

106th Infantry Division

Battlefield Tour

May 13 - 20, 2012



INTRODUCTION

In early December 1944, the 31 divisions of Bradley's Twelfth Army Group were already positioned along a 200-mile front on Germany's western border. But they were grouped north and south of the Ardennes. Along the 100 miles of the Ardennes front, there were just five US divisions. Why? Well, any sensible German military commander would never have thought that you could successfully attack the Americans across the snow-covered, rocky, forested Ardennes in midwinter. But this was just what Hitler did and he consequently achieved complete surprise. This was where he unleashed his massive, last ditch World War II offensive against the Allies, spearheaded by two elite German armies, Manteuffel's Fifth Panzer Army and Sepp Dietrich's Sixth Panzer Army. That was the start of America's greatest ever land battle, the Battle of the Bulge. One of just five US divisions covering the 100-mile Ardennes front was the newly arrived 106th Infantry Division. With practically no time for preparation and no experience of Ardennes winter combat, 106th Infantry Division was to bear the brunt of Fifth Panzer Army's initial attack towards St Vith.

422nd and 423rd regiments and other units of 106th Infantry Division had a tragically short but nevertheless courageous and vitally important war. Their immediate resistance delayed the German capture of St Vith by a critical two days. The continuing success of Fifth Panzer Army's lightning offensive depended upon quickly using St Vith as a forward supply depot and communications center. But the 106th units became encircled by a German pincer. Attempts to supply

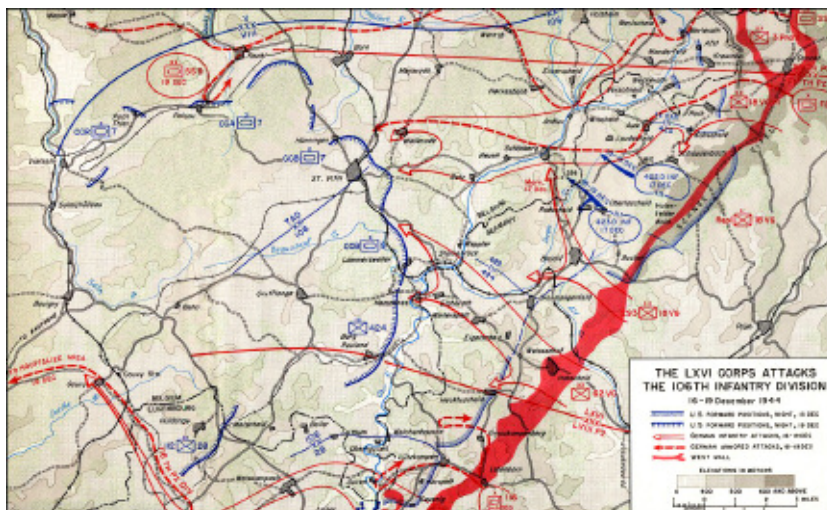
them by air were unsuccessful and they were forced into captivity as prisoners of war on December 19, 1944.

The third regiment, 424th, and other 106th units positioned farther south, evaded encirclement and went on to take part in the heroic defense of St Vith which in its military importance equals Bastogne in the history of the Battle of the Bulge. While St Vith remained in American hands, Sixth Panzer Army was dangerously split from Fifth Panzer Army and lacked southern flank protection.

After the loss of St Vith, 424th and other remaining 106th units withdrew westwards to help defend the northern shoulder of the Bulge. They successfully stopped a German breakthrough northwest to the Meuse between Liege and Namur and onwards to the great port of Antwerp. Their unyielding defense became the anvil against which Patton's Third Army, advancing from Bastogne and the south, could hammer. That soon threatened to smash the supplies and communications lifeline of the Fifth Panzer Army advancing fast towards the Meuse, south of Namur. It was compelled to stop advancing and instead to start quickly retreating back towards Germany before it was cut off.

With that, the Battle of the Bulge, America's greatest ever land battle, was finally over. What happened in the first few chaotic days of the Battle of the Bulge was critical for final victory. Preventing Fifth Panzer Army from gaining quick control of St Vith was of the highest importance, and 106th Infantry Division's contribution to this was indisputable.

Our tour begins with an overview of the opening days of the Battle of the Bulge. We see where Dietrich's Sixth Panzer Army and Manteuffel's Fifth Panzer Army launched their massive offensive. We track in depth the fortunes of the 106th Infantry Division. Please don't hesitate to contact Tim Blixt or MilSpec Tours, and we will do our best to include your special places if at all possible within the tour itinerary. You will also have time and opportunity for private visits. On our last traveling day, we track the route of the 106th Infantry Division POWs from the Bulge to their big POW camp Stalag XIIA. Then we turn south to our final destination Frankfurt at the end of this historic and memorable veterans tour.



Itinerary

SUN MAY 13 - ARRIVE BRUSSELS AIRPORT

Everyone arrives independently at Brussels Airport. Then you have free day. Your Final Documents will contain full instructions about how to get to our Brussels Airport hotel (it's quick and easy) and lots of tips about Brussels shopping, sightseeing and eating.

MON MAY 14 - BRUSSELS AIRPORT - AACHEN

Our Tour Director Patrick Hinchy meets and greets us with our touring coach at our Brussels Airport hotel. Patrick is multilingual and one of the most experienced veterans tour directors in Europe. From Brussels we head east across Belgium to the Ardennes and Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery for our own ceremonial wreath-laying ceremony. Then we go to Mathilde and Marcel's Belgian farm for a fascinating visit to their own WWII museum and a fun snack lunch. We stay in the historic German cathedral city of Aachen. **(B, D)**



TUE MAY 15 - AACHEN - CLERVAUX

In an overview of the opening days of the Battle of the Bulge, we see where Dietrich's Sixth Panzer Army and Manteuffel's Fifth Panzer Army launched their massive surprise offensive. We see Monschau, Camp Elsenborn, Rocherath-Krinkelt, Malmedy, Lanzerath, Losheimergraben and more, including the threatening remains of the Siegfried Line, the formidable German border defenses. The beautiful little medieval Battle of the Bulge town of Clervaux is our base for the next several days. **(B, D)**

WED MAY 16 - CLERVAUX

We cover the 106th Infantry Division in depth during the first days of the Bulge. It was thinly stretched over 21 miles of the Ardennes front with positions inside Germany. 422nd and 589th FAB were around Auw. 423rd and 590th FAB were around Bleialf. On December 16, 1944, they lay directly in the path of Fifth Panzer Army forces heading to Schoenberg with its vital bridge over the River Our and the road to St Vith beyond. The Germans fought their way to Schoenberg by December 19 in a pincer movement. There was no escape for 422nd and 423rd. They were encircled and captured. But they had critically delayed Fifth Panzer Army's planned December 17 capture St Vith, essential for its speedy advance. 424th and 591st FAB were around Winterspelt to the south and evaded encirclement. They were pulled back to defend St Vith. So were the 81st Combat Engineers who held the Pruemerberg Hill until Decem-

ber 21 blocking the main route into St Vith from Germany. In St Vith today there is an impressive 106th Memorial where we shall have a wreath-laying ceremony. **(B, D)**

THU MAY 17 - CLERVAUX

By December 21st the fall of St Vith was inevitable. But Fifth Panzer Army's forward momentum had slowed. We track the 424th's dangerous withdrawal northwards from the St Vith salient through German held territory across the Salm River to the American held northern flank of the Bulge. Here from Manhay to Grand-Halleux and Poteau, 106th units tenaciously resisted all German attempts to advance north-west to the Meuse. It's epitomised by 589th FAB's heroic four day resistance against overwhelming forces at Parker's Crossroads, that gave 82nd Airborne time to organize a solid permanent defense. We have a solemn wreath-laying ceremony followed by a festive lunch with our CRIBA friends at Parker's Crossroads. Then via Houffalize and Foy, we visit

Bastogne with the main American Bulge monument and the commemorative Peace Woods. **(B, D)**

FRI MAY 18 - CLERVAUX

Today is a relaxed day. It's your chance if you wish to do your own thing, like explore your own special places, meet old friends, etc. But for the rest of the group, we shall visit Luxembourg City, the outstanding Battle of the Bulge museum in Diekirch and see something of the southern Bulge battlefields. This evening we have a grand Farewell Dinner. **(B, D)**

SAT MAY 19 - CLERVAUX - FRANKFURT

We go east out of the Bulge into Germany. In their memory, we will try and track the historical route of the 106th POWs via Pruem and Gerolstein to the site of Stalag XIIA, their big POW camp outside Limburg. Finally we head to Frankfurt and our airport hotel at the end of this unique, historic and memorable 106th Infantry Division tour. **(B)**

SUN MAY 20 - FRANKFURT AIRPORT - USA **(B)**

B = Breakfast. L = Lunch D = Dinner

Note: These are land-only tours. You must book your own trans-Atlantic flights. Please do not book your flights before you consult with our staff.



106th Infantry Division 2012 European Battlefield Tour



Reservation Application

Please make _____ reservation(s) on the 106th Infantry Division 2012 Battlefield Tour. Enclosed is \$ _____ representing \$400.00 per person deposit toward the full price of \$2,591 per person (double occupancy)

(Please make checks payable to "MilSpec Tours")

Payment Option (✓ one)

- Option A: I would like to Pay In Full. Payment enclosed.
- Option B: I am paying a deposit only and will pay in full 90 days before departure.

Insurance Option (✓ one)

- I accept the travel insurance at \$200 per person single or double occupancy
Please add the cost of your insurance to your \$400 deposit for a total of \$600 per person when submitting this registration form.
- I will obtain my own insurance.

Tour Participants (please print your names as they appear on your passports)

Name: _____ Male Female Date of Birth: _____

Name: _____ Male Female Date of Birth: _____

Street: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Please furnish us with both your street address and post office box address to avoid delays in shipment of documents to you by Federal Express.

Your home phone: (____) _____ Work Phone: (____) _____ Email: _____@_____

Any diet/health problems? _____

Please print the name and phone number of a person not traveling with you who is to be notified in the event of an emergency.

Name: _____ Relationship _____ Phone #(____) _____

Special requests/places to visit: _____

I desire: 2-in-a-room. Single Room at \$345
 Willing to share, 2-in-a-room basis. Roommate (if known) _____

To charge your deposit to a major credit card, please complete the following:

- Discover Card
- Visa
- Mastercard
- American Express

Tour #12-106

Name on Card: _____

Credit Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: ____ / ____ Billing Zip Code: _____

I agree to the terms and conditions as outlined in this tour brochure.

Signature: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / ____

Mail to:

MilSpec Tours

Post Office Box 340
Flourtown, PA 19031-0340
Phone 215-248-2572 Fax 215-248-5250
Email: MilSpecTours@aol.com Web:GoMilSpec.com

Your MilSpec Tour Includes. . .

*First-class and selected hotels with private bath (where available), 2-in-a-room basis. Single room additional cost. *Breakfast daily plus table d'hote lunches and dinners in accordance with the custom of each country and as noted in the itinerary. *Mini-van or motorcoach transportation as required by the itinerary. *Sightseeing as specified with English-speaking guide & appropriate admission fees. *Tips & taxes on all pre-paid services. *Professional Escort while on tour.

Tour Prices Do Not Include: TransAtlantic air; airport /customs/departure taxes, passports, any applicable visa fees, excess baggage charges, optional sightseeing, meals other than those shown in the itineraries, items not on table d'hote menus, laundry, liquor, mineral water, beverages with lunch & dinner, customary, gratuities to Tour Directors, Coach Drivers & local guides, & any other expenses of a personal nature.

Tour Prices are based on a minimum of 25 tour participants and on tariffs and rates (currency & exchange) known at the time of printing; prices are subject to adjustment without notice in event of changes to such rates prior to departure.

Tour Itineraries are developed to maximize the understanding of the subject of the tour and the interest and enjoyment of the tour participants. Tours are sold as a package of events, transportation, lodging, meals and professional guidance. Tour packages are not intended to be offered in increments. Requests for participation in an increment of a tour package are discouraged and if honored may require payment up to the full cost of the tour.

Hotels: Unless otherwise stated, all tour prices are based on two persons sharing a twin/double room. Applicable single supplements are indicated for those wishing single room accommodations. Single rooms are limited in quantity and are sometimes not of the same size or quality as twin/double rooms. Single room reservations will be accepted with the understanding that we cannot guarantee single rooms will be available on all parts of your tour. We do not recommend triple rooms as they tend to be very crowded; in most cases, triple rooms are a twin room to which a cot has been added. There is no reduction in tour cost for triple rooms.

Deposits and Final Payments: A deposit of \$400 per person is required to effect reservations. This deposit forms part of your final payment which is due when billed but not later than 90 days prior to departure. Acceptance on tour is subject to verification of payment in full to MilSpec Tours.

Baggage: No responsibility is incurred by MilSpec for loss or damage to baggage or any of the passengers belongings. It is recommended that all passengers purchase baggage insurance.

Passports and Visas: A valid passport is required for all tour participants. Visas are not required for this tour program.

Smoking: Please kindly note that for the safety and well-being of the group, smoking is not permitted on the motorcoach at any time.

Cancellations for unforeseen and valid reasons in advance of departure are entitled to a full refund less actual expenses incurred and a \$75.00 per person service charge, if written notice is received not later than 120 days prior to departure. If cancellation occurs less than 120 days prior to departure, deposits will be refunded less a \$150 per person cancellation charge; less than 60 days prior to departure date, deposits will be refunded, less a \$250 per person cancellation charge plus any penalties assessed to MilSpec Tours by hotels, transportation companies, airlines and other purveyors of services. Cancellations of 30 days or less receive no refund. Trip cancellation and interruption insurance is available and strongly recommended on all tours.

Revisions and Refunds: All changes must be confirmed in writing. A handling fee of \$75.00 per transaction will be charged for any alteration or revision made to a tour reservation. All claims for refunds must be made within 60 days after termination of the tour and must be accompanied by a statement from the Tour Director, certifying exactly the services not taken. No refund can be made for unused transportation where group tickets or vehicles are involved. No refund can be made for services not taken unless the services omitted cover 72 consecutive hours or more.

Tour Participants: In order to insure the smooth operation of all tours, and to ensure congenial tour groups, MilSpec Tours reserves the right to accept or reject any person as a tour participant and to expel from the tour any person for any reason including anyone whose conduct is deemed incompatible with the interest of the tour group. Any handicapped participant who requires special assistance must be accompanied by a qualified helper who assumes total responsibility for the handicapped participant's well-being. MilSpec Tours reserves the right to exclude from the tour any handicapped participant whose physical condition impairs customary operation of the tour. Should a wheelchair or other special equipment, care, maintenance or services be required at any time, all arrangements shall be made and all costs and obligations will be borne by the tour member. All tour members must be able to make their own way on/off the motorcoach. Well-behaved children over 10 years of age are welcome on any MilSpec Tours tour under the same conditions as noted above.

Responsibility: MilSpec Tours and/or its agents act only in the capacity of agent for carriers, hotels, bus operators, and other suppliers of services and shall not be held responsible for any injury or for any loss or damage caused by accidents or events beyond their control, or by any action or negligence of attendants or third parties who are not in their employ and on their payroll. The tour operator and/or its agents can accept no responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air, sea or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, or other causes. All such losses will have to be borne by the passenger, as tour rates provide for arrangements only for the time stated. The right is reserved to substitute hotels specified for others of similar category. The right is reserved to make minor adjustments in the itinerary. Prices are based upon current tariffs and are subject to adjustment in the event of change. The right is reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour. No refund will be made for any unused portion of the tour unless arrangements are made prior to departure. The issuance and acceptance of vouchers or tickets shall be deemed to be consent to the above conditions. In addition, transportation companies concerned shall not be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time that passengers are not on board their carriers. The passenger contract in use by the carriers concerned, when issued shall constitute the sole contract between the transportation companies and the purchaser of the tour and/or passengers. The itineraries shown are planned at the time of issue of this flyer, but are subject to revision should circumstances make it necessary. Such revisions will be shown on the individual traveling itinerary you receive before departure.

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Travel Insurance

Take advantage of our valuable insurance protection. For \$200 you can enjoy the security of the following coverage:

Schedule of Coverages

• Trip Cancellation & Interruption	Up to Tour Cost
• Travel Delay (\$150 maximum per day)	\$750
• Baggage and Travel Documents	\$1,000
• Baggage Delay	\$250
• Medical Expense	\$50,000
• Emergency Medical Transportation	\$500,000
• Accidental Death & Dismemberment	\$25,000

This is a brief summary of the insurance plan offered. For a full description of the benefits, exclusions & conditions, an insurance brochure is available. Or, call Travel Guard International at 1-888-826-1300.