

# Timberwolf Tour and Rhine River Cruise

**MAY 13 - 22, 2010**

Dear Timberwolves,

For the past decade I have had the real privilege and pleasure of planning and guiding your MilSpec Timberwolves tours of Europe. As Veterans and 'Pups' together, we have tracked and celebrated the Timberwolves' great military achievements across Europe in World War II and honored the fallen with our European friends.

Glen Lytle asked me to think up a new and special tour for 2010 and I have done so. It is, after all, the 65th Anniversary of the end of World War II. Our 2010 tour will be more comfortable with much less coach traveling so that the Veterans' can enjoy it even more. And, in addition to it being our essential Timberwolves pilgrimage, it will also have more general tourism so that non-military 'Pups' and wives can enjoy it even more. I think it was Glen and Buford Alexander who asked if it would be possible to incorporate a river cruise and I thought this was a wonderful idea.

So here is what you can look forward to in 2010. Wonderful contrast and variety. We begin in the center of Switzerland in the beautiful lakeside resort of Lucerne by the Swiss Alps. Then we have a spectacular luxury Viking Rhine cruise all the way to Cologne. Finally, in our classic fashion, we celebrate with our European friends the Timberwolves' military achievements between Aachen and Cologne and in Holland. Our last night is in Brussels. We will use the same hotels in Breda and Aachen that we have used before and a good hotel that I know in Lucerne Switzerland. Hotel portage is included. You can read a full description of the tour in this publication. If you have any questions, please contact me at gomilspec@aol.com. Incidentally it will be worth signing up for the tour early, to make sure you get one of our allocated best cabins on the Rhine cruise.

A Timberwolves tour is probably the very best way for the Veterans to pass on to their 'Pups' the great military heritage of the Timberwolves and also of the US Army in Europe. This is so well worth doing, and you are one of the few remaining dynamic divisional associations who can do it. Please don't let it all gradually fade away as too many other divisions have done. Your European friends do not want this either. They will always be loyally there for you with a big welcome whenever you return. I know, because I am one of them.

*My best wishes to you all.*

*Patrick Hinchey*



## Itinerary

**Day 1: Thursday, May 13, 2010 - USA /Aloft.** Fly with our group or make your own airline reservations. We offer this tour program as flight-inclusive or land-only. If you make your own airline reservations, you must plan your arrival at the Zurich Airport to coincide with the early morning arrival of the main group.

**Day 2: Friday, May 14- Zurich/Lucerne.** In the early morning Patrick welcomes us at Zurich Airport and we drive to famously beautiful central Switzerland where the Lake of Lucerne meets the Swiss Alps. We stay in the delightful historic lakeside resort of Lucerne. Take an exciting cogwheel railway / cable car trip up into the mountains. Or a peaceful boat trip around the lake with spectacular views. Or just relax in historic, unhurried, medieval Lucerne with its beautiful lakeside walk, picturesque shopping streets and fascinating historical monuments, like the famous wooden Chapel Bridge with its medieval paintings or the great Lion Monument carved in a rockface. This evening, our Swiss Welcome Dinner with wine. (D)

**Day 3: Saturday, May 15 - Lucerne/Basel.** Lots more time until the mid afternoon to continue enjoying our sightseeing, shopping and relaxation in and around Lucerne. Then we drive to the famous Swiss city of Basle (or Basel in the local Swiss German dialect) on the River Rhine. It's time to board our luxury Viking cruise ship for our spectacular four day Rhine cruise to Cologne. Dinner with wine on board ship as we sail through the evening to the historic cathedral city of Strasbourg in Alsace, France. (B, D)

**Day 4: Sunday, May 16 – Basel/Speyer.** After breakfast enjoy a guided coach tour of Strasbourg/Kehl where you will see the European Parliament. Immerse yourself in the town's history with a walk that will explore the famous Gothic Minster, the former tanners' quarter 'Petite France' and other highlights. Return to your ship for an afternoon of scenic cruising along the Rhine Valley between the Vosges Mountains of France and the leg-



the Rhine Valley between the Vosges Mountains of France and the legendary Black Forest hills of Germany, arriving at historic Speyer in the evening. (B, L, D)

**Day 5: Monday, May 17 – Mainz/Koenigswinter.** Cruise through the early hours of the morning and arrive in Mainz in time for breakfast. Enjoy a visit to the Gutenberg Museum, the World Museum of Printing, and tour the impressive six-tower cathedral at the heart of the city. Enjoy free time and a chance to stroll in the shopping district before embarking your ship to cruise to Königswinter through the fabulous Middle Rhine, classified as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Stunningly beautiful, it is full of medieval castles, historic little towns, steeply sloping vineyards and of course the legendary Lorelei Rock. Then we pass close to the famous dark ruins of the Remagen Bridge. Near here the Timberwolves crossed the Rhine in March 1945 as part of First Army's pincer to capture the Ruhr, Germany's industrial heartland. (B, L, D)

**Day 6: Tuesday, May 18 – Cologne/Aachen.** This morning become acquainted with over 2,000 years of history as we take a guided city walk of Cologne. You will encounter Roman monuments and visit Cologne's striking Cathedral - a masterpiece of the High Gothic period and one of the largest cathedrals in Europe. In Cologne we come to the end of our cruise, but now we begin our battlefields pilgrimage. In late February 1945, the Timberwolves launched a major offensive towards Cologne from the Roer River. But tragedy hit them hard in Sindorf near Cologne when a German heavy artillery shell wiped out 2nd Battalion, 414th Infantry Command Post, instantly killing three well respected, experienced senior officers: the Assistant Division Commander, Col. George Smith; 414th Commanding Officer, Col. 'Tony' Touart; and 2nd Battalion Commander, LTC Joseph Cummins. Our first stop is Sindorf to recall the offensive and pay our respects. Then we retrace the Timberwolves' tracks from November 1944 onwards as they assaulted the formidable Siegfried Line of fortress villages and strongpoints defending Germany's border between Aachen and the Roer. Hill 287, Stolberg, Eschweiler, Weisweiler, Frenz, Lamersdorf, Inden, Lucherberg, Merken and Duren on the Roer. These and many more had to be individually taken. We will visit any you want. Just tell Patrick or Glen in advance of the tour. In what were reported as terrible ferocious battles, the

Germans fought desperately to stop the Timberwolves' advance into Germany. After we check into the Hotel Mercure, late afternoon and evening at leisure in the beautiful and historic cathedral city of Aachen. (B)

**Day 7: Wednesday, May 19 – Aachen/Breda.** After the successful conclusion of their Dutch campaign, the Timberwolves transferred to First Army relieving 1st Infantry Division in the Aachen sector of the Siegfried Line in Germany. We follow the Timberwolves' tracks in reverse from Aachen to Holland, stopping on the way at the beautiful American military cemeteries of Henri-Chapelle and Margraten to honor our fallen in our own official wreath-laying ceremonies. Lunch in the countryside on the Belgian farm of our good friends, the 'M and Ms' Mathilde and Marcel Schmetz with their fascinating private WWII museum. Then we drive to the historic and lively Dutch town of Breda where check into the Golden Tulip Hotel and we have the rest of the afternoon and evening free. (B, L)

**Day 8: Thursday, May 20 – Breda.** Today we follow the Timberwolves' tracks through the typical Dutch countryside of dykes and polders as they fought their way northwards across the Mark River up to the Maas River. They had to break the German stranglehold on the great port of Antwerp, desperately needed for Allied supplies. We stop to see dear friends and lay wreaths in Oudenbosch and Standdaarbuiten on the Mark. This river was the Germans' last good defensive position before the Maas, and the scene of the bloody Battle of the Dykes. Lunch in Standdaarbuiten. Then we cross the battlefield from the Mark to the Maas and continue to Rijsoord. Here visit the original little schoolhouse where the Dutch were forced to surrender to the Germans in 1940. We shall see its historically interesting exhibition and audio-visual show. It belongs now to Charlotte Ubagh's daughter and son-in-law who will give us a great welcome. This evening, a grand celebratory dinner in our Breda hotel with all our Dutch friends as our guests. (B, L, D)

**Day 9: Friday, May 21 – Breda/Brussels.** With our loyal *Dutch Friends of the Timberwolves* in uniform and military vehicles (subject to the usual permission and conditions), we drive in convoy cross-country through the pretty, wooded southern Dutch countryside. We retrace the Timberwolves' initial route of advance and relive their baptism of fire in their first combat action in late October 1944 that led to the liberation of Achtmaal, Zundert and Rijsbergen. Lunch with our *Dutch Friends of the Timberwolves* and a chance to see their superb Timberwolves WWII collections. Then we bid farewell to Holland and drive to historic, picturesque Brussels, capital of Belgium and major capital of the European Union. Here we check into the Hilton Brussels City Hotel. Sightseeing and free time in Brussels before our grand Farewell Dinner. (B, L, D)

**Day 10: Saturday, May 22 – Brussels/USA.** Patrick takes us by coach to Brussels BRU airport for the return flight home. (B)

B = Full Buffet Breakfast. L = Lunch  
D = 3 course Dinner with rolls, butter and iced water



# 2010 Timberwolf Tour



**May 13-22, 2010**  
Reservation Application

*From \$3,109 per person* (Price based on double occupancy/Cabin Level "D" on Viking Cruise Ship - single room additional charge)

Please make \_\_\_ reservation(s) on the 2010 Timberwolf Battlefield Tour and Cruise. Enclosed is \$\_\_\_\_\_ representing \$400.00 per person deposit. (Please make checks payable to "MilSpec Tours")

Tour Option (√ one) **Note: Cabin Levels are based on availability, first-come, first-serve basis. Register today!!!**

Land-only - I will make my own airline reservations to Europe.

- Viking Cabin Level D \$3,109 per person - double occupancy
- Viking Cabin Level C \$3,269 per person - double occupancy
- Viking Cabin Level B \$3,419 per person - double occupancy

Land & Air - Includes roundtrip trans-Atlantic air from New York.

- Viking Cabin Level "D" \$3,820 per person - double occupancy
- Viking Cabin Level "C" \$3,980 per person - double occupancy
- Viking Cabin Level "B" \$4,130 per person - double occupancy

Single Room Supplement (√ if you desire a single room at the additional cost)

- Cabin Level "D" \$614
- Cabin Level "C" \$1,114
- Cabin Level "B" \$1,364

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 an additional cost:

- Land Only:  All Cabin levels \$235
- Land & Air:  Cabin "C" or "D" \$270  Cabin "B" \$305

*Please add the cost of your insurance to your \$400 deposit when submitting this registration form.*

- I will obtain my own insurance.

**New TSA regulations require the full name (as it appears on the passport), gender and date-of-birth of each airline passenger.**

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: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Any diet/health problems? \_\_\_\_\_

*FAA regulations require emergency notification information for all international passengers. 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/Cabin at additional cost noted above.

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 #10-104

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: GoMilSpec@aol.com Web:GoMilSpec.com

## 104th Division Reenactors in Europe



## Your Timberwolf Tour Includes. .

\*First-class and selected hotels with private bath (where available), ship cabins as noted, 2-in-a-room basis. Single room/cabin 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. \*Transfers between airports and hotels if traveling on group flights. \*Porterage of one (1) suitcase per person, where available. \*Tips & taxes on all prepaid services. \*Professional Escort while on tour. \*Non-refundable round-trip excursion airfare from New York on regularly scheduled airlines if purchasing air transportation from us.

**Tour Prices Do Not Include:** TransAtlantic air unless purchased as an option from us; 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 as shown in the itinerary, 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.

**Airfares** if purchased as an option are subject to change without notice. Excursion airfares are often non-refundable and/or subject to cancellation fees. Trip Cancellation Insurance is strongly recommended.

**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 December 31, 2009. If cancellation occurs 2-4 months prior to departure, deposits will be refunded less a 30% per person cancellation charge; less than 60 days prior to departure date, deposits will be refunded, less a 75% per person cancellation charge; cancellation 30 days or less will incur a 100% cancellation

charge. In addition, penalties assessed by hotels, transportation companies, airlines and other purveyors of services may apply. 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 \$235 to \$305 you can enjoy the security of the following coverage:

#### Schedule of Coverages

• Trip Cancellation & Interruption	Up to Tour Cost
• Travel Delay (\$100 maximum per day)	\$500
• Baggage and Travel Documents	\$1,000
• Baggage Delay	\$100
• Medical Expense	\$10,000
• Emergency Medical Transportation	\$20,000
• 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.*