

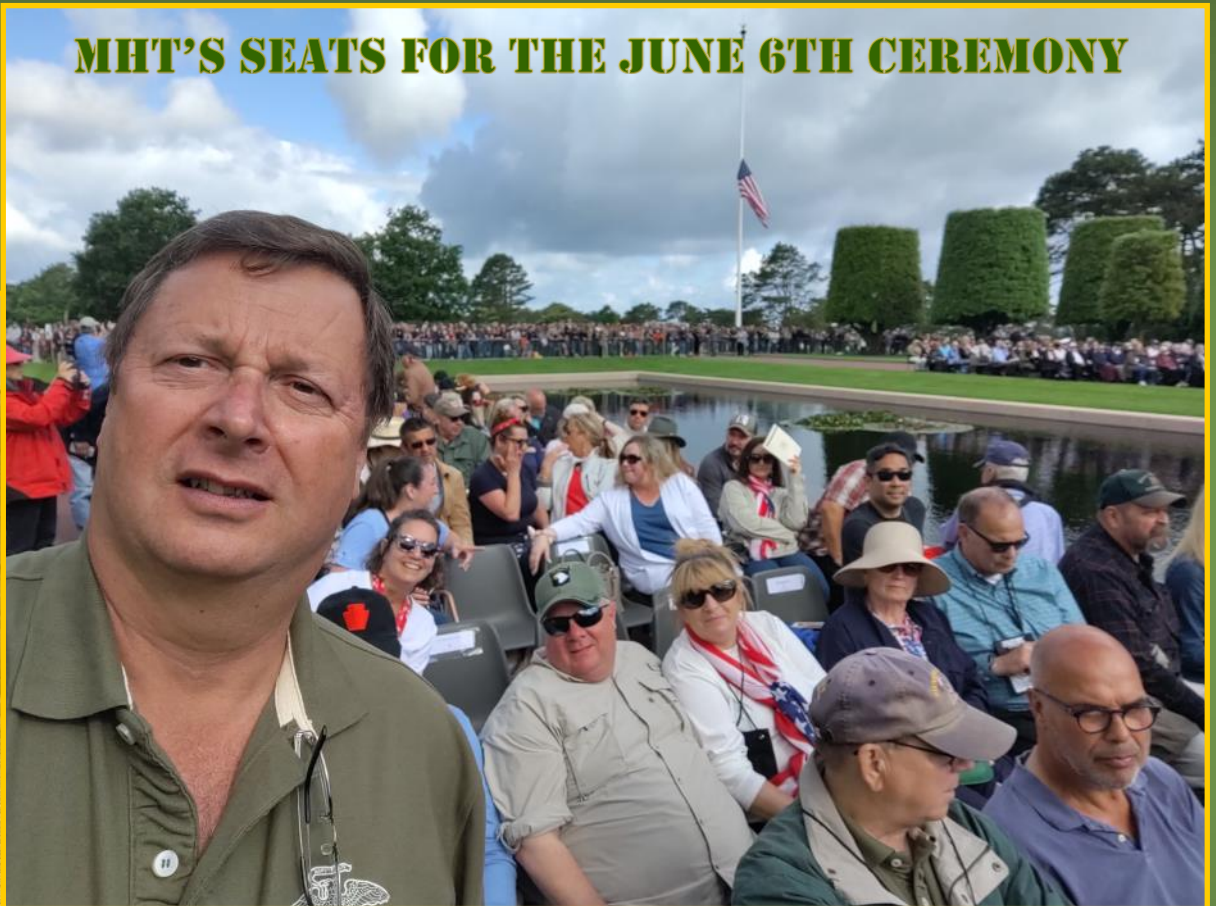


“THE LONGEST DAY” PLUS THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE BASTOGNE - NORMANDY - PARIS 31 MAY – 13 JUNE 2023

TOUR LEADER: SHAYNE JAROSZ, USMC
MHT HISTORIAN: COL RICH YODER, USMC(RET)

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MHT'S SEATS FOR THE JUNE 6TH CEREMONY



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Omaha Beach, 6 June 1944 - H+5



CONTINUED FOR 2023! MHT has expanding our traditional D-Day tour to include the World War II Battle of the Bulge in Belgium. Of all the battles fought by United States in Europe during WWII, these two are considered the most significant. Since the world was commemorating the 100th anniversary of World War I, we also will take a look into America's involvement in this "war to end all wars." A case can be made that WWI and

WWII were the SAME war with a 20-year pause to repopulate the combatants armies. This D-Day Tour has been designed to examine that connection. Please join us for a journey back in time.

D-Day - June 6th, 1944. It has been 79 years but few events have galvanized a population and stirred the imagination like D-Day. As dawn broke over the beaches, thousands of real-life "Private Ryans", British, French, Canadians and Americans, left the relative safety of their landing craft and stormed ashore to begin the Liberation of France. We will be there for the Official June 6th Ceremonies after starting the day on the invasion beaches.

The Battle of the Bulge (16 December 1944 – 25 January 1945) was the last major German offensive campaign of WWII on the Western Front. It was launched through the densely forested Ardennes region of Wallonia in Belgium, France, and Luxembourg as a last gamble to halt the Allies advance. The surprise attack caught the Allied forces completely off guard. U.S. forces bore the brunt of the attack and incurred their highest casualties for any operation during the war but held the Nazi columns and turned the tide for the invasion of Germany.

MILITARY HISTORICAL TOURS is proud to offer another in our series of signature European Battlefield Tours on this historic **Seventy-Ninth Anniversary of D-Day**. Our tours include exclusive MHT events, tour booklet & sites other tours bypass. Information on the events that are offered on your particular expedition will be included in your registration information packet. All of these things, along with the most experienced staff of Program Directors, Battlefield Tour Leaders and Historians will combine to make your trip the most enjoyable, relaxing, entertaining and educational experience possible. We welcome your phone calls, letters or e-mails to discuss your tour with one of our Battlefield Specialists. Call us at 703-590-1295 we look forward to hearing from you!

Daily Itinerary

Day 1 – May 31 – Departure. Depart your hometown airport for an International Portal for the flight to Charles De Gaulle Airport Paris (CDG). Dinner and a continental breakfast served aboard.

Day 2 - June 1 - Arrival in France. Arrive at CDG and make your way to our conveniently-located airport hotel. MHT will provide a one night accommodations for two (with breakfast) in our airport hotel the night before your tour formally begins. An early evening complimentary **Wine Welcome** is planned to meet the other D-Day tour participants. **Hotel: Hilton Paris CDG Airport.**



Tour Price: \$ 4,895*

(Based on Double Occupancy)

Single Room Supplement: \$ 1,195 *

Tour Price Includes:

4-Star Hotel Accommodations at CDG-Paris, Bastogne, Caen-Normandy & Paris

*

Air-conditioned deluxe motorcoach with onboard restroom

*

Emergency Medical & Evacuation Insurance

*

Meals as indicated in itinerary

*

Historical trip information packet, containing maps & other tour information.

*

Admission fees to all sites, museums and special attractions listed

*

Services of experienced Tour Leader and English-speaking local guides.

Airfare not included: Get your own or Book Optional MHT Airfare: Round-trip economy or business class airfare from your hometown to Paris CDG price quoted upon registration!

* - Price based on € conversion rate at final billing



Day 3 - June 2 - Paris to Caen.

We will bid farewell to Paris and head for Caen. Before we head to Normandy we make a stop at the Lafayette Escadrille Memorial Cemetery commemorates the birthplace of US combat aviation & serves as a symbol of the Franco-American comradeship during WWI. This site honors the volunteer US pilots who flew with French squadrons during the Great War. It is the final resting place for 49 of America's first combat aviators & 2 of their French Officers. On the way to Caen we stop at the famed artist Claude Monet's Gardens at his house at Giverny. There are two parts to Monet's garden: a flower garden called Clos Normand in front & a Japanese inspired water garden on the other side of the road. **Hotel: Best Western Plue Le Moderne, Caen. Meals: Breakfast -Included daily. L & D - On Own (OO).**

Day 4 - 3 June - Normandy D-Day.

Our first day in Normandy starts with the famed **Pegasus Bridge & Museum**. The bridges across the River Orne & the Caen canal had to be captured & held intact to enable the seaborne reinforcements to cross. The result was textbook example of a successful operation. Next stop is the **German Merville Battery**. The gun battery had to be put out of action. The 100mm caliber guns could fire down on to Sword Beach & the Allied fleet off the coast. Although successful, it was a nearly disastrous operation. On display is a restored C-47 aircraft from D-Day. Before lunch we see **Arromanches**. The remains of one of the two artificial "Mulberry" harbors erected in the landing operation may still be seen. Lunch OO at **Port-en-Bessin**. A picturesque fishing port that was home to one of the 'Pipelines Under the Sea' (PLUTO) pumping stations. After lunch we walk the **Longes-sur-Mer** German coastal defense battery, probably the best remaining example of such a battery in Normandy. The rest of the day is used to explore **Omaha Beach** was the most intensely contested beach on D-Day. It is six miles wide – the largest of all the five beaches. The entire beach was overlooked by cliffs which made attacking the area very difficult. You will walk the sands where the liberation of France began 79 years ago. **29th Infantry Division**. Our tour will include the seawall, bunkers, & other German defenses along the beach. The western half of the beach was assigned to the untested US 29th Infantry Division. Vierville Draw where the 29th landed was featured in both "The Longest Day" and "Saving Private Ryan." **1st Infantry Division** was assigned the eastern half of Omaha Beach. The battle-hardened "Big Red One" stormed ashore and began fighting for its life on a strip of beach near Coleville-sur-Mer that had been marked the "Easy Red" on battle maps. Slowly, spurred by the individual heroism of many individuals, the move inland got underway. Also at Omaha Beach in Saint-Laurent-sur-Mer, we see the **American Indian Monument**, a sculptured granite turtle, a tribute to the 175 American Indian soldiers who struggled up this shore on D-Day so they are never forgotten.

Hotel: Best Western Plue Le Moderne. Meals: B/ L&D-OO.

Day 5 - 4 June - Normandy D-Day.

After breakfast, we visit the **Overlord Museum**. This privately-owned museum just outside the Cemetery gate chronicles the period of the Allied landing until the liberation of Paris. The collection was assembled by someone who was both a witness to the conflict & involved in the reconstruction of Normandy. Personal items from individual soldiers & armored fighting vehicles from the six armies in Normandy are presented in set displays showing over 35 vehicles, tanks and guns. We move to the famous cliffs of **Pointe du Hoc**. The 2nd Ranger Battalion scaled the 100-foot cliffs to eliminate the German heavy guns that could threaten both Utah and Omaha beaches. At a high cost, they successfully defended against determined German counterattacks for two days. The Pointe du Hoc Ranger Monument was erected by the French to honor the incredible courage of the Rangers. Next up is **Utah Beach**, the western-most of the five landing beaches. The beach was situated on the east at the edge

of a marshland zone which had been flooded by the Germans. Only four causeways could be used to cross this marshland & reach inland. The **4th Infantry Division's** objective, supported by airborne landings of the 82nd & 101st Airborne Divisions, was to secure a beachhead on the Cotentin Peninsula. The division only lost 197 men during the day & by the night of June 6th, 20,000 men & 1,700 vehicles were ashore. It was for his actions that day that Brigadier General Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., Assistant Division Commander, earned the division's first Medal of Honor. The **Utah Beach D-Day Museum** is built on the very beach where the first American troops landed. A restored, original B-26 "Marauder" bomber is among the displays. After lunch, we walk the intriguing **Maisy Battery**. The fight for the capture of the battery lasted days between a German Regiment & paratroopers of the 506th Regiment, 101st Airborne & rangers of the 5th Bn. The battery disappeared until 2005 as US Army Engineers bulldozed it over with earth, allowing it to remain unseen for over 60 years.

Hotel: Best Western Plue Le Moderne. Meals: B / L&D - OO.

Day 6 - 5 June - Normandy D-Day.

In the early hours of June 6, 1944, the American airborne forces successfully executed some of the most difficult and challenging missions of D-Day. Their objectives were to secure the invasion right flank against German counterattacks and secure the causeways off Utah Beach. Our first stop is at **Brecourt Manor**. The 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment's assault by Easy Company on the German howitzer battery that was disrupting the exit leading off Utah Beach was immortalized in the HBO series "Band of Brothers". It is often cited as a classic example of small-unit tactics and leadership in overcoming a larger enemy force. **82nd Airborne Division** paratroopers were to capture objectives in the area west of the Allied amphibious invasion, specifically the town of Sainte-Mère-Eglise & the La Fièvre bridge. **Ste Mere Eglise** was another site made famous by the film, "The Longest Day." A mannequin of a paratrooper hangs from the church spire as "Red" Buttons did in the film. A must see is **The Airborne Forces Museum** that has a C-47 troop transport aircraft that flew in the invasion & a rare WACO glider on display. The **101st Airborne Division's** objectives were to secure the four causeway exits behind Utah Beach to ensure the exit route for the 4th Infantry Division from the beach later that morning. We finish the day in **Bayeux**. The first city of the Battle of Normandy to be liberated, and on 16 June 1944 General Charles de Gaulle made the first of two major speeches in Bayeux in which he made clear that France sided with the Allies. The buildings in Bayeux were virtually untouched as was the historic tapestry during the Battle of Normandy, the German forces being fully involved in defending Caen from the Allies.

Hotel: Best Western Plue Le Moderne. Meals: B / L&D - OO.

Day 7 - 6 June - Normandy D-Day.

After breakfast we participate in the large Memorial Ceremony at the American Cemetery at Coleville. We have a stop before lunch at the "Big Red One" 1st Infantry Division Monument. After lunch we have a fun stop at the Cavados Distillery for a tasting. Tonight is a Group Dinner in Caen. **Hotel: Best Western Plue Le Moderne, Caen. Meals: B & D / L - OO.**



French Schoolchildren & MHT Bus



Veteran "Bangs" Tosline with "Big Red One" re-enactors at Normandy Cemetery on 6 June.

Day 8 - June 7 - World War I.

We depart for Reims, on the way we will stop at the “**Armistice Clearing**” near Compiègne & a walk through the small museum housing a sister coach to Marshal Foch’s “**Surrender Carriage**” where WWI essentially ended & where the French capitulated to Hitler in June 1940. In a way, it is the place where WWI ended & WWII began. We move on to the iconic **Battle of Belleau Wood** with its beautiful memorials with the famed Bulldog Fountain & “Iron Mike” statue. Lunch at **Chateau-Thierry** scene of the massive First Battle of the Marne, Second Battle of the Marne & 3rd Infantry Division battlefield. Our next stop is the **Oise-Aisne American Cemetery & Memorial** contains the remains of 6,012 American war dead, most of whom lost their lives while fighting in this vicinity in 1918 during World War I. The memorial is a curving colonnade, flanked at the ends by a chapel & a map room. It is built of rose-colored sandstone with white trim bearing sculptured details of war-time equipment. The chapel contains an altar of carved stone. Engraved upon its Walls of the Missing are 241 names. The map room contains an engraved & colored wall map portraying the military operations in this region during 1918. Afterward, we head to Reims with a brief stop at the spectacular **Reims Cathedral**. **Hotel: Reims Holiday Inn Centre. Meals: B / L & D - OO.**

Day 9 - June 8 - World War I - Bastogne.

Our route will take us eastward through the beautiful countryside that once was a shell-scarred wasteland criss-crossed with French & German trench lines. The terrain feature known as the Plateau Chemin des Dames was the scene of costly attacks & stalemate. After The Great War, France faced a changed strategic situation. Consequently, France conceived of the **Maginot Line**, a line of concrete fortifications, obstacles & weapon strong points constructed during the 1930s. We will take a two hour underground tour of **Fort du Hacken-**

berg, the largest single fort in the line with its 1000-man garrison. This is a real journey back in time & into the history of one of the most formidable fortifications of the 20th Century. Afterward, we journey to Bastogne, Belgium, with a brief stop at the **Luxembourg American Cemetery** where we pause to pay our respects to the fallen, including the late General George S. Patton Jr. **Hotel: Melba AV. Mathieu Bastogne. Meals: B / L & D - OO.**

Days 10 - 11 - June 9 - 10 - Battle of the Bulge.

MHT is most fortunate to have as our local guide, Henri Mignon, a retired artillery officer of the Belgian Army. His family used to live in a small village north of Bastogne, in an area reoccupied by the German SS during the Battle of the Bulge. Though only 10 years old, he clearly recalls the hardships of the fighting & especially the day when his father was killed by an artillery round while getting the family water from the farm well. In the three days we are with Henri, we will visit McAuliffe Square with its famous Sherman tank, the **Bastogne Historical Center**, the “foxholes” of the “Easy Company” (made famous in “Band of Brothers”), the German Cemetery in Recogne, the “**Siegfried Line**” with its signature “**Dragon’s Teeth**,” the site of the infamous “**Malmedy Massacre**” & see one of only 11 German “**King**” **Tiger II** tanks remaining in the world. Henri will have special access to the Belgium military base from where General McAuliffe sent his famous reply, “NUTS!” to the German surrender demand. **Hotel: Melba AV. Mathieu Bastogne. Meals: B / L & D - OO.**

Day 12 - June 11 - Drive to Paris.

We head to the “City of Light.” **Hotel: Concorde Montparnasse. Meals: B / L & D - OO.**

Day 13 - June 12 - Paris.

Free day to tour Paris. **Hotel: Concorde Montparnasse. Meals: B / L & D - OO.**

Day 14 - June 13 - Paris Departure.

Individual departure on your own schedule to the airport for your return flight to the USA, arriving same day. **Meals: B.**

