

# Counteroffensive, Counterattack, and Final Offensive

KEY: † Military Cemetery



## German Military Cemetery

Located approximately one mile from the Luxembourg American Cemetery, the German cemetery in Sandweiler was established by the US Army Graves Registration Service.



Photo: The National Archives



Photo: The National Archives

82nd Airborne Division soldiers advance in "Battle of the Bulge"

## American Battle Monuments Commission

This agency of the United States government operates and maintains 26 American cemeteries and 31 memorials, monuments and markers in 17 countries. The Commission works to fulfill the vision of its first chairman, General of the Armies John J. Pershing. Pershing, commander of the American Expeditionary Forces during World War I, promised that "time will not dim the glory of their deeds."

## Luxembourg American Cemetery and Memorial

The U.S. 5th Armored Division liberated the site on September 10, 1944. A temporary military burial ground was established on December 29, 1944. Free use as a permanent burial ground was granted by the Grand Ducal government in perpetuity without charge or taxation.

The cemetery offers free guided tours on request pending staff availability.



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USA

Luxembourg American Cemetery  
50, Val du Scheid  
L-2517 Luxembourg  
TEL +352 43.17.27  
GPS N49 36.771 E6 11.157

For more information on this site and other ABMC commemorative sites, please visit [www.abmc.gov](http://www.abmc.gov)

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ENGLISH

AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION

## Luxembourg American Cemetery and Memorial



"Time will not dim the glory of their deeds."

- General of the Armies John J. Pershing

# ★ ★ ★ COUNTEROFFENSIVE, COUNTERATTACK, AND FINAL OFFENSIVE

Germany launched its last major counteroffensive on December 16, 1944. The attack through the Ardennes had Antwerp as its objective. The assault pierced American lines on a 45-mile front. American soldiers' heroic efforts contained the shoulders of the salient.

**DECEMBER 16-18:** Strong resistance by small U.S. units enabled reinforcements to move into the critical Bastogne sector.

**DECEMBER 18-23:** At St. Vith, a five-day defense blocked enemy use of its vital road junctions.

**DECEMBER 22:** In surrounded Bastogne, Brig. Gen. Anthony McAuliffe rejected German demands for surrender, famously responding "Nuts!" Third U.S. Army redirected its forces northward, counterattacking the southern German flank.

**DECEMBER 23:** Improved weather enabled U.S. Eighth and Ninth Air Forces to join the battle, dropping supplies into Bastogne and interdicting German reinforcements.

**DECEMBER 24:** The German offensive's farthest advance reached Dinant's outskirts.

**DECEMBER 26:** Elements of Third Army's 4th Armored Division broke through to Bastogne.

**JANUARY 3, 1945:** First U.S. Army, reinforced by British XXX Corps, counterattacked the northern flank.

**JANUARY 13:** First and Third Armies linked up at Houffalize.

**JANUARY 25:** The "Bulge" was erased.

**JANUARY 26-MARCH 22:** First and Third Armies' offensives crossed into Germany. In February, Third Army drove the enemy from Luxembourg and breached the Siegfried Line. After capturing Trier, it crossed the Kyll River and reached the Rhine.

**MARCH 21:** Third Army had cleared the west bank of the Rhine in its sector. Its surprise assault on March 22 crossed the Rhine at Oppenheim, a prelude to the final offensive and V-E Day.

## General Patton's Grave

The grave of General George S. Patton, Jr., commander of Third U.S. Army, lies between the two flagpoles in front of the Memorial and overlooking the graves area.



## The Mosaic in the Chapel Ceiling

The Chapel is inside the Memorial. The Chapel ceiling displays a colorful mosaic depicting the Holy Spirit as a dove on a cloud held by four angels.



## Tablets of the Missing

Two memorial pylons display the names of 371 Missing in Action. The remains of these soldiers and airmen were never recovered, or rest in unknown graves.



## Visitor Building

Here you can meet our staff, get your questions answered, and sign the guest register.



## The Maps

One of two maps portrays the Ardennes and Rhineland campaigns, including "Battle of the Bulge," fighting to clear the west bank of the Rhine, and crossing the Rhine at Oppenheim.



## The Graves Area

The graves area contains the remains of 5,076 American military dead, including one female army nurse, who lost their lives in the service of their country.

## Useful Information

**DIMENSIONS:** 50.5 acres  
**HEADSTONES:** 5,076

**LATIN CROSSES:** 4,958  
**STARS OF DAVID:** 119  
**TABLETS OF THE MISSING:** 371

**SETS OF BROTHERS:** 22  
**DEDICATED:** July 4, 1960

## PLOT:

## ROW:

## GRAVE:

## The Entrance



Each of the tall wrought iron sections of the entrance gate bears gilded laurel wreaths, the ancient award for valor. Gilded eagles surmount the stone pillars.

## The Fountains



Each radial mall contains two fountains overlooking three jet pools on descending levels. Bronze dolphins and turtles decorate the pools symbolizing, respectively, Resurrection and Everlasting Life.

## Headstone Location



## Layout

A path leads from the entrance gate to the Visitor Building, thence to the memorial containing the chapel. Here a terrace of paved stone overlooks the graves area.