



# Liberation

OF THE  
**FALAISE-CHAMBOIS POCKET**  
AUGUST 1944 - AUGUST 2024

SUMMER 2024

Events program

# Liberation

OF THE  
**FALAISE-CHAMBOIS POCKET**  
AOÛT 1944

On August 21, 1944,  
the Battle of the Falaise-Chambois  
pocket came to an end

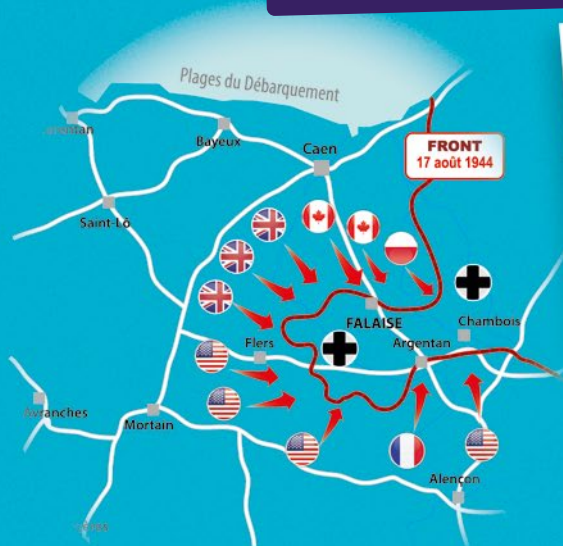
And with it came the end of the Battle of Normandy after almost 80 days of fighting. Once Caen had been liberated, the town of Falaise became the new strategic objective as the Allies began to see the possibility of encircling the routed German army.

At the beginning of August 1944, Canadian and Polish troops, supported by the British, rushed towards Falaise (operations Totalize and Tractable), while American and French units enveloped the German forces from the south.

It was in a small area of just a few dozen km<sup>2</sup>, at Montormel, that the last tragic act of the liberation of Normandy would be played out, involving troops from all the belligerent nations, as well as the civilian population trapped in the fighting.



Find  
**ALL THE EVENTS  
AND DETAILED  
INFORMATION HERE**



## PLACES TO VISIT

# LE MEMORIAL DE FALAISE CIVILIANS IN WAR



Share their stories! In Falaise, an emblematic town in Normandy.



Discover the Second World War in a different way, through the eyes of civilians. Specially designed for families, our tours immerse you in the daily life of the people, with period objects, reconstructed settings, archive films, photos...

**A unique immersive film plunges viewers into the hell of the Second World War bombings.**

### 80<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL

17 et 18 août 2024

Anniversary of the Liberation of the Falaise region

Single ticket price of €4.50 / person

Until 03/11 Temporary exhibition

«Rising from the Ruins: towns at the heart of the war».

# LE MEMORIAL DE MONTORMEL



In the hell of the Falaise - Chambois pocket



Overlooking the Dives valley and offering an exceptional view of the battlefield, the Montormel Memorial retraces the entire battle of the Falaise-Chambois pocket (August 19-21, 1944), thanks to its modern museographic space and the explanations of a guide.

**On-site:** permanent exhibition of military equipment from the battlefield!



## BLACKWATER MUSEUM 39/45

Berjou Liberation Museum



Thanks to many objects found on the battlefields and explanations provided by a guide, the Museum of Liberation, Located on the heights of Berjou, near Condé sur Noireau, traces the battle that raged through the 15, 16 and 17 August 1944 around the Noireau. This was the penultimate bloody battle before the Falaise-Chambois pocket was closed, in which the British soldiers of the 43<sup>rd</sup> «Wessex» Infantry Division and the Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry distinguished themselves with valour.

## MEMORIALS AND MONUMENTS

### > POLISH AND CANADIAN MILITARY CEMETERIES



Located between Caen and Falaise, these two cemeteries are a reminder of the sacrifice of Canadian and Polish troops during the Battle of Normandy:

- **Cintheaux Canadian Military Cemetery:** 2,958 graves
- **Urville-Langannerie Polish Military Cemetery:** 696 graves

### > GOODWOOD MEMORIAL

Castine-en-Plaine



Created to mark the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Normandy, this monument pays tribute to the tank and infantry battles of Operations Goodwood, Totalize and Tractable in July and August 1944, which led to the liberation of Caen and opened the way to Falaise and the closure of the Falaise-Chambois pocket.

# HISTORICAL ROUTES

## > THE RESISTANCE TRAIL

📍 ARGENTAN

On foot • 1 h • Free

On this 7-stop trail, discover around ten portraits of Argentan Resistance fighters out of the thirty or so names of resistance fighters that dot the town's streets. Scan the QR code and take part in the digital game, for a totally immersive experience of the troubled period of the Second World War

Download  
THE INFORMATION SHEET



## > FALAISE 1944 OPERATION RECONSTRUCTION

📍 FALAISE

On foot • 1 h • Free

Armed with your smartphone, explore the heritage of the Reconstruction and set off to discover Falaise thanks to the Legendr© application. Follow the trail, solve the riddles and take advantage of the augmented reality projections to discover the history of Falaise during and after the Second World War with your family.

Legendr application available  
on Google play and Apple store



## > AUGUST 44" TRAIL

📍 CHAMBOIS

By car or motorbike  
30 km • Free

A 10-stop signposted historical trail with illustrated explanatory panels, which take you to the strategic places of the last battle of Normandy and the famous Falaise-Chambois pocket.

Download  
THE INFORMATION SHEET



## > FOLLOW ME JAMES" DIGITAL TRAIL GAME

📍 ARGENTAN

By car or bike  
29 km • Free

Thanks to the Baludik© application, take part in the exchanges between Warren, an American veteran, and his grandson James. Through riddles and games to solve, they will take you into the Falaise-Chambois pocket and explain the role of the Allies in the Liberation.

Baludik application  
available on Google  
play and Apple store



## > IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE LIBERATORS

📍 MORTEAUX-COULIBŒUF

By bike • 15 km

A cycle route accessible for everyone, embellished with panels telling the story of the liberation of the town.

Download  
THE INFORMATION SHEET



## EXHIBITIONS



1/06 to 3/11

### Rising from the Ruins : Cities at the heart of war

*Falaise Memorial Charge (included in ticket price)*

From bombing to reconstruction, urban centres played a special role during the war, with invariably the same victims: the civilian population. With the help of archive documents and authentic objects from all over the world, this exceptional exhibition provides answers to some essential questions.

2/07 to 1/10

### 80 years = 80 objects

*Flers - municipal hall  
Free admission*

Presentation of military equipment, everyday objects and archives, some of which have never been seen before. Two remembrance rooms also pay tribute to the soldiers of the British 11<sup>th</sup> Armoured Division and the Resistance fighters of the Flers sector.

25/04 to 03/11

### Thury-Harcourt

*Castle park  
Free admission*

In front of the remains of the Château d'Harcourt, destroyed by German troops in August 1944, enjoy an open-air exhibition to discover the history of the Battle of Normandy in the Cingal-Suisse Normande area.

## OUTINGS AND VISITS

### Great hike : civilian exodus 1944

28/07

8.30 am

*Falaise  
Paying - Registration  
required - Limited capacity*

In two stages between Falaise and Chambois, relive the exodus of many civilians in the footsteps of two Norman Cobs. Alternating bus and walking tours (2 x 8 km) through the exodus and death row sites, with musical entertainment, historical explanations and social events.

### Guided tours: Falaise and the war

9/07 to 27/08

Every Tuesday at 10.30 am

*Falaise  
Charge - 1 h 30*

Follow our guide through the streets of Falaise, the birthplace of William the Conqueror, to discover the town from the perspective of the Second World War. From the Occupation to Reconstruction, via the fighting in the summer of 1944, this is a surprising tour, full of anecdotes and remarkable heritage.

### Guided tour of the temporary exhibition «Rising from the Ruins : Cities at the heart of war»

9/07 to 29/08

Every Tuesday and  
Thursday - 4.30pm

*Falaise Memorial  
Charge (included ticket price) - 1h*

A guide from the Falaise Memorial will take you through the temporary exhibition. Around the various panels and display cases, enjoy fascinating explanations to complete your visit.

### Educational activities: «objects have a history»

9/07 to 29/08

Every Wednesday  
and Thursday - 11.30am  
and 2.30pm

*Falaise Memorial  
Charge (included in  
ticket price) - 1h*

During your visit, travel back in time thanks to everyday objects from the past. Ration coupons, shoes with wooden soles and gas masks all have anecdotes to tell you! It's a lively way of understanding the history and living conditions of the French during the war.

### Flâneries special 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary

23/07 to 13/08

2pm

*Free - On foot - 2h  
Pre-registration  
recommended*

Follow our local guides who are passionate about their villages, and discover the communes of the Falaise area during the war. These guided walks are accessible to all ages, and combine personal accounts and local anecdotes that are often little-known with the « Big » story.

- 23/07  
Saint-Pierre-du-Bû
- 30/07  
Pont-d'Ouille
- 06/08  
Falaise
- 13/08  
Courcy



# THE CONFERENCES

## Evening of testimonies

16/08

6.00 pm

Falaise - Trinité Church  
Free admission

An exceptional evening during which witnesses to the liberation and reconstruction of Falaise can exchange their memories with the public.

## The Reconstruction of Falaise

17/08

11.00 am

Falaise - Cinéma l'Entracte  
Free

From 1948 onwards, the town of Falaise was the focus of an intense reconstruction campaign, during which architects had to think about how to reconcile its medieval heritage with its rebuilt buildings. Conference given by Eloïse Bregant-Belin, a doctoral student in architecture.

## Historical lectures

17/08

2.00 pm

Morteaux-Couliboëuf  
Media library  
Free

To mark the town's Liberation Day, enjoy 2 lectures by 2 authors:

- **Jacques WIACKEC** : the saga of the 1st Polish armoured division from 1940 to the Falaise-Chambois pocket
- **Pascale SAVIN** : the story of Dr Grunberg, a doctor from Morteaux-Couliboëuf who was deported in 1942.

# Celebrating FREEDOM!

## THE MAIN FESTIVE DAYS



Throughout August, the towns and villages of the Falaise-Chambois pocket will be celebrating freedom and the liberators! Re-enactment camps, open-air cinema, parades, musical events, guided tours, conferences, popular dances, fireworks displays, exhibitions... A rich programme of exchanges, sharing and festivities to mark this 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary!

Find all the details on our website.

**10 and 11 August** **Thury-Harcourt** Great Liberators' Festival

**15 to 18 August** **Berjou** Festive days at the Blackwater Museum

**16-17-18 August** **Morteaux Couliboëuf** Liberation Festival

**17 August** **Tournai-sur-Dive** Liberated village festival

**17 - 18 August** **Falaise** Anniversary of the liberation of Falaise

**17 - 18 August** **Courcy** Liberation Festival

**18 August** **Pont-d'Ouilley** Guinguette of the Liberation

**18 August** **Putanges-le-Lac** Anniversary of the Liberation

**18 August** **Chambois** The crossroads of victory

**20 August** **Argentan** Argentan liberated

**24 August** **Urville** Great Franco-Polish festival

**24 August** **Montormel** The Call to Freedom

# We will REMEMBER THEM

## LES PRINCIPALES CÉRÉMONIES DU SOUVENIR

**6 July** **Donnay** • 10.30am: tribute to the civilian and military victims of the Saint Clair maquis

**17 August** **Falaise** • 4pm : tribute to the civilian victims and Canadian liberators  
**Morteaux-Couliboëuf** • 6pm : patriotic ceremony and unveiling of a plaque in tribute to Dr Grunberg - deported in 1942  
**Courcy** • 11am : Patriotic ceremony. 7.30pm: unveiling of a plaque in tribute to M<sup>me</sup> VERRIER - Righteous Among the Nations

**18 August** **Pont-d'Ouilley** • 11am : commemorative ceremony

**24 August** **Chambois - Montormel** • 9am : international ceremony marking the end of the Battle of Normandy

**25 August** **Urville military cemetery - Potigny** • 9.30am : tribute to Polish servicemen

This list is not exhaustive. Find other ceremonies on our website.

OFFICE DE TOURISME  
FALAISE – SUISSE NORMANDE  
5 Place Guillaume le Conquérant  
14700 Falaise – +33 (0)2 31 90 17 26  
info@falaise-suisse-normande.com  
www.falaise-suisse-normande.com

  @FalaiseSuisseNormande



Find  
ALL THE EVENTS  
AND DETAILED  
INFORMATION HERE



For all the latest news on the 80th anniversary in Normandy, go to  
[www.80e-normandie.fr](http://www.80e-normandie.fr)