

Press kit

Exhibit

“Bastogne 1944”

The Battle of the Bulge

13.07.2016 to 30.11.2017

The result of a partnership

Strong of the friendship between Normandy and Bastogne, the Airborne Museum of Sainte-Mère-Eglise and the Bastogne War Museum (BWM) have started a strong cooperation. This resulted in the presentation of the “V for Victory” exhibit in Bastogne, put at disposal by the Airborne Museum at the occasion of the Nuts Days of December 2015.

The Airborne Museum is situated at the heart of Sainte-Mère-Eglise, a few kilometers from the landing beaches, in front of the bell tower to which paratrooper John Steele hang.

Through a spectacular scenography, the Airborne Museum revives D-Day at the sides of the paratroopers of the 82nd and 101st Airborne. From the preparation for the landings in England, to the combats leading to the liberation, the visitor accompanies the airborne troops on their road to victory.

On 19 May 2016, the Airborne Museum inaugurated a new building: the Conference Center Ronald Reagan. This new modular space is dedicated to conferences, temporary exhibits and movie screenings.

The project

In the frame of the opening of the Conference Center, the Airborne Museum wished to honor its partner, the Bastogne War Museum, and asked the company Tempora, manager of the BWM, for the conception and realization of an exhibit on the Battle of the Bulge.

The Battle of the Ardennes is thus at the heart of the scenography (among others: its stakes, the forces involved, the harshness of the fighting and the weather conditions).

It is completed by the following themes:

- The chronology of the events from the landings to the start of the Battle of the Bulge (liberation, supply lines ...);
- The creation of the Liberation Road and the role of Patton's 3rd Army;
- The role of the 82nd and 101st Airborne.

The scenography makes the bet of developing the theme of supplies and logistics through the use of supply crates as exhibit furniture.

The exhibit shows artifacts, original documents, interactive devices, and immersive screening in a scenography alternating in the registers of emotion and memory.

The course

The Battle of the Bulge and the siege of Bastogne constitute the central theme of the exhibit's course.

Two threads pave the course:

- The role of the 101st and 82nd Airborne, dropped on Sainte-Mère-Eglise in the night of the 5th to the 6th of June 1944 and that will be thrown in the hell of Bastogne 6 months later
- The issue of supplies

The visit starts by a presentation of the events that paved the conflict from the Normandy landings to the start of the Battle of the Bulge through maps, an interactive terminal and period newspapers.

The second space presents the main factual data relating to the Battle of the Bulge, through a time line, an illustrative map, artefacts, texts and video archives. Written witness accounts bring in another light. In this space, a specific slot is dedicated to the siege of Bastogne and General McAuliffe's famous "NUTS".

The third space, based on the register of emotion, is covering the Battle of the Bulge through a film evoking the “hell of the Ardennes”.

Last but not least, the final space focuses on the creation of the Liberation Road (Sainte-Mère-Eglise: milestone 0 ; Bastogne : milestone 1147), building of the Mardasson and the epic of Patton’s third Army through a map and a terminal. That is in that space that the duty of remembrance, that concerns us all, is developed.

Practical information

Airborne Museum

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Opening Times 2016

- May to August : 9 m-7pm
- April to September : 09:30am-6:30pm
- October to March : 10am-6pm
- Closed in December and January except during Christmas Holidays

Admission rates 2016

- Adult : 8.00 €
- Child (6 to 16 year old): 5.00 €
- Child under 6 : free
- Family : (2 adults and 2 Children) : Adults : 7.50€ / Children : 4€
- Group : Adults : 6 € / Children: 4 €

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