

Preliminary Meeting and Travel Plans

Please be aware that this information is subject to change

Monday June 20, 2022 – Welcome

Arrive and check into rooms at a GW dormitory on the Foggy Bottom Campus, George Washington University.

Welcome at the dorm, Introductions, and Discussion of Plans for the Institute, Eric Arnesen, Professor, The George Washington University, Denver Brunzman, Associate Professor of History, The George Washington University, and Tom Long, Assistant Professor at The George Washington University

Welcome dinner with AHSNI personnel, Southern Engineering Corp., Mr. Robert Perry, Chairman and President of The National Trust for the Humanities, and other dignitaries. Dinner will be in the City View Room, 7th Floor, Elliott School of International Affairs, George Washington University, 1957 E Street, NW, Washington, DC

A nighttime visit to the iconic World War II Memorial, and perhaps the Korean War Veterans Memorial and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, time permitting.

Tuesday 21, 2022 – Context of the Second World War Presentation:

World War II, The Big Picture by Professor Denver Brunzman, George Washington University (former U. S. Army), each presentation will be followed by a question and answer session and a short break

Presentation: The American Army of D-Day - Personnel, Training, Organization, Leadership, Armament by Lt. Colonel John ("Casey") Doss, (United States Army)

Visit to Arlington National Cemetery – Changing of the Guard

Watch Film: The Longest Day (1962), produced by Daryl F. Zanuck, based on the Cornelius Ryan book of the same name.

Wednesday, June 22, 2022 – The War in France and at Home

Presentation: France and the War – Professor Katrin Schultheiss, George Washington University, followed by questions and answers and a short break

Presentation: The Home Front – Professor Eric Arnesen, George Washington University

Visit to the National Archives on Pennsylvania Avenue – to obtain researchers' cards and visit the National Archives Museum (Founding Documents and Records of Rights Exhibit)

Thursday, June 23, 2022 – The Enemy and The Landing

Presentation: The Nazi Enemy; Jeffrey Richter, George Washington University

Visit French Embassy for observance of anniversary of Charles DeGaulle's Appel du 18 Juin, calling upon the French people to resist the Nazis and reception

Presentation: Operation Overlord and the Normandy Campaign (Part I: Planning and Preparation) – by C. Thomas Long, George Washington University

Marine Corps Twilight Parade at the United States Marine Corps Memorial, Iwo Jima and picnic dinner

Movie: Normandy, The Great Crusade (Directed by Christopher Koch, starring Leslie Caron as the voice of Marie Louise Osmont, Discovery Channel production, approx. 90 minutes)

Friday, June 24, 2022 – The Soldiers and the Campaign

Conduct research on Hometown Heroes at the National Archives

Presentation: Operation Overlord and the Normandy Campaign (Part II: Execution) by Professor C. Thomas Long, George Washington University

Saturday, June 25, 2022 – Glimpses of the Motivation for Sacrifice

Visit the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

Visit the Albert H. Small Washingtoniana Collection at the Albert H. Small Center for National Capital Area Studies at the George Washington University Museum

Depart for France

Sunday, June 26, 2022 – The First British Landing and the German Defenses

Travel to Normandy by bus

Visit Pegasus Bridge, site of first British paratroop landing and the Pegasus Bridge Museum

Travel to Ouistreham on Sword Beach and visit the Museum of the Atlantic Wall constructed within a former German artillery range-finding bunker

Visit the Memorial to the British and French Commandos who landed here on D-Day and the Eternal Flame Monument

Travel to German Battery at Longues-sur-Mer, the only battery with large German guns still in place

Check in to the Novotel Hotel in Bayeux, first capital of liberated France and center of the D-Day landing beaches.

Remember, this is the Summer Solstice, the longest day of the year, and there will be a street music festival in Bayeux.

Monday, June 27, 2022 – The First American Landings

(Note that Saturday morning is market day in the square in Bayeux.)

We will enjoy the wonderful buffet breakfast at the Novotel Hotel every morning.

Visit Ste Mère Église, a major objective of the American airborne landings (the town square and Notre Dame de l'Assomption church, with the memorial to the American airborne forces) and visit the Airborne Museum.

Explore the site of Battle of La Fiere, back of Utah Beach

Walk on the sands of Utah Beach, see the Navy and Engineers' Monuments, and visit the Utah Beach Museum.

Travel to the Monument to 2nd French Armored Division (called the 2eme DB by the French) and German Strongpoint 10 (Widerstanznext 10) further up Utah Beach, where there is a Monument to Marshal LeClerc.

Explore Point du Hoc, the iconic site of the American Rangers' landing to scale the cliff and silence the German battery.

Return to Bayeux for dinner in one of the many excellent restaurants.

Tuesday, June 28, 2022 - The Allied Landings and Securing the Lodgment

Proceed to Arromanches, site of the remains of Port Winston, the artificial, Mulberry Harbor erected by the Allies to provide logistical support. We should be there at low tide (9:28) so the remains will be clearly visible.

Travel by bus through Gold Beach, stopping briefly atop the hill overlooking Arromanches for another view of the artificial harbor, then drive on to Juno Beach, the Canadian Sector.

Drive to Courseulles, stop at Cross of Lorraine, where DeGaulle, Winston Churchill, and George VI came ashore (separately, of course).

At Bernieres, in the midst of Juno Beach, we will stop at Canada House and observe the area where Canadian troops had a hard time dealing with the sea wall. We will also stop at the house that served as the first reporters' headquarters, and see an unusual sculpture.

On Sword Beach, we will find the statue to the "Mad Piper", Bill Millen, and encounter some unusual fortifications. There is also a statue of Field Marshall Montgomery in nearby Colleville Montgomery, where we will make a brief.

Strongpoint Hillman was the headquarters of Colonel Ludwig Krug, commander of the 736th Infantry Regiment, the German defenders of Sword Beach area.

At Perrier-sur-le Dan, Marie Louise Osmont's house is now a private residence, but we can observe the area described in her diary, which we will have read.

On D+1, Canadian troops penetrated as far as Authie, before being checked by elements of the 12th SS, Hitler Jugend Division. Nearby is the Abbaye d'Ardenne, Headquarters of Kurt Meyer, commander of the 25th SS Panzergrenadiers, who committed atrocities in this garden.

We will end our day with a visit to the Ranville British Military Cemetery, before returning to Bayeux for dinner and the evening.

Wednesday, June 29, 2022 – Omaha Beach and the Battle of Normandy

Walk on sands of the Dog Green Sector of Omaha Beach, driving past segments of Mulberry Roadway to Vierville (Low tide is at 10:49), visit National Guard monument. This is the

beach that is dramatized in the first 20 minutes of Saving Private Ryan and the beach where the Bedford Boys landed.

Travel east along Omaha Beach, stopping where General Norman Cota landed and led men up the bluffs and pausing briefly at the marker for the site of Temporary Cemetery No. 1.

At Les Moulins Draw is the official French monument by Anne-Laure Banon, entitled Les Braves.

Visit the German Cemetery at La Cambe and note the very different way they choose to honor their dead.

Return to Bayeux for lunch and then visit the Museum of the Bayeux Tapestry and Notre Dame Cathedral of Bayeux (which dates from 1077), and perhaps Place Charles DeGaulle (where he made his address on 14 June 1944 creating the Provisional Government of France), etc.

We will spend some time this afternoon preparing to deliver our Eulogies tomorrow.

Thursday, June 30, 2022 – The Hometown Heroes

We will go directly to the Normandy American Cemetery. We will spend some time in the visitor center, which is really a museum honoring the soldiers buried there and then proceed to the memorial, American Youth Rising from the Waves, to lay a wreath and present our eulogies to the fallen Hometown Heroes.

After some time to reflect on our experience and on our fallen Hometown Heroes, we will have a picnic lunch at 1st Division Monument at strongpoint WN 62, overlooking the Easy Red Sector of Omaha Beach

We will travel to Paris up the Seine Valley, reaching our hotel in time for dinner.

Friday, July 1, 2020 - Paris -Thomas Jefferson: “A walk about Paris will provide lessons in history, beauty and in the point of life.”

This morning our bus will take us past a number of sites that were important in the Occupation, the Resistance, and the Liberation of Paris during World War II:

- Place des Etats-Unis (Statue of Washington and Lafayette, Statue of Jefferson, and monument to the Americans who volunteered in World War I, before the US was in the war.
- French Gestapo Headquarters, 93 Rue Lauriston (between Eiffel Tower and Arc de Triomphe – Not all were in the Resistance.
- Gestapo Headquarters (near the Arc de Triomphe), 84 Avenue Foch
- Arc De Triomphe – from which the Occupation was enforced.
- Down Champs Elysees to Place de la Concorde – route followed by the victory parade in August 1944.
- American Embassy’s Marshall Center at the Hotel du Talleyrand, site of administration of Marshall Plan following the war.

- The Hotel Meurice (location where German General Choltitz surrendered and used by General Eisenhower; official surrender was signed at the Place de Ville near Notre Dame and Sainte Chapelle), 228 Rue de Rivoli. Near the Place de la Concorde and the Hotel du Talleyrand
- 48 rue du Four is the site where the National Council of the Resistance met for the first time on 27 May 1943. (Jean Moulin's apartment was at 26 rue des Plantes) LeClerc established his headquarters at the Gare Montparnasse upon entering Paris.
- Hélène Berr's flat (adjacent to the Eiffel Tower), 5 Avenue Elysees Reclus, the flat occupied by a 22 year-old Jewish French student, who aided Jewish children to escape from Occupied Paris.

We will have the late morning and afternoon to visit some of the major sites of Paris, which we will do in small groups: e.g., Notre Dame, Sainte Chapelle, the Louvre, Eiffel Tower, Arc de Triomphe, Hotel Des Invalides and Napoleon's Tomb, etc.)

We will have a final celebratory dinner at a wonderful restaurant in Paris.

Saturday, July 2, 2022 - Home

This morning, we will say adieu to Paris, travel to Charles DeGaulle Airport for our return flight to Washington Dulles International Airport.