

Book with confidence and save \$1,000 per couple!

When booked by December 31, 2021.



Traveling Aggies

A PROGRAM OF
The Association of Former Students



JAMES EARL RUDDER

*Leadership on the
Battlefields of Europe*

June 4–16, 2022

Normandy Beaches • Sainte-Mère-Église • Pointe du Hoc
Falaise • Paris • Aachen • Hürtgen Forest • Ardennes
Luxembourg • Bastogne • Malmedy



In collaboration with The National
WWII Museum, trace the footsteps of
Col. Rudder and his men as they helped
to liberate a continent.





Howdy, Ags!

The history of Texas A&M University is inextricably linked to our country's proud military history. Founded as Texas' first institution of higher learning, all students were initially required to participate in the Corps of Cadets and receive military training. Many of our students and alumni entered the military during or after their A&M career, resulting in our alma mater having the distinction of producing more military officers than any other institution in the nation, other than the military academies.

During World War II, Texas A&M produced more than 20,000 combat troops. Among them stands the legendary Maj. Gen. James Earl Rudder '32 who led the US 2nd Ranger Battalion up the cliffs of Pointe du Hoc in Normandy. Rudder's leadership persisted through the war as he continued to lead at the Siege of Brest, the drive into Germany, and the Battle of the Bulge. Rudder applied these leadership skills as the 16th president of Texas A&M University and the third president of The Texas A&M University System.

We are partnering with The National WWII Museum to bring you a unique, exclusive opportunity to delve into Rudder's exploits in Normandy, the Hürtgen Forest, and during the Battle of the Bulge. Throughout the tour, you will hear the tales of Rudder and his men as they helped to liberate a continent.

Joining our tour as a featured speaker will be Maj. Gen. Rudder's daughter, Anne Rudder Erdman. Anne will provide intimate details on what it was like to have a war hero as a father and natural born leader. We are delighted to host her. Even if you have visited Europe before, we encourage you to join us on this unforgettable journey designed specifically for the Traveling Aggies.

Gig 'em!

Marisa Liles

Marisa Liles
Manager of Traveling Aggies
The Association of Former Students



SPECIAL GUEST ANNE ERDMAN
Daughter of James Earl Rudder

The Traveling Aggies are thrilled to host a very special guest on this tour. Anne Rudder Erdman, daughter of James Earl Rudder, will join our adventure and give insight on what it was like to have a war hero and leadership figure as a father.

Cover Photo: Aerial view of Pointe du Hoc. Cover portrait photo: James Earl Rudder, Courtesy of Cushing Memorial Libraries & Archives.

LEADER *to* LEGEND

JAMES EARL RUDDER
1910–1970



Purple Heart, Silver Star, and
Bronze Star Medal Recipient

Photo: The day James Rudder returned home from the war, getting off the Victory Loan Train in San Antonio with the family's first bulldog named Ranger in hand, December 23, 1945. Courtesy of Anne Erdman.

Upon graduating from Texas A&M in 1932, James Earl Rudder joined the United States Organized Reserve Corps as a Second Lieutenant. In 1941, Rudder was commissioned in the regular Army, and by 1943, received word that he was selected to command the 2nd Ranger Battalion at Camp Forrest, Tennessee. While at Camp Forrest, Rudder proved himself a fine leader, training with his men, building troop morale, and maintaining unit cohesion. Rudder and his Rangers moved to Fort Pierce, Florida, where they trained in amphibious assaults. Afterwards, the battalion shipped off to England, where the Rangers trained with British Commandos along the coast, often climbing the steepest of cliffs.

On June 6, 1944, Rudder was in command of both the 2nd and 5th Ranger Battalions. He would personally lead the 2nd Rangers in their assault against Pointe du Hoc. Their capture of the gun batteries at the top of the cliff is as legendary as the D-Day landings themselves. The Rangers, despite landing late, quickly climbed the cliff, but the artillery pieces were had been moved farther inland. Those pieces, along with the ammo dump, were found and destroyed a short time later. For two days, the Rangers fought off constant German counter-attacks.

After sustaining high casualties at both Pointe du Hoc and Omaha Beach, the Rangers took some time to re-fit and re-equip. Rudder next led the Rangers in the Siege of Brest in nearby Brittany. Working again with the 29th Division, the Rangers helped in the reduction of artillery batteries and bunkers along the coast north of the city. In November, Rudder and the 2nd Rangers traveled to the Hürtgen Forest, where a savage battle had been raging. Before he went into the front lines, Rudder received orders to take command of the 109th Infantry Regiment of the 28th Infantry Division. The regiment recently took heavy casualties in the forest and transferred to the quieter sector around the Ardennes Forest.

When the Battle of the Bulge started on December 16, 1945, the 109th was located near the town of Wallendorf, Germany. The regiment, still under-manned and over extended in their sector, weathered a heavy hit by several oncoming German divisions. Their delaying actions in the sector slowed the German advance to allow for the successful defense of Bastogne.

Rudder remained with the 109th Regiment through its push into Germany. After the war, Rudder remained in the Reserves, eventually reaching the rank of Major General at his retirement in 1967. He served as the Mayor of Brady, Texas, from 1946 through 1952, and was Commissioner of the General Land Office from 1955 through 1958. In 1958, he became the Vice President of Texas A&M, followed by his appointment as President the following year. He served as the President of the entire A&M system from 1965 until his death five years later. For his war service, James Earl Rudder earned the Distinguished Service Cross, Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster, Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster, French Legion of Honor with Croix de Guerre and Palm, Order of Leopold with Croix de Guerre and Palm (Belgium), and the Distinguished Service Medal.

ITINERARY MAP & TOUR INCLUSIONS

JAMES EARL RUDDER

Leadership on the Battlefields of Europe

June 4–16, 2022

From ~~\$8,995~~ **\$8,495*** double occupancy,
~~\$10,995~~ **\$10,495*** single occupancy

Worry-free booking until December 31, 2021.

*When booked by December 31, 2021. \$129 per person taxes and fees are additional.

WORRY-FREE BOOKING!

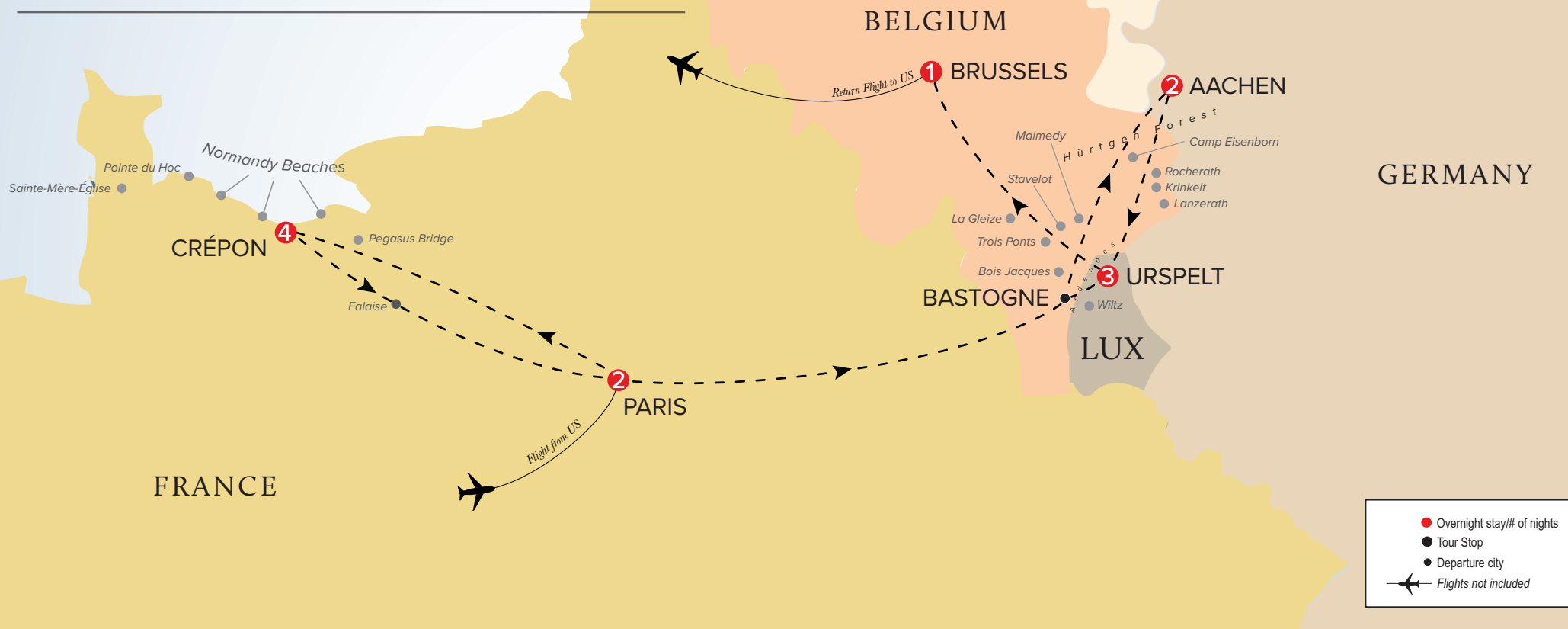
To allow you to book your next trip with peace of mind, we have set up an exceptional and flexible program that allows you to cancel or postpone your trip penalty-free (on select departures) until December 31, 2021.

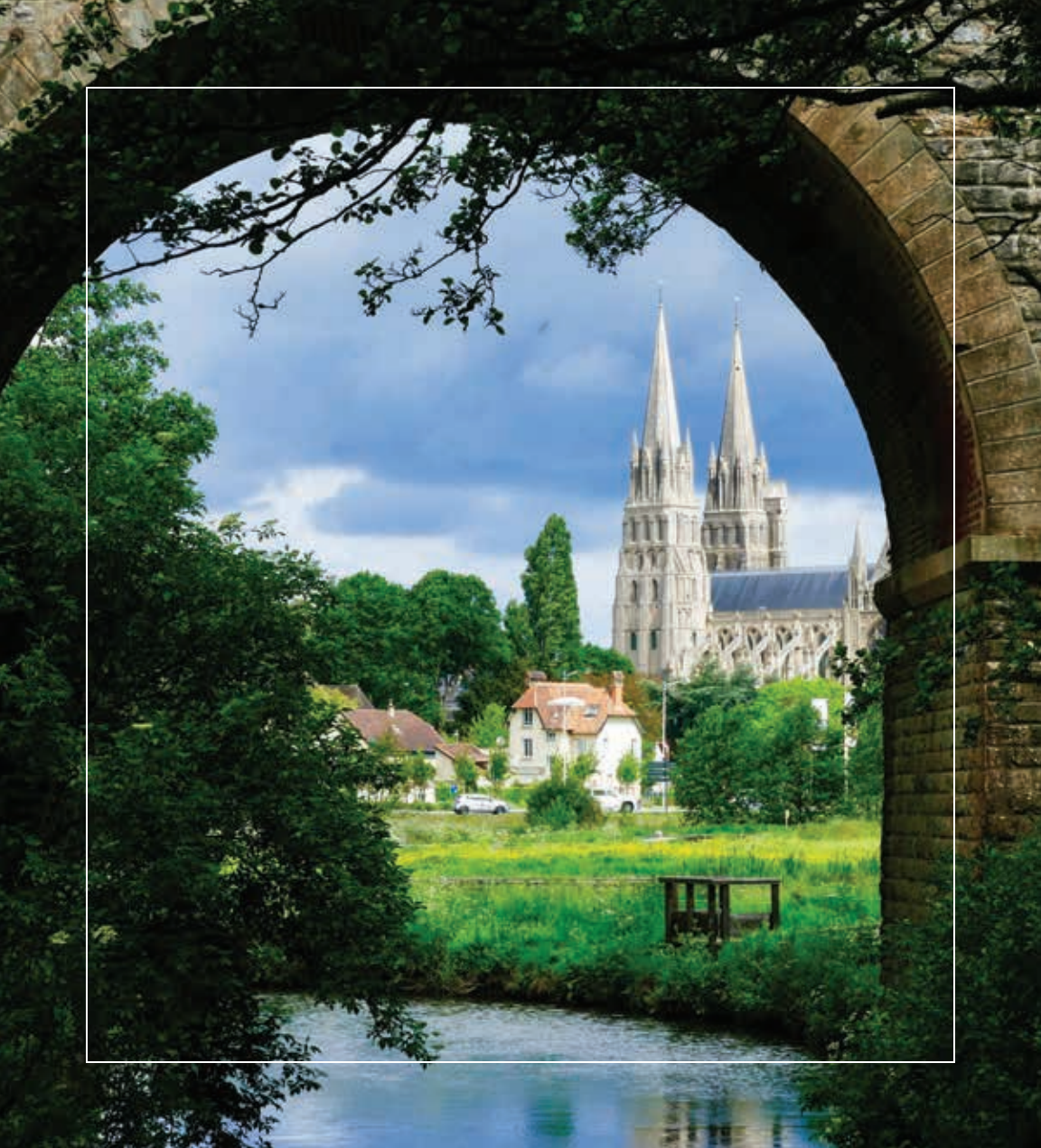
Please contact our reservations department to discuss your options.

TOUR INCLUSIONS

Effortless Travel and Personal Attention

- Travel with special guest Anne Rudder Erdman, daughter of James Earl Rudder
- Full-time logistical tour manager
- Expert local battlefield guides
- Roundtrip airport transfers (when arriving and departing on scheduled group tour dates)
- Four and five-star accommodations
- Private, first-class air conditioned motor coach transportation
- VIP access to sites not offered on other tours
- Entrance fees to all sites, museums, and historic attractions in itinerary
- Video oral-history presentations from the Museum collection
- Personal listening devices on all included touring
- Included gratuities to guides, drivers, porters, and servers
- 12 breakfasts, 7 lunches, and 4 dinners
- Coffee, water, soft drinks, beer, house wines included with lunches and dinners
- Welcome and Farewell receptions
- Informative map book including useful battlefield maps and archival images to be used throughout the journey
- Personalized luggage tags and name badge





ARRIVALS IN TO PARIS & TRANSFER TO NORMANDY

Day One, June 4, 2022

Upon arrival at Charles de Gaulle Airport (CDG) in Paris, guests are warmly welcomed and transported by private motor coach to Normandy. Enjoy a welcome reception and dinner this evening as you get to know your fellow Traveling Aggies.

Le Manior de Mathan (R, D)

Photo Page 8: View of Bayeux Cathedral, Normandy, France. Photo page 9: View of Mulberry Harbor Remains, Arromanches. Courtesy of Hemis/Alamy Stock Photo.

SMALL UNIT ACTIONS, BRITISH SECTOR

Day Two, June 5, 2022

The day begins at Pegasus Bridge, site of the first Allied victory in Normandy. Minutes after midnight on D-Day, glider troops from the British 6th Airborne Division landed their Horsa gliders just yards from the bridge. With the element of surprise, the paratroopers quickly seized the bridge and held out for several hours until reinforcements arrived from Sword Beach. The mission was a textbook example of a small unit action. Continue along the coast past Sword, Juno, and Gold beaches. This afternoon, explore the remains of a “Mulberry Harbor” at Arromanches and learn more about this great feat of engineering and ingenuity. End the day with a visit to the German gun battery at Longues-sur-Mer. The evening is free to dine at leisure.

Le Manior de Mathan (B)



PARATROOPERS & UTAH SECTOR

Day Three, June 6, 2022

Following breakfast at the hotel, touring focuses on the combined efforts of various airborne assaults that took place on June 6, 1944. The first stop is La Fièvre Bridge, where for four days, the 82nd Airborne Division held the strategic bridge against constant German assaults. The next stop is Sainte-Mère-Église, where paratroopers landed during the predawn hours of D-Day. After touring the town, continue to Brécourt Manor, where “Easy Company” of the 101st Airborne Division assaulted German artillery pieces as seen in the book and miniseries *Band of Brothers*. The day’s final visit is to the Utah Beach Museum. Nestled in the sand dunes and seagrass that once held German defensive positions, this museum tells the story of the men that landed at Utah Beach.

Le Manoir de Mathan (B)

Photo page 10: General Eisenhower talks with paratroopers of the 101st U.S. Airborne before D-Day. Courtesy of Everett Collection Inc / Alamy Stock Photo. Photo page 11: Aerial view of Sainte-Mère-Église





POINTE DU HOC & OMAHA BEACH

Day Four, June 7, 2022

On June 6, 1944, James Earl Rudder led three companies of the US 2nd Ranger Battalion to Pointe du Hoc. The mission faced difficulties from the start. The swells in the English Channel were higher than anticipated. The coxswains at first steered the landing craft toward the wrong location. Many of the climbing ropes, wet from the high surf, failed to reach the top of the cliffs. Still, Rudder's men forged on. Climbing the cliffs hand over hand, they reached the top. Against German resistance, the Rangers sought out the guns that had been removed from their positions. Locating them inland, the Rangers destroyed them. Rudder set up the first American command post in one of the bunkers near the cliff. After a guided tour of Pointe du Hoc, continue to Omaha Beach. The terrain of Omaha favored the defenders. High cliffs overlooking a flat expanse of beaches laden with obstacles put the Germans in a favorable position. The first waves of Americans struggled along the beach looking for areas with less defenses. The first troops found paths up the bluffs and began to silence the German guns. By the end of D-Day, Omaha Beach was secure. Recount memories of touring during a special Farewell to Normandy dinner this evening.

Le Manior de Mathan (B, L, D)





THE FALAISE POCKET

Day Five, June 8, 2022

After breakfast, the group departs Normandy and begins the trip back to Paris. Focusing on the concluding battles of the Normandy Campaign, the first stop is in Falaise, which lends its name to the Falaise Pocket, where the Allies began a move to encircle the Germans in August 1944. Traveling south from the city, traverse the infamous Corridor of Death, where the awful scenes of the routed Germany army were on display for several months as dead bodies and wreckage covered the landscape. Memorial de Montormel on Hill 262, where the Poles held off a desperate German counterattack commemorates the closing of the pocket and offers an incredible view across the landscape, and the perfect vantage point for recounting these final battles. Continue to Paris this evening and enjoy an evening at leisure exploring the City of Light.

Le Méridien Etoile (B, L)

Photo page 14: Two Canadian soldiers edge along wall, on the alert for German snipers, near Falaise, France, August 1944. Courtesy of Everett Collection Inc/Alamy Stock Photo.



THE LIBERATION OF PARIS

Day Six, June 9, 2022

The morning tour of Paris begins at the Liberation Museum. Relocated and expanded in time for the 75th Anniversary of the liberation of Paris in August 2019, this museum tells the story of occupation, resistance, and liberation of the city. After lunch, partake in a driving tour of Paris focused on the occupation and liberation of the city. Some sights, such as Notre Dame, the Panthéon, and the Opera were sights seen by Hitler during his only trip to Paris after the capitulation of France in 1940. During the liberation, Parisians came out to welcome their liberators as they marched along the Champs-Élysées. Among the Americans who paraded that day were the men of the 28th Infantry Division. On the eve of the Battle of the Bulge, James Earl Rudder took command of the Division's 109th Regiment.

Le Méridien Etoile (B, L)

Photo page 15: The soldiers of the 28th Division marching down the Champs-Élysées celebrating liberation in Paris, France, September 1944. Courtesy of Everett Collection Inc/Alamy Stock Photo.



AACHEN, GERMANY

Day Seven, June 10, 2022

Depart Paris this morning for Aachen, the westernmost city in Germany. A lunch stop in Reims brings you to the city where Eisenhower received the German surrender on May 7, 1945. Stalin did not view this surrender as official and feared he would be cut out of peace proceedings, so a formal surrender was arranged in Berlin for the next day. Once in Aachen, explore the historic center of the city at your leisure. The Aachen Cathedral dates back to the reign of Charlemagne who was buried there in 814. During World War II, Aachen fell to the Allies after a difficult house-to-house battle. Much of the city was in ruins, and Allied planners feared that Aachen foreshadowed the fighting to come in Germany.

Parkhotel Quellenhof Aachen (B, D)

Photo Page 16: General Alfred Jodl (standing), Colonel Oxenius (left) and General Admiral Friedeburg (right) after the signing of the unconditional surrender of the German Armed Forces in the headquarters of General Eisenhower in Reims on May 7, 1945. Courtesy of Sueddeutsche Zeitung Photo/Alamy Stock Photo/Stock Photo.
Photo page 17: Aerial view of Aachen Cathedral. Courtesy of mauritius images GmbH/Alamy Stock Photo.





THE HÜRTGEN FOREST & HILL 400

Day Eight, June 11, 2022

Less than one month after the liberation of Paris, the Americans were approaching the Rhine River. The gains since August 1944 were rapid. Unfortunately, the advances stressed supply lines and the Germans were determined to defend their border. The Hürtgen Forest, thick with dense woods and rolling hills stood between the Americans and the industrial Ruhr Valley in Germany. The Battle of the Hürtgen Forest lasted from September 19, 1944, to February 10, 1945. The campaign left numerous units in shambles as casualties mounted for both veteran and replacement soldiers. The 28th Infantry Division withdrew to Luxembourg in November to recover. Before Rudder joined the 28th, he planned a daring offensive in which the 2nd Ranger Battalion would take Hill 400. Rudder departed for Luxembourg before the battle, which several Rangers believe tested them more than Pointe du Hoc. The Rangers succeeded in taking the hill and held it for two days before being relieved.

Parkhotel Quellenhof Aachen (B, L)





HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

Hill 400



Near the intersection of Belgium, the Netherlands, and Germany, lies a dark and foreboding forest known as the Hürtgen. Germany's industrial Ruhr Valley lies just beyond the woods and Allied planners hoped for a quick push through the forest. The Hürtgen Forest encompasses 50 square miles of nearly impenetrable trees and numerous rolling hills and ridges. This terrain, which effectively neutralized the Allies superiority in armor and artillery, turned the fighting into an infantryman's war. This battle was the next stage in combat for James Earl Rudder's 2nd Ranger Battalion after their previous successes at Pointe du Hoc and Brest.

By the time the Rangers arrived on November 14, 1944, the 9th Infantry Division had already been chewed to pieces. Attached to the 28th Infantry Division, the Rangers immediately started filling in gaps in the 112th Infantry Regiment. Almost as soon as the Rangers hit the front line, they experienced their first of many artillery barrages. The Germans had learned to fire at the tops of the trees, causing the Americans to believe the entire woods were exploding.

By the end of November, the 28th left the front line and was replaced by the 8th Infantry Division. During the transition, the Rangers remained at the front, holding their defensive positions. Not long after, word came that the Rangers were to assault Hill 400, an objective that eluded the 9th, 28th, and 8th Infantry Divisions. Rudder formulated the assault plan just before his transfer to oversee the recovery of the 28th Division's 109th Regiment.

On December 7, 1944, the Rangers' assault began. Under the cover of artillery and mortar fire, Rangers sprinted towards the hill and began to climb. Despite the deluge of explosives, veteran German troops manned their position and began returning fire on the Americans. Those that scaled Pointe du Hoc recalled later that Hill 400 was worse, not as steep, but full of rocky shale, snow, and sleet, making it difficult to climb. Through grit, determination, and plenty of yelling, the Rangers managed to capture the hill, and send many Germans running. As they started fortifying the position, in anticipation for the expected German counterattack, enemy artillery began raining on them. Then came the assault, not by the previous occupiers of the hill, but by the 6th Parachute Regiment, a tough *Fallschirmjäger* unit that saw action in Normandy.

Over the course of the next two days, the Rangers fought off at least five counter-attacks. Outnumbered ten to one, with no help coming from their lines, the Rangers held on. The final counter-attack came on December 8. Against infantry, direct artillery fire, and mortars, the Rangers held their ground. During the course of the assault and counterattacks, the Rangers suffered 130 casualties, a quarter of the men they started with. Unfortunately, the Germans recaptured Hill 400 nine days later. The Americans took the hill a final time in February 1945.

Photo Page 20: Nazi prisoners march to rear as Americans move forward. Private Frank Kolly (center), military policeman of the Third US Army's 4th Armored Division, leads a group of Nazi prisoners to the rear as an American half-track rolls forward towards Bastogne, Belgium. By December 31, the German counter-thrust into Luxembourg and Belgium had cost the enemy more than 15,000 men taken prisoner by US forces. Courtesy of Bundesarchiv.



BATTLE OF THE BULGE: THE NORTHERN SHOULDER

Day Nine, June 12, 2022

Moving south from the Hürtgen Forest, enter the Ardennes, the setting for the Battle of the Bulge. Start the morning at the Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery, the final resting place of 7,987 Americans killed during the advance into Germany and the Battle of the Bulge. Entering the northern shoulder of the Battle of the Bulge, visit Elsenborn Ridge where the Americans mounted a heroic stand to deny the Germans the roads necessary for their northern advance. The battles along the “Northern Shoulder” denied the Germans a crossing of the Meuse River and a path to Antwerp. Throughout this sector, the remains of the battle are vivid.

Chateau d’Urspelt (B, L)

Photo Page 22: A snow-suited US infantry soldier is shown in St-Vith, Belgium, January 1945. Courtesy of Photo 12/Alamy Stock Photo. Photo page 23: “Hasselpath” located near Krinkelt-Rocherath, foxholes where American GIs held the line are still visible to travelers. Courtesy of Frank Aymami.





ALAMO IN THE ARDENNES: THE 28th INFANTRY DIVISION

Day Ten, June 13, 2022

Explore the Luxembourg Ardennes today by visiting Wiltz, where the 28th Infantry Division endured a major German attack on December 16, 1944. Retreating toward Bastogne, the 28th engaged in one of the largest individual battles of the German offensive near Café Schumann. A memorial trail leads to numerous foxholes and reminders of the battle. Continuing to the south, visit Diekirch and the National Military Museum of Luxembourg, which was founded by our guide, Roland Gaul. This museum tells the story of the Battle of the Bulge within the story of Luxembourg's own military history. In the town of Ettelbruck, a bust of James Earl Rudder was unveiled outside the town hall in recognition of his leadership in slowing the German advance through Luxembourg. Chateau d'Urspelt (B, L)





BASTOGNE

Day 11, June 14, 2022

The Germans expected to arrive in Bastogne on December 16, 1944, and seize the vital crossroads in this market town. The actions of the 28th Division slowed the Germans and allowed the Americans to reinforce Bastogne. Notably, the 101st Airborne Division arrived to aid in the defense of the town. This morning, enter the town of Bastogne and view the tributes to the American soldiers. See the memorial to Renée Lemaire, a Belgian nurse who worked tirelessly at an American aid station in Bastogne. On Christmas Eve, the Germans bombed the aid station, and Lemaire died while evacuating wounded soldiers from the burning building. In the Bois Jacques, visit the foxholes used by Easy Company during their heroic defense of Bastogne. This afternoon, receive a guided tour at the Bastogne War Museum and view the impressive Mardasson Memorial. Chateau d'Urspelt (B, R, D)

Photo page 26: Near Bois Jacques, makeshift memorials can be found honoring the men of Easy Company. Courtesy of Frank Aymami. Photo Page 27: German SS troops with the 1st Panzer division check a highway sign at an Ardennes crossroad.

MALMEDY

Day 12, June 15, 2022

SS-*Standartenfuhrer* Joachim Peiper, commander of the lead elements of the 1st SS Panzer Division, and his men were at the tip of the German counterattack. On December 17, 1944, Peiper's unit shot 84 US prisoners in cold blood near Malmedy—a crime that strengthened American resolve during the battle. The victims were machine-gunned in an open field, with a few survivors managing to escape to tell the tale of the massacre. After hearing the news, other American units knew that surrender was not an option, even if outnumbered or surrounded. Today, the tour will follow the path of Peiper's attack and will hear the heroic stories of American GIs whose actions blunted, and eventually halted the main German thrust in the north. Other sites visited include Stavelot, Trois Ponts, and La Gleize on the way to Brussels. Sheraton Brussels Hotel (B, L)

DEPARTURES

Day 13, June 16, 2022

Independent departure flights home from Brussels International Airport (BRU). (B)



HAND-SELECTED *Accommodations*



PARKHOTEL QUELLENHOF AACHEN AACHEN, GERMANY

Located a short walk from the Aachen Cathedral, the Parkhotel Quellenhof Aachen provides air-conditioned rooms with Wi-Fi internet. All rooms include satellite TV, a mini-bar, and a free bottle of mineral water. Regional cuisine is served in La Brasserie restaurant. Guests can enjoy a variety of drinks and snacks in the tea lounge with fireplace or in the Elephant Bar.

LE MANIOR DE MATHAN CRÉPON, NORMANDY

This boutique hotel is in an ideal location to explore the beaches of Normandy and the surrounding area. Nestled between Bayeux and Arromanches, and once home to the king, the hotel will leave you with a lasting impression of your stay. With its beautiful gardens and rich historical heritage, the hotel combines comfort, charm, and romanticism.



LE MÉRIDIEN ETOILE PARIS, FRANCE

Located across the street from Le Palais des Congrès de Paris, this sleek Marriott hotel is a short walk from the Arc de Triomphe. Stylish, streamlined rooms feature Wi-Fi, air conditioning, along with in-room safes, electrical adaptors and complimentary water.



CHÂTEAU d'URSPALT URSPALT, LUXEMBOURG

Classified as a National Monument, this majestic château was completely restored with respect for its heritage. Located amidst the Natural Park of Our, it combines the hospitality and comfort of a 4-star hotel with the enchanting and refined setting of a romantic, historic castle. Decorated in a subtle, classic style, the rooms offer all the comfort you'd expect such as a high-quality bed, a TV with LCD screen, Wi-Fi connection, and a telephone.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

The National WWII Museum Affinity Travel Programs Terms & Conditions, Limits on Responsibility and Binding Arbitration Agreement

This Terms & Conditions, Limits on Responsibility, and Binding Arbitration Agreement is entered into by and between the Tour Participant and the National WWII Museum and co-sponsoring organization (collectively referred to as “the Museum”).

Tour Fare

Your tour fare covers arrangements and services including hotel accommodations, meals as per the itinerary, gratuities, ground transportation, guiding services, and special tour inclusions as described within the travel program brochure. All fares are quoted in US Dollars, are per guest and are based on double occupancy. As indicated below, airfare to and from the tour destination is not included in your tour fare. The Museum accepts no liability for the purchase of non-refundable airline tickets.

Prices quoted are based on fares in effect at the time of printing and are subject to change at any time. On land and/or cruise programs, up to the time of full payment the Museum reserves the right to increase the tour price in the event of cost increases due to changes in supplier costs, currency fluctuations or fuel or energy surcharges and all such increases are to be paid to the Museum upon notice to the tour participant of such increases.

Not Included

Taxes, unless otherwise noted in the travel program brochure; passport, visas and associated fees; personal expenses such as laundry, telephone calls and Internet access; accident/sickness, trip cancellation, and baggage insurance; gratuities to ship and hotel personnel, unless otherwise noted in the travel program brochure; optional sightseeing excursions; airfare, baggage charges on aircraft; local departure air/airport taxes; and associated local taxes, airport facility and security taxes and federal inspection fees not listed as included in the travel program; transfers and baggage handling to/from airport/hotel/ship on day(s) of arrival and/or departure if you are arriving earlier or later than and/or departing earlier or later than the scheduled group transfer(s); any overnight expenses on land due to flight schedule(s) or delays; meals, alcoholic or other beverages and all other services not specifically mentioned as included in the travel program.

Payment Schedule

To reserve your participation, submit an initial deposit of \$1,000 per person within five (5) days of booking. A \$200 per person deposit is due for any pre and/or post program options that you select. Final payment must be received no later than 90 days prior to departure (Monday, March 7, 2022). Payment by check is preferred in order to reduce costs to the Museum. VISA, MasterCard, Discover, and American Express are also accepted.

Cancellations

Should it be necessary to cancel your reservation, please contact the Museum in writing immediately. Cancellations for all or any part of tour including optional pre- and/or post-tour extension programs will not be effective until received in writing. Should you have to cancel, the following terms will apply:

Travel Insurance:

Because our cancellation policy is strictly enforced, we strongly recommend that you purchase trip cancellation insurance. In the event that you must cancel your participation, trip cancellation insurance may be your only source of reimbursement.

Health, Medical and Tour Requirements

All guests are required to advise in writing to the Museum at the time their reservation is made if they have:

- Any physical or mental condition that may require medical or professional treatment or attention during the tour;
- Any condition that may pose a risk to one's self and/or other participants on tour;
- Any condition that may require health aids, i.e.: oxygen, walkers, crutches, etc., or any intention or need to use a wheelchair while on the tour

By booking passage the guest represents and warrants that he/she is physically and otherwise fit to travel and that guests will comply at all times with applicable rules and regulations of the Museum. The Museum reserves the right without liability to require a passenger to leave the tour or to refuse to accept a guest as a tour participant who, in the sole judgment of the Museum, is unfit to travel, is a danger to himself or herself or to others, does not follow instructions of the tour leader, may distract from the enjoyment of the trip by others, or may require care beyond that which the Museum is reasonably able to provide.

We highly recommend that participants purchase a travel insurance package that provides medical coverage since most U.S. policies do not provide coverage outside the United States.

Luggage

Luggage will be limited to one (1) suitcase and one (1) carry-on per person to ensure that there is enough room on the motor coach for all passenger luggage. All luggage must be securely packed and clearly labeled. We recommend that all participants secure baggage loss and damage insurance that may be purchased for this tour.

Please see airline weight and size restrictions for luggage on international flights. The Museum is not responsible for loss or damage to luggage or any other personal item during air travel, while in a hotel during land programs, on a cruise or while on shore excursions. Under no circumstances may dangerous items (i.e. explosives, firearms, liquid oxygen, combustible or illegal substances) be taken on the tour. We recommend that you hand carry travel documents (passports and tour tickets), medications and valuables, and check with your airline regarding carry-on baggage restrictions. These items

are the full responsibility of the guest at all times. The Museum shall not be responsible for the loss of or damage to such personal items.

Land Tours, Lectures and Personalities

All tours are operated by independent contractors. These independent contractors may impose additional terms and conditions and limitations of liability on tour participants. Other independent contractors retained by the Museum such as lecturers, guest personalities and entertainers are subject to change and/or cancellation without notice.

Travel Documents

All travel documents (air and tour tickets, passport) are the responsibility of the guest. It is also your responsibility to comply with all customs requirements. Without the required documents, you may be denied boarding and the Museum will not be liable for such denial or bear any financial responsibilities as a result thereof.

Security measures imposed by governments may change from time to time and you will be required to comply with them. We will endeavor to provide you with notice of measures which may affect you; but complying with any such requirement is your responsibility. Travel Warnings and Advisories. The Museum strongly recommends that tour participants review the destination country's specific information at <https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/alertswarnings.html> and <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices>

Limits on the National World War II Museum Responsibility

The National World War II Museum Inc., a New Orleans, Louisiana-based nonprofit 501(c) (3) organization, and its employees, shareholders, subsidiaries, affiliates, officers, directors or trustees, successors, and assigns (collectively “the Museum”) and its employees, do not own or operate any entity which provides goods or services for your trip including lodging facilities, airline, vessel, or other transportation companies, guides or guide services, local ground operators, providers or organizers of optional excursions, food service or entertainment providers, etc. All such persons and entities are independent contractors. As a result, the Museum is not liable for any negligent or willful act or failure to act of any such person or entity or of any other third party.

In addition and without limitation, the Museum is not responsible for any injury, loss, death, inconvenience, delay, or damage to person or property in connection with the provision of any goods or services whether resulting from, but not limited to, acts of God or force majeure, acts of government, acts of war or civil unrest, insurrection or revolt, bites from or attacks by animals, insects or pests, strikes or other labor activities, criminal or terrorist activities of any kind or the threat thereof, sickness, illness, epidemics or the threat thereof, the lack of availability of or access to medical attention or the quality thereof, overbooking or downgrading of accommodations, mechanical or other failure of airplanes, vessels or other means of transportation, or for any failure of any transportation mechanism to arrive or depart timely or safely. Participants assume all such risks as well as the risk of negligence by the Museum and specifically release the Museum therefrom.

If due to weather, flight schedules or other uncontrollable factors, you are required to spend an additional night(s), you will be responsible for your own hotel, transfers and meal costs. Baggage is entirely at owner's risk. The right is reserved to decline to accept as a trip participant, or remove from a trip, without refund, any person the Museum judges to be incapable of meeting the rigors and requirements of participating in the activities, or who is abusive to other trip participants, leaders or third parties, or who the Museum determines to detract from the enjoyment of the trip by others. Specific room/cabin assignments are within the sole discretion of the hotel or cruise line.

The Museum reserves the right to change the itinerary or trip features at any time and for any reason, with or without notice, and the Museum shall not be liable for any loss of any kind as a result of any such changes. Ship schedules, port calls, hours of arrival and departure, sightseeing events, special programs and guest lecture series (if applicable), are subject to change or cancellation without prior notice. The Museum is not responsible therefore and is not required to compensate passengers under these circumstances. The Museum may cancel a trip (or an option) for any reason whatsoever; if so, its sole responsibility is to refund monies paid by the participant to it. The Museum is not required to cancel any trip for any reason including without limitation, United States Department of State, World Health Organization, Centers for Disease Control or other Warnings or Advisories of any kind. The Museum is not responsible for penalties assessed by air carriers resulting from operational and/or itinerary changes, even if the Museum makes the flight arrangements or cancels the trip. The Museum reserves the right to substitute vessels, hotels, itineraries or attractions for those listed in this brochure.

Binding Arbitration

I agree that any dispute concerning, relating or referring to this Agreement, the brochure or any other literature concerning my trip, or the trip itself, shall be resolved exclusively by binding arbitration pursuant to the Federal Arbitration Act, 9 U.S.C. §§1-16, either according to the then existing Commercial Rules of the American Arbitration Association (AAA) or pursuant to the Comprehensive Arbitration Rules & Procedures of the Judicial Arbitration and Mediation Services, Inc. (JAMS). Such proceedings will be governed by substantive (but not procedural) Louisiana law and will take place in New Orleans, LA. The arbitrator and not any federal, state, or local court or agency shall have exclusive authority to resolve any dispute relating to the interpretation, applicability, enforceability, conscionability, or formation of this contract, including but not limited to any claim that all or any part of this contract is void or voidable. Please understand that by agreeing to these terms and conditions, you (and we) are waiving our right to a trial by jury.

The Museum is not responsible for misprints in tour promotional material.

RESERVATION FORM

JAMES EARL RUDDER *Leadership on the Battlefields of Europe*

SEND FORM TO:

The National WWII Museum Travel
945 Magazine Street
New Orleans, LA 70130

Toll Free: 1-877-813-3329 x 325

Fax: 1-504-503-0995

Email: travel@nationalww2museum.org

PLEASE MAKE MY/OUR RESERVATION FOR:

JAMES EARL RUDDER: LEADERSHIP ON THE BATTLEFIELDS OF EUROPE - JUNE 4–16, 2022

☐ ~~\$8,995*~~ **\$8,495*** Double occupancy ☐ ~~\$10,995~~ **\$10,495*** Single occupancy

**Save \$1,000 per couple when booked by December 31, 2021. \$129 per person taxes and fees additional.*

Bedding preference: ☐ Twin (2 beds) ☐ Queen

All passengers must travel with a passport valid at least six months beyond their return date.

Guest 1: Full Legal Name (as it appears on your passport)

Title: _____ First: _____ Middle: _____ Last: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Ph: _____/_____/_____ Cell: _____/_____/_____

Roommate (if different from below): _____

Email Address: _____

Birthdate: ____/____/_____ Preferred Name on Badge: _____

Guest 2: Full Legal Name (as it appears on your passport)

Title: _____ First: _____ Middle: _____ Last: _____

Email Address: _____

Birthdate: ____/____/_____ Preferred Name on Badge: _____

DEPOSIT AND FINAL PAYMENT: A deposit of \$1,000 per person (plus \$200 deposit per person for each Pre-Tour Extension, if applicable) is due with your reservation application. **To receive the Early Booking Savings Discount, booking and deposit must be made by December 31, 2021.** Final payment must be received no later than 90 days prior to departure (Monday, March 7, 2022). Applicable taxes and fees will be added to the final invoice.

Please reserve _____ space(s). Enclosed is my/our deposit for \$_____.

Deposits and FINAL payments may be made by personal check, American Express, MasterCard, Visa, and Discover.

☐ Accept my check made payable to The National WWII Museum.

Charge my: ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐ American Express ☐ Discover

Card#: _____ CVV/Security Code: _____ Expires ____/____/_____

Signature as it appears on card: _____

No funds donated to The Association of Former Students or to Texas A&M University have been used in the production or mailing of this travel brochure; all such costs are covered by the tour supplier. Making a deposit or acceptance or use of any vouchers, tickets, goods or services shall be deemed consent to and acceptance of the terms and conditions stated in the applicable Terms and Conditions agreement, including limitations on responsibility and liability. (Texas A&M)



EXTEND YOUR JOURNEY!

Visit The National WWII Museum with a group of your fellow alumni before or after your *James Earl Rudder: Leadership on the Battlefields of Europe* tour.

October 24–27, 2021 & April 7–10, 2022

OPERATION HOME FRONT

Beyond the Galleries

The National WWII Museum
945 Magazine Street
New Orleans, LA 70130

NONPROFIT
AUTO
US POSTAGE
PAID
NEW ORLEANS, LA
PERMIT NO. 2748

