

# Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge

## 70TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION TOUR



**DECEMBER 8-18, 2014**

### A Personal Message from VBOB President Doug Dillard

Welcome to our VBOB Pilgrimage Tour to Europe commemorating the 70th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge.

On our tour, we are proudly following in the footsteps of Generals Eisenhower, Bradley, Patton and Hodges. Commanded by them, we fought hard and were victorious in America's greatest land battle of World War II, the Battle of the Bulge. This led inevitably to German military collapse, victory in Europe, its liberation from Nazism and the founding of NATO. We begin and end our tour in Brussels, HQ of NATO and principal capital of the European Union, as well as being the lively capital city of Belgium. Here we have our Welcome Dinner (I intend to invite the US Ambassador), and our festive Farewell Dinner hosted by the Belgian Army.



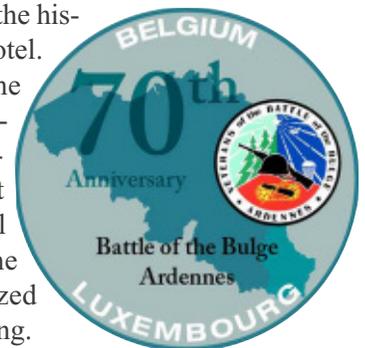
**Patrick Hinchy** is Tour Manager for this special program. Oxford educated, he has spent more than three decades leading military tours in Europe. He has worked with many American Veteran groups gaining a wealth of personal perspectives of WWII combat in Europe. Fluent in English, French and German, he is well known by local officials and history enthusiasts in Europe and has overseen many memorable events commemorating the return of American Veterans to those communities liberated from the Nazis.

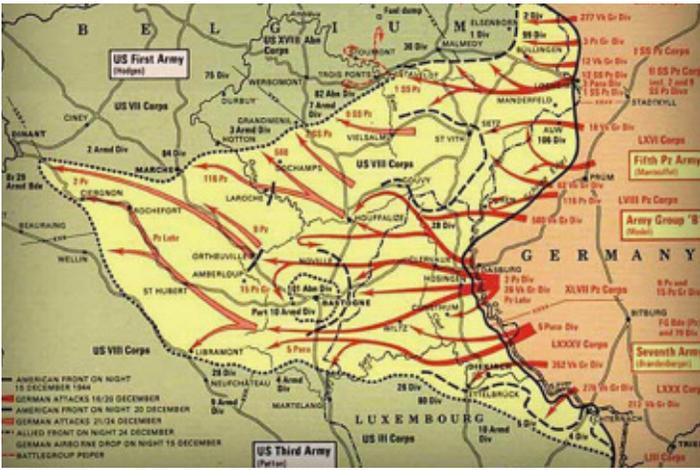
We also stay four nights in Spa, Belgium, HQ of General Courtney Hodges and First Army. This beautiful northern Ardennes town is the original "Spa", made fashionable by the Russian Tsar Peter the Great in the 18th century who specially came here for its refreshing, healing mineral water springs. You can try them too. Our 4-Star hotel is in the elegant central square of Spa.

Then we stay three nights in Luxembourg City, HQ of General Omar Bradley and 12th Army Group, and of General George Patton and Third Army. We stay in the very same 4-Star hotel used by General Eisenhower, General Bradley and General Patton. You can see the historic photo of them in the hotel. Luxembourg City is in the southern Ardennes. It is extraordinarily split by a mini-canyon and is one of the most dramatically beautiful capital cities of Europe. For the ladies, it has a pedestrianized center with excellent shopping.

Details of our tour are still being finalized with the various authorities and institutions in Belgium and Luxembourg. But I can assure you that the best people are working on it. Patrick Brion of the Belgian Army, Steve Kayser of the Luxembourg Government, specialist Veterans Tour Operator MilSpec Tours and expert Veterans Tour Director Patrick Hinchy, well known to many VBOB members. So here is our program, bearing in mind that it is still subject to adjustments. What I can definitely confirm now, is that it will be an outstanding and unforgettable tour."

Space on this tour is limited. VBOB members, their companions and families, will get first shot until October 15th. After that available positions on the tour will be open to other interested parties. So act today, complete your registration and get on-board!





## Tour Itinerary

**Monday, December 8, 2014. USA / Aloft:** You book your own roundtrip flights from the USA to Brussels International Airport [BRU], Belgium.

**Tuesday, December 9. Brussels:** We have our own shuttle bus service from Brussels BRU International Airport to our central Brussels hotel meeting all our incoming flights. Free time for sight-seeing and shopping in central Brussels. Patrick will advise and help you. Grand Welcome Dinner. We intend to invite the US Ambassador as our Guest of Honor. (D)

**Wednesday, December 10. Brussels / Camp Elsenborn / Malmédy / Spa:** We track the formidable German spearhead offensive by Sixth Panzer Army led by Peiper and the 1st SS Leibstandarte 'Adolf Hitler' Division, via Elsenborn and Malmédy. In Camp Elsenborn, the Association of Bulge Museums is planning a special "Introduction to the Battle of the Bulge" exhibition for us, to stimulate the memories of our veterans and educate our younger generations. (B, L)

**Thursday, December 11. Spa / La Gleize-Stoumont / Parker's Crossroads / Spa:** We continue tracking the German Sixth Panzer Army to its desperately isolated position and inevitable defeat around La Gleize-Stoumont. We celebrate First Army's stubborn defense of the Bulge's northern shoulder with a ceremony and festive lunch at Parker's Crossroads. (B, L)

**Friday, December 12. Spa / Henri-Chapelle US Cemetery / M&Ms / Aachen / Spa:** A relaxed day. First, our own solemn and moving wreath-laying ceremony with an Honor Guard at Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery. Then to the M&Ms (Marcel and Mathilde) for a fun lunch at their Belgian farm with their amazing private World War II museum. Afterwards, sightseeing and free time in nearby Aachen, the beautiful German cathedral city with its famous Christmas market. (B, L)

**Saturday, December 13. Spa / Bastogne / Spa:** After Sixth Panzer Army's defeat, the powerful German Fifth Panzer Army under top panzer general and Hitler favorite, General Manteuffel, took up the chase. But, its defeat too, became inevitable after Third Army succeeded in relieving the besieged Bastogne, thus piercing the flank of the Bulge. We devote today to Bastogne, where we have the honor of meeting His Majesty King Philip of the Belgians at a private closed reception. (B, L)

**Sunday, December 14. Spa / St. Vith / Clervaux / Luxembourg:** Today we track Fifth Panzer Army's powerful initial advance from the German border. Enjoy a special exhibition about St Vith's heroic "Horseshoe Defense," a WWII military vehicles convoy and cere-

monies at the Rencheux 82nd Airborne Monument and at the GI Monument in Clervaux. (B, L)

**Monday, December 15. Luxembourg / Diekirch / Luxembourg:** Another relaxed, fun day. We go to Diekirch High School. The students want to ask our Veterans questions, and invite us to lunch at the school. Then, afternoon free time to visit Diekirch, and its National Museum of Military History (many say the best Battle of the Bulge museum). In the evening we enjoy one of the fabulous Patton Concerts. Hosted by Helen Patton, granddaughter of General George S. Patton. It will include: The Spitfire Sisters, an Andrews Sisters style, three part harmony band with swing classics, and the Thomas Blug Allstars, Rock and Roll music paying homage to the Greatest Generation. (B, L)

**Tuesday, December 16. Luxembourg / US Cemetery / Wiltz / Schumanns Eck / Luxembourg:** Today we solemnly commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the opening day of the Battle of the Bulge. We take part in two important and prestigious ceremonies. First, a wreath-laying ceremony with US Honor Guard in Luxembourg American Cemetery where General Patton is buried. Then we go to Wiltz (hard fought for on the Bulge's southern flank) for lunch. This is followed by our ceremony with Honor Guard at Luxembourg's National Liberation Monument at Schumann's Eck. You also have free time in Luxembourg City. Tonight our Grand Finale Dinner in Luxembourg. (B, L, D)

**Wednesday, December 17. Luxembourg / Brussels:** This morning we return to Brussels. We go close to the farthest point of the German Bulge advance near the River Meuse. We have a panoramic sightseeing tour of Brussels and free time in its center. Enjoy the Christmas market in Brussels magnificent 17th century "Grand Place". We spend our final evening having a great celebratory Farewell Dinner with the Belgian Army. (B, D)

**Thursday, December 18. Brussels / USA:** Our VBOB Pilgrimage Tour to Europe commemorating the 70th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge is finally over. But we return home with unique and unforgettable memories, and the firm resolution that this great American military achievement which was the Battle of the Bulge must be remembered and commemorated in perpetuity. (B)

B = Breakfast L = Lunch D = Dinner

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## Act Quickly to Secure Your Reservation

Because Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge (VBOB) have put so much time and effort into planning and working with European authorities, first priority will go to VBOB members, their travel companions and families. Non-VBOB members will be waitlisted for the tour. After October 15th, all remaining spaces on the tour will be filled from the wait list. Act now to secure your spot on the tour or priority on the wait list.



# 70th Anniversary VBOB 2014 Tour

## December 8-18, 2014



### Reservation Application

from \$2,998 per person (Land-only & double occupancy - single room additional)

Please make \_\_\_ reservation(s) on the 70th Anniversary VBOB Battlefield Tour.

Enclosed is full-payment per person (plus insurance & single room if elected). Please make checks payable to "MilSpec Tours"

**Tour Participants (please print your names as they appear on your passports - attach a separate sheet for additional members of your party)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  Male  Female Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  Male  Female Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Note: Priority confirmation for VBOB members registering before Oct. 15. Open enrollment after that date.

(Check  one)  VBOB Membership # \_\_\_\_\_ or  I am not a VBOB member. Please send an application and I will join (full or associate)

Please furnish us with both your street address and post office box address to avoid delays in shipment of documents to you by FedEx

Your home phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_@\_\_\_\_\_.

Any diet/health problems? \_\_\_\_\_

Please print the name and phone number of a person not traveling with you who is to be notified in the event of an emergency.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #(\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

#### Rooming Option ( one)

Single room at \$1,074 additional.

Double occupancy. Rooming with \_\_\_\_\_

Willing to share (we will pair you with the next same-sex participant - if no additional singles sign up, we will bill you at the single room rate)

#### Insurance Option (Check one)

Note: Travel Insurance is mandatory for participation in this program. Medicare coverage does not extend to Europe. You may purchase Travel Insurance from us (through AIG Travel Guard - 1-800-826-1300) or another insurance carrier of your choice. VFW offers coverage to members for as little as \$89, but that covers only medical evacuation and does not cover medical bills, trip cancellation or other features of other travel insurance program. Call 1-866-863-4460 for more information on the VFW program. Insurance is also available through AAA for members (call 888-222-8747). You MUST have travel insurance to participate in this tour program.

I accept the travel insurance as follows and include the insurance premium in my payment: (circle amount)

Trip Cost Per Person	Age of Traveler & Cost						
	0-34	35-59	60-69	70-74	75-79	80-84	85+
\$2,998	\$ 96	\$ 151	\$ 198	\$ 267	\$ 325	\$ 456	\$ 629
\$4,072 (single room)	\$ 130	\$ 204	\$ 266	\$ 357	\$ 438	\$ 608	\$ 839

I have my own travel insurance. Name of my insurer: \_\_\_\_\_ Policy # \_\_\_\_\_

To charge your payment to a major credit card, please complete the following:

Discover Card  Visa  Mastercard  American Express

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Note: All credit card transactions processed through PayPal

Expiration Date: \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ Billing Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

CSC Number: \_\_\_\_\_ 3 digits on back of card except 4 digits on front of AMEX

Tour #14-1244

I have discussed this tour program with my physician and I wish to participate.

I agree to the terms and conditions as outlined in this tour brochure.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_



Mail to:

**MilSpec Tours**  
 Post Office Box 340  
 Flourtown, PA 19031-0340  
 Phone 215-248-2572  
 Fax 215-248-5250  
 Email: MilSpecTours@aol.com  
 Web: GoMilSpec.com

## Your MilSpec Tour Includes. . .

\*First-class and selected hotels with private bath (where available), 2-in-a-room basis. Single room additional cost. \*Breakfast daily plus table d'hôte lunches and dinners in accordance with the custom of each country and as noted in the itinerary. Professional Tour Manager throughout. \*Motorcoach transportation as required by the itinerary. \*Sightseeing as specified with Professional English-speaking guide & appropriate admission fees. \*Tips & taxes on all prepaid services.

**Tour Prices Do Not Include:** TransAtlantic air; airport/customs/departure taxes, passports, any applicable visa fees, excess baggage charges, optional sightseeing, meals other than those shown in the itineraries, items not on table d'hôte menus, laundry, liquor, mineral water, beverages with lunch & dinner, customary gratuities to Tour Directors, Coach Drivers & local guides & any other expenses of a personal nature.

**Tour Prices are based** on a minimum of 80 tour participants and on tariffs and rates (currency & exchange) known at the time of printing; prices are subject to adjustment without notice in event of changes to such rates prior to departure.

**Hotels:** Unless otherwise stated, all tour prices are based on two persons sharing a twin/double room. Applicable single supplements are indicated for those wishing single room accommodations. Single rooms are limited in quantity and are sometimes not of the same size or quality as twin/double rooms. Single room reservations will be accepted with the understanding that we cannot guarantee single rooms will be available on all parts of your tour. We do not recommend triple rooms as they tend to be very crowded; in most cases, triple rooms are a twin room to which a cot has been added. There is no reduction in tour cost for triple rooms.

**Deposits and Final Payments:** Full payment is required to effect reservations. Acceptance on tour is subject to verification of payment in full to MilSpec Tours and affiliation with VBOB.

**Baggage:** No responsibility is incurred by MilSpec for loss or damage to baggage or any of the passengers' belongings. It is recommended that all passengers purchase baggage insurance.

**Passports and Visas:** A valid passport is required for all tour participants. Visas are not required for this tour program.

**Smoking:** Please kindly note that for the safety and well-being of the group, smoking is not permitted on the motorcoach at any time.

**Cancellations** for unforeseen and valid reasons in advance of departure are entitled to a full refund less actual expenses incurred and a \$250 per person cancellation charge plus any penalties assessed to MilSpec Tours by hotels, transportation companies, and other purveyors of services. Cancellation 30 days or less from date of departure will not be refunded. Trip cancellation and interruption insurance is available and strongly recommended on all tours.

**Revisions and Refunds:** All changes must be confirmed in writing. A handling fee of \$75.00 per transaction will be charged for any alteration or revision made to a tour reservation. All claims for refunds must be made within 60 days after termination of the tour and must be accompanied by a statement from the Tour Director, certifying exactly the services not taken. No refund can be made for unused transportation where group tickets or vehicles are involved. No refund can be made for services not taken unless the services omitted cover 72 consecutive hours or more.

**Tour Participants:** In order to insure the smooth operation of all tours, and to ensure congenial tour groups, MilSpec Tours reserves the right to accept or reject any person as a tour participant and to

expel from the tour any person for any reason including anyone whose conduct is deemed incompatible with the interest of the tour group. Any handicapped participant who requires special assistance must be accompanied by a qualified helper who assumes total responsibility for the handicapped participant's well-being. MilSpec Tours reserves the right to exclude from the tour any handicapped participant whose physical condition impairs customary operation of the tour. Should a wheelchair or other special equipment, care, maintenance or services be required at any time, all arrangements shall be made and all costs and obligations will be borne by the tour member. All tour members must be able to make their own way on/off the motorcoach. All tour participants must have travel insurance. Well-behaved children over 10 years of age are welcome on any MilSpec Tours tour under the same conditions as noted above.

**Responsibility:** MilSpec Tours and/or its agents act only in the capacity of agent for carriers, hotels, bus operators, and other suppliers of services and shall not be held responsible for any injury or for any loss or damage caused by accidents or events beyond their control, or by any action or negligence of attendants or third parties who are not in their employ and on their payroll. The tour operator and/or its agents can accept no responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air, sea or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, or other causes. All such losses will have to be borne by the passenger, as tour rates provide for arrangements only for the time stated. The right is reserved to substitute hotels specified for others of similar category. The right is reserved to make minor adjustments in the itinerary. Prices are based upon current tariffs and are subject to adjustment in the event of change. The right is reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour. No refund will be made for any unused portion of the tour unless arrangements are made prior to departure. The issuance and acceptance of vouchers or tickets shall be deemed to be consent to the above conditions. In addition, transportation companies concerned shall not be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time that passengers are not on board their carriers. The passenger contract in use by the carriers concerned, when issued shall constitute the sole contract between the transportation companies and the purchaser of the tour and/or passengers. The itineraries shown are planned at the time of issue of this flyer, but are subject to revision should circumstances make it necessary. Such revisions will be shown on the individual traveling itinerary you receive before departure.

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### Travel Insurance

*NOTE: Pre-existing medical conditions waived if insurance is purchased with your initial deposit. No waiver for later purchase of insurance.*

Take advantage of our valuable insurance protection. You can enjoy the security of the following coverage:

#### *Schedule of Coverages*

• Trip Cancellation & Interruption	Up to Tour Cost
• Travel Delay (\$100 maximum per day)	\$500
• Baggage and Travel Documents	\$1,000
• Baggage Delay	\$100
• Medical Expense	\$25,000
• Emergency Medical Transportation	\$100,000
• Accidental Death & Dismemberment	\$25,000

*This is a brief summary of the insurance plan offered. For a full description of the benefits, exclusions & conditions, an insurance brochure is available. Or, call Travel Guard International at 1-888-826-1300.*