

2013 Timberwolf Battlefield Tour

Following in their footsteps • May 1-15, 2013



Lt. William Chappell (2nd from left) and PFC William Jamieson (right) meet Russian Soldiers shortly after the 104th Infantry Division crossed the Elbe River and linked up with Soviet forces in 1945.

... And so we continue with "FOLLOWING IN THEIR FOOTSTEPS, Part II, the German Battlefields" as we trace the footsteps and follow the path of the 104th Timberwolf Infantry Division some 68 years ago.

For the 2013 tour, we will start in Amsterdam, taking time to visit with our dear *Friends of the Timberwolves* in both Belgium and the Netherlands; reconnect with our British counterparts, the Polar Bears from the British 49th Inf. Div. in Wuustwezel, Belgium; and, honor the comrades we left behind in the cemeteries at Henri-Chapelle and Margraten.

Our tour of the German battlefields will start as we head for Aachen, and traverse central Germany, following in the footsteps of the Timberwolves as they tracked across "Deutschland" in 1944-45. We will complete the tracks of the Timberwolves' tour in Torgau, 68 years and a few days past the day celebrated as Victory in Europe (VE) Day.

As we conclude our tour series following in the footsteps of our famous fathers, we return home secure in our knowledge of the history of the division, having discovered the precious legacy left to us and on the battlefield by our fathers, the 104th Timberwolf Veterans.

Here is a quote from the History of the 415th Regiment that sums up so much in a few sentences...the battalion had just made contact with the Russians at Torgau and were celebrating with their Russian allies in the common goal of defeating Germany....

"Shutters snapped, weapons were exchanged and demonstrated, and the Russian WAC representatives did their share to make the Americans welcome. A fine time was had by all! The war with Germany came to an end while the battalion was situated in these positions. It was a great relief knowing that the last attack had been made in Germany, that the last foxhole had been hacked out of German soil."

Mary Jamieson • 415D Pup
European Tour Coordinator
National Timberwolf Pups Association

This tour is Part II of the fascinating historical task that you, the Timberwolf Pups, have asked me to help you to follow as closely as possible the tracks of the Timberwolves from start to finish in World War II. Now you can directly experience where they were in Europe and honor their achievements.

Our previous Part I tour began in Normandy where the Timberwolves first entered Europe, and finished with their successful campaign in Holland in the fall of 1944. Our Part II tour starts in Holland and covers all the Timberwolves' battles as they fought their way into and across Germany up to the end of the war, in 195 consecutive days of frontline combat. What an accomplishment! They had more than lived up to their battle slogan "Nothing in Hell can stop the Timberwolves," as General Terry Allen affirmed.

In the daily itinerary descriptions of the tour, I have deliberately included page references to *Timberwolf Tracks* (50th Anniversary Edition). This gives you the chance to read the historical account in *Timberwolf Tracks* concerning the battles and areas that we are covering during each day of our tour. This will give you a deeper understanding of our journey and allow you to identify special places or events that are important to you. You can then tell me or Mary, and I will do my best to include them in our route. For each day I have given included meals (B = buffet breakfast, L = lunch, D = 3 course dinner). There is free Wi-Fi in many of our hotels. I am very much looking forward to seeing you all again and to another historic and memorable tour together.

Patrick Hinchey

European Tour Manager • MilSpec Tours

Itinerary

Wednesday, May 1, 2013 - USA/Aloft

Book your own flights to Amsterdam Schiphol Airport

Thursday, May 2 - Amsterdam

Everyone arrives independently at Amsterdam Schiphol Airport. From the airport it is simple, quick and easy to take the regular free shuttle bus to our excellent 4 star airport hotel. Recover from your flight in the hotel's pool. Or take a short train ride from the airport into central Amsterdam and explore. (Independent dinner tonight)

Friday, May 3 - Amsterdam/Breda

A real Dutch country day as we travel from Amsterdam to Breda. It's the height of the Dutch flower season and we experience world-famous Keukenhof at its colorful best and classic Dutch windmills. Grand Welcome Dinner with all our dear Dutch friends. (B, D)

Saturday, May 4 - Breda / Dutch Memorial Day

We dedicate today to the Timberwolves' ferocious first battles (Oct 23-28, 1944) from the Belgian-Dutch border to the Breda-Roosendaal highway ("Timberwolf Tracks" pages 50-71). Their mission in Holland was to help break the German stranglehold on the port of Antwerp and they succeeded. Peet, and our ever loyal Dutch *Friends of the Timberwolves*, reenactors of Achtmaal, arrange our program and we celebrate once again in Wuustwezel with the British 'Polar Bear' 49th Infantry Division veterans. Maybe time to visit the Van Gogh Museum in Zundert. (B, L)



Sunday, May 5 - Breda/Dutch Liberation Day

We dedicate today to the Timberwolves' terrible Battle of the Dykes and their advance to the Maas (Oct 29-Nov 8 1944). As a result Antwerp was at last liberated. Our good friends in Oudenbosch, and especially Toine, Esther and Frans in Standdaarbuiten, help with our program and we visit the Timberwolves' battlefields in depth between the Mark River and the Maas. ('Timberwolf Tracks' pages 74-102). Some free time in historic Breda with its attractive, pedestrianized center. (B, L)

Monday, May 6 - Breda/Aachen

Crossing southern Holland to Belgium then Germany, we have our own official wreath-laying ceremonies with "Taps" to honor the Timberwolves in Margraten and Henri-Chapelle American Cemeteries. A special stop at the M&M's Belgian farm and fascinating private WW II museum. Then we go to the ancient cathedral city of Aachen. 1200 years ago it was Charlemagne's capital and the most important city in Europe. (B, D)

Tuesday, May 7 - Aachen

Our good local friend Albert Trostorf, now Mayor of Merode, has helped plan an action-packed day. We track the Timberwolves' ferocious battles between the German border near Aachen and the Rhine at Cologne. After Holland, the Germans fought tenaciously (Nov 9-Dec 14, 1944) to prevent the Timberwolves breaking through the formidable Siegfried Line German border defenses ('Timberwolf Tracks' pages 106-190). Then suddenly all available US forces were rushed to the Battle of the Bulge, and the Timberwolves were left holding a perilously thin defensive line (Dec 14, 1944 - Feb 23, 1945) on the River Roer around Duren ('Timberwolf Tracks' pages 191-226). Finally (Feb 23-26, 1945) the Timberwolves stormed across the Roer at night and by early March had successfully reached the Rhine and Cologne where they paused for defensive duties and training ('Timberwolf Tracks' pages 227-290). We have an afternoon break in the beautiful rebuilt Roman and medieval cathedral city of Cologne. (B, D)

Wednesday, May 8 - Aachen/Baunatal-Kassel

The Timberwolves crossed the River Rhine in one of its most typical and romantically pretty parts near the famous Remagen Bridge, then moved northeastwards through the fairy-tale Westerwald forested hills ('Timberwolf Tracks' pages 292-319). It is a wonderful country ride for us today, but was a very tough trip for the Timberwolf soldiers who trained hard for it. Together with 3rd Armored, they were spearheading First Army's southern pincer movement which met Ninth Army at Paderborn thus successfully encircling and capturing Germany's most important industrial area, the Ruhr Pocket, including a third of a million soldiers (March 22 - April 1, 1945). From the Remagen bridge-

head, we track two-thirds of the pincer, then stay overnight near Kassel, famous for Grimm's Fairy Tales. (B, D)

Thursday, May 9 - Baunatal/Kassel - Halle
 ('Timberwolf Tracks' pages 320-341) (April 2-19, 1945) A day of momentous and terrible history. First we stop at Bahnhof Friedland, an important site of the inhuman Communist Iron Curtain which divided Europe ("..like a concentration camp perimeter wall") until 1991. Afterwards we visit the terrible Nazi Mittelbau Dora complex, discovered first by the Timberwolves on April 10 1945. Forced labor from its concentration camp produced V1s, V2s and jet engines in huge subterranean works which we see ('Timberwolf Tracks' pages 329-333). Then we continue to historic Halle, Handel's birthplace. Dinner with our friends Matthias and the Count von Luckner Society. General Terry Allen and

the anti-Nazi Count von Luckner of Halle agreed the peaceful surrender of the city on April 16, 1945 to save the civilian population and Allied POWs ('Timberwolf Tracks' pages 333-341). (B, D)

Friday, May 10 - Halle

Today we have historical sightseeing and celebrations in and around Halle whose people understandably have a special place in their hearts for the Timberwolves and their families. Matthias and the Count von Luckner Society will arrange our program, including a grand festive dinner with the prestigious Halloren Salt Guild, founded in 1524. (In medieval times, Halle's immense wealth came from its production of salt.) (B, D)

Saturday, May 11 - Halle

We track the Timberwolves' final combat movements from Halle to their official meeting with our then Soviet Allies at Torgau, on the River Elbe (April 20-May 4, 1945). It's only about 50 miles, but was not a cakewalk. In between lay the Mulde River and industrial towns like Bitterfeld, full of cornered German troops, and Delitzsch (its chocolate factory became General Terry Allen's Divisional HQ). We finish by visiting Puchau Castle, from where on April 26, 1945 a 415th patrol made the Timberwolves' first contact with the Russians advancing from the East. It was "Mission Accomplished" for the Timberwolves in Europe, and we have a grand festive lunch in Castle Puchau to celebrate it. ('Timberwolf Tracks' pages 341-362) (B, L)

Sunday, May 12 - Halle/Berlin

We depart Halle and the Timberwolves' World War II battlefields to go to Berlin. It is a journey full of historical interest. We go via Frederick the Great's elegant, military city of Potsdam and then the upscale Berlin suburbs by the Wannsee Lake where we visit the House of the Wannsee Conference in which the Holocaust was planned. (B)

Monday, May 13 - Berlin

Today we have a full sightseeing tour around one of Europe's most brilliant cities, the new 21st century Berlin which has risen out of the ashes of divided Cold War Berlin. We see all the important sights including the famous Reichstag Parliament building, with its spectacular glass dome from which we will get the best panoramic view over Berlin. There's afternoon leisure time for last minute shopping and personal sightseeing, and then our grand Farewell Dinner. (B, D)

Day 14: May 14, Berlin/US

All good things must come to an end and we finally have to go our separate ways. But "Nothing in Hell can stop the Timberwolves" and I know you will all be back again sometime. (B)

B = Full Buffet Breakfast. L = Lunch

D = 3 course Dinner with rolls, butter and iced water



2013 Timberwolf Battlefield Tour

May 1-15, 2013

Reservation Application

From \$3,346 per person (Price based on double occupancy.- single room additional charge)

NOTE: Reservations postmarked before January 15, 2013 will receive a \$100 per person discount on the total cost of the tour program



Please make ___ reservation(s) on the 2013 Timberwolf Battlefield Tour. Enclosed is \$_____ representing \$400.00 per person deposit. (Please make checks payable to "MilSpec Tours")

Tour Option (✓ one)

Double occupancy (\$3,346 per person) Single Room at \$923 additional (total \$4,269)

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 \$235 per person (double occupancy) or \$305 (single room) and include that amount in my deposit.

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

I will obtain my own insurance.

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? _____

Special requests/places to visit: _____

I desire: 2-in-a-room. Single Room at \$923 additional.

Willing to share, 2-in-a-room basis. Roommate (if known) _____

Tour #13-104

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

Discover Card Visa Mastercard American Express

Name on Card: _____

Credit Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: ___ / ___

Billing Zip Code: _____

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

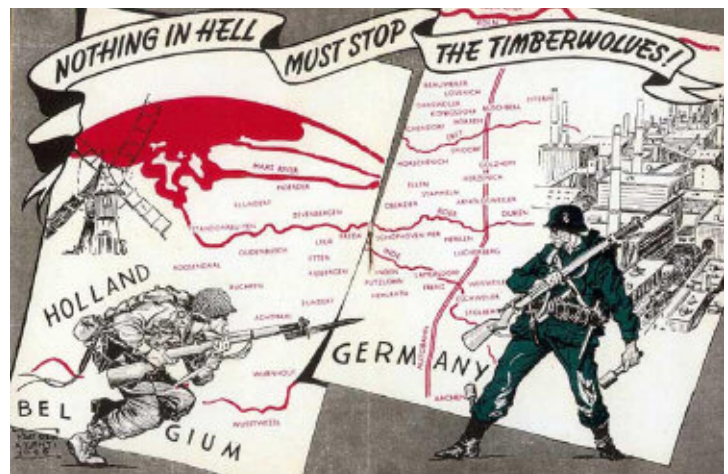
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Your Timberwolf Tour Includes. .

*First-class and selected hotels with private bath (where available) as noted, 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. *Porterage of one (1) suitcase per person, where available. *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'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 30 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 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 or at any group meals.

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 less 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; cancellation 30 days or less will incur a \$600 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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• Emergency Medical Transportation	\$20,000
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