



The Huertgen Forest



In late fall 1944, the Huertgen Forest was the scene of heavy fighting between allied soldiers and soldiers of the Wehrmacht.

All this fighting not only destroyed lives but entire villages, land and forests, resulting in a lot of suffering for the population.

Thus, the story of the Huertgen Forest is, above all, a story of death, injury, suffering and expulsion. In the Huertgen forest, too many sons, fathers and grandfathers from all the armies involved were cruelly and forcibly removed from their families and relatives in a war lost long ago.

Hence, we should always be aware of the fact that we all bear a common responsibility for the world around us and for one another. As a constant reminder, we must all commemorate the victims together and keep their legacy alive even today. Therefore, the Huertgen Forest as a whole should be seen as a chance to honour the culture of remembrance.

Over the last decades, the war-torn landscape of the years 1944/45 has become a landscape of commemoration with a concentration of historical testimonies in a density that is unique in the Federal Republic of Germany.

The "Huertgenwald 1944 und im Frieden" (Huertgen Forest in 1944 and in peacetime) Museum in Vossenack was built to commemorate those times. In this region, the museum and two large military cemeteries co-exist with more than thirty memorials, some of which are as unremarkable and humble as a commemorative plaque or a wayside cross.

This traditional march known under the name of Huertgen Forest March is not only supposed to remind us of past suffering but also to inspire us to stand for peace, human dignity and the freedom of all people. Last but not least, this march is supposed to serve as a bridge of reconciliation between peoples - and the numerous international encounters taking place in these cemeteries are a living proof that this hope has become reality. Our event is, thus, also part of this culture of remembrance.

If one wants to learn from history, it is important to keep the memory of yesterday's events alive in the minds of the younger generation of today. "It must not be repeated" is what this march also stands for.

The Huertgen Forest March, thus, takes place under the motto "Versöhnung über den Gräbern" (Reconciliation across Graves), an idea that will only become alive through the appropriate seriousness and the dignified behaviour of all participants.

The Huertgen Forest March is organized by the Land Command North Rhine-Westphalia in cooperation with reservists and the local Huertgen Forest reservist association.



35th International Huertgen Forest March

13 October 2018

March Routes

a "historical route" of about 10km, or a 20km, 30km or 40km march

for civilian and military participants,
or a 6km, 9km or 12km endurance march
(with a 15kg load)

Starting point (and finishing point):
52393 Vossenack, Sportheim

Hiking Tours

There are also guided hiking tours in terrain of military historical significance.

Starting point (and finishing point):
Huertgenwald Museum

D-52393 Vossenack, Pfarrer Dickmann Str. 21-23

Marches and Hiking Tours

Saturday, 13 October 2018

- from 06:00 hrs Registration of participants for the marches and for the guided hiking tours at Sportheim Vossenack
- 08:00 hrs Official welcoming of all participants and field religious service
- 08:30 hrs Start of the 40km and 30km marches
- 09:00 hrs Final starting call for the 40km march
- from 09:00 hrs Start of the guided hiking tours at the museum
- from 09:10 hrs Start of the 20km march and other marches
- 10:00 hrs Final starting call for the 30km and 20km marches
- 12:30 hrs Final starting call for the endurance marches
- 15:30 hrs End of rating
- around 16:00 hrs Closing ceremony

Cultural Programme

Friday, 12 October 2018

- 20:00 hrs Wreath-laying ceremony at the church in Vossenack
- afterwards beer call until 23:00 hrs

Saturday, 13 October 2018

- from 10:00 hrs Different exhibitions and cultural programme
- from 13:00 hrs Open-air concert, barbecue and beverages
- from 17:00 hrs Beer call (until 23:00 hrs) (like Friday, not part of the official event)

Landeskommando Nordrhein-Westfalen
Beorderungsunabhängige Reservistenarbeit
Wilhelm-Raabe-Straße 46

D-40470 Düsseldorf

Tel: +49 211 959 - 3470

Fax: +49 211 959 - 3464

E-Mail: LKdoNWbuResArb@Bundeswehr.org

You can download the registration form on the homepage of Land Command North Rhine-Westphalia.



With this QR code, or on YouTube, you have access to a video report made by a Bundeswehr film team (bw-tv) in 2011. [YouTube](#).



As part of an exhibition, the "Historische Darsteller US Army" study group presents:
"The US Army during the battle of the Huertgen forest".

Registration forms can be obtained via the contact address or the web business card [Link] (see QR code) of Land Command North Rhine-Westphalia.

Please send your registration at any time to:

Landeskommando Nordrhein-Westfalen
Feldweibel für Reservisten
Lintertstraße 71, **D-52076 Aachen**

E-Mail: LKdoNWFwResAachen@Bundeswehr.org

Tel: +49 241 561 27870, Fax: +49 241 561 52659

In addition, please note that the status of reservists from NATO countries is as specified in the NATO Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA). If you accept the invitation, you are kindly requested to apply for a visitors and/or entry permit via your responsible Military Attaché in accordance with the visit procedures applicable in your country.

We need to prepare the starting documents and to plan the meals, so please submit the completed registration form including the following information:

- Name, first name(s)
- (Reservist) rank or grade (*)
- Address
- Telephone
- E-mail address (*)
- Overnight stay (Fri-Sat/Sat-Sun) (*)
(bring your own sleeping bag/thermomat)
- (*) (*) if applicable, if available, or if you want an overnight stay

We have a limited contingent of sleeping accommodation at a primary school available for your overnight stay; the places will be assigned in the order of registration. You can also pitch your own tent on the neighbouring meadow. Please check out further options on your own responsibility
Further information on hotels and boarding houses can be found at www.huertgenwald.de