



SEVENTIETH ANNIVERSARY  
*of the*  
BATTLE OF THE BULGE  
RE-DEDICATION CEREMONY



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COLLEGE SQUARE  
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS  
COLLEGE OF THE HOLY CROSS



# PROGRAM

MASTER OF CEREMONIES	<b>Christian De Marcken</b> <i>Korean War Veteran</i> <i>Chapter Historian</i>
NATIONAL ANTHEM	<b>Timothy Harrington</b>
INVOCATION	<b>Father Jack Donahue, S.J.</b>
COMMENTS	<b>Sheila Harrington</b> <i>Massachusetts State Representative</i> <i>(Veterans Affairs)</i>
REMARKS	<b>John E. McAuliffe</b> <i>87<sup>th</sup> Inf. Div. WWII</i> <i>President of Central Massachusetts</i> <i>Chapter 22</i>
GUEST SPEAKER	<b>Lt. Col. Ciro Stefano</b> <i>Professor of Military Science, WP</i> <i>Battalion Commander</i>
UNVEILING OF THE MONUMENT	<b>Kathy Fleming &amp; Nancy Doyle</b> <i>Daughters of Charles Israelian</i> <i>7<sup>th</sup> Armed Div. Unit II</i>
WREATH LAYING	<b>Robert Nordgren</b> <i>83<sup>rd</sup> Inf. Div.</i> <b>Francis Gaudere</b> <i>30<sup>th</sup> Inf. Div.</i>
MONUMENT BLESSING	<b>Father Jack Donahue, S.J.</b>
<i>Battle Hymn of the Republic</i>	<b>Timothy Harrington</b>

# BATTLE OF THE BULGE FACTS

## \*\*\* WHERE \*\*\*

The heavily-forested Ardennes region of eastern Belgium  
and Northern Luxembourg

## \*\*\* WHEN \*\*\*

December 16, 1944 – January 25, 1945

## \*\*\* WHO \*\*\*

*More than one million men:*

600,000 Americans

*(more than the combined Union/Confederate forces at Gettysburg)*

- ▶ 3 American Armies and 6 corps  
*(equivalent to 31 Divisions)*

500,000 Germans

- ▶ 3 German Armies and 10 corps  
*(equivalent of 29 Divisions)*

55,000 British

- ▶ 3 British Divisions plus contingents of Belgian,  
Canadian and French troops

## \*\*\* CASUALTIES \*\*\*

German – 100,000

American – 81,000 including 19,000 killed

British – 1,400 including 200 killed

## \*\*\* EQUIPMENT \*\*\*

800 tanks lost on each side, 1,000 German aircraft.

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The Malmedy Massacre was the worst atrocity committed  
against American Troops in Europe during the war.

## THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE

Early on the morning of 16 December 1944, over 200,000 German troops and nearly 1,000 tanks launched Adolf Hitler's last bid to reverse the ebb in his fortunes that had begun when Allied troops landed in France on the D-day. Seeking to drive to the English Channel coast and split the Allied armies, the Germans truck in the Ardennes Forest, a seventy-five-mile stretch of the front characterized by dense woods and a few roads, held by four inexperienced and battle-worn American divisions stationed there for rest and seasoning. After a day of hard fighting, the Germans broke through the American front, surrounding most of an infantry division, seizing key crossroads, and advancing their spearheads toward the Meuse River, creating the projection that gave the battle its name.

Stories spread of the massacres at Malmedy and Stavelot, of paratroopers dropping behind the lines, and of German soldiers disguised as Americans capturing critical bridges, cutting communications lines, and spreading rumors. Belgian townspeople put away their Allied flags and brought out their swastikas. Police in Paris enforced and all-night curfew. Even American civilians who had thought final victory was near were sobered by the Nazi onslaught.

General Dwight D. Eisenhower rushed reinforcements to hold the shoulders of the German penetration. Within days, Lt. Gen. George S. Patton, Jr. had turned his Third U.S. Army to the north and was counterattacking against the German flank. But the story of the battle of the Bulge is above all the story of American soldiers. Often isolated and unaware of the overall picture, they did their part to slow the Nazi advances, whether by delaying armored spearheads with obstinate defenses of vital crossroads, moving or burning critical gasoline stocks to keep them from the fuel-hungry German tanks, or coming up with questions on arcane Americana to stump Nazi infiltrators. At the critical road junctions of St. Vith and Bastogne, American tankers and paratroopers fought off repeated attacks, and when the acting commander of the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division was summoned by his German adversary to surrender, he simply responded, "Nuts!"

Within days, Patton's Third had relieved Bastogne, and to go the north, the 2<sup>nd</sup> U.S. Armored Division stopped enemy tanks short of the Meuse on Christmas Day. Through January, American troops, often wading through deep snow drifts, attacked the sides of the shrinking bulge until they had restored the front and set the stage for the final drive to victory. Never again would Hitler be able to launch an offensive in the West on such a scale. An admiring British Prime Minister Sir Winston Churchill stated, "This is undoubtedly the greatest American battle of the war and will, I believe, be regarded as an ever-famous American victory." Indeed, in terms of participation and losses, the Battle of the Bulge is arguably the greatest battle in American military history.