

# Knee Deep Into History Battlefield Tours

**WW1 Doughboy Overview Tour  
Small Group Battlefield Tour  
11 – 18 June 2025 (8-days / 7-nights)**



*150<sup>th</sup> F.A. Regt. traveling through Chateau-Thierry*

Get knee deep into history following the American Doughboys as they advance at Cantigny (28 May 1918), help stop the German advance on the Marne (late May and June), counter the German Army's last offensive, Marneschutz-Reims (15 July), and advance in Foch's counterattacks known as the Aisne-Marne (18 July – August). This is followed by the American First Army's St. Mihiel and Meuse-Argonne offensives in September 1918, as well as various AEF division attacks in the Champagne region.

The tour will also explore the 27<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> Divisions, which advanced alongside BEF troops against the Hindenburg Line on the Somme in late Sept. 1918. A total of eight Medals of Honor were awarded to soldiers of those two divisions during the storming of the St. Quentin Canal.

In addition, the tour will visit key American and international memorials and cemeteries. Join us for this fast-moving tour that will cover the most significant battlefields of the American Expeditionary Forces during 1918.



*Top: Photographing WW1 remains in the St. Mihiel Salient*

*Middle: Gravestone rubbing at the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery*

*Bottom: Traditional French dinner at the end of a successful day in the field*



## Schedule: (Subject to Modification)

Pick-up and return point for this tour will be CDG Airport. A specific meeting point will be provided later. Participants are responsible for arranging their own transportation to and from the meeting point. Participants with their own vehicles can arrange to meet us at an alternate location.

**Day 1, Wednesday, 11 June:** Pick-up at CDG at 12:00pm. Drive to Cantigny. View the 1<sup>st</sup> Division assault. Drive to the Hindenburg Line on the Somme. View the 27<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> Divisional assaults and Bony American Cemetery. Hotel TBD.

**Day 2, Thursday, 12 June:** Drive to Château-Thierry area. Visit Belleau Wood and vicinity, including the Aisne-Marne American Cemetery. Cover the fighting in Château-Thierry and on Hill 204 by elements of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Divisions. Visit the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> Division sectors along the Marne River during operation Marneschutz-Reims. Cultural event: Champagne tasting in the afternoon. Stay overnight in Château-Thierry. Hotel TBD.

**Day 3, Friday, 13 June:** Focus on Foch's Aisne-Marne Offensive. Visit 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Division sites on the western edge of the Aisne-Marne. Visit 42<sup>nd</sup> Division sites, including La Croix Rouge Farm, the site of poet Joyce Kilmer's death and the Oise-Aisne American Cemetery at Seringes-et-Nesles. Drive to Fismes and Fismette and explore the actions of the 77<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> Divisions in August 1918. Stay overnight in or near Reims. Hotel TBD.

**Day 4, Saturday, 14 June:** Morning down time for shopping and a visit to the famous Cathedral, Notre Dame of Reims (cultural event). Afternoon exploration of the AEF battles in the Champagne, including the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 36<sup>th</sup> Divisions around Blanc Mont and the 93<sup>rd</sup> Division's advance. Also visit la Main de Massiges for an excellent example of trenches in the Champagne Region. Drive to Vienne-le-Château and stay overnight at La Tulipier Hotel.

**Day 5, Sunday, 15 June:** Meuse-Argonne day 1. Explore key sites throughout the Meuse-Argonne battlefield, starting with an orientation at the Montfaucon American Memorial and following the AEF advance from the jump-off lines to the Hindenburg Line. This will include the Lost Battalion Pocket, le Chêne Tondu, Varennes-en-Argonne, Madeleine Farm and other sites. Stay overnight in Vienne-le-Château.

**Day 6, Monday, 16 June:** Meuse-Argonne day 2. Today will include a stop at the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery in Romagne-sous-Montfaucon, the largest American cemetery in Europe in addition to visiting other key sites in the Meuse-Argonne. Stay overnight in Vienne-le-Château.

**Day 7, Tuesday, 17 June:** Drive to St. Mihiel Salient. St. Mihiel Salient day 1. Explore sites throughout the St. Mihiel Salient, starting with the Tranchée de Calonne and Hattonchâtel and moving to the Montsec American Memorial for an orientation. Continue to visit sites in the Salient. Stay overnight at Hôtel Lac de Madine.

**Day 8, Wednesday, 18 June:** St. Mihiel Salient day 2. Explore sites in the Eastern portion of the salient. Early afternoon visit to the St. Mihiel American Cemetery. Depart mid-afternoon for CDG. We plan to arrive at CDG around 6:00pm. The tour ends when we arrive at CDG.

# Tour Overview

Tour Price (based on double occupancy)	\$3,450
Single Room Supplement	\$500

## 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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*Entrance to the St. Quentin Canal*

# 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 Markus Klauer



**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.

**Markus Klauer** is a retired Bundeswehr Officer whose military career included five years in an armored battalion and professional work with American and French units. Like Randy, Markus has been studying military history and visiting the battlefields for decades. He has written five books in German covering WW1 and his website can be viewed at <https://gb-weltkriegsbuch.de>. Since retiring in 2018 Markus has been expanding his battlefield research to the battles of WW2, including the Ardennes, Sedan 1940, Normandy and the Seelow Heights near Berlin. Markus lives in Waterloo, Belgium, and he speaks German, English and French fluently.



*Matching up then and now photos helps one “see” the battlefields of WW1.*

## Select Feedback from our Recent Tours

*“Thank you for a wonderful time. It is so fun to visit the many places in the Meuse-Argonne and to gain a depth of knowledge that would otherwise be impossible without your guidance. This is my second visit with you and I’m working on my third and fourth visit in the future. Most of all, I want to thank you for helping not just one, but now two, of my sons to gain an incredible appreciation for WWI and their great-grandfather. There is nothing like getting to walk in his footsteps! Thank you for all you and Markus do to keep the memories of these valiant men alive.”*

Matt Treaster

*“It is always a boon when your expectations of a great learning experience turn into a grand WWI adventure with two guides whom are first-class historians. The two tours I took cleared my many uncertain opinions about the war.*

*How does one put a value on seeing where my Uncle Bill worked all night September 25-26 carrying building materials to the Forges swamp, and then building bridges, finished in time for the U.S. 33rd Division to do their part in the M.-A. Campaign?*

*My interest in artillery and narrow gauge railways, was a cause that Markus and Randy accepted and lead me to many interesting sites.*

*Knee Deep Into History tours is a wonderful military history touring venue.”*

Ken Baumann



*Members of one tour pose on the Montsec American Memorial in the St. Mihiel Saleint.*

**2025 Tour Registration Form**  
**WW1 Doughboy Overview Tour**  
**11 – 18 June 2025 (8-days / 7-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:**

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[kneedeepintohistory@gmail.com](mailto:kneedeepintohistory@gmail.com)      908.451.0252