



THE NATIONAL
WWII MUSEUM
TRAVEL

WWII HISTORY FOR THE HOLIDAYS RHINE RIVER CRUISE

A HISTORIAN-LED VOYAGE ON THE RHINE FROM AMSTERDAM TO STRASBOURG

DECEMBER 1-9, 2027

Amsterdam | Nijmegen | Wesel | Cologne | Bonn | Mainz | Heidelberg | Strasbourg



Featuring Military Historians and Authors
John C. McManus, PhD, and James M. Fenelon

Plus, travel with **Shane Taylor**, who
portrayed Eugene "Doc" Roe in *Band of Brothers*



Book by November 30, 2026,
and save \$1,000 per couple!

Dear World Traveler,

I invite you to join The National WWII Museum’s Educational Travel Program on an extraordinary voyage along the Rhine River that combines immersive historical exploration with the festive spirit of the holiday season.

Aboard the exclusively chartered *Transcend Connect*, sail the Rhine from Amsterdam to Strasbourg on a thoughtfully designed nine-night voyage that brings history to life. Trace the final months of the Allied campaign across northwestern Europe, visiting the very locations where dramatic events helped shape the outcome of the war.

Throughout the journey, distinguished military historians and authors John C. McManus, PhD, and James M. Fenelon will provide expert insight into pivotal operations, including Operation Market Garden, the Airborne crossings at Nijmegen, and the Allied advance across the Rhine into Germany. Adding a unique perspective, Shane Taylor (Eugene “Doc” Roe) from the acclaimed HBO series *Band of Brothers* will join us to relate the stories of Easy Company portrayed on screen with the actions that unfolded during the last year of the war.

Each port of call offers a selection of carefully curated excursions, allowing you to personalize your experience according to your interests. *Transcend Connect* provides an ideal onboard setting for engaging lectures, film screenings, and discussions, all while sailing through panoramic landscapes of castles, vineyards, and historic towns along the Rhine.

This tour takes place during the Christmas season, so you’ll also have the opportunity to experience some of Europe’s most beloved holiday markets in cities such as Cologne, Bonn, and Mainz. A festive atmosphere, seasonal traditions, and local specialties create a memorable complement to the included WWII historical touring.

Extend your journey by adding an optional pre-tour extension in Amsterdam or Dunkirk, and/or add an optional post-tour extension in France. Full details on these expert-led itineraries are included on pages 24-29 of this brochure.

I hope you will join us for this remarkable experience.

Warm regards,



Stephen J. Watson
President & CEO
The National WWII Museum



WWII MUSEUM TRAVEL TOUR MANAGERS VISIT A HOLIDAY MARKET IN GERMANY WITH *BAND OF BROTHERS* ACTORS ROBIN LAING (PRIVATE FIRST CLASS EDWARD J. “BABE” HEFFRON) AND SHANE TAYLOR (TECHNICIAN FOURTH GRADE EUGENE G. “DOC” ROE).





Rated the top attraction in New Orleans and among the best museums in the world, The National WWII Museum explores the story of the American experience in World War II through immersive exhibits, multimedia experiences, educational resources, and an expansive collection of artifacts and personal accounts. The Museum's New Orleans campus provides vivid insight into *the war that changed the world*, but nothing can tell its story more dramatically than a visit to the sites where victory was fought for and won.

As part of the nation's preeminent institution for preserving and sharing WWII history, the Museum's Travel Program is dedicated to providing the highest quality educational content by creating custom-curated itineraries, arranging the finest boutique hotel accommodations, procuring comprehensive local culinary experiences in the countries we visit, and touring aboard premium motor coaches and cruise ships. Experience a journey in first-class comfort to the beaches, bridges, cities, and villages where crucial battles took place and history-defining decisions were made.

Traveling with The National WWII Museum offers a unique and enriching experience that goes beyond typical group tour itineraries—it provides a meaningful journey that honors the past while inspiring future generations.

MUSEUM MISSION

The National WWII Museum tells the story of the American experience in *the war that changed the world*—why it was fought, how it was won, and what it means today—so that all generations will understand the price of freedom and be inspired by what they learn.



BATTLE OF THE BULGE GALLERY IN THE MUSEUM'S ROAD TO BERLIN EXHIBIT



TOP DECK ON TRANSCEND CONNECT



TOUR GUESTS IN THE HÜRTGEN FOREST



TRAVEL WITH THE AUTHORITY ON WWII EDUCATION:

EXPERT-LED EXPERIENCES

Our tours are guided by a combination of expert historians, local guides, and Museum staff members who provide in-depth insights, drawing from our immense collections of artifacts, oral histories, and personal accounts from WWII veterans that you won't find on other tours.

IMMERSIVE LEARNING

Each tour is designed to offer a deep dive into World War II, engaging lifelong learners of all backgrounds—from those with a vast knowledge of history to others just beginning to explore the events that shaped our world.

ENGAGING COMMUNITY

Our tours have created a community of passionate history enthusiasts who often have personal links to those who fought and won the war. Our itineraries include opportunities to foster meaningful connections with other travelers who share an interest in understanding the past.

SUPPORTING OUR MISSION

By traveling with us, you contribute to the preservation of WWII history and support educational initiatives that honor the sacrifices made during the war.

LUXURY ACCOMMODATIONS AND FINE DINING

Our team supports the local economies of the places we visit, staying in hand-selected boutique hotel accommodations and providing dining experiences that showcase locally sourced ingredients.





PRICING

Book by November 30, 2026, and save \$1,000 per couple!

1-Bedroom Suites

~~\$17,999~~ \$16,999 per person based on double occupancy

Deluxe Staterooms (30 available)

~~\$14,999~~ \$13,999 per person based on double occupancy

Solo Travelers contact the Travel Team for pricing and availability

\$5,000 per person deposit to register | \$399 per person taxes and fees are additional

INCLUSIONS

- Nine-night cruise aboard the exclusively chartered *Transcend Connect*
- Daily touring and nightly conversations with featured cruise historians and *Band of Brothers* actor
- A custom collection of “design your own journey” included shore excursions
- Full-time logistical tour managers
- Expert local battlefield guides
- All meals aboard *Transcend Connect*
- Beer, wine, spirits, coffee, water, tea, and soft drinks throughout the cruise
- Personal listening devices on all included excursions
- Entrance fees to all sites, museums, and attractions on included excursions
- Video oral history presentations from the Museum’s collection
- Private, air-conditioned motor coach transportation on all shore excursions
- Roundtrip airport transfers (when arriving and departing on scheduled group tour dates)*
- Gratuities to shipboard crew, guides, drivers, and porters
- Informative specially curated keepsake guidebook including useful battlefield maps and archival images to be used throughout your journey
- Personalized luggage tags and customized name badge

*Airport transfers are included with additional hotel nights if booked through the Educational Travel Department.



JOHN C. MCMANUS, PHD

AUTHOR AND MILITARY HISTORIAN

John C. McManus is Curators' Distinguished Professor of US Military History at Missouri University of Science and Technology and one of the world's leading historians of World War II. He has written 15 books, most of which cover some aspect of the American combat experience in World War II, including *The Americans at D-Day*; *The Americans at Normandy*; and *The Dead and Those About to Die: D-Day: The Big Red One at Omaha Beach*. Other relevant titles include *September Hope: The American Side of a Bridge Too Far*; *Alamo in the Ardennes*; *Grunts: Inside the American Infantry Combat Experience*, *World War II Through Iraq*, and most recently a trilogy about the US Army in the Asia-Pacific theater. His next project is a comprehensive biography of General Matthew Ridgway, who commanded the 82nd Airborne Division and the XVIII Airborne Corps in World War II. McManus has made hundreds of appearances as an expert commentator for radio and television outlets as well as in numerous major documentaries for PBS, The History Channel, Netflix, the Smithsonian Network, Discovery Channel, National Geographic, and others.



JAMES M. FENELON

AUTHOR AND MILITARY HISTORIAN

James M. Fenelon is a former US Army airborne paratrooper, pathfinder, and jumpmaster whose writing brings readers into the chaos, courage, and human drama of WWII combat. Drawing on his military experience and years of battlefield research across Europe and the Pacific, Fenelon crafts vivid, character-driven narratives that place readers alongside the soldiers who fought history's most decisive battles. He is the author of *Four Hours of Fury*, the gripping account of the 17th Airborne Division's combat jump across the Rhine in March 1945, and *Angels Against the Sun*, which chronicles the 11th Airborne Division's brutal campaign through the Philippines and their role as the vanguard of the occupation of Japan. His work has been recognized by the Association of the United States Army and is studied by officers of the 101st Airborne Division. Fenelon's next book explores the 101st Airborne's desperate fight for Carentan and the pivotal role it played in securing the success of the American landings in Normandy.



SHANE TAYLOR

BAND OF BROTHERS ACTOR, TECHNICIAN FOURTH GRADE
EUGENE G. "DOC" ROE

Shane Taylor was born on the South Coast of England and attended the Webber Douglas Academy of Dramatic Art in London, where he won the Cameron Mackintosh Scholarship award. Taylor's first-ever screen role came as a teenager playing a page boy in Franco Zeffirelli's *Hamlet* starring Mel Gibson, an experience that would stay with him and influence his future course of action. After graduating from drama school and working in television and theater, Taylor landed the role of a lifetime playing Eugene "Doc" Roe in the Emmy Award-winning HBO miniseries *Band of Brothers*.



LEFT: SERVICE PORTRAIT OF EUGENE "DOC" ROE
RIGHT: SHANE TAYLOR IN BAND OF BROTHERS

OPTIONAL PRE-TOUR EXTENSION PROGRAMS:

OCCUPATION AND RESISTANCE
IN AMSTERDAM

featuring Alexandra Richie, DPhil

See page 24 for more information

OR

DUNKERQUE:
ACROSS TWO WARS

featuring James Holland

See page 26 for more information

NOVEMBER 28 – DECEMBER 1, 2027

ITINERARY

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2027

ARRIVE IN AMSTERDAM | TRANSFER TO TRANSCEND CONNECT

Arrive at Amsterdam Airport Schiphol (AMS) and transfer to Transcend Connect. This evening, enjoy a welcome reception with featured historians and cruise staff, followed by dinner at your leisure. After dinner, attend a screening of *Band of Brothers* Episode 4, “Replacements,” followed by a conversation with actor Shane Taylor and featured historians in the Lounge.

Accommodations: Transcend Connect (R, D)

A DUTCH GIRL WAVES AN AMERICAN FLAG AT MARCHING AMERICAN SOLDIERS, HOLLAND, SEPTEMBER 1944. FROM THE COLLECTION OF THE NATIONAL WWII MUSEUM, 2004.311.090_1



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2027

NIJMEGEN

Excursion Option 1 (Historical): British 1st Airborne

Discover the British Airborne experience during the Battle of Arnhem at Airborne Museum Hartenstein. Hartenstein served as the headquarters of the British 1st Airborne Division from September 18–25, 1944. Located in Oosterbeek, the Netherlands, it is the only museum dedicated to the Battle of Arnhem, a key part of Operation Market Garden, during which the Allies attempted to form a bridgehead on the northern banks of the Rhine River in September 1944. After lunch on your own in Arnhem, learn about various Allied offensives taken to secure crucial crossing points during Market Garden. On an afternoon walking tour, learn about the bravery of soldiers like Lieutenant Colonel John Frost, who led 740 British paratroopers in taking the Arnhem Bridge in September 1944, and of 82nd Airborne troops at Nijmegen who fought for the bridge over the Waal River.



Excursion Option 2 (Historical): American 101st Airborne

In September 1944, the Allies launched Operation Market Garden, a daring airborne operation meant to secure a crucial Rhine River crossing and advance into northern Germany. Although it ultimately failed to achieve its objectives, the determination and courage shown by the airborne troops and the units that assisted them made Market Garden one of World War II's most famous battles. Explore the actual battle sites where Easy Company fought, and learn how the 101st Airborne fit into Operation Market Garden at Nuenen, Zon Bridge, and Logtenburg. After lunch at historic Hotel Erica, visit the Schoonderlogt estate and then see where Dick Winters led the attack at “the Crossroads,” the subject of Episode 5 of *Band of Brothers*.

Evening Activities for All Guests:

This evening, enjoy a lecture from featured historians and dinner at your leisure. After dinner, attend a screening of *Band of Brothers* Episode 5, “Crossroads,” followed by a conversation with actor Shane Taylor and featured historians in the Lounge.

Accommodations: Transcend Connect (B, L, D)

T. MOFFATT BURRISS
1919–2019

British Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery proposed Operation Market Garden to secure a bridge across the Lower Rhine in Arnhem with a bold, concentrated thrust through the Netherlands. He planned for the paratroopers to capture a series of bridges to protect the route of advancing ground forces, with the 82nd Airborne Division assigned to the Nijmegen area.



On September 17, 1944, T. Moffatt Burriss, in command of Company I, 3rd Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, arrived at his drop zone and secured the Grave Bridge within an hour: “If ever we made a perfect jump, this was it.” Two days later, Burriss received orders to take the bridge at Nijmegen, which was holding up the Allied advance, by crossing the Waal River in small boats and attacking from the north side.

The Waal stretched 300 yards across and flowed with swirling currents at the crossing point. Adding to the danger, the boats arrived late and consisted of plywood bottoms and green canvas sides. Seeing the boats, Burriss thought they “wouldn’t make it across a swimming pool.” The boats also lacked enough paddles, requiring most of the men to use their rifle butts instead.

Burriss later remembered that when the crossing began, the “sky was raining bullets” from intense German machine-gun fire from the opposite bank. Half the troops fell in the crossing, but Burriss landed with his men, eliminated the German positions guarding the river, and proceeded to the bridge, securing it several hours later.

Despite heroic actions like the Waal crossing from Burriss and his men, the ground forces could not reach Arnhem in time. Traffic jams on “Hell’s Highway,” combined with fierce resistance from German units undetected by intelligence before the battle, turned a potential strategic shortcut into a vulnerability in the Allied front lines. Crossing the Rhine and the final push into Germany would have to wait for another time and another place.

Hear Burriss tell his own story in the Digital Collections of The National WWII Museum:



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2027
WESEL

Visit the sites of Operation Varsity where 16,000 paratroopers and 2,700 planes took part in the largest airborne operation to take place in one day at one location. Retrace the steps of the 17th Airborne Division, from their drop zones surrounding Diersfordt Castle to “Burp Gun Corner,” where 40 glider pilots held the crossroads against hundreds of Germans. Continue to Wesel, which was almost entirely destroyed by bombing as a precursor to Operations Plunder and Varsity. These respective amphibious and airborne portions of the effort to cross the Rhine started on the night of March 23, 1945; Wesel was captured by the British 1st Commando Brigade by early the next morning. Enjoy lunch at Hotel Wacht am Rhein (Watch on the Rhine) where Winston Churchill, Dwight D. Eisenhower, and Bernard Montgomery watched Allied troops cross the Rhine. Die Wacht am Rhein is the name of a 19th-century German patriotic poem and anthem about defending Germany at the banks of the river and was the Nazi code name for the Ardennes Offensive—also known as the Battle of the Bulge. Continue to the Memorial to the POW Enclosure at Büderich, where the Allies held captured German soldiers as the war ended. Today’s excursion ends with a driving tour of the March 24, 1945, crossing sites of the US 30th “Old Hickory” Infantry Division near Rheinberg.

Accommodations: Transcend Connect (B, L, D)



WINSTON CHURCHILL, DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER, AND BERNARD MONTGOMERY WATCH ALLIED TROOPS CROSS THE RHINE, MARCH 25, 1945.

HOTEL WACHT AM RHEIN



THE TWIN SPIRES OF
THE COLOGNE CATHEDRAL
RISE ABOVE WAR-DAMAGED
BUILDINGS IN COLOGNE,
GERMANY, APRIL 1945.

FROM THE COLLECTION
OF THE NATIONAL WWII
MUSEUM, 2013.221.080

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2027
COLOGNE

Explore the former headquarters of the Cologne Gestapo, the NS Documentation Center, where the Nazi regime carried out surveillance, interrogations, deportations, and executions. In the building’s preserved basement jail cells, hundreds of inscriptions left by prisoners offer an extraordinarily intimate and moving testament to those who endured Nazi persecution. Today it serves as a memorial to the victims of Nazi Germany.

Cologne was a vital railway hub and the target of the first thousand-bomber raid the night of May 30–31, 1942, by Royal Air Force Bomber Command. In 1945, a famous tank duel ensued as US First Army forces fought for control of the city. Tour the Old Town on foot and see the famous medieval Cologne Cathedral that miraculously survived multiple bomb hits.

Lunch and the afternoon are free to enjoy the Cologne Christmas Markets or return to the ship for lunch and leisure time. This evening, join fellow travelers in the Lounge for an after-dinner lecture by a featured historian.

Accommodations: Transcend Connect (B, D)



WINTERTIME VIEW OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS
IN COLOGNE’S OLD TOWN ALONG THE
RHINE, INCLUDING THE ROMANESQUE
GREAT ST. MARTIN CHURCH AND THE
COLOGNE CATHEDRAL



WWII VETERAN BUCK MARSH VISITS THE GRAVE OF HIS FRIEND ROBERT L. MORRIES IN HENRI-CHAPELLE AMERICAN CEMETERY, BELGIUM. MORRIES, 19, WAS KILLED IN ACTION IN COLOGNE, GERMANY, ON MARCH 7, 1945.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2027
BONN

Excursion Option 1 (Full-Day Touring, Historical):

Pay tribute to the 7,987 Americans buried at Henri-Chapelle Cemetery in Belgium. Covering 57 acres, headstones are arranged in gentle arcs sweeping across a broad green lawn, memorializing the military dead, most of whom lost their lives during the advance of the US Armed Forces into Germany.

Visit the Hürtgen Forest, the site of the longest battle on German ground that took place from September 19 through December 16, 1944, near the Belgian border. After an included lunch with the group, continue to Remagen, where the 9th Armored Division stumbled upon the intact Ludendorff Bridge on March 7, 1945, capturing it and securing the first bridgehead across the Rhine. The bridge collapsed 10 days later after continued German bombardment, but by then Allied engineers had constructed new pontoon bridges.

DESTROYED REMAGEN BRIDGE, GERMANY, 1945. THE BRIDGE COLLAPSED 10 DAYS AFTER ITS CAPTURE, BUT BY THAT TIME OTHER CROSSINGS HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED ACROSS THE RHINE. FROM THE COLLECTION OF THE NATIONAL WWII MUSEUM, 2013.297.236_1



ORDENSBURG VOGELSANG, GERMANY

Excursion Option 2 (Half-Day Touring, Historical):

On a commanding hill in the Hürtgen Forest, the Nazis built a dominating concrete structure known as Ordensburg Vogelsang (Order Castle). Distinct from the medieval castles that dot western Germany, this complex was meant to demonstrate the party's domination over nature. Completed in 1936, Vogelsang was a training center for future Nazi Party bureaucrats. With training in racial ideology, the graduates of this center would carry out Nazi policy throughout the occupied territories. The complex closed in 1939. It was used as a training center for the Belgian military after the war, and today it is an “international place” dedicated to peace and refuting the Nazi ideas that were once promoted inside. Lunch and your afternoon are free to explore the Bonn Christmas Market or return to the ship.

Excursion Option 3 (Full-Day Touring, Cultural):

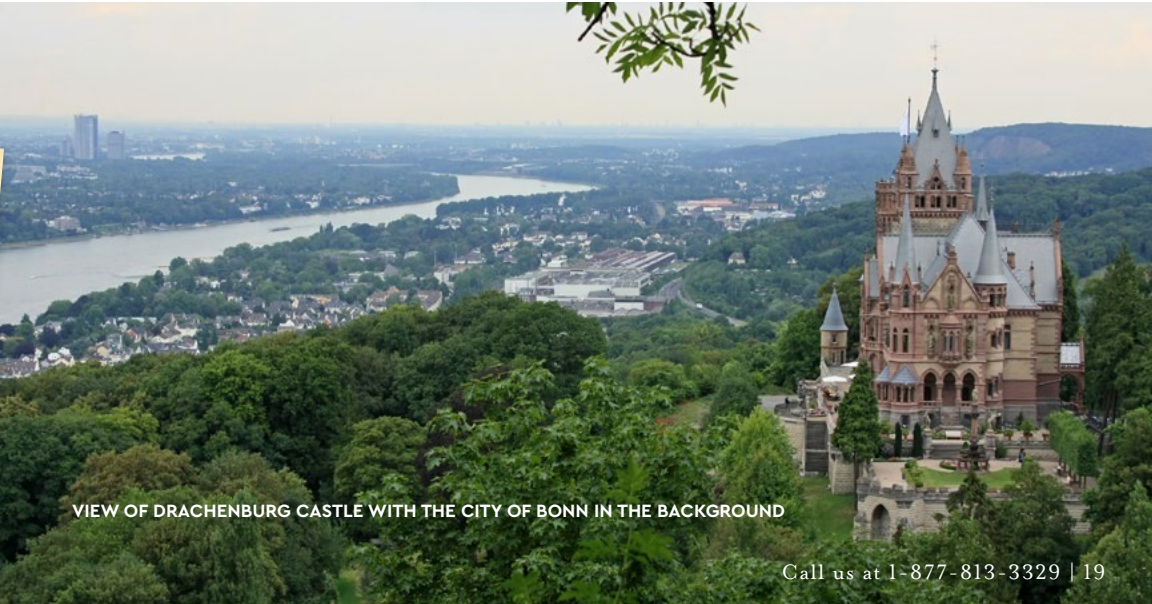
Visit Drachenburg Castle, constructed in the late 19th century for Baron Stephan von Sarter. He died before ever living in the castle, and it passed through many hands through the years, including the Catholic order of De La Salle Brothers in the 1930s. During the war, Drachenburg Castle served as an Adolf Hitler School for the German Labor Front.

Next, visit Beethoven-Haus Bonn and see the birthplace of Ludwig van Beethoven. Today, the museum houses the largest collection of his original manuscripts, personal items, and instruments.

Evening Activities for All Guests:

After dinner, gather in the Lounge for a lecture from the featured historians and enjoy a Beethoven concert before bed.

Accommodations: Transcend Connect (B, D)



VIEW OF DRACHENBURG CASTLE WITH THE CITY OF BONN IN THE BACKGROUND

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2027****KOBLENZ****Scenic Cruising Day**

Relax onboard while sailing along the Rhine, and take in the spectacular landscapes of Germany. Midday, join fellow travelers on the top deck for a hot cocoa and glühwein (German hot mulled wine) reception while viewing castles, vineyards, and other notable landmarks. Additional optional activities include presentations by the featured historians and a screening of the 1970 film *Patton*.

Accommodations: *Transcend Connect (B, L, D)*



AERIAL OF OBERWESEL, ONE OF MANY SCENIC TOWNS YOU WILL PASS CRUISING ON THE RHINE.



MARKET SQUARE IN MAINZ, GERMANY

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2027**MAINZ****Excursion Option 1 (Historical):**

For our more adventurous guests, visit Mainz Underground* and see the network of underground forts, cellars, and tunnels in Mainz that were used as air raid shelters starting in 1943. (* Increased Activity Level + Limited Capacity: Participants must be able to navigate steps without railings, tight spaces, and long periods of standing.)

OR

Visit Mainz Citadel, which served as prisoner-of-war camp Oflag XII-B for Belgian, British, Dutch, and French officers.

This afternoon, continue to Nierstein and Oppenheim, where Patton's Third Army conducted its "silent crossing" of the Rhine. On March 22–23, 1945, American troops from the 5th Infantry Division crossed using small assault boats without preparatory bombardment. Patton achieved both of his goals of catching the Germans by surprise and beating Montgomery's forces across the Rhine by a day.

Excursion Option 2 (Cultural) or Morning at Leisure:

Spend the morning at the Mainz Christmas Markets or enjoy a morning at leisure on the ship.

All travelers gather for lunch and wine tasting. Dinner and evening at leisure on the ship.

Accommodations:

Transcend Connect (B, L, D)

AMERICAN INFANTRYMEN BOARD A FLOATING BARGE IN NIERSTEIN, GERMANY, MARCH 1945. FROM THE COLLECTION OF THE NATIONAL WWII MUSEUM, 2004.311.063



Call us at 1-877-813-3329 | 21



HEIDELBERG CASTLE AND OLD TOWN

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2027
HEIDELBERG

The final day of the tour starts at Campbell Barracks and the nearby “Mark Twain Village.” This property was used as Headquarters for NATO land forces from 1948 to 2013. It is named after Staff Sergeant Charles L. Campbell of the 71st Infantry Division, who posthumously received the Distinguished Service Cross for leading a patrol across the Rhine near Mannheim. He was killed covering the withdrawal of his patrol as they made their way back across the river with valuable intelligence. Discover the Heiligenberg Thingstätte, an open-air theater completed by the Third Reich in 1935 as part of the Thingspiel movement, a kind of multidisciplinary outdoor theater performance popular in prewar Nazi Germany. Next, visit the German War Cemetery and memorial to soldiers who died in both World Wars. Soldiers are buried both individually and in groups under 180 total crosses. Spend time at the Documentation and Cultural Center of German Sinti and Roma, a memorial to and exhibition on people from those groups killed by the Nazis. Return to the ship for lunch onboard. This afternoon, visit Heidelberg Castle, which has been the site of a castle since at least 1214. The castle escaped damage from the war because Heidelberg’s lack of industry kept it off the target list for Allied bombers.

This evening, gather one last time in the Lounge for a final conversation with featured historians and special guests.
Accommodations: Transcend Connect (B, L, D)



HEILIGENBERG THINGSTÄTTE NEAR HEIDELBERG

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2027
DISEMBARK IN STRASBOURG

Disembark Transcend *Connect* and transfer to Strasbourg Airport (SXB) or Basel Airport (BSL) OR join the *Patton’s Third Army* post-tour **(B)**

Optional Pre-Tour Extension Program

OCCUPATION AND RESISTANCE IN AMSTERDAM

featuring *Alexandra Richie, DPhil*

NOVEMBER 28 – DECEMBER 1, 2027 | 3 NIGHTS

STARTING AT \$3,899

Join renowned historian Alexandra Richie for a compelling exploration of wartime courage and tragedy in the Netherlands. Begin your journey in Haarlem, a picturesque Dutch city renowned for its vibrant flower markets and rich cultural heritage, and step into one of the city's most powerful historic sites: the Corrie ten Boom House. This humble home once served as a secret refuge for Jews fleeing Nazi persecution. Today, it stands as a moving testament to the bravery of ordinary citizens who risked everything to save their neighbors.



Confront the grim machinery of deportation that swept across the Netherlands during the Holocaust at Westerbork, once a refugee center that was transformed into a transit camp—the ominous “gateway to hell”—from which over 100,000 Jews, Roma, and Resistance members were sent east to death camps like Auschwitz and Sobibór.

Conclude your experience in Amsterdam, where the echoes of resistance still linger in the city's cobbled streets and quiet canals. Take part in a specially curated walking tour and visit the Dutch Resistance Museum, where stories of defiance, sabotage, and survival come to life. Through the lens of those who stood up to tyranny, you'll gain a deeper understanding of the Dutch experience under Nazi occupation.

ITINERARY

NOVEMBER 28, 2027

Fly into Amsterdam Airport Schipol (AMS) / Welcome Reception, Dinner, and Lecture by Dr. Alexandra Richie

Accommodations: InterContinental Amstel (R, D)

NOVEMBER 29, 2027

Transfer to Haarlem / Guided walking tour / Corrie ten Boom House / Lunch on own / Amsterdam Christmas Canal Cruise

Accommodations: InterContinental Amstel (B)

NOVEMBER 30, 2027

Westerbork Transit Camp / Group lunch / Evening at leisure

Accommodations: InterContinental Amstel (B, L)

DECEMBER 1, 2027

Dutch Resistance Museum / Amsterdam guided walking tour / Transfer to Transcend Connect to embark on the History for the Holidays Rhine River Cruise (B)



CHRISTMAS TIME AT THE SPIEGELGRACHT IN THE OLD TOWN OF AMSTERDAM

Optional Pre-Tour Extension Program

DUNKERQUE: ACROSS TWO WARS

featuring James Holland

NOVEMBER 28 – DECEMBER 1, 2027 | 3 NIGHTS

STARTING AT \$3,899

The landscapes of France and Flanders witnessed some of the fiercest fighting of both World Wars. On this special pre-tour led by historian and best-selling author James Holland, travel through the battlefields and historic landscapes of northern France and Belgium, exploring the experiences of those who fought, lived, and died here and the lasting impact of two World Wars on the region.

Begin in the enchanting medieval city of Bruges, where a guided walking tour brings the city's wartime history to life. Learn the remarkable history of Michelangelo's *Bruges Madonna*, one of the masterpieces looted by the Nazis during World War II.

Continue to Dunkirk, where more than 338,000 Allied troops were evacuated from the beaches between May 26 and June 4, 1940, in one of the most remarkable rescue operations in military history. Walk along the beaches of Malo-les-Bains, see the historic East Mole, and visit the Operation Dynamo Museum and Fort des Dunes to better understand the desperate days of the evacuation. Enjoy a special group lunch aboard the historic *Princess Elizabeth*, the paddle steamer that made four crossings during Operation Dynamo and helped rescue 1,673 Allied soldiers.

From Dunkirk, travel into the Pas-de-Calais to La Coupole to view the surviving remnants of Nazi Germany's V-weapons program. Hidden within a chalk quarry, this enormous concrete dome was constructed as a storage, preparation, and launch facility for the revolutionary V-2 rocket. The facility's construction did not go unnoticed. Allied reconnaissance identified the site, and, beginning in March 1944, it became the target of a sustained bombing campaign. The Germans abandoned the site in August 1944, and Allied forces took possession in September. Today, the vast underground complex offers a glimpse into both the ambition of Nazi Germany's weapons program and the technological legacy that would eventually help usher in the Space Age.

Cross into Belgium and continue toward Ypres, where the story shifts to the trenches of World War I. Explore this landscape of trenches, cemeteries, and shell craters, including the site of the first large-scale use of poison gas on the Western Front.

Traveling to Amsterdam, the landscapes of Flanders provide a powerful reminder that the battlefields of one generation became the battlefields of the next. Here, the scars of the two World Wars remain visible, offering a unique opportunity to explore the connections between the conflicts and to hear the stories of the soldiers and civilians who experienced them firsthand.



MENIN GATE BRITISH MEMORIAL AT YPRES IN BELGIUM

ITINERARY

NOVEMBER 28, 2027

Fly into Brussels Airport (BRU) / Transfer to Dunkirk / Stop in Bruges / Guided walking tour / Lunch on own / Arrive in Dunkirk / Welcome Reception, Dinner, and Lecture by James Holland

Accommodations: *Radisson Blu Grand Hotel and Spa Dunkirk (R, D)*

NOVEMBER 29, 2027

Evacuation Beaches / East Mole / Lunch on *Princess Elizabeth* small ship / Operation Dynamo Museum

Accommodations: *Radisson Blu Grand Hotel and Spa Dunkirk (B, L)*

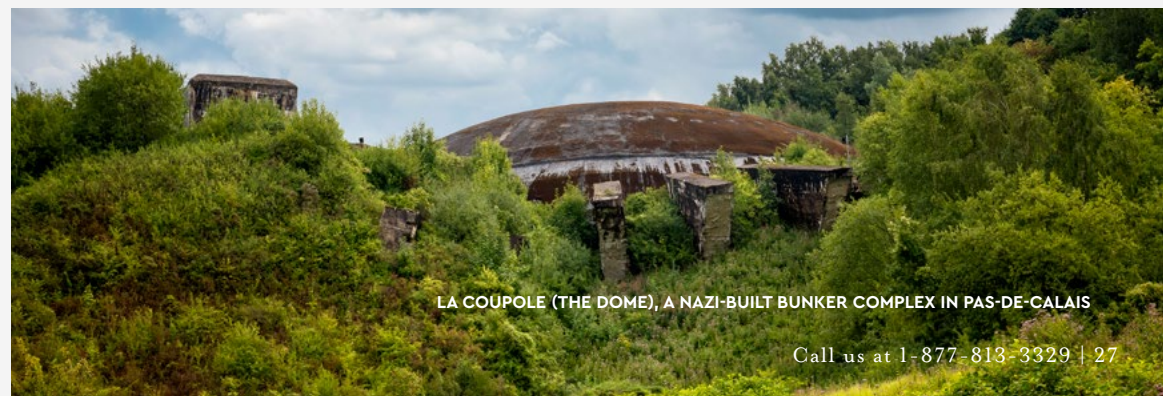
NOVEMBER 30, 2027

Transfer to Saint-Omer / La Coupole History and Memory Center / Lunch on own in Saint-Omer / Optional walking tour of Dunkirk

Accommodations: *Radisson Blu Grand Hotel and Spa Dunkirk (B)*

DECEMBER 1, 2027

Transfer to Amsterdam / Hill 60 / Langemark Cemetery / Ypres / Menin Gate / Lunch on own in Ypres / Transfer to *Transcend Connect* to embark on the History for the Holidays Rhine River Cruise (B)



LA COUPOLE (THE DOME), A NAZI-BUILT BUNKER COMPLEX IN PAS-DE-CALAIS

Optional Post-Tour Extension Program

PATTON’S THIRD ARMY
featuring James Fenelon
DECEMBER 9-15, 2027 | 6 NIGHTS
STARTING AT \$6,499

Steamrolling across France after the breakout from Normandy, General George S. Patton’s US Third Army fought the Lorraine Campaign in Eastern France from September to December 1944. Facing severe fuel shortages, inclement weather, and a fierce German First Army, the offensive stalled on the banks of the Moselle River.



Disembark in Strasbourg and spend the next two days visiting key sites associated with the Battle of the Colmar Pocket and Operation Nordwind. Visit the Lorraine American Cemetery in Saint-Avold, the final resting place of over 10,400 servicemembers and the largest WWII cemetery in Europe.

The next two nights are based in the ancient fortress city of Metz. Hear the stories of the 5th Infantry Division and the hard-fought battle to establish a bridgehead across the Moselle River at Dornot.

Conclude the post-tour with two nights in Reims with visits to Compiègne and the Surrender Museum of May 7, 1945.



MAGINOT LINE BUNKER IN SCHOENENBURG



CHRISTMAS MARKET NEAR STRASBOURG CATHEDRAL

ITINERARY

DECEMBER 9, 2027

Memorial to the Battle of the Colmar Pocket / Alsace Moselle Memorial / Lunch on own in Colmar / Maginot Line Bunkers / Welcome Reception and Lecture by James Fenelon

Accommodations: Sofitel Strasbourg Grande Île (R)

DECEMBER 10, 2027

Natzweiler-Struthof Concentration Camp / Petite France / Wine tasting and group lunch / Strasbourg Cathedral

Accommodations: Sofitel Strasbourg Grande Île (B, L)

DECEMBER 11, 2027

Haguenau / Schoenenbourg Maginot Line Museum / Group lunch / Lorraine American Cemetery

Accommodations: Maison Heler Metz, Curio Collection by Hilton (B, L)

DECEMBER 12, 2027

Arnaville / Dornot / Saint-Dié-des-Vosges / Metz walking tour / Arracourt / Metz Welcome Reception

Accommodations: Maison Heler Metz, Curio Collection by Hilton (B, L, R)

DECEMBER 13, 2027

Verdun / Mourmelon-le-Grand / Reims Cathedral

Accommodations: La Caserne Chanzy Hotel & Spa, Autograph Collection (B)

DECEMBER 14, 2027

Surrender Museum of May 7, 1945 / Compiègne / Farewell Dinner

Accommodations: La Caserne Chanzy Hotel & Spa, Autograph Collection (B, D)

DECEMBER 15, 2027

After breakfast, transfer to Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport (CDG) for your independently scheduled flight home (B)



TRANSCEND CONNECT

Exclusively chartered by The National WWII Museum's Educational Travel program, Transcend Connect is a brand-new luxury vessel that launched on the Rhine River in summer 2026.



We invite you to explore the renderings online for the best viewing experience and the most up-to-date information. Contact the Travel Team for availability on cabin selections and to review our terms and conditions.

Call: 1-877-813-3329 x 257 | Email: travel@nationalww2museum.org



THE FORUM



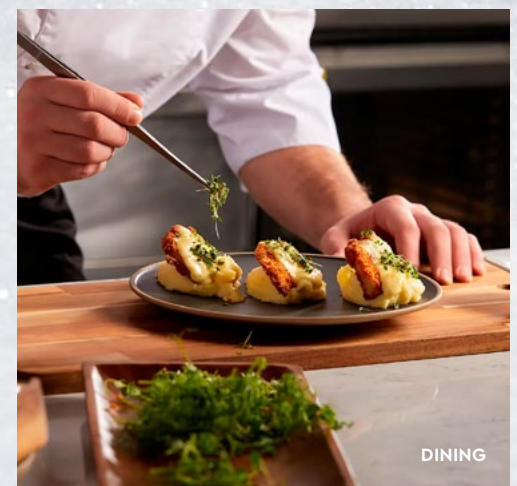
STATEROOM



LOUNGE



TOP DECK



DINING



M-43 FIELD JACKET AND TROUSERS

GIFT OF JAMES PRENINGER, 2001.304.011 AND 2003.333.001

Flight officer James Preninger copiloted his glider during the invasion of Normandy but was wounded by shrapnel on June 7, 1944. He spent six weeks in an Army hospital before returning to his squadron.

Preninger flew the lead glider on his second and final combat mission on March 24, 1945, as part of Operation Varsity, the airborne assault across the Rhine River. Before reaching the landing zone, the C-47 towing Preninger's CG-4 A glider ran into trouble.

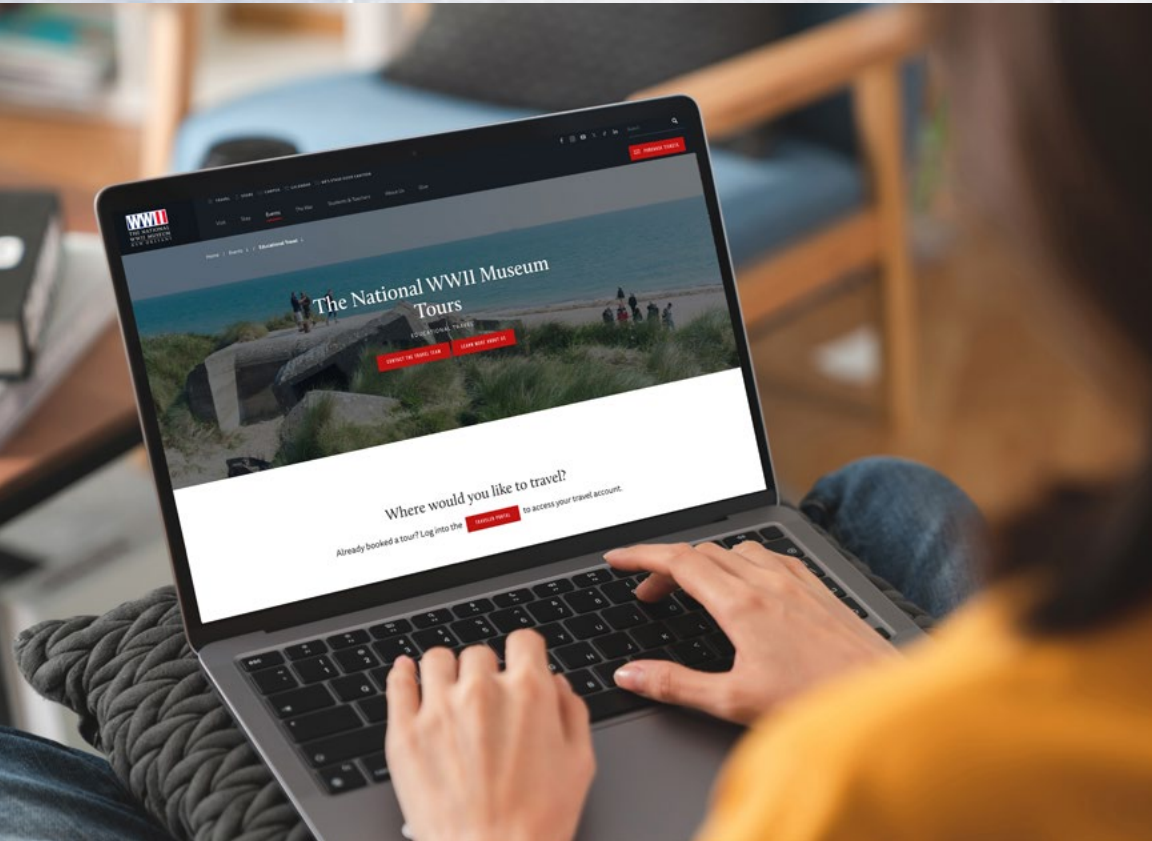
"Colonel Lewis was towing me and Drew Anderson...and just as he crossed the Rhine River, a machine gun nest underneath... [fired and] shot his left engine out. It caught fire...Lewis flew the next nine miles towing two fully loaded gliders on one engine—his right engine. And he flew it all the way. I could see my landing zone. [A] great, big, level field... When I got the green light, I cut off and landed."

SIGNED NAZI FLAG

GIFT OF RICHARD ROOT, 2001.018

Ever since the Normandy landings in June 1944, America's primary objective had been to push across the Rhine River and into Germany. This objective was accomplished on March 7, 1945, when elements of the 9th Armored Division discovered an undamaged bridge at Remagen, Germany. Despite

German attempts to destroy the bridge, the 9th Armored was able to cross and establish a beachhead in Germany. Ten days after the bridge's capture it collapsed, but by that time other crossings had been established across the Rhine. This flag was signed by members of B Company, 14th Tank Battalion, 9th Armored Division, some of whom assisted in the initial capture of the bridge.



Three ways to secure your spot:

1. Call one of our travel specialists at 1-877-813-3329 X 257 or email us at travel@nationalww2museum.org.
2. Scan the QR code below with the camera on your smartphone and follow the instructions online to make your reservation.

BOOK NOW! Prices quoted are based on fares in effect at the time of printing and are subject to change at any time.
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Solo Travelers contact the Travel Team for pricing and availability.

*\$5,000 per person deposit to register | \$399 per person taxes and fees are additional



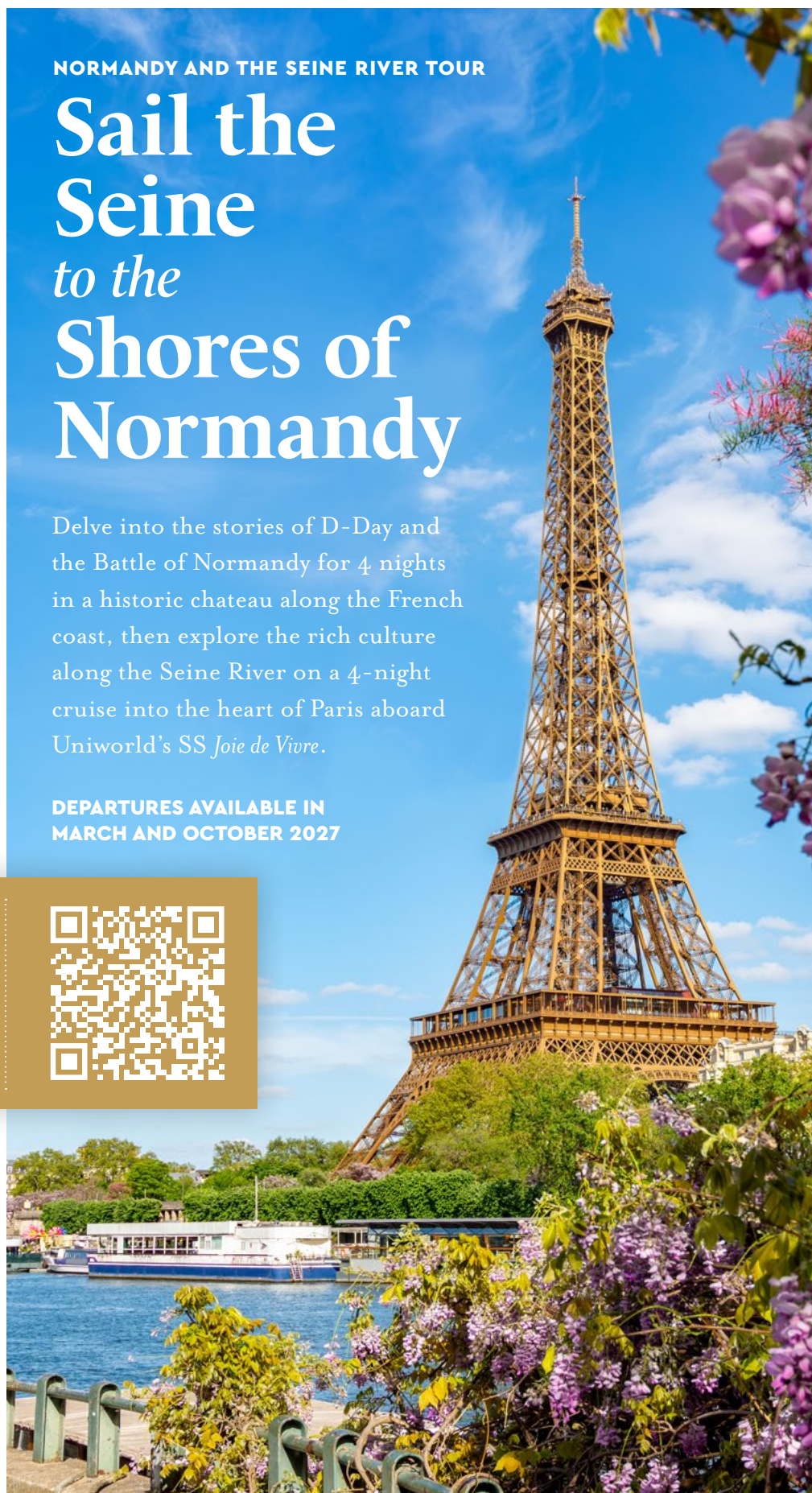
3. Visit ww2museumtours.org for additional information on these tours and for a complete listing of all tours offered by the Educational Travel Program.

NORMANDY AND THE SEINE RIVER TOUR

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Delve into the stories of D-Day and the Battle of Normandy for 4 nights in a historic chateau along the French coast, then explore the rich culture along the Seine River on a 4-night cruise into the heart of Paris aboard Uniworld's SS *Joie de Vivre*.

DEPARTURES AVAILABLE IN
MARCH AND OCTOBER 2027



REELS AND REMEMBRANCE

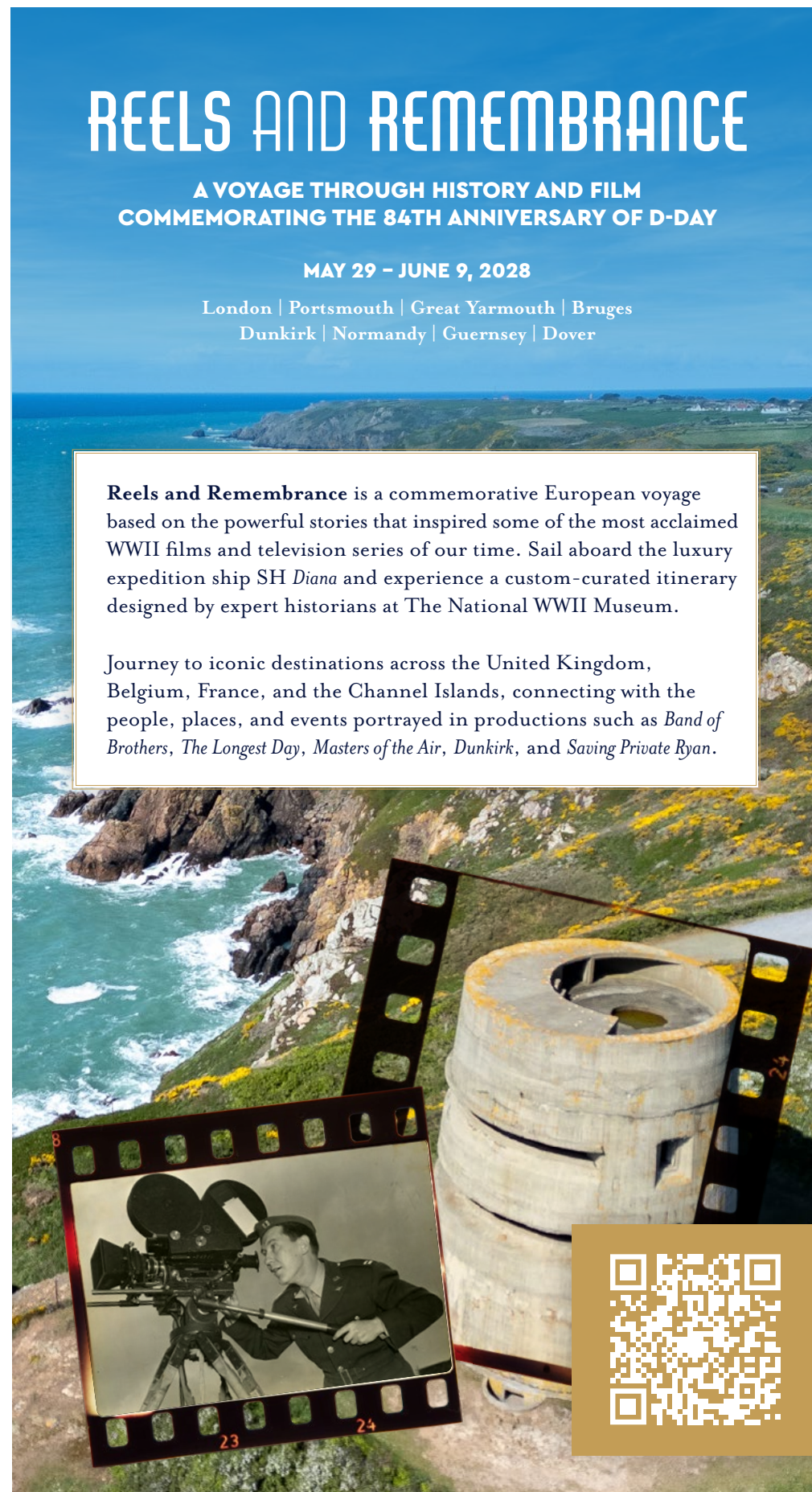
A VOYAGE THROUGH HISTORY AND FILM
COMMEMORATING THE 84TH ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY

MAY 29 – JUNE 9, 2028

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Dunkirk | Normandy | Guernsey | Dover

Reels and Remembrance is a commemorative European voyage based on the powerful stories that inspired some of the most acclaimed WWII films and television series of our time. Sail aboard the luxury expedition ship SH *Diana* and experience a custom-curated itinerary designed by expert historians at The National WWII Museum.

Journey to iconic destinations across the United Kingdom, Belgium, France, and the Channel Islands, connecting with the people, places, and events portrayed in productions such as *Band of Brothers*, *The Longest Day*, *Masters of the Air*, *Dunkirk*, and *Saving Private Ryan*.



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FROM AMSTERDAM TO STRASBOURG

DECEMBER 1-9, 2027

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Christmas and Turkey

SOLDIERS HOLD PLUCKED TURKEYS FOR CHRISTMAS DINNER IN DECEMBER 1944.
FROM THE COLLECTION OF THE NATIONAL WWII MUSEUM, 2008.321.154_1

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