



Small-Group Battlefield Walk Series: Meuse-Argonne and St. Mihiel 20-27 September, 2018

Schedule:

Thursday, 20 Sept., 2018	St. Mihiel, Western (1 st and 26 th Divisions and French)
Friday, 21 Sept.	St. Mihiel, Eastern (Other U.S. Divisions)

Break for the ABMC Ceremonies at St. Mihiel American Cemetery (22 Sept.) and Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery (23 Sept.)

Monday, 24 Sept.	M-A I Corps (77 th , 28 th and 35 th Divisions, initially)
Tuesday, 25 Sept.	M-A V Corps (91 st , 37 th and 79 th Divisions, initially)
Wednesday, 26 Sept.	M-A III Corps (4 th , 80 th and 33 rd Divisions, initially)
Thursday, 27 Sept.	M-A Heights east of Meuse (33 rd and 29 th Divisions, initially)

Format:

- Tours are offered by long-time battlefield tour guides Randy Gaulke and Markus Klauer.
 - Both will be on the tour, offering an American and a German perspective.
- Group size is limited to twelve participants to maximize participation.
 - Small group size also makes it easier to travel where a bus cannot go.
- Each day covers a specific Army Corps: Sign up for one day, multiple days, or every day.
- Each day will consist of two portions—morning and afternoon: Sign up for one or both.
 - After an intelligence briefing, the morning portion will cover key monuments and sites by car—aka “the monument tour.”

- The afternoon portion will include in-depth walk(s) in the field with a focus on taking participants to little-known remains of the battlefields—aka “the hike.”
 - The afternoon portion is designed for individuals fit enough for moderate walking for five hours with rest breaks—so start to get in shape today.
 - The distance travelled will likely be 8 km +/- (about 5 miles); but it will include walking over uneven terrain at times.
- The area covered will begin at the jump-off lines and run to the Hindenburg Line.
- To the extent possible, the trip can be modified to cover sites where an ancestor fought.
- The tour will begin every morning at 9:00am at the Hotel du Commerce in Aubréville, France.
 - Participants are responsible for booking their own transportation and lodging.
 - Staying at the Hotel du Commerce is recommended, but not required.
 - Randy and Markus can suggest alternatives.

Pricing and Payment Details:

- €100 per person per full day; €60 per half day
- Payment is due in advance.
- Your reservation will NOT be held without your full payment.
- A minimum of four participants is required on each tour portion.
- Your payment is 100% refundable, if we do not meet the four-participant minimum.

Insurance:

- Hike participants—especially with pre-existing medical conditions—are encouraged to obtain insurance that covers them medically overseas.

Lodging:

- Participants will make their own lodging accommodations.
- Participants are strongly encouraged to stay at the Hotel du Commerce in Aubréville.
 - Once you have registered and paid for the event, Randy will email you a code that will allow you to book a reservation with the hotel owners.
- Randy and Markus can also recommend other lodging alternatives.

Registration Form

Names of Participants: _____

Contact Email: _____

Contact Phone: _____

Age(s): _____

Health Concerns: _____

Other Comments: _____

Selection of Dates:		Am Only €60	PM Only €60	Both €100
Thursday, 20 Sept., 2018	SM Western	_____	_____	_____
Friday, 21 Sept.	SM Eastern	_____	_____	_____
Monday, 24 Sept.	M-A I Corps	_____	_____	_____
Tuesday, 25 Sept.	M-A V Corps	_____	_____	_____
Wednesday, 26 Sept.	M-A III Corps	_____	_____	_____
Thursday, 27 Sept.	M-A Heights	_____	_____	_____
Total Due:		_____	_____	_____

Please email / text a copy of this form to Randy Gaulke at lavarences@meuse-argonne.com.

The easiest method of payment is to PayPal the money to lavarences@meuse-argonne.com.

You can also send payment to Randy Gaulke, 584 Valley Road, Gillette, NJ 07933 USA.

About Randy and Markus and the Tour Structure:

- Both Markus and Randy have been touring the Meuse-Argonne and St. Mihiel battlefields for years: Markus since 1983 and Randy since 1994.
- Markus has self-published five books on the battlefields and he has led countless large and small group tours of the battlefields. He is a Bundeswehr Officer and speaks German, English and French fluently.
(http://www.weltkriegsbuch.de/pages/ueber_mich.htm)
- Randy maintains a website and Facebook Group on the Meuse-Argonne. In 2017 he lived in France for six months, studying the battlefields and working as a freelance tour guide. He speaks, English and German fluently, and his French continues to improve.
(<http://meuse-argonne.com/>)
- **Both guides agree that this region of France offers some of the best-preserved battlefields of WW1 AND both guides have a passion to share their knowledge with others OUT IN THE FIELD.**
- Randy's note: I have known Markus Klauer since 1994. We have explored the battlefields together numerous times, and I have seen him lead groups in German, French and English. He has a very strong understanding of both sides of this conflict. Having the advantage of living in Lille, France, he also knows the terrain very well. In short, I can't think of a better partner to introduce Americans to the region!



Markus and Randy (L – R) in the field in 2007

Feedback from a few of Randy's 2017 Tour Customers:

- “Oh what a fantastic host. I came here expecting to get a better understanding of the Meuse-Argonne battle and oh how you did surpass yourself. I have travelled the Western Front for 35 years and I know how long it takes to find these places and you have done it! I am always looking for interesting things and new things to spur my interest and you have certainly done that. You gave me a good appreciation in two days, but as you would say, there is so much more.” Rikki Williams, UK
- “...At the end of July 2017 Randy took me to many of those places [described in William Walker's “Betrayal at Little Gibraltar”] mentioned in the book and gave me a first hand account of what happened during the Meuse-Argonne Offensive. We spent a good deal of time going through the field, forests and trenches (as well as a German bunker) which really brought to life what had happened during this most important time during WW1. I certainly have the “bug” when it comes to WWI and WWII history and while I have read quite a bit over the years, nothing compares to actually going to where the battles happened. Experiencing the Meuse-Argonne landscape (along with Randy's photos of then and now) had me realize on a deeper level how grateful I am for all those men who fought in WWI. I'm also grateful to Randy as he stepped out in faith and reorganized his (and his family's) life to make it possible for people like me that have an interest in WWI and/or know more about where family members have served...” Judy Karkhoff, Jacksonville, Florida.
- “Words are inadequate to describe the feeling of walking in the steps of where my grandfather and great uncle walked and fought and died. Your attention to detail, patient teaching and ability to reveal the past through pictures, books and your personalized research was amazing. The fact that you got permission to walk the forest where the 91st fought and got mud and manure on your boots to explain the scene speaks volume to your passion and integrity for your craft. Thank you!” Attis Boutrous II, South Dakota.

Feedback from some of Markus' Tour Customers:

- “Markus Klauer was recommended by the Federal Defense Ministry as a competent and accomplished guide. We were very pleased with this highly successful trip and deeply impressed that Mr. Klauer exceeded all expectations. His excellent knowledge base, excellent preparation, and ability to execute a two-and-a-half-day tour earned our deepest recognition and thanks.” Family L. and Friends
- “Many thanks, dear Mr. Klauer, for your passion and your knowledge. Thanks to you, Verdun and the Great War was not just superficial, but it came alive.” Family S.
- “Dear Mr. Klauer, through you the Reservist Society of Ramstein / Landstuhl experienced two excellent and educational days. Much information was presented, and it was tailored exactly for us. Many thanks. We look forward to a return.” F.S.
- “Ninety-nine years ago today the Battle of Verdun began. Thanks to your leadership and your detailed and clear description of the events—and thanks to historically-accurate weather—history and fate were within our grasp. It was impressive and oppressive at the same time. Thank you!” S.L.
- “Today is 12 April, 2014, and we’re already on our third tour with Markus. Why is that? Interesting tours, wandering through field and paths, through forests without paths. Once above ground, but also underground... Markus, as an expert friend and leader with valuable and well-founded knowledge you drive us to new undertakings. We look forward to many more exciting, interesting and educational days with Markus.” P.G.
- “Dear Mr. Klauer, I heartily thank you for the exciting “deep” impressions gained on the battlefield of Verdun... You showed us many relationships very clearly. That is good and important. We wish you all the best.” R.L., Minister of State
- “On – in my native language—you have brought life to the idea of a journey I only recently developed—and in doing this, you have given me one of the most important and emotional journeys of my life. I had an idea for what I wanted to accomplish, and I shared that idea with you. And then you made it real. Thank you. To walk in the footsteps of the grandfather I never knew was very important to me... These were all places his boots were on the ground, and you helped me see all of them—and more—and to understand the greater context of the experience... But most of all, thank you for the work you have done, and are continuing to do, to preserve and share and educate about the history of WW1 here in the Meuse-Argonne...” Valerie Young, New York.