planned offensive into Germany and the crossing of the Rhine.

FLORENNES

On 25 December '44, the 1st Northamptonshire Yeomanry armoured regiment arrived in Florennes, and for a couple of days were quartered in the Florennes aerodrome buildings before moving to the combat zone in support of units engaged in the counter-offensive.

Built in 1942 by the Luftwaffe and liberated in September '44 by American troops, the aerodrome would be used by the Fighter and Bomber Groups of the USAAF.

BRITISH BATTLE

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SPITFIRE MEMORIAL MUSEUM



Located in the aerodrome buildings, the Museum displays a 1944 MK XIV Spitfire as well as the various types of aircraft that have figured prominently in the history of the Belgian Air Force.

In addition, the Museum also covers the history of the aerodrome and of the squadrons that were based there, with many display cases containing photographs, documents, flight-equipment, model aircraft and souvenirs.

Base J. Offenbergh, B-5620 FLORENNES –
© 32 (0)71 68 25 14

DINANT

During the evening of 23 December, at the foot of the Rocher Bayard, a jeep-load of Germans wearing American uniforms forced through a check-point and detonated a daisy-chain of mines, laid by a section of British soldiers guarding access to the town and the bridge across the River Meuse.



Stone marking the furthest advance of the German offensive and reminding us that the Germans never crossed the River Meuse. (At the foot of the Rocher Bayard)

WORTH SEEING

- The Dinant Citadel, located on a rocky outcrop and accessible both by steps and cable-car, with

its extraordinary panorama over the town and the valley of the Meuse.

B-5500 DINANT – © 32 (0)82 22 36 70 or 22 21 19

- ‘La Merveilleuse’ Grottos and the beauty of their concretion formations.

Route de Philippeville 142, B-5500 DINANT –
© 32 (0)82 22 22 10

- Discovery boat-cruises on the River Meuse from Dinant to Anseremme and Hastière and even to Namur.

CELLES

On 24 December at the Celles crossroads, the lead tank of an armoured column of 2. Panzer blew-up on a mine and was immobilized. Believing that all roads towards Dinant were mined, the commander of the column decided to move his tanks across country. However, the lack of fuel and ammunition prevented them from advancing and from taking effective action. In addition, the column was spotted and trapped in a pincer movement by tanks of the British 3rd Royal Tank Regiment and a unit of the US 2nd Armored Division as well as by Allied fighter-bombers.

The day after Christmas, the German armoured column was annihilated and the German ‘Pocket of Celles – Foy – Notre Dame’ was captured. The breakthrough of the 5th Panzer Army, commanded by General Hasso von Manteuffel, had been defeated. The Germans would not cross the River Meuse and would never reach Antwerp and its port facilities.



Panther Tank of 2. Panzer a few metres from where it was blown-up, reminding us that the German breakthrough was permanently stopped at Celles. (Celles crossroads)

WORTH SEEING

- The ancient Mosanne-style collegiate church, built in the 11th century, with its 7th and 12th century crypts.

NEARBY

- At Celles-Houyet, the feudal castle of Vèves, witness of centuries past and fully-furnished.
B-5561 CELLES-HOUYET – ☎ 32 (0)82 66 63 95
- At Foy-Notre-Dame, a Renaissance-style church, the ceiling of which consists of 145 caissons framing paintings on wood of the Rubens' school.

ROCHEFORT

On 23 December '44, the vanguard of Panzer 'Lehr' clashed with the 335th Infantry Regiment of the 84th US Infantry Division. The besieged Americans received the order to withdraw and succeeded in breaking through the encircling forces.

On 3 January '45, paratroopers of the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion of the 6th British Airborne Division entered the town, cleaning-out pockets of German resistance. They also carried out reconnaissance patrols around Rochefort, positioned an artillery battery atop the feudal castle, and then continued their advance towards Marche-en-Famenne.



Commemorative plaque dedicated to the Canadian paratroopers, reminding us that they liberated the town. (Square Crépin)

OTHER MONUMENTS

- Monument dedicated to the 335th Infantry Regiment of the 84th Infantry Division, 'The Rail-Splitters', which on 23 and 24 December bravely opposed the advance of the tanks of Panzer 'Lehr'. (Crossroads St Hubert – Dinant and Marche – Han)
- Plaque for the 50th anniversary in 1994 of the Battle of the Ardennes. (Square Crépin)

WORTH SEEING

- Count's castle of the 11th and 18th centuries, dominating the town with its imposing remains.
Rue Jacquet, B-5580 ROCHEFORT – ☎ 32 (0)84 21 44 09
- Lorette Grotto and its marvellous sound and light show.
- Drève de Lorette, B-5580 ROCHEFORT – ☎ 32 (0)84 21 20 80
Tourist train.

BURE

At dawn on 3 January '45, in the cold and snow, the 13th Battalion Parachute Regiment of the British 6th Airborne Division left Resteigne on foot and headed towards the village of Bure, occupied by the Germans. At 13:00 hrs, from the edge of the forest overlooking the village, it began its attack. As soon as the paras left the cover of the trees they came under heavy German machine-gun and mortar fire as well as fire from a Panther tank. Despite all this, the British paratroopers continued their attack, reaching the first houses and progressing from house to house.

After 3 days of heavy fighting, sometimes hand-to-hand, and at the cost of heavy losses, the paratroopers gained control of the village. Bure was liberated. The same evening, the British paras received orders to leave the village and to continue their advance.

The paratroopers of the British 6th Airborne Division would also liberate Wavreille, Grupont, Jemelle, On, Hargimont, Nassogne, Amberloup, Ambly, Marloie, Waha, Roy, etc.

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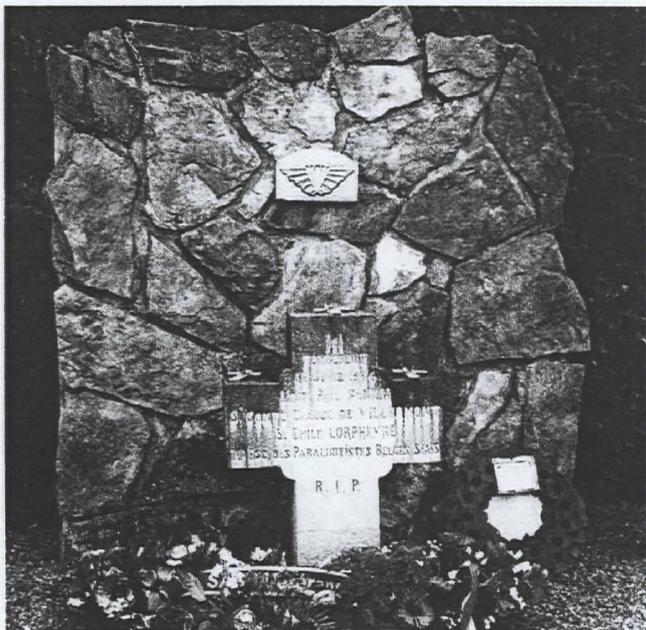
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Stone in the form of a headstone commemorating the 61 paratroopers who died in the liberation of Bure. (Church square)

OTHER MONUMENTS

- Plaque dedicated to the British 6th Airborne Division. (Church precinct wall)
- Plaque reminding us that this house served as a medical dressing-station for British paratroopers. (Rue de Tellin no. 42)
- 'Roll of Honour' of the British 6th Airborne Division. (Inside the church)
- Stone commemorating the civilian victims and all the soldiers killed during the battle for Bure. (Church square)



'Croix Renkin', a monument erected to the memory of the Belgian SAS paratroopers killed on 31 December on a reconnaissance mission to protect the flanks of the British 6th Airborne Division. (On high ground to the south-west of the village, via Rue de Mirwart)

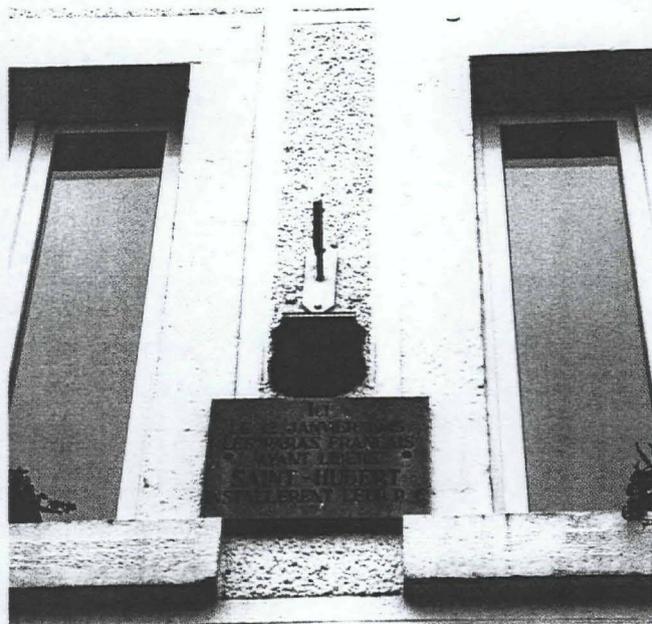
NEARBY

- In Tellin, the Church Bell and Carillon Museum, established in an old post-house, and tracing the history of the industrial heritage of Tellin. Rue Grande 23, B-6927 TELLIN — © 32 (0)84 36 60 07
- In Grupont, the 'Maison Espagnole' dating from 1590, a former inn and lawcourt. Today a listed building.
- In Grupont, a monument to the courage of Belgian mine-clearance units and to the heavy price they paid during their operations at the end of the war.

SAINT HUBERT

From 26 December '44, a squadron of French SAS paratroopers attached to the British 6th Airborne Division was in action east of the town, thereby protecting the flanks of the British paratroopers and establishing links with the 87th US Infantry Division by carrying out reconnaissance patrols.

Ahead of the men of the 87th US Infantry Division, on 11 January 1945 and coming from Grupont, a patrol of French SAS paratroopers entered the town, chasing out the last Germans and capturing 20 prisoners in the process. The paratroopers then flew the French flag on the front of the town hall and the local authorities gave them the keys to the town by way of gratitude.



Plaque reminding us that French paratroopers were the first to enter St. Hubert and established their command post in this house. (Rue du Marché no. 3)

OTHER MONUMENTS

- Plaque dedicated to the 87th US Infantry Division, 'The Golden Acorn', which liberated the town. (On the front of the Hôtel de Ville, Place du Marché)
- Plaque reminding us that the author and war-correspondent Ernest Hemingway stayed in Saint Hubert in December '44. (Place du Marché no. 18 – Hôtel de l'Abbaye)
- Monument dedicated to the Chasseurs Ardennais Regiment, in particular for their Ardennes Campaign in May '40. ('La Roseraie', Avenue des Chasseurs Ardennais).

WORTH SEEING

- The Basilica, with its baroque 18th century frontage, its flamboyant 16th century gothic interior and its 11th century Romanesque crypt, as well as its altar dedicated to Saint Hubert.
- Pierre-Joseph Redouté Centre housing prints, engravings as well as lithographs of roses by this watercolour painter, who was born in St. Hubert in 1759 and was an artist at the Court of France. Rue Redouté 11, B-6870 SAINT-HUBERT – ☎ 32 (0)61 61 18 72
- Main courtyard and renovated frontage of the former abbey-palace.

NEARBY

- In 'Fourneau Saint Michel', the Museum of Ironwork and Ancient Metallurgy presenting on its original site the techniques of iron smelting and forging, as well as artefacts and traditional ancient tools.
- Also at 'Fourneau Saint Michel', the Museum of Rural Life in Wallonia consisting of a group of some 50 ancient rural houses from various areas of the Walloon Region and rebuilt in this open-air museum.
- Musées provinciaux du Fourneau Saint Michel, B-6870 SAINT HUBERT – ☎ 32 (0)84 21 08 90 or 21 06 13

CHAMPLON – TENNEVILLE

After having advanced along the River Bronze, the Scots of the 5th Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders crossed Ronchamps and forcing the Germans out of the village of Mierchamps, they then captured Journal and sent out reconnaissance patrols.

On 14 January, early in the morning, one of these patrols linked-up with the GIs of the 87th Infantry Division at the Champlon crossroads.

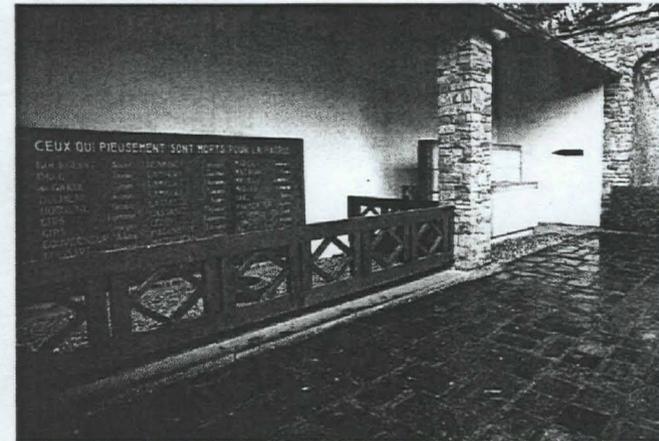
MONUMENT

- Plaque commemorating the link-up between a Scottish patrol of the 5th Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders and an American patrol of the 87th Infantry Division. (Maison du Ski)

BANDE

On 11 January '45, a patrol of the 1st Canadian parachute battalion accompanied by Belgian SAS paratroopers left Marche-en-Famenne, entered the village of Bande and to their horror discovered the bodies of 34 civilians shot in the back of the neck on Christmas Eve and dumped in the basement of a ruined house. The youngest among them was barely 17 years old.

A few days later, the commander of the 9th Battalion Parachute Regiment of the 6th Airborne Division decided to give the unfortunate victims of the German Gestapo a decent burial with full military honours.



Memorial with the list of victims of this terrible event. A visit of the basement to view the photos of each victim, and a moment of meditation, are recommended. (Alongside the main road N4)

MARCHE-en-FAMENNE

On 21 December, coming from the area around Aachen, the 84th US Infantry Division, including future Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, took up position between Marche and Hotton to prevent 116. Panzer from crossing the wooded ridge dominating the Famenne plain that leads to the River Meuse. American positions and on 4 January, in the cold and a snowstorm, the Welsh soldiers began their attacks in the Marche-Hotton area. However, the

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icy roads prevented armoured vehicles from supplying and supporting these troops in an efficient manner. Their advance was considerably slowed down by the wooded terrain cut by valleys as well as by the cold and snow, and despite the German artillery, minefields and roadblocks of felled trees, the Welshmen liberated the villages of Menil, Waharday, Rendeux and Grimbiemont.

After three days and nights of heavy fighting in the woods in freezing cold weather, the 53rd Welsh Division had lost 105 men before being relieved by the Scots of the 51st Highland Division.

(Also see Lane 4, Page 31).



Plaque reminding us that the town was never occupied thanks to General Alexander Bolling and the bravery of the men of the 84th US Infantry Division who stopped the advance of the German troops. (Main courtyard of the 'Musée des Francs et de la Famenne', Rue du Commerce)

OTHER MONUMENT

- Monument dedicated to the English, Scots, Welsh and Canadian soldiers, and the Belgian and French SAS paracommandos, forming part of the British 30^e Corps of the 2nd British Army of the 21st Army Group commanded by Field-Marshal Montgomery, and who fought in the Battle of the Ardennes. (Main courtyard of the 'Musée des Francs et de la Famenne' – Rue du Commerce).

WORTH SEEING

- 'Musée des Francs et de la Famenne' presenting not only the Franks who settled in the area from the 5th century, but also the splendid archaeological discoveries made in the area as well as traditions of the trades of yesteryear.

Rue du Commerce 17, B-6900 MARCHE-en-FAMENNE – ☎ 32 (0)84 32 70 60

- The 'Musée de la Dentelle' (Lace Museum) with its magnificent collection of lace, reminding us that the town was formerly an important and rare Walloon centre of lace-manufacture with bobbins, employing nearly 850 lacemakers.

c/o S.I, Rue de Marche, Rue des Brasseurs, B-6900 MARCHE-en-FAMENNE – ☎ 32 (0)84 31 21 35

- 'Le Musée des Chasseurs Ardennais', presenting the history of uniforms and military service as well as the battles of 1914-1918, the Second World War and the Resistance, and finally the period from 1946 to 1994.

- 'Camp militaire Roi Albert', Chaussée de Liège 65, B-6900 MARCHE-en-FAMENNE – ☎ 32 (0)84 32 61 08

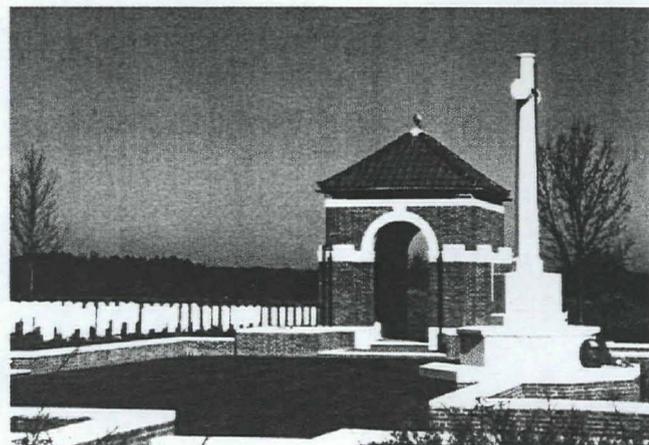
- The 14th century St. Remacle church with its 16th century baptismal fonts.

HOTTON

In the first days of January '45, it was from Hotton that several armoured and infantry units of the British 30^e Corps launched their troops in the Allied counter-offensive towards La Roche-en-Ardenne, their objective being to push the Germans back, clean-out the west bank of the River Ourthe sector, and link-up with the American troops.

(Also see Lane 4, Page 32).

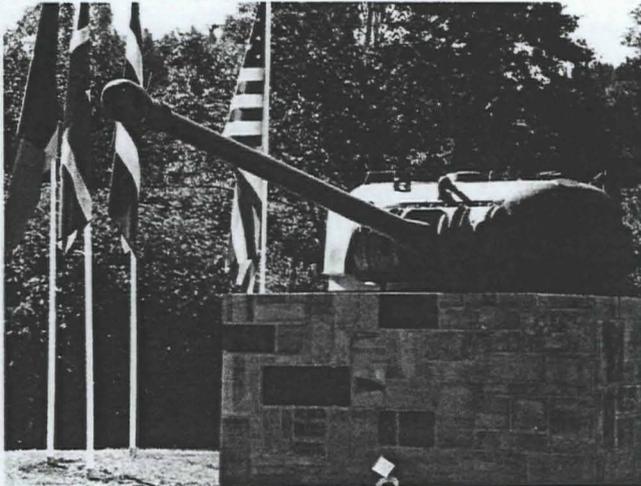
COMMONWEALTH WAR CEMETERY



The Cemetery is located at the southern end of the town on a wooded plateau, where the remains of 666 Commonwealth soldiers and airmen have been laid to rest, including a soldier of Belgian descent aged 18 who fought in the uniform of the 53rd Welsh Division. (Off the road between Hotton and Menil).

MONUMENTS

- Monument dedicated to the Belgian Commandos with a plaque commemorating the Belgian SAS. (Church square)
- Plaque dedicated to the 51st U.S. Engineer Combat Battalion. (Bridge over the River Ourthe)



Turret of a British 'Firefly' Sherman tank dedicated to the 53rd Welsh Division and supporting armoured units. (On the east bank of the River Ourthe along the Hotton - Erezée - Manhay road)

WORTH SEEING

- 'Le Moulin à eau Faber' (The Faber watermill) dating from 1729 and still functioning today for the pleasure of visitors.
c/o S.I. Hotton, Rue Haute 4, B-6990 HOTTON – © 32 (0)84 46 61 22
- Le Musée 'Chez-nous au temps jadis' (The 'Bygone Days' Museum) presenting artifacts used in daily life in the time of our grandparents and great-grandparents.
Rue Simon 33b, B-6990 HOTTON – © 32 (0)478 64 00 52

NEARBY

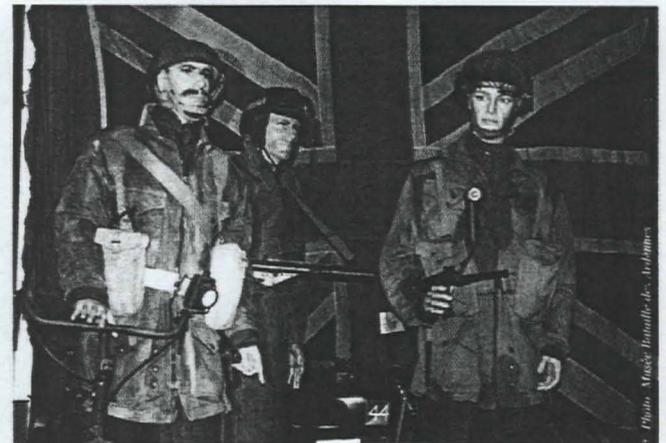
- The Grottos of Hotton, real crystal palaces, classified as a major site in Wallonia and described in the Michelin Guide under the label "Well worth a visit".
B-6990 HOTTON – © 32 (0)84 46 60 46

On 7 January '45, early in the morning, in the freezing cold and over icy roads, the Scotsmen of the 51st Highland Division left their standby positions to the south of Liège and headed towards the front line Marche – Hotton. Their mission was to relieve the exhausted Welsh units and to advance towards La Roche-en-Ardenne.

After having liberated the villages of Hodister, Warizy and Ronchampay, on 11 January the 1st Battalion Black Watch advanced along the River Ourthe towards La Roche. Shortly before midday, preceded by a mine disposal team and armoured reconnaissance vehicles of the 2nd Derbyshire Yeomanry Regiment, the Scots entered the town devastated by American bombing. They were followed by supporting armoured vehicles of the 1st Northamptonshire Yeomanry Regiment.

When the town was liberated from its last German occupants and the main street was cleared of debris, the other units of the Division moved off in turn, crossing La Roche and advancing towards the villages of Hives, Hubermont, Mierchamps, Erneuville and Ortho, which they liberated, and linked-up with the American troops.
(Also see Lane 5, Page 37)

THE 'BATTLE OF THE ARDENNES' MUSEUM



The only museum of the Battle of the Ardennes offering a British section.

Spread over almost 1,000 m² (10,764 sq. feet) on three floors accessible by lift, the dioramas and showcases display over 100 dummies of American, British and German soldiers with their equipment and weapons, as well as uniforms given by British veterans who fought in the Battle of the Ardennes. The museum also

displays personal objects found on the battlefield, light and heavy weapons, documents and photographs, and some 20 military vehicles.

When entering the museum, please do not miss the model of the famous B17 'Flying Fortress' at a scale of 1:9. On the second floor, visit the 'Weapons Room' where some 90 rifles, pistols and revolvers are displayed, as well as one of the famous 'Enigma' cypher machines of Polish origin. Rue Chamont 5, B-6980 LA ROCHE-en-ARDENNE - © 32 (0)84 41 17 25



'Roll of Honour' Memorial erected to the memory of the 54 Scots killed during the Battle of the Ardennes. (Situated at the entrance of the town on the Hotton - La Roche road)

OTHER MONUMENTS

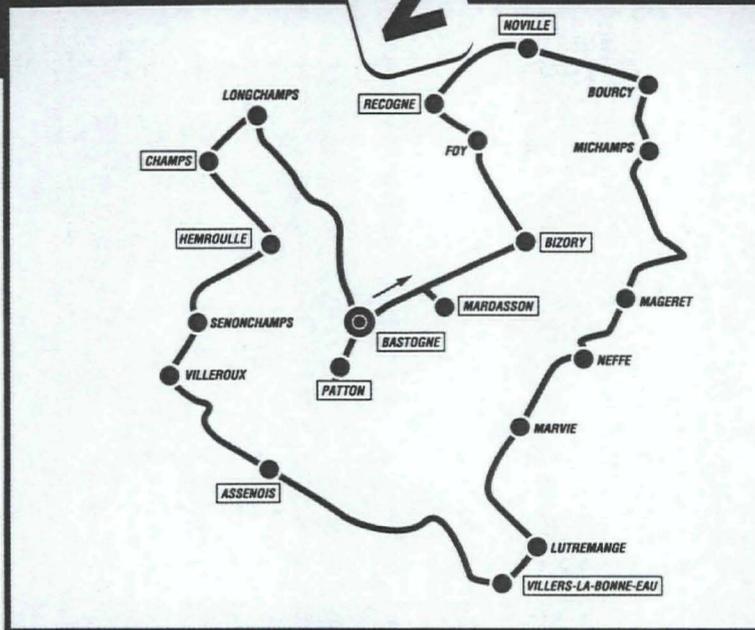
- Commemorative plaque reminding us that on 12 January '45, an armoured reconnaissance patrol attached to the 84th US Infantry Division coming from the heights of Samrée linked-up with the Scots of the 51st Highland Division coming from Hotton. (Near the bridge on the River Ourthe on the corner of Rue de la Gare and Rue de Cielle).
- Sherman tank dedicated to the American units that participated in the liberation of La Roche and the surrounding area. (Esplanade Quai de l'Ourthe : unveiling ceremony in December 2004)



British 'Achilles' tank destroyer "Northampton" dedicated to the 1st Northamptonshire Yeomanry Regiment supporting the 51st Highland Division and which was the first tank to enter the town behind the 1st Black Watch. (Situated on the esplanade above the River Ourthe opposite the ruins of the mediaeval castle)

WORTH SEEING

- The ruins of a 9th century mediaeval castle built on a rocky outcrop dominating the town and the bends of the River Ourthe.
- A tourist train taking you around town and through the nearby forest to the high ground above a wildlife park.
- On the Deister plateau, the wildlife park with its stags, hinds, fallow deer, wild sheep, wild boars, wolves, lynxes, etc, and its cafeteria.
- The 'Musée de la Meunerie' (milling museum) situated in a 19th century watermill preserved in its original state. This is a tribute to the work of millers.
La Petite Strument 62, B-6980 LA ROCHE-EN-ARDENNE - © 32 (0)84 41 10 80
- 'Les Grès de La Roche et le Musée du Jambon d'Ardenne' (La Roche sandstone and the Ardennes Ham museum), smoking hams in the potter's kiln.
Rue Rompré 28, B-6980 LA ROCHE-en-ARDENNE - © 32 (0)84 41 18 78



In their rest-area near Reims in the evening of 18 December '44, the paratroopers of the US 101st Airborne Division were put on a state of alert. Weather conditions not permitting an airborne drop, they were rushed by road to the Ardennes battle zone to stop the advance of German troops towards Bastogne, and to defend the main routes leading to the town.

Meanwhile, units of the 5th Panzer Army, commanded by General Baron Hasso von Manteuffel, outflanked the town from the north and the south. Bastogne and its defenders finally found themselves surrounded. 2. Panzer, spearhead of the 5th Panzer Army, having been suddenly stopped on Christmas Eve in sight of Dinant, and considering that they could no longer cross the River Meuse and that Antwerp with its port installations could no longer be reached, the German High Command decided to concentrate "the main effort" on the capture of Bastogne.

Coming from the south, an armoured column of the 4th US Armored Division of General Patton's 3rd Army decided to push ahead towards Bastogne, and on 26 December succeeded in breaking through the German siege.

Under heavy German artillery fire, little by little the American units managed to broaden the "corridor" through the German lines that the Germans attempted to close several times.

The battle for the capture of Bastogne would last until 17 January '45.



Sherman tank of the 11th Armored Division, 'Thunderbolt', destroyed on 30 December '44 in heavy fighting around the hamlet of Renuamont. (Place McAuliffe)

OTHER MONUMENTS

- Division Artillery Commander and Acting Division Commander of the 101st US Airborne Division, 'The Screaming Eagles', Brigadier-General Anthony McAuliffe commanded the successful defence of Bastogne, and on 22 December, when German emissaries demanded his surrender, he gave them his now famous reply of "Nuts". (Place McAuliffe).
- Stones of the 'Liberty Way'. (Place McAuliffe and along the road to Mardasson).

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- Commemorative plaques dedicated to the 4th, 10th and 11th US Armored Divisions. (Place McAuliffe)
- Commemorative plaque dedicated to the 512th, 513th and 514th Fighter Squadrons of the 406th Fighter Group. (Place McAuliffe)
- Commemorative plaque dedicated to Renée Lemaire, a Bastogne nurse who was killed during the shelling of the hospital established by the Americans in a large store. (Rue de Neufchâteau, opposite the museum 'Au Pays d'Ardenne').
- Turrets of Sherman tanks demarcating the defensive perimeter of the besieged town. (On the main roads into Bastogne).

WORTH SEEING

- Original Museum : a museum dedicated to the Ardennes, its fauna, ancient tools, and to the civilians and soldiers who lived through the battle for Bastogne.
Rue de Neufchâteau 20, B-6600 BASTOGNE –
☎ 32 (0)61 21 27 89
- Maison Mathelin : an historical and archaeological museum enabling us to discover Bastogne from prehistoric times to the dramatic winter of '44 - '45.
Rue G. Delperdange 1, B-6600 BASTOGNE –
☎ 32 (0)61 21 32 87
- Piconrue Museum : presenting the traditions and popular beliefs of the Ardennes, as well as religious artefacts and treasures.
Place St. Pierre 24, B-6600 BASTOGNE –
☎ 32 (0)61 21 56 14
- Saint Pierre church : with its 12th century Romanesque tower, its 15th century Mosane Gothic nave, its 18th century pulpit sculpted by Scholtus, a master cabinet-maker born in Bastogne, and its 16th century polychromatic vault.

THE STONES OF 'THE LIBERTY WAY'

In August 1946, at St. Symphorien to the south of Paris and halfway between Normandy and Bastogne, the first stone of 'The Liberty Way' was unveiled. 'The Liberty Way' was the idea of Major Guy de la Vasselais, Head of the French Military Mission to General Patton's 3rd Army.

Wishing to commemorate the liberation with an imposing monument, Major Guy de la Vasselais decided to place a symbolic stone every kilometre along the route followed by the divisions of General Patton's 3rd Army.

'The Liberty Way' runs along the 1,145 kilometres (712 miles) of the advance of Patton's troops, and the same number of stones therefore stretch from the landing beaches in Normandy to the Mardasson Memorial in Bastogne, passing through Avranches, Le Mans, Fontainebleau, Reims, Verdun, Metz, Luxembourg and Arlon. Each stone bears a flaming torch rising from the ocean, a replica of the one held by the Statue of Liberty at the entry of the port of New York.



BASTOGNE HISTORICAL CENTER (B.H.C.)

Inaugurated on 31 May 1976 by the then Prince Albert who became King Albert II of Belgium, the museum, built in the shape of a star, displays an exceptional collection of uniforms and light weapons of the American and German troops who fought in the battle for Bastogne, as well as very realistic dioramas. An adjoining cinema shows film reports shot during the fighting by cameramen of the opposing armies.

Outside the museum stand a US M-10 Tank Destroyer, a Sherman tank and a German Jagdpanzer commemorating the violent tank battles that took place during the fight for the capture of Bastogne. Colline de Mardasson (Mardasson Hill), B-6600 BASTOGNE – ☎ 32 (0)61 21 14 13



MARDASSON



Memorial built on Mardasson Hill on the initiative of the Belgian-American Association.

Inaugurated on 16 July 1950, the memorial was designed by the architect Georges Dedoyard in the form of a star, representing the homage of the Belgian people to the 76,890 American soldiers killed, wounded or missing in action during the liberation of our towns and villages in the Battle of the Ardennes.

At the centre of the memorial a stone bears the inscription in Latin "The Belgian people remember their American liberators". It reminds us that on 4 July 1946, earth was taken from this spot in the presence of the Ambassador of the United States and placed in an urn in a sealed casket. This was presented to the President of the United States, Harry Truman, by the Belgian authorities.

On the interior walls of the Memorial is inscribed the story of the Battle of the Ardennes, and on the exterior columns the American units that participated in the Battle of the Ardennes are named alongside their unit insignia. On top of the Memorial, a promenade equipped with viewpoint indicators enables visitors to discover the site of the battle for Bastogne.

At the foot of the Memorial, a crypt dug in the rock and decorated with mosaics by the French artist Fernand Leger houses three chapels, Roman Catholic, Protestant and Jewish.

BIZORY

THE WOOD OF PEACE



American veterans of the Battle of the Ardennes were very touched by the idea that their name could be inscribed on a plaque at the base of a tree, their "personal tree" that will survive them and blossom. In 1994, not far from Mardasson, on the initiative of the local UNICEF Committee, the 'Wood of Peace' was inaugurated. Viewed from the sky, the 4,000 trees planted in an area of 3 hectares (7.4 acres) represent the UNICEF symbol : mother and child, the universal symbol of tenderness. The perimeter is flanked by panels presenting the towns of the World Union of Martyred Towns of Peace, established in 1982 on the initiative of town of Bastogne.

RECOGNE

After the Battle of the Ardennes, on 4 February '45, this locality was chosen as the resting-place for American as well as German soldiers.

However, in 1947 the remains of American soldiers were either repatriated to the United States or transferred to the newly-established American military cemeteries at Henri-Chapelle and Neuville-en-Condroz. The remains of German soldiers were gathered together in Recogne.

GERMAN MILITARY CEMETERY



This German cemetery is distinguished by a chapel built from pink Eifel sandstone, its internal walls being of slate.

It contains the remains of 6,807 German soldiers, the youngest of whom was barely 17 years of age and the eldest of whom was 52.

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Stone dedicated to the Native American Indians, part of the American troops and who were mainly deployed in the transmission of coded messages. (Situating near 'La Ferme des Bisons')

WORTH SEEING

• 'La Ferme des Bisons' ('The Bison Farm') and its exhibition enabling us to discover Native American Indian culture, traditions and craft.
Recogné, B-6600 BASTOGNE —
© 32 (0)61 21 06 40

NOVILLE

On 18 December and throughout the next two days, armoured vehicles of the combat team commanded by Major William Desobry, and the para battalion of Lieutenant-Colonel La Prade, slowed the advance of 2. Panzer and of 26. Volksgrenadier. Seriously wounded, Major Desobry was evacuated then taken prisoner by the Germans. Lt-Colonel La Prade was killed during the fighting. The American troops eventually withdrew towards Bastogne and the Germans occupied the village for more than a month.



'Enclos des Fusillés' in memory of the 7 civilian hostages killed by the Gestapo on 21 December after a long and painful interrogation.

MAGERET

Arriving in the village on 19 December at 02:00 hrs, the vanguard of Panzer 'Lehr' under the command of General Fritz Bayerlein attacked the roadblocks set-up by Combat Team Cherry. After fierce fighting, 15 German tanks were destroyed but the Americans also lost many armoured vehicles.

Although its advance was slowed-down, Panzer 'Lehr' did not exploit its advantage to advance towards Bastogne, thus allowing the Americans to strengthen the town defences.

The village remained occupied by German troops until 13 January '45.

NEFFE

Positioned in the village since 18 December, the armoured vehicles of Combat Team Cherry would oppose the advance of Panzer 'Lehr'. However, after heavy combat, the Americans withdrew and abandoned the village, which would eventually be liberated on 1 January '45.

MARVIE

On 20 December, Panzer 'Lehr' maintained its siege of Bastogne, attacked the American paratroopers and armoured vehicles of Combat Team O'Hara, and tried several times to capture the burning village, which they succeeded in occupying.

The village was finally liberated on 9 January '45. Meanwhile, the civilian population had paid a heavy price in lost human lives and in destruction.

VILLERS-LA-BONNE-EAU

Occupied since 19 December by German paratroopers, the village came under fire from American artillery.

The Germans and the Americans both wanted to capture the village to take control of the important Arlon-Bastogne highway. For days they clashed in heavy fighting. Under pressure from the 35th US Infantry Division and the 4th US Armored Division of Patton's 3rd Army, the Germans withdrew and the village was finally liberated on 10 January '45.

MONUMENT

- Dedicated to the 35th US Infantry Division, 'Santa Fe'. (Lutremange).

ASSENOIS

On the Moselle front, as General Patton's 3rd Army prepared to launch a major attack on the defences of the Siegfried Line, on 19 December '44 the American High Command ordered him to move his divisions ninety degrees towards Bastogne.

But unfavourable weather conditions, the state of the roads, and harassing fire from German units, made the going rough for General Patton's troops. The men were exhausted and "frozen to the marrow".

Finally, the sky cleared and enabled Allied air operations to resume as well as the re-supply by air-drops of those besieged in Bastogne, and also facilitated the advance of Patton's troops.

In the afternoon of 26 December, on orders from Patton, tanks of the 37th Tank Battalion under the command of Lieutenant Charles Boggess, pushed-on towards Assenois and succeeded in breaking the German cordon around Bastogne, linking-up with the 326th Engineer Combat Battalion of the 101st Airborne. A column of ambulances immediately exploited the "Assenois corridor" to Bastogne then returned with the wounded to evacuate them to field-hospitals.

In the following days, the American troops made every effort to maintain and broaden the "corridor" despite numerous German attempts to close the breach.



Belgian army pillbox, part of the defensive constructions of 1935 to guarantee the neutrality of Belgium. It bears a plaque commemorating the link-up of the troops of the 4th Armored Division with the besieged paratroopers of the 101 Airborne Division, as well as a plaque dedicated to Lieutenant Charles Boggess.

SENONCHAMPS

On the first day of the Battle of the Ardennes, the Americans deployed three battalions of field artillery around the outskirts of the village. On 21 December, the American units were attacked but, with the aid of reinforcements, repulsed the German assault. Over the course of the following days the American troops finally found themselves in the siege zone and abandoned their positions. Nonetheless, on 2 January '45, they would re-occupy the village.

HEMROULLE

On 22 December, following a heavy snowfall, Major John D. Hanlon, commanding the 1st Battalion of the 502nd Parachute Infantry Regiment, asked the villagers for white sheets to camouflage his men and vehicles.

After the war, in February 1948, the Major returned to the village to officially present replacement sheets to the population from the people of his hometown, Winchester. In the course of a remembrance ceremony, he was made an honorary citizen by the local authorities.

The village of Hemroulle was never occupied by German troops.

MONUMENT

- Plaque dedicated to the 463rd Parachute Field Artillery Battalion of the 101st Airborne Division and to the inhabitants of Hemroulle.

CHAMPS

Defended by the 502nd Parachute Infantry Regiment of the 101st Airborne, on Christmas night the village was attacked by 15. Panzergrenadier whose objective was to capture Bastogne. The German armoured vehicles were destroyed and hand-to-hand fighting continued in the village.

After the fighting, the inhabitants discovered a message written in chalk on the blackboard of the local village school by a German officer :

"May the world never again experience another Christmas night like this! To die in combat far from one's children, one's wife and one's mother, there is no greater cruelty.

To take a son from his mother, a husband from his wife, a father from his children – is this worthy of a human being ?

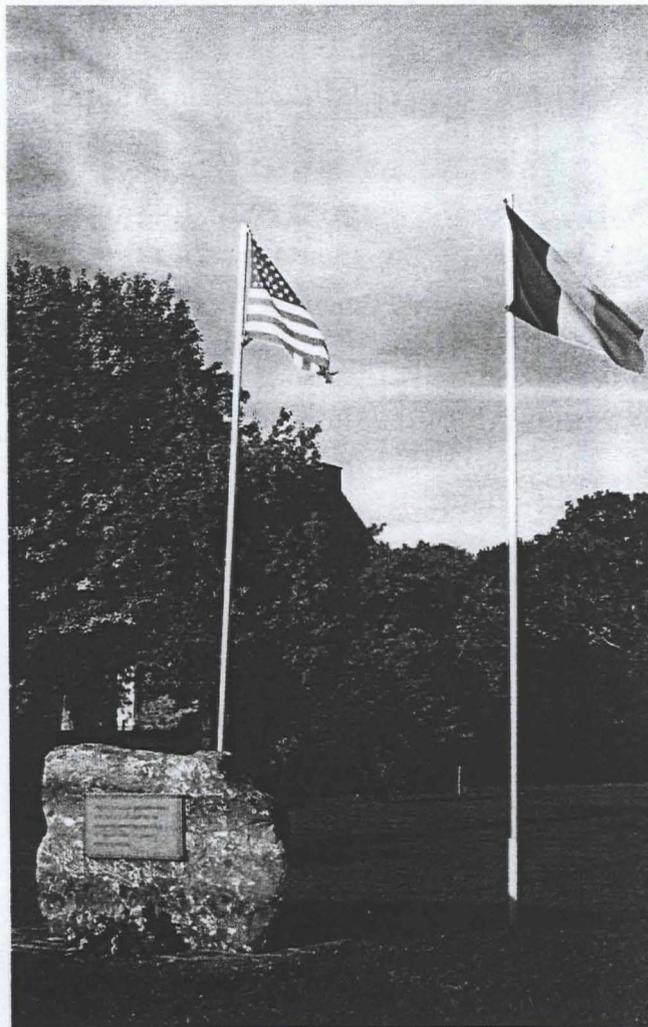
Life can only be given and accepted so that we can love and respect each other.

It is from ruins, blood and death that universal brotherhood will undoubtedly be born."

LONGCHAMPS

In the 101st Airborne Division's defence plan for the town, this village would be turned over to the 502nd Parachute Infantry Regiment and the zone was expected to remain very calm for a long time. However, on 3 January '45 and for several days, the American paratroopers would have to face the tanks of 9. Panzer, attempting to break through the American lines. But despite heavy losses, the GIs would resist fiercely.

On 12 January '45, the American paratroopers who had nicknamed the area "Misery Wood" were relieved by an armoured unit.



Stone dedicated to the 502nd Parachute Infantry Regiment of the 101st Airborne Division. (Towards Compogne)

BASTOGNE (Place Mercy)

George S. Patton, Jr., born in California in 1885 and educated at West Point Military Academy, had already won renown as the commander of an armoured unit in France in 1918. In November 1942, he disembarked in North Africa as a Lieutenant-General. Later he landed in Sicily as General commanding the US 7th Army. In August 1944, heading the US 3rd Army, Patton landed in Normandy and undertook his lightning drive across France to the Moselle, from where he wished to launch a major attack against the Siegfried Line and its German defenders.

But on 19 December, following orders from the American High Command, he turned his units through 90 degrees, attacked northwards, broke the siege of Bastogne, and continued towards Houffalize where he linked-up with units of the 1st US Army commanded by General Courtney Hodges. After the Battle of the Ardennes, Patton, at the head of the 3rd Army, undertook a long and victorious march through Germany, finally stopping under orders in the vicinity of Prague. Appointed Military Governor of Bavaria, he was nevertheless relieved of his duties.

He died on 21 December '45 following a car accident, and in accordance with his wishes, he was buried among his men in the American military cemetery of Hamm in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.



Memorial dedicated to General George S. Patton and unveiled in 1963 in the presence of his grandson. (Place Mercy)

OTHER MONUMENT

- Plaque dedicated to the 11th Battalion of Belgian Fusiliers attached to Patton's 3rd Army (On the right side of the Patton Memorial).

Lane 2 has been established according to the historical route signposted by the Authorities of the Town of Bastogne.