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.

American Battle Monuments Commission

This agency of the United States government operates and maintains 26 American cemeteries and 29 memorials, monuments and markers in 16 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.”
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.