

14th AD
in Alsace - Vosges // Tourism Route

Day 1 Arrival in Europe.

Option 1 : Frankfurt, (Germany) **Airport**.

Option 2 : Paris **Airport** then TGV Train to Strasbourg.

The agency will welcome you at your arrival and provide a 50 seat coach to join your Alsatian Hotel.

Dinner and overnight.

Day 2 After your breakfast, the coach brings you to the center of **Strasbourg**.

Your visit will start with a panoramic tour by coach through the European Quarter (Council of Europe and European Parliament) or the Neustadt quarter, UNESCO heritage, German quarter, the University, the Place de la République.

Then walking tour in the city : the Petite France, an old tanner's district and the charming half-timbered houses, the gothic **Cathedral**, a sand stone masterpiece made of lace and its neighboring house the Maison Kammerzell from the 16th century. Rich historical heritage through the Grande Ile, also classified in the world heritage by the UNESCO. Guide for 3 hours (one hour panoramic tour and two hours by walk).

Lunch in a restaurant in the city center (3 course menu).

Boat trip on the river Ill. Discover the city from a different aspect from the terrace of Palais des Rohan, to the Tanner's quarters until the European district with buildings of the **European Council, European Parliament** and the **Human Court of Human Rights**.

Visit of the historic wine cellar of the Strasbourg Hospital. This beautiful vaulted cellar houses the **oldest barrel wine in the world**, dating from 1472! After discovering the history of this winery founded in 1395, you will have the opportunity to taste 3 varietals rigorously selected, accompanied by kougelhopf, this traditional Alsatian brioche.

Free time to discover the city on your own and stroll in the charming lanes.

Back to your hotel by the end of the afternoon, dinner and overnight.

Day 3 After your breakfast, departure with your guide for **the Vosges**.

The **Epinal American Cemetery** and Memorial in France, 48 acres in extent, is sited on a plateau 100 feet above the Moselle River in the foothills of the Vosges Mountains.

It contains the graves of 5,252 of our military dead, most of whom lost their lives in the campaigns across northeastern France to the Rhine River and beyond into

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Germany. The cemetery was established in October 1944 by the 46th Quartermaster Graves Registration Company of the U.S. Seventh Army as it drove northward from southern France through the Rhone Valley into Germany. The cemetery became the repository for the fatalities in the bitter fighting through the Saverne Gap, and in defense of Allied positions in the Vosges region, during the winter of 1944-1945.

Lunch in a restaurant (3 course menu)

Continuation to the Struthof / Visit of the **European Centre of Deported Resistance Members**. Opened by the Nazis in 1941, this **former concentration camp** was also a site where pseudo-scientific experimentations took place and Resistant members were executed. This space encourages you to learn and contemplate this period of history and to realize the importance of not forgetting the past. You can complete the visit with the vestige-filled museum.

optional : Visit of the **Memorial Alsace Moselle** Discover the strong moments of the history of the region. You will be transported in the heart of a historic and interactive way through the fate of Alsace-Moselle, from 1870 to nowadays. A space is especially dedicated to the French-German reconciliation and another to European construction.

Back to your hotel by the end of the afternoon, dinner et overnight.

Day 4 After your breakfast, departure with your guide to **Lorraine** Region.

The **Lorraine American Cemetery** and Memorial in France covers 113.5 acres and contains the largest number of graves of our military dead of World War II in Europe, a total of 10,481.

Their headstones are arranged in nine plots in a generally elliptical design extending over the beautiful rolling terrain of eastern Lorraine and culminating in a prominent overlook feature. Most of the dead here were killed while driving the German forces from the fortress city of Metz, France toward the Siegfried Line and the Rhine River. Initially, there were over 16,000 Americans interred in the St. Avold region in France, mostly from the U.S. Seventh Army's Infantry and Armored Divisions and its cavalry groups. St. Avold served as a vital communications center for the vast network of enemy defenses guarding the western border of the Third Reich.

Lunch in a restaurant (3 course menu)

Continuation to the **Fort du Hackenberg in Veckring**. Nicknamed the monster of the Maginot Line, Hackenberg boasts 10 km of galleries 30 and 19 blocks, including 15 combat blocks, linked by 3.5 km of electrified railroad. You'll discover period installations in perfect working order, from the power station to the artillery turret,

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including the ammunition store, the barracks with its identically reconstructed kitchens and infirmary. During the guided tour, you'll take a ride on a vintage electric train to the battlefields. In November 1944, it was taken over by General PATTON's 3rd American Army during the terrible battle to liberate the Moselle.

On the way back, stop in the town of Bitch. The Espace Mémoire **Museum** presents historical objects collected and also offered by families of veterans of the 100th Infantry Division of the 7th Army, known as the Century Division. Through this collection of objects, witnesses to local history, the Espace Mémoire offers a collection of stories.

Back to your hotel by the end of the afternoon, dinner and overnight.

Day 5 After your breakfast, departure with your guide to **Haguenau**.

City tour on the theme of the **"Easy Company"** You'll discover the sites recalling the liberation of Haguenau and the route taken by the Easy Company (101st airborne division) through the city, including the liberation memorial. The American series "Band of Brothers" by Steven Spielberg and Tom Hanks recalls this episode of WW2.

Visit to the **town** of Haguenau. Founded around 1115 by Frederick Le Borgne, a vassal of the Emperor, Haguenau owes its development to the Emperors Frédéric Ier Barberousse, Henri VI et Frédéric II, who resided here many times. Now Alsace's 4th largest town, Haguenau is an industrial and commercial center in the north of the region. Discover the town through its pleasant pedestrian downtown, its beautiful 18th-century buildings, its museums, its many green spaces and its vast forest.

Lunch in a restaurant (3 course menu)

In the afternoon, off to Walbourg. Visit to the Walbourg **Memorial Museum**. This museum traces the history of the region from 1870 to 1945. Presented through a realistic, immersive museography with 11 sound stations.

Continuation to Soufflenheim for a Visit of a **traditional** pottery workshop. A traditional craft that is still very present in Alsace, you will have the opportunity to discover this know-how that has been passed down from generation to generation. From the pieces used to preserve food to the objects used to cook local dishes, the art of Alsatian culinary ceramics such as Alsatian blue sandstone pottery, kougelhopf, baeckeoffe and other terrines will no longer hold any secrets for you.

Back to your hotel by the end of the afternoon, dinner et overnight.

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Day 6 After your breakfast, departure with your guide to Hatten. Visit to the **Hatten Shelter Museum** / A memorial to the tragic events that devastated Hatten in January 1945, the Hatten Shelter is now a museum dedicated to the violent tank battle that took place on the site. Spanning 3.8 hectares, the museum is a remarkable ensemble built around a former Maginot Line bunker. Around the Abri, a 28-room bunker that has been restored and fitted out, you'll find a succession of rooms covering different themes: a collection of military equipment from 1939 to the present day, a room dedicated to the "Malgré Nous", a hall with American and German equipment from 1939 to '45, a model room, etc.

Lunch in a restaurant (3 course menu) and then visit of the **Casemate Esch** / Built in 1931, it is one of the countless casemates responsible for providing the Maginot Line with continuous infantry fire. In June 1940, an attempt to break through the line was halted by the resistance of the infantry casemates. From January 7 to 21, 1945, the fighting between the Germans and Americans in Hatten was of unprecedented violence. The Esch casemate was captured and retaken several times by both sides.

Continuation to Pfaffenhoffen. Visit to the Musée de l'Imagerie Populaire (**Museum of Popular Imagery**) A visit to the museum provides an insight into life in the past, thanks to the images exchanged during the events that punctuated Alsatian life. Imaginative painters work at the request of **local residents** to preserve, through images, these moments of joy or sorrow. Back to your hotel by the end of the afternoon, dinner & overnight.

Day 7 Guided tour of the **European Parliament**. A visit to the plenary room offers an extraordinary opportunity to soak up the unique atmosphere of the world's largest transnational parliament. The Chamber is used for the most important debates and has served as a framework for many historic votes. You can discover the different spaces such as the backstage of the European Parliament in Strasbourg, its hemicycle and the panoramic terrace (under good weather conditions). End with an interactive visit to the Parlamentarium Simone Veil.

Lunch in a restaurant (3 course menu) and then free tour of the Lieu d'Europe. A place of education in European citizenship open to all, its aim is to familiarize citizens with **Europe** and reinforce their sense of belonging to a **community of values**. It features a permanent exhibition, a resource center run by the Centre d'Information sur les Institutions Européennes, and meeting and discussion rooms.

Free time to discover the city on your own and stroll in the charming lanes. Back to your hotel by the end of the afternoon, dinner and overnight.

Day 8 Visit to the Battle Museum of **la Poche de Colmar** in Turckheim. Housed in a magnificent 17th-century cellar, the Musée Mémorial bears witness to the events

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of **two long months of hellish fighting around Colmar**, through the people involved and the equipment technology of the time.

Continuation to **Colmar**. Lunch in a restaurant (3 course menu) / **Guided tour of the city**: with your licensed guide, discover the history, the different quarters and the highlights like the Maison des Têtes, the house Pfister, the Old Toll house, and the famous Petite Venise, the former fishmonger's district. **Back to your hotel** by the end of the afternoon, dinner & overnight.

Day 9 Guided Tour of **the Alsatian Wine Road**. Discover the picturesque villages and vineyard landscapes making the fame of Alsace. Enjoy the charm this region: its vineyards, its castles staking the landscape, its half-timbered houses. Visit of the **Haut Koenigsbourg Castle** The most visited monument in Alsace was restored in the 20th century by Wilhelm II of Hohenzollern along the same line as the late **15th century**. Lunch in a restaurant (3 course menu) Continuation to **Riquewihr and Kaysersberg** / medieval walled town and **Renaissance houses**, fortified bridge, castle with cylindrical dungeon. In the afternoon, **wine cellar visit and tasting** (3 wines). **Back to your hotel** by the end of the afternoon, dinner & overnight.

Day 10 Guided visit of **Baden-Baden in Germany**. Old town, with monuments like the Stiftskirche Liebfrauen, the Roman Bath Ruins and its Art Museums. Your guide will reveal the history of this Roman city to the present day. Lunch in a restaurant in Baden Baden (3 course menu).

Back to your hotel by the end of the afternoon, dinner & overnight.

Day 11 Free day for sightseeing or shopping.

Day 12 Group departs. Transfer by coach to Frankfurt airport or Strasbourg train station to Paris.

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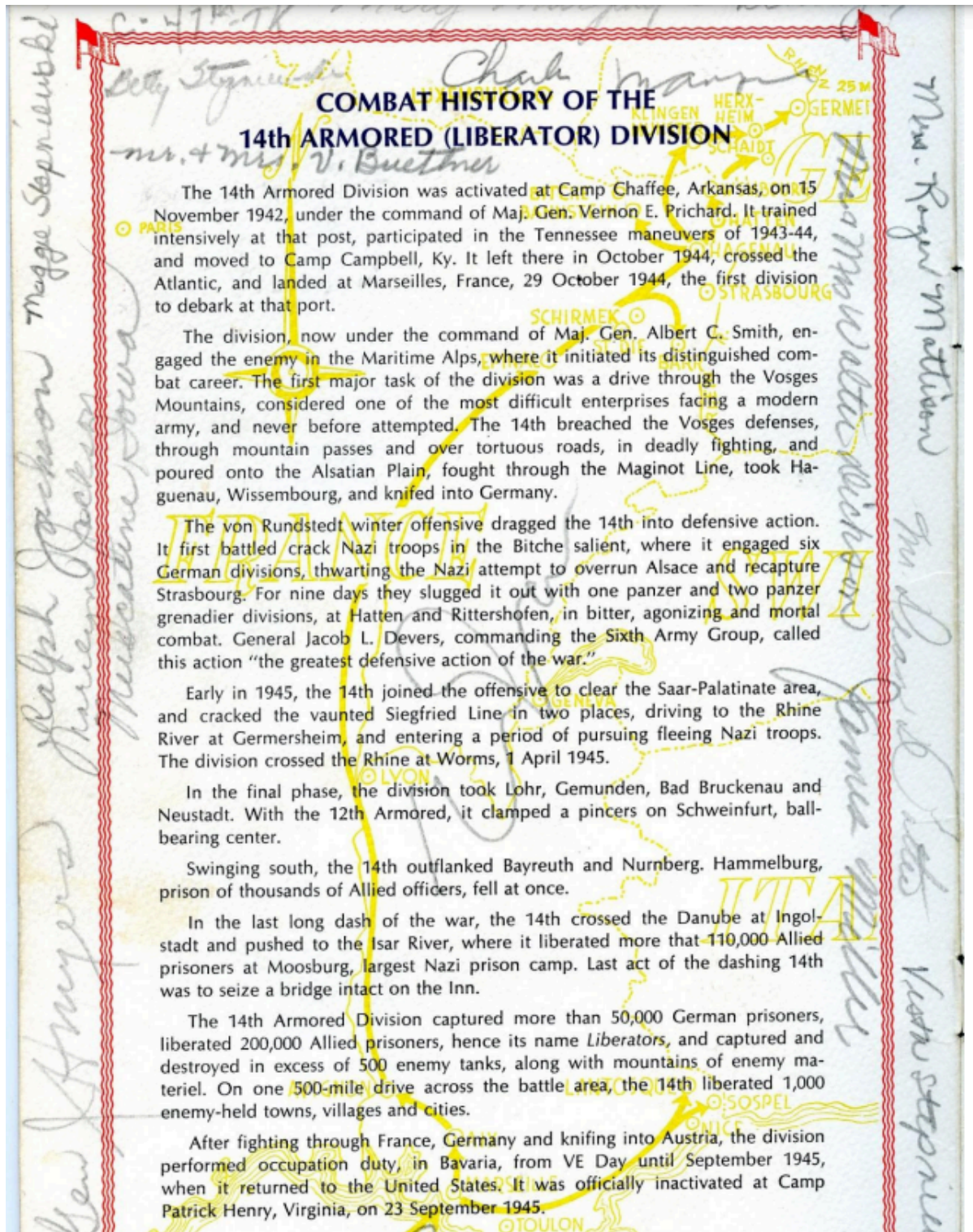
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Sources for the 14th Armored Division :

- the book “Riviera to the Rhine” (Jeffrey J. Clarke & Robert Ross Smith)
- and the website 14thad.org



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Epinal American Cemetery and Memorial

The history of the 14th Armored Division | Formed on August 28, 1942, the **14th Armored Division** arrived directly in France via the port of Marseille on October 29, 1944. By this date, the Allies had already liberated more than half of France following the landings in Normandy (June 6, 1944) and Provence (August 15, 1944), and were approaching the **Vosges** mountains.

The division arrived **at the battlefield on November 12, near Épinal**, where it went into action for the first time. It is engaged in the **Alsace plain**, and distinguishes itself in the fighting at Benfeld, Barr, Gertwiller, and Valff.

Sources : <https://www.abmc.gov/Epinal>

<https://www.histoiredevalff.fr/histoire/xxeme-siecle/183-1944-la-liberation-de-valff-le-point-de-vue-americain>

Lorraine American Cemetery Address : Avenue de Fayetteville 57500 St Avold

The **Lorraine American Cemetery** and Memorial in France covers 113.5 acres and contains the largest number of graves of our military dead of **World War II** in Europe, a total of 10,481. Their headstones are arranged in **nine plots** in a generally elliptical design extending over the beautiful rolling terrain of eastern Lorraine and culminating in a prominent overlook feature. Most of the dead here were **killed while driving the German forces** from the fortress city of Metz, France toward the **Siegfried Line** and the **Rhine River**. Initially, there were over 16,000 Americans interred in the St. Avold region in France, mostly from the U.S. Seventh Army's Infantry and **Armored Divisions** and its cavalry groups. St. Avold served as a vital communications center for the vast network of enemy defenses guarding the western border of the Third Reich.

The memorial, which stands on a plateau to the west of the burial area, contains ceramic operations maps with narratives and service flags. High on its exterior front wall is the large figure of St. Nabor, the martyred Roman soldier overlooking the silent host. On each side of the memorial, and parallel to its front, stretch the **Tablets of the Missing** on which are inscribed **444 names**. Rosettes mark the names of those since recovered and identified. The entire area is framed in woodland.

Sources :

<https://www.abmc.gov/Lorraine#cemetery-info-anchor>

Source of the Search for the 14th especially :

https://www.google.com/search?q=14TH+Armored+Division+site%3Ahttps%3A%2F%2Fwww.abmc.gov%2F&sca_esv=544f108bef3f1955&rlz=1C1ONGR_frF

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WALBOURG War Museum

Visit a sensory museum with 11 sound hubs, period smells... Over 4000 authentic, local and local objects in 462m2 exhibition space, 2 projection rooms and 1 library.

During 11 December all three of Brooks' attacking infantry divisions made considerable progress. On the corps' right, the **79th Division's 314th regiment** moved into Haguenau unopposed in the morning, and the 315th secured the area between Bischwiller and Haguenau, uncovering large stocks of unused German supplies and equipment in Camp d'Oberhoffen. Still pushing northward, the **313th Infantry** met strong resistance at **Soufflenheim**, but reconnaissance patrols probing the eastern portion of the Haguenau forest detected no enemy presence. Along the Rhine other patrols advanced the lines three miles north from Herrlisheim. During the day most of the 94th Cavalry Squadron rejoined the **14th Armored Division**, and the 117th Cavalry Squadron, with one troop of the 94th attached, took over the right flank security mission.

In the west, the 157th Infantry, 45th Division, secured Nehwiller on **11 December** against little opposition, breaking through Hoehne's projected defensive line before it could be established. The 157th then pushed northeastward **through the Low Vosges** another mile or so, while the 180th Infantry, on the 45th Division's right, gained about three miles. But the terrain facing the 45th was now becoming increasingly difficult. In the 103d Division's sector, the 411th and 409th Infantry advanced nearly three miles, piercing the planned German line near the road junction **town of Woerth**; on the division's right, the 410th Infantry seized Walbourg on the northeastern border of the **Haguenau forest**. Neither of the two divisions encountered any significant German opposition.

On the 12th the German rout continued. **In the Vosges** the 45th Division seized **Philippsbourg** on the corps' far left and outflanked a German strongpoint at **Lembach**, only about four miles short of the border. To the east the 103d Division kept pace, reaching **Surbourg** on the northern edge of the **Haguenau** forest; along the Rhine, the 79th Division occupied **Soufflenheim** and advanced eight miles farther north to **Niederroedern** and Seltz. Wyche, the 79th Division commander, expected

Sources : <https://www.ibiblio.org/hyperwar/USA/USA-E-Riviera/USA-E-Riviera-26.html>

<https://www.2mcladn.fr/img/Infos%20musee%20memorial%20Walbourg.pdf>

HATTEN Museum de l'abri | Address : 6 rue de l'Abri 67690 Hatten

The **14th Division** headed north to attack German territory along the **Lauter River**. It was in the front line when the Germans counter-attacked at the beginning of **January 1945** in an attempt to retake Alsace, and it fought a heroic battle in Hatten, which we'll be covering shortly on this site.

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Visit the bunker :located 1 km behind the **Maginot Line**, the building was used during the war as **barracks for the crews** of the casemates, and contained around **240 beds**. 28 rooms have been restored to their original state, or used as exhibition rooms.

Around the Bunker, you'll also discover a large **collection of military equipment** from 1939 to the present day, a model room, a room dedicated to the "Malgré-Nous" and a **hall containing exclusively American** or German **equipment** from 1939 to 1945: the displays evoke the **January 1945 battle in Hatten**. German and American combatants **clashed in and around the village** from **January 9 to 21, 1945**, during Hitler's Operation Nordwind. During this German offensive, Hatten and the neighboring village of Rittershoffen were at the heart of one of the **largest armored battles in France**, with both villages 85% destroyed and 83 civilian casualties in Hatten, 31 in Rittershoffen. Outside, on the Museum site, the Bois du Souvenir is a place of remembrance dedicated to the civilian victims of the battle, with its 114 trees, a tribute to the 114 civilian victims of the 2 communes. Since 2021, a specially designed room has been displaying part of the collection of the former JOST Museum (DRACHENBRONN Air Base 901 Museum).

SOURCE : <https://www.alsace-verte.com/culture/musee-de-labri/>

Sources : <https://www.abmc.gov/Epinal>

<https://www.histoiredervalff.fr/histoire/xxeme-siecle/183-1944-la-liberation-de-valff-le-point-de-vue-americain>

HATTEN Casemate Esch | Address : Route de Seltz 67690 Hatten

Located on the edge of the village of **Hatten**, the Esch casemate **museum** evokes both its role within the Maginot Line and in the 1939-1940 campaign, as well as in the terrible battle of **Hatten-Rittershoffen in January 1945** - the last major tank clash of the 1939-45 war - where it was attacked successively by the Germans and the **Americans**. Many scars of these battles are still visible on the building. The Esch Infantry Casemate was occupied by

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the 23rd Fortress Infantry Regiment in 1939-40. ASSOCIATION of the friends of The MAGINOT Line D'ALSACE

Source : <https://www.paysdebarr.fr/visiter/fr/coups-de-coeur/detail/219006466>

HAGUENAU Time Sensitive Event : Haguenau will host a Weekend of commemorations and festivities on 2025 March 15th - 16th

For two days, Haguenau will take a leap into the past with:

A reconstruction of an American camp in front of the Halle aux Houblons
Guided tours of emblematic places of the Liberation
Times of commemoration with taking up arms and parade
A military concert at the Halle aux Houblons
An exhibition of period postcards and students' drawings
The grand Liberation ball: with period costumes and music

Source :

<https://sortirahaguenau.fr/fr/evenements/week-end-de-commemorations-et-de-festivites-pour-les-80-ans-de-la-liberation-de-haguenau/216008465>

HAGUENAU BRIDGE OF STRASBOURG ROAD

The city of **Strasbourg** was liberated by General Leclerc on **November 23, 1944**, and the American army accompanying the French troops stopped at the **southern entrance to Haguenau** on the **24th**.

On Saturday, **December 9, the Americans launched a major offensive**. Several attacks were launched simultaneously on **Haguenau**, from **Schweighouse** towards the **Clausenhof**, from **Batzendorf** via **Meyershoffen** and from **Harthouse** passing between the swimming pool and the "château Walk". Kenneth Jones participated in the latter.

At 4:30 p.m., the German defense line was forced. The Germans fled. Around 5:30 p.m., **the first American patrols (about 200 men) entered the city** through the gardens along the Strasbourg road. Fighting took place at the crossroads of rue **Leriche**. That day, the Americans destroyed two German tanks.

The next day, December 10, the Germans, who still occupied the city center, installed an 88 mm anti-aircraft gun at the intersection of Rue du Maréchal Foch and Grand'rue, and set up a roadblock on Rue Saint-Georges, near Rue du Grenier. On **December 11** at 00:30, the artillery fire stopped and the Germans fled. A civilian informed **the Americans, who entered the city** around 8:00 in the morning without encountering any resistance.

Source : <https://archeographe.net/node/295>

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Source : https://archeographe.net/sites/default/files/img/spip/arch-Carte_1934.jpg

Source Testimonial of Aaron May 14th Army Division, the 68th Army Infantry Battalion :
<https://library.uncw.edu/capefearww2/voices/may087.html>

Other source Testimonial of Kenneth Jones, 79th Division Soldier :
<https://archeographe.net/node/296>

HAGUENAU THE “Easy Company” MEMORIAL

The monument on the banks of the **Moder River** bears witness to **March 16, 1945**. After the **initial liberation of Haguenau in early December 1944**, the **American 7th Army** made a strategic withdrawal. The Germans, for their part, launched a reconquest operation called Nordwind. For almost three months, the town was the focus of new battles, with part of the front line following the course of the Moder and, more specifically, this canal. Haguenau was not definitively liberated until mid-March (16) 1945. That was **the day the Americans crossed** the flooded canal to definitively repel the Nazi troops.

This stele replaces an earlier monument inaugurated on July 14, 1947. At the time, it was clearly visible, with a long spike at the top, symbolizing the breaking of enemy lines and the advance of American tanks towards Nazi Germany. In January 1955, the Moder River once again flooded the town, and the monument was unable to withstand the storm: it was washed away and destroyed. The two plaques that adorn it were saved and refixed on a more sober support, as seen today. The upper one shows infantrymen advancing under cover of tanks. The star recalls not only the USA and the 7th Army under General Patch, but also Texas, in particular the 36th Infantry Division.

The lightning bolts represent the suddenness of the action, while the broken chains evoke liberation.

It was here, in February 1945, that the **“Easy Company”** of the 101st Airborne Division of the US Army distinguished itself. Its passage through Haguenau was made famous by a mini-series entitled “Band of Brothers”, which pays tribute to the courage of the city's liberators.

Source :

<https://www.visithaguenau.alsace/decouvrir/lieux-et-batiments-remarquables/lei/detail/216007839/memorial-de-la-liberation>

Alsatian Museum in Pfaffenhoffen

A museum to understand the Alsatian people, their history.

Soldier Aaron May said : “We're treated like **liberators** by most of the people. They offer you a drink and in the morning, they keep you warm.

In the Alsace section, it switches from Germany to France and back to France to Germany and if Germany was in command, they were all Germans and when

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the French was in command, they were all French." "These people when we were there, of course, had been nice and gave us a drink. **We took over all the houses. We didn't sleep outside.** They gave us straw slippers in one town we went through. Most wear wooden shoes and take them off before entering the house. The houses are connected to the barns and sometimes it's hard to tell the difference. The people of Alsace Lorraine are hard workers and stack their cellars full of food."

Germany part

After **3 months of almost continuous fighting**, the division was rested and brought back into operational condition in **February and March 1945**, before being re-enlisted on March 15, 1945, to break through the **German "Siegfried"** defense line. Capturing **Germersheim (Germany)** on March 24, 1945

April 1945: Crossing the Rhine and Liberation of Prisoners.

On April 1, 1945, the division crossed the Rhine near Worms, was involved in the liberation of over 110,000 Allied prisoners at Stalag VIIA near **Moosburg**.

The division made progress in Germany, liberating **a number of prison camps** and subcamps of the **Dachau (Germany)** concentration camp. Address : KZ-Gedenkstätte Dachau Alte Römerstraße 75 85221 Dachau

By the end of the war, the division had lost 505 killed, 1,955 wounded, 81 missing and 212 prisoners of war liberated at the end of the conflict.

May 1945: End of Hostilities //

continued operations until the German surrender on May 8, 1945. played a crucial role in the operations across Europe, contributing significantly to the Allied advance and the liberation of occupied territories.

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Further sources and ideas :

Sources for Jacob Devers commanding officer of the 6th Army Group :

https://ww2db.com/person_bio.php?person_id=492

<https://www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctt17573jv>

<https://www.ibiblio.org/hyperwar/USA/USA-E-Riviera/>

<https://www.gettyimages.fr/detail/photo-d%27actualit%C3%A9/le-g%C3%A9n%C3%A9ral-eisenhower-tout-sourire-derri%C3%A8re-lui-le-photo-dactualit%C3%A9/558660359?adppopup=true>

<https://www.parismuseescollections.paris.fr/es/node/1030756#infos-principales>

<https://www.lignemaginot.com/ligne/esch/combats/armee.htm>

https://permanent.access.gpo.gov/websites/dodandmilitaryejournals/www.abmc.gov/ep_pict.pdf

<https://www.tourisme.vosges.fr/tourisme-de-memoire/>

COLMAR Pocket Museum <https://musee.turckheim-alsace.com/>

<https://www.ibiblio.org/hyperwar/USA/USA-E-Riviera/USA-E-Riviera-30.html>

[https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Albert_C._Smith_\(g%C3%A9n%C3%A9ral\)](https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Albert_C._Smith_(g%C3%A9n%C3%A9ral))