

Curriculum Vitae
Randal S. Gaulke
Battlefield Tour Guide, Historian and Re-enactor

2020 Knee Deep Into History Battlefield Tours

- Founded Knee Deep Into History Battlefield Tours to broaden Randal's tour expertise to WW1 beyond the AEF and WW2.
- Tours are targeted at participants with a serious interest in military history and are designed to get participants into the field.
- The inaugural season will include tours of the Ardennes (Battle of the Bulge), Somme and Flanders Fields, and St. Mihiel and Meuse-Argonne.

2017-18 freelance tour guide in France

- For six months in 2017 and two months in 2018 Randal lived and worked as a Freelance tour guide to the American battlefields of WW1.
- During these months he led numerous individual tours; typically showing family members where their grandparents or parents fought.
- He also led small-group tours that included significant battlefield walks with German historian Markus Klauer and Lost Battalion historian Robert J. Laplander.

Previous Battlefield Tour Summary

- Randal has visited the Western Front more than twenty times between 1986 and 2016.
- Much of that time has been spent studying the Meuse-Argonne and St. Mihiel sectors.
- Key tour summaries are listed below:

--Verdun and Inf. Regt. Nr. 87 Tour, 2013

Randal spent three days leading an individual to the sites where his (German) great uncle fought, including the Verdun battlefield.

--Western Front Association, USA Branch, 2007 Battlefield Tour

Randal led the second half of the tour; focusing on the Meuse-Argonne and St. Mihiel Sectors.

--8th Kuerassier (Reenacting) Regiment Trip to Germany and the Western Front, 2005

This was a five-day tour that followed in the regiment's footsteps.

--Verdun 1999 Tour

Randal led participants on a two-day tour of the Verdun 1916 battlefield.

--First Western Front Association, USA Branch, Battlefield Tour, 1998

The tour was organized by Tony and Teddy Noyes of UK-based Flanders Tours. Randal and Stephen Matthews provided significant input, US-based marketing, and logistical support to the effort. He also led certain portions of the battlefield tour.

--1993 75th Anniversary Tour

Randal led Stephen Skinner and two others on a tour along most of the Western Front. This was Stephen's introduction to the Western Front, and his first research trip to Frank Luke's crash site in Murvaux, France.

- On five of the trips Randal participated in work days with the *Deutsches Erinnerungskomitee Argonnerwald*.

Trip Planning Assistance

- Through his website and Facebook activities, Randal receives numerous requests for assistance from battlefield tourists.

In the Media

WW1 Centennial Reflections—Randy Gaulke: "There Remains a lot to be seen on the American Battlefields, if one knows where and how to look." Published January 2019 on The United States World War One Centennial Commission's Website.

https://www.worldwar1centennial.org/index.php/communicate/press-media/wwi-centennial-news/5819-wwi-centennial-reflections-randy-gaulke.html?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

Voice of America videos with correspondent Henry Ridgwell. November 2018.

<https://www.voanews.com/a/wwi-remembrance/4646441.html>

<https://www.voanews.com/a/world-war-one-commemorations/4648122.html>

<https://www.voanews.com/a/trump-to-attend-wwi-centenary-in-paris-as-france-warns-of-threats-to-europe/4651128.html>

Battles of the First World War Podcast—Episode #47: Meuse-Argonne—An Interview with Randy Gaulke of Meuse-Argonne.com. September 2018.

<https://www.firstworldwarpodcast.com/index.php/2018/09/04/episode-47-meuse-argonne-an-interview-with-randy-gaulke-of-meuse-argonne-com/>

"A Golden Cross to Bear" a Midwest Emmy Award-winning documentary on the 33rd Division, A.E.F. during WW1. Randal is featured in Episode #4. Details can be found on the film's Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/agoldencross/>

Historical Publications

"Photographs of the War's Aftermath: The Griffin Group Photo Archive," published in *World War One Illustrated, Issue #11*, Fall 2019.

"The 111th (German) Infanterie-Regiment by Exermont," published in *A Companion to the Meuse-Argonne Campaign*. Edward G. Lengel, editor. Wiley-Blackwell, Malden, Massachusetts, 2014.

"The 459th (German) Infanterie-Regiment on the Hindenburg Line," published in *A Companion to the Meuse-Argonne Campaign*. Edward G. Lengel, editor. Wiley-Blackwell, Malden, Massachusetts, 2014.

“Planning the Best Battlefield Pilgrimage Ever...Hopefully.” *Aerodrome*, Quarterly Newsletter of the Fight in the Skies Society, Winter, 2013.

“Behind the Lines Column.” *Over the Front*, issued quarterly by the League of WW1 Aero Historians.

- During the mid-1990s, Randal wrote a regular column for this journal.

Professional Presentations

“Somerset County in WW1—We Forget Today.” Somerset County, NJ Historical Preservation Awards Dinner. May 2018.

“The 28th Division, AEF in the Meuse-Argonne: An Introduction.” Long Hill Township Historical Association. Long Hill Township, New Jersey, Nov. 2014.

“German Cavalry on the Western Front—Adaptation or Extinction?” Western Front Association, East Coast Branch. Baltimore, Maryland, Oct. 2014.

“Understanding the Late WW1 German Army, 1918.” Joint National Seminar, sponsored by the Western Front Association, USA Branch, and the Great War Society. Kansas City, Missouri, Sept. 2010.

“Fighting Against the Odds in the Meuse-Argonne: One German Regiment’s Experience in September – October 1918.” Western Front Association, East Coast Branch. Maryland, 2000.

“Tunneling in France with the *Deutsches Erinnerungskomitee Argonnerwald*.” Western Front Association, East Coast Branch. Aberdeen, Maryland, 1995.

Research and Other Assistance Credits

“Send the Word” historical fiction book written by Jim Hockenberry. To be published in early 2019.

- Randal reviewed the text for historical accuracy.

“Back Over There: One American Time-Traveler, 100 Years Since the Great War, 500 Miles of Battle-Scarred French Countryside and Too Many Trenches, Shells, Legends and Ghosts to Count.” Richard Rubin. St. Martins Press, 2017.

- Randal provided research assistance.

“Forty-Seven Days: How Pershing’s Warriors Came of Age to Defeat the German Army in World War 1.” Mitchel Yockelson. Deckle Edge, March 2016.

- Randal proofread the text.

“A Moonlight Massacre: The Night Operation on the Passchendaele Ridge, 2 December 1917: The Forgotten Last Act of the Third Battle of Ypres.” Michael Locicero. Helion & Company, Limited, 2014.

- Randal assisted the author in planning a research trip to the German archives.

“The Last of the Doughboys: The Forgotten Generation and Their Forgotten World War.” Richard Rubin. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, Boston, 2013.

- Randal provided research assistance.

“The Stand: The Final Flight of Lt. Frank Luke, Jr.” Stephen Skinner. Schiffer Military History, Atglen, Pennsylvania, 2008.

- Randal translated German aviation records for the author.

“Forward March: Memoirs of a German Officer.” Ernst Rosenhainer. Ilse R. Hance, translator and editor. White Mane Books, Shippensburg, Pennsylvania, 2000.

- Randal put the translator in contact with the book’s publisher.

Reenacting History

Mons, Belgium 100th Anniversary Commemoration, 23 August, 2014

- Participated with the Great War Society’s Infanterie Regiment 28 ‘von Goeben.’

New York City Veterans’ Day Parade, 2011 – 2015

- Participated in the parade as an American aviator.

Kürassier-Regiment Graf Geßler (Rheinisches) Nr. 8. 2000 – Present

- Randal served as commanding officer from approximately 2006 to 2011.
- Randal is currently serving as Cultural and Language Officer.
- His current research is focused on comparing and contrasting the regiment’s training, duties and employment with that of other Kürassier regiments after the Western Front stabilized.
- This includes understanding German communication networks.
- Randal also conducted substantial research and planning for the unit’s 200th anniversary.
- The Regiment won “Best Camp” in 2004 at the Military Through the Ages living-history timeline in Williamsburg, VA.
- Randal was instrumental in designing and procuring an authentic replica of the German army’s standard corrugated iron hut for his unit. (a *Wellblechunterstand*.)

Infanterie-Regiment Markgraf Ludwig Wilhelm (3. Badisches) Nr. 111. 1992 – 2000.

Positions Held

President, World War 1 Historical Association, 2019-2020.

Director, World War 1 Historical Association, 2017-2019.

Director, World War 1 Historical Association. 2014-2016.

Coordinator, 2015 WW1HA / League of WW1 Aero Historians Collaboration Symposium. 2015.

- As coordinator, Randal lead a group of five others from both organizations to plan and host the 2015 Symposium.
- Tasks included: Budgeting; negotiating hotel rooms, and food and beverage rates; lining up speakers, vendors, reenactors and wargamers; and processing registrations.
- The symposium featured eight guest speakers and had 90 paid participants.
- It made a \$1,200 profit while keeping rates affordable.
- This is the first time that the two organizations have worked on a joint conference.

Treasurer, Great War Association. 2001-2011 (except for a one-year break)

- Over that time, Randal worked with four different presidents on budgeting to enable the GWA to pay off a 10-year mortgage on its 80-acre property.
- The GWA is one of the few reenacting associations to own its drill and battle property outright.

Association Memberships

Deutsches Erinnerungskomitee Argonnerwald. Member since 1994.

Les Amis de Vauquois. Member since mid 1990s.

World War One Historical Association. Member since inception.

Western Front Association—USA Branch. Member since the early 1990s.

Western Front Association—East Coast Branch. Member since the early 1990s.

League of WW1 Aero Historians—Past member.

Other

Attended the first Western Front Association meeting in the United States, July 1990.

Websites

<https://meuse-argonne.com>

<https://kneedeepintohistory.com>

Facebook Group

Randal is the Administrator of a Facebook Group Meuse-Argonne.com.

By early 2019 the group has grown to more than 1,800 members.

Languages and Life Abroad

Randal is fluent in German, and he continues to improve his French.

Randal has spent more than two years of his life living in Western Europe.

Formal Education

Master of International Management, 1987.

American Graduate School of International Management (aka Thunderbird), Glendale, AZ.

Fulbright Scholarship, 1986.

Universität Hamburg, Hamburg, Germany.

- Randal's first battlefield tour was with Lt. Col. Graham Parker of Flanders Tours the year he studied in Germany.

Bachelor of Arts, 1985. Double major: German and Business Administration.

Morningside College, Sioux City, IA.