

Battle of the Bulge Timeline

- 11 Dec 1944 Adolf Hitler held a meeting with top German military commanders at the Adlerhorst headquarters in Wetterau, Germany, stressing the importance of the upcoming Ardennes Offensive.
- 16 Dec 1944 A German officer carrying several copies of Operation Greif (the codename for Otto Skorzeny's infiltration of "fake Americans" to cause confusion ahead of the Ardennes Offensive) was taken prisoner and the treacherous plan was revealed.
- 16 Dec 1944 German troops launched Operation Wacht am Rhein, crossing the German border toward Belgium, opening the Battle of the Bulge.
- 17 Dec 1944 150 prisoners of war of US 285th Field Artillery Observation Battalion were massacred by Waffen-SS forces at Malmédy, Belgium. Only 43 survived.
- 18 Dec 1944 The German offensive in the Ardennes Forest in Belgium began to stall after Americans began to fight back.
- 19 Dec 1944 Germans captured 9,000 surrounded US troops in the Schnee Eifel region on the Belgian-German border. Meanwhile, the US 101st Airborne of the Allied reserves and 10th Armored Divisions of the US Third Army were sent to Bastogne to hold the vital road junction in Belgium.
- 20 Dec 1944 Armored elements of German 6.SS-Panzerarmee captured Stavelot, Belgium, capturing the US fuel supply stored there for their own use.
- 21 Dec 1944 US forces captured Stavelot, Belgium, while the Germans surrounded Bastogne and captured St. Vith.
- 22 Dec 1944 In Bastogne, Belgium, the German surrender demand is rebuffed by General McAuliffe with the famous response "Nuts!"; meanwhile, the US Third Army shifted its axis of advance in attempt to relieve Bastogne. In Germany, Rundstedt suggested a tactical withdrawal, but the suggestion was refused by Hitler.
- 25 Dec 1944 US 2nd Armored Division, with British help, stopped German 2.Panzer Division just 4 miles from the Meuse River in Belgium.
- 26 Dec 1944 US Third Army under George Patton relieved the besieged city of Bastogne, Belgium.
- 27 Dec 1944 US troops began pushing German troops back in the Ardennes region, thus ending the German offensive.
- 28 Dec 1944 American counteroffensive began gaining ground. Adolf Hitler ordered renewed offensives in Alsace and Ardennes regions against the advice of his generals.
- 30 Dec 1944 Germans again attacked in the Bastogne corridor in Belgium. Meanwhile, British troops attacked Houffalize, Belgium, but they were stopped by fierce German defense.
- 31 Dec 1944 US troops re-captured Rochefort, Belgium, while the US Third Army began an offensive from Bastogne.
- 1 Jan 1945 German withdrew from the Ardennes Forest in the Belgian-German border region. Meanwhile, in retaliation for the Malmedy massacre, US troops massacred 30 SS prisoners at Chenogne, Belgium. The Luftwaffe launched Unternehmen Bodenplatte, 800 aircraft conducting low-level strikes against Allied airfields in the Netherlands and Belgium. They destroyed 220 aircraft, most on the ground, but lost 188 aircraft and many experienced pilots who could not be replaced. This operation failed wipe out Allied air power based in the region.
- 3 Jan 1945 US First Army launched an attack on the northern flank of the Ardennes bulge in Belgium. Meanwhile, 1,100 Allied bombers, escorted by 11 fighter groups, bombed railroad and communications centers in western Germany.
- 5 Jan 1945 The German attack on Bastogne, Belgium was called off.
- 9 Jan 1945 US Third Army attacked towards Houffalize, Belgium, on the southern flank of the bulge.
- 11 Jan 1945 British forces captured La Roche-en-Ardenne, Belgium, northwest of Bastogne.
- 12 Jan 1945 The Operation Nordwind offensive into France was finally stopped just 13 miles from Strasbourg. In Belgium, north of Bastogne, US and British forces linked up near La Roche-en-Ardenne.
- 13 Jan 1945 US First Army attacked near Stavelot and Malmédy in Belgium.
- 16 Jan 1945 US First and Third Armies linked up near Houffalize, Belgium, while British Second Army attacked near Maas River. Germans were pushed back to the line prior to the launch of their Offensive.
- 28 Jan 1945 The Ardennes bulge was finally pushed back to its original lines, Battle of the Bulge was over.