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TRAVEL

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# BATTLE OF THE BULGE

Clervaux • Lanzerath • Elsenborn Ridge • Malmedy  
La Gleize • Bastogne • Luxembourg American Cemetery  
Ardennes • Bois Jacques • Brussels



Featuring Battlefield Guide

**Roland Gaul**

and an original cast member  
from the award-winning  
HBO miniseries

*Band of Brothers*





Stephen J. Watson,  
President & CEO,  
The National WWII Museum

Dear Friend of the Museum,

I invite you to join The National WWII Museum on a comprehensive tour of the sites made significant during the Battle of the Bulge. Expertly researched by our own staff and led by Luxembourg native and longtime friend of the Museum Roland Gaul, this is the most immersive tour of the Ardennes available today. From the famous “northern shoulder” of the Bulge near Elsenborn Ridge through the Bastogne Corridor and to the Luxembourg Ardennes, you will trace the routes of the last major German offensive in the West and encounter the heroic stories of the American soldiers who fought and won the largest and costliest campaign of World War II fought by the United States Army.

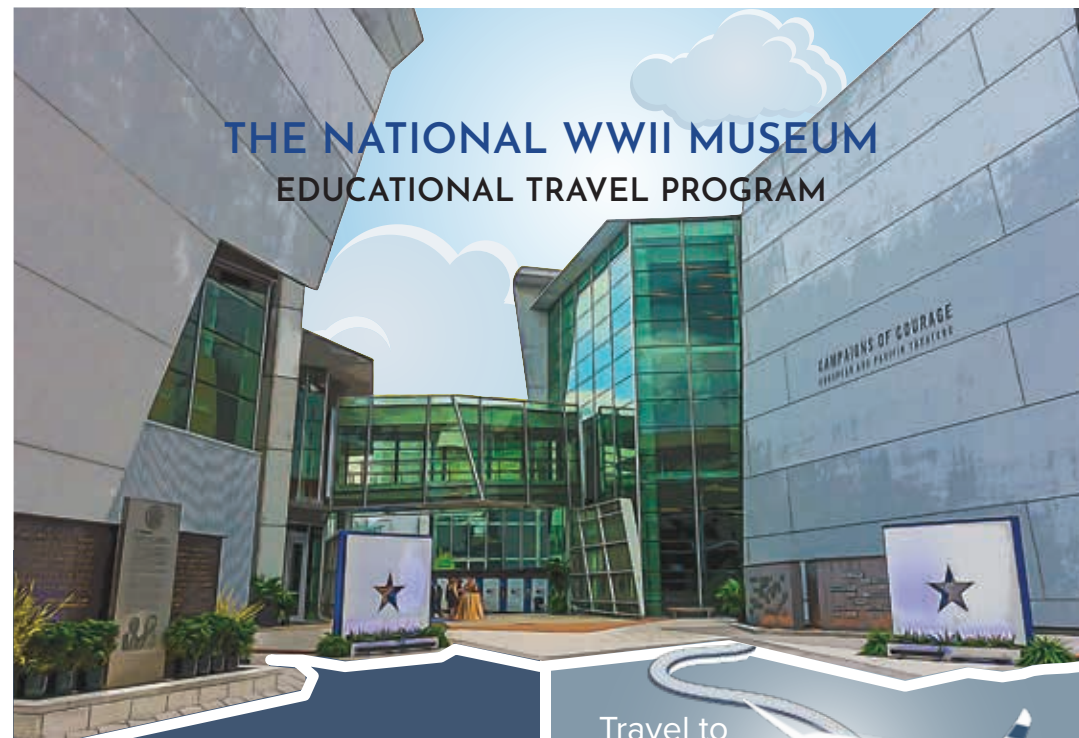
In late 1944, few thought that a massive German counterattack was possible. Rome fell on June 4, and two days later, the greatest amphibious invasion in history brought more than 150,000 men to the shores of Normandy on D-Day. By the end of August, French and American soldiers were marching through the streets of Paris. Hitler’s “Fortress Europe” was broken, and the Allies were rushing toward the German border on the road to Berlin. As Christmas approached, the Allied Forces in Europe felt the war was nearing its end.

But on December 16, that optimism vanished suddenly. The supposedly impossible German counterattack was here and was larger than anyone could have anticipated. With over 400,000 German soldiers ready to push into the Ardennes, the next five weeks tested the limits of our troops. Anyone who has read or watched *Band of Brothers* by Museum founder Stephen E. Ambrose knows of the swirling snow, the bitter cold, and the murderous nature of the German onslaught.

*The Battle of the Bulge* tour retraces the unexpected, dramatic battle and offers the unique opportunity to visit key sites with expert battlefield guides while exploring oral histories of Battle of the Bulge veterans from the Museum’s digital archive. Join us for this inspiring educational journey and stand in the precise locations where the American spirit overcame the last, desperate gamble of the Third Reich.

Sincerely,

Stephen J. Watson  
President & CEO, The National WWII Museum



## 5 Museum Quick Facts



**8 million+**  
visitors since the Museum  
opened on June 6, 2000



**\$2 billion+**  
in economic impact



**160,000+**  
active Museum members



**8,000+** travelers,  
representing every US state



**625,000+**  
social media followers

Travel to  
**27**  
countries



covering  
all theaters  
of World War II



**Tour Programs** operated  
on average per year, at  
times **accompanied by**  
**WWII veterans**

Visit  
**16**  
& **189**

museums on our itineraries

Overseas  
American Battle  
Monuments  
Commission  
cemeteries



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## STAND WHERE HISTORY WAS MADE

On the outskirts of Bastogne, near the town of Foy, a short walk into the woods leads to the foxholes used by Easy Company of the 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division. Braving temperatures of 20 degrees below zero, Easy Company held out against intense shelling, aerial attacks, and German assaults. The foxholes, dug on December 18, 1944, are still visible today, and a memorial to Easy Company honors the men who held Bastogne and recaptured Foy.

PHOTO: Veteran Tom Lacey sits in foxhole in the Bois Jacques forest on the 2019 Battle of the Bulge tour. Courtesy of Frank Aymami. PHOTO PAGE 5 (LEFT): Detail of the monument in memory of the 84 killed in Malmedy. Courtesy of Frank Aymami. PHOTO PAGE 5 (RIGHT): WWII-era image of Jack Baldwin.



## LEARN THEIR NAMES

TO THE MEMORY OF THE SOLDIERS OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY WHO WHILE PRISONERS OF WAR WERE MASSACRED BY NAZI TROOPS ON THIS SPOT ON 17 DECEMBER 1944. WE HERE HIGHLY RESOLVE THAT THESE DEAD SHALL NOT HAVE DIED IN VAIN.

- Inscription on the Malmedy Massacre Memorial Baugnez Crossroads, Belgium

Near Malmedy, Belgium, a memorial consists of 84 flat stones bearing the names of American prisoners massacred in a field by soldiers from *Kampfgruppe Peiper* who opened fire on the unarmed prisoners. A handful of survivors lived to tell the story of what happened there, which quickly made its way through the ranks of soldiers. Surrender was not an option.



## HEAR THEIR STORIES

Hear from the men of the Battle of the Bulge who persevered through the toughest conditions: surviving German artillery, tree bursts, and the freezing temperatures. "Cold. It was so cold that if you got wet, you couldn't get dry." Lewis "Jack" Baldwin vividly remembers the conditions in which he and his fellow Rangers fought in the Ardennes. With record low temperatures, the weather was as much an enemy as the Germans. Baldwin was told that anyone who was separated from his men would freeze to death.



Learn the rest of the story online in The Digital Collections of The National WWII Museum.

Visit: <https://www.ww2online.org/> and watch his oral history by entering "Jack Baldwin" in the search field.





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# BATTLE OF THE BULGE

\$4,995 ~~\$4,495~~ per person double occupancy

\$6,495 ~~\$5,995~~ single occupancy

\$199 taxes and fees per person are additional.



## PROGRAM INCLUSIONS

- Led by Battle of the Bulge expert historian and author Roland Gaul
- Full-time logistical tour manager
- The National WWII Museum Oral History video presentations
- VIP access to sites not offered on other tours
- Personal listening devices on all included touring
- Accommodations for five nights in Clervaux
- Accommodations for one night at Sheraton Airport Brussels
- 6 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 3 dinners
- Beer, house wine, and soft drinks with included lunches and dinners
- Private, first-class, air-conditioned motor coach transportation with bottled water
- Round-trip airport transfers when arriving and departing on scheduled tour dates
- Included gratuities for guides, drivers, porters, and servers
- Informative map book including useful archival images to be used throughout the journey
- Personalized luggage tags and name badge



Travel in the company of original cast members from the award-winning HBO miniseries *Band of Brothers*.  
On select departures.



### ROBIN LAING, PVT. EDWARD 'BABE' HEFFRON

Born in Dundee, Scotland, Robin Laing grew up in the fishing and golf towns of Arbroath and Carnoustie. After studying drama, he landed his first acting job playing Renton in the stage adaptation of Irvine Welsh's *Trainspotting*. Many more roles were to follow, including the lead role of Phil McCann in John Byrne's film *The Slab Boys*, Arthur Conan Doyle in *Dr. Bell and Mr. Doyle* for the BBC, and a series regular in the popular TV show *The Lakes*.

In 2000, Robin was cast as Edward 'Babe' Heffron in the HBO production of *Band of Brothers*, which followed the lives and achievements of the 101st Airborne's Easy Company during World War II. He had no idea that this eight-month job would have such a profound effect on his life and lead to lifelong friendships, not only with his fellow cast members, but also with the veterans on whom the series was based and their families.



### SHANE TAYLOR, EUGENE G. 'DOC' ROE SR.

Shane's first ever screen appearance came as a teenager playing a page boy in Franco Zefferelli's *Hamlet*, starring Mel Gibson. It was an event that would stay with him and influence his future course of action.

Shane is best remembered for his role as Easy Company medic, Eugene 'Doc' Roe, in Steven Spielberg's Emmy award-winning series, *Band of Brothers*, for HBO.

Further credits include Osman in *The Day Of The Triffids* for the BBC alongside Dougray Scott and Vanessa Redgrave; a season regular as Craig Hanson alongside Sullivan Stapleton and Philip Winchester in *Strike Back Vengeance* for HBO-Cinemax; opposite Gabriel Byrne and Michael Gambon as Andy Stafford in *Quirke*; and as Captain Thomas Preston in the History Channel's mini-series, *Sons Of Liberty*, starring Ben Barnes, Henry Thomas and Dean Norris. Shane also played Ben Kingsley's son, Miklos Horthy Jr, in the war film, *Walking With The Enemy*, and most recently played Turner onboard the USS Arkansas in the feature film, *Hunter Killer*, starring Gerard Butler, Michael Nyqvist and Gary Oldman.





## THE ITINERARY

### DAY 1

## ARRIVALS IN BRUSSELS & TRANSFER TO CLERVAUX

Upon arrival at Brussels International Airport (BRU), guests are warmly welcomed by tour staff. Depart for Clervaux, Luxembourg, with a lunch stop along the way. This evening, enjoy a welcome dinner with the group.

*Accommodations: Hotel Le Clervaux (L, D)*

PHOTO: Street view of Clervaux Castle. Courtesy of Rod Williams/  
Alamy Stock Photo.





## THE ITINERARY

### DAY 2 THE NORTHERN SHOULDER

The first full day of touring explores the "northern shoulder" of the Bulge, where the outnumbered Americans on the Elsenborn Ridge offered unexpected resistance in the first days of the German attack. Visit the little village of Lanzerath, Belgium, where a small American platoon under the command of 20-year-old Lieutenant Lyle Bouck held back 500 German paratroopers for an entire day. Continue to the "twin villages" of Rocherath and Krinkelt, where superior German armor failed to break through the American positions. Enjoy a group lunch and finish the day with a tour of Camp Elsenborn. The evening is free to explore Clervaux and enjoy dinner on your own. *Accommodations: Hotel Le Clervaux (B, L)*

PHOTO: "Hasselpath" located near Krinkelt-Rocherath, foxholes where American GIs held the line are still visible to travelers. *Courtesy of Frank Aymami.*





PHOTO: Vehicles and infantry of the US 1st Army on the road during winter fighting in the Ardennes forest conflict known as the Battle of the Bulge. Courtesy John Florea/ The LIFE Picture Collection/ Getty Images.

## THROUGH THEIR EYES



### 1ST LIEUTENANT LYLE BOUCK 1923 – 2016

Born in St. Louis, Missouri, Lyle Bouck joined the National Guard at age 14, and found himself in the Ardennes six years later—in charge of an 18-man intelligence and reconnaissance platoon. He was one of the youngest commissioned officers in the Army, and had grown accustomed to giving orders to older soldiers.

Bouck's platoon made frequent patrols into Germany to scout terrain and enemy movements, occasionally returning with German prisoners for interrogation. But they never encountered evidence of a looming German attack. During a transfer of divisions in the area around Elsenborn Ridge, Bouck's platoon was ordered to defend the position near the town of Lanzerath. Holding and defending a position was unusual for an intelligence and reconnaissance platoon, but Bouck had no doubt his men could do the job.

On the morning of December 16, Bouck was surprised by the sound of shelling. The area in front of his platoon was hit, and the shelling was moving closer and closer to his position. Luckily, the firing overshot their position. Bouck wanted to mount an ambush on Germans in Lanzerath, but his position was revealed. Digging in on a hill, Bouck's men repelled three German frontal assaults, but during a fourth assault, the Germans flanked Bouck's position. Surrounded and out of ammunition, the men of the Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon, 394th Regiment, 99th Infantry Division surrendered.

The efforts of the intelligence and reconnaissance platoon tied up a much larger German force for an entire day, allowing other American units time to regroup and prepare a defense. For their efforts, all 18 men in the platoon were decorated, and the platoon received the Presidential Unit Citation. Bouck received the Distinguished Service Cross.





## THE ITINERARY

### DAY 3 PEIPER'S ROUTE

*SS-Standartenfuhrer* Joachim Peiper, commander of the lead elements of the 1st SS Panzer Division, and his men were at the tip of the German counterattack. On December 17, 1944, Peiper's unit shot 84 US prisoners in cold blood near Malmedy—a crime that strengthened American resolve during the battle. The victims were machine-gunned in an open field, with a few survivors managing to escape to tell the tale of the massacre. After hearing the news, other American units knew that surrender was not an option, even if outnumbered or surrounded.

Today, the tour will follow the path of Peiper's attack and will hear the heroic stories of American GIs whose actions blunted and eventually halted the main German thrust in the north. Other sites visited include Stavelot, Trois Ponts, and La Gleize.  
*Accommodations: Hotel Le Clervaux (B, L, D)*

PHOTO: Tour group in front of a King Tiger tank of the 1st SS Division's battle group "Peiper." in La Gleize, Belgium.  
*Courtesy of Frank Aymami.*





PHOTO: Soldiers of the 87th US Division line up for food on their drive towards La Roche, Belgium, January 13, 1945. Courtesy Everett Collection Inc/Alamy Stock Photo.

## THROUGH THEIR EYES



### THEODORE "TED" PALUCH 1922 – 2015

Theodore "Ted" Paluch was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to a small family. Ted followed the war in Europe closely and thought that the United States might eventually get involved. He was playing pinball on Sunday, December 7, 1941, when he heard about the attack on Pearl Harbor from a friend. Initially attempting to enlist in the Marine Corps, which turned him down, he was drafted into the Army in 1943 and sent into combat in the Hürtgen Forest in 1944, as part of the 285th Field Artillery Observation Battalion.

After fighting in the Hürtgen Forest, the 285th was sent south, and ordered to report to St. Vith, Belgium, on December 16. On December 17, one day into the German attack, Paluch and the 285th were passing through the town of Baugnez, where they encountered the lead elements of *Kampfgruppe Peiper*. Under attack from tanks and vehicles, Paluch jumped into an ice-cold ditch. A German tank commander ordered him and the other remaining men to surrender. They were marched to a field where SS troopers searched the prisoners and took everything of value from them.

As the American prisoners stood in the field with their hands up, the SS troopers left. Suddenly, a column of vehicles approached and began firing into the crowd of prisoners. Next, tanks passed by and fired into the middle of the crowd. Paluch fell to the ground and was hit in the hand. After lying in the field for more than an hour, Paluch and several men escaped toward Malmedy where they reported their story and received treatment for their wounds.

Word of the massacre near Malmedy spread rapidly through American lines and helped strengthen the American resolve to stop the German offensive dead in its tracks. The Battle of the Bulge officially ended on January 25, 1945, when American forces pushed the Germans back to their original pre-December 16 lines.



## THE ITINERARY

### DAY 4 BASTOGNE

Starting at the Our River Bridge in Dasburg on the German/Luxembourg border, follow the route of the German 5th Panzer Army on its way to Bastogne. In Bastogne itself, visit the sites honoring the men and women who held strong against the German siege. See the memorial to Renée Lemaire, a Belgian nurse who worked tirelessly at an American aid station in Bastogne. On Christmas Eve, the Germans bombed the aid station, and Lemaire died while evacuating wounded soldiers from the burning building. In the Bois Jacques, visit the foxholes used by Easy Company during their heroic defense of Bastogne. This afternoon, receive a guided tour at the Bastogne War Museum. Enjoy an evening and dinner on your own. *Accommodations: Hotel Le Clervaux (B, L)*

PHOTO: The Mardasson Memorial, an American Memorial commemorating the Battle of the Bulge, Bastogne, Ardennes, Belgium.







## THE ITINERARY

### DAY 5 LUXEMBOURG ARDENNES

Explore the Luxembourg Ardennes today by visiting Wiltz, where the 28th Infantry Division endured a major German attack on December 16, 1944. Retreating toward Bastogne, the 28th engaged in one of the largest individual battles of the German offensive near Café Schumann. A memorial trail leads to numerous foxholes and reminders of the battle. Continuing to the south, visit Diekirch and the National Military Museum of Luxembourg, which was founded by our guide, Roland Gaul. This museum tells the story of the Battle of the Bulge within the story of Luxembourg's own military history.  
*Accommodations: Hotel Le Clervaux (B, D)*

PHOTO: The Clervaux GI Monument, dedicated to the ten thousands of young American soldiers who fought in Luxembourg in September 1944 – January 1945. *Courtesy of Frank Aymami.*



# THE ITINERARY

## DAY 6 LUXEMBOURG AMERICAN CEMETERY

Luxembourg City served as the headquarters for General George S. Patton's Third Army. Visit the La Fondation Jean-Pierre Pescatore—home of the chapel where Patton prayed for clear weather on December 23, 1944. The tour continues to the Luxembourg American Cemetery, the final resting place of 5,076 American servicemen, including Patton himself, where the tour ends with a special wreath-laying ceremony. Spend the final evening of the tour in Brussels enjoying an evening at leisure.  
*Accommodations: Sheraton Brussels Airport (B)*

## DAY 7 DEPARTURE

This morning return to Brussels International Airport (BRU) at leisure for individual journeys home. (B)

PHOTO: The "Pescatore" Foundation in Luxembourg City, Gen. Patton's HQ during the "Bulge" and Rhineland campaigns. Courtesy of Frank Aymami.





## FEATURED ACCOMMODATIONS



### LE CLERVAUX BOUTIQUE & DESIGN HOTEL

A TripAdvisor 2017 Travelers' Choice property located in the town center of Clervaux, in the heart of the Luxembourg Ardennes, Le Clervaux Boutique & Design Hotel provides its guests the highest level of service in a stylish, boutique environment. This all-suite property offers multiple dining venues, a spacious spa with numerous treatment options, as well as a fitness room, a swimming pool, and a sauna. Guests may take advantage of a wide range of cultural and recreational activities, including golf and cycling. The 22 large, uniquely designed rooms offer handcrafted queen beds with comfort mattresses, spa-style baths with exclusive Fairtrade bath products, bathrobes and slippers, flat-screen TVs, iPhone docking stations, and complimentary Wi-Fi.

### SHERATON BRUSSELS AIRPORT



Offering access to Brussels Airport's terminals, this contemporary hotel features vibrant artwork and soundproof windows. The sophisticated rooms are equipped with free Wi-Fi, flat-screen TVs, and desks. There's a sleek restaurant and a lobby lounge, as well as a 24/7 fitness center. The Sheraton Airport Brussels offers convenient access to the city center through the train station underneath the airport.



PHOTO: Battlefield guide Roland Gaul. Courtesy of Frank Aymami.

## EXPERT BATTLEFIELD GUIDE ROLAND GAUL

*Battle of the Bulge Guide and Founder of  
The National Museum of Military History in Luxembourg*

Born in Diekirch, Luxembourg, Roland Gaul has collected Battle of the Bulge artifacts since childhood. Growing up with the remains of one of history's largest land battles in his backyard, Roland developed a keen interest in military history at a young age. A graduate of the Diekirch "Lycée Classique," Roland continued his studies at the Royal Military Academy (ERM) in Brussels, Belgium. In 1982, he founded the Diekirch Historical Society and the Diekirch Historical Museum, which became the National Museum of Military History in 1993.

After a number of years in service at the American Embassy in Luxembourg, Roland began working for the government of the Grand Duchy in 1996. He was appointed coordinator for all national and regional ceremonies for the 60th and 65th anniversary commemorations of the Battle of the Bulge, as well as for the 60th anniversary of the Korean War. Roland assumed full-time direction of the National Museum of Military History in 2012.

A scholar, lecturer, historian, consultant, and author of several books, including the field guide *Battle of the Bulge in Luxembourg*, Roland has led many tours in the Ardennes over his 25 years as a guide for international audiences. He has also served as a consultant on many Battle of the Bulge films and documentaries.





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Cemetery



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