



Newsletter



'HISTORY BROUGHT ALIVE IN THE COMPANY OF LIKE-MINDED PEOPLE'

DECEMBER 2018 ISSUE 1

'To improve is to change; to be perfect is to change often'

Winston Churchill



Using the great man's words we at Old Country Military & History Tours Inc have decided that as we are not perfect and to keep improving, that as a replacement to our annual brochure that we should keep in touch with you more often by regular e-newsletters and

not just once a year as with the brochure. We know that by doing so, current information can be with you quicker, and will include additional tours, last minute bookings, personal recollections and relevant news etc. This will also make it easier for you to contact us with your thoughts and any suggestions concerning future tours etc.

Our tours for 2019 will focus on a selection from the American Civil War, War of 1812 & Andrew Jackson, the Nez Perce Indian War, World War 2, & the 75th Anniversaries of Operation Overlord & D Day, Operation Market Garden & The Battle of the Bulge.

If you have received this newsletter by post and in future would be happy to do so by email, please advise us of your email address. If you would like your name removed from our data base please advise us at oldcount@aol.com

Wishing you and your family the complements of the season, we hope to see you next year on one of our tours.

Peter Gasgoy - Calway

1944 and 75 years on as we remember some of the major campaigns in Western Europe during World War 2

January - May	1ST, 2ND & 3RD BATTLES OF CASSINO
22 January	LANDING AT ANZIO**
4 June	LIBERATION OF ROME**
6 June	OPERATION OVERLORD & D DAY NORMANDY**
15 August	INVASION OF SOUTHERN FRANCE OPERATION DRAGOON
September	BATTLE FOR ANTWERP
17 - 25 Sept	OPERATION MARKET GARDEN**
19 Sept - 16 Dec	BATTLE FOR THE HURTGEN FOREST
Dec/Jan	BATTLE OF THE BULGE**

** Tours to these places in 2019



OLD COUNTRY MILITARY & HISTORY TOURS INC

CHESTNUT HILL, DONHEAD ST. ANDREW, SHAFTESBURY, DORSET SP7 9LJ GREAT BRITAIN.

TEL: 011 44 (0) 1747 828719 EMAIL: OLDCOUNT@AOL.COM WWW.OLDCOUNTRYTOURS.COM

2018 - A YEAR TO REMEMBER

*'Still on cloud nine about the tour - superb'.
(American Civil War Sept 2018) M. C. North Wales*



*'Many thanks too for an excellent trip to Gettysburg which was spot on and I really enjoyed. Everything worked really well and I learnt a lot from you and the rest of the team whose knowledge was awesome'.
(American Civil War, Gettysburg Campaign June 2018) G. W. Yorkshire Wolds*

During the last 100 days of WW1 tour in October, we were able to make a detour to the Cambrai Memorial at Louveral where one of my ancestors my Great Uncle Lieutenant Cyril Walter Bown, West Somerset Yeomanry, is remembered with honour...

He was a volunteer member of H Battalion the Tank Corps, in the 23rd Company No 6 section and in command of tank H24 'Hotspur' (a MK IV male tank). The Hotspur saw action in the first attacks on 20th November 1917 and on – Hotspur was hit and Lt Bown and his crew were trying to repair the tank frantically to get back into battle but apparently the sprockets had been hit and were jammed - another tank the H27 'Hermosa' (a MK IV female tank) came in without an officer, Lt Bown and the crew volunteered to take that tank out on the attack four tanks led a successful advance to the crest of Quentin Ridge became the first to enter Fontaine Notre-Dame on 30th November - They patrolled the village streets for several hours, then assuming that only civilians



were left there moved to the rallying point with encountering any problems. The situation changed suddenly, armour piercing shells struck the tanks from all directions and bundles of grenades were launched from windows, the Germans had mounted anti-aircraft guns onto vehicles Hermosa was hit by multiple shells and burned to a cinder and the crew of five including 2Lt C.W. Bown were killed.

A telegram that was sent to his mother stated that 'Lt Bown had died', he was 23 years old. The family paid for a stained glass window in the East end of the local church in their home village of Mudford where they lived in the Manor House.

Yesterday 11th November 2018, I went to the church at Mudford for the two minutes silence and then placed a Remembrance Cross under the window with my Great Uncles name.

Seems it is closure at last.

S G Shaftesbury

*'Thank you so very much for leading the family on the superb trip to France.
Having the guidance from you was perfect and really brought Gordon's ** heroics home to us'.
(World War I - Family of Gordon Flowerdew VC) April 2018*



THE AMERICAN MAGAZINE

The essential bi-monthly magazine
for all Americans in the UK.

www.theamerican.co.uk

A Selection of our 2019 Tours

CLICK ON A TOUR FOR THE FULL ITINERARY AND COST

NEW TOUR Old Hickory, Andrew Jackson and the War of 1812 with Neil Mangum

Andrew Jackson was the first western American President. A man marked in war with a dislike for the British, he found himself in command of volunteers and militia in his majority during the second British American war. Knowing of the British recruitment with Indian tribes he forged a bloody and successful war against the Creek Indians of Alabama and then carried on to his destiny against the British at the Battle of New Orleans. A secondary program focuses on the American Civil War in and around New Orleans.

31 March
- 6 April
or to
10 April

American Civil War 'The Eastern Theatre Campaigns' with Peter Gasgoyne-Lockwood

5 - 18
May

Operation Overlord and D Day with James Scott-Clarke

5 - 9
July

NEW TOUR Flight to Freedom, The Nez Perce and the War of 1877 with Neil Mangum

Of the many shameful episodes of Indian harassment and containment none is more telling than the 1877 flight of the Nez Perce. Your trip chronologically follows the bands of the Nez Perce as they depart their naturally beautiful homelands in Idaho and are eventually cornered and defeated on the stark plains of northern Montana.

16 - 24/25
August

Battle of the Bulge - 16 December 1944 - 28 January 1945

6 - 10
September

NEW TOUR First Round, Guerrillas and Forgotten Battles - American Civil War Beyond the Mississippi River with Peter Gasgoyne-Lockwood

Sectional violence began in Missouri and Kansas years before the firing on Fort Sumter in 1861. Guerrilla conflict produced 'Bleeding Kansas' and prepared the region west of the Mississippi River for years of nearly total war. Conventional forces clashed at Lexington, Wilson's Creek and Westport in Missouri and at Pea Ridge and Prairie Grove in Arkansas, while Quantrill's men ravaged Lawrence, Kansas. The mayhem bred years of post-war turmoil featuring such men as Jesse James and many other outlaws.

28
September
- 9 October

Operation Market Garden with Ian Mitchell

Few military campaigns have attracted as much controversy and led to as many myths and legends as that of Operation Market Garden – the airborne and ground assault into Holland in September 1944. This tour will provide you with the opportunity to separate myth from reality and learn about this famous campaign. The tour follows the route taken by 30 Corps as it raced to link up with the US 101st and 82nd Airborne Divisions who had seized key bridges at Son and Grave. Travelling on to Nijmegen the location of the legendary river crossing over the Waal River. Then finally to Arnhem and 1st Airborne Division and its failed attempt to seize the Rhine bridges in the town. Fierce German opposition then forced the Division to form a shrinking perimeter at Oosterbeek which led to their subsequent withdraw over the Rhine.

5 - 9
October

Please visit our website www.oldcountrytours.com or contact us by Email: oldcount@aol.com Tel: 01747 828719 for the full itinerary, reservation form and terms & conditions.

Where is this...?



Find out if you are right
in the next Newsletter

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

National Army Museum

11 January 2019, 11.30am FREE

'The last cavalry war in Europe'

Adam Zamoyski's talk will focus on the use of cavalry in Eastern Europe in the two years that followed the First World War

American Civil War Round Table UK Annual Conference

Will be held over the weekend 12 – 14 April 2019

at the De Vere Wokefield Park Estate near Reading.

Subject **'The War in the Carolina's'**.

For further information Derek Young rebelde155@icloud.com

The Lord Mayor's Big Curry Luncheon

In aid of the ABF The Soldiers Charity

Will take place on 4th April 2019

at Guildhall, in the City of London.

For further information: lmcb@soldierscharity.org



1935 the 75th and last Gettysburg veterans reunion.



Gettysburg 2018.



The American Civil War Round Table United Kingdom is one of a large number throughout the world dedicated to the study of all aspects of the Civil War. The members come from all walks of life. Their interests cover all areas from military to political study, from social and economic evolution to transportation and foreign relations.

Derek Young
35 Ophir Road, North End,
Portsmouth PO2 9EL
or visit our website: www.acwrt.org.uk

www.soldierscharity.org
info@soldierscharity.org
Tel: 0845 241 4820



OLD COUNTRY MILITARY & HISTORY TOURS INC

CHESTNUT HILL, DONHEAD ST. ANDREW, SHAFTESBURY, DORSET SP7 9LJ GREAT BRITAIN.

TEL: 011 44 (0) 1747 828719 EMAIL: OLDCOUNT@AOL.COM WWW.OLDCOUNTRYTOURS.COM