

Join the World War One Historical Association on a...

2017 Pilgrimage to the American Battlefields of WW1 3-11 June 2017



View from Hattonchâtel in the St. Mihiel Salient by Kevin Drake, 2007

Walking the battlefields of World War 1 brings history to life in a way that you can't get from reading books, watching movies, or using modern technology such as Google Earth. To follow in the footsteps of the American troops who went to war in 1917-18 is an unforgettable experience. Whether you are retracing the steps of a relative or are just a student of military history, join the World War One Historical Association on its 2017 Pilgrimage to the American Battlefields of WW1.

- ***An eight-day coach tour covering the major American battlefields of the war***
- ***Most expenses, excluding airfare, are included***
- ***Cost: \$2,300 per double occupancy; \$350 single room supplement***
- ***Tour is being led by 30-year battlefield visitor and author Randal S. Gaulke***

Schedule Outline

Day 0	Friday, June 2	Depart U.S. for France
Day 1	Saturday, June 3	Meet at CDG Airport at 12:00pm SHARP Cantigny and Compiègne Overnight in Compiègne
Day 2	Sunday, June 4	Musee de la Grand Guerre, Meaux Belleau Wood and Château Thierry Overnight in Château Thierry
Day 3	Monday, June 5	Aisne-Marne / St. Mihiel Overnight in St. Mihiel Salient
Day 4	Tuesday, June 6	St. Mihiel Overnight in St. Mihiel Salient
Day 5	Wednesday, June 7	Souilly (Pershing's HQ) and Meuse-Argonne Overnight in Meuse-Argonne
Day 6	Thursday, June 8	Meuse-Argonne Overnight in Meuse-Argonne
Day 7	Friday, June 9	Meuse-Argonne Overnight in Reims
Day 8	Saturday, June 10	American Involvement in the Champagne Overnight near CDG
Day 00	Sunday, June 11	Depart CDG for US early AM

- *The schedule is subject to modification for logistical issues, such as securing accommodations.*
- *Participants are free to arrive early or to stay in Europe after the tour—at their own expense.*
- *The tour will NOT be held up for late arrivals; and late arrivals will have to connect with the tour at their own expense.*
- *To the extent possible, the daily itinerary will be modified to visit sites of significance to a particular person. Please inform the tour guide of your interest as soon as possible so that the itinerary can be modified.*
- *The tour guide will be in France before and after the trip. He is available for hire to visit specific unit or personal sites.*



The ruins of Montfaucon Church by Kevin Drake, 2007

Daily Schedule

0730	Breakfast
0800	Briefing
0845	Board the coach
1200	Box lunch in the field
1500	Caffeine / Sugar break in the field
1800	Return to hotel. Down-time.
2000	Dinner

The typical day will begin with a continental breakfast at the hotel followed by a morning briefing. This will provide a chance to talk about the significance of sites to be visited on that day.

Participants will load the coach not later than 0845; and they should expect to be in the field until around 1800. Sites visited will vary and will include: cemeteries, monuments, museums, preserved sections of battlefields and the beautiful French countryside. Where useful and available, the tour guide will draw on unit histories, personal accounts, maps and “then” photos to explain the significance of the site. The tour guide’s fluency in German and knowledge of the German Army also allow him to present the events from the other side.

See the tour guide’s clothing recommendation for appropriate clothing and footwear in the “Terms and Details Supplement.” The daily tour will take place, rain or shine.

At least two walks of moderate length (1-3 miles) and relatively easy terrain are planned in the Meuse-Argonne Sector. Alternative activities will be scheduled for those who are unable to walk the distance.

Upon return to the hotel, participants have a chance for some down time before a traditional French multi-course meal. (Expected duration about two hours.) Three of the eight evening dinners will be “on your own” in town.

A few days will also include down-time for shopping and sight-seeing in town; and a champagne tasting session is also being scheduled in France’s Champagne Region.

When the tour is staying more than one night at a hotel, participants may opt out of a day in the field. However, they are responsible for arranging their alternate activities.

Finally, for those who have not participated on a WW1HA tour, it is easy to under-estimate the knowledge base of many participants and the camaraderie that develops in the field.

Take the Next Step

Feel free to contact tour guide, Randal Gaulke, with any questions. He can be reached by phone at **908-451-0252** (best weekday evenings after 7:00pm EST or on weekends) or by email at ww1hatour@meuse-argonne.com.

When your questions have been answered, please complete the attached “Reservation Form,” located on pages 3 and 4 of the “Terms and Details Supplement,” and return it to Randal Gaulke via electronic means or via snail mail to **Randal Gaulke, 584 Valley Road, Gillette, NJ 07933**.

A reservation will not be held until the 50% deposit payment has been received. Participants can send their payments to Randal Gaulke by check via snail mail or electronically via PayPal using ww1hatour@meuse-argonne.com.

A Bit of History

By way of background, this is the sixth battlefield tour sanctioned by the WW1HA or its predecessor, the Western Front Association, United States Branch. The first tour took place in 1998 with Tony & Teddy Noyes of Flanders Tours acting as the tour guide and Randal Gaulke and Stephen Matthews assisting in various capacities. Subsequently, Paul Guthrie of the WW1HA began to organize tours every two years, using various tour guide companies.

About the World War One Historical Association—the Endorsing Entity

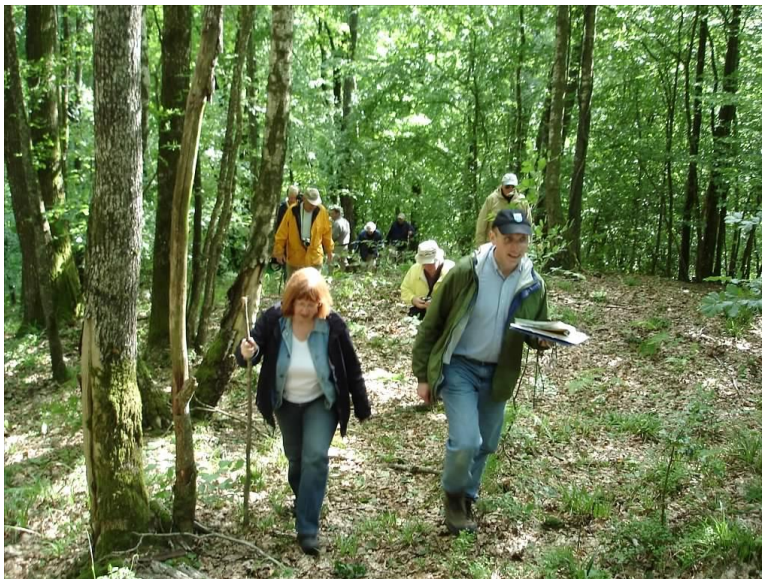
The World War One Historical Association (WW1HA) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization committed to promoting interest in the period of 1914-1918 and perpetuating the memory of all those who served their nations.

The WW1HA was created in 2011 by the merger of the Western Front Association—U.S. Branch and The Great War Society. Both organizations had been active since the 1990s. More information can be found at <http://ww1ha.org/>.

About the Tour Guide

Randal Gaulke is a familiar figure on the Western Front. He has visited it 20 times since 1986, and he has led tour groups of various sizes. Randal is also a Director of the WW1HA, and he was the Coordinator for the WW1HA's 2015 Symposium in Lisle, Illinois. He has also spoken at various conferences and published research on WW1. A complete CV can be found in the "Features—About the Author" section of his website at: <http://meuse-argonne.com>.

His experience as a Fulbright Scholar in Hamburg, Germany, his fluency in German and knowledge of French, and his "comfort" in the region brings an important cultural element to the tours.



A hike in the woods by Kevin Drake, 2007

Endorsement from Paul Guthrie, Director, World War One Historical Association

I've known Randy since 1998 when we were on the U.S. Branch Western Front Association's first battlefield tour. Randy helped organize that. I have made 15 trips to the Great War battlefields in Belgium, France, Italy, Turkey, Poland, Slovakia, Ukraine, Macedonia and Bulgaria. I organized and attended five trips for the US Branch WFA including the 2007 trip when he was the guide for Meuse-Argonne and St. Mihiel.

He knows those battlefields better than anyone I've known; and I've been there multiple times with good guides. He is friends with the locals, speaks French and German and has great people skills. I highly recommend him.