

**Monument Inauguration
STOLZEMBOURG
September 11, 2024**



**First Crossing
of the German Border
Stolzembourg, September 11, 1944**

The brochure, compiled by Marcel Scheidweiler, will be distributed free of charge to the public by the Commune of Putscheid on September 11, 2024, at the inauguration of the new Stolzembourg monument.



Cover: Monument that reminds of the first crossing of the German border by an allied reconnaissance patrol on September 11, 1944

Photo and Concept: Volker TEUSCHLER, CUBE Werbung GmbH

Ladies and Gentlemen,

When the Allied reconnaissance patrol of the 5th US Armored Division crossed the German border for the first time in Stolzenbourg on September 11, 1944, this news went around the world and the village in the Our Valley moved into the spotlight of World History.

On the 50th anniversary of this historic event, on September 11, 1994, a monument consisting of three tank barriers in miniature was inaugurated next to the bridge. Beforehand, an explanatory board set up by CEBA („*Cercle d'Études sur la Bataille des Ardennes*“) recalled the events that had taken place at this site.

For the 80th anniversary, the Commune of Putscheid commissioned Mr. Volker Teuschler from nearby Daleiden (D) to design and build a new, striking monument for this historic site.

The memorial, inaugurated on September 11, 2024, consists of ten large Corten steel plates that are set up as a pentagram, the symbol on the American tanks at the time. Silhouettes of fighting soldiers are cut out from the edges of the steel plates and from a bird's eye view the star points represent a "1", as a reminder of the Allies' first entry into the Third Reich. The star should not only remind of a bad time, but it should also be a signpost to better days.

In the five-star tips are backlit information boards about the West Wall and the entry into the Third Reich by the Allied reconnaissance patrol. Two panels provide an insight into the daily routine of a German soldier who took part in the Battle of the Bulge. The excellent pictures compiled by Mr. Horst Helmus in 1948 vividly convey the war situation at the time. As the monument is also the starting point to numerous "Remember Us" locations, their title and location are the content of the fifth information board. A pentagon in the middle of the monument invites you to sit and linger.

We would like to thank everyone involved who contributed to the realization of this monument with advice, support and financial resources:

- Ministère de la Défense, de la Mobilité et des Travaux Publics
- Ministère de l'Économie, des PME, de l'Énergie et du Tourisme
- Ministère de la Culture
- Administration des Ponts et Chaussées de Diekirch
- Armée Luxembourgeoise
- Naturpark Our
- Herrn Volker Teuschler, CUBE Werbung GmbH
- SEO
- Gemeinde Putscheid
- CEBA, Re-enactment-Gruppe 2nd Armored in Europe Ltd
- Syndicat d'Initiative Stolzebuerg
- Chorale St Hubert Merscheid und Chorale Ste Cécile Stolzebuerg
- Mrs. Auni Mahnert-Helmus and Mr. Axel Helmus, who agreed to the publication of their father's texts and pictures.

The organization committee

INVITATION

The Commune of Putscheid invites you to the inauguration of the new monument commemorating the first crossing of the German border by an allied reconnaissance patrol on September 11, 1944, that takes place at Stolzenbourg on **September 11, 2024**.

In the presence of Mrs. Yuriko Backes, Minister of Defense, Mr. Eric Thill, Minister of Culture, the Ambassadors and Delegations of the USA, Great Britain, France and Germany, and the authorities of the neighboring communes, the program will be as follows:

PROGRAM

Up from **05:30 p.m.** on reception of the guests at the border bridge Stolzenbourg/Keppeshausen (D)

06:00 p.m. Welcoming of the guests by Mayor Mrs. Fabienne Sinnes-Huberty

- Historical overview by Mr. Erny Kohn, President of the *Cercle d'Études sur la Bataille des Ardennes*, (CEBA)

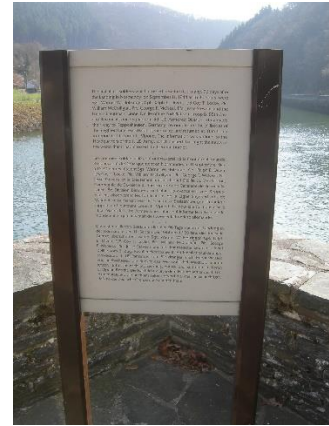
06 :15 p.m. Re-enactment of the historical scene: Three soldiers of the 5th US Armored Division come back from Keppeshausen (D) after having crossed the German border 96 days after the landing in Normandie realized by the *2nd Armored in Europe Ltd* and commented by Mr. Erny Kohn.

- Speech of His Excellency Thomas M. Barret, Ambassador of the USA
- Speech of Mrs. Yuriko Backes, Minister of Defense
- National hymns of the USA and of Europe performed by the Choirs of Stolzenbourg and Merscheid
- Official inauguration of the Monument
- Explanation of the concept of the Monument by Mr. Volker Teuschler
- Cortege to the Festivity Hall via the *Promenade of the Our*
- Short stop and explanations at the site where the reconnaissance patrol entered the Third Reich
- Reception offered by the Commune of Putscheid

The Commune of Putscheid



Commemoration of the first crossing of the German border on September 11, 1944



Symbolic anti-tank barriers, „dragon’s teeth”, commemorated the first crossing into the German Reich on September 11, 1944. A plaque in three languages erected by the “*Cercle d’Études sur la Bataille des Ardennes*” (CEBA), provided the necessary explanations of the historic event.



The texts written by CEBA were included verbatim on the “Remember Us” panel in 2014. The idea of placing trilingual information boards on the side of the monuments was adopted and further expanded by the initiators of the “Remember Us” boards.



„On September 11, 1944, the First Allied Soldiers belonging to the 5th US Armored Division crossed here into Germany”

The tank barriers and panels were replaced in 2024 by a new monument designed by Mr. Volker TEUSCHLER, CUBE, Advertising GmbH, on behalf of the Commune of Putscheid.



On June 26, 2024, the monument was erected under the direction of Mr. Volker TEUSCHLER





REMEMBER US



THE FORMER SIEGFRIED LINE

Between 1936 and 1940, the National Socialist regime ordered the construction of the so-called West Wall along the western German border - also known as the Siegfried Line by the Allies. Around 22,000 bunkers and approx. 260 km of anti-tank barriers were built along a length of around 630 km along the fortification line between Kleve (NL) and Basel (CH). The costs amounted to around 3.5 billion Reichsmarks.

When the Western Campaign ended in July 1940, work on the Siegfried Line was halted. One man was appointed as bunker warden in each village. He was given the keys and had to check that everything was in order. When the construction of the Atlantic Wall began, the bunkers were cannibalized. The remaining men of the German Labor Service (RAD) dismantled the barbed wire obstacles, which took months.

In September 1944, the old bunkers became important again when the US Army attempted to cross the Reich border. Heavy fighting ensued, especially at the "Schwarzen Mann", hill 697 m on the road Schneifelhöhenweg west of Wascheid (D) and around Wallendorf (D).



L'ANCIEN WESTWALL

Entre 1936 et 1940, le soi-disant Westwall également appelé ligne Siegfried par les Alliés - a été érigé sur ordre du régime national-socialiste le long de la frontière ouest-allemande. Sur une longueur d'environ 630 km, quelque 22.000 bunkers et 260 km de barrages antichars ont été construits sur la ligne de fortification entre Kleve (NL) et Bâle (CH). Les coûts s'élevaient à environ 3,5 milliards de Reichsmark.

Lorsque la campagne de l'Ouest s'est terminée en juillet 1940, les travaux du Westwall ont été stoppés. Dans chaque village, un homme fut désigné comme gardien du bunker. Celui-ci recevait les clés et devait vérifier que tout allait bien. Lorsque la construction du mur de l'Atlantique a commencé, les bunkers ont été démantelés. Les hommes du Service de Travail du Reich (RAD) ont ensuite démonté les obstacles en fils de fer barbelés, ce qui a duré des mois.

En septembre 1944, les anciens bunkers reprirent de l'importance lorsque l'armée américaine tenta de franchir la frontière du Reich. De violents combats s'ensuivirent, notamment au « Schwarzen Mann » (697 m, D) et autour de Wallendorf (D).



DER EHEMALIGE WESTWALL

Zwischen 1936 und 1940 wurde auf Befehl der nationalsozialistischen Herrschaft entlang der westdeutschen Grenze der sogenannte Westwall errichtet - von den Alliierten auch Siegfried-Linie genannt. Auf einer Länge von etwa 630 km entstanden an der Befestigungslinie zwischen Kleve (NL) und Basel (CH) rund 22.000 Bunker und ca. 260 km Panzersperren. Die Kosten beliefen sich auf etwa 3,5 Milliarden Reichsmark.

Als der Westfeldzug im Juli 1940 endete, wurden die Arbeiten am Westwall gestoppt. In jedem Dorf wurde ein Mann als Bunkerwart bestimmt. Dieser bekam die Schlüssel und musste nach dem Rechten sehen. Als man nun mit dem Bau des Atlantikwalls begann, wurden die Bunker ausgeschlachtet. Die verbleibenden Männer vom Reichsarbeitsdienst bauten die Stacheldraht Hindernisse ab, was Monate dauerte.

Im September 1944 gewannen die alten Bunker wieder an Bedeutung, als die US-Armee versuchte, die Reichsgrenze zu überschreiten. Es folgten schwere Kämpfe, besonders am « Schwarzen Mann » (697 m) und um Wallendorf (D).



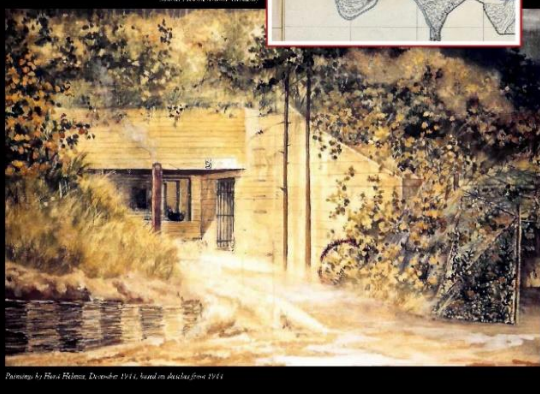
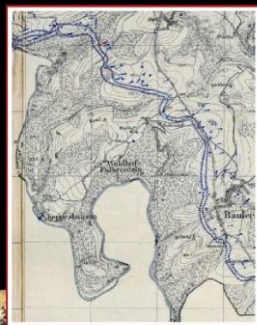
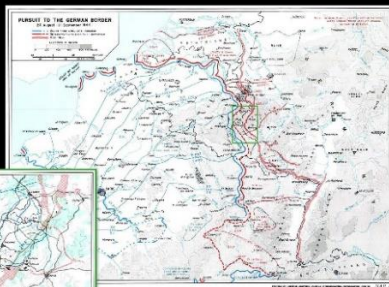
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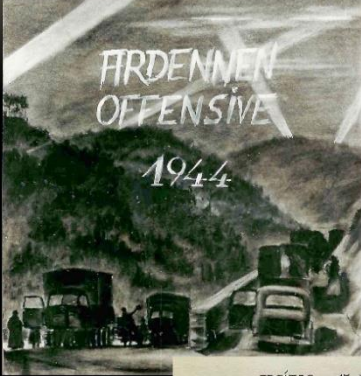
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D-DAY
6 JUNI
1944



REMEMBER US



ARDENNEN
OFFENSIVE
1944



Der deutsche Soldat Horst Helmus war zeitweise im Ourtal stationiert. Der damals 19-jährige hat seine Erlebnisse in einem reich illustrierten Tagebuch festgehalten. Dank seiner Bilder und Notizen vermittelt er uns einen Eindruck der Kriegsgeschehnisse hier im Ourtal Ende 1944.



The German soldier Horst Helmus was stationed in the valley of the Our for a time. The then 19-year-old recorded his experiences in a richly illustrated diary. Thanks to his pictures and notes, he gives us an impression of the events of the war here in the valley of the Our at the end of 1944.

Le soldat allemand Horst Helmus a été stationné dans la vallée de l'Our pendant un certain temps et a consigné ses impressions et ses expériences dans un journal richement illustré. Grâce à ses dessins et ses notes, il nous donne une impression de l'époque oppressante qui prévalait alors.

Friday, 15.12.1944
Packing up! Last «big wash»; gun adjusted with the Sergeant for weapons and equipment (WuG), and then camouflaged with bed sheets; loaded ammunition; dried and singed laundry on the stove pipe in the evening in the quarters.

Vendredi, le 15 décembre 1944
Ploons bagages ! Dernière « grande lessive » : ajustage du canon avec le sergent pour les armes et équipements (WuG) puis camouflage avec des draps ; chargement des munitions ; le soir au cantonnement, séchage et roussissement du linge sur la pipe du four.

9 - 11 p.m.
“Headlight guard” by personal order of Division Commander, Colonel Kockott [sic]. Dress: steel helmet, gas mask, belt, pistol, hand axe, with the order to smash all vehicle headlights that are not dimmed. Lieutenant Gutbier is sitting in his office as an “intervention reserve”. Artillery and launchers of all calibers roll past us without interruption. Glass pieces are avoided, and with audible shouting and unmistakable threats, the watch passes without any particular incidents.

21 - 23 heures « Conquête de plumes » par ordre personnel du Colonel Kockott [sic] commandant de la division. tenue : casque d'acier, masque à gaz, bandolier, pistolet, hache à main, avec pour mission de casser tous les phares des véhicules qui ne se sont pas mis en code. Le lieutenant Gutbier est assis dans le bureau en tant que « réserve d'intervention ». L'artillerie et les lanceurs de tous calibres défilent devant nous sans interruption. Les éclats de verre nous sont évaporés, avec des cris audibles et des menaces sans équivoque, la garde se déroule sans incident particulier.



Photob. by Heinz Böhm, December 1964, based on photo from 1944



The German soldier Horst Helmus was stationed in the valley of the Our for a time. The then 19-year-old recorded his experiences in a richly illustrated diary. Thanks to his pictures and notes, he gives us an impression of the events of the war here in the valley of the Our at the end of 1944.

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REMEMBER US

SONNTAG, 17. XII. 1944

U E. Mayer, Wand und ich unsere zu Tod unsere Führer etc.; es geht nur nach streckenweise vorwärts. Die Karten sind teilweise so angelegt, daß abgepaart werden muß. Ein Bajonet ist nicht mehr zu denken. Muß langsam da, das vor uns streckenweise. Es ist fassungslos.

7:00 Uhr! Marschzeit in einer Wald. Waldfläche, Waffenreinigung. — Es geht weiter, Blick nach Bergung, die ersten toten Deutschen, eine Hilfe von uns liegt unter starken Beschuss; verlassene Bunkerstellung, die unter Bajonetten durchwegs unempfindlich, teilweise sogar vergraben. — Gewehrwartungsarbeiten ununterbrochen rechts von uns.

8:30 Uhr! In WEILER eingetroffen. Marmelade: Opt. Kisten (1.1. Gabeln u. 2 Gef. zumachen, Teller) 750. 1. Gabeln (1.1. Teller u. 2 Gef. abgepaart) in Tellerbox, die O.Tu. Uff. Mayer unsere Deckung und 2 Mann von einem anderen Geschütz auf Führung und Kommando verließ. Tod über Dorfplatz plötzlich Feuerüberfall! Major (mit Karte) fiel. ... Nicht zu sehen, aber es knistert aus allen Ecken. Tischen und viele Belegung ist über in meiner Nacht 200 und 150m im nicht mehr. Vor uns stehen wieder drei anliegende Geschütze. Das Zurückgehen der Amerikaner.



Überfall über ... In einem Schuppen hinter einem 'Fischer' findet sich ein ... Die Situation nach unserer ... Major im Vordergrund mit ...

in Flörlchen, Krieger, Jena Theater u. Jena TDR Besichtigung; die weiteren Gefallen ...

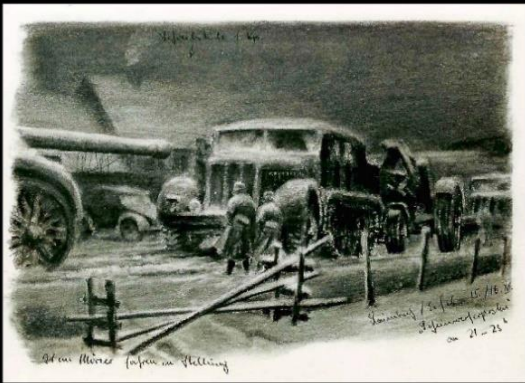


Sunday, 17.12.1944

Non-commissioned officers Mayer, Wand and myself show the way to our driver; it goes on only by short distances. The bends are so sharp that we have to unlimber the cannon. Sleep is impossible. It is bitter cold. 7:00 a.m. Marching rest in a wood. Breakfast, weapons-cleaning. — We are going along view to Dasburg; the first dead German soldiers, a hill in front of us lies under heavy artillery fire, left enemy position, for our understanding quite unwarlike, partly even glassed. Mortar shells landing immediately on the right side of us.

8:30 a.m. Entered into Weiler In the square of the village suddenly fire attack! Weiler, corresponding to the map, should be free from enemies. — We cannot see anything but it is firing out of all holes and corners. Spring down and take cover is the thing to do. In my fear I see and hear no more anything. In front of me and on my side the mud is tossed up by the bullets. The shouting of the wounded soldiers is everywhere. I find myself back in a garage beside a jeep. Seconds ago I mentioned to Wand when we passed by all the things left back by the Americans, now I am alone, everything went terribly quickly, there are no Amis nor Germans to see. A short time later Stöfgen and Tezak, the first one with a jump, Tezak securely crawling through the biggest mud, through the dung-hole -, to come to me. The Amis cannot stop firing. Completely exhausted we hold our council in a whispering tone, observing every window and door; the waving curtains make us crazy. A rifle magazine lies so near in front of our garage that it could be taken. Mayer must have lost it. Suppose that we are the only three left.

From the diary of Horst Helmus, Dec. 1944



Photograph by Horst Helmus, December 1944, found in the diary of Horst Helmus, Dec. 1944



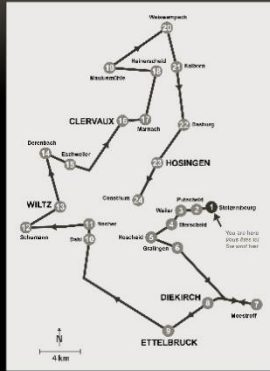
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
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REMEMBER US



 The north of Luxembourg was the scene of numerous dramatic events during World War Two. The population had to endure occupation, forced recruitment and fierce battles in the villages. The embattled front lines swept across the region several times. The REMEMBER US project commemorates this time with numerous small and large stories and heroic deeds.

 Le nord du Luxembourg a été le théâtre de nombreux événements dramatiques pendant la Seconde Guerre Mondiale. La population a dû subir l'occupation, les enrôlements forcés et les combats acharnés au sein de ses localités. A plusieurs reprises, le front a défilé sur la région. Le projet REMEMBER US commémore cette période avec de nombreuses petites et grandes histoires et d'actes héroïques.

 Der Norden Luxemburgs war Schauplatz zahlreicher dramatischer Ereignisse während des 2. Weltkriegs. Die Bevölkerung musste die Besetzung, Zwangsrekrutierungen und erbitterte Kämpfe um ihre Ortschaften erdulden. Mehrmals wogte die umkämpfte Front über die Region. Mit dem Projekt REMEMBER US wird an diese Zeit erinnert mit zahlreichen kleinen und großen Geschichten und Heldentaten.

1. STOLZEMBOURG, Bridge, Pont, Brücke:

Monument Fini Crossing on Sept 11, 1944
 Monument de la première entrée le 11 sept. 1944
 Denkmal erste Grenzübergang am 11.09.1944

2. PUTSCHEID, Chapel, Chapelle, Kapelle:

Liberation of Putscheid on Jan 28, 1945
 La libération de Putscheid le 28 janvier 1945
 Die Befreiung von Putscheid am 28. Januar 1945

PUTSCHEID, A Place for us all / Une place pour nous tous / Ein Platz für uns alle:

A 155mm-Howitzer Battery / REMEMBER US
 Itineraries / Facts of War in the Commune of Putscheid, Info Points
 Une batterie 155-mm-Howitzer / Itinéraires des panneaux REMEMBER US / Evénements de guerre dans la commune de Putscheid, Points d'information
 Eine 155-mm-Haubitz-Batterie / Reiserouten zum Entdecken der REMEMBER US Tafeln / Kriegereignisse in der Gemeinde Putscheid, Informationspunkte

3. WEILER, Square Tom Myers, Place Tom Myers, Tom-Myers-Platz:

Beginning of the Battle of the Bulge on Dec. 16, 1944
 Commencement de la Bataille des Ardennes, le 16 décembre 1944 - Beginn der Ardennenoffensive am 16. Dezember 1944

4. MERSCHIED, Communal Square, Place communale, Gemeindeplatz:

War Victims of Merschied - Victimes de guerre de Merscheid - Kriegopfer von Merscheid

5. HOSCHIED, at the church, près de l'église, bei der Kirche:

First and second Liberation of Hoscheid - Première et deuxième libération de Hoscheid - Erste und zweite Befreiung von Hoscheid

6. GRALINGEN, Church, Église, Kirche:

Liberation of the Commune of Putscheid, Jan. 1945
 La libération de la commune de Putscheid au mois de janvier 1945 - Die Befreiung der Gemeinde Putscheid im Monat Januar 1945

7. MOESTROFF, Bridge, Pont, Brücke:

The Vincent J. Festa Bridge - Le pont Vincent J. Festa
 Die Vincent-J-Festa-Brücke

8. DIEKIRCH, Municipal Park, Parc municipal, Stadtpark

Sauer River Crossing Jan 18, 1945 / Evacuation of the civilian population Dec. 19/20, 1944
 La traversée de la Sûre le 18 janvier 1945 / L'évacuation de la population civile de Diekirch le 19/20 déc. 1944
 Die Sauer-Überquerung am 18. Jan. 1945 / Die Evakuierung der Zivilbevölkerung am 19./20. Dez. 1944

9. ETTELBRUCK, Square Patton, Place Patton, Patton Platz;

Sherman Tank M4A1 - Char Sherman M4A1 - Sherman M4A1 Panzer

ETTELBRUCK, Private School Sainte Anne, Ecole privée Sainte Anne, Privatschule Sainte Anne:

Lt. Col. James Rudder, Commanding Officer 109th Regt, 28th US Infantry Division - Lt. Col. James Rudder, commandant du 109^e Régiment, 28^e Division d'Infanterie US - Oberst James Rudder, Kommandant des 109. Regiments, 28. US-Infanteriedivision

10. DAHL "An Aastert":

Congressional Medal of Honor for Sergeant Day G. Turner
 Médaille d'Honneur du Congrès pour Sergeant Day G. Turner - Congressional Medal of Honor für Feldwebel Day G. Turner

11. NOCHER, "Um Knapp":

The long Battle for Nocher - La longue Bataille pour Nocher - Der lange Kampf um Nocher

12. SCHUMANN CROSSROADS, National Liberation Memorial:

The Battle around Schumann / Bataille 1839 - 1945
 La Bataille autour du carrefour Schumann / Calendrier 1839 - 1945 - Der Kampf um die Kreuzung Schumann
 Lob / Zeitleiste 1839 - 1945

SCHUMANN CROSSROADS, Mass Graves, Tombeau commun, Gemeinschaftsgrab:

Reconciliation - Réconciliation - Versöhnung

13. WILTZ, 28th US Infantry Division Square, Place de la 28^e Division d'Infanterie américaine, 28. US Infanteriedivision-Platz:

The American St. Nick - Le Saint Nicolas américain - Der unverschnittene Heilige Nikolaus

14. DERSFNBACH, at the Watertower, près du château d'eau, beim Wasserturm:

A shelter "A WEICHEN" - Un abri «A WEICHEN»
 bunker «A WEICHEN»

15. FSCHWEILER, Church, Église, Kirche / CR 328:

G.I. George Mergenthaler, Ambush at Café Hall
 G.I. George Mergenthaler, Embuscade au Café Hall
 G.I. George Mergenthaler, Hinterhalt am Café Hall

16. CLERVAUX, Square G.I.:

The American Soldier - Le soldat américain - Der amerikanische Soldat

CLERVAUX, Monument for the Victims, Monument A Nos Morts, Totendenkmal:

Clervaux in the Battle of the Bulge - Clervaux dans la Bataille des Ardennes - Clief in der Ardennenoffensive

CLERVAUX, Exterior courtyard of the castle, Cour extérieure du château, Außenhof des Schlosses:

US Sherman Tank M4A3 (76)

17. MARNACH, Square Cube 521:

Battle around Marnach, The 707th Tank Battalion in Support of the 110th Regt - La Bataille autour de Marnach, Le 707^e Bataillon de chars en support du 110^e Régiment - Der Kampf um Marnach, Das 707. Panzerbataillon in Unterstützung des 110. Regiments

18. HEINERSCHIED, "Am Posh", BicycLe Trail, Piste cyclable, Radweg:

The Heinerscheid "Bunker" Dwaaser
 Le décastre du bunker de Heinerscheid
 Die Tragedie im Bunker von Heinerscheid

19. MAULSMÜHLE Wood between Boxhorn and Maulsmühle, Forêt entre Boxhorn et Maulsmühle, Wald zwischen Boxhorn und Maulsmühle:

The Crash of the Hudson FK-308 - Le crash du Hudson FK-308 - Der Absturz der Hudson FK-308

20. WEISWAMPACH, Lancaster Memorial:

The 112th Infantry Regiment defending the Northern Tip of Luxembourg - Le 112^e Régiment défend la pointe nord de Luxembourg - Das 112. Regiment verteidigt die Nordspitze Luxemburgs

21. KALBORN, South facade of the church, Façade sud de l'église, Südfassade der Kirche:

The Events of September 22, 1944, in Kalborn
 Les événements tragiques du 22 septembre 1944 à Kalborn
 Die tragischen Ereignisse des 22. Sept. 1944 in Kalborn

22. DASBURG, Bridge, German Territory, Pont, territoire allemand, Brücke, deutsches Hoheitsgebiet:

Siegfried Line Breakthrough, Feb 20-23, 1945
 Percée de la Ligne Siegfried, février 20-23, 1945
 Durchbruch in die Siegfriedlinie, Februar 20-23, 1945

23. HOSINGEN, Town South Entry, Entrée sud de la localité, Südlicher Ortseingang:

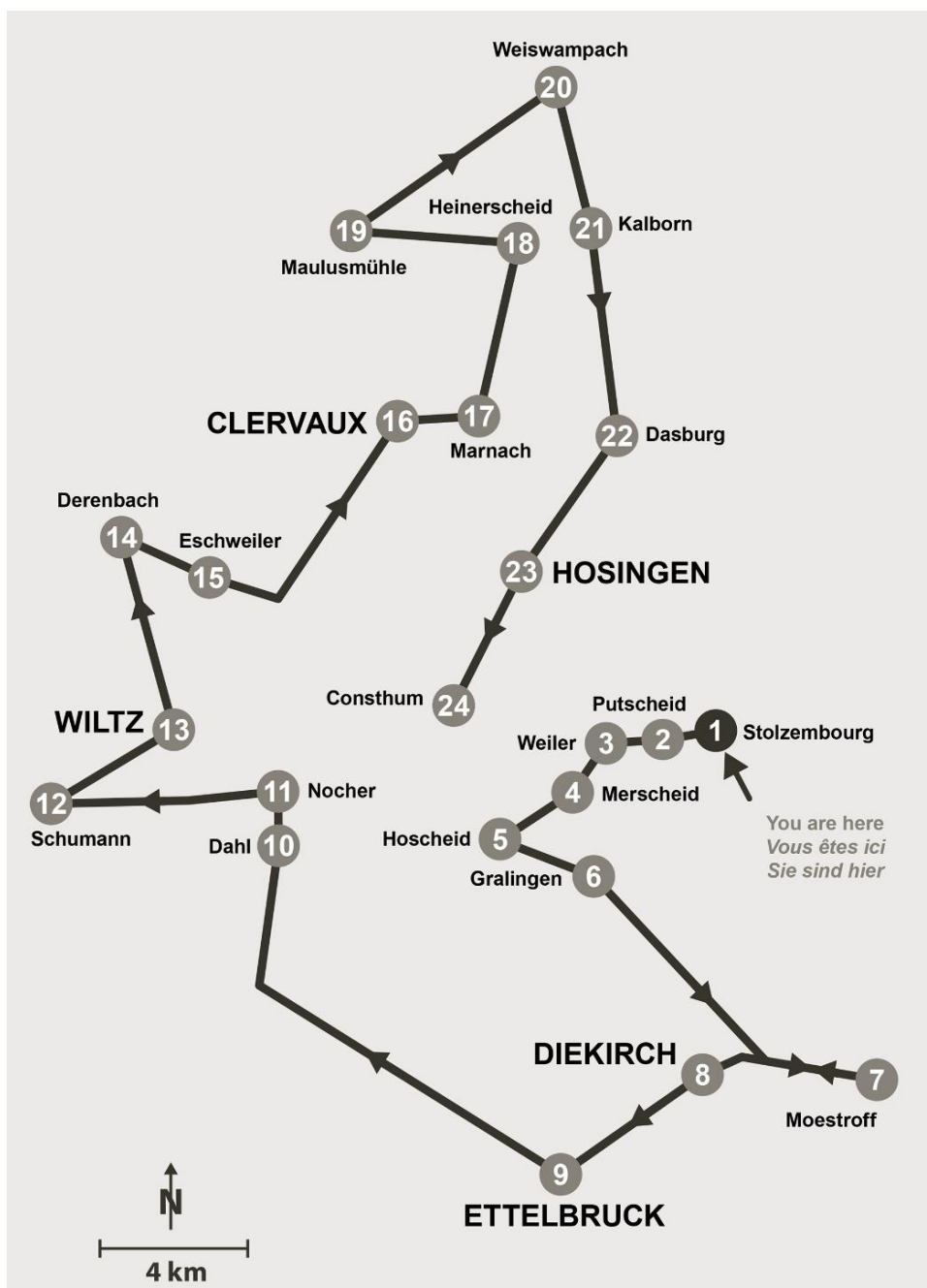
Defense on Dec. 16-18, 1944, Water Tower, Liberation Jan 27, 1945 - Défense du 16 au 18 décembre 1944, Château d'eau, Libération, le 27 janvier 1945
 Verteidigung 16. - 18. Dez. 1944, Wasserturm, Befreiung am 27. Jan. 1945

24. CONSTHUM, Church, Église, Kirche:

Lt. Col Daniel B. Strickler



The north of Luxembourg was the scene of numerous dramatic events during World War Two. The population had to endure occupation, forced recruitment and fierce battles in the villages. The embattled front line swept across the region several times. The REMEMBER US project commemorates this time with numerous small and large stories and heroic deeds.



1. **STOLZEMBOURG, Bridge, Pont, Brücke:**
Monument First Crossing on Sept 11, 1944
Monument de la première entrée le 11 sept. 1944
Denkmal erste Grenzüberquerung am 11.09.1944
2. **PUTSCHEID, Chapel, Chapelle, Kapelle:**
Liberation of Putscheid on Jan 28, 1945
La libération de Putscheid, le 28 janvier 1945
Die Befreiung von Putscheid am 28. Januar 1945

PUTSCHEID, A Place for us all / Une place pour nous tous / Ein Platz für uns alle:
A 155mm-Howitzer Battery / REMEMBER US
Itineraries / Facts of War in the Commune of Putscheid, Info Points
Une batterie 155-mm-Howitzer / Itinéraires des panseaux REMEMBER US / Événements de guerre dans la commune de Putscheid, Points d'information
Eine 155-mm-Haubitze-Batterie / Reiserouten zum Entdecken der REMEMBER US Tafeln / Kriegereignisse in der Gemeinde Putscheid, Informationspunkte
3. **WEILER, Square Tom Myers, Place Tom Myers, Tom-Myers-Platz:**
Beginning of the Battle of the Bulge on Dec 16, 1944
Commencement de la Bataille des Ardennes, le 16 décembre 1944 - Beginn der Ardennenoffensive am 16. Dezember 1944
4. **MERSCHIED, Communal Square, Place communale, Gemeindeplatz:**
War Victims of Merscheid - *Victimes de guerre de Merscheid - Kriegsgesopfer von Merscheid*
5. **HOSCHIED, at the church, près de l'église, bei der Kirche:**
First and second Liberation of Hoscheid - *Première et deuxième libération de Hoscheid - Erste und zweite Befreiung von Hoscheid*
6. **GRALINGEN, Church, Église, Kirche:**
Liberation of the Commune of Putscheid, Jan. 1945
La libération de la commune de Putscheid au mois de janvier 1945 - Die Befreiung der Gemeinde Putscheid im Monat Januar 1945
7. **MOESTROFF, Bridge, Pont, Brücke:**
The Vincent J. Festa Bridge - *Le pont Vincent J. Festa*
Die Vincent-J.-Festa-Brücke
8. **DIEKIRCH, Municipal Parc, Parc municipal, Stadtpark:** Sauer River Crossing Jan 18, 1945 /
Evacuation of the civilian population Dec 19/20, 1944
La traversée de la Sûre le 18 janvier 1945 / L'évacuation de la population civile de Diekirch le 19/20 déc. 1944
Die Sauer-Überquerung am 18. Jan. 1945 / Die Evakuierung der Zivilbevölkerung am 19./20. Dez. 1944
9. **ETTTELBRUCK, Square Patton, Place Patton, Patton Platz:** Sherman Tank M4A1 - *Char Sherman M4A1 - Sherman M4A1 Panzer*

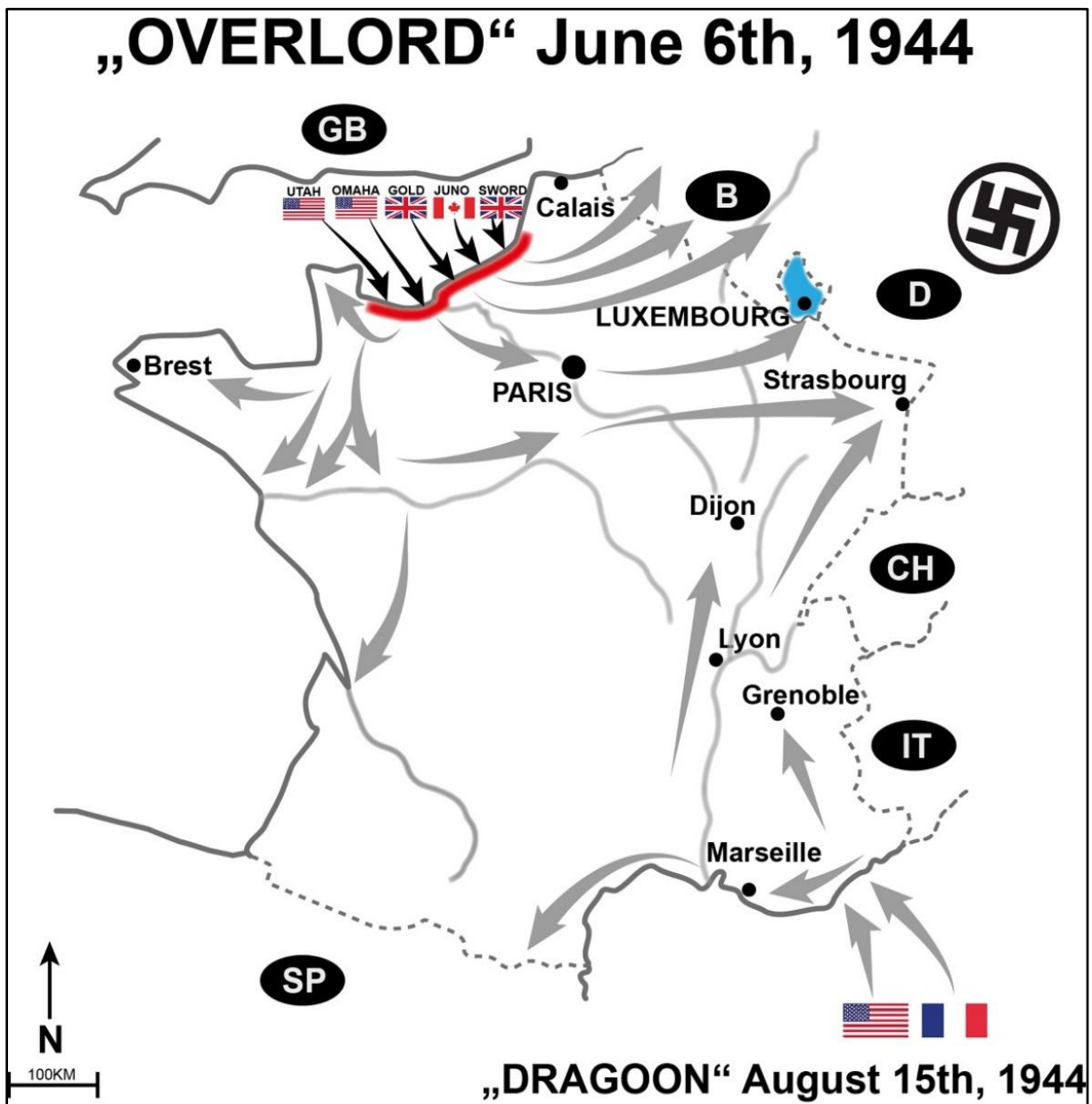
ETTTELBRUCK, Private School Sainte Anne, Ecole privée Sainte Anne, Privatschule Sainte Anne:
Lt. Col. James Rudder, Commanding Officer 109th Regt, 28th US Infantry Division - *Lt. Col. James Rudder, commandant du 109^e Régiment, 28^e Division d'Infanterie US - Oberst James Rudder, Kommandant des 109. Regiments, 28. US-Infanteriedivision*
10. **DAHL "An Aastert":**
Congressional Medal of Honor for Sergeant Day G. Turner
Médaille d'Honneur du Congrès pour Sergeant Day G. Turner - Congressional Medal of Honor für Feldwebel Day G. Turner
11. **Nocher, "Um Knupp":**
The long Battle for Nocher - *La longue Bataille pour Nocher - Der lange Kampf um Nocher*
12. **SCHUMANN CROSSROADS, National Liberation Memorial:**
The Battle around Schumann / L'imétable 1839 - 1945
La Bataille autour du carrefour Schumann / Calendrier 1839 - 1945 - Der Kampf um die Kreuzung Schumann: Eck / Zeiträume 1839 - 1945

SCHUMANN CROSSROADS, Mass Grave, Tombeau commun, Gemeinschaftsgrab:
Reconciliation - *Réconciliation - Versöhnung*
13. **WILTZ, 28th US Infantry Division Square, Place de la 28^e Division d'Infanterie américaine, 28. US Infanteriedivision-Platz:**
The American St Nick - *Le Saint Nicolas américain - Der amerikanische Heilige Nikolaus*
14. **DERENBACH, at the Watertower, près du château d'eau, beim Wasserturm:**
A shelter „A WEICHENI“ - *Un abri „A WEICHENI“ Bunker „A WEICHENI“*
15. **ESCHWEILER, Church, Église, Kirche / CR 328:**
G.I. George Mergenthaler, Ambush at Café Halt
G.I. George Mergenthaler, Embuscade au Café Halt
G.I. George Mergenthaler, Hinterhalt am Café Halt
16. **CLERVAUX, Square G.I.:**
The American Soldier - *Le soldat américain - Der amerikanische Soldat*

CLERVAUX, Monument for the Victims, Monument A Nos Morts, Totendenkmal:
Clervaux in the Battle of the Bulge - *Clervaux dans la Bataille des Ardennes - Clerf in der Ardennenoffensive*

CLERVAUX, Exterior courtyard of the castle, Cour extérieure du château, Außenhof des Schlosses:
US Sherman Tank M4A3 (76)
17. **MARNACH, Square Cube 521:**
Battle around Marnach, The 707th Tank Battalion in Support of the 110th Regt - *La bataille autour de Marnach, Le 707^e Bataillon de chars en support du 110^e Régiment - Der Kampf um Marnach, Das 707. Panzerbataillon in Unterstützung des 110. Regimentes*
18. **HEINERSCHIED, „Am Pesch“, Bicycle Trail, Piste cyclable, Radweg:**
The Heinerscheid "Bunker" Disaster
Le désastre du bunker de Heinerscheid
Die Tragödie im Bunker von Heinerscheid
19. **MAULSMÜHLE Wood between Boxhorn and Maulsmühle, Forêt entre Boxhorn et Maulsmühle, Wald zwischen Boxhorn und Maulsmühle:**
The Crash of the Hudson FK-308 - *Le crash du Hudson FK-308 - Der Absturz der Hudson FK-380*
20. **WEISWAMPACH, Lancaster Memorial:**
The 112th Infantry Regiment defending the Northern Tip of Luxembourg - *Le 112^e Régiment défend la partie nord du Luxembourg - Das 112. Regiment verteidigt die Nordspitze Luxemburgs*
21. **KALBORN, South facade of the church, Façade sud de l'église, Südfassade der Kirche:**
The Events of September 22, 1944, in Kalborn
Les événements tragiques du 22 septembre 1944 à Kalborn
Die tragischen Ereignisse des 22. Sept. 1944 in Kalborn
22. **DASBURG, Bridge, German Territory, Pont, territoire allemand, Brücke, deutsches Hoheitsgebiet:**
Siegfried Line Breakthrough, Feb 20-23, 1945
Percée de la Ligue Siegfried, février 20-23, 1945
Durchbruch in die Siegfriedlinie, Februar 20-23, 1945
23. **HOSINGEN, Town South Entry, Entrée sud de la localité, Südlicher Ortseingang:**
Defense on Dec 16-18, 1944, Water Tower, Liberation Jan 27, 1945 - *Défense du 16 au 18 décembre 1944, Château d'eau, Libération, le 27 janvier 1945*
Verteidigung 16. - 18. Dez. 1944, Wasserturm, Befreiung am 27. Jan. 1945
24. **CONSTHUM, Church, Église, Kirche:**
Lt. Col Daniel B. Strickler

D-DAY, the landing of Allied troops in Normandy, France



On **June 6, 1944**, the Allied forces (US, British and Canadian troops) land in Normandy under the command of General Dwight Eisenhower.

There are also some Luxembourgers among them. Our Crown Prince Jean (Grand Duke of Luxembourg from 1964 to 2000) lands in Normandy with the “Irish Guards” on June 11, 1944.

On **August 15, 1944**, American and French troops land in Provence, southern France.

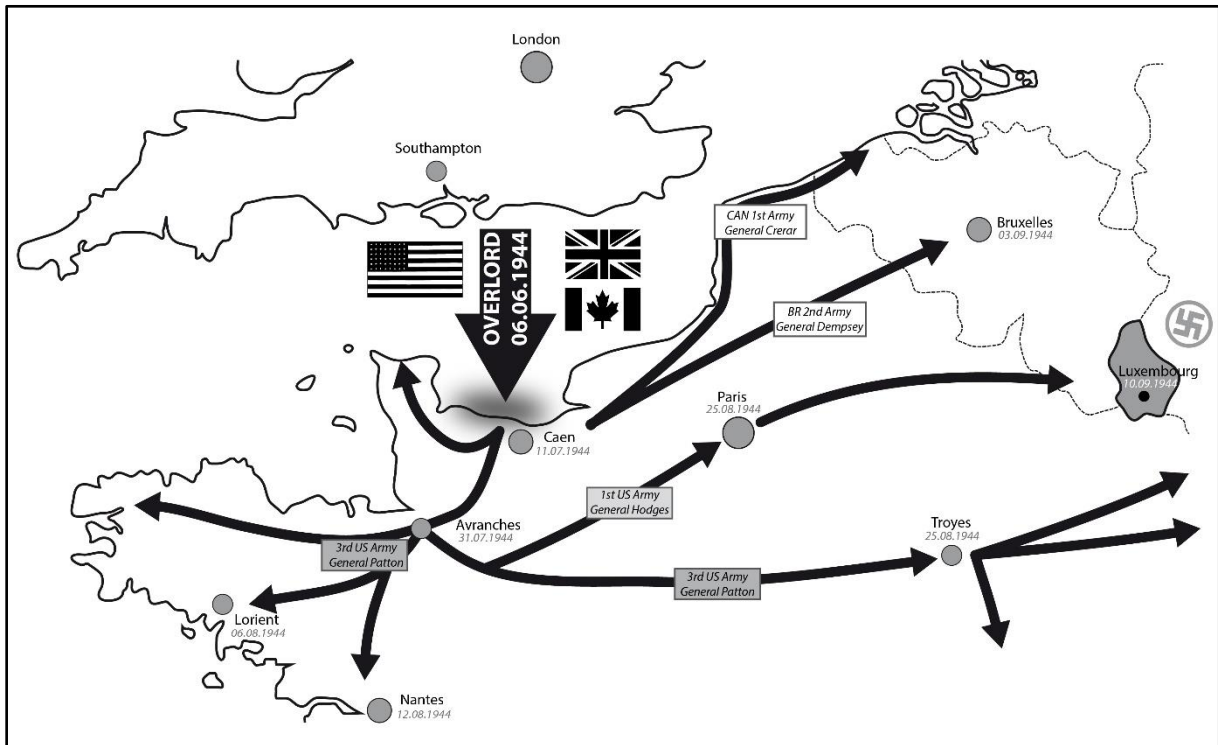
D-DAY, the landing of Allied troops in Normandy, France

SOURCES / QUELLEN : - Le Débarquement, O. Weinberg, J. Martin, Casterman 2014, ISBN 9-782203 047761
Overlord 6 juin 1944 - La Liberté, Mister Kit et Serge Saint-Michel, Mémoire d'Europe, Editions de la Porte S.A., ISBN 2-84150-000-4



The Way to Freedom

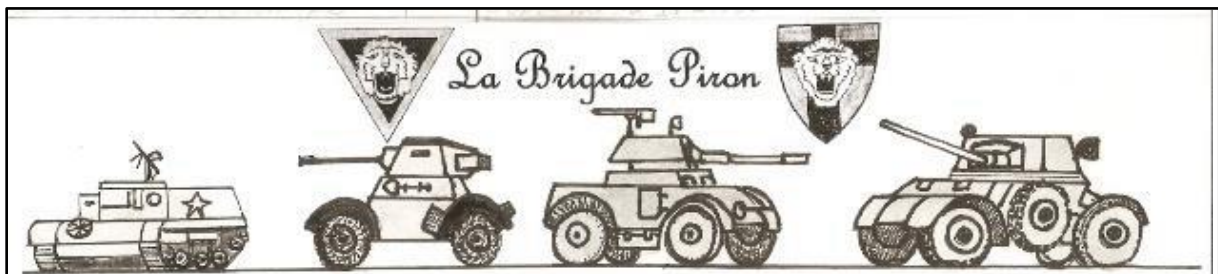
June 6, 1944, to September 9, 1944



„Der Weg zur Freiheit vom 6. Juni bis zum 10. September 1944“.

Source: Histoire de la Seconde Guerre Mondiale de Sir Basil H. Liddell Hart, collection marabout université, 1973, traduction du livre "HISTORY OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR" by Sir Basil H. Liddell Hart, Cassell et Company L..D. London

144 Luxembourgers fight in the Belgian "Brigade Piron" alongside the Allies in Normandy, Belgium and the Netherlands.



Bren Carrier

Armored-car Daimler Mk1

Staghound

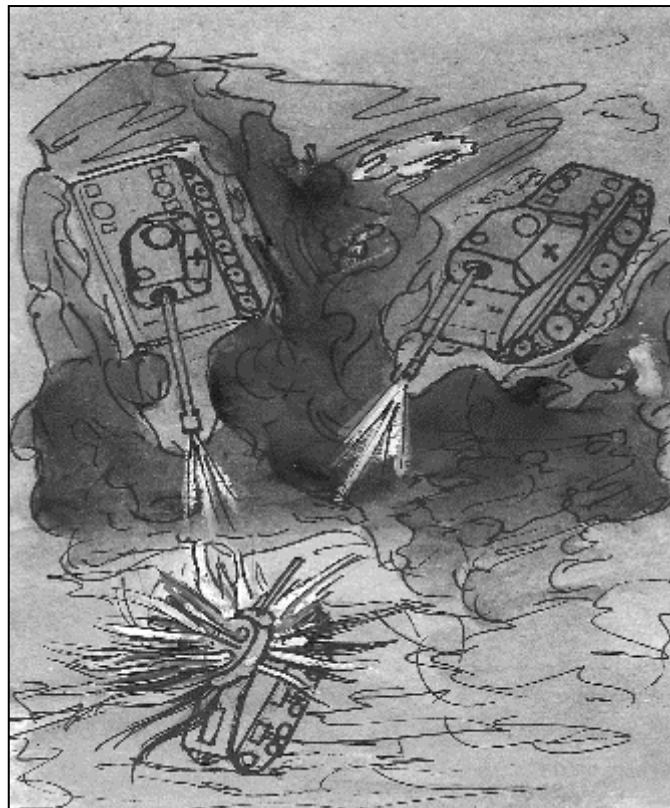
Humber Mk IV

A total of 386 Luxembourgers fight in the Allied armies.

September 9, 1944

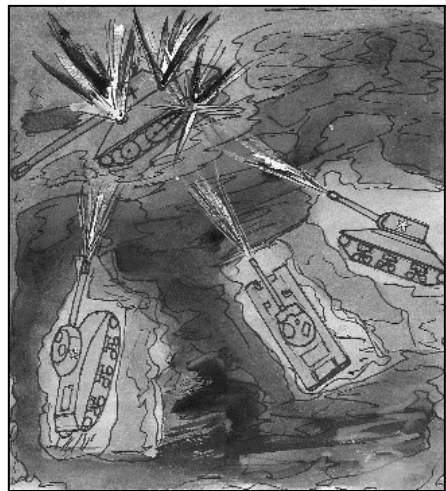


On September 9, 1944, the Combat Command A (CCA) of the 5th US Armored Division crosses the Luxembourg border near Pétange. Here the first American of the Liberation Army, Lieutenant Hyman JOSEFSON, Troop A, 1st Section, 85th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (Mechanized), loses his life on Luxembourg soil when his M-8 reconnaissance vehicle is shot down.



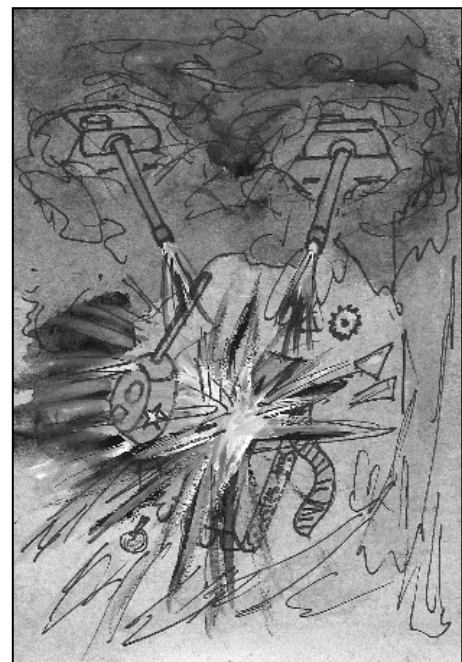
On September 9, 1944, at 4 p.m. a firefight breaks out between American and German tanks on the road to Thionville between Dippach and Merl. As five US tanks advance, two “Panther” tanks set the first “Sherman” on fire.

The Americans advance and destroy one German tank.

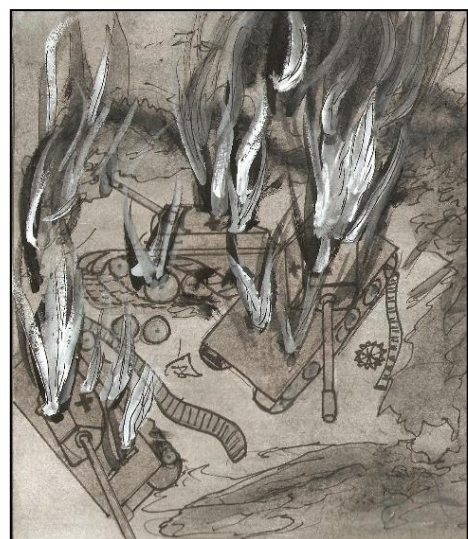


Two well-camouflaged "Panthers" shoot one second "Sherman".

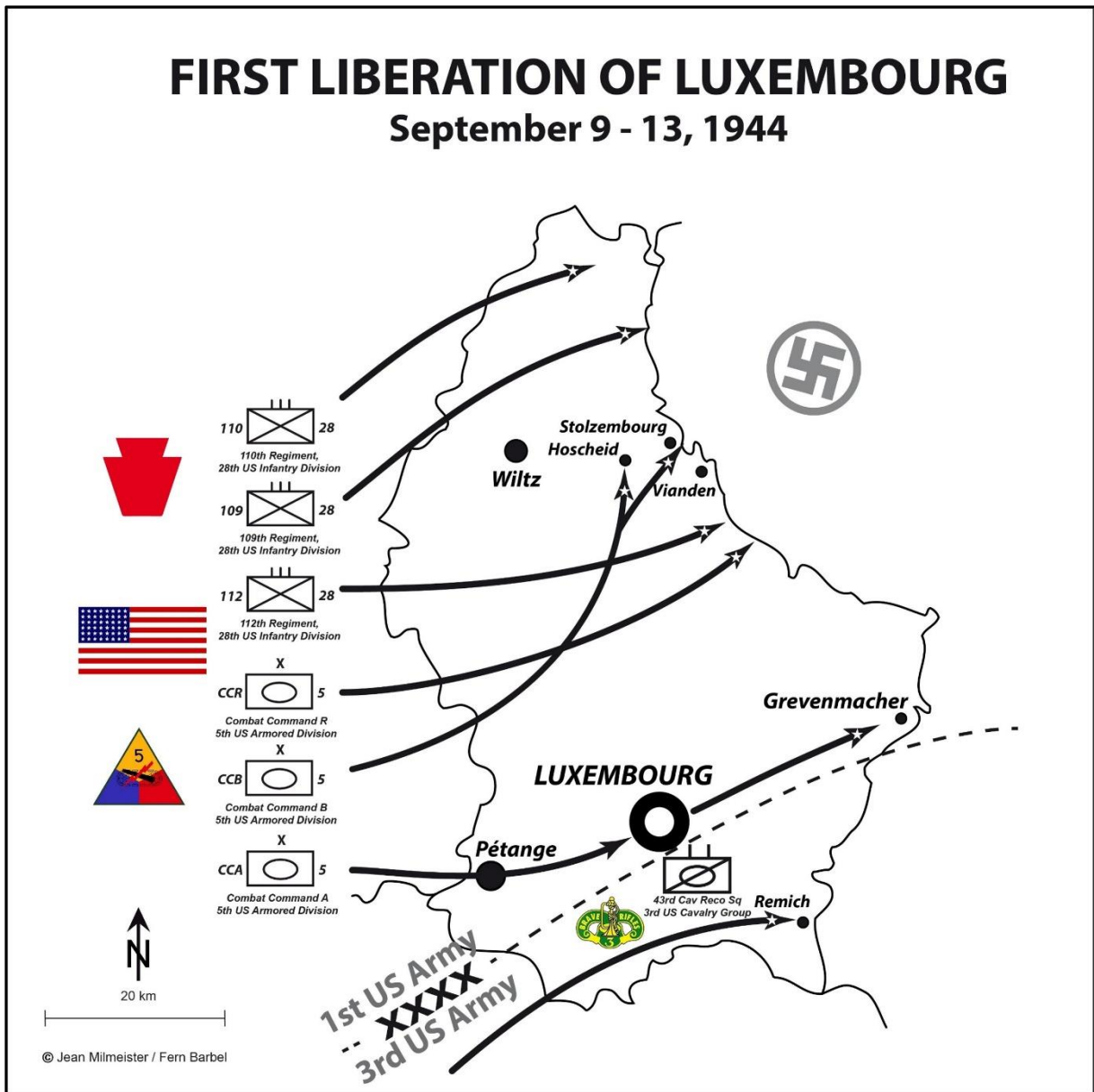
The US tanks are withdrawing. A 155-mm cannon, a "Long Tom", sets a "Panther" on fire. The other German tanks retreat.



Around 08:00 p.m. US assault guns destroy three German tanks.



US Troops Liberate Luxembourg on September 10, 1944



The 5th US Armored Division and the 28th US Infantry Division Liberate Luxembourg from September 9th to 12th, 1944

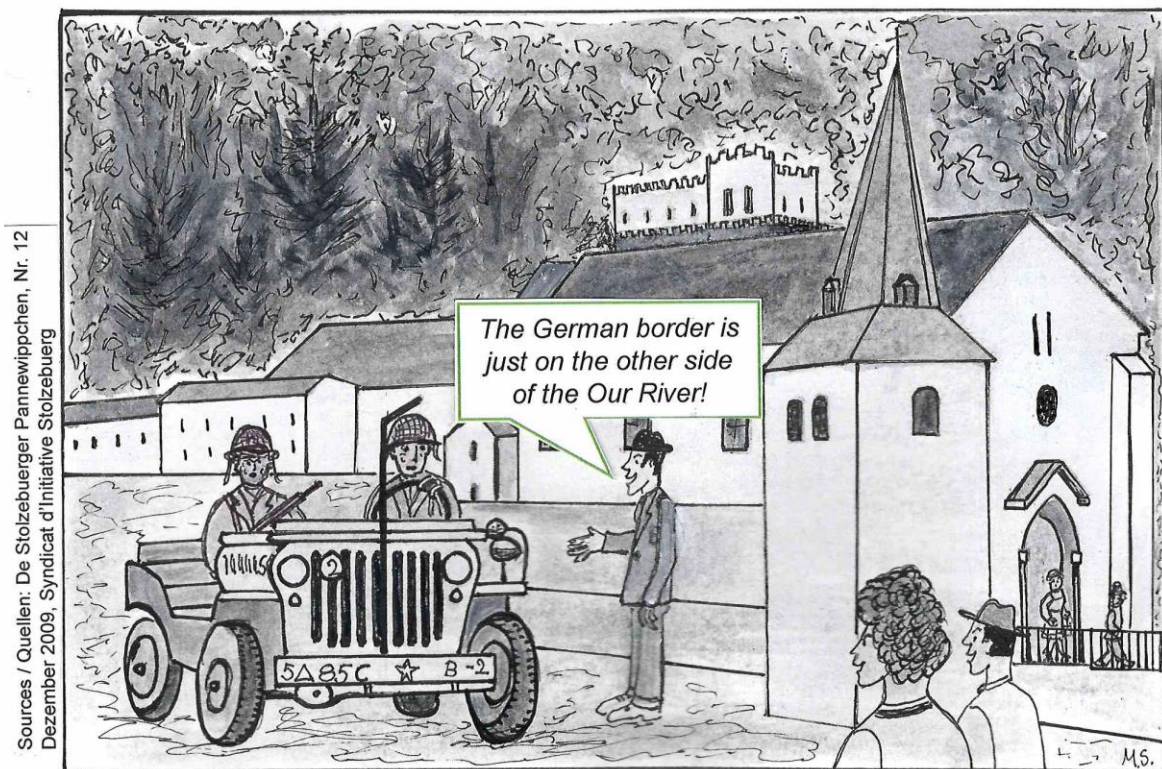
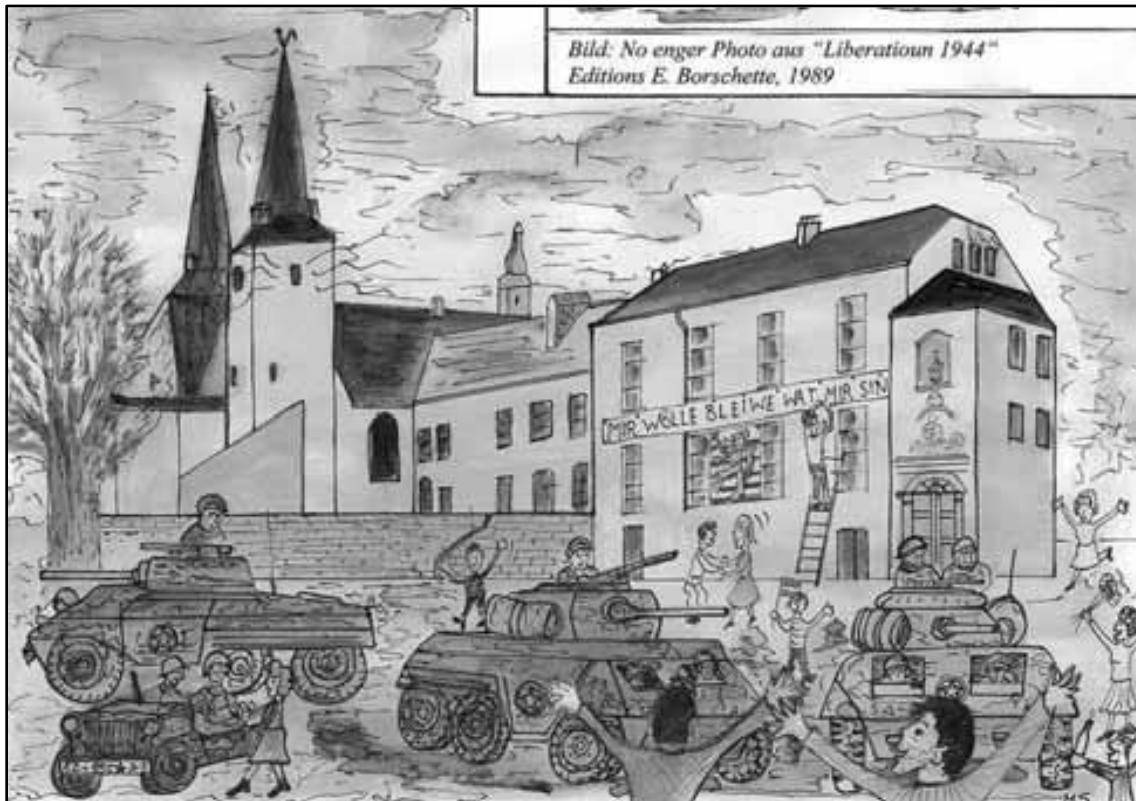


The population welcomes the liberators.



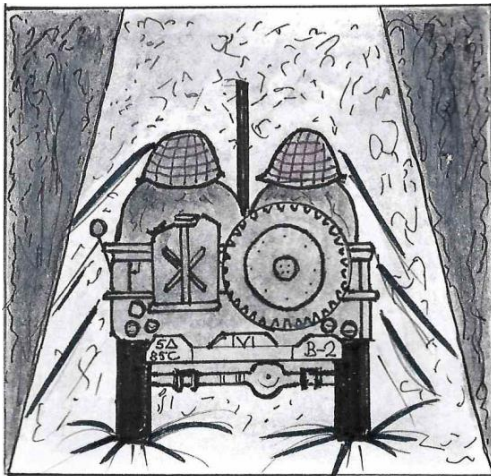
In Luxembourg City, the residents welcome Prince Felix, husband of the Grand-Duchess Charlotte, and Prince Jean, her son and hereditary Grand-Duke, with great joy.

Units of CCB, 5th US Armored Division, advance to Hosingen on September 10, 1944



On September 10, 1944, fair Sunday, two Americans suddenly appear in Stolzenbourg in a jeep. Nekel Trausch who have lived in the USA, explains to them: "The German border is on the other side of the Our River!"

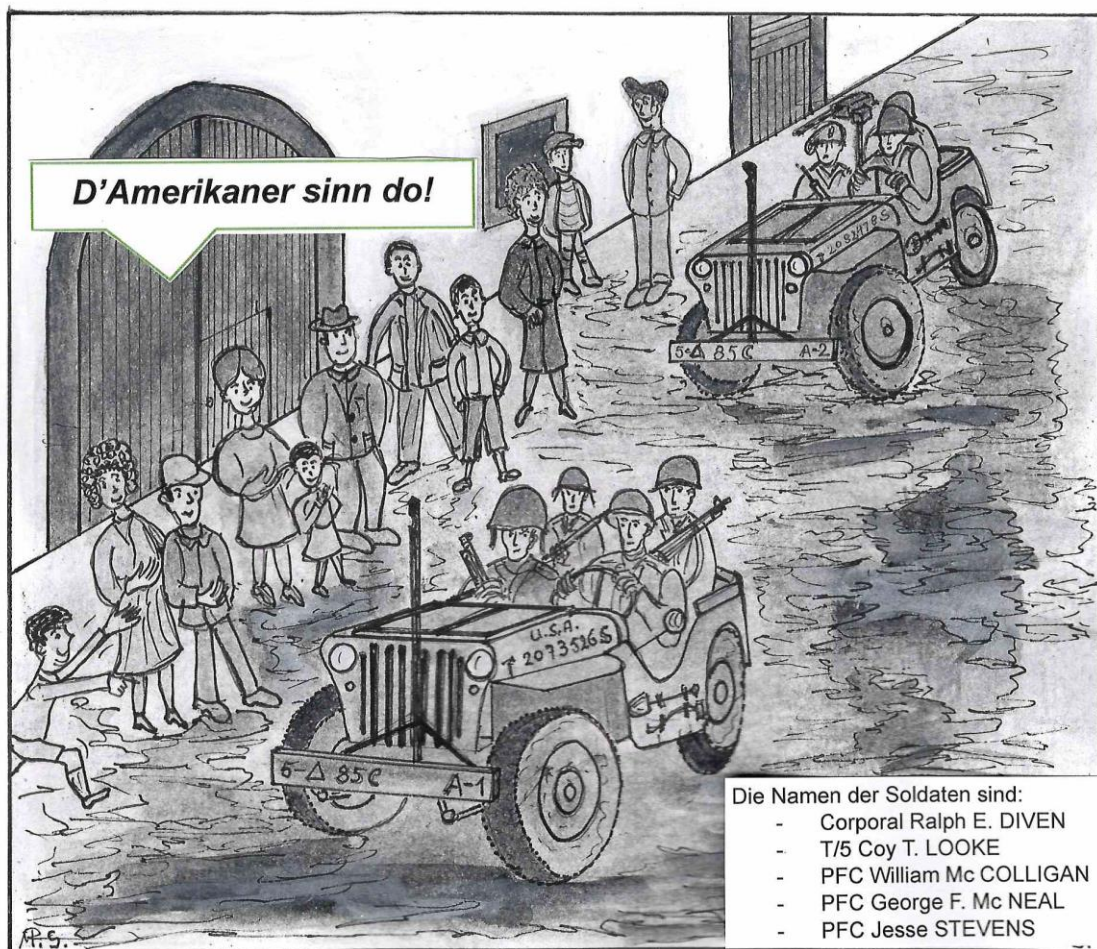
The two G.I.s then turn around and drive to Putscheid.



On the same day around 05 p.m., German soldiers blow up the left small arch of the Our Bridge.



On the afternoon of September 11, 1944, there is suddenly a shout of joy: "The Americans are here!"



A reconnaissance patrol of Troop B, 85th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, 5th US Armored Division, under the command of Sergeant Warner W. HOLZINGER, drives into Stolzenbourg with five soldiers and the French interpreter Lieutenant Lionel A. DELILLE.

Sgt Holzinger enquires about the presence of German soldiers nearby.



As the bridge is partially destroyed, teacher Léon KUGENER accompanies three soldiers to the mill weir, that the three cross one after the other.

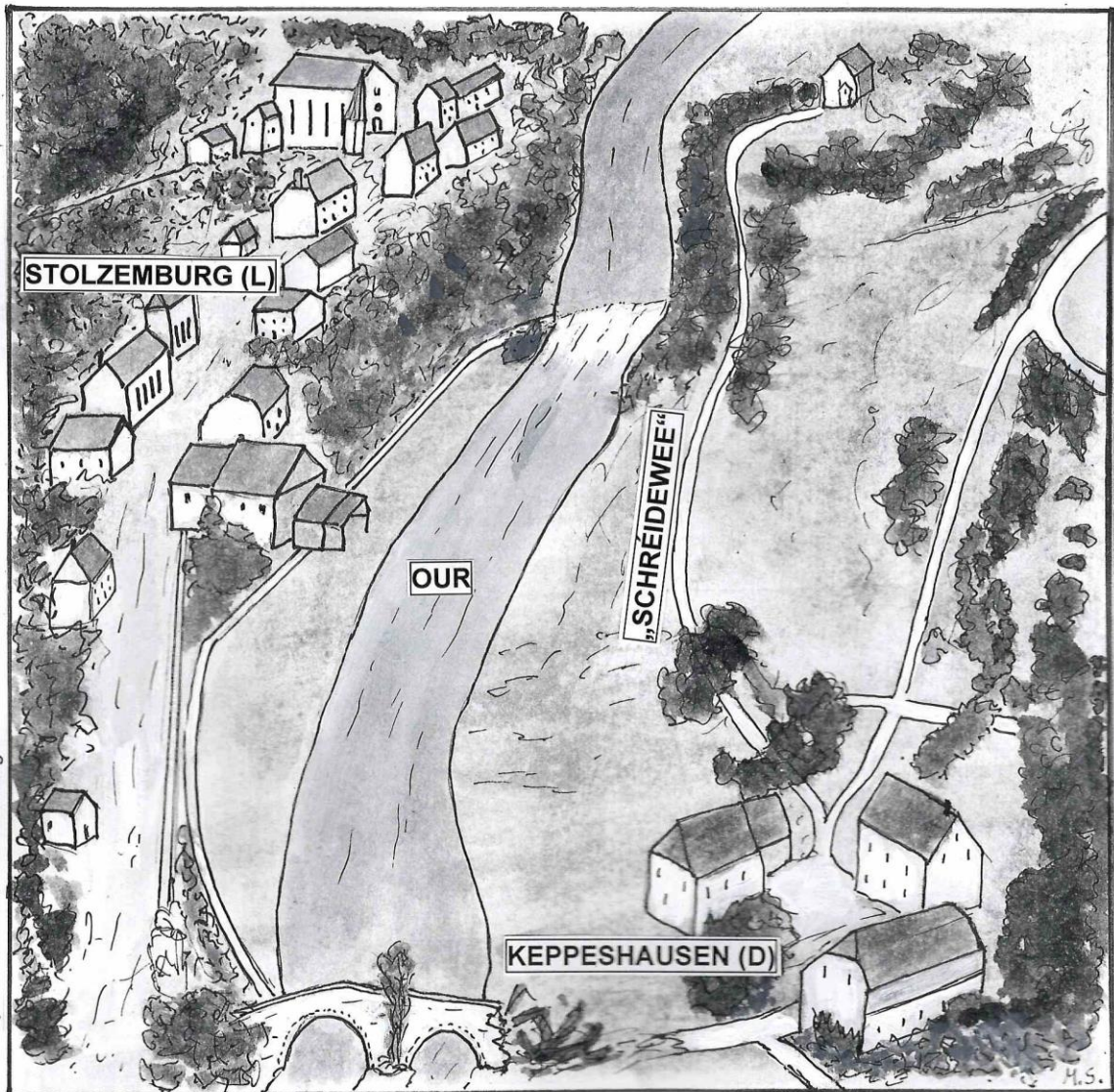
Sources / Quellen: De Stolzebuurger Pannewippchen, Nr. 11
Juni 2007, Syndicat d'initiative Stolzebuerg



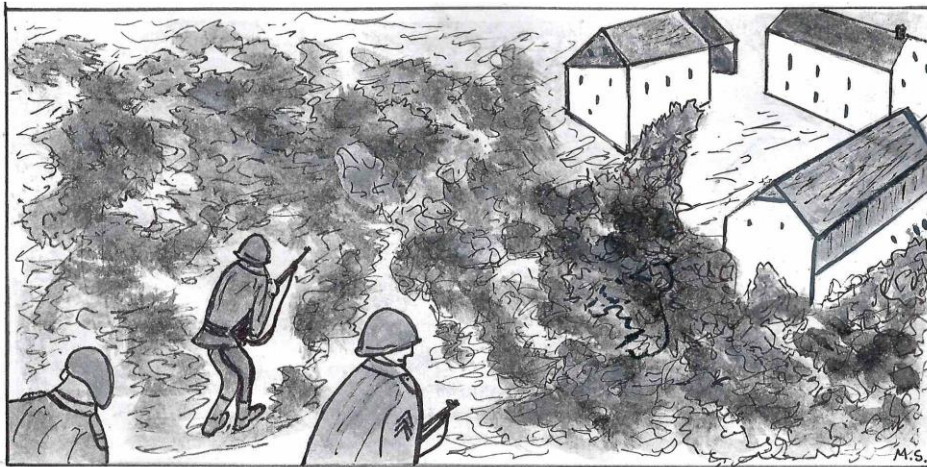
At the same time, the four remaining soldiers sneak along the dike wall to the bridge. In an emergency, they should provide fire protection.



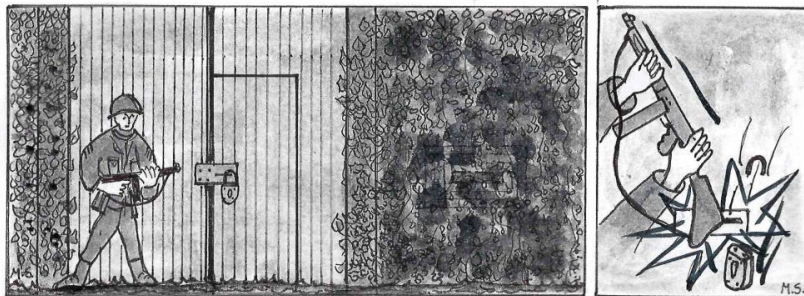
Sources / Quellen: De Stolzebuenger Pannewippchen, Nr. 1 – September 1995, Nr. 6 November 2000, Syndicat d'Initiative Stolzebuerg



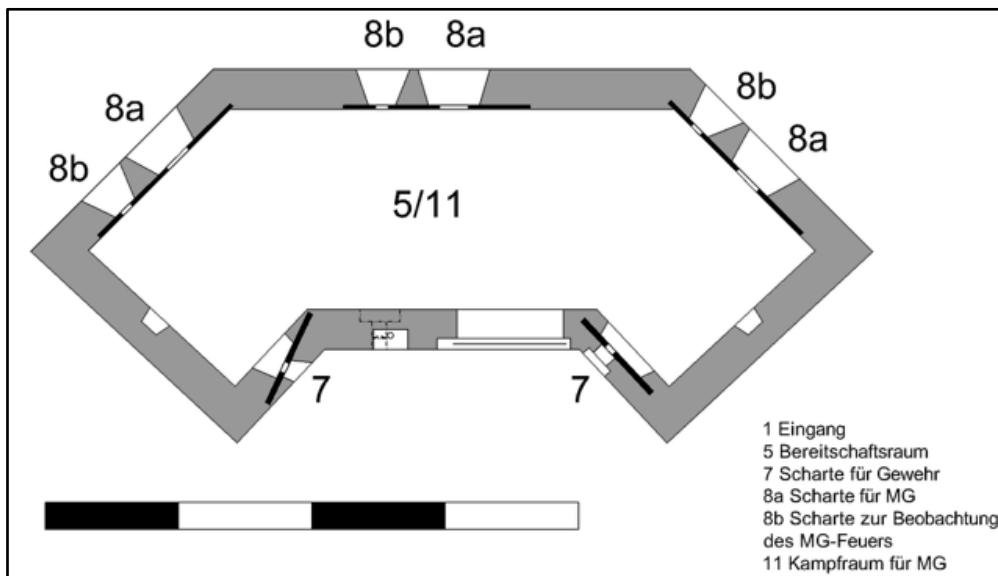
Along the „Schréidewee“, Sgt Holzinger, Lt DeLille and Pfc Colligan cautiously approach Keppeshausen.



They discover a barn that is actually a skillfully camouflaged bunker



They break the rusty padlock. The interior of the bunker is in good condition but empty.



The entrance, which has a sliding door, is on the Bauler side between the two embrasures (7). The bold lines represent steel plates that are used for armor. - The bunker was completed on March 25, 1940.

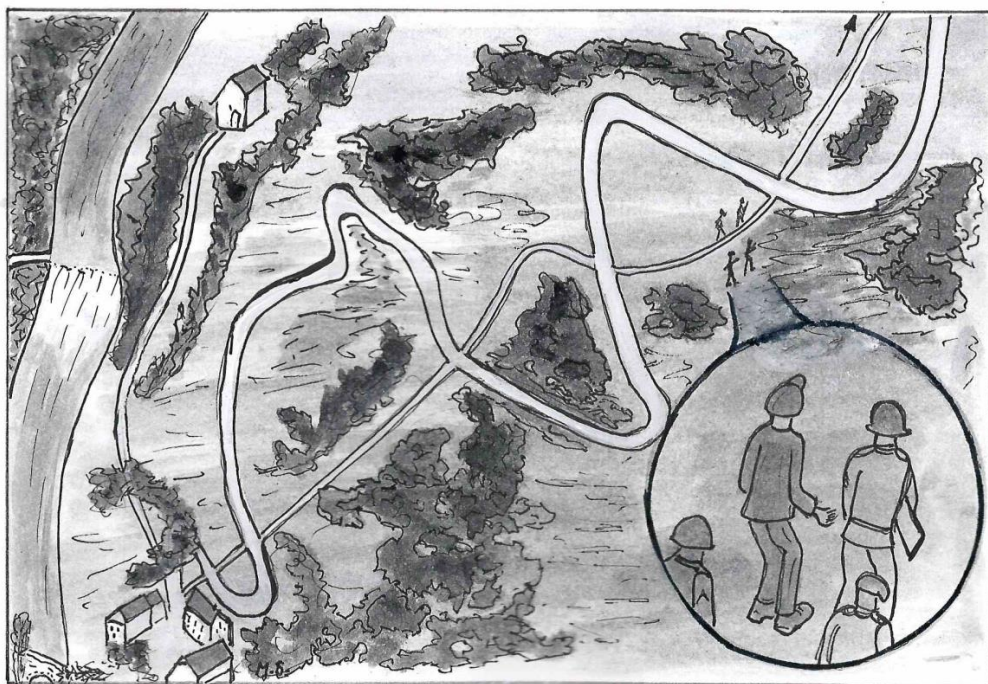
Ground plan of the bunker provided by Mr. Yves RASQUI. Sources: Vewa-ev-de, Patrice Wijnands

Sgt Holzinger, whose parents come from Fulda (D) and speaks German, asks a farmer who is very surprised by the visit, whether there are still German soldiers nearby.

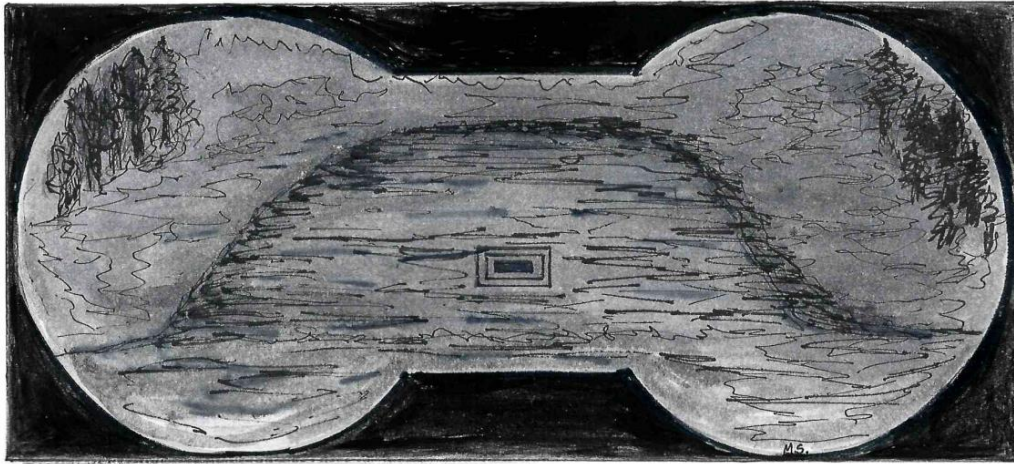


The farmer answers: "Yesterday evening a unit blew up the bridge. I didn't see anyone today." - Holzinger: "Are the bunkers occupied?" – Farmer: "You may observe the bunkers by yourself if you follow this way behind my house." – Holzinger: "You come with us!"

Accompanied by the farmer, the three soldiers climb the mountain path to Waldhof.



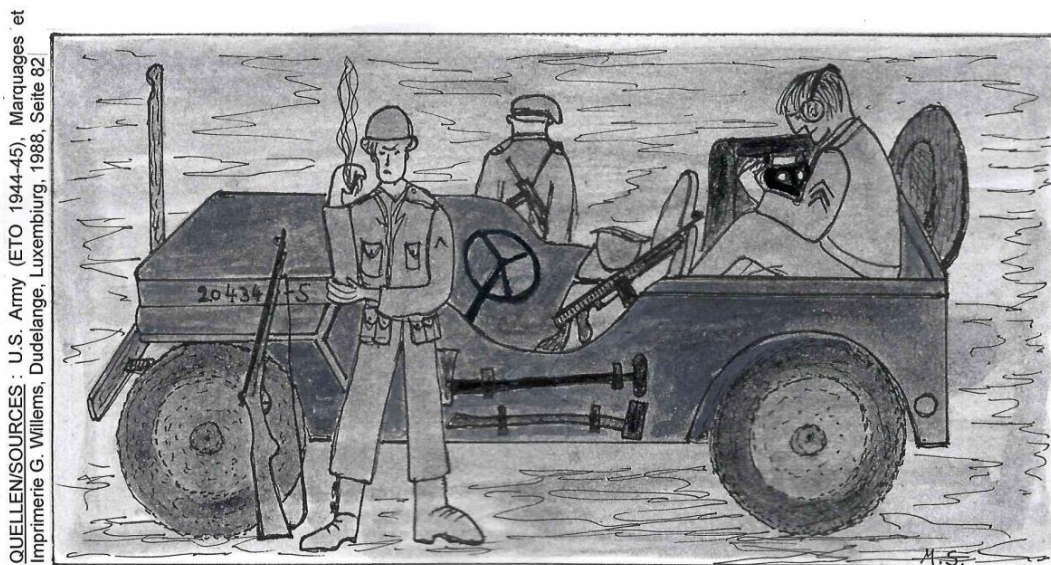
Using binoculars, they discover that the Siegfried Line bunkers are not occupied.,




They give the farmer their cigarettes and go back.



Over the radio, Sgt Holzinger informs the 85th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron's intelligence officer, Lt Loren L. VIPOND, that the West Wall is unoccupied.



Lt Vipond forwards the report to the Commander in Chief, 1st US Army, General Courtney HODGES. A short time later, the following message is broadcast over the airwaves:

THESE SPACES FOR MESSAGE CENTER ONLY		
TIME FILED	MSG CEN NO.	HOW SENT
MESSAGE (SUBMIT TO MESSAGE CENTER IN DUPLICATE)		(CLASSIFICATION) <u>0</u>
No.	DATE <u>11 SEPT 1944</u>	
To	<u>G-2 5th A.D.</u>	
DISMOUNTED PATROLS		
CROSSED INTO GERMANY		
AT <u>875530</u> AT <u>1815 HRS</u>		
 OFFICIAL DESIGNATION OF SENDER		<u>1833</u> TIME SIGNED
AUTHORIZED TO BE SENT IN CLEAR	SIGNATURE OF OFFICER	SIGNATURE AND GRADE OF WRITER

This is a reproduction of the message announcing the entry of the Fifth Armored into Germany

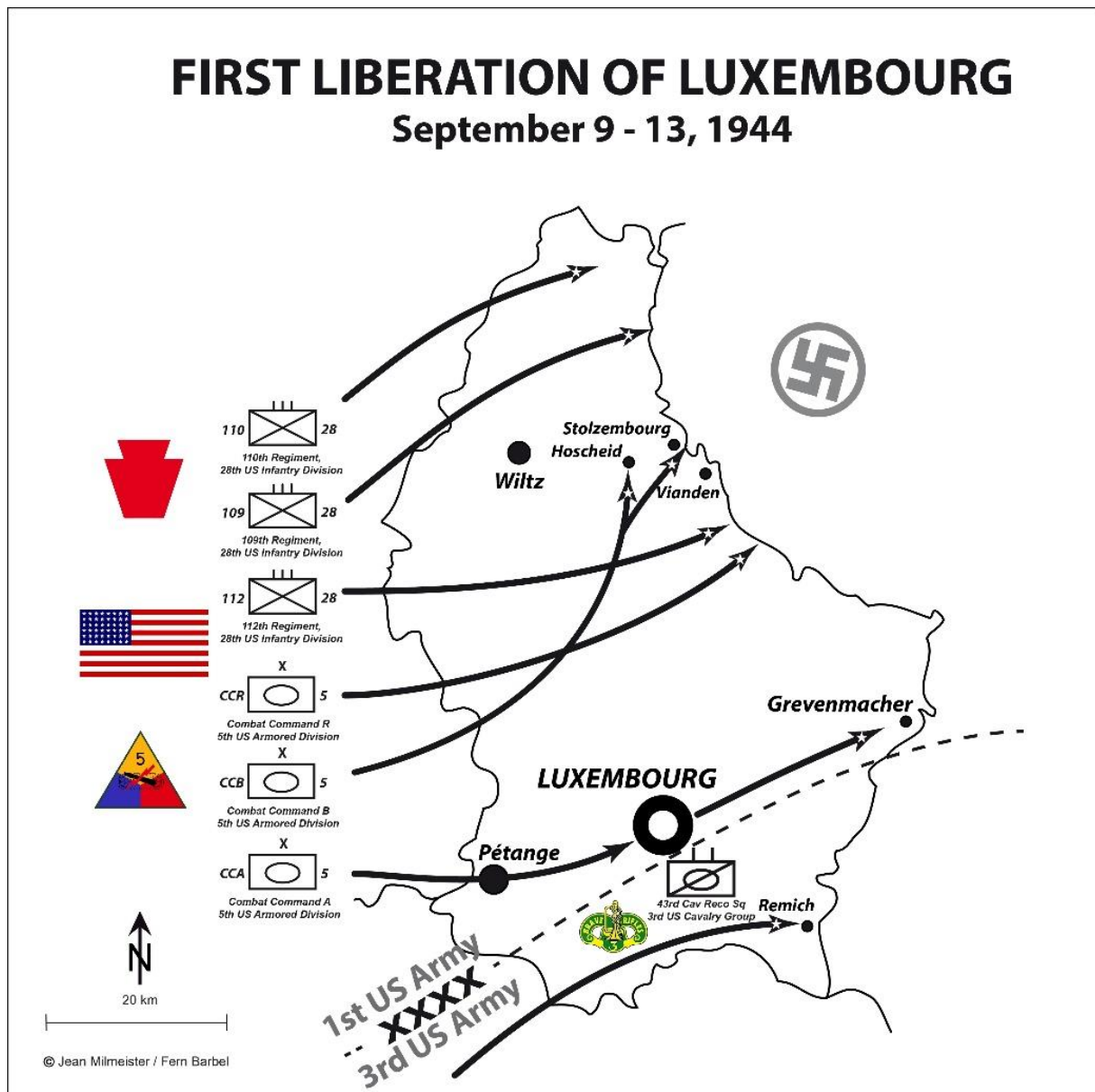
MESSAGE Date 11 Sept 1944 To G-2 5th A.D. Dismounted Patrols crossed into Germany at 875530 at 1815 hrs Official Designation of Sender: Phillipsborn Time Signed 1833

SOURCES:

- Paths of Armor, The fifth Armored Division in World War II by Vic Hillery and Emerson Hurley, published by Battery Pr. (1986), ISBN 10: 0898390842; ISBN 13: 9780898390841; page 116

FIRST LIBERATION OF LUXEMBOURG

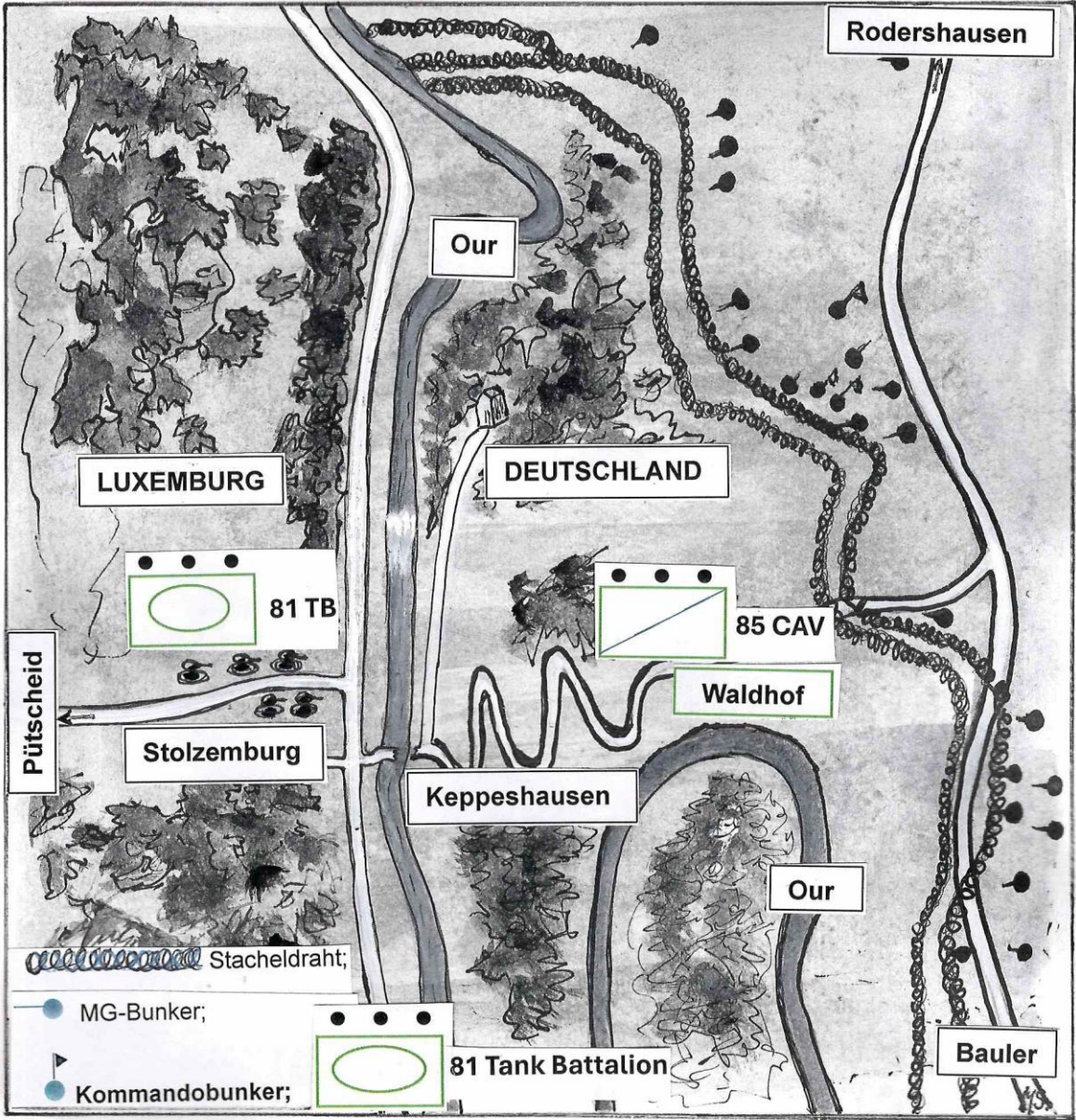
September 9 - 13, 1944



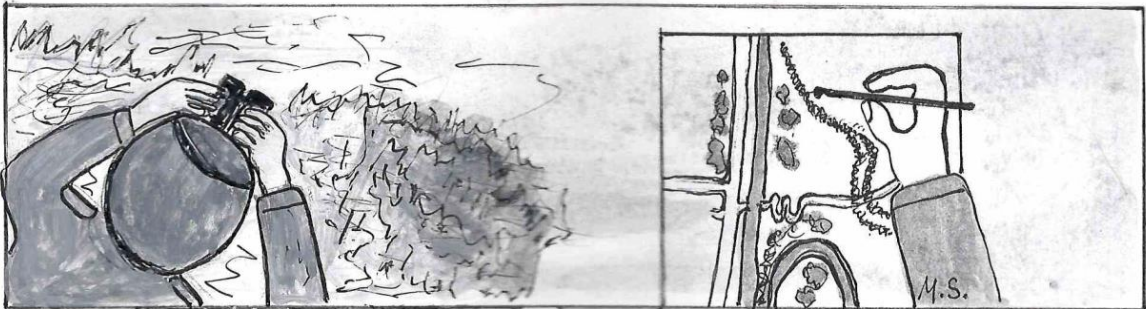
The first crossing into the Third Reich

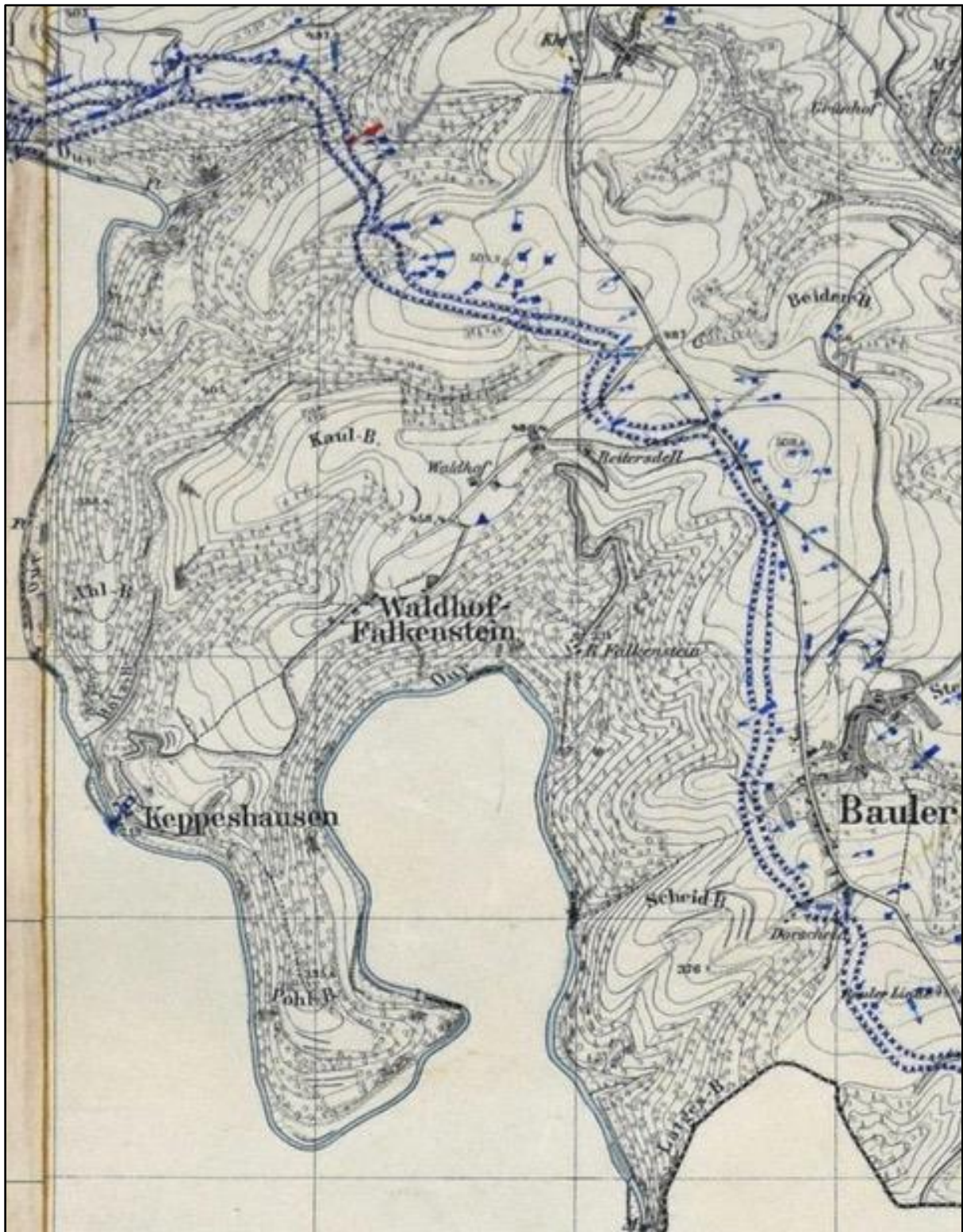
The first allied soldiers who crossed here into Germany, 96 days after the Landing in Normandy, on September 11, 1944, at 16.30 hours, were Sgt. Warner W. Holzinger, Cpl. Ralph E. Diven, T/5 Coy T. Locke, Pfc. William McColligan, Pfc. George F. McNeal, Pfc. Jesse Stevens and the French Lieutenant Lionel Delille of the 2nd Platoon, Troop B, 85th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, 5th US Armored Division. They made their way to Keppeshausen, Germany, reconnoitered the pillboxes of the Siegfried Line near Waldhof, Germany, and returned at 18.15 hours to report to Lt. Loren L. Vipond. The information was radioed to the Headquarters of the 1st US Army, which flashed that night the news to the world that it had crossed the German border.

On September 12, 1944, a platoon of the 85th Reconnaissance Squadron led by Lt Loren L. Vipond crosses the Our River. A platoon of the 81st Tank Battalion under the command of Lt Henry Pass stays in Stolzenburg because the terrain on the German side is too steep.



Lt Vipond's platoon, in which Sgt Holzinger also takes part, advances two kilometers further than the first patrol. The soldiers draw a plan of the bunkers.





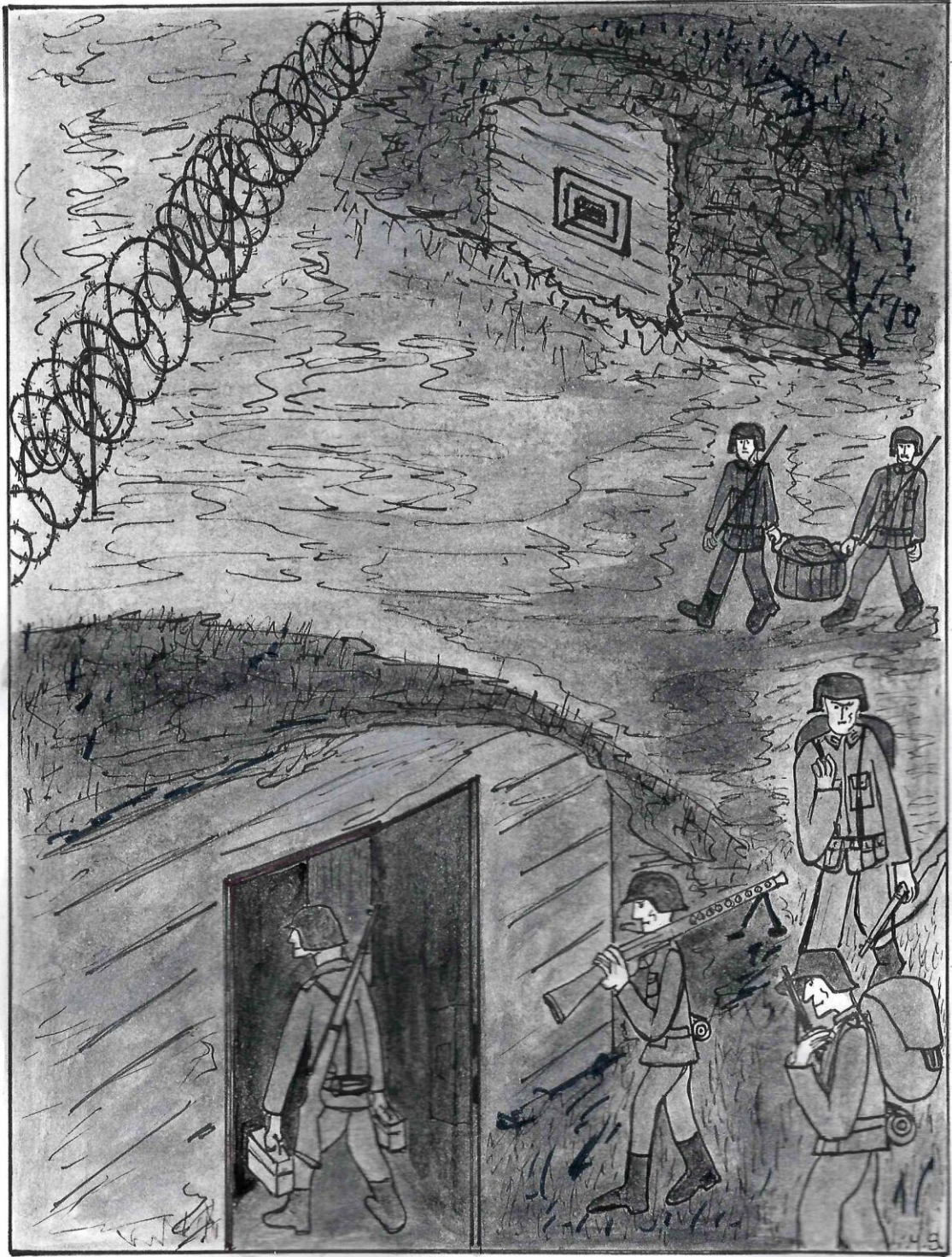
Explanation of the symbols:

xxxxxxx barbed wire; ● MG-bunker; ▲ command bunker; ● Bunker in progress,

Situation on March 25, 1940.

Sources: Archives Yves RASQUI

On a hill at Waldhof, they see a German column of about sixty men coming from the north and marching towards Bauler. They carry bundles and machine guns. At every bunker they pass by, six to ten men remain behind.



The occupation of the West Wall has begun.

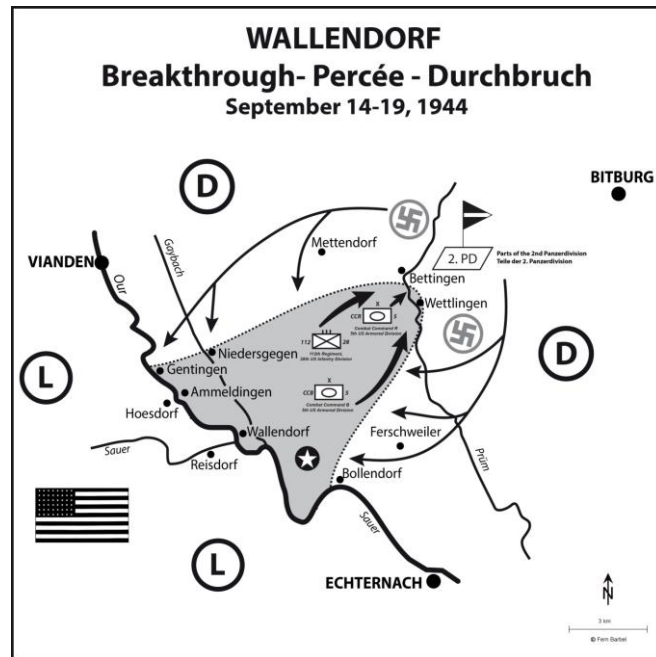
Source: Die Ardennenschlacht 1944-1945 in Luxemburg. Jean Milmeister, Editions Saint-Paul, 1994, page 77 and 79

Breakthrough and retreat of the US troops at WALLENDORF (D) September 14th to 22nd, 1944



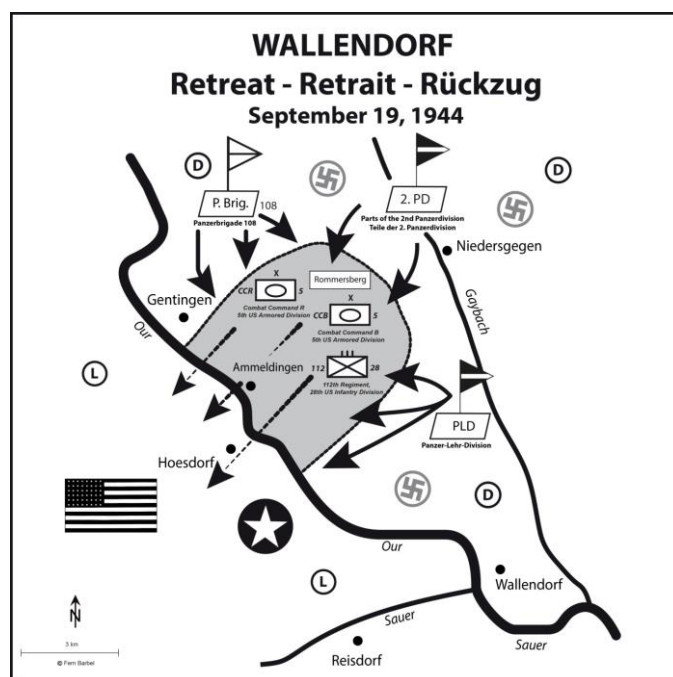
On September 14, 1944, Combat Command R, 5th US Armored Division, supported by the 112th Regiment of the 28th US Infantry Division cross the River Our near Wallendorf (D) and penetrate the West Wall.





During the September 14-19, 1944, time frame, the US troops take over a hundred pillboxes of the West Wall, destroy 61 tanks and capture 3,078 prisoners. 3,387 German soldiers are killed during this operation. Elements of the German 2nd “Panzer Division stop the American thrust near Bettingen.

The Americans don’t receive any additional support by further infantry units, and their flanks are not protected. They retreat with heavy casualties under the pressure of the “Panzer Brigade 108,” parts of the “Panzer-Lehr-Division” and the 2nd “Panzer Division.” They deplore 792 dead soldiers and lose 19 tanks.



SOURCES / QUELLEN :

- Le Débarquement, O. Weinberg, J. Martin, Casterman 2014, ISBN 9-782203 047761
- Overlord 6 juin 1944 – La Liberté, Mister Kit et Serge Saint-Michel, Mémoire d'Europe, Editions de la Porte S.A., ISBN 2-84150-000-4
- Stolzebuenger Pannewippchen Nr. 1, 2, 3, 6, 10, 11, 12; Sondernummer 2015, Syndicat d'Initiative Stolzebuerg
- Lëtzebuerg am Zweete Weltkrich, Fernand Barbel, Marcel Scheidweiler, Léonie Thill, 2014, Editions Saint-Paul, Luxembourg
- U.S. Army (ETO 1944-45), Marquages et Organisation, Emile Becker, Jean Milmeister, Imprimerie G. Willems, Dudelange, Luxemburg, 1988
- Krieg am Westwall 1944/45, Edgar Christoffel, Verlag der Akademischen Buchhandlung Interbook GmbH, Trier 1989, Paulinus-Druckerei, GmbH, Trier, ISBN 3-88915-033-0; Seite 88
- Paths of Armor, The fifth Armored Division in World War II by Vic Hillery and Emerson Hurley, published by Battery Pr. (1986), ISBN 10: 0898390842; ISBN 13: 9780898390841; page 116
- Die Ardennenschlacht 1944-1945 in Luxemburg. Jean Milmeister, Editions Saint-Paul, 1994
- Bunkerkarte und Grundriss des MG-Bunkers in Keppeshausen: von Herrn Yves RASQUI zur Verfügung gestellt. – Archives Yves Rasqui; Vewa-ev-de, Patrice Wijnands
- Horst Helmus, Diary 1948