Battle of the Bulge
7 Days • May 23 – 29, 2018

Walk in the footsteps of American soldiers who battled against Hitler's “Last Gamble.” Venture into the Ardennes and imagine the lush forests you encounter blanketed in snow, the way the American GIs found them during that harrowing winter of 1944 - 1945.

Book early and save $1,000 per couple when booked by December 29, 2017.
Dear Friend of the Museum,

I invite you to join The National WWII Museum on a comprehensive tour of the sites made significant during the Battle of the Bulge. Expertly researched by our own staff and led by Luxembourg native and longtime friend of the Museum Roland Gaul, this is the most immersive tour of the Ardennes available today. From the famous “northern shoulder” of the Bulge near Elsenborn Ridge through the Bastogne Corridor and to the Luxembourg Ardennes, you will trace the routes of the last major German offensive in the West and encounter the heroic stories of the American soldiers who fought and won the largest and costliest campaign of World War II.

In late 1944, few thought that a massive German counterattack was possible. Rome fell on June 4, and two days later, the largest amphibious invasion in history brought more than 150,000 men to the shores of Normandy on D-Day. By the end of August, French and American soldiers were marching through the streets of Paris. Hitler’s “Fortress Europe” was broken, and the Allies were rushing toward the German border on the road to Berlin. As Christmas approached, the Allied Forces in Europe felt the war was nearing its end.

But on December 16, that optimism vanished suddenly. The supposedly impossible German counterattack was here and was larger than anyone could have anticipated. With over 400,000 German soldiers ready to push into the Ardennes, the next five weeks tested the limits of our troops. Anyone who has read or watched Band of Brothers by Museum founder Stephen Ambrose knows of the swirling snow, the bitter cold, and the murderous nature of the German onslaught.

This comprehensive tour retraces the unexpected, dramatic battle and offers the unique opportunity to visit key sites with expert battlefield guides while exploring our oral histories of Battle of the Bulge veterans. Join us for this inspiring educational journey and stand in the precise locations where the American Spirit overcame the last, desperate gamble of the Third Reich.

Sincerely,

Stephen J. Watson
President & CEO
The National WWII Museum

COVER PHOTO: American troops manning trenches along a snowy hedgerow in the northern Ardennes Forest during the Battle of the Bulge. Courtesy George Silk/The LIFE Picture Collection/Getty Images.

INSIDE COVER PHOTO: Ariel of Wiltz, Belgium.
By mid-December 1944, the War in Europe appeared to be nearing its close. The Germans seemed finished after the hectic charge across France to the Siegfried Line on the German border, and few Allied commanders believed them capable of launching any sort of offensive. US soldiers stationed in Belgium and Luxembourg prepared to camp for the winter. Underscoring the mentality of the front-line troops and the officers, entertainers frequented the Ardennes. On December 14, Marlene Dietrich performed for boisterous troops in the small crossroads town of Bastogne. The next day, New York Giants right-fielder Mel Ott led a delegation of ballplayers on a visit to the First Division Headquarters in Spa, Belgium, finding many officers on leave in Paris. Little did any of them know that German assault troops were assembling on the German-Belgian border because Adolf Hitler had chosen this moment to launch his last great offensive of the war. Nazi Germany pinned its hopes for ultimate victory on one last offensive in the Ardennes Forest.

The German offensive was code-named Wacht am Rhein (the “Watch on the Rhine”), but is better known in the US as the “Battle of the Bulge.” An offensive by three German armies across a 75-mile front, the operation involved more than one million soldiers: 200,000 assault troops in the initial wave and over 800,000 in reserve, ready to exploit the initial success. It caught unprepared American forces on the front line by surprise, ruptured their defensive line, and headed west through the Ardennes towards the Meuse River and Antwerp, the principal Allied supply port in Western Europe. The question hung like a mist in the cold winter air: Could the US Army recover?

Prepare to walk in the footsteps of those brave Americans who faced the German onslaught. Our comprehensive tour includes the principal battle sites in Belgium and Luxembourg. Visit Bastogne, where General Anthony McAuliffe of the 101st Airborne Division replied to a German demand for surrender with a single, pithy word: “Nuts!” Pay solemn tribute to the men massacred near Malmedy by the SS troopers of Kampfgruppe Peiper. Travel the “Bulge” from its north shoulder at Elsenborn Ridge to Diekirch, Luxembourg, in the south, while listening to the heroic stories of American soldiers who fought through bitter cold and snow to prevail against a hardened and desperate enemy.

EXPERT BATTLEFIELD GUIDE
ROLAND GAUL

Battle of the Bulge Guide and Founder of The National Museum of Military History in Luxembourg

Born in Diekirch, Luxembourg, Roland Gaul has collected Battle of the Bulge artifacts since childhood. Growing up with the remains of one of history’s largest land battles in his backyard, Roland developed a keen interest in military history at a young age.

A graduate of the Diekirch “Lycée Classique,” Roland continued his studies at the Royal Military Academy (ERM) in Brussels, Belgium. In 1982 he founded the Diekirch Historical Society and the Diekirch Historical Museum, which became the National Museum of Military History in 1993. He developed countless contacts with American and German civilians, veterans, and eyewitnesses of the Battle of the Bulge for the museum’s oral history archives.

Roland also served as the public affairs assistant at the American Embassy in Luxembourg, where he was deeply involved both professionally and privately, in the organization of many international, national, regional, and local commemorations of the 50th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge.

In 1996, Roland began working for the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and was appointed coordinator for all national and regional ceremonies for the 60th and 65th anniversary commemorations of the Battle of the Bulge, as well as for the 60th anniversary of the Korean War. Roland assumed full-time direction of the National Museum of Military History in 2012, which he founded as a volunteer.

Scholar, lecturer, historian, consultant, author of several books, and the field guide Battle of the Bulge in Luxembourg, Roland has led many tours in the Ardennes over his 25 years as a guide for international audiences. He has also served as a consultant on many Battle of the Bulge films and documentaries.
Hear from the men of the Battle of the Bulge who persevered through the toughest conditions: surviving German artillery, tree bursts, and the freezing temperatures. “Cold. It was so cold that if you got wet, you couldn’t get dry.” Lewis “Jack” Baldwin remembers vividly the conditions in which he and his fellow Rangers fought in the Ardennes. With record low temperatures, the weather was as much an enemy as the Germans. Baldwin was told that anyone who was separated from his men would freeze to death.
LEARN THEIR NAMES

To the memory of the soldiers of the United States army who while prisoners of war were massacred by Nazi troops on this spot on 17 December 1944. We here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain.

- Inscription on the Malmedy Massacre Memorial
Baugnez Crossroads, Belgium

Near Malmedy, Belgium, a memorial consists of 84 flat stones bearing the names of American prisoners massacred in a field by soldiers from Kampfgruppe Peiper who opened fire on the unarmed prisoners. A handful of survivors lived to tell the story of what happened there, which quickly made its way through the ranks of soldiers. Surrender was not an option.
Stand Where History Was Made

On the outskirts of Bastogne, near the town of Foy, a short walk into the woods leads to the foxholes used by Easy Company of the 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne. Braving temperatures of 20 degrees below zero, Easy Company held out against intense shelling, aerial attacks, and German assaults. The foxholes, dug on December 18, 1944, are still visible today, and a memorial to Easy Company honors the men who held Bastogne and recaptured Foy.
TOUR INCLUSIONS

- Full-time WWII Museum logistical tour manager
- Expert local battlefield and city guides
- WWII Museum Oral History video presentations
- VIP access to sites not offered on other tours
- Personal listening devices on all included touring
- Five-star accommodations
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- Informative map book to be used throughout your journey
- Document wallet and personalized luggage tags
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Combine this tour with our D-Day tour and receive FREE INTERNATIONAL AIR!
SEE PAGE 37 FOR DETAILS.
The dark, seemingly impenetrable Ardennes Forest has a long military history, and many tales were told of ghosts and spirits who lived in the woods. The Roman legions fought there, and one Roman author described the Ardennes as “a frightful place, full of terrors.” Even the great Charlemagne was said to have nightmares about fighting there.

At the outset of World War I in 1914, German and French armies fought a massive battle in the Ardennes, with each side surprised by the other’s presence. Heavy German artillery fire forced the French back with grievous casualties. The Germans surprised the French again in 1940 by passing a huge force of tanks through the winding trails of the forest, starting an invasion that would result in French surrender just six weeks later. After the liberation of France, the German counterattack in the Ardennes in December 1944 formed an extensive salient, or “bulge,” in the Allied lines — a noticeable shape on the map that gave the battle its famous name. The resulting battles for previously obscure locales such as Bastogne, Elsenborn, and St. Vith would come to symbolize the courage and tenacity of the US soldier.

Today, the towns and villages of the Ardennes are a picturesque contrast to the destructive nature of war. The forest that created a sense of dread among generations of soldiers now evokes a sense of wonder with its beautiful scenery. It is a popular destination for outdoor activities such as hunting, cycling, walking, and canoeing, but the towns have dedicated themselves to the memory of the World War II. In Malmedy, a memorial honors the 84 US soldiers executed by their German captors. The Bastogne War Museum pays tribute to the local civilians and Allied soldiers forced to survive the frigid winter. Throughout the region, the insignia of the Allied units displayed in the towns reveal the gratitude of the local citizens to this day.

PHOTO: More than 70 years later, WWII foxholes remain visible in the forests of the Belgian Ardennes, including these between Bastogne and the village of Foy in Belgium. Courtesy Alan Solomon/Chicago Tribune/MCT via Getty Images.
ARRIVALS IN BRUSSELS & TRANSFER TO CLERVAUX

Upon arrival at Brussels International Airport, guests are warmly welcomed by Museum staff. Depart for Clervaux, Luxembourg, with a lunch stop along the way. This evening enjoy a welcome dinner with the group.

Accommodations: Hotel Le Clervaux (L, D)

Day 1 – May 23, 2018

Battle of the Bulge

7 Days | May 23 – 29, 2018

$3,995* per person when booked by December 29, 2017

Combine this tour with our D-Day tour and receive FREE INTERNATIONAL AIR!

See page 37 for details.

*Based on double occupancy. $129pp taxes and fees are additional.
**THE ITINERARY**

**THE NORTHERN SHOULDER**

The first full day of touring explores the "northern shoulder" of the Bulge, where the outnumbered Americans on the Elsenborn Ridge offered unexpected resistance in the first days of the German attack. Visit the little village of Lanzerath, Belgium, where a small American platoon under the command of 20 year-old Lieutenant Lyle Bouck held back 500 German paratroopers for an entire day. Continue to the "twin villages" of Rocherath and Krinkelt, where superior German armor failed to break through the American positions. Enjoy a group lunch and finish the day with a tour of Camp Elsenborn.

**Accommodations: Hotel Le Clervaux (B, L)**

**PHOTO: 1st Army GIs on patrol, looking for German paratroopers among frost-covered hedges during the Battle of the Bulge. Courtesy George Silk/The LIFE Picture Collection/Getty Images**
Born in St. Louis, Missouri, Lyle Bouck joined the National Guard at age 14, and found himself in the Ardennes six years later -- in charge of an 18-man intelligence and reconnaissance platoon. He was one of the youngest commissioned officers in the Army, and had grown accustomed to giving orders to older soldiers.

Bouck’s platoon made frequent patrols into Germany to scout terrain and enemy movements, and would occasionally return with German prisoners for interrogation. But they never encountered evidence of a looming German attack. During a transfer of divisions in the area around Elsenborn Ridge, Bouck’s platoon was ordered to defend the position near the town of Lanzerath. Holding and defending a position was unusual for an intelligence and reconnaissance platoon, but Bouck had no doubt his men could do the job.

On the morning of December 16, Bouck was surprised by the sound of shelling. The area in front of his platoon was hit, and the shelling was moving closer and closer to his position. Luckily, the firing overshot their position. Bouck wanted to mount an ambush on Germans in Lanzerath, but his position was revealed. Digging in on a hill, Bouck’s men repelled three German frontal assaults, but during a fourth assault, the Germans flanked Bouck’s position. Surrounded and out of ammunition, the men of the Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon, 394th Regiment, 99th Infantry Division surrendered.

The efforts of the intelligence and reconnaissance platoon tied up a much larger German force for an entire day, allowing other American units time to regroup and prepare a defense. For their efforts, all 18 men in the platoon were decorated, and the platoon received the Presidential Unit Citation. Bouck received the Distinguished Service Cross.

PHOTO: Vehicles and infantry of the US 1st Army on the road during winter fighting in the Ardennes forest conflict known as the Battle of the Bulge. Courtesy John Florea, The LIFE Picture Collection/Getty Images.
Day 3 – May 25, 2018

Peiper’s Route

SS-Standartenführer Joachim Peiper, commander of the lead elements of the 1st SS Panzer Division, and his men were at the tip of the German counterattack. On December 17, 1944, Peiper’s unit shot 84 US prisoners in cold blood near Malmedy – a crime that strengthened American resolve during the battle. The victims were machine-gunned in an open field, with a few survivors managing to escape to tell the tale of the massacre. After hearing the news, other American units knew that surrender was not an option, even if outnumbered or surrounded. Today, the tour will follow the path of Peiper’s attack and will hear the heroic stories of American GIs whose actions blunted, and eventually halted the main German thrust in the north. Other sites visited include Stavelot, Trois Ponts, and La Gleize.

Accommodations: Hotel Le Clervaux (B, L)
Theodore “Ted” Paluch was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to a small family. Ted followed the war in Europe closely and thought that the United States might eventually get involved. He was playing pinball on Sunday December 7, 1941, when he heard about the attack on Pearl Harbor from a friend. Initially attempting to enlist in the Marine Corps, which turned him down, he was drafted into the Army in 1943 and sent into combat in the Hürtgen Forest in 1944, as part of the 285th Field Artillery Observation Battalion.

After fighting in the Hürtgen, the 285th was sent south, and ordered to report to St. Vith, Belgium, on December 16. On December 17, one day into the German attack, Paluch and the 285th were passing through the town of Baugnez, where they encountered the lead elements of Kampfgruppe Peiper. Under attack from tanks and vehicles, Paluch jumped into an ice-cold ditch. A German tank commander ordered him and the other remaining men to surrender. They were marched to a field where SS troopers searched the prisoners and took everything of value from them.

As the American prisoners stood in the field with their hands up, the SS troopers left. Suddenly, a column of vehicles approached and began firing into the crowd of prisoners. Next, tanks passed by and fired into the middle of the crowd. Paluch fell to the ground and was hit in the hand. After lying in the field for more than an hour, Paluch and several men escaped toward Malmedy where they reported their story and received treatment for their wounds.
Starting at the Our River Bridge in Dasburg on the German/Luxembourg border, follow the route of the German 5th Panzer Army on its way to Bastogne. In Bastogne Barracks, enter the “Nuts Cave” where General Anthony C. McAuliffe proclaimed “Nuts!” to a German demand for the surrender of the town. See the memorial to Renée Lemaire, a Belgian nurse who worked tirelessly at an American aid station in Bastogne. On Christmas Eve, the Germans bombed the aid station, and Lemaire died while evacuating wounded soldiers from the burning building. In the Bois Jacques, visit the foxholes used by Easy Company during their heroic defense of Bastogne. This afternoon receive a guided tour at the Bastogne War Museum. Enjoy an evening and dinner on your own.

Accommodations: Hotel Le Clervaux (B, L)
HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

A one-hour train ride from Luxembourg City lies the charming resort town of Clervaux, brimming with restaurants, boutiques, and high-end hotels. It sits on a narrow plain between two ridges, with a castle dating to the 13th Century rising above the southern edge of town.

Clervaux was directly in the sights of the German 5th Panzer Army on December 16, 1944, when the Germans crossed the Our River into Luxembourg. Behind Clervaux was the vital crossroads town of Bastogne, Belgium. The German offensive was predicated on timing, and every hour lost in the early stages meant more time for the Americans to regroup and deny the Germans their true objective: the port of Antwerp.

In Clervaux, outnumbered and outgunned, Americans from the 110th Infantry Regiment of the 28th Infantry Division faced the German attack. At 9:30 a.m., the first German tanks entered the town, accompanied by 30 other armored vehicles. Soon, Colonel Norman Fuller’s command post was hit, and men throughout Clervaux were hoping to escape the rapidly advancing Germans.

Instead, they received orders from Major General Norman Cota: "Hold at all cost. Give up no ground."

As German control of Clervaux solidified, 100 Americans still held Clervaux Castle. For two more days, the Germans attacked the castle while the American defenders resisted. Working to disrupt German operations in Clervaux, Americans fired at the Germans from the castle windows. Finally, out of ammunition and with the castle on fire, the Americans had to surrender, and the last bastion in Clervaux had fallen.

Though unsuccessful in defending Clervaux, the 110th Infantry Regiment disrupted the German timing enough to allow for the defense of Bastogne. The 101st Airborne held Bastogne through miserable conditions, keeping an island of American territory within the bulge. Combined with the American resistance in the northern shoulder and elsewhere in the Ardennes, the German advances slowed, and any chance of the Germans reaching Antwerp disappeared.

PHOTO: US troops and equipment marching down a country road as German forces break through lines during the Battle of the Bulge. Courtesy John Florea/The LIFE Picture Collection/Getty Images.

THE BATTLE OF CLERVAUX

DECEMBER 16 - 18, 1944
Explore the Luxembourg Ardennes today by visiting Wiltz, where the 28th Infantry Division endured a major German attack on December 16, 1944. Retreating toward Bastogne, the 28th engaged in one of the largest individual battles of the German offensive near Café Schumann. A memorial trail leads to numerous foxholes and reminders of the battle. Continuing to the south, visit Diekirch and the National Military Museum of Luxembourg, which was founded by our guide, Roland Gaul. This museum tells the story of the Battle of the Bulge within the story of Luxembourg’s own military history.

Accommodations: Hotel Le Clervaux (B, D)
DAY 6 – MAY 28, 2018
LUXEMBOURG AMERICAN CEMETERY

Luxembourg City served as the headquarters for General George S. Patton’s Third Army. Visit the La Fondation Jean-Pierre Pescatore – home of the chapel where Patton prayed for clear weather on December 23, 1944. The tour continues to the Luxembourg American Cemetery, the final resting place of 5,076 American servicemen, including Patton himself, where the tour ends with a special wreath-laying ceremony. Return to Clervaux for the final evening in the Ardennes complete with a group farewell dinner. Accommodations: Hotel Le Clervaux (B, D)

DAY 7 – MAY 29, 2018
DEPARTURE

Transfer from Clervaux to Brussels International Airport for return flights home. (B)

PHOTO: The Mardasson Memorial, an American Memorial commemorating the Battle of the Bulge, Bastogne, Ardennes, Belgium.

FROM OUR COLLECTION

Below are a few of the artifacts from the Battle of the Bulge that the Museum has in its collection. Other documents and materials from the Museum’s archive will be reproduced and shared with tour participants.

TANKER’S BOOTS

Major Carl Corbin wore these tanker’s boots during the Battle of the Bulge, while serving with the 7th Armored Division in the vicinity of St. Vith, Belgium. The boots were a private purchase, rather than an issued item.
Gift of Carl Corbin, 2000.091.001

LEATHER GLOVE OF MAJOR GENERAL TROY MIDDLETON

During the Battle of the Bulge, Major General Troy Middleton gained fame for his decision to hold the key crossroads town of Bastogne as German forces advanced around it. A distinguished World War I veteran, Middleton came out of retirement to serve in World War II. He served for 480 days in combat — more than any other American general — and retired again in 1945. He later served as president of Louisiana State University.

SOUVENIR NAZI FLAG

This Nazi flag was signed by some of the 101st Airborne Division’s “Battered Bastards of Bastogne,” including Anthony Mesich, Stanley Ehret, Sam Jewell, Arthur Nash, and Lt. Leslie Schultz.
Gift in Memory of Anthony C. Mesich, 2010.052.002

PHOTO: The Mardasson Memorial, an American Memorial commemorating the Battle of the Bulge, Bastogne, Ardennes, Belgium.
5-STAR FEATURED ACCOMMODATIONS

LE CLERVAUX BOUTIQUE & DESIGN HOTEL

CLERVAUX, BELGIUM

A Trip Advisor 2017 Travelers Choice property located in the centre of the town of Clervaux, at the heart of the Luxembourg Ardennes, Le Clervaux Boutique & Design Hotel provides its guests the highest level of service in a stylish, boutique environment.

This all-suite property offers multiple dining venues, a spacious spa with numerous treatment options, as well as a fitness room, a swimming pool, and a sauna. Guests may take advantage of a wide range of cultural and recreational activities, including golf and cycling.

The 22 large, uniquely designed rooms offer handcrafted queen beds with comfort mattresses, spa-style baths with exclusive Fairtrade bath products, bathrobes and slippers, flat-screen TVs, iPhone docking stations, and complimentary WiFi.
THE NATIONAL WWII MUSEUM
EDUCATIONAL JOURNEYS

The National WWII Museum Signature Journeys extend the Museum’s tradition of inspiration, excellence, and thoughtful inquiry to important World War II sites around the world. With VIP access to the most intriguing destinations, rich historical context from curators, primary-source materials from the Museum’s digital collections, and custom experiences found nowhere else, The National WWII Museum has become the leader in World War II travel, providing unforgettable journeys into history.

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PAYMENT SCHEDULE
To reserve your participation, submit an initial deposit of $1,000 per person within five (5) days of booking. The 40% per person deposit is due for any pre and/or post program options that you select. Final payment is due no later than ninety (90) days prior to departure. All reservations are subject to cancellation if payments are not received by the due date. Payment by check is preferred in order to reduce costs to the Museum. Visa, MasterCard and American Express are also accepted.

CANCELLATIONS
Should it be necessary to cancel your reservation, please contact the Museum immediately at 1-877-813-3239 ext 257. Cancellations for all or any part of a tour including optional pre and/or post tour extension programs will not be effective until received in writing. You should have to cancel, the following terms will apply:

Cancellations are subject to a $200 per person fee ($50 for Optional Pre and/or Post Tour Programs) from the time of booking through 121 days prior to departure; $1,000 per person fee ($200 for Optional Pre and/or Post Tour Programs) from 90 days up to 61 days prior to departure; 60% of the full tour cost (including Optional Pre and/or Post Tour Programs); cancellations 60 days or less prior to departure, no-show, or early return from the trip will result in loss of 100% of the full tour cost (including Optional Pre and/or Post Tour Programs). In addition, applicable cancelation fees for confirmed additional hotel nights may apply.

TRAVEL INSURANCE - Because our cancellation policy is strictly enforced, we strongly recommend that you purchase trip cancellation insurance. In the event that you must cancel your participation, trip cancellation insurance may be your only source of reimbursement. Travel Cancellation is offered through the Museum’s Travel Department and information is included in your initial confirmation packet accordingly.

HEALTH, MEDICAL AND TOUR REQUIREMENTS
All guests are required to advise in writing to the Museum at the time of reservation if they have:

• Any physical or mental condition that may require medical or professional treatment or attention during the tour;
• Any condition that may pose a risk to one’s self and/or other participants or the tour;
• Any condition that may require health aids, i.e.; oxygen, walkers, crutches, etc., or any intention or need to use a wheelchair while on the tour;

By booking passage the guest represents and warrants that he/she is physically and otherwise fit to travel and that guests will comply at all times of the trip by others. Specific room/cabin assignments are within the sole discretion of the hotel or cruise line. The Museum reserves the right to change the itinerary or trip features at any time and for any reason, with or without notice, and the Museum shall not be liable for any loss of any kind as a result of any such changes in trip schedules, port calls, hours of arrival and departure, sightseeing events, special programs and guest lecture series (if applicable), and other modifications. The Museum is not responsible therefore and is not required to compensate passengers under these circumstances. The Museum may cancel a trip (or any part of a trip) for any reason solely at its discretion, without liability to refund monies paid by the participant to the Museum. It is not required to provide a replacement trip for any reason including without limitation, United States Department of State, World Health Organization or other Warnings or Advisories of any kind. The Museum is not responsible for penalties assessed by air carriers resulting from operational and/or itinerary changes, even if the Museum makes the flight arrangements for penalties assessed by air carriers resulting from operational and/or itinerary changes, even if the Museum makes the flight arrangements.
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Battle of the Bulge
7 DAYS • MAY 23 – 29, 2018

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SEE PAGE 37 FOR DETAILS.

PHOTO: View of the city of Malmedy. Courtesy Joern Sackermann/Alamy Stock Photo