

# Knee Deep Into History Battlefield Tours

## Market-Garden and Hürtgen Forest Small Group Battlefield Tour 11 – 14 July 2025 (4-days / 3-nights)



*The Hürtgen Forest continues to give up its dead decades after the battle.*

Get knee deep into history exploring two of the lesser-visited battles of WW2: Operation Market-Garden in the Netherlands and the Hürtgen Forest along the German-Belgian border. Both battles represented the Allied over-confidence after Germany's rapid retreat in the Summer of 1944 and both were paid for in human lives.

In the case of Market-Garden, the heavy use of under-utilized airborne divisions convinced General Eisenhower to let Field Montgomery's Second British Army charge 60+ miles largely up a single highway to capture the Rhine River bridge at Arnhem. If successful, the victory would have enabled the Allies to enter Germany's industrialized Northwest before the enemy had time to respond. However, for a variety of reasons the offensive failed, and the loss of life was dear.

In the case of the Hürtgen Forest, numerous American divisions, most notably the 28<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, were shredded to pieces trying to take this dense forest situated along the German Westwall. The American leaders constantly underestimated Wehrmacht's ability to stand fast using a hodgepodge of troops and terrain that favored the defender.

Besides visiting sites of valiant sacrifice, this tour will explore the individual reasons that both offensives failed.



*Top: Site where the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division crossed the Waal River during Operation Market-Garden.*

*Middle: Chelsea Pensioners from England pose for photos on the steps of the Hartenstein Hotel, General Urquhart's headquarters during the offensive.*

*Bottom: Polish graves in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Arnhem Oosterbeek War Cemetery.*



## Schedule: (Subject to Modification)

Pick-up and return point for this tour will be Brussel's Zaventem Airport (BRU). 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, Friday, 11 July:** Pick-up participants at BRU at 12:00pm and drive to the Belgian – Dutch border. Visit the Deutscher Soldatenfriedhof Lommel. Follow the British Second Army's advance into the Netherlands, starting at Joe's Bridge. Explore the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne and 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne sites and combat. Hotel in the Netherlands TBD.

**Day 2, Saturday, 12 July:** Continued exploration of 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division sites before moving to the First British Airborne Division sites in and around Arnhem and Oosterbeek. Hotel in the Netherlands TBD.

**Day 3, Sunday, 13 July:** Finish Market-Garden sites in the morning and drive to the Hürtgen Forest. Visit Hürtgen Forest sites, including the Deutscher Soldatenfriedhof, Hürtgenwald Museum and church in Vossenack as well as a Westwall first aid bunker in Simonskall. Hotel in Germany, TBD.

**Day 4, Monday, 14 July:** Walks in the forest, including the Ochsenkopf Trail and the Kall River Trail. We will also visit the Aachener Dom (Aachen Cathedral), a UNESCO World Heritage Site and church where numerous German kings and queens were crowned. Drive back to BRU. We anticipate arriving at BRU around 5:00pm.



*Westwall bunker situated in the Hürtgen Forest on the Ochsenkopf Trail*

# Tour Overview

Tour Price (based on double occupancy)	\$1,750
Single Room Supplement	\$150

## 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.

---



*Stained glass window dedicated to soldiers of Germany’s Windhund Division in the rebuilt St. Josef Church, Vossenack, Germany*

# **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.

Randy and Markus have known each other for 30 years. Both share a deep love of historical research and a desire to get their clients into the field. With their language and cultural skills, both understand the “other side,” and both strive to present a balanced view of the combat.



*Randy and Markus in a reenactor's jeep during the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary commemorations in September 2024*

## Select Feedback from our Recent Tours

*“Randy and Markus, just wanted to say that this was a fantastic trip. You guys were as prepared as I have ever seen. We asked a tremendous amount of “destinations” and must see locations—and you guys killed it!!! You covered three large battles and did a fantastic job in providing key stories, facts and battles in a way that we could easily follow. Thanks again for a great week.”*

John Molnar, private tour covering Market-Garden, Hürtgen Forest and the Ardennes

*“First, thank you for such a memorable trip and for your dedication to the great history of those times. I greatly appreciated the effort you put forth for our trip. The research and documentation that you obviously put into this effort. I will be eternally grateful for your effort. Thank you!”*

Jay deSourdis, participant on the same tour

*“This week has been a dream come true for me, thanks to the meticulous preparation and execution of the two of you. I truly felt as if I was walking in the footsteps of my grand-uncle in WWI and of my dad in WWII, seeing what each of them was seeing, and trying to imagine what each of them might have been thinking and feeling during their respective wartime experiences...”*

John Decker



*A great meal and beverages is always welcome after a day in the field.*

**2025 Tour Registration Form**  
**Market-Garden and Hürtgen Forest**  
**11 – 14 July 2025 (4-days / 3-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