



Ardennes 1944: 75th Anniversary “Battle of the Bulge” Small Group Battlefield Tour 2 - 6 October, 2019



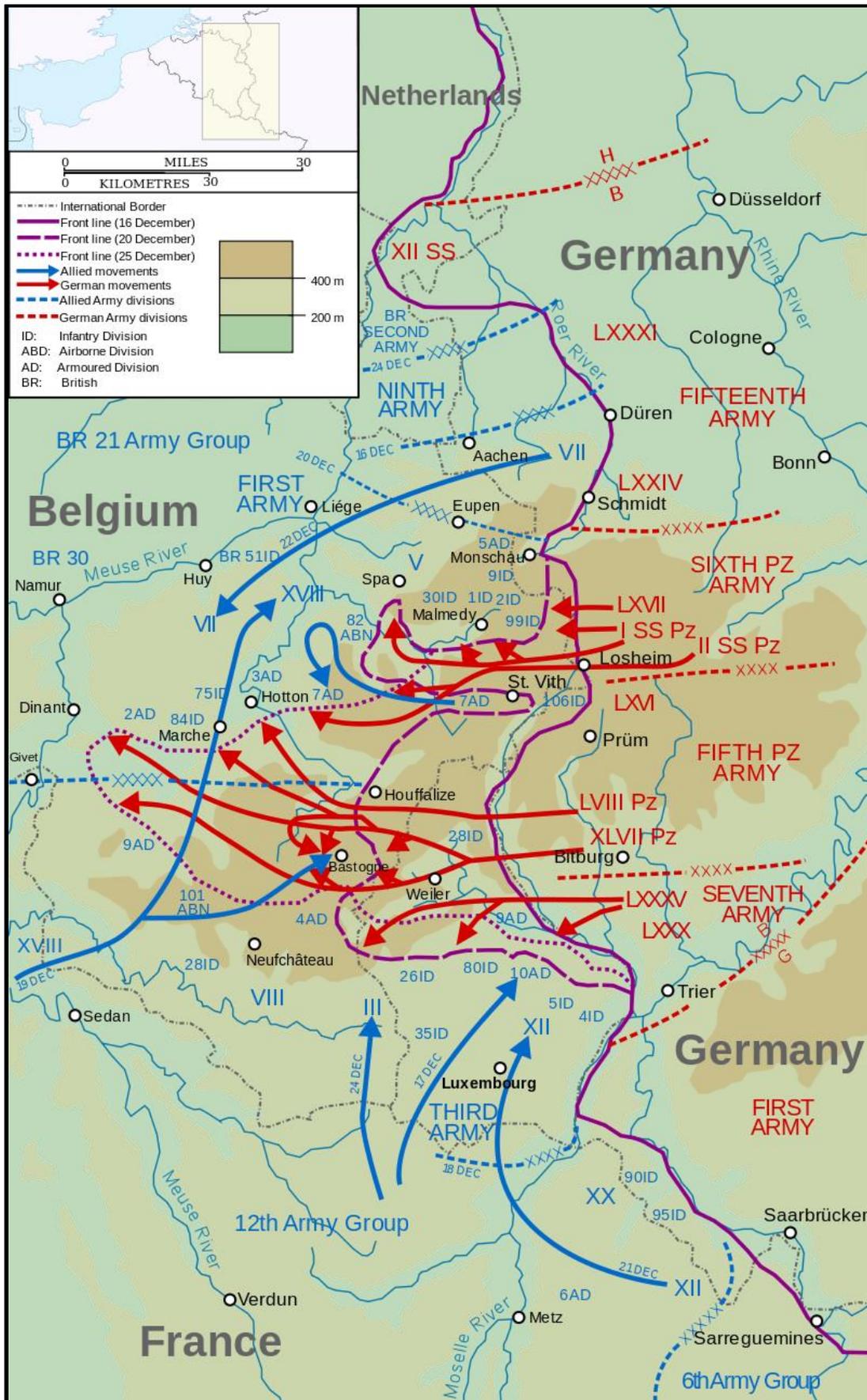
The War seemed to be close to an end, but then Hitler’s last major offensive on the Western Front took the Allies by surprise ...

Hitler had decided to put all his eggs in one basket to defeat the Allies with one great push, the operation “Wacht am Rhein”. Starting on December 16 under terrible weather conditions the German Panzer Divisions broke through the thin American frontlines. Despite a strong resistance by several American units, the German Army made its way west. The famous “Kampfgruppe Peiper” advanced under circumstances that became tragic for all.

Soon the German units arrived at the main center of communication in that region, the town of Bastogne. The grim defense of Bastogne, mainly units from the 101st Airborne Division, became famous and stands now for the strong will of the Allied Commanders and the simple GIs to finally defeat the Third Reich.

On Christmas Eve (24 December) the reconnaissance battalion of 2nd Panzer reached the most western point of the bulge, only some kilometers away from the Meuse River at Dinant.

Already from December 22 on, American counter-attacks on the southern part of the bulge had started to open the way to Bastogne. Finally on December 26 the first Sherman tank made its way into the town. At latest from this day on, the German commanders realized that this offensive failed and that further fighting would be senseless. Nonetheless, the fights continued nearly until the end of January 1945.



Schedule: (Subject to Modification)

Tuesday, 1 October—Arrival in Luxembourg and travel to meeting point. See below.

Note: Markus and Randy will be available to pick participants up and drop them off at the Luxembourg Main Train Station and Luxembourg Airport (LUX). However, they WILL NOT be available to ferry participants to and from other airports in Europe.

Travel Tip: Few American airlines fly to LUX. However, most European airlines have connections to LUX, and train service from European cities is generally quite good.

Day 1—Wednesday, 2 October — Meet at 09h00 at the Hotel close to Luxembourg City

Drive to the North, German jump-off line in the northern sector, with a focus on the area around Elsenborn and the Siegfried-Line (West-Wall)

Short walks will be included in this day's program

Stay overnight at L'Hostellerie du Château, Rendeux, Belgium. (www.chateau-rendeux.be)

Day 2—Thursday, 3 October — Focus on the advance of Kampfgruppe Peiper: Büllingen – Baugnez – Stavelot – Malmedy – La Gleize –Neufmoulin

Short walks will be included in this day's program

Stay overnight at L'Hostellerie du Château.

Day 3—Friday, 4 October — Focus on the defense of Bastogne including visits to the Bastogne War Museum and the German Military Cemetery in Recogne-Bastogne

Short walks will be included in this day's program

Stay overnight at L'Hostellerie du Château.

Day 4—Saturday, 5 October — Focus on the German advance of the 2nd and 116th Panzer-Divisions toward the Meuse River

Short walks will be included in this day's program

Stay overnight at L'Hostellerie du Château.

Day 5—Sunday, 6 October — Drive to Luxembourg, focus on the American attacks to break through the German lines and the advance toward Bastogne, visit the Luxembourg American Cemetery and Memorial

Drive back to the Hotel close to Luxembourg City

Stay overnight at L'Hostellerie du Château.

Monday, 7 October — Return to Luxembourg Train Station and Airport or depart for other points

Topics Covered will include:

German Initial Push and Break-through

Advance of Kampfgruppe Peiper

Furthest German Advance toward the Meuse River

American Resistance in the Eifel-area

American Defense of Bastogne

Fights on the Southern Flank of the Bulge

Format:

- This small-group tour is designed to enable **maximum interaction** between participants and guides.
 - The tour is limited to a maximum of eighteen participants plus the two tour guides.
- **This tour is a traditional battlefield tour. Because there is no substitute for walking the terrain, some walks of moderate length will be included.**
- Participants should expect to be “in the field” from 09h00 to somewhere between 17h00 and 18h00, regardless of weather.
- Meals:
 - Breakfast is generally included in your hotel booking in Europe.
 - Lunch will generally be eaten “in the field” to conserve time.
 - Dinners will generally be eaten at the hotel restaurant to encourage interaction. However, participants are free to explore other dinner options, if they arrange their own transportation.
- Military sites to be included will be the Luxembourg American Cemetery and Memorial, the German Military Cemetery in Recogne-Bastogne as well as the British Hotton War Cemetery. Several museums around La Gleize, the western tip of the bulge and around Bastogne will be an essential part of this trip.
- The tour is limited to five cars maximum—including Randy’s and Markus’ cars.
 - A larger car caravan becomes too unwieldy.
 - Randy and Markus have room for three passengers each; or a total of six passengers.
 - We choose to do this tour via cars because EU regulations for coach drivers place added logistical complexities to the tour, such as required rest periods during the day and a maximum number of consecutive days of driving.
 - Please indicate on the response form if you are willing to be a driver. This tour only works well if we have a few additional drivers.

Pricing and Payment Details:

- The price of this five-day tour is €750—or €150 per day: This price covers only the guide services of Randy Gaulke and Markus Klauer.
 - It does NOT cover transportation to the starting point, hotels, food and incidental costs.
- **If we have MORE than ten participants, we will reduce the price to €625 Euros—or €125 per day—and we will refund the balance.**
- It is easiest to pay via PayPal using the email address lavarences@meuse-argonne.com.
 - **Please make sure to designate the payment currency as Euros.**

Lodging:

- Because we are not traditional tour guides, we ask participants to make their own room reservations.
- We will be staying the entire time at L’Hostellerie du Château on the rue de Hotton in Rendeux, Belgium: www.chateau-rendeux.be.
- Once we receive your payment, we will send clients the booking code needed to make a reservation.
- The Hostellerie’s rates are €95 for a double room and €65 for a single room.
- Your guides believe that the Hostellerie, about 40 minutes from the bustling town of Bastogne, will offer clients a tranquil location to relax and unwind after a day of touring. Historically speaking, this château was built in the 17th century and experienced the eras of Louis XIV and Napoleon and it survived both world wars.

Refunds and Cancellation Policy:

- The tour requires a minimum of six participants.
 - If we do not have six paid participants by 15 MAY, 2019, we will cancel the tour and refund your payment, less any PayPal transaction fees.
 - **For this reason, we caution you about booking non-refundable airfare prior to that date.**
- If you need to cancel after 15 May, your refund will be as follows:
 - On or before 30 June: 75% refund, 25% penalty
 - Between 1 July and 31 August: 50% refund, 50% penalty
 - After 31 August: 25% refund, 75% penalty

Insurance:

- This is a small group tour offered by two experienced tour guides, not a large travel company.
- Participants are strongly encouraged to obtain tour interruption / cancellation and medical insurance that meets their needs.



German King Tiger tank close to La Gleize

Meet Tour Guides, Randy Gaulke and Markus Klauer:

Better known for his WW1 battlefield expertise, Randy Gaulke has visited the Ardennes several times since 2008 with his son and others. Until early 2017 Randy Gaulke was a high-yield bond analyst in real life. He left his career to pursue his WW1 passion, and he lived and worked eight months in France in 2017-18 as a freelance guide to the WW1 battlefields. He also maintains a website, <https://meuse-argonne.com> and the FB Group Meuse-Argonne.com. Randy lives in Gillette, NJ and speaks English and German fluently. He is becoming more proficient in French.

Markus Klauer retired from the Bundeswehr in early 2018. With his newly-found free time Markus has been expanding his battlefield research to the battlefields of WW2, including Sedan 1940, the Ardennes, Normandy and the Seelow Heights near Berlin. Like Randy, Markus has been a passionate student of WW1 history for several decades, and he has guided countless German, French and American groups on the battlefields. He has written five books on the subject in German, which can be viewed on his website, <http://www.weltkriegsbuch.de/pages/index2.htm>. He lives in Lille, France, and speaks German, English and French fluently.

Randy and Markus first met in France in 1994—twenty-five years ago—and they have continued to meet on the battlefield every few years since then. Both share a deep love of historical research and a desire to get their clients out of museums and into the field. With their language and cultural skills, both understand the “other side” and both strive to present a balanced view of the combat.

In September 2018 they organized a Small-Group Battlefield Walk Series: Meuse-Argonne and St. Mihiel that was very well received by tour participants.

Feedback from Randy’s and Markus’ 2018 Small-Group Battlefield Walk Series:

“Randy and Markus, Thanks for a great tour experience. Well-chosen sites, good discussions in the field, great personal experiences—well done all around. I personally saw parts of the Meuse-Argonne in a completely different light, and so learned a lot.” John Snow, OK.

“These guys are the best. They truly walk you in the soldiers’ steps. My teenage son and I feel so lucky that we were able to have them as our guides. They provide you with such a deeper understanding than any book or general tour.” Matt and Grant Treastor, KS.

“Dear Randy, Thanks for going the extra mile to gain access to the farm road for the 315th Infantry walk from Nantillois to Madeleine Farm. It has helped complete the journey in my grandfather’s footsteps...” Valerie Young, NY.

“Another year, new wonderful things to see—to learn. You are an educator – guide – and passionate leader of WW1 knowledge. Your passion and knowledge for the subject is becoming more evident to everyone. It means new travelers, but your contacts have grown and that benefits your opportunities and those like me who want to know more. You are also very accommodating, as you make it possible for each person to find what they are looking for...” Andrew Pouncey, TN.

“As your knowledge and great passion inspires. Thanks for helping me to connect to the American group—an aspect of WW1 you know I’m very enthusiastic about. Your organization was cool to enable great flexibility amongst people with a range of interests and great camaraderie resulted. I learnt tons and enjoy getting insight into the on-the-ground research you do. The detail appeals to me and it fits so well with my own project...” Andrew Mullen, UK.

“Thanks for the wonderful tours of incredible “fields of mighty memory.” It’s obvious you really know the battlefields here. The then and now photos were great! Your website is a veritable wealth of information on all related topics to WW1 tourism here...” Dave Gaddis, WA.

Ardennes Tour Registration Form

Participants: _____

Primary Contact: _____

Contact Email: _____

Contact Phone: _____

Emergency Contact: _____

Emergency Phone: _____

Participants' Ages: _____

Health Concerns: _____

Other Concerns: _____

Willing to Drive:	Yes?	No?	Please circle	
Do you need transport to Lux Airport:	Beginning	End	Both	Please circle
Do you need transport to Lux Train Station:	Beginning	End	Both	Please circle

Please mail / email / text a copy of this form to:
Randy Gaulke, 584 Valley Road, Gillette, NJ 07933 lavarennnes@meuse-argonne.com 908.451.0252

*The easiest method of payment is via PayPal to lavarennnes@meuse-argonne.com.
Be sure to select Euros as the payment currency.
*If you do not wish to pay via PayPal, please contact Randy Gaulke for alternatives.**

Remember: We will send you the booking codes needed to book your rooms after we receive your payment.