

# Knee Deep Into History Battlefield Tours



## Racing Through Germany: The 87<sup>th</sup> and 89<sup>th</sup> Divisions in WW2 Small Group Battlefield Tour 6 – 13 May 2025 (8-days / 8-nights)



*Koblenz, Germany, 87<sup>th</sup> Inf. Div. Moselle River  
Crossing site during a private family tour in 2023.*



*Koblenz, Germany—16 March 1945. Engineers begin construction of a bridge across the Moselle River at the site of the 347th Regiment's crossing.*

Join Knee Deep Into History's "Racing Through Germany Tour" and follow in the footsteps of two of General Patton's Third Army divisions: the 87<sup>th</sup> and 89<sup>th</sup> Infantry Divisions. The tour's name reflects the speed of the Allied army advance through Germany after the Westwall was breached. This tour will start with the 87<sup>th</sup> Infantry's baptism of fire in the Ardennes. It will then advance to Koblenz and to the Westwall, before crossing the Moselle and Rhine Rivers. After the river crossings it will follow the two divisions' advance across Germany to Plauen and Zwickau. The tour will end with a visit to Colditz Castle, a famous POW camp, and a day and a half in Berlin, the capital of Nazi Germany.

Participants will also participate in a ceremony commemorating the liberation of ??? in Kahla, Germany; and we'll be remembering the fallen of both divisions at the Henri-Chapelle and Luxembourg American Cemeteries.



*Top: Remembering the fallen takes many forms. Participants on one 2023 tour made grave rubbings of unit members who died in WW1 and are buried at the ABMC cemeteries.*

*Center: Tour guide Patrick Brion leading a portion of the 2024 Third Reich Underground Tour, May 2024.*

*Bottom: Multi-course European dinners provide the perfect opportunity to discuss the days' events.*



## Schedule: (Subject to Modification)

Note: The first portion of the tour provides an introduction to Hitler's Ardennes Offensive, largely from the point of view of the 87<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, which was one of the divisions rushed to the area in December 1944 to blunt Hitler's advance.

We will also visit two American Cemeteries—the Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery in Hombourg, Belgium and the Luxembourg American Cemetery in Luxembourg—where we will honor the fallen from BOTH divisions.

The second portion of the tour will cover the advance of BOTH infantry divisions through Germany in April 1945. It will include many then and now photo opportunities and first-person accounts of key skirmishes.

**Day 1, Tuesday, 6 May:** Pick-up participants at FRA at 11:00 and drive to Bastogne, Belgium. Visit the Mardassan Memorial and the Bastogne War Museum. Welcome dinner in Bastogne. Hotel in Bastogne, TBD.

**Day 2, Wednesday, 7 May:** Visit the 87<sup>th</sup> Inf. Division's combat locations in St. Hubert, Moiricy and vicinity. Drive to the **Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery**. Visit the 87<sup>th</sup> Inf. Division's fighting in late January around St. Vith and Vicinity. Hotel in Bastogne, TBD.

**Day 3, Thursday, 8 May:** Visit the **Luxembourg American Cemetery** in the morning. Tour a major Westwall fortification at Westwall Museum Katzenkopf in Irrel, Germany. Drive to Koblenz, Germany with down time to view the "Altstadt" and "Deutsches Eck" on your own. Hotel in Koblenz, TBD.

**Day 4, Friday, 9 May:** Visit 87<sup>th</sup> Inf. Division fighting in Koblenz, before advancing to the Moselle River and Rhein River crossing sites for the two divisions. We'll symbolically cross the Rhine River via Ferry at St. Goar, where the 89<sup>th</sup> Inf. Div. crossed. Visit the Point Alpha Museum—a Cold War-era border crossing site—before driving to Eisenach, Germany. Hotel in Eisenach, TBD.

**Day 5, Saturday, 10 May:** **This is one day we'll have an earlier-than-normal departure because we will be participating in an 80<sup>th</sup> Commemoration Ceremony in Kahla, Germany.** After the ceremony, we visit Ohrdruf, site of a concentration camp liberated by the 89<sup>th</sup> Inf. Div. We'll then drive to Arnstadt and ultimately to Weimar. Hotel in Weimar, TBD.

**Day 6, Sunday, 11 May:** Visit Saalfeld and Plauen, 87<sup>th</sup> Inf. Div. late-war sites, before advancing to Zwickau, an 89<sup>th</sup> Inf. Div. late-war site. We are planning a reception by the Mayor of Zwickau. Hotel in Zwickau, TBD.

**Day 7, Monday, 12 May:** Drive to Colditz, Germany for a tour of Colditz Castle, one of the more famous German POW camps. Then drive to Berlin. **In the late afternoon, participants will have the option of: taking a walking tour of the final days of the war in Berlin or exploring Berlin on their own. DINNER IS ON YOUR OWN TONIGHT AS BERLIN HAS A VAST RANGE OF RESTAURANTS.**

**Day 8, Tuesday, 13 May:** **Participants have the option of: touring the Humboldthain Flakturm (anti-aircraft tower) or exploring Berlin on their own.** Afternoon drive from Berlin to FRA with a closing dinner at the group's airport hotel. Hotel near Frankfurt Airport, TBD.

Participants are responsible for getting to the airport or making other travel arrangements the next morning.

# Tour Overview

Tour Price (based on double occupancy)	\$3,520
Single Room Supplement	\$538

## Tour Price Includes\*

- TWO military historian guides who understand both sides of the story and who speak multiple languages and understand European culture
  - Local guides at specific sites as needed
- 3-Star accommodations, typically in European family-owned hotel / restaurants
- Transportation typically in comfortable 9-person people movers with A/C or in cars
- Almost all meals, except those specified as “on your own” in the itinerary
- Water, soda and snacks available in the van
- Cultural outings (calvados tasting, church tour, etc.) and shopping time on trips longer than a few days
- Admission fees to all sites

## Tour Price Excludes\*

- Transportation to and from the starting point and lodging and transportation before or after the tour’s start and end times; for example, the cost of a hotel night for participants who choose to arrive early.
- Dinner drinks
- Dinners or lunches specifically excluded in the tour brochure
- Souvenirs and gifts

\*See KDIH’s 2025 Terms and Conditions for full details.

Questions or concerns? Contact Randy Gaulke at [kneedeepintohistory@gmail.com](mailto:kneedeepintohistory@gmail.com) or 908.451.0252.

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*Signal Corps photo 337976 showing medics taking cover as 89<sup>th</sup> Div. soldiers move into Arnstadt, Germany in April '45.*

# **Knee Deep Into History's Tour Philosophy**

Knee Deep Into History, LLC was founded by Randy Gaulke in 2020 after he spent eight months in 2017-18 as a freelance guide to the American battlefields of WW1. During those eight months (and the prior thirty years) Randy's tour philosophy has evolved. We:

1. TAKE clients into the field,
2. GUIDE small-group tours (12 max.),
3. PROMOTE a balanced view of both sides,
4. OFFER tours for passionate history buffs,
5. BRIDGE cultures.

## **What to Expect from a KDIH Tour**

- Our small-group tours are designed to enable maximum interaction between participants and guides. Size is generally limited to a maximum of 12 participants.
- Clients will be picked up and returned to the designated starting and ending point at the times indicated.
  - Clients desiring other arrangements need to communicate their needs to Randy Gaulke in advance with the understanding that KDIH has to balance an individual client's needs with the group.
- On tour days, participants should expect to be "in the field" from 09h00 to somewhere around 17h00, regardless of weather. This will be followed by a break and dinner around 19h30.
  - Participants should bring appropriate clothing for the field, and nicer clothing for evening meals.
  - Please see the clothing guide on our website for ideas.
- Spouses and mature young adults are welcome, but please understand that there will be limited down time for sightseeing and time off.
  - When moving from one hotel to another, it will generally not be possible to stay in town.
- Regarding meals:
  - Continental breakfast will be served at the hotel.
  - Sandwich lunches (with wonderful European bread) will be eaten "in the field" to conserve time.
  - Snacks of water, soda, fruit and sweets will be available for free in the van to recharge one's batteries.
  - Multi-course dinners will generally start at the hotel/restaurant around 19h00.
    - Traditional European dinners often last two hours +/-.
    - This gives participants a chance to socialize, ask questions of the guides and share their experiences of the day.
- As per the 2025 Terms and Conditions, in the event that we have fewer than six participants signed up 61 days prior to the tour, we reserve the right to cancel the tour or we can run the tour with only one guide and/or step the hotels down to high-quality two-star hotels.

## Meet Tour Guides Randy Gaulke and Patrick Brion



**Randy Gaulke** has been studying military history for decades as a wargamer, reenactor and battlefield visitor. In 2017 he left the corporate world and during 2017-18 he lived and worked eight months in France as a freelance guide to the WW1 battlefields during the WW1 Centennial. His experiences during those eight months convinced him to follow his passion and start a tour business. Randy has also visited and guided tours of the WW2 battlefields since 2008. Over his life he has lived in Europe almost three years. He speaks fluent English and German and intermediate French. Randy lives in Winchester, VA, not far from the National Archives. He also maintains the website <https://meuse-argonne.com> and the Meuse-Argonne.com Facebook group.



**Patrick Brion** was born in Bruges, Belgium in 1963. He joined the Belgian Armed Forces as a noncommissioned officer from 1980 till 2019. During his military career he did one tour in the Balkans and three in Afghanistan and he now resides in Kahla, Germany. Patrick has worked on different historical projects regarding WW1 and WW2 while in the army and his knowledge on the underground aircraft factory in Kahla as well as WW2 is profound. He has already published several books on the “REIMAHG” factory and has worked with many US veterans and their relatives over the years. He holds a very high experience in research, both in Germany as in other countries. In 2022 and 2023, he was responsible for the operations of a large US-based NGO and he continues to perform missions in Ukraine.



*Signal Corps photo 199207 showing 87<sup>th</sup> Division infantry entering St. Hubert, Belgium after the Germans fled*

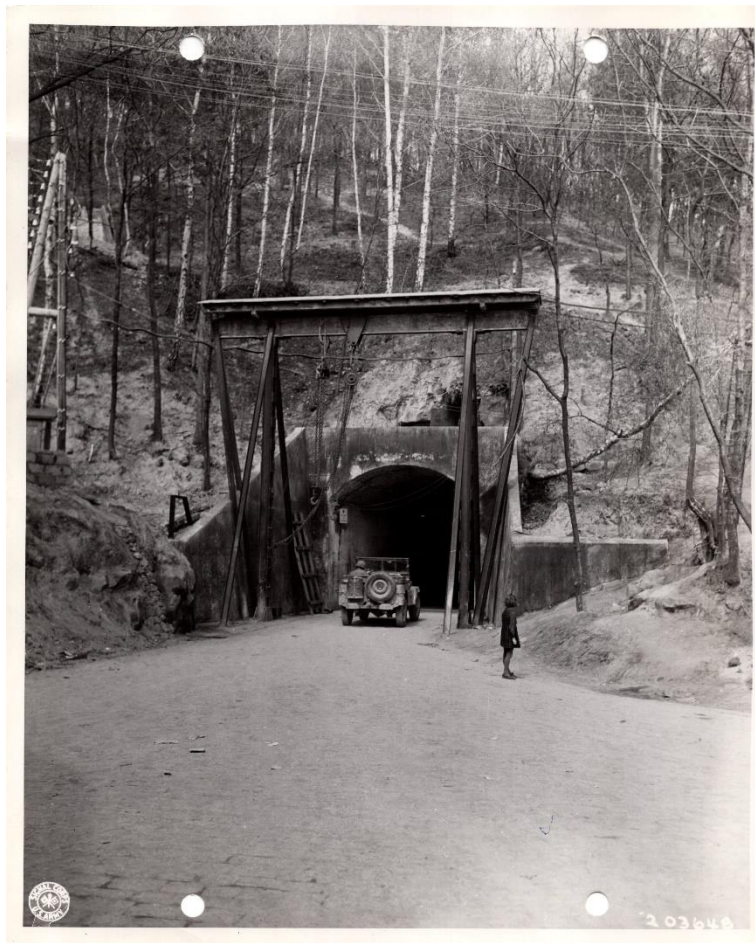
## Select Feedback from our Recent Tours

*“When Randy sent the 2024 brochure for KDIH tours, I took one look at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Reich Tour and said I had to do it. Well, it did not disappoint. It was Graham’s first tour and he was a star. Everything was well organized, great hotels, great food and best of all, superb tours and good conversation. Five stars all around and an extra one for Graham. Thanks to everyone.”* (Note that Patrick Brion provided considerable input and led one day of this tour.)

Christina Holstein

*“Thank you for an amazing journey across so many of the battlefields that I’ve been studying for half my life. You demonstrated to us the true history of the places you showed us, many areas both vast and small on the Western Front. We had the opportunity to see where millions of British, French and German soldiers fought and died and to see how their souls are being honored, even to this day. We got to walk in the footsteps of a few thousand boys from the Land of Lincoln—Illinois—in a unit in which both my son and I have served. For a historian to be able to see, and even touch, pieces of history is a gift I will cherish forever...”*

Ltc Matthew Savage



Signal Corps phot 203648 showing a German girl watching as a jeep enters the Walpersberg outside of Kahla, Germany

**2025 Tour Registration Form**  
**Racing Through Germany: The 87<sup>th</sup> and 89<sup>th</sup> Divisions in WW2**  
**6 – 13 Month 2025 (8-days / 8-nights)**

*Note: Complete this form only if you are sending your registration manually!*

Participants: \_\_\_\_\_ (Names and ages)

\_\_\_\_\_

Primary Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Email(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Rooms Needed: \_\_\_\_\_ Double rooms      \_\_\_\_\_ Single rooms

Emergency Contacts: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Phones: \_\_\_\_\_

Health Concerns: **Per the Terms and Conditions, participant are required to factually state any health issues that could affect their participation on this trip. Please outline these concerns in a brief letter.**

Other Needs: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Signatures: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

***Remember: To complete your registration you must send: 1) signed copies of the registration form, 2) signed copies of the 2025 Terms and Conditions page 4, and 3) a \$600 per person deposit. Deposits can be paid by check, PayPal, Venmo or Zelle. Ask Randy Gaulke for payment details.***

**Please mail / email / text a copy of this form to:**

Randy Gaulke, 124 East Clifford Street, Winchester, VA 22601 USA  
[kneedeepintohistory@gmail.com](mailto:kneedeepintohistory@gmail.com)      908.451.0252