

CROSSING THE RHINE

AN 80TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR OF THE 1945

RHINE CROSSINGS

A commemorative tour in the footsteps of 15th Scottish,
51st Highland and 6th Airborne Divisions 23rd-25th March 2025



March 2025 sees the 80th anniversary of the Crossing of the Rhine by 15th Scottish, 51st Highland and 6th Airborne Divisions in operations Plunder and Varsity. I will be taking a small tour to the battlefields over a 3 day, 2 night weekend from Friday to Sunday at the end of March.

While Monty's plan included a US element, the tour will concentrate on the actions of British 2nd Army under Lt General Miles Dempsey with the two Scottish Divisions and 6th Airborne. Scottish units engaged included the Seaforth, Cameron, Gordon and Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders and the Black Watch, along with the Royal Scots, KOSB, Royal Scots Fusiliers, Cameronians, Glasgow Highlanders and HLI. Also the Grenadier, Scots and Coldstream Guards and 1st Commando Brigade.

Day 1 23rd March

Travel out to Dusseldorf from UK. Book into the superb 5 star Steigenberger Parkhotel. Introductory, fully illustrated talk by Iain Gale. Drinks and dinner.

Day 2

Operation Plunder.

Visit to Monty's HQ at Venlo, established on 23rd March 1945. Visit the battlefield sites of Operation Archway and look at the involvement of the SAS.

On to the sites of Operation Turnscrew: The attacks of 51st Highland Division at Mehr. Including 7th Black Watch at Rees and 7th Argylls. Visits to the key sites of unit actions, including 15th Scottish Division at Wesel and Rees and 1st Commando Brigade at Wesel.



In the Airborne element were the Ox and Bucks, Royal Ulster Rifles and the Devons, 4,5,6, 7, 8, 9, 12 and 13 Parachute battalions, 1st Canadian Parachute battalion and numerous divisional units.

This intimate tour, using original regimental war diaries and first hand accounts, along with a comprehensive set of maps for every tour member. has been designed for between 4 and 6 people. The cost per person (based on two people sharing), is £700. Single room supplement £70.

The price includes two nights b&b in the 5 star Steigenberger Parkhotel, Dusseldorf, two day guided tour, on tour transport around the battlefields, map pack.

Not included are transport to and from

The UK, lunches, dinners and drinks. The tour can be expanded for a small supplementary cost, to 3 nights.

**Enquiries to Iain Gale:
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Follow Churchill and Monty's dangerous venture from Monty's HQ to recreate their famous picnic. Then follow them over the Rhine under fire in enemy territory at Wesel.

Look at the actions of 24th March 1945. Operation Varsity. The Airborne drops and glider landings. 3rd and 5th Parachute Brigades. The Ox and Bucks and Devons at Hamminkeln, the Ulster Rifles at the Issel bridges and the link up with 15th Scottish Division. Dinner and drinks at the hotel.

Day 3

Look at the events of 25-27 March 1945. 7th Black Watch attack into Empel with 1st Black Watch and 7th Argylls. Visit Bienen and the site of the relief of 7th Black Watch by 9th Canadian Brigade. Visit to the Rheinberg British War Cemetery.

Travel back to the UK.