

Seventh Army Spearhead Tour

SEPT. 13-24, 2011

and unforgettable experience not only for the veterans, but also for their families and friends, and all others who wish to honor the men and women of the 'Greatest Generation' who served in Operation ANVIL/DRAGOON."

This tour has been planned and organized by Patrick Hinchy, one of the most experienced veterans tour directors in Europe today. Patrick is multi-lingual and has a Masters Degree from Oxford University. He is highly recommended by Alan Reeves, the longtime National Commander of the SHAEF Veterans, for whom Patrick has planned and guided several SHAEF Veterans' tours. Alan Reeves took part in the Seventh Army's ANVIL/DRAGOON landings with VI Corps's 45th Division, while on a special SHAEF mission to capture the Gestapo headquarters in Marseille.

Contact Information

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Truscott's VI Corps

**3rd Infantry Division • 36th Infantry Division
45th Infantry Division**

**FROM THE FRENCH RIVIERA LANDINGS
TO THE VOSGES**

AUGUST 15 - SEPTEMBER 21, 1944

This tour follows the path of General Truscott's VI Corps that spearheaded Seventh Army's ANVIL/DRAGOON landings on the French Riviera and pursued the German Nineteenth Army up the Rhône Valley to the Vosges. In just over one month, Truscott's VI Corps pushed 500 miles northwards from the Mediterranean to meet up with Patton's Third Army advancing from Normandy. This was a spectacular military achievement.

Colonel Wilson A. Heefner, USA-Ret., will be our military historian, expert and lecturer on this tour. He holds degrees from Gettysburg College (B.A.), the University of Maryland School of Medicine (M.D.), and the University of Hawaii (M.A., U.S. History), and is a graduate of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College and the U.S. Army War College. He is the author of *Dogface Soldier*, a recent, highly praised biography of General Lucian K. Truscott, VI Corps's outstanding commander.

Martin Blumenson, eminent WWII official historian and biographer of General Patton told Heefner that he considered General Truscott to be one of the greatest of the American World War II combat commanders. Blumenson was mystified why no historian had written Truscott's biography and encouraged Heefner to do so. We are very privileged to have Colonel Heefner on the tour. His knowledge and insights will make it a memorable and unique military history experience.

Colonel Heefner says, "This is a unique historical opportunity for me. In the actual company of VI Corps veterans, we will retrace the steps of Truscott and his men and see in depth the battlefields where they fought and died. It will be an intensely moving



ITINERARY

TUE SEPT 13 ARRIVAL NICE

Everyone arrives independently at our Nice hotel that you can easily reach from Nice Airport. You have full instructions and an emergency phone number in your Final Documents, sent to you in advance. Our tour starts with cocktails and a Welcome Dinner. Colonel Wilson Heefner and Patrick Hinchy introduce themselves and brief the group about the fascinating days to come. (D)

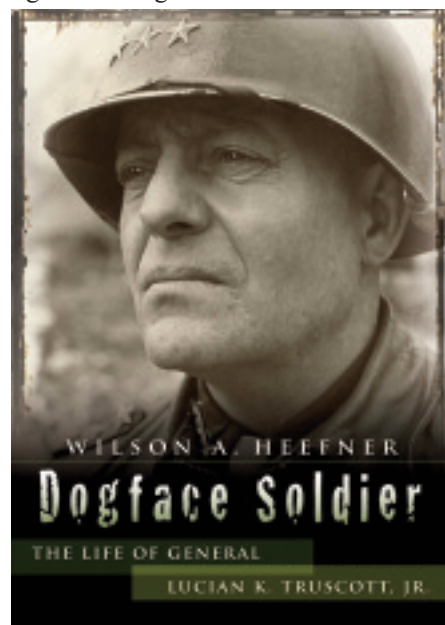
WED SEPT 14 NICE - FREJUS

Today and tomorrow we concentrate on the ANVIL/DRAGOON landings of Truscott's VI Corps. On the beautiful Riviera coast just southwest of Cannes, we cross the Blue Line, the eastern end of the ANVIL/ DRAGOON beachhead. The French Naval Assault Group (Rosie Force) landed nearby to defend it. We continue to 36th ID's Camel landing beaches, the hardest beaches to capture. They were close to St Raphaël and the historic Roman port of Fréjus. Truscott knew the greatest danger of a German counter-attack was here. In the afternoon there is an official reception. Our hotel is in Fréjus. (B)

THU SEPT 15

FREJUS

Southwest along the Riviera with its smart resorts, we visit 45th ID's Delta landing beaches near Ste Maxime and 3d ID's Alpha landing beaches near St Tropez and Cavalaire. An extended break for lunch and sightseeing in St Tropez. This afternoon we see where the French North African



commando group (Romeo Force) defended the western end of the Blue Line and we go by boat to the enchanting Hyères islands, attacked by 1st SSF (Sitka Force) to knock out the German artillery. Then back through the beachhead zone to Fréjus. (B)

FRI SEPT 16 FREJUS - GAP

From Fréjus we drive inland along the Argens river valley to Le Muy where 1st Airborne Task Force (Rugby Force) landed to block any German counter-attack towards Fréjus and the coast. Le Muy is also where Truscott's famous Task Force Butler began its spectacular dash through Draguignan, over the beautiful pre-alpine mountains and along the Route Napoléon to Sisteron and Gap, followed by 36th ID. Without it there would have been no VI Corps victory in the Montélimar Square battle. We follow the same route as nearly as we can, but first we stop at Draguignan's peaceful Rhône American Cemetery for wreath laying and "Taps." Our hotel is in Gap. (B, D)

SAT SEPT 17 GAP - VALENCE

After Truscott's successful ANVIL/DRAGOON landings, Hitler ordered the German Nineteenth Army to make a fighting retreat northwards up the Rhône river valley. 3d ID and 45th ID were in hot pursuit. We continue to track Task Force Butler and 36th ID as Truscott rushed them westward from Gap to trap and destroy the retreating German army in the Rhône valley bottleneck north of Montélimar. This was to be the terrible Montélimar Square battle. Our hotel is in Valence just north of the Montélimar Square. (B, D)

SUN SEPT 18 VALENCE

Today we look in depth at the Montélimar Square battle. Victory came, but only after eight days of unrelenting fighting for all three VI Corps divisions, as the Germans fought to keep the Rhône Valley open for their retreat. Much of their equipment was destroyed but some German units did manage to get through. We have an official reception and visit the historic Roman town of Montélimar, famous for its nougat, which you should try. Then we return to Valence. (B, D)

MON SEPT 19 VALENCE - BOURG-EN-BRESSE

Truscott's VI Corps hotly pursued the Germans through the Rhône Valley wine country and past Lyon. But we take some time off to sightsee in beautiful 2000-year-old Lyon, France's second city after Paris. We visit a winery too. Then we continue to our hotel in Bourg-en-Bresse, captured by 45th ID. (B, D)

TUE SEPT 20 BOURG-EN-BRESSE - EPINAL

Truscott realized that the Germans were heading for the Belfort Gap. It not only provided a through route to the Rhine and Germany, but if plugged, would give the Germans a strong natural defensive line along the Vosges Mountains to Switzerland. Could



Truscott's VI Corps beat them to it? He was going to try, and we follow VI Corps's charging north-east advance, led by 3d ID. But Truscott was thwarted, amazingly, not by the Germans but by General Eisenhower, the SHAEF commander, who failed to see the importance of the Belfort Gap and redirected him into the Vosges Mountains instead. Truscott was "surprised and disappointed"! We stay in Epinal where the Seventh Army and Third Army fronts were officially united. (B, D)

WED SEPT 21 EPINAL

Today is the anniversary of Epinal's liberation by 45th ID that we officially celebrate with the local people. Our wreath laying and "Taps" in Epinal's beautiful, peaceful American Cemetery honor all who were killed achieving the momentous junction of Third Army and Seventh Army. This afternoon we visit Bruyères and Biffontaine on the edge of the Vosges. Just northeast of Bif-

fontaine are Hills 624 and 645 where the Nisei (Japanese-American) troops of 442d RCT, attached to 36th ID, famously distinguished themselves by rescuing the "Lost Battalion", 1st Bn, 141st Inf, 36th ID. This was the first of VI Corps's bitter battles in the Vosges. But it was also Truscott's last as VI Corps commander. In recognition of his outstanding abilities he received command of Fifth Army and in November he returned to Italy. (B)

THU SEPT 22 EPINAL - PARIS

Our journey with Truscott's VI Corps from the French Riviera Landings to the Vosges is over. But not our tour. We return to Paris, stopping in historic Reims famous for its cathedral and champagne, but also for "the little red school house", SHAEF Forward HQ, where the German surrender was signed on May 8 1945 in its preserved Map Room, which we will visit. Then we continue to our city center hotel in Paris. (B)

FRI SEPT 23 PARIS

Relax and enjoy Paris. Guided morning sightseeing and then lots of free time until our Farewell Dinner. (B, D)

SAT SEPT 24 PARIS - USA

This morning, it is finally "au revoir" as we transfer to Paris CDG airport. (B)





Seventh Army Spearhead Tour

September 2011 Reservation Application



From \$3,248 per person (Price based on double occupancy / single room additional charge)

Please make ___ reservation(s) on the Seventh Army Spearhead Tour. Enclosed is \$ _____ representing \$400.00 per person deposit. (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 60 days before departure.

Insurance Option (✓ all that apply)

- I accept the travel insurance at \$235 per person.
- I accept the travel insurance at \$305 per person with single room.
- I will obtain my own insurance.

Please add the cost of your insurance to your \$400 deposit when submitting this registration form. If your insurance payment accompanies this reservation, preexisting medical conditions will be waived for coverage.

My name as it appears on my passport followed by the names of those registering with me on this reservation form:

Name: _____
 Name: _____
 Name: _____
 Name: _____
 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: (_____) _____ Fax: (_____) _____
 Email: _____@_____

Any diet/health problems? _____

Special requests/places to visit: _____

Which VI Corp division are you connected with as a Veteran, family member, friend or researcher? _____

Where did you obtain this tour brochure? _____

- I desire: 2-in-a-room. Single Room Supplement at \$820
 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 #11-977

1st Printing 8/10

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: ___ / ___ / ___

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 Phone 215-248-2572 Fax 215-248-5250
 Email: GoMilSpec@aol.com Web:GoMilSpec.com

Your Seventh Army 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'hôte 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. *Porterage of one (1) suitcase per person, in selected hotels. *Tips & taxes on all prepaid 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'hôte menus, laundry, liquor, mineral water, beverages with lunch & dinner, porterage of luggage in all hotels, customary, gratuities to Tour Directors, Coach Drivers & local guides, & any other expenses of a personal nature.

Tour Prices are based on a minimum of 35 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.

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 60 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 between 119 and 60 days prior to departure, deposits will be refunded less \$150 per person service charge; less than 60 days prior to departure date, deposits will be refunded, less a \$250 per person service charge and any cancellation charges assessed against MilSpec Tours by hotels, transportation companies, airlines and other purveyors of services. 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. Cost starts at \$235 for the following coverages:

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.