Left: Going in May you won’t have chattering teeth or frostbite when you see the dragon’s teeth!

70th Anniversary Battle of the Bulge Pre-Tour
25 May— 1 June 2015
Tour Leader: LTC John Powell USA (Ret)
The Battle of the Bulge

Early on the misty winter morning of 16 December 1944, over 200,000 German troops and nearly 1,000 tanks launched Adolf Hitler’s last bid to reverse the ebb in his fortunes that had begun when Allied troops landed in France on D-day. Seeking to drive to the English Channel coast and split the Allied armies as they had done in May 1940, the Germans struck in the Ardennes Forest, a seventy-five-mile stretch of the front characterized by dense woods and few roads, held by four inexperienced and battle-worn American divisions. The courage and fortitude of the American Soldier was tested against great adversity. The battle that ensued is known historically as The Battle of the Bulge.

Day 1 - Mon 25 May - Departure
Overnight flight to Paris

Day 2 Tue 26 May - Paris
Arrival and transfer to our hotel to meet the group. Hotel: Concorde Montparnasse

Day 3 - Wed 27 May – Paris. This morning, we depart Paris on a leisurely drive to Bastogne with a sight-seeing stop in the Champagne Region at Reims with its magnificent cathedral. We arrive in Bastogne in mid-afternoon and check into our hotel near McAuliffe Square in the center of the city. Lunch on your own along the way. Meals: B/-/-; Hotel: Best Western—Melba

Day 4 - Thur 28 May – Bastogne. MHT is most fortunate to have as your 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 recaptured by the German SS during the Battle of the Bulge. Though only 8 years old, he clearly recalls the hardships of the fighting and especially the day when his father was killed by an artillery round while getting the family water from the farm well. We start at the McAuliffe Square with its famous Sherman tank. From there we visit important sites in and around Bastogne: the Bastogne Historical Center, the "foxholes" of the "Easy Company" (made famous in "Band of Brothers"), the German Cemetery in Recogne, Fort Boguess where the encirclement was broken by the 4th Armored Division and much more. Meals: B/-/-; Hotel: Best Western—Melba

Day 5 - Fri 29 May - Bastogne. Today, Henri will have special access to the Belgium military base from where B/G McAuliffe sent his famous reply, “NUTS!” to the German surrender demand. We have a long trip across the battlefield and visit many of the sites made famous in the battle: including the 82d Airborne Division sector, the withdrawal of the 7th Armored Division and the "Siegfried Line" with its signature "Dragon Teeth." From the German border we follow the attack route of "Kampfgruppe Peiper", spearhead of the entire German attack plan, including the site of the infamous "Malmedy Massacre". We continue through Trois-Ponts, scene of a valiant stand by the U.S. Engineer troops in their attempts to stop Peiper. In La Gleize you will be able to examine one of only 11 German “King” Tiger II tanks remaining in the world as well as a German Panther tank. On our way back to Bastogne, we stop in Houffalize, junction point of the 1st and 3d U.S. Armies in the counter-attack, on 16 January 1945. Lunch on your own in Malmedy. Meals: B/-/-; Hotel: Best Western—Melba

Day 6 – Sat 30 May - Bastogne. This morning, we drive to Hamm, Luxembourg, where we pause to pay our respects to the fallen, including the late general George S. Patton Jr. We continue to Diekirch to visit the National Military History Museum. During the day, you will see “Skyline Drive,” discuss the 2d Panzer Division’s axis of attack and the defense by the 28th Infantry Division and visit the site of the action of Combat Team Cherry. Lunch on your own in Diekirch. Meals: B/-/-; Hotel: Best Western—Melba

Day 7 – Sun 31 May - Return to Paris. Today we depart the Ardennes and make our way back to Paris. That evening you have at leisure to enjoy Paris. Lunch on your own along the way. Dinner on your own in Paris. Meals: B/-/-; Hotel: Concorde Montparnasse

Day 8 - Mon 1 Jun
Depart on the bus for Normandy on the D-Day Tour. Riding shotgun (or M-1 in this case) in the jeep is optional!