

SAVE THE MEMORIAL

The MARDASSON MEMORIAL in Bastogne
is an enduring testimony to the American lives
lost in the Battle of the Bulge
and is in urgent need of restoration.

Help us preserve it!



May this eagle always symbolize the sacrifices and heroism
of the 101st Airborne Division and all its attached units.
December 1944 - January 1945
The City and the Citizens of Bastogne

THE TORCH IS IN OUR HANDS

Bastogne, Belgium was at the epicenter of the Battle of the Bulge, the largest and bloodiest American engagement of World War II. Immediately after the war, private Belgian citizens raised money to construct the Memorial to their American liberators on the Mardasson Hill overlooking the City of Bastogne. It is the only memorial that commemorates all of the American forces that fought in the Battle of the Bulge, and the sheer size and scope of the Mardasson Memorial has impressed generations of visitors. Equally as impressive as the memorial itself is the fact that it was built and paid for by private Belgian citizens. Unfortunately, however, Bastogne's notorious winters over the last 70 years have taken their toll on the Memorial, and it is in urgent need of repair and restoration. Private funds built the Memorial and private funds are required to restore it. The Bastogne Memorial Fund is a transatlantic initiative to preserve the Memorial for future generations.





THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE

On 16 December 1944, Hitler unleashed a surprise attack through the Ardennes Forest of Belgium. The Americans held a vital crossroads on the southern flank of the attack known as Bastogne. By December 22, the Nazis had surrounded Bastogne and demanded its surrender, to which General Anthony McAuliffe replied "NUTS!" Outnumbered five to one, the Americans in Bastogne fought bitterly against impossible odds in the depths of winter weather until the siege was lifted. However, the Battle of the Bulge did not end there. Over 600,000 Americans were ultimately pulled into the conflagration that would rage until the end of January 1945. The Battle of the Bulge was Hitler's last desperate attempt to win the war, and crushing that attempt came at the price of nearly 90,000 American casualties.



HISTORY OF THE MEMORIAL

Private Belgian citizens donated the funds that made the Mardasson Memorial possible, and construction began in 1946. The Memorial was inaugurated on July 16, 1950 in the presence of General Anthony C. McAuliffe who commanded the 101st Airborne Division during the defense of Bastogne. Today, the Memorial serves not only as a witness to the sacrifices made during the Battle of the Bulge, but it also serves as the stage for important commemorations of the battle such as the annual Memorial Day ceremonies.





THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

Inspired by the leadership of United States Ambassador to the Kingdom of Belgium Ronald Gidwitz, the American Overseas Memorial Day Association Foundation (Belgium) has created the Bastogne Memorial Fund to restore the Mardasson Memorial. The most urgent need is to prepare the Memorial for the commemorations of the 75th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge in December 2019. Following these commemorations, the Bastogne Memorial Fund will tackle the longer-term structural problems that the Memorial faces. All funds that are not used for the renovation of the Mardasson Memorial will be devoted to the maintenance of the Memorial going into the future.

Donations to the Bastogne Memorial Fund may be made through:

- A US dollar check made payable to the Bastogne Memorial Fund, c/o Andrew H. Cox, Treasurer, 161 Thomas Dale, Williamsburg, VA 23185
- A bank transfer to the Bastogne Memorial Fund at the Andrews Federal Credit Union. The bank routing number is 255074111. The account number is 0820139583

The Bastogne Memorial Fund is an initiative of the American Overseas Memorial Day Association Foundation (Belgium), a 501(c)3 non-profit entity incorporated in the District of Columbia. Donations to the Bastogne Memorial Fund are deductible by US taxpayers for US tax purposes to the fullest extent under the law.

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