

*presents the*

# THE GHOST ARMY / SECRET WAR TOUR

## SEPTEMBER 11 – 24, 2014

This tour follows the story of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Headquarters Special Troops, the extraordinary deception soldiers better known as The Ghost Army. It also includes many other World War II sites to offer a wider context for the story of the deivers. The tour is led by filmmaker and author Rick Beyer, who made *The Ghost Army* documentary, and is co-writing a Ghost Army book due out in 2015.

### **Day 1** **Flight to London**

### **Day 2** **London**

Check into the hotel where the entire group will gather for an evening welcome reception. Rick Beyer will treat us to our first lecture, with introductions all around.

### **Day 3** **London**

The morning will feature key sites in London that figured prominently in the war. We then proceed to the Churchill War Rooms, the underground nerve-center for Britain's war effort. We will also visit the Imperial War Museum, which houses authentic examples of World War II weaponry, tanks and aircraft and an exhibit of WWI trench warfare. We will have free time to enjoy London in the evening.

### **Day 4** **Bletchley / Stratford**

Depart London for Bletchley Park where we will visit the nerve-center for intelligence used in the Allied War effort, code name Ultra. Here we will see the place where the Enigma machine is housed and where the ciphers and codes of several Axis powers were decrypted during the war.

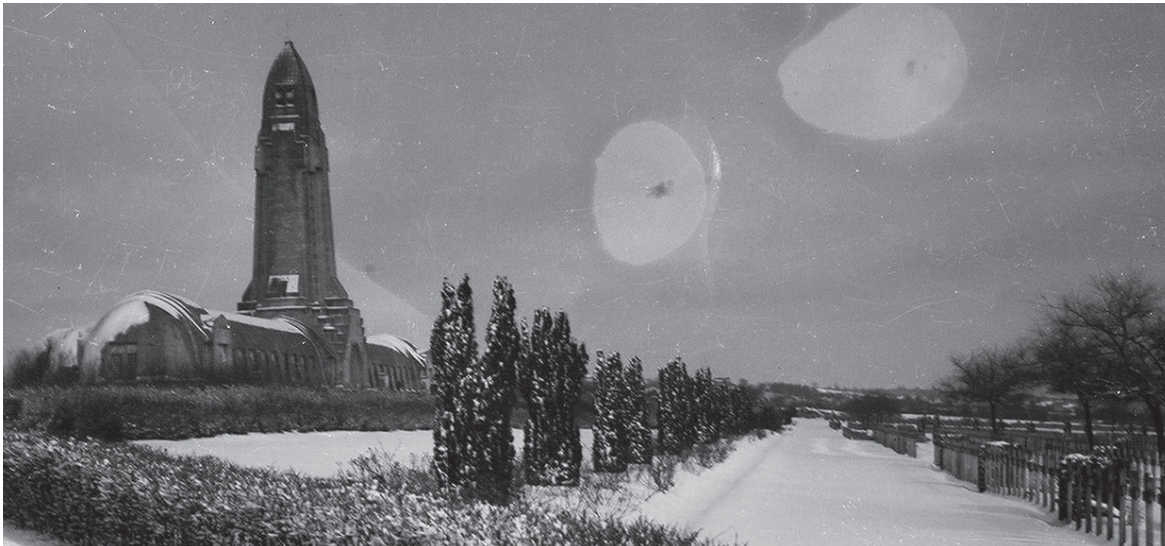
Then on to Walton Hall, the 19<sup>th</sup> Century manor house located outside Stratford-Upon-Avon. The Ghost Army bivouacked here from April to June 1944, as they trained for their deception mission. We will tour the building (now a hotel) and stroll the beautiful grounds where Ghost Army soldiers once pitched their tents. In the evening, those who wish may go to Stratford for a play or other activities.

### **Day 5** **Crossing the Channel**

This morning we drive to and tour Southwick House, the advance command post of the Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force. In the months leading up to D-Day in 1944, the house became the headquarters of the main Allied commanders, including Naval Commander-In-Chief Admiral Ramsay, Allied Supreme Commander General Eisenhower, and the Army Commander-In-Chief General Montgomery. It was here that Ike faced the agonizing "go/no-go" decision in the face of terrible weather just before D-Day.

After dinner we board the cross Channel ferry and make our way to Normandy in an overnight crossing as so many American soldiers did in 1944. (Our accommodations will be better than theirs!)





## **Day 6**

### **Normandy**

After an early morning arrival in Normandy, we proceed to Pegasus Bridge where the first shots were fired on D-Day. Here the British Sixth Airborne led by Major John Howard made a miraculous glider landing to carry out a surprise attack that took this crucial bridge across the Caen Canal.

We will then drive to Ste-Mere-Eglise, one of the villages where the American Airborne descended on D-Day. Here we will view and explore the iconic church where John Steele and his landing on the steeple are memorialized. We also plan a visit La Fiere Bridge where the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne successfully delayed a German Panzer counter-attack against the Allied landing forces.

From there we will visit Utah Beach itself, where most of The Ghost Army landed a few weeks after D-Day, and the Invasion Museum that depicts the D-Day fighting there. Finally, the day will conclude with a visit to Pointe-du-Hoc, where Rudders' Rangers scaled the cliffs to neutralize heavy German guns defending the expanse of beaches on D-Day.

## **Day 7**

### **Normandy**

In the historic Norman city of Bayeux, we visit the Bayeux Tapestry that depicts William the Conqueror's invasion of England.

We will then make our way to the village of Trévières. The Ghost Army's initial base in Normandy. We'll visit the church in the town square that many of the men painted and sketched.

After lunch, we head to Omaha Beach where American GI's faced the strongest German resistance of the day and incurred the greatest losses. We will walk the beach and visit German fortifications. We explore these sands from the tide's ebb to the distant dunes to understand the emotions of the young soldiers as they approached the "gates of hell." We will pay our respects at the American Cemetery with its 9387 American soldiers' graves overlooking the beach. After dinner, Rick Beyer will give a presentation about The Ghost Army's operations in Normandy and Brittany.

## **Day 8**

### **Paris**

En route to Paris we will stop at Giverny and visit the home of Impressionist painter, Claude Monet.

We arrive in Paris and have the remainder of the afternoon free. The Allies, preceded by Free French troops, symbolically reclaimed the French capital from the Nazis in August 1944. Ghost Army troops arrived there a few days after the liberation, and you may explore the city on your own as they did..

## **Day 9**

### **Paris**

After breakfast, we will offer a short city tour of key historic sites in Paris. The afternoon is free.

## **Day 10**

### **Reims / Verdun / Luxembourg**

As we head west out of Paris, Rick Beyer will give a presentation on the bus about the Ghost Army's journey to eastern France and eventually Luxembourg. We will stop in Reims to visit the Museum of the Surrender, where German generals surrendered to General Eisenhower in May 1945. We will also stop by the famous Cathedral where many French Kings were crowned.

Another stop on the way to Luxembourg will be Verdun, site of the biggest battle of World War One. During the Battle of the Bulge, The Ghost Army was withdrawn to this French town, and camped in the World War One fortifications. We will visit the spot where they stayed, and briefly tour the battlefield and cemetery.

## **Day 11**

### **Luxembourg**

From mid-September until the Battle of the Bulge, The Ghost Army was based in Luxembourg City. In the morning we will take a walking tour of the Grund, the picturesque quarter painted and sketched by many Ghost Army artists.

It's a short ride to nearby Hamm and the American cemetery where General George Patton is buried at the head of his troops. Nearby is a German military cemetery that provides a study in contrasts.



From there we will cover some of the ground of Operation KOBLENZ, the Ghost Army mission that preceded the Battle of the Bulge.

After lunch we will visit Le Musée National d'Histoire Militaire in DeKirch. It is dedicated to the Battle of the Bulge and filled with artifacts and representations of the military operations in the Ardennes from the American, German and civilian perspectives

## Day 12

### Luxembourg

We will begin with a visit to the Seminary building where many of the soldiers stayed (and where Marlene Dietrich performed for them). It is now part of the University of Luxembourg.

Then we'll drive to Bastogne where the Americans rallied and stopped the German attack known as the Battle of the Bulge. Here we'll view the route of the initial American retreat and the place where the 101st Airborne and elements of the 10th Armored held off fifteen German divisions for six days. Our group will visit key sites in and around this historic crossroads town. We'll also go to General McAuliffe's HQ where he replied to German surrender demands with one word: "NUTS." And we'll learn about a little known Ghost Army operation designed to help General Patton's drive on Bastogne.

## Day 13

### Siegfried Line / Trier / Frankfurt

We'll drive to the Siegfried Line to see remnants of the German communication trenches, pillboxes and dragon's teeth that American GI's fought so hard to take in late 1944.

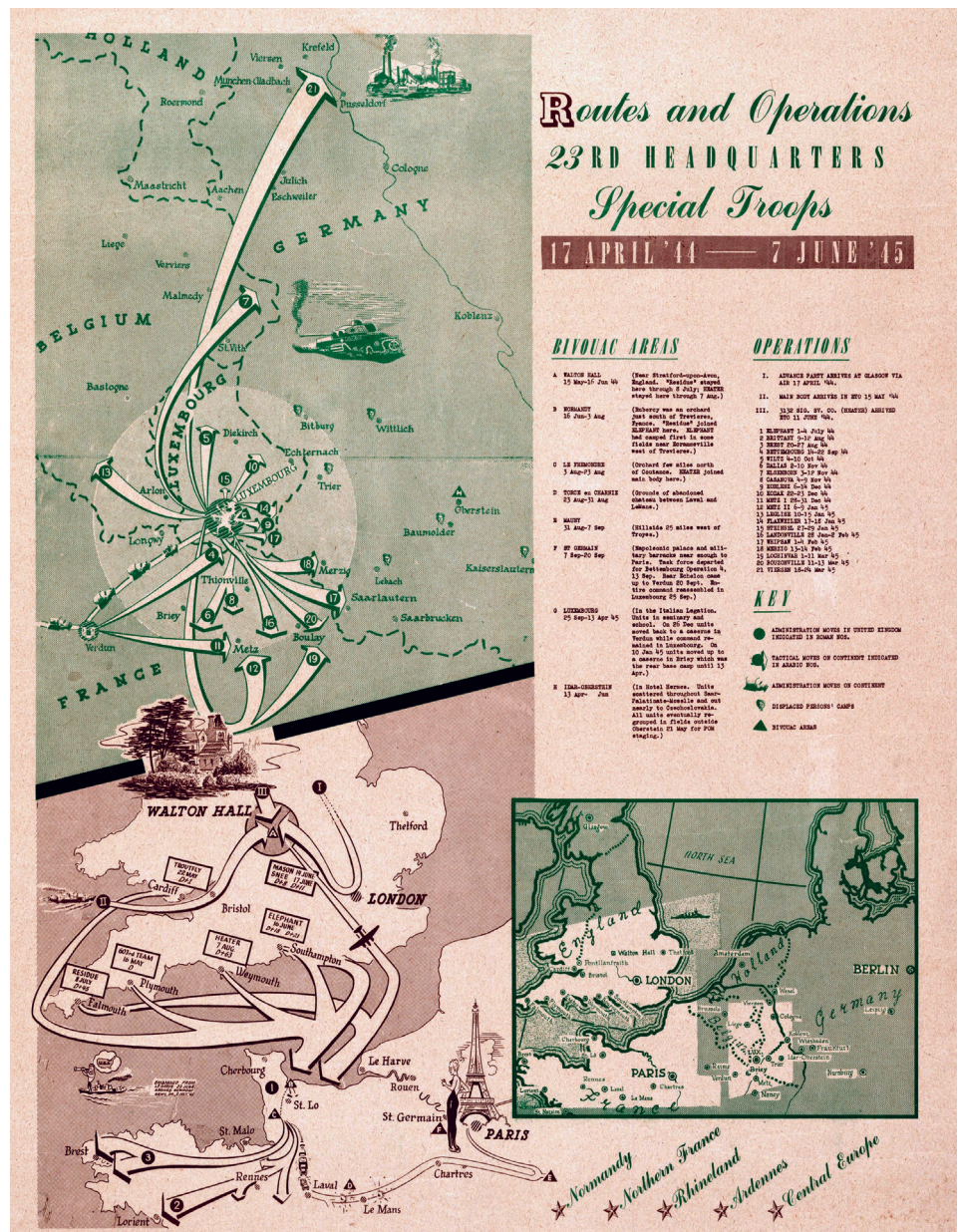
Then we'll visit Trier, where The Ghost Army spent the final days of the war guarding several Displaced Person's camps, and many of the artists captured scenes of the bombed out city. Our visit will include some free time for shopping and exploring the oldest city in Germany.

That night in Frankfurt we'll have farewell dinner and discussion after an enriching campaign into history.

## Day 14

### Home

Early morning airport transfer to Frankfurt International.



# 2014 GHOST ARMY TOUR

**\$4,450 per person based on double occupancy.**  
**\$800 single supplement**  
**\$300 deposit required for this tour**

**Airfare is not included.**

- Full-time historian
- First class accommodations
- Rooms with private bath or shower, hotel taxes, portage and service charges
- Touring by private first class air-conditioned motorcoach
- Channel crossing to Normandy via ferry
- Breakfast daily / 8 Dinners
- All entrance fees to museums and attractions

*Stephen Ambrose*  
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## SEPTEMBER 11 – 24, 2014

### Registration Form

#### Personal Information (as it appears on your passport)

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ MI \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

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

If you wish to travel with a companion, please furnish the following information

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ MI \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

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

If you choose to room alone, an additional **\$800.00** charge will apply.

☐ Double (1 Bed)

If you want to be paired with a roommate, please check the box. ☐

☐ Twin (2 Beds)

If you wish to book additional companions, please attach the necessary information.

☐ Single

Tour price is \$4,450.00 per person based on double occupancy.

**Veterans please check here** ☐

\$800 single supplement.

*Price does not include airfare.* Stephen Ambrose Historical Tours also offers help with flight arrangements. Participants are encouraged to purchase airline tickets no sooner than 60 days before the tour begins to avoid airline cancellation penalties if a tour is cancelled or otherwise modified. Stephen Ambrose Historical Tours accepts no liability for the purchase of non-refundable airline tickets.

In order to register for this tour, we require a deposit of \$300.00 per person, refundable up to 90 days prior to departure, minus a \$50 per person administrative fee.

50% of your balance is due 90 days before the tour; the remaining balance is due 45 days before departure.

If paying by check, please return your check with this form.

If paying by credit card, please check one of the boxes below. Note: Additional charges of 3% will apply.

Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ American Express ☐ Discover ☐ Cardmember Name \_\_\_\_\_

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ 3-4 Digit Security Code (located in signature area) \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address (if different than above) \_\_\_\_\_

Stephen Ambrose Historical Tours recommends Traveler's Insurance.

Please contact Travelex at (800) 228-9792; Our account number is 18-6016.

I have read, and agree to, Stephen Ambrose Historical Tours terms and conditions.

(Please do not sign unless you have read the terms and conditions.)

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Notes: