

La Bataille des Ardennes (The Battle of Ardennes) ⁽¹⁹⁷²⁾ is a complex montage which places numerous features in relation to one another. It looks like a pseudo-maquette of a landscape seen from a plane. It consists of a sheet of aluminium pistol-sprayed in fluorescent green. The illusion is complete, as we can easily imagine a geographical map in relief. On the right hand side, beneath the aluminium, we see another smaller map showing the stratifications of the land. One can detect numerical curves of each level, and small red pins which in direct topographical relation with the sketch next to them. Above the small map, red capsules enter into a 'chromatic' relation with the pins, indicating hypothetical locations. One should never underestimate the humorous wink beneath Pierre Courtois' smoothly varnished seriousness. Are these capsules pharmaceutical objects, remedies for strategic bombardments?

Olivier Duquenne, 2012

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