Remembering World Wars I and II
Sites and Stories in Luxembourg, France and Belgium

MAY 10 TO 25, 2013

A Program of the Stanford Alumni Association
Dear Stanford Traveler,

I’m proud to present this entirely new program developed by Bob Hamrdla, our faculty leader extraordinaire, who personally explored—not once, but twice!—all the World War I and II sites we’ll visit. You’ll be mesmerized by the sites Bob hand-picked from the thousands that exist in this compact region in the northwestern corner of Europe, home to so many of the defining moments and pivotal battles of both wars. This memorable itinerary is packed with battle sites, memorials, cemeteries, museums, lectures and personal meetings with locals. Join us on this in-depth look at some of the most storied battle zones of the 20th century’s two World Wars.

Brett S. Thompson, ’83
Director, Stanford Travel/Study

“Bob is amazing. Indefatigable. [He] conveys his love for his subject with both infectious enthusiasm and balanced perspective.”

PAT PICKERING, FOCUS ON POLAND, 2013

Faculty Leader

G. ROBERT HAMRDLA, ’60, MA ’64, has been teaching at Stanford for more than 35 years, most recently in the Continuing Studies Program. Fluent in German and a specialist on central Europe and Nazi Germany, as well as the former German Democratic Republic, Bob has introduced thousands of Stanford students and alumni to Germany as well as to central and eastern Europe. A former assistant to the president of Stanford and secretary to the board of trustees, Bob also served as the director of Stanford’s Overseas Studies centers in Beutelsbach, Berlin and Kraków.

Having led over 40 Travel/Study programs in central Europe, Bob is now eager to explore this new itinerary with us. In fact, he personally designed every hour and every mile of it. “This panoply of sites and stories will give us dramatic new and personal dimensions to enhance how we view the Wars and how they are remembered.” Bob says. He looks forward to engaging us both intellectually and emotionally with the gripping social, historical and personal features of our extraordinary destinations, many of them rarely visited. Bob’s lectures will discuss human experiences in the wars, remembrance and how it may differ among peoples and nations, and the revelation of just how overwhelming and powerful this remembrance remains today.

Cover: Mardasson Memorial, Bastogne, Belgium
Friday & Saturday, May 10 & 11
DEPART U.S. / LUXEMBOURG,
GRAND DUCY OF LUXEMBOURG
Depart on overnight flights to Luxembourg, arriving on Saturday.
Upon arrival, transfer to our hotel and enjoy a welcome reception.
HOTEL PARC BELAIR

Sunday, May 12
LUXEMBOURG / DIEKIRCH
REMEMBERING GEORGE PATTON
Travel to the city of Diekirch, which played a critical role in WWII’s Battle of the Bulge. Visit the National Museum of Military History featuring exhibits on Luxembourg’s pre-1940 armed force and its post-WWII army, including its present role in NATO and the EU. Enjoy lunch and free time in Diekirch before continuing on to Ettelbruck to visit the George Patton Memorial Museum. General Patton took command of the U.S. 3rd Army in 1944, which under his leadership advanced farther, captured more enemy prisoners and liberated more territory in less time than any other army in history. Visit Patton’s grave at the American Cemetery in Hamm and also visit the German Military Cemetery in Sandweiler.
HOTEL PARC BELAIR (B, D)

Tuesday, May 14
LUXEMBOURG / LONGUYON, FRANCE / VERDUN
THE MAGINOT LINE
Travel to the Fort de Fermont to explore a significant part of the Maginot Line, a series of French fortifications built in the 1930s that ran near the German border from Switzerland to Belgium. See the Fort’s underground fortifications by miniature railway and learn how the soldiers lived underground. Continue to Longuyon for free time and an independent lunch. Then visit the American Cemetery at Thiaucourt and the American memorial at Butte de Montsec.
CHÂTEAU LES MONTHAIRONS (B, D)

Wednesday, May 15
VERDUN
AT THE HEART OF WORLD WAR I
Traveling in the Verdun area, stop at the German Cemetery near Mersoupe and the American Monument at Souilly. Also visit Les Éparges, a steep ridge held by the Germans in WWI by means of a deep and broad trench system. Continue on to Verdun for an independent lunch, followed by a visit to the Citadelle Souterraine, a complex of subterranean forts built beneath a 17th-century citadel that played a decisive role in the eventual French victory in this area in WWI.
CHÂTEAU LES MONTHAIRONS (B, L, D)

Thursday, May 16
VERDUN
THE BATTLE OF VERDUN
Spend the day visiting the major sites of the Battle of Verdun, the longest battle between the German and French armies during WWI and now considered one of the most devastating battles in the history of warfare. Also explore the Tranchée des Baionnettes; the Douaumont Ossuary, which contains the remains of both French and German soldiers who died on the Verdun battlefield; the French National Cemetery Memorial; and the Verdun Memorial Museum.
CHÂTEAU LES MONTHAIRONS (B, L, D)

Friday, May 17
VERDUN / REIMS / BELLEVUE (ÉPERNAY)
AMERICA IN THE WARS
Visit the Verdun battlefield sites of Le Mort Homme and Côte 304, two strategic hills that were hotly contested “battles within the battle” of Verdun in 1916. Also see the American Monument on Montfaucon Hill, commemorating General John J. Pershing’s victory during the Meuse-Argonne Offensive of 1918. Then pay tribute at the Romagne American Cemetery, the largest American cemetery in Europe. End the day at the Museum of Surrender in Reims, formerly the Allied headquarters of General Dwight D. Eisenhower during WWII. It was here that the Germans surrendered unconditionally to General Eisenhower on May 7, 1945, ending the European conflict of WWII.
LE ROYAL CHAMPAGNE (B, L, D)
Saturday, May 18
CHÂTEAU-THIERRY / BELLEAU-WOOD
REMEMBERING FALLEN HEROES
This morning visit the Dormans Ossuary, which houses the remains of 1,500 soldiers and displays the death mask of France’s Marshall Ferdinand Foch, who played a decisive role in halting the German advance during WWI’s Second Battle of the Marne. After an independent lunch and free time in the town of Château-Thierry, travel to the American Cemetery at Belleau Wood, where U.S. Marines played a pivotal role in repelling German forces in what would be later known as one of the bloodiest and most ferocious battles that U.S. forces fought in WWI. Also visit the Aisne-Marne American cemetery before touring a local champagne cellar.
LE ROYAL CHAMPAGNE (B, D)

Sunday, May 19
BELLEVUE / COMPIEGNE / AMIENS
THE SIGNING OF TWO CHASTENING ARMISTICES
This morning travel to the Picardy Resistance and Deportation Museum at Fargniers-Tergnier, which commemorates the region’s involvement from the end of WWI to the rise of Nazism, the deportations and liberation of France. Following lunch in the town of Compiègne, visit the Clairière de l’Armistice (Armistice Clearing), site of the emotional signing of the 1918 and 1940 armistices with Germany in the forest of Compiègne. View a replica of Marshal Foch’s famous railroad car and hear about the tale of Hitler’s jig. Then visit the WWI Cantigny American Memorial as well as a private collection of WWII memorabilia gathered by a local citizen. Proceed to Amiens, where our hotel is located steps from the tallest and largest of France’s 13th-century Gothic churches.
HOTEL MERCURE AMIENS CATHEDRALE (B, L)

Monday, May 20
AMIENS / PERONNE
MEMORIALIZING THE GREAT WAR, PART I
Today visit the Somme American Cemetery and Memorial in Bony as well as the distinguished Museum of the Great War in the town of Péronne, followed by free time and an independent lunch. Then travel to nearby Longueval to see the dramatic South African Memorial and Museum commemorating the intense action of the South African troops in Delville Wood during WWI. Also explore the nearby Australian Memorial and Franco-Australian Museum in Villers-Bretonneux before returning to our hotel.
HOTEL MERCURE AMIENS CATHEDRALE (B, D)

Tuesday, May 21
AMIENS / THIEPVAL
MEMORIALIZING THE GREAT WAR, PART II
This morning view the ominous Lochnagar Crater at La Boiselle, the largest British mine crater on WWI’s Western Front. It was exploded under the German front line positions on the Somme in 1916 and resulted in a crater 90 feet deep and 300 feet across. Continue on to the new Thiepval Visitor Center and see the largest British memorial of World War I. Following lunch in the town of Albert, visit the spectacular Newfoundland Memorial Park near the village of Beaumont-Hamel.
HOTEL MERCURE AMIENS CATHEDRALE (B, L)

Wednesday, May 22
AMIENS / KORTRIJK, BELGIUM
AN ALLIANCE OF HEROES
Start the day visiting a series of memorials to British, French, North African, Polish, Czech and Canadian soldiers and note how the various nations’ executions of their memorials differ. After a restaurant lunch on the grounds of the French National Memorial at Notre Dame de Lorette, view the memorial and drive the short distance to see the soaring Canadian National Memorial at Vimy. GRAND HOTEL DAMIER (B, L, D)

Thursday, May 23
KORTRIJK / YPRES
MISTS OF FLANDERS FIELDS
Take an all-day excursion to Ypres, capital of Flanders, where intense and sustained battles between the Germans and Allied forces took place in 1914–1917. After some free time, perhaps to visit the newly refurbished interactive museum, “In Flanders Fields,” and an independent lunch, visit the WWI battleground at Hill 62, left unaltered since 1918, and walk in an actual trench as it was in wartime. Following dinner, take special part in the Last Post Ceremony at Menen Gate, a traditional salute to fallen British warriors that has taken place every evening since 1929, except during the German occupation of 1940–1944. GRAND HOTEL DAMIER (B, D)

Friday, May 24
KORTRIJK / DUNKIRK, FRANCE
THE EVACUATION FROM DUNKIRK
Travel to Dunkirk, location of the historic evacuation of British and allied forces back to England in the late spring of 1940. Called the “Miracle of Dunkirk” and code-named Operation Dynamo by the British, this emergency operation saw more than 338,000 soldiers evacuated in nine days by a hastily-assembled flotilla of 850 boats and ships. Visit the Dynamo Museum, which documents the evacuation. After lunch in a restaurant fronting the beach, travel back to Kortrijk for our farewell reception.
GRAND HOTEL DAMIER (B, L)

Saturday, May 25
KORTRIJK / BRUSSELS / U.S.
Transfer to the Brussels airport for return flights to the U.S. (B)
What to Expect

We consider this program to be moderately strenuous. Daily tours are busy with a full schedule of excursions, lectures and special events. Most days involve one to three miles of walking in cities, at museums and at sites and cemeteries, sometimes on uneven surfaces, cobblestone streets or wet terrain. Full days of touring are balanced with plenty of free time on one’s own.

In some instances, such as museums, tours require climbing up and down several flights of stairs. Stairs may not have handrails, and elevators are limited or unavailable. Some sites and museums do not allow buses to pull up in front, thus requiring several minutes on foot to reach the entrance. Our journey at times requires several hours of travel by motorcoach, the longest drives being up to 3 hours. Temperatures in this region in May typically range from highs in the mid-50s to mid-60s (F) to lows in the mid-40s. Weather can be wet and blustery. Participants must be physically fit, active and in good health. We welcome travelers 15 years of age and older on this program.
Terms and Conditions

DEPOSIT AND FINAL PAYMENT
A $1,000 per-person deposit is required to hold your space. Complete and return the attached reservation form or sign up online at alumni.stanford.edu/trip?worldwars2013. Final payment is due 120 days prior to departure. As a condition of participation, all confirmed participants are required to sign a Release of Liability.

CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS
Deposits and any payments are fully refundable, less a $500-per-person cancellation fee, until 120 days prior to departure. After that date, refunds can be made only if the program is sold out and your place(s) can be resold, in which case a $1,000-per-person cancellation fee will apply.

INSURANCE
Stanford Travel/Study provides all travelers who are U.S. or Canadian citizens with minimal medical, accident and evacuation coverage under our group-travel insurance policy. We strongly encourage that you subscribe to optional baggage and trip-cancellation insurance. A brochure offering such insurance will be mailed with your confirmation. The product offered in this brochure includes special benefits if you postmark your insurance payment within a specified window: 15 days of the date listed on the confirmation letter for the Waiver of Pre-Existing Conditions and coverage for Financial Insolvency; 21 days for the Cancel for Any Reason benefit.

ELIGIBILITY
We encourage membership in the Alumni Association; the program cost for nonmembers is $200 more than the members’ price. For more information or to purchase a membership, visit alumni.stanford.edu/goto/membership or call (650) 725-0692.

RESPONSIBILITY
The Stanford Alumni Association, Stanford University and our operators act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and exercise every care possible in doing so. However, we can assume no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity in connection with the service of any automobile, motorcoach, launch or any other conveyance used in carrying out this program or for the acts or defaults of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the program. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, force majeure or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger as tour rates provide arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to make such alterations to this published itinerary as may be deemed necessary. The right is reserved to cancel any program prior to departure in which case the entire payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the program. No refund will be made for an unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. Baggage is carried at the owner’s risk entirely. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not onboard their plane or conveyance. Neither the Alumni Association, Stanford University nor our operators accept liability for any carrier’s cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a non-refundable ticket connected with the tour. Program price is based on rates in effect in September 2012 and is subject to change without notice to reflect fluctuations in exchange rates, tariffs or fuel charges.

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Reservation Form

Remembering
World Wars I and II
SITES AND STORIES IN LUXEMBOURG, FRANCE AND BELGIUM
May 10 to 25, 2013

NAME □ MR. □ MRS. □ DR. □ MS. □ MISS □ PROF.
AGE
STANFORD CLASS YEAR

NAME □ MR. □ MRS. □ DR. □ MS. □ MISS □ PROF.
AGE
STANFORD CLASS YEAR

ADDRESS

CITY/STATE/ZIP
EMAIL

HOME PHONE
WORK PHONE
CELL PHONE

□ I/we have read the Terms and Conditions and agree to them.

SIGNATURE ____________________________ DATE __________

If this is a reservation for one person, please indicate:
□ I wish to have single accommodations.
OR □ I plan to share accommodations with: _____________________________________________________________
OR □ I’d like to know about possible roommates.

BED PREFERENCE:
□ Twin Beds
OR □ Queen Bed

Here is my deposit of $________ ($1,000 per person) for ___ space(s) on the trip.
□ Enclosed is my check (make payable to Stanford Alumni Association and return with completed form.)
OR □ Charge my deposit to my: □ Visa □ MasterCard □ American Express.

CARD NUMBER ____________________________ EXPIRATION DATE __________

AUTHORIZED CARDHOLDER SIGNATURE ____________________________ DATE __________

Mail completed form to 326 Galvez Street, Stanford, CA 94305 or fax to (650) 725-8675 or place your deposit online at alumni.stanford.edu/trip/worldwars2013. Please submit your reservation only once to avoid multiple charges to your account.