

# EASY COMPANY - WWII AND SCENIC EUROPEAN TOWNS TOUR ITINERARY

## BELGIUM, GRAND DUCHY OF LUXEMBOURG, GERMANY AND AUSTRIA

**AUGUST 28 – SEPTEMBER 7, 2010**

(FLYING FROM THE USA ON AUGUST 27, 2010)

**DESIGNED AND OPERATED BY HISTORIC TOURS, INC.**

In 2007 Historic Tours, Inc had the honor of operating its third Easy Company, 506<sup>th</sup> PIR WWII Commemorative Tour. Many members of the tour have stayed in touch and have asked Historic Tours, Inc. to design a tour which features Easy Company's route in Germany and Austria as well as other WWII areas in Belgium, Luxembourg and Germany. It was also requested that some of the most beautiful small towns of Europe be included. Historic Tours is delighted to offer this tour through areas where Cristy and Ray Pfeiffer have been working for 28 years.

### HISTORIC TOURS, INC.

Historic Tours, Inc. is the official tour operator for the program. The company is owned and operated by Ray and Cristy Pfeiffer. Ray is a Vietnam-era Navy veteran who served aboard USS Terrebonne Parish (LST1156) and USS Robert K. Huntington (DD781). Cristy and Ray have been designing and guiding WWII Commemorative Tours since 1983 and have personally guided over 8,000 Americans in Europe.

### DAILY ITINERARY

**MEALS INDICATED BY: BB – BUFFET BREAKFAST , L – LUNCH, D – DINNER**

**A TOTAL OF 13 MEALS IS INCLUDED**

AUGUST:

27: Tour members depart from the USA on overnight flights to Brussels

28: Belgium (D) Tour members will gather in the morning at the **Novotel Hotel at Brussels International Airport** (Tour Center can make air arrangements for those who require it), and be met by Tour Directors Cristy and Ray Pfeiffer and our driver Alain Schneider (he was our driver for the 2007 tour). **We'll board our private deluxe motor coach at 1 PM. (Most flights from the USA arrive at Brussels Airport between 8 AM and 9:30 AM. A free shuttle bus to the Novotel is available at the airport.** We'll visit the magnificent Grand Place in Brussels. This beautiful square dates from the 1400's and is one of Europe's most visited sites. We'll continue on to the Ardennes region of Belgium where we'll check into our hotel in Bastogne. We'll visit the Easy Company sites near Bastogne including the new 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Monument at the Mardasson Memorial as well as the Bois Jacques, Foy and the Easy Company Monument at Halt Station. Tonight we'll enjoy a welcome dinner.



The Bois Jacques, Belgium

29: Belgium (BB,L) We'll visit the Northern Shoulder of the Battle of the Bulge including the Malmedy Massacre site, St. Vith, Elsenborn Ridge and have lunch at a quaint inn in Wirtzfeld – which was the HQ for the 2<sup>nd</sup> ID. We'll visit the fascinating museum in la Gleize as Ray relates the battle to stop Joachim Peiper's drive to the Meuse River and we'll see a Royal Tiger tank. We'll return to Bastogne and our evening will be free.

30: Luxembourg (BB) We'll enter the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg – one of Europe's most scenic nations and also one of the world's wealthiest nations. Our first stop will be the Luxembourg American Cemetery where we'll have a private wreath laying ceremony. Ray will utilize the giant battle maps to explain the Battle of the Bulge and the Rhineland Campaign. We'll visit General Patton's grave and then be free to reflect on our thoughts. Easy Company graves will be pointed out. We'll continue into sophisticated Luxembourg City and we'll be free for lunch on the Place d'Armes. Ray and Cristy will conduct a walking tour of the center of the city where we'll view the Ducal Palace and the great fortifications which once made Luxembourg City “ The Gibraltar of the North”.. Ray will point out General Patton's HQ as well as General Bradley's HQ. We'll check into our modern, new hotel which is located in the city center and we'll have time for shopping and exploring on our own. Our evening will be free.

31: Luxembourg: (BB) We'll spend the day in the beautiful Luxembourg countryside visiting quaint towns and recalling the history of The Bulge. We'll drive along the vineyards on the Mosel River which separates Luxembourg from Germany. September is a glorious time to see the vineyards and the scenery is unmatched. We'll drive north to Diekirch a beautiful, small town which also is the home to the Luxembourg Army. We'll visit the unique museum and it's fantastic displays on the Bulge as well as the Luxembourg Army's role in Korea, Kosovo and Afghanistan. We'll spend the afternoon in a truly magical place – Clervaux. The town is now a peaceful place for vacationing. However in 1944 it was where the heroic men of the 28<sup>th</sup> ID fought to the last man defending the town. We'll be joined by our Luxembourg friends of the CEBA organization and we'll lay a wreath at the famed “GI Monument” before going to the castle to have an official reception. A visit t will then be made to the fantastic Battle of the Bulge Museum. Cristy and Ray have played a role in this museum and they will even point out their fathers' photos and stories from WWII which are displayed there. We'll return to Luxembourg City and the evening will be free.

## SEPTEMBER

1: Rothenburg: (BB) We'll cross into Germany and go directly to the charming Bavarian town of Rothenburg ob der Tauber. Here we will take a break from our WWII history and just enjoy the architecture and quaintness of the town. Rothenburg is one of the highlights on Germany's

“Romantic Road”. Cristy and Ray will conduct a brief walking tour which will acquaint us with the town and we'll be free for dinner.

2: Rothenburg: (BB) We'll be treated to a private “Trinksmeister” ceremony at the town hall. The rest of our day is free for shopping or just enjoying the town.

3: Dinkelsbuhl, Berchtesgaden (BB): We'll continue our Bavarian exploration with a stop at Dinkelsbuhl which is just down the Romantic Road from Rothenburg. We'll have some free time before continuing on to the Alps. Our destination is historic and scenic Berchtesgaden. During the Third Reich all the town's inhabitants had to be Nazi Party members. Easy Company was one of the first American units to enter the town. Ray will describe the race between the 101<sup>st</sup>, the 3<sup>rd</sup> ID and the French 2<sup>nd</sup> Armored Division to have the honor to be the first Allied unit to take various sites around the town. Our hotel will be right in the middle of town and we'll have our evenings free.

4: Berchtesgaden (BB): We'll take a cruise on the beautiful, Alpine Lake Konigsee where our electric boat glides along silently until we reach the remote town of St. Bartholomae where we can enjoy the peace and quiet of this lake which Eva Braun once called her own. In the afternoon we'll visit Hitler's Eagles' Nest which was built for him for his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday. We'll board a special bus which rides around hairpin turns and then we'll board Hitler's elevator until we reach the top. The views of Germany and Austria are unmatched. Easy Company actually took this position just before V-E Day. We'll also visit the Nazi Documentation Center which is built adjacent to the site of Hitler's Berghof – home. We'll see the history of the Third Reich laid bare. We'll also visit the tunnels where the SS planned to continue the war in the so-called “Alpine Redoubt”. We'll return to Berchtesgaden for the evening.



Eagles Nest - Berchtesgaden, Germany



Hofbrauhaus – Munich, Germany

5: Berchtesgaden/Zell am See, Austria /Munich (BB) We'll take a day trip into Austria and visit delightful Zell am See. This is where Easy Company spent its time during the Occupation. Zell am See is now a lakeside, resort town and we'll have the day free to shop and relax before driving to our Munich airport area hotel where we will spend the night and our evening will be free.

6: Munich (BB,D) Ray will conduct a city tour which will highlight the WWII and Third Reich sites. We'll have free time for shopping and exploring this magnificent town. We'll visit Dachau Concentration Camp where Ray will conduct a walking tour and will point out the plaque to the 20<sup>th</sup> AD which was dedicated during one of their tours. Our farewell dinner will be in the world famous Hofbrauhaus beer hall.

7: Return to USA (BB) Tour members will be transferred to Munich International Airport for their return to the USA or other destinations.

## **INCLUSIONS**

- ✓ CRISTY AND RAY PFEIFFER AS TOUR DIRECTORS – TOGETHER THEY HAVE 56 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN GUIDING TOURS FOR AMERICANS IN THE AREAS WE WILL BE VISITING
- ✓ FIRST CLASS HOTELS ALL WITH PRIVATE BATH
- ✓ BUFFET BREAKFAST EACH MORNING
- ✓ WELCOME DINNER WITH DRINK IN BASTOGNE AND FAREWELL DINNER WITH DRINK AT THE HOFBRAUHAUS BEER HALL IN MUNICH
- ✓ LUNCH IN WIRTZFELD, BELGIUM
- ✓ DELUXE MOTOR COACH WITH REST ROOM
- ✓ PRIVATE RECEPTION IN CLERVAUX
- ✓ TRINKSMEISTER CEREMONY IN ROTHENBURG
- ✓ PRIVATE WREATH LAYING CEREMONY AT LUXEMBOURG AMERICAN CEMETERY
- ✓ ENTRANCE TO MUSEUMS INDICATED
- ✓ BOAT RIDE ON LAKE KONIGSEE

**PRICE LAND ONLY BASED ON TWO PERSONS SHARING A ROOM**

**\$3299 PER PERSON - LAND ONLY**

**\$500 FOR SINGLE TRAVELERS NOT WISHING TO SHARE A ROOM**