



On 8 and 9 November 1944, the stalemate was finally broken that had imposed itself along the front of US XXth Corps on the Moselle river in north-eastern France during the month of October. General Patton, with fresh troops in the line and adequate supplies was at last ready to get back into action and to start the great push that would carry his army across the Moselle and on towards the Saar and Rhine, into the heart of Nazi Germany. The enemy, however, had far from given up and many brave men gave their lives before the final crushing victory could be achieved.

The Association Moselle River 1944 was founded in early 2003, specifically to honour the sacrifice of those US troops who came from across the Atlantic to bring liberty to the area of France that lies to the east of the city of Thionville and the villages on the east bank of the Moselle.

The Association is proud to be able to issue this invitation to members and immediate family members of the following units which took part in the operation :

- US 90th Infantry Division and attached formations.
- US 95th Infantry Division. Task Force Bacon units = 1/377th Inf Regt and 2/378th Inf Regt.
- 3rd Cavalry Group plus Task Force Polk attached units.

The commemorative events will last from 10 to 17 November 1944 and the provisional programme is included. This invitation is restricted to veterans of the above units, spouses and immediate family members, who will be lodged and fed by the Association and/or its partner organisations. Potential participants will be expected to organise their own transportation, but every effort will be made to find a US based tour operator to take advantage of a block booking.

As those who were there in November 1944 will certainly remember that November in Lorraine can be both wet and cold, so sensible weatherproof clothing will be the order of the day. Those entitled to wear uniform are requested to bring it (if it still fits!). Medical attention will be available at all times, but participants should ensure that they have adequate insurance coverage for eventual medical emergencies.

Those interested in taking part are asked to fill in the form on the back, which does not imply any obligation, but will give the Association a basis for budgeting for accommodation and catering. One you have registered your interest you will be kept informed of further planning.

Let's make the 60th anniversary a truly great event to remember and to honour those comrades who failed to return to their families and loved ones.



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COMMEMORATION OF 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERATION
OF THE THIONVILLE REGION OF FRANCE IN NOVEMBER 2004



INVITATION



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PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

10 NOVEMBER | Participants can be collected from Luxembourg or Metz/Nancy airports, as well as main line rail stations in Metz or Thionville.

Evening | **welcome reception** (cocktails and dinner) at the Hotel l'Horizon in Thionville. During the evening a restored Liberty Way kilometre stone will be unveiled on the terrace of the hotel.

11 NOVEMBER | **Morning ceremonies** and military parade in Thionville. Our party will be guests of the municipality of Thionville.

Midday | **Embarkation in Thionville** near the spot where 2/378 crossed the river in assault bots. On board the M.S. Lorraine, a comfortable restaurant/cruise ship. Lunch will be served as we cruise first up river to Uckange, the scene of the crossing by 1/377th. After that we will run downstream and head for Luxembourg, passing the 90th Division crossing sites at Cattenom and Malling. We will stay ashore at Remich and travel by coach back to base for dinner.

12 NOVEMBER | **Travel to the river bank at Cattenom** for the unveiling of a memorial to the 90th Division who made their main assault crossing there.

Midday | After lunch we will board the coach to travel to **the Maginot Line fort** at the Hackenberg. Lovingly restored by our friends, Association Amifort, we will be given a guided tour of the fort, partly by underground railway.



At one stage of the tour we will emerge onto the surface and participate in the unveiling of another memorial statue by a local sculptor at Block 8, which still bears the scars of the impact of US artillery.

13 NOVEMBER | **Official opening of the exhibition** at the Kédange sur Canner High School and screening of a film of the events on the Moselle in Nov. 1944.

Midday | Then the Task Force Bacon contingent will be taken south to Guenange for a separate ceremony to open another exhibition after which they will spend the afternoon at Bertrange and Immeldange where a plaque in their honour will be unveiled. **90th Division participants will visit the crossing site at Malling** and then be able to take a stroll around Fort Koenigsmacker, specially cleared up for the occasion.



14 NOVEMBER | **Free.** Those wishing to attend religious service will be provided with details and transport. Lunch in Thionville.

Evening | **Participants will have the opportunity to travel through the communities** in the area in a procession of period military vehicles. A formal banquet will be arranged in Thionville.

15 NOVEMBER | **We will be the guests of the Association Thanks-GI's** who will take us to visit the crossing sites south the Metz where the comrades of the 5th Infantry Division took such terrible casualties. En route we will visit Gravelotte and the Mance Ravine where the 90th entered combat in Lorraine in September 1944.

Afternoon | After lunch in Corny we will board the coach and travel to **the Lorraine American Cemetery** at St. Avold where so many of those who died in the field of honour in Lorraine are buried.

16 NOVEMBER | **An all day excursion northwards** in to Luxembourg will be arranged, visiting various Battle of the Bulge sites associated with the XXth Corps units and a visit to the excellent museum at Diekirch.