

Video 7

The American counter attack



1. The siege of Bastogne

The 26000 soldiers of the 101st Airborne Division, led by General Anthony McAuliffe, were surrounded by the Germans in Bastogne. General George Patton, who at the time was in Metz, France, with the 3rd U.S. Army, rushed to help the Americans in Bastogne.



Which of the following statements are correct?



Bastogne is a small town in the *Ösling*, close to the Belgian border.

☐ ☐

The 101st Airborne Division were a unit which consisted of paratroopers.

☐ ☐

It was usual for paratroopers to be surrounded by enemies.

☐ ☐

The 101st Airborne Division had heavy tanks to defend themselves.

☐ ☐

The U.S. troops in Bastogne were supplied by air.

☐ ☐

When the Germans demanded his surrender, General McAuliffe replied: „Nuts!“

☐ ☐

The U.S. soldiers had parachuted into Bastogne.

☐ ☐

General Patton relieved Bastogne shortly after Christmas.

☐ ☐

McAuliffe (middle) in Bastogne.



General Patton awards McAuliffe the *Distinguished Service Cross* for his heroic defense of Bastogne.

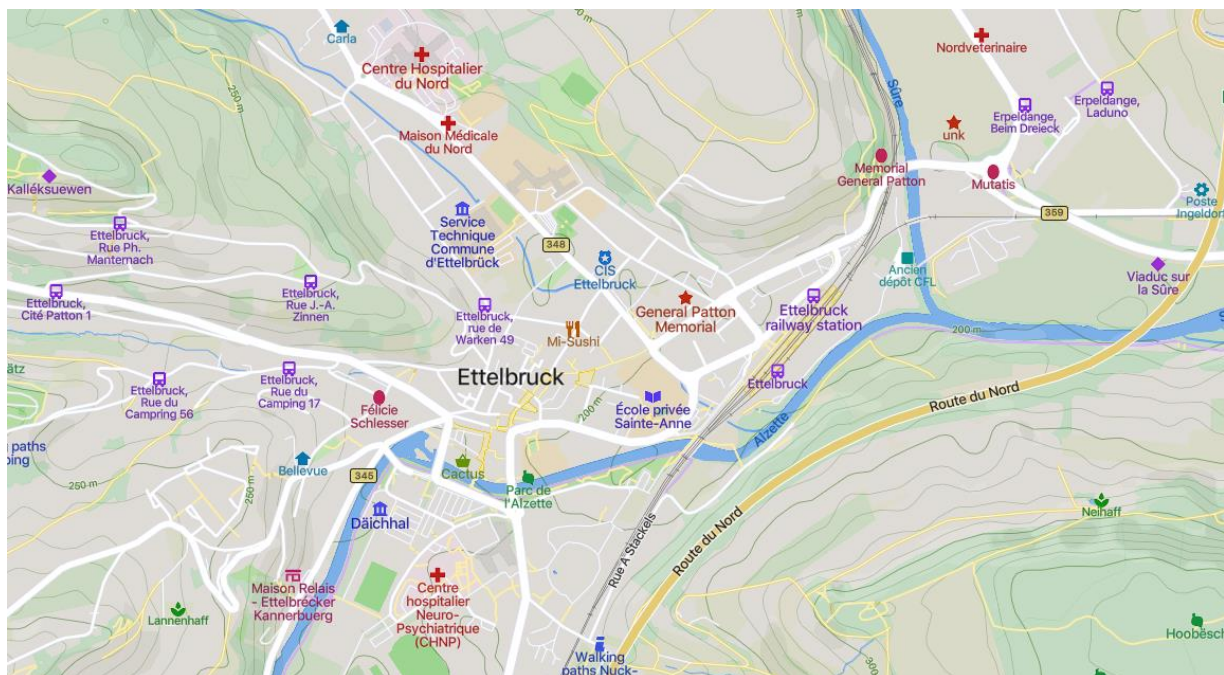
2. „Patton-Town“

To honour General Patton, Ettelbruck sometimes refers to itself as „Patton-Town“.

A statue and a Sherman tank on the *Square Patton* and the *General Patton Memorial Museum* in the center of town commemorate the American general.



Find their location on the map below.



In December 1945, George Patton died in a car accident in Germany and was buried, according to his wishes, next to his men at the Luxembourg/Hamm military cemetery.



3. At Schumannseck

From the end of December 1944 to mid-January 1945, the bloodiest battle of the Battle of Bulge in Luxembourg took place at *Schumannseck* near Wiltz. The German army defended itself viciously, considerably slowing down the American advance.



Schumannseck Memorial

True or false?



The terrain suited the German defense.

☐ ☐

The German Army used their „Wunderwaffen“ (the V1 and V2 missiles).

☐ ☐

The U.S. Army was originally sent to the wrong place.

☐ ☐

Fighting in winter caused great difficulties for the Americans.

☐ ☐

The U.S. Army struggled to get supplies.

☐ ☐

The German Army knew the terrain better due to their superior maps.

☐ ☐

Old quartzite mines enabled the German Army to quickly build defensive positions.

☐ ☐

Sentier de la mémoire Schumannseck 1944-1945

4. River Sauer Crossing

On the 18th of January 1945, the U.S. Army attacked in order to push back the Germans. To do so, they had to cross the Luxembourgish river *Sauer*. This attack took place along a 10km stretch between Ingeldorf and Reisdorf.



Diorama in the MNHM



Mark the sector of the river crossing on map ①.

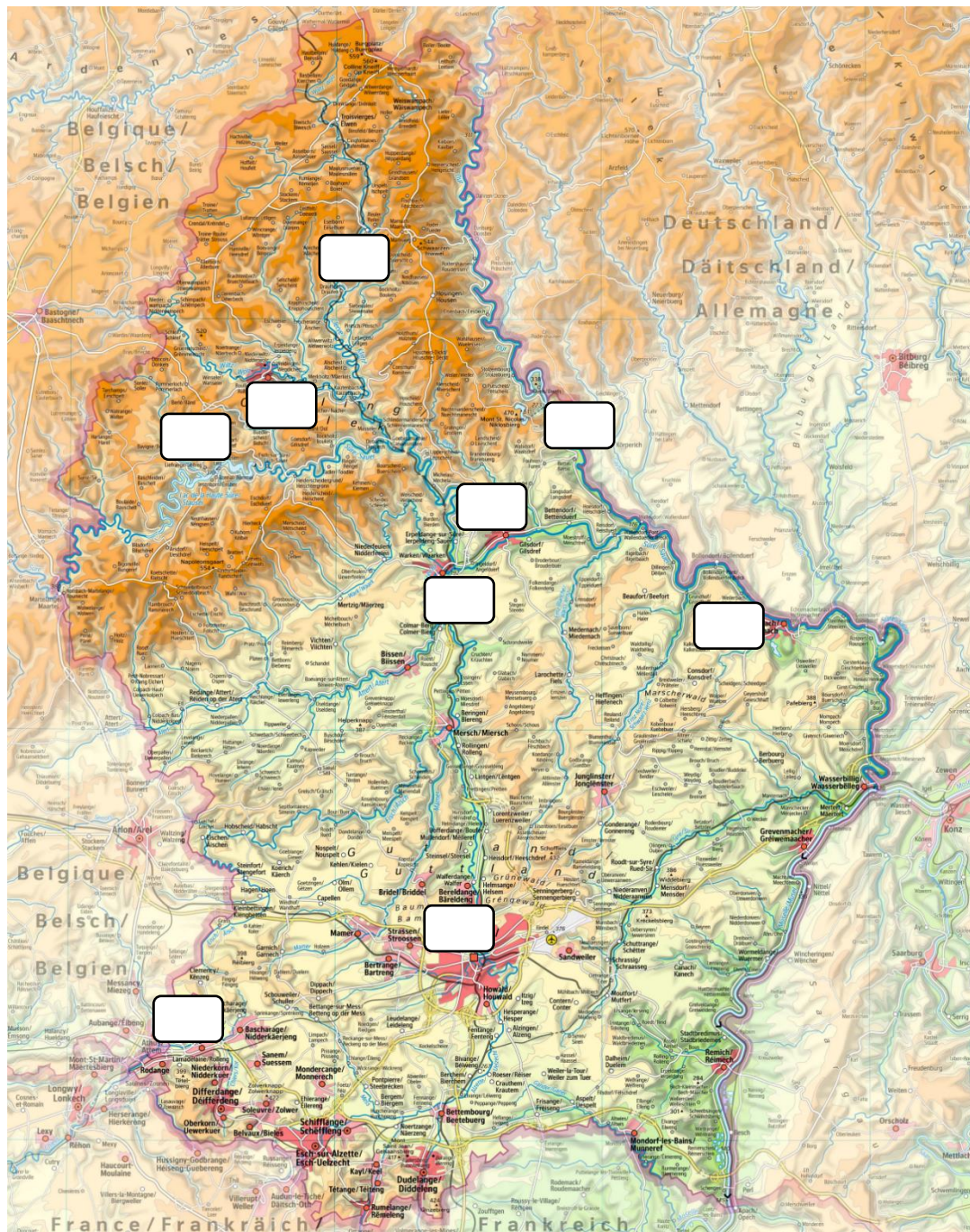


Circle Bastogne and Wiltz on map ②. 

Find the important crossroad at *Schumannseck* near Wiltz on map ②.



5. The War in Luxembourg



Match the numbers of the descriptions with the locations on the map above :

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Pétange (1) : | was the first Luxembourgish town to be liberated on September 9 th 1945. |
| Clervaux (2) : | was almost completely destroyed during the Battle of the Bulge. |
| Luxemburg (3) : | was liberated on September 10 th 1945. |
| Vianden (4) : | was liberated as the last town in Luxembourg on February 12 th 1945. |
| Echternach (5) : | the <i>Basilika</i> (Church) was blown up by German troops. |
| Ettelbrück (6) : | gained the nickname „Patton Town“. |
| Schumannseck (7) : | the bloodiest battle in Luxembourg was fought here. . |
| Wiltz (8) : | the American <i>St Nick</i> visited the children here on December 6 th . |
| Diekirch (9) : | the <i>Sauer</i> river was crossed here on January 18 th 1944. |

6. The second liberation of Diekirch

Diekirch, like many other places in the *Ösling*, had to be liberated twice by the U.S. Army. The first liberation barely caused any damage, since the German Army quickly retreated back behind the *Siegfried* line in Germany. During the second liberation however, the Germans defended themselves viciously, leading to heavy fights. Many villages and towns in the *Ösling* were largely destroyed.

When did the two liberations of Diekirch take place? Choose the correct answer.

10th of May 1940 ☐

17th of September 1944 ☐

22nd of June 1941 ☐

18th of January 1945 ☐

6th of June 1944 ☐

12th of February 1945 ☐

11th of September 1944 ☐

8th of May 1940 ☐



Place de la Libération 1944 / Diekirch



Place de la Libération 1945 / Diekirch



« Grussgaass » (Groussgaass) 1945 / Diekirch



Old St. Laurentius Church 1945 / Diekirch