



2024 D-Day Experience Normandy

Newsletter March 2024

Back to historic location next to Château de Vierville

At least once a week, our historian Carry Harts checks the numerous French websites listing events of the 80th anniversary of D-Day in the regions of Normandy. Every time the list of commemorations, celebrations, parades, re-enactment camps, exhibitions and events is growing. We already had to adjust our program. The most positive one is that our Dog Green Camp is back on the field next to Château de Vierville, at the same spot where in June 1944 the camp was of the men who built the American Mulberry Harbor.



Historic tour Battle for Carentan

Our historic tour on June 4, 2024 is focused on the fights of 501 and 506 PIR to create a foothold around St. Côme-du-Mont as a starting point for the attack at Carentan. We start at D-Day Experience, where you can experience personally, what it is like to sit in a C-47 at night when the sky is lit with German FLAK and the plane is crash landing in Normandy. Although it is a simulation, it is very realistic. There is also time to visit Deadman's Corner Museum where you can see for instance, the uniform of Major Dick Winters of Easy Company 506 PIR.



Starting at Angoville-au-Plain, we follow the footsteps of 501 PIR fighting the German paras of the 6. Luftlande Division (airborne) in their efforts to reach Carentan. Over the Causeway of Carentan we drive to the monument for the men of 'Filthy Thirteen', the Demolition Squad of 3rd Battalion 506 PIR. They became famous for their native American-style 'mohawks' and war painted faces, inspired by their Sergeant Jake McNiece who was a Choctaw.

We end our fifth tour at the Normandy Victory Museum in Catz. This beautiful museum shows how French locals lived during the German occupation and during the fights inland between the German and American soldiers in hedgerow country. Outside the museum, there will be a re-enactment camp with German WW2 vehicles.

In front of the museum was the Advanced Landing Ground A-10 Carentan for American P-47 and P-38 fighter planes. It functioned until November 1944.



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Our sixth historic tour: Port-en-Bessin

After four days of early starts, we choose a slow and relax start of day 6 of our BAIV D-Day Normandy Experience. That is why we decided to plan our visit of Port-en-Bessin and its harbor on June 5, 2024. Initially this visit was planned in the Omaha Beach tour. However, we realized that this tour was overloaded with interesting sites, that each need more time to explore.

Port-en Bessin is captured by the British No. 47 Royal Marine Commando that landed on Gold Beach. A memorial on the cliff at the east side of the harbor reminds of their heroic fights.

Port-en-Bessin was chosen to be the first petrol harbor for the allied troops after D-Day. The harbor was operational on D-Day+10 and functioned until October 1944, when PLUTO took over completely.

After the war, the harbor was used for the movie 'The Longest Day' to shoot scenes of the fights for the casino in Ouistreham. Certain spots you can still recognize.



Port-en-Bessin is also a picturesque village, where you can enjoy a drink at one of the many terraces along the fishing harbor or search for nice souvenirs of Normandy for your loved ones at home.

MVCG Liberty Convoy

Recently, we were offered the opportunity to join the Liberty Convoy of MVCG, a French association of collectors of WW2 vehicles. We were pleasantly surprised that we could join this parade with our vehicles and with our group of international participants of the BAIV D-Day Normandy Experience.



The MVCG Liberty Convoy starts at the Overlord Museum in Colleville-sur-Mer and leads over the boulevard along Omaha Beach and the coastal road D514 to Grandcamp-Maisy.

At the harbor of Grandcamp-Maisy the convoy will halt during lunch hours, so that the public has time to admire the vehicles and to ask the owners questions.

In the afternoon, the MVCG Liberty Convoy travels via La Cambe to Isigny-sur-Mer. At the town square, the convoy will halt for a static show for the inhabitants and visitors of the town.

At this moment, the MVCG Liberty Convoy is estimated at more than 300 WW2 army vehicles, including probably 10 tanks. It promises to be a huge event in the area of Omaha and Isigny-sur-Mer, attracting a great number of people.

After consultation with the tank owners -we bring two tanks with us to Normandy- and the participants who bring their own WW2 army vehicle, we decided to join the MVCG Liberty Convoy, as this is a unique opportunity. Participants who do not have an army vehicle in Normandy can ride with us in one of our vehicles, so they can be a part of the Convoy as well.

Visit of historic town Bayeux

The Liberty Convoy is scheduled for June 8, 2024. That day we also have the Farewell Tour Bayeux, a historic tour with in the morning a visit to the Musée de la Bataille de Normandie and the Commonwealth War Cemetery Bayeux. In the afternoon participants can individually fill in their stay at Bayeux: for instance, visit the cathedral, the museum with the tapestry on the quest of William the Conqueror, wandering through the ancient centre or go shopping. We like to offer this tour to our participants as well.



... the choice is yours

As we want to offer all participants the choice what they prefer to do on 8 June 2024, we ask you to inform us which tour you prefer. Would you like to be part of the MVCG Liberty Convoy or do you prefer to visit Bayeux, the first city in Normandy that was liberated? There is a limited number of participants who can join the MVCG Liberty Convoy, so mail your choice MVCG Liberty Convoy or Tour Bayeux quickly to Carry: marketing@baiv.nl .

Live music and entertainment

During the day on June 6, 2024, we are not allowed to leave our campsite at Dog Green Camp. The French local- and regional authorities are very strict in that regulation. However, do not worry: we make sure you do not get bored that day!

For instance, we booked 'Swing the Mood', two singers who will regularly perform songs from the forties during the day. They look and sing a bit like the Andrew Sisters, who were popular during the War.



Furthermore, our electronic wizard Erwin Beijk is working on the possibility to follow in the afternoon on televisions in our mess tent the international ceremony at Omaha Beach with royals, heads of state and the last veterans who made it to come to Normandy this year.



So you do not have to miss anything of the official ceremony at the beach of St. Laurent-sur-Mer.

Band of Brothers at last evening

The last night of our BAIV D-Day Normandy Experience 2024, we organize a Farewell Party in and around our mess tent. For this evening we booked the Dutch music combo 'Band of Brothers'. They play live all kind of music from WW2 to Dixie to modern swing. For the vocals they bring the lovely singer Marike Rispens.

Message from our Paymaster

Last weekend you received another request for payment. We organize the BAIV D-Day Normandy Experience 2024 on a non-profit basis, as this is not our core business. It is our way to contribute to honour the men who brought us freedom in Europe. You probably will understand that organizing such an event is only possible for us, if we can count on timely payment from you.

If you have already transferred the payment, we thank you very much. If you have not yet paid, we request you kindly but strongly to do so immediately.

Officer Tents: experience the event in style and privacy

As an option, it is possible to upgrade your stay at Dog Green Camp, spending the night in a US 'Small Wall' Officers Tent. We purchased 7 tents that were used in the movie 'Charles de Gaulle'. Special about these tents is, that they are actually tents of the movie set, but moreover they are made according to the original US specifications, including the heavy quality canvas. You can't get any better!



At this moment 4 tents already are reserved by participants. So, we still have 3 tents left. The price is Euro 400 per tent for the entire period.

If you like more privacy and want to use this option, please quickly book your Small Wall tent with Carry via E-Mail marketing@baiv.nl.

Shuttle Service

When this newsletter is published, there are only still 65 days left before we welcome you in France. Hopefully you already booked your trip to France.

For those who fly to Paris (Airport Charles de Gaulle) and want to use our shuttle service, we request you to send us your flight details. Only then we can start organizing our shuttle service for the participants who want to use this service.

Therefore, please forward your flight details to Carry at marketing@baiv.nl.

Don't wait too long and inform us today!!!

Next newsletter



In our newsletter of April 2024, we hope to share more information about the program of our BAIV D-Day Normandy Experience 2024. For instance, we hope to have new information from the Mayor of Vierville-sur-Mer about the flower ceremony at 06:30 on June 6, 2024. Also we will tell you more about the historic tour along the beaches where the British and Canadian divisions landed on D-Day.

Check regularly for the latest information on our event:

www.baiv.events