

# 104th Anniversary of the Armistice Ending WWI “American Battlefields in France”

4—14 November 2022

Devil Dogs & Doughboys “Over There”



Tour Leaders:  
James White &  
SSG Steven  
Girard, USA  
(Ret)



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HISTORICAL TOURS, INC



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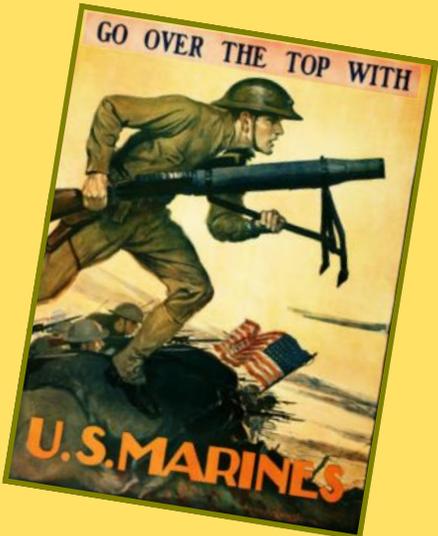
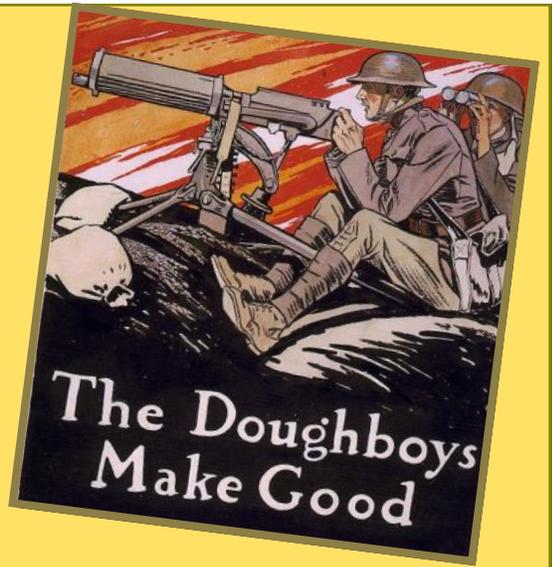
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It has been called THE GREAT WAR and THE WAR TO END ALL WARS. We know it as WORLD WAR I. It began in 1914 and ended with an armistice at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month in 1918. The cost...included 52,947 dead and 202,628 wounded Americans. After war was declared on 6 April 1917 the U.S. began preparations to enter the morass of European trench warfare. In June 1917, transport ships began ferrying carrying U.S. troops of the American Expeditionary Force to

France. However, the "Doughboys," as the British referred to the green American troops, were said to be untrained and ill-equipped, untested for the rigors of fighting along the Western Front.

Nevertheless, the war-weary Allied armies enthusiastically welcomed the fresh American troops. In 1918, the Yanks won a small but important victory at Cantigny, stopped the German attack toward Paris at Belleau Wood and along the Marne, played the major role in turning the tide of the war at Soissons, eliminated the German salient at St Mihiel that had existed for four years, smashed the Hindenburg Line at Blanc Mont and again in the Meuse-Argonne, driving the Germans back across the Meuse River to the north and east by the time the Armistice was signed. The inexperienced and hastily trained Americans took severe casualties but were ultimately victorious in every major

battle they fought.



At the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918, the Great War ends. At 5 a.m. that morning, Germany, bereft of manpower and supplies and faced with imminent invasion, signed an armistice agreement with the Allies in a railroad car outside Compiègne, France. The First World War left nine million soldiers dead and 21 million wounded, with Germany, Russia, Austria-Hungary, France, and Great Britain each losing nearly a million or more lives. In addition, at least five million civilians died from disease, starvation, or exposure.

**Military Historical Tours, Inc.** is pleased to offer our legacy tour of the battlefields for this world-

changing event and we are happy to have two of our finest leading you "Over There."

**Tour Price: \$ 3,850\***

**BODO - Based on Double Occupancy**

**Single Room Supplement: \$ 845\***

**Tour Price Includes:**

- \* First-Class Hotel Accommodations
- \* Air-conditioned deluxe motorcoach
- \* Meals as indicated in itinerary
- \* Historical Trip information packet, containing maps & other information
- \* Admission fees to all sites, museums and special attractions listed
- \* Services of MHT's experienced Tour Directors & English-speaking local guides

**Airfare & Airport Transfers Not Included: Optional MHT**

Round-trip economy airfare from your hometown airport to CDG Paris available upon request (price subject to confirmation at time of booking.) Business class is also available.



\* - Price based on € current rate of exchange



**Our MHT Tour Leaders:**  
**James White (right)** is a WWI expert who has lead this tour numerous times & **Steve Girard (left)** is a Veteran of the 21D, historian & author of *C'est La Guerre-The Memoirs of Capt James McBrayer Sellers, USMC*. Both have an extensive knowledge of the French WWI battlefields & is MHT all-star team in France.





## Daily Itinerary

**Fri 4 November (Day 1) Departure.** Individual departures from USA to France.

**Sat 5 November (Day 2) Arrive CDG Paris.** Proceed to your hotel in Paris, instructions on transportation will be provided by your tour leader. Evening wine reception and tour overview briefing. Hôtel Mercure Paris Centre Tour Eiffel.

**Sun 6 November (Day 3) Soissons Battlefield, Reims.** Visit the Lafayette Escadrille Memorial Cemetery, commemorating the birth of American combat aviation (Picture Top Left.) The Escadrille was made up of Americans who volunteered for France prior to America's entry into the war. Visit historic Notre Dame Cathedral in Reims, the traditional place of coronation of the Kings of France, largely destroyed during the war. Tour the 2nd Division battlefield at Soissons, "turning point of the war." Lunch on own in town square in Pierrefonds with photo op of its magnificent castle on the hill.

Visit the Armistice Clearing near Compiegne where the Armistice was signed to end WW I and where Hitler forced the French to surrender in 1940 during WW II. Return to Reims. Group dinner. Holiday Inn Reims Centre. Meals: (B)



A note on Reims: Reims is an ancient city founded circa 80 BC. After the fall of the Roman Empire, it was the site where most of the French kings were crowned at the famed Notre-Dame de Reims. Reims is located in the heart of the Champagne region of France. You will have a chance to take in the town in the evenings and perhaps have a taste of the champagne or see the lovely cathedral lit up at night.

**Mon 7 November (Day 4) Blanc Mont.** Drive along the French-German front line in the Champagne region from 1914 to 1918 from Reims to Blanc Mont and tour the Marine (2nd Infantry Division) battlefield where the seizing of Blanc Mont ridge was called by French General Henri Petain, "The greatest achievement of 1918." Les Jardins du Mess. Meals: (B/L)

**Tues 8 November (Day 5) Verdun.** We will journey to the famous, or infamous, Verdun battlefield. This 1916 attack by the Germans was to



"bleed the French Army white." We begin our exploration of the Battle of Verdun with the excellent Verdun Museum in Fleury recently reopened after a two-year renovation for the battles 100th anniversary. In addition, we will see the vast areas of shell craters (some areas are still off-limits due to thousands of unexploded munitions) with lunch on your own. Group Dinner. Les Jardins du Mess. Meals: (B/D)

**Wed 9 November (Day 6) Meuse-Argonne.** Tour the central/eastern portion of the Meuse-Argonne battlefield, stopping at the huge American monument atop Montfaucon, then paying our respects at the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery at Romagne, the largest American cemetery in Europe and visit an interesting private museum in Romagne. We'll continue to the jump-off line of the 2nd Division, where the Hindenburg line was smashed and follow the attack of the Marine Brigade as they drove north to the Corps Objective at Baricourt Heights. Then, on to the Meuse River near Mouzon where we'll view the spot where on 10 November, the last night of the war, two battalions of the Fifth Marine Regiment crossed the river on a footbridge under heavy fire. We will return to Reims for a group dinner and have a Marine Corps 247<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration. Group Dinner. Holiday Inn Reims Centre. Meals: (B/D)



**Thurs 10 November (Day 7) Belleau Wood Battlefield.** Today, we'll visit the iconic Marine battlefield at Belleau Wood, a site at or near the top of most Marines' "bucket lists." Here, you'll see fighting positions, trenches, medical aid stations, machine-gun nests in and around the woods and view Les Mares Farm, Hill 142, Lucy-le-Bocage, Bouresches, "The Wheatfield," and much more. You'll also have the opportunity to drink from the legendary "Bull Dog Fountain." Lunch will be on your own in Chateau-Thierry. We'll then head to Paris with the evening at leisure. Hôtel Mercure Paris Centre Tour Eiffel. Meals: (B)

**Fri 11 November (Day 8) Armistice Day in Paris.** We will meet in the hotel lobby in the morning and walk as a group towards the Champs-Elysees to the Arc de Triomphe to observe Armistice ceremonies and listen to the "bells of peace." A free evening to enjoy Paris at night. Hôtel Mercure Paris Centre Tour Eiffel. Meals: (B)

**Sat 12 November (Day 9) Paris in the Fall.** Today, you experience Paris, quite arguably the most beautiful city in the world. Your tour leaders will be available to offer suggestions of things to do and places to visit. Your choices are endless and a Paris guidebook of your choice, obtained before the tour would be most helpful. You can ride one of the hop-on/hop-off tour buses for an excellent driving tour. Want more military his-

tory? Visit Napoleon's Tomb at Les Invalides, where Marshal Ferdinand Foch, the Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces is also entombed and which also houses the National Army Museum, a fabulous collection of French militaria. Had enough military history for the moment? Visit the incomparable art treasures of the Louvre, Orsay Museum, Rodin Museum, Pompidou Center, take in the architectural wonders of the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame Cathedral, the Opera, the Basilica de Sacre Coeur in



Montmartre, the Marais, or take an optional tour to Versailles. Or, you can just sit on a bench on the Champs Elysees or at a table at the Cafe de la Paix on the Place de la Opera and watch the world go by. Hôtel Mercure Paris Centre Tour Eiffel.  
Meals: (B)

**Sun 13 November (Day 10) Free time in Paris.**

An excellent chance to visit Versailles or take in more sights. Hôtel Mercure Paris Centre Tour Eiffel. Meals: (B)

**Mon 14 November (Day 11) Departure for Home.** Check out for your flight home  
Meals: (B)



4-14 NOV 2022!  
COMMEMORATION  
WORLD WAR 104<sup>th</sup>



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