

The Battle of the Bulge

On December 16, 1944 the Germans, consisting of 200,00 troops and 1,000 tanks, began an attack that planned to split the Allied armies and drive towards the English Channel. They attacked the American forces in the Ardennes Forest, and after only a day of hard fighting the Germans broke the line, seizing an important crossroad and advancing their spearheads towards the Meuse River, creating the formation that gave the battle its name.

General Dwight Eisenhower rushed reinforcements to the area. At the road junction of St. Vith and Bastogne, U.S. troops (tankers and paratroopers) fought off repeated German attacks. General George Patton's 3rd Army relieved Bastogne. The 2nd U.S. Armored Division stopped enemy tanks at the Meuse River on Christmas Day. Throughout January 1945, U.S. troops, in extreme weather conditions, attacked the sides of the Bulge until the front had been restored.

“This is undoubtably the greatest American battle of the war and will, I believe, be regarded as an ever-famous American victory”

- Winston Churchill

The Battle of the Bulge was a long hard fight in extreme cold and snow, but U.S. troops managed to stop the last major German offensive of the war. The Americans withstood 81,000 casualties and the Germans suffered 100,000 casualties.