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VALOR TOURS, LTD.
focussed expeditions

CROSSING THE RHINE: OPERATION MARKET GARDEN TO REMAGEN BRIDGE – Frankfurt to Amsterdam tour

September 13 to 22, 2012

CST #2075156-50 IATAN #05-911791
Printed March 14, 2012

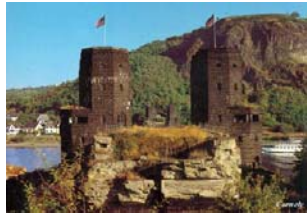


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Tour director historian George Cressman

America's Oldest and Most Experienced Military History Tour Operator



Tour Leader, George Cressman, standing in front of a statue to the 101st ABN in Eindhoven 2010.

George is a docent at the Camp Blanding Museum in Starke, Florida where he also works on artifact documentation. He has designed and escorted many tours to the European Theater of WWII and gives regular presentations on WWII history here in the U.S.

Operation Market-Garden (September 1944) was born in an environment of significant political infighting among Allied commanders, highlighted by a controversy over the “broad front” versus concentrated thrust approaches. Eisenhower’s senior commanders were driven by strong egos, and a need to be seen as the “one” who drove the Germans to surrender. Market-Garden was launched at a time when the Allies believed they had significantly weakened the Germans, and surrender was in sight. There was considerable discussion about being “home for Christmas” in 1944. And yet, there were significant holes in the Allies’ position, not the least of which was gaping problems in supplying the broad front attacks on the Germans. Montgomery believed he could win the war quickly by achieving a thrust into the Ruhr area, destroying the German’s ability to supply their own troops. But to do this, Montgomery needed supply priority. Ever the careful planner, Montgomery and his staff seemed to have placed much on faith in the Market-Garden proposal. The loss of one critical bridge would slow or even prevent the ground forces from reaching Arnhem – and that’s exactly what happened. The blind spots in the plan seem to hinge on the perspective the Germans were fatally weakened, demoralized, and would be able to resist the Allies’ thrust. But resist they did, and the fallout was the loss of large numbers of British paratroopers. In contrast, the Rhine River crossings of 1945 follow after the humbling of the Allies in the Bulge and Nordwind offensives. By this point, Eisenhower and his senior commanders knew the Germans could still strongly resist Allied operations. The capture of the Lueddendorf Bridge at Remagen (see above left) was a massive piece of good luck; exploiting the luck shows the Allies ability to make good from luck. The Crossing the Rhine/Market-Garden tour, starting in Frankfurt, traces the late war activities of the Allies.

Crossing the Rhine tour – Frankfurt/Amsterdam 2012 REGISTRATION FORM

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

Name _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Phone (days) _____

Email address: _____

I/we wish to reserve ___ spaces on a ___ twin share basis (two persons to a hotel room), or ___ I am traveling alone and wish to pay the single supplement so as not to share my hotel room, or ___ share with another tour member

___ Enclosed is my/our check for the deposit in the amount of \$ _____ (\$500 per person, per tour), or please charge my American Express account number _____ Exp _____
(Valor Tours does not accept VISA or Master Card)

Please arrange my/our air arrangements from _____ to Europe to coincide with tour in ___ Economy class or ___ business class. I/we would like ___ additional nights hotel accommodations in: ___ Frankfurt and/or ___ Amsterdam.

___ Please send information on the preceding tour to Poland, Sept 2 to 11. I understand transport, hotel and tour of Berlin enroute, Sept 11 to 13, are provided free of charge if I/we take both tours back to back.

Reason for taking tour, i.e. Veteran, history buff, family member, etc.

Special needs, dietary requirements _____

Next of kin _____

I/we have read and understand the terms set forth in this brochure:

Signature _____

Date _____

Reservations and Final Payment

Reservations can only be held with a deposit of \$500 per person accompanied by the Application form. Payments accepted in the form of a personal check, American Express card or Paypal. We do not accept VISA or Master Card. While we recognize the convenience and other advantages of using credit cards, they do carry administration fees, which we would have to add to the cost of our tours. We choose not to do this. Final payment is normally due by June 13, 2012 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. Tour cost based on minimum of 10 paying participants. Airfare from the U.S. to Europe not included, however if you need assistance with air arrangements we will be happy to do so.

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. If flight changes are requested after airline tickets are issued, revision fees will apply. Travel medical emergency insurance is included in tour cost, but does not include cancellation or trip interruption coverage. Available upon request.

Baggage allowance

We recommend one suitcase and one carry-on bag per person, please. Portage 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. Limited baggage insurance is included in the tour cost.

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 \$600 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 – subject to change

Thursday September 13 (D)

Independent arrivals into Frankfurt. Take public transportation to main train station in Frankfurt. Hotel across the street. Meet in lobby at 6:30pm for 7:00pm Welcome dinner in hotel with briefing and introductions. Tour background history book will be passed out. Overnight Inter City Hotel

Friday September 14 (B)

Today drive north along both banks of the Rhine via Wiesbaden, Schierstein, the Lorelei, and Koblenz for scenic views. Visit Remagen, the Ludendorf Bridge (site where 9th Armored Division/1st Army - first Allied unit to cross the Rhine, March 1945) and Museum. Overnight Rhineland Holiday Pinger Hotels

Saturday September 15 (B)

Morning driving tour of Cologne, an industrial city heavily bombed during the war, stopping at famous Cologne cathedral, which was damaged but not destroyed. Drive down A4 toward Duren to pick up local historian who will be our guide for tour of Hurtgen Forest and Vossenack Museum, which will be opened specially for our group. Overnight at hotel formerly HQ of Col. Wilck, commander of forces defending Aachen during the battle to take the city, overlooking Farwick Park, object of the 3rd Battalion, 26th IR, 1st ID. Overnight Pullman Aachen Quellenhoh Hotel

Sunday September 16 (B)

Visit Battle of the Bulge sites in Germany and NE Belgium: Monschau Germany where Battle of the Bulge attack began, and Elsenborn and Twin Villages where 2nd and 99th Infantry Divisions held the line. Visit Fort Eben-Emael. Considered impregnable, the fort was taken by Germany Paratroopers and Glider forces, and was the site of the first use of shaped charges. Taking this fort allowed the Germans to bypass the Maginot Line and proceed through Belgium into France in 1940. Visit Netherlands American Cemetery and Memorial at the village of Margarten, Holland. Overnight Maastricht, Holland.

Monday September 17 (B)

Visit Thorn to see the ancient cathedral. Visit Eindhoven, drop zone for the 101st Airborne whose mission was to secure three bridges. We will find the three bridges in these small towns and review the 101st actions in the area: Son – the southernmost of the three bridges (Wilhelmina Kanal); St. Oedenrode – Intermediate bridge; Veghel – the northern most bridge. Visit Overloon and War & Resistance Museum. Overnight Mercure Hotel Nijmegen Centre.

Tuesday September 18 (B)

Visit Nijmegen and the drop zone of the 82nd Airborne whose mission was to secure two bridges: Grave – the southernmost of the bridges spanning the Maas river; Lent – the northernmost bridge over the Maas-Waal Kanal. Visit the National Liberation Museum in Groesbeek.

Overnight Mercure Hotel Nijmegen Centre.

Wednesday September 19 (B)

Meet local guide, Pim Donkersloot, whose father was in Operation Market Garden, at hotel. Follow the XXX Corps route into Arnhem: Walking tour of John Frost Bridge of the “Bridge Too Far” fame, St. Eusebius Church and the Devil’s House. Drive to

Oosterbeek and passing St. Elizabeth's hospital on the path LtCol Frost's men following into Arnhem. Hartenstein Airborne Museum, formerly General Urquhart's HQ during the war, Arnhem Battle Cemetery. Drive to the river to see small Church that was a landmark for the British. Mercure Hotel Nijmegen Centre.

Thursday September 20 (B)

Travel to Amsterdam – about two hours. Visit Anne Frank House, and then check into hotel. After lunch, canal boat tour to see the architecture. Walking tour in the evening with Pim Donkersloot. Overnight Die Port Van Cleve Hotel, Amsterdam

Friday September 21 (B, D)

Visit north of Amsterdam for Volendam and Volendam Museum; Zaanse Schans – old mill site; Marken. Farewell dinner tonight and overnight Die Port Van Cleve Hotel, Amsterdam.

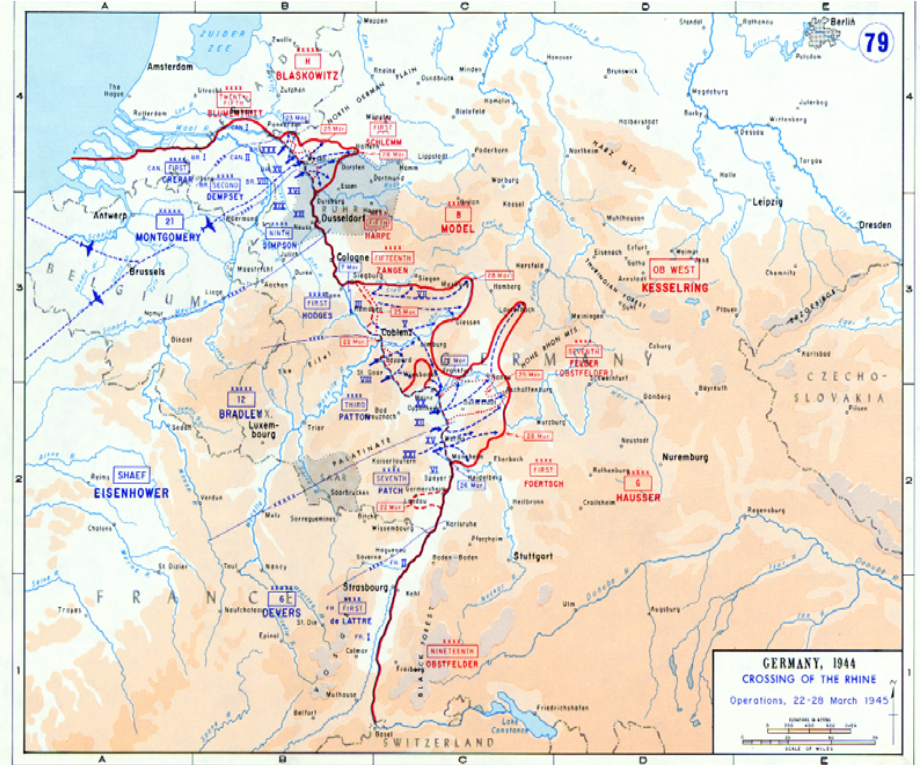
Saturday September 22 (B)

Check out of hotel and transfer to airport. The hotel Die Port van Cleve has an airport shuttle for € 15,00 per person for a single way. This airport shuttle departs every half an hour from the hotel to the airport. For this shuttle it's necessary to make a reservation the night before with front desk. Tour ends.



Above: Hurtgen Forest today.

Left: Hurtgen Forest, November 4, 1944. American M-10 tank destroyers of the 893rd Tank Destroyer Battalion as they move through the forest near Germeter. Photos from Homestead.com.



Itinerary 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.



Above left: Canal boat cruise while we visit Amsterdam. Above: Amsterdam. Left: Our private coach throughout tour.

Crossing the Rhine Sept 13 to 22 from Frankfurt to Amsterdam - tour cost, land only \$3395 per person, twin share. Single supplement \$600 extra.

Includes nine nights hotel accommodations at three star or better hotels; welcome and farewell dinners; breakfast daily; private coach transportation; services of tour leader/historian; emergency travel insurance; local historian/guides where necessary; entrance fees to museums indicated; local taxes; Tour Briefing Book. Subject to change and currency fluctuations, and a minimum of 10 passengers traveling together – maximum 45 passengers.