

CHARTER « QUALITY RECONSTITUTION » OF THE 65th ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERATION OF BELGIAN LUXEMBOURG AND THE BATTLE OF THE ARDENNES

PREFACE

Besides the traditional vectors that transmit the history of the fighting that took place in Belgian Luxembourg and the Battle of the Ardennes, the old-timer collector associations and re-enactors participate, in one way or another, in maintaining the memory of the fighting, thus expressing the reconnaissance due to the liberators and honoring the victims of this major period during World War Two.

In the general interest of the public that assists to these events and the numerous collectors and re-enactors that will be present in the Ardennes Region during the ceremonies that are linked to the remembrance of the events in September 1944 and the Battle of the Ardennes – either as individuals or in constitutive associations – it has become necessary to recall in this text certain legal rules, as well as behavior and uniform that will guarantee that these initiatives of the memory will be conducted correctly.

Article 1 - General :

The current charter has as goal to respect the spirit of the site and the memory of those that came to liberate Europe, but also to specify the rules and regulations that every collector and re-enactor will have to follow, when participating to the events or historical displays.

The collector, re-enactor – either in an association or in an autonomous role – will respect the legal procedures to the letter, as of now maintained in the current charter and eventual directives and adapted rules depending on the site where the event or display is taking place.

The organizer of activities connected to the memory of the historical events, either as responsible person for an association or as independent persons, are compelled to follow the law, the charter regulations as well as any particular rules, depending on the event that they are in charge of.

Article 2 – Administration :

The conditions for organizing any event or other activity – private and/or public – have to be defined in agreement with the concerned local administration and the police zone and prepare an official document. This document will be handed over to the law enforcement, when requested.

Every event or activity that has not been legalized through this manner, is prohibited and can result into sanctions that are foreseen by the Belgian legislation.

The associations or independent re-enactors have to present themselves at the local administration, where the organization of the event is taking place to declare their presence through a list of participants and hand over a signed copy of the present charter, that notes their commitment that has to be observed throughout its preparations. The local administration has to inform the concerned authorities.

Article 3 – Code of conduct :

The re-enactors must show, in any circumstances, a worthy and exemplary behavior (general appearance, conduct, auto discipline, expression, speech, ...) able to render homage to our Liberators.

Every participant has to be undisputable, as he contributes to the image and the reputation of the entire community of collectors and re-enactors. To do so:

- never deviate from the common rules of politeness and behavior,
- not to violate, in any case elementary rules of education and integrity
- support, in case of conflict, a dialogue in order to sustain that our activity remains a free-time one.
- to respect, as good as possible, this current charter of « QUALITY of RECONSTITUTION ».

The re-enactors must also take it as a point of honor to respect their instructive role through explanations and any other commentaries that are available to the public.

Article 4 - Uniform :

The bearing of a military historical uniform is authorized for the duration of the festivities.

Only clothing – civilian or military -, have to correspond as best as possible to the period represented by the event are authorized. Any fantasy uniforms are forbidden, especially the paramilitary clothing that have no connection with the period involved.

The same applies for young children or teenagers that are wearing clothing of that period or...

The German uniform is forbidden. Exception are, when this is strictly authorized by the local administrations that are concerned. This exception is only allowed in the framework of a specific event (historical re-enactment for example). A strict supervision has to be performed to ensure that wearing the uniform is limited to the site and the duration of the considered event.

In order to obtain a correct historical image, all anachronistic – either existing out a material source (plastic bottles, cell phone...) and/or esthetical (piercings, modern haircuts,...) have to be limited if possible.

The historical military uniforms must be in perfect conformity with the military formation that is represented and the equipment must be as close as possible to the historical reality.

The re-enactors will be attentive, as good as possible, that they wear only the equipment/ranks corresponding at the category of personal that they want to represent. Also, they will pay special attention to their role, given their age. As such, again in the frame of the historical respect, younger people should not wear, as a general rule, equipment/ranks reserved to officers and vice-versa.

Article 5 - Weaponry :

In a general way, all weapons and ammunitions used during exhibitions and historical reconstitutions must be in full conformity with the current Belgian law.

Carrying, transport, ownership, storing and the use of all kinds of weapons and ammunitions is also submitted to the current Belgian law.

Carrying, transport, ownership, storing and the use of all kinds of weapons and ammunitions may not bypass the strict minimum in the framework of exhibitions and historical reconstitutions.

When blank-firing weapons are involved, these may only be used during historical mock battles. All weapons must be unloaded without any exception outside these types of authorized activities.

Any vendor or participants must be able to present at all times the necessary conformity certificates of the weapons and equipment he holds.

The use of any type of weapons and ammunition, is done under the control and according to the directives of the responsible person for the re-enacting group, in full conformity with current Belgian law.

The use of all types of weapons and ammunitions will be executed as a good family father and in a way that is not menacing towards others.

In the framework of the historical reality, only weapons that were effectively used during the historical period that is been re-enacted, as well as any reproductions in any exact point, is allowed. And this in perfect conformity with individual weapons of that period.

Article 6 – Vehicles :

All military old-timers that participate at the exhibitions and the historical re-enacting events must be in good mechanical working order and possess the necessary legal documents (technical control, matriculation, insurance...) and have a first aid kit on board.

Their drivers must be in the possession of the corresponding drivers license of the vehicle they are driving.

As the old-timers are collector's items, rubber and metallic chains are authorized. Nevertheless, these tracked vehicles may not drive on public roads, without a prior consent, delivered by the concerned local administration.

The drivers and/or owners of the military old-timers are responsible for the general state, maintenance, good working order, use, parking and the conformity of their vehicle(s).

Any movement in a official convoy – meaning a official announced event noted in the calendar of the 65th Anniversary – existing out of more than five military vehicles must have received a prior authorization from the local administration concerned, in order to avoid any circulation issues. Any convoy that has not been authorized can be halted and turned around by the law enforcement officials.

In order to keep a historical realism, only military vehicles are allowed that were effectively used during the historical period, or reproductions that are identical in any point.

The general view (markings, camouflage,...) of the military vehicles that are presented in the framework of a static display, a defile or a re-enactor scene, have to be as correct possible to the historical context of the presented period.

In the same context, the use of sirens in an excessive way is prohibited, especially near hospitals and may be submitted to local regulations.

Regarding flags and stickers, they have to be displayed in a manner that they do not diminish the historical reality.

Article 7 – Signature of the charter :

In a general way, the signature of the present charter ensures the adhesion of principle of the association or group of collectors and re-enactors towards the totality of the valor described in the text.

In particularly, every event that qualifies within the field of application of this document, has be to signed again on the charter by the organizing association, thus stating his concern to satisfy the commitment and recommendations in the framework of organizing a specific event.

Once signed, the charter will be transmitted to the Organizational Committee for the 65th Anniversary of the Liberation of Belgian Luxembourg and the Battle of the Ardennes, that will ensure its conservation.

Done at Arlon, 15 August 2009.

Province de Luxembourg

Commune de

Arrêté du bourgmestre

Le Bourgmestre,

Vu la nouvelle loi communale, notamment les articles 133, alinéa 2 et 135, par. 2,

Considérant que les communes ont pour mission de faire jouir les habitants des avantages d'une bonne police, notamment de la propreté, de la salubrité, de la sûreté et de la tranquillité publiques,

Considérant que le week-end des 12 et 13 décembre 2009 est le week-end de commémoration du 65^e anniversaire de la Bataille des Ardennes ;

Considérant que la **Ville de Bastogne**, et ses différents partenaires pour ces commémorations, ont toujours eu pour souci de ne pas raviver la douleur des survivants de la bataille des Ardennes, tant civils que militaires, en acceptant dans ces manifestations des signes de soutien à l'armée allemande de l'époque ;

Considérant qu'admettre de tels faits est susceptible de créer, tant dans la population locale que parmi les participants aux manifestations commémoratives des actes de réprobation véhémence, pouvant créer un trouble à l'ordre public ;

Considérant que certains groupes cherchent à s'insérer dans les organisations mises en place, sans demande préalable à l'autorité, ce qui en empêche le contrôle préalable et risque de perturber le bon fonctionnement de l'ensemble des organisations et causer un trouble de l'ordre public ;

Considérant que ce genre d'initiative est de nature à provoquer des réactions violentes de la part de la population locale, légitimement heurtée par ce qu'elle peut considérer comme une provocation en ce moment de commémoration patriotique ;

Considérant qu'il est nécessaire, par conséquent, afin de faire cesser cette mise en péril de l'ordre public, d'interdire la tenue de toute manifestation pouvant heurter la mémoire de la population locale,

Considérant qu'il n'est pas possible d'entrer en contact avec toutes ces organisations,

Vu l'urgence,

ARRETE:

Article 1^{er} - Toute manifestation, exposition, cortège, ou défilé, est interdit sur le territoire de la commune de Bastogne, du 12 décembre 09 à 00h au 13 décembre 09 à 24h, à l'exception des manifestations coordonnées par le « Comité du 65^e anniversaire de la Bataille des Ardennes » sur des sites définis, appelés ci-après sites de reconstitution, et dont le programme est publié sur le site de la Fédération Touristique du Luxembourg Belge ou d'autres manifestations organisées par l'autorité communale.

Article 2 - Il est interdit de circuler en uniforme ou pièce d'uniforme ou d'exhiber ou d'utiliser tout véhicule, tout drapeau, emblème, insigne, armement ou objet relevant de la tenue, de l'équipement ou du matériel **utilisés par l'armée allemande** durant la Seconde Guerre Mondiale, à l'exception des sites de reconstitutions et uniquement dans leurs limites.

Article 3 : - Toute autre manifestation que celle prévue à l'article 1 pourra être empêchée par les forces de police, au besoin en procédant à des arrestations administratives, et les objets infractionnels pourront être saisis conformément à la Loi sur la Fonction de Police.

Article 4 : - Du 12 décembre à 00.00 au 13 décembre à 24.00h, le port visible de baïonnettes, couteaux, ..., toute arme blanche, est strictement interdit sur le territoire de la commune, à l'exception des sites officiels de reconstitution. Les armes portées en infraction seront saisies par les forces de police.

Article 5 : - Les infractions au présent arrêté seront passible des peines de police.

Article 6 : - Un recours contre la présente décision peut être déposé par voie de requête au Conseil d'Etat, dans un délai de 60 jours à partir de sa notification.

Article 7 : Des expéditions de la présente seront adressées :

- à Monsieur le Président du Tribunal de Première Instance à NEUFCHATEAU.
- à Monsieur le Procureur du Roi à NEUFCHATEAU
- à Messieurs les greffiers en chef près le Tribunal de Première Instance et le Tribunal de Police de NEUFCHATEAU.
- à la zone de police locale Centre Ardenne à BASTOGNE
- au Directeur Coordinateur de la Police Fédérale à NEUFCHATEAU

Fait à BASTOGNE, le 17 novembre 2009

Le Bourgmestre,

