

Waterloo to World War 2 Battlefield Tour

Waterloo to World War 2 (W2WW2) is a week-long Christian leadership program designed for cadets, midshipmen, and recently-commissioned graduates who are about to begin their careers leading the US' and UK's military men and women. W2WW2 includes visits to a wide variety of battlefields, museums, cemeteries, and other historical and cultural sites in Belgium and France.



Waterloo

Participants will learn the strategic, operational, and tactical background behind many key engagements that shaped the history of Europe, from the battle of Waterloo through the WW2 Normandy landings. They will also be mentored in lessons of leadership by examining how individual heroism,

mistakes, neglect, and actions or inaction often drove the outcome of key phases of important battles and campaigns.



Mulberry Harbor at Les Arromanches, Normandy

Additionally, each site offers spiritual object lessons related to leadership, integrity, and character that can be applied to the challenges facing today's young leaders.



Breendonk fortress

W2WW2 is open to all rising military leaders who are serious about their spiritual development and want to integrate it with the leadership principles that they have studied and practiced during their training and education.

Prior to the trip, participants will receive links and other resources that will prepare them to understand the background, outcome, and significance of the events that took place at each site and will help them to more fully appreciate the sites they will visit.



Western Front Battle Sectors in WW1



13th Century Cloth House at Leper

The order in which sites are visited is not strictly chronological. In several locations, battles follow a split chronology because the front lines swept back and forth across the same terrain at different times.

In addition, participants will visit battlefields and fortifications from other wars as the group passes through natural strong points and communication routes that have invited battles for control throughout history. Thus the presentation of the sequence of events in each war is tempered with an ongoing discussion of the timeless principles of warfare and leadership.



Normandy cliffs

W2WW2 is a fast-paced program that is usually run during participants' Spring break. In order to allow for maximum interaction among the participants, the groups are usually limited to 6-8 participants.



WW1 Canadian advance dressing station in Flanders

When possible, the group will normally consist of cadets or midshipmen from the U.S. and U.K. but may include those of other interested countries. A notional itinerary is provided below, but the specific itinerary can be tailored for the particular group.

The team will depart on Saturday, the day after Spring Break begins, arriving in Brussels by early Sunday. Launching right into a full day of activity helps overcome jet lag more quickly. So, after picking up luggage, the



Brussels Grand Place

team will visit places of interest in and around Brussels, including a WW2 concentration camp, a 12th century castle, the Royal Palace, and the Grand Place.

The second day in Europe begins with a trip to Waterloo, which has vantage points where one can see every major significant geographic feature involved in the battle. The visitor center and museum provide good background and present interesting artifacts from the battle, and the group will stop at key points on the battlefield that were critical in the final outcome.



Waterloo cuirass



Abbaye Villers

After leaving Waterloo, the group will visit the ruins of a nearby 12th Century abbey and discuss the impact of faith and religion on history.

W2WW2 will spend the next two days exploring sites from WW1, including the famous battlefields of Flanders and the Somme. They will visit trenches, battlefields, museums, and memorials related to the bloody campaigns that were fought in the Flanders region.



Bayerwald German Trenches

Utah beaches where American forces landed, and travel through the area where many of the hedgerow skirmishes were fought. They will



Map of D-Day landing beaches



Point du Hoc

also visit other important D-Day locations, including Ste Mère Église, Ste Marie du Mont, and Point du Hoc, where Army Rangers scaled heavily defended 90 foot cliffs. There will also be a stop at the United States Cemetery above Omaha Beach.

After returning to Brussels on Friday evening, the group will fly out on Saturday morning and return home.

For further information, contact the Association for Christian Conferences, Teaching, and Service (ACCTS).

(800) 487-8108 or (303) 985-8808

http://www.accts.org/contact_us.html

or email: deputy@accts.org



Thiepval Memorial, Somme

This was also the site of the first poison gas attack and of other dubious "firsts" in war. The group will attend the "Last Post" ceremony at Ypres' Menin Gate, which has been conducted every night

since 2 July 1928, except during the German occupation in WW2. Participants will return with a deep appreciation of the scale of carnage that traumatized Europe and led to WW2.

Stopping at the site of the first tank battle and the place where the "Red Baron" was shot down, the group will head to Normandy, passing William the Conqueror's castle in Caen. They will stay in the historic town of Bayeux, with its 11th Century cathedral and world-famous tapestry recounting the Norman conquest of England at the battle of Hastings.



William the Conqueror's castle



German defensive guns at Normandy

In addition to stops at Pegasus Bridge and Sword Beach, participants will climb on the German defensive positions above the landing beaches. They then move to Omaha and

ACCTS'

Waterloo



To



World War 2



**Western Europe Battlefield Tour
For Tomorrow's Military Leaders**