



BATTLE OF THE BULGE

75th ANNIVERSARY



A year of remembrance...

A COLLABORATION BETWEEN



EDITORIAL

To simply pay tribute to the tens of thousands of American soldiers who sacrificed their lives to defend democracy and freedom of expression 75 years after the Battle of the Bulge would be an insult to their memory. They deserve much more than just a 'thank you'.

Their sacrifice meant that Europe has been able to live in peace for three quarters of a century (except for the so-called civil wars which ravaged the former Yugoslavia). Today, however, war has multiple faces; it can advance surreptitiously and feed on fears and social or ethnic tensions.

To honour these heroes is to try to adequately respond to the current threats to our democracies. Even in our region, freedom is not a given.

It is a battle of hearts and minds that we must win every day; a battle of persuasion fought by individual citizens in the context of social exchanges, in schools and at home. It is a battle to ensure that the fundamental values of freedom, mutual respect and the fight against xenophobia and hatred are instilled deeply within us.

Our gratitude to the young Americans who fell on the soil of the Ardennes is eternal. To them we owe our freedom. And to honour them we take action, today and tomorrow, to ensure that every citizen remembers and perpetuates the memory of their sacrifice for our freedom.

Discover our initiatives to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge and the liberation of our territory in this events programme. These events will express our gratitude, our duty to remember and our strong desire to defend freedom and good citizenship everywhere in the world.

Benoît LUTGEN
Mayor of Bastogne

'For a man without memory is a man without life, a people without memory is a people without future...'

From 15th April 2019 until 5th January 2020

ART LIBERTY. FROM THE BERLIN WALL TO STREET ART

OPEN-AIR EXHIBITION

Art Liberty. 'From the Berlin Wall to Street Art' is a unique exhibition in every respect. Displayed around the Mardasson Memorial, near the Bastogne War Museum, it pays tribute to Street Art's forerunners who each used one of Berlin Wall's original sections to create their pictures. These artists each demonstrate, in their own way, that the sacrifice of the men who fell in the snow during the terrible winter months between 1944-1945 was not in vain. By using a symbol of oppression to express their creative freedom, they are illustrating their faith in the values that underpin our civilisation.

A common theme connects the Ardennes and Berlin: the fight for freedom!



Contents

Designed by the art collector and curator Sylvestre Verger and executed by Tempora (Bastogne War Museum's managing company) the exhibition includes:

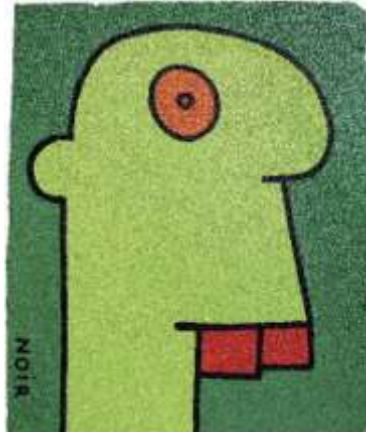
- thirty works on sections of the Berlin Wall from Berlin's no man's land
- a large fragment of the 3-metre high Wall from its west side, on which Street Artists Jef Aérosol and Jimmy C painted the portraits of three pop stars with links to Berlin: David Bowie, Iggy Pop and Lou Reed
- three Trabants painted by three of the Wall's original artists: Thierry Noir, Christophe-Emmanuel Bouchet and Kiddy Citny
- thirty or so films related to the creation of each work in the *Art Liberty* collection, with interviews with the artists
- The film, *Éphémère* (Ephemeral), created from Heinz J. Kuzdas' photographic archives of the Berlin Wall. Kuzdas took photographs of the art on the Berlin Wall every day for 15 years (vital memorial of the Berlin Wall). This film chronicles the Wall's paintings (created in 1982 by both known and unknown artists) before the Wall fell in 1989. The Wall's main original artists comment on it
- an educational film about the history of the Berlin Wall
- a large fresco by the Brazilian artist L7M made on wooden panels for the Art Liberté wall in Paris in 2015, as well as about fifteen photos by Heinz J. Kuzdas on the Wall's original paintings
- in Bastogne's Town Hall, three large paintings by the Berlin Wall artist Christophe-Emmanuel Bouchet, dedicated to the Statue of Liberty and referencing those created in 1986 with his friend Thierry Noir at the Checkpoint Charlie crossing point for the 100th anniversary of the Statue of Liberty's inauguration in New York
- for each work, French urban poet, Jean-Pierre Lemesle created poetic post-it
- a catalogue, the first in the world to present the works of the exhibition, accompanied by QR codes allowing readers to discover the works with comments by their artists.

In order to mark the occasion of Art Liberty in Bastogne, this year, the City decided to acquire a large segment of the Berlin Wall which marks the thirtieth anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. This segment will be painted by Thierry Noir, iconic Berlin Wall artist of the 80s, and by a Belgian Street Artist.

Contributions by some of the *Art Liberty* collection artists are planned throughout the exhibition from January to March 2019 (painted walls in the city, conferences...)

> Free admission.

INFORMATION | BASTOGNE WAR MUSEUM - +32(0)61210220
info@bastognewarmuseum.be





MAY 2019

Wednesday 8th May

COMMEMORATION OF VICTORY

COMMEMORATION

The Second World War officially ended in Europe on 8th May 1945 at 23:01 (German time), the day after Nazi Germany's unconditional surrender was signed on 7th May in Reims, France.

It left a record unparalleled in history with more than fifty million dead - most of which were civilian (total losses included roughly 400,000 American, 400,000 British, 600,000 French, eight million German and between ten to twenty million Soviet...).

Every year a religious service followed by a laying of wreaths at the war memorial is organised in the presence of veterans.

> Free admission.

INFORMATION | MUNICIPALITY OF BASTOGNE - +32(0)61240930
manifestations@bastogne.be

Friday 10th May

COMMEMORATION OF CORPORAL CADY

COMMEMORATION

As war became increasingly inevitable, Émile CADY, like many other young men who had been well-trained militarily, was recalled to service. He joined the 5th Company of the 2nd Chasseurs Ardennais where he was assigned to defend the concrete shelter on the road to Clervaux.

On 10th May 1940, fighting was raging at the gates of Bastogne. The pressure exerted by the invader was such that, after fierce resistance, the order to stop fighting was given and those who were defending the city retreated.

'After seeing his mission, i.e. the protection of the shelter, through to the very end, Corporal CADY, while evacuating his shelter, himself became the target of converging enemy fire and fell mortally wounded. His comrade, Louis BOUILLON, who was already retreating with a machine gun on his shoulder, took the wounded corporal on his back under enemy fire and hastily carried him to a railway signal block. Surrounded by Germans, BOUILLON had to leave his corporal, who was already in the last moments of life, and managed to reach friendly lines still carrying the machine gun.'

The inauguration of the monument dedicated to Corporal CADY took place on Sunday, 4th September 1949 in the presence of military, civil and religious authorities as well as his father and sister, surrounded by countless men from his division (the 'Chasseurs'). His companion, Private BOUILLON, was given the honour of unveiling Corporal CADY's monument. After the laying a large number of wreaths, only one speech was read, that of the lieutenant-general MERCKX, former commander of the 2th Chasseurs Ardennais.

Every year, on 10th May, wreaths are laid at CADY's monument. This is then followed by a religious service. The corporal's descendants are always there to honour the memory of their forefather.

> Free admission.

**INFORMATION | MUNICIPALITY OF BASTOGNE - +32(0)61240930
manifestations@bastogne.be**

From Friday 24th until Sunday 26th May

MAKE LOVE, NOT WAR

CARICATURE FESTIVAL - EXHIBITION AND DEMONSTRATION

The caricature festival will bring together comic book writers, press and cartoonists from around the world. Exhibitions will be held at the 'Centre Culturel', the Bastogne War Museum and also at the Town Hall. The caricaturists will meet the people who live in 'Residence Sans Souci' (Wednesday 22nd May) and students from different schools in Bastogne (Thursday 23rd and Friday 24th May).

The inauguration of the festival will take place at the 'Centre Culturel' on Friday 24th May and will be complemented by a conference on the freedom of the press. It will also be an opportunity to recognise the cartoon competition's 100 best drawings which will be launched on the Internet as part of the Festival. These drawings will be published in a book.

> Free admission.

**INFORMATION | MUNICIPALITY OF BASTOGNE
+32(0)61240930 - manifestations@bastogne.be**



JUNE 2019

Saturday 1st June

MEMORIAL DAY

COMMEMORATION

Celebrated in memory of the American victims, Memorial Day is an ecumenical service held at Mardasson in the presence of the Belgian and American authorities.

Memorial Day began in the United States shortly after the American Civil War to honour the victims of those who fell on both sides (North and South) during the Civil War. The event has now become an opportunity to commemorate the lives lost in all conflicts in which the United States has participated. It's an official public holiday in America and is celebrated on the last Monday of May. Every year, the American president goes to Arlington Cemetery in the suburbs of Washington DC and parades are held across the country. Memorial Day marks the beginning of the summer season in the United States.

Back in Belgium, in 1946 the Belgian-American Association (ABA) wanted to pay tribute to the victims of the war in the existing American cemeteries in Belgium on an annual basis. That is why, since 1946, wreaths have been laid at the Foy American military cemetery.

The first Memorial Day ceremony in Bastogne took place in 1951 in the crypt of the Mardasson in the presence of the Prince Royal at the time, King Baudouin. This patriotic event (ecumenical office and laying of wreaths) is an expression of participants' desire to honour the memory of all those who have suffered so that we can live in freedom. The ceremony is made all the more special by the presence of the US Ambassador to Belgium and that of numerous other dignitaries.

> Free admission.

INFORMATION | MUNICIPALITY OF BASTOGNE - +32(0)61240930
manifestations@bastogne.be





Saturday 1st June

25th ANNIVERSARY OF THE 'BOIS DE LA PAIX'

CEREMONY

Located in the village of Bizory, the Bois de la Paix (Peace Wood) was inaugurated on 11th June 1994 (the year which marked the 50th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge) in the presence of high-ranking dignitaries and the children of Bastogne's schools. Of the 4,000 trees that make up this wood, 400 of them bear the name of American veterans who fought in Bastogne during the winter of 1944-1945. Seen from above, the Bois de la Paix is in the shape of UNICEF's symbol, the mother and child.

In 1999, the Bastogne petitioned the other member cities of 'The International Association of Peace Messenger Cities' to become sentinels of peace. Represented by a board surrounded by three trees on the path that encircles the Bois de la Paix, each sentinel features the messenger city's story and explains its choice of the tree.

Twenty cities responded positively to the project: Kalavrita (Greece), Bastogne (Belgium), Lublin (Poland), Boves (Italy), Cassino (Italy), Como (Italy), Cuneo (Italy), Guernica (Spain), Kiev (Ukraine), Kragujevac (Serbia), Oswiecim (Poland), Warsaw (Poland), Volgograd (Russia), Wiltz (Luxembourg), Avranches (France), Krusevac (Serbia), Périers (France), Saint-Lo (France), Sainte-Mère-Église (France) and Tourlaville (France). In 2002, two sentinels were added to the first 20 that were planted in the spring of 1999: East and West Jerusalem.

To commemorate the 25th anniversary of this memorial site's official inauguration, the ceremony organised on 1st will include various tributes and the addition of new sentinel cities.

> Free admission.

**INFORMATION | MUNICIPALITY OF BASTOGNE - +32(0)61240930
manifestations@bastogne.be**

Saturday 1st June

ROAD TO FREEDOM

CEREMONY

On 6th June 1944, the allies landed in Normandy and liberated France. They arrived in Bastogne on 10th September 1944. Colonel Guy de la Vasselais, former head of the French military mission under the XXth Corps of the 3rd US Army, carried out his plan to mark the route that General Patton's troops took with stone markers placed at every kilometre. These became the stone markers of 'Liberty Road' (La Voie de la Liberté).

From Sainte-Mère-Église (marker 00) to Bastogne (marker 1147, inaugurated on 5th July 1947), these markers feature a flame coming out of the waves, symbol of liberty and the arrival by the sea of liberating troops and their journey through France, Luxembourg and Belgium. They are also a nod to the famous Statue of Liberty in New York Harbour.

Since 1986, a cycling route, introduced by Pierre GUILLARD (Périers), follows Liberty Road in order to perpetuate the memory of these soldiers who sacrificed their lives for freedom. Every time, hundreds of amateur cyclists from many different countries are brought together to travel the route taken by PATTON's third army.

It consists of three consecutive days (ten days before 1998) of friendship and respect between the different participating nations.

In 1999, the principle of an alternating the organisation between France and Belgium was established - even years in Périers and odd years in Bastogne.

This year, three cities will host the 250 cyclists: Arlon, Houffalize and Hotton, on 31st May, 1st and 2nd June. They will participate in the patriotic Memorial Day ceremony in Bastogne.

> Free admission.

INFORMATION | MUNICIPALITY OF BASTOGNE - +32(0)61240930
manifestations@bastogne.be



JULY 2019

Saturday 13th July

HOMAGE TO THE FRENCH SOLDIERS

COMMEMORATION

Bastogne was not the martyr city of the First World War that it might have been during the Second World War. But, because of its strategic geographical position, it was a city the Germans needed to annex as soon as possible. As early as 8th August 1914, German soldiers were approaching Bastogne and, on the following day, they entered the town. Bastogne would remain occupied throughout the war. At the end of the war, the Germans fled in disorder. In Bastogne, the German soldiers



made a huge pile with their weapons and set it on fire. An 'Arc de Triomphe' was erected in honour of the French troops.

The graves of 23 French soldiers can be found at Bastogne cemetery. These soldiers died, either in August 1914 between Neffe and Bizory, or after the Armistice of 11th November 1918 which chasing the remaining Germans out of the region.

Every year, on the eve of French National Day, the town of Bastogne pays homage to heroes who fell for their homeland. Wreaths are laid at the cemetery.

> Free admission.

INFORMATION | MUNICIPALITY OF BASTOGNE - +32(0)61240930
manifestations@bastogne.be

From Wednesday 17th until 18th July

AUSCHWITZ AND BIRKENAU

TRIP

In collaboration with the non-profit organisation 'Territoire de la mémoire', the City of Bastogne is offering a three-day (two-night) trip (by plane) to Auschwitz and Birkenau. A guided tour of the Auschwitz and Birkenau camps as well as the Krakow Jewish Quarter is included in the tour. A visit to the Schindler Museum 'Krakow under Nazi occupation' is also included.

> €480 (full board, transport and visits included).



INFORMATION | MUNICIPALITY OF BASTOGNE - +32(0)61240930
manifestations@bastogne.be

SEPTEMBER 2019

Tuesday 10th September

FIRST LIBERATION OF BASTOGNE

COMMEMORATION

On 10th September 1944, German troops were driven out of Bastogne after long days of occupation. The city of Bastogne regained its freedom. Citizens waved Allied colours in the streets. This euphoria lasted a few weeks but, while the festivities reigned in Bastogne, Hitler was preparing a new offensive which took place on 16th December 1944.

This first liberation is still commemorated today on 10th September every year. The laying of wreaths is organised at particular monuments such as at Glessener, MNB,

Eagle of the 101st Airborne, Easy Company and the American Cemetery in Foy. A special difference this anniversary year is that schools will be involved in the ceremony.



> Free admission.

INFORMATION | MUNICIPALITY OF BASTOGNE - +32 (0)61240930
manifestations@bastogne.be

NOVEMBER 2019

Saturday 9th November

30th ANNIVERSARY OF THE FALL OF THE BERLIN WALL

Monday 11th November

MILITARY RUN

SPORTING EVENT

For the second consecutive year, the Military Run will establish its headquarters in Bastogne, emblematic location of the Battle of the Bulge.

The Military Run is a real XXL assault course full of military obstacles. In total, about twenty obstacles, including the famous tyre wall, monkey bars and palisades, will be spread over the two timed courses of about 7 and 14 kilometres (4.34 and 8.7 miles respectively). Participants will climb, crawl, jump, slide and, of course, run.



The race will start at the 'Sans Souci' football pitch where changing rooms and showers will be made available to the participants. Both courses will take place mainly in the surrounding forests with some paved routes.

Although the focus will be running, the Military Run is, above all, a friendly event where good humour and help are its essential features. This is why the event is accessible to all people from 12 years old and up. All participants will leave with an exclusive 'Military Run' T-shirt and a special 6th edition Military Plate.

> €35.

INFORMATION | MILITARY RUN www.militaryrun.be

From Friday 29th November

BASTOGNE DURING THE WAR AND TODAY

OPEN-AIR EXHIBITION

Discover Bastogne in wartime and today through photographs.

> Free admission.



**INFORMATION | MUNICIPALITY OF BASTOGNE - +32(0)61240930
manifestations@bastogne.be**

DECEMBER 2019

From Friday 13th until Sunday 15th December

NUTS WEEKEND

COMMEMORATION OF THE SIEGE OF BASTOGNE (Saturday 14th)

Organised by the Town of Bastogne, the commemoration is a patriotic procession that brings together veterans, brotherhoods, dignitaries, students, Belgian and American military platoons and veterans and includes the laying of two wreaths (at the PATTON and McAULIFFE monuments). The 'Jet de Noix' (throwing of the nuts) from the balcony of the Town Hall brings the commemoration to a close.

This Bastogne tradition has two origins.

The first goes back more than 150 years when each farm had servants, cowherds, shepherds, etc. These people were contracted verbally for a year. These verbal contracts had the same weight as the written and registered contracts we use today. Servants were, however, fired for minor errors. Labour was abundant at the time. The person, although fired, nonetheless completed his/her year. Eight days before the end of the year, they collected their wages and left with her bindles on their shoulders. They then arrived at the Bastogne fair in this gear. This last fair of the year therefore became a fair at which servants and domestic workers were hired. It was here that the farmers gathered to hire their staff for the next year. When they were re-hired (and so had their wages guaranteed for the next year) they tied a red handkerchief with white dots around their necks over a large blue smock. It was a sign that they had been hired. Given that the next year was sorted financially, workhands took advantage of the opportunity to enjoy themselves. The young men bought the girls cone-shaped sugar loaves (the only confectionery available at the time) and fruit or nuts. As these sugar loaves were very expensive, they preferred to offer fruit or nuts, which consisted mainly of walnuts at the time, to their promised.

The second, better known, although later origin, is linked to an important moment in history. In December 1944, General MCAULIFFE, Commander of the U.S. 101st Airborne Division, was defending the besieged town during the Battle of the Bulge. He famously replied '*Nuts*' to the Germans when petitioned by them to surrender on 22nd December 1944. Chance had it that General MCAULIFFE's exclamation of *Nuts* fell just at the time when, traditionally, Bastogne was celebrating the Walnut Fair before the war. After the war, folklore and military history came together in this celebration.

So, every year in December, during the commemorations of the siege of the town, the Mayor, accompanied by Belgian and foreign dignitaries, throw nuts to the public from the balcony of the Town Hall.

> Free admission.

INFORMATION | MUNICIPALITY OF BASTOGNE - +32(0)61240930
manifestations@bastogne.be





PERIMETER WALK (Saturday 14th)

Historical walk punctuated with static reconstructions set up by collectors. Three different walking distances starting from the Sports Centre

> €6.

**INFORMATION | MUNICIPALITY OF BASTOGNE - +32(0)61240930
manifestations@bastogne.be**

WAR BOOK FAIR

This book fair, organised by the Town of Bastogne in collaboration with Croisy bookshop, will take place in the glass-covered hall of INDSé 2nd and 3rd grades (Séminaire), and will offer a wide selection of books dealing with the 1940-45 war, plus a selection for kids. Signing sessions will also be organised.

> Free admission.



**INFORMATION | MUNICIPALITY OF BASTOGNE - +32(0)61240930
manifestations@bastogne.be**



SHOW AT THE MARDASSON

Spectacular sound and light show projected onto the Mardasson Monument. Organised by the Bastogne Memorial asbl (not-for-profit association). Five shows over the weekend.

> Free admission.

**INFORMATION | BASTOGNE MEMORIAL ASBL
(NOT-FOR-PROFIT) - +32(0)61550060**

WHI BASTOGNE BARRACKS

A place of great importance during the Battle of the Bulge, Bastogne Barracks, the site of the War Heritage Institute (WHI), brings you right back to December 1944. Lively exhibitions, a parade of vintage military vehicles, vehicle restorations... an unforgettable experience! A sound and light show will complete the weekend programme.

> Free admission.



**INFORMATION | WHI BASTOGNE BARRACKS ASBL (NOT-FOR-PROFIT)
+32(0)61242124 - bb.whi@skynet.be**

NUTS DAYS AT THE BASTOGNE WAR MUSEUM

Over the weekend, the museum will host a book sale/exchange for war books and historical documents as well as displaying static WWII reconstructions around the building. On Sunday, the public will be able to meet several veterans.

> Free admission.

INFORMATION | BASTOGNE WAR MUSEUM - +32(0)61210220

info@bastognewarmuseum.be



MILITARY VEHICLE PARADE (Sunday 15th)

Roughly a hundred military vehicles of the time and today will parade in the Grand'rue (main street). An event organised by the city in collaboration with the WHI. A static exhibition of these same vehicles will also be on display in the Quartier Latin.

> Free admission.

INFORMATION | MUNICIPALITY OF BASTOGNE - +32(0)61240930

manifestations@bastogne.be

PYROTECHNIC DISPLAY IN HARDIGNY

Throughout the weekend, the village of Hardigny will readopt the look of the 1940s with an historic, marked trail that will allow visitors to discover and experience the living conditions in the countryside as they were during the winter of 1944-45. A pyrotechnic display will be held on Sunday, 15th December. The village was chosen for its aesthetic appeal and historical value. The show consists of a 'lively' retrospective of this sad moment in history, namely the Battle of the Bulge, interpreted by actors: US and German military personnel as well as civilians. In order to better immerse the spectator, the extras will be in uniforms or even in vintage vehicles.



> Entry is not free.

INFORMATION | ARDENNES MEMORIES ASBL (NOT-FOR-PROFIT)

info@ardennesmemories.com



CHRISTMAS MARKET

There will be more than fifty stalls, a toboggan run, a carousel and Santa's house for children!

Throughout the weekend, the following entertainment will be offered to visitors:

- Friday: 1940s marching band and jazz battle
- Saturday: 1940s singer and 'guinguette' (café/bar)
- Sunday: projection of old photos, music of the 1940s and fireworks display.

> Free admission.

INFORMATION | BASTOGNE TOURIST OFFICE - +32(0)61212711

info@bastogne-tourisme.be

Sunday 22nd December

COMMEMORATION AT NOVILLE

CELEBRATION AND LAYING OF WREATHS

In December 1944, the fighting between German and American troops led by General DESOBRY was fierce. Unfortunately, American troops withdrew and the village found itself under German occupation again. On 21st December, the Gestapo searched the houses in the village and gathered twenty hostages. A German army officer read out some names. Those who heard their names were released. The others were taken behind a house and executed.



Father Louis DELVAUX, Roger BEAUJEAN, Felix and François DEPREZ, Auguste LUTGEN, Romain HENKINET, Joseph ROSIÈRE and Michel STRAENEN lost their lives on that day. On the Sunday of Nuts weekend, a religious service is held in their memory at the church of Noville.

Readings and prayers are read out and wreaths are laid at the 'Enclos des Fusillés' (monument to remember the eight people who were shot) and at the General DESOBRY monument.

> Free admission.

INFORMATION | MUNICIPALITY OF BASTOGNE - +32(0)61240930
manifestations@bastogne.be

2020 | SAVE THE DATE

LIBERATION ROAD

From Friday 17th until Monday 21st January

EXCURSION TO BREENDONK

February

MEMORIAL DAY | RECONCILIATION CEREMONY

Friday 29th May

EUROPEAN MEMORIAL FRIENDSHIP WALK (MARCHE EUROPÉENNE DU SOUVENIR ET DE L'AMITIÉ (MESA))

June

JOURNEY TO RAVENSBRÜCK (BERLIN)

From Thursday 3rd until Saturday 5th September

A COLLABORATION BETWEEN



EUROPE
REMEMBERS



Wallonie



WITH THE SUPPORT OF



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la Meuse

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GRENZECHO

