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# OPERATION DRAGOON

**RESPONSIBILITY:** Valor Tours, Ltd. acts only as an agent in providing all the services in connection with the tour described in this brochure, and cannot assume responsibility for injury, death, damage or loss due to delays, mechanical defects or failure of any nature aboard aircraft, buses, ships, ship's tenders or zodiacs, or any other means of conveyance, accommodation, or other services resulting directly or indirectly from any acts of God, dangers incident to the sea, fire, breakdown of machinery or equipment, acts of government, other authorities de jure or de facto, wars (whether declared or not), hostilities and civil disturbances, acts of terrorism, strikes, riots, thefts, pilferage, epidemics, quarantine, medical or customs regulations or procedures, defaults, delays or cancellations, or changes from any causes beyond our control, or any loss or damage resulting from improperly issued passports, visas, travel documents, and that neither we nor any of our affiliates shall become liable for any additional expenses of liability sustained or incurred by a tour member as a result of the foregoing causes. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act or omission or events during the time the passenger is not aboard the aircraft or conveyance. The passenger contract in use shall constitute the sole contract between the carrier and the purchaser of the tour and/or the passenger and the carrier. The right is reserved, should the circumstances warrant it, to alter the itinerary or the sequence of places visited. The right is reserved to substitute hotels for other hotels of a similar category. The operator reserves the right at their or their agent's discretion, to decline to accept, retain or cancel any member of the tour, at any time or place, or cancel the trip if circumstances demand. If the tour operator for any reason whatsoever cancels the trip, all partial and/or full payments will be refunded in full without any further obligation on their part. The schedules used in the operation of this tour are subject to change, without notice. If any tour member does not utilize any portion of the transportation at any time or for any reason whatsoever, additional cost of substitute transportation will be borne by the passengers. Payment of the required deposit or any partial or full payment for reservations shall constitute consent to all the provisions listed in the brochure. Valor Tours Ltd. cannot guarantee or be held responsible for assigned seating aboard any aircraft used in this tour. All legal questions will be settled within the jurisdiction of the County of Marin, California.

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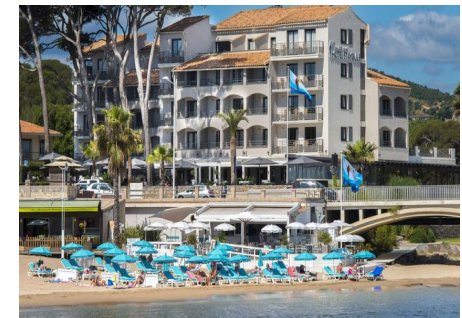
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Escorted by Frank de Planta



August 13 to 20, 2024



**America's Oldest and Most Experienced Military History Tour Operator**

The Allied invasion of southern France on 15 August 1944 and the US Seventh Army advance northwards to the German border at the Black Forest. Often over-shadowed by the more famous Op OVERLORD in Normandy which took place on 6 June 1944 earlier, Op DRAGOON is the forgotten Allied invasion of Europe. An amphibious assault by US Seventh Army, followed up by the seven French Divisions of what became First French Army, forced the German Army Group G to abandon southern France and retreat towards the Vosges Mountains. We shall visit all the landing beaches from St Raphael to St Tropez and then head north up the Rhone Valley towards Germany. Along the way, we will learn of the "Lost Battalion" and see where Audie Murphy won his Medal of Honor.



## Operation Dragoon 2024 REGISTRATION FORM

Mail to: Valor Tours, Ltd., 10 Liberty Ship Way, Sausalito, CA 94965  
Questions? Call 1-800-842-4504

Please reserve \_\_\_ spaces on the following tour(s):

\_\_\_ Operation Dragoon to France, August 13 to 20, 2024

Enclosed is my/our deposit in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_ (\$600 per person, per tour) in the form of a check \_\_\_, or credit card:

\_\_\_\_\_ Exp \_\_\_\_\_ Sec \_\_\_\_\_

Exp \_\_\_\_\_ For accommodations based on a \_\_\_ twin share basis or \_\_\_ single occupancy:

\_\_\_ I am traveling alone and wish to share with another tour member, or

\_\_\_ I am traveling alone and do not wish to share and will pay the single supplement.

\_\_\_ Smoking \_\_\_ Non smoking

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(As it appears on your passport)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(As you would like it to appear on ID badge)

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (days) \_\_\_\_\_

Veteran of WWII, family member, history buff: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ I/we require assistance with air fare/arrangements from \_\_\_\_\_ to coincide with tour.

*Facilities for the disabled are non-existent. Please let us know if you have any disabilities that may prevent you from climbing on and off aircraft, buses or walking. I/we have read and understand the terms and conditions as set forth in this brochure.*

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



### **Reservations and Final Payment**

Reservations can only be held with a deposit of \$600 per person per tour, accompanied by the Application form. Valor Tours Ltd. accepts checks and credit cards. Once received a confirmation/invoice, reading list and travel insurance information will be sent to you. Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure unless otherwise stated on confirmation. Reservations will be accepted on a first come – first served basis. Valor Tours, Ltd. does not recommend that children under the age of 12 participate on this tour. Passport required. Visas are not required.

### **Cancellations and Changes**

If Valor Tours, Ltd. receives cancellation more than 90 days prior to departure your deposit is fully refundable. Cancellations received between 89 to 30 days prior to commencement of tour subject to loss of deposit. Cancellation within 30 days or ‘no shows’ are non refundable. Refunds may take up to 30 days to process. Cancellation charges also apply to additional travel arrangements such as airfare. Travel and cancellations insurance will be available for purchase. Details sent to those who sign up. If Valor Tours cancels tour due to Covid19, full refund or credit will be applied.

### **Baggage allowance**

We recommend one suitcase and one carry-on bag per person, please. Porterage for one bag per person is included in the tour cost; however there may be times when you will be responsible for your baggage, so it is to the benefit of the passenger to travel light. Passengers are responsible for carry-on bags, purses, camera bags, briefcases, etc. No responsibility is accepted for loss or damage to baggage, or any of the passenger’s belongings.

### **Disabilities**

Any personal disability requiring special attention should be reported to Valor Tours at the time of reservation. Valor Tours will make reasonable attempts to accommodate the special needs of disabled tour participants, but is not responsible for any denial of services by carriers, hotels, restaurants and other independent suppliers. Motor coach companies and other carrier employees may not physically lift participants or assist them on or off conveyances. A qualified companion must accompany persons requiring such assistance. Be advised that foreign countries do not have the disabled and handicapped laws that Americans enjoy here at home.

### **Single travelers**

Single occupancy of hotel rooms is an additional cost over and above the tour cost. If you would like to avoid this expense, you may share with another single traveler. Valor Tours will make every attempt to find you a suitable roommate of the same age and gender, however Valor Tours, Ltd. cannot be held responsible for incompatibility, nor can they guarantee a roommate should one not be available. In that case, the single supplement will apply.

### **Not included in tour cost**

Meals not indicated in itinerary, airfare from the U.S., passport fees, items of a personal nature such as laundry, telephone calls, alcoholic beverages, tipping to driver & guide, foreign airport departure taxes, cancellation/trip interruption insurance coverage.

Itinerary and cost subject to change. Revisions can be made to accommodate the needs of participating Veterans and family members. Valor Tours reserves the right to substitute any hotel with a hotel of similar or better quality. Tour costs based on minimum of 8 participants. If number of participant’s falls below 8 passengers, modifications may be made to itinerary, hotels and/or components of tour.

## **Operation Dragoon Tour to France – August 13 to 20, 2024**

### **Tuesday August 13 (D)**

Fly to Marseille. Escorted to the Ibis Marseille Centre Gare St Charles for dinner and overnight.

### **Wednesday August 14 (B, D)**

While in Marseille we will visit the Commonwealth war cemetery then move on to VI (US) Corps landing beaches and memorials at St Tropez where the 45<sup>th</sup> US Infantry Division landed, Cavalaire sur Mer and St Raphael where the 3<sup>rd</sup> US Infantry Division landed and Frejus where the 36<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division came ashore. The landings were an overwhelming success. The Allied units in this sector were able to link up with the paratroopers and gliders of the 1<sup>st</sup> Airborne Task Force very quickly. These early successes allowed US Seventh Army to push northwards way ahead of schedule. Overnight in St. Raphael.

### **Thursday August 15 (B, D)**

Visit to the landing grounds of the 1<sup>st</sup> Airborne Task Force in the Le Muy area and study the II (FR) Corps impressive assaults on Toulon and Marseille – actions that secured the key ports of entry for future US supplies and manpower. We will tip our hats to the men of Seventh Army buried in the magnificent Rhone American Cemetery in Draguinan and then follow VI (US) Corps drive north into the French hinterland. We will finish the day with a look at the decision to block the German Nineteenth Army’s withdrawal up the Rhone Valley at the bottleneck just north of Montelimar. Overnight Rochefort en Valdaire.

### **Friday August 16 (B, D)**

Visit to various sites in the ‘Montelimar Battle Square’ and study the challenges faced firstly by Task Force Butler and then 36<sup>th</sup> US Infantry Division and elements of 45<sup>th</sup> US Infantry Division as VI (US) Corps struggled to block the crucial N7 road and deny its use to the withdrawing German Nineteenth Army. We will visit key points within the Montelimar Battle Square’ that influenced the ebb and flow of the conflict between Americans and Germans. Overnight Chassieu.

### **Saturday August 17 (B, D)**

Visit the site of 117 Cavalry Squadron’s gallant stand against overwhelming odds at Montrevel en Bress and study the Seventh Army’s push north to the Belfort Gap and unification with Patton’s Third Army coming from Normandy. We will visit the Epinal American Cemetery in the foothills of the Vosges Mountains and study the decision to drive Seventh Army

through them into the Alsatian Plain as Winter approached. Overnight Epinal.

### Sunday August 18 (B, D)

Visit Bruyeres to study the early phases of the VI (US) Corps attempt to reach the River Meurthe at Ste Die en Vosges as a prelude to breaking into the Alsatian Plain. The day will include a visit to the site of the Lost Battalion and an explanation of what the men of 141<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment, 143<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Regiment and 442<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment had to endure in order to release the 211 survivors of 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion 141<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment on the Col des Huttes. We will also study the XV (US) Corps plan to break into the Alsatian Plan and visit an SS run Concentration Camp at Natzweiler-Struthof. Overnight Colmar.

### Monday August 19 (B, D)

Visit sites associated with the 6<sup>th</sup> Army Group decision to eliminate the Colmar Pocket on the Alsatian Plain squashed between the Vosges Mountains on the left and the Black Forest on the right and hemmed in by the First French Army in the south and the US Seventh Army in the north. The day will include a visit to the spot where Audie Murphy's gallantry led him to be awarded the Congressional Medal of Honour. We will end the tour with a visit to the MM Park Museum in Strasbourg which is rammed with Second World War equipment and stores. Overnight BW Plus Monopole Metropoli, Strasbourg.

### Tuesday August 20 (B)

Transfer to airport and fly home from Strasbourg, or train to Paris.



**Frank de Planta**, seen above giving presentation to a previous group, is a retired infantry Lieutenant Colonel from the British Army. Normally escorting our WWII tour of Italy, Frank has stepped in to replace Steve Hamilton on the Operation Dragoon tour from Southern France to Strasbourg.

*We made it home safe and sound, and want to thank you for a wonderful trip. It was a pleasure traveling with you as always. What an opportunity to learn about WWII and see the beautiful French countryside close up. As you Brits would say..."Brilliant!!"*

*Nancy and Robert Rudd, Operation Dragoon 2016*



*2016 Operation Dragoon group at Audie Murphy's MOH site.*

### TOUR COST

**\$4200 per person, twin share – Includes A/C bus for all transfers and battlefield tours per itinerary, water on coach, 4\* hotels, meals indicated in itinerary B-Breakfast and D-Dinner daily, entrance fees, arrival and departure transfers, services of Frank de Planta as tour leader, local taxes. Single supplement \$800.00.**

Not included trans-Atlantic air fare; items of a personal nature; tipping to driver and guide; meals not indicated in itinerary; passport fees; travel insurance.

Valor Tours strongly recommends the purchase of travel insurance. We will send information on our Travelex insurance with each confirmation, invoice and reading list. You have a choice between Travel Basic (the less expensive of the two) and Travel Select. Be sure to include your air fare.