

# Battle of the Bulge & VE Day 65th Anniversary Tour

## MAY 3-11, 2010



### INTRODUCTION

#### A warm and enthusiastic welcome awaits you from the people of Belgium and Luxembourg

All Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, your wives, children, grandchildren and friends are warmly invited by your many friends in Belgium and Luxembourg to join them in celebrating the 65th Anniversary Year of Victory in the Battle of the Bulge and Victory in Europe in World War II, when Germany unconditionally surrendered on May 8 1945. This 65th Anniversary is very special and important to the people of Belgium and Luxembourg because it commemorates their liberation in 1945 and the return of their liberty after five long years of enemy occupation.

The Battle of the Bulge is still America's greatest ever land battle. Hitler's massive offensive with three armies through the Ardennes in Belgium and Luxembourg on December 16 1944 was quite unexpected and caught the Allies completely by surprise. If the Allied Forces had not ultimately won the Battle of the Bulge, the outcome of World War II in Europe would not have been the same and the world would have been very different from what it is today. If Hitler had succeeded in his military aim of seizing the vital Allied port of Antwerp only 100 miles away, he would have cut off Montgomery's 21st Army Group, forced the British to the negotiating table, split the unity of the Allies and possibly achieved his political aim of breaking the inflexible Allied demand for Germany's "Unconditional Surrender." So much hung in the balance in the Battle of the Bulge. That's why the people of Belgium and Luxembourg on whose land it was fought, are so deeply appreciative of all the efforts and achievements of the Allied Forces. Thus their warm and enthusiastic welcome to you all.

This tour was planned for you by Patrick Hinchy on behalf of MilSpec Tours. Patrick is one of the most experienced and sought after veterans tour guides in Europe today and he will be your guide for this tour. He is multilingual and has a Masters Degree from Oxford University. He has been recently commissioned to write a book and film documentary about Normandy and the Battle

of the Bulge from the German point of view. Patrick is well known to many VBOB Veterans, has guided many Battle of the Bulge tours and has many friends in Belgium and Luxembourg devoted to the Veterans' interests and the history of the Battle of the Bulge. Together they will insure that you have a very successful and memorable tour.

Patrick particularly wants to include Veterans' own Battle of the Bulge "special places" in the tour itinerary. If you have any "special places" in the Battle of the Bulge that you would like to see in the tour, please let Doris Davis or Sarah Krause know and they will pass that information on to Patrick. The more advance notice that you give, the more possible it will be to make the necessary arrangements. We may not be able to accommodate all requests, but we will do our best to make this a meaningful trip for you. It should be possible to arrange a local community reception if enough veterans are interested in a particular "special place". Here is how to contact Doris and Sarah.

### Contact Information

*For Tour Information:*

Sarah Krause - MilSpec Tours Inc.

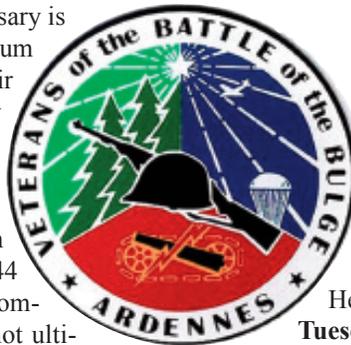
sarah@gomilspec.com • (800) 953-5812

*If you need a Travel Agent to book a flight:*

Beverly Oldfield • bjvtvl@hotmail.com • (650) 340-0202

*If you have questions:*

Doris Davis • dordavis@earthlink.net • (650) 654-0101



### ITINERARY

#### Monday, May 3, 2010: USA/Aloft

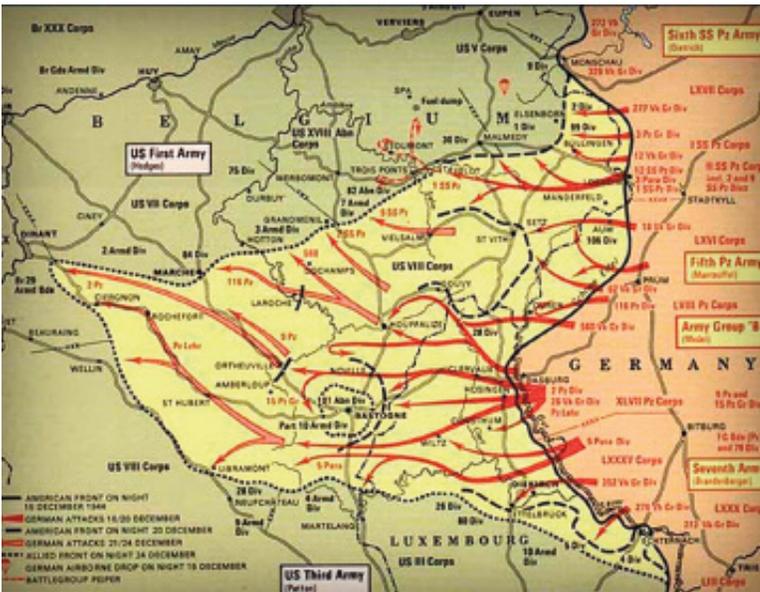
Flight departures from the USA. Airline travel is booked separate from the Tour. Feel free to (a) book your airfare through the Internet (b) consult a travel agent or (c) use frequent flyer mileage. If you need a travel agent, Doris Davis' travel agent, Beverly Oldfield, is willing to help you. She knows the itinerary.

Her contact information is noted above.

#### Tuesday, May 4: Brussels

Plan to arrive in Brussels (BRU) airport this morning. Instructions on how to get to our four star hotel in the Brussels city center will be in your Final Documents that will be sent to you prior to your departure. The instructions will be very easy to follow. You will also have the emergency phone number of Patrick Hinchy in case you





case you need it. After checking into your hotel, the rest of the day is free for you to relax or sightsee. Brussels is the beautiful, historic capital of Belgium and the European Union. Walk through the picturesque little shopping streets to the 17th century Grand Place, one of the most magnificent and famous squares in Europe. Sight-seeing tips and guidance will also be in your final documents. Tonight a Welcome Dinner. (D)

Hotel: Thon City Centre, Avenue du Boulevard 17, Brussels, Belgium

**Wednesday, May 5: Brussels**

Today we have a full program of official 65th Anniversary ceremonies, celebrations and visits in Brussels. It will be an exciting and memorable day in which the military achievements of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge are remembered and honored. (B)

Hotel: Thon City Centre, Avenue du Boulevard 17, Brussels, Belgium

**Thursday, May 6: Brussels/Bastogne/Luxembourg**

Today we drive from Brussels across Belgium into the historic battlefields of the Battle of the Bulge on our way to Luxembourg. In Bastogne, we honor General McAuliffe who famously replied “Nuts” to the German demand that he surrender Bastogne because it was surrounded. The Americans then resisted the ferocious German siege for eight days until Patton’s Third Army broke through to relieve them. This fatally pierced the German Bulge. We ceremonially visit Bastogne’s Mardasson Monument, the most important Battle of the Bulge monument in Belgium, listing all American units. Then we see General McAuliffe’s original HQ during the Bastogne siege in the primitive basement of old Belgian Army barracks. The barracks were recently due for demolition, but protest from Veterans made the Belgian Government intervene to save it. We continue to Luxembourg to our four-star hotel beautifully positioned close to the spectacular ravine that divides the city center. (B)

Hotel: Novotel Centre, 5 Rue Du Laboratoire, Luxembourg

**Friday, May 7: Luxembourg**

Now follow us today and the next two days, as we will visit the “special places” that have been requested by our veterans. These are places that hold significance to the veterans as they fought in the Battle of the Bulge. Patrick has asked all our friends in Belgian and Luxembourg to help him arrange a program of visits and meetings with the local people that will ensure you some wonderful

days full of memorable, historic visits. There is still time to let us know about your “special places.” So make sure you tell Doris or Sarah your “special places” as soon as possible in order that Patrick can incorporate them into the program. Places in the central and southern Bulge that are already in the program are Wiltz, Schumann’s Eck with its Luxembourg National Battle of the Bulge Monument (where two of our Veterans who were in combat close to here, will lead the wreath-laying ceremony), Ettelbruck, Diekirch (with its outstanding Bulge Museum) and Echternach. You will, of course, also be free to visit places independently on your own, e.g. in a rental car, if you prefer. Patrick will advise and help you. But if you are together with other Veterans, your visit will be more memorable. (B)

Hotel: Novotel Centre, 5 Rue Du Laboratoire, Luxembourg  
**Saturday, May 8: Luxembourg**

Today are the grand official celebrations in Luxembourg marking the 65th Anniversary of VE Day, when Germany surrendered on May 8 1945, and World War II in Europe came to an end. There will be high-level military and diplomatic representatives of the USA, Luxembourg and other European countries present. We will participate fully in the celebrations as honored guests. The official program is still being finalized. Afterwards in the afternoon, we will continue visiting our Battle of the Bulge “special places.” (B)

Hotel: Novotel Centre, 5 Rue Du Laboratoire, Luxembourg

**Sunday, May 9: Luxembourg/Cologne**

Today we drive up into the northern Bulge where the massive German offensive by Sixth Panzer Army was originally launched on December 16 1944. Among other places, we drive via famous St Vith and Malmedy and we shall try to visit any other “special places” that our veterans would like to see. We will see the remains of the Siegfried Line-Germany’s formidable border defenses, as we drive into Germany, touching the Huertgen Forest. Then along the Autobahn to the beautiful and lively cathedral city of Cologne. Our four star hotel is once again well positioned in the city center, near the Cathedral, the historic old town, the main shopping area and the Rhine. (B)

Hotel: Marriott Hotel, Johannistrasse 76-80, Cologne, Germany

**Monday, May 10: Cologne/Frankfurt**

Our 65th Anniversary tour of the Battle of the Bulge and Victory in Europe comes to its memorable close with a wonderful six hour cruise from Koblenz to Bingen along the most famous and beautiful part of the River Rhine, designated a World Heritage Site. The Rhine Valley’s steep rocky slopes are adorned with ancient castles, wine villages and vineyards and of course the famous Loreley Rock. During our cruise, we enjoy a festive farewell meal with wine. Our coach collects us at Bingen and we drive via Mainz to Frankfurt Airport. (B, L)

Hotel: Sheraton and Towers, Frankfurt Airport, Germany

**Tuesday, May 11: Frankfurt/USA**

Our overnight stay in the top class hotel Sheraton and Towers in Frankfurt Airport Terminal building makes it very quick, easy and simple for us to check in for our flights home to the USA today. (B)

B = Breakfast L = Lunch D = Dinner

# VBOB 2010 Battlefield Tour

## Reservation Application

\$1,944 per person

(Price based on double occupancy / single room additional charge)

Please make \_\_\_\_\_ reservation(s) on the VBOB 2010 Battlefield Tour.

Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ representing full per-person payment.

(Please make checks payable to "MilSpec Tours")



### Insurance Option (✓ one)

I accept the travel insurance at

\$129 per person / \$164 if electing a Single Room

I will obtain my own insurance.

*Please add the cost of your insurance to your payment when submitting this registration form.*

*Travel Insurance is strongly recommended. We would like to sell you our policy, but if you have your own coverage that is fine. It is most important that you obtain coverage from some source.*

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

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

I desire:  2-in-a-room.  Single Room at \$758 (include this amount in your payment)

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

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

Discover Card  Visa  Mastercard  American Express

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Tour #10-504

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

## Your VBOB Battlefield 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. \*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 and associated 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.

**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:** Payment in full is required with each reservation. 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.

© MilSpec Tours 2010

### Travel Insurance

Take advantage of our valuable insurance protection. For \$129 or \$164 you can enjoy the security of the following coverage excluding air travel:

#### *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.*