



BATTLE OF THE BULGE TOUR



Jean-Pierre (JP) PAVIOT

DDMT USA



Battle of the Bulge Association 75th Anniversary Tour 2019

December 10-19, 2019

Paris, Ardennes, Frankfurt



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 75th 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 **Radisson Blu Hotel**. You know this hotel very well because you stayed there for the 70th anniversary tour. They just finished their full renovation and look forward to welcoming us. After visiting Luxembourg, we will end our trip in Frankfurt, Germany.

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 Franco-American 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.)

Our Experts:

Lead Historian: Todd Anton (M.A. Military History)



Mr. Anton is the author of four books on WWII and was a media consultant for ESPN, Yahoo! Sports, and an episode of Fox News' *War Stories with Oliver North*. He has also advised on WWII films including *And Now, Love* and *The Girl Who Wore Freedom*. Anton served on the Board of Trustees for the National World War II Museum in New Orleans for four years after being appointed to that position by the museum's founders, Dr. Stephen Ambrose and Dr. Nick Mueller. He has been a featured speaker for the National WWII Museum at events such as one honoring members of Congress who served in WWII in Washington, D.C. and the premiere of Stephen Spielberg's movie *The Burma Bridge Busters* at Fox Studios in Los Angeles. Anton has his Master of Arts

in World War II Studies and has taught American history for nearly 30 years. Over his career Anton has interviewed nearly 5,000 veterans of WWII from both the American and German perspective. His current project is a book on his time as a captive of the East German Communist regime in 1987.

Anton has a special connection to the Battle of the Bulge. His father, Lt. Wallace P. Anton, served in the 70th Infantry Division during the Ardennes/Alsace campaign. Lt. Anton earned the Bronze Star in WWII and was awarded four Purple Hearts in WWII and Korea. Anton also served as the historian for the 70th Infantry Division Association for four years.

Anton is very proud to be part of the DDMT Team.



Joël Lamberty



Your guide on the Bulge Battlefields

The Ardennes, my region, is a haven of peace and nature, a landscape of forests and cultivated fields, dotted with small villages. Ideal touristic destination, however... Born in 1975, I live in Bastogne, and come from the Vielsalm / Saint-Vith region where my parents lived the Battle of the Bulge, aged 10 and 6 years, and still have vivid souvenirs from that time. I grew up in a region still full of remains and scars of the battle, with every person having lived that period sharing histories about it.

I am passionate about the study of the local history of the second world war. For more than 30 years, I have gone through the historic sites of the Battle of the Bulge by car or hike, visiting museums and exhibitions, attending commemorations, conferences and seminars on the subject, meeting veterans... Since 2016 I am a battlefield guide for the Battle of the Bulge. I have a deep knowledge about the Battle of the Bulge, Allied and German equipment and vehicles, but also about the world 20th century history as well as of the Ardennes physical and human geography. With a group of fellows local battlefields guides and historians, we are continuously improving our knowledge, exploring new places and sharing documents. My particular domains of expertise are Bastogne, the Houffalize/Vielsalm/Saint-Vith area, the Kampfgruppe Peiper and 82nd airborne history. I am an official guide for the city of Bastogne tourism office, a guide for the visit of the WHI Bastogne Barracks "Nuts cave" site and I am registered as "Guide local Bataille des Ardennes" by the Commissariat Général du Tourisme de la Région Wallonne de Belgique, brevet GL336. But above all it is the duty of memory that prevails. The sufferings and sacrifices endured by our liberators in a merciless struggle against a criminal ideology are at the origin of our present freedom. Vigilance is necessary against totalitarian ideologies to preserve our democratic gains.





OUR TEAM



JP, CEO Tour Director



Todd Historian, Author



Joel, Guide Belgium



Marie, Coordinator



Olivier, ETO Manager



Chris, Reenactor director



Robert, Historian reenactor

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.

SPA

Hotel Radisson Blu Palace (700m, directly linked to the Thermes of Spa via its private funicular)



Nestled in the heart of Spa, it boasts 120 renovated bedrooms and luxury suites. Linked directly to Les Thermes by a private funicular, it provides very convenient access to the facilities.

Located in the town itself, it is in the immediate vicinity of Europe's oldest casino and of SPA's tourist sites and centres of cultural interest.

Free high speed Internet access is available in the hotel, bar, restaurant, meeting rooms and its 120 bedrooms and luxury suites. The bar brasserie "Les saisons de Spa" offers regional and international brasserie specialities and features a heated terrace

Groups or receptions are hosted in the seminar and meeting rooms with an area of more than 300 m2.

8 seminar rooms covering an area of 305m²

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.

Every accommodation unit is equipped with a safe, tea and coffee making equipment, a writing table, ironing facilities and a DVD player. Some rooms have views of the valley. The venue combines elegant decor and quiet rooms.

The hotel's restaurant serves delicious French cuisine. There are an English bar and a garden restaurant on site. Sushi Shop and Le Fin Gourmand offer an assortment of dishes within 250 meters of the property.

FRANKFURT

Frankfurt Airport



A space to recharge before 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.

TRANSPORTATION

A REFERENCE FLEET

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! SPECIAL EQUIPEMENT Ensuring Access for People with Disabilities.



DDMT Battle of the Bulge Association

Tour 10 Days

10 -19 December 2019

ITINERARY

Paris – Reims – Spa – Luxembourg - Frankfurt



BATTLE OF THE BULGE ASSOCIATION

December 16th 1944-2019

Ardenes Counteroffensive



12/10/2019 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)

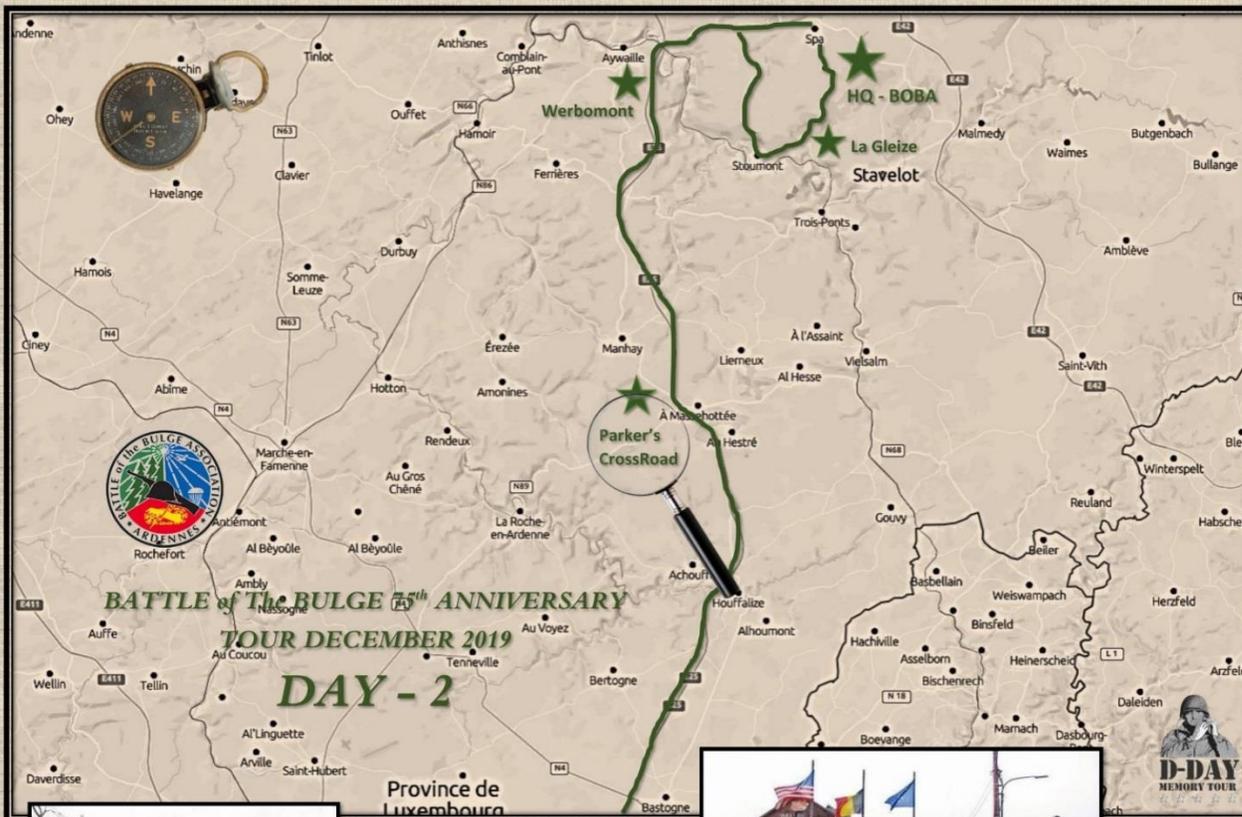


75th Anniversary

BATTLE OF THE BULGE TOUR 2019
75th ANNIVERSARY

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 (L,D)



Map

Day 2

The Battle of Stoumont

La Gleize is located in the heart of the northern part of the Belgian Ardennes. The December 44 Museum is housed in an historic building in the center of the village. It is dedicated entirely to the Battle of the Bulge, also known as the Ardennes Offensive.

When one thinks about the Battle of the Bulge, it is inevitably about the heroism of the American troops while surrounded at Bastogne. But from the German's point of view, the big push and main effort had to be concentrated in the northern Ardennes forests. Bastogne was only a secondary matter that was to be bypassed without delay, like other resisting forces.

The spearhead of the offensive thus rested on 1.SS Panzer Division Leibstandarte Adolf Hitler in which the legendary commander, Obersturmbannführer Jochen Peiper commanded a regiment. Literally "bodyguard division of Adolf Hitler", abbreviated LSSAH or LAH it was one of the elite Waffen-SS units. It held the dual role of protection unit of the Führer and a combat unit. Members of the LSSAH are ingloriously known to have participated in numerous atrocities and war crimes. In particular, its name is associated with the Baugnez-Malmédy massacre.

SUITABLE FOR BICYCLES, NOT FOR PANZERS!

To oppose Peiper's spearhead, the Allies sent several of their elite divisions, first the tanks of the 3rd Armored Division to support of the infantrymen of the 30th Division and later the paratroops of the famous 82nd Airborne Division.

Surrounded by American forces at La Gleize, 800 survivors of the 1st Panzer SS lead by Peiper fled on Christmas Eve, leaving behind 135 armored vehicles including the 69 tons King Tiger which still stands in front of the museum. It is this failure that is considered today as the principal cause of Germany's defeat in the Battle of the Ardennes. It is often said that if the Americans won the Battle of the Bulge at Bastogne, the Germans lost it at La Gleize.



Day Three - St. Vith - Kamfgruppe 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,L,D)



Map
Day 3
Logo: A shield with a blue and white design and the text 'SUDAX ET GAUTUIS' below it.

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.



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



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 were 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.



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 planed that day. Spa night #4 (B,LD)



Map

Day 5

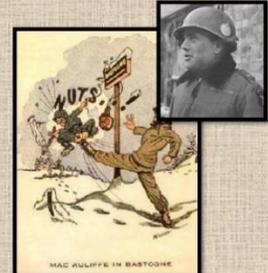
Battle of BASTOGNE

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 Chiwy, 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.



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,L,D)



BATTLE of The BULGE 75th ANNIVERSARY TOUR DECEMBER 2019 DAY - 6

60 mn

1

BATTLE of The BULGE 75th ANNIVERSARY TOUR DECEMBER 2019 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.



12/16/2019 Monday

Day Seven - Luxembourg City

We will spend the day visiting and participating in the many activities commemorating the 75th anniversary of the battle. Our day ends at the cemeteries of American and German forces. Hotel night #8 (B)



12/17/2019 Tuesday

Day Eight - Luxembourg

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



Day Nine - Siegfried Line to Frankfurt

We will tour the German fortifications of the Siegfried Line at (we need to see about some of the famous Dragoons teeth that survives) as we drive on to Germany for a typical German lunch and dinner in old town Frankfurt... discussion results of the Battle of the Bulge and the legacy of America's greatest battle/campaign. Thank you, "Good-Byes" and your DDMT "Discharge" gift. Hotel night #9(B,L,)



12/19/2019 Thursday

Day Ten Depart Frankfurt Airport for home (B)

75th Anniversary

ARRIVAL PARIS CDG DECEMBER 10th, 2019

DEPARTURE DECEMBER 19th, 2019

PARIS

REIMS

LUXEMBOURG

LUXEMBOURG

FRANKFURT AM MAIN

BATTLE OF THE BULGE TOUR 2019

75th ANNIVERSARY

BATTLE OF THE BULGE ASSOCIATION ARDENNES

D-DAY MEMORY TOUR 1944