



The Price of Freedom Award

An interactive journey of remembrance





Thank you for your interest in the “Price of Freedom” award patch program. This commemorative patch has been developed by the American Overseas Memorial Day Association in Belgium as a way to encourage young people, their youth leaders, and educators to remember the history and legacy of the two world wars as they were experienced in Belgium. The focus of this unique patch program is “Remembrance”.

There was a time – not so long ago – when Belgium lived under foreign tyranny. People were persecuted for their race, religion, or political views. Dissidents were tortured. The innocent were murdered. Cruelty was the norm. Hunger and deprivation prevailed.

Twice in the twentieth century, the youth of America, Canada, Britain and other allied nations came to liberate Belgium from the horrors of foreign occupation. For many of these soldiers, Belgium was a faraway land they knew nothing about. Yet they fought and died so that the youth of today would be free.

The atrocities of the wars are now a distant memory. Today, the young people of Europe and America know only liberty, prosperity, and peace. This is a blessing that is rare in today’s world. But we must not forget that freedom is not free. The youth of yesterday gave us the freedom that we enjoy today. It is our responsibility to preserve this freedom for the youth of tomorrow.

We hope that earning the Price of Freedom award patch will provide an interactive and meaningful way to help future generations understand the legacy of the two world wars. We hope that this program will help ensure that the heroic spirit of many brave men and women will live on in this century, so that we might never forget the costly lessons learned at the price of human blood.

This booklet includes:

- Award Requirements: Mandatory & Elective
- Suggestions for Meeting the Mandatory Requirements
- American Military Cemeteries in Belgium
- War Museums in Belgium (First & Second World War)
- Historic Markers and Monuments to Americans (in Belgium)
- Allied and German Military Cemeteries in Belgium
- Submission Form (to receive your patch(es))
- Contact Information, AOMDA





Award Requirements

Mandatory Requirements

Do ALL of the following:

1. Explain why the United States of America and other allied nations came to the defense of the Kingdom of Belgium during the two world wars. Why were young people from America and other allied nations willing to fight and die for that cause?
2. Visit an American military cemetery and talk to the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent or Guide. Do the following:
 - Make a sketch, drawing or video of what you see at the cemetery. Describe how the setting made you feel.
 - Ask the cemetery representative to tell you the story of one of the men or women buried in the cemetery. Who was he or she? Where did he or she live? How and where did he or she die?
 - Make a charcoal rubbing of the person's headstone.
3. Visit three historic markers or monuments that honor Americans who fought in the First or Second World Wars. Describe what the monuments are for.
4. Visit a museum dedicated to remembering either the First or Second World War.
5. Attend a Memorial Day ceremony and explain what Memorial Day means to you. Learn how you can take part in the ceremony or help to perpetuate the remembrance of America's war dead.
6. Visit a military cemetery of one of America's allies during the First or Second World Wars. Discuss the values that America shares in common with its Allies.
7. Visit a German military cemetery from the First or Second World War. Discuss how one should remember the war dead of one's adversaries and the importance of reconciliation.
8. Explain why it is important for America, Belgium and other allied nations to continue to defend freedom today.





Elective Requirements

Do **ONE** of the following:

1. Talk with a veteran of the Second World War. Why did he/she serve? Where and how did he/she serve? What does he/she remember about the war? How did it affect his/her life? Compose a one page essay about what you learn, and write a letter thanking that veteran for your freedom.
2. Hike a historic trail that traces the route of an American military unit in Europe during the Second World War. What did the unit experience? What was their life like? How many of the members of the unit never returned home?
3. Research a First or Second World War battle in Europe where Americans served and then visit the battlefield. Using maps, explain what happened during the battle and why the battle was important.
4. Research the music that was popular during the First or Second World War. Learn and sing a song from the era. Explain who performed it and why the song was popular.
5. Read the poem "In Flanders Field" by John McCrae. Research McCrae's life, why he wrote the poem, and how he served and died. Write an original poem or compose a piece of music about the First or Second World War and what it means to you.
6. Interview a serving soldier, sailor, marine, or airman. Why do they serve? What have they experienced? Do they have friends who have died in war? Compose a one page essay about what you learn, and write a letter thanking that soldier, sailor, marine or airman for your freedom.





Suggestions for Meeting the Mandatory Requirements



Although the mandatory requirements may appear daunting at first, almost all can be accomplished on either a long day trip from Brussels, or in two easy day trips from Brussels.

In approaching these requirements, you can either focus on one of the two world wars, or look at both world wars. The First World War sites are in the East and North of Belgium. The Second World War sites are in the West and South of Belgium. This makes it difficult to combine sites from the First World War and sites from the Second World War on the same day.

If you decide to focus on the First World War, you can leave Brussels early in the morning, and visit the Flanders Field American Cemetery in Waregem. From there, you can go to Ieper to visit one of the museums, one of the Allied cemeteries, the German cemetery at Langemarck, and the Kemmel monument. On the way back to Brussels, you can stop by Oudenaarde to see the other two monuments. Other interesting stops include the Essex Farm British Cemetery, the site where John McCrae wrote his famous poem, "In Flanders Field", and the Tyne Cot cemetery, which is the largest of the British cemeteries.

If you decide to focus on the Second World War, you have two choices:

- The Northern Flank of the Battle of the Bulge Tour: You can leave Brussels early in the morning and travel to the Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery in Aubel. From the cemetery, there are two options: First, you can visit the nearby Remember Museum, and the US First Infantry Division monument. Following the Remember Museum, you can visit the monuments at Baugnez, Krinkelt, Wereth or any of the others listed on page 7. The second option is to travel to Losheim, and then follow the path of Peiper's SS Panzer Division. Along the way, there are numerous monuments to the Americans who stopped the Nazis' advance, and the road includes the site of the massacre at Baugnez. There are several options for museums, especially the Baugnez 44 Museum and the December 44 Museum at La Gleize (see page 8). In both cases, the closest German cemetery is in Lommel, and there is a British cemetery just off the E-40 in Heverlee near Leuven.
- The Southern Flank of the Battle of the Bulge Tour: You can leave Brussels early in the morning to visit the Ardennes American Cemetery in Neuville-en-Condroz. From there, you can go to Bastogne, visit the museum and the numerous monuments around Bastogne. The Bastogne tourist information office has maps and guidebooks for a driving tour around Bastogne that visits these monuments. There is a German military cemetery nearby in Recogne. You could also visit the British cemetery in Heverlee or the one in Hotton.

If you want to examine both world wars, you can combine any of the places discussed in the pages below over a Saturday and a Sunday. However, given the geographic distance between the sites of the First and Second World Wars, it is not possible to combine sites from the First and Second World Wars in a single day.





American Military Cemeteries in Belgium

There are three American military cemeteries in Belgium:

- Flanders Field American Cemetery is in Waregem, about 40 kilometers southwest of Gent. It contains the graves of 368 Americans who were died during the final Allied offensives in the summer and autumn of 1918. It is the smallest of the American military cemeteries outside of the United States, and it is the only American cemetery in Belgium from the First World War. The phone number of the cemetery is 056.60.11.22 and the e-mail address is flanders-field@abmc.gov.
- Ardennes American Cemetery is in Neuville-en-Condroz, near Liège. The cemetery contains the graves of 5,329 Americans who died in the Second World War, many of whom were killed in the Battle of the Bulge from December 1944 to January 1945. During and immediately after the war, the site of the cemetery was a central identification point for the remains of service personnel. Therefore, it also contains graves of many soldiers and airmen who were killed throughout Europe, and even one who died at Guadalcanal in the South Pacific. The phone number of the cemetery is 04.371.42.87 and the e-mail address is ardennes@abmc.gov.
- Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery is in Aubel/Hombourg, near the German border at Aachen. It contains the graves of 7,992 American servicemen. About one third of them were killed in the Hürtgen Forest in the late autumn of 1944. Another third were killed in the Battle of the Bulge from December 1944 to January 1945. The remaining third were killed in the Allied push into Germany in the Spring of 1945, or were airmen downed during bombing missions throughout the war. The phone number of the cemetery is 087.68.71.73 and the e-mail address is henri-chapelle@abmc.gov



Directions to the cemeteries may be found on AOMDA's web site: www.aomda.org. Of course, this web site also contains information about the annual Memorial Day Ceremonies held each year at the end of May .

The cemeteries are open every day from 9.00 am to 5.00 pm. You do not need to make an appointment to visit the cemetery. However, to ensure that someone from the cemetery will be available to talk to you when you arrive, you can always call or e-mail in advance to let them know you are coming.



War Museums in Belgium

There are dozens of museums dedicated to the First and Second World Wars in Belgium. Below are a few recommendations for museums to visit:

First World War

- In Flanders Field Museum: This is the largest and most well-known museum from the First World War and it is located in the center of Ieper. The web site is www.inflandersfield.be
- The Hill 62 Museum: It is three miles east of Ieper on the road leading to the Hill 62 Canadian War Memorial and the Sanctuary Wood British cemetery. The museum is family owned, and rather old. However, it contains many artifacts from the war, 3-D viewing machines with photos from the war, and even some preserved trenches at the exterior. There is no web site, but you can find it by taking the road from Ieper to Menen. After you leave Ieper, you come to a roundabout (which was known as "Hellfire Corner" during the war.) Keep going straight and about 1 kilometer later you will see a small sign for Hill 62.
- Memorial Passchendaele Museum: The battle of Passchendaele raged outside of Ieper from June to November 1917. Over 300,000 soldiers of the British empire and over 260,000 Germans lost their lives during this battle, and hundreds of thousands more on both sides were wounded or captured. This museum tells their story. The web site is www.passchendaele.be
- Hooge Crater Museum: This museum is on a site where extensive mine warfare took place. In addition to explaining mine warfare, the museum has an interesting collection of weapons and vehicles from the war, including a German tri-plane. It is located on the Meenseweg 457 in Zillebeek. The web site is www.hoogecrater.com

Second World War

- The Remember Museum: This museum is owned and run by Marcel and Mathilde Schmetz as their tribute to the Americans who liberated them. Dozens of American veterans have donated items to the museum, and Marcel and Mathilde keep their memory alive. It is located at les Bèolies 4, B-4890 Thimister-Clermont, not far from the Henri-Chapelle cemetery. There is no web site, and you must call to make an appointment with Mathilde before visiting the museum. The number is 087.44.61.81. It is highly recommended that several youth who are working on this project visit the museum together as a group.



Flanders Field Museum



Hill 62 Museum



Memorial Passchendaele Museum



Hooge Crater Museum



Remember Museum





Second World War (continued)

- Baugnez 44 Museum: This is an excellent commercial museum located near the site of the Nazi Massacre of American POW's in December of 1944 during the Battle of the Bulge. It tells the story of the war from the perspective of both the soldiers and the civilians in Belgium with an informative audio guide. You will learn a lot from visiting this museum. The web site is www.baugnez44.be
- Bastogne Historical Center: This is a commercial museum located just outside of Bastogne, next to the Mardasson Memorial for the Americans killed in the Battle of the Bulge. The museum has a short film explaining what happened during the battle and an interesting collection of armaments, uniforms and vehicles. The web site is www.bastognehistoricalcenter.be
- Battle of the Ardennes Museum: This is a small, family owned museum in La Roche en Ardennes. Although it is not very informative, it does have an interesting collection of memorabilia from the war. If you find yourself in La Roche, it is worth a visit. The address is rue Châmont 5, La Roche en Ardennes, phone: 084.41.17.25. The web site is www.batarden.be
- December 44 Historical Museum: This is a small family owned museum in La Gleize, at the site where Peiper was forced to abandon his tanks in the Battle of the Bulge. The museum is dedicated almost exclusively to the Battle of the Bulge and there is a King Tiger tank outside of the museum. The address is rue de l'Eglise 7, La Gleize, phone: 080.78.51.91. The web site is www.december44.com
- Ardennen Poteau '44 Museum: Another small family-owned museum dedicated to the Battle of the Bulge. It is located in the middle of a former battlefield, where the US 14th Cavalry Group was ambushed by the Nazis on 18 December 1944. It has a rather large collection of military vehicles. The address is Potauerstrasse 22, in Recht-St. Vith. The phone number is 080.21.74.25 and the web site is www.museum-poteau44.be
- Museum de la Bataille de La Salm: This small museum is dedicated to the fighting in the area of the river Salm during the Battle of the Bulge. It is at Ennal 24, 6698 Grand-Halleux. The phone number is 080.21.54.58.



- Truschbaum Museum: Located in Bütgenbach, this museum is run by the Belgian army, and is located on a Belgian army base. It tells the story of Camp Eisenborn. One part of this story is the struggle for the Eisenborn ridge during the Battle of the Bulge in which the "battle babies" of the 99th US Infantry Division distinguished themselves. You can find it on the Lagerstrasse in Bütgenbach. The phone number is 080.44.21.05 and the web site is www.mil.be/elsborn



Baugnez 44 Museum



Bastogne Historical Center



Battle of the Ardennes Museum



December 44
Historical Museum



Ardennen Poteau '44 Museum



Truschbaum Museum



Historic Markers and Monuments to Americans

Across Belgium, there are certainly dozens, and perhaps hundreds, of historical markers and monuments to the Americans who liberated Belgium twice in the twentieth century. When you visit one of the cemeteries or one of the museums, ask the people who work there to point you to some markers or monuments in the neighborhood. Also, pay attention as you are driving down country roads in the Ardennes where the Battle of the Bulge was fought. You are likely to stumble along a monument along the way. Here are just a few:

First World War

- Audenarde Monument, in the city of Oudenaarde
- Kemmel Monument, near Ieper
- Ohio Bridge, near Oudenaarde
- King Albert Memorial, Nieuwpoort (The US 31st and 97th Divisions fought under the command of King Albert of Belgium during the last month of the war.)



Kemmel Monument



Memorial to Eric Fisher Wood

Second World War

- Mardasson Monument, Bastogne
- Patton Memorial, Bastogne
- McAuliffe Memorial, Bastogne
- Bois de la Paix, Bizory
- Malmedy Massacre Monument, Baugnez (near Malmedy)
- Wereth Massacre Monument, Wereth
- Ligneuville Massacre Monument, Ligneuville
- 1st Infantry Division Monument, Henri-Chapelle
- 1st Infantry Division Monument, Bütgenbach
- Monument to the 1st and 3rd US Armies in Houffalize
- Monument to the 7th US Armored Division in Vielsalm
- 99th Infantry Division Monument, Krinkelt
- Monument to the 106th US Infantry Division in Sankt Vith
- Monument to the 84th US Infantry Division in Marche-en-Famenne
- In Stavelot: There is a monument to the Americans killed in defense of the city, a monument to the 596th Parachute Engineer Company, and a M3 half-track armored vehicle.
- Monument to Company C, 51st Engineer Combat Battalion at the bridge in Trois Ponts
- Monument to the 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment in Cheneux
- Monument to the 291st Engineer Combat Battalion at the bridge in Lienne
- Monument to the 551st Parachute Infantry Regiment at RochelINVAL
- Monument to Major Arthur Parker's "Alamo defense" with the 589 Field Artillery at Baraque de Fraiture
- Memorial to Eric Fisher Wood in the forest at Meyerode



AOMDA has a long-term goal of recording the location of the monuments to American servicemen in Belgium. If you find one that isn't so well known, we would be grateful if you could tell us about it (i.e. where it is, who it is dedicated to, etc.). Please also take a digital photo of the monument and send it to contact@aomda.org. We would eventually like to add this information to our web site.



Allied and German Military Cemeteries

British and Commonwealth Military Cemeteries

There are dozens of British and Commonwealth War Graves cemeteries throughout Belgium. They are maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. To find a cemetery located near where you are going, visit www.cwgc.org

French Military Cemeteries

There are two French military cemeteries in Belgium, both are from the First World War and both are in the vicinity of Ieper:

- Saint-Charles-de-Potyze, on the N332 near the village of Potijze
- Le Mont Kemmel, located on the Kemmelberg on the road leading to the summit

Belgian Military Cemeteries

Since the fighting took place at home, most Belgian war dead from both wars were buried in their hometown cemeteries, normally in a special place of honor. However, there is one Belgian military cemetery from the First World War located at Houthulst, which is not far from Diksmuide.

German Military Cemeteries

- There are four German Cemeteries from the First World War located in the villages of Langemarck, Menen, Zeebrugge, and Hoogdele
- There are two German cemeteries from the Second World War located in the villages of Lommel and Recogne-Bastogne

Historic Trail

The Transatlantic Council of the Boy Scouts of America has developed a Battle of the Bulge Historic Trail that is centered on Bastogne. Information about the trail can be downloaded from the TAC web site at www.tac-bsa.org/ResHistTrail.html





Submission Form

Please complete and scan the following form and return it by e-mail to CONTACT@AOMDA.ORG. We will mail the Award patch(es) by post to the address of the designated contact person(s). Please allow two (2) weeks for delivery.

Name(s) of Award Recipient(s)

For each recipient, please include all information in the spaces provided. If you are including a list of names for a youth group or classroom, please include this information on a separate page and attach with this form.

_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Last	First	Age	Nationality	City & Country of Residence
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Last	First	Age	Nationality	City & Country of Residence
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Last	First	Age	Nationality	City & Country of Residence

Name of Counselor/Educator/Youth Leader

_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Last	First	Age	Nationality	City & Country of Residence

Name of Youth Organization or School

I hereby acknowledge that each of the Award Recipients mentioned above have successfully completed all eight (8) of the Mandatory Award Requirements and one (1) of the Elective Requirements needed to earn the Price of Freedom Award patch.

Signature & Date

Please send _____ (please indicate quantity) patch(es) to:

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Zip Code/City: _____
 Country: _____
 E-mail address (required): _____
 Daytime telephone number (required): _____



Questions or comments? The American Overseas Memorial Day Association is committed to perpetuating remembrance for the American soldiers interred in Belgium. We value your feedback and comments. E-mail us at CONTACT@AOMDA.ORG.

Need an Award Counselor? If you are a scout or student who does not have access to a counselor with whom to discuss these requirements, please let us know. The AOMDA will be pleased to identify somebody in your area who can assist you in completing these Award requirements. Just send us an e-mail at CONTACT@AOMDA.ORG.