The National WWII Museum is honored to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the Band of Brothers miniseries premiere by hosting a daylong Symposium in New Orleans on September 9, 2021. The Symposium will bring members from the cast and crew together on stage to reflect on their experiences, share unique insights, and provide behind-the-scenes commentary. Family members of Easy Company veterans will also participate in a session on the lasting legacy of their loved ones.

In addition to the Band of Brothers Symposium, also available is a first-of-its-kind educational event, the Memory Wars: World War II at 75 and Beyond conference, taking place September 9–11, 2021. The opening session, featuring Playtone Executive and Producer Kirk Saduski, will look at the role that movies and TV have played in generating, shaping, and altering popular memory of World War II, as well as how some productions go to great lengths to ensure the highest historical accuracy and sense of realism.
PROGRAM

Band of Brothers 20th Anniversary Symposium*
US Freedom Pavilion: The Boeing Center at The National WWII Museum

SEPTEMBER 9, 2021

8:30 A.M. – 10:00 A.M.  REAL TO REEL: AMBROSE, HANKS, AND THE SEARCH FOR AUTHENTICITY

The symposium kicks off with a panel comprised of those who had “front row seats” to the creation of the book, the inception of The National D-Day Museum, and the making of the blockbuster miniseries. Maintaining historical accuracy was a paramount priority for all of our panelists. Learn how they worked together to honor the service and memory of the veterans while also educating and entertaining the millions who have come to be inspired by Band of Brothers.

Audience Q&A

10:00 A.M. – 10:30 A.M.  BREAK

10:30 A.M. – 11:45 A.M.  FROM TOCCOA TO EUROPE: ON THE GROUND WITH EASY COMPANY

A behind-the-scenes look at what went into capturing the actions of Easy Company on film, with unique perspectives from actors and writers of select episodes.

Audience Q&A

11:45 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.  LUNCH BREAK

12:30 P.M. – 1:45 P.M.  A COMPANY OF HEROES: THE LEGACY OF EASY COMPANY

A glimpse into the memory of the Band of Brothers formed by the book and miniseries, including the bonds the veterans formed with the actors who portrayed them. Family members of Easy Company veterans also carry on the spirit of camaraderie and education about their loved ones. Cast members and veteran family members share deep and personal insights into the men of Easy Company.

Audience Q&A

1:45 P.M. – 2:15 P.M.  BREAK

2:15 P.M. – 3:45 P.M.  “WE STAND ALONE TOGETHER”: CAST MEMBER ROUNDTABLE

The experience of starring in the miniseries facilitated lasting bonds and lifelong friendships between the cast members and crew. In the subsequent 20 years since its premiere, these relationships remain strong. All actors in attendance participate in the final session to share recollections of their experiences in the casting process in bootcamp, on set, during premieres, and at various reunions and events over the years.

3:45 P.M. – 5:15 P.M.  CAST AND CREW MEMBER AUTOGRAPH SESSION

Louisiana Memorial Pavilion, The National WWII Museum

OPTIONAL ADD-ON: MEMORY WARS CONFERENCE OPENING RECEPTION AND PANEL
The Madlyn and Paul Hilliard Conference Center at The Higgins Hotel

5:30 P.M. – 6:30 P.M.  MEMORY WARS OPENING RECEPTION

6:30 P.M. – 7:45 P.M.  OPENING PANEL: “DID HOLLYWOOD REALLY GO TO WAR?”

*Program subject to change.

WHERE IT ALL BEGAN

New Orleans is the ideal location for this milestone anniversary event because in 1988, WWII Easy Company veterans held their reunion in the Big Easy. Local historian and author Stephen Ambrose attended the reunion. The conversations he had during that reunion, and the subsequent interviews he conducted with the veterans, formed the basis for Ambrose’s best-selling book Band of Brothers which was published in 1992.

Nine years later, the HBO/Playtone miniseries Band of Brothers brought the story of Easy Company to millions of viewers. In the 20 years since its premiere on September 9, 2001, the men of Easy Company have become world famous, with their actions recounted and steps retraced from England to the Eagle’s Nest.

Perhaps no single work, in the past two decades, has had such an impact, or made such an imprint on the American memory of World War II.